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Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

STATISTICAL RELEASE

P6242.1

Retail trade sales
(Preliminary)

December 2022

This is the first statistical release presenting seasonally adjusted retail trade sales by type of retailer at constant and current prices. See page 6 of the statistical release for a brief note on seasonal adjustment.

Embargoed until:
15 February 2023
13:00

ENQUIRIES: FORTHCOMING ISSUE: EXPECTED RELEASE DATE:
Keshnee Naidoo   January 2023   15 March 2023
(072) 310 3798

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IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS

Contents

Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for December 2022

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

	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	8,9	2,1	-0,4	-0,7	0,8	-0,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,1	-0,6	-0,2	0,2	1,0	-0,6
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	-1,4	-1,3	-1,0	-0,8	-0,2	0,3

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 0,6% year-on-year in December 2022. The largest negative contributors to this decrease were retailers in:

- pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries (-5,2% and contributing -0,3 of a percentage point); and
- hardware, paint and glass (-3,9% and contributing -0,3 of a percentage point) – see Tables 5 and 6.

In 2022, retail trade sales increased by 1,7% compared with 2021. Five of the seven types of retailer showed positive year-on-year growth rates over this period. The main contributor was retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (6,8% and contributing 1,1 percentage points).

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales decreased by 0,6% in December 2022 compared with November 2022. This followed month-on-month changes of 1,0% in November 2022 and 0,2% in October 2022.

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

Type of retailer	Oct – Dec 2021 (R million)	Weight (%)	Oct – Dec 2022 (R million)	% change between Oct – Dec 2021 and Oct – Dec 2022	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	136 067	42,3	135 789	-0,2	-0,1
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	27 278	8,5	26 610	-2,4	-0,2
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	21 211	6,6	20 204	-4,7	-0,3
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	61 667	19,2	64 300	4,3	0,8
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	16 260	5,1	16 522	1,6	0,1
Hardware, paint and glass	26 301	8,2	24 946	-5,2	-0,4
All other retailers	32 552	10,1	32 401	-0,5	-0,1
Total	**321 336**	**100,0**	**320 772**	**-0,2**	**-0,2**

Retail trade sales decreased by 0,2% in the fourth quarter of 2022 compared with the fourth quarter of 2021. The largest negative contributors to this decrease were retailers in:

- hardware, paint and glass (-5,2% and contributing -0,4 of a percentage point);
- pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries (-4,7% and contributing -0,3 of a percentage point); and
- food, beverages and tobacco products in specialised stores (-2,4% and contributing -0,2 of a percentage point).

The largest positive contributor was retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (4,3% 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	Jul – Sep 2022 (R million)	Weight (%)	Oct – Dec 2022 (R million)	% change between Jul – Sep 2022 and Oct – Dec 2022	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	124 368	44,3	123 074	-1,0	-0,4
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	22 783	8,1	22 998	0,9	0,1
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	19 936	7,1	19 630	-1,5	-0,1
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	48 408	17,2	49 839	3,0	0,5
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	13 785	4,9	13 723	-0,4	0,0
Hardware, paint and glass	22 836	8,1	22 721	-0,5	0,0
All other retailers	28 721	10,2	29 721	3,5	0,4
Total	**280 835**	**100,0**	**281 705**	**0,3**	**0,3**

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales increased by 0,3% in the fourth quarter of 2022 compared with the third quarter of 2022. The largest contributor to this increase was retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (3,0% and contributing 0,5 of a percentage point) – see Table C.

