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## **STATISTICAL RELEASE**

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# **Retail trade sales (Preliminary)**

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## Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for April 2023

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

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

1/ Percentage change between the previous 3 months and the 3 months ending in the month indicated.

Measured in real terms (constant 2019 prices), retail trade sales decreased by 1,6% year-on-year in April 2023. The largest negative contributors to this decrease were:

- general dealers (-2,8% and contributing -1,2 percentage points);
- retailers in food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores (-6,2% and contributing -0,5 of a percentage point); and
- all 'other' retailers (-4,2% and contributing -0,5 of a percentage point) – see Tables 5 and 6.

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales increased by 0,4% in April 2023 compared with March 2023. This followed month-on-month changes of -0,6% in March 2023 and -0,4% in February 2023.

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

Type of retailer	Feb – Apr 2022 (R million)	Weight (%)	Feb – Apr 2023 (R million)	% change between Feb – Apr 2022 and Feb – Apr 2023	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	120 312	44,1	117 926	-2,0	-0,9
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	22 827	8,4	21 873	-4,2	-0,4
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	20 130	7,4	19 545	-2,9	-0,2
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	44 997	16,5	47 213	4,9	0,8
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	13 114	4,8	12 928	-1,4	-0,1
Hardware, paint and glass	21 454	7,9	20 819	-3,0	-0,2
All other retailers	30 182	11,1	29 268	-3,0	-0,3
<b>Total</b>	<b>273 016</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>269 572</b>	<b>-1,3</b>	<b>-1,3</b>

Retail trade sales decreased by 1,3% in the three months ended April 2023 compared with the three months ended April 2022. The largest negative contributors to this decrease were:

- general dealers (-2,0% and contributing -0,9 of a percentage point); and
- retailers in food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores (-4,2% and contributing -0,4 of a percentage point).

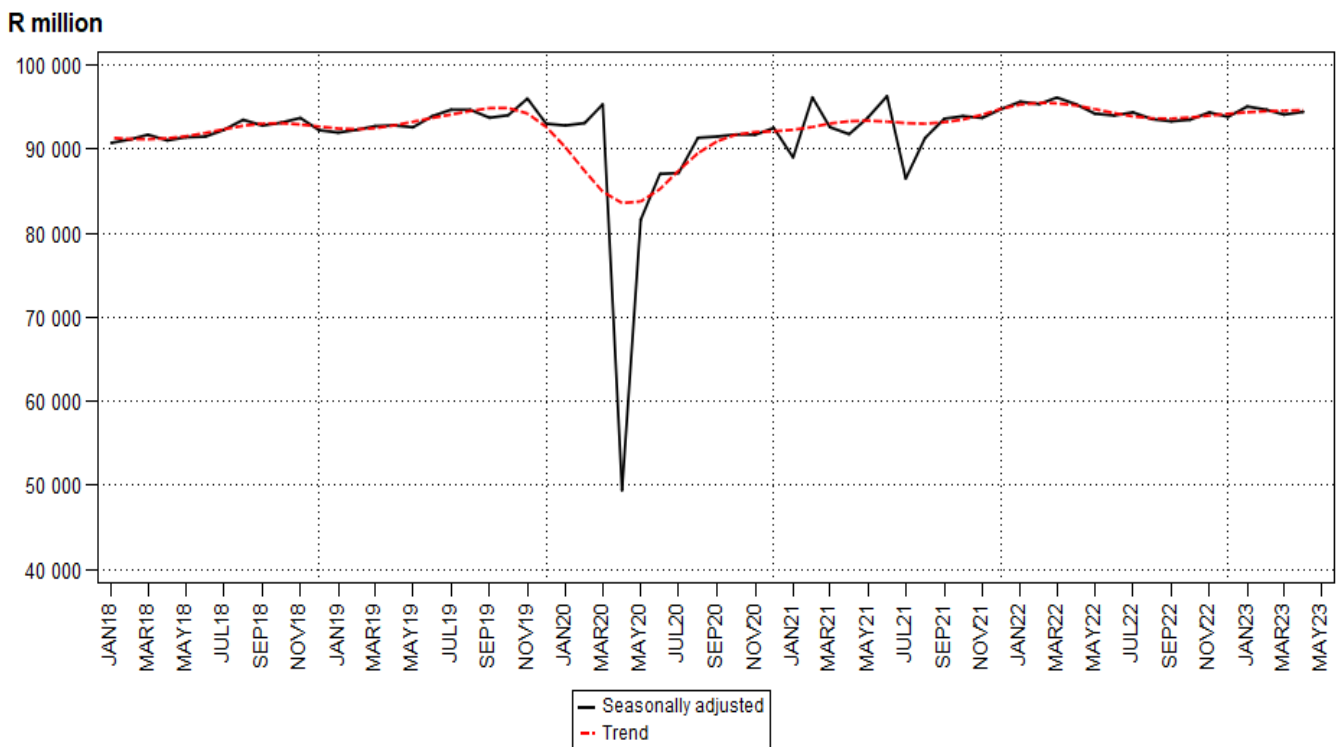
The positive contributor was retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (4,9% and contributing 0,8 of a percentage point) – see Table B.

