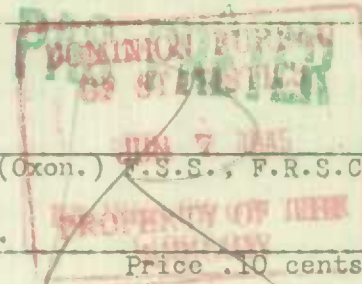


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Monthly Indexes of Retail Sales in Canada, April, 1945
(1935-1939 = 100)

Sales in Canadian retail stores in April, 1945 were practically unchanged from the dollar value of sales in the same month a year ago and were 10 per cent lower than in March when pre-Easter buying and unseasonably warm weather combined to effect a remarkably high level of trading. These results are based on reports from a sample number of firms representing fourteen trades dealing chiefly in food, clothing and household requirements. The unadjusted index of sales stood at 174.4 for April, 1945 as compared with 194.2 for March, 1945 and 175.3 for April, 1944. Sales in the first four months of this year averaged 8 per cent above the corresponding period of 1944 and were 46 per cent higher than in the same four months of 1941.

Furniture stores and hardware stores reported a substantially higher volume of business for April this year than last while a number of other trades experienced minor gains in the April comparison. Sharp declines occurred in the trades which comprise the clothing group. This was due in part to the fact that these trades were most affected by pre-Easter buying and early spring conditions prevailing in March and thus benefitted most from the heavy consumer demand which existed in that month.

Department store sales showed a fractional gain between April of the two years while sales for the year to date stand 12 per cent above the same period of last year. Sales in variety stores, although declining 3 per cent in April, maintain a 10 per cent margin over last year in the four-month cumulative comparison. Country general store sales, which may be considered to reflect the trend of consumer purchasing in rural areas and smaller localities, were 3 per cent higher in April this year over last.

Food sales were similar to those recorded in April, 1944. A 2 per cent gain in restaurant receipts represents a continuation of the trend in earlier months of this year.

The decline in the clothing trades was most serious in the case of men's wear stores whose business was down 18 per cent from April a year ago. Family clothing store sales fell off 9 per cent, while identical declines of 13 per cent occurred in the case of women's apparel and shoe stores. All of these trades have shown higher sales volume during the first four months of the year, the increases amounting to 8 per cent in the case of men's clothing and between 12 and 13 per cent in the other three.

April increases for hardware and furniture stores, which amounted to 18 and 16 per cent respectively, were approximately the same as gains recorded in the first four months. Resumption of production of most hardware items, following removal of wartime restrictions in recent months, is reflected in the increased volume of hardware sales. The substantial gain for furniture stores reflects improvement in the supply of those commodities in which these stores specialize including not only furniture but also house furnishings. Drug stores and radio and electrical stores showed increases of 3 per cent. Returns for jewellery stores were not sufficiently complete to permit the calculation of an average figure at the time this bulletin went to press.

Sales reported by a number of chain candy stores were 27 per cent lower in April this year than last. During the first four months of the year, sales of candy stores have gained 4 per cent over the similar period of last year. Retail furriers did 18 per cent more business in April this year, the increase being slightly lower than a 23 per cent advance recorded in the comparison for the four-month period.

Maritime Provinces

Consumer purchases were 2 per cent higher in April of this year than last in the Maritime Provinces. Sales in the first four months were 8 per cent greater. Declines were restricted to those trades which experienced lower sales volume in most other provinces, but were not so pronounced as those occurring elsewhere. The increases for department stores and country general stores exceeded the average gains for the country as a whole.

Quebec

Quebec retailers did approximately the same amount of business in April this year as last, while sales in that province were 8 per cent greater over the first four months of the year. Furniture and hardware stores were particularly active with sales up 21 and 39 per cent respectively over April, 1944. The increases for these two trades exceed those recorded in other regions and represent a continuation of a trend which has prevailed throughout earlier months of the year. Radio and electrical stores reported sales up 18 per cent for April although only a slight gain over last year is indicated in the cumulative sales for the January-to-April period. Restaurant sales have increased over last year to a greater extent than in other parts of the country, an 11 per cent increase being recorded in April and a 7 per cent gain in the four-month comparison. The overall decline in clothing sales appears to have been more extensive in Quebec than elsewhere.

