SUMMARY REPORT

ON

INVENTORIES

January 15, 1947

Central Research and Development Division

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

FOREWORD

This is a continuation of an earlier report on inventories issued in June, 1946. Since that time a new monthly survey on the value of manufacturing inventories and shipments has been undertaken and a preliminary tabulation of the first results of this survey are included here. This, together with information contained in the earlier report which is presented here in somewhat different form, provides a fairly complete coverage of the manufacturing field. The data contained in the first report have been brought up to date and extended back to cover 1944, a table on stock shipment ratios has been prepared, and a few new industries have been added. To help round out the total picture some information on retail and wholesale inventories has been included.

No attempt has been made to interpret the current inventory situation in this report. The emphasis has been rather on outlining the basic data available and drawing attention to its limitations.

This is a report of the Central Research and Development Division for which credit is due to Mr. C. L. Barber assisted by Mr. J. Bergevin. The inventory data were collected in large part by the Census of Industry and Merchandising and the Agricultural Division.

Cooperation and assistance have been received from the Economic Research Branch, Department of Reconstruction and Supply and from other departments. The indexes of retail inventories were originally prepared by Mr. McQueen of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board from Dominion Bureau of Statistics data.

TABLE 1

Preliminary Tabulation of

the Value of Manufacturing Inventories for a number of identical

firms at December 31, 1945 and October 31, 1946

($000)

Census Classification		Dec.31/1945	Oct.31/1946	Per cent change Dec.31/1945 to Oct.31/1946
	Total Manufacturing	338,882	363,857	+ 7.4
100	Vegetable Products, Total	37,626	38,120	+ 1.3
	Biscuits, Confectionery and Cocoa	5,322	7,166	+ 34.6
	Miscellaneous Foods	5,503	3,825	- 30.5
	Rubber Goods	26,801	27,129	+ 1.2
200	Animal Products, Total	3,022	3,472	+ 14.9
	Boots and Shoes, Leather	3,022	3,472	+ 14.9
300	Textile Products, Total	37,416	39,248	+ 4.9
	Woollen Yarns	3,261	4,058	+ 24.4
	Woollen Goods, Miscellaneous	2,619	3,242	+ 23.8
	Silk and Silk Goods	6,296	6,415	+ 1.9
	Hosiery and Knitted Goods	8,082	9,757	+ 20.7
	Factory Clothing, Men's	3,951	4,258	+ 7.8
	Cordage, Rope and Twine	2,443	2,443	-
	Bags, Cotton and Jute	3,678	2,426	- 34.0
	All Other	7,086	6,649	- 6.2
400	Wood Products, Total	2,722	3,719	+ 36.6
	Furniture	2,237	3,110	+ 39.0
	Planing Mills	485	609	+ 25.6

TABLE 1 (Concl'd)

Preliminary Tabulation of

the Value of Manufacturing Inventories for a number of identical

firms at December 31, 1945 and October 31, 1946

($000)

Census Classification		Dec.31/1945	Oct.31/1946	Per cent change Dec.31/1945 to Oct.31/1946
500	Iron and Steel Products, Total	187,492	194,326	+ 3.6
	Primary Iron and Steel	20,599	20,978	+ 1.8
	Agricultural Implements	18,165	19,523	+ 7.5
	Machinery	19,813	24,051	+ 21.4
	Autos and Auto Supplies	47,247	46,525	- 1.5
	Shipbuilding	22,125	20,358	- 8.0
	Aircraft	8,917	8,114	- 9.0
	Railway Rolling Stock	12,815	14,208	+ 10.9
	Sheet Metal Products	20,046	18,494	- 7.7
	Hardware Tools and Cutlery	4,950	5,296	+ 7.0
	Other Iron and Steel	12,815	16,779	+ 30.9
600	Non-Ferrous Metals, Total	32,422	43,657	+ 34.7
	Electrical Apparatus and Supplies	21,134	27,638	+ 30.8
	Smelting and Refining	3,202	5,739	+ 79.2
	All other	8,086	10,280	+ 27.1
700	Non-Metallic Mineral Products, Total	8,102	7,836	- 3.3
800	Chemical Products, Total	25,542	27,654	+ 8.3
	Acids, Alkalies and Salts	5,097	4,774	- 6.3
	Fertilizers	3,658	3,061	- 16.3
	Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Preparations	4,703	6,261	+ 33.1
	Paints, Pigments and Varnishes	3,754	4,046	+ 7.8
	Other	8,330	9,512	+ 14.2
900	Miscellaneous Manufactured Products	4,538	5,085	+ 27.9

Table 2. Approximate Indication of Survey's Coverage

Figures in column 3 relate only to firms which have been asked to report and as such are only part of the industries for which the total position in earlier years is shown in the first two columns. Similarly, column 4 includes only that part of column 3 from which reports have been received thus far. Data in the latter two columns do not provide any indication of the change of the totals over this period.

($000)

		Total Value of Inventories			
		Complete Coverage		Partial Coverage	
		Industries included in the sample, all firms		Firms included in the sample	Firms reporting to date(a)
Census Classification		Dec.31,1938	Dec.31,1943	Dec.31,1944	Oct.31,1946
	Total Manufacturing	455,616	1,338,170	946,113	473,191
100	Vegetable Products, Total	30,824	50,636	44,423	39,147
	Biscuits, Confectionery and Cocoa	7,199	10,188	7,918	7,858
	Miscellaneous Foods	9,016	17,166	13,242	4,160
	Rubber Goods	14,609	23,282	23,263	27,129
200	Animal Products, Total	7,541	10,675	6,370	3,472
	Boots and Shoes, Leather	7,541	10,675	6,370	3,472
300	Textile Products, Total	81,642	138,134	81,725	46,971
	Cotton and Woollen Cloth	18,759	27,849	23,731	5,750
	Woollen Yarns	2,480	5,058	3,534	4,058
	Woollen Goods, Miscellaneous	2,375	5,142	3,363	3,242
	Silk and Silk Goods	6,899	8,445	6,944	6,415
	Hosiery and Knitted Goods	13,444	15,553	9,941	9,757
	Factory Clothing, Men's	12,941	26,742	10,613	4,258
	Cordage, Rope and Twine	3,455	3,976	3,238	2,443
	Bags, Cotton and Jute	2,071	5,270	3,912	2,426
	All Other	19,218	40,119	16,449	8,622
400	Wood Products, Total	13,957	19,088	8,833	4,232
	Furniture	6,936	8,785	3,562	3,110
	Planing Mills	7,021	10,303	5,271	1,122

