

U.S. Census Bureau News

U.S. Department of Commerce • Washington, D.C. 20233

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2013, AT 8:30 A.M. EDT

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CB13-105

ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES FOR RETAIL AND FOOD SERVICES MAY 2013

SPECIAL NOTICE: Monthly Retail sales estimates were revised to reflect the introduction of a new sample, new seasonal factors, and results of the 2011 Annual Retail Trade Survey. Revised adjusted and not adjusted estimates were released on our website on May 31, 2013. For further information, see <http://www.census.gov/retail/faqs.html>.

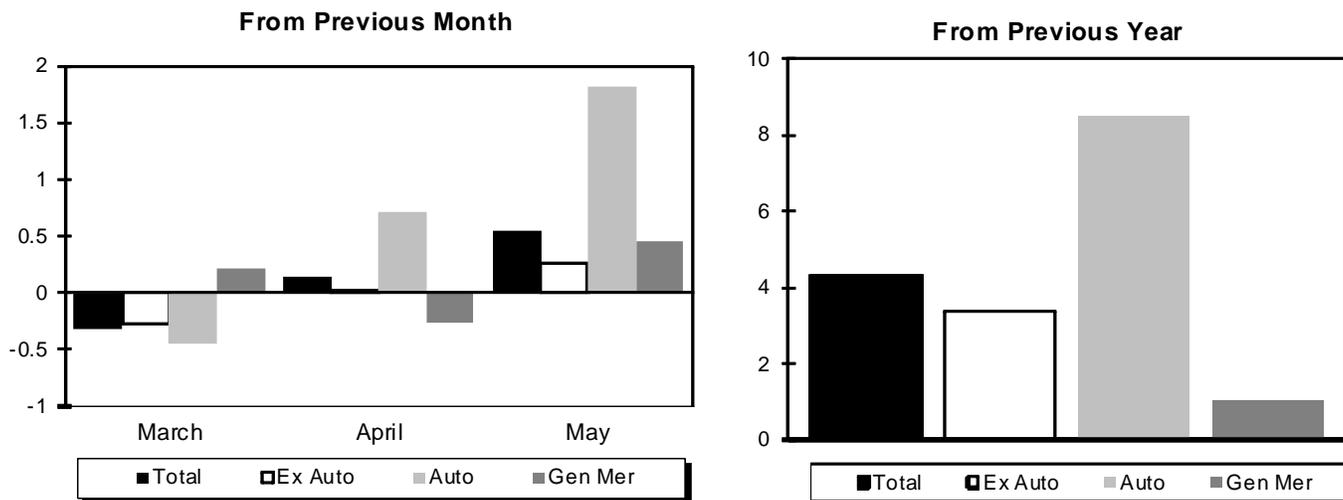
The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for May, adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences, but not for price changes, were \$421.1 billion, an increase of 0.6 percent ($\pm 0.5\%$) from the previous month, and 4.3 percent ($\pm 0.7\%$) above May 2012. Total sales for the March through May 2013 period were up 3.7 percent ($\pm 0.5\%$) from the same period a year ago. The March to April 2013 percent change was unrevised from 0.1 percent ($\pm 0.3\%$)*.

Retail trade sales were up 0.7 percent ($\pm 0.5\%$) from April 2013 and 4.3 percent ($\pm 0.7\%$) above last year. Nonstore retailers were up 11.3 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$) from May 2012 and building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers were up 10.1 percent ($\pm 4.0\%$) 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 June is scheduled to be released July 15, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. EDT.

For customized retail time series estimates by industry, visit the Census Bureau's web site at <www.census.gov/timeseries>.

To receive the latest updates on the nation's key economic indicators, download the America's Economy app for Apple and Android smartphones and tablets.

For additional survey information, visit <www.census.gov/retail>.

