

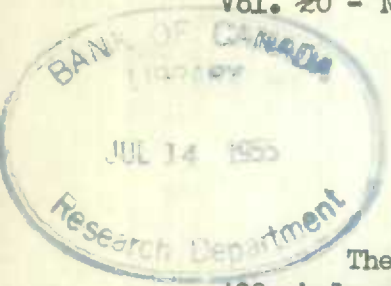
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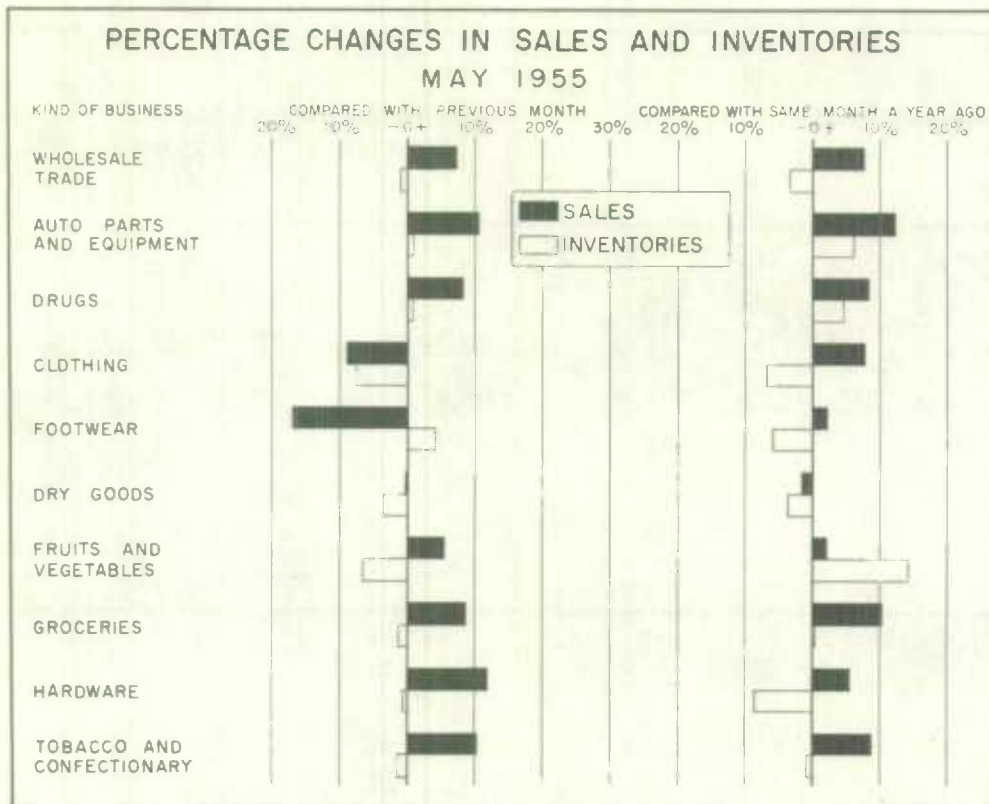
\$1.00 a year



WHOLESALE TRADE
MAY 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 399.2 for May 1955 compared with 369.6 for May a year ago and 369.1 for April 1955.



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

6505-505-55

Sales Trends by Trades

All except one of the nine wholesale trades covered in this report showed increased sales during May, 1955, to make a total gain for all nine trades of 7.4% over 1954. Auto parts and equipment wholesalers showed the largest gain (12.1%), followed by grocery wholesalers (10.2%), tobacco and confectionery wholesalers (8.7%), drug wholesalers (8.2%) and clothing wholesalers (7.7%). Smaller gains were made in the remaining trades with the exception of dry goods which decreased slightly (1.5%).

Inventories

In total the nine trades reported 3.4% less inventory value at the end of May, 1955, than at the same date in 1954. Fruit and vegetable wholesalers reported the largest increase (14.3%). Five trades reported decreases ranging from -8.5% to -0.9%.

Grocery and Dry Goods Wholesalers' Inventories

Month and Year

Monthly Indexes of Wholesale Inventories
(Average for 1935-1939=100)

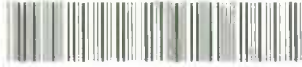
	<u>Dry Goods Wholesalers</u>	<u>Grocery Wholesalers</u>
May 1955	198.6	268.2
April 1955	205.7	288.6
May 1954	206.0	267.7

Trade and Region	Monthly Indexes of Sales (Average 1935-39 = 100)			Percentage Change (Current month over same month last year)	
	May (P) 1955	April (R) 1955	May 1954	Sales %	Inventory %
Wholesale Trade¹, Canada	399.2	369.1	369.6	+ 7.4	- 3.4
Auto Parts and Equipment	679.2	615.1	602.8	+ 12.1	(2)
Maritimes and Quebec	539.6	424.7	556.3	- 3.0	
Ontario	810.0	736.1	626.9	+ 29.2	
Western Provinces.....	581.6	570.2	600.2	- 3.1	
Drugs	418.3	386.4	386.8	+ 8.2	+ 4.5
Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario	407.7	370.6	375.8	+ 8.5	
Western Provinces	453.6	438.9	423.5	+ 7.1	
Clothing	210.1	230.6	195.1	+ 7.7	- 6.9
Footwear	259.2	312.0	253.9	+ 2.1	- 5.9
Dry Goods	201.8	202.0	204.5	- 1.5	- 3.6
Maritimes and Quebec	188.4	199.8	194.8	- 3.3	
Ontario	230.3	213.3	226.7	+ 1.6	
Western Provinces	196.1	195.0	199.1	- 1.5	
Fruits and Vegetables.....	378.9	359.1	370.7	+ 2.1	+ 14.3
Maritimes and Quebec	341.7	298.9	365.5	- 6.5	
Ontario	384.1	419.7	370.8	+ 3.6	
Western Provinces	410.3	365.8	375.7	+ 9.2	
Groceries	363.4	334.4	327.2	+ 10.2	+ 0.2
Maritimes	353.7	319.2	325.7	+ 8.6	
Quebec	247.2	224.9	236.6	+ 4.5	
Ontario	352.2	312.6	319.0	+ 10.4	
Prairies	360.9	322.7	324.3	+ 11.3	
British Columbia	619.7	637.9	519.9	+ 19.2	
Hardware	471.2	421.2	446.1	+ 5.6	- 8.5
Maritimes	435.0	432.1	424.4	+ 2.5	
Quebec	453.3	391.0	412.1	+ 10.0	
Ontario	557.1	514.4	526.1	+ 5.9	
Western Provinces	437.1	382.0	421.5	+ 3.7	
Tobacco and Confectionery	474.7	430.7	439.3	+ 8.7	- 0.9
Maritimes and Quebec	447.6	475.4	378.0	+ 18.4	
Ontario	520.3	424.9	495.5	+ 5.0	
Western Provinces	416.9	364.9	417.3	- 0.1	

1. Composite of Nine Trades (2) No change

Note: Figures for Newfoundland are not included.

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