SHOPPING CENTRE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

RESEARCH NOTE

RETAIL TRADE TREND ESTIMATE RELATIVELY UNCHANGED FOR SEPTEMBER 2017 AND UP BY 2.0 PER CENT YEAR-ON-YEAR

Friday, November 3 2017 - The latest release (September 2017) of the monthly ABS Retail Trade data indicates that the overall month-on-month (m-o-m) **trend** estimate was relatively unchanged at 0.0 per cent, equal to (a revised) 0.0 per cent in the prior corresponding period (pcp). In **trend terms**, Retail Turnover increased by 2.0 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), down from (a revised) 2.5 per cent in the pcp.

STATE OF PLAY

The adjacent table summarises the key data in **seasonally adjusted** terms across the six ABS retail categories. The strongest growth was recorded for 'Department stores' retailing on a m-o-m basis (2.1 per cent), whilst 'Food' retailing (2.8 per cent) was the strongest growing category on a y-o-y basis. In seasonally adjusted terms, Retail Turnover was relatively unchanged at 0.0 per cent in the month of September 2017, following (a revised) fall of 0.5 per cent in the pcp. On a y-o-y basis, Retail Turnover increased by 1.4 per cent, down from 2.1 per cent in the pcp.

TREND ANALYSIS: CONSUMER SENTIMENT

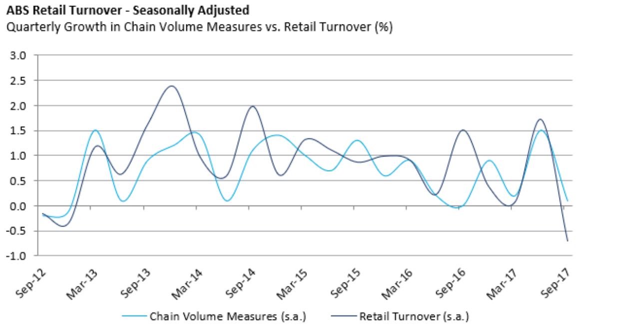
The quarterly chain volume estimates measure the change in value after the direct effects of price changes have been eliminated, reflecting changes in volume. In the quarter to September 2017, Chain Volume Measures increased by 0.1 per cent, significantly down from 1.5 per cent in the pcp, but remaining in positive territory whilst Retail Turnover was -0.7 per cent over the same timeframe. This indicates that prices are having a larger impact on sales figures than volumes. We note that the reference year for this measure has been updated in the September quarter and has resulted in revisions to historical data (further information available here).

STATE BY STATE: BEST AND WORST

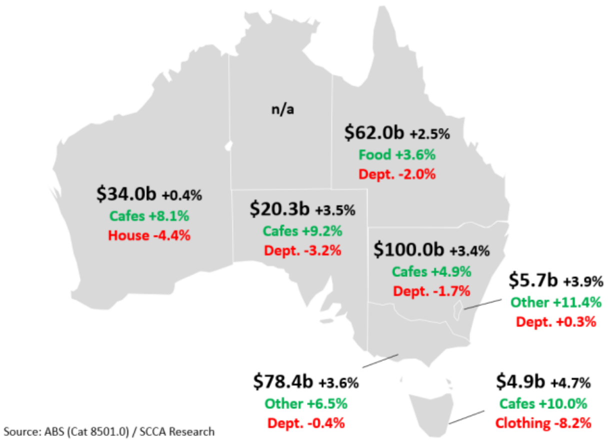
Retail turnover varies within the ABS defined six categories and across different jurisdictions. The adjacent map outlines and compares the total and growth of retail trade (y-o-y), and the best and worst retail growth categories. The strongest jurisdictions in seasonally adjusted terms were Tasmania (up 4.7 per cent to $4.9 billion) followed by the ACT (up 3.9 per cent to $5.7 billion) and Victoria (up 3.6 per cent to $78.4 billion). New South Wales has broken through the 'triple figure' barrier, recording growth of 3.4 per cent over the last 12-months to total $100.0 billion. 'Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services' retailing continues to drive growth in New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania. 'Department stores' retailing was the weakest performing category in all jurisdictions except Tasmania (not reported by the ABS) and Western Australia.

CATEGORIES	$ billion	m-o-m	last 3 months	y-o-y
Food retailing	$10.52	↑ 0.6%	↑ 0.5%	↑ 2.8%
Household goods retailing	$4.44	↓ -0.4%	↓ -3.5%	↓ -1.1%
Clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing	$2.00	↓ -0.7%	↓ -1.4%	↑ 0.2%
Department stores	$1.56	↑ 2.1%	↑ 0.3%	↑ 1.3%
Other retailing	$3.70	↓ -1.7%	↓ -0.6%	↑ 1.8%
Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services	$3.67	↑ 0.3%	↓ -0.9%	↑ 1.0%
Retail Turnover	**$25.90**	**↔ 0.0%**	**↓ -0.7%**	**↑ 1.4%**

Source: ABS (Cat 8501.0) / SCCA Research *Seasonally Adjusted



Source: ABS / SCCA Research



Source: ABS (Cat 8501.0) / SCCA Research