



SINGAPORE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

PRESS RELEASE

**Retail Sales Index
Catering Trade Index
March 2010**

Highlights

Retail Sales

- Retail sales (seasonally adjusted) decreased by 1.4% in March 2010 compared to February 2010. Excluding motor vehicles, retail sales fell slightly by 0.3%.
- Retail sales in March 2010 decreased by 2.4% compared to March 2009. Excluding motor vehicles, the sales increased by 7.2% over a year ago.

Catering Trade

- Catering trade (seasonally adjusted) declined by 1.7% in March 2010 compared to February 2010.
- Compared to a year ago, catering trade increased by 2.7% in March 2010.

Retail Sales by Sector

Month-on-Month Change (Seasonally Adjusted)

After seasonal adjustment, sales of motor vehicles declined by 9.0% in March 2010. Similarly, optical goods & books, recreational goods, wearing apparel & footwear, petrol service stations and supermarkets recorded lower sales of between 1.5% and 4.5%.

On the other hand, sales of furniture & household equipment, telecommunications apparatus & computers and provision & sundry shops increased by between 6.4% and 7.1% in March 2010. Watches & jewellery and department stores also recorded higher sales of 3.0% and 1.3% respectively during this period.

Year-on-Year Change

Compared to March 2009, sales of motor vehicles fell by 26.0% in March 2010. Retailing of provision & sundry shops, supermarkets and food & beverages also declined by between 1.7% and 2.9%.

Watches & jewellery, petrol service stations, furniture & household equipment, medical goods & toiletries and wearing apparel & footwear reported increased sales of between 9.8% and 35.0%. Department stores, telecommunications apparatus & computers, optical goods & books and recreational goods also grew by 1.5% to 4.1%.

Catering Trade by Sector

Month-on-Month Change (Seasonally Adjusted)

After seasonal adjustment, turnover of food caterers, fast food outlets and restaurants decreased by between 0.8% and 3.2% in March 2010 over the previous month.

Year-on-Year Change

Food caterers, fast food outlets and restaurants grew by 2.3% to 10.3% in March 2010.

**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 10/ Jan 10 | Mar 10/ Feb 10 | Feb 10/ Jan 10 | Mar 10/ Feb 10 |
| Total | 10,000 | -5.8 | -1.4 | -5.7 | -2.4 |
| Total (excl Motor Vehicles) | 6,551 | -0.9 | -0.3 | -1.1 | 0.1 |
| Department Stores | 1,322 | -0.7 | 1.3 | -0.4 | 0.2 |
| Supermarkets | 411 | -4.4 | -1.5 | -4.4 | -2.6 |
| Provision & Sundry Shops | 536 | -7.9 | 6.4 | -4.3 | 4.6 |
| Food & Beverages | 200 | -5.4 | -0.4 | -5.3 | -1.2 |
| Motor Vehicles | 3,449 | -15.4 | -9.0 | -13.8 | -13.5 |
| Petrol Service Stations | 456 | 0.1 | -1.8 | -1.6 | -0.3 |
| Medical Goods & Toiletries | 332 | 2.0 | 0.5 | 3.5 | -0.1 |
| Wearing Apparel & Footwear | 574 | 4.9 | -2.3 | 5.8 | -3.0 |
| Furniture & Household Equipment | 755 | -1.6 | 7.1 | -1.1 | 5.9 |
| Recreational Goods | 190 | 2.4 | -3.6 | 2.4 | -4.0 |
| Watches & Jewellery | 607 | -2.7 | 3.0 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers | 366 | -8.4 | 6.9 | -8.4 | 9.8 |
| Optical Goods & Books | 344 | 1.7 | -4.5 | 1.1 | -4.1 |
| Others | 458 | 9.0 | -9.0 | 9.6 | -9.6 |

**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 10/ Jan 10 | Mar 10/ Feb 10 | Feb 10/ Jan 10 | Mar 10/ Feb 10 |
| Total | 1,000 | 0.1 | -1.7 | 0.7 | -2.4 |
| Restaurants | 360 | -7.9 | -0.8 | -9.1 | -0.8 |
| Fast Food Outlets | 136 | 2.1 | -1.6 | 2.4 | -1.5 |
| Food Caterers | 148 | 10.3 | -3.2 | 10.3 | -3.4 |
| Other Eating Places | 356 | 5.9 | 0.1 | 6.5 | -0.2 |

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

| Activity | Weights | % Change at Current Prices | | % Change at Constant Prices | |
|---|---------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Feb 10/ Feb 09 | Mar 10/ Mar 09 | Feb 10/ Feb 09 | Mar 10/ Mar 09 |
| | | Total | 10,000 | 4.6 | -2.4 |
| Total (excl Motor Vehicles) | 6,551 | 19.9 | 7.2 | 18.2 | 5.4 |
| Department Stores | 1,322 | 33.2 | 4.1 | 33.1 | 3.6 |
| Supermarkets | 411 | 25.7 | -2.5 | 24.0 | -3.3 |
| Provision & Sundry Shops | 536 | 11.0 | -2.9 | 11.2 | -3.3 |
| Food & Beverages | 200 | 70.3 | -1.7 | 67.6 | -2.3 |
| Motor Vehicles | 3,449 | -29.0 | -26.0 | -23.5 | -24.1 |
| Petrol Service Stations | 456 | 16.1 | 17.6 | 2.3 | 1.7 |
| Medical Goods & Toiletries | 332 | 19.7 | 9.9 | 19.3 | 9.2 |
| Wearing Apparel & Footwear | 574 | 39.7 | 9.8 | 41.2 | 10.1 |
| Furniture & Household Equipment | 755 | 7.8 | 12.7 | 8.7 | 12.3 |
| Recreational Goods | 190 | 7.3 | 1.5 | 8.3 | 2.0 |
| Watches & Jewellery | 607 | 16.7 | 35.0 | 11.1 | 24.7 |
| Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers | 366 | 2.7 | 3.9 | 5.5 | 8.4 |
| Optical Goods & Books | 344 | -7.0 | 2.1 | -7.2 | 2.1 |
| Others | 458 | 5.3 | 2.5 | 4.3 | 1.7 |

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

| Activity | Weights | % Change at Current Prices | | % Change at Constant Prices | |
|---------------------|---------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Feb 10/ Feb 09 | Mar 10/ Mar 09 | Feb 10/ Feb 09 | Mar 10/ Mar 09 |
| | | Total | 1,000 | 9.9 | 2.7 |
| Restaurants | 360 | 16.2 | 2.3 | 15.6 | 1.8 |
| Fast Food Outlets | 136 | 17.0 | 4.3 | 16.6 | 4.1 |
| Food Caterers | 148 | 14.6 | 10.3 | 13.8 | 9.5 |
| Other Eating Places | 356 | -1.2 | -0.3 | -3.5 | -2.8 |

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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More data are available at SingStat website at <http://www.singstat.gov.sg/pubn/business.html#mrs>
For enquiries on **Retail Sales Index and Catering Trade Index**, please contact:
Ms Adeline Chia; Tel: 68358912; Email: Adeline_Chia@singstat.gov.sg