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THIRD QUARTER 2012 DATA FROM THE QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT: LARGE U.S. RETAIL TRADE CORPORATIONS

After-Tax Profits and Sales, Third Quarter 2012 – Not Seasonally Adjusted

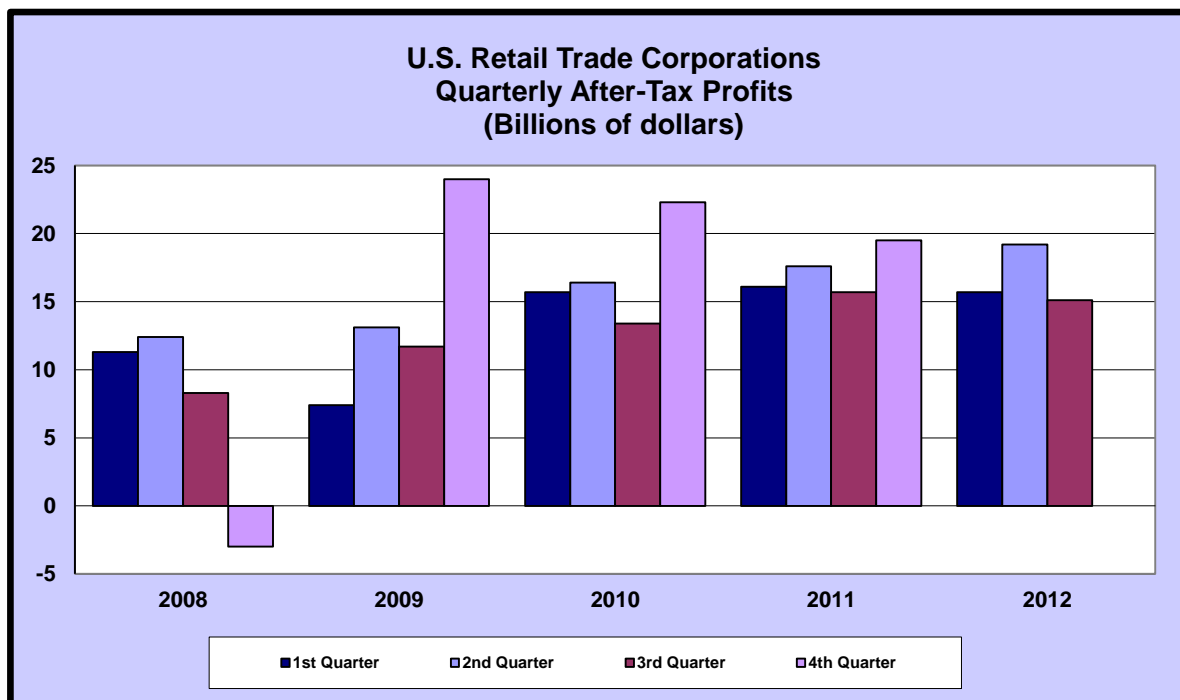
Third quarter 2012 **after-tax profits** of U.S. retail corporations with assets of \$50 million and over totaled \$15.1 billion, down \$0.6 (± 0.1) billion from the after-tax profits of \$15.7 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2011, and down \$4.1 (± 0.1) billion from the after-tax profits of \$19.2 billion recorded in the second quarter of 2012.

Sales in the third quarter of 2012, were \$597.3 billion, up \$24.9 (± 8.5) billion from the \$572.4 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2011, but down \$4.7 (± 4.2) billion from the \$602.0 billion recorded in the second quarter of 2012.

After-tax profits per dollar of sales were 2.5 cents for the quarter, compared with 2.7 cents for the third quarter of 2011, and 3.2 cents for the second quarter of 2012.

Retail Trade Corporations' After-Tax Profits, 2008-2012 – Not Seasonally Adjusted

After-tax profits (not seasonally adjusted) of U.S. retail trade corporations with assets of \$50 million and over were lower in the third quarter of 2012 than in the second quarter of 2012 and the third quarter of 2011.

