









Retail Sales Index and Food & Beverage Services Index

December 2020

KEY INDICATORS OF RETAIL TRADE

	TOTAL RETAIL SALES	Year-on-Year ▼ - 3.6%	Month-on-Month (Seasonally adjusted) ▼ - 0.9%
	Excluding Motor Vehicles	▼ - 4.5%	▼ - 0.7%
	TOTAL RETAIL SALES	Sales Value \$4.0 Billion	Online Sales Proportion 11.0%
	Excluding Motor Vehicles	\$3.5 Billion	12.6%
ONLINE SALES PROPORTION (out of the total sales of the respective industry)	 Supermarkets & Hypermarkets 11.8%	 Computer & Telecommunications Equipment 35.2%	 Furniture & Household Equipment 23.4%

KEY INDICATORS OF FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVICES

	TOTAL FOOD & BEVERAGE SALES	Year-on-Year ▼ - 16.5%	Month-on-Month (Seasonally adjusted) ▲ + 7.5%
	TOTAL FOOD & BEVERAGE SALES	Sales Value \$800 Million	Online Sales Proportion 19.9%

OVERVIEW – RETAIL TRADE

Retail sales fell 3.6% in December 2020 on a year-on-year basis, compared to the 1.7% year-on-year decline recorded in November 2020. Excluding motor vehicles, retail sales decreased 4.5% in December 2020, compared to the 2.8% decline in November 2020. On a seasonally adjusted basis, retail sales fell 0.9% in December 2020 over the previous month. Excluding motor vehicles, seasonally adjusted retail sales decreased 0.7% compared to November 2020.

The estimated total retail sales value in December 2020 was about \$4.0 billion. Of this, online retail sales made up an estimated 11.0%. Excluding motor vehicles, the total retail sales value was about \$3.5 billion, where online retail sales made up 12.6%. Online retail sales of the Computer & Telecommunications Equipment, Furniture & Household Equipment and Supermarkets & Hypermarkets industries made up 35.2%, 23.4% and 11.8% of the total sales of their respective industry.

Year-on-Year Change (at Current Prices)

On a year-on-year basis, most retail industries continued to register declines in sales in December 2020. The Cosmetics, Toiletries & Medical Goods, Department Stores and Wearing Apparel & Footwear industries recorded declines in sales of between 22.8% and 35.4%, as they continue to remain affected by low visitor arrivals.















In contrast, the Supermarkets & Hypermarkets, Computer & Telecommunications Equipment and Furniture & Household Equipment industries registered growths in sales of between 20.8% and 25.3%, due mainly to higher sales of groceries, mobile phones and household appliances respectively. Sales of Recreational Goods also rose 10.3%, with higher demand for sporting goods.

Month-on-Month Change (at Current Prices, Seasonally Adjusted)

Most retail industries recorded declines in sales in December 2020 on a seasonally adjusted month-on-month basis, due in part to higher sales in November 2020 from multiple sales events such as Singles' Day (11.11) and Black Friday. Sales of the Cosmetics, Toiletries & Medical Goods, Computers & Telecommunications Equipment and Furniture & Household Equipment industries fell between 6.6% and 11.3% compared to the previous month.

On the contrary, Petrol Service Stations, Supermarkets & Hypermarkets and Mini-marts & Convenience Stores experienced higher sales of between 4.7% and 7.8% during this period.

Change In Retail Sales By Industry

Department Stores Year-on-Year  -28.7% Month-on-Month ¹ -5.0%	Supermarkets & Hypermarkets Year-on-Year  +25.3% Month-on-Month ¹ +4.8%	Mini-marts & Convenience Stores Year-on-Year  +5.1% Month-on-Month ¹ +4.7%
Food & Alcohol Year-on-Year  -35.0% Month-on-Month ¹ +3.9%	Motor Vehicles Year-on-Year  +3.3% Month-on-Month ¹ -2.1%	Petrol Service Stations Year-on-Year  -5.0% Month-on-Month ¹ +7.8%
Cosmetics, Toiletries & Medical Goods Year-on-Year  -35.4% Month-on-Month ¹ -11.3%	Wearing Apparel & Footwear Year-on-Year  -22.8% Month-on-Month ¹ -1.0%	Furniture & Household Equipment Year-on-Year  +20.8% Month-on-Month ¹ -6.6%
Recreational Goods Year-on-Year  +10.3% Month-on-Month ¹ -1.3%	Watches & Jewellery Year-on-Year  -10.2% Month-on-Month ¹ -1.4%	Computer & Telecommunications Equipment Year-on-Year  +24.8% Month-on-Month ¹ -10.0%
Optical Goods & Books Year-on-Year  -11.6% Month-on-Month ¹ -1.6%	Others Year-on-Year  -10.5% Month-on-Month ¹ +3.9%	

¹ Seasonally adjusted

OVERVIEW – FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVICES

Sales of food & beverage services fell 16.5% in December 2020 on a year-on-year basis, an improvement compared to the 22.4% decline in November 2020. On a seasonally adjusted basis, sales of food & beverage services increased 7.5% in December 2020 over the previous month.

The total sales value of food & beverage services in December 2020 was estimated at \$800 million. Of these, online food & beverage sales made up an estimated 19.9%.

Year-on-Year Change (at Current Prices)

Within the food & beverage services sector, year-on-year declines were recorded across most industries. Turnover of Food Caterers declined 73.6% in December 2020, as demand for event catering remained low. Similarly, sales of Restaurants and Cafes, Food Courts & Other Eating Places fell 17.2% and 4.9% respectively.

In contrast, sales of Fast Food Outlets rose 2.5% during this period.

