

Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales (MTIS)

Measuring the U.S. Economy

The U.S. Census Bureau measures the nation's people, places, and economy.

A Vital Resource for Manufacturing and Trade Statistics

What is the Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales (MTIS)?

The Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales (MTIS) report provides broad and timely measures of combined changes in domestic retail trade, wholesale trade, and manufacturers' activities.

Estimates in this report are based on data from three surveys:

- Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders Survey (M3)
- Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey (MWTS)
- Monthly Retail Trade Survey (MRTS)

What value does the Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales report provide?

- An up-to-date indication of trends for sales and inventories of combined retail trade, wholesale trade, and manufacturers' activities.
- Reliable measure of current economic activity that is essential to an objective assessment of a wide range of public policy decisions.
- Corporate economists, trade associations, news media, academia, investment consultants, and researchers use MTIS data for analysis and forecasting of future economic conditions.
- Manufacturers can use inventories estimates as a proxy for distributors' confidence for future expected sales.

What data items are included?

- Sales
- Inventories
- Inventories/sales ratios
- Measures of sampling variability
- Seasonally adjusted and not adjusted data

What is covered in the MTIS?

The MTIS covers:

- Manufacturing (NAICS Sectors 31-33)
- Wholesale Trade (NAICS Sector 42), including merchant wholesalers but excluding manufacturers' sales branches and offices (or MSBOs) and agents and brokers.
- Retail Trade (NAICS Sectors 44-45)

What geographic levels are provided?

Data are provided at the national level.

How frequently is it conducted and released?

The MTIS is conducted monthly. The MTIS is released online, approximately 6 weeks after the close of the data month.

Is respondent information kept confidential?

Title 13, United States Code, Section 9 requires the Census Bureau to keep respondent information confidential and to use responses only to produce statistics.

Visit the MTIS website for access to the latest data, full release reports, historical data, information on methodology, and to create your own customizable time series at www.census.gov/mtis.

For more information on the M3 data, contact 301-763-4832, or e-mail eid.m3.qs@census.gov

For more information on the MTIS data, contact 301-763-6856 or e-mail eid.wholesale.indicator.branch@census.gov.

For more information on the Economic Indicators, visit www.census.gov/economic-indicators/.

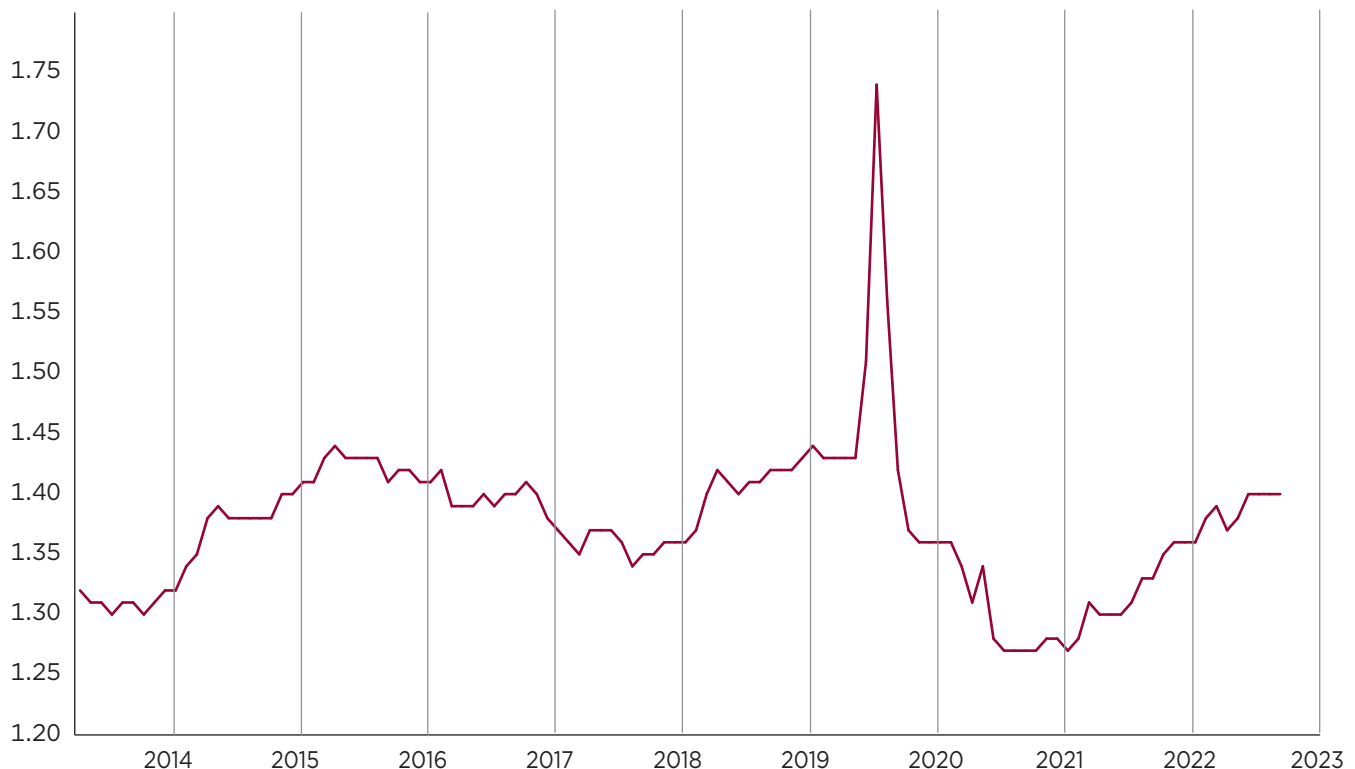


Receive the latest updates on the nation's key economic indicators by downloading the FRED App for both Apple and Android devices. FRED, the signature database of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, now incorporates the Census Bureau's 13 economic indicators. <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/>.

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Monthly Total Business Inventories/Sales Ratios: 2014 to 2023



Note: Data adjusted for seasonality but not 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, August 15, 2023.
(Data adjusted for seasonal, holiday and trading day differences but not for price changes)

Are there other programs that provide similar data?

Selected annual data are available, including data from the Annual Survey of Manufactures www.census.gov/programs-surveys/asm.html, Annual Wholesale Trade Survey www.census.gov/programs-surveys/awts.html, Annual Retail Trade Survey www.census.gov/programs-surveys/arts.html, and County Business Patterns www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html. Detailed statistics from the 5-year Economic Census www.census.gov/programs-surveys/economic-census.html are also available.