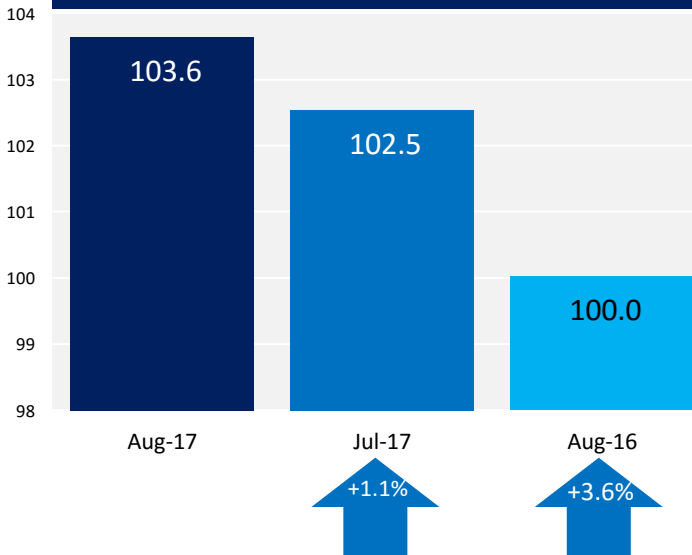
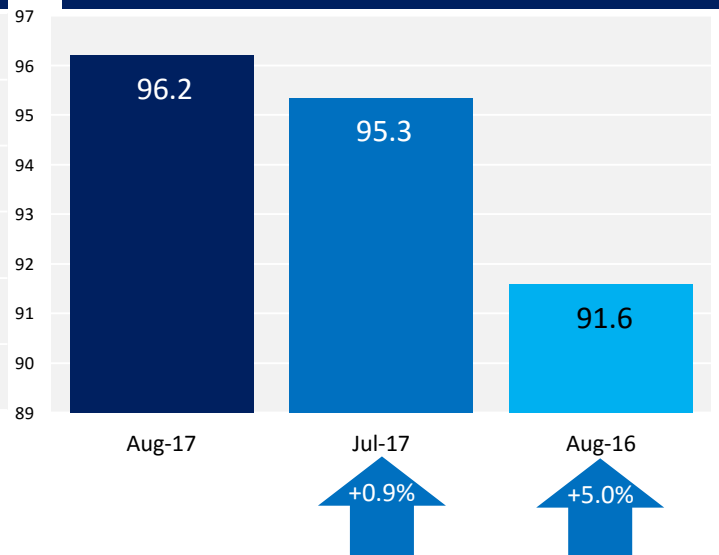


**SEPTEMBER 2017**

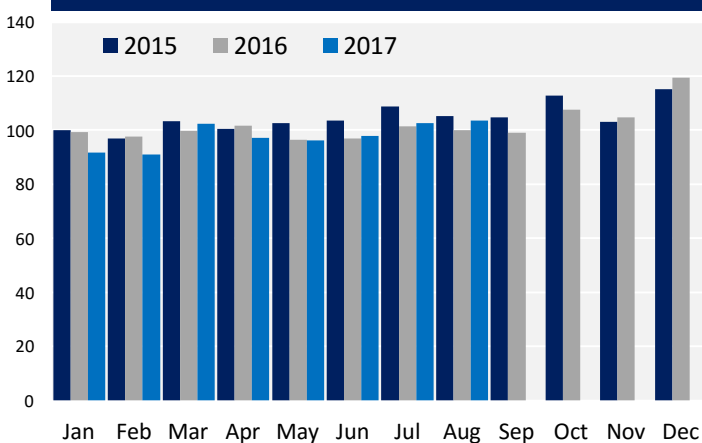
**MARKETS FOOTFALL INDEX (AUGUST)**



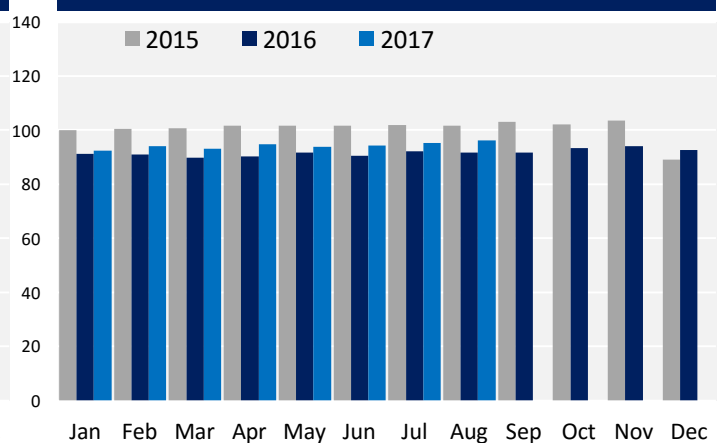
**RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEX (AUGUST)**



**MARKETS ANNUAL FOOTFALL TREND**



**ANNUAL RETAIL SALES TREND**



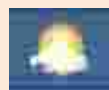
**1<sup>st</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Aug 2017**

Cloudy and cool with rain



**17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug 2017**

Warmer with some sunshine



**24<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2017**

Return to cooler, showery weather



Footfall in Retail Markets continued its strength through August, up by a cheering 3.6% YoY, for a third successive month in positive territory.

This contrasts with a continuing decline in Town Centres (down -1.2%) and High Streets (down -2.6%) as reported by *Retail Gazette*. Apart from Retail Markets, the only positive news was from the Retail Parks sector, reporting footfall up by 1.6%, suggesting we may be seeing a return of customer interest towards value.

Amidst the turmoil, UK retail continues to defy predictions of decline, with BBC News reporting a like for like uplift of 1.3% YoY. They do though report the increase is fuelled by an expansion of consumer credit, as store inflation at 3.3% outstrips wage growth at 2.1%. For how long can the sector continue to defy gravity?