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MONTHLY INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES

IN

CANADA

MARCH 1942

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
1. Summary of Retail Sales in Canada, March, 1942	1
2. Comparisons of Retail Sales in Canada for March , 1942, with Sales in Related Months, by Kind of Business	2
3. Index Numbers of Retail Sales in Canada (Unadjusted and Adjusted for Differences in Number of Business Days and Seasonal Variations)	
(a) General Index, Boot and Shoe Stores, Candy Stores, Men's Clothing Stores, Women's Clothing Stores, Department Stores and Drug Stores	3
(b) Furniture Stores, Grocery and Meat Stores, Hardware Stores, Radio and Electrical Stores, Restaurants and Variety Stores,	4
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	5
(b) Department Stores, Variety Stores and Drug Stores.....	6
5. Department Store Sales in Canada, by Selected Departments, March, 1941 and March, 1942	7

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

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MONTHLY INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES, MARCH, 1942
(1935-1939 = 100)

A further pronounced increase in retail trading in Canada occurred in March with the dollar value of retail purchases ranging 21 per cent above February and 22 per cent higher than in March a year ago. The 22 per cent increase over March, 1941 compares with gains of 18 per cent and 26 per cent recorded in the corresponding month comparisons for February and January respectively, while dollar sales for the first quarter of the current year averaged 22 per cent over the corresponding period of 1941. The general index of sales, on the base 1935-1939 = 100, unadjusted for seasonal movements, stands at 144.9 for March, at 120.1 for February and at 119.2 for March a year ago.

Part of the major increase in March sales compared with last year may be attributed to the fact that Easter occurred one week earlier this year than last and consequently a greater proportion of the Easter trade was transacted in March this year. On making allowance for differences in the number of business days in different months of the year, for normal seasonal movements and on making a further adjustment for the changing Easter date, the adjusted index of retail sales stands at 161.8 for March, 154.8 for February, 150.9 for January and at 129.3 for March, 1941.

The indexes and percentage changes quoted in the preceding paragraphs are based on the dollar volume of business reported by the sample number of retail firms included in this survey and do not reflect the changes which have taken place in the quantities of goods purchased. The Bureau's Retail Prices Index averaged about 10 per cent higher in March of this year than last. Although the indexes of prices and of dollar sales are not strictly comparable, the price index does give some indication of the extent to which the increased dollar volume represents enhanced prices.

A marked gain of 62 per cent over last year for stores specializing in men's clothing or furnishings forms the outstanding feature in the March results. Sales of men's clothing departments of department stores advanced 52 per cent in the same comparison, the pronounced increases revealed in these statistics reflecting the influence of impending restrictions announced during the month under review. Shoe store sales were up 38 per cent in March this year compared with last and were also up 38 per cent for the year to date. Stores specializing in women's clothing transacted 30 per cent more dollar business in March of this year than last while the quarterly total was up by 28 per cent.

Furniture store sales (as measured by dollar volume) were practically unchanged from last year, radio and electrical store sales were up 8 per cent, grocery and meat store sales advanced 14 per cent, drug store sales gained 15 per cent while increases of 20 per cent or more were recorded for all other lines of business for which figures are available.

Results on a regional basis show that gains in retail trading took place throughout the country, increases in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec generally exceeding those in other parts.

March sales of 20 departmental firms which reported sales by departments averaged 26 per cent higher than in the same month of last year. Purchases of men's clothing, advanced sharply to a point 52 per cent above March, 1941. Sales of shoes and other footwear continued at a high level and were 34 per cent higher in March this year over last. Sales of women's clothing increased 29 per cent in the same comparison, while a gain of 27 per cent occurred in sales of piece goods. Hardware sales were 28 per cent greater than in March, 1941. Substantial gains were also recorded for all other departments.

