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## ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES FOR RETAIL AND FOOD SERVICES June 2006

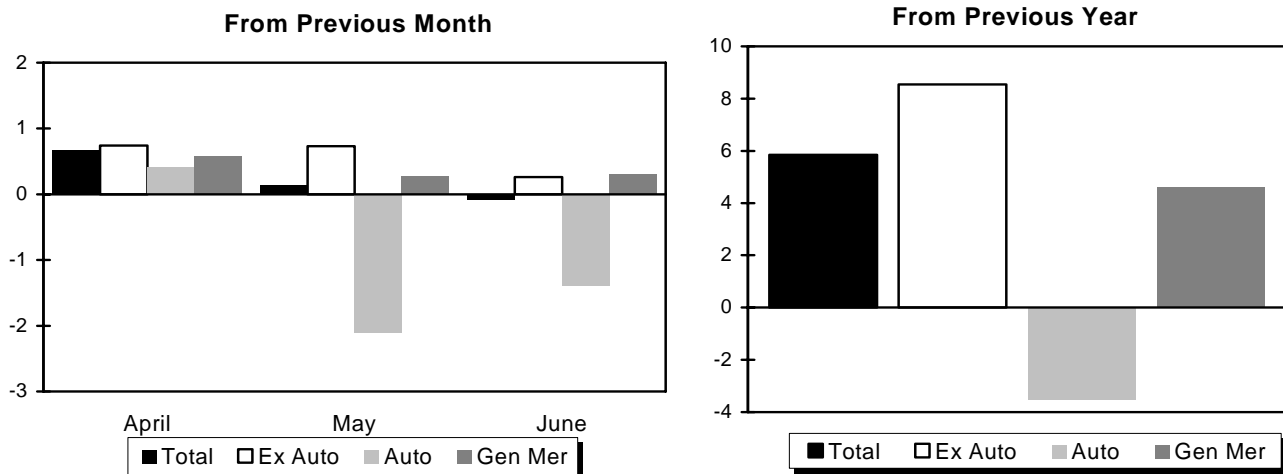
The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for June, adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences, but not for price changes, were \$363.8 billion, a decrease of 0.1 percent ( $\pm 0.7\%$ )\* from the previous month, but up 5.9 percent ( $\pm 0.8\%$ ) from June 2005. Total sales for the April through June 2006 period were up 6.8 percent ( $\pm 0.3\%$ ) from the same period a year ago. The April to May 2006 percent change was unrevised from +0.1 percent ( $\pm 0.2\%$ )\*.

