U.S. Census Bureau News

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

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2008 AT 10 A.M. EST

CB08-173

U.S. Census Bureau Contact:

Demetria Hanna (301) 763-6600 John Seabold (301) 763-3386 e-mail: csd.qfr@census.gov

THIRD QUARTER 2008 DATA FROM THE QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT U.S. MANUFACTURING, MINING, AND TRADE CORPORATIONS

After-Tax Profits and Sales, Third Quarter 2008 - Seasonally Adjusted¹

Manufacturing Corporations

U.S. manufacturing corporations' seasonally adjusted **after-tax profits** in the third quarter of 2008 totaled \$126.8 billion, up \$24.1 (± 1.2) billion from the \$102.8 billion recorded in the second quarter of 2008, and up \$51.5 (± 2.0) from the \$75.3 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2007.

Seasonally adjusted **sales** for the quarter totaled \$1,681.3 billion, not statistically different from the \$1,678.9 billion recorded in the second quarter of 2008, but up \$152.7 (\pm 22.3) billion from the \$1,528.6 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2007.

After-tax profits per dollar of sales averaged 7.5 cents for the quarter, compared with 6.1 cents for the second quarter of 2008, and 4.9 cents for the third quarter of 2007.

Nondurable Goods Manufacturers

Nondurable goods manufacturers' seasonally adjusted **after-tax profits** in the third quarter of 2008 totaled \$83.8 billion, up \$7.9 (± 0.2) billion from the \$75.8 billion recorded in the second quarter of 2008, and up \$16.7 (± 0.6) billion from the \$67.1 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2007.

Seasonally adjusted **sales** for the quarter totaled \$909.4 billion, not statistically different from the \$910.0 billion recorded in the second quarter of 2008, but up \$148.2 (± 10.9) billion from the \$761.3 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2007.

After-tax profits per dollar of sales averaged 9.2 cents for the quarter, compared with 8.3 cents for the second quarter of 2008, and 8.8 cents for the third quarter of 2007.

Durable Goods Manufacturers

Durable goods manufacturers' seasonally adjusted **after-tax profits** in the third quarter of 2008 totaled \$43.1 billion, up \$16.1 (± 1.2) billion from the \$26.9 billion recorded in the second quarter of 2008, and up \$34.8 (± 1.8) billion from the \$8.2 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2007.

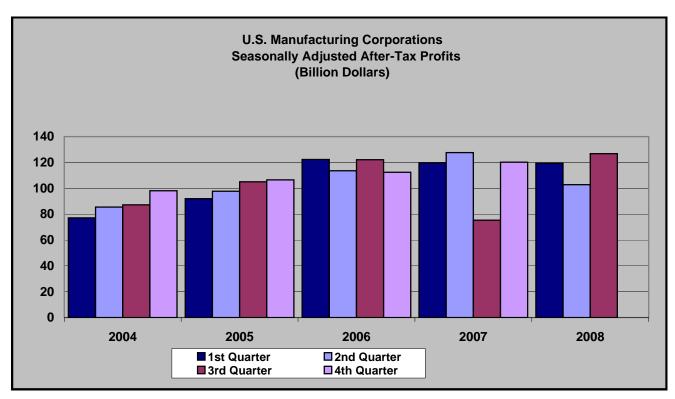
Seasonally adjusted **sales** for the quarter totaled \$771.9 billion, not statistically different from the \$768.9 billion recorded in the second quarter of 2008, and not statistically different from the \$767.4 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2007.

After-tax profits per dollar of sales averaged 5.6 cents for the quarter, compared with 3.5 cents for the second quarter of 2008, and 1.1 cents for the third quarter of 2007.

¹Beginning with the 2007Q4 data release, updated RegARIMA models for seasonal adjustment were implemented to improve the identification of seasonal patterns in unadjusted net sales and net income after taxes for All Manufacturing, All Nondurable manufacturing, and All Durable manufacturing.

Manufacturing Corporations' Quarterly After-Tax Profits, 2004-2008—Seasonally Adjusted

Third quarter seasonally-adjusted after-tax profits of U.S. manufacturing corporations in 2008 were well above totals for the second quarter of 2008 and third quarter 2007, and were the highest for any third quarter in the 2004-2008 period.



After-Tax Profits and Sales, Third Quarter 2008 - Not Seasonally Adjusted

Manufacturing Corporations

Third quarter 2008 U.S. manufacturing corporations' unadjusted **after-tax profits** totaled \$131.4 billion, up \$51.4 (± 2.0) billion from the \$79.9 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2007, and up \$20.1 (± 1.2) billion from the \$111.3 billion recorded in the second quarter of 2008.

