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November 2020

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Sales at constant 2015 prices: results for November 2020

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

	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-7,2	-8,6	-4,1	-2,4	-2,3	-4,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	6,0	0,0	4,4	1,1	-0,5	1,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	-23,2	8,4	17,4	24,0	7,0	4,3

1/ 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 decreased by 4,0% year-on-year in November 2020. The largest negative annual growth rates were recorded for:

- all 'other' retailers (-26,1%); and
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (-5,6%) – see Table 5.

The main negative contributors to the 4,0% decrease were:

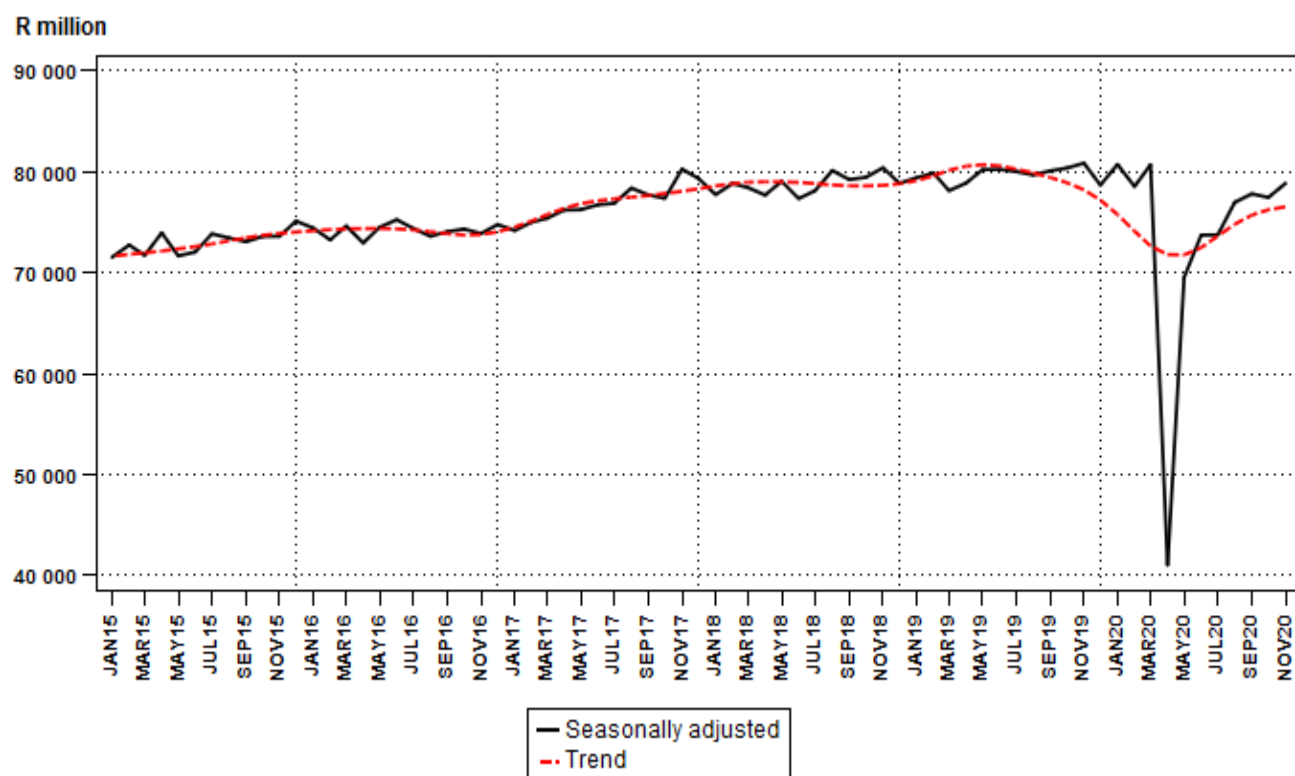
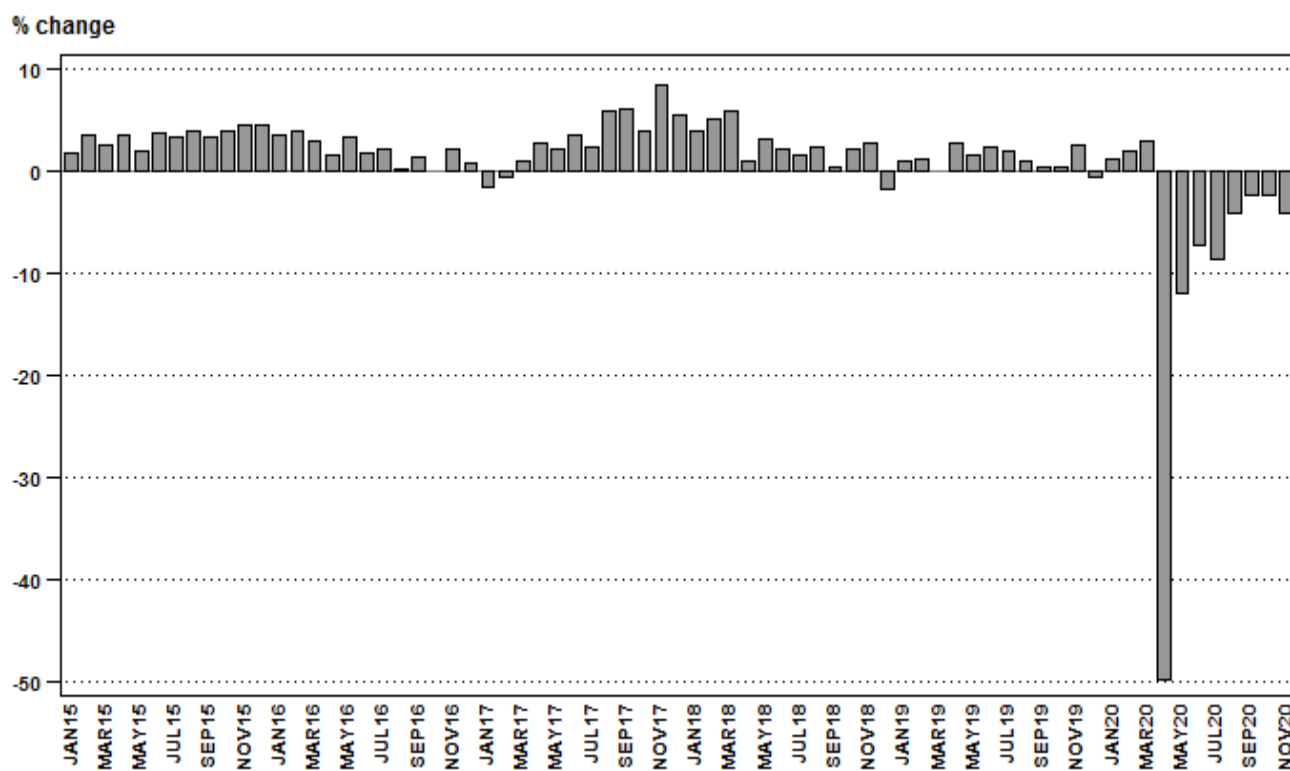
- all 'other' retailers (contributing -3,2 percentage points);
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (contributing -1,1 percentage points); and
- general dealers (contributing -1,1 percentage points) – see Table 6.

