



Summary

Monthly % Change (Trend):

| | | |
|-------------------|---|-----|
| Queensland | ↑ | 0.2 |
| Rest of Australia | ↑ | 0.3 |

- Monthly growth in Queensland's nominal and real retail turnover moderated in March 2004. While growth in Queensland's monthly nominal retail turnover remains below the rest of Australia, quarterly growth in real retail turnover continues to exceed all other states.

Analysis

Queensland

- Nominal retail trade growth continued to ease for the seventh consecutive month, with 0.2% growth in March 2004 following 0.3% growth in February.
- In annual terms, retail trade growth in Queensland (12.7%) continued to exceed all other states in March. In comparison, the rest of Australia recorded 7.1% growth over the year to March.
- With the exception of recreational goods and other retailing, which continued to decline, and clothing and soft goods, which continued to record no growth, all other industry sectors recorded growth in March. Food retailing and household goods retailing were the primary drivers of growth, each contributing 0.1% point to overall growth.
- Queensland recorded real retail trade growth of 2.5% in March quarter 2004, to be 13.2% higher over the year. In annual terms, this is the strongest real growth recorded since the start of the current ABS series in September quarter 1983.

National

- Nationally, monthly retail turnover growth remained stable at 0.3% in March 2004. Meanwhile, annual growth continued to ease, from 8.4% in February to 8.2% in March.

Implications

- The continued moderation in retail trade growth in Queensland over recent months sees a return to more stable rates of growth and coincides with the recent easing in growth in other economic indicators, particularly dwelling approvals and employment.
- Despite the easing of growth in the retail sector, the level of retail turnover remains high and it is expected that Queensland's continued strong population growth should continue to support subdued retail trade growth in Queensland in coming months.

Table 1. Retail Turnover, March 2004

| States/Australia | % Change | |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Monthly Trend | Annual Trend |
| Queensland | 0.2 | 12.7 |
| New South Wales | 0.0 | 5.8 |
| Victoria | 0.7 | 9.7 |
| South Australia | 0.4 | 5.1 |
| Western Australia | 0.3 | 7.2 |
| Tasmania | 0.1 | 11.5 |
| Rest of Australia | 0.3 | 7.1 |

Chart 1. Nominal Retail Turnover (Monthly % Change, Trend)

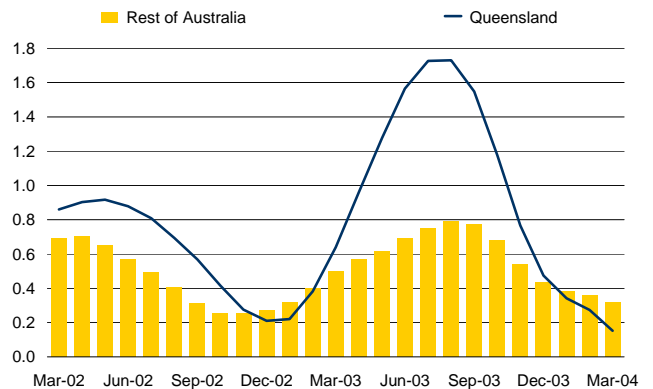


Chart 2. Retail Turnover by Industry Group (% Point Contribution to Growth, Trend, March 2004)

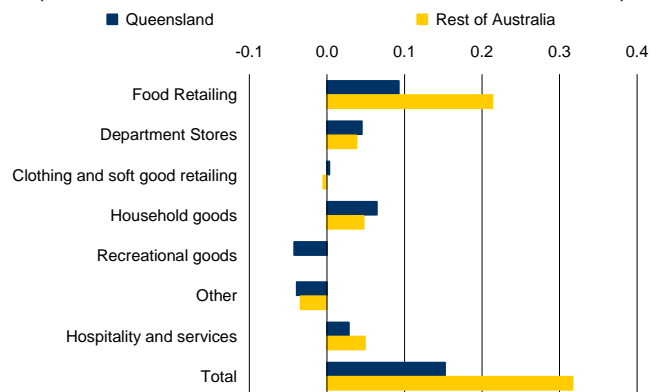


Table 2. Real Retail Turnover, March Qtr 2004

| States/Australia | % Change | |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Qtrly Trend | Annual Trend |
| Queensland | 2.5 | 13.2 |
| New South Wales | 0.7 | 5.3 |
| Victoria | 2.0 | 8.6 |
| South Australia | 1.1 | 4.1 |
| Western Australia | 1.5 | 7.5 |
| Tasmania | 1.2 | 11.8 |
| Rest of Australia | 1.3 | 6.6 |