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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
CENSUS OF MERCHANDISING AND SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS

## FOOD CHAINS IN CANADA

## CALENDAR YEAR

1939


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## GENSUS OF RERCHMDISING IAND SERVICE ESTABLISHENTS

## Food Chains in Canada, 1939

Final figures relating to the operations of food chains in Canada during 1939 vary but little from those contained in the preliminary bulletin issued earlier in the year. in average net increase of 5 per cent in dollar volume of food chain business over 1938 notwithstanding a decline of 8 per cent in number of units operated, a substantial reduction in chain business in the city of montreal, a slight increase in the proportion of the total food retailing business secured by chains in all provinces except New Brunswick and Queboc and a continuation of the trend towards larger unit stores constitute the outstanding features of food chain operations in Canada last year.

There were 87 food chain companies in Conade in 1939, including grocery chains, combination storo chains and meat merket chains and these operated a totrl of 2,044 stores with annual scles of $3127,945,900$ or 30.7 per cont of the total annual business of all similar stores including both chnins and independents. In the preceding year there were 91 chain store companios with 2,212 stores and $121,371,500$ scles, an amount which formed 29.4 per cent of the total annual business of all food stores. Ratios of chain to total sales for earlior years wero 29.3 per cont for 1937 , 28.9 per cont for 1936 , and 28.5 per cont for 1935 . The ratio has changad but slightly since 1931 when it stood at 29.0 per cont.

The abovo ratios roprosent tho proportion of chain salos to total salos for grocory stores, combination stores and meat markots combinod. There aro but a smell numbor of chains ongaged in the rotailing of moct products only. Won figuros for straight mant markets aro oxcludod from tho calculations and data for grocory and combination storas only are considered tho ratio of chain to totel sales stands at 35.2 por cont for 1939 and 33.7 por cont for 1938 .

Rosults on a provincial basis show that food chain sales incraasod in 1939 over 1938 in all provincos excopting Quobec while figuros for individual citios of 30,000 population or over revoel that increasos wore gonoral oxcopting in Montreal, Halifax and St. John. Food chain sc.los in British Columbia averagod 13 por cent highor in 1939 than in 1938; Vancouver salos woro up by 19 por cont and Victoria 14 por cont. filbortr selos wore up by 4 por cont with rosults for Colgary and Edmonton slightly bottor then the provincial avorego. Sales in Scskatchewan woro up 10 por cont but tho incronso for Saskatoon was considerably greator e.t 17 por cont. Regine salos woro up by 13 por cont. Chain salos in Menitobo geinod 17 por cont. Ontario reportod a gain of 7 por cont, rosults for individual citios ranging from an incronso of 2 por cont in London to 16 por cont in Kitchoner. Toronto chain seles woro up 4 por cont, Hamilton 8 por cont and Ottawa 11 por cont.

Is decline from 358 to 289 in the numbor of food chein units operate ing In Quoboc provinco resultod in a decrenso of 9 por cont in dollnr volumo of businoss. This must bo attributod almost completoly to a reduction in tho numbor of storos oporatod in Montraal from 197 in 1938 to 143 in 1939, 2 roduction in units which was accompaniod by a docreaso of 25 per cant in doller sclos.

Chain salos in Now Brunswick and Nove Scotia woro up by 6 por cont, an incrosso of 14 per cont in tho smallor localitics moro than offsotting doclinos of 6 por cont and 13 per cent in Halifax and St. John rospoctivoly.

The trond towards the operation of lerger unit stores which hes Doun ovidont during rocent yours wes continued in 1939, the number of stores with nnnual solos of 100,000 or over and the proportion of the total chain business transacted by such stores providing some indication of this tendency. There vere 313 units of food chains each with annual sales of $\$ 100,000$ or more in 1939 and these transacted 47 per cent of the total business of all food chains. In the preceding year there were 263 stores above the same size limit and they accounted for 39 per cent of the total business; in 1937 there were 225 large stores doing 33 per cent of the business, while in 1934 there were only 152 similar sized stores and they accounted for only 16 per cent of the total chain trade. Or taking $\$ 300,000$ as the lower limit it is found that there were 41 stores above this size in 1939, 22 in 1938, 14 in 1937 and only one in 1934.

