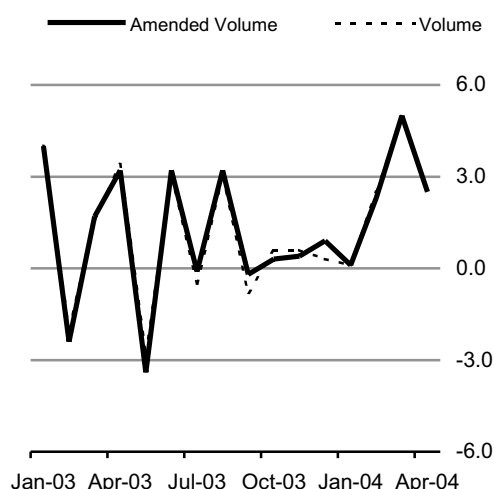




**Retail Sales Index -
Seasonally Adjusted Volume
Annual % Change**



Ardee Road Dublin 6 Ireland	Skehard Road Cork Ireland
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Retail Statistics	Retail Sales Section, ext 5209 r_sales@cs0.ie
Queries and Sales	Information Section, ext 5032 information@cs0.ie

Ref 137/2004

March 2004 (Final Figures)

(Base year 2000 = 100)

	Volume Index	Value Index
April 2003	103.2	109.8
April 2004	105.7	113.3
% change	+2.5%	+3.2%

A correction has been applied to the Retail Sales Index base weights. The correction principally effects two sectors; non-specialised stores and bars. This has resulted in revised series for those sectors, however the All Businesses index and resulting annual % change are largely unaffected.

The volume of retail sales (i.e. excluding price effects) increased by 2.5% in April 2004 compared to April 2003. There was a monthly decrease of 0.4%. If Motor Trades are excluded the annual increase was 0.6% and there was no monthly change.

The value of retail sales increased by 3.2% in April 2004 compared to April 2003 and decreased by 0.2% in the month. However, if Motor Trades are excluded, the annual increase was 0.9% and the monthly change was -0.1%.

March 2004 is the latest month for which final detailed figures are available. The three-month January 2004 - March 2004 volume figures show that, compared with the three months ending December 2003:

- The largest increase in the volume of sales was in the Footwear & Leather (+5.8%) sector.
- The largest decrease in the volume of sales was in the Department Store (-0.5%) sector.

All figures in this release are trading day and seasonally adjusted. The seasonal factors are based on unadjusted indices up to April 2004.

For more information contact Steve MacFeely (021) 453 5303 or Alan Finlay on (021) 453 5211.

Table 1 Seasonally Adjusted Indices of Total Retail Sales¹**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
2001 Year	103.3	3.3	3.3	101.5	1.5	1.5
2002 Year	106.0	2.6	2.6	101.7	0.1	0.1
2003 Year	109.3	3.2	3.2	102.6	0.9	0.9
2002 1st quarter	103.5	-2.3	3.5	100.7	-2.5	1.3
2nd quarter	104.4	0.9	1.8	100.3	-0.4	-0.7
3rd quarter	106.6	2.1	3.2	102.0	1.7	0.8
4th quarter	107.9	1.2	1.8	102.5	0.5	-0.8
2003 1st quarter	108.0	0.0	4.3	101.9	-0.6	1.1
2nd quarter	107.8	-0.2	3.2	101.4	-0.5	1.1
3rd quarter	109.7	1.8	2.9	102.8	1.4	0.8
4th quarter	110.5	0.7	2.3	103.1	0.2	0.6
2004 1st quarter	111.9	1.3	3.6	104.6	1.5	2.8
2002 November	107.8	-0.1	2.0	102.5	-0.1	-0.8
December	108.0	0.2	1.4	102.3	-0.2	-1.2
2003 January	109.5	1.4	7.2	103.4	1.0	4.0
February	107.4	-1.9	0.8	101.3	-2.0	-2.4
March	107.3	-0.1	5.0	101.0	-0.3	1.7
April	109.8	2.3	5.9	103.2	2.1	3.2
May	104.0	-5.2	-1.5	97.8	-5.2	-3.4
June	109.2	4.9	4.9	102.8	5.1	3.2
July	108.5	-0.6	1.9	102.1	-0.7	-0.1
August	110.5	1.9	5.3	103.6	1.5	3.2
September	110.1	-0.4	1.9	102.9	-0.7	-0.2
October	110.1	0.0	2.0	103.0	0.1	0.3
November	110.3	0.2	2.3	103.0	0.0	0.4
December	110.9	0.5	2.6	103.2	0.2	0.9
2004 January	110.8	0.0	1.2	103.5	0.3	0.1
February	110.9	0.1	3.3	103.7	0.2	2.3
March	113.5	2.3	5.8	106.1	2.3	5.0
April ²	113.3	-0.2	3.2	105.7	-0.4	2.5

