

Monthly Wholesale Trade: Sales and Inventories for August 2009

August 2009 wholesale revenues were \$317.9 billion, up 1.0 percent from the revised July level, but down 17.7 percent from the August 2008 level. The July preliminary estimate was revised upward \$0.2 billion or 0.1 percent. August sales of durable goods were up 1.2 percent from last month and were down 18.8 percent from a year ago. Sales of motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and supplies were up 7.7 percent from the previous month and sales of electrical and electronic goods were up 2.5 percent. Sales of nondurable goods were up 0.9 percent from last month, but were down 16.7 percent from last year. Sales of petroleum and petroleum products

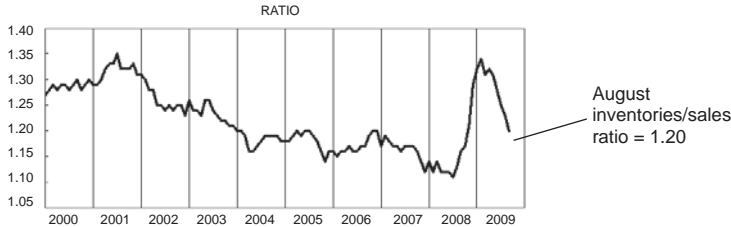
were up 7.0 percent from last month.

Inventories. Total inventories were \$381.2 billion at the end of August, down 1.3 percent from the revised July level and were down 14.7 percent from a year ago. End-of-month inventories of durable goods were down 1.6 percent from last month and were down 15.5 percent from last August. Inventories of metals and minerals, except petroleum were down 4.3 percent from last month and inventories of motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and supplies were down 2.3 percent. End-of-month inventories of nondurable goods were down 0.9 percent from July, and were down 13.3 percent compared to last August. Inventories of paper and paper products were down 2.1 percent while inventories of drugs and druggists' sundries were down 1.9 percent.

Inventory-Sales Ratio. The August inventories/sales ratio was 1.20. The August 2008 ratio was 1.16.

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

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NAICS Code	Business Type	Sales \$ millions	Inventories \$ millions	Stock and Sales ratio	% Change in Sales 7/09-8/09	% Change in Sales 5808-8/09	% Change Inventory 7/09-8/09	% Change Inventory 8/08-8/09
42	U.S. Total	317,897	381,238	1.20	1.0	-17.7	-1.3	-14.7
423	Durable	141,168	233,410	1.65	1.2	-18.8	-1.6	-15.5
4231	Automotive	20,707	32,596	1.57	7.7	-12.9	-2.3	-24.2
4232	Furniture & Home Furnishings	4,321	6,451	1.49	-0.4	-15.8	-1.3	-19.7
4233	Lumber & Other Construction Materials	7,605	11,862	1.56	0.7	-21.4	-1.5	-21.1
4234	Prof. & Commercial Equip. & Supplies	27,982	28,145	1.01	-1.2	-7.6	-1.1	-15.0
42343	Computer Equipment & Software	14,244	9,129	0.64	-2.1	-6.2	-1.5	-19.5
4235	Metals & Minerals	8,037	18,495	2.30	0.5	-48.6	-4.3	-37.7
4236	Electrical Goods	24,788	29,591	1.19	2.5	-8.8	-0.6	-15.5
4237	Hardware, Plumbing, & Heating Equipment	5,873	12,996	2.21	-3.8	-13.6	-1.5	-11.0
4238	Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	24,579	68,177	2.77	-0.4	-20.4	-1.2	-2.7
4239	Miscellaneous Durable	17,276	25,097	1.45	0.7	-29.8	-1.1	-9.5
424	Nondurable Goods	176,729	147,828	0.84	0.9	-16.7	-0.9	-13.3
4241	Paper & Paper Products	7,300	6,497	0.89	1.9	-12.7	-2.1	-11.10
4242	Drugs	33,218	30,340	0.91	-0.1	1.3	-1.9	-9.1
4243	Apparel, Piece Goods & Notions	10,014	15,192	1.52	1.3	-5.9	-1.0	-8.3
4244	Groceries & Related Products	40,795	25,146	0.62	-0.9	-7.1	-2.1	-10.7
4245	Farm-product Raw Materials	15,755	16,237	1.03	-2.0	-24.7	-1.1	-34.0
4246	Chemicals & Allied Products	7,167	7,675	1.07	1.9	-21.8	-1.2	-24.6
4247	Petroleum & Petroleum Products	35,237	15,225	0.43	7.0	-38.4	3.6	-7.1
4248	Beer, Wine & Distilled Beverages	9,137	10,918	1.19	0.4	4.1	0.8	0.2
4249	Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods	18,106	20,598	1.14	-2.5	-11.0	-1.7	-10.9

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.