## C A NADA <br> DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

 DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS INTERNAL TRADE BRANCHMONTHLY INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES

## IN

CANADA

FEBRUARY 1939

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Sales in Canada


## MOITMLY INDEXES OF ? TAIL SALIES IT CATADA, TUBRUABY, 1939

Dollar value of retail trade in Canada for February was practically unchanzed from January but was 3 per cent below $\bar{T} \in b r u a r y ~ a ~ y e a r ~ a g o, ~$ according to returns covering the operations of more than 4,500 individual stores and Giving represtation to twelve lines of retail business. The unadjusted index of sales on the base $1.930=100$ stands at 60.6 for Pebruary, 1939, 60.7 for January, 1939, ana 62.7 for February, 1938. After adjust ments for number-of-business days and normal seasonal variations, February sales show a decline from the immediately preceding month, the adjusted index receding fron 76.3 for January to 74.3 for February.

Two of the twelve lines of trade included in this survey show an increase over February last year: drus store sales were up 5 per cent, while music and radio store sajes 3 alned 4 per cent. All other trades recorded declines, the percentage decreases from February, 1938, ranging from 2 per cent for grocery and meat stores and for furniture stores to 21 per cent for shoe stores. Declines for other groups were as follows: men's clothins stores, 3 per cent; hardware stores, 4 per cent; variety stores, 4 per cent; dopartment stores, 5 per cent; women's clothin; stores, 7 per cent; candy stores, 8 per cent; and rostaurants, 12 per cent.

Department store sales averaged lower in February of this year than last in all sections of tho country. In comparison with the average decline of 5 per cert for the country as a whole, decreases for the various economic divisions were 8 per cent for the liaritime Provincos, 5 per cent for quebec, 6 per cent for 0ntario, 5 per cent for the Prairie Provinces, and 5 per cent for British Columbia.

Drug store sales were 14 per cent higher in Quebec province in February of this year compared with last. Increases of 8 per cent and 4 per cont were recorded for the liaritime Provinces and ontario, while decreases of 2 per cent and 3 per cent were recorded in the frairie Provinces and British Columbia.

Grocery and moat store sales averaged $\triangle$ per cont highor in Quebec province in February of this year compared with last. Ontario sales remained unchanged while decreases of 11 per cent and 18 per cont were recorded for the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia. It should be pointed out that indexes of sales for this grouy aro compiled from returns submitted by chain stores only. In computing the indexes, adjustments aro made to allow for tho opening or closins of branches so that thc resulting figures reflect the trend in sales for a constant number of units rather than the trend in chain food stove business as a whole. During recent months thero has been a considerable roduction in the number of chain units operated, especially in Zucbec province. To the extent that the busincse of closed units is trensferrod to continuins stores, tho indexes of siles thus computod are recognizod to have a favourablu bias.

## by Kinds of Business

| Kind of Business | February, 1939 |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Cumulative } \\ \text { Indexes } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} +o r-p \cdot c \cdot \\ \text { comporod with } \end{gathered}$ |  |  |  |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { February } \\ 1930 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { February } \\ 1938 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { January } \\ 1939 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\frac{\text { Jan. Feb. } 1939}{\text { Jan. Feb. } 1938}$ |
| General Index | - 30.2 | - 3.3 | - 0.2 | $-3.3$ |
| Boots and Shoes | - 57.3 | - 20.8 | - 18.7 | - 17.7 |
| Candy | - 50.3 | - 7.8 | +33.1 | $-8.0$ |
| Men's Clothing | - 38.9 | - 2.5 | - 17.0 | - 5.6 |
| Women's Clothing | - 55.1 | - 7.0 | - 18.1 | - 5.5 |
| Departmental | - 34.1 | - 5.4 | + 0.2 | - 4.2 |
| Druzs | - 22.1 | + 4.9 | - 1.1 | + 1.3 |
| Furaiture | -29.9 | - 2.1 | + 27.6 | - 6.2 |
| Groceries and Meats | - 17.5 | - 1.6 | $+2.4$ | - 1.6 |
| Hardware | - 33.6 | - 4.2 | - 10.6 | - 2.5 |
| Music and Radio | - 52.3 | + 4.1 | - 4.0 | - 1.0 |
| Restaurant | - 54.8 | - 12.1 | - 8.5 | - 9.8 |
| Variety | - 18.8 | - 4.2 | + 1.9 | - 3.4 |

