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## **STATISTICAL RELEASE**

**P6242.1**

# Retail trade sales (Preliminary)

August 2022

Embargoed until:  
19 October 2022  
13:00

ENQUIRIES:  
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(072) 310 3798

FORTHCOMING ISSUE:  
September 2022

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE:  
16 November 2022

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

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

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## Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for August 2022

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

	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	2,7	5,5	0,1	-2,3	8,9	2,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,0	0,9	-2,0	-0,4	-0,1	-1,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	1,8	0,5	-0,3	-1,0	-1,7	-2,1

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

Measured in real terms (constant 2019 prices), retail trade sales increased by 2,0% year-on-year in August 2022. Positive annual growth rates were recorded for:

- general dealers (6,4%);
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (4,8%);
- retailers in household furniture, appliances and equipment (2,7%); and
- all 'other' retailers (1,0%) – see Table 5.

The largest positive contributor to this increase was general dealers (contributing 2,8 percentage points).

The largest negative contributor was retailers in hardware, paint and glass (contributing -0,9 of a percentage point) – see Table 6.

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales decreased by 1,8% in August 2022 compared with July 2022. This followed month-on-month changes of -0,1% in July 2022 and -0,4% in June 2022. In the three months ended August 2022, seasonally adjusted retail trade sales decreased by 2,1% compared with the previous three months.

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

Type of retailer	Jun – Aug 2021 (R million)	Weight	Jun – Aug 2022 (R million)	% change between Jun – Aug 2021 and Jun – Aug 2022	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	116 925	44,8	120 020	2,6	1,2
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	20 148	7,7	21 649	7,4	0,6
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	20 667	7,9	20 207	-2,2	-0,2
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	39 705	15,2	43 025	8,4	1,3
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	12 515	4,8	12 935	3,4	0,2
Hardware, paint and glass	24 407	9,4	23 003	-5,8	-0,5
All other retailers	26 505	10,2	26 878	1,4	0,1
<b>Total</b>	<b>260 872</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>267 717</b>	<b>2,6</b>	<b>2,6</b>

Retail trade sales increased by 2,6% in the three months ended August 2022 compared with the three months ended August 2021. The largest positive contributors to this increase were:

- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (8,4% and contributing 1,3 percentage points); and
- general dealers (2,6% and contributing 1,2 percentage points) – see Table B.

