

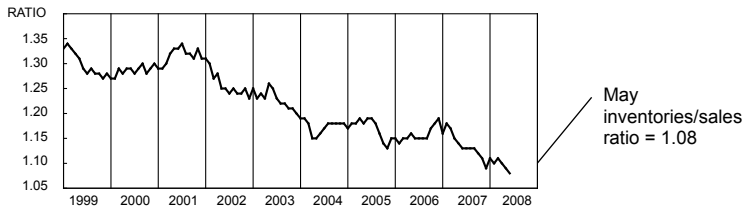
## Monthly Wholesale Trade: Sales and Inventories for May 2008

**Sales.** May 2008 sales of merchant wholesalers, except manufacturers' sales branches and offices, were \$397.4 billion, up 1.6% from April and up 13.7% from May 2007, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. May sales of durable goods were down 0.2% from last month, but were up 7.6% from a year ago. Compared to last month, furniture and home furnishings were down 4%, while sales of metals and minerals, except petroleum were up 2.9%. Sales of nondurable goods were up 3.2% from last month and were up 19.2% from last year. Sales of petroleum and petroleum products were up 7.5% from last month.

**Inventories.** Total inventories of merchant wholesalers, except manufacturers' sales branches and offices, after adjustment for seasonal variations but not for price changes, were \$431.0 billion at the end of May, up 0.8% from the revised April level and were up 8.7% from a year ago. The April preliminary estimate was revised upward \$0.2 billion. End-of-month inventories of durable goods were up 0.8% from last month and were up 5.6% from last May. Inventories of computer and computer peripheral equipment and supplies, were up 3.5% from last month and inventories of metals and minerals, except petroleum were up 2.7%. End-of-month inventories of nondurable goods increased 0.7% from April and were up 14.2% compared to last May. Inventories of beer, wine, and distilled alcoholic beverages, were up 3% from last month and inventories of drugs and druggists' sundries were up 1.2%.

Monthly Inventories/Sales Ratios  
of Merchant Wholesalers: 1998-2007

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



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Inventories/Sales Ratio.** The May inventories/sales ratio for merchant wholesalers, except manufacturers' sales branches and offices, based on seasonally adjusted data, was 1.08. The May 2007 ratio was 1.13.

## Monthly wholesale trade: Sales and inventories May 2008

NAICS Code	Business Type	Sales \$ millions	Inventories \$ millions	Stock and Sales ratio	% Change	% Change	% Change	% Change
					in Sales 04/08-05/08	in Sales 05/07-05/08	Inventory 04/08-05/08	Inventory 05/07-05/08
42	U.S. Total	397,416	430,955	1.08	1.6	13.7	0.8	8.7
423	Durable	179,756	264,912	1.47	-0.2	7.6	0.8	5.6
4231	Automotive	26,676	40,962	1.54	-0.1	2.3	0.1	10.4
4232	Furniture & Home Furnishings	5,525	8,063	1.46	-4.0	-8.7	-1.8	1.4
4233	Lumber & Other Construction Materials	9,881	14,279	1.45	0.1	-9.4	1.3	-1.8
4234	Prof. & Commercial Equip. & Supplies	30,103	32,576	1.08	-0.9	4.4	1.7	6.6
42343	Computer Equipment & Software	15,092	11,775	0.78	-0.2	1.7	3.5	10.4
4235	Metals & Minerals	15,057	25,648	1.70	2.9	9.0	2.7	5.3
4236	Electrical Goods	29,346	34,466	1.17	0.2	12.6	0.8	6.3
4237	Hardware, Plumbing, & Heating Equipment	7,886	15,095	1.91	0.9	0.6	0.4	-0.7
4238	Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	31,036	68,633	2.21	0.2	12.5	-0.1	6.2
4239	Miscellaneous Durable	24,246	25,190	1.04	-1.8	22.0	2.5	4.4
424	Nondurable Goods	217,660	166,043	0.76	3.2	19.2	0.7	14.2
4241	Paper & Paper Products	8,214	6,842	0.83	-1.6	6.8	-1.8	2.9
4242	Drugs	31,367	31,275	1.00	1.3	4.5	1.2	4.1
4243	Apparel, Piece Goods & Notions	11,809	16,523	1.40	5.2	12.4	-0.6	1.1
4244	Groceries & Related Products	44,953	26,583	0.59	0.1	6.0	0.8	2.6
4245	Farm-product Raw Materials	22,124	26,514	1.20	3.1	51.6	1.1	66.7
4246	Chemicals & Allied Products	9,154	9,734	1.06	3.1	11.4	-0.2	10.7
4247	Petroleum & Petroleum Products	60,694	14,815	0.24	7.5	45.0	-1.0	14.5
4248	Beer, Wine & Distilled Beverages	9,115	10,576	1.16	0.6	5.9	3.0	7.7
4249	Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods	20,230	23,181	1.15	2.8	8.3	1.9	22.0

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.