

information paper  
on  
business statistics

**RE-BASING AND REVISION  
OF THE RETAIL SALES &  
CATERING TRADE INDICES  
(2005 = 100)**

Singapore Department of Statistics  
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# **RE-BASING AND REVISION OF THE RETAIL SALES & CATERING TRADE INDICES (2005 = 100)**

## **I Introduction**

1. The Retail Sales Index (RSI) and Catering Trade Index (CTI) are short-term indicators that provide a macro-view of the business trend of retail and catering trade industries. To reflect changes in the structure of retail and catering trades in the indices, the coverage and weighting patterns are revised at regular intervals. The current RSI and CTI series compiled by the Department are based on year 1997 and the latest re-basing to year 2005 represents the fourth revision of the series.

2. This information paper reports the re-basing of the retail sales and catering trade indices to reference year 2005. Details on the data sources, methodology adopted and the comparison of the re-based series and old series are presented. In addition, the detailed weights for activities in retail and catering trades as well as the re-based series from January 2005 to July 2006 are provided in the Annexes.

## **II What RSI and CTI Measure**

3. The RSI and CTI show the monthly movements in the retail and catering trade sales. Based on the sales records of retail and catering establishments, the indices measure the short-term performance of retail and catering trade industries.

4. The two indices can be presented at both current prices and constant prices. Changes in the indices at current prices measure the changes of sales values which can result from changes in both price and quantity. By removing the price effect, the

indices at constant prices can be derived to measure the changes in the volume of economic activity.

5. Seasonal effects are observed in both the RSI and CTI as there are usually intra-year periodic variations that occur during the fixed period of time. For example, the retail sales are normally higher in the months of December and January compared with other months of the year due to festive purchases. To better reflect the underlying trend of the monthly sales, both indices are seasonally adjusted to remove the seasonal effects. The unadjusted data series are also provided for users who are interested in the changes of actual sales.

### **III Data Sources**

6. The data used for the compilation of the RSI and CTI are primarily obtained from the Monthly Retail Sales Survey (RSS) and Catering Trade Survey (CTS) conducted by the Department. The RSS surveys retail establishments for monthly retail sales while the CTS surveys catering establishments for monthly catering sales.

7. Retail establishments refer to those selling merchandise directly to the consumers, which include residents and tourists. Catering establishments are those selling prepared food and drinks for in-premises consumption or on a take-away basis. These establishments are classified according to the latest Singapore Standard Industrial Classification 2005 (SSIC 2005). Hawkers and stall-holders (selling cooked food and prepared drinks) which do not register with the Accounting & Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) are not considered as catering establishments.

8. For the computation of the indices, the data from RSS and CTS are further supplemented by survey data and administrative records from other Statutory Boards as indicated below:

- a) records from the Land Transport Authority (LTA) on newly registered motor vehicles and motorcycles & scooters for estimating the sales of motor vehicles and motorcycles & scooters.
- b) data from the Economic Development Board (EDB) on the volume of petrol and diesel supplied by petrol companies to petrol service stations for petrol retailing. The sales values of petrol and diesel are derived using the volume data and the prices of petrol and diesel obtained through the Department's monthly survey on retail prices.
- c) turnover data from the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) for catering establishments which are subject to cess.

#### IV Index Computation

9. The sales indices at current prices are computed using the following formula:

$$I_{0n} = \sum_i W_{io} \frac{V_{in}}{V_{i0}} \times 100$$

where

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| $I_{0n}$ | is the index of the overall retail/catering trade sector for the current period $n$ compared to the base period $0$ (the base year is 2005);   |
| $V_{in}$ | is the sales value of $i^{\text{th}}$ industry during the current period $n$ ;   |
| $V_{i0}$ | is the sales value of $i^{\text{th}}$ industry during the base period $0$ ;  |
| $W_{io}$ | is the normalised weight assigned to the $i^{\text{th}}$ industry, i.e. its share in terms of turnover with respect to the overall retail/catering trade sector in the base period $0$ ; |
| $\sum_i$ | is the summation of all industries in the retail/catering trade sector.  |

10. In other words, the overall sales index is a weighted average of indices from the detailed industry level. To derive the sales index at the detailed industry level, the

monthly sales for that industry is divided by the average monthly sales for the same industry in 2005 (base year). The index at the category level is then computed by combining the sales indices of the industries within that category, using the weights to measure each industry's relative importance in that category. To obtain the overall sales index, the same method is used, i.e. aggregating the indices of the categories, making use of their weights.

