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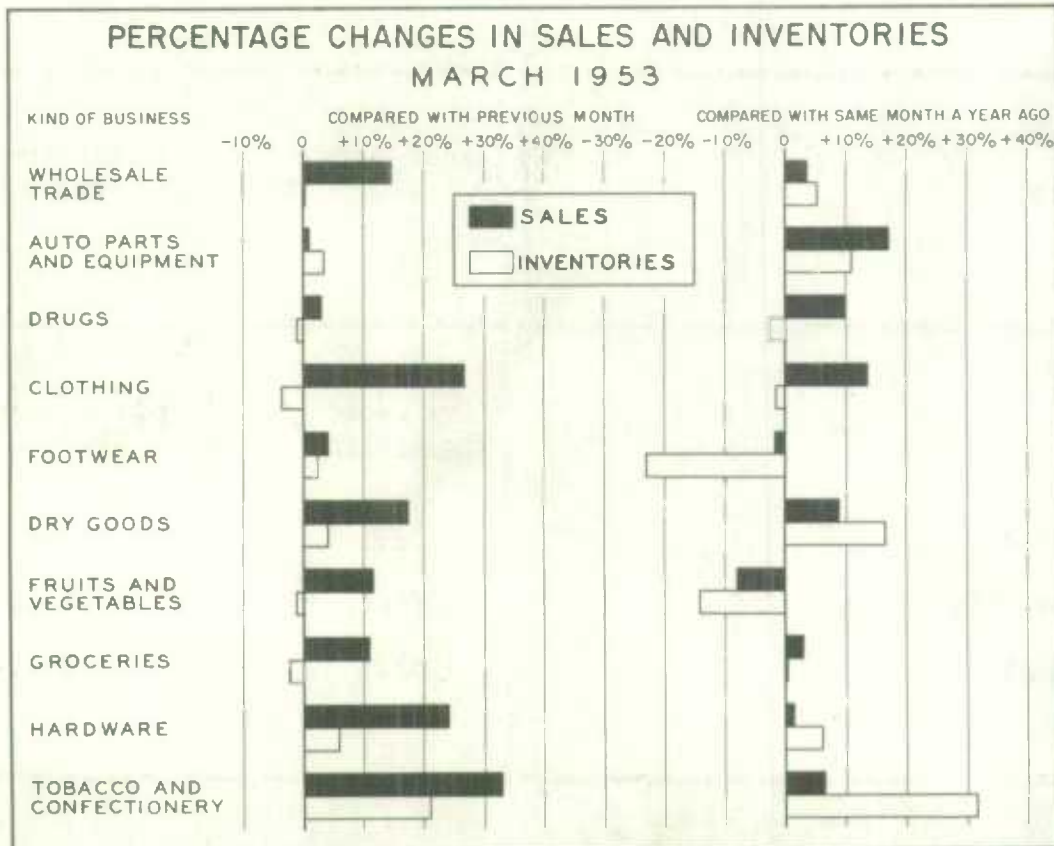
WHOLESALE TRADE

MARCH, 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 349.0 for March 1953 compared with 335.5 for March a year ago and 304.4 for February 1953.



Sales Trends by Trades

Wholesale sales moved upward in March, sales for the nine trades covered in this survey being almost 4% higher than in the same month last year. Wholesalers of auto parts and equipment registered the greatest increase in sales, 17% above last year's March level, followed by wholesalers of clothing with an increase of 13%, drugs 10%, dry goods 9%, tobacco and confectionery 6%, groceries 3%, and hardware with 1%. Sales of fruits and vegetables declined 8% while sales of footwear were 2% lower than in March a year ago.

Inventories

Stocks held by wholesalers were 5% higher at the end of March 1953 than at the same date last year. Month-end inventories of tobacco and confectionery were 31% higher than a year earlier. Wholesalers of dry goods, auto parts and equipment, hardware, and groceries reported increased stocks of 16%, 11%, 6% and less than 1% respectively. Stocks of footwear were 23% lower than a year ago while stocks of fruits and vegetables declined 14%, drugs 3%, and clothing 2%.

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>
March 1952	234.1	264.0
February 1953	255.5	244.0
March 1953	272.5	264.5

Wholesale Trade in Canada

Trade and Region	Monthly Indexes of Sales (Average 1935-39 = 100)			Percentage Change (Current month over same month last year)	
	March (P) 1953	February (R) 1953	March 1952	Sales %	Inventory %
Wholesale Trade¹, Canada	349.0	304.4	335.5	+ 3.6	+ 5.3
Auto Parts and Equipment	563.2	556.8	479.6	+ 17.1	+ 10.7
Maritimes and Quebec	421.7	461.4	429.9	- 1.9	
Ontario	639.4	558.9	484.0	+ 32.1	
Western Provinces.....	550.9	624.3	509.6	+ 8.1	
Drugs	357.0	346.5	325.0	+ 10.0	- 2.7
Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario	341.8	325.7	308.5	+ 10.8	
Western Provinces	407.4	415.7	380.0	+ 7.2	
Clothing	308.6	243.5	271.9	+ 13.5	- 1.6
Footwear	355.1	340.9	361.2	- 1.7	- 23.1
Dry Goods	293.3	249.5	270.1	+ 8.8	+ 16.4
Maritimes and Quebec	279.3	221.0	247.8	+ 12.7	
Ontario	288.2	284.9	278.7	+ 3.4	
Western Provinces	318.9	260.3	296.1	+ 7.7	
Fruits and Vegetables	282.3	252.9	307.2	- 7.9	- 14.0
Maritimes and Quebec	259.8	242.4	288.0	- 9.8	
Ontario	297.5	239.3	341.9	- 13.0	
Western Provinces	291.0	274.4	296.3	- 1.8	
Groceries	300.6	270.6	292.1	+ 2.7	+ 0.2
Maritimes	309.3	272.1	337.3	- 8.3	
Quebec	207.6	189.1	217.8	- 4.7	
Ontario	286.3	255.6	278.2	+ 2.9	
Prairies	310.0	273.2	276.8	+ 12.0	
British Columbia	471.6	448.9	437.9	+ 7.7	
Hardware	416.0	335.0	410.7	+ 1.2	+ 6.2
Maritimes	336.6	243.6	312.2	+ 7.8	
Quebec	382.7	301.1	390.1	- 1.9	
Ontario	482.3	388.5	441.7	+ 9.2	
Western Provinces	407.7	336.2	419.0	- 2.7	
Tobacco and Confectionery	415.8	313.0	390.9	+ 6.4	+ 31.4
Maritimes and Quebec	433.1	274.4	407.4	+ 6.3	
Ontario	404.8	339.2	384.8	+ 5.2	
Western Provinces	410.6	320.5	375.7	+ 9.3	

1. Composite of Nine Trades

Note: Figures for Newfoundland are not included.

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