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MONTHLY INDEXES OF RETKIL SKLIES IN GANADis, JKNUARYY, 1939
Slthough dollar value of retail sales declined in January from December by rather more than the usual seasonal amount, nevertholess sales in January were maintained at a level only one per cent bolow that of January a year ago and were about 4 per cent higher than in January, 1936. The composite index for the twelve lines of business included in this monthly survey and on the base $1930=100$ stands at 61.9 for January, 1939, 62.7 for January, 1938, 63.6 for January, 1937 and 59.2 for January, 1936. On making allowance for differences in number of business days and for normal seasonal variations the composite index declined from 79.1 for December, 1938 to 77.8 for January, 1939.

Excepting only groceries and meats, all lines of business for which data are available averaged lower in January this year than last, daclines ranging from 1 per cent for women's clothing stores to 16 per cent for candy atores being recorded. Sales of grocery and meat stores averaged 3 per cent higher in January this year than lest according to indexes compiled from returns submitted by all the larger chain store companies operating in this field. In computing these indoxas adjustments ara mado to allow for the opening or closing of brench stores so that tho results reflect the trand in sales for a constant number of stores rethor than the trend in grocory chain business as a whole. The number of grocery chain units operating in January, 1939, is considerably smaller than the number in operation a yaar ago. The closing out of some of the waker units and the continustion of the larger stores hes probably introduced a favorable bias to the indexos thus computed.

Indexes of departmont storo siles by economic divisions are indicative of the trend in retail buying in different regions of the country. Department store seles everaged only 1 per cent lowor in Jnnuary this year than last in Queboc and the Prairie Provinces. On the other hend \& doclino of 8 por cont was recorded in the Prairie Provinees. Ontario selos wero down by 4 por cent and erles in British Columbia wero off by 5 per cont.

## Now Surios of Drug Store Indoxes

Monthly indexes of drug store sales previously publishad have beon computed from returns secured from all the largar chain store companies operating in this field. During recent monthe these returns have boon supplemented by monthly statements of sales secured from some 500 indopendent storas located in different sections of the country and covering the period from January, 1936, to dato. It is thus no:7 possibla to present indexes of drug store sales for oach of the sevoral oconomic divisions of the country. The complote series from Jonuary, 1936, will be found in the attachod tables.

Comparative figures for January of this year and last roveal but minor differences in the various sections of the country. Drug store salee in the Prairio Provinces were practically unchanged from Jcruary lest year. Salos wero down by 1 per cent in British Columbia, 2 por cont in Queboc and tho Maritime Provinces and 3 per cent in Onterio. Seles for the Dominion ware dowr by 2 per cont.

## Depertment $S+$ ore Sgles by Departments <br> Annuel Totals for 1937 and 1938

faggrogato sales for 22 departmontal firms reporting salos by departments were 3.6 per cent lower in 1938 than in 1937. Salos of hosiory and gloves wore practically unchanged in the annual comparison but all other dopartments avaragod lowor. Snlos of piece goods were down by 7.8 per cont; men's and boys' clothing and furnishings, 5.6 per cent; shoes and other footwear, 3.0 per cont and women's and childrens' apparel, 1.7 per cent. The furniture end household group shows declines ranging from 2.5 per cent for household appliences and electrical supplies to 6.9 per cent for radios, musical instruments and supplies. The furniture department wes down by 4.7 per cent and home furnishings by 6.0 per cent. Declines for other departments were 2.0 per cent for drugs, 1.6 por cent for smaliwares, 2.6 per cont for food products, 5.5 per cont for hardwaro and kitchen utensils, 2.1 por cont for stationery, books and magazines and 2.2 por cent for
combined sales ci all othar degnrtments.

- Gomparison of Retail Sales in Canade for 193 and 1939 by Kinds of Business

 | January, 1939 |
| :--- |

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

(f) Final figures.
(x) Includes men's furnishings.

