

UK retail sees four weeks of growth

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[MRI Software](#)'s latest footfall data reveals four consecutive weeks of growth across all UK retail destinations. Last week, overall footfall increased by 8.2% compared to the previous week, with high streets leading the way (+11.6%), followed by shopping centres (+9%). Retail parks, however, saw only a marginal uplift of 0.1%.

Week 8 – SUN-SAT Footfall rose for the fourth consecutive week in all UK retail destinations last week when compared to the week prior as half term set in across the UK. High streets experienced the strongest week on week increase followed by shopping centres, whereas retail parks saw only a marginal uplift. Annual footfall levels also remained higher across the board, though the shift in timings of this year's half term may have influenced these trends.

Footfall rose daily in all UK retail destinations aside from Friday which coincided with a change in weather conditions. High streets and shopping centres saw double digit rises compared to the week before on three out of the seven days suggesting shoppers were out in full force making the most of the half term activities. Central London witnessed the strongest week on week and year on year rises followed by historic and coastal towns suggesting day trips or holidays by the coast were popular especially as much of the week saw mild weather conditions.

MRI Software's Central London 'Back to Office' benchmark also revealed strong trends week on week however much of this may also have been driven by visitors to the capital during half term. Aside from Scotland, all regions reported positive trends with Greater London and the East of England seeing double digit rises compared to the week before. Overall, footfall rose by +8.2% last week in all UK retail destinations from the week before; high streets led the charge with an +11.6% uplift followed by shopping centres (+9%) however retail parks saw only a marginal uplift of 0.1%.

This may well align with the strong rises seen in coastal (+12.6%) and historic towns (+15.8%) as well as Central London (+16.2%) suggesting day trips to these town types were popular.

Footfall rose each day compared the week before apart from Friday when it fell by -4.6% coinciding with a turn in the weather. Monday and Tuesday were the strongest days with an average rise of +20.9% recorded in all UK retail destinations; this was much higher in high streets and shopping centres at +25.5% and +22.3%, respectively. Regionally, the East of England (+11.3%) and Greater London (+12.9%) were the clear winners with double digit rises recorded week on week. Scotland, however, saw footfall decline by -4.4% last week from the week before and by -1.1% from 2024 levels.

With the school holidays shifting this year, retail footfall remained +5.6% higher in all UK retail destinations driven by shopping centres (+8.1%) and followed by high streets (+5.6%) and retail parks (+3%). It's important for retail stores and destinations to be aware of this year's change in school holiday timings and of trends during historical holiday periods so they can plan operations accordingly and maximise sales growth.

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