



# Purchases Report

April 2026

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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.*

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*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

In April, the twelve-month rolling total for production continued to decline compared with a year earlier, although at a slightly slower rate than in February. Purchases, meanwhile, were trending marginally higher. Production exceeded the third quartile of its expected seasonal range. Purchases were likewise above their seasonal median but remained below the third quartile. The inventory-to-sales ratio remained at extreme levels.

## Long-Term Trends

Production dwindled at a 6.8% annual rate.

Purchases expanded at a 1.3% annual rate.

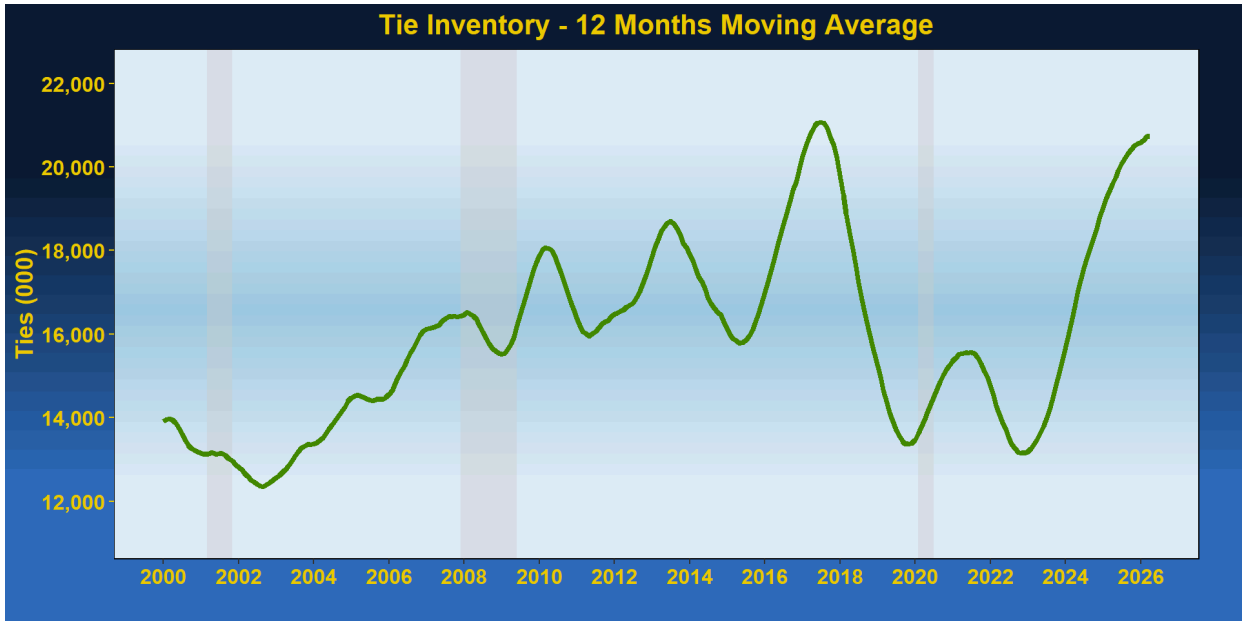
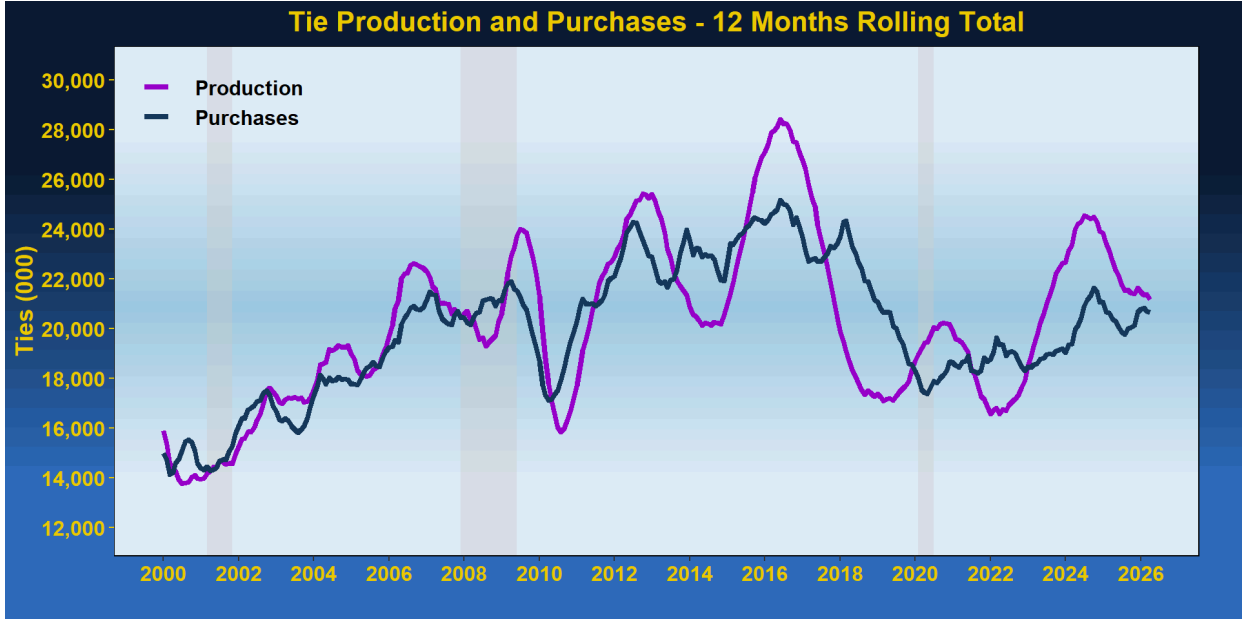
Inventory's 12 month moving average (12MMA) increased by 5.8% from a year ago levels.