(f) Final figures.
(1) Indexes of drug store sales from January, l936, onwards have been revised to include representation of independent and chain firms. Indexes prior to 1936 were computed from chain store figures only.

| Year and Mionth | Hardware |  |  | Music and Radio |  |  | Restairants |  |  | Variety |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | A | B | C | A | B | C | A | B | C | 4 | B | C |
| January, 1929 | 82.5 | 81.2 | 128.9 | 126.2 | 124.3 | 138.1 | 105.9 | 103.9 | 111.7 | 74.0 | 74.1 | 110.6 |
| January, 1930 | 73.3 | 72.2 | 114.7 | 105.4 | 103.8 | 115.4 | 104.6 | 102.3 | 110.0 | 68.6 | 68.5 | 102.2 |
| January, 1931 ............. | 61.1 | 60.2 | 95.5 | 86.0 | 84.7 | 94.1 | 87.2 | 84.5 | 90.8 | 69.2 | 65.2 | 102.2 |
| January, 1932 .............. | 49.6 | 50.8 | 82.0 | 53.7 | 55.0 | 63.2 | 67.7 | 66.4 | 71.4 | 62.9 | 61.1 | 91.2 |
| January, 1933. | 32.4 | 33.2 | 55.4 | 29.4 | 30.2 | 35.9 | 54.4 | 54.1 | 58.2 | 54.2 | 56.0 | 83.6 |
| January, 1934. | 37.5 | 36.9 | 63.7 | 30.2 | 29.8 | 35.9 | 51.2 | 50.3 | 54.0 | 54.9 | 55.2 | 82.4 |
| January, 1935 | 39.1 | 38.6 | 67.6 | 37.2 | 36.7 | 44.2 | 49.0 | 48.1 | 51.7 | 53.2 | 53.3 | 84.6 |
| January, 1936 ............... | 39.0 | 38.3 | 68.3 | 43.2 | 42.6 | 53.9 | 50.4 | 49.3 | 53.0 | 53.4 | 53.3 | 84.7 |
| January, 1937 ............... | 44.4 | 45.3 | 82.4 | 46.7 | 48.0 | 60.7 | 52.9 | 51.9 | 55.8 | 61.7 | 59.9 | 95.1 |
| January, 1938 ............... | 51.6 | 52.7 | 95.9 | 47.1 | 48.3 | 61.1 | 50.8 | 50.0 | 53.8 | 60.5 | 62.6 | 99.3 |
| January, 1939.............. | 50.2 | 51.4 | 93.4 | 44.9 | 45.9 | 58.1 | 46.8 | 46.6 | 50.1 | 58.5 | 60.5 | 26.1 |
| 1938 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| February | 47.7 | 50.7 | 90.5 | 41.0 | 43.8 | 55.5 | 48.8 | 53.0 | 55.3 | 62.6 | 66.7 | 92.6 |
| harch | 63.0 | 59.5 | 85.0 | 48.7 | 46.3 | 57.2 | 54.4 | 53.4 | 55.0 | 70.0 | 68.3 | 86.5 |
| April | 88.6 | 90.5 | 87.0 | 55.6 | 57.0 | 61.3 | 52.4 | 52.5 | 52.0 | 91.0 | 88.4 | 95.1 |
| Miay | 111.3 | 113.7 | 83.6 | 62.0 | 63.6 | 55.8 | 52.0 | 51.8 | 51.8 | 86.6 | 89.7 | 89.7 |
| June | 106.9 | 104.9 | 88.2 | 50.9 | 50.2 | 55.2 | 50.0 | 50.8 | 50.3 | 95.1 | 95.4 | 92.6 |
| July | 93.2 | 95.2 | 86.5 (f) | 42.1 | 43.2 | 55.4 | 52.9 | 51.9 | 50.4 | 92.2 | 89.6 | 89.6 |
| August... | 96.2 | 90.9 | 88.3 | 46.3 | 44.0 | 57.1 | 55.7 | 54.7 | 51.6 | 81.8 | 80.1 | 87.1 |
| September | 97.8 | 99.8 | 83.2 | 63.1 | 64.8 | 54.4 | 53.3 | 53.8 | 51.3 | 88.8 | 91.2 | 94.0 |
| October | 100.2 | 102.4 | 89.0 | 67.9 | 69.7 | 55.3(f) | 52.2 | 51.4 | 51.4 | 98.8 | 96.0 | 96.0 |
| December | 89.3 92.4 | 87.7 | 87.7 | 60.2 | 59.4 | 47.6 | 50.9 | 51.6 | 53.7(f) | 92.7 | 93.3 | 92.3 |
| Decomber | 92.4 | 90.8 | 81.1 | 76.4 | 75.4 | 54.7 | 53.9 | 52.2 | 51.2 | 188.0 | 176.7 | 88.3(f) |
| 1939 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January | 50.2 | 51.4 | 93.4 | 44.9 | 45.9 | 58.1 | 46.8 | 46.6 | 50.1 | 58.5 | 60.5 | 96.1 |

(f) Final figures.


