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MONTHLY RETAIL SALES IN COUNTRY GENERAL STORES, MARCH, 1938.

(Value of Turnover in Comparison with Previous Year)

Country general store sales were maintained at a slightly higher level in March this year than last, dollar volume of business for more than 700 reporting firms averaging 0.5 per cent above the amount recorded a year ago. Quebec reported an increase of 8 per cent over March last year and Manitoba was up by 5 per cent. An increase of 4 per cent in the eastern section of Ontario was modified by a smaller gain of 2 per cent in the western parts and a decline of 1 per cent in the northern, resulting in a net gain of 2 per cent for the province as a whole. Sales in British Columbia remained unchanged from a year ago. Declines below March, 1937, were reported for the other provinces, amounting to 2 per cent for the Maritimes and Alberta, and 8 per cent in Saskatchewan.

These percentage changes are based upon calendar-month totals with no allowances made for differences in the number of business days in different months. There were the same number of business days in March of this year as last.

Percentage Change in Country General Store Sales by Regions

Region	Per Cent Change in Sales			March, 1937		
	December 1937 1936	January 1938 1937	February 1938 1937	Number of stores reporting	Number reporting an increase	Per cent
Maritime Provinces	+ 6.6	+ 0.5	+ 6.4	87	714	- 2.1
Quebec, South North Total	+14.7 +16.7 +16.1	+10.0 + 3.7 + 5.7	+ 8.2 + 2.4 + 4.3	55 48 103	38 29 67	+ 7.2 + 7.7 + 7.5
Ontario, East North West	+ 9.2 + 7.3 + 7.0 + 7.8	+ 8.2 - 6.3 - 6.3 - 1.5	+ 2.8 - 0.2 - 6.5 - 1.9	49 39 58 146	29 18 39 67	+ 4.0 - 1.1 + 1.6 + 1.7
Manitoba	+13.3	+ 4.2	+13.1	53	39	+ 4.8
Saskatchewan, North South Total	- 6.8 - 9.4 - 7.8	- 3.9 - 0.9 - 2.8	+ 6.0 + 1.1 + 4.2	66 60 126	24 19 43	- 8.2 - 7.1 - 7.8
Alberta, North South Total	- 2.3 + 6.5 + 3.2	+ 0,5 + 2.1 + 1.5	+ 3.5 + 2.5 + 2.9	51 86 137	23 39 62	- 7.6 + 0.8 - 2.4
British Columbia	+ 6.3	+ 0.6	+ 4.8	56	32	- 0.1
CANADA	+ 6.6	+ 1.1	+ 3.7	708	364	+ 0.5

MAIL 1938

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