



SINGAPORE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

PRESS RELEASE

**Retail Sales Index
Catering Trade Index
May 2010**

Highlights

Retail Sales

- Retail sales (seasonally adjusted) fell by 0.9% in May 2010 compared to April 2010. Excluding motor vehicles, retail sales dipped by 0.1%.
- Retail sales in May 2010 decreased by 3.4% compared to May 2009. Excluding motor vehicles, the sales increased by 7.8% over a year ago.

Catering Trade

- Catering trade (seasonally adjusted) increased by 0.5% in May 2010 compared to April 2010.
- Compared to a year ago, catering trade grew by 6.5% in May 2010.

Retail Sales by Sector

Month-on-Month Change (Seasonally Adjusted)

After seasonal adjustment, sales of motor vehicles declined by 8.0% in May 2010 over April 2010. Telecommunications apparatus & computers, petrol service stations, wearing apparel & footwear and food & beverages retailers also recorded lower sales of between 1.3% and 3.5%. Sales of department stores and watches & jewellery fell by 0.9% and 0.7% respectively.

On the other hand, retail sales of recreational goods, provision & sundry shops, furniture & household equipment and supermarkets grew by 1.0% to 2.5% in May 2010.

Year-on-Year Change

Compared to May 2009, sales of motor vehicles fell by 36.9% in May 2010. Retail sales of provision & sundry shops also declined by 2.7%.

All other retail trade activities registered positive year-on-year sales growths. Watches & jewellery, petrol service stations, medical goods & toiletries, furniture & household equipment and wearing apparel & footwear recorded double-digit growths of 10.6% to 24.2%. Sales of department stores, optical goods & books, food & beverages, recreational goods, supermarkets and telecommunications apparatus & computers also grew by between 1.1% and 7.5% during this period.

Catering Trade by Sector

Month-on-Month Change (Seasonally Adjusted)

After seasonal adjustment, turnover of food caterers and restaurants increased by 1.5% and 1.1% respectively in May 2010 over the previous month.

Receipts of fast food outlets and other eating places (such as cafes and canteens) decreased by 1.8% and 0.9% respectively compared to April 2010.

Year-on-Year Change

Compared to a year ago, turnover of food caterers, restaurants and fast food outlets grew by between 8.4% and 16.7% in May 2010.

Turnover of other eating places declined marginally by 0.3% over May 2009.

**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 10/ Mar 10	May 10/ Apr 10	Apr 10/ Mar 10	May 10/ Apr 10
Total	10,000	-2.0	-0.9	-3.6	-1.0
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	6,551	1.8	-0.1	1.3	-0.3
Department Stores	1,322	0.7	-0.9	0.7	-1.4
Supermarkets	411	1.9	1.0	1.5	1.1
Provision & Sundry Shops	536	-3.1	1.9	-3.1	2.1
Food & Beverages	200	3.4	-1.3	1.6	-1.2
Motor Vehicles	3,449	-15.7	-8.0	-17.4	-8.5
Petrol Service Stations	456	-0.2	-3.2	-0.7	1.3
Medical Goods & Toiletries	332	0.9	0.1	-0.1	0.2
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	574	4.3	-1.4	3.7	-2.5
Furniture & Household Equipment	755	0.4	1.5	1.0	1.9
Recreational Goods	190	-2.5	2.5	-2.7	2.6
Watches & Jewellery	607	2.4	-0.7	2.1	-7.0
Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	366	-6.2	-3.5	-6.8	-2.9
Optical Goods & Books	344	3.4	0.2	2.5	0.2
Others	458	-1.5	6.7	-2.0	6.7

**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 10/ Mar 10	May 10/ Apr 10	Apr 10/ Mar 10	May 10/ Apr 10
Total	1,000	3.7	0.5	3.8	0.3
Restaurants	360	9.2	1.1	9.0	0.7
Fast Food Outlets	136	3.9	-1.8	3.6	-2.1
Food Caterers	148	-1.4	1.5	-0.2	1.0
Other Eating Places	356	-0.3	-0.9	-0.9	-1.2

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Apr 10/ Apr 09	May 10/ May 09	Apr 10/ Apr 09	May 10/ May 09
Total	10,000	-2.3	-3.4	-4.7	-5.7
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	6,551	7.7	7.8	5.7	5.6
Department Stores	1,322	8.7	7.5	7.9	6.5
Supermarkets	411	1.3	1.1	-0.1	-0.6
Provision & Sundry Shops	536	-3.1	-2.7	-3.8	-3.6
Food & Beverages	200	-1.4	3.3	-2.9	1.6
Motor Vehicles	3,449	-30.9	-36.9	-31.9	-36.7
Petrol Service Stations	456	17.2	13.4	0.9	0.7
Medical Goods & Toiletries	332	11.8	12.8	10.1	11.9
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	574	13.6	10.6	13.3	9.5
Furniture & Household Equipment	755	10.3	11.0	11.1	12.1
Recreational Goods	190	-0.3	1.7	0.1	2.1
Watches & Jewellery	607	18.1	24.2	6.1	8.2
Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	366	7.2	1.1	12.4	7.3
Optical Goods & Books	344	4.6	5.8	3.7	5.4
Others	458	-0.5	3.7	-1.5	2.6

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Apr 10/ Apr 09	May 10/ May 09	Apr 10/ Apr 09	May 10/ May 09
Total	1,000	4.6	6.5	3.2	5.1
Restaurants	360	6.5	9.1	5.5	8.0
Fast Food Outlets	136	9.0	8.4	8.5	8.0
Food Caterers	148	8.3	16.7	8.9	17.3
Other Eating Places	356	-0.2	-0.3	-3.5	-3.6

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>
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