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MONTHLY WHOLESALE TRADE: SALES AND INVENTORIES JUNE 2009

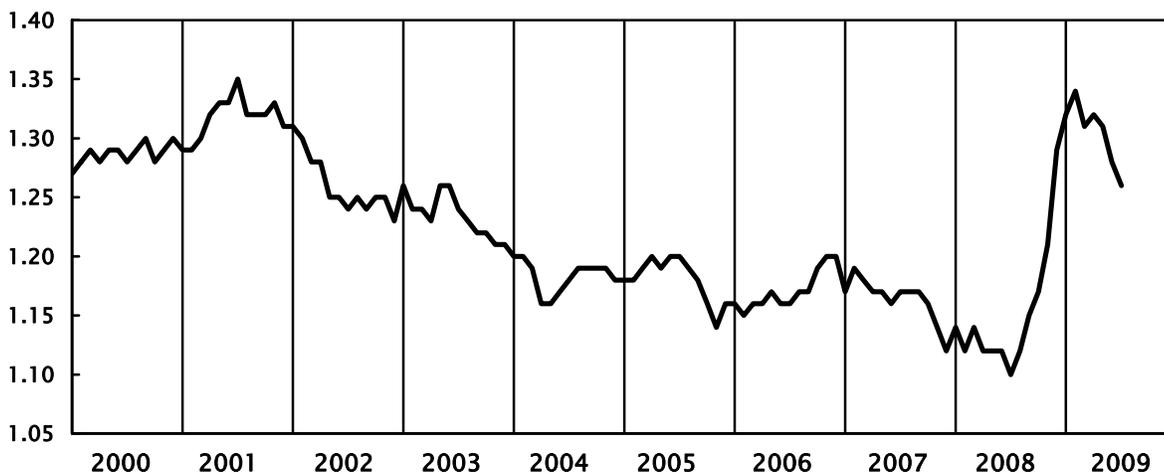
Sales. The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that June 2009 sales of merchant wholesalers, except manufacturers' sales branches and offices, after adjustment for seasonal variations and trading-day differences but not for price changes, were \$313.1 billion, up 0.4 percent (+/-0.7%)* from the revised May level, but were down 21.0 percent (+/-1.4%) from the June 2008 level. The May preliminary estimate was revised upward \$0.8 billion or 0.2 percent. June sales of durable goods were up 0.7 percent (+/-0.9%)* from last month, but were down 22.9 percent (+/-1.9%) from a year ago. Sales of motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and supplies were up 4.5 percent from last month. Sales of nondurable goods were up 0.1 percent (+/-1.1%)* from last month, but were down 19.4 percent (+/-1.6%) from last year. Sales of petroleum and petroleum products were up 7.1 percent from last month, while sales of drugs and druggists' sundries were down 4.7 percent.

Inventories. Total inventories of merchant wholesalers, except manufacturers' sales branches and offices, after adjustment for seasonal variations but not for price changes, were \$393.9 billion at the end of June, down 1.7 percent (+/-0.4%) from the revised May level and were down 10.3 percent (+/-1.2%) from a year ago. The May preliminary estimate was revised downward \$1.4 billion or 0.4 percent. End-of-month inventories of durable goods were down 1.5 percent (+/-0.4%) from last month and were down 10.4 percent (+/-1.4%) from last June. Inventories of metals and minerals, except petroleum, were down 6.2 percent from last month and inventories of lumber and other construction materials were down 2.5 percent. End-of-month inventories of nondurable goods were down 2.0 (+/-0.7%) from May and were down 10.2 percent (+/-1.6%) compared to last June. Inventories of farm product raw materials were down 11.6 percent from last month and inventories of petroleum and petroleum products were down 2.7 percent.

Inventories/Sales Ratio. The June inventories/sales ratio for merchant wholesalers, except manufacturers' sales branches and offices, based on seasonally adjusted data, was 1.26. The June 2008 ratio was 1.11.

Data in this report are based on a sample and, therefore, are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. A discussion of the reliability of the estimates and general survey methodology can be found at: <http://www.census.gov/wholesale/www/how_surveys_are_collected/011340.html>.

Monthly Inventories/Sales Ratios of Merchant Wholesalers, Except Manufacturers' Sales Branches and Offices: 2000 to 2009
(Estimates adjusted for seasonal and trading-day differences, but not for price changes)



Monthly Wholesale Trade for July is scheduled to be released September 11, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. EDT.

