

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE

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ADVANCE REPORT ON RETAIL SALES, JUNE 1962

Total sales of retail stores in June were \$20.1 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 \$19.1 billion, about 2 percent below May and 5 percent above June 1961.

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 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 June are shown in table 1 of this release. The Office of Business Economics indicated that, after adjustment for seasonal variations and trading day differences, June sales for both durable and nondurable goods stores were down compared with May. The largest decline was reported in the automotive group, but most other lines of trade also were off. Estimates for May for the full sample indicate that seasonally adjusted retail sales were about 1 percent below April.

(more)

ADVANCE RETAIL SALES FOR JUNE 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 |
| | June ¹ | May ² | June |
| Retail stores, total ³ | 20,130 | 20,215 | 18,896 |
| Durable-goods stores, total ³ | 6,660 | 6,862 | 6,203 |
| Nondurable-goods stores, total ³ | 13,470 | 13,353 | 12,693 |
| Food group..... | 5,111 | 4,791 | 4,771 |
| Grocery stores..... | 4,635 | 4,320 | 4,295 |
| Eating and drinking places..... | 1,487 | 1,489 | 1,432 |
| General merchandise group..... | 2,120 | 2,218 | 1,993 |
| Department stores..... | 4,229 | 1,284 | 1,180 |
| Apparel group..... | 1,155 | 1,194 | 1,109 |
| Furniture and appliance group..... | 887 | 868 | 895 |
| Lumber, building, hardware, farm equip. group..... | 1,424 | 1,442 | 1,383 |
| Automotive group..... | 3,831 | 4,054 | 3,443 |
| Gasoline service stations..... | 1,639 | 1,584 | 1,568 |
| Drug and proprietary stores..... | 656 | 668 | 624 |

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, June 1962 from-- | | Sales (millions of dollars) | | | | Percentage change, May 1962 from-- | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|------------------------------------|----------|
| | May 1962 | June 1961 | 1962 | | | 1961 | April 1962 | May 1961 |
| | | | June | May | April | May | | |
| Retail stores, total ³ | -2.2 | +5 | 19,066 | 19,497 | 19,614 | 17,985 | -1 | +8 |
| Durable-goods stores, total ³ | -4.5 | +6 | 5,920 | 6,199 | 6,334 | 5,539 | -2 | +12 |
| Nondurable-goods stores, total ³ | -1.1 | +4 | 13,146 | 13,298 | 13,280 | 12,446 | 0 | +7 |
| Food group..... | | | | 4,801 | 4,788 | 4,624 | 0 | +4 |
| Eating and drinking places..... | | | | 1,447 | 1,426 | 1,347 | +1 | +7 |
| General merchandise group..... | | | | 2,280 | 2,268 | 1,974 | +1 | +16 |
| Apparel group..... | | | | 1,207 | 1,207 | 1,103 | 0 | +9 |
| Furniture and appliance group..... | | | | 868 | 888 | 839 | -2 | +3 |
| Lumber, building, hardware, farm equipment group..... | | | | 1,270 | 1,273 | 1,119 | 0 | +13 |
| Automotive group..... | | | | 3,545 | 3,646 | 3,095 | -3 | +15 |
| Gasoline service stations..... | | | | 1,539 | 1,547 | 1,480 | -1 | +4 |
| Drug and proprietary stores..... | | | | 676 | 675 | 630 | 0 | +4 |

Source: Office of Business Economics

¹ Advance sample estimates. ² Preliminary estimates of full sample.

³ Totals include data for kinds of business not shown separately.

⁴ Based on preliminary estimates supplied by Federal Reserve Board.