



# SINGAPORE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

## PRESS RELEASE

### Retail Sales Index Catering Trade Index February 2009

#### Highlights

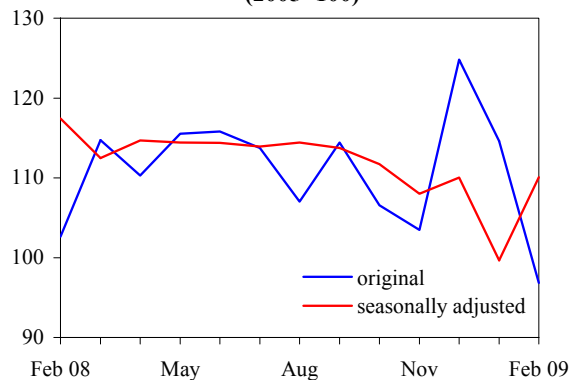
##### *Retail Sales*

Retail sales declined in February 2009 by 15.5% over January 2009. Excluding motor vehicles, the sales fell by 23.4%.

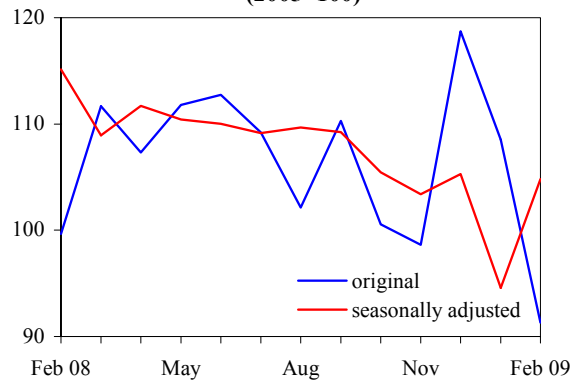
In contrast, after seasonal adjustment, retail sales rose by 10.5% over January 2009. Excluding motor vehicles, the sales declined by 3.0%.

On a year-on-year basis, retail sales in February 2009 declined by 5.7% over a year ago. Excluding motor vehicles, the sales declined by 10.2%. The volume of retail sales fell by 8.4% after removing price effect. Excluding motor vehicles, the volume declined by 10.9%.

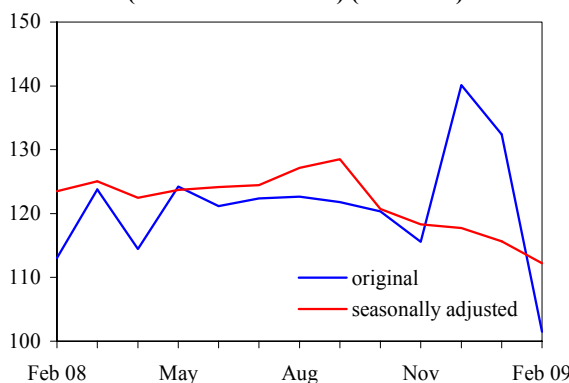
**Chart 1 Retail Sales Index at Current Prices  
(2005=100)**



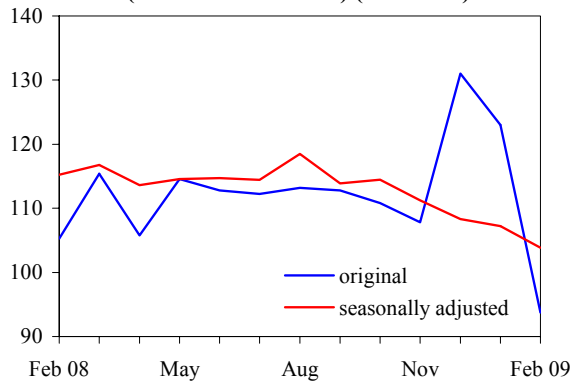
**Chart 2 Retail Sales Index at Constant Prices  
(2005=100)**



**Chart 3 Retail Sales Index at Current Prices  
(excl Motor Vehicles) (2005=100)**



**Chart 4 Retail Sales Index at Constant Prices  
(excl Motor Vehicles) (2005=100)**



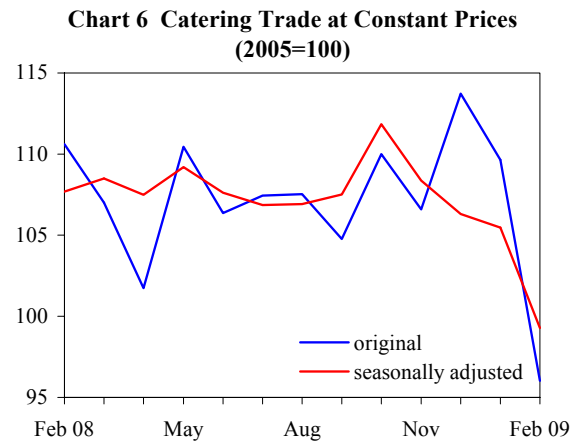
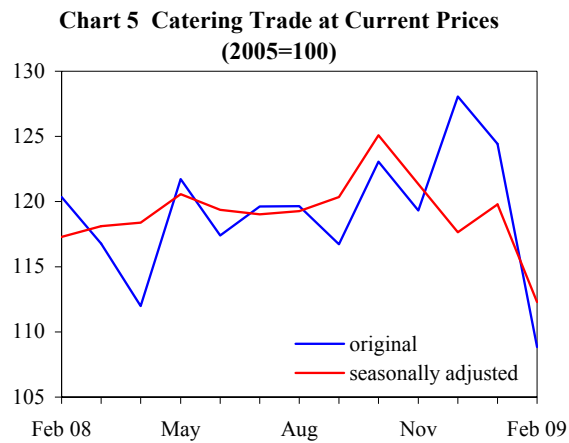
## Highlights

