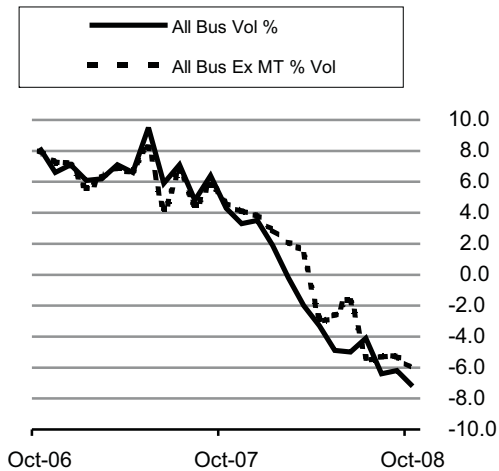




**Retail Sales Index -  
Volume  
Annual % Change**



**Retail Sales Index**  
October 2008 (First Estimates)  
September 2008 (Final Figures)

**Seasonally Adjusted Retail Sales Index – All Businesses**  
(Base year 2000 = 100)

|              | Volume Index | Value Index |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| October 2007 | 123.6        | 142.4       |
| October 2008 | 114.5        | 134.5       |
| % change     | -7.3%        | -5.6%       |

**Retail Sales volume decreases by 7.3%**

The volume of retail sales (i.e. excluding price effects) decreased by 7.3% in October 2008 compared to October 2007. There was a monthly decrease of 0.6%. If Motor Trades are excluded there was an annual decrease of 6.2% and the monthly change was -0.6%.

The value of retail sales decreased by 5.6% in October 2008 compared to October 2007 and decreased by 1.0% in the month. However, if Motor Trades are excluded, the annual decrease was -4.0% and the monthly change was -0.6%.

The annual change in the volume of Retail Sales is the largest decrease since February 1984. When Motor Trades are excluded from Retail Sales the annual change in the volume figures is the largest decrease since April 1975.

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

- The largest decrease in the volume of sales was in the Furniture & Lighting (-14.2%) 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.*

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Ardee Road Dublin 6 Ireland  
Skehard Road Cork Ireland

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

Tel: +353 1 498 4000 Fax: +353 1 498 4229  
Tel: +353 21 453 5000 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@cso.ie  
Queries and Sales Information Section, ext 5021  
information@cso.ie

**Table 1 Seasonally Adjusted Indices of Total Retail Sales<sup>1</sup>****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 |
| 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                                    | 136.7          | -1.3                        | -3.0            | 116.0           | -1.0                        | -5.5            |
| 2007 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                                      | 135.8          | 0.6                         | -3.7            | 115.2           | 0.6                         | -6.2            |
| October <sup>2</sup>                           | 134.5          | -1.0                        | -5.6            | 114.5           | -0.6                        | -7.3            |