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales increased by 1,8% in November 2020 compared with October 2020. This followed month-on-month changes of -0,5% in October 2020 and 1,1% in September 2020. In the three months ended November 2020, seasonally adjusted retail trade sales increased by 4,3% 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 2019 (R million)	Weight	Sep – Nov 2020 (R million)	% change between Sep – Nov 2019 and Sep – Nov 2020	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	103 638	42,2	103 563	-0,1	0,0
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	18 737	7,6	19 058	1,7	0,1
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	16 345	6,7	15 770	-3,5	-0,2
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	43 437	17,7	41 607	-4,2	-0,7
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	12 143	4,9	13 066	7,6	0,4
Hardware, paint and glass	19 916	8,1	22 213	11,5	0,9
All other retailers	31 451	12,8	23 104	-26,5	-3,4
Total	245 667	100,0	238 381	-3,0	-3,0

Retail trade sales decreased by 3,0% in the three months ended November 2020 compared with the three months ended November 2019. The main negative contributor to this decrease was all 'other' retailers (-26,5% and contributing -3,4 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 2020

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

	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-5,2	-6,5	-1,9	-0,2	0,6	-1,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	6,3	-0,1	5,1	1,4	0,3	1,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	-22,2	7,4	16,3	23,5	8,3	5,7