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Comparison of Retail Sales in Canada, for 1941 and 1942, by Kinds of Business

(Comparisons are based on dollar value. No corrections have been made for higher prices)

Kind of Business	March, 1942 + or - per cent compared with			Cumulative Indexes
	March 1939	March 1941	February 1942	Jan.-Mar., 1942 Jan.-Mar., 1941
General Index	+57.0	+21.6	+20.6	+21.7
Boot and Shoe Stores	+99.6	+38.3	+53.9	+38.2
Candy Stores	+66.1	+22.0	-22.8	+31.3
Men's Clothing Stores	+142.5	+62.1	+63.5	+39.1
Women's Clothing Stores.....	+78.4	+30.2	+54.6	+27.5
Department Stores	+64.2	+26.5	+31.5	+21.5
Drug Stores.....	+34.9	+14.7	+ 8.5	+15.6
Furniture Stores	+40.4	+ 1.1	+ 8.4	+ 3.6
Grocery and Meat Stores	+39.5	+13.5	+ 7.9	+20.4
Hardware Stores	+74.2	+28.6	+31.0	+27.4
Radio and Electrical Stores.	+57.7	+ 7.5	+17.5	+ 6.3
Restaurants	+47.5	+19.7	+16.1	+18.5
Variety Stores	+85.3	+22.8	+15.2	+26.6

Comparison of Retail Sales of Boot and Shoe Stores and Jewellery Stores

March, 1941 and March, 1942

Region	Sales in March, 1942 Compared with Sales in March, 1941	
	Boot and Shoe Stores	Jewellery Stores
CANADA	+38.3	+10.0
Maritime Provinces	+47.0	+42.1
Quebec	+55.1	+13.5
Ontario.....	+37.0	+ 1.3
Prairie Provinces	+32.9	+17.9
British Columbia	+12.5	+20.9

INDEX NUMBERS OF RETAIL SALES - (Average for 1935 - 1939 = 100)

A. Unadjusted. B. Adjusted for Number of Business Days and Seasonal Variations.
(Figures for current year are subject to final revision)

Year and Month	General Index		Boots and Shoes		Candy(h)		Men's Clothing(c)		Women's Clothing		Departmental		Drugs	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
March, 1929	137.6	143.1	183.6	198.3	256.7	190.2	196.6	192.7	148.5	158.2	132.9	138.2	126.0	121.7
March, 1930	119.0	130.4	119.3	154.1	158.6	181.0	126.0	154.8	117.9	148.6	115.8	126.8	123.8	120.7
March, 1931	109.8	120.5	101.4	114.6	117.3	141.3	103.6	117.7	114.0	137.2	113.4	121.9	108.3	108.1
March, 1932	92.4	96.7	85.6	96.1	170.0	129.3	77.5	78.4	94.4	103.8	90.6	92.4	105.0	102.1