Table 2. (Concl'd) Approximate Indication of Survey's Coverage

($000)

Census Classification		Total Value of Inventories			
		Complete Coverage		Partial Coverage	
		Industries included in the sample, all firms		Firms included in the sample	Firms reporting to date(a)
		Dec.31,1938	Dec.31,1943	Dec.31,1944	Oct.31,1946
500	Iron and Steel Products, Total	149,762	592,497	604,728	221,791
	Primary Iron and Steel	28,814	47,998	50,842	26,909
	Agricultural Implements	21,004	23,010	22,988	19,523
	Machinery	16,498	38,291	31,791	25,726
	Autos and Auto Supplies	21,608	84,366	71,027	56,935
	Shipbuilding	2,349	132,152	104,094	26,374
	Aircraft	2,790	161,590	222,503	8,114
	Railway Rolling Stock	11,499	25,510	29,108	14,208
	Sheet Metal Products	13,404	28,224	21,243	18,813
	Hardware Tools and Cutlery	6,506	13,485	7,989	5,571
	Other Iron and Steel	25,290	37,871	43,143	19,618
600	Non-Ferrous Metal Products, Total	72,081	157,950	114,233	99,764
	Electrical Apparatus and Supplies	25,441	69,608	56,936	48,886
	Smelting and Refining	34,748	53,739	42,243	40,598
	All Other	11,892	34,603	15,054	10,280
700	Non-Metallic Mineral Products, Total	53,376	77,708	23,147	16,766
800	Chemical Products, Total	36,777	249,248	56,932	35,243
	Acids, Alkalies and Salts	5,022	12,907	14,066	10,953
	Fertilizers	2,899	8,494	6,098	3,623
	Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Preparations	6,692	14,211	8,962	6,261
	Paints Pigments and Varnishes	6,745	11,693	7,965	4,380
	Other	15,419	201,943	19,841	10,026
900	Miscellaneous Manufactured Products	9,656	42,234	7,722	5,805

(a) This is the total for all firms from whom reports have been received to date. As such it is larger than that shown in Table 1 because reports were omitted in the former instance where no comparable data were available for Dec. 31, 1945. When the necessary comparable information is obtained it will be possible to show a more complete indication of the change in inventories between Dec. 31, 1945 and Oct. 31, 1946.

Table 3. Value of Inventories in 1944 Dollars(1)

($000)

		MANUFACTURING							
Census Classification		100						200	
		Flour and Feed Mills	Fruits and Vegetables Canned	Fruits and Vegetables Frozen	Rubber Goods	Sugar Refineries	Tobacco	Dairy Factories	Leather Tanneries
1944	J	15,226		3,414	6,096	13,725		5,110	9,247
	F	14,702		3,286	5,066	14,567		4,194	9,282
	M	14,542	8,165	3,337	5,836	14,052	36,336	3,600	8,956
	A	13,296		2,972	5,964	12,133		4,314	8,984
	M	12,230		2,580	5,687	11,494		7,924	8,595
	J	12,123	4,511	2,658	6,341	10,405	30,938	11,135	8,693
	J	13,715		3,495	5,915	8,778		12,949	8,626
	A	14,340		3,821	5,618	7,085		12,899	8,417
	S	14,157	27,486	4,583	5,164	4,803	25,908	13,374	8,658
	O	15,109		3,440	4,858	6,940		12,805	9,116
	N	16,272		3,773	4,375	9,093		10,754	9,573
	D	14,923	20,265	3,650	4,155	11,231	21,695	9,932	10,673
1945	J	15,210		3,589	4,255	11,077		7,912	10,782
	F	15,048		3,358	4,340	11,416		6,505	10,756
	M	16,167	12,587	3,108	4,408	11,970	32,666	6,157	11,014
	A	15,589		2,794	4,846	11,307		7,249	10,909
	M	15,245		3,459	5,102	9,724		10,766	10,824
	J	14,246	5,443	2,354	4,715	9,002	31,421	14,237	10,975
	J	13,339		3,439	4,582	9,130		15,364	11,060
	A	14,285		3,350	5,012	7,964		16,046	10,810
	S	15,646	17,603	4,171	4,584	6,976	25,798	15,631	11,104
	O	15,772		4,097	4,605	7,290		12,919	11,482
	N	17,062		3,405	4,151	10,104		9,346	12,612
	D	16,804	12,858	3,267	3,956	12,529	27,838	7,083	13,165
1946	J	17,635		2,885	3,697	14,027		4,895	12,508
	F	16,903		2,563	3,279	13,902		3,024	12,276
	M	13,365	7,791	2,346	3,589	14,260	34,448	3,793	11,799
	A	13,991		1,907	3,596	12,418		4,814	11,168
	M	13,262		1,658	3,198	12,005		7,844	10,611
	J	12,113	5,275	2,140	2,948	11,172	31,205	12,417	10,401
	J	11,523		3,505	3,774	9,380		13,682	10,314
	A	12,631		3,908	4,844	7,948		14,164	10,322
	S	12,114	22,193	4,512	5,646	6,471	25,746	13,523	10,287
	O	11,689		4,510	6,426	8,975		12,538	10,291
	N	13,841		4,475	7,332	13,006		11,201	10,810

(1) Figures in each column are comparable but industrial coverage is not always complete.