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

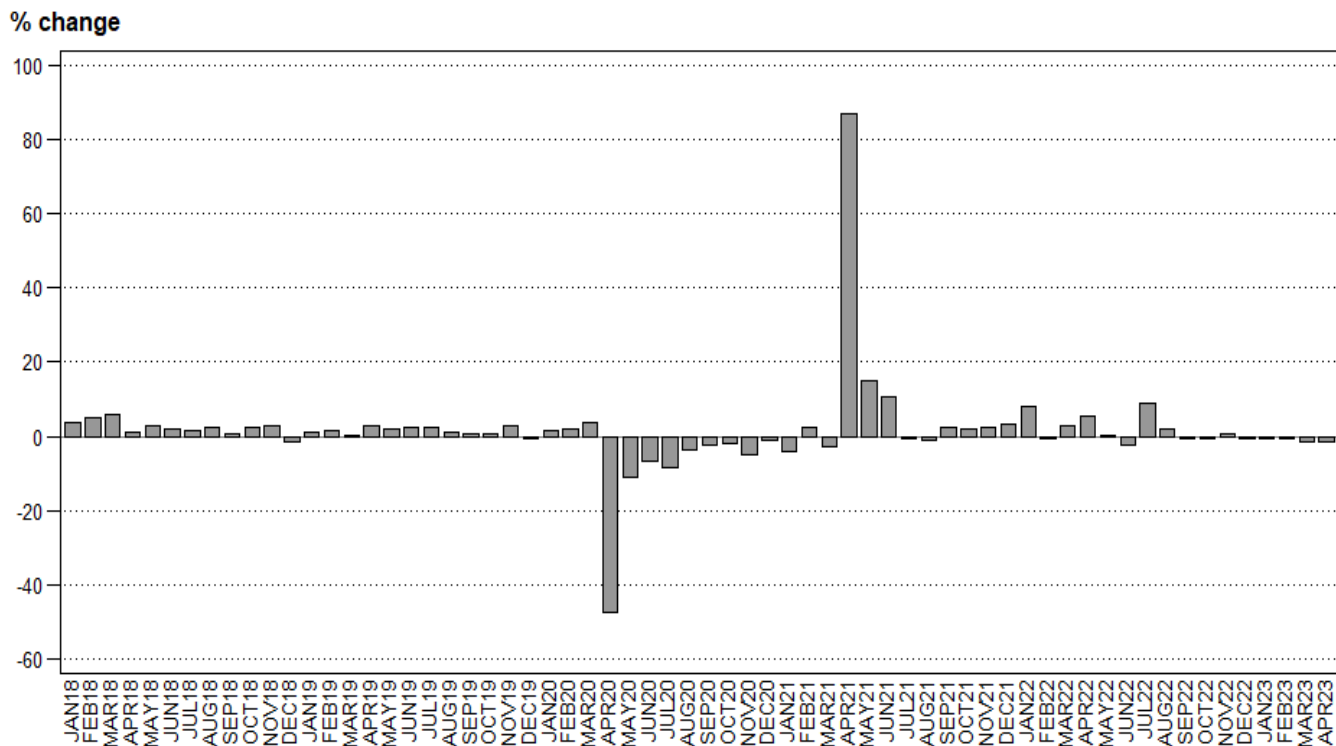
Type of retailer	Nov 2022 – Jan 2023 (R million)	Weight (%)	Feb – Apr 2023 (R million)	% change between Nov 2022 – Jan 2023 and Feb – Apr 2023	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	122 793	43,3	122 386	-0,3	-0,1
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	23 001	8,1	22 954	-0,2	0,0
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	19 715	7,0	19 972	1,3	0,1
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	51 217	18,1	52 279	2,1	0,4
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	13 834	4,9	13 821	-0,1	0,0
Hardware, paint and glass	22 693	8,0	22 471	-1,0	-0,1
All other retailers	30 053	10,6	29 375	-2,3	-0,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>283 308</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>283 257</b>	<b>0,0</b>	<b>0,0</b>

