## CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH

## MONTHLY INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES

IN<br>CANADA<br>SEPTEMBER 1940

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DEFARTIENT OF TRU.DE AND SOIPERCE DOIINION BUREAU OF SThFISTICS<br>INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH<br>

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MONTHLY INDEXES OF RETAIL SKIES, SEPTEMBEP, 1940

The dollar volume of retail purchasing for September as reflected in indexes based on calendar month totals for twelve lines of business dealing chiefly in food, clothing and household requirements remained unchanged from iugust and was 3 per cent below the volume of business transacted in Septernber a year ago. Unadjusted indexes on the base 1930 equals 100 stand at 88.6 for September, $2940,88.6$ for sugust and 91.1 for Soptember, 1939.

The 3 per cent decline from September, 1939 was in contrast to substantial increases which characterized earlier corresponding-month comparisons for 1939 and 1940, aggregate sales for the first eight months of the current year averaging 13 per cent above the corresponding period of 1939. hdition of Soptember totals reduced the increase to 11 per cent.

Comparisons between corresponding months in consecutive years were impairod by differences in number of business days in the different periods. Comparisons between consecutive months in the same yoar must be made having regard not only to dif ferences in number of business days but also to normal seasonal movements. There was one more business day in September of last year than this. Rotail sales for the lines of business included in this survey generally averagod higher in September than in sugust. On making allowance for differences in number of business days and also for normal sensonal movements the adjusted index stood at 90.4 for Septomber, approximately 5 per cont above Soptember, 1939, down 3 per cent from tho high poak recorded in ingust and about on a par with the underlying trend for May, June and July.

Results for individual lines of business reveal mixed trends, comparison of calendar month totals for September of this year and last showing increases for seven lines of business and decreasos for five. The increases were 13 per cent for candy storos, 8 per cent for restaurants, music and redio stores and druy stores, 6 per cent for varioty stores, 4 per cont for furniture stores and 3 per cent for women's clothing stores. Grocery and meat stores did 8 per cent less business in September, 1940 than in the first month of the var a year ago, when anticipation of increasing prices resultod in heavy purchases of basic food products. Shoe store sales were also down by 8 per cent, hardware store sales declined 6 per cent, men's clothing storo sales 5 per cent and departmental stores 3 per cent. difier adjusting for number of business days and for normal seasonal variations the adjusted indexes stood higher in Soptember, 1940 than 1939 for all lines of business excepting hardware stores. 411 lines of business oxcepting restaurants and variety stores showed a downerd trend betweon hugust and September this year.

Jevellery store sales are not included in the general index but figures for this line of business aro now being collected by the Bureau. Jewellery store sales averaged 13 por cont highor in Soptember of this yoar than last, while cumum lative totals for the first nine months of the current year stood 26 per cent above the correspondine period a year ago.

Figures available on a regional basis showed that gains in the Meritime Provincos continued to excoed by a wido margin those in other regions of the country. Dopartment storc salos in the liaritime Provinces averaged 14 per cont higher in Soptombor of this yoas than last whilo in other rogions declinos rangine as high as 10 por cont woro recorded. Varicty store salos were up 21 por cent in tho liaritime Provincos and from 1 to 8 per cent in othar sections. Figures for drug stores and more especielly for both men's and women's clothing stores reveal markod increases in rotail purchasing in tho Maritines. Ken's clothing store salos were up 35 por cent in Septembor this year ovor last; women's.clothing stora sales wore up 29 por cent. Rosults for other regions
showed changes ranging from an increase of 6 per cent for women's clothing store sales in Ontario to a decrease of 21 per cent for men's clothing stores in the Prairie Provinces.

An analysis of department store sales by departments indicated heavy buying in durable goods departments such as furniture, home furnishings, household appliances and hardtrare and kitchen utensils. Sales of the food departments were 20 per cent below September a year ago. The men's clothing and furnishings dopartment was down by 9 per cent while women's and children's apparel as a whole vas maintained within narrow limits of the September, 1939 volume.

