



stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa, ISibalo House, Koch Street, Salvokop, Pretoria, 0002
www.statssa.gov.za, info@statssa.gov.za, Tel +27 12 310 8911

STATISTICAL RELEASE

P6242.1

Retail trade sales (Preliminary)

June 2019

The results published in the next publication (July 2019) will be based on a new sample. This is an annual procedure which typically affects the level of sales at both current and constant prices. To avoid breaks in time series and to minimise revisions to historical growth rates, historical sales levels will be revised (i.e. they will be linked to the estimates based on the new sample).

**Embargoed until:
14 August 2019
13:00**

ENQUIRIES:
Keshnee Naidoo
(012) 310 8423

FORTHCOMING ISSUE:
July 2019

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE:
18 September 2019



Dipalopalo tsa Aforikaborwa • Dipalopalo tsa Afrika Borwa • Ezezibalo zaseNingizimu Afrika • Tshitatistika Afrika Tshipembe • Tinhlayohlayo Afrika-Dzonga
Statistieke Suid-Afrika • Dipalopalo tša Afrika Borwa • Telubalo taseNingizimu Afrika • EzeeNkcukacha maNani zoMzantsi Afrika • Iimbalobalo zeSewula Afrika

The South Africa I know, the home I understand



Contents

Sales at constant 2015 prices: results for June 2019	2
Table A – Key growth rates in retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices.....	2
Table B – Retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices for the latest three months by type of retailer	2
Figure 1 – Retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices	3
Figure 2 – Retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices: year-on-year percentage change.....	3
Sales at current prices: results for June 2019	4
Table C – Key growth rates in retail trade sales at current prices.....	4
Table D – Retail trade sales at current prices for the latest three months by type of retailer	4
Tables	5
Table 1 – Retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices (R million)	5
Table 2 – Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices	5
Table 3 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices	5
Table 4 – Retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices by type of retailer (R million)	6
Table 5 – Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices by type of retailer	6
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)	6
Table 7 – Retail trade sales at current prices (R million).....	7
Table 8 – Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at current prices	7
Table 9 – Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales at current prices	7
Table 10 – Retail trade sales at current prices by type of retailer (R million)	8
Table 11 – Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at current prices by type of retailer.....	8
Table 12 – Contribution of each type of retailer to the year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at current prices (percentage points)	8
Survey information	9
Technical notes	11
Glossary	13
Technical enquiries	13
General information	14

Sales at constant 2015 prices: results for June 2019

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

	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	1,4	1,4	0,1	2,7	2,3	2,4
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,5	0,7	-0,5	1,0	0,1	0,3
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	0,5	-1,6	-0,6	-0,1	1,2	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 2,4% year-on-year in June 2019. The largest annual growth rates were recorded for:

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

The main contributors to the 2,4% increase were:

- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (contributing 0,8 of a percentage point);
- all 'other' retailers (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 0,3% in June 2019 compared with May 2019. This followed month-on-month changes of 0,1% in May 2019 and 1,0% in April 2019. In the second quarter of 2019, seasonally adjusted retail trade sales increased by 1,1% compared with the previous quarter.

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

Type of retailer	Apr – Jun 2018 (R million)	Weight	Apr – Jun 2019 (R million)	% change between Apr – Jun 2018 and Apr – Jun 2019	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	93 419	42,2	95 622	2,4	1,0
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	15 969	7,2	16 094	0,8	0,1
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	16 643	7,5	17 173	3,2	0,2
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	39 544	17,8	41 118	4,0	0,7
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	10 222	4,6	10 692	4,6	0,2
Hardware, paint and glass	17 419	7,9	17 296	-0,7	-0,1
All other retailers	28 330	12,8	28 957	2,2	0,3
Total	221 546	100,0	226 952	2,4	2,4

Retail trade sales increased by 2,4% in the second quarter of 2019 compared with the second quarter of 2018. The main contributors to this increase were:

- general dealers (2,4% and contributing 1,0 percentage point); and
- retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (4,0% and contributing 0,7 of a percentage point) – see Table B.

