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WHOLESALE TRADE

January, 1948

General Sales Index 3% Above January, 1947

Dollar volume of wholesale sales in Canada during the month of January, 1948 was 3% in excess of the volume for January, 1947 and 2% below the December, 1947 level. This drop between December and January is a normal seasonal trend which has not been in evidence since January, 1944. Figures are based on returns from 374 wholesalers in nine lines of trade. The general unadjusted index (on the base, average for 1935-1939=100) stood at 245.5 for January, 1948, 237.7 for January, 1947, and 251.3 for December, 1947.

Considerable variation in trends existed between the various regions. British Columbia had the largest increase over the previous year with a gain of 16%. Sales in Quebec and Ontario were up 7% and 3% respectively. Wholesalers in the Prairies reported sales 2% below January, 1947, while a drop of 7% was registered in the Maritime Provinces.

Increases Smaller than in Previous Months

Only the drug trade, with sales up 11%, reported an increase over January, 1947 larger than has occurred in preceding months. Tobacco and confectionery sales were up 6%. The other three trades showing an increase, viz. dry goods, hardware, and groceries, recorded considerably smaller gains than have been experienced for some months. Dry goods wholesalers' sales were 14% above January, 1947, hardware sales were up 13%, while grocers registered an increase of only 2%.

Sales Drop in Four Trades

Sales of wholesalers of clothing, automotive equipment, footwear, and fruits and vegetables were smaller in January, 1948 than in the same month last year. Decreases in these trades were as follows: clothing, 6%; automotive equipment, 7%; footwear, 10%; fruits and vegetables, 11%.

Inventories Valued 19% Higher

Largest increases in value of inventories at January 31, 1948 compared with January 31, 1947 were registered in the dry goods trade (42%); clothing (38%), automotive equipment (33%), and hardware (26%). Tobacco and confectionery and footwear wholesalers' stocks increased 17% and 16% respectively, while lesser gains of 8% and 5% were recorded by grocery and drug wholesalers. Stocks of fruits and vegetables were valued 8% lower.

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Percentage Changes in Wholesale Trade

	Percentage Change		
	Sales		INVENTORY
	(1) December 1947 December 1946	(2) January 1948 January 1947	
Automotive Equipment	+22.5	- 7.3	+33.2
Maritimes and Quebec	+19.8	-19.7	
Ontario	+27.1	+ 3.1	
Western Provinces	+19.6	-10.5	
Drugs	+10.4	+10.8	+ 5.3
Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario.	+13.0	+10.4	
Western Provinces	+ 2.9	+11.8	
Clothing	+11.4	- 6.3	+38.2
Quebec	- 5.7	-10.8	
Ontario and Western Provinces.	+28.1	- 4.2	
Footwear	+17.0	- 9.6	+16.4
Maritimes and Quebec	+25.3	- 3.7	
Ontario and Western Provinces.	+ 7.3	-16.0	
Dry Goods	+17.9	+14.3	+42.1
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 2.8	+22.2	
Ontario	+33.1	+ 9.0	
Western Provinces	+18.7	+10.0	
Fruits and Vegetables	-12.1	-11.2	- 7.5
Maritimes and Quebec	- 8.6	- 8.4	
Ontario	-11.7	- 9.0	
Western Provinces	-14.7	-15.1	
Groceries	+13.1	+ 2.0	+ 7.7
Maritimes	+ 9.0	- 6.1	
Quebec	+15.0	+ 1.4	
Ontario	+18.4	- 0.6	
Prairies	+ 7.5	+ 1.8	
British Columbia	+14.0	+17.6	
Hardware	+29.1	+12.7	+25.8
Maritimes	+19.7	- 1.4	
Quebec	+28.5	+15.8	
Ontario	+25.7	+18.7	
Western Provinces	+31.9	+ 9.9	
Tobacco and Confectionery	+17.3	+ 6.4	+16.5
Maritimes and Quebec	+22.6	+ 9.9	
Ontario	+20.0	+ 6.7	
Western Provinces	+12.5	+ 4.4	
Wholesale Trade -			
Maritimes	+ 8.7	- 6.6	
Quebec	+12.3	+ 7.1	
Ontario	+16.3	+ 3.4	
Prairies	+ 8.3	- 2.1	
British Columbia	+17.5	+16.3	
CANADA	+13.1	+ 3.3	+18.5

(1) Revised.