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales was flat in the three months ended April 2023 compared with the previous three months. The largest positive contributor was retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (2,1% and contributing 0,4 of a percentage point). The largest negative contributor was all ‘other’ retailers (-2,3% and contributing -0,2 of a percentage point) – see Table C.

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



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



## Sales at current prices: results for April 2023

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

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

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	Feb – Apr 2022 (R million)	Weight (%)	Feb – Apr 2023 (R million)	% change between Feb – Apr 2022 and Feb – Apr 2023	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	134 293	45,3	146 922	9,4	4,3
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	26 382	8,9	27 692	5,0	0,4
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	22 611	7,6	23 466	3,8	0,3
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	45 813	15,5	49 643	8,4	1,3
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	13 074	4,4	13 262	1,4	0,1
Hardware, paint and glass	23 792	8,0	24 965	4,9	0,4
All other retailers	30 287	10,2	30 718	1,4	0,1
<b>Total</b>	<b>296 252</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>316 669</b>	<b>6,9</b>	<b>6,9</b>

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

Type of retailer	Nov 2022 – Jan 2023 (R million)	Weight (%)	Feb – Apr 2023 (R million)	% change between Nov 2022 – Jan 2023 and Feb – Apr 2023	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	148 914	45,8	152 625	2,5	1,1
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	28 427	8,7	28 996	2,0	0,2
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	23 211	7,1	23 836	2,7	0,2
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	53 155	16,3	54 964	3,4	0,6
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	13 984	4,3	14 111	0,9	0,0
Hardware, paint and glass	26 550	8,2	26 981	1,6	0,1
All other retailers	31 074	9,6	30 997	-0,2	0,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>325 313</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>332 509</b>	<b>2,2</b>	<b>2,2</b>

**Risenga Maluleke**  
Statistician-General

## Tables

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

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 1/
Jan	80 369	83 447	84 492	85 721	82 408	89 055	88 373
Feb	81 253	85 374	86 614	88 330	90 505	89 914	89 295
Mar	84 281	89 187	89 408	92 714	90 310	92 713	91 343
Apr	84 086	84 915	87 307	45 754	85 654	90 389	88 934
May	87 546	90 051	91 822	81 544	93 829	93 906	
Jun	85 184	86 977	89 281	83 143	91 985	89 880	
Jul	85 392	86 704	88 641	81 318	80 897	88 057	
Aug	89 293	91 389	92 568	89 087	87 990	89 856	
Sep	88 677	89 182	89 743	87 598	89 525	89 125	
Oct	88 329	90 296	90 998	89 176	90 925	90 268	
Nov	101 234	104 135	107 171	102 058	104 290	105 109	
Dec	126 094	124 041	123 820	122 354	126 121	125 526	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 081 738</b>	<b>1 105 698</b>	<b>1 121 865</b>	<b>1 048 797</b>	<b>1 114 439</b>	<b>1 133 798</b>	

1/ Figures for the latest month are preliminary.