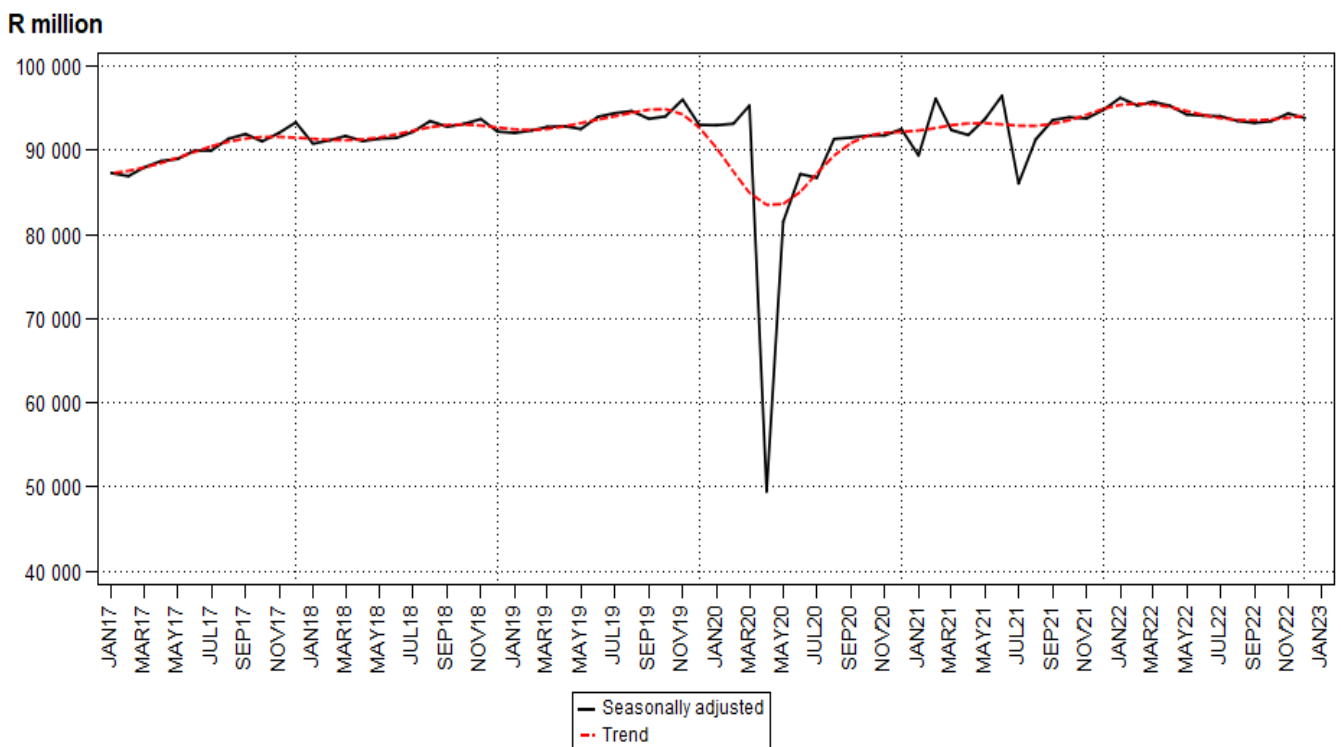**Figure 1 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices**

Figure 2 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices: year-on-year percentage change
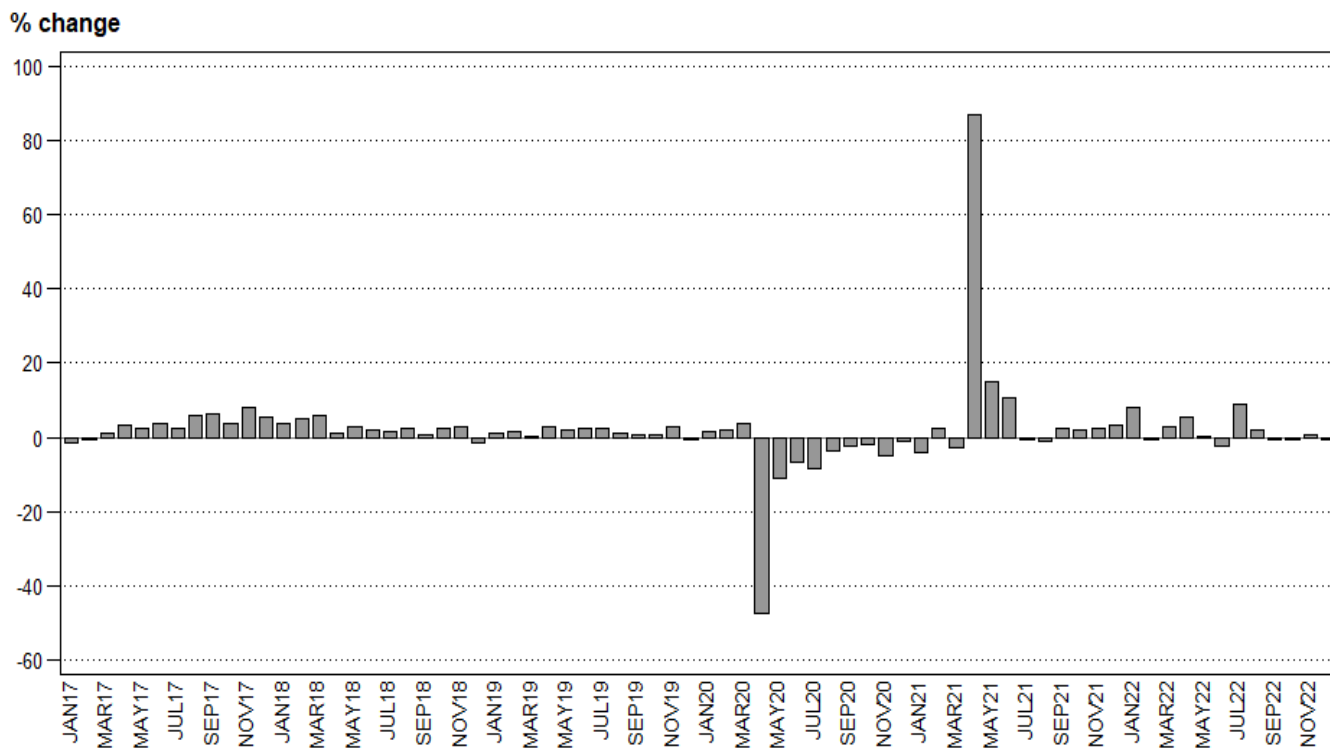
Sales at current prices: results for December 2022

