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# **Retail trade sales (Preliminary)**

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## Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for September 2025

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

|  | Apr-25 | May-25 | Jun-25 | Jul-25 | Aug-25 | Sep-25 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Year-on-year % change, unadjusted                  | 6,2    | 4,0    | 1,7    | 5,7    | 2,2    | 3,1    |
| Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted       | 1,6    | -0,7   | -0,1   | 2,3    | -1,6   | 0,0    |
| 3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup> | -0,1   | 0,2    | 0,6    | 1,0    | 1,0    | 0,9    |

<sup>1</sup> 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 3,1% year-on-year in September 2025. The largest contributors to this increase were:

- general dealers (1,9% and contributing 0,9 of a percentage point);
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (4,4% and contributing 0,7 of a percentage point); and
- retailers in household furniture, appliances and equipment (11,4% and contributing 0,5 of a percentage point) – see Table 5 and Table 6.

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales was flat in September 2025 compared with August 2025. This followed month-on-month changes of -1,6% in August 2025 and 2,3% in July 2025.

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

| Type of retailer  | Jul – Sep<br>2024<br>(R million) | Weight<br>(%) | Jul – Sep<br>2025<br>(R million) | % change<br>between<br>Jul – Sep<br>2024<br>and<br>Jul – Sep<br>2025 | Contribution<br>(% points) to<br>the total %<br>change |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| General dealers   | 125 593                          | 45,2          | 128 007                          | 1,9  | 0,9  |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 24 929                           | 9,0           | 24 580                           | -1,4   | -0,1   |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 21 340                           | 7,7           | 21 960                           | 2,9  | 0,2  |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 44 352                           | 15,9          | 46 667                           | 5,2  | 0,8  |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 11 571                           | 4,2           | 12 624                           | 9,1  | 0,4  |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | 21 821                           | 7,8           | 23 658                           | 8,4  | 0,7  |
| All other retailers   | 28 483                           | 10,2          | 30 644                           | 7,6  | 0,8  |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>278 089</b>                   | <b>100,0</b>  | <b>288 140</b>                   | <b>3,6</b>   | <b>3,6</b>   |

Retail trade sales increased by 3,6% in the third quarter of 2025 compared with the third quarter of 2024. The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

- general dealers (1,9% and contributing 0,9 of a percentage point);
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (5,2% and contributing 0,8 of a percentage point);
- all 'other' retailers (7,6% and contributing 0,8 of a percentage point); and
- retailers in hardware, paint and glass (8,4% and contributing 0,7 of a percentage point) – see Table B.

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

| Type of retailer  | Apr – Jun 2025<br>(R million) | Weight (%)   | Jul – Sep 2025<br>(R million) | % change between Apr – Jun 2025 and Jul – Sep 2025 | Contribution (% points) to the total % change |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| General dealers   | 132 536                       | 43,8         | 133 818                       | 1,0  | 0,4   |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 25 443                        | 8,4          | 25 608                        | 0,6  | 0,1   |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 21 920                        | 7,3          | 22 105                        | 0,8  | 0,1   |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 54 221                        | 17,9         | 53 919                        | -0,6   | -0,1  |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 12 935                        | 4,3          | 13 313                        | 2,9  | 0,1   |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | 22 811                        | 7,5          | 23 157                        | 1,5  | 0,1   |
| All other retailers   | 32 432                        | 10,7         | 33 082                        | 2,0  | 0,2   |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>302 299</b>                | <b>100,0</b> | <b>305 002</b>                | <b>0,9</b>   | <b>0,9</b>                                    |

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales increased by 0,9% in the third quarter of 2025 compared with the second quarter of 2025. The largest positive contributors were:

- general dealers (1,0% and contributing 0,4 of a percentage point); and
- all 'other' retailers (2,0% and contributing 0,2 of a percentage point).

The only negative contributor was retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (-0,6% and contributing -0,1 of a percentage point) – see Table C.

