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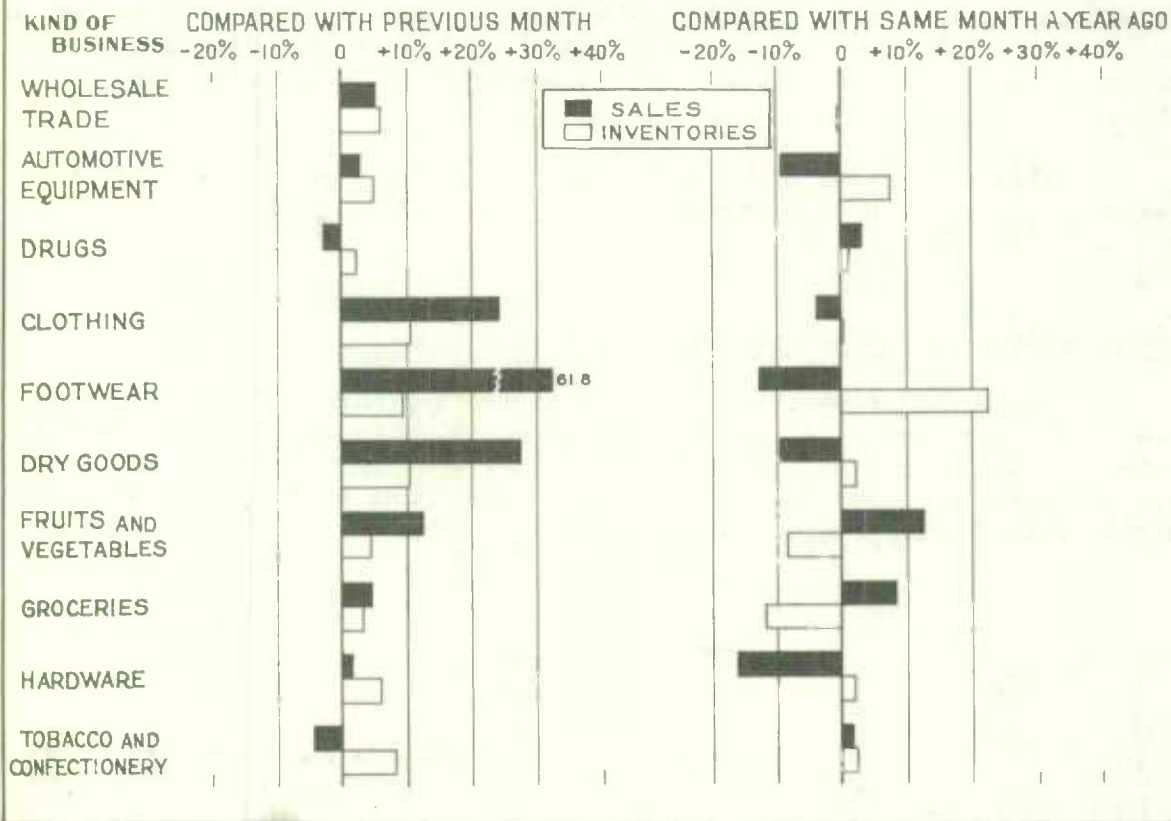
WHOLESALE TRADE
FEBRUARY 1950

Sales at Same Level as a Year Ago

Dollar volume of wholesale sales in February, 1950 was unchanged from the February, 1949 level, but was 6% above dollar sales in January, 1950, according to returns submitted by 361 wholesalers across Canada representing nine lines of trade. Total sales for the first two months of 1950 were 2% below sales for the first two months of 1949. The general unadjusted index (on the base, average for 1935-1939 = 100) was 244.8 for February, 1950 and for February, 1949, and 231.5 for January, 1950.

Variations in percentage changes in sales between February, 1949 and February, 1950 for the various regions of the country were small. Dollar sales in both Ontario and the Prairie Provinces were 2% above those for February, 1949, while decreases of less than 1% were recorded for the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia. Sales in Quebec were down 6% from February a year ago.

PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN SALES AND INVENTORIES
FEBRUARY 1950



Food Increases Most Prominent

Fruit and vegetable wholesalers and grocery wholesalers were the only two among the nine trades to register appreciable gains in dollar volume of sales over February last year. Sales of fruit and vegetable wholesalers were up 13% and grocery wholesalers' sales, 8%. Minor gains of 3% and 2% were recorded by drug wholesalers and tobacco and confectionery wholesalers respectively.

Dry Goods, Apparel, Automotive Equipment, and Hardware Sales Down

Sales of wholesalers of clothing, dry goods, and footwear were lower than the dollar volume of sales in February a year ago by 4%, 9% and 13% respectively. Sales of automotive equipment wholesalers were down 9%, while a drop of 16% was reported by hardware wholesalers.

Slight Decrease in Dollar Value of Inventories

Dollar value of stocks in the hands of wholesalers at the end of February 1950 in the nine trades under review was less than 1% below the dollar value of inventories at February 28, 1949, but 6% higher than at the end of January 1950.

Footwear wholesalers reported an increase over last year of 23% in value of stocks on hand, while stocks of automotive equipment dealers were up 8% in value. Minor gains of from 1% to 3% were recorded for wholesalers of tobacco and confectionery, dry goods, hardware, and drugs. Clothing wholesalers' inventories remained unchanged from the same date a year ago.

Declines in value of stocks on hand were registered in the fruit and vegetable (8%) and grocery trades (11%).

Stocks-Sales Comparison for Grocery Trade

Inventories of wholesale grocers at the beginning of February this year were 12% in excess of sales during that month. Stocks were considerably lower in relation to sales in February this year than in the two preceding years. Wholesale grocers' inventories at the beginning of February 1949 were 62% higher than February sales, while the corresponding figure for 1948 was 53%.

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Percentage Changes in Wholesale Trade

Trade and Region	Percentage Change				INVENTORY Feb. 1950 Feb. 1949
	SALES				
	(1) January 1950 January 1949	(2) February 1950 February 1949	February 1950 January 1950	Jan.-to- Feb. 1950 Jan.-to- Feb. 1949	
Automotive Equipment ...	- 8.8	- 9.0	+ 3.0	- 8.9	+ 7.7
Maritimes and Quebec .	-21.9	- 2.6	+37.3	-11.8	
Ontario	- 1.6	- 6.7	- 9.7	- 4.1	
Western Provinces	-10.4	-13.6	- 0.6	-12.0	
Drugs	- 9.7	+ 3.2	- 2.3	+ 3.8	+ 1.4
Maritimes, Que. and Ont.	- 6.3	+ 3.2	- 5.8	- 1.9	
Western Provinces ...	-17.2	+ 3.3	+ 7.6	- 7.7	
Clothing	-21.2	- 3.8	+24.4	-12.4	+ 0.3
Quebec	- 8.2	- 3.9			
Ont. & Western Provinces	-29.6	- 3.7			
Footwear	-12.3	-12.5	+61.8	-12.4	+22.8
Maritimes and Quebec .	-19.1	-20.8			
Ont. & Western Provinces	- 6.7	- 2.8			
Dry Goods	-16.4	- 9.4	+27.6	-12.6	+ 2.3
Maritimes and Quebec .	-22.4	-16.9	+36.6	-19.3	
Ontario	-14.1	- 2.5	+27.0	- 8.0	
Western Provinces ...	-10.3	- 6.4	+12.3	- 8.3	
Fruits and Vegetables ..	+ 0.6	+12.7	+12.5	+ 6.7	-- 8.1
Maritimes and Quebec .	+ 0.1	+ 2.0	+20.5	+ 1.2	
Ontario	+ 1.3	+ 8.5	- 2.2	+ 4.7	
Western Provinces	(x)	+22.8	+28.2	+11.6	
Groceries	+ 1.8	+ 8.3	+ 4.7	+ 5.0	-11.4
Maritimes	+ 5.7	+ 3.8	- 3.5	+ 4.8	
Quebec	+ 7.7	+15.5	+24.6	+11.9	
Ontario	- 2.8	+ 4.5	+ 0.3	+ 0.7	
Prairies	+ 7.1	+11.1	+ 5.1	+ 9.1	
British Columbia	- 3.2	+11.4	+ 5.0	+ 3.8	
Hardware	-14.2	-15.8	+ 1.7	-15.0	+ 2.1
Maritimes	-16.5	-20.4	+ 6.0	-18.6	
Quebec	-13.6	-19.2	-18.7	-16.2	
Ontario	- 4.5	- 4.1	+ 2.3	- 4.3	
Western Provinces ...	-20.6	-19.8	+ 5.4	-20.2	
Tobacco and Confectionery	- 0.2	+ 1.9	- 4.1	+ 0.8	+ 2.6
Maritimes and Quebec .	+ 5.1	+ 3.5	- 1.9	+ 4.3	
Ontario	- 1.2	+1.5	+ 0.9	+ 0.2	
Western Provinces ...	- 2.6	+ 1.5	- 6.7	- 0.7	
Wholesale Trade -					
Maritimes	- 1.1	- 0.6	- 0.3	- 0.8	
Quebec	- 6.5	- 5.5	+14.9	- 6.0	
Ontario	- 3.9	+ 1.9	+ 1.8	- 1.1	
Prairies	- 4.0	+ 1.5	+ 9.1	- 1.2	
British Columbia ...	- 9.0	- 0.2	- 1.6	- 4.8	
CANADA	- 4.8	(x)	+ 5.7	+ 2.4	- 0.6