Figure 1 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices

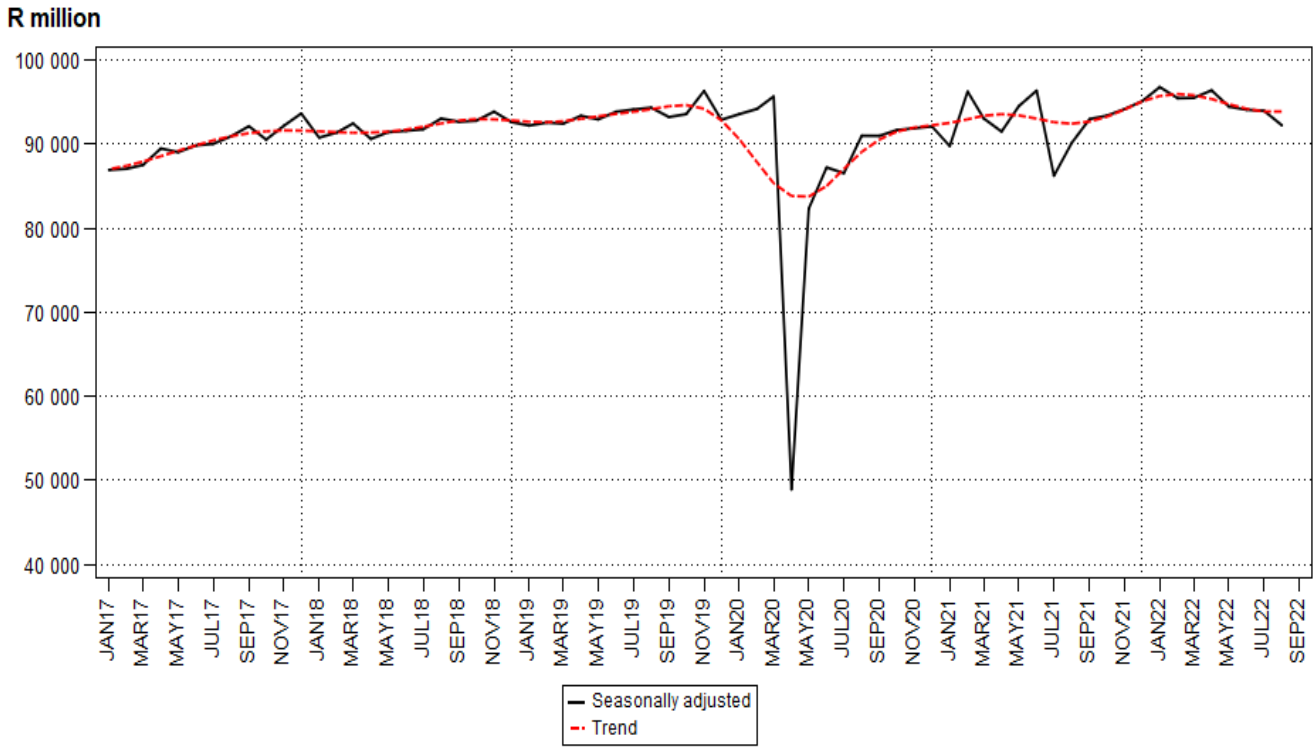
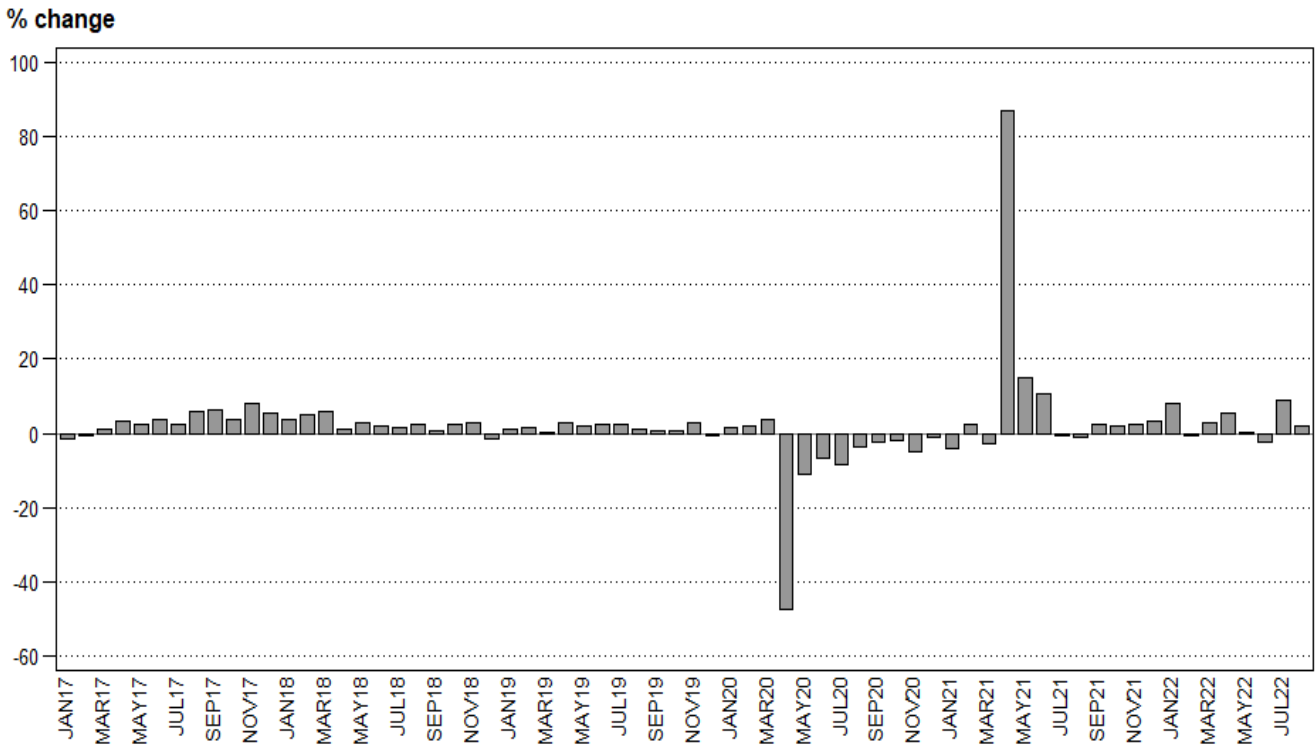


