Retail employment and payrolls held up slightly better during the depression than in the country as a whole and recovery in employment by 1935 was more pronounced, while recovery in both employment and payrolls by 1935 was stronger than that experienced in manufacturing. However, employees during 1935 included part-time workers, which class of workers had been excluded from the census for previous years and the figure is therefore somewhat distorted. It has been since 1935 that retail trade has failed to keep pace with the gains experienced in manufacturing.

Among the thirteen metropolitan areas with population over 500,000 in 1930, Los Angeles occupied a medial position in the depression shrinkage of sales; six showing more shrinkage and six having less. However, in the extent of recovery by 1935, only one area (Baltimore) exceeded Los Angeles.

3. Wholesale Trade.

Data lacking on present conditions in wholesale trade, but there is no condition existing locally which would cause any wide divergence between conditions in wholesale trade and retail trade since the greater part of the Los Angeles wholesale trade is intra-county. It is fairly safe to assume, therefore, that sales volume is somewhat above 1938 levels but not up to 1937 volume, with a seasonal decline occurring at the present time. There is marked evidence locally that wholesalers of food commodities in particular are marking up prices of food stocks essential to the prosecution of war, in anticipation of a shortage occurring in the near future. Several instances have been reported of en toto purchases of warehouse stocks of canned foods by the English and French governments during the past month. However, it is impossible to foretell the future sales trend at this time because of the diverse factors introduced by the war.