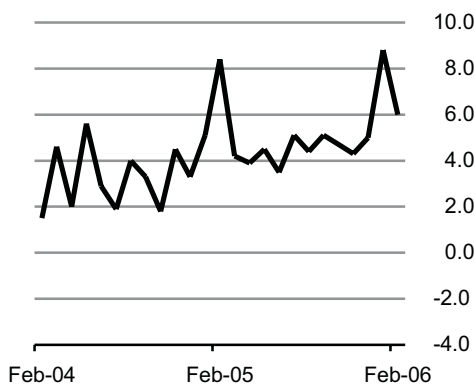


**Retail Sales Index -
Seasonally Adjusted Volume
Annual % Change**



Retail Sales Index

February 2006 (First Estimates)
January 2006 (Final Figures)

Retail Sales Index – All Businesses

(Base year 2000 = 100)

	Volume Index	Value Index
February 2005	109.6	119.4
February 2006	116.2	129.3
% change	+6.0%	+8.2%

Retail Sales volume increases by 6.0%

The volume of retail sales (i.e. excluding price effects) increased by 6.0% in February 2006 compared to February 2005. There was a monthly decrease of 1.6%. If Motor Trades are excluded the annual increase was 6.0% and the monthly change was +0.6%.

The value of retail sales increased by 8.2% in February 2006 compared to February 2005 and decreased by 0.7% in the month. However, if Motor Trades are excluded, the annual increase was 7.3% and the monthly change was +0.8%.

January 2006 is the latest month for which final detailed figures are available. The three-month November 2005 – January 2006 volume figures show that, compared with the three months ending October 2005:

- The largest increase in the volume of sales was in the Furniture and Lighting (+9.0 %) sector.
- The largest decrease in the volume of sales was in the Textiles and Clothing (-1.1%) 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 ¹**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
2004 1st quarter	111.2	0.4	3.2	103.5	-0.2	2.3
2nd quarter	113.5	2.1	4.7	105.4	1.8	3.3
3rd quarter	114.5	0.9	4.7	106.0	0.6	3.1
4th quarter	116.0	1.3	4.7	107.0	0.9	3.2
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
2004 September	114.8	-0.6	4.7	106.2	-0.5	3.3
October	114.7	-0.1	3.3	106.0	-0.2	1.8
November	116.8	1.9	6.2	107.7	1.6	4.5
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 ²	129.3	-0.7	8.2	116.2	-1.6	6.0

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2005² 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
2004 1st quarter	121.0	1.0	3.2	111.8	0.9	2.3
2nd quarter	122.2	1.0	3.5	112.8	0.9	2.7
3rd quarter	123.0	0.7	4.0	113.4	0.5	3.4
4th quarter	124.9	1.5	4.3	114.9	1.3	3.7
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
2004 September	123.7	0.0	3.7	113.9	-0.1	3.1
October	124.2	0.4	3.5	114.2	0.3	2.8
November	125.6	1.1	5.4	115.5	1.1	4.9
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 ²	137.4	0.8	7.3	125.1	0.6	6.0

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2005² 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	February 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	115.1	-1.9	9.9	102.9	-2.5	6.6
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	144.6	1.2	9.1	127.0	0.4	8.5
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	137.5	6.6	14.9	143.3	6.5	15.4
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	140.4	-0.4	12.0			
Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.	111.9	-11.5	7.8			
Other Goods and Services	141.2	22.2	19.0			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	124.1	-4.3	2.0	105.7	-4.7	1.6
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	162.7	3.6	11.5	139.8	3.4	10.3
Textiles and Clothing	138.8	8.1	6.5	164.6	8.4	6.9
Footwear and Leather	124.1	-0.2	3.4	152.8	-1.9	5.2
Furniture and Lighting	117.8	-3.6	2.9	111.6	-2.0	4.1
Electrical Goods	121.1	-0.3	-0.3	112.8	-0.7	-1.4
Hardware, Paints and Glass	162.6	-10.6	6.9	137.1	-10.8	5.1
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	120.4	-2.3	2.2	101.7	-2.5	-0.3
Other Retail Sales	130.9	-3.8	6.5	114.5	-4.4	3.7
Bars - NACE 55.4	113.9	1.4	5.0	91.9	0.5	3.5
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	137.4	0.8	7.3	125.1	0.6	6.0
All Businesses	129.3	-0.7	8.2	116.2	-1.6	6.0
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	136.7	7.2	6.1	163.3	7.5	6.8
Household Equipment	140.2	-4.6	4.0	124.4	-4.8	3.0
Books, Newspapers, Stationery, & Other Goods	128.8	-3.4	5.7	111.4	-3.8	3.0
Food Businesses	142.6	0.7	8.4	123.8	0.0	7.9
All Non-Food	139.1	0.4	6.9	125.9	-0.1	4.5
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	140.9	0.6	7.7	130.3	0.5	6.4