Table 3. (Cont.) Value of Inventories in 1944 Dollars

($000)

Census Classification	200 Slaughtering and Meat Packing	300 Textiles	400 Pulp & Paper	600 Smelting and Refining	700 Cement	Coke	Petroleum Products
	MANUFACTURING						
1944 J	31,455			16,846	2,201	11,167	89,851
F	32,979			17,136	2,462	9,073	88,053
M	33,677	10,538		14,852	2,653	6,974	86,777
A	32,103			12,852	2,741	7,659	88,801
M	28,228			12,663	2,578	9,063	96,174
J	24,563	10,114		13,935	2,234	10,323	100,686
J	20,631		77,236	16,664	2,051	11,386	104,096
A	16,364		75,121	15,375	1,916	12,585	107,793
S	15,574	9,657	73,301	14,474	1,846	13,310	107,648
O	17,299		76,298	15,255	1,727	14,779	109,660
N	19,542		85,689	16,332	1,973	16,410	113,394
D	20,028	12,381	94,738	18,627	2,317	14,175	109,846
1945 J	19,995		100,025	17,769	2,860	11,759	100,922
F	18,616		104,489	15,998	2,885	9,544	95,297
M	20,725	12,191	103,202	16,515	2,876	7,123	96,432
A	19,333		99,022	15,457	2,608	7,375	102,250
M	16,912		97,063	19,183	2,326	8,264	99,776
J	12,271	12,637	94,093	24,001	2,021	9,244	97,060
J	10,576		88,750	27,996	1,649	9,687	99,760
A	10,827		86,267	30,332	1,475	10,685	103,163
S	14,398	12,226	85,858	30,531	1,286	11,871	105,487
O	15,910		89,073	30,390	1,016	10,947	102,674
N	17,994		100,897	29,042	1,118	11,065	106,076
D	17,731	12,996	108,274	28,983	1,631	9,690	107,268
1946 J	15,689		114,146	29,522	2,198	7,965	97,760
F	14,567		126,387	28,788	2,600	6,467	94,397
M	15,932	12,904	115,332	29,883	2,716	4,882	90,658
A	16,104		111,485	26,343	2,533	4,686	93,472
M	15,172		108,363	29,147	1,718	3,899	96,520
J	14,667	12,703	105,910	30,421	1,224	4,885	100,812
J	11,956		100,310	32,199	876	6,860	99,516
A	10,903		96,841	31,192	647	9,609	104,480
S	9,857	12,787	96,244	27,484	462	12,682	104,783
O	13,829		101,227	24,794	282	14,813	109,040
N	16,169		110,820	19,461	334	15,791	

Table 3. (Concl'd) Value of Inventories in 1944 Dollars

($000)

	MINING				TOTALS		
	Asbestos	Coal	Iron Ore	Total Mining	Monthly Data (14 Industries)(1)	Monthly Data (15 Industries)(2)	Quarterly Data (3 Industries)
1944 J	2,670	689	228	3,587	207,925		
F	2,880	936	228	4,044	204,844		
M	3,128	1,210	445	4,783	200,039		55,039
A	3,360	1,192	576	5,128	196,947		
M	3,481	761	535	4,777	201,993		
J	3,414	482	500	4,396	207,492		45,563
J	3,471	402	483	4,356	212,662	302,498	
A	3,422	438	452	4,312	210,525	285,646	
S	3,341	400	359	4,100	207,691	280,992	63,051
O	3,471	280	307	4,058	215,046	290,344	
N	3,563	379	59	4,001	225,492	311,181	
D	3,590	314	252	4,156	223,715	318,453	54,341
1945 J	3,654	572	562	4,788	210,918	310,943	
F	3,565	615	562	4,742	198,505	302,994	
M	3,444	696	562	4,702	201,197	304,399	57,444
A	2,976	659	286	3,921	203,618	302,640	
M	2,828	562	231	3,621	205,202	302,265	
J	2,442	528	311	3,281	203,407	297,500	49,500
J	2,284	549	290	3,123	209,705	298,455	
A	2,221	504	286	3,011	216,960	303,227	
S	2,125	530	324	2,979	224,664	310,522	55,627
O	2,265	600	238	3,103	220,205	309,278	
N	2,239	697	480	3,416	225,391	326,288	
D	2,188	421	524	3,133	225,240	333,514	53,692
1946 J	2,401	466	725	3,592	212,373	326,519	
F	2,610	645	766	4,021	202,787	329,174	
M	2,629	736	807	4,172	197,395	312,717	55,143
A	2,451	989	583	4,023	195,055	306,540	
M	2,042	945	483	3,470	198,504	306,867	
J	1,777	866	459	3,102	206,302	312,212	49,183
J	1,797	544	438	2,779	206,364	306,674	
A	1,623	400	473	2,496	213,594	310,435	
S	1,474	576	390	2,440	210,211	306,455	60,726
O	1,535	537	638	2,710	219,897	330,717	
N	1,429		759				

(1) Excludes Pulp and Paper.
(2) Includes Pulp and Paper.

Table 4. Ratios of Inventories to Shipments(1)

	Flour and Feed Mills	Rubber Goods	Sugar Refineries	Tobacco	Dairy Factories	Leather Tanneries
		Stocks/ Consumption	Stocks/ Sales	Stocks/ Consumption	Stocks/ Production	Stocks/ Shipments
1944 J	.90	4.608	16.86		.907	1.97
F	.86	3.647	12.38		.764	2.06
M	.79	3.777	14.71	7.65	.477	1.92
A	.83	4.501	12.50		.376	2.22
M	.76	4.074	9.20		.398	1.80
J	.81	4.639	8.44	6.66	.415	1.96
J	1.01	5.839	5.82		.536	2.33
A	.88	3.254	5.29		.594	2.01
S	.88	4.307	3.69	5.37	.718	2.14
O	.90	3.303	5.04		.841	2.10
N	.83	2.830	8.55		1.135	2.12
D	.86	2.620	10.09	3.76	1.445	2.88
1945 J	.87	2.506	13.19		1.285	2.26
F	.94	2.687	11.43		1.170	2.41
M	.90	2.380	14.72	6.14	.739	2.29
A	.89	5.968	10.35		.576	2.36
M	.90	3.103	5.20		.543	2.21
J	.85	2.724	8.98	6.03	.536	2.51
J	.91	3.200	6.86		.604	2.88
A	.87	3.707	7.19		.707	2.55
S	.96	2.747	6.05	4.91	.839	2.66
O	.85	2.540	7.17		.899	2.43
N	.90	2.085	10.44		1.162	2.60
D	.94	2.275	15.15	4.79	1.225	3.08
1946 J	.95	1.862	14.75		.981	2.72
F	.95	1.722	21.29		.671	2.65
M	.69	1.689	17.84	7.23	.553	2.39
A	.76	1.695	13.63		.425	2.35
M	.69	1.537	10.51		.432	2.23
J	.70	1.671	9.61	6.56	.491	2.02
J	.67	7.734	6.96		.582	2.40
A	.72	9.192	6.05		.715	2.36
S	.66	9.286	4.26	4.77	.866	2.24
O	.62	7.403	8.36		.963	2.29
N	.66	3.199	12.48		1.439	2.26

(1) In some instances where shipment data are not available other indicators of activity are used.