March, 1933	77.7	83.7	60.8	77.8	75.5	87.2	66.4	81.9	69.7	88.2	77.8	82.9	87.2	84.5
March, 1934	88.1	88.5	98.2	102.9	144.6	104.0	84.8	80.7	88.0	91.0	87.8	88.8	93.7	88.8
March, 1935	85.5	91.9	81.5	105.3	89.6	101.5	73.4	88.8	79.5	98.8	80.2	87.4	95.5	92.2
March, 1936	84.6	95.6	81.7	99.0	81.5	98.2	75.3	97.6	81.5	95.8	81.7	94.0	90.8	94.3
March, 1937	95.7	103.7	83.6	93.8	146.4	111.8	89.9	105.3	95.3	106.8	92.5	99.9	101.9	103.8
March, 1938	92.9	101.7	78.5	102.5	76.2	94.2	79.6	104.6	89.5	108.8	86.7	98.3	99.8	101.0
March, 1939	92.3	98.1	69.0	98.6	75.2	92.2	70.2	85.5	83.7	95.8	86.0	91.7	105.2	106.1
March, 1940	105.9	112.3	83.6	100.3	158.5	115.6	90.5	105.6	102.7	106.0	95.4	105.8	109.4	110.0
March, 1941	119.2	129.3	99.6	142.3	102.4	124.2	105.0	130.6	114.7	135.7	111.6	125.0	123.7	125.6
March, 1942	144.9	161.8	137.7	189.8	124.9	159.8	170.2	212.5	149.3	173.6	141.2	157.0	141.9	147.4
<u>1941</u>														
April	135.7	135.2	148.8	128.3	171.5	129.6	146.9	143.4	169.9	135.4	132.2	133.4	120.8	125.1
May	143.0	134.5	142.8	121.9	130.3	124.4	135.5	137.2	142.1	134.2	134.3	129.2	126.8	126.5
June	133.8	134.3	155.5	117.9	89.6	122.5	137.5	134.9	133.2	123.7	123.7	123.1	122.8	133.4
July	122.4	134.9	114.7	119.8	101.9	121.4	111.8	136.2	111.0	132.1	102.2	132.5	128.0	130.9
August	134.1	146.5	114.1	147.4	128.6	137.6	114.1	147.6	119.2	160.8	120.4	146.1	132.2	131.6
September	137.3	136.4	132.3	111.8	118.4	130.4	128.5	130.5	135.3	144.4	138.6	136.6	130.6	130.8
October	152.4	138.0	133.1	121.3	133.1	137.5	168.8	132.9	164.2	131.4	160.0	136.5	141.6	135.8
November	146.6	138.1	128.3	134.0	131.4	155.8	174.9	136.1	155.5	137.4	155.4	137.6	134.4	135.9
December	201.5	147.2	203.4	144.7	301.8	160.1	243.8	148.5	224.4	149.3	239.2	145.8	182.6	145.5
<u>1942</u>														
January	128.1	150.9	114.1	153.7	117.1	152.1	114.0	143.5	116.3	152.5	115.2	151.1	136.6	140.6
February	120.1	154.8	89.5	179.8	161.8	175.3	104.1	176.2	96.6	166.2	107.4	142.7	130.8	145.1
March	144.9	161.8	137.7	189.8	124.9	159.8	170.2	212.5	149.3	173.6	141.2	157.0	141.9	147.4

