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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

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Retail trade sales
(Preliminary)

October 2025

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

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IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS

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Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for October 2025

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

	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	4,0	1,7	5,7	2,2	3,0	2,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,7	-0,1	2,3	-1,6	-0,1	0,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1]	0,2	0,6	1,0	1,0	0,9	0,1

[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 2,9% year-on-year in October 2025. The largest positive contributors to this increase were:
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (5,8% and contributing 1,0 percentage point);
- all 'other' retailers (7,2% and contributing 0,7 of a percentage point);
- retailers in household furniture, appliances and equipment (13,0% and contributing 0,5 of a percentage point); and
- retailers in hardware, paint and glass (5,8% and contributing 0,5 of a percentage point) – see Table 5 and Table 6.

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales increased by 0,9% in October 2025 compared with September 2025. This followed month-on-month changes of -0,1% in September 2025 and -1,6% in August 2025.

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

Type of retailer	Aug – Oct 2024 (R million)	Weight (%)	Aug – Oct 2025 (R million)	% change between Aug – Oct 2024 and Aug – Oct 2025	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	128 600	45,5	130 016	1,1	0,5
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	25 381	9,0	24 901	-1,9	-0,2
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	21 267	7,5	22 074	3,8	0,3
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	44 300	15,7	45 962	3,8	0,6
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	11 744	4,2	12 961	10,4	0,4
Hardware, paint and glass	22 373	7,9	23 713	6,0	0,5
All other retailers	28 719	10,2	30 395	5,8	0,6
Total	**282 384**	**100,0**	**290 022**	**2,7**	**2,7**

Retail trade sales increased by 2,7% in the months ended October 2025 compared with the three months ended October 2024. The largest positive contributors to this increase were:
- all 'other' retailers (5,8% and contributing 0,6 of a percentage point);
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (3,8% and contributing 0,6 of a percentage point);
- retailers in hardware, paint and glass (6,0% and contributing 0,5 of a percentage point); and
- general dealers (1,1% and contributing 0,5 of a percentage point).

The only negative contributor was retailers in food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores (-1,9% and contributing -0,2 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	May – Jul 2025 (R million)	Weight (%)	Aug – Oct 2025 (R million)	% change between May – Jul 2025 and Aug – Oct 2025	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	132 891	43,7	133 813	0,7	0,3
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	25 367	8,3	25 475	0,4	0,0
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	21 955	7,2	22 274	1,5	0,1
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	54 762	18,0	53 352	-2,6	-0,5
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	12 992	4,3	13 596	4,6	0,2
Hardware, paint and glass	23 358	7,7	22 796	-2,4	-0,2
All other retailers	32 545	10,7	32 829	0,9	0,1
Total	**303 869**	**100,0**	**304 136**	**0,1**	**0,1**

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales increased by 0,1% in the three months ended October 2025 compared with the previous three months. The largest positive contributor was general dealers (0,7% and contributing 0,3 of a percentage point).

The largest negative contributor was retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (-2,6% and contributing -0,5 of a percentage point) – see Table C.
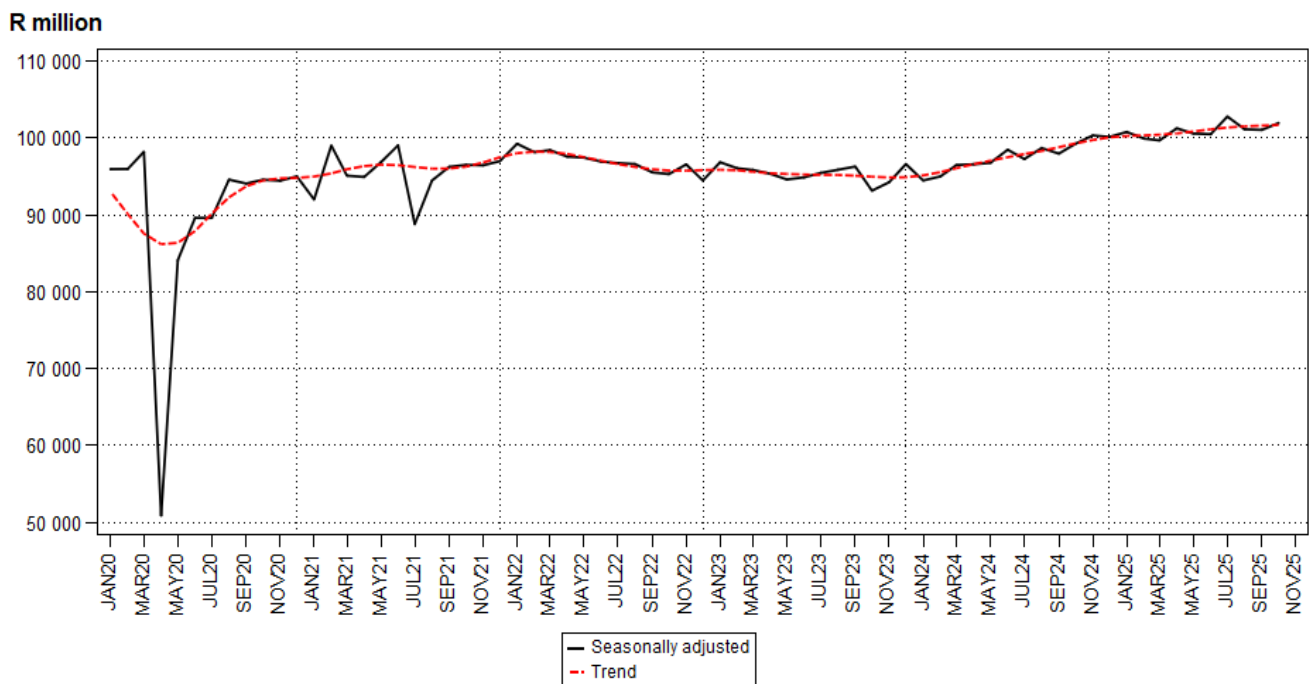
Figure 1 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices

Figure 2 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices: year-on-year percentage change
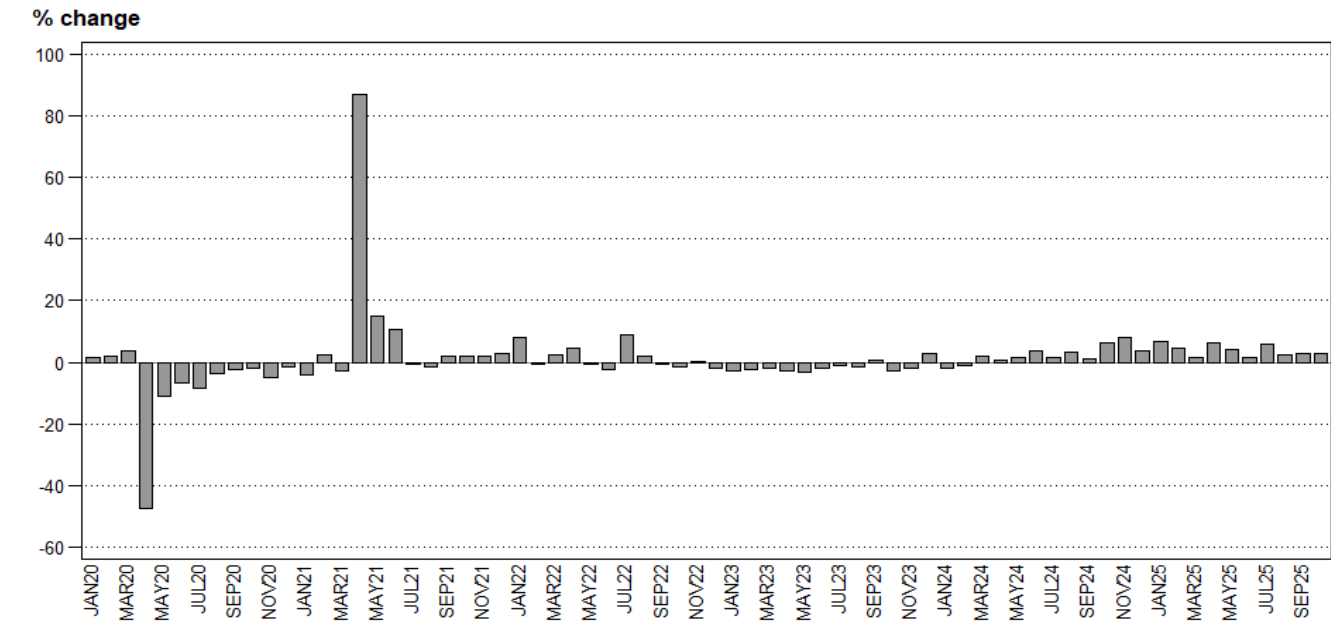
Sales at current prices: results for October 2025

