

FOR WIRE TRANSMISSION 8:30 A.M. ET, Wednesday July 14, 1999

**ADVANCE MONTHLY RETAIL SALES  
JUNE 1999**

**INTENTION TO REVISE ESTIMATES.** Monthly retail sales estimates will be revised based on the results of the 1997 Annual Retail Trade Survey, which reflects the preliminary 1997 Census of Retail Trade data. Unadjusted estimates will be revised for the months of January 1993 through June 1999, while the corresponding adjusted data will be revised for January 1990 through June 1999. Revised data are scheduled for release the week of July 26.

The Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that advance estimates of U.S. retail sales for June adjusted for seasonal, holiday, and trading-day differences, but not for price changes, were \$243.3 billion, an increase of 0.1 percent ( $\pm 0.7\%$ ) from the previous month and up 8.0 percent ( $\pm 0.9\%$ ) from June 1998. Total sales for the second quarter were up 8.0 percent ( $\pm 0.7\%$ ) from the same quarter a year ago. The April to May percent change was revised from +1.0 percent ( $\pm 0.7\%$ ) to +1.2 percent ( $\pm 0.4\%$ ).

Durable goods decreased 0.4 percent ( $\pm 1.4\%$ ) from May but were up 8.5 percent above last year. Building materials were up 13.4 percent from June a year ago.

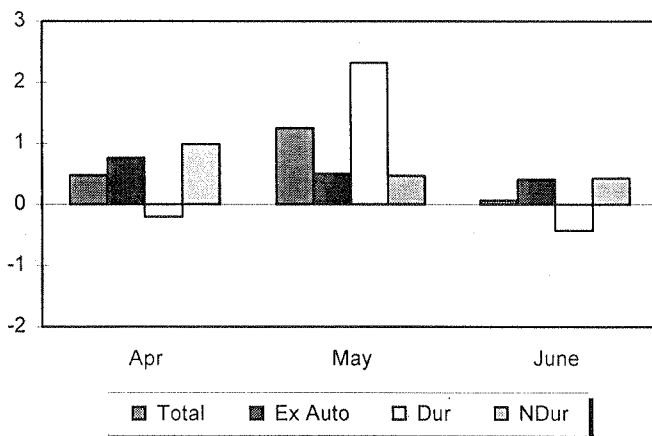
Nondurable goods increased 0.4 percent ( $\pm 0.6\%$ ) from last month and were up 7.5 percent from June 1998. Drug store sales were up 13.0 percent from June a year ago.

*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.*

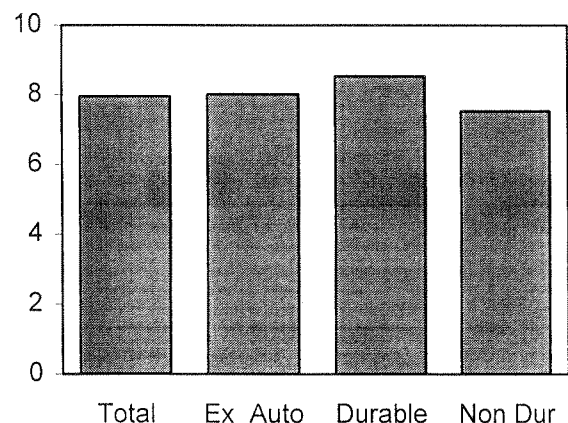
**Percent Change in Retail Sales**

(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 July is scheduled to be released August 12, 1999 at 8:30 a.m.

Address inquiries concerning this report to Ronald Pienycoski, Service Sector Statistics Division, Bureau of the Census, 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 Monthly Retail Sales, By Kind of Business**

(In Millions of Dollars and Annual Percent Change)

