



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

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



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WHOLESALE TRADE

MARCH 1949

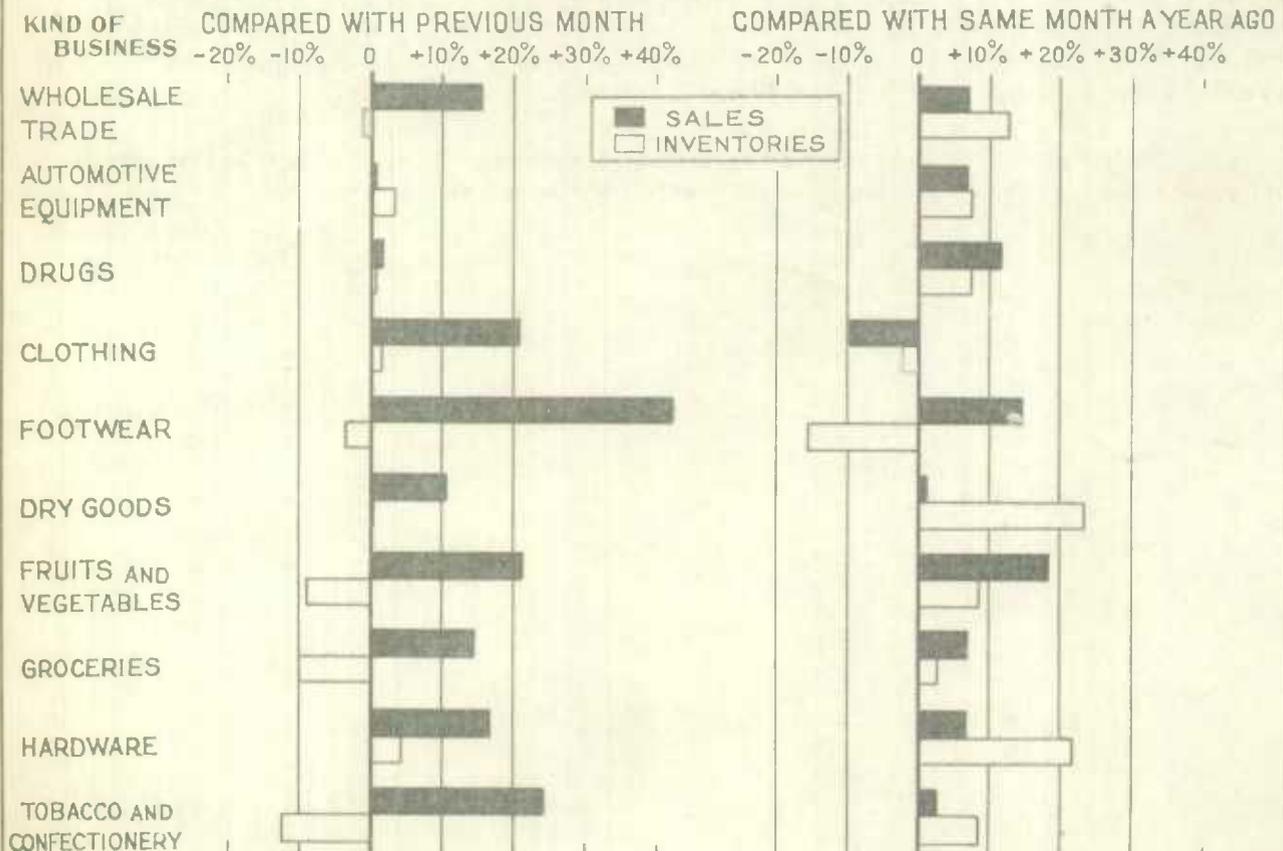
Sales 7% Above March, 1948

Dollar volume of wholesale sales in March, 1949 was 7% higher than in March a year ago and 16% above February, 1949 according to statements submitted by 373 wholesalers representing nine lines of trade. Cumulative sales for the first quarter of 1949 were 3% in excess of dollar sales in the corresponding period of 1948. The general unadjusted index (on the base, average for 1935-1939=100) stood at 283.4 for March, 1949, 264.9 for March, 1948, and 245.1 for February, 1949.