For information, visit the Census Bureau's Web site at <<http://www.census.gov/wholesale>>. 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. Estimates of Monthly Sales, Inventories, and Inventories/Sales Ratios of Merchant Wholesalers, Except Manufacturers' Sales Branches and Offices

[Total sales and inventories estimates are shown in millions of dollars. Estimates are based on data from the Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey.]

NAICS ¹ code	Kind of Business	Sales						Inventories						Inventories/Sales Ratios		
		Monthly			Percent change			Monthly			Percent change			Ratios		
		Jun. 2009 (p)	May 2009 (r)	Jun. 2008 (r)	Jun./ May	May/ Apr.	Jun. 09/ Jun. 08	Jun. 2009 (p)	May 2009 (r)	Jun. 2008 (r)	Jun./ May	May/ Apr.	Jun. 09/ Jun. 08	Jun. 2009 (p)	May 2009 (r)	Jun. 2008 (r)
Adjusted²																
42	U.S. Total	313,149	312,050	396,296	0.4	0.4	-21.0	393,934	400,795	439,195	-1.7	-1.2	-10.3	1.26	1.28	1.11
423	..Durable	137,467	136,530	178,277	0.7	-0.2	-22.9	241,684	245,417	269,658	-1.5	-1.8	-10.4	1.76	1.80	1.51
4231	..Automotive	18,811	18,004	24,546	4.5	4.8	-23.4	34,581	34,997	42,034	-1.2	-1.8	-17.7	1.84	1.94	1.71
4232	..Furniture	4,243	4,305	5,117	-1.4	0.0	-17.1	6,754	6,853	8,023	-1.4	-1.8	-15.8	1.59	1.59	1.57
4233	..Lumber	7,539	7,564	10,298	-0.3	-0.4	-26.8	12,151	12,467	14,873	-2.5	-3.3	-18.3	1.61	1.65	1.44
4234	..Prof. equip.	27,956	28,103	30,445	-0.5	-1.4	-8.2	28,871	29,375	32,999	-1.7	-1.9	-12.5	1.03	1.05	1.08
42343	...Comp. equip.	14,323	14,053	15,440	1.9	-0.7	-7.2	9,384	9,452	11,120	-0.7	-2.2	-15.6	0.66	0.67	0.72
4235	..Metals	7,988	7,979	15,314	0.1	-9.0	-47.8	20,202	21,526	28,188	-6.2	-6.0	-28.3	2.53	2.70	1.84
4236	..Electrical	23,653	24,270	28,002	-2.5	-1.8	-15.5	30,061	30,792	34,637	-2.4	-2.2	-13.2	1.27	1.27	1.24
4237	..Hardware	5,936	6,031	7,335	-1.6	0.9	-19.1	13,419	13,408	14,353	0.1	-1.7	-6.5	2.26	2.22	1.96
4238	..Machinery	24,616	24,689	31,590	-0.3	-3.0	-22.1	70,730	71,410	67,505	-1.0	-0.6	4.8	2.87	2.89	2.14
4239	..Misc. Durable	16,225	15,585	25,630	7.3	8.3	-34.7	24,915	27,046	27,046	1.3	-0.1	-7.9	1.49	1.58	1.06
424	..Nondurable	175,682	175,520	218,019	0.1	0.9	-19.4	152,250	155,378	169,537	-2.0	-0.2	-10.2	0.87	0.89	0.78
4241	..Paper ³	7,231	7,283	7,980	-0.7	-0.7	-9.4	6,471	6,648	7,209	-2.7	-2.5	-10.2	0.89	0.91	0.90
4242	..Drugs	32,025	33,598	32,255	-4.7	1.0	-0.7	31,333	31,927	31,833	-1.9	-0.8	-1.6	0.98	0.95	0.99
4243	..Apparel	9,807	10,110	10,234	-3.0	-1.3	-4.2	15,686	15,936	16,734	-1.6	-1.7	-6.3	1.60	1.58	1.64
4244	..Groceries	41,332	41,867	43,750	-1.3	0.2	-5.5	26,289	26,576	27,270	-1.1	-0.7	-3.6	0.64	0.63	0.62
4245	..Farm products	16,790	16,598	20,991	1.2	-4.9	-20.0	17,390	19,670	27,147	-11.6	4.5	-35.9	1.04	1.19	1.29
