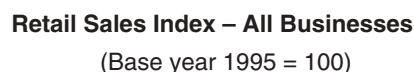




Retail Sales Index

Seasonally adjusted



Retail Sales up 3.7%

The value of retail sales rose by 3.7% in May 2002 compared to May 2001. The May 2002 index was 0.9% higher than the April 2002 index. However, if Motor Trades are excluded, the annual increase is 4.9%.

The volume of retail sales (i.e. excluding price effects) increased by 0.3% in May 2002 compared to May 2001. If Motor Trades are excluded the annual increase in volume is 1.3%.

On a three month basis, which give a more stable indication of recent underlying trends, the March 2002–May 2002 value figures show a 2.1% decrease compared with the three months ending April 2002.

April is the latest month for which final detailed sectoral figures are available. The three month February 2002–April 2002 volume figures show that, compared with the three months ending January 2002 :

- ◆ The largest increase in the volume of sales was in the Furniture & Lighting sector (7.3%)
- ◆ The largest decrease in the volume of sales was in the Hardware, Paints & Glass sector (-7.5%)

All figures provided in this release are seasonally adjusted based on patterns up to December 2001.

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Table 1 Seasonally Adjusted Indices of Total Retail Sales (1)**Base Year: 1995 = 100**

Period	Total Retail Sales for all Businesses Combined						Total Retail Sales excluding Motor Trades	
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales			Value Index	Volume Index
	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change		
1999 Year	142.8	11.4	11.4	134.3	9.5	9.5	137.6	130.0
2000 Year	166.1	16.3	16.3	150.3	11.9	11.9	154.8	141.6
2001 Year	175.9	5.9	5.9	155.0	3.1	3.1	172.6	152.2
2000 1st quarter	161.4	8.1	17.6	148.1	6.5	13.7	146.4	136.0
2nd quarter	166.4	3.1	20.1	151.3	2.2	15.5	151.4	139.3
3rd quarter	166.9	0.3	14.9	150.4	-0.6	10.1	155.9	142.0
4th quarter	169.0	1.3	13.2	150.9	0.3	8.5	160.8	145.3
2001 1st quarter	171.1	1.2	6.0	152.5	1.1	3.0	165.9	148.9
2nd quarter	173.9	1.6	4.5	153.5	0.7	1.5	169.7	150.4
3rd quarter	175.3	0.8	5.0	153.8	0.2	2.3	171.9	150.7
4th quarter	182.1	3.9	7.8	159.1	3.4	5.4	177.8	154.8
2002 1st quarter	179.2	-1.6	4.7	154.7	-2.8	1.4	179.2	154.7
2001 April	173.7	1.8	5.7	153.8	1.4	2.6	167.7	149.0
May	174.2	0.3	4.1	153.7	-0.1	1.1	169.8	150.7
June	173.8	-0.2	3.9	153.0	-0.5	0.7	171.1	151.3
July	173.1	-0.4	5.7	152.2	-0.5	2.8	170.3	149.9
August	175.4	1.3	5.5	154.0	1.2	2.7	171.0	150.1
September	177.0	0.9	4.2	155.0	0.6	1.5	173.8	151.8
October	179.8	1.6	5.1	157.4	1.5	2.9	175.9	153.6
November	180.9	0.6	4.9	158.3	0.6	3.0	176.6	153.7
December	184.9	2.2	12.3	161.1	1.8	9.5	180.3	156.7
2002 January	176.2	-4.7	2.8	152.2	-5.5	-0.7	174.5	150.9
February	185.5	5.3	8.4	160.3	5.3	5.0	179.9	155.3
March	176.6	-4.8	3.5	152.2	-5.1	0.3	182.5	157.3
April	179.1	1.4	3.1	153.5	0.9	-0.2	175.7	150.8
May ²	180.7	0.9	3.7	154.2	0.5	0.3	178.1	152.6
12 months ending Apr 2002	178.0	5.3	5.3	155.2	2.4	2.4	175.3	152.8
12 months ending May 2002 ²	178.5	5.2	5.2	155.3	2.4	2.4	175.9	152.9
3 months ending Apr 2002	180.1	-0.5	4.8	155.1	-1.5	1.6	179.6	154.7
3 months ending May 2002 ²	178.6	-2.1	3.4	153.2	-3.1	0.2	179.1	153.9

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2001² Provisional value and volume of sales indices based on early returns from sample retailers

Table 2 Seasonally Adjusted Value and Volume Indices of Retail Sales for 13 Retail Businesses, April 2002 (1)**Base Year: 1995 = 100**

