# U.S. Census Bureau News

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2014 AT 10:00 A.M. EST

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#### MANUFACTURING AND TRADE INVENTORIES AND SALES September 2014

**Sales**. The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that the combined value of distributive trade sales and manufacturers' shipments for September, adjusted for seasonal and trading-day differences but not for price changes, was estimated at 1,352.5 billion, virtually unchanged ( $\pm 0.3\%$ )\* from August 2014, but were up 4.1 percent ( $\pm 0.6\%$ ) from September 2013.

**Inventories.** Manufacturers' and trade inventories, adjusted for seasonal variations but not for price changes, were estimated at an end-of-month level of \$1,756.1 billion, up 0.3 percent ( $\pm$ 0.1%) from August 2014 and up 5.3 percent ( $\pm$ 0.5%) from September 2013.

**Inventories/Sales Ratio.** The total business inventories/sales ratio based on seasonally adjusted data at the end of September was 1.30. The September 2013 ratio was 1.28.



#### Total Business Inventories/Sales Ratios: 2005 to 2014

The Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales Report for October 2014 is scheduled to be released December 11, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. EST.

For customized time series estimates by industry, visit the Census Bureau's web site at www.census.gov/timeseries.

To receive the latest updates on the nation's key economic indicators, download the America's Economy app for Apple and Android smartphones and tablets.

The U.S. Census Bureau updated its Application Programming Interface (API) with monthly and quarterly economic indicators. The API allows developers to combine Census Bureau statistics with other data sets to create tools for research on a variety of topics. For more information, visit <u>www.census.gov/developers</u>.

For additional survey information, visit www.census.gov/mtis.

\* 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 <sup>1</sup>		Inventories/Sales Ratios			
	Sep. 2014	Aug. 2014	Sep. 2013	Sep. 2014	Aug. 2014	Sep. 2013	Sep. 2014	Aug. 2014	Sep. 2013	
	(p)	(r)	(r)	(p)	(r)	(r)	(p)	(r)	(r)	
Adjusted <sup>2</sup>										
Total business	1,352,515	1,352,493	1,299,361	1,756,100	1,751,592	1,668,488	1.30	1.30	1.28	
Manufacturers <sup>3</sup>	,	502,690	488,118	655,190	653,641	632,878	1.30	1.30	1.30	
Retailers Merchant wholesalers⁴	394,793 454,298	396,297 453,506	379,428 431,815	562,078 538,832	560,501 537,450	534,113 501,497	1.42 1.19	1.41 1.19	1.41 1.16	
Not Adjusted										
Total business	1,358,424	1,368,661	1,280,343	1,751,527	1,733,788	1,665,359	1.29	1.27	1.30	
Manufacturers <sup>3</sup>	519,517	513,910	499,417	654,832	658,284	632,639	1.26	1.28	1.27	
Retailers Merchant wholesalers⁴	378,540 460,367	405,710 449,041	358,058 422,868	561,521 535,174	546,573 528,931	534,471 498,249	1.48 1.16	1.35 1.18	1.49 1.18	

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				
	Sep. 14/	Aug. 14/	Sep. 14/	Sep. 14/	Aug. 14/	Sep. 14/	Sep. 14/	Aug. 14/	Sep. 14/	Sep. 14/	Aug. 14/	Sep. 14/		
	Aug. 14	Jul. 14	Sep. 13	Aug. 14	Jul. 14	Sep. 13	Aug. 14	Jul. 14	Sep. 13	Aug. 14	Jul. 14	Sep. 13		
Total business	0.0	-0.5	4.1	0.3	0.1	5.3	-0.7	0.5	6.1	1.0	0.1	5.2		
Manufacturers <sup>3</sup>	0.1	-1.1	3.1	0.2	0.1	3.5	1.1	3.2	4.0	-0.5	0.3	3.5		
Retailers	-0.4	0.6	4.0	0.3	-0.2	5.2	-6.7	1.4	5.7	2.7	0.0	5.1		
Merchant wholesalers <sup>4</sup>	0.2	-0.8	5.2	0.3	0.6	7.4	2.5	-3.3	8.9	1.2	-0.1	7.4		

