![Shopping Centre Council of Australia logo]

RESEARCH NOTE

RETAIL TRADE TREND ESTIMATE INCREASED BY 0.2 PER CENT IN OCTOBER 2018 AND BY 3.6 PER CENT YEAR-ON-YEAR

Friday, January 11 2019 - The latest release (November 2018) of the monthly ABS Retail Trade data indicates that the overall month-on-month (m-o-m) **trend** estimate increased by 0.2 per cent, for the fourth consecutive month. In **trend** terms, Retail Turnover increased by 3.6 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), equal to (a revised) 3.6 per cent in the prior corresponding period (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 'Clothing, footwear and personal accessory' retailing on both a m-o-m basis (1.5 per cent), as well as on a y-o-y basis (5.9 per cent). In **seasonally adjusted** terms, Retail Turnover increased by 0.4 per cent in the month of November 2018, up from 0.3 per cent in October 2018. On a y-o-y basis, Retail Turnover increased by 2.8 per cent, down from 3.6 per cent in the pcp.

| CATEGORIES	$ billion	m-o-m	last 3 months	y-o-y
Food retailing	$11.0	↑ 0.2%	↑ 0.8%	↑ 4.0%
Household goods retailing	$4.68	↑ 1.2%	↑ 2.2%	↑ 0.1%
Clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing	$2.17	↑ 1.5%	↑ 3.4%	↑ 5.9%
Department stores	$1.57	↑ 0.4%	↑ 0.9%	↑ 1.6%
Other retailing	$3.89	↓ -0.1%	↑ 0.1%	↑ 2.7%
Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services	$3.81	↓ -0.1%	↓ -0.6%	↑ 1.3%
Retail Turnover	**$27.12**	↑ **0.4%**	↑ **0.9%**	↑ **2.8%**

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

TREND ANALYSIS: CONSUMER SENTIMENT

According to the latest figures from the Westpac-Melbourne Institute Index of Consumer Confidence report, consumer sentiment remained positive (above 100.0) throughout 2018. Indeed, the index has been in positive territory since December 2017, a total of 13 months – the longest period of positive consumer sentiment since mid-2011. The latest read of the index recorded sentiment at 104.4 for December 2018, marginally up from 104.3 the previous month, ahead of the long-term average of 101.3. This is a significant turnaround in sentiment from 2017 when negative sentiment was recorded in all but two months.
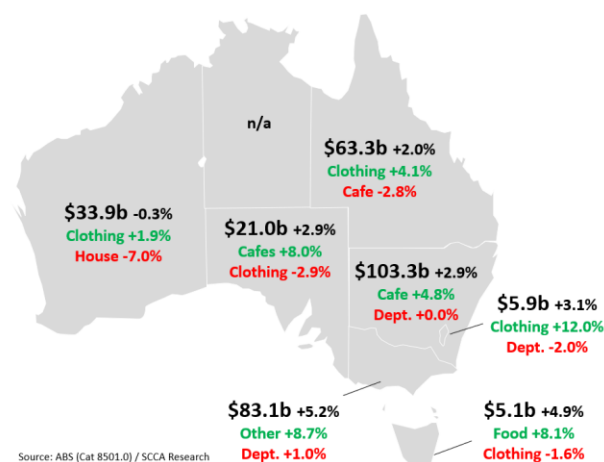
Westpac-MI Consumer Sentiment
12-months to December 2018
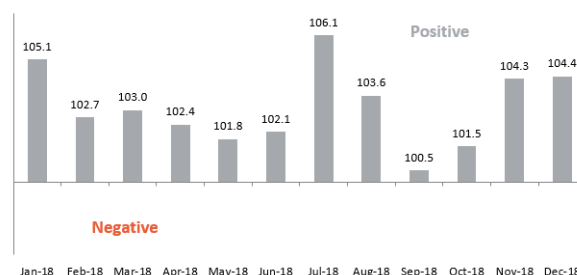
Source: Westpac-Melbourne Institute / SCCA Research

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 Victoria (up 5.2 per cent to $83.1 billion) followed by Tasmania (up 4.9 per cent to $5.1 billion) and South Australia (up 2.9 per cent to $21.0 billion). Western Australia was the worst performing jurisdiction (down 0.3 per cent to $33.9 billion), recording the sixth consecutive month of negative growth. 'Clothing, footwear and personal accessory' retailing recorded the highest growth in the Australian Capital Territory (12.0 per cent), Queensland (4.1 per cent) and Western Australia (1.9 per cent). Following recent growth, 'Department stores' retailing recorded the lowest growth in three jurisdictions. Victoria and New South Wales were the only jurisdictions to record positive growth across all six ABS categories.

Source: ABS (Cat 8501.0) / SCCA Research