

Published by Authority of the HON. JAMES A. MacKINNON, M.P.  
Minister of Trade and Commerce

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE  
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH  
OTTAWA, CANADA

Dominion Statistician:  
Chief, Internal Trade Branch:  
Statistician:

R.H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.S. (Hon.)  
Herbert Marshall, B.A., F.S.S.  
A.C. Steedman, B.A.

Vol. 2 - No. 5

Year's Subscription, \$1.00  
Single copies, .10

CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MAY, 1940

Introduction

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail and wholesale grocery trading establishments forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail and wholesale grocery sales contained in the other bulletins thus facilitating a comparison of the trends in monthly sales in the two stages of food distribution.

Wholesale Trade

Sales of 77 wholesale houses in the grocery trade averaged 25 per cent higher in May, 1940 than in May, 1939 and 24 per cent over April, 1940, unadjusted indexes, on the base 1930 equals 100, standing at 134.8 for May, 1940, 108.8 for April, 1940 and 108.1 for May, 1939. The 25 per cent increase over May of the previous year compared with a 14 per cent increase recorded in the April corresponding-month comparison and with margins of 1 per cent and 18 per cent recorded in March and February over the same months of 1939. Sales for the year to date average 17 per cent above the corresponding five-month period of 1939.

Indexes of Sales, 1930 = 100

	1940			1939
	May	April	March	May
Unadjusted index .....	134.8	108.8	99.0	108.1
Seasonally adjusted index .....	137.0	117.0	107.5	109.9

All sections of the country shared in the increase over May a year ago, results for the various economic divisions showing increases of 23 per cent in the Maritime Provinces, 26 per cent in Quebec, 20 per cent in Ontario, 29 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 28 per cent in British Columbia.

Percentage Change in Wholesale Sales, by Provinces

	May Dollar Sales Per cent change from		Year to date 1940 1939	Number of Firms Reporting
	May 1939	April 1940		
Canada .....	+ 24.7	+ 23.9	+ 17.0	77
Maritimes .....	+ 22.6	+ 25.1	+ 22.6	15
Quebec .....	+ 25.5	+ 35.8	+ 19.6	22
Ontario .....	+ 19.7	+ 18.0	+ 13.8	21
Prairies .....	+ 28.7	+ 28.1	+ 17.1	13
British Columbia .....	+ 28.1	+ 22.6	+ 16.3	6

