



stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa, ISibalo House, Koch Street, Salvokop, Pretoria, 0002
www.statssa.gov.za, info@statssa.gov.za, Tel +27 12 310 8911

STATISTICAL RELEASE

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Retail trade sales (Preliminary)

June 2022

The results published in the next publication (July 2022) will be based on a new sample. This is an annual procedure which typically affects the level of sales at both current and constant prices. To avoid breaks in time series and to minimise revisions to historical growth rates, historical sales levels will be revised (i.e. they will be linked to the estimates based on the new sample).

This release provides an analysis of revisions. If you have any questions or comments, please send these to Keshnee Naidoo, keshneen@statssa.gov.za.

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ENQUIRIES:
Keshnee Naidoo
(072) 310 3798

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Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for June 2022

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

	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	8,1	-0,9	1,7	4,3	0,1	-2,5
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	2,3	-2,0	-0,1	0,9	-1,2	-0,4
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	3,9	2,5	1,8	0,0	-0,5	-0,8

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 decreased by 2,5% year-on-year in June 2022. Negative annual growth rates were recorded for:

- retailers in hardware, paint and glass (-8,6%);
- general dealers (-5,7%); and
- retailers in pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries (-4,3%) – see Table 5.

The largest negative contributors to this decrease were:

- general dealers (contributing -2,8 percentage points); and
- retailers in hardware, paint and glass (contributing -0,7 of a percentage point).

The largest positive contributor was retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (contributing 0,8 of a percentage point) – see Table 6.

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales decreased by 0,4% in June 2022 compared with May 2022. This followed month-on-month changes of -1,2% in May 2022 and 0,9% in April 2022. In the second quarter of 2022, seasonally adjusted retail trade sales decreased by 0,8% compared with the first quarter of 2022.

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

Type of retailer	Apr – Jun 2021 (R million)	Weight	Apr – Jun 2022 (R million)	% change between Apr – Jun 2021 and Apr – Jun 2022	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	122 471	45,5	123 403	0,8	0,4
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	20 149	7,5	20 322	0,9	0,1
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	21 307	7,9	21 260	-0,2	0,0
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	44 028	16,4	45 503	3,4	0,6
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	12 699	4,7	12 916	1,7	0,1
Hardware, paint and glass	22 150	8,2	20 411	-7,9	-0,6
All other retailers	26 107	9,7	26 514	1,6	0,2
Total	268 911	100,0	270 329	0,5	0,5

Retail trade sales increased by 0,5% in the second quarter of 2022 compared with the second quarter of 2021. The largest positive contributor to this increase was retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (3,4% and contributing 0,6 of a percentage point) – see Table B.

