



RETAIL INDUSTRY AUSTRALIA 1991-92

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INTRODUCTION

The Retail Activity Survey collected structural (income, expenses, etc) and commodity data from a sample of retail businesses operating in 1991-92. The Retail Activity Survey was an important and integral component of the 1991-92 Retail and Services collection program.

This publication presents estimates covering Australian level structural data. State structural data estimates will be contained in a later release Retail Industry 1991-92, State and Territory Summary (Catalogue No. 8625.0).

The commodity data component of the Retail Activity Survey will be presented in Retail Industry, Australia - Commodity Sales (Catalogue No. 8624.0), which is the next scheduled release from the 1991-92 Retail Census. Both Australia and State level commodity details will be included in this publication.

For the Retail Activity Survey the unit from which data was collected was the management unit. In nearly all cases the management unit coincides with the legal entity owning the business. For a small number of large businesses the management unit coincides with a "division" or "line of business".

The population for the survey was all management units on the ABS Register of Businesses coded to Division G (Retail Trade) of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC).

The Retail Activity Survey differs in scope and coverage to the Retail and Services Census, the results of which have recently been released in the series of publications 'Retailing in Australia/States' (Catalogue No's 8613.0 and 8623.1-8). This means that estimates from both collections will not necessarily agree. The most significant differences are:

- the population for the Retail and Services Census included those businesses that do not employ staff, whereas the Retail Activity Survey covered only employing businesses; and
- the Retail Activity Survey was a survey of management units, whereas the Retail and Services Census collected data from all shopfront locations. A management unit may comprise several locations which are involved in different industries. However, it would only be included in the Retail Activity Survey if the predominant activity of the management unit is Retail Trade. For example, where a particular management unit includes some retail locations but its predominant activity is in Wholesale trade, the data for the retail locations were included in estimates from the Retail and Services Census but were excluded from the Retail Activity Survey.

The Explanatory Notes section on Page 12 of this publication provides a more detailed explanation of the points raised above.

SECTION 1: THE RETAIL INDUSTRY — AN OVERVIEW

During 1991-92 there were close to 83,600 retail businesses (management units) operating across Australia. The 1991-92 Retail Activity Survey also showed that these businesses generated turnover of some \$114.3 billion.

Other features of the Retail Industry in Australia include:

- At 30 June 1992 the Retail Industry was employing more than 831,000 people.
- During 1991-92 the industry generated a trading profit of almost \$32 billion. This represented an operating profit before tax of \$2.7 billion, giving a 2.4 per cent profit margin.
- The net worth of the Australian retail industry was measured at \$9.3 billion with total assets of \$39.3 billion and total liabilities of \$30.0 billion.

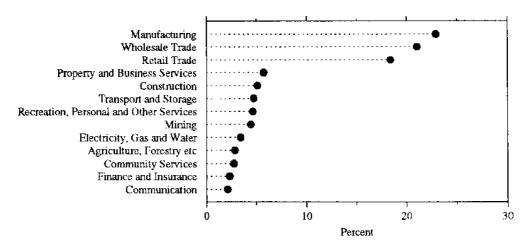
An industry dominated by small business

In terms of number of businesses, the Retail industry is dominated by small business with 96 per cent of businesses employing less than 20 people. Small business, with almost \$50 billion in turnover, also accounted for a significant portion (44 per cent) of the industry's turnover during 1991-92.

The Retail Industry and the Australian Economy

In terms of Sales of goods and services, the Retail Industry is the third largest of Australia's industries behind Manufacturing and Wholesale.

CHART 1. CONTRIBUTION TO SALES OF GOODS AND SERVICES BY INDUSTRY SECTOR, AUSTRALIA, 1991-92



Source: Business Operations and Industry Performance Australia (ABS Catalogue No 8140.0).

Comparison to the Location Census

By comparison, results from the Retail and Services Location Census (released in ABS Catalogue No's 8623.1-8) indicate that there were about 171,000 retail locations operating in Australia at 30 June 1992. These locations were employing about 1,060,000 people and during 1991-92 recorded turnover of \$131 billion. The difference between the two measures is mainly accounted for by the inclusion in the Retail and Services Location Census of those businesses which do not employ staff as well as those Retail locations which are part of a business which is mainly engaged in an industry other than Retail.

SECTION 2: INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The scope of the Retail Activity Survey was the Retail Industry (Division G) as defined in the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industry Classification (ANZSIC). Under ANZSIC the Retail Industry is divided into 10 industry Groups, with each Group consisting of one or more industry Class. The Groups included were:

Supermarket and Grocery Stores	- ANZSIC Group 511
Specialised Food Retailing	- ANZSIC Group 512
Department Stores	- ANZSIC Group 521
Clothing and Soft Good Retailing	- ANZSIC Group 522
Furniture, Houseware and Appliance Retailing	- ANZSIC Group 523
Recreational Good Retailing	- ANZSIC Group 524
Other Personal and Household Good Retailing	- ANZSIC Group 525
Household Equipment Repair Services	- ANZSIC Group 526
Motor Vehicle Retailing	- ANZSIC Group 531
Motor Vehicle Services	- ANZSIC Group 532

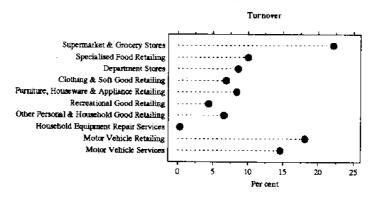
Supermarkets and Grocery Stores had the Largest Turnover

Supermarkets and Grocery Stores were the largest of the industry groups recording turnover of \$25.3 billion during 1991-92, which represented 22 per cent of total Retail Industry turnover. At 30 June 1992, there were an estimated 172,482 people employed in Supermarkets and Grocery Stores or 21 per cent of total retail employment.

