
8.2012 .03
Page

1. Summary of Retail Sales in Canada, February, 1940 ..... 1
2. Comparisons of Retail Sales in Canada for February, 1940, with Sales in Related Months, by Kind of Business ..... 2
3. Index Numbera of Retail Sales in Canada (Unadjusted, Adjusted for Differences in Number of Business Days and Adjusted for Seasonal Variations)
(a) General Index, Boot and Shoe Stores, Candy Stores, Men's Clothing Stores and Women's Clothing Stores ..... 3
(b) Department Stores, Drug Stores, Furniture Stores and Grocery and Meat Stores ..... 4
(c) Hardware Stores, Nusic and Radio Stores, Restaurants and Variety Stores ..... 5
4. Index Numbers of Retail Sales in Canada by Economic Divisions
(a) Men's Clothing Stores, Women's Clothing stores and Grocery and Meat Stores ..... 6
(b) Department Stores, Variety Stores and Drug Stores ..... 7
5. Department Store Sales in Canada, by Selected Departments, February, 1939, and February, 1940 ..... 8

# DEPARTIENT OF TRADE AND COIIIERCE <br> DO:IINIO: BUREAU OF STATISTICS <br> INTARNAL TRADE BRANCH <br> OTTA:IA, CANADA 

Dominion Statistician:
Chief, Internal Trade Branch: Coats, IL.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.S. (Hon.)
Statistician:

MONTHLY INDEXES OF RETAIL SAIES, FEBRUARY 1940
Retail sales in Canada, as reflected in composite figures for twelve lines of rotail trade dealing principally in clothing, food and household items gained 16 per cent in February, 1940, over the same month of 1939. Sales were also 1 per cent higher than in January of this year. This was the seventh consecutive month for which increases have been shown over the corresponding month in the previous year, The extent of the gain was greater than any recorded since the upswing in retail trade began in August, 1939 , a result which must be attributed in part to the comparatively low level of trade in February, 1939, with which the comparison is made. The unadjusted index for February, 1940, stood at 71.2, compared with 61.5 for February, 1939, and 70.6 for January, 1940.

The seasonally adjusted index which is corrected to allow not only for normal seasonal movements but also for differences in number of business days, indicates that the underlying trend in retail purchasing in February was slightly downward from the immediately preceding months. The adjusted index stands at 84.6 for February, $2^{2}$ per cent below the 86.2 recorded for January and compares with 87.5 for December, 83.2 for November, 88.6 for October and 87.6 for September, 1939.

All lines of business for which figures are available reported increases over February a year ago. Radio and music store sales were up by 31 per cent compared with increases of 12 per cent and 5 per cent shown in the comparisons for January and December with the corresponding month in the preceding year. Furniture store sales, which increased 22 per cent in January over January, 1939, registered a gain of 21 per cent in February.

Department store sales averaged 20 per cent higher in February of this year than last, all departrnents and all regions of the country reporting substantial increases. Results on a regional basis indicato a major increase of 34 per cent in the Maritime Provinces followed by gains of 21 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, 19 per cent in Ontario, 29 per cent in Quebec and 11 per cent in British Columbia. The home furnishings and piece goods departments came first in point of view of increased business with gains of 31 por cent and 26 per cent respectively over February a year agod Sales of hardware and kitchen utensils were up by 25 per cent while the furniture department reported an increase of 22 per cont. Narked gains ware also reported for departments specializing in the salo of clothing and apparel. The shoe department was up 20 per cont; men's and boys' clothing and furnishings, 20 per cent; women's and children's apparel, 16 per cent.

Variety store sales averaged 20 por cent higher than in February, 1939. Increases of 26 per cent were recordod in both the Maritime and Prairie Provinces; Quebec totals were up 22 por cent. Ontario and British Columbia recorded advances of 17 and 15 per cent respoctively.

Identical gains of 20 por cont vero reported for men's and women's clothing stores ovor February, 1939. Mien's clothing store sales in the Maritime Provinces gained 45 per cent. Incrases of 24 por cont in the Prairie Provincos and 20 por cent in Queboc wore followed by advances of 17 por cont in Ontario and 14 per cent in British Columbia. The Maritime Provinces also reportod the best increases in women's clothing salos, a 32 por cont advance in that region comparing with gains of 28 por cent in the Prairio Provincos, 22 por cont in Ontario, 21 por cont in British Columbia, and 11 per cent in Quebec.

