

## MEDIA RELEASE

# RETAIL GROWTH TO LEVEL OUT FOLLOWING PICK UP IN FIRST HALF OF 2017

**According to the AFGC CHEP Retail Index: A lead indicator based on transactional data from CHEP pallet movements**

**30 OCTOBER 2017**

Released today, the October 2017 edition of the quarterly **AFGC CHEP Retail Index** has signalled continued retail turnover growth in Australia, but with a levelling out over the coming months of 2017, following the pickup in spending growth experienced in the first half of the year.

Key figures from the Index predict:

- 3.3% year-on-year retail turnover growth to the month of September 2017, trending relatively flat to 3.4% year-on-year for the month of November. This is down from the slightly higher 3.8% growth recorded year-on-year for June and August 2017.
- On a quarterly basis, 3.0% year-on-year growth to the September quarter trending to 3.3% year-on-year for the December quarter.

The AFGC CHEP Retail Index, which is based on transactional data from CHEP pallet movements and analysis by Deloitte, provides unique insight into the Australian retail sector. It is recognised as a reliable lead indicator of Australian Bureau of Statistics retail trade data.

Australian Food and Grocery Council Chief Executive Officer, Ms Tanya Barden, said: “The latest Index, along with commentary from Deloitte, shows that although we continue to see retail growth, the brakes will be reapplied slightly leading into Christmas. This follows the modest but welcome pick-up in the first half of the year. Financial risks are being felt more acutely by many consumers, which is affecting their sentiment and spending. Retail price growth has been very slow at around one per cent over the year.”

President of CHEP Asia Pacific, Phillip Austin, added: “The build to the Christmas trading period requires a particular supply-chain focus for both manufacturers and retailers to optimise inventory and maximise on-shelf availability, in the face of both intense competition and lower consumer sentiment. CHEP is actively supporting the end-to-end supply chain by ensuring the depth and breadth of supply of pallets and other transportation platforms, to enable the best outcomes for all parties.”

The AFGC CHEP Retail Index is a collaborative project between the Australian Food and Grocery Council and CHEP Australia, produced by Deloitte. To access the October 2017 Index and background information, visit [www.afgc.org.au](http://www.afgc.org.au) or [CHEP Australia's CHEPedia portal](#).

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**About AFGC**

The Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) is Australia's peak national industry association, representing the \$126 billion food, beverage and grocery manufacturing industry. As Australia's largest manufacturing sector, the food and grocery manufacturing industry is a vital contributor to the wealth and health of our nation. The industry's products are in more than 24 million meals, consumed by 24 million Australians every day, every week and every year. AFGC's aim is for the Australian food, beverage and grocery manufacturing industry to be world-class, sustainable, socially-responsible and competing profitably domestically and overseas. AFGC represents one of the few manufacturing sectors that continues to grow and has significant potential for even further growth into the future. For more information, visit [www.afgc.org.au](http://www.afgc.org.au)

**About CHEP**

CHEP is a global leader in managed, returnable and reusable packaging solutions, serving many of the world's largest companies in sectors such as consumer goods, fresh produce, beverage and automotive. CHEP's service is environmentally sustainable and increases efficiency for customers while reducing operating risk and product damage. CHEP's 12,500-plus employees and 300 million pallets and containers offer unparalleled coverage and exceptional value, supporting more than 500,000 customer touch-points in more than 60 countries. Our customer portfolio includes global companies and brands such as Procter & Gamble, Sysco, Kellogg's, Kraft, Nestlé, Ford and GM. CHEP is part of Brambles Limited. For more information, visit [www.chep.com](http://www.chep.com)

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