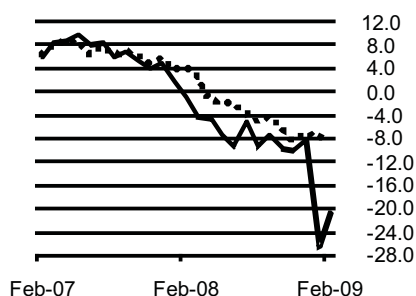




**Retail Sales Index -
Volume
Annual % Change**



Retail Sales Index

February 2009 (First Estimates)
January 2009 (Final Figures)

(Base year 2005 = 100)

	Volume Index	Value Index
February 2008	111.9	115.7
February 2009	88.6	88.6
% change	-20.9%	-23.4%

Retail Sales volume decreases by 20.9%

The volume of retail sales (i.e. excluding price effects) decreased by 20.9% in February 2009 compared to February 2008. There was a monthly increase of 5.7%. The large year on year retail sales decrease in February 2009 is primarily due to the large decrease in the motor trades sector. In February 2009 motor trades decreased 53.2% on the same period last year. Usually in February Motor Trades account for over one third of retail sales.

If Motor Trades are excluded the volume of retail sales decreased by 6.9% in February 2009 compared to February 2008 and the monthly change was +1.3%.

A fully rebased series to base 2005=100 has been calculated from January 2005 onwards (*see below*). This has resulted in changes to all previously published data.

Introduction of Rebased Series 2005=100

Commencing with February 2009 an updated Retail sales index (RSI) is being introduced using:

- New base year 2005 as 100
- Updated turnover weights from the 2005 Annual Services Inquiry
- Updated deflator weights
- Updated trading day weights

In addition the Retail Sales Index is now classified in accordance with the statistical classification of economic activities in European Communities, i.e. NACE Rev. 2. For the RSI the only significant change to compilation of the series resulting from the move from NACE Rev. 1.2 to NACE Rev. 2 is that enterprises that predominantly sell petrol and diesel no longer appear in the motor trade division of retail sales, but will now appear in their own group, i.e. NACE 47.3 retail sale of automotive fuel in specialised stores.

An introductory note on the new series is available on our website at www.cso.ie/surveysandmethodologies/surveys/services/retail_sales_index.htm

All figures in this release are trading day and seasonally adjusted. The seasonal factors are based on unadjusted indices up to January 2009.

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Table 1 Seasonally Adjusted Indices of Total Retail Sales¹**Base Year: 2005 = 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
2006 Year	108.1	8.1	8.1	107.3	7.3	7.3
2007 Year	116.0	7.3	7.3	114.7	6.9	6.9
2008 Year	110.8	-4.5	-4.5	107.6	-6.2	-6.2
2007 1st quarter	114.0	3.1	6.9	113.2	2.5	6.9
2nd quarter	116.4	2.1	8.8	115.3	1.9	8.9
3rd quarter	116.3	-0.1	7.3	115.0	-0.3	7.1
4th quarter	117.3	0.9	6.1	115.6	0.5	4.7
2008 1st quarter	115.1	-1.9	1.0	111.6	-3.5	-1.4
2nd quarter	110.9	-3.6	-4.7	106.8	-4.3	-7.4
3rd quarter	110.0	-0.8	-5.4	106.5	-0.3	-7.4
4th quarter	106.4	-3.3	-9.3	104.7	-1.7	-9.4
2007 September	115.6	-0.4	7.3	114.1	-0.8	6.9
October	117.6	1.7	6.2	116.0	1.7	5.1
November	117.4	-0.2	5.8	115.8	-0.2	3.9
December	117.1	-0.3	6.5	115.0	-0.7	4.9
2008 January	116.8	-0.3	3.6	114.1	-0.7	1.6
February	115.7	-1.0	1.6	111.9	-1.9	-1.0
March	113.2	-2.2	-1.6	109.3	-2.3	-4.3
April	113.3	0.1	-1.9	109.4	0.1	-4.5
May	110.9	-2.1	-5.0	107.0	-2.2	-7.5
June	109.1	-1.6	-6.5	104.6	-2.2	-9.4
July	114.0	4.5	-2.9	109.8	5.0	-5.3
August	107.3	-5.9	-7.5	104.2	-5.1	-9.4
September	108.9	1.5	-5.8	105.7	1.4	-7.4
October	106.8	-2.0	-9.2	104.5	-1.1	-9.9
November	106.1	-0.7	-9.7	104.1	-0.4	-10.1
December	106.2	0.1	-9.3	105.4	1.2	-8.4
2009 January	84.4	-20.5	-27.7	83.8	-20.5	-26.6
February ²	88.6	5.0	-23.4	88.6	5.7	-20.9

