



## SINGAPORE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

### *PRESS RELEASE*

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#### **Retail Sales Index Catering Trade Index May 2009**

##### **Highlights**

###### ***Retail Sales***

- Retail sales (seasonally adjusted) increased marginally by 0.8% in May 2009 compared to Apr 2009.
- Retail sales excluding motor vehicles (seasonally adjusted) maintained at similar level in May 2009 compared to Apr 2009.
- Retail sales in May 2009 decreased by 10.3% compared to May 2008. Excluding motor vehicles, the sales decreased by 4.6% over a year ago.

###### ***Catering Trade***

- Catering trade (seasonally adjusted) declined by 3.5% in May 2009 compared to Apr 2009, with lower sales in all catering sectors.
- Compared to a year ago, catering trade declined by 5.7% in May 2009.

## **Retail Sales by Sector**

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

After seasonal adjustment, telecommunications apparatus & computers, motor vehicles, furniture & household equipment, supermarkets, wearing apparel & footwear and provision & sundry shops reported higher receipts between 2.4% and 3.9% in May 2009 over the previous month.

On the other hand, sales of watches & jewellery and food & beverages declined by 7.6% and 6.6% respectively in May 2009 over Apr 2009. Similarly, department stores, medical goods & toiletries and optical goods & books also reported lower turnover compared to Apr 2009.

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

Compared to May 2008, motor vehicles and petrol service stations reported lower turnover of 23.8% and 22.2% respectively in May 2009. The lower petrol sales was mainly attributable to lower prices and after adjusted for price changes, the volume of petrol sales remained at about the same level as a year ago. Sales of watches & jewellery also declined by 16.7% over May 2008.

Similarly, sales of wearing apparel & footwear, furniture & household equipment and recreational goods also declined between 5.8% and 8.6% over May 2008.

Conversely, supermarkets, medical goods & toiletries, telecommunications apparatus & computers, provision & sundry shops and department stores reported higher receipts between 1.2% and 6.9% over a year ago.

## **Catering Trade by Sector**

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

After seasonal adjustment, sales of food caterers decreased by 6.6% in May 2009 over Apr 2009 while turnover at fast food outlets fell by 3.9%. Restaurants and other eating places (such as cafes and canteens) also recorded lower receipts of 2.0% and 2.8% respectively in May 2009.

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

Receipts of food caterers and other eating places fell by 18.8% and 8.0% respectively in May 2009 over May 2008. Turnover at restaurants declined by a marginal 1.4%.

Conversely, sales of fast food outlets rose by 2.3% 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	
		Apr 09/ Mar 09	May 09/ Apr 09	Apr 09/ Mar 09	May 09/ Apr 09
		<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>	-3.0	0.8
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	6,551	1.3	-0.3	0.7	-0.2
Department Stores	1,322	0.4	-2.8	1.0	-3.2
Supermarkets	411	-3.9	2.8	-3.5	2.9
Provision & Sundry Shops	536	-0.8	2.4	-0.7	2.8
Food & Beverages	200	4.5	-6.6	4.3	-6.4
Motor Vehicles	3,449	-10.2	3.6	-7.5	0.3
Petrol Service Stations	456	-2.6	0.5	-0.1	1.4
Medical Goods & Toiletries	332	1.7	-2.1	2.2	-2.8
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	574	2.7	2.6	3.0	2.3
Furniture & Household Equipment	755	7.5	3.6	6.3	4.0
Recreational Goods	190	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.8
Watches & Jewellery	607	18.5	-7.6	21.3	-11.0
Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	366	-10.4	3.9	-11.0	4.0
Optical Goods & Books	344	0.8	-1.3	0.8	-1.8
Others	458	-4.6	9.3	-6.1	11.4

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Apr 09/ Mar 09	May 09/ Apr 09	Apr 09/ Mar 09	May 09/ Apr 09
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	0.5	-3.5
Restaurants	360	-2.1	-2.0	-1.3	-2.2
Fast Food Outlets	136	2.7	-3.9	2.2	-4.0
Food Caterers	148	1.3	-6.6	1.5	-7.5
Other Eating Places	356	1.5	-2.8	1.9	-3.0

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Apr 09/ Apr 08	May 09/ May 08	Apr 09/ Apr 08	May 09/ May 08
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>	-11.4	-10.3	-13.4	-12.3
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	6,551	-3.5	-4.6	-3.3	-4.1
Department Stores	1,322	2.2	1.2	-0.1	-0.8
Supermarkets	411	4.4	6.9	0.2	4.0
Provision & Sundry Shops	536	1.9	3.7	-1.8	1.8
Food & Beverages	200	4.3	0.2	0.9	-2.7
Motor Vehicles	3,449	-28.1	-23.8	-32.0	-29.1
Petrol Service Stations	456	-20.8	-22.2	1.4	-0.4
Medical Goods & Toiletries	332	5.7	5.2	4.1	2.8
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	574	-5.7	-8.6	-6.3	-9.4
Furniture & Household Equipment	755	-9.1	-6.6	-10.3	-7.4
Recreational Goods	190	0.1	-5.8	0.0	-6.5
Watches & Jewellery	607	-5.7	-16.7	-10.1	-23.4
Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	366	-2.3	4.9	2.3	7.4
Optical Goods & Books	344	-0.2	-1.4	-3.8	-5.3
Others	458	-11.9	-14.0	-12.7	-14.3

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Apr 09/ Apr 08	May 09/ May 08	Apr 09/ Apr 08	May 09/ May 08
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	-2.1	-5.7	-5.0	-8.3
Restaurants	360	1.7	-1.4	-0.7	-3.5
Fast Food Outlets	136	4.4	2.3	1.1	-0.9
Food Caterers	148	-14.5	-18.8	-17.0	-21.1
Other Eating Places	356	-3.1	-8.0	-6.3	-10.9

## **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>