



**SINGAPORE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS**

***PRESS RELEASE***

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**Retail Sales Index  
Catering Trade Index  
November 2009**

**Highlights**

***Retail Sales***

- Retail sales (seasonally adjusted) increased by 1.2% in November 2009 compared to October 2009. Excluding motor vehicles, retail sales increased only by a slight 0.3%.
- Retail sales in November 2009 declined by 1.4% compared to November 2008. Excluding motor vehicles, the sales rose by 4.0% over a year ago.

***Catering Trade***

- Catering trade (seasonally adjusted) decreased by 1.7% in November 2009 compared to October 2009.
- Compared to a year ago, catering trade declined by 4.0% in November 2009.

## **Retail Sales by Sector**

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

After seasonal adjustment, sales of petrol service stations and furniture & household equipment increased by 6.1% and 3.6% respectively in November 2009 over the previous month. Similarly, optical goods & books, medical goods & toiletries, supermarkets and motor vehicles reported higher turnover of between 1.4% and 3.1% compared to October 2009.

On the other hand, sales of food & beverages and watches & jewellery declined by 8.5% and 5.3% respectively in November 2009 over October 2009. Department stores, telecommunications apparatus & computers, recreational goods and wearing apparel & footwear also recorded lower sales of between 1.1% and 2.1% during this period.

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

Compared to November 2008, turnover of motor vehicles in November 2009 decreased by 16.0%. Similarly, sales of provision & sundry shops and food & beverages declined by 4.2% and 3.1% respectively over a year ago.

In contrast, sales of watches & jewellery, medical goods & toiletries, furniture & household equipment and department stores increased by between 7.2% and 14.8% in receipts. Wearing apparel & footwear, telecommunications apparatus & computers, petrol service stations, recreational goods and supermarkets also reported increases of between 1.3% and 4.4% over a year ago.

## **Catering Trade by Sector**

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

After seasonal adjustment, receipts at restaurants and other eating places (such as cafes and canteens) decreased by 4.7% and 0.4% respectively in November 2009 over October 2009.

On the other hand, receipts of food caterers and fast food outlets increased by 3.3% and 0.8% respectively over the previous month.

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

Receipts of food caterers and other eating places declined by 5.3% and 6.5% respectively in November 2009 over November 2008 while receipts at restaurants decreased by 4.8%.

Conversely, turnover at fast food outlets increased by 5.9% 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	
		Oct 09/ Sep 09	Nov 09/ Oct 09	Oct 09/ Sep 09	Nov 09/ Oct 09
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>	5.7	1.2	7.5	0.5
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	6,551	-2.3	0.3	1.4	0.8
Department Stores	1,322	7.2	-2.1	0.1	3.8
Supermarkets	411	-3.1	2.6	-3.4	2.5
Provision & Sundry Shops	536	-1.7	0.5	-2.0	0.5
Food & Beverages	200	6.2	-8.5	5.9	-8.6
Motor Vehicles	3,449	8.1	1.4	10.1	2.9
Petrol Service Stations	456	0.2	6.1	1.8	3.4
Medical Goods & Toiletries	332	1.5	2.8	1.5	2.6
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	574	1.6	-1.1	0.4	-0.5
Furniture & Household Equipment	755	-3.4	3.6	-2.5	3.1
Recreational Goods	190	-4.1	-1.3	-4.1	-0.2
Watches & Jewellery	607	5.4	-5.3	4.6	-5.3
Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	366	6.7	-1.5	6.1	0.7
Optical Goods & Books	344	1.3	3.1	2.1	2.6
Others	458	-1.8	1.0	0.0	0.3

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Oct 09/ Sep 09	Nov 09/ Oct 09	Oct 09/ Sep 09	Nov 09/ Oct 09
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	-0.1	-1.7	0.3	-2.2
Restaurants	360	0.0	-4.7	-0.5	-5.2
Fast Food Outlets	136	4.2	0.8	5.5	0.5
Food Caterers	148	8.6	3.3	10.8	2.1
Other Eating Places	356	-2.9	-0.4	-2.5	-1.5

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Oct 09/ Oct 08	Nov 09/ Nov 08	Oct 09/ Oct 08	Nov 09/ Nov 08
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>	-4.6	-1.4	-4.6	-2.3
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	6,551	-1.1	4.0	-1.2	2.4
Department Stores	1,322	1.0	7.2	-0.7	6.3
Supermarkets	411	1.7	1.3	1.1	0.8
Provision & Sundry Shops	536	-2.6	-4.2	-2.8	-3.9
Food & Beverages	200	7.6	-3.1	7.0	-3.7
Motor Vehicles	3,449	-14.6	-16.0	-13.4	-14.2
Petrol Service Stations	456	-10.1	3.0	-4.8	-2.4
Medical Goods & Toiletries	332	5.5	8.1	4.0	6.4
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	574	6.9	4.4	4.9	2.9
Furniture & Household Equipment	755	-3.3	8.0	-3.2	9.6
Recreational Goods	190	2.1	2.6	2.3	3.5
Watches & Jewellery	607	-5.4	14.8	-11.2	-2.6
Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	366	6.4	3.5	8.3	5.8
Optical Goods & Books	344	-5.0	-0.9	-5.1	-1.1
Others	458	-9.0	-6.0	-8.3	-6.5

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Oct 09/ Oct 08	Nov 09/ Nov 08	Oct 09/ Oct 08	Nov 09/ Nov 08
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	-5.4	-4.0	-6.9	-5.7
Restaurants	360	-1.9	-4.8	-2.8	-6.0
Fast Food Outlets	136	-0.4	5.9	-3.0	3.5
Food Caterers	148	-8.3	-5.3	-8.8	-5.9
Other Eating Places	356	-9.7	-6.5	-11.6	-9.2

## **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>