



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



April 2007 (First Estimates)

March 2007 (Final Figures)

### Seasonally Adjusted Retail Sales Index – All Businesses

(Base year 2000 = 100)

	Volume Index	Value Index
April 2006	116.2	129.0
April 2007	125.0	139.7
% change	+7.5%	+8.3%

**Seasonally adjusted Retail Sales volume increases by 7.5 %**

The volume of retail sales (i.e. excluding price effects) increased by 7.5 % in April 2007 compared to April 2006. There was a monthly increase of 0.6%. If Motor Trades are excluded the annual increase was 8.3 % and the monthly change was +3.3 %.

The value of retail sales increased by 8.3 % in April 2007 compared to April 2006 and increased by 0.6 % in the month. However, if Motor Trades are excluded, the annual increase was 9.2 % and the monthly change was +3.1 %.

March 2007 is the latest month for which final detailed figures are available. The three-month January 2007 – March 2007 volume figures show that, compared with the three months ending December 2006:

- The largest increase in the volume of sales was in the Furniture & Lighting (+10.8%) sector.
- The largest decrease in the volume of sales was in the Books, Newspapers & Stationery (-1.5%) sector.

All figures in this release are trading day and seasonally adjusted. The seasonal factors are based on unadjusted indices up to December 2006.

*For more information contact Alan Finlay on 021 453 5211 or Patrick Foley 021 453 5012.*

Published by the Central Statistics Office, Ireland.

Ardee Road	Skehard Road
Dublin 6	Cork
Ireland	Ireland

LoCall: 1890 313 414 (ROI)  
0870 8760256 (UK/NI)

Tel: +353 1 498 4000      Tel: +353 21 453 5000  
Fax: +353 1 498 4229      Fax: +353 21 453 5555

Both offices may be contacted through any of these telephone numbers.

CSO on the Web: [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)  
and go to  
Business Sectors: Services

Director General: Donal Garvey

Enquiries:

Retail Statistics	Retail Sales Section, ext 5209 r_sales@cs.o.ie
Queries and Sales	Information Section, ext 5021 information@cs.o.ie

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**Table 1 Seasonally Adjusted Indices of Total Retail Sales <sup>1</sup>****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
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
2005 Year	121.2	6.2	6.2	110.8	4.8	4.8
2006 Year	130.7	7.8	7.8	117.7	6.2	6.2
2005 1st quarter	118.0	1.4	6.5	108.9	1.7	5.5
2nd quarter	119.3	1.1	5.1	109.6	0.6	4.0
3rd quarter	122.7	2.8	6.8	111.8	2.0	5.1
4th quarter	123.7	0.8	6.3	112.0	0.2	4.6
2006 1st quarter	128.4	3.8	8.8	116.1	3.7	6.6
2nd quarter	128.9	0.4	8.0	116.0	-0.1	5.8
3rd quarter	130.1	0.9	6.0	117.0	0.9	4.7
4th quarter	134.0	3.0	8.3	120.4	2.9	7.5
2007 1st quarter	138.7	3.5	8.0	124.4	3.3	7.1
2005 November	124.3	1.6	5.9	112.6	2.1	4.3
December	124.3	0.0	6.4	112.8	0.2	4.9
2006 January	129.3	4.1	10.6	117.5	4.2	8.7
February	127.7	-1.3	8.3	115.3	-1.9	6.0
March	128.3	0.5	7.9	115.7	0.4	5.7
April	129.0	0.6	8.6	116.2	0.4	6.5
May	127.8	-1.0	6.7	115.0	-1.1	4.5
June	129.8	1.6	8.7	116.7	1.5	6.5
July	129.6	-0.2	7.1	116.5	-0.2	5.2
August	130.8	0.9	6.7	117.5	0.9	5.0
September	129.9	-0.7	4.6	117.1	-0.3	4.0
October	133.3	2.7	8.9	119.6	2.2	8.4
November	133.4	0.1	7.3	120.2	0.5	6.7
December	135.1	1.2	8.7	121.3	0.9	7.5
2007 January	140.2	3.8	8.4	126.0	3.9	7.2
February	136.9	-2.3	7.2	122.9	-2.5	6.6
March	138.9	1.5	8.3	124.3	1.1	7.4
April <sup>2</sup>	139.7	0.6	8.3	125.0	0.6	7.5

