



SINGAPORE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

PRESS RELEASE

**Retail Sales Index
Catering Trade Index
April 2009**

Highlights

Retail Sales

- Retail sales (seasonally adjusted) declined by 3.1% in Apr 2009 compared to Mar 2009, mainly due to lower sales of motor vehicles.
- Retail sales excluding motor vehicles (seasonally adjusted) rose by 1.1% in Apr 2009 compared to Mar 2009.
- Retail sales in Apr 2009 declined by 11.7% compared to Apr 2008. Excluding motor vehicles, the sales declined by 4.0%.

Catering Trade

- Catering trade (seasonally adjusted) maintained at similar level in Apr 2009 compared to Mar 2009.
- Catering trade fell by 2.6% in Apr 2009 compared to a year ago.

Retail Sales by Sector

Month-on-Month Change (Seasonally Adjusted)

After seasonal adjustment, sales of motor vehicles and telecommunications apparatus & computers in Apr 2009 declined by 10.2% and 12.1% respectively over the previous month. Similarly, supermarkets and petrol service stations also reported lower turnover compared to Mar 2009.

On the other hand, sales of watches & jewellery, furniture & household equipment and food & beverages rose between 5.6% and 16.7%. Medical goods & toiletries, wearing apparel & footwear and optical goods & books also recorded higher receipts in Apr 2009.

Year-on-Year Change

Compared to Apr 2008, motor vehicles and furniture & household equipment retailers reported lower turnover of 28.1% and 11.2% respectively in Apr 2009. Similarly, sales of wearing apparel & footwear, watches & jewellery and telecommunications apparatus & computers also declined between 4.4% and 6.1% over Apr 2008.

Petrol service stations reported lower receipts of 20.8%, mainly attributable to lower petrol prices. Adjusted for price changes, the volume of petrol sales rose by 1.4%.

Conversely, medical goods & toiletries, food & beverages, supermarkets, department stores and provision & sundry shops reported higher receipts between 1.9% and 6.4% over a year ago.

Catering Trade by Sector

Month-on-Month Change (Seasonally Adjusted)

After seasonal adjustment, sales of restaurants declined by 4.0% in Apr 2009 over Mar 2009. Receipts of fast food outlets and food caterers each rose by 2.5% while that of other eating places (such as cafes and canteens) rose by 1.5%.

Year-on-Year Change

Receipts of food caterers and other eating places fell by 15.4% and 2.6% respectively in Apr 2009 over Apr 2008.

Turnover at restaurants rose marginally by 0.4% while that of fast food outlets rose by 4.0% over a year ago.

**Table 1 Month-on-Month Change of Retail Sales Index (2005=100)
(Seasonally Adjusted)**

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Mar 09/ Feb 09	Apr 09/ Mar 09	Mar 09/ Feb 09	Apr 09/ Mar 09
Total	10,000	-5.0	-3.1	-5.0	-3.3
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	6,551	3.5	1.1	4.9	0.3
Department Stores	1,322	4.2	0.4	3.2	1.0
Supermarkets	411	3.7	-4.1	3.0	-3.8
Provision & Sundry Shops	536	-0.5	-0.8	0.3	-0.7
Food & Beverages	200	4.7	5.6	5.5	5.4
Motor Vehicles	3,449	-20.6	-10.2	-20.5	-7.5
Petrol Service Stations	456	-3.4	-2.6	-1.0	-0.1
Medical Goods & Toiletries	332	2.7	2.4	2.1	2.9
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	574	3.3	2.4	2.9	2.6
Furniture & Household Equipment	755	1.2	7.9	2.3	6.7
Recreational Goods	190	2.3	-0.1	2.0	-0.5
Watches & Jewellery	607	-12.4	16.7	-9.6	18.3
Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	366	6.5	-12.1	9.4	-12.7
Optical Goods & Books	344	-7.0	1.0	-5.7	1.0
Others	458	5.5	-6.2	4.9	-7.7

**Table 2 Month-on-Month Change of Catering Trade Index (2005=100)
(Seasonally Adjusted)**

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Mar 09/ Feb 09	Apr 09/ Mar 09	Mar 09/ Feb 09	Apr 09/ Mar 09
Total	1,000	4.1	-0.2	3.6	0.1
Restaurants	360	11.4	-4.0	11.1	-3.2
Fast Food Outlets	136	-0.2	2.5	0.0	2.0
Food Caterers	148	-2.4	2.5	-2.7	2.7
Other Eating Places	356	0.2	1.5	-0.2	1.8

Table 3 Year-on-Year Change of Retail Sales Index (2005=100)

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Mar 09/ Mar 08	Apr 09/ Apr 08	Mar 09/ Mar 08	Apr 09/ Apr 08
Total	10,000	-7.2	-11.7	-8.8	-13.8
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	6,551	-6.8	-4.0	-6.5	-3.9
Department Stores	1,322	3.8	2.2	1.0	-0.2
Supermarkets	411	6.8	4.1	1.6	-0.1
Provision & Sundry Shops	536	5.5	1.9	0.2	-1.8
Food & Beverages	200	-3.3	5.4	-6.9	2.0
Motor Vehicles	3,449	-8.2	-28.1	-13.6	-32.0
Petrol Service Stations	456	-19.4	-20.8	2.9	1.4
Medical Goods & Toiletries	332	9.4	6.4	7.2	4.9
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	574	-14.5	-6.1	-15.2	-6.7
Furniture & Household Equipment	755	-23.7	-11.2	-24.5	-12.5
Recreational Goods	190	-2.7	-0.3	-2.9	-0.5
Watches & Jewellery	607	-25.3	-5.5	-28.5	-11.0
Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	366	0.0	-4.4	5.6	-0.1
Optical Goods & Books	344	-8.2	-0.9	-11.7	-4.6
Others	458	-4.6	-12.6	-5.1	-13.3

Table 4 Year-on-Year Change of Catering Trade Index (2005=100)

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Mar 09/ Mar 08	Apr 09/ Apr 08	Mar 09/ Mar 08	Apr 09/ Apr 08
Total	1,000	-2.3	-2.6	-6.0	-5.4
Restaurants	360	2.8	0.4	-0.8	-1.9
Fast Food Outlets	136	5.9	4.0	2.1	0.7
Food Caterers	148	-18.9	-15.4	-21.5	-17.8
Other Eating Places	356	-3.5	-2.6	-7.6	-5.9

Explanatory Notes

Introduction

The Retail Sales Index (RSI) and Catering Trade Index (CTI) measure the short-term performance of retail and catering trade industries based on the sales records of retail and catering establishments. Data for the compilation of the indices are primarily obtained from the results of the monthly surveys of retail and catering establishments respectively. Retail establishments refer to those selling merchandise directly to the consumers. Catering establishments are those selling prepared food and drinks for in-premises consumption or on a take-away basis. Hawkers and stallholders selling cooked food and prepared drinks are not considered as catering establishments.

The difference between the index of the current month and that of the preceding month in percentage term indicates the monthly change. To measure the annual change, the index of the current month is compared with that of the same month in the preceding year.

The RSI and CTI are presented at both current prices and constant prices. Changes in the indices at current prices measure the changes of sales values due to changes in both price and quantity. By removing the price effect, the indices at constant prices measure the changes in the volume of economic activity.

Seasonal Adjustment

Seasonal effects are observed in both the RSI and CTI as there are usually intra-year periodic variations that occur during fixed period of time. To better reflect the underlying trend of the monthly sales, both indices are seasonally adjusted to remove the seasonal effects.

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More data are available at SingStat website at <http://www.singstat.gov.sg/pubn/business.html#mrs>