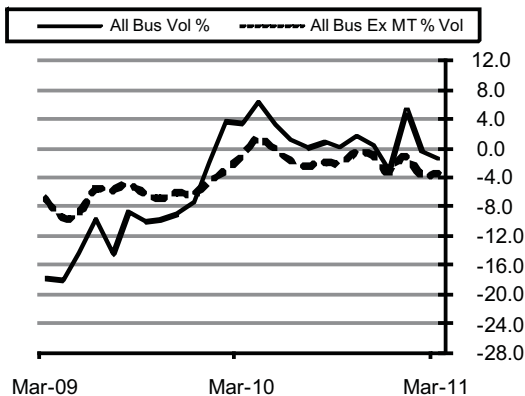




An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Central Statistics Office

28 April 2011

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



Retail Sales Index
March 2011 (First Estimates)
February 2011 (Final Figures)

Seasonally Adjusted Retail Sales Index – All Businesses

(Base year 2005 = 100)

	Volume Index	Value Index
March 2010	93.9	89.2
February 2011	92.3	88.1
March 2011	92.3	88.1
Monthly% change	0.1%	0.1%
Annual % change	-1.7%	-1.2%

Retail Sales volume decreased by 1.7% in March 2011 compared with March 2010

The volume of retail sales (i.e. excluding price effects) decreased by 1.7% in March 2011 when compared with March 2010 and there was a monthly increase of 0.1%. If Motor Trades are excluded, the volume of retail sales decreased by 3.5% in March 2011 when compared with March 2010, while there was a monthly increase of 0.1%.

Motor Trades (8.7%), Non-Specialised (0.3%) and Clothing, Footwear & Textiles (2.8%) were amongst the four categories that showed year-on-year increases in the volume of retail sales this month. Pharmaceuticals Medical and Cosmetic Articles (-5.5%) Fuel (-12.6%), Furniture & Lighting (-13.9%) and Other Retail Sales (-14.2%) were amongst the nine categories that showed year-on-year decreases in the volume of retail sales this month.

The value of retail sales decreased by 1.2% in March 2011 when compared with March 2010 and there was a month-on-month change of +0.1%. If Motor Trades are excluded, there was an annual decrease of 2.5% in the value of retail sales and a monthly increase of 0.7%.

Provisional estimates are now available for the first quarter of 2011. These figures show the volume of retail sales increased by 0.6% compared to the same Quarter in 2010. There was a decrease of 2.3% when compared to quarter 4 2010. If Motor Trades are excluded, the volume of retail sales decreased by 2.8% year on year while there was a quarterly increase of 0.4%.

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Table 1 Seasonally Adjusted Indices of Total Retail Sales ¹**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	107.7	-6.1	-6.1
2009 Year	90.9	-18.0	-18.0	92.6	-14.0	-14.0
2010 Year	89.1	-2.0	-2.0	93.5	1.0	1.0
2010 1st quarter	87.2	-4.3	-2.5	90.9	-3.6	1.7
2nd quarter	89.9	3.1	-0.7	94.7	4.2	3.0
3rd quarter	89.3	-0.7	-2.5	94.2	-0.5	0.2
4th quarter	89.2	-0.1	-2.1	93.6	-0.6	-0.7
2011 1st quarter ²	87.8	-1.5	0.7	91.4	-2.3	0.6
2009 October	90.4	-1.3	-14.6	93.1	-1.0	-9.9
November	90.7	0.4	-13.6	93.8	0.7	-9.1
December	92.1	1.4	-12.5	95.6	1.9	-7.5
2010 January	83.6	-9.2	-6.5	85.2	-10.9	-2.2
February	88.3	5.7	-0.8	92.8	9.0	3.4
March	89.2	0.9	-0.6	93.9	1.2	3.3
April	90.5	1.5	1.7	95.1	1.3	6.1
May	89.8	-0.8	-0.7	94.7	-0.4	2.9
June	89.4	-0.4	-2.7	94.4	-0.3	0.9
July	89.0	-0.4	-3.1	93.8	-0.6	-0.2
August	89.6	0.7	-2.0	94.6	0.8	0.8
September	89.3	-0.4	-2.5	94.1	-0.5	0.0
October	89.9	0.7	-0.6	94.5	0.4	1.5
November	89.4	-0.6	-1.5	94.0	-0.5	0.3
December	88.4	-1.1	-4.0	92.5	-1.6	-3.2
2011 January	87.2	-1.3	4.4	89.5	-3.3	5.1
February	88.1	1.0	-0.3	92.3	3.1	-0.6
March ²	88.1	0.1	-1.2	92.3	0.1	-1.7

