

## STATISTICAL RELEASE P6242.1

# Retail trade sales (Preliminary)

February 2019

To convert retail sales at current prices to sales at constant prices, Statistics South Africa constructs deflators using components of the consumer price index and weights calculated from the retail large sample survey (LSS). Currently the weights are based on the 2012 LSS. With effect from the next publication (March 2019), the deflators will be updated with weights from the 2015 LSS. For a short note on the retail deflator and the previous change in deflator weights, see the January 2017 retail trade statistical release, available on the Stats SA website: <a href="http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P62421/P62421January2017.pdf">http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P62421/P62421January2017.pdf</a>.

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### Sales at constant 2015 prices: results for February 2019

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

|  | Sep-18 | Oct-18 | Nov-18 | Dec-18 | Jan-19 | Feb-19 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Year-on-year % change, unadjusted            | 0,6    | 2,1    | 2,9    | -1,6   | 1,2    | 1,1    |
| Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted | -0,6   | 0,6    | 3,2    | -5,2   | 1,6    | 0,5    |
| 3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/     | 1,3    | 1,0    | 1,8    | 0,7    | 0,3    | -1,8   |

<sup>1/</sup> 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 1,1% year-on-year in February 2019. The largest annual growth rates were recorded for retailers in:

- household furniture, appliances and equipment (7,4%); and
- textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (4,4%) see Table 5.

The main contributors to the 1,1% increase were:

- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (contributing 0,7 of a percentage point); and
- general dealers (contributing 0,5 of a percentage point) see Table 6.

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales increased by 0,5% in February 2019 compared with January 2019. This followed month-on-month changes of 1,6% in January 2019 and -5,2% in December 2018. In the three months ended February 2019, seasonally adjusted retail trade sales decreased by 1,8% 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 2017 –<br>Feb 2018<br>(R million) | Weight | Dec 2018 –<br>Feb 2019<br>(R million) | % change<br>between<br>Dec 2017 –<br>Feb 2018<br>and<br>Dec 2018 –<br>Feb 2019 | Contribution<br>(% points) to<br>the total %<br>change |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| General dealers   | 104 298                               | 42,2   | 104 262                               | 0,0  | 0,0  |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 19 038                                | 7,7    | 18 650                                | -2,0   | -0,2   |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 17 148                                | 6,9    | 17 373                                | 1,3  | 0,1  |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 46 448                                | 18,8   | 46 500                                | 0,1  | 0,0  |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 11 957                                | 4,8    | 12 245                                | 2,4  | 0,1  |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | 18 274                                | 7,4    | 17 718                                | -3,0   | -0,2   |
| All other retailers   | 30 182                                | 12,2   | 30 498                                | 1,0  | 0,1  |
| Total   | 247 345                               | 100,0  | 247 246                               | 0,0  | 0,0  |

Retail trade sales showed no growth between the three months ended February 2018 and the three months ended February 2019. Retailers in hardware, paint and glass decreased by 3,0% (contributing -0,2 of a percentage point) while retailers in household furniture, appliances and equipment increased by 2,4% (contributing 0,1 of a percentage point) – see Table B.

Figure 1 - Retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices

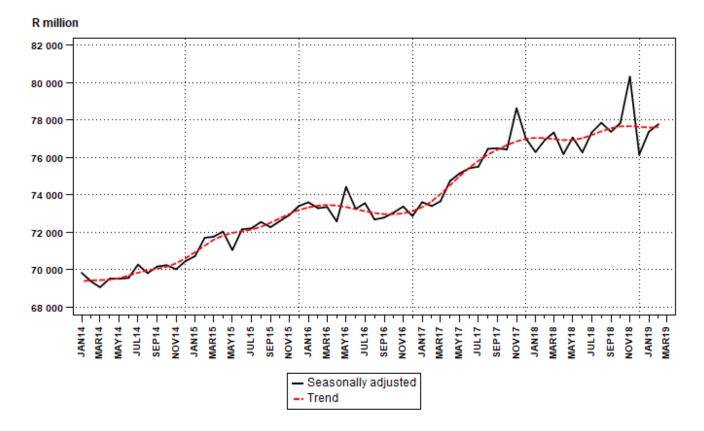
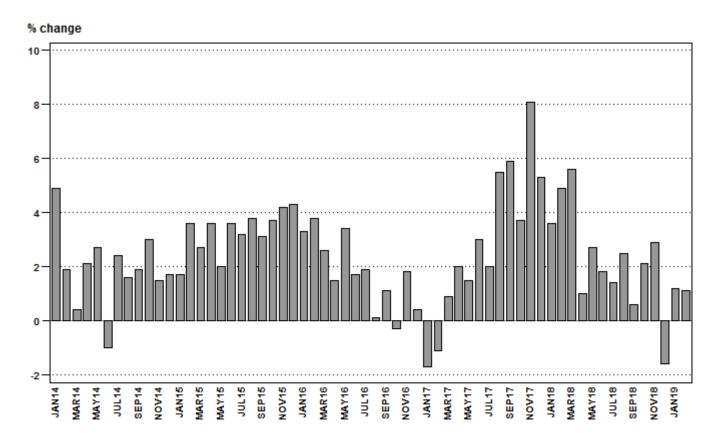


