



# Purchases Report

December 2025

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### ***Important notes:***

*As of November 2016, unless explicitly specified otherwise, RTA uses 3-month moving average for reporting on inventory (including historical data), hence, affecting calculated values of purchases and Inventory-to-Sales Ratio. In this way, any exaggerations that might be manifest in monthly purchases data, due to regular inventory counts by members, are not emphasized.*

*Highlighted areas in the graphs represent time of recessions.*

*Explanation about how to read box plots and histograms can be found in the Appendix section.*

### **Copyright: Railway Tie Association, 2025.**

*Disclaimer: The data and report presented herein are based solely on RTA member monthly reports on production and inventory. Occasionally, members send corrections to previously submitted data. If and when these corrections are received they are incorporated at that time. Users of this report should note while all care is taken to accurately compile the data submitted by member companies, that no warranty is made as to the accuracy of any RTA member reports.*

## Highlights

By the end of 2025, the twelve-month rolling total for production continued to decline, although at a slower pace than in November. Purchases were also trending modestly lower. Quarterly data indicate that production came in slightly above expectations, while purchases were broadly in line with the seasonal median. In December, both production and purchases were slightly above their seasonal median. The inventory-to-sales ratio remained at elevated/extreme levels.

## Long-Term Trends

Production fell at a 9.6% annual rate.

Purchases dropped at a 2% annual rate.

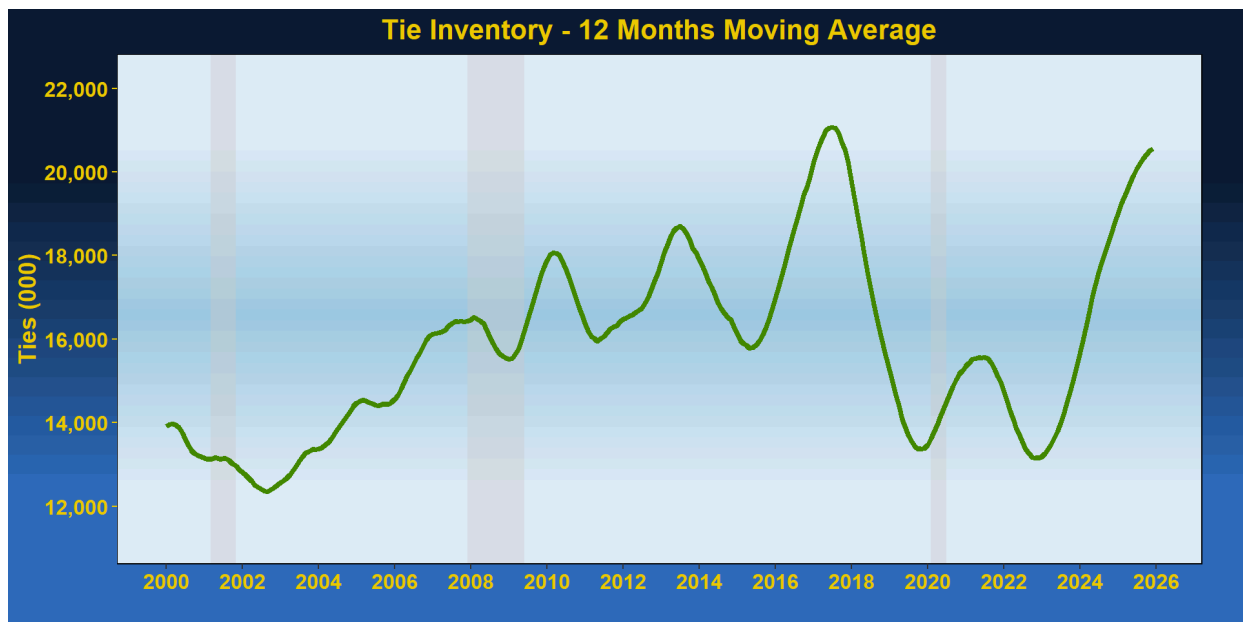
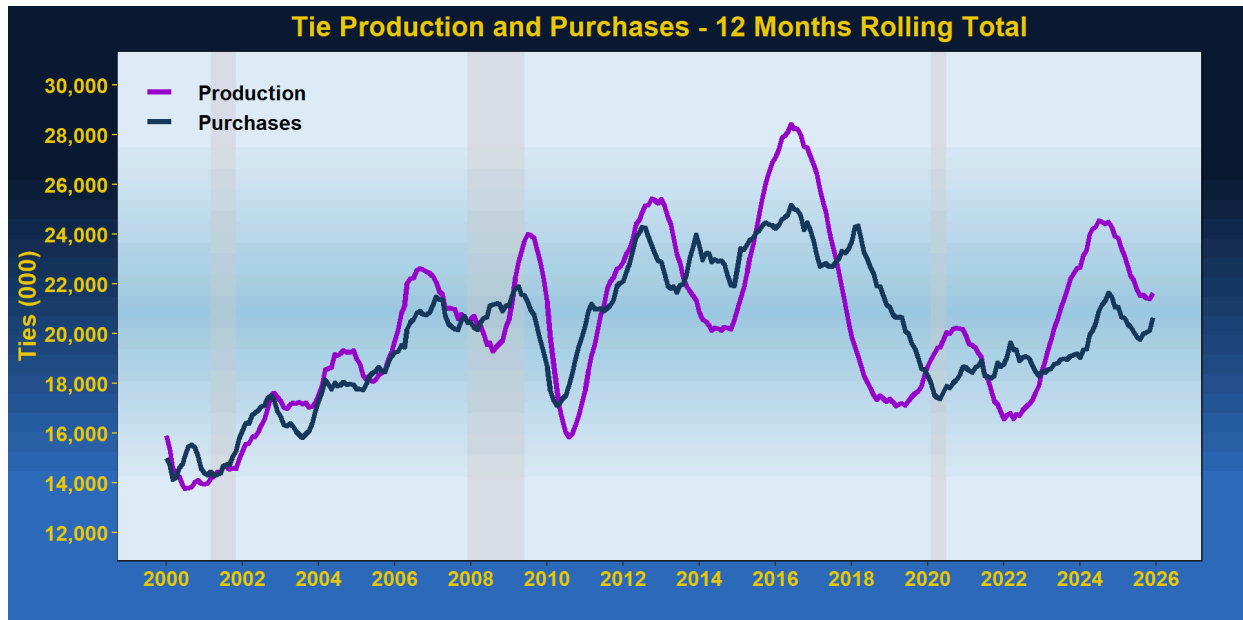
Inventory's 12 month moving average (12MMA) advanced by 9.4% from a year ago levels.

