

Monthly Wholesale Trade: Sales and Inventories for August 2007

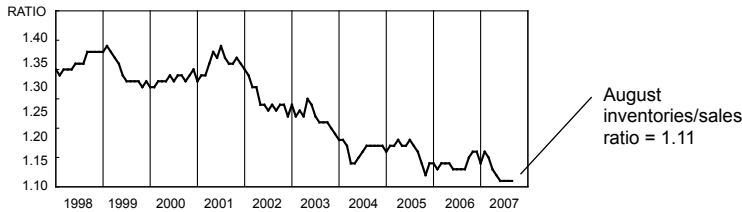
August 2007 sales of merchant wholesalers, except manufacturers' sales branches and offices, were \$360.9 billion, up 0.4 percent from the revised July level and were up 6.8 percent from the August 2006 level. The July preliminary estimate was revised upward \$0.5 billion or 0.1 percent. August sales of durable goods were up 0.9 percent from last month and were up 4.4 percent from a year ago. August sales of nondurable goods were down 0.1 percent from last month, but were up 9.1 percent from last year.

Inventories. Total inventories of merchant wholesalers, except manufacturers' sales branches and offices, were \$399.0 billion at the end of August, up 0.1 percent from the revised July level and were up 4.4 percent from a year ago. End-of-month inventories of durable goods were up 0.4 percent from last month and were up 1.9 percent from last August. Inventories of motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and supplies were up 2.4 percent from last month, while inventories of metals and minerals, except petroleum, were down 1.9 percent. End-of-month inventories of nondurable goods decreased 0.4 percent from July, but were up 8.9 percent compared to last August.

Inventories/Sales Ratio. The August inventories/sales ratio for merchant wholesalers, except manufacturers' sales branches and offices, based on seasonally adjusted data, was 1.11. The August 2006 ratio was 1.13.

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 7/07-8/07	% Change in Sales 8/06-8/07	% Change Inventory 7/07-8/07	% Change Inventory 8/06-8/07
42	U.S. Total	360,919	399,016	1.11	0.4	6.8	0.1	4.4
423	Durable	171,496	244,087	1.45	0.9	4.4	0.4	1.9
4231	Automotive	27,033	37,818	1.40	0.5	0.2	2.4	-0.6
4232	Furniture & Home Furnishings	6,010	8,062	1.34	-2.7	5.7	0.3	8.6
4233	Lumber & Other Construction Materials	10,612	14,350	1.35	-1.4	-12.9	1.0	-7.0
4234	Prof. & Commercial Equip. & Supplies	30,749	32,352	1.05	1.1	10.8	0.7	8.0
42343	Computer Equipment & Software	16,086	12,220	0.76	0.1	11.5	2.0	11.4
4235	Metals & Minerals	13,791	23,394	1.70	0.0	3.4	-1.9	-0.3
4236	Electrical Goods	25,442	32,090	1.26	0.4	0.6	0.1	2.2
4237	Hardware, Plumbing, & Heating Equipment	7,960	15,245	1.92	1.6	2.4	-0.1	2.8
4238	Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	29,445	63,107	2.14	1.4	7.9	0.0	3.5
4239	Miscellaneous Durable	20,454	22,271	1.09	3.6	13.6	0.2	-1.0
424	Nondurable Goods	189,423	150,327	0.79	-0.1	9.1	-0.4	8.9
4241	Paper & Paper Products	8,210	6,818	0.83	0.7	4.5	-1.6	8.4
4242	Drugs	34,139	30,709	0.90	2.2	6.8	-1.5	-6.3
4243	Apparel, Piece Goods & Notions	11,173	15,852	1.42	2.3	7.4	0.7	7.7
4244	Groceries & Related Products	42,672	27,407	0.64	0.3	9.5	-0.7	12.9
4245	Farm-product Raw Materials	16,852	17,999	1.07	9.5	49.2	5.3	52.5
4246	Chemicals & Allied Products	8,481	9,180	1.08	1.2	5.9	-1.3	4.9
4247	Petroleum & Petroleum Products	39,984	13,114	0.33	-6.1	2.2	-3.3	2.6
4248	Beer, Wine & Distilled Beverages	8,642	10,359	1.20	0.3	7.1	-2.8	11.4
4249	Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods	19,270	18,889	0.98	-1.4	7.6	0.0	8.7

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.