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MANUFACTURING AND TRADE INVENTORIES AND SALES, AUGUST 2026

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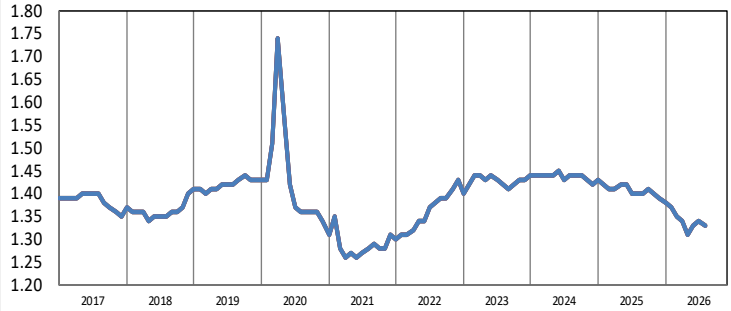
October 15, 2026 — The U.S. Census Bureau announced the following new manufacturing and trade statistics for August 2026:

BUSINESS INVENTORIES

AUGUST 2026	**$2,818.8 billion**	**+0.4%**
JULY 2026 (revised)	**$2,807.1 billion**	**+0.9%**

Next release: November 17, 2026

* The 90 percent confidence interval includes zero. There is insufficient evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero.
Data adjusted for seasonality but not price changes.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales, October 15, 2026.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales, October 15, 2026.
(Data adjusted for seasonal, holiday and trading day differences but not for price changes)

Sales

The combined value of distributive trade sales and manufacturers' shipments for August, adjusted for seasonal and trading day differences but not for price changes, was estimated at $2,123.5 billion, up 1.1 percent (±0.1 percent) from July 2026 and was up 10.2 percent (±0.3 percent) from August 2025.

Inventories

Manufacturers' and trade inventories for August, adjusted for seasonal and trading day differences but not for price changes, were estimated at an end-of-month level of $2,818.8 billion, up 0.4 percent (±0.1 percent) from July 2026 and were up 4.6 percent (±0.4 percent) from August 2025.

Inventories/Sales Ratio

The total business inventories/sales ratio based on seasonally adjusted data at the end of August was 1.33. The August 2025 ratio was 1.40.

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United States Census Bureau
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General Information

Release Schedule

The September 2026 Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales Report is scheduled for release on November 17, 2026. View the full schedule in the Economic Briefing Room: <www.census.gov/economic-indicators/>.

Notice of Revision: Revisions to the Retail estimates for sales and inventories were released on September 28, 2026, and are reflected in this release. Revisions to the Wholesale estimates will be released October 26, 2026, and will be reflected in the September 2026 MTIS release scheduled for November 17, 2026. Estimates are revised based on historical corrections and the results of the 2023 and 2024 Annual Integrated Economic Survey.

Special Notice

Due to schedule and resource constraints, revised historical data and the seasonal adjustment models for the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders (M3) Survey will remain unchanged for the remainder of 2026.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Statement Regarding Natural Disasters

For information on the impact of natural disasters on the compilation of this report, please see <www.census.gov/wholesale/natural_disaster_faqs.html> and <www.census.gov/retail/mrts_weather_faqs.html>.

Reliability of Estimates

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.

Description of the Survey

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The Manufacturing and Trade Inventories 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. Data for the wholesale and manufacturing sectors are unrevised from the most recent Monthly Wholesale Trade Report and the Full Report on Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and orders. Data from the Retail sector is revised and presented in more detail from the most recent Advance Economic Indicators Report. For more information on these surveys see the links below: <www.census.gov/retail/>, <www.census.gov/wholesale/>, and <www.census.gov/manufacturing/m3/>.

The Census Bureau has reviewed this data product to ensure appropriate access, use, and disclosure avoidance protection of the confidential source data, (Project No. P-7504206, Disclosure Review Board (DRB) approval number: CBDRB-FY26-003), (Project No. 7503922, Disclosure Review Board (DRB) approval number: CBDRB-FY26-005), (Project No. P-6000307, Disclosure Review Board (DRB) approval number: CBDRB-FY26-0151).

