

ADVANCE RETAIL SALES REPORT

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Frederick H. Mueller, Acting Secretary

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
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For release
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ADVANCE REPORT ON RETAIL SALES, JUNE 1959

Total sales of retail stores in June were \$18.7 billion, the U. S. Department of Commerce announced today. This advance figure, after adjustment for seasonal factors and trading day differences was virtually unchanged from May and about 10 percent above June 1958.

The June sales figures are based on the Advance Report on Retail Trade, a monthly survey of the Bureau of the Census conducted in cooperation with a representative cross-section of about 1,700 retail firms which, in total, operate some 35,000 stores in the United States. The firms which are cooperating in the early reporting of sales are part of a larger group which furnishes figures at a later date. The advance estimates are preliminary and subject to revision, but the revision of the total seldom exceeds $1\frac{1}{2}$ percent.

The preliminary Census figures for June are shown in table 1 of this release. The Office of Business Economics noted that after adjustment for seasonal factors and trading day differences, June sales remained close to the highs established in May. The changes for the various major groups were generally small and offsetting. Final estimates for May indicate that seasonally adjusted retail sales were about 2 percent above April.

NOTE: This is a reprint of the Advance Report on Retail Sales for June 1959, released on July 10th. The statistics for June 1958 in table 1 have been revised to show sales prior to adjustment for seasonal and trading day differences, on a basis comparable with the other data in this table. In the original printing, the June 1958 statistics had erroneously been published on an adjusted basis.

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ADVANCE RETAIL SALES REPORT--PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES FOR JUNE 1959
 Table 1.--SALES OF RETAIL STORES IN THE UNITED STATES, BY KIND-OF-BUSINESS GROUP
 (NOT ADJUSTED for seasonal factors and trading day differences)

Kind-of-business group	Sales (millions of dollars)		
	1959		1958
	June	May	June
Retail stores, total ¹	18,662	18,592	16,603
Durable-goods stores, total ¹	6,764	6,435	5,590
Nondurable-goods stores, total ¹	11,898	12,157	11,013
Food group.....	4,254	4,437	4,104
Grocery stores.....	3,799	3,966	3,621
Eating and drinking places.....	1,349	1,336	1,283
General merchandise group.....	1,904	1,883	1,651
Department stores.....	² 1,102	1,087	961
Apparel group.....	1,086	1,128	963
Furniture and appliance group.....	973	899	847
Lumber, building, hardware, farm equip. group..	1,484	1,384	1,280
Automotive group.....	3,792	3,696	3,047
Gasoline service stations.....	1,494	1,427	1,331
Drug and proprietary stores.....	589	591	520

See footnotes below table 2.

Source: Bureau of the Census

Table 2.--SALES OF RETAIL STORES IN THE UNITED STATES, BY KIND-OF-BUSINESS GROUP
 (ADJUSTED for seasonal factors and trading day differences)

Kind-of-business group	Percentage change, June 1959 from--		Sales (millions of dollars)				Percentage change, May 1959 from--	
	May 1959	June 1958	1959			1958	April 1959	May 1958
			June	May	April	May		
Retail stores, total ¹	-0.4	+9.7	18,196	18,270	17,953	16,562	+2	+10
Durable-goods stores, total ¹ ..	+0.9	+19.5	6,153	6,100	6,137	5,235	-1	+17
Nondurable-goods stores, total ¹	-1.0	+5.3	12,043	12,170	11,816	11,327	+3	+7
Food group.....				4,398	4,292	4,159	+2	+6
Eating and drinking places.....				1,304	1,283	1,248	+2	+4
General merchandise group.....				1,990	1,935	1,798	+3	+11
Apparel group.....				1,154	1,059	1,013	+9	+14
Furniture and appliance group.....				940	918	840	+2	+12
Lumber, building, hardware, farm equipment group....				1,282	1,321	1,154	-3	+11
Automotive group.....				3,375	3,396	2,812	-1	+20
Gasoline service stations.....				1,386	1,381	1,297	0	+7
Drug and proprietary stores.....				592	579	539	+2	+10

Source: Office of Business Econom

¹ Totals include data for kinds of business not shown separately.

² Based on preliminary estimates supplied by Federal Reserve Board.

r Revised. See note on reverse side.