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ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES FOR RETAIL AND FOOD SERVICES June 2008

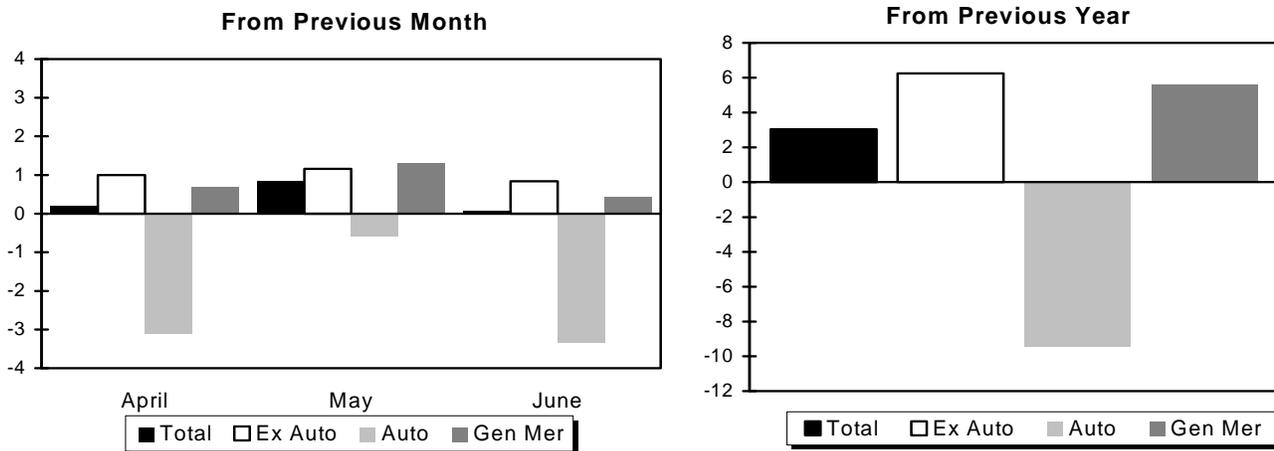
The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for June, adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences, but not for price changes, were \$384.2 billion, an increase of 0.1 percent ($\pm 0.5\%$)* from the previous month and 3.0 percent ($\pm 0.7\%$) above June 2007. Total sales for the April through June 2008 period were up 2.6 percent ($\pm 0.5\%$) from the same period a year ago. The April to May 2008 percent change was revised from +1.0 percent ($\pm 0.5\%$) to +0.8 percent ($\pm 0.2\%$).

Retail trade sales were up 0.1 percent ($\pm 0.5\%$)* from May 2008 and were 3.0 percent ($\pm 0.7\%$) above last year. Gasoline station sales were up 24.5 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$) from June 2007 and sales of nonstore retailers were up 8.1 percent ($\pm 2.0\%$) from last year.

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 5,000 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. Responding firms account for approximately 65% of the MARTS dollar volume estimate. For an explanation of the measures of sampling variability included in this report, please see the Reliability of Estimates section on the last page of this publication.

Percent Change in Retail and Food Services Sales

(Estimates adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences, but not for price changes)



The Advance Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services for July is scheduled to be released August 13, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. EDT.

For information, visit the Census Bureau's Web site at <<http://www.census.gov/retail>>. This report is also available the day of issue through the Department of Commerce's STAT-USA (202-482-1986).

* The 90 percent confidence interval includes zero. The Census Bureau does not have sufficient statistical evidence to conclude that the actual change is different than zero.

