

Section 1.—Merchandising and Service Establishments*

Complete coverage of the business of wholesale and retail trades and of service establishments is attempted only as part of the decennial census. The first such detailed survey was taken in connection with the 1931 Census and related to business transacted during the calendar year 1930. Similar detailed records were again secured with the 1941 and 1951 Censuses. The results of the 1930 and 1941 Censuses of Merchandising and 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.—Estimated sales of wholesalers expanded from \$5,744,355,000 in 1951 to \$7,720,353,000 in 1956. These figures include only wholesalers proper, i.e., they exclude agents and brokers and manufacturers' sales branches. Sales estimates are subject to revision and have not been adjusted for price changes.

* Prepared in the Merchandising and Services Section of the Industry and Merchandising Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

1.—Wholesale Sales by Kind of Business 1953-56

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

Kind of Business	1953	1954	1955	1956
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Fresh fruits and vegetables.....	202,027	211,145	217,540	233,446
Groceries and food specialties.....	944,999	1,036,220	1,139,659	1,246,104
Meat and dairy products.....	171,759	171,108	164,192	173,443
Clothing and furnishings.....	88,907	80,944	86,469	89,531
Footwear.....	28,434	26,770	29,064	30,691
Other textile and clothing accessories.....	180,711	174,179	183,598	199,258
Drugs and drug sundries.....	147,695	153,124	165,974	178,409
Household electrical appliances.....	138,179	150,136	167,894	168,601
Farm machinery.....	71,247	52,084	60,590	72,726
Coal and coke.....	197,161	179,007	178,408	202,900
Hardware.....	268,808	260,809	283,522	313,417
Construction materials and supplies, including lumber.....	550,448	546,698	655,254	709,996
Industrial and transportation equipment and supplies.....	533,486	462,233	571,918	764,789
Commercial, institutional and service equipment and supplies..	82,954	89,240	99,017	107,887
Automotive parts and accessories.....	269,308	262,035	352,323	386,436
Newsprint, paper and paper products.....	236,752	249,481	264,171	292,400
Tobacco, confectionery and soft drinks.....	504,556	498,537	509,840	562,413
Other.....	1,625,480	1,458,815	1,620,077	1,987,906
Totals, All Trades.....	6,242,912	6,062,566	6,749,510	7,720,353