4246	..Chemicals ³	7,000	6,993	8,972	0.1	2.7	-22.0	7,851	7,734	9,381	1.5	-3.8	-16.3	1.12	1.11	1.05
4247	..Petroleum	33,198	31,003	64,751	7.1	6.3	-48.7	14,987	14,588	15,878	2.7	5.6	-5.6	0.45	0.47	0.25
4248	..Alcohol	8,991	9,096	8,858	-1.2	-1.0	1.5	11,126	10,981	10,757	1.3	-0.7	3.4	1.24	1.21	1.21
4249	..Misc. Nondur.	19,308	18,972	20,228	1.8	1.8	-4.5	21,117	21,318	23,328	-0.9	-2.8	-9.5	1.09	1.12	1.15
													Sales to date			
													2009		2008	
42	U.S. Total	333,060	308,663	408,484	7.9	-1.5	-18.5	389,869	394,596	433,954	-1.2	-2.0	-10.2	1,853,240	2,281,482	
423	..Durable	148,805	132,069	185,785	12.7	-4.1	-19.9	240,086	243,643	268,402	-1.5	-2.0	-10.5	818,718	1,038,495	
4231	..Automotive	20,128	17,518	25,307	14.9	-1.4	-20.5	33,786	34,087	41,277	-0.9	-4.1	-18.1	108,150	157,984	
4232	..Furniture	4,358	4,124	5,097	5.7	-3.2	-14.5	6,693	6,716	7,967	-0.3	-1.0	-16.0	25,098	30,657	
4233	..Lumber	8,707	7,851	11,431	10.9	-2.3	-23.8	12,273	12,592	15,111	-2.5	-3.1	-18.8	45,214	60,269	
4234	..Prof. equip.	30,696	25,630	32,302	19.8	-5.7	-5.0	28,322	28,876	32,405	-1.9	-2.1	-12.6	161,989	174,541	
42343	...Comp. equip.	16,428	12,423	17,046	32.2	-3.8	-3.6	9,121	9,150	10,809	-0.3	-3.3	-15.6	80,472	87,366	
4235	..Metals	8,467	7,931	15,682	6.8	-12.4	-46.0	20,121	21,311	28,132	-5.6	-4.4	-28.5	54,931	87,933	
4236	..Electrical	24,670	23,348	28,198	5.7	-3.1	-12.5	29,851	30,607	34,429	-2.5	-1.4	-13.3	140,837	158,889	
4237	..Hardware	6,613	5,928	7,863	11.6	-0.7	-15.9	13,432	13,462	14,382	-0.2	-1.6	-6.6	35,742	43,007	
4238	..Machinery	26,585	24,294	32,917	9.4	-8.5	-19.2	70,942	71,624	67,978	-1.0	-1.2	4.4	152,087	180,359	
4239	..Misc. Durable	18,581	15,445	26,988	20.3	4.9	-31.2	24,666	24,368	26,721	1.2	-0.1	-7.7	94,670	144,856	
424	..Nondurable	184,255	176,594	222,699	4.3	0.4	-17.3	149,783	150,953	165,552	-0.8	-2.0	-9.5	1,034,522	1,242,987	
4241	..Paper	7,513	7,006	8,028	7.2	-3.2	-6.4	6,471	6,648	7,209	-2.7	-2.5	-10.2	42,828	47,433	
4242	..Drugs	32,441	32,120	31,449	1.0	-3.4	3.2	31,082	31,384	31,706	-1.0	-1.7	-2.0	195,910	189,026	
4243	..Apparel	9,758	9,069	9,876	7.6	-6.0	-1.2	15,623	15,091	16,701	3.5	-1.2	-6.5	57,934	59,776	
4244	..Groceries	42,324	42,579	43,706	-0.6	0.1	-3.2	25,816	26,044	26,779	-0.9	-0.3	-3.6	252,894	263,469	
4245	..Farm products	16,236	15,951	19,291	1.8	-7.6	-15.8	15,199	17,880	23,509	-15.0	-5.1	-35.3	97,578	123,116	
4246	..Chemicals	7,525	6,839	9,205	10.0	1.7	-18.3	7,851	7,734	9,381	1.5	-3.8	-16.3	41,272	51,220	
4247	..Petroleum	36,385	32,553	69,413	11.8	11.0	-47.6	16,096	14,077	16,910	14.3	6.0	-4.8	178,669	338,999	
4248	..Alcohol	10,178	9,323	9,602	9.2	2.9	6.0	11,204	10,926	10,822	2.5	-2.6	3.5	51,487	49,521	
4249	..Misc. Nondur.	21,895	21,154	22,129	3.5	1.8	-1.1	20,441	21,169	22,535	-3.4	-6.3	-9.3	115,950	120,427	

Footnotes:

^p Preliminary estimate.

