

# RESEARCH NOTE

## RETAIL TRADE TREND ESTIMATE INCREASED BY 0.1 PER CENT IN JANUARY 2019 AND BY 2.8 PER CENT YEAR-ON-YEAR

**Thursday, March 7 2019** - The latest release (January 2019) of the monthly ABS Retail Trade data indicates that the overall month-on-month (m-o-m) **trend** estimate increased by 0.1 per cent, equal to (a revised) 0.1 per cent in the prior corresponding period (pcp). In **trend** terms, Retail Turnover increased by 2.8 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), down from (a revised) 3.1 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 'Other' retailing on a m-o-m basis (0.7 per cent), whilst 'Food' retailing was the strongest performing category on a y-o-y basis (4.1 per cent). In **seasonally adjusted** terms, Retail Turnover increased by 0.1 per cent in the month of January 2019, up from -0.4 per cent in December 2018. On a y-o-y basis, Retail Turnover increased by 2.7 per cent, down from 2.8 per cent in the pcp.

### TREND ANALYSIS: ONLINE RETAIL TURNOVER

According to the 'experimental estimates of online retail turnover' (explained [here](#)), online retail turnover decreased by 23.1 per cent on a m-o-m basis in January 2019, whereas 'traditional' retail (total retail turnover less online retail) decreased by 22.1 per cent over the same timeframe, noting that this data is in **original** (non-seasonally adjusted) terms. Year-on-year online retail growth (21.1 per cent) has fallen back to 2017 levels, whereas 'traditional' retail growth (2.4 per cent, y-o-y) has increased over the same timeframe. According to the latest ABS statistics, online retail accounts for 5.6 per cent of retail turnover.

### STATE BY STATE: BEST AND WORST

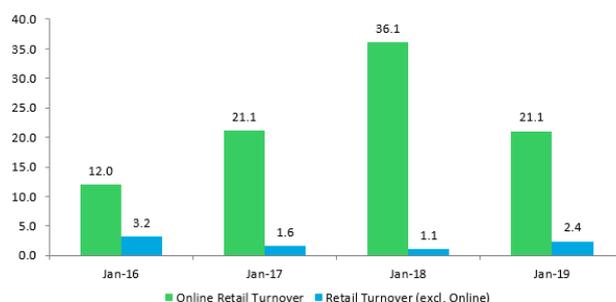
Retail turnover varies within the ABS defined six categories and across different jurisdictions. The adjacent map outlines and compares the total and growth of retail trade (y-o-y), and the best and worst retail growth categories. The strongest jurisdictions in **seasonally adjusted** terms were Tasmania (up 5.3 per cent to \$5.2 billion) followed by Victoria (up 5.2 per cent to \$83.7 billion) and the ACT (up 3.7 per cent to \$5.9 billion). Western Australia was the worst performing jurisdiction (down 0.1 per cent to \$34.0 billion), recording the eighth consecutive month of negative growth. 'Clothing, footwear and personal accessory' retailing recorded the highest growth in the ACT (11.4 per cent), Victoria (7.7 per cent) and Queensland (4.7 per cent). 'Department stores' retailing recorded the lowest growth in three jurisdictions, albeit positive growth for two of those jurisdictions. Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales were the only jurisdictions to record positive growth across all six ABS categories.

CATEGORIES	\$ billion	m-o-m	last 3 months	y-o-y
Food retailing	\$11.11	↑ 0.3%	↑ 1.2%	↑ 4.1%
Household goods retailing	\$4.53	↓ -0.0%	↓ -1.6%	↓ -0.7%
Clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing	\$2.09	↓ -0.3%	↓ -1.7%	↑ 2.3%
Department stores	\$1.51	↓ -2.1%	↓ -3.0%	↓ -1.4%
Other retailing	\$3.91	↑ 0.7%	↑ 0.6%	↑ 3.9%
Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services	\$3.86	↑ 0.3%	↑ 1.4%	↑ 3.2%
<b>Retail Turnover</b>	<b>\$27.02</b>	<b>↑ 0.1%</b>	<b>↑ 0.2%</b>	<b>↑ 2.7%</b>

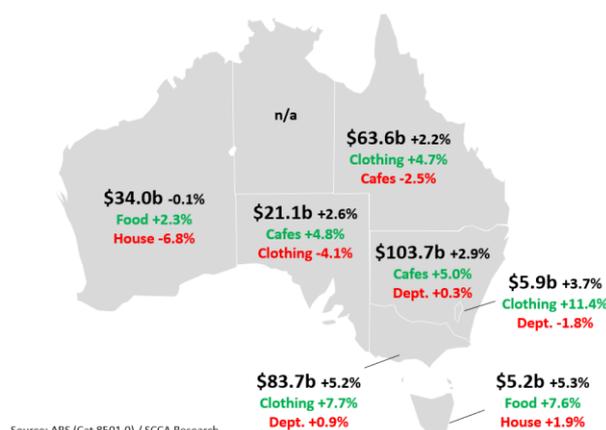
Source: ABS (Cat 8501.0) / SCCA Research

\*Seasonally Adjusted

ABS Retail Trade - Online vs. Traditional Retail  
Percentage Change Year-on-Year (Original) by Type



Source: SCCA Research / ABS



Source: ABS (Cat 8501.0) / SCCA Research