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The Hardest-Hit Industries

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Sageworks, a firm that tracks financial information on privately held companies, recently sent Economix some data on the bottom 35 industries by sales growth (or declines) over the last 12 months. The list of hardest-hit industries is at the end of this post.

As expected, many of the industries are related to home building and real estate (highlighted in yellow). Some of the others on the list were less predictable, though. Who would have thought that florists would be having a tougher time than car dealers?

Two things to bear in mind: 1) The sales data has not been adjusted for inflation, so in real terms these industries have seen their sales fall further than the numbers below might indicate. 2) These figures are for privately held companies only; many of the publicly traded firms grabbing headlines for their serious financial troubles therefore would not figure in the list below.

Source: Sageworks, Inc. Sales data is collected by aggregating private company financial data from certified public accountants and banks.

Bottom 35 Industries by Sales Growth/Decline Over Last 12 Months

December 4, 2008

Industry	Sales Growth/Decline
3211 - Sawmills and Wood Preservation	-6%
4233 - Lumber and Other Construction Materials Merchant Wholesalers	-6%
5312 - Offices of Real Estate Agents and Brokers	-6%
5223 - Activities Related to Credit Intermediation	-5%
3273 - Cement and Concrete Product Manufacturing	-3%
4231 - Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Parts and Supplies Merchant Wholesalers	-3%
4853 - Taxi and Limousine Service	-2%
5222 - Nondepository Credit Intermediation	-2%
4531 - Florists	-2%
3219 - Other Wood Product Manufacturing	-2%
4441 - Building Material and Supplies Dealers	-2%
4421 - Furniture Stores	-1%
4232 - Furniture and Home Furnishings Merchant Wholesalers	-1%
3212 - Veneer, Plywood, and Engineered Wood Product Manufacturing	-1%
8123 - Drycleaning and Laundry Services	-1%
4242 - Drugs and Druggists' Sundries Merchant Wholesalers	-1%
2361 - Residential Building Construction	0%
5151 - Radio and Television Broadcasting	0%
3366 - Ship and Boat Building	0%
5321 - Automotive Equipment Rental and Leasing	0%
4422 - Home Furnishings Stores	1%
4241 - Paper and Paper Product Merchant Wholesalers	1%
3231 - Printing and Related Support Activities	1%
5241 - Insurance Carriers	1%
4532 - Office Supplies, Stationery, and Gift Stores	1%
5313 - Activities Related to Real Estate	1%
4412 - Other Motor Vehicle Dealers	2%
4541 - Electronic Shopping and Mail-Order Houses	2%
2123 - Nonmetallic Mineral Mining and Quarrying	2%
4413 - Automotive Parts, Accessories, and Tire Stores	2%
3271 - Glass and Glass Product Manufacturing	2%