Figure 2 - Retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices: year-on-year percentage change



### Sales at current prices: results for February 2019

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

|  | Sep-18 | Oct-18 | Nov-18 | Dec-18 | Jan-19 | Feb-19 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Year-on-year % change, unadjusted            | 2,8    | 4,1    | 5,3    | 0,7    | 3,6    | 3,6    |
| Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted | -0,4   | 0,6    | 3,2    | -4,7   | 1,5    | 0,9    |
| 3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/     | 2,0    | 1,7    | 2,2    | 1,3    | 0,8    | -1,2   |

<sup>1/</sup> 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 2017 –<br>Feb 2018<br>(R million) | Weight | Dec 2018 –<br>Feb 2019<br>(R million) | % change<br>between<br>Dec 2017 –<br>Feb 2018<br>and<br>Dec 2018 –<br>Feb 2019 | Contribution<br>(% points) to<br>the total %<br>change |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| General dealers   | 119 582                               | 43,4   | 123 677                               | 3,4  | 1,5  |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 22 659                                | 8,2    | 23 033                                | 1,7  | 0,1  |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 19 298                                | 7,0    | 20 014                                | 3,7  | 0,3  |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 51 127                                | 18,6   | 51 964                                | 1,6  | 0,3  |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 11 717                                | 4,3    | 11 829                                | 1,0  | 0,0  |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | 19 114                                | 6,9    | 19 219                                | 0,5  | 0,0  |
| All other retailers   | 31 897                                | 11,6   | 32 118                                | 0,7  | 0,1  |
| Total   | 275 392                               | 100,0  | 281 854                               | 2,3  | 2,3  |

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### **Tables**

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

| Month | 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019 1/ |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Jan   | 62 408  | 65 465  | 66 565  | 68 787  | 67 601  | 70 006  | 70 823  |
| Feb   | 62 894  | 64 094  | 66 391  | 68 915  | 68 141  | 71 497  | 72 302  |
| Mar   | 66 287  | 66 540  | 68 314  | 70 078  | 70 683  | 74 610  |         |
| Apr   | 64 326  | 65 695  | 68 055  | 69 065  | 70 473  | 71 151  |         |
| May   | 66 876  | 68 651  | 70 008  | 72 412  | 73 475  | 75 431  |         |
| Jun   | 66 425  | 65 767  | 68 137  | 69 270  | 71 354  | 72 611  |         |
| Jul   | 65 348  | 66 895  | 69 031  | 70 344  | 71 735  | 72 734  |         |
| Aug   | 67 335  | 68 405  | 70 973  | 71 017  | 74 950  | 76 828  |         |
| Sep   | 65 995  | 67 246  | 69 341  | 70 111  | 74 234  | 74 683  |         |
| Oct   | 67 249  | 69 245  | 71 832  | 71 614  | 74 238  | 75 833  |         |
| Nov   | 73 222  | 74 311  | 77 409  | 78 815  | 85 167  | 87 630  |         |
| Dec   | 94 422  | 96 002  | 100 143 | 100 494 | 105 842 | 104 121 |         |
| Total | 822 787 | 838 316 | 866 199 | 880 922 | 907 893 | 927 135 |         |

<sup>1/</sup> Figures for latest month are preliminary.

