



# SINGAPORE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

## PRESS RELEASE

### Retail Sales Index Catering Trade Index November 2008

#### Highlights

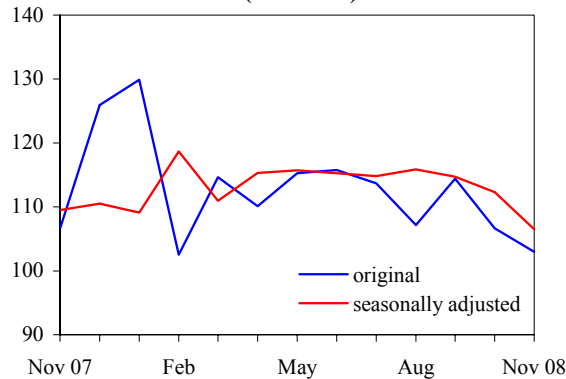
##### Retail Sales

Retail sales in November 2008 fell by 3.4% over October 2008. Excluding motor vehicles, the sales declined by 4.7%.

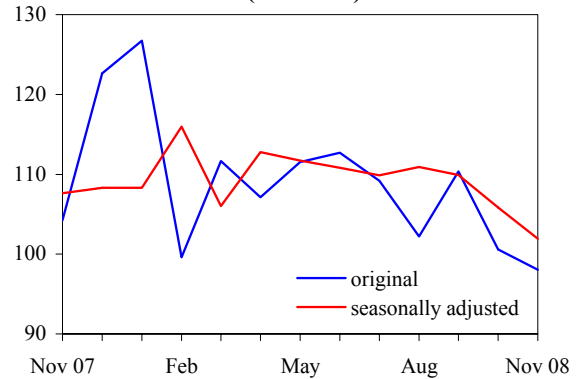
After seasonal adjustment, retail sales declined by 5.2% over the previous month. Excluding motor vehicles, the sales declined by 6.2%.

On a year-on-year basis, retail sales declined by 3.4% over a year ago. Excluding motor vehicles, the sales declined by 2.2%. The volume of retail sales fell by 6.0% after removing price effect. Excluding motor vehicles, the volume declined by 3.5%.

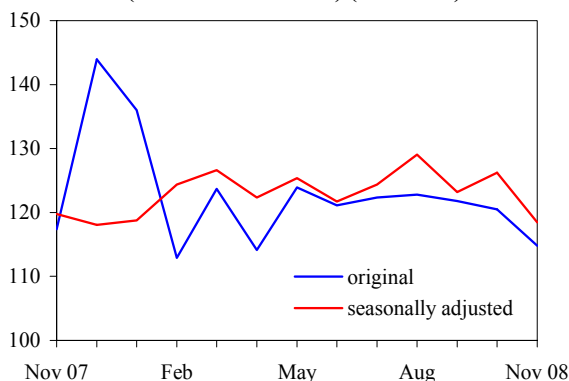
**Chart 1 Retail Sales Index at Current Prices  
(2005=100)**



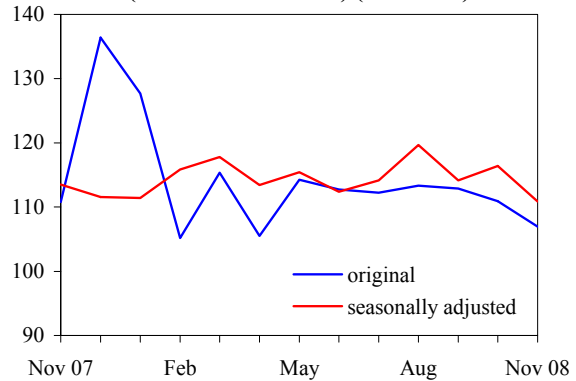
**Chart 2 Retail Sales Index at Constant Prices  
(2005=100)**



**Chart 3 Retail Sales Index at Current Prices  
(excl Motor Vehicles) (2005=100)**



**Chart 4 Retail Sales Index at Constant Prices  
(excl Motor Vehicles) (2005=100)**



## Highlights

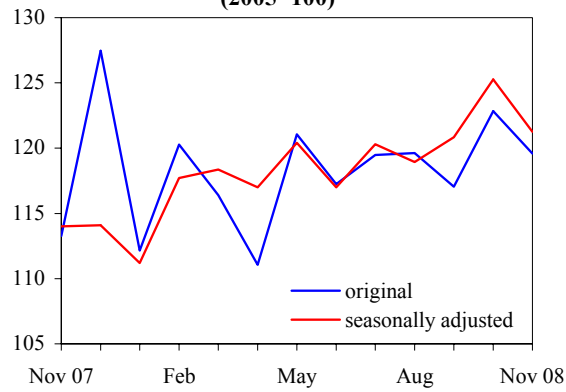
### *Catering Trade*

Catering trade fell by 2.6% in November 2008 over October 2008.

