

Wholesale Trade Index

THIRD QUARTER 2016

Domestic Wholesale Trade Index¹

Total

Total (excluding petroleum)



% Change in Domestic Sales		Quarter-on Quarter ²		Year-on-Year	
	Food, Beverages & Tobacco	↑	5.0	↑	5.3
	Household Equipment & Furniture	↑	8.8	↑	12.8
	Petroleum & Petroleum Products	↓	2.3	↓	17.8
	Chemicals & Chemical Products	↑	0.2	↓	14.8
	Electronic Components	↑	3.6	↓	18.0
	Industrial & Construction Machinery	↓	2.8	↓	12.7
	Telecommunications & Computers	↓	5.1	↓	21.3
	Metals, Timber & Construction Materials	↓	4.8	↓	11.0
	General Wholesale Trade	↑	4.8	↓	13.5
	Ship Changers & Bunkering	↑	18.2	↓	12.2
	Transport Equipment	↓	3.4	↓	3.8

Foreign Wholesale Trade Index¹

Total

Total (excluding petroleum)



% Change in Foreign Sales		Quarter-on Quarter ²		Year-on-Year	
	Food, Beverages & Tobacco	↑	6.3	↓	7.7
	Household Equipment & Furniture	↑	4.8	↑	9.8
	Petroleum & Petroleum Products	↓	2.5	↓	14.8
	Chemicals & Chemical Products	↑	0.3	↓	7.3
	Electronic Components	↑	7.0	↓	14.6
	Industrial & Construction Machinery	↑	7.3	↑	1.5
	Telecommunications & Computers	↑	2.8	↑	7.2
	Metals, Timber & Construction Materials	↑	4.2	↓	20.0
	General Wholesale Trade	↑	9.3	↓	2.3
	Ship Changers & Bunkering	↓	4.0	↓	21.0
	Transport Equipment	↓	2.0	↓	12.7

¹ At current prices

² Seasonally adjusted

DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN WHOLESALE TRADE INDEX

Domestic Wholesale Trade

- Domestic wholesale trade (seasonally adjusted) contracted by 0.3% in third quarter 2016 over second quarter 2016. Excluding petroleum, domestic wholesale trade increased 1.1%. After removing the price effect, overall domestic wholesale trade declined 1.9% over the previous quarter.
- Compared to the same period a year ago, domestic wholesale trade dropped 13.8% in third quarter 2016. Excluding petroleum, domestic wholesale trade fell 10.6%. The decline in nominal domestic wholesale trade value was due partly to lower prices of petroleum and chemical products compared to third quarter 2015. After adjusting for price changes, overall domestic wholesale trade registered a smaller year-on-year decrease of 5.1%.

