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CURRENT TRENDS IN WHOLESALE TRADE

Dec. 1935

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics some time ago began the collection of monthly data on current trends in wholesale trade. Through the co-operation of some two hundred large wholesale houses operating in nine lines of trade, monthly data have been secured from September, 1934. For some years the Bureau has published monthly data for sales of chain and department stores. This series will provide somewhat similar monthly data for wholesale trade.

Sales of the wholesale houses which are furnishing the monthly reports constitute generally between 40 and 50 per cent of the business of all wholesale firms in the same trades.

Kinds of business included in this monthly survey represent staple lines of wholesale trade. For those who wish to relate the monthly figures to the annual reports on wholesale trade, the following definitions are given:-

Automotive trade includes automotive equipment and automotive parts.

Drug trade includes drugs and drug sundries.

Clothing trade includes clothing and furnishings.

Footwear trade includes shoes and other footwear.

Dry Goods trade includes dry goods and piece goods.

Fruits and Vegetables trade includes fruits and vegetables (fresh).

Groceries trade includes groceries (general line).

Hardware trade includes hardware (general and specialty).

Tobacco and Confectionery trade includes cigars, cigarettes and tobacco and tobacco and confectionery trade.

Monthly reports on wholesale trade are secured from regular wholesale houses and are compiled according to kinds of business. While many wholesale houses restrict their trade to a few commodity lines, others, particularly in the hardware field, handle many commodities. Some wholesale automotive dealers also act as distributors for radios. The statistics for wholesale trades cannot, therefore, be taken as entirely indicative of sales by commodities.

Changes in Value of Sales During 1935

Preliminary totals for the year show an increase of 5.3 per cent in the combined sales of all firms reporting compared with the sales of the same firms in 1934. The gains by kinds of business ranged from 2.0 per cent for dry goods to 8.0 per cent for footwear.

Combined sales of all firms by provinces show that sales in the Maritime Provinces were maintained at the level of the preceding year. The remaining divisions showed gains ranging from 3.8 per cent for firms in Ontario to 8.6 per cent for those in British Columbia.

Percentage Changes in Wholesale Sales

Pourcentage des changements dans les ventes au gros

	Percentage change, 1935 compared with 1934		
	Pourcentage du changement, 1935 comparé à 1934		
	November 1935 ⁽¹⁾ Novembre 1934	December 1935 ⁽²⁾ Decembre 1934	Year 1935 année ⁽²⁾ Year 1934 année
Automotive Equipment -- Equipement automoteur	+ 6.6	-13.6	+ 6.2
Maritimes and Quebec	+20.4	+ 7.9	- 7.7
Ontario	+ 1.1	- 6.6	+ 2.8
Western Provinces.--de l'Ouest .	+ 6.5	-22.2	+12.0
Drugs -- Drogues	+ 4.6	+11.5	+ 6.4
Eastern Provinces.--de l'Est ...	+ 5.8	+13.6	+ 7.2
Western Provinces.--de l'Ouest .	+ 1.2	+ 6.4	+ 4.6
Clothing -- Vêtement	+10.1	+23.1	+ 4.8
Quebec	- 0.6	+29.2	+ 4.1
Ontario and Western Provinces.-- de l'Ouest	+24.7	+15.5	+ 5.5
Footwear -- Chaussures	+16.5	+38.2	+ 8.0
Quebec	+21.8	+53.8	+ 8.2
Ontario	+ 4.0	+ 4.6	+ 7.6
Dry Goods -- Marchandises sèches .	+ 2.5	+ 7.3	+ 2.0
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 4.0	+14.6	+ 5.0
Ontario	- 1.2	+ 4.1	- 1.1
Western Provinces.--de l'Ouest .	+ 5.4	- 2.7	+ 1.4
Fruits and Vegetables -- Fruits et légumes	+ 4.5	+ 5.4	+ 5.8
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 4.4	+23.1	+12.4
Ontario	- 1.3	+ 5.0	+ 3.4
Western Provinces.--de l'Ouest .	+ 8.6	+ 1.7	+ 5.9
Groceries -- Epiceries	+ 8.6	+10.9	+ 5.2
Maritimes	+18.0	+10.2	+ 0.4
Quebec	+ 3.4	+18.0	+ 1.1
Ontario	+ 5.1	+ 8.2	+ 3.6
Prairies	+ 8.8	+13.3	+ 8.6
British Columbia	+18.4	+ 5.0	+ 7.3
Hardware -- Quincaillerie	+ 6.8	+ 8.5	+ 7.0
Maritimes	-13.5	- 0.8	- 3.5
Quebec	+ 8.7	+10.2	+ 5.7
Ontario	+ 6.8	+11.8	+ 7.6
Western Provinces.--de l'Ouest .	+ 9.1	+ 8.0	+ 9.0
Tobacco and Confectionery -- Tabac et confiseries	+ 5.5	+12.5	+ 6.7
Quebec	+ 6.5	+14.0	+ 6.7
Ontario	+ 8.1	+18.3	+12.4
Western Provinces.--de l'Ouest .	+ 2.1	+ 7.0	+ 2.9
Wholesale Trade -- Commerce de gros --			
Maritimes	+ 7.9	+ 5.8	+ 0.4
Quebec	+ 5.5	+20.2	+ 4.7
Ontario	+ 4.0	+ 7.8	+ 3.8
Prairies	+ 5.7	+ 6.0	+ 6.8
British Columbia	+19.9	+ 7.7	+ 8.6
CANADA	+ 6.9	+ 9.7	+ 5.3

(1) Revised.

(2) Preliminary.

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