Retail trade sales

May 2005

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Table A - Key figures as at the end of May 2005

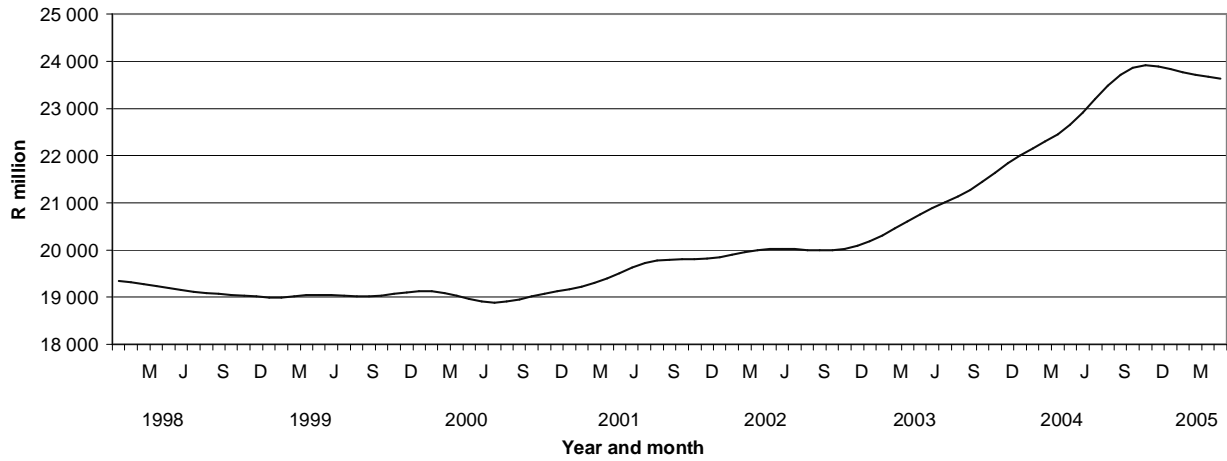| Estimates	May 2005 R million	% change between May 2004 and May 2005	% change between March to May 2004 and March to May 2005	% change between January to May 2004 and January to May 2005
Retail trade sales				
at current prices	30 572	+8,1	+9,8	+8,6
at constant 2000 prices	23 445	+4,8	+6,9	+6,0

Retail trade sales increase in real terms

As indicated in table A, retail trade sales, at constant (2000) prices for the three months up to May 2005 increased by 6,9% compared with the three months up to May 2004.

Similarly, retail trade sales, at constant (2000) prices for the period January to May 2005 increased by 6,0% compared with the period January to May 2004. Retail trade sales, at constant (2000) prices for May 2005 increased by 4,8% compared with May 2004.

Figure 1 below shows the trend cycle for the retail trade sales, at constant (2000) prices between January 1998 and May 2005. There was a slightly downward trend until mid-2000 and an upward trend thereafter. The trend cycle has been declining again in 2005.

**Figure 1 - Trend cycle of retail trade sales
(at constant 2000 prices)**

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Statistician-General**

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Forthcoming issue	**Issue**	**Expected release date**
	June 2005	7 September 2005

Purpose of the survey 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.

Detailed results

Outlined below in tables 1 and 2 are details of the behaviour of retail trade sales at current prices over the period January 1998 to May 2005.

Table 1 - Total retail trade sales at current prices (R million)

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 1/	2005
January	15 877	16 201	17 462	18 420	20 507	23 354	26 422	27 911
February	14 680	15 395	16 759	17 818	19 980	22 385	25 686	27 644
March	16 351	17 168	18 408	19 790	22 305	24 810	27 121	29 588
April	16 131	16 805	18 279	19 640	21 658	24 047	26 753	30 046
May	16 549	17 326	18 482	20 006	22 781	25 324	28 292	30 572
June	15 792	16 245	18 175	19 935	22 526	24 546	28 031	
July	16 118	17 260	18 314	20 309	22 484	24 911	28 595	
August	15 844	16 802	18 116	20 043	22 858	24 746	27 584	
September	16 150	16 786	18 367	19 881	22 811	25 263	28 952	
October	16 926	17 987	19 105	21 089	23 830	26 036	30 217	
November	17 508	18 547	20 425	22 227	25 444	28 046	31 946	
December	23 338	24 782	26 890	29 180	32 870	36 561	41 583	
Total	**201 264**	**211 304**	**228 782**	**248 338**	**280 054**	**310 029**	**351 182**	