Inventory-to-Sales Ratio's 12MMA increased from 0.93 to 1.02.

### Table of Annual Observations

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

Date	Production	Purchases	Inventory	ISR
April 2025	22,716	20,384	19,596	0.93
April 2026	21,182	20,648	20,727	1.02





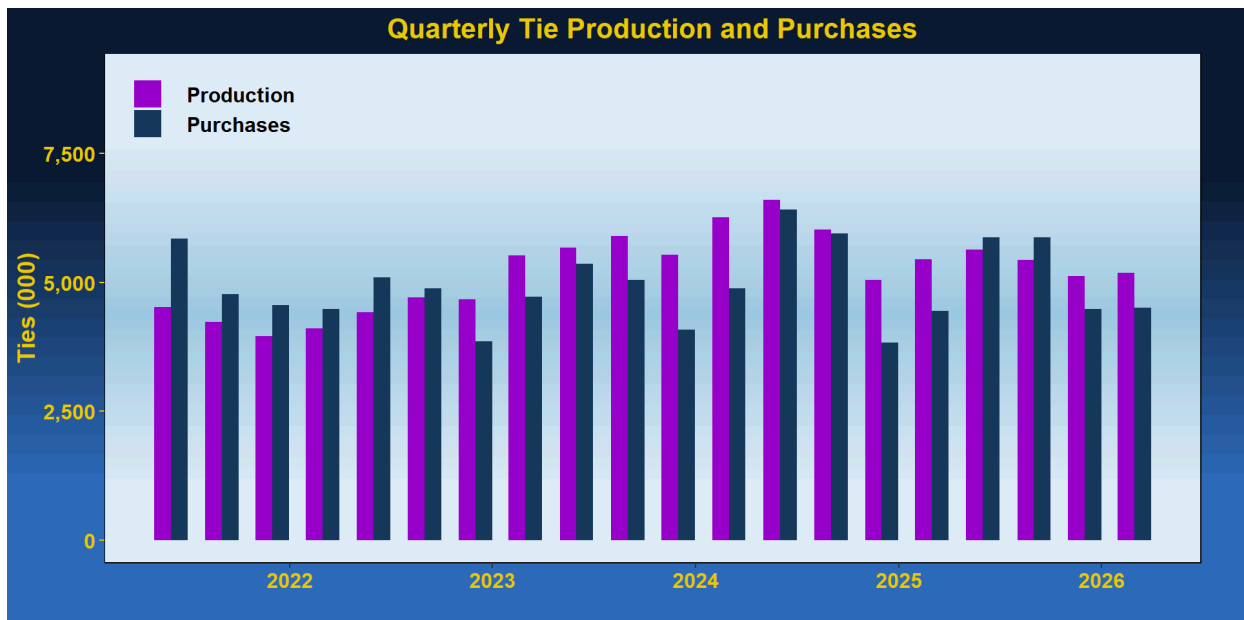
## Analysis of Quarterly Data

Production in Q1 increased by 1.1% from previous quarter and dwindled by 4.9% from a year ago. For the same intervals, purchases increased by 0.5% and advanced by 1.3% respectively. Inventory's 3MMA expanded by 3.3% from previous quarter and grew by 3.2% from a year ago levels. From Q4 2025 to Q1 2026, the 3MMA of Inventory-to-Sales Ratio increased from 1.01 to 1.02. One year ago, the ratio was 0.99.