Unadjusted **sales** for the third quarter of 2008 totaled \$1,694.1 billion, up \$154.7 (\pm 22.3) billion from the \$1,539.4 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2007, but down \$26.3 (\pm 8.5) billion from second quarter 2008 sales of \$1,720.4 billion.

After-tax profits per dollar of sales averaged 7.8 cents for the quarter, compared with 5.2 cents for the third quarter of 2007, and 6.5 cents for the second quarter of 2008.

Nondurable Goods Manufacturers

Third quarter 2008 nondurable goods manufacturers' unadjusted **after-tax profits** totaled \$88.0 billion, up \$16.7 (\pm 0.6) billion from the \$71.2 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2007. Within industry categories, year-over-year results were mixed. Industries reporting increases included petroleum and coal products, up \$16.3 (\pm 0.3) billion; pharmaceuticals and medicines, up \$3.1 (\pm 0.2) billion; and all other chemicals, up \$2.1 (\pm 0.2) billion. Industries reporting decreases included plastics and rubber products, down \$1.9 (\pm 0.1) billion; textile mills and textile products mills, down \$1.6 (\pm 0.1) billion; and beverage and tobacco products, down \$1.2 (\pm 0.1) billion.

Compared with second quarter 2008 after-tax profits of \$77.6 billion, third quarter 2008 after-tax profits, at \$88.0 billion, were up \$10.4 (± 0.2) billion. Within industry categories, quarter-over-quarter results were mixed. Industries reporting increases included petroleum and coal products, up \$8.8 (± 0.1) billion; beverage and tobacco products, up \$4.0 (± 0.1) billion; and food, up \$1.3 (± 0.1) billion. Industries reporting decreases included textile mills and textile products mills, down \$1.6 (± 0.1) billion; basic chemicals, resins, and synthetics products, down \$1.2 (± 0.1) billion; and plastics and rubber products, down \$1.1 (± 0.1) billion.

Unadjusted **sales** for the third quarter 2008 totaled \$921.3 billion, up \$149.1 (± 10.9) billion from the \$772.2 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2007, but down \$11.9 (± 5.0) billion from second quarter 2008 sales of \$933.2 billion.

After-tax profits per dollar of sales averaged 9.6 cents for the quarter, compared with 9.2 cents for the third quarter of 2007, and 8.3 cents for the second quarter of 2008.

Durable Goods Manufacturers

Third quarter 2008 durable goods manufacturers' unadjusted **after-tax profits** totaled \$43.4 billion, up \$34.7 (\pm 1.8) billion from the \$8.7 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2007. Within industry categories, year-over-year results were mixed. Industries reporting increases included motor vehicles and parts, up \$44.7 (\pm 0.1) billion; iron, steel, and ferroalloy products, up \$1.7 (\pm 0.1) billion; and miscellaneous manufacturing, up \$1.2 (\pm 1.1) billion. Industries reporting decreases included communications equipment, down \$5.6 (\pm 0.4) billion; nonmetallic mineral products, down \$2.3 (\pm 0.1) billion; computer and peripheral equipment, down \$1.9 (\pm 0.2) billion; and electrical equipment, appliances, and components, down \$1.6 (\pm 0.2) billion.

Compared to second quarter 2008 after-tax profits of \$33.7 billion, third quarter 2008 after-tax profits, at \$43.4 billion, were up \$9.7 (± 1.2) billion. Within the industry categories, quarter-over-quarter results were mixed. Industries reporting increases included motor vehicles and parts products, up \$21.0 (± 0.1) billion; all other electronic products, up \$1.2 (± 0.2) billion; and furniture and related products, up \$0.5 (± 0.2) billion. Industries reporting decreases included communications equipment, down \$5.2 (± 0.3) billion; machinery products, down \$2.5 (± 0.2) billion; and computer and peripheral equipment, down \$2.0 (± 0.1) billion.

Unadjusted **sales** for the third quarter of 2008 at \$772.8 billion, were not statistically different from the \$767.2 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2007, but down \$14.4 (±6.6) billion from second quarter 2008 sales of \$787.2 billion.

After-tax profits per dollar of sales averaged 5.6 cents for the quarter, compared with 1.1 cents for the third quarter of 2007, and 4.3 cents for the second quarter of 2008.

Mining Corporations

Third quarter 2008 unadjusted **after-tax profits** for mining corporations with assets of \$50 million and over, totaled \$31.0 billion, up \$17.7 (± 0.2) billion from the \$13.3 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2007. Compared with second quarter 2008 after-tax profits of \$9.7 billion, third quarter 2008 after-tax profits were up \$21.3 (± 0.1) billion.