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to March 2011² 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	111.8	-2.8	-2.8
2009 Year	102.1	-11.1	-11.1	104.2	-6.8	-6.8
2010 Year	97.8	-4.2	-4.2	102.4	-1.7	-1.7
2010 1st quarter	99.1	1.2	-6.7	103.5	1.6	-2.8
2nd quarter	98.4	-0.7	-4.0	103.4	-0.1	-0.2
3rd quarter	96.8	-1.6	-4.3	101.8	-1.5	-2.1
4th quarter	95.8	-1.0	-2.1	100.2	-1.6	-1.7
2011 1st quarter ²	97.2	1.5	-1.9	100.6	0.4	-2.8
2009 October	98.4	-2.0	-12.2	102.0	-1.6	-6.9
November	97.7	-0.7	-11.1	102.0	0.0	-6.0
December	97.7	0.0	-11.1	101.8	-0.2	-6.3
2010 January	98.4	0.7	-8.3	101.8	0.0	-4.6
February	98.9	0.5	-7.6	104.2	2.3	-3.1
March	99.8	1.0	-4.6	104.2	0.1	-1.1
April	99.5	-0.4	-3.3	104.3	0.1	1.4
May	98.3	-1.2	-3.5	103.2	-1.0	-0.1
June	97.6	-0.7	-5.0	102.8	-0.4	-1.6
July	97.0	-0.6	-4.9	101.9	-0.9	-2.5
August	97.0	0.0	-3.9	102.1	0.2	-1.8
September	96.5	-0.5	-3.8	101.4	-0.7	-2.1
October	96.8	0.2	-1.7	101.4	0.0	-0.5
November	95.9	-0.9	-1.9	101.1	-0.4	-0.9
December	94.9	-1.0	-2.9	98.4	-2.6	-3.3
2011 January	97.8	3.0	-0.7	100.8	2.4	-1.0
February	96.6	-1.2	-2.3	100.4	-0.4	-3.6
March ²	97.3	0.7	-2.5	100.6	0.1	-3.5

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to March 2011² 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	March 2011					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change
Motor Trades	63.0	1.3	4.7	67.8	1.1	8.7
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores)	116.7	0.6	1.5	115.3	0.9	0.3
Department Stores	88.0	2.2	0.9	114.5	1.6	2.1
Food beverages & Tobacco	88.4	0.8	-3.5	87.7	1.2	-3.6
Fuel	106.8	-0.1	0.3	78.1	-2.2	-12.6
Pharmaceuticals Medical & Cosmetic Articles	104.6	0.5	-4.1	113.0	0.2	-5.5
Clothing, Footwear & Textiles	87.7	1.1	-0.6	122.3	2.0	2.8
Furniture and Lighting	57.8	-0.3	-17.2	76.5	0.6	-13.9
Hardware, Paints & Glass	81.9	4.8	-2.8	85.3	4.9	-1.8
Electrical Goods	71.7	-3.2	-12.0	120.0	-2.0	-6.7
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	73.1	0.5	-8.8	67.3	-0.1	-10.4
Other Retail Sales	83.3	-3.1	-10.9	97.6	-1.9	-14.2
Bars	75.6	-1.5	-9.2	69.2	-1.4	-9.6
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	97.3	0.7	-2.5	100.6	0.1	-3.5
All Businesses	88.1	0.1	-1.2	92.3	0.1	-1.7
Of which:- <u>Combined Groups</u>						
All Businesses excl Motor Trades & Bars	100.0	0.8	-1.6	104.9	0.6	-3.5
Motors & Fuel	72.3	0.9	4.6	70.7	0.6	4.1
All Bus. Excl. Motor Trades, Fuel & Bars	98.7	0.5	-2.0	108.8	0.9	-2.1
Food Businesses	114.3	0.6	1.2	113.0	0.9	0.0
Non-Food (Excl Motor Trades, Fuel & Bars)	84.7	0.3	-6.1	103.8	0.0	-6.0
Household Equipment	73.0	1.0	-9.0	95.1	0.9	-6.1
Books, Newspapers Stationery & Other Goods	80.8	-2.0	-10.9	90.3	-2.6	-13.3

