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## FOURTH QUARTER 2012 DATA FROM THE QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT: LARGE U.S. RETAIL TRADE CORPORATIONS

### After-Tax Profits and Sales, Fourth Quarter 2012 – Not Seasonally Adjusted

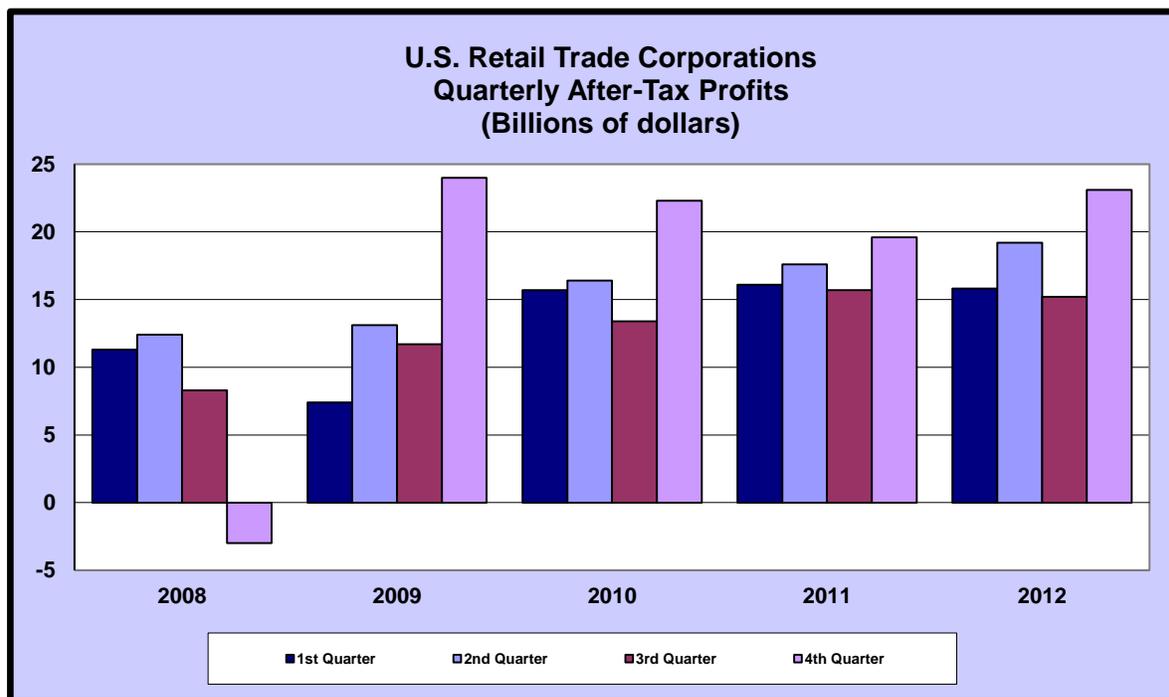
Fourth quarter 2012 **after-tax profits** of U.S. retail corporations with assets of \$50 million and over totaled \$23.1 billion, up \$3.5 ( $\pm 0.1$ ) billion from the after-tax profits of \$19.6 billion recorded in the fourth quarter of 2011, and up \$7.8 ( $\pm 0.1$ ) billion from the after-tax profits of \$15.2 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2012.

**Sales** in the fourth quarter of 2012, were \$633.1 billion, up \$15.3 ( $\pm 1.3$ ) billion from the \$617.8 billion recorded in the fourth quarter of 2011, and up \$42.3 ( $\pm 7.6$ ) billion from the \$590.8 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2012.

After-tax profits per dollar of sales were 3.6 cents for the quarter, compared with 3.2 cents for the fourth quarter of 2011, and 2.6 cents for the third quarter of 2012.

