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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
Industry and Merchandising Division
OTTAWA

Published by Authority of the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce

Vol. 19 - No. 12

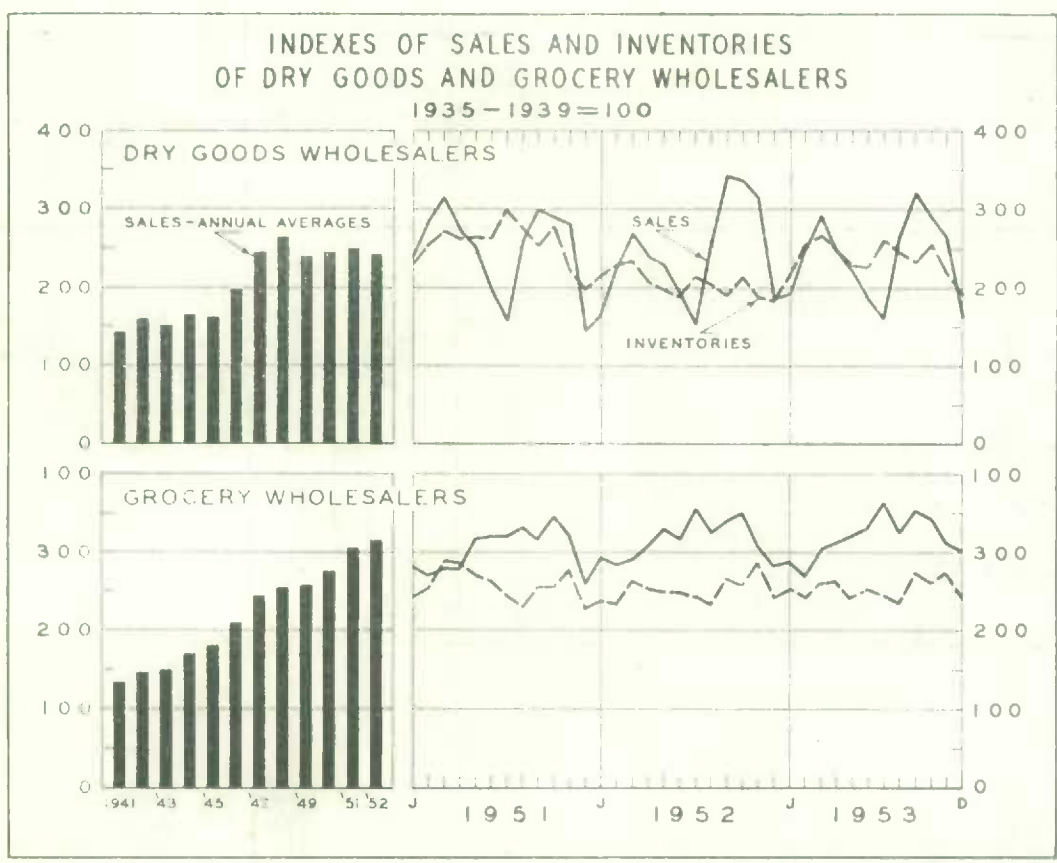
\$1.00 a year

WHOLESALE TRADE
DECEMBER, 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 344.4 for December 1953 compared with 340.8 for December a year ago and 361.5 for November 1953.



Sales Trends by Trades

Wholesale sales in December were slightly higher than in the same month last year. Increased sales reported for drugs and groceries more than offset declines in the other trades covered in this survey. Wholesalers of drugs and groceries registered sales increases of 4% and 7% respectively compared with sales in December 1952. In the soft goods trades, dry goods' sales dropped 12%, clothing 9% and footwear 7%. Wholesalers of hardware reported a decline of 3% in sales while auto parts and equipment sales dropped less than 1%. Fruit and vegetable wholesalers showed a drop of 4% in sales while tobacco and confectionery sales remained unchanged from December last year.

Inventories

Stocks held by wholesalers were valued 1% higher at the end of December 1953 than at the same date last year. Substantial increases in inventory were reported by wholesalers of footwear and clothing (58% and 17% respectively.) Stocks of auto parts and equipment were 12% higher while those of dry goods and tobacco and confectionery increased 8% and 7% respectively. Wholesalers of fruits and vegetables reported the only substantial drop in stocks - 17% below the level at December 31, 1952. Inventory of hardware declined 3%, groceries 1% and drugs less than 1%.

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>
December 1953	192.9	240.3
November 1953	219.5	273.9
December 1952	178.9	243.2

Wholesale Trade in Canada
DECEMBER 1953

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Trade and Region	Monthly Indexes of Sales (Average 1935-39 = 100)			Percentage Change (Current month over same month last year)	
	December (P) 1953	November (R) 1953	December 1952	Sales %	Inventory %
Wholesale Trade¹, Canada	344.4	361.5	340.8	+ 0.7	+ 1.1
Auto Parts and Equipment	506.0	616.2	508.4	- 0.6	+ 11.9
Maritimes and Quebec	428.3	548.4	509.9	- 16.0	
Ontario	575.9	624.9	542.8	+ 6.1	
Western Provinces.....	456.1	653.1	454.3	+ 0.4	
Drugs	407.4	408.8	393.4	+ 3.7	- 0.1
Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario	390.7	393.1	374.6	+ 4.3	
Western Provinces	463.0	461.0	456.2	+ 1.5	
Clothing	226.1	281.5	247.9	- 8.8	+ 16.6
Footwear	281.6	321.7	303.4	- 7.2	+ 58.2
Dry Goods	162.2	266.0	183.7	- 11.8	+ 7.8
Maritimes and Quebec	138.1	248.9	156.7	- 11.9	
Ontario	162.5	270.6	184.4	- 11.9	
Western Provinces	198.4	287.7	223.9	- 11.4	
Fruits and Vegetables.....	317.2	262.4	322.4	- 4.2	- 17.3
Maritimes and Quebec	191.9	205.8	226.8	- 15.4	
Ontario	285.6	241.5	304.2	- 6.1	
Western Provinces	464.7	334.7	429.9	+ 8.1	
Groceries	302.0	311.7	282.7	+ 6.9	- 1.2
Maritimes	298.7	312.1	299.0	- 0.1	
Quebec	242.7	239.5	216.9	+ 11.9	
Ontario	315.2	300.8	297.9	+ 5.8	
Prairies	268.0	316.3	250.7	+ 6.9	
British Columbia	455.6	458.3	411.2	+ 10.8	
Hardware	413.5	472.2	423.1	- 2.7	- 2.8
Maritimes	330.5	404.9	330.5	(2)	
Quebec	420.6	523.8	408.7	+ 2.9	
Ontario	528.1	484.1	514.2	+ 2.7	
Western Provinces	357.3	449.0	393.1	- 9.1	
Tobacco and Confectionery	463.0	410.2	463.1	(2)	+ 7.0
Maritimes and Quebec	481.7	395.0	482.7	- 0.2	
Ontario	464.3	413.0	469.0	- 1.0	
Western Provinces	426.8	430.5	414.8	+ 2.9	

1. Composite of Nine Trades 2. Unchanged

Note: Figures for Newfoundland are not included.

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