

ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES FOR RETAIL AND FOOD SERVICES, APRIL 2022

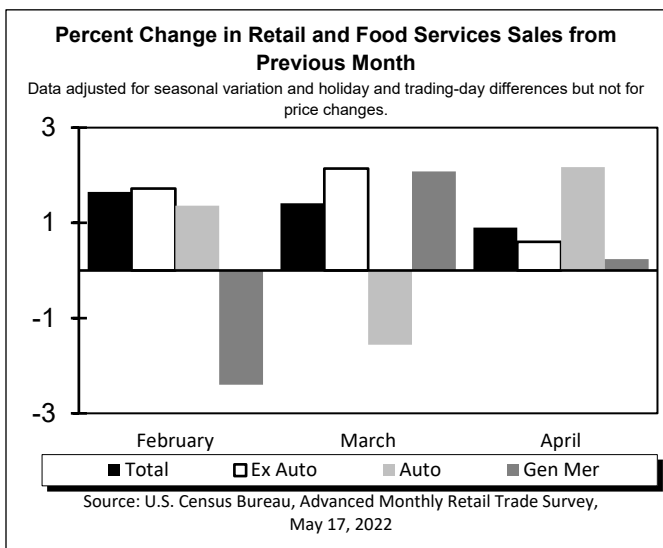
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Notice of Revision: Monthly retail sales estimates were revised on April 25, 2022 based on the results of the 2020 Annual Retail Trade Survey and the Service Annual Survey. The Annual Revision of Monthly Retail and Food Services showing revised estimates can be found on our website at

<https://www.census.gov/retail/mrts/www/benchmark/2022/html/annrev22.html>.

May 17, 2022 — The U.S. Census Bureau announced the following advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for April 2022:

ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES		
April 2022	\$677.7 billion	0.9%
March 2022 (revised)	\$671.6 billion	1.4%
Next release: June 15, 2022		
<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, Advanced Monthly Retail Trade Survey, May 17, 2022</small>		



Advance Estimates of U.S. Retail and Food Services

Advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for April 2022, adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences, but not for price changes, were \$677.7 billion, an increase of 0.9 percent (± 0.5 percent) from the previous month, and 8.2 percent (± 0.7 percent) above April 2021. Total sales for the February 2022 through April 2022 period were up 10.8 percent (± 0.7 percent) from the same period a year ago. The February 2022 to March 2022 percent change was revised from up 0.7 percent (± 0.5 percent) to up 1.4 percent (± 0.3 percent).

Retail trade sales were up 0.7 percent (± 0.4 percent) from March 2022, and up 6.7 percent (± 0.7 percent) above last year. Gasoline stations were up 36.9 percent (± 1.8 percent) from April 2021, while food services and drinking places were up 19.8 percent (± 4.4 percent) from last year.

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General Information

The May 2022 Advance Monthly Retail report is scheduled for release on June 15, 2022 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 <www.census.gov/retail/>.

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 5,500 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.

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, questionnaires are mailed to a probability sample of approximately 5,500 employer firms selected from the larger Monthly Retail Trade Survey. 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 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/>.

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

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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 COVID-19 Impact

The Census Bureau continues to monitor response and data quality and has determined that estimates in this release meet publication standards. For more information, see [COVID-19 FAQs](#).

Weather Information

For information on the impact of weather events 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>](http://www.census.gov/retail/marts_weather_faqs.html)

RESOURCES

The Rest of the Consumer Spending Story

Retail and services together represent what's commonly referred to as consumer spending. Quarterly Services Survey (QSS) revenue comprises roughly 2/3 of the personal consumption expenditures component of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) measured by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA).

