

FOR RELEASE AT 8:30 AM EDT, TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023

ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES FOR RETAIL AND FOOD SERVICES, APRIL 2023

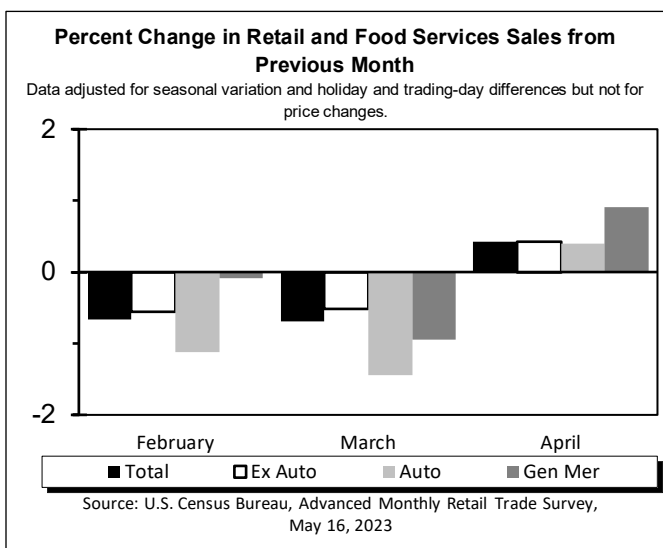
Release Number: CB23-75

Notice of Revision: Monthly retail sales estimates were revised on April 24, 2023 based on the results of the 2021 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/historic_releases.html

May 16, 2023 — The U.S. Census Bureau announced the following advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for April 2023:

ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES		
April 2023	\$686.1 billion	0.4%*
March 2023 (revised)	\$683.2 billion	-0.7%
Next release: June 15, 2023		
* 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 16, 2023		



Advance Estimates of U.S. Retail and Food Services

Advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for April 2023, adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences, but not for price changes, were \$686.1 billion, up 0.4 percent (± 0.5 percent)* from the previous month, and up 1.6 percent (± 0.7 percent) above April 2022. Total sales for the February 2023 through April 2023 period were up 3.1 percent (± 0.4 percent) from the same period a year ago. The February 2023 to March 2023 percent change was revised from down 0.6 percent (± 0.5 percent) to down 0.7 percent (± 0.2 percent).

Retail trade sales were up 0.4 percent (± 0.5 percent)* from March 2023, and up 0.5 percent (± 0.5 percent)* above last year. Nonstore retailers were up 8.0 percent (± 1.2 percent) from last year, while food services and drinking places were up 9.4 percent (± 2.5 percent) from April 2022.

Data Inquiries

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General Information

The May 2023 Advance Monthly Retail report is scheduled for release on June 15, 2023 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 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, 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, questionnaires are mailed to a probability sample of approximately 4,800 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.

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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.

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>

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). The fourth quarter 2022 Quarterly Services Report was released on March 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM. Learn

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about historical revenue trends for certain industries going back 15 years and other data, such as in-patient 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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* 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					
		4 Month Total		2023			2022		2023			2022	
		2023	% Chg. 2022	Apr. ³ (a)	Mar. (p)	Feb. (r)	Apr.	Mar.	Apr. ³ (a)	Mar. (p)	Feb. (r)	Apr. (r)	Mar. (r)
	Retail & food services,												
	total	2,616,330	3.8	680,508	697,209	609,578	679,473	679,465	686,052	683,179	687,942	675,277	667,050
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	2,103,990	4.6	546,902	555,593	490,443	542,012	539,027	556,092	553,736	556,605	544,663	538,285
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	2,410,246	4.9	626,898	642,672	561,973	616,286	616,940	631,404	628,091	632,458	611,323	603,766
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	1,897,906	6.1	493,292	501,056	442,838	478,825	476,502	501,444	498,648	501,121	480,709	475,001
	Retail	2,272,740	2.4	590,857	605,353	529,374	596,690	598,541	597,986	595,614	600,669	594,749	589,238
	GAFO⁴	(*)	(*)	(*)	124,738	110,441	125,121	122,524	(*)	128,757	130,169	128,344	126,901
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	512,340	0.6	133,606	141,616	119,135	137,461	140,438	129,960	129,443	131,337	130,614	128,765
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers .	470,537	0.1	122,710	130,313	109,406	127,038	129,502	119,020	118,899	120,491	120,415	118,592
44111	New car dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	103,441	87,828	100,395	101,645	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4413	Auto parts, acc. & tire stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	11,303	9,729	10,423	10,936	(*)	10,544	10,846	10,199	10,173
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	44,570	-1.6	10,976	12,062	10,567	12,040	12,414	11,398	11,477	11,715	12,174	11,914
4421	Furniture stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,789	5,987	6,808	7,074	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4422	Home furnishings stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
443	Electronics & appliance stores	28,303	-1.8	6,819	7,503	6,756	7,425	7,857	7,662	7,703	7,730	8,268	8,125
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers	155,851	-2.1	43,893	42,202	34,324	46,530	44,806	41,515	41,300	42,910	43,131	43,392
4441	Building mat. & sup. dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	36,135	29,628	39,626	38,847	(*)	35,566	36,897	37,775	37,900
445	Food & beverage stores	315,394	4.6	80,137	81,391	74,421	77,842	77,494	81,784	81,911	82,144	78,869	78,468
4451	Grocery stores	285,455	4.8	72,124	73,596	67,365	69,957	69,839	73,446	73,743	73,865	70,807	70,331
4453	Beer, wine & liquor stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	5,667	5,071	5,639	5,531	(*)	5,885	5,952	5,807	5,841
446	Health & personal care stores	137,405	7.2	34,359	36,320	32,496	32,470	33,687	35,568	35,262	35,131	32,964	32,738
44611	Pharmacies & drug stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	30,039	26,870	27,116	27,947	(*)	29,249	28,924	27,501	27,319
447	Gasoline stations	206,084	-6.9	53,610	54,537	47,605	63,187	62,525	54,648	55,088	55,484	63,954	63,284
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	89,676	0.9	24,485	24,849	20,937	25,539	25,347	25,499	25,574	25,941	26,104	26,107
44811	Men's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(*)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(S)
44812	Women's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,404	2,735	3,733	3,793	(*)	3,251	3,356	3,552	3,630
44814	Family clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	10,181	7,999	9,900	9,767	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4482	Shoe stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,273	2,618	3,206	3,355	(*)	3,168	3,228	3,261	3,232
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	29,744	0.3	7,399	8,292	6,796	8,144	8,142	8,276	8,557	8,613	8,748	8,490
452	General merchandise stores	270,879	5.5	72,539	69,697	63,367	69,677	66,442	73,472	72,812	73,505	70,455	69,631
4521	Department stores	40,333	1.8	10,739	10,832	9,466	10,930	10,623	11,398	11,529	11,723	11,562	11,461
4529	Other general merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	58,865	53,901	58,747	55,819	(*)	61,283	61,782	58,893	58,170
45291	Warehouse clubs & supercenters.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	50,417	46,467	50,614	47,944	(*)	52,627	52,984	50,817	50,151
45299	All oth. gen. merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	8,448	7,434	8,133	7,875	(*)	8,656	8,798	8,076	8,019
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	56,583	4.2	15,171	14,809	13,103	14,990	14,574	15,576	15,210	15,293	15,183	14,983
454	Nonstore retailers	425,911	7.4	107,863	112,075	99,867	101,385	104,815	112,628	111,277	110,866	104,285	103,341
4541	Elect. shopping & m/o houses	(*)	(*)	(*)	100,821	89,207	91,896	93,491	(*)	101,328	100,685	94,252	93,398
722	Food services & drinking places	343,590	14.5	89,651	91,856	80,204	82,783	80,924	88,066	87,565	87,273	80,528	77,812