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

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

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

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	92 818	89 015	95 646	95 083	-0,2	-3,8	0,9	1,3
Feb	93 109	96 162	95 377	94 690	0,3	8,0	-0,3	-0,4
Mar	95 339	92 625	96 150	94 117	2,4	-3,7	0,8	-0,6
Apr	49 382	91 786	95 335	94 450	-48,2	-0,9	-0,8	0,4
May	81 603	93 750	94 231		65,2	2,1	-1,2	
Jun	87 059	96 312	94 009		6,7	2,7	-0,2	
Jul	87 167	86 494	94 387		0,1	-10,2	0,4	
Aug	91 355	91 326	93 572		4,8	5,6	-0,9	
Sep	91 506	93 626	93 320		0,2	2,5	-0,3	
Oct	91 747	93 930	93 507		0,3	0,3	0,2	
Nov	91 726	93 726	94 381		0,0	-0,2	0,9	
Dec	92 520	94 766	93 844		0,9	1,1	-0,6	

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

Type of retailer	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23 1/
General dealers	45 602	52 197	36 510	39 815	41 152	36 959
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	7 627	10 882	7 384	7 259	7 381	7 233
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	6 277	7 027	6 717	6 054	6 528	6 963
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	20 242	29 050	16 091	15 024	15 022	17 167
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	6 019	6 119	4 081	4 172	4 568	4 188
Hardware, paint and glass	8 729	7 941	6 783	6 824	7 042	6 953
All other retailers	10 613	12 310	10 807	10 147	9 650	9 471
<b>Total</b>	<b>105 109</b>	<b>125 526</b>	<b>88 373</b>	<b>89 295</b>	<b>91 343</b>	<b>88 934</b>

1/ Figures are preliminary.

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

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



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

Type of retailer	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	Month-on-month % change
General dealers	40 970	40 795	41 028	40 813	40 715	40 858	0,4
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	7 605	7 678	7 718	7 829	7 522	7 603	1,1
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	6 532	6 541	6 642	6 651	6 633	6 688	0,8
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	17 003	16 748	17 466	17 487	17 377	17 415	0,2
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 741	4 533	4 560	4 628	4 596	4 597	0,0
Hardware, paint and glass	7 536	7 527	7 630	7 316	7 502	7 653	2,0
All other retailers	9 993	10 022	10 038	9 967	9 772	9 636	-1,4
<b>Total</b>	<b>94 381</b>	<b>93 844</b>	<b>95 083</b>	<b>94 690</b>	<b>94 117</b>	<b>94 450</b>	<b>0,4</b>

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

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

1/ Figures for the latest month are preliminary.

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

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

**Table 10 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at current prices**

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	94 031	92 246	102 837	109 847	0,0	-3,9	1,3	1,9
Feb	94 966	100 071	102 986	110 374	1,0	8,5	0,1	0,5
Mar	96 890	96 950	103 844	110 496	2,0	-3,1	0,8	0,1
Apr	50 492	96 082	104 310	111 639	-47,9	-0,9	0,4	1,0
May	82 892	98 766	104 066		64,2	2,8	-0,2	
Jun	88 693	101 855	104 609		7,0	3,1	0,5	
Jul	88 533	91 213	105 118		-0,2	-10,4	0,5	
Aug	93 342	96 678	104 978		5,4	6,0	-0,1	
Sep	93 603	99 186	105 324		0,3	2,6	0,3	
Oct	94 448	99 923	106 227		0,9	0,7	0,9	
Nov	94 796	100 052	107 642		0,4	0,1	1,3	
Dec	96 016	101 553	107 824		1,3	1,5	0,2	

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

Type of retailer	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23 1/
General dealers	54 837	62 940	44 525	49 117	51 357	46 448
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	9 328	13 354	9 233	9 099	9 367	9 226
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	7 339	8 231	7 898	7 188	7 839	8 439
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	21 060	30 226	16 780	15 759	15 806	18 078
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	6 049	6 152	4 133	4 257	4 715	4 290
Hardware, paint and glass	10 180	9 251	7 989	8 110	8 463	8 392
All other retailers	10 951	12 710	11 181	10 545	10 157	10 016
<b>Total</b>	<b>119 744</b>	<b>142 864</b>	<b>101 739</b>	<b>104 075</b>	<b>107 705</b>	<b>104 889</b>

1/ Figures are preliminary.

