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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)

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Kurt Roach
Tel: 063 651 3540

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Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for September 2024

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

	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	0,5	1,7	4,0	1,7	3,3	0,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,5	0,2	1,1	-0,2	0,6	-0,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	0,3	0,7	1,5	1,4	1,4	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 increased by 0,9% year-on-year in September 2024. The largest positive contributor to this increase was general dealers (4,5% and contributing 2,1 percentage points) and the largest negative contributor was retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (-5,5% and contributing -0,9 of a percentage point) – see Table 5 and Table 6.

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales decreased by 0,8% in September 2024 compared with August 2024. This followed month-on-month changes of 0,6% in August 2024 and -0,2% in July 2024.

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

Type of retailer	Jul – Sep 2023 (R million)	Weight (%)	Jul – Sep 2024 (R million)	% change between Jul – Sep 2023 and Jul – Sep 2024	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	120 564	44,5	125 775	4,3	1,9
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	21 374	7,9	21 565	0,9	0,1
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	21 159	7,8	21 534	1,8	0,1
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	44 703	16,5	44 342	-0,8	-0,1
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	11 360	4,2	12 686	11,7	0,5
Hardware, paint and glass	23 091	8,5	21 930	-5,0	-0,4
All other retailers	28 691	10,6	28 411	-1,0	-0,1
Total	270 942	100,0	276 243	2,0	2,0

Retail trade sales increased by 2,0% in the third quarter of 2024 compared with the third quarter of 2023. The largest contributor to this increase was general dealers (4,3% and contributing 1,9 percentage points) – 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	Apr – Jun 2024 (R million)	Weight (%)	Jul – Sep 2024 (R million)	% change between Apr – Jun 2024 and Jul – Sep 2024	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	128 665	44,6	130 142	1,1	0,5
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	22 513	7,8	22 508	0,0	0,0
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	21 799	7,5	21 630	-0,8	-0,1
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	49 549	17,2	50 574	2,1	0,4
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	12 618	4,4	13 385	6,1	0,3
Hardware, paint and glass	22 622	7,8	21 493	-5,0	-0,4
All other retailers	30 987	10,7	31 029	0,1	0,0
Total	288 753	100,0	290 762	0,7	0,7

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales increased by 0,7% in the third quarter of 2024 compared with the second quarter of 2024. The largest positive contributors to the increase were general dealers (1,1% and contributing 0,5 of a percentage point) and retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (2,1% and contributing 0,4 of a percentage point). The largest negative contributor was retailers in hardware, paint and glass (-5,0% and contributing -0,4 of a percentage point) – see Table C.