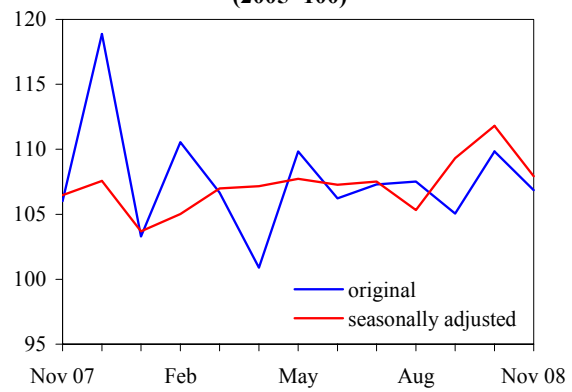
After seasonal adjustment, catering trade fell by 3.2% over the previous month.

On a year-on-year basis, catering trade rose by 5.6% over a year ago. After removing price effect, the volume of catering trade rose marginally by 0.8% over November 2007.

**Chart 5 Catering Trade at Current Prices  
(2005=100)**



**Chart 6 Catering Trade at Constant Prices  
(2005=100)**



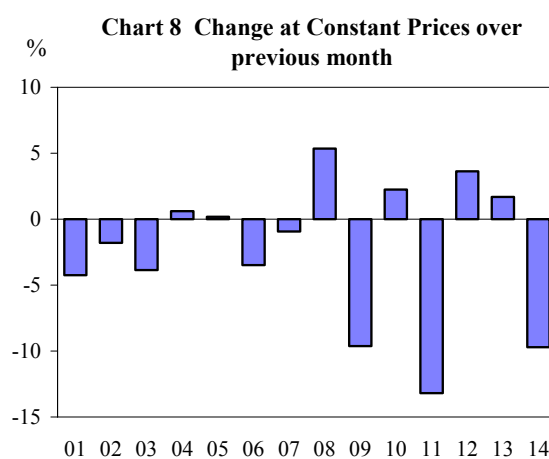
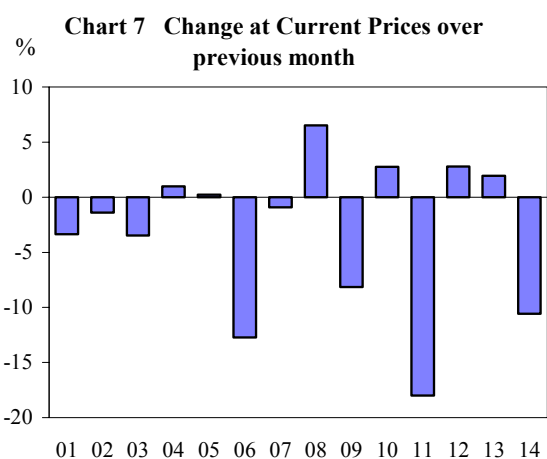
## Retail sales

### *Change over previous month*

Sales of watches & jewellery, petrol service stations and furniture & household equipment fell by 8.2% to 18.0% in November 2008 compared to October 2008. Provision & sundry shops, department stores and supermarkets also recorded lower sales of 1.4% to 3.5%.

Conversely, retailers of wearing apparel & footwear, recreational goods and telecommunications apparatus & computers reported higher receipts of 2.8% to 6.5% compared to the previous month.

The total retail sales value in November 2008 was estimated at \$2.6 billion compared to \$2.7 billion in October 2008.



- |                               |                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 01 Department stores          | 08 Wearing apparel & footwear      |
| 02 Supermarkets               | 09 Furniture & household equipment |
| 03 Provision & sundry shops   | 10 Recreational goods              |
| 04 Food & beverages           | 11 Watches & jewellery             |
| 05 Motor vehicles             | 12 Telecomm app & computers        |
| 06 Petrol service stations    | 13 Optical goods & books           |
| 07 Medical goods & toiletries | 14 Others                          |

- |                               |                                    |
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| 06 Petrol service stations    | 13 Optical goods & books           |
| 07 Medical goods & toiletries | 14 Others                          |

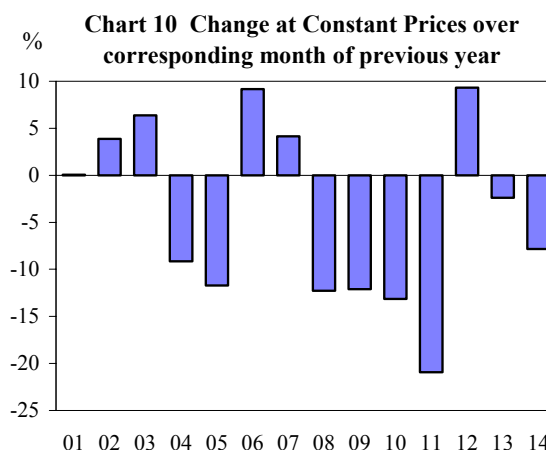
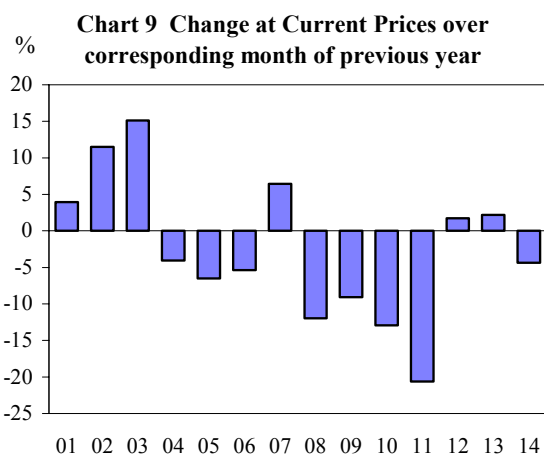
## Retail Sales

