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exclude automobile dealers, gasoline stations and restaurants.

Jun. 17, 2019



Retail sales rose 0.5 percent in May seasonally adjusted from April and up 3.2 percent unadjusted year-over-year, the National Retail Federation said today. The numbers exclude automobile dealers, gasoline stations and restaurants.

“Today’s retail numbers, and upward revisions to prior months, reinforce the ongoing strength of the consumer and are consistent with a pick up in the pace of the economy in the coming months. The strong job market, recent income gains and elevated confidence translates into ongoing support for spending. Households, in the aggregate, are in solid financial condition but an escalation in trade tariffs will undoubtedly create a considerable downdraft to confidence and spending, or lead to a pullback in spending,” NRF Chief Economic Jack Kleinhenz said.

Revisions to April monthly data were significant with retail sales reversing a loss of

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NRF's numbers are based on [data](#) from the U.S. Census Bureau, which said today that overall May sales – including auto dealers, gas stations and restaurants – were up 0.5 percent seasonally adjusted from April and were up 3.2 percent year-over-year.

Specifics from key retail sectors during May include:

- Online and other non-store sales were up 11.4 percent year-over-year and up 1.4 percent month-over-month seasonally adjusted.
- General merchandise stores were up 4.4 percent year-over-year and up 0.7 percent month-over-month seasonally adjusted.
- Health and personal care stores were up 3.8 percent year-over-year and up 0.6 percent month-over-month seasonally adjusted.
- Grocery and beverage stores were up 2.3 percent year-over-year and down 0.1 percent month-over-month seasonally adjusted.
- Furniture and home furnishings stores were up 1.2 percent year-over-year and up 0.1 percent month-over-month seasonally adjusted.
- Building materials and garden supply stores were down 1.4 percent year-over-year but up 0.1 percent month-over-month seasonally adjusted.
- Electronics and appliance stores were down 1.9 percent year-over-year but up 1.1 percent month-over-month seasonally adjusted.
- Sporting goods stores were down 2.4 percent year-over-year but up 1.1 percent month-over-month seasonally adjusted.
- Clothing and clothing accessory stores were down 2.4 percent year-over-year and unchanged month-over-month seasonally adjusted.

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