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WHOLESALE TRADE

MARCH 1948

MAY 1 1948

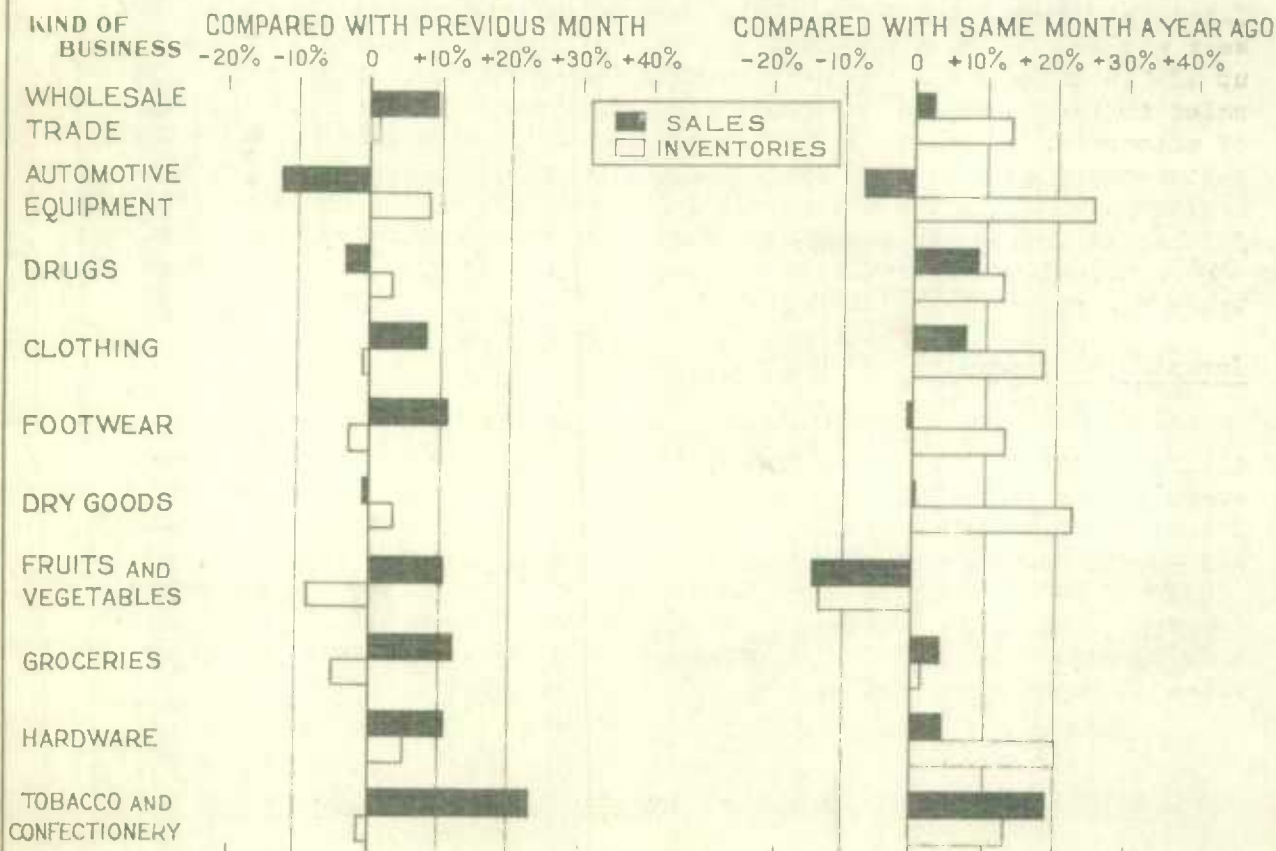
Increase in Sales Over 1947 Steady at 3%

Dollar volume of wholesale sales in Canada during March, 1948 was 3% above that for March, 1947, and 10% in excess of the volume recorded for February, 1948. These figures are based on statements submitted by 399 wholesalers representing nine lines of trade. Cumulative sales for the first three months of 1948 were 3% higher than in the corresponding period a year ago. The general unadjusted index (on the base, average for 1935-1939=100) stood at 263.6 for March, 1948, 256.7 for March, 1947, and 240.0 for February, 1947.

With the exception of the Prairie Provinces, increases in dollar sales in the various regions of the country were fairly uniform, ranging between 4.3% and 6.4%. Sales in the Prairie Provinces were 5% below the dollar volume for March, 1947.

PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN SALES AND INVENTORIES

MARCH 1948



Tobacco and confectionery increase leads sales increases

Sales of tobacco and confectionery wholesalers, with a gain of 19%, registered the largest increase in dollar volume of sales over March a year ago. This increase was partly a result of Easter falling in March this year. Drug wholesalers' sales were 9% in excess of those in March, 1947, with cumulative sales for the first quarter of 1948 being 11% higher than in the corresponding period last year.

Dollar volume in the wholesale clothing trade showed an increase over the same month a year ago for the first time in several months. Despite the March increase of 7% the cumulative sales for the year to date were 2% below last year's level.

Hardware and dry goods wholesalers, whose sales have been maintained at a fairly high volume compared with a year ago, reported a falling off of the margin of increase in March. Hardware wholesalers' sales were 5% in excess of those in March, 1947, bringing the cumulative increase for the year to date to 8%. Sales of dry goods wholesalers showed practically no increase in volume compared with March a year ago, with sales for the year to date 10% above the volume for the first three months of 1947. Grocery wholesalers' sales were 4% higher than in March last year compared with a cumulative gain for the year to date of 2%.

March Sales in Several Trades below 1947 levels

Sales of footwear, automotive equipment and fruits and vegetables wholesalers continued below last year's volume although in the first two trades, the trend varied according to regions. Sales of footwear wholesalers were down 16% in the Maritimes and Quebec combined and up 13% in Ontario and the Western Provinces combined, bringing the Canada sales to less than one per cent below last year's volume. Wholesalers of automotive equipment in Canada had sales 7% below March, 1947. Ontario registered a gain of 12%, while a decrease of 8% was recorded for the Maritimes and Quebec combined and a drop of 19% for the Western Provinces. Dealers in fruits and vegetables continued to report sales well below the 1947 level, with a decrease in March of 14%. A drop in sales for this trade was recorded in all regions.

Inventories generally above March, 1947

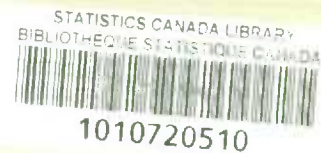
Wholesalers' inventories generally were valued substantially higher at the end of March, 1948 than at the same date a year ago averaging an increase of 14% for the nine trades included in the survey. Increases in value of stocks held by wholesalers of automotive equipment dry goods, hardware and clothing ranged between 25% and 19%. An increase of 13% was reported by wholesalers of tobacco and confectionery, footwear, and drugs, while grocers registered a gain of only 1%. Stocks held by wholesalers of fruits and vegetables were 13% lower in dollar value than those on hand at the same date last year.

