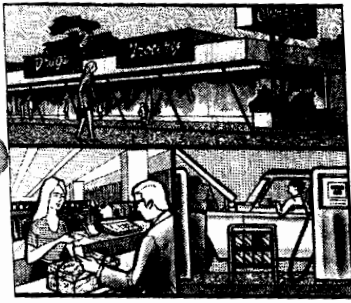


Advance Monthly Retail Sales



MAY 1982

FOR WIRE TRANSMISSION 2:30 P.M. EDT, Thursday, June 10, 1982

CB-02-82

The Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, announced today that total sales of retail stores in May after adjusting for seasonal variations and trading-day differences, but not for price changes, were estimated at \$89.2 billion. This adjusted figure was 1.5 percent above April and 3.3 percent higher than May a year ago. The adjusted May estimate excluding the automotive group was 1.0 percent above April and 2.1 percent above May of last year.

The advance sales estimates are based on early reporting of sales by a small subsample of the Bureau's retail survey panel. Because of the early reporting, the advance estimates can differ from the subsequent estimates which are based on monthly reports obtained from the full sample of retail stores. In addition, sampling variability between the subsample used for the advance estimates and the full sample can cause a difference. For most months, such differences have been reduced by modifying the advance estimates prior to publication on the basis of the relationship between the advance and full-sample data for previous months.

Adjusted sales of durable goods stores were about 2.5 percent above April while sales of nondurable goods stores increased 1.1 percent. Compared with sales for May 1981, durable goods stores sales increased 3.5 percent and nondurable goods stores increased 3.2 percent.

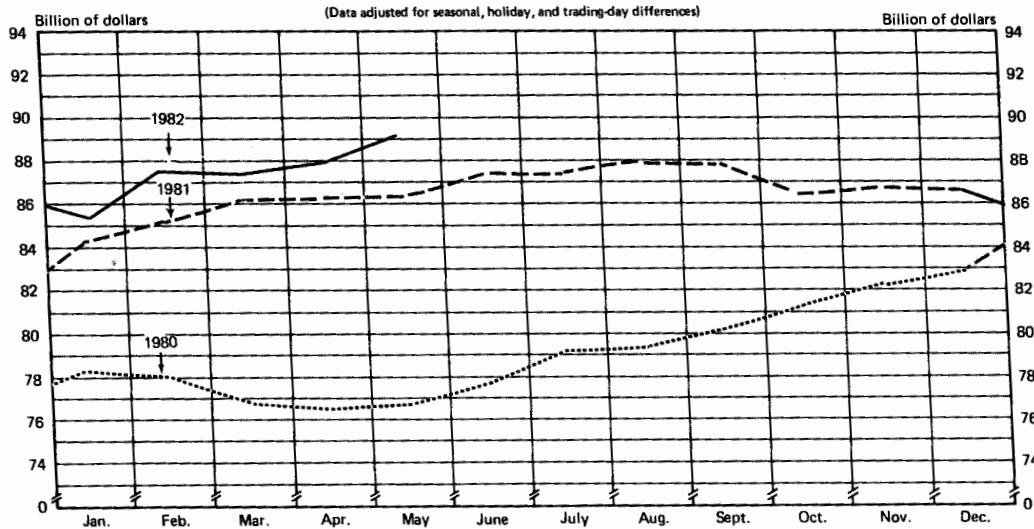
Percentage differences between advance and full-sample preliminary estimates of month-to-month percentage change in seasonally adjusted total retail store sales have ranged from approximately -1.5 percent to +1.1 percent with the average of the absolute differences about 0.7 percent for the past 12 months. 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 on the last page of this report.

The revised estimate of retail sales for April 1982 based on preliminary results from a full sample of retail stores was about \$87.9 billion, about \$0.4 billion lower than the April advance estimate published earlier. Seasonally adjusted preliminary sales for April were about 0.7 percent above March and 1.9 percent above April 1981. Excluding the automotive group, retail sales were 0.2 percent below March but 0.8 percent above April 1981. For nondurable goods stores, adjusted April sales were 0.3 percent lower than March but 1.8 percent above April 1981. For durable goods stores, April adjusted sales were 3.0 percent above March and 2.2 percent above April 1981.

