

Monthly Wholesale Trade: Sales and Inventories for April 2007

April 2007 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 \$351.9 billion, up 1.3 percent from the revised March level and were up 8.8 percent from the April 2006 level. April sales of durable goods were up 0.8 percent from last month and were up 7.8 percent from a year ago. Compared to last month, sales of hardware, and plumbing and heating equipment and supplies were up 2.7 percent. April sales of nondurable goods were up 1.8 percent from last month and were up 9.7 percent from last year. Compared to last month,

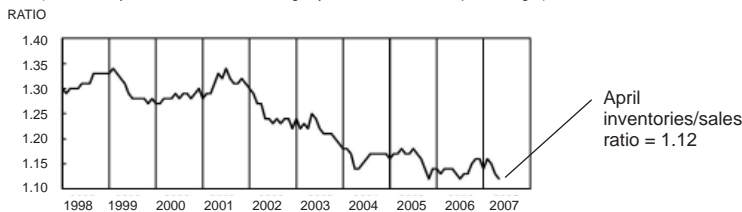
sales of petroleum and petroleum products increased 6.7 percent.

Inventories. Total inventories of merchant wholesalers, except manufacturers' sales branches and offices, after adjustment for seasonal variations but not for price changes, were \$394.5 billion at the end of April, up 0.3 percent from last month and were up 7.1 percent from a year ago. End-of-month inventories of durable goods decreased 0.5 percent from last month, but were up 5.2 percent from last April. Inventories of lumber and other construction materials decreased 1.8 percent from last month and inventories of electrical and electronic goods decreased 0.8 percent. End-of-month inventories of nondurable goods increased 1.6 percent from March and were up 10.4 percent compared to last April.

Inventories/Sales Ratio. The April inventories/sales ratio for merchant wholesalers, except manufacturers' sales branches and offices, based on seasonally adjusted data, was 1.12. The April 2006 ratio was 1.14.

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

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NAICS Code	Business Type	Sales \$ millions	Inventories \$ millions	Stock and Sales ratio	% Change in Sales 3/07-4/07	% Change in Sales 4/06-4/07	% Change Inventory 3/07-4/07	% Change Inventory 4/06-4/07
42	U.S. Total	351,925	394,544	1.12	1.3	8.8	0.3	7.1
423	Durable	170,156	249,104	1.46	0.8	7.8	-0.5	5.2
4231	Automotive	28,383	36,607	1.29	1.5	8.7	-3.5	-7.6
4232	Furniture & Home Furnishings	6,139	7,943	1.29	0.1	11.7	-0.2	12.6
4233	Lumber & Other Construction Materials	11,010	14,510	1.32	-0.3	-12.4	-1.8	-3.5
4234	Prof. & Commercial Equip. & Supplies	29,261	32,073	1.10	0.3	7.8	0.4	11.4
42343	Computer Equipment & Software	14,901	11,847	0.80	-5.9	5.4	1.6	10.6
4235	Metals & Minerals	14,203	23,995	1.69	1.2	14.0	-0.9	16.7
4236	Electrical Goods	25,195	31,983	1.27	-0.7	8.6	-0.8	6.3
4237	Hardware, Plumbing, & Heating Equipment	7,865	15,234	1.94	2.7	1.7	3.3	6.4
4238	Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	28,068	63,256	2.25	-0.5	5.7	0.1	7.7
4239	Miscellaneous Durable	20,032	23,503	1.17	4.3	20.5	1.3	4.5
424	Nondurable Goods	181,769	145,440	0.80	1.8	9.7	1.6	10.4
4241	Paper & Paper Products	8,077	6,621	0.82	0.4	3.6	0.6	4.9
4242	Drugs	32,751	31,263	0.95	0.8	6.5	2.5	3.9
4243	Apparel, Piece Goods & Notions	10,475	14,933	1.43	0.7	5.0	-1.5	3.2
4244	Groceries & Related Products	42,850	26,745	0.62	1.2	15.3	0.5	17.1
4245	Farm-product Raw Materials	13,177	14,460	1.10	-1.3	21.9	0.3	40.3
4246	Chemicals & Allied Products	8,334	8,896	1.07	0.6	10.1	-0.5	3.5
4247	Petroleum & Petroleum Products	39,234	13,212	0.34	6.7	9.3	6.3	4.7
4248	Beer, Wine & Distilled Beverages	8,360	10,273	1.23	0.1	6.6	2.5	12.4
4249	Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods	18,511	19,037	1.03	-0.2	3.8	2.6	9.6

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.