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Retail trade sales (Preliminary)

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Sales at constant 2019 prices: results for March 2023

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

	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	-0,7	0,8	-0,5	-0,8	-0,7	-1,6
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,2	1,0	-0,6	1,4	-0,3	-0,7
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	-0,9	-0,3	0,1	1,1	0,9	0,8

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 1,6% year-on-year in March 2023. The largest negative contributors to this decrease were:

- general dealers (-1,9% and contributing -0,9 of a percentage point); and
- retailers in food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores (-6,6% and contributing -0,6 of a percentage point).

The positive contributor was retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (6,3% and contributing 1,0 percentage point) – see Tables 5 and 6.

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales decreased by 0,7% in March 2023 compared with February 2023. This followed month-on-month changes of -0,3% in February 2023 and 1,4% in January 2023.

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

Type of retailer	Jan – Mar 2022 (R million)	Weight (%)	Jan – Mar 2023 (R million)	% change between Jan – Mar 2022 and Jan – Mar 2023	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	118 610	43,7	117 417	-1,0	-0,4
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	23 105	8,5	22 001	-4,8	-0,4
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	19 908	7,3	19 302	-3,0	-0,2
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	44 034	16,2	46 118	4,7	0,8
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	12 984	4,8	12 825	-1,2	-0,1
Hardware, paint and glass	21 854	8,0	20 601	-5,7	-0,5
All other retailers	31 187	11,5	30 592	-1,9	-0,2
Total	271 682	100,0	268 856	-1,0	-1,0

Retail trade sales decreased by 1,0% in the first quarter of 2023 compared with the first quarter of 2022. The largest negative contributors to this decrease were:

- retailers in hardware, paint and glass (-5,7% and contributing -0,5 of a percentage point);
- general dealers (-1,0% and contributing -0,4 of a percentage point); and
- retailers in food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores (-4,8% and contributing -0,4 of a percentage point).

The positive contributor was retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (4,7% 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	Oct – Dec 2022 (R million)	Weight (%)	Jan – Mar 2023 (R million)	% change between Oct – Dec 2022 and Jan – Mar 2023	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	122 582	43,5	122 731	0,1	0,0
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	23 013	8,2	23 076	0,3	0,0
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	19 686	7,0	19 915	1,2	0,1
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	50 052	17,8	52 233	4,4	0,8
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	13 834	4,9	13 800	-0,2	0,0
Hardware, paint and glass	22 612	8,0	22 362	-1,1	-0,1
All other retailers	29 809	10,6	29 817	0,0	0,0
Total	281 587	100,0	283 934	0,8	0,8

Seasonally adjusted retail trade sales increased by 0,8% in the first quarter of 2023 compared with the fourth quarter of 2022. The main contributor to this increase was retailers in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods (4,4% and contributing 0,8 of a percentage point) – see Table C.

