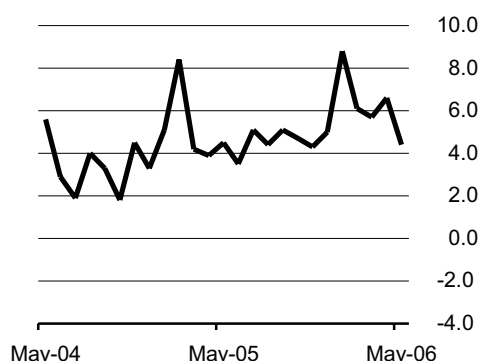


**Retail Sales Index -  
Seasonally Adjusted Volume  
Annual % Change**



## Retail Sales Index

May 2006 (First Estimates)

April 2006 (Final Figures)

### Retail Sales Index – All Businesses

(Base year 2000 = 100)

	Volume Index	Value Index
May 2005	109.3	119.1
May 2006	114.1	127.0
% change	+4.4%	+6.6%

### Retail Sales volume increases by 4.4%

The volume of retail sales (i.e. excluding price effects) increased by 4.4% in May 2006 compared to May 2005. There was a monthly decrease of 2.5%. If Motor Trades are excluded the annual increase was 7.3% and the monthly change was +0.5%.

The value of retail sales increased by 6.6% in May 2006 compared to May 2005 and decreased by 2.2% in the month. However, if Motor Trades are excluded, the annual increase was 8.8% and the monthly change was +0.9%.

April 2006 is the latest month for which final detailed figures are available. The three-month February 2006 – April 2006 volume figures show that, compared with the three months ending January 2006:

- The largest increase in the volume of sales was in the Electrical Goods (+7.5%) sector.
- The largest decrease in the volume of sales was in the Hardware, Paints and Glass (-2.5%) sector.

All figures in this release are trading day and seasonally adjusted. The seasonal factors are based on unadjusted indices up to December 2005.

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**Table 1 Seasonally Adjusted Indices of Total Retail Sales <sup>1</sup>****Base Year: 2000 = 100**

Period	Total Retail Sales for all Businesses Combined					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change
2002 Year	105.9	2.5	2.5	101.7	0.2	0.2
2003 Year	109.3	3.2	3.2	102.6	0.9	0.9
2004 Year	114.1	4.4	4.4	105.7	3.0	3.0
2005 Year	121.2	6.2	6.2	110.8	4.8	4.8
2005 1st quarter	118.8	2.4	6.8	109.4	2.2	5.7
2nd quarter	119.5	0.6	5.3	109.6	0.2	4.0
3rd quarter	122.0	2.1	6.6	111.1	1.4	4.8
4th quarter	123.3	1.1	6.3	112.0	0.8	4.7
2006 1st quarter	129.4	4.9	8.9	116.9	4.3	6.8
2004 December	116.3	-0.4	4.6	107.2	-0.4	3.3
2005 January	117.6	1.1	6.2	108.6	1.3	5.1
February	119.4	1.6	9.4	109.6	1.0	8.4
March	119.3	-0.1	5.3	110.0	0.3	4.2
April	119.5	0.1	5.2	109.8	-0.2	3.9
May	119.1	-0.3	5.9	109.3	-0.4	4.5
June	119.7	0.5	4.6	109.7	0.4	3.5
July	120.5	0.7	6.6	110.1	0.4	5.1
August	122.2	1.4	5.8	111.4	1.2	4.4
September	123.0	0.6	7.1	111.6	0.1	5.1
October	122.4	-0.5	6.7	111.0	-0.5	4.7
November	123.7	1.1	5.9	112.4	1.2	4.3
December	123.8	0.1	6.5	112.6	0.2	5.0
2006 January	130.2	5.2	10.8	118.1	4.9	8.8
February	129.4	-0.7	8.3	116.3	-1.5	6.1
March	128.8	-0.4	8.0	116.3	0.0	5.7
April	129.8	0.7	8.7	117.0	0.6	6.6
May <sup>2</sup>	127.0	-2.2	6.6	114.1	-2.5	4.4

<sup>1</sup> Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2005<sup>2</sup> Provisional value and volume of sales indices based on early returns from sample retailers