The Motor Vehicle Retailing and Services sector (ANZSIC Groups 531 and 532) were also significant contributors to Retail Industry turnover with Motor Vehicle Retailing recording 18 per cent of the total with \$20.7 billion and Motor Vehicle Services generating \$16.7 billion or about 15 per cent of the industry's total turnover.

In terms of number of businesses, the Specialised Food Retailing Group (dominated by the Takeaway Food Retailing Class) was largest with about 19,800 units recorded. This group was closely followed by the Motor Vehicle Services Group with about 19,300 units recorded:

CHART 2. RETAIL INDUSTRY: DISTRIBUTION OF TURNOVER BY ANZSIC GROUP, AUSTRALIA, 1991-92



Assets and Liabilities

Assets exceeded liabilities in all industry groups. Department Stores had assets worth almost \$7 billion which was the highest value estimated for any group.

The net worth of the Retail industry was \$9.3 billion. The highest net worth was recorded in the Other Personal and Household Good Retailing group, while at the other end of the scale were the Motor Vehicle Retailing group with \$0.3 billion and the Household Equipment Repair Services group with \$28 million.

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS BY ANZSIC CLASS, AUSTRALIA, 1991-92

		Manage- ment units	Persons employed	Wages and salaries	Turnover	Cost of goods sold	Industry gross product	Total assets	Total liabilities
ANZS. Çode	IC Description	No.	No.	Sm		\$m	5m	\$m	\$m
5110	Supermarkets and grocery stores	5,602	172,482	2,362	25,280	19,941	3,283	5,517	4,338
5121	Fresh meat, fish and poultry retailing	3,936	19,642	292	2,121	1,400	451	560	407
5122	Fruit & vegetable retailing	1,712	10,283	138	1,489	1,092	223	368	270
5123	Liquor retailing	939	7,431	125	1,928	1,477	220	836	659
5124	Bread & cake retailing	2,402	15,620	189	747	298	295	304	237
5125 —	Takeaway food retailing Milk vending and Specialised food	8,923	91,398	709	3,971	1,871	1,068	2,557	1,919
512	retailing n.e.c. (a) Specialised Food Retailing	1,883 1 9,795	10,367 154,74 1	123 1,577	1,279 11,536	943 7,083	197 2,454	337 4,961	*237 3,729
5210	Department stores	14	93,538	1,473	9,830	6,416	1,930	6,957	5,762
5221	Clothing retailing	5,257	53,196	804	5,731	3,474	1,076	2,645	1,854
5222	Footwear retailing	886	11,797	176	1,121	690	210	571	415
5223	Fabrics and other soft good retailing	1,599	10,692	154	988	591	212	493	336
522	Clothing and soft good retailing	7,742	75,685	1,133	7,839	4,755	1,498	3,708	2,605
5231	Furniture retailing	1,328	8,929	191	1,776	1,182	249	827	605
5232	Floor covering retailing	787	4,168	90	871	579	130	306	240
5233	Domestic hardware and houseware								
	retailing	2,644	18,908	326	2,351	1,552	413	1,058	742
5234	Domestic appliance retailing	1,677	17,378	391	4,200	3,132	529	1,331	967
5235	Recorded music retailing	281	2,131	. 39	353	239	47	125	90
523	Furniture, houseware and appliance retailing	6,718	51,513	1,037	9,552	6,684	1,368	3,646	2,643
5241	Sport & camping equipment retailing	1,755	7,615	120	1,024	677	189	447	305
5242	Toy & game retailing	477	2,186	31	298	195	46	143	106
5243	Newspaper, book and stationery		0,7 00		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		***		.00
	retailing	3,771	26,644	319	3,202	2,207	575	1,649	1,107
5244	Photographic equipment retailing	264	1,695	32	240	162	44	100	63
5245	Marine equipment retailing	380	1,894	35	307	220	51	166	129
524	Recreational good retailing	6,648	40,033	537	5,070	3,461	905	2,505	1,711
5251	Pharmaceutical, cosmetic and toiletry								
50.50	retailing	4,881	35,325	498	3,953	2,489	923	1,823	1,016
5252	Antique and used good retailing	1,046	3,293	47	297	155	74	231	142
5253 5254	Garden supplies retailing Flower retailing	686 1,169	3,987	61 48	372 261	218 134	94 66	249	155 71
5255	Watch & jewellery retailing	1,472	4,149 12,360	210	1,236	584	66 327	103 700	513
5259	Retailing nec	2,557	12,552	185	1,431	833	274	720	481
525	Other personal and household good		·						
	retailing	11,811	71,666	1,047	7,550	4,414	1,759	3,826	2,378
526	Household equipment repair				***	- 4 -	- 40		
	services	1,220	5,154	89	306	105	128	128	100
5311	Car retailing	3,988	48,549	1,182	19,854	16,793	1,714	3,782	3,574
5312	Motor cycle dealing	577	3,058	5 7	629	457	100	233	150
5313	Trailer and caravan dealing	164	824	15	164	124	24	60	42
531	Motor vehicle retailing	4,730	52,432	1,255	20,648	17,373	1,839	4,075	3,765
5321	Automotive fuel retailing	5,742	42,054	573	10,394	8,861	980	1,441	1,082
5322	Automotive electrical services	1,328	5,899	104	398	181	158	188	128
5323	Smash repairing	4,390	27,434	569	2,035	843	783	809	614
5324	Tyre retailing	875	9,486	218	1,715	1,253	267	653	525
5329	Automotive repair and services n.e.c.	6,983	29,199	509	2,155	1,007	742	863	652
532	Motor vehicle services	19,318	114,072	1,974	16,696	12,146	2,931	3,954	3,001
Total	retail	83,596	831,315	12,483	114,307	82,377	18,095	39,277	30,031

