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WHOLESALE TRADE

JANUARY 1949

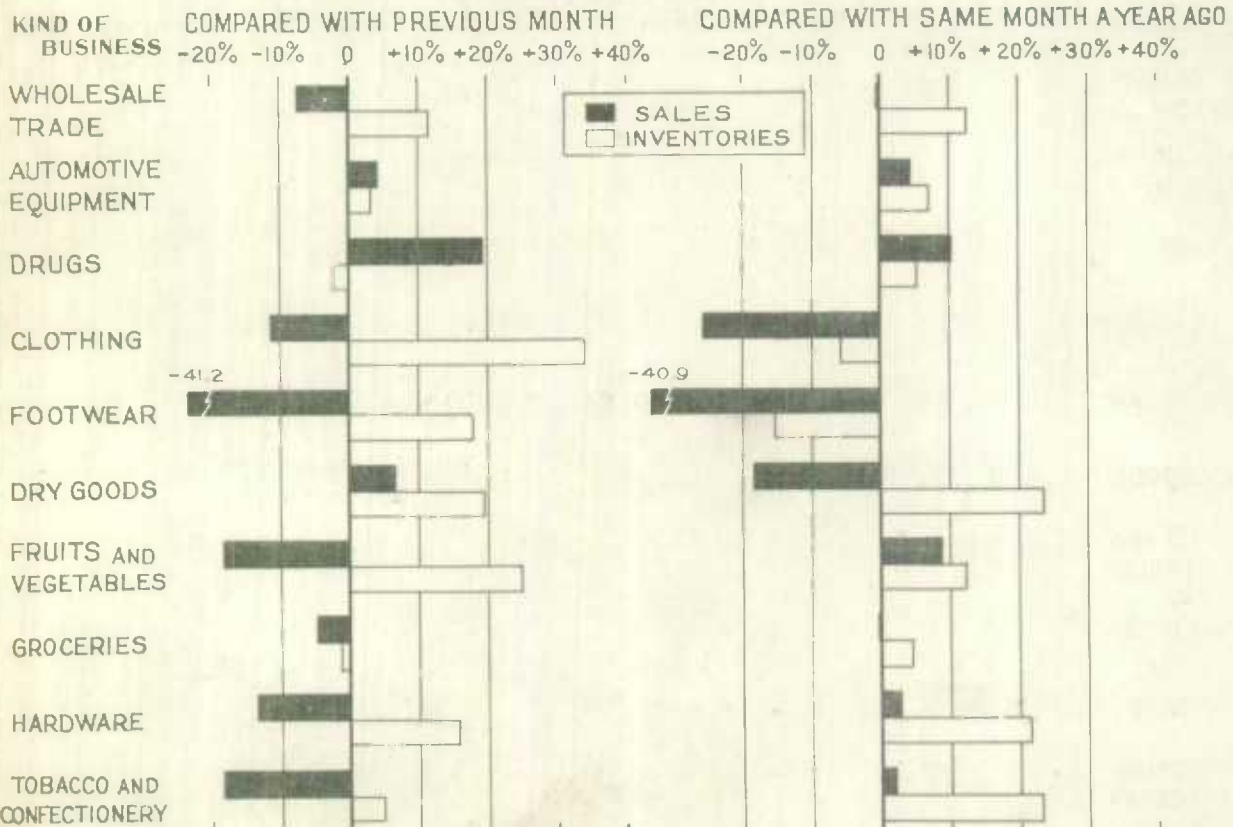
Sales Volume Unchanged from January, 1948

The dollar volume of wholesale sales in January, 1949 was less than one-half of one per cent lower than in January, 1948 and 7% below the volume for December, 1948 according to statements from 357 wholesalers representing nine lines of trade. The general unadjusted index (on the base, average for 1935-1939 = 100) stood at 243.2 for January, 1949, 244.2 for January, 1948, and 262.1 for December, 1948.

Dollar sales of wholesalers in the Province of Quebec were 7% lower than in January a year ago and in British Columbia, sales were down 3%. An increase of 2% over January, 1948 was registered in all other regions of the country.

PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN SALES AND INVENTORIES

JANUARY 1949



Sales Drop in Dry Goods and Apparel Trades

Wholesalers in the dry goods and apparel trades registered marked declines in dollar volume of sales in January, 1949 compared with January a year ago. Sales of footwear wholesalers were down 41%, sales of clothing wholesalers dropped 26%, and dry goods wholesalers' sales were 18% below January, 1948.

Sales of grocery wholesalers were slightly lower than in January last year, while modest gains of 2%, 3%, and 4% were reported respectively by wholesalers of tobacco and confectionery, hardware, and automotive equipment. Fruit and vegetable dealers recorded sales 9% above last year's level, while drug wholesalers' sales were up 10%.

Inventories Generally Higher in Value

Stocks in the hands of wholesalers at the end of January, 1949 were valued 13% higher than the inventory at the corresponding date in 1948. Clothing wholesalers' stocks were 6% lower in value and inventories of footwear wholesalers were 15% lower than at January 31, 1948.

All other trades registered increases in value of inventories. Grocery and drug wholesalers' inventories were 5% higher in value, automotive equipment wholesalers' stocks were up 7%, and fruit and vegetable dealers', 12%. More substantial gains in value of stocks on hand were reported by wholesalers of hardware, tobacco and confectionery, and dry goods at 22%, 23%, and 24% respectively.