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

| Month | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2019<br>year-to-date |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------------|
| Jan   | 4,9  | 1,7  | 3,3  | -1,7 | 3,6  | 1,2  | 1,2                  |
| Feb   | 1,9  | 3,6  | 3,8  | -1,1 | 4,9  | 1,1  | 1,1                  |
| Mar   | 0,4  | 2,7  | 2,6  | 0,9  | 5,6  |      |                      |
| Apr   | 2,1  | 3,6  | 1,5  | 2,0  | 1,0  |      |                      |
| May   | 2,7  | 2,0  | 3,4  | 1,5  | 2,7  |      |                      |
| Jun   | -1,0 | 3,6  | 1,7  | 3,0  | 1,8  |      |                      |
| Jul   | 2,4  | 3,2  | 1,9  | 2,0  | 1,4  |      |                      |
| Aug   | 1,6  | 3,8  | 0,1  | 5,5  | 2,5  |      |                      |
| Sep   | 1,9  | 3,1  | 1,1  | 5,9  | 0,6  |      |                      |
| Oct   | 3,0  | 3,7  | -0,3 | 3,7  | 2,1  |      |                      |
| Nov   | 1,5  | 4,2  | 1,8  | 8,1  | 2,9  |      |                      |
| Dec   | 1,7  | 4,3  | 0,4  | 5,3  | -1,6 |      |                      |
| Total | 1,9  | 3,3  | 1,7  | 3,1  | 2,1  |      |                      |

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

| Manth |        | R m    | illion |        |      | Month-on-month % change |      |      |  |  |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|-------------------------|------|------|--|--|
| Month | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   | 2016 | 2017                    | 2018 | 2019 |  |  |
| Jan   | 73 603 | 73 610 | 76 287 | 77 377 | 0,3  | 1,0                     | -1,0 | 1,6  |  |  |
| Feb   | 73 287 | 73 404 | 76 954 | 77 778 | -0,4 | -0,3                    | 0,9  | 0,5  |  |  |
| Mar   | 73 353 | 73 657 | 77 337 |        | 0,1  | 0,3                     | 0,5  |      |  |  |
| Apr   | 72 577 | 74 747 | 76 180 |        | -1,1 | 1,5                     | -1,5 |      |  |  |
| May   | 74 428 | 75 141 | 77 072 |        | 2,6  | 0,5                     | 1,2  |      |  |  |
| Jun   | 73 251 | 75 420 | 76 274 |        | -1,6 | 0,4                     | -1,0 |      |  |  |
| Jul   | 73 555 | 75 510 | 77 339 |        | 0,4  | 0,1                     | 1,4  |      |  |  |
| Aug   | 72 681 | 76 465 | 77 858 |        | -1,2 | 1,3                     | 0,7  |      |  |  |
| Sep   | 72 788 | 76 492 | 77 374 |        | 0,1  | 0,0                     | -0,6 |      |  |  |
| Oct   | 73 051 | 76 427 | 77 836 |        | 0,4  | -0,1                    | 0,6  |      |  |  |
| Nov   | 73 377 | 78 636 | 80 325 |        | 0,4  | 2,9                     | 3,2  |      |  |  |
| Dec   | 72 868 | 77 021 | 76 150 |        | -0,7 | -2,1                    | -5,2 |      |  |  |

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

| Type of retailer  | Sep-18 | Oct-18 | Nov-18 | Dec-18  | Jan-19 | Feb-19 1/ |
|---|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|-----------|
| General dealers   | 33 017 | 30 100 | 36 611 | 42 722  | 29 435 | 32 105    |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 5 610  | 5 747  | 5 811  | 8 384   | 5 159  | 5 107     |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 5 487  | 6 000  | 5 676  | 6 017   | 5 960  | 5 396     |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 11 420 | 13 038 | 16 631 | 23 334  | 11 835 | 11 331    |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 3 608  | 3 764  | 4 877  | 5 433   | 3 398  | 3 414     |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | 5 869  | 6 679  | 7 188  | 6 668   | 5 330  | 5 720     |
| All other retailers   | 9 672  | 10 505 | 10 836 | 11 563  | 9 706  | 9 229     |
| Total   | 74 683 | 75 833 | 87 630 | 104 121 | 70 823 | 72 302    |

<sup>1/</sup> 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-18 | Oct-18 | Nov-18 | Dec-18 | Jan-19 | Feb-19 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| General dealers   | 0,1    | 0,7    | 2,5    | -1,9   | 1,4    | 1,2    |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | -4,0   | -1,7   | -0,7   | -2,2   | -1,8   | -1,9   |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 4,3    | 4,6    | 3,2    | -3,1   | 6,3    | 1,2    |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | -0,4   | 2,0    | 4,1    | -2,0   | 0,4    | 4,4    |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 9,9    | 10,4   | 15,8   | 0,2    | 1,2    | 7,4    |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | -3,9   | -0,4   | -1,4   | -3,4   | -3,7   | -2,0   |
| All other retailers   | 4,2    | 6,5    | 2,1    | 1,6    | 2,9    | -1,5   |
| Total   | 0,6    | 2,1    | 2,9    | -1,6   | 1,2    | 1,1    |

