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ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES FOR RETAIL AND FOOD SERVICES May 2007

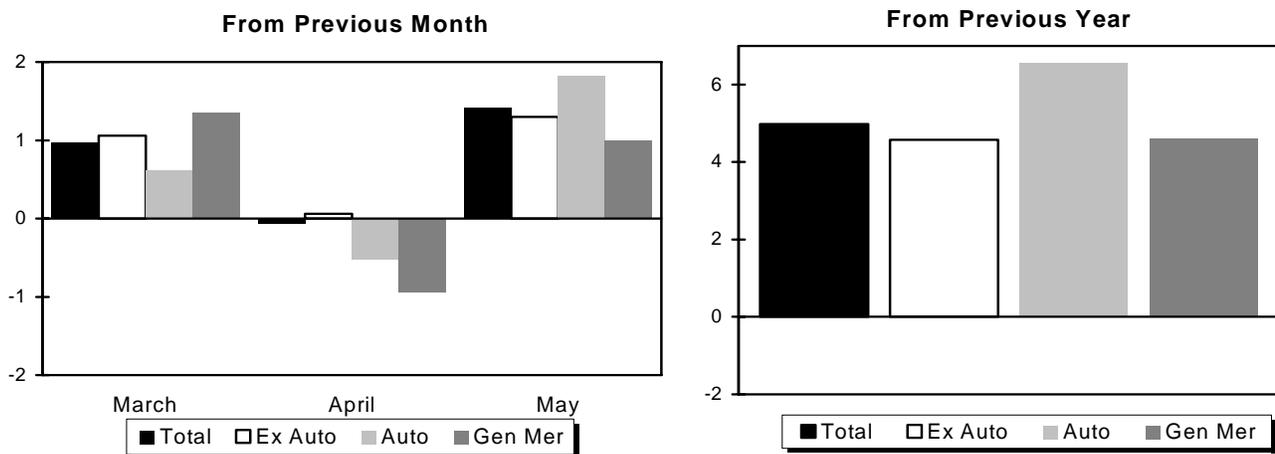
The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for May, adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences, but not for price changes, were \$377.9 billion, an increase of 1.4 percent ($\pm 0.7\%$) from the previous month and 5.0 percent ($\pm 0.7\%$) above May 2006. Total sales for the March through May 2007 period were up 4.2 percent ($\pm 0.5\%$) from the same period a year ago. The March to April 2007 percent change was revised from -0.2 percent ($\pm 0.7\%$)* to -0.1 percent ($\pm 0.2\%$)*.

Retail trade sales were up 1.5 percent ($\pm 0.7\%$) from April 2007 and were 4.9 percent ($\pm 0.8\%$) above last year. Clothing and clothing accessories stores were up 7.8 percent ($\pm 1.5\%$) from May 2006 and sales of nonstore retailers were up 7.7 percent ($\pm 4.5\%$) from last year.

The advance estimates are based on a subsample of the Census Bureau's full retail and food services sample. A stratified random sampling method is used to select approximately 5,000 retail and food services firms whose sales are then weighted and benchmarked to represent the complete universe of over three million retail and food services firms. Responding firms account for approximately 65% of the MARTS dollar volume estimate. For an explanation of the measures of sampling variability included in this report, please see the Reliability of Estimates section on the last page of this publication.

Percent Change in Retail and Food Services Sales

(Estimates adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences, but not for price changes)



The Advance Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services for June is scheduled to be released July 13, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. EDT.

For information, visit the Census Bureau's Web site at <http://www.census.gov/retail>. This report is also available the day of issue through the Department of Commerce's STAT-USA (202-482-1986).

* The 90 percent confidence interval includes zero. The Census Bureau does not have sufficient statistical evidence to conclude that the actual change is different than zero.

Table 1. Estimated Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services, by Kind of Business

(Total sales estimates are shown in millions of dollars and are based on data from the Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey, Monthly Retail Trade Survey, and administrative records.)

