

Retail sales up 1.7%, driven by gas prices

By **Anne D’Innocenzio**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Shoppers accelerated their spending in March from February, but they spent a good chunk of their money at the gas pump.

A spike in gas prices due to the Iran war, now in its eighth week, resulted in a hefty 1.7% gain in retail sales in March after a revised 0.7% increase in February, according to the Commerce Department’s report on Tuesday. The figure marked the fastest one-month increase in retail sales in more than three years.

The report marks the first read on spending to capture the effects of the Iran war.

Excluding gas prices, retail sales were up 0.6%, helped in part by government tax refunds and warm weather.

Business at gas stations rose 15.5% percent.

Elsewhere, shoppers were still willing to spend. Sales at department stores rose 4.2%, while sales at furniture and home furnishings stores were up 2.2%. Online retailers saw a 1% gain. Consumer electronics and appliance stores posted a 0.9% increase. The only area that saw a decline for March was miscellaneous retailers,

according to the Commerce report.

The snapshot offers only a partial look at consumer spending and doesn’t include things like travel and hotel stays. The lone services category — restaurants — registered a more modest gain of 0.1%.

The so-called control group—which excludes food services, autos, building materials and gas station sales and is used to calculate economic growth—rose 0.7%. That offered a good sign of broad spending by consumers, economists said.

“It’s a blowout retail sales figure for March,” Heather Long, chief economist at Navy Federal Credit Union, wrote in a report.

She noted that the impact of tariffs is visible in the high spending on electronics and appliances due to higher prices. A small increase at restaurants may indicate some early signs of pullback as consumers have to spend more at the pump, she said.

“Overall, the American consumer is still healthy,” she added. “Extra income from tax refunds is helping many households weather this oil shock, but that extra money won’t last forever.”

The Iran war began

Feb. 28 and has shut down the Strait of Hormuz, cutting off one-fifth of the world’s oil supply.

Late last month, U.S. gas prices jumped past an average of \$4 a gallon for the first time since 2022.

Economists had believed that an unusually large jump in tax refunds would kick start spending at the start of the year. But spiking gas prices are taking a bite out of that money. And the Iran war is also further dampening shoppers’ mood. Consumer sentiment plunged to a record low in April, according to a survey released earlier this month by the University of Michigan, largely because of

the Iran war and concerns over higher gas prices.

Shoppers aren’t just feeling it at the gas pump, but are also starting to see unforeseen costs everywhere, including when they travel such as higher baggage fees. They will also likely see higher prices on different products ripple through the supply chain as companies start to pass on higher transportation costs to shoppers, analysts said.

The jump in gas prices caused a sharp spike in inflation last month, creating major challenges for the inflation-fighters at the Federal Reserve and increasing already signif-

icant political hurdles for the White House.

Consumer prices rose 3.3% in March from a year earlier. On a monthly basis, prices rose 0.9% in March from February, the largest such gain in nearly four years.

Heading into the war, shoppers were already cautious. But Bryan Eshelman, Americas leader of retail and a partner and managing director at consultancy AlixPartners, noted his retail clients see their customers pulling back even more now.

“Particularly in the low-end economy, people are shifting from wants to needs,” he said.

R.J. Hottovy, head of

analytical research at Placer.ai, noted that for seven straight weeks, traffic at nondiscretionary retailers like grocers outpaced that of discretionary merchants. That trend was reversed the week of April 6, helped by the distribution of tax refunds and spending tied to spring break and Easter.

But after the data goes past Easter trends, future visits will largely depend on consumer sentiment regarding broader macroeconomic conditions and gas prices, Hottovy said. The firm tracks people’s movements based on cellphone usage.



Ricardo Ramirez Buxeda/Orolando Sentinel

Facing possible liquidation, Spirit Airlines floated offering the U.S. government a stake in the carrier.

Spirit floats stake by government to avoid liquidation

By **Ryan Gould, Siddharth Philip and Allyson Versprille**
BLOOMBERG NEWS

Spirit Aviation Holdings Inc. has floated offering the U.S. government an equity stake in the discount carrier to help stave off its potential liquidation, according to people familiar with the matter.

