SHOPPING CENTRE
COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

RESEARCH NOTE

RETAIL TRADE ESTIMATE* INCREASED BY 1.3 PER CENT IN MARCH 2021 AND BY 2.2 PER CENT YEAR-ON-YEAR

Monday, May 10 2021 - The latest release (March 2021) of the monthly ABS Retail Trade data indicates that the overall month-on-month (m-o-m) estimate* increased by 1.3 per cent, up from a decrease of 0.8 per cent in February 2021. Retail Turnover increased by 2.2 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), down from 9.1 per cent in the prior corresponding period (pcp).

* The ABS has temporarily suspended the publication trend data due to volatility.

STATE OF PLAY

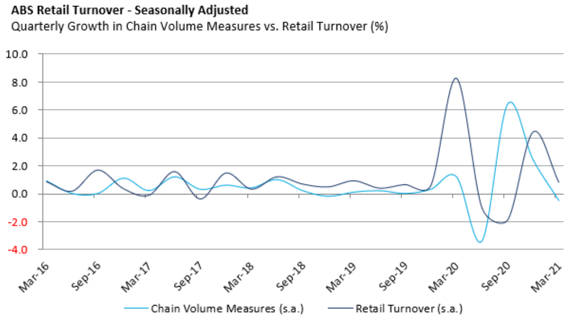
The adjacent table summarises the key data in **seasonally adjusted** terms across the six ABS retail categories. The strongest growth was recorded for 'Department stores' retailing on a m-o-m basis (9.8 per cent). 'Clothing, footwear and personal accessory' retailing recorded the strongest growth on a y-o-y basis (54.0 per cent). In **seasonally adjusted** terms, Retail Turnover increased by 1.3 per cent in the month of March, up from negative 0.8 per cent in February 2021. On a y-o-y basis, Retail Turnover increased by 2.2 per cent, down from 9.1 per cent in the pcp.

CATEGORIES	$ billion	m-o-m	last 3 months	y-o-y
Food retailing	$12.19	-0.9%	-3.0%	-14.5%
Household goods retailing	$5.55	-0.1%	0.6%	10.3%
Clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing	$2.51	5.4%	4.9%	54.0%
Department stores	$1.82	8.5%	9.8%	25.4%
Other retailing	$4.60	1.4%	2.1%	-0.6%
Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services	$4.03	4.8%	5.6%	33.0%
Retail Turnover	**$30.70**	**1.3%**	**0.8%**	**2.2%**

Source: ABS / SCCA Research *Seasonally Adjusted

TREND ANALYSIS: CHAIN VOLUME MEASURES

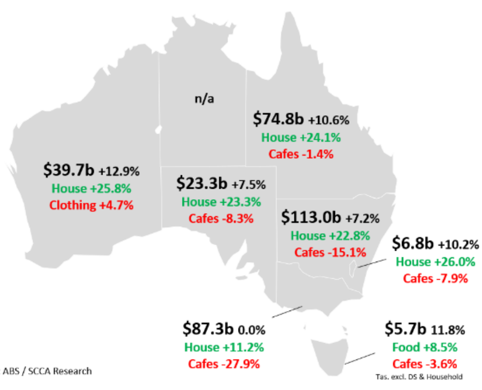
The quarterly chain volume measure estimates the change in value after the direct effects of price changes have been eliminated, reflecting changes in volume. In the quarter to March 2021, Chain Volume Measures decreased by 0.5 per cent, down from 2.4 per cent in the pcp. Retail Turnover increased by 0.8 per cent in the March 2021 quarter, down from 4.4 per cent in the pcp. Retail Turnover is tracking ahead of Chain Volume Measures indicating that pricing is the main driver of growth.



Source: ABS / SCCA Research

STATE BY STATE: BEST AND WORST

Retail turnover varies within the ABS defined six categories and across different jurisdictions. The adjacent map outlines and compares the total and growth of retail trade (y-o-y), and the best and worst retail growth categories. The strongest jurisdictions in **seasonally adjusted** terms were Western Australia (up 12.9 per cent to $39.7 billion) followed by Tasmania (up 11.8 per cent to $5.7 billion) and Queensland (up 10.6 per cent to $74.8 billion). Victoria (up 0.0 per cent to $87.3 billion) was the worst performing jurisdiction following months of severe restrictions on retail trade. 'Household goods' retailing was the strongest performing category across six jurisdictions. Discretionary spending categories remain the worst performing across most of the country, most notably 'Cafes, Restaurants & Takeaway Food' retailing which was negative across all jurisdictions with the exception of Western Australia, which was the first jurisdiction to record positive growth across all six categories for some time.



Source: ABS / SCCA Research