

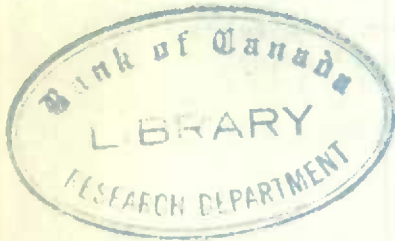
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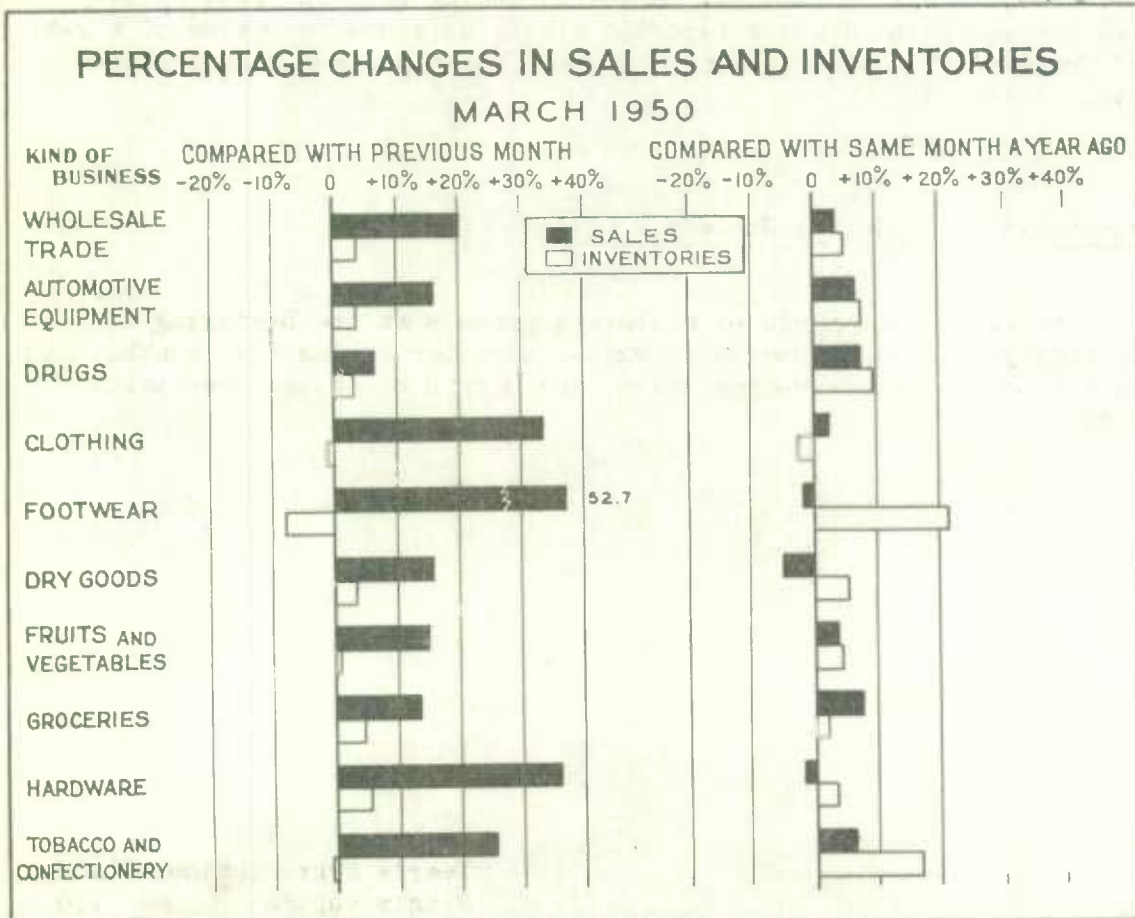


WHOLESALE TRADE
MARCH 1950

Dollar Sales Turn Upward

Dollar volume of wholesale sales in March 1950 advanced 4% over March 1949 and 20% over February this year, according to statements submitted by 370 wholesalers representing nine lines of trade. The March gain brought total sales for the first quarter of 1950 practically level with the first quarter of 1949. The general unadjusted index (on the base, average for 1935-1939 = 100) stood at 294.2 for March 1950, 283.4 for March 1949, and 244.6 for February 1950.

