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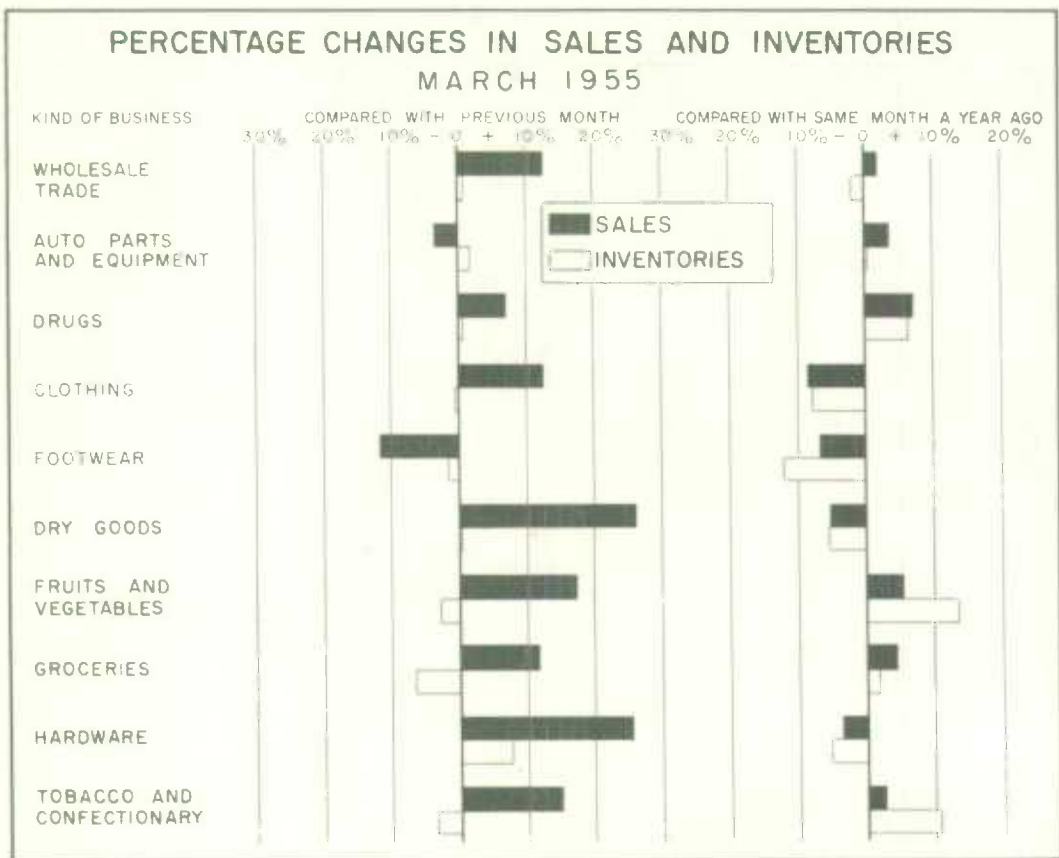
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\$1.00 a year

WHOLESALE TRADE
MARCH 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 366.0 for March 1955 compared with 357.6 for March a year ago and 324.6 for February 1955.



Prepared in Merchandising and Services Section,
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Sales Trends by Trades

March sales of the nine wholesale trades covered in this report showed a very nominal increase of 2% over March a year ago. Five of the nine trades reported increases over March 1954 while decreases occurred in the clothing, dry goods, footwear and hardware trades. Increases in sales ranged from 7.2% for drug wholesalers to 2.8% for tobacco and confectionery wholesalers. The greatest decrease in sales occurred in the clothing trade (-8.6%).

Inventories

The pattern of increased or decreased sales held true for inventories with the same five trades showing increases ranging from 13.8% for fruit and vegetable wholesalers to 0.3% for auto parts and equipment wholesalers. Footwear wholesalers recorded the greatest decrease in inventories with a drop of 12% from the same date in 1954. The total of the nine trades showed an over-all drop in inventories of approximately 2% at the end of March as compared with the same date last year.

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>
March 1955	226.5	286.6
February 1955	220.4	279.0
March 1954	238.9	281.5

Trade and Region	Monthly Indexes of Sales (Average 1935-39 = 100)			Percentage Change (Current month over same month last year)	
	March (P) 1955	February (R) 1955	March 1954	Sales %	Inventory %
Wholesale Trade¹, Canada	366.0	324.6	357.6	+ 1.9	- 1.7
Auto Parts and Equipment	567.4	586.1	541.7	+ 3.7	+ 0.3
Maritimes and Quebec	369.2	500.9	362.7	+ 1.8	
Ontario	723.9	629.4	629.5	+ 15.0	
Western Provinces	473.5	582.6	539.3	- 12.2	
Drugs	387.6	362.0	362.0	+ 7.2	+ 6.4
Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario	368.1	343.8	340.8	+ 8.0	
Western Provinces	452.6	422.8	432.7	+ 4.6	
Clothing	278.3	247.9	304.5	- 8.6	- 7.6
Footwear	330.1	372.6	353.0	- 6.5	- 11.9
Dry Goods	252.2	200.0	266.7	- 5.1	- 5.2
Maritimes and Quebec	226.1	162.2	238.8	- 5.3	
Ontario	281.4	241.8	269.8	+ 4.3	
Western Provinces	265.0	219.1	306.0	- 13.4	
Fruits and Vegetables	312.7	266.8	296.2	+ 5.4	+ 13.8
Maritimes and Quebec	262.9	240.1	258.3	+ 1.8	
Ontario	329.1	260.5	325.5	+ 1.1	
Western Provinces	346.8	297.8	308.0	+ 12.6	
Groceries	350.7	314.3	333.7	+ 4.2	+ 1.8
Maritimes	352.9	304.7	343.0	+ 2.9	
Quebec	246.1	220.5	243.9	+ 0.9	
Ontario	327.7	301.7	336.4	- 2.6	
Prairies	351.0	300.9	320.0	+ 9.7	
British Columbia	596.6	560.1	505.6	+ 18.0	
Hardware	397.4	316.3	412.1	- 3.8	- 5.5
Maritimes	352.9	240.7	347.0	+ 1.7	
Quebec	401.7	297.8	392.7	+ 2.3	
Ontario	489.8	349.0	461.6	+ 6.1	
Western Provinces	349.5	318.5	404.0	- 13.5	
Tobacco and Confectionery	407.0	353.5	396.2	+ 2.8	+ 10.8
Maritimes and Quebec	429.4	323.7	395.4	+ 8.6	
Ontario	392.7	380.6	384.2	+ 2.2	
Western Provinces	400.4	343.3	425.5	- 5.9	

1. Composite of Nine Trades

Note: Figures for Newfoundland are not included.

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