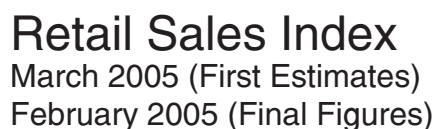




**Retail Sales Index -
Seasonally Adjusted Volume
Annual % Change**



March 2004	March 2005	% change
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Retail Sales volume increases by 4.6%

The value of retail sales increased by 5.6% in March 2005 compared to March 2004 and decreased by 1.4% in the month. However, if Motor Trades are excluded, the annual increase was 4.3% and the monthly change was -0.9%.

February 2005 is the latest month for which final detailed figures are available. The three-month December 2004 – February 2005 volume figures show that, compared with the three months ending November 2004:

- The largest increase in the volume of sales was in the Motor Trades (+7.7%) sector.
- The largest decrease in the volume of sales was in the Books, Newspapers & Stationery (-0.9%) sector.

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

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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	105.9	2.5	2.5	101.7	0.2	0.2
2003 Year	109.3	3.2	3.2	102.6	0.9	0.9
2004 Year	114.1	4.4	4.4	105.7	3.0	3.0
2003 1st quarter	108.4	0.8	4.2	102.5	0.4	1.1
2nd quarter	108.0	-0.4	3.2	101.5	-1.0	1.1
3rd quarter	109.2	1.1	2.8	102.4	0.9	0.8
4th quarter	110.3	1.0	2.6	103.0	0.6	0.9
2004 1st quarter	112.1	1.6	3.4	104.9	1.8	2.3
2nd quarter	113.1	0.9	4.7	104.9	0.0	3.3
3rd quarter	114.3	1.1	4.7	105.6	0.7	3.1
4th quarter	115.5	1.0	4.7	106.2	0.6	3.1
2005 1st quarter ²	119.9	3.8	7.0	111.2	4.7	6.0
2003 December	110.7	1.0	2.8	103.1	0.7	1.0
2004 January	111.0	0.2	1.4	104.5	1.4	0.1
February	111.2	0.2	3.0	103.7	-0.8	2.0
March	113.8	2.3	5.5	106.3	2.6	4.8
April	113.3	-0.4	2.8	105.3	-1.0	2.1
May	111.9	-1.2	6.8	104.0	-1.2	5.6
June	113.9	1.7	4.6	105.4	1.4	2.9
July	112.6	-1.1	3.3	104.3	-1.1	1.8
August	115.4	2.5	5.6	106.8	2.4	4.1
September	114.8	-0.5	4.9	105.8	-1.0	3.4
October	114.1	-0.6	3.2	105.0	-0.7	1.6
November	116.5	2.1	6.3	107.0	1.9	4.5
December	115.8	-0.6	4.6	106.5	-0.5	3.3
2005 January	117.7	1.6	6.0	109.7	3.0	5.0
February	121.9	3.6	9.6	112.6	2.6	8.6
March ²	120.2	-1.4	5.6	111.2	-1.2	4.6

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 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	1.7	1.7
2003 Year	119.2	3.8	3.8	110.6	1.6	1.6
2004 Year	123.7	3.8	3.8	114.0	3.1	3.1
2003 1st quarter	117.2	1.0	4.3	109.3	0.2	1.5
2nd quarter	118.1	0.8	5.0	109.8	0.5	2.7
3rd quarter	118.4	0.3	3.0	109.7	-0.1	0.7
4th quarter	119.8	1.2	3.3	110.6	0.8	1.4
2004 1st quarter	120.9	0.9	3.2	112.0	1.3	2.5
2nd quarter	122.1	1.0	3.4	112.9	0.8	2.8
3rd quarter	123.1	0.8	4.0	113.4	0.4	3.4
4th quarter	125.1	1.6	4.4	114.8	1.2	3.8
2005 1st quarter ²	126.6	1.2	4.7	116.7	1.7	4.2
2003 December	120.1	0.8	2.8	110.8	0.7	1.0
2004 January	120.6	0.4	3.3	111.7	0.7	2.2
February	120.2	-0.3	2.1	111.3	-0.4	1.4
March	121.7	1.2	3.9	112.8	1.3	3.4
April	121.9	0.1	1.0	112.7	0.0	0.7
May	120.8	-0.9	5.1	112.1	-0.6	4.7
June	123.3	2.0	4.2	113.8	1.5	3.1
July	121.4	-1.5	3.1	112.3	-1.3	2.4
August	123.7	1.9	5.2	113.8	1.4	4.6
September	124.1	0.3	3.9	114.0	0.2	3.2
October	124.2	0.1	3.5	114.1	0.1	2.8
November	125.9	1.3	5.6	115.5	1.3	4.9
December	125.1	-0.6	4.1	114.8	-0.6	3.6
2005 January	124.5	-0.5	3.2	114.7	-0.1	2.7
February	128.1	2.9	6.6	118.2	3.1	6.3
March ²	127.0	-0.9	4.3	117.2	-0.9	3.9

