

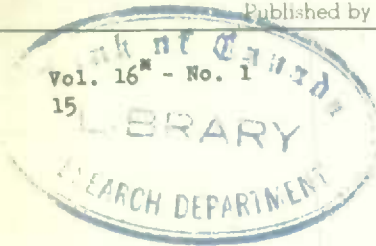


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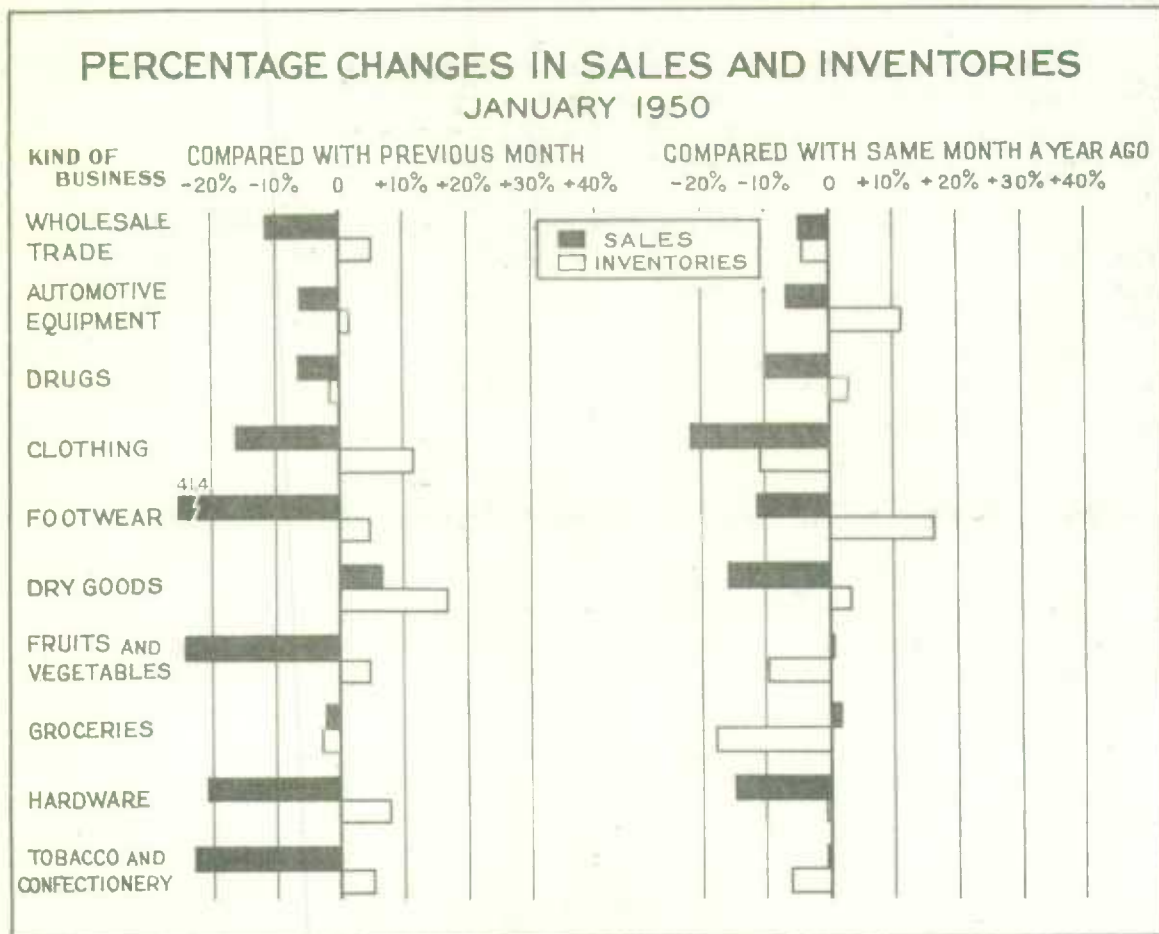


WHOLESALE TRADE
JANUARY 1950

January Sales Declined From A Year Ago

The dollar volume of wholesale sales in January, 1950 was 5% lower than in January a year ago and 11.4% below the December, 1949 volume according to statements submitted by 367 wholesalers representing nine trades. The unadjusted index for the nine trades (on the base, average for 1935-1939 = 100) stood at 231.8 for January, 1950, 243.2 for January, 1949, and 261.5 for December, 1949.

