








## Retail Sales Index and Food & Beverage Services Index

August 2021

### KEY INDICATORS OF RETAIL TRADE


		Year-on-Year	Month-on-Month (Seasonally adjusted)
	<b>TOTAL RETAIL SALES</b>	▼ - 2.8%	▼ - 0.6%
	<b>Excluding Motor Vehicles</b>	0.0%	▼ - 1.2%

		Sales Value	Online Sales Proportion
	<b>TOTAL RETAIL SALES</b>	\$3.4 Billion	14.1%
	<b>Excluding Motor Vehicles</b>	\$2.9 Billion	16.4%

ONLINE SALES PROPORTION (out of the total sales of the respective industry)	 Supermarkets & Hypermarkets	 Computer & Telecommunications Equipment	 Furniture & Household Equipment
	14.0%	56.5%	31.5%

### KEY INDICATORS OF FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVICES

		Year-on-Year	Month-on-Month (Seasonally adjusted)
	<b>TOTAL FOOD &amp; BEVERAGE SALES</b>	▼ - 6.7%	▼ - 2.1%

		Sales Value	Online Sales Proportion
	<b>TOTAL FOOD &amp; BEVERAGE SALES</b>	\$628 Million	38.8%

## OVERVIEW – RETAIL TRADE

Retail sales fell 2.8% in August 2021 on a year-on-year basis, a reversal from the 0.2% growth in July 2021. The decline in August 2021 was attributed mainly to lower motor vehicle sales (-17.5%) that corresponded with the lower COE quota this year. Excluding motor vehicles, retail sales was at a similar level as August 2020, compared to the 2.0% year-on-year increase in July 2021. Retail sales value in August 2021 remained below pre-COVID levels. On a seasonally adjusted basis, retail sales fell 0.6% in August 2021 over the previous month. Excluding motor vehicles, seasonally adjusted retail sales declined 1.2% compared to July 2021.

The estimated total retail sales value in August 2021 was \$3.4 billion. Of this, online retail sales made up an estimated 14.1%, compared to the 13.8% recorded in July 2021. Excluding motor vehicles, the total retail sales value was about \$2.9 billion, where online retail sales made up 16.4%. Online retail sales of the Computer & Telecommunications Equipment, Furniture & Household Equipment and Supermarkets & Hypermarkets industries made up 56.5%, 31.5% and 14.0% of the total sales of their respective industry.

### Year-on-Year Change (at Current Prices)

Within the retail sector, most industries recorded year-on-year declines in sales in August 2021. Sales of Motor Vehicles recorded a year-on-year decline of 17.5% in August 2021, due mainly to lower sales of new cars that corresponded with the lower COE quota this year. Sales of Optical Goods & Books and Department Stores fell 9.6% and 8.5% respectively.















Conversely, sales of Petrol Service Stations and Watches & Jewellery increased 23.7% and 7.9% respectively in August 2021 on a year-on-year basis, due mainly to higher petrol prices and greater demand for watches.

### Month-on-Month Change (at Current Prices, Seasonally Adjusted)

On a seasonally adjusted month-on-month basis, sales of Computer & Telecommunications Equipment and Supermarkets & Hypermarkets fell 9.1% and 5.1% respectively in August 2021, due mainly to lower demand for mobile phones and groceries.

On the contrary, the Watches & Jewellery, Furniture & Household Equipment and Optical Goods & Books industries recorded growths in sales of between 4.9% and 6.6% during this period.

