

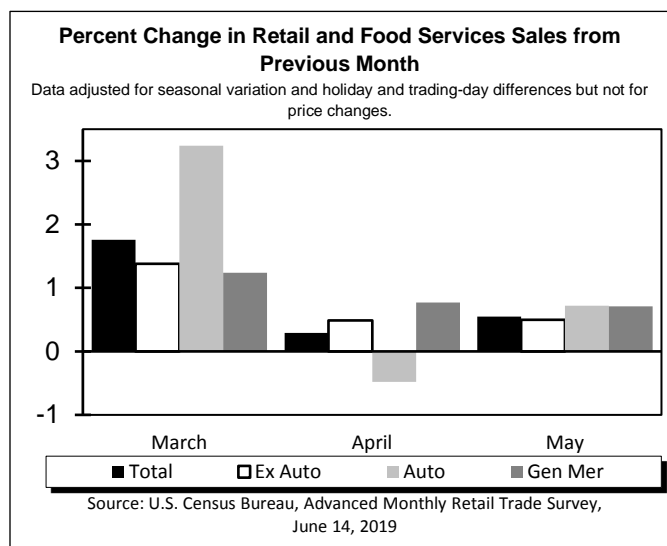
ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES FOR RETAIL AND FOOD SERVICES, MAY 2019

Release Number: CB19-80

Notice of Revision: Monthly retail sales estimates were revised to reflect the results of the 2017 Annual Retail Trade Survey and the Service Annual Survey. This report no longer contains the most up to date estimates. Revised adjusted and not adjusted estimates were released on our website on June 25, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. EDT.

June 14, 2019 — The U.S. Census Bureau announced the following advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for May 2019:

ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES		
May 2019	\$519.0 billion	0.5%*
April 2019 (revised)	\$516.2 billion	0.3%
Next release: July 16, 2019		
* The 90 percent confidence interval includes zero. There is insufficient statistical evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero. Data adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences but not for price changes. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Advanced Monthly Retail Trade Survey, June 14, 2019.		



Advance Estimates of U.S. Retail and Food Services

Advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for May 2019, adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences, but not for price changes, were \$519.0 billion, an increase of 0.5 percent (± 0.5 percent)* from the previous month, and 3.2 percent (± 0.7 percent) above May 2018. Total sales for the March 2019 through May 2019 period were up 3.6 percent (± 0.5 percent) from the same period a year ago. The March 2019 to April 2019 percent change was revised from down 0.2 percent (± 0.5 percent)* to up 0.3 percent (± 0.1 percent).

Retail trade sales were up 0.5 percent (± 0.5 percent)* from April 2019, and 3.1 percent (± 0.7 percent) above last year. Nonstore retailers were up 11.4 percent (± 1.4 percent) from May 2018, while sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, and book stores were down 4.2 percent (± 2.5 percent) from last year.

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General Information

The June 2019 Advance Monthly Retail report is scheduled for release on July 16, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. EDT. View the full schedule in the Economic Briefing Room: <www.census.gov/economic-indicators/>. The full text and tables of this release can be found at <www.census.gov/retail/>.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The advance estimates are based on a subsample of the Census Bureau's full retail and food services sample. A stratified random sampling method is used to select approximately 5,500 retail and food services firms whose sales are then weighted and benchmarked to represent the complete universe of over three million retail and food services firms.

Survey Description

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts the Advance Monthly Retail Trade and Food Services Survey to provide an early estimate of monthly sales by kind of business for retail and food service firms located in the United States. Each month, questionnaires are mailed to a probability sample of approximately 5,500 employer firms selected from the larger Monthly Retail Trade Survey. Advance sales estimates are computed using a link relative estimator. For each detailed industry, we compute a ratio of current-to-previous month weighted sales using data from units for which we have obtained usable responses for both the current and previous month. For each detailed industry, the advance total sales estimates for the current month is computed by multiplying this ratio by the preliminary sales estimate for the previous month (derived from the larger MRTS) at the appropriate industry level. Total estimates for broader industries are computed as the sum of the detailed industry estimates. The link relative estimate is used because imputation is not performed for most nonrespondents in MARTS. For a limited number of nonresponding companies that have influential effects on the estimates, sales may be estimated based on historical performance of that company. The monthly estimates are benchmarked to the annual survey estimates from the Annual Retail Trade Survey once available. The estimates are adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading day differences. Additional information on MARTS and MRTS can be found on the Census Bureau website at: <www.census.gov/retail/>.

Reliability of Estimates

Because the estimates presented in this report are based on a sample survey, they contain sampling error and nonsampling error.

