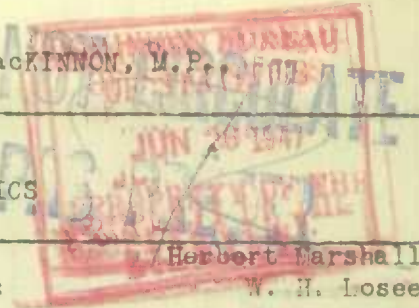


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PRELIMINARY REPORT ON DEPARTMENT STORE SALES, MAY, 1947

May sales of Canadian department stores were 19 per cent higher this year than last and moved 7 per cent above volume for April, 1947. The increase over May a year ago was of the same order as that for January. Sales in the first five months of 1947 were 15 per cent higher than in the same period of 1946.

Unadjusted indexes (on the base, 1935-1939=100) stood at 248.1 for May, 1947, 203.8 for May, 1946 and 232.8 for April, 1947.

Regional sales increases, both for May and for the five-month period of this year compared with last, were as follows:

Department Store Sales Increases By Regions

	<u>Canada</u>	<u>Maritime Provinces</u>	<u>Quebec</u>	<u>Ontario</u>	<u>Prairie Provinces</u>	<u>British Columbia</u>
May, 1947/46	19%	15%	22%	19%	19%	19%
Jan.-May, 1947/46	15%	10%	20%	15%	14%	14%

All of the 19 departments for which separate comparisons are obtained showed increased sales in May, 1947. Among the more outstanding increases, apart from the continuing large gains for household durables, were those for men's wear and food, both of which were slightly more than 20 per cent.



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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND INVENTORIES IN CANADA, BY SELECTED DEPARTMENTS

May, 1946 and May, 1947

These figures are derived from a sample of reporting companies and are not to be interpreted as totals for all department stores.

DEPARTMENT	SALES			INVENTORY (*)
	May, 1946	May, 1947	% Change, 1947/1946	% Change, Apr.30, 1947 Apr.30, 1946
	\$	\$		
TOTAL, ALL DEPARTMENTS	37,962,025	44,744,362	+17.9	+46.9
1. Women's dresses, coats and suits ...	4,534,173	4,958,369	+ 9.4	+15.4
2. Girls' and infants' wear	1,315,247	1,605,276	+22.1	+40.6
3. Hosiery and gloves	1,287,242	1,483,433	+15.2	+91.5
4. Lingerie and corsets	1,437,308	1,709,401	+18.9	+72.6
5. Millinery	453,771	521,371	+14.9	+ 1.6
6. Women's and children's apparel - (Total, 1-5)	9,027,741	10,277,850	+13.8	+34.6
7. Men's and boys' clothing and furnishings	3,683,060	4,466,975	+21.3	+80.5
8. Drugs and toilet articles and preparations	947,010	1,008,917	+ 6.5	+ 6.5
9. Piece goods	2,319,562	3,261,493	+15.7	+74.4
10. Smallwares	1,236,395	1,392,436	+12.6	+12.5
11. Food and kindred products	2,950,341	3,554,232	+20.5	+27.5
12. Furniture (including mattresses and springs)	2,813,414	3,301,362	+17.3	+93.9
13. Home furnishings	3,052,652	3,798,685	+24.4	+71.2
14. Household appliances and electrical supplies	1,111,884	1,593,101	+43.3	+87.4
15. Hardware and kitchen utensils	2,130,707	2,546,508	+19.5	+47.8
16. Radios, musical instruments and supplies	527,878	691,953	+31.1	+161.7
17. Shoes and other footwear	2,783,472	3,166,637	+13.8	+29.4
18. Stationery, books and magazines	519,946	611,575	+17.6	+10.2
19. All other departments, total	4,357,963	5,072,618	+16.4	+24.2

(*) Please observe that these comparisons are based on the inventory situation at the beginning of May in the two years.