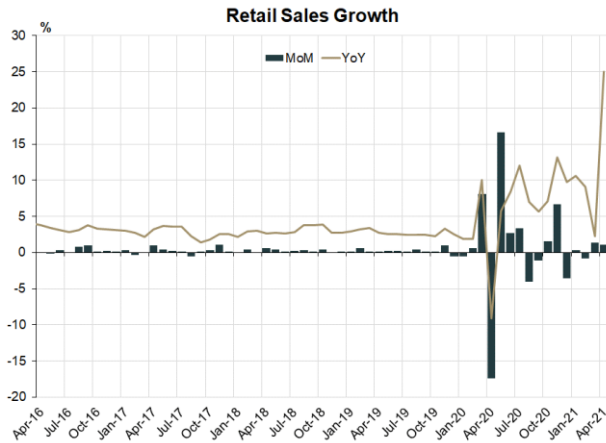


Economic Analysis

Seasonally adjusted retail trade rose by 1.1% in April, in line with the preliminary ABS estimate. Retail sales are up 25.0% through the year, reflecting depressed levels during the nationwide lockdown a year ago.

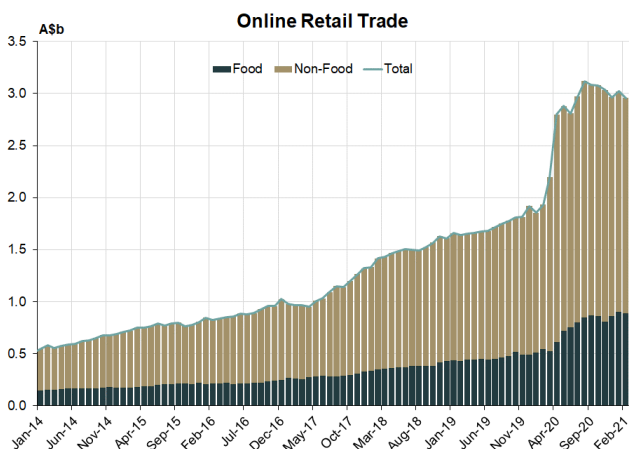


All sales categories recorded an increase with the exception of department stores, which saw a marked fall after a sharp increase in March.

Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services led the April retail sales growth, mainly thanks to a solid 4.4% gain in takeaway food. The 'other retailing' category saw the second strongest increase, reflecting primarily a 12.2% surge in newspaper and book retailing.

Seasonally Adjusted, %	MoM	YoY
Food	1.4	4.6
Household Goods	1.5	11.1
Clothing, Footwear and Personal Accessories	1.2	238.6
Cafes, Restaurants and Takeaway Food	2.3	110.6
Department Stores	-6.7	38.0
Other Retailing	1.7	17.3
Total	1.1	25.0

Online trade declined by 3.2% but was 4.0% up through the year and over 50% above pre-pandemic levels.



Disclaimer

Any opinions, judgments, conclusions, forecasts, predictions or estimations contained in this advice are made in reliance on information provided to Western Australian Treasury Corporation which Western Australian Treasury Corporation believes to be reliable. Western Australian Treasury Corporation, however, cannot guarantee the accuracy of that information. Thus, any recommendations are made in good faith but are provided only to assist you with any decisions which you make. These recommendations are not intended to be a substitute for professional advice on a particular matter. Before accepting or rejecting those recommendations you must discuss your particular needs and circumstances with Western Australian Treasury Corporation.

Retail Trade April 2021

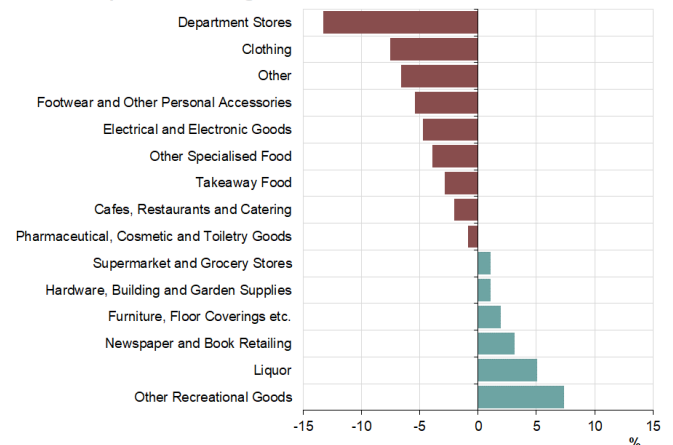
States

Retail trade turnover rose across all states, with a notable exception of Western Australia. The largest increases were in New South Wales and Victoria.

Seasonally Adjusted, %	MoM	YoY
Western Australia	-1.5	25.1
New South Wales	2.1	27.3
Victoria	1.6	28.1
Queensland	0.3	21.6
South Australia	0.9	16.6
Tasmania	0.4	24.5

The 1.5% fall in Western Australian retail reflected a three-day lockdown in Perth and Peel during the Anzac Day weekend. With a 13.3% drop, department stores led the contraction in turnover. Large declines were also recorded for clothing (-7.5%), footwear (-5.4%) as well as electrical and electronic goods (-4.7%). These declines were partly offset by significant gains in other recreational goods (sport equipment, entertainment media, toys and games; +7.4%) and liquor (+5.1%).

April 2021 Change in Western Australian Retail Trade



Comment

The April retail trade report pointed to further solid growth in household demand, though COVID-19 restrictions took a toll on the Western Australian figures.

The retail sales growth rate continued to normalise, following the post-COVID bounce. However, at 1.1%, it is still above the pre-COVID 10-year average of 0.3%.

The consensus is that household consumption growth is set to continue going forward, though the on-off nature of COVID-19 restrictions, most recently in Victoria, will still generate some short-term volatility. The major source of uncertainty, however, is to what extent households will be willing to draw further on the savings they accumulated throughout 2020.

3 JUNE 2021