

Publications and articles from various sources

Retail Gazette

Retail footfall rose 3.3% during 2023 despite the cost-of-living crisis, rail strikes and adverse weather, according to MRI Software. However, the software company flagged this was still 11.5% down on 2019 pre-pandemic levels, although this was an improvement on last year's 14.2% gap. The business found optimism among shoppers, although 84% chose to shop for cheaper brands when it came to essentials.

Source: <https://www.retailgazette.co.uk/blog/2024/01/retail-mri-software-footfall/>

October 04, 2024, British Retail Consortium

Better weather gives footfall first rise in over a year

Covering the five weeks 25 August 2024 – 28 September 2024

According to BRC-Sensormatic data:

- Total UK footfall increased by 3.3% in September (YoY), up from -0.4% in August.
- High Street footfall increased by 0.9% in September (YoY), up from -0.3% in August.
- Retail Park footfall increased by 7.3% in September (YoY), up from +2.6% in August.
- **Darlington footfall increased by 4.1% in September (YoY)**

Shopping Centre footfall increased by 2.3% in September (YoY), up from -1.8% in August.

All four devolved nations saw increases in footfall YoY:

Northern Ireland increased by 2.5% YoY

Scotland increased by 0.7% YoY

England increased by 3.6% YoY

Wales increased by 5.4% YoY

Helen Dickinson, Chief Executive of the British Retail Consortium, said:

“Footfall rose for the first time in over a year as mild temperatures combined with weak footfall last year led to strong growth in September. It was neither too hot nor too cold for customers, leaving retailers in the sweet spot for additional shopping trips. This compared positively to last year when the intense heatwave caused many people to stay home and delay purchases of autumnal clothes and products. Retail parks continued to perform particularly well as the increased rain drove some people towards shopping areas with nearby parking. While retailers will welcome this autumnal boost, it is the next few months, in the run up to Christmas, that are most important. The Chancellor wants to boost confidence and help unlock business investment. A Retail Business Rates Corrector, a 20% adjustment to bills for all retail properties, would help mitigate the disproportionate impact of business rates on retail, driving investment and helping to rejuvenate high streets. This in turn would boost shopper footfall and create thriving communities up and down the country.”

Andy Sumpter, Retail Consultant EMEA for Sensormatic, commented:

“September saw a long-awaited positive uptick in footfall, with total shopper numbers returning the first positive year-on-year performance since July 2023. While the High Street and Shopping Centres saw improvements compared to last year, Retail Parks were once again the standout shopping destination, with their tenant mix of out-of-town supermarkets and discount retail offerings helping to drive shopper traffic. This September’s growth is built on last year’s suppressed footfall from September 2023’s heatwave. While retailers will welcome the boost, hoping that this translates into sales, many will still be eyeing it with caution.”

British Retail Consortium



Data: Retail footfall rises for first time in over a year

📅 04/10/2024 x 12:01 AM

Retail footfall rose for the first time in over a year last month as consumers flocked to the shops during the back to school rush. Total UK shopper visitors rose 3.3% last month, up from a decline of 0.4% in August, the British Retail Consortium (BRC) reported. Retail parks enjoyed the biggest boost, with footfall up 7.3% in September, up from a 2.6% rise the month before. Shopping centre visitor numbers increased 2.3%, up from a 1.8% dip in August, while high street numbers edged up 0.9% last month compared to a 0.3% dip. All four of the UK nations enjoyed an increase in footfall year-on-year, with Wales reporting a growth of 5.4% and England up 3.6%.

Further articles are available:



July retail footfall hit by election uncertainty and summer holidays

📅 02/08/2024 x 12:14 PM



Retail footfall hit by broken business rates and outdated planning laws in May

📅 31/05/2024 x 11:55 AM



Footfall plunges in 'wettest February on record'

📅 01/03/2024 x 11:50 AM

Drapers Record

Data from the BRC-Sensormatic Footfall Monitor that covered the five weeks between 25 August and 28 September, revealed that total UK footfall increased 3.3% in September year on year, up from -0.4% in August.

High street footfall rose 0.9% in September, up from a drop of -0.3% in August, while retail park footfall jumped 7.3% in September – up from 2.6% the previous month. Shopping centre footfall increased 2.3% in September, up from negative -1.8% in August.

All four devolved nations showed increases, too: Wales was up 5.4%, year on year, England 3.6%, Northern Ireland 2.5% and Scotland 0.7%.

Helen Dickinson, chief executive of the British Retail Consortium (BRC), said:

“Footfall rose for the first time in more than a year as mild temperatures combined with weak footfall last year led to strong growth in September. It was neither too hot nor too cold for customers, leaving retailers in the sweet spot for additional shopping trips.

“This compared positively with last year when the intense heatwave caused many people to stay home, and delay purchases of autumnal clothes and products.

“Retail parks continued to perform particularly well as the increased rain drove some people towards shopping areas with nearby parking.”

Andy Sumpter, retail consultant EMEA for Sensormatic, added:

“September brought a long-awaited positive uptick in footfall, with total shopper numbers returning the first positive year-on-year performance since July 2023. While the high street and shopping centres saw improvements compared to last year, retail parks were once again the standout shopping destination, with their tenant mix of out-of-town supermarkets and discount retail offerings helping to drive shopper traffic.

“This September’s growth is built on last year’s suppressed footfall from September 2023’s heatwave. While retailers will welcome the boost, hoping that this translates into sales, many will still be eyeing it with caution.”