(c) Includes men's furnishings

(h) Candy indexes are based largely upon returns from retail candy chains.

INDEX NUMBERS OF RETAIL SALES - (Average for 1935 - 1939 = 100)

A. Unadjusted. B. Adjusted for Number of Business Days and Seasonal Variations.
(Figures for current year are subject to final revision)

Year and Month	(a)											
	Furniture		Groceries and Meats		Hardware		Radio and Electrical		Restaurants		Variety	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
March, 1929	160.8	185.0	130.2	126.2	108.4	158.0	180.3	235.8	178.6	180.8	67.1	78.6
March, 1930	121.4	134.9	120.7	119.7	102.7	143.9	145.1	182.4	160.9	163.4	71.9	89.6
March, 1931	98.2	111.7	113.2	117.9	96.1	134.6	120.1	149.1	135.6	139.0	69.4	88.5
March, 1932	71.2	81.0	101.3	103.4	63.8	89.4	79.0	95.7	106.0	107.3	69.8	83.7
March, 1933	60.2	66.2	89.7	90.3	50.3	67.9	60.6	69.8	88.0	88.8	58.2	74.5
March, 1934	77.4	86.0	94.1	88.6	59.9	83.9	66.4	79.4	95.2	95.1	72.8	82.8
March, 1935	77.8	86.5	98.4	95.8	60.8	85.2	80.1	95.8	94.1	95.2	66.9	83.1
March, 1936	77.7	88.4	93.3	98.1	65.1	91.2	78.0	94.4	100.1	102.6	66.3	87.9
March, 1937	97.7	111.1	101.2	104.5	75.6	105.9	93.5	113.2	108.4	109.7	84.3	101.5
March, 1938	83.5	96.2	105.8	102.8	77.5	104.6	89.4	104.2	103.3	104.5	78.8	101.3
March, 1939	82.0	94.5	109.6	104.9	72.0	97.1	82.1	95.7	94.9	95.7	80.2	102.7
March, 1940	93.0	112.2	124.5	119.6	79.1	115.3	97.2	122.4	100.8	102.0	108.6	125.8
March, 1941	113.9	132.7	134.7	126.9	97.5	136.7	120.5	145.9	117.0	118.8	121.0	150.9
March, 1942	115.1	137.2	152.9	154.5	125.4	175.7	129.5	156.8	140.0	143.5	148.6	191.9
<u>1941</u>												
April	137.9	127.4	132.2	136.5	137.5	134.9	146.3	160.5	118.2	118.7	143.4	157.0
May	174.3	139.1	146.8	141.4	169.0	125.6	167.4	144.0	119.2	115.6	159.8	159.7
June	131.5	137.6	139.4	145.7	153.6	131.6	138.9	155.6	114.4	116.5	154.0	154.8
July	115.3	148.1	133.0	136.3	149.3	133.1	134.5	169.1	125.2	119.4	152.2	152.7
August	138.8	135.5	146.0	148.3	149.6	142.4	136.9	174.4	134.7	124.8	158.9	163.1
September	140.1	121.8	133.7	139.1	157.8	134.2	157.2	134.7	129.7	125.3	152.3	162.6
October	137.9	115.7	145.2	143.0	164.4	140.2	151.3	117.8	131.0	128.2	173.0	166.2
November	100.5	94.9	143.7	140.8	139.0	141.7	115.4	94.2	126.3	133.9	178.2	171.6
December	134.8	114.0	161.6	149.1	170.1	153.1	169.9	120.7	139.4	134.1	341.6	176.2
<u>1942</u>												
January	91.8	134.5	150.4	146.4	106.0	173.2	126.0	156.4	129.7	135.2	129.8	191.4
February	106.2	136.2	141.7	154.3	95.7	175.2	110.2	148.2	120.6	136.6	129.0	190.9
March	115.1	137.2	152.9	154.5	125.4	175.7	129.5	156.8	140.0	143.5	148.6	191.9

