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DO\$1.00 a year OCT 18 1956 PRO TIS IN OF THE

WHOLESALE TRADE

AUGUST 1956

Estimated wholesale sales in Actust 1956 at \$673,362,000 were 12.4 per cent greater than the \$599,250,000 recorded for the same month last year and brought the cumulative sales for this year to \$5,099,174,000, a gain of 16.3 per cent over the first eight months of 1955. These sales cover "wholesalers proper" and do not include the business transactions of manufacturers' sales branches or agents and brokers. They are not adjusted for price changes, seasonal variations or number of business days in the respective months.

Commercial, industrial and service equipment and supplies registered the only decrease in sales with 1.6 per cent below the level of August 1955. The most significant increases were obtained by coal and coke (37.6 per cent), meat and dairy products (25.5 per cent) and industrial and transportation equipment and supplies (24.6 per cent). The highest increases for the first eight months of the year were obtained by industrial and transportation equipment and supplies, up 43.7 per cent; farm machinery, up 25.1 per cent; "all other"group, up 20.7 per cent.

Further detail on the sales of the various trade groups will be found on the reverse side of this page.

Prepared in Merchandising and Services Section

Industry and Merchandising Division

6505-505-86

WHOLESALE TRADE

August 1956



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

(in thousands of dollars)

Kind of Business	August 1955	August 1956	% Change August 1956		JanAug. 195	JanAug. 1956	% Change JanAug. 1955	
TOTAL, ALL TRADES	599,250	673,362	+	12.4	4,386,176	5,099,174	+	16.3
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	18,845	21,513	4.	14.2	149,824	1(0,395	+	7.1
Groceries and Food Specialties	100,809	114,869	+	13.9	723,611	792,014	+	9.5
Meat and Dairy Products	13,542	17,001	5	25.5	103,203	107,116	+	3.8
Clothing and Furnishings	7,493	8,399	+	12.1	50,647	53,958	+	6.5
Footwear	2,896	3,228	+	11.5	16,788	17,558	+	4.6
Other Textile and Clothing Accessories	17,163	18,862	+	9.9	110,065	121,746	+	10.6
Drugs and Drug Sundries	13,949	14,518	+	4.1	105,813	114,016	+	7.8
Household Electrical Appliances	12,057	12,406	4 ⁴ 2	2.9	91,160	97,915	+	7.4
Farm Machinery	8,135	9,516	+	17.0	43,554	54,493	+	25.1
Coal and Coke	12,777	17,586	5	37.6	107,827	124,251	+	15.2
Hardware	27,022	28,927	4	7.0	174,149	198,281	+	13.9
Construction Materials and Supplies,					· · · ·		1.7.1	
including Lumber	71,201	71,623	+	0.6	413,402	475,305	+	15.0
Industrial and Transportation		Design of the						
Equipment and Supplies	53,047	66,084	+	24.6	362,146	520,251	+	43.7
Commercial, Institutional and Service								
Equipment and Supplies	8,774	8,631	-	.1.6	65,133	72,874	+	11.9
Automotive Parts and Accessories	35,744	39,368	+	10.1	228,025	253,741	+	11.3
Newsprint, Paper and Paper Products	21,574	25,536	+	18.4	166,747	189,552	+	13.7
Tobacco, Confectionery and Soft Drinks	42,704	47,336	+	10.8	328,111	362,241	+	10.4
All Other	131,518	147,959	+	12.5	1,145,971	1,383,467	+	20.7