Figure 2 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices: year-on-year percentage change



## Sales at current prices: results for August 2022

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

	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	6,5	9,6	4,9	2,8	14,9	8,4
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,4	1,2	-0,9	0,2	0,5	-0,9
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	2,9	1,8	1,1	0,8	0,4	0,1

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

**Table D – Retail trade sales at current prices for the latest three months by type of retailer**

Type of retailer	Jun – Aug 2021 (R million)	Weight	Jun – Aug 2022 (R million)	% change between Jun – Aug 2021 and Jun – Aug 2022	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	126 196	45,7	139 766	10,8	4,9
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	22 371	8,1	25 799	15,3	1,2
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	22 344	8,1	23 200	3,8	0,3
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	40 105	14,5	44 320	10,5	1,5
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	12 355	4,5	13 001	5,2	0,2
Hardware, paint and glass	26 270	9,5	26 105	-0,6	-0,1
All other retailers	26 628	9,6	27 456	3,1	0,3
<b>Total</b>	<b>276 266</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>299 648</b>	<b>8,5</b>	<b>8,5</b>

**Risenga Maluleke**  
Statistician-General

## Tables

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

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 1/
Jan	81 454	80 369	83 447	84 492	85 721	82 408	89 055
Feb	81 563	81 253	85 374	86 614	88 330	90 505	89 914
Mar	83 292	84 281	89 187	89 408	92 714	90 310	92 713
Apr	81 590	84 086	84 915	87 307	45 754	85 654	90 389
May	85 662	87 546	90 051	91 822	81 544	93 829	93 906
Jun	82 222	85 184	86 977	89 281	83 143	91 985	89 880
Jul	83 509	85 392	86 704	88 641	81 318	80 897	88 057
Aug	84 473	89 293	91 389	92 568	89 087	87 990	89 780
Sep	83 566	88 677	89 182	89 743	87 598	89 525	
Oct	85 030	88 329	90 296	90 998	89 176	90 925	
Nov	93 623	101 234	104 135	107 171	102 058	104 290	
Dec	119 540	126 094	124 041	123 820	122 354	126 121	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 045 524</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>	

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

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

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022 year-to-date
Jan	-1,3	3,8	1,3	1,5	-3,9	8,1	8,1
Feb	-0,4	5,1	1,5	2,0	2,5	-0,7	3,5
Mar	1,2	5,8	0,2	3,7	-2,6	2,7	3,2
Apr	3,1	1,0	2,8	-47,6	87,2	5,5	3,8
May	2,2	2,9	2,0	-11,2	15,1	0,1	3,0
Jun	3,6	2,1	2,6	-6,9	10,6	-2,3	2,1
Jul	2,3	1,5	2,2	-8,3	-0,5	8,9	3,0
Aug	5,7	2,3	1,3	-3,8	-1,2	2,0	2,9
Sep	6,1	0,6	0,6	-2,4	2,2		
Oct	3,9	2,2	0,8	-2,0	2,0		
Nov	8,1	2,9	2,9	-4,8	2,2		
Dec	5,5	-1,6	-0,2	-1,2	3,1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,5</b>	<b>2,2</b>	<b>1,5</b>	<b>-6,5</b>	<b>6,3</b>		

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

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
Jan	92 216	93 572	89 773	96 801	-0,5	0,7	-2,5	1,8
Feb	92 576	94 202	96 266	95 470	0,4	0,7	7,2	-1,4
Mar	92 441	95 684	93 067	95 506	-0,1	1,6	-3,3	0,0
Apr	93 381	48 911	91 499	96 411	1,0	-48,9	-1,7	0,9
May	92 952	82 343	94 530	94 473	-0,5	68,4	3,3	-2,0
Jun	93 859	87 235	96 381	94 100	1,0	5,9	2,0	-0,4
Jul	94 124	86 548	86 240	93 983	0,3	-0,8	-10,5	-0,1
Aug	94 349	91 007	90 158	92 259	0,2	5,2	4,5	-1,8
Sep	93 233	90 996	92 993		-1,2	0,0	3,1	
Oct	93 580	91 684	93 391		0,4	0,8	0,4	
Nov	96 342	91 899	94 183		3,0	0,2	0,8	
Dec	92 906	92 116	95 100		-3,6	0,2	1,0	