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

	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	6,0	4,0	8,0	4,7	5,2	4,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,4	0,3	2,3	-1,4	0,1	0,6
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted [1]	0,6	1,3	1,8	1,8	1,5	0,5

[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	Aug – Oct 2024 (R million)	Weight (%)	Aug – Oct 2025 (R million)	% change between Aug – Oct 2024 and Aug – Oct 2025	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	171 779	48,9	178 527	3,9	1,9
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	33 402	9,5	35 733	7,0	0,7
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	27 843	7,9	29 954	7,6	0,6
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	48 529	13,8	50 734	4,5	0,6
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	11 677	3,3	12 369	5,9	0,2
Hardware, paint and glass	27 504	7,8	29 156	6,0	0,5
All other retailers	30 678	8,7	31 916	4,0	0,3
Total	**351 409**	**100,0**	**368 388**	**4,8**	**4,8**

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

Type of retailer	May – Jul 2025 (R million)	Weight (%)	Aug – Oct 2025 (R million)	% change between May – Jul 2025 and Aug – Oct 2025	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	181 296	47,4	183 225	1,1	0,5
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	35 809	9,4	36 697	2,5	0,2
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	29 474	7,7	30 104	2,1	0,2
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	60 502	15,8	58 940	-2,6	-0,4
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	12 574	3,3	12 991	3,3	0,1
Hardware, paint and glass	28 777	7,5	28 068	-2,5	-0,2
All other retailers	34 242	8,9	34 429	0,5	0,0
Total	**382 675**	**100,0**	**384 454**	**0,5**	**0,5**

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	96 004
Sep	92 524	90 259	92 170	91 462	92 094	93 149	95 934
Oct	93 815	91 867	93 589	92 181	89 542	95 283	98 084
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	2,2	*4,0*
Sep	-2,4	2,1	-0,8	0,7	1,1	3,0	*3,9*
Oct	-2,1	1,9	-1,5	-2,9	6,4	2,9	*3,8*
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	99 252	96 848	94 472	100 791	2,3	2,5	-2,2	0,6
Feb	98 156	96 056	94 995	99 926	-1,1	-0,8	0,6	-0,9
Mar	98 424	95 840	96 485	99 689	0,3	-0,2	1,6	-0,2
Apr	97 575	95 344	96 584	101 263	-0,9	-0,5	0,1	1,6
May	97 447	94 602	96 769	100 578	-0,1	-0,8	0,2	-0,7
Jun	96 933	94 881	98 474	100 496	-0,5	0,3	1,8	-0,1
Jul	96 735	95 456	97 262	102 795	-0,2	0,6	-1,2	2,3
Aug	96 610	95 866	98 694	101 136	-0,1	0,4	1,5	-1,6
Sep	95 525	96 286	97 964	101 056	-1,1	0,4	-0,7	-0,1
Oct	95 303	93 140	99 259	101 944	-0,2	-3,3	1,3	0,9
Nov	96 562	94 252	100 334		1,3	1,2	1,1	
Dec	94 472	96 605	100 144		-2,2	2,5	-0,2	

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

Type of retailer	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25
General dealers	42 477	43 861	40 003	42 835	45 145	42 036
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	8 222	7 556	8 293	8 105	8 182	8 614
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	7 304	6 969	7 663	7 286	7 011	7 777
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	18 607	16 122	17 215	15 036	14 415	16 511
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	3 973	3 943	4 202	4 267	4 155	4 539
Hardware, paint and glass	7 668	7 432	8 033	8 104	7 521	8 088
All other retailers	10 523	9 870	10 736	10 371	9 505	10 519
Total	**98 774**	**95 753**	**96 145**	**96 004**	**95 934**	**98 084**

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

Type of retailer	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25
General dealers	2,1	0,9	3,3	0,7	1,8	0,7
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	-0,5	-6,8	-1,4	-3,7	1,0	-2,8
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	2,1	3,8	-0,1	5,2	4,0	2,4
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	14,0	1,9	9,9	1,0	4,4	5,8
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	13,5	9,6	9,3	6,7	11,4	13,0
Hardware, paint and glass	-0,9	7,8	13,3	8,2	3,9	5,8
All other retailers	1,3	3,1	12,1	6,9	3,3	7,2
Total	**4,0**	**1,7**	**5,7**	**2,2**	**3,0**	**2,9**

