

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				
		8 Month Total		2021			2020		2021			2020	
		2021	% Chg. 2020	Aug. ³ (a)	Jul. (p)	Jun. (r)	Aug.	Jul.	Aug. ³ (a)	Jul. (p)	Jun. (r)	Aug. (r)	Jul. (r)
	Retail & food services,												
	total	4,807,733	20.9	629,145	633,682	635,437	545,307	549,416	618,676	614,313	625,405	537,720	533,517
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	3,768,129	18.5	501,394	499,896	498,169	429,379	433,183	497,178	488,324	493,387	428,004	424,069
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	4,432,888	20.0	576,383	580,225	584,134	506,577	510,540	569,320	565,044	577,097	501,354	497,521
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	3,393,284	17.2	448,632	446,439	446,866	390,649	394,307	447,822	439,055	445,079	391,638	388,073
	Retail	4,276,468	19.8	555,001	557,402	562,929	488,949	494,905	546,692	542,351	554,388	483,162	481,303
	GAFO⁴	(*)	(*)	(*)	127,018	124,474	109,556	106,664	(*)	126,227	127,960	107,065	107,125
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	1,039,604	30.5	127,751	133,786	137,268	115,928	116,233	121,498	125,989	132,018	109,716	109,448
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers .	965,492	32.0	117,939	124,023	127,542	106,956	107,082	112,109	116,673	122,755	100,997	100,831
44111	New car dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	98,619	100,052	86,015	84,691	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4413	Auto parts, acc. & tire stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	9,763	9,726	8,972	9,151	(*)	9,316	9,263	8,719	8,617
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	94,725	35.2	12,795	12,386	12,008	11,017	10,625	12,495	12,049	12,093	10,812	10,346
4421	Furniture stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,780	6,504	5,847	5,957	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4422	Home furnishings stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	(S)	(S)	5,170	4,668	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
443	Electronics & appliance stores	60,193	32.1	8,069	7,992	7,983	6,839	6,555	8,251	8,511	8,593	6,986	6,981
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers	325,334	15.4	39,878	41,653	45,421	36,664	39,430	39,024	38,690	39,095	36,714	35,906
4441	Building mat. & sup. dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	36,790	39,531	32,612	34,870	(*)	33,598	34,078	32,035	31,190
445	Food & beverage stores	586,224	2.1	75,815	77,316	74,890	72,353	75,085	75,832	74,455	75,073	71,772	72,715
4451	Grocery stores	523,529	1.3	67,936	68,761	66,531	64,500	66,892	67,800	66,436	66,731	63,861	64,944
4453	Beer, wine & liquor stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,228	6,058	5,813	6,106	(*)	5,724	6,034	5,825	5,701
446	Health & personal care stores	249,313	10.1	31,986	31,795	32,396	28,918	29,573	32,374	32,312	32,559	29,599	29,811
44611	Pharmacies & drug stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	27,035	27,330	24,757	25,460	(*)	27,615	27,746	25,236	25,691
447	Gasoline stations	374,845	32.1	52,762	53,457	51,303	38,730	38,876	49,356	49,269	48,308	36,366	35,996
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	183,586	64.2	25,903	25,801	25,301	18,968	17,779	25,795	25,761	26,464	18,578	18,067
44811	Men's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	(S)	(S)	379	405	(*)	(S)	(S)	406	451
44812	Women's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,348	3,279	2,386	2,373	(*)	3,295	3,305	2,480	2,383
44814	Family clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	10,568	10,180	7,768	7,077	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4482	Shoe stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,450	3,328	2,822	2,722	(*)	3,298	3,442	2,249	2,645
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	69,761	36.1	9,884	9,213	9,345	8,218	8,011	9,018	9,269	9,449	7,526	8,108
452	General merchandise stores	525,857	11.0	70,749	69,096	67,458	62,304	61,674	70,670	68,311	68,999	61,165	61,745
4521	Department stores	83,508	21.5	12,267	11,652	11,263	9,879	9,384	12,391	12,100	12,121	9,636	9,714
4529	Other general merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	57,444	56,195	52,425	52,290	(*)	56,211	56,878	51,529	52,031
45291	Warehouse clubs & supercenters.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	49,584	48,205	45,080	44,706	(*)	48,375	48,840	43,980	44,439
45299	All oth. gen. merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	7,860	7,990	7,345	7,584	(*)	7,836	8,038	7,549	7,592
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	106,268	28.4	14,086	14,374	14,504	11,842	11,992	13,998	13,809	13,734	11,744	11,505
454	Nonstore retailers	660,758	15.7	85,323	80,533	85,052	77,168	79,072	88,381	83,926	88,003	82,184	80,675
4541	Elect. shopping & m/o houses	(*)	(*)	(*)	72,736	77,056	70,505	72,123	(*)	75,063	79,113	74,608	73,073
722	Food services & drinking places	531,265	30.6	74,144	76,280	72,508	56,358	54,511	71,984	71,962	71,017	54,558	52,214

