

Christchurch Retail Trade Indicator: March 2016 quarter

Embargoed until 10:45am – 21 June 2016

Key facts

For the March 2016 quarter, compared with the December 2015 quarter, seasonally adjusted figures show that in Christchurch city:

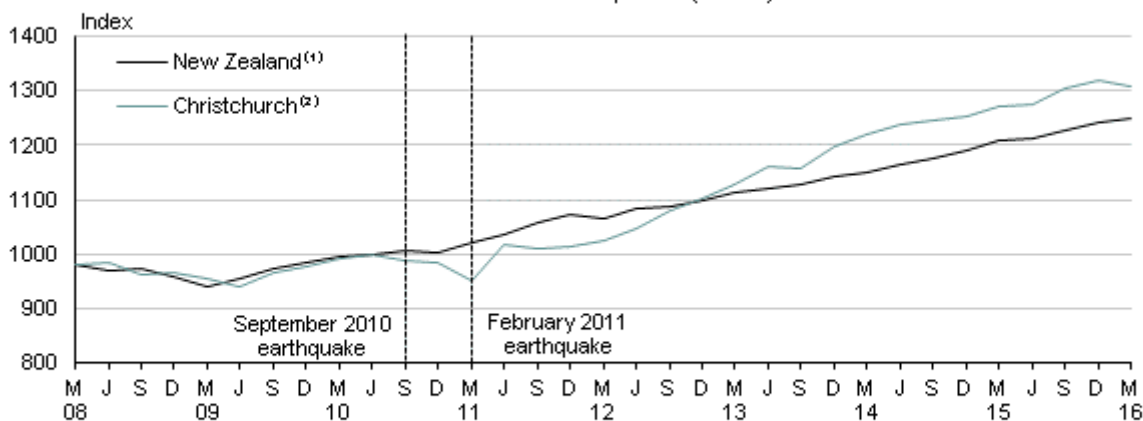
- Total retail and hospitality sales **fell** 0.7 percent (nationally, sales rose 0.6 percent).
- Retail sales **fell** 1.1 percent.
- Hospitality sales **rose** 2.2 percent.

Total retail and hospitality growth was similar for Christchurch and New Zealand before the earthquakes, but diverged markedly between the June 2010 and September 2012 quarters.

The graph shows that continued growth over the past three years in the Christchurch series has maintained its gap ahead of the national level, with signs of easing in the latest quarter.

Quarterly index numbers – retail and hospitality

Seasonally adjusted sales
Base: June 2010 quarter (=1000)



1. The New Zealand index numbers are calculated from the retail trade series RTTQ.S1S9C.

2. The Christchurch index numbers are calculated from the Christchurch retail trade indicator series RTIQ.S9S.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Carol Slappendel, Acting Government Statistician
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Commentary

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All values are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise stated, and are not adjusted for price change.

Christchurch retail trade indicator feedback

We are evaluating the future of the Christchurch Retail Trade Indicator publication. As we are five years on from the Christchurch earthquake events, we are interested in your feedback on the usefulness and level of demand for this data.

If you are a regular user of the Christchurch Retail Trade Indicator please contact:

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Christchurch sales dips slightly after steady growth

Total retail and hospitality sales fell 0.7 percent for Christchurch city in the March 2016 quarter. This decrease follows rises of 1.1 percent in December 2015 and 2.3 percent in the September 2015 quarters.

Retail Trade Survey: March 2016 quarter reported that national total sales rose 0.6 percent.

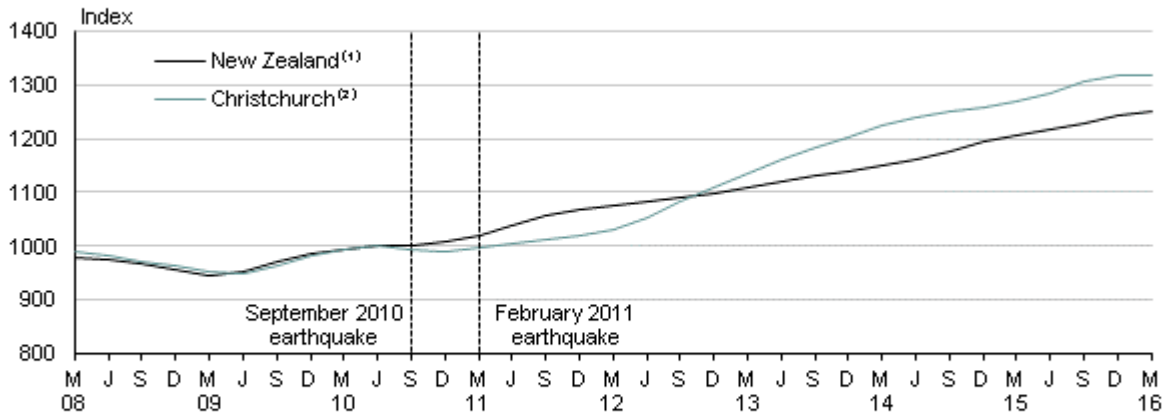
In actual terms, Christchurch's retail and hospitality sales for the March 2016 quarter was \$1.9 billion, up 3.8 percent compared with the same quarter in 2015. This follows a 5.1 percent increase in the December 2015 quarter.

