

INTERNAL TRADE

WHOLESALE TRADE

Wholesale Trade Survey, 1981-82

A sample survey of wholesale establishments was conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in respect of the year ended 30 June 1982. It was the second collection of the wholesale trade sector carried out by the ABS as part of the programme of integrated economic data collections. The first collection was conducted in respect of 1968-69. Within the ABS's programme of integrated economic collections, data for each industry sector conform to the same basic conceptual standards, thereby allowing comparisons between and across industry sectors. The results for the two wholesale trade collections are therefore comparable with results from economic data collections undertaken annually for the mining, manufacturing, electricity, and gas industries and periodically for the retail trade and construction industries.

The aim of the 1981-82 Wholesale Trade Survey was to cover the activities of all wholesale establishments which operated at any time during 1981-82 by means of a sample survey of businesses selected from the ABS's register of businesses. However, because of the methodology used to conduct the Survey, estimates are available only for Australia as a whole and not for individual States or Territories.

The industry classification of establishments in the 1981-82 Wholesale Trade Survey was based on the 1978 edition of the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC). Wholesale trade as defined in the ASIC includes the resale of new or used goods to retailers or other wholesalers or to institutional (including government), professional, or other business users (including farmers and builders). Generally speaking, it excludes the resale of goods to final consumers for personal or household consumption (defined as retail trade). However, sales of goods under the general heading of 'builders' hardware and supplies' are conventionally treated as wholesale sales in economic statistics.

WHOLESALE ESTABLISHMENTS, SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS BY INDUSTRY CLASS, AUSTRALIA

Year	Establishments operating during year	Persons employed	Wages and salaries	Turnover	Value added	Fixed capital expenditure less disposals
	number	'000	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1968-69	33,296	346	992	13,187	2,545	229
1981-82	39,319	361	4,996	80,778	15,707	555

RETAIL TRADE

Censuses of retail establishments

Statistics of retail sales have been compiled for the years 1947-48, 1948-49, 1952-53, 1956-57, 1961-62, 1968-69, 1973-74, and 1979-80 from returns supplied by all retail establishments in Australia.

In general terms, these censuses have covered the trading activities of establishments which normally sell goods at retail prices to the general public from shops, rooms, kiosks, and yards. Particulars of retail sales obtained from these censuses were designed principally to cover sales to the final consumer of new and secondhand goods generally used for household and personal purposes. For this reason, sales of building materials, farm and industrial machinery and equipment, earthmoving equipment, etc., have been excluded from the censuses. For the same reason, and also because of difficulties in obtaining reliable and complete reporting, retail sales of builders' hardware and supplies, business machines and equipment, grain, feed, fertilisers and agricultural supplies, and tractors were excluded from the censuses. Retail sales of motor vehicles, parts etc., were included whether for industrial, commercial, farm, or private use. Retail census data are available from the Victorian Office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The next retail census is being conducted during 1985-86.

Census of Retail Trade and Selected Service Establishments, 1979-80

The 1979-80 census was the eighth in the series of Censuses of Retail Trade and Selected Service Establishments conducted in Australia, and the third conducted as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' programme of integrated economic data collections. Within the programme, data from each industry sector conform to the same basic conceptual standards, thereby allowing comparative analysis between and across different industry sectors.

A much wider range of data was collected than for the previous retail census in 1973-74. The 1979-80 retail census was similar in content and scope to the 1968-69 retail census and was the first retail census in which details of total floor space were collected for all States and the Northern Territory.

Selected statistics from the 1979-80 retail census

The following tables provide some results from the 1979-80 retail census. For more statistics and further information on the scope, coverage, definition, etc. of the census, reference should be made to the 1985 edition of the *Victorian Year Book*.

RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS (a), SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS BY
INDUSTRY GROUP, VICTORIA, 1979-80

Industry group	Establishments at 30 June	Persons (b) employed at 30 June	Wages and salaries (c)	Retail sales	Turnover	Purchases, transfers in, and selected expenses	Total floor space
	number	number	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	square metres
Department and general stores	204	22,281	174,672	904,590	953,273	706,794	874,679
Clothing, fabrics, and furniture stores	5,336	23,794	153,605	1,181,357	1,202,859	905,940	1,181,916
Household appliance and hardware stores	2,149	11,979	86,823	754,098	857,313	670,020	563,463
Motor vehicle dealers; petrol and tyre retailers	6,644	44,390	329,788	3,173,288	5,319,574	4,410,701	-
Food stores	11,069	70,237	304,573	3,579,074	3,615,046	2,944,572	1,944,717
Other retailers	4,637	20,161	109,325	891,448	926,577	676,020	809,875
Total	30,039	192,842	1,158,786	10,483,854	12,874,641	10,314,047	5,374,650

(a) Excludes single establishment retail enterprises with turnover of less than \$50,000.

(b) Includes working proprietors.

(c) Excludes drawings by working proprietors.

RETAIL SINGLE ESTABLISHMENT ENTERPRISES WITH TURNOVER LESS THAN \$50,000, SELECTED ITEMS BY INDUSTRY GROUP, VICTORIA, 1979-80

Industry group	Establishments at 30 June	Employment at 30 June (a)			Wages and salaries (b)	Turnover	Total floor space
		Males	Females	Persons			
	number	number	number	number	\$'000	\$'000	square metres
General stores	12	10	16	26	26	311	1,010
Clothing, fabrics, and furniture stores	2,268	1,270	2,390	3,660	3,845	58,355	125,419
Household appliance and hardware stores	1,112	1,043	799	1,842	1,832	28,284	76,389
Motor vehicle dealers; petrol and tyre retailers	1,575	2,389	628	3,017	4,560	44,842	-
Food stores	3,026	2,847	3,407	6,254	4,340	96,664	155,499
Other retailers	2,306	1,598	2,032	3,630	2,952	51,026	278,766
Total	10,299	9,157	9,272	18,429	17,554	279,482	637,083

(a) Includes working proprietors.

(b) Excludes drawings by working proprietors.

RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS (a), SELECTED ITEMS BY STATISTICAL DIVISION, VICTORIA, 1979-80

Statistical division	Establishments at 30 June	Employment at 30 June (b)			Wages and salaries (c)	Turnover	Total floorspace (d)
		Males	Females	Persons			
	number	number	number	number	\$'000	\$'000	square metres
Melbourne	28,304	79,408	74,759	154,167	898,150	10,164,311	4,123,282
Barwon	1,913	5,040	5,364	10,404	52,723	554,677	296,888
Central Highlands	1,166	2,880	2,855	5,735	30,266	305,319	214,268
South Western	1,088	2,501	2,257	4,758	22,043	240,327	163,838
Wimmera	718	1,489	1,308	2,797	12,881	142,894	103,413
Northern Mallee	848	2,184	2,084	4,268	21,758	228,764	131,446
Loddon-Campaspe	1,688	3,920	3,871	7,791	36,138	381,322	232,725
Goulburn	1,381	3,446	3,389	6,835	32,701	357,815	217,791
North Eastern	817	1,960	1,674	3,634	18,435	196,991	179,146
East Gippsland	678	1,617	1,544	3,161	15,155	178,465	98,642
Central Gippsland	1,298	2,933	3,380	6,313	31,139	337,129	187,665
East Central	439	708	700	1,408	4,953	66,108	62,629
Total	40,338	108,086	103,185	211,271	1,176,340	13,154,123	6,011,733

(a) Includes all retail establishments.

(b) Includes working proprietors.

(c) Excludes drawings by working proprietors.

(d) Excludes ASIC group 486 - motor vehicle dealers, and petrol and tyre retailers.

Survey of Retail Establishments

During the period between censuses, estimates of the value of retail sales are made on the basis of returns received from representative samples of retail establishments. Sample returns are supplied by retail businesses which account for a substantial proportion of all retail sales in Australia. Estimated totals are calculated by methods appropriate to a stratified sample.

Series based on the 1973-74 Census of Retail Establishments are available from September quarter 1975 until June quarter 1982.

Following completion of the 1979-80 retail census a redesigned survey system was introduced for monthly and quarterly estimates of the value of retail sales. These series of monthly and quarterly estimates are based on the results of the 1979-80 retail census and differ in scope and coverage from the series based on the 1973-74 retail census. The subsequent series, based on the 1979-80 retail census, include establishments in all States and the Australian Capital Territory, but excludes those in the Northern Territory, whereas the previous series excluded establishments in both Territories.

