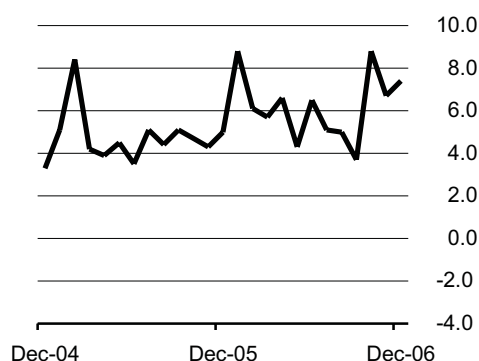




**Retail Sales Index -
Seasonally Adjusted Volume
Annual % Change**



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December 2006 (First Estimates)
November 2006 (Final Figures)

(Base year 2000 = 100)

	Volume Index	Value Index
December 2005	112.6	123.8
December 2006	120.9	134.5
% change	+7.4%	+8.6%

The volume of retail sales (i.e. excluding price effects) increased by 7.4% in December 2006 compared to December 2005. There was a monthly increase of 0.8%. If Motor Trades are excluded the annual increase was 7.3% and there was no monthly change.

The value of retail sales increased by 8.6% in December 2006 compared to December 2005 and increased by 1.3% in the month. However, if Motor Trades are excluded, the annual increase was 8.6% and the monthly change was +0.2%.

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

- The largest increase in the volume of sales was in the Electrical Goods (+9.5%) sector.
- The largest decrease in the volume of sales was in the Department Stores (-5.6%) sector.

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

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 ²	130.7	7.8	7.8	117.7	6.2	6.2
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
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
3rd quarter	129.2	0.2	5.9	116.1	0.1	4.5
4th quarter ²	133.7	3.4	8.4	120.6	3.9	7.6
2005 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	128.9	-0.9	7.0	115.7	-0.9	5.1
August	130.5	1.2	6.8	117.0	1.1	5.0
September	128.4	-1.6	4.5	115.7	-1.1	3.7
October	133.6	4.0	9.2	120.8	4.4	8.8
November	132.7	-0.7	7.3	119.9	-0.8	6.7
December ²	134.5	1.3	8.6	120.9	0.8	7.4

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
2006 Year ²	141.1	8.1	8.1	127.8	6.9	6.9
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
3rd quarter	140.9	0.9	7.6	127.5	0.8	6.5
4th quarter ²	143.6	2.0	8.7	129.9	1.9	7.7
2005 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	140.3	-0.3	7.9	127.2	-0.2	6.6
August	141.7	1.0	8.5	128.4	0.9	7.4
September	140.6	-0.7	6.7	127.1	-1.0	5.7
October	143.4	1.9	9.1	129.9	2.2	8.3
November	143.5	0.1	8.4	129.9	0.0	7.6
December ²	143.9	0.2	8.6	129.9	0.0	7.3

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	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	117.1	5.7	7.9	104.8	5.1	6.9
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	160.9	2.9	12.1	140.3	3.1	9.8
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	136.5	5.1	5.2	143.7	4.9	6.0
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	124.0	-2.6	-13.1			
Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.	97.7	-3.6	-6.9			
Other Goods and Services	160.3	14.5	31.3			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	125.6	0.1	6.8	104.7	-0.1	4.2
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	170.6	3.9	9.5	146.0	4.5	8.3
Textiles and Clothing	137.6	-10.5	11.0	163.5	-11.1	12.9
Footwear and Leather	130.1	-0.9	6.1	164.2	-0.4	8.8
Furniture and Lighting	121.5	-1.1	2.4	113.2	0.0	1.8
Electrical Goods	132.7	6.9	14.0	123.3	6.5	13.0
Hardware, Paints and Glass	162.7	-8.3	-0.1	133.6	-8.9	-3.1
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	124.2	-2.9	2.3	103.3	-3.3	-0.4
Other Retail Sales	137.6	1.0	7.5	117.3	-0.8	5.8
Bars - NACE 55.4	111.0	1.5	2.1	88.4	1.0	0.5
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	143.9	0.2	8.6	129.9	0.0	7.3
All Businesses	134.5	1.3	8.6	120.9	0.8	7.4
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	137.1	-9.3	10.4	165.5	-8.9	12.6
Household Equipment	143.8	-2.6	5.8	125.2	-3.2	3.8
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	135.4	0.4	6.7	114.1	-1.3	4.6
Food Businesses	157.1	2.4	11.7	135.3	2.9	9.2
All Non-Food	141.6	-1.8	7.4	127.8	-2.2	6.3
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	148.8	0.1	9.3	136.3	-0.2	8.0

