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MONTHLY INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES IN CANADA, MAY, 1947
(1935-1939=100)

Retail trade in Canada for May, as measured by the composite index for fourteen kinds of business, increased 14 per cent over May, 1946 and was up 11 per cent above April, 1947. The increase over May, 1946 was the largest in any month of this year over last, following gains of 13 per cent in January, 10 per cent in February and 6 per cent in both March and April. Sales to the end of May were 10 per cent higher than the corresponding five-month period of last year. Unadjusted indexes (on the base, 1935-1939=100) stood at 248.0 for May, 1947, 217.1 for May, 1946 and 224.3 for April, 1947.

Sales were uniformly higher in several of the various trades, increases falling between 13 and 19 per cent for nine of the fourteen kinds of business represented. This group contained the general merchandise trades, food stores, apparel stores and furniture stores. Increases for hardware and drug stores were somewhat smaller, being 10 and 6 per cent respectively. Restaurant receipts continued to approximate last year's level, sales declining by only 1 per cent in May. The series of sharp declines which jewellery stores have shown in recent months was halted in May when sales fell only 6 per cent below May, 1946 business. While radio and electrical stores continued to record increases in excess of those enjoyed by other kinds of business, smaller percentage gains are shown in recent months than have heretofore been experienced, but this is a natural consequence of the relatively higher sales volumes over which these increases are being obtained. May results show an increase of 23 per cent for the trade, a figure which compares with a sales increase of 40 per cent for the first five months of the year.

Department stores, of which the sales increase of 19 per cent in May was second only to that of radio and electrical stores, continued their expansion at a more rapid rate than did other types of stores in the general merchandise group. Nevertheless, increases of 13 per cent for country general stores and 14 per cent for variety stores represent substantial advances over the increases which these two trades recorded in earlier months of the year.

Food stores reported sales 17 per cent higher in May this year compared with the same month of 1946. The May increase was much larger than those recorded in earlier months of the year and the margin of increase over 1946 stands at 11 per cent as of May 31.

The apparel trades had scarcely maintained 1946 dollar volume in the two preceding months, but marked up substantial increases in May. All three of the clothing trades had sales increases which were slightly in excess of the average gain for all trades, while the increase for shoe stores amounted to 13 per cent.

Furniture stores moved well ahead of May business last year with an increase of 17 per cent, in contrast to the decline recorded for this trade in April. Hardware dealers reported sales volume 10 per cent above May a year ago, the increase being similar to the average for the year to date.

Chain candy stores reported a decrease of 2 per cent in sales for May, 1947 compared with May, 1946. The January-to-May comparison shows a 3 per cent increase for this trade. Retail furriers' sales were 2 per cent lower in May this year compared with last.

Regional Trends In Retail Trade

All sections of the country reported increases in retail trade for May this year over last, the largest being those for Quebec and Ontario. Smallest among the regional increases was one of 8 per cent in the Maritime Provinces, where clothing stores, restaurants and hardware stores reported results which deviated considerably from those of similar stores in other areas. In western Canada the margin of increase for most trades approximated the national average, although variety, food and apparel stores were among those which failed to approach this average.

Department Store Sales for Selected Departments

All of the 19 departments for which separate comparisons are obtained showed increased sales in May, 1947. Among the more outstanding increases, apart from the continuing large gains for household durables, were those for men's wear and food, both of which were slightly more than 20 per cent.

Comparison of Retail Sales in Canada, and for Regions, by Kinds of Business
 (Comparisons are based on dollar sales. No corrections have been made for price changes.)