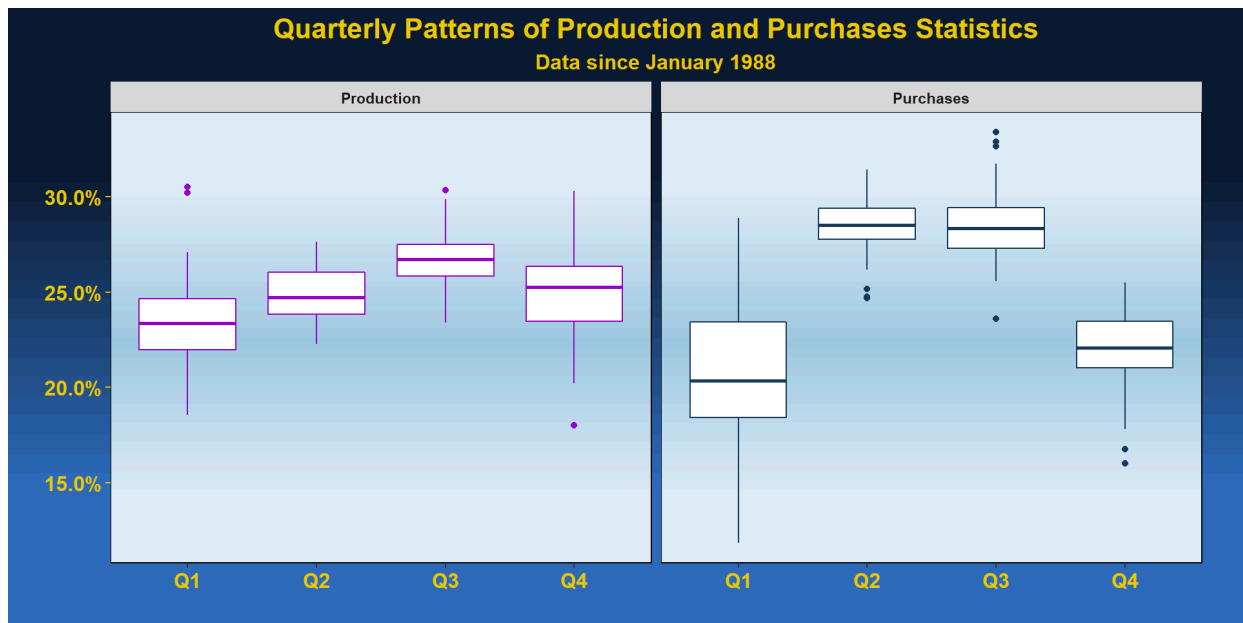
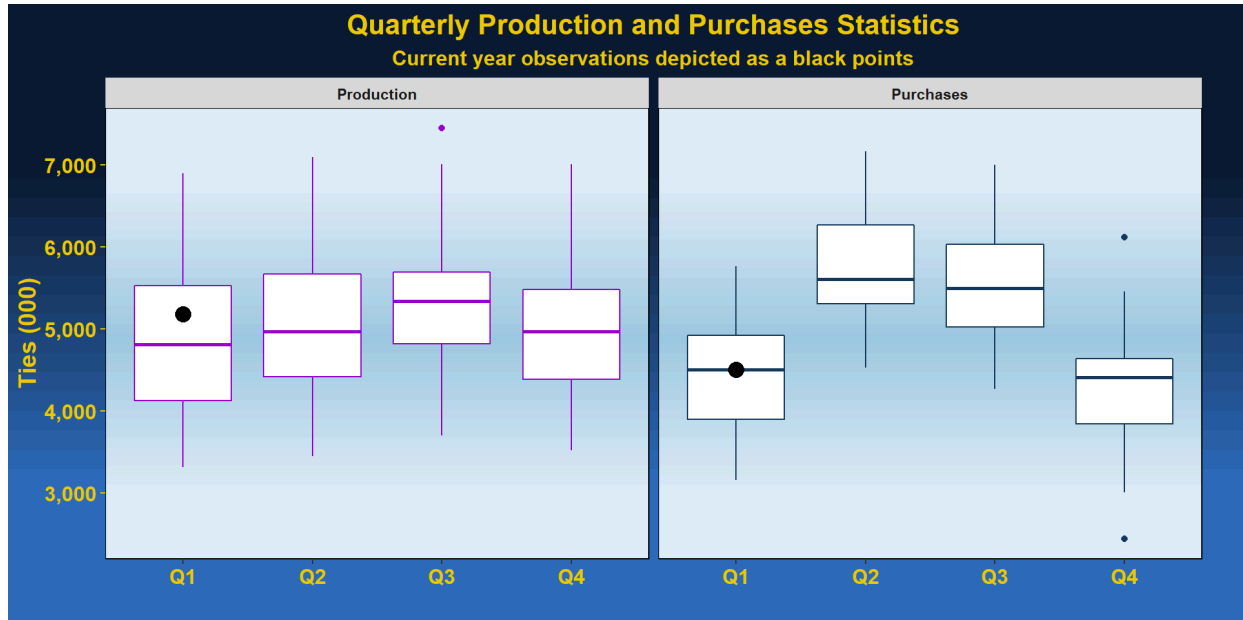
### Table of Quarterly Observations

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

Date	Production	Purchases	Inventory	ISR
March 2025	5,444	4,444	20,794	0.99
December 2025	5,121	4,477	20,771	1.01
March 2026	5,180	4,501	21,449	1.02



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 dropped by 2.9% from previous month and fell by 9.5% from a year ago.

