

## STATISTICAL RELEASE P6242.1

# Retail trade sales (Preliminary)

November 2017

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ENQUIRIES: Keshnee Naidoo (012) 310 8423 FORTHCOMING ISSUE: December 2017

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www.statssa.gov.za info@statssa.gov.za T +27 12 310 8911 F +27 12 310 8500



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### Sales at constant 2015 prices: results for November 2017

Table A – Key growth rates in retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices

|  | Jun-17 | Jul-17 | Aug-17 | Sep-17 | Oct-17 | Nov-17 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Year-on-year % change, unadjusted            | 3,1    | 1,6    | 5,4    | 5,7    | 3,5    | 8,2    |
| Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted | 0,7    | -0,7   | 2,6    | -0,4   | -0,1   | 4,0    |
| 3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/     | 2,0    | 1,7    | 1,9    | 1,7    | 2,1    | 2,4    |

<sup>1/</sup> Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Measured in real terms (constant 2015 prices), retail trade sales increased by 8,2% year-on-year in November 2017. The highest annual growth rates were recorded for:

- all 'other' retailers (20,8%);
- retailers in household furniture, appliances and equipment (14,1%); and
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (12,4%) see Table 5.

The main contributors to the 8,2% increase were:

- general dealers (contributing 2,6 percentage points);
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (contributing 2,3 percentage points); and
- all 'other' retailers (contributing 2,2 percentage points) see Table 6.

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales increased by 4,0% month-on-month in November 2017. This followed month-on-month changes of -0,1% in October 2017 and -0,4% in September 2017. In the three months ended November 2017, seasonally adjusted retail trade sales increased by 2,4% compared with the previous three months.

Table B – Retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices for the latest three months by type of retailer

| Type of retailer  | Sep – Nov<br>2016<br>(R million) | Weight | Sep – Nov<br>2017<br>(R million) | % change<br>between<br>Sep – Nov<br>2016<br>and<br>Sep – Nov<br>2017 | Contribution<br>(% points) to<br>the total %<br>change |
|---|----------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| General dealers   | 94 881                           | 42,9   | 98 047                           | 3,3  | 1,4  |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 18 265                           | 8,3    | 18 781                           | 2,8  | 0,2  |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 16 172                           | 7,3    | 16 830                           | 4,1  | 0,3  |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 37 982                           | 17,2   | 41 505                           | 9,3  | 1,6  |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 10 271                           | 4,6    | 11 122                           | 8,3  | 0,4  |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | 19 882                           | 9,0    | 19 728                           | -0,8   | -0,1   |
| All other retailers   | 23 794                           | 10,8   | 28 192                           | 18,5   | 2,0  |
| Total   | 221 247                          | 100,0  | 234 205                          | 5,9  | 5,9  |

Retail trade sales increased by 5,9% in the three months ended November 2017 compared with the three months ended November 2016. The main contributors to this increase were:

- all 'other' retailers (18,5% and contributing 2,0 percentage points);
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (9,3% and contributing 1,6 percentage points); and
- general dealers (3,3% and contributing 1,4 percentage points) see Table B.