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

	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	14,9	8,5	6,4	6,0	7,7	6,2
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,4	0,0	0,4	0,7	1,4	-0,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	0,5	0,7	0,8	1,0	1,5	1,8

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	Oct – Dec 2021 (R million)	Weight (%)	Oct – Dec 2022 (R million)	% change between Oct – Dec 2021 and Oct – Dec 2022	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	148 748	43,4	163 252	9,8	4,3
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	30 789	9,0	32 538	5,7	0,5
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	23 306	6,8	23 610	1,3	0,1
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	62 472	18,2	66 895	7,1	1,3
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	16 105	4,7	16 593	3,0	0,1
Hardware, paint and glass	28 514	8,3	29 043	1,9	0,2
All other retailers	32 637	9,5	33 423	2,4	0,2
Total	**342 571**	**100,0**	**365 353**	**6,7**	**6,7**

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

Type of retailer	Jul – Sep 2022 (R million)	Weight (%)	Oct – Dec 2022 (R million)	% change between Jul – Sep 2022 and Oct – Dec 2022	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	145 512	46,2	147 106	1,1	0,5
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	27 387	8,7	28 093	2,6	0,2
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	22 933	7,3	22 982	0,2	0,0
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	50 048	15,9	51 844	3,6	0,6
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	13 829	4,4	13 812	-0,1	0,0
Hardware, paint and glass	26 127	8,3	26 470	1,3	0,1
All other retailers	29 244	9,3	30 464	4,2	0,4
Total	**315 080**	**100,0**	**320 768**	**1,8**	**1,8**

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

Note: Seasonal adjustment of retail trade sales

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes monthly data for the retail trade industry. The publication previously contained total seasonally adjusted sales at constant 2019 prices and current prices (direct seasonal adjustment only). As part of its improvement programme in economic statistics, Stats SA today introduces seasonally adjusted sales by type of retailer.

Stats SA uses the X-12-ARIMA seasonal adjustment program to estimate trend, seasonal and irregular components as well as length-of-month or length-of-quarter, trading day, leap year and Easter effects.

The span for the retail trade sales series used in identifying the parameters was split into two intervals:
- January 2002 to December 2011; and
- January 2012 to July 2022.

For retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices:
- direct seasonal adjustment was applied to the total only for the period January 2002 to December 2007; and
- indirect seasonal adjustment was applied by seasonally adjusting the components and then aggregating them to the total from January 2008 onwards.

For retail trade sales at current prices:
- direct seasonal adjustment was applied to the total only for the period January 2002 to August 2004; and
- indirect seasonal adjustment was applied by seasonally adjusting the components and then aggregating them to the total from September 2004 onwards.

The following graphs show comparisons between seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices (Figure 3) and current prices (Figure 4) using the direct and indirect methods.

Figure 3 – Seasonally adjusted total retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices up to November 2022

Figure 4 – Seasonally adjusted total retail trade sales at current prices up to November 2022

R million

The following graphs show comparisons between the month-on-month growth rates of seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices (Figure 5) and current prices (Figure 6) using the direct and indirect methods.