Sampling error is the difference between the estimate and the result that would be obtained from a complete enumeration of the sampling frame conducted under the same survey conditions. This error occurs because only a subset of the entire sampling frame is measured in a sample survey. Standard errors

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and coefficients of variation (CV), as given in Table 3 of this report, are estimated measures of sampling variation.

The margin of sampling error, as used on page 1, gives a range about the estimate which is a 90 percent confidence interval. If, for example, the percent change estimate is +1.2 percent and its estimated standard error is 0.9 percent, then the margin of sampling error is $\pm 1.753 \times 0.9$ percent or ± 1.6 percent, and the 90 percent confidence interval is -0.4 percent to +2.8 percent. If the interval contains 0, then one does not have sufficient evidence to conclude at the 90 percent confidence level that the change is different from zero and therefore the change is not statistically significant. Estimated changes shown in the text are statistically significant unless otherwise noted. For a monthly total, the median estimated coefficient of variation is given. The resulting confidence interval is the estimated value $\pm 1.753 \times CV \times$ (the estimated monthly total). The Census Bureau recommends that individuals using estimates in this report incorporate this information into their analyses, as sampling error could affect the conclusions drawn from the estimates.

Nonsampling error encompasses all other factors that contribute to the total error of a sample survey estimate. This type of error can occur because of nonresponse, insufficient coverage of the universe of retail businesses, mistakes in the recording and coding of data, and other errors of collection, response, coverage, or processing. Although nonsampling error is not measured directly, the Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the process to minimize this type of error.

RESOURCES

API

The Census Bureau's application programming interface lets developers create custom apps to reach new users and makes key demographic, socio-economic and housing statistics more accessible than ever before. <www.census.gov/developers/>

FRED Mobile App



Receive the latest updates on the nation's key economic indicators by downloading the FRED App <<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/fred-mobile/>> for both Apple and Android devices. FRED, the signature database of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, now incorporates the Census Bureau's 13 economic indicators.

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* The 90 percent confidence interval includes zero. There is insufficient statistical evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero.

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Table 1. Estimated Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services, by Kind of Business

(Total sales estimates are shown in millions of dollars and are based on data from the Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey, Monthly Retail Trade Survey, and administrative records.)

