

ATCM-Springboard High Street Index

August 2007 Commentary



Finally some good news! August saw a positive year on year increase in footfall in the UK's towns and cities for the first time in 2007.

Whilst it was only a modest positive annual change of +0.8%, it contributed to an improved average annual change of -3.0% for the three months between June and August. Compared with an annual change of -4.3% for the three month period before that, it suggests that performance in the high street is on the up. This good news is reinforced by a continuing upward monthly trend during 2007 – footfall nationally increased by +6.4% from July to August, following on from a +8.4% increase from June to July.

It seems that the relatively poor weather in August this year compared with the extended heatwave last summer boded well for town centres over the Bank Holiday. August Bank Holiday week 2007 (wb 27 August) saw a slight improvement in footfall across the UK's towns and cities: footfall increased nationally by +0.8% on the previous week compared with a decrease of -1.3% in the same week in 2006.

Despite the improved performance in the high street on a monthly basis during 2007, the long-term downward trend in footfall is evident: the average annual change from 2006 to 2007 for the year to the end of August stands at -4.0% compared with -2.5% for the same period from 2005 to 2006. Regional Cities appear more resilient to the downward trend in footfall, with an average annual change for the year to the end of August of just -2.8%, although this is a significant downward shift from a year on year change of +1.5% for the same period from 2005 to 2006.

All Towns and Cities:

Year to end Aug 07	0.8%
Year to end July 07	-3.0%
Year to end June 07	-6.8%
Year to end May 07	-7.0%

Regional Cities:

Year to end Aug 07	0.4%
Year to end July 07	-0.7%
Year to end June 07	-4.1%
Year to end May 07	-3.7%

Month on month change:

Jul to Aug 07	6.4%
Jul to Aug 06	2.3%
Jun to Jul 07	8.7%
Jun to Jul 06	2.8%
May to Jun 07	4.4%
May to Jun 06	4.1%

Month on month change:

Jul to Aug 07	2.9%
Jul to Aug 06	-0.4%
Jun to Jul 07	7.4%
Jun to Jul 06	3.4%
May to Jun 07	4.6%
May to Jun 06	4.7%