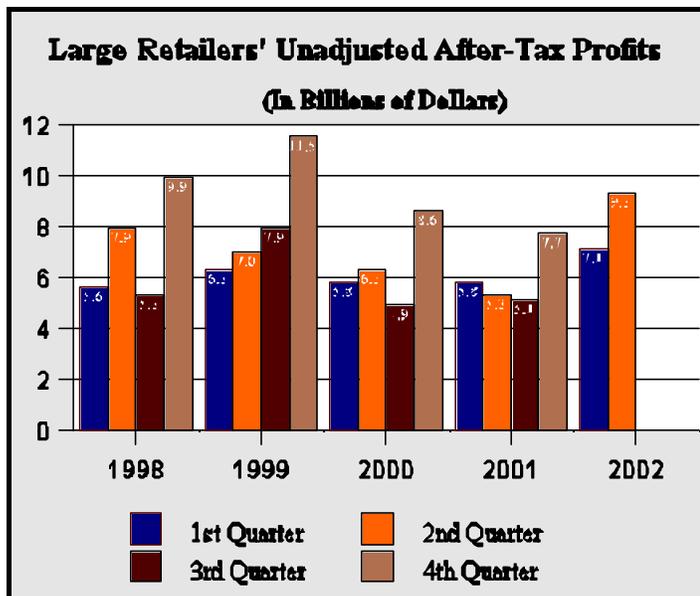


U.S. Census Bureau Contact:
 Ronald Horton (301) 763-3343
 Frank Hartman (301) 763-3379

For Release 10:00 a.m. (EDT)
 Wednesday, October 16, 2002
 CB02-133

**SECOND QUARTER 2002 ADVANCE DATA FROM THE QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
 U.S. RETAIL TRADE CORPORATIONS WITH ASSETS \$50 MILLION AND OVER**

NOTE: Retail data in this release are presented on the North American Industry Classification System basis and are NOT seasonally adjusted. For additional information on QFR publication, visit our website at <http://www.census.gov/csd/qfr/>.



The annual rate of after-tax profit on stockholders' equity was 14.4 percent, up 3.2 percent ($\pm 0.3\%$) from the 11.2 percent of the last quarter, and up 5.4 percent ($\pm 0.4\%$) from the 9.0 percent recorded in the second quarter 2001.

These advance data are based on quarterly financial reports from 475 large retail trade corporations. More detailed information on these corporations for the second quarter 2002 will be published in the Quarterly Financial Report for Manufacturing, Mining, and Trade Corporations—Third Quarter 2002 which is scheduled for release on December 13, 2002.

EXPLANATORY NOTES:

This quarter's release 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.

**Unadjusted After-Tax Profits and Sales
 Retail Corporations with Assets \$50 Million and Over**

Second quarter 2002 large retail corporations' unadjusted after-tax profits were \$9.3 billion, up \$2.3 (± 0.2) billion from the previous quarter, and up from the \$5.3 billion recorded in the second quarter 2001, the Commerce Department's Census Bureau reported.

Retail sales for second quarter 2002 were \$349.0 billion, up from the \$338.4 billion recorded last quarter, and up \$17.1 (± 2.2) billion from a year earlier. Profits per dollar of sales averaged 2.7 cents in the second quarter of 2002, up from the 2.1 cents recorded in the preceding quarter, and up 1.1 (± 0.1) cents from the second quarter 2001.

**This press release is available on the day of issue on the
 Department of Commerce's Internet website at
<http://www.census.gov/csd/qfr/>**

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

Item	2Q 2002	1Q 2002 ¹	2Q 2001 ¹
	(million dollars)		
Net sales, receipts, and operating revenues	349,049	338,363	331,936
Less: Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	6,891	6,643	6,700
Less: All other operating costs and expenses	325,857	315,940	311,960
Income (or loss) from operations	16,301	15,781	13,276
Interest expense	3,438	3,360	3,982
All other nonoperating income (expense)	1,536	(369)	(403)
Income (or loss) before income taxes	14,399	12,051	8,891
Less: Provision for current and deferred domestic income taxes	5,051	4,958	3,584
Income (or loss) after income taxes	9,348	7,093	5,308
Cash dividends charged to retained earnings in current quarter	1,224	1,487	1,608
Net income retained in business	8,124	5,606	3,699
Retained earnings at beginning of quarter	169,626	166,260	156,209
Other direct credits (or charges) to retained earnings (net)	(3,384)	(2,473)	(1,050)
Retained earnings at end of quarter	174,366	169,393	158,859

Table 2

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

Item	2Q 2002	1Q 2002 ¹	2Q 2001 ¹
	(cents)		
Net sales, receipts, and operating revenues	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less: Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	2.0	2.0	2.0
Less: All other operating costs and expenses	93.4	93.4	94.0
Income (or loss) from operations	4.7	4.7	4.0
Interest expense	1.0	1.0	1.2
All other nonoperating income (expense)	0.4	(0.1)	(0.1)
Income (or loss) before income taxes	4.1	3.6	2.7
Less: Provision for current and deferred domestic income taxes	1.4	1.5	1.1
Income (or loss) after income taxes	2.7	2.1	1.6

Table 3

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

Item	2Q 2002	1Q 2002 ¹	2Q 2001 ¹
	(percent)		
Annual rate of profit on stockholders' equity at end of period:			
Before income taxes	22.23	19.05	15.00
After income taxes	14.43	11.21	8.96
Annual rate of profit on total assets:			
Before income taxes	8.51	7.28	5.65
After income taxes	5.53	4.29	3.37

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