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## WHOLESALE TRADE

SEPTEMBER 1956



Estimated sales for wholesale trade in Canada amounted to \$621,077,000 in September 1956, up 0.4 per cent over the \$618,763,000 recorded for the same month last year. The cumulative sales for the year up to and including September at \$5,720,251,000 were 14.3 per cent higher than the \$5,004,939,000 registered in the same period of 1955. These sales cover "wholesalers proper" and do not include the business transactions of manufacturers' sales branches or agent and brokers. They are not adjusted for price changes, seasonal variations or number of business days in the respective months.

The distribution of sales by trades for September 1956 compared to September 1955 showed percentage gains in nine trades, decreases in eight and no change in the "all other" trade classification. Significant increases were registered for farm machinery (26.4 per cent) and coal and coke (25.7 per cent) while the increases for the other trade groups ranged from 1.8 per cent for hardware to 11.7 per cent in the case of industrial and transportation equipment and supplies. The electrical appliance group sustained the largest decrease (17.2 per cent) followed by construction materials and supplies with 10.5 per cent lower sales.

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

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WHOLESALE TRADE

September 1956

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

(in thousands of dollars)

Kind of Business	September 1955	September 1956	% Change Sept. 1956	Jan.-Sept 1955	Jan.-Sept. 1956	% Change Jan.-Sept. 1956
TOTAL, ALL TRADES .....	618,763	621,077	+ 0.4	5,004,939	5,720,251	+ 14.3
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables .....	16,467	17,720	+ 7.6	166,291	178,115	+ 7.1
Groceries and Food Specialties .....	109,698	103,953	- 5.2	833,309	895,967	+ 7.5
Meat and Dairy Products .....	14,958	14,739	- 1.5	118,161	121,855	+ 3.1
Clothing and Furnishings .....	10,339	9,773	- 5.5	60,986	63,731	+ 4.5
Footwear .....	3,635	3,619	- 0.4	20,423	21,177	+ 3.7
Other Textile and Clothing Accessories	21,189	21,010	- 0.8	131,254	142,756	+ 8.8
Drugs and Drug Sundries .....	15,362	15,574	+ 1.4	121,175	129,590	+ 6.9
Household Electrical Appliances .....	18,697	15,489	- 17.2	109,857	113,404	+ 3.2
Farm Machinery .....	4,879	6,167	+ 26.4	48,433	60,660	+ 25.2
Coal and Coke .....	16,106	20,243	+ 25.7	123,933	144,494	+ 16.6
Hardware .....	28,618	29,141	+ 1.8	202,767	227,422	+ 12.2
Construction Materials and Supplies, including Lumber .....	69,361	62,048	- 10.5	482,763	537,353	+ 11.3
Industrial and Transportation Equipment and Supplies .....	54,238	60,569	+ 11.7	416,384	580,820	+ 39.5
Commercial, Institutional and Service Equipment and Supplies .....	8,642	8,525	- 1.4	73,775	81,399	+ 10.3
Automotive Parts and Accessories .....	31,283	33,800	+ 8.0	259,308	287,541	+ 10.9
Newsprint, Paper and Paper Products ..	23,556	24,415	+ 3.6	190,303	213,967	+ 12.4
Tobacco, Confectionery and Soft Drinks	46,722	49,329	+ 5.6	374,833	411,570	+ 9.8
All Other .....	125,013	124,963	(1)	1,270,984	1,508,430	+ 18.7

(1) Less than 0.05 per cent.