Unadjusted sales for the third quarter of 2008 totaled \$70.5 billion, up \$19.4 (± 0.7) billion from the \$51.0 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2007, and up \$4.2 (± 0.4) billion from second quarter 2008 sales of \$66.3 billion.

After-tax profits per dollar of sales averaged 44.0 cents for the quarter, compared with 26.1 cents for the third quarter of 2007, and 14.7 cents for the second quarter of 2008.

Wholesale Trade Corporations

Third quarter 2008 unadjusted **after-tax profits** for wholesale trade corporations with assets of \$50 million and over, at \$8.9 billion, were not statistically different from the \$9.1 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2007. Compared with second quarter 2008 after-tax profits of \$8.9 billion, third quarter 2008 after-tax profits were not statistically different.

Unadjusted **sales** for the third quarter of 2008 totaled \$514.1 billion, up \$50.4 (±12.4) billion from the \$463.8 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2007, but not statistically different from second quarter 2008 sales of \$517.0 billion.

After-tax profits per dollar of sales averaged 1.7 cents for the quarter, compared with 2.0 cents for the third quarter of 2007, and were not statistically different from the second quarter of 2008.

ACCESS TO QFR DATA

This press release can be viewed today in portable document format (.pdf) at our QFR internet website http://www.census.gov/csd/qfr/view/qfr_mg.pdf. Data in the release are drawn from a more comprehensive data set published in the *Quarterly Financial Report for Manufacturing, Mining, and Trade Corporations - Third quarter 2008* (QFR-08-3). This quarterly publication is available for downloading at our QFR internet website http://www.census.gov/csd/qfr/pub.html. The quarterly publication includes summary statements of income and retained earnings, balance sheets, and related financial and operating ratios for manufacturing, mining, and trade corporations. Data presented are classified by industry and asset size.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Data in this press release are based on quarterly financial reports from approximately 9,000 U.S. corporations. The data are estimated from a sample survey and are subject to sampling and nonsampling errors. Sampling error occurs because only a subset of the entire population is measured. Nonsampling error encompasses all other factors that contribute to the total error of a survey, including response errors, nonresponse, and coverage errors. Although no direct measures of nonsampling error are available, precautionary steps were taken in all phases of the collection, processing and tabulation of the data in an effort to minimize their influence.

Statements of change appearing in this report include 90% confidence intervals based on estimates of sampling variability. A statement such as "up $$2.5 (\pm 0.2)$ billion," appearing in the text, indicates the range (+\$2.3 billion to +\$2.7 billion) in which the actual change is likely to have occurred. If the range contained zero (0), then it is uncertain whether there is an increase or decrease; that is, the change is not statistically different from zero (0). For any comparison cited without a confidence interval, the change is statistically significant at the 90% confidence level. The quarterly publication, *Quarterly Financial Report for Manufacturing, Mining, and Trade Corporations* – *Third quarter 2008* (QFR-08-03), includes more detailed explanations of confidence intervals and sampling variability, along with additional measures of sampling variability.

Schedule of Release Dates for Calendar Year 2009								
Reference Quarter	Manufacturing, Mining, and Wholesale Trade	Retail Trade						
Third Quarter 2008		January 7, 2009						
Fourth Quarter 2008	March 30, 2009	March 30, 2009						
First Quarter 2009	June 15, 2009	June 22, 2009						
Second Quarter 2009	September 14, 2009	September 21, 2009						
Third Quarter 2009	December 14, 2009	December 21, 2009						

Table 1. U.S. Manufacturing Corporations - Selected Financial Data¹

	Se	asonally adjust	ed	Unadjusted			
Item	3Q	2Q	3Q	3Q	2Q	3Q	
	2008	2008^{2}	2007^{2}	2008	2008^{2}	2007^{2}	
Rate of return (after taxes):							
Cents per dollar of sales	7.54	6.12	4.93	7.75	6.47	5.19	
Percent on equity (annual rate)	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.97	14.42	10.80	
	(million dollars)						
Sales	1,681,337	1,678,877	1,528,639	1,694,110	1,720,380	1,539,399	
Income after income taxes	126,839	102,774	75,325	131,352	111,281	79,939	
Dividends paid (cash)	N/A	N/A	N/A	46,933	50,523	47,895	

¹Beginning with the 2007Q4 data release, updated RegARIMA models for seasonal adjustment were implemented to improve the identification of seasonal patterns in unadjusted net sales and net income after taxes for All Manufacturing, All Nondurable manufacturing, and All Durable manufacturing.

