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| Minister of Trade and Commerce |
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Monthly Indexes of Retail Sales in Canada, June, 1946
$(1935-1939=100)$

Retail trade in Canada for June, 1946, recorded a minor decrease of 0.4 per cent from the dollar volume of sales in the previous month, according to monthly reports received from a sample number of firms representing fourteen different kinds of business. Current activity, however, remained at a higher level than in the preceding year with June sales almost 10 per cent greater than in the same month of 1945. The unadjusted indexes of sales for all fourteen trades (on the base 1935 to $1939=100$ ) stood at 216.0 for June, 1946, against 216.9 for May, 1946, and 196.8 for June, 1945.

The cumulative increase in sales during the first half of the present year over the same period of 1945 amounted to 14 per cent, down one point from the gain of 15 per cent which was recorded for the first five months of the present year. This decline was caused by the relatively small gain of 10 per cent in June sales which reduced the average rate of gain for the ertire period. Increases for the other five months of 1946 in chronological order amounted to $12,14,8,21$ and 19 per cent over the same months of 1945.

Indicating the marked expansion which has occurred in retail sales since 1941, the level of business for the first six months of 1946 was 63 per cent higher than in the corresponding months of that period. jewellery stores, partly influenced by the introduction of the retail sales tax in 1942, continued to record the largest cumulative increase with a gain of 102 per cent over the first six months of 1941. Other stores whose sales increases were notably above the average comprised hardware and family clothine stores, restaurants and women's clothing es tablishments with pains ranging from 92 to 75 per cent. Increases recorded by variety, furniture, and radio and electrical stores continued to be lowest with gains of 51,50 and 42 per cent over levels prevailing in the first six months of 1941.

Some changes are apparent in the pattern of increases over 1945 when June results are compared with gains during the first five months of the current year. Radio and electrical, furniture, and hardware stores continued to maintain top position in the order of increases obtained. The relatively smaller increases for men's, family and women's clothing outlets, however, caused them to recede from fourth to tenth, fifth to sixth and eighth to thirteenth positions, respectively, while shoe stores with a sales decrease of 3 per cent in June dropped from thirteenth to last place. Variety stores were the only kind of business to record an increase greater than the January-May average and therefore rose from twelf th to eighth position in the ranking.

In the general merchandise group, department store sales in June with an increase of 13 per cent ovor those a year ago led country general and variety
stores, each of which recorded expansions of almost 10 per cent. Department stores also retained the lead during the first six months of 1946 , the three kinds of establishments experiencing cumulative gains of about 19,12 and 9 per cont, respecm tively, over 1945 levels.

In the food group, the sales of grocery, combination and meat stores taken together were up about 5 per cent over Jme, 1945, while restaurants duplicated this performance with an equal gain. Over the six months period, however, the sales of the food stores with an increase of around 9 per cent ran ahead of restaurant receipts which recorded the smaller expansion of 7 por cent.

Family clothint, stores continued to record the largest pain in the clothing group with June sales up nuarly 13 per cent. Men's and wonen's clothing outlets remained in second and third place with increases of about 7 and 3 per cent while shoe stores recorded a contraction of nearly 3 per cent from June, 1915, levels. Over the first half of the current year the sales of family and of men's clothing stores were up by nearly equal proportions at about 19 per cent, while the dollar volume of wonen's clothing ostablishments was 11 per cent higher. The cumulative expansion for shoe stores, however, anounted to only 6 per cent, the five months gain of 8 per cent being reduced by the decline in June sales from those a year ago.

The performance of radio and electrical stores in June again featured the houschold and personal effects group with an increase of 70 per cent over sales in the same month of last year. These were followed by hardware stores with a gain of 31 per cent and by furniture stores with June sales up 25 per zento Jewellory stores had the more modest increase of 14 per cent while June drug store sales were up only 7 per cent, During the first six months of 1946 the sales of radio and electrical stores were higher by 73 per cent, furniture stores by 36 per cent, hardware outlets by 35 per cent, and jewellery and drug stores by 19 and 10 per cent, respectively.

Sales of chain candy stores recorded an increase of 29 per cent over Junc, 1945, while the cumulative increase averaged 34 per cent over the first six months of last year. Merchandise retailed by furriers in June, 1946 , was valued 31 por cent greater than in the same month of the preceding yoes.