Figure 1 - Retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices

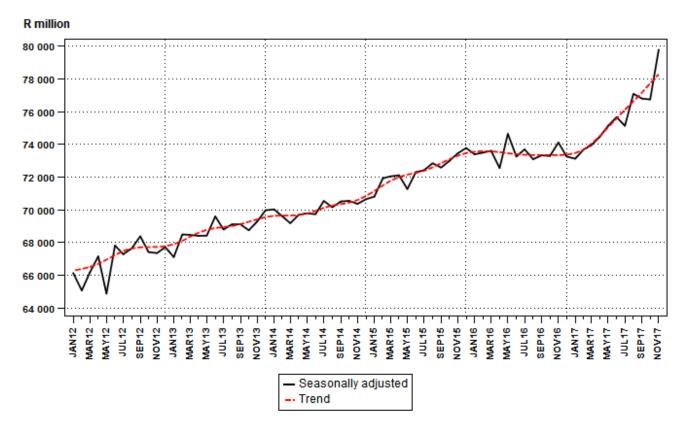
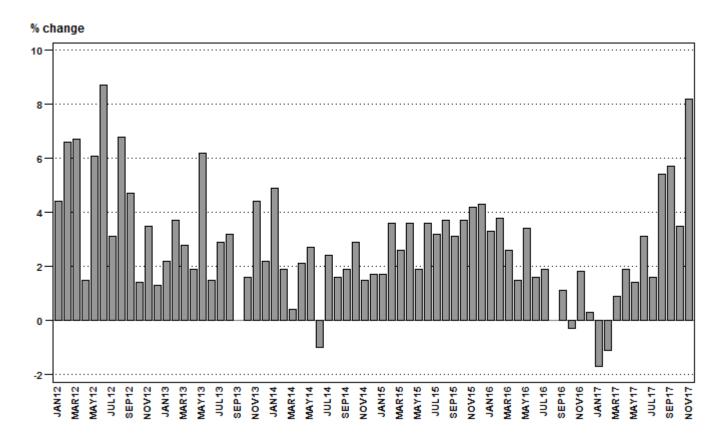


Figure 2 - Retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices: year-on-year percentage change



### Sales at current prices: results for November 2017

Table C - Key growth rates in retail trade sales at current prices

|  | Jun-17 | Jul-17 | Aug-17 | Sep-17 | Oct-17 | Nov-17 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Year-on-year % change, unadjusted            | 7,6    | 5,6    | 8,8    | 9,0    | 6,3    | 10,7   |
| Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted | 0,8    | -0,4   | 2,4    | 0,3    | -0,7   | 4,5    |
| 3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/     | 2,6    | 2,2    | 2,4    | 2,3    | 2,4    | 2,8    |

<sup>1/</sup> Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Table D - Retail trade sales at current prices for the latest three months by type of retailer

| Type of retailer  | Sep – Nov<br>2016<br>(R million) | Weight | Sep – Nov<br>2017<br>(R million) | % change<br>between<br>Sep – Nov<br>2016<br>and<br>Sep – Nov<br>2017 | Contribution<br>(% points) to<br>the total %<br>change |
|---|----------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| General dealers   | 104 719                          | 43,9   | 111 514                          | 6,5  | 2,9  |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 19 816                           | 8,3    | 21 924                           | 10,6   | 0,9  |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 17 174                           | 7,2    | 18 954                           | 10,4   | 0,7  |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 40 866                           | 17,1   | 45 510                           | 11,4   | 1,9  |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 10 589                           | 4,4    | 10 974                           | 3,6  | 0,2  |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | 20 097                           | 8,4    | 20 480                           | 1,9  | 0,2  |
| All other retailers   | 25 291                           | 10,6   | 30 095                           | 19,0   | 2,0  |
| Total   | 238 551                          | 100,0  | 259 451                          | 8,8  | 8,8  |

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### **Tables**

Table 1 – Retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices (R million)

| Month | 2011    | 2012    | 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017 1/ |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Jan   | 58 706  | 61 307  | 62 638  | 65 709  | 66 799  | 69 010  | 67 813  |
| Feb   | 57 151  | 60 900  | 63 131  | 64 332  | 66 625  | 69 139  | 68 354  |
| Mar   | 60 648  | 64 728  | 66 537  | 66 784  | 68 548  | 70 298  | 70 901  |
| Apr   | 62 432  | 63 361  | 64 567  | 65 936  | 68 290  | 69 283  | 70 632  |
| May   | 59 529  | 63 190  | 67 123  | 68 905  | 70 248  | 72 640  | 73 662  |
| Jun   | 60 416  | 65 683  | 66 674  | 66 010  | 68 372  | 69 495  | 71 676  |
| Jul   | 61 872  | 63 760  | 65 593  | 67 143  | 69 270  | 70 574  | 71 711  |
| Aug   | 61 317  | 65 485  | 67 589  | 68 653  | 71 217  | 71 250  | 75 077  |
| Sep   | 63 281  | 66 275  | 66 243  | 67 493  | 69 580  | 70 338  | 74 322  |
| Oct   | 65 514  | 66 428  | 67 503  | 69 493  | 72 079  | 71 844  | 74 351  |
| Nov   | 67 968  | 70 375  | 73 493  | 74 572  | 77 671  | 79 065  | 85 532  |
| Dec   | 91 586  | 92 738  | 94 767  | 96 338  | 100 477 | 100 818 |         |
| Total | 770 420 | 804 230 | 825 858 | 841 368 | 869 176 | 883 754 |         |