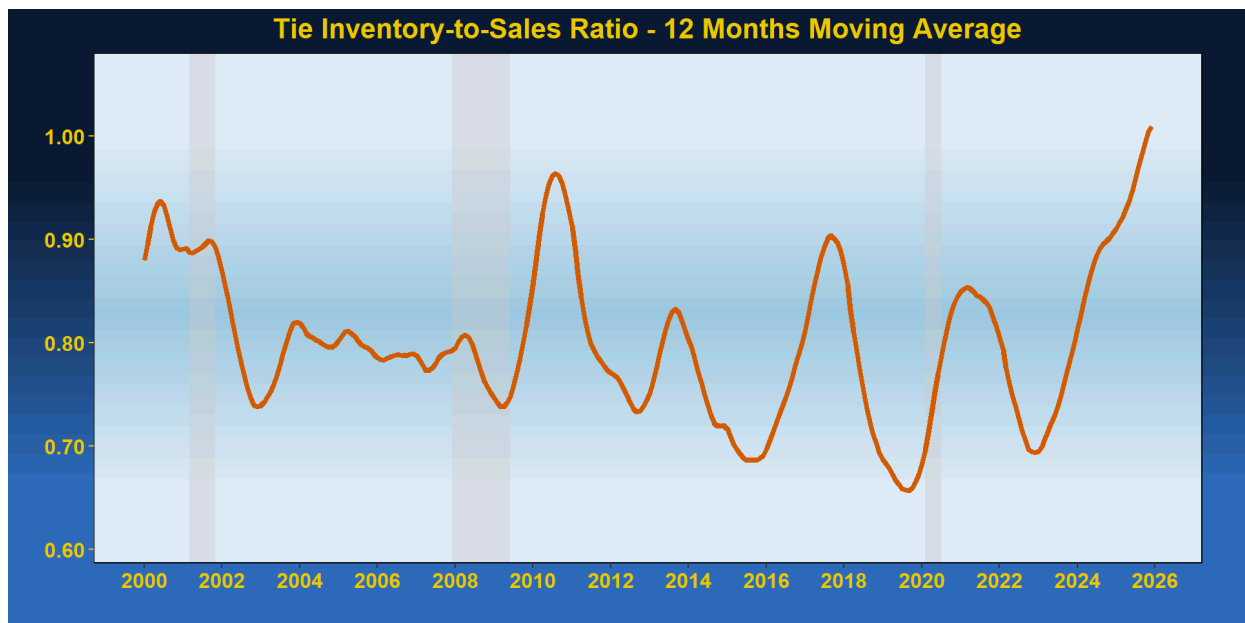
Inventory-to-Sales Ratio's 12MMA rose from 0.91 to 1.01.

### Table of Annual Observations

*Production and Purchases are 12 months rolling totals, Inventory and ISR are 12MMA*

Date	Production	Purchases	Inventory	ISR
December 2024	23,934	21,075	18,795	0.91
December 2025	21,638	20,661	20,563	1.01





## Analysis of Quarterly Data

Production in Q4 decreased by 5.8% from previous quarter and increased by 1.5% from a year ago.

For the same intervals, purchases decreased by 23.7% and expanded by 17% respectively.

