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Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for August 2025

Table A – Key growth rates in retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices

	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	1,7	6,2	4,0	1,7	5,7	2,3
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,3	1,7	-0,5	-0,2	2,3	-1,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	-0,4	-0,2	0,4	1,1	1,2	1,2

¹ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Measured in real terms (constant 2019 prices), retail trade sales increased by 2,3% year-on-year in August 2025. The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

- all 'other' retailers (7,9% and contributing 0,8 of a percentage point);
- retailers in hardware, paint and glass (8,1% and contributing 0,6 of a percentage point); and
- general dealers (0,8% and contributing 0,4 of a percentage point) – see Table 5 and Table 6.

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales decreased by 1,2% in August 2025 compared with July 2025. This followed month-on-month changes of 2,3% in July 2025 and -0,2% in June 2025.

Table B – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices for the latest three months by type of retailer

Type of retailer	Jun – Aug 2024 (R million)	Weight (%)	Jun – Aug 2025 (R million)	% change between Jun – Aug 2024 and Jun – Aug 2025	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	124 739	44,7	126 739	1,6	0,7
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	24 938	8,9	23 954	-3,9	-0,4
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	21 311	7,6	21 844	2,5	0,2
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	46 355	16,6	48 462	4,5	0,8
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	11 438	4,1	12 391	8,3	0,3
Hardware, paint and glass	21 475	7,7	23 566	9,7	0,7
All other retailers	28 858	10,3	31 081	7,7	0,8
Total	279 114	100,0	288 037	3,2	3,2

Retail trade sales increased by 3,2% in the three months ended August 2025 compared with the three months ended August 2024. The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

- all 'other' retailers (7,7% and contributing 0,8 of a percentage point);
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (4,5% and contributing 0,8 of a percentage point);
- retailers in hardware, paint and glass (9,7% and contributing 0,7 of a percentage point); and
- general dealers (1,6% and contributing 0,7 of a percentage point) – see Table B.

Table C – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices for the latest three months by type of retailer

Type of retailer	Mar – May 2025 (R million)	Weight (%)	Jun – Aug 2025 (R million)	% change between Mar – May 2025 and Jun – Aug 2025	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	132 454	43,9	133 311	0,6	0,3
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	25 819	8,6	25 281	-2,1	-0,2
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	21 812	7,2	21 974	0,7	0,1
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	53 603	17,8	54 663	2,0	0,4
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	12 804	4,2	13 055	2,0	0,1
Hardware, paint and glass	22 690	7,5	23 605	4,0	0,3
All other retailers	32 231	10,7	33 053	2,6	0,3
Total	301 415	100,0	304 944	1,2	1,2

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales increased by 1,2% in the three months ended August 2025 compared with the previous three months. The largest positive contributors were:

- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (2,0% and contributing 0,4 of a percentage point);
- retailers in hardware, paint and glass (4,0% and contributing 0,3 of a percentage point);
- all 'other' retailers (2,6% and contributing 0,3 of a percentage point); and
- general dealers (0,6% and contributing 0,3 of a percentage point).

The negative contributor was retailers in food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores (-2,1% and contributing -0,2 of a percentage point) – see Table C.