<sup>1/</sup> Figures for latest month are preliminary.

Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices

| Month | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2017<br>year-to-date |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------------|
| Jan   | 4,4  | 2,2  | 4,9  | 1,7  | 3,3  | -1,7 | -1,7                 |
| Feb   | 6,6  | 3,7  | 1,9  | 3,6  | 3,8  | -1,1 | -1,4                 |
| Mar   | 6,7  | 2,8  | 0,4  | 2,6  | 2,6  | 0,9  | -0,7                 |
| Apr   | 1,5  | 1,9  | 2,1  | 3,6  | 1,5  | 1,9  | 0,0                  |
| May   | 6,1  | 6,2  | 2,7  | 1,9  | 3,4  | 1,4  | 0,3                  |
| Jun   | 8,7  | 1,5  | -1,0 | 3,6  | 1,6  | 3,1  | 0,8                  |
| Jul   | 3,1  | 2,9  | 2,4  | 3,2  | 1,9  | 1,6  | 0,9                  |
| Aug   | 6,8  | 3,2  | 1,6  | 3,7  | 0,0  | 5,4  | 1,4                  |
| Sep   | 4,7  | 0,0  | 1,9  | 3,1  | 1,1  | 5,7  | 1,9                  |
| Oct   | 1,4  | 1,6  | 2,9  | 3,7  | -0,3 | 3,5  | 2,1                  |
| Nov   | 3,5  | 4,4  | 1,5  | 4,2  | 1,8  | 8,2  | 2,7                  |
| Dec   | 1,3  | 2,2  | 1,7  | 4,3  | 0,3  |      |                      |
| Total | 4,4  | 2,7  | 1,9  | 3,3  | 1,7  |      |                      |

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices

| <b>M</b> (l- |        | R m    | illion |        |      | Month-on-month % change |      |      |  |
|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|-------------------------|------|------|--|
| Month        | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2014 | 2015                    | 2016 | 2017 |  |
| Jan          | 70 032 | 70 814 | 73 399 | 73 130 | 0,1  | 0,2                     | -0,5 | -0,2 |  |
| Feb          | 69 595 | 71 935 | 73 501 | 73 687 | -0,6 | 1,6                     | 0,1  | 0,8  |  |
| Mar          | 69 185 | 72 051 | 73 613 | 73 959 | -0,6 | 0,2                     | 0,2  | 0,4  |  |
| Apr          | 69 704 | 72 117 | 72 559 | 74 478 | 0,8  | 0,1                     | -1,4 | 0,7  |  |
| May          | 69 791 | 71 273 | 74 651 | 75 140 | 0,1  | -1,2                    | 2,9  | 0,9  |  |
| Jun          | 69 738 | 72 309 | 73 260 | 75 669 | -0,1 | 1,5                     | -1,9 | 0,7  |  |
| Jul          | 70 548 | 72 425 | 73 704 | 75 138 | 1,2  | 0,2                     | 0,6  | -0,7 |  |
| Aug          | 70 164 | 72 852 | 73 098 | 77 094 | -0,5 | 0,6                     | -0,8 | 2,6  |  |
| Sep          | 70 513 | 72 586 | 73 335 | 76 806 | 0,5  | -0,4                    | 0,3  | -0,4 |  |
| Oct          | 70 555 | 72 996 | 73 293 | 76 750 | 0,1  | 0,6                     | -0,1 | -0,1 |  |
| Nov          | 70 370 | 73 460 | 74 118 | 79 787 | -0,3 | 0,6                     | 1,1  | 4,0  |  |
| Dec          | 70 650 | 73 782 | 73 264 |        | 0,4  | 0,4                     | -1,2 |      |  |

