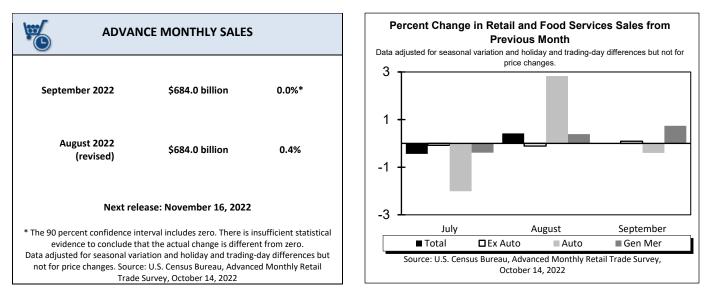# ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES FOR RETAIL AND FOOD SERVICES, SEPTEMBER 2022

Release Number: CB22-167

October 14, 2022 — The U.S. Census Bureau announced the following advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for September 2022:

ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES		
September 2022	**$684.0 billion**	**0.0%***
August 2022 (revised)	**$684.0 billion**	**0.4%**
Next release: November 16, 2022		

* 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, October 14, 2022

Percent Change in Retail and Food Services Sales from Previous Month
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, October 14, 2022

Advance Estimates of U.S. Retail and Food Services

Advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for September 2022, adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences, but not for price changes, were $684.0 billion, virtually unchanged (±0.5 percent)* from the previous month, but 8.2 percent (±0.7 percent) above September 2021. Total sales for the July 2022 through September 2022 period were up 9.2 percent (±0.5 percent) from the same period a year ago. The July 2022 to August 2022 percent change was revised from up 0.3% (±0.5 percent)* to up 0.4 percent (±0.2 percent).

Retail trade sales were down 0.1 percent (±0.4 percent)* from August 2022, but up 7.8 percent (±0.7 percent) above last year. Gasoline stations were up 20.6 percent (±1.6 percent) from September 2021, while Nonstore retailers were up 11.6 percent (±1.1 percent) from last year.

General Information

The October 2022 Advance Monthly Retail report is scheduled for release on November 16, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. EST. 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/>.

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Special Notice

Beginning with the December 15, 2022 release for the November 2022 data, the estimates will be based on a new sample. For further information on the sample revision, see our website at <https://www.census.gov/retail/marts_sample_revision_faqs.html>.

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 ±1.753 x 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 ±1.753 x CV x (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

Special Notice
On October 7, 2022, the U.S. Census Bureau released the experimental Monthly Real Dollar Wholesale Sales Estimates tables for data through August 2022. These experimental tables will be released at the

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same time as the Monthly Wholesale Trade report each month and can be found by visiting the [Monthly Wholesale website](#).

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.