## Change In Retail Sales By Industry

<b>Department Stores</b>  Year-on-Year <b>-8.5%</b> Month-on-Month <sup>1</sup> <b>+0.1%</b>	<b>Supermarkets &amp; Hypermarkets</b>  Year-on-Year <b>+4.6%</b> Month-on-Month <sup>1</sup> <b>-5.1%</b>	<b>Mini-marts &amp; Convenience Stores</b>  Year-on-Year <b>-5.8%</b> Month-on-Month <sup>1</sup> <b>-4.6%</b>
<b>Food &amp; Alcohol</b>  Year-on-Year <b>+2.3%</b> Month-on-Month <sup>1</sup> <b>-3.3%</b>	<b>Motor Vehicles</b>  Year-on-Year <b>-17.5%</b> Month-on-Month <sup>1</sup> <b>+3.6%</b>	<b>Petrol Service Stations</b>  Year-on-Year <b>+23.7%</b> Month-on-Month <sup>1</sup> <b>+1.5%</b>
<b>Cosmetics, Toiletries &amp; Medical Goods</b>  Year-on-Year <b>-5.1%</b> Month-on-Month <sup>1</sup> <b>-4.8%</b>	<b>Wearing Apparel &amp; Footwear</b>  Year-on-Year <b>-1.8%</b> Month-on-Month <sup>1</sup> <b>-0.1%</b>	<b>Furniture &amp; Household Equipment</b>  Year-on-Year <b>-5.9%</b> Month-on-Month <sup>1</sup> <b>+6.5%</b>
<b>Recreational Goods</b>  Year-on-Year <b>-5.8%</b> Month-on-Month <sup>1</sup> <b>+2.4%</b>	<b>Watches &amp; Jewellery</b>  Year-on-Year <b>+7.9%</b> Month-on-Month <sup>1</sup> <b>+6.6%</b>	<b>Computer &amp; Telecommunications Equipment</b>  Year-on-Year <b>+3.0%</b> Month-on-Month <sup>1</sup> <b>-9.1%</b>
<b>Optical Goods &amp; Books</b>  Year-on-Year <b>-9.6%</b> Month-on-Month <sup>1</sup> <b>+4.9%</b>	<b>Others</b>  Year-on-Year <b>-11.4%</b> Month-on-Month <sup>1</sup> <b>-2.0%</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Seasonally adjusted

## OVERVIEW – FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVICES

Sales of food & beverage services fell 6.7% in August 2021 on a year-on-year basis, compared to the 6.0% decline in July 2021. The year-on-year decline in August 2021 was due mainly to stricter dine-in restrictions<sup>2</sup> this year. Food & beverage sales value in August 2021 remained below pre-COVID levels. On a seasonally adjusted basis, sales of food & beverage services fell 2.1% in August 2021 over the previous month.

The total sales value of food & beverage services in August 2021 was estimated at \$628 million. Of this, online food & beverage sales made up an estimated 38.8%, lower than the 39.7% recorded in July 2021.

### Year-on-Year Change (at Current Prices)

Within the food & beverage services sector, turnover of Restaurants fell 24.5% in August 2021 on a year-on-year basis, due to stricter dine-in restrictions<sup>2</sup> in August 2021 compared to August 2020.




On the contrary, sales of Fast Food Outlets and Cafes, Food Courts & Other Eating Places increased 8.7% and 3.1% respectively during this period, due to higher demand for food deliveries.

### Month-on-Month Change (at Current Prices, Seasonally Adjusted)

On a seasonally adjusted month-on-month basis, sales of Fast Food Outlets, Food Caterers and Cafes, Food Courts & Other Eating Places fell between 2.5% and 4.7% in August 2021.

In comparison, turnover of Restaurants increased 0.4% during this period.

## Change In Food & Beverage Sales By Industry

Restaurants		Fast Food Outlets	
Year-on-Year		Month-on-Month <sup>1</sup>	
<b>-24.5%</b>		<b>+0.4%</b>	
Year-on-Year		Month-on-Month <sup>1</sup>	
<b>+0.1%</b>		<b>-3.0%</b>	
Year-on-Year		Month-on-Month <sup>1</sup>	
<b>+3.1%</b>		<b>-2.5%</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Seasonally adjusted

<sup>2</sup> In August 2021, dining-in was suspended until 9 August and allowed for groups of up to 5 fully vaccinated persons from 10 August. In August 2020, dining-in for groups of up to 5 was allowed for the whole month.

**Table 1 Percentage Change of Retail Sales Index (2017=100)**

Industry	Year-on-Year Change		Month-on-Month Change (Seasonally Adjusted)	
	at Current Prices		at Current Prices	
	Jul 21/ Jul 20	Aug 21/ Aug 20	Jul 21/ Jun 21	Aug 21/ Jul 21
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	2.0	0.0	2.9	-1.2
Department Stores	-8.0	-8.5	17.9	0.1
Supermarkets & Hypermarkets	3.8	4.6	-0.6	-5.1
Mini-marts & Convenience Stores	-4.0	-5.8	0.5	-4.6
Food & Alcohol	9.3	2.3	-4.5	-3.3
Motor Vehicles	-9.8	-17.5	-10.7	3.6
Petrol Service Stations	33.5	23.7	4.9	1.5
Cosmetics, Toiletries & Medical Goods	1.1	-5.1	6.7	-4.8
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	1.3	-1.8	14.5	-0.1
Furniture & Household Equipment	-3.8	-5.9	-1.9	6.5
Recreational Goods	-6.2	-5.8	1.0	2.4
Watches & Jewellery	10.5	7.9	5.8	6.6
Computer & Telecommunications Equipment	4.2	3.0	-1.1	-9.1
Optical Goods & Books	-9.6	-9.6	-4.8	4.9
Others	-8.0	-11.4	2.8	-2.0