Number of Stores Reporting

| Kind of Dusiness | Number of Stores |
| :---: | :---: |
| total | 4,539 |
| Boots and Shoes (1) | 304 |
| Candy 13.) | 169 |
| Men's Clothing | 493 |
| Women's Clothing | 383 |
| Departmental | 98 |
| Drugs | 795 |
| Furniture | 62 |
| Groceries and Leats (1) | 1,420 |
| Hardware | 136 |
| Music and Radio | 119 |
| Restaurant Variety (1) | 127 |

(1) Indexes for these lines of business are based on seturns from chain companies only. Indexes for other lines of business are computed from returns fron both chains and independents.
A. Unadjusted. B. Corrected for Humber of Business Days.
C. Adjusted for Number of Business Days and Seasonal Variations.

| Year and Mionth | General Index |  |  |  |  |  | Candy |  |  | Wen's Clothng (x) |  |  | Clothin |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | A | B | C | , | B | C | is | 3 | , | A | B | C | H | B | $\underline{\text { n }}$ C |
| February, 1929 | 01.4 | 97.6 | 112.2 | 81.2 | 86.3 | 125.0 | 93.5 | 107.9 | 117.3 | 119.9 | 127.5 | 205.6 | 74.1 | 8.7 | 15 |
| February, 1930 | 86.8 | 92.7 | 106. 5 | 73.3 | 77.9 | 112.8 | 100.4 | 109.0 | 118.5 | 68.9 | 73.2 | 118.1 | 76.4 | 81.1 | 115 |
| February, 1931. | 77.1 | 82.3 | 94.6 | 59.7 | 63.5 | 94.7 | 74.3 | 80.6 | 87.6 | 49.1 | 52.2 | 84.2 | 53.7 | 57.0 | 112.3 83.8 |
| February, 1932 | 65.5 | 67.9 | 78.0 | 48.8 | 50.2 | 78.4 | 63.4 | 66.8 | 72.7 | 37.7 | 39.1 | 63.1 | 53.7 46.2 | 47.8 | 70. 7 |
| February: 1933. | 51.7 | $55=4$ | 63.7 | 39.2 | 41.6 | 69.3 | 51.5 | 55.8 | 60.6 | 28.0 | 29.8 | 48.1 | 39.4 | 41.8 | 61.5 |
| February, $193^{\circ}$ | 56.2 | 59.9 | 68.9 | 37.5 | 39.9 | 69.9 | 51.7 | 56.0 | 60.9 | 37.9 | 40.3 | 65.0 | 38.2 | 40.5 | 59.6 |
| February, 1935 | 56.5 | 60.3 | 69.3 | $36 . \%$ | 38.7 | 70.3 | 55.6 | 60.3 | 65.5 | 39.6 | 42.1 | 67.8 | 39.4 | 41.8 | 61.5 |
| February, 1936 | 61.3 | 60.8 | 69.9 | 41.1 | 40.2 | 74.4 | 61.6 | 61.5 | 66.8 | 41.8 | 40.9 | 69.3 | 34.6 | 33.8 | 57.3 |
| February, 1937 | 61.7 | 65.9 | 75.7 | 43.4 | 46.2 | 85.5 | 55.3 | 60.0 | 65.2 | 44.9 | 47.7 | 75.7 | 36.1 | 38.4 | 65.0 |
| February, 1938. | 62.7 | 66.8 | 76.8 | 39.5 | 42.0 | 77.7 | 54.1 | 58.7 | 63.8 | 43.2 | 45.8 | 72.8 | 36.9 | 39.2 | 66.4 |
| February, 1939. | 60.6 | 64.7 | 74.3 | 31.3 | 33.4 | 61.8 | 49.9 | 54.2 | 59.0 | 42.1 | 44.9 | 71.2 | 34.3 | 36.6 | 62.0 |
| 2938 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| March | 72.0 | 69.6 | 78.2 | 59.0 | 57.7 | 76.9 | 44.4 | 43.9 | 51.7 | 57.1 | 55.3 | 70.9 | 54.6 | 52.8 | 61.4 |
| April | 84.0 | 83.0 | 76.2 | 91.9 | 39.1 | 75.5 | 77.7 | 74.9 | 57.6 | 82.14 | 00.5 | 72.5 | 83.1 | 81.1 | 63.3 |
| May. | 77.7 | 80.0 | 76.2 | 76.5 | 78.7 | $66_{5}{ }^{2} 0$ | 54.8 | 56.1 | 57.2 | 64.9 | 67.3 | 65.3 | 58.6 | 60.7 | 56.7 |
| June | 81.4 | 80.9 | 80.1 | 110.2 | 110.3 | 76.6 | - 3.6 | +4.3 | 57.5 | 76.0 | 75.7 | 71. | 67.2 | 66.9 | 59.2 |
| July . | 69.5 | 68.5 | 77.8 | 74.6 | 72.4 | 77.0 | 48.5 | 46.7 | 5ir.? | 58.6 | 57.3 | 70.7 | 49.3 | 48.1 | 56.6 |
| August.. | 68.6 | 66.7 | 76.7 | 53.3 | 52.1 | 68.6 | 47.9 | 47.5 | 48.5 | 51.2 | 50.1 | 68.6 | 43.5 | 42.4 | 60.6 |
| September............ | 79.9 | 81.1 | 79.5(f) | 80.4 | 82.8 | 80.3 | 51.8 | 52.4 | 56.3 | 71.0 | 71.8 | 71.8 | 58.1 | 53.8 | 60.6 |
| October | 86.2 | 85.3 | 79.7 | 76.6 | 74.3 | 76.6 | 52.9 | 51.3 | 54.0 | 85.7 | 83.7 | 67.0 | 74.0 | 72.2 | 58.7 |
| November | 84.1 | 84.0 | 79.3 | 75.1 | 75.7 | 74.2 | 44.6 | 45.5 | 53.0 | 86.3 | 86.3 | 70.1 | 67.3 | 67.2 | 60.6 |
| December | 114.1 | 108.\% | 79.1 | 104.4 | 98.3 | 61.5 | 109.1 | 104.8 | 56.3 | 117.7 | 109.9 | 66.2(f) | 94.0 | 87.7 | 56.6(f) |
| 1939 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January. | 60.7 | 62.6 | 76.3 | 38.5 | \%0.0 | 74.0(1) | 37.5 | 38.5 | 51.3(f) | 50.7 | 52.5 | 74.0 | 41.9 | 43.4 | 65.7 |
| February | 60.6 | 64.7 | 74.3 | 31.3 | 33.4 | 61.8 | 49.9 | 54.2 | 59.0 | 42.1 | 4.4 .9 | 71.2 | 34.3 | 36.6 | 62.0 |