Total retail and hospitality growth was similar for Christchurch and New Zealand before the earthquakes, but diverged markedly between the June 2010 and September 2012 quarters. Continued growth over the past three years in the Christchurch series has maintained its gap ahead of the national level, with signs of easing in the latest quarter.

The trend for Christchurch retail and hospitality sales has risen 32 percent since the June 2010 quarter (before the earthquakes began), compared with a 25 percent rise at the national level.

Quarterly index numbers – retail and hospitality

Sales trend
Base: June 2010 quarter (=1000)



1. The New Zealand index numbers are calculated from the retail trade series RTTQ.S1T9C.
2. The Christchurch index numbers are calculated from the Christchurch retail trade series RTIQ.S9T.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

The total industry grouping combines sales for retail trade and hospitality services (ANZSIC divisions G and H combined).

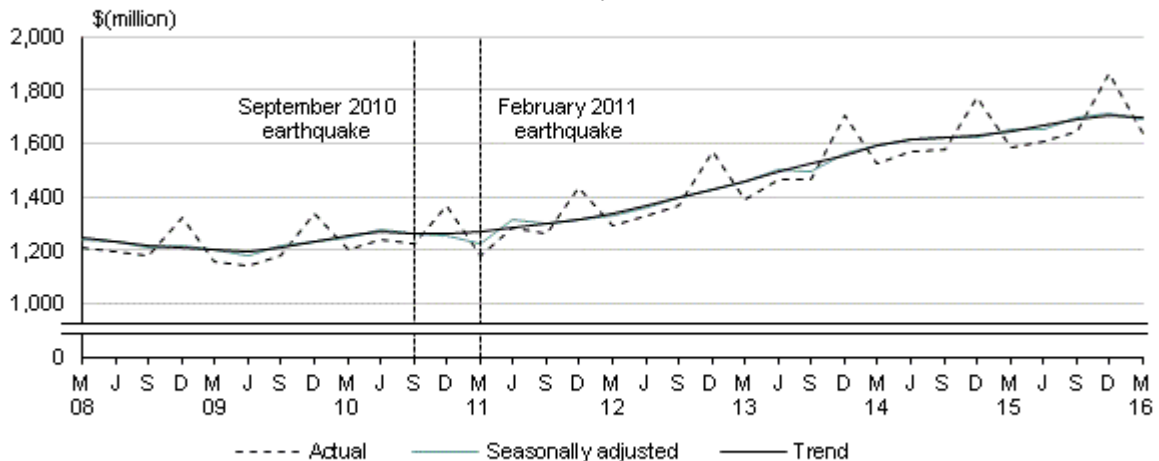
Retail trade sales fall

Christchurch retail sales fell 1.1 percent in the March 2016 quarter. This follows a 0.9 percent rise in December 2015 and a strong 2.7 percent rise in the September 2015 quarters. The lower fuel prices in the March 2016 quarter may have contributed to this recent fall in the retail industries.

The trend for Christchurch retail sales has been increasing for five years, however there are signs of easing in recent quarters. The trend for Christchurch retail sales is 35 percent higher than the most recent fall in the December 2010 quarter.