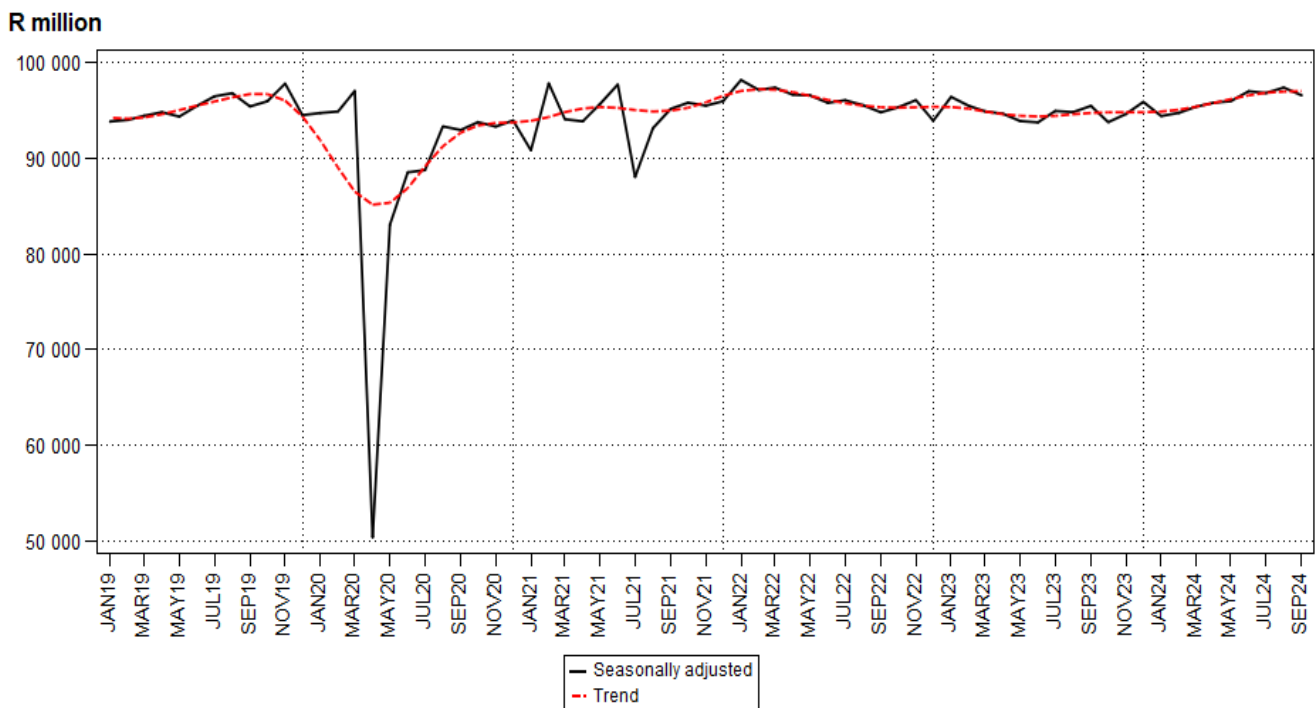
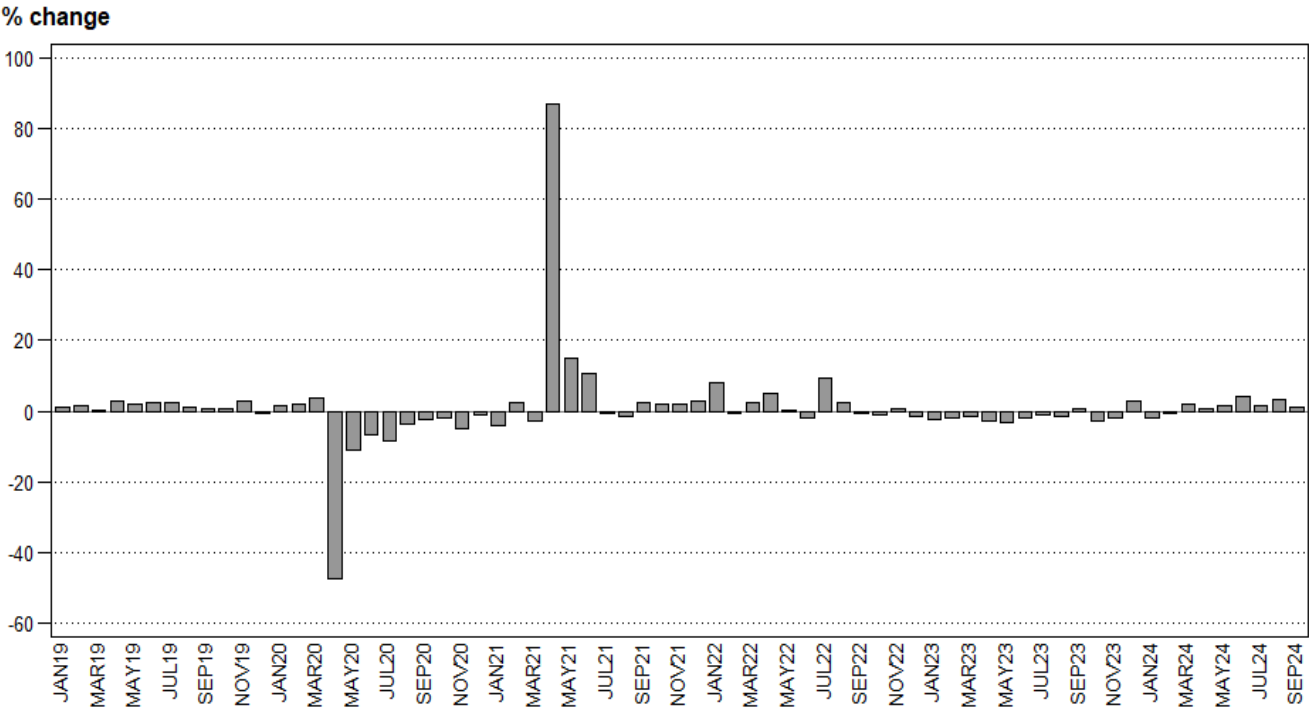
Figure 1 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices

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



Sales at current prices: results for September 2024

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

	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	4,0	5,1	7,5	4,9	6,4	4,1
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,9	-0,1	1,8	-0,2	0,6	-0,1
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted ¹	1,1	1,5	2,5	2,0	2,2	1,4