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to January 2009² 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: 2005 = 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
2006 Year	108.1	8.1	8.1	107.6	7.6	7.6
2007 Year	115.8	7.1	7.1	115.0	6.9	6.9
2008 Year	114.9	-0.8	-0.8	111.7	-2.9	-2.9
2007 1st quarter	111.5	1.3	6.8	111.6	1.5	7.3
2nd quarter	115.0	3.1	7.3	114.5	2.6	7.7
3rd quarter	116.1	1.0	6.9	115.4	0.8	6.9
4th quarter	118.1	1.7	7.3	116.2	0.7	5.6
2008 1st quarter	118.6	0.4	6.4	115.4	-0.7	3.4
2nd quarter	116.6	-1.7	1.4	112.5	-2.5	-1.7
3rd quarter	114.0	-2.2	-1.8	110.4	-1.9	-4.3
4th quarter	109.8	-3.7	-7.0	107.7	-2.4	-7.3
2007 September	116.2	0.3	6.8	115.5	0.0	6.8
October	118.0	1.6	7.4	116.3	0.7	6.3
November	118.1	0.0	7.1	116.3	0.0	4.9
December	118.3	0.2	7.4	116.0	-0.3	5.7
2008 January	118.4	0.1	5.9	115.7	-0.2	3.8
February	119.3	0.7	7.3	115.9	0.2	4.2
March	118.1	-1.0	5.8	114.8	-1.0	2.4
April	117.2	-0.7	1.7	113.4	-1.2	-1.3
May	117.0	-0.2	1.3	113.0	-0.4	-1.7
June	115.8	-1.1	1.2	111.4	-1.4	-2.3
July	115.6	-0.2	-0.6	111.2	-0.1	-3.6
August	112.8	-2.4	-2.6	109.6	-1.5	-5.1
September	113.7	0.8	-2.2	110.5	0.8	-4.4
October	111.8	-1.6	-5.3	109.0	-1.3	-6.3
November	109.1	-2.5	-7.6	106.5	-2.3	-8.5
December	108.7	-0.3	-8.1	107.6	1.1	-7.2
2009 January	107.2	-1.4	-9.5	106.5	-1.1	-8.0
February ²	108.0	0.7	-9.5	107.9	1.3	-6.9

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to January 2009² 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: 2005 = 100

Retail Business - NACE REV 2	February 2009					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change
Motor Trades	47.1	1.2	-55.4	47.8	4.6	-53.2
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores)	122.7	-0.8	-3.7	115.7	0.2	-3.7
Department Stores	89.4	-11.9	-20.2	101.5	-8.5	-13.2
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	101.3	-3.3	-5.0	93.1	-1.8	-6.2
Fuel	100.7	6.0	-20.4	95.1	0.5	-11.8
Pharmaceuticals Medical & Cosmetic Articles	121.1	2.5	0.2	120.3	2.9	-0.3
Clothing, Footwear & Textiles	99.7	-3.3	-12.3	118.7	0.9	-2.5
Furniture and Lighting	78.6	5.4	-27.1	93.4	14.2	-22.1
Hardware, Paints & Glass	98.0	5.3	-16.4	97.9	6.1	-14.3
Electrical Goods	89.2	-0.8	-18.6	128.3	2.2	-5.4
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	89.9	-3.4	-15.2	81.9	-2.8	-16.9
Other Retail Sales	100.7	2.2	-15.4	112.3	0.8	-9.0
Bars	96.3	-2.6	-7.1	85.1	-2.6	-10.9
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	108.0	0.7	-9.5	107.9	1.3	-6.9
All Businesses	88.6	5.0	-23.4	88.6	5.7	-20.9
Of which:- <u>Combined Groups</u>						
All Businesses excl Motor Trades & Bars	109.4	1.0	-9.7	111.3	1.9	-6.3
Motors & Fuel	55.6	4.9	-49.2	55.5	6.6	-46.0
All Bus. Excl. Motor Trades, Fuel & Bars	110.2	0.5	-8.5	113.2	2.1	-5.6
Food Businesses	121.0	-0.8	-3.8	113.7	0.1	-3.9
Non-Food (Excl Motor Trades & Bars)	98.6	-0.4	-14.1	110.4	1.8	-8.2
Household Equipment	90.5	2.2	-19.3	108.3	6.1	-12.7
Books, Newspapers Stationery & Other Goods	98.8	1.6	-15.3	106.0	0.8	-10.7