Figure 1 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices

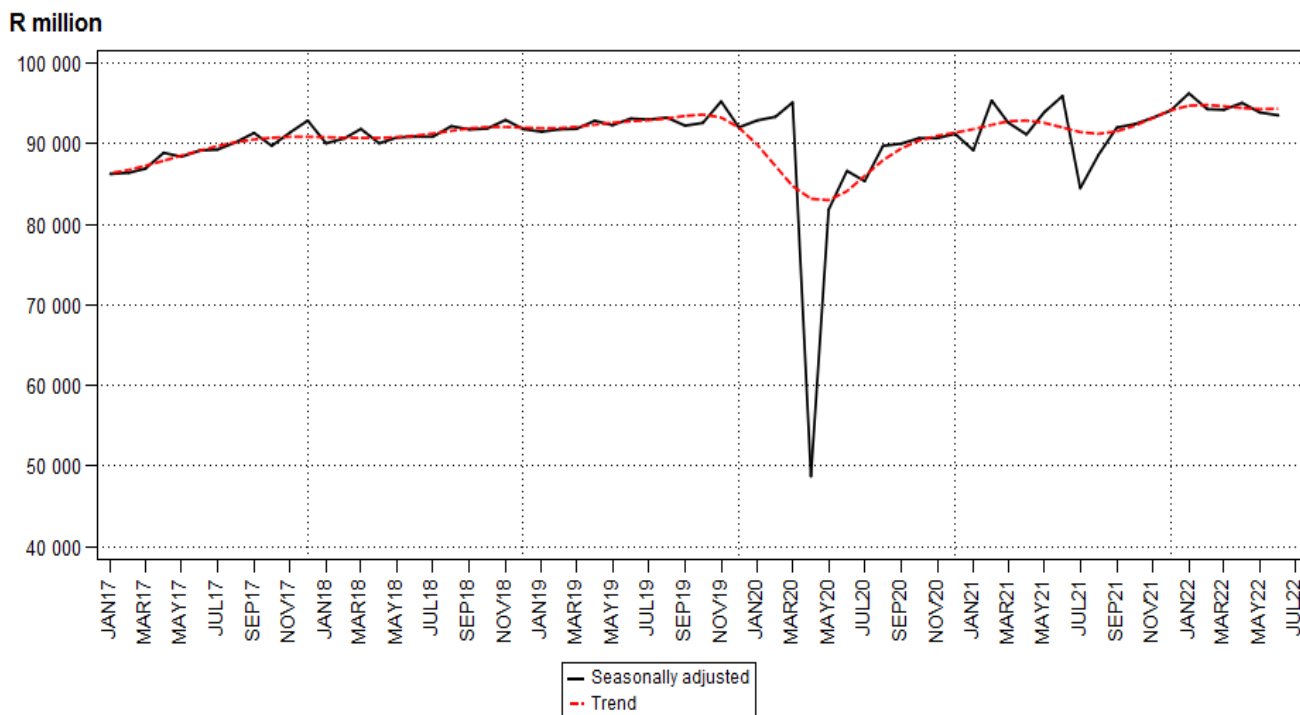
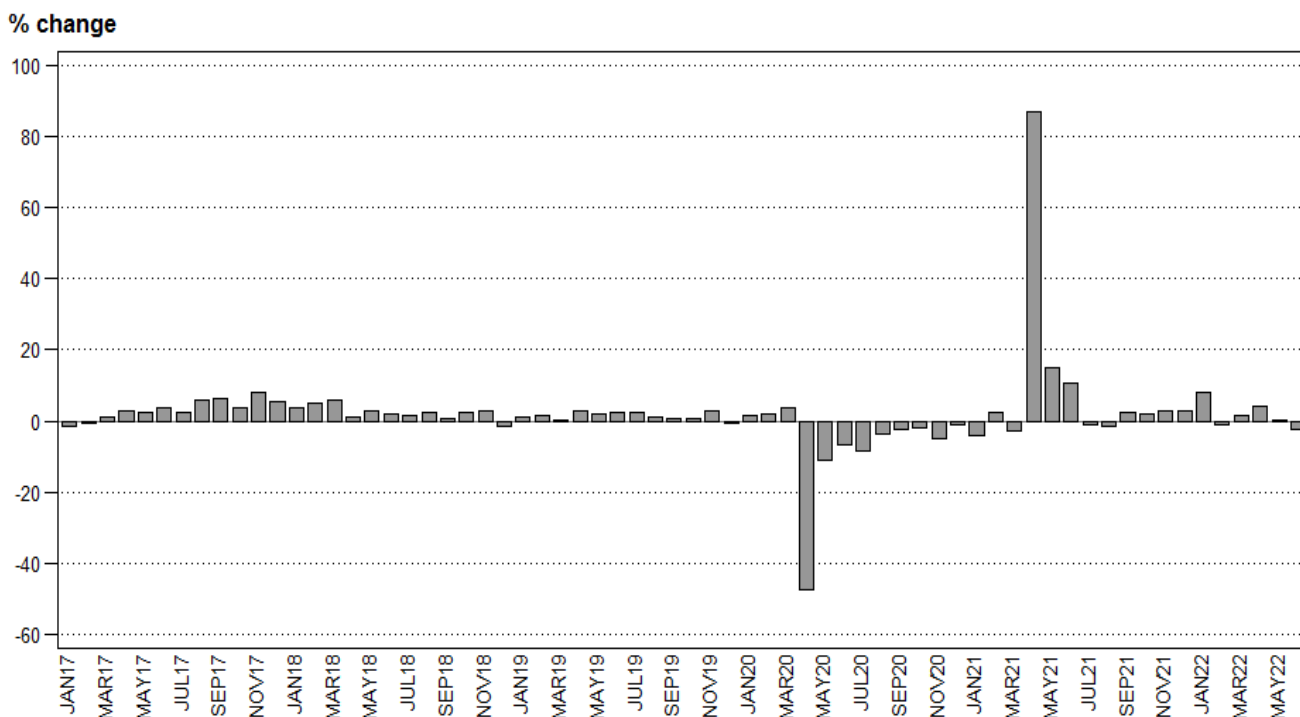