Increases in dollar salos must bo attributod in part to prico changes and in part to an incroaso in tho volumo of goods purchasod. The Bureau's retail clothing prico index stands avproximatoly 4 per cont higher for Fobruary, 1940 than 1939. A comparison of this riso in pricos and tho 20 por cont incroaso in dollar salos indicatos that most of tho gain in collar volumo must bo attributod to an incroase in tho quantity of goocs sold.

Grocery and meat store sales were 13 per cent higher in February of this year than last, the Bureau's retail price indox for foods rising 5 per cent in the same comparison. Sales in British Columbia were up by 30 per cent; the Prairie Provinces, 29 per cent; Ontario, 11 per cent and Quebec, 7 per cent.

The gain for shoe stores was only slightly less than that for firme specializing in clothing, a gain of 18 per cent over February a year ago being rocorded. Hardware store sales were up 19 per cent, while both restaurants and candy stores did 13 por cent more business in February of this year than last.

Drug stores reported the smallest increase with an average gain for the country as a whole of 6 per cent over February, 1939. Sales in the Prairie Provinces were up 13 per cont while British Columbia sales vere 11 per cent higher. Geins in other regions were 8 per cent for the Liaritime Provinces, 5 per cent for Onterio and 1 per cent for Quebec.

Returns from a sample number of jewellery stores reveal an increase of 25 per cent over February, 1939.

Comparison of Retail Sales in Canada, for 1232 and 1240 by Kinds of Business

| Kind of Business | February, 1940 + or - per cent compared with |  |  | Cumulative Indexos |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | February | February | January | Jan.-Féb, 1940 |
|  | 1930 | 1932 | $\underline{1940}$ | Jan.-Fe b, 1939 |
| Goneral Index | - 17.7 | $+15.8$ | + 0.8 | $+14.5$ |
| Boots and Shoes .............. | - 47.7 | + 17.8 | - 17.3 | $+19.2$ |
| Candy ......................... | - 43.6 | + 13.2 | + 34.4 | + 12.8 |
| Men's Clothing .............. | - 18.7 | $+20.4$ | - 13.9 | $+16.5$ |
| Women's Clothing | - 34.0 | $+20.1$ | - 7.8 | $+13.6$ |
| Dapartmental ................. | - 21.9 | + 19.6 | + 0.9 | $+19.0$ |
| Drugs .......................... | - 9.5 | $+6.0$ | - 1.5 | + 6.1 |
| Furniture . ................... | - 17.8 | $+21.2$ | $+23.2$ | $+21.3$ |
| Grocerios and Meats .......... | - 6.5 | $+13.1$ | + 3.5 | + 12.6 |
| Hardware | - 21.5 | $+28.7$ | - 8.5 | $+16.5$ |
| Music and Radio ............. | - 33.1 | $+30.8$ | + 2.4 | $+23.4$ |
| Restaurant ................... | - 39.3 | $+13.2$ | - 2.7 | + 9.8 |
| Variety ...................... | - 2.0 | $+20.1$ | + 7.9 | $+26.3$ |

C. Adjusted for Number of Business Days and Seasonal Variationso

(c) Includes men's furnishings.
(d) Revised to census trend:
(1) Final figures.
(h) Candy indexies are based largely upon returns from retail candy chains.
A. Unadjusted. B. Corrected for Number of Business Days.
C. Adjusted for Number of Business Days and Seasonal Variations.

(d) Revised to census trend.
(f) Final figures.
A. Unadjusted. B. Corrected for Number of Business Days.
C. Adjusted for Number of Business Days and Seasonal Variations.