Increases over March 1949 were registered for all provinces and ranged from 1% for Quebec to 6% for British Columbia.



Prepared in the Merchandising and Services Section

Changes from March 1949 are Minor

While trends varied between the different trades, no group reported a very wide gain or loss. Wholesale grocers' and druggists' sales were 8% in excess of March a year ago, while an increase of 7% was recorded by automotive equipment and tobacco and confectionery wholesalers. Slightly smaller gains of 4% and 3% were registered for fruit and vegetable dealers and clothing wholesalers respectively.

Footwear and hardware wholesalers both reported March 1950 sales 2% lower than in March a year ago, while dry goods wholesalers' sales decreased 5%.

Stocks Valued 5% Higher

The value of stocks in the hands of wholesalers at the end of March 1950, in the nine lines of trade, was 5% higher than the inventory value at the same date a year ago. The only decrease in inventory from last year was that for clothing wholesalers whose stocks were down 2%. Footwear wholesalers and tobacco and confectionery wholesalers reported substantial increases of 22% and 17% respectively. Drug wholesalers' stocks were 10% higher than at the corresponding date in 1949, while automotive equipment dealers reported stocks 8% above the value of a year ago. Increases in value of stocks on hand for the other trades ranged between 2% and 6%.

Stocks-Sales Ratio in the Grocery Trade

Stocks in the hands of wholesale grocers at the beginning of March this year were valued 9% in excess of sales during that month. At March 1st of the two preceding years, the margin of stocks over sales was 25%.

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Percentage Changes in Wholesale Trade

Trade and Region	Percentage Change				INVENTORY March 1950 March 1949
	SALES				
	(1)	(2)	March	Jan.-to-	
	February 1950 February 1949	March 1950 March 1949	1950 February 1950	March 1950 Jan.-to- March 1949	
Automotive Equipment.....	- 8.6	+ 6.8	+16.0	- 3.5	+ 7.6
Maritimes and Quebec ..	- 2.6	- 1.4	- 8.4	- 8.4	
Ontario	- 5.7	+ 9.9	+17.8	+ 0.9	
Western Provinces	-13.4	+ 6.8	+26.7	- 5.5	
Drugs	+ 3.0	+ 7.6	+ 6.4	- 0.2	+ 9.7
Maritimes, Que., and Ont.	+ 3.2	+11.1	+ 7.5	+ 2.2	
Western Provinces	+ 2.5	(x)	+ 2.9	- 5.4	
Clothing	- 5.7	+ 2.5	+33.6	- 7.3	- 2.4
Quebec	- 3.9	+17.1			
Ont. & Western Provinces	- 6.7	- 7.0			
Footwear	- 8.0	- 1.6	+52.7	- 5.9	+21.5
Maritimes and Quebec..	-20.9	+ 4.1			
Ont. & Western Provinces	+ 3.7	- 6.0			
Dry Goods	- 9.5	- 5.0	+15.9	- 9.8	+ 5.5
Maritimes and Quebec..	-17.1	- 6.5	+28.1	-14.4	
Ontario	- 2.5	- 9.5	+ 3.6	- 8.5	
Western Provinces ...	- 6.4	+ 4.4	+36.0	- 3.4	
Fruits and Vegetables ..	+13.0	+ 3.8	+14.9	+ 5.7	+ 4.6
Maritimes and Quebec ..	+ 2.0	- 2.9	+13.3	- 0.4	
Ontario	+ 8.5	+ 4.0	+25.3	+ 4.5	
Western Provinces	+23.5	+ 6.6	+ 3.6	+ 9.9	
Groceries	+ 8.4	+ 7.7	+13.8	+ 6.0	+ 2.0
Maritimes	+ 4.0	+ 7.6	+28.9	+ 5.9	
Quebec	+15.5	+19.3	+21.3	+14.8	
Ontario	+ 4.5	+ 6.2	+14.9	+ 2.7	
Prairies	+11.3	+11.4	+12.2	+10.3	
British Columbia	+11.4	- 1.8	- 3.2	+ 1.9	
Hardware	-15.9	- 1.8	+36.1	-10.1	+ 3.6
Maritimes	-15.2	+ 0.1	+40.5	- 9.7	
Quebec	-19.2	-11.7	+25.0	-14.6	
Ontario	- 6.2	- 2.8	+26.1	- 4.4	
Western Provinces ...	-19.8	+ 3.0	+48.1	-11.6	
Tobacco and Confectionery	+ 2.3	+ 6.5	+25.6	+ 3.0	+17.0
Maritimes and Quebec ..	+ 3.3	+ 9.6	+40.4	+ 6.3	
Ontario	+ 1.8	+ 5.0	+13.6	+ 1.9	
Western Provinces ...	+ 2.3	+ 6.5	+29.1	+ 2.2	
Wholesale Trade -					
Maritimes	- 0.1	+ 5.2	+28.9	+ 1.6	
Quebec	- 5.5	+ 0.8	+24.1	- 3.4	
Ontario	+ 1.5	+ 3.6	+16.7	+ 0.5	
Prairies	+ 1.9	+ 4.4	+19.0	+ 1.0	
British Columbia	- 0.6	+ 6.4	+21.2	- 1.0	
CANADA	- 0.1	+ 3.8	+20.3	- 0.1	+ 5.1