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

Type of retailer	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22 1/
General dealers	41 889	38 012	41 628	41 364	37 548	41 108
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	7 877	7 710	7 162	6 996	7 605	7 048
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	6 750	7 133	6 593	6 258	7 017	6 932
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	14 112	16 657	16 521	14 635	14 835	13 555
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 669	4 243	4 282	4 171	4 406	4 358
Hardware, paint and glass	7 275	6 746	7 959	7 291	7 800	7 912
All other retailers	10 141	9 888	9 761	9 165	8 846	8 867
<b>Total</b>	<b>92 713</b>	<b>90 389</b>	<b>93 906</b>	<b>89 880</b>	<b>88 057</b>	<b>89 780</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	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22
General dealers	2,2	5,9	4,4	-5,5	8,8	6,4
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	1,2	4,2	-6,6	4,9	28,2	-6,6
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	4,5	4,7	0,6	-4,5	0,0	-2,4
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	9,4	18,1	-2,7	6,4	14,0	4,8
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	6,1	5,3	-2,6	-1,2	8,8	2,7
Hardware, paint and glass	-9,1	-10,1	-6,6	-7,2	-0,2	-9,4
All other retailers	3,6	-0,2	-0,8	0,1	3,2	1,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,7</b>	<b>5,5</b>	<b>0,1</b>	<b>-2,3</b>	<b>8,9</b>	<b>2,0</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	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22
General dealers	1,0	2,5	1,9	-2,6	3,7	2,8
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	0,1	0,4	-0,5	0,4	2,1	-0,6
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	0,3	0,4	0,0	-0,3	0,0	-0,2
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	1,3	3,0	-0,5	1,0	2,3	0,7
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	0,3	0,2	-0,1	-0,1	0,4	0,1
Hardware, paint and glass	-0,8	-0,9	-0,6	-0,6	0,0	-0,9
All other retailers	0,4	0,0	-0,1	0,0	0,3	0,1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,7</b>	<b>5,5</b>	<b>0,1</b>	<b>-2,3</b>	<b>8,9</b>	<b>2,0</b>

**Table 7 – Retail trade sales at current prices (R million)**

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 1/
Jan	72 941	76 563	80 761	83 365	86 848	85 323	95 475
Feb	73 732	77 531	82 844	85 721	89 787	94 074	96 984
Mar	75 803	80 787	86 554	88 848	94 541	94 600	100 766
Apr	75 407	80 642	82 889	86 890	46 864	89 902	98 502
May	79 231	84 274	88 056	91 735	82 835	98 588	103 440
Jun	76 093	81 758	85 064	89 338	84 599	97 168	99 932
Jul	77 615	82 209	84 912	88 699	82 876	85 576	98 339
Aug	78 796	85 834	89 426	92 908	91 128	93 522	101 377
Sep	77 928	85 115	87 375	90 271	89 814	95 179	
Oct	79 991	85 166	88 532	91 448	91 868	97 010	
Nov	88 198	97 556	102 364	107 939	105 378	111 162	
Dec	113 302	121 498	121 895	124 700	126 378	134 399	
<b>Total</b>	<b>969 037</b>	<b>1 038 933</b>	<b>1 080 672</b>	<b>1 121 862</b>	<b>1 072 916</b>	<b>1 176 503</b>	

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

**Table 8 – Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at current prices**

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022 year-to-date
Jan	5,0	5,5	3,2	4,2	-1,8	11,9	11,9
Feb	5,2	6,9	3,5	4,7	4,8	3,1	7,3
Mar	6,6	7,1	2,7	6,4	0,1	6,5	7,0
Apr	6,9	2,8	4,8	-46,1	91,8	9,6	7,6
May	6,4	4,5	4,2	-9,7	19,0	4,9	7,1
Jun	7,4	4,0	5,0	-5,3	14,9	2,8	6,3
Jul	5,9	3,3	4,5	-6,6	3,3	14,9	7,5
Aug	8,9	4,2	3,9	-1,9	2,6	8,4	7,6
Sep	9,2	2,7	3,3	-0,5	6,0		
Oct	6,5	4,0	3,3	0,5	5,6		
Nov	10,6	4,9	5,4	-2,4	5,5		
Dec	7,2	0,3	2,3	1,3	6,3		
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,2</b>	<b>4,0</b>	<b>3,8</b>	<b>-4,4</b>	<b>9,7</b>		

