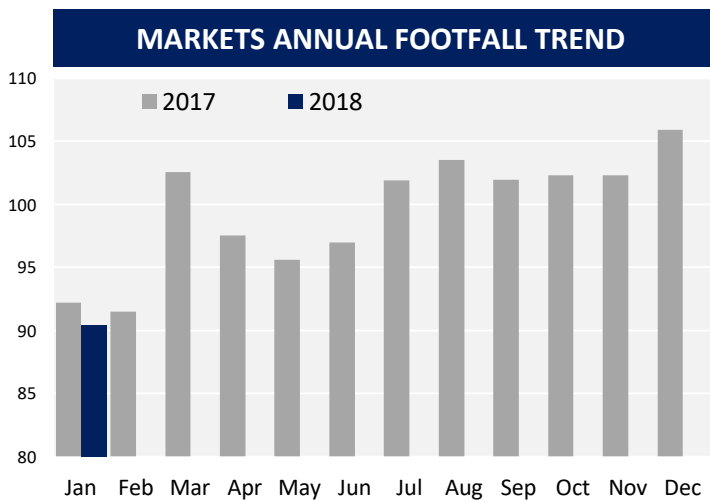
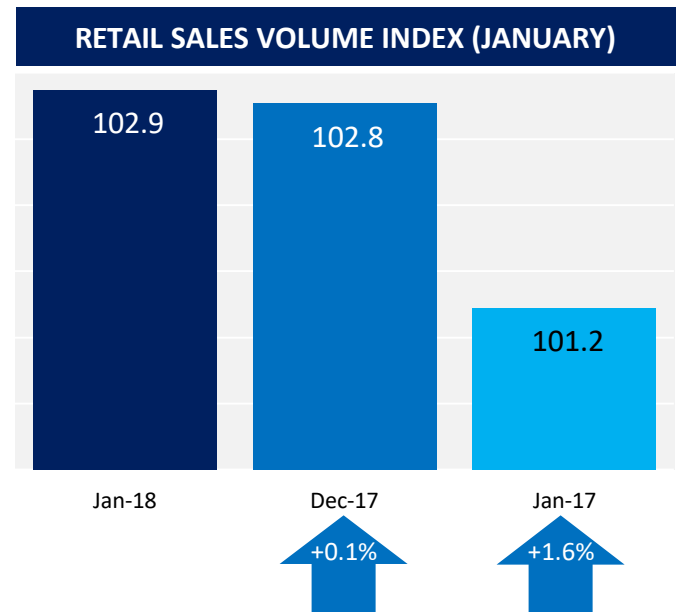
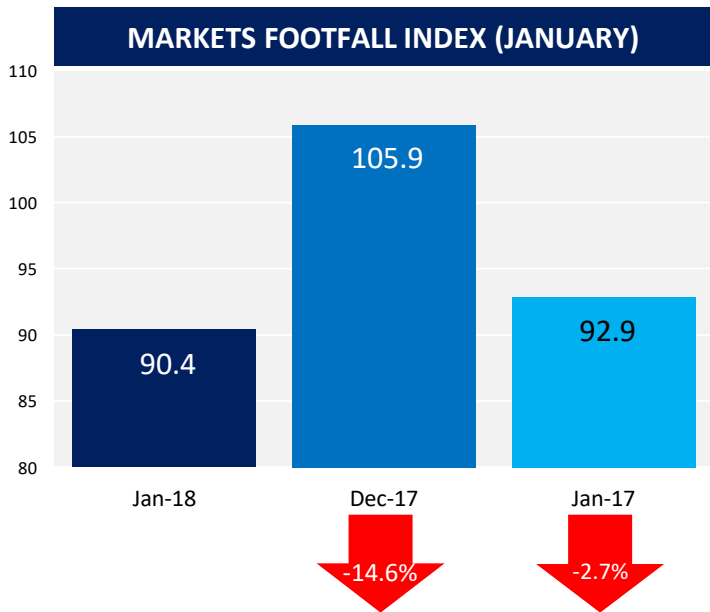


FEBRUARY 2018



1 st to 5 th Jan 2018		6 th to 12 th Jan 2018		13 th to 20 th Jan 2018		21 st to 31 st Jan 2018	
Windy as Storm Eleanor passed through		Wintery with intermittent rain		Cold with snow in the North		Milder and wetter weather	

Figures from the ONS confirm 2017/18 as a disappointing festive season for UK retailers. Volume sales for the period November to January were down by 0.1% compared with 12 months earlier, the weakest quarter's growth since April 2017. Food sales for January were down by 0.9% as customers saw inflation persisting at 3% and decided to keep the lid on spending. Figures would have been even worse but for a buoyant January rise of 11% in the sports/toys/games sector, as customers resolved to get fitter and stronger for the year ahead.

January footfall was down everywhere, with retail markets (down 2.7% YoY) performing less badly than Shopping Centres (down 3.1% YoY). The only exception was the Retail Parks sub-sector where footfall was up by 0.9% YoY, buoyed by customers finding them convenient for changing and returning online purchases and gifts.