All regions of the country except the Maritimes shared in the general decline in sales during January, 1950. Sales in the Prairie Provinces and Ontario were down 4% from a year ago, British Columbia, 9%, and Quebec sales were 7% lower in dollar volume. The Maritimes registered a fractional gain of 0.6% over January, 1949.



* The volume number, used for the first time in this issue, signifies the number of years for which these statistics have been compiled. Previous issues in this series may be identified by publication number 16-4040.

Only 2 Trades Show Gains

The two food trades, groceries, and fruits and vegetables, showed minor gains in sales with increases over January 1949 of 1.8% and 0.4% respectively. The other allied food trade, tobacco and confectionery wholesalers, registered a minor decline (0.5%) in dollar volume of sales from a year ago.

Sales of automotive equipment wholesalers were 7% below January of last year, drug wholesalers' sales dropped 10% and hardware declined 15%. The clothing and dry goods trades showed the greatest decline in dollar volume of sales from January 1949. Footwear wholesalers registered 12% less sales than a year ago, dry goods wholesalers 16% less and clothing wholesalers showed the greatest drop of the nine trades at 22%. This January recession in dollar volume of sales in dry goods and clothing wholesalers continues the 1949 downward trend in sales of these trades.

Stocks Dropped 4% in Value from January 1950

The value of wholesalers' stocks on hand at the end of January 1950 was 4% below that at the end of the same month in 1949.

Substantial gains in value of inventory were reported by footwear wholesalers at 16.4%, and by automotive equipment wholesalers at 11.3%. Stocks held by the drug and dry goods trades were 3% higher in value than at the end of January last year.

While stocks held by hardware wholesalers were only slightly below their year-ago value, the other four wholesale trades recorded inventory decreases of from 6% to 18%. Tobacco and confectionery wholesalers' stocks were down 6%, and fruit and vegetable wholesalers 10% below the level of a year ago. The clothing trade had 11% less stock and the wholesale grocery trade a decrease of 18% compared with those held at the end of January 1949.

Stock-Sales Ratio in the Wholesale Grocery Trade

Stocks held by wholesale grocers at the beginning of January are normally 63% in excess of sales for that month (based on the average for the years 1936-1942). Wholesale grocers' stocks at the beginning of January 1950 were valued 21% higher than their sales during January.

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Percentage Changes in Wholesale Trade

Trade and Region	Percentage Change			INVENTORY Jan., 1950 Jan., 1949
	SALES			
	(1) December, 1949 December, 1948	(2) January, 1950 January, 1949	January, 1950 December 1949	
Automotive Equipment	+ 2.6	- 6.6	- 6.1	+11.3
Maritimes and Quebec	-14.4	-17.7	-27.4	
Ontario	- 1.8	- 0.8	- 3.6	
Western Provinces	+13.7	- 8.2	- 2.9	
Drugs	+15.0	- 9.7	- 6.3	+ 3.1
Maritimes, Que. and Ont..	+ 6.6	- 6.2	+ 0.1	
Western Provinces	+39.9	-17.2	-19.3	
Clothing	-12.6	-21.6	-16.0	-10.9
Quebec	-12.6	-26.7		
Ont. and Western Provinces	-12.8	-30.8		
Footwear	-11.1	-12.3	-41.4	+16.4
Maritimes and Quebec	- 7.4	-19.1		
Ont. and Western Provinces	-13.5	- 3.7		
Dry Goods	-15.3	-15.8	+ 6.7	+ 3.4
Maritimes and Quebec ...	-19.1	-20.7	+13.8	
Ontario	-12.2	-14.8	+ 3.1	
Western Provinces	-14.0	-10.3	+ 5.1	
Fruits and Vegetables	+ 4.3	+ 0.4	-24.3	- 9.7
Maritimes and Quebec ...	-10.4	- 3.2	-10.3	
Ontario	+ 5.5	+ 1.3	-11.5	
Western Provinces	+11.4	+ 1.0	-43.1	
Groceries	+ 2.0	+ 1.8	- 2.2	-17.8
Maritimes	- 0.5	+ 5.8	- 4.6	
Quebec	+ 0.1	+ 7.5	-29.6	
Ontario	+ 3.4	- 2.9	- 9.6	
Prairies	+ 2.8	+ 7.2	+14.1	
British Columbia	+ 1.1	- 3.2	+19.5	
Hardware	- 6.4	-14.7	-20.7	- 0.5
Maritimes	-11.5	-16.5	-23.1	
Quebec	- 5.4	-13.9	-10.9	
Ontario	- 1.7	- 4.3	-23.0	
Western Provinces	- 8.8	-21.0	-20.7	
Tobacco and Confectionery..	+ 7.8	- 0.5	-22.7	- 6.1
Maritimes and Quebec ...	+ 5.8	+ 4.4	-35.3	
Ontario	+11.3	- 1.1	-25.4	
Western Provinces	+ 5.2	- 1.9	-13.2	
Wholesale Trade -				
Maritimes	- 2.7	+ 0.6	-11.5	
Quebec	- 4.6	- 7.0	-20.4	
Ontario	+ 2.4	- 4.0	-11.1	
Prairies	+ 3.2	- 3.7	- 7.2	
British Columbia	- 1.3	- 8.9	- 2.5	
CANADA	+ 0.6	- 4.7	-11.4	- 4.1