Foreign Wholesale Trade

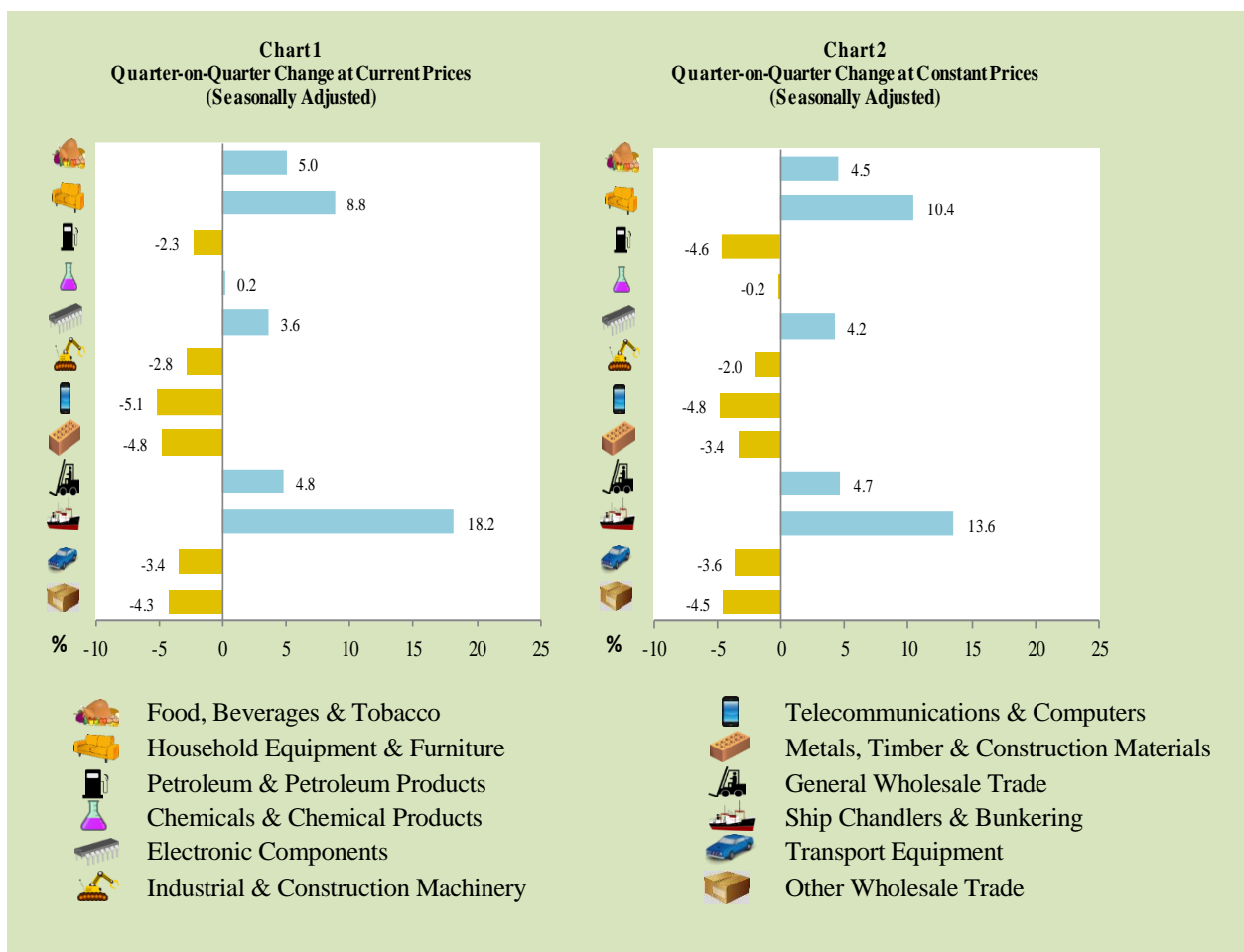
- Foreign wholesale trade (seasonally adjusted) rose 3.6% in third quarter 2016 over second quarter 2016. Excluding petroleum, foreign wholesale trade expanded by 6.8% over the previous quarter. After removing the price effect, overall foreign wholesale trade registered an increase of 3.2%.
- Compared to the same quarter a year ago, foreign wholesale trade decreased 8.8%, due partly to lower prices of petroleum and chemical products. Excluding petroleum, foreign wholesale trade declined 5.7%. After adjusting for price changes, overall foreign wholesale trade increased 0.8% year-on-year.

DOMESTIC WHOLESALE TRADE BY INDUSTRY

Quarter-on-Quarter Change (Seasonally Adjusted)

After seasonal adjustment, lower domestic sales were reported in the telecommunications & computers (-5.1%), metals, timber & construction materials (-4.8%), transport equipment (-3.4%), industrial & construction machinery (-2.8%) and petroleum & petroleum products (-2.3%) industries in third quarter 2016 (Table 1).

In contrast, the ship chandlers & bunkering industry recorded a double-digit increase in domestic sales of 18.2%. Similarly, higher domestic sales were registered in the household equipment & furniture (8.8%), food, beverages & tobacco (5.0%), general wholesale trade (4.8%), electronic components (3.6%) and chemicals & chemical products (0.2%) industries in third quarter 2016 over the previous quarter.