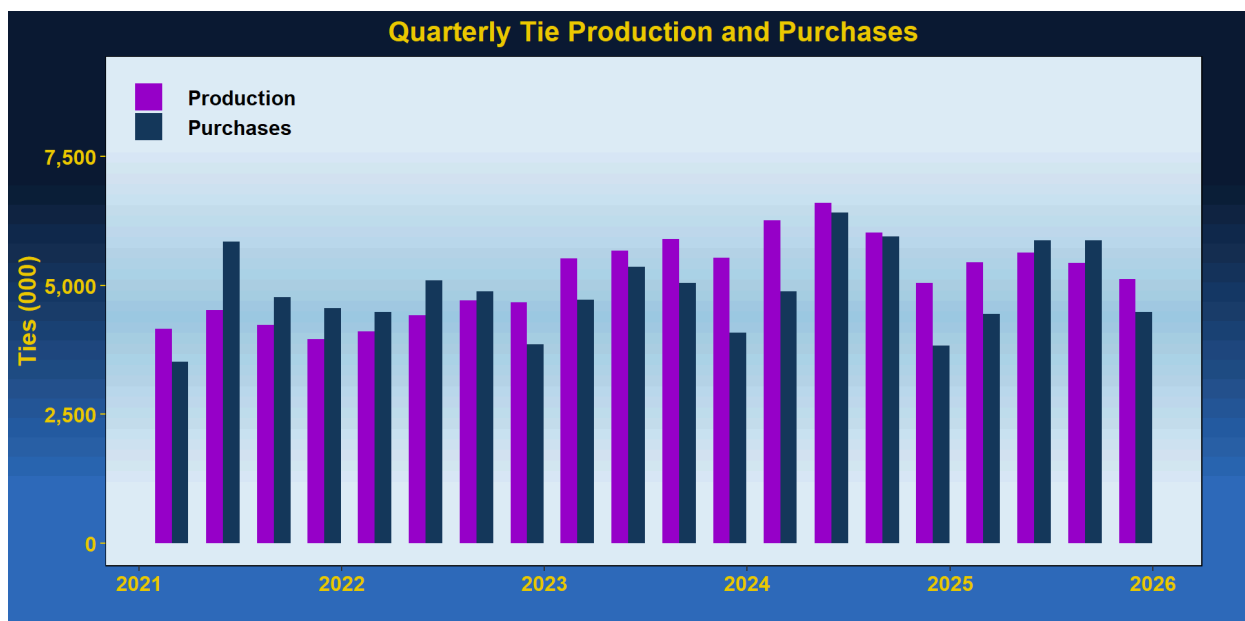
Inventory's 3MMA grew by 3.2% from previous quarter and increased by 4.9% from a year ago levels.

From Q3 2025 to Q4 2025, the 3MMA of Inventory-to-Sales Ratio decreased from 1.02 to 1.01. One year ago, the ratio was 0.9.

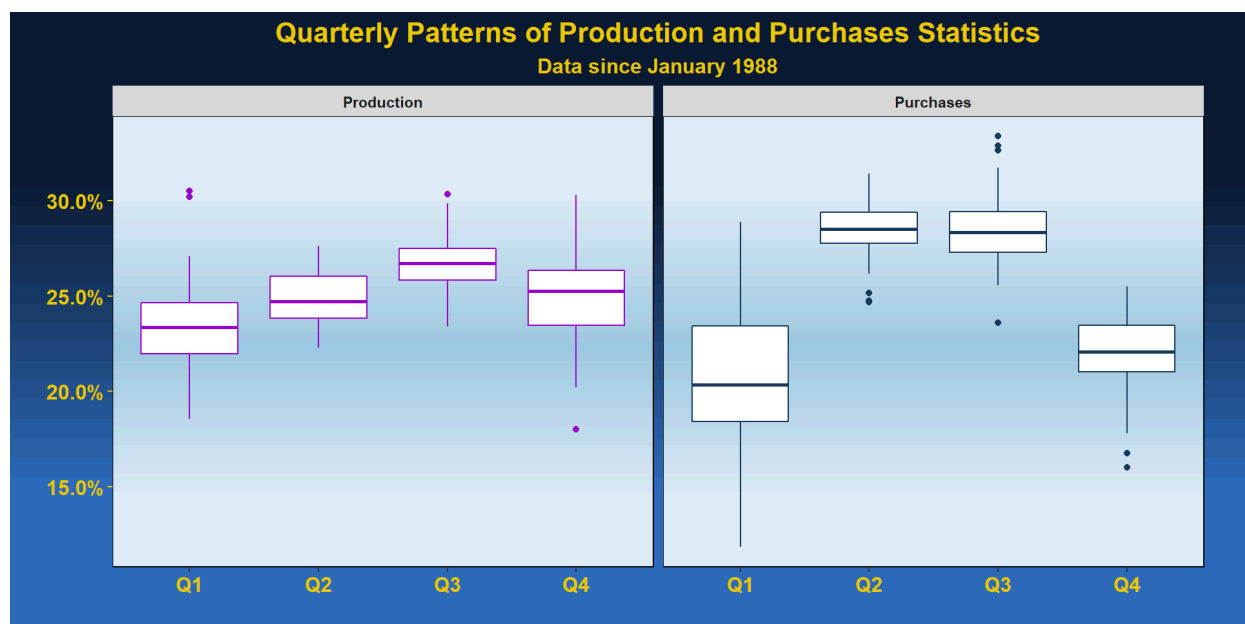
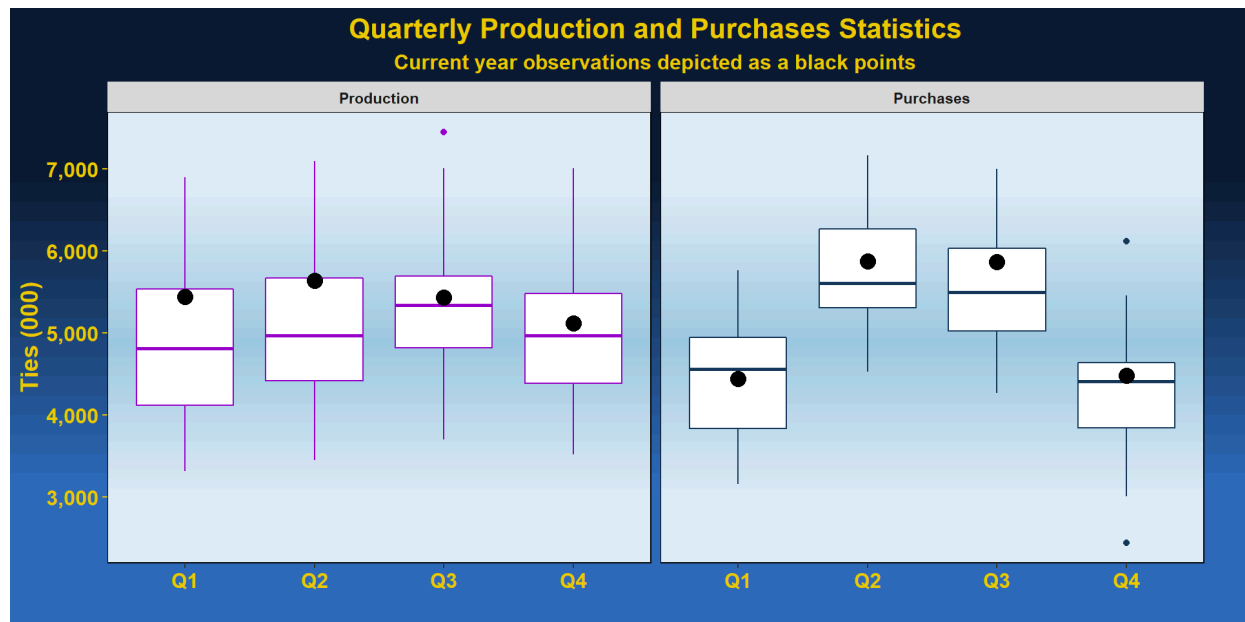
### **Table of Quarterly Observations**

