



Retail Sales Index

Seasonally adjusted



(Base year 1995 = 100)

	Value Index	Volume Index
December 2001	184.0	159.5
December 2002	189.6	158.9
% change	+3.0%	-0.4%

The value of retail sales rose by 3.0 % in December 2002 compared to December 2001. However, if Motor Trades are excluded, the annual increase was 2.8 %. The index rose by 3.0 % in the month of December. Excluding Motor Trades, the monthly change was an increase of 0.9%.

The volume of retail sales (i.e. excluding price effects) decreased by 0.4 % in December 2002 compared to December 2001. If Motor Trades are excluded there was an annual decrease of 0.5%. There was a monthly volume increase of 2.1%. The monthly increase excluding Motor Trades was 0.6%.

On a three month basis, which gives a more stable indication of recent underlying trends, October 2002 – December 2002 volume figures show a 0.3 % increase compared with the three months ending September 2002.

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

- ◆ The largest increase in the volume of sales was in the Other Retail Sales (+12.0%) sector.
- ◆ The largest decrease in the volume of sales was in the Department Stores (-3.1%) sector.

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

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Table 1 Seasonally Adjusted Indices of Total Retail Sales¹**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
2002 Year ²	182.9	4.0	4.0	156.1	0.7	0.7	182.2	155.5
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	184.6	2.8	5.2	157.1	2.2	2.2	182.7	155.6
4th quarter ²	186.8	0.9	3.1	157.5	0.3	-0.1	183.6	155.2
2001 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	190.8	5.9	8.2	162.2	5.8	5.0	186.2	158.4
October	185.9	-2.6	3.9	157.6	-2.8	0.8	182.5	154.8
November	184.1	-1.0	2.6	155.7	-1.2	-0.7	183.1	154.8
December ²	189.6	3.0	3.0	158.9	2.1	-0.4	184.8	155.8
12 months ending Nov 2002	182.0	4.9	4.9	156.0	1.9	1.9	180.6	154.8
12 months ending Dec 2002 ²	182.9	4.0	4.0	156.1	0.7	0.7	182.2	155.5
3 months ending Nov 2002	187.2	3.9	5.1	158.8	3.3	1.9	184.1	156.2
3 months ending Dec 2002 ²	186.8	0.9	3.1	157.5	0.3	-0.1	183.6	155.2

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to June 2002² Provisional value and volume of sales indices based on early returns from sample retailers

Table 2 Seasonally Adjusted¹ Value and Volume Indices of Retail Sales for 13 Retail Businesses
Base Year: 1995 = 100

Retail Business - NACE REV 1	November 2002						September - November 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	183.3	-6.9	-4.6	154.0	-7.1	-8.9	196.2	10.5	4.0	165.4	9.8	0.1
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	179.2	3.8	9.7	138.6	3.5	6.0	173.7	1.9	6.9	134.9	0.7	3.4
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	197.3	-1.8	-0.5	210.4	-1.5	0.3	200.1	-3.9	2.7	212.2	-3.1	3.3
of which:-												
Clothing and Footwear	206.2	-1.9	1.1				207.5	-6.4	2.9			
Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.	185.9	-1.4	-1.4				187.7	2.1	4.0			
Other Goods and Services	186.1	-5.2	-3.1				193.9	-2.8	1.5			
Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)												
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	125.0	-1.7	3.6	99.7	-1.7	0.4	126.1	2.4	5.0	100.9	1.0	1.8
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	262.6	0.8	8.0	213.2	0.4	3.8	264.8	1.7	11.1	215.7	0.8	7.0
Textiles and Clothing	182.3	-3.8	-1.4	262.7	-3.5	4.1	183.9	-1.1	0.3	263.3	1.9	5.8
Footwear and Leather	169.2	-0.8	-0.5	214.2	-0.3	5.6	166.9	-1.2	-2.0	209.7	0.9	3.6
Furniture and Lighting	162.5	-10.1	-11.6	139.7	-10.6	-12.2	172.2	-2.3	-4.4	148.7	-2.5	-5.0
Electrical Goods	216.5	-2.9	-4.2	229.6	-3.0	-4.7	229.4	0.6	2.2	243.0	0.6	1.4
Hardware, Paints and Glass	184.7	-4.5	-7.1	156.0	-4.7	-10.4	193.0	-0.3	1.5	163.4	-0.7	-2.0
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	168.9	0.1	2.2	125.5	-0.5	-2.5	169.6	0.2	3.1	127.0	-0.5	-1.4
Other Retail Sales	238.3	-0.5	8.6	226.2	-1.7	8.3	258.0	9.6	10.2	242.6	12.0	10.0
Bars - NACE 55.4	153.4	0.8	2.2	112.2	0.4	-4.0	155.2	-0.7	4.1	113.9	-1.9	-2.4
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	183.1	0.3	4.4	154.8	0.0	1.6	184.1	1.7	5.3	156.2	1.0	2.5
All Businesses	184.1	-1.0	2.6	155.7	-1.2	-0.7	187.2	3.9	5.1	158.8	3.3	1.9

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.