Kind of Business	May, 1947 Compared With						Jan.-May, 1947 Compared With									
	May, 1946						May 1947	Apr. 1947	Jan.-May, 1946							
	CAN.	Mar. Prov.	Que.	Ont.	Pr. Prov.	Br. Col.	CANADA		CAN.	Mar. Prov.	Que.	Ont.	Pr. Prov.	Br. Col.		
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%		
GENERAL INDEX	+14.2	+ 8	+15	+17	+12	+13	+75.8	+10.6	+ 9.6	+ 4	+12	+11	+ 8	+11		
General Merchandise Group:																
Country General Stores	+13.2	+10	+ 9	+18	+15	+14	+89.6	+24.1	+ 7.9	+ 8	+ 6	+11	+ 7	+12		
Department Stores	+18.8	+15	+22	+19	+19	+19	+84.7	+ 6.6	+15.0	+10	+20	+15	+14	+14		
Variety Stores	+14.1	+11	+18	+14	+ 9	+10	+58.3	+12.2	+ 7.7	+ 2	+11	+ 8	+ 5	+ 9		
Food Groups:																
Food Stores	+16.6	+10	+17	+21	+11	+12	+69.1	+10.5	+10.7	+ 5	+12	+12	+ 9	+10		
Restaurants	- 1.3	- 8	(a)	- 1	- 2	- 2	+71.8	+ 1.0	- 0.2	- 8	+ 1	(a)	- 1	+ 4		
Clothing Groups:																
Family Clothing Stores	+15.9	- 1	+20	+25	+11	+ 5	+90.7	+ 8.5	+ 7.3	- 2	+10	+10	+ 4	+ 7		
Men's Clothing Stores	+18.0	- 3	+20	+26	+ 7	+14	+81.9	+ 6.2	+ 7.1	-11	+14	+10	- 2	+ 9		
Women's Clothing Stores	+15.2	+ 2	+22	+16	+10	+11	+92.7	+ 5.1	+ 7.9	+ 3	+13	+ 7	+ 3	+12		
Shoe Stores	+13.2	+10	+16	+18	+ 6	- 3	+66.3	+10.6	+ 2.6	+ 3	+ 4	+ 4	- 3	(a)		
Household and Personal Effects Group:																
Drug Stores	+ 5.8	(a)	+ 8	+ 7	+ 5	+ 3	+67.6	+ 5.0	+ 4.0	- 1	+ 5	+ 4	+ 4	+ 5		
Furniture Stores	+16.8	+21	+21	+14	- 6	+32	+47.7	+18.7	+12.1	+18	+16	+13	- 5	+10		
Hardware Stores	+ 9.7	- 1	+10	+10	+14	+ 4	+89.3	+21.8	+10.0	+ 8	+12	+ 9	+ 9	+12		
Jewellery Stores (b)	- 5.5	-13	- 1	- 6	-10	+ 2	+90.6	+27.3	-10.7	-18	(a)	-14	-14	-10		
Radio and Electrical Stores	+23.4	+14	+10	+32	+10	+55	+64.9	+ 2.7	+40.0	+35	+31	+48	+28	+55		

(a) Change of less than 0.5 per cent.

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

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND INVENTORIES IN CANADA, BY SELECTED DEPARTMENTS

May, 1946 and May, 1947

These figures are derived from a sample of reporting companies and are not to be interpreted as totals for all department stores.

DEPARTMENT	SALES			INVENTORY (*)	
	May, 1946	May, 1947	% Change, 1947/1946	% Change, Apr. 30, 1947 Apr. 30, 1946	
TOTAL, ALL DEPARTMENTS	37,962,025	44,744,362	+17.9	+46.9	
1. Women's dresses, coats and suits ...	4,534,173	4,958,369	+ 9.4	+15.4	
2. Girls' and infants' wear	1,315,247	1,605,276	+22.1	+40.6	
3. Hosiery and gloves	1,287,242	1,483,433	+15.2	+91.5	
4. Lingerie and corsets	1,437,308	1,709,401	+18.9	+72.6	
5. Millinery	453,771	521,371	+14.9	+ 1.6	
6. Women's and children's apparel - (Total, 1-5)	9,027,741	10,277,850	+13.8	+34.6	
7. Men's and boys' clothing and furnishings	3,683,060	4,466,975	+21.3	+80.5	
8. Drugs and toilet articles and preparations	947,010	1,008,917	+ 6.5	+ 6.5	
9. Piece goods	2,819,562	3,261,493	+15.7	+74.4	
10. Smallwares	1,236,395	1,392,436	+12.6	+12.5	
11. Food and kindred products	2,950,341	3,554,232	+20.5	+27.5	
12. Furniture (including mattresses and springs)	2,813,414	3,301,382	+17.3	+93.9	
13. Home furnishings	3,052,652	3,798,685	+24.4	+71.2	
14. Household appliances and electrical supplies	1,111,884	1,593,101	+43.3	+87.4	
15. Hardware and kitchen utensils	2,130,707	2,546,508	+19.5	+47.8	
16. Radios, musical instruments and supplies	527,878	691,953	+31.1	+161.7	
17. Shoes and other footwear	2,783,472	3,166,637	+13.8	+29.4	
18. Stationery, books and magazines	519,946	611,575	+17.6	+10.2	
19. All other departments, total	4,357,963	5,072,618	+16.4	+24.2	

(*) Please observe that these comparisons are based on the inventory situation at the beginning of May in the two years.

CANADA - Indexes 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
May, 1941	141.1	133.2	126.9	112.7	134.3	129.2	159.8	159.7
May, 1943	165.3	157.3	162.8	150.4	139.1	138.7	190.0	184.8
May, 1945	182.2	176.1	182.0	168.4	162.8	157.3	192.0	194.9
May, 1946	217.1	208.5	212.6	195.7	208.8	201.7	221.6	224.1
April, 1947	224.3	228.8	193.9	210.2	232.8	238.7	225.4	252.4
May, 1947	248.0	234.3	240.6	215.0	248.1	238.8	252.9	251.7

Year and Month	Food		Restaurants		Family Clothing		Men's (a) Clothing	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
May, 1941	146.8	141.4	121.0	117.3	145.3	138.5	135.4	137.0
May, 1943	176.7	167.1	178.8	177.3	182.1	171.0	162.9	160.5
May, 1945	192.9	190.4	192.1	187.4	189.1	183.9	168.1	174.2
May, 1946	212.9	209.2	210.7	204.9	239.0	231.9	208.7	216.2
April, 1947	224.7	234.1	205.9	206.1	255.3	230.3	232.0	221.2
May, 1947	248.2	238.2	207.9	202.2	277.1	265.7	246.3	252.2