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to January 2009, individual series are independently adjusted

Table 4 Seasonally Adjusted¹ Value and Volume Indices of Retail Sales for 13 Retail Businesses
Base Year: 2005 = 100

Retail Business - NACE REV 2	January 2009					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change
Motor Trades	46.6	-46.5	-59.1	45.7	-46.5	-58.6
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores)	123.7	1.3	-2.4	115.5	1.1	-4.1
Department Stores	101.5	-0.6	-9.6	110.9	-1.7	-5.8
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	104.7	-2.4	-4.6	94.7	-2.2	-7.7
Fuel	95.0	-11.2	-24.3	94.6	-8.2	-11.9
Pharmaceuticals Medical & Cosmetic Articles	118.1	-1.7	-3.6	116.9	-1.1	-4.2
Clothing, Footwear & Textiles	103.1	0.5	-8.7	117.6	0.7	-3.0
Furniture and Lighting	74.5	-6.7	-35.4	81.8	-7.8	-33.5
Hardware, Paints & Glass	93.1	-7.7	-22.3	92.3	-7.0	-21.5
Electrical Goods	89.9	-2.5	-23.7	125.5	-1.5	-14.0
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	93.0	-3.2	-14.5	84.2	-2.3	-17.0
Other Retail Sales	98.6	-4.9	-17.1	111.5	-4.0	-9.2
Bars	98.8	0.3	-2.7	87.4	0.1	-7.1
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	107.2	-1.4	-9.5	106.5	-1.1	-8.0
All Businesses	84.4	-20.5	-27.7	83.8	-20.5	-26.6
Of which:- <u>Combined Groups</u>						
All Businesses excl Motor Trades & Bars	108.2	-1.7	-10.2	109.3	-1.2	-7.8
Motors & Fuel	52.9	-44.3	-54.3	52.0	-43.2	-52.3
All Bus. Excl. Motor Trades, Fuel & Bars	109.6	-0.7	-8.6	110.9	-0.5	-7.4
Food Businesses	122.0	0.9	-2.6	113.6	0.7	-4.4
Non-Food (Excl Motor Trades & Bars)	99.1	-2.6	-14.9	108.4	-2.4	-10.8
Household Equipment	88.5	-4.3	-25.3	102.1	-3.6	-21.3
Books, Newspapers Stationery & Other Goods	97.3	-5.0	-16.6	105.2	-4.0	-10.9

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to January 2009, individual series are independently adjusted

Table 5 Seasonally Adjusted¹ Value and Volume Indices of Retail Sales for 13 Retail Businesses**Base Year: 2005 = 100**

Retail Business - NACE REV 2	November - January 2009					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change
Motor Trades	74.8	-13.3	-33.7	73.2	-13.1	-33.0
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores)	123.1	-0.8	-2.6	115.0	-0.9	-4.6
Department Stores	102.1	-1.7	-10.4	112.1	-0.3	-6.3
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	105.9	0.6	-1.3	95.9	-0.6	-4.8
Fuel	101.3	-14.5	-17.5	96.4	-3.8	-8.8
Pharmaceuticals Medical & Cosmetic Articles	119.5	-0.5	-1.0	117.9	-1.1	-2.3
Clothing, Footwear & Textiles	102.6	-5.1	-9.3	116.9	-3.3	-3.6
Furniture and Lighting	78.6	-10.6	-31.0	87.1	-11.8	-28.6
Hardware, Paints & Glass	98.3	-4.8	-17.0	97.0	-4.2	-16.5
Electrical Goods	92.0	-5.7	-19.4	127.2	-3.1	-9.1
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	94.8	-6.0	-11.8	85.6	-7.3	-15.0
Other Retail Sales	101.2	-7.1	-13.9	113.1	-1.6	-7.4
Bars	98.8	-0.9	-5.5	87.5	-2.5	-9.8
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	108.4	-3.9	-8.4	106.9	-2.6	-7.8
All Businesses	99.5	-7.7	-15.0	98.4	-6.2	-14.4
Of which:- <u>Combined Groups</u>						
All Businesses excl Motor Trades & Bars	109.5	-4.5	-8.7	109.8	-2.6	-7.4
Motors & Fuel	81.6	-13.6	-30.0	78.7	-11.8	-28.0
All Bus. Excl. Motor Trades, Fuel & Bars	110.4	-3.4	-7.8	111.2	-2.5	-7.3
Food Businesses	121.7	-0.7	-2.5	113.4	-0.9	-4.6
Non-Food (Excl Motor Trades & Bars)	100.8	-5.2	-12.7	109.7	-4.1	-9.6
Household Equipment	91.6	-6.5	-20.9	105.0	-5.9	-16.7
Books, Newspapers Stationery & Other Goods	100.0	-7.1	-13.6	107.0	-2.9	-9.2

