

RETAIL TRADE, MARCH 2016

Summary

During the month of March 2016, retail turnover in current prices:

- rose by 0.2% in South Australia in seasonally adjusted terms (rose by 0.4% nationally);
- rose by 0.3% in South Australia in trend terms (rose by 0.2% nationally).

In addition to the monthly release of nominal retail turnover data, the ABS has this month also released chain volume retail turnover data for the March quarter 2016. Chain volume or 'real' data removes the effect of price movements, and therefore provides a measure of the volume of retail trade.

During the March quarter 2016, real retail turnover:

- rose by 1.0% in South Australia in seasonally adjusted terms (rose by 0.5% nationally);
- rose by 0.6% in South Australia in trend terms (rose 0.5% nationally).

Retail turnover in current prices incorporates both changes in prices and sales volumes. The base year for chain volume measures is 2013-14.

Further Analysis

Nominal retail turnover (monthly)

Seasonally adjusted

During March 2016, seasonally adjusted nominal retail turnover in South Australia rose 0.2%, following a rise of 0.4% in February.

Compared with a year earlier, retail turnover was 3.1% higher in South Australia and 3.6% higher nationally.

Trend

During March 2016, trend nominal retail turnover in South Australia rose 0.3%, following a rise of 0.3% in the previous month. Trend nominal retail turnover rose by 0.2% nationally during March.

South Australia recorded the strongest rise in the month (up 0.3%), followed by NSW, Victoria and Tasmania (all up 0.2%) and Queensland (up 0.1%). WA was flat in the month—see Table 1.

Compared with a year earlier, retail turnover was 3.3% higher in South Australia and 3.6% higher nationally.

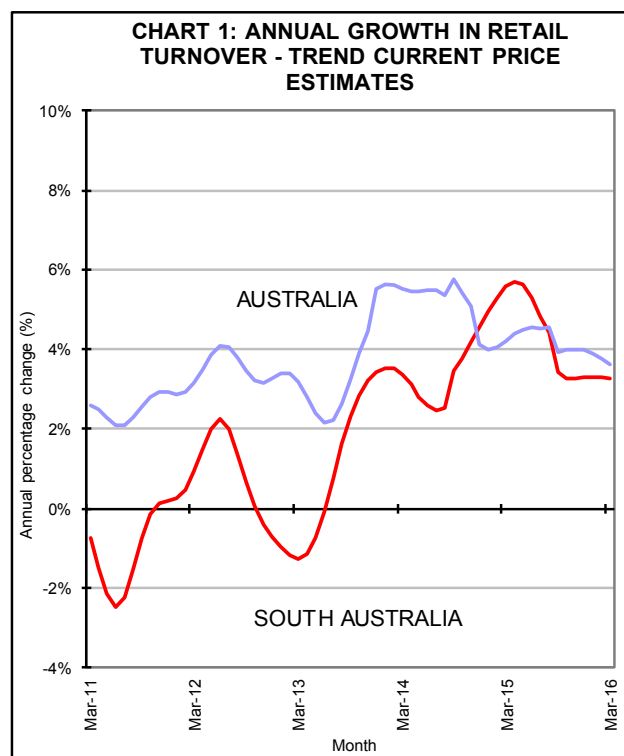


TABLE 1: Nominal Retail Turnover – Trend

	Mar 16	Mar 16 v Feb 16	Mar 16 v Mar 15
	(\$m)	(% change)	(% change)
NSW	8,006.4	0.2	4.7
VIC	6,275.9	0.2	5.1
QLD	5,010.6	0.1	1.6
SA	1,619.0	0.3	3.3
WA	2,806.0	0.0	0.8
TAS	493.1	0.2	4.2
AUS	24,930.9	0.2	3.6

Through the year to March 2016, increases in South Australian retail turnover were recorded for cafes, restaurants and take away food services (up 12%), 'other' retailing (up 5.3%), household goods retailing (up 3.5%),



department stores (up 2.3%) and food retailing (up 1.1%). Retail turnover for clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing declined in the year to March (down 0.5%).

Real retail turnover (quarterly)

Seasonally adjusted

The 1.0% rise in South Australian real retail turnover in the March quarter followed a rise of 0.7% in the previous quarter.

Compared with a year earlier, real retail turnover was 2.2% higher in South Australia and 2.4% higher nationally—see Chart 2.

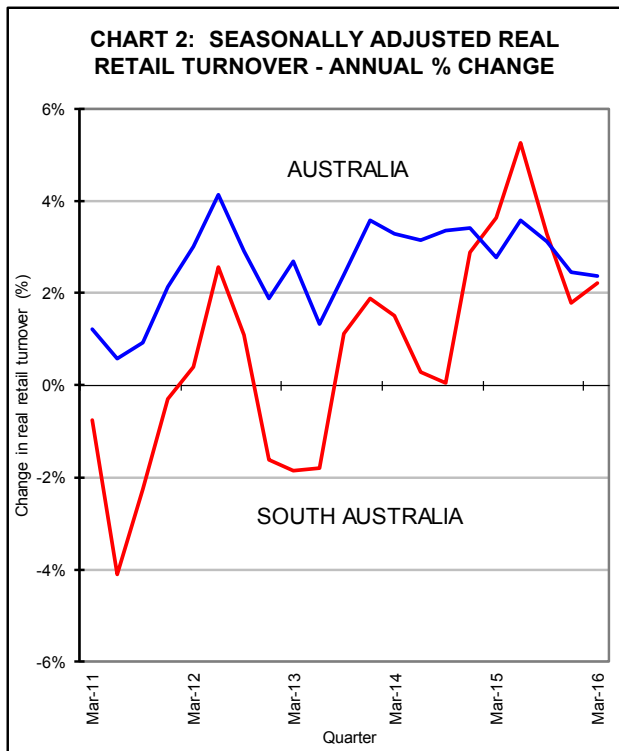


TABLE 2: Real Retail Turnover – Seasonally adjusted

	Mar qtr 16	Mar qtr 16 v Dec qtr 15	Mar qtr 16 v Mar qtr 15
	(\$m)	(% change)	(% change)
NSW	23,245	0.8	3.7
VIC	18,314	0.5	3.9
QLD	14,514	0.2	-0.1
SA	4,718	1.0	2.2
WA	8,136	-0.2	-0.7
TAS	1,438	1.0	3.2
AUS	72,452	0.5	2.4

Reference year for chain volume measures is 2013-14