11. To derive the constant prices indices, the sales indices at current prices at the detailed industry level are first deflated by appropriate price indices. These component indices at constant prices are then weighted and aggregated to derive the overall indices at constant prices.

## **V The Re-based RSI and CTI Series**

### Industry Groupings

12. Besides compiling the index at the overall retail/catering trade level, the index is also computed separately for major industry groups within the retail/catering trades. During the re-basing exercise, the industry groupings were reviewed based on the share of industry turnover in the overall retail/catering trade sector. Due to the importance of "Food Caterers" in the catering trade sector, this industry group was singled out from "Other Eating Places" group. With the change, the catering trade categories in the 2005-based series have been expanded to 4 groups: "Restaurants", "Fast Food Outlets", "Food Caterers" and "Other Eating Places". There is no change to the retail trade categories published in the re-based series.

### Selection of Firms for the New Survey Samples

13. Establishments covered in RSS and CTS are selected based on stratified random sampling. The sampling frame is based on the list of ‘active’ establishments obtained from the Department’s Commercial Establishment Information System (CEIS). Information in the CEIS is regularly updated through simple postal surveys of newly registered enterprises, information from administrative sources such as ACRA and other sources. New establishments are added to the survey samples to ensure that the survey samples remain representative over time.

14. The sampling frame is stratified first by industry and then further stratified by size of turnover into take-all stratum and take-some stratum. Establishments in the take-all strata, which consist of large establishments, are selected with certainty. Establishments in take-some strata, which consist of relatively smaller establishments, are randomly selected. The sample size was optimized with an appropriate cut-off value (i.e. the value that delineates the boundary of the take-all and take-some strata) determined by the required precision level specified by the coefficient of variation. This would ensure an optimal sample size to achieve the targeted accuracy of the survey results.

15. The new RSS sample comprised about 2,500 retail establishments, or 12.2 per cent of the population in retail trade sector. The new CTS sample covered 500 catering establishments, accounting for 12.3 per cent of the population in catering trade sector. The new RSS sample, together with the supplementary data from the LTA and EDB, accounted for 71.5 per cent of overall retail sales of the retail trade sector in 2004. The new CTS sample combined with cess turnover from STB data accounted for 62.0 per cent of the overall catering sales during the same period.

#### Improved Data Sources for “Restaurants” Index

16. The “Restaurants” index in the old CTI series was compiled based on STB data on turnover of all cess-registered food & beverage (F&B) outlets. The data

provided reasonable estimates of all F&B sales that were subject to cess. However, the sales included not only turnover of cess-registered restaurants but also F&B sales of cess-registered hotels and other F&B outlets.

17. In the re-based series, the data sources used for the compilation of the “Restaurants” index have been improved. Firstly, data obtained from STB have been refined to include only sales of cess-registered restaurants. Secondly, the sales of non-cess registered restaurants are estimated from a new sample of such restaurants which are covered in CTS.

18. With the improvement in data sources, the “Restaurants” index in the re-based series shows different movement of sales in some months compared to the old series. The new series shows higher turnover in January or February reflecting better business performance for restaurants during Lunar New Year period. In comparison, the old series indicated higher sales around the end of the year.

#### Weighting Pattern

19. The weight for each industry reflects its relative importance in the overall retail trade or catering trade sector. The weights are computed based on the operating receipts of the respective industries as obtained from the latest Annual Surveys of Retail Trade/Catering Trade for reference year 2004.

##### *a. Retail Trade*

20. Table 1 compares the old and new weights for retail trade categories. The top three categories in retail trade in 2004 were “Motor Vehicles”, “Department Stores” and “Furniture & Household Equipment”. The three categories accounted for 55.3 per cent of total weights in the retail trade sector in 2004, higher than the 50.8 per cent in the previous base year of 1997.

