

## Monthly Wholesale Trade: Sales and Inventories for October 2009

October 2009 sales of merchant wholesalers, except manufacturers' sales branches and offices, after adjustment for seasonal variations and trading-day differences but not for price changes, were \$326.2 billion, up 1.2 percent from the revised September level, but down 9.6 percent from October 2008. October sales of durable goods were up 0.8 percent from last month, but were down 11.1 percent from a year ago. Sales of computer and computer peripheral equipment and software were up 5.8 percent from last month and sales of electrical and electronic goods were up 5.3 percent. Sales of nondurable goods were up 1.6 percent from last month, but

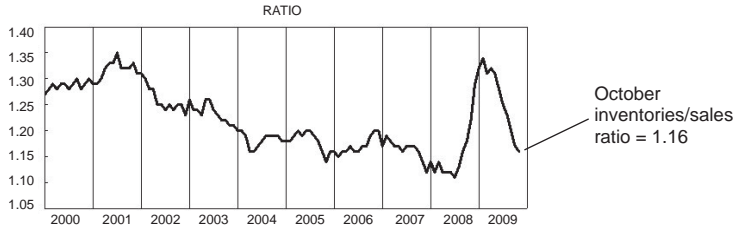
were down 8.3 percent from last year. Sales of petroleum and petroleum products were up 5.9 percent from last month and sales of farm product raw materials were up 5.1 percent.

**Inventories.** Total inventories of merchant wholesalers were \$379.6 billion at the end of October, up 0.3 percent from the revised September level, but down 13.5 percent from a year ago. End-of-month inventories of durable goods were down 0.4 percent from last month and were down 16.7 percent from last October. Inventories of metals and minerals, except petroleum, were down 1.5 percent from last month, while motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and supplies were up 1.7 percent. End-of-month inventories of nondurable goods were up 1.5 percent from September, but down 8.1 percent compared to last October.

**Inventories/Sales Ratio.** The October inventories/sales ratio for merchant wholesalers was 1.16. The October 2008 ratio was 1.22.

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 9/09-10/09 | % Change in Sales 10/08-10/09 | % Change Inventory 9/09-10/09 | % Change Inventory 10/08-10/09 |
|------------|---|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 42         | U.S. Total                              | 326,171           | 379,585                 | 1.16                  | 1.2                          | -9.6                          | 0.3                           | -13.5                          |
| 423        | Durable                                 | 144,629           | 230,445                 | 1.59                  | 0.8                          | -11.1                         | -0.4                          | -16.7                          |
| 4231       | Automotive                              | 20,930            | 33,262                  | 1.59                  | 3.3                          | -7.7                          | 1.7                           | -21.8                          |
| 4232       | Furniture & Home Furnishings            | 4,270             | 6,342                   | 1.49                  | -2.8                         | -8.3                          | -1.2                          | -20.2                          |
| 4233       | Lumber & Other Construction Materials   | 7,328             | 11,743                  | 1.60                  | -1.3                         | -23.7                         | -0.2                          | -20.0                          |
| 4234       | Prof. & Commercial Equip. & Supplies    | 29,278            | 28,169                  | 0.96                  | 3.5                          | -1.2                          | -0.6                          | -14.6                          |
| 42343      | Computer Equipment & Software           | 15,644            | 9,506                   | 0.61                  | 5.8                          | 6.7                           | 1.2                           | -15.9                          |
| 4235       | Metals & Minerals                       | 8,002             | 17,987                  | 2.25                  | -1.2                         | -44.3                         | -1.5                          | -39.4                          |
| 4236       | Electrical Goods                        | 25,939            | 29,685                  | 1.14                  | 5.3                          | -0.1                          | -0.1                          | -17.0                          |
| 4237       | Hardware, Plumbing, & Heating Equipment | 5,893             | 12,746                  | 2.16                  | -0.7                         | -11.2                         | -0.4                          | -11.6                          |
| 4238       | Machinery, Equipment & Supplies         | 23,637            | 66,494                  | 2.81                  | -5.6                         | -24.2                         | -0.9                          | -7.1                           |
| 4239       | Miscellaneous Durable                   | 19,352            | 24,017                  | 1.24                  | -0.2                         | 8.0                           | -0.9                          | -10.6                          |
| 424        | Nondurable Goods                        | 181,542           | 149,140                 | 0.82                  | 1.6                          | -8.3                          | 1.5                           | -8.1                           |
| 4241       | Paper & Paper Products                  | 7,352             | 6,286                   | 0.86                  | 0.1                          | -8.2                          | -1.3                          | -15.9                          |
| 4242       | Drugs                                   | 34,328            | 31,708                  | 0.92                  | -0.9                         | 3.9                           | 1.9                           | -2.2                           |
| 4243       | Apparel, Piece Goods & Notions          | 10,297            | 14,264                  | 1.39                  | 3.9                          | 1.6                           | -3.3                          | -16.1                          |
| 4244       | Groceries & Related Products            | 41,509            | 25,201                  | 0.61                  | 0.5                          | -4.3                          | -1.0                          | -11.0                          |
| 4245       | Farm-product Raw Materials              | 16,306            | 17,425                  | 1.07                  | 5.1                          | -9.1                          | 11.4                          | -13.2                          |
| 4246       | Chemicals & Allied Products             | 6,994             | 7,612                   | 1.09                  | -2.9                         | -20.2                         | -1.7                          | -22.1                          |
| 4247       | Petroleum & Petroleum Products          | 37,982            | 16,118                  | 0.42                  | 5.9                          | -22.1                         | 4.6                           | 24.1                           |
| 4248       | Beer, Wine & Distilled Beverages        | 8,736             | 10,507                  | 1.20                  | -3.5                         | -1.4                          | 1.3                           | -4.7                           |
| 4249       | Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods          | 18,038            | 20,019                  | 1.11                  | 0.8                          | -5.8                          | -0.4                          | -13.7                          |

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.