



Purchases Report

March 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.

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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 March 2025, the twelve-month rolling total for production began to decline, while purchases continued their upward trend. However, signs of a trend reversal are emerging. Quarterly data analysis showed that production was significantly above expectations, while purchases were slightly below the seasonal median. A closer look at the monthly data revealed a similar pattern over the past three months. Concurrently, the inventory-to-sales ratio reached extreme levels.

Long-Term Trends

Production dropped at a 1.1% annual rate.

Purchases grew at a 6.5% annual rate.

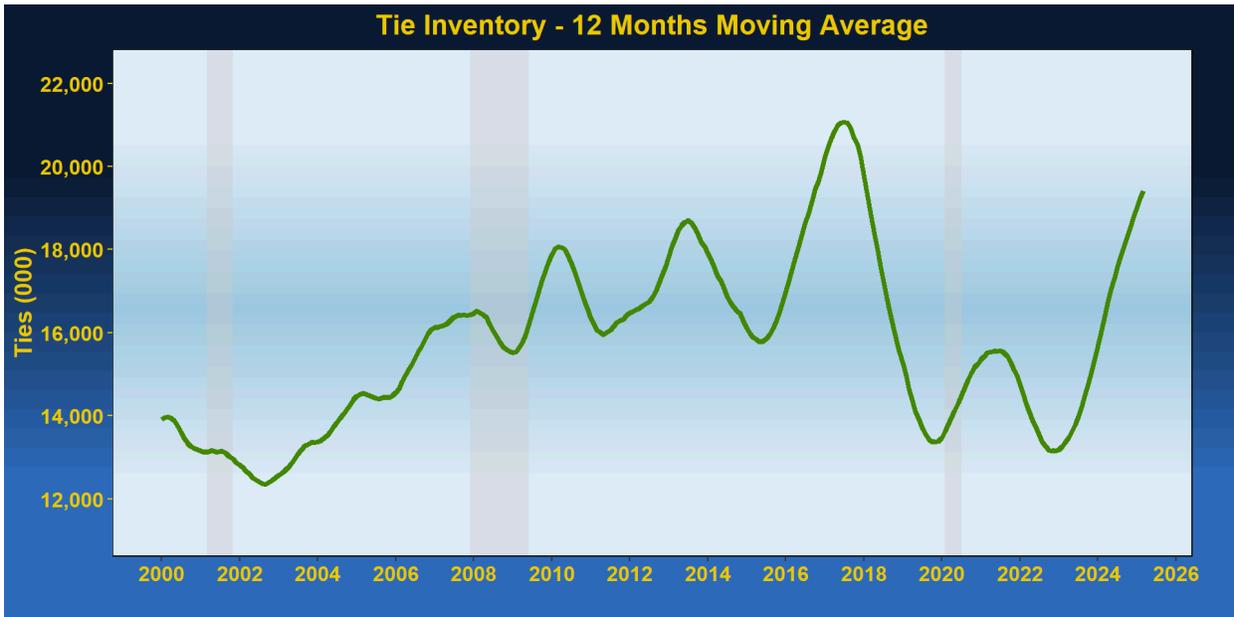
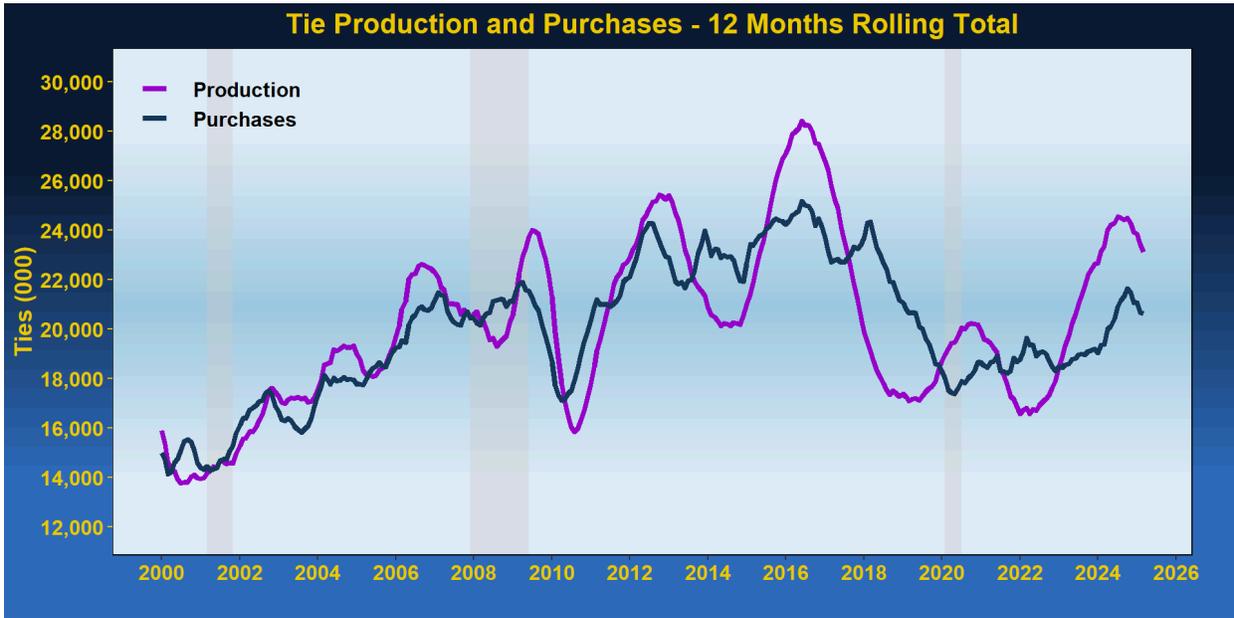
Inventory's 12 month moving average (12MMA) increased by 18.8% from a year ago levels.

