

Retail Sales Data - seasonally adjusted				Source:ONS		
	Value growth % on Prior Year			Volume Growth % on Prior Year		
	Food	Non Food	All	Food	Non Food	All
Sep	6.1	-0.7	2.7	-1.4	2.1	1.1
Oct	7.3	-1.6	2.9	0.5	1.5	1.6
Nov	7.3	-3.1	1.9	0.5	0.4	0.9
Dec	5.5	-1.7	2.2	-0.9	4.5	3.1
Jan	4.7	0.5	2.6	-1.7	5.5	2.7
Feb	5.7	-5.2	-0.3	-1.8	-1.3	-1.3
Mar	7.0	-2.5	2.2	-0.4	0.9	1.0
Apr	7.1	-0.8	3.0	1.5	2.9	2.7

John Lewis Data Sheet						
Week Comm'	Electrical & Technology			Food (W/rose)	Total	
	Fashion	Technology	Home			
04-Apr	1.0	-12.1	-9.2	5.8	0.9	
11-Apr	6.6	-6.2	-4.6	23.6	13.8	
18-Apr	-4.4	-8.0	-20.8	-8.1	-9.5	
25-Apr	3.0	-5.6	-12.0	6.1	1.9	
02-May	1.6	-0.7	-9.5	6.6	3.0	
09-May	1.1	3.1	-5.5	3.5	2.0	

Retail Sales (ons)

Seasonally adjusted retail sales to the end of April grew by 3.0% value on 2008.

- The food sector grew by 7.1% in value and 1.5% in volume.
- Non food sales fell by -0.8% in value and were 2.9% up in volume.

Food continues to "enjoy" the inflationary effect, whilst non food is a mixed picture with fashion benefiting from recent good weather and home related products still in the doldrums.

Retail Price Inflation (ons)

Retail price inflation, having fallen to (0.4%) negative in March continues its downward trend to (1.2%) in April. This mainly reflects mortgage payment reductions and energy costs falling.

Consumer Credit (non property)

Credit (not related to property) grew by only 0.8% on the prior year. This is the biggest evidence of the lack of consumer confidence where debt is being paid down in fear of an uncertain future.

New Mortgages

The number of new mortgages approved continues to rise as liquidity returns to the lending sector; 21k in January, 33k February and now 46k in March. Early days but a positive sign of some confidence returning.

Unemployment

Having risen again from 2.1m last month (6.7%) of the workforce to 2.21m 7.1%. This is set to rise throughout 2009 well into 2010 and is forecast to exceed 3.0m at peak.