*Production and Purchases Quarterly Sum, Inventory and ISR - 3MMA*

Date	Production	Purchases	Inventory	ISR
December 2024	5,046	3,826	19,794	0.90
September 2025	5,435	5,869	20,127	1.02
December 2025	5,121	4,477	20,771	1.01



Quarterly pattern of production and purchases uses data from January 2000. The top graph shows data analysis within each quarter. It shows the median, upper quartile and lower quartile boundary (a more detailed explanation is available in the Appendix section). It also displays what the production and purchases were in each quarter of reporting year represented by black points in relation to quarterly statistical values. The second graph shows the contribution of each quarter to the total annual production and purchases.



## Analysis of Monthly Data

Production fell by 0.5% from previous month and expanded by 16.8% from a year ago.

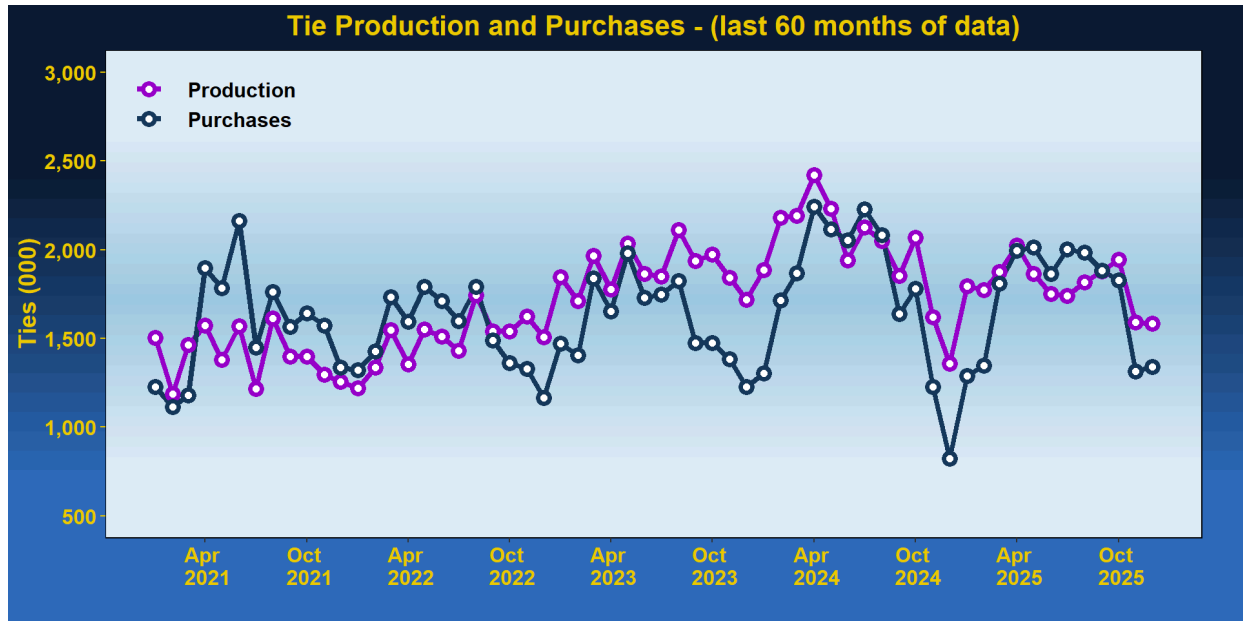
For the same time intervals, purchases expanded by 1.9% and rose by 63% respectively.