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	November 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	110.8	-2.8	3.3	99.8	-2.9	3.0
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	156.3	0.2	10.6	136.0	0.2	8.9
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	129.9	-1.7	0.9	137.0	-1.4	1.9
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	127.2	-6.7	-10.5			
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	101.4	-18.2	-5.5			
Other Goods and Services	140.0	7.8	20.8			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	125.4	-1.6	3.3	104.8	-1.5	0.8
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	164.2	-0.8	8.4	139.7	-0.8	7.5
Textiles and Clothing	153.7	7.7	13.6	183.8	7.5	16.1
Footwear and Leather	131.3	-3.1	6.0	164.9	-3.0	8.7
Furniture and Lighting	122.8	7.3	2.7	113.2	7.1	3.0
Electrical Goods	124.1	-5.1	9.5	115.8	-5.0	9.2
Hardware, Paints and Glass	177.4	0.8	13.0	146.6	0.7	10.3
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	127.9	2.7	5.2	106.8	2.6	2.6
Other Retail Sales	136.3	-1.3	7.1	118.3	-2.3	6.7
Bars - NACE 55.4	109.3	-3.3	-0.3	87.5	-3.2	-1.7
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	143.5	0.1	8.4	129.9	0.0	7.6
All Businesses	132.7	-0.7	7.3	119.9	-0.8	6.7
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	151.2	6.7	12.8	181.6	6.5	15.4
Household Equipment	147.6	-0.6	10.5	129.4	-0.6	9.1
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	134.9	-0.6	6.8	115.6	-1.2	5.6
Food Businesses	153.5	0.1	10.1	131.6	0.2	8.0
All Non-Food	144.2	0.1	8.7	130.7	0.0	8.2
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	148.6	0.1	9.4	136.6	0.0	8.6

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	September - November 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	109.5	2.6	3.7	98.5	3.7	3.6
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	154.5	0.7	10.0	134.4	0.7	8.4
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	130.5	-5.7	2.0	137.2	-5.6	2.9
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	135.3	-12.4	-5.5			
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	111.1	-4.1	4.6			
Other Goods and Services	129.6	3.8	13.5			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	124.9	2.5	3.5	104.4	2.1	1.0
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	164.8	1.2	8.4	140.5	1.2	7.5
Textiles and Clothing	144.7	5.2	10.0	172.8	4.7	12.1
Footwear and Leather	131.1	0.8	6.5	164.2	0.4	9.1
Furniture and Lighting	116.7	2.6	2.0	107.4	1.4	2.1
Electrical Goods	132.7	9.2	15.2	123.5	9.5	14.6
Hardware, Paints and Glass	176.4	-0.6	10.0	145.9	-0.8	7.4
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	124.2	3.1	3.6	103.7	3.0	0.8
Other Retail Sales	136.7	2.4	8.5	119.2	2.8	8.1
Bars - NACE 55.4	111.1	-2.6	0.5	88.9	-2.6	-0.9
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	142.4	1.1	8.0	128.8	0.9	7.1
All Businesses	131.3	1.1	6.7	118.6	1.8	6.2
<u>Of which:-</u>						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	142.9	4.6	9.6	171.6	4.4	11.7
Household Equipment	149.3	1.1	10.2	130.8	1.2	8.6
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	134.8	2.9	7.8	115.6	2.8	6.3
Food Businesses	151.7	0.9	9.5	130.0	0.6	7.4
All Non-Food	143.5	1.7	8.4	130.0	2.4	7.9
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	147.4	1.2	8.9	135.5	1.2	8.1

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

	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06 ²
Belgium	-1.8	1.1	-1.8	-1.4	-2.6	1.8
Germany	c	0.4	0.8	-0.9	-0.1	-0.7
Greece	10.1	10.7	10.5	11.9	5.2	6.7
Spain	0.6	1.3	4.0	3.9	2.9	4.1
France	1.4	3.8	2.6	1.3	1.3	2.1
Ireland	7.8	7.2	8.1	6.7	9.3	7.8
Italy	-0.3	-0.7	0.1	0.2	-2.0	-0.3
Luxembourg	2.4	0.3	3.3	1.0	0.7	1.8
Netherlands	4.6	3.3	5.6	2.7	3.1	3.5
Austria	3.7	1.8	2.6	0.8	0.8	0.6
Portugal	-5.0	4.6	1.9	2.5	-0.3	0.1
Finland	6.4	5.5	5.0	6.7	4.8	5.1
Euro-zone (EU12)	1.4	1.9	2.2	1.2	0.8	1.4
Slovenia	2.3	1.1	-2.1	1.5	2.6	2.2
Euro-zone (EU13)	1.4	1.9	2.2	1.2	0.8	1.4
Denmark	4.0	3.1	3.1	0.8	1.5	2.3
Sweden	8.0	8.5	8.2	9.3	9.3	7.5
United Kingdom	3.6	3.9	4.0	2.9	3.7	2.9
Czech Republic	7.9	6.8	6.5	4.4	5.5	6.5
Estonia	16.6	16.2	16.4	17.3	17.8	20.3
Cyprus	9.8	6.4	8.0	9.4	11.6	8.5
Latvia	20.2	18.7	20.6	19.7	26.5	21.9
Lithuania	6.0	7.3	8.6	6.0	5.6	6.1
Hungary	4.7	4.0	5.2	4.5	2.3	2.2
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	:
Poland	11.9	9.4	6.8	10.3	9.1	8.7
Slovakia	11.2	8.8	8.3	10.8	8.0	7.8
EU25	2.6	2.9	3.1	2.2	2.1	2.3
Bulgaria	12.8	12.7	13.4	16.6	15.5	16.0
Romania	29.4	29.1	14.2	26.7	19.9	21.9
EU27	2.7	3.1	3.2	2.4	2.2	2.4

: Data not available,

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

² Data for Ireland is Preliminary November 2006 data

Source: Eurostat

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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 November period covers the 4 weeks from 29/10/06 to 25/11/06 and the December period covers the 5 weeks from 26/11/06 to 30/12/06.</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.