

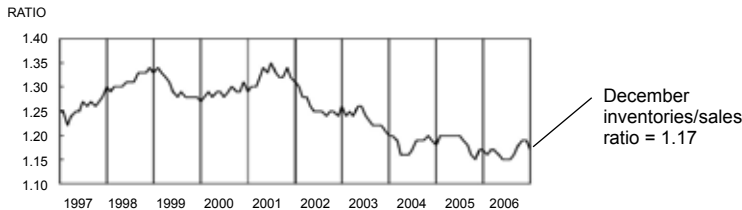
Monthly Wholesale Trade: Sales and Inventories for December 2006

December 2006 sales of merchant wholesalers, except manufacturers' sales branches and offices, were \$337.1 billion, up 1.8 percent from the revised November level and were up 8.6 percent from the December 2005 level. December sales of durable goods increased 1.1 percent from last month and were up 7.0 percent from a year ago. Compared to last month, sales of hardware and plumbing and heating equipment and supplies were up 4.2 percent and sales of motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and supplies increased 2.9 percent. December sales of nondurable goods were up 2.5 percent from last month and were up 10.2 percent from last year.

Inventories. Total inventories of merchant wholesalers, except manufacturers' sales branches and offices, after adjustment for seasonal variations but not for price changes, were \$393.8 billion at the end of December, down 0.5 percent from last month, but were up 8.6 percent from a year ago. The November preliminary estimate was revised downward \$0.9 billion or 0.2 percent. End-of-month inventories of durable goods decreased 0.4 percent from November, but were up 8.3 percent from last December. Compared to last month, inventories of motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and supplies were down 2.8 percent, while inventories of furniture and home furnishings increased 2.0 percent.

Monthly Inventories/Sales Ratios of Merchant Wholesalers: 1996-2006

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



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Inventories/Sales Ratio. The December inventories/sales ratio for merchant wholesalers, except manufacturers' sales branches and offices, based on seasonally adjusted data, was 1.17. The December 2005 ratio was 1.17.

Monthly wholesale trade: Sales and inventories December 2006

NAICS Code	Business Type	Sales \$ millions	Inventories \$ millions	Stock and Sales ratio	% Change in Sales 11/06-12/06	% Change in Sales 12/05-12/06	% Change Inventory 11/06-12/06	% Change Inventory 12/05-12/06
42	U.S. Total	337,112	393,762	1.17	1.8	8.6	-0.5	8.6
423	Durable	164,707	248,455	1.51	1.1	7.0	-0.4	8.3
4231	Automotive	29,396	36,837	1.25	2.9	15.1	-2.8	3.9
4232	Furniture & Home Furnishings	5,979	8,570	1.43	-0.3	11.6	2.0	9.2
4233	Lumber & Other Construction Materials	10,497	16,396	1.56	1.3	-12.3	-0.4	5.8
4234	Prof. & Commercial Equip. & Supplies	28,301	32,070	1.13	1.3	7.4	0.4	9.9
42343	Computer Equipment & Software	15,463	11,026	0.71	2.8	16.7	-1.8	4.2
4235	Metals & Minerals	12,597	24,240	1.92	-3.2	5.4	1.3	30.2
4236	Electrical Goods	26,042	31,423	1.21	2.0	16.1	-0.8	10.7
4237	Hardware, Plumbing, & Heating Equipment	7,506	14,533	1.94	4.2	-0.4	-0.8	5.9
4238	Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	27,143	63,234	2.33	0.0	4.6	-0.3	9.1
4239	Miscellaneous Durable	17,246	21,152	1.23	0.4	2.5	0.3	-6.5
424	Nondurable Goods	172,405	145,307	0.84	2.5	10.2	-0.7	9.0
4241	Paper & Paper Products	8,016	7,498	0.94	0.8	2.7	-0.4	0.8
4242	Drugs	31,200	31,252	1.00	2.8	7.6	0.0	7.5
4243	Apparel, Piece Goods & Notions	11,014	16,088	1.46	-2.4	7.2	2.0	2.8
4244	Groceries & Related Products	38,680	27,204	0.70	3.1	7.7	0.7	11.3
4245	Farm-product Raw Materials	10,606	16,647	1.57	0.9	21.3	-4.6	49.8
4246	Chemicals & Allied Products	8,249	8,559	1.04	2.9	8.6	-0.2	4.0
4247	Petroleum & Petroleum Products	37,345	9,784	0.26	5.6	16.2	-6.3	5.4
4248	Beer, Wine & Distilled Beverages	9,014	9,640	1.07	1.5	15.0	0.9	6.3
4249	Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods	18,281	18,635	1.02	-0.7	6.4	-0.6	-1.8

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.