

Table 4A. Estimated Measures of Sampling Variability<sup>1</sup> for Annual Purchases, Gross Margins, and Gross Margins as a Percent of Sales for U.S. Merchant Wholesalers, except Manufacturers' Sales Branches and Offices: 1998 Through 2006

[Estimates are shown as percentages and are based on data from the Annual Wholesale Trade Survey.]

2002 NAICS CODE	Data Item	Kind of Business (sub-parts indicated by one or more leading dots)	Estimated Measures of Sampling Variability <sup>1</sup>								
			1998 <sup>2</sup>	1999 <sup>2</sup>	2000 <sup>2</sup>	2001 <sup>2</sup>	2002 <sup>2</sup>	2003 <sup>2</sup>	2004 <sup>2</sup>	2005 <sup>2</sup>	2006
42	Purchases	U.S. Merchant Wholesalers, except Manufacturers' Sales Branches and Offices	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.0
423	Purchases	..Durable goods	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.5	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.9
4231	Purchases	...Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Parts and Supplies	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.6	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.7	2.0
4232	Purchases	...Furniture and Home Furnishings	2.3	2.1	2.1	3.2	0.7	1.6	3.2	3.5	4.0
4233	Purchases	...Lumber & Other Construction Materials	2.3	2.4	3.7	8.6	2.3	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.5
4234	Purchases	...Professional and Commercial Equipment and Supplies	2.5	2.7	3.5	4.2	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.8	3.2
42343	Purchases	...Computer and Computer Peripheral Equipment and Software	3.6	4.4	5.8	6.8	1.5	2.1	2.8	3.1	3.2
4235	Purchases	...Metals and Minerals, ex. Petroleum	2.2	2.9	3.5	3.7	1.0	1.8	2.5	2.7	2.7
4236	Purchases	...Electrical Goods	2.3	2.4	2.4	3.7	0.5	1.9	3.2	3.2	3.7
4237	Purchases	...Hardware, and Plumbing and Heating Equipment and Supplies	1.3	1.2	2.0	2.4	1.0	1.2	1.8	2.5	3.0
4238	Purchases	...Machinery, Equipment, and Supplies	2.2	2.4	3.0	3.5	1.2	1.3	2.0	1.9	2.1
4239	Purchases	...Miscellaneous Durable Goods	2.5	2.6	3.3	4.5	1.7	3.2	3.2	3.5	3.7
424	Purchases	..Nondurable goods	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.0	0.4	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.6
4241	Purchases	...Paper and Paper Products	1.6	2.2	2.7	2.5	0.7	2.0	3.6	4.0	4.8
4242	Purchases	...Drugs and Druggists' Sundries	2.1	2.0	2.3	2.6	0.6	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.1
4243	Purchases	...Apparel, Piece Goods, and Notions	2.5	2.8	3.5	4.5	1.2	1.6	2.3	2.4	2.7
4244	Purchases	...Groceries and Related Products	1.1	1.6	1.5	2.0	0.7	1.1	2.3	2.2	2.8
4245	Purchases	...Farm Product Raw Materials	3.3	3.6	3.8	4.4	2.1	2.7	3.8	4.0	4.2
4246	Purchases	...Chemicals and Allied Products	2.1	2.8	3.4	4.1	1.4	2.1	2.5	2.5	2.8
4247	Purchases	...Petroleum and Petroleum Products	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.0	0.4	1.4	2.5	3.5	5.5
4248	Purchases	...Beer, Wine, and Distilled Alcoholic Beverages	1.2	1.5	1.7	2.5	0.5	1.3	1.8	2.0	2.1
4249	Purchases	...Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods	3.3	5.0	4.8	5.7	2.7	3.3	4.1	4.0	3.8
42	Gross margins	U.S. Merchant Wholesalers, except Manufacturers' Sales Branches and Offices	x	1.2	1.2	1.5	0.8	1.0	x	1.2	1.2
423	Gross margins	..Durable goods	x	1.2	1.4	2.0	1.0	1.4	x	1.3	1.4
4231	Gross margins	...Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Parts and Supplies	x	2.4	2.5	2.0	2.2	3.8	x	2.9	3.0
4232	Gross margins	...Furniture and Home Furnishings	x	4.1	3.6	4.6	2.2	2.8	x	4.1	4.6
4233	Gross margins	...Lumber & Other Construction Materials	x	3.8	4.0	3.7	4.2	4.3	x	4.3	4.7
4234	Gross margins	...Professional and Commercial Equipment and Supplies	x	3.6	4.6	5.3	3.6	3.9	x	3.5	3.8
42343	Gross margins	...Computer and Computer Peripheral Equipment and Software	x	6.3	8.4	10.1	6.2	7.9	x	4.8	5.2
4235	Gross margins	...Metals and Minerals, ex. Petroleum	x	5.5	4.4	5.3	3.4	4.4	x	3.8	4.1
4236	Gross margins	...Electrical Goods	x	3.3	3.4	4.3	2.4	4.2	x	3.5	4.1
4237	Gross margins	...Hardware, and Plumbing and Heating Equipment and Supplies	x	2.7	2.3	3.5	2.3	3.0	x	4.1	4.3
4238	Gross margins	...Machinery, Equipment, and Supplies	x	3.0	3.5	3.7	2.2	2.3	x	2.5	2.4
4239	Gross margins	...Miscellaneous Durable Goods	x	4.2	3.9	4.6	3.8	5.3	x	4.9	7.9
424	Gross margins	..Nondurable goods	x	2.0	2.1	2.3	1.5	1.7	x	1.5	1.8
4241	Gross margins	...Paper and Paper Products	x	2.1	2.5	2.7	2.5	3.7	x	6.5	6.7
4242	Gross margins	...Drugs and Druggists' Sundries	x	7.4	7.6	4.6	4.9	4.8	x	9.0	10.5