The figures contained in the previous paragraph relate to the operations of corporate chains only; that is, groups of four or more units under the same ownership or management and engaged in the retail distribution of groceries, meats or groceries and meats together. Voluntary chains are not included. While information relating to the total annual turnover of voluntary chains is not available, statistics furnished by the affiliated wholesale firms give some indication of the development in this field. The absence of clearly defined methods of operation of these voluntary groups makes complete enumeration difficult but returns secured from 31 voluntary chain organizations in the food retailing field show 6,706 individual members whase purchases at wholesale prices from affiliated wholesalers amounted to $\$ 32,427,479$ or an average of $\$ 4,836$ per member. Of course, not all the food purchases by members of these voluntary chains are made from the affiliated wholesale houses. Nor are voluntary chains restricted to the sale of food products. Many of them are to be found amongst country general stores, affiliation in the voluntary chain group applying only in so far as the purchase of all or part of their food products is concerned.

A number of wholesalers who reported that they sponsored voluntary chains in earlier years indicated in their 1939 returns that the same privileges were now extended to all customers. There were 39 voluntary chains reported in 1938 with 7,158 members whose purchases from the affiliated wholesale houses amounted to $\mathbf{\$ 2 9 , 4 3 5 , 2 3 7}$.

Chain inventories were somewhat higher at the end of 1939 than at the close of the preceelng year. Store inventories increased from $\$ 6,238,100$ at the end of 1938 to $\$ 6,605,200$ at the end of 2939 . The relative increase in warehouse inventories wes considerably greater; warehouse stocks incrensed from 3,349,000 to 4,485,700 in the same comparison.

Customers' accounts outstanding on the books of food chain companies declined slightly from $31,601,400$ at the end of 1938 to $1,470,500$ at the close of 1939 . Salaries and wages paid to store employees totalled $9,072,300$ for 1939 , practically unchanged from the preceding year.

## Table 1.--Sumary of Food Chain Stores in Canada, 1239


(1) Derived from number of units at beginning, middle and end of year.
(2) Includes any sales at wholegale pices diroct from warohouses.


| Size of Chain | Number <br> of <br> Chains | Total Units(1) | Grocery Units | Combination Units |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |


| Ail Combination Store Chains, Total'....... | 46 | 1,570 | 97,194,300 | 635 | 22,192,200 | 927 | 74.775 .200 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Chains having -- <br> Less than 10 units .. | 34 | 194 | 12,668,100 | 42 | 1,963,700 | 146 | 10,575,700 |
| 10-99 units ...... | 7 | 136 | 5,196,300 | 56 | 1,513,800 | 79 | 3,678,300 |
| 100 units and over .. | 5 | 1,240 | 79,329,900 | 537 | 18,714,700 | 702 | 60,521,200 |


| All Combination Store Chains, Tota1'....... | 43 | 1,434 | 105.734,600 | 522 | 19,752.300 | 902 | 85,885,800 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Chains having -- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Less than 10 units .. | 32 | 185 | 12,279,700 | 30 | 1,473,900 | 153 | 10,790,100 |
| 10-99 units ....... | 6 | 120 | 5,086,200 | 42 | 1,264,800 | 78 | 3,821,400 |
| 100 units and over .. | 5 | 1,129 | 88,368,700 | 457 | 17,013,600 | 671 | 71,274,300 |

(1) These figures include a few stores other than grocery and combination stores.

Tone 3.- Prenoiol Btatistics of Food Chains by Provinces, 1230,1933 and $1937-1932$ (rocery, Combination and liloat Warket Chains Combined)

(1) Includes Prince Edward Island, Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Table 4.--Food Chain Stores and Sales by Frovinces and Frincipai Cities, 1938 and 1939

