

Retail Merchandise Trade, by Size of Business.—Retail stores vary between wide limits when classified on the basis of volume of annual sales. Of the 137,343 stores in operation in 1941 there were 43,293 or 31.5 p.c. of the total which had annual sales of less than \$5,000 each and these transacted only 2.9 p.c. of the total business. Approximately 38 p.c. of all the stores in 1930 were in the corresponding size class and in that year they accounted for 3.6 p.c. of the total business. At the other end of the scale there were 419 stores in 1941 each with annual sales of half a million dollars or more and these transacted 19.0 p.c. of the total trade. In 1930 there were 250 stores in this category and they accounted for 18.3 p.c. of the total business.

20.—Retail Merchandising Establishments Grouped According to Annual Sales, 1930 and 1941

Group	Stores				Annual Sales			
	1930		1941		1930		1941	
	Number	P.C. of Total	Number	P.C. of Total	Amount	P.C. of Total	Amount	P.C. of Total
					\$'000		\$'000	
Less than \$1,000.....	47,532	38.4	8,997	6.6	95,355	3.6	5,321	0.1
\$ 1,000-\$ 1,999.....			9,958	7.2			14,166	0.4
\$ 2,000-\$ 4,999.....			24,338	17.7			81,157	2.4
\$ 5,000-\$ 9,999.....	22,548	18.2	27,675	20.2	159,461	5.9	198,208	5.7
\$ 10,000-\$ 19,999.....	23,438	18.9	27,800	20.2	328,605	12.2	393,377	11.4
\$ 20,000-\$ 29,999.....	11,583	9.4	14,339	10.4	278,575	10.4	345,734	10.0
\$ 30,000-\$ 49,999.....	9,431	7.6	12,126	8.8	356,729	13.3	460,534	13.4
\$ 50,000-\$ 99,999.....	5,979	4.8	7,523	5.5	407,305	15.2	508,867	14.8
\$100,000-\$199,999.....	2,145	1.7	2,855	2.1	288,712	10.8	388,929	11.3
\$200,000-\$299,999.....	545	0.5	1,313	1.0	130,651	4.9	396,827	11.5
\$300,000-\$499,999.....	388	0.3			144,308	5.4		
\$500,000-\$999,999.....	164	0.1	419	0.3	109,514	4.1	656,127	19.0
\$1,000,000 or over.....	86	0.1			382,018	14.2		
Totals.....	123,839	100.0	137,343	100.0	2,681,233	100.0	3,449,247	100.0

In Table 21 the retail stores are classified on the basis of the average number of paid employees used in the business during the year. It will be noted that over 40 p.c. of the total number of retail stores are operated without the aid of paid employees, the work being carried on entirely by the proprietor or by the proprietor with the assistance of family members not carried on payroll. There were only 135 stores employing as many as 100 employees each but these accounted for 12 p.c. of the total volume of retail sales.

21.—Retail Merchandising Establishments Grouped According to Number of Employees, 1941

Group	Stores		Sales		Total Employees	
	Number	P.C.	Amount	P.C.	Number	P.C.
			\$'000			
Stores Reporting—						
No employees.....	56,907	41.4	297,279	8.6	-	-
1 employee.....	27,581	20.1	305,941	8.9	27,582	7.0
2 employees.....	16,991	12.4	326,160	9.5	33,982	8.6
3 employees.....	10,481	7.6	283,737	8.2	31,443	8.0
4 employees.....	6,734	4.9	226,926	6.6	26,966	6.9
5- 9 employees.....	12,303	9.0	633,084	18.3	78,350	20.0
10-19 employees.....	4,116	3.0	416,989	12.1	52,681	13.4
20-49 employees.....	1,781	1.3	390,595	11.3	51,022	13.0
50-99 employees.....	314	0.2	154,693	4.5	19,573	5.0
100 employees or over.....	135	0.1	413,844	12.0	71,041	18.1
Totals, All Stores.....	137,343	100.0	3,449,248	100.0	392,640	100.0