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to April 2004² 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
2001 Year	110.1	10.1	10.1	107.1	7.1	7.1
2002 Year	114.8	4.3	4.3	108.9	1.6	1.6
2003 Year	119.2	3.8	3.8	110.6	1.6	1.6
2002 1st quarter	112.5	-0.5	7.1	107.6	-1.2	4.0
2nd quarter	112.5	0.0	3.6	106.9	-0.7	0.6
3rd quarter	115.1	2.3	4.4	109.0	2.0	2.2
4th quarter	116.0	0.8	2.7	109.2	0.2	0.3
2003 1st quarter	117.1	1.0	4.1	109.1	-0.1	1.4
2nd quarter	118.0	0.7	4.9	109.8	0.6	2.8
3rd quarter	118.6	0.5	3.0	109.8	0.0	0.8
4th quarter	119.8	1.0	3.3	110.7	0.8	1.4
2004 1st quarter	120.9	0.9	3.2	111.8	1.0	2.5
2002 November	116.1	0.7	3.3	109.4	0.5	1.0
December	116.5	0.3	2.2	109.5	0.1	-0.3
2003 January	116.6	0.1	5.6	109.1	-0.3	3.3
February	117.7	0.9	4.4	109.7	0.5	1.5
March	117.1	-0.5	2.8	108.7	-0.9	-0.1
April	120.4	2.9	8.6	111.8	2.8	5.8
May	114.6	-4.8	1.4	106.7	-4.5	-0.7
June	118.7	3.6	4.7	110.8	3.8	3.2
July	117.7	-0.8	2.5	109.4	-1.2	0.4
August	117.9	0.1	2.5	109.1	-0.3	0.2
September	119.8	1.6	3.8	110.7	1.5	1.5
October	120.0	0.2	4.1	111.0	0.3	2.0
November	119.7	-0.2	3.1	110.6	-0.4	1.1
December	119.7	0.0	2.8	110.6	0.0	1.0
2004 January	120.5	0.7	3.4	111.6	0.9	2.2
February	120.2	-0.3	2.1	111.2	-0.3	1.4
March	121.7	1.2	3.9	112.4	1.0	3.4
April ²	121.5	-0.1	0.9	112.4	0.0	0.6

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to April 2004² 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 Estimate) Base Year: 2000 = 100

Retail Business - NACE REV 1	April 2004					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	97.1	0.2	9.0	91.1	0.5	7.6
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	125.3	-0.1	0.6	111.3	0.1	0.2
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	120.1	-1.0	0.9	122.7	-0.7	2.9
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	114.7	-4.3	-2.4			
Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.	107.8	-1.7	1.4			
Other Goods and Services	130.8	1.4	4.0			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	114.6	-1.0	-0.4	99.1	-0.8	-1.5
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	141.4	5.5	8.4	122.2	3.7	6.3
Textiles and Clothing	121.6	1.4	5.0	139.0	1.7	8.9
Footwear and Leather	116.0	0.5	-1.5	134.3	1.5	2.9
Furniture and Lighting	118.1	4.7	8.5	110.8	6.8	8.3
Electrical Goods	111.4	-8.6	-9.4	104.6	-8.4	-9.3
Hardware, Paints and Glass	135.8	3.5	6.1	118.6	3.6	3.9
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	114.7	-2.2	-1.5	99.6	-2.7	-3.3
Other Retail Sales	117.5	2.0	4.3	107.0	1.9	3.9
Bars - NACE 55.4	105.9	-5.3	-5.2	89.5	-3.9	-6.6
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	121.5	-0.1	0.9	112.4	0.0	0.6
All Businesses	113.3	-0.2	3.2	105.7	-0.4	2.5
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	120.8	1.2	4.0	138.4	1.4	8.1
Household Equipment	125.0	0.3	1.4	112.4	-0.1	0.3
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	117.1	1.6	3.3	105.1	1.6	2.3
Food Businesses	124.3	-0.1	0.6	109.1	-0.1	-0.1
All Non-Food	123.4	1.6	3.3	115.5	1.5	2.5
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	123.5	0.4	1.8	115.6	0.3	1.6

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to April 2004, 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	March 2004					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	96.9	4.6	10.1	90.7	3.3	8.6
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	125.3	1.6	6.2	111.2	1.5	5.5
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	121.3	8.1	-0.4	123.6	7.7	1.3
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	119.9	11.7	4.0			
Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.	109.6	4.8	1.6			
Other Goods and Services	129.0	6.5	-3.8			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	115.7	0.0	2.1	99.9	0.2	0.9
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	134.1	-0.9	4.9	117.8	-1.1	3.3
Textiles and Clothing	119.9	-0.8	3.6	136.7	-0.7	7.3
Footwear and Leather	115.3	-1.5	-1.2	132.4	-1.7	3.1
Furniture and Lighting	112.7	8.7	4.9	103.7	6.7	4.0
Electrical Goods	121.9	4.3	2.2	114.2	4.5	2.6
Hardware, Paints and Glass	131.2	0.5	3.2	114.5	0.3	0.8
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	117.3	1.4	-0.3	102.3	1.3	-2.8
Other Retail Sales	115.1	-1.0	1.2	105.0	-1.0	0.8
Bars - NACE 55.4	111.8	1.6	2.2	93.1	1.9	-0.2
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	121.7	1.2	3.9	112.4	1.0	3.4
All Businesses	113.5	2.3	5.8	106.1	2.3	5.0
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	119.4	-0.8	2.9	136.4	-0.7	6.7
Household Equipment	124.6	3.2	3.1	112.5	3.2	1.8
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	115.2	-0.8	0.9	103.5	-0.8	0.0
Food Businesses	124.4	1.4	5.8	109.2	1.5	4.9
All Non-Food	121.4	0.6	2.4	113.8	0.7	1.7
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	122.9	0.9	4.2	115.3	0.9	3.9

