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ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES FOR RETAIL AND FOOD SERVICES May 2009

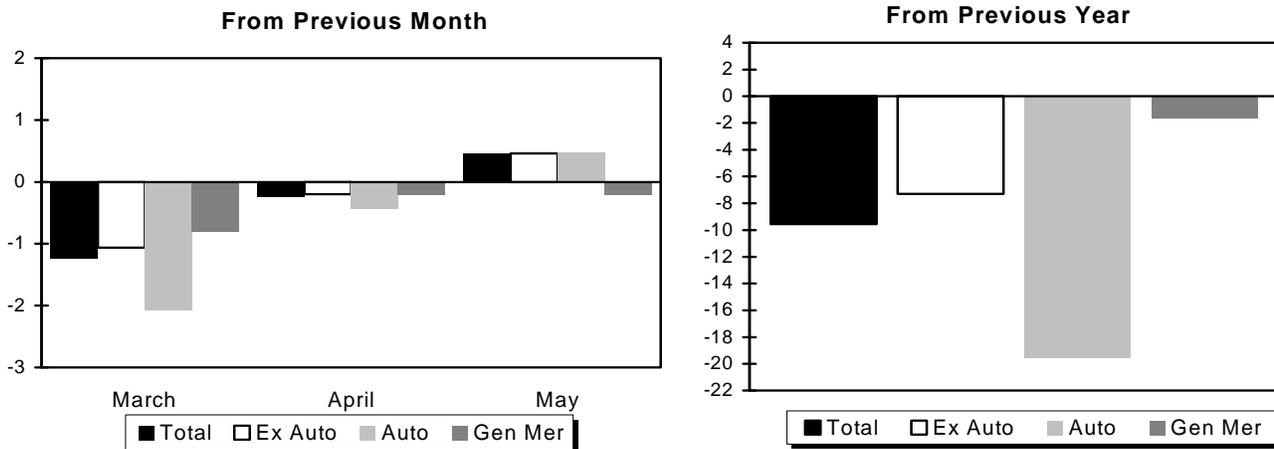
The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for May, adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences, but not for price changes, were \$340.0 billion, an increase of 0.5 percent ($\pm 0.5\%$)* from the previous month, but 9.6 percent ($\pm 0.7\%$) below May 2008. Total sales for the March through May 2009 period were down 9.7 percent ($\pm 0.5\%$) from the same period a year ago. The March to April 2009 percent change was revised from -0.4 percent ($\pm 0.5\%$)* to -0.2 percent ($\pm 0.2\%$)*.

Retail trade sales were up 0.5 percent ($\pm 0.7\%$)* from April 2009, but 10.8 percent ($\pm 0.7\%$) below last year. Gasoline stations sales were down 33.8 percent ($\pm 1.5\%$) from May 2008 and motor vehicle and parts dealers sales were down 19.6 percent ($\pm 2.3\%$) 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 June is scheduled to be released July 14, 2009 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				
		5 Month Total		2009			2008		2009			2008	
		2009	% Chg. 2008	May ³ (a)	Apr. (p)	Mar. (r)	May	Apr.	May ³ (a)	Apr. (p)	Mar. (r)	May (r)	Apr. (r)
	Retail & food services,												
	total	1,643,180	-10.2	355,414	335,968	334,149	399,979	370,144	339,993	338,422	339,228	375,912	376,009
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	1,363,212	-7.1	295,621	277,794	275,000	323,249	296,029	284,708	283,399	283,970	307,175	305,873
	Retail	1,454,609	-11.5	314,728	297,944	295,520	359,693	332,714	301,682	300,168	301,057	338,049	338,429
	GAFO⁴	(*)	(*)	(*)	87,174	87,477	98,891	88,721	(*)	93,600	93,891	98,549	97,740
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	279,968	-22.7	59,793	58,174	59,149	76,730	74,115	55,285	55,023	55,258	68,737	70,136
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers .	248,013	-25.0	53,086	51,500	52,498	69,892	67,527	48,658	48,448	48,699	62,181	63,645
44111	New car dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	39,467	40,575	54,724	53,160	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4413	Auto parts, acc. & tire stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,674	6,651	6,838	6,588	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	37,175	-14.8	7,674	7,253	7,601	9,146	8,525	7,767	7,799	7,885	9,110	9,147
4421	Furniture stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,965	4,262	4,991	4,663	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4422	Home furnishings stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,288	3,339	4,155	3,862	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
443	Electronics & appliance stores	40,064	-8.2	7,753	7,260	7,929	9,006	8,153	8,383	8,425	8,502	9,641	9,471
44311, 13	Appl., T.V. & camera.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	5,581	6,139	7,322	6,435	(*)	6,574	6,651	7,732	7,562
44312	Computer & software stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	1,679	1,790	1,684	1,718	(*)	1,851	1,851	1,909	1,909
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers	118,301	-11.7	29,951	27,506	23,469	34,330	30,843	24,612	24,299	24,435	27,451	27,473
4441	Building mat. & sup. dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	21,475	19,423	27,303	25,375	(*)	20,202	20,360	23,497	23,715
445	Food & beverage stores	239,068	0.2	50,876	48,089	47,273	51,267	46,805	49,028	48,848	48,881	48,752	48,930
4451	Grocery stores	214,884	-0.3	45,386	43,020	42,501	45,927	42,168	43,724	43,543	43,591	43,698	43,879
4453	Beer, wine & liquor stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,257	3,140	3,574	3,126	(*)	3,498	3,504	3,404	3,405
446	Health & personal care stores	104,666	3.0	21,525	21,103	21,531	20,833	20,000	21,291	21,145	21,088	20,285	20,284
44611	Pharmacies & drug stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	17,636	17,892	17,249	16,563	(*)	17,566	17,524	16,812	16,781
447	Gasoline stations	132,406	-34.3	30,382	27,200	26,342	46,337	41,674	28,105	27,119	27,326	42,472	41,716
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	78,225	-6.9	17,368	16,432	15,890	19,062	17,077	17,306	17,234	17,359	18,600	18,638
44811	Men's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	748	646	860	806	(*)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(S)
44812	Women's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,133	2,846	3,538	3,355	(*)	2,939	2,931	3,231	3,292
44814	Family clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,174	6,243	7,069	6,303	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4482	Shoe stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,158	2,071	2,383	2,222	(*)	2,095	2,157	2,316	2,295
451	Sporting goods, hobby, book & music stores	32,380	-2.1	6,795	6,328	6,433	6,975	6,409	7,244	7,299	7,244	7,460	7,367
452	General merchandise stores	231,407	0.0	50,546	47,044	46,753	51,468	45,620	49,515	49,620	49,722	50,368	49,746
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	70,442	-6.8	15,551	14,805	14,306	16,776	15,099	15,768	15,880	15,922	16,978	16,924
4521	Department stores (incl. L.D.) ⁵	(*)	(*)	(*)	15,226	14,716	17,289	15,559	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4529	Other general merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	32,239	32,447	34,692	30,521	(*)	33,740	33,800	33,390	32,822
45291	Warehouse clubs & supercenters.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	28,488	28,822	30,739	27,001	(*)	29,893	29,960	29,585	29,065
45299	All oth. gen. merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,751	3,625	3,953	3,520	(*)	3,847	3,840	3,805	3,757
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	45,300	-4.7	10,157	9,170	9,072	10,663	9,298	9,562	9,687	9,653	9,785	9,905
454	Nonstore retailers	115,649	-6.2	21,908	22,385	24,078	23,876	24,195	23,584	23,670	23,704	25,388	25,616
4541	Elect. shopping & m/o houses	(*)	(*)	(*)	16,075	16,660	16,611	16,576	(*)	17,011	17,000	17,142	17,412
722	Food services & drinking places ...	188,571	1.7	40,686	38,024	38,629	40,286	37,430	38,311	38,254	38,171	37,863	37,580

