

# RESEARCH NOTE

**RETAIL TRADE ESTIMATE\* DECREASED BY 3.9 PER CENT IN DECEMBER 2022 AND INCREASED 7.5 PER CENT YEAR-ON-YEAR**

**Monday, February 6 2023** - The latest release (December 2022) of the monthly ABS Retail Trade data indicates that the overall month-on-month (m-o-m) estimate\* decreased by 3.9 per cent, down from an increase of 1.7 per cent following bumper spending in November 2022. Retail Turnover increased by 7.5 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), down from 7.7 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 'Food' retailing on a m-o-m basis (up 0.3 per cent), whilst on a y-o-y basis 'Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services' retailing was the strongest category (up 25.5 per cent). In **seasonally adjusted** terms, Retail Turnover decreased by 3.9 per cent in the month of December 2022. On a y-o-y basis, Retail Turnover increased by 7.5 per cent.

CATEGORIES	\$ billion	m-o-m	last 3 months	y-o-y
Food retailing	\$13.81	↑ 0.3%	↑ 1.3%	↑ 6.8%
Household goods retailing	\$5.77	↓ -7.8%	↓ -5.1%	↓ -1.2%
Clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing	\$2.77	↓ -13.1%	↓ -6.8%	↑ 7.4%
Department stores	\$1.72	↓ -14.3%	↓ -9.5%	↑ 11.1%
Other retailing	\$5.24	↓ -4.6%	↓ -3.0%	↑ 3.5%
Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services	\$5.15	↓ -0.0%	↑ 0.6%	↑ 25.5%
<b>Retail Turnover</b>	<b>\$34.47</b>	<b>↓ -3.9%</b>	<b>↓ -1.9%</b>	<b>↑ 7.5%</b>

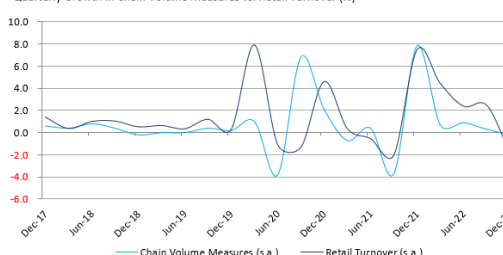
Source: ABS / SCCA Research

\*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 December 2022, Chain Volume Measures decreased by 0.2 per cent, down from (a revised) 0.3 per cent increase in the pcp. Retail Turnover decreased by 1.9 per cent in the December 2022 quarter, down from an increase of 2.5 per cent in the pcp. Retail Turnover has dropped below Chain Volume Measures for the first time in the last 12-months, indicating that volumes as well as pricing (i.e. inflation) is driving growth.

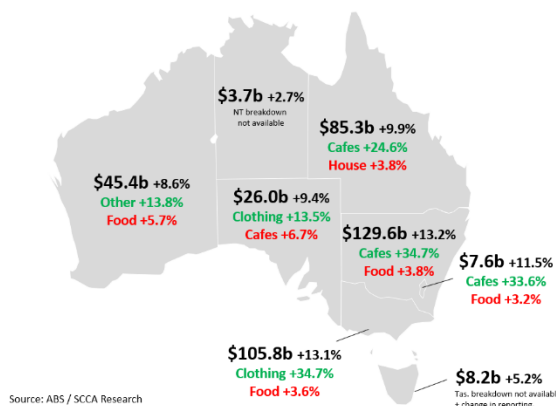
ABS Retail Turnover - Seasonally Adjusted  
Quarterly Growth in Chain Volume Measures vs. Retail Turnover (%)



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 New South Wales (up 13.2 per cent to \$129.6 billion) followed by Victoria (up 13.1 per cent to \$105.8 billion) and the ACT (up 11.5 per cent to \$7.6 billion). The NT (up 2.7 per cent to \$3.7 billion) was the worst performing jurisdiction in percentage terms. The highest growth across most jurisdictions was recorded for 'discretionary' categories, most notably 'Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food' retailing and 'Clothing, footwear & personal accessory' retailing.



Source: ABS / SCCA Research

NT, breakdown not available + change in reporting.