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The first quarter 2022 Advance Quarterly Services Report will be available on May 20, 2022 at 10:00 AM. Learn about historical revenue trends for certain industries going back 15 years and other data, such as inpatient days and discharges for hospitals, by visiting <<https://www.census.gov/services/index.html>>

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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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					
		4 Month Total		2022			2021		2022			2021	
		2022	% Chg. 2021	Apr. ³ (a)	Mar. (p)	Feb. (r)	Apr.	Mar.	Apr. ³ (a)	Mar. (p)	Feb. (r)	Apr. (r)	Mar. (r)
	Retail & food services,												
	total	2,532,725	11.3	684,195	681,430	579,139	629,451	634,945	677,711	671,648	662,321	626,430	625,731
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	2,024,707	12.8	546,705	541,440	462,148	490,560	493,286	545,519	542,267	530,893	491,938	494,626
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	2,305,298	9.3	619,786	617,085	529,564	582,495	588,937	615,420	607,623	603,929	580,930	579,585
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	1,797,280	10.3	482,296	477,095	412,573	443,604	447,278	483,228	478,242	472,501	446,438	448,480
	Retail	2,219,107	9.6	597,774	596,787	506,400	557,874	565,764	593,970	589,550	581,768	556,531	558,369
	GAFO⁴	(*)	(*)	(*)	124,332	103,278	117,693	124,196	(*)	126,351	124,097	124,765	125,599
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	508,018	5.7	137,490	139,990	116,991	138,891	141,659	132,192	129,381	131,428	134,492	131,105
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers .	468,855	5.3	127,033	129,210	108,112	129,053	131,491	122,030	119,418	121,474	125,051	121,638
44111	New car dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	101,236	86,147	101,980	104,050	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4413	Auto parts, acc. & tire stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	10,780	8,879	9,838	10,168	(*)	9,963	9,954	9,441	9,467
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	45,737	2.3	12,063	12,566	10,685	11,951	12,401	12,173	12,094	12,101	12,072	12,052
4421	Furniture stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,996	5,996	6,770	7,074	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4422	Home furnishings stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
443	Electronics & appliance stores	27,802	-1.4	7,003	7,655	6,426	7,346	7,875	7,798	7,717	7,516	8,226	8,019
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers.....	157,823	5.4	45,992	44,531	33,529	46,533	43,010	42,572	42,615	42,307	41,850	41,753
4441	Building mat. & sup. dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	38,819	29,463	39,531	36,990	(*)	37,652	37,154	36,671	36,407
445	Food & beverage stores.....	296,706	7.8	76,155	76,252	69,315	69,944	70,946	76,977	77,152	76,533	71,891	71,309
4451	Grocery stores	267,284	8.6	68,286	68,560	62,339	62,163	63,134	68,906	68,974	68,279	63,757	63,134
4453	Beer, wine & liquor stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	5,571	5,057	5,645	5,658	(*)	5,895	5,978	5,911	5,968
446	Health & personal care stores	128,167	4.7	32,359	33,637	29,947	31,960	33,452	32,986	32,753	32,445	32,315	32,383
44611	Pharmacies & drug stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	27,547	24,847	26,721	27,661	(*)	27,033	26,689	26,936	26,934
447	Gasoline stations	227,427	37.0	64,409	64,345	49,575	46,956	46,008	62,291	64,025	58,392	45,500	46,146
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	89,865	14.9	25,694	25,549	20,509	23,115	23,616	26,199	26,001	25,481	24,257	24,019
44811	Men's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	(S)	(S)	711	605	(*)	(S)	(S)	605	585
44812	Women's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,668	2,729	3,267	3,255	(*)	3,431	3,407	3,100	3,036
44814	Family clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	9,587	7,054	9,031	9,134	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4482	Shoe stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,496	2,639	3,425	3,746	(*)	3,255	3,218	3,474	3,488
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	31,688	0.4	8,516	8,760	7,142	8,786	9,323	8,917	8,966	8,916	9,427	9,513
452	General merchandise stores.....	251,614	2.9	66,684	67,471	56,575	64,291	68,779	69,140	68,976	67,568	68,341	69,549
4521	Department stores	39,097	5.8	10,818	10,497	8,983	10,027	10,824	11,514	11,394	11,397	11,186	11,311
4529	Other general merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	56,974	47,592	54,264	57,955	(*)	57,582	56,171	57,155	58,238
45291	Warehouse clubs & supercenters.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	48,855	40,730	45,977	49,742	(*)	49,398	48,031	48,860	49,942
45299	All oth. gen. merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	8,119	6,862	8,287	8,213	(*)	8,184	8,140	8,295	8,296
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	56,276	21.6	15,843	15,101	12,836	13,217	12,786	15,951	15,342	14,986	13,452	13,170
454	Nonstore retailers	397,984	11.3	105,566	100,930	92,870	94,884	95,909	106,774	104,528	104,095	94,708	99,351
4541	Elect. shopping & m/o houses	(*)	(*)	(*)	89,037	82,090	85,806	86,133	(*)	94,319	94,140	85,720	90,762
722	Food services & drinking places	313,618	25.4	86,421	84,643	72,739	71,577	69,181	83,741	82,098	80,553	69,899	67,362