NAICS ¹ code	Kind of Business	Not Adjusted							Adjusted ²				
		5 Month Total		2019			2018		2019			2018	
		2019	% Chg. 2018	May ³ (a)	Apr. (p)	Mar. (r)	May	Apr.	May ³ (a)	Apr. (p)	Mar. (r)	May (r)	Apr. (r)
	Retail & food services,												
	total	2,486,094	3.2	549,391	511,071	519,639	531,011	483,951	519,020	516,194	514,695	503,145	497,642
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	1,969,399	3.4	434,001	404,844	406,386	419,735	382,729	413,279	411,209	409,208	400,573	395,707
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	2,279,229	3.3	501,222	466,635	477,389	484,362	442,242	474,747	472,067	471,495	460,230	455,849
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	1,762,534	3.6	385,832	360,408	364,136	373,086	341,020	369,006	367,082	366,008	357,658	353,914
	Retail	2,182,163	3.0	483,525	449,167	454,795	468,027	424,946	457,174	454,781	453,464	443,501	439,452
	GAFO⁴	(*)	(*)	(*)	103,949	107,935	110,772	100,373	(*)	110,710	110,293	110,341	109,431
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	516,695	2.5	115,390	106,227	113,253	111,276	101,222	105,741	104,985	105,487	102,572	101,935
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers .	478,143	2.3	107,084	98,163	105,081	103,263	93,801	97,883	97,095	97,568	94,998	94,462
44111	New car dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	79,710	85,529	84,444	76,368	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4413	Auto parts, acc. & tire stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	8,064	8,172	8,013	7,421	(*)	7,890	7,919	7,574	7,473
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	47,841	-0.3	10,405	9,634	10,172	10,286	9,527	10,191	10,184	10,121	10,134	10,333
4421	Furniture stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	5,202	5,702	5,577	5,184	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4422	Home furnishings stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	4,432	4,470	4,709	4,343	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
443	Electronics & appliance stores	36,492	-2.8	7,500	6,804	7,664	7,645	7,090	8,047	7,958	8,059	8,247	8,361
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers.....	161,694	2.4	40,183	35,851	31,587	40,766	34,377	32,707	32,664	32,877	32,628	31,965
4441	Building mat. & sup. dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	30,882	27,449	34,446	29,275	(*)	28,970	28,955	28,610	28,230
445	Food & beverage stores.....	308,284	2.3	65,394	61,582	62,790	63,951	58,982	62,897	62,965	62,857	61,877	61,798
4451	Grocery stores	276,646	2.4	58,368	55,064	56,306	57,035	52,836	56,069	56,073	55,970	55,106	55,038
4453	Beer, wine & liquor stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	4,527	4,626	4,897	4,317	(*)	4,873	4,900	4,782	4,765
446	Health & personal care stores	146,431	4.3	30,712	29,588	29,728	29,592	27,710	29,875	29,707	29,639	28,898	28,479
44611	Pharmacies & drug stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	24,752	24,303	24,709	23,084	(*)	24,604	24,524	23,989	23,603
447	Gasoline stations	206,865	1.7	48,169	44,436	42,250	46,649	41,709	44,273	44,127	43,200	42,915	41,793
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	102,781	-0.1	23,573	21,802	22,338	24,144	20,988	22,829	22,826	22,874	23,369	22,761
44811	Men's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	885	776	913	864	(*)	820	810	820	836
44812	Women's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,610	3,614	3,845	3,460	(*)	3,441	3,495	3,573	3,426
44814	Family clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	8,726	9,040	9,526	8,108	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4482	Shoe stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,277	3,533	3,090	2,829	(*)	3,317	3,320	3,150	2,994
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	28,991	-5.9	6,359	5,982	6,080	6,517	6,159	6,469	6,398	6,333	6,753	6,874
452	General merchandise stores.....	283,530	2.7	62,420	57,569	59,512	59,796	54,532	61,375	60,940	60,476	59,429	58,722
4521	Department stores	53,053	-3.6	11,995	11,078	11,283	12,406	11,178	12,092	12,174	12,083	12,673	12,484
4529	Other general merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	46,491	48,229	47,390	43,354	(*)	48,766	48,393	46,756	46,238
45291	Warehouse clubs & supercenters.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	39,362	41,110	40,045	36,905	(*)	41,477	41,151	39,767	39,428
45299	All oth. gen. merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	7,129	7,119	7,345	6,449	(*)	7,289	7,242	6,989	6,810
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	51,041	-2.5	12,054	10,610	10,157	12,304	10,296	10,730	10,867	10,686	11,011	10,780
454	Nonstore retailers	291,518	10.7	61,366	59,082	59,264	55,101	52,354	62,040	61,160	60,855	55,668	55,651
4541	Elect. shopping & m/o houses	(*)	(*)	(*)	52,568	51,976	48,589	45,811	(*)	54,531	54,198	48,932	48,839
722	Food services & drinking places	303,931	4.6	65,866	61,904	64,844	62,984	59,005	61,846	61,413	61,231	59,644	58,190

(*) Advance estimates are not available for this kind of business.

(NA) Not available (a) Advance estimate (p) Preliminary estimate (r) Revised estimate

(S) Estimate does not meet publication standards because of high sampling variability (coefficient of variation is greater than 30%), poor response quality (total quantity response rate is less than 50%), or other concerns about the estimate's quality.

(1) For a full description of the NAICS codes used in this table, see <http://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics>

(2) Estimates are concurrently adjusted for seasonal variation and for holiday and trading day differences, but not for price changes. Concurrent seasonal adjustment uses all available unadjusted estimates as input to the X-13ARIMA-SEATS program. The factors derived from the program are used in calculating all seasonally adjusted estimates shown in this table. Year-to-date seasonally adjusted sales estimates are not tabulated. Adjustment factors and explanatory material can be found on the Internet at <http://www.census.gov/retail>

(3) Advance estimates are based on early reports obtained from a small sample of firms selected from the larger Monthly Retail Trade Survey (MRTS) sample. All other estimates are from the MRTS sample.

(4) GAFO represents firms which specialize in department store types of merchandise and is comprised of furniture & home furnishings (442), electronics & appliances (443), clothing & accessories (448), sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, and book (451), general merchandise (452), office supply, stationery, and gift stores (4532).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey, June 14, 2019. Table 3 provides estimated measures of sampling variability. Additional information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, sample design, and definitions may be found at www.census.gov/retail/how_surveys_are_collected.html.

Table 2. Estimated Change in Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services, by Kind of Business

(Estimates are shown as percents and are based on data from the Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey, Monthly Retail Trade Survey, and administrative records.)