Inventory-to-Sales Ratio's 12MMA increased from 0.84 to 0.92.

Table of Annual Observations

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

Date	Production	Purchases	Inventory	ISR
March 2024	23,368	19,379	16,346	0.84
March 2025	23,115	20,633	19,415	0.92





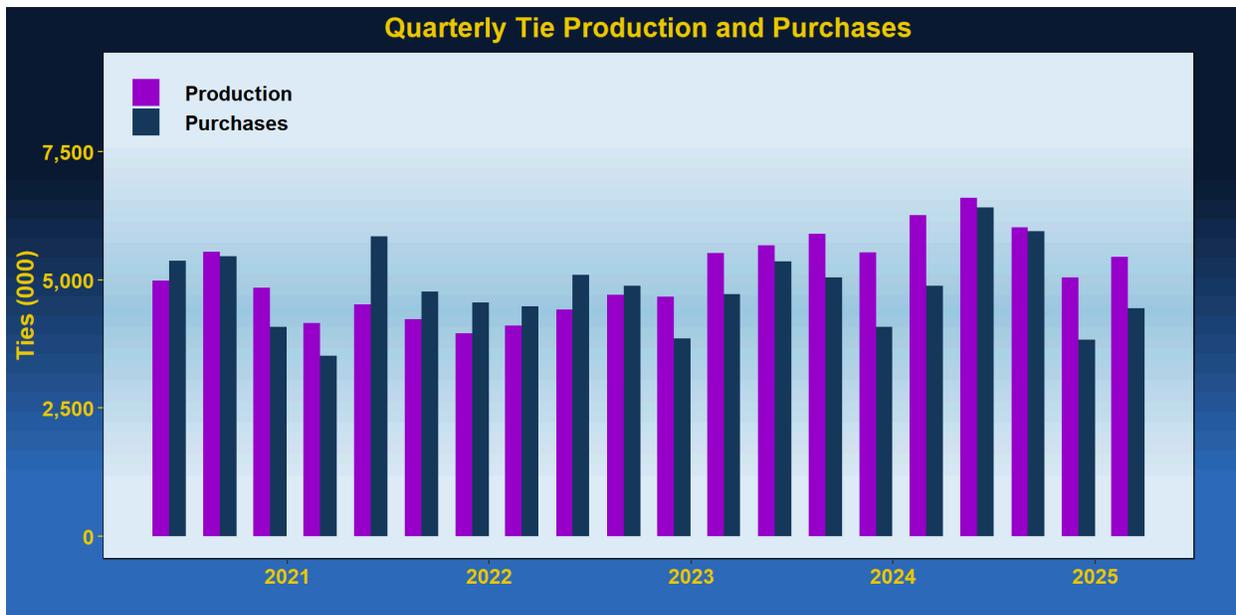
Analysis of Quarterly Data

Production in Q1 grew by 7.9% from last quarter and decreased by 13.1% from a year ago. For the same intervals, purchases increased by 16.2% and came down by 9% respectively. Inventory's 3MMA grew by 5.1% from last quarter and expanded by 13.5% from a year ago levels. From Q4 2024 to Q1 2025, the 3MMA of Inventory-to-Sales Ratio expanded from 0.9 to 0.99. One year ago, the ratio was 0.93.

