



SINGAPORE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

PRESS RELEASE

**Retail Sales Index
Catering Trade Index
April 2010**

Highlights

Retail Sales

- Retail sales (seasonally adjusted) declined by 2.2% in April 2010 compared to March 2010. Excluding motor vehicles, retail sales grew by 1.5%.
- Retail sales in April 2010 decreased by 2.6% compared to April 2009. Excluding motor vehicles, the sales increased by 7.4% over a year ago.

Catering Trade

- Catering trade (seasonally adjusted) increased by 3.5% in April 2010 compared to March 2010.
- Compared to a year ago, catering trade expanded by 4.6% in April 2010.

Retail Sales by Sector

Month-on-Month Change (Seasonally Adjusted)

After seasonal adjustment, sales of motor vehicles declined by 15.7% in April 2010 over March 2010. Telecommunications apparatus & computers, provision & sundry shops and recreational goods also recorded lower sales of between 2.9% and 6.4%.

Retail sales of food & beverages, wearing apparel & footwear, optical goods & books, supermarkets and watches & jewellery grew by 1.6% to 4.2% in April 2010. Sales of medical goods & toiletries and department stores increased marginally by 0.7% and 0.6% respectively compared to the previous month.

Year-on-Year Change

Compared to April 2009, sales of motor vehicles fell by 30.9% in April 2010. Retail sales of provision & sundry shops, recreational goods and food & beverages also declined by between 0.6% and 3.2%.

Petrol service stations, watches & jewellery, wearing apparel & footwear and medical goods & toiletries recorded double-digit year-on-year growths of 11.6% to 17.2%. Furniture & household equipment, department stores, telecommunications apparatus & computers, optical goods & books and supermarkets also grew by 1.3% to 9.8% during this period.

Catering Trade by Sector

Month-on-Month Change (Seasonally Adjusted)

After seasonal adjustment, turnover of restaurants and fast food outlets increased by 9.0% and 3.6% respectively in April 2010 over the previous month.

Receipts of food caterers and other eating places (such as cafes and canteens) decreased by 1.9% and 0.5% respectively, as compared to March 2010.

Year-on-Year Change

Compared to a year ago, turnover of fast food outlets, food caterers and restaurants grew by between 6.4% and 9.8% in April 2010.

Turnover of other eating places dipped marginally by 0.4% over April 2009.

**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 10/ Feb 10	Apr 10/ Mar 10	Mar 10/ Feb 10	Apr 10/ Mar 10
Total	10,000	-1.4	-2.2	-2.4	-3.9
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	6,551	-0.3	1.5	0.2	1.0
Department Stores	1,322	1.3	0.6	0.2	0.6
Supermarkets	411	-1.5	1.9	-2.6	1.5
Provision & Sundry Shops	536	6.4	-3.3	4.6	-3.3
Food & Beverages	200	0.1	4.2	-0.7	2.5
Motor Vehicles	3,449	-9.0	-15.7	-13.5	-17.4
Petrol Service Stations	456	-1.8	-0.2	-0.3	-0.7
Medical Goods & Toiletries	332	1.9	0.7	1.4	-0.2
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	574	-2.8	3.7	-3.6	3.1
Furniture & Household Equipment	755	7.4	-0.1	6.2	0.6
Recreational Goods	190	-3.4	-2.9	-3.8	-3.2
Watches & Jewellery	607	1.4	1.6	-0.1	1.2
Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	366	6.9	-6.4	9.8	-6.9
Optical Goods & Books	344	-4.7	2.6	-4.4	1.7
Others	458	-8.5	-2.3	-9.1	-2.8

**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 10/ Feb 10	Apr 10/ Mar 10	Mar 10/ Feb 10	Apr 10/ Mar 10
Total	1,000	-1.0	3.5	-1.6	3.5
Restaurants	360	0.4	9.0	0.5	8.8
Fast Food Outlets	136	-0.6	3.6	-0.5	3.2
Food Caterers	148	-2.7	-1.9	-2.9	-0.7
Other Eating Places	356	0.3	-0.5	-0.1	-1.2

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Mar 10/ Mar 09	Apr 10/ Apr 09	Mar 10/ Mar 09	Apr 10/ Apr 09
Total	10,000	-2.6	-2.6	-3.8	-5.0
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	6,551	7.0	7.4	5.2	5.4
Department Stores	1,322	3.1	8.6	2.6	7.8
Supermarkets	411	-2.5	1.3	-3.3	-0.1
Provision & Sundry Shops	536	-2.9	-3.2	-3.4	-3.9
Food & Beverages	200	-1.2	-0.6	-1.8	-2.1
Motor Vehicles	3,449	-26.0	-30.9	-24.1	-31.9
Petrol Service Stations	456	17.6	17.2	1.7	0.9
Medical Goods & Toiletries	332	11.4	11.6	10.8	9.9
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	574	9.4	12.3	9.7	12.0
Furniture & Household Equipment	755	12.9	9.8	12.5	10.7
Recreational Goods	190	2.8	-0.8	3.3	-0.4
Watches & Jewellery	607	32.9	17.0	22.7	5.2
Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	366	3.9	7.0	8.4	12.2
Optical Goods & Books	344	1.6	3.7	1.6	2.9
Others	458	2.6	-0.9	1.8	-2.0

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Mar 10/ Mar 09	Apr 10/ Apr 09	Mar 10/ Mar 09	Apr 10/ Apr 09
Total	1,000	3.4	4.6	2.3	3.1
Restaurants	360	3.5	6.4	3.0	5.4
Fast Food Outlets	136	5.4	9.8	5.2	9.4
Food Caterers	148	10.8	7.7	10.0	8.2
Other Eating Places	356	-0.1	-0.4	-2.6	-3.8

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.

Singapore Department of Statistics
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