NAICS ¹ code	Kind of Business	Not Adjusted							Adjusted ²				
		5 Month Total		2007			2006		2007			2006	
		2007	% Chg. 2006	May ³ (a)	Apr. (p)	Mar. (r)	May	Apr.	May ³ (a)	Apr. (p)	Mar. (r)	May (r)	Apr. (r)
	Retail & food services,												
	total	1,802,089	4.1	397,245	364,681	379,742	376,795	354,484	377,885	372,631	372,851	359,961	361,376
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	1,414,470	4.2	310,220	286,415	294,878	295,340	278,311	299,291	295,451	295,269	286,201	285,687
	Retail	1,621,119	4.0	358,594	327,906	341,277	340,330	319,125	340,721	335,708	336,007	324,763	326,298
	GAFO⁴	(*)	(*)	(*)	89,077	94,161	90,552	87,157	(*)	96,894	97,692	93,434	93,703
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	387,619	3.8	87,025	78,266	84,864	81,455	76,173	78,594	77,180	77,582	73,760	75,689
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers .	357,061	4.0	80,390	72,105	78,256	75,137	70,146	72,293	70,969	71,271	67,691	69,589
44111	New car dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	57,985	63,804	60,716	56,547	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4413	Auto parts, acc. & tire stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,161	6,608	6,318	6,027	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	48,774	3.8	10,151	9,373	10,362	9,866	9,136	10,390	10,357	10,362	10,078	10,051
4421	Furniture stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	5,074	5,641	5,164	4,903	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4422	Home furnishings stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	4,299	4,721	4,702	4,233	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
443	Electronics & appliance stores	42,420	3.6	8,632	7,815	8,691	8,243	7,611	9,380	9,263	9,220	8,962	8,972
44311, 13	Appl., T.V. & camera.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,193	6,901	6,685	6,058	(*)	7,461	7,444	7,219	7,246
44312	Computer & software stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	1,622	1,790	1,558	1,553	(*)	1,802	1,776	1,743	1,726
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers	145,100	-3.3	36,518	31,914	29,956	36,763	33,377	29,614	29,014	29,676	30,114	30,736
4441	Building mat. & sup. dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	26,722	25,728	30,704	27,828	(*)	25,571	25,857	26,792	27,149
445	Food & beverage stores	229,938	6.3	49,368	45,801	47,224	46,201	43,687	47,547	47,403	47,151	44,823	44,539
4451	Grocery stores	206,350	6.2	44,161	40,966	42,286	41,269	39,104	42,422	42,277	41,950	39,989	39,740
4453	Beer, wine & liquor stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,031	3,176	3,145	2,906	(*)	3,280	3,336	3,129	3,105
446	Health & personal care stores	97,864	7.3	20,374	19,239	20,254	19,130	17,833	19,819	19,652	19,550	18,537	18,309
44611	Pharmacies & drug stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	16,299	17,024	16,136	15,085	(*)	16,666	16,528	15,651	15,472
447	Gasoline stations	165,481	1.5	39,029	34,941	33,817	37,485	34,696	36,374	35,046	34,437	35,065	34,835
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	83,876	7.2	18,805	17,403	18,250	17,234	16,975	19,061	18,563	18,843	17,676	17,748
44811	Men's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	860	802	760	758	(*)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(S)
44812	Women's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,466	3,452	3,404	3,442	(*)	3,359	3,394	3,245	3,291
44814	Family clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,675	7,260	6,345	6,534	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4482	Shoe stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,294	2,359	2,223	2,388	(*)	2,227	2,279	2,243	2,253
451	Sporting goods, hobby, book & music stores	32,323	0.1	6,745	6,232	6,868	6,545	6,331	7,461	7,332	7,401	7,280	7,362
452	General merchandise stores	220,404	4.9	47,653	44,864	46,243	45,214	44,047	47,864	47,388	47,840	45,754	45,943
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	77,921	-1.0	16,854	16,070	16,493	16,912	16,709	17,564	17,345	17,692	17,694	17,760
4521	Department stores (incl. L.D.) ⁵	(*)	(*)	(*)	16,492	16,934	17,396	17,186	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4529	Other general merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	28,794	29,750	28,302	27,338	(*)	30,043	30,148	28,060	28,183
45291	Warehouse clubs & supercenters.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	25,429	26,305	24,814	23,981	(*)	26,516	26,571	24,593	24,697
45299	All oth. gen. merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,365	3,445	3,488	3,357	(*)	3,527	3,577	3,467	3,486
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	48,163	1.9	10,987	9,344	9,866	10,631	9,148	10,154	10,068	10,140	9,999	9,908
454	Nonstore retailers	119,157	9.6	23,307	22,714	24,882	21,563	20,111	24,463	24,442	23,805	22,715	22,206
4541	Elect. shopping & m/o houses	(*)	(*)	(*)	15,124	16,106	14,543	13,603	(*)	16,175	16,058	14,931	14,899
722	Food services & drinking places ...	180,970	5.2	38,651	36,775	38,465	36,465	35,359	37,164	36,923	36,844	35,198	35,078

(*) Advance estimates are not available for this kind of business.

