

## Monthly Wholesale Trade: Sales and Inventories for April 2008

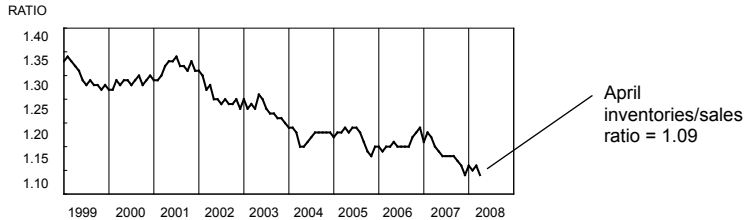
April 2008 sales of merchant wholesalers were \$390.3 billion, up 1.4 percent from the revised March level and were up 12.7 percent from the April 2007 level. The March preliminary estimate was revised upward \$0.7 billion or 0.2 percent. April sales of durable goods were up 2.3 percent from last month and were up 7.3 percent from a year ago. Compared to last month, lumber and other construction materials were up 5.9 percent and sales of furniture and home furnishings were up 5.2 percent. Sales of nondurable goods were up 0.6 percent from last month and were up 17.8 percent from last year. Sales of paper and paper products were up 6.2 percent from last

month and sales of grocery and related products were up 1.8 percent.

**Inventories.** Total inventories of merchant wholesalers, except manufacturers' sales branches and offices, after adjustment for seasonal variations but not for price changes, were \$427.4 billion at the end of April, up 1.3 percent from the revised March level and were up 8.1 percent from a year ago. The March preliminary estimate was revised upward \$0.9 billion, or 0.2 percent. End-of-month inventories of durable goods were up 1.1 percent from last month and were up 4.9 percent from last April. Inventories of metals and minerals, except petroleum, were up 2.9 percent from last month and inventories of motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and supplies were up 2.5 percent. End-of-month inventories of nondurable goods increased 1.7 percent from March and were up 13.5 percent compared to last April. Inventories of petroleum and petroleum products were up 8.8 percent from last month and inventories of farm product raw materials were up 4.2 percent.

Monthly Inventories/Sales Ratios  
of Merchant Wholesalers: 1999-2008

(Estimates adjusted for seasonal and trading-day differences, but not for price changes)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Inventories/Sales Ratio.** The April inventories/sales ratio for merchant wholesalers was 1.09. The April 2007 ratio was 1.14.

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NAICS Code	Business Type	Sales \$ millions	Inventories \$ millions	Stock and Sales ratio	% Change in Sales 3/08-4/08	% Change in Sales 4/07-4/08	% Change Inventory 3/08-4/08	% Change Inventory 4/07-4/08
42	U.S. Total	390,338	427,363	1.09	1.4	12.7	1.3	8.1
423	Durable	180,214	262,551	1.46	2.3	7.3	1.1	4.9
4231	Automotive	26,680	40,777	1.53	-2.4	-4.8	2.5	10.6
4232	Furniture & Home Furnishings	5,741	8,257	1.44	5.2	-0.2	1.0	3.7
4233	Lumber & Other Construction Materials	9,907	14,051	1.42	5.9	-9.7	-0.1	-4.7
4234	Prof. & Commercial Equip. & Supplies	30,618	32,016	1.05	1.6	7.6	0.5	5.1
42343	Computer Equipment & Software	15,342	11,402	0.74	0.3	8.4	0.9	7.9
4235	Metals & Minerals	14,503	24,908	1.72	1.5	3.5	2.9	3.3
4236	Electrical Goods	29,309	34,163	1.17	3.2	12.9	0.6	6.6
4237	Hardware, Plumbing, & Heating Equipment	7,806	15,042	1.93	-0.4	-2.8	-0.3	-2.2
4238	Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	30,986	69,032	2.23	2.1	13.9	0.9	7.5
4239	Miscellaneous Durable	24,664	24,305	0.99	7.6	25.9	1.0	-0.8
424	Nondurable Goods	210,124	164,812	0.78	0.6	17.8	1.7	13.5
4241	Paper & Paper Products	8,363	6,962	0.83	6.2	8.1	-1.3	4.6
4242	Drugs	30,885	30,920	1.00	-0.1	3.1	0.6	4.3
4243	Apparel, Piece Goods & Notions	11,115	16,717	1.50	3.3	7.1	-1.4	3.7
4244	Groceries & Related Products	44,998	26,206	0.58	1.8	6.2	0.5	2.5
4245	Farm-product Raw Materials	21,492	26,210	1.22	-5.5	59.4	4.2	67.2
4246	Chemicals & Allied Products	8,835	9,739	1.10	2.1	8.5	1.9	9.7
4247	Petroleum & Petroleum Products	55,887	15,160	0.27	0.5	39.9	8.8	15.1
4248	Beer, Wine & Distilled Beverages	9,100	10,310	1.13	0.8	8.9	-1.1	3.8
4249	Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods	19,449	22,588	1.16	1.5	8.4	1.7	15.4

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.