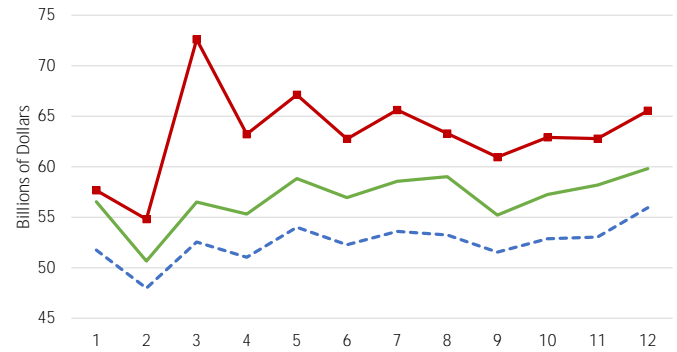


The U.S. Census Bureau recently released a report on the [Estimated Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services](#). The monthly survey is conducted “to provide an early estimate of monthly sales by kind of business for retail and food service firms located in the United States.” This DLR will focus on discussing the not adjusted survey results.

The annual Retail and Food Service reported \$6.3 trillion in 2020 which is slightly (0.6%) above the same period in 2019. An indication that, despite the pandemic, the economy in 2020 was able to recover and reach just above the prior year. Retail and Food Services rose 4.8% (\$28.7 billion) to \$620 billion for December, which is also the highest value for the month of December in the data series back to 1992. Non-store Retailers (e.g. ecommerce) saw the highest year-over-year percentage increase with 22.1% growth to \$971.6 billion. Building Material and Supplies Dealers had a 14.0% annual increase to nearly \$438.2 billion as did Sporting Goods stores which rose 5.7% to \$84.4 billion.

Food and Beverage Stores reported an annual increase of 11.5% to \$853.3 billion. Grocery Stores saw a similar increase, up 11.2% to \$759.3 billion. Grocery store sales in each month of 2020 was higher than a year ago with March reporting the highest monthly increase of 28.5% growth. A similar trend occurred for Food and Beverage Stores. The increase in both Food and Beverage Stores and Grocery Stores partially offsets the decline in Food Services and Drinking Places. In 2020, Food Services and Drinking Places dropped 19.5% to \$616.8 billion. The month of December saw a similar drop of 21.0% down to \$51.4 billion.

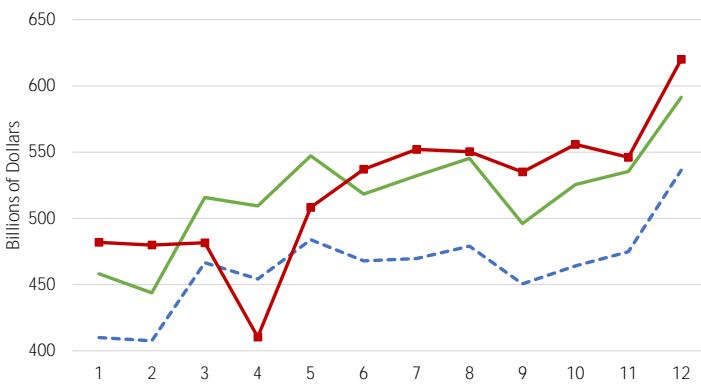
Grocery Stores



Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Compiled by Livestock Marketing Information Center

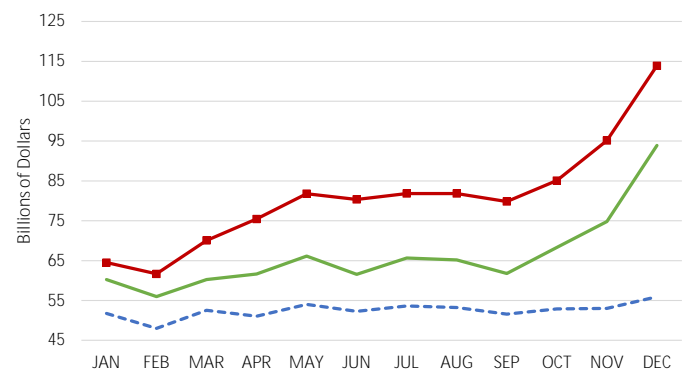
Department Stores saw a large percentage decline from a year ago with an 18.1% decline down to \$110.5 billion in 2020. Similarly, Electronics and Appliance Stores were reportedly down 14.6% to \$82.8 billion. Gasoline Stations reported an annual decrease of 15.9% to \$421.5 trillion in 2020. For the month of December, Gasoline Stations saw an 11.4% decrease down to \$35.6 billion. Interestingly, Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers saw an annual increase of 1.1% to almost \$1.3 trillion and for the month of December the increase was 13.6% to \$117.5 billion on the year. Although gasoline sales decreased in 2020, most likely consumers took advantage of low interest rates to purchase newer vehicles.

Retail Trade and Food Services

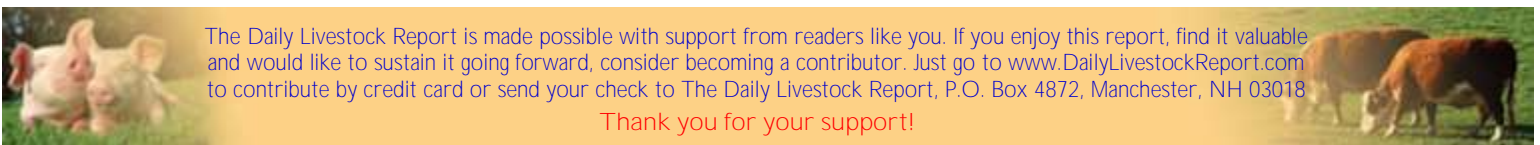


Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Compiled by Livestock Marketing Information Center

Nonstore Retailers



Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Compiled by Livestock Marketing Information Center



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