<sup>1</sup> Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2006<sup>2</sup> 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)<sup>1</sup>****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
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
2005 Year	130.5	5.5	5.5	119.6	4.9	4.9
2006 Year	141.1	8.1	8.1	127.9	6.9	6.9
2005 1st quarter	126.3	0.7	4.6	116.4	1.0	4.2
2nd quarter	127.9	1.3	4.9	117.6	1.0	4.4
3rd quarter	131.2	2.6	6.5	120.0	2.0	5.6
4th quarter	132.6	1.1	5.7	121.0	0.8	4.9
2006 1st quarter	135.5	2.2	7.3	123.4	2.0	6.0
2nd quarter	139.2	2.7	8.8	126.2	2.3	7.3
3rd quarter	141.1	1.4	7.5	127.8	1.3	6.5
4th quarter	144.3	2.3	8.9	130.5	2.1	7.8
2007 1st quarter	146.2	1.3	7.9	131.6	0.9	6.7
2005 November	132.8	0.9	5.4	121.1	0.8	4.5
December	133.3	0.3	6.0	121.7	0.6	5.4
2006 January	135.3	1.5	9.0	123.5	1.4	7.9
February	136.4	0.8	7.0	124.2	0.6	5.7
March	135.0	-1.0	6.1	122.7	-1.2	4.8
April	137.9	2.2	9.8	125.3	2.2	8.6
May	139.1	0.8	8.7	126.1	0.6	7.2
June	140.3	0.9	8.0	127.1	0.8	6.5
July	140.5	0.2	7.8	127.3	0.1	6.5
August	141.6	0.8	8.4	128.3	0.8	7.4
September	141.3	-0.2	6.8	127.8	-0.3	5.8
October	143.6	1.7	9.1	130.1	1.8	8.3
November	144.1	0.3	8.5	130.3	0.2	7.6
December	145.1	0.7	8.9	130.9	0.4	7.5
2007 January	145.5	0.2	7.5	131.0	0.1	6.1
February	147.0	1.1	7.8	132.6	1.2	6.8
March	146.0	-0.7	8.2	131.4	-0.9	7.1
April <sup>2</sup>	150.6	3.1	9.2	135.8	3.3	8.3

<sup>1</sup> Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2006<sup>2</sup> Provisional value and volume of sales indices based on early returns from sample retailers

**Table 3 Seasonally Adjusted<sup>1</sup> Value and Volume Indices of Retail Sales for 13 Retail Businesses**  
**(Preliminary Estimates) Base Year: 2000 = 100**

Retail Business - NACE REV 1	April 2007					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	117.6	-4.4	6.4	104.3	-4.4	5.6
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	163.0	3.1	11.1	139.8	2.6	9.0
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	147.5	3.1	1.4	154.7	1.5	2.9
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	137.3	-0.7	-7.2			
Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.	98.0	8.5	-22.2			
Other Goods and Services	154.7	-3.5	14.7			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	123.8	5.9	1.2	101.9	5.3	-1.6
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	175.5	4.1	10.6	150.7	5.1	11.1
Textiles and Clothing	164.9	8.0	21.6	199.2	9.1	25.5
Footwear and Leather	159.6	13.2	28.4	206.6	14.3	33.2
Furniture and Lighting	139.1	1.4	8.3	129.3	1.7	8.0
Electrical Goods	137.4	-4.8	12.0	128.0	-4.6	11.9
Hardware, Paints and Glass	214.2	15.8	22.8	174.3	15.9	19.2
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	123.8	2.2	2.5	102.5	2.2	0.4
Other Retail Sales	133.0	-5.5	0.0	115.2	-5.2	-0.8
Bars - NACE 55.4	108.9	-0.3	-1.9	85.2	-0.8	-4.9
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	150.6	3.1	9.2	135.8	3.3	8.3
<b>All Businesses</b>	139.7	0.6	8.3	125.0	0.6	7.5
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	164.0	7.7	22.4	200.4	10.1	26.5
Household Equipment	175.1	7.5	17.3	152.1	7.6	15.4
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	131.8	-4.1	0.4	112.0	-4.2	-0.9
Food Businesses	159.4	3.6	10.4	135.3	3.3	8.0
All Non-Food	156.5	3.3	11.0	140.4	3.5	10.3
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	157.6	3.0	10.6	144.5	3.2	10.1

