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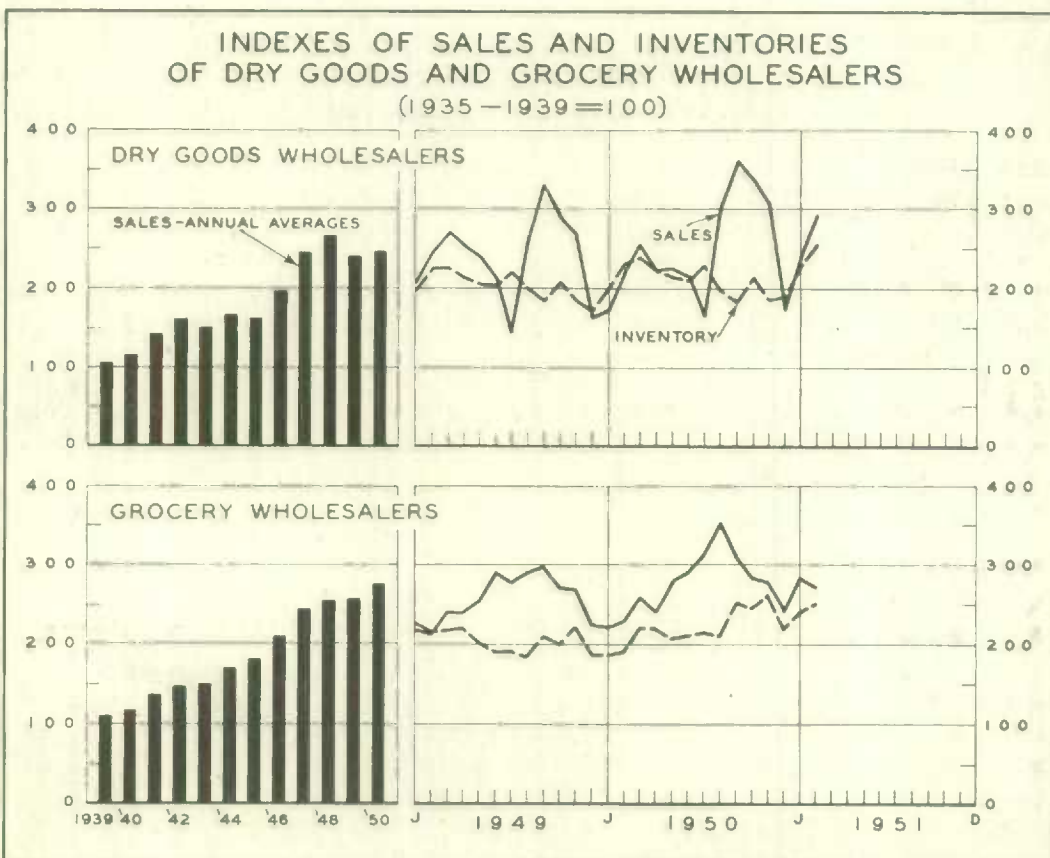
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# WHOLESALE TRADE

FEBRUARY 1951

Goods moved briskly from wholesale to retail outlets in February. Wholesale sales, in nine lines of trade, were 24% higher than in February 1950. The February index of dollar sales was 303.1 (on the base, average for 1935-1939 = 100), as compared with indexes of 244.8 for February 1950 and 308.6 for January 1951.

INDEXES OF SALES AND INVENTORIES  
OF DRY GOODS AND GROCERY WHOLESALERS  
(1935-1939=100)



The increase in dollar sales is not a measure of the increase in quantity of goods sold, since no allowance has been made for the effect of increases in wholesale prices.

Notwithstanding the rapid disposal of merchandise at the wholesale level in February, inventories were maintained at a high mark. The general increase in stocks of merchandise for the nine trades was 20%, comparing the dollar value of stocks held on February 28 this year with those held on the same date in 1950.

Automotive and hardware wholesalers reported sales increases over February 1950 in the vicinity of 50%. At the same time, month-end inventories were 20% greater than in February a year ago.

Wholesalers of tobacco and confectionery, and of fruits and vegetables had comparatively moderate sales gains. Tobacco wholesalers' sales increased only 8%, but their inventory holdings were up 35% in value compared with a year earlier. Fruit and vegetable wholesalers, their sales governed more strictly by the availability of merchandise, obtained only a 4% gain in sales in February. Stocks of fruit and vegetable wholesalers were down 2% at the end of February this year compared with last.

#### Grocery and Dry Goods Wholesalers' Inventories

<u>Month and Year</u>	<u>Index Numbers of Wholesale Inventories</u> (Average for 1935-1939 = 100)		<u>Stocks/Sales Ratios</u>
	<u>Dry Goods Wholesalers</u>	<u>Grocery Wholesalers</u>	<u>Grocery Wholesalers</u>
February 1948	175.9	203.2	1.53
February 1949	225.5	215.4	1.53
February 1950	230.7	190.8	1.12
January 1951	231.2	243.2	1.10
February 1951	255.8	253.2	1.26

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Percentage Changes in Wholesale Trade (1)

(Preliminary)