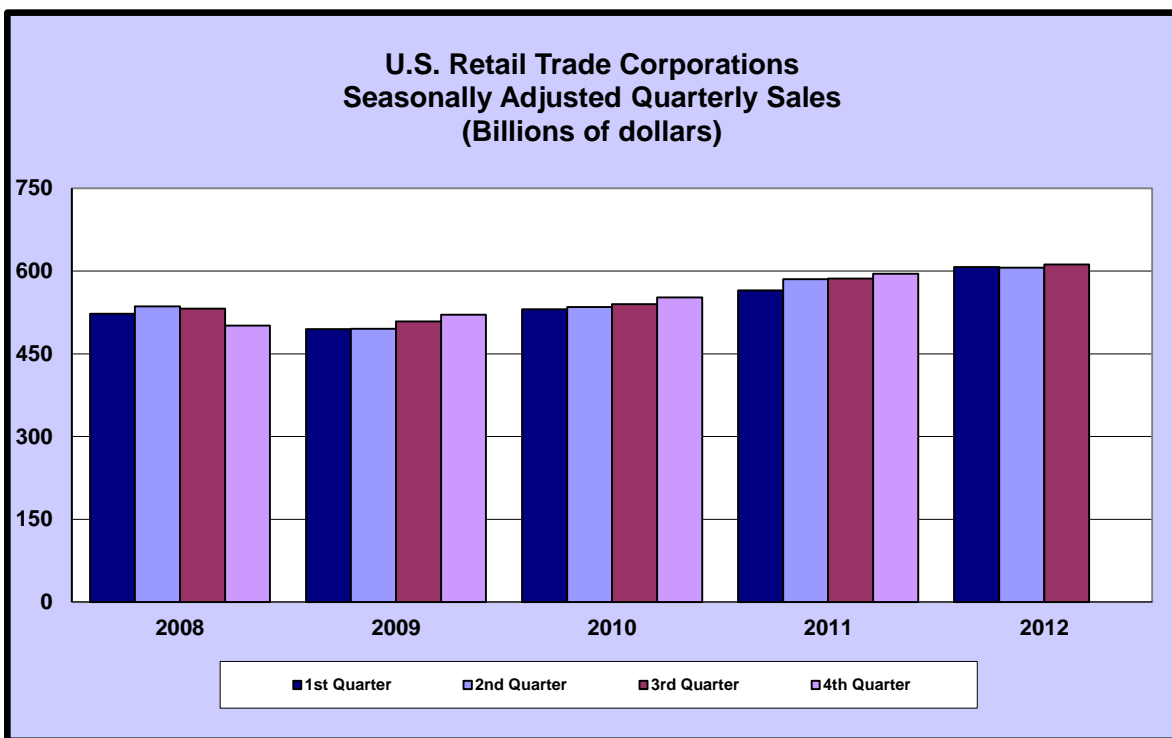


Retail Trade Corporations' Sales, Third Quarter 2012 – Seasonally Adjusted

Seasonally adjusted sales of U.S. retail corporations with assets of \$50 million and over totaled \$611.9 billion in the third quarter of 2012, up \$5.8 (± 4.2) billion from the \$606.1 billion recorded in the second quarter of 2012, and up \$25.2 (± 8.5) billion from the \$586.8 billion recorded in the third quarter of 2011.

Retail Trade Corporations' Sales, 2008-2012 – Seasonally Adjusted

Third quarter sales (seasonally adjusted) of U.S. retail trade corporations with assets of \$50 million and over were higher in 2012 than in any other third quarter in the 2008 - 2012 period.



ACCESS TO QFR DATA

This press release can be viewed today in portable document format (.pdf) at the QFR internet website <http://www.census.gov/econ/qfr/index.html>. Summary statements of income and retained earnings, balance sheets, and related financial and operating ratios for retail trade corporations, as well as information on adjustments for seasonal variation, are available at the QFR internet website.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Estimates of change presented in this press release are calculated using unrounded data. The calculated difference is then rounded to the nearest unit of measure. Due to this rounding, differences may not add to the totals. The same applies to the calculated confidence intervals. Thus, a difference of \$0.0 billion indicates the difference is less than \$0.05 billion. A confidence interval of ± 0.0 billion indicates a confidence interval with width of less than ± 0.05 billion on each side of the estimated value.

Data in this press release are based on quarterly financial reports from approximately 600 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. Estimates of sampling error can be computed based on the sample and used to construct confidence intervals around the estimates. Statements of change appearing in this report include 90 percent confidence intervals. Thus, a statement in the report such as "up \$2.5 (± 0.2) billion" estimates the interval (+\$2.3 billion to +\$2.7 billion) within which the actual value is likely to fall in 90 percent of samples of the same size and design, drawn from the same population. If the range of estimated change contains 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 in the text without a confidence interval, the change is statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

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. The quarterly publication, *Quarterly Financial Report for Manufacturing, Mining, Trade and Selected Service Industries – Third Quarter 2012* (QFR/12-Q3), includes more detailed explanations of nonsampling and sampling error, and additional measures of sampling variability.

DATA QUALITY INDICATORS

The QFR produces two indicators of data quality: the Unit Response Rate (URR) and the Total Quantity Response Rate (TQRR)¹. The URR is defined as the percentage of sampled units (unweighted) that responded to the current quarter's survey. In determining the URR, a unit is classified as a respondent if it provided adequate information for key QFR data items. The TQRR is defined as the weighted estimated total of a key QFR data item that is either reported by a survey unit or acquired from some other information source (such as a publicly available quarterly or annual report) that is determined to be equivalent in quality to reported data. The TQRR is calculated for the QFR data items Net sales, Depreciation, Income before income taxes, and Total assets.