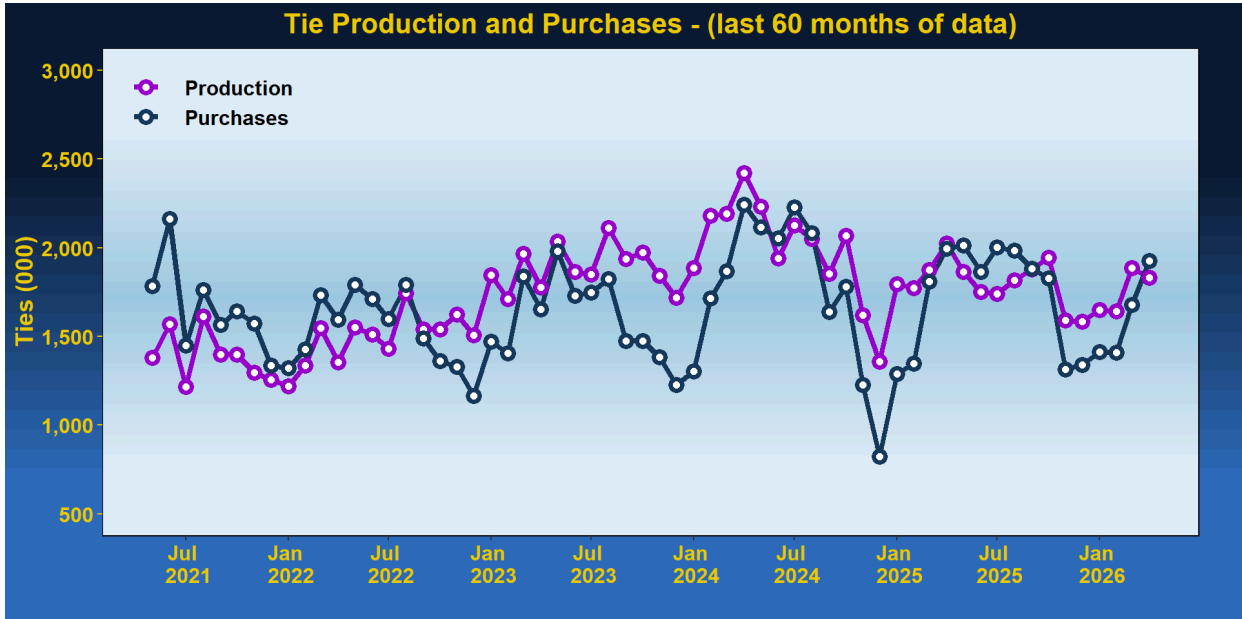
For the same time intervals, purchases rose by 14.6% and fell by 3.5% respectively.

Inventory levels fell by 0.4% from previous month and grew by 2.6% from a year ago levels.

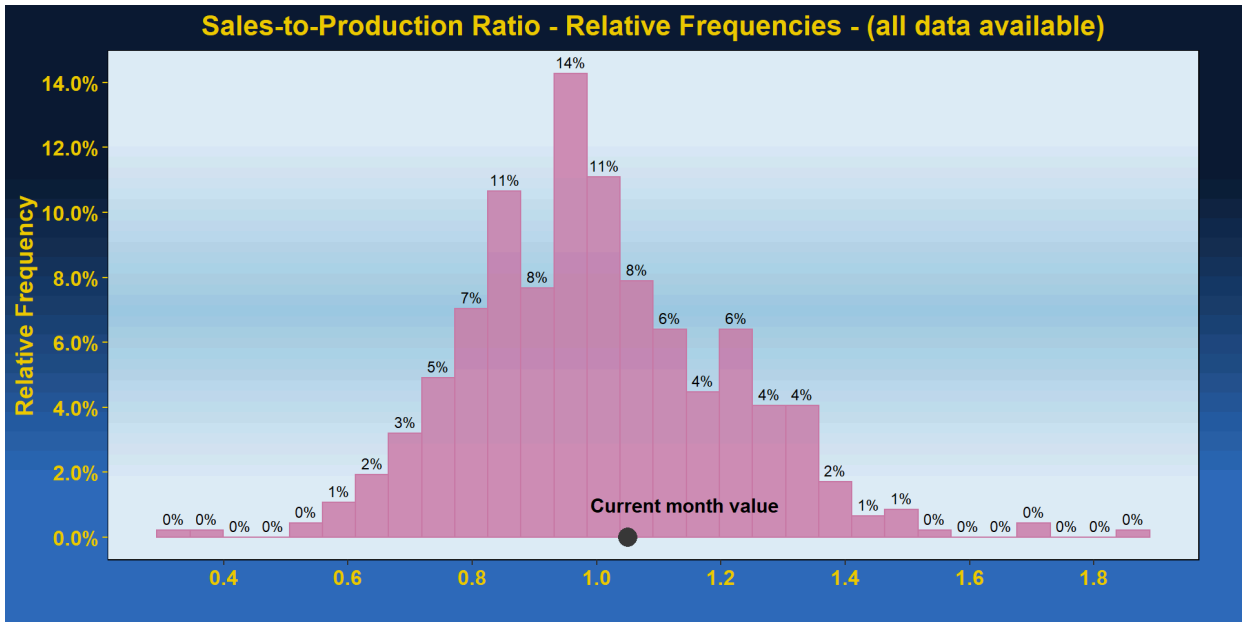
The Inventory-to-Sales Ratio decreased from 1.04 to 1.03 compared to month ago, and advanced from 1.02 a year ago.