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2005, 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	January 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	117.4	8.1	13.5	105.5	7.6	10.5
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	142.8	-0.4	9.0	126.5	-1.1	9.1
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	129.0	-0.6	3.3	134.5	-0.7	4.2
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	141.0	-1.2	7.4			
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	126.5	20.6	9.5			
Other Goods and Services	115.6	-5.4	-3.7			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	129.7	10.3	9.2	110.9	10.4	9.2
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	157.1	0.8	9.0	135.2	0.3	8.0
Textiles and Clothing	128.4	3.6	5.3	151.8	4.9	6.5
Footwear and Leather	124.4	1.4	9.7	155.8	3.2	13.9
Furniture and Lighting	122.2	3.0	4.9	113.8	2.3	4.9
Electrical Goods	121.4	4.2	4.8	113.6	4.2	4.3
Hardware, Paints and Glass	181.8	11.6	20.9	153.8	11.6	18.8
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	123.3	1.6	3.0	104.3	0.6	0.6
Other Retail Sales	136.1	6.3	12.8	119.8	8.0	10.2
Bars - NACE 55.4	112.3	3.3	7.0	91.5	3.9	6.0
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	136.3	2.9	8.9	124.3	2.7	7.9
All Businesses	130.2	5.2	10.8	118.1	4.9	8.8
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	127.5	2.7	5.9	151.9	3.3	7.4
Household Equipment	147.0	8.1	12.6	130.6	8.3	11.4
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	133.3	5.1	10.7	115.7	6.1	8.2
Food Businesses	141.6	0.7	9.1	123.8	0.0	9.1
All Non-Food	138.5	5.1	9.3	126.0	4.9	7.3
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	140.1	2.9	9.2	129.6	2.7	8.2

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2005, 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	November - January 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	110.9	5.8	10.2	99.9	5.6	7.7
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	142.6	2.2	7.9	126.5	2.6	8.3
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	129.2	0.5	3.4	134.9	0.7	4.6
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	142.0	-2.3	8.8			
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	112.3	5.1	1.2			
Other Goods and Services	118.2	4.3	-3.1			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	122.5	1.8	3.0	104.8	1.6	3.1
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	154.8	1.6	9.3	133.4	1.8	8.3
Textiles and Clothing	128.8	-1.3	6.0	151.1	-1.1	7.4
Footwear and Leather	123.6	0.2	7.3	152.6	1.3	11.2
Furniture and Lighting	120.0	8.0	5.9	111.6	9.0	6.0
Electrical Goods	117.1	0.9	-1.3	109.5	0.9	-2.0
Hardware, Paints and Glass	166.9	4.4	14.3	141.2	4.1	12.2
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	122.0	3.0	3.8	104.0	2.1	2.5
Other Retail Sales	130.2	4.2	7.1	113.6	3.5	4.8
Bars - NACE 55.4	110.1	-0.5	3.6	89.4	-0.4	2.6
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	133.6	1.8	6.7	122.0	1.7	5.9
All Businesses	125.7	2.5	7.5	114.2	2.5	5.9
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	128.2	-1.0	6.2	151.7	-0.4	7.9
Household Equipment	138.6	2.1	6.9	123.1	2.1	5.8
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	128.7	3.8	6.5	111.3	3.2	4.5
Food Businesses	140.6	2.1	7.6	123.2	2.4	7.8
All Non-Food	134.1	1.6	6.6	122.2	1.6	5.0
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	137.2	1.8	7.0	127.1	1.8	6.3

¹ 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 States¹
Annual % change compared with the same month of the previous year

	Aug-05	Sep-05	Oct-05	Nov-05	Dec-05	Jan-06 ²
Belgium	3.4	1.8	0.1	-0.6	1.3	-3.6
Germany	2.4	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.0	1.7
Greece	3.8	2.1	2.4	1.6	1.5	0.5
Spain	2.6	1.5	-0.2	0.4	-0.1	-1.0
France	1.6	2.6	2.6	3.1	0.5	1.1
Ireland	5.3	6.0	5.1	5.1	5.7	8.3
Italy	1.1	0.1	0.4	0.4	1.3	0.2
Luxembourg	-0.1	3.5	2.0	-1.3	0.1	2.5
Netherlands	1.8	2.7	3.8	4.3	2.8	7.4
Austria	6.5	0.9	1.2	1.5	2.3	2.9
Portugal	1.3	1.3	-0.7	1.5	2.8	3.2
Finland	5.8	5.5	5.8	6.7	6.1	6.6
Euro-zone	2.3	1.7	1.3	1.5	0.9	1.3
Denmark	7.5	10.0	7.4	5.8	5.9	6.9
Sweden	6.7	6.3	7.3	9.0	10.8	8.0
United Kingdom	0.8	0.7	1.5	2.0	5.3	1.0
Czech Republic	5.1	4.7	4.5	5.1	4.4	6.6
Estonia	13.7	15.3	16.0	15.5	17.8	13.1
Cyprus	3.8	4.3	8.3	2.9	5.6	c
Latvia	22.5	21.4	21.6	20.6	24.1	13.0
Lithuania	14.4	17.4	16.3	17.1	18.3	9.9
Hungary	5.0	7.6	6.6	7.3	5.3	6.7
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	:
Poland	6.0	1.2	4.4	6.7	6.3	3.6
Slovenia	13.6	4.3	5.1	9.0	12.4	:
Slovakia	11.9	12.9	14.6	12.4	6.1	6.8
EU25	2.4	1.9	1.9	2.2	2.6	1.7

: Data not available, c Confidential data

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

² Data for Ireland is Preliminary January 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 January period covers the 4 weeks from 01/01/06 to 28/01/06 and the February period covers the 4 weeks from 29/01/06 to 25/02/06.</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 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 (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.