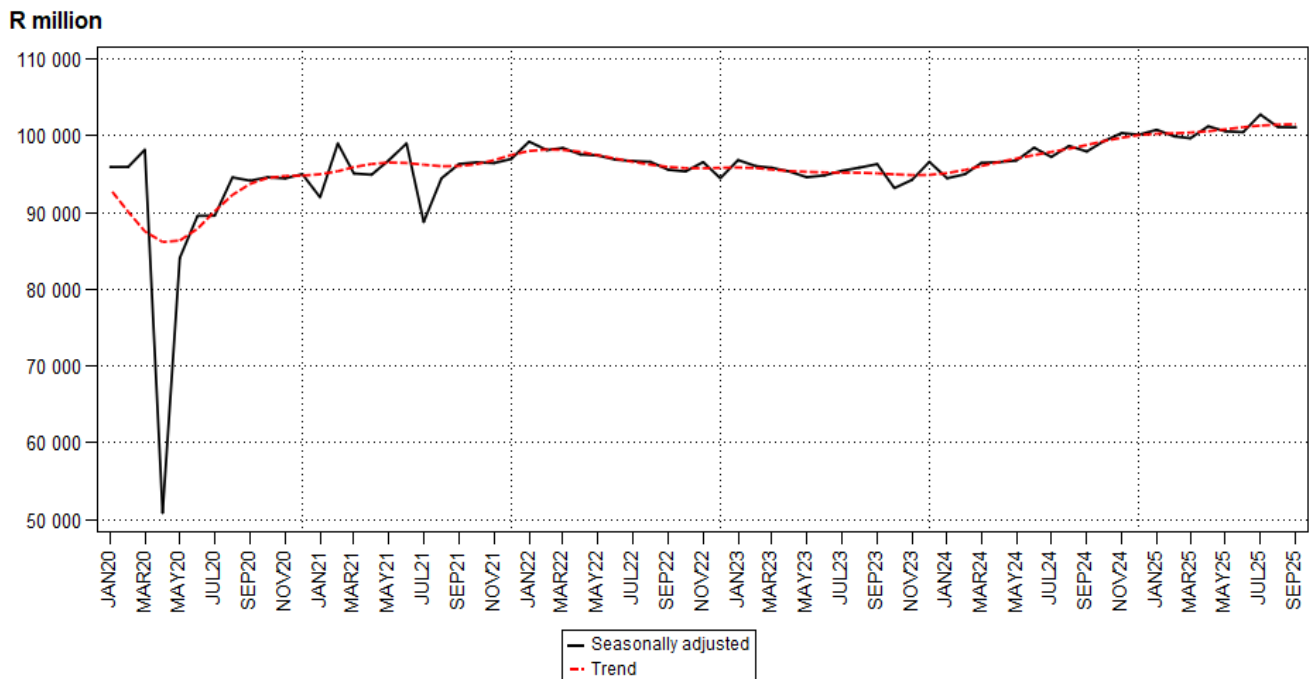
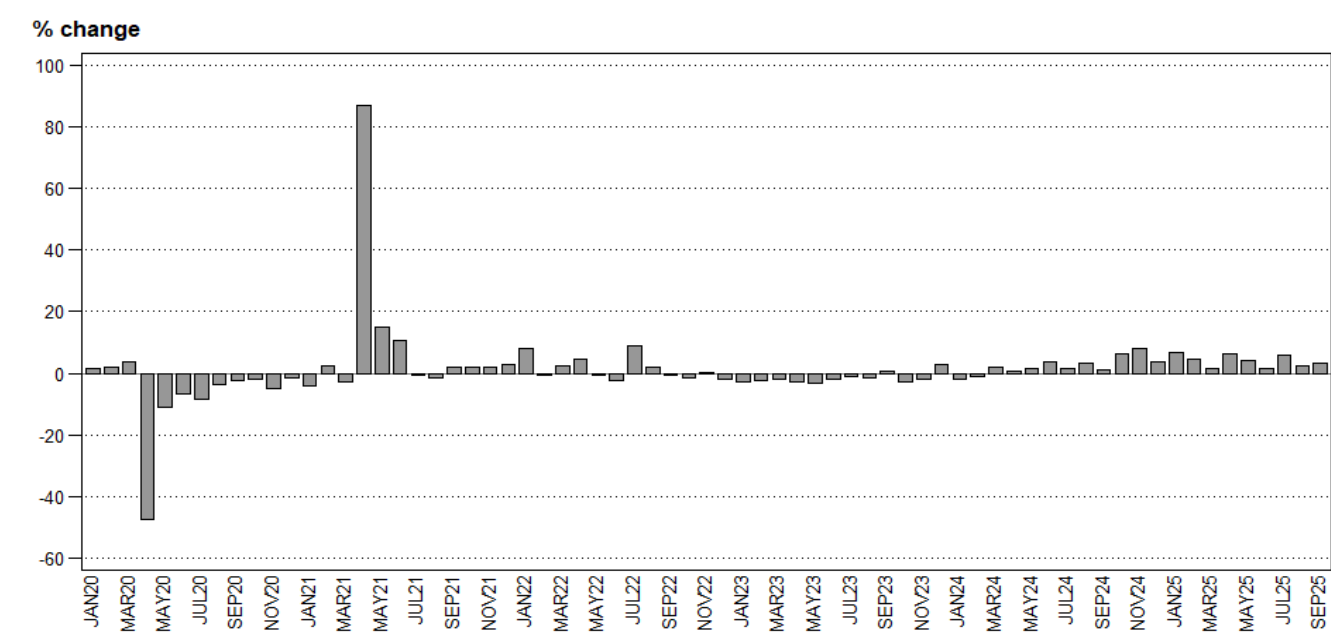
**Figure 1 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices**

