










Retail Sales Index and Food & Beverage Services Index

September 2020

KEY INDICATORS OF RETAIL TRADE

		Year-on-Year	Month-on-Month (Seasonally adjusted)
	TOTAL RETAIL SALES	▼ - 10.8%	▼ - 4.5%
	Excluding Motor Vehicles	▼ - 12.7%	▼ - 4.2%
	TOTAL SALES VALUE	\$3.2 Billion	of which Online Sales Proportion 11.2%
ONLINE SALES PROPORTION (out of the total sales of the respective industry)	 Supermarkets & Hypermarkets 11.9%	 Computer & Telecommunications Equipment 46.9%	 Furniture & Household Equipment 24.8%

KEY INDICATORS OF FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVICES

		Year-on-Year	Month-on-Month (Seasonally adjusted)
	TOTAL FOOD & BEVERAGE SALES	▼ - 29.9%	▼ - 1.2%
	TOTAL SALES VALUE	\$629 Million	of which Online Sales Proportion 20.4%

OVERVIEW – RETAIL TRADE

Retail sales decreased 10.8% in September 2020 on a year-on-year basis, a larger decline compared to the 5.4% year-on-year decline recorded in August 2020. Excluding motor vehicles, retail sales fell 12.7% in September 2020, compared to the 8.2% decline in August 2020. The larger decline in September 2020 was mainly attributed to the Computer & Telecommunications Equipment industry, which recorded lower sales of mobile phones compared to the high base in September last year when there were new mobile phone launches. Compared to the previous month, seasonally adjusted retail sales fell 4.5% in September 2020. Excluding motor vehicles, seasonally adjusted retail sales decreased 4.2%.

The estimated total retail sales value in September 2020 was about \$3.2 billion. Of these, online retail sales made up an estimated 11.2%. Online retail sales of the Computer & Telecommunications Equipment, Furniture & Household Equipment and Supermarkets & Hypermarkets industries made up 46.9%, 24.8% and 11.9% 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 September 2020. Department Stores, as well as retailers of Cosmetics, Toiletries & Medical Goods and Wearing Apparel & Footwear registered declines in sales of between 28.4% and 39.8% in September 2020. Similarly, sales of Computers & Telecommunications Equipment fell 22.9%, due mainly to the high base in September last year when there were new mobile phone launches.















In contrast, sales of the Supermarkets & Hypermarkets, Furniture & Household Equipment and Recreational Goods industries recorded growths in sales of between 6.0% and 17.9% in September 2020, due to higher demand for groceries, furniture and sporting goods.

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

Most retail industries recorded declines in sales in September 2020 on a seasonally adjusted month-on-month basis. Sales of the Computer & Telecommunications Equipment industry fell 25.9%, due mainly to lower sales of mobile phones. Sales of Furniture & Household Equipment, Motor Vehicles and Department Stores also fell between 4.3% and 7.6% in September 2020.

On the other hand, sales of Petrol Service Stations grew by 0.7% during this period.

Change In Retail Sales By Industry

Department Stores Year-on-Year  Month-on-Month ¹ -39.8% -4.3%	Supermarkets & Hypermarkets Year-on-Year  Month-on-Month ¹ +17.9% 0.0%	Mini-marts & Convenience Stores Year-on-Year  Month-on-Month ¹ 0.0% -0.3%
Food & Alcohol Year-on-Year  Month-on-Month ¹ -41.0% -0.2%	Motor Vehicles Year-on-Year  Month-on-Month ¹ +0.2% -6.0%	Petrol Service Stations Year-on-Year  Month-on-Month ¹ -16.9% +0.7%
Cosmetics, Toiletries & Medical Goods Year-on-Year  Month-on-Month ¹ -30.0% -1.6%	Wearing Apparel & Footwear Year-on-Year  Month-on-Month ¹ -28.4% -0.3%	Furniture & Household Equipment Year-on-Year  Month-on-Month ¹ +10.9% -7.6%
Recreational Goods Year-on-Year  Month-on-Month ¹ +6.0% -2.1%	Watches & Jewellery Year-on-Year  Month-on-Month ¹ -15.6% -3.2%	Computer & Telecommunications Equipment Year-on-Year  Month-on-Month ¹ -22.9% -25.9%
Optical Goods & Books Year-on-Year  Month-on-Month ¹ -18.3% -0.1%	Others Year-on-Year  Month-on-Month ¹ -21.4% -6.9%	