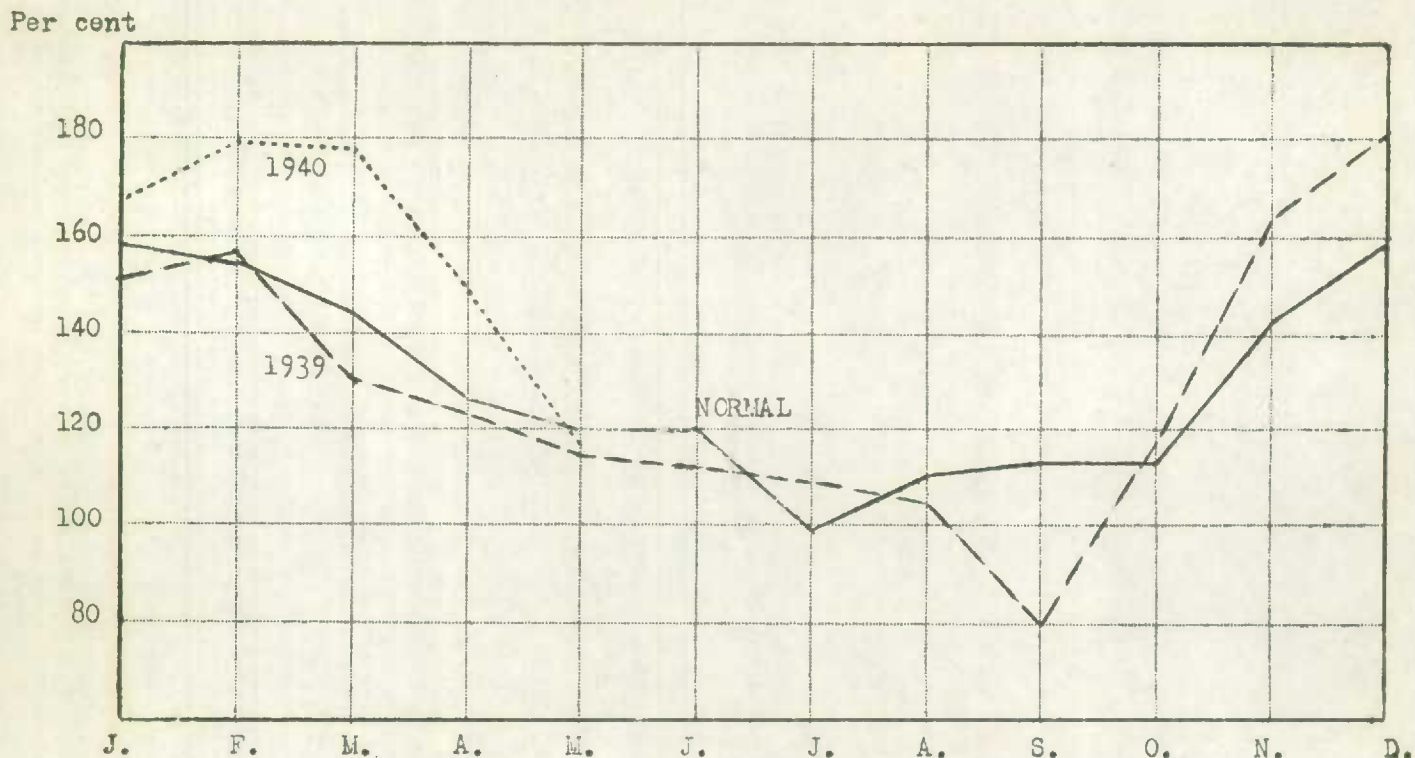
Stocks

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were 38 per cent higher at the end of May than on the corresponding date of 1939 and were 10 per cent higher than at the end of April, 1940. Stocks on hand at any period must be considered in relation to the sales in the immediately following period. Stocks on hand at the beginning of May normally amount to approximately 120 per cent of the May turnover. The ratio of stocks on hand at the end of April, 1940 formed 117 per cent of May sales indicating that in relation to sales realized during the month, stocks on hand were slightly below normal.

Wholesale Grocery Trade:- Percentage that Stocks on Hand

at Beginning of Month bear to Sales during Month

(Normal = Average for 1935, 1936)





Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,104 chain store units operated by 27 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 26 per cent higher in May, 1940, than the sales of 1,281 units operated by the same 27 firms in the corresponding month of 1939. Increases were greater in the West than in the East. Chain sales in the province of Quebec were up 23 per cent; Ontario, 22 per cent; Prairie Provinces, 35 per cent and British Columbia, 49 per cent. Average daily sales for grocery and meat chains were 24 per cent higher in May, 1940, than in May, 1939.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for May, 1939 and 1940

27 Chain Companies

	May, 1939		May, 1940		Per cent change in Sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
Canada .....	1,281	8,154,561	1,104	10,271,707	+ 26.0
Quebec .....	251	1,699,188	208	2,093,317	+ 23.2
Ontario .....	709	4,769,574	609	5,805,067	+ 21.7
Prairie Provinces .....	197	988,915	177	1,334,555	+ 35.0
British Columbia .....	124	696,884	110	1,038,768	+ 49.1

Independent Stores

Dollar sales of 1,048 independent grocery and combination stores were 7 per cent higher in May, 1940 compared with May, 1939. Results on a geographical basis indicate that sales increases were recorded in every section of the country ranging from a substantial gain of 12 per cent in Saskatchewan to a gain of 4 per cent in British Columbia. Manitoba and the Maritimes reported increases of 9 per cent, Ontario and Alberta, 7 per cent, while Quebec sales were up by 6 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for May, 1939 and 1940

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
Maritimes .....	146	108	+ 9.2
Quebec .....	225	160	+ 6.3
Ontario .....	409	289	+ 6.7
Manitoba .....	73	50	+ 8.2
Saskatchewan .....	40	30	+ 11.9
Alberta .....	63	46	+ 7.4
British Columbia .....	92	52	+ 3.7
Canada .....	1,048	735	+ 6.9



1010719764

1. The purpose of this study is to determine the effect of the new tax law on the income of the individual. The study is based on the data collected from the 1980 tax returns. The results of the study are presented in the following table.

TABLE 1				
Income of the individual (in thousands of dollars)				
1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
100-150	100-150	100-150	100-150	100-150
150-200	150-200	150-200	150-200	150-200
200-250	200-250	200-250	200-250	200-250
250-300	250-300	250-300	250-300	250-300
300-350	300-350	300-350	300-350	300-350
350-400	350-400	350-400	350-400	350-400
400-450	400-450	400-450	400-450	400-450
450-500	450-500	450-500	450-500	450-500
500-550	500-550	500-550	500-550	500-550
550-600	550-600	550-600	550-600	550-600
600-650	600-650	600-650	600-650	600-650
650-700	650-700	650-700	650-700	650-700
700-750	700-750	700-750	700-750	700-750
750-800	750-800	750-800	750-800	750-800
800-850	800-850	800-850	800-850	800-850
850-900	850-900	850-900	850-900	850-900
900-950	900-950	900-950	900-950	900-950
950-1000	950-1000	950-1000	950-1000	950-1000

2. The purpose of this study is to determine the effect of the new tax law on the income of the individual. The study is based on the data collected from the 1980 tax returns. The results of the study are presented in the following table.

TABLE 2				
Income of the individual (in thousands of dollars)				
1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
100-150	100-150	100-150	100-150	100-150
150-200	150-200	150-200	150-200	150-200
200-250	200-250	200-250	200-250	200-250
250-300	250-300	250-300	250-300	250-300
300-350	300-350	300-350	300-350	300-350
350-400	350-400	350-400	350-400	350-400
400-450	400-450	400-450	400-450	400-450
450-500	450-500	450-500	450-500	450-500
500-550	500-550	500-550	500-550	500-550
550-600	550-600	550-600	550-600	550-600
600-650	600-650	600-650	600-650	600-650
650-700	650-700	650-700	650-700	650-700
700-750	700-750	700-750	700-750	700-750
750-800	750-800	750-800	750-800	750-800
800-850	800-850	800-850	800-850	800-850
850-900	850-900	850-900	850-900	850-900
900-950	900-950	900-950	900-950	900-950
950-1000	950-1000	950-1000	950-1000	950-1000