

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES SECTION
OTTAWA, CANADA



Dominion Statistician:
Director, Industry and Merchandising Division:
Chief, Merchandising and Services Section:

Herbert Marshall
W. H. Losee
C. H. McDonald

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NO REPLY
IF
PASSED FOR ATTENTION
TO

WHOLESALE TRADE

OCTOBER 1948

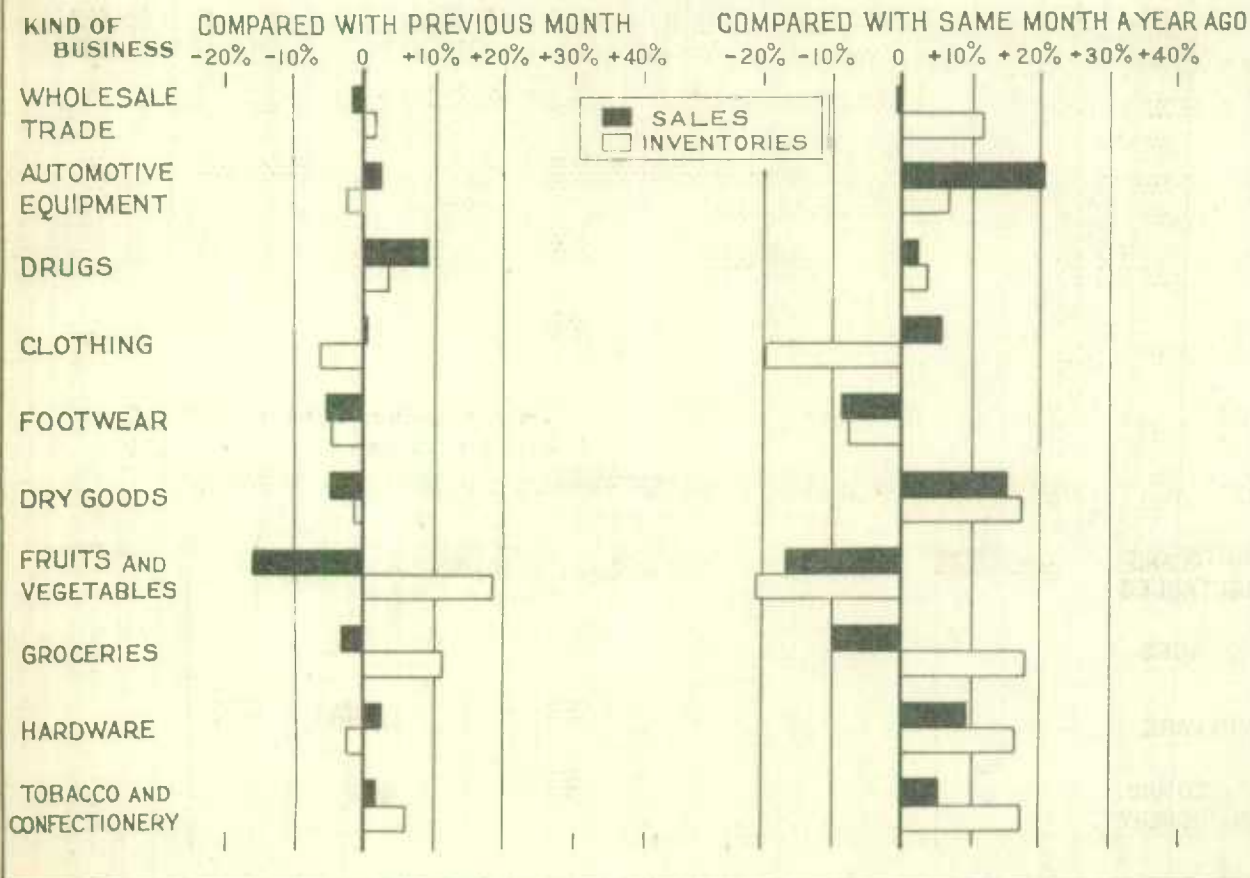
General Sales Index Drops

Dollar sales of wholesalers in October fell 1% below the volume for October, 1947 and were 2% less than the September sales according to statements submitted by 375 wholesalers in nine lines of trade. Cumulative sales for the 10 months of 1948 were 4% in excess of the dollar sales for the corresponding period of 1947. The general unadjusted index (on the base, average for 1935-1939 = 100) stood at 322.6 for October, 1948, 325.5 for October, 1947, and 327.6 for September, 1948.

