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**Retail trade sales**  
**(Preliminary)**

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Keshnee Naidoo  
(012) 310 8423

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[www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)  
[info@statssa.gov.za](mailto:info@statssa.gov.za)  
T +27 12 310 8911  
F +27 12 310 8500

Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa  
ISibalo House, Koch Street, Salvokop, Pretoria, 0002

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## Sales at constant 2015 prices: results for February 2018

**Table A – Key growth rates in retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices**

	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	5,7	3,5	7,9	5,1	3,3	4,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	-0,4	-0,2	4,0	-3,3	-1,4	1,8
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	1,4	1,9	2,3	2,0	1,0	-1,1

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

Measured in real terms (constant 2015 prices), retail trade sales increased by 4,9% year-on-year in February 2018. The highest annual growth rates were recorded for:

- retailers in household furniture, appliances and equipment (14,2%);
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (7,1%); and
- all 'other' retailers (6,1%) – see Table 5.

The main contributors to the 4,9% increase were:

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

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales increased by 1,8% month-on-month in February 2018. This followed month-on-month changes of -1,4% in January 2018 and -3,3% in December 2017. In the three months ended February 2018, seasonally adjusted retail trade sales decreased by 1,1% compared with the previous three months.

**Table B – Retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices for the latest three months by type of retailer**

Type of retailer	Dec 2016 – Feb 2017 (R million)	Weight	Dec 2017 – Feb 2018 (R million)	% change between Dec 2016 – Feb 2017 and Dec 2017 – Feb 2018	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	100 968	42,6	103 812	2,8	1,2
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	20 236	8,5	20 470	1,2	0,1
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	16 570	7,0	17 432	5,2	0,4
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	45 166	19,1	48 063	6,4	1,2
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	10 940	4,6	12 157	11,1	0,5
Hardware, paint and glass	17 309	7,3	17 640	1,9	0,1
All other retailers	25 796	10,9	28 092	8,9	1,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>236 985</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>247 666</b>	<b>4,5</b>	<b>4,5</b>

Retail trade sales increased by 4,5% in the three months ended February 2018 compared with the three months ended February 2017. The main contributors to this increase were:

