



**SINGAPORE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS**

***PRESS RELEASE***

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**Retail Sales Index  
Catering Trade Index  
August 2009**

**Highlights**

***Retail Sales***

- Retail sales (seasonally adjusted) increased by 5.2% in August 2009 compared to July 2009.
- Retail sales excluding motor vehicles (seasonally adjusted) rose by 1.0% in August 2009 compared to July 2009.
- Retail sales in August 2009 fell by 5.2% compared to August 2008. Excluding motor vehicles, the sales decreased by 3.0% over a year ago.

***Catering Trade***

- Catering trade (seasonally adjusted) increased by 1.0% in August 2009 compared to July 2009.
- Compared to a year ago, catering trade declined by 2.8% in August 2009.

## **Retail Sales by Sector**

### ***Month-on-Month Change (Seasonally Adjusted)***

After seasonal adjustment, motor vehicles and petrol service stations recorded higher sales of 13.2% and 7.2% respectively in August 2009 over July 2009. Similarly, wearing apparel & footwear, watches & jewellery, supermarkets, furniture & household equipment and medical goods & toiletries recorded higher receipts of between 1.5% and 10.9% in August 2009 over the previous month.

On the other hand, sales of food & beverages, recreational goods, telecommunications apparatus & computers, provision & sundry shops and optical goods & books declined between 2.0% and 5.8% in August 2009 over July 2009.

### ***Year-on-Year Change***

Compared to August 2008, turnover of motor vehicles dropped by 11.6% in August 2009. Similarly, sales at petrol service stations dropped by 13.8%, due partially to lower petrol prices. After adjusting for price changes, the volume of petrol sales declined by 7.0% over a year ago.

Sales of telecommunications apparatus & computers and watches & jewellery declined by 14.7% and 10.1% respectively over August 2008. In addition, sales of optical goods & books and food & beverages declined by 6.3% and 6.0% respectively over August 2008.

In contrast, medical goods & toiletries and supermarkets reported positive growths of 9.0% and 4.0% in receipts. Department stores, wearing apparel & footwear and furniture & household equipment also reported marginal growths of 0.4% to 1.0% over August 2008.

## **Catering Trade by Sector**

### ***Month-on-Month Change (Seasonally Adjusted)***

After seasonal adjustment, receipts of food caterers, restaurants and fast food outlets increased between 2.8% and 3.4% in August 2009 over July 2009.

On the other hand, receipts at other eating places (such as cafes and canteens) decreased by 2.5% over the previous month.

### ***Year-on-Year Change***

Receipts of food caterers and other eating places fell by 16.5% and 7.2% respectively in August 2009 over August 2008.

Conversely, turnover at restaurants and fast food outlets rose by 4.1% and 6.2% respectively 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	
		Jul 09/ Jun 09	Aug 09/ Jul 09	Jul 09/ Jun 09	Aug 09/ Jul 09
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>	-1.3	5.2	-0.9	5.0
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	6,551	0.6	1.0	0.6	0.7
Department Stores	1,322	1.6	0.6	0.5	0.6
Supermarkets	411	-0.1	2.9	0.2	2.7
Provision & Sundry Shops	536	-1.5	-3.1	-1.5	-3.0
Food & Beverages	200	0.5	-5.8	1.2	-5.8
Motor Vehicles	3,449	-6.0	13.2	-3.5	13.5
Petrol Service Stations	456	-3.2	7.2	-3.4	2.1
Medical Goods & Toiletries	332	2.5	1.5	2.7	1.4
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	574	-0.6	10.9	-1.4	11.6
Furniture & Household Equipment	755	4.2	1.8	4.9	0.8
Recreational Goods	190	0.6	-5.7	0.8	-5.9
Watches & Jewellery	607	7.3	4.7	7.6	4.3
Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	366	2.3	-4.5	-0.7	-4.1
Optical Goods & Books	344	-2.8	-2.0	-2.9	-2.2
Others	458	2.8	-0.1	2.4	-0.1

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Jul 09/ Jun 09	Aug 09/ Jul 09	Jul 09/ Jun 09	Aug 09/ Jul 09
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	-2.4	1.0	-2.0	0.9
Restaurants	360	-4.2	3.2	-4.4	2.7
Fast Food Outlets	136	-0.7	2.8	-0.5	2.6
Food Caterers	148	-1.9	3.4	-0.5	3.9
Other Eating Places	356	-0.4	-2.5	0.2	-2.5

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Jul 09/ Jul 08	Aug 09/ Aug 08	Jul 09/ Jul 08	Aug 09/ Aug 08
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>	-9.8	-5.2	-10.8	-6.6
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	6,551	-2.1	-3.0	-1.3	-3.8
Department Stores	1,322	2.0	1.0	0.2	-0.5
Supermarkets	411	3.2	4.0	2.0	3.3
Provision & Sundry Shops	536	5.2	-0.9	4.1	-1.2
Food & Beverages	200	2.4	-6.0	1.3	-6.5
Motor Vehicles	3,449	-28.0	-11.6	-30.3	-14.0
Petrol Service Stations	456	-23.6	-13.8	-5.1	-7.0
Medical Goods & Toiletries	332	9.2	9.0	7.4	7.1
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	574	-1.1	0.7	-3.7	-0.9
Furniture & Household Equipment	755	-3.0	0.4	-2.9	-0.1
Recreational Goods	190	2.8	-2.9	2.1	-4.1
Watches & Jewellery	607	-5.7	-10.1	-9.2	-17.3
Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	366	5.9	-14.7	6.5	-12.9
Optical Goods & Books	344	-6.2	-6.3	-9.7	-9.9
Others	458	-8.2	-7.6	-7.7	-6.9

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Jul 09/ Jul 08	Aug 09/ Aug 08	Jul 09/ Jul 08	Aug 09/ Aug 08
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	-4.6	-2.8	-6.4	-4.5
Restaurants	360	3.2	4.1	1.2	2.5
Fast Food Outlets	136	3.5	6.2	0.4	3.1
Food Caterers	148	-20.4	-16.5	-20.8	-17.0
Other Eating Places	356	-8.5	-7.2	-10.3	-9.1

## **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>