15.Jun. 2023

## Retail Sales: Real Negative

Bottom Line: Retail sales were slightly stronger than expected in May, but the trend remained towards deceleration with downward revisions to prior data. Sales at auto and parts dealers were modestly higher than expected, driving the headline figure. Grocery store sales rebounded after two slow months. But the largest core category, online sales, saw tepid growth after the April rebound. Building and garden supply store sales saw sharp gains, but lower sales at miscellaneous retailers offset some of that. Overall, the trend in retail sales remained modest to weak, with the last three months of core sales annualizing at just $0.28 \%$ growth. The trend rate of nominal sales growth continues to decelerate, now below that of consumer price gains, optically negative in real terms (at least until CPI starts to decelerate more quickly).

## Retail Sales \& Food Service

May: +0.34\%, consensus: -0.2\%


Jun-21 Sep-21 Jan-22 Apr-22 Jul-22 Nov-22 Feb-23 May-23

Contingent Macro Advisors 2023 source: US BEA

## Retail ex Auto, Parts \& Gas

May: +0.4\%, consensus: +0.2\%


[^0]
## Control Group

May: +0.21\%, consensus: $+0.2 \%$


Jun-21 Sep-21 Jan-22 Apr-22 Jul-22 Nov-22 Feb-23 May-23

Contingent Macro Advisors 2023 source: US BEA

Total US Retail Sales ROSE 0.34\% in May (consensus was -0.2 \%), Mar revised down to $-0.91 \%$ from $-0.69 \%$, Apr revised down to $+0.37 \%$ from $0.42 \%$.

Core Retail Sales (excludes Autos, Parts \& Gas) ROSE 0.4\% (consensus was +0.2 \%).

Sales in the Control Group (Core less food services and building supply) ROSE 0.21\% (consensus was +0.2 \%).

- Nonstore (Online) sales ROSE 0.28\%.
- Restaurants \& Bars sales ROSE 0.35\%
- Food \& Beverage Stores sales ROSE 0.31\%.
- Gas Stations sales FELL -2.61\%.
- General Merchandise Stores sales ROSE 0.37\%
- Building \& Garden Supply sales ROSE 2.19\%
- Health \& Personal sales were nearly unchanged, 0.01\%.
- Clothing Stores sales were nearly unchanged, -0.04\%.


## US Autos \& Parts (retail sales)




Jun-21 Sep-21 Jan-22 Apr-22 Jul-22 Nov-22 Feb-23 May-23


## US Restaurants \& Bars (retail sales)



Jun-21 Sep-21 Jan-22 Apr-22 Jul-22 Nov-22 Feb-23 May-23

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



Jun-21 Sep-21 Jan-22 Apr-22 Jul-22 Nov-22 Feb-23 May-23

## US General Merchandise Stores <br> (retail sales)



[^1]
## US Gas Stations (retail sales)




Jun-21 Sep-21 Jan-22 Apr-22 Jul-22 Nov-22 Feb-23 May-23

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



Jun-21 Sep-21 Jan-22 Apr-22 Jul-22 Nov-22 Feb-23 May-23

## US Health \& Personal <br> (retail sales)



Jun-21 Sep-21 Jan-22 Apr-22 Jul-22 Nov-22 Feb-23 May-23

Contingent Macro Advisors 2023 source: US BEA

## US Clothing Stores <br> (retail sales)




Jun-21 Sep-21 Jan-22 Apr-22 Jul-22 Nov-22 Feb-23 May-23

Contingent Macro Advisors 2023 source: US BEA

| US Retail <br> Sales | May-23 | Apr-23 | Mar-23 | $3 m$ ann <br> $\%$ chg | $6 m$ ann <br> $\%$ chg | YoY \% <br> chg | 2022 | 2021 | $5 y$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Retail Sales <br> \& Food <br> Service <br> (686.6B) | $\mathbf{0 . 3 4 \%}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 3 7 \%}$ | $-\mathbf{0 . 9 1 \%}$ | $-\mathbf{0 . 7 9 \%}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 4 0 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 . 6 1 \%}$ | $\mathbf{5 . 9 8 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 5 . 5 2 \%}$ | $\mathbf{7 . 6 5 \%}$ |
| Retail Sales, <br>  <br> Gas (501.5B) | $\mathbf{0 . 4 0 \%}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 5 0 \%}$ | $-0.82 \%$ | $\mathbf{0 . 2 8 \%}$ | $\mathbf{3 . 9 4 \%}$ | $\mathbf{3 . 9 3 \%}$ | $\mathbf{7 . 3 9 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 4 . 8 2 \%}$ | $\mathbf{8 . 3 6 \%}$ |
| Control <br> Group <br> (382.0B) | $\mathbf{0 . 2 1 \%}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 6 3 \%}$ | $-\mathbf{0 . 7 8 \%}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 1 9 \%}$ | $\mathbf{3 . 9 0 \%}$ | $\mathbf{3 . 6 4 \%}$ | $\mathbf{6 . 5 0 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 1 . 0 6 \%}$ | $\mathbf{8 . 3 7 \%}$ |
| Autos \& Parts <br> (132.0B) | $1.38 \%$ | $0.45 \%$ | $-1.28 \%$ | $2.17 \%$ | $8.88 \%$ | $4.38 \%$ | $0.99 \%$ | $9.62 \%$ | $5.80 \%$ |
| Nonstore <br> (Online) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |


| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Retail } \\ & (112.2 \mathrm{~B}) \end{aligned}$ | 0.28\% | 1.00\% | -0.03\% | 5.05\% | 8.84\% | 6.53\% | 11.71\% | 8.55\% | 21.73\% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Restaurants \& Bars (88.0B) | 0.35\% | 0.34\% | 0.14\% | 3.36\% | 6.19\% | 7.99\% | 13.89\% | 38.92\% | 8.66\% |
| Food \& Beverage Stores (82.1B) | 0.31\% | -0.05\% | -0.31\% | -0.21\% | -1.14\% | 3.07\% | 6.71\% | 9.44\% | 5.95\% |
| Grocery Stores (73.8B) | 0.21\% | -0.13\% | -0.18\% | -0.39\% | -1.32\% | 3.09\% | 7.36\% | 10.03\% | 6.06\% |
| General Merchandise Stores (72.6B) | 0.37\% | 0.94\% | -2.54\% | -4.94\% | 1.25\% | 1.98\% | 6.28\% | 11.23\% | 4.38\% |
| Gas Stations (53.1B) | -2.61\% | -0.93\% | -0.88\% | -16.36\% | -21.94\% | -20.46\% | 5.38\% | 40.02\% | 6.08\% |
| Building \& Garden Supply (42.5B) | 2.19\% | 0.45\% | -3.54\% | -3.85\% | 0.69\% | -0.94\% | 3.00\% | 13.79\% | 7.49\% |
| Health \& Personal (35.5B) | 0.01\% | 0.78\% | 0.34\% | 4.62\% | 7.94\% | 7.78\% | 0.84\% | 8.13\% | 5.58\% |
| Clothing Stores (25.6B) | -0.04\% | 0.09\% | -1.25\% | -4.72\% | -1.49\% | -0.19\% | 3.28\% | 24.51\% | 3.12\% |
| Miscellaneous Retail Stores (15.4B) | -0.97\% | 1.89\% | -0.05\% | 3.47\% | 10.50\% | 4.55\% | 3.30\% | 17.64\% | 8.86\% |
| Home Furnishings (11.2B) | 0.39\% | -2.22\% | -2.54\% | -16.19\% | -6.47\% | -6.39\% | -1.00\% | 7.66\% | 2.24\% |
| Department Stores (11.2B) | 0.30\% | -1.12\% | -3.78\% | -17.04\% | 2.44\% | -3.54\% | 0.73\% | 16.06\% | -0.47\% |
| Sports, Hobby \& Book Stores (8.6B) | 0.33\% | 0.05\% | -0.02\% | 1.40\% | 0.14\% | 1.17\% | 2.48\% | 10.71\% | 7.26\% |
| Electronics \& Appliance Stores (7.6B) | 0.20\% | -1.12\% | -0.47\% | -5.42\% | 20.90\% | -4.99\% | -4.62\% | 13.71\% | -0.07\% |

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
(billions of USD per month)

Retail Sales \& Food Service


Retail Sales, ex Food


Retail Sales, ex Auto


Retail ex Auto, Parts \& Gas


Autos


Restaurants \& Bars


Retail Sales, ex Gas


Retail ex Auto \& Parts


Retail Sales, ex Auto \& Gas


Autos \& Parts


Nonstore (Online) Retail


Food \& Beverage Stores



Grocery Stores


Gas Stations


199219962000200420082012201620202024


General Merchandise Stores


Building \& Garden Supply


199219962000200420082012201620202024


[^0]:    Jun-21 Sep-21 Jan-22 Apr-22 Jul-22 Nov-22 Feb-23 May-23

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