The Unit Response Rate (URR) and Total Quantity Response Rates (TQRR) for the current quarter are: URR for All retail trade: 72.0%; TQRR for Net sales: 92.0%; TQRR for Depreciation: 94.6%; TQRR for Income before income taxes: 95.7%; and TQRR for Total assets: 94.4%. For more information, see the Introduction, Survey Methodology section, in the *Quarterly Financial Report for Manufacturing, Mining, Trade, and Selected Service Industries*.

¹Imputation Rate = 100% - TQRR.

U.S. Retail Trade Corporations Schedule of Release Dates for Calendar Year 2013	
Fourth Quarter 2012	March 25, 2013
First Quarter 2013	June 17, 2013
Second Quarter 2013	September 16, 2013
Third Quarter 2013	December 16, 2013

Table 1. U.S. Retail Trade Corporations, Assets \$50 Million and Over - Income Statement^{1, 2}

Item	3Q 2012	2Q 2012 ³	3Q 2011 ³
	(million dollars)		
Net sales, receipts, and operating revenues	597,334	601,995	572,400
Less: Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	11,319	11,300	10,864
Less: All other operating costs and expenses	562,081	562,732	538,277
Income (or loss) from operations	23,934	27,963	23,258
Interest expense	4,300	4,230	4,247
Net nonoperating income (expense)	3,630	4,513	4,249
Income (or loss) before income taxes	23,263	28,246	23,260
Less: Provision for current and deferred domestic income taxes	8,172	9,044	7,572
Income (or loss) after income taxes	15,092	19,202	15,688
Cash dividends charged to retained earnings in current quarter	5,744	3,954	3,147
Net income retained in business	9,348	15,248	12,541
Retained earnings at beginning of quarter	355,746	352,519	343,308
Other direct credits (or charges) to retained earnings (net)	(3,085)	(11,494)	(4,269)
Retained earnings at end of quarter	362,009	356,274	351,579

¹This table only includes estimates for corporations with assets of \$50 million and over at the time of sample selection.

²Complete Income Statement and Balance Sheet Financial Tables are available at the QFR website <http://www.census.gov/econ/qfr>.

³Revised.

Table 2. U.S. Retail Trade Corporations, Assets \$50 Million and Over - Income Statement Ratios^{1, 2}

Item	3Q 2012	2Q 2012 ³	3Q 2011 ³
	(cents per dollar of sales)		
Net sales, receipts, and operating revenues	100.00	100.00	100.00
Less: Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	1.89	1.88	1.90
Less: All other operating costs and expenses	94.10	93.48	94.04
Income (or loss) from operations	4.01	4.65	4.06
Interest expense	0.72	0.70	0.74
Net nonoperating income (expense)	0.61	0.75	0.74
Income (or loss) before income taxes	3.89	4.69	4.06
Less: Provision for current and deferred domestic income taxes	1.37	1.50	1.32
Income (or loss) after income taxes	2.53	3.19	2.74

¹This table only includes estimates for corporations with assets of \$50 million and over at the time of sample selection.

²Complete Income Statement and Balance Sheet Financial Tables are available at the QFR website <http://www.census.gov/econ/qfr>.

³Revised.

Table 3. U.S. Retail Trade Corporations, Assets \$50 Million and Over - Operating Ratios^{1, 2}

Item	3Q	2Q	3Q
	2012	2012 ³	2011 ³
	(percent)		
Annual rate of profit on stockholders' equity at end of period:			
Before income taxes	19.93	24.51	20.93
After income taxes	12.93	16.66	14.12
Annual rate of profit on total assets:			
Before income taxes	7.93	9.90	8.43
After income taxes	5.14	6.73	5.68

¹This table only includes estimates for corporations with assets of \$50 million and over at the time of sample selection.

²Complete Income Statement and Balance Sheet Financial Tables are available at the QFR website <http://www.census.gov/econ/qfr>.

³Revised.

Table 4. U.S. Retail Trade Corporations, Assets \$50 Million and Over - Seasonally Adjusted Sales^{1, 2}

Industry group and year	Sales			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	(million dollars)			
All retail				
2001	330,909	336,728	339,868	347,719
2002	349,164	354,926	359,690	357,327
2003	366,814	369,645	391,678	398,992
2004	406,901	410,258	421,924	427,325
2005	438,278	447,284	458,832	467,747
2006	480,397	492,633	498,005	501,946
2007	509,656	514,638	516,339	521,266
2008	522,811	536,326	531,728	501,505
2009	495,036	495,222	508,741	520,835
2010	530,821	534,736	540,036	552,128
2011	565,261	585,226	586,758	595,142
2012	607,422	606,135	611,908	

¹This table only includes estimates for corporations with assets of \$50 million and over at the time of sample selection.

²For information on adjustment for seasonal variation, see the Introduction, Survey Methodology section, in the *Quarterly Financial Report for Manufacturing, Mining, Trade, and Selected Service Industries*, or at the QFR internet website <http://www.census.gov/econ/qfr/collection.html>.