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



## Sales at current prices: results for September 2025

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

|  | Apr-25 | May-25 | Jun-25 | Jul-25 | Aug-25 | Sep-25 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Year-on-year % change, unadjusted                  | 7,8    | 6,0    | 4,0    | 8,0    | 4,7    | 5,3    |
| Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted       | 1,8    | -0,3   | 0,2    | 2,4    | -1,4   | 0,2    |
| 3-month % change, seasonally adjusted <sup>1</sup> | 0,4    | 0,6    | 1,3    | 1,8    | 1,7    | 1,5    |

<sup>1</sup> 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<br>2024<br>(R million) | Weight<br>(%) | Jul – Sep<br>2025<br>(R million) | % change<br>between<br>Jul – Sep<br>2024<br>and<br>Jul – Sep<br>2025 | Contribution<br>(% points) to<br>the total %<br>change |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| General dealers   | 167 340                          | 48,5          | 175 750                          | 5,0  | 2,4  |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 32 661                           | 9,5           | 35 321                           | 8,1  | 0,8  |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 27 888                           | 8,1           | 29 730                           | 6,6  | 0,5  |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 48 527                           | 14,1          | 51 566                           | 6,3  | 0,9  |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 11 564                           | 3,3           | 12 095                           | 4,6  | 0,2  |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | 26 814                           | 7,8           | 29 134                           | 8,7  | 0,7  |
| All other retailers   | 30 468                           | 8,8           | 32 221                           | 5,8  | 0,5  |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>345 259</b>                   | <b>100,0</b>  | <b>365 818</b>                   | <b>6,0</b>   | <b>6,0</b>   |

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

| Type of retailer  | Apr – Jun<br>2025<br>(R million) | Weight<br>(%) | Jul – Sep<br>2025<br>(R million) | % change<br>between<br>Apr – Jun<br>2025<br>and<br>Jul – Sep<br>2025 | Contribution<br>(% points) to<br>the total %<br>change |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| General dealers   | 180 294                          | 47,5          | 183 174                          | 1,6  | 0,8  |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 35 443                           | 9,3           | 36 882                           | 4,1  | 0,4  |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 29 384                           | 7,7           | 29 783                           | 1,4  | 0,1  |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 59 809                           | 15,8          | 59 672                           | -0,2   | 0,0  |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 12 566                           | 3,3           | 12 772                           | 1,6  | 0,1  |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | 28 022                           | 7,4           | 28 535                           | 1,8  | 0,1  |
| All other retailers   | 34 189                           | 9,0           | 34 772                           | 1,7  | 0,2  |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>379 706</b>                   | <b>100,0</b>  | <b>385 590</b>                   | <b>1,5</b>   | <b>1,5</b>   |