Retail trade sales were down 0.1 percent ( $\pm 0.7\%$ )\* from May, but were 5.7 percent ( $\pm 0.8\%$ ) above last year. Gasoline stations were up 20.4 percent ( $\pm 2.0\%$ ) from June 2005 and sales of nonstore retailers were up 12.3 percent ( $\pm 4.5\%$ ) 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 July is scheduled to be released August 11, 2006 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 from 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 <sup>1</sup> code	Kind of Business	Not Adjusted							Adjusted <sup>2</sup>				
		6 Month Total		2006			2005		2006			2005	
		2006	% Chg. 2005	Jun. <sup>3</sup> (a)	May (p)	Apr. (r)	Jun.	May	Jun. <sup>3</sup> (a)	May (p)	Apr. (r)	Jun. (r)	May (r)
	<b>Retail &amp; food services,</b>												
	<b>total</b> .....	2,120,222	7.6	375,406	380,087	357,334	353,605	347,570	363,806	364,104	363,611	343,692	338,488
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	1,659,229	9.5	292,080	297,456	280,102	267,446	268,459	290,084	289,335	287,240	267,257	264,452
	Retail .....	1,910,788	7.5	338,885	343,493	321,775	320,030	313,573	328,417	328,782	328,369	310,743	305,736
	<b>GAFO<sup>4</sup></b> .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	90,302	86,846	84,515	84,275	(*)	93,229	92,905	88,690	87,662
441	<b>Motor vehicle &amp; parts dealers</b> .....	460,993	1.5	83,326	82,631	77,232	86,159	79,111	73,722	74,769	76,371	76,435	74,036
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers .	423,357	1.2	76,591	76,117	71,024	79,638	73,007	67,422	68,512	70,113	70,352	68,040
44111	New car dealers .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	60,141	55,942	64,394	58,425	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4413	Auto parts, acc. & tire stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,514	6,208	6,521	6,104	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
442	<b>Furniture &amp; home furn. stores</b> .....	56,526	9.8	10,079	9,766	9,033	9,127	8,792	10,109	9,975	9,915	9,247	9,120
4421	Furniture stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	5,015	4,753	4,812	4,644	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4422	Home furnishings stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	4,751	4,280	4,315	4,148	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
443	<b>Electronics &amp; appliance stores</b> .....	48,235	6.3	8,125	8,084	7,454	7,806	7,540	8,684	8,741	8,738	8,347	8,262
44311, 13	Appl., T.V. & camera.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,661	6,034	6,221	6,067	(*)	7,170	7,158	6,689	6,616
44312	Computer & software stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	1,423	1,420	1,585	1,473	(*)	1,571	1,580	1,658	1,646
444	<b>Building material &amp; garden eq. &amp; supplies dealers</b> .....	182,619	14.1	34,047	36,370	32,846	31,404	31,891	29,759	30,048	30,206	27,360	27,110
4441	Building mat. & sup. dealers .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	30,085	27,084	26,900	26,317	(*)	26,600	26,684	24,147	23,925
445	<b>Food &amp; beverage stores</b> .....	263,186	4.8	45,639	46,486	43,968	43,309	43,796	45,297	45,131	44,887	43,108	42,999
4451	Grocery stores .....	235,003	3.9	40,544	41,329	39,158	38,724	39,226	40,262	40,086	39,876	38,531	38,457
4453	Beer, wine & liquor stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,197	2,963	2,894	2,811	(*)	3,191	3,162	2,903	2,860
446	<b>Health &amp; personal care stores</b> .....	109,552	7.1	18,489	19,100	17,804	17,020	17,448	18,601	18,472	18,261	17,209	17,241
44611	Pharmacies & drug stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	16,001	14,947	14,241	14,661	(*)	15,415	15,252	14,443	14,459
447	<b>Gasoline stations</b> .....	210,840	19.0	39,664	39,349	36,421	32,752	31,954	37,775	37,368	36,678	31,372	30,725
448	<b>Clothing &amp; clothing accessories stores</b> .....	94,623	6.1	16,538	17,176	16,930	15,621	16,032	17,681	17,620	17,555	16,848	16,585
44811	Men's clothing stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	754	755	776	753	(*)	795	796	798	792
44812	Women's clothing stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,381	3,419	3,010	3,124	(*)	3,242	3,225	3,084	3,027
44814	Family clothing stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,318	6,510	5,956	5,951	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4482	Shoe stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,116	2,290	1,923	2,028	(*)	2,108	2,126	2,035	2,032
451	<b>Sporting goods, hobby, book &amp; music stores</b> .....	38,989	8.3	6,848	6,586	6,288	6,152	6,010	7,435	7,408	7,354	6,768	6,853
452	<b>General merchandise stores</b> .....	255,277	6.2	44,691	45,308	44,151	42,701	42,706	46,083	45,941	45,813	44,048	43,423
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	95,618	-0.7	16,645	16,968	16,773	17,108	16,905	17,736	17,788	17,777	18,139	17,823
4521	Department stores (incl. L.D.) <sup>5</sup> .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	17,396	17,195	17,574	17,370	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4529	Other general merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	28,340	27,378	25,593	25,801	(*)	28,153	28,036	25,909	25,600
45291	Warehouse clubs & supercenters.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	24,880	24,046	22,272	22,431	(*)	24,707	24,587	22,520	22,253
45299	All oth. gen. merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,460	3,332	3,321	3,370	(*)	3,446	3,449	3,389	3,347
453	<b>Miscellaneous store retailers</b> .....	57,503	9.2	10,165	10,649	9,165	9,315	9,673	10,002	9,968	9,936	9,289	9,254
454	<b>Nonstore retailers</b> .....	132,445	13.3	21,274	21,988	20,483	18,664	18,620	23,269	23,341	22,655	20,712	20,128
4541	Elect. shopping & m/o houses ....	(*)	(*)	(*)	14,501	13,526	12,535	12,578	(*)	14,919	14,799	13,435	13,198
722	<b>Food services &amp; drinking places</b> ...	209,434	8.5	36,521	36,594	35,559	33,575	33,997	35,389	35,322	35,242	32,949	32,752

(\*) Advance estimates are not available for this kind of business.

