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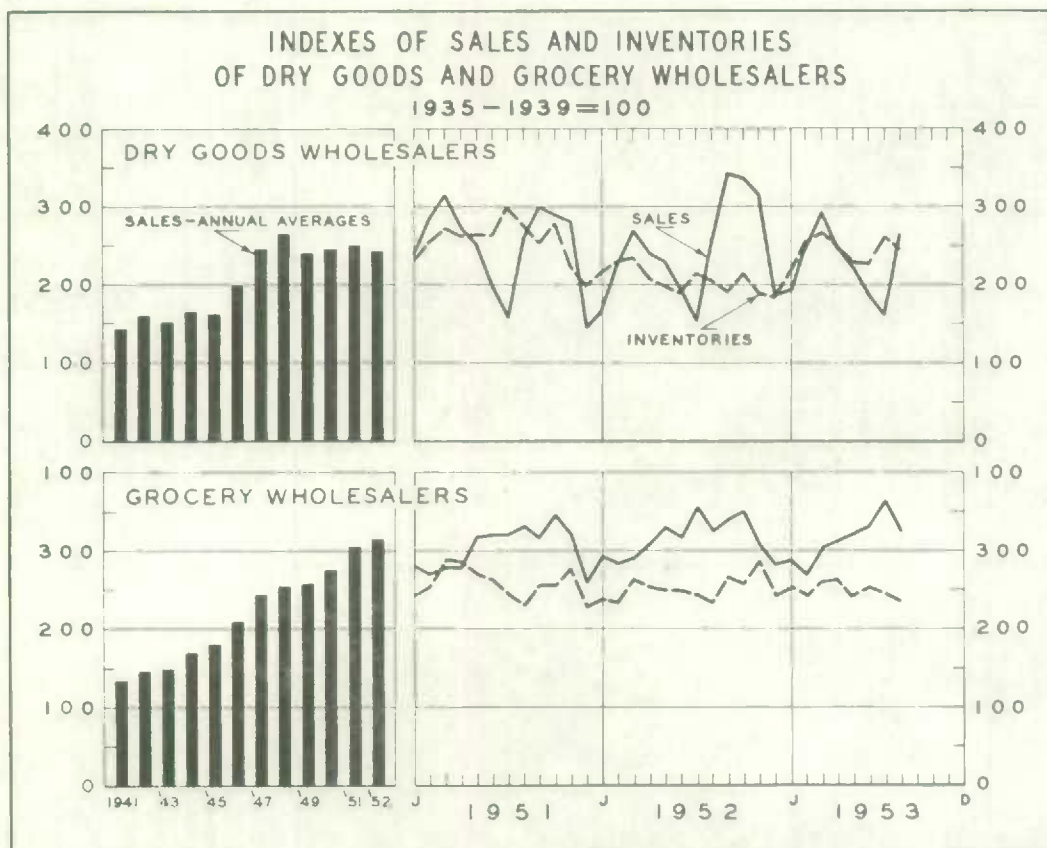
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WHOLESALE TRADE
AUGUST, 1953

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 370.0 for August 1953 compared with 366.9 for August a year ago and 379.5 for July 1953.



Sales Trends by Trades

Wholesale sales continued fractionally higher in August 1953 than in the same month a year ago, according to figures submitted by wholesalers in the nine trades covered in this survey. All trades, with the exception of tobacco and confectionery and fruits and vegetables reported increased sales. Wholesalers of clothing reported sales 9% above August last year, sales of dry goods increased 4% while sales of both drugs and auto parts and equipment were 3% higher. Wholesalers of footwear and groceries reported fractional increases. Sales of tobacco and confectionery and fruits and vegetables declined 2% and 1% respectively.

Inventories

Stocks held by wholesalers were valued 4% higher at the end of August 1953 than at the same date last year. Month end inventories of clothing and dry goods increased 32% and 19% respectively. Stocks of footwear were 12% higher, inventories of auto parts and equipment and fruits and vegetables increased 9% and 8% respectively, while a smaller increase of 1% in stocks was reported by wholesalers of groceries and hardware. Tobacco and confectionery stocks declined 2%, while stocks of drugs were 3% lower than at the end of August 1952.

Grocery and Dry Goods Wholesalers' Inventories

Month and Year	Index Numbers of Wholesale Inventories (Average for 1935-1939=100)	
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	<u>Dry Goods Wholesalers</u>	<u>Grocery Wholesalers</u>
August 1953	245.9	235.2
July 1953	262.2	245.2
August 1952	206.1	232.4

Trade and Region	Monthly Indexes of Sales (Average 1935-39 = 100)			Percentage Change (Current month over same month last year)	
	August (P) 1953	July (R) 1953	August 1952	Sales	Inventory
				%	%
Wholesale Trade¹, Canada	370.0	379.5	366.9	+ 0.8	+ 4.5
Auto Parts and Equipment	612.6	572.4	599.0	+ 2.7	+ 9.2
Maritimes and Quebec	474.6	427.6	498.0	- 4.7	
Ontario	620.2	666.5	561.3	+ 10.5	
Western Provinces.....	703.3	534.9	731.8	- 3.9	
Drugs	367.4	375.8	356.5	+ 3.0	- 3.0
Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario	349.0	353.4	340.5	+ 2.5	
Western Provinces	428.5	450.2	409.7	+ 4.6	
Clothing	282.5	168.8	259.2	+ 9.0	+ 32.4
Footwear	477.3	227.0	474.9	+ 0.5	+ 11.9
Dry Goods	266.3	161.1	257.8	+ 3.8	+ 19.3
Maritimes and Quebec	224.3	118.9	209.6	+ 7.0	
Ontario	287.3	154.9	280.1	+ 2.6	
Western Provinces	310.5	230.3	310.2	+ 0.1	
Fruits and Vegetables.....	313.1	357.3	313.3	- 0.8	+ 7.8
Maritimes and Quebec	213.2	286.5	218.7	- 2.5	
Ontario	281.0	343.2	292.7	- 4.0	
Western Provinces	436.6	437.4	421.8	+ 3.5	
Groceries	327.2	365.0	324.7	+ 0.4	+ 1.2
Maritimes	352.9	366.8	358.3	- 1.5	
Quebec	219.0	245.7	223.5	- 2.0	
Ontario	321.1	366.5	319.8	+ 0.4	
Prairies	341.5	392.6	341.2	+ 0.1	
British Columbia	468.2	505.0	433.9	+ 7.9	
Hardware	452.6	464.6	449.3	+ 1.0	+ 1.1
Maritimes	403.3	397.5	385.6	+ 4.6	
Quebec	449.5	444.5	424.5	+ 5.9	
Ontario	417.7	483.5	414.8	+ 0.7	
Western Provinces	481.8	474.7	491.6	- 2.0	
Tobacco and Confectionery	398.9	446.3	408.9	- 2.4	- 2.2
Maritimes and Quebec	354.3	411.0	364.5	- 2.8	
Ontario	435.2	469.9	448.7	- 3.0	
Western Provinces	393.7	454.0	395.3	- 0.4	

1. Composite of Nine Trades

Note: Figures for Newfoundland are not included.

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