



LOCAL RETAIL SALES

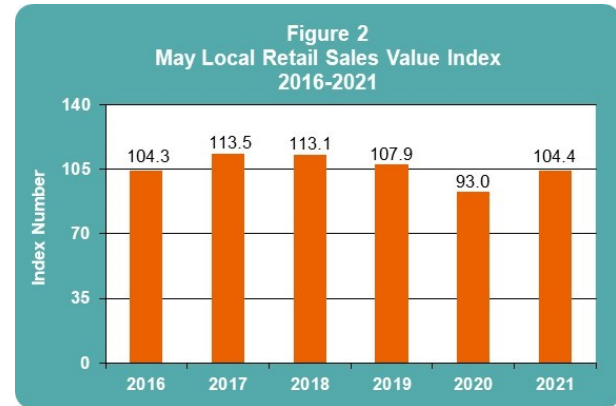
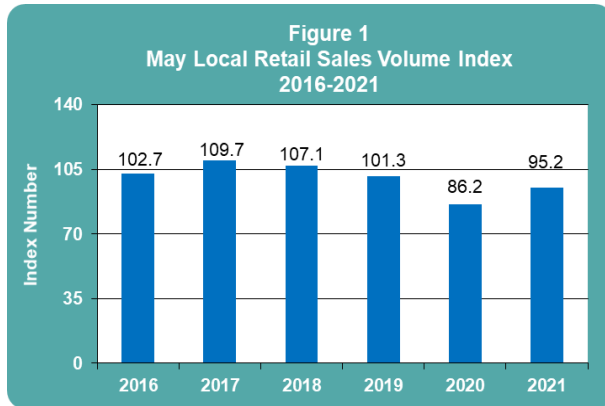
Sales Volume Increased 10.4 Per Cent

After adjusting for the retail sales rate of inflation, measured at 1.6 per cent in May, the overall volume of retail sales increased 10.4 per cent when compared to May 2020. This growth was attributed mostly to increased spending on-island by residents in 2021 and less restricted sales activity compared to May

2020 during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. In value terms, retail sales rose 12.3 per cent to an estimated \$97.4 million.

Five of the seven retail sectors recorded higher sales volumes with Apparel Stores having the largest percentage increase.

Excluding Sundays, there were 25 shopping days, the same as in May 2020.



SUMMARY STATISTICS

Period	Local Retail Sales						Selected Overseas Declarations (See Note)					
	Index		Annual % Change		Sales Estimate (\$M)		Value (\$M)					Annual % Change
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Via Courier (a)	By Residents Via Airport (b)	By Households Via Sea (c)	Via Bermuda Post Office (d)	Total (a+b+c+d)	
2020												
May	86.2 ^R	93.0 ^R	-14.9 ^R	-13.8 ^R	80.5 ^R	86.8 ^R	12.7	0.0*	1.3	0.1	14.1	-28.8
Jun	93.7	101.3	-6.0	-4.8	87.5	94.5	12.9	0.1	2.0	0.0*	15.0	-11.2
Jul	105.7	113.4	+1.5	+1.3	98.7	105.8	15.6	0.6	3.3	0.1	19.6	-8.4
Aug	99.6	107.1	+9.2	+10.1	93.0	99.9	13.8	1.6	4.2	0.1	19.7	+4.2
Sep	94.4	101.5	+5.9	+6.6	88.1	94.8	14.6	1.4	4.6	0.3	20.9	+32.3
Oct	98.9	106.7	+7.9	+8.8	92.3	99.5	14.7	1.4	5.5	0.4	22.0	+18.9
Nov	98.7	106.4	+7.0	+7.9	92.1	99.3	18.1	1.5	7.1	0.4	27.1	+28.4
Dec	119.5	129.0	+14.2	+15.3	111.6	120.4	19.0	1.7	8.5	0.6	29.8	+22.6
2021												
Jan	90.0	97.5	+5.8	+6.7	83.9	91.0	12.4	1.2	6.2	0.5	20.3	+14.0
Feb	86.3	93.7	+4.5	+5.8	80.5	87.5	13.5	0.8	7.6	0.4	22.3	+36.0
Mar	103.6	113.3	+7.7	+9.8	96.6	105.7	13.9	1.0	8.6	0.4	23.9	+40.6
Apr	80.9	88.5	+23.3	+25.4	75.5	82.5	14.4	1.5	8.0	0.2	24.1	+99.2
May	95.2	104.4	+10.4	+12.3	88.9	97.4	12.4	2.7	8.7	0.4	24.2	+71.6

