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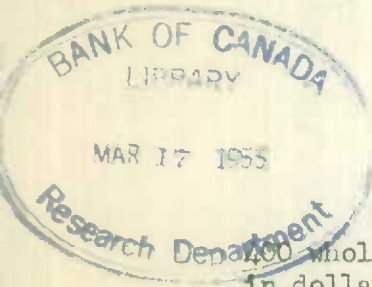
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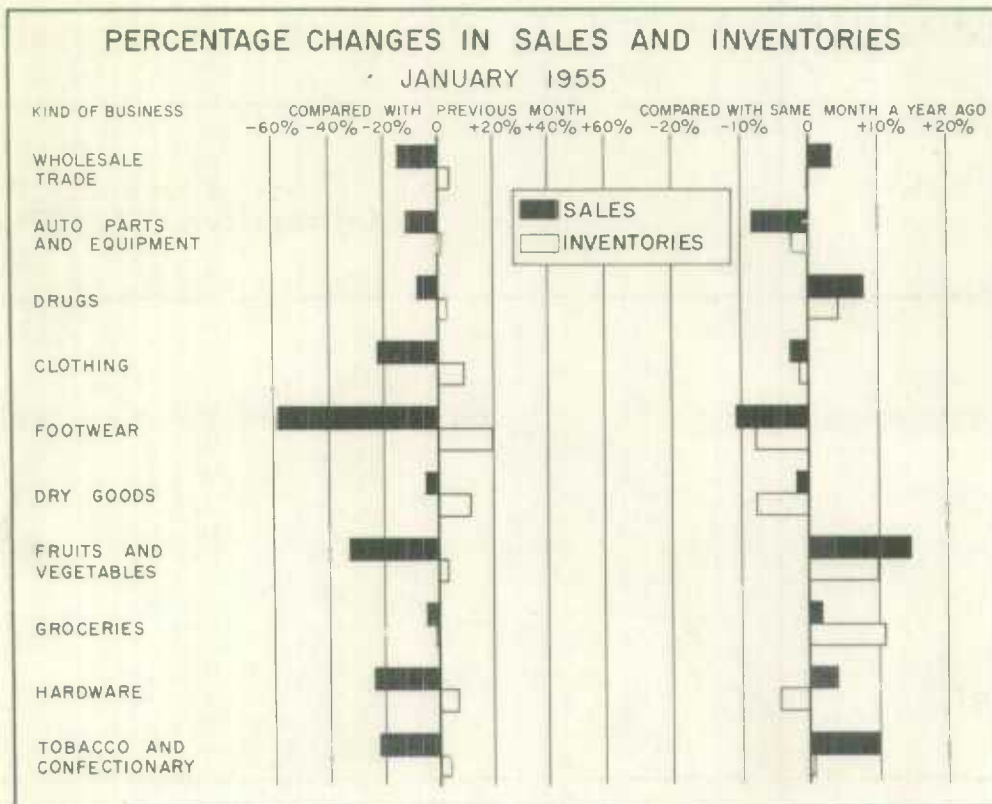
WHOLESALE TRADE

JANUARY 1955



The results shown in this report are based on returns from 100 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 303.4 for January 1955 compared with 294.1 for January a year ago and 357.1 for December 1954.



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

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Sales Trends by Trades

Wholesale sales for the nine trades covered by this report showed an increase of 3.5% for January 1955 when compared with January 1954 while sales were 15.0% below the previous month. Five of the nine trades reported increases in comparison with the corresponding month of the previous year and these ranged from 1.7% for grocery wholesalers to 14.7% for fruit and vegetable wholesalers. Of the four trades reporting decreases the range varied from 2.0% for dry goods wholesalers to 10.7% for footwear wholesalers.

Inventories

For the nine wholesale trades as a whole a general stability in terms of dollar value of inventories continued with January inventories 0.1% under those of the corresponding month of the previous year. Five of the nine trades reported decreases and four increases in the comparison with the previous year. Large decreases of 7.9% and 7.8% respectively were reported by footwear and dry goods wholesalers while increases of 10.8% were reported by grocery wholesalers and 9.9% by fruit and vegetable wholesalers.

Grocery and Dry Goods Wholesalers' Inventories

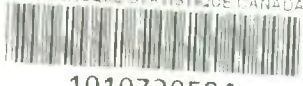
Month and Year	Monthly Indexes of Wholesale Inventories (Average for 1935-1939=100)	
	<u>Dry Goods Wholesalers</u>	<u>Grocery Wholesalers</u>
January 1955	202.5	276.9
December 1954	177.2	268.1
January 1954	219.6	249.9

Trade and Region	Monthly Indexes of Sales (Average 1935-39 = 100)			Percentage Change (Current month over same month last year)	
	January (P) 1955	December (P) 1954	January 1954	Sales %	Inventory %
Wholesale Trade¹, Canada	303.4	357.1	294.1	+ 3.5	- 0.1
Auto Parts and Equipment	495.5	560.4	539.4	- 8.3	- 2.6
Maritimes and Quebec	326.0	530.7	368.8	- 11.6	
Ontario	559.5	616.3	616.2	- 9.2	
Western Provinces	522.6	496.5	547.8	- 4.6	
Drugs	378.7	410.9	350.3	+ 8.1	+ 4.3
Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario	372.3	395.4	347.0	+ 7.3	
Western Provinces	400.2	462.5	361.5	+ 10.7	
Clothing	177.0	228.2	182.3	- 2.9	- 1.4
Footwear	130.6	315.4	146.2	- 10.7	- 7.9
Dry Goods	153.3	161.0	155.6	- 2.0	- 7.8
Maritimes and Quebec	109.4	132.3	113.0	- 3.2	
Ontario	160.0	168.7	182.8	- 12.5	
Western Provinces	213.4	197.4	195.4	+ 9.2	
Fruits and Vegetables	241.5	332.5	210.4	+ 14.7	+ 9.9
Maritimes and Quebec	187.0	201.7	164.2	+ 13.9	
Ontario	268.0	306.9	241.2	+ 11.1	
Western Provinces	271.6	480.3	229.0	+ 18.6	
Groceries	301.8	316.5	295.3	+ 1.7	+ 10.8
Maritimes	288.8	312.4	278.8	+ 3.6	
Quebec	196.1	256.0	192.3	+ 2.0	
Ontario	280.6	333.1	299.8	- 6.4	
Prairies	309.9	285.6	291.5	+ 6.3	
British Columbia	546.2	457.4	497.0	+ 9.9	
Hardware	319.7	419.8	308.8	+ 3.9	- 4.4
Maritimes	266.2	353.6	239.2	+ 11.3	
Quebec	340.9	440.8	314.2	+ 8.5	
Ontario	338.4	508.6	351.4	- 3.7	
Western Provinces	306.4	368.6	292.6	+ 4.7	
Tobacco and Confectionery	362.1	463.1	330.7	+ 10.0	+ 0.6
Maritimes and Quebec	336.6	486.0	294.5	+ 14.3	
Ontario	370.4	459.7	335.2	+ 10.5	
Western Provinces	388.1	430.1	384.3	+ 1.0	

1. Composite of Nine Trades

Note: Figures for Newfoundland are not included.

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