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to April 2004, 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	January - March 2004					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	94.8	4.6	4.3	89.2	4.4	2.8
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	124.8	-0.1	5.0	110.7	0.2	4.0
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	120.5	-1.0	0.7	122.7	-0.5	2.2
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	117.9	-2.2	2.5			
Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.	109.4	1.0	3.4			
Other Goods and Services	127.2	0.4	-1.6			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	113.5	-0.3	0.3	97.9	-0.4	-1.3
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	133.2	-0.2	5.9	117.6	-0.3	4.0
Textiles and Clothing	119.7	2.3	4.2	136.2	3.9	7.9
Footwear and Leather	117.8	2.2	1.6	137.2	5.8	7.0
Furniture and Lighting	110.1	2.2	2.3	102.0	2.7	1.5
Electrical Goods	119.2	0.4	-1.2	111.6	0.7	-1.1
Hardware, Paints and Glass	130.5	4.3	3.0	114.1	4.0	0.1
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	116.3	0.8	1.4	101.7	0.9	-0.8
Other Retail Sales	115.3	0.1	1.8	105.2	0.2	1.1
Bars - NACE 55.4	110.6	0.7	0.3	92.0	0.9	-2.4
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	120.9	0.9	3.2	111.8	1.0	2.5
All Businesses	111.9	1.3	3.6	104.6	1.5	2.8
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	119.3	2.1	3.7	136.2	4.0	7.8
Household Equipment	122.6	2.4	1.2	110.8	2.4	-0.3
Books, Newspapers Stationery & Other Goods	115.4	0.0	1.8	103.8	0.1	0.7
Food Businesses	123.8	-0.1	4.6	108.6	-0.1	3.4
All Non-Food	120.9	1.0	2.5	113.3	0.9	1.7
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	122.3	0.5	3.6	114.8	0.8	3.1

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to April 2004, individual series are independently adjusted

Table 6

Volume of retail trade in the euro-zone, the EU15, the EU25 and Member States¹
Annual % change compared with the same month of the previous year

	Oct-03	Nov-03	Dec-03	Jan-04	Feb-04	Mar-04
Belgium	3.3	-4.2	-0.7	2.0	-0.2	0.4
Germany	0.3	-3.2	-2.6	-3.0	-3.2	-0.8
Greece	3.2	6.5	1.4	2.9	6.4	5.4
Spain	4.0	2.9	6.2	4.4	4.6	4.5
France	1.2	-1.4	0.2	2.7	1.0	1.2
Ireland	3.9	1.7	2.0	3.7	2.1	4.2
Italy	-0.5	-2.4	-1.1	-0.8	-2.2	-2.7
Luxembourg	4.4	3.1	2.9	-2.1	:	:
Netherlands	-4.1	-5.3	-6.0	-3.1	-4.2	-2.3
Austria	1.1	-4.6	0.1	-1.1	-1.0	0.6
Portugal	-1.8	-2.3	-2.8	-0.4	-0.6	1.8
Finland	4.9	4.3	3.1	6.9	3.6	4.8
Euro-zone	0.9	-1.8	-0.4	0.5	-0.6	0.3
Denmark	4.8	3.9	3.7	4.0	5.4	7.0
Sweden	4.6	4.5	4.1	4.1	7.7	5.6
United Kingdom	3.4	3.0	4.3	6.6	6.0	7.0
EU15	1.6	-0.3	0.9	2.0	1.3	2.1
Czech Republic	4.1	3.3	3.3	1.9	3.4	3.2
Estonia	4.7	-1.5	0.5	13.5	10.8	14.6
Cyprus	4.5	4.1	2.0	:	:	:
Latvia	18.1	13.1	17.1	12.5	13.2	13.4
Lithuania	13.4	13.0	20.9	13.9	13.2	14.9
Hungary	8.6	8.6	11.7	7.3	7.1	4.5
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	:
Poland	:	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.0	0.8
Slovenia	5.8	1.0	2.2	4.8	-0.3	2.3
Slovakia	-5.0	-2.9	-1.1	0.8	4.2	6.2
EU25	1.7	-0.2	1.1	2.1	1.4	2.1

: Data not available

¹ Data refers to Working Day Adjusted NACE 52 : All Business excluding Motor Trades & Bars

Source: Eurostat

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 March period covers the 5 weeks from 29/02/04 to 03/04/04 and the April period covers the 4 weeks from 04/04/04 to 01/05/04.</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).</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 April 2004. 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.