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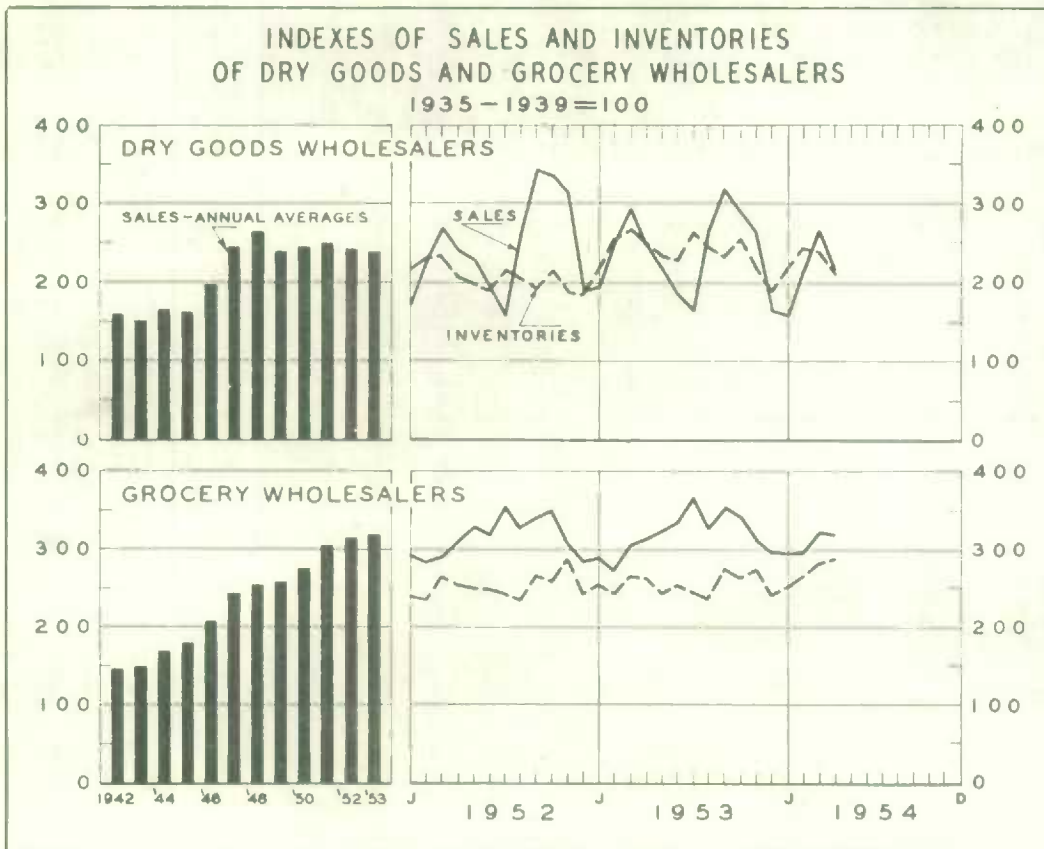
\$1.00 a year

## WHOLESALE TRADE

APRIL 1954

The results shown in this report are based on returns from 400 wholesalers distributed over nine trades. They reflect trends in dollar volume of business and are not adjusted for changes in wholesale prices.

The unadjusted index for the total of the nine trades (on the base of 1935-1939 = 100) stood at 356.9 for April 1954 compared with 366.6 for April a year ago and 352.3 for March 1954.



Prepared in Merchandising and Services Section,  
Industry and Merchandising Division.

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Sales Trends by Trades

Wholesale sales were 2% lower in April 1954 than in the same month a year ago, according to reports received from wholesalers in the nine trades covered by this survey. Largest drop from April last year was in the footwear trade, with a sales decline of 14%. Sales of dry goods, clothing and hardware declined 12%, 11% and 10% respectively. Wholesalers of auto parts and equipment reported a sales drop of 3% while sales of tobacco and confectionery were 1% lower. Sales of fruits and vegetables dropped less than 1%. An increase in sales of 3% was reported by the grocery and drug trades.

