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MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES SECTION
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Dominion Statistician:
Director, Industry and Merchandising Division:
Chief, Merchandising and Services Section:

Herbert Marshall
W. H. Loose
C. H. McDonald

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WHOLESALE TRADE

APRIL 1949

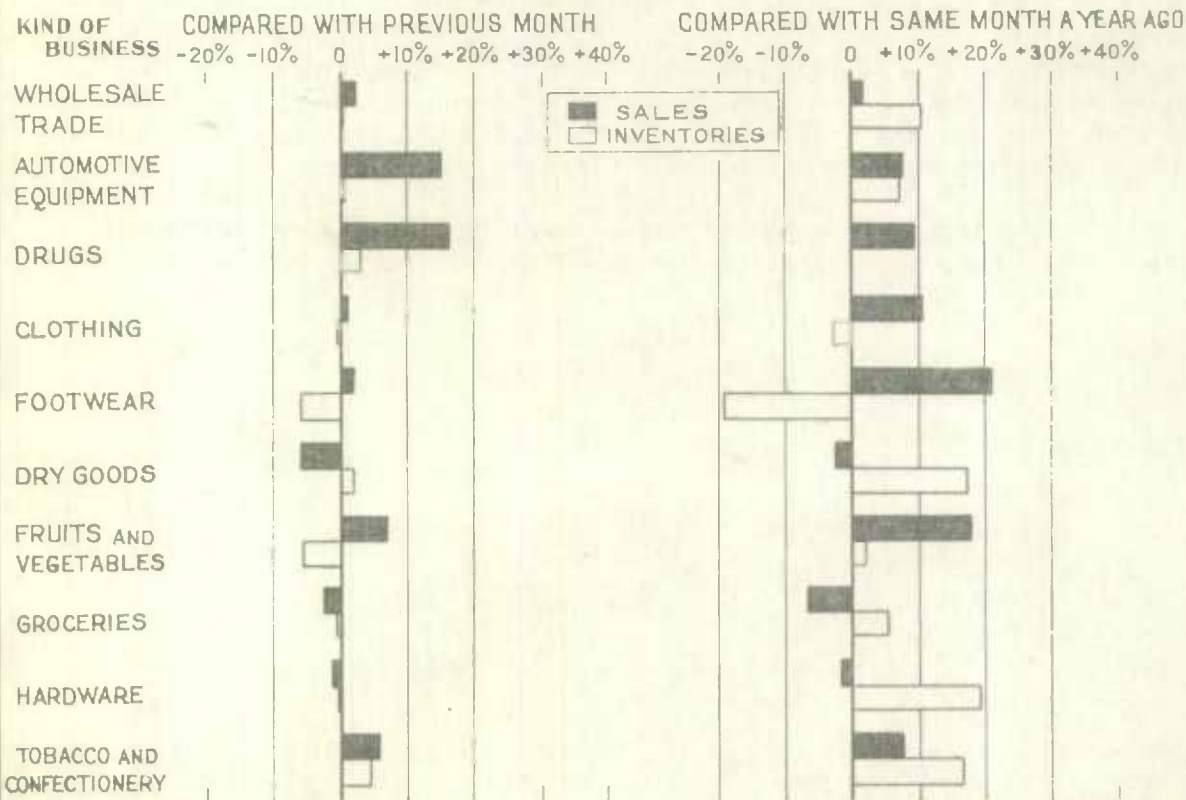
April Sales 2% Above 1948

Sales of wholesalers in April, 1949 were 2% higher in dollar volume than in April a year ago and 2% above March, 1949 according to statements submitted by 368 wholesalers representing nine lines of trade. Sales for the first four months were 3% in excess of the volume in the corresponding period of 1948. The general unadjusted index (on the base, average for 1935 - 1939 = 100) stood at 290.7 for April, 1949, 285.4 for April, 1948, and 283.4 for March, 1949.

Trends in the different regions of the country showed considerable variation. Wholesalers in the Prairie Provinces recorded the greatest increase at 14%, while Ontario wholesalers' sales were up 2%. A decline of 4% was reported for Quebec, while in British Columbia sales were down 6% and in the Maritime Provinces, 8%.

PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN SALES AND INVENTORIES

APRIL 1949



Footwear and Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers' Sales Improved

Footwear wholesalers and fruit and vegetable wholesalers recorded sales 21% and 18% higher respectively than the dollar volumes recorded in April, 1948. Clothing wholesalers also reported an increase in sales of 10% after having been below 1948 for the first three months of the year.

Drug wholesalers' sales were up 9%, while automotive equipment and tobacco and confectionery wholesalers both reported gains of 8% over April a year ago.

Dollar sales of hardware wholesalers were 2% below April, 1947, the only part of the country to register increased sales in this trade being the Prairie Provinces with a gain of 6%. The same situation prevailed in the wholesale dry goods and groceries trades, where all regions recorded decreases except the Prairie Provinces. Dollar sales of dry goods wholesalers for all Canada were down 3% from last April, while the Western Provinces showed an increase of 7%. In the grocery trade, sales for Canada registered a drop of 7%, while sales in the Prairie Provinces were up by 5%.

Inventories up 10%

Stocks in the hands of wholesalers in the nine trades surveyed were valued 10% higher at the end of April, 1949 than at the corresponding date a year ago.

The largest increase in value of stocks on hand compared with last year was reported by hardware wholesalers at 19%. Stocks of tobacco and confectionery and dry goods wholesalers also registered substantial increases of 17%. Automotive equipment wholesalers' stocks were valued 7% higher and grocery wholesalers 6%, while a minor increase of 2% was recorded by fruit and vegetable wholesalers.

Footwear wholesalers' stocks were 19% lower than at the same date a year ago, while clothing wholesalers reported a decrease of 3%.

Percentage Changes in Wholesale Trade

	Percentage Change				INVENTORY April, 1949 April, 1948
	SALES				
	(1) March, 1949 March, 1948	(2) April, 1949 April, 1948	April, 1949 March, 1949	Jan.-to- Apr., 1949 Jan.-to- Apr., 1948	
Automotive Equipment	+ 6.0	+ 7.8	+15.0	+ 4.9	+ 7.1
Maritimes and Quebec	-15.1	-13.9	+18.0	-10.5	
Ontario	+ 6.0	+ 3.2	+ 8.9	+ 3.9	
Western Provinces	+15.6	+21.8	+21.8	+12.2	
Drugs	+11.5	+ 9.4	+16.3	+ 9.3	(x)
Maritimes, Que. & Ont. ...	+10.0	+10.6	+19.1	+ 9.9	
Western Provinces	+15.1	+ 6.7	+ 7.8	+ 8.0	
Clothing	- 8.4	+10.4	+ 1.1	- 8.7	- 2.7
Quebec	-18.6	+20.1			
Ont. and Western Provinces	- 2.4	+ 3.7			
Footwear	+15.0	+21.3	+ 2.0	- 1.9	-19.4
Maritimes and Quebec	+19.9	+23.7			
Ont. and Western Provinces	+11.7	+19.4			
Dry Goods	+ 1.1	- 2.5	- 6.1	- 7.0	+17.3
Maritimes and Quebec	- 0.2	- 4.6	- 5.3	- 8.8	
Ontario	+ 6.6	- 5.7	-14.7	- 5.5	
Western Provinces	+ 1.0	+ 6.9	-12.2	- 4.4	
Fruits and Vegetables	+18.0	+17.9	+ 7.0	+12.3	+ 2.1
Maritimes and Quebec	+16.7	+ 1.8	+ 7.3	+ 5.5	
Ontario	+16.0	+24.7	+29.6	+13.2	
Western Provinces	+21.0	+20.5	+13.4	+15.9	
Groceries	+ 6.9	- 6.7	- 2.3	+ 0.9	+ 5.6
Maritimes	+ 5.7	-12.6	-11.1	- 1.7	
Quebec	- 3.9	-17.5	+ 1.9	-10.5	
Ontario	+ 8.5	-11.6	- 7.8	+ 0.8	
Prairies	+12.4	+ 5.1	+ 2.6	+ 6.8	
British Columbia	+ 4.1	- 1.9	+ 2.5	+ 3.7	
Hardware	+ 6.6	- 1.5	- 1.3	+ 2.5	+19.3
Maritimes	- 2.6	- 9.4	+14.4	+ 1.5	
Quebec	- 1.8	- 5.5	- 1.0	- 0.3	
Ontario	+12.5	+ 6.2	+ 3.3	+ 8.7	
Western Provinces	+ 8.8	- 3.0	- 1.5	+ 0.6	
Tobacco and Confectionery .	+ 2.8	+ 7.8	+ 5.8	+ 4.6	+16.6
Maritimes and Quebec	- 2.9	+ 5.2	+14.7	+ 1.9	
Ontario	+ 2.5	+ 2.7	+ 6.3	+ 2.8	
Western Provinces	+ 6.2	+14.9	- 4.7	+ 7.9	
Wholesale Trade -					
Maritimes	+ 3.1	- 8.1	- 0.5	- 0.5	
Quebec	+ 0.9	- 4.0	+ 0.8	- 3.5	
Ontario	+ 8.0	+ 2.4	+ 5.9	+ 3.9	
Prairies	+14.8	+13.9	+ 2.0	+10.1	
British Columbia	+ 0.9	- 5.9	+ 2.7	- 2.5	
CANADA	+ 7.0	+ 1.7	+ 2.4	+ 2.7	+10.4

