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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MARCH, 1942

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 70 of the larger wholesale houses in Canada averaged 19 per cent higher in March of this year than last and were up 11 per cent compared with February. Sales for the first quarter of the current year stand 19 per cent over the corresponding period a year ago. Quebec reported a marked gain of 38 per cent over March a year ago, while smaller gains were reported for other regions as follows: Maritime Provinces, 17 per cent; Ontario, 16 per cent; Prairie Provinces, 17 per cent; and British Columbia, 11 per cent.

Inventories carried by the wholesale grocery trade were valued 19 per cent higher at the end of March, 1942, than on the corresponding date of last year and were 1 per cent lower than the value of stocks reported on February 28, 1942. Stocks on hand at the beginning of March are normally about 43 per cent in excess of the volume of business transacted in that month. Stocks on hand at the beginning of March this year were 54 per cent in excess of the amount of business transacted during the month indicating that the stock position at the beginning of March, 1942, was above the normal position for this period of the year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms re-reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		
		March 1941	March 1942	March, 1942 over		Year to date 1942 1941
				March 1941	February 1942	
		\$	\$			
CANADA	70	12,238	14,588	+ 19.2	+ 11.3	+ 18.8
Maritimes	16	1,821	2,126	+ 16.7	+ 17.1	+ 16.0
Quebec	20	1,980	2,727	+ 37.7	+ 26.4	+ 22.9
Ontario	19	4,728	5,474	+ 15.8	+ 14.9	+ 18.2
Prairies	10	2,445	2,862	+ 17.0	+ 7.0	+ 18.6
British Columbia	5	1,265	1,400	+ 10.7	- 7.7	+ 17.9

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 1,012 chain store units operated by 29 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 18 per cent higher in March, 1942, than sales of 1,077 units operated by the same 29 firms in March a year ago. Average sales per store were \$13,731 in March, 1942, 25 per cent greater than the \$10,981 average for the same month of 1941.

Increases in various regions of the country were as follows: 22 per cent in Quebec, 15 per cent in Ontario, 18 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, and 21 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for March, 1941 and 1942

	March, 1941		March, 1942		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
		\$		\$	
CANADA	1,077	11,826,427	1,012	13,895,442	+ 17.5
Quebec	200	2,427,814	188	2,950,058	+ 21.5
Ontario	577	6,811,496	541	7,859,529	+ 15.4
Prairie Provinces ...	176	1,424,971	166	1,684,244	+ 18.2
British Columbia	124	1,162,146	117	1,401,611	+ 20.6

Independent Stores

Sales of 984 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores averaged 10 per cent higher in March of this year than last, all sections of the country excepting Saskatchewan contributing to the increase. Saskatchewan sales were unchanged from March a year ago while increases for other provinces stand at 5 per cent for British Columbia, 8 per cent for the Prairie Provinces, 9 per cent for Ontario, 11 per cent for Alberta, 13 per cent for Manitoba, and 14 per cent for Quebec.

Comparison of Sales Reported for March, 1941 and 1942

Division	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA	984	717	+ 9.7
Maritimes	142	96	+ 7.9
Quebec	211	168	+ 13.5
Ontario	382	274	+ 9.3
Manitoba	68	54	+ 12.9
Saskatchewan	44	26	Unchanged
Alberta	59	41	+ 10.7
British Columbia	78	58	+ 4.7



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Table of the independent countries in the world, showing the number of independent countries in each of the five continents, and the total number of independent countries in the world. The table is arranged in descending order of the number of independent countries in each continent. The total number of independent countries in the world is 120.

Table of the independent countries in the world, showing the number of independent countries in each of the five continents, and the total number of independent countries in the world.

Continent	Number of independent countries	Percentage of total	Number of dependent countries	Percentage of total
Asia	30	25.0%	10	8.3%
Africa	54	45.0%	10	8.3%
Europe	44	36.7%	10	8.3%
America	23	19.2%	10	8.3%
Oceania	14	11.7%	10	8.3%
Total	120	100.0%	40	33.3%