The airline is seeking an infusion of cash from the U.S. government during a spike in jet fuel prices, said the people, who asked not to be named given the discussions are confidential. The proposal comes after the White House brokered a deal last year to become one of the biggest shareholders in Intel Corp. in a bid to bolster the investment-grade chipmaker’s domestic initiatives.

The Air Current first reported that Spirit is seeking a bailout from the U.S. government.

Any proposed bailout is likely to get pushback from competitors that are also struggling with a spike in jet fuel prices during the conflict in the Middle East, some of the people said. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy plans to meet with low-cost airline chief executives this week to discuss their challenges, the people said.

The Transportation Department is monitoring the situation surrounding Spirit, a spokesperson said. The White House didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

Spirit representatives

didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Association of Value Airlines, which represents low-cost carriers like Spirit and Frontier Group Holdings Inc., sent a letter to congressional leaders last week asking for temporary relief from certain fees and taxes, including a suspension of the 7.5% federal excise tax on airline tickets, according to a copy seen by Bloomberg News.

The April 14 letter said “absent relief, sustained fuel cost pressures will translate to higher total trip costs for passengers.” Similar relief was granted to airlines during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Spirit was poised to exit bankruptcy by this summer after reaching an agreement with creditors on a plan to trim billions of dollars in debt and reduce the cost of its fleet. The carrier filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in August 2025 — the second time it had to do so in under a year.

Spirit’s past attempts to merge with other carriers haven’t panned out. Before filing its first bankruptcy, the carrier agreed to be acquired by JetBlue Airways Corp., but a federal judge blocked the tie-up in 2024 on antitrust grounds. Then, Frontier and Spirit revived talks to merge in 2025.

The Transportation Department spokesperson attributed some of Spirit’s current troubles to “the failures of the last administration,” including the blocked JetBlue merger.

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TABC Notices

TABC Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a wine and malt beverage retailers on-premise permit by Project Bistro dba Cafe Express, to be located at 1422 W Gray St, Houston, Harris, Texas. Owner of said corporation is Michael Nakhleh.
IPLHOU0136371

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and malt beverage retailers on-premise permit by Project Bistro dba Cafe Express, to be located at 210 Meyerland Plaza, Houston, Harris, Texas. Owner of said corporation is Michael Nakhleh.
IPLHOU0136381

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and malt beverage retailers on-premise permit by Project Bistro dba Cafe Express, to be located at 780 W Sam Houston Pkwy N #100, Houston, Harris, Texas. Owner of said corporation is Michael Nakhleh.
IPLHOU0136382

Legal Bids & Proposals

Legal Bids & Proposals

Harmony Public Schools (HPS), dba, West Texas district open-enrollment charter schools, will be accepting competitive sealed proposals for the Polyethylene Field Turf Play Surface installation project in the West Texas district. The project scope of work includes purchasing supplies, materials, equipment, and labor, approximately 35,000 sq ft of Polyethylene Turf installation, adding a drainage system, and grading the turf area as specified in the project documents. (*#HPS2026 West TX Field Turf Installation*).

Bid proposals must be received by **2:00 p.m. CST on May 19, 2026**, preferably through Harmony’s e-bid system or through mail delivery at HPS Central Office, 1255 Enclave Parkway, Houston, TX 77077, and will be opened at that date and time via video conference meeting. Referring to the bid package, HPS reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or waive any or all irregularities. Proposers may log in to view the bid package and submit their responses at: <https://www.harmonytx.org/about/purchasing>
IPLHOU01363487

Notice to Proposers

Request for Proposal will be received by Lone Star College for:

- RFP #26-04-01 – Mass Communication. Electronic submittals due by 1:00PM, Wednesday May 13, 2026.
- Contact: janet.bradley@lonestar.edu or (832)813-6299.
- Must Register to Bid: <https://lonestar.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. If registered, please ensure your registration is up to date. For assistance with the on-line registration process, contact MC-vendors@lonestar.edu.

