



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

P6242.1

Retail trade sales (Preliminary)

May 2023

**Embargoed until:
19 July 2023
13:00**

ENQUIRIES:
JP Terblanche
Tel: (012) 310 2965

FORTHCOMING ISSUE:
June 2023

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE:
16 August 2023

Dipalopalo tsa Aforikaborwa • Dipalopalo tsa Aforika Borwa • Ezazibalo zaseNingizimu Afrika • Tshitatistika Afrika Tshipembe • Tinhlayo Afrika-Dzonga

Statistieke Suid-Afrika • Dipalopalo tsa Aforika Borwa • Telubalo zaseNingizimu Afrika • EzeeNkcukacha maNani zoMzantsi Afrika • Iimbalobalo zeSewula Afrika

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



Contents

Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for May 2023	2
Table A – Key growth rates in retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices.....	2
Table B – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices for the latest three months by type of retailer	2
Table C – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices for the latest three months by type of retailer	3
Figure 1 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices	3
Figure 2 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices: year-on-year percentage change.....	4
Sales at current prices: results for May 2023	5
Table D – Key growth rates in retail trade sales at current prices.....	5
Table E – Retail trade sales at current prices for the latest three months by type of retailer	5
Table F – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at current prices for the latest three months by type of retailer	5
Tables	6
Table 1 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices (R million)	6
Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices	6
Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices	6
Table 4 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices by type of retailer (R million)	7
Table 5 – Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices by type of retailer	7
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)	7
Table 7 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices by type of retailer (R million)	8
Table 8 – Retail trade sales at current prices (R million).....	9
Table 9 – Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at current prices	9
Table 10 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at current prices	9
Table 11 – Retail trade sales at current prices by type of retailer (R million)	10
Table 12 – Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at current prices by type of retailer.....	10
Table 13 – Contribution of each type of retailer to the year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at current prices (percentage points)	10
Table 14 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at current prices by type of retailer (R million)	11
Survey information	12
Technical notes	14
Glossary	16
Technical enquiries	16
General information	17

Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for May 2023

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

	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-0,5	-0,8	-0,7	-1,5	-1,8	-1,4
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,6	1,3	-0,5	-0,7	0,2	-0,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	0,2	1,0	0,8	0,7	-0,2	-0,7

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 1,4% year-on-year in May 2023. The largest negative contributors to this decrease were:

- general dealers (-3,7% and contributing -1,6 percentage points); and
- retailers in hardware, paint and glass (-8,7% and contributing -0,7 of a percentage point) – see Tables 5 and 6.

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales decreased by 0,7% in May 2023 compared with April 2023. This followed month-on-month changes of 0,2% in April 2023 and -0,7% in March 2023.

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

Type of retailer	Mar – May 2022 (R million)	Weight (%)	Mar – May 2023 (R million)	% change between Mar – May 2022 and Mar – May 2023	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	121 529	43,9	118 295	-2,7	-1,2
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	22 749	8,2	21 502	-5,5	-0,5
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	20 476	7,4	19 786	-3,4	-0,3
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	47 290	17,1	50 146	6,0	1,0
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	13 194	4,8	12 753	-3,3	-0,2
Hardware, paint and glass	21 980	7,9	21 216	-3,5	-0,3
All other retailers	29 790	10,8	29 039	-2,5	-0,3
Total	277 008	100,0	272 737	-1,5	-1,5

Retail trade sales decreased by 1,5% in the three months ended May 2023 compared with the three months ended May 2022. The largest negative contributors to this decrease were:

- general dealers (-2,7% and contributing -1,2 percentage points); and
- retailers in food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores (-5,5% and contributing -0,5 of a percentage point).

Retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods was the only positive contributor (6,0% and contributing 1,0 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	Dec 2022 – Feb 2023 (R million)	Weight (%)	Mar – May 2023 (R million)	% change between Dec 2022 – Feb 2023 and Mar – May 2023	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	122 540	43,2	121 792	-0,6	-0,3
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	23 154	8,2	22 479	-2,9	-0,2
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	19 810	7,0	19 759	-0,3	0,0
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	51 675	18,2	52 174	1,0	0,2
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	13 689	4,8	13 471	-1,6	-0,1
Hardware, paint and glass	22 440	7,9	22 342	-0,4	0,0
All other retailers	30 077	10,6	29 489	-2,0	-0,2
Total	283 387	100,0	281 506	-0,7	-0,7

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales decreased by 0,7% in the three months ended May 2023 compared with the previous three months. The largest negative contributors were:

- general dealers (-0,6% and contributing -0,3 of a percentage point);
- retailers in food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores (-2,9% and contributing -0,2 of a percentage point); and
- all 'other' retailers (-2,0% and contributing -0,2 of a percentage point) – see Table C.

Figure 1 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices

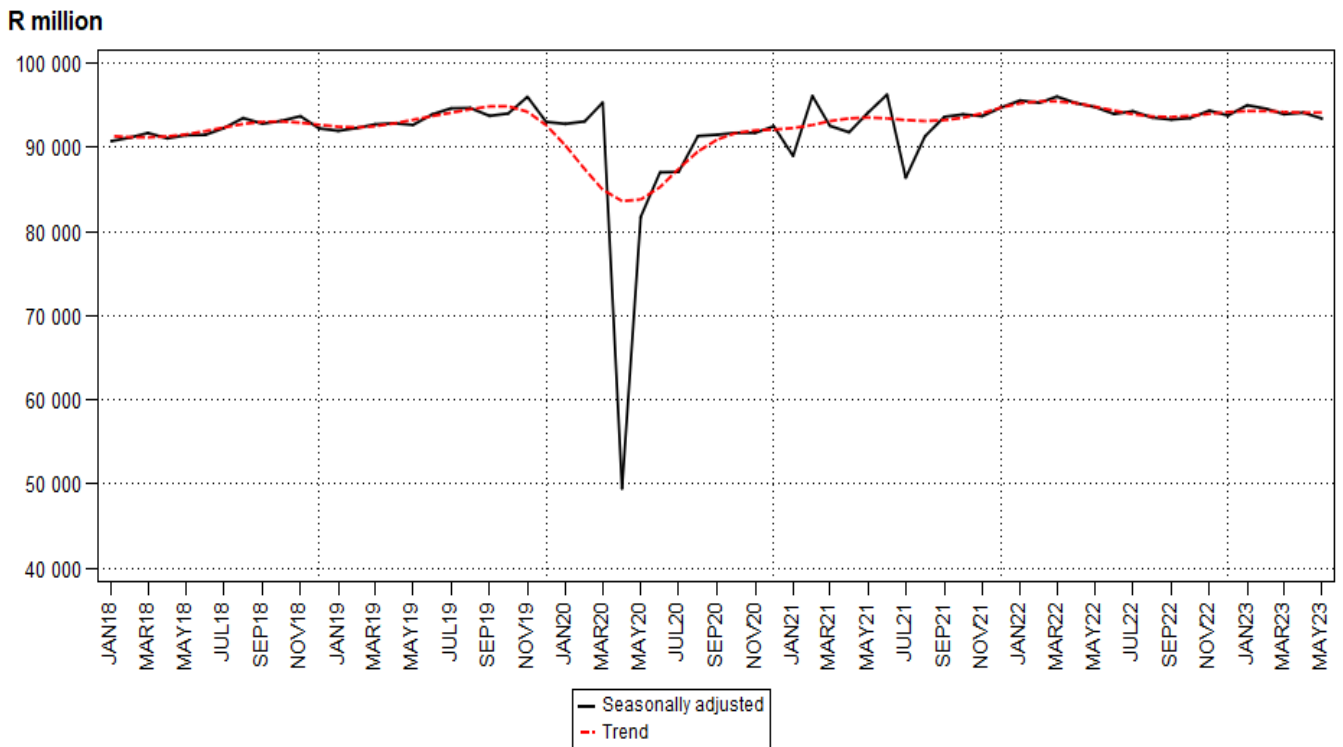
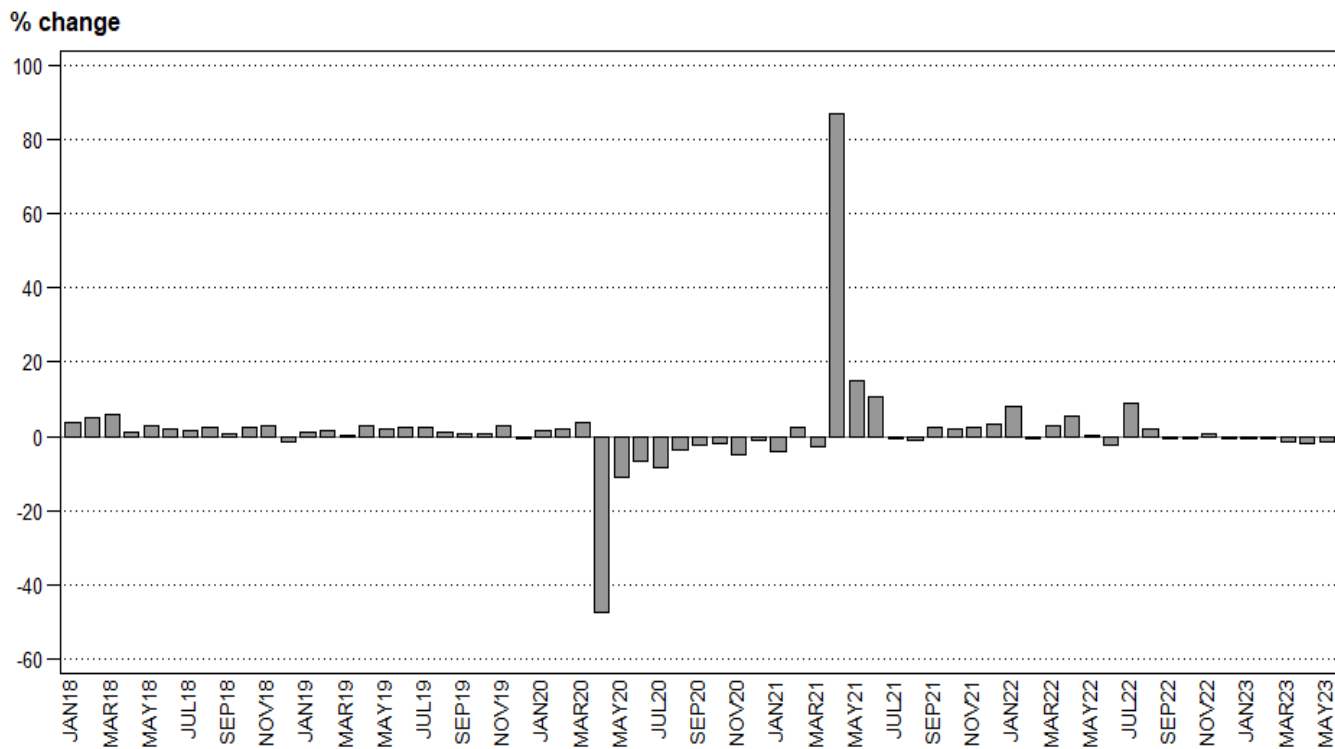


