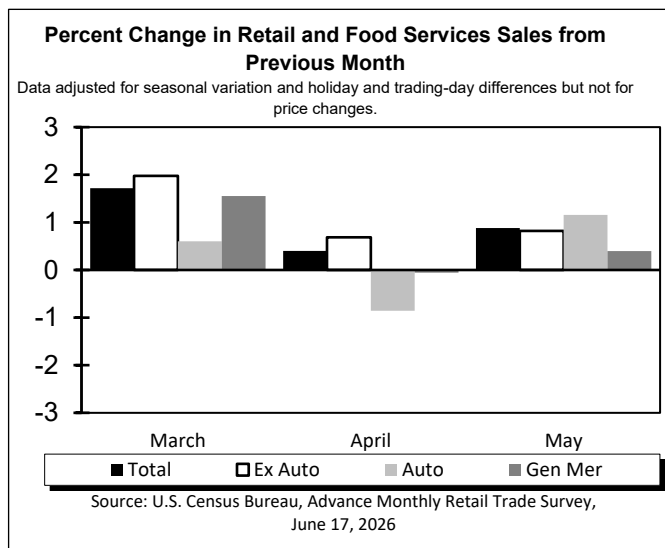


ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES FOR RETAIL AND FOOD SERVICES, MAY 2026

Release Number: CB26-97

June 17, 2026 — The U.S. Census Bureau announced the following advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for May 2026:

ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES		
May 2026	\$763.7 billion	0.9%
April 2026 (revised)	\$757.0 billion	0.4%
Next release: July 16, 2026		
<small>* The 90 percent confidence interval includes zero. There is insufficient statistical evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero. Data adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences but not for price changes. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey, June 17, 2026</small>		



Advance Estimates of U.S. Retail and Food Services

Advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for May 2026, adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences, but not for price changes, were \$763.7 billion, up 0.9 percent (± 0.4 percent) from the previous month, and up 6.9 percent (± 0.5 percent) from May 2025. Total sales for the March 2026 through May 2026 period were up 5.3 percent (± 0.5 percent) from the same period a year ago. The March 2026 to April 2026 percent change was revised from up 0.5 percent (± 0.4 percent) to up 0.4 percent (± 0.2 percent).

Retail trade sales were up 1.0 percent (± 0.4 percent) from April 2026, and up 7.5 percent (± 0.5 percent) from last year. Nonstore retailers were up 12.2 percent (± 1.8 percent) from last year, while food services and drinking places were up 2.7 percent (± 1.8 percent) from May 2025.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Release Schedule

The June 2026 Advance Monthly Retail report is scheduled for release on July 16, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. EDT. View the full schedule in the Economic Briefing Room: <<https://www.census.gov/economic-indicators/>>. The full text and tables of this release can be found at <<https://www.census.gov/retail/index.html>>.

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Special Notice

With the release of the June 2026 Advance Monthly Retail Trade Report on July 16, 2026, minor updates to the presentation of the release will change. The release will include updated graph formatting and streamlined language in the text. The layout and format of the tables are not changing. The full text and tables will still be available as a PDF. For more information and a preview of the new format, visit <https://www.census.gov/retail/index.html>.

Intention to Revise

Monthly retail sales estimates are anticipated to be revised based on historical corrections and the results of the 2023 and 2024 Annual Integrated Economic Survey. Revised not adjusted estimates and corresponding adjusted estimates are tentatively scheduled for release on September 28, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. EDT.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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 4,800 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. For more information on how data is collected for the Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey (MARTS), see our methodology page at https://www.census.gov/retail/marts/how_surveys_are_collected.html.

Survey Description

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts the Advance Monthly Retail Trade and Food Services Survey 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, letters are mailed to a probability sample of approximately 4,800 employer firms selected from the larger Monthly Retail Trade Survey (MRTS). Advance sales estimates are computed using a link relative estimator. For each detailed industry, we compute a ratio of current-to-previous month weighted sales using data from units for which we have obtained usable responses for both the current and previous month. For each detailed industry, the advance total sales estimates for the current month is computed by multiplying this ratio by the preliminary sales estimate for the previous month (derived from the larger MRTS) at the appropriate industry level. Total estimates for broader industries are computed as the sum of the detailed industry estimates. The link relative estimate is used because imputation is not performed for most nonrespondents in MARTS. For a limited number of nonresponding companies that have influential effects on the estimates, sales may be estimated based on historical performance of that company. The monthly estimates are benchmarked to the annual survey estimates from the Annual Retail Trade Survey once available. The estimates are

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adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading day differences. Additional information on MARTS and MRTS can be found on the Census Bureau website at <www.census.gov/retail>.

The Census Bureau has reviewed this data product to ensure appropriate access, use, and disclosure avoidance protection of the confidential source data (Project No. P-7504206, Disclosure Review Board (DRB) approval number: CBDRB-FY26-003).

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 $\pm 1.753 \times 0.9$ percent or ± 1.6 percent, and the 90 percent confidence interval is -0.4 percent to $+2.8$ 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 $\pm 1.753 \times CV \times$ (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.

