



### 8% Gain in Automotive Equipment Sales

An increase of 8% in dollar volume of sales, reported by wholesalers of automotive equipment (including parts, accessories, tires and tubes), was the largest gain to be recorded for any of the nine trades surveyed. Four other trades, hardware, groceries, drugs, and tobacco and confectionery had sales between 2% and 4% above the May, 1947 volume. In all cases except the automotive equipment trade the May gains were less than those for the year to date.

### Decreases More Substantial

Sales in the dry goods and apparel trades continued lower than last year. Dry goods wholesalers' sales were 8% below the dollar volume in May a year ago, clothing sales were down 9%, while footwear wholesalers registered a drop of 19%. Sales of wholesale dealers in fruits and vegetables dropped 26% below May, 1947. The May decline throughout was greater than the decrease in sales for the first five months compared with the corresponding period of 1947.

### Stocks Valued 7% Higher

Wholesalers' inventories at the end of May, 1948 were valued 7% higher than at May 31, 1947 but were 2% lower than at the beginning of the month. Automotive equipment dealers' inventories were valued 25% higher at the end of May this year than at the same date a year ago. Stocks on hand in the dry goods trade were 15% higher and in the hardware trade, 14%. A gain of 10% in value of inventories was recorded by tobacco and confectionery wholesalers, while stocks in the hands of drug wholesalers increased 8% in dollar value.

Grocery wholesalers' inventories were valued 3% lower than at May 31st last year. Footwear and clothing wholesalers' stocks dropped 6% and 12% respectively, while fruit and vegetable dealers' inventories were 26% lower in dollar value than a year ago.

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Percentage Changes in Wholesale Trade

	Percentage Change				INVENTORY
	Sales				
	(1) April, 1948 <u>April,</u> 1947	(2) May, 1948 <u>May,</u> 1947	May, 1948 <u>April,</u> 1948	Jan.-to- May,1948 <u>Jan.-to-</u> May,1947	
Automotive Equipment .....	+ 2.0	+ 8.0	+ 4.9	- 1.2	+24.8
Maritimes and Quebec .....	+ 0.2	+17.1	+29.9		
Ontario .....	+20.3	+ 7.2	-11.9		
Western Provinces .....	-11.0	+ 5.1	+11.0		
Drugs .....	+16.1	+ 3.3	- 4.6	+10.6	+ 8.0
Maritimes, Quebec and Ont.	+16.2	+ 0.2	- 4.5		
Western Provinces .....	+15.8	+13.6	- 2.1		
Clothing .....	- 6.9	- 8.5	- 2.2	- 4.2	-11.5
Quebec .....	+ 0.1	- 4.7			
Ontario & Western Prov. ..	-11.1	-11.6			
Footwear .....	- 1.8	-19.3	-26.0	- 7.8	- 5.6
Maritimes and Quebec .....	(x)	-26.3			
Ont. and Western Provinces	- 3.2	-13.1			
Dry Goods .....	- 8.1	- 7.8	- 3.7	+ 2.1	+14.8
Maritimes and Quebec .....	- 8.7	- 6.7	- 7.4		
Ontario .....	- 7.3	- 9.0	- 4.0		
Western Provinces .....	- 8.5	- 7.9	+ 8.2		
Fruits and Vegetables .....	- 9.9	-26.3	+ 4.1	-15.2	-25.9
Maritimes and Quebec .....	- 6.5	-30.1	-11.4		
Ontario .....	- 2.8	-22.9	-11.3		
Western Provinces .....	-19.2	-27.3	+ 4.6		
Groceries .....	+13.8	+ 3.1	- 7.0	+ 4.8	- 2.5
Maritimes .....	+ 4.7	+ 7.4	- 2.7		
Quebec .....	+21.6	- 3.1	- 9.0		
Ontario .....	+ 9.5	- 2.3	- 6.8		
Prairies .....	+14.2	+ 8.6	+ 1.9		
British Columbia .....	+23.9	+ 8.8	-16.4		
Hardware .....	+ 7.8	+ 2.3	- 4.1	+ 6.6	+13.9
Maritimes .....	+18.8	+ 3.9	-13.1		
Quebec .....	+18.0	+ 9.5	- 9.1		
Ontario .....	+16.2	+ 3.2	- 3.8		
Western Provinces .....	- 1.2	- 2.5	+ 1.0		
Tobacco and Confectionery .	+12.3	+ 3.7	+ 7.1	+10.5	+10.3
Maritimes and Quebec .....	+18.1	+ 4.2	-15.1		
Ontario .....	+15.8	+ 7.9	+18.8		
Western Provinces .....	+ 6.1	- 0.3	+10.6		
Wholesale Trade -					
Maritimes .....	+ 2.3	+ 3.3	+ 2.4		
Quebec .....	+ 9.5	- 4.8	-11.4		
Ontario .....	+ 8.4	- 3.7	- 4.7		
Prairies .....	- 1.9	- 4.1	+ 4.1		
British Columbia .....	+12.6	+ 3.5	- 6.3		
CANADA .....	+ 6.1	- 2.6	- 4.2	+ 2.5	+ 7.4