Figure 2 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices: year-on-year percentage change



Sales at current prices: results for June 2022

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

	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	11,9	2,8	5,6	8,4	4,9	2,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	2,2	-0,6	0,6	0,9	-0,2	0,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	4,5	3,6	3,2	2,0	1,4	1,0

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	Apr – Jun 2021 (R million)	Weight	Apr – Jun 2022 (R million)	% change between Apr – Jun 2021 and Apr – Jun 2022	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	131 413	46,4	140 517	6,9	3,2
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	22 139	7,8	23 917	8,0	0,6
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	22 893	8,1	24 228	5,8	0,5
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	44 367	15,7	46 591	5,0	0,8
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	12 492	4,4	12 973	3,9	0,2
Hardware, paint and glass	23 683	8,4	22 931	-3,2	-0,3
All other retailers	26 144	9,2	26 832	2,6	0,2
Total	283 131	100,0	297 992	5,2	5,2

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

Tables

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

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 1/
Jan	80 882	79 744	82 771	83 770	84 948	81 622	88 195
Feb	80 977	80 621	84 687	85 870	87 523	89 659	88 808
Mar	82 673	83 618	88 459	88 621	91 858	89 465	90 973
Apr	80 980	83 426	84 219	86 545	45 345	84 782	88 435
May	85 014	86 858	89 310	91 006	80 801	92 892	92 949
Jun	81 603	84 510	86 261	88 487	82 384	91 237	88 945
Jul	82 874	84 715	85 988	87 849	80 577	79 753	
Aug	83 831	88 595	90 638	91 737	88 273	87 129	
Sep	82 926	87 973	88 433	88 934	86 803	88 726	
Oct	84 370	87 628	89 542	90 181	88 360	90 118	
Nov	92 895	100 427	103 257	106 216	101 120	103 852	
Dec	118 588	125 075	122 989	122 715	121 222	124 837	
Total	1 037 613	1 073 190	1 096 554	1 111 931	1 039 214	1 104 072	

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

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

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022 year-to-date
Jan	-1,4	3,8	1,2	1,4	-3,9	8,1	8,1
Feb	-0,4	5,0	1,4	1,9	2,4	-0,9	3,3
Mar	1,1	5,8	0,2	3,7	-2,6	1,7	2,8
Apr	3,0	1,0	2,8	-47,6	87,0	4,3	3,1
May	2,2	2,8	1,9	-11,2	15,0	0,1	2,5
Jun	3,6	2,1	2,6	-6,9	10,7	-2,5	1,6
Jul	2,2	1,5	2,2	-8,3	-1,0		
Aug	5,7	2,3	1,2	-3,8	-1,3		
Sep	6,1	0,5	0,6	-2,4	2,2		
Oct	3,9	2,2	0,7	-2,0	2,0		
Nov	8,1	2,8	2,9	-4,8	2,7		
Dec	5,5	-1,7	-0,2	-1,2	3,0		
Total	3,4	2,2	1,4	-6,5	6,2		