Table 1: Weighting Pattern of Retail Trade in 1997 & 2004

Retail Trade Categories	1997 Weights	2004 Weights
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>
1 Department Stores	1,395	1,322
2 Supermarkets	301	411
3 Provision & Sundry Shops	592	536
4 Food & Beverages	200	200
5 Motor Vehicles	2,640	3,449
6 Petrol Service Stations	310	456
7 Medical Goods & Toiletries	319	332
8 Wearing Apparel & Footwear	713	574
9 Furniture & Household Equipment	1,047	755
10 Recreational Goods	201	190
11 Watches & Jewellery	911	607
12 Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	356	366
13 Optical Goods & Books	381	344
14 Others	634	458

21. The weight of “Motor Vehicles” rose by 8.1 percentage points to 34.5 per cent in 2004. The increasing affluence of the population and higher COE quota available resulted in the increasing sales of motor vehicles between 1997 and 2004. Subsequently, the weight of “Petrol Service Stations” also increased, corresponding to the higher sales of motor vehicles.

22. Conversely, the weights of “Furniture & Household Equipment” and “Watches & Jewellery” declined by about 3 percentage points each during the same period.

b. *Catering Trade*

23. Table 2 presents the old and new weights for catering trade categories. The weight of “Restaurants” category declined from 45.0 per cent in 1997 to 36.0 per cent in 2004. Conversely, the relative importance of “Other Eating Places” increased from 27.6 per cent to 35.6 per cent during the same period, attributable to higher operating receipts from cafes and coffeeshops in 2004 compared to 1997.

24. The weights of “Fast Food Outlets” and “Food Caterers” remained at about the same level as 1997. The weight of “Fast Food Outlets” represented 13.6 per cent of total catering sector in 2004, while “Food Caterers” represented 14.8 per cent.

Table 2: Weighting Pattern of Catering Trade in 1997 & 2004

Catering Trade Categories	1997 Weights	2004 Weights
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>
1 Restaurants	450	360
2 Fast Food Outlets	131	136
3 Food Caterers	143	148
4 Other Eating Places	276	356

## VI Linking of Historical Series

25. To facilitate the time series analysis of the RSI and CTI series, the 1997-based old series were linked to the 2005-based new series. The linking is done using the relationship presented below:

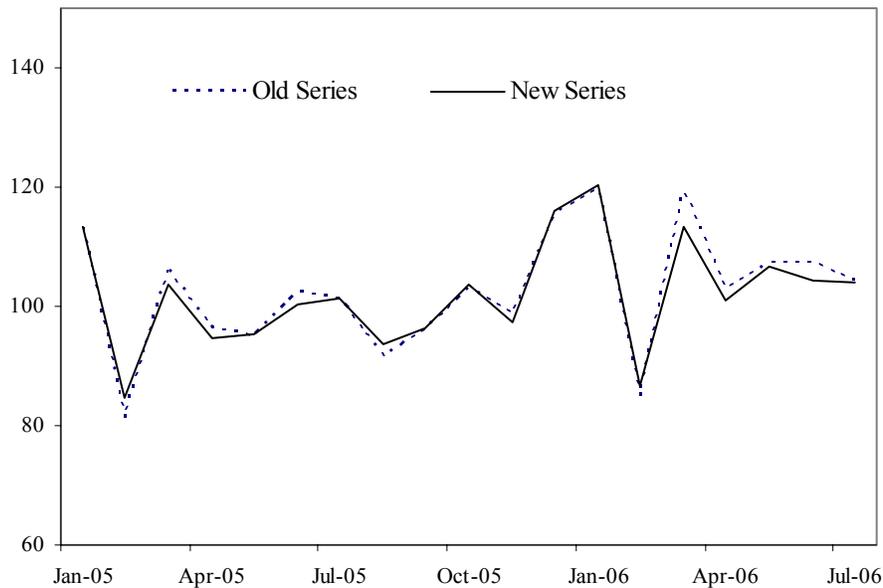
$$\text{Linked 2005-based index} = \text{1997-based index} \times \text{Linking Coefficient}$$

where the Linking Coefficient is the ratio of the average value of the 2005-based index in 2005 to the average value of the 1997-based index in 2005.

