SHOPPING CENTRE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

RESEARCH NOTE

RETAIL TRADE TREND ESTIMATE INCREASED BY 0.3 PER CENT IN MARCH 2019 AND BY 3.0 PER CENT YEAR-ON-YEAR

Tuesday, May 7 2019 - The latest release (March 2019) of the monthly ABS Retail Trade data indicates that the overall month-on-month (m-o-m) **trend** estimate increased by 0.3 per cent, equal to (a revised) 0.3 per cent in February 2019. In **trend** terms, Retail Turnover increased by 3.0 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), down from (a revised) 3.1 per cent in the prior corresponding period (pcp).

STATE OF PLAY

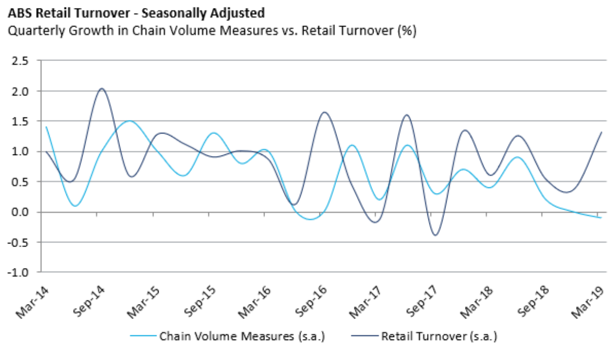
The adjacent table summarises the key data in **seasonally adjusted** terms across the six ABS retail categories. The strongest growth was recorded for 'Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services retailing on a m-o-m basis (1.4 per cent), whilst 'Clothing, footwear and personal accessory' retailing was the strongest performing category on a y-o-y basis (5.9 per cent). In **seasonally adjusted** terms, Retail Turnover increased by 0.3 per cent in the month of March 2019, down from (a revised) 0.9 per cent in February 2019. On a y-o-y basis, Retail Turnover increased by 3.5 per cent, up from 3.2 per cent in the pcp. 'Department stores' retailing recorded negative growth on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis.

CATEGORIES	$ billion	m-o-m	last 3 months	y-o-y
Food retailing	$11.26	↑ 0.4%	↑ 1.5%	↑ 4.5%
Household goods retailing	$4.60	↑ 0.2%	↑ 1.4%	↑ 0.6%
Clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing	$2.16	↑ 1.2%	↑ 2.9%	↑ 5.9%
Department stores	$1.54	↓ -1.5%	↓ -0.3%	↓ -0.4%
Other retailing	$3.88	↓ -0.4%	↑ 0.1%	↑ 3.5%
Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services	$3.92	↑ 1.4%	↑ 1.6%	↑ 4.8%
Retail Turnover	**$27.37**	↑ **0.3%**	↑ **1.3%**	↑ **3.5%**

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

TREND ANALYSIS: CHAIN VOLUME MEASURES

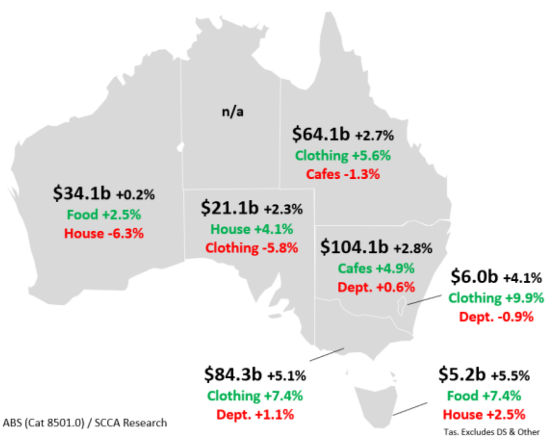
The quarterly chain volume measure estimates the change in value after the direct effects of price changes have been eliminated, reflecting changes in volume. In the quarter to March 2019, Chain Volume Measures decreased by 0.1 per cent, down from a relatively unchanged 0.0 per cent in the pcp. Retail Turnover increased by 1.3 per cent in the March 2019 quarter, significantly up from 0.4 per cent in the pcp. Retail Turnover is tracking ahead of, albeit broadly in line with, Chain Volume Measures indicating that price inflation is the main driver of growth.



Source: ABS / 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 Tasmania (up 5.5 per cent to $5.2 billion) followed by Victoria (up 5.1 per cent to $84.3 billion) and the ACT (up 4.1 per cent to $6.0 billion). Western Australia recorded a second consecutive month of positive growth but remains the worst performing jurisdiction in growth terms (up 0.2 per cent to $34.1 billion). 'Clothing, footwear and personal accessory' retailing recorded the highest growth in the ACT (9.9 per cent), Victoria (7.4 per cent) and Queensland (5.6 per cent). 'Department stores' retailing recorded the lowest growth in three jurisdictions, albeit positive growth for two of those jurisdictions.



Source: ABS (Cat 8501.0) / SCCA Research