

## US: September retail sales unexpectedly down (-0.4%)

- Retail sales unexpectedly fell in September (-0.4% m/m in nominal terms), after being roughly unchanged in the previous month (+0.1% m/m, revised down from 0.2%). Excluding autos, retail sales slumped even more, down 0.5%. August figure was revised somewhat up from 0.1% to 0.2%.
- In September, gasoline sales contracted sharply (-9.3% m/m), down for the second month in a row, in line with lower prices. Food and beverage sales were weak (-0.3%). Auto sales were unchanged following a 0.4% fall in August, as new models sales with expensive prices were offset by the end of the old model year with hefty discounts.
- Despite favourable performances in July and August, the year-on-year (3-month moving average) growth rate underlines the weakening underlying trend in retail sales in September (5.6% versus 6.6% in June).
- This slower trend in consumption is expected to continue in subsequent months, as negative impacts from the downturn in the housing market (prices are now broadly stable in year-on-year terms) and decelerating payrolls will progressively bite (even if real wages are expected to benefit from falling inflation at the same time). In October nonetheless, some rebound in private consumption is likely to occur. Indeed, according to the Beige Book released yesterday, *consumer spending increased more quickly in a number of Districts, although several reports continued to note that automobile and home-related sales were sluggish.*

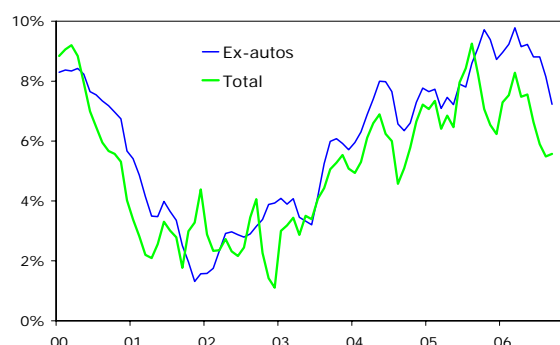
# ECOFLASH

### Retail sales

In nominal terms	Sep m/m	Sep q/q ann.	Aug m/m	Aug q/q ann.	July m/m	July q/q ann.
Total	-0.4	4.1	0.1	3.1	1.4	4.0
Total ex. autos	-0.5	3.6	0.2	5.2	0.7	7.0
Total ex. autos and build.mat.	-0.7	4.0	0.2	6.9	0.7	9.0
Durable goods	0.2	4.1	-0.1	-4.1	2.7	-5.5
Non durable goods	-1.0	3.4	0.2	6.9	0.6	8.8
Autos	0.0	6.0	-0.4	-4.4	4.1	-6.5
Gasoline	-9.3	-6.9	-1.3	16.4	1.5	28.8
Building materials	0.6	0.0	0.6	-8.1	0.6	-9.1
Food and beverages	-0.3	4.3	0.4	6.5	0.3	5.9

Source: Department of Commerce

### 1. Retail sales (y/y 3mma)



Source: Commerce department

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