### Retail Trade Corporations' After-Tax Profits, 2008-2012 – Not Seasonally Adjusted

After-tax profits (not seasonally adjusted) of U.S. retail trade corporations with assets of \$50 million and over were higher in fourth quarter 2012 than in any other quarter in the 2010 to 2012 period.



## Retail Trade Corporations' Sales, Fourth Quarter 2012 – Seasonally Adjusted

Seasonally adjusted sales of U.S. retail corporations with assets of \$50 million and over totaled \$603.6 billion in the fourth quarter of 2012, not statistically different from the \$605.0 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2012, but up \$15.1 ( $\pm 1.3$ ) billion from the \$588.5 billion recorded in the fourth quarter of 2011.

## Retail Trade Corporations' Sales, 2008-2012 – Seasonally Adjusted

Fourth quarter 2012 sales (seasonally adjusted) of U.S. retail trade corporations with assets of \$50 million and over were higher than in any other fourth quarter in the 2008 - 2012 period.



### ACCESS TO QFR DATA

This press release can be viewed today in portable document format (.pdf) at the QFR internet website <http://www.census.gov/econ/qfr/index.html>. Summary statements of income and retained earnings, balance sheets, and related financial and operating ratios for retail trade corporations, as well as information on adjustments for seasonal variation, are available at the QFR internet website.

### RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Estimates of change presented in this press release are calculated using unrounded data. The calculated difference is then rounded to the nearest unit of measure. Due to this rounding, differences may not add to the totals. The same applies to the calculated confidence intervals. Thus, a difference of \$0.0 billion indicates the difference is less than \$0.05 billion. A confidence interval of  $\pm 0.0$  billion indicates a confidence interval with width of less than  $\pm 0.05$  billion on each side of the estimated value.

Data in this press release are based on quarterly financial reports from approximately 600 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 ( $\pm 0.2$ ) 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, Trade and Selected Service Industries – Fourth Quarter 2012* (QFR/12-Q4), includes more detailed explanations of nonsampling and sampling error, and additional measures of sampling variability.

**DATA QUALITY INDICATORS**

The QFR produces two indicators of data quality: the Unit Response Rate (URR) and the Total Quantity Response Rate (TQRR)<sup>1</sup>. The URR is defined as the percentage of sampled units (unweighted) that responded to the current quarter's survey. In determining the URR, a unit is classified as a respondent if it provided adequate information for key QFR data items. The TQRR is defined as the weighted estimated total of a key QFR data item that is either reported by a survey unit or acquired from some other information source (such as a publicly available quarterly or annual report) that is determined to be equivalent in quality to reported data. The TQRR is calculated for the QFR data items Net sales, Depreciation, Income before income taxes, and Total assets.

The Unit Response Rate (URR) and Total Quantity Response Rates (TQRR) for the current quarter are: URR for All retail trade: 64.4%; TQRR for Net sales: 89.5%; TQRR for Depreciation: 89.9%; TQRR for Income before income taxes: 91.6%; and TQRR for Total assets: 89.5%. For more information, see the Introduction, Survey Methodology section, in the *Quarterly Financial Report for Manufacturing, Mining, Trade, and Selected Service Industries*.

<sup>1</sup>Imputation Rate = 100% - TQRR.

<b>U.S. Retail Trade Corporations Schedule of Release Dates for Calendar Year 2013</b>	
First Quarter 2013	June 17, 2013
Second Quarter 2013	September 16, 2013
Third Quarter 2013	December 16, 2013