Christchurch sales

Retail trade (ANZSIC division G)
Quarterly



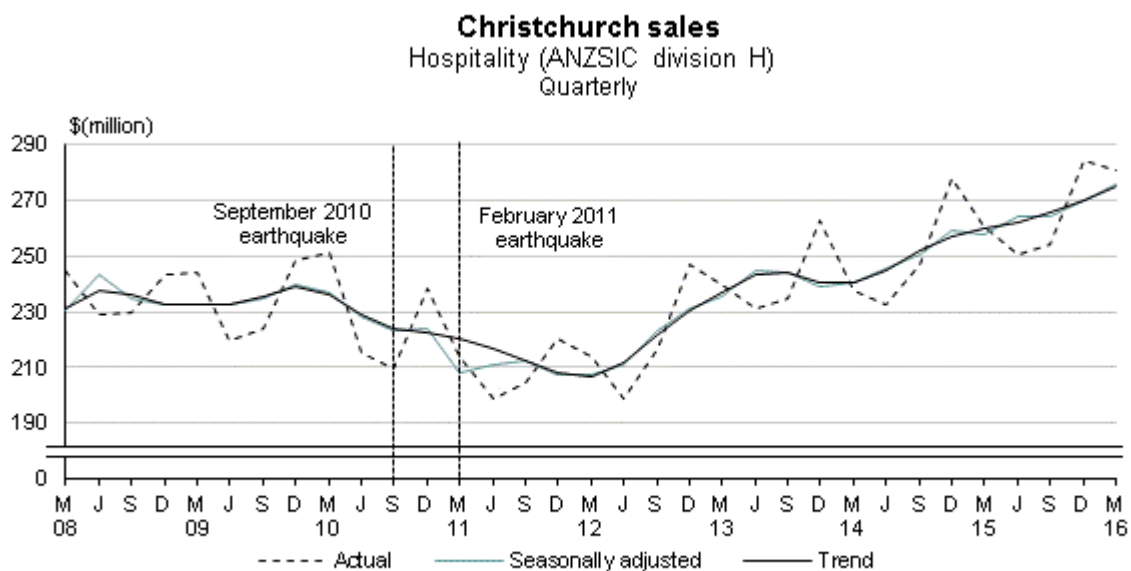
Source: Statistics New Zealand

The retail industry grouping (ANZSIC division G) includes businesses that mainly sell goods to the public, including motor-vehicle and parts retailing, fuel retailing, food retailing, and other store-based and non-store retailing. This grouping currently accounts for 85 percent of the total retail and hospitality sales in Christchurch.

Hospitality sales continue to lift

Hospitality sales in Christchurch rose 2.2 percent in the March 2016 quarter following a rise of 2.0 percent in the December 2015 quarter.

The trend for hospitality sales has been increasing for more than two years, and is 14 percent higher than the most recent fall in the December 2013 quarter.



The hospitality industry grouping (ANZSIC division H – accommodation and food services) includes businesses that mainly provide short-term accommodation for visitors, and food and beverage services. This grouping currently accounts for 15 percent of total retail and hospitality sales in Christchurch.

Caution about using data

The Christchurch retail trade indicator is an experimental series. We release it to provide information on the state of the Christchurch retail trade industry after the Canterbury earthquakes that began in September 2010. The statistics are provisional, because they reflect new methods that we may modify in future.

When interpreting the data, we recommend focusing on movements in the series rather than the level of sales, because:

- there is a known undercoverage of businesses with no suitable GST or Retail Trade Survey data
- sales of capital items may be included in the data
- income from insurance payments may be included in the data.

See data quality for more information about the design and limitations of the Christchurch retail trade indicator series.

For more detailed data see the Excel tables in the 'Downloads' box.

Definitions

About the Christchurch retail trade indicator

The Christchurch retail trade indicator is an experimental series. We release it to provide information on the state of the Christchurch retail trade industry after the earthquake sequence that began in September 2010. The statistics are provisional, because they reflect new methods that we may modify.

More definitions

ANZSIC06: Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification – New Zealand version 2006.

Business Frame: a register of all economically significant businesses operating in New Zealand.

Christchurch: defined using 2011 territorial authority area boundaries.

Christchurch central business district: the 2011 area units for Cathedral Square, Avon Loop, and Hagley Park.

Economically significant enterprise: enterprise that meets at least one of the following criteria:

- more than \$30,000 annual expenses or sales subject to GST
- 12-month rolling mean employee count greater than three
- part of a group of enterprises
- registered for GST and involved in agriculture or forestry.

Enterprise: a business entity operating in New Zealand, either as a legally constituted body such as a company, partnership, trust, local or central government trading organisation, or a self-employed individual.

Geographic unit: a subdivision of an enterprise. It is a separate operating unit engaged in New Zealand in one, or predominantly one, kind of economic activity from a single physical location or base.

