



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



Ardee Road	Skehard Road
Dublin 6	Cork
Ireland	Ireland

LoCall: 1890 313 414 (ROI)  
0870 876 0256 (UK/NL)

Tel: +353 1 498 4000      Tel: +353 21 453 5000  
Fax: +353 1 498 4229      Fax: +353 21 453 5555

Both offices may be contacted through any of these telephone numbers.

CSO on the Web: [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)  
and go to  
Business Sectors: Services

Director General: Gerard O'Hanlon

Enquiries:

Retail Statistics	Retail Sales Section, ext 5012 r_sales@csco.ie
Queries and Sales	Information Section, ext 5021 information@csco.ie

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September 2008 (First Estimates)  
August 2008 (Final Figures)

(Base year 2000 = 100)

### Retail Sales volume decreases by 6.2%

The volume of retail sales (i.e. excluding price effects) decreased by 6.2% in September 2008 compared to September 2007. There was a monthly increase of 0.5%. If Motor Trades are excluded there was an annual decrease of 5.7% and the monthly change was +0.2%.

The provisional retail sales volume figures show an annual decrease of 5.6% for quarter three. This is the largest annual decline in the volume of quarterly retail sales since the second quarter of 1983. This is the third consecutive quarter showing an annual decline.

The value of retail sales decreased by 3.8% in September 2008 compared to September 2007 and increased by 0.6% in the month. This is the sixth consecutive month showing an annual decline in the value of Retail Sales. If Motor Trades are excluded, the annual decrease was 2.9 and the monthly change was +0.3%.

August 2008 is the latest month for which final detailed figures are available. The three-month June 2008 – August 2008 volume figures show that, compared with the three months ending May 2008:

- The largest increase in the volume of sales was in the Textiles & Clothing (+1.1%) sector.
- The largest decrease in the volume of sales was in the Furniture & Lighting (-14.6%) sector.

All figures in this release are trading day and seasonally adjusted. The seasonal factors are based on unadjusted indices up to June 2008.

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

**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
2003 Year	109.3	3.2	3.2	100.5	0.5	0.5
2004 Year	114.1	4.4	4.4	103.7	3.2	3.2
2005 Year	121.2	6.2	6.2	109.2	5.3	5.3
2006 Year	130.7	7.8	7.8	116.0	6.2	6.2
2007 Year	140.6	7.6	7.6	122.8	5.9	5.9
2007 1st quarter	137.5	2.5	7.7	121.4	2.0	6.5
2nd quarter	140.2	2.0	8.6	122.6	1.0	7.2
3rd quarter	140.9	0.5	7.8	122.8	0.2	6.1
4th quarter	142.7	1.3	6.3	123.3	0.4	3.6
2008 1st quarter	141.6	-0.8	3.0	121.1	-1.8	-0.2
2nd quarter	138.5	-2.2	-1.2	117.1	-3.3	-4.5
3rd quarter <sup>2</sup>	136.7	-1.3	-3.0	116.0	-1.0	-5.6
2007 April	139.4	0.6	7.9	122.4	0.2	6.6
May	140.8	1.0	10.8	123.1	0.6	9.5
June	140.3	-0.3	7.4	122.4	-0.5	5.9
July	141.2	0.6	8.8	123.3	0.7	7.1
August	140.2	-0.7	6.2	122.4	-0.7	4.8
September	141.1	0.6	8.1	122.8	0.4	6.4
October	142.4	1.0	6.5	123.6	0.6	4.3
November	142.3	-0.1	6.3	122.9	-0.6	3.3
December	143.3	0.7	6.3	123.5	0.5	3.5
2008 January	143.4	0.1	4.9	123.2	-0.3	1.9
February	141.2	-1.5	3.1	120.8	-1.9	-0.2
March	140.5	-0.5	1.4	119.6	-1.0	-2.0
April	139.2	-0.9	-0.1	118.3	-1.1	-3.3
May	138.5	-0.5	-1.6	117.1	-1.0	-4.9
June	138.0	-0.4	-1.6	116.3	-0.7	-5.0
July	139.7	1.2	-1.1	118.3	1.7	-4.1
August	134.9	-3.4	-3.8	114.6	-3.1	-6.4
September <sup>2</sup>	135.8	0.6	-3.8	115.2	0.5	-6.2