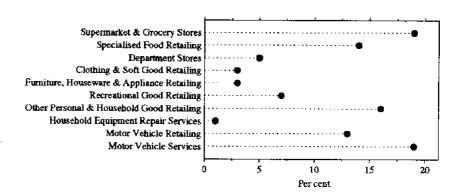
⁽a) Includes ANZSIC classes 5126 and 5129. * Relative standard error of estimate is greater than 25%

SECTION 3: INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND PROFIT

The total operating profit before tax for the Retail Industry for 1991-92 was estimated to be \$2.7 billion. The largest contributing Industry Group was Supermarkets and Grocery Stores with \$522 million, 19 per cent of the total. Supermarkets and Grocery Stores were closely followed by Motor Vehicle Retailing and Services which recorded \$512 million (a little less than 19 per cent of the total).

Trading profit (turnover less cost of goods sold) followed a slightly different pattern across the Industry Groups. The different distribution patterns between trading profit and operating profit were due to differing levels in some expense items. For example, Department Stores recorded a higher than average level of interest expenses while the Clothing and Soft Good Retailing Group recorded a higher level of rent expenses.

CHART 3. RETAIL INDUSTRY: DISTRIBUTION OF OPERATING PROFIT BEFORE TAX BY ANZSIC GROUP, AUSTRALIA, 1991-92



Operating Profit as a Percentage of Trading Profit Operating profit before tax as a percentage of trading profit varied across the industry groups. The highest percentage was recorded by the Other Personal and Household Good Retailing group (14%) while three groups (Department Stores, Clothing and Soft Good Retailing, and Furniture, Houseware and Appliance Retailing) were below the industry average of 8.6%.

CHART 4. RETAIL INDUSTRY: OPERATING PROFIT BEFORE TAX AS A PERCENTAGE OF TRADING PROFIT, AUSTRALIA, 1991-92

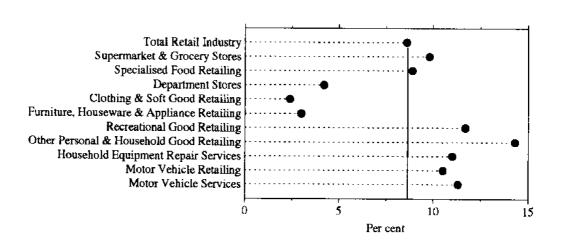


TABLE 2. INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND PROFIT BY ANZSIC GROUP, AUSTRALIA , 1991-92 $$\mbox{million}$$

		Food Retailing	
	Supermarkets	Specialised	Total
	and	food	. food
	grocery stores	retailing	retailing
Turnover	25,280	11,536	36,816
less Opening stock	1,852	388	2,240
less Purchases	20,069	7,104	27,172
plus Closing stock	1,980	410	2,390
Cost of goods sold	19,941	7,083	27,023
Trading profit	5,339	4,453	9,792
plus			
Interest income	88	36	1.23
Government subsidies	2	2	5
Other income	127	84	211
less			
Wages	2,362	1,577	3,939
Other labour costs	118	91	209
Rent, leasing and hiring expenses	676	705	1,381
Bad debts written off	2	· 7	10
Insurance premiums	32	48	80
Depreciation	218	161	379
Other expenses	1,383	1,302	2,685
Earnings before interest and tax	765	685	1,450
less		700	
Interest expenses	243	290	532
Operating profit before tax	522	396	918