Figure 1 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices

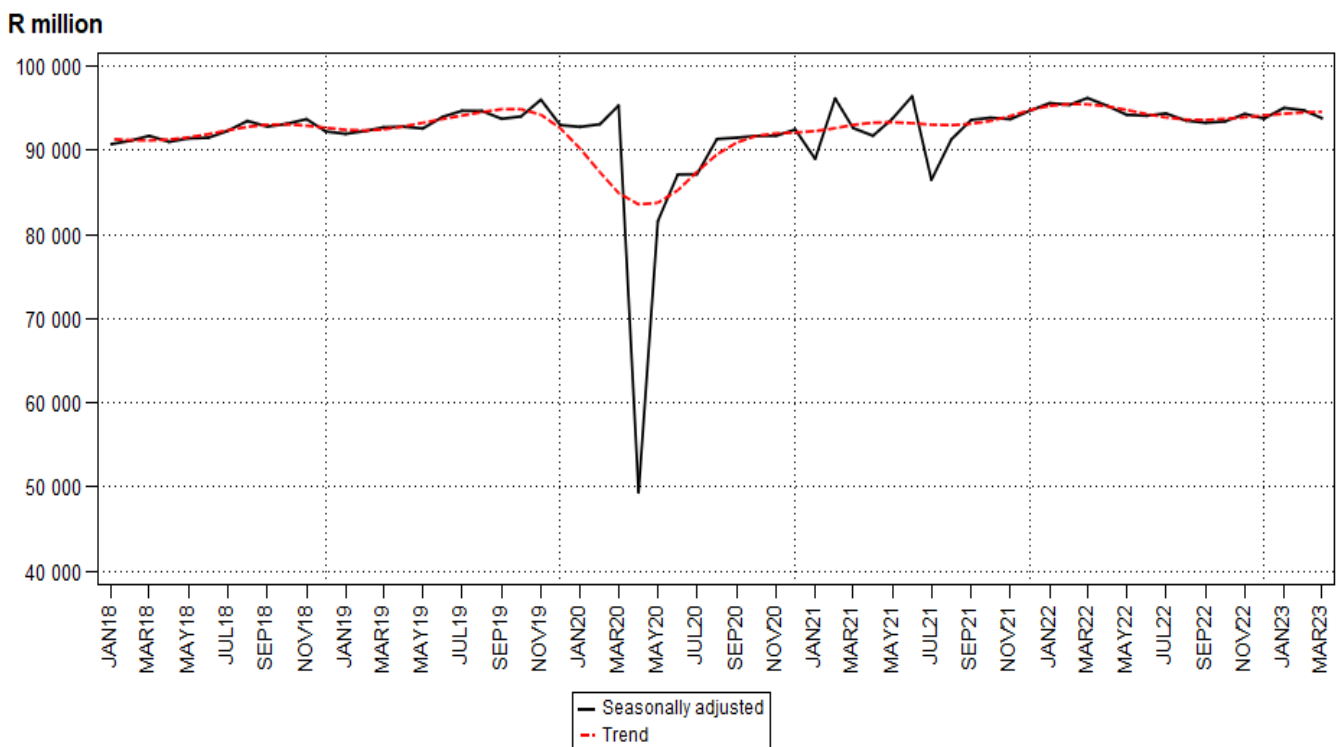
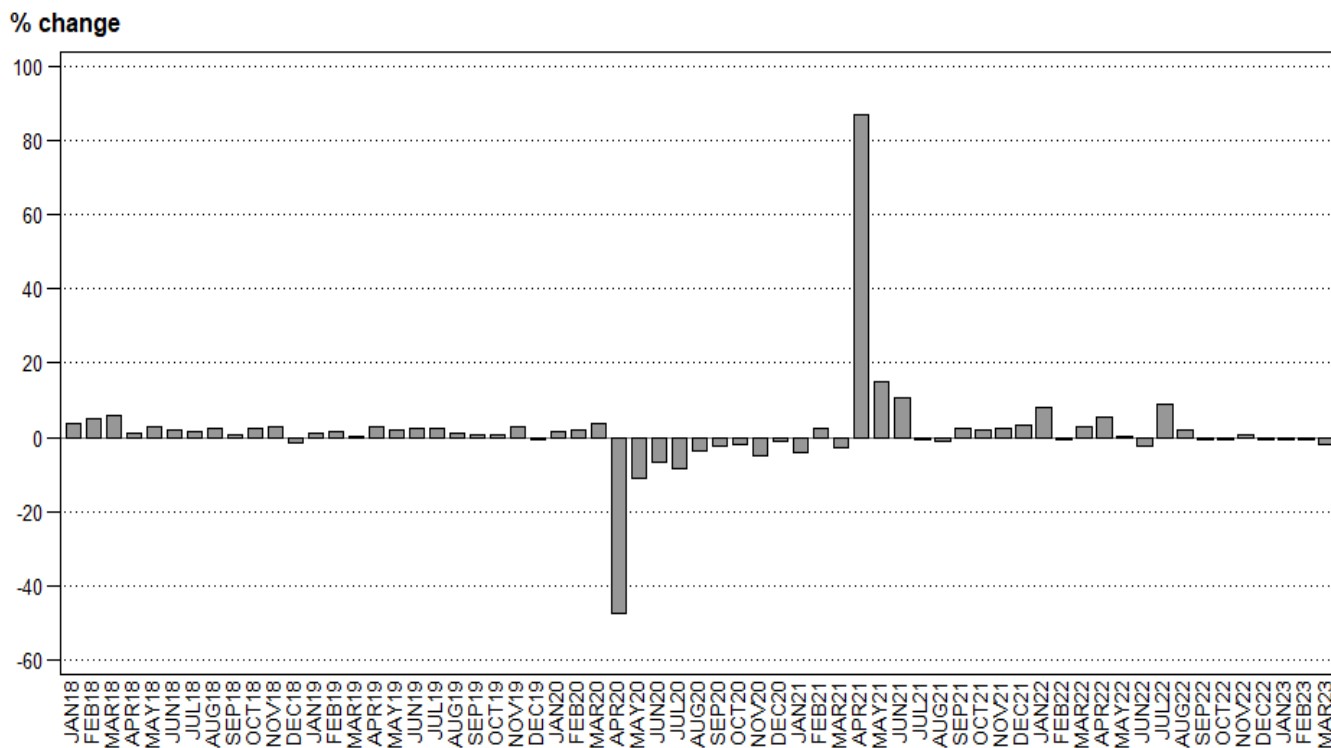


