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Dominion Statistician: R. H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.S. (Hon.)

Internal Trade Branch
Chief: H. Marshall, B.A., F.S.S.

CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF WHOLESALE TRADE, FEBRUARY, 1937

The value of wholesale sales in Canada increased substantially in February, 1937, from February, 1936, according to reports submitted by almost 200 wholesale houses operating in nine different lines of trade. The total sales of reporting firms showed an increase of 12.5 per cent in February over the corresponding month last year, thus continuing the improvement recorded for every month of 1936 over the corresponding month of 1935 and for January, 1937, over January, 1936.

Results presented separately by economic divisions indicate that sales in February increased in all sections of the Dominion from February a year ago. The Maritimes reported the largest gain with an increase of 17.2 per cent, followed by the Prairie Provinces with 13.4 per cent and Quebec with 13.3 per cent. Ontario sales were up 11.5 per cent and British Columbia, which showed an increase last month of 20.9 per cent, indicated a gain of 10.1 per cent in the February comparison.

Improvements were recorded in all kind-of-business groups shown in this report. These ranged from 5.4 per cent in the Grocery trade to 38.2 per cent in the Footwear trade, which also reported the greatest gain in January over January of 1936. The Hardware trade again showed a substantial increase in the value of sales; in January the percentage gain for this group was 24.6 and in February, 25.7. The Clothing, Drugs, Dry Goods and the Fruit and Vegetable trades showed gains ranging between 16 and 19 per cent, while the Automotive and Tobacco and Confectionery groups recorded gains of 21.9 and 9.1 per cent respectively.

The value of inventories for all kinds of business combined as on February 28th, 1937, was 19.1 per cent higher than on the corresponding date a year ago. The highest increases reported were in the Fruit and Vegetables trade with 30.8 per cent, the Grocery trade with 29.7 per cent, and in the Footwear group with 29.2 per cent. The value of inventories in the Clothing trade showed the small increase of 1.7 per cent but sales for the same group were up 16.1 per cent.

The attached table, in addition to giving data for each of nine specified kind-of-business groupings, also shows percentage changes in sales and inventory under the caption "Wholesale Trade". It should be noted that the figures given under this heading are composites derived from the data reported for each of the nine kind-of-business groupings only and do not reflect changes in value of wholesale trade in any other lines than those included in this survey.

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Percentage Changes in Wholesale Trade

Pourcentage des changements dans commerce au gros

	Percentage change, 1937 compared with 1936 Pourcentage du changement, 1937 comparé à 1936		
	Sales -- Ventes		Inventory Inventaire
	(1) January 1937 Janvier 1936	(2) February 1937 Février 1936	February 1937 Février 1936
Automotive Equipment -- Équipement automoteur	+ 11.1	+ 21.9	+ 8.4
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 26.0	+ 26.4	
Ontario	+ 7.0	+ 15.6	
Western Provinces -- de l'Ouest	+ 7.5	+ 23.6	
Drugs -- Drogues	+ 11.0	+ 16.4	+ 11.1
Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario .	+ 11.2	+ 16.6	
Western Provinces -- de l'Ouest	+ 10.4	+ 15.9	
Clothing -- Vêtement	+ 2.6	+ 16.1	+ 1.7
Quebec	+ 1.8	+ 17.0	
Ontario and Western Provinces -- de l'Ouest	+ 3.5	+ 15.6	
Footwear -- Chaussures	+ 40.6	+ 38.2	+ 29.2
Quebec	+ 42.1	+ 25.8	
Ontario	+ 35.3	+ 70.0	
Dry Goods -- Marchandises sèches.	+ 6.8	+ 18.3	+ 6.8
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 0.4	+ 21.4	
Ontario	+ 10.9	+ 18.7	
Western Provinces -- de l'Ouest	+ 11.5	+ 12.8	
Fruits and Vegetables -- Fruits et légumes	+ 20.7	+ 18.4	+ 30.8
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 19.7	+ 12.0	
Ontario	+ 23.6	+ 14.7	
Western Provinces -- de l'Ouest	+ 18.4	+ 23.7	
Groceries -- Epiceries	+ 10.8	+ 5.4	+ 29.7
Maritimes	+ 22.1	+ 11.1	
Quebec	+ 14.8	+ 4.4	
Ontario	+ 7.7	+ 1.2	
Prairies	+ 4.8	+ 6.6	
British Columbia	+ 22.0	+ 9.0	
Hardware -- Quincaillerie	+ 24.6	+ 25.7	+ 18.3
Maritimes	+ 34.7	+ 35.9	
Quebec	+ 17.9	+ 29.9	
Ontario	+ 26.1	+ 47.8	
Western Provinces -- de l'Ouest	+ 25.2	+ 18.7	
Tobacco and Confectionery -- Tabacs et confiseries	+ 15.2	+ 9.1	+ 7.7
Quebec	+ 30.2	+ 10.2	
Ontario	+ 5.8	+ 7.8	
Western Provinces -- de l'Ouest	+ 5.2	+ 9.0	
Wholesale Trade -- Commerce de gros:			
Maritimes	+ 21.4	+ 17.2	
Quebec	+ 14.4	+ 13.3	
Ontario	+ 12.1	+ 11.5	
Prairies	+ 9.4	+ 13.4	
British Columbia	+ 20.9	+ 10.1	
CANADA	+ 13.5	+ 12.5	+ 19.1

(1) Revised -- Révisé.

(2) Preliminary -- Préliminaire.

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