Women's Clothing Stores

| January, 1936..... | 66.1 | 72.4 | 57.8 | 69.3 | 62.6 | 69.3 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| January, $1937 . . .$. | 71.3 | 81.3 | 66.2 | 76.6 | 60.3 | 70.2 |
| January, $1938 . . .$. | 72.5 | 88.1 | 64.9 | 75.6 | 66.5 | 73.7 |
| January, 1939...... | 71.8 | 86.1 | 63.3 | 71.1 | 73.5 | (b) |
| 1938 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| October | 122.7 | 122.5 | 114.8 | 118.6 | 145.0 | 118.2 |
| November . . . . . . . | 111.7(f) | 117.1 | 99.5 | 112.5 | 125.5 | 103.3 |
| Docember ......... | 157.9 | 181.9 | 139.7 | 164.8 | 155.8 | 146.1 |
|  | 71.8 | 86.1 | 63.3 | 71.1 | 73.5 | (b) |
| \% Change, $\frac{\text { January, } 1939}{\text { January, } 1938} \cdots$ | -1.2 | - 2.3 | - 2.5 | - 6.0 | $+10.5$ | (b) |


| January, 1936 ...... | 97.7 | (a) | 106.7 | 92.2 | $8 \% .3$ | 93.9 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| January, $1937 \ldots$ | 103.4 | (a) | 104.3 | 106.5 | 90.0 | 105.0 |
| January, 1938 ..... | 100.0 | (a) | 101.5 | 104.6 | 8.1 .3 | 95.1 |
| January, 1939 ...... | 103.0 | (a) | 113.7 | 108.3 | 79.3 | 86.7 |
| 1938 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| October .......... | $113.5(\mathrm{f})$ | (a) | 118.7 | 115.7 | 107.2 | 99.8 |
| November | 108.7 | (a) | 116.2 | 112.7 | 94.4 | 92.3 |
| December ......... | 133,6 | (a) | 142.3 | 141.1 | 109.4 | 108.1 |
|  | 103.0 | (a) | 113.7 | 108.3 | 79.3 | 86.7 |
| \% Change, $\frac{\text { January }}{\text { January },} \frac{1939}{1938} \cdots$ | $+3.0$ | (a) | +12.0 | $+3.5$ | - 5.9 | - 8.8 |


| January, 1936..... | 59.4 | 53.5 | 58.1 | 61.5 | 56.2 | 61.6 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| January, 1937 ...... | 68.6 | 65.9 | 69.7 | 71.1 | 60.5 | 67.6 |
| January, $1938 . . .$. | 67.2 | 66.2 | 69.3 | 67.1 | 64.6 | 71.8 |
| January, 1939...... | 65.0 | 60.4 | 69.8 | 64.4 | 62.0 | 74.1 |
| 1938 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| October .......... | 109.8 | 111.6 | 118.9 | 103.6 | 122.3 | 107.9 |
| November | 103.0 - | 105.1 | 107.1 | 99.8 | 107.8 | 108.2 |
| December | 209.0(f) | 226.3 | 198.7 | 207.8 | 202.9 | 248.2 |
| $\frac{1939}{\text { January } . . . . . . . . . . .}$ | 65.0 | 60.4 | 69.8 | 64.4 | 62.0 | 74.1 |
| \% Change, $\frac{\text { January, }}{\text { January, }} 1939{ }^{1938} \cdots$ | - 3.3 | -. 8.8 | + 0.7 | - 4.0 | - 4.0 | + 3.2 |

(a) Figures for the Maritime Frovinces are withheld to avoid disclosing individual
operations. (b) Not available. (f) Final figures. (x) Includes men's furnishings.

| Year and Month | CANADA | Maritime Provinces | Quebec | Ontario | Prairie Provinces | British Columbia |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |



Hardware Stores

| January, 1936 | 51.2 | 54.7 | 48.5 | 50.0 | 51.7 | 59.6 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| January, 1937.... | 58.3 | 61.9 | 57.1 | 61.5 | 53.1 | 66.6 |
| January, 1938 ...... | 67.8 | 73.8 | 72.5 | 73.2 | 57.3 | 66.0 |
| Januery, $1939 . . . .$. | 55.9 | 72.9 | 82.0 | 64.6 | 55.9 | 54.9 |
| 1938 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| August . . . . . . . . . | 126.3 | 131.6 | 161.7 | 112.4 | 120.2 | 109.6 |
| September ........ | 128.4 | 133.2 | 146.6 | 119.3 | 128.0 | 118.3 |
| $0_{\text {Ctober }}$ | 131.7 | 145.9 | 146.4 | 115.6 | 137.7 | 129.5 |
| November | 117.3 | 129.1 | 131.5 | 102.4 | 123.0 | 115.7 |
| December | 121.4 | 140.9 | 114.7 | 118.8 | 123.8 | 110.7 |
|  | 65.9 | 72.9 | 82.0 | 64.6 | 55.9 | 54.9 |
| \% Change, $\frac{\text { Jenuary, } 1939}{\text { Jennary, } 1938} \cdots$ | - 2.8 | - 1.2 | +13.1 | -11.7 | - 2.4 | $-16.8$ |