## Table 3. Estimated Monthly Retail Sales, Inventories, and Inventories/Sales Ratios, By Kind of Business (In millions of dollars)

Percent Change

In Inventories

lul. 14

-0.2

0.0

-0.8

-0.4

0.6

0.4

-0.4

0.1

0.2

0.0

0.9

-1.9

-1.0

0.3

0.1

1.7

2.2

2.5

3.5

1.2

1.6

2.1

2.0

4.9

7.3

11.0

Aug. 14/ Sep. 14/

Sep. 13

5.2

3.0

10.1

3.4

3.5

3.4

2.1

2.1

-2.4

5.1

2.9

9.9

3.4

3.5

3.4

2.0

2.0

2.5

Inventories/Sales

Ratios

Aug. 14

(r)

1.41

1.22

2.07

1.66

1.82

0.78

2.24

1.48

2.11

1.35

1.19

1.85

1.61

1.78

0.75

2.18

1.42

2.03

Sep. 13

(r)

1.41

1.22

2.08

1.63

1.86

0.78

2.28

1.49

2.13

1.49

1.32

2.12

1.72

1.92

0.81

2.70

1.70

2.58

Sep. 14

(p)

1.42

1.22

2.11

1.60

1.85

0.78

2.28

1.49

2.14

1.48

1.31

2.08

1.66

1.83

0.81

2.69

1.71

2.63

Sales Inventories<sup>1</sup> NAICS Kind of Business Sep. 2013 Code Aug. 2014 Sep. 2014 Sep. 2013 Sep. 2014 Aug. 2014 Sep. 14/ (r) (r) (p) (n) (r) (r) Aug. 14 Adjusted <sup>2</sup> Retail trade. total .... 394.793 396.297 379.428 562.078 560.501 534.113 0.3 306,006 297,369 374,198 373,425 363,466 Total (excl. motor veh. & parts)..... 305,575 0.2 441 Motor vehicle & parts dealers..... 89,218 90,291 82,059 187,880 187,076 170,647 0.4 17,409 28,603 27,669 442,3 Furniture, home furn., elect. & appl. stores..... 17,833 16.986 28.885 -1.0 444 Building materials, garden equip & supplies.... 27,489 27,644 26,341 50,731 50,204 49,004 1.0 55,955 54,542 43.805 43,752 42,355 445 Food & beverage stores..... 56,176 0.1 448 Clothing & clothing access. stores..... 21,024 21,340 20,659 47,990 47,705 47,003 0.6 55,821 54,523 82,877 82,789 81,154 452 General merchandise stores..... 55,734 0.1 4521 Dept. strs. (excl. leased depts.)..... 13,829 13,981 14,197 29,581 29,528 30,308 0.2 Not Adjusted Retail trade, total.... 378,540 405,710 358,058 561,521 546,573 534,471 2.7

292,194

86.346

17,189

27,239

54,085

18,838

50,626

12,031

309,810

95.900

17,427

27.526

57,060

22,154

56,701

14.046

280,987

77.071

16,010

25.167

52,354

18,387

49,835

12,569

381,953

179.568

28,546

49.970

43,790

50,725

86,434

31.592

369,132

177.441

28,105

48.949

42.940

48,373

80,554

28.465

371,133

163.338

27,614

48.269

42.335

49,729

84,720

32.399

(p) Preliminary estimate.

Total (excl. motor veh. & parts).....

Motor vehicle & parts dealers.....

Building materials, garden equip & supplies....

Food & beverage stores.....

Clothing & clothing access. stores.....

General merchandise stores

442,3 Furniture,home furn., elect. & appl. stores.....

(r) Revised estimate.

441

444

445

448

452

<sup>1</sup> Inventories are on a non-LIFO basis as of the end of the month.

<sup>2</sup> 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-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.

<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> The 2007 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  $\pm 1.2$  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.