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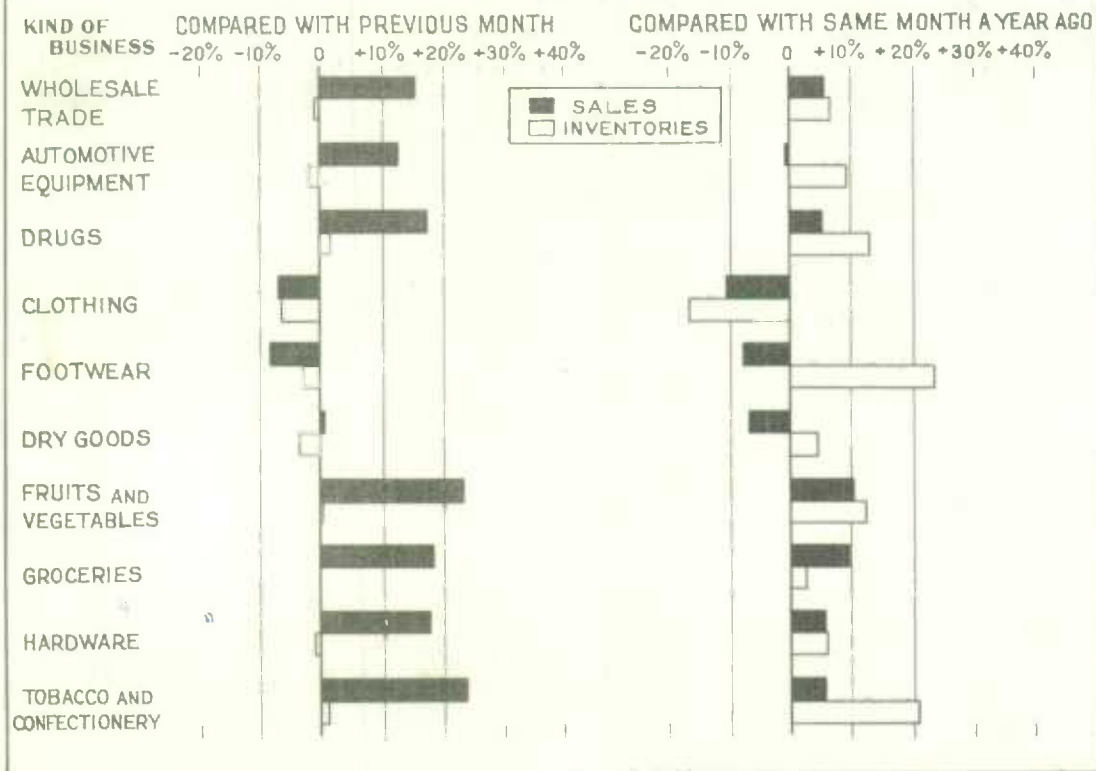
WHOLESALE TRADE

MAY 1950

Dollar value of wholesale sales in May 1950 advanced 6% over May last year and 15% over April 1950 according to reports submitted by 368 wholesalers in nine lines of trade. Cumulative sales for the first five months of the current year practically equalled the dollar volume in the corresponding period of 1949. The general unadjusted index (on the base, average for 1935-1939=100) stood at 320.9 for May 1950, 278.9 for April 1950, and 303.0 for May 1949.

Percentage changes from May a year ago were fairly uniform for all regions of the country. Sales in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec were 8% and 7% higher. Ontario sales were up 6% while in Quebec and the Prairie Provinces gains amounted to 5% and 4%.

PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN SALES AND INVENTORIES
MAY 1950



Food Trades Lead in Gains

Gains of 10% in dollar sales in the grocery trade and the fruit and vegetable trade were the largest recorded by individual kinds of business. Tobacco and confectionery, drugs, and hardware wholesalers all reported sales volumes 6% higher than in May a year ago, the latter registering a gain over the preceding year for the first time in seven months.

Dry Goods and Apparel Sales Remain Lower

The series of declines in sales of dry goods wholesalers was extended to nine successive months when May sales this year declined 7% below those in May 1949. Footwear wholesalers' sales were down 8%, while a drop of 11% was recorded in clothing wholesalers' sales.

Automotive equipment wholesalers registered a decrease of less than 1%, but the trend varied by regions. A gain of 13% was reported for the Maritimes and Quebec combined, Ontario sales were up 4%, while a drop of 8% occurred in Western Canada.

Stocks Higher - Except Clothing

Clothing, with a decrease of 17%, was the only wholesale trade among the nine covered, to register a lower stock value at the end of May 1950 than at May 31 last year. Inventories in the nine trades combined were valued 6% higher than at the same date a year ago.

Major increases were recorded for wholesalers of footwear (23%) and tobacco and confectionery (21%). Fruit and vegetable and drug wholesalers' stocks were valued 13% higher than at the end of May a year ago, while hardware, dry goods, and grocery wholesalers reported increases of 6%, 4%, and 2% respectively.

Stocks-Sales Ratio in the Grocery Trade

Stocks in the hands of wholesale grocers at the beginning of May were practically equal in value to sales during that month. Corresponding comparisons in 1948 and 1949 indicated stocks 11% and 6% respectively higher than sales.