**Table 2 Percentage Change of Food & Beverage Services Index (2017=100)**

Industry	Year-on-Year Change		Month-on-Month Change (Seasonally Adjusted)	
	at Current Prices		at Current Prices	
	Jul 21/ Jul 20	Aug 21/ Aug 20	Jul 21/ Jun 21	Aug 21/ Jul 21
<b>Total</b>	<b>-6.0</b>	<b>-6.7</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
Restaurants	-20.8	-24.5	35.4	0.4
Fast Food Outlets	18.5	8.7	1.2	-4.7
Food Caterers	-45.5	0.1	1.3	-3.0
Cafes, Food Courts & Other Eating Places	5.8	3.1	7.3	-2.5

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Introduction

The Retail Sales Index (RSI) and Food & Beverage Services Index (FSI) measure the short-term performance of the retail trade and food & beverage (F&B) services industries based on the sales records of retail trade and F&B services establishments respectively. Sales figure refers to the value of retail goods or food & beverages sold to consumers during the month, excluding taxes on products such as Goods and Services Tax (GST), Additional Registration Fee (ARF) and Certificates of Entitlement (COE).

The RSI and FSI are available at current prices and in volume terms. The indices at current prices measure the changes of sales values which can result from changes in both price and quantity, while the indices in volume terms measure the changes in the volume of economic activity by removing the price effect.

### Data Collection

Data used to compile the RSI and FSI are obtained primarily from the monthly surveys of retail trade and F&B services establishments. Retail trade establishments sell merchandise directly to the consumers, while F&B services establishments sell prepared food and drinks for consumption on premises or on a take-away basis.

### Index Compilation

To derive the RSI and FSI at detailed industry level, the monthly sales for that industry is divided by the average monthly sales for the same industry in the reference year. The overall RSI and FSI are then computed by combining the sales indices of the detailed industries, using weights which measure each industry's relative importance in the overall retail trade and F&B services industries respectively.

To derive the indices in chained volume terms, the sales indices at current prices at detailed industry level are first deflated by the appropriate price indices. These component indices are then weighted using previous years' weights to derive the overall indices in chained volume terms. The reference year of the indices is 2017.

### Online Retail and Food & Beverage Sales Proportions

The retail trade statistics covers:

- (a) (multi-channel) retailers in Singapore that sell via both physical stores and online/e-commerce sites;
- (b) retailers in Singapore that sell via physical stores only; and
- (c) retailers in Singapore that sell mainly via online/e-commerce sites.

The food & beverage services statistics covers all sales transactions of F&B establishments regardless of mode (including those transacted via food delivery platforms).

The proportion of online retail and F&B sales<sup>3</sup> out of the respective industry's total retail and F&B sales is estimated for the overall retail trade sector, selected retail industries and the overall food & beverage services sector.

### Seasonal Adjustment

Seasonal effects are observed in both the RSI and FSI as there are usually intra-year periodic variations that repeat during the fixed period of time every year. To better reflect the underlying trend of the monthly sales, both indices are seasonally adjusted to remove the seasonal effects.

---

<sup>3</sup> Online retail and F&B sales refers to the sales of goods where the order is received and the price and terms of sale are agreed upon via online means, e.g. through company's website, third-party websites, mobile applications, extranet or Electronic Data Interchange. Payment and delivery may or may not be made online.



More data are available on the SingStat Website at  
[www.singstat.gov.sg/find-data/search-by-theme/industry/services/latest-data](http://www.singstat.gov.sg/find-data/search-by-theme/industry/services/latest-data)

or through the QR code below.



Singapore Department of Statistics  
5 October 2021

For enquiries, please contact:  
Ms Kristina Chua T (+65) 6835 8947 E [Kristina\\_Chua@singstat.gov.sg](mailto:Kristina_Chua@singstat.gov.sg)  
Ms Michelle Yeo T (+65) 6332 6125 E [Michelle\\_Yeo@singstat.gov.sg](mailto:Michelle_Yeo@singstat.gov.sg)