

U.S. Census Bureau News

U.S. Department of Commerce • Washington, D.C. 20233

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M. EST

Timothy Winters (Retail): (301) 763-2713
John Miller (Wholesale): (301) 763-2703
Chris Savage (Manufacturing): (301) 763-4832

CB09-181

MANUFACTURING AND TRADE INVENTORIES AND SALES October 2009

Sales. The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that the combined value of distributive trade sales and manufacturers' shipments for October, adjusted for seasonal and trading-day differences but not for price changes, was estimated at \$1,004.0 billion, up 1.1 percent ($\pm 0.3\%$) from September 2009, but down 8.2 percent ($\pm 0.5\%$) from October 2008.

Inventories. Manufacturers' and trade inventories, adjusted for seasonal variations but not for price changes, were estimated at an end-of-month level of \$1,305.4 billion, up 0.2 percent ($\pm 0.1\%$) from September 2009, but down 12.6 percent ($\pm 0.3\%$) from October 2008.

Inventories/Sales Ratio. The total business inventories/sales ratio based on seasonally adjusted data at the end of October was 1.30. The October 2008 ratio was 1.37.

The scheduled release dates for 2010 are as follows: January 14, February 11, March 12, April 14, May 14, June 11, July 14, August 13, September 14, October 15, November 15, December 14.

Total Business Inventories/Sales Ratios: 2000 to 2009

(Data adjusted for seasonal, holiday and trading-day differences but not for price changes)



The Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales Report for November is scheduled to be released January 14, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. EST.

For information, visit the Census Bureau's Web site at <<http://www.census.gov/bussales>>. This report is also available the day of issue through the Department of Commerce's STAT-USA (202-482-1986).

* The 90 percent confidence interval includes zero. The Census Bureau does not have sufficient statistical evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero.

Table 1. Estimated Monthly Sales and Inventories for Manufacturers, Retailers, and Merchant Wholesalers
(In millions of dollars)

| | Sales | | | Inventories ¹ | | | Inventories/Sales Ratios | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Oct. 2009 | Sep. 2009 | Oct. 2008 | Oct. 2009 | Sep. 2009 | Oct. 2008 | Oct. 2009 | Sep. 2009 | Oct. 2008 |
| | (p) | (r) | (r) | (p) | (r) | (r) | (p) | (r) | (r) |
| Adjusted² | | | | | | | | | |
| Total business..... | 1,003,999 | 993,007 | 1,093,446 | 1,305,437 | 1,302,371 | 1,494,320 | 1.30 | 1.31 | 1.37 |
| Manufacturers ³ | 368,037 | 364,973 | 415,900 | 492,989 | 491,229 | 554,990 | 1.34 | 1.35 | 1.33 |
| Retailers..... | 309,791 | 305,865 | 316,793 | 432,863 | 432,861 | 500,570 | 1.40 | 1.42 | 1.58 |
| Merchant wholesalers ⁴ | 326,171 | 322,169 | 360,753 | 379,585 | 378,281 | 438,760 | 1.16 | 1.17 | 1.22 |
| Not Adjusted | | | | | | | | | |
| Total business..... | 1,031,481 | 1,011,674 | 1,133,358 | 1,335,017 | 1,301,482 | 1,524,526 | 1.29 | 1.29 | 1.35 |
| Manufacturers ³ | 382,405 | 384,758 | 431,372 | 497,832 | 492,018 | 559,181 | 1.30 | 1.28 | 1.30 |
| Retailers..... | 306,151 | 293,459 | 314,224 | 455,747 | 433,052 | 524,415 | 1.49 | 1.48 | 1.67 |
| Merchant wholesalers ⁴ | 342,925 | 333,457 | 387,762 | 381,438 | 376,412 | 440,930 | 1.11 | 1.13 | 1.14 |

See footnotes and notes at the end of Table 3.

(p) Preliminary estimate.
(r) Revised estimate.