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

Figure 1 – Retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices

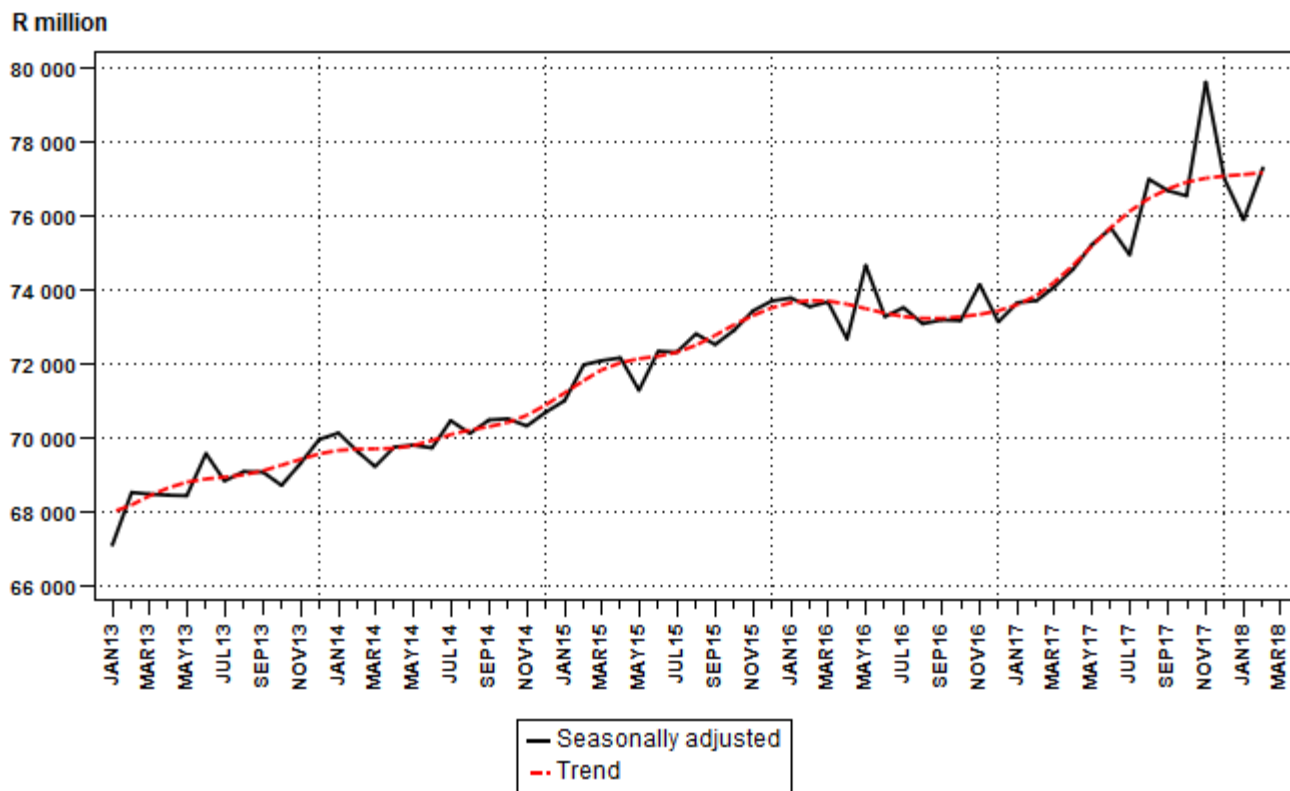
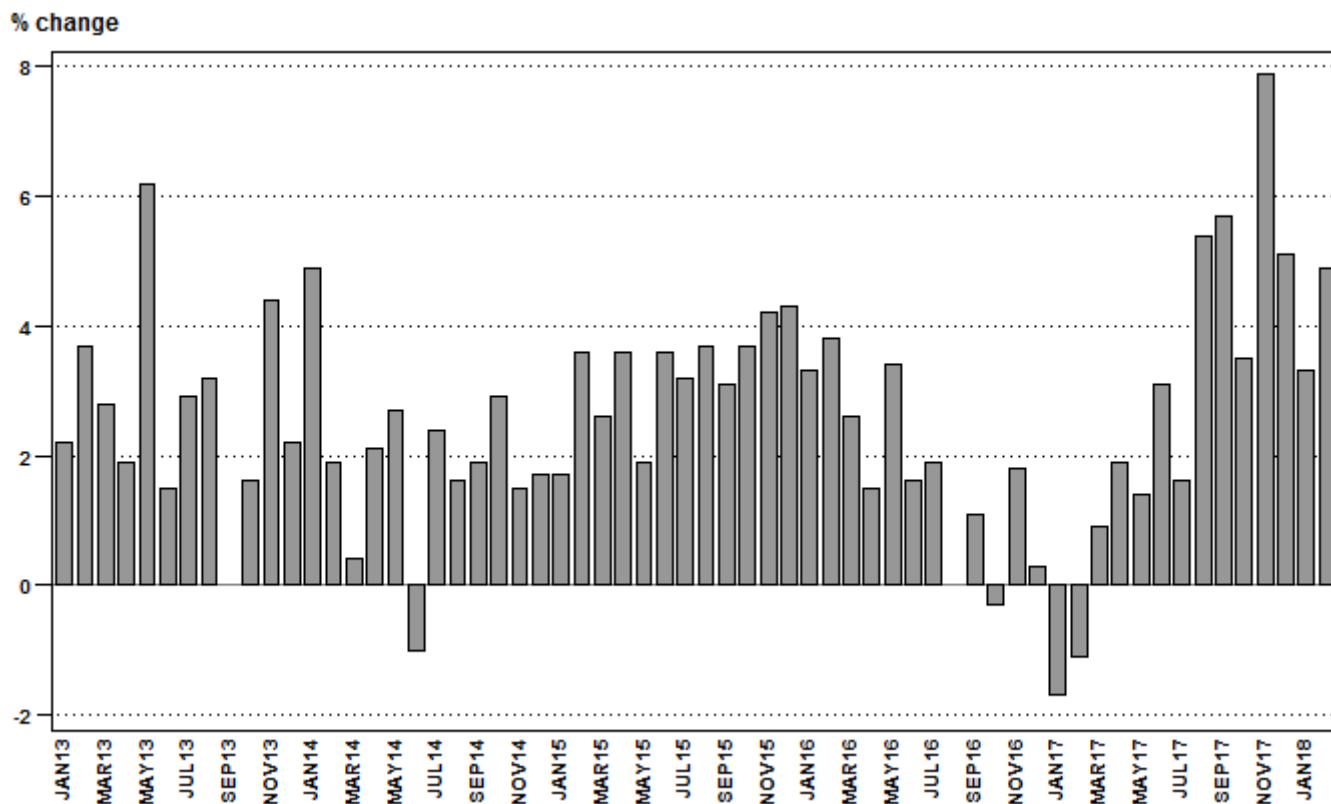