Trade and Region	SALES		INVENTORY
	<u>February 1951</u> February 1950	<u>Jan.-Feb. 1950</u> Jan.-Feb. 1951	<u>February 1951</u> February 1950
<u>WHOLESALE TRADE (1), CANADA</u> .....	+ 23.8	+ 28.3	+ 20.4
<u>Maritimes</u> .....	+ 21.0	+ 23.2	
Quebec .....	+ 26.1	+ 30.3	
Ontario .....	+ 23.6	+ 28.7	
Prairies .....	+ 19.1	+ 24.8	
British Columbia .....	+ 32.1	+ 34.1	
<u>Auto Parts and Equipment (2)</u> .....	+ 47.2	+ 55.4	+ 19.8
Maritimes and Quebec .....	+ 50.7	+ 75.5	
Ontario .....	+ 43.1	+ 47.6	
Western Provinces .....	+ 49.9	+ 55.3	
<u>Drugs</u> .....	+ 22.5	+ 21.7	+ 13.1
Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario ..	+ 19.9	+ 20.4	
Western Provinces .....	+ 29.1	+ 25.1	
<u>Clothing</u> .....	+ 21.8	+ 28.7	+ 10.9
Quebec .....	+ 17.5		
Ontario and Western Provinces ..	+ 24.4		
<u>Footwear</u> .....	+ 42.5	+ 56.6	+ 6.2
Maritimes and Quebec .....	+ 61.1		
Ontario and Western Provinces ..	+ 27.5		
<u>Dry Goods</u> .....	+ 32.4	+ 35.2	+ 10.9
Maritimes and Quebec .....	+ 33.8	+ 39.7	
Ontario .....	+ 33.5	+ 33.5	
Western Provinces .....	+ 27.4	+ 30.7	
<u>Fruits and Vegetables</u> .....	+ 4.3	+ 5.9	- 2.1
Maritimes and Quebec .....	+ 11.2	+ 9.4	
Ontario .....	+ 11.2	+ 9.3	
Western Provinces .....	- 5.0	+ 0.9	
<u>Groceries</u> .....	+ 18.3	+ 23.2	+ 32.7
Maritimes .....	+ 15.2	+ 15.8	
Quebec .....	+ 16.1	+ 21.7	
Ontario .....	+ 18.0	+ 26.4	
Prairies .....	+ 20.4	+ 24.2	
British Columbia .....	+ 19.8	+ 22.1	
<u>Hardware</u> .....	+ 50.9	+ 55.2	+ 19.7
Maritimes .....	+ 52.3	+ 56.3	
Quebec .....	+ 53.5	+ 53.5	
Ontario .....	+ 50.1	+ 53.6	
Western Provinces .....	+ 50.0	+ 57.2	
<u>Tobacco and Confectionery</u> .....	+ 7.8	+ 16.5	+ 34.8
Maritimes and Quebec .....	- 0.3	+ 10.2	
Ontario .....	+ 11.6	+ 19.8	
Western Provinces .....	+ 7.8	+ 15.9	

(1) Composite of Nine Trades. (2) Designation of this group has been changed from "Automotive Equipment" but the content is the same.

NOTE: Figures for Newfoundland are not available.



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

Month and Year	WHOLESALE TRADE						AUTOMOTIVE EQUIPMENT			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
February 1948 .....	239.5	218.9	241.4	242.9	217.3	287.0	331.5	391.0	316.3	322.6
February 1949 .....	245.0	224.6	230.5	252.4	236.9	277.5	340.1	342.5	336.2	344.5
February 1950 .....	244.8	224.4	217.8	256.2	241.4	275.8	310.9	333.6	317.0	298.3
January 1951 .....	308.6	281.0	257.8	338.5	289.6	382.8	493.7	496.8	532.6	474.2
February 1951 .....	303.1	271.5	274.6	316.7	287.5	364.3	457.6	502.7	453.6	447.2

Month and Year	DRUGS			CLOTHING	FOOTWEAR	DRY GOODS			
	CANADA	Maritimes Que.&Ont.	Western Provinces	CANADA	CANADA	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
February 1948 .....	251.4	242.0	282.0	264.7	268.3	268.2	265.0	296.2	231.7
February 1949 .....	267.2	260.6	290.2	225.8	240.7	244.1	236.1	270.1	218.7
February 1950 .....	275.2	268.9	297.5	212.9	221.4	220.9	195.7	263.3	204.7
January 1951 .....	341.7	344.9	336.1	238.3	235.0	239.6	211.3	276.5	244.9
February 1951 .....	337.1	322.4	384.1	259.3	315.5	292.5	261.8	351.5	260.8

Month and Year	GROCERIES						FRUITS AND VEGETABLES			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
February 1948 .....	201.3	226.4	168.9	200.6	182.6	261.1	197.5	210.9	207.6	177.4
February 1949 .....	212.0	230.9	157.8	217.0	199.8	280.2	204.0	202.5	210.5	196.4
February 1950 .....	229.8	240.1	182.3	226.8	222.4	312.1	230.5	206.6	228.4	242.6
January 1951 .....	283.3	289.4	195.4	306.9	271.1	370.4	218.8	178.9	250.8	203.4
February 1951 .....	271.9	276.6	211.7	267.6	267.8	373.9	240.0	229.7	254.0	230.5

Month and Year	HARDWARE					TOBACCO AND CONFECTIONERY			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
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	297.6	281.1
February 1950 .....	270.3	228.5	240.1	307.5	258.6	298.8	293.4	303.0	287.6
January 1951 .....	424.3	325.5	453.4	482.5	404.0	387.1	360.6	382.2	378.0
February 1951 .....	407.9	348.0	368.6	461.6	487.9	322.1	292.5	338.1	310.0