Retail Business - NACE REV 1	April 2002						February 2002- April 2002					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales			Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change	Annual %	Index	% change	Annual %	Index	% change	Annual %	Index	% change	Annual %
		on	change		on	change		on	change		on	change
		previous			previous			previous			previous	
		month			month			3			3	
								months			months	
Motor Trades - NACE 50	190.6	13.8	-0.7	162.0	12.8	-3.5	186.7	-0.5	-1.6	159.8	-2.4	-3.6
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	162.9	-6.3	3.7	129.3	-6.3	-0.1	169.1	3.0	8.6	134.3	2.5	4.4
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	195.8	-1.9	5.1	206.0	-2.0	4.4	203.8	2.5	8.8	213.6	2.3	7.8
of which:-												
Clothing and Footwear	204.7	-2.5	4.5				216.6	7.7	6.4			
Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.	184.4	30.6	17.5				163.6	-21.5	9.9			
Other Goods and Services	186.4	-8.4	1.8				201.1	4.3	11.8			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>												
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	119.0	-6.0	0.7	98.1	-4.6	-3.0	123.1	-0.6	5.7	100.4	-0.7	0.4
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	245.3	-1.1	9.9	202.8	-1.3	5.4	251.0	0.9	14.7	208.7	0.0	9.9
Textiles and Clothing	187.3	-6.3	8.7	256.7	-5.6	11.6	191.5	4.5	11.3	260.2	4.5	14.3
Footwear and Leather	174.4	-3.0	11.5	213.1	-2.0	15.1	172.3	3.3	11.0	209.2	5.0	14.8
Furniture and Lighting	177.1	-8.3	3.6	152.4	-9.1	1.3	188.1	7.0	2.7	162.5	7.3	0.3
Electrical Goods	223.8	4.0	5.8	237.3	3.6	5.1	221.8	-4.8	8.4	235.8	-5.0	8.0
Hardware, Paints and Glass	183.8	-3.1	3.5	158.0	-3.5	0.1	186.1	-6.8	7.0	160.5	-7.5	3.7
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	161.5	-6.8	3.1	122.9	-7.4	-2.4	167.7	1.8	7.4	128.5	0.4	1.7
Other Retail Sales	242.5	8.0	6.5	219.1	6.7	4.0	233.2	3.2	4.9	212.3	-2.1	2.7
Bars - NACE 55.4	151.0	-4.0	2.3	112.8	-4.6	-4.2	153.3	2.3	3.9	115.8	-0.2	-2.5
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	175.7	-3.7	4.8	150.8	-4.2	1.2	179.6	1.2	7.9	154.7	0.5	4.0
All Businesses	179.1	1.4	3.1	153.5	0.9	-0.2	180.1	-0.5	4.8	155.1	-1.5	1.6

¹ Based on Seasonal Values up to December 2001, individual series are independently adjusted

Background Notes

Retail Sales Index **Introduction of updated series with a new business classification and with base year 1995 = 100.**

An updated Retail Sales Index (RSI) was introduced in the December 1999 release. A detailed description of the new series was published in the March 2000 issue of the *Statistical Bulletin*. The underlying methodology remains unchanged. The index is primarily intended to measure short-term trends. For long term analysis allowance must be made for the fact that the series does not reflect changes in retail structures between updatings.

New Business Classification Commencing with October 1999 the set of monthly indices of retail sales have been compiled according to the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE Rev. 1). The business categories are based mainly on the classification of enterprises in the 1995 Annual Services Inquiry (ASI). There are some fairly substantial discontinuities in the classification of enterprises compared with the former series.

New Base Year The set of new monthly retail sales indices has been compiled with reference to base year 1995 = 100. The underlying structural weighting system is mainly based on the 1995 Annual Services Inquiry. Weights are updated from year to year using ratios of average weekly turnover by size class within business type.

Scope and Coverage The Retail Sales Index covers, on a sample basis, the retail sales of retail businesses, wholesale businesses with sizeable retailing activity and the separate sales establishments of non-distribution enterprises. Excluded from the index coverage are the direct retail sales from non-distribution establishments together with the incidental retail sales of wholesale businesses. Also excluded are sales by hawkers, street stalls and other retailing activities not conducted from permanent business premises. The statistical unit used for reporting sales figures in this inquiry is the enterprise (i.e. Complete business covering all branches).

Methodology The business categories and the underlying structural weighting of the Retail Sales Index is based mainly on the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE Rev. 1). The index system is structured on the retailing enterprises covered in the 1995 Annual Services Inquiry classified by 13 retail business categories and four turnover (excluding VAT) ranges*.

The value indices are calculated by updating the aggregate 1995 retail turnover (including VAT) of these enterprises in these fifty one cells using the monthly retail sales data provided by the enterprise respondent panel from 1995 onwards.

The compilation of the index for a current month is based on the percentage change in average weekly sales in these cells over the corresponding monthly period of the previous year. The monthly volume indices are calculated by deflating the seasonally unadjusted value indices by specially constructed retail price indices derived from the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Seasonal Adjustment The seasonally adjusted series are updated twice yearly using patterns up to and including the preceding month. The present seasonally adjusted monthly value and volume series are based on seasonal patterns from January 1995 to December 2001. The adjustment is completed by applying the X-11 Variant of the US Bureau of the Census Method 11 Seasonal Adjustment program based on a multiplicative model. The unadjusted series, from which trading day variations have been eliminated, are available on our website (www.cso.ie).

References A detailed description of the Retail Sales Index is provided in the March 2000 issue of the *Statistical Bulletin*. Retrospective details covering three years are provided for all series on both a seasonally adjusted and an unadjusted basis in each issue of the *Statistical Bulletin*.

* The Department Stores business category is not classified by annual turnover but is sub-divided into three retail activity categories.