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 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	March 2005					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	105.2	-1.9	8.7	97.1	-2.0	7.0
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	132.6	-0.2	5.2	117.7	0.3	5.5
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	124.4	6.6	1.7	129.0	6.3	3.6
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	136.9	17.4	12.7			
Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.	107.3	6.8	-2.0			
Other Goods and Services	115.9	-5.5	-7.7			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	123.4	-0.6	5.5	105.5	-0.1	4.8
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	148.0	1.2	9.9	128.4	1.1	8.6
Textiles and Clothing	131.9	-0.7	9.9	153.2	-1.0	12.7
Footwear and Leather	126.3	3.6	9.8	152.4	2.6	14.6
Furniture and Lighting	104.1	-12.8	-7.7	96.8	-12.6	-7.6
Electrical Goods	120.2	-1.8	-3.5	113.1	-2.0	-3.0
Hardware, Paints and Glass	153.1	0.4	17.0	131.7	0.6	15.2
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	114.1	-1.8	-2.7	97.8	-3.6	-3.5
Other Retail Sales	122.5	-0.8	6.1	110.0	-0.9	4.4
Bars - NACE 55.4	107.4	-1.4	-4.5	88.2	-1.3	-5.8
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	127.0	-0.9	4.3	117.2	-0.9	3.9
All Businesses	120.2	-1.4	5.6	111.2	-1.2	4.6
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	131.5	0.1	9.9	154.0	-0.8	13.1
Household Equipment	132.4	-2.8	5.8	118.8	-2.6	5.2
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	120.9	-1.2	4.5	107.0	-1.4	3.1
Food Businesses	131.7	-0.3	5.3	115.3	0.1	5.1
All Non-Food	129.5	-0.8	6.4	120.2	-0.8	5.3
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	130.7	-0.6	5.8	122.1	-0.6	5.5

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 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	February 2005					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	107.3	1.7	15.3	99.1	1.5	13.6
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	132.9	1.7	7.9	117.4	1.6	7.6
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	116.7	-8.8	3.2	121.4	-7.9	5.3
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	116.6	-11.8	7.5			
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	100.5	-16.4	-4.3			
Other Goods and Services	122.6	0.8	0.5			
Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	124.1	4.2	6.4	105.6	4.3	5.3
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	146.3	1.0	7.3	127.0	0.5	6.2
Textiles and Clothing	132.8	11.4	9.5	154.7	10.8	13.3
Footwear and Leather	121.8	10.3	3.8	148.5	11.2	9.6
Furniture and Lighting	119.4	-0.3	14.9	110.8	-0.4	14.5
Electrical Goods	122.4	8.4	3.7	115.4	8.6	4.4
Hardware, Paints and Glass	152.4	0.6	17.3	130.9	0.4	15.1
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	116.1	-3.7	0.5	101.4	-3.1	0.0
Other Retail Sales	123.5	3.4	6.0	111.0	2.9	4.4
Bars - NACE 55.4	108.9	4.7	-0.9	89.3	4.3	-2.5
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	128.1	2.9	6.6	118.2	3.1	6.3
All Businesses	121.9	3.6	9.6	112.6	2.6	8.6
Of which:-						
Combined Groups						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	131.4	11.3	8.8	155.2	11.8	12.9
Household Equipment	136.2	5.0	12.2	121.9	4.7	11.3
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	122.3	2.3	5.0	108.5	2.0	3.7
Food Businesses	132.1	2.1	7.8	115.2	1.9	7.1
All Non-Food	130.5	3.6	7.9	121.2	3.6	6.9
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	131.4	3.0	7.8	122.8	3.0	7.6

