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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

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INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH

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RETAIL SALES

IN

CANADA

MAY 1938

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

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RETAIL SALES IN CANADA, MAY, 1938.
(Indexes of Value)

Retail Sales in Canada in May declined 7 per cent from April and were also 7 per cent below the dollar volume recorded for May a year ago, according to calculations based on returns from a representative number of firms in 13 different lines of business. The general index (on the base 1930 equals 100) was 78.0 for May, 84.0 for April, and 83.7 for May, 1937.

The 7 per cent decline from last year may be attributed partly to the occurrence of five Saturdays in May a year ago compared with four in this. On making allowance for differences in number of business days and for differences in the sales importance of the various days of the week, the decline below May last year reduces to 3 per cent. The decline of 7 per cent from April is in line with the average seasonal movement for this time of year; the general index, further adjusted for normal seasonal variations, standing at 76.5 for May compared with 76.2 for the preceding month and 77.9 for March.

All lines of trade shared in the decline from May last year. Unfavourable weather conditions contributed to pronounced decreases in all branches of the clothing trade. Shoe store sales were down 22 per cent from May a year ago, men's clothing store sales, 20 per cent; women's clothing store sales, 13 per cent; and dyers and cleaners, 22 per cent. Variety store sales were down by 12 per cent, and department store sales were off by 9 per cent. Candy store sales fell off 12 per cent, while more moderate declines were recorded for other groups as follows: music and radio, 6 per cent; restaurants, 4 per cent; and drugs, furniture, hardware and groceries and meats, 2 per cent.

Results by territorial divisions for department stores show decreases below May, 1937, ranging from 7 per cent in Quebec to 13 per cent in the Maritime Provinces. Sales in Ontario and British Columbia were down by 8 per cent, while the Prairie Provinces were down by 11 per cent. Decreases in the variety store field ranged from 1 per cent in British Columbia to 22 per cent in Saskatchewan. Increases in hardware store sales of 7 per cent in Quebec and 5 per cent in Ontario were more than offset by declines of 2 per cent, 11 per cent, and 23 per cent in the Maritimes, Prairie Provinces and British Columbia respectively, resulting in the 2 per cent decrease for the country as a whole.

Department Store Sales by Departments--Sales of 22 departmental firms operating sales by departments averaged 8 per cent lower in May this year than last. Declines were generally greatest for the clothing groups, amounting to 14 per cent for men's clothing and furnishings, 10 per cent for shoes, 9 per cent for piece goods, and 8 per cent for women's clothing and apparel. Radios, musical instruments and supplies were down by 22 per cent, and the furniture department was 8 per cent lower than in May last year.

Corresponding-Month Comparison of Retail Sales in Canada, by Kinds of Business

	April, 1938			May, 1938		
	+ or - p.c.		compared with	+ or - p.c.		compared with
	April, 1930	April, 1937		March, 1938	May, 1930	May, 1937
General Index	-22.1	+ 4.7	+17.0	-28.5	- 6.8	- 7.1
Boots and Shoes	-25.6	+13.2	+55.8	-36.8	-21.8	-16.9
Candy	-40.2	+62.9	+75.0	-48.4	-11.6	-29.5
Men's Clothing	-44.6	+ 6.3	+44.1	-49.2	-20.0	-22.0
Women's Clothing	-34.8	+10.5	+51.6	-50.9	-13.4	-29.6
Departmental	-24.7	+ 2.4	+19.5	-30.4	- 8.8	- 8.3
Drugs	-24.2	- 0.3	- 2.7	-26.6	- 2.4	- 2.9
Dyers and Cleaners	-25.0	+ 6.3	+55.3	-39.7	-21.9	-19.7
Furniture	-23.4	-10.7	+32.8	-20.8	- 2.0	+22.9
Groceries and Meats	-10.3	+ 8.9	+ 5.9	-20.5	- 2.1	+ 8.2
Hardware	-14.1	- 4.5	+39.0	-10.9	- 2.3	+26.0
Music and Radio	-30.0	- 3.5	+13.5	-22.8	- 6.3	+14.4
Restaurants	-46.4	- 6.8	- 3.7	-50.0	- 3.7	- 0.4
Variety	- 1.9	+13.6	+30.0	-18.0	-12.4	- 4.9

INDEX NUMBERS OF RETAIL SALES -- (AVERAGE FOR 1930 = 100)

A. Unadjusted. B. Corrected for Number of Business Days.
C. Adjusted for Number of Business Days and Seasonal Variations.

