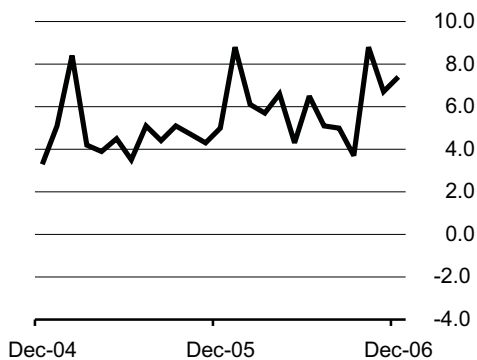


23 March 2007

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



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Retail Sales Index

January 2007 (First Estimates)
December 2006 (Final Figures)

Retail Sales Index – All Businesses

(Base year 2000 = 100)

	Volume Index	Value Index
January 2006	117.5	129.3
January 2007	126.2	140.4
% change	+7.3%	+8.5%

Retail Sales volume increases by 7.3%

The volume of retail sales (i.e. excluding price effects) increased by 7.3% in January 2007 compared to January 2006. There was a monthly increase of 4.0%. If Motor Trades are excluded the annual increase was 6.3% and the monthly change was +0.3%.

The value of retail sales increased by 8.5% in January 2007 compared to January 2006 and increased by 3.9% in the month. However, if Motor Trades are excluded, the annual increase was 7.7% and the monthly change was +0.4%.

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

- The largest increase in the volume of sales was in the Textiles & Clothing (+6.5%) sector.
- The largest decrease in the volume of sales was in the Hardware, Paints & Glass (-2.9%) sector.

All figures in this release are trading day and seasonally adjusted. The seasonal factors are based on unadjusted indices up to December 2006.

For more information contact Alan Finlay on 021 453 5211 or Patrick Foley 021 453 5012.

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

Total Retail Sales for all Businesses Combined						
Period	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
2006 Year	130.7	7.8	7.8	117.7	6.2	6.2
2005 1st quarter	118.0	1.4	6.5	108.9	1.7	5.5
2nd quarter	119.3	1.1	5.1	109.6	0.6	4.0
3rd quarter	122.7	2.8	6.8	111.8	2.0	5.1
4th quarter	123.7	0.8	6.3	112.0	0.2	4.6
2006 1st quarter	128.4	3.8	8.8	116.1	3.7	6.6
2nd quarter	128.9	0.4	8.0	116.0	-0.1	5.8
3rd quarter	130.1	0.9	6.0	117.0	0.9	4.7
4th quarter	134.0	3.0	8.3	120.4	2.9	7.5
2005 August	122.5	1.3	5.8	111.8	1.0	4.4
September	124.1	1.3	7.4	112.6	0.7	5.4
October	122.4	-1.4	6.6	110.3	-2.1	4.4
November	124.3	1.6	5.9	112.6	2.1	4.3
December	124.3	0.0	6.4	112.8	0.2	4.9
2006 January	129.3	4.1	10.6	117.5	4.2	8.7
February	127.7	-1.3	8.3	115.3	-1.9	6.0
March	128.3	0.5	7.9	115.7	0.4	5.7
April	129.0	0.6	8.6	116.2	0.4	6.5
May	127.8	-1.0	6.7	115.0	-1.1	4.5
June	129.8	1.6	8.7	116.7	1.5	6.5
July	129.6	-0.2	7.1	116.5	-0.2	5.2
August	130.8	0.9	6.7	117.5	0.9	5.0
September	129.9	-0.7	4.6	117.1	-0.3	4.0
October	133.3	2.7	8.9	119.6	2.2	8.4
November	133.4	0.1	7.3	120.2	0.5	6.7
December	135.1	1.2	8.7	121.3	0.9	7.5
2007 January ²	140.4	3.9	8.5	126.2	4.0	7.3

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2006² 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)¹**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
2006 Year	141.1	8.1	8.1	127.9	6.9	6.9
2005 1st quarter	126.3	0.7	4.6	116.4	1.0	4.2
2nd quarter	127.9	1.3	4.9	117.6	1.0	4.4
3rd quarter	131.2	2.6	6.5	120.0	2.0	5.6
4th quarter	132.6	1.1	5.7	121.0	0.8	4.9
2006 1st quarter	135.5	2.2	7.3	123.4	2.0	6.0
2nd quarter	139.2	2.7	8.8	126.2	2.3	7.3
3rd quarter	141.1	1.4	7.5	127.8	1.3	6.5
4th quarter	144.3	2.3	8.9	130.5	2.1	7.8
2005 August	130.6	0.2	5.5	119.4	0.0	4.8
September	132.3	1.3	6.6	120.9	1.2	5.8
October	131.6	-0.5	5.8	120.1	-0.6	5.0
November	132.8	0.9	5.4	121.1	0.8	4.5
December	133.3	0.3	6.0	121.7	0.6	5.4
2006 January	135.3	1.5	9.0	123.5	1.4	7.9
February	136.4	0.8	7.0	124.2	0.6	5.7
March	135.0	-1.0	6.1	122.7	-1.2	4.8
April	137.9	2.2	9.8	125.3	2.2	8.6
May	139.1	0.8	8.7	126.1	0.6	7.2
June	140.3	0.9	8.0	127.1	0.8	6.5
July	140.5	0.2	7.8	127.3	0.1	6.5
August	141.6	0.8	8.4	128.3	0.8	7.4
September	141.3	-0.2	6.8	127.8	-0.3	5.8
October	143.6	1.7	9.1	130.1	1.8	8.3
November	144.1	0.3	8.5	130.3	0.2	7.6
December	145.1	0.7	8.9	130.9	0.4	7.5
2007 January ²	145.7	0.4	7.7	131.2	0.3	6.3