Figure 1 – Retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices

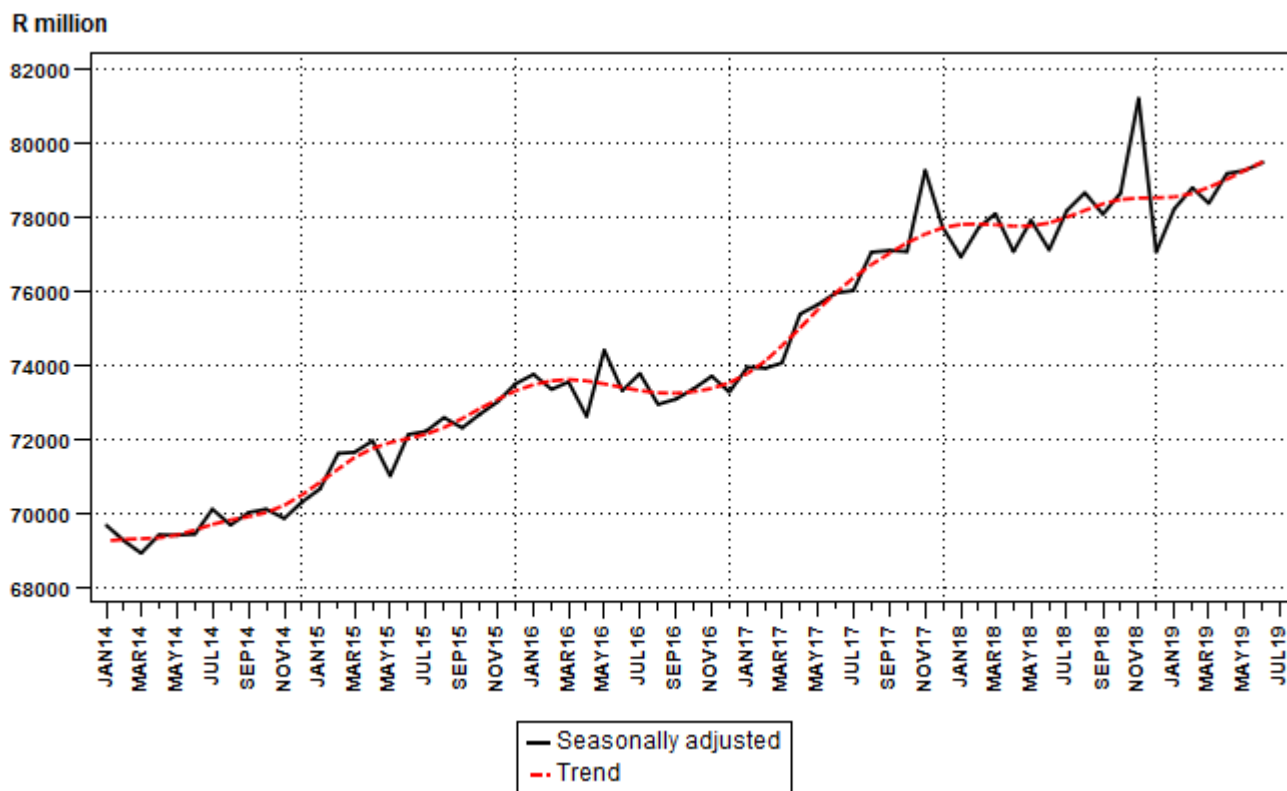
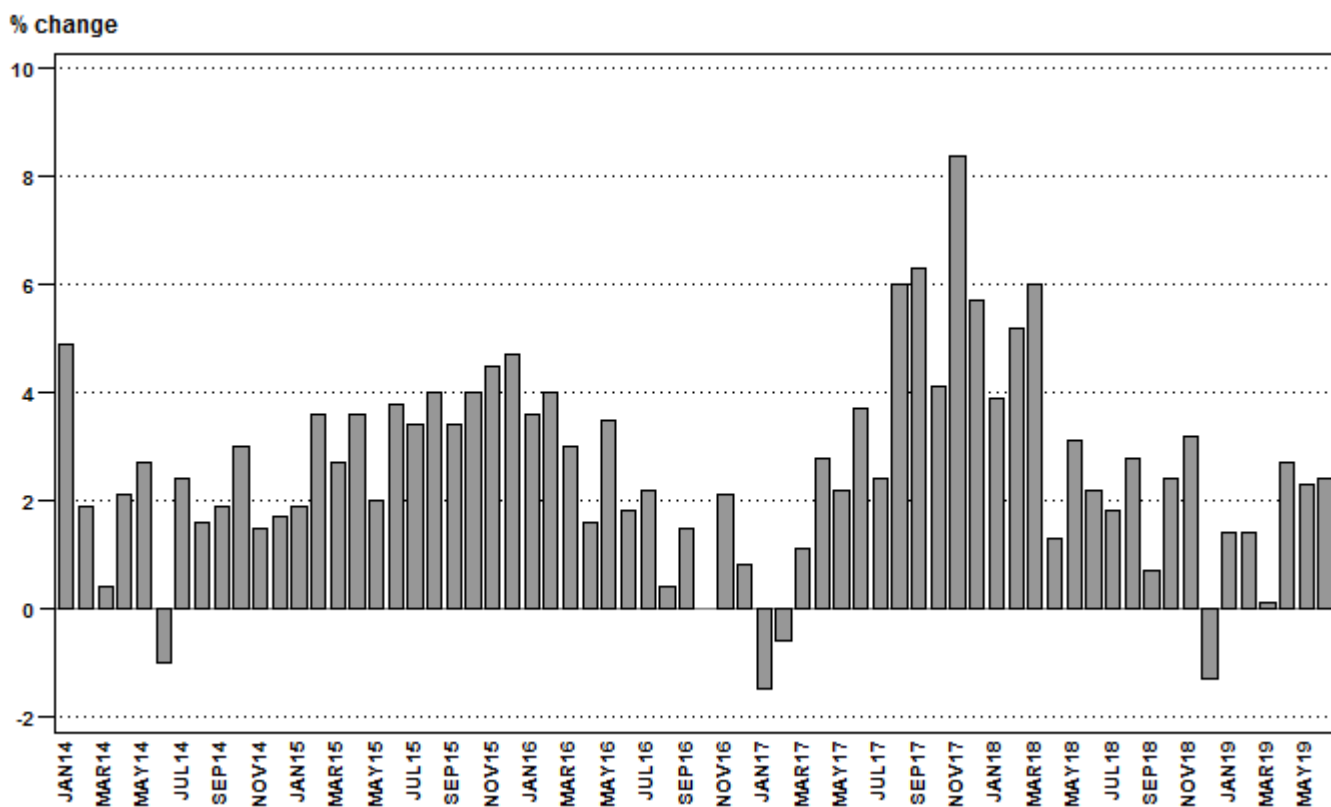