Table 4 – Retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices by type of retailer (R million)

| Type of retailer  | Jun-17 | Jul-17 | Aug-17 | Sep-17 | Oct-17 | Nov-17 1/ |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| General dealers   | 31 565 | 28 755 | 32 157 | 32 761 | 29 542 | 35 744    |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 5 872  | 6 172  | 5 947  | 6 261  | 6 350  | 6 170     |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 5 249  | 5 801  | 5 502  | 5 367  | 5 852  | 5 611     |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 12 314 | 12 782 | 12 058 | 11 830 | 13 208 | 16 467    |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 3 245  | 3 445  | 3 435  | 3 361  | 3 436  | 4 325     |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | 5 510  | 6 177  | 6 436  | 5 881  | 6 630  | 7 217     |
| All other retailers   | 7 921  | 8 579  | 9 542  | 8 861  | 9 333  | 9 998     |
| Total   | 71 676 | 71 711 | 75 077 | 74 322 | 74 351 | 85 532    |

<sup>1/</sup> Figures are preliminary.

Table 5 – Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices by type of retailer

| Type of retailer  | Jun-17 | Jul-17 | Aug-17 | Sep-17 | Oct-17 | Nov-17 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| General dealers   | 1,6    | -2,9   | 2,0    | 3,7    | 0,0    | 6,0    |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 7,3    | 6,5    | 5,5    | 5,4    | 2,7    | 0,5    |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | -0,9   | 4,2    | 3,4    | 2,2    | 5,3    | 4,6    |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 4,5    | 0,1    | 1,8    | 9,3    | 5,6    | 12,4   |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 6,8    | 7,1    | 10,2   | 6,4    | 3,4    | 14,1   |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | -4,6   | 2,1    | 2,3    | -4,1   | 0,0    | 1,4    |
| All other retailers   | 12,2   | 13,5   | 27,2   | 19,4   | 15,3   | 20,8   |
| Total   | 3,1    | 1,6    | 5,4    | 5,7    | 3,5    | 8,2    |

Table 6 – Contribution of each type of retailer to the year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices (percentage points)

| Type of retailer  | Jun-17 | Jul-17 | Aug-17 | Sep-17 | Oct-17 | Nov-17 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| General dealers   | 0,7    | -1,2   | 0,9    | 1,7    | 0,0    | 2,6    |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 0,6    | 0,5    | 0,4    | 0,5    | 0,2    | 0,0    |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | -0,1   | 0,3    | 0,3    | 0,2    | 0,4    | 0,3    |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 0,8    | 0,0    | 0,3    | 1,4    | 1,0    | 2,3    |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 0,3    | 0,3    | 0,4    | 0,3    | 0,2    | 0,7    |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | -0,4   | 0,2    | 0,2    | -0,4   | 0,0    | 0,1    |
| All other retailers   | 1,2    | 1,4    | 2,9    | 2,1    | 1,7    | 2,2    |
| Total   | 3,1    | 1,6    | 5,4    | 5,7    | 3,5    | 8,2    |

Table 7 - Retail trade sales at current prices (R million)