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

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
Jan	91 501	92 900	89 192	96 265	-0,3	0,9	-2,2	2,3
Feb	91 799	93 357	95 378	94 306	0,3	0,5	6,9	-2,0
Mar	91 856	95 135	92 627	94 224	0,1	1,9	-2,9	-0,1
Apr	92 862	48 708	91 156	95 080	1,1	-48,8	-1,6	0,9
May	92 314	81 825	93 920	93 895	-0,6	68,0	3,0	-1,2
Jun	93 135	86 638	95 936	93 542	0,9	5,9	2,1	-0,4
Jul	93 005	85 357	84 471		-0,1	-1,5	-12,0	
Aug	93 257	89 742	88 641		0,3	5,1	4,9	
Sep	92 252	90 020	92 027		-1,1	0,3	3,8	
Oct	92 595	90 699	92 430		0,4	0,8	0,4	
Nov	95 263	90 694	93 237		2,9	0,0	0,9	
Dec	92 039	91 236	94 130		-3,4	0,6	1,0	

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

Type of retailer	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22 1/
General dealers	36 997	41 254	42 900	38 692	42 444	42 267
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	7 418	6 670	7 293	7 143	6 753	6 426
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	7 402	6 682	7 207	7 557	7 014	6 689
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	15 455	13 851	12 955	15 334	15 965	14 204
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 185	4 233	4 702	4 290	4 377	4 249
Hardware, paint and glass	6 663	6 914	6 760	6 410	7 343	6 658
All other retailers	10 075	9 204	9 156	9 009	9 053	8 452
Total	88 195	88 808	90 973	88 435	92 949	88 945

1/ Figures are preliminary.

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

Type of retailer	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22
General dealers	6,3	-2,0	2,2	5,2	3,8	-5,7
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	66,9	-4,6	1,1	3,9	-4,8	3,9
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	-2,7	8,3	4,3	3,5	0,0	-4,3
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	17,4	1,7	2,3	10,6	-4,3	5,3
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	2,2	2,1	6,4	6,1	-1,2	0,5
Hardware, paint and glass	-12,2	-5,0	-8,9	-8,0	-7,1	-8,6
All other retailers	1,7	-1,8	3,5	0,5	1,9	2,3
Total	8,1	-0,9	1,7	4,3	0,1	-2,5

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	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22
General dealers	2,7	-0,9	1,0	2,3	1,7	-2,8
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	3,6	-0,4	0,1	0,3	-0,4	0,3
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	-0,3	0,6	0,3	0,3	0,0	-0,3
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	2,8	0,3	0,3	1,7	-0,8	0,8
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	0,1	0,1	0,3	0,3	-0,1	0,0
Hardware, paint and glass	-1,1	-0,4	-0,7	-0,7	-0,6	-0,7
All other retailers	0,2	-0,2	0,3	0,1	0,2	0,2
Total	8,1	-0,9	1,7	4,3	0,1	-2,5

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

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 1/
Jan	72 295	75 885	80 046	82 627	86 080	84 567	94 610
Feb	73 080	76 845	82 111	84 962	88 991	93 241	95 876
Mar	75 133	80 072	85 788	88 061	93 703	93 763	99 027
Apr	74 740	79 929	82 155	86 120	46 449	89 035	96 521
May	78 529	83 528	87 277	90 922	82 102	97 658	102 487
Jun	75 420	81 035	84 311	88 547	83 850	96 438	98 984
Jul	76 928	81 482	84 161	87 914	82 142	84 419	
Aug	78 099	85 074	88 634	92 086	90 321	92 652	
Sep	77 238	84 362	86 601	89 471	89 019	94 374	
Oct	79 282	84 412	87 748	90 638	91 054	96 191	
Nov	87 418	96 693	101 458	106 983	104 445	110 743	
Dec	112 299	120 421	120 815	123 595	125 259	133 121	
Total	960 461	1 029 738	1 071 105	1 111 926	1 063 415	1 166 202	