## VII Comparison of Old and New Series

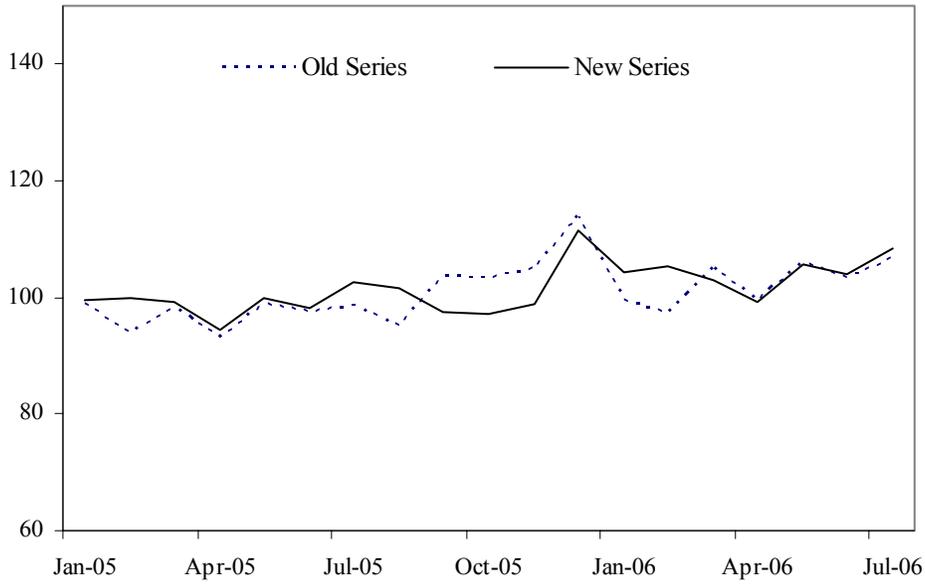
26. Chart 1 shows the comparison of overall Retail Sales Index at current prices of the 1997-based and 2005-based series during January 2005 to July 2006. The old and new series present very similar trend.

Chart 1: Retail Sales Index at Current Prices (2005 = 100)



27. Chart 2 shows the Catering Trade Index for new series (base year 2005) and old series (base year 1997). The two series also present the similar trend. However, the new series shows lower turnover from September to November 2005 and higher turnover from January to February 2006, compared to the old series. The differences mainly arose from the improvement in data sources for “Restaurants” category.

Chart 2: Catering Trade Index at Current Prices (2005 = 100)



## VIII Data Dissemination

28. The 2005-based series will be released with effect from August 2006 index. The monthly report is available at the Department's homepage (<http://www.singstat.gov.sg>). The RSI and CTI are also published separately in the Monthly Digest of Statistics, Yearbook of Statistics and Economic Survey of Singapore. Subscribers to the Department's Singstat Time Series (STS) may download the historical data electronically.

Singapore Department of Statistics

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## WEIGHTS OF RETAIL TRADE CATEGORY BY ACTIVITY

SSIC 05	Description of Activity	Weights
	<b>TOTAL RETAIL TRADE</b>	<b>10,000</b>
	<b>Department Stores</b>	<b>1,322</b>
51101	Department stores	687
51102	Department stores cum supermarkets (including hypermarkets)	635
51103	<b>Supermarkets</b>	<b>411</b>
	<b>Provision &amp; Sundry Shops</b>	<b>536</b>
51104	Mini-marts, convenience stores and provision shops	471
51109	Non-specialised retail trade in stores nec	65
	<b>Food &amp; Beverages</b>	<b>200</b>
51201	Fruits and vegetables	28
51202	Meat, poultry, eggs and seafood	20
51203	Confectionery and bakery products	54
51204	Health food	40
51205	Liquor and soft drinks	6
51206	Cigarettes and other tobacco products	1
51209	Food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores nec	51
51311	<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>3,449</b>
51315	<b>Petrol Service Stations</b>	<b>456</b>
	<b>Medical Goods &amp; Toiletries</b>	<b>332</b>
51411	Cosmetics and toiletries	115
51412	Pharmacies and drug stores (Western)	97
51413	Chinese medicine shops	116
51419	Pharmaceutical and medical goods nec (eg Jamu shops)	4
	<b>Wearing Apparel &amp; Footwear</b>	<b>574</b>
51421	Textiles	26
51422	Wearing apparel for adults	387
51423	Children and infants' wear (including products and accessories for infants)	31

