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CURRENT TRENDS IN WHOLESALE TRADE, MAY, 1936

Value of wholesale trade in May showed an improvement of 4.2 per cent over that recorded for the same month last year according to reports submitted by approximately 200 wholesale houses operating in nine different lines of business. The May increase, while smaller than the 6.6 per cent gain recorded in April, 1936, over last year, is about equal to the average percentage gain for the first five months of the current year as compared with the corresponding five-month period of 1935.

British Columbia continues to report the greatest improvement with a gain of 11.7 per cent in May as compared with a year ago. The Prairie Provinces were up by 4.0 per cent; Québec showed an improvement of 3.7 per cent, and Ontario, 3.0 per cent. Wholesale trade in the Maritime Provinces was down slightly in May, being approximately one per cent below the 1935 figure.

Improvement in wholesale trade was general for all lines of business, the increases over May, 1935, ranging from 2 per cent for groceries to a maximum of 11.6 per cent for automotive equipment. Footwear was up 11.0 per cent; hardware, 8.3 per cent; and tobacco and confectionery showed an increase over last year of 5.9 per cent.

The wholesale grocery trade reported gains over last year in British Columbia, the Prairie Provinces and the Maritime Provinces but reported recessions as compared with May of last year in Ontario and Québec.

Value of inventory as on May 31, 1936, was 7.0 per cent higher than on the corresponding date a year ago. Percentage changes in inventory for the various groups ranged from a decrease of 5.1 per cent for automotive equipment to an increase of 23.5 per cent for footwear.

Percentage Changes in Wholesale Trade

Pourcentage des changements dans commerce au gros

	Percentage change, 1936 compared with 1935 Pourcentage du changement, 1936 compare a 1935		
	Sales - Ventes		Inventory Inventaire
	(1) April 1936 Avril 1935	(2) May 1936 Mai 1935	
Automotive Equipment - Equipement automoteur	+ 7.4	+ 11.6	- 5.1
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 12.7	+ 20.6	
Ontario	+ 2.4	+ 4.5	
Western Provinces - de l'Ouest	+ 9.5	+ 13.4	
Drugs - Drogues	+ 6.9	+ 4.1	+ 6.0
Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario	+ 7.3	+ 3.8	
Western Provinces - de l'Ouest	+ 5.6	+ 5.0	
Clothing - Vetement	+ 9.3	+ 3.3	- 4.0
Quebec	+ 5.7	- 9.0	
Ontario and Western Provinces - de l'Ouest	+ 13.3	+ 17.3	
Footwear - Chaussures	- 7.9	+ 11.0	+ 23.5
Quebec	- 3.7	+ 24.1	
Ontario	- 14.5	- 5.4	
Dry Goods - Marchandises seches	+ 3.9	+ 4.7	+ 2.6
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 5.5	+ 2.3	
Ontario	- 1.5	+ 8.7	
Western Provinces - de l'Ouest	+ 10.2	+ 4.2	
Fruits and Vegetables - Fruits et legumes ..	+ 2.4	+ 3.6	+ 14.0
Maritimes and Quebec	- 6.6	+ 8.2	
Ontario	+ 7.7	+ 6.5	
Western Provinces - de l'Ouest	+ 0.1	- 2.7	
Groceries - Epiceries	+ 7.8	+ 2.0	+ 13.6
Maritimes	+ 15.4	+ 3.1	
Quebec	+ 10.2	- 6.3	
Ontario	- 0.6	- 1.7	
Prairies	+ 9.3	+ 5.3	
British Columbia	+ 16.1	+ 10.2	
Hardware - Quincaillerie	+ 11.2	+ 8.3	+ 3.0
Maritimes	+ 7.9	- 14.1	
Quebec	+ 16.4	+ 9.3	
Ontario	+ 8.7	+ 11.5	
Western Provinces - de l'Ouest	+ 10.6	+ 9.5	
Tobacco and Confectionery - Tabacs et confiseries	+ 6.2	+ 5.9	+ 6.3
Quebec	+ 15.3	+ 13.5	
Ontario	- 1.2	+ 0.7	
Western Provinces - de l'Ouest	+ 3.4	+ 0.4	
Wholesale Trade - Commerce de gros --			
Maritimes	+ 11.9	- 0.8	
Quebec	+ 7.0	+ 3.7	
Ontario	+ 2.4	+ 3.0	
Prairies	+ 6.5	+ 4.0	
British Columbia	+ 15.0	+ 11.7	
CANADA	+ 6.6	+ 4.2	+ 7.0

(1) Revised - Revise.

(2) Preliminary - Preliminaire.

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