

Monthly Wholesale Trade: Sales and Inventories for May 2009

May 2009 wholesale revenues were \$311.3 billion, up 0.2 percent from the revised April level, but down 19.9 percent from the May 2008 level. The April preliminary estimate was revised upward \$1.4 billion or 0.4 percent. May sales of durable goods were down 0.2 percent from last month and were down 23 percent from a year ago. Sales of metals and minerals, except petroleum were down 8.1 percent for last month, while motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and supplies were up 4.4 percent. Sales of nondurable goods were up 0.5 percent from last month, but were down 17.2 percent from last year. Sales of petroleum and petroleum products were up

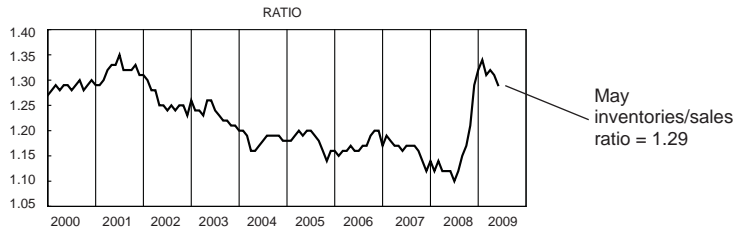
4.6 percent from last month and sales of drugs and druggists' sundries were up 1.4 percent.

Inventories. Total inventories were \$402.2 billion at the end of May, down 0.8 percent from the revised April level and were down 7.6 percent from a year ago. End-of-month inventories of durable goods were down 1.5 percent from last month and were down 8.2 percent from last May. Inventories of metals and minerals, except petroleum were down 5.2 percent from last month and inventories of lumber and other construction materials were down 3.2 percent. End-of-month inventories of nondurable goods were up 0.3 from April, but were down 6.6 percent compared to last May. Inventories of farm product raw materials were up 6.1 percent from last month, while inventories of paper and paper products were down 2.2 percent.

Inventory-Sales Ratio. The May inventories/sales ratio was 1.29. The May 2008 ratio was 1.12.

Monthly Inventories/Sales Ratios of Merchant Wholesalers: 2000-2009

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



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Monthly wholesale trade: Sales and inventories May 2009

NAICS Code	Business Type	Sales \$ millions	Inventories \$ millions	Stock and Sales ratio	% Change in Sales 4/09-5/09	% Change in Sales 5/08-5/09	% Change Inventory 4/09-5/09	% Change Inventory 5/08-5/09
42	U.S. Total	311,296	402,240	1.29	0.2	-19.9	-0.8	-7.6
423	Durable	136,528	246,203	1.80	-0.2	-23.0	-1.5	-8.2
4231	Automotive	17,946	35,244	1.96	4.4	-32.3	-1.1	-15.3
4232	Furniture & Home Furnishings	4,323	6,874	1.59	0.4	-16.0	-1.5	-14.4
4233	Lumber & Other Construction Materials	7,540	12,483	1.66	-0.7	-26.5	-3.2	-15.0
4234	Prof. & Commercial Equip. & Supplies	28,168	29,472	1.05	-1.1	-6.5	-1.6	-11.0
42343	Computer Equipment & Software	14,015	9,460	0.67	-1.0	-7.8	-2.1	-17.4
4235	Metals & Minerals	8,056	21,704	2.69	-8.1	-46.6	-5.2	-19.9
4236	Electrical Goods	24,485	30,779	1.26	-0.9	-12.1	-2.3	-10.3
4237	Hardware, Plumbing, & Heating Equipment	6,051	13,422	2.22	1.2	-17.3	-1.6	-6.9
4238	Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	24,768	71,543	2.89	-2.6	-18.3	-0.4	5.2
4239	Miscellaneous Durable	15,191	24,682	1.62	5.6	-38.8	0.2	-8.6
424	Nondurable Goods	174,768	156,037	0.89	0.5	-17.2	0.3	-6.6
4241	Paper & Paper Products	7,279	6,670	0.92	-0.8	-10.7	-2.2	-4.4
4242	Drugs	33,702	32,029	0.95	1.4	6.0	-0.5	-1.7
4243	Apparel, Piece Goods & Notions	10,133	15,970	1.58	-1.1	-8.6	-1.5	-3.8
4244	Groceries & Related Products	41,753	26,613	0.64	-0.1	-5.5	-0.6	-2.0
4245	Farm-product Raw Materials	16,485	19,960	1.21	-5.6	-19.9	6.1	-21.5
4246	Chemicals & Allied Products	6,936	7,874	1.14	1.9	-19.9	-2.1	-16.8
4247	Petroleum & Petroleum Products	30,497	14,432	0.47	4.6	-47.2	4.5	-2.0
4248	Beer, Wine & Distilled Beverages	9,078	10,998	1.21	-1.2	3.4	-0.6	2.3
4249	Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods	18,908	21,491	1.14	1.5	-5.3	-2.0	-7.8

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.