## Regional Trends

The Prairie Provinces continued to lead all other areas in the order of increases obtained over last year both in June and in the comparisons for the first half of the two years, the respective gains amounting to 14 and 17 per cent。 British Columbia stood second highest with expansions of 11 and 15 per cont, followed by Ontario up 10 and 15 por cent, Quebec, 3 and 13 per cent, and the Naritime Provinces with increases of 4 per cent for June and 8 per cent for the January-June period. Salcs increases of radio and electrical furniture, and hardware stores continued to lead all other trades in each of the five regional areas of the Doninion but the pattern of decreases for the month of June varied considerably by trades. Sales of shoe stores in the month were lower than a year ago in all regions of Canada. In the Maritimes, the dollar volumes of variety and jewellery stores and of restaurants also showed contractions while the turnover of women's clothing stores in the Prairies and of men's and women's clothing outlets in British Columbia were likewise lower than in June, 1945.

An analysis of department store sales by departments for 18 firms sub $=$ mitting such figures shows lower pains in all categories for which separate figures are compiled. Sales of women's and children's apparel were 8 per cent higher in June of this year than last, ereas an increase of 21 per cont was recorded in the May comparison. Correspondin $\boldsymbol{f}^{\prime}$ increases for men's and boys' clothing and furnishings were 7 per cent for June and 21 por cent for May. Durable poods departments continue to record major gains but even here the margin of increase over 1945 was lower in Jume than in May.

Fercentage increases in the salas of radio and electrical appliances continued to feature the departmental sales of department stores when the dollar volumes for the first six months of 1946 are compared with: those of 1945 . Sales of radios, musical instruments and supplies, and of household appliances and olectrical supplies were up 141 and 101 per cent over the dollar volume in the same period of last year while hardware and furniture sales expanded by 37 a: 132 per cent. Home furnishings, and stationery, books and magazines also recorded sxpansions above the six months' gain for all departments which averaged 19 per cont.

Comparison of Retail Sales in Canada, for 1945 and 1946, by Kinds of Rusiness
(Comparisons are based on dollar sales. No
corrections have been made for higher prices.)

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

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 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Goneral } \\ & \text { Index } \end{aligned}$ |  | countryGeneral |  | Department |  | Variety |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B |
| June, 1939 ... | 109.8 | 105.4 | 102.4 | 98.0 | 98.9 | 94.3 | 116.2 | 112.7 |
| June, 1941 | 132.7 | 134.4 | 115.8 | 116.1 | 123.7 | 123.1 | 154.0 | 154.8 |
| June, 1943 | 161.0 | 158.9 | 153.9 | 150.6 | 136.8 | 130.9 | 184.3 | 181.6 |
| June, 1944 | 178.1 | 173.0 | 170.0 | 164.4 | 150.5 | 143.4 | 196.1 | 189.5 |
| June, 1945 | 196.8 | 184.4 | 183.5 | 172.6 | 169.1 | 160.6 | 212.3 | 193.9 |
| 1945 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| July | 170.6 | 189.2 | 182.0 | 176.1 | 133.2 | 179.0 | 196.7 | 203.7 |
| August | 178.1 | 189.8 | 187.6 | 171.8 | 155.7 | 184.7 | 191.9 | 203.7 |
| September | 187.2 | 186.0 | 176.5 | 165.2 | 201.6 | 205.3 | 194.2 | 200.9 |
| October | 203.8 | 189.8 | 192.3 | 172.1 | 220.9 | 189.3 | 218.2 | 213.0 |
| November | 213.1 | 200. 8 | 181.6 | 174.2 | 258.4 | 222.5 | 249.9 | 246.3 |
| December | 256.1 | 187.4 | 209.7 | 174.3 | 279.6 | 174.4 | 400.0 | 197.8 |
| 1946 ( 10.0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 160.2 | 196.4 | 138.1 | 180.0 | 137.0 | 182.4 | 144.1 | 227.7 |
| February | 167.0 | 212.6 | 139.8 | 187.9 | 162.3 | 215.7 | 157.6 | 233.4 |
| March | 210.2 | 229.1 | 168.8 | 197.3 | 222.2 | 258.7 | 199.9 | 247.4 |
| April | 212.0 | 211.6 | 186.7 | 201.5 | 213.3 | 207.4 | 221.3 | 242.2 |
| May | 216.9 | 208.3 | 212.7 | 195.7 | 208.8 | 201.7 | 221.6 | 224.1 |
| June ....... | 216.0 | 210.1 | 201.9 | 197.6 | 191.8 | 189.4 | 232.4 | 219.5 |


