

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):

Queensland	↑	0.3%
Australia	↑	0.2%

Annual change (trend):

Queensland	↑	3.4%
Australia	↑	2.3%

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 0.3% in September 2008. The estimate for Australia increased 0.2% during this time period (Figure 1).
- The trend estimate value of Queensland retail turnover increased from \$3,679.6 million in September 2007 to \$3,806.1 million in September 2008.
- In annual terms, the trend estimate of retail turnover in Queensland grew 3.4% in September 2008. This was above the 2.3% 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 (11.4%) (Figure 2).
- The industry group *Food retailing* made the strongest positive contribution to retail turnover for Australia during September 2008. This was followed by *Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services* and *Clothing and soft goods retailing* (Figure 3). Note: Data for Queensland are not available.
- Household good retailing* made the strongest negative contribution to growth in retail turnover for Australia during September 2008.

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

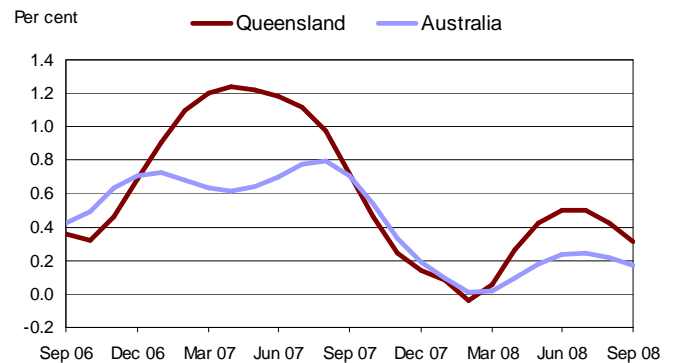


Figure 2: Annual change in retail turnover by state and territory, September 2008

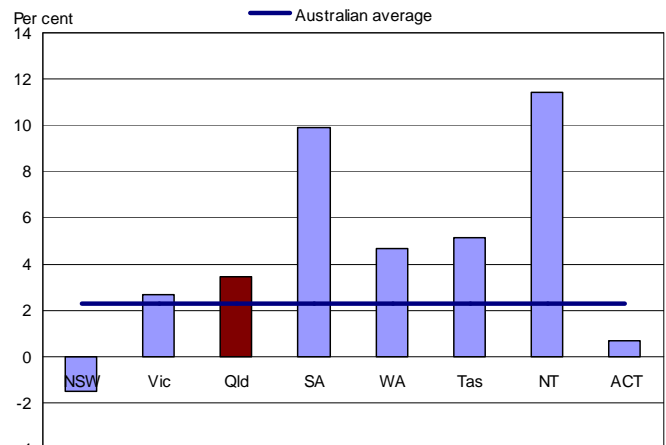


Figure 3: Monthly retail turnover contribution to growth by industry group, Australia, September 2008

