

From MDM article: est. Plumbing, Heating, Hardware down -15% YOY in March, inventories down - 5%. See attached.

May 25, 2009

### **Monthly Wholesale Trade: March 2009**

March 2009 sales of wholesalers were \$310.9 billion, down 2.4 percent from February and were down 18.1 percent from March 2008, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. March sales of durable goods were down 3.3 percent from last month and were down 19.6 percent from a year ago. Sales of metals and minerals, except petroleum, were down 10.6 percent from last month and sales of electrical and electronic goods were down 5.9 percent. Sales of nondurable goods were down 1.6 percent from last month and were down 16.9 percent from last year. Sales of petroleum and petroleum products were down 5.1 percent from last month and sales of chemicals and allied products were down 5.0 percent.

### **Inventories**

Total inventories of wholesalers were \$411.7 billion at the end of March, down 1.6 percent from February and down 3.5 percent from a year ago. End-of-month inventories of durable goods were down 2.4 percent from last month and were down 2.4 percent from last March. Inventories of metals and minerals, except petroleum, were down 7.0 percent from last month and inventories of motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and supplies were down 5.0 percent. End-of-month inventories of nondurable goods decreased 0.3 percent from February and were down 5.2 percent compared to last March. Inventories of chemicals and allied products were down 6.0 percent from last month, while inventories of petroleum and petroleum products were up 7.9 percent.

### **Inventories/Sales Ratio**

The March inventories/sales ratio for merchant wholesalers was 1.32. The March 2008 ratio was 1.12.