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## CURRENT TRENDS IN FOOD DISTRIBIUTION, JONE, 1945

Indexes reflecting current trends in food distribution in Canada have been published for some years, indexes of retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruits and vegetables sales forming components of the two regular monthly bulletins on retail and wholesale trade issued by the Merchandising and Services Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This series brings together in one report the information on retail grocery and wholesale grocery and fruit and vegetables 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 wholesale grocery nerchants in June, 1945 were raintained on a par with May and were 6 per cent higher than the volume of business transacted in June, 1944. Increases of 13 per cent in the Maritime Provinces and also in British Columbia exceeded by a considerable margin the gains recorded elsewhere. Quebec sales were up 7 per cent, Ontario, 3 per cent and the Prairie Provinces, 1 per cent.

The wholesale fruit and vegetable trade reported a marked increase of 23 per cent in dollar volume of business in the comparison between June of this year and last. The increase for Ontario alone was 22 per cent. Sales for the four western provinces combined were up by 20 per cent while the increase for the eastern part of the country comprising Quebec and the Maritime Provinces was 29 per cent. This major increase may be attributed in some degree to the lateness of the spring season and the consequent increase in imported merchandise sold at higher prices than that prevailing for domestic produce.

Inventories in the hands of wholesale grocers at the end of June this year were on a par with June 30th a year ago and were down by 4 per cont from the end of Nay, 1945. Stocks at the beginning of June are normally 20 per cent in excess of that month's requirements. Stocks on hand at the beginning of June this year were 5 per cent below the volume of June business indicating that the inventory position at the beginning of May was considerably below the normal situation for that period of the year.

## Wholesale Grocer: Trade by Economic Divisions

| Division | Number of firms reporting | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Dollar Sales } \\ & \text { (add 000) } \end{aligned}$ |  | Per cent change |  | $\begin{aligned} & \begin{array}{c} \text { Year-to- } \\ \text { date, } 1945 \end{array} \\ & \text { Yater-to } 1944 \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | June, 1944 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June, } \\ & 1945 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \frac{\text { June, }}{\text { June, }} \\ & 1944 \end{aligned}$ | $\frac{5 \text { over }}{\text { Lay }}$ |  |
| CANADA | 73 | 20,508 | 21,714 | + 5.9 | + 0.6 | + 7.8 |
| Maritimes | 15 | 2,774 | 3,146 | $+13.4$ | + 6.5 | + 9.6 |
| Quebec | 19 | 2,672 | 2,861 | + 7.0 | + 0.1 | + 5.3 |
| Ontario | 21 | 6,679 | 6,889 | + 3.2 | -3.5 | +10.2 |
| Prairies | 12 | 5,661 | 5,739 | $+1.4$ | - 3.1 | + 5.7 |
| British Columbia | - 6 | 2,722 | 3,080 | $+13.2$ | + 9.0 | + 9.8 |

## Wholosale Fruit and Vegotable Trado by Economic Divisions

Nivision

| Number |
| :---: |
| of |
| firms |
| reporting |

Sales in June, 1945 of 938 chain store units operated by 28 chain companies in the food retailing field were 8 per cent higher than sales of 965 units operated by the same 28 firms in June a year ago. The increase is not outstandinf, in view of the fact that there were five Saturdays in June this year and only four Saturdays in June a year ago. Average sales per store were \$18,509 in June, 1945, 11 per cent higher than the $\$ 16,654$ average for the same month of 1944 .

Chain food operators in the Prairie Provinces did 11 per cent more business in June of this year compared with last. Increases for British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario were closely grouped at 9,8 and 7 per cent respectively. The expansion in sales was on a reduced scale in the Maritime Provinces, where an increase of only 5 per cent was recorded.

Comparison of Stores and Sales for June, 1944 and 1945


The 8 per cent increase in sales of chain food stores was matched by a similar gain in those of independent food stores, on the basis of reports submittod by 1,226 businesses. Grocery stores, combination grocery and meat stores and meat markets are represented in the sample of reporting compenies.

Saskatchewan continued to lead other provinces with an increase of 14 per cent in the month under review. Gains of 10 per cent in Quebec and British Columbia were also prominent. Increases elsewhere ranged from 5 to 8 per cent.

Comparison of Sales Reported for June, 1944 and 1945

|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { No. } \\ & \text { stores } \\ & \text { reporting } \end{aligned}$ | No. reporting increase | Per cent change in sales |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CANADA | 1,226 | 880 | + 8.2 |
| Maritimes | 180 | 125 | +6.1 |
| quebec | 276 | 208 | +10.0 |
| Ontario............... | 403 | 275 | + 7.5 |
| Vlanitoba | 95 | 68 | +5.8 |
| Saskatchewan .......... | 57 | 51 | +14.3 |
| Alberta .............. | 104 | 63 | + 5.1 |
| British Columbia | 111 | 84 | +9.8 |


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