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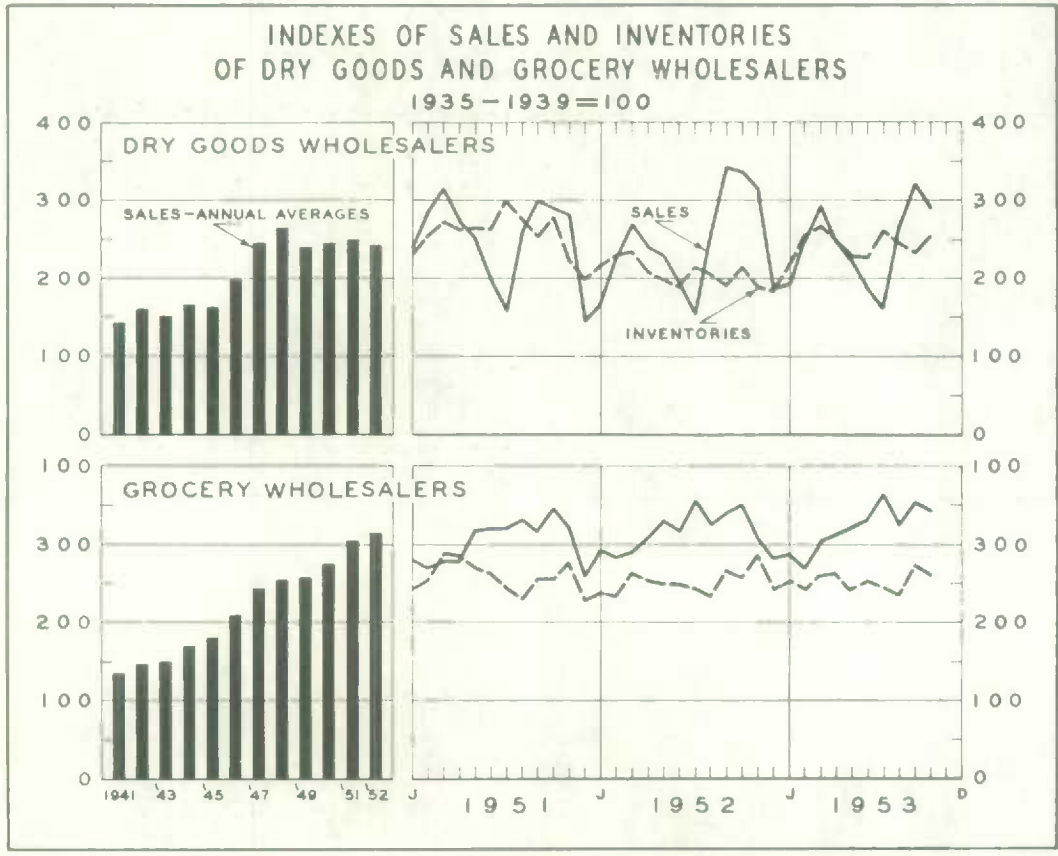
WHOLESALE TRADE

OCTOBER, 1953



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 400.4 for October 1953 compared with 414.3 for October a year ago and 409.5 for September 1953.



Sales Trends by Trades

Wholesale sales moved downward in October 1953 for the first time in five months, according to figures submitted by wholesalers in the nine trades covered in this survey. Wholesalers of footwear reported decreased sales of 24% compared with October 1952, dry goods sales declined 13%, clothing 10%, fruits and vegetables 7% and tobacco and confectionery 3%. Wholesalers of auto parts and equipment, groceries and drugs all reported a drop of 2% in sales. Sales of hardware with an increase of 1% reported the only gain in sales during October 1953.

Inventories

The dollar value of stocks held by wholesalers was 3% higher at the end of October 1953 than at the same date last year. Inventories of clothing and footwear increased 28% and 21% respectively. Stocks of dry goods were 19% higher, tobacco and confectionery stocks increased 8% while smaller gains of 6% and 2% were reported by wholesalers of auto parts and equipment and groceries. Month end stocks of fruits and vegetables declined 19%, while stocks of drugs and hardware declined 2% and 1% respectively.