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	Jul – Sep 2023 (R million)	Weight (%)	Jul – Sep 2024 (R million)	% change between Jul – Sep 2023 and Jul – Sep 2024	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	153 780	47,4	167 268	8,8	4,2
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	27 157	8,4	28 171	3,7	0,3
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	26 272	8,1	28 101	7,0	0,6
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	47 126	14,5	47 227	0,2	0,0
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	11 489	3,5	12 466	8,5	0,3
Hardware, paint and glass	27 883	8,6	26 993	-3,2	-0,3
All other retailers	30 496	9,4	30 578	0,3	0,0
Total	324 202	100,0	340 805	5,1	5,1

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

Type of retailer	Apr – Jun 2024 (R million)	Weight (%)	Jul – Sep 2024 (R million)	% change between Apr – Jun 2024 and Jul – Sep 2024	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	170 046	48,0	173 590	2,1	1,0
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	29 294	8,3	29 574	1,0	0,1
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	28 167	8,0	28 160	0,0	0,0
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	52 996	15,0	54 577	3,0	0,5
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	12 554	3,5	13 187	5,0	0,2
Hardware, paint and glass	27 579	7,8	26 439	-4,1	-0,3
All other retailers	33 334	9,4	33 288	-0,1	0,0
Total	353 970	100,0	358 812	1,4	1,4


Risenga Maluleke
 Statistician-General

Tables

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

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	85 060	86 114	87 331	83 922	90 666	88 692	86 898
Feb	87 017	88 268	89 985	92 172	91 532	89 755	89 078
Mar	90 903	91 106	94 450	91 959	94 377	92 939	94 868
Apr	86 554	88 969	46 619	87 209	91 380	89 027	89 465
May	91 781	93 561	83 055	95 523	95 758	92 796	94 364
Jun	88 646	90 965	84 677	93 655	91 883	90 163	93 793
Jul	88 370	90 314	82 816	82 354	89 971	89 080	90 563
Aug	93 142	94 316	90 730	89 583	91 623	90 362	93 348
Sep	90 880	91 434	89 216	91 150	90 769	91 500	92 332
Oct	92 027	92 712	90 816	92 565	91 504	89 092	
Nov	106 130	109 184	103 927	106 152	106 831	104 957	
Dec	126 416	126 145	124 589	128 372	126 545	130 320	
Total	1 126 926	1 143 088	1 068 211	1 134 616	1 152 839	1 138 683	

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

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 year-to-date
Jan	1,2	1,4	-3,9	8,0	-2,2	-2,0	-2,0
Feb	1,4	1,9	2,4	-0,7	-1,9	-0,8	-1,4
Mar	0,2	3,7	-2,6	2,6	-1,5	2,1	-0,2
Apr	2,8	-47,6	87,1	4,8	-2,6	0,5	0,0
May	1,9	-11,2	15,0	0,2	-3,1	1,7	0,3
Jun	2,6	-6,9	10,6	-1,9	-1,9	4,0	0,9
Jul	2,2	-8,3	-0,6	9,2	-1,0	1,7	1,0
Aug	1,3	-3,8	-1,3	2,3	-1,4	3,3	1,3
Sep	0,6	-2,4	2,2	-0,4	0,8	0,9	1,3
Oct	0,7	-2,0	1,9	-1,1	-2,6		
Nov	2,9	-4,8	2,1	0,6	-1,8		
Dec	-0,2	-1,2	3,0	-1,4	3,0		
Total	1,4	-6,6	6,2	1,6	-1,2		

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

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	90 818	98 170	96 407	94 401	-3,3	2,3	2,7	-1,5
Feb	97 818	97 134	95 465	94 739	7,7	-1,1	-1,0	0,4
Mar	94 070	97 377	94 892	95 363	-3,8	0,3	-0,6	0,7
Apr	93 844	96 633	94 643	95 798	-0,2	-0,8	-0,3	0,5
May	95 659	96 562	93 878	95 957	1,9	-0,1	-0,8	0,2
Jun	97 707	95 782	93 741	96 998	2,1	-0,8	-0,1	1,1
Jul	88 020	96 054	94 933	96 812	-9,9	0,3	1,3	-0,2
Aug	93 132	95 537	94 811	97 380	5,8	-0,5	-0,1	0,6
Sep	95 155	94 792	95 462	96 570	2,2	-0,8	0,7	-0,8
Oct	95 798	95 315	93 762		0,7	0,6	-1,8	
Nov	95 487	96 068	94 619		-0,3	0,8	0,9	
Dec	95 960	93 910	95 883		0,5	-2,2	1,3	