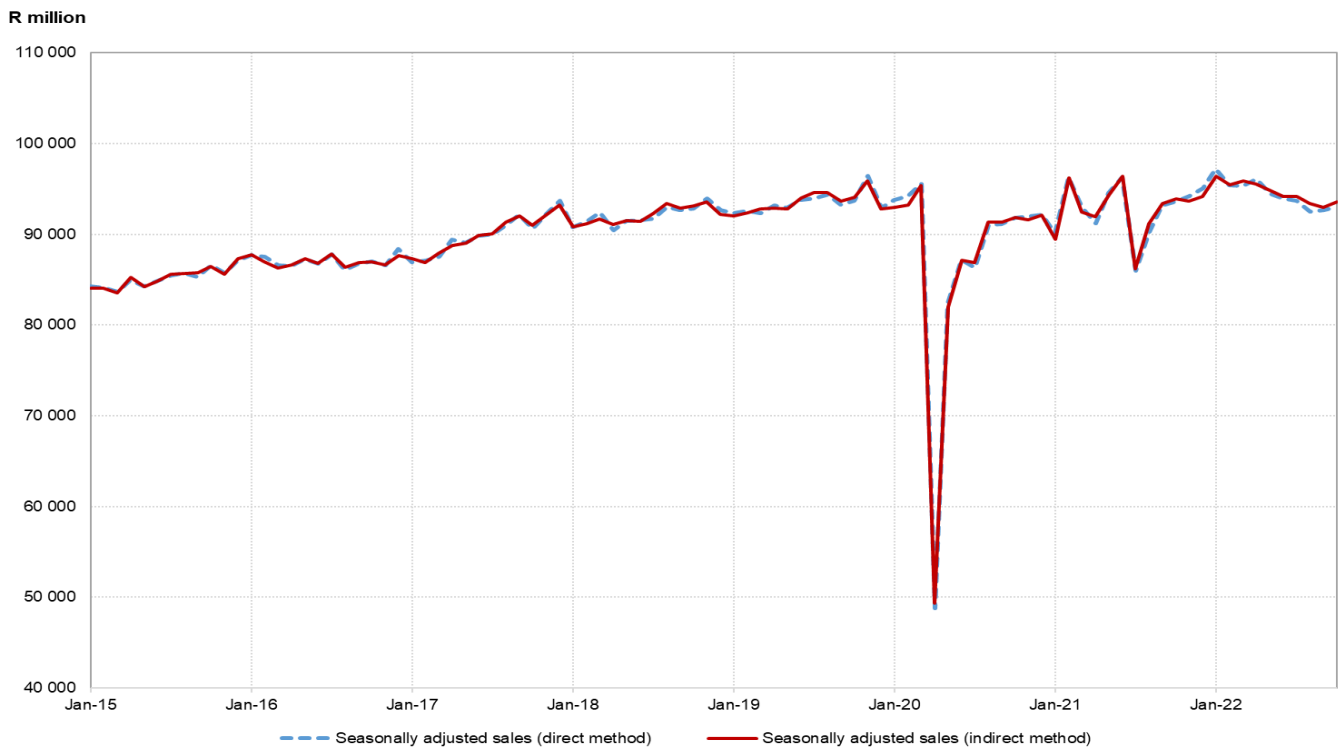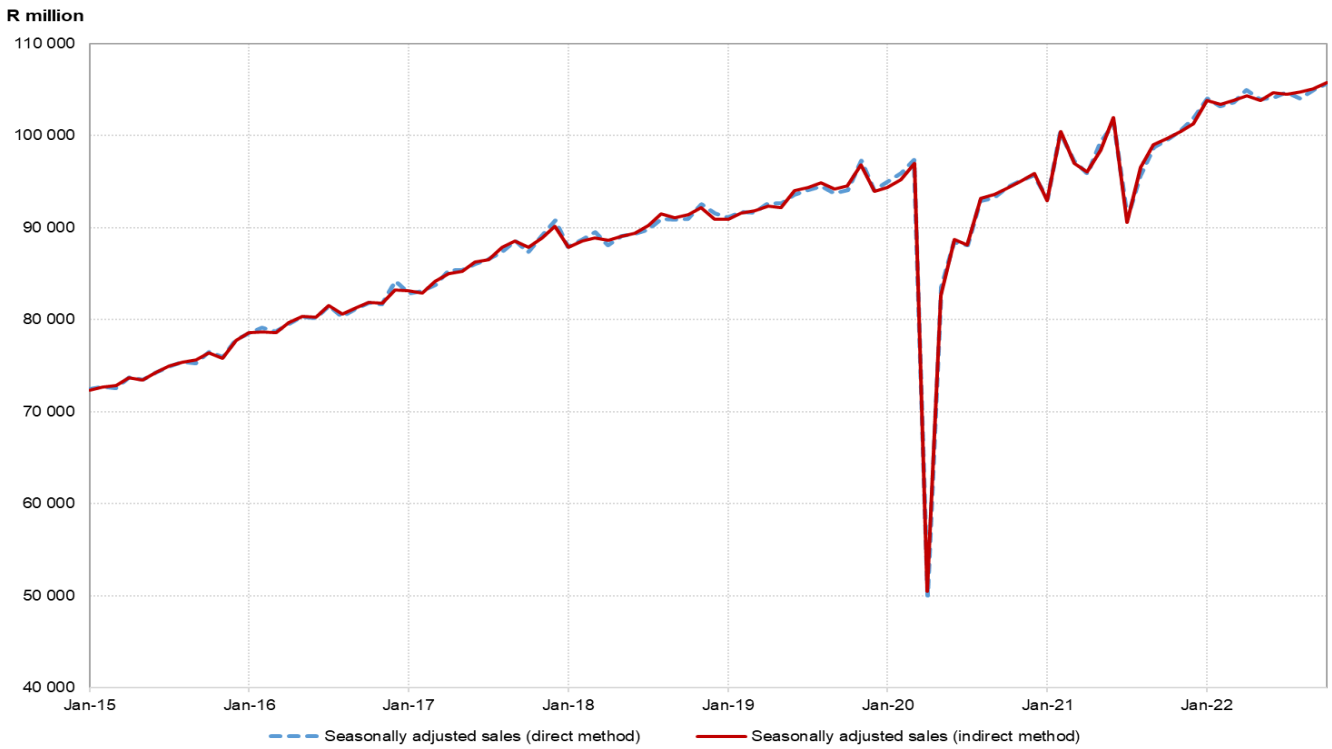**Figure 5 – Seasonally adjusted total retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices: month-on-month percentage change up to November 2022**
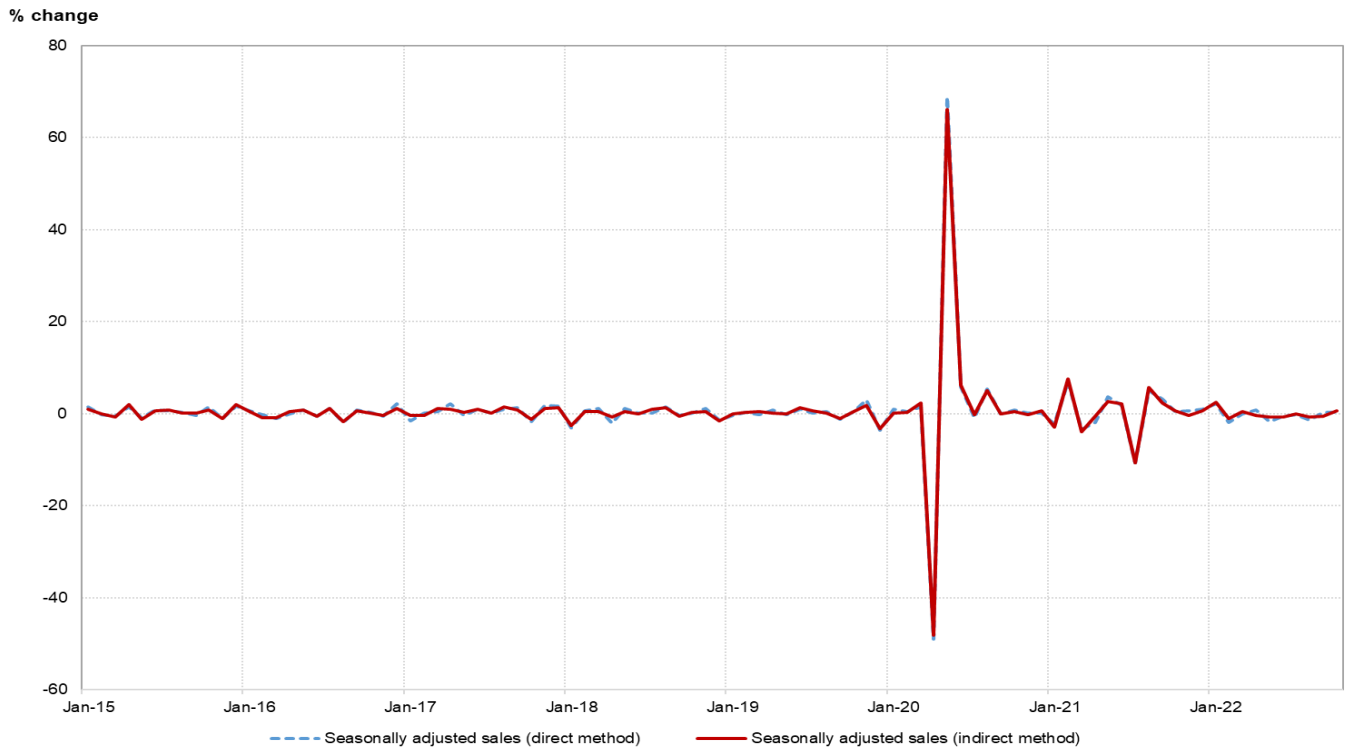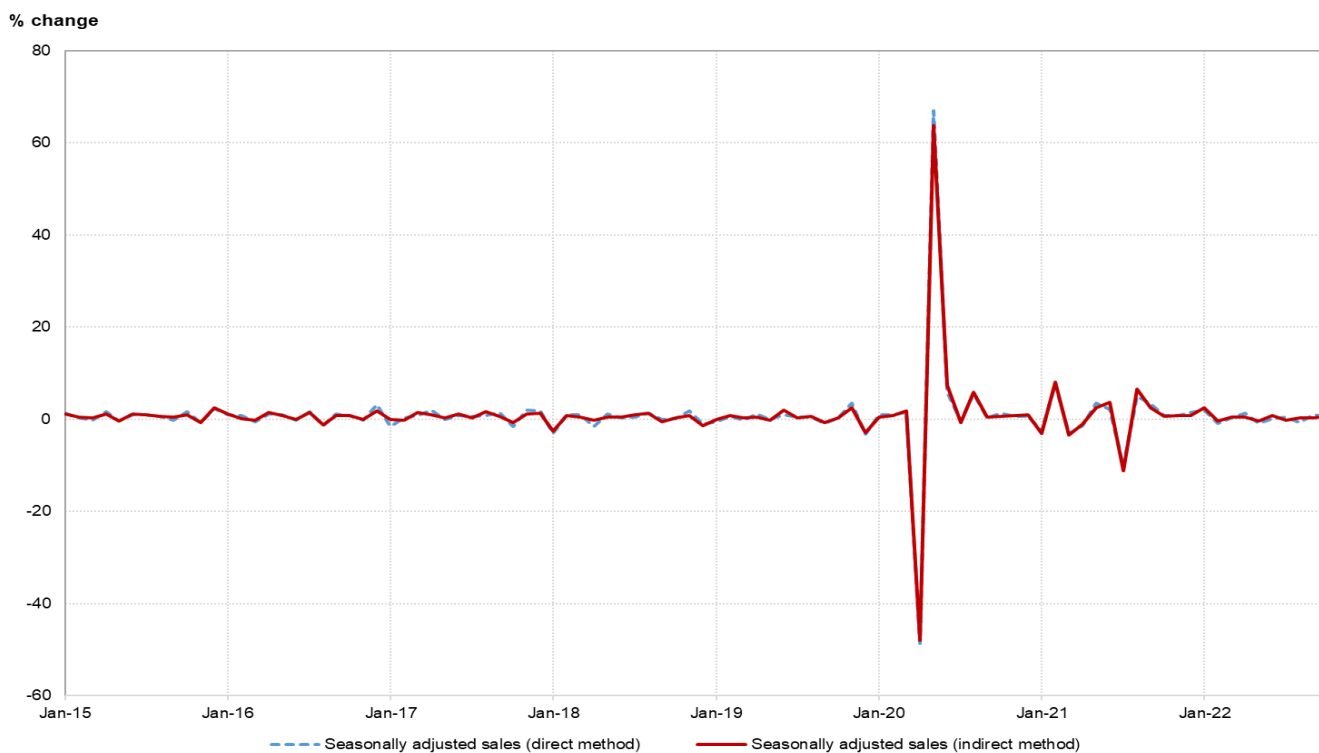
% change