| Year and Month | Food |  | Restaurants |  | Family Clothing |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Men's(a) } \\ & \text { Clothing } \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | A | B | A | B | A | B | A | B |
| June, 1939 | 122.1 | 121.2 | 91.2 | 91.3 | (b) | (b) | 102.3 | 95.7 |
| June, 1941 | 139.4 | 145.7 | 119.3 | 121.5 | 137.7 | 139.1 | 137.4 | 134.8 |
| June, 1943 | 171.7 | 174.5 | 176.5 | 176.7 | 179.4 | 176.2 | 171.9 | 166.2 |
| June, 1944 | 194.0 | 191.8 | 187.9 | 187.4 | 188.4 | 182.4 | 188.3 | 179.9 |
| June, 1945 | 210.8 | 197.0 | 199.1 | 198.6 | 216.3 | 198.7 | 212.1 | 189.3 |
| 1945 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| July | 178.2 | 188.5 | 208.7 | 201.5 | 179.2 | 215.4 | 152.8 | 193.0 |
| August | 188.4 | 198.7 | 212.5 | 194.9 | 169.8 | 207.2 | 140.8 | 189.8 |
| September | 174.3 | 173.7 | 204.6 | 199.6 | 199.5 | 212.0 | 209.4 | 212.7 |
| October | 182.1 | 185.0 | 206.6 | 202.2 | 266.5 | 224.6 | 253.0 | 215.9 |
| November | 185.8 | 185.5 | 204.4 | 214.5 | 260.9 | 218.6 | 256.6 | 207.6 |
| December | 215.6 | 189.8 | 201.7 | 196.0 | 310.8 | 193.8 | 308.7 | 178.8 |
| 1946 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 182.8 | 192.7 | 190.4 | 199.7 | 145.9 | 216.5 | 140.0 | 197.4 |
| February | 182.2 | 198.4 | 181.8 | 205. 8 | 154.7 | 239.1 | 159.1 | 253.1 |
| March | 213.4 | 197.4 | 209.7 | 213.6 | 231.1 | 280.2 | 219.8 | 260.8 |
| April | 203.8 | 211.5 | 207.4 | 208.3 | 252.6 | 214.0 | 220.3 | 195.1 |
| May | 212.0 | 208.3 | 210.5 | 204.7 | 238.9 | 231.9 | 208.9 | 216.4 |
| June | 222.1 | 216.3 | 209.7 | 212.7 | 244.0 | 231.3 | 226.2 | 208.0 |

(a) Includes men's furnishings.
(b) Not available.

$$
\text { Index llumbers of Retail Salos - (Averape for } 1935-1939=100 \text { ) }
$$

A. Inadjusted. F. Adjusted for Mubor of Business Days and Seasonal Variutions. (Fipures for the current year are subject to final revision)

| Year and Month | $\begin{aligned} & \text { wmen } \\ & \text { Clothing } \end{aligned}$ |  | Shoes |  | Drues |  | Furniture |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | A | B | A | B | A |  | A | 3 |
| June, 1939 | 104.4 | 92.4 | 132.1 | 103.9 | 98.9 | 104.2 | 100.5 | 101.5 |
| June, 1941 | 132.9 | 123.4 | 160.7 | 130.4 | 122.9 | 133.5 | 134.7 | 141.0 |
| June, 1943 | 174.7 | 166.0 | 202.6 | 163.7 | 154.2 | 164.0 | 118.6 | 121.2 |
| Tune, 1944 | 191.8 | 179.4 | 212.7 | 165.3 | 168.1 | 177.1 | 139.6 | 141.0 |
| June, 1945 | 217.0 | 126.3 | 261.1 | 190.4 | 184.7 | 190.8 | 164.3 | 159.7 |
| 1945 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| July | 165.8 | 203.6 | 189.8 | 215.3 | 178.5 | 186.2 | 135.0 | 179.8 |
| August | 166.6 | 212.4 | 177.6 | 203.1 | 180.8 | 181.1 | 137.9 | 134.7 |
| September | 212.1 | 223.8 | 204.9 | 184.5 | 184.0 | 182.5 | 148.4 | 129.0 |
| cotoher | 248.7 | 210.6 | 197.7 | 197.0 | 196.4 | 190.3 | 109.7 | 144.0 |
| November | 24.3 .3 | 217.4 | 208.9 | 214.7 | 195.5 | 197.7 | 164.6 | 153.7 |
| December | 304.5 | 157.2 | 257.6 | 178.6 | 286.2 | 225.9 | 166.1 | 140.5 |
| 1946 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 149.7 | 208.6 | 111.0 | 158.6 | 194.7 | 206.8 | 145.5 | 221.5 |
| February | 155.2 | 246.9 | 115.6 | 195.5 | 185.2 | 205.5 | 155.4 | 199.2 |
| liarch . | 252.5 | 301.4 | 215.1 | 284.6 | 193.9 | 201.0 | 194.7 | 223.5 |
| April | 258.8 | 202.2 | 216.4 | 173.8 | 198.5 | 206.2 | 226.3 | 209.9 |
| May | 235.5 | 225.0 | 211.1 | 189.5 | 200.7 | 205.3 | 221.7 | 179.7 |
| June. | 224.8 | 209.5 | 254.3 | 193.1 | 197.5 | 208.1 | 204.5 | 206.6 |


