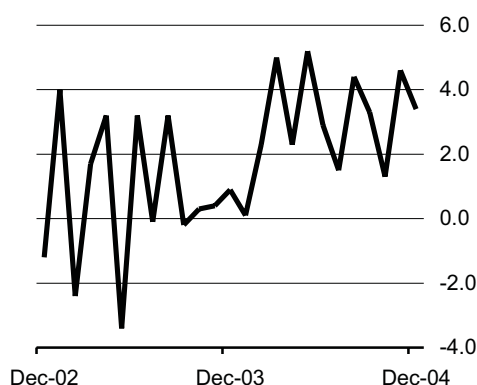




**Retail Sales Index -
Seasonally Adjusted Volume
Annual % Change**



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November 2004 (Final Figures)

(Base year 2000 = 100)

	Volume Index	Value Index
December 2003	103.2	110.9
December 2004	106.7	116.0
% change	+3.4%	+4.6%

For more information contact Steve MacFeely on (021) 453 5303 or Olive Loughnane (021) 453 5209.

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
2004 Year ²	114.1	4.4	4.4	105.7	3.0	3.0
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	1.4	2.7
2nd quarter	112.9	0.9	4.7	104.8	0.3	3.4
3rd quarter	114.8	1.7	4.6	106.0	1.1	3.1
4th quarter ²	115.6	0.7	4.6	106.3	0.3	3.1
2003 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	113.1	-0.4	3.0	105.5	-0.6	2.3
May	110.8	-2.0	6.5	102.9	-2.5	5.2
June	114.3	3.2	4.7	105.9	2.9	2.9
July	111.8	-2.2	3.1	103.6	-2.1	1.5
August	117.1	4.7	5.9	108.1	4.3	4.4
September	115.4	-1.5	4.8	106.2	-1.8	3.3
October	113.3	-1.8	2.9	104.4	-1.8	1.3
November	117.4	3.6	6.4	107.7	3.3	4.6
December ²	116.0	-1.2	4.6	106.7	-1.0	3.4

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
2004 Year ²	123.7	3.8	3.8	114.0	3.1	3.1
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	0.9	2.4
2nd quarter	122.0	1.0	3.4	112.9	1.0	2.8
3rd quarter	123.3	1.1	4.0	113.6	0.6	3.4
4th quarter ²	125.1	1.4	4.4	114.9	1.2	3.8
2003 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	121.6	-0.1	1.0	112.5	0.1	0.7
May	120.3	-1.1	4.9	111.5	-0.9	4.5
June	123.8	2.9	4.3	114.4	2.6	3.3
July	121.2	-2.1	3.0	112.0	-2.1	2.3
August	124.0	2.3	5.2	114.2	2.0	4.6
September	124.5	0.4	3.9	114.3	0.1	3.2
October	124.1	-0.3	3.4	114.1	-0.2	2.8
November	126.5	1.9	5.6	116.1	1.8	5.0
December ²	124.7	-1.4	4.1	114.5	-1.4	3.5

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to April 2004² Provisional value and volume of sales indices based on early returns from sample retailers

Table 3 Seasonally Adjusted¹ Value and Volume Indices of Retail Sales for 13 Retail Businesses
(Preliminary Estimates) Base Year: 2000 = 100

Retail Business - NACE REV 1	December 2004					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	99.3	0.6	8.5	91.6	0.8	6.4
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	135.2	1.9	8.6	119.1	2.4	8.0
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	121.6	-8.7	-1.0	124.9	-8.8	0.5
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	127.4	-7.9	3.8			
Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.	101.7	-14.4	-6.1			
Other Goods and Services	120.9	-7.5	-5.5			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	114.5	-6.1	0.8	97.4	-7.0	-0.3
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	138.8	1.8	6.5	121.9	2.3	5.1
Textiles and Clothing	119.0	-3.2	1.2	137.3	-2.8	4.1
Footwear and Leather	118.6	5.0	2.4	139.5	5.9	6.6
Furniture and Lighting	113.1	4.4	0.7	104.3	4.3	0.8
Electrical Goods	123.2	7.2	4.7	115.7	7.1	5.3
Hardware, Paints and Glass	139.6	-4.3	9.0	120.2	-4.5	7.2
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	113.8	-6.9	-2.4	97.9	-6.9	-3.8
Other Retail Sales	117.9	-6.1	3.0	105.4	-5.7	1.1
Bars - NACE 55.4	105.5	-3.6	-5.1	85.7	-3.9	-6.7
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	124.7	-1.4	4.1	114.5	-1.4	3.5
All Businesses	116.0	-1.2	4.6	106.7	-1.0	3.4
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	118.9	-2.3	1.3	137.7	-1.9	4.4
Household Equipment	127.8	-0.2	5.6	114.6	-0.4	4.9
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	117.3	-6.2	2.1	103.5	-6.1	0.4
Food Businesses	133.1	1.1	7.9	115.9	1.1	7.0
All Non-Food	123.5	-3.2	3.2	114.2	-2.8	1.9
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	128.1	-0.8	5.0	119.2	-0.9	4.6

