

Sales in Dry Goods and Apparel Trades Continue Below 1948

Wholesalers of dry goods and apparel continued to report sales below the 1948 volume although the February declines were less marked than those recorded for January. Footwear wholesalers' sales decreased 5%, dry goods wholesalers', 9% while a drop of 16% was recorded by clothing wholesalers.

Moderate gains were reported by all other trades. Drug wholesalers and tobacco and confectionery wholesalers reported sales in February, 1949 up 5% from February a year ago. Sales of grocery and fruit and vegetable dealers were up 4%, while gains of 2% were reported by wholesalers of hardware and automotive equipment.

Inventories up 16%

Wholesalers' inventories were valued 16% higher at the end of February, 1949 than at the corresponding date a year ago. Footwear wholesalers recorded a decline of 7% in value of stocks on hand compared with last year but all other trades showed increases.

The largest increases were reported by the dry goods and tobacco and confectionery trades at 29% and 28% respectively. Hardware wholesalers stocks were up 23% in value and those of automotive equipment dealers, 14%. Other trades reported increases in value of stocks as follows: drugs, 8%; groceries, 7%; fruits and vegetables, 4%; and clothing, 2%.

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Percentage Changes in Wholesale Trade

	Percentage Change			INVENTORY
	S a l e s			
	(1)	(2)	February,	
	January, 1949	February, 1949	February, 1949	
	January, 1948	February, 1948	January, 1949	Feb., 1949 Feb., 1948
Automotive Equipment	+ 2.7	+ 2.3	+ 2.8	+14.1
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 6.2	-15.3	+ 9.7	
Ontario	+ 0.1	+ 7.3	- 4.4	
Western Provinces	+ 4.0	+ 5.7	+ 3.6	
Drugs	+10.1	+ 5.4	-15.0	+ 7.9
Maritimes, Quebec and Ont.	+11.2	+ 6.6	-14.9	
Western Provinces	+ 7.9	+ 2.7	-13.7	
Clothing	-20.1	-16.0	+ 1.1	+ 1.8
Quebec	+ 0.5	- 6.9		
Ontario and Western Prov..	-30.3	-21.0		
Footwear	-40.3	- 5.1	+71.4	- 6.5
Maritimes and Quebec	-51.5	- 1.8		
Ontario and Western Prov..	-28.6	- 9.7		
Dry Goods	-17.9	- 8.9	+18.2	+29.3
Maritimes and Quebec	-21.1	-11.5	+26.7	
Ontario	-14.0	- 7.7	+13.4	
Western Provinces	-19.1	- 5.6	+ 8.9	
Fruits and Vegetables	+ 8.7	+ 3.8	+ 0.7	+ 4.4
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 9.4	- 4.4	+17.7	
Ontario	+ 6.3	+ 2.9	- 8.2	
Western Provinces	+11.3	+10.3	+ 4.4	
Groceries	- 0.4	+ 4.1	- 2.5	+ 6.7
Maritimes	- 0.1	+ 2.2	- 1.5	
Quebec	-12.7	-12.3	+11.6	
Ontario	+ 0.7	+ 7.2	- 7.6	
Prairies	+ 0.6	+ 9.4	+ 1.7	
British Columbia	+ 6.1	+ 7.3	- 8.8	
Hardware	+ 3.1	+ 1.9	+ 3.4	+22.8
Maritimes	+15.1	+10.0	+ 7.5	
Quebec	+ 7.7	- 0.8	-13.1	
Ontario	+10.2	+ 6.2	+ 2.1	
Western Provinces	- 4.2	+ 0.7	+ 4.3	
Tobacco and Confectionery .	+ 2.3	+ 5.3	- 6.3	+27.9
Maritimes and Quebec	(x)	+ 5.6	- 0.4	
Ontario	+ 2.3	+ 3.5	- 2.3	
Western Provinces	+ 3.3	+ 7.1	-10.8	
Wholesale Trade -				
Maritimes	+ 2.2	+ 2.3	- 1.1	
Quebec	- 7.0	- 6.3	+12.5	
Ontario	+ 1.5	+ 4.0	- 4.0	
Prairies	+ 1.6	+ 9.5	+ 3.3	
British Columbia	- 1.5	- 3.3	-10.4	
CANADA	- 0.4	+ 2.0	+ 0.6	+15.8

(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
February, 1946 ..	210.2	201.1	197.6	211.9	204.1	242.5	310.9	354.0	263.7	339.2
February, 1947 ..	231.2	218.0	218.9	238.8	220.2	260.4	335.2	428.7	314.1	318.5
February, 1948 ..	239.8	218.9	243.2	242.4	217.3	287.7	331.2	391.0	316.0	322.6
January, 1949 ...	243.2	226.4	202.5	262.5	230.3	310.5	329.6	302.0	354.6	329.3
February, 1949 ...	244.6	223.9	227.9	252.1	237.9	278.2	338.8	331.2	339.1	341.0

Year and Month	DRUGS			CLOTHING	FOOTWEAR	DRY GOODS			
	CANADA	Maritimes Que. & Ont.	Western Provinces	CANADA	CANADA	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
February, 1946 ..	227.7	223.0	244.8	233.7	238.2	188.7	196.5	191.8	167.6
February, 1947 ..	221.1	216.5	237.2	277.2	296.8	229.6	224.8	272.0	177.3
February, 1948 ..	251.8	242.5	282.5	264.2	268.3	268.2	265.0	296.2	231.7
January, 1949 ...	312.4	303.9	336.3	219.5	148.5	206.6	185.1	241.1	200.9
February, 1949 ..	265.4	258.5	290.1	221.9	254.6	244.3	234.5	273.4	218.7

Year and Month	GROCERIES						FRUITS AND VEGETABLES			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
February, 1946 ..	173.7	195.6	150.0	176.2	161.3	203.0	241.2	225.2	245.9	240.6
February, 1947 ..	200.3	222.0	159.5	211.6	189.2	228.6	219.7	209.4	220.8	220.6
February, 1948 ..	201.1	226.4	172.9	200.6	181.4	261.1	204.5	210.9	205.6	195.2
January, 1949 ...	214.7	235.0	135.8	232.7	195.1	307.1	210.8	171.3	230.7	206.2
February, 1949 ..	209.3	231.4	151.6	215.0	198.5	280.2	212.3	201.6	211.8	215.3

Year and Month	HARDWARE					TOBACCO AND CONFECTIONERY			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
February, 1946 ..	257.8	193.7	221.9	239.6	283.0	228.8	195.7	244.3	221.4
February, 1947 ..	293.1	215.0	257.2	280.3	315.8	245.7	229.4	258.5	232.5
February, 1948 ..	314.8	236.7	299.6	309.5	320.2	269.3	268.9	287.7	242.3
January, 1949 ...	310.2	242.3	341.9	321.8	309.0	302.8	285.0	304.9	291.0
February, 1949 ..	320.8	260.4	297.2	328.7	322.4	283.6	284.0	297.8	259.5