

Subsection 2.—Retail Trade

The trend of retail trade is one of the best general indicators of the economic condition of the country. It is through retail stores that most goods are ultimately sold and such sales reflect the financial strength of the consumer except in times of short supply. The estimated value of retail sales nearly doubled in the period 1949-59. Estimates, not adjusted for price changes, are shown by province in Table 2 for 1930 and 1941-59 and by kind of business for the latest five years in Table 3.

2.—Retail Trade, by Province, 1930 and 1941-59

NOTE.—Figures for 1931-40 are given in the 1957-58 Year Book, p. 938.

Year	Atlantic Provinces ¹	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia ²	Canada ³
	\$'000,000	\$'000,000	\$'000,000	\$'000,000	\$'000,000	\$'000,000	\$'000,000	\$'000,000
1930.....	197	646	1,091	188	188	175	251	2,736
1941.....	279	820	1,388	193	189	228	318	3,415
1942.....	301	876	1,447	206	201	243	346	3,619
1943.....	319	913	1,498	220	219	266	362	3,786
1944.....	351	976	1,574	243	249	296	404	4,093
1945.....	387	1,081	1,774	269	279	329	455	4,573
1946.....	491	1,342	2,265	338	341	416	593	5,787
1947.....	564	1,621	2,721	407	410	504	737	6,963
1948.....	607	1,792	3,067	466	473	611	818	7,835
1949.....	734	1,872	3,294	523	538	697	874	8,532
1950.....	822	2,183	3,715	567	571	777	982	9,617
1951.....	899	2,443	4,130	610	659	854	1,100	10,693
1952.....	982	2,635	4,383	651	764	939	1,177	11,532
1953.....	1,018	2,756	4,677	677	845	987	1,228	12,128
1954.....	1,025	2,798	4,634	637	758	964	1,249	12,066
1955.....	1,127	3,006	5,115	669	748	1,035	1,412	13,112
1956.....	1,211	3,322	5,499	700	812	1,159	1,594	14,298
1957.....	1,234	3,521	5,663	726	855	1,211	1,616	14,826
1958.....	1,290	3,647	5,934	754	914	1,275	1,631	15,444
1959.....	1,362	3,878	6,218	813	951	1,355	1,707	16,284

¹ Newfoundland included from 1949.

² Includes the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

³ Totals

are not the exact addition of the components because of rounding of the figures.

3.—Retail Trade, by Kind of Business, 1955-59

Kind of Business	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
	\$'000,000	\$'000,000	\$'000,000	\$'000,000	\$'000,000
Grocery and combination stores.....	2,430	2,639	2,894	3,126	3,287
Other food and beverage stores.....	950	1,044	1,082	1,120	1,178
General stores.....	530	568	596	625	630
Department stores.....	1,150	1,242	1,282	1,345	1,420
Variety stores.....	250	274	296	315	331
Motor vehicle dealers.....	2,370	2,542	2,483	2,414	2,613
Garages and filling stations.....	718	822	939	1,037	1,104
Men's clothing stores.....	214	230	235	238	250
Family clothing stores.....	200	215	218	227	226
Women's clothing stores.....	225	247	257	265	273
Shoe stores.....	123	129	136	146	155
Hardware stores.....	256	291	302	318	326
Lumber and building material dealers.....	451	483	458	482	492
Furniture, appliance and radio dealers.....	541	584	507	566	581
Restaurants.....	468	508	528	543	567
Fuel dealers.....	268	312	322	326	342
Drug stores.....	300	329	358	383	405
Jewellery stores.....	124	130	131	133	137
Miscellaneous.....	1,545	1,706	1,743	1,838	1,967
Totals, All Trades.....	13,112	14,298	14,826	15,444	16,284