		Personal and Household Good Retailing									
	Depariment stores	Clothing and soft good retailing	Furniture, houseware and appliance retailing	Recre- ational good retailing	Other personal and howsehold good retailing	Household equipment repair services	Total personal and household good retailing				
Turnover	9,830	7,839	9,552	5,070	7,550	306	40,147				
less Opening stock less Purchases plus Closing stock	1,732 6,476 1,792	1,426 4 ,777 1,448	1,333 6,746 1,395	653 3,491 683	1,105 4,449 1,141	26 104 25	6,275 26,044 6,484				
Cost of goods sold	6,416	4,755	6,684	3,461	4,414	105	25,835				
Trading profit	3,414	3,084	2,867	1,610	3,136	200	14,312				
plus											
Interest income	623	40	18	17	30	*1	730				
Government subsidies	0	1	2	*8	2	*0	*14				
Other income	244	43	52	36	43	l	419				
less											
Wages	1,473	1,133	1,037	537	1,047	89	5,316				
Other labour costs	38	70	69	39	57	5	278				
Rent, leasing and hiring expenses	519	720	432	262	501	16	2,450				
Bad debts written off	6	4	12	*22	*8	*2	55				
Insurance premiums	11	25	31	19	39	2	128				
Depreciation	158	116	78	38	69	5	464				
Other expenses	966	869	1,073	452	883	57	4,299				
Earnings before interest and tax	1,110	230	211	302	608	25	2,487				
less	0.44	150	,	112	166		,				
Interest expenses	966	156	125	113	160	4	1,524				
Operating profit before tax	144	* 74	*86	189	448	22	963				

TABLE 2. INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND PROFIT BY ANZSIC GROUP, AUSTRALIA, 1991-92 — Continued
\$ million

	Motor Ve	hicle Retailing and S	ervices	-
	Motor vehicte	Motor vehicle	Total motor vehicle retailing and	Total
	retailing	services	services	retail
Turnover	20,648	16,696	37,344	114,307
less Opening stock	1,253	588	1,842	10,357
less Purchases	17,421	12,165	29,586	82,803
plus Closing stock	1,301	608	1,909	10,783
Cost of goods sold	17,373	12,146	29,519	82,377
Trading profit	3,274	4,551	7,825	31,929
plus				
Interest income	48	28	75	928
Government subsidies	2	5	7	26
Other income	98	84	182	812
less				
Wages	1,255	1,974	3,228	12,483
Other labour costs	71	144	215	702
Rent, leasing and hiring exp	penses 205	446	652	4,483
Bad debts written off	11	- 29	40	104
Insurance premiums	38	72	110	318
Depreciation	56	112	168	1,011
Other expenses	1,236	1,184	2,420	9,404
Earnings before interest an	d tax 550	706	1,256	5,193
iess				
Interest expenses	205	194	399	2,455
Operating profit before tax	345	512	857	2,738

^{*} Relative standard error of estimate is greater than 25%

SECTION 4: PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Table 3 presents a series of ratios which can be used as indicators of the relative performance of the various industry classes.

One of these measures is stock turns (cost of goods sold divided by average stock). The Motor Vehicle Service Group recorded the highest stock turn ratio (13.6 times), with the Group dominated by the Automotive Fuel Retailing (ANZSIC Class 5321). The Clothing and Soft Good Retailing Group recorded the lowest stock turn level at 2.2 times.

The return on net worth ratio measures the rate of return on assets and during 1991-92 there was a considerable variability recorded across the Retail industry for this measure. The highest return was recorded by the Motor Vehicle Retailing Group with 111 per cent while Clothing and Soft Good Retailing Group return was the lowest with 7 per cent.

Another useful measure is operating profit before tax per person employed. This measure varied from \$1,000 per person employed in Clothing and Soft Good Retailing, to \$6,600 for the Motor Vehicle Retailing Group. The Other Personal and Household Good Retailing Group also recorded a strong ratio with \$6,300 per person.