<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**

| 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 |  |
| 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  | 148.3          | -2.5                        | -2.3            | 124.6           | -2.4                        | -5.3            |  |
| 2007 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  | 148.3          | 0.6                         | -2.6            | 124.7           | 0.6                         | -5.3            |  |
| October <sup>2</sup>   | 147.3          | -0.6                        | -4.0            | 123.9           | -0.6                        | -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 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   | October 2008   |                                     |                    |                 |                                     |                    |
|--|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
|  | Value of Sales |                                     |                    | Volume of Sales |                                     |                    |
|  | Index          | % change<br>on<br>previous<br>month | Annual %<br>change | Index           | % change<br>on<br>previous<br>month | Annual %<br>change |
| Motor Trades - NACE 50   | 108.5          | -2.7                                | -9.9               | 94.4            | -2.4                                | -10.7              |
| Non-Specialised Stores<br>(excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11 | 171.8          | 1.8                                 | 1.8                | 137.3           | 1.7                                 | -2.2               |
| Department Stores - NACE 52.12                                       | 129.6          | -3.3                                | -6.0               | 138.7           | -2.7                                | -4.5               |
| of which:-   |                |                                     |                    |                 |                                     |                    |
| Clothing and Footwear  | 127.7          | -2.5                                | -6.8               |                 |                                     |                    |
| Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.                                     | 79.5           | -12.8                               | -17.2              |                 |                                     |                    |
| Other Goods and Services   | 152.6          | -2.9                                | -1.9               |                 |                                     |                    |
| <u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>                      |                |                                     |                    |                 |                                     |                    |
| Food, Beverages and Tobacco  | 123.3          | -5.3                                | -3.3               | 97.7            | -5.5                                | -7.1               |
| Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles                          | 175.5          | -0.3                                | 1.8                | 147.3           | -0.4                                | 0.1                |
| Textiles and Clothing  | 142.2          | -2.8                                | -9.2               | 185.5           | -1.9                                | -3.5               |
| Footwear and Leather   | 126.3          | 0.2                                 | -7.1               | 176.0           | 0.6                                 | -1.4               |
| Furniture and Lighting   | 94.6           | -3.5                                | -24.6              | 89.3            | -2.6                                | -23.8              |
| Electrical Goods   | 109.6          | -5.8                                | -17.5              | 102.9           | -5.9                                | -16.9              |
| Hardware, Paints and Glass   | 162.1          | -6.5                                | -13.9              | 128.1           | -6.3                                | -15.6              |
| Books, Newspapers and Stationery                                     | 107.2          | -11.2                               | -15.8              | 85.0            | -11.7                               | -17.8              |
| Other Retail Sales   | 138.5          | -2.4                                | -7.2               | 116.0           | -1.0                                | -9.0               |
| Bars - NACE 55.4   | 108.6          | -1.7                                | -7.5               | 81.1            | -2.3                                | -11.0              |
| All Businesses excl. Motor Trades                                    | 147.3          | -0.6                                | -4.0               | 123.9           | -0.6                                | -6.2               |
| <b>All Businesses</b>  | 134.5          | -1.0                                | -5.6               | 114.5           | -0.6                                | -7.3               |
| Of which:-   |                |                                     |                    |                 |                                     |                    |
| <u>Combined Groups</u>   |                |                                     |                    |                 |                                     |                    |
| Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores                            | 140.3          | -2.2                                | -8.9               | 185.1           | -0.9                                | -3.2               |
| Household Equipment  | 131.7          | -5.5                                | -16.4              | 113.7           | -5.5                                | -16.9              |
| Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods                          | 133.2          | -3.6                                | -8.3               | 110.5           | -2.8                                | -10.2              |
| Food Businesses  | 167.3          | 1.3                                 | 1.4                | 133.5           | 1.2                                 | -2.6               |
| All Non-Food   | 139.7          | -3.0                                | -8.9               | 129.9           | -2.5                                | -9.0               |
| All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars                             | 153.8          | -0.6                                | -3.5               | 132.1           | -0.4                                | -5.6               |

<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   | September 2008 |                                     |                    |                 |                                     |                    |
|--|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
|  | Value of Sales |                                     |                    | Volume of Sales |                                     |                    |
|  | Index          | % change<br>on<br>previous<br>month | Annual %<br>change | Index           | % change<br>on<br>previous<br>month | Annual %<br>change |
| Motor Trades - NACE 50   | 111.5          | 1.6                                 | -6.5               | 96.8            | 1.5                                 | -8.2               |
| Non-Specialised Stores<br>(excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11 | 168.8          | -1.1                                | 1.3                | 134.9           | -1.1                                | -3.4               |
| Department Stores - NACE 52.12                                       | 134.0          | -2.4                                | -0.9               | 142.5           | -2.5                                | -0.2               |
| of which:-   |                |                                     |                    |                 |                                     |                    |
| Clothing and Footwear  | 130.9          | -1.7                                | -3.0               |                 |                                     |                    |
| Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.                                    | 91.2           | 1.2                                 | -4.1               |                 |                                     |                    |
| Other Goods and Services   | 157.1          | -3.4                                | 2.8                |                 |                                     |                    |
| <u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>                      |                |                                     |                    |                 |                                     |                    |
| Food, Beverages and Tobacco  | 130.3          | 4.7                                 | 2.3                | 103.4           | 4.5                                 | -2.1               |
| Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles                          | 176.0          | 0.1                                 | -0.3               | 147.9           | 0.3                                 | -1.9               |
| Textiles and Clothing  | 146.2          | -0.8                                | -3.8               | 189.0           | -0.7                                | 0.8                |
| Footwear and Leather   | 126.1          | -5.6                                | -9.7               | 175.0           | -5.1                                | -4.6               |
| Furniture and Lighting   | 98.1           | 0.6                                 | -22.5              | 91.7            | 0.3                                 | -22.0              |
| Electrical Goods   | 116.4          | -3.0                                | -16.2              | 109.4           | -2.7                                | -15.6              |
| Hardware, Paints and Glass   | 173.3          | 5.0                                 | -9.9               | 136.8           | 3.8                                 | -11.7              |
| Books, Newspapers and Stationery                                     | 120.7          | 0.8                                 | -7.6               | 96.2            | 0.2                                 | -9.3               |
| Other Retail Sales   | 141.9          | 8.2                                 | -3.9               | 117.1           | 8.7                                 | -7.1               |
| Bars - NACE 55.4   | 110.4          | 1.5                                 | -4.5               | 83.0            | 1.2                                 | -7.9               |
| All Businesses excl. Motor Trades                                    | 148.3          | 0.6                                 | -2.6               | 124.7           | 0.6                                 | -5.3               |
| <b>All Businesses</b>  | 135.8          | 0.6                                 | -3.7               | 115.2           | 0.6                                 | -6.2               |
| Of which:-   |                |                                     |                    |                 |                                     |                    |
| <u>Combined Groups</u>   |                |                                     |                    |                 |                                     |                    |
| Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores                            | 143.5          | -1.3                                | -4.6               | 186.9           | -0.9                                | 0.1                |
| Household Equipment  | 139.4          | 1.9                                 | -13.3              | 120.4           | 1.8                                 | -13.9              |
| Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods                          | 138.2          | 6.8                                 | -4.6               | 113.7           | 7.3                                 | -7.5               |
| Food Businesses  | 165.1          | -0.7                                | 1.4                | 132.0           | -0.8                                | -3.2               |
| All Non-Food   | 144.1          | 1.7                                 | -6.2               | 133.2           | 2.0                                 | -6.8               |
| All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars                             | 154.7          | 0.3                                 | -2.3               | 132.6           | 0.5                                 | -5.0               |