## ANNEX I

SSIC 05	Description of Activity	Weights
51424	Footwear	60
51425	Bags, luggages and travel accessories	67
51426	Sewing and clothing accessories (eg button, thread, lace, zip)	1
51429	Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods nec	2
	<b>Furniture &amp; Household Equipment</b>	<b>755</b>
51431	Furniture (including mattresses, cushions)	297
51432	Furnishings (eg curtains, carpets, pillow cases)	26
51433	Lighting and lighting accessories	20
51434	Crockery, cutlery and kitchen utensils	13
51435	Household electrical appliances and equipment (eg vacuum cleaners, washing machines, refrigerators)	196
51436	Radio, television sets and sound reproducing and recording	173
51439	Household appliances, articles and equipment nec	30
	<b>Recreational Goods</b>	<b>190</b>
51451	Sporting goods and equipment (including healthcare equipment)	107
51452	Musical instruments and scores	6
51453	Record albums, cassette tapes, laser discs and compact discs (including VCDs, DVDs)	44
51454	Toys and games	23
51455	Computer games (including electronic games and video game consoles)	3
51459	Sporting, recreational goods and personal effects nec	7
	<b>Watches &amp; Jewellery</b>	<b>607</b>
51456	Jewellery	364
51457	Costume jewellery	14
51458	Watches and clocks	229
	<b>Telecommunications Apparatus &amp; Computers</b>	<b>366</b>
51471	Pagers, handphones and other telecommunications apparatus	146
51472	Calculators, typewriters and other office equipment	2
51473	Computer hardware and accessories and computer software (except games)	209
51474	Computer and office equipment consumables (eg diskettes, computer cards, printer ribbons)	9

## ANNEX I

SSIC 05	Description of Activity	Weights
	<b>Optical Goods &amp; Books</b>	<b>344</b>
51481	Spectacles and other optical goods	65
51482	Cameras and other photographic goods	86
51483	Books, magazines and stationery (including newsvendors)	186
51489	Optical and photographic goods, books, magazines and paper products nec	7
	<b>Other Retail</b>	<b>458</b>
51312	Motorcycles and scooters	54
51313	Tyres and batteries	38
51314	Spare parts and accessories for motor vehicles	62
51321	Bicycles, tricycles and baby carriages (including spare parts)	9
51329	Other transport equipment nec (eg motor boats, sail boats)	-
51441	Paints	11
51442	Hardware (eg chains, changkols, axes)	59
51449	Construction materials, hardware, paint and glass nec (eg wood, glass, sanitary ware, Do-It-Yourself materials)	15
51461	Antiques, works of art, handicrafts, collectibles and gifts	60
51462	Cut flowers (including wreaths)	23
51463	Artificial flowers and plants	3
51464	Aquarium fishes (including food and accessories)	11
51465	Pet birds and animals (including food and accessories)	12
51469	Handicrafts and fancy goods, flowers, plants and pet animals nec	15
51491	Joss paper and other ceremonial products	27
51492	LP Gas	36
51493	Security and fire-fighting equipment	4
51499	Other specific commodities nec (eg jute bags)	8
51500	Second-hand goods in stores	9
51601	Mail order agencies (including sales via telephone and internet)	-
51609	Other non-store retail sale (eg sale via door-to-door canvassing and vending machines)	2
nec:	not elsewhere classified	

## ANNEX II

## WEIGHTS OF CATERING TRADE CATEGORY BY ACTIVITY

SSIC 05	Description of Activity	Weights
	<b>TOTAL CATERING TRADE</b>	<b>1,000</b>
58211	<b>Restaurants</b>	<b>360</b>
58212	<b>Fast Food Outlets</b>	<b>136</b>
58250	<b>Food Caterers</b>	<b>148</b>
	<b>Other Eating Places</b>	<b>356</b>
58221	Cafes, coffee houses and snack bars (including lunch counters and refreshment stands); foodcourts, coffee shops and eating houses (with mainly food & beverage income)	240
58222	Canteens	26
58230	Pubs (including bars)	38
58290	Restaurants, bars and canteens nec	52
nec:	not elsewhere classified	