Year and Month	General Index (961 Firms)			Boots and Shoes (17 Chains)			Candy (8 Chains)			Men's Clothing (a) (355 Firms)			Women's Clothing (b) (234 Firms)		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
May, 1929	115.2	114.3	108.8	149.3	149.4	127.7	116.7	114.7	117.0	146.0	145.5	124.4	121.7	121.2	110.2
May, 1930	109.1	107.4	102.3	120.9	120.5	103.0	106.1	99.4	101.5	126.5	125.1	106.9	118.7	117.2	106.6
May, 1931	92.6	90.8	86.5	103.4	100.2	85.6	87.9	84.7	86.5	90.1	86.8	74.2	92.4	88.9	80.8
May, 1932	75.6	77.8	74.1	91.8	94.4	80.7	67.3	68.9	70.3	67.4	69.9	59.8	70.7	73.2	66.6
May, 1933	70.9	70.9	67.6	77.5	77.8	66.5	59.9	59.4	60.6	68.2	68.7	58.7	64.8	65.2	59.3
May, 1934	75.1	74.8	71.3	92.1	92.8	79.3	60.0	59.3	60.5	76.1	76.1	65.0	68.7	68.6	62.4
May, 1935	72.3	71.7	68.3	80.9	80.9	69.2	60.8	59.7	61.0	71.4	71.1	60.8	61.0	60.7	55.2
May, 1936	77.9	76.5	72.8	97.6	98.4	84.1	59.1	57.0	58.2	74.3	71.5	69.4	67.9	65.3	61.0
May, 1937	83.7	82.9	78.9	97.7	94.8	81.0	62.0	60.3	61.5	80.4	78.6	76.3	67.3	65.7	61.4
May, 1938	78.0	80.3	76.5	76.4	78.6	67.2	54.8	56.2	57.3	64.3	66.6	64.7	58.3	60.4	56.4
1937															
June	82.4	82.3	81.5	113.1	114.0	85.7	44.9	45.8	59.5	81.5	81.5	76.9	71.0	70.9	62.8
July	74.2	70.7	80.4	81.0	76.3	74.8	50.8	47.5	55.9	67.2	63.2	78.1	56.8	53.4	62.8
August	69.4	69.5	79.9	59.2	59.4	71.6	50.1	51.3	52.4	56.0	56.4	77.3	44.0	44.3	63.3
September	81.7	83.4	81.8	82.8	85.5	88.2	55.2	56.1	60.3	76.7	78.2	78.2	59.8	60.9	62.8
October	91.2	87.1	81.4	87.8	82.7	85.2	59.3	57.1	60.1	102.1	96.1	76.9	83.1	78.1	63.5
November	84.6	84.7	79.9	72.4	72.8	67.4	49.2	50.4	58.5	92.3	93.0	75.6	69.0	69.4	62.5
December	115.0	117.5	85.8	129.2	137.3	97.4	113.1	120.6	64.8	124.6	129.7	78.1	94.3	98.0	63.2
1938															
January	62.4	64.1	78.2(f)	45.3	46.6	70.6	40.9	39.7	53.0	55.1	57.1	80.4	43.7	45.3	68.6
February	62.4	66.5	76.4	39.5	42.0	65.6	54.1	58.7	63.8	43.2	45.8	72.8	36.9	39.2	66.4
March	71.8	69.3	77.9	59.0	57.7	78.0	44.4	43.9	51.7	57.2	55.5	71.2(f)	54.6	52.8	67.7(f)
April	84.0	83.1	76.2	91.9	89.1	75.5(f)	77.7	74.9	57.6(f)	82.4	80.5	72.5	82.8	80.8	64.6
May	78.0	80.3	76.5	76.4	78.6	67.2	54.8	56.2	57.3	64.3	66.6	64.7	58.3	60.4	56.4

(a) Prior to 1936 based on sales of 16 chains.