RESOURCES

API

The Census Bureau's application programming interface lets developers create custom apps to reach new users and makes key statistics more accessible than ever before. <www.census.gov/developers/>

FRED Mobile App

Receive the latest updates on the nation's key economic indicators by downloading the FRED App <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/fred-mobile/> for both Apple and Android devices. FRED, the signature database of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, now incorporates the Census Bureau's 13 economic indicators.

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Table 1. Estimated Monthly Sales and Inventories for Manufacturers, Retailers, and Merchant Wholesalers

(In millions of dollars)

	Sales			Inventories			Inventories/Sales Ratios		
	Aug. 2026	Jul. 2026	Aug. 2025	Aug. 2026	Jul. 2026	Aug. 2025	Aug. 2026	Jul. 2026	Aug. 2025
	(p)	(r)	(r)	(p)	(r)	(r)	(p)	(r)	(r)
Adjusted[1]									
Total business	2,123,517	2,101,074	1,927,638	2,818,757	2,807,083	2,695,242	1.33	1.34	1.40
Manufacturers[2]	658,622	658,647	606,847	972,382	967,298	947,640	1.48	1.47	1.56
Retailers[3]	647,440	639,263	613,570	882,176	880,016	841,564	1.36	1.38	1.37
Merchant wholesalers[4]	817,455	803,164	707,221	964,199	959,769	906,038	1.18	1.19	1.28
Not Adjusted									
Total business	2,145,624	2,118,635	1,948,701	2,797,573	2,790,682	2,677,018	1.30	1.32	1.37
Manufacturers[2]	675,497	648,604	620,447	976,828	971,881	951,133	1.45	1.50	1.53
Retailers[3]	655,885	655,940	624,281	871,833	868,802	830,931	1.33	1.32	1.33
Merchant wholesalers[4]	814,242	814,091	703,973	948,912	949,999	894,954	1.17	1.17	1.27

(p) Preliminary estimate.

(r) Revised estimate.

Data adjusted for seasonality and trading day differences, but not for price changes. Explanations of confidence intervals and sampling variability can be found on our website at <www.census.gov/mtis/how_surveys_are_collected.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales, October 15, 2026.

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

	Adjusted						Not Adjusted					
	Sales			Inventories			Sales			Inventories		
	Aug. 26/ Jul. 26	Jul. 26/ Jun. 26	Aug. 26/ Aug. 25	Aug. 26/ Jul. 26	Jul. 26/ Jun. 26	Aug. 26/ Aug. 25	Aug. 26/ Jul. 26	Jul. 26/ Jun. 26	Aug. 26/ Aug. 25	Aug. 26/ Jul. 26	Jul. 26/ Jun. 26	Aug. 26/ Aug. 25
Total business	1.1	0.5	10.2	0.4	0.9	4.6	1.3	-2.8	10.1	0.2	0.9	4.5
Manufacturers[2]	0.0	0.8	8.5	0.5	0.4	2.6	4.1	-6.3	8.9	0.5	0.9	2.7
Retailers[3]	1.3	-0.5	5.5	0.2	0.9	4.8	0.0	1.0	5.1	0.3	0.4	4.9
Merchant wholesalers[4]	1.8	1.0	15.6	0.5	1.4	6.4	0.0	-2.9	15.7	-0.1	1.4	6.0

See footnotes and notes at the end of Table 3.

Data adjusted for seasonality and trading day differences, but not for price changes. Explanations of confidence intervals and sampling variability can be found on our website at <www.census.gov/mtis/how_surveys_are_collected.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales, October 15, 2026.