IPLHOU0136310

YES Prep Public Schools is accepting proposals for Translation Services (RFP#YESP2026-12) Responses must be received by 10:00 am on May 6, 2026 and will be opened at that date and time at 5455 South Loop E. Fwy Houston, Texas 77033. YES Prep reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or waive any or all irregularities. For further information, please contact Mehmet Bayar, Director of Procurement at mehmet.bayar@yesprep.org. Proposers may log in to view the bid package and submit their responses at <http://www.yesprep.org/rfps>
IPLHOU0135399

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP-1157983 WILL BE RECEIVED BY STRATEGIC SOURCING, PORT HOUSTON, UNTIL 11:00 A.M., ON MAY 13, 2026, FOR THE FOLLOWING:

PRESS RELEASE DISTRIBUTION

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 29, 2026, AT 10:00 AM VIA TEAMS FOR INTERESTED VENDORS TO ASK QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE SCOPE.

SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM PORT HOUSTON'S ePROCUREMENT WEBSITE: Bids - Workday Strategic Sourcing
IPLHOU0135441

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION WILL BE RECEIVED BY STRATEGIC SOURCING, PORT HOUSTON, UNTIL 11:00 A.M., ON MAY 20, 2026, FOR THE FOLLOWING:

RFO -1162792 ENGINEERING AND DESIGN SERVICES FOR BAYPORT EAST END PROJECT

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 21, 2026, AT 2:00 PM VIA TEAMS FOR INTERESTED VENDORS TO ASK QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE SCOPE.

SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM PORT HOUSTON'S ePROCUREMENT WEBSITE: Bids - Workday Strategic Sourcing
IPLHOU0135443

HOUSTON GATEWAY ACADEMY, INC. is accepting sealed bids for vended meals for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) for the 2026-2027 school year. Proposals are due by May 15, 2026 at 11:00 AM CST. Visit www.hgaschools.org/apps/pages/rfp26 for the RFP.
IPLHOU0134886

Request for Proposal – Houston-Galveston Area Council – Enterprise Solutions – HGACBuy/ Cooperative Purchasing Program – Auxiliary Power & Backup Generators – GE08-26

H-GAC is soliciting responses for selecting qualified manufacturers, dealers and distributors of Auxiliary Power & Backup Generators and to make these types of products available to Customers of the HGACBuy Cooperative Purchasing Program under blanket type contracts.

To view the solicitation documents, visit <https://www.h-gac.com/procurement> or ESBD (txsmartbuy.com)

Response Deadline: May 28, 2026 @ 12:00 P.M. CT
IPLHOU0135247

Legal Bids & Proposals

Legal Bids & Proposals

Notice to Bidders

The Sabine River Authority of Texas (SRA-TX) and the Sabine River Authority, State of Louisiana (SRA-LA), acting jointly as Toledo Bend Project Joint Operation (TBPJO), “Owner”, is seeking bids for asphalt road improvements. Sealed bids for the Project will be received electronically at www.CivcastUSA.com, until **May 19, 2026**, at 2:00 pm local time. At that time, the bids will be virtually opened and read aloud. Public attendance will be at the TBPJO Office at 450 Spur 135 Burkeville, TX, 75932. A Zoom meeting invitation will be posted to CivCast and SRA-TX website for the opening of the bids.

Bids must be submitted and received no later than the opening date and time specified above. The Owner is not responsible for ensuring the submittal of Bids through www.CivcastUSA.com. Bids shall be clearly marked, “Request for Bid – TBPJO Asphalt Road Improvements (RFB #26-002).”

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at the Toledo Bend Project Joint Operation Office at 450 Spur 135 Burkeville, TX, 75932 on **May 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** to make certain that the scope of work is fully understood. All interested parties are required to attend.

The Sabine River Authority reserves the right to adopt the most advantageous interpretation of the bids submitted in the case of ambiguity or lack of clarity in stating proposal prices, to reject any or all bids, and/or waive any formalities.

Contract documents may be obtained from (1) SRA-TX Authority General Office, 12777 Hwy. 87 N., Orange, TX or (2) Toledo Bend Project Joint Operation Office, 450 Spur 135, Burkeville, TX or (3) by download from www.sratx.org under doing business “bid opportunities” or www.civcast.com under project “Sabine River Authority of Texas – TBPJO Hydro Station Outage #2” or (4) by email request to purchasing@sratx.org.