Ontario

A decline of 1 per cent in the general index for Ontario below April, 1944 compares with a 9 per cent increase for the first four months of the year. As in other provinces, furniture and hardware stores reported substantial sales increases, while radio and electrical, country general and drug stores reported gains of smaller proportions. All other trades had lower sales in April this year than last.

Prairie Provinces

The general index of sales for the Prairie Provinces was 3 per cent lower in April this year compared with last. Sales averaged 6 per cent greater in the first four months of the year. Sales of furniture were 18 per cent higher than in April, 1944, but hardware store sales were up only fractionally. Country general store sales were 4 per cent lower in the Prairie Provinces, the decline contrasting

with increases which occurred in other parts of the country.

British Columbia

Sales in British Columbia were 3 per cent higher in April and gained 8 per cent in the comparison of sales for the first four months of this year over last. A decrease of 12 per cent in sales of radio and electrical stores was recorded. In the clothing trades, declines were less pronounced than those which occurred in the other provinces, while increases were reported for other kinds of business. It is notable that gains in sales of furniture and hardware stores were of moderate proportions compared with those shown for other regions and compared also with increases recorded in British Columbia for earlier months of the year.

Departmental Analysis of Department Store Sales

The analysis of sales by departments reveals decreases between April of the two years amounting to 11 per cent in sales of men's wear, 9 per cent in sales of women's apparel and 3 per cent in sales of footwear. The largest among the departmental increases reported were those for furniture (21 per cent), piece goods (16 per cent), hardware (13 per cent) and drugs (10 per cent).

Comparison of Retail Sales in Canada, for 1944 and 1945, by Kinds of Business
(Comparisons are based on dollar value. No corrections have been made for higher prices.)

Kind of Business	Sales in Apr., 1945			Sales in Jan.-Apr., 1945	
	Compared With Sales in			Compared With Sales in	
	Apr., 1941	Apr., 1944	Mar., 1945	Jan.-Apr., 1941	Jan.-Apr., 1944
	%	%	%	%	%
GENERAL INDEX	+32.2	- 0.5	-10.2	+46.4	+ 7.7
General Merchandise Group:					
Country General Stores	+48.7	+ 3.1	+ 1.9	+55.2	+ 6.4
Department Stores	+25.0	+ 0.5	-17.6	+44.7	+11.6
Variety Stores	+24.7	- 3.4	-14.0	+45.6	+10.2
Food Group:					
Food Stores	+37.1	+ 0.1	- 9.8	+42.7	+ 5.1
Restaurants	+64.0	+ 1.9	- 1.9	+70.6	+ 1.5
Clothing Group:					
Family Clothing Stores	+20.1	- 9.0	-14.7	+58.1	+13.3
Men's Clothing Stores	+12.3	-17.5	-19.9	+43.2	+ 7.9
Women's Clothing Stores	+17.8	-12.5	-22.3	+61.6	+12.0
Shoe Stores	+20.4	-12.8	-21.2	+59.7	+12.8
Household and Personal Effects Group:					
Drug Stores	+44.0	+ 3.0	- 7.5	+48.7	+ 5.4
Furniture Stores	+11.2	+16.4	+11.1	+13.3	+15.2
Hardware Stores	+37.6	+18.3	+13.3	+52.5	+18.1
Jewellery Stores (b)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Radio and Electrical Stores	-23.7	+ 3.3	- 0.4	-13.8	+ 1.7

(b) Based on sales including the Federal tax introduced in June, 1942.

(c) Returns were not sufficiently complete to permit calculation of index numbers for jewellery stores. These will appear in the May bulletin.

