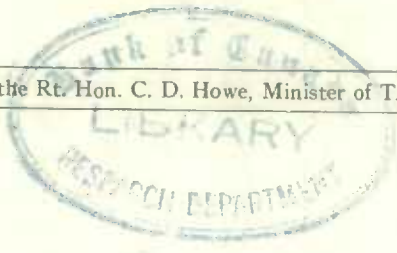




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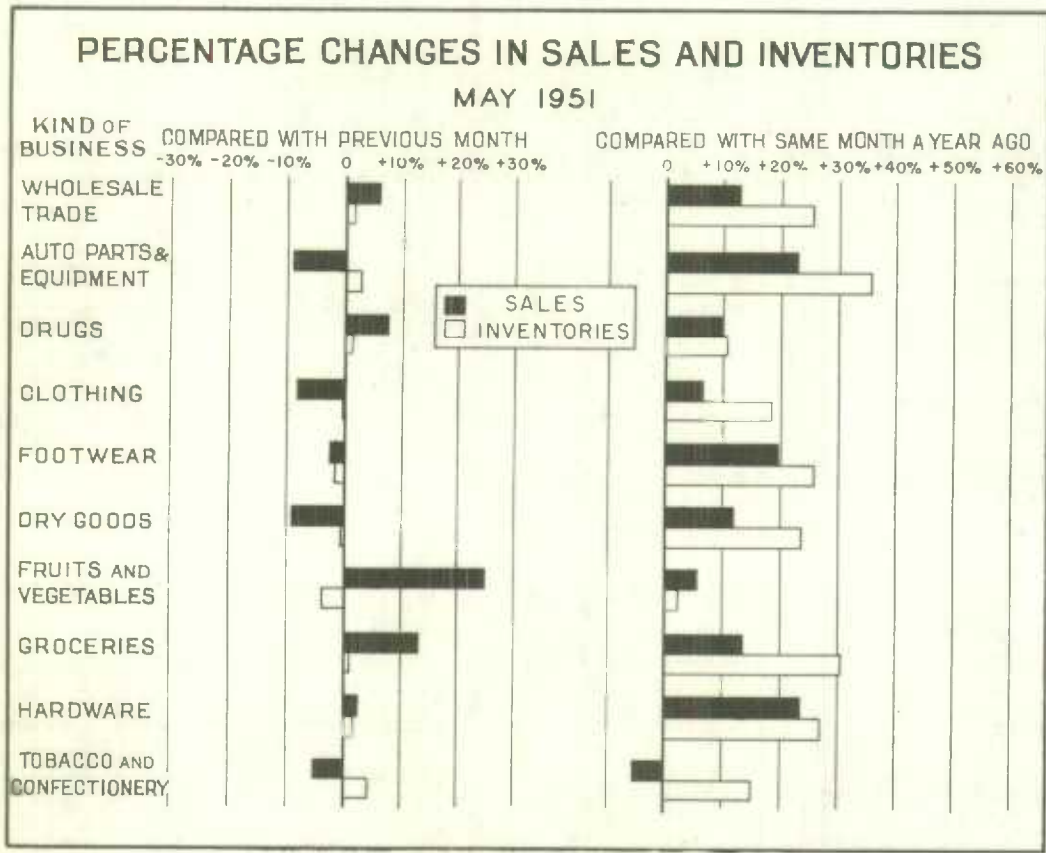
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WHOLESALE TRADE

MAY, 1951

Sales of wholesalers in May 1951 were 12% higher than in May a year ago and 6% above April 1951 volume. The May increase was the lowest among those for the first five months of this year. Increases for earlier months of 1951 were as follows: January, 33%; February, 24%; March, 14%; and April, 23%. Sales in the January-to-May period were 20% above those for the same five months of 1950.

Figures in this report are based on returns from some 400 wholesalers representing nine trades. They indicate trends in dollar volume of business, no adjustment having been made for changes in wholesale prices.



The general unadjusted index (on the base, average for 1935-1939 = 100) stood at 361.0 for May 1951, as compared with 321.5 for May 1950 and 340.9 for April 1951.

Wholesalers' stocks were valued 26% higher at May 31, 1951 than at the corresponding date a year ago.

Hardware and automotive parts and equipment wholesalers again registered the greatest increases in dollar sales over a year ago. Gains of 23% recorded for these trades in May were considerably smaller than those for the five-month period from January to May when hardware wholesalers' sales were up 39% and those of automotive parts and equipment dealers were 42% above the corresponding period of 1950. Stocks in the hands of hardware wholesalers were 27% above the value at May 31, 1950, while automotive parts and equipment wholesalers' inventories were up 35%.

Sales of footwear wholesalers rose 19% over May a year ago as compared with the five-month cumulative gain of 29%. Footwear inventories were up 26%. Wholesale grocers' sales advanced 14% and inventories, 31%. A gain of 12% was registered in sales of dry goods wholesalers as compared with a 25% increase for the year to date. Drug, clothing, and fruit and vegetable wholesalers reported sales up 10%, 6%, and 5% respectively in May.

A 6% decrease in sales of tobacco and confectionery wholesalers followed a 25% gain reported in April. The year-to-date increase over 1950 amounted to 10%. Stocks on hand were valued 15% higher than at the end of May a year ago.

Among the various regions, British Columbia registered the greatest increase in total wholesale sales with a gain of 18% over May 1950. The Prairie Provinces, Quebec, and Ontario followed with sales up 13%, 12%, and 11% respectively, while a gain of 5% was recorded for the Maritime Provinces.