Preliminary estimates for April 1982 and final estimates for March 1982 based on the full sample will be published later this month in the Monthly Retail Trade Report for April (BR-62-04). 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. In addition, the completed report will include approximate measures of sampling variability.

The Advance Monthly Retail Sales Report for June is scheduled to be released July 13, 1982 at 2:30 p.m.

ESTIMATED MONTHLY RETAIL SALES FOR THE UNITED STATES JANUARY 1980—MAY 1982



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U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

The Advance Monthly Retail Sales report, the Monthly Retail Trade report, and the Annual Retail Trade report are available on a single subscription from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, at \$25 per year. Add \$6.25 for each subscription to a foreign address. Postage stamps not acceptable; currency submitted at sender's risk. Remittances from foreign countries must be by international money order or by a draft on a U.S. bank. Single copies of the Advance Monthly Retail Sales report are for sale by Subscriber Services (Publications), Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233, at 70 cents each.

Table 1. Estimated Monthly Retail Sales by Kind of Business for the United States

(Sales in millions of dollars)

SIC code	Kind of business	Not adjusted				Adjusted ¹					
		1982			1981		1982			1981	
		May ² advance	Apr. prelim.	Mar. final	May	Apr.	May ² advance	Apr. prelim.	Mar. final	May	Apr.
	Retail trade, total.....	88,624	87,107	86,172	86,899	85,210	89,236	87,899	87,277	86,361	86,263
	Total (excl. automotive group).....	71,987	70,744	69,104	71,686	69,516	72,658	71,964	72,102	71,170	71,386
	Durable goods stores, total.....	28,452	27,676	27,988	27,522	27,501	28,456	27,758	26,958	27,488	27,166
52	Building materials, hardware, garden										
521.3	supply, and mobile home dealers.....	4,676	4,298	3,861	4,969	4,695	4,302	4,256	4,173	4,578	4,620
525	Building materials and supply stores.....	(*)	2,733	2,484	3,182	3,002	(*)	2,829	2,727	3,074	3,082
	Hardware stores.....	(*)	818	721	871	830	(*)	775	785	783	792
55 ex. 554	Automotive dealers.....	16,637	16,363	17,068	15,213	15,694	16,578	15,935	15,175	15,191	14,877
551,2,5,	Motor vehicle and miscellaneous auto-										
6,7,9	motive dealers.....	14,891	14,594	15,447	13,595	13,998	14,846	14,252	13,526	13,595	13,256
551	Motor vehicle dealers (franchised).....	(*)	13,085	13,905	11,885	12,252	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
553	Auto and home supply stores.....	(*)	1,769	1,621	1,618	1,696	(*)	1,683	1,649	1,596	1,621
57	Furniture, home furnishings, and equipment										
	stores.....	3,425	3,442	3,552	3,630	3,571	3,671	3,696	3,652	3,814	3,833
571	Furniture and home furnishings stores....	(*)	2,128	2,167	2,329	2,257	(*)	2,221	2,182	2,374	2,353
5722,32	Household appliance, radio, and TV stores	(*)	1,059	1,106	1,045	1,048	(*)	1,187	1,173	1,138	1,176
5722	Household appliance stores.....	(*)	454	467	473	467	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
	Nondurable goods stores, total.....	60,172	59,431	58,184	59,377	57,709	60,780	60,141	60,319	58,873	59,097
53	General merchandise group stores.....	10,720	10,215	9,473	10,307	10,033	11,115	10,687	10,833	10,523	10,628
531	Department stores.....	8,846	8,417	7,877	8,382	8,127	9,167	8,851	8,992	8,553	8,646
533	Variety stores.....	(*)	745	657	722	770	(*)	730	760	740	763
539	Miscellaneous general merchandise stores.	(*)	1,053	939	1,203	1,136	(*)	1,106	1,081	1,230	1,219
54	Food stores.....	20,818	20,623	20,066	20,339	19,346	20,648	20,559	20,340	19,577	19,628
541	Grocery stores.....	19,224	18,959	18,516	18,810	17,717	19,071	18,997	18,798	18,069	18,097
554	Gasoline service stations.....	7,917	7,854	7,918	8,636	8,397	7,792	7,862	8,047	8,442	8,482
56	Apparel and accessory stores.....	3,910	4,014	3,729	3,724	3,957	4,213	3,996	4,196	3,929	3,964
561	Men's and boys' clothing and furnishings										
	stores.....	(*)	592	516	597	603	(*)	639	619	649	655
562,3,8	Women's clothing, specialty stores,										
	furriers.....	(*)	1,533	1,447	1,411	1,470	(*)	1,525	1,599	1,479	1,476
565	Family clothing stores.....	(*)	823	758	786	834	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
566	Shoe stores.....	(*)	785	714	706	807	(*)	696	781	718	720
58	Eating and drinking places.....	8,400	8,268	8,129	8,253	7,806	8,046	8,170	8,329	7,815	7,759
591	Drug stores and proprietary stores.....	2,848	2,862	2,802	2,693	2,653	2,897	2,885	2,880	2,717	2,713
592	Liquor stores.....	(*)	1,406	1,362	1,436	1,336	(*)	1,515	1,495	1,439	1,447
53,56,57,	GAF ³ plus mail-order houses (department										
594,5961	stores mdse.).....	(*)	20,962	19,958	20,756	20,543	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
(pt.)	GAF.....	(*)	20,548	19,504	20,404	20,157	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
53,56,57,											
594											