Inventories

The value of stocks held by wholesalers at the end of April 1954 showed a slight decline of less than 1% from the same period a year ago. Stocks of dry goods and fruits and vegetables declined 14% while hardware stocks dropped 3% and footwear and drugs 1%. Inventory values were higher at the end of April this year in groceries (10%), clothing (9%), auto parts and equipment (7%) and tobacco and confectionery (1%).

Grocery and Dry Goods Wholesalers' Inventories


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Month and Year	Monthly Indexes of Wholesale Inventories (Average for 1935-1939=100)	
	<u>Dry Goods Wholesalers</u>	<u>Grocery Wholesalers</u>
April 1954	213.3	287.7
March 1954	238.9	281.5
April 1953	247.5	262.3

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## Wholesale Trade in Canada

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Trade and Region	Monthly Indexes of Sales (Average 1935-39 = 100)			Percentage Change (Current month over same month last year)	
	April (P) 1954	March (R) 1954	April 1953	Sales %	Inventory %
<b>Wholesale Trade<sup>1</sup>, Canada</b> .....	356.9	352.3	366.6	- 2.1	- 0.7
<b>Auto Parts and Equipment</b> .....	572.0	541.7	592.3	- 3.4	+ 6.7
Maritimes and Quebec .....	426.0	362.7	457.1	- 6.8	
Ontario .....	629.7	629.5	611.4	+ 3.0	
Western Provinces.....	591.5	539.3	663.1	- 10.8	
<b>Drugs</b> .....	398.2	362.0	387.0	+ 3.0	- 0.8
Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario .....	386.0	340.8	373.3	+ 3.4	
Western Provinces .....	438.9	432.7	432.4	+ 1.5	
<b>Clothing</b> .....	236.5	299.1	266.0	- 11.1	+ 9.3
<b>Footwear</b> .....	306.2	353.0	354.4	- 13.6	- 1.1
<b>Dry Goods</b> .....	216.9	266.7	247.9	- 12.5	- 13.8
Maritimes and Quebec .....	211.9	238.8	252.3	- 16.0	
Ontario .....	228.4	269.8	241.9	- 5.6	
Western Provinces .....	214.0	306.0	246.8	- 13.3	
<b>Fruits and Vegetables</b> .....	329.7	288.6	330.0	- 0.2	- 13.5
Maritimes and Quebec .....	276.1	258.3	281.4	- 1.9	
Ontario .....	375.6	300.2	379.8	- 1.1	
Western Provinces .....	342.4	308.0	334.7	+ 2.3	
<b>Groceries</b> .....	319.6	323.0	312.7	+ 2.8	+ 9.7
Maritimes .....	320.5	343.0	318.3	+ 0.7	
Quebec .....	219.6	243.9	206.8	+ 6.2	
Ontario .....	312.3	300.5	302.0	+ 3.4	
Prairies .....	316.7	320.0	308.4	+ 2.7	
British Columbia .....	523.3	505.6	533.4	- 1.9	
<b>Hardware</b> .....	420.6	412.1	469.1	- 10.3	- 2.9
Maritimes .....	407.6	347.0	443.0	- 8.0	
Quebec .....	406.0	392.7	414.7	- 2.1	
Ontario .....	510.3	461.6	548.1	- 6.9	
Western Provinces .....	379.2	404.0	456.3	- 16.9	
<b>Tobacco and Confectionery</b> .....	414.9	395.6	419.1	- 0.9	+ 1.4
Maritimes and Quebec .....	429.8	395.4	450.1	- 4.5	
Ontario .....	419.4	383.0	418.6	+ 0.2	
Western Provinces .....	377.8	425.5	365.0	+ 3.5	

1. Composite of Nine Trades

Note: Figures for Newfoundland are not included.

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