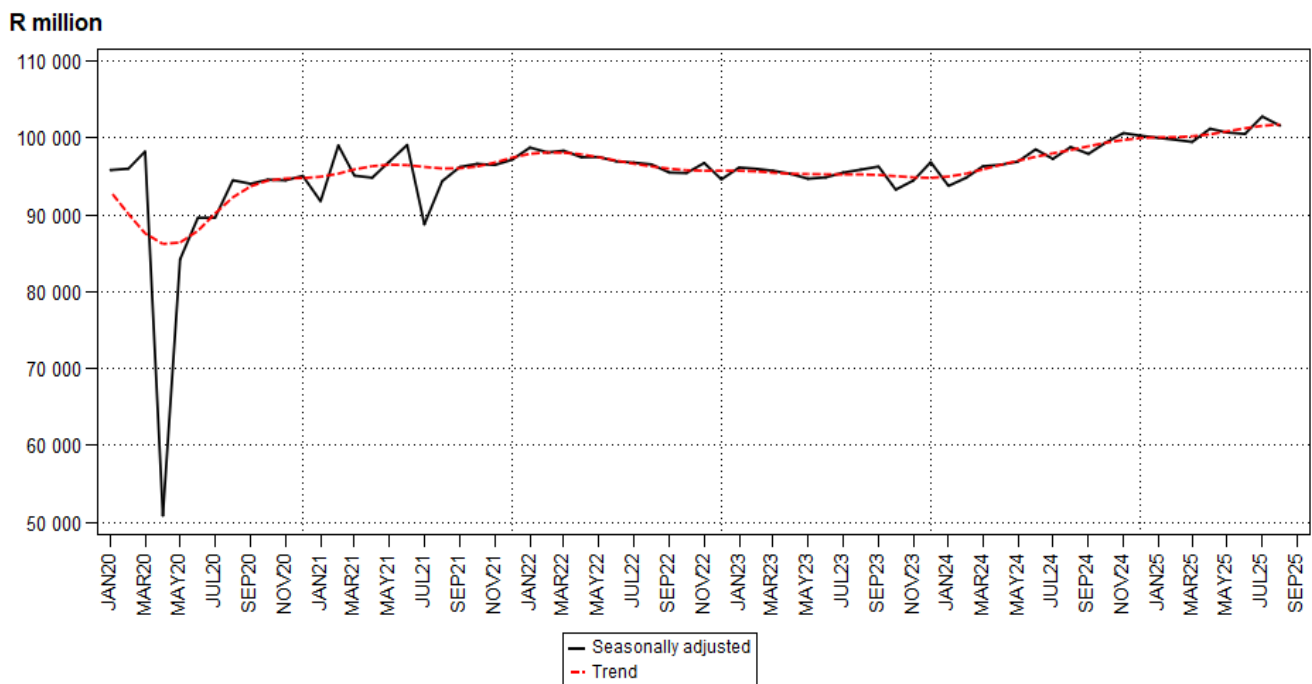
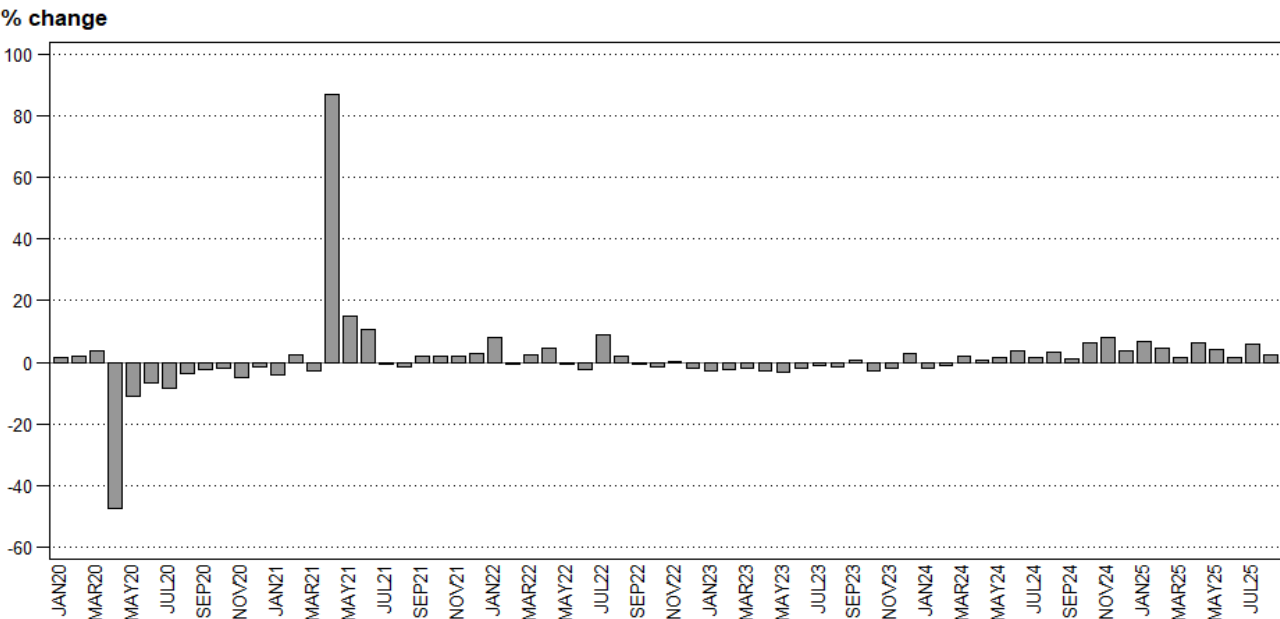
Figure 1 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices

