

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
**COMMERCE**

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ADVANCE REPORT ON RETAIL TRADE, MAY 1958

Total sales of retail stores in May were \$17.3 billion, the U. S. Department of Commerce announced today. This advance figure, after adjustment for seasonal factors and trading day differences was virtually unchanged from April and 1 percent below May 1957.

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 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 May 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, retail sales in May showed little change from April in both the durable and nondurable goods groups. Small offsetting changes were indicated for the various major groups.

(more)

ADVANCE RETAIL SALES REPORT--PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES FOR MAY 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
	May	April	May
Retail stores, total <sup>1</sup> .....	17,325	16,280	17,205
Food group.....	4,440	4,048	4,043
Grocery stores.....	3,954	3,575	3,613
Eating and drinking places.....	1,280	1,171	1,253
General merchandise group.....	1,756	1,667	1,723
Department stores.....	<sup>2</sup> 1,023	963	( <sup>3</sup> )
Apparel group.....	1,063	1,056	998
Furniture and appliance group.....	817	761	873
Lumber, building, hardware, farm equip. group..	1,281	1,194	1,322
Automotive group.....	3,069	2,934	3,550
Gasoline service stations.....	1,356	1,252	1,293
Drug and proprietary stores.....	547	521	520

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, May 1958 from--		Sales (millions of dollars)				Percentage change, April 1958 from--	
	Apr. 1958	May 1957	1958			1957	Mar. 1958	Apr. 1957
			May	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.		
Retail stores, total <sup>1</sup> .....	+0.1	-0.7	16,534	16,512	16,074	16,437	+3	0
Durable goods stores, total <sup>1</sup> .....	+0.2	-10.4	5,175	5,163	5,020	5,631	+3	-8
Nondurable goods stores, total <sup>1</sup> ..	+0.1	+4.5	11,358	11,348	11,055	10,806	+3	+5
Food group.....				4,217	4,162	3,925	+1	+7
Eating and drinking places.....				1,237	1,199	1,218	+3	+2
General merchandise group.....				1,766	1,729	1,717	+2	+3
Apparel group.....				1,045	988	1,020	+6	+2
Furniture and appliance group.....				827	868	880	-5	-6
Lumber, building, hardware, farm equipment group.....				1,146	1,048	1,111	+9	+3
Automotive group.....				2,769	2,665	3,194	+4	-13
Gasoline service stations.....				1,283	1,267	1,259	+1	+2
Drug and proprietary stores.....				539	540	519	0	+4

Source: Office of Business Economics

<sup>1</sup>Totals include data for kinds of business not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup>Based on preliminary estimates supplied by Federal Reserve Board.

<sup>3</sup>Comparable data not available.