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

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

NA Not available.

¹Data adjusted for seasonal variations, holiday, and trading-day differences. (See Explanatory Material in the Monthly Retail Trade Report, BR-82-04).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.³GAF represents stores which specialize in department store types of merchandise. Data for mail-order catalog desks located within department stores of some mail-order firms are included in the department store estimates.

Table 2. Percent Change in Estimated Monthly Retail Sales by Kind of Business for the United States

(Adjusted for seasonal variations, holiday, and trading-day differences)

SIC code	Kind of business	Percent change					
		May 1982 advance from--		Apr. 1982 preliminary from--		Mar. 1982 through May 1982	
		Apr. 1982 preliminary	May 1981 final	Mar. 1982 final	Apr. 1981 final	Dec. 1981 through Feb. 1982	Mar. 1981 through May 1981
	Retail trade, total.....	+1.5	+3.3	+0.7	+1.9	+2.0	+2.2
	Total (excl. automotive group).....	+1.0	+2.1	-0.2	+0.8	+0.2	+1.5
	Durable goods stores, total.....	+2.5	+3.5	+3.0	+2.2	+6.3	+1.1
52	Building materials, hardware, garden supply, and mobile home dealers.....	+1.1	-6.0	+2.0	-7.9	+4.3	-7.8
55 ex. 554	Automotive dealers.....	+4.0	+9.1	+5.0	+7.1	+10.9	+5.3
551,2,5, 6,7,9	Motor vehicle and miscellaneous automotive dealers.....	+4.2	+9.2	+5.4	+7.5	+12.0	+5.4
57	Furniture, home furnishings, and equipment stores.....	-0.7	-3.7	+1.2	-3.6	+0.9	-4.1
	Nondurable goods stores, total.....	+1.1	+3.2	-0.3	+1.8	+0.1	+2.7
53	General merchandise group stores.....	+4.0	+5.6	-1.3	+0.6	+2.2	+3.4
531	Department stores.....	+3.6	+7.2	-1.6	+2.4	+2.7	+5.2
54	Food stores.....	+0.4	+5.5	+1.1	+4.7	+0.7	+5.1
541	Grocery stores.....	+0.4	+5.5	+1.1	+5.0	+0.9	+5.3
554	Gasoline service stations.....	-0.9	-7.7	-2.3	-7.3	-7.1	-6.6
56	Apparel and accessory stores.....	+5.4	+7.2	-4.8	+0.8	+1.1	+4.8
58	Eating and drinking places.....	-1.5	+3.0	-1.9	+5.3	+1.1	+4.9
591	Drug stores and proprietary stores.....	+0.4	+6.6	+0.2	+6.3	+4.1	+6.8