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

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

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022 year-to-date
Jan	5,0	5,5	3,2	4,2	-1,8	11,9	11,9
Feb	5,2	6,9	3,5	4,7	4,8	2,8	7,1
Mar	6,6	7,1	2,6	6,4	0,1	5,6	6,6
Apr	6,9	2,8	4,8	-46,1	91,7	8,4	7,1
May	6,4	4,5	4,2	-9,7	18,9	4,9	6,6
Jun	7,4	4,0	5,0	-5,3	15,0	2,6	5,9
Jul	5,9	3,3	4,5	-6,6	2,8		
Aug	8,9	4,2	3,9	-1,9	2,6		
Sep	9,2	2,7	3,3	-0,5	6,0		
Oct	6,5	4,0	3,3	0,5	5,6		
Nov	10,6	4,9	5,4	-2,4	6,0		
Dec	7,2	0,3	2,3	1,3	6,3		
Total	7,2	4,0	3,8	-4,4	9,7		

Table 9 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
Jan	90 239	94 038	92 222	102 963	-0,3	1,1	-2,5	2,2
Feb	91 006	95 219	99 611	102 310	0,8	1,3	8,0	-0,6
Mar	91 321	97 218	97 349	102 937	0,3	2,1	-2,3	0,6
Apr	92 151	49 838	95 711	103 820	0,9	-48,7	-1,7	0,9
May	92 142	83 149	98 809	103 616	0,0	66,8	3,2	-0,2
Jun	92 975	87 921	101 052	103 707	0,9	5,7	2,3	0,1
Jul	93 123	87 081	89 499		0,2	-1,0	-11,4	
Aug	93 419	91 540	93 894		0,3	5,1	4,9	
Sep	92 779	92 196	97 690		-0,7	0,7	4,0	
Oct	92 888	93 247	98 382		0,1	1,1	0,7	
Nov	96 028	93 693	99 450		3,4	0,5	1,1	
Dec	93 007	94 599	100 742		-3,1	1,0	1,3	

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

Type of retailer	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22 1/
General dealers	40 734	45 717	47 923	43 480	48 389	48 648
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	8 477	7 640	8 435	8 317	7 978	7 622
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	8 195	7 436	8 100	8 553	7 997	7 678
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	15 686	14 065	13 192	15 644	16 335	14 612
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 162	4 208	4 687	4 289	4 386	4 298
Hardware, paint and glass	7 294	7 609	7 504	7 160	8 251	7 520
All other retailers	10 062	9 201	9 185	9 077	9 150	8 605
Total	94 610	95 876	99 027	96 521	102 487	98 984

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	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22
General dealers	11,1	2,9	7,2	10,5	10,3	0,9
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	77,7	1,6	7,9	10,6	2,2	11,8
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	2,0	14,2	10,1	9,4	6,2	1,7
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	18,5	2,8	3,4	12,0	-2,7	7,4
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	2,2	2,6	7,1	7,6	1,3	2,9
Hardware, paint and glass	-8,0	-0,6	-4,6	-3,5	-2,3	-3,8
All other retailers	2,2	-1,5	3,5	1,0	3,1	4,0
Total	11,9	2,8	5,6	8,4	4,9	2,6

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	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22
General dealers	4,8	1,4	3,4	4,6	4,6	0,5
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	4,4	0,1	0,7	0,9	0,2	0,8
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	0,2	1,0	0,8	0,8	0,5	0,1
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	2,9	0,4	0,5	1,9	-0,5	1,0
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	0,1	0,1	0,3	0,3	0,1	0,1
Hardware, paint and glass	-0,8	0,0	-0,4	-0,3	-0,2	-0,3
All other retailers	0,3	-0,2	0,3	0,1	0,3	0,3
Total	11,9	2,8	5,6	8,4	4,9	2,6

Analysis of revisions

Introduction

Preliminary monthly values for retail trade are published approximately seven weeks after the reference month, e.g. preliminary retail sales for March are published around mid-May. The preliminary values are revised the following month, using additional information received from respondents. This and other reasons for revising retail trade values from time to time are shown in the following revisions schedule.

