



**SINGAPORE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS**

***PRESS RELEASE***

---

**Retail Sales Index  
Catering Trade Index  
January 2010**

**Highlights**

***Retail Sales***

- Retail sales (seasonally adjusted) increased by 5.8% in January 2010 compared to December 2009. Excluding motor vehicles, retail sales went up by 4.6%.
- Retail sales in January 2010 increased by 2.3% compared to January 2009. Excluding motor vehicles, the sales rose by 1.3% over a year ago.

***Catering Trade***

- Catering trade (seasonally adjusted) increased by 0.7% in January 2010 compared to December 2009.
- Compared to a year ago, catering trade declined by 5.3% in January 2010.

## **Retail Sales by Sector**

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

After seasonal adjustment, motor vehicles and petrol service stations recorded higher sales of 14.5% and 10.0% respectively in January 2010 over December 2009. Similarly, department stores, watches & jewellery, supermarkets, optical goods & books, food & beverages, furniture & household equipment and wearing apparel & footwear recorded higher sales of between 4.2% and 9.3% in January 2010 over the previous month.

On the other hand, sales of telecommunications apparatus & computers declined by 5.6% while those of medical goods & toiletries decreased by 3.4%.

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

Compared to January 2009, sales of watches & jewellery, telecommunications apparatus & computers, furniture & household equipment, petrol service stations and optical goods & books increased by between 14.3% and 27.9% in January 2010. Motor vehicles and recreational goods also reported sales increases of 5.4% and 2.0% respectively over a year ago.

Conversely, sales of food & beverages and supermarkets decreased by 33.1% and 11.9% respectively over January 2009. Similarly, sales of provision & sundry shops, wearing apparel & footwear and department stores declined by between 5.3% and 9.9% over a year ago.

## **Catering Trade by Sector**

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

After seasonal adjustment, receipts at restaurants increased by 4.5% in January 2010 over December 2009.

On the other hand, receipts at fast food outlets, food caterers and other eating places (such as cafes and canteens) decreased by between 0.9% and 4.9% respectively over the previous month.

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

Receipts of food caterers, restaurants and other eating places declined by between 5.7% and 7.3% in January 2010 over January 2009.

Conversely, turnover at fast food outlets increased by 1.7% 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	
		Dec 09/ Nov 09	Jan 10/ Dec 09	Dec 09/ Nov 09	Jan 10/ Dec 09
		<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>	-1.2	5.8
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	6,551	-0.8	4.6	-1.0	4.4
Department Stores	1,322	-4.9	9.3	-4.8	9.5
Supermarkets	411	-1.4	6.5	-1.2	6.3
Provision & Sundry Shops	536	0.4	1.4	0.0	-1.3
Food & Beverages	200	2.3	5.5	2.6	5.3
Motor Vehicles	3,449	-4.4	14.5	-1.7	14.0
Petrol Service Stations	456	0.4	10.0	-0.7	5.3
Medical Goods & Toiletries	332	-2.1	-3.4	-2.2	-4.4
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	574	-1.8	4.2	-1.5	5.2
Furniture & Household Equipment	755	-3.3	4.3	-4.0	3.6
Recreational Goods	190	1.7	-0.3	1.6	0.1
Watches & Jewellery	607	5.5	7.2	2.9	6.7
Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	366	3.3	-5.6	4.9	-5.9
Optical Goods & Books	344	0.0	5.7	-0.2	6.5
Others	458	1.2	-3.6	1.2	-3.8

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Dec 09/ Nov 09	Jan 10/ Dec 09	Dec 09/ Nov 09	Jan 10/ Dec 09
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	1.8	0.7
Restaurants	360	7.1	4.5	6.8	6.0
Fast Food Outlets	136	0.5	-1.6	0.3	-1.2
Food Caterers	148	-0.9	-0.9	-1.1	-0.9
Other Eating Places	356	0.1	-4.9	0.7	-6.6

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Dec 09/ Dec 08	Jan 10/ Jan 09	Dec 09/ Dec 08	Jan 10/ Jan 09
		<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>	-4.9	2.3
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	6,551	3.1	1.3	1.5	-0.1
Department Stores	1,322	-0.5	-5.3	-1.3	-5.2
Supermarkets	411	-0.5	-11.9	-0.5	-11.3
Provision & Sundry Shops	536	-3.0	-9.9	-2.9	-10.0
Food & Beverages	200	1.9	-33.1	1.9	-32.3
Motor Vehicles	3,449	-27.2	5.4	-22.4	10.7
Petrol Service Stations	456	9.0	16.1	-4.7	-1.9
Medical Goods & Toiletries	332	2.2	0.6	0.8	-1.2
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	574	0.4	-5.8	-0.2	-6.1
Furniture & Household Equipment	755	2.6	18.2	3.6	18.9
Recreational Goods	190	4.6	2.0	5.1	3.2
Watches & Jewellery	607	16.7	27.9	0.7	10.3
Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	366	17.6	18.4	22.2	23.8
Optical Goods & Books	344	0.1	14.3	0.1	14.4
Others	458	0.2	3.0	-0.2	1.8

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Dec 09/ Dec 08	Jan 10/ Jan 09	Dec 09/ Dec 08	Jan 10/ Jan 09
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	0.2	-5.3
Restaurants	360	4.9	-6.7	3.7	-6.8
Fast Food Outlets	136	6.4	1.7	3.8	1.3
Food Caterers	148	-6.3	-7.3	-6.8	-7.9
Other Eating Places	356	-4.6	-5.7	-7.0	-7.4

## **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 March 2010

For enquiries on **Retail Sales Index and Catering Trade Index**, please contact  
Ms Adeline Chia; Tel: 68358912; Email: [Adeline\\_Chia@singstat.gov.sg](mailto:Adeline_Chia@singstat.gov.sg)

---

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