Figure 2 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices: year-on-year percentage change



Sales at current prices: results for August 2025

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

	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	3,2	7,8	6,0	4,0	8,0	4,8
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,3	1,9	-0,3	0,3	2,2	-1,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	0,7	0,3	0,6	1,4	1,9	1,9

¹ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

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

Type of retailer	Jun – Aug 2024 (R million)	Weight (%)	Jun – Aug 2025 (R million)	% change between Jun – Aug 2024 and Jun – Aug 2025	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	165 846	48,0	173 808	4,8	2,3
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	32 638	9,4	34 272	5,0	0,5
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	27 822	8,0	29 519	6,1	0,5
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	50 702	14,7	53 586	5,7	0,8
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	11 481	3,3	11 929	3,9	0,1
Hardware, paint and glass	26 353	7,6	29 050	10,2	0,8
All other retailers	30 883	8,9	32 730	6,0	0,5
Total	345 721	100,0	364 893	5,5	5,5

Table F – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at current prices for the latest three months by type of retailer

Type of retailer	Mar – May 2025 (R million)	Weight (%)	Jun – Aug 2025 (R million)	% change between Mar – May 2025 and Jun – Aug 2025	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	179 621	47,6	182 256	1,5	0,7
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	35 325	9,4	36 107	2,2	0,2
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	29 167	7,7	29 525	1,2	0,1
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	59 116	15,7	60 271	2,0	0,3
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	12 464	3,3	12 581	0,9	0,0
Hardware, paint and glass	27 745	7,4	29 122	5,0	0,4
All other retailers	34 004	9,0	34 788	2,3	0,2
Total	377 442	100,0	384 651	1,9	1,9


Risenga Maluleke
 Statistician-General

Tables

Table 1 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices (R million)

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jan	87 148	88 360	84 894	91 575	89 196	87 319	93 239
Feb	89 338	91 047	93 226	92 448	90 366	89 587	93 708
Mar	92 206	95 558	93 010	95 303	93 550	95 426	97 009
Apr	90 039	47 167	88 199	92 258	89 579	89 987	95 554
May	94 686	84 036	96 600	96 545	93 359	94 963	98 774
Jun	92 055	85 667	94 722	92 610	90 673	94 174	95 753
Jul	91 396	83 783	83 287	90 655	89 568	90 988	96 145
Aug	95 445	91 789	90 585	92 283	90 927	93 952	96 139
Sep	92 524	90 259	92 170	91 462	92 094	93 149	
Oct	93 815	91 867	93 589	92 181	89 542	95 283	
Nov	110 490	105 131	107 342	107 583	105 383	113 828	
Dec	127 645	126 021	129 796	127 315	130 770	135 406	
Total	1 156 787	1 080 685	1 147 420	1 162 218	1 145 007	1 174 062	

Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025 year-to-date
Jan	1,4	-3,9	7,9	-2,6	-2,1	6,8	6,8
Feb	1,9	2,4	-0,8	-2,3	-0,9	4,6	5,7
Mar	3,6	-2,7	2,5	-1,8	2,0	1,7	4,3
Apr	-47,6	87,0	4,6	-2,9	0,5	6,2	4,7
May	-11,2	15,0	-0,1	-3,3	1,7	4,0	4,6
Jun	-6,9	10,6	-2,2	-2,1	3,9	1,7	4,1
Jul	-8,3	-0,6	8,8	-1,2	1,6	5,7	4,3
Aug	-3,8	-1,3	1,9	-1,5	3,3	2,3	4,1
Sep	-2,4	2,1	-0,8	0,7	1,1		
Oct	-2,1	1,9	-1,5	-2,9	6,4		
Nov	-4,9	2,1	0,2	-2,0	8,0		
Dec	-1,3	3,0	-1,9	2,7	3,5		
Total	-6,6	6,2	1,3	-1,5	2,5		

Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jan	98 756	96 161	93 762	100 020	1,6	1,6	-3,2	-0,3
Feb	98 128	95 981	94 838	99 756	-0,6	-0,2	1,1	-0,3
Mar	98 343	95 735	96 321	99 489	0,2	-0,3	1,6	-0,3
Apr	97 498	95 330	96 515	101 210	-0,9	-0,4	0,2	1,7
May	97 529	94 698	96 926	100 716	0,0	-0,7	0,4	-0,5
Jun	96 962	94 878	98 524	100 530	-0,6	0,2	1,6	-0,2
Jul	96 797	95 492	97 278	102 805	-0,2	0,6	-1,3	2,3
Aug	96 566	95 882	98 826	101 609	-0,2	0,4	1,6	-1,2
Sep	95 507	96 288	97 934		-1,1	0,4	-0,9	
Oct	95 440	93 280	99 390		-0,1	-3,1	1,5	
Nov	96 746	94 483	100 642		1,4	1,3	1,3	
Dec	94 616	96 856	100 299		-2,2	2,5	-0,3	

Table 4 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices by type of retailer (R million)

Type of retailer	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25
General dealers	44 696	40 712	42 477	43 861	40 003	42 875
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	8 465	8 265	8 222	7 556	8 293	8 105
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	7 157	7 697	7 304	6 969	7 663	7 212
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	15 121	17 234	18 607	16 122	17 215	15 125
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 064	3 919	3 973	3 943	4 202	4 246
Hardware, paint and glass	7 311	6 862	7 668	7 432	8 033	8 101
All other retailers	10 195	10 865	10 523	9 870	10 736	10 475
Total	97 009	95 554	98 774	95 753	96 145	96 139

Table 5 – Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices by type of retailer

Type of retailer	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25
General dealers	0,1	5,6	2,1	0,9	3,3	0,8
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	-2,2	1,4	-0,5	-6,8	-1,4	-3,7
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	6,9	-0,3	2,1	3,8	-0,1	4,1
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	2,1	12,2	14,0	1,9	9,9	1,6
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	12,1	19,2	13,5	9,6	9,3	6,2
Hardware, paint and glass	5,6	-3,1	-0,9	7,8	13,3	8,1
All other retailers	1,2	10,6	1,3	3,1	12,1	7,9
Total	1,7	6,2	4,0	1,7	5,7	2,3

Table 6 – Contribution of each type of retailer to the year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices (percentage points)

Type of retailer	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25
General dealers	0,0	2,4	0,9	0,4	1,4	0,4
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	-0,2	0,1	0,0	-0,6	-0,1	-0,3
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	0,5	0,0	0,2	0,3	0,0	0,3
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	0,3	2,1	2,4	0,3	1,7	0,3
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	0,5	0,7	0,5	0,4	0,4	0,3
Hardware, paint and glass	0,4	-0,2	-0,1	0,6	1,0	0,6
All other retailers	0,1	1,2	0,1	0,3	1,3	0,8
Total	1,7	6,2	4,0	1,7	5,7	2,3

Table 7 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices by type of retailer (R million)

Type of retailer	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Month-on-month % change
General dealers	44 111	44 232	44 111	44 221	44 655	44 435	-0,5
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	8 574	8 600	8 645	8 195	8 532	8 554	0,3
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	7 229	7 265	7 318	7 335	7 254	7 385	1,8
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	17 371	18 052	18 180	18 034	18 664	17 965	-3,7
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 171	4 313	4 320	4 284	4 348	4 423	1,7
Hardware, paint and glass	7 662	7 478	7 550	7 817	8 038	7 750	-3,6
All other retailers	10 369	11 270	10 592	10 644	11 313	11 096	-1,9
Total	99 489	101 210	100 716	100 530	102 805	101 609	-1,2

Table 8 – Retail trade sales at current prices (R million)