CHART 5. RETAIL INDUSTRY: STOCK TURNS BY ANZSIC GROUP, AUSTRALIA, 1991-92

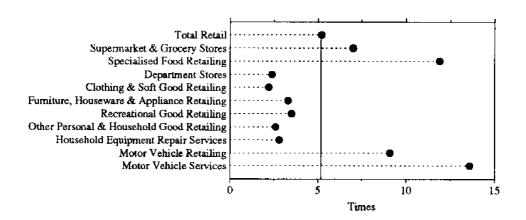


CHART6. RETAIL INDUSTRY: OPERATING PROFIT BEFORE TAX PER PERSON EMPLOYED, AUSTRALIA, 1991-92

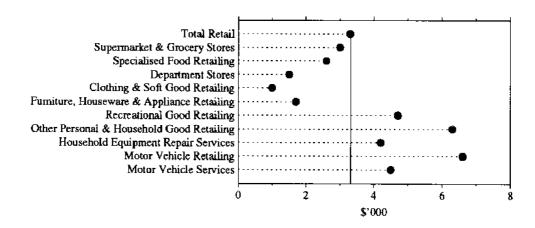


TABLE 3 PERFORMANCE MEASURES BY ANZSIC CLASS, AUSTRALIA, 1991-92

		Stock turns	Asset turnover	Operating profit margin	Return on assets	Return on net worth	Liquidity ratio	Current ratio	Operating profit before tax per person employed	Selected labour costs per person employed
ANZS Code	IC Description	times	times	percent	percent	percent	times	times	\$'000	\$'000
5110	Supermarkets and grocery stores	7.0	4.6	2.1	9.5	44.3	0.2	0.2	3.0	14.4
5121	Fresh meat, fish and poultry retailing	39.4	3.8	4.1	15.5	56.6	0.8	0.8	4.4	15.9
5122	Fruit & vegetable retailing	34.5	4.0	2.5	10.2	38.0	0.6	0.6	3.7	14.4
5123	Liquor retailing	5.4	2.3	2.2	5.1	24.1	0.4	0.4	5.7	17.5
5124	Bread & cake retailing	13.4	2.5	7.6	18.6	85.1	0.7	0.7	3.6	12.8
5125 —	Takeaway food retailing Milk vending and Specialised food	15.7	1.6	3.5	5.5	21.9	0.3	0.3	1.5	8.1
	retailing (a)	8.5	3.8	*2.5	*9.5	+32.2	*0.2	0.2	*3.1	13.0
512	Specialised food retailing	11.9	2.3	3.4	8.0	32.1	0.4	0.4	2.6	10.8
5210	Department stores	2.4	1.4	1.5	2.1	12.1	0.0	0.0	1.5	16.2
5221	Ciothing retailing	2.4	2.2	*0.8	*1.7	*5.7	0.5	0.5	*0.8	16.1
5222	Footwear retailing	1.9	2.0	*0.6	*1.2	*4.3	0.5	0.5	*0.6	15.6
5223	Fabrics and other soft good retailing	1.9	2.0	*2.3	*4.6	*14.5	0.6	0.6	*2.1	15.4
522	Clothing and soft good retailing	2.2	2.1	*0.9	*2.0	*6.7	0.5	0.5	*1.0	15.9
5231	Furniture retailing	2.7	2.1	*0.6	*1.3	*4.9	0.5	0.5	*1.2	22.9
5232	Floor covering retailing	4.0	2.8	2.0	5.6	25.9	0.7	0.7	4.1	24.0
5233	Domestic hardware and houseware	2.4	2.2	*0.4	*0.9	*3.1	0.5	0.5	*0.5	18.4
5024	retailing	2.6 4.0	3.2	1.2	3.8	13.8	0.3	0.3	2.9	23.8
	Domestic appliance retailing Recorded music retailing	3.7	2.8	*-0.6	*-1.6	*-5.6	0.5	0.5	*-0.9	19.5
5233	Furniture, houseware and appliance	3.,	2.0	-0.0	-1.0	-5.0	0.5	0.5	17-2	17.5
323	retailing	3.3	2.6	*0.9	*2.4	*8.6	0.5	0.5	*1.7	21.5
5241	Sport & camping equipment retailing	2.4	2.3	3.6	8.2	25.9	0.5	0.5	4.8	17.0
	, ,	1.8	2.1	*1.7	*3.5	*13.5	0.3	0.3	*2.3	15.3
3243	Newspaper, book and stationery	4.4	1.9	4.3	8.4	25.6	0.6	0.6	5.2	12.8
5244	retailing Photographic equipment retailing	3.8	2.4	2.3	5.5	14.9	1.0	1.0	3.3	20.1
	Marine equipment retailing	3.3	1.9	*0.8	*1.4	*6.4	0.5	0.5	*1.2	19.4
524	Recreational good retailing	3.5	2,0	3.7	7.5	23.7	0.6	0.6	4.7	14.4
5251	Pharmaceutical, cosmetic and toiletry									
	retailing	3.4	2.2	7.6	16.6	37.4	0.7	0.7	8.5	14.8
	Antique and used good retailing	1.3	1.3	6.1	7.9	20.5	0.6	0.6	5.5	14.9
5253	Garden supplies retailing	3.0	1.5	4.3	6.4	17.0	0.7	0.7	4.0	16.0
	Flower retailing	7.0	2.5	*2.6	*6.6	*21.7	0.7	0.7	*1.6	12.1 18.0
	Watch & jewellery retailing	1.6 2.3	1.8 2.0	4.6 3.4	8.1 6.7	30.5 20.1	0.6 0.6	0.6 0.6	4.6 3.9	15.5
5259 525	Retailing n.e.c. Other personal and household good	47	2.0	3.4	0,7	437.1	0.0	0.0	5.7	10.0
323	retailing	2.6	2.0	5.9	11.7	31.0	0.7	0.7	6.3	15.4
526	Household equipment repair services	2.8	2.4	7.1	16.9	77.0	0.7	0.7	4.2	18.2
5311	Car retailing	9.7	5.2	1.6	8.2	149.4	0.5	0.5	6.4	25.7
	Motor cycle dealing	3.2	2.7	4.8	12.8	35.8	0.5	0.5	9.8	20.0
	Trailer and caravan dealing	4.1	2.8	2.0	5.5	18.4	0.6	0.6	*4.0	19.9
531	Motor vehicle retailing	9.1	5.1	1.7	8.5	111.2	0.5	0.5	6.6	25.3
5321	Automotive fuel retailing	25.2	7.2	2.4	17.6	70.6	0.7	0.7	6.0	14.5
5322	Automotive electrical services	4.4	2.1	8.2	17.3	53.6	0.8	0.8	5.5	19.1
5323	1 0	10.2	2.5	4.7	11.7	48.5	0.7	0.7	3.5	22.3
	Tyre retailing	4.8	2.6	1.1	2.8	*14.5	0.7	0.7	2.0	24.7
	Automotive repair and services n.e.c.	6.6	2.5	5.2	13.0	53.1	0.7	0.7	3.8	18.8
532	Motor vehicle services	13.6	4.2	3.1	13.0	53.6	0.7	0.7	4.5	18.6
									3.3	15.9