1/ 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 2019 (R million)	Weight	Sep – Nov 2020 (R million)	% change between Sep – Nov 2019 and Sep – Nov 2020	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	125 725	44,4	129 918	3,3	1,5
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	23 856	8,4	25 356	6,3	0,5
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	20 229	7,1	20 038	-0,9	-0,1
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	47 211	16,7	45 050	-4,6	-0,8
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	11 591	4,1	12 455	7,5	0,3
Hardware, paint and glass	21 943	7,7	25 220	14,9	1,1
All other retailers	32 606	11,5	24 203	-25,8	-3,0
Total	283 163	100,0	282 238	-0,3	-0,3

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

Tables

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

Month	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 1/
Jan	66 162	67 363	69 772	68 730	71 392	72 119	73 069
Feb	64 776	67 081	69 733	69 309	72 873	73 804	75 176
Mar	67 247	69 013	71 042	71 824	76 077	76 062	78 278
Apr	66 376	68 762	69 866	71 798	72 585	74 580	37 340
May	69 363	70 756	73 185	74 776	77 084	78 256	68 923
Jun	66 456	68 934	70 146	72 694	74 319	76 099	70 591
Jul	67 596	69 903	71 429	73 124	74 260	75 758	69 248
Aug	69 120	71 878	72 121	76 392	78 121	78 872	75 638
Sep	67 958	70 222	71 240	75 686	76 073	76 348	74 478
Oct	69 966	72 774	72 770	75 712	77 377	77 693	75 935
Nov	75 076	78 469	80 126	86 849	89 311	91 626	87 968
Dec	96 982	101 480	102 286	108 038	106 203	105 711	
Total	847 078	876 635	893 716	924 932	945 675	956 928	

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

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

Month	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 year-to-date
Jan	1,8	3,6	-1,5	3,9	1,0	1,3	1,3
Feb	3,6	4,0	-0,6	5,1	1,3	1,9	1,6
Mar	2,6	2,9	1,1	5,9	0,0	2,9	2,0
Apr	3,6	1,6	2,8	1,1	2,7	-49,9	-11,0
May	2,0	3,4	2,2	3,1	1,5	-11,9	-11,2
Jun	3,7	1,8	3,6	2,2	2,4	-7,2	-10,5
Jul	3,4	2,2	2,4	1,6	2,0	-8,6	-10,3
Aug	4,0	0,3	5,9	2,3	1,0	-4,1	-9,5
Sep	3,3	1,4	6,2	0,5	0,4	-2,4	-8,7
Oct	4,0	0,0	4,0	2,2	0,4	-2,3	-8,0
Nov	4,5	2,1	8,4	2,8	2,6	-4,0	-7,6
Dec	4,6	0,8	5,6	-1,7	-0,5		
Total	3,5	1,9	3,5	2,2	1,2		

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

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020
Jan	74 186	77 742	79 422	80 738	-0,8	-2,0	0,7	2,6
Feb	75 019	78 847	79 884	78 554	1,1	1,4	0,6	-2,7
Mar	75 408	78 433	78 135	80 708	0,5	-0,5	-2,2	2,7
Apr	76 222	77 703	78 892	41 034	1,1	-0,9	1,0	-49,2
May	76 248	79 064	80 228	69 535	0,0	1,8	1,7	69,5
Jun	76 740	77 351	80 236	73 737	0,6	-2,2	0,0	6,0
Jul	76 883	78 153	80 033	73 752	0,2	1,0	-0,3	0,0
Aug	78 393	80 132	79 695	76 983	2,0	2,5	-0,4	4,4
Sep	77 711	79 237	80 102	77 823	-0,9	-1,1	0,5	1,1
Oct	77 380	79 460	80 376	77 468	-0,4	0,3	0,3	-0,5
Nov	80 276	80 412	80 862	78 852	3,7	1,2	0,6	1,8
Dec	79 346	78 868	78 691		-1,2	-1,9	-2,7	