### *Change over corresponding month of previous year*

Compared to November 2007, sales of watches & jewellery, recreational goods and wearing apparel & footwear fell by 12.0% to 20.6%. Retailers of furniture & household equipment, motor vehicles, petrol service stations and food & beverages also reported lower sales of 4.0% to 9.1% respectively.

On the other hand, provision & sundry shops and supermarkets reported double-digit growths in receipts while sales of medical goods & toiletries and department stores also grew by 6.5% and 3.9% respectively over a year ago.

After removing price effect, the volume of retail sales fell by 6.0% over November 2007. Excluding motor vehicles, the volume declined by 3.5%.



01 Department stores	08 Wearing apparel & footwear
02 Supermarkets	09 Furniture & household equipment
03 Provision & sundry shops	10 Recreational goods
04 Food & beverages	11 Watches & jewellery
05 Motor vehicles	12 Telecomm app & computers
06 Petrol service stations	13 Optical goods & books
07 Medical goods & toiletries	14 Others

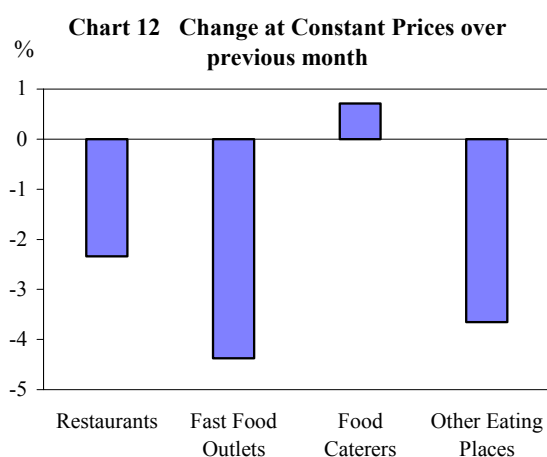
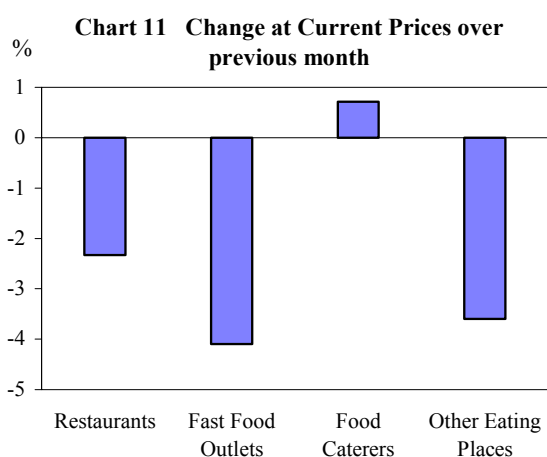
01 Department stores	08 Wearing apparel & footwear
02 Supermarkets	09 Furniture & household equipment
03 Provision & sundry shops	10 Recreational goods
04 Food & beverages	11 Watches & jewellery
05 Motor vehicles	12 Telecomm app & computers
06 Petrol service stations	13 Optical goods & books
07 Medical goods & toiletries	14 Others

## Catering Trade

### *Change over previous month*

Compared to October 2008, turnover at restaurants and fast food outlets fell by 2.3% and 4.1% respectively. Food caterers rose marginally by 0.7% while other eating places (such as cafes and canteens) recorded lower receipts of 3.6% in November 2008.

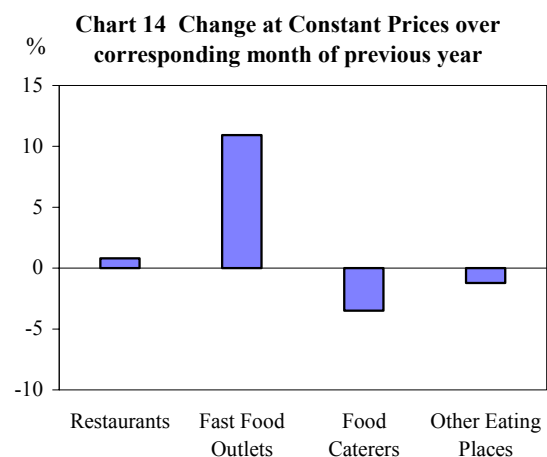
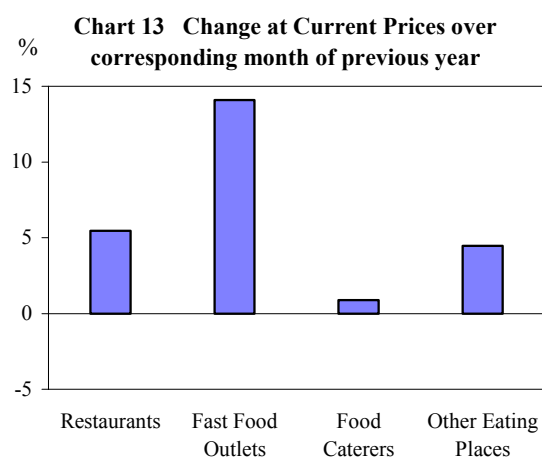
Total value of catering trade in November 2008 was estimated at \$423 million compared to \$435 million in the previous month.