(2) Preliminary.

MONTHLY INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE SALES IN CANADA
(Average, 1935 - 1939 = 100)

Year and Month	WHOLESALE TRADE						AUTOMOTIVE EQUIPMENT			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
January, 1945	182.6	202.8	164.8	189.8	171.8	208.2	203.6	187.9	198.9	220.5
January, 1946	217.3	232.0	185.6	231.7	206.7	252.1	358.7	326.0	336.3	404.0
January, 1947	237.7	235.5	206.4	252.6	231.7	271.0	345.4	342.3	354.1	349.5
January, 1948	245.5	220.0	221.1	261.2	226.8	315.2	320.2	274.9	365.1	312.3
1947 - February	231.4	219.0	218.9	239.2	220.2	260.4	337.3	428.7	321.2	318.5
March	256.7	257.8	251.0	250.2	252.1	293.6	314.7	373.0	297.3	372.6
April	268.8	293.2	257.6	273.7	251.5	305.9	360.2	411.5	307.0	396.3
May	280.6	297.4	262.5	293.8	267.7	311.9	350.5	457.2	303.5	372.9
June	268.3	272.1	245.0	273.0	250.6	330.1	369.4	414.0	337.8	390.8
July	277.6	301.5	241.9	280.2	282.5	323.0	351.4	408.7	366.3	315.3
August	272.7	277.7	238.0	266.4	287.7	306.8	379.7	455.2	332.1	382.7
September ...	301.7	317.5	292.9	297.1	301.6	330.6	483.7	491.9	467.0	475.7
October	325.2	361.6	319.9	328.0	296.6	372.6	427.9	498.5	423.0	372.4
November	295.0	317.7	289.1	292.4	281.1	345.6	413.5	461.2	378.8	429.9
December	251.3	258.1	241.2	267.3	207.8	323.2	284.1	415.9	309.5	243.6
1948 - January	245.5	220.0	221.1	261.2	226.8	315.2	320.2	274.9	365.1	312.8

Year and Month	DRUGS			CLOTHING		FOOTWEAR	DRY GOODS		
	CANADA	Maritimes Que. & Ont.	Western Provinces	CANADA	CANADA	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
January, 1945	216.9	213.8	225.7	231.5	221.0	182.2	165.0	204.0	187.8
January, 1946	247.0	244.6	254.8	281.5	230.3	203.5	183.2	241.7	193.1
January, 1947	255.2	246.6	278.8	294.7	278.7	220.8	190.9	256.9	232.1
January, 1948	282.8	272.2	311.7	276.1	251.9	252.4	233.3	280.0	255.3
1947 - February	220.6	216.3	236.7	277.2	297.8	229.3	224.0	272.0	177.3
March	223.4	218.9	236.3	266.0	300.2	266.0	260.1	294.1	261.6
April	248.8	240.5	266.4	249.4	294.2	282.0	291.8	294.0	239.2
May	266.7	266.4	265.8	248.3	265.0	270.8	264.3	287.5	257.1
June	230.8	221.3	254.4	210.9	247.5	212.5	229.0	211.5	180.7
July	256.2	248.1	278.5	196.9	216.3	182.0	147.3	200.2	229.4
August	241.6	229.0	275.3	263.8	334.8	237.5	197.5	276.2	256.2
September ...	273.9	285.2	246.7	261.7	378.1	303.9	301.0	313.5	288.7
October	313.4	315.2	310.8	295.3	427.6	279.9	267.1	300.7	281.3
November	278.0	272.6	293.9	280.5	280.6	262.9	249.1	294.8	272.1
December	238.2	243.1	224.5	186.4	293.7	191.6	154.7	248.6	169.5
1948 - January	282.8	272.2	311.7	276.1	251.9	252.4	233.3	280.0	255.3