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	November 2004					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	98.7	8.0	9.5	90.8	7.6	6.8
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	132.7	2.4	6.3	116.3	2.4	5.4
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	133.2	9.2	7.7	136.9	9.4	9.4
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	138.3	4.7	12.8			
Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.	118.9	15.6	9.1			
Other Goods and Services	130.6	15.8	1.4			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	121.9	1.9	7.1	104.7	2.4	6.1
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	136.3	-2.0	0.6	119.1	-1.3	-0.1
Textiles and Clothing	122.9	1.2	4.9	141.2	1.7	7.9
Footwear and Leather	112.9	-1.5	-1.5	131.7	-1.6	2.4
Furniture and Lighting	108.3	-3.4	4.5	100.0	-3.9	4.9
Electrical Goods	114.9	-3.8	-4.7	108.0	-3.6	-4.0
Hardware, Paints and Glass	145.9	1.4	18.4	125.8	0.9	16.5
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	122.3	9.2	4.5	105.2	9.0	2.9
Other Retail Sales	125.6	1.2	8.3	111.9	0.6	6.0
Bars - NACE 55.4	109.4	3.1	1.0	89.2	3.1	-1.1
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	126.5	1.9	5.6	116.1	1.8	5.0
All Businesses	117.4	3.6	6.4	107.7	3.3	4.6
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	121.7	0.9	4.1	140.4	1.5	7.4
Household Equipment	128.0	-1.8	7.7	115.1	-1.8	7.1
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	125.1	2.2	7.7	110.2	1.8	5.6
Food Businesses	131.7	2.3	6.3	114.6	2.2	5.4
All Non-Food	127.5	1.1	6.0	117.5	0.8	4.3
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	129.1	1.6	6.2	120.3	1.5	5.8

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	September - November 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	95.7	-0.6	6.1	88.2	-0.3	3.6
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	130.4	2.8	5.1	114.8	2.0	4.4
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	125.3	3.0	3.6	128.5	3.0	5.2
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	133.6	-0.4	12.2			
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	110.8	5.9	2.8			
Other Goods and Services	118.7	7.3	-5.9			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	120.0	0.5	4.5	102.7	0.1	3.4
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	139.9	-2.1	3.2	121.3	-2.3	2.2
Textiles and Clothing	123.4	2.0	6.0	141.0	1.6	8.6
Footwear and Leather	112.6	-6.3	-3.5	131.6	-6.2	0.5
Furniture and Lighting	113.0	-1.3	6.5	104.8	-2.1	7.0
Electrical Goods	120.0	-5.2	-1.0	112.6	-5.1	-0.5
Hardware, Paints and Glass	144.7	5.2	16.3	125.2	4.7	14.3
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	119.4	-0.8	2.6	102.8	-1.4	0.8
Other Retail Sales	122.0	2.0	6.5	109.1	1.1	4.5
Bars - NACE 55.4	106.8	-0.5	-2.6	87.0	-1.8	-4.8
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	125.0	1.5	4.3	114.8	1.1	3.6
All Businesses	115.4	0.9	4.7	106.1	0.2	3.0
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	121.9	0.7	4.6	139.9	0.8	7.5
Household Equipment	130.4	0.5	8.8	117.3	0.3	8.1
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	121.6	1.4	5.7	107.5	1.1	3.9
Food Businesses	129.5	2.7	4.9	112.9	2.2	4.2
All Non-Food	126.7	0.7	5.7	117.1	0.1	4.0
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	127.9	1.4	5.4	119.2	1.1	4.9

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

	Jun-04	Jul-04	Aug-04	Sep-04	Oct-04	Nov-04
Belgium	3.4	2.2	0.0	2.9	0.0	3.4
Germany	-2.7	-2.1	-0.7	-2.5	-1.9	-2.7
Greece	5.0	6.6	3.3	4.3	6.2	2.8
Spain	2.2	3.0	-1.6	0.9	0.2	3.5
France	5.8	2.5	1.5	0.9	0.8	1.5
Ireland	4.2	3.8	6.2	4.8	4.0	6.0
Italy	-0.8	-2.3	-4.0	-3.6	-3.5	-2.1
Luxembourg	2.2	2.0	2.5	1.1	6.7	4.9
Netherlands	0.4	1.0	0.5	-0.7	-2.7	-0.6
Austria	2.0	3.6	1.1	2.1	0.8	5.1
Portugal	3.7	1.2	4.3	3.6	3.6	1.5
Finland	4.2	4.6	3.6	5.3	2.9	4.0
Euro-zone	1.4	0.6	-0.1	-0.4	-0.7	0.2
Denmark	7.5	6.4	7.2	8.9	10.0	12.0
Sweden	4.2	3.3	6.4	5.5	3.5	7.8
United Kingdom	6.7	5.7	6.6	6.6	5.1	5.7
EU15	2.8	2.0	1.8	1.5	0.9	2.0
Czech Republic	2.4	2.4	4.0	2.7	2.3	4.3
Estonia	8.5	12.3	11.4	12.9	9.3	12.2
Cyprus	2.8	-0.2	-3.3	1.6	9.7	:
Latvia	10.9	9.2	10.5	11.6	9.7	13.7
Lithuania	12.3	6.7	7.6	10.9	7.8	10.3
Hungary	8.4	7.2	4.7	5.0	4.2	3.7
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	:
Poland	5.6	5.6	4.0	4.8	3.0	5.7
Slovenia	5.3	3.7	1.5	3.6	2.3	5.1
Slovakia	9.9	11.9	7.4	8.9	3.5	3.9
EU25	3.0	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.1	2.2

: Data not available

¹ Data 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 November period covers the 4 weeks from 31/10/04 to 27/11/04 and the December period covers the 5 weeks from 28/11/04 to 01/01/05.</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). 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 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.