(NA) Not available. (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 <sup>1</sup>					
		Jun. 2006 Advance from --		May 2006 Preliminary from --		Apr. 2006 through Jun. 2006 from --	
		May 2006 (p)	Jun. 2005 (r)	Apr. 2006 (r)	May 2005 (r)	Jan. 2006 through Mar. 2006	Apr. 2005 through Jun. 2005
	<b>Retail &amp; food services, total .....</b>	-0.1	5.9	0.1	7.6	0.9	6.8
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	0.3	8.5	0.7	9.4	1.6	8.9
	Retail .....	-0.1	5.7	0.1	7.5	1.0	6.7
441	<b>Motor vehicle &amp; parts dealers .....</b>	-1.4	-3.5	-2.1	1.0	-1.7	-0.5
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ..	-1.6	-4.2	-2.3	0.7	-1.7	-0.8
442	<b>Furniture &amp; home furn. stores .....</b>	1.3	9.3	0.6	9.4	0.9	9.3
443	<b>Electronics &amp; appliance stores .....</b>	-0.7	4.0	0.0	5.8	-1.2	5.0
444	<b>Building material &amp; garden eq. &amp; supplies dealers.....</b>	-1.0	8.8	-0.5	10.8	-2.3	10.6
445	<b>Food &amp; beverage stores.....</b>	0.4	5.1	0.5	5.0	1.3	4.9
4451	Grocery stores .....	0.4	4.5	0.5	4.2	1.4	4.2
446	<b>Health &amp; personal care stores .....</b>	0.7	8.1	1.2	7.1	1.9	7.2
447	<b>Gasoline stations .....</b>	1.1	20.4	1.9	21.6	7.2	20.5
448	<b>Clothing &amp; clothing accessories stores .....</b>	0.3	4.9	0.4	6.2	0.8	5.3
451	<b>Sporting goods, hobby, book &amp; music stores.....</b>	0.4	9.9	0.7	8.1	3.0	8.8
452	<b>General merchandise stores.....</b>	0.3	4.6	0.3	5.8	0.8	5.3
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	-0.3	-2.2	0.1	-0.2	-0.9	-1.3
453	<b>Miscellaneous store retailers .....</b>	0.3	7.7	0.3	7.7	1.2	8.2
454	<b>Nonstore retailers .....</b>	-0.3	12.3	3.0	16.0	3.8	13.1
722	<b>Food services &amp; drinking places ....</b>	0.2	7.4	0.2	7.8	0.5	7.5

(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

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  $\pm 1.65 \times 0.9$  percent or  $\pm 1.5$  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 statistical 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**

(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 <sup>(1)</sup> for Current Mo. (%)	Median standard error <sup>(1)</sup> for Percent change			Revision for month-to-month change <sup>(2)</sup>	
			Previous Mo. to Current Mo.	Previous Qtr. to Current Qtr.	Current Mo. to same Mo. Last Yr.	Average revision	Median absolute revision
	<b>Retail &amp; food services,</b>						
	total .....	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.3
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ..	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.1
	<b>Retail .....</b>	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.3
441	<b>Motor vehicle &amp; parts dealers .....</b>	2.1	1.5	0.6	1.4	0.6	1.0
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers .	2.2	1.6	0.7	1.6	0.6	1.1
442	<b>Furniture &amp; home furn. stores.....</b>	4.1	1.5	1.0	1.9	0.6	1.0
443	<b>Electronics &amp; appliance stores ....</b>	1.9	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.3	0.3
444	<b>Building material &amp; garden eq. &amp;....</b>						
	<b>supplies dealers.....</b>	2.5	0.8	0.6	1.2	0.3	0.4
445	<b>Food &amp; beverage stores.....</b>	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.5	-0.1	0.1
4451	Grocery stores .....	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.5	-0.1	0.1
446	<b>Health &amp; personal care stores .....</b>	3.2	0.5	0.4	1.0	-0.1	0.1
447	<b>Gasoline stations .....</b>	1.9	0.7	0.5	1.2	0.1	0.2
448	<b>Clothing &amp; clothing accessories</b>						
	<b>stores .....</b>	1.6	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.0	0.3
451	<b>Sporting goods, hobby, book &amp;</b>						
	<b>music stores.....</b>	3.1	1.9	1.2	2.2	0.0	0.2
452	<b>General merchandise stores.....</b>	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
453	<b>Miscellaneous store retailers .....</b>	3.4	2.9	1.5	3.3	0.5	0.9
454	<b>Nonstore retailers .....</b>	4.9	2.0	1.0	2.7	0.3	0.5
722	<b>Food services &amp; drinking places ..</b>	3.1	0.6	0.5	1.4	0.2	0.2

(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 differences 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>

