



RETAIL SALES INDEX

April 2010

RETAIL SALES DROP BY NEARLY EIGHT PER CENT

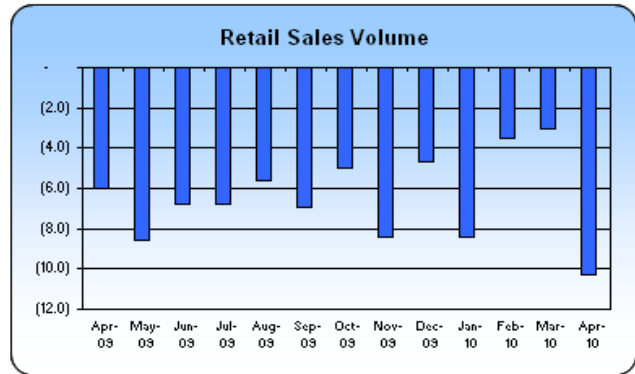
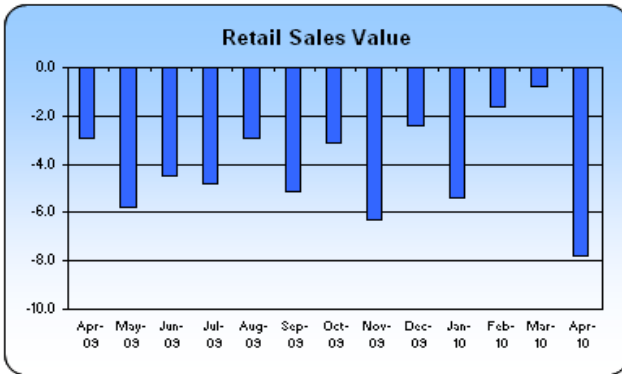
Consumers spent an estimated \$85.7 million on retail sales in April 2010. This level of spending dropped by nearly 8 per cent or \$7.1 million below the \$92.8 million in retail sales recorded in April 2009. Retail sales decreased in all sectors with the exception of service stations and the all other store types sector.

Residents returning to the Island from business and vacation trips declared overseas purchases of

goods valued at \$6.1 million during the month. This was slightly below the \$6.9 million declared in April 2009. Combined local and overseas spending totalled \$91.8 million for the month.

After adjusting for the annual retail sales rate of inflation, measured at 2.9 per cent in April, the volume of retail sales fell 10.3 per cent.

There were 25 shopping days during the month, one day less than a year ago because Good Friday was observed in April 2010.



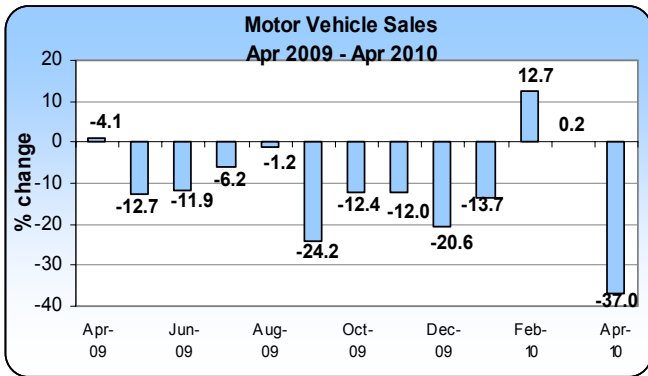
The RSI is currently based on a matched sample of reporting retail stores. The sales data are collected from these stores through a monthly mail survey. The Department of Statistics wishes to acknowledge the continuous support of the business community in supplying the required sales data.

