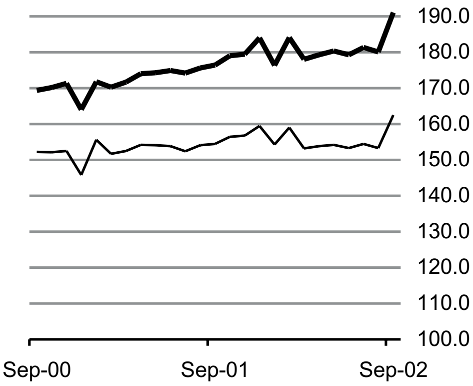
Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

22 November 2002

Retail Sales Index

September 2002 (First Estimates)
August 2002 (Final Figures)

Retail Sales Index
Seasonally adjusted



Retail Sales Index – All Businesses
(Base year 1995 = 100)

	Value Index	**Volume Index**
September 2001	176.4	154.5
September 2002	191.1	162.5
% change	+8.3%	+5.2%

Retail Sales up 8.3%

The value of retail sales rose by 8.3% in September 2002 compared to September 2001. However, if Motor Trades are excluded, the annual increase was 7.4%. The index rose by 6.1% in the month of September. Excluding Motor Trades the monthly change was 3.3%.

The volume of retail sales (i.e. excluding price effects) increased by 5.2% in September 2002 compared to September 2001. If Motor Trades are excluded the annual increase was 4.5%. There was a monthly volume increase of 6.0%. The monthly increase excluding Motor Trades was 3.3%.

On a three month basis, which gives a more stable indication of recent underlying trends, July 2002 – September 2002 volume figures show a 2.3% increase compared with the three months ending June 2002.

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

- The largest increase in the volume of sales was in the Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles sector (+3.6%).
- The largest decrease in the volume of sales was in the Furniture & Lighting sector (-2.4%).

All figures in this release are trading day and seasonally adjusted. The seasonal factors are based on unadjusted patterns up to June 2002.

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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: Value of Sales: Index	Value of Sales: % change on previous period	Value of Sales: Annual % change	Volume of Sales: Index	Volume of Sales: % change on previous period	Volume of Sales: Annual % change	Total Retail Sales excluding Motor Trades: Value Index	Total Retail Sales excluding Motor Trades: Volume Index
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	161.7	8.7	17.9	148.9	7.7	13.8	146.5	136.0
2nd quarter	166.9	3.2	20.2	151.8	1.9	15.7	151.7	139.7
3rd quarter	167.1	0.1	14.9	150.3	-1.0	10.1	156.1	142.2
4th quarter	168.2	0.7	13.1	149.8	-0.3	8.3	160.2	144.8
2001 1st quarter	171.3	1.8	5.9	153.2	2.3	2.9	165.7	148.7
2nd quarter	174.4	1.8	4.5	154.0	0.5	1.4	170.0	150.8
3rd quarter	175.5	0.6	5.0	153.7	-0.2	2.3	172.2	150.9
4th quarter	181.1	3.2	7.7	157.7	2.6	5.3	177.2	154.3
2002 1st quarter	179.4	-0.9	4.7	155.3	-1.5	1.4	178.8	154.4
2nd quarter	179.6	0.1	3.0	153.7	-1.0	-0.2	179.3	153.7
3rd quarter[2]	184.7	2.8	5.3	157.2	2.3	2.3	182.7	155.7
2001 August	175.6	0.8	5.4	154.1	1.1	2.7	171.0	149.8
September	176.4	0.5	4.1	154.5	0.3	1.5	173.6	151.8
October	179.0	1.5	5.2	156.4	1.2	2.8	175.6	153.2
November	179.5	0.3	4.8	156.8	0.3	2.8	175.4	152.4
December	184.0	2.5	12.2	159.5	1.7	9.4	179.8	156.6
2002 January	176.3	-4.2	2.6	154.3	-3.3	-0.8	174.6	151.1
February	184.1	4.4	8.1	159.0	3.0	4.8	178.9	154.7
March	178.0	-3.3	3.7	153.2	-3.6	0.5	182.0	156.9
April	179.3	0.7	3.0	153.8	0.4	-0.3	177.0	152.0
May	180.4	0.6	3.5	154.2	0.3	0.1	178.5	153.0
June	179.3	-0.6	2.5	153.3	-0.6	-0.3	181.8	155.6
July	181.3	1.1	4.1	154.5	0.8	1.4	180.5	154.2
August	180.1	-0.7	2.6	153.3	-0.8	-0.5	180.4	153.6
September[2]	191.1	6.1	8.3	162.5	6.0	5.2	186.4	158.6
12 months ending Aug 2002	179.8	4.9	4.9	155.2	2.0	2.0	178.3	153.9
12 months ending Sep 2002[2]	181.2	5.3	5.3	156.0	2.4	2.4	179.5	154.5
3 months ending Aug 2002	180.2	0.6	3.0	153.7	0.0	0.1	181.0	154.6
3 months ending Sep 2002[2]	184.7	2.8	5.3	157.2	2.3	2.3	182.7	155.7