DOMESTIC WHOLESALE TRADE BY INDUSTRY

Year-on-Year Change

On a year-on-year basis, the petroleum & petroleum products, chemicals & chemical products and ship chandlers & bunkering industries recorded decreases in domestic sales of 17.8%, 14.8% and 12.2% respectively in third quarter 2016, due primarily to decreases in prices of petroleum and chemical products. After removing the price effect, the petroleum & petroleum products, chemicals & chemical products and ship chandlers & bunkering industries recorded smaller sales contractions of 4.6%, 6.2% and 0.1% respectively.

Double-digit declines in domestic sales were also experienced by the telecommunications & computers (-21.3%), electronic components (-18.0%), general wholesale trade (-13.5%), industrial & construction machinery (-12.7%) and metals, timber & construction materials (-11.0%) industries in third quarter 2016 over third quarter 2015. The transport equipment industry experienced a smaller decline of 3.8% in domestic sales over the same period.

In comparison, the household equipment & furniture industry recorded a double-digit increase of 12.8% in domestic sales. Higher domestic sales of 5.3% were also registered in the food, beverages & tobacco industry on a year-on-year basis.

Chart3
Year-on-Year Change at Current Prices

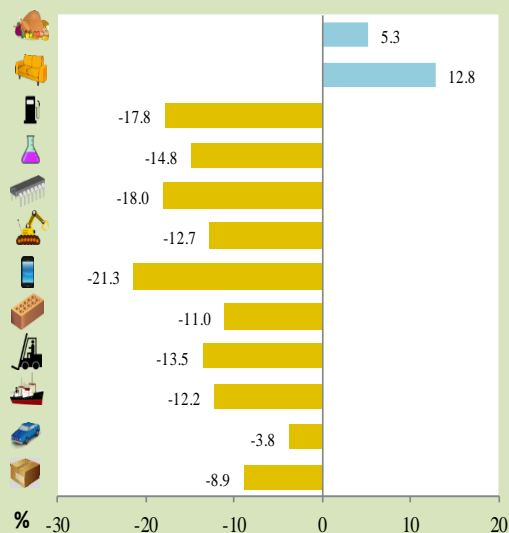
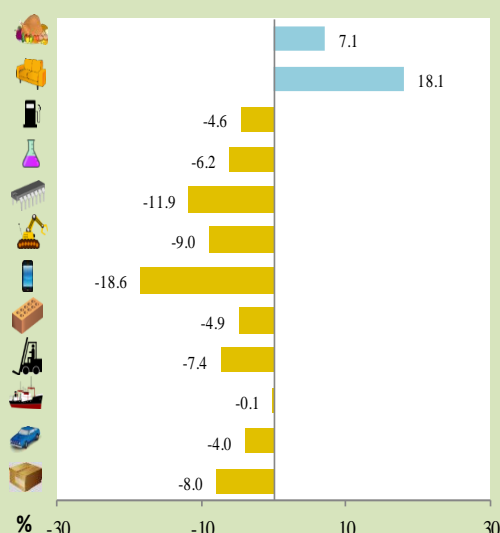


Chart4
Year-on-Year Change at Constant Prices



- Food, Beverages & Tobacco
- Household Equipment & Furniture
- Petroleum & Petroleum Products
- Chemicals & Chemical Products
- Electronic Components
- Industrial & Construction Machinery

- Telecommunications & Computers
- Metals, Timber & Construction Materials
- General Wholesale Trade
- Ship Chandlers & Bunkering
- Transport Equipment
- Other Wholesale Trade

FOREIGN WHOLESAL TRADE BY INDUSTRY

Quarter-on-Quarter Change (Seasonally Adjusted)

After seasonal adjustment, positive growth in foreign sales were registered by the general wholesale trade (9.3%), industrial & construction machinery (7.3%), electronic components (7.0%), food, beverages & tobacco (6.3%), household equipment & furniture (4.8%), metals, timber & construction materials (4.2%), telecommunications & computers (2.8%) and chemicals & chemical products industries (0.3%) (Table 2).

In contrast, the ship chandlers & bunkering, petroleum & petroleum products and transport equipment industries registered decreases of 4.0%, 2.5% and 2.0% respectively in third quarter 2016 as compared to second quarter 2016.