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jan	85 959	89 551	87 977	98 447	103 447	106 642	115 801
Feb	88 389	92 581	97 002	100 002	106 060	110 127	116 843
Mar	91 614	97 483	97 544	103 903	111 032	117 751	121 504
Apr	89 595	48 322	92 700	100 932	106 636	110 969	119 606
May	94 590	85 414	101 656	106 862	111 413	117 176	124 232
Jun	92 119	87 231	100 192	103 476	108 710	116 706	121 322
Jul	91 459	85 454	88 239	101 783	107 303	112 498	121 450
Aug	95 800	93 964	96 434	104 807	109 425	116 517	122 121
Sep	93 080	92 609	98 142	104 517	111 357	116 244	
Oct	94 294	94 727	100 030	105 715	108 766	118 648	
Nov	111 299	108 658	114 622	123 342	128 100	140 718	
Dec	128 581	130 311	138 583	146 011	158 246	166 343	
Total	1 156 787	1 106 305	1 213 121	1 299 797	1 370 495	1 450 339	

Table 9 – Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at current prices

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025 year-to-date
Jan	4,2	-1,8	11,9	5,1	3,1	8,6	8,6
Feb	4,7	4,8	3,1	6,1	3,8	6,1	7,3
Mar	6,4	0,1	6,5	6,9	6,1	3,2	5,9
Apr	-46,1	91,8	8,9	5,7	4,1	7,8	6,3
May	-9,7	19,0	5,1	4,3	5,2	6,0	6,3
Jun	-5,3	14,9	3,3	5,1	7,4	4,0	5,9
Jul	-6,6	3,3	15,3	5,4	4,8	8,0	6,2
Aug	-1,9	2,6	8,7	4,4	6,5	4,8	6,0
Sep	-0,5	6,0	6,5	6,5	4,4		
Oct	0,5	5,6	5,7	2,9	9,1		
Nov	-2,4	5,5	7,6	3,9	9,9		
Dec	1,3	6,3	5,4	8,4	5,1		
Total	-4,4	9,7	7,1	5,4	5,8		

Table 10 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jan	107 048	112 827	115 937	125 689	2,6	3,1	-2,1	0,7
Feb	106 455	112 959	117 171	124 718	-0,6	0,1	1,1	-0,8
Mar	106 751	113 598	118 859	124 330	0,3	0,6	1,4	-0,3
Apr	106 978	113 320	118 841	126 722	0,2	-0,2	0,0	1,9
May	107 673	112 758	119 263	126 390	0,6	-0,5	0,4	-0,3
Jun	108 178	113 413	121 613	126 802	0,5	0,6	2,0	0,3
Jul	108 191	114 134	120 049	129 623	0,0	0,6	-1,3	2,2
Aug	108 943	114 667	121 908	128 226	0,7	0,5	1,5	-1,1
Sep	108 719	115 780	121 362		-0,2	1,0	-0,4	
Oct	109 151	112 845	123 195		0,4	-2,5	1,5	
Nov	110 825	114 454	124 036		1,5	1,4	0,7	
Dec	109 482	118 484	124 769		-1,2	3,5	0,6	

Table 11 – Retail trade sales at current prices by type of retailer (R million)

Type of retailer	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25
General dealers	60 188	55 180	57 874	60 014	54 902	58 892
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	11 384	11 399	11 472	10 688	11 932	11 652
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	9 552	10 321	9 827	9 400	10 348	9 771
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	16 630	19 008	20 556	17 828	19 035	16 723
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	3 976	3 816	3 883	3 832	4 035	4 062
Hardware, paint and glass	8 987	8 410	9 495	9 164	9 903	9 983
All other retailers	10 787	11 471	11 126	10 397	11 295	11 038
Total	121 504	119 606	124 232	121 322	121 450	122 121

Table 12 – Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at current prices by type of retailer

Type of retailer	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25
General dealers	2,4	8,4	5,1	4,0	6,6	4,0
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	0,7	6,6	5,7	0,5	8,5	5,8
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	10,5	2,9	5,7	7,3	3,3	8,0
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	3,0	13,1	15,2	3,1	11,1	2,8
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	8,3	14,5	10,0	5,7	4,2	2,0
Hardware, paint and glass	6,3	-2,9	0,4	8,6	13,8	8,4
All other retailers	0,2	8,8	-0,2	1,5	9,9	6,5
Total	3,2	7,8	6,0	4,0	8,0	4,8