SIC code	Kind of business	Not adjusted							Adjusted <sup>1</sup>				
		6 month total		1999			1998		1999			1998	
		1999	Change from 1998	June <sup>2</sup> (a)	May (p)	Apr. (r)	June	May	June <sup>2</sup> (a)	May (p)	Apr. (r)	June (r)	May (r)
	<b>Retail trade, total.....</b>	<b>1,391,674</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>249,521</b>	<b>250,193</b>	<b>238,326</b>	<b>230,837</b>	<b>232,369</b>	<b>243,316</b>	<b>243,165</b>	<b>240,170</b>	<b>225,381</b>	<b>224,576</b>
	Total (excl. auto dealers).....	1,025,597	7.7	181,969	184,478	175,708	168,105	172,197	182,626	181,881	180,977	169,061	168,853
	<b>Durable goods, total.....</b>	<b>603,631</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>112,024</b>	<b>109,270</b>	<b>103,675</b>	<b>103,255</b>	<b>100,113</b>	<b>103,346</b>	<b>103,794</b>	<b>101,442</b>	<b>95,217</b>	<b>94,604</b>
52	Building mat., hardware, garden supply, and mobile home dealers.	90,290	12.9	18,142	18,034	16,882	16,103	16,158	15,453	15,390	15,394	13,629	13,791
521,3	Building mat. and supply stores..	(*)	(*)	(*)	13,167	12,689	12,068	11,700	(*)	11,714	11,804	10,421	10,400
525	Hardware stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	1,576	1,474	1,445	1,445	(*)	1,391	1,389	1,265	1,264
55 ex. 554	Automotive dealers.....	366,077	9.5	67,552	65,715	62,618	62,732	60,172	60,690	61,284	59,193	56,320	55,723
551,2,5,6,7,9	Motor vehicle and miscellaneous automotive dealers.....	346,345	9.7	63,925	62,244	59,127	59,220	56,828	57,332	57,901	55,780	53,065	52,473
551	Motor vehicle (franchised)...	(*)	(*)	(*)	52,144	49,587	50,402	48,222	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
553	Auto and home supply stores....	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,471	3,491	3,512	3,344	(*)	3,383	3,413	3,255	3,250
57	Furniture, home furnishings, and equipment stores.....	78,589	7.9	13,594	13,327	12,827	12,564	12,298	14,220	14,189	14,090	13,170	13,039
571	Furniture and home furnishings	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,461	6,284	6,201	6,157	(*)	6,620	6,643	6,289	6,276
5722,31,4	Household appliance, radio, TV and computer stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	5,989	5,685	5,497	5,260	(*)	6,589	6,468	5,904	5,793
5722	Household appliance stores.	(*)	(*)	(*)	889	866	967	895	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
	<b>Nondurable goods, total.....</b>	<b>788,043</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>137,497</b>	<b>140,923</b>	<b>134,651</b>	<b>127,582</b>	<b>132,256</b>	<b>139,970</b>	<b>139,371</b>	<b>138,728</b>	<b>130,164</b>	<b>129,972</b>
53	General merchandise group stores.	169,699	8.9	30,381	31,380	29,201	27,793	29,373	31,732	31,564	31,459	29,379	29,354
531	Dept. stores (ex. leased depts)..	132,075	8.0	23,458	24,512	22,874	21,653	23,193	24,823	24,685	24,622	23,158	23,216
531	Dept. stores (in. leased depts) <sup>3</sup> .	(*)	(*)	(*)	24,906	23,239	22,040	23,617	(*)	25,038	24,950	23,515	23,622
533	Variety stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	1,151	1,082	903	956	(*)	1,179	1,161	979	966
539	Misc. general mdse. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	5,717	5,245	5,237	5,224	(*)	5,700	5,676	5,242	5,172
54	Food stores.....	225,364	5.1	38,641	39,727	37,594	36,599	37,981	38,786	38,732	38,271	36,889	36,758
541	Grocery stores.....	211,092	5.1	36,058	37,212	35,173	34,239	35,566	36,203	36,234	35,818	34,515	34,397
554	Gasoline service stations.....	76,233	3.6	13,894	13,894	13,408	13,210	13,171	13,258	13,308	13,448	12,533	12,532
56	Apparel and accessory stores.....	58,401	7.3	10,473	10,909	10,582	9,611	10,152	11,225	11,203	11,125	10,314	10,355
561	Men's and boy's clothing and furnishings stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	986	990	911	927	(*)	1,022	1,054	979	954
562,3	Women's clothing, specialty stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,979	2,850	2,493	2,752	(*)	2,873	2,890	2,581	2,649
565	Family clothing stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	4,162	3,967	3,680	3,791	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
566	Shoe stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	1,842	1,764	1,715	1,822	(*)	1,768	1,764	1,724	1,740
58	Eating and drinking places.....	128,351	6.9	22,495	23,001	21,998	21,088	21,700	21,946	21,906	21,845	20,534	20,433
591	Drug and proprietary stores.....	56,999	11.7	9,647	9,784	9,607	8,570	8,765	9,874	9,726	9,694	8,736	8,730
592	Liquor stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,283	2,157	2,020	2,097	(*)	2,267	2,263	2,014	2,054
5961	Total mail order.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	4,702	4,854	4,014	4,185	(*)	5,184	5,164	4,495	4,640
53,56,57,594	GAF <sup>4</sup> .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	63,542	59,938	57,644	59,544	(*)	65,695	65,336	61,270	61,168

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

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

(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-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-99-05.