| Janusry, $1936 . . .$. . | 79.7 | (c) | 73.0 | 81.4 | 70.4 | 87.5 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| January, 1937 ...... | 86.2 | (c) | 92.9 | 87.6 | 72.5 | 84.1 |
| January, 1938 ...... | 86.8 | (c) | 80.5 | 92.0 | 70.9 | 81.1 |
| January, 1939 ..... | 82.3 | (c) | 83.6 | 85.3 | 70.4 | 74.0 |
| 1938 ( |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| October | 125.3(f) | (c) | 125.7 | 122.0 | 136.7 | 118.2 |
| November . . . . . . . | 111.2 | (c) | 114.5 | 107.9 | 120.4 | 105.7 |
| December ......... | 141.0 | (c) | 150.2 | 142.3 | 117.1 | 141.9 |
|  | 82.8 | (c) | 83.6 | 85.3 | 73.4 | 74.0 |
| \% Chenge, $\frac{\text { Jgnuary, } 1939}{\text { Jgnuary, } 19300^{\circ}} \cdots$ | - 4.6 | (c) | - 5.5 | - 0.1 | +10.6 | - 0.8 |

(c) Discontinued
(f) Final figures

UNADJUSTED INDEX NUMBERS OF RETAIL SAIES--(AVERAGP FOR 1936=100)

| Year and Month | CANADA. | Maritime <br> Provinces | Quəbec | Ontario | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Prairie } \\ & \text { Provinces } \end{aligned}$ | British Columbia |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |


| Drug Stores |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1936 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January ...... | 90.9 | 85.8 | 94.3 | 92.5 | 86.9 | 86.3 |
| Februsry ..... | 92.2 | 87.4 | 98.0 | 93.3 | 86.3 | 89.1 |
| March ........ | 94.2 | 92.0 | 100.5 | 9.9 .6 | 89.1 | 90.7 |
| April ........ | 96.2 | 94.7 | 97.5 | 95.1 | 96.0 | 94.7 |
| May .......... | 97.9 | 98.3 | 96.7 | 98.9 | 98.3 | 93.3 |
| June ......... | 94.7 | 93.7 | 95.8 | 95.7 | 91.0 | 93.0 |
| July ......... | 98.0 | 99.6 | 94.4 | 100.8 | 93.1 | 99.1 |
| August ....... | 97.5 | 103.3 | 95.9 | 97.1 | 96,7 | 100.7 |
| September .... | 100.6 | 98.5 | 97.6 | 97.6 | 110.8 | 104.3 |
| October ...... | 107.8 | 104.4 | 105.9 | 104.2 | 118.6 | 112.7 |
| November ..... | 99.1 | 97.0 | 102.8 | 99.0 | 97.3 | 96.5 |
| December ..... | 130.7 | 145.0 | 119.4 | 129.8 | 135.9 | 139.1 |
| Yearly Average | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| January ...... | 100.7 | 96.5 | 104.7 | 102.0 | 94.2 | 102.2 |
| February ..... | 98.3 | 92.8 | 107.1 | 99.0 | 89.8 | 96.8 |
| March ....... | 105.8 | 105.0 | 110.5 | 106. 8 | 99.0 | 101.5 |
| April ........ | 102.1 | 103.5 | 104.9 | 101.5 | 100.2 | 102.6 |
| May .......... | 105.2 | 105.7 | 103.8 | 106.3 | 104.6 | 103.2 |
| June .......... | 101.8 | 100.7 | 102.1 | 103.7 | 96.5 | 102.4 |
| July ......... | 107.6 | 116.9 | 105.7 | 110.8 | 97.4 | 109.5 |
| August ....... | 107.1 | 114.0 | 107.0 | 108.8 | 100.3 | 106.3 |
| September .... | 110.2 | 108.2 | 108.9 | 108.4 | 114.3 | 117.0 |
| October ...... | 113.8 | 116.0 | 111.9 | 110.8 | 118.4 | 123.6 |
| November . .... | 104.5 | 103.4 | 107.8 | 106.0 | 97.7 | 103.3 |
| December .... | 138.3 | 157.0 | 128.5 | 139.4 | 134.8 | 146.4 |
| Yearly Average | 108.0 | 110.1 | 108.6 | 108.6 | 103.9 | 109.6 |
| January .... | 101.7 | 101.3 | 106.2 | 103.0 | 93.9 | 101.6 |
| February ..... | 94.1 | 92.7 | 99.2 | 94.5 | 88.5 | 93.9 |
| March ....... | 103.6 | 102.9 | 109.6 | 104.4 | 94.9 | 104.3 |
| April ........ | 105.0 | 106.5 | 107.5 | 105.0 | 101.2 | 106.6 |
| Miay .......... | 100.6 | 101.2 | 100.2 | 101.8 | 97.6 | 101.1 |
| June ......... | 101.1 | 99.3 | 100.9 | 103.5 | 96.0 | 100.2 |
| July ......... | 104.6 | 105.2 | 101.5 | 105.9 | 103.4 | 106.0 |
| August ...... | 105.8 | 108.4 | 104.3 | 105.8 | 106.3 | 106.5 |
| September .... | 107.6 | 101.0 | 104.6 | 105.4 | 116.5 | 114.0 |
| October ...... | 113.0 | 108.1 | 111.9 | 108.2 | 126.0 | 119.1 |
| November ..... | 103.5 | 99.4 | 107.7 | 103.3 | 102.0 | 101.3 |
| Docember ..... | 136.0 | 137.2 | 125.9 | 136.8 | 141.3 | 142.3 |
| Yearly Average | 106.4 | 105.3 | 106.6 | 106.5 | 105.6 | 108.1 |
| 232 <br> January ...... | 99.6 | 99,2 | 103.7 | 100.0 | 93.6 | 100.9 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Per cent change } \\ & \frac{\mathrm{Jan} .1939}{\mathrm{Jan} .1938} \cdots \end{aligned}$ | -2.3 | - 2.1 | - 2.4 | - 2.9 | - 0.3 | -0.7 |