(f) Final figures
(x) Includes men's furnishings
A. Unadjusted. B. Corrected for Number of Business Days.
C. Adjusted for Number of Business Days and Seasonal Variations.

(f) Final figures.
 Indexes prior to 1936 were computed from chain atore figures only.
(y) Indexes of grecery and meat store sales have been revised from January, 1936.
A. Unadjusted. B. Corrected for Number of Business Days.
C. Adjusted for Number of Business Days and Seasonal Variations.

| Year and hionth | Hardware |  |  | Lusic and Radio |  |  | Restaurants |  |  | Variety |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | A | B | C | A | B | C | A | B | C | A | B | C |
| February, 1929 | 77.2 | 82.4 | 121.2 | 132.5 | 141.4 | 162.6 | 101.6 | 110.4 | 115.0 | 83.5 | 88.8 | 120.0 |
| February, 1930. | 68.8 | 73.4 | 108.0 | 89.6 | 95.6 | 109.9 | 95.0 | 103.2 | 107.5 | 73.5 | 78.6 | 120.0 |
| February, 1931. | 59.9 | 63.9 | 95.4 | 82.3 | 87.8 | 100.9 | 80.1 | 87.0 | 90.7 | 69.5 | 73.9 | 106.2 |
| February, $1932 . . . . . . . .$. | 52.0 | 53.3 | 80.8 | 50.2 | 51.4 | 59.1 | 65.8 | 69.0 | 71.9 | 64.0 | 66.2 | 89.5 |
| February, 1933. | 30.9 | 33.0 | 52.4 | 24.9 | 26.6 | 30.5 | 50.5 | 54.8 | 57.1 | 55.7 | 59.2 | 80.1 |
| February, 1934. | 35.5 | 37.9 | 63.2 | 31.4 | 33.6 | 38.6 | 47.7 | 51.9 | 54.0 | 55.5 | 59.1 | 79.9 |
| February, 1935. | 37.3 | 39.8 | 68.7 | 36.1 | 38.6 | 44.4 | 44.9 | 48.7 | 50.8 | 57.7 | 61.5 | 85.4 |
| February, 1936. | 38.3 | 39.1 | 69.9 | 39.5 | 40.5 | 51.3 | 49.0 | 50.8 | 53.0 | 60.8 | 59.1 | 82.0 |
| February, 1937. | 42.2 | 44.9 | 80.2 | 45.9 | 49.1 | 62.2 | 50.7 | 55.1 | 57.3 | 62.8 | 66.9 | 92.9 |
| February, 1938 | 47.7 | 50.7 | 90.5 | 41.0 | 43.8 | 55.5 | 48.8 | 53.0 | 55.3 | 62.6 | 66.7 | 92.6 |
| February, 1939. | 45.7 | 48.8 | 87.1 | 42.7 | 45.5 | 57.6 | 42.9 | 46.6 | 48.5 | 60.0 | 63.9 | 88.8 |
| 1938 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| March | 63.0 | 59.5 | 85.0 | 48.7 | 66.3 | 57.2 | 54.4 | 53.4 | 55.0 | 70.0 | 68.3 | 86.5 |
| hyril | 88.6 | 90.5 | 87.0 | 55.6 | 57.0 | 61.3 | 52.4 | 52.5 | 52.0 | 91.0 | 88.4 | 85.1 |