| Month | 2011    | 2012    | 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017 1/ |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Jan   | 48 599  | 52 767  | 56 306  | 61 293  | 65 485  | 70 700  | 74 209  |
| Feb   | 47 218  | 52 440  | 56 737  | 60 309  | 65 550  | 71 466  | 75 148  |
| Mar   | 50 464  | 56 108  | 59 988  | 63 159  | 67 806  | 73 474  | 78 303  |
| Apr   | 51 967  | 55 061  | 58 551  | 62 811  | 67 864  | 73 089  | 78 100  |
| May   | 49 992  | 55 058  | 60 840  | 66 006  | 70 203  | 76 795  | 81 638  |
| Jun   | 50 696  | 57 242  | 60 478  | 63 380  | 68 327  | 73 753  | 79 353  |
| Jul   | 52 118  | 55 708  | 59 587  | 64 679  | 69 261  | 75 230  | 79 409  |
| Aug   | 51 812  | 57 293  | 61 623  | 66 470  | 71 571  | 76 374  | 83 079  |
| Sep   | 53 569  | 58 299  | 60 700  | 65 404  | 69 933  | 75 533  | 82 347  |
| Oct   | 55 889  | 59 128  | 62 233  | 67 551  | 72 703  | 77 531  | 82 430  |
| Nov   | 58 138  | 62 980  | 67 989  | 72 878  | 78 598  | 85 487  | 94 674  |
| Dec   | 78 261  | 83 048  | 87 508  | 93 930  | 101 865 | 109 818 |         |
| Total | 648 723 | 705 132 | 752 540 | 807 870 | 869 176 | 939 250 |         |

<sup>1/</sup> Figures for latest month are preliminary.

Table 8 - Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at current prices

| Month | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2017<br>year-to-date |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------------|
| Jan   | 8,6  | 6,7  | 8,9  | 6,8  | 8,0  | 5,0  | 5,0                  |
| Feb   | 11,1 | 8,2  | 6,3  | 8,7  | 9,0  | 5,2  | 5,1                  |
| Mar   | 11,2 | 6,9  | 5,3  | 7,4  | 8,4  | 6,6  | 5,6                  |
| Apr   | 6,0  | 6,3  | 7,3  | 8,0  | 7,7  | 6,9  | 5,9                  |
| May   | 10,1 | 10,5 | 8,5  | 6,4  | 9,4  | 6,3  | 6,0                  |
| Jun   | 12,9 | 5,7  | 4,8  | 7,8  | 7,9  | 7,6  | 6,3                  |
| Jul   | 6,9  | 7,0  | 8,5  | 7,1  | 8,6  | 5,6  | 6,2                  |
| Aug   | 10,6 | 7,6  | 7,9  | 7,7  | 6,7  | 8,8  | 6,5                  |
| Sep   | 8,8  | 4,1  | 7,7  | 6,9  | 8,0  | 9,0  | 6,8                  |
| Oct   | 5,8  | 5,3  | 8,5  | 7,6  | 6,6  | 6,3  | 6,7                  |
| Nov   | 8,3  | 8,0  | 7,2  | 7,8  | 8,8  | 10,7 | 7,1                  |
| Dec   | 6,1  | 5,4  | 7,3  | 8,4  | 7,8  |      |                      |
| Total | 8,7  | 6,7  | 7,4  | 7,6  | 8,1  |      |                      |

Table 9 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at current prices

| Month |        | R million |        |        |      | Month-on-month % change |      |      |  |  |
|-------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|------|-------------------------|------|------|--|--|
|       | 2014   | 2015      | 2016   | 2017   | 2014 | 2015                    | 2016 | 2017 |  |  |
| Jan   | 65 345 | 69 582    | 75 269 | 79 838 | 1,1  | 0,6                     | 0,3  | -0,7 |  |  |
| Feb   | 65 258 | 70 766    | 76 044 | 80 960 | -0,1 | 1,7                     | 1,0  | 1,4  |  |  |
| Mar   | 65 346 | 70 865    | 76 613 | 81 397 | 0,1  | 0,1                     | 0,7  | 0,5  |  |  |
| Apr   | 66 105 | 71 388    | 76 354 | 81 963 | 1,2  | 0,7                     | -0,3 | 0,7  |  |  |
| May   | 66 737 | 70 950    | 78 339 | 82 907 | 1,0  | -0,6                    | 2,6  | 1,2  |  |  |
| Jun   | 66 790 | 72 094    | 77 661 | 83 554 | 0,1  | 1,6                     | -0,9 | 0,8  |  |  |
| Jul   | 67 975 | 72 467    | 78 571 | 83 245 | 1,8  | 0,5                     | 1,2  | -0,4 |  |  |
| Aug   | 67 986 | 73 324    | 78 381 | 85 263 | 0,0  | 1,2                     | -0,2 | 2,4  |  |  |
| Sep   | 68 446 | 73 086    | 78 877 | 85 518 | 0,7  | -0,3                    | 0,6  | 0,3  |  |  |
| Oct   | 68 657 | 73 867    | 79 312 | 84 954 | 0,3  | 1,1                     | 0,6  | -0,7 |  |  |
| Nov   | 68 861 | 74 404    | 80 389 | 88 770 | 0,3  | 0,7                     | 1,4  | 4,5  |  |  |
| Dec   | 69 179 | 75 076    | 80 362 |        | 0,5  | 0,9                     | 0,0  |      |  |  |

