

# RESEARCH NOTE

**RETAIL TRADE ESTIMATE\* DECREASED BY 2.7 PER CENT IN JULY 2021 AND BY 3.1 PER CENT YEAR-ON-YEAR**

**Friday, September 3 2021** - The latest release (July 2021) of the monthly ABS Retail Trade data indicates that the overall month-on-month (m-o-m) estimate\* decreased by 2.7 per cent, down from -1.8 per cent in June 2021. Retail Turnover decreased by 3.1 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), down from 2.9 per cent in the prior corresponding period (pcp), with the impact of current recent lockdowns affecting short-term turnover growth and record spending throughout 2020 affecting longer-term comparisons. \* 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 'Food' retailing on a m-o-m basis (2.3 per cent). 'Other' retailing recorded the strongest growth on a y-o-y basis (2.4 per cent). In **seasonally adjusted** terms, Retail Turnover decreased by 2.7 per cent in the month of July. On a y-o-y basis, Retail Turnover increased by 3.1 per cent.

## TREND ANALYSIS: ONLINE RETAIL TURNOVER

According to the 'experimental estimates of online retail turnover', online retail turnover increased by 20.4 per cent on a m-o-m basis in July 2021, noting that this data is in original (non-seasonally adjusted) terms. By comparison, 'traditional retail turnover' (i.e. retail turnover less online) decreased by 3.4 per cent m-o-m. This is due to lockdowns and Government restrictions in two states, New South Wales and Victoria, driving sales online during the reference period.

## STATE BY STATE: BEST AND WORST

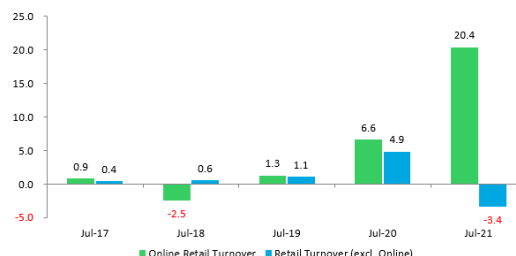
Retail turnover varies within the ABS defined six categories and across different jurisdictions. The adjacent map outlines and compares the total and growth of retail trade (y-o-y), and the best and worst retail growth categories. The strongest jurisdictions in **seasonally adjusted** terms were Tasmania (up 14.2 per cent to \$5.9 billion) followed by Western Australia (up 12.1 per cent to \$40.8 billion) and the ACT (up 11.4 per cent to \$7.1 billion). Victoria (up 3.4 per cent to \$89.9 billion) was the 'worst performing' jurisdiction, although still recording strong positive growth, following months of severe restrictions on retail trade. The highest growth across all jurisdictions, with the exception of Victoria, was for 'Clothing, footwear and personal accessory' retailing. Indeed, strong growth for clothing retail averaged 25.5 per cent across six jurisdictions. It is worth noting that just one jurisdiction (Victoria) recorded 'negative growth' for the worst performing category, whilst all others recorded positive growth across all six categories.

CATEGORIES	\$ billion	m-o-m	last 3 months	y-o-y
Food retailing	\$12.99	↑ 2.3%	↑ 5.1%	↑ 0.3%
Household goods retailing	\$5.37	↓ -2.2%	↓ -4.6%	↓ -10.0%
Clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing	\$1.94	↓ -15.4%	↓ -23.5%	↓ -12.4%
Department stores	\$1.39	↓ -11.4%	↓ -18.2%	↓ -14.3%
Other retailing	\$4.66	↑ 0.6%	↓ -0.4%	↑ 2.4%
Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services	\$3.43	↓ -12.3%	↓ -17.0%	↓ -0.0%
<b>Retail Turnover</b>	<b>\$29.78</b>	<b>↓ -2.7%</b>	<b>↓ -4.0%</b>	<b>↓ -3.1%</b>

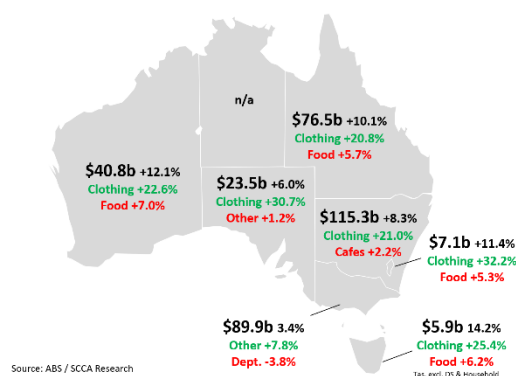
Source: ABS / SCCA Research

\*Seasonally Adjusted

ABS Retail Trade - Online vs. Traditional Retail  
Percentage Change Month-on-Month (Original) by Type



Source: ABS / SCCA Research



Source: ABS / SCCA Research

Tas. excl. DS & Household