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## ADVANCE REPORT ON RETAIL SALES, MAY 1962

Total sales of retail stores in May were \$20.2 billion, the U. S. Department of Commerce announced today. After adjustment for seasonal variations and trading day differences, but not for price changes, total retail sales amounted to \$19.5 billion, about 1 percent below April and 8 percent above May 1961.

The May 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 2,000 retail firms which, in total, operate some 39,000 stores in the United States. The firms which are cooperating in the early reporting of sales are part of a larger sample group which furnishes figures at a later date. The advance estimates are subject to revision in the estimates subsequently derived from the full sample, but the revision of the total seldom exceeds 1½ percent.

The advance Census figures for May are shown in table 1 of this release. The Office of Business Economics noted that, after adjustment for seasonal variations and trading day differences, the decline in sales from April to May was primarily in the durable-goods groups. In most of the major nondurable-goods groups small increases were indicated. Estimates for April for the full sample indicate that seasonally adjusted retail sales were about 2 percent above March.

(more)

ADVANCE RETAIL SALES FOR MAY 1962

Table 1. SALES OF RETAIL STORES IN THE UNITED STATES, BY KIND-OF-BUSINESS GROUP

(NOT ADJUSTED for seasonal variations or trading day differences)

Kind-of-business group	Sales (millions of dollars)		
	1962		1961
	May <sup>1</sup>	April <sup>2</sup>	May
Retail stores, total <sup>3</sup> .....	20,185	19,179	18,532
Durable-goods stores, total <sup>3</sup> .....	6,752	6,299	6,006
Nondurable-goods stores, total <sup>3</sup> .....	13,433	12,880	12,526
Food group.....	4,805	4,535	4,574
Grocery stores.....	4,351	4,085	4,114
Eating and drinking places.....	1,496	1,365	1,386
General merchandise group.....	2,261	2,150	1,966
Department stores.....	<sup>4</sup> 1,340	1,248	1,143
Apparel group.....	1,198	1,306	1,105
Furniture and appliance group.....	837	779	844
Lumber, building, hardware, farm equip. group.	1,449	1,296	1,282
Automotive group.....	3,960	3,775	3,413
Gasoline service stations.....	1,617	1,527	1,523
Drug and proprietary stores.....	665	645	629

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 variations and trading day differences)

Kind-of-business group	Percentage change, May 1962 from--		Sales (millions of dollars)				Percentage change, April 1962 from--	
	April 1962	May 1961	1962			1961	March 1962	April 1961
			May	April	March	April		
Retail stores, total <sup>3</sup> .....	-0.8 -1	+8	19,451	19,612	19,276	17,860	+2	+10
Durable-goods stores, total <sup>3</sup> .....	-3.8 -4	+10	6,102	6,346	6,190	5,409	+3	+17
Nondurable-goods stores, total <sup>3</sup> .....	+0.6 +1	+7	13,349	13,266	13,086	12,451	+1	+7
Food group.....				4,803	4,680	4,548	+3	+6
Eating and drinking places.....				1,419	1,441	1,380	-2	+3
General merchandise group.....				2,253	2,246	2,027	0	+11
Apparel group.....				1,206	1,217	1,076	-1	+12
Furniture and appliance group.....				877	888	872	-1	+1
Lumber, building, hardware, farm equipment group.....				1,282	1,225	1,138	+5	+13
Automotive group.....				3,658	3,567	2,919	+3	+25
Gasoline service stations.....				1,565	1,552	1,474	+1	+6
Drug and proprietary stores.....				677	658	628	+3	+8

Source: Office of Business Economics

<sup>1</sup> Advance sample estimates. <sup>2</sup> Preliminary estimates of full sample.

<sup>3</sup> Totals include data for kinds of business not shown separately.

<sup>4</sup> Based on preliminary estimates supplied by Federal Reserve Board.