

COMMERCIAL NEWS

RETAIL SALES DOWN 0.7 PER CENT IN DECEMBER

The latest ABS retail trade figures show that sales in December fell 0.7 %, seasonally adjusted, compared with a rise of 1.5 % the previous month.

Sales fell across four retail industry groups:

- Department Stores (-3.5%),
- Clothing,
- Footwear & Personal Accessory Retailing (-1.9%),
- Food Retailing (-1.3%)
- Household Goods Retailing (-0.3%).

South Australia (-3.7%) recorded the largest fall in sales in December, followed by Tasmania (-2.0%) , Victoria (-1.0%), Queensland (-0.6%), the Northern Territory (-0.4%), the Australian Capital Territory (-0.4%) and Western Australia (-0.1%).

New South Wales was the only state to record growth in sales in December (0.1%).

Trend turnover for December 2009 rose by 0.3%.

In seasonally adjusted volume terms, retail turnover rose 1.1% in the December quarter 2009. This compares with a fall of 0.7% in the September quarter 2009.

In trend volume terms, retail turnover rose 1.3% for the December quarter 2009. This is the 5th consecutive quarter of positive trend volume growth.

Retailers generally blamed the Reserve Bank's December rate rise for the disappointing Christmas sales figures, and predict that while January may show a slight increase owing to post-Christmas sales, retail trade will continue to struggle in the short- to medium term.

AIRFREIGHT NUMBERS SURGE IN DECEMBER

Both imported and exported goods enjoyed a surge in December 09 with Sydney and Melbourne dominating.

In December the latest Maritrade figures show Australia exported 25,000 tonnes by air, above the trend line of 22,000 tonnes. By comparison Australia imported products totalling 35,000 tonnes – approx 2,000 tonnes above the trend line and 30% higher than the 27,000 tonnes imported in the previous year.

Exports fell in December from the same period last year. Nevertheless airfreight exports rose by 17% to 153,000 tonnes for the calendar year 2009.

Total imports for the calendar year were lower due to declines in machinery, appliances, clothing, cameras and instruments although there was a slight increase in perishables such as seafood, fruit and vegetables.

CONTAINER TRADE REBOUNDS

A positive rebound in trade volumes saw total trade through the Port of Melbourne in December 2009 increase 6.6% on the corresponding month the previous year.

The core container trade increased 4.4% overall, resulting in the Port of Melbourne handling an average of over 6,200 containers a day for December (194,184 TEU in total).

Full international container exports underpinned the boost in container volumes increasing 6.3% on the same period the previous year. Wheat (up 73%), wine (up 54%), pulp and wastepaper (up 25%) all contributed to the strong export performance, which has seen full international container exports maintain an upward trend increasing 4.6% for the financial year to date.

Full international container imports rose 12.5% over the previous December, boosted by insulation material (up 244%), rubber manufactures (up 36%), furniture (up 28%) and clothing (up 21%). Mirroring exports, full international container imports are down 4.6% for the financial year to date.

In a further encouraging sign, new motor vehicle trade posted its third consecutive month of growth increasing 33.8% on December 2008 to be down just 7.4% for the year to date. Imports of new passenger vehicles were the single biggest contributor to the December result increasing 61.2% while transport equipment imports also rose 17.4%.

Commenting on the trade results, PoMC chief executive officer, Stephen Bradford, said,

“We are always cautious about drawing conclusions on trends from one month's trade results but the signs are very encouraging.

“This positive trade figure provides an important point of comparison given that the impact of the global financial crisis started to have an influence on port trade in December 2008.

“There were some horror stories about declining trade volumes earlier in 2009 in some international container ports so December's trade figures, consistent with November, are a welcome result which we hope will be sustained.”

PACTRAK: TRACK YOUR SHIPMENT

Pacific Network's E-Tracking technology provides improved visibility of stock at any stage within the supply chain. PACTRAK is a web based system which can be adapted and integrated across various business units. It allows access to shipment information enabling greater control of product moving through the supply chain.

PACTRAK integrates directly with your Enterprise Management System (EMS) updating your EMS with vital shipment information enabling instant access to live order status.

Pacific Network's specialised tracking system provides:

- ◆ Customised and Flexible Performance Reporting - On time delivery, transit time reviews, exception reporting
- ◆ Freight Management Reports
- ◆ Management of commercial documentation
- ◆ Customised Tracking options
- ◆ Purchase Order Management - Full or part item level tracking (down to Style, SKU/EANS)

WAREHOUSE SPACE AVAILABLE

STORAGE SPACE AVAILABLE

Our Dandenong Warehouse has 10,000 square metres available for your storage needs.

Services offered include:

- scan picking and packing
- storage
- stock management
- return logistics
- transportation management
- project management
- electronic messaging
- re-ticketing and other value added services

To find out more about our warehouse and our end to end supply chain solutions, please contact Damien Carlslake in our Melbourne office on (03) 9933 1300.

STAFF MILESTONES

MELBOURNE

Kaye Di Cocco 6 years
Kim Nguyen 6years
David Simpson 4 years
Alex Paton 8 years
Belinda Soklevska 4 years
Michael Viscione 4 years

BRISBANE

Nicole Kibblewhite 6 years

SYDNEY

Harold Kaindl 12 years

ADELAIDE

Michael Paine 6 years

WORLD HOLIDAYS

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

April 2-5 Easter
April 25 Anzac Day
April 26 Anzac Day Holiday

ITALY

April 5 Easter Monday

HONG KONG

April 2-5
April 5

CHINA

April 5

UK

Easter March 14 St Patrick's Day
Ching Ming Festival April 2-5 Easter

USA & CANADA

Ching Ming Festival April 2-5 Easter