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Percentage Changes in Wholesale Trade

Trade and Region	Percentage Change				INVENTORY May 1950 May 1949
	SALES		May 1950 April 1950	Jan.-to- May 1950 Jan.-to- May 1949	
	(1)	(2)			
	April 1950 April 1949	May 1950 May 1949			
Automotive Equipment ...	- 5.8	- 0.6	+12.6	- 4.7	+ 9.4
Maritimes and Quebec .	- 7.5	+13.4	+56.6	- 2.6	
Ontario	- 1.0	+ 3.7	+ 3.4	+ 1.1	
Western Provinces	- 9.4	- 8.2	+ 7.3	- 9.9	
Drugs	- 9.7	+ 5.6	+17.2	- 1.0	+13.1
Maritimes, Que., and Ont.	-12.0	+5.9	+21.4	- 0.1	
Western Provinces	- 3.7	+4.8	+ 8.9	- 2.9	
Clothing	-18.1	-10.5	- 6.5	-11.1	-16.7
Quebec	-18.2	- 7.4	-	-	
Ont. & Western Provinces	-18.1	-12.4	-	-	
Footwear	-19.6	- 7.6	- 8.0	- 6.9	+23.4
Maritimes and Quebec ..	-20.5	+ 2.6	-	-	
Ont. & Western Provinces	-19.4	-16.7	-	-	
Dry Goods	-12.1	- 6.7	+ 0.9	- 9.7	+ 4.4
Maritimes and Quebec ..	-13.5	- 9.8	- 7.6	-13.3	
Ontario	- 9.8	- 0.9	+11.7	- 7.3	
Western Provinces	-13.0	- 9.6	+ 4.8	- 6.6	
Fruits and Vegetables ..	+ 2.4	+10.2	+23.1	+ 6.1	+12.7
Maritimes and Quebec .	+ 0.5	+ 3.8	+20.8	+ 1.0	
Ontario	- 2.3	+14.8	+ 4.3	+ 5.1	
Western Provinces	+ 8.4	+ 9.1	+14.3	+ 9.6	
Groceries	+ 0.6	+ 9.8	+18.1	+ 5.8	+ 2.4
Maritimes	- 1.3	+ 7.0	+23.9	+ 4.7	
Quebec	+ 5.1	+12.1	+17.6	+11.9	
Ontario	+ 0.4	+ 6.0	+23.9	+ 3.0	
Prairies	- 0.5	+11.4	+17.8	+ 8.4	
British Columbia	+ 0.9	+15.5	+12.2	+ 4.4	
Hardware	- 7.1	+ 5.7	+17.7	- 6.0	+ 5.9
Maritimes	- 7.3	+11.6	+18.8	- 4.1	
Quebec	-11.2	+ 8.2	+20.7	- 9.3	
Ontario	- 5.6	+ 9.7	+22.2	- 1.5	
Western Provinces	- 5.9	+ 1.6	+17.4	- 7.3	
Tobacco and Confectionery	- 6.8	+ 5.7	+23.8	+ 1.4	+20.7
Maritimes and Quebec .	- 8.1	+11.1	+ 7.8	+ 3.8	
Ontario	- 1.8	+ 5.7	+30.4	+ 2.0	
Western Provinces	-11.4	+ 3.2	+29.6	- 0.5	
Wholesale Trade -					
Maritimes	- 4.3	+ 7.8	+27.9	+ 1.2	
Quebec	- 6.8	+ 5.5	+11.5	- 2.1	
Ontario	- 4.0	+ 6.4	+23.5	+ 0.9	
Prairies	- 5.0	+ 4.3	+15.2	+ 0.5	
British Columbia	- 0.7	+ 7.0	+15.6	+ 0.3	
CANADA	- 4.4	+ 5.9	+15.1	+ 0.2	+ 6.4

(1) Revised. (2) Preliminary. 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
May 1947	280.1	297.4	262.9	292.7	267.5	311.9	354.3	457.2	304.1	372.9
May 1948	274.2	304.8	251.6	301.5	259.2	323.4	381.6	540.4	320.8	392.3
May 1949	303.0	313.6	263.7	338.6	302.0	348.0	421.7	449.1	376.3	457.4
April 1950	278.9	264.4	249.6	291.7	273.4	322.1	372.4	325.3	377.5	391.4
May 1950	320.9	338.1	278.2	360.3	315.0	372.4	419.2	509.3	390.2	419.9

Year and Month	DRUGS			CLOTHING	FOOTWEAR	DRY GOODS			
	CANADA	Maritimes Que.&Ont.	Western Provinces	CANADA	CANADA	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
May 1947	266.7	266.4	265.3	247.3	265.0	270.8	264.3	287.5	257.1
May 1948	276.6	267.5	298.8	223.8	215.4	248.9	244.2	262.2	236.8
May 1949	316.7	311.4	329.5	239.5	280.5	240.4	225.9	261.4	236.1
April 1950	285.4	271.6	317.3	229.4	281.7	222.4	220.5	231.8	203.6
May 1950	334.4	329.8	345.4	214.4	259.2	224.3	203.8	259.0	213.4

Year and Month	GROCERIES						FRUITS AND VEGETABLES			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
May 1947	228.6	266.1	215.3	244.1	203.4	246.9	328.3	324.5	329.0	312.9
May 1948	237.5	286.1	208.0	243.1	222.9	268.6	242.9	229.2	254.0	227.8
May 1949	254.4	293.8	204.3	262.8	242.3	308.9	312.1	303.2	312.7	301.4
April 1950	236.5	253.8	194.8	224.8	229.1	318.1	279.4	260.5	344.1	287.5
May 1950	279.3	314.4	229.0	278.6	269.9	356.8	343.9	314.7	359.0	328.8

Year and Month	HARDWARE					TOBACCO AND CONFECTIONERY			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
May 1947	352.3	338.7	296.6	361.5	391.2	355.7	334.2	368.3	321.4
May 1948	361.1	351.9	323.7	373.4	385.3	370.5	348.2	394.8	325.3
May 1949	396.8	368.8	333.4	433.1	424.6	411.0	385.5	424.4	373.1
April 1950	355.6	346.6	298.9	388.8	367.6	350.8	397.3	344.0	297.0
May 1950	418.4	411.6	360.7	475.1	431.4	434.4	428.3	448.6	385.0