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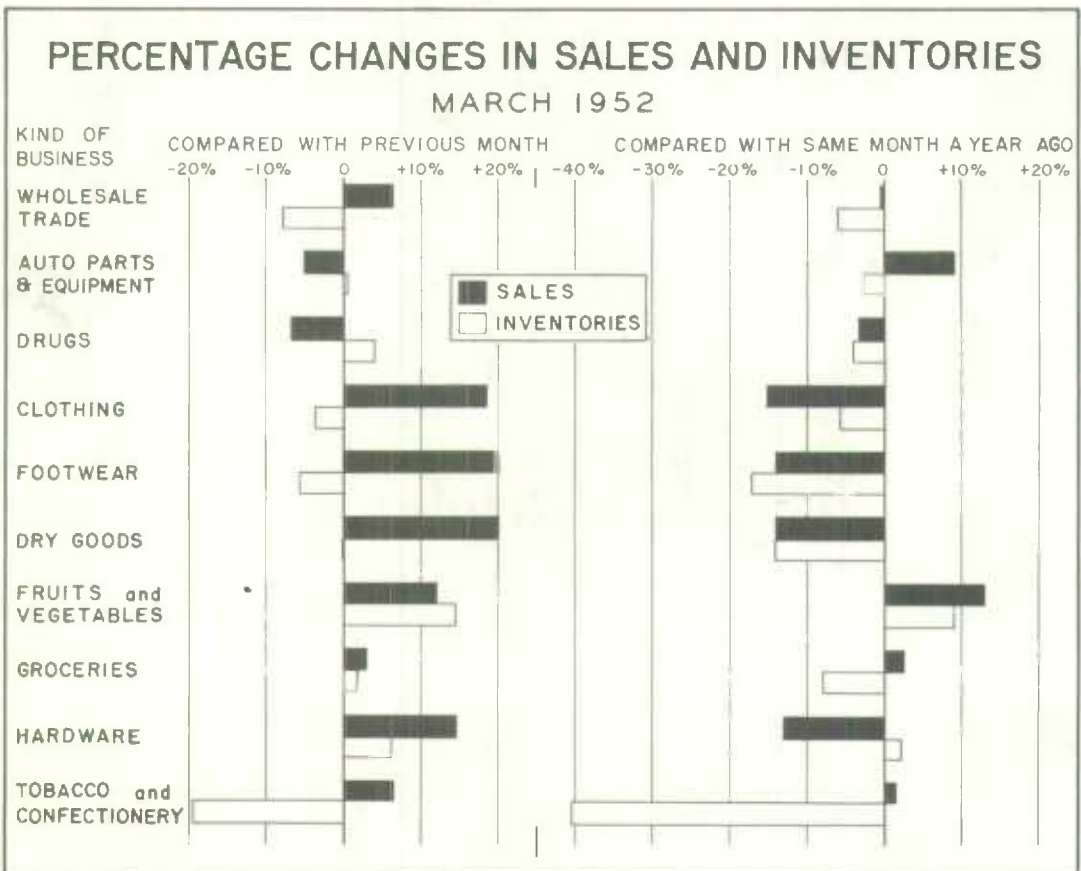
\$1.00 a year

WHOLESALE TRADE

MARCH 1952

The results shown in this report are based on returns from 400 wholesalers distributed over nine trades. They reflect trends in dollar volume of business and are not adjusted for changes in wholesale prices.

The unadjusted index for the total of the nine trades (on the base of 1935-1939=100) stood at 333.7 for March 1952 compared with 338.9 for March a year ago and 313.5 for February 1952.



Sales Trends by Trades

March sales of wholesalers in the trades covered by this survey declined slightly from March last year. The greatest drop occurred in the clothing trade where wholesalers reported a decrease of 15% in sales from March 1951. Wholesale sales of dry goods, footwear and hardware continued to decline. Wholesalers of fruits and vegetables reported the greatest increase in sales—13% above March a year ago. Sales of auto parts and equipment increased 9%, while grocery and tobacco and confectionery sales were 2% higher than in the same period last year.

Inventories

Inventories at the end of March were down 6% from the same date last year. Tobacco and confectionery wholesalers with a decrease of 40% recorded the greatest drop in stocks from March 1951. Decreases in stocks were recorded in all trades except fruits and vegetables and hardware. Wholesalers of fruits and vegetables recorded a 9% increase while stocks of hardware wholesalers were 2% higher than at the end of March a year ago.

Grocery and Dry Goods Wholesalers' Inventories

Month and Year	<u>Index Numbers of Wholesale Inventories</u> (Average for 1935-1939=100)	
	<u>Dry Goods Wholesalers</u>	<u>Grocery Wholesalers</u>
March 1951	273.2	288.2
February 1952	230.2	233.0
March 1952	234.4	264.9

Wholesale Trade in Canada

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MARCH, 1952

Trade and Region	Monthly Indexes of Sales (Average 1935-39 = 100)			Percentage Change (Current month over same month last year)	
	March (P) 1952	February (R) 1952	March 1951	Sales	Inventory
				%	%
Wholesale Trade¹, Canada	333.7	313.5	338.9	- 0.6	- 6.1
Auto Parts and Equipment	480.5	506.4	441.9	+ 9.1	- 2.8
Maritimes and Quebec	431.6	479.6	425.2	+ 1.5	
Ontario	484.0	520.5	468.1	+ 3.4	
Western Provinces	511.3	504.7	414.0	+ 23.5	
Drugs	323.7	347.1	334.3	- 3.3	- 4.1
Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario	306.8	329.0	329.9	- 7.0	
Western Provinces	380.0	407.5	348.9	+ 8.9	
Clothing	273.2	230.6	321.8	- 15.1	- 5.7
Footwear	358.7	300.5	416.6	- 13.9	- 17.1
Dry Goods	270.4	225.2	316.0	- 14.1	- 14.2
Maritimes and Quebec	247.8	194.0	318.1	- 22.1	
Ontario	278.7	268.5	333.8	- 16.5	
Western Provinces	297.0	233.2	296.7	+ 0.1	
Fruits and Vegetables	305.5	272.6	271.2	+ 12.9	+ 9.0
Maritimes and Quebec	283.3	250.2	247.6	+ 14.4	
Ontario	339.7	281.9	311.4	+ 9.1	
Western Provinces	298.1	286.4	259.9	+ 14.7	
Groceries	289.9	281.3	281.2	+ 2.4	- 8.1
Maritimes	340.5	284.6	313.8	+ 8.5	
Quebec	215.3	204.5	226.6	- 5.0	
Ontario	278.7	272.8	274.9	+ 1.4	
Prairies	276.5	279.9	272.7	+ 1.4	
British Columbia	417.1	439.7	371.4	+ 12.3	
Hardware	408.6	356.2	473.2	- 13.1	+ 2.2
Maritimes	312.2	239.3	408.1	- 23.5	
Quebec	383.0	318.3	474.6	- 19.3	
Ontario	440.0	403.7	553.5	- 20.5	
Western Provinces	419.0	367.0	436.9	- 4.1	
Tobacco and Confectionery	387.6	363.5	381.6	+ 1.6	- 40.3
Maritimes and Quebec	407.4	345.2	399.8	+ 1.9	
Ontario	377.6	382.7	377.6	(2)	
Western Provinces	375.7	351.4	358.5	+ 4.8	

1. Composite of Nine Trades

(2) Unchanged

Note: Figures for Newfoundland are not included.

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