Inventory levels advanced by 1.2% from previous month and rose by 4.9% from a year ago levels.

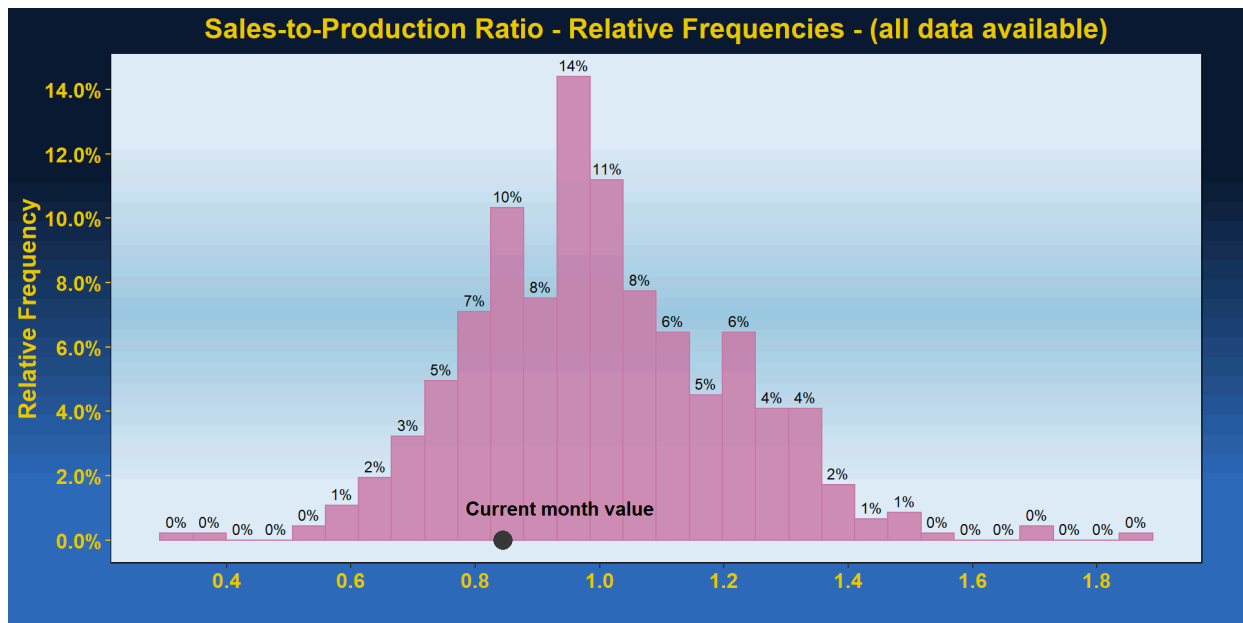
The Inventory-to-Sales Ratio decreased from 1.02 to 1.01 compared to month ago and from a year ago, the ratio grew from 0.94.

**Table of Monthly Observations**

Date	Production	Purchases	Inventory	ISR
December 2024	1,356	821	19,794	0.94
November 2025	1,592	1,313	20,525	1.02
December 2025	1,584	1,338	20,771	1.01

