

Advance Monthly Retail Sales



U.S. Department of Commerce
ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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The Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that advance estimates of U.S. retail sales for May adjusted for seasonal, holiday, and trading-day differences, but not for price changes, were \$170.1 billion, an increase of 0.1 percent ($\pm 1.2\%$) from the previous month and were 5.5 percent ($\pm 1.6\%$) above May 1992. Total sales in the March through May period were 5.4 percent ($\pm 1.7\%$) above the same period a year ago. The March to April 1993 percent change was revised from +1.2 percent ($\pm 1.2\%$) as published in the April advance, to +1.5 percent ($\pm 0.4\%$).

Durable goods increased 0.8 percent ($\pm 2.9\%$) from the previous month and were 9.2 percent above May 1992. Building materials dealers were up 8.9 percent above the previous year while automotive dealers were up 10.1 percent in the same period.

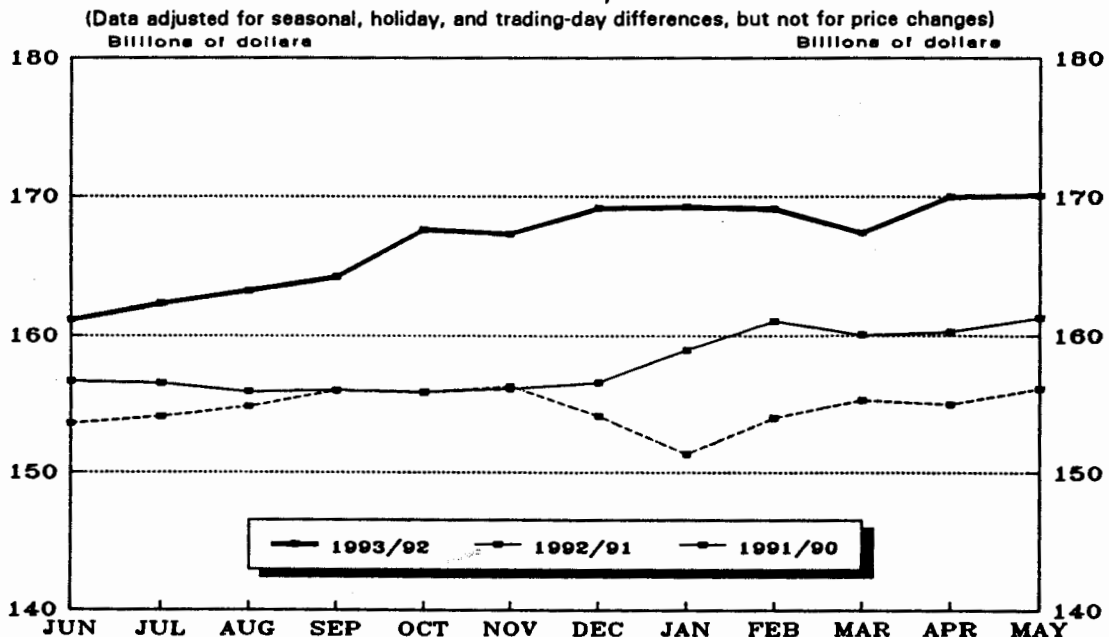
Nondurable goods decreased 0.4 percent ($\pm 0.8\%$) from April but were 3.4 percent above the previous year. General merchandise stores increased 0.8 percent from April and were 8.1 percent above the previous year.

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 both surveys.

The Advance Monthly Retail Sales Report for June is scheduled to be released July 14, 1993 at 8:30 a.m.

ESTIMATED MONTHLY RETAIL SALES

June 1990 - May 1993



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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 through the Census Bureau's online information service - CENDATA. CENDATA is available from Dialog Information Services, INC. (1-800-334-2564) and CompuServe (1-800-848-8199). The CENDATA staff at the Bureau of the Census (301-763-2074) can provide content information and general guidance.

