

# Retail Sales Index Scotland 2019, Quarter 4

29 January 2020

This is the Retail Sales Index Scotland (RSIS) for Quarter 4 (October to December) 2019. RSIS can be used as an early indicator of consumer spending and economic performance.

## Headline results

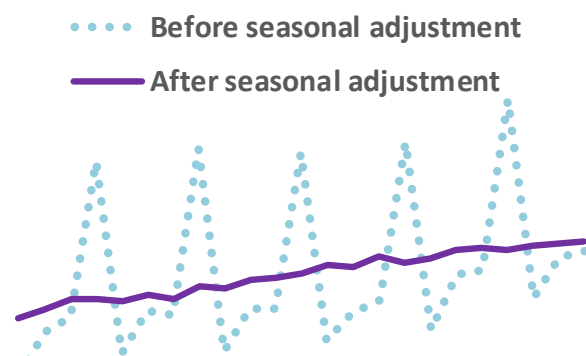
**-0.8%** The **volume** of Retail Sales (amount of goods bought) has contracted by -0.8% during the fourth quarter of 2019. Over the same period Great Britain as a whole saw a -1.0% contraction.

**-0.6%** The **value** of Retail Sales (how much was spent) contracted by -0.6% during the fourth quarter of 2019. Over the same period Great Britain as a whole saw a -0.9% contraction.

## How is the Retail Sales Index calculated?

The Retail Sales Index statistics for both Scotland and Great Britain are estimated using a monthly survey of 5,000 businesses in Great Britain carried out by the Office for National Statistics. The survey always includes the largest retailers (around 900 businesses) plus a representative sample of smaller businesses. It captures around 90% of the retail industry turnover, including online sales. Due to the volatile nature of retail sales, revisions to previous quarters are frequent. A revision table is included in the downloadable material for this publication.

Retail Sales have a strong and predictable seasonal pattern, with dramatic rises in the fourth quarter driven primarily by Christmas spending. In order to analyse the underlying economy the data are seasonally adjusted to take these predictable rises and falls into account.





## Scottish Retail Sales volume fell by 0.8% this quarter

The latest estimate of RSIS shows -0.8% contraction of sales volume between 2019 Q3 and 2019 Q4.

Over the same period Great Britain's sales volume contracted by -1.0%.

Growth in Sales Volume



## Scottish Retail Sales value fell by 0.6% this quarter

The value of retail sales contracted by -0.6% between 2019 Q3 and 2019 Q4.

Over the same period, the value of retail sales in Great Britain as a whole contracted by -0.9%.

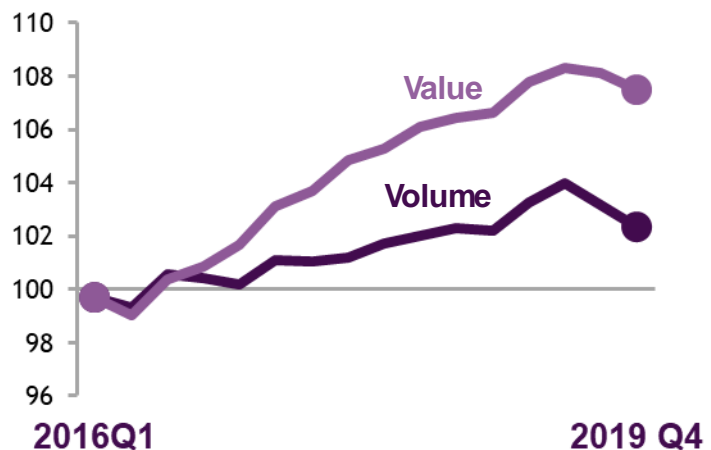
Growth in Sales Value



## Effect on prices

This quarter the value and volume of retail sales have both fallen, but because the value has fallen more slowly than volume, it suggests that prices have increased.

Volume and Value of Retail Sales (Indexed at 2016 = 100)



## A National Statistics publication for Scotland

Retail Sales Index for Scotland was assessed by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) in January 2011. The assessment report, designating this publication national statistics status can be found here:

<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/scottish-macro-economic-statistics-scottish-government/>.

Since that report there have been numerous improvements made, including: more user friendly explanatory text to accompany the figures, and use of infographics in presenting the results.

Designation can be interpreted to mean that the statistics: meet identified user needs; are produced, managed and disseminated to high standards; and are explained well.

## Correspondence and enquiries

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## How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact [benjamin.hansson@gov.scot](mailto:benjamin.hansson@gov.scot) for further information.

## Complaints and suggestions

If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Chief Statistician, 2WR, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail [statistics.enquiries@gov.scot](mailto:statistics.enquiries@gov.scot)

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