Figure 2 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices: year-on-year percentage change



Sales at current prices: results for May 2023**Table D – Key growth rates in retail trade sales at current prices**

	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	6,3	6,6	7,3	6,9	6,4	6,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,0	2,0	0,3	0,2	0,9	-0,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	1,9	2,8	2,7	2,8	2,1	1,5

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	Mar – May 2022 (R million)	Weight (%)	Mar – May 2023 (R million)	% change between Mar – May 2022 and Mar – May 2023	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	136 969	45,2	148 556	8,5	3,8
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	26 551	8,8	27 351	3,0	0,3
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	23 176	7,7	24 011	3,6	0,3
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	48 268	15,9	52 812	9,4	1,5
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	13 187	4,4	13 059	-1,0	0,0
Hardware, paint and glass	24 555	8,1	25 607	4,3	0,3
All other retailers	30 003	9,9	30 668	2,2	0,2
Total	302 708	100,0	322 067	6,4	6,4

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

Type of retailer	Dec 2022 – Feb 2023 (R million)	Weight (%)	Mar – May 2023 (R million)	% change between Dec 2022 – Feb 2023 and Mar – May 2023	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	149 995	45,8	153 051	2,0	0,9
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	28 842	8,8	28 482	-1,2	-0,1
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	23 446	7,2	23 827	1,6	0,1
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	53 874	16,4	55 378	2,8	0,5
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	13 878	4,2	13 745	-1,0	0,0
Hardware, paint and glass	26 460	8,1	26 909	1,7	0,1
All other retailers	31 303	9,5	31 216	-0,3	0,0
Total	327 799	100,0	332 609	1,5	1,5

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

Tables

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

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 1/
Jan	80 369	83 447	84 492	85 721	82 408	89 055	88 373
Feb	81 253	85 374	86 614	88 330	90 505	89 914	89 295
Mar	84 281	89 187	89 408	92 714	90 310	92 713	91 343
Apr	84 086	84 915	87 307	45 754	85 654	90 389	88 796
May	87 546	90 051	91 822	81 544	93 829	93 906	92 598
Jun	85 184	86 977	89 281	83 143	91 985	89 880	
Jul	85 392	86 704	88 641	81 318	80 897	88 057	
Aug	89 293	91 389	92 568	89 087	87 990	89 856	
Sep	88 677	89 182	89 743	87 598	89 525	89 125	
Oct	88 329	90 296	90 998	89 176	90 925	90 268	
Nov	101 234	104 135	107 171	102 058	104 290	105 109	
Dec	126 094	124 041	123 820	122 354	126 121	125 526	
Total	1 081 738	1 105 698	1 121 865	1 048 797	1 114 439	1 133 798	

1/ Figures for the latest month are preliminary.

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

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 year-to-date
Jan	3,8	1,3	1,5	-3,9	8,1	-0,8	-0,8
Feb	5,1	1,5	2,0	2,5	-0,7	-0,7	-0,7
Mar	5,8	0,2	3,7	-2,6	2,7	-1,5	-1,0
Apr	1,0	2,8	-47,6	87,2	5,5	-1,8	-1,2
May	2,9	2,0	-11,2	15,1	0,1	-1,4	-1,2
Jun	2,1	2,6	-6,9	10,6	-2,3		
Jul	1,5	2,2	-8,3	-0,5	8,9		
Aug	2,3	1,3	-3,8	-1,2	2,1		
Sep	0,6	0,6	-2,4	2,2	-0,4		
Oct	2,2	0,8	-2,0	2,0	-0,7		
Nov	2,9	2,9	-4,8	2,2	0,8		
Dec	-1,6	-0,2	-1,2	3,1	-0,5		
Total	2,2	1,5	-6,5	6,3	1,7		

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

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	92 794	88 980	95 585	95 012	-0,3	-3,8	0,9	1,3
Feb	93 090	96 114	95 298	94 582	0,3	8,0	-0,3	-0,5
Mar	95 328	92 562	96 040	93 944	2,4	-3,7	0,8	-0,7
Apr	49 432	91 794	95 254	94 128	-48,1	-0,8	-0,8	0,2
May	81 735	94 099	94 809	93 434	65,3	2,5	-0,5	-0,7
Jun	87 032	96 271	93 968		6,5	2,3	-0,9	
Jul	87 084	86 391	94 292		0,1	-10,3	0,3	
Aug	91 356	91 324	93 546		4,9	5,7	-0,8	
Sep	91 507	93 630	93 311		0,2	2,5	-0,3	
Oct	91 728	93 916	93 484		0,2	0,3	0,2	
Nov	91 726	93 716	94 371		0,0	-0,2	0,9	
Dec	92 503	94 726	93 793		0,8	1,1	-0,6	

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

Type of retailer	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23 1/
General dealers	52 197	36 510	39 815	41 152	37 073	40 070
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	10 882	7 384	7 259	7 381	7 248	6 873
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	7 027	6 717	6 054	6 528	6 929	6 329
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	29 050	16 091	15 024	15 022	16 899	18 225
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	6 119	4 081	4 172	4 568	4 153	4 032
Hardware, paint and glass	7 941	6 783	6 824	7 042	6 911	7 263
All other retailers	12 310	10 807	10 147	9 650	9 583	9 806
Total	125 526	88 373	89 295	91 343	88 796	92 598