### *Catering Trade*

Catering trade declined by 12.5% in February 2009 over January 2009 with lower turnover in all segments.

After seasonal adjustment, catering trade declined by a smaller 6.2% over the previous month.

On a year-on-year basis, catering trade fell by 9.6% over a year ago. After removing price effect, the volume of catering trade fell by 13.2% over February 2008.



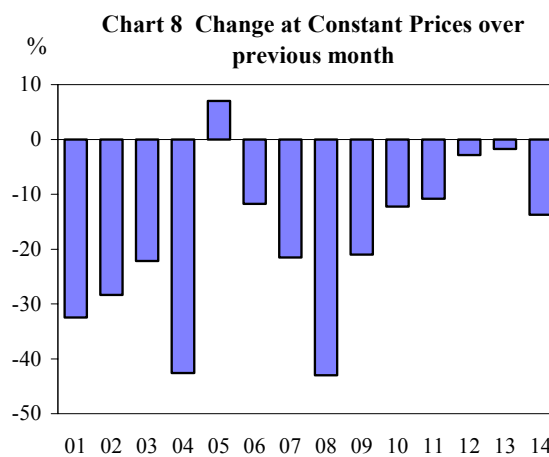
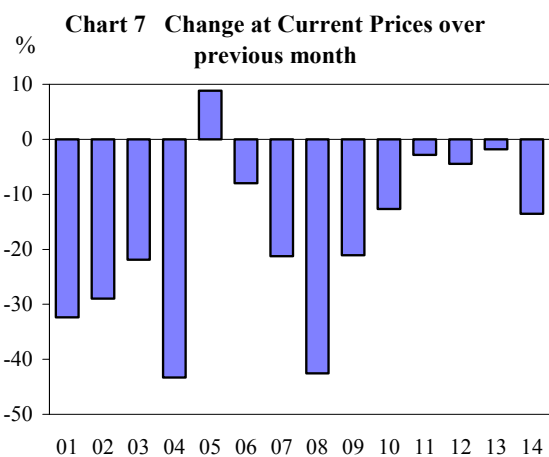
## Retail sales

### *Change over previous month*

All retail sectors except motor vehicles recorded lower receipts in February 2009 over January 2009. Sales of food & beverages, wearing apparel & footwear, department stores, supermarkets, provision & sundry shops, medical goods & toiletries and furniture & household equipment fell by 21.1% to 43.3%. Similarly, recreational goods, petrol service stations, telecommunications apparatus & computers, watches & jewellery and optical goods & books retailers also reported lower receipts of 1.8% to 12.7%.

Conversely, sales of motor vehicles rose by 8.8% in February 2009 over the previous month.

The total retail sales value in February 2009 was estimated at \$2.4 billion compared to \$2.9 billion in January 2009.



- |                               |                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 01 Department stores          | 08 Wearing apparel & footwear      |
| 02 Supermarkets               | 09 Furniture & household equipment |
| 03 Provision & sundry shops   | 10 Recreational goods              |
| 04 Food & beverages           | 11 Watches & jewellery             |
| 05 Motor vehicles             | 12 Telecomm app & computers        |
| 06 Petrol service stations    | 13 Optical goods & books           |
| 07 Medical goods & toiletries | 14 Others                          |

