

# RESEARCH NOTE

## RETAIL TRADE ESTIMATE\* INCREASED BY 1.3 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER 2021 AND BY 1.7 PER CENT YEAR-ON-YEAR

**Thursday, November 4 2021** - The latest release (September 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 -1.7 per cent in August 2021. Retail Turnover increased by 1.7 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), up from -0.7 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 'Clothing, footwear and personal accessory' retailing on a m-o-m basis (5.9 per cent). 'Other' retailing recorded the strongest growth on a y-o-y basis (12.1 per cent). In **seasonally adjusted** terms, Retail Turnover increased by 1.3 per cent in the month of August. On a y-o-y basis, Retail Turnover increased by 1.7 per cent.

### 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 September 2021, Chain Volume Measures decreased by 4.4 per cent, down from 0.7 per cent in the pcp. Retail Turnover decreased by 3.0 per cent in the September 2021 quarter, down from -0.4 per cent in the pcp. Retail Turnover are tracking slightly ahead of Chain Volume Measures indicating that pricing is the main driver of growth but also highlighting lower volumes during extended lockdowns in three jurisdictions during the period.

### STATE BY STATE: BEST AND WORST

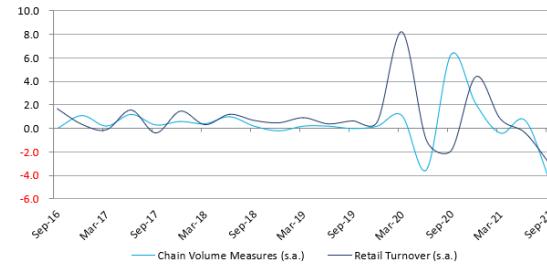
Retail turnover varies within the ABS defined six categories and across different jurisdictions. The adjacent map outlines and compares the total and growth of retail trade (y-o-y), and the best and worst retail growth categories. The strongest jurisdictions in **seasonally adjusted** terms were TAS (up 12.6 per cent to \$5.9b) followed by WA (up 10.2 per cent to \$41.1b) and QLD (up 8.1 per cent to \$76.8b). NSW (up 4.7 per cent to \$113.4 billion) was the 'worst performing' jurisdiction, although still recording strong growth, following months of severe restrictions on retail trade. The highest growth across all jurisdictions, except for NSW, was for 'Clothing, footwear and personal accessory' retailing. Indeed, strong growth for clothing retail averaged 21.3 per cent across six jurisdictions. It is worth noting that just two jurisdictions (NSW and the ACT) 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                                      | \$13.08        | ⬇️ -1.4%       | ⬆️ 3.0%         | ⬆️ 2.7%        |
| Household goods retailing                           | \$5.47         | ⬆️ 4.3%        | ⬇️ -0.4%        | ⬆️ 1.7%        |
| Clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing | \$1.74         | ⬆️ 5.9%        | ⬇️ -24.5%       | ⬇️ -11.4%      |
| Department stores                                   | \$1.24         | ⬇️ -0.3%       | ⬇️ -20.7%       | ⬇️ -16.9%      |
| Other retailing                                     | \$4.79         | ⬆️ 2.1%        | ⬆️ 3.5%         | ⬆️ 12.1%       |
| Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services       | \$3.35         | ⬆️ 5.0%        | ⬇️ -14.3%       | ⬆️ 0.9%        |
| <b>Retail Turnover</b>                              | <b>\$29.67</b> | <b>⬆️ 1.3%</b> | <b>⬇️ -3.0%</b> | <b>⬆️ 1.7%</b> |

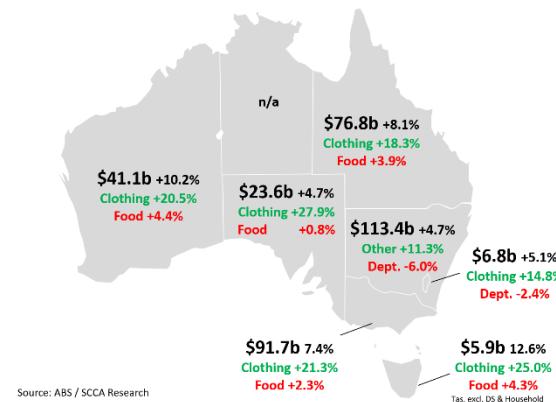
Source: ABS / SCCA Research

\*Seasonally Adjusted

ABS Retail Turnover - Seasonally Adjusted  
Quarterly Growth in Chain Volume Measures vs. Retail Turnover (%)



Source: ABS / SCCA Research



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