  
**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           | 95 991 |
| Oct          | 93 815           | 91 867           | 93 589           | 92 181           | 89 542           | 95 283           |        |
| Nov          | 110 490          | 105 131          | 107 342          | 107 583          | 105 383          | 113 828          |        |
| Dec          | 127 645          | 126 021          | 129 796          | 127 315          | 130 770          | 135 406          |        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1 156 787</b> | <b>1 080 685</b> | <b>1 147 420</b> | <b>1 162 218</b> | <b>1 145 007</b> | <b>1 174 062</b> |        |

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

| Month        | 2020        | 2021       | 2022       | 2023        | 2024       | 2025 | 2025<br>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        | 3,1  | 3,9                  |
| Oct          | -2,1        | 1,9        | -1,5       | -2,9        | 6,4        |      |                      |
| Nov          | -4,9        | 2,1        | 0,2        | -2,0        | 8,0        |      |                      |
| Dec          | -1,3        | 3,0        | -1,9       | 2,7         | 3,5        |      |                      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>-6,6</b> | <b>6,2</b> | <b>1,3</b> | <b>-1,5</b> | <b>2,5</b> |      |                      |

**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   | 99 242    | 96 839 | 94 466  | 100 787 | 2,3                     | 2,5  | -2,2 | 0,6  |
| Feb   | 98 141    | 96 047 | 94 991  | 99 923  | -1,1                    | -0,8 | 0,6  | -0,9 |
| Mar   | 98 412    | 95 830 | 96 476  | 99 680  | 0,3                     | -0,2 | 1,6  | -0,2 |
| Apr   | 97 575    | 95 341 | 96 574  | 101 243 | -0,9                    | -0,5 | 0,1  | 1,6  |
| May   | 97 437    | 94 600 | 96 773  | 100 584 | -0,1                    | -0,8 | 0,2  | -0,7 |
| Jun   | 96 892    | 94 847 | 98 448  | 100 472 | -0,6                    | 0,3  | 1,7  | -0,1 |
| Jul   | 96 712    | 95 433 | 97 243  | 102 776 | -0,2                    | 0,6  | -1,2 | 2,3  |
| Aug   | 96 601    | 95 855 | 98 683  | 101 129 | -0,1                    | 0,4  | 1,5  | -1,6 |
| Sep   | 95 579    | 96 311 | 97 954  | 101 097 | -1,1                    | 0,5  | -0,7 | 0,0  |
| Oct   | 95 352    | 93 182 | 99 313  |         | -0,2                    | -3,2 | 1,4  |      |
| Nov   | 96 573    | 94 269 | 100 359 |         | 1,3                     | 1,2  | 1,1  |      |
| Dec   | 94 471    | 96 606 | 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  | Apr-25        | May-25        | Jun-25        | Jul-25        | Aug-25        | Sep-25        |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| General dealers   | 40 712        | 42 477        | 43 861        | 40 003        | 42 835        | 45 169        |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 8 265         | 8 222         | 7 556         | 8 293         | 8 105         | 8 182         |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 7 697         | 7 304         | 6 969         | 7 663         | 7 286         | 7 011         |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 17 234        | 18 607        | 16 122        | 17 215        | 15 036        | 14 416        |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 3 919         | 3 973         | 3 943         | 4 202         | 4 267         | 4 155         |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | 6 862         | 7 668         | 7 432         | 8 033         | 8 104         | 7 521         |
| All other retailers   | 10 865        | 10 523        | 9 870         | 10 736        | 10 371        | 9 537         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>95 554</b> | <b>98 774</b> | <b>95 753</b> | <b>96 145</b> | <b>96 004</b> | <b>95 991</b> |

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

| Type of retailer  | Apr-25     | May-25     | Jun-25     | Jul-25     | Aug-25     | Sep-25     |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| General dealers   | 5,6        | 2,1        | 0,9        | 3,3        | 0,7        | 1,9        |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 1,4        | -0,5       | -6,8       | -1,4       | -3,7       | 1,0        |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | -0,3       | 2,1        | 3,8        | -0,1       | 5,2        | 4,0        |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 12,2       | 14,0       | 1,9        | 9,9        | 1,0        | 4,4        |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 19,2       | 13,5       | 9,6        | 9,3        | 6,7        | 11,4       |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | -3,1       | -0,9       | 7,8        | 13,3       | 8,2        | 3,9        |
| All other retailers   | 10,6       | 1,3        | 3,1        | 12,1       | 6,9        | 3,7        |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>6,2</b> | <b>4,0</b> | <b>1,7</b> | <b>5,7</b> | <b>2,2</b> | <b>3,1</b> |