Percentage Changes in Wholesale Trade

	Percentage Change				INVENTORY
	SALES			Jan.-to- Mar., 1948	
	(1)	(2)	March, 1948		
	February, 1948	March, 1948	March, 1948		
February, 1947	March, 1947	Feb., 1948	Jan.-to- Mar., 1947		
March, 1948	March, 1948	March, 1948	Jan.-to- Mar., 1948	March, 1948	
Automotive Equipment	- 1.2	- 7.1	-12.3	- 5.2	+25.3
Maritimes and Quebec	- 8.8	- 8.1	-12.3		
Ontario	+ 0.6	+12.4	+ 3.4		
Western Provinces	+ 1.3	-18.7	- 6.1		
Drugs	+13.9	+ 9.0	- 3.1	+11.4	+12.8
Maritimes, Quebec and Ont.	+12.0	+ 8.0	- 2.4		
Western Provinces	+19.1	+11.6	- 6.5		
Clothing	- 4.7	+ 7.3	+ 8.0	- 1.6	+18.5
Quebec	- 0.4	+24.8			
Ont. and Western Provinces	- 6.7	- 0.7			
Footwear	- 9.6	- 0.5	+11.0	- 6.4	+13.0
Maritimes and Quebec	-12.1	-15.5			
Ont. and Western Provinces	- 7.6	+12.9			
Dry Goods	+16.8	+ 0.1	- 0.6	+ 9.8	+22.6
Maritimes and Quebec	+17.9	+ 3.3	+ 1.7		
Ontario	+ 8.9	- 3.9	- 4.6		
Western Provinces	+30.7	+ 1.0	+14.0		
Fruits and Vegetables	- 6.9	-13.9	+10.5	-10.8	-13.0
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 0.7	-15.1	+ 0.5		
Ontario	- 6.8	- 9.0	+14.9		
Western Provinces	-11.5	-18.1	+10.5		
Groceries	+ 0.4	+ 4.2	+11.9	+ 2.0	+ 1.4
Maritimes	+ 2.0	+ 6.8	+20.2		
Quebec	+ 8.4	- 2.6	+ 4.4		
Ontario	- 5.2	+ 6.3	+12.8		
Prairies	- 4.1	- 1.7	+ 9.9		
British Columbia	+14.2	+13.4	+13.2		
Hardware	+ 7.4	+ 4.6	+10.8	+ 7.7	+20.5
Maritimes	+10.1	+10.5	+31.2		
Quebec	+16.5	+13.3	+15.0		
Ontario	+10.4	+12.8	+14.6		
Western Provinces	+ 1.4	- 3.4	+ 5.8		
Tobacco and Confectionery .	+ 9.6	+19.1	+22.8	+11.8	+13.4
Maritimes and Quebec	+17.2	+32.6	+43.4		
Ontario	+11.3	+21.1	+10.3		
Western Provinces	+ 4.2	+11.1	+24.4		
Wholesale Trade -					
Maritimes	+ 0.4	+ 4.5	+22.5		
Quebec	+11.1	+ 4.3	+ 7.6		
Ontario	+ 1.5	+ 6.2	+ 9.4		
Prairies	- 1.3	- 4.9	+10.3		
British Columbia	+10.5	+ 6.4	+ 8.6		
CANADA	+ 3.7	+ 2.7	+ 9.8	+ 3.1	+13.7

(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
March, 1945	201.4	219.6	195.2	202.7	191.5	219.3	235.4	244.5	203.5	263.5
March, 1946	234.2	234.8	224.3	237.4	230.2	250.9	338.3	339.1	318.3	360.7
March, 1947	256.7	257.8	251.0	250.2	252.1	293.6	314.7	373.0	297.3	372.6
February, 1948 .	240.0	219.9	243.2	242.8	217.3	287.7	333.3	391.0	323.1	322.6
March, 1948	263.6	269.4	261.8	265.7	239.7	312.4	292.4	342.8	334.2	302.9
Year and Month	DRUGS			CLOTHING	FOOTWEAR	DRY GOODS				
	CANADA	Maritimes Que. & Ont.	Western Provinces	CANADA	CANADA	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	
March, 1945	209.4	206.0	218.9	223.3	226.0	186.2	182.3	189.7	205.7	
March, 1946	228.9	224.3	242.1	235.6	290.0	192.3	193.8	194.8	204.5	
March, 1947	223.4	218.9	236.3	266.0	300.2	266.0	260.1	294.1	261.6	
February, 1948 .	251.3	242.2	281.9	264.2	269.2	267.8	264.1	296.2	231.7	
March, 1948	243.5	236.4	263.7	285.4	298.7	266.3	268.7	282.6	264.2	
Year and Month	GROCERIES						FRUITS AND VEGETABLES			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
March, 1945	170.5	215.8	143.7	175.8	153.9	192.3	238.6	241.0	244.4	220.3
March, 1946	187.6	227.9	163.1	190.9	173.4	209.2	297.5	261.7	321.1	284.2
March, 1947	215.9	254.8	185.6	212.9	202.7	260.7	262.4	248.4	259.8	263.2
February, 1948 .	201.1	226.4	173.2	200.6	181.4	261.1	204.4	209.8	205.8	195.2
March, 1948	225.0	272.1	180.8	226.3	199.3	295.6	225.9	210.9	236.4	215.6
Year and Month	HARDWARE					TOBACCO AND CONFECTIONERY				
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	
March, 1945	217.8	195.1	204.9	196.2	229.2	249.3	263.8	246.7	229.7	
March, 1946	283.8	229.8	267.6	273.9	292.5	271.7	273.3	260.5	265.8	
March, 1947	334.0	297.8	303.5	314.4	350.7	277.9	290.8	262.8	271.4	
February, 1948 .	315.3	250.8	299.1	309.5	320.2	269.6	268.9	288.5	242.3	
March, 1948	349.4	329.1	343.9	354.6	338.8	331.0	385.6	318.3	301.5	