

6.—Retail Chain Store Sales by Province and by Kind of Business 1953-56—concluded

Kind of Business	1953	1954	1955	1956
Kind of Business	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Foods and Beverages¹	1,265,514	1,353,278	1,486,644	1,685,394
Combination grocery and meat stores.....	779,668	870,580	970,793	1,104,060
Restaurants.....	34,442	33,900	34,602	36,374
Alcoholic beverage stores.....	435,538	432,714	465,772	527,952
General Merchandise (excl. department stores)¹	254,299	261,495	280,871	313,976
General stores.....	36,541	36,560	37,450	41,144
Variety stores.....	188,475	194,248	207,831	229,307
Automotive	33,418	35,014	39,923	42,043
Apparel and Accessories¹	157,421	162,239	175,077	190,674
Men's and boys' clothing and furnishings.....	24,734	25,350	27,037	28,866
Women's clothing stores.....	49,257	54,843	61,897	67,269
Family clothing stores.....	36,241	32,069	33,418	36,347
Shoes.....	43,470	45,384	48,054	53,433
Building Materials and Hardware	107,034	104,982	114,963	141,316
Furniture and Household Appliance	99,880	99,536	120,515	137,659
Other Retail Stores¹	130,662	130,090	135,962	136,592
Drug stores.....	34,805	35,908	36,660	41,299
Jewellery stores.....	38,238	38,954	43,016	46,301

¹ Includes other kinds of business not shown separately.

Operating Results of Retail Chain Stores.—The 1955 operating results of selected trades show generally higher gross profit ratios than 1954. However, operating expenses more than offset this advantage and, as a consequence, reduced ratios of net profit were reported in most cases. Table 7 gives summary data for ten kinds of business in the field of retail chain stores for 1955.

7.—Operating Results of Retail Chain Stores for Selected Kinds of Business 1955

(Percentage of Net Sales)

Kind of Business	Gross Profit	Salaries and Wages	Occupancy ¹	Total Operating Expenses ²	Net Operating Profit	Net Non-trading Income	Net Profit before Income Tax
Grocery.....	16.03	8.75	1.94	15.32	0.71	0.11	0.82
Combination grocery and meat.....	16.45	7.67	1.39	13.40	3.05	0.16	3.21
Meat markets.....	18.75	11.01	1.63	17.63	1.12	0.02 ³	1.10
Men's clothing.....	30.97	14.43	5.02	28.39	2.58	0.40	2.98
Women's clothing.....	32.70	14.07	6.42	28.77	3.93	0.55	4.48
Family clothing.....	33.35	16.71	4.89	31.64	1.71	0.25	1.96
Shoe.....	32.95	15.35	5.84	27.98	4.97	0.21 ³	4.76
Variety.....	38.30	17.86	5.02	29.03	9.27	0.45	9.72
Drug.....	34.93	19.07	5.05	31.67	3.26	0.75	4.01
Furniture.....	28.50	12.30	3.37	25.09	3.41	3.85	7.26

¹ Includes taxes and insurance, light, heat and power, repairs, maintenance, depreciation (except on delivery equipment) and rentals on rented premises. ² Includes salaries and wages and occupancy expenses. ³ Net non-trading expenses.

Operating Results of Independent Retail Stores.—Figures for 1954 for twenty kinds of business are contained in Table 8. Separate ratios are shown for unincorporated and incorporated businesses. Salaries of proprietors of unincorporated stores are included in net profit while salaries of executives of incorporated stores form part of the expense item of salaries and wages.