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CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION, JUNE, 1943

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

Dollar sales of 72 of the larger wholesale grocery houses in Canada were practically unchanged in June of this year compared with last and were 13 per cent higher than in the immediately preceding month of May. Sales for the first six months of 1943 averaged 3 per cent higher than in the corresponding period a year ago. A comparison of sales for June of this year and last on a regional basis show increases of 7 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 3 per cent in the Maritimes. Sales in British Columbia were unchanged from June, 1942, while decreases of 3 per cent and 11 per cent were recorded in Ontario and Quebec respectively.

Dollar value of inventories held by the wholesale grocery trade averaged 21 per cent lower at the end of June this year than on the corresponding date a year ago. June inventories were also down 5 per cent compared with May. Wholesale grocers' stocks at the end of May are normally 18 per cent higher than the volume of business realized in June. Inventories at the end of May, 1943, were only 1 per cent above the volume of June business indicating that the stock position in the wholesale grocery trade at the beginning of June was considerably below the normal situation for this time of year.

Wholesale Grocery Trade by Economic Divisions

Division	Number of firms reporting	Dollar Sales (add 000)		Per cent change		Year- to- date, 1943 1942
		June, 1942	June, 1943	June, 1943 over		
				June, 1942	May, 1943	
CANADA .....	72	20,358	20,240	- 0.6	+ 12.4	+ 2.6
Maritimes .....	15	2,415	2,480	+ 2.7	+ 8.6	+ 7.4
Quebec .....	21	3,445	3,063	- 11.1	- 0.7	+ 4.1
Ontario .....	19	6,543	6,366	- 2.7	+ 12.7	+ 6.4
Prairies .....	11	5,216	5,594	+ 7.2	+ 18.2	- 1.0
British Columbia.	6	2,738	2,737	0	+ 21.5	- 3.9

Retail Trade

Chain Stores

Sales of 887 chain store units operated by 24 chain companies in the food retailing field averaged 11 per cent lower in June, 1943, than sales of 916 units operated by the same 24 firms in June a year ago. Average sales per store were \$14,117 in June, 1943, 8 per cent lower than the \$15,352 average for the same month of 1942.

Sales decreased by 15 per cent in Quebec, 12 per cent in Ontario, 5 per cent in the Prairie Provinces and 2 per cent in British Columbia.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for June, 1942 and 1943

	June, 1942		June, 1943		Per cent change in sales
	No. Stores	Sales	No. Stores	Sales	
CANADA .....	916	\$ 14,062,001	887	\$ 12,521,704	- 11.0
Quebec .....	183	3,096,035	174	2,624,305	- 15.2
Ontario .....	534	7,890,822	513	6,934,087	- 12.1
Prairie Provinces.	104	1,691,778	106	1,612,650	- 4.7
British Columbia .	95	1,383,366	94	1,350,662	- 2.4

Independent Stores

Sales of 829 independent grocery or grocery and meat stores increased in dollar volume by 8 per cent in June, 1943, over the value of business transacted in the same month of last year. The increase was shared by all regions of the country, the following gains being recorded over June, 1942: Maritimes, 11 per cent; Quebec, 7 per cent; Ontario, 7 per cent; Manitoba, 13 per cent; Saskatchewan, 9 per cent; Alberta, 12 per cent; British Columbia, 7 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for June, 1942 and 1943

	No. stores reporting	No. reporting increase	Per cent change in sales
CANADA .....	829	639	+ 8.0
Maritimes .....	129	102	+ 10.9
Quebec .....	193	124	+ 7.0
Ontario .....	345	248	+ 6.9
Manitoba .....	59	53	+ 13.3
Saskatchewan .....	32	24	+ 8.9
Alberta .....	59	42	+ 11.8
British Columbia .....	72	46	+ 6.8



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THE FOLLOWING TABLES SHOW THE RESULTS OF THE 1981 CENSUS OF CANADA, BY SEX, AGE, MARITAL STATUS, AND ETHNIC ORIGIN. THE DATA ARE PRESENTED IN TWO SECTIONS, ONE FOR THE TOTAL POPULATION AND ONE FOR THE POPULATION OF EACH PROVINCE AND TERRITORY. THE TABLES ARE PREPARED BY THE STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY.

TABLE 1. POPULATION BY SEX, AGE, MARITAL STATUS, AND ETHNIC ORIGIN, 1981

SEX	AGE	MARITAL STATUS	ETHNIC ORIGIN
MALE	0-14	100	100
MALE	15-24	100	100
MALE	25-34	100	100
MALE	35-44	100	100
MALE	45-54	100	100
MALE	55-64	100	100
MALE	65-74	100	100
MALE	75+	100	100
FEMALE	0-14	100	100
FEMALE	15-24	100	100
FEMALE	25-34	100	100
FEMALE	35-44	100	100
FEMALE	45-54	100	100
FEMALE	55-64	100	100
FEMALE	65-74	100	100
FEMALE	75+	100	100