(b) Prior to 1936 based on sales of 13 chains.

(f) Final figures.

INDEX NUMBERS OF RETAIL SALES - (AVERAGE FOR 1930 = 100)

A. Unadjusted. B. Corrected for Number of Business Days.
C. Adjusted for Number of Business Days and Seasonal Variations.

Year and Month	Departmental (36 Firms)			Drugs (24 Chains)			Dyers and Cleaners (7 Chains)			Furniture (26 Firms)			Groceries and Meats(b) (34 Chains)		
	A	B	C (a)	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
May, 1929	107.3	105.9	103.8	104.4	102.1	106.3	123.9	122.0	97.6	139.4	138.1	115.1	111.8	111.9	105.5
May, 1930	104.8	103.1	101.1	101.8	97.4	101.4	136.9	104.8	107.9	137.6	136.4	113.6	109.7	108.5	102.4
May, 1931	89.3	89.9	88.1	91.0	88.7	92.4	106.5	109.0	87.2	99.0	99.2	82.7	95.6	91.6	86.4
May, 1932	73.7	75.7	74.2	76.6	77.1	80.3	80.6	82.5	66.0	72.9	74.7	61.8	79.8	83.1	78.4
May, 1933	70.0	69.4	68.0	66.3	65.4	68.1	85.9	84.5	67.6	67.6	66.9	53.1	75.7	77.0	72.6
May, 1934	73.6	72.9	71.5	70.3	68.9	71.7	94.0	92.4	73.9	88.1	87.3	69.3	76.8	77.4	73.0
May, 1935	70.5	69.6	68.2	72.0	70.4	73.3	93.7	92.1	73.7	83.9	83.1	65.9	75.5	75.5	73.3
May, 1936	74.7	75.2	73.8	74.1	72.1	75.1	105.6	107.9	86.3	94.1	94.2	74.8	81.9	77.5	75.3
May, 1937	79.9	80.8	79.2	76.5	75.2	78.3	105.6	107.9	86.3	111.2	111.3	88.4	89.1	86.0	83.5
May, 1938	72.9	74.9	73.4	74.7	75.1	78.2	82.5	84.3	67.5	97.6	100.2	79.5	87.2	90.7	88.1
1937															
June	80.5	79.8	77.5	77.6	78.5	77.8	109.4	107.5	96.9	93.3	92.3	93.3	85.3	86.0	86.0
July	62.6	60.9	80.1	80.3	76.7	79.0	81.6	80.2	81.8	75.1	72.7	93.2	89.8	83.6	85.3
August	64.8	64.2	80.3	78.6	79.1	80.7	76.0	74.6	77.7	88.5	87.6	87.6	77.0	78.2	85.0
September	80.9	82.8	79.6	78.4	79.3	80.9	94.8	96.8	80.0	102.5	105.1	87.6	86.8	88.4	88.4
October	94.0	91.4	79.5	84.8	82.6	83.4	79.3	77.9	70.2	103.8	100.4	89.7	93.2	86.7	86.7
November	91.9	91.1	79.9	76.9	78.3	78.3	66.2	65.0	72.3	93.7	92.8	91.9	84.2	85.5	86.3
December	133.7	133.5	83.4	99.5	97.1	85.2	68.3	67.1	87.2	99.1	100.5	90.5	104.8	110.8	99.8
1938															
January	56.3	57.8	78.1	76.0	74.7	77.8	48.2	49.2	69.3(f)	54.6	56.0	84.8	79.3	82.5	85.9(f)
February	57.8	61.5	76.9	69.7	75.6	74.9	49.1	52.3	74.8	63.3	67.4	81.1(f)	81.2	86.3	88.0
March	66.5	63.5	75.5(f)	79.0	77.4	76.6	66.2	62.6	69.6	66.8	63.9	73.5	89.7	87.6	91.3
April	79.5	80.4	75.8	76.9	75.8	76.6(f)	102.8	105.1	75.1	88.7	88.9	75.9	95.0	91.7	85.7
May	72.9	74.9	73.4	74.7	75.1	78.2	82.5	84.3	67.5	97.6	100.2	79.5	87.2	90.7	88.1

(a) Revised from January, 1935, to allow for changes in seasonal adjustment factors.