Comparison of Rotail Sules in Canada, for 1932 and 1240, by Kinds of Business

| Kind of Business | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Septeraber, } 1940 \\ & + \text { or - per cent } \\ & \text { compared vith } \end{aligned}$ |  |  | Cumulative <br> Indexes |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | September 1930 | September 1939 | August 1940 | $\frac{\text { Jan. -Sept., }}{\text { Jan. }- \text { Sept. }, 1940}$ |
| General Index | - 8.6 | - 2.7 | (e) | $+10.7$ |
| Boots and Shoes | - 5.7 | - 8.2 | + 14.2 | + 8.3 |
| Candy ..... | - 35.8 | $+13.3$ | - 9.2 | $+15.8$ |
| Mon's Clothing ... | + 1.4 | - 5.4 | +11.8 | +13.8 |
| Wornen's Clothing . | -10.1 | + 2.8 | $+18.1$ | $+14.0$ |
| Departmental ... | - 13.2 | - 3.0 | $+13.8$ | $+11.8$ |
| Drugs ...... | + 4.0 | + 7.5 | - 3.0 | + 6.7 |
| Furniture | - 5.4 | + 4.0 | - 4.1 | $+17.3$ |
| Groceries and keats | - 4.6 | -7.8 | - 12.4 | + 9.2 |
| Hardware . . | - 4.1 | - 5.9 | +1.4 | + 6.5 |
| Riusic and Radio | - 28.1 | + 7.5 | + 19.5 | $+24.5$ |
| Restaurant ... | -29.0 | + 8.3 | - 0.8 | + 8.2 |
| Variety | + 10.7 | + 6.0 | - 7.2 | + 14.7 |

Comparison of Rotail Snies of Boot and Shoe Stores and Iotellavy Stores.
September, 1932, and September, 1940

| Region | Sales in September, 1940, comprod with sales in Sutomber, 1939 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Boot and Shoo Store | Jewellery Stores |
| Cenada | -8.2 | $+13.0$ |
| Naritime Provinces | + 2.8 | $+14.3$ |
| Quebec .... | - 12.0 | + 4.6 |
| Ontario ........... | - 6.1 | +17.8 |
| Prairie Provinces . | - 16.1 | + 8.8 |
| British Columbia . | - 4.6 | + 17.1 |

[^0]A. Unadjusted. B. Corrected for Number of Business Days.
C. Adjusted for Number of Business Days and Seasonal Variations

(c) Includes men's furnishings.
(d) Revised to census trend.
(f) Final figures.
(h) Candy indexes are based largely upon returns from retail andy 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.


| Year and Month | CANADA | Laritime Provinces | quabec | Ontario | $\begin{gathered} \text { Prairie } \\ \text { Provincos } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | British Columbis |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |


| September, 1936 | 98.2 | 90.7 | 91.8 | 92.5 | 124.1 | 109.9 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| September, 1937 . | 107.5 | 100.0 | 108.7 | 108.1 | 106.7 | 109.0 |
| September, 1938 .. | 99.6 | 90.4 | 97.0 | 98.1 | 114.5 | 94.1 |
| September, 1939 .. | 115.5 | 104.4 | 114.2 | 110.5 | 144.9 | 110.8 |
| September, 1940 .. | 109.3 | 140.9 | 98.7 | 108.9 | 115.1 | 105.6 |
| 1940 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| April | 101.6 | 119.6 | 103.5 | 101.5 | 95.4 | 89.9 |
| Nay . ........... | 107.9 | 133.1 | 119.5 | 101.0 | 100.8 | 99.9 |
| June | 118.6 | 142.8 | 128.1 | 115.1 | 105.4 | 108.2 |
| July - | 95.0(f) | 136.0 | 91.7 | 92.7 | 87.1 | 93.2 |
| August ......... | 97.8 | 138.6 | 92.8 | 94.7 | 86.8 | 109.6 |
| September ...... | 109.3 | 140.9 | 98.7 | 108.9 | 315.1 | 105.6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| September, 1940 | - 5.4 | $+35=0$ | $-13.6$ | - 1.4 | $-20.6$ | - 4.7 |
| \% Change, |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\frac{\text { Jan }:- \text { Sept. }}{\text { Jan } \cdot-\text { Sept },} \frac{1940}{1939}$ | +13.8 | $+36.7$ | +10.0 | +15.2 | $+5.9$ | $+8.2$ |