Year and Month	Women's Clothing		Shoes		Drugs		Furniture	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
May, 1941	141.1	133.3	143.7	127.0	126.5	126.1	175.7	140.2
May, 1943	181.1	170.4	176.8	150.9	159.3	162.4	149.2	119.1
May, 1945	199.3	191.2	191.1	173.6	178.2	183.5	167.2	135.0
May, 1946	236.0	225.5	211.1	189.5	200.3	204.8	222.1	180.0
April, 1947	258.7	214.4	216.0	185.6	201.9	210.4	218.6	205.2
May, 1947	271.9	256.8	239.0	208.7	212.0	212.0	259.5	207.0

Year and Month	Hardware		(b) Jewellery		Radio and Electrical	
	A	B	A	B	A	B
May, 1941	172.7	128.3	127.2	141.8	167.0	143.7
May, 1943	175.6	133.0	161.2	186.8	117.0	104.7
May, 1945	204.1	154.6	195.5	217.9	114.3	98.3
May, 1946	298.2	225.0	256.6	286.0	223.1	191.9
April, 1947	268.4	267.5	190.5	231.3	268.1	273.4
May, 1947	327.0	243.9	242.5	270.3	275.3	236.9

(a) Includes men's furnishings.

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

Unadjusted Indexes of Retail Sales by Regions - (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							
May, 1941	154.0	133.4	155.9	200.5	141.0	178.1	151.2
May, 1946	252.7	243.7	249.3	252.2	229.5	264.6	296.9
April, 1947	238.4	210.5	253.1	243.3	226.2	222.4	276.5
May, 1947	272.1	269.0	285.5	280.2	253.2	243.8	292.8
Quebec							
May, 1941	150.4	148.2	143.1	181.1	144.1	121.9	164.4
May, 1946	227.5	241.3	239.4	271.6	210.7	214.6	261.8
April, 1947	238.3	205.2	268.2	267.4	235.8	208.2	288.7
May, 1947	262.4	263.0	290.9	321.7	245.9	215.2	313.5
Ontario							
May, 1941	143.1	132.6	138.2	151.4	150.6	119.4	136.3
May, 1946	204.4	196.9	200.0	200.2	206.2	202.5	189.7
April, 1947	216.9	181.4	222.9	207.9	222.5	199.5	219.2
May, 1947	239.0	231.6	237.0	228.0	248.9	201.3	236.5
Prairie Provinces							
May, 1941	126.7	108.7	122.4	144.9	144.4	118.5	127.4
May, 1946	214.0	189.8	193.2	212.3	226.8	214.1	255.7
April, 1947	219.6	186.1	224.9	223.1	211.3	214.9	266.1
May, 1947	239.8	218.4	230.5	230.5	262.5	210.8	283.3
British Columbia							
May, 1941	130.3	116.8	126.6	118.1	146.4	99.6	125.8
May, 1946	222.9	213.9	214.1	167.4	213.3	199.0	249.4
April, 1947	225.6	199.1	230.4	177.5	216.2	201.2	214.6
May, 1947	251.7	244.7	253.9	183.6	239.6	194.4	262.0

Unadjusted Indexes of Retail Sales by Regions - (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
Maritime Provinces							
174.8	192.7	152.9	140.1	205.6	155.0	183.4	193.1
286.6	358.4	245.5	225.8	316.4	313.8	357.9	268.4
249.9	336.8	239.7	226.1	310.0	258.3	231.0	326.0
277.6	366.0	269.9	225.0	382.7	311.7	312.0	307.1
Quebec							
143.0	146.0	189.2	121.1	213.5	207.9	114.5	200.7
202.4	221.3	192.2	195.0	231.5	320.5	237.6	245.5
231.3	249.9	197.1	207.7	209.9	270.5	215.9	272.4
243.0	268.9	222.8	211.4	279.7	351.9	235.7	269.1
Ontario							
133.0	136.5	145.3	128.3	164.0	174.8	128.6	158.2
195.1	230.1	199.5	188.4	194.8	268.7	247.5	186.5
231.6	262.0	214.4	186.4	205.4	234.3	168.4	230.1
246.6	266.9	236.1	201.0	221.1	295.6	232.0	246.5
Prairie Provinces							
122.8	129.9	147.9	125.4	118.1	146.6	121.7	147.9
227.3	224.5	222.7	208.0	225.5	297.6	281.8	309.4
239.1	238.0	229.4	211.9	222.3	302.7	206.1	340.8
243.9	247.9	235.2	218.8	211.4	339.7	253.9	(c)
British Columbia							
110.2	145.7	137.0	119.3	114.9	145.5	119.6	150.7
203.1	272.7	292.3	244.7	230.4	370.2	237.1	203.0
209.7	264.1	251.2	237.0	236.4	344.1	179.2	303.5
230.7	302.6	283.2	252.6	303.7	386.2	241.6	314.3

(a) Includes men's furnishings.

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

(c) Not available.

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