⁽a) Includes ANZSIC classes 5126 and 5129. * Relative standard error of estimate is greater than 25%

SECTION 5: BUSINESS SIZE ANALYSIS

Table 4 provides details of the 1991-92 Retail Industry by business size. The business sizes are defined in terms of the employment of each individual business, with those businesses employing less than 20 classified to "small", those with between 20 and 199 classified to "medium" and those with 200 or more falling into the large business category.

The statistics show the Retail Industry to be dominated by small business, particularly in terms of numbers of businesses with 96 per cent of businesses being small. In terms of the other two measures used, small business was less dominant with 45 per cent of persons employed and recording 44 per cent of the total Retail Industry turnover.

Large businesses dominate the food industries

The 63 large Food Retailing (ANZSIC Subdivision 51) businesses (less than 1 per cent of the total Food Retailing businesses) accounted for 56 per cent of the Subdivision's turnover and 52 per cent of employment.

While the larger supermarket and grocery stores dominated the Food Retailing Subdivision the Specialised Food Retailing Group had a stronger small business influence with small business accounting for 56 per cent of the Group's employment and 69 per cent of turnover.

In the Personal and Household Good Retailing Subdivision turnover and employment were evenly split across the small and large businesses.

Small business dominates

The Motor Vehicle Retailing and Services Subdivision was dominated by small the Motor Vehicle industries business across all three measures. The almost 23,000 small Motor Vehicle Retailing and Services businesses employed 115,000 people or 69 per cent of the Subdivision's total and turned over \$19.7 billion which was 53 per cent of the total.

> The Motor Vehicle Retailing and Services Subdivision also had the largest number of medium sized businesses with 1,151 businesses. This was more than one third of the total of all medium sized business in the Retail Industry.

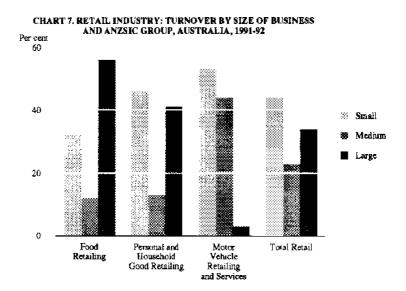


TABLE 4. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS BY SIZE OF BUSINESS BY ANZSIC CLASS, AUSTRALIA, 1991-92 (a) $\,$

		Manageme	ent units	Persons ei	mployed	Turna	ver
ANZ. Clas:	SIC s Description	No.	percent	No.	percent	\$ <i>m</i>	percent
511	Supermarkets and grocery stores						
	Small	5,190	93	24,210	14	3,749	15
	Medium	362	6	14,215	8	2,083	8
	<u>L</u> arge	50	1	134,057	78	19,449	77
	Total	5,602	100	172,482	100	25,280	100
512	Specialised Food Retailing						
	Small	19,147	97	86,010	56	7,958	69
	Medium	550	3	20,806	13	1,234	11
	Large Total	98 19,795	0 100	47,926 154,741	31 100	2,344 11,536	20 100
	TOTAL	19,773	100	1,34,741	1(4)	11,330	100
51	Total food retailing	0.1 B.C.C		110.000		4. 707	
	Small	24,337	96	110,220	34	11,707	32
	Medium	912	4	35,021	11	3,317	9
	Large Total	148 25,396	1 100	181,983 327,223	56 100	21,792 36,816	59 100
		,		,		,	
521	Department stores Medium	2	14	129	O	12	0
	Large	12	86	93,409	100	13 9,817	100
	Total	14	100	93,538	100	9,830	100
		• •		×2,220	100	,,	21,727
522	Clothing and soft good retailing	7 426	0.0	20.202	20	204	
	Small Medium	7,425	96	29,393	39	2,964	38
	Viedrum Large	258 58	3 1	10,309 35,983	14 48	1,200 3,675	15 47
	Total	7,742	100	75,685	100	7,839	100
523	Furniture, houseware and appliance retailing						
	Small	6,468	96	30,886	60	5,725	60
	Medium	221	. 3	7,681	15	1,538	16
	Large	28	100	12,946	25	2,288	24
	Total	6,718	100	51,513	100	9,552	100
524	Recreational good retailing						
	Small	6,432	97	31,828	80	4,092	81
	Medium	204	3	6,245	16	698	14
	Large Total	11 6,648	0 100	1,960 40,033	5 100	281 5,070	6 100
	1001	0,046	100	40,033	100	טיט,כ	100
525	Other personal and household good retailing	11 470	97	50.400	***	ć 110	
	Small	11,472	97	52,408	73	5,412	72
	Medium Large	310 29	3	9,620 9,638	13 13	953 1,185	13 16
	Total	11,811	100	71,666	100	7,550	100
526	Household equipment repair						
	Small	1,212	99	4,464	87	244	80
	Medium	6	1	148	3	*14	*4
	Large	2	0	542	11	48	16
	Total	1,220	100	5,154	100	306	100
52	Total personal and household good retailing						
	Small	33,009	97	148,980	44	18,436	46
	Medium	1,002	3	34,131	10	4,416	11
	Large	141	0	154,478	46	17,294	43
	Tetal	34,152	100	337,589	100	40,147	100