(*) 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, September 16, 2021. 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

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					
		Aug. 2021 Advance from --		Jul. 2021 Preliminary from --		Jun. 2021 through Aug. 2021 from --	
		Jul. 2021 (p)	Aug. 2020 (r)	Jun. 2021 (r)	Jul. 2020 (r)	Mar. 2021 through May 2021	Jun. 2020 through Aug. 2020
	Retail & food services,						
	total	0.7	15.1	-1.8	15.1	-0.7	16.3
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	1.8	16.2	-1.0	15.2	1.3	16.7
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	0.8	13.6	-2.1	13.6	-1.2	14.8
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	2.0	14.3	-1.4	13.1	0.8	14.7
	Retail	0.8	13.1	-2.2	12.7	-1.8	14.1
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	-3.6	10.7	-4.6	15.1	-7.8	15.1
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ...	-3.9	11.0	-5.0	15.7	-8.2	15.8
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	3.7	15.6	-0.4	16.5	-1.6	17.2
443	Electronics & appliance stores	-3.1	18.1	-1.0	21.9	1.4	27.0
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers	0.9	6.3	-1.0	7.8	-6.7	7.2
445	Food & beverage stores	1.8	5.7	-0.8	2.4	2.1	3.9
4451	Grocery stores	2.1	6.2	-0.4	2.3	2.6	3.9
446	Health & personal care stores	0.2	9.4	-0.8	8.4	2.0	10.8
447	Gasoline stations	0.2	35.7	2.0	36.9	5.8	37.8
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	0.1	38.8	-2.7	42.6	3.7	44.5
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	-2.7	19.8	-1.9	14.3	-5.2	14.7
452	General merchandise stores	3.5	15.5	-1.0	10.6	0.0	12.5
4521	Department stores	2.4	28.6	-0.2	24.6	7.7	25.8
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	1.4	19.2	0.5	20.0	2.5	21.3
454	Nonstore retailers	5.3	7.5	-4.6	4.0	-2.1	7.8
722	Food services & drinking places	0.0	31.9	1.3	37.8	8.0	36.7

(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, September 16, 2021. 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 Aug. 2021

(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	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.4
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.5
	Retail, total	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	1.4	0.7	0.6	1.3	0.3	0.7
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers	1.4	0.8	0.6	1.4	0.3	0.6
442	Furniture & home furn. stores.....	2.9	1.0	0.7	1.6	0.4	1.0
443	Electronics & appliance stores	1.6	0.7	0.5	1.2	-0.2	1.7
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers.....	2.2	0.8	0.6	1.4	-0.2	0.7
445	Food & beverage stores.....	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.1
4451	Grocery stores	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.3
446	Health & personal care stores	3.1	0.8	0.4	1.8	0.2	0.6
447	Gasoline stations	1.2	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.5
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	2.7	0.9	1.0	1.9	1.0	1.0
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	2.8	0.7	0.9	2.0	0.7	0.9
452	General merchandise stores.....	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.5
4521	Department stores	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3