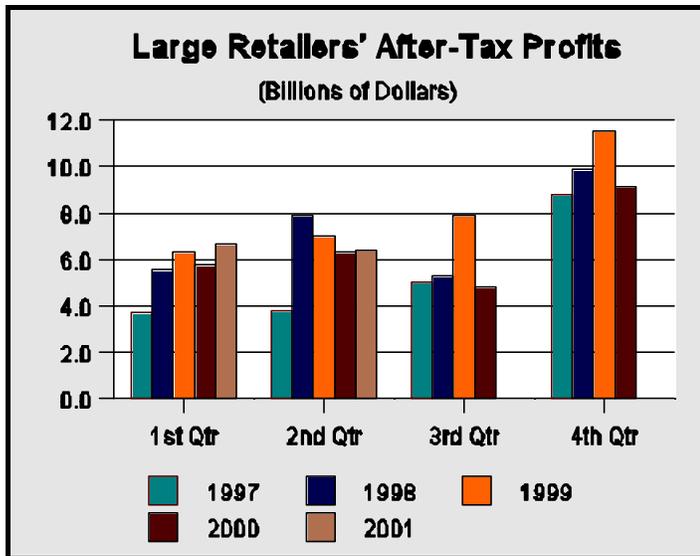


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**ADVANCE DATA FROM THE QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR
 LARGE RETAIL TRADE CORPORATIONS—SECOND QUARTER 2001**
The figures in this release are not seasonally adjusted



These data are based on quarterly financial reports obtained from 519 corporations. More detailed information on the retail trade sector for the second quarter will be published in the Quarterly Financial Report for Manufacturing, Mining, and Trade Corporations—Third Quarter 2001 which is scheduled for release on December 14, 2001.

Beginning in May 2001, the economic indicator programs published by the U.S. Census Bureau began the process of converting to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The Quarterly Financial Report Program will begin publishing on the NAICS basis with the fourth quarter 2001 report scheduled for release in April 2002. Data for the prior four quarters (4Q 2000-3Q 2001) will be restated on the NAICS basis comparable with the fourth quarter 2001 data.

After-Tax Profits and Sales - Not Seasonally Adjusted

Large retail corporations with assets of \$50 million and over recorded after-tax profits for the second quarter of 2001 at \$6.4 billion, showing no statistically significant change from the previous quarter or from the second quarter 2000, the Commerce Department's Census Bureau reported. Second quarter 2001 sales for these retailers were \$348.1 billion, up \$10.0 (±5.1) billion or 2.9 percent (±1.5%) from last quarter, and up \$21.0 (±5.0) billion or 6.4 percent (±1.6%) from the second quarter of 2000. Second quarter 2001 operating costs mirrored the sales increase of 2.9 percent from the previous quarter.

After-tax profits averaged 1.8 cents per dollar of sales for the second quarter of 2001, down 0.2 (±0.1) cents compared to the preceding quarter, and down 0.1 (±0.1) cents from the second quarter of 2000. The annual rate of after-tax profit on stockholders' equity was 9.8 percent, down 0.7 percent (±0.5%) from the 10.5 percent of the first quarter of 2001, and down 0.8 percent (±0.7%) from the 10.6 percent of the second quarter of 2000.

EXPLANATORY NOTES:

This quarter's publication contains data revised due to the reclassification of corporations by industry, and revisions that reflect respondents' corrections of data submitted subsequent to original publication.

The data presented in this report are estimated from a sample survey and therefore are subject to sampling variability as well as non-sampling variability such as response error, non-reporting, and coverage errors. Estimates of sampling variability are presented in the publication. A statement such as "up 2.5 (±0.1) cents," appearing in the text, indicates the range (+2.4 to +2.6 cents) in which the actual change is likely to have occurred. The range given for the change is a 90 percent confidence interval that accounts only for sampling variability. If the range had contained zero (0), it would have been uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease; that is, the change would not have been statistically significant. For any comparison cited without a confidence interval, the change is statistically significant. The quarterly publication includes more detailed explanations of confidence intervals and sampling variability, along with additional measures of sampling variability.

This report is available on the day of issue on the Department of Commerce's Internet site at (<http://www.census.gov/csd/qfr/>).

Table 1. Income Statement for Retail Trade Corporations with Assets of \$50 Million and Over

Item	2Q 2001	1Q 2001 ¹	2Q 2000 ¹
	(million dollars)		
Net sales, receipts, and operating revenues	348,088	338,131	327,111
Less: Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	7,442	7,317	6,812
Less: All other operating costs and expenses	326,027	316,841	306,071
Income (or loss) from operations	14,619	13,973	14,228
Interest expense	4,410	4,282	4,270
All other nonoperating income (expense)	341	1,336	915
Income (or loss) before income taxes	10,550	11,026	10,873
Less: Provision for current and deferred domestic income taxes	4,187	4,351	4,595
Income (or loss) after income taxes	6,364	6,675	6,278
Cash dividends charged to retained earnings in current quarter	1,622	1,364	1,520
Net income retained in business	4,742	5,311	4,759
Retained earnings at beginning of quarter	175,799	173,140	156,661
Other direct credits (or charges) to retained earnings (net)	(789)	(977)	(1,044)
Retained earnings at end of quarter	179,752	177,473	160,375

Table 2. Income Statement in Ratio Format for Retail Trade Corporations with Assets of \$50 Million and Over

Item	2Q 2001	1Q 2001 ¹	2Q 2000 ¹
	(cents)		
Net sales, receipts, and operating revenues	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less: Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	2.1	2.2	2.1
Less: All other operating costs and expenses	93.7	93.7	93.6
Income (or loss) from operations	4.2	4.1	4.3
Interest expense	1.3	1.3	1.3
All other nonoperating income (expense)	0.1	0.4	0.3
Income (or loss) before income taxes	3.0	3.3	3.3
Less: Provision for current and deferred domestic income taxes	1.2	1.3	1.4
Income (or loss) after income taxes	1.8	2.0	1.9

Table 3. Operating Ratios for Retail Trade Corporations with Assets of \$50 Million and Over

Item	2Q 2001	1Q 2001 ¹	2Q 2000 ¹
	(percent)		
Annual rate of profit on stockholders' equity at end of period:			
Before income taxes	16.32	17.33	18.36
After income taxes	9.85	10.49	10.60
Annual rate of profit on total assets:			
Before income taxes	6.08	6.47	6.77
After income taxes	3.67	3.92	3.91

¹Revised data reflects reclassification of corporations by industry, and respondents' corrections and/or restatements of prior data subsequent to original publication.