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13

WHOLESALE TRADE

February, 1948

Small Margin of Increase Over February, 1947

Dollar sales of wholesalers in Canada during February, 1948 were 3.5% higher than in February, 1947 and 2% below January, 1948, according to statements received from 397 wholesalers representing nine lines of trade. The general unadjusted index (on the base, average for 1935-1939=100) stood at 239.5 for February, 1948, 231.4 for February, 1947, and 244.6 for January, 1948.

Quebec and British Columbia were the only provinces to register substantial increases. Slight gains of about 1% were registered in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces, while in the Prairie Provinces, dollar volume of wholesalers' sales dropped 1.5% below February, 1947.

Dry Goods Wholesalers Show Greatest Gain Over 1947

Largest increases in dollar sales over February, 1947, were recorded by the dry goods and drugs trades. Increases in these trades amounted to 17% and 14% respectively compared with gains over a year ago of 14% and 11% recorded in January. Sales of wholesalers of tobacco and confectionery and of hardware were 9% and 7% above the volume for February last year, while wholesale grocers' sales were practically unchanged in dollar volume.

Four Trades Continue Below 1947

As in January, dollar sales of four of the nine trades were lower in February than in the corresponding month of 1947. Footwear wholesalers, with a drop of 10%, and fruits and vegetables dealers, with sales down 7%, registered the largest percentage decrease in dollar sales. Clothing wholesalers' sales were down 5%, while the automotive equipment trade, which had registered a decline of 7% in January, reported sales in February only 1% below February a year ago.

Stocks Up 17%

Stocks held by wholesalers at the end of February, 1948 were valued 17% higher than at the same date a year ago. All trades except fruits and vegetables and drugs reported a smaller increase over last year than was recorded in January when the overall gain was 19%. Increases were reported as follows: dry goods, 35%; automotive equipment, 31%; clothing, 29%; hardware, 22%; footwear, 22%; tobacco and confectionery, 16%; drugs, 8%; and groceries, 4%. Fruits and vegetable dealers' inventories were valued 4% lower than at the end of February, 1947.

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Percentage Changes in Wholesale Trade

	Percentage Change		
	Sales		INVENTORY
	(1) January, 1948 <u>January,</u> 1947	(2) February, 1948 <u>February,</u> 1947	
Automotive Equipment	- 7.4	- 1.4	+30.6
Maritimes and Quebec	-15.3	- 8.1	
Ontario	- 1.2	- 0.8	
Western Provinces	- 9.4	+ 1.3	
Drugs	+11.4	+14.0	+ 8.3
Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario.	+11.2	+12.1	
Western Provinces	+11.8	+19.1	
Clothing	- 6.8	- 4.9	+28.9
Quebec	- 0.2	- 0.9	
Ontario and Western Provinces.	- 9.5	- 6.7	
Footwear	- 9.4	- 9.8	+22.3
Maritimes and Quebec	- 3.7	-12.8	
Ontario and Western Provinces.	-14.7	- 7.4	
Dry Goods	+14.3	+17.1	+35.4
Maritimes and Quebec	+22.2	+19.0	
Ontario	+ 9.0	+ 8.9	
Western Provinces	+10.0	+30.8	
Fruits and Vegetables	-11.0	- 7.0	- 4.3
Maritimes and Quebec	- 7.8	+ 0.7	
Ontario	- 9.0	- 6.8	
Western Provinces	-15.1	-11.6	
Groceries	+ 1.2	+ 0.3	+ 3.5
Maritimes	- 6.1	+ 2.0	
Quebec	- 4.2	+ 9.2	
Ontario	- 0.6	- 5.2	
Prairies	+ 1.6	- 4.2	
British Columbia	+17.6	+14.2	
Hardware	+12.0	+ 7.0	+22.4
Maritimes	- 0.5	+10.1	
Quebec	+13.8	+15.5	
Ontario	+17.0	+10.3	
Western Provinces	+ 9.8	+ 1.4	
Tobacco and Confectionery	+ 6.6	+ 9.4	+16.3
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 9.8	+17.5	
Ontario	+ 7.1	+11.4	
Western Provinces	+ 4.5	+ 4.0	
Wholesale Trade -			
Maritimes	- 6.3	+ 0.5	
Quebec	+ 5.6	+11.1	
Ontario	+ 2.8	+ 1.4	
Prairies	- 2.0	- 1.5	
British Columbia	+16.3	+10.5	
CANADA	+ 2.9	+ 3.5	+16.6

(1) Revised.

