



RETAIL SALES INDEX

November 2011

RETAIL SALES FELL BY 2.7 PER CENT

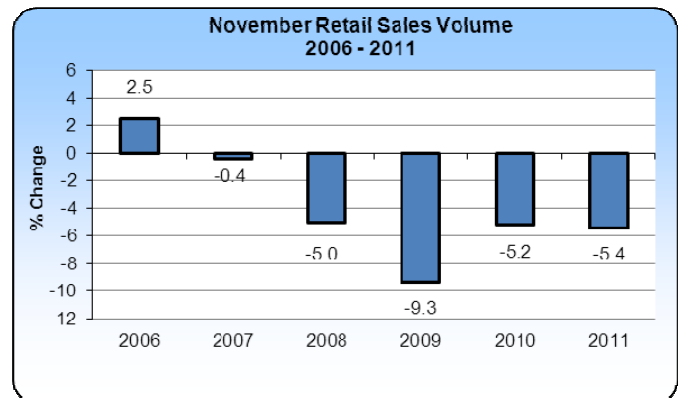
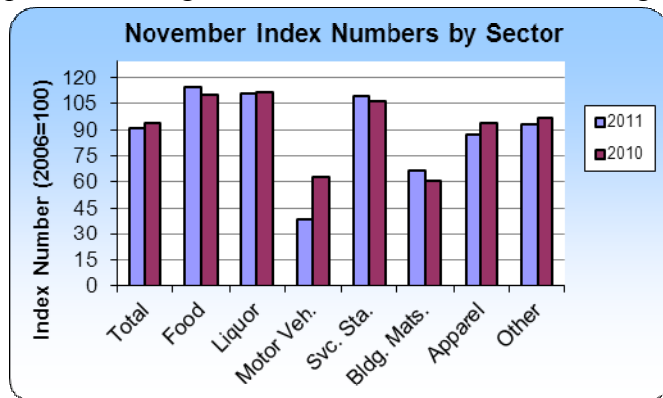
During November 2011, consumers spent an estimated \$81.5 million on goods and services in the retail sector. This represented a decrease of 2.7 per cent or \$2.3 million less than November 2010. Among the retail sectors, sales of building materials increased 10.0 per cent. Sales revenue for food stores and service stations were also up for the month. In contrast, motor vehicle dealers registered the largest decline in sales of 38.8 per cent.

Residents returning to the Island declared overseas purchases of goods valued at \$5.9 million during

November 2011. This was 25.3 per cent lower than the \$7.9 million declared in November 2010. Combined local and overseas spending totalled \$87.4 million.

After adjusting for the annual retail sales rate of inflation, measured at 4.5 per cent in November 2011, the volume of retail sales fell by 5.4 per cent.

There were 25 shopping days during the month, the same as in November 2010.



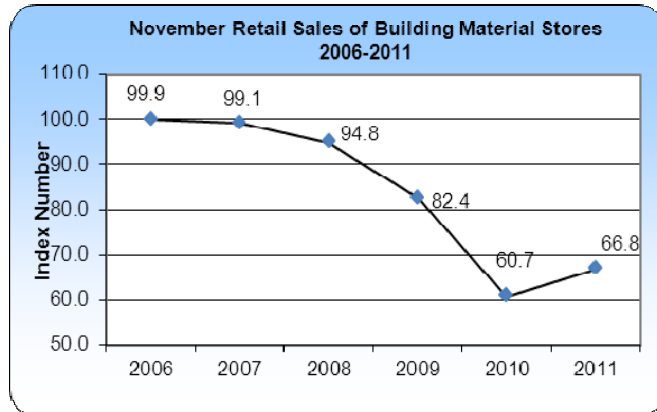
The RSI is currently based on a matched sample of reporting retail stores. The sales data are collected from these stores through a monthly mail survey. The Department of Statistics wishes to acknowledge the continuous support of the business community in supplying the required sales data.

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
2010								
Nov ^R	93.6	-2.6	-5.2	83.8	7.9	+2.6	91.7	-2.2
Dec	119.1	-3.2	-5.6	106.6	8.0	+1.3	114.6	-2.9
2011								
Jan	83.3	-5.9	-7.8	74.6	5.1	+2.0	79.7	-5.4
Feb	78.5	-5.8	-8.8	70.3	3.5	-7.9	73.8	-5.9
Mar	93.3	-5.5	-8.6	83.5	4.3	-6.5	87.8	-5.5
Apr	96.1	-0.9	-3.6	86.0	6.1	0.0	92.1	-0.9
May	92.2	-4.1	-7.9	82.5	6.3	-1.6	88.8	-4.0
Jun	101.3	-2.7	-6.3	90.6	4.9	-14.0	95.5	-3.3
Jul	100.4	-5.0	-8.5	90.0	5.3	-1.9	95.2	-4.8
Aug	94.8	0.0	-2.3	85.0	7.5	-3.8	92.3	-0.4
Sep	92.3	-0.1	-3.2	82.6	5.7	+5.6	88.3	+0.2
Oct	91.2	-3.0	-6.5	81.7	5.7	+1.8	87.4	-2.7
Nov	91.1	-2.7	-5.4	81.5	5.9	-25.3	87.4	-4.6