<sup>1</sup> Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2006, individual series are independently adjusted

**Table 4 Seasonally Adjusted<sup>1</sup> Value and Volume Indices of Retail Sales for 13 Retail Businesses**  
**Base Year: 2000 = 100**

Retail Business - NACE REV 1	March 2007					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	122.9	2.7	8.7	109.1	2.7	7.9
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	158.1	1.0	9.6	136.2	0.7	8.1
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	143.1	2.7	6.8	152.5	2.5	8.2
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	138.2	2.1	-3.3			
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	90.4	-13.6	-19.5			
Other Goods and Services	160.3	3.9	22.7			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	116.9	-6.0	-3.1	96.7	-6.3	-5.4
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	168.6	-2.9	2.5	143.4	-2.9	1.6
Textiles and Clothing	152.7	3.6	13.8	182.7	2.3	16.2
Footwear and Leather	141.0	-1.9	14.2	180.8	-2.2	17.8
Furniture and Lighting	137.2	6.2	16.7	127.1	6.3	16.2
Electrical Goods	144.5	1.9	16.3	134.1	1.8	15.9
Hardware, Paints and Glass	185.0	-1.3	18.1	150.4	-1.9	14.4
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	121.1	-0.8	0.0	100.3	-1.0	-1.9
Other Retail Sales	140.8	0.8	7.1	121.5	0.3	6.1
Bars - NACE 55.4	109.2	-5.6	0.9	85.9	-6.8	-1.4
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	146.0	-0.7	8.2	131.4	-0.9	7.1
<b>All Businesses</b>	138.9	1.5	8.3	124.3	1.1	7.4
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	152.3	3.8	13.9	182.1	1.8	16.4
Household Equipment	162.8	1.2	17.4	141.3	1.2	15.2
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other goods	137.5	0.5	6.0	116.9	0.2	4.6
Food Businesses	153.8	0.3	8.5	131.0	0.1	6.7
All Non-Food	151.4	0.3	9.9	135.7	0.2	8.9
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	153.0	0.6	9.2	140.0	0.4	8.3

<sup>1</sup> Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2006, individual series are independently adjusted

**Table 5 Seasonally Adjusted<sup>1</sup> Value and Volume Indices of Retail Sales for 13 Retail Businesses**  
**Base Year: 2000 = 100**

Retail Business - NACE REV 1	January - March 2007					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	122.5	7.2	8.1	108.8	6.4	7.4
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	157.1	-0.2	9.0	135.6	-0.7	7.1
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	137.6	1.9	3.9	145.7	2.7	5.1
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	133.9	2.3	-6.7			
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	96.6	-12.7	-17.2			
Other Goods and Services	152.1	3.7	20.2			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	122.8	-0.7	-0.7	101.7	-1.5	-3.1
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	170.7	2.0	6.4	145.2	1.8	5.5
Textiles and Clothing	149.3	3.0	12.1	179.4	2.9	14.3
Footwear and Leather	140.1	6.8	13.3	178.5	8.0	16.4
Furniture and Lighting	133.4	11.1	11.4	123.3	10.8	10.7
Electrical Goods	143.9	9.9	17.4	133.5	9.7	16.7
Hardware, Paints and Glass	189.7	9.7	13.9	155.0	8.9	10.3
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	123.8	-1.1	2.1	102.6	-1.5	0.1
Other Retail Sales	141.4	2.3	6.9	122.1	2.0	5.8
Bars - NACE 55.4	112.2	-0.3	1.6	89.0	-0.9	-0.3
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	146.2	1.3	7.9	131.6	0.9	6.7
<b>All Businesses</b>	138.7	3.5	8.0	124.4	3.3	7.1
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	148.5	3.6	12.2	179.1	3.3	14.5
Household Equipment	162.6	9.6	14.7	141.2	8.9	12.5
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	138.1	1.8	6.1	117.7	1.3	4.8
Food Businesses	153.5	-0.6	8.1	130.9	-0.8	6.0
All Non-Food	150.6	4.2	9.4	135.1	3.3	8.4
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	152.0	1.9	8.6	139.2	1.7	7.7