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	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23
General dealers	-0,6	0,6	-1,5	-1,8	-2,5	-3,7
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	-1,8	-7,6	0,3	-6,3	-6,0	-4,0
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	-4,8	-2,8	-3,1	-3,3	-2,9	-4,0
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	3,1	2,5	5,6	6,4	1,5	10,3
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	-0,3	-0,8	-0,7	-2,2	-2,1	-5,8
Hardware, paint and glass	-5,5	-5,1	-8,2	-3,2	2,4	-8,7
All other retailers	-1,1	-0,8	-0,1	-4,8	-3,1	0,5
Total	-0,5	-0,8	-0,7	-1,5	-1,8	-1,4

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	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23
General dealers	-0,2	0,2	-0,7	-0,8	-1,1	-1,6
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	-0,2	-0,7	0,0	-0,5	-0,5	-0,3
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	-0,3	-0,2	-0,2	-0,2	-0,2	-0,3
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	0,7	0,4	0,9	1,0	0,3	1,8
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	0,0	0,0	0,0	-0,1	-0,1	-0,3
Hardware, paint and glass	-0,4	-0,4	-0,7	-0,2	0,2	-0,7
All other retailers	-0,1	-0,1	0,0	-0,5	-0,3	0,1
Total	-0,5	-0,8	-0,7	-1,5	-1,8	-1,4

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

Type of retailer	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Month-on-month % change
General dealers	40 790	40 998	40 752	40 615	40 755	40 422	-0,8
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	7 664	7 696	7 794	7 499	7 560	7 420	-1,9
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	6 537	6 634	6 639	6 617	6 645	6 497	-2,2
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	16 739	17 463	17 473	17 322	17 252	17 600	2,0
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 525	4 551	4 613	4 570	4 545	4 356	-4,2
Hardware, paint and glass	7 512	7 616	7 312	7 467	7 603	7 272	-4,4
All other retailers	10 025	10 054	9 998	9 854	9 768	9 867	1,0
Total	93 793	95 012	94 582	93 944	94 128	93 434	-0,7

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

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 1/
Jan	76 563	80 761	83 365	86 848	85 323	95 475	101 739
Feb	77 531	82 844	85 721	89 787	94 074	96 984	104 075
Mar	80 787	86 554	88 848	94 541	94 600	100 766	107 705
Apr	80 642	82 889	86 890	46 864	89 902	98 502	104 757
May	84 274	88 056	91 735	82 835	98 588	103 440	109 605
Jun	81 758	85 064	89 338	84 599	97 168	99 932	
Jul	82 209	84 912	88 699	82 876	85 576	98 339	
Aug	85 834	89 426	92 908	91 128	93 522	101 447	
Sep	85 115	87 375	90 271	89 814	95 179	101 256	
Oct	85 166	88 532	91 448	91 868	97 010	102 843	
Nov	97 556	102 364	107 939	105 378	111 162	119 744	
Dec	121 498	121 895	124 700	126 378	134 399	142 864	
Total	1 038 933	1 080 672	1 121 865	1 072 916	1 176 503	1 261 592	

1/ Figures for the latest month are preliminary.

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

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 year-to-date
Jan	5,5	3,2	4,2	-1,8	11,9	6,6	6,6
Feb	6,9	3,5	4,7	4,8	3,1	7,3	6,9
Mar	7,1	2,7	6,4	0,1	6,5	6,9	6,9
Apr	2,8	4,8	-46,1	91,8	9,6	6,4	6,8
May	4,5	4,2	-9,7	19,0	4,9	6,0	6,6
Jun	4,0	5,0	-5,3	14,9	2,8		
Jul	3,3	4,5	-6,6	3,3	14,9		
Aug	4,2	3,9	-1,9	2,6	8,5		
Sep	2,7	3,3	-0,5	6,0	6,4		
Oct	4,0	3,3	0,5	5,6	6,0		
Nov	4,9	5,4	-2,4	5,5	7,7		
Dec	0,3	2,3	1,3	6,3	6,3		
Total	4,0	3,8	-4,4	9,7	7,2		