Figure 6 – Seasonally adjusted total retail trade sales at current prices: month-on-month percentage change up to November 2022

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	89 856
Sep	83 566	88 677	89 182	89 743	87 598	89 525	89 125
Oct	85 030	88 329	90 296	90 998	89 176	90 925	90 268
Nov	93 623	101 234	104 135	107 171	102 058	104 290	105 109
Dec	119 540	126 094	124 041	123 820	122 354	126 121	125 395
Total	**1 045 524**	**1 081 738**	**1 105 698**	**1 121 865**	**1 048 797**	**1 114 439**	**1 133 667**

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	2,1	*2,9*
Sep	6,1	0,6	0,6	-2,4	2,2	-0,4	*2,5*
Oct	3,9	2,2	0,8	-2,0	2,0	-0,7	*2,2*
Nov	8,1	2,9	2,9	-4,8	2,2	0,8	*2,0*
Dec	5,5	-1,6	-0,2	-1,2	3,1	-0,6	*1,7*
Total	**3,5**	**2,2**	**1,5**	**-6,5**	**6,3**	**1,7**	

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	92 077	92 989	89 399	96 249	-0,2	0,0	-3,4	1,5
Feb	92 370	93 170	96 161	95 335	0,3	0,2	7,6	-0,9
Mar	92 789	95 339	92 421	95 783	0,5	2,3	-3,9	0,5
Apr	92 875	49 425	91 830	95 292	0,1	-48,2	-0,6	-0,5
May	92 540	81 517	93 709	94 266	-0,4	64,9	2,0	-1,1
Jun	93 997	87 198	96 499	94 123	1,6	7,0	3,0	-0,2
Jul	94 417	86 737	86 065	94 058	0,4	-0,5	-10,8	-0,1
Aug	94 671	91 354	91 312	93 503	0,3	5,3	6,1	-0,6
Sep	93 751	91 529	93 611	93 274	-1,0	0,2	2,5	-0,2
Oct	94 044	91 745	93 932	93 475	0,3	0,2	0,3	0,2
Nov	96 042	91 790	93 797	94 385	2,1	0,0	-0,1	1,0
Dec	93 032	92 519	94 795	93 845	-3,1	0,8	1,1	-0,6

