

**Notice of Revised Data:** Monthly retail sales were revised based on the results of the 2000 Annual Retail Trade Survey. The Annual Benchmark Report for Retail Trade showing revised unadjusted and adjusted data was released on May 3, 2002 and can be found on our website at <http://www.census.gov/mrts/www/data/pdf/annpub01.pdf>.

FOR WIRE TRANSMISSION 8:30 A.M. ET, Tuesday, May 14, 2002.

**ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES FOR RETAIL TRADE AND FOOD SERVICES  
APRIL 2002**

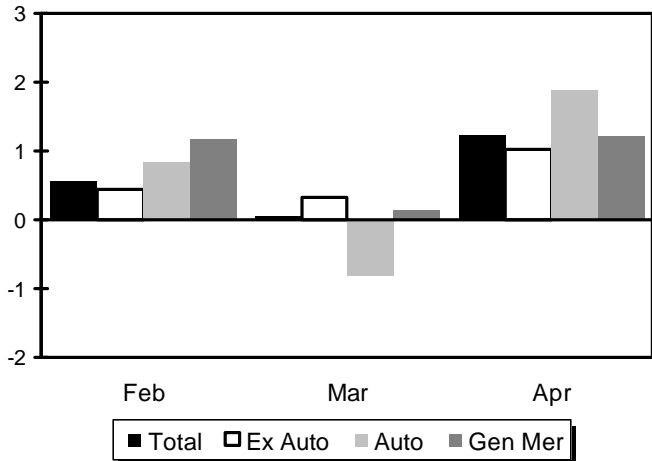
The Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for April, adjusted for seasonal, holiday, and trading-day differences, but not for price changes, were \$300.3 billion, an increase of 1.2 percent ( $\pm 1.0\%$ ) from the previous month and up 4.0 percent ( $\pm 1.7\%$ ) from April 2001. Total sales for the February through April period were up 3.7 percent ( $\pm 0.3\%$ ) from the same period a year ago. The February to March 2002 percent change was unrevised from 0.1 percent ( $\pm 0.2\%$ ).

Retail trade sales were up 1.3 percent ( $\pm 1.2\%$ ) from March and were 3.7 percent ( $\pm 1.7\%$ ) above last year. Sales of health and personal care stores were up 9.6 percent ( $\pm 3.6\%$ ) from April 2001 and electronics and appliance stores were up 8.5 percent ( $\pm 2.6\%$ ) from last year. Sales of gasoline stations decreased 7.3 percent ( $\pm 4.8\%$ ) from April a year ago.

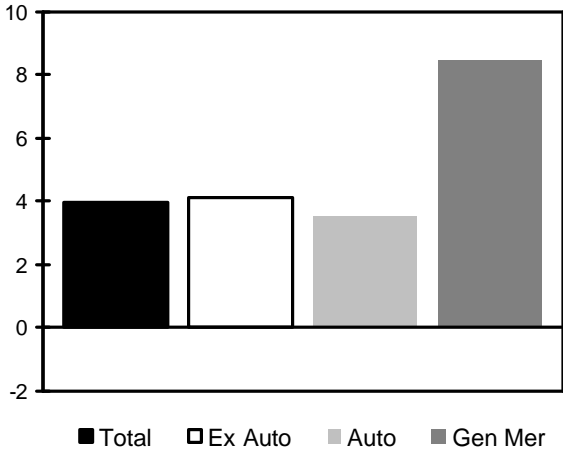
*The advance estimates are based on a small subsample of the Bureau's full retail sales and food services sample. Estimates from the advance and the subsequent full survey can differ because of the earlier reporting in the advance and because of sampling variability present in both surveys. For an explanation 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 Sales and Food Services Sales**  
(Data adjusted for seasonal, holiday, and trading-day differences, but not for price changes)

**From Previous Month**



**From Previous Year**



The Advance Monthly Retail Sales Report for May is scheduled to be released June 13, 2002 at 8:30 a.m.

Address inquiries concerning this report to Scott Scheleur, Service Sector Statistics Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233. Telephone: 301-457-2713 or 301-457-2666.

This report is available the day of issue through the Department of Commerce's online Economic Bulletin Board. For information call 202-482-1986. The data are also available on the Internet - <http://www.census.gov/svsd/www/advtable.html>.

