

RESEARCH NOTE

RETAIL TRADE TREND ESTIMATE INCREASED BY 0.2 PER CENT IN OCTOBER 2019 AND BY 2.3 PER CENT YEAR-ON-YEAR

Thursday, December 5 2019 - The latest release (October 2019) 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, equal to 0.2 per cent in September 2019. In **trend** terms, Retail Turnover increased by 2.3 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), equal to (a revised) 2.3 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 (0.4 per cent), whilst 'Food' retailing recorded the strongest growth on a y-o-y basis (3.1 per cent). In **seasonally adjusted** terms, Retail Turnover decreased by 0.0 per cent in the month of October 2019, down from 0.2 per cent in September 2019. On a y-o-y basis, Retail Turnover increased by 2.1 per cent, down from 2.5 per cent in the pcp.

TREND ANALYSIS: ONLINE RETAIL TURNOVER

According to the 'experimental estimates of online retail turnover' (explained [here](#)), online retail turnover increased by 8.5 per cent on a m-o-m basis in October 2019, whereas 'traditional' retail (total retail turnover less online retail) increased by 5.7 per cent over the same timeframe, noting that this data is in original (non-seasonally adjusted) terms. Same month comparison over recent years indicates that, at least in original terms, online retail turnover growth has slowed since 2016, whereas 'traditional' retail turnover has grown over the same timeframe.

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 Queensland (up 4.3 per cent to \$65.8 billion) followed by the ACT (up 3.9 per cent to \$6.1 billion) and Victoria (up 3.7 per cent to \$85.8 billion). New South Wales (up 1.4 per cent to \$104.6 billion) was the worst performing jurisdiction. Western Australia (up 1.7 per cent to \$34.5 billion) continues to show signs of recovery in Retail Turnover. Victoria and the ACT were the only jurisdictions to record positive growth across all six ABS categories. 'Household goods' retailing was the worst performing category across four jurisdictions, perhaps an indication of recent headwinds in the residential market.

CATEGORIES	\$ billion	m-o-m	last 3 months	y-o-y
Food retailing	\$11.34	↑ 0.1%	↑ 0.5%	↑ 3.1%
Household goods retailing	\$4.60	↓ -0.2%	↑ 0.2%	↓ -0.3%
Clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing	\$2.16	↓ -0.8%	↑ 0.5%	↑ 1.2%
Department stores	\$1.56	↓ -0.8%	↑ 0.1%	↓ -0.2%
Other retailing	\$4.00	↑ 0.0%	↑ 1.0%	↑ 2.8%
Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services	\$3.92	↑ 0.4%	↑ 0.7%	↑ 2.7%
Retail Turnover	\$27.57	↓ -0.0%	↑ 0.5%	↑ 2.1%

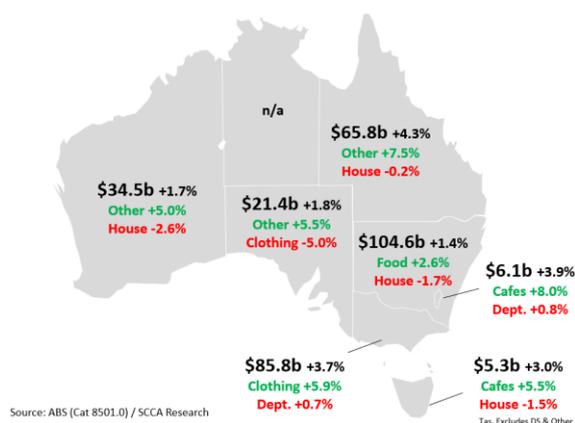
Source: ABS (Cat 8501.0) / SCCA Research

*Seasonally Adjusted

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



Source: ABS / SCCA Research



Source: ABS (Cat 8501.0) / SCCA Research

Tas. Excludes DS & Other