Document 0717

According to the ministry , retail sales at major department stores ev-w218f4_u_nobody up 12 % to 745.7 billion yen , while sales at supermarkets rose of 7 % to 642 billion yen .

[20717003]

September 's growth followed a 8.7 % rise in July and an 8 % increase in August . showing continued expansion at high year-on-year levels .

[20717004]

A ministry official said the growth leads to the conclusion the adverse effects of a consumption tax introduced in April have diminished .