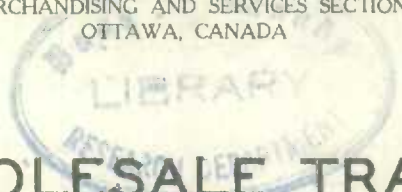
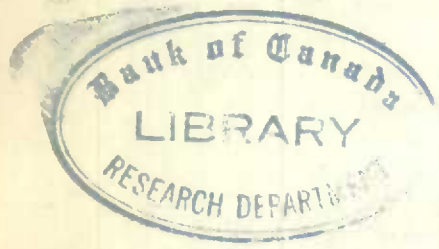


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Published by Authority of the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe
Minister of Trade and Commerce

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



WHOLESALE TRADE

MAY 1949

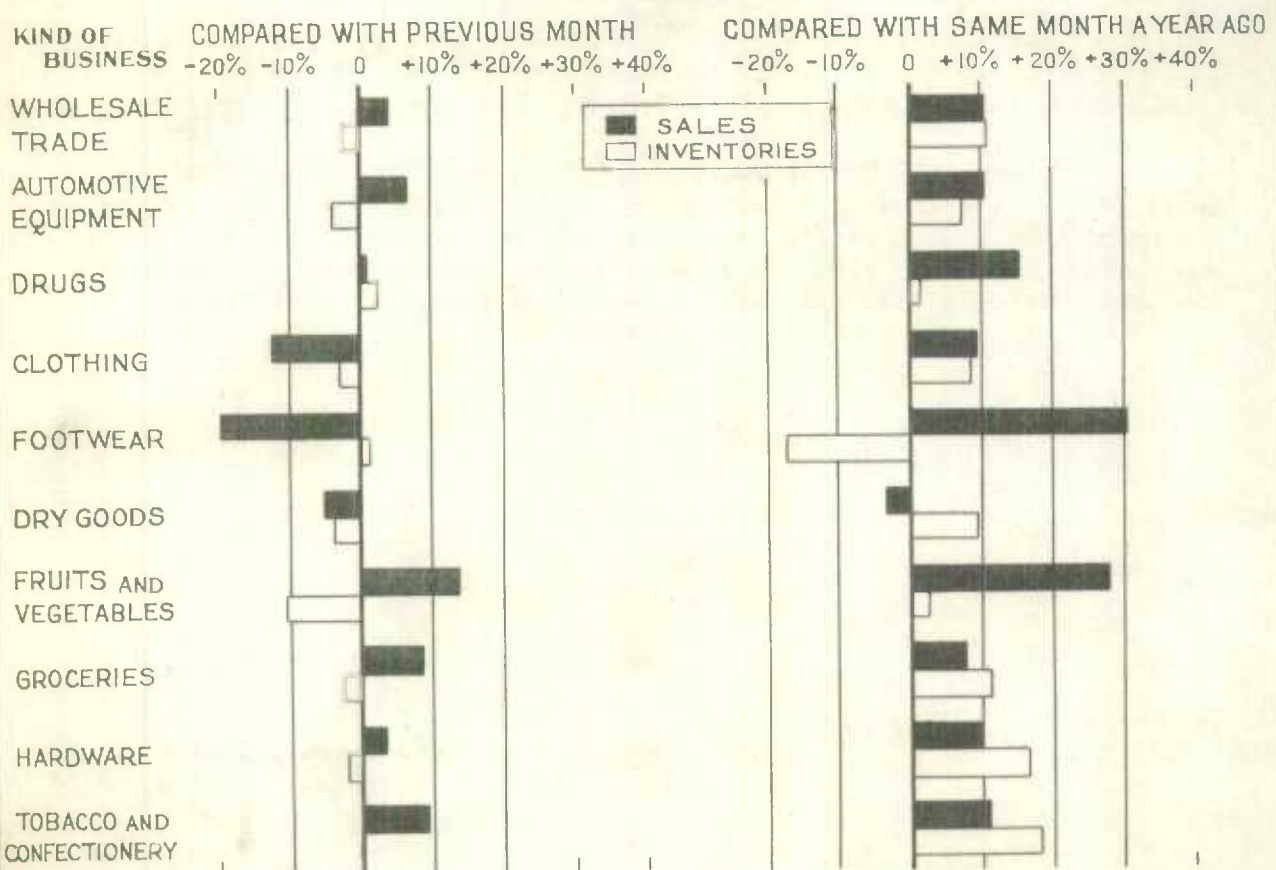
Dollar Sales Increased 11% Over May, 1948

The dollar volume of wholesale sales in May, 1949 advanced 11% above the volume for May, 1948 and 4% above April, 1949 according to statements submitted by 382 wholesalers representing nine lines of trade. The cumulative sales volume for the first five months of 1949 was 5% in excess of that for the corresponding period of 1948. The general unadjusted index (on the base, average for 1935 - 1939 = 100) stood at 303.3 for May, 1949, 274.2 for May, 1948, and 291.7 for April, 1949.