- |                               |                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 01 Department stores          | 08 Wearing apparel & footwear      |
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| 03 Provision & sundry shops   | 10 Recreational goods              |
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| 06 Petrol service stations    | 13 Optical goods & books           |
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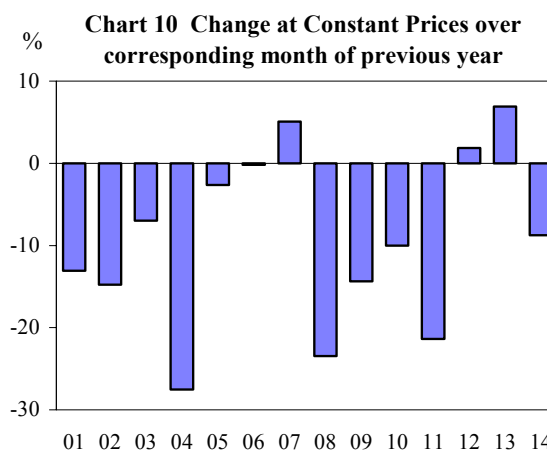
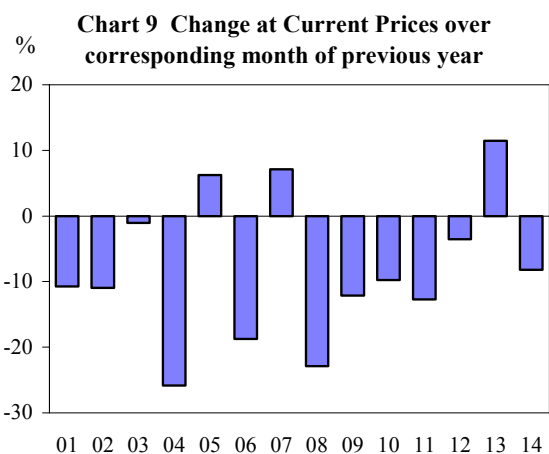
## Retail Sales

### *Change over corresponding month of previous year*

Compared to February 2008, sales of food & beverages, wearing apparel & footwear, watches & jewellery, furniture & household equipment, supermarkets, department stores and recreational goods declined by 9.8% to 25.8% in February 2009. Petrol service stations reported lower receipts of 18.7%, mainly attributable to lower petrol prices. Adjusted for price changes, the volume of petrol sales held its level.

On the other hand, optical goods & books, medical goods & toiletries and motor vehicles retailers reported higher receipts of 6.2% to 11.5% over a year ago.

After removing price effect, the volume of retail sales fell by 8.4% over February 2008. Excluding motor vehicles, the volume declined by 10.9%.



- |                               |                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 01 Department stores          | 08 Wearing apparel & footwear      |
| 02 Supermarkets               | 09 Furniture & household equipment |
| 03 Provision & sundry shops   | 10 Recreational goods              |
| 04 Food & beverages           | 11 Watches & jewellery             |
| 05 Motor vehicles             | 12 Telecomm app & computers        |
| 06 Petrol service stations    | 13 Optical goods & books           |
| 07 Medical goods & toiletries | 14 Others                          |

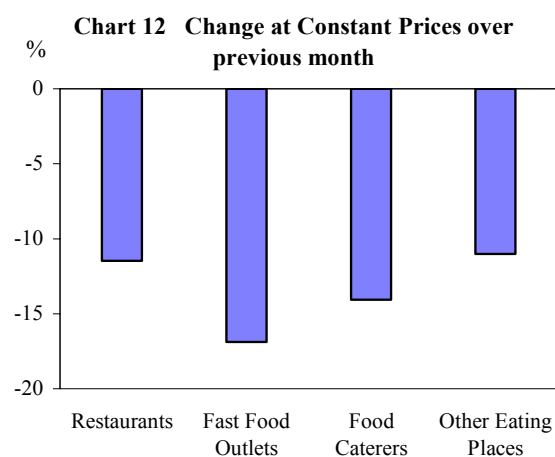
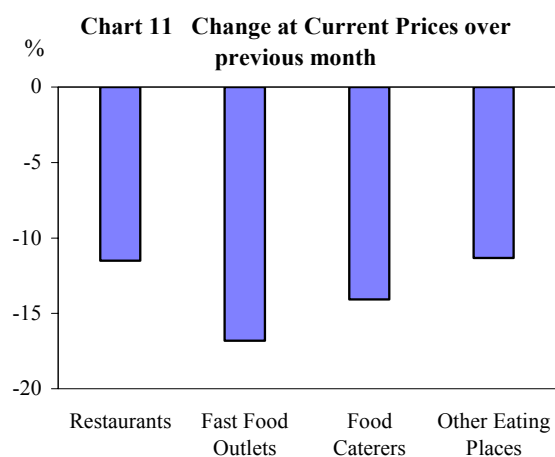
- |                               |                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 01 Department stores          | 08 Wearing apparel & footwear      |
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| 03 Provision & sundry shops   | 10 Recreational goods              |
| 04 Food & beverages           | 11 Watches & jewellery             |
| 05 Motor vehicles             | 12 Telecomm app & computers        |
| 06 Petrol service stations    | 13 Optical goods & books           |
| 07 Medical goods & toiletries | 14 Others                          |

## Catering Trade

### *Change over previous month*

After Chinese New Year in January 2009, sales of restaurants and fast food outlets in February declined by 11.5% and 16.8% respectively. Food caterers and other eating places (such as cafes and canteens) also reported lower receipts of 14.1% and 11.3% respectively.