<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   | July - September 2008 |                                      |                    |                 |                                      |                    |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
|  | Value of Sales        |                                      |                    | Volume of Sales |                                      |                    |
|  | Index                 | % change<br>on<br>previous<br>period | Annual %<br>change | Index           | % change<br>on<br>previous<br>period | Annual %<br>change |
| Motor Trades - NACE 50   | 113.7                 | 2.2                                  | -4.4               | 98.6            | 2.7                                  | -6.4               |
| Non-Specialised Stores<br>(excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11 | 171.0                 | -1.0                                 | 2.3                | 136.6           | -1.4                                 | -2.8               |
| Department Stores - NACE 52.12                                       | 133.0                 | -4.4                                 | -3.0               | 141.0           | -2.8                                 | -2.6               |
| of which:-   |                       |                                      |                    |                 |                                      |                    |
| Clothing and Footwear  | 129.4                 | -1.9                                 | -5.5               |                 |                                      |                    |
| Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.                                    | 86.3                  | -1.1                                 | -10.1              |                 |                                      |                    |
| Other Goods and Services   | 157.3                 | -2.9                                 | 2.8                |                 |                                      |                    |
| <u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>                      |                       |                                      |                    |                 |                                      |                    |
| Food, Beverages and Tobacco  | 128.7                 | 1.7                                  | 0.8                | 102.2           | 1.5                                  | -3.7               |
| Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles                          | 175.9                 | -0.6                                 | 0.2                | 147.8           | -0.9                                 | -1.6               |
| Textiles and Clothing  | 146.2                 | -1.7                                 | -5.0               | 187.9           | 0.7                                  | -0.5               |
| Footwear and Leather   | 129.3                 | -1.1                                 | -6.7               | 178.6           | 1.2                                  | -1.4               |
| Furniture and Lighting   | 99.9                  | -13.4                                | -21.2              | 93.1            | -14.2                                | -20.6              |
| Electrical Goods   | 117.4                 | -7.0                                 | -12.5              | 110.0           | -6.5                                 | -11.9              |
| Hardware, Paints and Glass   | 173.9                 | -8.1                                 | -9.5               | 137.8           | -8.1                                 | -11.2              |
| Books, Newspapers and Stationery                                     | 121.4                 | -1.5                                 | -7.5               | 96.8            | -1.5                                 | -9.7               |
| Other Retail Sales   | 136.2                 | -3.1                                 | -6.3               | 112.0           | -3.6                                 | -9.8               |
| Bars - NACE 55.4   | 109.9                 | -2.4                                 | -4.2               | 82.8            | -2.8                                 | -7.5               |
| All Businesses excl. Motor Trades                                    | 148.3                 | -2.5                                 | -2.3               | 124.6           | -2.4                                 | -5.3               |
| <b>All Businesses</b>  | 136.7                 | -1.3                                 | -3.0               | 116.0           | -1.0                                 | -5.5               |
| Of which:-   |                       |                                      |                    |                 |                                      |                    |
| <u>Combined Groups</u>   |                       |                                      |                    |                 |                                      |                    |
| Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores                            | 144.2                 | -1.3                                 | -5.1               | 187.1           | 1.5                                  | -0.6               |
| Household Equipment  | 140.4                 | -9.5                                 | -12.0              | 121.3           | -9.3                                 | -12.4              |
| Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods                          | 133.5                 | -2.8                                 | -6.6               | 109.2           | -3.1                                 | -9.8               |
| Food Businesses  | 167.0                 | -0.8                                 | 2.2                | 133.5           | -1.0                                 | -2.7               |
| All Non-Food   | 143.0                 | -4.0                                 | -6.5               | 131.7           | -3.7                                 | -7.4               |
| All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars                             | 155.1                 | -2.1                                 | -2.0               | 132.5           | -2.5                                 | -4.9               |