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2006² Provisional value and volume of sales indices based on early returns from sample retailers

Table 3 Seasonally Adjusted¹ Value and Volume Indices of Retail Sales for 13 Retail Businesses
(Preliminary Estimates) Base Year: 2000 = 100

Retail Business - NACE REV 1	January 2007					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	124.9	7.2	9.5	111.0	6.7	8.5
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	156.2	-2.0	9.0	135.0	-2.1	6.6
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	128.9	-6.2	-1.9	134.1	-7.0	-1.4
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	127.1	-0.5	-11.2			
Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.	96.5	-7.6	-19.8			
Other Goods and Services	139.7	-11.3	16.5			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	129.1	4.7	0.7	106.8	3.8	-1.8
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	166.5	-1.6	6.0	141.5	-1.7	4.9
Textiles and Clothing	147.1	3.4	12.8	176.5	2.6	14.5
Footwear and Leather	136.7	5.4	11.0	171.0	4.3	11.4
Furniture and Lighting	133.0	9.7	9.9	122.5	9.1	8.9
Electrical Goods	145.2	9.4	20.4	134.4	9.1	19.2
Hardware, Paints and Glass	197.2	17.0	8.6	161.8	17.5	5.3
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	129.8	3.1	6.4	107.6	3.1	4.1
Other Retail Sales	144.3	3.7	6.7	124.1	3.7	5.3
Bars - NACE 55.4	115.0	1.6	3.3	91.7	1.5	1.5
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	145.7	0.4	7.7	131.2	0.3	6.3
All Businesses	140.4	3.9	8.5	126.2	4.0	7.3
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	145.6	3.5	12.6	176.1	2.8	14.2
Household Equipment	163.7	11.0	12.5	142.3	10.6	10.2
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	140.8	3.4	6.6	120.2	3.4	5.0
Food Businesses	153.3	-1.9	8.1	130.8	-2.0	5.7
All Non-Food	149.0	3.2	8.4	133.8	2.5	7.2
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	150.6	0.6	8.2	137.8	0.5	6.9

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2006, individual series are independently adjusted

Table 4 Seasonally Adjusted¹ Value and Volume Indices of Retail Sales for 13 Retail Businesses
Base Year: 2000 = 100

Retail Business - NACE REV 1	December 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	116.5	3.3	7.6	104.0	2.9	6.6
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	159.4	1.9	12.0	137.9	1.4	9.5
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	137.5	2.9	5.2	144.1	2.8	5.9
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	127.8	-1.7	-12.7			
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	104.4	-5.4	-5.2			
Other Goods and Services	157.5	9.3	30.1			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	123.3	-1.8	5.4	102.9	-1.8	2.8
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	169.2	1.8	9.1	143.9	1.8	7.9
Textiles and Clothing	142.2	-5.2	11.5	172.0	-4.3	13.8
Footwear and Leather	129.8	-0.8	5.7	163.9	-0.5	8.4
Furniture and Lighting	121.3	0.5	1.9	112.3	0.2	1.2
Electrical Goods	132.7	3.6	13.6	123.2	3.3	12.7
Hardware, Paints and Glass	168.6	-3.8	1.0	137.7	-4.8	-2.1
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	125.9	0.1	3.6	104.4	-0.4	0.9
Other Retail Sales	139.1	1.0	8.1	119.7	0.4	6.4
Bars - NACE 55.4	113.2	2.0	3.6	90.3	1.9	1.9
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	145.1	0.7	8.9	130.9	0.4	7.5
All Businesses	135.1	1.2	8.7	121.3	0.9	7.5
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	140.7	-5.0	10.8	171.3	-3.7	13.2
Household Equipment	147.5	-0.6	6.4	128.7	-0.9	4.4
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	136.2	0.8	7.3	116.3	0.4	5.3
Food Businesses	156.2	1.6	11.5	133.5	1.6	9.0
All Non-Food	144.3	-0.2	7.8	130.5	-0.9	6.8
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	149.7	0.5	9.4	137.2	0.2	8.1

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2006, individual series are independently adjusted

Table 5 Seasonally Adjusted¹ Value and Volume Indices of Retail Sales for 13 Retail Businesses
Base Year: 2000 = 100