* 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		2013			2012		2013			2012	
		2013	% Chg. 2012	May ³ (a)	Apr. (p)	Mar. (r)	May	Apr.	May ³ (a)	Apr. (p)	Mar. (r)	May (r)	Apr. (r)
	Retail & food services,												
	total	2,046,944	3.7	444,122	414,705	427,702	423,323	397,263	421,147	418,840	418,226	403,728	404,053
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	1,654,253	3.0	357,509	333,851	344,395	343,811	323,950	342,064	341,165	341,095	330,842	331,516
	Retail	1,819,510	3.7	395,668	367,935	379,648	377,206	352,890	375,219	372,716	372,591	359,723	360,119
	GAFO⁴	(*)	(*)	(*)	94,418	102,782	100,264	93,878	(*)	102,857	102,666	101,514	100,782
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	392,691	7.1	86,613	80,854	83,307	79,512	73,313	79,083	77,675	77,131	72,886	72,537
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers .	359,071	8.2	79,415	73,959	76,385	72,197	66,405	72,195	70,842	70,271	65,933	65,488
44111	New car dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	60,395	62,547	60,124	54,761	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4413	Auto parts, acc. & tire stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,895	6,922	7,315	6,908	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	39,413	2.3	8,212	7,689	8,288	8,204	7,320	8,131	8,197	8,214	8,171	8,000
4421	Furniture stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,983	4,494	4,361	3,949	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4422	Home furnishings stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,706	3,794	3,843	3,371	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
443	Electronics & appliance stores	38,711	-0.5	7,758	7,237	7,910	7,772	7,043	8,380	8,412	8,270	8,422	8,279
44311, 13	Appl., T.V. & camera.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	5,582	5,897	5,819	5,188	(*)	6,483	6,287	6,264	6,132
44312	Computer & software stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	1,655	2,013	1,953	1,855	(*)	1,929	1,983	2,158	2,147
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers	127,174	4.8	33,662	30,085	24,049	30,812	27,300	26,387	26,158	25,243	23,957	24,542
4441	Building mat. & sup. dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	24,347	20,168	24,786	21,764	(*)	22,214	21,319	20,366	20,649
445	Food & beverage stores	263,862	2.7	56,295	51,087	55,060	54,213	51,066	53,952	53,585	53,883	52,317	52,698
4451	Grocery stores	237,059	2.3	50,244	45,718	49,405	48,537	45,855	48,173	47,822	48,106	46,805	47,225
4453	Beer, wine & liquor stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,559	3,675	3,758	3,386	(*)	3,823	3,824	3,684	3,657
446	Health & personal care stores	116,710	0.1	23,846	23,107	23,933	23,725	22,936	23,242	23,200	23,191	23,192	23,238
44611	Pharmacies & drug stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	19,265	19,859	20,013	19,332	(*)	19,323	19,375	19,487	19,567
447	Gasoline stations	224,721	-0.9	48,073	45,871	47,282	48,722	47,192	44,886	44,972	46,400	45,620	46,403
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	94,819	3.3	21,147	19,368	21,035	20,181	18,769	20,784	20,833	20,632	20,018	19,735
44811	Men's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	691	668	771	758	(*)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(S)
44812	Women's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,536	3,772	3,763	3,653	(*)	3,470	3,457	3,523	3,486
44814	Family clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	7,462	8,289	7,656	7,266	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4482	Shoe stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,385	2,642	2,381	2,368	(*)	2,513	2,433	2,452	2,397
451	Sporting goods, hobby, book & music stores	33,939	4.2	6,906	6,478	7,215	6,781	6,396	7,434	7,387	7,454	7,379	7,377
452	General merchandise stores	258,190	0.4	55,488	50,723	55,348	54,247	51,671	55,009	54,760	54,902	54,431	54,364
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	65,651	-4.5	14,268	12,968	14,297	14,578	14,010	14,713	14,740	14,798	15,307	15,328
4521	Department stores (incl. L.D.) ⁵	(*)	(*)	(*)	13,083	14,506	14,811	14,239	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4529	Other general merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	37,755	41,051	39,669	37,661	(*)	40,020	40,104	39,124	39,036
45291	Warehouse clubs & supercenters.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	32,857	35,855	34,486	32,832	(*)	34,880	34,980	34,111	34,093
45299	All oth. gen. merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	4,898	5,196	5,183	4,829	(*)	5,140	5,124	5,013	4,943
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	49,731	5.7	11,496	10,062	10,020	10,581	9,269	10,601	10,477	10,446	9,803	9,871
454	Nonstore retailers	179,549	11.5	36,172	35,374	36,201	32,456	30,615	37,330	37,060	36,825	33,527	33,075
4541	Elect. shopping & m/o houses	(*)	(*)	(*)	27,958	27,719	25,515	23,652	(*)	29,460	29,056	25,956	25,709
722	Food services & drinking places ...	227,434	4.3	48,454	46,770	48,054	46,117	44,373	45,928	46,124	45,635	44,005	43,934