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 4. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS BY SIZE OF BUSINESS BY ANZSIC CLASS, AUSTRALIA, 1991-92 (a)—continued

		Management units		Persons ei	nployed	Тигпо	Turnover	
ANZSIC								
Class	Description	No.	percent	No.	percent	\$m	percen	
531	Motor vehicle retailing							
	Small	4,014	85	19,205	37	6,228	30	
	Medium	662	14	25,519	49	11.042	53	
	Large	53	1	7,708	15	3,378	16	
	Total	4,730	100	52,432	100	20,648	100	
532	Motor vehicle services							
	Small	18,870	98	95,809	84	13,506	81	
	Medium	433	2	13,378	12	2,363	14	
	Large	15	0	4,885	4	827	5	
	Total	19,318	100	114,072	100	16,696	100	
53	Total motor vehicle retailing and services							
	Small	22,884	95	115,014	69	19,734	53	
	Medium	1,095	5	38,897	23	13,405	36	
	Large	68	0	12,593	8	4,205	11	
	Total	24,048	100	166,503	100	37,344	100	
Γotal	retail							
	Small	80,230	96	374,214	45	49,877	44	
	Medium	3,009	4	108,048	13	21,138	18	
	Large	357	0	349,053	42	43,291	38	
	Total	83,596	100	831,315	100	114,307	100	

⁽a) For definitions of size of businesss see Explanatory Notes (b) Includes ANZSIC classes 5126 and 5129. * Relative standard error of estimate is greater than 25%

Explanatory Notes

Survey scope and methodology

- 1. The estimates in this publication have been derived from the 1991-92 Retail Activity Survey. The population for the 1991-92 Retail Activity Survey consisted of all employing public and private businesses in Australia, recorded on the ABS Business Register with a predominent activity of retailing. As such, any retailing businesses which did not employ any staff at June 1992 were excluded from the Survey.
- 2. Approximately 29,000 business units were selected using stratified random sampling techniques. All large retailing business units were automatically selected in the sample.
- 3. Where businesses included in the sample indicated they did not operate at all during 1991-92, the total number of management units in the population was adjusted, proportionately downward, to arrive at a better estimate of the number of businesses in operation during 1991-92.

Statistical unit

4. The business unit about which information is collected and published for the Retail Activity Survey is termed the management unit. The management unit is the highest-level accounting unit within a business, having regard to industry homogeneity, for which accounts are maintained; in nearly all cases it coincides with the legal entity owning the business (i.e., company, partnership, trust, sole operator, etc). In the case of large diversified businesses, however, there may be more than one management unit, each coinciding with a "division" or "line of business". A division or line of business is recognised where separate and comprehensive accounts are compiled for it.

Reference period

5. Results of the 1991-92 Retail Activity Survey are based on details from profit and loss statements and balance sheets collected from businesses by mail questionnaire. These businesses were asked to provide data in respect of the year ending June 1992. In a minority of cases, where businesses did not account on a June-year basis, details were reported in respect of the accounting year which ended between October 1991 and September 1992.

Classification by industry

- 6. The industry classification used in this publication is the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) (1292.0). Previously, the ABS had used the Australian Standard Industry Classification (ASIC). In essence, the ANZSIC is an updated version of ASIC.
- 7. Each business unit is classified to one industry class. The industry allocated is the one which provides the main source of income for the management unit irrespective of whether a range of activities or a single activity is undertaken by the unit.

Classification by size

8. This publication also presents some statistics classified by size of business. The three size categories adopted are defined as follows:

Small businesses are those management units which employ less than 20 persons.

Medium businesses are those management units which employ 20 to 199 persons.

Large businesses are those management units which employ 200 or more persons. This large business size classification may vary to other large businesses sizes in other ABS publications.

This employment size classification is not the only size classification available from the Retail Activity Survey. For example, turnover groupings can be made available on request.

