



27 October 2010

## **Manchester bucks national retail trend with booming retail figures**

New figures compiled by Cityco, the city centre management company, reveal Manchester is bucking the national retail trend. While nationally British retailers are experiencing weak sales figures, Manchester is enjoying a boom.

Cityco's retail monitor, compiled from data from more than 100 stores in Manchester city centre in September, shows a 4.69% increase in monthly like-for-like sales compared to the same period last year. This is in contrast to the British Retail Consortium's comparable national figure of just half a percent rise in the same period. This is the seventh consecutive month that Manchester city centre's retail performance has outperformed the national figure.

The data also highlighted that last month there was resurgence in health and beauty products, and sales of computer products continue to be exceptionally strong, a trend which has shown since the spring.

Vaughan Allen, chief executive of Cityco said: "This is really good news for Manchester. City centre footfall has held up well as national footfall has struggled to increase. As we approach our busiest time of year, there is no doubt Manchester city centre's shops will continue to remain strong thanks to our unrivalled retail offer in terms of choice and price, from quirky independents to high-end stores all within a stone's throw of each other. We recognise that the major department stores including Selfridges, House of Fraser and Debenhams are making a significant contribution to this growth by investing heavily in re-developing their stores, demonstrating a strong commitment to Manchester city centre."

Cityco's retail monitor is based on data provided by more than 100 stores in the Manchester Arndale, together with other major city centre department stores including Harvey Nichols, Selfridges and Debenhams.

For more information on Cityco visit [www.cityco.com](http://www.cityco.com) or to download a free copy of the Heart of Fashion Style Guide click on [www.issuu.com/citycomanchester/docs/styleguide](http://www.issuu.com/citycomanchester/docs/styleguide)

Ends

For further information please contact Roz Hughes on T: 0161 838 3262 or M: 07967 800395 or Laura Dyson on T: 0161 838 3250 or M: 07917 261177

**Notes to editors**

Cityco works in partnership to manage and market city centre Manchester. It is an independent, not-for-profit, company funded by both public and private sector.