(*) 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) 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, May 17, 2022. 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					
		Apr. 2022 Advance from --		Mar. 2022 Preliminary from --		Feb. 2022 through Apr. 2022 from --	
		Mar. 2022 (p)	Apr. 2021 (r)	Feb. 2022 (r)	Mar. 2021 (r)	Nov. 2021 through Jan. 2022	Feb. 2021 through Apr. 2021
	Retail & food services, total	0.9	8.2	1.4	7.3	4.2	10.8
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	0.6	10.9	2.1	9.6	4.0	12.6
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	1.3	5.9	0.6	4.8	3.5	8.7
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	1.0	8.2	1.2	6.6	3.1	10.0
	Retail	0.7	6.7	1.3	5.6	3.9	9.1
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	2.2	-1.7	-1.6	-1.3	5.0	4.1
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ...	2.2	-2.4	-1.7	-1.8	5.3	3.7
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	0.7	0.8	-0.1	0.3	3.2	2.8
443	Electronics & appliance stores	1.0	-5.2	2.7	-3.8	6.1	-1.2
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers.....	-0.1	1.7	0.7	2.1	2.6	5.7
445	Food & beverage stores.....	-0.2	7.1	0.8	8.2	0.9	7.7
4451	Grocery stores	-0.1	8.1	1.0	9.3	1.0	8.6
446	Health & personal care stores	0.7	2.1	0.9	1.1	-0.2	4.0
447	Gasoline stations	-2.7	36.9	9.6	38.7	11.2	37.4
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	0.8	8.0	2.0	8.3	2.2	13.9
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	-0.5	-5.4	0.6	-5.8	-0.9	0.1
452	General merchandise stores.....	0.2	1.2	2.1	-0.8	0.4	2.5
4521	Department stores	1.1	2.9	0.0	0.7	4.4	5.8
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	4.0	18.6	2.4	16.5	7.1	21.1
454	Nonstore retailers	2.1	12.7	0.4	5.2	5.5	10.6
722	Food services & drinking places	2.0	19.8	1.9	21.9	6.1	25.5

(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, May 17, 2022. 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 Apr. 2022

(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 Current Mo. (%)	Median standard error Percent change			Revision for month-to-month change	
			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	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.4
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.3
	Retail, total	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.6
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	1.5	0.8	0.4	1.2	0.0	0.5
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers	1.6	0.9	0.4	1.3	0.1	0.5
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	2.9	1.0	0.7	1.5	0.1	1.3
443	Electronics & appliance stores	1.8	0.6	0.5	1.0	-0.7	1.2
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers	2.4	0.6	0.6	1.2	0.1	0.3
445	Food & beverage stores	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.2
4451	Grocery stores	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.3
446	Health & personal care stores	3.7	0.6	0.4	1.7	0.3	0.9
447	Gasoline stations	1.1	0.3	0.3	1.0	0.7	0.9
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	2.1	0.8	0.7	1.9	0.3	0.7
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	2.7	0.7	0.9	1.5	-0.2	0.8
452	General merchandise stores	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
4521	Department stores	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	4.8	2.6	1.6	4.6	-0.2	1.1
454	Nonstore retailers	1.5	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.2	1.5
722	Food services & drinking places	3.8	1.1	0.8	2.5	0.6	0.3

(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, May 17, 2022. 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>.