

RESEARCH NOTE

RETAIL TRADE ESTIMATE* INCREASED BY 7.3 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER 2021 AND BY 5.8 PER CENT YEAR-ON-YEAR

Tuesday, January 11 2021 - The latest release (November 2021) of the monthly ABS Retail Trade data indicates that the overall month-on-month (m-o-m) estimate* increased by 7.3 per cent, up from 4.9 per cent in October 2021. Retail Turnover increased by 5.8 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), up from 5.2 per cent in the prior corresponding period (pcp). November recorded the fourth strongest monthly rise in the series with retail sales now at their highest level ever recorded, up 5.8 per cent on the previous record set in November 2020. * 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 (38.2 per cent). 'Clothing, footwear and personal accessory' retailing also recorded the strongest growth on a y-o-y basis (16.5 per cent).

TREND ANALYSIS: CONSUMER SENTIMENT

According to the latest figures from the Westpac-Melbourne Institute Index of Consumer Confidence report, consumer sentiment was recorded at 104.3 in December 2021, slightly down from 105.3 the prior month. This marks 15 consecutive months of positive consumer sentiment, with an average of 108.4 indicating that there is more optimism than pessimism for consumers. Westpac commented that "A positive national Index is very important for the strong growth outlook we see for 2022 which is dependent on a surge in consumer spending, as households re-emerge from restrictions and draw down on the large savings accumulated through the COVID lockdown periods."

STATE BY STATE: BEST AND WORST

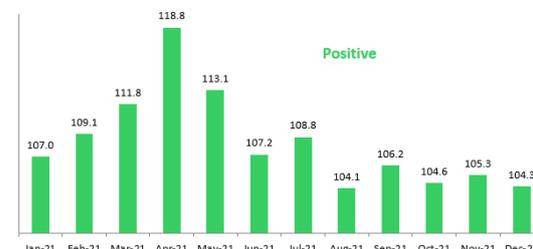
Retail turnover varies within the ABS defined six categories and across different jurisdictions. The adjacent map outlines and compares the total and growth of retail trade (y-o-y), and the best and worst retail growth categories. The strongest jurisdictions in **seasonally adjusted** terms were Tasmania (up 14.6 per cent to \$6.1 billion) followed by Western Australia (up 8.7 per cent to \$41.6 billion) and Victoria (up 8.2 per cent to \$93.1 billion). The ACT (up 2.5 per cent to \$6.8 billion) was the 'worst performing' jurisdiction in percentage terms, although still recording strong growth, following months of severe restrictions on retail trade. The highest growth across all jurisdictions, with the exception of New South Wales, was recorded for 'discretionary' categories. Given the time of year, it is unsurprising that 'Clothing, footwear and personal accessory' retailing continued to record strong growth in many jurisdictions, along with 'Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food' retailing.

CATEGORIES	\$ billion	m-o-m	last 3 months	y-o-y
Food retailing	\$12.68	↓ -2.5%	↓ -4.4%	↓ -0.0%
Household goods retailing	\$6.39	↑ 11.6%	↑ 21.7%	↑ 6.8%
Clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing	\$3.07	↑ 38.2%	↑ 86.9%	↑ 16.5%
Department stores	\$1.91	↑ 26.0%	↑ 53.7%	↑ 2.0%
Other retailing	\$5.26	↑ 7.3%	↑ 11.9%	↑ 11.9%
Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services	\$4.11	↑ 9.3%	↑ 28.9%	↑ 11.0%
Retail Turnover	\$33.41	↑ 7.3%	↑ 14.1%	↑ 5.8%

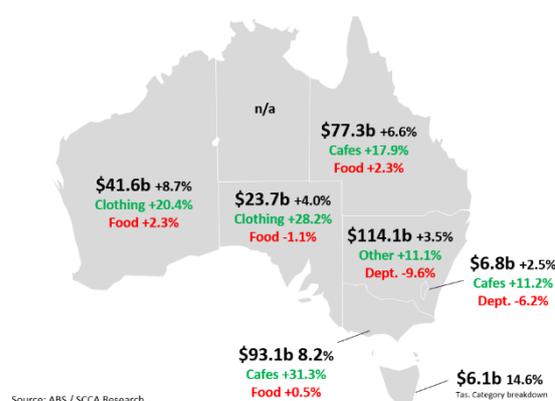
Source: ABS / SCCA Research

*Seasonally Adjusted

Westpac-MI Consumer Sentiment
12-months to December 2021



Source: Westpac-Melbourne Institute / SCCA Research



Source: ABS / SCCA Research

Tas. Category breakdown not currently available