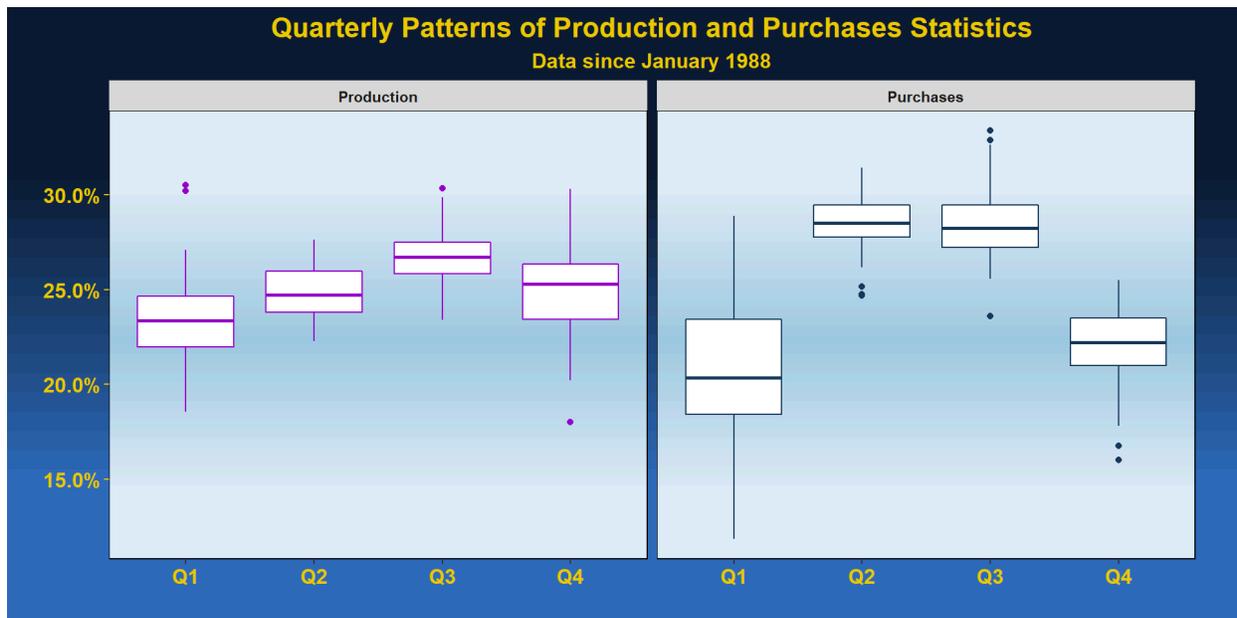
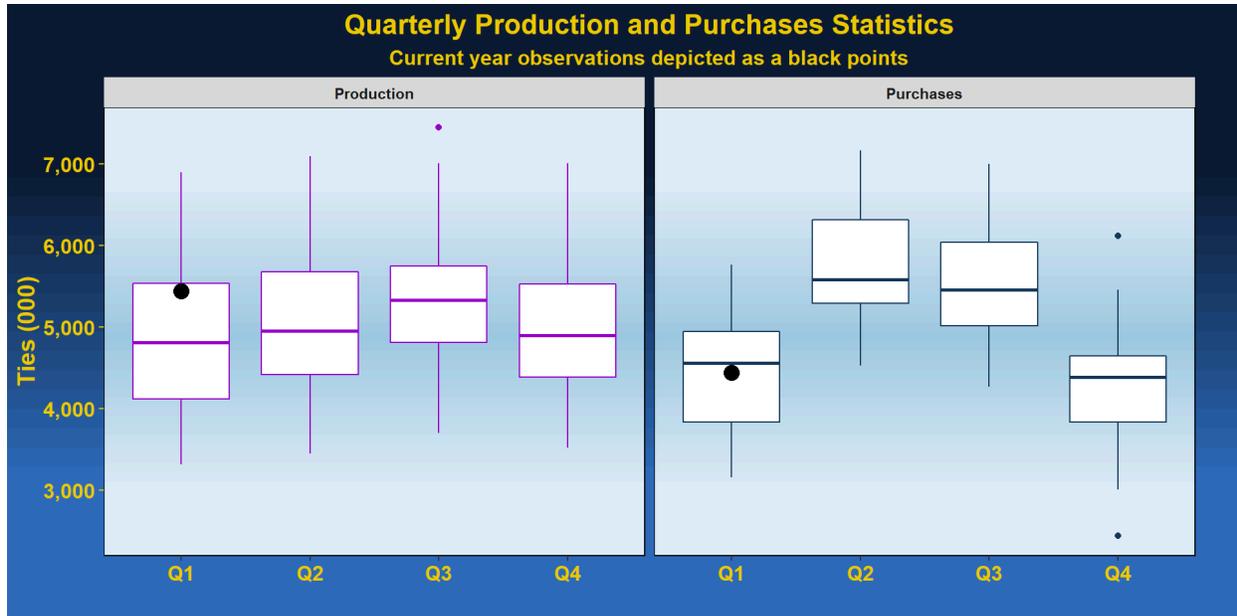
Table of Quarterly Observations