Table 4. (Cont.) Ratios of Inventories to Shipments

		Slaughtering and Meat Packing	Textiles	Pulp and Paper	Sawn Lumber	Non-Ferrous Metals, smelting and refining	Cement
		Stocks/ Consumption	Stocks/ Consumption		Stocks/ Shipments	Stocks/ Shipments	Stocks/ Shipments
1944	J	.992				.547	10.42
	F	1.042				.558	10.16
	M	1.034	.668			.417	8.10
	A	1.122				.415	5.80
	M	.916				.431	2.91
	J	.980	.629			.536	1.87
	J	.980		4.54		.734	1.74
	A	.804		4.14		.610	1.69
	S	.759	.649	4.33		.550	1.79
	O	.674		4.26		.597	1.64
	N	.589		4.90		.683	2.94
	D	.654	.773	5.70		1.023	10.16
1945	J	.666		5.60		.954	13.56
	F	.809		6.37		.875	12.39
	M	.847	.778	5.63		.797	6.27
	A	.854		5.79		.736	3.53
	M	.808		5.34		1.034	2.54
	J	.719	.791	5.12		1.250	1.62
	J	.673		4.84		1.295	1.18
	A	.616		4.50		1.909	1.17
	S	.734	.827	4.80		3.109	1.06
	O	.596		4.40		2.357	.77
	N	.602		5.13		2.349	1.33
	D	.768	.787	6.02		3.115	3.81
1946	J	.696		5.58	3.127	2.530	5.89
	F	.833		6.67	2.866	2.340	7.94
	M	.840	.751	5.50	2.764	2.116	3.75
	A	.904		5.26	2.571	1.713	2.11
	M	.940		4.83	1.998	2.531	.93
	J	1.016	.740	5.76	2.064	2.282	.70
	J	.786		4.65	1.894	2.153	.54
	A	.641		4.27	2.116	1.723	.44
	S	.621	.765	4.67	2.573	1.417	.34
	O	.577		4.32	2.645	1.313	.20
	N	.623		4.86		.922	.30

Table 4. (Concl'd) Ratios of Inventories to Shipments

	Coke Plants	Petroleum	Mining		
	Coal & Coke	Products	Asbestos	Coal	Iron Ore
	Stocks/Coke Consumption	Stocks/ Shipments	Stocks/ Shipments	Stocks/ Shipments	Stocks/ Production
1944 J	3.76	4.98	3.487	.116	-
F	3.18	4.88	1.801	.181	-
M	2.15	4.68	1.742	.222	2.05
A	2.57	4.14	2.029	.260	1.76
M	2.96	3.33	1.995	.145	.82
J	3.39	3.59	1.965	.099	.85
J	4.00	3.73	2.268	.091	.80
A	4.31	3.73	1.897	.085	.80
S	4.70	3.93	1.790	.076	.867
O	4.99	3.95	1.879	.049	.517
N	5.65	4.47	2.017	.063	.156
D	5.20	5.12	2.276	.054	1.304
1945 J	3.75	6.73	2.374	.138	1.811
F	3.28	6.63	1.941	.113	-
M	2.37	5.53	1.404	.130	-
A	2.65	4.74	1.412	.133	1.382
M	2.80	3.64	1.492	.123	.364
J	3.22	3.23	1.272	.109	.326
J	3.39	3.36	1.250	.135	.317
A	3.70	3.49	1.112	.111	.281
S	4.10	3.81	1.123	.120	.485
O	3.67	3.57	1.306	.133	.246
N	4.13	4.17	1.258	.105	.509
D	3.43	5.54	1.375	.071	.262
1946 J	2.83	5.72	1.231	.071	2.800
F	2.37	6.58	1.634	.107	6.529
M	1.69	4.91	1.398	.126	2.017
A	1.97	3.59	1.305	.206	1.024
M	1.51	3.12	.768	.173	.778
J	2.00	3.74	.706	.176	.480
J	3.97	3.05	.689	.119	.344
A	6.76	3.34	.545	.074	.333
S	9.16	3.40	.533	.109	.306
O	6.66	3.47	.483	.092	.466
N	5.77		.891		.873

Table 5. Wholesale Inventories in Nine Trades(1)

Per cent Change from same Month of Preceding Year

	Wholesale Trade	Automotive Equipment	Drugs	Clothing	Footwear
1936(2)	11.9	12.3	7.2	8.3	- 3.6
1937	6.9	0.5	0.5	20.3	50.0
1938	-10.5	4.4	- 2.7	9.4	- 6.4
1939	21.2	0.8	9.8	-22.8	- 10.9
1940	5.2	7.4	6.1	36.6	13.9
1941	17.0	22.5	15.0	-19.8	38.3
1942	- 1.4	-12.0	4.3	-15.1	- 9.8
1943	- 1.7	- 5.2	3.7	- 9.7	- 9.3
1944	1.7	14.3	6.0	14.4	11.9
1945	2.9	21.8	5.3	18.0	33.5
1945 J	0.9	-10.0	7.0	2.2	12.3
F	3.9	17.3	3.9	3.2	13.4
M	1.5	19.7	5.5	- 4.6	6.9
A	4.3	15.3	5.7	-10.8	- 2.3
M	2.0	23.1	4.6	0.7	11.3
J	4.4	27.7	5.0	- 0.5	22.2
J	2.1	21.3	7.8	8.0	12.5
A	1.7	21.9	3.4	21.7	14.9
S	1.1	22.5	10.9	21.5	5.2
O	- 0.2	19.4	8.7	6.8	13.5
N	- 0.4	21.6	1.4	3.4	25.1
D	2.9	21.8	5.3	18.0	33.5
1946 J	3.5	28.8	3.3	20.8	21.0
F	2.2	27.0	5.7	22.8	15.5
M	5.0	36.9	0.4	15.3	24.6
A	6.4	36.0	3.3	49.0	27.0
M	9.3	35.5	6.1	54.8	28.6
J	9.0	15.0	2.4	25.1	23.9
J	11.2	18.3	3.0	39.7	27.1
A	14.2	16.4	15.4	38.1	35.0
S	16.6	4.4	7.6	68.4	39.1
O	20.2	24.0	6.4	74.0	28.4
N	23.7	27.2	5.9	99.4	14.9