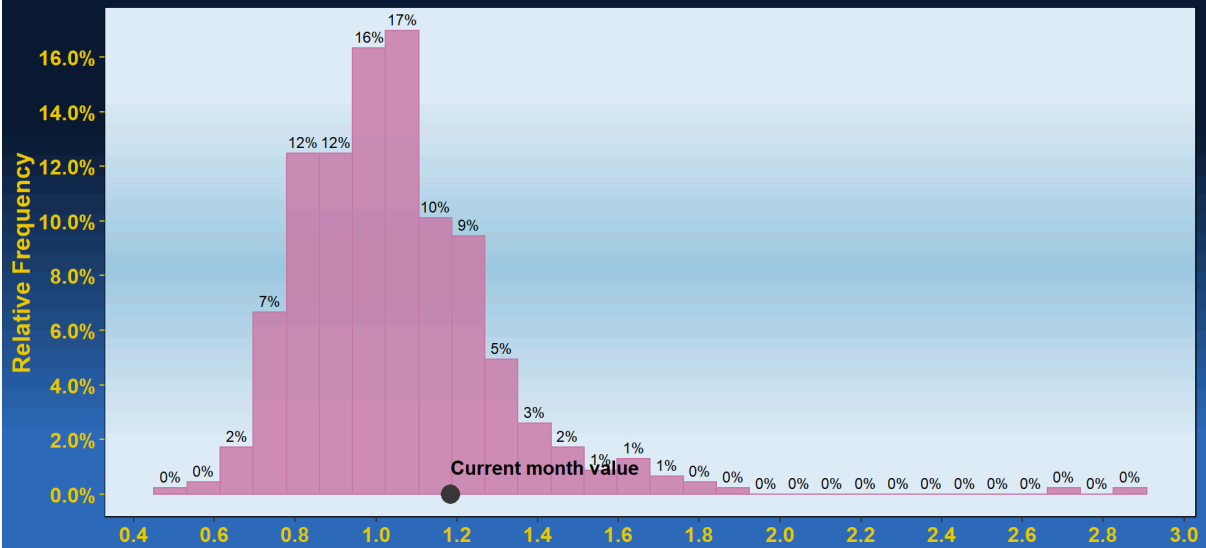


Sales-to-Production Ratio shows the replenishment/diminishment of inventory. Ratio above one signals diminishment and ratio below one replenishment of inventory stock.



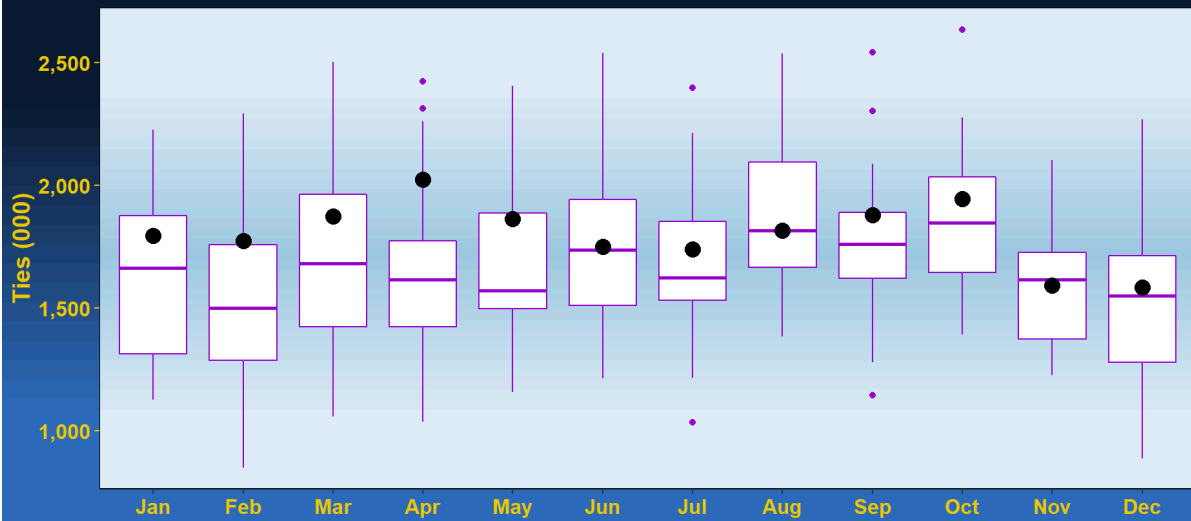
The following graph tells the same story as the graph above, just the ratio is reversed - Production-to-Sales Ratio.

**Production-to-Sales Ratio - Relative Frequencies - (all data available)**



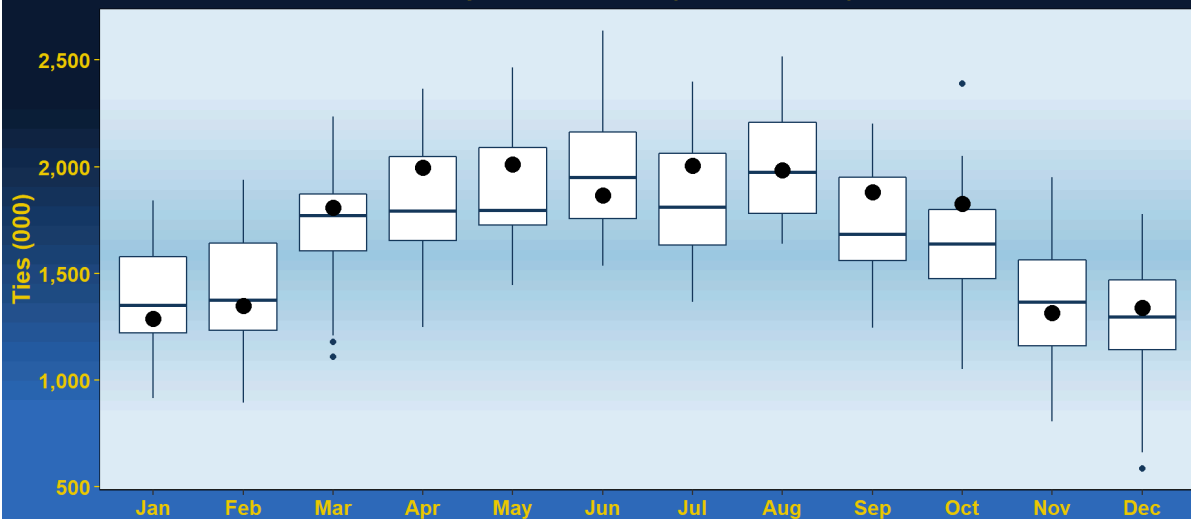
**Monthly Production Statistics - (data since 2000)**

