

# RESEARCH NOTE

**RETAIL TRADE ESTIMATE\* INCREASED BY 0.2 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY 2023 AND BY 6.4 PER CENT YEAR-ON-YEAR**

**Monday, April 3 2023** - The latest release (February 2023) of the monthly ABS Retail Trade data indicates that the overall month-on-month (m-o-m) estimate\* increased by 0.2 per cent, down from a (revised) increase of 1.8 per cent in January 2023. Retail Turnover increased by 6.4 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), down from 7.5 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 store' retailing on a m-o-m basis (up 1.0 per cent), whilst on a y-o-y basis 'Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services' retailing was the strongest category (up 17.1 per cent). In **seasonally adjusted** terms, Retail Turnover increased by 0.2 per cent in the month of February 2023. On a y-o-y basis, Retail Turnover increased by 6.4 per cent.

CATEGORIES	\$ billion	m-o-m	last 3 months	y-o-y
Food retailing	\$13.86	↑ 0.2%	↑ 0.8%	↑ 7.9%
Household goods retailing	\$5.82	↑ 0.0%	↓ -6.9%	↓ -2.3%
Clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing	\$2.98	↑ 0.6%	↓ -6.7%	↑ 6.2%
Department stores	\$1.89	↑ 1.0%	↓ -5.9%	↑ 7.7%
Other retailing	\$5.36	↓ -0.4%	↓ -2.4%	↑ 3.2%
Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services	\$5.24	↑ 0.5%	↑ 1.6%	↑ 17.1%
<b>Retail Turnover</b>	<b>\$35.14</b>	<b>↑ 0.2%</b>	<b>↓ -2.0%</b>	<b>↑ 6.4%</b>

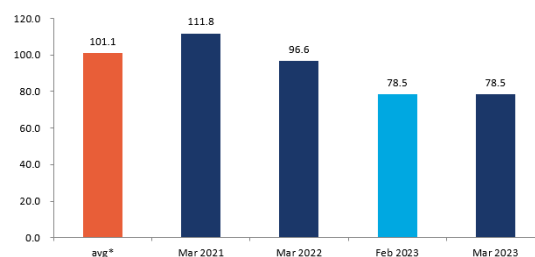
Source: ABS / SCCA Research

\*Seasonally Adjusted

## TREND ANALYSIS: CONSUMER SENTIMENT

According to the latest figures from the Westpac-Melbourne Institute Index of Consumer Confidence report, consumer sentiment was recorded at 78.5 for the second month in a row in March 2023, the 13th consecutive month of negative sentiment. Westpac commented that "This marks the second consecutive month of extremely weak consumer sentiment. Index reads below 80 are rare, back-to-back reads even rarer. Indeed, both the COVID shock and the Global Financial Crisis saw only one month of sentiment at these levels." However, It is worth noting that despite historically low consumer sentiment, retail spending throughout 2022 and into 2023 has remained at record levels.

Westpac-MI Consumer Sentiment as at March 2023

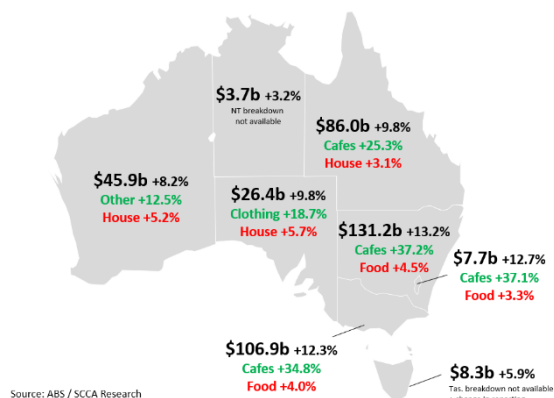


Source: Westpac-Melbourne Institute / SCCA Research

\*average over full history of the survey

## 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 \$131.2 billion) followed by the ACT (up 12.7 per cent to \$7.7 billion) and Victoria (up 12.3 per cent to \$106.9 billion). The NT (up 3.2 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

Tas. breakdown not available + change in reporting.