**Table of Monthly Observations**

Date	Production	Purchases	Inventory	ISR
April 2025	2,024	1,994	20,824	1.02
March 2026	1,887	1,680	21,449	1.04
April 2026	1,833	1,924	21,358	1.03

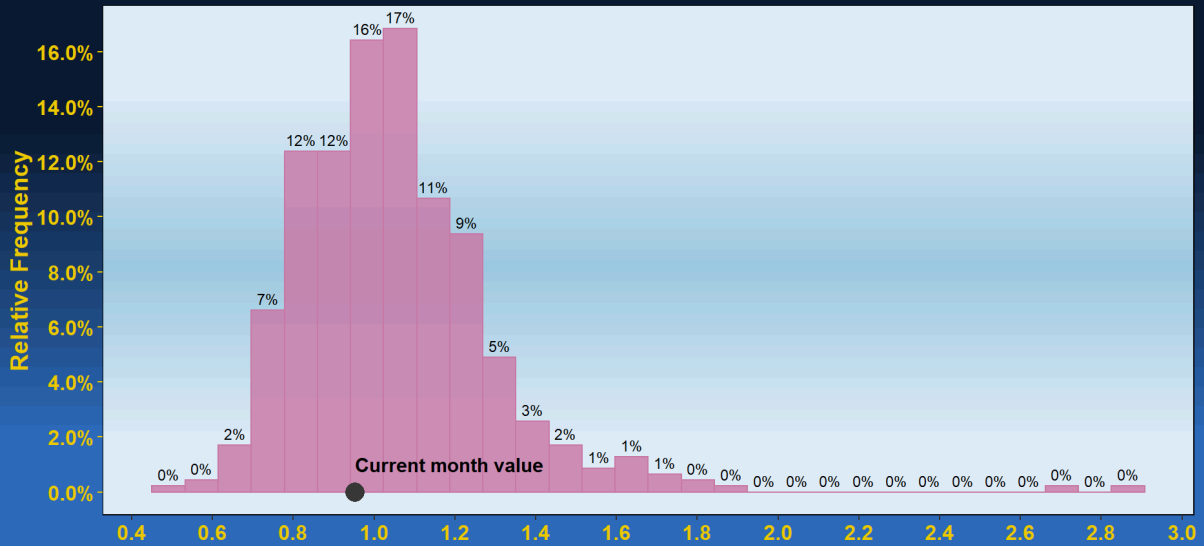


Sales-to-Production Ratio shows the replenishment/diminishment of inventory. Ratio above one signals diminishment and ratio below one replenishment of inventory stock.



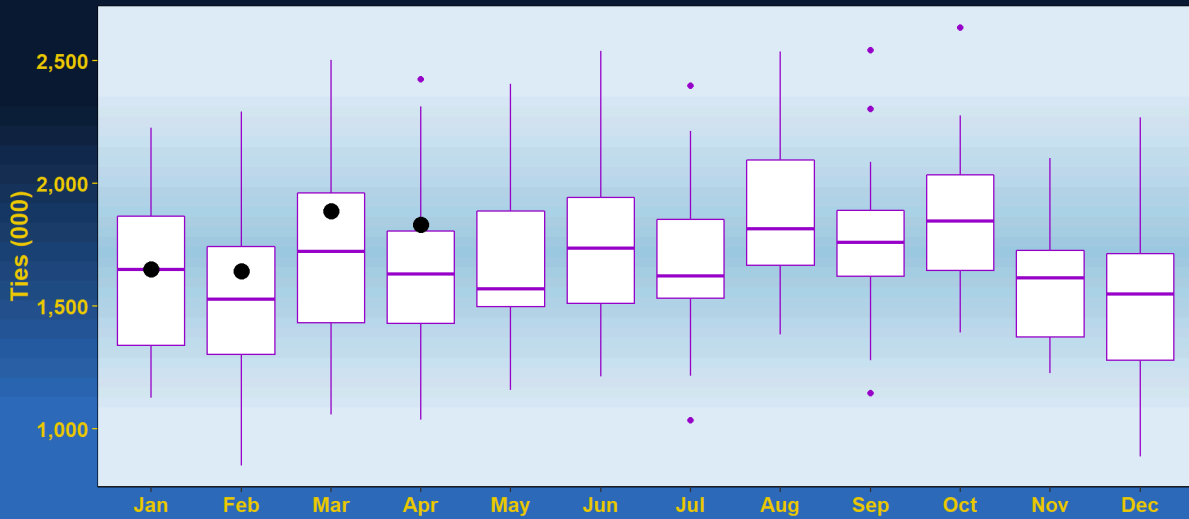
The following graph tells the same story as the graph above, just the ratio is reversed - Production-to-Sales Ratio.

