

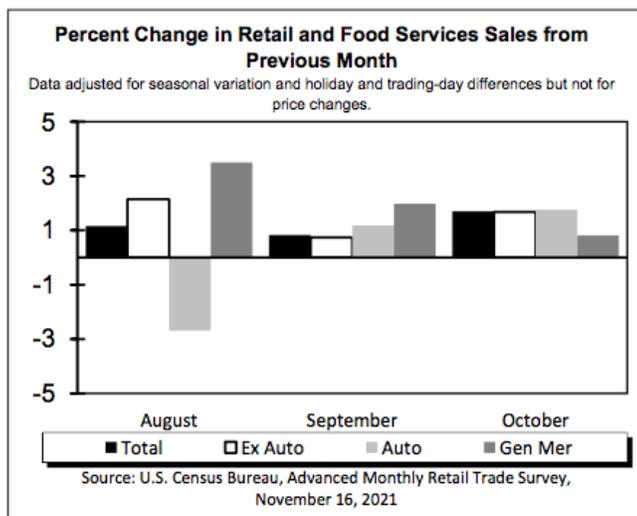


Retail Sales and Business Inventories Both Jump More Than Expected

The U.S. Bureau of the Census measures the total receipts at stores that sell merchandise and related services to final consumers – the Retail Sales Report. In simple terms, the Retail Sales Report covers the durables and nondurables portions of consumer spending, which is an important metric since it accounts for approximately 2/3 of our GDP.

On November 16th, the Census Bureau reported that advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for October 2021 were \$638.2 billion, an increase of 1.7% from the previous month and 16.3% above October 2020.

- Total sales for the August 2021 through October 2021 period were up 15.4% from the same period a year ago.
- The August 2021 to September 2021 percent change was revised from up 0.7% to up 0.8%.
- Retail trade sales were up 1.9% from September 202 and up 14.8% above last year.
- Gasoline stations were up 46.8% from October 2020, while food services and drinking places were up 29.3 % from last year.

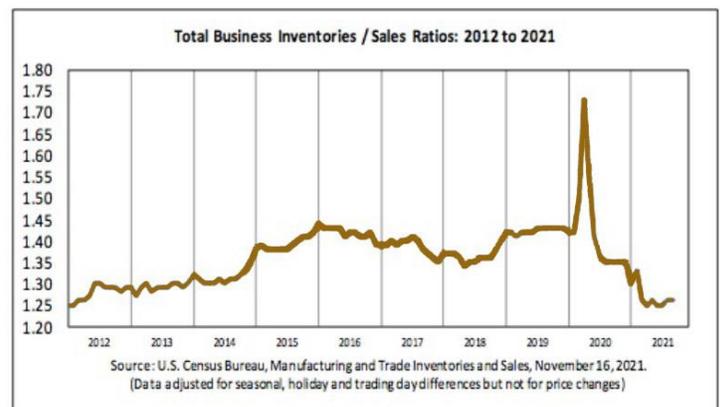


Business Inventories Up

The U.S. Bureau of the Census also measures the dollar amount of inventories held by manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers – the Business Inventories Report. This is also an important indicator as it provides direction as to overall production activity.

On the same day that the Retail Sales report was released, the Census Bureau reported that the combined value of distributive trade sales and manufacturers' shipments for September was estimated at \$1,669.7 billion, up 0.9% from August 2021 and up 15.5% from September 2020.

- Manufacturers' and trade inventories for September were up 0.7% from August 2021 and were up 7.5% from September 2020.
- The total business inventories/sales ratio based on seasonally adjusted data at the end of September was 1.26. The September 2020 ratio was 1.35.



More Data Later in the Week

More economic data will be released later this week, including Housing Starts and Permits on Wednesday and Jobless Claims, the Philadelphia Fed Manufacturing Index, and E-Commerce Retail Sales on Thursday.

Sources: [census.gov](https://www.census.gov)