Table 10 - Retail trade sales at current prices by type of retailer (R million)

| Type of retailer  | Jun-17 | Jul-17 | Aug-17 | Sep-17 | Oct-17 | Nov-17 1/ |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| General dealers   | 35 819 | 32 716 | 36 524 | 37 198 | 33 644 | 40 672    |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 6 726  | 7 102  | 6 876  | 7 256  | 7 417  | 7 251     |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 5 873  | 6 525  | 6 164  | 6 042  | 6 603  | 6 309     |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 13 448 | 13 987 | 13 196 | 12 954 | 14 481 | 18 075    |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 3 250  | 3 464  | 3 420  | 3 335  | 3 404  | 4 235     |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | 5 722  | 6 417  | 6 706  | 6 094  | 6 895  | 7 491     |
| All other retailers   | 8 515  | 9 198  | 10 193 | 9 469  | 9 985  | 10 641    |
| Total   | 79 353 | 79 409 | 83 079 | 82 347 | 82 430 | 94 674    |

<sup>1/</sup> Figures are preliminary.

Table 11 - Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at current prices by type of retailer

| Type of retailer  | Jun-17 | Jul-17 | Aug-17 | Sep-17 | Oct-17 | Nov-17 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| General dealers   | 6,8    | 1,6    | 5,8    | 7,3    | 3,0    | 8,8    |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 14,6   | 13,9   | 13,4   | 13,4   | 10,6   | 8,0    |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 5,7    | 11,1   | 10,1   | 9,4    | 11,4   | 10,2   |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 8,1    | 3,5    | 4,3    | 11,7   | 7,5    | 14,4   |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 4,5    | 5,0    | 6,4    | 2,2    | -1,1   | 9,1    |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | -1,7   | 4,8    | 5,4    | -1,8   | 2,7    | 4,3    |
| All other retailers   | 14,8   | 15,2   | 27,8   | 20,4   | 15,8   | 20,9   |
| Total   | 7,6    | 5,6    | 8,8    | 9,0    | 6,3    | 10,7   |

Table 12 – Contribution of each type of retailer to the year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at current prices (percentage points)

| Type of retailer  | Jun-17 | Jul-17 | Aug-17 | Sep-17 | Oct-17 | Nov-17 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| General dealers   | 3,1    | 0,7    | 2,6    | 3,4    | 1,3    | 3,8    |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 1,2    | 1,2    | 1,1    | 1,1    | 0,9    | 0,6    |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 0,4    | 0,9    | 0,7    | 0,7    | 0,9    | 0,7    |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 1,4    | 0,6    | 0,7    | 1,8    | 1,3    | 2,7    |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 0,2    | 0,2    | 0,3    | 0,1    | 0,0    | 0,4    |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | -0,1   | 0,4    | 0,4    | -0,1   | 0,2    | 0,4    |
| All other retailers   | 1,5    | 1,6    | 2,9    | 2,1    | 1,8    | 2,2    |
| Total   | 7,6    | 5,6    | 8,8    | 9,0    | 6,3    | 10,7   |

### **Survey information**

#### Introduction

- 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey of the retail trade industry, covering retail enterprises (see 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from Stats SA's 2017 business sampling frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value added tax (VAT).
- In order to improve timeliness, some information for the latest month had to be estimated due to late response. These estimates will be revised in future statistical releases as soon as information becomes available. Published retail trade sales estimates include value added tax (VAT).