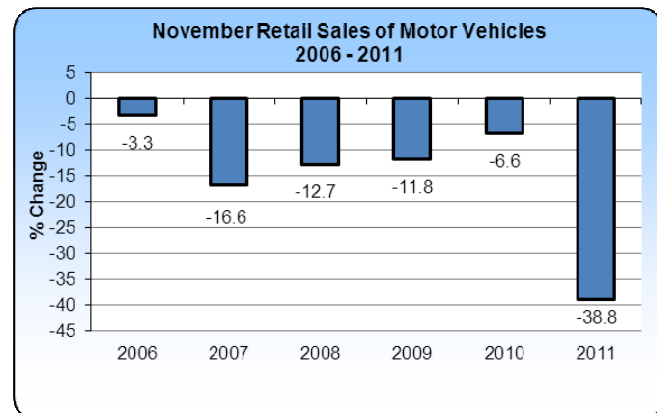
Building Material Stores

Retail sales of building material stores increased 10.0 per cent during November 2011. This increase was driven by demand for building supplies for both residential renovations and on-going commercial construction projects such as the redevelopment of the King Edward Memorial Hospital.



Motor Vehicle Stores

Gross receipts of motor vehicle retailers dropped 38.8 per cent. This decrease was linked to fewer units of motor vehicles that were purchased at comparatively lower prices when compared to last year. The volume of cars sold in November fell by 51.6 per cent while motorcycle sales declined by 7.7 per cent.



Food and Liquor Stores

Food store retailers experienced a 3.4 per cent gain in gross receipts year-over-year. Food sales were positively affected by an extra discount shopping day compared to last year. Liquor sales declined fractionally by 0.4 per cent when compared to November 2010.

Apparel Stores

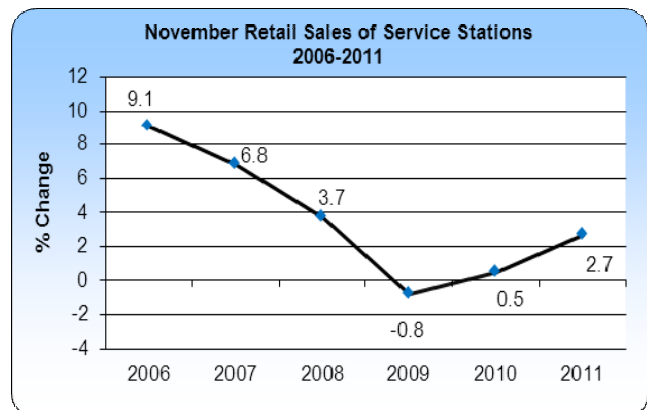
Sales revenue for clothing, accessories and jewellery dipped 7.1 per cent during the month. The traditional boost provided to November's apparel sales from consumer purchases of winter school uniforms had shifted, occurring instead during the month of October. As a result, aggregate sales for this sector were below the level reached in November 2010.

All Other Store Types

Sales within the all other store types sector slipped 3.3 per cent year-over-year. Sales of pharmaceuticals increased by 1.7 per cent. Gross receipts for boat and marine supply stores plummeted 24.1 per cent. Retailers of furniture, appliances and electronics, and tourist-related stores, recorded declines in their sales receipts of 6.5 per cent and 4.6 per cent, respectively.

Service Stations

Sales revenue within the service stations sector rose 2.7 per cent during the month. Retailers attributed this increase to the 11.0 per cent rise in the cost of gasoline.



Resident Purchases Overseas

Resident overseas purchases totaled \$5.9 million in November 2011. This represented an overall decline of \$2.0 million or 25.3 per cent year-over-year. Spending on clothing and footwear decreased by \$0.9 million. Expenditure on electronics and photographic equipment, and computer hardware contracted by \$0.2 million and \$0.1 million, respectively.