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				
		6 Month Total		2008			2007		2008			2007	
		2008	% Chg. 2007	Jun. ³ (a)	May (p)	Apr. (r)	Jun.	May	Jun. ³ (a)	May (p)	Apr. (r)	Jun. (r)	May (r)
	Retail & food services,												
	total	2,239,718	3.1	384,310	405,426	375,400	380,587	395,495	384,211	383,944	380,788	372,878	376,206
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	1,800,332	5.5	313,706	327,323	299,984	299,831	309,461	315,251	312,611	309,029	296,711	298,330
	Retail	2,013,108	2.9	345,579	364,570	337,459	342,285	357,416	345,939	345,582	342,733	335,943	339,627
	GAFO⁴	(*)	(*)	(*)	99,699	89,438	93,141	95,021	(*)	99,680	98,619	96,587	96,881
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	439,386	-5.7	70,604	78,103	75,416	80,756	86,034	68,960	71,333	71,759	76,167	77,876
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers .	401,296	-6.3	63,957	71,320	68,883	74,085	79,308	62,519	64,836	65,354	69,826	71,513
44111	New car dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	55,240	53,731	58,581	62,685	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4413	Auto parts, acc. & tire stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,783	6,533	6,671	6,726	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	54,053	-5.1	8,957	9,468	8,812	9,792	9,877	9,350	9,487	9,455	9,881	9,987
4421	Furniture stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	5,156	4,817	5,160	5,282	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4422	Home furnishings stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	4,312	3,995	4,632	4,595	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
443	Electronics & appliance stores	52,224	3.4	8,779	8,980	8,117	8,468	8,487	9,605	9,667	9,504	9,101	9,191
44311, 13	Appl., T.V. & camera.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	7,384	6,483	6,828	6,854	(*)	7,830	7,672	7,287	7,354
44312	Computer & software stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	1,596	1,634	1,640	1,633	(*)	1,837	1,832	1,814	1,837
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers	165,928	-3.3	31,141	34,384	31,011	31,779	35,979	27,707	27,961	27,339	28,139	29,093
4441	Building mat. & sup. dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	27,399	25,501	27,464	29,677	(*)	24,140	23,656	24,832	25,694
445	Food & beverage stores	288,014	5.8	48,724	51,471	46,930	47,254	48,105	49,240	48,895	48,960	46,615	46,393
4451	Grocery stores	259,521	6.1	43,577	46,065	42,242	42,131	43,005	44,062	43,788	43,865	41,631	41,431
4453	Beer, wine & liquor stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,659	3,197	3,486	3,371	(*)	3,462	3,449	3,342	3,311
446	Health & personal care stores	122,116	3.9	20,051	20,908	20,081	19,526	20,240	20,565	20,438	20,408	19,763	19,746
44611	Pharmacies & drug stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	17,296	16,610	16,189	16,994	(*)	16,841	16,846	16,486	16,531
447	Gasoline stations	255,333	20.5	49,281	47,431	42,637	39,974	40,841	45,971	43,958	42,552	36,910	38,312
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	103,045	1.6	17,555	19,400	17,384	17,550	18,772	19,241	19,118	18,973	18,691	18,948
44811	Men's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	908	851	863	888	(*)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(S)
44812	Women's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,643	3,452	3,304	3,653	(*)	3,392	3,404	3,341	3,469
44814	Family clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	7,173	6,395	6,668	6,934	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4482	Shoe stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,365	2,207	2,073	2,202	(*)	2,276	2,257	2,184	2,185
451	Sporting goods, hobby, book & music stores	40,094	3.5	6,964	6,969	6,439	7,044	6,675	7,561	7,510	7,453	7,353	7,384
452	General merchandise stores	280,334	4.9	49,144	51,428	45,576	46,908	47,678	50,484	50,267	49,615	47,817	47,659
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	91,791	-2.9	15,994	16,823	15,134	16,325	16,954	17,153	17,108	17,018	17,386	17,618
4521	Department stores (incl. L.D.) ⁵	(*)	(*)	(*)	17,287	15,557	16,782	17,429	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4529	Other general merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	34,605	30,442	30,583	30,724	(*)	33,159	32,597	30,431	30,041
45291	Warehouse clubs & supercenters.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	30,682	26,950	27,083	27,018	(*)	29,361	28,854	26,841	26,436
45299	All oth. gen. merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,923	3,492	3,500	3,706	(*)	3,798	3,743	3,590	3,605
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	57,500	0.6	10,029	10,647	9,322	10,475	10,737	9,953	9,875	9,912	10,250	9,964
454	Nonstore retailers	155,081	6.8	24,350	25,381	25,734	22,759	23,991	27,302	27,073	26,803	25,256	25,074
4541	Elect. shopping & m/o houses	(*)	(*)	(*)	17,817	17,765	16,346	17,154	(*)	18,425	18,258	17,633	17,468
722	Food services & drinking places ...	226,610	4.5	38,731	40,856	37,941	38,302	38,079	38,272	38,362	38,055	36,935	36,579

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

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

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

(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-12 ARIMA 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/mrts/www/mrts.html>

(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, book, and music (451), general merchandise (452), office supply, stationery, and gift stores (4532).

(5) Estimates include data for leased departments operated within department stores. Data for this line are not included in broader kind-of-business totals.