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

Type of retailer	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22 1/
General dealers	37 548	40 972	41 460	37 950	45 602	52 237
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	7 605	7 124	7 126	8 026	7 627	10 957
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	7 017	6 940	6 252	6 927	6 277	7 000
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	14 835	13 676	13 520	15 132	20 242	28 926
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 406	4 369	4 201	4 497	6 019	6 006
Hardware, paint and glass	7 800	7 884	7 827	8 142	8 729	8 075
All other retailers	8 846	8 891	8 739	9 594	10 613	12 194
Total	**88 057**	**89 856**	**89 125**	**90 268**	**105 109**	**125 395**

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	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22
General dealers	8,8	6,0	1,7	-0,4	0,3	-0,5
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	28,2	-5,6	-8,1	-2,4	-4,4	-1,1
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	0,0	-2,3	-4,8	-3,8	-5,3	-5,2
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	14,0	5,7	4,4	2,9	7,7	2,7
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	8,8	2,9	1,5	1,7	5,6	-2,2
Hardware, paint and glass	-0,2	-9,7	-7,2	-5,6	-5,9	-3,9
All other retailers	3,2	1,3	-1,8	-0,6	1,5	-2,0
Total	**8,9**	**2,1**	**-0,4**	**-0,7**	**0,8**	**-0,6**

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	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22
General dealers	3,7	2,6	0,8	-0,2	0,1	-0,2
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	2,1	-0,5	-0,7	-0,2	-0,3	-0,1
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	0,0	-0,2	-0,4	-0,3	-0,3	-0,3
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	2,3	0,8	0,6	0,5	1,4	0,6
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	0,4	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,3	-0,1
Hardware, paint and glass	0,0	-1,0	-0,7	-0,5	-0,5	-0,3
All other retailers	0,3	0,1	-0,2	-0,1	0,2	-0,2
Total	**8,9**	**2,1**	**-0,4**	**-0,7**	**0,8**	**-0,6**

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

Type of retailer	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	*Month-on-month % change*
General dealers	41 665	41 466	41 237	40 967	41 118	40 989	*-0,3*
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	7 807	7 592	7 384	7 693	7 600	7 705	*1,4*
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	6 727	6 694	6 515	6 612	6 515	6 503	*-0,2*
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	15 888	16 225	16 295	16 270	16 955	16 614	*-2,0*
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 618	4 577	4 590	4 575	4 699	4 449	*-5,3*
Hardware, paint and glass	7 797	7 345	7 694	7 586	7 530	7 605	*1,0*
All other retailers	9 556	9 606	9 559	9 773	9 968	9 980	*0,1*
Total	**94 058**	**93 503**	**93 274**	**93 475**	**94 385**	**93 845**	***-0,6***

Table 8 – 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	101 447
Sep	77 928	85 115	87 375	90 271	89 814	95 179	101 256
Oct	79 991	85 166	88 532	91 448	91 868	97 010	102 843
Nov	88 198	97 556	102 364	107 939	105 378	111 162	119 744
Dec	113 302	121 498	121 895	124 700	126 378	134 399	142 766
Total	**969 037**	**1 038 933**	**1 080 672**	**1 121 865**	**1 072 916**	**1 176 503**	**1 261 494**

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

Table 9 – 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	8,5	7,6
Sep	9,2	2,7	3,3	-0,5	6,0	6,4	7,5
Oct	6,5	4,0	3,3	0,5	5,6	6,0	7,3
Nov	10,6	4,9	5,4	-2,4	5,5	7,7	7,4
Dec	7,2	0,3	2,3	1,3	6,3	6,2	7,2
Total	**7,2**	**4,0**	**3,8**	**-4,4**	**9,7**	**7,2**	