Index Numbers of Retail Sales - (Average for 1935-1939 = 100)

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

Year and Month	General Index		Country General		Department		Variety	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
April, 1939	104.2	103.4	89.4	97.0	97.1	102.0	100.9	106.6
April, 1941	131.9	132.8	108.2	117.0	132.2	133.4	143.4	157.0
April, 1942	151.5	153.0	124.1	133.7	145.1	148.8	169.2	188.4
April, 1943	165.6	163.4	141.2	151.0	157.9	153.5	182.9	198.6
April, 1944	175.3	176.3	156.1	176.0	164.3	174.0	185.1	196.2
1944								
May	177.8	170.9	177.7	164.1	166.2	160.0	191.1	191.8
June	178.1	173.0	169.1	163.4	150.5	143.4	196.1	189.5
July	155.1	170.9	170.5	159.9	116.8	157.0	181.1	186.8
August	161.2	173.0	174.4	161.0	139.4	165.3	172.4	184.4
September ...	178.6	170.9	171.5	154.0	183.8	179.7	191.4	191.2
October	182.6	174.7	174.0	160.6	193.0	171.3	199.9	199.1
November	190.6	181.9	165.9	160.2	225.3	194.7	217.0	217.2
December	237.4	172.8	196.3	163.1	253.9	158.4	372.3	184.1
1945								
January	143.1	175.0	127.0	166.0	122.6	163.2	139.6	221.5
February	146.7	185.6	127.2	171.8	136.2	181.1	151.0	223.6
March	194.2	201.7	157.9	179.2	200.5	215.5	207.9	233.7
April	174.4	179.5	160.9	179.2	165.2	172.1	178.8	212.0

Year and Month	Food		Restaurants		Family Clothing		Men's (c) Clothing	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
April, 1939	110.0	108.7	93.3	94.0	(a)	(a)	101.2	98.2
April, 1941	132.2	136.5	116.8	117.3	156.6	136.3	146.7	143.2
April, 1942	157.4	161.3	140.0	140.6	177.7	160.7	187.3	177.1
April, 1943	172.0	174.2	173.9	173.5	194.9	164.8	186.8	165.4
April, 1944	181.1	180.5	188.0	190.8	206.6	176.7	199.8	177.6
1944								
May	179.0	175.9	189.1	185.1	196.7	189.0	181.3	185.6
June	194.2	192.1	186.9	186.4	189.4	183.4	188.4	180.0
July	164.6	174.8	194.9	187.5	160.2	191.8	142.4	179.2
August	170.9	183.0	198.6	182.7	150.1	184.0	125.2	169.4
September ...	176.1	168.2	192.1	184.4	189.9	195.2	174.8	172.2
October	168.9	175.1	196.1	195.1	229.9	198.0	207.7	180.8
November	168.5	172.3	194.8	204.4	233.6	198.1	228.6	187.2
December	204.6	176.2	196.8	190.6	292.9	183.3	296.6	172.5
1945								
January	166.5	176.2	179.7	189.1	124.2	184.7	118.3	166.8
February	167.5	182.4	171.3	194.0	128.5	198.6	120.8	192.1
March	201.1	188.1	195.4	195.9	220.3	231.9	205.8	217.5
April	181.3	185.1	191.6	195.0	188.0	176.0	164.8	158.9

(a) Not available.

(c) Includes men's furnishings.

Index Numbers of Retail Sales - (Average for 1935-1939 = 100)

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

Year and Month	Women's Clothing		Shoes		Drugs		Furniture	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
April, 1939	126.3	100.6	114.2	88.7	102.8	106.1	102.6	95.9
April, 1941	170.1	135.6	147.8	117.7	121.0	125.3	143.0	132.1
April, 1942	184.9	146.8	170.1	143.1	143.4	148.4	132.5	122.4
April, 1943	213.9	166.5	185.7	145.0	156.8	161.8	133.8	124.1
April, 1944	228.8	181.5	204.1	159.2	169.2	174.6	136.6	126.7
1944								
May	201.8	191.3	197.5	177.2	168.4	173.4	165.8	132.3
June	191.9	179.5	213.1	165.6	168.1	177.0	139.2	140.6
July	155.3	190.0	163.4	183.8	168.0	171.2	116.4	155.0
August	153.8	196.9	154.9	181.3	170.5	172.0	122.6	120.2
September ...	200.8	204.5	196.7	169.9	177.3	172.3	134.8	112.6
October	218.8	191.3	173.6	175.9	186.2	182.8	142.9	124.2
November	226.6	204.8	181.1	191.3	181.3	184.6	145.3	137.8
December	293.3	190.6	245.2	168.8	261.2	205.5	149.2	125.7
1945								
January	136.6	191.1	99.4	143.7	176.5	187.5	99.6	151.1
February	139.3	221.7	108.3	183.1	167.6	185.9	112.6	144.3
March	257.8	259.1	225.9	243.1	188.4	186.5	143.1	165.5
April	200.3	175.9	178.0	160.2	174.3	183.5	159.0	146.8