MONTHLY INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE SALES IN CANADA
(Average, 1935 - 1939 = 100)

Year and Month	GROCERIES						FRUITS AND VEGETABLES			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
January, 1945	165.4	210.8	134.3	174.1	146.4	183.1	189.2	171.4	193.6	185.1
January, 1946	185.4	236.3	144.5	199.9	163.5	204.2	230.6	180.7	261.2	220.8
January, 1947	213.4	250.5	163.7	232.5	190.8	246.1	217.9	169.9	238.5	218.2
January, 1948	217.7	235.2	166.0	231.1	194.2	289.4	193.5	155.6	217.0	185.3
1947 - February	200.3	222.0	159.8	211.6	189.2	228.6	219.5	208.3	220.8	220.6
March	215.9	254.8	185.6	212.9	202.7	260.7	262.4	248.4	259.8	263.2
April	222.8	279.4	188.5	233.8	190.1	259.4	257.4	273.0	294.2	269.2
May	228.6	264.9	215.3	244.1	203.8	246.9	327.7	323.7	329.0	312.9
June	240.3	266.3	214.6	248.1	212.4	300.7	315.9	336.0	303.9	315.9
July	262.5	305.7	241.4	266.3	243.1	285.7	329.6	270.8	326.4	370.2
August	246.7	271.5	210.9	246.0	243.1	277.7	305.0	224.6	278.2	379.2
September ...	275.0	301.0	266.3	265.2	260.5	333.8	278.9	210.4	259.8	356.4
October	318.4	361.4	303.0	344.4	267.3	370.0	278.0	222.7	255.7	330.4
November	282.3	324.1	277.1	295.2	248.7	317.9	262.6	268.4	250.9	279.2
December	227.1	261.8	219.8	251.2	174.5	282.8	243.0	220.5	237.0	257.2
1948 - January	217.7	235.2	166.0	231.1	194.2	289.4	193.5	155.6	217.0	185.3

Year and Month	HARDWARE					TOBACCO AND CONFECTIONERY			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
January, 1945	173.0	145.3	183.8	138.8	198.8	224.5	214.0	235.9	203.7
January, 1946	228.5	176.5	239.9	195.0	259.2	255.0	236.0	257.4	246.7
January, 1947	268.3	209.9	276.8	249.6	293.7	280.8	259.8	285.2	269.6
January, 1948	302.4	207.0	320.5	296.3	322.8	298.8	285.5	304.3	281.5
1947 - February	293.6	227.8	256.7	280.3	315.8	246.0	229.4	259.2	232.5
March	334.0	297.8	303.5	314.4	350.7	277.9	290.8	262.8	271.4
April	348.5	341.0	301.9	333.8	378.4	309.0	347.0	293.3	273.1
May	352.3	338.7	295.6	361.5	391.2	358.4	333.9	374.0	321.4
June	322.1	313.7	294.4	345.1	337.5	322.7	332.0	309.6	304.7
July	310.5	279.1	272.1	299.9	339.7	342.4	353.4	322.8	330.5
August	297.8	281.4	296.8	245.9	313.4	308.7	309.4	320.1	287.7
September ...	339.6	371.2	346.4	347.7	342.1	323.8	341.8	318.9	305.0
October	359.6	393.8	349.9	354.5	360.1	363.7	394.2	334.4	342.3
November	350.6	308.9	353.5	345.0	355.8	327.8	317.1	308.0	347.9
December	322.0	247.2	301.8	338.4	328.0	357.8	397.1	355.2	328.5
1948 - January	302.4	207.0	320.5	296.3	322.8	298.8	285.5	304.3	281.5