4243	Gross margins	...Apparel, Piece Goods, and Notions	x	3.9	4.6	4.8	2.5	4.3	x	4.0	3.8
4244	Gross margins	...Groceries and Related Products	x	3.8	4.3	5.9	4.0	4.2	x	4.3	3.8
4245	Gross margins	...Farm Product Raw Materials	x	5.2	8.0	8.4	9.8	13.3	x	14.3	5.6
4246	Gross margins	...Chemicals and Allied Products	x	5.9	5.2	7.0	4.1	4.7	x	4.5	5.3
4247	Gross margins	...Petroleum and Petroleum Products	x	6.8	6.2	7.0	4.5	4.5	x	6.1	6.2
4248	Gross margins	...Beer, Wine, and Distilled Alcoholic Beverages	x	2.1	3.1	3.4	1.5	1.6	x	2.7	2.9
4249	Gross margins	...Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods	x	5.1	4.5	4.4	3.8	6.0	x	5.4	5.2
42	Gross margins as a percent of sales	U.S. Merchant Wholesalers, except Manufacturers' Sales Branches and Offices	x	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	x	0.2	0.1
423	Gross margins as a percent of sales	..Durable goods	x	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	x	0.2	0.2
4231	Gross margins as a percent of sales	...Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Parts and Supplies	x	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.7	x	0.4	0.4
4232	Gross margins as a percent of sales	...Furniture and Home Furnishings	x	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.8	x	0.6	0.7
4233	Gross margins as a percent of sales	...Lumber & Other Construction Materials	x	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.8	0.8	x	0.5	0.5
4234	Gross margins as a percent of sales	...Professional and Commercial Equipment and Supplies	x	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.9	x	0.6	0.6
42343	Gross margins as a percent of sales	...Computer and Computer Peripheral Equipment and Software	x	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.3	x	0.6	0.6
4235	Gross margins as a percent of sales	...Metals and Minerals, ex. Petroleum	x	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.9	x	0.4	0.6
4236	Gross margins as a percent of sales	...Electrical Goods	x	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	x	0.3	0.3
4237	Gross margins as a percent of sales	...Hardware, and Plumbing and Heating Equipment and Supplies	x	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	x	0.7	0.7
4238	Gross margins as a percent of sales	...Machinery, Equipment, and Supplies	x	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	x	0.7	0.7
4239	Gross margins as a percent of sales	...Miscellaneous Durable Goods	x	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.1	1.3	x	0.9	1.1
424	Gross margins as a percent of sales	..Nondurable goods	x	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	x	0.2	0.2
4241	Gross margins as a percent of sales	...Paper and Paper Products	x	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8	x	0.9	1.0
4242	Gross margins as a percent of sales	...Drugs and Druggists' Sundries	x	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.5	x	0.7	0.7
4243	Gross margins as a percent of sales	...Apparel, Piece Goods, and Notions	x	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.8	1.1	x	0.9	0.7
4244	Gross margins as a percent of sales	...Groceries and Related Products	x	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	x	0.7	0.6
4245	Gross margins as a percent of sales	...Farm Product Raw Materials	x	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.1	x	1.1	0.5
4246	Gross margins as a percent of sales	...Chemicals and Allied Products	x	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.2	x	0.8	0.8
4247	Gross margins as a percent of sales	...Petroleum and Petroleum Products	x	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	x	0.3	0.2
4248	Gross margins as a percent of sales	...Beer, Wine, and Distilled Alcoholic Beverages	x	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	x	0.3	0.5
4249	Gross margins as a percent of sales	...Miscellaneous Nondurable Goods	x	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.0	x	0.7	0.6

Notes:

x Denotes an estimated measure of sampling variability that is not available due to the lack of prior year inventories from the same sample.

Additional information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, sample design, and definitions may be found at <http://www.census.gov/wholesale/www/methodology/011341.html>.

Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Estimated measures of sampling variability for purchases and gross margins are given as coefficients of variation. Estimated measures of sampling variability for gross margins as a percent of sales are given as standard error.

<sup>2</sup> Revised data.