Revisions schedule for retail trade

Reason for revision	Schedule
Additional information from respondents	Monthly (revision of previous month)
New sample	Annual (July reference month published in September)
New weights for retail deflators	Periodic, approximately four- to five-year intervals
New base year (year for constant prices)	Periodic, approximately four- to five-year intervals

Note that seasonally adjusted values are revised monthly.

Analysis

Revisions may be analysed in terms of several dimensions, namely rand values and/or growth rates (e.g. month-on-month percentage changes, year-on-year percentage changes); current prices and/or constant prices; seasonally adjusted and/or unadjusted data; totals and/or components; preliminary estimate compared with first revision and/or latest available revision; and various combinations of these options.

This analysis is confined to the following:

- Total retail trade, year-on-year growth rate, constant prices, unadjusted.
- Preliminary growth rates are compared with the latest available revised growth rates, where the preliminary growth rate refers to the first year-on-year growth rate published for the month in question.
- Time period: January 2012 to May 2022.

Figure 3 shows the preliminary and revised growth rates (line chart, left vertical axis) and the difference between them (bar chart, right vertical axis, where difference = revised - preliminary).

Table 13 provides key results relating to revisions.

Figure 3 – Retail trade year-on-year growth rates: preliminary and revised

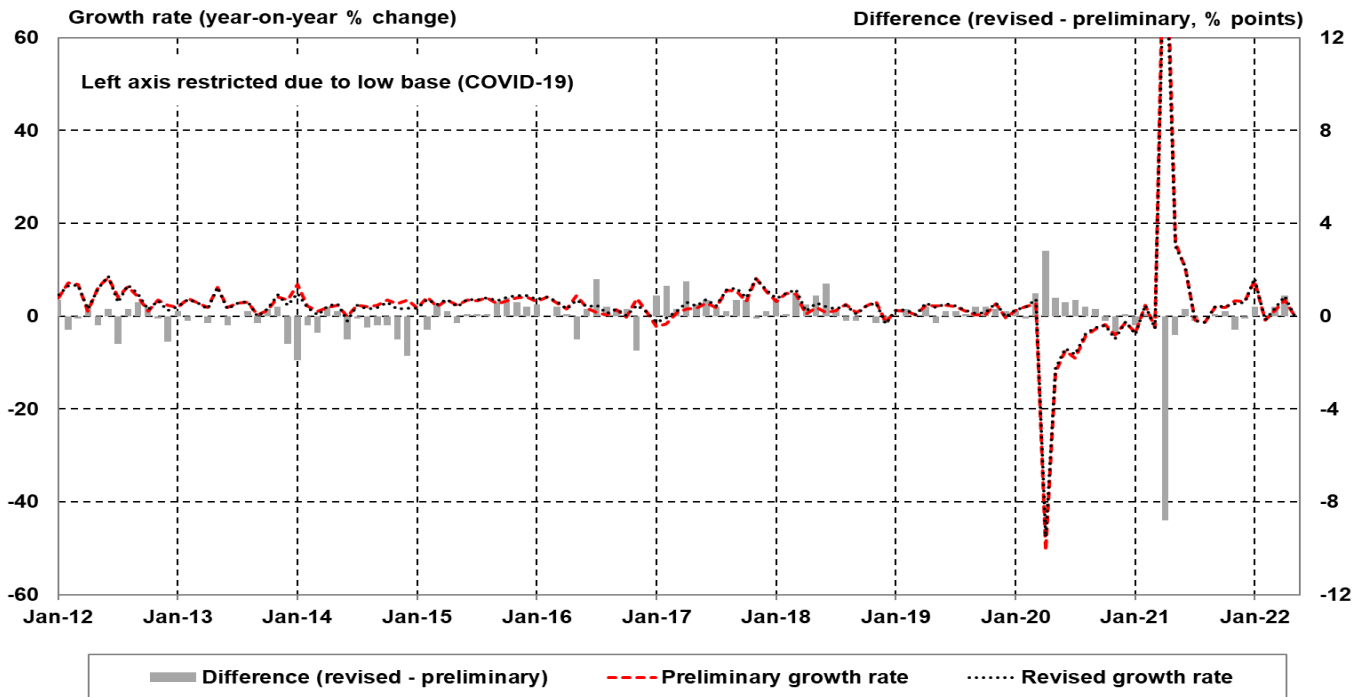


Table 13 – Retail trade year-on-year growth rates: preliminary and revised

Description	Value / outcome	Comment
Average year-on-year growth rate over the whole period	Preliminary: 2,44% Revised: 2,48%	The average of revised growth rates is slightly higher than the average of preliminary growth rates
