

# RESEARCH NOTE

**RETAIL TRADE ESTIMATE\* INCREASED BY 1.1 PER CENT IN APRIL 2021 AND BY 25.0 PER CENT YEAR-ON-YEAR**

**Thursday, June 3 2021** - The latest release (April 2021) of the monthly ABS Retail Trade data indicates that the overall month-on-month (m-o-m) estimate\* increased by 1.1 per cent, slightly down from 1.3 per cent in March 2021. Retail Turnover increased by 25.0 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), significantly up from 2.2 per cent in the prior corresponding period (pcp) noting the impact period of 'retail hibernation' during April 2020. \* 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 'Cafes, Restaurants & Takeaway Food' retailing on a m-o-m basis (2.3 per cent). 'Clothing, footwear and personal accessory' retailing recorded the strongest growth on a y-o-y basis (238.6 per cent). In **seasonally adjusted** terms, Retail Turnover increased by 1.1 per cent in the month of March, slightly down from 1.3 per cent in March 2021. On a y-o-y basis, Retail Turnover increased by 25.0 per cent, significantly up from 2.2 per cent in the pcp.

CATEGORIES	\$ billion	m-o-m	last 3 months	y-o-y
Food retailing	\$12.36	↑ 1.4%	↓ -2.6%	↑ 4.6%
Household goods retailing	\$5.63	↑ 1.5%	↑ 2.2%	↑ 11.1%
Clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing	\$2.54	↑ 1.2%	↑ 8.4%	↑ 238.6%
Department stores	\$1.70	↓ -6.7%	↑ 3.4%	↑ 38.0%
Other retailing	\$4.68	↑ 1.7%	↑ 2.7%	↑ 17.3%
Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services	\$4.13	↑ 2.3%	↑ 8.4%	↑ 110.6%
<b>Retail Turnover</b>	<b>\$31.03</b>	<b>↑ 1.1%</b>	<b>↑ 1.6%</b>	<b>↑ 25.0%</b>

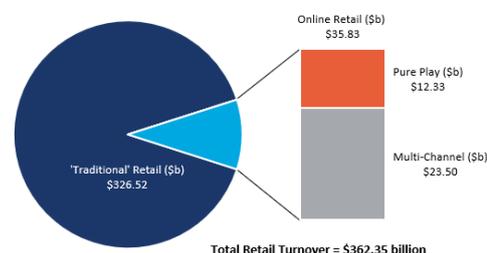
Source: ABS / SCCA Research

\*Seasonally Adjusted

## TREND ANALYSIS: ONLINE RETAIL TURNOVER

According to the 'experimental estimates of online retail turnover', online retail turnover decreased by 3.2 per cent on a m-o-m basis in April 2021, noting that this data is in original (non-seasonally adjusted) terms. It is worth noting that more than two-thirds of online retail is 'multi-channel' which would have most likely involved a physical store at some point during the purchasing process. In April 2021, Pure-play retailers made up 30.2% of online sales and just 2.8% of total sales. Online sales for multi-channel retailers made up 6.4% of total retail sales.

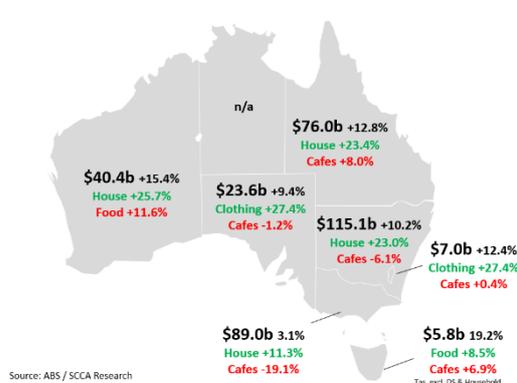
Australian Retail Turnover (original)  
Online Retail Sales as a Portion of Total Retail Turnover



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 15.4 per cent to \$40.4 billion) followed by Tasmania (up 14.6 per cent to \$5.8 billion) and Queensland (up 12.8 per cent to \$76.0 billion). Victoria (up 3.1 per cent to \$89.0 billion) was the worst performing jurisdiction following months of severe restrictions on retail trade. The highest growth across three jurisdictions was for 'discretionary' categories, specifically 'Clothing, footwear and personal accessory' retailing. Whilst 'Cafes, Restaurants & Takeaway Food' retailing remains the 'worst' performing category across seven jurisdictions, that growth has turned positive in Queensland, Tasmania and the ACT.



Source: ABS / SCCA Research