Goods and services tax: GST is a tax on the consumption of goods and services and is collected from most enterprises in New Zealand.

Longitudinal Business Frame (LBF): contains data from two main sources: Statistics NZ's Business Frame (BF), and payroll tax records drawn from the Linked Employer-Employee Database. The BF is the predominant source – it covers businesses that are registered with Inland Revenue and meet the criteria for economic significance. All economically significant enterprises, and their attributes such as industry or region, are registered in both the BF and LBF. The main difference is that the BF only shows the latest available data on businesses, while the LBF records their attributes over time. The population of the Christchurch retail trade indicator is drawn from the LBF.

Related links

Next release

Christchurch Retail Trade Indicator: June 2016 quarter will be released on 23 September 2016.

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Data quality

Christchurch Retail Trade Indicator data collection methodology – DataInfo+

General and period specific methodology used to produce Christchurch retail trade indicator statistics.

Christchurch Retail Trade Indicator concepts – DataInfo+

Definitions of terms used in this release.

Principles and protocols for producers of Tier 1 statistics

Statistics in this release have been produced in accordance with the Official Statistics System principles and protocols for producers of Tier 1 statistics for quality. They conform to the Statistics NZ Methodological Standard for Reporting of Data Quality.

Related information

[Earthquake information portal](#) catalogues statistical data and reports designed to inform agencies responding to the Canterbury earthquakes. It provides links to reports and data from Statistics NZ and from other government and non-government agencies and organisations.

[Retail Trade Survey](#) has quarterly statistics on retail sales by storetype and region; retail stocks by storetype; and retail sales deflators by storetype.

[Electronic Card Transactions](#) has monthly statistics on the value and number of electronic card transactions (including debit, eftpos, credit, and charge cards) made with New Zealand-based merchants.

[Consumers Price Index](#) provides quarterly information on the price change of goods and services purchased by private New Zealand households.

[Accommodation Survey](#) provides information on short-term commercial accommodation activity at a regional and national level.

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Data quality

Period-specific information

This section contains data information that has changed since the last release.

- [Measurement errors](#)

General information

This section contains data information that does not change between releases.

- [About the Christchurch retail trade indicator](#)
- [Caution about using data](#)
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- [Comparison with the Retail Trade Survey](#)

Period-specific information

Measurement errors

All statistical estimates may have measurement errors that our customers should consider when analysing our statistical outputs. Errors from the Christchurch retail trade indicator series are of two types – model errors and other measurement errors.

Model errors

We use models to standardise the GST reference period to quarterly, which may include model errors. These errors measure the variability that occurs when we apply a statistical model to produce estimates, which quantifies the cumulative effect of model 'imperfections'. Relative model error is a measure of model error that is expressed as a percentage of the estimate at a confidence interval limit. It gives the levels of accuracy of the published estimates.

The table below shows the relative model errors for the level estimates of the Christchurch retail trade indicator series (at the 95 percent confidence interval limit). They show a 95 percent chance that the true value of total retail and hospitality sales in Christchurch for the March 2016 quarter (disregarding the business undercoverage) lies within 0.7 percent of the published estimate.

Model errors for estimates of Christchurch retail trade indicator industries			
Quarter	G Retail trade	H Accommodation and food services	Total
	Percent		
Sep 2010	0.9	1.4	0.8
Dec 2010	0.8	1.5	0.7
Mar 2011	1.4	3.3	1.3
Jun 2011	0.4	1.7	0.4
Sep 2011	0.5	2.7	0.6
Dec 2011	0.8	1.8	0.7
Mar 2012	0.9	2.2	0.8
Jun 2012	0.6	1.8	0.6
Sep 2012	0.7	2.3	0.7
Dec 2012	0.7	2.0	0.6
Mar 2013	0.6	1.6	0.5
Jun 2013	0.6	1.6	0.5
Sep 2013	0.4	1.1	0.4
Dec 2013	0.6	1.8	0.6
Mar 2014	0.7	2.2	0.7
Jun 2014	0.4	1.4	0.4
Sep 2014	0.9	1.6	0.8
Dec 2014	0.5	2.2	0.5
Mar 2015	0.8	1.7	0.7
Jun 2015	0.7	1.9	0.6
Sep 2015	0.8	2.2	0.8
Dec 2015	0.6	1.3	0.6
Mar 2016	0.8	1.5	0.7

Other measurement errors

Other measurement errors arise from inaccuracies in reporting by respondents, errors in recording and coding data, and Retail Trade Survey (RTS) imputation processes. The size of these errors is difficult to quantify. We may revise statistics if we find significant errors in subsequent quarters.

