

ADVANCE RETAIL SALES REPORT

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Sinclair Weeks, Secretary

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
Robert W. Burgess, Director

For release
July 10, 1958

ADVANCE REPORT ON RETAIL TRADE, JUNE 1958

Total sales of retail stores in June were \$16.5 billion, the U. S. Department of Commerce announced today. This advance figure, after adjustment for seasonal factors and trading day differences was less than 1 percent below May and about 2 percent below June 1957.

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 1½ percent.

The preliminary Census figures for June are shown in table 1 on the reverse side. The Office of Business Economics noted that after adjustment for seasonal factors and trading day differences, sales of durable goods stores declined about one percent from May to June, due largely to a reduction in sales in the automotive group. In nondurable goods stores, small increases in sales by food and department stores were offset by minor declines in other major trades. Final estimates for May indicate that seasonally adjusted retail sales were unchanged from April.

(more)

ADVANCE RETAIL SALES REPORT--PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES FOR JUNE 1958

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)		
	1958		1957
	June	May	June
Retail stores, total ¹	16,517	17,372	17,114
Food group.....	4,022	4,419	3,977
Grocery stores.....	3,565	3,930	3,531
Eating and drinking places.....	1,238	1,272	1,289
General merchandise group.....	1,673	1,784	1,680
Department stores.....	2,970	1,035	(³)
Apparel group.....	962	1,058	994
Furniture and appliance group.....	865	840	916
Lumber, building, hardware, farm equip. group..	1,351	1,294	1,310
Automotive group.....	2,990	3,082	3,609
Gasoline service stations.....	1,334	1,335	1,321
Drug and proprietary stores.....	523	544	511

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 1958 from --		Sales (millions of dollars)				Percentage change, May 1958 from--	
	May 1958	June 1957	1958			1957	April 1958	May 1957
			June	May	April	May		
Retail stores, total ¹	-0.5	-1.8	16,485	16,572	16,512	16,644	0	0
Durable goods stores, total ¹	-0.9	-10.7	5,186	5,235	5,163	5,776	+1	-9
Nondurable goods stores, total ¹ ...	-0.3	+2.9	11,299	11,337	11,348	10,867	0	+4
Food group.....				4,159	4,217	3,931	-1	+6
Eating and drinking places.....				1,248	1,237	1,242	+1	0
General merchandise group.....				1,800	1,766	1,759	+2	+2
Apparel group.....				1,013	1,045	990	-3	+2
Furniture and appliance group.....				840	827	862	+2	-3
Lumber, building, hardware, farm equipment group.....				1,154	1,146	1,179	+1	-2
Automotive group.....				2,812	2,769	3,265	+2	-14
Gasoline service stations.....				1,297	1,283	1,269	+1	+2
Drug and proprietary stores.....				539	539	526	0	+2

Source: Office of Business Economics

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

²Based on preliminary estimates supplied by Federal Reserve Board.

³Comparable data not available.