**Table 9 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at current prices**

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
Jan	91 082	94 923	93 094	103 931	-0,5	0,9	-2,7	2,0
Feb	91 736	95 947	100 339	103 302	0,7	1,1	7,8	-0,6
Mar	91 615	97 347	97 306	103 668	-0,1	1,5	-3,0	0,4
Apr	92 678	50 008	95 904	104 939	1,2	-48,6	-1,4	1,2
May	92 668	83 544	99 271	104 040	0,0	67,1	3,5	-0,9
Jun	93 636	88 465	101 446	104 255	1,0	5,9	2,2	0,2
Jul	94 118	88 127	91 132	104 808	0,5	-0,4	-10,2	0,5
Aug	94 523	92 861	95 538	103 821	0,4	5,4	4,8	-0,9
Sep	93 751	93 176	98 679		-0,8	0,3	3,3	
Oct	93 990	94 363	99 505		0,3	1,3	0,8	
Nov	97 273	95 079	100 554		3,5	0,8	1,1	
Dec	94 068	95 665	101 934		-3,3	0,6	1,4	



**Table 10 – Retail trade sales at current prices by type of retailer (R million)**

Type of retailer	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22 1/
General dealers	46 794	42 716	47 459	47 609	43 677	48 480
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	9 111	8 978	8 462	8 298	9 050	8 451
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	7 586	8 073	7 517	7 184	8 038	7 978
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	14 371	16 994	16 903	15 055	15 255	14 010
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 654	4 242	4 291	4 219	4 419	4 363
Hardware, paint and glass	8 076	7 536	8 943	8 235	8 864	9 006
All other retailers	10 174	9 963	9 866	9 331	9 036	9 089
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 766</b>	<b>98 502</b>	<b>103 440</b>	<b>99 932</b>	<b>98 339</b>	<b>101 377</b>

1/ Figures are preliminary.

**Table 11 – Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at current prices by type of retailer**

Type of retailer	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22
General dealers	7,2	11,3	10,9	1,1	17,3	15,8
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	8,1	10,9	0,3	12,9	37,5	0,1
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	10,3	10,6	6,8	1,6	5,9	3,8
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	10,6	19,7	-1,1	8,5	16,1	7,1
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	6,8	6,7	-0,1	1,2	10,5	4,2
Hardware, paint and glass	-4,8	-5,7	-1,8	-2,4	5,4	-4,5
All other retailers	3,5	0,2	0,3	1,8	4,8	2,9
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,5</b>	<b>9,6</b>	<b>4,9</b>	<b>2,8</b>	<b>14,9</b>	<b>8,4</b>

**Table 12 – 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	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22
General dealers	3,3	4,8	4,7	0,5	7,5	7,1
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	0,7	1,0	0,0	1,0	2,9	0,0
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	0,8	0,9	0,5	0,1	0,5	0,3
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	1,5	3,1	-0,2	1,2	2,5	1,0
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	0,3	0,3	0,0	0,1	0,5	0,2
Hardware, paint and glass	-0,4	-0,5	-0,2	-0,2	0,5	-0,5
All other retailers	0,4	0,0	0,0	0,2	0,5	0,3
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,5</b>	<b>9,6</b>	<b>4,9</b>	<b>2,8</b>	<b>14,9</b>	<b>8,4</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 value added tax (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 August 2022 was 67,7%. The improved collection rate for July 2022 was 71,8%.

<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 10 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 3 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 limits	Upper limits
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 February 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.

<b>Constant prices</b>	<b>7</b>	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.
	<b>8</b>	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.
<b>Reliability of estimates</b>	<b>9</b>	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.
	<b>10</b>	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.
<b>Month-on-month percentage change</b>	<b>11</b>	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.
<b>Year-on-year percentage change</b>	<b>12</b>	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.
<b>Contribution (percentage points)</b>	<b>13</b>	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>	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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## 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 eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

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