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

Type of retailer	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20 1/
General dealers	32 733	29 456	33 500	34 243	31 546	37 774
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	4 920	4 878	5 604	5 999	6 676	6 383
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	5 246	5 912	5 970	5 075	5 346	5 349
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	12 317	12 017	11 831	11 326	13 428	16 853
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 090	4 137	4 196	3 794	4 132	5 140
Hardware, paint and glass	6 064	6 681	7 484	6 875	7 089	8 249
All other retailers	5 221	6 167	7 053	7 166	7 718	8 220
Total	70 591	69 248	75 638	74 478	75 935	87 968

1/ 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-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20
General dealers	-1,1	-2,8	-1,7	1,8	1,0	-2,5
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	-12,1	-17,4	-6,3	3,4	4,6	-2,6
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	-1,5	2,0	11,4	-4,0	-6,6	0,3
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	-6,7	-13,3	-8,2	-7,1	0,3	-5,6
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	15,2	12,8	14,4	7,7	7,3	7,8
Hardware, paint and glass	5,3	10,1	13,9	13,5	7,1	14,0
All other retailers	-45,5	-39,3	-31,8	-27,2	-26,5	-26,1
Total	-7,2	-8,6	-4,1	-2,4	-2,3	-4,0

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-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20
General dealers	-0,5	-1,1	-0,7	0,8	0,4	-1,1
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	-0,9	-1,4	-0,5	0,3	0,4	-0,2
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	-0,1	0,2	0,8	-0,3	-0,5	0,0
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	-1,2	-2,4	-1,3	-1,1	0,1	-1,1
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	0,7	0,6	0,7	0,4	0,4	0,4
Hardware, paint and glass	0,4	0,8	1,2	1,1	0,6	1,1
All other retailers	-5,7	-5,3	-4,2	-3,5	-3,6	-3,2
Total	-7,2	-8,6	-4,1	-2,4	-2,3	-4,0

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

Month	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 1/
Jan	61 819	66 049	71 306	74 847	78 950	81 496	84 902
Feb	60 827	66 115	72 080	75 793	80 987	83 799	87 773
Mar	63 701	68 388	74 105	78 976	84 614	86 856	92 421
Apr	63 351	68 447	73 717	78 835	81 031	84 941	45 879
May	66 573	70 806	77 454	82 385	86 082	89 678	80 813
Jun	63 925	68 913	74 387	79 925	83 157	87 335	82 801
Jul	65 234	69 857	75 876	80 367	83 009	86 710	81 100
Aug	67 041	72 186	77 030	83 910	87 421	90 825	89 085
Sep	65 967	70 535	76 181	83 207	85 416	88 246	88 078
Oct	68 132	73 327	78 197	83 256	86 547	89 398	89 931
Nov	73 504	79 272	86 221	95 369	100 069	105 519	104 229
Dec	94 736	102 740	110 762	118 773	119 161	121 903	
Total	814 810	876 635	947 316	1 015 643	1 056 444	1 096 706	

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

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

Month	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 year-to-date
Jan	6,8	8,0	5,0	5,5	3,2	4,2	4,2
Feb	8,7	9,0	5,2	6,9	3,5	4,7	4,5
Mar	7,4	8,4	6,6	7,1	2,6	6,4	5,1
Apr	8,0	7,7	6,9	2,8	4,8	-46,0	-7,7
May	6,4	9,4	6,4	4,5	4,2	-9,9	-8,2
Jun	7,8	7,9	7,4	4,0	5,0	-5,2	-7,7
Jul	7,1	8,6	5,9	3,3	4,5	-6,5	-7,5
Aug	7,7	6,7	8,9	4,2	3,9	-1,9	-6,8
Sep	6,9	8,0	9,2	2,7	3,3	-0,2	-6,0
Oct	7,6	6,6	6,5	4,0	3,3	0,6	-5,3
Nov	7,8	8,8	10,6	4,9	5,4	-1,2	-4,9
Dec	8,4	7,8	7,2	0,3	2,3		
Total	7,6	8,1	7,2	4,0	3,8		