### *Change over corresponding month of previous year*

Compared to November 2007, sales of restaurants and fast food outlets rose by 5.5% and 14.1% respectively. Receipts of other eating places rose by 4.5% while that of food caterers rose by 0.9% over the same period.

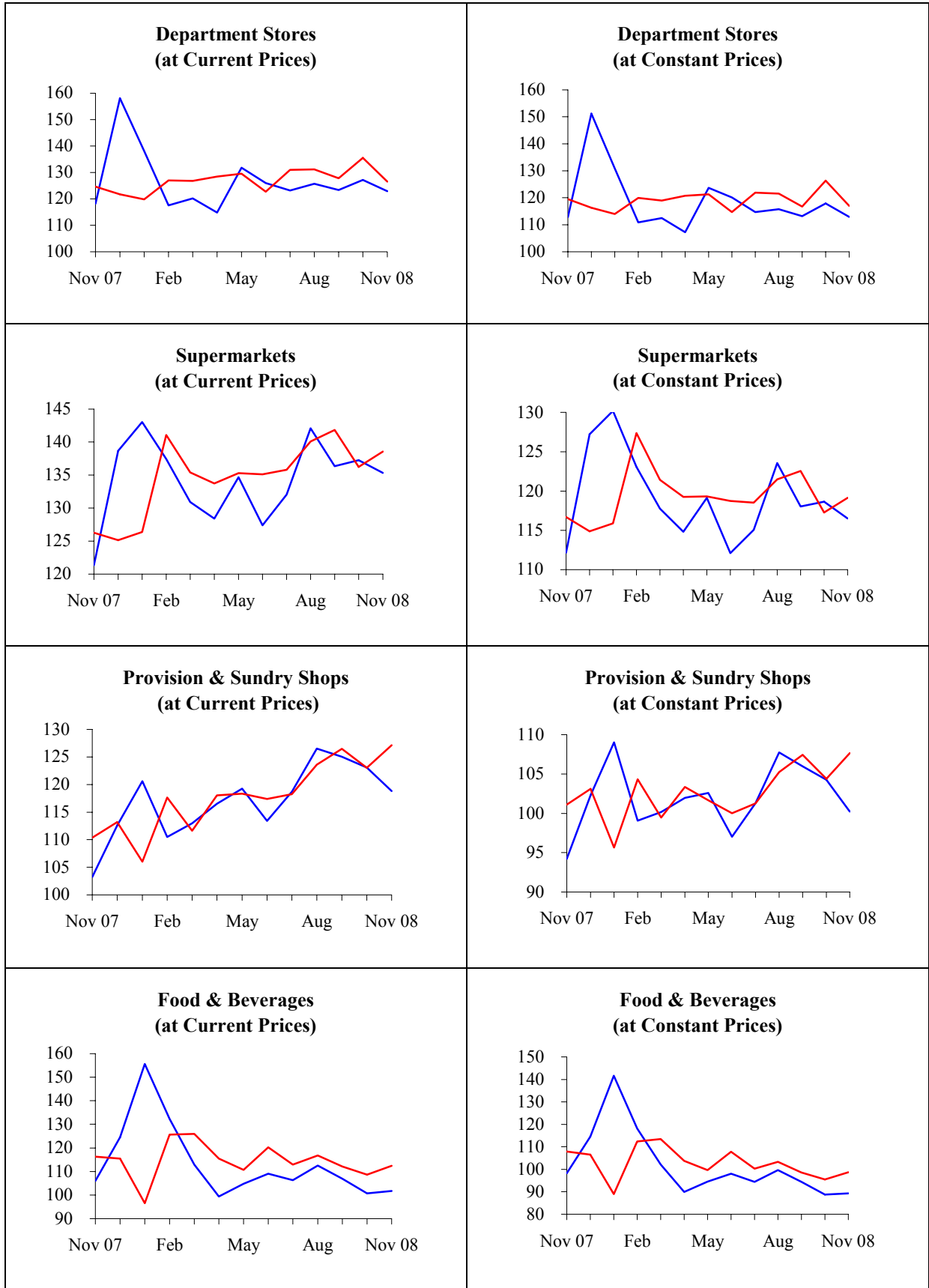
After removing price effect, the volume of catering trade rose marginally by 0.8% over November 2007.