Current year observations depicted as a black points



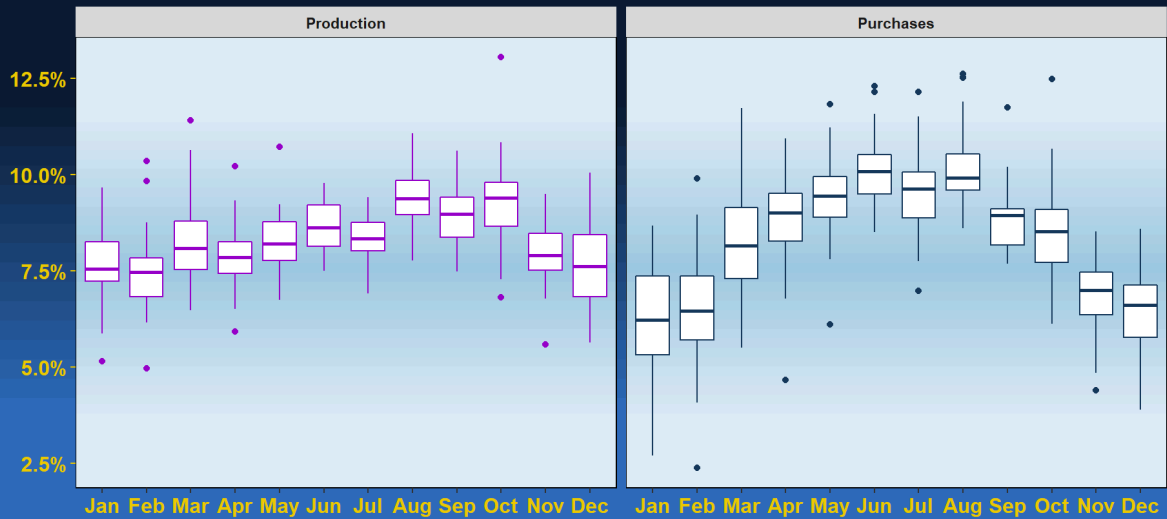
**Monthly Purchases Statistics - (data since 2000)**

Current year observations depicted as a black points



## Monthly Pattern of Production and Purchases Statistics - Percent of Annual Total

Data since January 1988



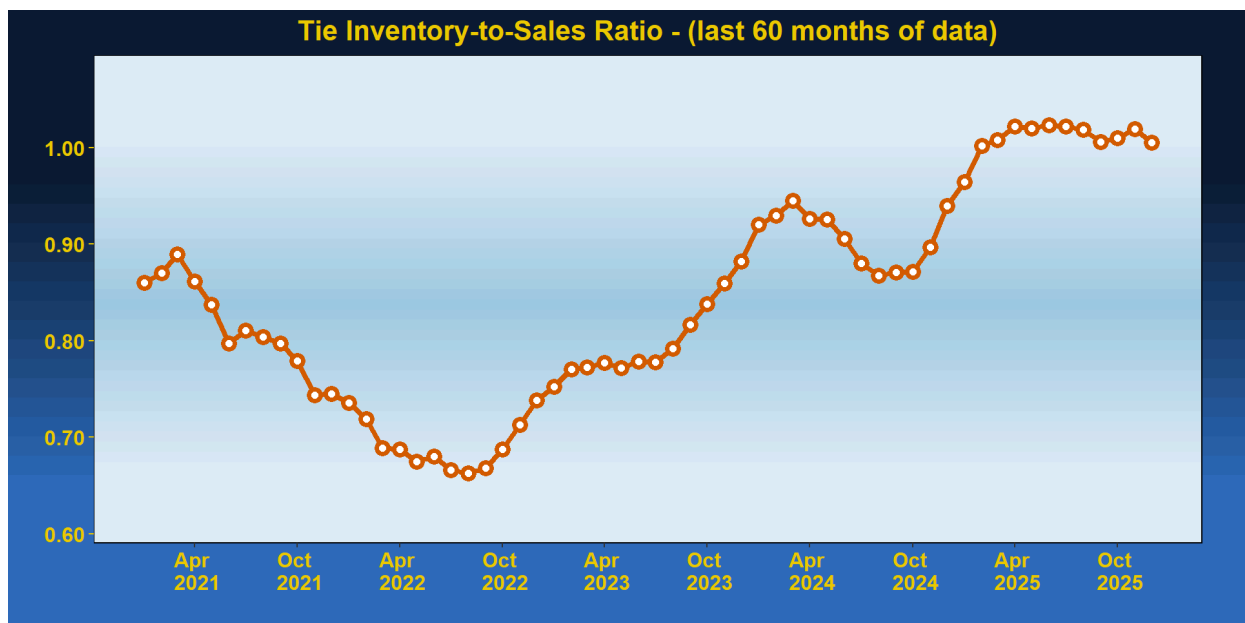
## Tie Inventory - Raw Monthly and 3MMA Data - (last 60 months of data)



