



DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
Industry and Merchandising Division
OTTAWA

No. 19 - May
to the public
the largest

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

Vol. 19 -No. 5

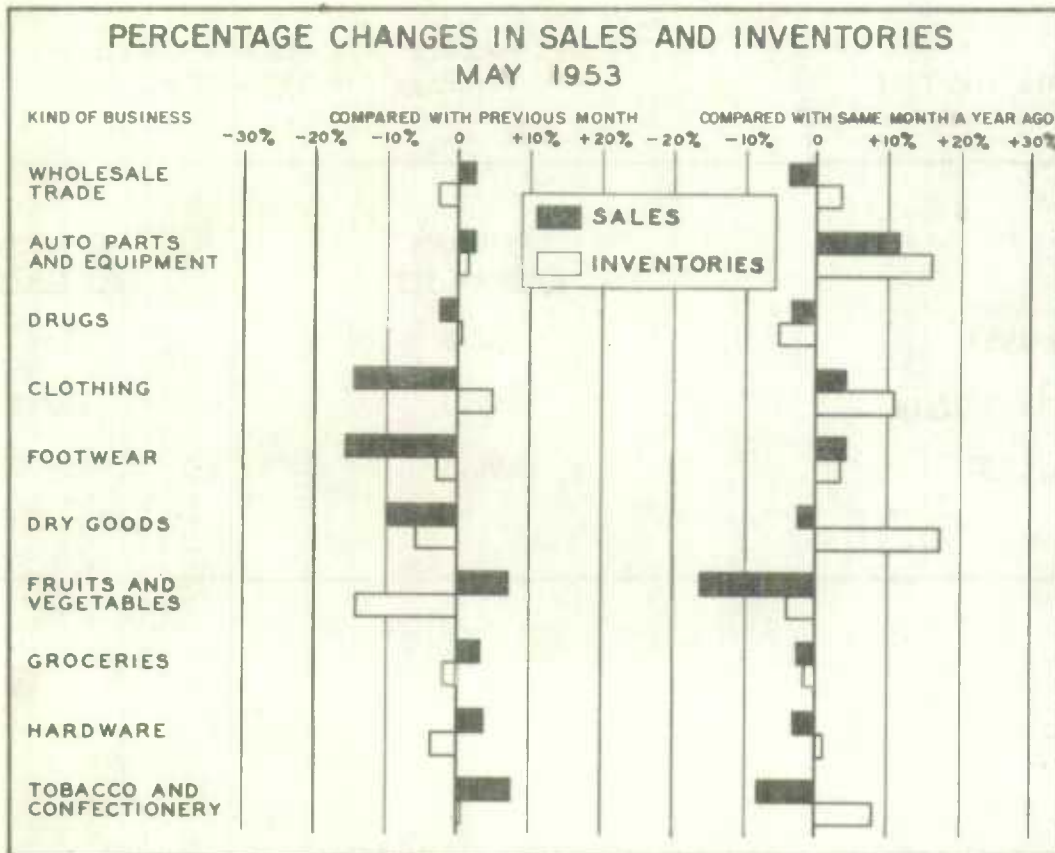
\$1.00 a year

WHOLESALE TRADE
MAY, 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 375.2 for May 1953 compared with 390.5 for May a year ago and 366.5 for April 1953.



Sales Trends by Trades

Wholesale sales, in the nine trades covered in this survey, were 4% lower in May 1953 than in the same month last year. Wholesalers in the majority of the trades reported decreased sales. Sales of fruits and vegetables declined 16% followed by tobacco and confectionery with a drop of 8%. Wholesalers of drugs, hardware and groceries all reported a 3% decline in sales, while sales of dry goods were 2% lower. Sales of auto parts and equipment recorded the greatest gain for the fourth consecutive month, May sales being 11% higher than last year. Wholesalers of clothing and footwear reported a smaller increase of 4%.

Inventories

Stocks held by wholesalers were 3% higher at the end of May 1953 than at the same date last year. All trades with the exception of drugs, fruits and vegetables, and groceries reported increased stocks ranging from 1% to 17%. Inventories of drugs were 5% lower, followed by fruit and vegetables with 4% and groceries with a drop of 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>
May 1953	232.6	245.0
April 1953	247.5	262.3
May 1952	198.5	249.0

Trade and Region	Monthly Indexes of Sales (Average 1935-39 = 100)			Percentage Change (Current month over same month last year)	
	May (P) 1953	April (R) 1953	May 1952	Sales %	Inventory %
Wholesale Trade¹, Canada	375.2	366.5	390.5	- 3.8	+ 3.4
Auto Parts and Equipment	606.7	592.3	545.3	+ 11.3	+ 16.2
Maritimes and Quebec	615.5	457.1	597.6	+ 3.0	
Ontario	559.2	611.4	506.5	+ 10.4	
Western Provinces.....	673.1	663.1	566.1	+ 18.9	
Drugs	376.5	387.2	390.0	- 2.4	- 5.3
Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario	369.2	373.6	379.4	- 2.7	
Western Provinces	400.7	432.4	425.4	- 5.8	
Clothing	227.8	266.0	218.8	+ 4.1	+ 10.8
Footwear	299.0	354.4	287.2	+ 4.1	+ 3.3
Dry Goods	223.7	247.9	229.9	- 2.4	+ 17.2
Maritimes and Quebec	216.1	252.3	213.3	+ 1.3	
Ontario	231.1	241.9	255.6	- 9.6	
Western Provinces	228.6	246.8	231.8	- 1.4	
Fruits and Vegetables.....	352.6	329.5	421.5	- 16.2	- 3.9
Maritimes and Quebec	333.2	279.4	404.9	- 17.7	
Ontario	360.2	380.3	457.1	- 21.2	
Western Provinces	364.9	334.7	407.3	- 10.4	
Groceries	322.0	312.7	329.7	- 2.7	- 1.6
Maritimes	335.4	318.3	342.2	- 2.0	
Quebec	225.6	206.8	236.2	- 4.5	
Ontario	313.5	302.0	329.7	- 4.9	
Prairies	321.0	308.4	327.2	- 1.9	
British Columbia	500.9	533.4	484.9	+ 3.3	
Hardware	485.6	468.8	505.1	- 3.2	+ 1.0
Maritimes	413.6	443.0	428.6	- 3.5	
Quebec	436.1	414.7	407.6	+ 7.0	
Ontario	527.0	547.1	557.7	- 5.5	
Western Provinces	498.8	456.3	537.5	- 7.2	
Tobacco and Confectionery	451.2	419.6	491.0	- 8.2	+ 7.8
Maritimes and Quebec	409.1	450.1	450.6	- 9.2	
Ontario	501.1	419.9	536.5	- 6.6	
Western Provinces	409.7	365.0	456.8	- 10.3	

1. Composite of Nine Trades

Note: Figures for Newfoundland are not included.

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010720573