Working Papers on Economics - Consumption of households in Colombia: What do the retail trade indices tell us?

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AUTHOR OR EDITOR Arango, Luis E. Flórez, Luz Adriana Marín, N. Johana Posada, Carlos Esteban
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Publication Date: Thursday, 22 of August 2024 **Abstract**
Using monthly information on retail trade, we study the short-term dynamics of household consumption variations in Colombia. Based on a sample of retail trade excluding fuels and vehicles, we find that the growth of household consumption can be explained by lags in the Economy Monitoring Indicator (ISE), the interest rate, consumer credit, and consumer confidence. In a Granger sense, these four variables cause the growth of household consumption. Using instrumental variables, these variables remain as fundamental drivers of household consumption growth. Consumer confidence contains different information than the ISE. We associate this information with uncertainty due to a non-financial risk, possibly linked to unemployment according to our theoretical framework. Percentage annual variations of remittances and credit card limits are also determinant while the importance of labor market outcomes to explain the household consumption vanishes as long as the above variables are considered in the empirical models, or the consumption is modeled in annual percentage variations instead of monthly or quarterly.

Fuente: https://www.banrep.gov.co/en/publications-research/working-papers-economics/consumption-households-colombia-retail-trade