Figure 2 – Retail trade sales at constant 2019 prices: year-on-year percentage change



Sales at current prices: results for March 2023

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

	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23
Year-on-year % change, unadjusted	6,0	7,7	6,3	6,6	7,3	6,7
Month-on-month % change, seasonally adjusted	0,8	1,3	0,2	1,9	0,5	0,0
3-month % change, seasonally adjusted 1/	0,8	1,4	1,9	2,8	2,8	2,8

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	Jan – Mar 2022 (R million)	Weight	Jan – Mar 2023 (R million)	% change between Jan – Mar 2022 and Jan – Mar 2023	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	131 555	44,9	144 924	10,2	4,6
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	26 532	9,0	27 670	4,3	0,4
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	22 189	7,6	22 929	3,3	0,3
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	44 747	15,3	48 325	8,0	1,2
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	12 922	4,4	13 109	1,4	0,1
Hardware, paint and glass	24 078	8,2	24 504	1,8	0,1
All other retailers	31 202	10,6	31 871	2,1	0,2
Total	293 225	100,0	313 332	6,9	6,9

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

Type of retailer	Oct – Dec 2022 (R million)	Weight (%)	Jan – Mar 2023 (R million)	% change between Oct – Dec 2022 and Jan – Mar 2023	Contribution (% points) to the total % change
General dealers	147 324	45,8	151 611	2,9	1,3
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	28 150	8,8	29 003	3,0	0,3
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	23 083	7,2	23 644	2,4	0,2
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	51 929	16,2	54 512	5,0	0,8
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	13 936	4,3	14 057	0,9	0,0
Hardware, paint and glass	26 390	8,2	26 510	0,5	0,0
All other retailers	30 626	9,5	31 243	2,0	0,2
Total	321 438	100,0	330 581	2,8	2,8

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

Tables

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

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 1/
Jan	80 369	83 447	84 492	85 721	82 408	89 055	88 373
Feb	81 253	85 374	86 614	88 330	90 505	89 914	89 295
Mar	84 281	89 187	89 408	92 714	90 310	92 713	91 188
Apr	84 086	84 915	87 307	45 754	85 654	90 389	
May	87 546	90 051	91 822	81 544	93 829	93 906	
Jun	85 184	86 977	89 281	83 143	91 985	89 880	
Jul	85 392	86 704	88 641	81 318	80 897	88 057	
Aug	89 293	91 389	92 568	89 087	87 990	89 856	
Sep	88 677	89 182	89 743	87 598	89 525	89 125	
Oct	88 329	90 296	90 998	89 176	90 925	90 268	
Nov	101 234	104 135	107 171	102 058	104 290	105 109	
Dec	126 094	124 041	123 820	122 354	126 121	125 526	
Total	1 081 738	1 105 698	1 121 865	1 048 797	1 114 439	1 133 798	

1/ Figures for the latest month are preliminary.