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

Date	Production	Purchases	Inventory	ISR
March 2024	6,263	4,886	18,313	0.93
December 2024	5,046	3,826	19,794	0.90
March 2025	5,444	4,444	20,794	0.99



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 expanded by 5.6% from last month and fell by 14.6% from a year ago.

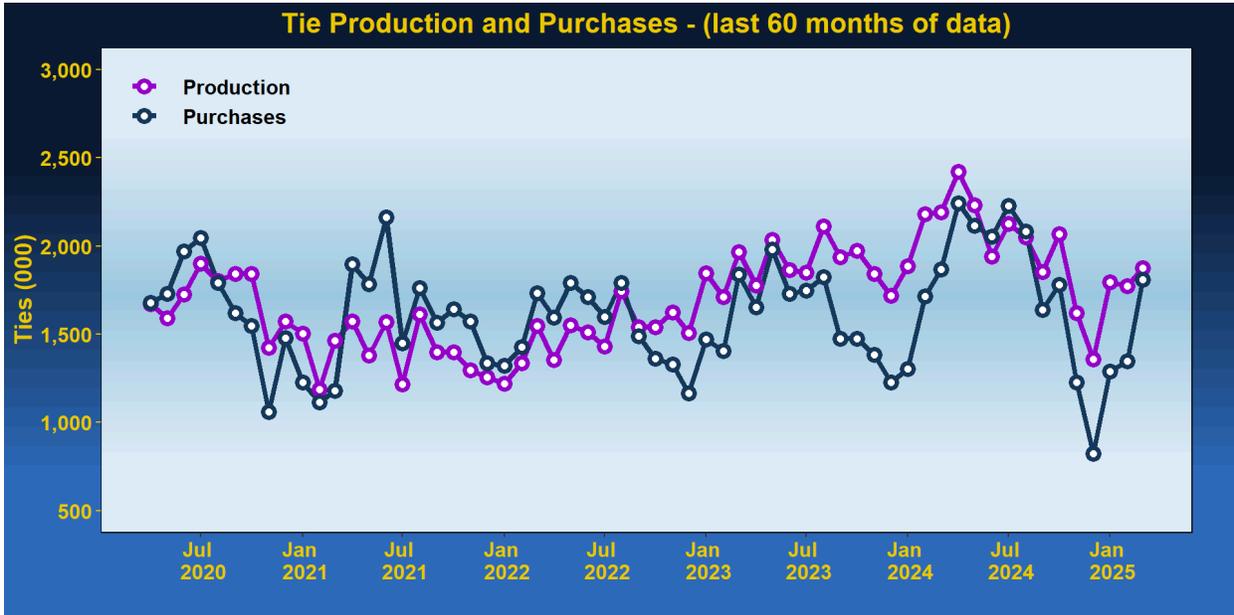
For the same time intervals, purchases increased by 34.1% and declined by 3.2% respectively.

Inventory levels grew by 0.3% from last month and advanced by 13.5% from a year ago levels.