(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)

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Year and Month	WHOLESALE TRADE						AUTOMOTIVE EQUIPMENT			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
March 1947	257.2	255.0	251.0	251.9	252.8	293.6	341.3	373.0	297.6	372.6
March 1948	264.9	266.7	265.6	266.8	240.7	311.8	318.4	354.4	321.7	305.5
March 1949	283.4	275.0	268.0	288.1	276.3	314.6	337.5	300.9	341.0	353.2
February 1950 .	244.6	224.4	217.6	255.7	242.4	276.1	310.9	324.0	318.3	297.6
March 1950	294.2	289.3	270.1	298.5	288.5	334.7	360.5	296.7	374.8	377.2

Year and Month	DRUGS			CLOTHING	FOOTWEAR	DRY GOODS			
	CANADA	Maritimes Que. & Ont.	Western Provinces	CANADA	CANADA	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
March 1947	223.4	218.9	236.3	284.1	300.2	266.0	260.1	294.1	261.6
March 1948	243.7	236.0	265.4	300.0	298.7	266.3	268.6	282.6	264.0
March 1949	271.7	259.6	305.5	274.8	343.5	269.2	268.1	301.3	266.6
February 1950 .	274.7	268.2	296.8	210.9	221.4	220.6	195.7	263.1	204.7
March 1950	292.3	288.4	305.5	281.7	338.0	255.7	250.7	272.7	278.3

Year and Month	GROCERIES						FRUITS AND VEGETABLES			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
March 1947	215.7	254.8	194.6	212.9	202.4	260.7	261.2	243.4	259.8	263.2
March 1948	226.9	272.1	192.9	226.3	201.0	295.6	216.0	206.6	237.2	194.2
March 1949	242.6	287.6	185.4	245.5	225.9	307.7	254.9	241.1	275.2	235.0
February 1950 .	229.6	240.1	182.3	226.8	224.4	312.1	230.3	206.6	228.4	241.7
March 1950	261.3	309.5	221.2	260.7	251.7	302.2	264.6	234.1	286.2	250.5

Year and Month	HARDWARE					TOBACCO AND CONFECTIONERY			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
March 1947 ...	335.5	297.8	305.6	314.4	352.5	281.2	291.9	269.4	271.6
March 1948 ...	351.3	329.4	346.2	354.6	341.6	342.8	387.1	318.7	328.9
March 1949 ...	374.5	320.8	340.0	398.9	371.7	352.4	375.9	326.7	349.3
February 1950 .	270.3	228.5	240.1	307.5	258.6	298.8	293.4	302.0	288.2
March 1950 ...	367.8	321.1	300.2	387.7	382.9	375.3	412.0	343.0	372.0