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Percentage Changes in Wholesale Trade

	Percentage Change			INVENTORY
	S a l e s			
	(1)	(2)	January,	
	December, 1948	January, 1949	January, 1949	
	December, 1947	January, 1948	December, 1948	Jan., 1949 Jan., 1948
Automotive Equipment	+13.1	+ 4.2	+ 4.3	+ 7.0
Maritimes and Quebec	- 2.8	+ 4.0	-26.0	
Ontario	+22.2	+ 2.9	- 3.0	
Western Provinces	+11.9	+ 5.6	+22.1	
Drugs	+ 6.8	+10.2	+19.2	+ 5.1
Maritimes, Quebec and Ont.	+ 5.9	+11.2	+13.4	
Western Provinces	+ 9.6	+ 7.9	+36.7	
Clothing	+24.6	-25.5	-11.2	- 5.9
Quebec	+49.7	- 8.3		
Ontario & Western Prov. ..	+ 6.9	-32.7		
Footwear	-14.9	-40.9	-41.2	-15.3
Maritimes and Quebec	-38.2	-51.5		
Ontario and Western Prov..	+14.4	-29.6		
Dry Goods	+ 2.4	-18.2	+ 6.8	+23.6
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 6.5	-21.1	+16.1	
Ontario	- 8.7	-14.6	+ 5.5	
Western Provinces	+19.3	-19.1	- 0.3	
Fruits and Vegetables	+ 6.3	+ 8.8	-18.3	+12.3
Maritimes and Quebec	- 6.4	+ 9.3	-17.1	
Ontario	+ 5.5	+ 6.5	- 7.6	
Western Provinces	+16.1	+11.1	-31.0	
Groceries	- 0.6	- 0.2	- 4.7	+ 4.6
Maritimes	(x)	- 0.1	-10.2	
Quebec	- 5.9	-10.6	-32.8	
Ontario	- 3.8	+ 0.8	- 3.6	
Prairies	+ 3.4	+ 0.6	+ 8.3	
British Columbia	+10.0	+ 5.4	- 2.0	
Hardware	+10.9	+ 2.8	-13.2	+21.5
Maritimes	+20.2	+15.4	-18.2	
Quebec	+15.8	+ 7.8	- 2.1	
Ontario	+21.1	+ 9.2	-21.6	
Western Provinces	+ 2.9	- 4.2	- 8.4	
Tobacco and Confectionery .	+ 4.2	+ 2.0	-18.3	+23.2
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 8.9	- 0.9	-34.5	
Ontario	+ 3.2	+ 2.4	-14.7	
Western Provinces	+ 2.9	+ 2.9	-14.2	
Wholesale Trade -				
Maritimes	+ 2.9	+ 2.1	-14.5	
Quebec	+ 2.3	- 6.6	-17.7	
Ontario	+ 3.7	+ 1.5	- 5.1	
Prairies	+11.7	+ 1.7	- 0.6	
British Columbia	- 3.2	- 3.4	- 2.7	
CANADA	+ 4.4	- 0.4	- 7.2	+12.5

(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
January, 1946 ...	217.3	232.0	185.6	231.7	206.7	252.1	358.7	326.0	336.3	404.0
January, 1947 ...	237.3	236.4	206.2	251.6	231.3	271.0	346.5	335.8	358.5	349.5
January, 1948 ...	244.2	221.5	217.7	258.6	226.7	315.2	320.9	284.4	354.2	316.6
December, 1948 ..	262.1	264.6	247.0	276.5	232.1	313.1	320.5	399.9	375.8	273.9
January, 1949 ...	243.2	226.2	203.3	262.5	230.6	304.5	334.4	295.8	364.5	334.3

Year and Month	DRUGS			CLOTHING		FOOTWEAR	DRY GOODS			
	CANADA	Maritimes Que. & Ont.	Western Provinces	CANADA	CANADA	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	
January, 1946 ...	247.0	244.8	254.8	281.5	230.3	203.5	183.2	241.7	193.1	
January, 1947 ...	254.7	245.8	278.8	294.7	274.5	220.2	192.0	257.2	225.7	
January, 1948 ...	283.7	273.3	311.7	274.7	248.7	251.7	234.6	280.3	248.3	
December, 1948 ..	262.3	267.9	246.1	230.4	249.9	192.8	159.4	227.0	201.5	
January, 1949 ...	312.6	303.9	336.3	204.7	147.0	205.9	185.1	239.4	200.9	

Year and Month	GROCERIES						FRUITS AND VEGETABLES			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
January, 1946 ...	185.4	236.3	144.5	199.9	163.5	204.2	230.6	180.7	261.2	220.8
January, 1947 ...	213.0	250.5	162.4	232.5	190.8	246.1	217.9	169.9	238.5	218.2
January, 1948 ...	215.6	235.2	155.6	231.1	193.9	289.4	193.9	156.6	217.0	185.3
December, 1948 ..	225.7	261.8	207.1	241.7	180.2	311.1	258.3	206.4	250.0	298.6
January, 1949 ...	215.2	235.0	139.1	232.9	195.1	305.0	211.0	171.2	231.1	205.9

Year and Month	HARDWARE					TOBACCO AND CONFECTIONERY			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
January, 1946 ...	228.5	176.5	239.9	195.0	259.2	255.0	236.0	257.4	246.7
January, 1947 ...	268.7	211.6	279.0	249.6	293.7	277.7	259.6	278.2	269.6
January, 1948 ...	300.9	210.5	317.5	292.0	322.5	296.0	285.0	298.0	281.7
December, 1948 ..	356.2	297.1	349.5	406.9	337.5	369.6	431.4	358.0	338.0
January, 1949 ...	309.3	242.9	342.3	318.9	309.0	301.9	282.4	305.2	289.9