Table 9 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020
Jan	80 719	85 874	89 632	93 532	-1,0	-2,1	0,9	2,8
Feb	81 976	87 514	90 563	91 310	1,6	1,9	1,0	-2,4
Mar	82 510	87 051	88 979	94 879	0,7	-0,5	-1,7	3,9
Apr	83 526	86 420	89 858	50 194	1,2	-0,7	1,0	-47,1
May	83 515	87 836	91 334	81 201	0,0	1,6	1,6	61,8
Jun	84 106	86 468	91 873	86 316	0,7	-1,6	0,6	6,3
Jul	84 507	87 296	91 557	86 241	0,5	1,0	-0,3	-0,1
Aug	86 113	89 556	91 946	90 658	1,9	2,6	0,4	5,1
Sep	85 637	89 024	92 323	91 968	-0,6	-0,6	0,4	1,4
Oct	85 209	89 054	92 719	92 213	-0,5	0,0	0,4	0,3
Nov	88 640	90 743	94 077	93 921	4,0	1,9	1,5	1,9
Dec	87 695	88 841	90 974		-1,1	-2,1	-3,3	

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

Type of retailer	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20 1/
General dealers	40 467	36 473	41 591	42 628	39 618	47 672
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	6 425	6 403	7 373	7 912	8 895	8 549
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	6 575	7 460	7 573	6 421	6 807	6 810
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	13 339	12 983	12 789	12 246	14 532	18 272
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	3 845	3 901	3 972	3 614	3 938	4 903
Hardware, paint and glass	6 717	7 458	8 438	7 764	8 053	9 403
All other retailers	5 432	6 422	7 348	7 494	8 088	8 621
Total	82 801	81 100	89 085	88 078	89 931	104 229

1/ 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-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20
General dealers	1,5	0,0	0,9	4,4	4,8	1,3
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	-9,4	-14,4	-3,0	7,1	9,5	2,4
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	0,7	4,6	14,3	-2,0	-3,8	3,1
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	-6,6	-13,4	-8,5	-7,4	-0,2	-5,9
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	13,1	11,0	12,6	7,1	7,2	7,9
Hardware, paint and glass	7,2	12,3	17,4	16,3	10,7	17,7
All other retailers	-45,2	-38,7	-31,3	-26,4	-25,6	-25,3
Total	-5,2	-6,5	-1,9	-0,2	0,6	-1,2

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-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20
General dealers	0,7	0,0	0,4	2,0	2,0	0,6
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	-0,8	-1,2	-0,3	0,6	0,9	0,2
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	0,1	0,4	1,0	-0,1	-0,3	0,2
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	-1,1	-2,3	-1,3	-1,1	0,0	-1,1
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,3	0,3	0,3
Hardware, paint and glass	0,5	0,9	1,4	1,2	0,9	1,3
All other retailers	-5,2	-4,7	-3,7	-3,0	-3,1	-2,8
Total	-5,2	-6,5	-1,9	-0,2	0,6	-1,2

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 2019 business sampling frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value added tax (VAT).
	2	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	3	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	4	<p>This survey covers retail enterprises according to the following types of retailers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General dealers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 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	5	The 1993 edition of the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</i> (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 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</i> (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	6	The collection rate for this publication (69,0% in November 2020) is lower than usual. Consequently, revisions may be larger than usual. The improved collection rate for October 2020 was 79,5%.

Statistical unit	7	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	8	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Stats in Brief</i> issued annually.
Rounding-off of figures	10	Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.
Historical data	11	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	12	Past retail trade sales releases are available on the Stats SA website. To access the releases electronically, use the following link: Click to download past releases

Technical notes

Survey methodology and design

- 1 The survey is conducted on a monthly basis. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of 2 969 enterprises from a population of 22 271 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.
- 2 A stratified random sample was drawn at the SIC four-digit level in April 2019 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:

$$n_h = n * (N_h * S_h) / [\sum (N_i * S_i)].$$

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

- 3 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	1 166 326	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

- 4 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

- 5 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 2018](#)

Black Friday sales have had a substantial upward impact on retail trade in November in recent years. Since seasonal adjustment models are based on long time series, users should note that Stats SA's seasonally adjusted estimates do not yet fully account for the Black Friday effect.

Note: Owing to the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown, additive outlier and transitory change adjustments were applied. Transitory (temporary) change describes a temporary effect on the level of a series after a certain point in time.

The methodology will be reviewed as more data points are added to the time series.

Trend cycle	6	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	7	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.
	8	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	9	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.
	10	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	12	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)	13	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 <i>System of National Accounts</i> (SNA) in the same way as in the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</i> (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 and abbreviations	BSF	Business sampling frame
	CPI	Consumer 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

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