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## WHOLESALE TRADE

MAY 1948

Sales in May, $19483 \% \mathrm{Be}$ : ow 1947
Dollar esles of wholesalers in May, 1948 dropped 3\% below the May, 1947 level and were $4 \%$ lower than the volume of sales in April, 1948 according to recorts abmitted by 387 wholesalers in nine lines of trade. Cumulative sales for the f1rst rlve menths of 1948 were $2.5 \%$ abcve the seles volume for the corresponding period of 1947. The general unadjusted index (on the base, average for 1935$1939=100$ ) stood at 273.3 for Mey, 1948, 280.6 for Mey, 1947 , and 285.2 for April. 1948.

The Maritime Provinces and British Columbia, with incresses of 34 and 48 respectively, were the only regions to record advances in ales volume over May, 1947. Sales $1 n$ Ontario and in the Prairie Provinces were $4 \%$ below May lat year, while a drop of $5 \%$ was registered in quebec.

## PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN SALES AND INVENTORIES



## 8\% Gain in Automotive Equipment Sales

An increase of $8 \%$ in dollar volume of sales, reported by whole $=$ salers 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 lass 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 doalers 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 ine cressed $8 \%$ in dollar value。

Grocery wholesalers' inventories were valued 3\% lower than at May $31 s t$ 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.

Percentage Changes in Wholesale Trade

|  | Percentage Change |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} (1) \\ \text { April, } \\ \frac{1948}{\text { April }} \\ 1947 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { (2) } \\ & \text { May, } \\ & 1948 \\ & \hline \text { May, } \\ & 1947 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { May, } \\ & 1948 \\ & \text { Apri1, } \\ & 1948 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Jan.-to- } \\ & \text { May, } 1948 \\ & \text { Jan.-to- } \\ & \text { May, } 1947 \end{aligned}$ | INVENTORY $\frac{\text { May, } 1948}{\text { May, } 1947}$ |
| Automotive Equipment 00000 | 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 |  |  |
| Nestern 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 Provo .- | -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 | -1.5.2 | -25.9 |
| Maritimes and Quebec .0ue. | $=6.5$ | -30.1 | -11.4 |  |  |
| Ontario ..................0. | -2.8 | -22.9 | -11.3 |  |  |
| Western Provinces ......... | -19.2 | -27.3 | $+4.6$ |  |  |
| Groceries ................... | +13.8 | $+3.1$ | 7.0 | +4. | 2. |
| Maritimes .................0. | $+4.7$ | + 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 | 77.8 | 2.3 | - 4.1 | +6.6 | +13.9 |
| Maritimes ............0.0.0. | +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 |  |  |
| Wholesalo 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.
(ग) Preliminary.
( $x$ Unchanged.

## MONTHLY INDEX NUIBERS OF WHOLESALE SALES IN CANADA <br> (Average, $1935-1939=100$ )

| Year and Month | WHOLESALE TRADE |  |  |  |  |  | AUTOMOTOVE EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | CANADA | Maritimes | Quebec | Ontario | Prairies | British Columbia | CANADA | Maritimes $\&$ Quebec | Ontario | Western Provinces |
| May, $1945 \ldots$ | 205.9 | 253.6 | 187.1 | 215.4 | 193.6 | 224.9 | 223.5 | 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 | 243.9 | 282.9 | 256.7 | 322.8 | 378.5 | 535.4 | 325.4 | 391.9 |


| Year | DRUGS |  |  | CLOTHING FOOTWEAR |  |  | DRY GOODS |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| and Month | CANADA | Maritimes Que.\& Ont | Western Provinces | CANADA | CANADA | CANADA | Maritimes \& Quebec | Ontario | Nestern Provinces |
| May, 1345... | 222.0 | 225.0 | 212.9 | 143.7 | 202.6 | 147.4 | 150.3 | 150.3 | 136.4 |
| Nay, $1946 \therefore$ ¢ | 253.5 | 252.0 | 256.1 | 199.6 | 282.8 | 199,4 | 189.7 | 216.0 | 192.9 |
| May, $1947 \ldots$ | 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, 1948000 | 275.5 | 266.9 | 301.9 | 227.2 | 213.9 | 249.7 | 246.6 | 261.6 | 236.8 |


|  | GRNCERIES |  |  |  |  |  |  | FRUITS AND TEGETABLES |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | CANADA | Maritimes | Quebec | Ontario | Prairies | British Columbia | CANADA | Maritimes \& Quebec | Ontario | Western Provinces |
| May 19450000 | 187.4 | 236.5 | 169.3 | 197.8 | 171.1 | 192.0 | 271.2 | 275.9 | 272.6 | 252.4 |
| Kay, 1946 0000 | 218.1 | 255.9 | 198.8 | 227.5 | 202.2 | 236.7 | 337.1 | 307.1 | 342.7 | 332.9 |
| May. 1947 .ano | 228.6 | 264.9 | 215.3 | 244.1 | 203.8 | 246.9 | 327.7 | 323.7 | 329.C | 312.9 |
| April, 1948 . | 253.5 | 292.5 | 229.2 | 256.0 | 217.1 | 321.4 | 231.9 | 255.3 | 286.C | 217.5 |
| Mays 194800 | 235.7 | 284.5 | 208.6 | 238.5 | 221.3 | 268.6 | 241.5 | 226.3 | 253.7 | 227.5 |


| Year |  |  | HARDWAR |  |  |  | OBACCO 1 | ONFECTIO |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| and <br> Month | CANADA | Maritimes | Quebec | Onterio | Western Provinces | CANADA | Maritimes \& Quebec | Ontario | Western Provinces |
| May, 1945000 | 205.4 | 200.0 | 187.9 | 192.4 | 227.5 | 286.4 | 275.6 | 308.9 | 244.7 |
| May, $1946 \ldots$ | 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, $1948 \ldots$ | 360.4 | 351.9 | 323.7 | 373.1 | 381.4 | 371.7 | 347.9 | 403.5 | 320.4 |