Table 10 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at current prices

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
Jan	90 934	94 444	93 011	103 949	0,0	0,5	-2,9	2,7
Feb	91 473	95 048	100 263	103 221	0,6	0,6	7,8	-0,7
Mar	91 908	97 065	97 091	103 974	0,5	2,1	-3,2	0,7
Apr	92 421	50 496	96 104	104 330	0,6	-48,0	-1,0	0,3
May	92 141	82 583	98 328	103 760	-0,3	63,5	2,3	-0,5
Jun	93 949	88 613	101 750	104 414	2,0	7,3	3,5	0,6
Jul	94 422	88 249	90 861	104 875	0,5	-0,4	-10,7	0,4
Aug	94 936	93 251	96 637	104 867	0,5	5,7	6,4	0,0
Sep	94 263	93 670	99 175	105 338	-0,7	0,4	2,6	0,4
Oct	94 544	94 418	99 916	106 039	0,3	0,8	0,7	0,7
Nov	96 803	94 913	100 053	107 518	2,4	0,5	0,1	1,4
Dec	93 966	95 818	101 261	107 211	-2,9	1,0	1,2	-0,3

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

Type of retailer	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22 1/
General dealers	43 677	48 319	49 212	45 426	54 837	62 989
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	9 050	8 542	8 601	9 765	9 328	13 445
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	8 038	7 987	7 216	8 072	7 339	8 199
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	15 255	14 135	14 014	15 738	21 060	30 097
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 419	4 374	4 192	4 505	6 049	6 039
Hardware, paint and glass	8 864	8 975	9 038	9 456	10 180	9 407
All other retailers	9 036	9 114	8 985	9 881	10 951	12 591
Total	**98 339**	**101 447**	**101 256**	**102 843**	**119 744**	**142 766**

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	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22
General dealers	17,3	15,4	11,4	9,2	10,4	9,6
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	37,5	1,2	-0,8	5,5	3,8	7,2
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	5,9	3,9	1,3	2,6	0,7	0,7
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	16,1	8,0	7,0	5,8	10,6	5,4
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	10,5	4,5	2,7	3,2	7,0	-0,8
Hardware, paint and glass	5,4	-4,8	-1,0	1,1	1,3	3,2
All other retailers	4,8	3,1	1,0	1,9	4,5	1,0
Total	**14,9**	**8,5**	**6,4**	**6,0**	**7,7**	**6,2**

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	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22
General dealers	7,5	6,9	5,3	3,9	4,6	4,1
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	2,9	0,1	-0,1	0,5	0,3	0,7
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	0,5	0,3	0,1	0,2	0,0	0,0
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	2,5	1,1	1,0	0,9	1,8	1,2
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	0,5	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,4	0,0
Hardware, paint and glass	0,5	-0,5	-0,1	0,1	0,1	0,2
All other retailers	0,5	0,3	0,1	0,2	0,4	0,1
Total	**14,9**	**8,5**	**6,4**	**6,0**	**7,7**	**6,2**

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

Type of retailer	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	*Month-on-month % change*
General dealers	48 197	48 655	48 660	48 705	49 186	49 215	*0,1*
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	9 285	9 094	9 008	9 349	9 295	9 449	*1,7*
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	7 686	7 689	7 558	7 693	7 627	7 662	*0,5*
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	16 367	16 779	16 902	16 929	17 691	17 224	*-2,6*
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 630	4 596	4 603	4 599	4 728	4 485	*-5,1*
Hardware, paint and glass	8 881	8 363	8 883	8 798	8 777	8 895	*1,3*
All other retailers	9 829	9 692	9 723	9 967	10 215	10 282	*0,7*
Total	**104 875**	**104 867**	**105 338**	**106 039**	**107 518**	**107 211**	***-0,3***

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 December 2022 was 71,1%. The improved collection rate for November 2022 was 72,8%.

| **Statistical unit** | **7** | 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** | **8** | 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. |

| **Related publications** | **9** | Users may also refer to the following publication available from Stats SA: |

- *Stats in Brief* issued annually*.*

| **Rounding-off of figures** | **10** | Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals. |

| **Historical data** | **11** | 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** | **12** | 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 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:

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

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

Month-on-month percentage change   **11**   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   **12**   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)   **13**   The contribution (percentage points) to the year-on-year percentage change for any given period is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of retailer by its corresponding weight, divided by 100. The weight is the percentage contribution of each type of retailer to total retail trade sales in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Glossary

Enterprise
An enterprise is a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.

Industry
An industry is made up of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the *System of National Accounts* (SNA) in the same way as in the *Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities* (SIC)*, Fifth Edition*, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993.

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

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

Symbols and abbreviations

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

Technical enquiries

Raquel Floris
Telephone number: 072 205 2608
Email: raquelf@statssa.gov.za

Keshnee Naidoo
Telephone number: 072 310 3798
Email: keshneen@statssa.gov.za

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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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General enquiries

User information services   Telephone number: (012) 310 8600
                                 Email: info@statssa.gov.za

Orders/subscription services   Telephone number: (012) 310 8619
                                 Email: millies@statssa.gov.za

Postal address   Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

Produced by Stats SA