

TABLE 4.
WA Retail Turnover Comparisons by Sub-Sector
 2016-17 v's 2017-18

Source: ABS 8501.0 Retail Trade , Australia - June 2018 Seasonally Adjusted

Group	TOTAL Food Retailing			Supermarkets and Grocery Stores 82% of sector sales			Liquor Stores 10.8% of sector sales			Other Specialised Retailing 7.1% of sector sales	
	Year	2016/7	2017/8	% Var	2016/7	2017/8	% Var	2016/8	2017/8	% Var	2016/8
Jul	1161.7	1176.7	1.3%	946.1	967.1	2.2%	125.8	129.4	2.9%	89.7	80.4
Aug	1159.5	1162.5	0.3%	943.5	957.8	1.5%	125.7	128.3	2.1%	90.3	77.7
Sept	1153.7	1163.7	0.9%	939.0	955.0	1.7%	125.4	127.5	1.7%	89.3	78.5
Oct	1156.9	1174.1	1.5%	945.6	963.2	1.9%	123.7	126.5	2.3%	87.6	82.7
Nov	1161.2	1169.6	0.7%	951.1	958.9	0.8%	122.5	127.6	4.2%	87.6	83.4
Dec	1158.5	1165.5	0.6%	949.4	957.0	0.8%	123.6	126.2	2.1%	85.5	79.2
Jan	1163.9	1173.9	0.9%	954.7	967.2	1.3%	125.2	122.2	-2.4%	84.0	84.5
Feb	1162.2	1165.5	0.3%	958.7	954.4	-0.4%	123.1	126.7	2.9%	80.4	84.4
Mar	1159.2	1187.9	2.5%	954.4	973.9	2.0%	125.2	127.1	1.5%	79.6	86.9
Apr	1166.9	1191.8	2.1%	960.4	974.9	1.5%	124.2	130.5	5.1%	82.3	86.4
May	1164.9	1206.9	3.6%	958.4	992.0	3.5%	125.9	128.1	1.7%	80.6	86.9
Jun	1169.8	1193.9	2.1%	961.1	975.9	1.5%	129.0	128.1	-0.7%	79.7	89.9
Total	13938.4	14132.0	1.4%	11422.4	11597.3	1.5%	1499.3	1528.2	1.9%	1016.6	1000.9
National Variation 2016/7 v's 2017/8	Food Retailing Group		3.1%	Supermarkets and Grocery Stores		2.9%	Liquor Stores		4.6%	Other Specialised Food Retailing	

Sector:

Nationally: The Food Retailing Group sales increased +3.1%. Supermarkets had a growth of +2.9%, Liquor retailing increased +4.6% and Other specialised food retailing increased +5.7%. The WA results were vastly in all sub-sectors. Liquor Stores and Other Specialised Food Retailing are the most concerning areas.

WA: The WA results were vastly lower in all sub-sectors. Liquor Stores (1.9%) and Other Specialised Food Retailing (-1.5%) are the most concerning areas with broad variations compared with the national results and sub-sector returns.

Food Retailing cont.

Supermarkets and Grocery Stores:

The overall grocery market in Australia is valued at over \$100 billion per annum. Supermarkets are the highest turnover sub-sector, accounting for around 35% of all retail sales. This sub-sector continues to have historic issues of increased competition and "price wars". In-sector competition, and the additional entry of new players continued to have a significant effect on the market, stimulating further discounting and limiting growth of the established and traditional supermarket and grocery businesses.

During the year subtle changes were introduced in the second half, advertising moved away from the "disco" theme and redirected with support of "healthy eating" and "local sourcing", becoming the promotional catch-phrase. Market-share spread shifted, prices in selected categories have slightly lifted, resulting in a slight profit increase. Expanded product offerings like bakeries and the inclusion of ready-to-eat meals etc., has enabled retailers to minimise and offset turnover variations and increase the customer basket-size. Although marginal turnover growth has occurred, effectively this means that transaction spending has increased across the industry.

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A trend expected to continue, strongly driven through food and grocery retail include getting the customer to do more of the work such as self-service checkouts, electronic labelling that transfers the buying risk to the supplier through sale or return agreements, and reducing their supplier lists.

Continued automation and use of self-service checkouts will see lower skilled jobs and employment decline 2.5% in the five years to June 2022. However, grocery stores will increase employment in skilled trades, management and business intelligence. (source: BankWest Focus on Business Supermarket Report 2018)

Liquor Stores:

The liquor store sector continues to be dominated by the larger corporate/chain operators. Independent liquor store operators are generally micro or small business retailers trying to compete in an aggressive market. Continued ordering of liquor continues to grow and merchants are offering improved pick-up service options. 2017/18 sales at Dan Murphy's online sales delivering double digit growth. Nationally the sector grew +4.6%, WA turnover was again below this with a slight improvement of +1.5%. Although lower than national trend, this was an improvement on previous years where WA had consecutive turnover falls in 2016/17 of -2.3%, preceded by -5.6% in 2015. Premium product ranging continues to be promoted within the smaller group/independent outlets to offset reduced alcohol consumption.

Expansion of liquor store outlets by larger operators has raised social and community concerns of store footprints, location and captive population need. Community health, well-being and social need are also issues within rural communities.

New legislation before the WA Parliament will apply regulations on future liquor store licencing. This will include location, distance from existing similar businesses, size and community needs assessment regulations.

Industry threats and opportunities:

*The growing dominance of Woolworths and Coles has had the biggest influence on the industry
Oversupply and heavy discounting have reduced the price of wine over the past five years
Online liquor sales represent a small but fast-growing segment of the industry*

Source: IBIS World Australian Industry Report - Liquor Retailing, January 2018

Other Specialised Food Retailing:

After a horrendous start to the year (July - December) where each month registered negative sales, a slight recovery returned in January. National sales in this sub-group grew +5.7% while the WA results were disappointing falling -1.5%.

Product categories of this sub-sector includes the retail sales of:

fruit & vegetable retailing - fresh, frozen and canned meat - fish and poultry
delicatessen and smallgoods - gourmet shops - bakery, pie and cake products

Other Specialised Food retailing is a sector mostly run by small family businesses. Generally as individuals, are low-level employers, but employers. Products within these categories have been range and price target of supermarket product expansion and competition objectives.

There are no specific issues in this sub-group but all businesses will need to aware of their compliance, obligations and penalties within the recently introduced labelling laws regarding the "country/s of origin" and the "made in" regulations regarding all product offerings.



Food
sales

% Var

-10.4%

-14.0%

-12.1%

-5.6%

-4.8%

-7.4%

0.6%

5.0%

9.2%

5.0%

7.8%

12.8%

-1.5%

5.7%

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