Figure 2 – Retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices: year-on-year percentage change



**Sales at current prices: results for February 2018****Table C – Key growth rates in retail trade sales at current prices**

	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	9,0	6,3	10,5	7,0	5,3	6,9
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,3	-0,7	4,4	-2,9	-1,4	2,2
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	2,1	2,3	2,7	2,2	1,5	-0,6

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	Dec 2016 – Feb 2017 (R million)	Weight	Dec 2017 – Feb 2018 (R million)	% change between Dec 2016 – Feb 2017 and Dec 2017 – Feb 2018	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	113 291	43,7	119 029	5,1	2,2
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	22 518	8,7	24 364	8,2	0,7
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	17 842	6,9	19 617	9,9	0,7
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	49 038	18,9	52 906	7,9	1,5
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	11 289	4,4	11 913	5,5	0,2
Hardware, paint and glass	17 577	6,8	18 451	5,0	0,3
All other retailers	27 622	10,7	29 689	7,5	0,8
<b>Total</b>	<b>259 175</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>275 968</b>	<b>6,5</b>	<b>6,5</b>

**Risenga Maluleke**  
**Statistician-General**

## Tables

**Table 1 – Retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices (R million)**

Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 1/
Jan	61 307	62 638	65 709	66 799	69 010	67 813	70 056
Feb	60 900	63 131	64 332	66 625	69 139	68 354	71 691
Mar	64 728	66 537	66 784	68 548	70 298	70 901	
Apr	63 361	64 567	65 936	68 290	69 283	70 632	
May	63 190	67 123	68 905	70 248	72 640	73 662	
Jun	65 683	66 674	66 010	68 372	69 495	71 676	
Jul	63 760	65 593	67 143	69 270	70 574	71 711	
Aug	65 485	67 589	68 653	71 217	71 250	75 077	
Sep	66 275	66 243	67 493	69 580	70 338	74 322	
Oct	66 428	67 503	69 493	72 079	71 844	74 351	
Nov	70 375	73 493	74 572	77 671	79 065	85 306	
Dec	92 738	94 767	96 338	100 477	100 818	105 919	
<b>Total</b>	<b>804 230</b>	<b>825 858</b>	<b>841 368</b>	<b>869 176</b>	<b>883 754</b>	<b>909 724</b>	

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

**Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices**

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2018 year-to-date
Jan	2,2	4,9	1,7	3,3	-1,7	3,3	3,3
Feb	3,7	1,9	3,6	3,8	-1,1	4,9	4,1
Mar	2,8	0,4	2,6	2,6	0,9		
Apr	1,9	2,1	3,6	1,5	1,9		
May	6,2	2,7	1,9	3,4	1,4		
Jun	1,5	-1,0	3,6	1,6	3,1		
Jul	2,9	2,4	3,2	1,9	1,6		
Aug	3,2	1,6	3,7	0,0	5,4		
Sep	0,0	1,9	3,1	1,1	5,7		
Oct	1,6	2,9	3,7	-0,3	3,5		
Nov	4,4	1,5	4,2	1,8	7,9		
Dec	2,2	1,7	4,3	0,3	5,1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,7</b>	<b>1,9</b>	<b>3,3</b>	<b>1,7</b>	<b>2,9</b>		

**Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices**

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018
Jan	71 000	73 772	73 647	75 882	0,4	0,1	0,7	-1,4
Feb	71 970	73 539	73 701	77 279	1,4	-0,3	0,1	1,8
Mar	72 077	73 666	74 061		0,1	0,2	0,5	
Apr	72 156	72 663	74 551		0,1	-1,4	0,7	
May	71 281	74 652	75 210		-1,2	2,7	0,9	
Jun	72 334	73 267	75 655		1,5	-1,9	0,6	
Jul	72 309	73 513	74 937		0,0	0,3	-0,9	
Aug	72 803	73 077	76 979		0,7	-0,6	2,7	
Sep	72 515	73 179	76 668		-0,4	0,1	-0,4	
Oct	72 893	73 160	76 530		0,5	0,0	-0,2	
Nov	73 423	74 135	79 596		0,7	1,3	4,0	
Dec	73 690	73 125	76 986		0,4	-1,4	-3,3	

**Table 4 – Retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices by type of retailer (R million)**

Type of retailer	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18 1/
General dealers	32 761	29 542	35 537	43 108	28 807	31 897
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	6 261	6 350	6 292	9 121	5 679	5 670
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	5 367	5 852	5 608	6 311	5 710	5 411
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	11 830	13 208	16 476	24 447	12 291	11 325
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	3 361	3 436	4 286	5 467	3 412	3 278
Hardware, paint and glass	5 881	6 630	7 113	6 622	5 342	5 676
All other retailers	8 861	9 333	9 994	10 843	8 815	8 434
<b>Total</b>	<b>74 322</b>	<b>74 351</b>	<b>85 306</b>	<b>105 919</b>	<b>70 056</b>	<b>71 691</b>

1/ Figures are preliminary.

**Table 5 – Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices by type of retailer**

Type of retailer	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18
General dealers	3,7	0,0	5,3	3,1	1,2	3,9
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	5,4	2,7	2,5	-0,4	0,5	4,4
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	2,2	5,3	4,5	6,9	3,6	4,9
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	9,3	5,6	12,5	6,0	6,7	7,1
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	6,4	3,4	13,1	7,6	14,1	14,2
Hardware, paint and glass	-4,1	0,0	-0,1	4,1	1,4	0,0
All other retailers	19,4	15,3	20,7	14,8	5,0	6,1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,7</b>	<b>3,5</b>	<b>7,9</b>	<b>5,1</b>	<b>3,3</b>	<b>4,9</b>

**Table 6 – Contribution of each type of retailer to the year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices (percentage points)**

Type of retailer	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18
General dealers	1,7	0,0	2,3	1,3	0,5	1,8
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	0,5	0,2	0,2	0,0	0,0	0,3
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	0,2	0,4	0,3	0,4	0,3	0,4
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	1,4	1,0	2,3	1,4	1,1	1,1
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	0,3	0,2	0,6	0,4	0,6	0,6
Hardware, paint and glass	-0,4	0,0	0,0	0,3	0,1	0,0
All other retailers	2,1	1,7	2,2	1,4	0,6	0,7
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,7</b>	<b>3,5</b>	<b>7,9</b>	<b>5,1</b>	<b>3,3</b>	<b>4,9</b>

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

Month	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 1/
Jan	52 767	56 306	61 293	65 485	70 700	74 209	78 133
Feb	52 440	56 737	60 309	65 550	71 466	75 148	80 329
Mar	56 108	59 988	63 159	67 806	73 474	78 303	
Apr	55 061	58 551	62 811	67 864	73 089	78 100	
May	55 058	60 840	66 006	70 203	76 795	81 638	
Jun	57 242	60 478	63 380	68 327	73 753	79 353	
Jul	55 708	59 587	64 679	69 261	75 230	79 409	
Aug	57 293	61 623	66 470	71 571	76 374	83 079	
Sep	58 299	60 700	65 404	69 933	75 533	82 347	
Oct	59 128	62 233	67 551	72 703	77 531	82 430	
Nov	62 980	67 989	72 878	78 598	85 487	94 439	
Dec	83 048	87 508	93 930	101 865	109 818	117 506	
<b>Total</b>	<b>705 132</b>	<b>752 540</b>	<b>807 870</b>	<b>869 176</b>	<b>939 250</b>	<b>1 005 961</b>	

1/ Figures for latest month are preliminary.

