

# Decline in auto sales slows US retail spending in August

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Falling auto sales in August slowed US retail spending, but a higher-than-originally reported figure for July meant the overall pace was well above

2017, the government said Friday.

Sales of clothing and furniture also fell last month, while department stores continued their [downward trend](#), but spending on electronics and appliances as well as health care were solid.

The biggest increase was the 1.7 percent jump in gasoline station sales, which are now up more than 20 percent over August of last year.

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That rise put [spending](#) 6.6 percent higher than the same month of 2017. Meanwhile, sales in July were revised up to show a 0.7 percent gain, better than originally reported.

Excluding autos, which declined 0.8 percent in August, total retail sales showed a more healthy increase of 0.3 percent, which make it 7.3 percent higher than a year earlier.

While brick-and-mortar stores continued to decline, online retailers like Amazon saw more gains, with a 0.7 percent increase putting sales more than 10 percent higher than last year.

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