(1) Revised (2) Preliminary (x) Unchanged

Note: Figures for Newfoundland are not available.



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	
February 1947	231.2	218.0	218.9	238.8	220.2	260.4	335.2	428.7	314.1	318.5	
February 1948	239.5	218.9	241.4	242.9	217.3	287.0	331.5	391.0	316.3	322.6	
February 1949	244.8	224.6	230.3	251.9	237.9	277.8	340.1	332.7	337.5	343.6	
January 1950	231.5	223.9	189.3	252.1	221.3	281.6	300.6	235.9	348.9	295.1	
February 1950	244.8	223.3	217.6	256.7	241.5	277.2	309.5	324.0	314.9	296.6	

Year and Month	DRUGS			CLOTHING	FOOTWEAR	DRY GOODS			
	CANADA	Maritimes Que. & Ont.	Western Provinces	CANADA	CANADA	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
February 1947	221.1	216.5	237.2	277.2	296.8	229.6	224.8	272.0	177.3
February 1948	251.4	242.0	282.0	264.4	268.3	268.2	265.0	296.2	231.7
February 1949	266.7	259.9	289.6	223.7	240.7	243.8	236.1	269.8	218.7
January 1950	281.8	284.8	278.0	173.0	130.2	173.1	143.6	207.1	182.2
February 1950	275.2	268.2	299.2	215.2	210.6	220.9	196.2	263.1	204.7

Year and Month	GROCERIES						FRUITS AND VEGETABLES			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
February 1947	200.3	222.0	159.5	211.6	189.2	228.6	219.7	209.4	220.8	220.6
February 1948	201.3	226.4	168.9	200.6	182.6	261.1	197.5	210.9	207.6	177.4
February 1949	211.8	230.9	157.8	217.0	199.8	280.2	203.8	202.5	210.5	195.7
January 1950	219.2	248.4	146.3	226.2	211.2	297.3	204.1	171.5	233.5	187.5
February 1950	229.4	239.7	182.3	226.8	222.0	312.1	229.7	206.6	228.4	240.3

Year and Month	HARDWARE						TOBACCO AND CONFECTIONERY			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	
February 1947	293.1	215.0	257.2	280.3	315.8	245.7	229.4	258.5	232.5	
February 1948	314.8	236.7	299.6	309.5	320.2	277.1	268.9	286.4	263.0	
February 1949	321.4	269.4	297.2	327.8	322.4	292.1	284.0	296.7	281.7	
January 1950	266.0	202.3	295.4	307.3	245.3	310.2	299.5	298.4	306.5	
February 1950	270.6	214.4	240.1	314.4	258.6	297.6	293.9	301.2	285.9	