



ABILENE CHAMBER

DAILY BUSINESS BRIEF

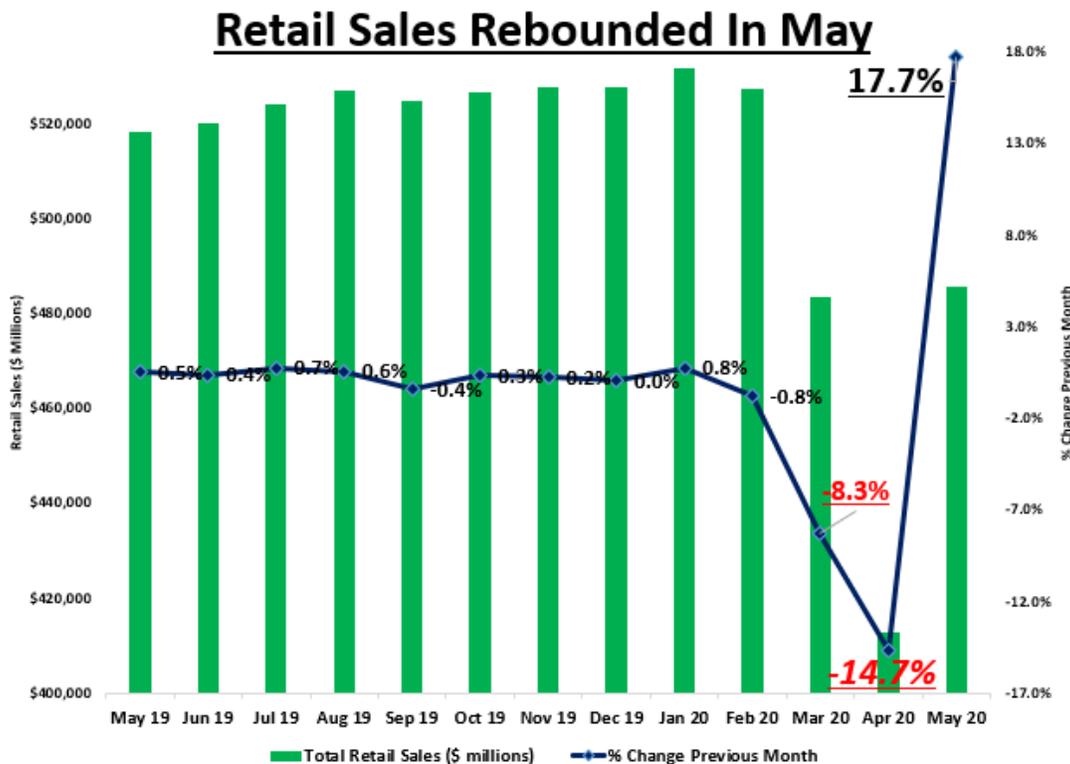
Skimming the daily updates for your business so you don't have to.

RETAIL SALES RISE BY RECORD AMOUNT IN MAY

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, consumer spending will be the driver of economic recovery. To really get the economy going again, consumers need to get back to spending.

Today's strong [retail sales report](#) for May is therefore good news. It may be an indicator we are starting a strong recovery.

Retail sales rebounded almost 18% in May. That is a record increase for one month. It beat the consensus estimates by a large margin, which were looking for growth of less than 10%.



As with all economic data right now, it is important to analyze both the rate of change (blue line) and the level of retail sales. Retail sales fell 8% in March and almost 15% in April. Both declines were record drops. The rebound in May brought retail sales back to March levels. They are still more than \$45 billion lower than they were in January, which was the recent peak. There is still a long way to go to repair the damage COVID-19 inflicted on consumers.

Because we have so far to go just to get back to where we were a few months ago, it is

too soon to say what path the recovery will take. It is encouraging that we are talking about economic recovery, instead of the depth and severity of the contraction. More strong data points like this month's retail numbers will instill confidence that the recovery will be stronger than expected.

—[Curtis Dubay, Senior Economist, U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#)

TEAM DYESS HEALTH UPDATE

Dyess Air Force Base has released information regarding the travel restrictions, gathering restrictions, etc. for active duty airmen and access to the base. Currently airmen are prohibited to non-duty gatherings large than 50 people.

[More info.](#)

CITY OF ABILENE NOT ENFORCING ABBOTT'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS

The City of Abilene is not enforcing Governor Abbott's Executive Orders to reopen Texas. According to Phase III of the order, cities with fewer than 10 COVID-19 cases can operate at 75% occupancy. Taylor County's number of active cases were in the single digits when that went into effect last Friday. The Abilene Taylor County Public Health District reported four new cases yesterday, which pushed the total number of active cases to eleven.

In an email, City Manager Robert Hanna said based on the advice of the city's attorney's Abilene is not enforcing such occupancy protocols. Hanna went on to say, "business owners should use common sense and try to follow the Governor's Executive Order to the best of their ability". (source KACU)

WHAT WE'RE READING

IEA raises 2020 oil demand forecast by 500,000 b/d

"In its June Oil Market Report, the International Energy Agency has raised its 2020 oil demand forecast by nearly 500,000 b/d to 91.7 million b/d, due to stronger than expected deliveries during the COVID-19 lockdown. Estimates for first-quarter 2020 and second-quarter 2020 are revised higher by 400,000 b/d and 2.1 million b/d, respectively."

[Read more.](#)

US airlines take jets out of storage, add flights as recovery begins

"North America's airline industry has started a slow but noticeable recovery as carriers bring hundreds of jets back into service in response to a bump in travel demand ahead of the summer travel season. Airlines in the USA and elsewhere are adding flights and destinations to their networks, climbing from a downturn that bottomed out in the early spring."

[Read more.](#)

You don't want to miss these upcoming event for your business.

6/18 RURAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM The purpose of this meeting is to receive comments on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2024 Rural Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Abilene District. [More info.](#)

6/23 WATER SEMINAR Join Kenneth Jorgensen (Professor, Aalborg University, Denmark) – “Water Agency” and Julia Hayden (Internationally Recognized Body Whisperer, Author, and Founder of the Gaia Storytelling Lab at the European School of Governance in Berlin, Germany) – “Make Water, Not War!” [More Info](#)

6/24 VIRTUAL ONE MILLION CUPS The Abilene Chamber of Commerce and McMurry University Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship are excited to bring the first virtual 1 Million Cups to the Abilene community! Are you an entrepreneur? Are you searching for a way to connect with other entrepreneurs to discover solutions for your small business needs? Started by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, 1 Million Cups is a free program designed to educate, engage and inspire entrepreneurs over coffee. [More Info.](#)

6/25 WEST TEXAS SUCCESS VIRTUAL JOB FAIR Join Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas on Thursday, June 25, 2020 from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm* for a virtual job fair (employers will be active at their virtual booths until 5:00 pm). [More info.](#)

MORE FROM THE CHAMBER:

- [Abilene Chamber Now Seeking Nominations for Citizen of the Year](#)
- [An Enhanced Pathway Forward](#)
- [Update your newsletter preferences](#)
- [Hiring? Add your job to AbileneWorks.com for free](#)
- [Have you completed your 2020 Census form yet?](#)

[LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Member Directory](#)

[Update your email preferences](#)