(a) Based on sales including the Foderal tax introduced in June, 1942.
(b) Not available.

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 <br> General | Department | Variety | Food | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Restau- } \\ & \text { rant } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Family } \\ & \text { Clothing } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Maritime Provinces |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| June, 1943 . | 191.0 | 154.7 | 166.3 | 235.4 | 190.1 | 240.2 | 204.6 |
| June, 1944 | 213.1 | 178.1 | 181.5 | 252.6 | 218.6 | 254.1 | 223.1 |
| June, 1945 | 233.0 | 193.4 | 198.0 | 278.3 | 234.0 | 260.9 | 258.1 |
| 1946 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| May ............. | 253.1 | 243.7 | 249.3 | 252.2 | 230.3 | 266.5 | 293.4 |
| Juno | 242.9 | 219.3 | 205.3 | 261.8 | 238.0 | 257.7 | 289.9 |
| \% Change, June, 1946 | +4.2 | +13.4 | $+3.7$ | -6.1 | $+1.7$ | -8.3 | +12.3 |
| June, 1945 ..... |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| \% Change, Jan。=June, 1946 。 | +8.1 | +11.2 | +12.2 | -2.7 | $+5.2$ | - 0.8 | +16.4 |
| Jon-June, 1946 . |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |


| June, 1943 ....... | 172.4 | 177.7 | 146.7 | 216.7 | 180.7 | 161.8 | 197.2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| June, 1944 | 188.5 | 198.5 | 157.8 | 232.2 | 199.3 | 173.9 | 199.2 |
| June, 1945 | 210.8 | 212.0 | 189.5 | 252.0 | 220.2 | 195.9 | 230.5 |
| 1946 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| May | 277.3 | 241.1 | 239.5 | 271.6 | 209.4 | 213.5 | 266.0 |
| June | 228.3 | 225.2 | 217.5 | 287.2 | 222.0 | 209.0 | 275.4 |
| \% Change, June, 1946 | $+8.3$ | +6.2 | +14.8 | +14.0 | $+0.8$ | +6.7 | +19.5 |
| Jane, 1945 ... |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| \% Change, Jan.-June, 1946. | +12.6 | $+10.3$ | +21.5 | +11.5 | $+5.9$ | + 9.5 | -+22.0 |
| Jan,-June, 1945. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |



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) Women'sClothing Clothing <br> Cloes Drugs Furniture Hardware Jewellery (b) Radio and |
| :--- |


|  | Maritime |  |  |  |  |  | Provinces |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 235.3 | 213.1 | 241.7 | 182.4 | 198.1 | 184.2 | 282.1 | 139.3 |
| 257.7 | 244.5 | 248.8 | 198.0 | 215.3 | 223.5 | 297.1 | 136.4 |
| 284.7 | 295.6 | .302 .4 | 218.6 | 237.1 | 231.8 | 361.9 | 160.2 |
| 286.6 | 358.3 | 247.2 | 226.4 | 319.8 | 311.9 | 363.5 | 273.3 |
| 293.5 | 301.4 | 296.8 | 222.4 | 279.9 | 300.3 | 327.1 | 237.6 |
| +3.1 | +2.0 | -1.9 | +1.7 | +18.1 | +29.6 | -9.6 | +48.3 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| +13.7 | +4.9 | +0.1 | +5.3 | +30.6 | +25.2 | -0.7 | +57.4 |


