

Estimated Retail Sales, 1942 and 1943.—The annual estimates of retail sales, when extended to 1942 and 1943, serve to give some indication of the developments that have taken place in retail purchasing since the latest census year.

A marked contraction in the retail automotive trade, following the cessation of new car production for civilian use in March, 1942, forms the most outstanding feature in these trade statistics. Sales for this group of establishments, including not only motor-vehicle dealers but also filling stations and stores specializing in the sale of automotive parts and accessories, are estimated at \$311,331,000 for 1943, a decline of 47.7 p.c. below the 1941 level. Restrictions on the production of radios and household appliances resulted in sales for stores specializing in these commodities standing 25 p.c. lower in 1943 than in 1941. Furniture store sales were down by 6.5 p.c.

On the other hand many trades recorded substantial gains between 1941 and 1943. The restaurant trade was up by 44.1 p.c. Gains ranging from 20 to 30 p.c. were recorded for the food group of stores, for country general stores, for the apparel group of stores, for drug stores, jewellery stores and government liquor stores. Sales for all retail stores are estimated at \$3,753,874,000 in 1943, up 9.1 p.c. over the census figure of \$3,440,902,000.

33.—Retail Merchandise Sales, 1941, and Estimated Sales, 1942 and 1943, by Provinces and by Kinds of Business

Province and Kind of Business	1941	1942	1943	P.C. Change 1943 from 1941
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Province				
Maritime Provinces.....	282, 812	304, 507	325, 329	+15.0
Quebec.....	818, 671	891, 918	916, 132	+11.9
Ontario.....	1, 406, 977	1, 438, 010	1, 443, 622	+ 2.6
Manitoba.....	210, 833	224, 564	237, 927	+12.9
Saskatchewan.....	186, 886	194, 855	211, 765	+13.3
Alberta.....	221, 071	236, 130	261, 203	+18.2
British Columbia.....	309, 573	337, 690	350, 584	+13.2
Canada ¹	3, 440, 902	3, 632, 952	3, 753, 874	+ 9.1
Kind of Business				
Food Group—				
Grocery, combination and meat markets.....	650, 631	745, 736	782, 911	+20.3
Totals, Food Group	786, 247	901, 354	945, 965	+20.3
Country General Stores	214, 749	245, 456	274, 400	+27.8
General Merchandise Group—				
Department stores.....	377, 805	421, 964	423, 618	+12.1
Variety stores.....	85, 179	98, 031	98, 018	+15.1
Totals, General Merchandise Group	525, 971	592, 763	600, 088	+14.1
Automotive Group	594, 720	364, 331	311, 331	-47.7

¹ Includes Yukon and the Northwest Territories.