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



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

| Type of retailer  | Apr-25         | May-25         | Jun-25         | Jul-25         | Aug-25         | Sep-25         | Month-on-month % change |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| General dealers   | 44 227         | 44 098         | 44 211         | 44 637         | 44 404         | 44 777         | 0,8                     |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 8 602          | 8 647          | 8 194          | 8 534          | 8 556          | 8 518          | -0,4                    |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 7 267          | 7 318          | 7 335          | 7 266          | 7 446          | 7 393          | -0,7                    |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 18 100         | 18 097         | 18 024         | 18 618         | 17 602         | 17 699         | 0,6                     |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 4 318          | 4 326          | 4 291          | 4 357          | 4 452          | 4 504          | 1,2                     |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | 7 472          | 7 533          | 7 806          | 8 019          | 7 722          | 7 416          | -4,0                    |
| All other retailers   | 11 257         | 10 564         | 10 611         | 11 345         | 10 948         | 10 789         | -1,5                    |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>101 243</b> | <b>100 584</b> | <b>100 472</b> | <b>102 776</b> | <b>101 129</b> | <b>101 097</b> | <b>0,0</b>              |

**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          | 122 387 |
| Oct          | 94 294           | 94 727           | 100 030          | 105 715          | 108 766          | 118 648          |         |
| Nov          | 111 299          | 108 658          | 114 622          | 123 342          | 128 100          | 140 718          |         |
| Dec          | 128 581          | 130 311          | 138 583          | 146 011          | 158 246          | 166 343          |         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1 156 787</b> | <b>1 106 305</b> | <b>1 213 121</b> | <b>1 299 797</b> | <b>1 370 495</b> | <b>1 450 339</b> |         |

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

| Month        | 2020        | 2021       | 2022       | 2023       | 2024       | 2025 | 2025<br>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        | 5,3  | 5,9                  |
| Oct          | 0,5         | 5,6        | 5,7        | 2,9        | 9,1        |      |                      |
| Nov          | -2,4        | 5,5        | 7,6        | 3,9        | 9,9        |      |                      |
| Dec          | 1,3         | 6,3        | 5,4        | 8,4        | 5,1        |      |                      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>-4,4</b> | <b>9,7</b> | <b>7,1</b> | <b>5,4</b> | <b>5,8</b> |      |                      |

**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   | 107 119   | 112 920 | 116 046 | 125 788 | 2,7                     | 3,1  | -2,0 | 0,8  |
| Feb   | 106 446   | 112 955 | 117 184 | 124 749 | -0,6                    | 0,0  | 1,0  | -0,8 |
| Mar   | 106 781   | 113 643 | 118 945 | 124 450 | 0,3                     | 0,6  | 1,5  | -0,2 |
| Apr   | 106 974   | 113 304 | 118 852 | 126 729 | 0,2                     | -0,3 | -0,1 | 1,8  |
| May   | 107 669   | 112 743 | 119 216 | 126 346 | 0,6                     | -0,5 | 0,3  | -0,3 |
| Jun   | 108 139   | 113 345 | 121 486 | 126 631 | 0,4                     | 0,5  | 1,9  | 0,2  |
| Jul   | 108 204   | 114 159 | 120 085 | 129 627 | 0,1                     | 0,7  | -1,2 | 2,4  |
| Aug   | 108 885   | 114 565 | 121 768 | 127 872 | 0,6                     | 0,4  | 1,4  | -1,4 |
| Sep   | 108 736   | 115 863 | 121 512 | 128 091 | -0,1                    | 1,1  | -0,2 | 0,2  |
| Oct   | 109 148   | 112 835 | 123 166 |         | 0,4                     | -2,6 | 1,4  |      |
| Nov   | 110 824   | 114 431 | 124 002 |         | 1,5                     | 1,4  | 0,7  |      |
| Dec   | 109 481   | 118 467 | 124 763 |         | -1,2                    | 3,5  | 0,6  |      |

