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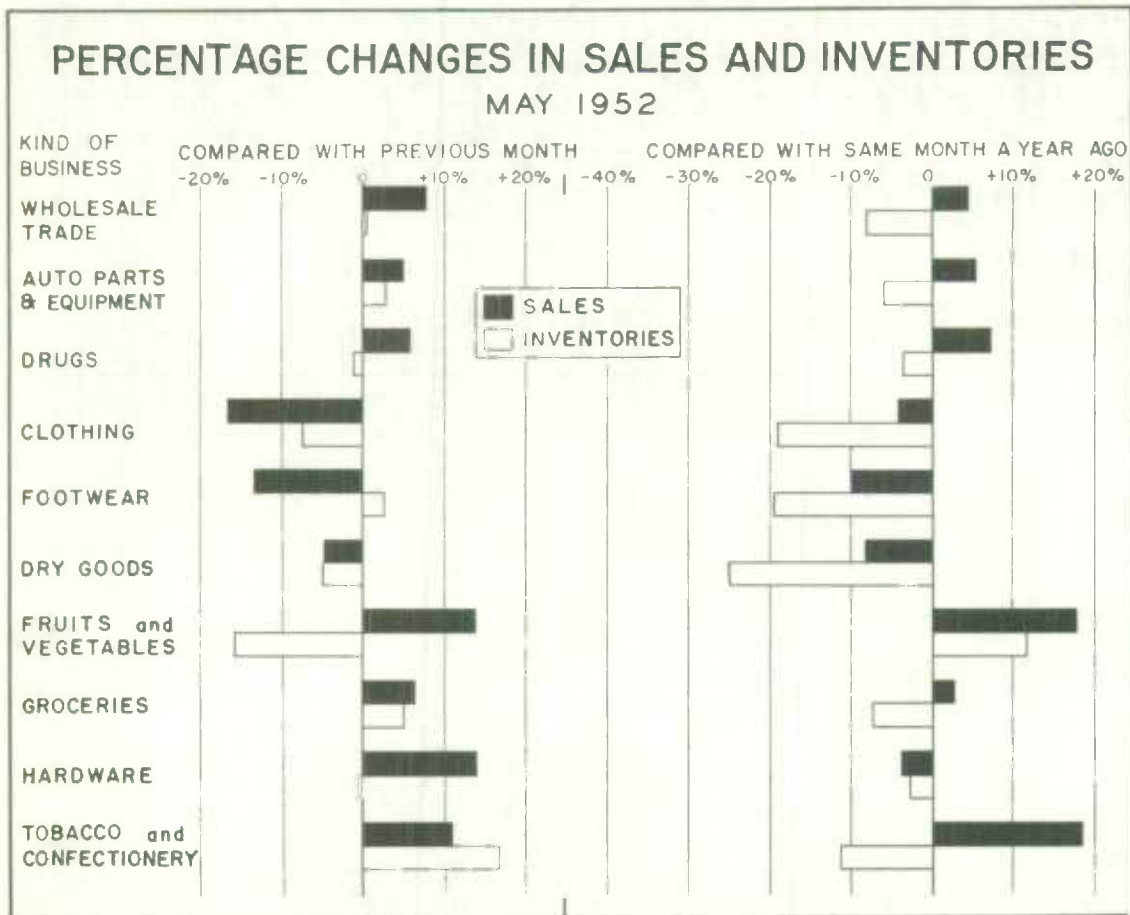


WHOLESALE TRADE

MAY 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 389.8 for May 1952 compared with 372.6 for May a year ago and 361.7 for April 1952.



Sales Trends by Trades

May sales of wholesalers in the trades covered by this survey were 4% higher than in May last year. The greatest increase was registered by wholesalers of tobacco and confectionery and fruits and vegetables who reported a gain of 18% in sales over May 1951. Increased sales of 7%, 6%, and 2% were reported by wholesalers of drugs, auto parts and equipment, and groceries respectively. Wholesale sales of footwear with a decline of 10% registered the greatest drop from May last year. Wholesalers of dry goods reported a decrease of 8% in sales and both clothing and hardware sales were 4% lower than in the same period a year ago.

Inventories

Inventories at the end of May were down 8% from the same date in 1951. Stocks of dry goods with a decline of 25% recorded the greatest drop from the end of May last year. Decreases in inventories were reported by all trades except fruits and vegetables. Stocks of fruit and vegetables were 12% higher than at the end of May a year ago.

Grocery and Dry Goods Wholesalers' Inventories

Month and Year	Index Numbers of Wholesale Inventories (Average for 1935-1939=100)	
	<u>Dry Goods Wholesalers</u>	<u>Grocery Wholesalers</u>
May 1951	264.0	270.1
April 1952	208.7	252.7
May 1952	198.3	250.1

Wholesale Trade in Canada
MAY, 1952

Trade and Region	Monthly Indexes of Sales (Average 1935-39 = 100)			Percentage Change (Current month over same month last year)	
	May (P) 1952	April (R) 1952	May 1951	Sales %	Inventory %
Wholesale Trade¹, Canada	389.8	361.7	372.6	+ 4.3	- 8.1
Auto Parts and Equipment	544.1	518.2	520.0	+ 5.5	- 5.9
Maritimes and Quebec	595.0	425.6	633.7	- 6.1	
Ontario	508.3	517.8	459.2	+10.7	
Western Provinces.....	561.4	587.3	529.1	+ 6.1	
Drugs	388.7	367.7	362.6	+ 7.2	- 3.7
Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario	378.0	349.2	352.6	+ 7.2	
Western Provinces	424.2	429.4	395.7	+ 7.2	
Clothing	219.8	263.4	229.4	- 4.2	-19.2
Footwear	285.7	330.0	317.4	-10.0	-19.6
Dry Goods	230.1	241.1	250.6	- 8.2	-24.9
Maritimes and Quebec	213.3	241.4	231.8	- 8.0	
Ontario	256.2	238.3	272.5	- 6.0	
Western Provinces	231.8	243.2	259.3	-10.6	
Fruits and Vegetables.....	417.9	367.4	354.5	+17.9	+11.5
Maritimes and Quebec	403.5	326.0	345.5	+16.8	
Ontario	448.6	443.2	384.4	+16.7	
Western Provinces	405.9	343.3	338.0	+20.1	
Groceries	329.3	309.4	319.5	+ 2.4	- 7.4
Maritimes	342.2	327.8	324.1	+ 5.6	
Quebec	235.9	211.3	259.8	- 9.2	
Ontario	328.1	326.5	315.8	+ 3.9	
Prairies	327.8	294.0	313.1	+ 4.7	
British Columbia	484.9	447.9	444.9	+ 9.0	
Hardware	505.3	444.1	525.2	- 3.9	- 2.6
Maritimes	428.6	427.6	433.8	- 1.2	
Quebec	407.6	375.3	444.0	- 8.2	
Ontario	558.3	535.8	587.7	- 5.0	
Western Provinces	537.5	430.1	545.7	- 1.5	
Tobacco and Confectionery	490.3	442.0	416.0	+18.5	-11.2
Maritimes and Quebec	447.9	484.5	395.3	+13.3	
Ontario	535.1	431.6	463.3	+15.5	
Western Provinces	461.6	390.8	342.7	+34.7	

1. Composite of Nine Trades

Note: Figures for Newfoundland are not included.

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