Figure 2 – Retail trade sales at constant 2015 prices: year-on-year percentage change



Sales at current prices: results for June 2019**Table C – Key growth rates in retail trade sales at current prices**

	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	3,6	3,5	2,7	4,8	4,9	5,0
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	1,5	1,1	-0,3	1,0	0,7	0,5
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	0,9	-1,2	-0,1	0,5	1,8	1,8

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	Apr – Jun 2018 (R million)	Weight	Apr – Jun 2019 (R million)	% change between Apr – Jun 2018 and Apr – Jun 2019	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	108 330	43,8	114 811	6,0	2,6
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	19 503	7,9	20 302	4,1	0,3
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	19 211	7,8	20 820	8,4	0,7
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	42 363	17,1	44 414	4,8	0,8
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	9 982	4,0	10 312	3,3	0,1
Hardware, paint and glass	18 436	7,5	18 778	1,9	0,1
All other retailers	29 465	11,9	29 923	1,6	0,2
Total	247 290	100,0	259 359	4,9	4,9

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

Tables

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

Month	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 1/
Jan	62 294	65 344	66 555	68 958	67 943	70 609	71 603
Feb	62 778	63 973	66 276	68 922	68 517	72 071	73 065
Mar	66 172	66 420	68 195	70 216	71 005	75 247	75 299
Apr	64 200	65 565	67 945	69 058	70 980	71 871	73 808
May	66 750	68 520	69 913	72 340	73 926	76 237	77 970
Jun	66 305	65 647	68 112	69 332	71 871	73 438	75 174
Jul	65 226	66 767	69 068	70 599	72 300	73 602	
Aug	67 211	68 278	71 023	71 285	75 534	77 623	
Sep	65 879	67 130	69 384	70 416	74 834	75 375	
Oct	67 123	69 115	71 907	71 927	74 866	76 637	
Nov	73 079	74 168	77 539	79 201	85 884	88 629	
Dec	94 241	95 815	100 281	101 108	106 849	105 470	
Total	821 258	836 742	866 198	883 362	914 509	936 809	

1/ 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 year-to-date
Jan	4,9	1,9	3,6	-1,5	3,9	1,4	1,4
Feb	1,9	3,6	4,0	-0,6	5,2	1,4	1,4
Mar	0,4	2,7	3,0	1,1	6,0	0,1	0,9
Apr	2,1	3,6	1,6	2,8	1,3	2,7	1,4
May	2,7	2,0	3,5	2,2	3,1	2,3	1,6
Jun	-1,0	3,8	1,8	3,7	2,2	2,4	1,7
Jul	2,4	3,4	2,2	2,4	1,8		
Aug	1,6	4,0	0,4	6,0	2,8		
Sep	1,9	3,4	1,5	6,3	0,7		
Oct	3,0	4,0	0,0	4,1	2,4		
Nov	1,5	4,5	2,1	8,4	3,2		
Dec	1,7	4,7	0,8	5,7	-1,3		
Total	1,9	3,5	2,0	3,5	2,4		

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

Month	R million				Month-on-month % change			
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019
Jan	73 749	73 940	76 913	78 214	0,3	0,9	-1,0	1,5
Feb	73 345	73 916	77 718	78 778	-0,5	0,0	1,0	0,7
Mar	73 543	74 058	78 080	78 363	0,3	0,2	0,5	-0,5
Apr	72 616	75 375	77 063	79 163	-1,3	1,8	-1,3	1,0
May	74 402	75 626	77 903	79 247	2,5	0,3	1,1	0,1
Jun	73 309	75 944	77 106	79 460	-1,5	0,4	-1,0	0,3
Jul	73 771	76 009	78 161		0,6	0,1	1,4	
Aug	72 940	77 043	78 645		-1,1	1,4	0,6	
Sep	73 084	77 088	78 068		0,2	0,1	-0,7	
Oct	73 361	77 061	78 635		0,4	0,0	0,7	
Nov	73 700	79 248	81 189		0,5	2,8	3,2	
Dec	73 274	77 710	77 049		-0,6	-1,9	-5,1	

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

Type of retailer	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19 1/
General dealers	29 614	32 207	33 528	30 001	33 289	32 332
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	5 136	5 124	5 615	5 433	5 529	5 132
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	5 877	5 295	5 554	6 030	5 655	5 488
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	12 347	11 838	11 349	13 852	14 172	13 094
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	3 372	3 334	3 671	3 402	3 650	3 640
Hardware, paint and glass	5 385	5 810	5 872	5 598	6 026	5 672
All other retailers	9 872	9 457	9 710	9 492	9 649	9 816
Total	71 603	73 065	75 299	73 808	77 970	75 174

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

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

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	82 840
Mar	59 783	62 943	67 575	73 222	78 035	83 606	85 879
Apr	58 350	62 597	67 631	72 839	77 897	80 147	83 989
May	60 632	65 780	69 963	76 533	81 404	85 055	89 216
Jun	60 271	63 164	68 093	73 502	78 973	82 088	86 154
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	