^r Revised estimate.

¹ For a full description of the NAICS codes used in this table, see the 2002 NAICS manual or <http://www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/naicod02.htm#N42>.

² Except where indicated, sales and inventories estimates are adjusted for seasonal variation. Estimates of sales are also adjusted for trading-day differences and moving holidays. See Table 3 for the combined adjustment factors. Adjusted sales-to-date estimates are not tabulated.

³ No discernible seasonal pattern for this NAICS code was detected in the latest annual review of the seasonal adjustment for inventories. Consequently, the "Adjusted" inventories estimates are equal to the "Not Adjusted" estimates.

Note:

Estimates have not been adjusted for price changes. Table 2 provides estimated measures of sampling variability. Additional information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, sample design, and definitions may be found at http://www.census.gov/wholesale/www/how_surveys_are_collected/011340.html.

Table 2. Estimated Measures of Sampling Variability of Monthly Wholesale Sales and Inventory Estimates

[Estimates are shown as percents and are based on data from the Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey.]

NAICS code	Kind of Business	Coefficient of variation for monthly total				Standard error for monthly total				Coefficient of variation for total		Standard error for percent change
		Preliminary estimates		Final estimates		Ratio of two consecutive months		Current month to current month last year		Sales to date		Current year sales to date to previous year sales to date
		Sales	Inv.	Sales	Inv.	Sales	Inv.	Sales	Inv.	Current year	Previous year	
42	U.S. Total	1.1	1.5	1.2	1.6	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.9	0.8
423	..Durable	1.1	1.9	1.1	1.9	0.5	0.2	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.6	1.0
4231	..Automotive	2.7	5.0	3.2	4.9	0.9	0.2	1.0	1.2	2.9	2.7	0.8
4232	..Furniture	5.5	6.5	4.4	6.5	2.4	0.5	3.2	2.8	4.2	3.6	2.2
4233	..Lumber	6.1	9.0	6.3	9.4	0.9	0.9	1.7	1.9	5.5	4.8	1.5
4234	..Prof. equip.	4.2	3.9	4.1	3.9	1.5	0.8	1.7	1.7	4.3	4.3	1.4
42343	...Comp. equip.	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.3	2.6	0.7	3.0	3.3	7.3	6.7	2.0
4235	..Metals	5.5	5.9	5.6	5.8	2.7	0.7	2.2	2.9	6.0	5.1	2.4
4236	..Electrical	2.4	4.6	2.6	4.5	0.6	0.3	4.2	2.7	2.7	8.4	4.1
4237	..Hardware	5.1	4.6	5.5	4.7	1.0	0.3	1.5	2.5	5.1	5.0	1.3
4238	..Machinery	3.8	4.5	3.7	4.4	2.4	0.5	2.8	2.2	3.4	3.5	1.5
4239	..Misc. Durable	6.2	4.2	5.7	4.1	1.2	0.6	3.9	2.1	5.3	5.8	3.3
424	..Nondurable	1.8	1.9	1.8	2.0	0.6	0.4	0.9	0.9	1.6	1.2	0.8
4241	..Paper	7.7	8.0	7.6	7.7	1.0	0.8	2.4	3.0	7.7	6.8	1.7
4242	..Drugs	3.7	4.5	3.7	4.8	0.8	1.1	2.4	3.0	3.6	3.8	2.1
4243	..Apparel	4.4	7.1	3.9	6.7	2.5	1.1	2.0	2.8	3.8	3.3	1.9
4244	..Groceries	5.2	8.5	5.2	9.0	1.1	0.9	2.3	2.4	4.5	4.0	2.1
4245	..Farm products	4.8	5.9	5.1	4.9	2.6	1.5	2.8	2.4	4.3	3.3	2.1
4246	..Chemicals	7.9	8.0	6.3	7.7	3.2	0.8	3.2	1.8	5.9	7.4	2.3
4247	..Petroleum	4.3	3.1	4.6	2.7	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.6	4.3	3.8	1.4
4248	..Alcohol	6.1	3.8	6.4	3.9	0.9	1.3	3.6	3.4	6.4	7.2	3.6
4249	..Misc. Nondur.	5.5	6.3	6.3	6.2	2.4	0.7	1.7	2.2	5.8	4.6	2.0