NAICS code	Kind of Business	Percent Change ¹					
		May 2019 Advance from --		Apr. 2019 Preliminary from --		Mar. 2019 through May 2019 from --	
		Apr. 2019 (p)	May 2018 (r)	Mar. 2019 (r)	Apr. 2018 (r)	Dec. 2018 through Feb. 2019	Mar. 2018 through May 2018
	Retail & food services,						
	total	0.5	3.2	0.3	3.7	2.2	3.6
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	0.5	3.2	0.5	3.9	2.2	3.6
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	0.6	3.2	0.1	3.6	1.8	3.5
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	0.5	3.2	0.3	3.7	1.6	3.6
	Retail	0.5	3.1	0.3	3.5	2.3	3.4
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	0.7	3.1	-0.5	3.0	2.4	3.4
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ...	0.8	3.0	-0.5	2.8	2.4	3.2
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	0.1	0.6	0.6	-1.4	2.5	-0.2
443	Electronics & appliance stores	1.1	-2.4	-1.3	-4.8	-0.2	-3.0
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers.....	0.1	0.2	-0.6	2.2	-2.0	1.8
445	Food & beverage stores.....	-0.1	1.6	0.2	1.9	0.6	1.9
4451	Grocery stores	0.0	1.7	0.2	1.9	0.6	2.0
446	Health & personal care stores	0.6	3.4	0.2	4.3	2.1	4.2
447	Gasoline stations	0.3	3.2	2.1	5.6	7.1	4.0
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	0.0	-2.3	-0.2	0.3	0.7	0.1
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	1.1	-4.2	1.0	-6.9	3.5	-6.7
452	General merchandise stores.....	0.7	3.3	0.8	3.8	2.0	3.1
4521	Department stores	-0.7	-4.6	0.8	-2.5	0.3	-3.5
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	-1.3	-2.6	1.7	0.8	1.6	-1.1
454	Nonstore retailers	1.4	11.4	0.5	9.9	4.3	10.9
722	Food services & drinking places	0.7	3.7	0.3	5.5	1.7	4.6

(p) Preliminary estimate (r) Revised estimate

(1) Estimates shown in this table are derived from adjusted estimates provided in Table 1 of this report.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey, June 14, 2019. Table 3 provides estimated measures of sampling variability.

Additional information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, sample design, and definitions may be found at
<www.census.gov/retail/how_surveys_are_collected.html>.

Table 3. Estimated Measures of Sampling Variability and Revision to Advance Estimates May 2019

(Estimates are shown as percents and are based on data from the Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey and Monthly Retail Trade Survey)

NAICS Code	Kind of Business	Median CV ⁽¹⁾ for Current Mo. (%)	Median standard error ⁽¹⁾ for Percent change			Revision for month-to-month change ⁽²⁾	
			Previous Mo. to Current Mo.	Previous Qtr. to Current Qtr.	Current Mo. to same Mo. Last Yr.	Average revision	Median absolute revision
441 4411, 4412 442 443 444 445 4451 446 447 448 451 452 4521 453 454 722	Retail & food services,						
	total	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.2
	Retail, total	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.2
	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	1.2	0.9	0.4	1.1	-0.1	0.6
	Auto & other motor veh. dealers	1.2	1.0	0.4	1.1	-0.1	0.6
	Furniture & home furn. stores.....	2.2	1.3	0.8	1.8	0.1	0.5
	Electronics & appliance stores	1.2	0.5	0.5	1.0	-0.2	0.9
	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers.....	1.4	0.9	0.5	1.1	0.2	0.5
	Food & beverage stores.....	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.3
	Grocery stores	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.3
	Health & personal care stores	1.9	0.4	0.4	1.1	0.1	0.4
	Gasoline stations	1.6	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.5
	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	1.9	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.1	0.8
	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	3.8	0.8	0.9	1.4	-0.3	0.7
	General merchandise stores.....	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.3
	Department stores	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
	Miscellaneous store retailers	3.6	2.4	1.4	2.1	0.2	1.2
	Nonstore retailers	1.2	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.2	0.5
	Food services & drinking places	3.5	0.9	0.7	2.0	0.2	0.3

(1) Estimated measures of sampling variability are based on estimates not adjusted for seasonal variation or holiday or trading day variation. Medians are based on estimates for the most recent 12 months.

(2) These columns provide measures of the difference between the advance-to-preliminary and preliminary-to-final estimates of month-to-month change for the same pair of months as measured by the Advance sample and MRTS sample. The average and median revisions are based on estimates for the most recent 12 months with exception to the following: Total (excl. gasoline stations), Total (excl. motor vehicles & parts & gasoline stations), Electronics & appliance stores, and Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores which are based on estimates from April 2018 to present until we have 12 months of revisions.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey, June 14, 2019. Additional information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, sample design, and definitions may be found at <www.census.gov/retail/how_surveys_are_collected.html>.