**Table 2 Seasonally Adjusted Indices of Total Retail Sales (Excluding Motor Trades)<sup>1</sup>****Base Year: 2000 = 100**

Total Retail Sales for all Businesses Combined (Excl Motor Trades)						
Period	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change
2002 Year	114.8	4.3	4.3	108.9	1.7	1.7
2003 Year	119.2	3.8	3.8	110.6	1.6	1.6
2004 Year	123.7	3.8	3.8	114.0	3.1	3.1
2005 Year	130.5	5.5	5.5	119.6	4.9	4.9
2005 1st quarter	126.8	1.5	4.8	116.8	1.7	4.5
2nd quarter	128.4	1.3	5.1	117.9	0.9	4.5
3rd quarter	130.9	1.9	6.4	119.8	1.6	5.6
4th quarter	132.1	0.9	5.8	120.6	0.7	5.0
2006 1st quarter	136.0	2.9	7.3	123.8	2.6	6.0
2004 December	125.0	-0.4	4.1	114.9	-0.5	3.5
2005 January	125.1	0.1	3.4	115.2	0.3	2.9
February	128.0	2.4	6.6	118.0	2.4	6.3
March	127.2	-0.7	4.5	117.1	-0.8	4.1
April	126.0	-0.9	3.1	115.8	-1.1	2.5
May	128.3	1.8	5.8	117.8	1.7	5.1
June	130.3	1.6	6.1	119.6	1.5	5.6
July	130.1	-0.2	7.0	119.4	-0.1	6.3
August	130.6	0.4	5.6	119.5	0.1	4.9
September	131.8	0.9	6.6	120.3	0.7	5.7
October	131.4	-0.3	5.8	120.0	-0.3	5.1
November	132.4	0.7	5.4	120.7	0.6	4.5
December	132.5	0.1	6.0	121.1	0.3	5.4
2006 January	136.3	2.9	8.9	124.3	2.7	7.9
February	137.1	0.6	7.1	124.8	0.4	5.8
March	134.9	-1.6	6.1	122.6	-1.8	4.7
April	138.4	2.5	9.8	125.7	2.6	8.6
May <sup>2</sup>	139.5	0.9	8.8	126.4	0.5	7.3

<sup>1</sup> Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2005<sup>2</sup> Provisional value and volume of sales indices based on early returns from sample retailers

**Table 3 Seasonally Adjusted<sup>1</sup> Value and Volume Indices of Retail Sales for 13 Retail Businesses**  
**(Preliminary Estimates) Base Year: 2000 = 100**

Retail Business - NACE REV 1	May 2006					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	102.8	-7.6	1.2	91.4	-7.9	-1.6
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	151.3	3.9	12.1	130.8	2.6	9.1
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	138.0	-6.8	11.2	143.8	-6.8	11.5
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	140.1	-9.4	5.9			
Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.	124.6	-7.2	10.6			
Other Goods and Services	139.2	-3.2	17.5			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	124.6	1.7	3.6	104.2	0.6	1.1
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	154.4	-1.5	4.6	131.9	-1.8	3.7
Textiles and Clothing	140.7	3.9	10.3	167.2	4.3	11.9
Footwear and Leather	121.3	-1.3	4.3	151.7	-1.1	8.2
Furniture and Lighting	123.7	-6.1	11.6	113.5	-8.6	11.6
Electrical Goods	122.6	-1.5	1.1	114.1	-1.7	0.2
Hardware, Paints and Glass	170.8	-3.4	11.6	142.8	-3.2	9.1
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	126.9	5.6	5.9	106.0	5.0	3.0
Other Retail Sales	131.6	-2.6	6.4	114.6	-2.7	3.9
Bars - NACE 55.4	110.3	-0.3	1.5	88.7	-0.7	-0.6
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	139.5	0.9	8.8	126.4	0.5	7.3
<b>All Businesses</b>	127.0	-2.2	6.6	114.1	-2.5	4.4
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	138.0	3.1	9.5	164.6	3.2	11.4
Household Equipment	144.7	-4.2	8.6	127.8	-4.3	7.1
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	130.4	-2.0	6.3	112.2	-2.1	3.7
Food Businesses	148.8	3.7	11.4	127.2	2.6	8.5
All Non-Food	139.8	-2.1	7.9	126.1	-2.6	5.6
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	144.4	1.0	9.8	132.7	0.6	8.3