Note:

Estimated measures of sampling variability are based on estimates not adjusted for seasonal variation, trading-day differences, or moving holidays. Additional information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, sample design, and definitions may be found at http://www.census.gov/wholesale/www/how_surveys_are_collected/011340.html.

Reliability of the Estimates

Because the estimates presented in this report are based on a sample survey, they contain sampling error and nonsampling error.

Sampling error is the difference between the estimate and the result that would be obtained from a complete enumeration of the sampling frame conducted under the same survey conditions. This error occurs because only a subset of the entire sampling frame is measured in a sample survey. Standard errors and coefficients of variation (CV), as given in Table 2 of this report, are estimated measures of sampling variation.

The margin of sampling error, as used on page 1, gives a range about the estimate, which can be used to construct a 90-percent confidence interval. If, for example, the percent change estimate is +1.2 percent and its estimated standard error is 0.8 percent, then the margin of sampling error is $\pm 1.753 \times 0.8$ percent or ± 1.4 percent, and the 90 percent confidence interval is 1.2 ± 1.4 or -0.2 percent to 2.6 percent. If the interval contains 0, then one does not have sufficient statistical evidence to conclude at the 90 percent confidence level that the actual change is different from zero. Estimated changes shown in the text are statistically significant unless otherwise noted. For a monthly total, the estimated coefficient of variation is given. The resulting confidence interval is the estimated monthly total $\pm 1.753 \times CV \times$ (the estimated monthly total). The Census Bureau recommends that individuals using estimates in this report incorporate this information into their analyses, as sampling error could affect the conclusions drawn from the estimates.

Nonsampling error encompasses all other factors that contribute to the total error of a sample survey estimate. This type of error can occur because of nonresponse, insufficient coverage of the universe of wholesale businesses, mistakes in the recording and coding of data, model error, and other errors of collection, response, coverage, or processing. Although nonsampling error is not measured directly, the Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the process to minimize this type of error.

Table 3. Combined¹ Adjustment Factors for Monthly Wholesale Sales and Inventory Estimates

[Combined adjustment factors are computed using the Census Bureau's X-12 ARIMA program and are based on data from the Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey.]

NAICS code	Kind of Business	Sales						Inventories					
		2009					2008	2009					2008
		Jul.	Jun. r	May r	Apr.	Mar.	Jun. r	Jul.	Jun. r	May r	Apr.	Mar.	Jun. r
42	U.S. Total²	1.023	1.060	0.991	1.015	1.031	1.025	0.998	0.991	0.985	0.994	0.999	0.992
423	..Durable	1.018	1.076	0.971	1.016	1.048	1.038	1.006	0.996	0.994	0.999	0.994	0.997
4231	..Automotive	1.010	1.070	0.973	1.034	1.083	1.031	0.984	0.977	0.974	0.997	1.013	0.982
4232	..Furniture	1.018	1.027	0.958	0.989	1.007	0.996	1.024	0.991	0.980	0.972	0.973	0.993
4233	..Lumber	1.145	1.155	1.038	1.058	0.977	1.110	1.012	1.010	1.010	1.008	1.023	1.016
4234	..Prof. equip.	1.000	1.098	0.912	0.954	1.047	1.061	1.005	0.981	0.983	0.985	0.966	0.982
42343	...Comp. equip.	0.988	1.147	0.884	0.912	1.064	1.104	1.004	0.972	0.968	0.980	0.958	0.972
4235	..Metals	1.060	1.060	0.994	1.033	1.014	1.024	1.006	0.996	0.990	0.973	0.979	0.998
4236	..Electrical	1.024	1.043	0.962	0.975	1.008	1.007	1.015	0.993	0.994	0.986	0.974	0.994
4237	..Hardware	1.054	1.114	0.983	0.998	0.996	1.072	1.012	1.001	1.004	1.003	0.999	1.002
4238	..Machinery	1.009	1.080	0.984	1.044	1.069	1.042	1.005	1.003	1.003	1.009	1.011	1.007
4239	..Misc. Durable	1.041	1.111	0.991	1.024	1.035	1.053	1.002	0.990	0.991	0.991	0.975	0.988
424	..Nondurable	1.029	1.043	1.006	1.017	1.019	1.012	0.992	0.987	0.972	0.989	1.001	0.986
4241	..Paper ³	1.023	1.039	0.962	0.986	1.015	1.006	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
4242	..Drugs	1.002	1.013	0.956	1.000	1.039	0.975	0.992	0.992	0.983	0.992	0.991	0.996
4243	..Apparel	1.089	0.995	0.897	0.941	1.022	0.965	1.036	0.996	0.947	0.942	0.956	0.998
4244	..Groceries	1.002	1.024	1.017	1.018	1.038	0.999	0.981	0.982	0.980	0.976	0.982	0.982
4245	..Farm products	0.942	0.967	0.961	0.989	1.030	0.919	0.839	0.874	0.909	1.001	1.113	0.866
4246	..Chemicals ³	1.062	1.075	0.978	0.988	0.998	1.026	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
4247	..Petroleum	1.142	1.096	1.050	1.006	0.951	1.072	1.096	1.074	0.965	0.961	0.980	1.065
4248	..Alcohol	1.045	1.132	1.025	0.986	0.955	1.084	1.019	1.007	0.995	1.014	0.991	1.006
4249	..Misc. Nondur.	1.044	1.134	1.115	1.115	1.030	1.094	0.953	0.968	0.993	1.030	1.035	0.966

