

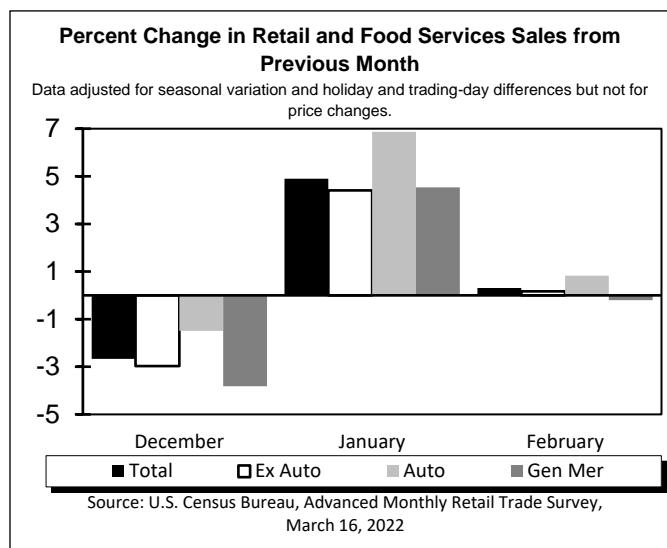
ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES FOR RETAIL AND FOOD SERVICES, FEBRUARY 2022

Release Number: CB22-41

Intention to Revise: Monthly retail sales estimates will be revised based on the results of the 2020 Annual Retail Trade Survey and the Service Annual Survey. Revised not adjusted estimates and corresponding adjusted estimates are scheduled for release on April 25, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. EDT.

March 16, 2022 — The U.S. Census Bureau announced the following advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for February 2022:

ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES		
February 2022	\$658.1 billion	0.3%*
January 2022 (revised)	\$656.1 billion	4.9%
Next release: April 14, 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, March 16, 2022</small>		



Advance Estimates of U.S. Retail and Food Services

Advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for February 2022, adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences, but not for price changes, were \$658.1 billion, an increase of 0.3 percent (± 0.5 percent)* from the previous month, and 17.6 percent (± 0.9 percent) above February 2021. Total sales for the December 2021 through February 2022 period were up 16.0 percent (± 0.7 percent) from the same period a year ago. The December 2021 to January 2022 percent change was revised from up 3.8 percent (± 0.5 percent) to up 4.9 percent (± 0.2 percent).

Retail trade sales were virtually unchanged (± 0.4 percent)* from January 2022, but up 15.9 percent (± 0.7 percent) above last year. Gasoline stations were up 36.4 percent (± 1.8 percent) from February 2021, while food services and drinking places were up 33.0 percent (± 4.6 percent) from last year.

General Information

The March 2022 Advance Monthly Retail report is scheduled for release on April 14, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. EDT.

Data Inquiries

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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 and coefficients of variation (CV), as given in Table 3 of this report, are estimated measures of sampling variation.

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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>

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 2021 Quarterly Services Report was released on March 11, 2022 at 10:00 AM. Learn 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>>

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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					
		2 Month Total		2022		2021		2022		2021			
		2022	% Chg. 2021	Feb. ³ (a)	Jan. (p)	Dec. (r)	Feb.	Jan.	Feb. ³ (a)	Jan. (p)	Dec. (r)	Feb. (r)	Jan. (r)
	Retail & food services,												
	total	1,163,719	15.5	577,318	586,401	710,619	490,646	517,119	658,128	656,117	625,459	559,554	575,520
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	925,052	15.5	456,445	468,607	583,401	387,850	412,864	522,879	521,987	499,957	444,173	456,714
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	1,064,547	13.9	527,757	536,790	658,326	454,351	479,905	600,633	601,539	569,946	517,400	534,849
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	825,880	13.6	406,884	418,996	531,108	351,555	375,650	465,384	467,409	444,444	402,019	416,043
	Retail	1,030,724	14.0	509,967	520,757	636,842	440,019	464,362	584,197	583,981	552,629	503,981	518,547
	GAFO⁴	(*)	(*)	(*)	108,622	168,596	95,043	102,333	(*)	128,271	123,937	111,915	118,852
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	238,667	15.3	120,873	117,794	127,218	102,796	104,255	135,249	134,130	125,502	115,381	118,806
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ..	220,636	15.0	111,889	108,747	117,718	95,277	96,537	125,155	123,999	115,523	106,933	110,202
44111	New car dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	87,139	95,693	77,194	79,954	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4413	Auto parts, acc. & tire stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	9,047	9,500	7,519	7,718	(*)	10,131	9,979	8,448	8,604
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	21,616	4.4	10,743	10,873	13,244	10,003	10,707	12,320	12,441	11,577	11,471	12,098
4421	Furniture stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	5,724	6,644	5,675	6,099	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4422	Home furnishings stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
443	Electronics & appliance stores	13,219	-0.4	6,364	6,855	10,580	6,203	7,066	7,273	7,316	7,168	7,089	7,533
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers.....	68,151	12.0	34,014	34,137	38,707	29,605	31,229	43,615	43,217	42,079	37,984	39,590
4441	Building mat. & sup. dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	30,053	33,639	25,637	27,143	(*)	37,850	36,564	32,742	34,142
445	Food & beverage stores.....	147,915	7.5	71,113	76,802	84,629	65,819	71,726	78,099	78,498	77,701	72,353	72,748
4451	Grocery stores	133,764	8.0	63,950	69,814	73,625	59,018	64,785	69,662	70,235	69,589	64,290	64,656
4453	Beer, wine & liquor stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	4,995	7,798	4,968	5,087	(*)	5,918	5,789	5,907	5,936
446	Health & personal care stores	62,040	8.8	29,895	32,145	36,995	27,494	29,509	32,284	32,868	32,797	29,659	30,204
44611	Pharmacies & drug stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	27,725	30,504	23,466	25,420	(*)	27,836	27,781	24,805	25,548
447	Gasoline stations	99,172	34.9	49,561	49,611	52,293	36,295	37,214	57,495	54,578	55,513	42,154	40,671
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	40,634	25.8	21,698	18,936	40,977	16,568	15,740	26,463	26,184	25,815	20,261	21,560
44811	Men's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	(S)	(S)	362	349	(*)	(S)	(S)	459	427
44812	Women's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,620	4,403	2,069	2,043	(*)	3,466	3,356	2,499	2,685
44814	Family clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,980	15,080	5,919	5,903	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4482	Shoe stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,181	4,478	2,163	2,213	(*)	3,231	3,290	2,619	3,198
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	14,637	5.7	7,167	7,470	13,175	6,424	7,421	8,970	8,819	8,932	8,030	8,579
452	General merchandise stores.....	123,670	8.6	60,993	62,677	87,595	54,183	59,643	71,044	71,184	68,093	62,978	66,942
4521	Department stores	18,857	16.3	9,650	9,207	18,468	7,881	8,327	12,162	11,974	10,909	9,900	10,698
4529	Other general merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	53,470	69,127	46,302	51,316	(*)	59,210	57,184	53,078	56,244
45291	Warehouse clubs & supercenters.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	46,554	58,798	39,956	44,568	(*)	51,102	49,121	45,664	48,443
45299	All oth. gen. merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,916	10,329	6,346	6,748	(*)	8,108	8,063	7,414	7,801
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	26,295	21.2	13,102	13,193	16,300	10,515	11,175	15,536	15,251	14,931	12,393	12,807
454	Nonstore retailers	174,708	14.3	84,444	90,264	115,129	74,114	78,677	95,849	99,495	82,521	84,228	87,009
4541	Elect. shopping & m/o houses	(*)	(*)	(*)	79,325	104,890	65,004	69,830	(*)	89,836	73,762	75,939	78,993
722	Food services & drinking places	132,995	28.6	67,351	65,644	73,777	50,627	52,757	73,931	72,136	72,830	55,573	56,973

