

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%



#### Retail ex Auto, Parts & Gas

May: +0.4%, consensus: +0.2%



#### **Control Group**

May: +0.21%, consensus: +0.2%



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 Nonstore (Online) Retail** 40.0% Nonstore (Online) Retail year-over-year in May +6.53% 30.0% year-on-year % chg 20.0% 10.0% 0.0% -10.0% 1992 1996 2000 2004 2008 2012 2020 2024 2016 month-over-month in May +0.28% 6.0% 3m Avg. 0.41% (5.1% ann.) 6m Avg. 0.71% (8.9% ann.) 4.0% 2.0% 0.0%

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

-2.0%

-4.0%

### US Restaurants & Bars (retail sales)



## US Food & Beverage Stores (retail sales)



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

0.0%

-0.5%

## US General Merchandise Stores (retail sales)



### US Gas Stations (retail sales)



## US Building & Garden Supply (retail sales)



### US Health & Personal (retail sales)



# US Clothing Stores (retail sales)



Contingent Macro Advisors 2023 source: US BEA

US Retail Sales	May-23	Apr-23	Mar-23	3m ann % chg	6m ann % chg	YoY % chg	2022	2021	<b>5</b> y
Retail Sales & Food Service (686.6B)	0.34%	0.37%	-0.91%	-0.79%	2.40%	1.61%	5.98%	15.52%	7.65%
Retail Sales, ex Auto & Gas (501.5B)	0.40%	0.50%	-0.82%	0.28%	3.94%	3.93%	7.39%	14.82%	8.36%
Control Group (382.0B)	0.21%	0.63%	-0.78%	0.19%	3.90%	3.64%	6.50%	11.06%	8.37%
Autos & Parts (132.0B)	1.38%	0.45%	-1.28%	2.17%	8.88%	4.38%	0.99%	9.62%	5.80%
Nonstore (Online)									

Retail (112.2B)	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)