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to January 2009, individual series are independently adjusted

Table 6

Volume of retail trade in the euro-zone, the EU27 and Member States¹
Annual % change compared with the same month of the previous year

	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08 ²
Austria	0.3	-2.4	-1.3	-1.4	-1.2	-0.4
Belgium	-0.5	-0.1	3.4	0.1	-3.3	2.7
Finland	1.5	-0.9	-0.7	0.7	-2.0	-3.2
France	0.3	1.4	2.3	-1.2	-0.5	-0.2
Germany	-1.8	-0.8	0.2	-0.4	0.1	0.4
Greece	-2.1	-4.2	-1.6	0.5	-4.6	-7.1
Ireland	-5.1	-4.9	-5.2	-5.5	-7.7	-8.1
Italy	-2.1	-5.1	-3.1	-4.4	-5.6	-4.9
Luxembourg	2.3	-3.7	8.5	7.1	-6.7	-5.9
Netherlands	-1.2	0.6	-0.6	-0.2	-1.0	-0.6
Portugal	2.7	2.1	0.6	1.4	1.4	-4.4
Slovenia	6.1	10.9	13.9	7.3	7.0	7.2
Spain	-6.0	c	c	c	c	c
Cyprus	9.6	c	c	c	c	c
Malta	-15.2	-16.5	-17.9	:	:	:
EA15	-1.5	-1.5	-0.8	-2.1	-2.7	-2.4
Denmark	-5.3	-5.7	-5.0	-5.8	-4.9	-7.8
Sweden	1.5	0.7	-2.4	-2.0	-1.6	-2.8
United Kingdom	2.1	1.6	0.8	1.2	0.9	1.1
Czech Republic	-0.6	2.8	6.0	2.4	2.7	1.0
Estonia	-4.2	-3.1	-6.6	-10.7	-10.7	-16.3
Latvia	-8.5	-8.4	-8.1	-13.4	-12.8	-12.5
Lithuania	5.4	1.5	-0.8	0.1	-0.5	-5.0
Hungary	-1.7	-1.3	-1.2	-1.3	-1.8	-3.1
Poland	8.1	2.5	4.0	2.5	-0.6	-0.5
Slovakia	6.8	8.6	10.9	7.3	4.4	5.3
Bulgaria	5.1	1.5	1.0	0.9	-1.1	-3.3
Romania	18.5	22.7	20.1	14.6	10.0	-4.2
EU27	-0.2	-0.4	-0.1	-1.2	-1.7	-1.8

: Data not available,

¹ Data NACE 47 : All Business excluding Motor Trades & Bars

² Data for Ireland is December 2008 final data

Source: Eurostat

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Background Notes

Retail Sales Index	<p>Introduction of updated series with base year 2005 = 100.</p> <p>An updated Retail Sales Index (RSI) is being introduced in the February 2009 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>
Reference Period	<p>The January 2009 period covers the 4 weeks from 28/12/08 to 24/01/09 and the February 2009 period covers the 4 weeks from 25/01/09 to 21/02/09.</p>
New Base Year	<p>The set of new monthly retail sales indices has been compiled with reference to base year 2005 = 100. The underlying structural weighting system is mainly based on the 2005 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. 2). The index system is structured on the retailing enterprises covered in the 2005 Annual Services Inquiry classified by 13 retail business categories and four turnover (excluding VAT) ranges.</p> <p>The value indices are calculated by updating the aggregate 2005 retail turnover (including VAT) of these enterprises in these cells using the monthly retail sales data provided by the enterprise respondent panel from 2005 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 January 2009. 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>