

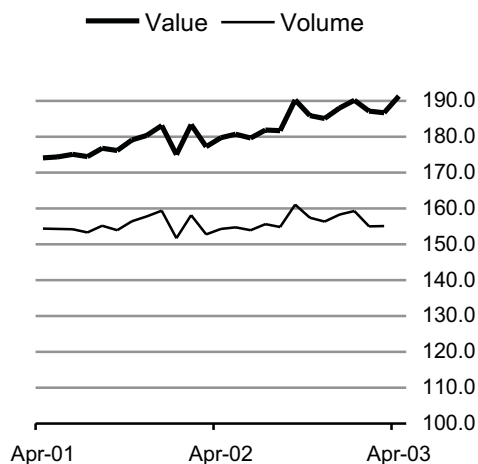


Retail Sales Index

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

Retail Sales Index

Seasonally adjusted



Retail Sales Index – All Businesses

(Base year 1995 = 100)

	Volume Index	Value Index
April 2002	154.3	179.7
April 2003	159.3	191.3
% change	+3.2%	+6.5%

Volume of Retail Sales up 3.2%

The volume of retail sales (i.e. excluding price effects) rose by 3.2% in April 2003 compared to April 2002. There was a monthly increase of 2.7%. If Motor Trades are excluded the annual increase was 5.4% and there was a monthly increase of 2.6%.

The value of retail sales rose by 6.5 % in April 2003 compared to April 2002 and increased by 2.5 % in the month. However, if Motor Trades are excluded, the annual increase was 8.7% and the monthly change was +2.6%.

On a three-month basis, which gives a more stable indication of recent underlying trends, February 2003 – April 2003 volume figures show a 1.0% decrease compared with the three months ending January 2002.

March is the latest month for which final detailed sectoral figures are available. The three-month January 2002 – March 2003 volume figures show that, compared with the three months ending December 2002:

- ◆ The largest increase in the volume of sales was in the Hardware, Paints & Glass (+ 4.7%) sector.
- ◆ The largest decrease in the volume of sales was in Other Retail Sales (-1.5%) 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**

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	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 March ³	177.2	-3.4	3.3	152.8	-3.4	0.1	181.6	156.5
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 ²	191.3	2.5	6.5	159.3	2.7	3.2	192.1	160.1
12 months ending Mar 2003	184.8	4.1	4.1	156.4	0.8	0.8	183.1	155.2
12 months ending Apr 2003 ²	185.7	4.4	4.4	156.7	1.1	1.1	184.3	155.8
3 months ending Mar 2003	187.9	0.8	5.3	156.4	-0.7	1.5	187.4	156.4
3 months ending Apr 2003 ²	188.2	0.2	4.6	156.4	-1.0	0.9	188.7	157.3

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2002² Provisional value and volume of sales indices based on early returns from sample retailers³ Revised

Table 2 Seasonally Adjusted¹ Value and Volume Indices of Retail Sales for 13 Retail Businesses, March 2003¹
Base Year: 1995 = 100

Retail Business - NACE REV 1	March 2003						January - March 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	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	188.3	-3.7	11.3	154.3	-3.6	6.3	196.9	2.9	6.5	161.6	0.9	1.7
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	174.8	-1.0	1.9	133.4	-1.0	-2.0	175.4	0.1	4.3	134.0	-0.9	0.1
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	209.1	6.2	4.1	219.9	5.8	4.2	206.4	1.1	1.6	218.1	1.0	2.3
of which:-												
Clothing and Footwear	217.6	3.9	2.7				217.3	1.8	2.1			
Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.	185.5	8.6	23.2				184.9	-8.1	8.1			
Other Goods and Services	200.9	5.8	0.1				197.1	1.6	-1.5			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>												
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	126.5	0.8	1.0	100.3	1.0	-1.8	125.6	-0.4	1.6	99.2	-1.4	-1.4
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	274.4	1.0	10.8	219.5	0.7	6.4	272.2	2.4	9.1	218.8	1.4	5.2
Textiles and Clothing	195.3	1.8	-0.1	277.5	1.2	3.7	192.0	2.5	4.3	275.5	3.0	9.6
Footwear and Leather	175.3	2.2	1.0	224.4	4.0	5.4	172.6	2.1	4.2	220.1	3.3	9.9
Furniture and Lighting	177.9	-7.6	-1.7	154.6	-6.6	-1.5	181.2	3.0	0.9	157.7	3.8	1.7
Electrical Goods	223.8	4.0	0.0	239.2	4.4	0.3	225.9	0.2	-0.7	241.3	0.8	-0.4
Hardware, Paints and Glass	205.4	-0.8	9.0	170.3	-1.6	4.9	206.4	5.8	9.5	172.1	4.7	5.8
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	174.3	0.8	1.5	126.4	0.2	-3.2	172.3	2.0	4.0	125.2	0.0	-1.5
Other Retail Sales	242.4	-0.8	6.2	219.3	-1.4	5.4	245.6	1.8	7.1	224.1	-1.5	6.5
Bars - NACE 55.4	161.3	-0.4	3.3	113.1	-1.2	-3.9	161.5	3.9	5.4	113.9	1.0	-2.6
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	187.2	0.0	3.1	156.0	0.0	-0.3	187.4	1.9	4.8	156.4	0.7	1.4
All Businesses	186.7	-0.2	5.4	155.1	0.1	1.5	187.9	0.8	5.3	156.4	-0.7	1.5

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

Background Notes

Retail Sales Index	<p>Introduction of updated series with a new business classification and with base year 1995 = 100.</p> <p>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 <i>Statistical Bulletin</i>. 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.</p>
Reference Period	<p>The March period covers the 5 weeks from 23/02/03 to 29/03/03 the April period covers the 4 weeks from 30/03/03 to 27/03/03 inclusive.</p>
New Business Classification	<p>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.</p>
New Base Year	<p>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.</p>
Scope and Coverage	<p>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).</p>
Methodology	<p>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*.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p>
Seasonal Adjustment	<p>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).</p>
References	<p>A detailed description of the Retail Sales Index is provided in the March 2000 issue of the <i>Statistical Bulletin</i>. Retrospective details covering three years are provided for all series on both a seasonally adjusted and an unadjusted basis in each issue of the <i>Statistical Bulletin</i>.</p> <p>* The Department Stores business category is not classified by annual turnover but is sub-divided into three retail activity categories.</p>