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

(4) GAF represents stores which specialize in department store types of merchandise (general merchandise, apparel, furniture, and miscellaneous shopping goods stores).

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 <sup>1</sup>					
		June 1999 Advance from --		May 1999 Preliminary from --		Apr. 1999 through June 1999 from --	
		May 1999 (p)	June 1998 (r)	Apr. 1999 (r)	May 1998 (r)	Jan. 1999 through Mar. 1999	Apr. 1998 through June 1998
	<b>Retail trade, total .....</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>8.0</b>
	Total (excl. automotive dealers) .....	0.4	8.0	0.5	7.7	2.0	7.9
	<b>Durable goods, total .....</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>8.8</b>
52	Building materials, hardware, garden supply, and mobile home dealers .....	0.4	13.4	0.0	11.6	1.2	12.4
55 ex. 554	Automotive dealers.....	-1.0	7.8	3.5	10.0	1.8	8.4
551,2,5,6,7,9	Motor vehicle and miscellaneous automotive dealers.....	-1.0	8.0	3.8	10.3	1.8	8.6
57	Furniture, home furnishings, and equipment stores.....	0.2	8.0	0.7	8.8	1.4	8.5
	<b>Nondurable goods, total.....</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>7.4</b>
53	General merchandise group stores.....	0.5	8.0	0.3	7.5	0.7	7.8
531	Dept. stores (ex. leased dept.).....	0.6	7.2	0.3	6.3	0.3	6.7
531	Dept. stores (in. leased dept.) <sup>2</sup> .....	(NA)	(NA)	0.4	6.0	(NA)	(NA)
54	Food stores.....	0.1	5.1	1.2	5.4	1.2	5.0
541	Grocery stores.....	-0.1	4.9	1.2	5.3	1.1	4.9
554	Gasoline service stations.....	-0.4	5.8	-1.0	6.2	6.1	6.7
56	Apparel and accessory stores.....	0.2	8.8	0.7	8.2	2.7	8.0
58	Eating and drinking places.....	0.2	6.9	0.3	7.2	1.9	7.4
591	Drug and proprietary stores.....	1.5	13.0	0.3	11.4	2.9	12.1

NA Not available. (p) Preliminary. (r) Revised.

(1) Percent change rounded to nearest tenth.

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

Official Business

Penalty for Private Use, \$300

### 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 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).

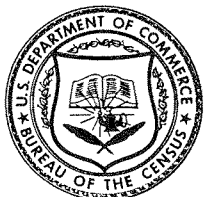
Estimates of sampling variability are given in Table 3. They are based on two components. The first component is a measure of the average

difference between the Advance and the Preliminary estimates. The second reflects the variability of the Preliminary estimate. Additionally, both 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, among others. Precautionary steps are taken to minimize these 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 are 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 and the techniques used in developing the estimates, and an explanation of confidence intervals and sampling variability (Appendix B, Reliability of Data).

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

SIC code	Kind of Business	Level of sales: Estimated CV <sup>1</sup> for Current Mo. (x 100)	Trend (percent change): Estimated standard error <sup>1</sup> for			Revision for month- to-month change <sup>2</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 trade, total</b> .....	<b>7.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>
	Total (excl. auto dealers) .....	1.0	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.3
	<b>Durable goods, total</b> .....	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>
52	Building materials, group stores .....	3.5	1.9	1.1	2.7	0.5	0.9
55 ex. 554	Automotive dealers.....	1.6	1.2	0.8	1.5	0.1	0.5
551,2,5,6,7,9	Motor vehicle and misc. automotive dealers.....	1.8	1.3	0.9	1.6	0.0	0.6
57	Furniture, home furn, and equipment stores .....	2.0	1.4	0.7	1.8	0.2	0.6
	<b>Nondurable goods, total</b> .....	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>
53	General merch. group, total.....	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.3
531	Dept. stores (ex. leased depts.)..	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.3
54	Food stores.....	1.2	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.3
541	Grocery stores .....	1.2	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.3
554	Gasoline service stations .....	2.2	1.2	1.4	1.4	0.3	0.9
56	Apparel and accessory stores .....	1.9	1.5	0.6	1.6	-0.1	0.9
58	Eating and drinking places .....	5.1	1.0	0.9	2.2	0.4	0.5
591	Drug and proprietary stores .....	1.7	0.8	0.4	1.2	0.1	0.2



(1) The coefficients of variation (CVs) for level of sales and the standard errors for trends are medians based on estimates for the preceding 12 months.

(2) These columns measure the difference between the Advance/Preliminary ratio and the Preliminary/Final ratio estimates -- i.e., the difference between estimates of trend for the same pair of data months. The revisions are based on the latest 12 months of data.