(1) Source: Monthly Indexes of Wholesale Sales in Canada
(2) Annual figures are as of December 31.

Table 5.(Concl'd) Wholesale Inventories in Nine Trades

Per cent Change from same Month of Preceding Year

	Dry Goods	Groceries	Fruits and Vegetables	Hardware	Tobacco and Confectionery
1936	5.6	19.5	34.9	7.2	2.0
1937	13.3	- 1.9	- 0.5	16.6	6.7
1938	-13.7	-15.0	- 2.5	-10.5	- 5.0
1939	4.0	38.2	18.4	25.4	2.2
1940	23.1	1.5	6.7	- 3.8	13.7
1941	5.8	19.5	23.3	20.7	16.9
1942	2.3	- 9.4	- 4.2	12.2	7.7
1943	-12.8	6.0	21.2	- 8.7	15.0
1944	- 4.0	- 1.5	- 1.9	8.4	-19.0
1945	- 8.8	- 7.6	3.3	10.7	28.6
1945 J	- 6.9	- 1.8	30.4	4.5	-11.5
F	- 5.6	0.9	10.2	9.8	- 2.8
M	- 6.5	- 0.2	2.8	2.2	1.1
A	- 2.7	1.3	- 1.0	10.0	3.6
M	- 6.6	- 3.4	-29.5	10.3	- 1.3
J	- 9.0	0	-18.4	11.5	4.1
J	- 6.8	- 7.9	- 6.7	9.2	14.2
A	- 9.5	- 9.6	-16.0	10.0	18.1
S	-12.9	-12.7	- 5.7	8.1	23.6
O	-15.8	-10.8	- 1.8	7.8	21.1
N	-15.5	-10.6	- 2.5	8.4	20.4
D	- 8.8	- 7.6	3.3	10.7	28.6
1946 J	- 6.9	- 4.4	- 6.7	7.2	27.2
F	-10.9	- 6.8	.4	7.2	20.6
M	- 5.4	- 1.6	10.8	6.9	14.0
A	- 1.2	- 3.4	5.2	11.0	5.9
M	3.3	3.4	16.3	9.0	8.8
J	6.6	4.7	41.6	8.4	19.3
J	4.9	13.9	22.1	8.3	14.7
A	6.9	19.3	39.7	5.9	21.8
S	9.9	27.4	28.1	8.4	29.1
O	23.7	31.9	23.4	8.4	28.5
N	31.2	36.6	37.0	10.5	41.6

Table 6. Unadjusted Indexes of Retail Sales, Inventories and Inventory Sales Ratios. 1942 Average = 100

	All Stores			Department and Mail Order Stores			Chain Stores		
	Sales	Inventories	Inventory÷Sales	Sales	Inventories	Inventory÷Sales	Sales	Inventories	Inventory÷Sales
1942									
January ...	84.4	93.5	108.9	78.6	90.6	108.6	90.4	93.5	101.9
February ..	76.6	97.0	124.4	72.1	99.4	129.9	82.6	96.1	114.6
March	90.4	101.5	110.3	96.1	102.5	100.5	92.5	98.8	105.3
April	98.9	102.3	101.6	97.6	104.5	100.9	98.3	101.1	101.3
May	103.6	101.8	96.6	94.4	105.9	105.7	106.1	102.2	95.0
June	100.6	101.2	98.8	93.8	104.3	104.7	101.4	101.3	98.5
July	93.7	100.4	105.3	73.1	104.1	134.1	95.3	100.9	104.4
August	99.2	100.7	99.7	81.2	106.9	124.0	97.5	100.8	101.9
September .	101.7	102.7	99.1	105.7	105.2	93.7	94.3	102.5	107.1
October ...	112.[illegible]	103.6	90.2	120.8	102.2	79.7	106.9	103.9	95.8
November ..	104.0	102.9	97.2	124.4	96.2	72.8	97.6	105.5	106.6
December ..	134.4	92.8	67.8	162.3	78.4	45.5	137.1	93.3	67.1
1945									
January ...	91.8	87.2	93.2	78.7	71.1	85.0	90.6	86.2	93.7
February ..	93.4	91.5	96.3	90.6	76.3	79.3	93.2	89.9	95.1
March	123.1	91.5	73.0	135.3	74.8	52.0	120.1	91.2	74.9
April	110.2	93.7	83.5	110.8	78.6	66.8	105.0	93.7	87.9
May	115.8	93.2	79.0	106.8	80.3	70.8	111.6	93.3	84.2
June	125.0	90.8	71.3	111.0	82.2	69.7	123.4	94.3	75.3
July	113.1	89.8	78.0	85.7	87.0	95.6	108.3	91.2	83.0
August	114.1	91.3	78.6	100.2	90.4	85.0	107.8	91.5	83.8
September .	122.9	91.2	72.9	137.5	88.0	60.3	111.2	93.9	83.2
October ...	130.6	94.1	70.7	147.7	86.5	55.2	119.1	98.8	81.7
November ..	134.7	95.3	69.5	171.6	82.1	45.0	126.0	102.1	79.8
December ..	161.9	85.6	52.0	181.0	69.0	35.9	170.1	90.0	52.1
1946									
January ...	104.1	88.4	83.4	89.8	74.8	78.4	99.1	89.0	89.5
February ..	106.2	93.5	86.5	108.4	79.9	69.4	101.2	94.6	92.2
March	133.3	95.5	70.3	150.4	80.6	50.5	124.7	98.0	77.5
April	134.1	98.4	72.1	142.0	83.9	55.7	123.4	102.6	81.9
May	137.3	99.9	71.5	137.2	87.6	60.1	125.7	106.6	83.6
June	137.0	98.9	70.9	126.3	91.8	68.5	132.9	107.6	79.7
July	127.5	101.5	78.2	101.9	103.3	95.5	123.8	109.5	87.1
August	137.8	103.7	74.0	126.2	108.1	80.7	131.9	112.1	83.7
September..	134.9	107.9	78.6	163.3	108.6	62.6	119.5	118.7	97.9
October ...	144.6	115.9	78.8	169.0	110.6	61.6	131.8	130.6	97.7