**Chart 15 Retail Sales Index by Retail Sectors**

**Index at Current Prices**

**Index at Constant Prices**



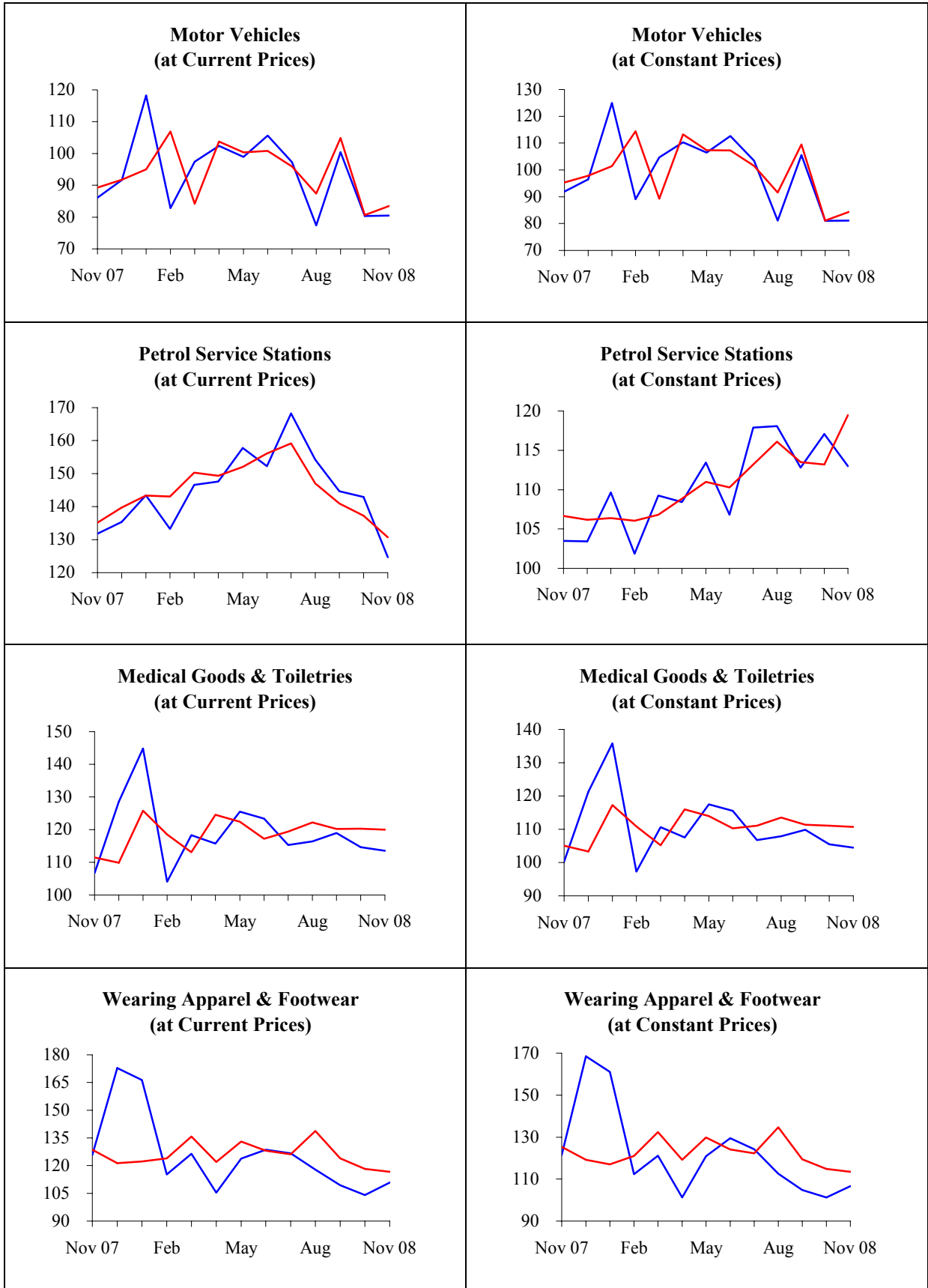
— original  
— seasonally adjusted

— original  
— seasonally adjusted

## Chart 15 (Cont'd) Retail Sales Index by Retail Sectors

Index at Current Prices

Index at Constant Prices



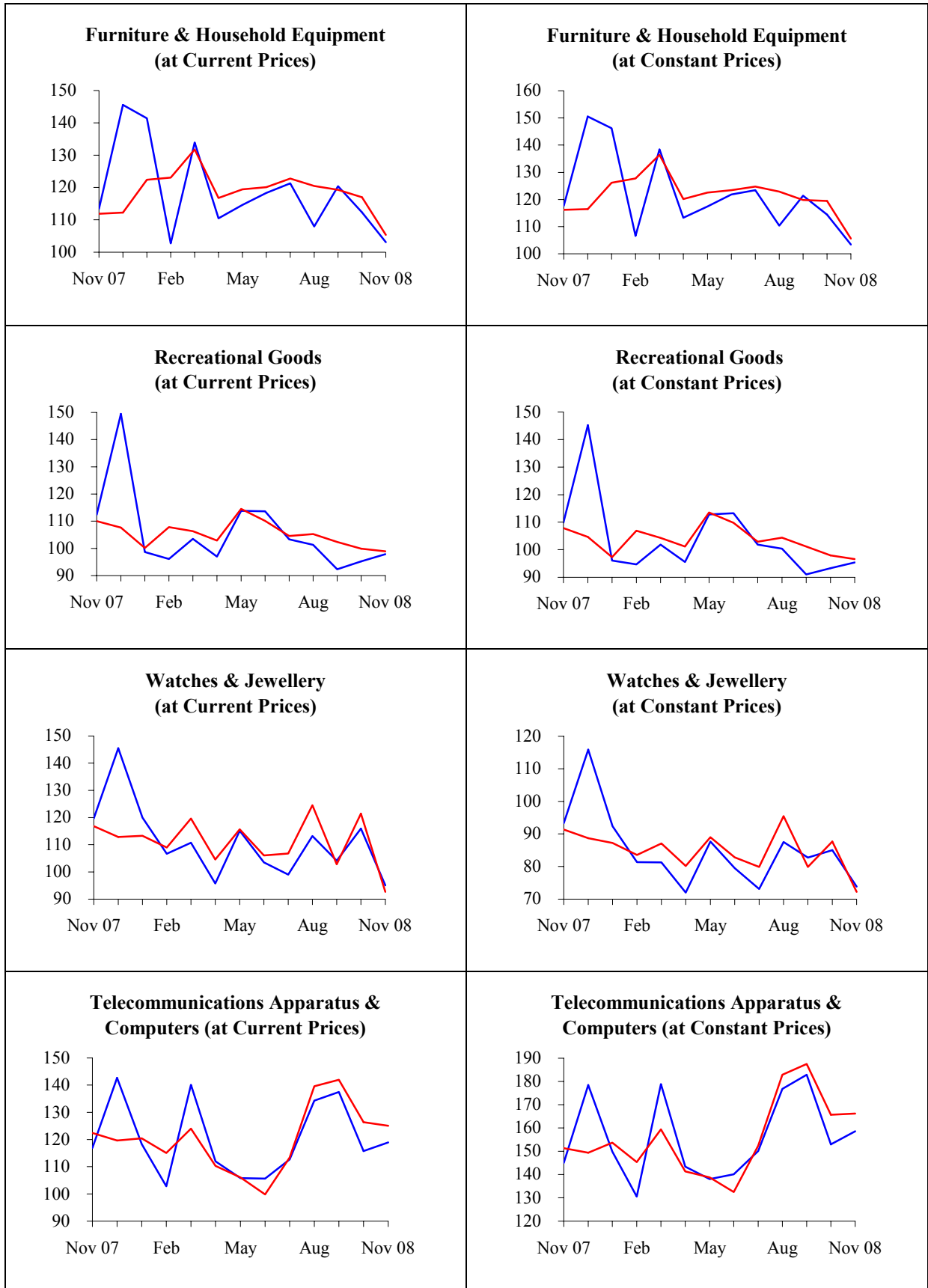
— original  
— seasonally adjusted

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— seasonally adjusted

## Chart 15 (Cont'd) Retail Sales Index by Retail Sectors

**Index at Current Prices**

**Index at Constant Prices**



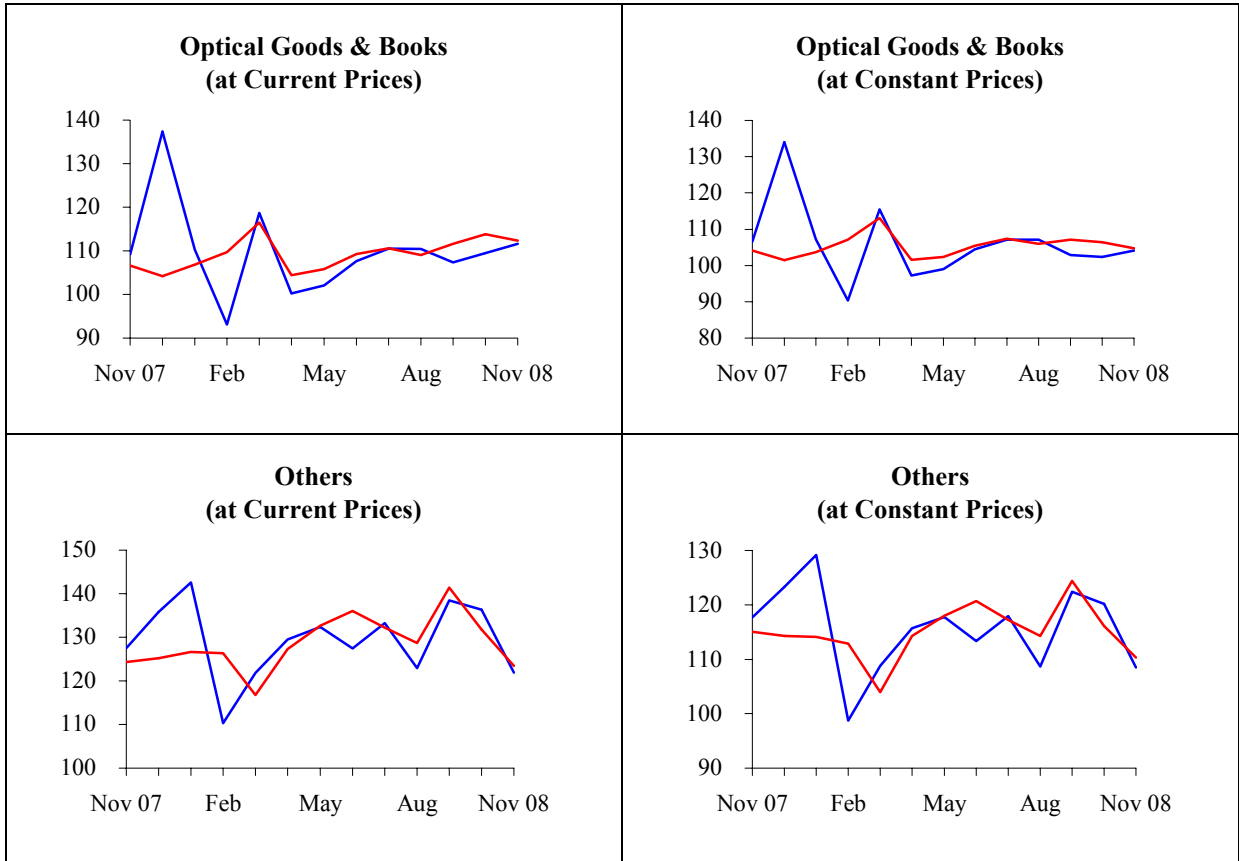
— original  
— seasonally adjusted

— original  
— seasonally adjusted

### Chart 15 (Cont'd) Retail Sales Index by Retail Sectors

Index at Current Prices

Index at Constant Prices



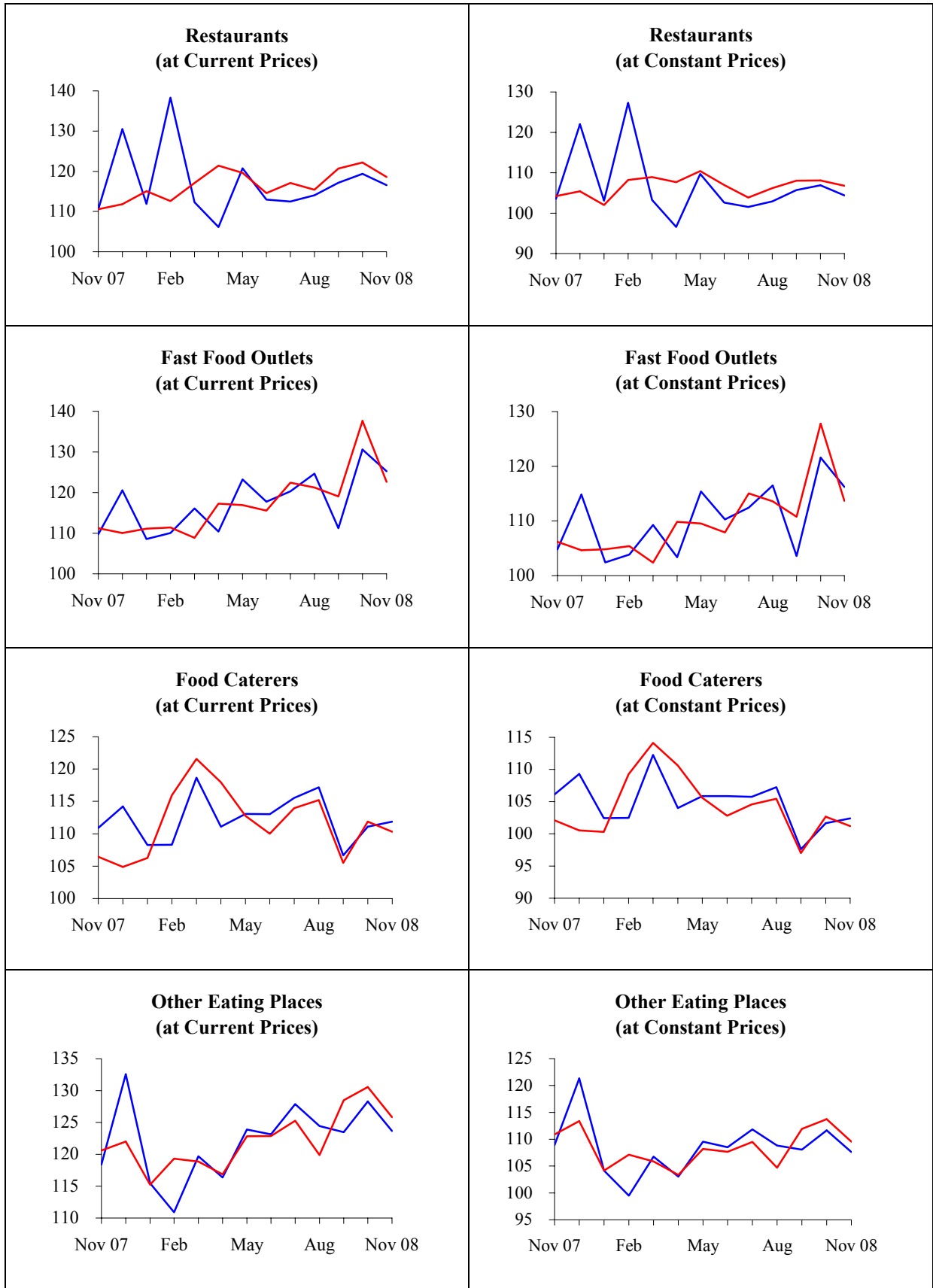
— original  
— seasonally adjusted

— original  
— seasonally adjusted

**Chart 16 Catering Trade Index by Catering Sectors**

**Index at Current Prices**

**Index at Constant Prices**



— original  
— seasonally adjusted

— original  
— seasonally adjusted

