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Dominion Statistician: R. H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.S. (Hon.)

Internal Trade Branch  
Chief: H. Marshall, B.A., F.S.S.

CENSUS OF MERCHANDISING AND SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS, 1933.

Drug Store Chains in Canada, 1930 - 1933

This report is one of a series presenting preliminary figures for the Census of Merchandising and Service Establishments, 1933. The basic figures for the year 1930 were secured from the Census taken in 1931, and the data for the period 1931 to 1933 have been furnished for the Census just concluded.

These preliminary figures of the retail sales of drug chains relate only to chain store organizations and cannot be taken as a true indication of the business trend of all drug stores until the figures for independent stores have been prepared and compared with chain store sales. It is also necessary to point out that the entrance of new chain organizations into this field, through the expansion of single or multiple stores into chains and the disappearance of chain store organizations through ceasing to do business or retaining less than four units, affects the volume of trade handled by chains from year to year. In other words, the present report does not furnish a comparison of the business transacted by identical firms over the past four years, but it does indicate the yearly volumes of business transacted by firms which could be classified as chains.

A group of stores has been considered as a chain only when four or more stores are under the same ownership or management and carry on the same or similar kinds of business. In 1930, there were 31 drug chains in Canada which operated 292 stores and had total retail sales of \$13,971,300. In 1933, there were 29 chains operating in the drug field. The highest number of stores in operation during the year was 301, and retail sales amounted to \$11,001,700, or 78.7 per cent of the 1930 figure. Representing the retail sales of drug chains in 1930 by 100, the relative sales for the three following years may be represented by 97.2, 89.6 and 78.7.

When analyzed by geographic divisions, it is seen that the smallest decrease in drug chain sales occurred in Ontario, where the business in 1933 amounted to 88.2 per cent of that in 1930. The number of chain stores in Ontario increased during the same period from 137 in 1930 to 156 in 1933. In the Prairie Provinces, the number of chain stores remained relatively constant, and sales decreased from \$1,778,600 in 1930 to 66.6 per cent of that figure, or \$1,183,600, in 1933.

Table I.--Number of Chains, Stores, and Total Sales.

	1930	1931	1932	1933
Number of chains .....	31	32	32	29
Number of stores .....	292	305	313	301
Total Sales .....	\$13,971,300	\$13,584,000	\$12,521,100	\$11,001,700
Index of chain sales, 1930 = 100 .....	100.0	97.2	89.6	78.7

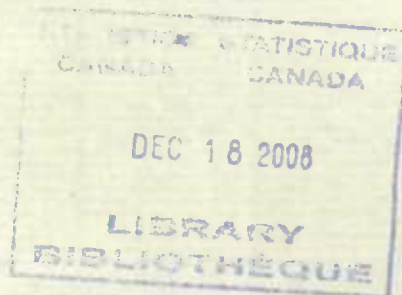




Table II.--Number of chains, Stores, and Sales, by Provinces, 1930 and 1933 Compared.

		1930	1933
CANADA, TOTAL --	Chains	31	29
	Stores	292	301
	Sales.	\$13,971,300	\$11,001,700
	Index of chain sales, 1930 = 100	100.0	78.7
British Columbia --	Chains	4	3
	Stores	41	39
	Sales.	\$ 2,042,500	\$ 1,367,800
	Index of chain sales, 1930 = 100	100.0	67.0
Prairie Provinces --	Chains	7	6
	Stores	37	36
	Sales.	\$ 1,778,600	\$ 1,183,800
	Index of chain sales, 1930 = 100	100.0	66.6
Ontario --	Chains	11	13
	Stores	137	156
	Sales.	\$ 6,939,200	\$ 6,163,900
	Index of chain sales, 1930 = 100	100.0	88.2
Quebec --	Chains	7	5
	Stores	54	45
	Sales.	\$ 2,367,900	\$ 1,648,200
	Index of chain sales, 1930 = 100	100.0	69.6
Maritime Provinces --	Chains	4	4
	Stores	23	25
	Sales.	\$ 793,100	\$ 638,000
	Index of chain sales, 1930 = 100	100.0	80.4

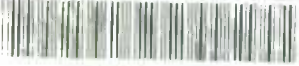
Table III.--Number of Chains, Stores, Employment and Wage Facts, Sales and Stocks, During 1933.

Number of chains .....	29
Number of stores .....	301
Employees and wages (including part-time) --	
Male .....	1,294
Female .....	296
Wages .....	\$ 1,494,900
Total Sales, 1933 .....	\$11,001,700
Stocks on hand in stores, end of year, at cost .....	\$ 1,994,500

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