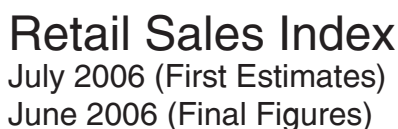




**Retail Sales Index -
Seasonally Adjusted Volume
Annual % Change**



July 2005	July 2006	% change
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Retail Sales volume increases by 5.5%

The volume of retail sales (i.e. excluding price effects) increased by 5.5% in July 2006 compared to July 2005. There was a monthly decrease of 0.5%. If Motor Trades are excluded the annual increase was 6.7% and the monthly change was -0.1%

The value of retail sales increased by 7.4% in July 2006 compared to July 2005 and decreased by 0.5% in the month. However, if Motor Trades are excluded, the annual increase was 8.0% and the monthly change was -0.2%.

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

- The largest increase in the volume of sales was in the Departments Stores (+4.8%) sector.
- The largest decrease in the volume of sales was in the Motor Trade (-8.5%) 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 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
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
2nd quarter	129.0	-0.3	8.0	116.0	-0.7	5.8
2005 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	126.9	-2.3	6.5	114.0	-2.5	4.3
June	130.1	2.5	8.7	116.8	2.5	6.5
July ²	129.5	-0.5	7.4	116.2	-0.5	5.5

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
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
2nd quarter	139.6	2.7	8.7	126.6	2.2	7.3
2005 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	139.5	0.8	8.7	126.3	0.4	7.2
June	140.8	0.9	8.1	127.4	0.9	6.6
July ²	140.5	-0.2	8.0	127.4	-0.1	6.7

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	July 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	106.7	0.0	6.0	94.8	-0.5	3.5
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	154.0	-0.4	11.2	133.8	-0.4	9.3
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	138.3	3.4	8.1	145.4	4.1	9.0
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	157.3	8.3	6.8			
Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.	121.8	19.6	4.1			
Other Goods and Services	119.5	-8.2	11.8			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	123.5	5.3	5.0	103.7	5.2	2.9
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	164.4	0.8	9.3	140.4	1.0	8.5
Textiles and Clothing	127.2	-10.0	-1.1	153.1	-9.0	1.1
Footwear and Leather	124.5	-5.8	5.3	156.7	-5.1	8.8
Furniture and Lighting	114.5	10.8	8.5	106.2	9.6	8.4
Electrical Goods	121.5	2.4	6.0	112.7	2.0	4.7
Hardware, Paints and Glass	184.3	5.9	14.8	152.8	5.9	11.6
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	124.8	5.4	6.3	104.3	5.2	3.1
Other Retail Sales	132.4	-1.1	6.7	114.7	-1.8	4.7
Bars - NACE 55.4	113.8	1.1	2.3	91.3	1.3	0.7
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	140.5	-0.2	8.0	127.4	-0.1	6.7
All Businesses	129.5	-0.5	7.4	116.2	-0.5	5.5
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	127.0	-9.3	-0.3	153.8	-7.9	2.1
Household Equipment	150.1	4.3	11.4	131.5	4.3	9.4
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	131.1	0.1	6.5	112.1	-0.8	4.1
Food Businesses	150.9	0.0	10.7	129.5	-0.1	8.6
All Non-Food	140.2	-0.2	7.1	126.2	-0.3	5.2
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	145.1	-0.5	8.9	133.6	-0.4	7.6

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	June 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	106.7	3.9	10.2	95.3	4.4	7.3
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	154.5	2.3	12.6	134.3	2.8	10.4
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	133.7	-3.2	8.0	139.6	-2.9	8.3
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	145.3	3.7	5.0			
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	101.9	-18.2	4.9			
Other Goods and Services	130.2	-6.4	14.0			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	117.3	-6.3	-2.7	98.6	-5.8	-4.7
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	163.1	5.2	7.1	139.0	5.0	6.2
Textiles and Clothing	141.4	0.5	8.4	168.2	0.7	9.8
Footwear and Leather	132.1	8.9	4.6	165.2	8.9	7.5
Furniture and Lighting	103.3	-19.9	-6.1	96.9	-18.2	-6.2
Electrical Goods	118.6	-2.4	0.4	110.5	-2.3	-0.6
Hardware, Paints and Glass	174.0	1.9	9.8	144.3	1.1	6.8
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	118.4	-5.7	-1.9	99.1	-5.5	-4.5
Other Retail Sales	133.9	1.7	9.3	116.7	1.8	7.0
Bars - NACE 55.4	112.7	2.6	1.9	90.1	2.0	-0.2
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	140.8	0.9	8.1	127.4	0.9	6.6
All Businesses	130.1	2.5	8.7	116.8	2.5	6.5
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	140.0	1.5	7.8	166.9	1.4	9.4
Household Equipment	144.0	-0.9	5.2	126.1	-1.7	3.4
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	130.9	0.6	7.0	113.0	0.8	4.5
Food Businesses	150.9	1.5	11.3	129.6	2.0	9.1
All Non-Food	140.5	0.4	6.8	126.6	0.3	4.6
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	145.9	1.0	9.1	134.1	1.1	7.7