1/ Preliminary

Table 2 - Percentage change in total retail trade sales at current prices 1/

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	-	2,0	7,8	5,5	11,3	13,9	13,1	5,6
February	-	4,9	8,9	6,3	12,1	12,0	14,7	7,6
March	-	5,0	7,2	7,5	12,7	11,2	9,3	9,1
April	-	4,2	8,8	7,4	10,3	11,0	11,3	12,3
May	-	4,7	6,7	8,2	13,9	11,2	11,7	8,1
June	-	2,9	11,9	9,7	13,0	9,0	14,2	
July	-	7,1	6,1	10,9	10,7	10,8	14,8	
August	-	6,0	7,8	10,6	14,0	8,3	11,5	
September	-	3,9	9,4	8,2	14,7	10,7	14,6	
October	-	6,3	6,2	10,4	13,0	9,3	16,1	
November	-	5,9	10,1	8,8	14,5	10,2	13,9	
December	-	6,2	8,5	8,5	12,6	11,2	13,7	
Total	**-**	**5,0**	**8,3**	**8,5**	**12,8**	**10,7**	**13,3**	

1/ The percentage change is the difference between retail trade sales of the relevant year and those of the previous year expressed as a percentage

Outlined below in tables 3 and 4 are details of the behaviour of retail trade sales at constant (2000) prices over the period January 1998 to May 2005.

Table 3 - Total retail trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million)

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 1/	2005
January	18 745	17 961	18 114	17 936	18 626	19 158	21 189	21 908
February	17 291	17 030	17 349	17 316	18 065	18 394	20 467	21 664
March	19 147	18 929	18 880	19 083	19 844	20 220	21 525	22 954
April	18 692	18 427	18 482	18 794	19 015	19 518	21 165	23 130
May	19 109	18 894	18 612	19 036	19 792	20 672	22 365	23 445
June	18 131	17 581	18 175	18 842	19 386	20 186	22 037	
July	18 358	18 539	18 115	19 088	19 234	20 253	22 498	
August	17 964	18 008	17 866	18 873	19 404	20 005	21 805	
September	18 166	17 858	18 042	18 667	19 089	20 390	22 797	
October	18 975	19 034	18 694	19 691	19 694	21 065	23 644	
November	19 606	19 482	19 966	20 600	20 941	22 618	24 822	
December	26 017	25 977	26 260	26 869	27 054	29 485	32 487	
Total	**230 201**	**227 720**	**228 555**	**234 795**	**240 144**	**251 964**	**276 801**	

1/ Preliminary

Table 4 - Percentage change in total retail trade sales at constant 2000 prices 1/

Month	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	-	-4,2	0,9	-1,0	3,8	2,9	10,6	3,4
February	-	-1,5	1,9	-0,2	4,3	1,8	11,3	5,8
March	-	-1,1	-0,3	1,1	4,0	1,9	6,5	6,6
April	-	-1,4	0,3	1,7	1,2	2,6	8,4	9,3
May	-	-1,1	-1,5	2,3	4,0	4,4	8,2	4,8
June	-	-3,0	3,4	3,7	2,9	4,1	9,2	
July	-	1,0	-2,3	5,4	0,8	5,3	11,1	
August	-	0,2	-0,8	5,6	2,8	3,1	9,0	
September	-	-1,7	1,0	3,5	2,3	6,8	11,8	
October	-	0,3	-1,8	5,3	-0,0	7,0	12,2	
November	-	-0,6	2,5	3,2	1,7	8,0	9,7	
December	-	-0,2	1,1	2,3	0,7	9,0	10,2	
Total	**-**	**-1,1**	**0,4**	**2,7**	**2,3**	**4,9**	**9,9**	

1/ The percentage change is the difference between retail trade sales of the relevant year and those of the previous year expressed as a percentage

Outlined below in table 5 are retail trade sales according to type of dealer for January to May 2005.

Table 5 - Total retail trade sales according to type of dealer at current prices (R million) for 2005

Month 1/	Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D	Type E	Type F	Type G	2/ Total
January	9 614	2 913	1 371	4 645	1 721	1 599	6 045	27 911
February	9 515	2 936	1 430	4 192	1 679	1 763	6 125	27 643
March	10 204	3 202	1 437	4 478	1 783	1 680	6 800	29 588
April	9 523	3 141	1 619	5 595	1 844	1 799	6 523	30 046
May	9 746	2 984	1 694	5 855	1 890	1 868	6 533	30 572
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								

1/ Preliminary
2/ Figures have been rounded off. Therefore, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals

Description of type of dealers included in indicated group types in table 5 1/

Group type	Type of dealer included in group type
Type A	General dealers
Type B	Retail trade in specialised food, beverages and tobacco stores
Type C	Retail trade in pharmaceutical and medical goods, cosmetics and toiletries
Type D	Retail trade in textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods
Type E	Retail trade in household furniture, appliances and equipment
Type F	Retail trade in hardware, paint and glass
Type G	All other retail trade

1/ See note 3 on page 8

Outlined below in table 6 are percentage changes in retail trade sales at current and at constant (2000) prices.

