

Retail Sales Data - seasonally adjusted

Source ONS

	Value growth			Volume growth		
	Food	Non Food	All	Food	Non Food	All
	% on Prior Year			% on Prior Year		
Jan	4.7	0.2	2.4	-1.7	5.1	2.5
Feb	5.6	-5.7	-0.7	-1.9	-1.9	-1.8
Mar	6.9	-2.6	2.0	-0.4	1.1	0.9
Apr	7.2	-1.2	2.8	1.8	2.8	2.5
May	4.0	-6.3	-1.3	-1.1	-3.5	-2.0
June	6.8	-1.8	2.5	3.0	2.3	2.9
July	5.6	-2.0	2.0	2.4	2.0	2.7
Aug	5.6	-2.9	1.5	3.2	0.3	2.0

John Lewis Data Sheet

Week Comm'	Electrical & Technology			Food	Total
	Fashion	Home	(W'rose)		
	Value Growth % on Prior Year				
25-Jul	12.5	2.9	4.0	9.9	8.6
01-Aug	8.2	-1.9	10.5	9.5	8.0
08-Aug	-2.8	-6.2	-7.2	10.9	4.4
15-Aug	0.0	-2.1	-3.6	10.4	5.7
22-Aug	0.3	-5.9	-1.4	9.5	5.0
29-Aug	3.3	0.1	3.1	15.9	10.4
06-Sep	1.0	3.7	-2.4	7.6	4.9
13-Sep	-0.9	1.0	-8.5	12.7	6.2

Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted)

Total retail sales, when seasonally adjusted to the end of August, grew by 1.5% on 2008 values and slightly more in volume (2.0%).

- **Food Sector** growth on the prior year was 5.6% up in value and 3.2% in volume.
- **Non Food Sector** sales again fell in value on 2008 levels by -2.9% lower. As can be seen from the more recent John Lewis figures "Home" related products categories a feeling the worst of the pain.
- This level of fall in the non food area which accounts for over 50% of the total retail sector is now becoming serious, having been in the negative zone for the past seven months.

Source:- Office of National Statistics

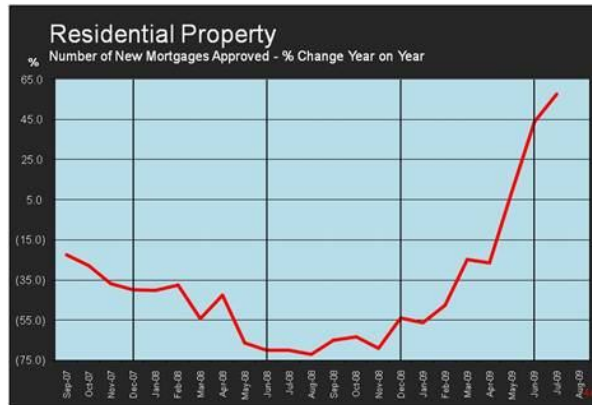
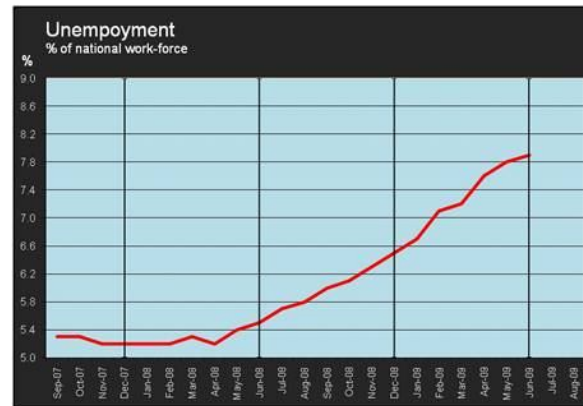
Retail Prices

Retail prices have again fallen on the 2008 levels, by -1.3%.

This is the sixth consecutive month where 2009 level has been lower than that seen in 2008.



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Unemployment

The number of people out of work in the UK has risen to its highest level since 1995. Unemployment increased by 220k to 2,43m in the three months to June.

This equates to 7.8% of the workforce being out of work.

Being the single biggest dampener on consumer confidence this is set to continue rising.

Earnings

Average earnings, excluding bonuses, grew at their slowest rate since records began in 2001.

- Earnings excluding bonuses rose at an annual rate of 2.5% in the three months to June, down from 2.6% in the three months to May. Those in manufacturing only averaged pay increases of 1.1%, while the public sector saw an average rise of 3.7%.
- Average earnings including bonuses also rose by 2.5%, but this was up from a previous 2.3%.



Residential Property

On a brighter note the number of new mortgages approved continued to grow and was 58% higher in July than in 2008.

House prices also continue their upward trend. In August they were just 2.7% lower than a year ago.