Reliability of estimates

9. The estimates presented in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling error.

Sampling error

- 10. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample drawn from units in the surveyed population, the estimates are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all units had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely differences is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of units was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all units had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.
- 11. Sampling variability can also be measured by the relative standard error which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers. The relative standard error is a useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and thus avoids the need to also refer to the size of the estimate.
- 12. Table 5 contains estimates of the relative standard errors for statistics presented earlier in Table 1.
- 13. As an example of the above, the sample survey estimate for the supermarkets and grocery stores employment of 172,482 has a relative standard error of 2%. Therefore, there would be two chances in three that, if all units had been included in the survey, a figure in the range of 169,032 to 175,932 would have been obtained (a confidence interval of 67%), and nineteen chances in twenty that the figure would have been within the range of 165,583 to 179,381 (a confidence interval of 95%).
- 14. Some of the standard errors associated with the estimates contained in this publication are relatively high (indicated by '*', when the relative standard error is greater than 25%). It is important for users to check that the estimates are reliable enough for the particular purpose for which they require the statistics. It is left to the user to exercise the necessary caution in using the estimates in this publication.

Non-sampling error

15. The imprecision due to sampling, which is measured by the standard error, is not the only type of inaccuracy to which estimates are subject. Other inaccuracies, referred to collectively as non-sampling error, may occur because of, for example, inadequacies in available sources from which the population list was compiled and imperfections in reporting by respondents. Every effort has been made to reduce non-sampling error to a minimum by the use of well designed questionnaires, efficient operating procedures and systems used to compile the statistics.

Availability of unpublished statistics

- 16. As well as statistics included in this publication, the ABS has a large range of more detailed data on the retail industry which may be made available. For example, other ratios than those presented here may be made available on request.
- 17. The ABS also has similar statistics available for the wholesale industry in respect of 1991-92.
- 18. Inquiries on retail and wholesale statistics should be made by telephoning Clem Tozer on (06) 252 6726.

Symbols and other abbreviations

- 19. The following symbols, where shown in columns of figures or elsewhere in tables, mean:
 - nil or rounded to zero
 - n.p. not available for separate publication, but included in totals where applicable.
 - * relative standard error of estimate is greater than 25%.

TABLE 5. RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS FOR SELECTED ITEMS BY ANZSIC CLASS AUSTRALIA, 1991-92

		Manage- ment units	Persons employed	Wages and salaries	Turnover	Cost of goods sold	Industry gross product	Total assets	Total liabilities
ANZSI	rc	meni unus	етргоуец	satar tes	I MI MOVE!	goods sora	produci	433813	intomitte.
	Description				per cent				
5110	Supermarkets and grocery stores	8	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
5121	Fresh meat, fish and poultry retailing	4	5	5	5	5	6	6	7
5122	Fruit & vegetable retailing	7	7	9	10	11	9	8	9
5123	Liquor retailing	11	10	8	6	6	7	6	7
5124	Bread & cake retailing	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	6
5125	Takeaway food retailing	4	2	3	4	5	3	4	4
_	Milk vending and Specialised food								
	retailing n.e.c. (a)	15	18	23	21	23	20	23	28
512	Specialised Food Retailing	2	2	3	3	4	3	3	3
5210	Department stores	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5221	Clothing retailing	4	2	3	2	2	3	4	6
5222	Footwear retailing	7	3	3	3	4	4	4	4
5223	Fabrics and other soft good retailing	5	4	4	4	4	6	4	.5
522	Clothing and soft good retailing	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	4
5231	Furniture retailing	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	7
5232	Floor covering retailing	4	3	4	4	4	5	5	6
5233	Domestic hardware and houseware								
	retailing	8	7	9	7	8	12	7	7
5234	11	6	3	3	3	3	3	.4	4
5235	Recorded music retailing	9	10	18	9	8	18	11	9
523	Furniture, houseware and appliance retailing	4	3	3	2	3	4	3	3
5241	Sport & camping equipment retailing	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3
5242	Toy & game retailing	6	6	6	5	5	7	5	5
5243	Newspaper, book and stationery	· ·	v	Ŭ	J	-	•		-
	retailing	3	4	. 4	4	4	4	5	7
5244	_	8	7	7	8	9	7	7	7
5245	Marine equipment retailing	4	: 4	4	4	4	5	5	3
524	Recreational good retailing	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	5
5251	Pharmaceutical, cosmetic and toiletry								
	retailing	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	5
5252	Antique and used good retailing	4	4	6	4	5	5	7	6
5253	Garden supplies retailing	7	6	6	7	7	7	7	8
5254	Flower retailing	. 5	6	7	7	7	7	10	12
5255	Watch & jewellery retailing	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4
5259	Retailing nec	4	3	3	3	4	3	4	5
525	Other personal and household good	1	1	2	,	2	•	•	1
	retailing	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
526	Household equipment repair								
	services	8	7	6	7	8	7	9	11
5311	Car retailing	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2
5312	Motor cycle dealing	5	5	4	5	5	$\bar{7}$	4	5
5313	Trailer and caravan dealing	6	5	5	5	5	6	7	6
531	Motor vehicle retailing	2	2	2	τ	1	2	1	1
5321	Automotive fuel retailing	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	5
5321 5322	Automotive electrical services	7	7	7	7	8	7	9	9
5323	Smash repairing	3	3	4	4	7	3	6	6
5324		5	3	2	3	á	4	2	3
5329	Automotive repair and services n.e.c.	3	3	3	3	4	3	4	5
532	Motor vehicle services	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	3
m. · ·									
Total	retail	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

⁽a) Includes ANZSIC classes 5126 and 5129



