

Table 2. Levels and Percent Changes for Inventories

Inventories estimates are shown in millions of dollars. Estimates are based on data from the Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey and the Monthly Retail Trade Survey.

	Inventories					
	Monthly			Percent change		
	May 2018 (a)	April 2018 (r)	May 2017 (r)	May 2018/ April 2018	April 2018/ March 2018	May 2018/ May 2017
Adjusted¹						
Merchant wholesale ² trade, total	633,234	630,023	598,020	0.5	0.1	5.9
Durable goods	381,771	380,027	359,563	0.5	0.3	6.2
Nondurable goods	251,463	249,996	238,457	0.6	-0.1	5.5
Retail trade, total	635,509	632,785	621,048	0.4	0.5	2.3
Total (excl. motor veh. & parts)	408,657	408,157	398,617	0.1	0.3	2.5
Motor vehicle & parts dealers	226,852	224,628	222,431	1.0	0.8	2.0
Not Adjusted						
Merchant wholesale ² trade, total	627,922	632,116	593,525	-0.7	-0.5	5.8
Durable goods	382,641	380,126	360,395	0.7	0.6	6.2
Nondurable goods	245,281	251,990	233,130	-2.7	-2.2	5.2
Retail trade, total	628,715	633,033	613,968	-0.7	0.4	2.4
Total (excl. motor veh. & parts)	400,126	402,582	390,259	-0.6	0.1	2.5
Motor vehicle & parts dealers	228,589	230,451	223,709	-0.8	1.0	2.2

(a) Advance estimate

(r) Revised estimate

See footnotes and notes at the end of Table 3.

Table 3. Estimated Measures of Sampling Variability

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

	Inventories					
	Monthly			Standard Error of		
	Coefficient of Variation			Percent Change		
	May 2018 (a)	April 2018 (r)	May 2017 (r)	May 2018/ April 2018	April 2018/ March 2018	May 2018/ May 2017
Merchant wholesale ² trade, total	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.1	0.1	2.1
Durable goods	2.1	2.1	1.5	0.1	0.2	2.8
Nondurable goods	1.4	1.5	2.1	0.2	0.2	1.9
Retail trade, total	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.9
Total (excl. motor veh. & parts)	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.9
Motor vehicle & parts dealers	1.3	1.2	1.5	0.2	0.2	1.7

(a) Advance estimate

(r) Revised estimate

(1) Estimates are concurrently adjusted for seasonal variation, but not for price changes. Concurrent seasonal adjustment uses all available not adjusted estimates as input to the X-13ARIMA-SEATS program. The factors derived from the program are used in calculating all seasonally adjusted estimates shown in this table.

(2) The 2012 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.

NOTES:

Estimated measures of sampling variability are based on estimates not adjusted for seasonal variation. Additional information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, sample design, and definitions may be found at www.census.gov/wholesale/www/how_surveys_are_collected/monthly_methodology.html for wholesale and at www.census.gov/retail/mrts/how_surveys_are_collected.html for retail.