Chart5
Quarter-on-Quarter Change at Current Prices
(Seasonally Adjusted)

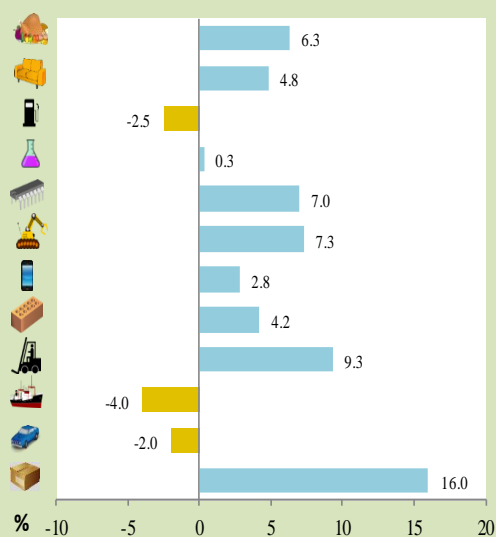
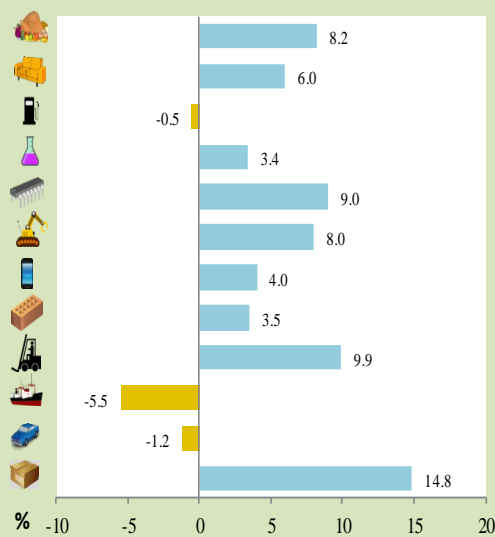


Chart6
Quarter-on-Quarter Change at Constant Prices
(Seasonally Adjusted)



- Food, Beverages & Tobacco
- Household Equipment & Furniture
- Petroleum & Petroleum Products
- Chemicals & Chemical Products
- Electronic Components
- Industrial & Construction Machinery

- Telecommunications & Computers
- Metals, Timber & Construction Materials
- General Wholesale Trade
- Ship Chandlers & Bunkering
- Transport Equipment
- Other Wholesale Trade

FOREIGN WHOLESALE TRADE BY INDUSTRY

Year-on-Year Change

On a year-on-year basis, the ship chandlers & bunkering, petroleum & petroleum products and chemicals & chemical products industries contracted by 21.0%, 14.8% and 7.3% respectively in foreign sales in third quarter 2016, due primarily to a drop in prices of petroleum and chemical products compared to third quarter 2015. After removing the price effect, the volume of foreign sales for the ship chandlers & bunkering industry declined 6.1%, while the petroleum & petroleum products and chemicals & chemical products industries grew by 1.8% and 5.7% respectively.

Lower foreign sales were also recorded in the metals, timber & construction materials (-20.0%), electronic components (-14.6%), transport equipment (-12.7%), food, beverages & tobacco (-7.7%) and general wholesale trade (-2.3%) industries.

Conversely, the household equipment & furniture, telecommunications & computers and industrial & construction machinery industries registered higher foreign sales of 9.8%, 7.2% and 1.5% respectively on a year-on-year basis.