| Province and City | Number of Stores |  | Value of Sale |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | Per cont |
|  | 28 | 1239 | 1938 | 1939 | of change |
| CANADA, Total (1) | 2,212 | 2,044 | $121_{2} 3112500$ | $127,245,900$ | + 5.4 |
| Places 30,000 and over, total Places under 30,000 , total... |  | 1,105 | 68,576,000 | $70,282,800$$57,663,100$ |  |
|  |  | 939 | 52,795,500 |  |  |
| British Columbia, Total | 281 | 266 | $11,129,600$ | $12,653,300$ | + 13.0 |
| Places 30,000 and over, totalVancouver .............Victoria .............. | 177 | 163 | 6,861,000 | 8,089,700 | $+17.9$ |
|  | 164 | 150 | 5,848,900 | 6,940,000 | + 18.7 |
|  |  | 13 |  | 1,149,700 | $+13.6$ |
| Places under 30,000, total | 104 | 103 | 4,338,600 | 4,563,600 | $+\quad 5.2$ |
| Alberta, Total | 124 | 119 | 6,296,500 | $6,564,600$ | $\begin{array}{r} \\ +\quad 4.3 \\ \hline\end{array}$ |
| Places 30,000 and over, total Calgary Edmont on $\qquad$ <br> Places under 30,000 , total... | $\begin{aligned} & 76 \\ & 51 \\ & 25 \\ & 48 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 75 \\ & 50 \\ & 25 \\ & 44 \end{aligned}$ | 3,922,400 | 4,145,400 | + 5.7 |
|  |  |  | 2,520,700 | 2,651,700 | + 5.2 |
|  |  |  | 1,401,700 | 1,493,700 | + 6.6 |
|  |  |  | 2,374,100 | 2;419,200 | + 1.9 |
| Saskatchewan, Total | 130 | 127 | 5,1232700 | $5,685,100$ | + 9.5 |
| Places 30,000 and over, total <br> Regina <br> Saskatoon $\qquad$ <br> Places under 30,000 , total... <br> Manitoba, Total | $\begin{aligned} & 42 \\ & 27 \\ & 15 \\ & 88 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 27 \\ & 27 \\ & 15 \\ & 85 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2,117,900 \\ 1,252,100 \\ 865,800 \\ 3,075,300 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2,430,300 \\ & 1,414,000 \\ & 1,016,300 \\ & 3,254,800 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} +14.8 \\ +12.9 \\ +\quad 17.4 \\ +\quad 5.8 \end{array}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 109 | 10 | 4,274,500 | 5.814,000 | $+16.9$ |
| Places 30,000 and over, total Winnipeg(2) <br> Places under 30,000 , total.. | $\begin{aligned} & 93 \\ & 93 \\ & 16 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 90 \\ & 90 \\ & 16 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (X) \\ & (X) \\ & (X) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (X) \\ & (X) \\ & (X) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & (x) \\ & (x) \\ & (x) \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1,076 | 1,002 | $68,502,400$ | 73,459,400 | + 7.2 |
| Places 30,000 and over, total Brantf ord | 56313124 | 51914 | $36,311,800$980,800 | $38,292,100$$1,014,100$ | $+\quad 5.5$$+\quad 3.3$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hamilton |  | 122 | $5,609,700$738,400 | 6,038,100 | $+\quad 7.6$+16.3 |
| Kitchener | 528 |  |  |  |  |
| Lond on |  | 2445 | 1,935,200 | 1,980,800 | + 2.4$+\quad 11.3$ |
| Ottawa | 50 |  | $3,469,200$$20,948,800$ | $3,860,300$$21,681,700$ |  |
| Toronto (3) | $\begin{array}{r} 277 \\ 66 \end{array}$ | 251 |  |  | + 3.5$+\quad 8.7$ |
| Windsor |  | 58 | 2,629,700 | $\begin{array}{r} 2,858,300 \\ 35,167,300 \end{array}$ |  |
| Places under 30,000 , total ...... | 513 | 483 | 32,191,600 |  | $+\quad 9.2$ |
| Quebec, Total | 358 | 289 | 19,031,600 | 17.2598200 | $-9.3$ |
| Places 30,000 and over, Total Hontreal(4) Quebec ......................... Three Rivers Verdun | 238197 | 176 143 |  | $\begin{array}{r} 10,676,700 \\ 8,180,400 \end{array}$ | - 19.6 |
|  |  | 4 | $10,878,300$ |  | - 24.8 |
|  | 6 | 5 | (X) | 8,180,400 | (X) |
|  | 31 | 24 | 1,743.,600 | 1,776,800 | + 2.0 |
| Places under 30,000, total ...... | 120 | 113 | 5,155,200 | 6,582,500 | +14.4 |
| New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, Total | 12 | 132 | 5,932, 500 | 6,291,900 | + 5.9 |
| Places 30,000 and over, total.... Halifax ..... <br> Saint John <br> Places under 30,000 , total | $\begin{aligned} & 45 \\ & 33 \\ & 12 \\ & 86 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 40 \\ 32 \\ 8 \\ 92 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2,137,000 \\ 1,554,200 \\ 582,800 \\ 3,802,500 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 1,971,100 \\ 1,465,200 \\ 505,900 \\ 4,320,800 \end{array}$ | - 7.8 <br> - 5.7 <br> - 13.2 <br> $+13.6$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