Table 2. Percent Changes for Sales and Inventories — Manufacturers, Retailers, and Merchant Wholesalers

| | Adjusted | | | | | | Not Adjusted | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Sales | | | Inventories | | | Sales | | | Inventories | | |
| | Oct. 09/ Sep. 09 | Sep. 09/ Aug. 09 | Oct. 09/ Oct. 08 | Oct. 09/ Sep. 09 | Sep. 09/ Aug. 09 | Oct. 09/ Oct. 08 | Oct. 09/ Sep. 09 | Sep. 09/ Aug. 09 | Oct. 09/ Oct. 08 | Oct. 09/ Sep. 09 | Sep. 09/ Aug. 09 | Oct. 09/ Oct. 08 |
| Total business..... | 1.1 | 0.2 | -8.2 | 0.2 | -0.5 | -12.6 | 2.0 | -0.2 | -9.0 | 2.6 | 0.3 | -12.4 |
| Manufacturers ³ | 0.8 | 1.3 | -11.5 | 0.4 | -1.3 | -11.2 | -0.6 | 3.2 | -11.4 | 1.2 | -1.9 | -11.0 |
| Retailers..... | 1.3 | -2.2 | -2.2 | 0.0 | 0.5 | -13.5 | 4.3 | -8.4 | -2.6 | 5.2 | 3.3 | -13.1 |
| Merchant wholesalers ⁴ | 1.2 | 1.3 | -9.6 | 0.3 | -0.8 | -13.5 | 2.8 | 4.0 | -11.6 | 1.3 | -0.3 | -13.5 |

Table 3. Estimated Monthly Retail Sales, Inventories, and Inventories/Sales Ratios, By Kind of Business

(In millions of dollars)

| NAICS Code | Kind of Business | Sales | | | Inventories ¹ | | | Percent Change In Inventories | | | Inventories/Sales Ratios | | |
|------------|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | Oct. 2009 (p) | Sep. 2009 (r) | Oct. 2008 (r) | Oct. 2009 (p) | Sep. 2009 (r) | Oct. 2008 (r) | Oct. 09/ Sep. 09 | Sep. 09/ Aug. 09 | Oct. 09/ Oct. 08 | Oct. 09 (p) | Sep. 09 (r) | Oct. 08 (r) |
| | Adjusted ² | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Retail trade, total..... | 309,791 | 305,865 | 316,793 | 432,863 | 432,861 | 500,570 | 0.0 | 0.5 | -13.5 | 1.40 | 1.42 | 1.58 |
| | Total (excl. motor veh. & parts)..... | 250,794 | 250,760 | 258,953 | 319,207 | 319,929 | 345,645 | -0.2 | -0.7 | -7.6 | 1.27 | 1.28 | 1.33 |
| 441 | Motor vehicle & parts dealers..... | 58,997 | 55,105 | 57,840 | 113,656 | 112,932 | 154,925 | 0.6 | 4.1 | -26.6 | 1.93 | 2.05 | 2.68 |
| 442,3 | Furniture,home furn., elect. & appl. stores..... | 16,163 | 16,250 | 17,364 | 29,447 | 29,143 | 33,109 | 1.0 | 0.3 | -11.1 | 1.82 | 1.79 | 1.91 |
| 444 | Building materials, garden equip & supplies..... | 22,847 | 23,259 | 26,656 | 45,981 | 46,325 | 51,123 | -0.7 | -0.4 | -10.1 | 2.01 | 1.99 | 1.92 |
| 445 | Food & beverage stores..... | 49,497 | 49,506 | 49,452 | 37,933 | 37,962 | 37,926 | -0.1 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.77 |
| 448 | Clothing & clothing access. stores..... | 17,596 | 17,630 | 17,295 | 42,060 | 42,298 | 47,445 | -0.6 | -1.8 | -11.3 | 2.39 | 2.40 | 2.74 |
| 452 | General merchandise stores..... | 50,178 | 49,749 | 49,296 | 70,667 | 70,687 | 75,383 | 0.0 | -0.5 | -6.3 | 1.41 | 1.42 | 1.53 |
| 4521 | Dept. str. (excl. leased depts.)..... | 15,647 | 15,606 | 16,120 | 32,119 | 32,300 | 35,401 | -0.6 | -0.6 | -9.3 | 2.05 | 2.07 | 2.20 |
| | Not Adjusted | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Retail trade, total..... | 306,151 | 293,459 | 314,224 | 455,747 | 433,052 | 524,415 | 5.2 | 3.3 | -13.1 | 1.49 | 1.48 | 1.67 |
| | Total (excl. motor veh. & parts)..... | 249,357 | 239,207 | 258,245 | 343,739 | 327,277 | 372,146 | 5.0 | 2.8 | -7.6 | 1.38 | 1.37 | 1.44 |
| 441 | Motor vehicle & parts dealers..... | 56,794 | 54,252 | 55,979 | 112,008 | 105,775 | 152,269 | 5.9 | 4.8 | -26.4 | 1.97 | 1.95 | 2.72 |
| 442,3 | Furniture,home furn., elect. & appl. stores..... | 15,168 | 15,341 | 16,381 | 32,509 | 29,434 | 36,453 | 10.4 | 3.6 | -10.8 | 2.14 | 1.92 | 2.23 |
| 444 | Building materials, garden equip & supplies..... | 23,265 | 23,208 | 27,676 | 45,107 | 45,306 | 50,152 | -0.4 | -0.6 | -10.1 | 1.94 | 1.95 | 1.81 |
| 445 | Food & beverage stores..... | 49,810 | 48,025 | 49,403 | 39,229 | 37,829 | 39,209 | 3.7 | 2.1 | 0.1 | 0.79 | 0.79 | 0.79 |
| 448 | Clothing & clothing access. stores..... | 17,388 | 15,950 | 16,860 | 46,434 | 44,836 | 52,379 | 3.6 | 2.9 | -11.3 | 2.67 | 2.81 | 3.11 |
| 452 | General merchandise stores..... | 48,763 | 44,472 | 47,705 | 81,756 | 74,546 | 87,168 | 9.7 | 8.0 | -6.2 | 1.68 | 1.68 | 1.83 |
| 4521 | Dept. str. (excl. leased depts.)..... | 15,011 | 13,539 | 15,487 | 38,736 | 35,046 | 42,588 | 10.5 | 11.3 | -9.0 | 2.58 | 2.59 | 2.75 |