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to March 2011, 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	February 2011					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change
Motor Trades	62.2	8.3	1.8	67.0	7.3	5.8
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores)	116.0	-0.5	1.3	114.3	-1.0	0.0
Department Stores	86.2	9.3	-2.4	112.6	12.0	0.5
Food beverages & Tobacco	87.8	-0.4	-3.1	86.7	-0.7	-3.4
Fuel	106.9	4.3	4.7	79.8	1.8	-7.8
Pharmaceuticals Medical & Cosmetic Articles	104.0	-2.0	-4.9	112.8	-2.4	-6.2
Clothing, Footwear & Textiles	86.8	-0.8	-3.6	119.9	0.6	0.2
Furniture and Lighting	57.9	0.1	-15.5	76.1	0.2	-11.6
Hardware, Paints & Glass	78.1	-1.7	-6.0	81.3	-1.7	-4.7
Electrical Goods	74.1	-1.5	-11.2	122.4	-2.7	-5.3
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	72.7	-9.4	-8.5	67.4	-3.8	-9.4
Other Retail Sales	85.9	2.6	-8.8	99.6	1.4	-12.1
Bars	76.8	-4.2	-6.3	70.2	-4.0	-6.5
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	96.6	-1.2	-2.3	100.4	-0.4	-3.6
All Businesses	88.1	1.0	-0.3	92.3	3.1	-0.6
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
All Businesses excl Motor Trades & Bars	99.2	-0.6	-1.8	104.3	-0.6	-3.3
Motors & Fuel	71.7	7.9	3.2	70.3	5.7	2.9
All Bus. Excl. Motor Trades, Fuel & Bars	98.2	-0.6	-2.4	107.8	-0.7	-2.5
Food Businesses	113.6	-0.5	1.0	111.9	-0.9	-0.2
Non-Food (Excl Motor Trades, Fuel & Bars)	84.5	1.4	-6.7	103.8	1.7	-5.5
Household Equipment	72.3	-1.8	-10.0	94.2	-1.7	-6.7
Books, Newspapers Stationery & Other Goods	82.5	0.7	-9.0	92.8	0.8	-11.1

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to March 2011, individual series are independently adjusted

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

Retail Business - NACE REV 2	January-March 2011					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change
Motor Trades	61.0	-1.6	7.8	65.9	-1.2	11.9
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores)	116.5	1.1	1.1	115.0	0.8	0.2
Department Stores	84.6	-3.5	-4.2	109.6	-3.9	-1.9
Food beverages & Tobacco	88.1	-0.7	-3.6	87.3	-0.6	-3.4
Fuel	105.5	5.3	4.6	78.7	-1.7	-8.1
Pharmaceuticals Medical & Cosmetic Articles	104.9	-0.7	-3.8	113.7	-0.9	-3.9
Clothing, Footwear & Textiles	87.4	0.7	-1.2	120.6	1.8	2.6
Furniture and Lighting	57.9	10.1	-13.1	76.2	11.4	-9.1
Hardware, Paints & Glass	80.0	0.3	-2.6	83.3	0.2	-1.4
Electrical Goods	73.5	-2.8	-9.7	122.5	-2.1	-3.6
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	75.2	0.5	-6.2	68.2	-1.4	-8.2
Other Retail Sales	84.2	2.9	-7.3	98.4	0.8	-9.9
Bars	77.4	-0.4	-7.5	70.7	-1.0	-7.8
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	97.2	1.5	-1.9	100.6	0.4	-2.8
All Businesses	87.8	-1.5	0.7	91.4	-2.3	0.6
Of which:- <u>Combined Groups</u>						
All Businesses excl Motor Trades & Bars	99.7	1.5	-1.2	104.7	0.2	-2.5
Motors & Fuel	70.3	-2.0	7.8	69.3	-3.6	7.4
All Bus. Excl. Motor Trades, Fuel & Bars	98.6	0.2	-1.9	108.4	0.6	-1.5
Food Businesses	114.1	1.1	0.8	112.7	0.8	0.0
Non-Food (Excl Motor Trades, Fuel & Bars)	84.2	0.6	-5.4	103.2	0.1	-4.2
Household Equipment	73.0	-0.1	-7.5	95.1	0.6	-4.0
Books, Newspapers Stationery & Other Goods	81.7	1.4	-7.3	91.6	0.5	-9.2