(b) Entire series revised from January, 1935, to allow for change in method of calculation.

(f) Final figures.

INDEX NUMBERS OF RETAIL SALES - (AVERAGE FOR 1930 = 100)

A. Unadjusted. B. Corrected for Number of Business Days.
C. Adjusted for Number of Business Days and Seasonal Variations.

Year and Month	Hardware (94 Firms)			Music and Radio(a) (102 Firms)			Restaurants (12 Chains)			Variety (12 Chains)		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C (b)
May, 1929	121.5	119.7	88.0	118.4	116.6	147.6	116.6	114.1	114.1	130.8	130.9	125.9
May, 1930	124.4	122.5	90.1	82.3	81.1	102.6	104.3	101.0	101.0	105.5	105.3	101.2
May, 1931	103.3	105.9	77.9	63.7	65.2	82.6	89.4	87.7	87.7	102.0	98.7	94.9
May, 1932	91.3	93.5	68.8	37.5	38.4	46.9	64.8	64.4	64.4	85.3	88.2	84.8
May, 1933	81.0	79.8	58.7	30.6	30.2	35.1	56.7	55.7	55.7	75.7	76.1	73.2
May, 1934	96.4	95.0	69.9	37.1	36.6	42.0	56.8	55.7	55.7	86.7	87.2	83.8
May, 1935	93.0	91.6	67.4	43.0	42.4	48.8	51.9	50.8	50.8	79.5	79.7	79.7
May, 1936	100.4	102.5	75.4	58.5	60.0	52.7	53.3	52.3	52.3	91.2	88.3	88.3
May, 1937	113.5	115.8	85.2	67.8	69.6	61.0	54.2	53.4	53.4	98.7	95.9	95.9
May, 1938	110.9	113.2	83.3	63.5	65.2	57.2	52.2	51.9	51.9	86.5	89.5	89.5
1937												
June	106.0	104.1	87.5	58.6	57.8	63.6	53.4	54.2	53.6	100.5	101.1	98.2
July	96.5	94.7	86.1	48.1	47.5	60.9	56.7	55.0	53.4	101.7	95.9	95.9
August	90.8	89.2	86.6	47.9	47.3	61.4	58.4	58.1	54.8	85.2	85.7	93.1
September	102.8	104.9	87.4	68.8	70.7	59.4	56.8	57.6	54.9	89.8	92.5	95.4
October	96.7	95.0	82.6	73.2	72.3	57.4	56.3	55.3	55.3	102.5	96.6	96.6
November	83.4	81.8	81.8	71.7	70.8	56.6	55.2	55.9	58.3	94.5	95.0	94.1
December	92.1	90.5	80.8	78.1	77.1	55.9	57.3	56.1	55.0	188.2	200.4	100.2
1938												
January	51.6	52.7	95.9	47.1	48.4	61.3	50.8	50.0	53.8	60.5	62.6	99.3
February	47.7	50.7	90.5(f)	41.2	44.0	55.7(f)	48.8	53.0	55.3	62.6	66.7	92.6
March	63.3	59.8	85.5	48.9	46.5	57.4	54.4	53.4	55.0	70.0	68.3	86.5
April	88.0	89.8	86.4	55.5	56.9	61.2	52.4	52.5	52.0(f)	91.0	88.4	95.1(f)
May	110.9	113.2	83.3	63.5	65.2	57.2	52.2	51.9	51.9	86.5	89.5	89.5

(a) Prior to 1936 based on sales of 9 chains.

(b) Revised from January, 1935, to allow for changes in seasonal adjustment factors.

(f) Final figures.