SUMMARY STATISTICS

Period	Total Retail Sales Index*	Annual % Change in Retail Sales		Total Retail Sales Estimate (\$M)	Overseas Purchases Declared by Returning Residents		Combined Retail Sales (Local + Overseas)	
		Value	Volume		Value (\$M)	% Change	Value (\$M)	% Change
2009								
Apr ^R	103.8	-2.4	-5.5	92.8	6.9	+9.5	99.7	-1.6
May	100.1	-5.8	-8.6	89.6	7.3	+8.0	96.9	-4.8
Jun	106.5	-4.5	-6.8	95.4	5.0	-2.5	100.4	-4.4
Jul	111.9	-4.8	-6.8	100.2	5.0	-2.5	105.2	-4.7
Aug	104.5	-2.9	-5.6	93.5	8.1	-3.6	101.6	-2.9
Sep	97.1	-5.1	-6.9	86.9	6.2	+12.3	93.1	-4.1
Oct	102.4	-3.1	-5.0	91.7	5.1	-2.5	96.8	-3.1
Nov	97.0	-6.3	-8.4	86.8	7.7	-8.6	94.5	-6.4
Dec	122.9	-2.4	-4.7	110.0	7.9	+6.6	117.9	-1.8
2010								
Jan	87.2	-5.4	-8.4	78.0	5.0	-9.1	83.0	-5.7
Feb	84.3	-1.6	-3.5	75.5	3.8	-7.3	79.3	-1.9
Mar	99.9	-0.8	-3.0	89.4	4.6	+4.5	94.0	-0.5
Apr	95.7	-7.8	-10.3	85.7	6.1	-11.6	91.8	-8.0

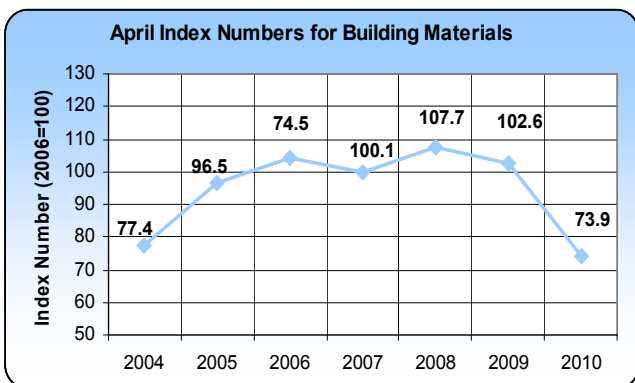
Motor Vehicle Stores

Motor vehicle sales plummeted 37 per cent during the month. Dealerships reported a decrease in demand for vehicles in April that led to the largest decline in sales in this sector to date.



Building Materials

Weak sales continued to plague the building materials and supplies sector in April 2010. Sales fell 28 per cent during the month due to a decline in building activity contracts across the construction industry.



Apparel Stores

Apparel store retailers reported a sales decline of 6.6 per cent during the month of April 2010. Sales at apparel stores have alternated between positive and negative growth since the start of 2010.

Food and Liquor stores

Gross receipts for food stores decreased by 4.4 per cent in April 2010 compared to the same month in 2009. This was a result of a decline in consumer spending as well as less shopping days for the month. Liquor store sales also declined by 4.1 per cent compared to April 2009.

Service Stations

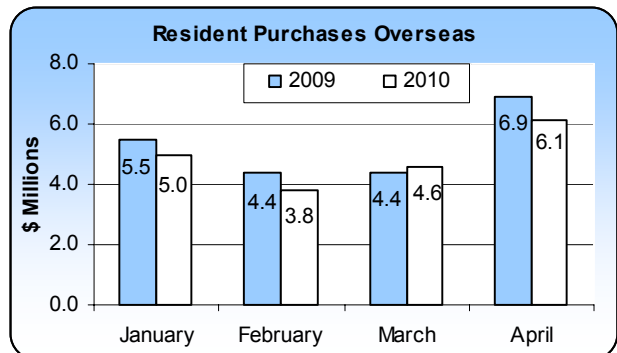
Sales at service stations rose by 14.8 per cent in April 2010. The increase in sales revenue was boosted by a 10 per cent rise in the price of fuel.

All Other Store Types

The all other store types sector reported an increase in sales revenue of 2.1 per cent. Retailers of marine supplies and tourist related stores reported the largest sales increases in this sector of 47.3 per cent and 29.9 per cent, respectively. In contrast, retailers of furniture saw a decrease of 13.1 per cent, while pharmaceutical stores reported no change in sales for the month.

Resident Purchases Overseas

Resident purchases overseas were 11.6 per cent lower in April 2010 when compared to the year prior.