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



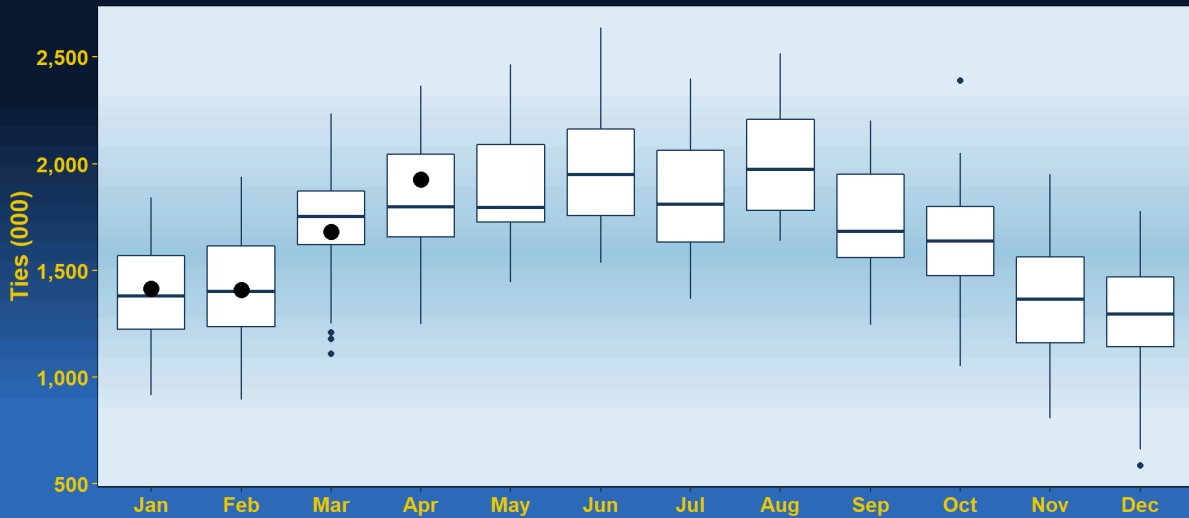
### Monthly Production Statistics - (data since 2000)

Current year observations depicted as a black points



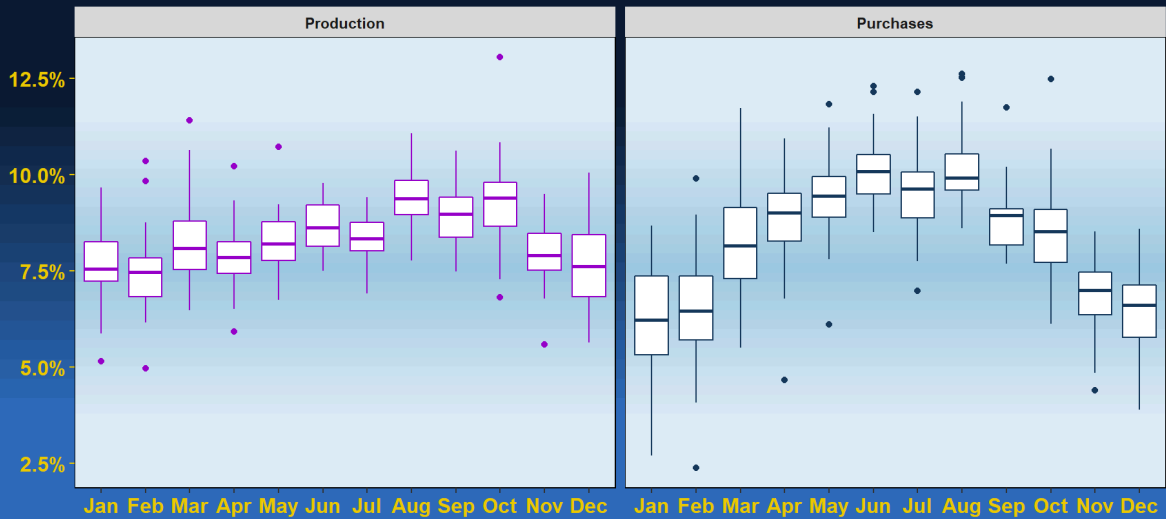
### Monthly Purchases Statistics - (data since 2000)

