



Note: From July 2008 onwards the ABS will reduce the sample size of the Retail Business Survey by 59%, citing "a tight budget situation in 2008-09". The sample size reduction increases the sampling error and volatility of the series. The monthly publication now includes only broad-level state and industry trend data (no state-by-industry data is included). Historical data has been revised to maintain continuity of time series. Changes to industry groups have also taken effect. The first issue of a quarterly publication [Retail Trade Quarterly Indicators, Australia (cat. no. 8502.0)], which will include similar detail to the June 2008 monthly publication, is scheduled for release on 17 November 2008.

Main Features

Monthly change (trend):

Table with 3 columns: Region, Change direction, and Change percentage. Queensland: up 0.2%, Australia: up 0.1%

Annual change (trend):

Table with 3 columns: Region, Change direction, and Change percentage. Queensland: up 3.6%, Australia: up 3.1%

Commentary

Note: Commentary on monthly figures is based on nominal values throughout and as such movements are affected by price and quantity changes

- The trend estimate of Queensland's retail turnover increased 0.2% in July 2008. The estimate for Australia increased 0.1% during this time period (Figure 1).
• The trend estimate value of Queensland retail turnover increased from \$3,622.2 million in July 2007 to \$3,750.9 million in July 2008.
• In annual terms, the trend estimate of retail turnover in Queensland grew 3.6% in July 2008. This was above the 3.1% growth for Australia.
• Queensland recorded the fifth-highest annual growth in retail trade of all states and territories. The Northern Territory recorded the highest increase (12.4%) (Figure 2).
• The monthly growth in retail turnover for Queensland has been weak since November 2007, prior to which moderate growth was recorded. For the past seven months, Australia has recorded weak growth in retail turnover (0.1% or less).
• The industry group Household good retailing made the strongest positive contribution to retail turnover for Australia during July 2008. This was followed by Food retailing, Other retailing, and Department stores. Note: Data for Queensland are not available.
• Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services made the strongest negative contribution to growth in retail turnover for Australia during July 2008. This was followed by Clothing and soft good retailing.

Figure 1: Monthly change in retail turnover, July 2006 to July 2008

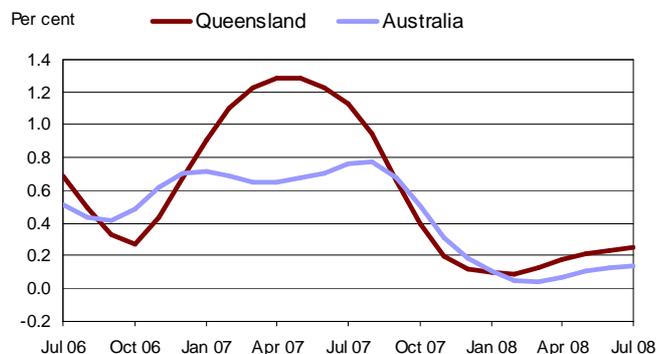


Figure 2: Annual change in retail turnover by state and territory, July 2008

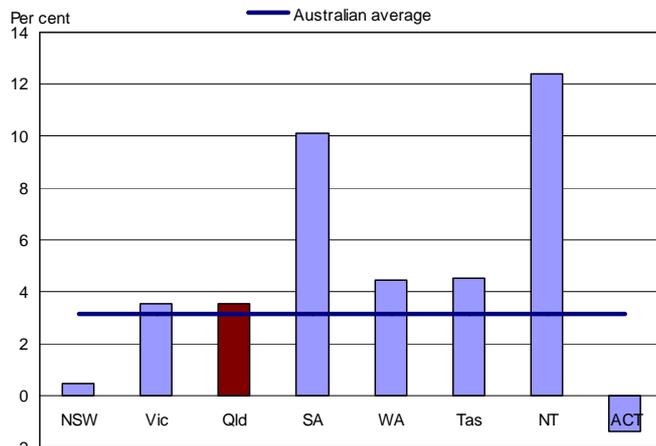


Figure 3: Monthly retail turnover contribution to growth by industry group, Australia, July 2008

