## Retail Sales: Solid But Decelerating Core Gains

Bottom Line: Retail sales were flat at the headline level in September due to lower gasoline prices, but core sales rose as expected. Additionally, there were modest upward revisions to August data. At the headline level, autos and parts remained slow with the six months that ended in September contracting at a $1.5 \%$ annualized pace after running at $5.5 \%$ in the prior 12 months and nearly $9 \%$ in 2021. Core retail sales through September were growing at an annualized pace of $4.5 \%$, a still solid pace but notably decelerating relative to the six- and 12 -month pace of $7+\%$. Nonstore (online) sales remain the biggest core category at nearly a fifth of core and show positive real growth, despite historic inflation. Home furnishing stores, building, and garden supply stores, and miscellaneous retailers saw slower sales in September as the share slowdown in housing hit those sectors. Overall, consumption remains a smaller but still positive source of real GDP growth as wage gains, and strong household balance sheets allow consumers to spend despite high inflation.

Retail Sales \& Food Service


Contingent Macro Advisors 2022 source: US BEA

Retail ex Auto, Parts \& Gas


## Control Group



Oct-20 Jan-21 Apr-21 Jul-21 Nov-21 Feb-22 May-22 Sep-22

Contingent Macro Advisors 2022 source: US BEA

Retail Sales FELL by 0.0\% in September, compared with the market consensus for an increase of $0.2 \%$. The August estimate was revised from $0.29 \%$ to $0.42 \%$. Retail sales are now 8.2\% ABOVE their year-ago level; just a year ago, the year-over-year growth rate was $14.5 \%$. Spending at motor vehicle dealers fell by $0.4 \%$.

Core Retail Sales ROSE by $0.1 \%$, compared with the market consensus for a decrease of $0.1 \%$. The August estimate was revised from $-0.26 \%$ to $-0.11 \%$. Core retail sales are now $8.9 \%$ ABOVE their year-ago level; just a year ago, the year-over-year growth rate was 15.9\%.

In September, gains at nonstore retailers (+0.5\%), general merchandise stores (+0.7\%), grocery stores (+0.4\%), health and personal care (+0.5\%). were partially offset by declines in gasoline stations, primarily due to low gasoline prices (-1.4\%), miscellaneous
retailers (-2.5\%), building materials (-0.4\%), and furniture \& home furnishing ( $-0.7 \%$ ).

Core Retail Sales ex Gasoline ROSE by $0.28 \%$ and are now $7.5 \%$ ABOVE their yearago level; just a year ago, the year-over-year growth rate was a solid 13.6\%.

## US Autos \& Parts <br> (retail sales)



Oct-20 Jan-21 Apr-21 Jul-21 Nov-21 Feb-22 May-22 Sep-22


## US Eating \& Drinking Places (retail sales)



## US Food \& Beverage Stores (retail sales)




Oct-20 Jan-21 Apr-21 Jul-21 Nov-21 Feb-22 May-22 Sep-22

## US General Merchandise Stores (retail sales)



## US Gas Stations (retail sales)



## US Building \& Garden Supply (retail sales)



## US Clothing Stores (retail sales)



Oct-20 Jan-21 Apr-21 Jul-21 Nov-21 Feb-22 May-22 Sep-22

Contingent Macro Advisors 2022 source: US BEA

| US Retail Sales | Sep-22 | Aug-22 | Jul-22 | $3 m$ ann \% chg | 6 m ann \% chg | $\begin{gathered} \text { YoY \% } \\ \text { chg } \end{gathered}$ | 2021 | 2020 | 5 y |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Retail Sales \& Food Service (\$684B seas. adj. monthly sales) | -0.00\% | 0.42\% | -0.44\% | -0.06\% | 4.23\% | 8.23\% | 16.84\% | 3.24\% | 7.73\% |
| Retail ex Auto \& Parts (\$556B) | 0.09\% | -0.11\% | -0.08\% | -0.41\% | 5.61\% | 8.86\% | 18.93\% | 2.30\% | 8.32\% |
| Retail ex Auto, Parts \& Gas (\$494B) | 0.28\% | 0.58\% | 0.22\% | 4.45\% | 7.14\% | 7.52\% | 16.59\% | 3.94\% | 8.20\% |
| Autos \& Parts (\$128B) | -0.40\% | 2.83\% | -2.01\% | 1.46\% | -1.48\% | 5.56\% | 8.75\% | 7.07\% | 5.41\% |
| Nonstore (Online) | 0.53\% | -0.25\% | 1.66\% | 8.03\% | 12.73\% | 11.62\% | 12.76\% | 28.89\% | 19.59\% |


| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Retail } \\ & (\$ 109 B) \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Eating \& Drinking Places (\$87B) | 0.53\% | 1.81\% | -0.84\% | 6.11\% | 12.08\% | 11.41\% | 43.50\% | -19.28\% | 9.47\% |
| Food \& Beverage Stores (\$79B) | 0.39\% | 0.26\% | -0.04\% | 2.48\% | 5.82\% | 6.40\% | 8.87\% | 6.92\% | 5.55\% |
| General Merchandise Stores (\$70B) | 0.74\% | 0.39\% | -0.39\% | 2.97\% | 4.92\% | 3.73\% | 11.08\% | -0.23\% | 4.02\% |
| Gas Stations (\$63B) | -1.40\% | -5.20\% | -2.21\% | -30.20\% | -5.39\% | 20.60\% | 42.29\% | -11.62\% | 9.32\% |
| Building \& Garden Supply (\$43B) | -0.36\% | 1.37\% | 1.11\% | 8.75\% | 2.13\% | 9.67\% | 12.81\% | 15.27\% | 8.61\% |
| Health \& Personal (\$34B) | 0.48\% | 0.44\% | 0.64\% | 6.41\% | 7.37\% | 4.31\% | 9.51\% | 5.95\% | 4.60\% |
| Clothing Stores (\$26B) | 0.46\% | 0.86\% | -0.44\% | 3.55\% | 0.57\% | 3.14\% | 25.21\% | -13.87\% | 4.07\% |
| Miscellaneous Retail Stores (\$16B) | -2.52\% | 0.18\% | -1.32\% | -13.73\% | 0.47\% | 8.23\% | 21.04\% | 6.36\% | 9.03\% |
| Home Furnishing (\$12B) | -0.73\% | 0.86\% | 0.12\% | 0.94\% | -1.22\% | 0.91\% | 7.40\% | 4.11\% | 4.13\% |
| Sports, Hobby \& Book Stores (\$9B) | -0.66\% | 0.64\% | 0.03\% | 0.04\% | 5.06\% | 3.71\% | 16.30\% | 14.75\% | 6.10\% |
| Electronics \& Appliance Stores (\$7B) | -0.77\% | -0.44\% | -0.32\% | -5.95\% | -5.88\% | -8.57\% | 11.52\% | -14.36\% | -0.92\% |

Month-over-month \% change for most recent months, followed by annualized \% changes for periods noted. 5 - and 10-year are simple averages of annual \% changes.

## Retail Sales <br> (billions of USD per month)

Retail Sales \& Food Service


Retail ex Auto \& Parts

$\qquad$
Retail ex Auto, Parts \& Gas


Nonstore (Online) Retail


Food \& Beverage Stores


Gas Stations


Health \& Personal


Miscellaneous Retail Stores

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $\int$ | $-\$ 15.0$ |



Eating \& Drinking Places


General Merchandise Stores


Building \& Garden Supply


Clothing Stores


Home Furnishing





Electronics \& Appliance Stores