¹ Seasonally adjusted

OVERVIEW – FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVICES

Sales of food & beverage services fell 29.9% in September 2020 on a year-on-year basis, compared to the 28.1% decline in August 2020. On a seasonally adjusted basis, sales of food & beverage services decreased 1.2% in September 2020 over the previous month.

The total sales value of food & beverage services in September 2020 was estimated at \$629 million. Of these, online food & beverage sales made up an estimated 20.4%.

Year-on-Year Change (at Current Prices)


Within the food & beverage services sector, year-on-year declines were recorded across all industries. Turnover of Food Caterers declined 78.2%, a larger contraction compared to the 70.6% decline in August 2020, as demand for event catering remained low. Similarly, sales of Restaurants, Cafes, Food Courts & Other Eating Places and Fast Food Outlets fell between 13.9% and 33.1% during this period.

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

On a seasonally adjusted basis, sales of Food Caterers fell 26.9% in September 2020 due to a slowdown in demand for catering services from foreign worker dormitories. Turnover of Cafes, Food Courts & Other Eating Places and Restaurants decreased marginally by 0.6% and 0.3% respectively in September 2020.

Conversely, turnover of Fast Food Outlets grew by 2.0% during this period.

Change In Food & Beverage Sales By Industry

Restaurants		Fast Food Outlets	
Year-on-Year		Month-on-Month ¹	
-33.1%		-0.3%	
Year-on-Year		Month-on-Month ¹	
-78.2%		-26.9%	
Year-on-Year		Month-on-Month ¹	
-17.6%		-0.6%	

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	
	Aug 20/ Aug 19	Sep 20/ Sep 19	Aug 20/ Jul 20	Sep 20/ Aug 20
Total	-5.4	-10.8	1.8	-4.5
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	-8.2	-12.7	0.6	-4.2
Department Stores	-36.5	-39.8	-1.4	-4.3
Supermarkets & Hypermarkets	21.8	17.9	-7.8	0.0
Mini-marts & Convenience Stores	0.5	0.0	-3.6	-0.3
Food & Alcohol	-41.1	-41.0	2.7	-0.2
Motor Vehicles	12.1	0.2	8.8	-6.0
Petrol Service Stations	-18.0	-16.9	10.1	0.7
Cosmetics, Toiletries & Medical Goods	-30.0	-30.0	2.4	-1.6
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	-28.5	-28.4	4.0	-0.3
Furniture & Household Equipment	20.3	10.9	8.6	-7.6
Recreational Goods	2.9	6.0	3.9	-2.1
Watches & Jewellery	-11.2	-15.6	12.3	-3.2
Computer & Telecommunications Equipment	15.6	-22.9	-4.7	-25.9
Optical Goods & Books	-18.3	-18.3	1.9	-0.1
Others	-18.8	-21.4	-0.1	-6.9

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	
	Aug 20/ Aug 19	Sep 20/ Sep 19	Aug 20/ Jul 20	Sep 20/ Aug 20
Total	-28.1	-29.9	-3.5	-1.2
Restaurants	-31.9	-33.1	1.2	-0.3
Fast Food Outlets	-11.7	-13.9	-0.8	2.0
Food Caterers	-70.6	-78.2	-46.4	-26.9
Cafes, Food Courts & Other Eating Places	-16.1	-17.6	0.0	-0.6

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.



Singapore Department of Statistics
5 November 2020

For enquiries, please contact:
Ms Kristina Chua T (+65) 6835 8947 E Kristina_Chua@singstat.gov.sg
Ms Michelle Yeo T (+65) 6332 6125 E Michelle_Yeo@singstat.gov.sg