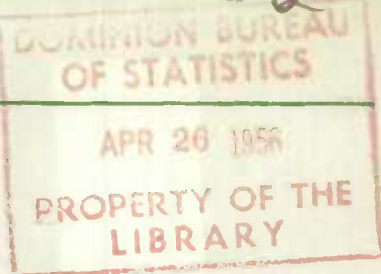


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WHOLESALE TRADE

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1956

The preliminary estimates of wholesale sales, unadjusted for price changes or seasonal variations, were \$472,994,000 and \$528,420,000 respectively for the months of January and February, 1956. In the case of January this represents an increase of 5.9% over the same month one year ago. For February the increase was 15.1% over February, 1955.

In January, 1956, all categories except five showed an increase and these ranged from 2.6% for meat and dairy products to 78.3% in the case of industrial and transportation equipment. Decreases ranged from a fraction of one per cent for footwear to 12.4% in the residual group.

In February, 1956, all categories except two indicated an increase and increases ranged from 0.6% for meat and dairy products to 81.5% for farm machinery. Sales of household electrical appliances decreased 5% and sales of footwear remained unchanged from the same month last year.

A summary table which includes cumulative figures for the year to date will be found on the reverse of this page.

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

6505-505-16
6505-505-26

WHOLESALE TRADE

January and February, 1956

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

(in thousands of dollars)

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Kind of Business	Jan. 1955	Jan. 1956	% Change Jan. 1956	Feb. 1955	Feb. 1956	% Change Feb. 1956	Jan.-Feb. 1955	Jan.-Feb. 1956	% Change Jan.-Feb. 1956
TOTAL, ALL TRADES	446,748	472,994	+ 5.9	458,909	528,420	+ 15.1	905,657	1,001,414	+ 10.6
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	13,832	13,394	- 3.2	14,062	15,276	+ 8.6	27,894	28,670	+ 2.8
Groceries and Food Specialties	77,765	84,938	+ 9.2	80,150	89,372	+ 11.5	157,915	174,310	+ 10.4
Meat and Dairy Products	9,770	10,021	+ 2.6	9,744	9,806	+ 0.6	19,514	19,827	+ 1.6
Clothing and Furnishings	4,537	5,626	+ 24.0	6,210	6,661	+ 7.3	10,747	12,287	+ 14.3
Footwear	1,122	1,115	- 0.6	2,352	2,352	-	3,474	3,467	- 0.2
Other Textile and Clothing									
Accessories	10,517	12,852	+ 22.2	13,690	15,596	+ 13.9	24,207	28,448	+ 17.5
Drugs and Drug Sundries	12,415	13,749	+ 10.7	11,974	13,538	+ 13.1	24,389	27,287	+ 11.9
Household Electrical Appliances ...	12,146	11,395	- 6.2	12,139	11,530	- 5.0	24,285	22,925	- 5.6
Farm Machinery	2,162	3,004	+ 38.9	2,016	3,659	+ 81.5	4,178	6,663	+ 59.5
Coal and Coke	15,917	16,427	+ 3.2	13,965	15,686	+ 12.3	29,882	32,113	+ 7.5
Hardware	14,920	17,983	+ 20.5	16,952	20,448	+ 20.6	31,872	38,431	+ 20.6
Construction Materials and Supplies, including Lumber	38,939	44,937	+ 15.4	33,451	44,408	+ 32.8	72,390	89,345	+ 23.4
Industrial and Transportation Equipment and Supplies	22,551	40,203	+ 78.3	34,492	59,746	+ 73.2	57,043	99,949	+ 75.2
Commercial, Institutional and Service Equipment and Supplies ..	6,641	7,901	+ 19.0	6,518	8,235	+ 26.4	13,159	16,136	+ 22.6
Automotive Parts and Accessories ..	21,469	18,839	- 12.3	19,695	20,722	+ 5.2	41,164	39,561	- 3.9
Newsprint, Paper and Paper Products	21,055	22,557	+ 7.1	19,045	21,892	+ 14.9	40,100	44,449	+ 10.8
Tobacco, Confectionery and Soft Drinks	34,387	37,097	+ 7.9	36,723	39,210	+ 6.8	71,110	76,307	+ 7.3
All Other	126,603	110,956	- 12.4	125,731	130,283	+ 3.6	252,334	241,239	- 4.4