Table 3. Estimated Monthly Retail Sales of Group II Companies by Kind of Business for the United States:

(Sales in millions of dollars)

1972 SIC code	Kind of business	Not adjusted			Adjusted ¹		
		Apr. 1982 preliminary	Mar. 1982 final	Apr. 1981	Apr. 1982 preliminary	Mar. 1982 final	Apr. 1981
	Retail trade, total.....	31,445	30,277	29,968	31,877	32,044	30,907
53	General merchandise group stores.....	9,397	8,715	9,112	9,843	9,983	9,742
531	Department stores.....	8,127	7,602	7,823	8,510	8,668	8,349
533	Variety stores.....	591	521	592	589	598	609
539	Miscellaneous general merchandise stores.....	679	592	697	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
54	Food stores.....	11,220	10,923	10,272	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
541	Grocery stores.....	11,050	10,779	10,118	11,006	10,910	10,293
56	Apparel and accessory stores.....	1,663	1,477	1,630	1,611	1,664	1,575
562,3,8	Women's clothing, specialty stores, furriers.....	698	625	698	672	697	682
566	Shoe stores.....	402	345	405	340	365	344
591	Drug stores and proprietary stores.....	1,561	1,524	1,434	1,574	1,611	1,477

Note: The 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).

¹Data adjusted for seasonal variations, holiday, and trading-day differences. (See Explanatory Material in the Monthly Retail Trade Report, BR-82-04).

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 advance-to-preliminary ratio			Preliminary-to-final percent change minus the advance-to-preliminary percent change			
		Range ¹		Median	Range ²		Mean	Average of absolute difference
		From	To		From	To		
	Retail trade, total.....	0.6	0.8	0.7	-1.54	+0.94	-0.18	0.69
	Total (excl. automotive group).....	0.7	0.8	0.7	-3.12	+2.82	-0.38	0.57
	Durable goods stores, total.....	1.2	2.0	1.6	-3.59	+4.63	-0.14	1.55
52	Building materials, hardware, garden supply, and mobile home dealers.....	1.5	3.6	1.8	-4.10	+3.70	-0.39	2.07
55 ex. 554	Automotive dealers.....	1.8	2.3	2.05	-4.62	+7.79	+0.67	2.63
551,2,5,6,7,9	Motor vehicle and miscellaneous automotive dealers.....	1.0	1.8	1.45	-5.47	+4.04	+0.55	2.71
57	Furniture, home furnishings, and equipment stores.....	1.7	4.2	2.25	-4.37	+2.97	-0.61	1.99
	Nondurable goods stores, total.....	0.5	0.7	0.6	-1.24	+0.54	-0.31	0.46
53	General merchandise group stores.....	0.3	0.7	0.45	-3.03	+2.04	-0.05	1.24
531	Department stores.....	0.1	0.4	0.35	-2.36	+3.23	+0.18	1.29
54	Food stores.....	1.2	1.5	1.5	-1.65	+1.54	-0.23	0.77
541	Grocery stores.....	0.4	0.5	0.45	-2.61	+2.50	-0.38	0.86
554	Gasoline service stations.....	0.6	1.5	0.95	-2.32	+0.50	-0.83	1.04
56	Apparel and accessory stores.....	1.2	2.9	1.75	-1.92	+1.19	-0.33	1.06
58	Eating and drinking places.....	0.6	1.2	1.05	-2.35	+2.33	-0.13	1.39
591	Drug stores and proprietary stores.....	0.4	1.9	0.55	-1.09	+0.99	-0.15	0.68

Note: See Appendix B, Reliability of Data, in the Monthly Retail Trade Report for a discussion on the measures of sampling variability.

¹The ranges of sampling variability shown are based on sales estimates unadjusted for seasonal variations, holiday, and trading-day differences for the data months of July-December 1981.

²The ranges shown are based on sales estimates adjusted for seasonal variations, holiday, and trading-day differences for the 12-month period, January-December 1981.

