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Monthly Wholesale Trade Data

March 2011 sales of merchant wholesalers, except manufacturers' sales branches and offices, were \$392 billion, up 2.9 percent from February and up 15.4 percent from March 2010. March sales of durable goods were up 2.3 percent from last month and up 13.6 percent from a year ago. Sales of lumber and other construction materials were up 7.3 percent from last month. Sales of nondurable goods were up 3.4 percent from last month and up 16.8 percent from March 2010.

Inventories. Inventories of wholesalers were \$442.9 billion at the end of March, up 1.1 percent from February and up 13.3 percent from a year ago. End-of-month inventories of durable goods were up 0.4 percent from last month, and up 8.8 percent from last March. Inventories of machin-



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

ery, equipment and supplies were up 2.3 percent from last month. Inventories of nondurable goods were up 2 percent from February and 19.9 percent from last March.

Inventories/Sales Ratio. The March inventories/sales ratio was 1.13. The March 2010 ratio was 1.15.

Sales and Inventories Trends: March 2011

NAICS Code	Business Type	Sales \$Millions	Inventory \$Millions	Stock/Sales Ratio	Percent Change Sales 2/11-3/11	Percent Change Sales 3/10-3/11	Percent Change Inventory 2/11-3/11	Percent Change Inventory 3/10-3/11
42	U.S. Total	392,006	442,924	1.13	2.9	15.4	1.1	13.3
423	Durable	173,497	254,116	1.46	2.3	13.6	0.4	8.8
4231	Automotive	26,552	38,181	1.44	-1.4	11.0	-0.5	7.6
4232	Furniture & Home Furnishings	4,560	7,011	1.54	4.1	0.2	-0.9	11.3
4233	Lumber & Other Construction Materials	8,555	12,206	1.43	7.3	4.2	2.0	5.6
4234	Prof. & Commercial Equip. & Supplies	31,762	30,871	0.97	0.8	8.1	0.0	8.8
42343	Computer Equipment & Software	17,102	11,727	0.69	0.2	12.5	-3.9	10.2
4235	Metals & Minerals	12,749	23,549	1.85	6.7	28.0	0.9	15.3
4236	Electrical Goods	33,211	38,280	1.15	5.6	15.8	-0.5	11.8
4237	Hardware, Plumbing, & Heating Equipment	8,810	16,706	1.90	5.4	13.8	0.3	10.3
4238	Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	27,489	63,919	2.33	0.3	17.3	2.3	7.9
4239	Miscellaneous Durable	19,809	23,393	1.18	1.0	17.5	-1.4	2.6
424	Nondurable Goods	218,509	188,808	0.86	3.4	16.8	2.0	19.9
4241	Paper & Paper Products	7,051	7,354	1.04	2.8	3.3	0.3	10.1
4242	Drugs	33,473	31,730	0.95	1.4	5.9	3.0	5.5
4243	Apparel, Piece Goods & Notions	10,725	20,452	1.91	1.4	2.5	2.4	26.0
4244	Groceries & Related Products	47,231	31,080	0.66	2.3	11.3	2.3	14.8
4245	Farm-product Raw Materials	21,556	26,366	1.22	1.7	39.6	2.4	78.2
4246	Chemicals & Allied Products	9,624	10,662	1.11	6.3	15.0	2.7	15.4
4247	Petroleum & Petroleum Products	61,536	24,205	0.39	7.9	36.0	1.0	22.1
4248	Beer, Wine & Distilled Beverages	9,406	12,282	1.31	-1.1	1.8	1.1	8.7
4249	Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods	17,907	24,677	1.38	0.1	2.8	1.2	10.8

U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Business Reports, Monthly Wholesale Trade, Sales and Inventories Series: MDM compilation and analysis. Adjusted for seasonal and trading day differences. Figures for sales and inventories are preliminary adjusted estimates.