(p) Preliminary estimate.

(r) Revised estimate.

¹ Inventories are on a non-LIFO basis as of the end of the month.

² Adjusted for seasonal variations and, in the case of sales, for trading-day differences and holiday variations. Concurrent seasonal adjustment is being used to adjust all sales, shipment and inventory estimates. Concurrent seasonal adjustment uses all available unadjusted estimates as input to the X-12-ARIMA program. The factors derived from the program are applied to the current and previous month estimates and for retail and wholesale estimates a year ago as well. For retail sales, concurrent seasonal adjustment is also used to adjust the advance estimates (published one month before the preliminary estimates) and the estimates one year before the advance month. This explains the revision to retail estimates from a year ago.

³ Manufacturers sales refer to the value of shipments by manufacturers. The shipments data from individual manufacturers are adjusted prior to tabulation for the number of trading days as well as for any variations in the length of the reporting period.

⁴ The 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) defines merchant wholesalers as including manufacturers' sales branches and offices. However, the estimates included in this release exclude manufacturers' sales branches and offices. Note that this is not a change in coverage from prior releases and is consistent with the description used in the Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey data products.

Note: U.S. and group totals include kinds of business not shown. The Manufacturing and Trade Inventory and Sales estimates are based on data from three surveys: the Monthly Retail Trade Survey, the Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey, and the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders Survey. The sampling variability for retailers and merchant wholesalers can be used to construct a 90 percent confidence interval for the estimates. Over all possible samples, 90 percent of such intervals will cover the true estimate. These intervals are given in parentheses for the estimates on the front page. If, for example, the estimate is up 0.8 percent and the margin of sampling error is ± 1.2 percent, the 90 percent confidence interval is -0.4 percent to +2.0 percent. If the range contains 0, it is uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease. Measures of reliability for Retail and Wholesale sales and inventory levels and changes are included in the detailed monthly press releases for those Industries. Manufacturers do not contribute to estimates of sampling variability because the manufacturer's mail panel is not a probability sample from a known frame and standard errors of the industry estimates cannot be calculated. Estimates from all three surveys are also subject to nonsampling errors, which can arise in any stage of the survey. Such errors include coverage error (failure to accurately represent all population units in the sample) response errors, coding errors, and nonresponse. Although no direct measurement of these errors has been obtained, precautionary steps were taken in all phases of the collection, processing, and tabulation of the data to minimize their influence.