Table 1. Estimated Monthly Retail Sales, By Kind of Business

(Sales in millions of dollars)

SIC code	Kind of business	Not adjusted					Adjusted ¹				
		1993			1992		1993			1992	
		May ² adv.	Apr. prel.	Mar. final	May	Apr.	May ² adv.	Apr. prel.	Mar. final	May ²	Apr. ¹
	Retail trade, total.....	174,485	169,692	164,602	165,756	159,068	170,101	169,977	167,390	161,255	160,251
	Total (excl. auto group)...	136,344	131,298	127,459	131,034	124,635	134,471	134,498	132,657	128,897	128,103
	Durable goods, total.....	66,183	64,526	61,539	60,479	58,709	62,780	62,254	60,723	57,475	57,112
52	Building mat., hardware, garden supply, and mobile home dealers.....	10,980	9,700	8,339	9,926	9,092	9,353	9,027	8,834	8,588	8,533
521.3	Building mat. and supply stores.....	(*)	6,976	6,186	6,809	6,367	(*)	6,663	6,525	6,173	6,122
525	Hardware stores.....	(*)	1,143	1,000	1,247	1,091	(*)	1,066	1,075	1,075	1,043
55 ex. 554	Automotive dealers.....	38,141	38,394	37,143	34,722	34,433	35,630	35,479	34,733	32,358	32,148
551,2.5,	Motor vehicle and miscellaneous automotive dealers.....	35,100	35,347	34,235	31,810	31,568	32,712	32,518	31,787	29,583	29,366
6.7,9	Motor vehicle (franchised).....	(*)	31,000	30,064	27,744	26,827	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
553	Auto and home supply stores.....	(*)	3,047	2,908	2,912	2,665	(*)	2,961	2,946	2,795	2,782
57	Furniture, home furnishings, and equipment stores.....	8,848	8,786	8,973	8,220	8,078	9,178	9,262	9,170	8,501	8,509
571	Furniture and home furnishings.....	(*)	4,621	4,598	4,459	4,329	(*)	4,701	4,830	4,450	4,404
5722,31.4	Household appliance, radio, TV and computer stores.....	(*)	3,254	3,493	3,072	3,031	(*)	3,560	3,601	3,272	3,316
5722	Household appliance stores.....	(*)	738	763	778	764	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
	Nondurable goods, total.....	108,302	105,166	103,063	105,277	100,359	107,321	107,723	106,667	103,780	103,139
53	General merchandise group stores.....	21,551	20,138	19,060	19,976	18,737	21,785	21,607	21,179	20,158	20,081
531	Dept. stores (ex. leased depts).....	16,242	15,236	14,322	15,153	14,248	16,439	16,243	15,843	15,322	15,222
531	Dept. stores (in. leased depts) ³	(*)	15,665	14,723	15,587	14,693	(*)	16,612	16,251	15,792	15,631
533	Variety stores.....	(*)	522	469	541	561	(*)	524	529	558	561
539	Misc. general mdse. stores.....	(*)	4,380	4,269	4,282	3,928	(*)	4,840	4,807	4,278	4,298
54	Food stores.....	33,415	32,256	31,838	32,868	31,340	32,373	32,497	32,248	31,620	31,765
541	Grocery stores.....	31,417	30,238	29,978	30,852	29,424	30,443	30,513	30,342	29,694	29,872
554	Gasoline service stations.....	11,545	10,995	10,863	11,475	10,539	11,308	11,489	11,423	11,228	11,013
56	Apparel and accessory stores.....	8,825	8,781	7,797	8,486	8,444	8,878	8,745	8,443	8,578	8,412
561	Men's and boys' clothing and furnishings stores.....	(*)	708	628	775	739	(*)	732	732	767	767
562,3.8	Women's clothing, specialty stores, furriers.....	(*)	3,246	2,878	3,298	3,112	(*)	3,195	3,072	3,237	3,081
565	Family clothing stores.....	(*)	2,645	2,366	2,422	2,458	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
566	Shoe stores.....	(*)	1,520	1,324	1,514	1,602	(*)	1,384	1,361	1,490	1,452
58	Eating and drinking places.....	18,002	17,546	17,185	17,521	16,450	17,326	17,441	17,271	16,671	16,533
591	Drug and proprietary stores.....	6,621	6,654	6,654	6,420	6,511	6,661	6,627	6,641	6,459	6,498
592	Liquor stores.....	(*)	1,940	1,877	2,169	1,940	(*)	2,062	2,042	2,145	2,084
5961 (pt)	Mail-order houses (department store merchandise).....	(*)	298	342	319	289	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
53,56,57	GAF ⁴	(*)	43,563	41,272	42,528	40,682	(*)	46,410	45,209	43,564	43,323

*Advance estimates are not available from the subsample panel for these kinds of business.

NA Not available.

¹Revised.

¹Data 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-11 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 contained in the Monthly Retail Trade Report, BR-93-04.

²Advance estimates are based on early reporting by a small subsample of the full survey panel. All other estimates are based on the full sample.