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

| Type of retailer  | Apr-25         | May-25         | Jun-25         | Jul-25         | Aug-25         | Sep-25         |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| General dealers   | 55 180         | 57 874         | 60 014         | 54 902         | 58 837         | 62 011         |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 11 399         | 11 472         | 10 688         | 11 932         | 11 651         | 11 738         |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 10 321         | 9 827          | 9 400          | 10 348         | 9 872          | 9 510          |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 19 008         | 20 556         | 17 828         | 19 035         | 16 624         | 15 907         |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 3 816          | 3 883          | 3 832          | 4 035          | 4 082          | 3 978          |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | 8 410          | 9 495          | 9 164          | 9 903          | 9 986          | 9 245          |
| All other retailers   | 11 471         | 11 126         | 10 397         | 11 295         | 10 928         | 9 998          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>119 606</b> | <b>124 232</b> | <b>121 322</b> | <b>121 450</b> | <b>121 981</b> | <b>122 387</b> |

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

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

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

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

| Type of retailer  | Apr-25         | May-25         | Jun-25         | Jul-25         | Aug-25         | Sep-25         | Month-on-month % change |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| General dealers   | 60 038         | 59 981         | 60 275         | 61 015         | 60 814         | 61 345         | 0,9                     |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 11 853         | 11 985         | 11 605         | 12 221         | 12 300         | 12 361         | 0,5                     |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 9 729          | 9 797          | 9 858          | 9 802          | 9 948          | 10 033         | 0,9                     |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 19 937         | 19 966         | 19 906         | 20 613         | 19 483         | 19 576         | 0,5                     |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 4 189          | 4 209          | 4 168          | 4 184          | 4 269          | 4 319          | 1,2                     |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | 9 127          | 9 264          | 9 631          | 9 892          | 9 524          | 9 119          | -4,3                    |
| All other retailers   | 11 856         | 11 145         | 11 188         | 11 899         | 11 535         | 11 338         | -1,7                    |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>126 729</b> | <b>126 346</b> | <b>126 631</b> | <b>129 627</b> | <b>127 872</b> | <b>128 091</b> | <b>0,2</b>              |

## Explanatory notes

|                              |          |   |
|------------------------------|----------|---|
| <b>Introduction</b>          | <b>1</b> | 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.  |
| <b>Purpose of the survey</b> | <b>2</b> | 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.   |
| <b>Scope of the survey</b>   | <b>3</b> | <p>This survey covers retail enterprises according to the following types of retailers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general dealers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ retail trade in non-specialised stores with food, beverages and tobacco predominating; and</li> <li>➢ 'other' retail trade in non-specialised stores.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• retailers in food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ retailers in fresh fruit and vegetables;</li> <li>➢ retailers in meat and meat products;</li> <li>➢ retailers in bakery products;</li> <li>➢ retailers in beverages;</li> <li>➢ retailers in tobacco; and</li> <li>➢ retailers in 'other' food in specialised stores.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• retailers in pharmaceutical and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries;</li> <li>• retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ retailers in men's and boys' clothing;</li> <li>➢ retailers in ladies', girls' and infants' clothing;</li> <li>➢ general outfitters; and</li> <li>➢ retailers in footwear.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• retailers in household furniture, appliances and equipment;</li> <li>• retailers in hardware, paint and glass; and</li> <li>• all 'other' retailers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ retailers in reading matter and stationery;</li> <li>➢ retailers in jewellery, watches and clocks;</li> <li>➢ retailers in sport goods and entertainment requisites;</li> <li>➢ retailers in 'other' specialised stores;</li> <li>➢ repair of personal and household goods;</li> <li>➢ retail trade in second-hand goods in stores; and</li> <li>➢ retail trade not in stores.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <b>Classification</b>        | <b>4</b> | 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.   |
| <b>Collection rate</b>       | <b>5</b> | The preliminary collection rate for the survey on retail trade sales for September 2025 was 75,9%. The revised collection rate for August 2025 was 79,3%.   |