| May | 111.3 | 113.7 | 83.6 | 62.0 | 63.6 | 55.8 | 52.0 | 51.8 | 52.8 | 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 | 42.1 | 43.2 | 55.4 | 52.9 | 51.9 | 50.4 | 92.2 | 89.6 | 89.6 |
| hugust | 96.2 | 91.0 | 88.3 | 46.3 | 44.0 | 57.1 | 55.7 | 54.7 | 52.6 | 81.8 | 80.1 | 87.1 |
| September ............... | 97.9 | 100.0 | 83.3 | 63.1 | 64.8 | 54.4 | 53.3 | 53.8 | 51.3 | 88.8 | 91.2 | 94.0 |
| October .................. | 200.8 | 103.0 | 89.5 | 67.9 | 69.7 | 55.3 | 52.2 | 51.4 | 51.4 | 98.8 | 96.0 | 96.0 |
| November | 89.7 | 88.1 | 88.1 | 60.4 | 59.6 | 47.7 | 50.9 | 51.6 | 53.7 | 92.7 | 93.3 | 92.3 |
| December | 92.6 | 90.9 | $81.2(p)$ | 76.4 | 75.4 | 54.6(1) | 54.3 | 52.6 | $51.6(1)$ | 288.0 | 176.7 | $88.3(t)$ |
| 1939 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January .................. | 51.1 | 52.3 | 95.0 | 44.5 | 45.5 | 57.7 | 46.9 | 46.6 | 50.1 | 58.9 | 61.0 |  |
| February ................. | 45.7 | 48.8 | 87.1 | 42.7 | 45.5 | 57.6 | 42.9 | 46.6 | 48.5 | 60.0 | 63.9 | $88.8$ |

(1) Final ifgures




Drus Stores

| February, 1936 . | 92.2 | 87.4 | 95.0 | 93.3 | 86.3 | 89.1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| February, 1937.. | 98.3 | 92.8 | 107.1 | 99.0 | 89.8 | 96.8 |
| February, 1938 | 94.1 | 92.7 | 99.2 | 94.5 | 88.5 | 93.9 |
| February, 1939. | 93.7 | 100.4 | 113.0 | 98.3 | 87.2 | 91.1 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { December } \\ & 1939 \end{aligned}$ | 136.0 | 156.9 | 125.9 | 137.0 | 141.6 | 141.0 |
| January ....... | 99.8 | 98.1 | 104.3 | 100.3 | 24.2 | 100.7 |
| Tebruary | 98.7 | 100.4 | 113.0 | 98.3 | 87.2 | 91.1 |
| Chanse, $\frac{\text { February, }}{\text { February, }}, \frac{1939}{1938}$ | + 4.9 | + 8.3 | +13.9 | + 4.0 | - 1.5 | - 3.0 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Change, } \\ & \begin{array}{l} \text { Jan.-Feb., } 1939 \\ \text { Jan.-Feb., } \end{array} \frac{1938}{} \end{aligned}$ | 1.3 | + 2.3 | + 5.8 | + 0.6 | -0.5 | - 1.9 |

[^0]
## DEPGRTMENTLL STORE S:LES IN ChNDA, BY SELEGTED DERARTNENTS FBBRUKTY, 1938 aND FEBRUARY, 1932 (Besed on sales of 18 firms)


(a) Decreasa is loss then 0.1 por cent.

## INDEX NUNBERS OF RETAIL SALES (Average for 1930-100)





[^0]:    (c) Discontinued
    (f) Final figures.