Chart7
Year-on-Year Change at Current Prices

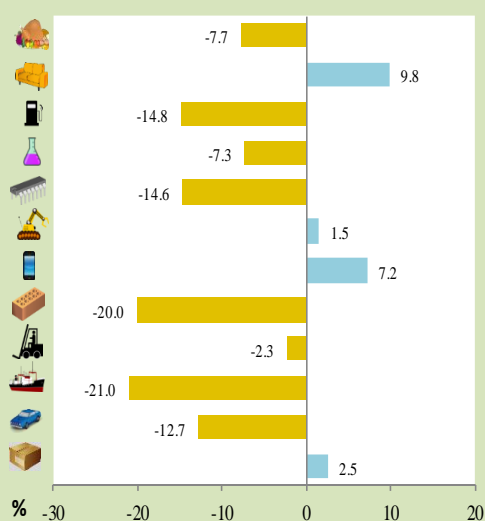
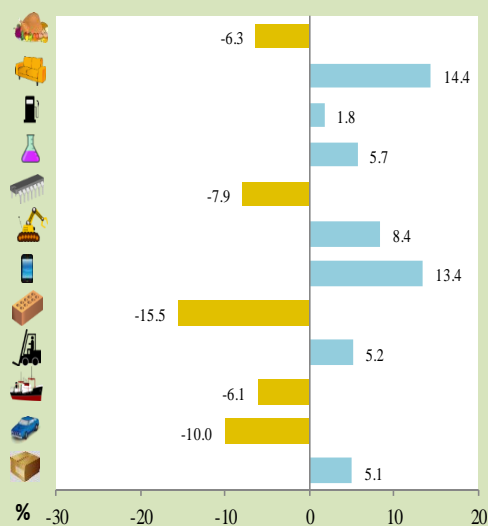


Chart8
Year-on-Year Change at Constant Prices



- Food, Beverages & Tobacco
- Household Equipment & Furniture
- Petroleum & Petroleum Products
- Chemicals & Chemical Products
- Electronic Components
- Industrial & Construction Machinery

- Telecommunications & Computers
- Metals, Timber & Construction Materials
- General Wholesale Trade
- Ship Chandlers & Bunkering
- Transport Equipment
- Other Wholesale Trade

Wholesale Trade Index, Third Quarter 2016

Table 1 Percentage Change of Domestic Wholesale Trade Index (2012=100)								
Industry	Quarter-on-Quarter Change (Seasonally Adjusted)				Year-on-Year Change			
	at Current Prices		at Constant Prices		at Current Prices		at Constant Prices	
	2Q16 / 1Q16	3Q16 / 2Q16	2Q16 / 1Q16	3Q16 / 2Q16	2Q16 / 2Q15	3Q16 / 3Q15	2Q16 / 2Q15	3Q16 / 3Q15
Total	5.5	-0.3	1.6	-1.9	-20.2	-13.8	0.1	-5.1
Total (Excluding petroleum)	-2.1	1.1	-3.0	1.9	-15.2	-10.6	-7.8	-5.8
Food, Beverages & Tobacco	0.2	5.0	0.6	4.5	1.3	5.3	2.8	7.1
Household Equipment & Furniture	-10.7	8.8	-10.3	10.4	2.8	12.8	6.7	18.1
Petroleum & Petroleum Products	18.8	-2.3	5.2	-4.6	-26.2	-17.8	6.6	-4.6
Chemicals & Chemical Products	27.1	0.2	15.5	-0.2	-20.7	-14.8	-0.5	-6.2
Electronic Components	-12.9	3.6	-10.6	4.2	-22.3	-18.0	-17.7	-11.9
Industrial & Construction Machinery	-3.7	-2.8	-2.1	-2.0	-13.3	-12.7	-10.5	-9.0
Telecommunications & Computers	-10.3	-5.1	-9.4	-4.8	-13.5	-21.3	-9.2	-18.6
Metals, Timber & Construction Materials	-2.7	-4.8	-1.5	-3.4	-15.9	-11.0	-8.8	-4.9
General Wholesale Trade	-8.8	4.8	-11.6	4.7	-30.0	-13.5	-20.9	-7.4
Ship Chandlers & Bunkering	23.0	18.2	-0.3	13.6	-40.5	-12.2	-13.1	-0.1
Transport Equipment	0.2	-3.4	0.2	-3.6	13.3	-3.8	12.2	-4.0
Other Wholesale Trade	-3.8	-4.3	-3.6	-4.5	-5.0	-8.9	-4.3	-8.0