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

Type of retailer	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
General dealers	38 570	41 650	43 531	38 848	42 651	44 276
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	7 043	7 121	7 018	7 259	7 270	7 036
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	7 807	7 225	6 782	7 760	6 989	6 785
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	15 427	16 216	15 883	15 759	14 753	13 830
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	3 668	3 883	3 996	4 259	4 216	4 211
Hardware, paint and glass	7 105	7 828	6 907	7 130	7 540	7 260
All other retailers	9 845	10 441	9 676	9 548	9 929	8 934
Total	89 465	94 364	93 793	90 563	93 348	92 332

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

Type of retailer	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
General dealers	1,2	2,5	5,7	3,9	4,5	4,5
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	-1,1	5,9	0,4	-0,1	5,7	-2,7
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	3,2	3,0	0,1	3,9	1,1	0,1
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	1,4	-3,0	8,7	0,0	3,1	-5,5
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	1,8	6,5	6,3	9,0	11,6	14,6
Hardware, paint and glass	-3,5	2,4	-1,4	-5,2	-3,9	-6,0
All other retailers	-1,9	0,4	-1,7	-2,3	1,1	-1,8
Total	0,5	1,7	4,0	1,7	3,3	0,9

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	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
General dealers	0,5	1,1	2,6	1,6	2,0	2,1
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	-0,1	0,4	0,0	0,0	0,4	-0,2
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	0,3	0,2	0,0	0,3	0,1	0,0
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	0,2	-0,5	1,4	0,0	0,5	-0,9
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	0,1	0,3	0,3	0,4	0,5	0,6
Hardware, paint and glass	-0,3	0,2	-0,1	-0,4	-0,3	-0,5
All other retailers	-0,2	0,0	-0,2	-0,3	0,1	-0,2
Total	0,5	1,7	4,0	1,7	3,3	0,9

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

Type of retailer	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Month-on-month % change
General dealers	42 664	42 653	43 348	43 176	43 377	43 589	0,5
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	7 444	7 526	7 543	7 432	7 711	7 365	-4,5
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	7 371	7 273	7 155	7 310	7 171	7 149	-0,3
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	16 319	16 218	17 012	17 021	16 940	16 613	-1,9
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 104	4 219	4 295	4 391	4 449	4 545	2,2
Hardware, paint and glass	7 622	7 644	7 356	7 177	7 202	7 114	-1,2
All other retailers	10 275	10 423	10 289	10 305	10 529	10 195	-3,2
Total	95 798	95 957	96 998	96 812	97 380	96 570	-0,8

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

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	82 290	84 941	88 492	86 936	97 282	102 223	105 380
Feb	84 412	87 343	91 485	95 854	98 818	104 805	108 823
Mar	88 192	90 529	96 329	96 390	102 673	109 718	116 358
Apr	84 456	88 534	47 750	91 603	99 738	105 374	109 625
May	89 722	93 470	84 403	100 453	105 597	110 094	115 672
Jun	86 673	91 029	86 199	99 007	102 251	107 424	115 472
Jul	86 518	90 377	84 443	87 194	100 578	106 033	111 232
Aug	91 118	94 666	92 852	95 292	103 567	108 130	115 075
Sep	89 028	91 979	91 513	96 980	103 280	110 039	114 498
Oct	90 206	93 178	93 606	98 846	104 464	107 479	
Nov	104 301	109 981	107 372	113 265	121 882	126 583	
Dec	124 201	127 060	128 769	136 942	144 283	156 372	
Total	1 101 117	1 143 090	1 093 213	1 198 762	1 284 413	1 354 274	

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

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 year-to-date
Jan	3,2	4,2	-1,8	11,9	5,1	3,1	3,1
Feb	3,5	4,7	4,8	3,1	6,1	3,8	3,5
Mar	2,6	6,4	0,1	6,5	6,9	6,1	4,4
Apr	4,8	-46,1	91,8	8,9	5,7	4,0	4,3
May	4,2	-9,7	19,0	5,1	4,3	5,1	4,4
Jun	5,0	-5,3	14,9	3,3	5,1	7,5	5,0
Jul	4,5	-6,6	3,3	15,3	5,4	4,9	4,9
Aug	3,9	-1,9	2,6	8,7	4,4	6,4	5,1
Sep	3,3	-0,5	6,0	6,5	6,5	4,1	5,0
Oct	3,3	0,5	5,6	5,7	2,9		
Nov	5,4	-2,4	5,5	7,6	3,9		
Dec	2,3	1,3	6,3	5,4	8,4		
Total	3,8	-4,4	9,7	7,1	5,4		