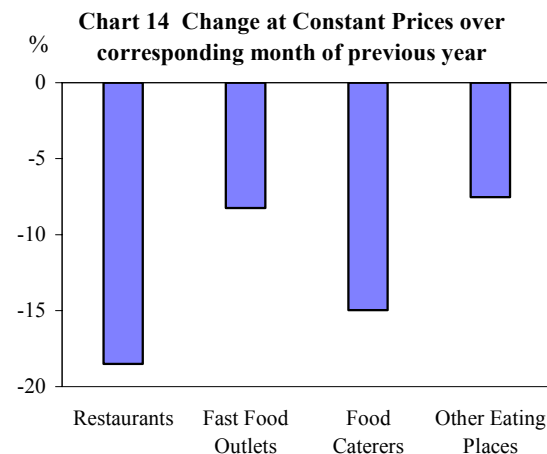
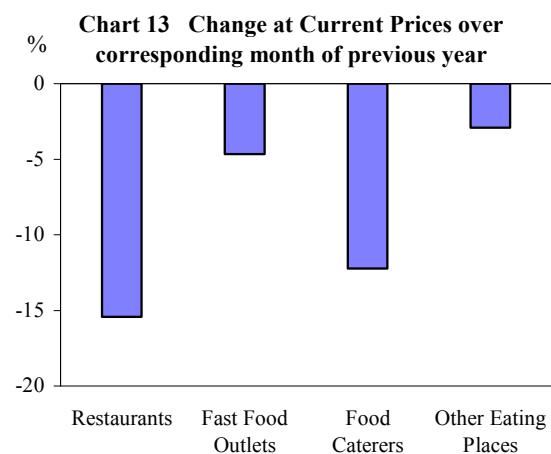
Total value of catering trade in February 2009 was estimated at \$385 million compared to \$440 million in the previous month.



### *Change over corresponding month of previous year*

Compared to February 2008, receipts of restaurants and food caterers fell by 15.4% and 12.2% respectively. Turnover at fast food outlets and other eating places also declined by 4.7% and 2.9% over a year ago.

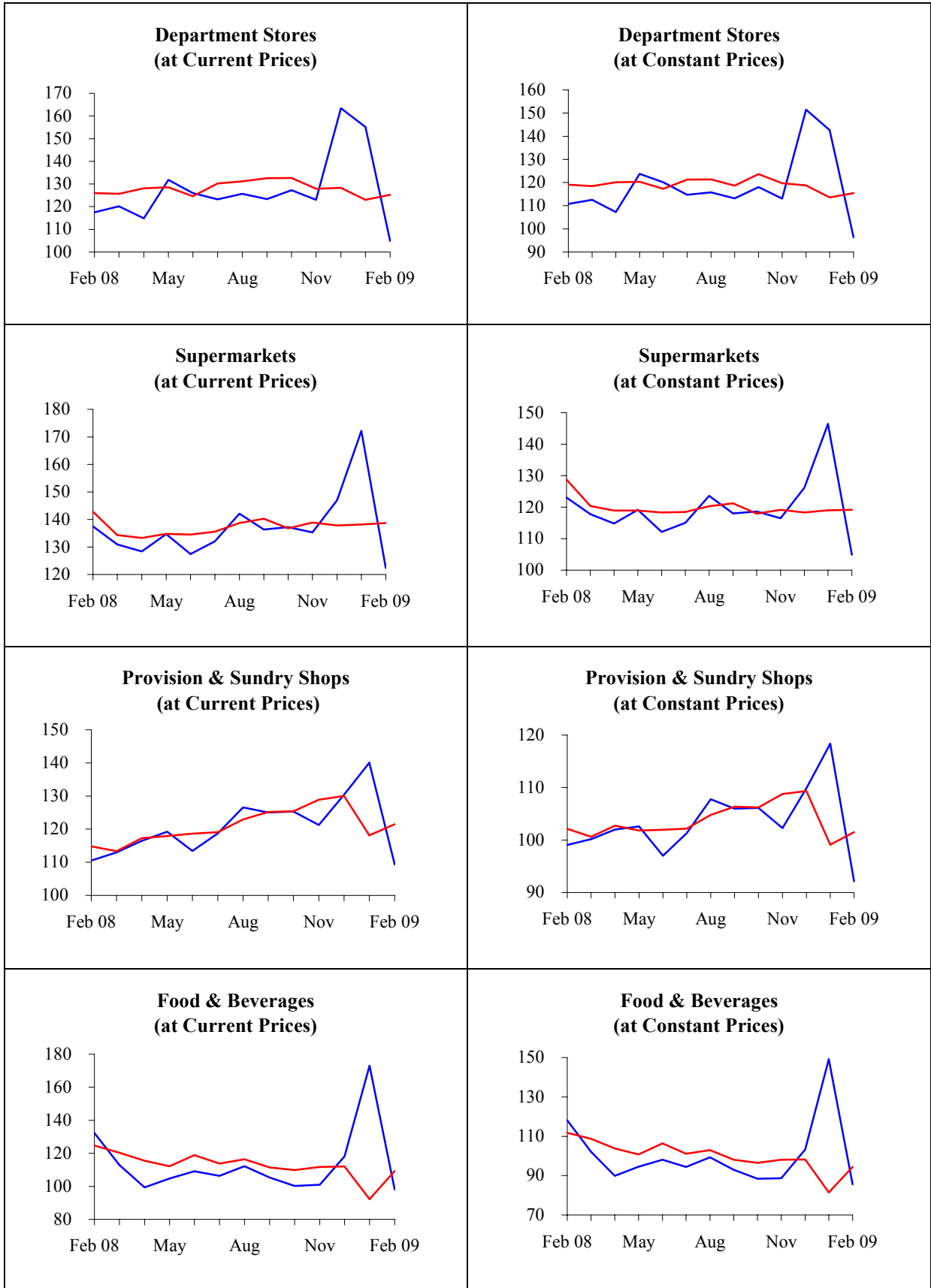
After removing price effect, the volume of catering trade fell by 13.2% over February 2008.



