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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

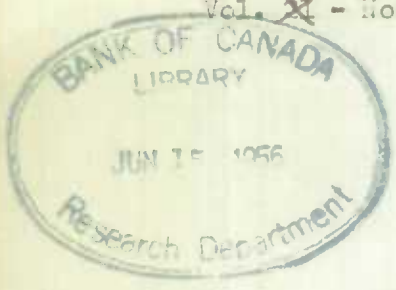
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WHOLESALE TRADE

APRIL 1956

The preliminary estimates for wholesale sales, unadjusted for price changes or seasonal variations, were \$637,935,000, 16.9% above the \$545,708,000 recorded for April 1955.

Of all the trades covered in this report three showed a drop from the previous year and these were: fresh fruits and vegetables 9.4%, meat and dairy products 8.0% and the all other group 5.9%. Of those showing an increase, automotive parts and accessories, industrial and transportation equipment and supplies and farm machinery accounted for the highest percentage gains at 161.4%, 59.8% and 35.1% respectively. The other trades showed gains ranging from 2.2% for tobacco, confectionery and soft drinks to 21.5% in the case of construction materials and supplies.

Total sales for the first four months of this year were up 16.0% from their level during the corresponding period of 1955. These sales amounted to \$1,977,839,000 and \$2,293,698,000 respectively for 1955 and 1956. All trades registered sales gains except fresh fruits and vegetables which declined 1.3%. As was the case for the month of April, the trades which showed the largest percentage gains over the January to April period were automotive parts and accessories with 74.2%, industrial and transportation equipment and supplies with 61.2% and farm machinery with 40.6%.

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

April, 1956

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

(in thousands of dollars)



Kind of Business	April 1955	April 1956	% Change April 1956	Jan.-Apr. 1955	Jan.-Apr. 1956	% Change Jan.-Apr. 1956
TOTAL, ALL TRADES	545,708	637,935	+ 16.9	1,977,339	2,293,698	+ 16.0
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	19,496	17,657	- 9.4	64,982	64,141	- 1.3
Groceries and Food Specialties	84,472	90,753	+ 7.4	333,045	359,957	+ 8.1
Meat and Dairy Products	12,304	11,314	- 8.0	43,648	44,782	+ 2.6
Clothing and Furnishings	6,460	6,798	+ 5.2	25,119	26,973	+ 7.4
Footwear	2,201	2,350	+ 5.9	8,062	8,373	+ 3.9
Other Textile and Clothing Accessories	13,529	15,999	+ 18.3	53,718	62,135	+ 15.7
Drugs and Drug Sundries	13,019	13,787	+ 5.9	51,411	55,589	+ 8.1
Household Electrical Appliances	10,045	11,856	+ 18.0	45,601	47,725	+ 4.7
Farm Machinery	6,930	9,364	+ 35.1	15,041	21,143	+ 40.6
Coal and Coke	10,718	12,572	+ 17.3	53,630	58,064	+ 8.3
Hardware	20,936	23,094	+ 10.3	73,308	84,294	+ 15.0
Construction Materials and Supplies, including Lumber	42,148	51,211	+ 21.5	156,737	193,665	+ 23.6
Industrial and Transportation Equipment and Supplies	43,295	69,206	+ 59.8	147,899	238,449	+ 61.2
Commercial, Institutional and Service Equipment and Supplies	7,923	8,898	+ 12.3	29,185	34,348	+ 17.7
Automotive Parts and Accessories	28,991	75,796	+161.4	97,426	169,679	+ 74.2
Newsprint, Paper and Paper Products	20,432	23,202	+ 13.6	83,260	91,531	+ 9.9
Tobacco, Confectionery and Soft Drinks	41,089	41,987	+ 2.2	153,299	171,481	+ 11.9
All Other	161,720	152,111	- 5.9	542,468	561,369	+ 3.5