(1) Revised

(2) Preliminary

Note: Figures for Newfoundland are not available.



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 MONTHLY INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE SALES IN CANADA
 (Average, 1935 - 1939 = 100)

Year and Month	WHOLESALE TRADE						AUTOMOTIVE EQUIPMENT			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
January, 1947	237.3	236.4	206.2	251.6	231.3	271.0	346.5	335.8	358.5	349.5
January, 1948	244.2	221.5	217.7	258.4	226.9	314.1	320.9	284.4	354.2	316.6
January, 1949	243.2	226.4	202.5	262.3	230.5	309.4	329.6	302.0	354.6	329.3
December, 1949	261.5	257.5	236.5	283.3	239.5	289.0	327.7	342.3	364.8	311.4
January, 1950	231.8	227.8	188.3	251.8	222.0	281.9	307.8	248.5	351.8	302.3

Year and Month	DRUGS			CLOTHING	FOOTWEAR	DRY GOODS			
	CANADA	Maritimes Que. & Ont.	Western Provinces	CANADA	CANADA	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
January, 1947	254.7	245.8	278.8	294.7	274.5	220.2	192.0	257.2	225.7
January, 1948	283.5	273.3	311.1	274.7	248.7	252.1	234.6	280.3	251.0
January, 1949	312.1	303.9	335.7	219.5	148.5	207.0	185.1	241.1	203.1
December, 1949	300.8	284.8	344.3	204.8	222.2	163.3	129.0	199.3	173.3
January, 1950	281.8	285.1	278.0	172.1	130.2	174.3	146.8	205.4	182.2

Year and Month	GROCERIES						FRUITS AND VEGETABLES			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
January, 1947	213.0	250.5	162.4	232.5	190.8	246.1	217.9	169.9	238.5	218.2
January, 1948	216.2	235.2	155.6	231.1	196.0	289.4	186.7	156.6	216.8	168.5
January, 1949	215.3	235.0	135.8	232.7	197.2	307.1	202.9	171.3	230.5	187.5
December, 1949	224.2	260.5	207.3	249.9	185.2	248.7	269.2	184.9	263.8	332.6
January, 1950	219.2	248.6	146.0	226.0	211.4	297.3	203.7	165.8	233.5	189.4

Year and Month	HARDWARE					TOBACCO AND CONFECTIONERY			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
January, 1947	268.7	211.6	279.0	249.6	293.7	277.7	259.6	278.2	269.6
January, 1948	300.7	210.5	317.5	292.0	322.5	303.8	285.0	295.2	304.6
January, 1949	310.0	242.3	341.9	321.8	309.0	310.8	285.0	302.0	314.7
December, 1949	333.4	262.9	330.6	400.0	307.8	399.9	459.7	400.3	355.6
January, 1950	264.4	202.3	294.4	308.0	244.1	309.2	297.5	298.7	308.7