Current year observations depicted as a black points

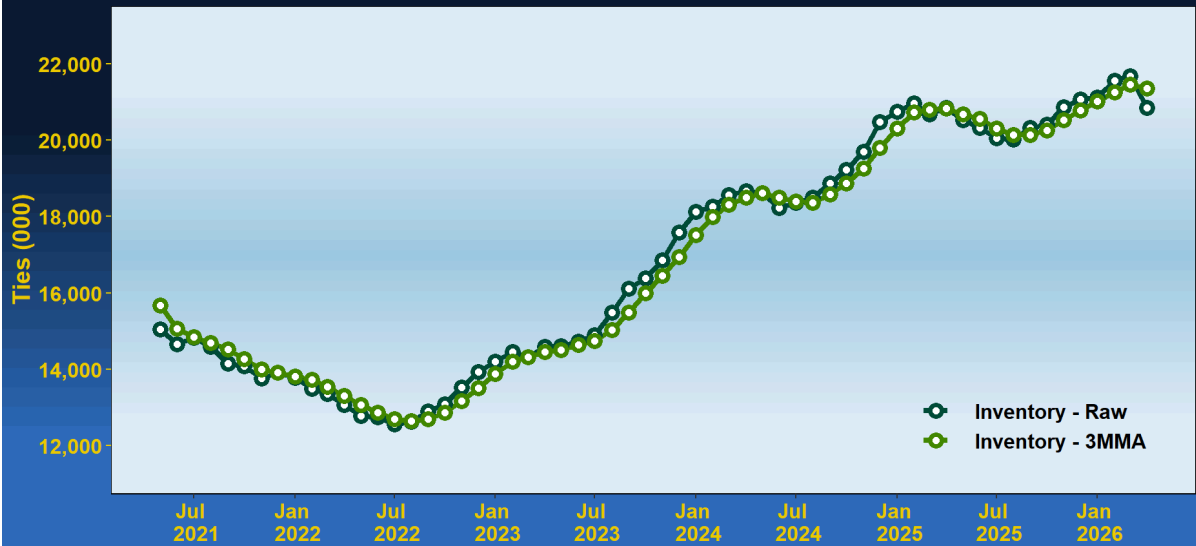


## Monthly Pattern of Production and Purchases Statistics - Percent of Annual Total

Data since January 1988



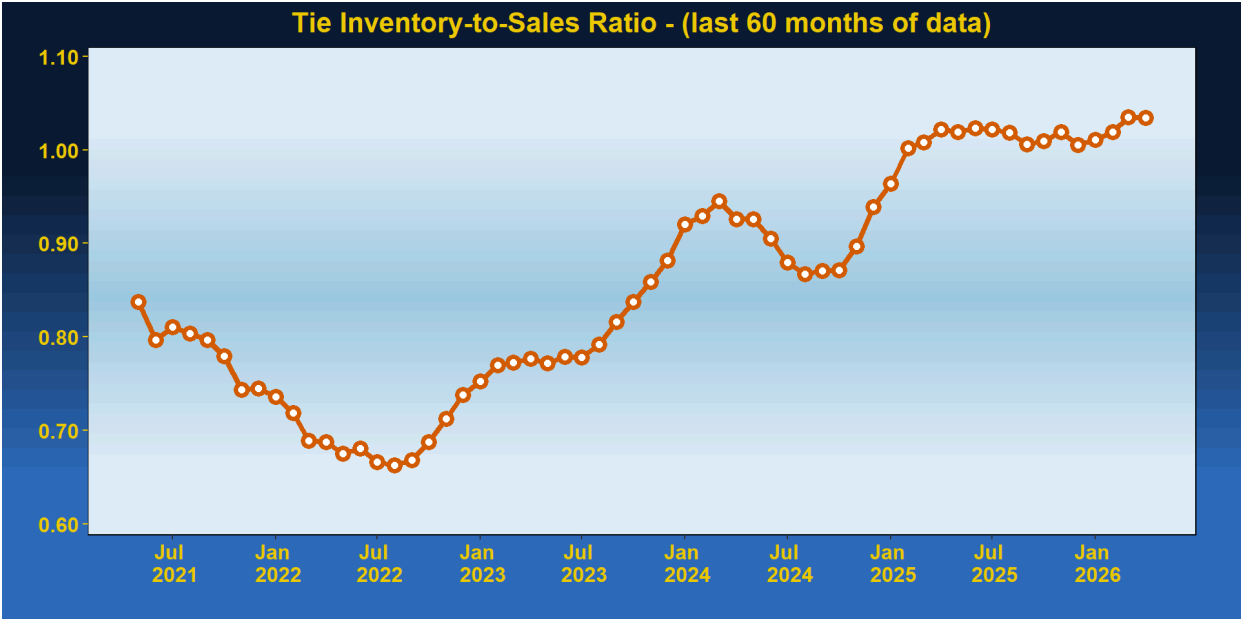
## Tie Inventory - Raw Monthly and 3MMA Data - (last 60 months of data)