Year and Month	Hardware		Jewellery ^(b)		Radio and Electrical	
	A	B	A	B	A	B
April, 1939	96.6	98.7	67.5	(a)	92.8	106.0
April, 1941	137.6	135.0	112.8	137.0	146.8	149.7
April, 1942	152.3	149.3	132.5	160.9	140.8	143.6
April, 1943	148.5	145.6	160.3	194.7	116.9	119.2
April, 1944	160.1	159.6	175.9	222.5	108.4	115.1
1944						
May	199.8	148.5	182.0	202.9	114.6	99.5
June	194.2	160.7	195.3	206.0	110.7	115.5
July	175.6	162.2	177.5	218.1	91.9	110.3
August	180.1	168.3	191.4	198.7	94.9	104.3
September ...	182.7	153.5	202.4	224.4	112.4	99.7
October	184.7	164.4	203.6	228.2	113.0	97.6
November	181.7	181.0	255.1	250.2	117.6	103.0
December	192.3	177.8	605.9	238.6	135.8	106.6
1945						
January	119.9	199.8	148.7	208.3	99.2	118.6
February	119.0	218.0	168.0	241.2	94.4	122.3
March	167.2	229.9	204.1	267.0	112.4	131.2
April	189.4	185.0	(c)	(c)	112.0	114.3

(a) Not available.

(b) Based on sales including the Federal tax introduced in June, 1942.

(c) Returns were not sufficiently complete to permit calculation of index numbers for jewellery stores. These will appear in the May bulletin.

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	General Index	Country General	Department	Variety	Food	Restaurant	Family Clothing
Maritime Provinces							
April, 1942	165.6	118.9	169.5	211.6	156.6	200.4	172.0
April, 1943	185.1	143.5	180.7	221.4	176.8	229.0	211.1
April, 1944	206.1	165.0	194.5	235.7	196.5	240.8	251.3
1945							
March	227.5	175.0	247.4	253.4	223.0	252.6	248.0
April	210.7	175.4	211.3	228.6	199.1	248.6	238.9
% Change,							
April, 1945 ...	+ 2.2	+ 6.3	+ 8.6	- 3.0	+ 1.3	+ 3.2	- 4.9
April, 1944 ...							
% Change,							
Jan.-Apr., 1945	+ 7.7	+ 8.7	+10.2	+ 9.6	+ 5.4	+ 2.9	+12.4
Jan.-Apr., 1944							
Quebec							
April, 1942	164.0	139.2	157.8	184.7	165.6	140.5	212.5
April, 1943	177.2	149.9	174.9	205.8	185.7	161.6	217.4
April, 1944	185.7	167.3	181.8	209.9	193.5	170.3	232.2
1945							
March	202.0	167.3	216.7	242.1	210.7	184.8	246.2
April	185.6	181.7	182.8	202.8	191.4	198.7	203.6
% Change,							
April, 1945 ...	- 0.1	+ 8.6	+ 0.6	- 3.4	- 1.1	+10.8	-12.3
April, 1944 ...							
% Change,							
Jan.-Apr., 1945	+ 7.7	+ 5.6	+13.8	+11.2	+ 4.1	+ 7.3	+12.3
Jan.-Apr., 1944							
Ontario							
April, 1942	152.8	130.0	145.0	160.4	159.4	140.0	162.7
April, 1943	160.4	134.4	151.2	167.8	169.0	173.9	171.1
April, 1944	166.6	142.2	152.7	168.5	176.6	192.3	167.7
1945							
March	189.7	157.9	186.4	195.3	197.6	198.5	197.1
April	164.3	149.5	151.9	164.3	176.0	190.8	154.1
% Change,							
April, 1945 ...	- 1.4	+ 5.1	- 0.5	- 2.5	- 0.3	- 0.8	- 8.1
April, 1944 ...							
% Change,							
Jan.-Apr., 1945	+ 8.5	+ 7.5	+13.5	+11.5	+ 5.6	- 0.7	+17.0
Jan.-Apr., 1944							

