

Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey – Methods of Data Collection

A mail-out/mail-back survey of about 4,500 wholesale firms. The sample of merchant wholesalers is drawn from the Business Register, which contains all Employer Identification Numbers (EINs) and locations of establishments for listed businesses. EINs may represent one or more establishments and companies may have one or more Employer Identification Numbers. Firms are stratified by merchant wholesale sales, inventories and major kind of business (determined from the latest Census of Wholesale Trade).

The sample is updated every quarter to reflect "births" and "deaths"; adding new employer businesses identified in the business and professional classification survey and deleting companies that no longer have active Employer Identification EINs. New firms are represented in the sample approximately 9 months after they begin operation. To account for births during this interim period, data are imputed for all EINs that go out of business but are still active on the IRS mailing list.