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

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2018 year-to-date
Jan	6,7	8,9	6,8	8,0	5,0	5,3	5,3
Feb	8,2	6,3	8,7	9,0	5,2	6,9	6,1
Mar	6,9	5,3	7,4	8,4	6,6		
Apr	6,3	7,3	8,0	7,7	6,9		
May	10,5	8,5	6,4	9,4	6,3		
Jun	5,7	4,8	7,8	7,9	7,6		
Jul	7,0	8,5	7,1	8,6	5,6		
Aug	7,6	7,9	7,7	6,7	8,8		
Sep	4,1	7,7	6,9	8,0	9,0		
Oct	5,3	8,5	7,6	6,6	6,3		
Nov	8,0	7,2	7,8	8,8	10,5		
Dec	5,4	7,3	8,4	7,8	7,0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,7</b>	<b>7,4</b>	<b>7,6</b>	<b>8,1</b>	<b>7,1</b>		

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

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018
Jan	69 735	75 635	80 369	84 684	0,7	0,8	0,2	-1,4
Feb	70 809	76 072	81 004	86 564	1,5	0,6	0,8	2,2
Mar	70 873	76 648	81 489		0,1	0,8	0,6	
Apr	71 425	76 449	82 023		0,8	-0,3	0,7	
May	70 949	78 312	82 960		-0,7	2,4	1,1	
Jun	72 093	77 652	83 509		1,6	-0,8	0,7	
Jul	72 430	78 475	83 128		0,5	1,1	-0,5	
Aug	73 252	78 357	85 133		1,1	-0,2	2,4	
Sep	73 039	78 712	85 378		-0,3	0,5	0,3	
Oct	73 762	79 186	84 771		1,0	0,6	-0,7	
Nov	74 337	80 363	88 459		0,8	1,5	4,4	
Dec	74 999	80 220	85 888		0,9	-0,2	-2,9	



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

Type of retailer	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18 1/
General dealers	37 198	33 644	40 437	49 118	33 161	36 750
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	7 256	7 417	7 395	10 772	6 792	6 800
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	6 042	6 603	6 306	7 052	6 439	6 126
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	12 954	14 481	18 085	26 856	13 547	12 503
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	3 335	3 404	4 197	5 356	3 350	3 207
Hardware, paint and glass	6 094	6 895	7 383	6 856	5 584	6 011
All other retailers	9 469	9 985	10 636	11 496	9 261	8 932
<b>Total</b>	<b>82 347</b>	<b>82 430</b>	<b>94 439</b>	<b>117 506</b>	<b>78 133</b>	<b>80 329</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	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18
General dealers	7,3	3,0	8,2	5,5	3,4	6,0
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	13,4	10,6	10,2	6,6	7,6	11,4
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	9,4	11,4	10,2	11,3	8,3	10,1
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	11,7	7,5	14,5	7,4	8,3	8,5
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	2,2	-1,1	8,1	1,9	8,4	9,0
Hardware, paint and glass	-1,8	2,7	2,8	6,7	4,5	3,5
All other retailers	20,4	15,8	20,8	13,3	3,6	4,7
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,0</b>	<b>6,3</b>	<b>10,5</b>	<b>7,0</b>	<b>5,3</b>	<b>6,9</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	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18
General dealers	3,4	1,3	3,6	2,3	1,5	2,8
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	1,1	0,9	0,8	0,6	0,6	0,9
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	0,7	0,9	0,7	0,7	0,7	0,7
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	1,8	1,3	2,7	1,7	1,4	1,3
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	0,1	0,0	0,4	0,1	0,4	0,4
Hardware, paint and glass	-0,1	0,2	0,2	0,4	0,3	0,3
All other retailers	2,1	1,8	2,1	1,2	0,4	0,5
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,0</b>	<b>6,3</b>	<b>10,5</b>	<b>7,0</b>	<b>5,3</b>	<b>6,9</b>

## Survey information

- Introduction**
- 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey of the retail trade industry, covering retail enterprises (see 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from Stats SA's 2017 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 February 2018 was 80,1%. The improved collection rate for January 2018 was 87,7%.

<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 2 749 enterprises from a population of 23 027 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 2016 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 9,0%.

**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	1 083 571	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 US Bureau of the Census. 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 2018](#)

<b>Trend cycle</b>	<b>6</b>	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</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>	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

<b>Raquel Floris</b>	Telephone number: (012) 337 6488 Email: raquelf@statssa.gov.za
<b>Keshnee Naidoo</b>	Telephone number: (012) 310 8423 Email: keshneen@statssa.gov.za

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## General enquiries

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

Postal address      Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

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