<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**

|                | Apr-08      | May-08      | Jun-08      | Jul-08      | Aug-08      | Sep-08 <sup>2</sup> |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Austria        | -3.1        | 3.8         | -2.7        | 0.3         | -1.8        | -0.9                |
| Belgium        | 1.6         | 6.4         | -1.3        | -0.5        | -0.7        | 4.0                 |
| Finland        | 7.6         | 4.3         | 2.4         | 1.9         | 0.7         | -2.2                |
| France         | 1.1         | 2.4         | -3.2        | 0.3         | -0.6        | 1.0                 |
| Germany        | -3.9        | 1.1         | -1.4        | -1.8        | -0.3        | -0.9                |
| Greece         | 2.3         | 1.4         | 0.7         | -2.1        | -4.2        | -1.7                |
| <b>Ireland</b> | <b>-2.8</b> | <b>-2.2</b> | <b>-1.2</b> | <b>-5.1</b> | <b>-5.1</b> | <b>-5.2</b>         |
| Italy          | -4.7        | -4.5        | -6.2        | -2.1        | -5.1        | -3.2                |
| Luxembourg     | 7.5         | 9.0         | 11.8        | 7.0         | -2.5        | 2.0                 |
| Netherlands    | -1.8        | 2.4         | -0.5        | -1.2        | 0.6         | -0.8                |
| Portugal       | -0.9        | 2.2         | -1.6        | 2.7         | 1.3         | -0.7                |
| Slovenia       | 6.9         | 6.4         | 4.2         | 6.2         | 5.7         | 5.2                 |
| Spain          | -3.3        | -5.1        | -7.9        | -6.0        | -5.9        | -7.0                |
| Cyprus         | 12.6        | 13.8        | 5.1         | 9.6         | 5.8         | c                   |
| Malta          | -5.5        | -4.7        | -9.8        | :           | :           | :                   |
| <b>EA15</b>    | <b>-1.7</b> | <b>0.3</b>  | <b>-3.2</b> | <b>-1.5</b> | <b>-1.7</b> | <b>-1.4</b>         |
| Denmark        | 0.0         | 2.3         | -5.9        | -5.3        | -5.2        | -6.3                |
| Sweden         | 0.4         | 1.5         | 3.1         | 1.5         | 2.7         | -1.0                |
| United Kingdom | 2.0         | 7.0         | 2.6         | 2.1         | 2.6         | 1.9                 |
| Czech Republic | 2.7         | 1.6         | 2.6         | -0.6        | -0.3        | 1.9                 |
| Estonia        | -0.8        | -4.2        | -6.9        | -4.2        | -6.0        | -9.1                |
| Latvia         | 0.3         | -5.0        | -8.3        | -8.5        | -9.0        | -13.5               |
| Lithuania      | 14.2        | 6.5         | 3.0         | 5.5         | 2.4         | -0.5                |
| Hungary        | -1.4        | -1.6        | -2.2        | -1.7        | -1.4        | -1.6                |
| Poland         | 9.9         | 8.4         | 6.3         | 8.1         | 4.9         | 5.8                 |
| Slovakia       | 7.1         | 6.7         | 3.2         | 6.8         | 5.7         | 4.5                 |
| Bulgaria       | 10.1        | 6.3         | 5.2         | 5.1         | 2.4         | 3.8                 |
| Romania        | 18.8        | 7.7         | 23.6        | 18.5        | 16.8        | 15.3                |
| <b>EU27</b>    | <b>-0.1</b> | <b>2.2</b>  | <b>-1.2</b> | <b>-0.2</b> | <b>-0.3</b> | <b>-0.3</b>         |

: Data not available,

<sup>1</sup> Data NACE 52 : All Business excluding Motor Trades & Bars<sup>2</sup> Data for Ireland is Provisional September 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 September 2008 period covers the 5 weeks from 24/08/08 to 27/09/08 and the October 2008 period covers the 4 weeks from 28/09/08 to 25/10/08.</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.