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WHOLESALE TRADE
APRIL, 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 366.6 for April 1953 compared with 361.9 for April a year ago and 349.1 for March 1953.



Sales Trends by Trades

Wholesale sales were only fractionally higher in April 1953 than in the same month last year, according to figures submitted by wholesalers in the nine trades covered in this survey. Sales of auto parts and equipment again recorded the greatest gain (14%), followed by footwear with an increase of 11%, drugs and hardware 5%, dry goods 3%, clothing and groceries less than 1%. Wholesalers of fruits and vegetables recorded a decline in sales of 10% while wholesalers of tobacco and confectionery reported sales 5% lower than in April last year.

Inventories

Stocks held by wholesalers were 7% higher at the end of April 1953 than at the same date last year. Substantial gains in month-end inventories were reported by wholesalers of tobacco and confectionery, dry goods, and auto parts and equipment, 24%, 19% and 15% respectively. Smaller gains of 9%, 5%, and 4% were reported by wholesalers of footwear, groceries, and hardware. Stocks of clothing declined 9% from a year ago while stocks of fruits and vegetables were 7% lower and drugs 5%.

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>
April 1953	248.1	265.8
March 1953	272.5	264.5
April 1952	208.7	252.7

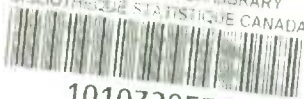
Wholesale Trade in Canada

Trade and Region	Monthly Indexes of Sales (Average 1935-39 = 100)			Percentage Change (Current month over same month last year)	
	April (P) 1953	March (R) 1953	April 1952	Sales %	Inventory %
Wholesale Trade¹, Canada	366.6	349.1	361.9	+ 0.8	+ 6.9
Auto Parts and Equipment	592.9	562.7	516.9	+ 14.5	+ 15.5
Maritimes and Quebec	459.6	421.7	425.6	+ 8.0	
Ontario	611.4	638.4	515.1	+ 18.7	
Western Provinces.....	663.1	550.9	587.3	+ 12.9	
Drugs	387.2	356.7	367.7	+ 5.5	- 4.8
Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario	373.6	341.5	349.2	+ 7.0	
Western Provinces	432.4	407.4	429.4	+ 0.7	
Clothing	265.8	301.3	263.4	+ 0.9	- 9.0
Footwear	366.0	366.2	330.0	+ 10.9	+ 9.0
Dry Goods	247.4	293.3	241.1	+ 2.6	+ 18.9
Maritimes and Quebec	252.3	279.3	241.4	+ 4.5	
Ontario	241.9	288.2	238.3	+ 1.5	
Western Provinces	245.1	318.9	243.2	+ 0.8	
Fruits and Vegetables.....	329.8	283.6	368.2	- 10.1	- 7.2
Maritimes and Quebec	282.0	259.8	328.3	- 14.1	
Ontario	379.4	298.1	443.2	- 14.4	
Western Provinces	334.0	294.2	343.3	- 2.7	
Groceries	313.2	300.7	309.7	+ 0.3	+ 5.2
Maritimes	318.6	309.6	327.8	- 2.8	
Quebec	205.5	207.6	213.2	- 3.6	
Ontario	299.1	286.5	326.5	- 8.4	
Prairies	314.6	310.0	294.0	+ 7.0	
British Columbia	533.4	471.6	447.9	+ 19.1	
Hardware	466.2	416.0	444.1	+ 5.4	+ 4.3
Maritimes	443.0	336.6	427.6	+ 3.6	
Quebec	414.7	382.7	375.3	+ 10.5	
Ontario	536.9	482.3	535.8	+ 0.2	
Western Provinces	456.3	407.7	430.1	+ 6.1	
Tobacco and Confectionery	419.6	415.2	442.8	- 5.2	+ 24.0
Maritimes and Quebec	450.1	433.1	484.5	- 7.1	
Ontario	419.4	404.0	433.3	- 3.2	
Western Provinces	365.8	409.5	390.8	- 6.4	

1. Composite of Nine Trades

Note: Figures for Newfoundland are not included.

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