Stronger Q1 Spending Complicates Fed Policy

Scott McIntyre

U.S. retail sales rose by +0.7% in March, well above the +0.4% median forecast, while the previously reported February sales increase was revised upward from +0.6% to +0.9%. Gas station sales (+2.1%) were a primary driver of the overall gain last month, as were online sales (+2.7%). Other major categories logging increases in March were building materials stores (+0.7%) and eating and drinking establishments (+0.5%).

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