Unadjusted Indexes of Retail Sales by Provinces - (Average for 1935 - 1939 = 100)
 (Figures for the current year are subject to final revision)

Men's Clothing	(a) Women's Clothing	Shoes	Drugs	Furniture	Hardware	(b) Jewellery	Radio and Electrical
Maritime Provinces							
233.3	213.7	183.8	173.4	158.0	145.1	196.6	171.5
233.3	259.2	209.2	192.7	185.9	153.9	248.8	159.8
268.4	320.0	244.9	213.1	199.4	178.6	278.8	157.5
266.9	324.4	247.7	229.1	187.1	163.8	346.9	116.4
241.1	301.2	226.7	214.9	226.7	205.7	(c)	161.3
-10.2	- 5.9	- 7.4	+ 0.8	+13.7	+15.2	(c)	+ 2.4
+ 8.1	+15.0	+13.2	+ 4.8	+ 9.4	+ 9.0	(c)	+10.8
Quebec							
206.1	196.2	163.9	140.7	145.8	154.5	136.4	151.4
199.3	209.8	177.8	156.2	133.2	136.6	156.7	135.4
205.3	214.0	195.0	168.8	135.5	154.6	161.6	114.5
195.0	226.4	208.9	190.5	133.3	168.0	196.8	128.1
157.3	187.4	167.1	176.9	163.4	215.3	(c)	135.2
-23.4	-12.4	-14.3	+ 4.8	+20.6	+39.3	(c)	+18.1
+ 2.4	+ 8.1	+15.5	+ 6.0	+18.4	+26.7	(c)	+ 2.1
Ontario							
182.7	186.0	173.8	139.2	124.9	148.2	124.9	134.6
178.5	212.3	180.4	147.8	124.9	135.8	143.8	95.1
188.3	225.0	195.2	158.9	123.5	134.9	159.2	82.9
206.2	275.0	230.1	176.3	132.3	147.6	185.4	88.9
157.2	195.3	165.2	161.2	142.7	165.4	(c)	87.7
-16.5	-13.2	-15.8	+ 1.4	+15.5	+22.6	(c)	+ 5.8
+12.1	+15.3	+11.2	+ 4.6	+13.9	+19.3	(c)	- 1.6

(a) Includes men's furnishings.

(b) Based on sales including the Federal tax introduced in June, 1942.

(c) Returns were not sufficiently complete to permit calculation of index numbers for jewellery stores. These will appear in the May bulletin.

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	General Index	Country General	Department	Variety	Food	Restaurant	Family Clothing
Prairie Provinces							
April, 1942	134.7	115.3	133.5	162.1	158.6	132.2	150.1
April, 1943	156.9	141.2	151.6	189.1	153.1	171.8	199.1
April, 1944	172.3	158.1	163.2	190.8	165.3	189.1	224.1
1945							
March	183.4	145.2	199.7	188.2	182.8	193.4	213.4
April	167.0	151.7	159.6	174.6	167.9	184.3	205.8
% Change,							
April, 1945 ...	- 3.1	- 4.0	- 2.3	- 8.5	+ 1.6	- 2.5	- 8.2
April, 1944 ...							
% Change,							
Jan.-Apr., 1945	+ 6.1	+ 4.8	+ 9.3	+ 4.8	+ 4.3	+ 1.2	+11.0
Jan.-Apr., 1944							
British Columbia							
April, 1942	141.3	113.9	143.8	134.1	147.7	120.6	148.1
April, 1943	162.3	129.8	161.2	145.5	162.6	172.0	169.6
April, 1944	167.9	136.9	166.5	137.6	167.9	177.2	170.0
1945							
March	190.2	154.3	202.0	152.2	189.0	178.2	182.4
April	172.7	145.3	174.3	137.5	174.1	182.5	166.0
% Change,							
April, 1945 ...	+ 2.9	+ 6.1	+ 4.7	- 0.1	+ 3.7	+ 3.0	- 2.4
April, 1944 ...							
% Change,							
Jan.-Apr., 1945	+ 8.2	+ 8.6	+ 9.7	+ 8.5	+ 7.1	- 0.6	+10.2
Jan.-Apr., 1944							