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

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 year-to-date
Jan	3,8	1,3	1,5	-3,9	8,1	-0,8	-0,8
Feb	5,1	1,5	2,0	2,5	-0,7	-0,7	-0,7
Mar	5,8	0,2	3,7	-2,6	2,7	-1,6	-1,0
Apr	1,0	2,8	-47,6	87,2	5,5		
May	2,9	2,0	-11,2	15,1	0,1		
Jun	2,1	2,6	-6,9	10,6	-2,3		
Jul	1,5	2,2	-8,3	-0,5	8,9		
Aug	2,3	1,3	-3,8	-1,2	2,1		
Sep	0,6	0,6	-2,4	2,2	-0,4		
Oct	2,2	0,8	-2,0	2,0	-0,7		
Nov	2,9	2,9	-4,8	2,2	0,8		
Dec	-1,6	-0,2	-1,2	3,1	-0,5		
Total	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			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	92 794	88 994	95 634	95 074	-0,2	-3,8	1,0	1,4
Feb	93 131	96 202	95 442	94 781	0,4	8,1	-0,2	-0,3
Mar	95 339	92 651	96 211	94 079	2,4	-3,7	0,8	-0,7
Apr	49 338	91 732	95 275		-48,2	-1,0	-1,0	
May	81 602	93 750	94 235		65,4	2,2	-1,1	
Jun	87 135	96 436	94 113		6,8	2,9	-0,1	
Jul	87 165	86 489	94 389		0,0	-10,3	0,3	
Aug	91 349	91 305	93 539		4,8	5,6	-0,9	
Sep	91 496	93 598	93 268		0,2	2,5	-0,3	
Oct	91 718	93 884	93 444		0,2	0,3	0,2	
Nov	91 731	93 711	94 342		0,0	-0,2	1,0	
Dec	92 483	94 721	93 801		0,8	1,1	-0,6	

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

Type of retailer	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23 1/
General dealers	37 950	45 602	52 197	36 510	39 815	41 092
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	8 026	7 627	10 882	7 384	7 259	7 358
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	6 927	6 277	7 027	6 717	6 054	6 531
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	15 132	20 242	29 050	16 091	15 024	15 003
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 497	6 019	6 119	4 081	4 172	4 572
Hardware, paint and glass	8 142	8 729	7 941	6 783	6 824	6 994
All other retailers	9 594	10 613	12 310	10 807	10 147	9 638
Total	90 268	105 109	125 526	88 373	89 295	91 188

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	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23
General dealers	-0,4	0,3	-0,6	0,6	-1,5	-1,9
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	-2,4	-4,4	-1,8	-7,6	0,3	-6,6
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	-3,8	-5,3	-4,8	-2,8	-3,1	-3,2
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	2,9	7,7	3,1	2,5	5,6	6,3
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	1,7	5,6	-0,3	-0,8	-0,7	-2,1
Hardware, paint and glass	-5,6	-5,9	-5,5	-5,1	-8,2	-3,9
All other retailers	-0,6	1,5	-1,1	-0,8	-0,1	-5,0
Total	-0,7	0,8	-0,5	-0,8	-0,7	-1,6

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	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23
General dealers	-0,2	0,1	-0,2	0,2	-0,7	-0,9
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	-0,2	-0,3	-0,2	-0,7	0,0	-0,6
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	-0,3	-0,3	-0,3	-0,2	-0,2	-0,2
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	0,5	1,4	0,7	0,4	0,9	1,0
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	0,1	0,3	0,0	0,0	0,0	-0,1
Hardware, paint and glass	-0,5	-0,5	-0,4	-0,4	-0,7	-0,3
All other retailers	-0,1	0,2	-0,1	-0,1	0,0	-0,5
Total	-0,7	0,8	-0,5	-0,8	-0,7	-1,6