Table 6. (Cont.) Unadjusted Indexes of Retail Sales, Inventories and Inventory Sales Ratios. 1942 Average = 100

	Independent Stores			Shoes			Hardware		
	Sales	Inventories	Inventory: Sales	Sales	Inventories	Inventory: Sales	Sales	Inventories	Inventory: Sales
1942									
January	84.6	93.6	108.9	72.4	96.4	126.5	73.1	98.2	129.6
February	76.5	96.9	124.8	57.9	104.3	171.0	64.9	103.8	154.3
March	89.8	101.8	111.7	93.1	105.5	107.7	83.7	106.6	122.9
April	99.9	102.0	100.6	109.2	103.8	90.4	106.5	107.0	97.0
May	104.3	101.0	95.3	106.6	104.7	93.3	124.3	104.4	81.0
June	101.5	100.7	97.7	114.4	99.3	82.5	113.9	103.3	87.5
July	96.3	99.8	102.0	86.4	96.8	106.4	108.3	102.1	91.0
August	101.9	99.5	96.1	89.7	99.4	104.6	105.4	99.5	91.1
September	102.3	102.3	98.5	109.4	100.5	87.3	107.5	97.0	87.0
October	112.6	104.1	91.1	116.5	100.3	81.8	111.4	94.8	82.1
November	101.7	103.9	100.7	108.8	98.5	86.0	97.5	93.6	92.6
December	129.3	95.2	72.5	135.6	89.2	62.5	103.5	89.9	83.9
1945									
January	94.0	89.2	93.4	67.7	83.0	116.5	75.2	85.4	109.6
February	94.1	93.5	97.8	72.8	91.1	118.9	78.6	90.5	111.1
March	122.7	93.1	74.7	144.1	88.0	58.1	111.1	92.7	80.5
April	111.3	94.8	83.9	119.3	88.1	70.1	126.4	93.7	71.9
May	117.6	93.6	78.4	122.5	88.8	68.9	132.0	92.3	67.5
June	127.2	90.0	69.7	155.1	82.4	50.5	137.4	91.2	64.1
July	117.6	88.7	74.3	140.3	80.9	54.8	133.4	89.5	64.7
August	116.7	90.2	76.1	107.6	83.2	73.4	128.5	88.5	66.5
September	122.8	90.0	72.9	138.8	80.9	55.4	135.3	87.1	62.1
October	130.0	93.6	70.9	139.0	81.2	55.5	146.9	88.3	58.0
November	130.6	95.6	72.1	149.0	81.9	52.2	144.4	89.7	59.9
December	156.6	87.0	54.8	159.3	75.6	45.1	151.2	88.4	56.5
1946									
January	108.1	90.2	82.1	75.0	85.6	108.4	102.5	90.7	85.4
February	107.7	95.3	87.2	83.3	95.1	108.5	106.2	98.4	93.3
March	134.0	96.9	71.2	145.1	96.9	63.5	147.9	102.5	66.9
April	135.8	99.4	72.1	145.6	99.3	64.8	170.6	105.9	59.9
May	139.7	99.8	70.3	139.8	102.6	69.7	196.8	103.5	50.8
June	139.2	97.3	68.8	154.0	99.7	61.5	191.7	100.4	50.6
July	130.7	99.1	74.7	110.2	103.7	89.4	185.0	101.6	53.0
August	139.4	101.1	71.4	125.1	106.1	80.6	187.2	100.7	51.9
September	133.7	105.6	77.8	144.6	104.9	68.9	172.2	103.2	57.8
October	143.4	113.4	77.9	147.1	106.6	68.9	179.3	108.1	58.2

Table 6. (Cont.) Unadjusted Indexes of Retail Sales, Inventories and Inventory Sales Ratios. 1942 Average = 100