Table 13 – 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	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25
General dealers	1,2	3,9	2,4	2,0	3,0	1,9
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	0,1	0,6	0,5	0,0	0,8	0,6
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	0,8	0,3	0,5	0,5	0,3	0,6
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	0,4	2,0	2,3	0,5	1,7	0,4
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	0,3	0,4	0,3	0,2	0,1	0,1
Hardware, paint and glass	0,5	-0,2	0,0	0,6	1,1	0,7
All other retailers	0,0	0,8	0,0	0,1	0,9	0,6
Total	3,2	7,8	6,0	4,0	8,0	4,8

Table 14 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at current prices by type of retailer (R million)

Type of retailer	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Month-on-month % change
General dealers	59 613	60 017	59 991	60 312	61 063	60 881	-0,3
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	11 493	11 851	11 981	11 616	12 209	12 282	0,6
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	9 668	9 715	9 784	9 845	9 778	9 902	1,3
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	19 178	19 947	19 991	20 003	20 595	19 673	-4,5
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 076	4 184	4 204	4 162	4 177	4 242	1,6
Hardware, paint and glass	9 341	9 130	9 274	9 644	9 913	9 565	-3,5
All other retailers	10 961	11 879	11 164	11 221	11 887	11 680	-1,7
Total	124 330	126 722	126 390	126 802	129 623	128 226	-1,1

Explanatory notes

Introduction	1	Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey of the retail trade industry, covering retail enterprises (see point 3 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from Stats SA's 2025 statistical business register (SBR) that contains businesses registered for value-added tax (VAT). Published retail trade sales estimates include VAT.
Purpose of the survey	2	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	3	<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	4	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	5	The preliminary collection rate for the survey on retail trade sales for August 2025 was 73,5%. The revised collection rate for July 2025 was 77,8%.

Statistical unit 6 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 7 Revised figures are mainly due to late submission of data to Stats SA, or respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures. The reasons for routine revisions are outlined in the following schedule. Any unscheduled revisions will be promptly indicated in relevant tables to maintain transparency and accuracy. It is important to note that seasonally adjusted figures are revised monthly.

Statistical release	Reason for revision	Period subject to revision
Aug-25	Additional information from respondents	Jul-25
Sep-25	Additional information from respondents	Aug-25
Oct-25	Additional information from respondents	Sep-25
Nov-25	Additional information from respondents	Oct-25
Dec-25	Additional information from respondents	Nov-25
Jan-26	Additional information from respondents	Dec-25
Feb-26	Additional information from respondents	Jan-26
Mar-26	Additional information from respondents	Feb-26
Apr-26	Additional information from respondents	Mar-26
May-26	Additional information from respondents	Apr-26
Jun-26	Additional information from respondents	May-26
Jul-26	Additional information from respondents New sample	Jan-02–Jun-26
New base year in 2027/28 - periodic, approximately four- to five-year intervals		

Related publications 8 Users may also refer to *Stats in Brief* available from Stats SA.

Rounding-off of figures 9 Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.

Historical data 10 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 11 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 1 671 enterprises from a population of 19 052 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within ten days after the end of the reference month. 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 2025 from Stats SA's statistical business register (SBR). Strata were formed using a combination of the Standard Industrial Classification and the measure of size classes for enterprises (see point three 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 6,0%.

Class limits

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

Measure of size classes (Rand)

Enterprise size	Size group	Lower limit	Upper limit
Very small	4	2 692 651	12 000 000
Small	3	12 000 001	57 000 000
Medium	2	57 000 001	117 000 000
Large	1	117 000 001	

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 United States Census Bureau. 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 January 2022](#).

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 February 2002 to January 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 February 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.
- Relative standard error**
- 11** One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of enterprises was used. The relative standard error (RSE) provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and thus avoids the need to refer to the size of the estimate.

Estimates of total retail trade sales within 95% confidence limits – August 2025

	Lower limit (R million)	Sales (R million)	Upper limit (R million)	Relative standard error (RSE) (%)
Retail trade sales	119 013	122 121	125 229	1,2

- Month-on-month percentage change**
- 12** 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**
- 13** 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)**
- 14** 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	CPI	Consumer price index
	GDP	Gross domestic product
	ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
	SARS	South African Revenue Service
	SBR	Statistical Business Register
	SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities
	SNA	System of National Accounts
	Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
	VAT	Value-added tax
	*	Revised figures

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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 12 official languages. Since the releases are used extensively locally and by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

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