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

Type of retailer	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Month-on-month % change
General dealers	40 829	40 958	40 795	41 064	40 879	40 788	-0,2
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	7 715	7 609	7 689	7 722	7 841	7 513	-4,2
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	6 620	6 529	6 537	6 638	6 647	6 630	-0,3
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	16 322	17 007	16 723	17 449	17 468	17 316	-0,9
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 566	4 736	4 532	4 564	4 634	4 602	-0,7
Hardware, paint and glass	7 583	7 520	7 509	7 597	7 337	7 428	1,2
All other retailers	9 809	9 984	10 016	10 039	9 976	9 802	-1,7
Total	93 444	94 342	93 801	95 074	94 781	94 079	-0,7

Table 8 – Retail trade sales at current prices (R million)

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 1/
Jan	76 563	80 761	83 365	86 848	85 323	95 475	101 739
Feb	77 531	82 844	85 721	89 787	94 074	96 984	104 075
Mar	80 787	86 554	88 848	94 541	94 600	100 766	107 518
Apr	80 642	82 889	86 890	46 864	89 902	98 502	
May	84 274	88 056	91 735	82 835	98 588	103 440	
Jun	81 758	85 064	89 338	84 599	97 168	99 932	
Jul	82 209	84 912	88 699	82 876	85 576	98 339	
Aug	85 834	89 426	92 908	91 128	93 522	101 447	
Sep	85 115	87 375	90 271	89 814	95 179	101 256	
Oct	85 166	88 532	91 448	91 868	97 010	102 843	
Nov	97 556	102 364	107 939	105 378	111 162	119 744	
Dec	121 498	121 895	124 700	126 378	134 399	142 864	
Total	1 038 933	1 080 672	1 121 865	1 072 916	1 176 503	1 261 592	

1/ Figures for the latest month are preliminary.

Table 9 – Year-on-year percentage change in retail trade sales at current prices

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 year-to-date
Jan	5,5	3,2	4,2	-1,8	11,9	6,6	6,6
Feb	6,9	3,5	4,7	4,8	3,1	7,3	6,9
Mar	7,1	2,7	6,4	0,1	6,5	6,7	6,9
Apr	2,8	4,8	-46,1	91,8	9,6		
May	4,5	4,2	-9,7	19,0	4,9		
Jun	4,0	5,0	-5,3	14,9	2,8		
Jul	3,3	4,5	-6,6	3,3	14,9		
Aug	4,2	3,9	-1,9	2,6	8,5		
Sep	2,7	3,3	-0,5	6,0	6,4		
Oct	4,0	3,3	0,5	5,6	6,0		
Nov	4,9	5,4	-2,4	5,5	7,7		
Dec	0,3	2,3	1,3	6,3	6,3		
Total	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			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	94 014	92 218	102 806	109 815	0,0	-3,9	1,3	1,9
Feb	94 951	100 055	102 969	110 367	1,0	8,5	0,2	0,5
Mar	96 905	96 975	103 908	110 399	2,1	-3,1	0,9	0,0
Apr	50 505	96 201	104 445		-47,9	-0,8	0,5	
May	82 910	98 826	104 168		64,2	2,7	-0,3	
Jun	88 652	101 806	104 571		6,9	3,0	0,4	
Jul	88 548	91 234	105 149		-0,1	-10,4	0,6	
Aug	93 352	96 680	104 960		5,4	6,0	-0,2	
Sep	93 611	99 181	105 299		0,3	2,6	0,3	
Oct	94 424	99 870	106 131		0,9	0,7	0,8	
Nov	94 772	100 002	107 550		0,4	0,1	1,3	
Dec	95 970	101 494	107 757		1,3	1,5	0,2	