**RETAIL SALES INDEX AT CURRENT PRICES**  
(2005 = 100)

		Total	Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	Dept Stores	Super- markets	Provision & Sundry Shops	Food & Beverages	Motor Vehicles	Petrol Service Stations	Medical Goods & Toiletries	Wearing Apparel & Footwear	Furniture & Household Equipment	Recreational Goods	Watches & Jewellery	Telecomm. Apparatus & Computers	Optical Goods & Books	Others
Weights	Period	10,000	6,551	1,322	411	536	200	3,449	456	332	574	755	190	607	366	344	458
2005	Jan	113.3	110.9	113.3	107.3	108.6	122.5	117.8	95.1	117.9	133.4	111.1	100.3	108.0	113.4	102.4	99.2
	Feb	84.4	89.6	90.1	99.5	98.7	123.3	74.6	85.1	85.1	89.0	82.0	90.5	93.7	85.2	81.5	78.4
	Mar	103.6	96.5	89.7	93.5	101.6	89.0	117.0	93.2	99.5	91.9	101.7	92.4	99.2	108.8	102.8	98.0
	Apr	94.8	92.1	87.0	94.3	95.1	87.0	100.1	94.7	89.6	81.4	94.0	94.1	90.5	99.1	98.4	103.3
	May	95.1	96.2	99.8	98.2	97.0	95.1	93.1	97.9	93.9	93.1	96.4	92.9	96.9	92.4	90.7	94.3
	Jun	99.8	96.5	98.6	92.0	93.4	88.4	106.2	93.6	98.3	98.6	94.6	98.5	93.2	102.0	99.4	100.3
	Jul	100.8	99.9	100.0	98.8	100.5	93.9	102.7	101.9	99.3	98.8	101.0	100.2	94.7	98.6	106.1	103.5
	Aug	93.7	96.3	94.1	101.1	102.3	101.1	88.6	108.7	98.6	81.7	89.7	97.8	91.9	102.9	105.0	98.4
	Sep	96.9	96.3	95.1	96.2	98.7	98.8	97.9	109.0	101.2	85.6	92.4	93.7	94.4	100.0	95.8	100.9
	Oct	103.7	103.5	103.7	106.5	108.1	94.8	104.2	113.1	99.8	96.2	107.5	100.4	106.2	93.7	98.3	103.4
	Nov	97.7	98.6	97.3	99.5	93.6	95.5	96.0	104.2	97.3	94.5	102.5	100.6	99.7	92.9	95.0	107.3
	Dec	116.2	123.8	131.5	113.0	102.4	110.7	101.7	103.4	119.4	155.9	127.1	138.6	131.6	111.0	124.5	113.0
2006	Jan	120.2	121.5	127.0	133.0	126.0	181.3	117.8	108.0	129.7	157.7	114.3	100.4	106.3	97.0	94.8	106.3
	Feb	86.6	89.8	85.3	92.7	87.5	84.1	80.6	96.7	85.8	90.9	86.1	88.8	94.9	94.7	92.6	93.6
	Mar	113.5	100.8	95.0	101.1	107.1	91.2	137.5	109.6	108.2	98.8	100.8	96.2	88.6	109.7	97.8	116.2
	Apr	101.0	99.7	98.7	105.3	100.8	94.8	103.4	109.7	99.6	102.4	96.0	98.7	92.0	102.1	90.6	106.5
	May	106.7	105.8	108.7	106.9	104.8	101.1	108.4	115.8	110.1	101.4	102.6	97.5	111.6	104.0	93.9	104.1
	Jun	104.3	101.9	106.0	101.5	97.1	99.7	108.8	110.2	109.8	109.3	95.5	93.5	91.9	96.8	93.8	110.7
	Jul <sup>P</sup>	104.1	104.5	101.4	109.5	104.9	103.2	103.4	118.4	106.7	117.7	102.6	96.4	91.6	95.9	97.4	113.1

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary

**CATERING TRADE INDEX AT CURRENT PRICES**  
**(2005 = 100)**

Weights		Total	Restaurants	Fast Food Outlets	Food Caterers	Other Eating Places
		1,000	360	136	148	356
Period						
2005	Jan	99.4	98.1	100.8	101.4	99.4
	Feb	99.7	114.0	97.2	93.2	89.0
	Mar	99.2	94.4	105.8	104.3	99.5
	Apr	94.4	87.0	92.8	94.0	102.7
	May	99.9	95.9	100.6	102.3	102.6
	Jun	98.2	94.6	95.7	106.2	99.5
	Jul	102.5	103.0	98.8	101.4	103.9
	Aug	101.7	100.3	101.1	96.1	105.6
	Sep	97.6	99.8	98.9	97.9	94.7
	Oct	97.1	100.2	96.4	93.6	95.6
	Nov	98.8	97.2	102.7	103.2	97.0
	Dec	111.5	115.6	109.2	106.5	110.3
2006	Jan	104.2	106.4	106.1	103.0	101.8
	Feb	105.5	128.2	88.1	89.2	95.9
	Mar	102.8	105.1	103.2	92.5	104.6
	Apr	99.2	99.8	102.5	90.0	101.0
	May	105.8	110.5	110.8	97.6	102.5
	Jun	104.1	108.7	103.4	91.0	105.2
	Jul <sup>p</sup>	108.5	113.8	108.5	99.4	107.1