Footnotes:

¹ Revised factors.

¹ Combined factors for sales include the effects of seasonal variation, trading day differences, and moving holidays. Combined factors for inventories include only the effects of seasonal variation.

² Adjusted sales and inventories estimates for detailed kind-of-business levels in Table 1 are computed by dividing each "Not Adjusted" estimate by the combined adjustment factor for the corresponding kind of business and month. Adjusted estimates for broad kind-of-business levels are obtained by summing adjusted estimates at the appropriate detailed levels. Combined factors shown for broad kind-of-business levels may be used to approximate adjusted estimates at these levels, but the resulting estimates may differ slightly from the published estimates.

³ No discernible seasonal pattern for this NAICS code was detected in the latest annual review of the seasonal adjustment for inventories. Therefore, the combined adjustment factors for inventories are set to one for this NAICS code.

Note:

The seasonal adjustment factors shown are estimates derived from a model that uses sample survey data as input. Therefore, these estimates may contain sampling error and nonsampling error. Additional information on the general form of the model and the X-12 ARIMA program may be found at <http://www.census.gov/srd/www/x12a/>.

Description of the Survey

The Census Bureau conducts the Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey (MWTS) to provide national estimates of monthly sales, end-of-month inventories, and inventories-to-sales ratios by kind of business for wholesale firms located in the United States. Specifically, the MWTS covers wholesale merchants who sell goods on their own account and include such businesses as wholesale merchants or jobbers, industrial distributors, exporters, and importers. Sales offices and branches maintained by manufacturing, refining, or mining firms for the purpose of marketing their products are not covered in this report. Also excluded is NAICS Industry Group 4251: Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers.

The MWTS sample was selected using a stratified, one-stage design with strata defined by kind of business (e.g., Automotive, Furniture, Lumber, etc.) and annual sales size. The sample includes firms of all sizes and is updated on a quarterly basis to account for new wholesale firms, deaths, and other changes to the wholesale universe. Each month, questionnaires are mailed to employer firms selected in a probability sample of approximately 4,500. Approximately 77% of those mailed provided data for this reporting period. Data for nonresponding firms are imputed based on data for similar-sized firms classified in the same kind of business. Approximately 29% of the total sales estimate and 27% of the total end-of-month inventories estimate is based on imputed data.

Monthly sales and inventories estimates are obtained by summing weighted data (either reported or imputed). The monthly estimates are benchmarked to annual survey estimates and are adjusted for seasonal variation and trading-day differences. Individuals who use estimates in this report to create new estimates should cite the Census Bureau as the source of only the original estimates. Additional information on the MWTS can be found on the Census Bureau website at: <http://www.census.gov/wholesale>.