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

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

Type of retailer	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Month-on-month % change
General dealers	44 092	44 196	44 603	44 354	44 702	44 757	0,1
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	8 642	8 198	8 527	8 547	8 500	8 428	-0,8
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	7 326	7 344	7 285	7 447	7 392	7 435	0,6
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	18 099	18 034	18 629	17 608	17 708	18 036	1,9
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 329	4 297	4 366	4 469	4 522	4 605	1,8
Hardware, paint and glass	7 533	7 806	8 019	7 726	7 417	7 653	3,2
All other retailers	10 558	10 621	11 366	10 984	10 815	11 030	2,0
Total	**100 578**	**100 496**	**102 795**	**101 136**	**101 056**	**101 944**	**0,9**

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	121 981
Sep	93 080	92 609	98 142	104 517	111 357	116 244	122 318
Oct	94 294	94 727	100 030	105 715	108 766	118 648	124 089
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	4,7	*6,0*
Sep	-0,5	6,0	6,5	6,5	4,4	5,2	*5,9*
Oct	0,5	5,6	5,7	2,9	9,1	4,6	*5,8*
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	107 080	112 852	115 955	125 714	2,7	3,1	-2,1	0,7
Feb	106 448	112 958	117 192	124 764	-0,6	0,1	1,1	-0,8
Mar	106 773	113 639	118 919	124 423	0,3	0,6	1,5	-0,3
Apr	106 957	113 292	118 864	126 786	0,2	-0,3	0,0	1,9
May	107 657	112 720	119 189	126 327	0,7	-0,5	0,3	-0,4
Jun	108 165	113 392	121 570	126 719	0,5	0,6	2,0	0,3
Jul	108 210	114 155	120 080	129 629	0,0	0,7	-1,2	2,3
Aug	108 901	114 558	121 742	127 824	0,6	0,4	1,4	-1,4
Sep	108 733	115 830	121 457	127 911	-0,2	1,1	-0,2	0,1
Oct	109 161	112 921	123 347	128 719	0,4	-2,5	1,6	0,6
Nov	110 834	114 449	123 895		1,5	1,4	0,4	
Dec	109 493	118 476	124 779		-1,2	3,5	0,7	

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

Type of retailer	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25
General dealers	57 874	60 014	54 902	58 837	61 978	57 712
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	11 472	10 688	11 932	11 651	11 737	12 345
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	9 827	9 400	10 348	9 872	9 510	10 572
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	20 556	17 828	19 035	16 624	15 906	18 204
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	3 883	3 832	4 035	4 082	3 978	4 309
Hardware, paint and glass	9 495	9 164	9 903	9 986	9 245	9 925
All other retailers	11 126	10 397	11 295	10 928	9 965	11 023
Total	**124 232**	**121 322**	**121 450**	**121 981**	**122 318**	**124 089**

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

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

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

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

Type of retailer	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Month-on-month % change
General dealers	59 973	60 343	60 980	60 739	61 191	61 295	0,2
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	11 987	11 609	12 213	12 287	12 316	12 094	-1,8
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	9 799	9 862	9 813	9 964	10 044	10 096	0,5
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	19 962	19 912	20 628	19 479	19 568	19 893	1,7
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 212	4 172	4 190	4 281	4 330	4 380	1,2
Hardware, paint and glass	9 254	9 630	9 893	9 524	9 124	9 420	3,2
All other retailers	11 141	11 191	11 910	11 551	11 337	11 541	1,8
Total	**126 327**	**126 719**	**129 629**	**127 824**	**127 911**	**128 719**	**0,6**

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** 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	**4**	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	**5**	The preliminary collection rate for the survey on retail trade sales for October 2025 was 70,0%. The revised collection rate for September 2025 was 77,2%.

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
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
Aug-26	Additional information from respondents	Jul-26
Sep-26	Additional information from respondents	Aug-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:

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

Neyman allocation formula not only allocates sample sizes to each stratum, but also calculates the relative precision for each stratum as well as the relative precision for all strata. The relative precision for these strata did not exceed 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 – October 2025

	Lower limit (R million)	Sales (R million)	Upper limit (R million)	Relative standard error (RSE) (%)
Retail trade sales	120 859	124 089	127 319	1,3

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 *System of National Accounts* (SNA) in the same way as in the *Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities* (SIC)*, Fifth Edition,* Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993.

Retail trade   Retail trade includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to the general public for household use.

Retailer   A retailer is an enterprise deriving more than 50% of its turnover from sales of goods to the general public for household use.

Symbols and   CPI   Consumer price index
abbreviations   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

Technical enquiries

Raquel Floris   Telephone number: (012) 337 6488 / 066 470 2121
                          Email: raquelf@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 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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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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