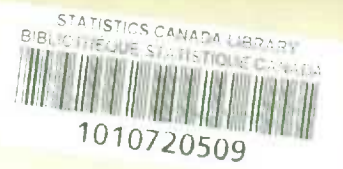
(2) Preliminary.

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
February, 1945	178.3	187.4	170.6	181.4	167.6	197.0	210.2	255.8	167.3	233.1
February, 1946	210.2	201.1	197.6	211.9	204.1	242.5	310.9	354.0	263.7	339.2
February, 1947	231.4	219.0	218.9	239.2	220.2	260.4	337.3	428.7	321.2	318.5
February, 1948	239.5	220.1	243.2	242.5	216.9	287.7	332.6	394.0	318.6	322.6
<u>1947</u> - 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	396.8
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	316.3
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
<u>1948</u> - January	244.6	220.7	218.0	259.7	227.1	315.2	319.8	289.9	349.9	316.6
February ...	239.5	220.1	243.2	242.5	216.9	287.7	332.6	394.0	318.6	322.6

Year and Month	DRUGS	CLOTHING		FOOTWEAR		DRY GOODS			
	CANADA	Maritimes Que. & Ont.	Western Provinces	CANADA	CANADA	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
February, 1945	202.6	200.4	211.6	209.6	215.6	173.1	171.8	180.6	162.9
February, 1946	227.7	223.0	244.8	233.7	238.2	188.7	196.5	191.8	167.6
February, 1947	220.6	216.3	236.7	277.2	297.8	229.3	224.0	272.0	177.3
February, 1948	251.5	242.5	281.9	263.6	268.6	268.5	266.6	296.2	231.9
<u>1947</u> - 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	313.2	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
<u>1948</u> - January	284.3	274.2	311.7	274.7	252.5	252.4	233.3	280.0	255.3
February ...	251.5	242.5	281.9	263.6	268.6	268.5	266.6	296.2	231.9



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 & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	
February, 1945	155.9	187.4	129.1	166.9	140.0	170.0	193.7	210.1	192.9	180.2
February, 1946	173.7	195.6	150.0	176.2	161.3	203.0	241.2	225.2	245.9	240.6
February, 1947	200.3	222.0	159.8	211.6	189.2	228.6	219.5	208.3	220.8	220.6
February, 1948	200.9	226.4	174.5	200.6	181.3	261.1	204.1	209.8	205.8	195.0
1947 - 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	216.0	235.2	156.8	231.1	193.9	289.4	193.9	156.6	217.0	185.3
February	200.9	226.4	174.5	200.6	181.3	261.1	204.1	209.8	205.8	195.0

Year and Month	HARDWARE					TOBACCO AND CONFECTIONERY			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	CANADA & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	
February, 1945	188.3	146.3	167.6	156.9	212.3	213.2	206.6	221.5	200.9
February, 1946	257.8	193.7	221.9	239.6	283.0	228.8	195.7	244.3	221.4
February, 1947	293.6	227.8	256.7	280.3	315.8	246.0	229.4	259.2	232.5
February, 1948	314.2	250.8	296.5	309.2	320.2	269.1	269.5	288.7	241.8
1947 - 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	300.5	208.9	315.0	292.0	322.5	299.3	285.3	305.4	281.7
February	314.2	250.8	296.5	309.2	320.2	269.1	269.5	288.7	241.8