| Soptember, 1936. | 93.9 | 84.1- | 91.1 | 91.5 | 100.4 | 102.2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| September, 1937. | 99.2 | 101.3 | 95.4 | 99.5 | 95.3 | 106.4 |
| September, 1938. | 96.5 | 99.1 | 90.3 | 97.7 | 93.4 | 100.8 |
| September, 1939 .. | 110.4 | 108.3 | 102.7 | 121.0 | 118.9 | 117.1 |
| September, 1940 .. | 113.5 | 139.7 | 101.5 | 118.1 | 107.0 | 122.7 |
| 1940 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| April ......... | 129.7 | 141.9 | 128.8 | 132.5 | 115.0 | $135 \cdot 0$ |
| May . . . . . . . . . | 118.4 | 176.3 | 123.2 | 108.5 | 118.9 | 130.2 |
| June ........... | 116.8 | 151.4 | 121.2 | 111.0 | 108.7 | 131.9 |
| July ........... | 96.3(1) | 127.2 | 91.1 | 94.5 | 93.7 | 110.8 |
| August . . . ..... | 96.1 | 137.1 | 84.4 | 95.3 | 92.2 | 122.1 |
|  | 113.5 | 139.7 | 101.5 | 118.1 | 107.0 | 122.7 |
| \% Change, $\frac{\text { September, } 1940}{\text { September, } 1939}$ | +2.8 | +29.0 | -1.2 | $+6.4$ | -10.0 | +4.8 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { \% Change, } \\ & \frac{\text { Jan. }}{\text { Janopt. }}=\frac{1940}{\text { Sopt. }} 1939 \end{aligned}$ | +14.0 | +29.2 | +10.0 | +15.9 | $+8.4$ | +17.4 |

Grocery and Heat Stores

(a) Figures for liaritime Provinces are withheld to avoid disclosing individual operations.
(f) Final figures.
(b) Includes men's furnishings.
(g) Not available.

| Year and lionth | CAilada | Maritime <br> Provinces | Quebec | Ontario | Prairie Provinces | British Columbi |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Department Stores |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Septeraber, 1936 .. | 104.7 | 93.8 |  | 99.1 | 116.0 | 103.8 |
| September, 1937 .. | 107.7 | 101.4 | 118.5 | 105.9 | 103.9 | 111.0 |
| Septembor, 1938 .. | 104.4 | 92.1 | 113.2 | 107.5 | 97.8 | 104.0 |
| September, 1939.. | 119.3 | 101.6 | 125.1 | 119.1 | 120.6 | 120.1 |
| September, 1940 .. | 115.6 | 115.4 | 122.5 | 117.2 | 108.5 | 119.2 |
| April ......... | 107.1 | 103.8 | 119.7 | 109.0 | 99.6 |  |
| May .. | 113.9 | 126.8 | 129.4 | 115.0 | 103.5 | 109.1 |
| June ........... | 110.6 | 119.1 | 124.0 | 111.9 | 99.8 | 111.2 |
| July ........... | 89.5(f) | 105.1 | 88.1 | 86.2 | 84.6 | 104.0 |
| August ......... | 101.6 | 110.8 | 102.5 | 101.1 | 89.7 | 124.8 |
| Septamber | 215.6 | 115.4 | 122.5 | 117.2 | 108.5 | 119.2 |
| \% Change, September 1940 |  |  |  |  | 108.5 |  |
| $\frac{\text { September, } 1940}{\text { September, } 1939}$ | - 3.0 | +13.6 | -2.1 | - 1.6 | -10.0 | -0.9 |
| \% Change, |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\frac{\text { Jan. - Sept. }}{\text { Jan. }- \text { Sept. }} \frac{1240}{1939}$ | +11.8 | +20.1 | +10.9 | +12.4 | + 9.6 | +11.0 |