Mean revision	0,04 of a percentage point	This is the average of the revisions
Mean absolute revision	0,53 of a percentage point	Average of the revisions, but based on the absolute value of each revision (positives and negatives do not cancel each other)
Largest upward revision	2,8 percentage points	Preliminary -50,4% was revised up to -47,6% (April 2020; affected by COVID-19)
Largest downward revision	-8,8 percentage points	Preliminary 95,8% was revised down to 87,0% (April 2021; affected by COVID-19)
Range for all revisions	-8,8 to 2,8 percentage points	
Range within which 90% of the revisions lie	-1,2 to 1,0 percentage points	This may be regarded as the normal range for revisions, with revisions outside this range being outliers
Number of upward revisions	72 (or 57,6% of the total observations)	
Number of downward revisions	41 (or 32,8% of the total observations)	

Description	Value / outcome	Comment
Number of zero revisions	12 (or 9,6% of the total observations)	
Is the mean revision (0,04) significantly different from zero?	No	This indicates that there is no bias in the preliminary estimate; see Note 1 below
Standard deviation of the revisions	1,02 percentage points	Standard deviation is a measure of dispersion about the mean – see the row below
Percentage of revisions that lie within one standard deviation of the mean	88,0%	This is the percentage of revisions that lie between -0,98 and 1,06 percentage points; the higher the percentage, the lower is the dispersion about the mean; see too Figure 4 below

Note 1: Is the mean revision significantly different from zero?

The formula for the test statistic is as follows:

$$test\ statistic = \frac{\bar{R}}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{n(n-1)}\right) \left(\sum_{t=1}^n \hat{\epsilon}_t^2 + \frac{3}{4} \sum_{t=2}^n \hat{\epsilon}_t \hat{\epsilon}_{t-1} + \frac{2}{3} \sum_{t=3}^n \hat{\epsilon}_t \hat{\epsilon}_{t-2}\right)}}$$

