

In addition the trades selected are those engaged principally in supplying retailers and include the following: automotive supply and equipment, drugs, clothing, footwear, dry goods, fruits and vegetables, groceries, hardware, and tobacco and confectionery. Inventory figures are limited to fewer trades and a smaller sample, since not all firms are able to provide month-end inventory figures as required.

Recent Trends.—Sales indexes for total wholesale trade gained about 19 p.c. in 1946 compared with 1945 and 12 p.c. in 1947 against 1946. The composite index of dollar sales for the nine major wholesale trades (1935-39=100) reached approximately 244.0 for 1946 and 272.3 for 1947. These indexes are not corrected for price changes that have affected trading. Among the individual trades, dry goods registered the greatest advance in 1947 compared with 1946, but showed the smallest percentage increase over 1941. Hardware and groceries wholesalers also showed substantial increases in dollar sales between 1946 and 1947, amounting to about 17 p.c. in each case. Clothing registered an increase of 11 p.c. The automotive equipment trade with 1947 sales 134 p.c. above 1941, experienced a gain of 11 p.c. over 1946. Footwear and tobacco and confectionery sales, which followed automotive equipment in the amount of increase in volume over 1941, showed a tendency to level off in 1947 when the advances over 1946 were 8 p.c. and 7 p.c., respectively. Dollar sales of fruits and vegetables in 1947 receded 6 p.c. from the 1946 volume after reaching a high in the latter year of 122 p.c. above the 1941 level. The chart on p. 815 illustrates the annual course of wholesale sales indexes since 1935 and the seasonal characteristics of wholesale sales in selected trades. Table 20 contains annual sales indexes of the nine major wholesale trades from 1941 to 1947.

20.—Annual Indexes of Wholesale Sales, by Types of Business, 1941-47

(1935-39=100)

Type of Business	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	P.C. Change 1946 from 1945	1947 ¹	P.C. Change 1947 from 1946
Automotive equipment...	157.8	147.6	158.1	197.2	242.8	334.0	+37.6	369.8	+10.7
Drugs.....	145.2	165.7	184.2	201.9	222.1	245.2	+10.4	254.6	+ 3.8
Clothing.....	142.8	170.9	177.5	183.1	186.3	229.3	+23.1	255.4	+11.4
Footwear.....	141.6	161.0	173.1	188.8	224.0	279.4	+24.7	300.8	+ 7.7
Dry goods.....	141.8	160.2	150.9	165.9	161.9	197.5	+22.0	244.5	+23.8
Fruits and vegetables.....	131.2	158.5	206.1	222.0	262.4	291.2	+10.9	274.7	- 5.7
Groceries.....	134.7	146.5	150.3	169.3	180.2	208.9	+15.9	244.2	+16.9
Hardware.....	165.2	170.0	173.1	183.8	212.0	277.4	+30.8	325.0	+17.2
Tobacco and confectionery	150.6	172.4	207.3	230.1	258.1	296.9	+15.0	317.1	+ 6.8
Totals, Wholesale Trade.	142.0	156.2	168.3	186.0	205.4	244.0	+18.8	272.3	+11.6

¹ Subject to revision.

Retail Trade.—The retail trade of Canada in 1946 was estimated at \$5,506,286,000. It appears evident from preliminary data that sales reached about \$6,250,000,000 in 1947.

Record sales volumes attained in recent years are consistent with the broad expansion of the country's economy during and after the Second World War. The most notable development in merchandising since the end of the War was the rapid growth in sales of durable consumer goods many of which were distributed