| September, 1936. | 95.0 | 97.5 | 96.2 | 91.8 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| September, 1937 .. | 99.8 | 107.1 | 104.5 | 96.8 | 99.2 | 102.1 |
| September, $1938 \ldots$ | 98.7 | 100.7 | 104.2 | 94.5 | 103.9 | 106.1 |
| Soptamber, 1939 .. | 107.7 | 110.2 | 118.7 | 100.9 | 106.5 | 111.3 |
| Septermber, 1940 .. | 114.2 | 133.5 | 122.0 | 106.6 | 108.0 | 120.4 |
| 1940 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| April .......... | 95.9 | 97.3 | 104.8 | 92.1 | 86.9 | 101.7 |
| May ............ | 114.5 | 120.2 | 134.4 | 106.2 | 104.1 | 109.6 |
| June - | 121.6 | 131.6 | 141.8 | 113.9 | 106.7 | 114.1 |
| July . | 115.0 (f) | 132.1 | 123.4 | 107.7 | 109.9 | 119.1 |
| August ......... | 123.0 | 143.3 | 131.6 | 116.3 | 109.5 | 132.0 |
| \% Soptermber ...... | 114.2 | 133.5 | 122.0 | 106.6 | 108.0 | 120.4 |
| \% Change, $\begin{aligned} & \text { September, } 1940 \\ & \text { September, } 1939\end{aligned}$ | $+6.0$ | +21.1 | + 2.8 | $+5.6$ | +1.4 | +8.2 |
| \% Change, |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan.-Sopt., 1940 | $+14.7$ | +25.3 | +13.2 | $+13.7$ | +11.6 | +11.3 |

Drus Stores

| September, 1936. | 100.6 | 98.5 | 97.6 | 97.6 | 110.8 | 104.3 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| September, 1937 .. | 110.2 | 108.2 | 108.9 | 108.4 | 114.3 | 117.0 |
| September, $1938 \ldots$ | 107.6 | 101.0 | 104.6 | 105.4 | 116.5 | 114.0 |
| September, 1939. | 108.3 | 107.7 | 104.9 | 105.9 | 116.7 | 112.6 |
| Soptember, 1940. | 116.4 | 120.1 | 111.1 | 115.9 | 119.4 | 122.1 |
| 1940 |  |  |  |  | 11.4 | 122.1 |
| April ......... | 107.8 | 110.8 | 112.6 | 106.0 | 106.2 | 108.3 |
| May . | 111.5 | 115.4 | 111.2 | 110.5 | 114.2 | 108.5 |
| June | 109.2 | 111.5 | 109.0 | 110.7 | 104.6 | 108.8 |
| July | 112.1(f) | 119.9 | 108.4 | 114.1 | 106.2 | 215.6 |
| August ......... | 120.0 | 134.7 | 114.9 | 119.8 | 118.4 | 123.9 |
| September ...... | 116.4 | 120.1 | 111.1 | 115.9 | 119.4 | 122.1 |
| \% Change, |  |  |  | 115 | 11.4 | 122.1 |
| $\frac{\text { September }}{\text { September, }} 1940$ | $+7.5$ | $+21.5$ | $+5.9$ | + 9.4 | $+2 \cdot 3$ | $+8.4$ |
| \% Change, |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan.-Sent. ${ }_{\text {Jan. }}^{\text {Sept. }}$ ( 1940 | $+6.7$ | +12.4 | $+4.4$ | $+7 \cdot 2$ | $+5 \cdot 3$ | $+6.9$ |

(f) Final figurea.
(Based on sales of 20 firms)



[^0]:    (e) No change