(a) No allowance has been made in these indexes for higher prices arising from the 25 per cent excise tax on manufacturers' sales of radios or electrical appliances.

UNADJUSTED INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES BY PROVINCES - (Average for 1935 - 1939 = 100)
 (Figures for the current year are subject to final revision)

Year and Month	CANADA	Maritime Provinces	Quebec	Ontario	Prairie Provinces	British Columbia
(c)						
Men's Clothing Stores						
March, 1936	75.3	74.5	79.3	76.4	69.3	67.7
March, 1937	89.9	87.9	88.2	92.2	87.6	88.0
March, 1938	79.6	80.2	74.5	83.3	81.3	71.7
March, 1939	70.2	67.0	69.1	69.3	75.3	73.9
March, 1940	90.5	108.2	88.3	91.0	84.4	87.6
March, 1941	105.0	128.5	100.4	110.6	90.6	89.1
March, 1942	170.2	192.1	178.8	172.5	148.6	146.4
<u>1941</u>						
November	174.9	223.1	166.6	175.9	179.9	143.8
December	243.8	322.1	230.0	255.3	198.9	221.5
<u>1942</u>						
January	114.0	163.5	100.0	116.7	104.2	111.7
February	104.1	147.5	95.8	108.2	85.9	96.0
March	170.2	192.1	178.8	172.5	148.6	146.4
% Change, March, 1942 March, 1941	+62.1	+49.5	+78.1	+56.0	+64.0	+64.3
% Change, Jan.-Mar., 1942 Jan.-Mar., 1941	+39.1	+41.7	+46.7	+35.4	+40.0	+35.3
Women's Clothing Stores						
March, 1936	81.5	69.7	82.2	81.1	83.0	84.4
March, 1937	95.3	80.6	84.6	96.6	101.6	116.3
March, 1938	89.5	76.9	80.8	92.7	93.3	97.4
March, 1939	83.7	70.7	76.8	82.7	92.2	101.4
March, 1940	102.7	110.5	88.7	100.9	112.6	133.5
March, 1941	114.7	123.0	105.9	115.5	110.1	138.9
March, 1942	149.3	153.7	148.9	153.1	137.8	147.3
<u>1941</u>						
November	155.5	188.3	144.0	161.3	159.1	139.0
December	224.4	262.4	224.6	236.0	192.7	195.0
<u>1942</u>						
January	116.3	142.3	99.8	123.6	109.2	125.3
February	96.6	126.9	96.0	98.2	83.9	96.7
March	149.3	153.7	148.9	153.1	137.8	147.3
% Change, March, 1942 March, 1941	+30.2	+25.0	+40.6	+32.6	+25.2	+ 6.0
% Change, Jan.-Mar., 1942 Jan.-Mar., 1941	+27.5	+28.3	+29.7	+29.0	+25.4	+17.5
Grocery and Meat Stores						
March, 1936	93.3	(g)	102.0	91.0	84.5	86.9
March, 1937	101.2	(g)	102.3	101.0	95.9	107.3
March, 1938	105.8	(g)	105.5	108.5	97.4	105.9
March, 1939	109.6	101.0	121.2	112.9	88.5	91.9
March, 1940	124.5	120.5	131.7	124.6	113.8	119.7
March, 1941	134.7	129.6	137.7	139.3	118.5	131.0
March, 1942	152.9	153.2	158.5	156.1	134.0	146.2
<u>1941</u>						
November	143.7	156.5	134.4	148.6	141.8	139.2
December	161.6	177.6	158.2	167.6	144.7	150.5
<u>1942</u>						
January	150.4	158.1	147.1	157.9	132.2	142.6
February	141.7	151.9	144.5	145.0	123.5	132.0
March	152.9	153.2	158.5	156.1	134.0	146.2
% Change, March, 1942 March, 1941	+13.5	+18.2	+15.1	+12.1	+13.1	+11.6
% Change, Jan.-Mar., 1942 Jan.-Mar., 1941	+20.4	+27.6	+21.1	+19.5	+19.1	+16.1