**Table 1 Retail Sales Index (2005=100)**

Activity	Weights	Index at Current Prices			% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Nov 07	Oct 08	Nov 08	Nov 08/ Nov 07	Nov 08/ Oct 08	Nov 08/ Nov 07	Nov 08/ Oct 08
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>	106.6	106.6	103.0	-3.4	-3.4	-6.0	-2.5
Total (excl Motor Vehicles)	6,551	117.4	120.5	114.8	-2.2	-4.7	-3.5	-3.6
Department Stores	1,322	118.2	127.1	122.9	3.9	-3.4	0.1	-4.2
Supermarkets	411	121.3	137.2	135.3	11.5	-1.4	3.9	-1.8
Provision & Sundry Shops	536	103.2	123.1	118.8	15.1	-3.5	6.4	-3.9
Food & Beverages	200	106.0	100.7	101.7	-4.0	1.0	-9.1	0.6
Motor Vehicles	3,449	86.1	80.4	80.5	-6.5	0.2	-11.7	0.2
Petrol Service Stations	456	131.8	142.9	124.7	-5.4	-12.7	9.2	-3.5
Medical Goods & Toiletries	332	106.7	114.6	113.6	6.5	-0.9	4.2	-0.9
Wearing Apparel & Footwear	574	125.8	104.0	110.8	-12.0	6.5	-12.3	5.4
Furniture & Household Equipment	755	113.4	112.3	103.1	-9.1	-8.2	-12.1	-9.6
Recreational Goods	190	112.4	95.2	97.8	-12.9	2.8	-13.2	2.2
Watches & Jewellery	607	119.7	115.9	95.0	-20.6	-18.0	-20.9	-13.2
Telecommunications Apparatus & Computers	366	116.9	115.8	119.0	1.7	2.8	9.3	3.6
Optical Goods & Books	344	109.2	109.5	111.6	2.2	1.9	-2.4	1.7