(*) 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/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, 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/retail>

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 2013 Advance from --		Apr. 2013 Preliminary from --		Mar. 2013 through May 2013 from --	
		Apr. 2013 (p)	May 2012 (r)	Mar. 2013 (r)	Apr. 2012 (r)	Dec. 2012 through Feb. 2013	Mar. 2012 through May 2012
	Retail & food services, total	0.6	4.3	0.1	3.7	0.7	3.7
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	0.3	3.4	0.0	2.9	0.6	2.9
	Retail	0.7	4.3	0.0	3.5	0.7	3.6
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	1.8	8.5	0.7	7.1	1.4	7.3
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ..	1.9	9.5	0.8	8.2	1.6	8.3
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	-0.8	-0.5	-0.2	2.5	-1.1	1.5
443	Electronics & appliance stores	-0.4	-0.5	1.7	1.6	-1.2	-0.7
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers.....	0.9	10.1	3.6	6.6	2.6	5.0
445	Food & beverage stores.....	0.7	3.1	-0.6	1.7	0.5	2.7
4451	Grocery stores	0.7	2.9	-0.6	1.3	0.6	2.4
446	Health & personal care stores	0.2	0.2	0.0	-0.2	-0.5	0.0
447	Gasoline stations	-0.2	-1.6	-3.1	-3.1	-1.4	-1.7
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	-0.2	3.8	1.0	5.6	1.1	3.9
451	Sporting goods, hobby, book & music stores.....	0.6	0.7	-0.9	0.1	-1.6	0.9
452	General merchandise stores.....	0.5	1.1	-0.3	0.7	0.3	0.7
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	-0.2	-3.9	-0.4	-3.8	-1.3	-4.5
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	1.2	8.1	0.3	6.1	2.2	6.8
454	Nonstore retailers	0.7	11.3	0.6	12.0	2.7	11.9
722	Food services & drinking places	-0.4	4.4	1.1	5.0	0.9	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.

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/retail>.

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/retail>.

Official Business

Penalty for Private Use, \$300

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 $\pm 1.753 \times 0.9$ 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.

Table 3. Estimated Measures of Sampling Variability and Revision to Advance Estimates May 2013

(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	0.0	0.1
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ..	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.1
	Retail	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.1
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	1.8	1.3	0.6	1.1	0.0	0.4
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers .	2.0	1.4	0.6	1.2	0.0	0.4
442	Furniture & home furn. stores.....	2.5	1.4	0.8	2.2	0.1	0.2
443	Electronics & appliance stores	2.7	0.5	0.8	1.3	-0.2	0.3
444	Building material & garden eq. &....						
	supplies dealers.....	2.0	1.1	0.9	2.3	0.1	0.6
445	Food & beverage stores.....	2.1	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.1
4451	Grocery stores	2.3	0.3	0.2	0.6	-0.1	0.1
446	Health & personal care stores	2.0	0.5	0.3	0.7	-0.1	0.4
447	Gasoline stations	2.4	0.5	0.3	0.8	-0.1	0.4
448	Clothing & clothing accessories						
	stores	2.3	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.3
451	Sporting goods, hobby, book &						
	music stores.....	1.8	0.7	1.3	2.9	0.1	0.6
452	General merchandise stores.....	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.2
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	3.1	1.8	1.3	2.8	0.2	0.6
454	Nonstore retailers	1.8	0.5	0.7	1.2	0.3	0.3
722	Food services & drinking places ..	2.1	1.1	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 variation. Medians are based on estimates for the period January 2013 - Present. For measures of sampling variability where there are not enough months collected on the new sample basis to calculate medians, the last available medians from the prior sample are provided.

(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.