



SINGAPORE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

PRESS RELEASE

Retail Sales Index Catering Trade Index March 2009

Highlights

Retail Sales

- Retail sales (seasonally adjusted) declined by 5.1% in Mar 2009 compared to Feb 2009, mainly due to lower sales of motor vehicles.
- However, retail sales excluding motor vehicles (seasonally adjusted) rose 3.3% in Mar 2009 compared to Feb 2009.
- Retail sales in Mar 2009 declined by 7.3% compared to Mar 2008. Excluding motor vehicles, the sales declined by 6.9%.

Catering Trade

- Catering trade (seasonally adjusted) rose by 4.2% in Mar 2009 compared to Feb 2009, attributable to higher turnover of restaurants and food caterers.
- Catering trade fell by 1.7% in Mar 2009 compared to a year ago.

Retail Sales by Sector

Month-on-Month Change (Seasonally Adjusted)

After seasonal adjustment, sales of motor vehicles and watches & jewellery in Mar 2009 declined by 20.6% and 12.3% respectively over the previous month. Similarly, optical goods & books and petrol service stations also reported lower turnover over Feb 2009.

Conversely, sales of telecommunications apparatus & computers, department stores, food & beverages and supermarkets rose by 3.7% to 6.0%. Medical goods & toiletries, recreational goods and wearing apparel & footwear also recorded higher receipts in Mar 2009.

Year-on-Year Change

Compared to Mar 2008, sales of watches & jewellery, furniture & household equipment and wearing apparel & footwear declined by 15.1% to 25.8% in Mar 2009. Similarly, motor vehicles, optical goods & books, food & beverages and recreational goods also reported lower turnover over Mar 2008.

Petrol service stations reported lower receipts of 19.4%, mainly attributable to lower petrol prices. Adjusted for price changes, the volume of petrol sales rose by 2.9%.

On the other hand, medical goods & toiletries, supermarkets, provision & sundry shops and department stores reported higher receipts of 3.8% to 9.4% over a year ago.

Catering Trade by Sector

Month-on-Month Change (Seasonally Adjusted)

After seasonal adjustment, sales of restaurants and food caterers rose by 10.1% and 1.5% respectively in Mar 2009 over Feb 2009. Receipts of fast food outlets and other eating places such as cafes and canteens maintained at similar level.

Year-on-Year Change

Receipts of food caterers and other eating places fell by 15.7% and 2.1% respectively in Mar 2009 over Mar 2008.

Conversely, turnover at restaurants and fast food outlets rose by 1.7% and 5.9% 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	
		Feb 09/ Jan 09	Mar 09/ Feb 09	Feb 09/ Jan 09	Mar 09/ Feb 09
Total	10,000	10.4	-5.1	10.8	-5.1
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	6,551	-3.0	3.3	-3.1	4.7
Department Stores	1,322	2.0	4.2	1.7	3.2
Supermarkets	411	0.9	3.7	0.7	3.0
Provision & Sundry Shops	536	3.1	-0.5	2.6	0.3
Food & Beverages	200	17.2	3.9	14.8	4.7
Motor Vehicles	3,449	45.5	-20.6	42.8	-20.5
Petrol Service Stations	456	5.6	-3.4	-0.3	-1.0
Medical Goods & Toiletries	332	-5.0	2.7	-4.9	2.1
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	574	1.3	1.8	2.0	1.4
Furniture & Household Equipment	755	-5.6	0.0	-5.1	1.3
Recreational Goods	190	-3.7	2.3	-2.4	2.0
Watches & Jewellery	607	7.6	-12.3	-0.8	-9.5
Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	366	9.7	6.0	8.3	8.9
Optical Goods & Books	344	5.0	-6.7	1.4	-5.4
Others	458	-7.5	6.3	-5.6	5.6

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Feb 09/ Jan 09	Mar 09/ Feb 09	Feb 09/ Jan 09	Mar 09/ Feb 09
Total	1,000	-4.9	4.2	-4.6	3.8
Restaurants	360	-6.9	10.1	-7.2	9.8
Fast Food Outlets	136	1.5	-0.2	1.5	0.0
Food Caterers	148	-12.5	1.5	-10.9	1.2
Other Eating Places	356	-1.4	0.4	-0.9	0.0

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Feb 09/ Feb 08	Mar 09/ Mar 08	Feb 09/ Feb 08	Mar 09/ Mar 08
Total	10,000	-5.5	-7.3	-8.2	-8.9
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	6,551	-10.0	-6.9	-10.7	-6.6
Department Stores	1,322	-10.6	3.8	-12.9	1.0
Supermarkets	411	-10.5	6.8	-14.3	1.6
Provision & Sundry Shops	536	-1.8	5.5	-7.7	0.2
Food & Beverages	200	-25.5	-4.8	-27.2	-8.3
Motor Vehicles	3,449	6.2	-8.2	-2.6	-13.6
Petrol Service Stations	456	-18.7	-19.4	-0.2	2.9
Medical Goods & Toiletries	332	8.0	9.4	5.9	7.2
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	574	-20.3	-15.1	-20.8	-15.8
Furniture & Household Equipment	755	-14.8	-23.1	-16.9	-24.0
Recreational Goods	190	-7.3	-3.3	-7.5	-3.5
Watches & Jewellery	607	-10.2	-25.8	-19.5	-28.8
Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	366	-2.7	-0.5	2.7	5.1
Optical Goods & Books	344	11.1	-7.9	6.7	-11.4
Others	458	-9.0	-4.2	-9.5	-4.7

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Feb 09/ Feb 08	Mar 09/ Mar 08	Feb 09/ Feb 08	Mar 09/ Mar 08
Total	1,000	-9.6	-1.7	-13.2	-5.5
Restaurants	360	-15.8	1.7	-18.8	-1.9
Fast Food Outlets	136	-4.7	5.9	-8.3	2.1
Food Caterers	148	-14.2	-15.7	-16.8	-18.4
Other Eating Places	356	-1.8	-2.1	-6.5	-6.3

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>