(d) Revised to census trend.
(f) Final figures.

| Year and lionth | QANADA | Maritime Provinces | Quebec | Ontari | Prairie Provinces | British Columbis |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Men's Clothing Stores( c ) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| February, 1936 : | $\begin{aligned} & 58.7 \\ & 63.0 \\ & 60.5 \\ & 56.7 \\ & 68.1 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 60.5 \\ & 62.8 \\ & 68.4 \\ & 58.9 \\ & 85.4 \end{aligned}$ | 56.7 | 61.3 | $\begin{aligned} & 52.1 \\ & 55.3 \end{aligned}$ | 57.060.1 |
| February, 1937 : |  |  | 59.7 | 66.962.2 |  |  |
| February, 1938 ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  |  | 59.7 |  | 55.3 53.8 | 59.6 |
| February, 1939 .. |  |  | 53.8 | 59.3 | 50.2 | $\begin{aligned} & 59.4 \\ & 67.7 \end{aligned}$ |
| February, 1940 .. |  |  | 64.5 | 69.1 | 62.0 |  |
| 1939 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| September ....: | 115.5 | 104:4 | 114.2 | 110.5 | 144.9 | 110.8 |
| October ........ | 134.0 | 122:2 | 114.4 | 131.6 | 192.3 | 126.0 |
| November . ..... | 128.0 | 142.5 | 117.5 | 129.1 | 147.1 | 111.5 |
| December ...... | 179.0(f) | 213.4 | 150.5 | 188.9 | 173.4 | 187.5 |
| $1940 .$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January ....... | 79.2 68.1 | 93.6 85.4 | 73.6 64.5 | $\begin{aligned} & 82.2 \\ & 69.1 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 70.4 \\ & 62.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 79: 5 \\ & 67.7 \end{aligned}$ |
| \% Change, |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| February, $\frac{1940}{\text { February, }} 1939$ | +20.4 | +45.0 | $+19.9$ | +16.5 | +23.5 | +14.0 |
| \% Change, $\frac{\text { Jan }^{-}-\text {Feb }}{\operatorname{Jan}}, \frac{1940}{1939}$ | +16.5 | +42.7 | +12.9 | +14.9 | $+16.3$ | +11.5 |

Women's Clothing Stores

| February, 1936 | 57.4 | 61.7 | 60.8 | 57.3 | 55.4 | 53.6 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| February, 1937 | 60.0 | 60.2 | 62.6 | 59.3 | 59.9 | 58.0 |
| February, 1938 | $61: 3$ | 63.5 | 64.0 | 60.5 | 59.7 | 59:8 |
| February, 1939 .o | 56.5 | 56:8 | 57.0 | 56.2 | 54.0 | 60.9 |
| February, 1940 : | 67.9 | 75.2 | 63.2 | 68.4 | 69.3 | 73.4 |
| $\frac{1239}{50}$. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| September ..... | $110: 4$ 131.0 | $108: 3$ 136.9 | 102.7 119.2 | 111.0 131.3 | $118: 9$ 151.5 | 117.1 129.3 |
| November $\because 0.0$ ? | 118.2 | 144.9 | 107.2 | 122.1 | 123.9 | 108.3 |
| December .....0. | 168.4(f) | 210.3 | 149.5 | 177.6 | 168.2 | 156.8 |
| 1940 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jenuary ...... | $73: 8$ | 94:0 | 63.1 | 76.9 | 73.4 | 79.6 |
| February ...... | 67.9 | 75.2 | 63.2 | 68.4 | 69.3 | 73.4 |
| \% Change, <br> February, 1940 | +20.1 | +32.4 | +10.9 | +21.7. | +28.3 | +20.5 |
| February, 1939 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| \% Change, $\frac{\operatorname{Jan}_{0} \cdot \text { Fob. } 1940}{\text { Jan }_{0}-\text { Feb. }} 1939$ | +13.6 | +21.9 | + 7.2 | +15.9 | +13.7 | +15.0 |


| February, 1936 \%. | 99.5 | (a) | 106.1 | 98.5 | 89.6 | 95.9 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| February, 1937 .. | 96.9 | (a) | 98.1 | 98.0 | 87.7 | 101.4 |
| February, 1938 !. | 102.1 | (a) | 104.5 | 103.8 | 91.1 | 102.2 |
| February, 1939.0 | 100.9 | (a) | 109.1 | 104.1 | 81.0 | 84.5 |
| February, 1940 .. | 114.2 | (a) | 117.0 | 115.7 | 104.8 | 110.2 |
| 1939 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| September ...... | 123.7 | (a) | 117.6 | 122.0 | 143.1 | 124.2 |
| October ....... | 109:5 | (a) | 109.6 | 108.0 | 115.4 | 107.5 |
| November ...... | 111.9 | (a) | 109.3 | 113.8 | 113.9 | 107.8 |
| December ....e:? | $136.1(\mathrm{f})$ | (a) | 135.6 | 139.7 | 129.3 | 129.4 |
| 1940 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January .....0. | 120.2 | (a) | 112.6 | 113.4 | 97.9 | 104.0 |
| February ....... | 114.2 | (a) | 117.0 | 115.7 | 104.8 | 110.2 |
| \% Change, $\frac{\text { February, }}{\text { February, }} 1240$, | +13.1 | (a) | $+7.2$ | +11.1 | +29.4 | +30.4 |
|  | $+12.6$ | (a) | $+7.3$ | +10.7 | +27.2 | +27.9 |