Retail Business - NACE REV 1	October - December 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	114.3	5.3	6.6	102.3	5.5	6.1
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	157.4	3.1	11.2	136.6	2.8	9.2
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	135.1	-0.7	3.9	141.9	-1.0	4.8
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	130.9	-11.7	-9.1			
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	110.6	-6.1	1.7			
Other Goods and Services	146.7	15.0	23.1			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	123.7	-0.2	3.5	103.3	-0.5	1.0
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	167.4	2.2	10.9	142.6	1.9	9.9
Textiles and Clothing	144.9	5.9	11.7	174.4	6.5	13.9
Footwear and Leather	131.2	2.2	7.0	165.3	2.5	9.6
Furniture and Lighting	120.1	0.8	1.8	111.3	0.7	1.6
Electrical Goods	130.9	0.5	12.7	121.7	0.6	12.1
Hardware, Paints and Glass	172.9	-2.2	7.3	142.3	-2.9	4.5
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	125.2	2.6	3.8	104.2	2.3	1.2
Other Retail Sales	138.2	2.4	8.2	119.7	2.6	7.3
Bars - NACE 55.4	112.5	-0.4	1.9	89.8	-0.8	0.3
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	144.3	2.3	8.9	130.5	2.1	7.8
All Businesses	134.0	3.0	8.3	120.4	2.9	7.5
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	143.3	5.8	11.2	173.3	6.1	13.4
Household Equipment	148.3	-0.5	8.6	129.7	-0.7	6.9
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	135.7	2.5	7.4	116.2	2.6	6.1
Food Businesses	154.4	3.1	10.7	131.9	2.5	8.3
All Non-Food	144.5	1.8	8.7	130.8	1.9	8.1
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	149.1	2.2	9.6	136.9	2.2	8.7

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2006, individual series are independently adjusted

Table 6

Volume of retail trade in the euro-zone, the EU25 and Member States¹
Annual % change compared with the same month of the previous year

	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06 ²
Belgium	1.1	-1.8	-1.4	-2.6	1.8	-3.4
Germany	0.4	0.9	-0.9	0.0	-0.2	2.6
Greece	10.7	10.5	11.9	5.2	6.8	10.6
Spain	1.3	4.0	3.9	2.9	4.0	4.7
France	3.8	2.5	1.3	1.2	2.0	1.9
Ireland	7.2	8.1	6.7	9.3	8.6	7.9
Italy	-0.7	0.1	0.2	-2.0	-0.3	-0.8
Luxembourg	0.3	2.8	0.7	1.5	1.8	2.8
Netherlands	3.3	5.8	2.6	3.0	3.4	3.5
Austria	1.8	2.6	0.8	0.8	0.6	3.3
Portugal	4.6	1.9	2.5	-0.3	0.5	1.8
Finland	5.5	5.0	6.6	4.7	5.3	5.2
Euro-zone (EU12)	1.9	2.2	1.2	0.8	1.5	2.2
Slovenia	1.1	-2.1	1.5	2.6	2.2	-2.5
Euro-zone (EU13)	1.9	2.2	1.2	0.8	1.5	2.2
Denmark	3.1	2.3	0.8	0.8	2.3	3.7
Sweden	8.5	8.2	9.3	9.3	7.5	10.9
United Kingdom	3.9	4.2	2.9	3.9	3.1	4.7
Czech Republic	6.8	6.5	4.4	5.8	6.7	8.4
Estonia	16.2	16.6	17.3	17.6	19.2	18.5
Cyprus	6.4	8.0	9.4	8.1	6.3	7.3
Latvia	18.7	20.6	19.7	26.5	21.9	27.2
Lithuania	7.3	8.6	6.0	5.6	6.1	7.7
Hungary	4.0	5.8	4.2	2.3	2.2	3.3
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	:
Poland	9.4	6.8	10.1	9.1	9.0	13.2
Slovakia	8.8	8.3	10.8	8.0	7.8	6.5
EU25	2.9	3.1	2.2	2.1	2.4	3.5
Bulgaria	12.7	13.4	16.6	15.5	16.5	19.5
Romania	29.1	14.2	26.7	19.9	19.9	22.9
EU27	3.1	3.2	2.4	2.2	2.5	3.6

: Data not available,

¹ Data NACE 52 : All Business excluding Motor Trades & Bars

² Data for Ireland is Preliminary December 2006 data

Source: Eurostat

Background Notes

Retail Sales Index	<p>Introduction of updated series with base year 2000 = 100.</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 updatings.</p>
Reference Period	<p>The December period covers the 5 weeks from 26/11/06 to 30/12/06 and the January period covers the 4 weeks from 31/12/06 to 27/01/07.</p>
New Base Year	<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>
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 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) ranges¹.</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 (www.cso.ie).</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 1999 to December 2006. 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 (www.cso.ie).</p>
References	<p>A detailed description of the Retail Sales Index is available on the cso website www.cso.ie. 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>

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