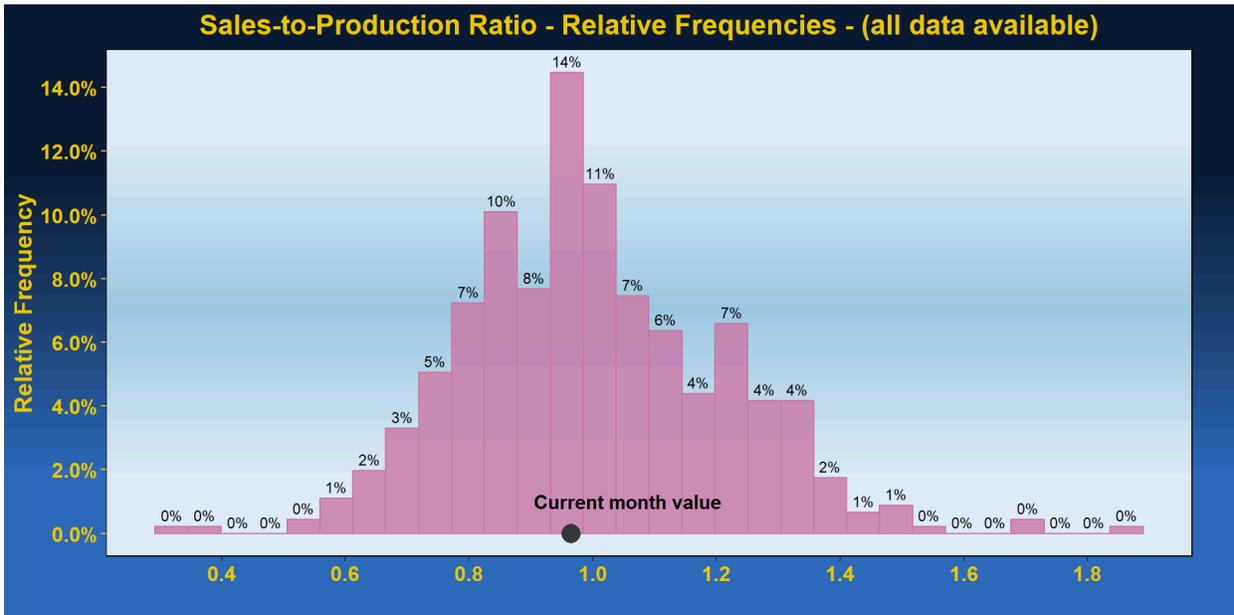
The Inventory-to-Sales Ratio advanced from 1 to 1.01 compared to month ago, and from a year ago, the ratio rose from 0.94.

Table of Monthly Observations

Date	Production	Purchases	Inventory	ISR
March 2024	2,193	1,867	18,313	0.94
February 2025	1,774	1,348	20,729	1.00
March 2025	1,873	1,808	20,794	1.01

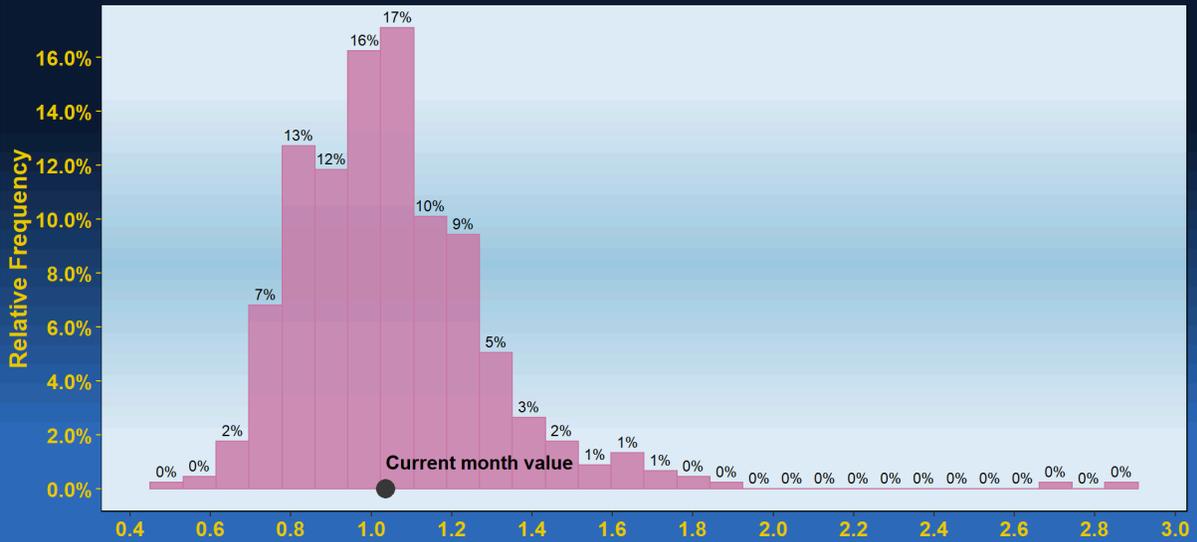


Sales-to-Production Ratio shows the replenishment/diminishment of inventory. Ratio above one signals diminishment and ratio below one replenishment of inventory stock.