³Includes data for leased departments operated within department stores. Data for this line not included in broader kind-of-business totals.

⁴GAF represents stores which specialize in department store types of merchandise.

Note: Totals include data for kinds of business not shown separately.

Table 2. Percent Change in Estimated Monthly Retail Sales, by Kind of Business

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

SIC code	Kind of business	Percent change					
		May 1993 advance from--		Apr. 1993 preliminary from--		Mar. 1993 through May 1993 from--	
		Apr. 1993 prelim.	May 1992 final	Mar. 1993 final	Apr. 1992 final	Dec. 1992 through Feb. 1993	Mar. 1992 through May 1992
	Retail trade, total.....	+0.1	+5.5	+1.5	+6.1	0.0	+5.4
	Total (excl. automotive group).....	0.0	+4.3	+1.4	+5.0	-0.2	+4.4
	Durable goods, total.....	+0.8	+9.2	+2.5	+9.0	+0.4	+8.1
52	Building materials, hardware, garden supply, and mobile home dealers.....	+3.6	+8.9	+2.2	+5.8	+0.8	+6.0
55 ex. 554	Automotive dealers.....	+0.4	+10.1	+2.1	+10.4	+0.8	+9.4
551,2,5,6,7,9	Motor vehicle and miscellaneous automotive dealers.....	+0.6	+10.7	+2.3	+10.7	+1.0	+9.8
57	Furniture, home furnishings, and equipment stores.....	-0.9	+8.0	+1.0	+8.8	-1.4	+7.8
	Nondurable goods, total.....	-0.4	+3.4	+1.0	+4.4	-0.2	+3.9
53	General merchandise group stores.....	+0.8	+8.1	+2.0	+7.6	+0.5	+7.2
531	Dept. stores (ex. leased dept.).....	+1.2	+7.3	+2.5	+6.7	-0.5	+6.2
531	Dept. stores (in. leased dept.) ²	(NA)	(NA)	+2.2	+6.3	(NA)	(NA)
54	Food stores.....	-0.4	+2.4	+0.8	+2.3	-1.0	+2.3
541	Grocery stores.....	-0.2	+2.5	+0.6	+2.1	-0.7	+2.3
554	Gasoline service stations.....	-1.6	+0.7	+0.6	+4.3	+1.3	+3.0
56	Apparel and accessory stores.....	+1.5	+3.5	+3.6	+4.0	-3.9	+2.8
58	Eating and drinking places.....	-0.7	+3.9	+1.0	+5.5	-0.1	+4.0
591	Drug and proprietary stores.....	+0.5	+3.1	-0.2	+2.0	+2.8	+2.6

Table 3. Estimated Monthly Retail Sales of Large (Group II) Companies, by Kind of Business

(Sales in millions of dollars)

SIC code	Kind of business	Not adjusted			Adjusted ¹		
		Apr. 1993 prelim.	Mar. 1993 final	Apr. 1992	Apr. 1993 prelim.	Mar. 1993 final	Apr. ² 1992
	Retail trade, total.....	68,366	66,053	64,546	70,513	69,525	66,792
53	General merchandise group stores.....	19,176	18,193	17,743	20,629	20,237	19,121
531	Dept. stores (ex. leased dept.).....	15,038	14,136	14,027	15,981	15,654	14,970
531	Dept. stores (in. leased dept.) ²	15,457	14,528	14,460	16,374	16,071	15,432
533	Variety stores.....	372	318	373	373	363	374
539	Miscellaneous general merchandise stores...	3,766	3,739	3,343	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
54	Food stores.....	19,323	19,190	18,777	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
541	Grocery stores.....	19,008	18,902	18,434	19,104	18,978	18,658
56	Apparel and accessory stores.....	5,617	4,922	5,365	5,536	5,407	5,319
562,3,8	Women's clothing, specialty stores, furriers.....	2,025	1,778	1,932	2,005	1,962	1,915
566	Shoe stores.....	1,070	913	1,072	954	953	961
591	Drug stores and proprietary stores.....	4,082	4,037	4,022	4,094	4,090	4,026

NA Not available.

²Revised.

¹Data 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-11 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 contained in the Monthly Retail Trade Report, BR-93-04.

²Includes data for leased departments operated within department stores. Data for this line not included in broader kind-of-business totals.

Note: The large (Group II) component of the sample consists of companies which had 11 or more retail establishments according to the most recent update of multi-establishment files and which were selected with certainty (i.e., their sales size exceeded specified dollar volume cutoffs which vary by kind of business).