<sup>1</sup> Based on Seasonal Patterns up to December 2006, individual series are independently adjusted

**Table 6**

**Volume of retail trade in the euro-zone, the EU27 and Member States<sup>1</sup>**  
**Annual % change compared with the same month of the previous year**

	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07 <sup>2</sup>
Belgium	-2.6	1.8	-3.4	4.4	2.6	0.0
Germany	2.4	2.0	6.2	-2.9	-1.9	-0.7
Greece	5.2	6.8	10.6	6.0	3.9	3.4
Spain	2.9	4.0	4.7	4.1	3.6	5.2
France	1.2	1.9	1.5	3.1	2.7	3.8
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>8.5</b>
Italy	-1.6	c	c	c	c	c
Luxembourg	1.4	0.9	6.9	2.7	2.4	8.5
Netherlands	3.0	3.3	3.6	-0.6	2.7	2.9
Austria	0.8	0.6	3.3	2.1	3.0	3.1
Portugal	-0.3	1.0	2.3	0.8	0.7	2.8
Finland	4.5	5.3	6.1	4.4	7.6	9.3
Slovenia	2.6	2.3	-2.5	0.3	-0.9	10.0
<b>Euro-zone (EU13)</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Denmark	0.8	2.3	4.4	-1.6	0.0	4.0
Sweden	9.3	7.5	10.9	6.1	6.8	9.6
United Kingdom	3.9	3.1	4.7	3.5	5.0	5.6
Czech Republic	5.8	6.8	8.3	5.2	9.9	10.1
Estonia	17.6	19.3	18.5	20.8	18.5	22.5
Cyprus	7.2	4.9	6.2	2.0	6.6	13.7
Latvia	26.5	21.9	27.2	28.2	28.8	27.8
Lithuania	5.6	6.1	7.7	12.3	10.5	16.7
Hungary	2.3	2.2	3.4	1.2	0.0	-0.5
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	:
Poland	9.1	9.0	13.2	14.0	15.8	18.8
Slovakia	9.9	9.7	8.1	1.0	4.7	6.2
Bulgaria	14.8	15.8	15.4	11.7	10.2	13.5
Romania	21.9	20.7	26.3	-1.1	-3.7	15.6
<b>EU27</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>4.0</b>

: Data not available,

<sup>1</sup> Data NACE 52 : All Business excluding Motor Trades & Bars

<sup>2</sup> Data for Ireland is Preliminary March 2007 data

<sup>c</sup> Confidential

Source: Eurostat

## Background Notes

### Retail Sales Index

#### Introduction of updated series with base year 2000 = 100.

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.

### Reference Period

The March period covers the 5 weeks from 25/02/07 to 31/03/07 and the April period covers the 4 weeks from 01/04/07 to 28/04/07.

### New Base Year

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.

### 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. 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) ranges<sup>1</sup>.

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.

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](http://www.cso.ie)).

### Seasonal Adjustment

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 2006. 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](http://www.cso.ie)).

### References

A detailed description of the Retail Sales Index is available on the cso website [www.cso.ie](http://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.

<sup>1</sup> The Department Stores business category is not classified by annual turnover but is sub-divided into three retail activity categories.