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

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

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

Type of retailer	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	Month-on-month % change
General dealers	49 259	49 447	50 208	50 446	50 860	51 319	0,9
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	9 322	9 466	9 639	9 857	9 524	9 615	1,0
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	7 656	7 713	7 842	7 898	7 923	8 015	1,2
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	17 564	17 435	18 156	18 261	18 163	18 540	2,1
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 773	4 577	4 634	4 709	4 705	4 697	-0,2
Hardware, paint and glass	8 798	8 829	8 923	8 752	8 996	9 233	2,6
All other retailers	10 270	10 358	10 446	10 451	10 325	10 221	-1,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>107 642</b>	<b>107 824</b>	<b>109 847</b>	<b>110 374</b>	<b>110 496</b>	<b>111 639</b>	<b>1,0</b>

## Survey information

- Introduction**
- 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey of the retail trade industry, covering retail enterprises (see point 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from Stats SA's 2022 business sampling frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value-added tax (VAT).
  - 2 In order to improve timeliness, some information for the latest month had to be estimated due to late response. These estimates will be revised in future statistical releases as soon as information becomes available. Published retail trade sales estimates include VAT.
- Purpose of the survey**
- 3 The results of the monthly retail trade sales survey are used to compile estimates of the gross domestic product (GDP) and its components, which are used in monitoring the state of the economy and formulation of economic policy. These statistics are also used in the analysis of comparative business and industry performance.
- Scope of the survey**
- 4 This survey covers retail enterprises according to the following types of retailers:
    - general dealers:
      - retail trade in non-specialised stores with food, beverages and tobacco predominating; and
      - 'other' retail trade in non-specialised stores.
    - retailers in food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores:
      - retailers in fresh fruit and vegetables;
      - retailers in meat and meat products;
      - retailers in bakery products;
      - retailers in beverages;
      - retailers in tobacco; and
      - retailers in 'other' food in specialised stores.
    - retailers in pharmaceutical and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries;
    - retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods:
      - retailers in men's and boys' clothing;
      - retailers in ladies', girls' and infants' clothing;
      - general outfitters; and
      - retailers in footwear.
    - retailers in household furniture, appliances and equipment;
    - retailers in hardware, paint and glass; and
    - all 'other' retailers:
      - retailers in reading matter and stationery;
      - retailers in jewellery, watches and clocks;
      - retailers in sport goods and entertainment requisites;
      - retailers in 'other' specialised stores;
      - repair of personal and household goods;
      - retail trade in second-hand goods in stores; and
      - retail trade not in stores.
- Classification**
- 5 The 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities* (SIC), Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities* (ISIC) with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Each enterprise is classified to the industry which reflects its predominant activity. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC group (four digit) level.
- Collection rate**
- 6 The preliminary collection rate for the survey on retail trade sales for April 2023 was 70,4%. The improved collection rate for March 2023 was 77,9%.

<b>Statistical unit</b>	<b>7</b>	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.
<b>Revised figures</b>	<b>8</b>	Revised figures are mainly due to late submission of data to Stats SA, or respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures. Preliminary figures, as indicated in the relevant tables, are subject to change and when revised will not be indicated as such.
<b>Related publications</b>	<b>9</b>	Users may also refer to the following publication available from Stats SA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Stats in Brief</i> issued annually.</li></ul>
<b>Rounding-off of figures</b>	<b>10</b>	Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.
<b>Historical data</b>	<b>11</b>	Historical retail trade sales data are available on the Stats SA website. To access the data electronically, use the following link: <a href="#">Click to download historical data</a>
<b>Past publications</b>	<b>12</b>	Past retail trade sales releases are available on the Stats SA website. To access the releases electronically, use the following link: <a href="#">Click to download past releases</a>

**Technical notes**

**Survey methodology and design**

- 1 The survey is conducted on a monthly basis. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of 3 339 enterprises from a population of 21 864 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within ten days after the end of the reference month. Fax, email and telephone reminders are used to follow up on non-respondents.
- 2 A stratified random sample was drawn at the SIC four-digit level in April 2022 from Stats SA’s business sampling frame (BSF). Strata were formed using a combination of the Standard Industrial Classification and the measure of size classes for enterprises (see point three below).

