

# WHOLESALE TRADE

## OVERVIEW

The wholesale trade sector expanded by 3.3 per cent year-on-year in the fourth quarter of 2021, moderating from the 5.5 per cent growth recorded in the previous quarter. Growth came largely on the back of an increase in the foreign wholesale sales of telecommunications & computers and electronic components.

For the whole of 2021, the sector grew by 3.9 per cent, a reversal from the 1.7 per cent contraction in 2020.

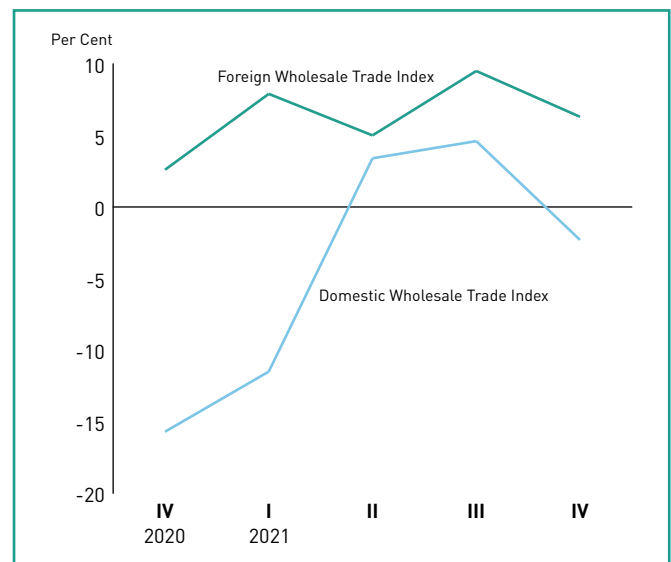
## WHOLESALE SALES

In the fourth quarter, the wholesale trade sector was supported by an increase in foreign wholesale sales volume, which outweighed a decline in domestic wholesale sales volume.

Specifically, foreign wholesale sales volume rose by 6.3 per cent year-on-year in the fourth quarter, moderating from the 9.5 per cent increase in the preceding quarter (Exhibit 6.9). Growth was largely due to an increase in the sales volumes of petroleum & petroleum-related products (8.0 per cent), other wholesale trade<sup>5</sup> (7.6 per cent) and telecommunications & computers (8.4 per cent), which outweighed a decline in the sales volume of metals, timber & construction materials (-0.9 per cent). For the whole of 2021, the foreign wholesale trade index expanded by 7.2 per cent, extending the 2.0 per cent increase in the previous year.

Meanwhile, domestic wholesale sales volume fell by 2.3 per cent year-on-year in the fourth quarter, a reversal from the 4.6 per cent growth in the preceding quarter. The decline was led by weaker sales volumes in segments such as petroleum & petroleum-related products (-12.9 per cent), electronic components (-7.0 per cent) and general wholesale trade (-8.4 per cent), which outweighed an increase in the sales volumes of telecommunications & computers (12.1 per cent) and other wholesale trade (7.7 per cent). For the whole of 2021, the domestic wholesale trade index fell by 1.9 per cent, easing from the decline of 12.1 per cent recorded in 2020.

**Exhibit 6.9: Changes in Wholesale Trade Index in Chained Volume Terms**



<sup>5</sup> The "other wholesale trade" segment consists of a diverse range of products that include agricultural raw materials and live animals, tropical produce, personal effects and medicinal and pharmaceutical products, among others.