Statement Regarding Natural Disasters

For information on the impact of natural disasters on the compilation of this report, please see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on our website at <www.census.gov/retail/marts_weather_faqs.html>.

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RESOURCES

API

The Census Bureau's application programming interface lets developers create custom apps to reach new users and makes key demographic, socio-economic and housing statistics more accessible than ever before. <www.census.gov/developers/>

FRED Mobile App



Receive the latest updates on the nation's key economic indicators by downloading the FRED App <<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/fred-mobile/>> for both Apple and Android devices. FRED, the signature database of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, now incorporates the Census Bureau's 13 economic indicators.

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* The 90 percent confidence interval includes zero. There is insufficient statistical evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero.

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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		2026			2025		2026			2025	
		2026	% Chg. 2025	May ³ (a)	Apr. (p)	Mar. (r)	May	Apr.	May ³ (a)	Apr. (p)	Mar. (r)	May (r)	Apr. (r)
	Retail & food services,												
	total	3,639,171	4.3	792,825	754,755	761,135	753,313	722,319	763,705	757,036	754,013	714,568	722,442
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	2,947,419	5.3	645,331	609,849	611,457	608,383	574,654	623,444	618,378	614,158	580,210	581,242
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	3,357,390	3.7	724,452	692,142	702,034	698,773	670,770	700,043	695,470	693,890	664,254	671,555
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	2,665,638	4.6	576,958	547,236	552,356	553,843	523,105	559,782	556,812	554,035	529,896	530,355
	Retail	3,141,881	4.5	684,300	653,045	657,586	647,306	623,756	662,752	655,933	653,772	616,231	624,272
	GAFO⁴	(*)	(*)	(*)	129,861	134,169	137,385	125,740	(*)	137,181	137,298	132,088	131,850
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	691,752	0.3	147,494	144,906	149,678	144,930	147,665	140,261	138,658	139,855	134,358	141,200
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers .	634,197	0.1	135,438	132,691	137,506	132,807	135,856	128,499	126,856	128,151	122,856	129,757
44111	New car dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	110,349	113,558	110,366	113,706	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4413	Auto parts, acc. & tire stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	12,215	12,172	12,123	11,809	(*)	11,802	11,704	11,502	11,443
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	53,685	-3.1	11,379	10,837	11,486	11,766	11,219	11,222	11,115	11,283	11,357	11,518
4421	Furniture stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	5,678	6,281	6,362	6,076	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4422	Home furnishings stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
443	Electronics & appliance stores	37,344	6.3	7,877	7,448	7,682	7,437	6,820	8,146	8,185	8,069	7,620	7,586
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers	202,714	3.4	47,604	46,654	42,057	46,780	45,042	41,908	41,900	41,828	39,704	40,711
4441	Building mat. & sup. dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	39,378	35,698	39,483	38,113	(*)	36,260	35,913	34,303	35,225
445	Food & beverage stores	415,828	0.8	88,618	83,201	83,508	87,339	82,609	85,555	85,536	84,983	83,846	84,431
4451	Grocery stores	377,430	1.0	80,015	75,344	75,774	78,580	74,601	77,235	77,197	76,694	75,485	76,046
4453	Beer, wine & liquor stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	5,616	5,523	6,310	5,626	(*)	5,987	5,952	5,958	5,979
446	Health & personal care stores	193,275	2.0	39,697	39,265	40,379	39,339	38,492	40,425	40,189	40,178	39,300	39,198
44611	Pharmacies & drug stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	33,868	34,576	33,826	33,216	(*)	34,489	34,541	33,792	33,653
447	Gasoline stations	281,781	12.9	68,373	62,613	59,101	54,540	51,549	63,662	61,566	60,123	50,314	50,887
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	124,404	5.7	28,914	25,860	26,690	27,920	24,739	27,763	27,692	27,854	26,274	26,209
44811	Men's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(*)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(S)
44812	Women's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,742	2,885	3,034	2,862	(*)	2,691	2,701	2,733	2,776
44814	Family clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	12,115	12,791	12,817	11,280	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4482	Shoe stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,996	3,322	3,336	2,967	(*)	3,264	3,292	3,245	3,183
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	38,936	9.3	8,720	7,949	8,269	7,869	7,154	8,826	8,803	8,659	7,932	7,836
452	General merchandise stores	375,924	2.9	82,785	75,727	77,955	79,804	73,888	79,348	79,033	79,077	76,447	76,499
4522	Department stores	13,873	-1.1	3,391	3,131	2,968	3,333	3,003	3,292	3,303	3,294	3,230	3,201
4523	Gen. merchandise stores incl. warehouse clubs & supercenters.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	72,596	74,987	76,471	70,885	(*)	75,730	75,783	73,217	73,298
452311	Warehouse clubs & supercenters.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	63,406	65,646	66,749	61,973	(*)	66,324	66,309	64,182	64,287
452319	All oth. gen. merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	9,190	9,341	9,722	8,912	(*)	9,406	9,474	9,035	9,011
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	76,782	10.1	17,308	15,484	15,823	16,248	14,112	16,071	15,717	15,833	14,736	14,238
454	Nonstore retailers	649,456	10.0	135,531	133,101	134,958	123,334	120,467	139,565	137,539	136,030	124,343	123,959
4541	Elect. shopping & m/o houses	(*)	(*)	(*)	125,913	126,459	117,077	113,538	(*)	130,075	128,385	117,429	116,689
722	Food services & drinking places	497,290	3.4	108,525	101,710	103,549	106,007	98,563	100,953	101,103	100,241	98,337	98,170