[^0]
(Number of Chains, Stores, Value of Purchases and Average Purchases per Store)

(1) Revised figures.

## Grocery. Store Chains

B. \& K. Economy Gash Stores Ltd.

Bassin's Food Markets
Black \& White Stores
Carroll's Limited
Charbonneau, L.A.
Curry's Grocery
The T. Eaton Co. Ltd. (Ontario Groceterias)
Elliott's Stores Ltd.
Gowman, The Grocery
Hickman Stores, The
Jonkins Groceteria Ltd. (Alberta)
Jewel Stores Ltd.
H:cBride's Limited
Model Grocery Ltd.
Neal Brothers Ltd.
O. K. Economy Stores

Overwaitea Ltd.
Quality Groceterias Company
Ramsay s iliarket
Steinberg's Wholesale Groceterias Ltd.
Sterling Stores Ltd.
Superior Stores (B. C.) Itd.
Tait, Harry Groceterias Ltd.
Thomas Bros.
Thomson Groceries Ltd.
Toronto Grocery Stores
United Fure Food Stores Regd.
Welch, H. W. Ltd.
Wilbie's Service Stores
Ziebell, A.

## Combination Store Ghains

Acadia Stores Limited
Adam and Co. Limited
Barker's Stores Ltd.
Barker ${ }^{\ominus}$ s Grocery
Boyle, H.J. Co. Ltd.
Butti, Sam
Buywell Food Narkets Inc.
Buy Right, The Stores Ltd.
Camploliton's Cash \& Carry Stores
Consumer's Cooperative Society Ltd.
Cosmopolitan, The Stores
Curtis Markets
David's harkets Ltd.
Dominion Stores Limited
T. Eaton Co. Itd. (Maritime Groceterias)
T. Eaton Co. Ltd. (Western Groceterias)

- Empire Neat Co. Ltd.

Fitzpatrick and Geraghty Ltd.
Gilmer and Thomson
1 Great A. \& P. Tea Co. Ltd., The
International Provisions Co. Ltd.
Loblaw Groceterias Co. Ltd.
Luckin's Ltd.
M. \& P. Stores Ltd.

MacDonald, B.O.
Mason's Grocery Stores
Miracle Marketerias Itd.
Phillips harkets Ltd.
Pinch, The J.C. Stores
Powell and Co. Ltd.
Power Food, The Markets

1484 . Broadway
405 Jane St.
10402 - 97 th St.
19 Hughson St. S.
127 Hotel de Ville
6115 Fraser St.
5339 Vest Boulevard
181 Colborne st.
843 Bank St.
702 - 9th Ave. W.
592 Hain St.
1333 Garnet St.
308-6th St.
283 Stanley St.
301 Ontario Ave.
1181 Richards St.
71 Amerald St. S.

445 River St.
605 Barrington St.
207 W. Hastings St.
10012 - 101st Ave.
438 Dundurn St.
Rear of 302 Greenwood Ave.
290 Queer St. E.
960 St. Paul St. W.
Deer Island
6027 Fraser St.
149 Pembroke St. W.

32 Spring Garden Rd.
42 Borgia St.
Provost St,
100 Frincess St.
16812 Charlotte St.
268 Ferguson St.
1319 St. Catherine St.
521 - 525 Gottingen St.
Union St.
64 - 4th Ave.
214 Townsend St.
1028 Pape Ave.
106 Townsend St.
3 Sullivan St.

330 - 2 nd Ave. S.
196 Rubidge St.
26 Queon St.
135 Laughton Ave.
626 Barrington St.
Fleet \& Bathurst Sts.
4 Parkhurst Blvd.
375 Sandwich St. W.
64 Windsor St.
429 George St.
2424 Yonge St.
805 Howard Ave.
536 Queen St.
Cor. King $k$ Main Sts.
118 King St. E.