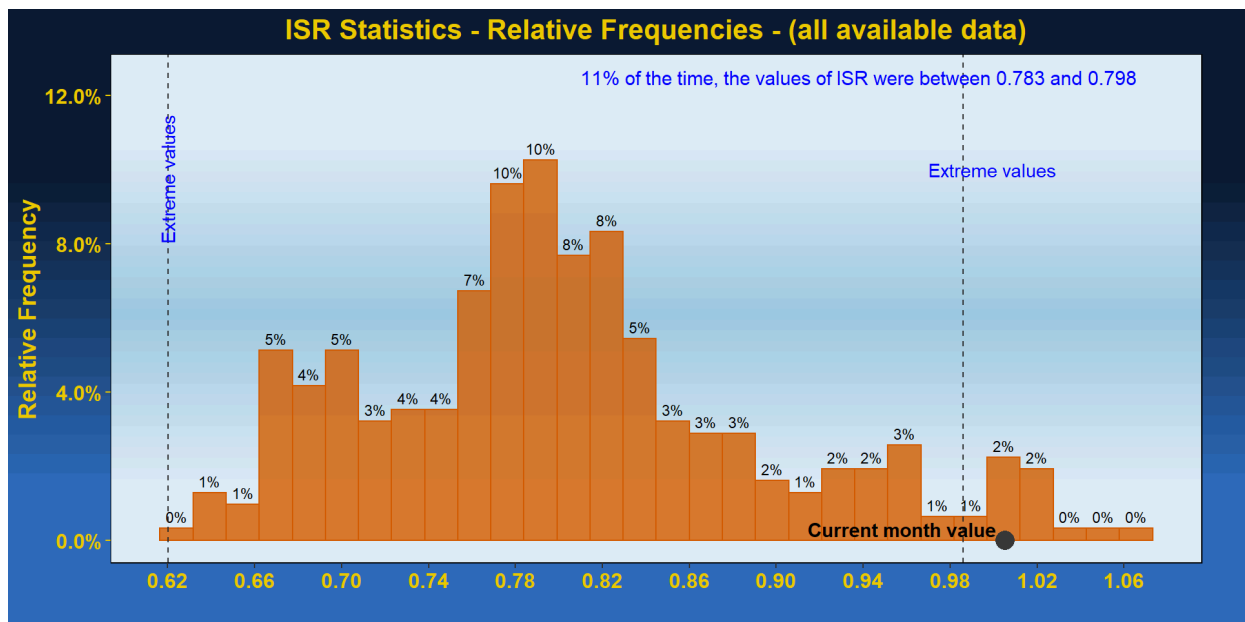
## Monthly Patterns of Inventory - (data since 2000)

Monthly average depicted with solid green line, current year observations depicted as a black points





Inventory-to-Sales Ratio (ISR) histogram of relative frequencies shows the monthly ISR data distribution and the black point represents the value for the current reporting month.

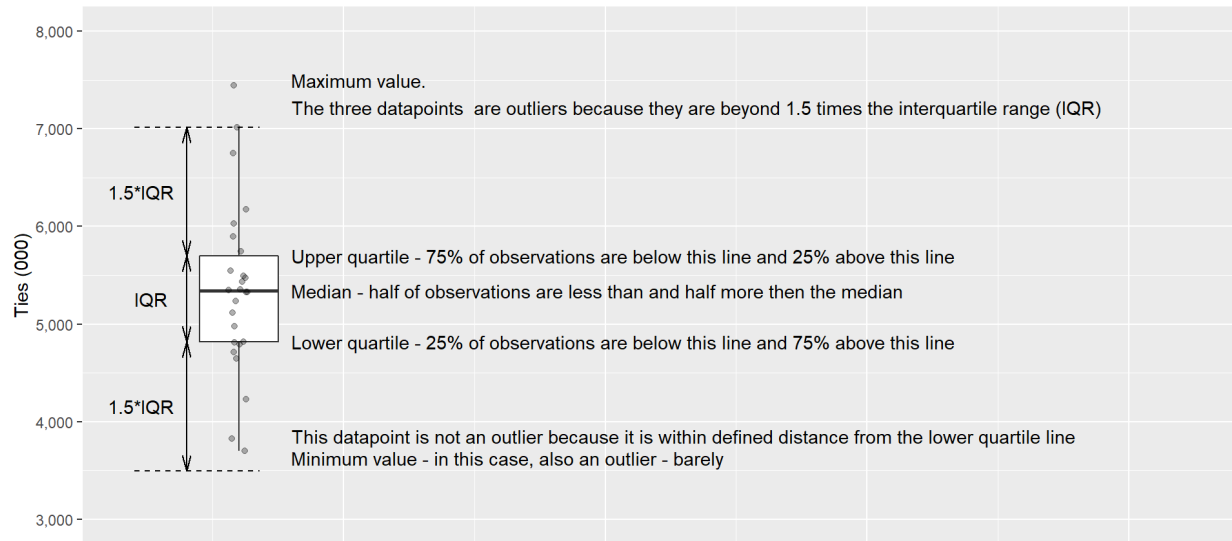




# Appendix

## Box Plot Explained

Underlying data displayed as 'jittered' points



## Histogram of Relative Frequencies Explained