(*) 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 16, 2023. 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. 2023 Advance from --		Mar. 2023 Preliminary from --		Feb. 2023 through Apr. 2023 from --	
		Mar. 2023 (p)	Apr. 2022 (r)	Feb. 2023 (r)	Mar. 2022 (r)	Nov. 2022 through Jan. 2023	Feb. 2022 through Apr. 2022
	Retail & food services,						
	total	0.4	1.6	-0.7	2.4	0.6	3.1
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	0.4	2.1	-0.5	2.9	0.3	3.8
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	0.5	3.3	-0.7	4.0	1.1	4.4
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	0.6	4.3	-0.5	5.0	0.9	5.5
	Retail	0.4	0.5	-0.8	1.1	0.5	1.8
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	0.4	-0.5	-1.4	0.5	1.8	0.2
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ...	0.1	-1.2	-1.3	0.3	1.9	-0.3
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	-0.7	-6.4	-2.0	-3.7	-2.6	-3.6
443	Electronics & appliance stores	-0.5	-7.3	-0.3	-5.2	7.1	-3.9
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers	0.5	-3.7	-3.8	-4.8	-1.7	-2.4
445	Food & beverage stores	-0.2	3.7	-0.3	4.4	-0.3	4.6
4451	Grocery stores	-0.4	3.7	-0.2	4.9	-0.3	4.9
446	Health & personal care stores	0.9	7.9	0.4	7.7	4.0	8.1
447	Gasoline stations	-0.8	-14.6	-0.7	-13.0	-4.6	-9.9
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	-0.3	-2.3	-1.4	-2.0	-1.4	-0.4
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	-3.3	-5.4	-0.7	0.8	-2.3	-1.0
452	General merchandise stores	0.9	4.3	-0.9	4.6	0.9	5.1
4521	Department stores	-1.1	-1.4	-1.7	0.6	1.2	0.6
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	2.4	2.6	-0.5	1.5	2.4	2.7
454	Nonstore retailers	1.2	8.0	0.4	7.7	2.2	8.0
722	Food services & drinking places	0.6	9.4	0.3	12.5	1.2	12.4

(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 16, 2023. 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. 2023

(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	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.4	-0.1	0.1
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.3	-0.1	0.2
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.3
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.4	-0.1	0.3
	Retail, total	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.3	-0.1	0.1
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	1.6	0.9	0.4	1.1	0.1	0.4
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers	1.8	1.0	0.4	1.2	0.1	0.4
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	2.7	1.2	0.7	1.7	-0.1	0.9
443	Electronics & appliance stores	2.1	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.1	0.3
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers	2.5	0.7	0.5	1.1	-0.1	0.3
445	Food & beverage stores	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.4	-0.1	0.2
4451	Grocery stores	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.5	-0.1	0.2
446	Health & personal care stores	3.2	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.5
447	Gasoline stations	1.2	0.4	0.4	0.8	-0.5	1.1
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	2.8	0.9	0.7	1.3	-0.1	0.4
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	2.5	1.1	1.0	1.7	0.0	0.2
452	General merchandise stores	1.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1
4521	Department stores	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	5.1	2.7	1.2	2.9	0.0	2.3
454	Nonstore retailers	1.6	0.5	0.4	0.7	-0.1	0.5
722	Food services & drinking places	3.6	0.8	0.7	1.4	-0.2	0.4

(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 16, 2023. 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>.