All regions registered increased sales in May, 1949 compared with May a year ago, with the Prairie Provinces continuing to show the greatest gain at 17%. Ontario sales volume was up 12% while wholesalers in British Columbia reported an increase in dollar volume of 8%. Smaller gains of 3% and 5% were recorded for the Maritime Provinces and Quebec respectively.

PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN SALES AND INVENTORIES

MAY 1949



Footwear wholesalers continued to lead the individual trades with an increase in dollar volume of sales over May, 1948 of 30%, followed closely by fruit and vegetable dealers with a gain of 28%. Sales of drug wholesalers were 15% above the May, 1948 dollar volume while gains in the tobacco and confectionery, automotive equipment, hardware, clothing, and groceries trades ranged downward from 11% to 8%.

Dry goods wholesalers again registered a lower sales volume than in the corresponding month a year ago but the 4% decrease reported for May was somewhat lower than the 6% drop recorded for the year to date.

Inventories

Wholesalers' inventories in the nine lines of trade surveyed were 11% higher in dollar value at the end of May, 1949 than at the corresponding date a year ago.

Tobacco and confectionery and hardware wholesalers continued to record the greatest increases in value of stocks on hand compared with last year with gains of 18% and 16%. Footwear wholesalers' stocks were down 18% in dollar value from May 31, 1948 but all other trades surveyed registered increases as follows: groceries, 11%; dry goods, 9%; clothing, 9%; automotive equipment, 7%; fruits and vegetables, 3%; and drugs, 2%.

Stocks-Sales Ratio in the Grocery Trade

Stocks-sales ratios for the wholesale grocery trade which have been published in the bulletin "Current Trends in Food Distribution" (discontinued) will henceforth be given in this report.

Stocks held by wholesale grocers at the beginning of May are normally 26% in excess of sales in that month (based on the average for the years 1936 - 1942). Stocks on hand at the beginning of May this year were valued 6% higher than the sales for that month whereas at the same date last year the stocks on hand were 11% in excess of the May sales.

Year's subscription, \$1.00
Single copies, .10

Percentage Changes in Wholesale Trade

	Percentage Change				INVENTORY May, 1949 May, 1948
	SALES				
	(1) April, 1949 April, 1948	(2) May, 1949 May, 1948	May, 1949 April, 1949	Jan.-to- May, 1949 Jan.-to- May, 1948	
Automotive Equipment	+ 7.4	+10.4	+ 6.6	+ 6.0	+ 7.3
Maritimes and Quebec	-14.7	-16.9	+27.7	-12.4	
Ontario	+ 2.9	+16.9	- 1.7	+ 6.3	
Western Provinces	+22.3	+17.3	+ 6.5	+13.5	
Drugs	+ 9.4	+15.3	+ 0.9	+10.5	+ 1.5
Maritimes, Que. & Ont.	+10.4	+16.5	+ 1.0	+11.2	
Western Provinces	+ 6.7	+12.0	+ 1.6	+ 8.8	
Clothing	+10.5	+ 9.4	-12.6	- 5.6	+ 8.5
Quebec	+20.1	+ 6.3			
Ont. and Western Provinces	+ 4.0	+12.5			
Footwear	+21.3	+30.4	-19.8	+ 3.3	-17.6
Maritimes and Quebec	+23.7	+32.0			
Ont. and Western Provinces	+19.4	+29.0			
Dry Goods	- 2.4	- 3.6	- 5.2	- 6.3	+ 9.3
Maritimes and Quebec	- 4.3	- 7.5	-11.4	- 8.5	
Ontario	- 5.7	- 0.8	+ 1.2	- 4.6	
Western Provinces	+ 6.9	- 0.3	+ 0.9	- 3.7	
Fruits and Vegetables	+18.1	+27.9	+13.9	+15.9	+ 2.7
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 1.8	+32.3	+16.9	+11.3	
Ontario	+24.7	+22.7	-11.5	+15.2	
Western Provinces	+21.2	+31.3	+12.7	+19.8	
Groceries	- 6.7	+ 7.6	+ 8.7	+ 2.3	+11.2
Maritimes	-12.1	+ 2.6	+14.2	- 0.6	
Quebec	-18.1	+ 1.3	+13.7	- 8.1	
Ontario	-11.1	+ 7.8	+17.1	+ 2.5	
Prairies	+ 5.2	+ 9.0	+ 5.5	+ 7.3	
British Columbia	- 1.9	+15.0	- 2.0	+ 5.8	
Hardware	+ 1.8	+ 9.5	+ 3.3	+ 4.7	+16.3
Maritimes	- 7.7	+ 4.8	- 1.4	+ 2.7	
Quebec	- 5.5	+ 2.0	- 1.9	+ 0.2	
Ontario	+ 6.2	+16.0	+ 5.1	+10.3	
Western Provinces	+ 4.3	+10.2	+ 8.7	+ 4.3	
Tobacco and Confectionery .	+ 8.0	+11.0	+ 9.3	+ 6.1	+18.0
Maritimes and Quebec	+ 5.5	+10.7	-10.8	+ 3.7	
Ontario	+ 2.9	+ 7.4	+21.0	+ 3.9	
Western Provinces	+14.7	+15.0	+11.6	+ 9.3	
Wholesale Trade -					
Maritimes	- 7.2	+ 2.8	+13.4	+ 0.5	
Quebec	- 4.7	+ 5.0	- 1.3	- 1.9	
Ontario	+ 2.5	+12.3	+11.4	+ 5.8	
Prairies	+15.6	+16.5	+ 4.9	+11.9	
British Columbia	- 5.8	+ 7.7	+ 7.4	- 0.4	
CANADA	+ 2.3	+10.6	+ 4.0	+ 4.5	+10.9

