



Briefing Note 050502

Retail sales growth slows to a trickle

The **volume** of retail sales in the 3 months to March 2005 was 0.3% higher up on the Autumn quarter compared to growth of 1.7% at the same time last year.

The figures show a 0.6% decrease for non-food stores, the fourth consecutive decrease.

Annual comparisons show that sales volumes in the three months to March 2005 were 3.2% higher than in the same period in 2004

The unadjusted **value** of retail sales in March totalled £22.7 billion and average weekly sales were £4.5 billion, 3.0% higher than a year ago. Annual growth in sales value for food stores was 5%, higher than that for non-food stores which stood at 1.6%.

For further information please contact:

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