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	
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	102.1	-3.6	119.9	+4.4	112.7	+7.1	82.0	-9.6	106.0	-9.3	86.1	-7.4	89.7	-14.0	100.3	-6.1
*2010	97.3	-4.7	120.5	+0.5	115.6	+2.5	68.2	-16.9	111.5	+5.2	64.3	-25.3	87.6	-2.4	95.7	-4.6
2009																
Sep	98.2	-4.0	117.5	+6.9	119.2	+20.9	74.5	-21.0	108.4	-10.6	90.8	-4.3	85.4	-9.6	90.6	-8.6
Oct	102.5	-3.0	125.5	+3.2	104.5	+23.1	89.9	-4.4	110.0	-9.6	81.1	-12.5	87.1	-2.6	94.9	-7.9
Nov	96.1	-7.1	110.6	-2.8	112.8	+10.7	67.0	-11.8	105.4	-0.8	82.4	-13.1	91.3	-7.6	95.9	-11.4
Dec	123.0	-2.3	132.0	+1.7	167.5	+23.0	70.3	-17.8	106.6	+6.2	57.8	-16.4	180.0	-0.6	136.2	-4.5
2010																
Jan	88.5	-4.0	114.6	+1.4	93.0	+15.2	70.8	-13.7	102.0	+10.4	64.7	-8.4	60.2	+1.3	83.9	-12.1
Feb	83.3	-2.8	106.6	+1.3	94.5	+19.2	81.0	+12.7	97.7	+9.9	59.8	-20.5	51.6	-6.5	75.7	-11.5
Mar	98.7	-1.9	119.9	+5.6	107.2	+27.8	88.8	+0.2	114.5	+14.3	75.2	-28.4	63.7	-12.4	90.9	-4.2
Apr	97.0	-6.6	116.9	-3.4	115.7	+16.3	63.3	-36.9	115.8	+14.8	73.9	-28.0	83.1	-0.8	97.2	+2.0
May	96.2	-3.6	120.8	-0.4	97.9	-13.0	64.5	-13.2	119.5	+7.1	72.5	-21.5	96.4	+7.2	96.2	-4.9
Jun	104.0	-2.4	125.1	+2.9	113.0	+2.1	70.7	-8.2	118.8	+2.6	64.8	-28.5	107.2	+2.1	103.9	-2.5
Jul	105.7	-6.1	137.8	+1.0	150.2	+3.3	69.2	-33.0	117.8	+1.6	66.4	-27.8	81.7	-1.0	104.3	-1.7
Aug	94.8	-9.3	116.4	-4.3	120.9	-11.7	58.6	-30.9	115.5	-0.8	71.7	-22.6	82.9	-1.4	93.0	-8.4
Sep	92.4	-5.9	120.2	+2.3	121.8	+2.2	56.3	-24.4	109.8	+1.3	61.4	-32.4	74.1	-13.3	89.4	-1.4
Oct	94.1	-8.2	124.4	-0.9	98.9	-5.4	73.2	-18.6	112.0	+1.8	56.9	-29.8	76.2	-12.5	86.3	-9.1
Nov ^R	93.6	-2.6	110.2	-0.4	111.1	-1.5	62.6	-6.6	105.9	+0.5	60.7	-26.3	93.6	+2.5	96.4	+0.5
Dec	119.1	-3.2	132.8	+0.6	162.4	-3.0	59.2	-15.8	109.0	+2.3	43.7	-24.4	180.3	+0.2	131.2	-3.7
2011																
Jan	83.3	-5.9	112.1	-2.2	85.8	-7.7	57.2	-19.2	103.6	+1.6	55.9	-13.6	57.0	-5.3	78.6	-6.3
Feb	78.5	-5.8	104.8	-1.7	90.3	-4.4	59.3	-26.8	99.1	+1.4	51.0	-14.7	53.3	+3.3	72.5	-4.2
Mar	93.3	-5.5	115.3	-3.8	102.1	-4.8	69.9	-21.3	116.4	+1.7	64.1	-14.8	63.1	-0.9	89.1	-2.0
Apr	96.1	-0.9	124.7	+6.7	122.0	+5.4	51.6	-18.5	121.1	+4.6	67.1	-9.2	81.5	-1.9	91.4	-6.0
May	92.2	-4.1	115.2	-4.6	90.7	-7.4	63.1	-2.2	124.2	+3.9	66.7	-7.9	93.0	-3.5	91.2	-5.2
Jun	101.3	-2.7	123.0	-1.6	111.7	-1.2	53.1	-24.9	127.1	+7.0	64.5	-0.4	110.8	+3.3	100.5	-3.2
Jul	100.4	-5.0	135.2	-1.9	145.0	-3.4	38.3	-44.7	128.2	+8.8	66.7	+0.4	86.5	+5.8	97.4	-6.6
Aug	94.8	0.0	116.8	+0.4	122.8	+1.5	55.7	-4.9	123.6	+7.0	64.4	-10.2	85.0	+2.5	93.3	+0.3
Sep	92.3	-0.1	116.3	-3.2	116.6	-4.3	48.4	-14.1	116.9	+6.5	70.2	+14.4	83.8	+13.1	88.2	-1.3
Oct	91.2	-3.0	123.5	-0.7	96.0	-2.9	43.4	-40.6	112.7	+0.6	71.3	+25.3	78.7	+3.3	83.5	-3.2
Nov	91.1	-2.7	114.0	+3.4	110.7	-0.4	38.3	-38.8	108.8	+2.7	66.8	+10.0	86.9	-7.1	93.2	-3.3

(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