Grocery and Dry Goods Wholesalers' Inventories

Month and Year	Index Number of Wholesale Inventories (Average for 1935-1939=100)	
	<u>Dry Goods Wholesalers</u>	<u>Grocery Wholesalers</u>
October 1953	255.1	261.2
September 1953	231.1	273.4
October 1952	214.7	256.8

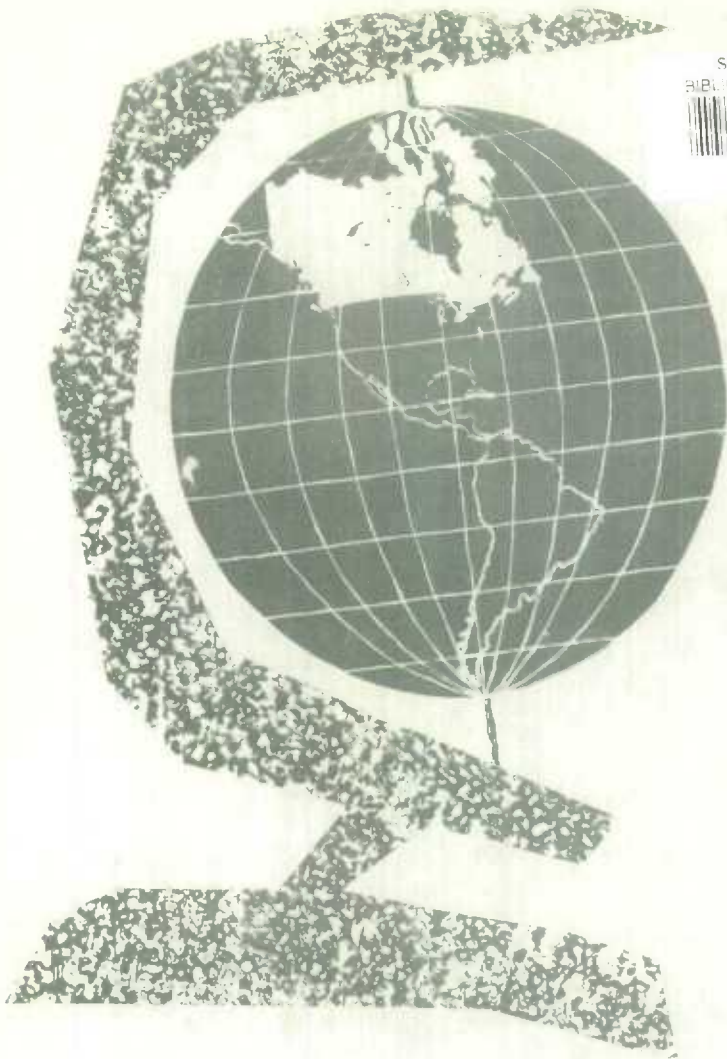
Trade and Region	Monthly Indexes of Sales (Average 1935-39 = 100)			Percentage Change (Current month over same month last year)	
	October(P) 1953	September(R) 1953	October 1952	Sales %	Inventory %
Wholesale Trade¹, Canada	400.4	409.5	414.3	- 4.0	+ 3.1
Auto Parts and Equipment	663.5	713.3	678.5	- 2.3	+ 6.5
Maritimes and Quebec	562.4	561.3	655.5	- 14.2	
Ontario	711.7	748.7	693.0	+ 2.7	
Western Provinces.....	664.3	771.6	673.1	- 1.3	
Drugs	423.6	407.2	432.4	- 2.1	- 2.0
Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario	408.0	407.4	417.6	- 2.3	
Western Provinces	475.4	407.2	481.7	- 1.3	
Clothing	363.3	318.8	403.7	- 10.0	+ 27.7
Footwear	427.3	512.3	565.9	- 24.5	+ 21.0
Dry Goods	290.4	321.2	336.0	- 13.4	+ 18.8
Maritimes and Quebec	263.5	306.6	297.4	- 11.4	
Ontario	307.3	327.4	368.5	- 16.6	
Western Provinces	315.6	337.7	364.8	- 13.5	
Fruits and Vegetables.....	306.6	291.1	320.2	- 7.4	- 19.4
Maritimes and Quebec	172.0	177.8	208.0	- 17.3	
Ontario	256.7	260.6	288.1	- 10.9	
Western Provinces	478.6	426.1	455.4	+ 5.1	
Groceries	342.6	353.3	349.8	- 2.1	+ 1.7
Maritimes	350.7	335.8	373.1	- 6.0	
Quebec	251.4	247.9	266.0	- 5.5	
Ontario	342.4	336.0	346.2	- 1.1	
Prairies	343.8	374.4	336.4	+ 2.2	
British Columbia	491.6	561.8	508.9	- 3.4	
Hardware	526.1	542.0	522.7	+ 0.6	- 0.9
Maritimes	535.9	509.4	529.0	+ 1.3	
Quebec	547.0	564.5	540.5	+ 1.2	
Ontario	551.0	588.5	530.3	+ 3.9	
Western Provinces	499.5	508.9	508.1	- 1.7	
Tobacco and Confectionery	446.1	439.7	460.2	- 3.0	+ 7.8
Maritimes and Quebec	450.3	433.7	471.5	- 4.5	
Ontario	447.1	452.5	460.9	- 3.0	
Western Provinces	436.2	420.5	438.4	- 0.5	

1. Composite of Nine Trades

Note: Figures for Newfoundland are not included.

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