BERMUDA RETAIL SALES INDEX

Average Monthly Sales (1) 2006=100

Period	Total Retail Stores		Food Stores (2)		Liquor Stores (3)		Motor Vehicle Stores		Service Stations		Building Material Stores		Apparel Stores		All Other Store Types	
	Index	Change	Index	Change	Index	Change	Index	Change	Index	Change	Index	Change	Index	Change	Index	Change
2005	96.2	+8.2	94.2	+10.0	96.6	+8.2	101.6	+22.0	89.5	+14.6	93.5	+12.6	109.9	-7.8	93.0	+6.5
2006	100.0	+4.0	100.0	+6.1	100.0	+3.6	100.0	-1.5	100.0	+11.7	100.0	+7.0	100.0	-9.0	100.0	+7.6
2007	104.3	+4.2	106.5	+6.5	104.4	+4.4	95.1	-5.1	106.0	+6.0	96.4	-3.6	109.3	+9.3	106.2	+6.1
2008	106.0	+1.6	114.9	+7.8	105.2	+0.8	90.7	-4.6	116.9	+10.3	93.0	-3.5	104.3	-4.6	106.8	+0.6
*2009	102.0	-3.8	120.2	+4.7	103.9	-1.3	80.8	-10.9	104.3	-10.8	86.2	-7.4	90.2	-13.6	101.1	-5.4
2008																
Mar	100.7	-1.6	107.9	+2.0	98.8	+6.1	96.7	-6.6	111.6	+10.7	95.0	-18.7	91.5	-3.8	98.0	+1.2
Apr	106.3	+9.1	111.5	+8.2	93.7	-3.9	99.3	+17.3	120.4	+10.5	107.7	+7.6	100.0	+7.8	103.1	+8.9
May	106.3	-2.4	117.1	+9.4	116.3	+5.8	85.1	-27.0	125.5	+9.2	100.8	+6.8	116.4	+1.1	108.5	-0.3
Jun	111.5	+1.4	114.4	+3.4	112.4	-4.3	92.3	+9.8	127.1	+12.7	99.1	-3.2	131.3	+2.1	109.6	-4.4
Jul	117.5	+3.7	128.4	+13.9	151.0	+6.7	104.8	-1.6	140.7	+15.4	90.6	-14.4	100.4	-8.2	120.4	+2.6
Aug	107.6	+3.2	119.3	+12.0	110.5	-1.8	85.7	-7.1	130.9	+22.3	93.7	-3.0	102.7	-3.4	105.7	-1.7
Sep	102.3	+0.2	110.0	+2.2	98.6	-0.3	94.3	+7.8	121.3	+10.6	94.9	+10.0	94.4	-10.0	99.1	-6.1
Oct	105.7	-0.5	121.6	+9.8	84.9	+1.0	94.0	-12.5	121.7	+8.9	92.7	-11.9	89.4	-9.0	103.0	-1.9
Nov	103.5	+0.4	113.8	+11.4	101.9	+1.6	76.0	-12.7	106.2	+3.7	94.8	-4.3	98.8	-12.0	108.2	-1.0
Dec	125.9	+0.2	129.8	+8.6	136.2	-4.3	85.5	+22.2	100.4	-2.6	69.2	-0.5	181.1	-15.6	142.6	-1.1
2009																
Jan	92.2	-1.6	113.0	+7.4	80.7	+6.5	82.1	-4.1	92.4	-8.0	70.6	-24.3	59.4	-21.7	95.4	+4.4
Feb	85.7	-5.8	105.2	+5.8	79.3	-4.3	71.9	-19.4	88.9	-8.3	75.2	-11.1	55.2	-21.3	85.5	-7.2
Mar	100.7	0.0	113.6	+5.2	83.9	-15.1	88.6	-8.4	100.2	-10.2	105.1	+10.6	72.7	-20.5	94.8	-3.2
Apr ^R	103.8	-2.4	121.0	+8.5	99.5	+6.2	100.3	+1.0	100.8	-16.3	102.6	-4.7	83.8	-16.2	95.3	-7.5
May	100.1	-5.8	121.2	+3.5	112.5	-3.3	74.3	-12.7	104.9	-16.4	92.2	-8.5	96.8	-16.8	101.2	-6.7
Jun	106.5	-4.5	121.5	+6.2	110.7	-1.5	81.3	-11.9	105.1	-17.4	90.6	-8.5	105.0	-20.0	107.0	-2.3
Jul	111.9	-4.8	136.4	+6.2	145.4	-3.7	98.3	-6.2	117.2	-16.7	91.9	+1.5	82.5	-17.8	106.0	-11.9
Aug	104.5	-2.9	123.6	+3.7	115.3	+4.4	84.7	-1.2	116.4	-11.1	92.7	-1.1	82.5	-19.7	101.6	-3.9
Sep	97.1	-5.1	116.2	+5.7	98.9	+0.3	71.5	-24.2	108.2	-10.8	90.9	-4.2	85.4	-9.6	90.7	-8.5
Oct	102.4	-3.1	124.7	+2.6	86.8	+2.3	82.3	-12.4	112.6	-7.5	81.8	-11.8	87.1	-2.6	99.6	-3.3
Nov	97.0	-6.3	113.5	-0.3	93.7	-8.0	66.9	-12.0	106.0	-0.2	82.4	-13.1	91.3	-7.6	97.1	-10.3
Dec	122.9	-2.4	133.9	+3.2	139.4	+2.3	67.9	-20.6	107.2	+6.8	57.9	-16.4	179.9	-0.6	136.6	-4.2
2010																
Jan	87.2	-5.4	112.0	-0.9	76.2	-5.7	70.8	-13.7	102.1	+10.5	63.6	-9.8	59.9	+0.7	83.7	-12.3
Feb	84.3	-1.6	107.5	+2.2	77.8	-1.9	81.0	+12.7	97.7	+9.9	61.4	-18.4	51.6	-6.5	78.9	-7.7
Mar	99.9	-0.8	120.0	+5.7	88.1	+5.0	88.8	+0.2	114.4	+14.2	75.2	-28.5	75.4	+3.6	90.8	-4.3
Apr	95.7	-7.8	115.7	-4.4	95.4	-4.1	63.3	-37.0	115.8	+14.8	73.9	-28.0	78.3	-6.6	97.3	+2.1