## DEPARTMENTAL STORE SALES IN CANADA, BY SELECTED DEPARTIENTS

 ANNUAL TOTALS FOR 1937 and 1938 ( Sased on sales of 22 firms)|  | 1937 | 1938 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { \% Change }, \\ & 1938 / 37 \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| TOTAL SALES, hLL DEPhRTMENTS | $\begin{gathered} \$ \\ 222.079_{2} 176 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ \\ -223,793,380 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | - 3.6 |
| 1. Women's dresses, coats and suits | 20,956,362 | 20,756,542 | - 1.0 |
| 2. Girls' and infants' wear | 7,058,604 | 6,951,932 | - 1.5 |
| 3. Hosiery and gloves | 10,413,718 | 10,397,655 | - 0.2 |
| 4. Lingerie and corsets | 10,444,998 | 9,957,938 | - 4.7 |
| 5. Millinery | 3,182,474 | 3,102,445 | - 2.5 |
| 6. Women's and children's apparel - (Total, I-5).. | 52.0562156 | 51, 166,512 | - 1.7 |
| 7. Men's and boys' clothing and furnishings | 27,172,553 | 25,650,546 | - 5.6 |
| 8. Drugs and toilet articies and preparations | 7,320,443 | 7,175,959 | - 2.0 |
| 9. Piece goods | 18,031,302 | 16,633,234 | - 7.8 |
| 10. Smallwares | 8,285,512 | 8,152,578 | - 1.6 |
| 11. Food and kindred products | 22,383,634 | 21,804,515 | - 2.6 |
| 12. Furniture (including mattresses, spriags) | 13,028,989 | 12,419,605 | - 4.7 |
| 13. Home furnishings | 16,212,900 | 15,242,822 | - 6.0 |
| 14. Household appliances and electrical supplies | 5,849,130 | 5,705,044 | - 2.5 |
| 15. Hardware and kitchen utensils | 8,123,913 | 7,674,776 | - 5.5 |
| 16. Radios, musical instruments and supplies | 3,703,202 | 3,447,608 | - 6.9 |
| 17. Shoes and other footwear | 17,366,449 | 16,854,067 | - 3.0 |
| 18. Stationery, books and magazines | 4,255,282 | 4,067,043 | - 2.1 |
| 19. All other departments, total | 28,389,711 | 27,799,071 | - 2.1 |

January, 193 and January 1939
(Based on sales of 22 firms )

TOTAL SALES, ALL DEPARTMENTS


7. Men's and boys' clothing and furnishings .....
8. Drugs a: i toilet articles and preparations ...



$\square$