 $Table\ 2.\ U.S.\ Manufacturing\ Corporations\ -\ Seasonally\ Adjusted\ Sales\ and\ Net\ Income\ After-Tax^{1\,2}$

		Sal	es ³		After-tax profits ³				
Industry group and year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	(million dollars)				(million dollars)				
All Manufacturing:									
1997	965,348	970,706	986,147	998,177	60,342	61,074	60,023	63,473	
1998	989,073	980,229	985,315	996,104	74,386	48,088	58,757	53,706	
1999	1.002.477	1,025,726	1.046,920	1.073.850	59,557	62,186	64,060	72,390	
2000	1,119,584	1,127,786	1,144,037	1,122,682	77,051	69,531	71,100	52,667	
2001	1,114,675	1,093,655	1,058,827	1,029,082	(198)	14,685	8,269	13,084	
2002	1,024,145	1,048,807	1,064,691	1,077,725	25,369	36,533	38,633	39,198	
2003	1,101,430	1,073,484	1,104,279	1,114,560	59,453	48,346	50,659	78,163	
2004	1,182,130	1,221,821	1,244,169	1,284,324	77,091	85,473	87,187	98,132	
2005	1,299,328	1,321,460	1,375,617	1,412,791	92,036	97,664	104,957	106,456	
2006	1,444,051	1,451,375	1,457,490	1,429,205	122,263	113,615	122,115	112,446	
2007	1,453,842	1,490,256	1,528,639	1,584,686	119,651	127,623	75,325	120,179	
2008	1,619,200	1,678,877	1,681,337		119,371	102,774	126,839		
All Nondurable manufacturing:									
1997	462,729	455,163	460,741	466,197	33,191	30,161	29,644	30,375	
1998	451,606	444,849	442,986	442,016	29,519	28,022	29,729	19,597	
1999	445,183	452,182	460,144	477,183	26,126	28,411	30,114	32,987	
2000	506,680	514,623	526,840	505,151	37,044	38,238	35,637	31,498	
2001	507,783	506,156	488,501	471,647	31,203	33,850	25,485	21,581	
2002	463,498	478,709	497,219	515,420	26,473	28,814	29,215	33,868	
2003	541,037	514,248	532,100	526,389	43,691	33,858	28,043	43,048	
2004	572,069	592,974	602,804	628,149	41,394	46,910	49,684	53,459	
2005	638,375	646,246	689,452	705,496	56,095	57,431	61,211	65,482	
2006	720,881	721,594	726,871	703,209	68,850	71,287	71,619	65,811	
2007	715,837	747,702	761,260	817,337	70,413	73,664	67,082	72,146	
2008	853,923	910,001	909,436		73,355	75,836	83,771		
All Durable manufacturing:									
1997	502,619	515,543	525,406	531,980	27,151	30,913	30,379	33,098	
1998	537,467	535,380	542,329	554,088	44,867	20,066	29,028	34,109	
1999	557,294	573,544	586,776	596,667	33,431	33,775	33,946	39,403	
2000	612,904	613,163	617,197	617,531	40,007	31,293	35,463	21,169	
2001	606,892	587,499	570,326	557,435	(31,401)	(19,165)	(17,216)	(8,497)	
2002	560,647	570,098	567,472	562,305	(1,104)	7,719	9,418	5,330	
2003	560,393	559,236	572,179	588,171	15,762	14,488	22,616	35,115	
2004	610,061	628,847	641,365	656,175	35,697	38,563	37,503	44,673	
2005	660,953	675,214	686,165	707,295	35,941	40,233	43,746	40,974	
2006	723,170	729,781	730,619	725,996	53,413	42,328	50,496	46,635	
2007	738,005	742,554	767,379	767,349	49,238	53,959	8,243	48,033	
2008	765,277	768,876	771,901		46,016	26,938	43,068		

¹The seasonally adjusted estimates provided in this table were derived using a combination of SIC-based and NAICS-based estimates.

²Revised.

² Beginning with the 2007Q4 data release, updated RegARIMA models for seasonal adjustment were implemented to improve the identification of seasonal patterns in unadjusted net sales and net income after taxes for All Manufacturing, All Nondurable manufacturing, and All Durable manufacturing.

³Revised.