### Purpose of the survey

The results of the monthly retail trade sales survey are used to compile estimates of the gross domestic product (GDP) and its components, which are used in monitoring the state of the economy and formulation of economic policy. These statistics are also used in the analysis of comparative business and industry performance.

### Scope of the survey

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- This survey covers retail enterprises according to the following types of retailers:
  - General dealers:
    - Retail trade in non-specialised stores with food, beverages and tobacco predominating; and
    - > 'Other' retail trade in non-specialised stores.
  - Retailers in food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores:
    - > Retailers in fresh fruit and vegetables;
    - > Retailers in meat and meat products;
    - Retailers in bakery products;
    - Retailers in beverages;
    - Retailers in tobacco; and
    - Retailers in 'other' food in specialised stores.
  - Retailers in pharmaceutical and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries;
  - · Retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods:
    - Retailers in men's and boys' clothing;
    - > Retailers in ladies', girls' and infants' clothing;
    - General outfitters; and
    - Retailers in footwear.
  - · Retailers in household furniture, appliances and equipment;
  - · Retailers in hardware, paint and glass; and
  - All 'other' retailers:
    - Retailers in reading matter and stationery;
    - Retailers in jewellery, watches and clocks;
    - Retailers in sport goods and entertainment requisites;
    - Retailers in 'other' specialised stores;
    - Repair of personal and household goods;
    - > Retail trade in second-hand goods in stores; and
    - Retail trade not in stores.

#### Classification

The 1993 edition of the Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC), Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC) with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Each enterprise is classified to the industry which reflects its predominant activity. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC group (four digit) level.

#### Collection rate

The preliminary collection rate for the survey on retail trade sales for November 2017 was 69,3%, accounting for 71,8% of the total estimate. The improved collection rate for October 2017 was 82,3%.

#### Statistical unit

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The statistical unit for which information is compiled and published is the enterprise, defined as a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities. The statistical units are derived from and linked to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) administrative data.

### **Revised figures**

Revised figures are mainly due to late submission of data to Stats SA, or respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures. Preliminary figures, as indicated in the relevant tables, are subject to change and when revised will not be indicated as such.

### **Related publications**

- **9** Users may also refer to the following publication available from Stats SA:
  - Stats in Brief issued annually.

### Rounding-off of figures

Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.

### **Historical data**

Historical retail trade sales data are available on the Stats SA website. To access the data electronically, use the following link: Click to download historical data

### Past publications

Past retail trade sales releases are available on the Stats SA website. To access the releases electronically, use the following link:

<u>Click to download past releases</u>

### **Technical notes**

### Survey methodology and design

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The survey is conducted on a monthly basis. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of 2 749 enterprises from a population of 23 027 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the reference month. Fax, email and telephone reminders are used to follow up on non-respondents.

A stratified random sample was drawn at the SIC four-digit level in April 2017 from Stats SA's business sampling frame (BSF). Strata were formed using a combination of the Standard Industrial Classification and the measure of size classes for enterprises (see point 3 below).

The Neyman optimal allocation formula given below was used to allocate samples to each stratum:

$$nh = n * (Nh * Sh) / [\Sigma (Ni * Si)].$$

Neyman allocation formula not only allocates sample sizes to each stratum, but also calculates the relative precision for each stratum as well as the relative precision for all strata. The relative precision for these strata did not exceed 9.0%.

### **Class limits**

The retail sampling frame is divided into four size groups. All large and medium enterprises (size group one and two) are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to size group three and four (small and very small) enterprises. The total value of sales of the large and medium enterprises (size group one and two) is added to the weighted totals of size group three and four to reflect the total value of sales.