The Prairie Provinces, with a gain of 8% over October, 1947, was the only region to record an increase in dollar sales. In Quebec, the volume of sales was unchanged from a year ago while a decline of 2% was recorded for British Columbia, 6% for Ontario, and 7% for the Maritime Provinces.

PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN SALES AND INVENTORIES

OCTOBER 1948



Sales Down In Three Trades

Three trades were responsible for the general sales index registering a decline. Sales of footwear wholesalers were 9% below last year's level, while grocery wholesalers' sales dropped below those for October, 1947 by 10%. Fruit and vegetable dealers' sales were 17% below last year's level.

On the other hand, sales of automotive equipment wholesalers rose 20% above October a year ago, reaching the highest dollar sales volume on record for any month. A gain of 15% over 1947 was registered by dry goods wholesalers, while increases of 9%, 6% and 5% occurred respectively in the hardware, clothing, and tobacco and confectionery trades. Drug wholesalers reported sales 2% above last October.

Stocks Valued 12% Above 1947

Stocks in the hands of wholesalers at October 31, 1948 were valued 12% higher than at the same date last year, with six of the nine trades surveyed contributing to the gain. Grocery, hardware, tobacco and confectionery, and dry goods wholesalers reported substantial increases in value of inventories ranging between 16% and 18%. Automotive equipment dealers' inventories increased 7% in value and drug wholesalers', 4%.

Footwear, clothing, and fruit and vegetable wholesalers, continuing the trend of the past several months, showed inventories valued below 1947 by 8%, 20% and 21% respectively.

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Percentage Changes in Wholesale Trade

	Percentage Change				INVENTORY Oct., 1948 Oct., 1947
	Sales				
	(1) September, 1948 September, 1947	(2) October, 1948 October, 1947	October, 1948 September, 1948	Jan.-to- Oct., 1948 Jan.-to- Oct., 1947	
Automotive Equipment	+ 3.3	+20.3	+ 2.4	+ 2.3	+ 7.1
Maritimes and Quebec	- 1.1	+18.0	+20.9		
Ontario	+ 3.8	+ 9.8	- 5.1		
Western Provinces	+ 4.9	+33.1	- 0.7		
Drugs	+ 7.4	+ 2.3	+ 9.0	+10.5	+ 3.6
Maritimes, Quebec and Ont.	+ 6.4	+ 0.2	+ 3.4		
Western Provinces	+10.5	+ 8.3	+23.5		
Clothing	+18.8	+ 5.7	+ 0.5	+ 1.0	-19.8
Quebec	+30.2	+ 0.7			
Ontario & Western Prov. ...	+13.7	+ 8.6			
Footwear	+ 8.8	- 8.8	- 5.2	- 5.2	- 7.5
Maritimes and Quebec	+10.1	-14.5			
Ont. and Western Provinces	+ 7.8	- 3.6			
Dry Goods	+11.7	+15.0	- 4.8	+ 7.0	+17.1
Maritimes and Quebec	+13.5	+18.7	- 6.1		
Ontario	+ 5.8	+11.3	+ 0.9		
Western Provinces	+17.3	+13.9	- 5.4		
Fruits and Vegetables	- 1.3	-16.7	-15.8	-15.7	-20.9
Maritimes and Quebec	-18.0	-24.2	- 1.9		
Ontario	- 7.7	-22.6	-17.5		
Western Provinces	+ 8.4	- 9.0	-22.2		
Groceries	+ 7.8	- 9.7	- 3.0	+ 6.0	+17.8
Maritimes	+ 2.2	-11.2	+ 4.5		
Quebec	- 0.9	-11.4	+ 4.2		
Ontario	+10.7	-16.7	- 2.3		
Prairies	+13.8	+ 2.0	- 7.6		
British Columbia	+ 6.1	- 8.6	- 4.5		
Hardware	+12.8	+ 9.3	+ 2.6	+ 9.4	+16.4
Maritimes	+13.4	+ 8.2	+ 1.2		
Quebec	+14.1	+ 9.5	- 3.1		
Ontario	+21.7	+11.6	- 6.5		
Western Provinces	+ 7.9	+ 8.2	+ 5.6		
Tobacco and Confectionery..	+16.2	+ 5.3	+ 1.9	+12.1	+17.1
Maritimes and Quebec.....	+16.4	+ 2.8	+ 1.8		
Ontario	+12.7	+ 4.7	- 2.4		
Western Provinces	+19.9	+ 6.9	+ 0.1		
Wholesale Trade -					
Maritimes	+ 4.0	- 6.8	+ 2.2		
Quebec	+ 5.7	+ 0.1	+ 4.3		
Ontario	+ 8.2	- 6.1	- 4.3		
Prairies	+13.6	+ 7.9	- 6.3		
British Columbia	+ 6.1	- 2.2	+ 3.9		
CANADA	+ 8.6	- 0.9	- 1.5	+ 4.1	+11.8