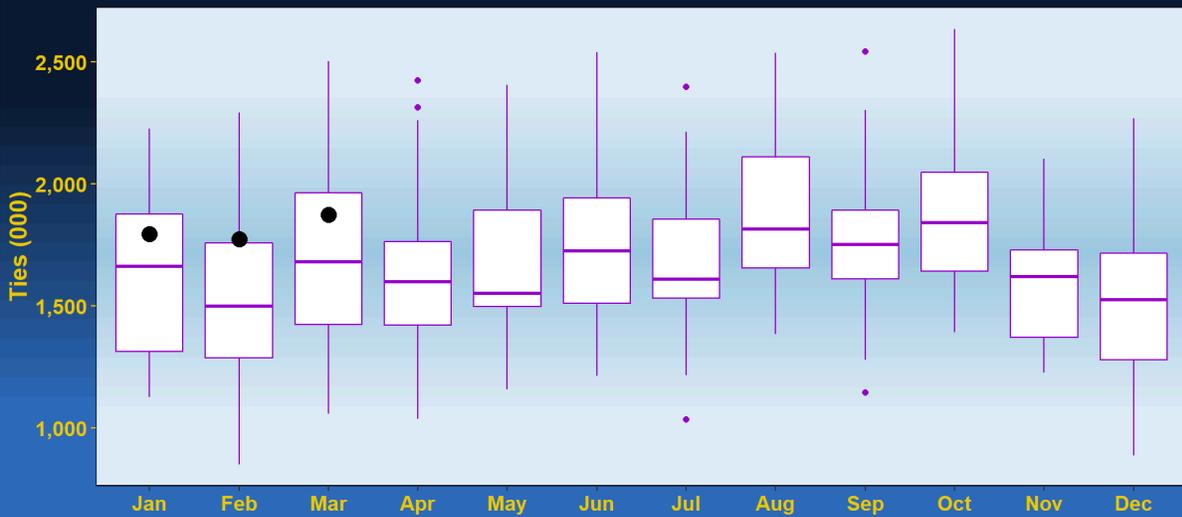
The following graph tells the same story as the graph above, just the ratio is reversed - Production-to-Sales Ratio.

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



Monthly Production Statistics - (data since 2000)

Current year observations depicted as a black points



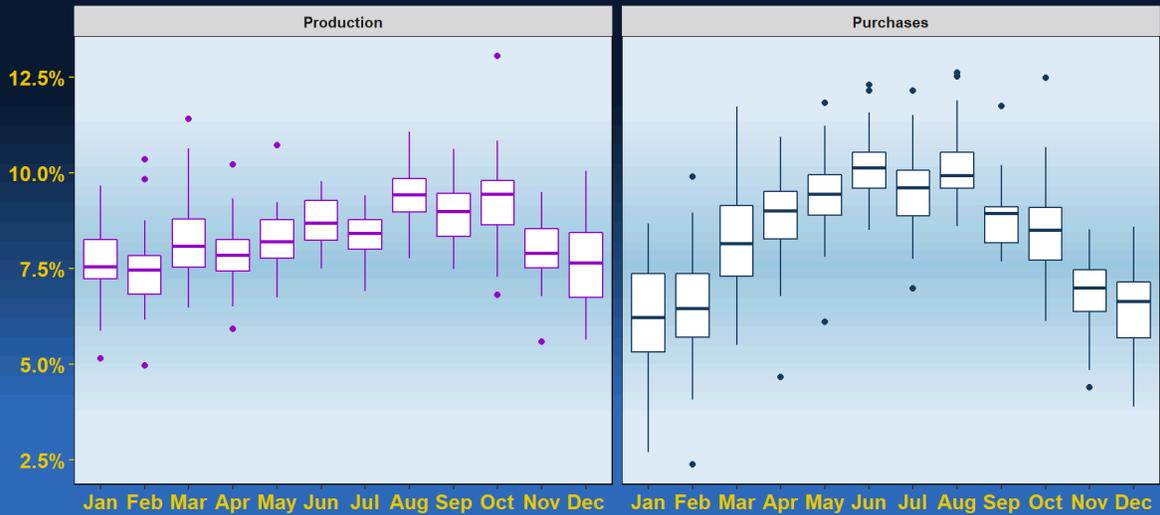
Monthly Purchases Statistics - (data since 2000)

