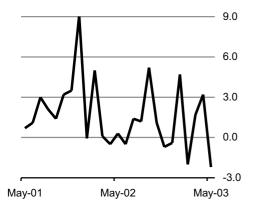


Retail Sales Index -Seasonally Adjusted Volume Annual % Change



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Retail Sales Index

May 2003 (First Estimates) April 2003 (Final Figures)

Retail Sales Index - All Businesses

(Base year 1995 = 100)

	Volume Index	Value Index
May 2002	154.7	180.7
May 2003	151.3	180.8
% change	-2.2%	+0.1%

Retail Sales volume falls 2.2%

The volume of retail sales (i.e. excluding price effects) fell by 2.2% in May 2003 compared to May 2002. There was a monthly decrease of 5.2%. If Motor Trades are excluded the annual decrease was 0.1% and there was a monthly decrease of 5.0%.

The value of retail sales increased by 0.1% in May 2003 compared to May 2002 and decreased by 5.7% in the month. However, if Motor Trades are excluded, the annual increase was 2.5% and the monthly change was -5.3%.

On a three-month basis, which gives a more stable indication of recent underlying trends, March 2003 – May 2003 volume figures show a 1.4% decrease compared with the three months ending February 2003.

April is the latest month for which final detailed sectoral figures are available. The three-month February 2003 – April 2003 volume figures show that, compared with the three months ending January 2003:

- ◆ The largest increase in the volume of sales was in the Furniture & Lighting (+ 5.5%) sector.
- ◆ The largest decrease in the volume of sales was in the Motor Trade (-4.1%) sector.

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

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Table 1 Seasonally Adjusted Indices of Total Retail Sales¹

Base Year: 1995 = 100

Total Retail Sales for all Businesses Combined

Total Retail Sales excluding Motor Trades

_								
Period	\	Value of Sales		V	olume of Sales			
	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	Value Index	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
2002 Year	182.8	3.9	3.9	156.1	0.7	0.7	182.1	155.5
2001 1st quarter	170.8	1.5	5.8	152.4	1.5	2.8	165.9	148.8
2nd quarter	174.6	2.2	4.6	154.3	1.2	1.5	169.6	150.5
3rd quarter	175.9	0.7	5.1	154.1	-0.1	2.3	171.9	150.7
4th quarter	181.0	2.9	7.5	157.9	2.5	5.2	177.5	154.5
2002 1st quarter	178.4	-1.4	4.4	154.1	-2.4	1.1	178.8	154.3
2nd quarter	180.0	0.9	3.1	154.3	0.1	0.0	178.9	153.5
3rd quarter	185.1	2.8	5.2	157.5	2.1	2.2	182.3	155.4
4th quarter	186.5	0.8	3.0	157.4	-0.1	-0.3	183.9	155.3
2003 1st quarter	187.9	0.8	5.3	156.4	-0.7	1.5	187.4	156.4
2002 April	179.7	1.4	3.2	154.3	1.0	-0.1	176.7	151.9
May	180.7	0.6	3.6	154.7	0.3	0.3	177.8	152.5
June	179.6	-0.6	2.6	153.9	-0.5	-0.2	181.6	155.6
July	181.9	1.3	4.2	155.6	1.1	1.5	179.9	153.8
August	181.7	-0.1	2.8	154.8	-0.5	-0.3	181.0	154.3
September	190.3	4.7	8.0	161.1	4.1	4.7	185.2	157.6
October	185.9	-2.3	3.8	157.4	-2.3	0.6	182.5	154.7
November	185.1	-0.4	2.6	156.3	-0.7	-0.8	183.8	155.3
December	188.0	1.6	2.7	158.3	1.3	-0.7	185.1	155.8
2003 January	190.2	1.2	8.7	159.3	0.6	5.0	188.0	157.2
February	187.1	-1.6	2.0	155.0	-2.7	-2.0	187.2	156.0
March	186.7	-0.2	5.4	155.1	0.1	1.5	187.2	156.0
April	191.7	2.7	6.7	159.6	2.9	3.4	192.4	160.4
May ²	180.8	-5.7	0.1	151.3	-5.2	-2.2	182.2	152.3
12 months ending Apr 2003	185.8	4.4	4.4	156.8	1.1	1.1	184.3	155.8
12 months ending May 2003 ²	185.8	4.1	4.1	156.5	0.9	0.9	184.7	155.8
3 months ending Apr 2003	188.4	0.3	4.7	156.5	-1.0	1.0	188.8	157.4
3 months ending May 2003 ²	186.4	-1.0	4.1	155.3	-1.4	1.0	187.3	156.2

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 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, April 2003¹

Retail Business - NACE REV 1	April 2003				February - April 2003							
	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	change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	189.1	0.4	0.8	155.7	0.9	-2.6	190.8	-2.7	2.9	156.5	-4.1	-1.5
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	185.5	6.1	13.3	141.6	6.1	9.2	178.6	1.5	6.3	136.4	0.8	2.2
Department Stores - NACE 52.12 of which:-	204.8	-2.1	3.2	215.9	-1.8	3.5	204.0	-1.5	0.3	215.0	-2.1	0.6
Clothing and Footwear	216.9	-0.3	4.2				214.9	-1.1	-0.3			
Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.	185.8	0.2	-0.6				181.1	-11.1	6.6			
Other Goods and Services	197.1	-1.9	3.2				196.3	0.7	-1.3			
Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)												
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	124.9	-1.2	1.3	98.5	-1.8	-1.3	125.7	0.0	1.5	99.4	-0.3	-1.4
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	281.6	2.6	13.5	224.8	2.4	9.1	275.8	2.9	10.5	220.6	1.5	6.3
Textiles and Clothing	197.6	1.2	6.2	282.5	1.8	10.4	195.0	4.1	3.7	278.1	3.2	8.0
Footwear and Leather	177.5	1.2	3.3	227.9	1.6	8.6	174.8	3.2	2.8	222.8	3.6	7.4
Furniture and Lighting	185.5	4.3	3.7	161.4	4.4	4.7	184.7	5.8	1.9	160.1	5.5	2.4
Electrical Goods	223.6	-0.1	-1.2	240.1	0.4	0.0	221.1	-3.8	-2.2	236.4	-3.4	-1.7
Hardware, Paints and Glass	213.7	4.0	14.2	177.5	4.2	10.3	208.5	4.8	11.5	173.3	3.6	7.6
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	172.3	-1.1	5.2	124.7	-1.3	0.1	173.3	2.5	3.5	125.8	1.2	-1.6
Other Retail Sales	256.1	5.6	7.9	235.4	7.4	7.8	247.2	1.2	6.7	225.2	-1.6	6.1
Bars - NACE 55.4	155.1	-3.8	1.7	108.8	-3.8	-5.0	159.6	1.1	4.0	112.2	-1.1	-3.4
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	192.4	2.8	8.9	160.4	2.8	5.6	188.8	1.7	5.5	157.4	0.8	2.0
All Businesses	191.7	2.7	6.7	159.6	2.9	3.4	188.4	0.3	4.7	156.5	-1.0	1.0

Base Year: 1995 = 100

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2002, individual series are independently adjusted

Central Statistics Office Retail Sales Index

Background Notes

Retail Sales

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.

Reference Period

The April period covers the 4 weeks from 30/03/03 to 26/04/03 and the May period covers the 4 weeks from 27/04/03 to 24/05/03.

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 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.