#### Measure of size classes (Rand)

| Enterprise size | Size group | Lower limits | Upper limits |  |  |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--|--|
| Very small      | 4          | 1 083 571    | 8 000 000    |  |  |
| Small           | 3          | 8 000 001    | 38 000 000   |  |  |
| Medium          | 2          | 38 000 001   | 78 000 000   |  |  |
| Large           | 1          | 78 000 001   |              |  |  |

### Sample weighting

For those strata not completely enumerated, the weights to produce estimates are the inverse ratio of the sampling fraction, modified to take account of non-response in the survey. Stratum estimates are calculated and then aggregated with the completely enumerated stratum to form group estimates. These procedures are consistent with international best practice.

### Seasonal adjustment

Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month using the X-12 Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the US Bureau of the Census. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be recognised more clearly. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month. Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series, even after adjustment for seasonal variations. Therefore, the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour. The X-12-ARIMA procedure for retail trade sales is described in more detail on the Stats SA website:

Click to Download Seasonal adjustment Retail Trade Sales February 2017

#### Trend cycle

The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-12 Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimate the underlying trend cycle.

#### **Constant prices**

- For January 2002 to December 2007 retail trade sales at constant prices were calculated using the consumer price index (CPI) for goods, excluding petrol and purchases of vehicles, for all urban areas to deflate total sales at current prices. From January 2008 onwards total retail trade sales at constant prices are obtained by adding up the deflated sales by type of retailer.
- Retail trade sales at constant prices by type of retailer are obtained by deflating estimated sales at current prices by the relevant weighted price index. To obtain total retail trade sales at constant prices, estimates of the deflated sales for each type of retailer are aggregated.

### Reliability of estimates

- Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all enterprises in the retail industry in South Africa. Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.
- Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in the collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Fluctuations may occur in consecutive months as a result of seasonal and economic factors.

### Month-on-month percentage change

11 The month-on-month percentage change in a variable for any given month is the change between that month and the previous month, expressed as a percentage of the latter.

### Year-on-year percentage change

The year-on-year percentage change in a variable for any given period is the change between that period and the corresponding period of the previous year, expressed as a percentage of the latter.

### Contribution (percentage points)

The contribution (percentage points) to the year-on-year percentage change for any given period is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of retailer by its corresponding weight, divided by 100. The weight is the percentage contribution of each type of retailer to total retail trade sales in the corresponding period of the previous year.

### **Glossary**

**Enterprise** An enterprise is a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly

controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.

**Industry** An industry is made up of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic

activity. Industries are defined in the System of National Accounts (SNA) in the same way as in the Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC), Fifth

Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993.

Retail trade Retail trade includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and

products to the general public for household use.

**Retailer** A retailer is an enterprise deriving more than 50% of its turnover from sales of goods to

the general public for household use.

Symbols andBSFBusiness sampling frameabbreviationsCPIConsumer price index

GDP Gross domestic product

ISIC International Standard Industrial Classification

SARS South African Revenue Service

SIC Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities

SNA System of National Accounts
Stats SA Statistics South Africa
VAT Value added tax

### **Technical enquiries**

**Raquel Floris** Telephone number: (012) 337 6488

Email: raquelf@statssa.gov.za

**Keshnee Naidoo** Telephone number: (012) 310 8423

Email: keshneen@statssa.gov.za

### **General information**

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

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A complete set of Stats SA publications is available at the Stats SA Library and the following libraries:

National Library of South Africa, Pretoria Division National Library of South Africa, Cape Town Division Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg Library of Parliament, Cape Town Bloemfontein Public Library Johannesburg Public Library Eastern Cape Library Services, King William's Town Central Regional Library, Polokwane Central Reference Library, Mbombela Central Reference Collection, Kimberley Central Reference Library, Mmabatho

Stats SA also provides a subscription service.

### **Electronic services**

A large range of data is available via online services. For more detail about our electronic services, contact Stats SA's user information service at (012) 310 8600.

You can also visit us on the internet at: www.statssa.gov.za

### **General enquiries**

User information services Telephone number: (012) 310 8600

Email address: info@statssa.gov.za

Postal address Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

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