Questions regarding contract documents may be emailed to purchasing@sratx.org or directed to Stephanie Stanley at 409.746.2192
IPLHOU0135452

Citation by Publication

Citation by Publication

CAUSE NUMBER: 202578000

Plaintiff: SEARS, JAY K

vs.

Defendant: WOMEN'S JUSTICE NETWORK USA

IN THE 113th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS County of Harris

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: “You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days after the date of issuance of this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.”

To: WOMEN'S JUSTICE NETWORK USA WHEREVER MAY BE FOUND

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to be and appear before the 113TH Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas in the Courthouse in the city of Houston, Texas at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. Monday, JUNE 1, 2026, being the Monday next after the expiration date of forty-two days after this citation is issued, and you are hereby commanded and required then and there to appear and file a written answer to the JAY K. SEARS' ORIGINAL PETITION filed in said Court on April 6, 2026, in a suit numbered 202578000 on the docket of said court, wherein SEARS, JAY K Plaintiff(s) and WOMEN'S JUSTICE NETWORK USA, Defendant(s), the nature of plaintiff's demand being and the said petition alleging:

DEFAMATION

Notice thereof shall be given by publishing this Citation once a week for four consecutive weeks previous to MAY 19, 2026, in some newspaper published in the County of HARRIS, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then the nearest county where a newspaper is published, and this Citation shall be returned on JUNE 1, 2026, which is forty two days after the date it is issued, and the first publication shall be at least twenty-eight days before said return day.

HEREIN FAIL NOT, but have before said court on said return day this Writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed same.

WITNESS: Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk, Harris County Texas

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at Houston, Texas on April 7, 2026.

Newspaper: HOUSTON CHRONICLE (SEAL)

Issued at the request of: HALEPOTA, SHAHMEER 1221 MCKINNEY SUITE 2500 HOUSTON, TX 77006 713-655-1101

Bar Number: 24109968

As/ Marilyn Burgess
Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas 201 Caroline, Houston, Texas 77002 P.O. Box 4651, Houston, Texas 77210

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IPLHOU0136351

Citation by Publication

Citation by Publication

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF DAVID RICE, JR., DECEASED, No. PR-0084798, in the Probate Court of Galveston County.

Jarvis Demond Rice, Applicant in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed an Application to Determine Heirship and Declare who are the Unknown Heirs and Those Heirs Suffering from Legal Disability of the said ESTATE OF DAVID RICE, JR., DECEASED and their respective shares and interests in this estate. Said application may be heard and acted on by said Court at 10 o'clock A.M. on or after the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the Galveston County Justice Center in Galveston, Texas. All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court on or before the above mentioned date and time by filing a written answer or contest to such application should they desire to do so, and make The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, due return as the law directs. Issued under my hand and the seal of the Probate Court of Galveston County, Texas, at the office of the Galveston County Clerk in Galveston, Texas, on April 17, 2026.

DWIGHT D. SULLIVAN Clerk of the Probate Court Galveston County, Texas

By: *s/ Destinie Casimere* , Deputy Destinie Casimere
IPLHOU0136549

Receipt Number: 1073398
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CAUSE NUMBER: 202582032

PLAINTIFF: HORN, JAELENN RICHARD vs. DEFENDANT: GRIFFIN, TYLER JAMES

In the 011th Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas

CITATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS County of Harris

TO: GRIFFIN, TYLER JAMES

50 W TWINVALE LOOP CONROE TX 77384 OR WHEREVER HE MAY BE FOUND

Attached is a copy of PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION.

This instrument was filed on October 28, 2025, in the above numbered and styled cause on the docket in the above Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas, in the courthouse in the City of Houston, Texas. The instrument attached describes the claim against you.

YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the District Clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND and seal of said Court, at Houston, Texas, this October 28, 2025.

Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk Harris County, Texas 201 Caroline, Houston, Texas 77002
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Issued at request of: CHAPPA, MIGUEL DAVID 2500 E. TC JESTER BLVD., HOUSTON, TX 77008 713-864-1941
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