

# Announcement

7 October 2008

## Authority publishes the first in a new series of *Monitoring & Assessment Notes*

### **M&A Note 1: Retail Sales Index**

The Monitoring and Assessment Team of the UK Statistics Authority today publishes the first in a series of "M&A Notes", considering the volatility of the **retail sales index**.

From time to time the Authority will commission its Monitoring and Assessment Team to produce brief Notes in response to concerns raised publicly or privately in relation to a particular statistical series or issue. These Notes will be discussed with producers of statistics to ensure factual correctness, and will then be published on the Authority's website.

In considering whether to publish such a Note, the M&A Team will have regard to the significance or topicality of the issue, to whether there is a clear link between the issue concerned and trust in the statistical service, to whether it is likely that there are possible messages from the issue that are generalisable across other statistical producers or products, and to whether the necessary resources are available to address the issue at the present time.

**M&A Notes** are available via the *Monitoring & Assessment* pages of the Authority's website at <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/monitoring-and-assessment-notes/index.html>