(*) 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					
		May 2009 Advance from --		Apr. 2009 Preliminary from --		Mar. 2009 through May 2009 from --	
		Apr. 2009 (p)	May 2008 (r)	Mar. 2009 (r)	Apr. 2008 (r)	Dec. 2008 through Feb. 2009	Mar. 2008 through May 2008
	Retail & food services, total	0.5	-9.6	-0.2	-10.0	-0.4	-9.7
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	0.5	-7.3	-0.2	-7.3	0.1	-7.0
	Retail	0.5	-10.8	-0.3	-11.3	-0.5	-11.0
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	0.5	-19.6	-0.4	-21.5	-3.1	-21.5
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ..	0.4	-21.7	-0.5	-23.9	-3.5	-23.8
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	-0.4	-14.7	-1.1	-14.7	-3.3	-14.5
443	Electronics & appliance stores	-0.5	-13.0	-0.9	-11.0	-6.3	-11.2
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers.....	1.3	-10.3	-0.6	-11.6	-1.3	-10.5
445	Food & beverage stores.....	0.4	0.6	-0.1	-0.2	0.6	0.4
4451	Grocery stores	0.4	0.1	-0.1	-0.8	0.3	-0.2
446	Health & personal care stores	0.7	5.0	0.3	4.2	2.1	4.7
447	Gasoline stations	3.6	-33.8	-0.8	-35.0	1.8	-34.3
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	0.4	-7.0	-0.7	-7.5	-0.2	-7.2
451	Sporting goods, hobby, book & music stores.....	-0.8	-2.9	0.8	-0.9	0.1	-1.8
452	General merchandise stores.....	-0.2	-1.7	-0.2	-0.3	0.0	-0.5
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	-0.7	-7.1	-0.3	-6.2	-0.7	-6.4
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	-1.3	-2.3	0.4	-2.2	3.9	-2.0
454	Nonstore retailers	-0.4	-7.1	-0.1	-7.6	-0.8	-6.4
722	Food services & drinking places	0.1	1.2	0.2	1.8	0.5	1.8

(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 May 2009

(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	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.4	-0.1	0.2
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ..	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.4	-0.1	0.2
	Retail	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.4	-0.1	0.2
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	2.2	1.5	0.7	1.4	0.1	1.1
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers .	2.4	1.7	0.7	1.5	0.1	1.2
442	Furniture & home furn. stores.....	2.9	2.1	0.8	2.2	-0.4	0.7
443	Electronics & appliance stores	1.5	0.7	0.6	1.1	0.2	0.9
444	Building material & garden eq. &... supplies dealers.....	2.6	1.4	0.9	1.4	0.0	0.5
445	Food & beverage stores.....	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.6	-0.1	0.3
4451	Grocery stores	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.6	-0.1	0.3
446	Health & personal care stores	1.9	0.4	0.3	0.9	-0.1	0.1
447	Gasoline stations	2.2	0.7	0.4	0.9	-0.5	0.6
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	2.0	0.7	0.6	0.9	-0.2	0.7
451	Sporting goods, hobby, book & music stores.....	2.4	1.3	1.2	1.6	0.0	0.4
452	General merchandise stores.....	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	-0.1	0.1
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.2	0.2
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	4.4	3.7	1.6	3.6	0.5	1.1
454	Nonstore retailers	1.7	1.0	0.5	1.1	0.0	0.5
722	Food services & drinking places ..	1.9	0.9	0.6	1.4	0.5	0.6



- (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>