<sup>1</sup> Based on Seasonal Patterns up to June 2008

<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**

Period	Total Retail Sales for all Businesses Combined (Excl Motor Trades)					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change
2003 Year	119.2	3.8	3.8	108.7	1.0	1.0
2004 Year	123.7	3.8	3.8	111.1	3.1	3.1
2005 Year	130.5	5.5	5.5	116.8	5.1	5.1
2006 Year	141.1	8.1	8.1	124.6	6.7	6.7
2007 Year	151.6	7.4	7.4	131.5	5.5	5.5
2007 1st quarter	146.3	1.5	7.9	128.2	1.2	6.3
2nd quarter	150.1	2.6	7.8	130.7	2.0	6.3
3rd quarter	151.8	1.1	7.5	131.6	0.7	5.7
4th quarter	154.0	1.4	6.9	132.0	0.3	4.2
2008 1st quarter	154.6	0.4	5.7	130.9	-0.8	2.1
2nd quarter	152.1	-1.6	1.3	127.7	-2.4	-2.3
3rd quarter <sup>2</sup>	148.0	-2.6	-2.5	124.4	-2.6	-5.5
2007 April	149.1	1.6	8.2	130.3	1.3	6.7
May	152.1	2.0	9.6	132.5	1.7	8.2
June	149.3	-1.9	5.9	129.7	-2.1	4.3
July	152.2	1.9	8.7	132.1	1.9	6.7
August	150.8	-0.9	6.2	130.9	-0.9	4.5
September	152.2	0.9	7.6	131.8	0.6	5.8
October	153.4	0.8	6.9	132.2	0.3	4.6
November	154.1	0.4	7.1	131.9	-0.2	4.1
December	154.3	0.1	6.5	131.9	0.0	3.8
2008 January	154.4	0.1	6.2	131.5	-0.3	2.9
February	154.9	0.3	5.8	131.0	-0.3	2.1
March	154.5	-0.2	5.3	130.3	-0.6	1.3
April	150.3	-2.7	0.8	126.6	-2.8	-2.8
May	153.6	2.2	1.0	129.0	1.9	-2.6
June	152.2	-0.9	2.0	127.5	-1.2	-1.7
July	149.2	-2.0	-2.0	125.1	-1.9	-5.3
August	147.3	-1.2	-2.3	124.0	-0.9	-5.3
September <sup>2</sup>	147.7	0.3	-2.9	124.2	0.2	-5.7

<sup>1</sup> Based on Seasonal Patterns up to June 2008<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	September 2008					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	112.5	2.5	-5.7	97.7	2.4	-7.4
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	169.4	-0.8	1.7	135.4	-0.8	-3.1
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	132.5	-3.6	-2.1	140.8	-3.6	-1.4
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	129.1	-3.1	-4.3			
Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.	87.1	-3.3	-8.4			
Other Goods and Services	156.6	-3.8	2.5			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	130.3	4.7	2.3	103.4	4.5	-2.0
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	175.4	-0.2	-0.6	147.5	0.0	-2.2
Textiles and Clothing	145.5	-1.2	-4.3	188.1	-1.2	0.4
Footwear and Leather	126.0	-5.6	-9.7	174.9	-5.1	-4.6
Furniture and Lighting	100.9	3.5	-20.2	94.3	3.3	-19.7
Electrical Goods	116.3	-3.1	-16.3	109.3	-2.8	-15.7
Hardware, Paints and Glass	173.3	4.9	-9.9	136.7	3.8	-11.8
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	120.6	0.8	-7.6	96.2	0.1	-9.4
Other Retail Sales	137.7	5.0	-6.8	113.7	5.5	-9.9
Bars - NACE 55.4	108.9	0.1	-5.8	81.9	-0.1	-9.1
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	147.7	0.3	-2.9	124.2	0.2	-5.7
<b>All Businesses</b>	135.8	0.6	-3.8	115.2	0.5	-6.2
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	142.8	-1.7	-5.0	186.1	-1.3	-0.3
Household Equipment	139.8	2.2	-13.1	120.7	2.1	-13.7
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	134.8	4.2	-7.0	110.9	4.7	-9.7
Food Businesses	165.6	-0.4	1.7	132.4	-0.5	-2.9
All Non-Food	142.8	0.8	-7.0	132.0	1.1	-7.6
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	154.3	0.0	-2.6	132.2	0.2	-5.2

<sup>1</sup> Based on Seasonal Patterns up to June 2008, 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	August 2008					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	109.8	-8.9	-7.3	95.4	-8.5	-9.0
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	170.7	-2.0	3.0	136.4	-1.8	-2.1
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	137.4	7.8	0.5	146.1	9.0	0.8
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	133.3	7.8	-3.8			
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	90.1	17.8	-4.2			
Other Goods and Services	162.7	6.8	8.4			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	124.5	-4.9	-3.0	99.0	-4.8	-7.3
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	175.7	-0.2	0.9	147.5	-0.4	-0.9
Textiles and Clothing	147.3	1.6	-7.0	190.4	3.4	-2.9
Footwear and Leather	133.5	3.4	-3.9	184.3	3.9	1.0
Furniture and Lighting	97.5	-6.8	-23.0	91.3	-5.4	-22.3
Electrical Goods	120.0	3.5	-5.8	112.4	3.7	-5.2
Hardware, Paints and Glass	165.1	-10.0	-12.9	131.7	-9.3	-14.4
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	119.7	-3.5	-5.0	96.0	-2.5	-7.1
Other Retail Sales	131.2	-2.1	-8.9	107.7	-1.9	-12.2
Bars - NACE 55.4	108.8	-1.5	-5.0	82.0	-1.4	-8.3
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	147.3	-1.2	-2.3	124.0	-0.9	-5.3
<b>All Businesses</b>	134.9	-3.4	-3.8	114.6	-3.1	-6.4
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	145.4	1.1	-6.5	188.5	1.3	-2.4
Household Equipment	136.8	-5.9	-12.3	118.2	-5.8	-12.7
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	129.4	-1.8	-8.1	105.9	-1.0	-11.2
Food Businesses	166.3	-2.2	2.6	133.0	-2.1	-2.4
All Non-Food	141.6	-0.9	-6.8	130.6	-0.3	-7.7
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	154.2	-1.4	-1.9	131.9	-0.7	-4.9