	Drugs			Furniture			Country General Stores		
	Sales	Inventories	Inventory÷Sales	Sales	Inventories	Inventory÷Sales	Sales	Inventories	Inventory÷Sales
1942									
January ...	90.9	97.3	105.0	79.7	97.7	121.3	77.2	96.0	121.0
February ..	87.4	97.8	109.7	89.2	98.8	109.6	69.6	96.2	134.5
March	93.3	99.8	104.9	91.8	103.7	111.7	81.6	101.5	121.0
April	94.8	100.7	104.2	98.1	103.8	104.6	90.9	103.1	110.3
May	94.6	99.6	103.3	118.4	101.2	84.6	104.3	101.9	95.1
June	92.9	99.7	105.3	101.1	101.7	99.4	100.3	101.4	98.4
July	93.2	98.3	103.5	89.0	103.0	114.4	102.9	100.4	95.0
August	97.2	97.9	98.8	111.6	98.3	87.1	108.0	100.5	90.6
September .	97.4	100.3	101.0	103.8	97.4	92.8	109.6	102.2	90.7
October ...	107.1	103.7	95.0	113.3	95.9	83.7	118.3	101.3	83.3
November ..	99.7	107.5	105.8	100.6	98.8	97.1	109.6	100.6	89.3
December ..	150.6	97.5	63.5	105.4	99.8	93.7	127.9	93.0	70.7
1945									
January ...	112.4	101.4	88.5	84.9	79.9	93.1	95.6	94.1	95.7
February ..	106.9	103.0	94.6	99.2	89.9	89.6	92.4	98.2	103.4
March	121.4	104.5	84.5	124.8	85.0	67.4	115.2	100.0	84.5
April	112.6	108.0	93.3	128.6	83.1	63.9	113.3	102.8	88.3
May	114.2	107.8	92.6	132.4	80.5	60.1	127.3	101.4	77.6
June	119.0	107.6	88.7	132.7	79.6	59.2	132.2	99.2	73.0
July	114.0	107.0	92.1	109.1	79.2	71.8	130.7	96.8	72.1
August	114.8	108.4	92.6	114.8	79.0	68.1	132.0	97.3	71.7
September .	119.1	112.0	92.2	129.7	77.7	59.2	134.0	97.8	70.9
October ...	126.3	121.0	94.0	143.1	78.3	54.1	142.5	98.4	67.2
November ..	131.8	127.6	95.0	139.0	80.3	57.2	138.8	98.7	69.2
December ..	200.4	110.8	54.3	130.0	87.3	66.5	158.1	89.9	55.4
1946									
January ...	122.2	110.2	88.5	124.7	89.6	71.1	104.2	91.7	85.6
February ..	117.2	111.4	93.3	134.5	93.8	68.9	102.1	96.2	91.7
March	127.4	114.1	87.9	167.3	95.9	56.7	121.7	100.6	80.5
April	126.9	115.6	89.4	182.2	94.7	51.3	134.9	103.1	74.3
May	127.6	115.6	88.9	177.4	95.8	53.4	149.1	104.9	71.4
June	127.2	115.3	88.9	154.9	99.3	63.4	145.8	104.0	69.4
July	127.6	114.5	88.0	135.6	108.2	78.9	151.8	102.5	65.7
August	130.9	114.8	86.1	157.5	106.0	66.6	161.4	102.8	62.0
September .	128.2	120.0	91.8	161.5	111.2	68.2	144.2	102.7	69.3
October ...	136.2	129.1	93.0	173.2	116.2	66.4	152.4	111.7	71.3

Table 6. (Concl'd) Unadjusted Indexes of Retail Sales, Inventories and Inventory Sales Ratios. 1942 Average = 100

	Food			Men's Apparel			Women's Apparel		
	Sales	Inventories	Inventory÷Sales	Sales	Inventories	Inventory÷Sales	Sales	Inventories	Inventory÷Sales
1942									
January	95.5	99.7	103.7	59.0	89.1	149.0	70.0	79.5	107.0
February	87.5	100.5	114.1	99.6	92.0	91.2	56.0	93.6	157.4
March	91.5	102.7	111.4	108.7	96.2	87.3	93.8	99.2	99.6
April	94.4	102.8	108.2	91.5	98.1	105.8	107.8	101.4	88.6
May	103.9	100.6	96.1	93.5	101.5	107.2	96.9	103.2	100.3
June	101.7	100.1	97.7	73.4	102.1	137.3	94.1	99.3	99.4
July	100.7	99.1	97.7	77.3	102.4	130.8	77.2	97.7	119.2
August	103.4	95.6	91.9	99.2	106.0	105.5	91.0	109.2	113.0
September	100.0	97.4	96.7	127.3	109.5	84.9	107.7	115.4	100.9
October	108.3	98.4	90.3	128.7	109.6	84.1	131.6	113.3	81.1
November	96.7	105.1	105.9	173.2	103.5	59.0	120.0	105.1	82.5
December	116.2	100.9	86.2	144.4	84.9	58.0	152.9	83.0	51.1
1945									
January	103.6	106.6	102.2	70.5	73.5	102.9	82.7	80.3	91.4
February	102.4	105.6	102.4	73.8	80.3	107.4	88.2	95.0	101.4
March	118.7	100.6	84.2	129.8	79.8	60.0	160.6	92.0	54.0
April	107.3	99.8	92.4	100.2	82.7	81.4	121.6	95.6	74.0
May	116.8	98.2	83.5	99.7	84.3	83.5	117.1	95.4	76.7
June	123.6	94.0	75.6	123.4	82.4	65.9	125.3	91.7	68.9
July	116.8	92.8	79.0	88.8	82.8	92.0	92.7	95.1	96.6
August	119.8	91.3	75.7	89.0	86.1	95.4	105.0	107.9	96.8
September	115.9	91.2	78.2	138.2	81.4	58.1	142.2	108.7	71.4
October	117.6	99.5	84.0	158.7	75.5	47.0	161.2	108.6	63.5
November	118.7	105.5	88.3	162.6	69.3	42.0	160.9	100.5	58.9
December	136.7	105.2	76.4	187.8	55.6	29.2	172.7	80.1	43.7
1946									
January	111.9	103.9	92.3	84.0	62.1	72.9	91.4	88.6	91.3
February	109.0	104.9	95.6	95.0	66.2	68.8	101.1	103.9	96.8
March	123.1	102.4	82.6	139.9	66.5	46.9	163.2	105.4	60.8
April	118.4	105.8	88.8	134.4	70.1	51.5	161.4	107.0	62.4
May	127.4	104.7	81.6	122.1	75.3	60.9	141.0	107.5	71.8
June	128.5	100.3	77.6	129.2	79.6	60.8	134.1	106.0	74.4
July	126.7	103.2	80.9	99.7	87.1	86.3	104.4	111.2	100.3
August	136.0	102.4	74.8	114.2	92.9	80.2	121.7	125.8	97.4
September	121.1	108.4	88.9	147.4	93.5	62.6	148.7	136.2	86.2
October	127.9	123.6	95.9	165.3	94.7	56.5	170.8	141.1	77.8

1. Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Inventories and Shipments

Commencing with October 1946 the Bureau began to collect monthly information on the value of inventories and shipments from a sample of large manufacturing concerns. These firms are asked to report the value of their inventory showing a breakdown into raw materials, in process, and finished products together with the value of their factory shipments. A preliminary tabulation of the information received to date for which there was comparable data for December 1945 is presented in Table 1. The original sample included all plants which had an inventory valued at $200,000 or more in 1944 but in industries where these plants did not provide a sufficient coverage of the total a number of smaller plants were added to the sample. Any war plants which were known to have ceased operation were excluded from the original mailing list. Similarly war plants which have ceased operation since the end of 1945 are not included in Table 1 and for this reason the above tabulation may overstate the total increase in inventories. Most of the latter would be war goods financed by government working capital advances. Though overstating the total increase in inventories these totals may actually understate the change in private investment to the extent that the private sector has merely replaced stocks formerly financed by the government.