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to March 2011, 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

	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10	Jan-11	Feb-11 ²
Austria	2.5	1.7	4.2	0.9	-0.2	-1.2
Belgium	3.5	0.8	4.1	1.6	0.3	3.0
Finland	5.0	2.6	6.3	3.3	2.9	2.3
France	4.8	3.1	6.0	4.0	5.3	3.9
Germany	2.1	1.2	0.1	0.3	2.4	1.1
Greece	-10.5	-8.1	-11.7	-19.4	-15.9	c
Ireland	-1.3	0.1	0.0	-2.7	-0.4	-3.3
Italy	0.9	1.3	-1.0	-0.2	0.0	c
Luxembourg	8.8	6.9	12.5	9.2	7.9	8.8
Netherlands	0.8	0.0	1.3	-2.7	0.7	c
Portugal	-0.9	-1.3	-4.6	-1.2	-7.3	-4.5
Slovenia	3.1	2.4	3.6	-0.9	3.4	5.3
Slovakia	-1.8	-3.7	-3.1	-2.3	0.0	0.1
Spain	-5.0	-2.5	-2.6	-5.0	-6.2	-5.6
Cyprus	0.3	1.4	1.8	3.5	c	c
Malta	2.1	-2.5	-0.2	-6.5	-8.1	-3.7
EA17	1.3	0.9	1.1	-0.1	0.4	0.1
Denmark	-1.2	-2.3	0.9	-1.5	-1.3	-1.9
Sweden	4.2	4.3	4.5	2.9	2.5	2.9
United Kingdom	0.1	0.2	1.0	0.3	5.3	1.5
Czech Republic	1.6	-1.0	0.0	-3.9	1.5	c
Estonia	5.0	4.2	8.3	7.5	-3.8	1.3
Latvia	6.3	5.7	7.9	8.1	0.3	3.6
Lithuania	-0.2	-0.2	4.1	1.9	3.6	6.1
Hungary	0.7	-0.7	-0.4	-1.7	0.1	c
Poland	11.8	13.8	10.2	13.3	13.1	12.6
Bulgaria	-4.3	-4.5	-4.8	-3.7	-0.2	-0.1
Romania	-1.2	-7.9	-8.5	-9.8	-7.1	-4.8
EU27	1.4	1.1	1.3	0.3	1.7	0.9
Norway	3.2	1.4	4.7	1.3	1.4	2.4
Switzerland	4.5	2.9	1.6	-1.5	-2.4	1.5

: Data not available,

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

² Data for Ireland is February 2011 final data

c Confidential

Source: Eurostat

Background Notes

Retail Sales Index	Introduction of updated series with base year 2005 = 100. An updated Retail Sales Index (RSI) was 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.
Reference Period	The February 2011 period covers the 4 weeks from 30/01/11 to 26/02/11 and the March 2011 period covers the 5 weeks from 27/02/11 to 02/04/11.
New Base Year	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.
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. 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. 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. 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	<i>All Retail Sales “unadjusted” series are trading day adjusted as they are based on either a standardised four or five week reporting period (see reference period note above). Seasonal adjustment is conducted using the direct seasonal adjustment approach. Under this approach each individual series is independently adjusted, e.g. aggregate series are adjusted without reference to the component series. Each individual seasonally adjusted series is calculated based on unadjusted data spanning from January 2000 to the current period.</i> The adjustments are completed by applying the X-12-ARIMA model, developed by the U.S. Census Bureau to the unadjusted data. This methodology estimates seasonal factors while also taking into consideration factors that impact on the quality of the seasonal adjustment such as: • Calendar effects, e.g. the timing of Easter, • The phase shift effect, i.e. the fact the reporting period of the RSI does not coincide with the calendar month and • Outliers, temporary changes and level shifts in the series. For additional information on the use of X-12-ARIMA see (Findley, D.F., B.C. Monsell, W.R. Bell, M.C. Otto, and B. Chen (1998), “New Capabilities and Methods of the X-12-Arima Seasonal Adjustment Program”, <i>Journal of Business & Economic Statistics</i>, 16, pp. 127-177.) and www.census.gov/srd/www/x12a/.
References	A detailed description of the Retail Sales Index is available on the CSO website www.cso.ie. Retrospective details for the current and previous series are also available on the CSO website.