DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COLLEGE DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH OTTAWA, CANADA

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## PRELIMINARY REPORT ON DEPARTMENT STORE SALES, JANUARY, 1940

Department store sales in Canada gained 18 per cent in January, 1940, over the corresponding month of 1939, although declining 55 per cent below the volume of business in December, 1939. Unadjusted indexes (on the base 1930 equals 100) were 64.0 for January, 1940, 54.2 for January, 1939, and 143.6 for December, 1939.

The occurrence of one more business day in January, 1940, than in January last year affected the results to some extent, the increase being reduced to 14 per cent when average daily sales rather than calendar month totals form the basis of calculation. January sales declined from the December peak by about the customary seasonal amount. Indexes, adjusted for number of business days and for normal seasonal variations stand at 85.7 for January, 1940, 89.2 for December, 81.8 for November, 90.0 for October and 75.2 for January, 1939.

## INDEX OF THE DOLLAR VALUE OF DEPARTMENT STORE SALES, 1930 = 100

	Unadjusted Indexes			Adjusted Indexes(a)		
Month	1938	1939	1940	1938	1939	1940
January	56.3	54.2	64.0	78.1	75.2	85.7
February	57.8	54.2		76.9	72.2	
March	66.5	65.6		75.5	71.7	
April	79.6	74.0		75.9	75.7	
May	73.0	77.4		73.5	75.2	
June	77.6	75.5		74.4	72.1	
July	56.6	57.2		75 • 3	77.3	
August	62.4	61.3		74.7	73.1	
September	78.4	89.5		76.8	86.6	
October	87.9	100.8		77.3	90.0	
November	90.4	94.4		78.6	81.8	
December 131.5 11.3.6 78.6 89.2  (a) Adjusted to allow for differences in number of business days and also for normal seasonal variations.						



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