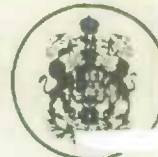


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\$1.00 a year

WHOLESALE TRADE



DECEMBER 1955

The preliminary estimates of wholesale sales, unadjusted for price changes or seasonal variations, for the month of December, 1955, was \$549,903,000. This represents an increase of 0.8% over sales for the same month in 1954. All except two trade classifications showed an increase and increases ranged from 100.4% in the case of farm machinery to 0.7% in the case of newsprint, paper and paper products. The residual group recorded a decrease of 27.1% and the construction materials group decreased 0.4%.

Cumulative calculations, also set out in the table accompanying this report, show the preliminary estimate of wholesale sales for the year 1955 as \$6,749,508,000 which is an increase of 11.1% over the previous year.

A summary table will be found on the reverse of this page.

Prepared in Merchandising and Services Section,
Industry and Merchandising Division.

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WHOLESALE TRADE

December, 1955

 Preliminary Estimates of Wholesale Sales and Percentage Changes
 from corresponding period one year previous.

(in thousands of dollars)

Kind of Business	December 1954	December 1955	% Change Dec. 1955	Year 1954	Year 1955	% Change Year 1955
TOTAL, ALL TRADES	545,645	549,903	+ 0.8	6,072,565	6,749,508	+ 11.1
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	17,148	18,347	+ 7.0	211,144	217,542	+ 3.0
Groceries and Food Specialties	89,247	98,414	+ 10.3	1,036,220	1,139,657	+ 10.0
Meat and Dairy Products	15,156	15,403	+ 1.6	171,108	164,192	- 4.0
Clothing and Furnishings	6,533	6,586	+ 0.8	80,944	86,469	+ 6.8
Footwear	2,009	2,396	+ 19.3	26,770	29,065	+ 8.6
Other Textile and Clothing Accessories	12,444	14,272	+ 14.7	174,180	183,598	+ 5.4
Drugs and Drug Sundries	13,114	14,261	+ 8.7	153,124	165,972	+ 8.4
Household Electrical Appliances	17,745	20,452	+ 15.3	150,137	167,893	+ 11.8
Farm Machinery	1,983	3,974	+ 100.4	52,084	60,590	+ 16.3
Coal and Coke	15,806	17,829	+ 12.8	179,007	178,407	- 0.3
Hardware	20,191	23,092	+ 14.4	260,809	283,523	+ 8.7
Construction Materials and Supplies, including Lumber	46,648	46,482	- 0.4	546,697	655,252	+ 19.9
Industrial and Transportation Equipment and Supplies	38,974	49,729	+ 27.6	462,233	571,919	+ 23.7
Commercial, Institutional and Service Equipment and Supplies	7,607	8,414	+ 10.6	89,240	99,017	+ 11.0
Automotive Parts and Accessories	21,902	30,034	+ 37.1	262,035	352,322	+ 34.5
Newsprint, Paper and Paper Products	22,002	22,150	+ 0.7	249,481	264,174	+ 5.9
Tobacco, Confectionery and Soft Drinks	50,078	50,895	+ 1.6	498,537	509,841	+ 2.3
All Other	147,058	107,173	- 27.1	1,458,815	1,620,075	+ 11.1