<sup>1</sup> Based on Seasonal Patterns up to June 2008, 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	June - August 2008					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	112.7	-0.4	-6.0	97.4	-0.6	-8.3
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	173.2	0.1	4.1	138.4	-0.4	-1.3
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	133.3	-7.0	-3.3	140.3	-6.2	-3.4
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	129.2	-3.3	-5.4			
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	84.5	-5.8	-11.1			
Other Goods and Services	158.2	-3.7	1.9			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	128.0	1.5	1.9	101.5	0.4	-2.8
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	177.2	0.3	2.9	149.2	0.1	1.2
Textiles and Clothing	147.6	-1.0	-3.1	188.0	1.1	0.7
Footwear and Leather	131.2	-1.4	-2.4	179.6	0.6	2.6
Furniture and Lighting	102.6	-15.1	-19.7	96.3	-14.6	-19.1
Electrical Goods	121.3	-4.6	-10.5	113.4	-4.2	-9.9
Hardware, Paints and Glass	178.8	-7.1	-5.3	141.7	-7.5	-7.0
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	122.0	-1.5	-7.2	97.2	-1.8	-10.0
Other Retail Sales	134.4	-5.8	-6.2	110.3	-7.1	-10.1
Bars - NACE 55.4	110.6	-2.3	-3.5	83.4	-2.8	-6.9
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	149.8	-2.0	-0.6	125.7	-2.4	-3.9
<b>All Businesses</b>	137.6	-1.4	-2.1	116.4	-1.7	-5.1
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	145.6	-0.8	-2.9	186.7	1.1	0.9
Household Equipment	145.9	-6.9	-8.6	126.1	-6.6	-9.1
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	132.1	-5.2	-6.4	107.7	-6.3	-10.0
Food Businesses	168.9	0.2	4.1	134.9	-0.2	-1.3
All Non-Food	144.5	-3.9	-4.7	132.7	-4.1	-6.0
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	156.6	-1.8	-0.2	133.9	-2.1	-3.5

<sup>1</sup> Based on Seasonal Patterns up to June 2008, individual series are independently adjusted

**Table 6**

**Volume of retail trade in the euro-zone, the EU27 and Member States<sup>1</sup>**  
**Annual % change compared with the same month of the previous year**

	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08 <sup>2</sup>
Austria	0.9	-3.1	3.8	-2.7	0.3	-1.8
Belgium	-3.7	1.6	6.4	-1.3	-0.5	-0.7
Finland	2.0	7.6	4.4	2.5	2.1	1.4
France	-3.3	1.1	2.4	-3.2	0.2	0.1
Germany	-2.2	-3.9	1.2	-1.6	-1.9	-0.1
Greece	0.5	2.3	1.4	0.7	-2.1	-4.1
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>-5.1</b>	<b>-5.1</b>
Italy	-5.4	-4.7	-4.5	-6.2	-2.1	-5.1
Luxembourg	10.6	7.5	7.7	10.6	-5.9	-2.5
Netherlands	-0.7	-1.8	2.4	-0.5	-1.2	0.7
Portugal	0.4	-0.9	2.2	-1.6	2.7	1.4
Slovenia	-1.7	6.9	6.4	4.2	6.3	5.8
Spain	-5.4	-3.3	-5.1	-7.9	-6.0	-5.9
Cyprus	6.4	12.6	13.8	5.1	9.6	c
Malta	-0.3	-5.5	-4.7	-9.8	:	:
<b>EA15</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>-1.5</b>
Denmark	-3.1	0.0	0.0	-2.3	-6.7	-5.2
Sweden	3.8	0.4	1.5	3.1	1.5	2.7
United Kingdom	5.1	2.0	7.0	2.5	2.1	2.9
Czech Republic	-1.4	2.7	1.6	2.6	-0.6	-0.3
Estonia	-4.6	-0.8	-4.1	-7.0	-4.7	-6.4
Latvia	-3.1	0.3	-5.0	-8.4	-8.5	-9.0
Lithuania	9.1	14.2	7.0	3.5	6.1	2.9
Hungary	-3.4	-1.4	-1.6	-1.9	-1.7	-1.4
Poland	4.1	9.9	8.4	6.3	6.6	6.2
Slovakia	10.4	7.1	6.7	3.2	6.8	5.7
Bulgaria	8.3	10.1	6.3	5.2	5.1	2.4
Romania	14.3	18.8	7.7	23.6	18.5	17.3
<b>EU27</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>

: Data not available,

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

<sup>2</sup> Data for Ireland is Provisional August 2008 data

Source: Eurostat

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## 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 updates.</p>
<b>Reference Period</b>	<p>The August 2008 period covers the 4 weeks from 27/07/08 to 23/08/08 and the September 2008 period covers the 5 weeks from 24/08/08 to 27/09/08.</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 June 2008. 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.