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-18 | Oct-18 | Nov-18 | Dec-18 | Jan-19 | Feb-19 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| General dealers   | 0,0    | 0,3    | 1,1    | -0,8   | 0,6    | 0,5    |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | -0,3   | -0,1   | 0,0    | -0,2   | -0,1   | -0,1   |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 0,3    | 0,4    | 0,2    | -0,2   | 0,5    | 0,1    |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | -0,1   | 0,3    | 0,8    | -0,5   | 0,1    | 0,7    |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 0,4    | 0,5    | 0,8    | 0,0    | 0,1    | 0,3    |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | -0,3   | 0,0    | -0,1   | -0,2   | -0,3   | -0,2   |
| All other retailers   | 0,5    | 0,9    | 0,3    | 0,2    | 0,4    | -0,2   |
| Total   | 0,6    | 2,1    | 2,9    | -1,6   | 1,2    | 1,1    |

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

| Month | 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017      | 2018      | 2019 1/ |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Jan   | 56 113  | 61 083  | 65 262  | 70 458  | 73 955    | 78 010    | 80 795  |
| Feb   | 56 543  | 60 103  | 65 327  | 71 222  | 74 891    | 80 023    | 82 872  |
| Mar   | 59 783  | 62 943  | 67 575  | 73 222  | 78 035    | 83 606    |         |
| Apr   | 58 350  | 62 597  | 67 631  | 72 839  | 77 897    | 80 147    |         |
| May   | 60 632  | 65 780  | 69 963  | 76 533  | 81 404    | 85 055    |         |
| Jun   | 60 271  | 63 164  | 68 093  | 73 502  | 78 973    | 82 088    |         |
| Jul   | 59 383  | 64 458  | 69 025  | 74 973  | 79 411    | 82 196    |         |
| Aug   | 61 412  | 66 242  | 71 327  | 76 113  | 82 911    | 86 760    |         |
| Sep   | 60 493  | 65 181  | 69 694  | 75 275  | 82 217    | 84 543    |         |
| Oct   | 62 020  | 67 320  | 72 455  | 77 267  | 82 265    | 85 624    |         |
| Nov   | 67 756  | 72 629  | 78 329  | 85 195  | 94 234    | 99 191    |         |
| Dec   | 87 210  | 93 609  | 101 516 | 109 443 | 117 359   | 118 187   |         |
| Total | 749 966 | 805 109 | 866 198 | 936 042 | 1 003 552 | 1 045 430 |         |

<sup>1/</sup> Figures for latest month are preliminary.

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

| Month | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2019<br>year-to-date |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------------|
| Jan   | 8,9  | 6,8  | 8,0  | 5,0  | 5,5  | 3,6  | 3,6                  |
| Feb   | 6,3  | 8,7  | 9,0  | 5,2  | 6,9  | 3,6  | 3,6                  |
| Mar   | 5,3  | 7,4  | 8,4  | 6,6  | 7,1  |      |                      |
| Apr   | 7,3  | 8,0  | 7,7  | 6,9  | 2,9  |      |                      |
| May   | 8,5  | 6,4  | 9,4  | 6,4  | 4,5  |      |                      |
| Jun   | 4,8  | 7,8  | 7,9  | 7,4  | 3,9  |      |                      |
| Jul   | 8,5  | 7,1  | 8,6  | 5,9  | 3,5  |      |                      |
| Aug   | 7,9  | 7,7  | 6,7  | 8,9  | 4,6  |      |                      |
| Sep   | 7,7  | 6,9  | 8,0  | 9,2  | 2,8  |      |                      |
| Oct   | 8,5  | 7,6  | 6,6  | 6,5  | 4,1  |      |                      |
| Nov   | 7,2  | 7,8  | 8,8  | 10,6 | 5,3  |      |                      |
| Dec   | 7,3  | 8,4  | 7,8  | 7,2  | 0,7  |      |                      |
| Total | 7,4  | 7,6  | 8,1  | 7,2  | 4,2  |      |                      |