(1) Index numbers are subject to revisions

(2) Includes household supplies but excludes alcoholic beverages

(3) Does not include sales to bars, clubs, hotels and restaurants

* The yearly series reflect annual changes

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The **Retail Sales Index (RSI)** was first developed in 1982. It is a key economic indicator used to assess the current performance of sales activity in the retail sector of the economy.

The RSI is a self-weighting index. This means that stores reporting a large value of sales have a greater impact on the movement of the index than stores reporting a low level of sales activity.

The **RSI** serves to:

- 1) measure monthly and annual movements of retail sales
- 2) provide an estimated gross turnover of sales in the local retail sector
- 3) act as a barometer of change in the level of demand for both the domestic and tourist markets

The index is structured into seven broad sectors:

- Food Stores
- Liquor Stores
- Motor Vehicle Dealers
- Service Stations
- Building Materials
- Apparel Stores
- All Other Store Types

Total retail stores across the seven sectors represent roughly 70% of all retail activity on the Island. The base period 2006 recorded a gross turnover in retail sales of \$1.1 billion.

Retail outlets that participate in the retail sales survey and trade in similar types of goods are grouped into these seven sectors. It is important to note that sector classifications are not interchangeable with commodity classifications. This is because most retail outlets sell several kinds of commodities. The sector classification generally reflects the individual commodity or the commodity group, which is the primary source of the establishment's receipts, or some mixture of commodities, which characterizes the establishment's business.

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Retail Trade

Retail trade is the sector of the economy that includes establishments that are engaged in the sale of merchandise for personal or household consumption and in the rendering of services that are incidental to the sale of the merchandise.

Retail Establishment

A retail establishment is one that operates at a fixed place of business and is engaged in sales activities to attract the general public to buy merchandise.

Value Sales

The dollar value of a quantity of goods and services sold for cash or credit. Sales include the amounts received from customers for: immediate and layaway purchases; rentals; installations; maintenance; repairs and alterations.

Gross Sales

Gross sales are sales for which no deductions have been made for the return of merchandise, allowances and discounts.

Volume Sales

The dollar value of a quantity of goods and services sold at current retail market prices adjusted to eliminate the effect of price change.

Estimated Gross Turnover

Estimated gross turnover is the total value of retail sales generated in the retail sector. It is calculated by applying the all-items index number for the current month to the average monthly sales figure determined in the base year.

Base Period

This is the time period used as a reference point for measuring the shift in the value of retail sales. The base period for the Bermuda RSI is 2006.

Overseas Purchases

Overseas purchases reflect the value of goods declared by residents through HM Customs while travelling on vacation or business trips.

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The Cabinet Office
Department of Statistics
Cedar Park Centre,
48 Cedar Avenue, Hamilton HM 11
P.O. Box HM 3015
Hamilton HM MX, Bermuda
Tel: (441) 297-7761, Fax: (441) 295-8390
E-mail: statistics@gov.bm
Website: www.statistics.gov.bm