[^0]| Year and Month | CANADA | Maritime Provinces | Quebec | Ontario | Prairíe <br> Provinces | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { British } \\ & \text { Columbia } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Department Stores |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| February, 1936 .. | 76.9 | 74.1 | 76.6 | 77.7 | 76.0 | 78.2 |
| February, 1937 :. | 78.0 | 73.4 | 79.2 | 79.3 | 76.1 | 78.9 |
| February, 1938 : | 76.9 | 70.764.2 | 81.9 | 78.1 | 71.9 | 80.877.0 |
| February, 1939.. | 72.2 |  |  | 72.9 | 68.6 |  |
| February, 1940.. | 86.4 | $86.0$ | 92.2 | 87.0 | 83.0 | 85.7 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| September .....: | 119:3 | 101:6 | 125.1 | 119.1 | 120.6 | 120.1 |
| October .......? | 134:4 | 125.2 | 128.1 | 122.3 | 161.9 | 122.6 |
| November . ...... | 125.9(f) | 131.9 | 128.5 | 126.1 | 128.7 | 112.6 |
| December .....: | 192.1 | 207.6 | 208.9 | 198.2 | 177.9 | 177.0 |
| $\frac{1940}{\text { January } \ldots . . .}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fanuary ...... | 85.6 86.4 | $\begin{aligned} & 86: 6 \\ & 86.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 98: 0 \\ & 92.2 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 84.6 \\ & 87.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 82.8 \\ & 83.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 80.5 \\ & 85.7 \end{aligned}$ |
| \% Change, |  |  |  | 8. | 83.0 |  |
| $\frac{\text { February, } 1940}{\text { February, } 1939}$ | +19.6 | +34.0 | 419.3 | +19.3 | +21.0 | +11.3 |
| \% Change, 1939 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | +19.0 | +34.0 | +17.9 | $+19.2$ | +20.6 | + 9.7 |

Variety Stores

| February, 1936 .. | 67.6 | 62.3 | 70.4 | 68.9 | 61.6 | 68.7 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| February, 1937 .. | 69.8 | $65: 2$ | 71.2 | 71.1 | 67.0 | 70.6 |
| Fobruary, 1938 .: | 69.6 | 64.5 | 73.3 | 69.2 | 66.5 | 77.8 |
| February, 1939 .. | 67.0 | 62:0 | 69.6 | 66:0 | 61.3 | 79.3 |
| February, 1940 .. | 82.1 | 78.3 | 85.0 | 77.2 | 77.2 | 91.4 |
| 1239 . |  |  |  |  | 1.0 | 91.4 |
| September ...... | 107.7 | 110.2 | 118.7 | 100:9 | 106.5 | 111.3 |
| October ....... | 112.3 | 111.6 | 118.5 | 106.9 | 121.4 | 111.7 |
| November . . . | 113.4 | 118.9 | 116.4 | 109.2 | 117.9 | 115.2 |
| December . | 228.8(f) | 251.5 | 220.1 | 223.8 | 223.2 | 267.3 |
| 1940 仡 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January . ....... | 74.5 | $73: 9$ | 79.9 | 72.3 | 68.2 | 81.2 |
| February ...... | 82.1 | 78.3 | 85.0 | 77.2 | 77.2 | 91.4 |
| \% Change, |  |  |  |  | 1.0 | 91.4 |
| $\frac{\text { February, } 1940}{\text { Fobruary, } 1939}$ | +20.1 | +26.3 | +22.1 | +17.0 | +25.9 | +15.3 |
| \% Change, |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan.-Feb., 1940 | +16.3 | +24.3 | $+17.1$ | +14.6 | +17.9 | +12.5 |
| Jano-Feb. 1949 |  |  |  |  |  |  |


