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## WHOLESALE TRADE

MARCH 1956

The preliminary estimates of wholesale sales, unadjusted for price changes or seasonal variations, were \$654,349,000, 24.3% higher than the \$526,474,000 registered for the same month a year ago.

All trades showed an increase over March, 1955 with the exception of clothing and furnishings which registered a decline of 0.3%. The other seventeen trade groups covered in this report accounted for gains ranging from 1.3% for fresh fruits and vegetables to 99.2% for automotive parts and accessories.

The cumulated sales for the year to date amounted to \$1,655,763,000 or 15.6% above the \$1,432,131,000 for the corresponding period of 1955. Sales for all trade groups were up over the same period of 1955 and the percentage increases ranged from 0.9% for household and electrical appliances to 61.8% in the case of industrial and transportation equipment and supplies.

Details concerning the various trade groups 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

March, 1956

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

(in Thousands of dollars)

Kind of Business	March 1955	March 1956	% Change March 1956	Jan.-Mar. 1955	Jan.-Mar. 1956	% Change Jan.-Mar. 1956
TOTAL, ALL TRADES .....	526,474	654,349	+ 24.3	1,432,131	1,655,763	+ 15.6
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables .....	17,592	17,814	+ 1.3	45,486	46,484	+ 2.2
Groceries and Food Specialties .....	90,658	94,894	+ 4.7	248,573	269,204	+ 8.3
Meat and Dairy Products .....	11,830	13,641	+ 15.3	31,344	33,468	+ 6.8
Clothing and Furnishings .....	7,912	7,888	- 0.3	18,659	20,175	+ 8.1
Footwear .....	2,387	2,576	+ 7.9	5,861	6,043	+ 3.1
Other Textile and Clothing Accessories ....	15,982	17,688	+ 10.7	40,189	46,136	+ 14.8
Drugs and Drug Sundries .....	14,003	14,515	+ 3.7	38,392	41,802	+ 8.9
Household Electrical Appliances .....	11,271	12,944	+ 14.8	35,556	35,869	+ 0.9
Farm Machinery .....	3,933	5,116	+ 30.1	8,111	11,779	+ 45.2
Coal and Coke .....	13,030	13,379	+ 2.7	42,912	45,492	+ 6.0
Hardware .....	20,500	22,769	+ 11.1	52,372	61,200	+ 16.9
Construction Materials and Supplies, including Lumber .....	42,199	53,109	+ 25.9	114,589	142,454	+ 24.3
Industrial and Transportation Equipment and Supplies .....	47,561	69,294	+ 45.7	104,604	169,243	+ 61.8
Commercial, Institutional and Service Equipment and Supplies .....	8,103	9,314	+ 14.9	21,262	25,450	+ 19.7
Automotive Parts and Accessories .....	27,271	54,322	+ 99.2	68,435	93,883	+ 37.2
Newsprint, Paper and Paper Products .....	22,728	23,880	+ 5.1	62,828	68,329	+ 8.8
Tobacco, Confectionery and Soft Drinks ....	41,100	53,187	+ 29.4	112,210	129,494	+ 15.4
All Other .....	128,414	168,019	+ 30.8	380,748	409,258	+ 7.5