**Table 1. Estimated Advance Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services, by Kind of Business**

(In Millions of Dollars and Annual Percent Change)

NAICS code	Kind of Business	Not Adjusted						Adjusted <sup>1</sup>					
		4 Month Total		2002			2001		2002			2001	
		2002	% Chg. 2001	Apr. <sup>2</sup> (a)	Mar. (p)	Feb. (r)	Apr.	Mar.	Apr. <sup>2</sup> (a)	Mar. (p)	Feb. (r)	Apr. (r)	Mar. (r)
	<b>Retail &amp; food services, total</b> .....	1,119,587	3.4	296,316	295,774	262,575	283,461	288,131	300,267	296,619	296,468	288,819	285,716
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	839,600	3.4	221,109	221,727	195,975	212,950	213,485	227,864	225,558	224,817	218,852	216,855
	Retail .....	1,012,056	3.1	268,275	267,132	237,126	257,279	260,835	272,057	268,566	268,410	262,346	259,189
	<b>GAFO<sup>3</sup></b> .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	76,098	66,693	69,088	69,896	(*)	79,191	79,208	74,745	73,861
441	<b>Motor vehicle &amp; parts dealers</b> .....	279,987	3.3	75,207	74,047	66,600	70,511	74,646	72,403	71,061	71,651	69,967	68,861
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ..	256,580	3.4	68,915	68,014	61,147	64,421	68,449	66,264	64,961	65,468	63,846	62,797
44111	New car dealers .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	57,382	51,645	53,729	58,096	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4413	Auto parts, acc. & tire stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,033	5,453	6,090	6,197	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
442	<b>Furniture &amp; home furn. stores</b> .....	29,381	3.4	7,265	7,820	7,126	6,967	7,585	7,762	7,875	7,883	7,556	7,532
4421	Furniture stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	4,521	4,158	3,855	4,315	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4422	Home furnishings stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,299	2,968	3,112	3,270	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
443	<b>Electronics &amp; appliance stores</b> .....	28,287	7.4	6,664	7,331	6,942	6,087	6,897	7,669	7,662	7,659	7,068	7,082
44311, 13	Appl., T.V. & camera.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	5,041	4,874	4,178	4,690	(*)	5,456	5,440	5,022	5,000
44312	Computer & software stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,290	2,068	1,909	2,207	(*)	2,206	2,219	2,046	2,082
444	<b>Building material &amp; garden eq. &amp; supplies dealers</b> .....	95,391	5.4	30,592	23,860	20,152	27,897	23,415	26,522	25,830	25,396	25,124	24,378
4441	Building mat. & sup. dealers .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	20,833	18,096	22,255	20,293	(*)	22,425	22,286	21,378	21,095
445	<b>Food &amp; beverage stores</b> .....	153,401	2.8	37,857	40,677	36,216	37,853	39,063	40,011	40,111	40,179	39,094	38,979
4451	Grocery stores .....	138,969	2.6	34,179	36,752	32,768	34,206	35,395	35,978	36,067	36,128	35,264	35,114
4453	Beer, wine & liquor stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,489	2,215	2,295	2,391	(*)	2,639	2,634	2,505	2,498
446	<b>Health &amp; personal care stores</b> .....	59,497	8.9	15,008	15,346	14,300	13,743	14,257	15,252	14,972	15,053	13,910	13,950
44611	Pharmacies & drug stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	12,896	12,058	11,505	11,872	(*)	12,569	12,653	11,692	11,731
447	<b>Gasoline stations</b> .....	69,668	-9.9	19,255	18,479	15,576	20,548	19,731	19,236	18,856	18,133	20,756	19,930
448	<b>Clothing &amp; clothing accessories stores</b> .....	49,967	3.1	13,418	14,168	11,887	13,477	13,199	14,739	14,639	14,686	14,199	14,165
44811	Men's clothing stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	836	676	823	827	(*)	874	873	891	911
44812	Women's clothing stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,007	2,328	2,900	2,769	(*)	2,869	2,910	2,728	2,750
44814	Family clothing stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	4,778	3,615	4,537	4,375	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4482	Shoe stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	1,926	1,530	1,941	1,781	(*)	1,819	1,859	1,840	1,808
451	<b>Sporting goods, hobby, book &amp; music stores</b> .....	25,884	8.8	6,442	6,773	5,813	5,905	6,375	7,379	7,386	7,340	6,890	6,877
452	<b>General merchandise stores</b> .....	133,449	8.4	34,848	36,607	31,444	33,486	32,352	38,428	37,965	37,917	35,425	34,511
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	65,876	0.0	17,388	18,291	15,408	18,060	17,308	19,401	19,284	19,373	19,093	18,853
4521	Department stores (incl. L.D.) <sup>4</sup> .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	18,653	15,703	18,436	17,665	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4529	Other general merch. stores....	(*)	(*)	(*)	18,316	16,036	15,426	15,044	(*)	18,681	18,544	16,332	15,658
45291	Warehouse clubs & superstores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	15,339	13,435	12,591	12,365	(*)	15,573	15,425	13,338	12,774
45299	All oth. gen. merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,977	2,601	2,835	2,679	(*)	3,108	3,119	2,994	2,884
453	<b>Miscellaneous store retailers</b> .....	35,111	2.2	9,024	8,780	8,727	8,504	9,215	9,478	9,223	9,346	9,225	9,466
454	<b>Nonstore retailers</b> .....	52,033	-3.9	12,695	13,244	12,343	12,301	14,100	13,178	12,986	13,167	13,132	13,458
4541	Elect. shopping & m/o houses ....	(*)	(*)	(*)	8,905	8,203	8,295	9,100	(*)	9,096	9,322	8,958	9,064
722	<b>Food services &amp; drinking places</b> ...	107,531	5.7	28,041	28,642	25,449	26,182	27,296	28,210	28,053	28,058	26,473	26,527