(*) Advance estimates are not available for this kind of business. (NA) Not available (a) Advance estimate (p) Preliminary estimate (r) Revised estimate

(S) Estimate does not meet publication standards because of high sampling variability (coefficient of variation is greater than 30%), poor response quality (total quantity response rate is less than 50%), or other concerns about the estimate's quality.

(1) Estimates include data only for businesses with paid employees. Prior to the benchmark report released in April 2025, the Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey estimates included nonemployers.

For a full description of the NAICS codes used in this table, see <<https://www.census.gov/naics/>>.

(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-13ARIMA-SEATS 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/retail>>.

(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, musical instrument, and book (451), general merchandise (452), office supply, stationery, and gift stores (4532).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey, June 17, 2026. (Project No. P-7504206 / Approval CDBRB-FY26-003), 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 <www.census.gov/retail/how_surveys_are_collected.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 2026 Advance from --		Apr. 2026 Preliminary from --		Mar. 2026 through May 2026 from --	
		Apr. 2026 (p)	May 2025 (r)	Mar. 2026 (r)	Apr. 2025 (r)	Dec. 2025 through Feb. 2026	Mar. 2025 through May 2025
	Retail & food services,						
	total	0.9	6.9	0.4	4.8	2.9	5.3
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	0.8	7.5	0.7	6.4	3.4	6.5
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	0.7	5.4	0.2	3.6	1.8	4.1
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	0.5	5.6	0.5	5.0	2.0	5.1
	Retail	1.0	7.5	0.3	5.1	3.2	5.7
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	1.2	4.4	-0.9	-1.8	0.8	0.2
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ...	1.3	4.6	-1.0	-2.2	0.9	0.0
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	1.0	-1.2	-1.5	-3.5	1.7	-1.9
443	Electronics & appliance stores	-0.5	6.9	1.4	7.9	3.5	6.9
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers	0.0	5.6	0.2	2.9	2.0	3.9
445	Food & beverage stores	0.0	2.0	0.7	1.3	0.8	1.3
4451	Grocery stores	0.0	2.3	0.7	1.5	0.9	1.5
446	Health & personal care stores	0.6	2.9	0.0	2.5	1.8	2.7
447	Gasoline stations	3.4	26.5	2.4	21.0	17.8	21.5
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	0.3	5.7	-0.6	5.7	1.5	6.1
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	0.3	11.3	1.7	12.3	3.3	9.8
452	General merchandise stores	0.4	3.8	-0.1	3.3	1.9	3.4
4522	Department stores	-0.3	1.9	0.3	3.2	5.0	1.9
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	2.3	9.1	-0.7	10.4	0.3	9.0
454	Nonstore retailers	1.5	12.2	1.1	11.0	3.9	11.3
722	Food services & drinking places	-0.1	2.7	0.9	3.0	0.9	2.7

(p) Preliminary estimate (r) Revised estimate

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey, June 17, 2026. (Project No. P-7504206 / Approval CBDRB-FY26-003), 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 <www.census.gov/retail/how_surveys_are_collected.html>.

Table 3. Estimated Measures of Sampling Variability and Revision to Advance Estimates May 2026

(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	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	1.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	1.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.1
	Retail, total	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	1.8	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.0	0.1
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers	2.0	0.7	0.4	0.9	0.0	0.2
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	2.6	1.8	0.8	1.9	-0.3	0.5
443	Electronics & appliance stores	2.3	1.2	0.7	1.3	0.3	0.5
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers	3.7	0.8	0.5	1.1	0.0	0.1
445	Food & beverage stores	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2
4451	Grocery stores	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.2
446	Health & personal care stores	3.9	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.1
447	Gasoline stations	1.5	0.4	0.2	0.5	-0.1	0.4
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	3.2	1.1	0.6	1.0	0.3	0.4
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	3.4	1.3	0.8	1.5	0.0	0.8
452	General merchandise stores	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1
4522	Department stores	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	4.7	2.5	1.5	3.0	0.0	0.9
454	Nonstore retailers	2.7	0.3	0.4	1.0	-0.1	0.4
722	Food services & drinking places	3.2	0.9	0.6	1.0	0.1	0.1

(1) Estimated measures of sampling variability are based on estimates not adjusted for seasonal variation or holiday or trading day variation. Medians are based on estimates for the most recent 12 months.

(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 revisions are based on estimates for the most recent 12 months.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey, June 17, 2026. (Project No. P-7504206 / Approval CBDRB-FY26-003), Additional information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, sample design, and definitions may be found at <www.census.gov/retail/how_surveys_are_collected.html>.