Table 3. U.S. Manufacturing, Mining, and Trade Corporations - Not Seasonally Adjusted Sales and Profits

	Sales		Operating profits ¹			After-tax profits			
Industry group	3Q	2Q	3Q	3Q	2Q	3Q	3Q	2Q	3Q
mdustry group	2008	2008^{2}	2007^{2}	2008	2008^{2}	2007^{2}	2008	2008^{2}	2007^{2}
	(million dollars)								
All manufacturing ³	1,694,110	1,720,380	1,539,399	114,044	108,275	105,810	131,352	111,281	79,939
All nondurable manufacturing	921,347	933,225	772,207	67,240	64,217	60,274	87,962	77,556	71,249
Food	152,228	152,257	134,226	9,966	10,213	8,494	9,280	7,997	7,689
Beverage and tobacco products	35,692	35,115	32,803	6,423	6,218	5,628	5,946	1,903	7,188
Textile mills and textile product mills	10,334	10,743	11,654	436	497	655	(1,292)	287	274
Apparel and leather products	22,341	20,593	22,453	2,104	1,653	2,345	1,783	1,360	2,293
Paper	35,604	37,261	36,288	2,152	1,940	2,189	1,507	770	1,380
Printing and related support activities	18,980	20,205	20,045	1,060	1,443	1,352	477	679	820
Petroleum and coal products	401,403	408,574	284,460	20,808	13,865	12,827	41,105	32,349	24,836
Chemicals	201,304	205,785	187,613	22,697	25,996	23,498	28,678	30,626	24,410
Basic chemicals, resins, and									
synthetics ⁴	69,636	73,755	62,226	1,171	3,002	2,815	1,854	3,049	2,762
Pharmaceuticals and medicines ⁴	74,483	72,678	74,730	14,146	14,044	14,519	18,748	19,065	15,628
All other chemicals ⁴	57,185	59,352	50,657	7,380	8,950	6,164	8,076	8,512	6,020
Plastics and rubber products	43,461	42,692	42,665	1,594	2,392	3,286	478	1,584	2,359
All durable manufacturing	772,764	787,155	767,192	46,804	44,058	45,536	43,390	33,725	8,691
Wood products	19,703	17,798	19,364	739	879	951	507	569	495
Nonmetallic mineral products	32,544	30,354	34,005	2,523	2,097	3,798	1,670	1,664	3,921
Primary metals	78,527	77,936	63,666	8,151	7,454	5,491	6,198	6,307	4,930
Iron, steel, and ferroalloys ⁴	45,389	43,818	31,874	5,395	4,506	2,929	3,806	3,362	2,069
Nonferrous metals ⁴	26,923	27,768	25,620	2,009	2,268	1,869	1,910	2,465	2,408
Foundries ⁴	6,215	6,350	6,173	747	681	693	482	479	453
Fabricated metal products	75,068	78,636	72,614	6,856	7,724	7,063	5,904	6,819	5,517
Machinery	102,181	104,944	93,891	8,378	10,070	8,401	7,312	9,827	7,549
Computer and electronic products	148,289	144,808	143,312	4,556	4,019	5,413	6,729	12,714	15,138
Computer and peripheral equipment ⁴	40,885	38,875	40,099	(144)	(371)	(135)	2,760	4,749	4,625
Communications equipment ⁴	34,059	33,354	33,031	(567)	(318)	304	(2,243)	2,995	3,390
All other electronic products ⁴	73,346	72,579	70,182	5,267	4,708	5,245	6,212	4,970	7,123
Electrical equipment, appliances, and									
components	53,387	54,749	51,563	4,811	4,632	3,807	5,933	7,409	7,524
Transportation equipment	198,952	215,897	225,357	3,777	1,257	4,115	2,346	(17,683)	(41,938)
Motor vehicles and parts ⁴	119,811	132,307	151,676	(3,750)	(7,157)	(3,894)	(3,497)	(24,456)	(48,151)
Aerospace products and parts ⁴	60,744	64,433	59,270	5,852	6,758	6,156	4,600	5,567	4,857
Furniture and related products	19,811	18,791	20,551	1,613	1,111	1,861	1,337	861	1,328
Miscellaneous manufacturing	44,301	43,242	42,869	5,401	4,815	4,635	5,454	5,237	4,227
All mining ³	70,481	66,300	51,041	23,507	20,530	12,797	31,001	9,723	13,300
All wholesale trade ³	514,124	516,968	463,752	13,822	12,838	13,613	8,867	8,928	9,067
All retail trade ^{3 5}	N/A	532,879	502,914	N/A	22,084	20,104	N/A	11,955	12,736

¹Operating profits are profits before nonoperating income and expense items and income taxes.

²Revised.

³Manufacturing data are the quarterly results of companies within that division with total assets of \$250 thousand and over at the time of sample selection; whereas, data for mining and trade corporations represent the quarterly results of companies with total assets of \$50 million and over at the time of sample selection.

⁴Included in major industry above.

⁵Third quarter estimates for Retail Trade will be available on January 7, 2009, and will be published in the fourth quarter publication, scheduled for release on March 30, 2009.