Note: 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 <http://www.census.gov/mrts/www/mrts.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					
		Jun. 2008 Advance from --		May 2008 Preliminary from --		Apr. 2008 through Jun. 2008 from --	
		May 2008 (p)	Jun. 2007 (r)	Apr. 2008 (r)	May 2007 (r)	Jan. 2008 through Mar. 2008	Apr. 2007 through Jun. 2007
	Retail & food services, total	0.1	3.0	0.8	2.1	0.9	2.6
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	0.8	6.2	1.2	4.8	2.5	5.5
	Retail	0.1	3.0	0.8	1.8	0.9	2.4
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	-3.3	-9.5	-0.6	-8.4	-5.4	-8.3
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ..	-3.6	-10.5	-0.8	-9.3	-6.1	-9.3
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	-1.4	-5.4	0.3	-5.0	-0.6	-5.4
443	Electronics & appliance stores	-0.6	5.5	1.7	5.2	2.5	4.8
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers.....	-0.9	-1.5	2.3	-3.9	2.8	-2.4
445	Food & beverage stores.....	0.7	5.6	-0.1	5.4	1.6	5.7
4451	Grocery stores	0.6	5.8	-0.2	5.7	1.4	5.9
446	Health & personal care stores	0.6	4.1	0.1	3.5	1.3	3.7
447	Gasoline stations	4.6	24.5	3.3	14.7	5.7	19.1
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	0.6	2.9	0.8	0.9	1.4	2.1
451	Sporting goods, hobby, book & music stores.....	0.7	2.8	0.8	1.7	1.5	2.6
452	General merchandise stores.....	0.4	5.6	1.3	5.5	2.3	5.2
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	0.3	-1.3	0.5	-2.9	0.4	-2.3
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	0.8	-2.9	-0.4	-0.9	0.7	-0.8
454	Nonstore retailers	0.8	8.1	1.0	8.0	4.3	7.7
722	Food services & drinking places	-0.2	3.6	0.8	4.9	1.7	4.3

(p) Preliminary estimates (r) Revised estimates

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

Note: 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 <http://www.census.gov/mrts/www/mrts.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Survey Description

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts the Advance Monthly Retail Trade and Food Services Survey (MARTS) 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 5,000 employer firms selected from the larger Monthly Retail Trade Survey (MRTS). Firms responding to MARTS account for approximately 65% of the total national sales estimate. Advance sales estimates are computed using a link relative estimator. The change in sales from the previous month is estimated using only units that have reported data for both the current and

previous month. There is no imputation or adjustment for nonrespondents in MARTS. The total sales estimate is derived by multiplying this ratio by the preliminary sales estimate for the previous month (derived from the larger MRTS sample). Detailed industry estimates are summed to derive total estimates at broad industry levels. The monthly estimates are adjusted using annual survey estimates and for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences. Additional information on MARTS and MRTS can be found on the Census Bureau website at: <http://www.census.gov/mrts/www/mrts.html>.

Official Business

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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 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 $\pm 1.65 \times 0.9$ percent or ± 1.5 percent, and the 90 percent confidence interval is -0.3 percent to +2.7 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 $\pm 1.65 \times CV \times$ (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.

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

(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
	Retail & food services,						
	total	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ..	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2
	Retail	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	1.7	1.2	0.6	1.5	-0.1	0.7
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers .	1.9	1.3	0.6	1.6	-0.1	0.7
442	Furniture & home furn. stores.....	2.3	1.4	0.8	1.8	-0.1	0.8
443	Electronics & appliance stores	1.3	0.6	0.5	1.3	0.2	0.6
444	Building material & garden eq. &... supplies dealers.....	2.3	1.2	0.8	1.4	0.1	0.5
445	Food & beverage stores.....	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.5	-0.1	0.2
4451	Grocery stores	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.2
446	Health & personal care stores	1.6	0.4	0.4	1.1	-0.2	0.4
447	Gasoline stations	2.0	0.5	0.3	1.3	0.6	0.4
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	1.9	0.7	0.6	1.0	0.0	0.6
451	Sporting goods, hobby, book & music stores.....	2.2	1.5	1.1	1.7	0.1	0.4
452	General merchandise stores.....	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.3
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	3.3	2.6	1.5	3.0	0.7	0.7
454	Nonstore retailers	1.6	0.9	0.6	1.2	0.2	0.6
722	Food services & drinking places ..	1.9	0.8	0.7	1.3	0.1	0.3



- (1) Estimated measures of sampling variability are based on estimates not adjusted for seasonal variation or holiday or trading-day differences. 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.

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