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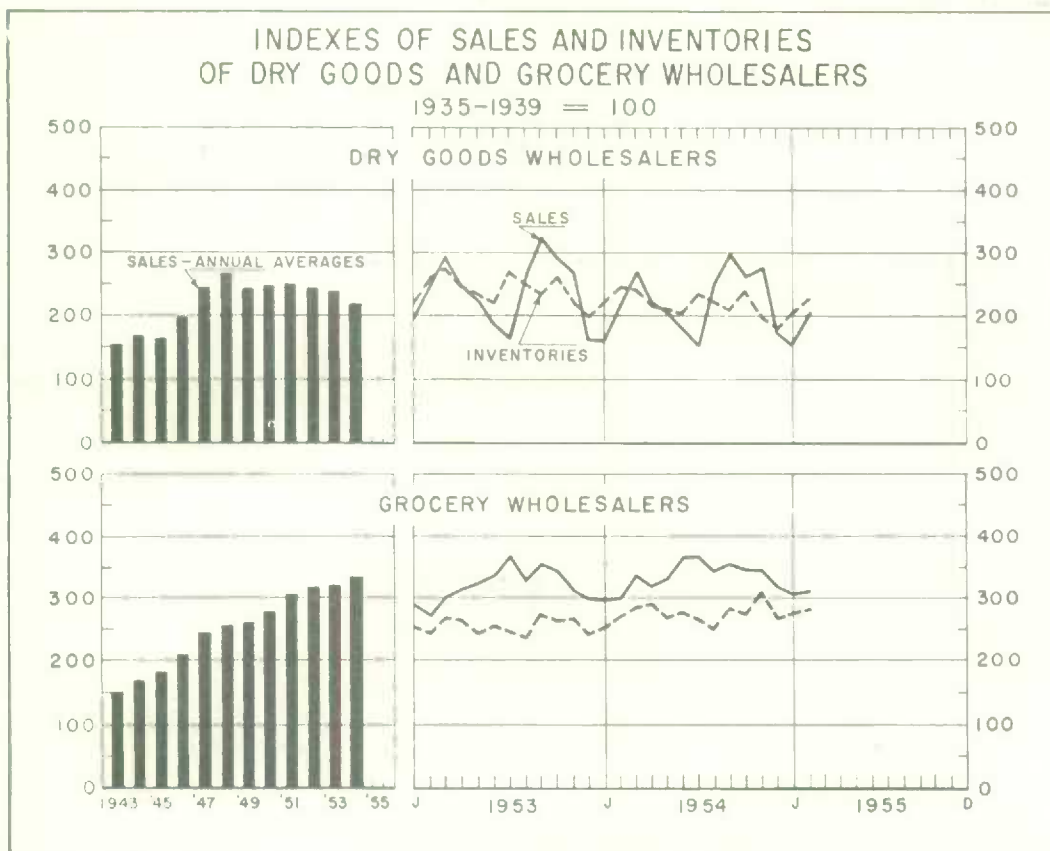
WHOLESALE TRADE

FEBRUARY 1955



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 322.9 for February 1955 compared with 312.8 for February a year ago and 305.3 for January 1955.



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

Sales Trends by Trades

In February 1955 wholesale sales for the nine trades covered by this report showed an increase of 3% over the corresponding month of 1954 and an increase of 5.8% over January 1955. All of the nine trades reported an increase in comparison with the corresponding month of the previous year with the exception of dry goods wholesalers who reported a decrease of 3.7%. The increases ranged from more than 7% for footwear wholesalers to less than 2% for clothing wholesalers.

Inventories

For the nine wholesale trades as a whole in February 1955 there was a drop of 3.4% in the dollar value of inventory holdings in comparison with the corresponding month of the previous year. Large declines were reported for footwear wholesalers with a reduction of 15.4%, hardware wholesalers 11.7% and dry goods wholesalers 6.2%. Increases in the value of inventory holdings were reported by six trades ranging from clothing wholesalers with less than 1% to tobacco and confectionery wholesalers with an increase of nearly 10%.

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> |
| February 1955 | 226.7 | 279.8 |
| January 1955 | 201.8 | 274.4 |
| February 1954 | 241.7 | 265.2 |

| Trade and Region | Monthly Indexes of Sales (Average 1935-39 = 100) | | | Percentage Change (Current month over same month last year) | |
|--|---|---------------------|------------------|---|-----------|
| | February (P) 1955 | January (R) 1955 | February 1954 | Sales | Inventory |
| | | | | % | % |
| Wholesale Trade¹, Canada | 322.9 | 305.3 | 312.8 | + 3.0 | - 3.4 |
| Auto Parts and Equipment | 583.6 | 504.0 | 564.1 | + 3.6 | + 1.5 |
| Maritimes and Quebec | 500.9 | 335.6 | 465.1 | + 7.7 | |
| Ontario | 628.2 | 573.7 | 607.5 | + 3.4 | |
| Western Provinces | 576.3 | 521.5 | 570.6 | + 1.0 | |
| Drugs | 362.0 | 380.0 | 349.0 | + 3.7 | + 3.3 |
| Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario | 343.8 | 372.3 | 331.9 | + 3.6 | |
| Western Provinces | 422.8 | 401.3 | 406.1 | + 4.1 | |
| Clothing | 253.6 | 179.7 | 248.9 | + 1.9 | + 0.9 |
| Footwear | 370.2 | 130.3 | 345.0 | + 7.3 | - 15.4 |
| Dry Goods | 205.3 | 153.3 | 213.0 | - 3.7 | - 6.2 |
| Maritimes and Quebec | 163.9 | 109.4 | 171.1 | - 4.2 | |
| Ontario | 241.8 | 160.1 | 241.3 | + 0.2 | |
| Western Provinces | 234.7 | 213.4 | 250.7 | - 6.4 | |
| Fruits and Vegetables | 263.6 | 242.3 | 250.4 | + 5.5 | + 9.7 |
| Maritimes and Quebec | 240.4 | 188.8 | 225.9 | + 6.4 | |
| Ontario | 258.8 | 268.0 | 237.9 | + 8.8 | |
| Western Provinces | 290.1 | 272.1 | 284.7 | + 1.9 | |
| Groceries | 310.0 | 305.4 | 299.7 | + 3.6 | + 5.5 |
| Maritimes | 304.7 | 288.8 | 295.0 | + 3.3 | |
| Quebec | 217.4 | 197.5 | 208.2 | + 4.4 | |
| Ontario | 301.4 | 280.6 | 281.4 | + 7.1 | |
| Prairies | 286.8 | 309.3 | 299.7 | - 4.3 | |
| British Columbia | 560.1 | 578.5 | 501.0 | + 11.8 | |
| Hardware | 316.1 | 319.8 | 309.3 | + 2.5 | - 11.7 |
| Maritimes | 240.7 | 266.2 | 243.6 | - 1.2 | |
| Quebec | 298.7 | 341.2 | 290.0 | + 3.0 | |
| Ontario | 348.3 | 338.4 | 361.3 | - 3.6 | |
| Western Provinces | 318.5 | 306.4 | 299.9 | + 6.2 | |
| Tobacco and Confectionery | 353.7 | 359.0 | 346.9 | + 2.1 | + 9.9 |
| Maritimes and Quebec | 323.7 | 336.6 | 309.2 | + 4.7 | |
| Ontario | 380.6 | 364.4 | 369.9 | + 2.9 | |
| Western Provinces | 344.4 | 386.2 | 360.2 | - 4.4 | |

1. Composite of Nine Trades

Note: Figures for Newfoundland are not included.

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