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[3]			Percent Change In Inventories			Inventories/Sales Ratios		
		Aug. 2026 (p)	Jul. 2026 (r)	Aug. 2025 (r)	Aug. 2026 (p)	Jul. 2026 (r)	Aug. 2025 (r)	Aug. 26/ Jul. 26	Jul. 26/ Jun. 26	Aug. 26/ Aug. 25	Aug. 26 (p)	Jul. 26 (r)	Aug. 25 (r)
	Adjusted [1]												
	Retail trade, total	647,440	639,263	613,570	882,176	880,016	841,564	0.2	0.9	4.8	1.36	1.38	1.37
	Total (excl. motor veh. & parts)	507,915	500,685	477,179	605,255	605,275	581,425	0.0	0.8	4.1	1.19	1.21	1.22
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	139,525	138,578	136,391	276,921	274,741	260,139	0.8	1.0	6.5	1.98	1.98	1.91
442,3	Furniture,home furn., elect. & appl. stores	18,365	18,184	17,810	33,030	32,912	31,653	0.4	0.5	4.4	1.80	1.81	1.78
444	Building materials, garden equip & supplies	44,323	44,233	42,053	112,231	112,225	104,519	0.0	0.6	7.4	2.53	2.54	2.49
445	Food & beverage stores	84,727	84,556	84,503	69,589	69,790	67,871	-0.3	0.2	2.5	0.82	0.83	0.80
448	Clothing & clothing access. stores	26,486	26,327	25,400	53,370	53,320	52,079	0.1	0.1	2.5	2.02	2.03	2.05
452	General merchandise stores	81,844	81,233	78,235	113,801	113,327	107,246	0.4	-0.1	6.1	1.39	1.40	1.37
4522	Department stores	3,963	3,985	3,876	10,317	10,230	9,972	0.9	0.9	3.5	2.60	2.57	2.57
	Not Adjusted												
	Retail trade, total	655,885	655,940	624,281	871,833	868,802	830,931	0.3	0.4	4.9	1.33	1.32	1.33
	Total (excl. motor veh. & parts)	510,663	510,781	481,899	601,292	597,026	577,240	0.7	0.8	4.2	1.18	1.17	1.20
441	Motor vehicle & parts dealers	145,222	145,159	142,382	270,541	271,776	253,691	-0.5	-0.5	6.6	1.86	1.87	1.78
442,3	Furniture,home furn., elect. & appl. stores	18,519	18,340	18,099	32,667	32,682	31,336	0.0	0.0	4.2	1.76	1.78	1.73
444	Building materials, garden equip & supplies	44,570	47,548	42,258	109,650	110,205	102,115	-0.5	-0.9	7.4	2.46	2.32	2.42
445	Food & beverage stores	85,442	87,070	86,054	68,893	68,768	67,192	0.2	-0.1	2.5	0.81	0.79	0.78
448	Clothing & clothing access. stores	27,302	26,161	26,435	53,744	52,893	52,444	1.6	0.8	2.5	1.97	2.02	1.98
452	General merchandise stores	83,627	81,243	81,276	114,557	111,684	107,642	2.6	1.1	6.4	1.37	1.37	1.32
4522	Department stores	3,650	3,602	3,628	10,245	9,412	9,882	8.9	0.1	3.7	2.81	2.61	2.72

(p) Preliminary estimate.

(r) Revised estimate.

[1] Adjusted for seasonal variations, trading day differences, and, in the case of sales, for 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-13ARIMA-SEATS 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.

[2] 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.

[3] Adjusted and not adjusted inventories for aggregate levels of retail trade total, total excluding motor vehicles and parts, and motor vehicle and parts dealers are revised from the Advance Economic Indicators Report.

[4] The 2017 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.

Data adjusted for seasonality and trading day differences, but not for price changes. Explanations of confidence intervals and sampling variability can be found on our website at <www.census.gov/mtis/how_surveys_are_collected.html>. Estimates include data only for businesses with paid employees. Prior to the benchmark report released in April 2025, the monthly retail estimates that were released in the Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales estimates included nonemployers.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales, October 15, 2026.