

Published by Authority of Hon. H.H. Stevens, M.P.,
Minister of Trade and Commerce

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

(Issued April 5th, 1934)

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CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES, FEBRUARY, 1934.

The value of retail sales in February, 1934, as measured by the index numbers of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics (January, 1929=100) showed an increase in the general index over the corresponding month of last year of over 7%. In February, 1933, the index stood at 54.3, and, in February, 1934, it was 58.2. Since the Bureau's index number of retail prices of the commodities covered by this index has risen approximately 4% over February of last year, an increase of about 3% in volume is evident.

Comparing February, 1933, with February, 1934, index numbers were higher for eight groups and lower for three. General and Departmental sales rose from 49.8 to 54.2; Groceries and Meats from 67.0 to 71.1; Hardware from 44.7 to 50.6, and Candy from 58.9 to 59.6. Clothing sales increased from 42.7 to 50.7; Dyers and Cleaners from 62.0 to 66.1; Furniture from 32.7 to 40.1, and Music and Radio from 17.9 to 21.4. Boots and Shoes decreased from 43.7 to 40.2; Drugs from 70.2 to 68.2, and Restaurants from 51.2 to 49.4.

Comparing January, 1934, with February, 1934, index numbers show a small decline due to seasonal influences. The general index fell from 60.4 to 58.2 as compared with a fall from 57.4 to 54.3 for the corresponding months of last year. Of indexes for eleven sub-groups, seven declined. These included such staples as groceries, clothing and general and departmental merchandise.

No adjustments have been made for seasonal variations or price changes.

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(All indexes for the last twelve months are subject to final revision)

INDEX NUMBERS OF RETAIL SALES

(All indexes for the last twelve months are subject to final revision).