Current year observations depicted as a black points

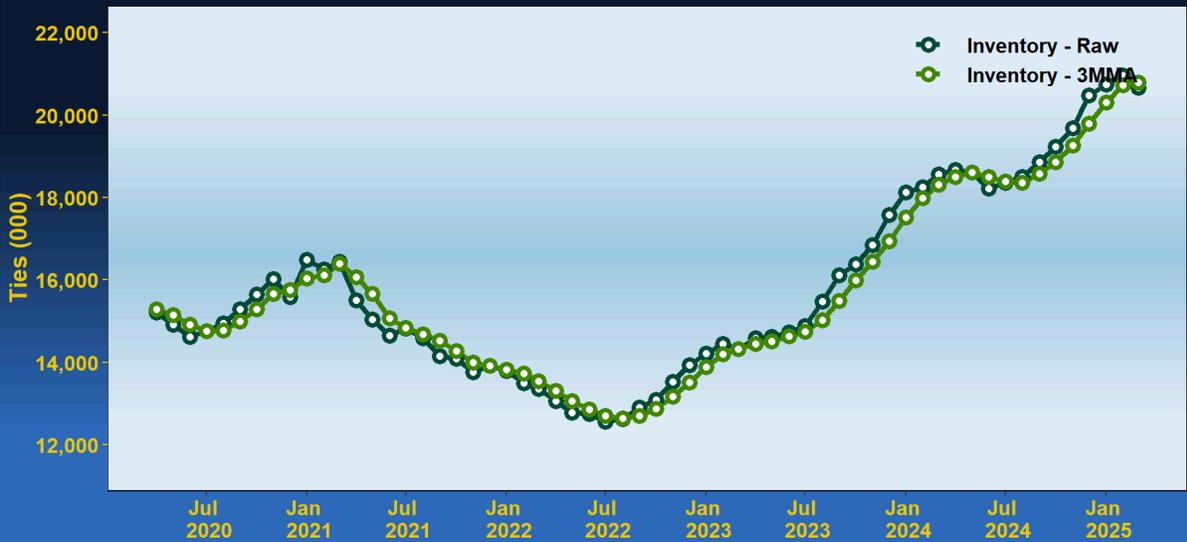


Monthly Pattern of Production and Purchases Statistics - Percent of Annual Total

Data since January 1988

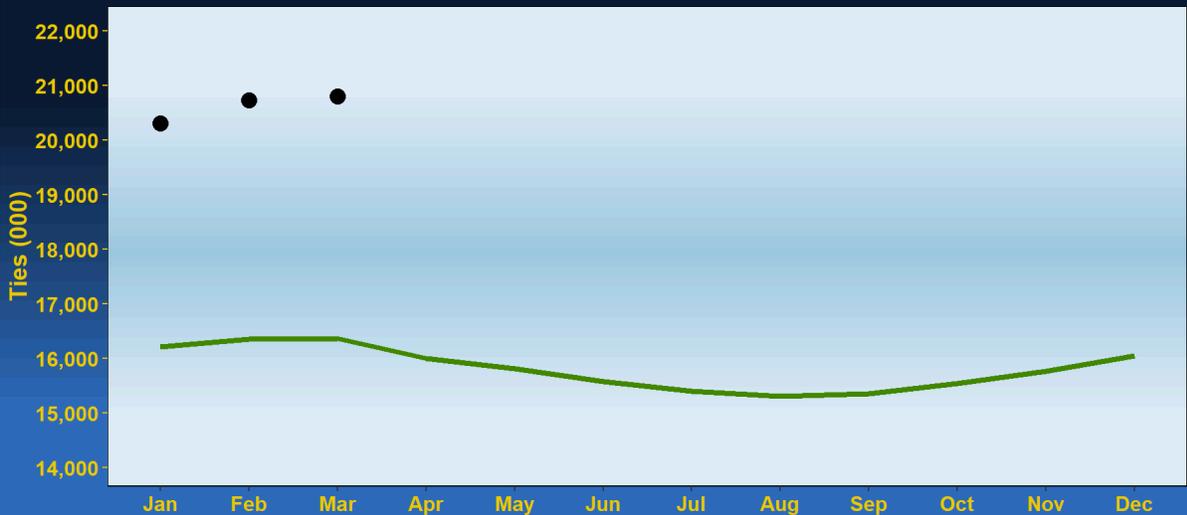


Tie Inventory - Raw Monthly and 3MMA Data - (last 60 months of data)



