

Service Establishments are contained in Vols. X and XI of the Census reports for those years and the results of the 1951 Census of Distribution in Vols. VII and VIII of the 1951 Census reports. Summary data for 1951 are given in the 1955 Year Book, pp. 953-977.

The information collected at the census is supplemented in intercensal years by monthly, quarterly and annual surveys on the more important phases of the retail, wholesale and service trades—sample surveys for some businesses and full coverage for others. The 1951 Census formed a new base for such surveys and certain improvements have been implemented for continuance during the 1951-61 intercensal period.

Current information available on the more important phases of the distributive trades is given in the following Subsections. Estimates for the years prior to 1951 have been revised in accordance with the Census base.

### Subsection 1.—Wholesale Trade

**Wholesale Sales.**—Following the completion of the 1951 Census an improved and extended sample of wholesale businesses was selected and estimates of wholesale trade produced. Table 1 covers only the field of wholesalers proper, that is, those firms which perform the function of buying merchandise on their own account for resale and generally warehousing and delivering to customers. Estimated sales shown are subject to possible revision resulting from further refinements in the sample and in estimating procedures.

#### 1.—Wholesale Sales by Kind of Business 1951-54

NOTE.—Includes only wholesalers proper, i.e., firms performing the function of buying merchandise on their own account for resale.

Kind of Business	1951 (actual sales)	1952	1953	1954
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Fresh fruits and vegetables.....	183,428	212,407	202,027	211,145
Groceries and food specialties.....	883,323	909,255	944,999	1,036,220
Meat and dairy products.....	173,147	162,358	171,759	171,108
Clothing and furnishings.....	85,242	89,275	88,907	80,944
Footwear.....	28,456	29,370	28,434	26,770
Other textile and clothing accessories.....	180,214	183,509	180,711	174,179
Drugs and drug sundries.....	133,260	140,079	147,695	153,124
Household electrical appliances.....	93,200	125,446	138,179	150,136
Farm machinery.....	65,653	72,459	71,247	52,084
Coal and coke.....	226,665	224,524	197,161	179,007
Hardware.....	266,926	261,623	268,808	260,809
Construction materials and supplies, including lumber.....	514,956	505,916	550,448	546,698
Industrial and transportation equipment and supplies.....	437,036	536,492	533,486	462,233
Commercial, institutional and service equipment and supplies.....	72,574	78,033	82,954	89,240
Automotive parts and accessories.....	246,750	263,535	269,308	262,035
Newsprint, paper and paper products.....	212,621	226,250	236,752	249,481
Tobacco, confectionery and soft drinks.....	457,473	524,921	504,556	498,537
Other.....	1,483,431	1,460,742	1,625,480	1,458,815
<b>Totals, All Trades.....</b>	<b>5,744,355</b>	<b>6,006,195</b>	<b>6,242,912</b>	<b>6,062,566</b>

**Operating Results of Wholesalers.**—The fourth biennial survey of the operating results of wholesalers for certain trades shows operating expenses and profits in ratio to net sales for the year 1953. More detail is given in DBS Bulletins covering the individual trades.