

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 are included). Historical data have 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, was released on 17 November 2008.

On 4 November 2008, it was announced that the full monthly Retail Trade sample will be reinstated for the November sample, though the data would not be available at an industry by state categorisation until early 2009. When the more detailed data are again available, this Information Brief will revert to providing more descriptive industry data for Queensland.

Main Features

Monthly change (trend):

Queensland	↑	0.2%
Australia	↑	0.2%

Annual change (trend):

Queensland	↑	3.0%
Australia	↑	2.0%

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 October 2008. The estimate for Australia also increased 0.2% during this period (Figure 1).
- The trend estimate value of Queensland's retail turnover increased from \$3,697.6 million in October 2007 to \$3,808.8 million in October 2008.
- In annual terms, the trend estimate of retail turnover in Queensland grew 3.0% in October 2008. This was above the 2.0% 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 (11.3%) (Figure 2).
- The industry group *Food retailing* made the strongest positive contribution to retail turnover for Australia during October 2008. This was followed by *Other 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 October 2008.

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

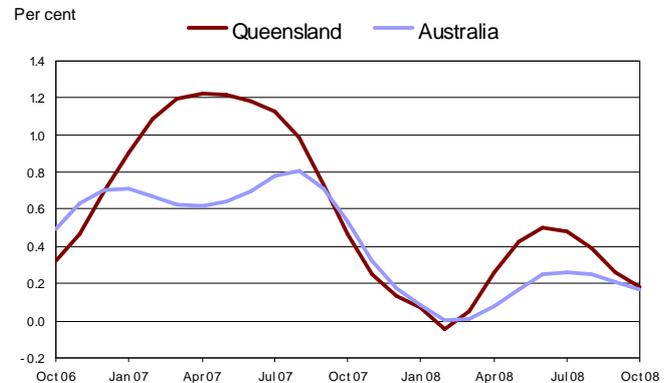


Figure 2: Annual change in retail turnover by state and territory, October 2008

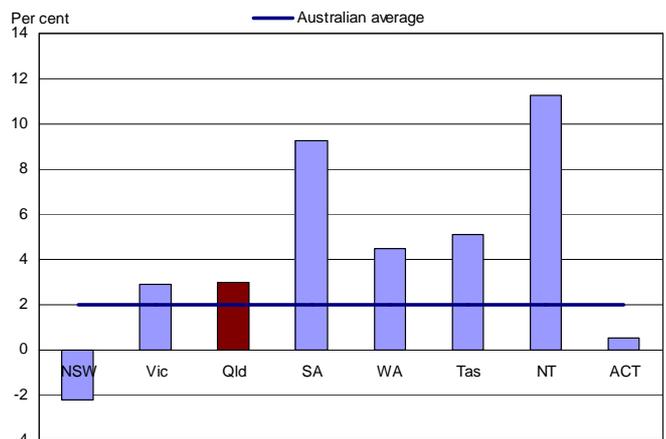


Figure 3: Monthly retail turnover contribution to growth by industry group, Australia, October 2008

