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Sales of Canadian wholesalers for the month of March 1968 are estimated at $\$ 1,153,196,000$, a decrease of $1.5 \%$ from the same month last year. These sales are those of 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.

March sales were greater in ten of the eighteen specified trades. Increases ranged from $0.5 \%$ in Household Electrical Appliances to $15.7 \%$ in Tobecco, Confectionery and Soft Drinks. Decreases in eight trades ranged from $0.6 \%$ in Drugs and Drug Sundries to $17.7 \%$ in Farm Machinery. Sales in the "All Other Trades" group declined by $20.5 \%$.

For the first quarter of 1968 , sales are estimated at $\$ 3,269,602,000$, an increase of $4.2 \%$ from the first quarter in 1967. There were increases in thirteen of the oightoen specifled trades, ranging from 0.80 in Clothing and Furnishings to $14.0 \%$ in Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. Decreases in five trades ranged from $1.4 \%$ in Electrical Wiring Supplies, Construction Materials, Apparatus and Equipment to 10.1\% in Farm Machinery. Sales of the "All Other Trades" group decreased by $2.9 \%$.

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

Propared in the Merchandising and Services Division

March 1968
Preliminary Estimates of Wholesale Sales and Percentage Changes

|  | March |  |  | January-March |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Sales |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { o Chang } \\ & 1968 / 1967 \end{aligned}$ | Sales |  | Change 1968/1967 |
|  | 1967 | 1968 |  | 1967 | 1968 |  |
|  | \$ 000 | \$ ${ }^{\circ} 000$ |  | \$000 | \$1000 |  |
| Total, all trades ................... | 1,170,562 | 1,153,196 | - 1.5 | 3,141,248 | 3,269,602 | $+4.1$ |
| Fresh fruits and vegetables ............... | 28,468 | 30,560 | $+7.3$ | 79,707 | 90,884 | +14.0 |
| Grocerios and food spocialties ........... | 212,601 | 235,436 | +10.7 | 587,602 | 651,188 | $+20.8$ |
| Meat and dairy products ................... | 23,746 | 20,208 | -14.9 | 56,004 | 53,082 | - 5.2 |
| Clothing and furnishings | 12,283 | 11,542 | - 6.0 | 29,921 | 30,146 | $+0.8$ |
| Footwear ............... | 4,534 | 4,729 | $+4.3$ | 9,693 | 10,402 | + 7.3 |
| Other textile and clothing accessories ... | 19.972 | 20,346 | $+1.9$ | 57,318 | 60,237 | $+5.1$ |
| Coal and coke .............................. | 7,877 | 6,560 | -16.? | 29,614 | 27,600 | - 6.8 |
| Drugs and drug sundries | 32,021 | 31,842 | - 0.6 | 88,926 | 94,573 | $+6.3$ |
| Newsprint, paper and paper products | 35,392 | 36,763 | $+3.9$ | 98,292 | 103,602 | $+5.4$ |
| Tobacco, confectionery and soft drinks ... | 104,187 | 120,592 | +15.7 | 253,082 | 274,708 | $+8.5$ |
| Automotive parts and accessories ........ | 53,387 | 57.590 | $+7.9$ | 121,818 | 130,752 | $+7.3$ |
| Commercial, institutional and service oquipment and supplies .................... | 22,784 | 21,721 | $-4.7$ | 59,272 | 64,551 | $+8.9$ |
| Electrical wiring supplios, construction materials, apparatus and equipment ..... | 27,096 | 25,599 | - 5.5 | 69,928 | 68,972 | - 2.4 |
| Other construction materials and supplies, including lumber | 93,874 | 96,823 | $+3.1$ | 243,507 | 257,079 | $+5.6$ |
| Farm machinery ............................... | 15,638 | 12,877 | -17.? | 30,843 | 27,741 | -10.1 |
| Hardware ........... | 35,876 | 32,376 | -9.8 | 96,229 | 94,098 | - 2.2 |
| Household electrical appliances .......... | 28,794 | 28,948 | $+0.5$ | 77,244 | 81,969 | $+6.1$ |
| Industrial and transportation equipment and supplies | $121,835$ | $127,994$ | $+5.1$ |  |  | $+7.0$ |
| All other trades ........... | 290,197 | 230,692 | -20.5 | $860,868$ | $836,224$ | - 2.9 |



Note: Components may not add to totals due to rounding.
Porcentages were calculated on unrounded figures.