(1) Revised.  
 (2) Preliminary.  
 (x) Unchanged.



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**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
May, 1945 ....	205.9	253.6	187.1	215.4	193.6	224.9	213.5	296.9	168.5	237.9
May, 1946 ....	259.8	287.6	225.5	272.3	260.2	286.7	350.1	433.8	265.1	413.9
May, 1947 ....	280.6	297.4	262.5	293.8	267.7	311.9	350.5	457.2	303.5	372.9
April, 1948 ..	285.2	299.9	282.1	296.7	246.7	344.4	360.9	412.3	369.3	353.2
May, 1948 ....	273.3	307.2	249.9	282.9	256.7	322.8	378.5	535.4	325.4	391.9

Year and Month	DRUGS			CLOTHING	FOOTWEAR	DRY GOODS			
	CANADA	Maritimes Que. & Ont.	Western Provinces	CANADA	CANADA	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
May, 1945 ....	222.0	225.0	212.9	148.7	202.6	147.4	150.3	150.3	136.4
May, 1946 ....	253.5	252.0	256.1	199.6	282.8	199.4	189.7	216.0	192.9
May, 1947 ....	266.7	266.4	265.8	248.3	265.0	270.8	264.3	287.5	257.1
April, 1948 ..	288.9	279.5	308.5	232.2	288.9	259.2	266.4	272.5	218.9
May, 1948 ....	275.5	266.9	301.9	227.2	213.9	249.7	246.6	261.6	236.8

Year and Month	GROCERIES						FRUITS AND VEGETABLES			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
May, 1945 ....	187.4	236.5	169.3	197.8	171.1	192.0	271.2	275.9	272.6	252.4
May, 1946 ....	218.1	255.9	198.8	227.5	202.2	236.7	337.1	307.1	342.7	332.9
May, 1947 ....	228.6	264.9	215.3	244.1	203.8	246.9	327.7	323.7	329.0	312.9
April, 1948 ..	253.5	292.5	229.2	256.0	217.1	321.4	231.9	255.3	286.0	217.5
May, 1948 ....	235.7	284.5	208.6	238.5	221.3	268.6	241.5	226.3	253.7	227.5

Year and Month	HARDWARE					TOBACCO AND CONFECTIONERY			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
May, 1945 ....	205.4	200.0	187.9	192.4	227.5	286.4	275.6	308.9	244.7
May, 1946 ....	300.1	297.6	243.5	309.2	337.2	339.1	297.9	361.4	306.4
May, 1947 ....	352.3	338.7	295.6	361.5	391.2	358.4	333.9	374.0	321.4
April, 1948 ..	375.7	405.1	356.2	387.9	377.6	347.0	409.8	339.6	289.8
May, 1948 ....	360.4	351.9	323.7	373.1	381.4	371.7	347.9	403.5	320.4