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Published by Authority of the HON. R. B. HANSON, K.C., M.P.,  
Minister of Trade and Commerce

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CENSUS OF MERCHANDISING AND SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS, 1934.

DRUG STORE CHAINS IN CANADA, 1934.

This preliminary report for the Census of Merchandising and Service Establishments shows that there were 30 drug store chains operating in Canada during 1934, and that these 30 chain companies operated 310 stores and had total sales for the year of \$11,714,300. This amount is 6.48 per cent greater than the sales of the 29 drug chains with 301 stores which were operating in 1933. Representing the total drug chain sales in 1930 by 100, sales for the following four years may be represented by 97.23 for 1931; 89.61 for 1932; 78.74 for 1933; and 83.85 for 1934.

The greatest percentage change in drug chain business in 1934 over that in 1933 took place in the province of Quebec where an increase of 13.92 per cent was registered. Increases in drug chain business in 1934 over 1933 for the other divisions or provinces are as follows: Prairie Provinces, 6.75 per cent; Maritime Provinces, 5.91 per cent; British Columbia 5.16 per cent; and Ontario, 4.79 per cent.

Part of the increase in drug chain business in 1934 over that in the preceding year is due to the slight increase in the number of units operated. Average sales per drug chain store in 1933, computed from the total chain sales and the average number of stores operating throughout the year, were \$37,041. The corresponding average for 1934 was \$38,789 or an increase of 4.72 per cent over that of the preceding year.

A preliminary report already published and comparing the sales of independent stores in 1933 and 1934 shows that for the Dominion as a whole the business of independent drug stores increased 4.11 per cent over the 1933 level. Increases in trade by drug chain units and by independent drug stores were, therefore, about equal, but the total business transacted by drug chains shows a somewhat greater change due to the variation in the number of chain units operated.



DRUG STORE CHAINS IN CANADA, 1930-1934.

Table I. - Number of Chains, Stores and Total Sales, by Years - 1930-1934.

	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934
Number of Chains .....	31	32	32	29	30
Number of Stores -					
Maximum .....	292	306	313	301	310
Average .....	284	299	305	297	302
Total Sales .....	\$ 13,971,300	13,584,600	12,520,000	11,001,300	11,714,300
Chain sales index - (1930=100)	100.00	97.23	89.61	78.74	83.85
Percentage change in Sales from preceding year .....	-	-2.77	-7.84	-12.13	+6.48

Table II - Number of Chains, Stores and Sales, by Provinces, 1930,  
1933 & 1934. Compared.

		1930	1933	1934	Percentage change in sales (1933 & 1934)
CANADA, TOTAL	Chains	31	29	30	
	Stores	292	301	310	
	Sales	\$ 13,971,300	11,001,300	11,714,300	+ 6.48
British Columbia	Chains	4	3	3	
	Stores	41	39	41	
	Sales	2,042,500	1,367,500	1,438,100	+ 5.16
Prairie Provinces	Chains	7	6	6	
	Stores	37	36	37	
	Sales	\$ 1,778,600	1,183,800	1,263,700	+ 6.75
Ontario	Chains	11	13	13	
	Stores	137	156	161	
	Sales	\$ 6,989,200	6,163,800	6,459,200	+ 4.79
Quebec	Chains	7	5	6	
	Stores	54	45	45	
	Sales	\$ 2,367,900	1,648,200	1,877,600	+13.92
Maritime Provinces	Chains	4	4	4	
	Stores	23	25	26	
	Sales	\$ 793,100	638,000	675,700	+ 5.91

Table III. Number of Chains, Stores, Employment and Wage Facts, Sales  
and Stocks during 1934.

Number of Chains .....	31
Number of Stores .....	312
Employees and wages (including part-timers) -	
Male .....	1,388
Female .....	309
Salaries and wages .....	\$ 1,555,400
Total Sales, 1934 .....	\$11,821,200
Stocks on hand in stores, end of year at cost .....	\$ 2,133,300

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