<sup>1</sup> Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2005, individual series are independently adjusted

**Table 4 Seasonally Adjusted<sup>1</sup> Value and Volume Indices of Retail Sales for 13 Retail Businesses**  
**Base Year: 2000 = 100**

Retail Business - NACE REV 1	April 2006					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	111.3	-3.9	6.5	99.2	-4.1	3.5
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	145.6	1.3	10.7	127.5	1.7	8.6
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	148.0	8.3	20.4	154.4	8.4	20.8
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	154.7	10.8	18.0			
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	134.3	22.4	26.7			
Other Goods and Services	143.8	2.3	22.1			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	122.5	2.0	7.4	103.6	1.9	5.5
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	156.7	-6.3	8.0	134.3	-6.5	7.0
Textiles and Clothing	135.5	1.8	7.3	160.2	1.1	8.7
Footwear and Leather	122.8	0.6	5.9	153.3	1.4	9.8
Furniture and Lighting	131.8	13.4	12.8	124.3	17.0	13.6
Electrical Goods	124.4	-3.5	9.6	116.1	-3.2	8.5
Hardware, Paints and Glass	176.9	13.9	16.1	147.6	13.2	13.8
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	120.2	-0.8	0.4	100.9	-1.3	-1.9
Other Retail Sales	135.1	2.3	7.7	117.8	2.2	5.7
Bars - NACE 55.4	110.6	3.2	6.5	89.3	3.3	4.7
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	138.4	2.5	9.8	125.7	2.6	8.6
<b>All Businesses</b>	129.8	0.7	8.7	117.0	0.6	6.6
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	133.8	1.8	7.1	159.4	1.8	8.9
Household Equipment	151.1	9.6	13.7	133.6	9.5	12.3
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	133.0	2.4	6.4	114.6	2.3	4.3
Food Businesses	143.5	1.5	10.5	124.0	1.6	8.4
All Non-Food	142.9	3.4	10.0	129.5	3.4	7.8
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	143.1	2.3	10.2	131.9	2.2	9.1

<sup>1</sup> Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2005, individual series are independently adjusted

**Table 5 Seasonally Adjusted<sup>1</sup> Value and Volume Indices of Retail Sales for 13 Retail Businesses**

**Base Year: 2000 = 100**

Retail Business - NACE REV 1	February - April 2006					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	114.4	3.2	10.1	102.2	2.3	6.9
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	144.4	1.3	9.1	126.4	-0.1	7.6
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	139.0	7.6	14.6	144.9	7.4	15.3
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	144.0	1.4	11.1			
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	120.7	7.5	14.7			
Other Goods and Services	138.6	17.3	18.8			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	122.2	-0.2	2.7	103.6	-1.1	1.6
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	161.7	4.5	10.0	138.7	4.0	8.9
Textiles and Clothing	135.6	5.3	5.5	160.9	6.5	6.7
Footwear and Leather	123.0	-0.5	1.8	152.3	-0.2	4.7
Furniture and Lighting	122.7	2.3	9.0	114.6	2.7	9.7
Electrical Goods	126.3	7.9	6.6	117.7	7.5	5.6
Hardware, Paints and Glass	163.9	-1.8	7.5	137.6	-2.5	5.4
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	120.6	-1.1	2.4	101.6	-2.3	0.1
Other Retail Sales	132.6	1.8	7.3	115.8	1.9	4.7
Bars - NACE 55.4	110.2	0.1	3.2	88.9	-0.6	1.5
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	136.7	2.3	7.6	124.2	1.8	6.2
<b>All Businesses</b>	129.3	2.9	8.3	116.5	2.0	6.1
<u>Of which:-</u>						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	133.8	4.4	5.1	159.5	5.1	6.4
Household Equipment	143.2	3.3	7.5	126.8	3.0	6.2
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	130.4	1.3	6.4	112.6	1.2	3.9
Food Businesses	142.3	1.2	8.5	123.1	-0.1	7.1
All Non-Food	139.8	4.3	7.7	126.7	3.7	5.5
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	141.1	2.8	8.1	130.2	2.4	6.8

