



Summary

Monthly Change (Trend):

Queensland	↓	0.3%
Rest of Australia	Unchanged	0.0 %

- Monthly nominal retail turnover in Queensland fell 0.3% (in trend terms) in November 2004, following a decline of 0.1% in October. In comparison, retail turnover in the rest of Australia was unchanged for the second consecutive month.
- However, it should be noted that in the October 2004 retail trade survey, the effects of the quarterly rotation of surveyed businesses into the sample contributed to a decrease in the seasonally adjusted (sa) estimate of retail turnover in Queensland during that month. The effect of this sampling issue will remain in the trend figures for several months, and accordingly, the monthly sa figures from November onwards may provide a clearer indication of movements in retail turnover over this period. In sa terms, monthly retail turnover in Queensland rose 0.3% in November 2004, compared with a rise of 0.1% in the rest of Australia (Table 1).

Analysis

- Over the year to November 2004, Queensland recorded trend retail trade growth of 3.7%, which was higher than rest of Australia (3.1%) and a majority of other states. Similarly, Queensland (2.3%) recorded stronger annual seasonally adjusted retail trade growth than the rest of Australia (1.8%) and most states.
- Analysis by industry group (in trend terms) indicates that Food retailing (0.2% point) and Hospitality and services, Clothing and soft goods retailing and Recreational goods (each 0.1% point) all detracted from growth in November. These detractions were partially offset by a 0.1% point contribution to growth from Household goods and a marginal contribution from Other retailing.

Implications

- General economic conditions in Queensland are supportive of positive retail turnover growth in coming months. Labour market conditions in the State remain excellent, characterised by very strong employment growth and the lowest monthly trend unemployment rate (4.8%) in at least 26 years. Consumer and business confidence as well as housing activity remain at high levels, while solid population growth continues to be recorded.
- In addition, recently released national figures on EFTPOS transactions for December suggest that, following relatively subdued activity in October and November 2004, strong pre-Christmas sales in late December may lead to more positive national retail turnover data for December 2004.

Table 1. Retail Turnover, November 2004

States/Australia	% Change			
	Monthly		Annual	
	Trend	SA*	Trend	SA*
Queensland	-0.3	0.3	3.7	2.3
New South Wales	-0.2	0.0	1.6	0.1
Victoria	0.1	-0.1	3.9	2.3
South Australia	-0.1	0.3	2.8	2.1
Western Australia	0.2	0.8	7.3	6.7
Tasmania	-0.1	-0.5	2.8	2.0
Rest of Australia	0.0	0.1	3.1	1.8

* Seasonally Adjusted

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

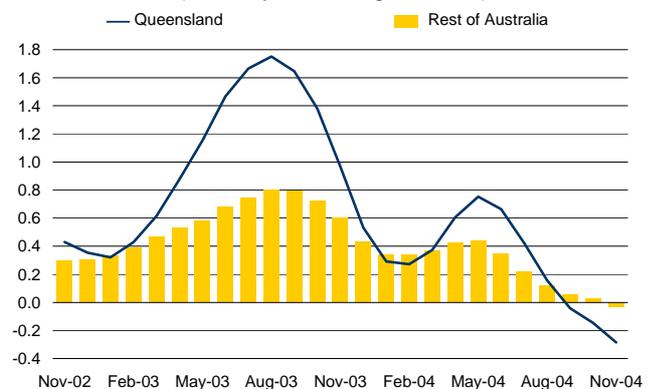


Chart 2. Retail Turnover by Industry Group (% Point Contribution to Growth, Trend, November 2004)

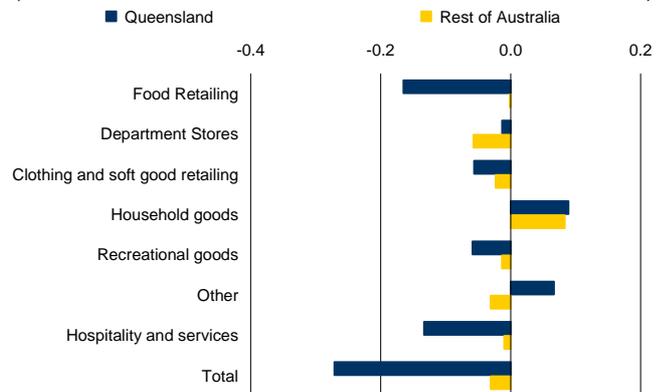


Chart 3. Retail Turnover – Interstate Comparison (Annual % Change, Trend, November 2004)