(1) Revised.

(2) Preliminary.

(x) Unchanged.



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
April, 1946	238.5	245.8	223.2	245.5	233.3	259.0	344.4	337.3	291.0	406.1
April, 1947	269.0	291.0	257.1	275.0	252.0	305.9	360.9	411.5	308.8	396.8
April, 1948	285.4	297.7	281.5	298.1	247.2	344.4	361.6	412.3	371.5	353.2
March, 1949	283.4	275.0	268.0	288.4	276.0	315.5	339.0	300.9	352.0	353.2
April, 1949	290.3	273.6	270.2	305.3	281.5	324.1	389.8	355.0	383.4	430.2

Year and Month	DRUGS			CLOTHING		FOOTWEAR	DRY GOODS		
	CANADA	Maritimes Que. & Ont.	Western Provinces	CANADA	CANADA	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
April, 1946	235.8	226.9	255.7	213.7	321.5	193.4	199.2	196.8	172.3
April, 1947	248.8	240.5	266.4	270.3	294.2	282.0	291.8	294.0	239.2
April, 1948	288.9	279.5	308.5	251.6	288.9	259.2	266.4	272.5	218.9
March, 1949	271.7	259.6	305.5	274.8	343.5	269.2	268.2	301.3	266.6
April, 1949	316.1	309.1	329.2	277.8	350.4	252.7	254.1	257.0	234.0

Year and Month	GROCERIES						FRUITS AND VEGETABLES			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
April, 1946	190.1	220.9	170.4	193.4	173.8	212.6	288.6	311.7	324.7	303.7
April, 1947	222.6	279.4	188.3	233.8	191.0	259.4	257.1	271.8	294.2	269.2
April, 1948	253.3	292.5	229.0	256.0	218.1	321.4	231.6	254.1	286.0	217.5
March, 1949	241.0	287.6	185.4	245.5	223.5	307.7	255.2	241.1	275.2	231.2
April, 1949	236.3	255.6	188.9	226.3	229.2	315.3	273.1	258.7	356.6	262.1

Year and Month	HARDWARE					TOBACCO AND CONFECTIONERY			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
April, 1946	279.0	271.1	253.3	282.4	289.5	294.6	291.8	280.1	275.0
April, 1947	348.5	341.0	301.9	333.8	378.4	308.4	347.0	292.4	272.8
April, 1948	375.7	405.1	356.2	387.9	377.6	346.3	409.8	338.6	289.8
March, 1949	374.8	320.8	340.0	398.9	371.7	352.9	375.9	327.2	349.6
April, 1949	370.1	367.0	336.6	411.9	366.3	373.3	431.1	347.7	333.0