[1] Based on Seasonal Patterns up to June 2002

[2] 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, August 2002[1] **Base Year: 1995 = 100**

Retail Business - NACE REV 1	August 2002						June - August 2002					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales			Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous 3 months	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous 3 months	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	177.5	-3.2	-7.1	150.1	-3.6	-10.2	177.5	-1.8	-5.2	150.7	-2.1	-7.4
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	171.3	1.9	6.7	134.0	1.6	3.2	170.4	1.3	7.2	133.9	0.5	3.6
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	202.3	-2.0	4.7	212.9	-2.2	5.1	208.3	2.6	8.7	219.0	2.6	8.7
of which:-												
Clothing and Footwear	219.1	1.0	6.7				221.7	4.9	12.0			
Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.	176.7	-2.7	3.8				183.9	8.6	4.5			
Other Goods and Services	195.6	-2.6	2.9				199.5	-1.5	5.2			
Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)												
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	123.4	0.8	5.4	99.7	0.5	2.2	123.2	-0.2	4.9	99.9	-0.5	1.7
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	264.5	2.5	14.1	216.3	1.9	9.6	260.5	4.7	12.6	214.0	3.6	8.1
Textiles and Clothing	184.8	-1.2	3.9	257.8	-2.0	9.0	185.9	-1.5	4.7	258.4	-0.5	9.3
Footwear and Leather	168.3	-2.0	2.8	207.5	-2.2	7.1	169.0	0.2	4.3	207.8	1.1	8.0
Furniture and Lighting	165.1	-7.5	-7.8	142.7	-7.6	-8.5	176.3	-2.5	2.1	152.5	-2.4	1.0
Electrical Goods	226.6	-1.8	1.7	239.7	-1.9	0.6	228.1	0.4	3.7	241.6	0.2	2.9
Hardware, Paints and Glass	195.6	0.0	5.9	166.2	0.0	2.3	193.6	2.3	2.6	164.6	1.1	-1.0
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	171.3	1.9	4.1	128.8	1.8	-0.3	169.3	0.7	3.8	127.7	-0.6	-1.2
Other Retail Sales	226.7	-5.1	3.9	213.4	-1.8	3.6	235.4	-0.3	4.3	216.7	0.5	3.5
Bars - NACE 55.4	155.4	0.4	4.4	115.0	0.0	-2.2	156.3	1.6	3.0	116.1	0.5	-3.6
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	180.4	0.0	5.5	153.6	-0.4	2.5	181.0	0.9	5.8	154.6	0.3	2.7
All Businesses	**180.1**	**-0.7**	**2.6**	**153.3**	**-0.8**	**-0.5**	**180.2**	**0.6**	**3.0**	**153.7**	**0.0**	**0.1**

[1] Based on Seasonal Patterns up to June 2002, 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 June 2002. 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.