

## Chapter 6.3

# WHOLESALE TRADE

### OVERVIEW

The wholesale trade sector expanded by 2.4 per cent year-on-year in the fourth quarter of 2022, moderating from the 4.1 per cent growth in the previous quarter. Growth during the quarter came largely on the back of an increase in the volume of foreign wholesale sales of petroleum & petroleum products and telecommunications & computers.

For the whole of 2022, the sector grew by 3.2 per cent, slowing from the 9.6 per cent expansion in 2021.

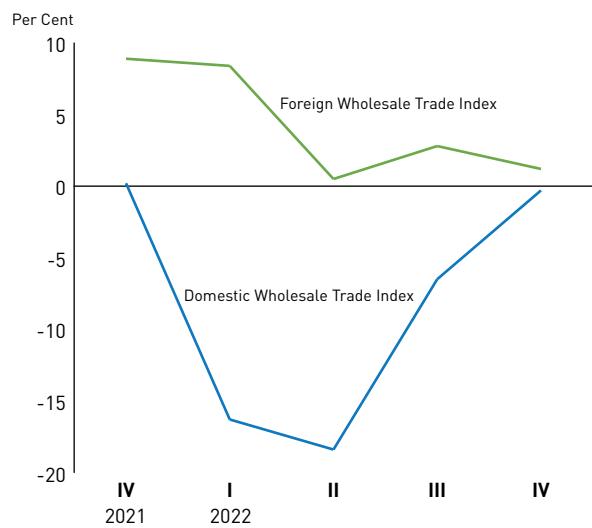
### WHOLESALE SALES

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 1.2 per cent year-on-year in the fourth quarter, moderating from the 2.8 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 (3.3 per cent), telecommunications & computers (7.4 per cent) and other wholesale trade<sup>5</sup> (5.3 per cent), which outweighed a decline in the sales volume of metals, timber & construction materials (-13.5 per cent). For the whole of 2022, the foreign wholesale trade index rose by 3.1 per cent, easing from the 8.8 per cent increase in the previous year.

Meanwhile, domestic wholesale sales volume fell by 0.3 per cent year-on-year in the fourth quarter, extending the 6.5 per cent contraction in the preceding quarter. The decline was led by weaker sales volumes in segments such as telecommunications & computers (-18.9 per cent) and chemicals & chemical products (-23.3 per cent), which outweighed increases in the sales volumes of petroleum & petroleum products (4.2 per cent), ship chandlers & bunkering (18.1 per cent) and other wholesale trade (9.2 per cent). For the whole of 2022, the domestic wholesale trade index fell by 10.5 per cent, worsening from the 0.5 per cent decline recorded in 2021.

**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.