<p style="text-align:center">###</p>

* **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 9 Month Total 2022	% Chg. 2021	Not Adjusted 2022 Sep.[3] (a)	Aug. (p)	Jul. (r)	Not Adjusted 2021 Sep.	Aug.	Adjusted[2] 2022 Sep.[3] (a)	Aug. (p)	Jul. (r)	Adjusted[2] 2021 Sep. (r)	Aug. (r)
	Retail & food services, total	5,986,810	10.1	661,889	701,624	690,050	609,406	633,403	683,974	683,990	681,108	631,984	624,963
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	4,825,777	11.8	536,947	565,716	562,385	490,752	509,783	556,409	555,916	556,555	511,139	505,347
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	5,405,968	7.8	599,124	633,696	615,971	557,412	580,562	621,083	620,208	613,825	579,834	575,113
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	4,244,935	9.1	474,182	497,788	488,306	438,758	456,942	493,518	492,134	489,272	458,989	455,497
	Retail	5,229,175	9.1	575,365	612,608	600,746	532,840	553,822	596,752	597,230	595,894	553,696	547,399
	GAFO[4]	(*)	(*)	(*)	129,317	125,585	116,392	125,034	(*)	127,311	126,698	124,597	123,391
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	1,161,033	3.5	124,942	135,908	127,665	118,654	123,620	127,565	128,074	124,553	120,845	119,616
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers .	1,067,978	2.8	114,135	124,744	117,211	109,222	113,791	116,822	117,572	114,130	111,451	110,156
44111	New car dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	99,095	92,026	86,553	90,256	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4413	Auto parts, acc. & tire stores............	(*)	(*)	(*)	11,164	10,454	9,432	9,829	(*)	10,502	10,423	9,394	9,460
442	Furniture & home furn. stores	106,497	2.0	12,155	12,596	11,865	11,974	12,091	12,023	12,112	12,009	11,914	11,866
4421	Furniture stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,780	6,669	6,614	6,542	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4422	Home furnishings stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
443	Electronics & appliance stores	63,213	-5.5	6,878	7,397	7,015	7,548	7,854	7,444	7,502	7,535	8,142	8,022
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers..................................	387,225	7.4	42,445	45,053	43,487	38,859	39,586	43,024	43,181	42,597	39,230	38,913
4441	Building mat. & sup. dealers	(*)	(*)	(*)	39,865	38,336	34,340	35,049	(*)	37,608	37,040	34,237	33,798
445	Food & beverage stores.........................	695,504	7.7	77,893	80,094	81,426	72,978	74,501	79,486	79,176	78,968	74,707	74,085
4451	Grocery stores	624,730	8.4	69,818	71,829	72,953	65,263	66,583	71,170	70,907	70,828	66,663	66,055
4453	Beer, wine & liquor stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	5,977	6,220	5,572	5,701	(*)	5,953	5,885	5,798	5,770
446	Health & personal care stores	294,932	4.2	33,576	34,261	32,430	32,089	32,537	33,949	33,788	33,641	32,545	32,799
44611	Pharmacies & drug stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	28,143	26,913	26,676	27,111	(*)	27,645	27,717	27,137	27,193
447	Gasoline stations	580,842	36.8	62,765	67,928	74,079	51,994	52,841	62,891	63,782	67,283	52,150	49,850
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	217,274	7.8	23,616	26,434	25,214	22,592	25,063	26,232	26,111	25,889	25,433	24,874
44811	Men's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(*)	(S)	(S)	(S)	(S)
44812	Women's clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,260	3,177	3,113	3,202	(*)	3,406	3,323	3,384	3,371
44814	Family clothing stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	10,296	10,241	8,791	10,008	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4482	Shoe stores	(*)	(*)	(*)	4,288	3,442	2,988	3,985	(*)	3,452	3,371	3,380	3,209
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	78,356	2.6	8,975	10,159	9,190	8,566	9,488	9,234	9,295	9,236	8,904	8,801
452	General merchandise stores..................	593,812	3.1	65,975	69,705	69,456	62,955	67,707	70,132	69,616	69,346	67,608	67,314
4521	Department stores	93,620	2.3	10,418	11,552	10,799	10,223	11,419	11,572	11,424	11,313	11,364	11,350
4529	Other general merch. stores....	(*)	(*)	(*)	58,153	58,657	52,732	56,288	(*)	58,192	58,033	56,244	55,964
45291	Warehouse clubs & supercenters..................................	(*)	(*)	(*)	49,967	50,363	45,212	48,624	(*)	49,718	49,570	48,303	48,047
45299	All oth. gen. merch. stores............	(*)	(*)	(*)	8,186	8,294	7,520	7,664	(*)	8,474	8,463	7,941	7,917
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	138,430	18.0	15,307	16,556	16,200	14,230	14,390	15,526	15,927	15,898	14,346	14,073
454	Nonstore retailers	912,057	11.7	100,838	106,517	102,719	90,401	94,144	109,246	108,666	108,939	97,872	97,186
4541	Elect. shopping & m/o houses	(*)	(*)	(*)	96,313	93,574	82,234	86,257	(*)	97,384	98,189	88,902	88,378
722	Food services & drinking places	757,635	17.9	86,524	89,016	89,304	76,566	79,581	87,222	86,760	85,214	78,288	77,564