Others	458	127.5	136.3	121.9	-4.4	-10.6	-7.8	-9.7

**Table 2 Catering Trade Index (2005=100)**

Activity	Weights	Index at Current Prices			% Change at Current Prices		% Change at Constant Prices	
		Nov 07	Oct 08	Nov 08	Nov 08/ Nov 07	Nov 08/ Oct 08	Nov 08/ Nov 07	Nov 08/ Oct 08
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	113.3	122.8	119.6	5.6	-2.6	0.8	-2.7
Restaurants	360	110.5	119.3	116.6	5.5	-2.3	0.8	-2.3
Fast Food Outlets	136	109.7	130.5	125.2	14.1	-4.1	10.9	-4.4
Food Caterers	148	110.9	111.1	111.9	0.9	0.7	-3.5	0.7
Other Eating Places	356	118.4	128.3	123.7	4.5	-3.6	-1.2	-3.7

## **Explanatory Notes**

### ***Introduction***

The Retail Sales Index (RSI) and Catering Trade Index (CTI) measure the short-term performance of retail and catering trade industries based on the sales records of retail and catering establishments. Data for the compilation of the indices are primarily obtained from the results of the monthly surveys of retail and catering establishments respectively. Retail establishments refer to those selling merchandise directly to the consumers. Catering establishments are those selling prepared food and drinks for in-premises consumption or on a take-away basis. Hawkers and stallholders selling cooked food and prepared drinks are not considered as catering establishments.

The difference between the index of the current month and that of the preceding month in percentage term indicates the monthly change. To measure the annual change, the index of the current month is compared with that of the same month in the preceding year.

The RSI and CTI are presented at both current prices and constant prices. Changes in the indices at current prices measure the changes of sales values due to changes in both price and quantity. By removing the price effect, the indices at constant prices measure the changes in the volume of economic activity.

### ***Seasonal Adjustment***

Seasonal effects are observed in both the RSI and CTI as there are usually intra-year periodic variations that occur during fixed period of time. To better reflect the underlying trend of the monthly sales, both indices are seasonally adjusted to remove the seasonal effects.

Singapore Department of Statistics  
15 January 2009

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More data are available at SingStat website at <http://www.singstat.gov.sg/pubn/business.html#mrs>