<sup>1</sup> Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2005, individual series are independently adjusted

**Table 6**

**Volume of retail trade in the euro-zone, the EU25 and Member States<sup>1</sup>**  
**Annual % change compared with the same month of the previous year**

	Nov-05	Dec-05	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06 <sup>2</sup>
Belgium	0.1	1.4	-4.0	-6.6	-2.2	1.4
Germany	0.7	0.3	2.2	0.9	-0.3	2.2
Greece	2.4	1.5	0.3	5.9	6.0	9.8
Spain	-0.2	-0.1	-0.9	0.6	1.6	0.0
France	2.6	0.6	1.4	2.4	0.5	1.9
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>9.4</b>
Italy	0.4	1.4	0.1	0.1	-3.2	1.5
Luxembourg	1.6	-2.4	1.9	3.7	1.3	-2.6
Netherlands	3.8	2.8	7.2	4.3	3.8	8.0
Austria	1.2	2.4	2.9	3.1	-0.4	4.2
Portugal	-0.7	1.9	2.1	1.8	-1.9	2.0
Finland	5.7	5.9	7.8	3.7	6.0	7.0
<b>Euro-zone</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>
Denmark	7.4	5.9	6.9	3.7	4.2	4.0
Sweden	7.3	10.8	8.0	8.2	5.8	13.2
United Kingdom	1.5	5.1	0.8	1.5	1.3	4.6
Czech Republic	4.5	3.8	6.7	7.3	8.4	7.3
Estonia	16.0	18.2	15.1	15.5	14.9	17.1
Cyprus	8.3	5.5	6.1	4.6	3.7	c
Latvia	21.6	24.2	12.9	15.1	16.7	16.7
Lithuania	16.3	18.4	9.8	7.9	10.5	5.2
Hungary	6.6	5.0	6.7	6.0	6.2	4.1
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	:
Poland	4.4	6.3	5.6	7.1	9.6	7.8
Slovenia	5.1	12.2	1.6	6.6	1.1	5.8
Slovakia	14.6	6.1	6.8	6.8	10.4	9.1
<b>EU25</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>3.5</b>

: Data not available, c Confidential data

<sup>1</sup> Data NACE 52 : All Business excluding Motor Trades & Bars

<sup>2</sup> Data for Ireland is Preliminary April 2006 data

Source: Eurostat

## Background Notes

<b>Retail Sales Index</b>	<p><b>Introduction of updated series with base year 2000 = 100.</b></p> <p>An updated Retail Sales Index (RSI) was introduced in the November 2003 release. 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 datings.</p>
<b>Reference Period</b>	<p>The April period covers the 4 weeks from 02/04/06 to 29/04/06 and the May period covers the 4 weeks from 30/04/06 to 27/05/06.</p>
<b>New Base Year</b>	<p>The set of new monthly retail sales indices has been compiled with reference to base year 2000 = 100. The underlying structural weighting system is mainly based on the 2000 Annual Services Inquiry. Weights are updated from year to year using ratios of average weekly turnover by size class within business type.</p>
<b>Scope and Coverage</b>	<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>
<b>Methodology</b>	<p>The business categories are 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 2000 Annual Services Inquiry classified by 13 retail business categories and four turnover (excluding VAT) ranges<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>The value indices are calculated by updating the aggregate 2000 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 2000 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). A copy of the Retail Sales Index methodology is available on our website (<a href="http://www.cso.ie">www.cso.ie</a>).</p>
<b>Seasonal Adjustment</b>	<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 1999 to December 2005. The duration is just sufficient for seasonal adjustment; the process will improve as the series is extended. The adjustments are completed by applying the X-11 Variant of the US Bureau of the Census Method 11 Seasonal Adjustment program based on individually selected multiplicative models. The unadjusted series, from which trading day variations have been eliminated, are available on our website (<a href="http://www.cso.ie">www.cso.ie</a>).</p>
<b>References</b>	<p>A detailed description of the Retail Sales Index is available on the cso website <a href="http://www.cso.ie">www.cso.ie</a>. 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.</p>

<sup>1</sup> The Department Stores business category is not classified by annual turnover but is sub-divided into three retail activity categories.