(*) 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, October 14, 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]					
		Sep. 2022 Advance from --		Aug. 2022 Preliminary from --		Jul. 2022 through Sep. 2022 from --	
		Aug. 2022 (p)	Sep. 2021 (r)	Jul. 2022 (r)	Aug. 2021 (r)	Apr. 2022 through Jun. 2022	Jul. 2021 through Sep. 2021
	Retail & food services, total	**0.0**	**8.2**	**0.4**	**9.4**	**0.6**	**9.2**
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	0.1	8.9	-0.1	10.0	1.0	10.3
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	0.1	7.1	1.0	7.8	1.0	7.5
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	0.3	7.5	0.6	8.0	1.6	8.2
	Retail	-0.1	7.8	0.2	9.1	0.5	9.0
441	**Motor vehicle & parts dealers**	**-0.4**	**5.6**	**2.8**	**7.1**	**-1.1**	**4.8**
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ...	-0.6	4.8	3.0	6.7	-1.4	4.2
442	**Furniture & home furn. stores**	**-0.7**	**0.9**	**0.9**	**2.1**	**-0.8**	**1.4**
443	**Electronics & appliance stores**	**-0.8**	**-8.6**	**-0.4**	**-6.5**	**-2.1**	**-8.6**
444	**Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers**...........................	**-0.4**	**9.7**	**1.4**	**11.0**	**1.8**	**10.1**
445	**Food & beverage stores**...........................	**0.4**	**6.4**	**0.3**	**6.9**	**1.4**	**7.2**
4451	Grocery stores	0.4	6.8	0.1	7.3	1.4	7.7
446	**Health & personal care stores**	**0.5**	**4.3**	**0.4**	**3.0**	**2.0**	**3.6**
447	**Gasoline stations**	**-1.4**	**20.6**	**-5.2**	**27.9**	**-2.8**	**29.4**
448	**Clothing & clothing accessories stores**	**0.5**	**3.1**	**0.9**	**5.0**	**0.3**	**3.3**
451	**Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores**	**-0.7**	**3.7**	**0.6**	**5.6**	**1.1**	**4.3**
452	**General merchandise stores**....................	**0.7**	**3.7**	**0.4**	**3.4**	**1.6**	**3.7**
4521	Department stores	1.3	1.8	1.0	0.7	0.1	0.7
453	**Miscellaneous store retailers**	**-2.5**	**8.2**	**0.2**	**13.2**	**-0.3**	**12.1**
454	**Nonstore retailers**	**0.5**	**11.6**	**-0.3**	**11.8**	**2.8**	**13.8**
722	**Food services & drinking places**	**0.5**	**11.4**	**1.8**	**11.9**	**1.4**	**11.2**

(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, October 14, 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 Sep. 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 [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	0.2	0.2
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts)	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2
	Total (excl. gasoline stations)	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts & gasoline stations)	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3
	Retail, total	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	1.6	0.9	0.4	1.2	0.1	0.4
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers	1.7	0.9	0.4	1.2	0.1	0.5
442	Furniture & home furn. stores................	2.5	0.9	0.7	1.6	0.4	0.9
443	Electronics & appliance stores	2.1	0.6	0.5	0.9	-0.4	0.7
444	Building material & garden eq. & supplies dealers....................................	2.5	0.7	0.5	1.1	0.0	0.4
445	Food & beverage stores..........................	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.2
4451	Grocery stores	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.1
446	Health & personal care stores	3.5	0.4	0.3	0.9	0.6	0.8
447	Gasoline stations	1.2	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.4	1.0
448	Clothing & clothing accessories stores	2.4	0.9	0.7	1.5	0.2	0.4
451	Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, & book stores	2.6	0.7	0.9	1.6	-0.1	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	0.1	0.1
453	Miscellaneous store retailers	5.0	2.6	1.4	3.9	-0.7	1.9
454	Nonstore retailers	1.5	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.4	1.2
722	Food services & drinking places	3.8	0.9	0.6	1.9	0.4	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, October 14, 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>.