

# RESEARCH NOTE

**RETAIL TRADE TREND ESTIMATE INCREASED BY 0.5 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER 2023 AND BY 2.8 PER CENT YEAR-ON-YEAR**

**Tuesday, January 9 2024** - The latest release (November 2023) of the monthly ABS Retail Trade data indicates that the overall month-on-month (m-o-m) **trend** estimate increased by 0.5 per cent, equal to (a revised) 0.5 per cent in October and September 2023. In **trend** terms, Retail Turnover increased by 2.8 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), up from (a revised) 2.2 per cent in the pcp.

## 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 ‘Household goods’ retailing on a m-o-m basis (up 7.5 per cent), whilst ‘Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services’ retailing recorded the strongest growth on a y-o-y basis (4.4 per cent). In **seasonally adjusted** terms, Retail Turnover decreased by 2.0 per cent in the month of November 2023, up from (a revised – see note below) -0.4 per cent the prior month. On a y-o-y basis, Retail Turnover increased by 2.2 per cent, up from 1.2 per cent in the pcp.

CATEGORIES	\$ billion	m-o-m	last 3 months	y-o-y
Food retailing	\$14.26	↑ 0.4%	↑ 1.7%	↑ 2.9%
Household goods retailing	\$6.25	↑ 7.5%	↑ 8.8%	↑ 0.5%
Clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing	\$3.08	↑ 2.7%	↑ 2.0%	↓ -0.1%
Department stores	\$2.00	↑ 4.2%	↑ 5.6%	↑ 3.3%
Other retailing	\$5.51	↑ 1.1%	↑ 1.6%	↑ 1.3%
Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services	\$5.41	↑ 0.4%	↓ -0.4%	↑ 4.4%
<b>Retail Turnover</b>	<b>\$36.51</b>	<b>↑ 2.0%</b>	<b>↑ 2.7%</b>	<b>↑ 2.2%</b>

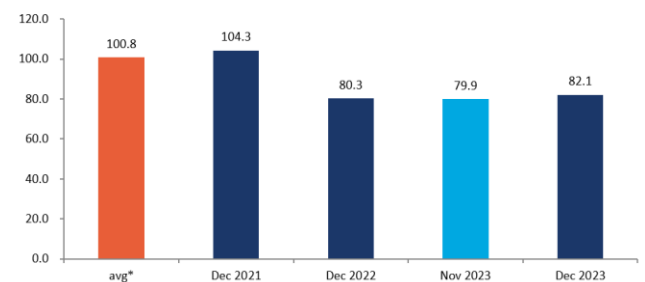
Source: ABS / SCCA Research

\*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 82.1 for December 2023, a slight increase from the previous month (up 2.2 percentage points from 79.9). Westpac commented that “The RBA’s decision to leave rates on hold at its final meeting of the year has eased concerns that further hikes are imminent. Other economic updates may also have allayed fears that a resilient economy would see domestically-driven price pressures continue – the weak September quarter national accounts report in particular.” Westpac also noted that “While ending on a slightly improved note, 2023 still marks the second worst calendar year for sentiment on records going back to 1974.”

Westpac-MI Consumer Sentiment as at December 2023

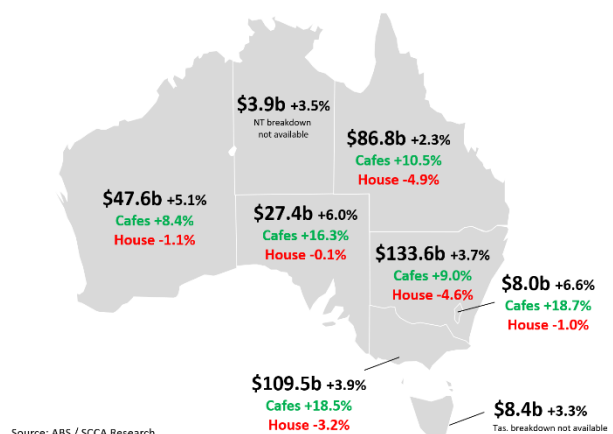


Source: Westpac-Melbourne Institute / SCCA Research

\*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 the ACT (up 6.6 per cent to \$8.0 billion) followed by South Australia (up 6.0 per cent to \$27.4 billion) and Western Australia (up 5.1 per cent to \$47.6 billion). Queensland (up 2.3 per cent to \$86.8 billion) was the worst performing jurisdiction in percentage terms. The highest growth across all jurisdictions was recorded for ‘Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food’ retailing, whilst the weakest category across all jurisdictions was ‘Household goods’ retailing.



Source: ABS / SCCA Research

Tas. breakdown not available + change in reporting.