Table 9 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at current prices

| Month | R million |        |        |        | Month-on-month % change |      |      |      |  |
|-------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-------------------------|------|------|------|--|
|       | 2016      | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   | 2016                    | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |  |
| Jan   | 75 420    | 80 319 | 85 027 | 88 222 | 1,0                     | 0,5  | -0,9 | 1,5  |  |
| Feb   | 75 807    | 80 599 | 86 013 | 89 010 | 0,5                     | 0,3  | 1,2  | 0,9  |  |
| Mar   | 76 294    | 81 012 | 86 437 |        | 0,6                     | 0,5  | 0,5  |      |  |
| Apr   | 76 321    | 82 197 | 85 227 |        | 0,0                     | 1,5  | -1,4 |      |  |
| May   | 78 116    | 82 888 | 86 465 |        | 2,4                     | 0,8  | 1,5  |      |  |
| Jun   | 77 636    | 83 290 | 86 233 |        | -0,6                    | 0,5  | -0,3 |      |  |
| Jul   | 78 388    | 83 601 | 87 061 |        | 1,0                     | 0,4  | 1,0  |      |  |
| Aug   | 77 957    | 84 624 | 88 149 |        | -0,5                    | 1,2  | 1,2  |      |  |
| Sep   | 78 314    | 85 101 | 87 796 |        | 0,5                     | 0,6  | -0,4 |      |  |
| Oct   | 79 149    | 84 803 | 88 298 |        | 1,1                     | -0,4 | 0,6  |      |  |
| Nov   | 79 443    | 87 297 | 91 149 |        | 0,4                     | 2,9  | 3,2  |      |  |
| Dec   | 79 920    | 85 826 | 86 910 |        | 0,6                     | -1,7 | -4,7 |      |  |

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

| Type of retailer  | Sep-18 | Oct-18 | Nov-18 | Dec-18  | Jan-19 | Feb-19 1/ |
|---|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|-----------|
| General dealers   | 38 669 | 35 286 | 43 081 | 50 299  | 35 051 | 38 327    |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 6 811  | 7 012  | 7 113  | 10 299  | 6 405  | 6 329     |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 6 369  | 6 918  | 6 556  | 6 914   | 6 866  | 6 234     |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 12 705 | 14 517 | 18 544 | 26 007  | 13 249 | 12 708    |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 3 457  | 3 622  | 4 685  | 5 242   | 3 282  | 3 305     |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | 6 297  | 7 186  | 7 737  | 7 198   | 5 792  | 6 229     |
| All other retailers   | 10 235 | 11 082 | 11 475 | 12 228  | 10 151 | 9 739     |
| Total   | 84 543 | 85 624 | 99 191 | 118 187 | 80 795 | 82 872    |

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

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-18 | Oct-18 | Nov-18 | Dec-18 | Jan-19 | Feb-19 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| General dealers   | 1,5    | 1,5    | 2,5    | 0,6    | 2,1    | 2,2    |
| Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores           | 0,0    | 0,2    | 0,2    | 0,1    | 0,2    | 0,1    |
| Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries | 0,5    | 0,5    | 0,4    | 0,0    | 0,7    | 0,2    |
| Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods              | 0,2    | 0,6    | 1,1    | -0,1   | 0,3    | 0,9    |
| Household furniture, appliances and equipment               | 0,2    | 0,3    | 0,6    | -0,1   | 0,0    | 0,2    |
| Hardware, paint and glass                                   | 0,0    | 0,3    | 0,2    | 0,0    | 0,0    | 0,1    |
| All other retailers   | 0,4    | 0,6    | 0,2    | 0,1    | 0,3    | -0,2   |
| Total   | 2,8    | 4,1    | 5,3    | 0,7    | 3,6    | 3,6    |

### **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 2018 business sampling frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value added tax (VAT).
- 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

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**

The preliminary collection rate for the survey on retail trade sales for February 2019 was 80,4%. The improved collection rate for January 2019 was 84,7%.

#### Statistical unit

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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**

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

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

### Historical data

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

Past retail trade sales releases are available on the Stats SA website. To access the releases electronically, use the following link:

<u>Click to download past releases</u>

#### **Technical notes**

### Survey methodology and design

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The survey is conducted on a monthly basis. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of 2 824 enterprises from a population of 23 289 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.

A stratified random sample was drawn at the SIC four-digit level in April 2018 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 9,0%.

#### **Class limits**

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          | 1 086 754    | 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

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

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

#### Trend cycle

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**

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- 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.
- 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

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)

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

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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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Stats SA also provides a subscription service.

### **Electronic services**

A large range of data is available via online services. For more detail about our electronic services, contact Stats SA's user information service at (012) 310 8600.

You can also visit us on the internet at: www.statssa.gov.za

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