(NA) Not available. (S) Suppressed. (a) Advance estimate. (p) Preliminary estimate. (r) Revised estimate.

(1) For a full description of the NAICS codes used in this table, see <http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html>

(2) Estimates are concurrently adjusted for seasonal variation and for holiday and trading day differences, but not for price changes. Concurrent seasonal adjustment uses all available unadjusted estimates as input to the X-12 ARIMA program. The factors derived from the program are used in calculating all seasonally adjusted estimates shown in this table. Year-to-date seasonally adjusted sales estimates are not tabulated. Adjustment factors and explanatory material can be found on the Internet at <http://www.census.gov/mrts/www/mrts.html>

(3) Advance estimates are based on early reports obtained from a small sample of firms selected from the larger Monthly Retail Trade Survey (MRTS) sample. All other estimates are from the MRTS sample

(4) GAFO represents firms which specialize in department store types of merchandise and is comprised of furniture & home furnishings (442), electronics & appliances (443), clothing & accessories (448), sporting goods, hobby, book, and music (451), general merchandise (452), office supply, stationery, and gift stores (4532).

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

Note: Table 3 provides estimated measures of sampling variability. Additional information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, sample design, and definitions may be found at <http://www.census.gov/mrts/www/mrts.html>

Table 2. Estimated Change in Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services, by Kind of Business

(Estimates are shown as percents and are based on data from the Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey, Monthly Retail Trade Survey, and administrative records.)

NAICS code	Kind of Business	Percent Change ¹					
		May 2007 Advance from --		Apr. 2007 Preliminary from --		Mar. 2007 through May 2007 from --	
		Apr. 2007 (p)	May 2006 (r)	Mar. 2007 (r)	Apr. 2006 (r)	Dec. 2006 through Feb. 2007	Mar. 2006 through May 2006
	Retail & food services, total	1.4	5.0	-0.1	3.1	1.8	4.2
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	1.3	4.6	0.1	3.4	1.9	4.2
	Retail	1.5	4.9	-0.1	2.9	1.9	4.0
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	1.8	6.6	-0.5	2.0	1.2	4.0
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ..	1.9	6.8	-0.4	2.0	1.1	4.1
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	0.3	3.1	0.0	3.0	0.7	3.1
443	Electronics & appliance stores	1.3	4.7	0.5	3.2	-0.5	3.7
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers.....	2.1	-1.7	-2.2	-5.6	0.6	-3.6
445	Food & beverage stores.....	0.3	6.1	0.5	6.4	1.7	6.3
4451	Grocery stores	0.3	6.1	0.8	6.4	1.7	6.1
446	Health & personal care stores	0.8	6.9	0.5	7.3	1.6	6.9
447	Gasoline stations	3.8	3.7	1.8	0.6	6.7	3.0
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	2.7	7.8	-1.5	4.6	1.6	6.9
451	Sporting goods, hobby, book & music stores.....	1.8	2.5	-0.9	-0.4	3.2	1.1
452	General merchandise stores.....	1.0	4.6	-0.9	3.1	0.9	4.7
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	1.3	-0.7	-2.0	-2.3	-0.6	-1.0
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	0.9	1.6	-0.7	1.6	1.3	2.2
454	Nonstore retailers	0.1	7.7	2.7	10.1	3.1	7.9
722	Food services & drinking places	0.7	5.6	0.2	5.3	0.7	5.4

(p) Preliminary estimates (r) Revised estimates

(1) Estimates shown in this table are derived from adjusted estimates provided in Table 1 of this report.

Note: Table 3 provides estimated measures of sampling variability. Additional information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, sample design, and definitions may be found at <http://www.census.gov/mrts/www/mrts.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Survey Description

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts the Advance Monthly Retail Trade and Food Services Survey (MARTS) to provide an early estimate of monthly sales by kind of business for retail and food service firms located in the United States. Each month, questionnaires are mailed to a probability sample of approximately 5,000 employer firms selected from the larger Monthly Retail Trade Survey (MRTS). Firms responding to MARTS account for approximately 65% of the total national sales estimate. Advance sales estimates are computed using a link relative estimator. The change in sales from the previous month is estimated using only units that have reported data for both the current and

previous month. There is no imputation or adjustment for nonrespondents in MARTS. The total sales estimate is derived by multiplying this ratio by the preliminary sales estimate for the previous month (derived from the larger MRTS sample). Detailed industry estimates are summed to derive total estimates at broad industry levels. The monthly estimates are adjusted using annual survey estimates and for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences. Additional information on MARTS and MRTS can be found on the Census Bureau website at: <http://www.census.gov/mrts/www/mrts.html>.

