

RETAIL SALES LARGER

Department store sales in September increased 7.1 per cent to an estimated \$119,-601,000 from the year-earlier total of \$111,-663,000, making January-September sales 4 per cent greater than a year ago at \$889,135,000 versus \$854,721,000. August 31 stocks (at selling value) were down 2.6 per cent from last year at \$314,662,000 versus \$323,026,000.

Sales were greater this year than last in September and January-September in all regions. Gains were: Atlantic Provinces, 8 per cent in the month and 4.8 per cent in the nine months; Quebec, 3.4 per cent and 1.8 per cent; Ontario, 4.9 per cent and 3.6 per cent; Manitoba, 4.9 per cent and 4.4 per cent; Saskatchewan, 16.5 per cent and 5.3 per cent; Alberta, 12.7 per cent and 10.5 per cent; and British Columbia, 10 per cent and 2.2 per cent.

HOUSING UNITS

Starts on the construction of new dwelling units climbed 33 per cent in January-September to an all-time high total of 117,832 units from last year's comparable total of 88,525, and were 11 per cent above 1955's previous peak of 106,207 units, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports in an advance statement. Nine-month completions increased nearly 22 per cent to 96,006 units from 78,824 a year ago, and were 6 per cent greater than 1956's preceding high of 90,620 units.

September starts advanced almost 13 per cent to 14,198 units from 12,588 a year earlier, and completions a greater 37 per cent to 15,331 units from 11,191. Units in various stages of construction at September 30 were 20 per cent more numerous this year than last, at 93,424 versus 77,949.

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