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>
May 1948	186.7	182.9	1.11
May 1949	205.0	201.7	1.13
May 1950	213.8	207.3	1.00
April 1951	262.5	285.9	1.33
May 1951	264.0	270.7	1.09

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Percentage Changes in Wholesale Trade (1)

(Preliminary)

Trade and Region	SALES		INVENTORY
	May 1951 May 1950	Jan.-May 1951 Jan.-May 1950	May 31, 1951 May 31, 1950
<u>WHOLESALE TRADE(1), CANADA</u>	+ 12.3	+ 20.2	+ 25.5
Maritimes	+ 4.8	+ 15.1	
Quebec	+ 11.9	+ 21.8	
Ontario	+ 11.4	+ 20.4	
Prairies	+ 13.1	+ 17.8	
British Columbia	+ 18.2	+ 25.4	
<u>Auto Parts and Equipment(2)</u>	+ 22.7	+ 41.7	+ 35.4
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 23.4	+ 52.7	
Ontario	+ 18.8	+ 35.6	
Western Provinces	+ 26.0	+ 43.4	
<u>Drugs</u>	+ 9.6	+ 17.0	+ 10.5
Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario ..	+ 7.3	+ 15.4	
Western Provinces	+ 15.2	+ 21.1	
<u>Clothing</u>	+ 6.4	+ 17.2	+ 18.2
Quebec	- 12.2		
Ontario and Western Provinces ..	+ 21.6		
<u>Footwear</u>	+ 19.4	+ 28.9	+ 25.7
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 20.5		
Ontario and Western Provinces ..	+ 18.5		
<u>Dry Goods</u>	+ 11.9	+ 24.8	+ 23.5
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 12.6	+ 27.9	
Ontario	+ 4.2	+ 22.8	
Western Provinces	+ 21.5	+ 22.0	
<u>Fruits and Vegetables</u>	+ 5.3	+ 4.3	+ 2.1
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 11.5	+ 8.6	
Ontario	+ 5.4	+ 6.2	
Western Provinces	+ 2.1	+ 0.1	
<u>Groceries</u>	+ 13.5	+ 16.3	+ 30.6
Maritimes	+ 2.9	+ 9.3	
Quebec	+ 11.3	+ 12.4	
Ontario	+ 11.2	+ 15.9	
Prairies	+ 16.2	+ 18.2	
British Columbia	+ 24.7	+ 23.1	
<u>Hardware</u>	+ 23.4	+ 39.0	+ 26.9
Maritimes	+ 5.4	+ 30.9	
Quebec	+ 23.0	+ 45.0	
Ontario	+ 23.7	+ 44.4	
Western Provinces	+ 25.9	+ 34.2	
<u>Tobacco and Confectionery</u>	- 5.5	+ 9.6	+ 15.0
Maritimes and Quebec	- 8.0	+ 5.0	
Ontario	+ 3.3	+ 15.0	
Western Provinces	- 12.7	+ 6.4	

(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.

MONTHLY INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE SALES IN CANADA

(Average 1935 - 1939 = 100)



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Month and Year	WHOLESALE TRADE						AUTO PARTS AND EQUIPMENT			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
May 1948	274.2	304.8	251.6	301.5	259.2	323.4	381.6	540.4	320.8	392.3
May 1949	303.3	313.6	264.2	339.5	301.7	347.7	420.9	449.1	374.7	457.4
May 1950	321.5	338.7	278.2	362.2	315.2	371.0	418.4	510.6	387.8	419.9
April 1951	340.9	321.3	298.2	356.8	332.8	412.9	565.4	537.4	531.6	617.6
May 1951	361.0	355.0	311.3	403.5	356.6	438.5	513.4	630.1	460.7	529.1
	DRUGS			CLOTHING		FOOTWEAR	DRY GOODS			
	CANADA	Maritimes Que. & Ont.	Western Provinces	CANADA	CANADA	CANADA	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
May 1948	276.6	267.5	298.8	223.8	215.4	248.9	244.2	262.2	236.8	
May 1949	316.2	310.6	329.3	242.6	282.2	240.4	225.9	261.4	236.1	
May 1950	333.3	328.6	343.5	215.2	265.8	224.8	205.1	259.0	213.4	
April 1951	340.2	314.9	401.3	249.7	324.8	276.7	275.2	283.0	259.0	
May 1951	365.3	352.6	395.7	229.0	317.4	251.6	230.9	269.9	259.3	
	GROCERIES						FRUITS AND VEGETABLES			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
May 1948	237.5	286.1	208.0	243.1	222.9	268.6	242.9	229.2	254.0	227.8
May 1949	255.3	293.8	208.2	265.0	242.3	308.9	311.6	300.3	312.7	301.4
May 1950	280.3	314.7	233.4	282.0	269.0	356.8	344.0	313.2	359.9	328.2
April 1951	281.2	289.3	207.2	279.3	276.8	392.2	290.1	279.6	346.5	271.2
May 1951	318.1	323.8	259.8	313.6	312.6	444.9	362.2	349.2	379.3	335.1
	HARDWARE					TOBACCO AND CONFECTIONERY				
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	
May 1948	361.1	351.9	323.7	373.4	385.3	370.6	348.2	394.8	325.3	
May 1949	395.8	368.8	333.4	433.1	424.6	410.6	385.5	424.8	372.1	
May 1950	418.4	411.6	360.4	475.1	431.4	437.7	428.3	453.3	388.5	
April 1951	502.8	487.0	425.0	608.9	489.3	436.0	473.6	435.5	369.4	
May 1951	516.3	433.8	443.3	587.7	543.1	413.6	394.0	468.3	339.2	