where

n = number of observations

\bar{R} = mean revision

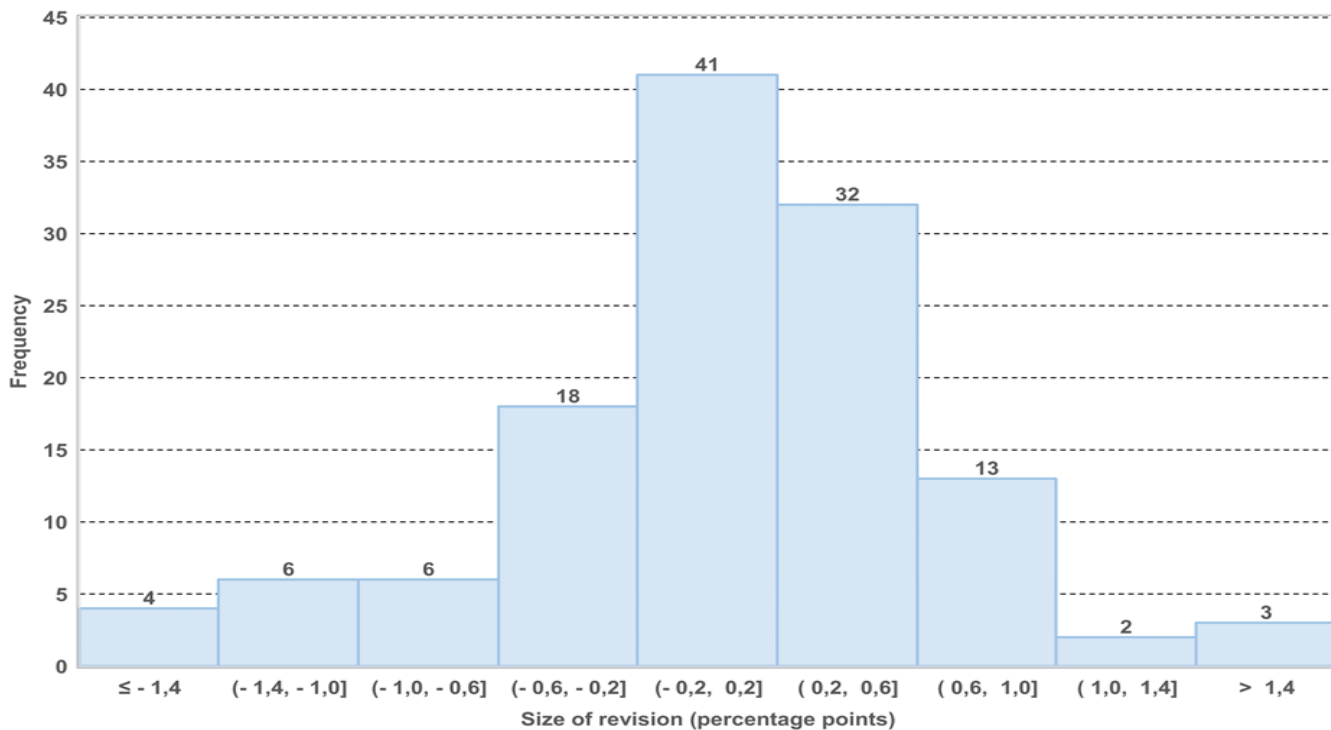
$\hat{\epsilon}_t = R_t - \bar{R}$, with R_t = revision in period t

Note that if the test statistic shows that the mean revision (MR) is significantly different from zero, then there is bias in the preliminary estimates. Bias in a series suggests there is scope to enhance the compilation of that series in an attempt to remove or minimise the bias. $MR > 0$ (statistically significant) implies under-estimation of the preliminary estimates. $MR < 0$ (statistically significant) implies over-estimation of the preliminary estimates.

In this case the test statistic is 0,39, which lies below the critical value of 1,98, indicating that the MR is not significantly different from zero at a 95% confidence interval. Accordingly, no bias is detected in the preliminary estimates.

Figure 4 shows the revisions in terms of a histogram. There were 18 revisions between -0,6 and -0,2 (-0,6 < revision ≤ -0,2); 41 revisions between -0,2 and 0,2 (-0,2 < revision ≤ 0,2); and 32 revisions between 0,2 and 0,6 (0,2 < revision ≤ 0,6). 72,8% of revisions lay between -0,6 and 0,6 of a percentage point.

Figure 4 – Retail trade year-on-year growth rates: histogram of revisions



Survey information

- Introduction**
- 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey of the retail trade industry, covering retail enterprises (see point 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from Stats SA's 2021 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 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**
- 5 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**
- 6 The preliminary collection rate for the survey on retail trade sales for June 2022 was 68,0%. The improved collection rate for May 2022 was 72,4%.

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 3 095 enterprises from a population of 22 041 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 2021 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 8,0%.

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	1 167 786	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 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 February 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 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 (SNA)</i> in the same way as in the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)</i> , 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

Technical enquiries

Raquel Floris	Telephone number: 072 205 2608 Email: raquelf@statssa.gov.za
Keshnee Naidoo	Telephone number: 072 310 3798 Email: keshneen@statssa.gov.za

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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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General enquiries

User information services	Telephone number: (012) 310 8600 Email: info@statssa.gov.za
Orders/subscription services	Telephone number: (012) 310 8619 Email: millies@statssa.gov.za
Postal address	Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

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