(\*) Advance estimates are not available from the subsample panel for these business classifications.

(NA) Not available. (a) Advance estimates. (p) Preliminary. (r) Revised.

Note: Totals include data for business classifications not shown separately.

- (1) Data are concurrently adjusted for seasonal variations, 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 and the factors derived from the program are used in calculating all seasonally adjusted data shown in this publication. Factors and explanatory material are released on the Internet at <http://www.census.gov/mrts/www/mrts.html>.
- (2) Advance estimates are based on early reporting by a small subsample of the full survey panel. All other estimates are based on the full sample.
- (3) GAFO represents stores which specialize in department store types of merchandise (furniture & home furnishings (442), electronics & appliances(443), clothing & accessories(448), sporting goods, hobby, book, music (451), general merchandise(452), office supplies, stationery, and gift stores(4532)).
- (4) Includes data for leased departments operated within department stores. Data for this line not included in broader kind-of-business totals.

**Table 2. Percent Change in Estimated Advance Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services, by Kind of Business**

(Adjusted for seasonal variations, holiday, and trading-day differences, but not for price changes)

NAICS code	Kind of Business	Percent Change <sup>1</sup>					
		Apr. 2002 Advance from --		Mar. 2002 Preliminary from --		Feb. 2002 through Apr. 2002 from --	
		Mar. 2002 (p)	Apr. 2001 (r)	Feb. 2002 (r)	Mar. 2001 (r)	Nov. 2001 through Jan. 2002	Feb. 2001 through Apr. 2001
	<b>Retail &amp; food services, total .....</b>	1.2	4.0	0.1	3.8	0.9	3.7
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) .....	1.0	4.1	0.3	4.0	1.9	3.7
	Retail .....	1.3	3.7	0.1	3.6	0.8	3.4
441	<b>Motor vehicle &amp; parts dealers .....</b>	1.9	3.5	-0.8	3.2	-2.1	3.5
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ..	2.0	3.8	-0.8	3.4	-2.4	3.7
442	<b>Furniture &amp; home furn. stores .....</b>	-1.4	2.7	-0.1	4.6	0.1	3.7
443	<b>Electronics &amp; appliance stores .....</b>	0.1	8.5	0.0	8.2	-0.9	8.0
444	<b>Building material &amp; garden eq. &amp; supplies dealers.....</b>	2.7	5.6	1.7	6.0	4.4	5.4
445	<b>Food &amp; beverage stores.....</b>	-0.2	2.3	-0.2	2.9	0.0	2.6
4451	Grocery stores .....	-0.2	2.0	-0.2	2.7	0.0	2.3
446	<b>Health &amp; personal care stores .....</b>	1.9	9.6	-0.5	7.3	2.6	8.6
447	<b>Gasoline stations .....</b>	2.0	-7.3	4.0	-5.4	4.9	-8.5
448	<b>Clothing &amp; clothing accessories stores .....</b>	0.7	3.8	-0.3	3.3	2.6	3.0
451	<b>Sporting goods, hobby, book &amp; music stores.....</b>	-0.1	7.1	0.6	7.4	-1.3	6.5
452	<b>General merchandise stores.....</b>	1.2	8.5	0.1	10.0	2.3	9.1
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	0.6	1.6	-0.5	2.3	0.3	1.4
453	<b>Miscellaneous store retailers .....</b>	2.8	2.7	-1.3	-2.6	-0.2	0.9
454	<b>Nonstore retailers .....</b>	1.5	0.4	-1.4	-3.5	2.0	-1.8
722	<b>Food services &amp; drinking places ....</b>	0.6	6.6	0.0	5.8	2.2	6.1

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised.