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

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

Neyman allocation formula not only allocates sample sizes to each stratum, but also calculates the relative precision for each stratum as well as the relative precision for all strata. The relative precision for these strata did not exceed 8,0%.

**Class limits**

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

**Measure of size classes (Rand)**

Enterprise size	Size group	Lower limit	Upper limit
Very small	4	1 361 310	8 000 000
Small	3	8 000 001	38 000 000
Medium	2	38 000 001	78 000 000
Large	1	78 000 001	

**Sample weighting**

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

**Seasonal adjustment**

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

**Trend cycle**

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

- Constant prices**
- 7 For January 2002 to December 2007 retail trade sales at constant prices were calculated using the consumer price index (CPI) for goods, excluding petrol and purchases of vehicles, for all urban areas to deflate total sales at current prices. From January 2008 onwards total retail trade sales at constant prices are obtained by adding up the deflated sales by type of retailer.
- 8 Retail trade sales at constant prices by type of retailer are obtained by deflating estimated sales at current prices by the relevant weighted price index. To obtain total retail trade sales at constant prices, estimates of the deflated sales for each type of retailer are aggregated.
- Reliability of estimates**
- 9 Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all enterprises in the retail industry in South Africa. Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.
- 10 Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in the collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Fluctuations may occur in consecutive months as a result of seasonal and economic factors.
- Relative standard error**
- 11 One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of enterprises was used. The relative standard error (RSE) provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and thus avoids the need to refer to the size of the estimate.
- Estimates of total retail trade sales within 95% confidence limits – April 2023**
- |                    | Lower limit<br>(R million) | Sales<br>(R million) | Upper limit<br>(R million) | Relative<br>standard error<br>(RSE)<br>% |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Retail trade sales | 102 740                    | 104 889              | 107 037                    | 1,0                                      |
- Month-on-month percentage change**
- 12 The month-on-month percentage change in a variable for any given month is the change between that month and the previous month, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
- Year-on-year percentage change**
- 13 The year-on-year percentage change in a variable for any given period is the change between that period and the corresponding period of the previous year, expressed as a percentage of the latter.
- Contribution (percentage points)**
- 14 The contribution (percentage points) to the year-on-year percentage change for any given period is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of retailer by its corresponding weight, divided by 100. The weight is the percentage contribution of each type of retailer to total retail trade sales in the corresponding period of the previous year.



## Glossary

<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 (SNA)</i> in the same way as in the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (SIC)</i> , Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993.																		
<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>	<table><tr><td>BSF</td><td>Business sampling frame</td></tr><tr><td>CPI</td><td>Consumer price index</td></tr><tr><td>GDP</td><td>Gross domestic product</td></tr><tr><td>ISIC</td><td>International Standard Industrial Classification</td></tr><tr><td>SARS</td><td>South African Revenue Service</td></tr><tr><td>SIC</td><td>Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities</td></tr><tr><td>SNA</td><td>System of National Accounts</td></tr><tr><td>Stats SA</td><td>Statistics South Africa</td></tr><tr><td>VAT</td><td>Value-added tax</td></tr></table>	BSF	Business sampling frame	CPI	Consumer price index	GDP	Gross domestic product	ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification	SARS	South African Revenue Service	SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities	SNA	System of National Accounts	Stats SA	Statistics South Africa	VAT	Value-added tax
BSF	Business sampling frame																		
CPI	Consumer price index																		
GDP	Gross domestic product																		
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification																		
SARS	South African Revenue Service																		
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities																		
SNA	System of National Accounts																		
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa																		
VAT	Value-added tax																		

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