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 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	December - February 2005					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	103.3	7.6	11.2	95.4	7.7	9.4
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	132.8	2.1	6.9	117.2	2.0	6.4
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	122.3	-1.3	0.8	126.3	-0.8	2.5
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	126.7	-4.4	6.1			
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	107.3	-1.4	-1.2			
Other Goods and Services	121.5	2.3	-4.5			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	119.4	0.4	4.2	101.9	-0.1	3.1
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	143.5	3.1	7.5	124.7	2.7	6.2
Textiles and Clothing	123.7	0.7	3.7	144.4	2.6	7.1
Footwear and Leather	116.8	2.0	-1.3	140.5	4.4	3.4
Furniture and Lighting	117.2	2.8	6.4	108.6	2.3	6.3
Electrical Goods	119.4	-0.4	1.6	112.3	-0.3	2.2
Hardware, Paints and Glass	147.9	2.5	13.8	127.2	1.8	11.8
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	117.1	-1.5	0.2	101.7	-0.9	-0.8
Other Retail Sales	120.5	-0.7	4.7	108.4	-0.1	3.0
Bars - NACE 55.4	106.2	-0.1	-3.5	86.9	-0.1	-5.2
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	125.8	0.9	4.6	115.8	1.1	4.1
All Businesses	118.3	2.8	6.7	109.4	3.3	5.5
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	122.8	1.0	3.1	143.8	2.9	6.6
Household Equipment	131.2	0.8	7.9	117.7	0.6	7.2
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	119.9	-1.0	3.9	106.2	-0.8	2.4
Food Businesses	131.3	1.7	6.7	114.5	1.6	6.0
All Non-Food	126.5	0.2	5.0	117.5	0.9	3.9
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	128.9	1.0	5.7	120.3	1.2	5.3

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 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

	Sep-04	Oct-04	Nov-04	Dec-04	Jan-05	Feb-05
Belgium	2.9	0.0	3.4	4.6	-5.0	-1.7
Germany	-2.7	-2.0	-2.4	-2.7	-0.4	1.1
Greece	4.3	6.3	2.7	2.0	-2.9	:
Spain	0.9	1.7	3.4	2.5	2.1	2.6
France	0.9	0.7	2.5	2.5	-1.0	0.6
Ireland	4.8	4.0	5.8	4.7	3.9	7.6
Italy	-3.6	-3.4	-2.1	-1.5	-3.0	-0.8
Luxembourg	0.0	-1.2	-0.2	1.9	-1.9	-3.0
Netherlands	-0.7	-2.7	-0.9	-0.5	-1.7	-2.7
Austria	2.1	0.7	5.1	0.5	0.4	0.8
Portugal	3.6	3.6	1.5	4.3	5.1	2.9
Finland	4.6	2.0	5.3	4.8	4.0	7.3
Euro-zone	-0.5	-0.6	0.5	0.4	-0.6	0.8
Denmark	8.9	10.0	12.0	10.1	9.4	10.3
Sweden	5.6	4.5	6.6	4.5	6.9	4.3
United Kingdom	6.8	5.1	5.8	4.2	3.3	3.7
EU15	1.5	1.0	2.2	1.6	0.7	1.8
Czech Republic	2.7	2.9	4.5	1.5	3.6	2.9
Estonia	13.9	9.2	12.1	11.4	14.0	12.9
Cyprus	1.6	9.7	8.0	1.3	4.7	:
Latvia	11.6	9.4	14.0	10.9	24.1	16.6
Lithuania	11.4	9.3	8.5	7.4	9.3	8.2
Hungary	4.8	3.9	4.1	2.2	3.1	2.4
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	:
Poland	4.8	-2.0	-0.3	2.6	2.1	0.1
Slovenia	3.6	2.4	5.0	3.3	2.8	6.9
Slovakia	8.9	3.5	4.0	2.7	8.1	12.5
EU25	1.7	1.0	2.2	1.7	0.8	1.8

: 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 February period covers the 4 weeks from 30/01/05 to 26/02/05 and the March period covers the 5 weeks from 27/02/05 to 02/04/05.</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 December 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.