In addition to total estimates for Australia, the monthly series provides statistics of the value of retail sales classified by broad industry group for each State and Australia. The quarterly series provides estimates of the value of retail sales for each State and Australia by broad commodity groups.

All establishments in Subdivision 48 of the 1978 edition of the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC) are included in the scope of the survey, with the exception of motor establishments, bread and milk vendors, footwear repairers, and electrical repairers. The following service establishments are also included: cafes and restaurants, hotels, etc. (mainly drinking places), licensed clubs, and hairdressers.

While the 1973-74 based surveys included licensed hotels and motels predominantly engaged in providing accommodation, these businesses are excluded from the series based on the 1979-80 retail census.

The survey is based on a random sample of retail and selected service establishments within the scope of the survey. From the data reported by the sampled establishments, aggregates comprising all retail sales in Australia (excluding Northern Territory) are estimated.

VALUE OF RETAIL SALES (a), VICTORIA
(\$m)

Commodity group	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Groceries	1,530.5	1,728.5	1,912.9	2,441.9	2,786.8	2,977.9
Butchers' meat	586.3	630.6	667.8	639.4	645.7	643.3
Other food (b)	757.1	884.6	989.6	1,083.4	1,142.4	1,171.2
Total food and groceries	2,873.9	3,243.7	3,570.3	4,264.7	4,574.9	4,792.4
Beer, wine, and spirits	897.7	993.7	1,097.6	1,329.9	1,411.0	1,423.0
Clothing and drapery	1,092.0	1,250.0	1,370.8	1,596.9	1,690.2	1,779.6
Footwear	190.5	215.5	236.8	242.0	266.8	287.2
Domestic hardware, china, etc. (c)	325.8	379.2	424.1	507.0	552.5	562.8
Electrical goods (d)	538.1	638.3	732.7	763.3	881.3	885.1
Furniture and floor coverings	373.4	419.2	457.1	476.5	488.1	535.2
Chemists' goods	394.5	444.4	500.0	477.8	503.2	549.4
Newspapers, books and stationery	287.1	324.6	350.7	405.9	470.3	531.6
Other goods (e)	700.1	776.0	867.1	932.6	1,010.4	1,073.7
Total (excluding motor vehicles parts, petrol, etc.)	7,672.1	8,684.6	9,607.2	10,896.7	11,848.7	12,419.7

(a) Surveys up to and including 1981-82 are based on the 1973-74 retail census. Subsequent years are based on the 1979-80 retail census.

(b) Includes fresh fruit, and vegetables, confectionery, soft drinks, ice cream, cakes, pastry, cooked provisions, fish, and wrapped lunches.

(c) Excludes basic building materials, builders' hardware, and supplies. Includes watches, clocks, jewellery and silverware, garden supplies, and garden fertilisers and pesticides.

(d) Includes radios, television sets and accessories, musical instruments, domestic refrigerators, and bottled liquefied petroleum gas.

(e) Includes tobacco, cigarettes, sporting and travel goods, toys, photographic equipment and supplies, and antiques.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ABS publications

Retail Sales of Goods (Excluding Motor Vehicles, Parts, Petrol, etc.), Australia (monthly) (8501.0)

Retail Sales of Goods (Excluding Motor Vehicles, Parts, Petrol, etc.), Australia (quarterly) (8503.0)

Retail Establishments and Selected Service Establishments, Australia, 1968-69 (8603.0 to 8612.0)

Retail Establishments and Selected Service Establishments, Victoria, 1968-69 (8603.2 to 8606.2)

Census of Retail and Selected Service Establishments - Selected Shopping Centre Statistics, Victoria, 1979-80 (8608.2)

Census of Retail and Selected Retail Establishments, 1973-74 (8614.0 to 8619.0)

Census of Retail and Selected Service Establishments, Australia, 1979-80 (8622.0 to 8627.0)

Census of Retail and Selected Service Establishments, Victoria, 1979-80 (8608.2, 8622.2 to 8626.2)

Wholesale Establishments: Details of Operations by Industry Class, Australia, 1981-82 (8638.0)