SHOPPING CENTRE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

RESEARCH NOTE

RETAIL TRADE ESTIMATE* INCREASED BY 3.2 PER CENT IN JULY 2020 AND BY 12.0 PER CENT YEAR-ON-YEAR

Friday, September 4 2020 - The latest release (July 2020) of the monthly ABS Retail Trade data indicates that the overall month-on-month (m-o-m) estimate* increased by 3.2 per cent, up from 2.7 per cent in June 2020. Retail Turnover increased by 12.0 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), up from 8.5 per cent in the prior corresponding period (pcp). Following a significant pick-up in spending in May 2020, the latest figures highlight the further impacts of stores re-opening as restrictions continued to ease throughout July.

* The ABS has temporarily suspended the publication trend data due to volatility.

STATE OF PLAY

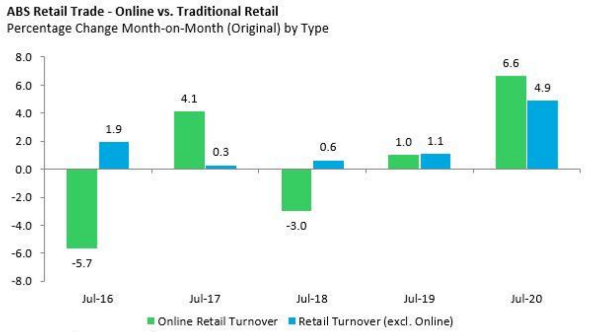
The adjacent table summarises the key data in **seasonally adjusted** terms across the six ABS retail categories. The strongest growth was recorded for ‘Clothing, footwear and personal accessory’ retailing on a m-o-m basis (7.1 per cent), whilst ‘Household goods’ retailing recorded the strongest growth on a y-o-y basis (29.4 per cent). In **seasonally adjusted** terms, Retail Turnover increased by 3.2 per cent in the month of July, up from 2.7 per cent in June 2020. On a y-o-y basis, Retail Turnover increased by 12.0 per cent, up from 8.5 per cent in the pcp.

CATEGORIES	$ billion	m-o-m	last 3 months	y-o-y
Food retailing	$12.96	↑ 1.2%	↑ 9.5%	↑ 15.0%
Household goods retailing	$5.94	↑ 4.0%	↑ 17.3%	↑ 29.4%
Clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing	$2.22	↑ 7.1%	↑ 196.0%	↑ 3.5%
Department stores	$1.62	↑ 4.0%	↑ 32.2%	↑ 4.4%
Other retailing	$4.54	↑ 4.4%	↑ 14.6%	↑ 14.9%
Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services	$3.42	↑ 4.9%	↑ 74.9%	↓ -12.1%
Retail Turnover	**$30.71**	**↑ 3.2%**	**↑ 23.9%**	**↑ 12.0%**

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

TREND ANALYSIS: ONLINE RETAIL TURNOVER

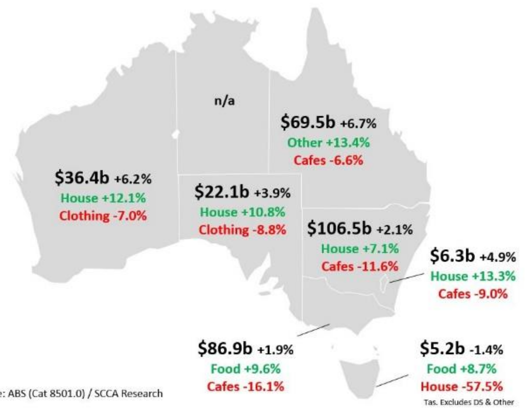
According to the ‘experimental estimates of online retail turnover’ (explained here), online retail turnover increased by 6.6 per cent on a m-o-m basis in July 2020, whereas ‘traditional’ retail (total retail turnover less online retail) increased by 4.9 per cent over the same timeframe, noting that this data is in original (non-seasonally adjusted) terms. It is worth noting that more than two-thirds of online retail is ‘multi-channel’ which would have most likely involved a physical store at some point during the purchasing process. ‘Pure Play’ online retail accounts for just 3 per cent of retail turnover.



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 Queensland (up 6.7 per cent to $69.5 billion) followed by WA (up 6.2 per cent to $36.4 billion) and the ACT (up 4.9 per cent to $6.3 billion). Tasmania (down 1.4 per cent to $5.2 billion) was the worst performing jurisdiction and for the fifth month running recorded negative growth, followed by Victoria (up 1.9 per cent to $86.9 billion). ‘Household goods’ retailing was the strongest performing category across four jurisdictions, whilst discretionary spending categories were the worst performing across **most** of the country, most notably ‘Cafes, Restaurants & Takeaway Food’ retailing.



Source: ABS (Cat 8501.0) / SCCA Research

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