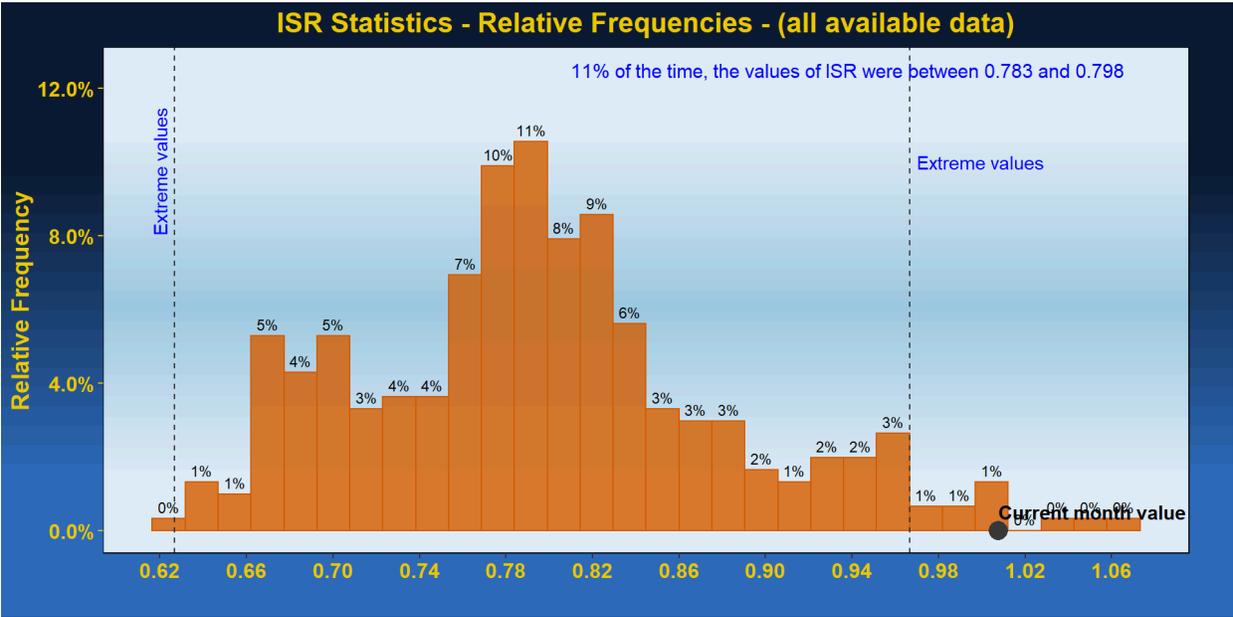
Monthly Patterns of Inventory - (data since 2000)

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





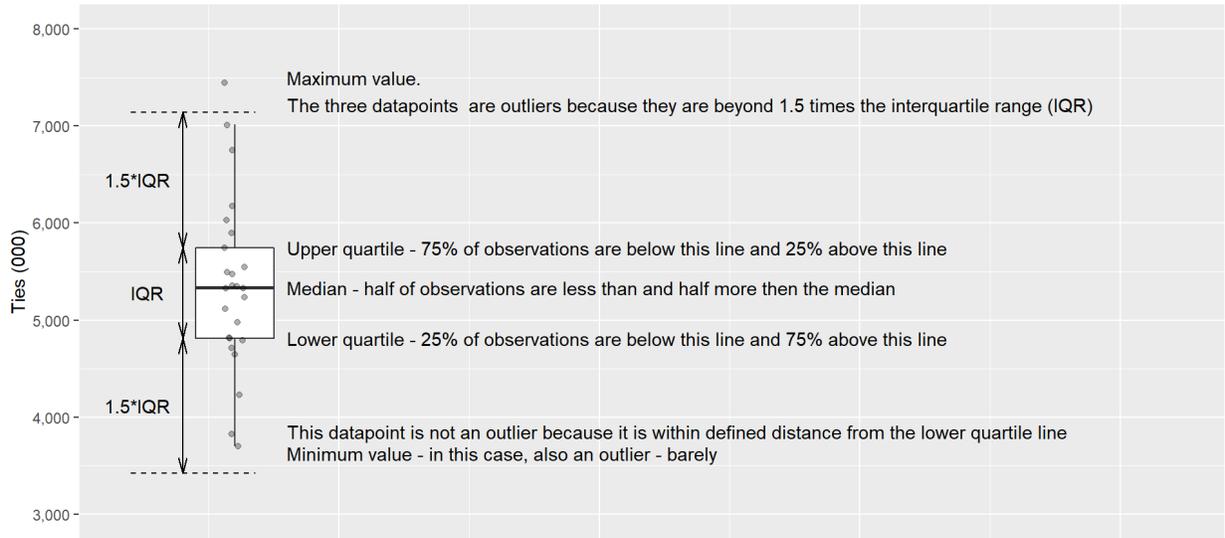
Inventory-to-Sales Ratio (ISR) histogram of relative frequencies shows the monthly ISR data distribution and the black point represents the value for the current reporting month.



Appendix

Box Plot Explained

Underlying data displayed as 'jittered' points



Histogram of Relative Frequencies Explained