|  | Quehec |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 175.1 | 185.0 | 191.0 | 145.3 | 115.3 | 184.2 | 141.5 | 130.1 |
| 186.9 | 196.4 | 195.9 | 159.5 | 138.2 | 214.9 | 175.6 | 127.8 |
| 207.3 | 218.5 | 237.6 | 178.7 | 182.8 | 238.5 | 204.2 | 130.8 |
| 202.2 | 221.3 | 191.0 | 195.9 | 230.8 | 323.6 | 243.1 | 247.1 |
| 214.1 | 227.2 | 236.0 | 187.7 | 207.1 | 309.5 | 242.4 | 219.9 |
| +3.3 | +4.0 | -0.7 | +5.0 | +27.2 | +29.8 | +18.7 | +68.1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| +11.0 | +11.0 | +4.9 | +9.8 | +28.9 | +32.5 | +24.4 | +64.9 |


| rio |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 162.8 | 168.8 | 204.2 | 149.0 | 106.2 | 152.6 | 155.1 | 82.7 |
| 178.0 | 183.8 | 214.3 | 159.6 | 123.8 | 169.5 | 181.9 | 89.5 |
| 204.7 | 215.4 | 262.4 | 174.9 | 150.9 | 194.9 | 224.9 | 95.0 |
| 196.2 | 229.6 | 199.4 | 188.5 | 193.9 | 270.2 | 248.1 | 186.1 |
| 224.0 | 227.2 | 26.0 .7 | 189.3 | 183.8 | 254.4 | 257.7 | 161.4 |
| + 9.4 | + 5.5 | - 0.6 | +8.2 | +21.8 | +30.5 | +14.6 | +69.9 |
| +21.5 | $+13.7$ | +6.6 | +10.1 | +39.1 | +40.0 | +19.8 | +83.7 |

(a) Includes men's furnishings.
(b) Based on sales including the Federal tax introduced in June, 1942.

Unadjusted Indexes of Retail Sales by Provinces - (Average for 1935-1339=100) (Firures for the current yeur are sul,joct to final revision)

| Year and Month | General Index | Country <br> General | Department | Variety | Food | Restaurant | Family Clothing |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Prairie Provinces |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jinne, 1943 ....... | 156.3 | 147.5 | 128.3 | 178.9 | 179.8 | 177.4 | 187.5 |
| June, 1944 | 17.5 .2 | 162.0 | 14.5 .0 | 190.2 | 205.4 | 190.2 | 206.1 |
| Tune, 1945 | 187.9 | 170.7 | 156.2 | 192.5 | 222.8 | 197.8 | 231.5 |
| 1946 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| May ............. | 214.4 | 191.2 | 193.2 | 212.3 | 227.0 | 213.8 | 249.2 |
| June | 214.2 | 189.3 | 181.7 | 216.6 | 248.8 | 217.5 | 256.2 |
| $\%$ Chanfe. June, $1946 \ldots$. | +14.0 | +10.9 | +16.3 | +12.5 | +11.7 | +10.0 | +10.7 |
| $\%$ Change, $\frac{\text { Jan. }- \text { June, }}{\text { Jano }- \text { June }}, 1946 . ~ 1345$. | +17.0 | +11.5 | +18.2 | +11.4 | +14.0 | +13.3 | +22.4 |


| June, 1943 ....... | 161.3 | 141.4 | 144.4 | 134.5 | 177.6 | 169.9 | 175.2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| June, 1944 | 181.1 | 167.3 | 167.1 | 144.1 | 197.8 | 172.6 | 130.5 |
| June, 1945 | 201.6 | 185.0 | 185.2 | 152.1 | 216.4 | 184.0 | 217.1 |
| 1946 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nay ............. | 221.8 | 212.5 | 214.1 | 167.4 | 211.8 | 195.4 | 251.3 |
| June | 223.7 | 208.3 | 203.9 | 172.2 | 239.2 | 201.1 | 226.1 |
| \% Change, June, 1946 | +11.0 | +12.6 | +10.1 | +13.2 | $+10.5$ | + 9.3 | $+4.3$ |
| June, 1945 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\frac{\text { Jun.-June, } 1946}{\text { Jan.-June, } 1945 .}$ | +15.6 | +18.6 | +16.0 | +12.1 | +10.6 | $+8.3$ | +15.5 |

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) <br> Clothing <br> Clothing | Shoes | Drugs | Furniture Tlardware | Jewollery |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

(a) Includes men's furnishinps.
(b) Based on sales including the Federal tax introduced in June, 1942.

## DEPARTMENT STORE SAIES IN CANADA, BY SELECTED DEPARTMENTS

> (Based on dollar sules of lf firms including mail order houses)


## DEPARTMENT STORE SATES IN CANADA, BY SELECTED DEPARTMENTS <br> Jan.-June, 1945 and Jan,-June, 1946