Official Business

Penalty for Private Use, \$300

Reliability of Estimates

Because the estimates presented in this report are based on a sample survey, they contain sampling error and nonsampling error.

Sampling error is the difference between the estimate and the result that would be obtained from a complete enumeration of the sampling frame conducted under the same survey conditions. This error occurs because only a subset of the entire sampling frame is measured in a sample survey. Standard errors and coefficients of variation (CV), as given in Table 3 of this report, are estimated measures of sampling variation.

The margin of sampling error, as used on page 1, gives a range about the estimate which is a 90 percent confidence interval. If, for example, the percent change estimate is +1.2 percent and its estimated standard error is 0.9 percent, then the margin of sampling error is $\pm 1.65 \times 0.9$ percent or ± 1.5 percent, and the 90 percent confidence interval is -0.3 percent to +2.7 percent. If the interval contains 0, then one does not have sufficient evidence to conclude at the 90 percent

confidence level that the change is different from zero and therefore the change is not statistically significant. Estimated changes shown in the text are statistically significant unless otherwise noted. For a monthly total, the median estimated coefficient of variation is given. The resulting confidence interval is the estimated value $\pm 1.65 \times CV \times$ (the estimated monthly total). The Census Bureau recommends that individuals using estimates in this report incorporate this information into their analyses, as sampling error could affect the conclusions drawn from the estimates.

Nonsampling error encompasses all other factors that contribute to the total error of a sample survey estimate. This type of error can occur because of nonresponse, insufficient coverage of the universe of retail businesses, mistakes in the recording and coding of data, and other errors of collection, response, coverage, or processing. Although nonsampling error is not measured directly, the Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the process to minimize this type of error.

Table 3. Estimated Measures of Sampling Variability and Revision to Advance Estimates

(Estimates are shown as percents and are based on data from the Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey and Monthly Retail Trade Survey)

NAICS Code	Kind of Business	Median CV ⁽¹⁾ for Current Mo. (%)	Median standard error ⁽¹⁾ for Percent change			Revision for month-to-month change ⁽²⁾	
			Previous Mo. to Current Mo.	Previous Qtr. to Current Qtr.	Current Mo. to same Mo. Last Yr.	Average revision	Median absolute revision
	Retail & food services,						
	total	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.2
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ..	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.2
	Retail	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.3
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	1.9	1.5	0.8	1.4	0.1	0.8
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers .	2.1	1.6	0.8	1.6	0.1	0.8
442	Furniture & home furn. stores.....	2.0	1.7	0.8	1.9	0.0	0.4
443	Electronics & appliance stores	1.3	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.0	0.4
444	Building material & garden eq. &... supplies dealers.....	2.3	1.3	0.7	1.2	-0.3	1.0
445	Food & beverage stores.....	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.2
4451	Grocery stores	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.2
446	Health & personal care stores	1.7	0.6	0.5	1.0	0.0	0.3
447	Gasoline stations	2.3	0.7	0.7	1.2	0.0	0.3
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	1.7	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.2	0.3
451	Sporting goods, hobby, book & music stores.....	2.4	1.3	1.1	2.1	0.0	0.4
452	General merchandise stores.....	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	3.4	3.1	1.8	3.1	0.1	0.7
454	Nonstore retailers	1.5	1.1	0.8	2.7	0.2	0.6
722	Food services & drinking places ..	1.5	0.7	0.7	1.1	0.1	0.4

- (1) Estimated measures of sampling variability are based on estimates not adjusted for seasonal variation or holiday or trading-day differences. Medians are based on estimates for the period August 2006 to present.
- (2) These columns provide measures of the difference between the advance-to-preliminary and preliminary-to-final estimates of month-to-month change for the same pair of months as measured by the Advance sample and MRTS sample. The average and median differences are based on estimates for the most recent 12 months.

Note: Additional information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, sample design, and definitions may be found at <http://www.census.gov/mrts/www/mrts.html>