### Chart 15 Retail Sales Index by Retail Sectors

Index at Current Prices

Index at Constant Prices



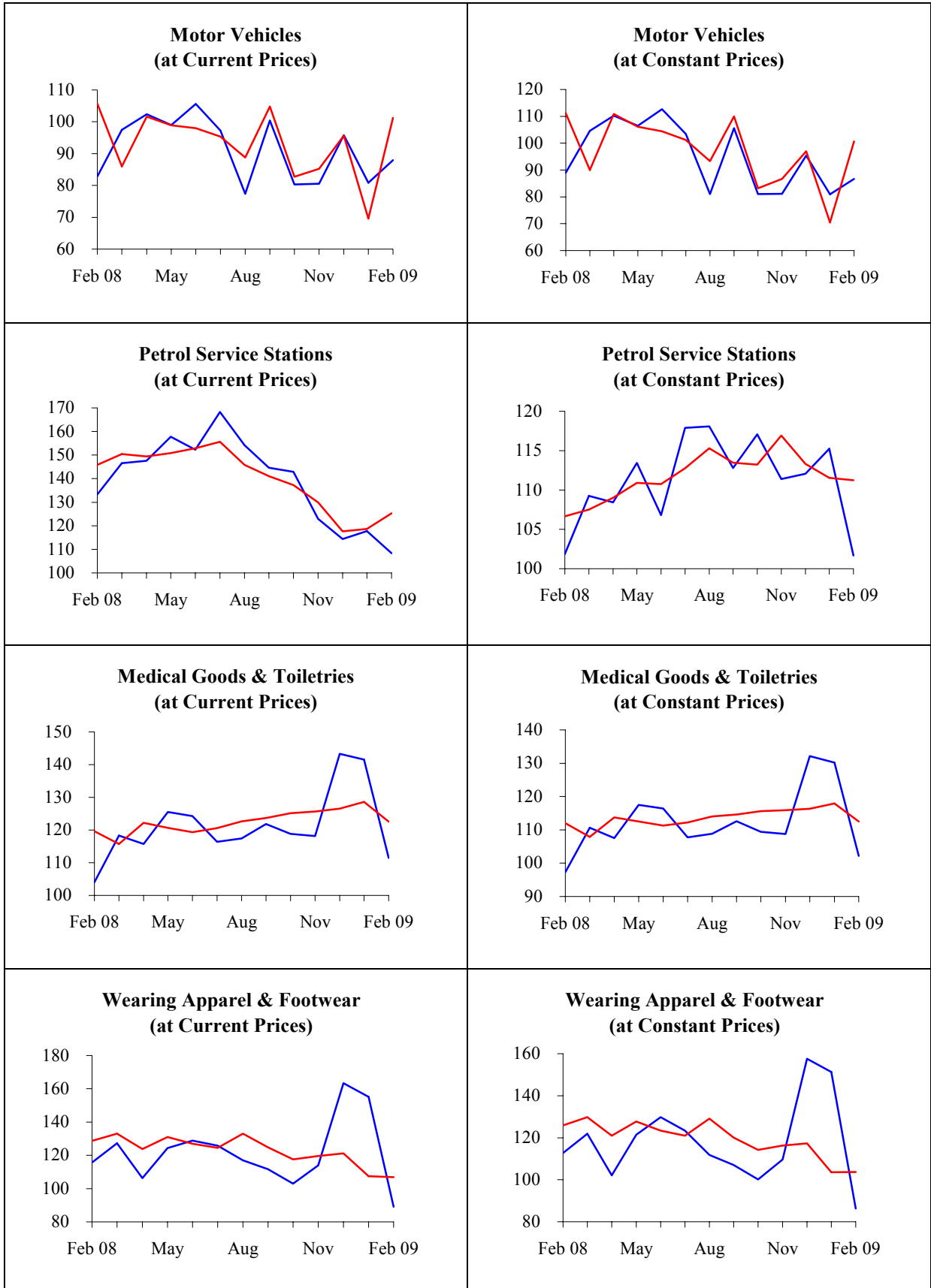
— original  
— seasonally adjusted

— original  
— seasonally adjusted

## Chart 15 (Cont'd) Retail Sales Index by Retail Sectors

Index at Current Prices

Index at Constant Prices



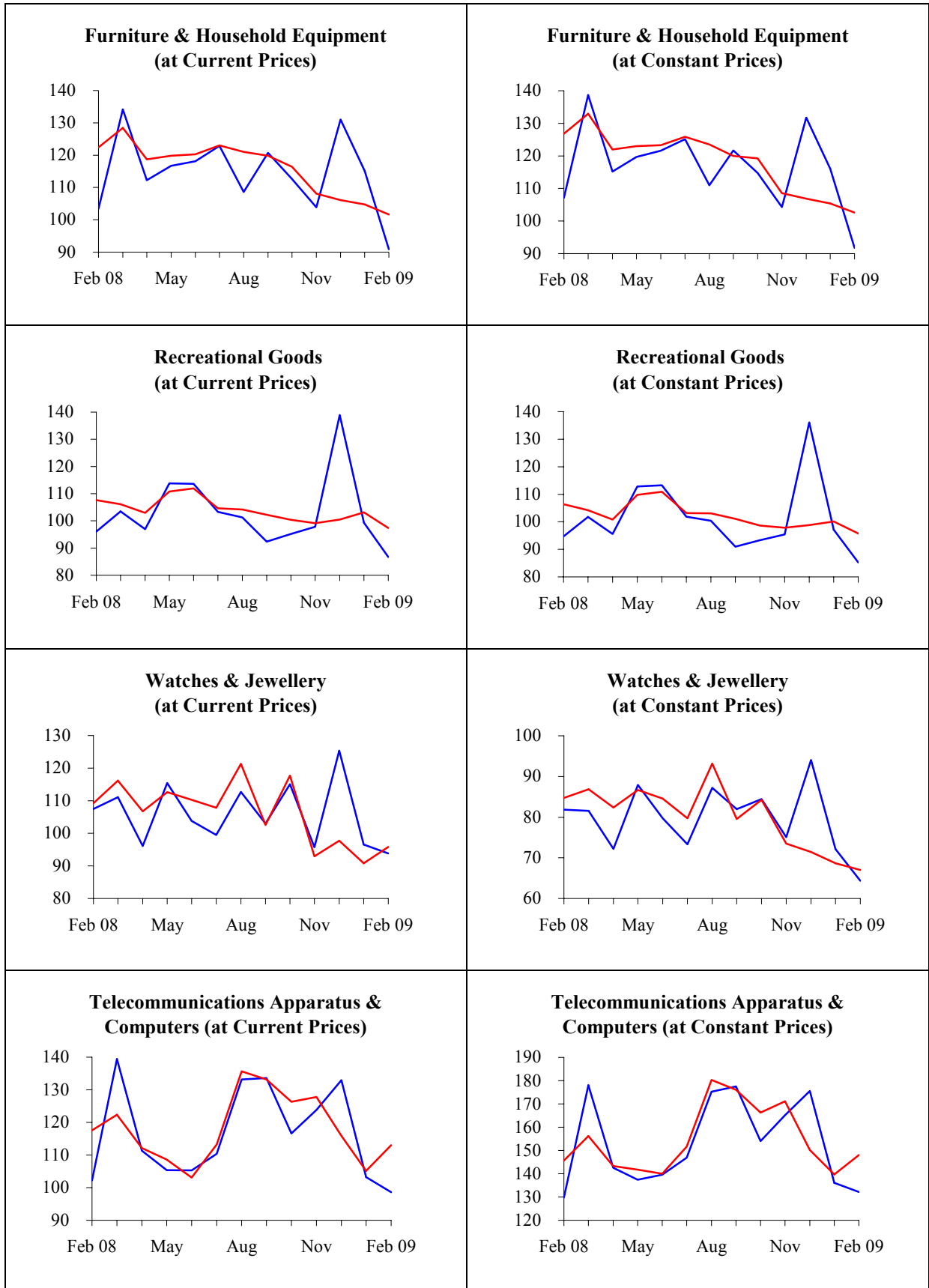
— original  
— seasonally adjusted

— original  
— seasonally adjusted

## Chart 15 (Cont'd) Retail Sales Index by Retail Sectors

**Index at Current Prices**

**Index at Constant Prices**



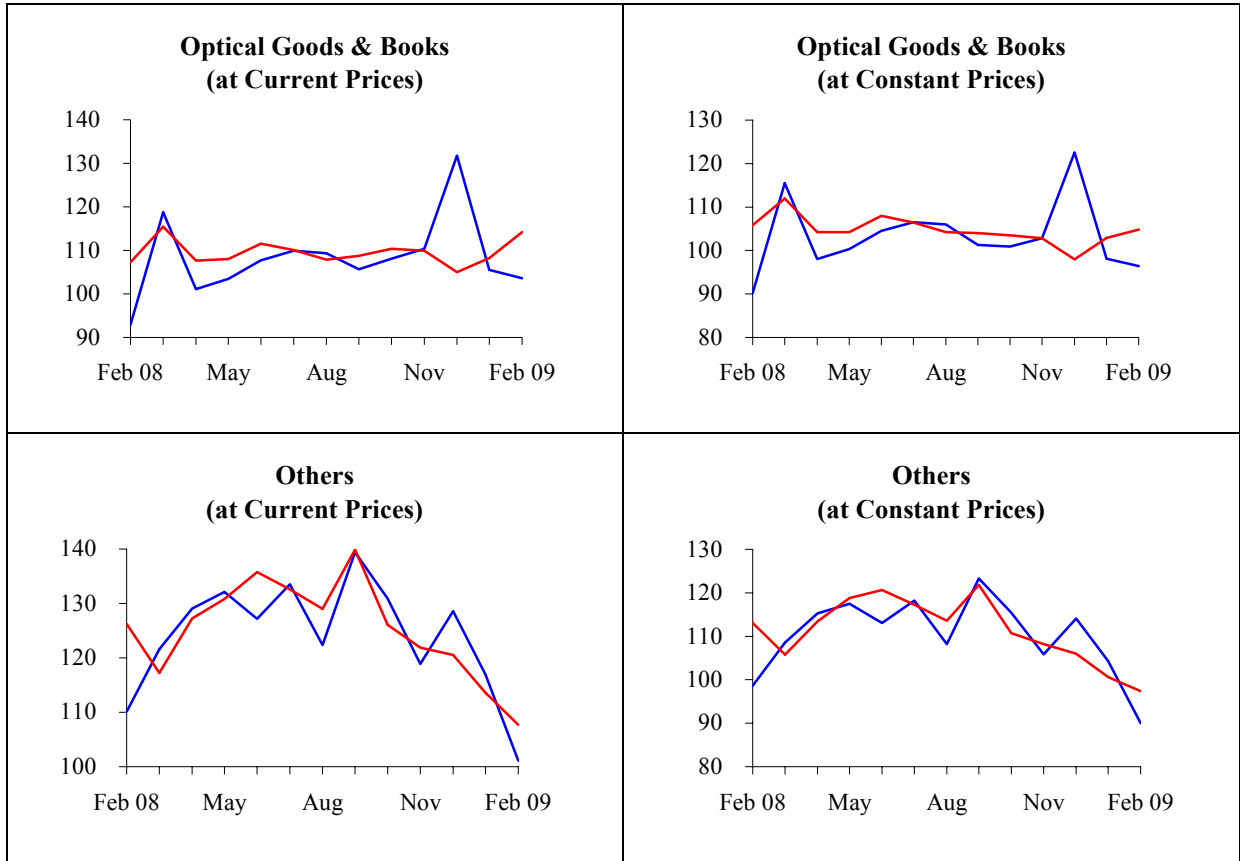
— original  
— seasonally adjusted

— original  
— seasonally adjusted

### Chart 15 (Cont'd) Retail Sales Index by Retail Sectors

Index at Current Prices

Index at Constant Prices



