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WHOLESALE TRADE

May 1957

Sales of Canadian wholesalers in May were estimated at \$752,170,000, a 2 per cent increase in comparison with the sales of \$740,662,000 estimated last year for the same month. Sales for the year to May 31st reached \$3,231,080,000, 6 per cent more than in the corresponding period of 1956 when sales totalled \$3,052,127,000. 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.

The principal increases in the month were recorded for industrial and transportation equipment and supplies (14 per cent), footwear (12 per cent) and tobacco, confectionery and soft drinks (12 per cent) while farm machinery accounted for the largest decrease at 7 per cent. A comparison of the 1957 cumulative sales with 1956 favored the former in 16 of the 18 trade groupings covered in this report. The exceptions were construction materials (including lumber) and hardware which dropped 2 and 6 per cent respectively. The increases in the other trades ranged from less than 1 per cent recorded for clothing and furnishings to 13 per cent in the case of groceries and food specialties.

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

May 1957

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Preliminary Estimates of Wholesale Sales and Percentage Changes

Kind of Business	May			January - May		
	Sales		% Change 1957/1956	Sales		% Change 1957/1956
	1956	1957		1956	1957	
	\$'000	\$'000		\$'000	\$'000	
TOTAL, All Trades	740,662	752,170	+ 1.6	3,052,127	3,231,080	+ 5.9
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	23,370	23,529	+ 0.7	87,511	90,312	+ 3.2
Groceries and Food Specialties	107,196	113,858	+ 6.2	467,153	530,181	+ 13.5
Meat and Dairy Products	13,125	13,324	+ 1.5	57,907	61,159	+ 5.6
Clothing and Furnishings	6,831	7,208	+ 5.5	33,804	33,934	+ 0.4
Footwear	2,183	2,454	+ 12.4	10,556	11,305	+ 7.1
Other Textile and Clothing Accessories ..	14,800	16,092	+ 8.7	76,935	81,179	+ 5.5
Coal and Coke	17,260	16,116	- 6.6	75,324	76,279	+ 1.3
Drugs and Drug Sundries	15,838	15,195	- 4.1	71,427	73,520	+ 2.9
Newsprint, Paper and Paper Products	25,375	27,802	+ 9.6	116,906	122,392	+ 4.7
Tobacco, Confectionery and Soft Drinks ..	45,152	50,483	+ 11.8	216,633	239,650	+ 10.6
Automotive Parts and Accessories	37,699	37,380	- 0.8	144,223	154,533	+ 7.1
Commercial, Institutional and Service Equipment and Supplies	10,839	10,729	- 1.0	45,187	46,229	+ 2.3
Construction Materials and Supplies, including Lumber	68,497	69,541	+ 1.5	262,162	256,899	- 2.0
Farm Machinery	7,611	7,060	- 7.2	28,754	26,912	- 6.4
Hardware	29,308	29,875	+ 1.9	113,602	117,239	+ 3.2
Household Electrical Appliances	11,904	11,655	- 2.1	59,629	63,545	+ 6.6
Industrial and Transportation Equipment and Supplies	76,586	87,546	+ 14.3	315,035	324,879	+ 3.1
All Other Trades	227,088	212,323	- 6.5	869,379	920,933	+ 5.9