

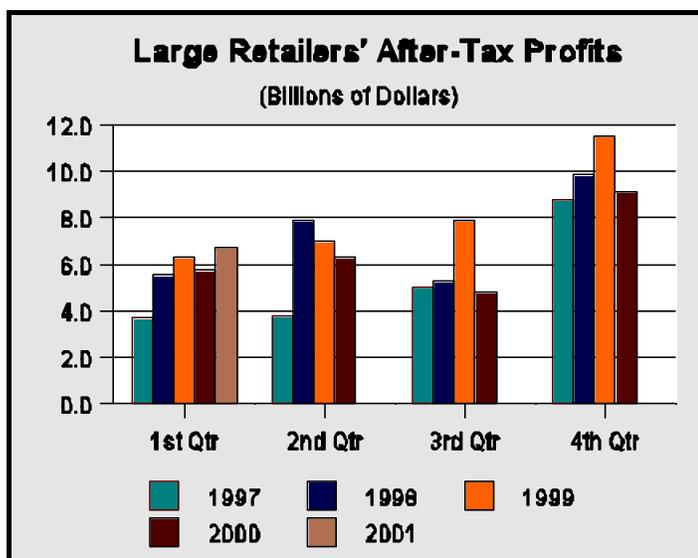
U.S. Census Bureau

Contact: Ronald Horton (301) 457-3343
 Frank Hartman (301) 457-3379

For Release 10 a.m. (EDT)
 Tuesday, July 17, 2001
 CB01-120

**ADVANCE DATA FROM THE QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR
 LARGE RETAIL TRADE CORPORATIONS—FIRST QUARTER 2001**

*The figures in this release are **not** seasonally adjusted*



retail trade sector for the first quarter will be published in the Quarterly Financial Report for Manufacturing, Mining, and Trade Corporations—Second Quarter 2001 which is scheduled for release on September 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.

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.

After-Tax Profits and Sales - Not Seasonally Adjusted

First quarter 2001 after tax profits of large retail corporations with assets of \$50 million and over were reported at \$6.7 billion, down \$2.4 (±0.4) billion from the fourth quarter 2000, but up \$0.9 (±0.2) billion from the first quarter 2000, the Commerce Department's Census Bureau reported. Sales for these large retailers for the first quarter 2001 were \$338.6 billion, down \$35.8 (±5.9) billion or 9.6 percent (±1.5%) from last quarter, but up \$24.5 (±5.4) billion or 7.8 percent (±1.8%) from the first quarter of 2000.

After-tax profits averaged 2.0 cents per dollar of sales for the first quarter of 2001, down 0.4 (±0.1) cents compared to the preceding quarter, but up 0.1 (±0.1) cents from the first quarter of 2000. The annual rate of after-tax profit on stockholders' equity was 10.6 percent, down 4.0 percent (±0.6%) from the 14.6 percent of the fourth quarter of 2000, but up 0.6 percent (±0.4%) from the 10.0 percent of the first quarter of 2000.

These data are based on quarterly financial reports obtained from 509 corporations. More detailed information on the

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	1Q 2001	4Q 2000 ¹	1Q 2000 ¹
	(million dollars)		
Net sales, receipts, and operating revenues	338,561	374,331	314,105
Less: Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	7,317	7,164	6,607
Less: All other operating costs and expenses	317,143	347,616	294,507
Income (or loss) from operations	14,101	19,550	12,991
Interest expense	4,285	4,504	3,819
All other nonoperating income (expense)	1,335	204	1,269
Income (or loss) before income taxes	11,150	15,251	10,442
Less: Provision for current and deferred domestic income taxes	4,402	6,123	4,597
Income (or loss) after income taxes	6,748	9,128	5,845
Cash dividends charged to retained earnings in current quarter	1,361	1,349	1,271
Net income retained in business	5,387	7,779	4,574
Retained earnings at beginning of quarter	173,109	165,590	159,072
Other direct credits (or charges) to retained earnings (net)	(1,059)	(933)	(5,997)
Retained earnings at end of quarter	177,437	172,436	157,649

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

Item	1Q 2001	4Q 2000 ¹	1Q 2000 ¹
	(cents)		
Net sales, receipts, and operating revenues	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less: Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	2.2	1.9	2.1
Less: All other operating costs and expenses	93.7	92.9	93.8
Income (or loss) from operations	4.2	5.2	4.1
Interest expense	1.3	1.2	1.2
All other nonoperating income (expense)	0.4	0.1	0.4
Income (or loss) before income taxes	3.3	4.1	3.3
Less: Provision for current and deferred domestic income taxes	1.3	1.6	1.5
Income (or loss) after income taxes	2.0	2.4	1.9

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

Item	1Q 2001	4Q 2000 ¹	1Q 2000 ¹
	(percent)		
Annual rate of profit on stockholders' equity at end of period:			
Before income taxes	17.53	24.32	17.88
After income taxes	10.61	14.55	10.01
Annual rate of profit on total assets:			
Before income taxes	6.55	8.99	6.57
After income taxes	3.96	5.38	3.68

¹Revised.