

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## MANUFACTURING AND TRADE INVENTORIES AND SALES March 2009

**Notice of Revision:** Revisions to the Retail monthly estimates for sales and inventories were released on April 30, 2009 and are reflected in this release. Revisions to the Manufacturing data will be reflected at a later date.

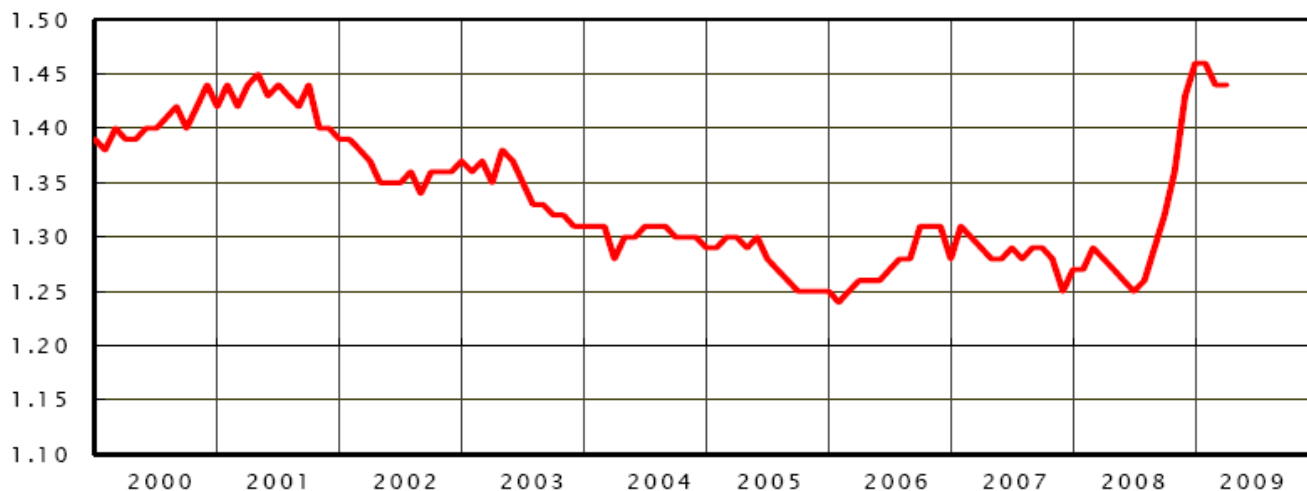
**Sales.** The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that the combined value of distributive trade sales and manufacturers' shipments for March, adjusted for seasonal and trading-day differences but not for price changes, was estimated at \$971.7 billion, down 1.6 percent ( $\pm 0.2\%$ ) from February 2009 and down 15.6 percent ( $\pm 0.4\%$ ) from March 2008.

**Inventories.** Manufacturers' and trade inventories, adjusted for seasonal variations but not for price changes, were estimated at an end-of-month level of \$1,404.1 billion, down 1.0 percent ( $\pm 0.1\%$ ) from February 2009 and down 4.8 percent ( $\pm 0.3\%$ ) from March 2008.

**Inventories/Sales Ratio.** The total business inventories/sales ratio based on seasonally adjusted data at the end of March was 1.44. The March 2008 ratio was 1.28.

### Total Business Inventories/Sales Ratios: 2000 to 2009

(Data adjusted for seasonal, holiday and trading-day differences but not for price changes)



The Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales Report for April is scheduled to be released June 11, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. EDT.

For information, visit the Census Bureau's Web site at <<http://www.census.gov/bussales>>. 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.