(*) 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, March 16, 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					
		Feb. 2022 Advance from --		Jan. 2022 Preliminary from --		Dec. 2021 through Feb. 2022 from --	
		Jan. 2022 (p)	Feb. 2021 (r)	Dec. 2021 (r)	Jan. 2021 (r)	Sep. 2021 through Nov. 2021	Dec. 2020 through Feb. 2021
	Retail & food services,						
	total	0.3	17.6	4.9	14.0	1.7	16.0
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	0.2	17.7	4.4	14.3	1.0	16.8
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	-0.2	16.1	5.5	12.5	1.4	14.3
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	-0.4	15.8	5.2	12.3	0.6	14.7
	Retail	0.0	15.9	5.7	12.6	1.9	14.1
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	0.8	17.2	6.9	12.9	4.4	13.2
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ...	0.9	17.0	7.3	12.5	4.3	12.7
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	-1.0	7.4	7.5	2.8	-1.9	6.3
443	Electronics & appliance stores	-0.6	2.6	2.1	-2.9	-9.6	3.2
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers	0.9	14.8	2.7	9.2	6.0	12.2
445	Food & beverage stores	-0.5	7.9	1.0	7.9	1.0	8.2
4451	Grocery stores	-0.8	8.4	0.9	8.6	1.0	8.7
446	Health & personal care stores	-1.8	8.9	0.2	8.8	1.1	9.1
447	Gasoline stations	5.3	36.4	-1.7	34.2	4.2	37.9
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	1.1	30.6	1.4	21.4	-1.6	26.1
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	1.7	11.7	-1.3	2.8	-5.1	9.8
452	General merchandise stores	-0.2	12.8	4.5	6.3	-1.2	10.3
4521	Department stores	1.6	22.8	9.8	11.9	-3.5	18.7
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	1.9	25.4	2.1	19.1	2.7	20.4
454	Nonstore retailers	-3.7	13.8	20.6	14.4	1.7	13.0
722	Food services & drinking places	2.5	33.0	-1.0	26.6	0.2	33.8

(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, March 16, 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 Feb. 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	0.5	0.2	0.4
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	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)	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.1	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	0.5	1.3	0.3	0.6
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers	1.6	0.9	0.5	1.4	0.3	0.8
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	2.9	1.0	0.7	1.6	0.3	1.4
443	Electronics & appliance stores	1.8	0.6	0.4	1.0	-0.3	1.2
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers	2.4	0.6	0.6	1.3	0.2	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	0.6	0.0	0.3
446	Health & personal care stores	3.7	0.7	0.4	1.8	0.3	0.9
447	Gasoline stations	1.1	0.4	0.4	1.0	0.4	0.5
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	2.1	0.8	0.7	2.3	1.0	0.8
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	2.7	0.7	0.9	1.6	0.1	0.8
452	General merchandise stores	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	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	4.8	0.2	1.1
454	Nonstore retailers	1.5	0.4	0.3	0.9	-0.3	1.4
722	Food services & drinking places	3.7	1.1	0.8	2.6	0.3	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, March 16, 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>.