



# Retail closures from Covid-19 impact

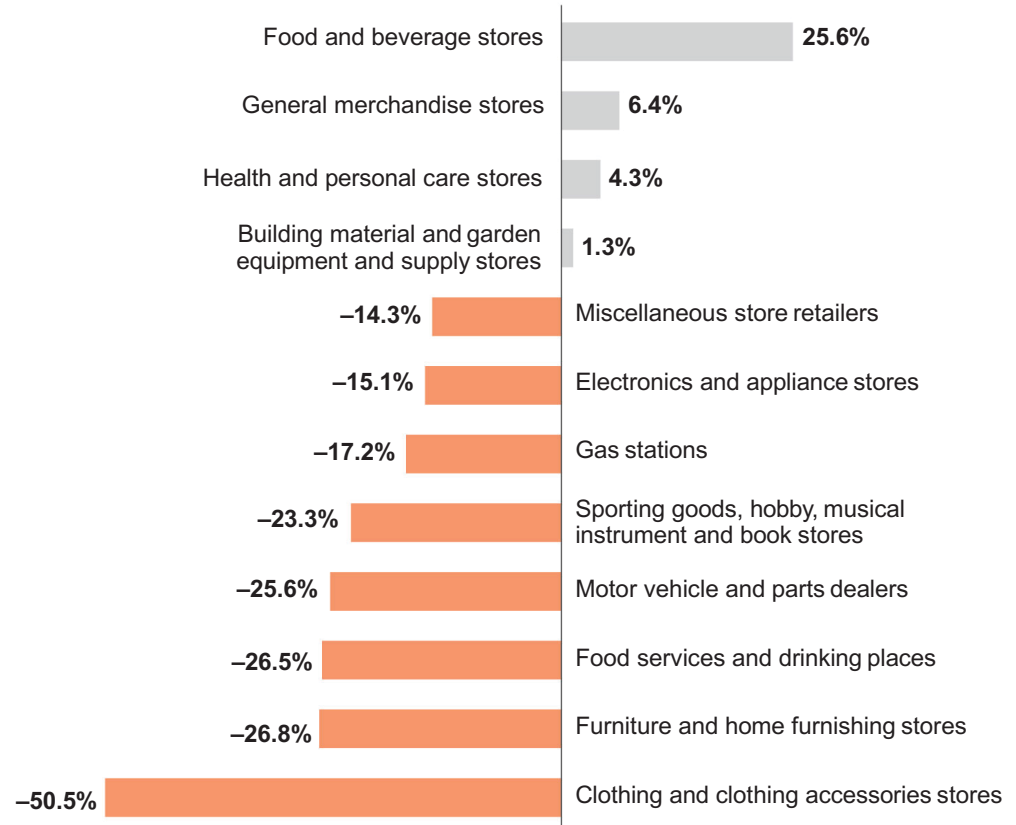
## March sales

April 17, 2020

On April 15, the U.S. Census Bureau released preliminary retail and food sales estimates for March 2020. The data reported an 8.7 percent drop from the previous month as many businesses nationwide limited operating capacity or ceased operations completely due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Food and beverage retailers experienced the largest increase in sales; clothing stores saw the largest decrease.

### March 2020 sales' percentage change from previous month



**Methodology:** The U.S. Census Bureau conducts the Advance Monthly Retail Trade and Food Services Survey to provide an early estimate of monthly sales by kind of business for retail and food service firms located in the United States. Advance estimates for March 2020 are adjusted for seasonal variation and holiday and trading-day differences, but not for price changes. The advance estimates are based on a subsample of the Census Bureau's full retail and food services sample. A stratified random sampling method is used to select approximately 5,500 retail and food services firms whose sales are then weighted and benchmarked to represent the complete universe of over three million retail and food services firms.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey, April 15, 2020