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

Item	4Q 2012	3Q 2012 <sup>3</sup>	4Q 2011 <sup>3</sup>
	(million dollars)		
Net sales, receipts, and operating revenues .....	633,112	590,803	617,801
Less: Depreciation, depletion, and amortization .....	11,389	11,243	10,955
Less: All other operating costs and expenses .....	589,191	555,509	574,380
<b>Income (or loss) from operations</b> .....	<b>32,532</b>	<b>24,052</b>	<b>32,466</b>
Interest expense .....	4,257	4,281	4,182
Net nonoperating income (expense) .....	4,400	3,679	3,569
<b>Income (or loss) before income taxes</b> .....	<b>32,675</b>	<b>23,449</b>	<b>31,853</b>
Less: Provision for current and deferred domestic income taxes .....	9,610	8,233	12,237
<b>Income (or loss) after income taxes</b> .....	<b>23,065</b>	<b>15,216</b>	<b>19,616</b>
Cash dividends charged to retained earnings in current quarter .....	7,794	4,475	4,260
<b>Net income retained in business</b> .....	<b>15,272</b>	<b>10,741</b>	<b>15,356</b>
Retained earnings at beginning of quarter .....	360,667	356,024	349,911
Other direct credits (or charges) to retained earnings (net) .....	(6,043)	(4,431)	(7,080)
<b>Retained earnings at end of quarter</b> .....	<b>369,895</b>	<b>362,335</b>	<b>358,187</b>

<sup>1</sup>This table only includes estimates for corporations with 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 <http://www.census.gov/econ/qfr>.

<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 2012	3Q 2012 <sup>3</sup>	4Q 2011 <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 .....	1.80	1.90	1.77
Less: All other operating costs and expenses .....	93.06	94.03	92.97
<b>Income (or loss) from operations</b> .....	<b>5.14</b>	<b>4.07</b>	<b>5.26</b>
Interest expense .....	0.67	0.72	0.68
Net nonoperating income (expense) .....	0.70	0.62	0.58
<b>Income (or loss) before income taxes</b> .....	<b>5.16</b>	<b>3.97</b>	<b>5.16</b>
Less: Provision for current and deferred domestic income taxes .....	1.52	1.39	1.98
<b>Income (or loss) after income taxes</b> .....	<b>3.64</b>	<b>2.58</b>	<b>3.18</b>

<sup>1</sup>This table only includes estimates for corporations with 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 <http://www.census.gov/econ/qfr>.

<sup>3</sup>Revised.

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

Item	4Q	3Q	4Q
	2012	2012 <sup>3</sup>	2011 <sup>3</sup>
	(percent)		
Annual rate of profit on stockholders' equity at end of period:			
<b>Before income taxes</b> .....	27.43	20.07	28.43
<b>After income taxes</b> .....	19.36	13.02	17.51
Annual rate of profit on total assets:			
<b>Before income taxes</b> .....	11.01	8.03	11.55
<b>After income taxes</b> .....	7.77	5.21	7.11

<sup>1</sup>This table only includes estimates for corporations with 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 <http://www.census.gov/econ/qfr>.

<sup>3</sup>Revised.

**Table 4. U.S. Retail Trade Corporations, Assets \$50 Million and Over - Seasonally Adjusted Sales<sup>1, 2</sup>**

Industry group and year	Sales			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	(million dollars)			
All retail				
2001 .....	330,908	336,728	339,849	347,739
2002 .....	349,167	354,920	359,666	357,350
2003 .....	366,832	369,624	391,641	399,030
2004 .....	406,941	410,212	421,875	427,383
2005 .....	438,346	447,203	458,761	467,807
2006 .....	480,550	492,469	497,921	502,008
2007 .....	509,909	514,401	516,206	521,372
2008 .....	523,155	535,966	531,594	501,639
2009 .....	495,379	494,853	508,579	521,047
2010 .....	531,218	534,266	539,858	552,385
2011 .....	565,725	584,678	586,503	588,479
2012 .....	601,103	598,026	604,990	603,584

<sup>1</sup>This table only includes estimates for corporations with assets of \$50 million and over at the time of sample selection.

<sup>2</sup>For information on adjustment for seasonal variation, see the Introduction, Survey Methodology section, in the *Quarterly Financial Report for Manufacturing, Mining, Trade, and Selected Service Industries*, or at the QFR internet website <http://www.census.gov/econ/qfr/collection.html>.