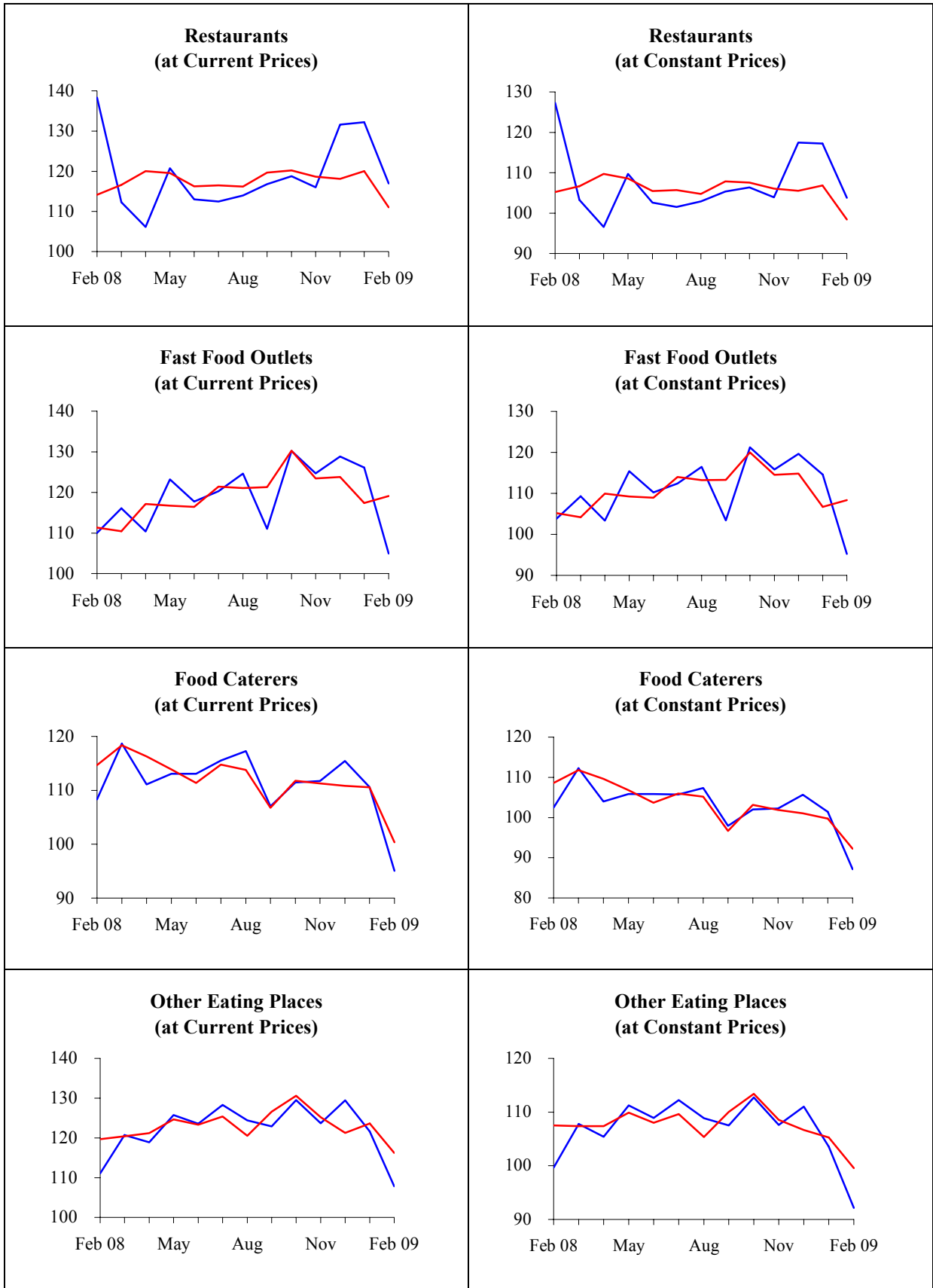
— original  
— seasonally adjusted

— original  
— seasonally adjusted

**Chart 16 Catering Trade Index by Catering Sectors**

**Index at Current Prices**

**Index at Constant Prices**



— original  
— seasonally adjusted

— original  
— seasonally adjusted

**Table 1 Retail Sales Index (2005=100)**

Activity	Weights	Index at Current Prices			% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Feb 08	Jan 09	Feb 09	Feb 09/ Feb 08	Feb 09/ Jan 09	Feb 09/ Feb 08	Feb 09/ Jan 09
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>	102.6	114.6	96.8	-5.7	-15.5	-8.4	-15.9
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	6,551	113.1	132.4	101.5	-10.2	-23.4	-10.9	-23.8
Department Stores	1,322	117.5	155.2	104.9	-10.7	-32.4	-13.1	-32.5