With a few exceptions only those industries where adequate physical quantity data are not available have been included in the above survey. Some smaller industries in the vegetable products, animal products and wood and paper products groups of the Census of Industry have not been included at the present time but these may be added later. No attempt has been made as yet to cover the manufacturer's wholesale inventories.

Some indication of the coverage provided by reports received to date may be obtained by examination of Table 2, where the value of inventories held in 1938 and 1943 by the industries included in the sample are shown alongside the 1944 value of inventories held by the actual firms included in the sample. A final column shows the value of inventories held as of October 1946 by firms from whom reports have been received up to the present. Statistics by industries for 1945 or 1944 would have provided a better indication of coverage but these are not available at present. Inventory value for the firms included in the sample are shown for 1944 rather than for 1943 because data for the former year were obtained in selecting the sample whereas to show data for the latter year would have required a special compilation.

Industry by industry comparison of the 1944 inventory held by firms included in the sample with the total inventory held in these industries in 1943 gives some indication of the coverage which would have been achieved if all the firms on our mailing list had actually sent in reports. In making this comparison some allowance must be made for changes in the total inventory held by each industry between 1943 and 1944. A special qualification is necessary for war industries such as explosives (included in other chemical products), shipbuilding and aircraft industries because, as was pointed out above, war plants which were known to have closed down were excluded from our sample and hence are not included in the 1944 totals. The inventory reported as of October 1946 when compared with the 1944 total for all firms asked to report gives some indication of the success of the survey thus far. But here again allowances must be made for the change in the total that has occurred during this period, which may be quite large in some instances due to the closing down of plants. It is expected that further improvement in the coverage will be obtained over the next few months as the result of further correspondence and discussions now in progress.

2. Value of Manufacturing Inventories in Constant Dollars

Some data on manufacturing inventories were presented in an earlier report in terms of the value of the physical change at current prices. Because of the difficulty in securing current prices and in view of the extra work involved, it was decided to change this form of presentation and show this same material in terms of the total value of inventories at constant prices. The year 1944 was chosen as a base year because it was the most recent year for which Census of Industry price data were available. Since inventories are normally carried on a company's books at a cost valuation, an attempt has been made to reach an approximate cost valuation for inventories in each industry.

Insofar as was possible the original series have been extended back through 1944 to give more perspective to the data and to afford a better basis for judging the seasonal inventory fluctuations in the various industries. At the same time several new industries have been added, the most important of which is the coke industries where information on stocks of coal and coke give an almost complete inventory coverage. In cement production and asbestos, iron and coal mining the stocks refer to finished product inventory only and as such give only a partial coverage of the total inventories held in these industries. In all other industries the coverage obtained is almost the same as that in the earlier report and can be ascertained by referring to the detailed notes contained here. Data on the physical stocks held in the distillery and brewing industry, more complete information on the tobacco industry and some additional information on the textile industry is expected to be available shortly and will be included in a subsequent report.

Tables on stock-shipment ratios have been added to this report to provide a better basis for judging the significance of inventory fluctuations in the industries covered. Seasonal fluctuations in both shipments and inventories will be reflected in these ratios and as a result of this the ratios will have seasonal patterns of their own. Allowance must be made for the latter in interpreting changes in these ratios. In effect, these ratios of stocks at the end of the month divided by shipments during the month give the number of the current month's shipments held in the form of stocks. In some instances where information on shipments was not available some other indicator of activity was used as a base, such as raw material consumption, production, or sales.

3. Wholesale Inventories

Monthly information on wholesale inventories since 1936 for nine trades has been collected and published in the form of the percentage change from the same month of the preceding year. This information is summarized in Table 5. The sample is restricted to wholesalers proper as distinct from manufacturers wholesale branches and the coverage as of December 31, 1941 was about 40 per cent of total inventories held by this group. However, in three trades, clothing, automotive equipment and tobacco and confectionery, it was slightly less than 20 per cent. Because of possible changes in the proportion of total inventories held by reporting stores, the data shown may be subject to a considerable margin of error, especially where the coverage is small.

4. Retail Inventories

Information on retail inventories held by department stores, mail order stores and a sample of chain stores has been collected monthly since 1941. The coverage for the first two groups and in the trades included for the chain store

group is quite high. In addition,a sample of independent stores report their sales and purchases monthly and also send in an annual statement giving their year end inventory and gross trading margin. From this data, a monthly estimated inventory is calculated.

Some of the results of this information are presented in Table 6. An index of sales, an index of inventories and an index of the inventory-sales ratio are shown for the different types of store and for the main commodity groups. The indexes for the different commodities were prepared in the Research Division of WPTB by weighting inventory and sales of these items for department, mail order, chain and independent stores. The data for chain and independent stores include the total sales and inventories of stores whose sales in 1941 were predominantly of a given type. Because of shifts of individual stores from one commodity to another, changes in sales and inventories of these stores may not always accurately correspond with the changes in sales of the commodity concerned and for that reason the indexes for the different commodities are subject to some margin of error. The basis of weighting the results of different stores was determined from the 1941 Census of Merchandising.

Since both the sales and inventory indexes are subject to a definite seasonal fluctuation some care is necessary in interpreting them. An index of the inventory-sales ratio of less than 100 indicates that inventories are at a lower ratio to sales than they were on the average in 1942. However, in comparing any individual month with 1942 it is better to make the comparison with the same month in that year. Thus in October 1946 the ratio of inventory to sales for all stores was somewhat higher than it was a year ago but was still below its level in October 1942.
