

RETAIL TRADE, MARCH 2017

Summary

During the month of March 2017, retail turnover in current prices:

- rose by 0.3% in South Australia in trend terms (was unchanged nationally);
- fell by 0.1% in South Australia in seasonally adjusted terms (also fell by 0.1% 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 2017. 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 2017, real retail turnover:

- rose by 0.5% in South Australia in trend terms (rose 0.3% nationally);
- rose by 1.1% in South Australia in seasonally adjusted terms (rose by 0.1% nationally).

Retail turnover in current prices incorporates both changes in prices and sales volumes. The base year for chain volume measures is 2014-15.

Further Analysis

Nominal retail turnover (monthly)

Trend

During March 2017, trend nominal retail turnover in South Australia rose 0.3%, following a rise of 0.3% in the previous month. Trend nominal retail turnover was unchanged nationally during March.

South Australia recorded the strongest rise in the month (up 0.3%), followed by New South Wales and Victoria (both up 0.1%). Recording a decline in retail turnover in the month were Queensland (down 0.4%) and Western Australia and Tasmania (both down 0.1%)—see Table 1.

Compared with a year earlier, retail turnover was 3.6% higher in South Australia and 2.5% higher nationally.

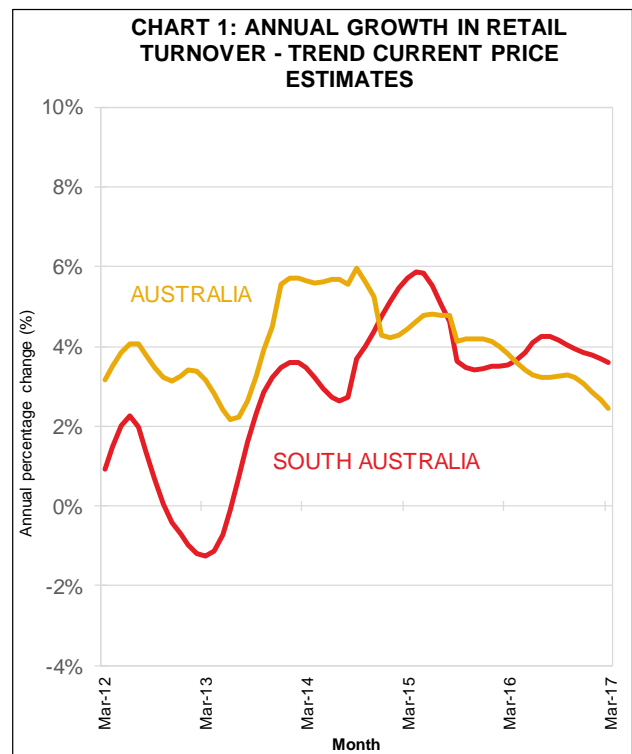


TABLE 1: Nominal Retail Turnover – Trend

	Mar 17 (\$m)	Mar 17 v Feb 17 (% change)	Mar 17 v Mar 16 (% change)
NSW	8,302.1	0.1	2.9
VIC	6,493.9	0.1	3.0
QLD	5,121.2	-0.4	2.0
SA	1,686.4	0.3	3.6
WA	2,834.2	-0.1	0.2
TAS	508.3	-0.1	2.2
AUS	25,679.5	0.0	2.5

Through the year to March 2017, increases in South Australian retail turnover were recorded for cafes, restaurants and take away food services (up 8.7%), 'other' retailing (up 4.5%), household goods retailing (up 4.0%) and food retailing (up 3.8%). Turnover for department stores (down 5.7%) and clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing (down 0.3%) declined in the year to March.

Real retail turnover (quarterly)

Trend

The 0.5% rise in South Australian real retail turnover in the March quarter followed a rise of 0.4% in the previous quarter.

Compared with a year earlier, real retail turnover was 2.1% higher in South Australia, and 1.4% higher nationally—see Chart 2.

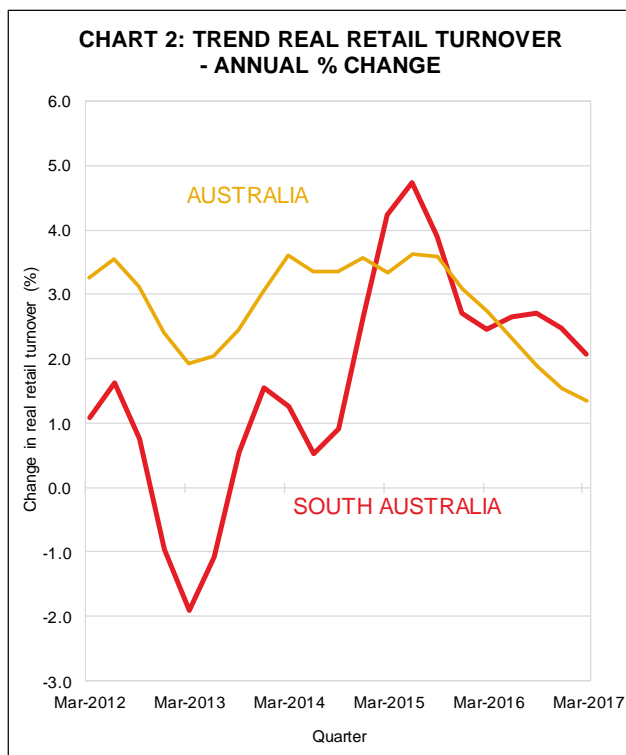


TABLE 2: Real Retail Turnover – Trend

	Mar qtr 17 (\$m)	Mar qtr 17 v Dec qtr 16 (% change)	Mar qtr 17 v Mar qtr 16 (% change)
NSW	24,152.5	0.4	1.5
VIC	18,988.9	0.6	1.6
QLD	15,053.6	0.2	1.7
SA	4,912.5	0.5	2.1
WA	8,289.7	-0.2	-0.8
TAS	1,488.4	0.1	1.3
AUS	75,028.1	0.3	1.4

Reference year for chain volume measures is 2014-15

9 May 2017

Next release of ABS cat. no. 8501.0 is 1 June 2017