| February, 1936 .. | 92.2 | 87.4 | 98.0 | 93.3 | 86.3 | 89.1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| February, 1937 .. | 98.3 | 92.8 | 107.1 | 99.0 | 89.8 | 96.8 |
| February, 1938 .. | 94.1 | 92.7 | 99.2 | 94.5 | 88.5 | 93.9 |
| February, $1939 .$. | 98.6 | 99.9 | 111.7 | 98.3 | 88.3 | 91.8 |
| February, 1940 .. | 104.4 | 107.9 | 112.3 | 102.9 | 99.5 | 102.3 |
| 1939 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| September . ..... | 108.3 | 107.7 | 104.9 | 105.9 | 116.7 | 112.6 |
| October ....... | 111.1 | 108.5 | 113.0 | 105.1 | 123.7 | 116.4 |
| November ....... | 108.9 | 110.8 | 111.8 | 108.2 | 109.5 | 103.5 |
| December . . | 146.8(f) | 166.3 | 133.1 | 145.2 | 156.3 | 151.1 |
| 1240 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January ........ | 106.0 | 109:4 | 111.6 | 105.1 | 101.6 | 104.4 |
| February ...... | 104.4 | 107.9 | 112.3 | 102.9 | 99.5 | 102.3 |
| \% Change, |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\frac{\text { February, }}{\text { February, }} 1940$ | + 6.0 | + 8.0 | $+0.5$ | + 4.7 | +12.7 | $+11.4$ |
| \% Change, |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\frac{\text { Janc-Feb.e }}{\text { Jan -Feb }}$, 1940 | + 6.1 | +10.2 | + 3.6 | $+4.7$ | $+10.2$ | + 7.4 |

(f) Final figures:

## DEPARTMENT STORE SALES IN CANADA, BY SELECTED DEPARTIIENTS

 FEBRUARY, 1939, AND FEBRUARY 1940(Based on sales of 19 firms)

|  | February 1939 | Fobruary 1940 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { \% Change } \\ & 1940 / 39 \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| TOTAL SALES, ALU DEPARTMENTS | 13,401,689 | 15,780,555 | $+17.8$ |
| 1.Women's dresses, coats and suits .............. | 1,031,754 | 1,223,509 | $+18.6$ |
| 2. Girls' and infants' wear ........................................ | 293,612 | 354,005 | $+20.6$ |
| 3. Hosiery and gloves ......................................................... | 556,786 | 592,166 | $+6.4$ |
| 4. Lingerio and corsets ................................................... | 604,859 | 711,751 | $+17.7$ |
|  | 110,667 | 130,782 | $+18.2$ |
| 6. Women's and children's apparel - (Total, 1-5).. | $2.597,678$ | 3,012,213 | $+16.0$ |
| 7. Men's and boys' clothing and iurnishings ....... | 1,182,492 | $1,413,762$ | + 19.6 |
| 8. Drugs and toilet articles and preparations ..... | 541,514 | 576,147 | + 6.4 |
| 9. Piece goods ................................................................ | 1,200,232 | 1,514,334 | $+26.2$ |
| 10. Smallwares | 563,467 | 663,161 | $+17.7$ |
| 11. Food and kindred products | 1,637,023 | 1,770,158 | $+8.1$ |
| 12. Furniture (including mattresses, springs) ...... | 1,019,521 | 1,238,724 | $+21.5$ |
| 13. Home furnishings .......................................................... | 1,002,073 | 1,308,699 | $+30.6$ |
| 14. Household appliances and electrical supplies ... | 411,448 | 482,592 | $+17.3$ |
| 5. Hardware and kitchen utensils ............................... | 512,268 | 638,910 | $+24.7$ |
| 6. Radios, musical instruments and supplies ....... | 254,245 | 279,621 | $+10.0$ |
| 17. Shoes and other footwear ............................................ | 720.531 | 866,269 | $+20.2$ |
| 18. Stationery, books and magazines ................. | 255,649 | 268,507 | $+5.0$ |
| 19. All other departments, total................... | 1,503,548 | 1,747,458 | $+16.2$ |


[^0]:    (a) Figures for the liaritime Provinces are withheld to avoid disclosing individual operations。
    (c) Includes men's furnishingso
    (1) Final figures.