Vancouver, B.C.
Toronto, Ont.
Edmonton, Alta.
Hamilton, Ont.
Hull, Que.
Vancouver, B.C.
Toronto, Ont.
Vancouver, B.C.
Brantford, Ont.
Ottawa, Ont.
Calgary, Alta.
Winnipeg, Mian.
Regina, Sask.
New Westminster, B.C.
Vinnipeg, Man.
Saskatoon, Sask.
Vancouver, B.C.
Hamilton, Ont.
Petrolia, Ont.
Verdun, Que.
Halifax, N.S.
Vancouver, B.C.
Edmonton, Alta.
Hamilton, Ont.
Toronto, Ont.
Toronto, Ont.
Montreal, Que.
Leonardville, N.B.
Vancouver, B.C.
Pembroke, Ont.

Halifax, N.S.
Sudbury, Ont.
New Glasgow, N.S.
Saint John, N.B.
Peterboro, Ont.
North Bay, Ont.
Montreal, Que.
Halifax, N.S.
Campbellton, N.B.
Timmins, Ont.
Sydney, N.S.
Toronto, Ont.
Sydney, N.S.
Toronto, Ont.
Toronto, Ont.
Toronto, Ont.
Saskatoon, Sask.
Peterborough, Ont.
St. Catharines, Ont.
Toronto, Ont.
Halifax, N.S.
Toronto, Ont.
Toronto, Ont.
Tindsor, Ont.
Halifax, N.S.
Peterborough, Ont.
Toronto, Ont.
Windsor, Ont.
Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.
Dundas, Ont.
Toronto, Ont.

Comoination Store Chains--(Contd.)

Progressive Trading Cooperative Ltd.
Quality Food Stores
Ray's Limited
Safeway Stores Ltd.
Shop-Easy Stores Limited
Shoprite Stores
Shore, Miax
Sobay, J.W.
Sosowsky \& Slobodsky, Messrs.
Thrift Stores Limited
Thyte Packing Company, The Itd.
Worker's Cooperative of New Ontario Ltd. 64 - 3rd Ave.

Toronto, Ont.
Toronto, Ont.
Vancouver, B.C.
Winnipeg, Man.
312 Confederation Life Bldg-Winmipeg, Man.
1502-12th Ave. W. Calgary, Alta.
3 Ingraham's Lane Glace Bay, N.S.
Stellarton, N.S.
Fort lilliam, Ont.
liontreal, Que.
Stratford, Ont.
Tiramins, Ont.
638 queen St. W.
420 Bathurst St.
1105 Dominion Bldg.
313 Pacific Ave.

546 Simps on St.
960 Outremont Ave.
Linton Ave.

## Heat Market Chaing

Brooker's Heat liarket Buehler. Bros. Limited Burns and Co. Limited Calvert, Tillis
Collins, Len
Cooper, Joseph Ltd.
Cross' Stores
Duff's Mieat Stores and Master
Heat liarkets Co. of Canada
Gordon, D.K. Itd.
Poyntz, Arthur
Pure Food Meat liarkets
Sterling Food larkets Ltd.
Swanwick, A.
Wilson Bros. Ltd.

Talbot St. E.
2896 Dundas St. W.
1232 Dundas St. W.
475 Danforth Ave.
466 Queen St. W.
1310-1312 Douglas St.
100 Vine St.
Bernard Ave.
790 St. Clair Ave. 7.
1505 Gerrard St. E.
724 Vancouver Block
428 King St. $\cdot$.
2010 - 12 th Ave.

Leamington, Ont.
Toronto, Ont. Calgary, Alta. Toronto, Ont. Toronto, Ont. Toronto, Ont. Victoria, B.C.

Hamilton, Ont.
Kelowna, B.C.
Toronto, Ont.
Toronto, Ont.
Vancouver, B.C.
Hamilion, Ont.
Regina, Sask.


[^1]
[^0]:    (1) Includes Prince Edward Island, Yukon and Northvest Territories. (2) Includes suburbs.
    (3) Toronto proper only. (4)Montreal proper only
    (X) Indicates that figures are withheld to avoid disclosing individual operations, but these are included in the totals.

[^1]:    
    
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    1010713862

