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\$1.00 a year

## WHOLESALE TRADE

MAY 1956

The preliminary estimates for wholesale sales, unadjusted for price changes or seasonal variations were \$718,391,000, up 17.9 per cent over the \$609,293,000 recorded for May 1955.

The largest increases were registered for automotive parts and accessories, 154.4 per cent; industrial and transportation equipment and supplies, 46.0 per cent; and coal and coke, 30.2 per cent. Declines of 1.9 per cent and 9.7 per cent were registered respectively for meat and dairy products and the "all other" group.

Cumulated sales for January to May 1956 amounted to \$3,012,039,000, up \$424,957,000 or 16.4 per cent from the \$2,587,132,000 recorded for the same period of 1955. For the second consecutive time this year the same trade groups obtained the largest increases over their 1955 levels and these were: automotive parts and accessories, up 94.2 per cent; industrial and transportation equipment and supplies, up 57.2 per cent; and farm machinery, up 34.6 per cent.

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**

May, 1956

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

(in thousands of dollars)

Kind of Business	May 1955	May 1956	% Change May 1956	Jan.-May 1955	Jan.-May 1956	% Change Jan.-May 1956
TOTAL, ALL TRADES .....	609,293	718,391	+ 17.9	2,587,132	3,012,089	+ 16.4
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables .....	21,102	23,370	+ 10.7	86,084	87,511	+ 1.7
Groceries and Food Specialties .....	93,930	107,196	+ 14.1	426,975	467,153	+ 9.4
Meat and Dairy Products .....	13,381	13,125	- 1.9	57,029	57,907	+ 1.5
Clothing and Furnishings .....	6,463	6,831	+ 5.7	31,582	33,804	+ 7.0
Footwear .....	2,103	2,183	+ 3.8	10,165	10,556	+ 3.8
Other Textile and Clothing Accessories .....	14,060	14,800	+ 5.3	67,778	76,935	+ 13.5
Drugs and Drug Sundries .....	13,670	15,838	+ 15.9	65,081	71,427	+ 9.8
Household Electrical Appliances .....	10,230	11,904	+ 16.4	55,831	59,629	+ 6.8
Farm Machinery .....	6,329	7,611	+ 20.3	21,370	28,754	+ 34.6
Coal and Coke .....	13,259	17,260	+ 30.2	66,889	75,324	+ 12.6
Hardware .....	24,382	29,308	+ 20.2	97,690	113,602	+ 16.3
Construction Materials and Supplies, including Lumber .....	53,552	68,497	+ 27.9	210,289	262,162	+ 24.7
Industrial and Transportation Equipment and Supplies .....	52,464	76,586	+ 46.0	200,363	315,035	+ 57.2
Commercial, Institutional and Service Equipment and Supplies .....	9,950	10,839	+ 8.9	39,135	45,187	+ 15.5
Automotive Parts and Accessories .....	32,526	82,742	+154.4	129,952	252,421	+ 94.2
Newsprint, Paper and Paper Products .....	22,490	25,375	+ 12.8	105,750	116,906	+ 10.5
Tobacco, Confectionery and Soft Drinks .....	42,536	45,152	+ 6.2	195,835	216,633	+ 10.6
All Other .....	176,866	159,774	- 9.7	719,334	721,143	+ 0.3