(1) Percent change rounded to nearest tenth.

Official Business

Penalty for Private Use, \$300

### Reliability of Estimates

The Advance estimates are based on a small subsample of the Bureau's full retail sales sample. Estimates from the Advance and the subsequent full survey can differ because of the earlier reporting in the Advance and because of sampling variability present in each survey. The margin of sampling error, as used on page 1, gives a range about the estimate which is a 90% confidence interval. If, for example, the trend estimate is +1.2% and the standard error is 0.9%, then the margin of sampling error is  $\pm 1.65 \times 0.9\%$  or  $\pm 1.5\%$ , and the 90% confidence interval is -0.3% to +2.7%. If the interval contains 0, it is uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease. For monthly level, the coefficient of variation (CV) is given. The resulting confidence interval is the estimated value  $\pm 1.65 \times CV \times$  (the estimated value). Estimates of sampling variability are given in Table 3.

Estimates from the Advance and the full survey are subject to nonsampling

errors. Such errors can occur because of nonresponse, insufficient coverage of the universe of retail businesses, and response errors. Additionally, estimates of sales prior to March 2001 have been restated from SIC-based estimates. The restatement methodology may have introduced additional nonsampling error. Precautionary steps are taken to minimize nonsampling errors, but their magnitude is not directly measured.

Preliminary estimates for the current month and final estimates for the previous month based on the full sample will be published next month in the Monthly Retail Trade Report. This report will provide sales estimates in greater detail and additional measures of sampling variability. It will also present a description of revisions, the techniques used in developing the estimates, and an explanation of confidence intervals and sampling variability (Appendix B, Reliability of Estimates).

**Table 3. Measures of Variability of and Revision to Advance Estimates for Level and Trend**

NAICS Code	Kind of Business	Level of sales: Median CV <sup>(2)</sup> for Current Mo. (%)	Trend (percent change): Median standard error <sup>(2)</sup> for			Revision for month- to-month change <sup>(1)</sup>	
			Current Mo. to Previous Mo.	Current Qtr. to Previous Qtr.	Current Mo. to Current Mo. Last Yr.	Average revision	Median absolute revision
	<b>Retail &amp; food services,</b>						
	total .....	0.7	0.6	0.2	1.0	0.1	0.3
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ..	0.7	0.5	0.2	1.0	0.1	0.2
	<b>Retail .....</b>	0.7	0.7	0.2	1.0	0.0	0.2
441	<b>Motor vehicle &amp; parts dealers .....</b>	1.9	1.8	0.7	2.1	0.0	0.8
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers	2.1	2.0	0.7	2.3	0.0	0.8
442	<b>Furniture &amp; home furn. stores.....</b>	3.6	2.0	1.0	5.0	0.0	0.8
443	<b>Electronics &amp; appliance stores .....</b>	1.3	0.7	0.6	1.6	0.4	0.5
444	<b>Building material &amp; garden eq. &amp; .....</b>						
	supplies dealers.....	1.7	0.9	0.5	3.6	0.1	0.4
445	<b>Food &amp; beverage stores.....</b>	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.0	0.2
4451	Grocery stores .....	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.1	0.2
446	<b>Health &amp; personal care stores .....</b>	2.2	0.6	0.6	2.2	-0.1	0.4
447	<b>Gasoline stations .....</b>	1.7	0.8	0.5	2.9	-0.2	0.9
448	<b>Clothing &amp; clothing accessories</b>						
	stores .....	1.5	0.8	0.5	2.1	0.0	0.4
451	<b>Sporting goods, hobby, book &amp;</b>						
	music stores.....	2.5	2.4	1.5	3.1	0.2	1.3
452	<b>General merchandise stores.....</b>	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.2
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
453	<b>Miscellaneous store retailers .....</b>	3.5	3.4	1.6	11.9	0.6	1.0
454	<b>Nonstore retailers .....</b>	6.3	2.8	1.1	5.7	0.0	0.9
722	<b>Food services &amp; drinking places ..</b>	2.2	1.1	0.6	2.8	0.4	0.8



(1) These columns measure the difference between the estimates of trend for the same pair of data months, i.e. the difference between the Advance/Preliminary ratio and the Preliminary/Final ratio estimates. These revisions combine data from the SIC-based and NAICS-based samples.

(2) Medians are based on the period February 2001 to present.