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

Type of retailer	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23 1/
General dealers	45 426	54 837	62 940	44 525	49 117	51 282
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	9 765	9 328	13 354	9 233	9 099	9 338
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	8 072	7 339	8 231	7 898	7 188	7 843
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	15 738	21 060	30 226	16 780	15 759	15 786
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 505	6 049	6 152	4 133	4 257	4 719
Hardware, paint and glass	9 456	10 180	9 251	7 989	8 110	8 405
All other retailers	9 881	10 951	12 710	11 181	10 545	10 145
Total	102 843	119 744	142 864	101 739	104 075	107 518

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	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23
General dealers	9,2	10,4	9,5	11,4	9,7	9,6
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	5,5	3,8	6,5	1,2	9,7	2,5
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	2,6	0,7	1,1	3,2	3,4	3,4
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	5,8	10,6	5,8	5,3	9,1	9,8
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	3,2	7,0	1,1	1,1	1,9	1,4
Hardware, paint and glass	1,1	1,3	1,5	2,1	-0,9	4,1
All other retailers	1,9	4,5	1,9	2,8	3,9	-0,3
Total	6,0	7,7	6,3	6,6	7,3	6,7

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	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23
General dealers	3,9	4,6	4,1	4,8	4,5	4,5
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	0,5	0,3	0,6	0,1	0,8	0,2
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	0,2	0,0	0,1	0,3	0,2	0,3
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	0,9	1,8	1,2	0,9	1,4	1,4
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	0,1	0,4	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,1
Hardware, paint and glass	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,2	-0,1	0,3
All other retailers	0,2	0,4	0,2	0,3	0,4	0,0
Total	6,0	7,7	6,3	6,6	7,3	6,7

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

Type of retailer	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Month-on-month % change
General dealers	48 658	49 229	49 437	50 237	50 488	50 886	0,8
Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores	9 364	9 321	9 465	9 639	9 856	9 508	-3,5
Pharmaceuticals and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries	7 717	7 655	7 711	7 839	7 892	7 913	0,3
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods	16 976	17 540	17 413	18 136	18 242	18 134	-0,6
Household furniture, appliances and equipment	4 591	4 768	4 577	4 633	4 713	4 711	0,0
Hardware, paint and glass	8 804	8 780	8 806	8 885	8 717	8 908	2,2
All other retailers	10 020	10 257	10 349	10 446	10 458	10 339	-1,1
Total	106 131	107 550	107 757	109 815	110 367	110 399	0,0

Survey information

- Introduction**
- 1 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey of the retail trade industry, covering retail enterprises (see point four 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 March 2023 was 74,9%. The improved collection rate for February 2023 was 76,4%.

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 3 339 enterprises from a population of 21 864 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within ten 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 three below).

The Neyman optimal allocation formula given below was used to allocate samples to each stratum:

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

Neyman allocation formula not only allocates sample sizes to each stratum, but also calculates the relative precision for each stratum as well as the relative precision for all strata. The relative precision for these strata did not exceed 8,0%.

Class limits

- 3 The retail sampling frame is divided into four size groups. All large and medium enterprises (size group one and two) are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to size group three and four (small and very small) enterprises. The total value of sales of the large and medium enterprises (size group one and two) is added to the weighted totals of size group three and four to reflect the total value of sales.

Measure of size classes (Rand)

Enterprise size	Size group	Lower 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.
- Relative standard error**
- 11 One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of enterprises was used. The relative standard error (RSE) provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and thus avoids the need to refer to the size of the estimate.
- Estimates of total retail trade sales within 95% confidence limits – March 2023**
- | | Lower limit
(R million) | Sales
(R million) | Upper limit
(R million) | Relative
standard error
(RSE)
(%) |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Retail trade sales | 104 164 | 107 518 | 110 872 | 1,6 |
- Month-on-month percentage change**
- 12 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**
- 13 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)**
- 14 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 (SNA)</i> in the same way as in the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (SIC)</i> , Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993.	
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 11 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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