General information

About the Christchurch retail trade indicator

The purpose of the series is to provide information on the state of the Christchurch retail trade industry following the Canterbury earthquakes that began in September 2010. We are releasing the results as an experimental series while work into the methods is ongoing.

We will publish the series indefinitely, depending on the level of customer demand and the characteristics of the Christchurch recovery.

Caution about using data

We advise our customers to consider the following when analysing the Christchurch retail trade indicator series.

- We recommend focusing on changes and movements in the series rather than the actual level of activity – the series does not fully cover Christchurch businesses.
- The series is constructed using goods and services tax (GST) sales data from Inland Revenue, supplemented with RTS data. The GST data includes sales of retail goods and services and other income such as sales of capital items and businesses, and insurance payouts resulting from earthquakes (see [insurance and depreciation](#)). We are investigating ways to exclude sales of capital items, businesses, and insurance payouts from the GST data. Until this work is complete, we will exclude only large values that can be identified at aggregate levels, and the series will be released on a provisional basis.
- We publish data for two Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006 (ANZSIC) divisions: G retail trade, and H accommodation and food services. Although we refer to industries below this level in the commentary, the descriptions are only indicative. Data below this published level is not of high enough quality for statistical release.

Feedback

We welcome feedback on the usefulness and level of demand for the Christchurch Retail Trade Indicator. Please contact:

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Target population

The target population is all geographic units (GEOs) on Statistics NZ's Longitudinal Business Frame (LBF) that are operating in Christchurch and are classified in ANZSIC06 to:

- retail trade (ANZSIC division G)
- accommodation and food services (ANZSIC division H).

Christchurch GEOs are those classified to the Christchurch city territorial authority. The data uses [2011 territorial authority boundaries](#). A GEO must belong to an economically significant enterprise (see [definitions](#)).

Many Christchurch GEOs were damaged by the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes. We have several sources to identify temporary and permanent business closures. However, most of these sources have a timing lag, which means there is often a delay between a business closing and it 'ceasing' on the LBF.

We chose the LBF as the population source for the series because the Business Frame (which is normally used to select population and samples for Statistics NZ's sub-annual financial indicators) provides only the latest-available data on businesses. However, the LBF records businesses' attributes over time. To provide information on the state of the Christchurch retail trade industry after the Canterbury earthquakes, we produced a suitable back series to allow the seasonal adjustment of data.

Data sources

Data is sourced from the RTS and from Inland Revenue's GST sales information.

The RTS produces statistics at the national level, by industry. Statistics at a more-detailed level are often subject to higher sampling error. While most large businesses are in the sample, only portions of small to medium-sized businesses are sampled. We therefore cannot expect the sample to completely represent retail businesses in every city and region. If we attempted to produce statistics for Christchurch using only the RTS, estimates would be uncertain. For example, the March 2011 RTS estimated a 12.7 percent sampling error for the movement in Christchurch sales.

To produce more robust estimates, we use GST data from Inland Revenue and supplement it with RTS data – to produce the Christchurch retail trade indicator. This is so we have a greater coverage of Christchurch businesses.

A key difference between the GST and RTS data is the statistical unit from which the data is collected. GST data is collected at the enterprise (or legal entity) level, while RTS data is collected at the GEO level.

We use **GST** data wherever it is deemed to be suitable for use – for enterprises with one geographic location and involved in one industrial activity. For these enterprises, we need no additional statistical processes to apportion the GST data from the enterprise to the GEO level.

We use **RTS** data for the remaining businesses – generally large enterprises, so most are included in the RTS sample. These enterprises have one or more of the following characteristics:

- are located at more than one geographic location
- are involved in more than one industrial activity
- are part of a GST group (in which a single business reports on behalf of a number of businesses linked through ownership).

The GST sales variable from which data is sourced has a different definition from the RTS sales variable (see table below). Both the RTS and GST sales data are calculated as 'exclusive of GST' for our use in the series.

Definitions of sales variables in Christchurch retail trade indicator data sources	
Data source	Sales definition
RTS questionnaire	Respondents provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • total sales for the quarter (ie cash, credit, trade sales, and commission received for goods and services sold on behalf of others (eg commission on the sale of lottery tickets, but not total lottery receipts)) • hiring and leasing of consumer goods (eg movie hire) • pharmaceutical prescription sales and subsidies.
GST form	Total sales and income for the period (including zero-rated supplies)

Undercoverage of Christchurch businesses

The Christchurch retail trade indicator series has an undercoverage of Christchurch businesses. We make no attempt to impute for this undercoverage.

