

20 November 2008

Coverage
Great Britain

Theme
The Economy



Retail sales volume shows no growth

Sales volume for all retailing in the three months August to October showed no growth compared with the previous three months.

Three-monthly growth in sales volume fell by 0.7 per cent for food stores. In non-food stores sales showed no growth, with all sectors showing decreases except for other stores. Sales in the non-store retailing and repair sector rose by 4.0 per cent.

Total sales volume in the three months to October was 2.2 per cent higher than the same period a year ago. Along with September 2008, this is the lowest growth since April 2006. Sales for food stores showed no growth. Sales volume for non-food stores increased by 2.5 per cent, also the lowest growth since April 2006. Within non-food stores there were falls in non-specialised stores (such as department stores) and household goods stores. The fall in household goods sales volume is the largest since November 2005. Sales for the non-store retailing and repair sector rose by 13.6 per cent.

Between September and October, total sales volume decreased by 0.1 per cent. Sales volume in food stores rose by 1.0 per cent. Sales volume for non-food stores fell by 1.1 per cent, which includes decreases across all sectors except for other stores. Sales volume for the non-store retailing and repair sector rose by 0.9 per cent.

The non-seasonally adjusted value of retail sales for the three months to October was 3.2 per cent higher than in the same period a year earlier. The average weekly value of sales in October was £5.3 billion, 3.2 per cent higher than in October 2007.

Issued by
Office for National Statistics
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport
NP10 8XG

Contact
Media Office
0845 604 1858
Media Office on-call
07867 906553
Senior analyst Karen Woodsford
01633 455602

Email:
retail.sales.enquiries@ons.gov.uk

www.statistics.gov.uk

Next publication date
18 December 2008

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. The latest Retail Sales Index First Release can be found at:
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/rs1108.pdf>
2. A briefing note is available at:
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=870>
3. A supplementary note is published alongside the release and provides further analysis of the underlying trend.
4. The October period covered the four weeks from 5 October 2008 to 1 November 2008.
5. The volume of retail sales is the total takings adjusted for inflation and the value of retail sales is the total actual takings.
6. All volume statistics referred to above are seasonally adjusted.
7. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the media office.
8. Sales refer to average weekly sales.
9. Retail sales categories follow the UK Standard Industrial Classification guidelines. The three principal categories are: Predominantly food stores, Predominantly non-food stores and Non-store retailing and repair.
10. **National Statistics** are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. © Crown copyright 2008.