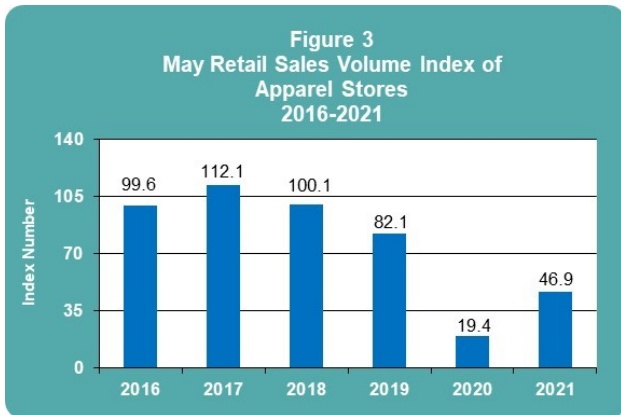
The Retail Sales Index (RSI) is based on a matched sample of reporting local retail stores. The sales data are collected from these stores via a monthly mail survey.

NOTE: Data on selected overseas declarations have been expanded as of December 2018 to show categories that represent a combination of goods purchased directly from overseas, online shopping, gifts, etc. In September 2019, the total selected overseas declarations and annual percentage change were added.

*See page 2 - Analysis of Selected Overseas Declarations

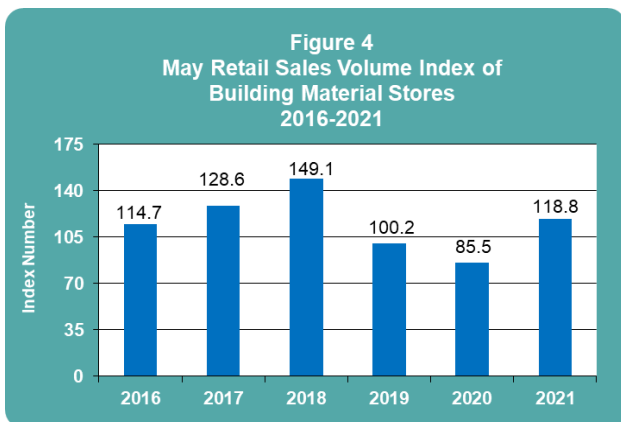
Apparel Stores

Sales for Apparel Stores increased over two-fold in both volume and value terms during May 2021. The rise in sales was due to retailers being closed or offering curbside pick-up only in May 2020 during the lockdown compared to operating with fewer restrictions on sales this year. Volume sales for apparel stores remained below the May 2019 sales level (Figure 3).



Building Material Stores

Sales at Building Material Stores rose 38.9 per cent in both volume and value terms. The growth in sales reflected increased renovations and customer projects and also signaled a return to a sales level which was higher than the pre-pandemic sales volume in May 2019 (Figure 4).



All Other Store Types

During May 2021, the sales volume for the All Other Stores Types grew by 21.6 per cent. In value terms, sales for this sector increased 26.1 per cent. Gross receipts from the sale of miscellaneous goods and sales at pharmacies both doubled from the May 2020 levels. The sales value of fur-

niture, appliances and electronics grew 20.7 per cent. The sales value for marine and boat suppliers rose 76.6 per cent with increased sales of boats and boating accessories.

Service Stations

The volume of sales for Service Stations increased by 21.0 per cent. The value of sales rose 29.2 per cent which was due largely to a 6.7 per cent increase in fuel prices as well as a rise in boat traffic and the number of vehicles in transit on the road.