Table 6 - Quarterly and cumulative estimates and percentage changes in total retail trade sales

Estimates	March to May 2004 R million	March to May 2005 R million	% change between March to May 2004 and March to May 2005	January to May 2004 R million	January to May 2005 R million	% change between January to May 2004 and January to May 2005
Retail trade sales at current prices	82 166	90 206	+9,8	134 274	145 761	+8,6
at constant 2000 prices	65 055	69 529	+6,9	106 711	113 101	+6,0

Explanatory notes

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 the 2004 Business Sampling Frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value-added tax (VAT) and income tax. Retail trade sales include value added tax (VAT).
	2	As is usual, information for the latest month has had to be estimated for respondents who have not reported by the cut-off date for production of results. These estimates will be revised in future statistical releases when their reported information becomes available.
Scope of the survey	3	This survey covers retail enterprises according to the following types of dealer:

- General dealers
  - ➢ Retail trade in non-specialised stores with food, beverages and tobacco predominating and other retail trade in non-specialised stores;
- Retail trade in specialised food, beverages and tobacco 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;
- Retailers in pharmaceutical and medical goods, cosmetic and toiletries;
- Retail trade 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, including repair of personal and household goods.

Classification	4	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. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC group (four digit) level. Each enterprise is classified to the industry, which reflects its predominant activity.
Statistical unit	5	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.
Survey methodology and design	6	The survey is conducted on a monthly basis. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 2 500 enterprises from a population of about 46 000 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the reference month. Fax and telephone reminders are used to follow up non-respondents.
	7	The value of sales is obtained monthly from the sample of 2 500 enterprises (which was drawn in September 2004 at the SIC four-digit level from a population then of about 46 000 retail enterprises. The retail industry is divided into four size groups. All large and medium enterprises (size groups one and two), are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to size groups three and four (small and very small) enterprises. The total value of sales of the large and medium enterprises (size groups one and two) is added to the weighted totals of size groups three and four to reflect the total value of sales.
Weighting methodology	8	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 division estimates. These procedures, which are in line with international best practice, are described in more detail on the Stats SA website at www.statssa.gov.za/publications/publicationsearch.asp.

Constant prices	9	The constant prices for the 2004 series are calculated using the price index for commodities for the metropolitan areas from the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to deflate sales at current prices. From January 2005 onwards, only the total sales will be deflated and not the type of dealer.
Seasonal adjustment	10	Seasonally adjusted estimates will not be published until there are sufficient data points for the new survey. As soon as sufficient data points are available, Stats SA will consider publishing seasonally adjusted estimates.
Trend cycle	11	The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimates of the underlying trend cycle.
Reliability of estimates	12	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.
	13	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.
Revised figures	14	Revised figures are due to respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures and late submission of their data to Stats SA. Preliminary figures are indicated in the relevant tables. Data are edited at the enterprise level.
Related publications	15	Users may also wish to refer to the following publications available from Stats SA - • *Bulletin of Statistics* issued quarterly. • *SA Statistics* issued annually.
Rounding of figures	16	Where figures have been rounded off, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.
Pre-release policy	17	Stats SA's pre-release policy may be inspected at its Website, www.statssa.gov.za.
Symbols and abbreviations	18	BSF Business sampling frame GDP Gross Domestic Product ISIC International Standard Industrial Classification SIC Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities SARS South African Revenue Service Stats SA Statistics South Africa VAT Value added tax .. Figures not available * Revised figures

Technical note

Neyman optimal allocation   Before drawing in each of the surveys the population of enterprises on the business sampling frame (BSF) was stratified. Strata were formed using a combination of Standard Industrial Classification and the measure of size classes for enterprises. The Neyman optimal allocation formula given below was used to allocate samples to each stratum.

$$n_h = \frac{N_h S_h}{\sum N_h S_h}$$

where N_h and S_h are the stratum population size and the stratum variance, respectively.

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 surveys did not exceed 6.4%.

Class limits

Enterprise size	Size group	Lower limits	Upper limits
Very small	4	0	4 000 000
Small	3	4 000 001	19 000 000
Medium	2	19 000 001	39 000 000
Large	1	39 000 001	

Glossary

Enterprise   The 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, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of January 1993 (SIC)*.

Statistical unit   A statistical unit is a unit about which statistics are tabulated, compiled or published. The statistical units are derived from and linked to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) administrative data.

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.

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