Reasons for undercoverage in Christchurch retail trade indicator	
Source of undercoverage	Description
Businesses with no suitable GST or RTS data	Businesses with one or more of the following characteristics (so using GST data is not suitable): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at more than one geographic location • involved in more than one industrial activity • part of a GST group. <p>There is also no RTS data available for them.</p>
Late GST filers	Businesses located at one geographic location and involved in one industrial activity whose GST return is not available in time for publication.
Six-monthly GST filers	We exclude six-monthly GST filers from the series, as we have no method to standardise this filing period to a quarterly frequency. Their contribution is only small.
Economically insignificant businesses	Businesses that do not meet any of the economic significance criteria (these are generally excluded from our economic surveys).

We estimated the levels of undercoverage for each series. As the level of undercoverage remains consistent over time, the series can be used to analyse changes and movements in Christchurch retail trade activity.

ANZSIC06 division	Estimated average undercoverage (percent)
G Retail trade	9
H Accommodation and food services	17
Total	10

Standardising the reference periods to quarterly

This section describes the methodology used to standardise the GST and RTS reference periods to a quarterly frequency. We developed the GST methods recently and they may be refined.

Standardising the GST reference period to quarterly

Inland Revenue collects GST data as part of administering New Zealand's taxation system. It is not primarily designed to produce economic statistics. We needed to develop methods to transform the GST data, which is submitted at different frequencies, to a quarterly frequency.

Enterprises submit GST returns monthly, two-monthly, or six-monthly (depending on the annual turnover of the business). The two-monthly and six-monthly returns can also be filed using different balance months. For instance, the two-monthly 'TA' return is filed using January, March, May, July, September, and November balance dates. The 'TB' return is filed on alternate months (February, April, June, August, October, and December).

Treatment of each of these GST-filing frequencies is described in the table below, along with an example using a typical June quarter.

Treatment for standardising GST reference periods to a quarter		
GST-filing frequency	Treatment	June quarter example
Monthly	Sum the three months of the quarter	Activity = April + May + June months
TA	Use the TA return in the quarter that includes two of the three months. We apply a modelling factor based on the activity of monthly returns for the same period.	Activity = May TA return x modelling factor for June
TB	Use the TB return in the quarter that includes two of the three months. We apply a modelling factor based on the activity of monthly returns for the same period.	Activity = June TB return x modelling factor for April
Six-monthly	Exclude from Christchurch retail trade indicator series – no method developed to standardise this filing period to a quarterly frequency.	

Standardising the RTS reference period to quarterly

From October 2003 to December 2010, we released the RTS data monthly. From March 2011, the RTS changed to a quarterly release. To produce data on a consistent basis, we changed the RTS data from October 2003 to December 2010 to a quarterly frequency by aggregating the RTS monthly data for each business to produce quarterly values.

Interpreting the time-series data

The following discussion will help data users understand the time series.

Quarters available

Christchurch retail trade indicator series data is available on a quarterly basis back to the December 2003 quarter. To provide information on the state of the Christchurch retail trade industry following the Canterbury earthquakes, we produced a suitable back series before seasonally adjusting the data.

Industry descriptions

Data is published for the following two industries.

Christchurch retail trade indicator series	
ANZSIC06 industries, subdivision codes, and descriptions	
Industry	Subdivision and description
G Retail trade	G39 Motor vehicle and motor-vehicle parts retailing G40 Fuel retailing G41 Food retailing G42 Other store-based retailing G43 Non-store retailing and retail commission-based buying and/or selling
H Accommodation and food services	H44 Accommodation H45 Food and beverage services

Publication timeframes

The Christchurch retail trade indicator series is published around three months after the reference quarter. This allows Inland Revenue at least two months of GST-processing time after the reference quarter. We estimate this should allow at least 95 percent of the GST sales value to be included when we construct the Christchurch series.

Delays in receiving GST returns due to late filing by the employer or Inland Revenue processing are possible. Inland Revenue's processing of GST returns can also be affected by updates to systems or administrative changes. We review the quality of the GST data each quarter. Our release will be delayed if necessary to ensure data is of sufficient quality.