Table 10 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan	94 288	105 206	110 815	113 958	-3,3	2,0	2,7	-2,3
Feb	101 994	104 931	111 196	115 188	8,2	-0,3	0,3	1,1
Mar	98 559	105 102	111 514	116 266	-3,4	0,2	0,3	0,9
Apr	98 007	105 579	111 891	117 309	-0,6	0,5	0,3	0,9
May	100 324	106 240	111 078	117 246	2,4	0,6	-0,7	-0,1
Jun	103 474	106 610	111 516	119 415	3,1	0,3	0,4	1,8
Jul	92 433	107 094	113 027	119 154	-10,7	0,5	1,4	-0,2
Aug	98 819	107 702	113 160	119 903	6,9	0,6	0,1	0,6
Sep	101 225	107 725	114 717	119 755	2,4	0,0	1,4	-0,1
Oct	102 293	108 711	113 041		1,1	0,9	-1,5	
Nov	102 421	110 283	114 505		0,1	1,4	1,3	
Dec	103 109	107 922	116 621		0,7	-2,1	1,8	

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

Type of retailer	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
General dealers	50 852	55 016	57 687	51 570	56 681	59 017
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	9 201	9 312	9 169	9 461	9 488	9 222
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	10 130	9 382	8 838	10 117	9 114	8 870
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	16 436	17 268	16 921	16 798	15 703	14 726
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	3 675	3 862	3 971	4 222	4 128	4 116
Hardware, paint and glass	8 703	9 579	8 468	8 765	9 285	8 943
All other retailers	10 628	11 254	10 417	10 299	10 675	9 604
Total	109 625	115 672	115 472	111 232	115 075	114 498

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

Type of retailer	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
General dealers	6,1	7,2	10,5	8,4	9,0	8,9
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	1,3	9,0	3,2	2,5	8,8	0,2
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	10,5	8,9	5,3	9,4	6,1	5,1
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	2,6	-2,0	10,3	1,3	4,1	-4,7
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	-0,4	4,4	5,7	6,7	8,1	10,8
Hardware, paint and glass	-2,1	3,4	0,6	-3,4	-2,0	-4,2
All other retailers	0,1	2,3	0,1	-0,5	2,3	-1,1
Total	4,0	5,1	7,5	4,9	6,4	4,1

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	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
General dealers	2,8	3,4	5,1	3,8	4,3	4,4
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	0,1	0,7	0,3	0,2	0,7	0,0
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	0,9	0,7	0,4	0,8	0,5	0,4
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	0,4	-0,3	1,5	0,2	0,6	-0,7
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	0,0	0,1	0,2	0,2	0,3	0,4
Hardware, paint and glass	-0,2	0,3	0,0	-0,3	-0,2	-0,4
All other retailers	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,0	0,2	-0,1
Total	4,0	5,1	7,5	4,9	6,4	4,1

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

Type of retailer	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Month-on-month % change
General dealers	56 347	56 279	57 420	57 396	57 838	58 356	0,9
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	9 585	9 827	9 882	9 741	10 108	9 725	-3,8
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	9 489	9 392	9 286	9 494	9 294	9 372	0,8
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	17 514	17 025	18 457	18 257	18 191	18 129	-0,3
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 088	4 189	4 277	4 347	4 375	4 465	2,1
Hardware, paint and glass	9 245	9 313	9 021	8 819	8 856	8 764	-1,0
All other retailers	11 040	11 222	11 072	11 101	11 242	10 945	-2,6
Total	117 309	117 246	119 415	119 154	119 903	119 755	-0,1