**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-25  | Additional information from respondents               | Aug-25                     |
| Oct-25  | Additional information from respondents               | Sep-25                     |
| Nov-25  | Additional information from respondents               | Oct-25                     |
| Dec-25  | Additional information from respondents               | Nov-25                     |
| Jan-26  | Additional information from respondents               | Dec-25                     |
| Feb-26  | Additional information from respondents               | Jan-26                     |
| Mar-26  | Additional information from respondents               | Feb-26                     |
| Apr-26  | Additional information from respondents               | Mar-26                     |
| May-26  | Additional information from respondents               | Apr-26                     |
| Jun-26  | Additional information from respondents               | May-26                     |
| Jul-26  | Additional information from respondents<br>New sample | Jan-02–Jun-26              |
| Aug-26  | Additional information from respondents               | Jul-26                     |
| New base year in 2027/28 - periodic, approximately four- to five-year intervals |   |                            |

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

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

**Historical data** 10 Historical retail trade sales data are available on the Stats SA website. To access the data electronically, use the following link:  
[Click to download historical data.](#)

**Past publications** 11 Past retail trade sales releases are available on the Stats SA website. To access the releases electronically, use the following link:  
[Click to download past releases.](#)

## Technical notes

### Survey methodology and design

- 1 The survey is conducted on a monthly basis. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of 1 671 enterprises from a population of 19 052 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within ten days after the end of the reference month. Email and telephone reminders are used to follow up on non-respondents.
- 2 A stratified random sample was drawn at the SIC four-digit level in April 2025 from Stats SA's statistical business register (SBR). Strata were formed using a combination of the Standard Industrial Classification and the measure of size classes for enterprises (see point three below).

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

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

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

### Class limits

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

#### Measure of size classes (Rand)

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

### Sample weighting

- 4 For those strata not completely enumerated, the weights to produce estimates are the inverse ratio of the sampling fraction, modified to take account of non-response in the survey. Stratum estimates are calculated and then aggregated with the completely enumerated stratum to form group estimates. These procedures are consistent with international best practice.

### Seasonal adjustment

- 5 Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month using the X-12 Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the United States Census Bureau. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be recognised more clearly. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month. Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series, even after adjustment for seasonal variations. Therefore, the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour. The X-12-ARIMA procedure for retail trade sales is described in more detail on the Stats SA website: [Click to download seasonal adjustment retail trade sales January 2022](#).

### Trend cycle

- 6 The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-12 Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimate the underlying trend cycle.

- Constant prices**
- 7** For February 2002 to January 2007 retail trade sales at constant prices were calculated using the consumer price index (CPI) for goods, excluding petrol and purchases of vehicles, for all urban areas to deflate total sales at current prices. From February 2008 onwards total retail trade sales at constant prices are obtained by adding up the deflated sales by type of retailer.
- 8** Retail trade sales at constant prices by type of retailer are obtained by deflating estimated sales at current prices by the relevant weighted price index. To obtain total retail trade sales at constant prices, estimates of the deflated sales for each type of retailer are aggregated.
- Reliability of estimates**
- 9** Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all enterprises in the retail industry in South Africa. Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.
- 10** Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in the collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Fluctuations may occur in consecutive months as a result of seasonal and economic factors.
- Relative standard error**
- 11** One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of enterprises was used. The relative standard error (RSE) provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and thus avoids the need to refer to the size of the estimate.
- Estimates of total retail trade sales within 95% confidence limits – September 2025**
- |                    | Lower limit<br>(R million) | Sales<br>(R million) | Upper limit<br>(R million) | Relative<br>standard error<br>(RSE) (%) |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Retail trade sales | 119 259                    | 122 387              | 125 515                    | 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

|                                  |   |   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Enterprise</b>                | 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.  |   |
| <b>Industry</b>                  | 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. |   |
| <b>Retail trade</b>              | Retail trade includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to the general public for household use.  |   |
| <b>Retailer</b>                  | A retailer is an enterprise deriving more than 50% of its turnover from sales of goods to the general public for household use.   |   |
| <b>Symbols and abbreviations</b> | CPI   | Consumer price index  |
|                                  | GDP   | Gross domestic product  |
|                                  | ISIC  | International Standard Industrial Classification              |
|                                  | SARS  | South African Revenue Service                                 |
|                                  | SBR   | Statistical Business Register                                 |
|                                  | SIC   | Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities |
|                                  | SNA   | System of National Accounts                                   |
|                                  | Stats SA  | Statistics South Africa                                       |
|                                  | VAT   | Value-added tax   |
|                                  | *   | Revised figures   |

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