



## F2: Retail Sales

In April 2021, [retail sales in Great Britain](#) totalled £8.1 billion per week, up from £7.6 billion in March. This figure includes money spent in shops, supermarkets, in petrol stations and online.



Between March and April 2021, the total quantity of retail sales rose by 9.2%, compared to a rise of 5.4% between February and March – signalling a continued recovery from the pandemic with the re-opening of non-essential retail.

All figures are **seasonally adjusted**

Seasonal adjustments estimate and remove calendar effects (for example Easter moving between March and April) and seasonal effects (for example increased spending in December as a result of Christmas).

In the three months to April 2021, the volume of retail sales was 12.8% above the same period last year. The volume of sales was 10.6% higher in April 2021 than pre-pandemic levels (Feb 2020).

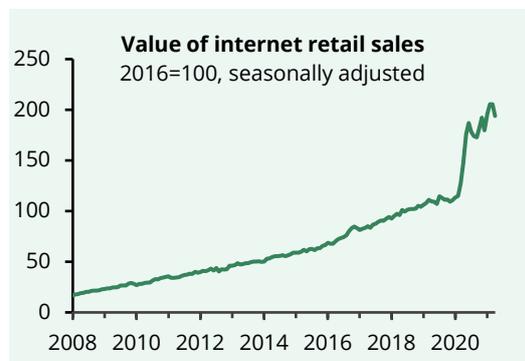
Volume of retail sale				
Index 2018=100, seasonally adjusted				
		Food	Non-food	Total
2019	Apr	101.4	102.3	103.5
2020	Apr	107.1	48.2	79.8
2021	Feb	109.1	77.0	99.0
	Mar	111.1	84.8	104.0
	Apr	110.1	106.3	113.6
3m % change on yr		3.3	15.5	12.8
% change on Feb 2020		8.6	5.6	10.6

Change on year is the change on the most recent three month period compared to the same period a year earlier. Total includes fuel and non-store retailing.

Source: ONS, series: J5C4, EAQW, EAQY, J5BY, IEAU,

The rise in sales in April 2021 was driven by non-food stores, particularly clothing stores, as non-essential retail reopened. In non-food stores, sales were 15.5% higher in the three months to April compared to the same period last year and 5.6% above pre-pandemic levels (Feb 2020).

For food stores, sales were 3.3% higher in the three months to April 2021 compared to 2020.



The average weekly value of **internet sales** was £2.6 billion in April 2021, up 32.0% on the year. This was 29.4% of all retail sales (including fuel), down from 32.8% in March 2021 but still high relative to pre-pandemic levels. Internet sales as a proportion of all

retail sales have been rising steadily since 2006, reaching around 20% of all sales in 2019. Internet sales rose significantly in April 2020 with the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, representing over 28% of all sales since.

### Subject Specialist

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### Updates

ONS, [Retail Sales](#), 18 June 2021