Motor Vehicle Stores

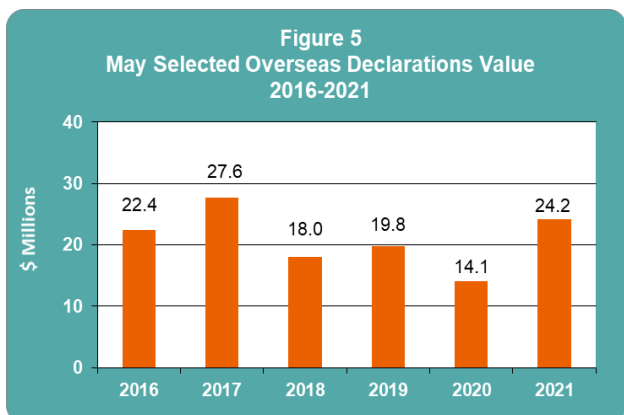
The Motor Vehicle Stores sales volume rose by 18.6 per cent due mostly to a greater number of cars sold which offset decreasing motorcycle sales. In value terms, sales increased by 18.3 per cent.

Food and Liquor Stores

The sales volume of Food Stores decreased 2.5 per cent while the sales volume of Liquor Stores fell 13.3 per cent. In value terms, the sales for Food Stores decreased 2.8 per cent while Liquor Stores dropped by 13.6 per cent. In May 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic and the government restrictions resulted in larger than average purchases of food and liquor.

Selected Overseas Declarations (Value)*

Imports via courier decreased \$0.3 million to \$12.4 million. Imports by households via sea rose \$7.4 million to \$8.7 million as a result of higher imports of furniture, clothing, and electrical machinery and equipment. Declarations at the airport by returning residents rose to \$2.7 million and imports via the Bermuda Post Office rose to \$0.4 million from \$0.1 million.



RETAIL SALES INDEX — MAY 2021

Table 1 Local Retail Sales Index and Per Cent Changes
Average Monthly Sales **Volume**^{1,4,5}

2015=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	
	Index	%	Index	%	Index	%	Index	%	Index	%	Index	%	Index	%	Index	%
2020																
May	86.2 ^R	-14.9 ^R	106.2 ^R	+4.9 ^R	114.2 ^R	+19.5 ^R	59.7 ^R	-31.5 ^R	71.9 ^R	-30.1 ^R	85.5 ^R	-14.7 ^R	19.4 ^R	-76.4 ^R	80.0 ^R	-25.7 ^R
Jun	93.7	-6.0	104.6	+0.4	105.9	+4.4	64.2	-18.1	89.4	-23.6	106.6	+7.5	74.6	-44.2	106.6	+1.7
Jul	105.7	+1.5	109.7	+2.2	122.7	+11.1	99.4	-0.8	112.7	-8.7	99.0	+13.0	59.6	-22.6	119.4	+6.3
Aug	99.6	+9.2	104.3	+10.8	100.6	+9.8	93.6	+43.6	103.1	-0.8	112.4	+12.0	51.3	-28.4	103.9	+12.2
Sep	94.4	+5.9	102.1	+5.1	93.1	+7.8	83.1	+35.8	98.6	-1.3	111.6	+10.7	52.7	-17.9	91.5	+7.1
Oct	98.9	+7.9	105.7	+7.2	95.3	+17.7	94.9	+21.2	96.6	+0.1	107.2	+5.1	53.2	-11.9	100.6	+9.5
Nov	98.7	+7.0	101.3	+7.9	86.6	+10.7	68.6	-1.3	89.2	-1.7	118.4	+13.4	71.9	-11.9	107.9	+12.5
Dec	119.5	+14.2	118.1	+16.6	132.1	+29.0	83.5	+14.2	85.4	-4.0	101.9	+23.1	119.8	-6.3	139.9	18.5
2021																
Jan	90.0	+5.8	105.2	+11.8	77.4	+20.2	65.7	-23.6	76.1	-7.4	97.7	+5.2	44.8	-5.5	90.6	+9.6
Feb	86.3	+4.5	94.6	+4.1	79.1	+20.4	64.2	-14.5	77.4	-4.1	107.8	+14.7	41.9	+5.0	91.0	+8.9
Mar	103.6	+7.7	107.4	-13.1	114.9	+13.1	106.0	+117.7	84.4	+6.2	181.5	+26.3	49.6	+72.2	103.2	+22.4
Apr	80.9	+23.3	108.2	-5.0	88.1	-19.1	48.1	+5,912.5	60.9	+65.9	85.4	+379.8	13.2	+500.0	71.4	+79.8
May	95.2	+10.4	103.5	-2.5	99.0	-13.3	70.8	+18.6	87.0	+21.0	118.8	+38.9	46.9	+141.8	97.3	+21.6