1/ 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 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	3,5	3,5
Mar	5,3	7,4	8,4	6,6	7,1	2,7	3,3
Apr	7,3	8,0	7,7	6,9	2,9	4,8	3,6
May	8,5	6,4	9,4	6,4	4,5	4,9	3,9
Jun	4,8	7,8	7,9	7,4	3,9	5,0	4,1
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	75 419	80 279	84 983	88 147	1,0	0,5	-1,0	1,5
Feb	75 784	80 656	86 101	89 085	0,5	0,5	1,3	1,1
Mar	76 285	81 021	86 429	88 852	0,7	0,5	0,4	-0,3
Apr	76 418	82 376	85 495	89 708	0,2	1,7	-1,1	1,0
May	78 107	82 864	86 412	90 341	2,2	0,6	1,1	0,7
Jun	77 599	83 222	86 138	90 771	-0,7	0,4	-0,3	0,5
Jul	78 400	83 586	87 049		1,0	0,4	1,1	
Aug	77 926	84 550	88 073		-0,6	1,2	1,2	
Sep	78 273	85 048	87 704		0,4	0,6	-0,4	
Oct	79 107	84 731	88 197		1,1	-0,4	0,6	
Nov	79 483	87 363	91 279		0,5	3,1	3,5	
Dec	79 908	85 829	86 869		0,5	-1,8	-4,8	

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

Type of retailer	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19 1/
General dealers	35 051	38 251	40 048	35 895	39 967	38 949
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	6 405	6 365	7 030	6 832	6 970	6 500
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	6 866	6 220	6 674	7 180	6 913	6 727
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	13 249	12 723	12 220	14 936	15 314	14 164
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	3 282	3 256	3 559	3 296	3 531	3 485
Hardware, paint and glass	5 792	6 258	6 335	6 058	6 549	6 171
All other retailers	10 151	9 766	10 012	9 792	9 972	10 159
Total	80 795	82 840	85 879	83 989	89 216	86 154

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

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

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).
 - 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 June 2019 was 81,8%. The improved collection rate for May 2019 was 85,4%.

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Stats in Brief</i> 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 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.
- 2 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:

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

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	1 086 754	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

- 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](#)

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 <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.																		
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	<table><tr><td>BSF</td><td>Business sampling frame</td></tr><tr><td>CPI</td><td>Consumer price index</td></tr><tr><td>GDP</td><td>Gross domestic product</td></tr><tr><td>ISIC</td><td>International Standard Industrial Classification</td></tr><tr><td>SARS</td><td>South African Revenue Service</td></tr><tr><td>SIC</td><td>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</td></tr><tr><td>SNA</td><td>System of National Accounts</td></tr><tr><td>Stats SA</td><td>Statistics South Africa</td></tr><tr><td>VAT</td><td>Value added tax</td></tr></table>	BSF	Business sampling frame	CPI	Consumer price index	GDP	Gross domestic product	ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification	SARS	South African Revenue Service	SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities	SNA	System of National Accounts	Stats SA	Statistics South Africa	VAT	Value added tax
BSF	Business sampling frame																		
CPI	Consumer price index																		
GDP	Gross domestic product																		
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification																		
SARS	South African Revenue Service																		
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities																		
SNA	System of National Accounts																		
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa																		
VAT	Value added tax																		

Technical enquiries

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

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.

Stats SA has copyright on this publication. Users may apply the information as they wish, provided that they acknowledge Stats SA as the source of the basic data wherever they process, apply, utilise, publish or distribute the data; and also that they specify that the relevant application and analysis (where applicable) result from their own processing of the data.

Stats SA products

A complete set of Stats SA publications is available at the Stats SA Library and the following libraries:

National Library of South Africa, Pretoria Division
National Library of South Africa, Cape Town Division
Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg
Library of Parliament, Cape Town
Bloemfontein Public Library
Johannesburg Public Library
Eastern Cape Library Services, King William's Town
Central Regional Library, Polokwane
Central Reference Library, Mbombela
Central Reference Collection, Kimberley
Central Reference Library, Mmabatho

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

General enquiries

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

Postal address Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

Produced by Stats SA