Official Business

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Sample Design and Reliability of Data

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 both surveys.

Percentage differences between advance and full sample preliminary estimates of month-to-month percentage change in seasonally adjusted total retail store sales have ranged from approximately -0.9 percent to +1.0 percent with the average of the absolute differences about 0.5 percent for the past 12 months. For individual kind-of-business groups, these differences tend to be higher. Sampling variability of and revisions to advance-to-preliminary estimates are shown in table 4 below.

Preliminary estimates for April 1993 and final estimates for March 1993 based on the full sample are published later this month in the Monthly Retail Trade Report for April (BR-93-04). The complete report will provide sales estimates in greater detail and will present a description of revisions and the techniques used in developing the estimates.

The margin of sampling error, as used on page 1, indicates a range about the estimate which corresponds to a 90 percent confidence interval. If, for example, the estimate is up 0.8 percent and the margin of sampling error is 1.2 percentage points above or below the estimate, then the indicated range is -0.4 percent to +2.0 percent. If the range contains 0, it is uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease. The Monthly Retail Trade Report includes explanations of confidence intervals and sampling variability along with additional measures of sampling variability.

Table 4. Sampling Variability of and Revision to Advance-to-Preliminary Estimate

SIC code	Kind of business	Estimated Coefficient of variation in percent of the						Preliminary-to-final percent change minus the Advance-to-preliminary percent change			
		Advance-to-preliminary ratio		Ratio to same month a year ago	Dollar volume sales est.	Ratio of current quarter to prev. quarter	Range ²		Mean	Avg. of absolute diff.	
		Range ¹		Median	Median	Median	Median	From			To
		From	To								
	Retail trade, total.....	0.8	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0	-0.9	+1.0	0.0	0.5
	Total (excl. auto).....	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.9	-0.7	+1.3	+0.1	0.4
	Durable goods, total.....	1.8	2.8	2.2	2.5	2.2	2.3	-2.5	+2.2	+0.2	0.7
52	Building materials, group stores.....	1.2	2.0	1.7	3.3	2.5	2.5	-3.4	+4.0	+0.4	2.0
55 ex. 554 551,2,5, 6,7,9	Automotive dealers.....	2.2	4.1	3.1	3.4	3.6	3.3	-3.0	+2.6	+0.5	1.0
	Motor vehicle and misc. automotive dealers.....	1.6	4.1	2.9	4.8	3.9	3.5	-3.2	+2.6	+0.5	1.1
57	Furniture, home furn., and equipment stores.....	1.8	4.3	2.4	4.5	4.2	3.1	-2.5	+2.3	-0.2	1.2
	Nondurable goods, total.....	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.9	-0.6	+0.9	+0.2	0.4
53	General merch. group, total.....	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	-1.4	+1.7	+0.1	0.7
531	Dept. stores (ex. leased depts.).....	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	-1.7	+1.6	+0.1	0.8
54	Food stores.....	0.9	1.5	1.0	1.7	1.4	1.5	-0.5	+0.6	0.0	0.4
541	Grocery stores.....	0.2	0.9	0.3	1.8	1.3	1.5	-0.5	+0.7	0.0	0.3
554	Gasoline service stations.....	1.1	4.7	1.3	3.3	2.6	2.8	-1.4	+1.9	+0.3	0.8
56	Apparel and accessory stores.....	1.1	2.9	2.0	3.0	2.6	2.0	-2.7	+4.8	+0.5	1.5
58	Eating and drinking places.....	0.6	1.3	0.9	3.1	2.7	2.7	-0.9	+2.3	+0.3	0.8
591	Drug and proprietary stores.....	0.5	3.2	0.8	2.4	1.7	2.0	-3.7	+1.1	+0.1	1.0

¹The ranges of sampling variability shown are based on sales estimates not adjusted for seasonal variation, holiday, and trading-day differences for the data months of November 1990 - March 1991.

²The ranges shown for the retail trade total are based on sales estimates adjusted for seasonal variations, holiday, and trading-day differences for the 12-month period, May 1992 - April 1993. The ranges for all other totals and kinds of business are based on the 12-month period April 1990 - March 1991.

Note: Coefficients of variation for the ratio of current quarter to current quarter a-year-ago estimates are approximately the same as those for the ratio of current quarter to previous quarter. See appendix B, Reliability of Data in the Monthly Retail Trade Report for a discussion of the measures of sampling variability.

