SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

RESEARCH NOTE

RETAIL TRADE ESTIMATE* DECREASED BY 4.1 PER CENT IN DECEMBER 2020 AND INCREASED BY 9.6 PER CENT YEAR-ON-YEAR

Friday, February 5 2021 - The latest release (December 2020) of the monthly ABS Retail Trade data indicates that the overall month-on-month (m-o-m) estimate* decreased by 4.1 per cent, down from an increase of 7.1 per cent in November 2020. Retail Turnover increased by 9.6 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), down from 13.3 per cent in the prior corresponding period (pcp).

* 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 'Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services' retailing on a m-o-m basis (3.2 per cent). 'Household goods' retailing recorded the strongest growth on a y-o-y basis (18.0 per cent). In **seasonally adjusted** terms, Retail Turnover decreased by 4.1 per cent in the month of December, down from 7.1 per cent in November 2020. On a y-o-y basis, Retail Turnover increased by 9.6 per cent, down from 13.3 per cent in the pcp.

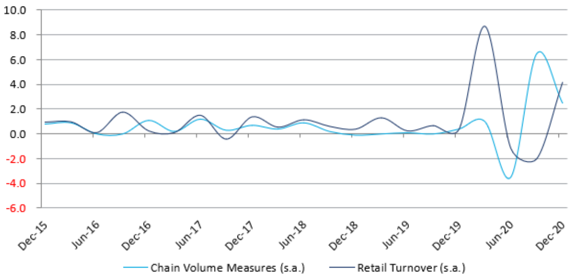
CATEGORIES	$ billion	m-o-m	last 3 months	y-o-y
Food retailing	$12.46	↓ -1.7%	↓ -2.1%	↑ 9.5%
Household goods retailing	$5.50	↓ -8.3%	↑ 2.3%	↑ 18.0%
Clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing	$2.41	↓ -9.4%	↑ 22.6%	↑ 10.1%
Department stores	$1.65	↓ -12.5%	↑ 10.7%	↑ 5.2%
Other retailing	$4.50	↓ -4.4%	↑ 5.1%	↑ 13.1%
Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services	$3.84	↑ 3.2%	↑ 16.1%	↓ -2.2%
Retail Turnover	**$30.37**	**↓ -4.1%**	**↑ 4.2%**	**↑ 9.6%**

Source: ABS / 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 December 2020, Chain Volume Measures increased by 2.5 per cent, down from 6.5 per cent in the pcp. Retail Turnover increased by 4.2 per cent in the December 2020 quarter, significantly up from negative 2.0 per cent in the pcp. Retail Turnover is tracking ahead of Chain Volume Measures indicating that pricing is the main driver of growth.

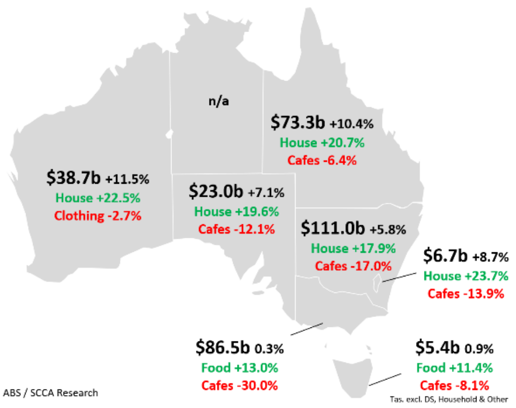
ABS Retail Turnover - Seasonally Adjusted
Quarterly Growth in Chain Volume Measures vs. Retail Turnover (%)



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 Western Australia (up 11.5 per cent to $38.7 billion) followed by Queensland (up 10.4 per cent to $73.3 billion) and the ACT (up 8.7 per cent to $6.7 billion). Victoria (up 0.3 per cent to $86.5 billion) was the worst performing jurisdiction following months of severe restrictions on retail trade, followed by Tasmania (up 0.9 per cent to $5.4 billion). 'Household goods' retailing was the strongest performing category across five jurisdictions, whilst discretionary spending categories remain the worst performing across most of the country, notably 'Cafes, Restaurants & Takeaway Food' retailing which was negative across all jurisdictions with the exception of Western Australia.



Source: ABS / SCCA Research