Month-on-Month Change (at Current Prices, Seasonally Adjusted)

On a seasonally adjusted month-on-month basis, all food & beverage services industries registered growths in sales of between 4.6% and 10.0% in December 2020, attributed to higher domestic spending given overseas travel restrictions.

Change In Food & Beverage Sales By Industry

Restaurants			Fast Food Outlets		
Year-on-Year		Month-on-Month ¹	Year-on-Year		Month-on-Month ¹
-17.2%		+10.0%	+2.5%		+8.5%
Food Caterers			Cafes, Food Courts & Other Eating Places		
Year-on-Year		Month-on-Month ¹	Year-on-Year		Month-on-Month ¹
-73.6%		+6.1%	-4.9%		+4.6%

¹ Seasonally adjusted

Table 1 Percentage Change of Retail Sales Index (2017=100)

Industry	Year-on-Year Change		Month-on-Month Change (Seasonally Adjusted)	
	at Current Prices		at Current Prices	
	Nov 20/ Nov 19	Dec 20/ Dec 19	Nov 20/ Oct 20	Dec 20/ Nov 20
Total	-1.7	-3.6	7.5	-0.9
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	-2.8	-4.5	10.0	-0.7
Department Stores	-23.5	-28.7	18.8	-5.0
Supermarkets & Hypermarkets	23.3	25.3	0.4	4.8
Mini-marts & Convenience Stores	0.2	5.1	-0.2	4.7
Food & Alcohol	-36.8	-35.0	9.4	3.9
Motor Vehicles	5.2	3.3	-5.2	-2.1
Petrol Service Stations	-12.9	-5.0	2.0	7.8
Cosmetics, Toiletries & Medical Goods	-26.7	-35.4	8.8	-11.3
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	-23.1	-22.8	5.0	-1.0
Furniture & Household Equipment	27.3	20.8	12.4	-6.6
Recreational Goods	12.1	10.3	4.3	-1.3
Watches & Jewellery	-7.6	-10.2	22.1	-1.4
Computer & Telecommunications Equipment	28.8	24.8	58.6	-10.0
Optical Goods & Books	-8.7	-11.6	7.2	-1.6
Others	-19.2	-10.5	5.3	3.9

Table 2 Percentage Change of Food & Beverage Services Index (2017=100)

Industry	Year-on-Year Change		Month-on-Month Change (Seasonally Adjusted)	
	at Current Prices		at Current Prices	
	Nov 20/ Nov 19	Dec 20/ Dec 19	Nov 20/ Oct 20	Dec 20/ Nov 20
Total	-22.4	-16.5	4.1	7.5
Restaurants	-25.0	-17.2	4.5	10.0
Fast Food Outlets	-3.4	2.5	3.8	8.5
Food Caterers	-75.3	-73.6	4.4	6.1
Cafes, Food Courts & Other Eating Places	-10.2	-4.9	3.7	4.6

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The Retail Sales Index (RSI) and Food & Beverage Services Index (FSI) measure the short-term performance of the retail trade and food & beverage (F&B) services industries based on the sales records of retail trade and F&B services establishments respectively. Sales figure refers to the value of retail goods or food & beverages sold to consumers during the month, excluding taxes on products such as Goods and Services Tax (GST), Additional Registration Fee (ARF) and Certificates of Entitlement (COE).

The RSI and FSI are available at current prices and in volume terms. The indices at current prices measure the changes of sales values which can result from changes in both price and quantity, while the indices in chained volume terms measure the changes in the volume of economic activity by removing the price effect.

Data Collection

Data used to compile the RSI and FSI are obtained primarily from the monthly surveys of retail trade and F&B services establishments. Retail trade establishments sell merchandise directly to the consumers, while F&B services establishments sell prepared food and drinks for consumption on premises or on a take-away basis.

Index Compilation

To derive the RSI and FSI at detailed industry level, the monthly sales for that industry is divided by the average monthly sales for the same industry in the reference year. The overall RSI and FSI are then computed by combining the sales indices of the detailed industries, using weights which measure each industry's relative importance in the overall retail trade and F&B services industries respectively.

To derive the indices in chained volume terms, the sales indices at current prices at detailed industry level are first deflated by the appropriate price indices. These component indices are then weighted using previous years' weights to derive the overall indices in chained volume terms. The reference year of the indices is 2017.

Online Retail and Food & Beverage Sales Proportions

The retail trade statistics covers:

- (a) (multi-channel) retailers in Singapore that sell via both physical stores and online/e-commerce sites;
- (b) retailers in Singapore that sell via physical stores only; and
- (c) retailers in Singapore that sell mainly via online/e-commerce sites.

The food & beverage services statistics covers all sales transactions of F&B establishments regardless of mode (including those transacted via food delivery platforms).

The proportion of online retail and F&B sales² out of the respective industry's total retail and F&B sales is estimated for the overall retail trade sector, selected retail industries and the overall food & beverage services sector.

Seasonal Adjustment

Seasonal effects are observed in both the RSI and FSI as there are usually intra-year periodic variations that repeat during the fixed period of time every year. To better reflect the underlying trend of the monthly sales, both indices are seasonally adjusted to remove the seasonal effects.

² Online retail and F&B sales refers to the sales of goods where the order is received and the price and terms of sale are agreed upon via online means, e.g. through company's website, third-party websites, mobile applications, extranet or Electronic Data Interchange. Payment and delivery may or may not be made online.



More data are available on the SingStat Website at
www.singstat.gov.sg/find-data/search-by-theme/industry/services/latest-data

or through the QR code below.



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