



Note: From July 2008 onwards the ABS reduced 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: State/Territory, Trend Change, and Percentage Change. Queensland: 0.9%, Australia: 0.3%

Annual change (trend):

Table with 3 columns: State/Territory, Annual Change, and Percentage Change. Queensland: 5.1%, Australia: 3.2%

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 0.9% in August 2008. The estimate for Australia increased 0.3% during this time period (Figure 1).
• The trend estimate value of Queensland retail turnover increased from \$3,653.6 million in August 2007 to \$3,838.4 million in August 2008.
• In annual terms, the trend estimate of retail turnover in Queensland grew 5.1% in August 2008. This was above the 3.2% growth for Australia.
• Queensland recorded the fourth-highest annual growth in retail trade of all states and territories. South Australia and the Northern Territory recorded the highest increase (10.3% each) (Figure 2).
• The industry group Food retailing made the strongest positive contribution to retail turnover for Australia during August 2008. This was followed by Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services, and Household good retailing (Figure 3). Note: Data for Queensland are not available.
• Other retailing made the strongest negative contribution to growth in retail turnover for Australia during August 2008.

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

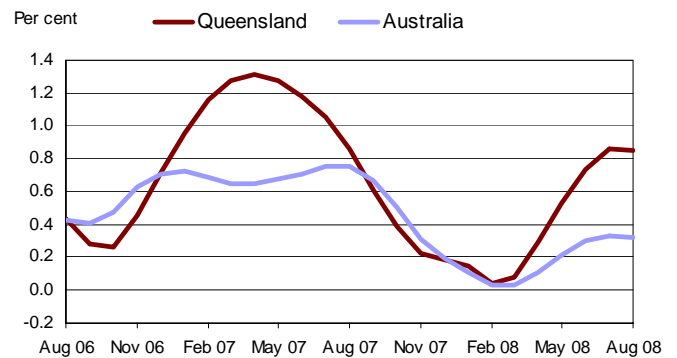


Figure 2: Annual change in retail turnover by state and territory, August 2008

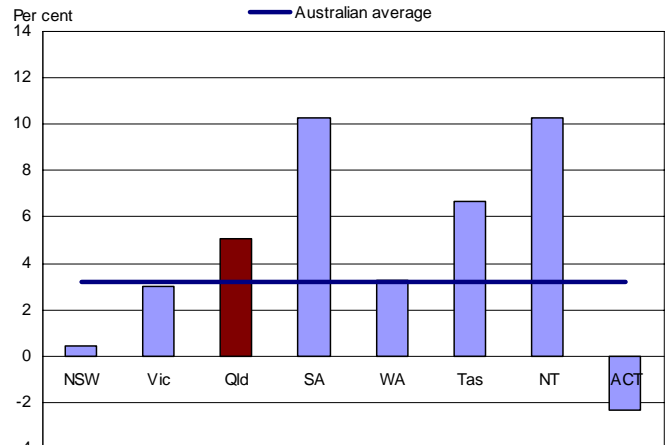


Figure 3: Monthly retail turnover contribution to growth by industry group, Australia, August 2008

