

Monthly Wholesale Trade Data

Wholesale revenues in March were \$497.9 billion, up 7.3 percent from March 2017 and up 0.3 percent from February. March sales of durable goods were down 0.3 percent over last month and up 8.4 percent from a year ago. Sales of non-durable goods were up 1 percent over February and up 6.3 percent from last March.

Inventories. Inventories were \$627.4 billion at the end of March, up 0.3 percent from the revised February level and up 5.5 percent from last year. March inventories of durable goods were up 0.8 percent from last month and up 6.2 percent from a year ago. Inventories of nondurable goods were down 0.4 percent from February and up 4.6 percent from last March.

Monthly Inventories/Sales Ratios of Merchant Wholesalers: 2008-2017



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Inventories/Sales Ratio. The March inventories/sales ratio for merchant wholesalers was 1.26. The March 2017 ratio was 1.28.

Sales and Inventories Trends: March 2018

NAICS Code	Business Type	Sales \$Millions	Inventory \$Millions	Stock/Sales Ratio	Percent Change Sales 02/18-03/18	Percent Change Sales 03/17-03/18	Percent Change Inventory 02/18-03/18	Percent Change Inventory 03/17-03/18
42	U.S. Total	497,935	627,396	1.26	0.3	7.3	0.3	5.5
423	Durable	239,964	383,997	1.60	-0.3	8.4	0.8	6.2
4231	Automotive	40,971	70,015	1.71	-1.6	7.8	-0.2	3.0
4232	Furniture & Home Furnishings	6,863	11,943	1.74	-1.7	-1.0	0.5	4.8
4233	Lumber & Other Construction Materials	11,663	17,517	1.50	-1.3	4.4	0.9	8.1
4234	Prof. & Commercial Equip. & Supplies	41,001	42,676	1.04	-1.5	3.3	-0.7	-1.2
42343	Computer Equipment & Software	20,015	16,565	0.83	-1.9	5.1	-1.5	-1.7
4235	Metals & Minerals	15,510	31,366	2.02	-0.2	15.3	4.5	19.2
4236	Electrical Goods	53,541	53,855	1.01	2.1	14.8	1.4	11.2
4237	Hardware, Plumbing, & Heating Equipment	11,929	24,583	2.06	-1.2	3.1	1.4	7.2
4238	Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	38,449	104,012	2.71	0.9	11.6	0.6	5.7
4239	Miscellaneous Durable	20,037	28,030	1.40	-2.2	2.7	0.8	4.3
424	Nondurable Goods	257,971	243,399	0.94	1.0	6.3	-0.4	4.6
4241	Paper & Paper Products	8,192	8,894	1.09	0.7	3.5	1.4	5.1
4242	Drugs	57,882	61,869	1.07	1.8	5.4	-2.2	2.9
4243	Apparel, Piece Goods & Notions	13,487	26,140	1.94	2.0	8.5	-0.7	-0.7
4244	Groceries & Related Products	52,701	35,538	0.67	-1.0	-1.6	-1.0	-0.2
4245	Farm-product Raw Materials	18,023	30,971	1.72	4.7	1.4	3.8	29.9
4246	Chemicals & Allied Products	11,049	12,162	1.10	-0.8	9.6	-0.3	3.8
4247	Petroleum & Petroleum Products	62,193	21,528	0.35	0.9	19.0	0.0	-4.1
4248	Beer, Wine & Distilled Beverages	12,196	15,520	1.27	1.5	3.8	-1.4	0.6
4249	Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods	22,248	30,777	1.38	1.0	1.2	-0.2	7.0

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.