Unadjusted Indexes of Retail Sales by Provinces - (Average for 1935 - 1939 = 100)
 (Figures for the current year are subject to final revision)

Men's (a) Clothing	Women's Clothing	Shoes	Drugs	Furniture	Hardware	(b) Jewellery	Radio and Electrical
Prairie Provinces							
160.8	153.9	162.6	148.9	115.3	155.5	125.0	134.4
183.2	205.6	198.7	162.5	123.3	171.4	171.4	141.2
215.2	238.1	226.4	173.6	138.1	196.0	203.8	153.0
207.7	243.7	218.0	190.3	159.4	189.7	205.9	149.9
168.4	201.5	195.9	177.2	162.4	196.7	(c)	140.9
-21.7	-15.4	-13.5	+ 2.1	+17.6	+ 0.4	(c)	- 7.9
+ 2.9	+ 8.6	+ 9.9	+ 5.0	+14.2	+12.0	(c)	+ 3.5
British Columbia							
157.1	176.4	164.9	136.2	112.2	163.1	122.6	141.5
159.4	226.9	205.2	168.7	145.3	176.6	165.9	123.1
161.6	236.1	221.4	183.5	149.1	179.3	174.6	126.6
177.9	251.4	246.8	216.4	178.5	200.5	203.6	130.6
154.9	217.2	219.3	204.8	157.7	191.5	(c)	111.6
- 4.1	- 8.0	- 0.9	+11.6	+ 5.8	+ 6.8	(c)	-11.8
+10.2	+ 8.3	+13.3	+10.2	+16.2	+18.2	(c)	+ 4.7

(a) Includes men's furnishings.

(b) Based on sales including the Federal tax introduced in June, 1942.

(c) Returns were not sufficiently complete to permit calculation of index numbers for jewellery stores. These will appear in the May bulletin.



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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES IN CANADA, BY SELECTED DEPARTMENTS

April, 1944 and April, 1945

(Based on dollar sales of 19 firms including mail order houses)

	April 1944	April 1945	% Change, 1945/1944
	\$	\$	
TOTAL SALES, ALL DEPARTMENTS	30,574,958	30,739,613	+ 0.5
1. Women's dresses, coats and suits	4,070,300	3,704,410	- 9.0
2. Girls' and infants' wear	1,391,419	1,258,582	- 9.5
3. Hosiery and gloves	1,415,762	1,268,086	-10.4
4. Lingerie and corsets	1,252,684	1,214,671	- 3.0
5. Millinery	558,222	463,954	-16.9
6. Women's and children's apparel - (Total, 1-5) .	8,688,387	7,909,703	- 9.0
7. Men's and boys' clothing and furnishings	3,669,808	3,262,891	-11.1
8. Drugs and toilet articles and preparations ...	780,190	856,863	+ 9.8
9. Piece goods	2,118,905	2,467,324	+16.4
10. Smallwares	1,004,654	1,019,608	+ 1.5
11. Food and kindred products	2,557,838	2,642,426	+ 3.3
12. Furniture (including mattresses and springs) .	1,727,345	2,090,571	+21.0
13. Home furnishings	2,157,366	2,307,425	+ 7.0
14. Household appliances and electrical supplies .	517,195	536,758	+ 3.8
15. Hardware and kitchen utensils	1,313,007	1,479,640	+12.7
16. Radios, musical instruments and supplies	187,567	187,031	- 0.3
17. Shoes and other footwear	2,376,143	2,303,561	- 3.1
18. Stationery, books and magazines	397,128	419,370	+ 5.6
19. All other departments, total	3,079,425	3,256,450	+ 5.7