Table 10 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	94 048	92 286	102 850	109 864	0,1	-3,8	1,4	2,0
Feb	94 929	99 988	102 855	110 205	0,9	8,3	0,0	0,3
Mar	96 913	96 917	103 799	110 386	2,1	-3,1	0,9	0,2
Apr	50 499	96 098	104 260	111 366	-47,9	-0,8	0,4	0,9
May	82 998	99 094	104 645	110 857	64,4	3,1	0,4	-0,5
Jun	88 606	101 666	104 337		6,8	2,6	-0,3	
Jul	88 529	91 208	105 114		-0,1	-10,3	0,7	
Aug	93 344	96 696	104 974		5,4	6,0	-0,1	
Sep	93 618	99 216	105 381		0,3	2,6	0,4	
Oct	94 434	99 901	106 153		0,9	0,7	0,7	
Nov	94 801	100 047	107 685		0,4	0,1	1,4	
Dec	95 957	101 477	107 730		1,2	1,4	0,0	

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

Type of retailer	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23 1/
General dealers	62 940	44 525	49 117	51 357	46 591	50 608
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	13 354	9 233	9 099	9 367	9 245	8 739
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	8 231	7 898	7 188	7 839	8 397	7 775
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	30 226	16 780	15 759	15 806	17 795	19 211
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	6 152	4 133	4 257	4 715	4 254	4 090
Hardware, paint and glass	9 251	7 989	8 110	8 463	8 341	8 803
All other retailers	12 710	11 181	10 545	10 157	10 134	10 377
Total	142 864	101 739	104 075	107 705	104 757	109 605

1/ Figures are preliminary.

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

Type of retailer	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23
General dealers	9,5	11,4	9,7	9,8	9,1	6,6
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	6,5	1,2	9,7	2,8	3,0	3,3
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	1,1	3,2	3,4	3,3	4,0	3,4
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	5,8	5,3	9,1	10,0	4,7	13,7
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	1,1	1,1	1,9	1,3	0,3	-4,7
Hardware, paint and glass	1,5	2,1	-0,9	4,8	10,7	-1,6
All other retailers	1,9	2,8	3,9	-0,2	1,7	5,2
Total	6,3	6,6	7,3	6,9	6,4	6,0

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	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23
General dealers	4,1	4,8	4,5	4,5	3,9	3,0
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	0,6	0,1	0,8	0,3	0,3	0,3
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	0,1	0,3	0,2	0,2	0,3	0,2
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	1,2	0,9	1,4	1,4	0,8	2,2
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,0	-0,2
Hardware, paint and glass	0,1	0,2	-0,1	0,4	0,8	-0,1
All other retailers	0,2	0,3	0,4	0,0	0,2	0,5
Total	6,3	6,6	7,3	6,9	6,4	6,0

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

Type of retailer	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Month-on-month % change
General dealers	49 408	50 189	50 398	50 777	51 193	51 081	-0,2
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	9 444	9 612	9 786	9 484	9 578	9 420	-1,6
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	7 713	7 839	7 894	7 915	7 983	7 929	-0,7
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	17 433	18 167	18 274	18 174	18 427	18 777	1,9
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 568	4 617	4 693	4 685	4 646	4 414	-5,0
Hardware, paint and glass	8 804	8 980	8 676	8 952	9 191	8 766	-4,6
All other retailers	10 360	10 460	10 483	10 399	10 348	10 469	1,2
Total	107 730	109 864	110 205	110 386	111 366	110 857	-0,5

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 2022 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 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 May 2023 was 73,6%. The improved collection rate for April 2023 was 77,5%.

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 3 339 enterprises from a population of 21 864 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within ten 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 2022 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 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 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 limit	Upper limit
Very small	4	1 361 310	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 December 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.

- 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 – May 2023

	Lower limit (R million)	Sales (R million)	Upper limit (R million)	Relative standard error (RSE) %
Retail trade sales	107 430	109 605	111 779	1,0

- 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 (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: (012) 337 6488 Email: raquelf@statssa.gov.za
JP Terblanche	Telephone number: (012) 310 2965 Email: juan-pierret@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 11 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.

Stats SA has copyright on this publication. Users may apply the information as they wish, provided that they acknowledge Stats SA as the source of the basic data wherever they process, apply, utilise, publish or distribute the data; and also that they specify that the relevant application and analysis (where applicable) result from their own processing of the data.

Advance release calendar

A release calendar is disseminated on www.statssa.gov.za.

Stats SA products

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

Produced by Stats SA