



**SINGAPORE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS**

***PRESS RELEASE***

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**Retail Sales Index  
Catering Trade Index  
October 2009**

**Highlights**

***Retail Sales***

- Retail sales (seasonally adjusted) increased by 6.0% in October 2009 compared to September 2009, attributable to higher sales of motor vehicles.
- Retail sales excluding motor vehicles (seasonally adjusted) decreased by 1.9% in October 2009 compared to September 2009.
- Retail sales in October 2009 fell by 4.4% compared to October 2008. Excluding motor vehicles, the sales declined by 0.8% over a year ago.

***Catering Trade***

- Catering trade (seasonally adjusted) increased by 1.1% in October 2009 compared to September 2009.
- Compared to a year ago, catering trade decreased by 5.2% in October 2009.

## **Retail Sales by Sector**

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

After seasonal adjustment, sales of food & beverages, motor vehicles, watches & jewellery, department stores and telecommunications apparatus & computers increased by between 5.3% and 8.2% in October 2009 over September 2009.

On the other hand, sales of recreational goods and supermarkets decreased by 4.3% and 3.1% respectively in October 2009 over September 2009. Similarly, furniture & household equipment and provision & sundry shops recorded lower sales of 2.5% and 1.7% respectively in October 2009 over the previous month.

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

Turnover of motor vehicles in October 2009 was 14.6% lower compared to October 2008. Sales at petrol service stations also declined by 10.1%, due partially to lower prices. After adjusting for price changes, the volume of petrol sales fell by 4.8% over a year ago.

Similarly, sales of watches & jewellery, optical goods & books, provision & sundry shops and furniture & household equipment decreased by between 2.4% and 4.7% over October 2008.

In contrast, food & beverages and wearing apparel & footwear reported 9.3% and 6.9% growths in receipts respectively in October 2009 over October 2008. Medical goods & toiletries, telecommunications apparatus & computers and recreational goods also reported increases of between 2.0% and 5.5% over a year ago.

## **Catering Trade by Sector**

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

After seasonal adjustment, receipts of food caterers and fast food outlets increased by 8.6% and 4.2% respectively in October 2009 over September 2009.

On the other hand, receipts at restaurants and other eating places (such as cafes and canteens) maintained at similar level compared to the previous month.

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

Receipts of food caterers and other eating places decreased by 8.3% and 8.9% respectively in October 2009 over October 2008 while that of restaurants declined by 1.9%. Turnover at fast food outlets maintained at similar level compared to 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	
		Sep 09/ Aug 09	Oct 09/ Sep 09	Sep 09/ Aug 09	Oct 09/ Sep 09
		<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>	-8.0	6.0
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	6,551	1.9	-1.9	-2.5	1.7
Department Stores	1,322	-1.5	7.2	1.0	0.1
Supermarkets	411	-1.0	-3.1	-1.4	-3.4
Provision & Sundry Shops	536	1.6	-1.7	1.4	-2.0
Food & Beverages	200	0.8	8.2	0.2	7.8
Motor Vehicles	3,449	-15.1	8.1	-16.7	10.1
Petrol Service Stations	456	-1.0	0.2	-0.6	1.8
Medical Goods & Toiletries	332	-3.7	1.5	-4.0	1.4
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	574	-9.1	1.5	-8.2	0.3
Furniture & Household Equipment	755	-3.6	-2.5	-3.5	-1.7
Recreational Goods	190	5.1	-4.3	6.0	-4.3
Watches & Jewellery	607	-3.4	7.5	-7.1	6.3
Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	366	8.1	5.3	7.2	4.7
Optical Goods & Books	344	0.0	2.1	0.1	2.9
Others	458	-3.7	0.2	-5.6	1.9

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Sep 09/ Aug 09	Oct 09/ Sep 09	Sep 09/ Aug 09	Oct 09/ Sep 09
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	0.9	1.1
Restaurants	360	-2.3	-0.1	-1.8	-0.6
Fast Food Outlets	136	-2.1	4.2	-3.1	5.5
Food Caterers	148	-1.6	8.6	-3.8	10.8
Other Eating Places	356	3.4	0.4	2.3	0.7

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Sep 09/ Sep 08	Oct 09/ Oct 08	Sep 09/ Sep 08	Oct 09/ Oct 08
		<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>	-12.0	-4.4
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	6,551	-1.5	-0.8	-1.9	-1.0
Department Stores	1,322	4.0	1.0	3.7	-0.7
Supermarkets	411	1.9	1.7	1.3	1.1
Provision & Sundry Shops	536	-0.4	-2.6	-0.6	-2.7
Food & Beverages	200	-0.3	9.3	-0.9	8.7
Motor Vehicles	3,449	-36.3	-14.6	-38.3	-13.4
Petrol Service Stations	456	-11.9	-10.1	-5.6	-4.8
Medical Goods & Toiletries	332	5.1	5.5	3.4	4.0
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	574	-0.5	6.9	-0.4	4.8
Furniture & Household Equipment	755	-2.3	-2.4	-1.1	-2.4
Recreational Goods	190	4.7	2.0	4.4	2.3
Watches & Jewellery	607	2.3	-4.7	-10.5	-10.7
Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	366	-4.9	5.1	-3.0	6.8
Optical Goods & Books	344	-4.6	-4.3	-7.2	-4.3
Others	458	-14.2	-7.3	-14.0	-6.6

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

Activity	Weights	% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Sep 09/ Sep 08	Oct 09/ Oct 08	Sep 09/ Sep 08	Oct 09/ Oct 08
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	-3.9	-5.2
Restaurants	360	-1.5	-1.9	-3.2	-2.8
Fast Food Outlets	136	5.8	-0.4	3.0	-3.0
Food Caterers	148	-12.1	-8.3	-12.7	-8.8
Other Eating Places	356	-6.5	-8.9	-8.8	-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>