UNADJUSTED INDEX NUMBERS OF RETAIL SALES - (AVERAGE FOR 1936 = 100)

Year and Month	CANADA	Maritime Provinces	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia
Men's Clothing Stores								
May, 1936	104.2	99.5	112.8	102.7	106.6	98.3	100.0	101.5
May, 1937	112.8	115.0	129.6	109.1	114.7	110.2	97.5	107.7
May, 1938	90.2	102.4	105.0	83.7	92.1	73.7	92.2	100.2
<u>1938</u>								
January	77.2	83.1	77.3	78.8	72.2	52.4	85.5	77.3
February	60.5	68.4	59.7	62.2	60.3	47.1	55.4	59.6
March	80.3(f)	82.1	73.9	83.4	99.2	70.6	81.1	73.6
April	115.6	127.4	121.0	117.4	114.4	97.4	108.0	104.1
May	90.2	102.4	105.0	83.7	92.1	73.7	92.2	100.2
% Change, May, 1938 ...	-20.0	-11.0	-19.0	-23.3	-19.7	-33.1	-5.4	-7.0
May, 1937								
Women's Clothing Stores								
May, 1936	112.6	110.4	116.8	108.1	130.3	118.2	117.0	113.1
May, 1937	111.7	123.9	121.9	106.4	115.0	106.7	105.0	113.7
May, 1938	96.8	126.0	101.6	88.2	99.7	91.3	98.5	109.0
<u>1938</u>								
January	72.5	88.1	64.9	75.6	65.4	72.3	64.8	73.7
February	61.3	63.5	64.0	60.5	62.6	61.1	58.2	59.8
March	90.5(f)	83.6	79.6	92.7	91.9	78.4	103.9	98.7
April	137.4	145.2	147.0	133.1	135.4	133.5	137.8	132.8
May	96.8	126.0	101.6	88.2	99.7	91.3	98.5	109.0
% Change, May, 1938 ...	-13.4	+ 1.7	-16.7	-17.1	-13.3	-14.4	- 6.2	- 4.1
May, 1937								
Grocery and Meat Stores								
May, 1935	95.3	(a)	100.3	94.0	95.7	89.2	86.2	96.2
May, 1936	103.2	(a)	106.4	103.2	105.1	96.1	102.9	97.4
May, 1937	112.4	(a)	111.9	111.3	118.9	107.4	114.0	119.4
May, 1938	110.0	(a)	113.7	111.3	95.5	100.6	113.4	106.3
<u>1938</u>								
January	100.0(f)	(a)	101.5	104.6	78.7	82.3	93.7	95.1
February	102.5	(a)	104.0	105.1	85.4	88.3	101.5	102.2
March	113.2	(a)	112.9	116.8	96.0	98.4	112.8	111.3
April	119.7	(a)	122.8	122.8	102.0	105.0	119.2	114.4
May	110.0	(a)	113.7	111.3	95.5	100.6	113.4	106.3
% Change, May, 1938 ...	- 2.1	(a)	+ 1.6	(b)	-19.7	- 6.3	- 0.5	-11.0
May, 1937								
Variety Stores								
May, 1935	88.4	83.6	96.4	89.1	87.9	73.7	82.4	79.0
May, 1936	101.4	93.9	110.1	102.3	103.7	90.8	91.8	89.2
May, 1937	109.7	111.3	124.0	108.3	106.8	103.3	101.2	100.6
May, 1938	96.2	94.8	110.7	91.6	99.4	80.5	98.1	99.2
<u>1938</u>								
January	67.2	66.2	69.3	67.1	64.9	52.8	76.4	71.8
February	69.6	64.5	73.3	69.2	65.9	56.5	77.2	77.8
March	77.9	74.3	78.4	78.4	79.1	60.6	90.7	84.1
April	101.1(f)	96.6	107.8	100.0	105.9	82.0	110.6	104.0
May	96.2	94.8	110.7	91.6	99.4	80.5	98.1	99.2
% Change, May, 1938 ...	-12.4	-14.8	-10.7	-15.4	- 6.9	-22.1	- 3.1	- 1.4
May, 1937								

(a) Figures for the Maritime Provinces are withheld to avoid disclosing individual operations. (b) Unchanged.

