

BRIGHTON BUSINESS

the Business Forum and
the Economic Partnership
in Brighton & Hove

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News - 17 February 2012

Retail sales rise

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has reported that retail sales rose 0.9% in the month of January compared with December's 0.6% increase. The figure was much stronger than forecast as many economists had expected sales volumes to fall.

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Kate Davies, head of UK retail at the ONS, said, "The most prominent driver behind this growth comes from the non-store retailing sector [mail order and internet] but also from food stores and clothing stores."



Still out there buying

The figures from the ONS showed that internet sales now account for about 12% of total retail sales, up from 9% a year ago.

According to a report for PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) compiled by the Local Data Company, on average Britain's multiple retailers closed 14 stores a day in 2011.

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