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## FOURTH QUARTER 2010 DATA FROM THE QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT: LARGE U.S. RETAIL TRADE CORPORATIONS

### After-Tax Profits and Sales, Fourth Quarter 2010 – Not Seasonally Adjusted

Fourth quarter 2010 **after-tax profits** of U.S. retail corporations with assets of \$50 million and over totaled \$22.5 billion, up \$9.0 ( $\pm 0.1$ ) billion from the after-tax profits of \$13.5 billion recorded in third quarter 2010, but down \$1.6 ( $\pm 0.1$ ) billion from the after-tax profits of \$24.0 billion recorded in the fourth quarter of 2009.

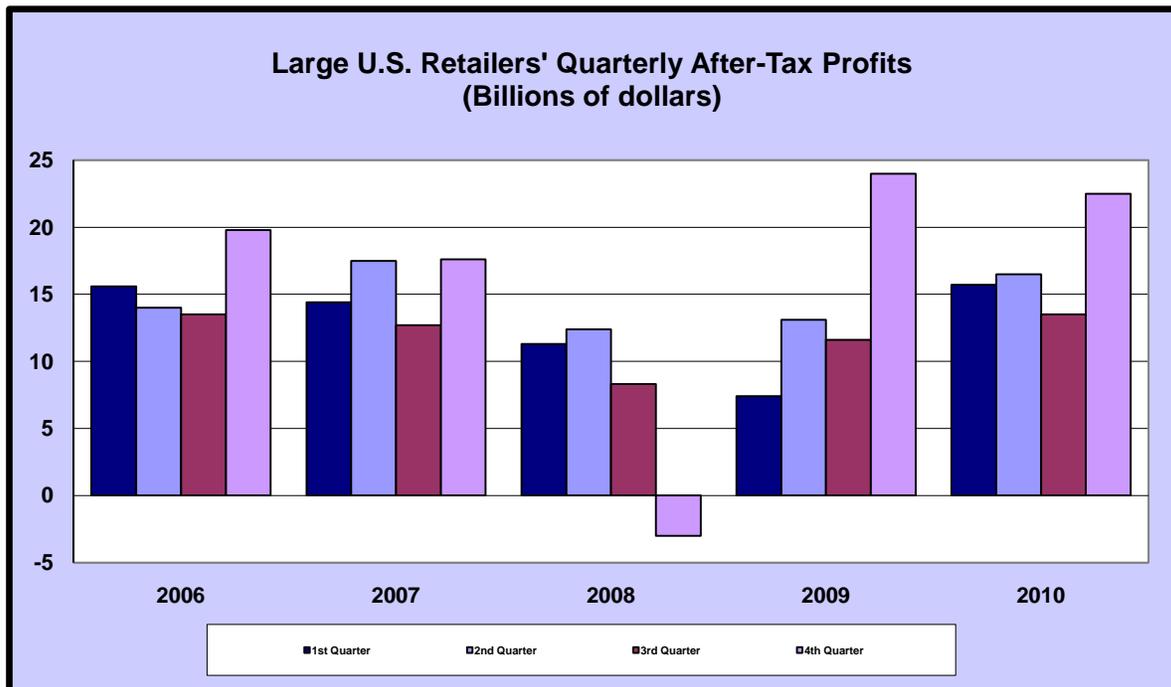
**Sales** in the fourth quarter of 2010, at \$581.1 billion, up \$54.4 ( $\pm 5.9$ ) billion from the \$526.7 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2010, and up \$31.3 ( $\pm 2.4$ ) billion from the \$549.8 billion recorded in the fourth quarter of 2009.

After-tax profits for these corporations averaged 3.9 cents per dollar of sales for the fourth quarter of 2010, up 1.3 ( $\pm 0.1$ ) cents from the 2.6 cents recorded in the third quarter of 2010, but down 0.5 ( $\pm 0.1$ ) cents from the 4.4 cents recorded in the fourth quarter of 2009.

The annual rate of after-tax profits on stockholders' equity in the fourth quarter of 2010 was 19.8 percent, up 7.6 ( $\pm 0.1$ ) percentage points from the 12.2 percent recorded in the third quarter of 2010, but down 2.1 ( $\pm 0.1$ ) percentage points from the 21.8 percent recorded in the fourth quarter of 2009.

### Retail Trade Corporations' After-Tax Profits, 2006-2010 – Not Seasonally Adjusted

In 2010, fourth quarter after-tax profits of U.S. retail trade corporations with assets of \$50 million and over (not seasonally adjusted), declined from the high registered in fourth quarter 2009.



**SPECIAL NOTICE**

The QFR survey has implemented a new imputation methodology to account for nonresponding companies. Estimates for the prior four quarters (fourth quarter 2009 through third quarter 2010) have been restated using this new methodology in order to provide comparability. For more information, see the Survey Methodology section of the Introduction in the *Quarterly Financial Report for Manufacturing, Mining, Trade, and Selected Service Industries - Fourth quarter 2010 (QFR/10-Q4)* publication.

**ACCESS TO QFR DATA**

This press release can be viewed today in portable document format (.pdf) at our QFR internet website <http://www.census.gov/econ/qfr/index.html>. Data in the release are drawn from a more comprehensive data set published in the *Quarterly Financial Report for Manufacturing, Mining, Trade, and Selected Service Industries - Fourth quarter 2010 (QFR/10-Q4)*. This quarterly publication is available for downloading at our QFR internet website <http://www.census.gov/econ/qfr/index.html>. The quarterly publication includes summary statements of income and retained earnings, balance sheets, and related financial and operating ratios for manufacturing, mining, trade, and selected service industries. Data presented are classified by industry and asset size.

**RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES**

Data in this press release are based on quarterly financial reports from approximately 630 U.S. corporations. The data are estimated from a sample survey and are subject to sampling and nonsampling errors.

Sampling error occurs because only a subset of the entire population is measured. Estimates of sampling error can be computed based on the sample and used to construct confidence intervals around the estimates. Statements of change appearing in this report include 90 percent confidence intervals. Thus, a statement in the report such as “up \$2.5 (± 0.2) billion” estimates the interval (+\$2.3 billion to +\$2.7 billion) within which the actual value is likely to fall in 90 percent of samples of the same size and design, drawn from the same population. If the range of estimated change contains zero (0), then it is uncertain whether there is an increase or decrease; that is, the change is not statistically different from zero (0). For any comparison cited in the text without a confidence interval, the change is statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

Nonsampling error encompasses all other factors that contribute to the total error of a survey, including response errors, nonresponse, and coverage errors. Although no direct measures of nonsampling error are available, precautionary steps were taken in all phases of the collection, processing, and tabulation of the data in an effort to minimize their influence. The quarterly publication, *Quarterly Financial Report for Manufacturing, Mining, and Trade Corporations – Fourth quarter 2010 (QFR/10-Q4)*, includes more detailed explanations of nonsampling and sampling error, and additional measures of sampling variability.

<b>Retail Trade Schedule of Release Dates for Calendar Year 2011</b>	
First Quarter 2011	June 20, 2011
Second Quarter 2011	September 19, 2011
Third Quarter 2011	December 19, 2011

**Table 1. U.S. Retail Trade Corporations, Assets \$50 Million and Over - Income Statement<sup>1, 2</sup>**

Item	4Q 2010	3Q 2010 <sup>3</sup>	4Q 2009 <sup>3</sup>
(million dollars)			
Net sales, receipts, and operating revenues .....	581,139	526,736	549,828
Less: Depreciation, depletion, and amortization .....	10,975	10,793	10,774
Less: All other operating costs and expenses .....	537,881	492,750	508,858
<b>Income (or loss) from operations</b> .....	<b>32,283</b>	<b>23,193</b>	<b>30,196</b>
Interest expense .....	4,180	4,306	4,334
Net nonoperating income (expense) .....	3,228	1,186	6,061
<b>Income (or loss) before income taxes</b> .....	<b>31,330</b>	<b>20,073</b>	<b>31,924</b>
Less: Provision for current and deferred domestic income taxes .....	8,852	6,588	7,893
<b>Income (or loss) after income taxes</b> .....	<b>22,478</b>	<b>13,485</b>	<b>24,031</b>
Cash dividends charged to retained earnings in current quarter .....	4,403	2,722	2,903
<b>Net income retained in business</b> .....	<b>18,075</b>	<b>10,763</b>	<b>21,128</b>
Retained earnings at beginning of quarter .....	322,711	317,572	294,198
Other direct credits (or charges) to retained earnings (net) .....	(6,341)	(7,186)	(6,330)
<b>Retained earnings at end of quarter</b> .....	<b>334,445</b>	<b>321,149</b>	<b>308,996</b>

<sup>1</sup>Retail Trade data are the quarterly results of companies within the Retail Trade sector with total assets of \$50 million and over at the time of sample selection.

<sup>2</sup>Complete Income Statement and Balance Sheet Financial Tables are available at the QFR website.

<sup>3</sup>Revised.

**Table 2. U.S. Retail Trade Corporations, Assets \$50 Million and Over - Income Statement Ratios<sup>1, 2</sup>**

Item	4Q 2010	3Q 2010 <sup>3</sup>	4Q 2009 <sup>3</sup>
(cents per dollar of sales)			
Net sales, receipts, and operating revenues .....	100.00	100.00	100.00
Less: Depreciation, depletion, and amortization .....	1.89	2.05	1.96
Less: All other operating costs and expenses .....	92.56	93.55	92.55
<b>Income (or loss) from operations</b> .....	<b>5.56</b>	<b>4.40</b>	<b>5.49</b>
Interest expense .....	0.72	0.82	0.79
Net nonoperating income (expense) .....	0.56	0.23	1.10
<b>Income (or loss) before income taxes</b> .....	<b>5.39</b>	<b>3.81</b>	<b>5.81</b>
Less: Provision for current and deferred domestic income taxes .....	1.52	1.25	1.44
<b>Income (or loss) after income taxes</b> .....	<b>3.87</b>	<b>2.56</b>	<b>4.37</b>

<sup>1</sup>Retail Trade data are the quarterly results of companies within the Retail Trade sector with total assets of \$50 million and over at the time of sample selection.

<sup>2</sup>Complete Income Statement and Balance Sheet Financial Tables are available at the QFR website.

<sup>3</sup>Revised.

**Table 3. U.S. Retail Trade Corporations, Assets \$50 Million and Over - Operating Ratios<sup>1, 2</sup>**

Item	4Q 2010	3Q 2010 <sup>3</sup>	4Q 2009 <sup>3</sup>
(percent)			
Annual rate of profit on stockholders' equity at end of period:			
<b>Before income taxes</b> .....	27.54	18.14	28.98
<b>After income taxes</b> .....	19.76	12.19	21.82
Annual rate of profit on total assets:			
<b>Before income taxes</b> .....	11.64	7.46	12.22
<b>After income taxes</b> .....	8.35	5.01	9.20

<sup>1</sup>Retail Trade data are the quarterly results of companies within the Retail Trade sector with total assets of \$50 million and over at the time of sample selection.

<sup>2</sup>Complete Income Statement and Balance Sheet Financial Tables are available at the QFR website.

<sup>3</sup>Revised.