Explanatory notes

Introduction	1	Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey of the retail trade industry, covering retail enterprises (see point 3 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from Stats SA's 2024 statistical business register (SBR) that contains businesses registered for value-added tax (VAT). Published retail trade sales estimates include VAT.
Purpose of the survey	2	The results of the monthly retail trade sales survey are used to compile estimates of the gross domestic product (GDP) and its components, which are used in monitoring the state of the economy and formulation of economic policy. These statistics are also used in the analysis of comparative business and industry performance.
Scope of the survey	3	<p>This survey covers retail enterprises according to the following types of retailers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general dealers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ retail trade in non-specialised stores with food, beverages and tobacco predominating; and ➢ 'other' retail trade in non-specialised stores. • retailers in food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ retailers in fresh fruit and vegetables; ➢ retailers in meat and meat products; ➢ retailers in bakery products; ➢ retailers in beverages; ➢ retailers in tobacco; and ➢ retailers in 'other' food in specialised stores. • retailers in pharmaceutical and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries; • retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ retailers in men's and boys' clothing; ➢ retailers in ladies', girls' and infants' clothing; ➢ general outfitters; and ➢ retailers in footwear. • retailers in household furniture, appliances and equipment; • retailers in hardware, paint and glass; and • all 'other' retailers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ retailers in reading matter and stationery; ➢ retailers in jewellery, watches and clocks; ➢ retailers in sport goods and entertainment requisites; ➢ retailers in 'other' specialised stores; ➢ repair of personal and household goods; ➢ retail trade in second-hand goods in stores; and ➢ retail trade not in stores.
Classification	4	The 1993 edition of the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities</i> (SIC), Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities</i> (ISIC) with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Each enterprise is classified to the industry which reflects its predominant activity. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC group (four digit) level.
Collection rate	5	The preliminary collection rate for the survey on retail trade sales for September 2024 was 66,2%. The revised collection rate for August 2024 was 67,3%.

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
Sep-24	Additional information from respondents	Aug-24
Oct-24	Additional information from respondents	Sep-24
Nov-24	Additional information from respondents	Oct-24
Dec-24	Additional information from respondents	Nov-24
Jan-25	Additional information from respondents	Dec-24
Feb-25	Additional information from respondents	Jan-25
Mar-25	Additional information from respondents	Feb-25
Apr-25	Additional information from respondents	Mar-25
May-25	Additional information from respondents	Apr-25
Jun-25	Additional information from respondents	May-25
Jul-25	Additional information from respondents New sample	Jan-02–Jun-25
Aug-25	Additional information from respondents	Jul-25
New weights for retail deflators in 2025/26 - periodic, approximately four- to five-year intervals		
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 1 891 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. 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 2024 from Stats SA's statistical business register (SBR). Strata were formed using a combination of the Standard Industrial Classification and the measure of size classes for enterprises (see point three below).

The Neyman optimal allocation formula given below was used to allocate samples to each stratum:

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

Neyman allocation formula not only allocates sample sizes to each stratum, but also calculates the relative precision for each stratum as well as the relative precision for all strata. The relative precision for these strata did not exceed 6,0%.

Class limits

- 3 The retail sampling frame is divided into four size groups. All large and medium enterprises (size groups one and two) are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to size groups three and four (small and very small) enterprises. The total value of sales of the large and medium enterprises (size groups one and two) is added to the weighted totals of size groups 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	2 585 291	10 000 000
Small	3	10 000 001	47 500 000
Medium	2	47 000 001	97 500 000
Large	1	97 500 001	

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 – September 2024**
- | | Lower limit
(R million) | Sales
(R million) | Upper limit
(R million) | Relative
standard error
(RSE) |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Retail trade sales | 111 933 | 114 498 | 117 063 | 1,1 |
- Month-on-month percentage change**
- 12** The month-on-month percentage change in a variable for any given month is the change between that month and the previous month, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
- Year-on-year percentage change**
- 13** The year-on-year percentage change in a variable for any given period is the change between that period and the corresponding period of the previous year, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
- Contribution (percentage points)**
- 14** The contribution (percentage points) to the year-on-year percentage change for any given period is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of retailer by its corresponding weight, divided by 100. The weight is the percentage contribution of each type of retailer to total retail trade sales in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Glossary

Enterprise	An enterprise is a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.	
Industry	An industry is made up of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the <i>System of National Accounts</i> (SNA) in the same way as in the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities</i> (SIC), Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993.	
Retail trade	Retail trade includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to the general public for household use.	
Retailer	A retailer is an enterprise deriving more than 50% of its turnover from sales of goods to the general public for household use.	
Symbols and abbreviations	CPI	Consumer price index
	GDP	Gross domestic product
	ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
	SARS	South African Revenue Service
	SBR	Statistical Business Register
	SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities
	SNA	System of National Accounts
	Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
	VAT	Value-added tax
	*	Revised figures

Technical enquiries

Kagisho Mathabatha	Telephone number: (012) 310 2153 / 076 512 1323 Email: kagishoma@statssa.gov.za
Kurt Roach	Telephone number: (012) 310 8211 / 063 651 3540 Email: kurtr@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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A release calendar is disseminated on www.statssa.gov.za.

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Stats SA also provides a subscription service.

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A large range of data is available via online services. For more details 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

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