(f) Final figures.

UNADJUSTED INDEX NUMBERS OF RETAIL SALES - (AVERAGE FOR 1936 = 100)

Year and Month	CANADA	Maritime Provinces	Quebec	Ontario	Prairie Provinces	British Columbia
Department Stores						
May, 1935	93.7	99.5	98.3	94.7	90.7	89.0
May, 1936	99.5	102.1	104.3	100.3	95.6	98.1
May, 1937	106.3	118.9	118.7	104.9	99.5	103.5
May, 1938	97.1	103.2	110.9	96.4	89.1	95.6
<u>1938</u>						
January	75.0	70.4	84.4	74.6	69.6	77.9
February	76.9	70.7	81.9	78.1	71.9	80.8
March	88.6(f)	79.5	97.9	88.4	84.3	90.6
April	105.9	101.9	121.4	105.9	98.2	104.6
May	97.1	103.2	110.9	96.4	89.1	95.6
% Change, May, 1938	- 8.8	-13.2	- 6.6	- 8.1	-10.5	- 7.6
May, 1937						
Hardware Stores						
May, 1936	131.8	121.6	148.4	139.0	118.8	114.0
May, 1937	149.0	143.1	178.0	145.8	132.6	156.3
May, 1938	145.7	139.9	189.6	152.3	118.6	119.8
<u>1938</u>						
January	67.8	73.8	72.5	73.2	57.3	66.0
February	62.6(f)	63.8	67.5	64.7	55.8	66.7
March	83.1	79.0	95.0	81.2	77.4	88.9
April	115.6	119.8	131.1	107.0	112.3	121.9
May	145.7	139.9	189.6	152.3	118.6	119.8
% Change, May, 1938	- 2.3	- 2.2	+ 6.5	+ 4.5	-10.6	-23.4
May, 1937						
Music and Radio Stores						
May, 1936	107.9	92.7	109.8	112.1	96.2	106.1
May, 1937	125.0	95.3	143.6	126.8	113.2	96.8
May, 1938	117.2	91.4	134.7	116.3	98.6	105.9
<u>1938</u>						
January	87.0	91.8	88.5	92.8	70.9	81.1
February	75.9(f)	74.4	87.4	76.1	60.6	70.8
March	90.3	77.7	83.3	97.6	89.7	79.2
April	102.3	82.1	98.6	107.7	99.4	96.9
May	117.2	91.4	134.7	116.3	98.6	105.9
% Change, May, 1938	- 6.3	- 4.1	- 6.2	- 8.3	-12.9	+ 9.4
May, 1937						

(f) Final figures.

