

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 \$5,784,400,000 in 1951 to \$7,643,500,000 in 1958. 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, 1955-58

NOTE.—Includes only wholesalers proper, i.e., firms performing the function of buying merchandise on their own account for resale. Figures for 1955-57 in this table have been revised since the publication of the 1959 Year Book.

Kind of Business	1955	1956	1957	1958
	\$'000,000	\$'000,000	\$'000,000	\$'000,000
Fresh fruits and vegetables.....	224.4	230.2	228.2	252.7
Groceries and food specialties.....	1,046.9	1,117.2	1,215.2	1,328.3
Meat and dairy products.....	133.9	141.4	146.0	167.8
Clothing and furnishings.....	84.8	84.0	80.9	81.7
Footwear.....	28.8	28.9	27.9	29.9
Other textile and clothing accessories.....	182.6	196.3	197.1	210.5
Drugs and drug sundries.....	164.6	176.9	187.7	202.2
Household electrical appliances.....	164.4	163.0	159.5	164.5
Farm machinery.....	60.2	72.1	60.3	73.4
Coal and coke.....	148.0	171.0	162.0	139.4
Hardware.....	280.1	310.2	303.8	295.5
Construction materials and supplies, including lumber.....	704.8	760.3	732.8	770.6
Industrial and transportation equipment and supplies.....	561.6	742.2	721.4	621.7
Commercial, institutional and service equipment and supplies.....	89.8	102.9	102.7	106.6
Automotive parts and accessories.....	302.7	338.0	342.1	363.8
Newsprint, paper and paper products.....	240.5	264.3	265.0	257.3
Tobacco, confectionery and soft drinks.....	473.3	509.0	544.6	572.9
Other.....	1,725.2	2,076.7	1,989.3	2,004.7
Totals, All Trades.....	6,616.6	7,484.6	7,466.5	7,643.5