Table 2 Percentage Change of Foreign Wholesale Trade Index (2012=100)								
Industry	Quarter-on-Quarter Change (Seasonally Adjusted)				Year-on-Year Change			
	at Current Prices		at Constant Prices		at Current Prices		at Constant Prices	
	2Q16 / 1Q16	3Q16 / 2Q16	2Q16 / 1Q16	3Q16 / 2Q16	2Q16 / 2Q15	3Q16 / 3Q15	2Q16 / 2Q15	3Q16 / 3Q15
Total	9.0	3.6	0.1	3.2	-16.7	-8.8	-0.1	0.8
Total (Excluding petroleum)	2.4	6.8	2.4	7.0	-13.0	-5.7	-7.2	-0.1
Food, Beverages & Tobacco	-3.1	6.3	-3.0	8.2	-11.6	-7.7	-12.4	-6.3
Household Equipment & Furniture	-18.1	4.8	-16.3	6.0	1.6	9.8	3.5	14.4
Petroleum & Petroleum Products	24.3	-2.5	-2.1	-0.5	-23.0	-14.8	7.8	1.8
Chemicals & Chemical Products	-0.6	0.3	-3.5	3.4	-18.0	-7.3	-0.7	5.7
Electronic Components	-0.5	7.0	1.9	9.0	-22.8	-14.6	-19.6	-7.9
Industrial & Construction Machinery	3.3	7.3	4.2	8.0	-6.1	1.5	-1.4	8.4
Telecommunications & Computers	10.4	2.8	12.8	4.0	0.0	7.2	3.3	13.4
Metals, Timber & Construction Materials	-1.7	4.2	-0.5	3.5	-22.3	-20.0	-14.5	-15.5
General Wholesale Trade	15.9	9.3	16.0	9.9	-7.2	-2.3	0.2	5.2
Ship Chandlers & Bunkering	7.1	-4.0	-8.4	-5.5	-28.3	-21.0	-1.2	-6.1
Transport Equipment	1.6	-2.0	3.8	-1.2	10.7	-12.7	8.2	-10.0
Other Wholesale Trade	-2.2	16.0	-2.5	14.8	-15.6	2.5	-13.4	5.1

Explanatory Notes

Introduction

The Wholesale Trade Index (WTI) measures the short-term performance of wholesale trade activities. Two series of the WTI are compiled - the Domestic WTI and Foreign WTI. The Domestic WTI records wholesale sales in Singapore. The Foreign WTI pertains to wholesale sales outside Singapore, which comprises domestic exports, re-exports, transshipment cargo and offshore merchandise.

The indices are presented at both current prices and constant prices. The indices at current prices measure the changes in sales value which can result from changes in both price and quantity. By removing the price effect, the indices at constant prices measure the changes in the sales volume.

To reflect the changes in the structure of wholesale trade over the years, the weighting patterns of the index series are revised regularly. The WTI series have been re-based from base year 2007 to 2012, the third re-basing exercise since the index was first introduced in 1995. The new WTI series (2012 =100) have been released with effect from 1Q2013 report.

Data Collection

Data for the compilation of the WTI are sourced from over 700 wholesale establishments covered in the quarterly survey of wholesale trade as well as from administrative records. Wholesalers supply the merchandise to manufacturers, commercial and institutional clients for use in production, or to other wholesalers and retailers for resale. Some wholesalers also perform related functions such as sorting, breaking bulk, packing and logistics services. Data are collected from a sample of the wholesale establishments for quarterly domestic wholesale sales and foreign wholesale sales.

Index Compilation

To derive the Domestic / Foreign WTI at detailed industry level, the quarterly domestic / foreign wholesale sales for that industry is divided by the average quarterly domestic / foreign sales for the same industry in the base year. The overall WTI is then computed by combining the sales indices of the detailed industries, using the weights to measure each industry's relative importance within wholesale trade.

To derive the constant prices indices, the sales indices at current prices at the detailed industry level are first deflated by appropriate price indices. These component indices at constant prices are then weighted and aggregated to derive the overall indices at constant prices.

Seasonal Adjustment

Seasonal effects are observed in some of the Domestic WTI and Foreign WTI series, due to intra-year periodic variations that repeat in the same quarter every year. Seasonal adjustment is the process of estimating and removing the seasonal effects from a time series to show more clearly its underlying trend and short-term movements.

Singapore Department of Statistics

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More data are available at SingStat website at

http://www.singstat.gov.sg/publications/economy#wholesale_trade_index

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