In the March 2011 quarter, the GST sales value that we could use in the series, after two months of Inland Revenue processing time, was less than in previous quarters. Presumably this was due to a delay in businesses filing GST returns after the 22 February 2011 earthquake. For this quarter, an extra two months of Inland Revenue processing time was incorporated into the series construction, to ensure the processing rate was comparable with previous quarters.

Revisions policy for actual series

Revisions from the RTS are incorporated into the Christchurch retail trade indicator actual series. (Actual series have no seasonal fluctuations or short-term irregular movements removed.)

Other factors may result in revisions to the Christchurch retail trade indicator actual series.

- The LBF is refreshed on a monthly basis. Updates may result in the birth, death, and reclassification of businesses in the Christchurch retail trade population.
- GST data can be updated by Inland Revenue.

We are assessing the effect of these other factors on the series. Until this work is completed, we will not incorporate other revisions into the Christchurch retail trade indicator actual series.

Movement in the June 2010 quarter

The movement in the June 2010 quarter needs to be treated with caution. This was the first quarter the RTS dataset was available with an ANZSIC06 design, so the level of undercoverage (businesses with no suitable GST or RTS data) decreased. This caused a small upward level shift that affected the June 2010 quarter movement. Although we did not release the official RTS ANZSIC06 series until October 2010, we ran a concurrent ANZSIC96 and ANZSIC06 design from April 2010 to September 2010.

Seasonally adjusted series

We produce the seasonally adjusted and trend series using the X-13-ARIMA-SEATS package developed by the U.S. Census Bureau, to comply with international best practice.

Seasonal adjustment aims to eliminate the impact of regular seasonal events (such as annual cycles in agricultural production, winter, or annual holidays) on time series. This makes the data for adjacent quarters more comparable.

We recalculate all seasonally adjusted figures each quarter. This enables the seasonal component to be better estimated and removed from the series.

Estimated trend

For any series, the survey estimates can be broken down into three components: trend, seasonal, and irregular. While seasonally adjusted series have the seasonal component removed, trend series have both the seasonal and the irregular components removed. Trend estimates reveal the underlying direction of movement in a series, and are likely to indicate turning points more accurately than seasonally adjusted estimates.

We calculate the trend series using the X-13-ARIMA-SEATS seasonal adjustment package. They are based on a five-term or seven-term moving average of the quarterly seasonally adjusted series, with an adjustment for outlying values.

Trend estimates towards the end of the series incorporate new data as they become available and can therefore change as more observations are added to the series. Revisions can be particularly large if we treat an observation as an outlier in one quarter, but it becomes part of the underlying trend as further observations are added to the series. Typically, only the estimates for the most-recent quarter will change substantially.

Comparison with the Retail Trade Survey

The following table provides a summary of the main differences between the Christchurch retail trade indicator series and the RTS. We advise caution when comparing the two.

Main differences between Christchurch retail trade indicator and Retail Trade Survey		
	Christchurch retail trade indicator	Retail trade survey
Population	Christchurch GEOs classified to ANZSIC06 G and ANZSIC06 H	National GEOs classified to ANZSIC06 G and ANZSIC06 H
Population source	Longitudinal Business Frame	Business Frame
Data sources	Retail Trade Survey and GST data from Inland Revenue	Retail Trade Survey ⁽¹⁾
Frequency	Quarterly	Quarterly
Published industries	2 published industries	15 published industries
Design	Includes all GEOs, despite business undercoverage (described below)	Sample of GEOs
Undercoverage	Businesses with no suitable GST or RTS data Late GST filers Six-monthly GST filers Economically insignificant businesses	Economically insignificant businesses
Publication timeframe	3 months after reference quarter	6 weeks after reference quarter
Area boundaries	2011 area boundaries – Christchurch city territorial authority includes Banks Peninsula	2003 area boundaries – Christchurch city territorial authority excludes Banks Peninsula
Application	Analysis of changes and movements	Analysis of levels, changes, and movements
1. RTS does use forecasted estimates for small businesses from GST data.		

More information

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Feedback

Please send us your feedback on the usefulness of the Christchurch retail trade indicator

We are evaluating the future of the Christchurch Retail Trade Indicator publication. As we are five years on from the Christchurch earthquake events, we are interested in your feedback on the usefulness and level of demand for this data.

If you are a regular user of the Christchurch Retail Trade Indicator please contact:

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Tables

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1. Christchurch retail trade indicator

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