All provinces showed increases over March a year ago, the largest gain of 15% being recorded in the Prairie Provinces. Wholesale sales in Ontario were up 3%; in the Maritime Provinces, 3%; while Quebec and British Columbia both registered gains of 1%.

PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN SALES AND INVENTORIES

MARCH 1949



Fruit and Vegetable Sales Up

Fruit and vegetable wholesalers recorded the largest increase over March last year with a gain of 18%, bringing the increase for the year to date over the corresponding period last year to 10%.

Sales of footwear wholesalers were 15% higher than in March a year ago, after having been below last year in the two previous months. The cumulative sales for the first quarter were 10% below the first quarter of 1948.

Drug wholesalers' Sales were 11% above last year while automotive equipment wholesalers, grocery wholesalers and hardware wholesalers all recorded gains of 7%. Sales of tobacco and confectionery wholesalers were 3% higher than in March a year ago.

Dry goods wholesalers, who had also recorded decreased sales for the past two months, showed a slight gain of 1%, bringing the cumulative sales for 1949 to 9% below 1948. Sales of clothing wholesalers continued below last year by 10%.

Stocks Up 13%.

Inventories of wholesalers in the nine trades surveyed were valued 13% higher at the end of March, 1949 than at the corresponding date a year ago.

Gains of 23% and 22% respectively were recorded by dry goods and hardware wholesalers. Fruit and vegetable, and tobacco and confectionery wholesalers reported an increase of 9% in stocks on hand, automotive equipment and drug wholesalers' stocks were up 7%, while grocery wholesalers' inventories were valued 3% higher than at March 31 last year.

Clothing wholesalers' stocks were lower by 2% in dollar value while footwear wholesalers reported stocks down 16% from last year.

Percentage Changes in Wholesale Trade

	Percentage Change				INVENTORY March, 1949 March, 1948
	SALES			Jan.-to- Mar., 1949 Jan.-to- Mar., 1948	
	(1) February, 1949 February, 1948	(2) March, 1949 March, 1948	March, 1949 Feb. 1949		
Automotive Equipment	+ 2.6	+ 6.9	+ 0.6	+ 4.1	+ 7.3
Maritimes and Quebec	-14.9	-17.4	-12.0	- 9.9	
Ontario	+ 6.7	+ 9.6	+ 7.9	+ 5.3	
Western Provinces	+ 6.5	+15.1	+ 2.3	+ 8.4	
Drugs	+ 6.1	+11.3	+ 1.5	+ 9.2	+ 7.4
Maritimes, Quebec and Ont.	+ 7.4	+ 9.4	- 0.8	+ 9.4	
Western Provinces	+ 2.7	+15.8	+ 5.9	+ 8.6	
Clothing	-15.4	- 9.9	+20.9	-15.0	- 2.3
Quebec	- 6.9	-18.6			
Ont. and Western Provinces	-19.6	- 3.9			
Footwear	-10.3	+14.5	+42.1	-10.4	-15.7
Maritimes and Quebec	- 1.8	+19.9			
Ont. and Western Provinces	-16.7	+10.8			
Dry Goods	- 9.1	+ 1.0	+10.3	- 8.5	+23.4
Maritimes and Quebec	-10.9	- 0.3	+13.5	-10.3	
Ontario	- 8.9	+ 2.6	+ 7.4	- 6.8	
Western Provinces	- 5.6	+ 1.0	+21.9	- 7.8	
Fruits and Vegetables	+ 3.2	+18.1	+21.1	+10.2	+ 8.5
Maritimes and Quebec	- 4.0	+19.1	+21.5	+ 8.0	
Ontario	+ 1.4	+15.3	+31.0	+ 8.0	
Western Provinces	+10.3	+20.5	+ 7.0	+14.0	
Groceries	+ 5.2	+ 6.9	+14.3	+ 3.9	+ 2.8
Maritimes	+ 2.0	+ 5.7	+24.6	+ 2.7	
Quebec	- 6.6	- 3.8	+14.9	- 7.4	
Ontario	+ 8.2	+ 8.3	+12.9	+ 5.6	
Prairies	+ 9.4	+12.3	+12.5	+ 7.5	
British Columbia	+ 7.3	+ 4.1	+ 9.8	+ 5.8	
Hardware	+ 2.1	+ 6.6	+16.6	+ 4.0	+21.7
Maritimes	+13.8	- 2.6	+19.1	+ 7.2	
Quebec	- 0.8	- 1.9	+14.3	+ 1.6	
Ontario	+ 5.9	+12.5	+21.7	+ 9.7	
Western Provinces	+ 0.7	+ 8.8	+15.3	+ 1.9	
Tobacco and Confectionery .	+ 5.4	+ 2.7	+24.2	+ 3.4	+ 8.6
Maritimes and Quebec.....	+ 5.6	- 2.9	+32.4	+ 0.4	
Ontario	+ 3.6	+ 2.5	+ 9.8	+ 2.8	
Western Provinces	+ 7.1	+ 5.8	+34.2	+ 5.3	
Wholesale Trade -					
Maritimes	+ 2.6	+ 3.3	+22.7	+ 2.7	
Quebec	- 4.6	+ 0.8	+15.4	- 3.3	
Ontario	+ 3.7	+ 8.0	+14.7	+ 4.5	
Prairies	+ 9.5	+14.8	+16.0	+ 8.7	
British Columbia	- 3.2	+ 0.8	+13.2	- 1.2	
CANADA	+ 2.2	+ 7.0	+15.6	+ 3.0	+12.6

