

### 2.—Wholesale Inventories, by Kind of Business, 1958 and 1959

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

Kind of Business	1958	1959	Kind of Business	1958	1959
	\$'000,000	\$'000,000		\$'000,000	\$'000,000
Fresh fruits and vegetables.....	5.7	5.0	Industrial and transportation equip- ment and supplies.....	156.9	180.4
Groceries and food specialties.....	108.8	105.9	Commercial, institutional and service equipment and supplies.....	21.4	24.6
Meat and dairy products.....	7.9	5.9	Automotive parts and accessories.....	59.3	74.7
Clothing and furnishings.....	20.4	21.3	Newsprint, paper and paper products..	19.2	18.8
Footwear.....	7.1	8.4	Tobacco, confectionery and soft drinks	29.0	31.8
Other textile and clothing accessories.	35.2	34.8	Other.....	225.5	263.3
Drugs and drug sundries.....	24.8	26.4			
Household electrical appliances.....	29.4	33.1			
Farm machinery.....	17.0	20.9			
Coal and coke.....	17.2	15.4			
Hardware.....	69.4	70.8			
Construction materials and supplies, including lumber.....	92.4	105.9	<b>Totals, All Trades.....</b>	<b>946.6</b>	<b>1,047.4</b>

### 3.—Sales of Agents and Brokers, by Kind of Business, 1957-59

NOTE.—Includes those businesses primarily handling merchandise on a commission basis at the wholesale level.

Kind of Business	1957	1958	1959
	\$'000,000	\$'000,000	\$'000,000
Amusement, sporting and photographic goods.....	20.4	20.3	22.3
Automotive.....	38.9	39.5	40.5
Beer, wine and distilled spirits.....	15.2	14.9	15.1
Chemicals, drugs and allied products.....	46.9	48.3	48.4
Coal and coke.....	12.4	8.7	8.4
Dry goods and apparel.....	306.5	312.7	360.0
Electrical goods.....	69.3	73.0	81.2
Farm products (raw materials).....	940.5	1,038.8	1,065.0
Farm supplies.....	19.4	21.9	30.2
Food products (except groceries) and tobacco.....	355.5	356.5	381.5
Forest products (except lumber).....	57.1	39.0	44.1
Furniture and house furnishings.....	49.0	51.9	52.9
General merchandise.....	23.2	26.1	27.3
Groceries and food specialties.....	235.2	233.7	240.6
Hardware.....	42.4	42.9	45.9
Jewellery.....	4.7	4.8	4.2
Leather and leather goods.....	12.8	14.1	17.1
Lumber and building materials (other than metal).....	78.7	86.1	102.1
Machinery, equipment and supplies.....	119.7	116.8	136.4
Metals and metal work.....	138.6	158.3	196.7
Paper and paper products.....	148.2	152.4	155.7
Petroleum and petroleum products.....	27.3	21.7	19.9
Plumbing and heating equipment and supplies.....	22.3	20.5	21.5
Waste materials (including scrap metal).....	10.3	9.1	10.1
Other kinds of business.....	40.2	33.1	33.7
Unable to classify.....	25.7	27.1	26.4
<b>Totals, All Trades.....</b>	<b>2,860.4</b>	<b>2,972.2</b>	<b>3,187.2</b>

### 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 increased by 61.3 p.c. during the period 1949-61. Estimates, not adjusted for price changes, are shown by province in Table 4 for 1930 and 1941-61 and by kind of business for the latest five years in Table 5.