

RETAIL TRADE, MARCH 2018

Summary

During the month of March 2018, retail turnover in current prices:

- rose by 0.1% in South Australia in trend terms (rose by 0.3% nationally);
- rose by 0.2% in South Australia in seasonally adjusted terms (was unchanged 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 2018. 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 2018, real retail turnover:

- rose by 0.5% in South Australia in trend terms (rose 0.4% nationally);
- fell by 0.5% in South Australia in seasonally adjusted terms (rose by 0.2% nationally).

Retail turnover in current prices incorporates both changes in prices and sales volumes. The base year for chain volume measures is 2015-16.

Further Analysis

Nominal retail turnover (monthly)

Trend

During March 2018, trend nominal retail turnover in South Australia rose 0.1%, following a rise of 0.3% in the previous month. Trend nominal retail turnover rose 0.3% nationally during March.

Victoria recorded the strongest rise in the month (up 0.5%), followed by New South Wales (up 0.3%), and South Australia and Queensland (both up 0.1%). Western Australia and Tasmania were flat in the month—see Table 1.

Compared with a year earlier, retail turnover was 3.3% higher in South Australia and 2.6% higher nationally—see Chart 1.

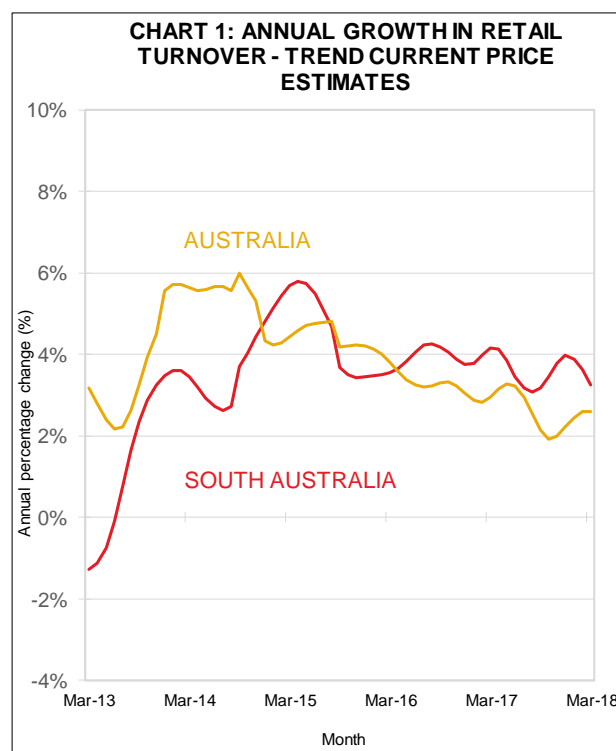


TABLE 1: Nominal Retail Turnover – Trend

	Mar 18 (\$m)	Mar 18 v Feb 18 (% change)	Mar 18 v Mar 17 (% change)
NSW	8,530.9	0.3	2.5
VIC	6,852.1	0.5	4.9
QLD	5,237.5	0.1	1.6
SA	1,749.5	0.1	3.3
WA	2,825.3	0.0	-0.5
TAS	523.4	0.0	2.1
AUS	26,462.9	0.3	2.6

Through the year to March 2018, increases in South Australian retail turnover were recorded for cafes, restaurants and take-away food services (up 8.7%), food retailing (up 3.9%), household goods retailing (up 2.9%), clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing (up 1.4%) and other retailing (up 0.2%). Turnover for department stores retailing declined in the year to March (down 2.1%).

Real retail turnover (quarterly)

Trend

The 0.5% rise in South Australian real retail turnover in the March quarter followed a rise of 0.6% in the previous quarter. Nationally, real retail turnover rose by 0.4% in the quarter.

Compared with a year earlier, real retail turnover was 3.1% higher in South Australia, and 2.1% higher nationally—see Chart 2 and Table 2.

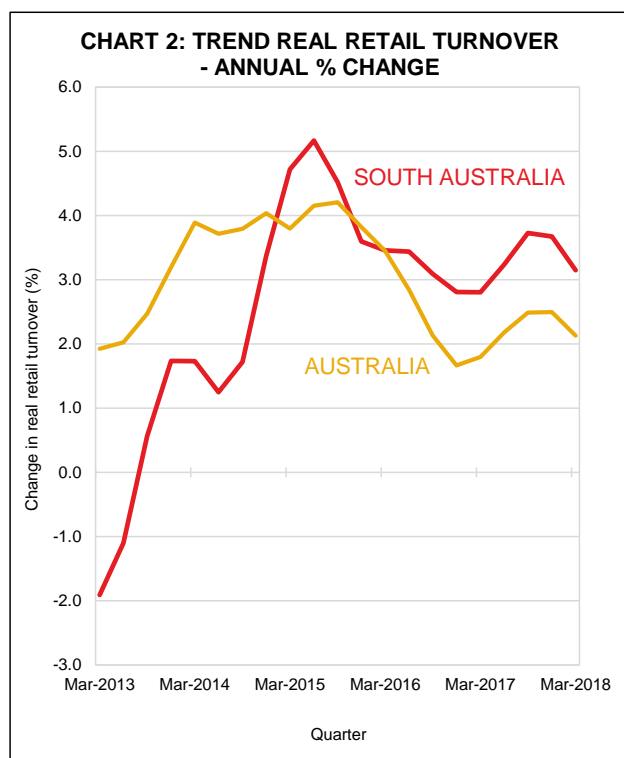


TABLE 2: Real Retail Turnover – trend

	Mar qtr 18 (\$m)	Mar qtr 18 v Dec qtr 17 (% change)	Mar qtr 18 v Mar qtr 17 (% change)
NSW	25,128.9	0.3	2.2
VIC	20,138.8	1.0	4.2
QLD	15,477.0	0.2	0.8
SA	5,170.9	0.5	3.1
WA	8,426.8	-0.4	-0.6
TAS	1,553.2	0.0	1.8
AUS	78,085.2	0.4	2.1

Reference year for chain volume measures is 2015-16

8 May 2018

Next release of ABS cat. no. 8501.0 is 4 June 2018