(1) Revised.

(2) Preliminary.

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

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Year and Month	WHOLESALE TRADE						AUTOMOTIVE EQUIPMENT			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
March, 1946	234.2	234.8	224.3	237.4	230.2	250.9	338.3	339.1	318.3	360.7
March, 1947	257.2	255.0	251.0	251.9	252.8	293.6	341.3	373.0	297.6	372.6
March, 1948	264.9	266.7	265.6	267.0	240.4	312.7	319.8	354.4	332.1	305.5
February, 1949 ..	245.1	224.6	232.0	251.4	237.9	278.5	339.8	332.7	337.2	343.6
March, 1949	283.4	275.5	267.7	288.4	276.0	315.2	341.9	292.7	364.0	351.6

Year and Month	DRUGS			CLOTHING		FOOTWEAR	DRY GOODS			
	CANADA	Maritimes Que. & Ont.	Western Provinces	CANADA	CANADA	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	
March, 1946	228.9	224.3	242.1	235.6	290.0	192.3	193.8	194.8	204.5	
March, 1947	223.4	218.9	236.3	284.1	300.2	266.0	260.1	294.1	261.6	
March, 1948	243.7	236.0	265.4	300.0	298.7	266.3	268.7	282.6	264.0	
February, 1949 ..	267.2	260.4	290.1	223.5	240.7	243.8	236.1	269.8	218.7	
March, 1949	271.2	258.2	307.3	270.3	342.0	269.0	267.9	289.9	266.6	

Year and Month	GROCERIES						FRUITS AND VEGETABLES			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
March, 1946	187.6	227.9	163.1	190.9	173.4	209.2	297.5	261.7	321.1	284.2
March, 1947	215.7	254.8	184.6	212.9	202.4	260.7	261.2	243.4	259.8	263.2
March, 1948	226.3	272.1	192.9	226.3	198.8	295.6	216.3	206.6	237.2	191.1
February, 1949 ..	211.6	230.9	161.5	217.0	198.5	280.2	211.0	202.5	208.7	215.3
March, 1949	241.9	287.6	185.6	245.1	223.3	307.7	255.5	246.1	273.5	230.3

Year and Month	HARDWARE					TOBACCO AND CONFECTIONERY			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
March, 1946	283.8	229.8	267.6	273.9	292.5	271.7	273.3	260.5	265.8
March, 1947	335.5	297.8	305.6	314.4	352.5	281.2	291.9	269.4	271.6
March, 1948	351.6	329.4	346.2	354.6	341.6	343.3	387.1	319.2	329.2
February, 1949 ..	321.4	269.4	297.2	327.8	322.4	283.8	284.0	298.1	259.5
March, 1949	374.8	320.8	339.6	398.9	371.7	352.6	375.9	327.2	348.3