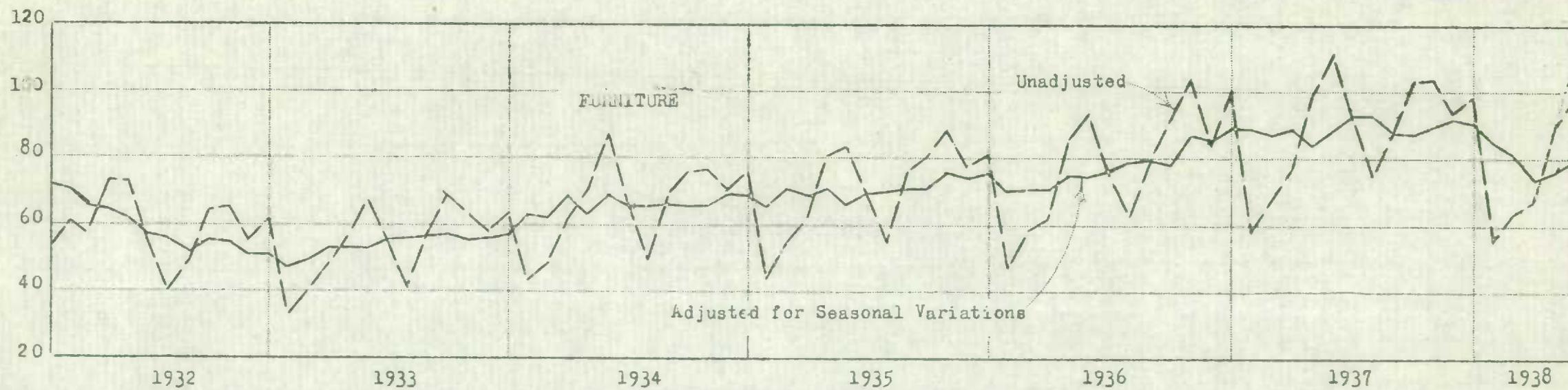
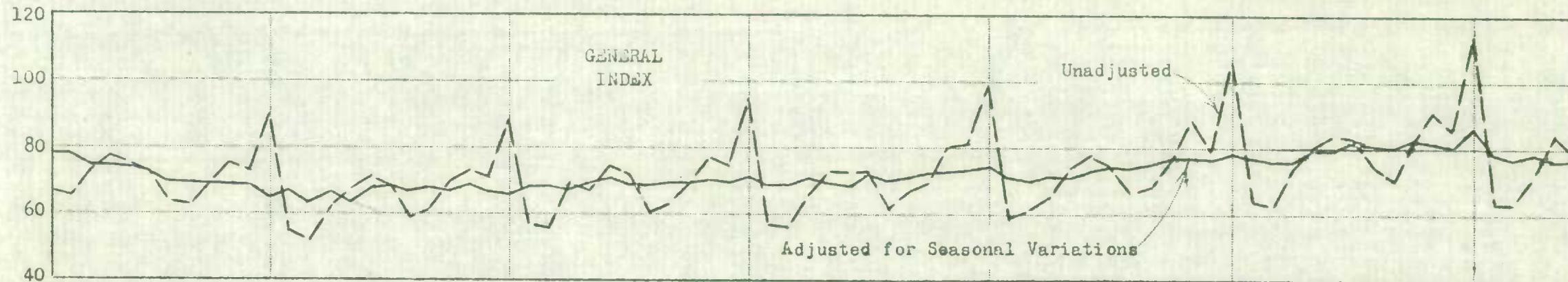
DEPARTMENTAL STORE SALES IN CANADA, BY SELECTED DEPARTMENTS

MAY, 1937, AND MAY, 1938.

(Based on sales of 22 firms)

	MAY, 1937	MAY, 1938	% Change, 1938/37
	\$	\$	
TOTAL SALES, ALL DEPARTMENTS	19,295,194	17,794,188	- 7.8
1. Women's dresses, coats and suits	1,904,138	1,763,491	- 7.4
2. Girls' and infants' wear	529,285	477,058	- 9.9
3. Hosiery and gloves	837,057	792,275	- 5.3
4. Lingerie and corsets	829,359	770,505	- 7.1
5. Millinery	323,316	284,529	-12.0
6. Women's and children's apparel - (Total, 1-5)	4,423,155	4,087,858	- 7.6
7. Men's and boy's clothing and furnishings	2,010,195	1,721,017	-14.4
8. Drugs and toilet articles and preparations	494,576	487,935	- 1.3
9. Piece goods	1,321,305	1,205,425	- 8.8
10. Smallwares	539,922	522,074	- 3.3
11. Food and kindred products	1,890,523	1,806,381	- 4.5
12. Furniture (including mattresses, springs)	1,170,459	1,075,196	- 8.1
13. Home furnishings	1,741,954	1,628,972	- 6.5
14. Household appliances and electrical supplies ..	575,919	533,573	- 7.4
15. Hardware and kitchen utensils	933,627	889,168	- 4.8
16. Radios, musical instruments and supplies	240,124	186,265	-22.4
17. Shoes and other footwear	1,584,016	1,425,416	-10.0
18. Stationery, books and magazines	208,679	187,577	-10.1
19. All other departments, total	2,160,740	2,037,331	- 5.7

INDEX NUMBERS OF RETAIL SALES (Average for 1930 = 100)



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