Published by Authority of the Rt. Hon. C.D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce

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

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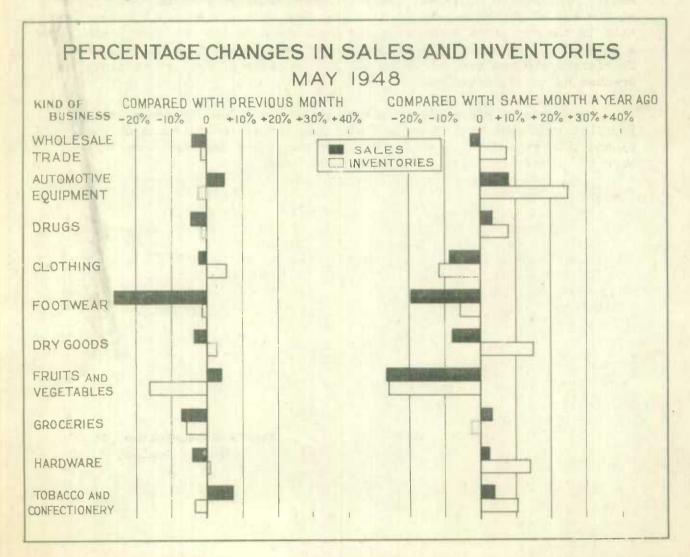
WHOLESALE TRADE

MAY 1948

Sales in May, 1948 3% Below 1947

Dollar sales of wholesalers in May, 1948 dropped 3% below the May, 1947 level and were 4% lower than the volume of sales in April, 1945 according to reports submitted by 387 wholesalers in nine lines of trade. Cumulative sales for the first five months of 1948 were 2.5% above the sales volume for the corresponding period of 1947. The general unadjusted index (on the base, average for 1935-1939=100) stood at 273.3 for May, 1948, 280.6 for May, 1947, and 285.2 for April, 1948.

The Maritime Provinces and British Columbia, with increases of 3% and 4% respectively, were the only regions to record advances in sales volume over May. 1947. Sales in Ontario and in the Prairie Provinces were 4% below May last year, while a drop of 5% was registered in Quebec.



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

		Poy	centage Cha	nga			
	(1)	(2)	ales		INVENTORY		
	April,	May,	May,	Janto-	1000		
	1948	1948	1948	May,1948	May, 1948		
	and the second se		April,	Janto-	May, 1947		
	April, 1947	May, 1947	1948	May,1947			
Automotive Equipment		+ 8.0	+ 4.9	- 1.2	+24.8		
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 0.2	+17.1	+29.9				
	+20.3	+ 7.2	-11.9		ALC: NO.		
Ontario	-11.0	+ 5.1	+11.0				
		+ 3.3	- 4.6	+10.6	+ 8.0		
Drugs Out	+16.2	+ 0.2	- 4.5	+10.0	. 0.0		
Maritimes, Quebec and Ont.	+15.8	+13.6	- 4.0				
Western Provinces	and the state of t	- 8.5	- 2.2	- 4.2	-11.5		
Clothing	+ 0.1	- 4.7	- 202	- 200	-11.00		
Quebec Ontario & Western Prov		-11.6					
	-11.1	-19.3	-26.0	- 7.8	- 5.6		
ootwear		-26.3	-20.0	- /+0	- 0.0		
Maritimes and Quebec	· ·	-13.1					
Ont. and Western Provinces	- 3.2	- 7.8	- 3.7	+ 2.1	+14.8		
)ry Goods		= 6.7	- 7.4	+ Gol	*14+0		
Maritimes and Quebec	- 8.7		- 4.0				
Ontario	- 7.3	= 9.0					
Western Provinces	- 8.5	- 7.9	+ 8.2	-15.2	-25.9		
ruits and Vegetables				-L0+2	-20+3		
Maritimes and Quebec	= 6.5	-30.1	-11.4				
Ontario		~22.9	-11.3				
Western Provinces	-19.2 +13.8	-27.3	+ 4.6	+ 4.8	- 2.5		
roceries	+ 4.7	+ 7.4	- 2.7	+ 4.0	- 200		
Maritimes	+ 4.7	- 3.1	= 9.0				
Quebec	+ 9.5	~ 2.3	- 6.8				
Ontario		+ 8.6	+ 1.9				
Prairies another accordence a	+14.2		-16.4				
British Columbia		+ 8.8	- 4.1	+ 6.6	+13.9		
Hardware				+ 0.0	410.03		
Maritimes		+ 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	110 F	+10.3		
Tobacco and Confectionery .		+ 3.7	+ 7.1	+10,5	+10.5		
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 -		1 13 13	. 0 4				
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.



MONTHLY INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE SALES IN CANADA (Average, 1935 - 1939 = 100)

Year			WHOLESA	LE TRADE		AUTOMOTOVE EQUIPMENT					
and Month	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		DRUGS		CLOTHING	FOOTWEAR		DRY	GOODS	
and Month	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			GROC		FRUITS AND VEGETABLES					
and Month	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
lay, 1946	218.1	255.9	198.8	227.5	202.2	236.7	337.1	307.1	342.7	332.9
lay, 1947	228.6	264.9	215.3	244.1	203.8	246.9	327.7	323.7	329.0	312.9
pril, 1948	253.5	292.5	229.2	256.0	217.1	321.4	231.9	255.3	286 °C	217.5
lay, 1948	235.7	284.5	208.6	238.5	221.3	268.6	241.5	226.3	253.7	227.5

Year			HARDWARE			TOBACCO AND CONFECTIONERY				
and Month	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	
Lay, 1946	300.1	297.6	243.5	309.2	337.2	339.1	297.9	361.4	306.4	
lay, 1947	352.3	338.7	295.6	361.5	391.2	358.4	333.9	374.0	321.4	
pril, 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	