(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
October, 1945 ..	237.2	277.3	233.7	231.8	229.8	250.7	308.6	399.4	249.1	311.7
October, 1946 ..	276.8	296.4	272.7	267.3	276.9	298.1	360.8	415.8	332.3	340.7
October, 1947 ..	325.5	360.7	322.1	326.9	297.7	372.6	423.6	498.5	412.4	372.4
September, 1948.	327.6	329.1	309.2	320.9	342.8	350.8	497.7	486.5	477.0	499.0
October, 1948 ..	322.6	336.2	322.4	307.0	321.2	364.4	509.8	588.2	452.8	495.7

Year and Month	DRUGS			CLOTHING		FOOTWEAR	DRY GOODS			
	CANADA	Maritimes Que. & Ont.	Western Provinces	CANADA	CANADA	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	
October, 1945 ..	268.2	264.1	277.7	238.6	263.9	184.6	178.4	184.0	199.0	
October, 1946 ..	292.1	285.0	309.9	282.3	350.5	228.7	210.0	242.7	247.2	
October, 1947 ..	313.4	313.2	310.8	295.6	427.6	279.9	267.1	300.7	281.3	
September, 1948.	294.2	303.5	272.6	310.9	411.4	338.0	337.5	331.7	338.6	
October, 1948 ..	320.6	313.8	336.6	312.4	390.0	321.9	317.0	334.7	320.4	

Year and Month	GROCERIES						FRUITS AND VEGETABLES			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
October, 1945 ..	203.1	255.0	204.1	204.3	182.3	214.9	289.0	251.5	272.4	318.8
October, 1946 ..	246.2	284.1	256.8	249.2	227.1	266.0	287.5	226.6	254.4	356.4
October, 1947 ..	318.7	361.9	309.4	344.4	268.7	370.0	278.0	222.5	255.7	330.4
September, 1948.	296.7	307.6	263.0	293.6	296.5	354.2	275.0	172.0	239.8	386.3
October, 1948 ..	287.8	321.4	274.1	286.9	274.1	338.2	231.6	168.7	197.9	300.7

Year and Month	HARDWARE					TOBACCO AND CONFECTIONERY			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
October, 1945 ..	246.6	259.8	247.7	227.1	252.5	290.6	286.9	274.3	277.5
October, 1946 ..	297.2	311.8	270.0	272.1	320.7	336.8	344.6	314.6	320.2
October, 1947 ..	359.6	393.8	349.9	354.5	360.1	363.1	394.2	332.8	342.3
September, 1948.	383.1	420.9	395.2	423.2	362.1	375.0	397.9	357.1	365.7
October, 1948 ..	393.0	426.1	383.1	395.6	389.6	382.3	405.2	348.4	365.9