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According to the provisional results of the Survey, the value of total retail sales in April 1987 was estimated to be $6,326 million. At 113, the overall retail sales value index was 13% higher than in April 1986, whilst the volume index, at 104, was 7% higher.

2. Compared with April 1986, retail sales of "clothing, footwear and allied products" and "consumer durables" increased by 20% and 18% respectively in value and 14% and 11% respectively in volume. "Other consumer goods" went up by 13% in sales value and 6% in sales volume, while the corresponding increases for "foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco" were 10% and 5%. Fuels increased by 2% in sales value and 4% in sales volume. Retail sales of motor vehicles and parts rose very substantially in both value and volume. Sales by supermarkets recorded a substantial increase in value and a considerable increase in volume. Department stores increased considerably in both sales value and volume. Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts registered moderate increases in both sales value and volume.

3. Comparing the three months February to April 1987 with the same period in 1986, total retail sales increased by 11% in value and 6% in volume. Consumer durables and "other consumer goods" increased by 16% and 15% respectively in sales value while their increases in sales volume were both 8%. Clothing, footwear and allied products increased by 7% in sales value and 7% in sales volume. Retail sales of foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco rose by 6% in value and 3% in volume. Fuels dropped by 3% in sales value but went up by 4% in sales
volume. Retail sales of motor vehicles and parts rose very substantially in both value and volume. Department stores experienced a considerable increase in sales value and a moderate increase in sales volume. Supermarkets increased considerably in sales value and moderately in sales volume. Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts recorded a moderate increase in sales value and a slight increase in sales volume.

4. When compared with March 1987, and bearing in mind that this comparison is affected by seasonal factors, total retail sales for April 1987 decreased by 3% in value and 5% in volume. Retail sales of clothing, footwear and allied products increased by 5% in value and 1% in volume. Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco increased by 2% in sales value and had almost no change in sales volume. Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts rose by 1% in both sales value and volume. Fuels went down by 3% in both sales value and volume while "other consumer goods" decreased by 10% in sales value and 11% in sales volume. Retail sales of motor vehicles and parts increased considerably in both value and volume. Department stores registered a slight rise in sales value but a slight drop in sales volume. "Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts" and supermarkets recorded moderate decreases in both sales value and volume.

5. Table 1 presents the revised total retail sales figure for March 1987 and the provisional figure for April 1987. Table 2 shows the value and volume indexes of retail sales in March 1987 and April 1987 (A) for all retail trades, (B) by major trade groups and (C) by selected trades (which form part of the relevant major trade groups), with average retail sales from October 1984 to September 1985 taken as 100. Comparisons of April 1987 results with those for March 1987 and with those for April 1986 and comparisons of retail sales in the three months February to April 1987 with the same period in 1986 are also given. Graphs 1 and 2 depict, respectively, the movements of the value and volume indexes of total retail sales from October 1984 to April 1987 and the seasonally adjusted indexes and trends from October 1984 to March 1987.

2
It em (A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS

Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco
Fuels
Clothing, footwear and allied products
Consumer durables
Other consumer goods

(C) BY SELECTED TRADES

Supermarkets
Motor vehicles and parts
Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts
Department stores

### Notes:
1. "Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco" includes "supermarkets".
2. "Consumer durables" includes "motor vehicles and parts".
3. "Other consumer goods" includes "department stores".
4. Figures denoting changes are derived from the unrounded index figures.
5. * denotes change of less than 0.5.
Notes: (1) Monthly average of Oct. 84 - Sept. 85 = 100
(2) The seasonally adjusted value and volume indexes and Henderson trends are compiled using the X-11 variant seasonal adjustment program of the U.S. Bureau of the Census.