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## FIRST QUARTER 2016 DATA FROM THE QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT: LARGE U.S. RETAIL TRADE CORPORATIONS



### After-Tax Profits and Sales, First Quarter 2016 – Seasonally Adjusted

Seasonally adjusted after-tax profits of U.S. retail corporations with assets of \$50 million and over totaled \$20.6 billion, down \$3.0 ( $\pm 0.0$ ) billion from the \$23.7 billion in the fourth quarter of 2015, and down \$2.4 ( $\pm 0.1$ ) billion from the \$23.1 billion recorded in the first quarter of 2015.

Seasonally adjusted sales for the quarter totaled \$682.0 billion, not statistically different from the \$682.5 billion in the fourth quarter of 2015, but up \$27.8 ( $\pm 3.3$ ) billion from the \$654.2 billion recorded in the first quarter of 2015.

### After-Tax Profits and Sales, First Quarter 2016 – Not Seasonally Adjusted

First quarter 2016 after-tax profits of U.S. retail corporations with assets of \$50 million and over totaled \$19.9 billion, down \$2.4 ( $\pm 0.1$ ) billion from the after-tax profits of \$22.3 billion recorded in the first quarter of 2015, and down \$7.3 ( $\pm 0.0$ ) billion from the after-tax profits of \$27.2 billion recorded in the fourth quarter of 2015.

Sales in the first quarter of 2016, were \$663.2 billion, up \$27.5 ( $\pm 3.3$ ) billion from the \$635.7 billion recorded in the first quarter of 2015, but down \$53.6 ( $\pm 2.2$ ) billion from the \$716.9 billion recorded in the fourth quarter of 2015.

**Table 1. U.S. Retail Trade Corporations, Assets \$50 Million and Over –  
Not Seasonally Adjusted Income Statement<sup>1,2</sup>**

Item	1Q	4Q	1Q
	2016	2015 <sup>3</sup>	2015 <sup>3</sup>
	(million dollars)		
Net sales, receipts, and operating revenues .....	663,220	716,855	635,681
Less: Depreciation, depletion, and amortization .....	14,032	13,797	13,007
Less: All other operating costs and expenses .....	617,730	665,346	591,858
<b>Income (or loss) from operations</b> .....	<b>31,458</b>	<b>37,712</b>	<b>30,816</b>
Interest expense .....	5,361	5,060	4,744
Net nonoperating income (expense) .....	3,585	5,376	3,701
<b>Income (or loss) before income taxes</b> .....	<b>29,682</b>	<b>38,028</b>	<b>29,774</b>
Less: Provision for current and deferred domestic income taxes .....	9,816	10,825	7,489
<b>Income (or loss) after income taxes</b> .....	<b>19,866</b>	<b>27,202</b>	<b>22,284</b>
Cash dividends charged to retained earnings in current quarter .....	13,193	7,810	13,486
<b>Net income retained in business</b> .....	<b>6,674</b>	<b>19,393</b>	<b>8,798</b>
Retained earnings at beginning of quarter .....	413,869	406,241	397,280
Other direct credits (or charges) to retained earnings (net) .....	(8,559)	(13,538)	(4,871)
<b>Retained earnings at end of quarter</b> .....	<b>411,984</b>	<b>412,096</b>	<b>401,207</b>

Footnotes:

<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 –  
Not Seasonally Adjusted Income Statement Ratios<sup>1,2</sup>**

Item	1Q	4Q	1Q
	2016	2015 <sup>3</sup>	2015 <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 .....	2.12	1.92	2.05
Less: All other operating costs and expenses .....	93.14	92.81	93.11
<b>Income (or loss) from operations</b> .....	<b>4.74</b>	<b>5.26</b>	<b>4.85</b>
Interest expense .....	0.81	0.71	0.75
Net nonoperating income (expense) .....	0.54	0.75	0.58
<b>Income (or loss) before income taxes</b> .....	<b>4.48</b>	<b>5.30</b>	<b>4.68</b>
Less: Provision for current and deferred domestic income taxes .....	1.48	1.51	1.18
<b>Income (or loss) after income taxes</b> .....	<b>3.00</b>	<b>3.79</b>	<b>3.51</b>

Footnotes:

<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 – Not Seasonally Adjusted Operating Ratios<sup>1, 2</sup>**

Item	1Q	4Q	1Q
	2016	2015 <sup>3</sup>	2015 <sup>3</sup>
	(percent)		
Annual rate of profit on stockholders' equity at end of period:			
Before income taxes .....	24.81	31.39	23.95
After income taxes .....	16.61	22.45	17.93
Annual rate of profit on total assets:			
Before income taxes .....	8.57	11.02	8.94
After income taxes .....	5.73	7.88	6.69

Footnotes:

<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 and Net Income After Tax<sup>1, 2</sup>**

Industry group and year	Sales <sup>3</sup>				Net Income After Tax <sup>3</sup>			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	(million dollars)				(million dollars)			
All retail								
2005 .....	437,886	447,803	458,885	467,433	13,091	14,911	14,608	15,959
2006 .....	480,207	493,155	497,986	501,378	16,414	15,011	15,283	16,114
2007 .....	509,889	515,013	516,327	520,451	15,218	18,492	14,534	13,916
2008 .....	523,432	536,566	531,686	500,413	12,120	13,470	10,073	(7,097)
2009 .....	496,066	495,377	508,689	519,177	8,378	14,022	13,365	20,379
2010 .....	532,769	534,860	539,553	549,991	16,552	17,411	15,157	18,731
2011 .....	568,318	585,240	585,678	585,545	16,957	18,576	17,480	16,024
2012 .....	604,836	598,048	602,458	610,416	16,585	20,038	16,974	19,924
2013 .....	620,639	626,861	635,352	641,357	17,281	22,112	19,266	21,985
2014 .....	642,931	658,768	664,404	668,974	14,613	21,449	18,060	19,932
2015 .....	654,241	672,768	680,635	682,494	23,066	22,389	20,093	23,665
2016 .....	682,038				20,641			

Footnotes:

<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>.

<sup>3</sup>Revised.

### 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. Time series/trend chart data are available at <http://www.census.gov/econ/qfr/index.html>, select the Time Series/Trend Charts link under Latest QFR Press Releases.

### 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 – First Quarter 2016* (QFR/16-Q1), 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: 60.0%; TQRR for Net sales: 82.1%; TQRR for Depreciation: 81.4%; TQRR for Income before income taxes: 86.0%; and TQRR for Total assets: 84.4%. 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 2016</b>	
Fourth Quarter 2015	March 21, 2016
First Quarter 2016	June 6, 2016
Second Quarter 2016	September 6, 2016
Third Quarter 2016	December 5, 2016