

Store Retail, Accommodation, & Food Services Industries

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The store retail, accommodation, and food service industries are vital to the U.S. economy. Over 3.2 million establishments in these three industries employed nearly one-quarter of the U.S. workers (22.3 million out of 130.9 million workers in 2018) and paid nearly \$711 billion in wages. In addition, these three industries housed approximately 1.5 million non-employer establishments that generated over \$80 billion in revenues in 2018. (Table 1)

Table 1.
Economic Activities of Selected Industries, 2018

Industry	Total establishments	Employment (employers)	Wages (,000)	Non-employer establishments	Non-employer receipts (,000)
All industries	34.4M	130.9M	\$7.1T	26.5M	\$1.2T
Retail trade	3.2M	15.7M	\$457.4B	2.1M	\$90.6B
Store retailers	2.1M	14.9M	\$419.5B	1.1M	\$61.6B
Nonstore retailers	1.1M	0.8M	\$37.8B	1.0M	\$29.0B
Real estate, leasing	3.3M	2.2M	\$122.9B	2.9M	\$279.6B
Arts, entertainment	1.7M	2.4M	\$88.2B	1.5M	\$37.4B
Accomm., food srvs	1.2M	14.3M	\$291.4B	0.4M	\$18.6B
Accommodation	0.2M	2.1M	65.8B	0.1M	\$4.1B
Food, drink places	1.0M	12.2M	225.6B	0.3M	\$14.5B

as % of all industries

Industry	Total establishments	Employment (employers)	Wages (000s)	Non-employer establishments	Non-employer receipts (000s)
All industries	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Retail trade	9.2%	12.0%	6.4%	7.9%	7.1%
Store retailers	6.0%	11.4%	5.9%	4.1%	4.8%
Nonstore retailers	3.2%	0.6%	0.5%	3.8%	2.3%
Real estate, leasing	9.6%	1.7%	1.7%	10.9%	22.4%
Arts, entertainment	4.8%	1.9%	1.2%	5.7%	3.1%
Accomm., food srvs	3.5%	11.0%	4.1%	1.7%	1.4%
Accommodation	0.5%	1.6%	0.9%	0.4%	0.4%
Food, drink places	2.9%	9.3%	3.2%	1.3%	1.1%

Sub-industries of Store Retailers

Two million store retailers, employing nearly 15 million workers, are categorized into 24 sub-industries. Grocery stores and general merchandise stores are two sub-industries with most workers, 2.8 million and 2.2 million workers, respectively. (Table 2)

Table 2.
Economic Activities of Sub-Industries of Store Retailers, 2018

Industry	Total establishments	Employment (employers)	Wages (000s)	Non-employer establishments	Non-employer receipts (000s)
All store retailers	2,070,027	14,904,178	419,540,118	1,097,827	61,911,087
Automobile dealers	154,399	1,334,417	71,025,637	107,528	13,650,097
Other motor vehicle dealers	33,470	151,951	6,960,713	19,750	1,801,701
Auto parts, accessor, tire stores	97,088	525,004	16,533,203	39,292	2,633,905
Furniture stores	37,554	209,076	8,176,457	14,388	959,742
Home furnishings stores	50,661	260,393	6,957,753	23,982	1,537,037
Electronics, appliance stores	50,825	308,132	9,818,160	23,325	1,352,950
Building material dealers	80,052	1,204,628	37,012,099	22,976	1,817,534
Lawn, garden equip stores	28,969	156,459	4,969,911	11,454	556,459
Grocery stores	130,538	2,751,700	66,565,911	37,000	3,147,052
Specialty food stores	72,142	160,491	3,441,731	49,967	2,712,864
Beer, wine, and liquor stores	44,476	175,167	3,966,103	9,900	1,451,316
Health and personal care stores	263,367	1,038,123	36,260,498	169,899	4,491,513
Gasoline stations	120,139	974,156	20,042,622	7,477	1,041,751
Clothing stores	227,219	1,342,702	24,572,994	133,026	4,751,440
Shoe stores	28,314	239,501	4,052,897	4,954	292,866
Jewelry, luggage, leather stores	63,792	120,070	4,397,582	41,750	1,652,176
Sporting, musical instrument	100,810	456,296	8,901,851	63,965	2,952,226
Bookstores and news dealers	19,736	70,113	1,254,197	12,645	449,070
Department stores	-	456,031	9,160,507	-	-
General merchandise, warehouse clubs, supercenters	-	2,209,406	57,541,081	-	-
Florists	36,411	55,660	1,099,605	24,050	1,004,024
Office supplies, stationery, gift	71,465	205,955	4,345,680	45,198	1,754,204
Used merchandise stores	82,612	203,138	3,965,924	62,943	1,862,232
Other misc store retailers	188,871	295,609	8,517,002	139,013	8,492,535

Sub-industries of Accommodation and Food Services

More than 14 million people were working in accommodation and food services sub-industries in 2018. Traveler accommodation employed nearly 2.1 million workers and paid nearly \$64 billion in wages. In addition, other 81,000 non-employer traveler accommodation generated over \$3.5 billion in revenues in 2018.

Over 1 million food and drink establishments employed over 12.2 million workers and paid nearly \$226 billion in wages. In addition, nearly 350,000 non-employer food and drink services generated more than \$14 billion in revenues in 2018. (Table 3)

Table 3.
Economic Activities of Sub-Industries of Accommodation and Food Services, 2018

Industry	Total establishments	Employment (employers)	Wages (000s)	Non-employer establishments	Non-employer receipts (000s)
Accommodation	181,231	2,121,365	65,751,507	112,181	4,554,057
Traveler Accommodation	140,414	2,063,537	63,801,533	80,917	3,515,016
RV Parks	14,867	48,154	1,690,689	7,218	471,306
Rooming, Boarding Houses, Dormitories, Workers' Camps	25,950	9,674	259,285	24,046	567,735
Food Srv, Drinking Places	1,011,811	12,223,775	225,610,173	347,727	14,190,098
Special Food Services	265,711	823,570	19,741,036	220,978	5,952,456
Drinking Places	65,374	371,773	6,920,522	25,274	1,592,182
Restaurants and Other Eating	680,726	11,028,432	198,948,615	101,475	6,645,460

In 2018, over 5.5 million people worked at nearly 115,000 malls and open-air centers. Regional and super regional malls employed nearly 652,000 people while open-air centers employed nearly 4.9 million people. (Table 4)

Table 4.
Establishments and Employment at Malls and Open-Air Centers, 2018

	Establishments	Gross Leasable Area (million sf)	Employment
Total Shopping Centers	114,740	7,538	5,509,579
Malls	1,166	1,070	651,630
Regional	572	336	204,862
Super regional	594	734	446,768
Open-Air Centers	113,515	6,457	4,857,949
Strip/Convenience	68,846	929	698,512
Neighborhood	31,545	2,291	1,723,625
Community	9,687	1,908	1,435,165
Lifestyle	572	195	146,384
Power center	2,320	1,017	765,437
Theme/Festival	143	22	16,412
Outlet/Value center	402	96	72,416

Data Sources and Methodology

Our estimates are based on three major government and industry statistical publications. We compiled 2018 data of total employer and nonemployer establishments, employment, wages, and nonemployer receipts from Business County Patterns and Nonemployer Statistics datasets published by the U.S. Census Bureau. The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates the square footage per worker at enclosed malls, strip malls, and other retail places. International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) published numbers of shopping centers and shopping center gross leasable area by mall and center category.