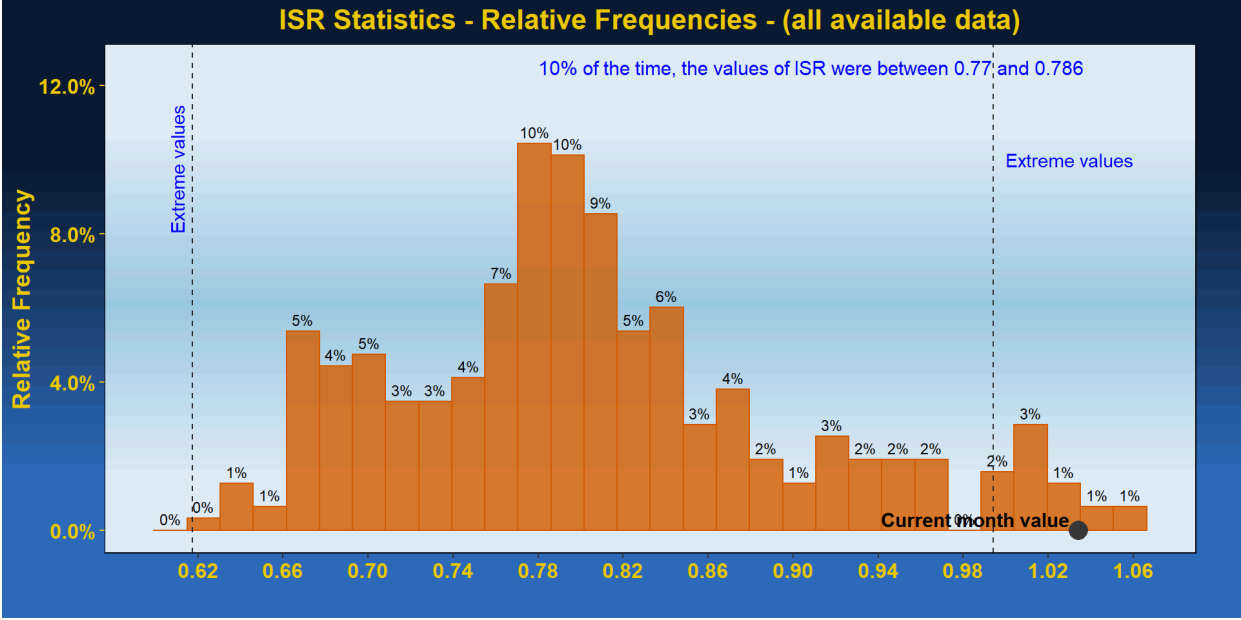
## Monthly Patterns of Inventory - (data since 2000)

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





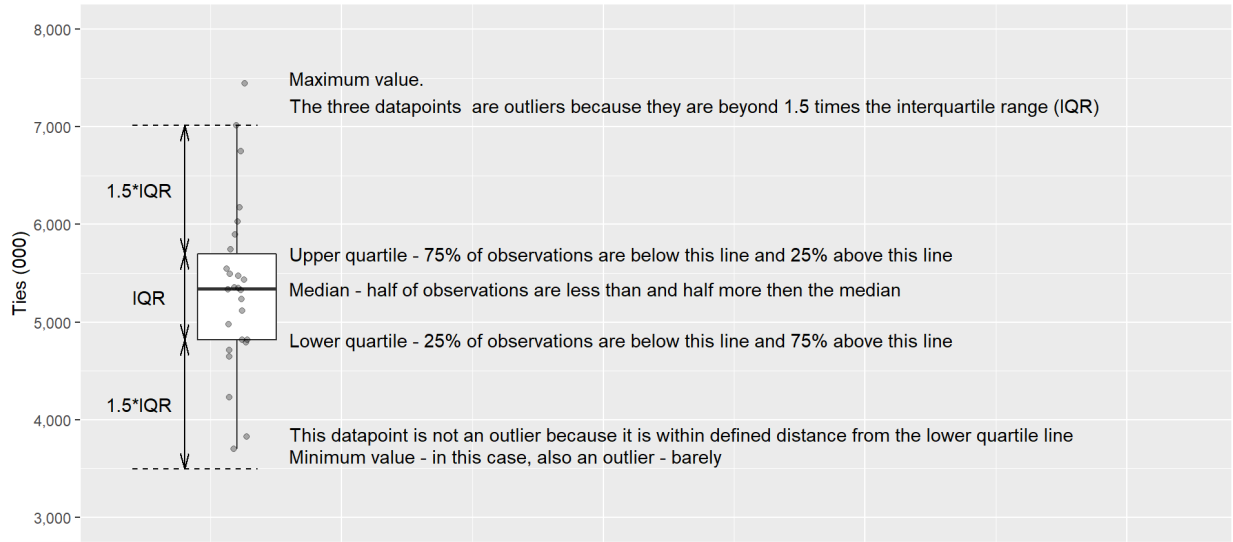
Inventory-to-Sales Ratio (ISR) histogram of relative frequencies shows the monthly ISR data distribution and the black point represents the value for the current reporting month.



# Appendix

## Box Plot Explained

Underlying data displayed as 'jittered' points



## Histogram of Relative Frequencies Explained