Table 2 Local Retail Sales Index and Per Cent Changes
Average Monthly Sales **Value**^{1,4,5}

2015=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	
	Index	%	Index	%	Index	%	Index	%	Index	%	Index	%	Index	%	Index	%
2020																
May	93.0 ^R	-13.8 ^R	121.9 ^R	+9.8 ^R	141.4 ^R	23.4 ^R	59.7 ^R	-31.1 ^R	77.0 ^R	-33.7 ^R	87.3 ^R	-14.8 ^R	20.7 ^R	-76.0 ^R	84.4 ^R	-24.9 ^R
Jun	101.3	-4.8	119.4	+4.1	131.4	+6.6	64.6	-17.2	95.8	-25.6	108.8	+8.3	79.7	-43.3	112.6	+2.6
Jul	113.4	+1.3	125.3	+5.7	152.7	+15.1	96.0	-3.5	115.8	-18.9	101.1	+13.9	63.6	-21.7	126.1	+6.9
Aug	107.1	+10.1	119.2	+14.8	125.2	+13.4	91.3	+41.1	104.8	-7.7	114.7	+12.0	54.7	-27.5	109.8	+13.3
Sep	101.5	+6.6	117.1	+9.1	117.4	+11.0	81.3	+33.7	99.3	-9.6	113.9	+10.7	56.2	-17.1	96.8	+8.4
Oct	106.7	+8.8	121.3	+11.5	119.1	+20.7	92.7	+19.2	99.0	-7.6	109.5	+5.2	56.9	-11.1	107.6	+11.7
Nov	106.4	+7.9	116.1	+11.2	108.4	+15.0	67.2	-2.6	90.8	-8.3	120.8	+13.4	76.9	-11.1	116.3	+15.1
Dec	129.0	+15.3	134.6	+19.5	164.0	+32.5	82.9	+14.2	88.2	-8.9	104.0	+23.1	128.1	-5.5	150.8	+21.1
2021																
Jan	97.5	+6.7	119.7	+12.9	96.6	+24.8	65.7	-23.1	81.3	-9.4	99.7	+5.2	48.1	-4.4	97.6	+11.7
Feb	93.7	+5.8	108.0	+5.5	97.5	+22.8	64.0	-14.9	83.6	-3.4	110.1	+14.7	45.0	+6.4	98.3	+11.2
Mar	113.3	+9.8	123.2	-11.4	141.7	+13.6	105.6	+116.4	96.3	+13.2	185.3	+26.4	53.2	+74.4	111.4	+24.6
Apr	88.5	+25.4	124.0	-4.1	108.8	-19.5	47.9	+5,887.5	68.6	+74.6	87.2	+379.1	14.1	+513.0	77.7	+85.4
May	104.4	+12.3	118.5	-2.8	122.1	-13.6	70.6	+18.3	99.5	+29.2	121.3	+38.9	50.1	+142.0	106.4	+26.1

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

⁴ Adjustments are not made for a 4/4/5 calendar month

⁵ The yearly series reflect annual changes.

^R Represents revised

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The RSI was first developed in 1982. It is a key economic indicator used to assess the current performance of sales activity in the local 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 2015 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 reflects generally 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

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 2015.

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.

Gross Sales

Gross sales (volume and value) are sales for which no deductions have been made for the return of merchandise, allowances and discounts.

Retail Establishment

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.

Selected Overseas Declarations

Overseas declarations reflect the value of goods declared, whether for personal or business use, by returning residents via the airport, imports via couriers, imports via the Bermuda Post Office and the value of non-commercial imports by households via sea.

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.

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.

August 2021

Department of Statistics
Cedar Park Centre,
48 Cedar Avenue, Hamilton HM 11, Bermuda

P.O. Box HM 3015
Hamilton HM MX, Bermuda

Tel: (441) 297-7761, Fax: (441) 295-8390

E-mail: statistics@gov.bm

Webpage: www.gov.bm/department/statistics



@BermudaStats