(c) Includes men's furnishings

(g) Not available

Table with 7 columns: Name, Address, Telephone, etc.

Name	Address	Telephone	Business	Home	Mobile	Notes
Mr. John Doe	123 Main St	555-1234	ABC Corp	555-5678	555-9012	...
Mrs. Jane Smith	456 Oak Ave	555-2345	XYZ Inc	555-6789	555-1011	...
Mr. Robert Brown	789 Pine Rd	555-3456	PQR Ltd	555-7890	555-2020	...

UNADJUSTED INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES BY PROVINCES - (Average for 1935 - 1939 = 100)
 (Figures for the current year are subject to final revision)

Year and Month	CANADA	Maritime Provinces	Quebec	Ontario	Prairie Provinces	British Columbia
Department Stores						
March, 1936	81.7	78.2	82.9	82.6	80.3	82.8
March, 1937	92.5	86.1	94.6	92.2	91.4	97.4
March, 1938	86.7	78.3	92.9	87.1	84.3	88.8
March, 1939	86.0	71.5	91.7	87.5	82.6	90.8
March, 1940	95.4	89.8	101.8	93.9	93.0	101.4
March, 1941	111.6	115.9	116.1	112.1	104.3	119.6
March, 1942	141.2	157.6	158.0	144.6	125.3	138.2
<u>1941</u>						
November.....	155.4	181.3	148.5	153.2	157.9	150.0
December.....	239.2	276.7	251.7	249.0	217.1	222.7
<u>1942</u>						
January.....	115.2	122.6	119.8	116.4	108.5	117.5
February.....	107.4	117.8	110.8	108.6	98.9	113.1
March.....	141.2	157.6	158.0	144.6	125.3	138.2
% Change, <u>March, 1942</u>	+26.5	+36.0	+36.1	+29.0	+20.1	+15.6
March, 1941						
% Change, <u>Jan.-Mar.,1942</u>	+21.5	+26.4	+23.7	+23.1	+17.7	+18.9
Jan.-Mar.,1941						
Variety Stores						
March, 1936	66.3	57.0	64.5	68.7	65.7	69.3
March, 1937	84.3	76.6	80.6	86.7	85.0	89.7
March, 1938	78.8	71.7	77.0	81.7	75.1	80.9
March, 1939	80.2	77.1	83.4	79.4	76.8	84.0
March, 1940	108.6	125.1	111.1	103.5	112.6	105.3
March, 1941	121.0	156.0	122.2	117.5	116.2	105.6
March, 1942	148.6	193.7	158.6	139.6	143.4	125.7
<u>1941</u>						
November.....	178.2	240.1	175.5	174.3	176.8	141.5
December	341.6	453.3	332.2	334.1	332.6	301.8
<u>1942</u>						
January.....	129.8	150.1	139.6	125.0	124.6	111.1
February.....	129.0	163.0	136.2	121.9	125.7	113.8
March.....	148.6	193.7	158.6	139.6	143.4	125.7
% Change, <u>March, 1942</u>	+22.8	+24.2	+29.8	+18.8	+23.4	+19.0
March, 1941						
% Change, <u>Jan.-Mar.,1942</u>	+26.6	+29.3	+31.0	+24.0	+27.2	+21.5
Jan.-Mar.,1941						
Drug Stores						
March, 1936	90.8	88.6	96.3	91.1	86.8	87.2
March, 1937	101.9	104.9	105.9	102.8	96.5	96.6
March, 1938	99.8	99.1	105.0	100.5	92.5	100.2
March, 1939	105.2	101.2	113.8	105.0	100.6	99.5
March, 1940	109.4	116.5	115.2	108.2	106.8	102.4
March, 1941	123.7	138.3	126.0	124.9	115.3	116.8
March, 1942	141.9	163.3	145.9	139.5	139.3	134.0
<u>1941</u>						
November.....	134.4	149.3	134.5	137.1	126.4	123.4
December.....	182.6	223.7	164.2	181.5	189.3	181.6
<u>1942</u>						
January.....	136.6	147.6	137.3	136.2	134.0	133.6
February.....	130.8	152.5	132.3	129.7	126.7	124.0
March.....	141.9	163.3	145.9	139.5	139.3	134.0
% Change, <u>March, 1942</u>	+14.7	+18.1	+15.8	+11.7	+20.8	+11.7
March, 1941						
% Change, <u>Jan.-Mar.,1942</u>	+15.6	+18.6	+15.4	+13.8	+19.5	+14.9
Jan.-Mar.,1941						

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES IN CANADA, BY SELECTED DEPARTMENTS

MARCH, 1941 AND MARCH, 1942

(Based on dollar sales of 20 firms)

	March 1941	March 1942	% Change, 1942 / 41
TOTAL SALES	20,892,996	26,358,210	+26.2
1. Women's dresses, coats and suits	2,375,266	3,088,533	+30.0
2. Girls' and infants' wear	695,460	940,077	+35.2
3. Hosiery and gloves	857,887	1,093,678	+27.5
4. Lingerie and corsets	887,356	1,113,023	+25.4
5. Millinery	329,140	382,610	+16.2
6. Women's and children's apparel--(Total,1-5)	5,145,109	6,617,921	+28.6
7. Men's and boys' clothing and furnishings...	2,122,992	3,226,911	+52.0
8. Drugs and toilet articles and preparations.	635,357	749,471	+18.0
9. Piece goods	1,550,236	1,968,730	+27.0
10. Smallwares	733,862	892,567	+21.6
11. Food and kindred products	2,129,400	2,462,542	+15.6
12. Furniture (including mattresses and springs)	1,250,528	1,399,832	+11.9
13. Home furnishings	1,506,825	1,735,164	+15.2
14. Household appliances and electrical supplies .	637,898	736,205	+15.4
15. Hardware and kitchen utensils	951,219	1,213,314	+27.6
16. Radios, musical instruments and supplies ...	291,450	351,306	+20.5
17. Shoes and other footwear	1,534,441	2,056,886	+34.0
18. Stationery, books and magazines.....	286,611	343,993	+20.0
19. All other departments, total	2,117,067	2,603,368	+23.0

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