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	April - June 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	106.9	-8.1	6.3	95.3	-8.5	3.4
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	150.7	4.9	11.9	131.1	4.0	9.4
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	139.4	4.7	12.8	145.4	4.8	13.1
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	146.6	4.9	9.2			
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	118.9	0.5	13.7			
Other Goods and Services	137.2	5.6	17.7			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	121.3	-2.5	2.4	102.0	-3.6	0.3
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	158.6	-2.0	6.7	135.5	-2.5	5.8
Textiles and Clothing	139.4	4.5	8.7	165.4	4.5	10.1
Footwear and Leather	125.9	1.9	4.8	157.4	2.8	8.4
Furniture and Lighting	120.0	0.3	6.9	112.0	0.6	7.0
Electrical Goods	121.3	-3.3	3.1	113.0	-3.3	2.1
Hardware, Paints and Glass	173.9	5.1	12.3	144.8	3.8	9.5
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	121.2	-0.3	0.8	101.4	-1.3	-1.8
Other Retail Sales	133.6	0.5	7.9	116.4	0.0	5.6
Bars - NACE 55.4	111.2	0.5	3.0	89.3	-0.3	1.0
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	139.6	2.7	8.7	126.6	2.2	7.3
All Businesses	129.0	-0.3	8.0	116.0	-0.7	5.8
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	137.5	4.3	8.1	163.9	4.3	9.9
Household Equipment	146.6	3.2	8.9	129.1	2.5	7.4
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	131.3	0.6	6.5	113.2	0.3	4.1
Food Businesses	147.9	4.4	11.0	127.1	3.3	8.7
All Non-Food	141.1	1.9	8.1	127.4	1.4	5.9
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	144.6	3.1	9.6	133.0	2.7	8.3

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

	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06 ²
Belgium	-4.0	-6.6	-2.2	1.4	1.0	-1.8
Germany	2.1	0.9	-0.2	1.6	0.1	2.3
Greece	0.3	5.9	6.0	9.9	7.0	10.1
Spain	-0.9	0.6	1.6	0.0	1.4	0.6
France	1.4	2.4	0.5	1.9	1.6	1.0
Ireland	8.2	6.1	5.7	9.2	8.3	7.7
Italy	0.2	0.1	-3.2	1.5	-0.4	-0.3
Luxembourg	1.4	3.6	-3.3	2.8	5.0	-4.8
Netherlands	7.3	4.6	4.1	8.2	8.9	4.6
Austria	2.9	3.1	-0.4	4.0	0.4	3.7
Portugal	2.1	1.8	-1.9	1.6	1.4	-4.7
Finland	8.1	3.6	5.6	5.6	6.5	6.3
Euro-zone	1.4	1.3	0.1	2.2	1.5	1.5
Denmark	6.9	3.7	4.2	4.0	6.3	4.0
Sweden	8.0	8.2	5.8	13.2	11.8	8.0
United Kingdom	0.8	1.6	1.2	4.6	4.0	3.7
Czech Republic	6.7	7.3	8.2	7.1	6.5	8.1
Estonia	15.1	14.1	13.6	15.8	17.5	17.0
Cyprus	6.1	4.6	3.7	-1.1	12.6	9.4
Latvia	12.9	15.1	17.0	16.2	20.8	20.2
Lithuania	9.8	7.9	10.5	5.2	5.6	6.0
Hungary	6.7	6.1	5.8	4.1	4.7	4.4
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	:
Poland	5.6	7.1	9.6	9.8	11.4	11.9
Slovenia	1.6	6.3	3.3	2.2	4.7	2.7
Slovakia	6.8	6.8	10.4	9.1	9.6	11.2
EU25	1.8	1.9	1.1	3.4	2.9	2.7

: Data not available, c Confidential data

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

² Data for Ireland is Preliminary June 2006 data

Source: Eurostat

Background Notes

Retail Sales Index	Introduction of updated series with base year 2000 = 100. 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.
Reference Period	The June period covers the 5 weeks from 28/05/06 to 01/07/06 and the July period covers the 4 weeks from 02/07/06 to 29/07/06.
New Base Year	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.
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 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. 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. 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).
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 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).
References	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.

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