(1) Revised. (2) Preliminary.

Note: Figures for Newfoundland are not available.



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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
May, 1946	259.8	287.6	225.5	272.3	250.2	286.7	350.1	433.8	265.1	413.9
May, 1947	280.1	297.4	262.9	292.7	267.5	311.9	354.3	457.2	304.1	372.9
May, 1948	274.2	304.8	251.6	301.5	259.2	323.4	381.6	540.4	320.8	392.3
April, 1949 ...	291.7	276.3	267.8	303.9	287.8	324.4	395.3	351.7	381.3	432.0
May, 1949	303.3	313.3	264.2	338.6	302.0	348.3	421.3	449.1	375.0	460.2

Year and Month	DRUGS			CLOTHING	FOOTWEAR	DRY GOODS			
	CANADA	Maritimes Que. & Ont.	Western Provinces	CANADA	CANADA	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
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	247.3	265.0	270.8	264.3	287.5	257.1
May, 1948	276.6	267.5	298.8	223.8	215.4	248.9	244.2	262.2	236.8
April, 1949 ...	316.1	308.6	329.5	280.1	350.4	253.0	254.9	257.0	234.0
May, 1949	318.9	311.6	334.7	244.8	280.9	239.9	225.9	260.1	236.1

Year and Month	GROCERIES						FRUITS AND VEGETABLES			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Prairies	British Columbia	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
May, 1946	218.1	255.9	198.8	227.5	202.2	236.7	337.1	307.1	342.7	332.9
May, 1947	228.6	266.1	215.3	244.1	203.4	246.9	328.3	324.6	329.0	312.9
May, 1948	237.5	286.1	208.0	243.1	222.9	268.6	242.9	229.2	254.0	227.8
April, 1949....	235.1	257.1	185.3	223.9	230.3	315.3	272.9	259.3	352.2	265.3
May, 1949	255.6	293.5	210.7	262.1	243.0	308.9	310.7	303.2	311.7	299.1

Year and Month	HARDWARE					TOBACCO AND CONECTIONERY			
	CANADA	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces	CANADA	Maritimes & Quebec	Ontario	Western Provinces
May, 1946	300.1	297.6	243.5	309.2	337.2	339.1	297.9	361.4	306.4
May, 1947	352.3	338.7	295.6	361.5	391.2	355.7	334.2	368.3	321.4
May, 1948	361.1	351.9	323.7	373.4	385.3	370.6	348.2	394.8	325.3
April, 1949 ...	382.8	373.9	336.6	411.9	390.7	376.4	432.3	350.3	335.2
May, 1949	395.4	368.8	330.2	433.1	424.6	411.4	385.5	424.0	374.1