Supermarkets	411	137.4	172.2	122.3	-11.0	-29.0	-14.8	-28.3
Provision & Sundry Shops	536	110.5	140.1	109.4	-1.0	-21.9	-7.0	-22.2
Food & Beverages	200	132.3	173.0	98.1	-25.8	-43.3	-27.5	-42.6
Motor Vehicles	3,449	82.8	80.8	88.0	6.2	8.8	-2.6	7.0
Petrol Service Stations	456	133.3	117.7	108.3	-18.7	-8.0	-0.2	-11.8
Medical Goods & Toiletries	332	104.0	141.5	111.5	7.1	-21.3	5.1	-21.5
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	574	115.6	155.2	89.2	-22.9	-42.5	-23.5	-43.0
Furniture & Household Equipment	755	103.4	115.2	90.9	-12.1	-21.1	-14.4	-21.0
Recreational Goods	190	96.1	99.3	86.7	-9.8	-12.7	-10.0	-12.3
Watches & Jewellery	607	107.5	96.5	93.8	-12.7	-2.8	-21.4	-10.8
Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	366	102.2	103.3	98.6	-3.5	-4.5	1.9	-2.8
Optical Goods & Books	344	92.9	105.5	103.6	11.5	-1.8	6.9	-1.7
Others	458	110.1	116.9	101.1	-8.2	-13.5	-8.8	-13.7

**Table 2 Catering Trade Index (2005=100)**

Activity	Weights	Index at Current Prices			% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Feb 08	Jan 09	Feb 09	Feb 09/ Feb 08	Feb 09/ Jan 09	Feb 09/ Feb 08	Feb 09/ Jan 09
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	120.3	124.4	108.8	-9.6	-12.5	-13.2	-12.4
Restaurants	360	138.3	132.2	117.0	-15.4	-11.5	-18.5	-11.5
Fast Food Outlets	136	110.0	126.1	104.9	-4.7	-16.8	-8.3	-16.9
Food Caterers	148	108.3	110.6	95.1	-12.2	-14.1	-15.0	-14.1
Other Eating Places	356	111.1	121.6	107.8	-2.9	-11.3	-7.5	-11.0

## **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  
15 April 2009

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