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary

# SINGAPORE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS INFORMATION DISSEMINATION SERVICES

## Statistics Singapore Website

The Statistics Singapore Website was launched by the Singapore Department of Statistics in January 1995. Internet users can access the website by connecting to:

**<http://www.singstat.gov.sg>**

Providing key Singapore statistics :

- ◆ Latest Data / KeyStats  
which provide key data on Singapore's economy and population.
- ◆ Media Releases  
which cover the Performance of Singapore Economy, the Consumer Price Index, the Wholesale Trade Index, Business Receipts Index for Service Industries, Retail Sales and Catering Trade Indices, Manufacturing Performance, Singapore External Trade, Tourism Sector Performance, Real Estate Information and Employment Situation.
- ◆ Papers and Analyses  
which provide papers on economic and social topics.

Providing information on statistical resources :

- ◆ Online Publication Catalogue  
which lists the latest editions of publications released by the Singapore Department of Statistics at <http://www.singstat.gov.sg/pdtsvc/catalog.html>. More publications will progressively be made available for access without charge.
- ◆ Advance Release Calendar  
which covers key Singapore economic indicators.

Providing a convenient gateway to international statistical websites :

- ◆ Guide to International Statistics  
which covers international databases, classifications and links, and statistical terms and definitions.
- ◆ IMF Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board  
which provides metadata about Singapore's key indicators in the real, fiscal, financial and external sectors, including dissemination practices and information about pre-release access of current indicators.

## SingStat Express

SingStat Express is a personalised data delivery service which sends the latest press releases, notices of publication, newsletter, occasional and information papers to subscribers via email. The Monthly Digest of Statistics (softcopy) and more than 50 key indicators and statistical indices are included for subscription at a nominal fee.

Subscription details are available from the Statistics Singapore Website (<http://www.singstat.gov.sg/express/express.html>).

## SINGAPORE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS INFORMATION DISSEMINATION SERVICES (continued)

### Key Singapore Data on Palm OS Devices

The pdf version of "Singapore in Brief 2006" for Palm OS devices is available for downloading from the Statistics Singapore Website.

### SingStat Time Series (STS) Online System

The SingStat Time Series (STS) Online System is an internet-accessible time series retrieval system. The STS includes some 6,000 historical data series on Singapore society and economy from several domains, including national accounts, balance of payments, investments, finance, labour, prices, business expectations, trade, manufacturing, tourism, demography, health and education.

Besides the usual monthly, quarterly and annual data, STS includes also seasonally adjusted data series for key economic indicators providing for a better analysis and understanding of current economic trends. The STS also offers:

- Web-based search engine that is easy to use;
- "Bookmark" features that enable users to save and organise links in their personalised portals.

Subscription to STS is opened to local and overseas users. More information on STS are available via Statistics Singapore Website. For enquiries, please contact our Department at **Tel : 6332-7119**.

### E-survey

The E-survey enables business organisations to complete and submit their survey forms through the internet. Using secured encryption protocols, the E-survey ensures that the information transmitted through the net is secured and protected. The system features online helps and validation checks to assist respondents in completing their survey forms. With the E-survey, respondents do away with the tedious paper work and manual tasks of mailing or faxing their survey returns to the Department.

#### ***Statistical Enquiries and Feedback***

If you have any statistical enquiries or comment or suggestions on our statistical publications and electronic services, you are welcomed to :

- ◆ E-mail us at **info@singstat.gov.sg**
- ◆ Fax to us at **Tel: (65) 6332-7689**
- ◆ Call us at **Tel: 1800-3238118\* (local callers)**  
**(65) 6332-7738 (overseas callers)**

\* Calls from mobile telephone lines to 1800 local toll free number may be subject to mobile airtime charges as imposed by the relevant mobile service provider.