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## CENSUS OF MERCHANDISING AND SERYICE ESTABLISHENTS

Retail Merchandise Trade in the Maritime Provinces, 1938

Retail sales in the Maritime Provinces amounted to $\$ 178,578,000$ in 1938, a drop of 4.9 per cent from the sales of the previous year, but nevertheless a gain of 7.2 per cent on the sales of 1936. Direct comparison between 1938 and the low point reached in 1933 reveals a 37 per cent improvement although sales last year were still 9.7 per cent below the 1930 level. The index of sales for 1938 on the base 1930 equals 100 stands at 90.3 compared with 95.0 for 1937, 84.3 for 1936, 77.3 for 1935 and 65.8 for 1933.

Decreases were recorded in the sales of practically all lines of business. In the food group retail sales amounted to $438,060,000$ in 1938 compared with $\$ 38,632,000$ the previous year, a drop of 1.5 per cent. The index for the food group stands at 90.8 for 1938 compared with 92.1 for 1937, 85.1 for 1936 and 74.8 for 1933. Within the food group, grocery and combination stores had sales totalling : 31,201,000, a decline of 1.9 per cent from 1937, while sales of meat markets (including fish markets) amounted to $\$ 2,041,000$, an increase of 3.9 per cent over the previcus year. Sales of country general stores amounting to $\$ 27,236,000$ were down 2.9 per cent from $\$ 28,063,000$ the previous year.

Sales of the automotive group amounted to $32,185,000$ in 1938, a drop of 9.0 per cent from $\$ 35,383,000$ in 1937. Due to the marked increases of sales recorded by the automotive group in the preceding years, however, the index was well maintained. In 1935 the retail sales of the automotive group were 21.5 per cent greator than in 1934, the index being raised from 64.7 to 78.7 . In 1936 sal es for the group were up 20.9 per cent from the previous year, while the increase of 24.4 per cent in 1937 over 1936 raised the index for the group to 118.3 on the base 1930 equals 100 . The index for the automotive group stands at 107.6 for 1938; motor vehicle dealers normally account for 75 per cent of the total sales of the automotive group. In 1938 these amounted to $24,106,000$, a decline of 12.4 per cent from the sales of 1937. The index for motor vehicle dealers stands at 107.6 for 1938 compared with 122.8 for 1937, 95.9 for 1936 and 42.1 for 1933. Retail sales of filling stations, while not large in dollar value, increased 3.9 per cent in 1938 over 1937. The index for filling stations stands at 132.2 for 1938 compared with 127.2 for 1937, 114.4 for 1936 and 88.6 for 1933. Compared with other lines of business, the sales of filling stations have held up remarkably well.

Retail sales of the apparel group declined from "14,371,000 in 1937 to $\$ 13,445,000$ in 1938 , a drop of 6.4 per cent. The index for the apparel group stands at 80.0 compared with 85.5 for 1937 and 66.0 for 1933. Within the apparel group the sales of men's and boys' clothing and furnishings (including customs tailors) declined 7.4 per cent in 1938 from 1937; sales of women's apparel and accessories stores declined 5.2 per cent and shoe store sales declined 1.8 per cent.

Sales of the bullding materials group in 1938 were 6.5 per cent below sales for 1937, the index for the year standing at 83.4. Within this group the sales of hardware stores declined 6.0 per cent while rotail sales of lumber and building materials doalers were down 12.8 per cent. Sales of furniture stores were down 12.3 per cent; radio and music stores, 13.4 per cent; coal and wood yards, 2.3 per cont and drug stores, 2.8 per cent. There was little change in 1938 in the sal os volume
of government liquor stores. In 1937, however, sales of government liquor stores incroased 25.5 per cent over the previous year, while in 1936 there was an increase of 14.5 por cent over 1935. The index for govermment liquor stores stands at 120.7 for 1938, 120.3 for 1937, 95.9 for 1936 and 73.0 for 1933.

## Chain Stores and Sales

There were 68 chain store companies operating 518 unit stores in the Maritime Provinces in 1938 compared with 66 companies operating 507 stores in 1937. Sales rose from $30,771,400$ in 1937 to $\$ 31,375,200$ in 1938. Annual chain sales accounted for 17.6 per cent of the total sales of all retail stores in the Maritime Provinces in 1938. In 1937 chain sales accounted for 16.4 per cent of all retail sales, 15.8 per cent in 1936 and 15.1 per cent in 1935. Sales of government liquor stores are included in the chain figures and it is largely due to their sharply increased salos in 1935, 1936 and 1937 that the ratio of chain sales to total seles has advanced. The proportion of grocery and combination store business transacted by chains has varied but little during recent years. In 1938 there were 15 different chain companies in this field operating 132 unit stores with sal es totalling $\$ 6,045,800$ or 19.4 per cent of the annual business of all such stores including both chains and independents. In 1937 there were 15 different chains operating 137 unit stores with sales of $\$ 6,129,500$ or 19.3 per cent of the total business of all similar stores. The variety store continued to be a typical chain store field of endeavour in 1938 obtaining 95.7 per cent of the total annual sal os of both chain and indepondent variety stores. Throe drug store chain companies operating 23 unit stores with sales of \$722,800 accounted for 14.1 per cent of the annual business of all drug stores.

## Prince Edward Island

Rotail sal as in Prince Edward Island amounted to 11,122,000 in 1938 compared with $11,748,000$ in 1937, "11,351,000 in 1936, \$9,901,000 in 1935, $\$ 8,905,000$ in 1933 and $\$ 13,773,700$ in 1930 . It will be seen that sales in 1938 were 5.3 per cent lower than in 1937 but were still 26 per cent above the low period of 1933. The index of sales for 1238 on the base 1930 equals 100 stands at 80.7 compared with 85.3 for 1937.

Doclining sales were recorded in practically all lines of business. Sales of the food group of retail stores declined 2.7 por cont, the index of sal es falling from 92.4 in 1937 to 89.8 in 1938. Within this group the sales of grocery and combination stores were down 3.1 per cent and sales of meat markots (inoluding fish markets) were down 0.6 per cent. Country general stores recorded little change but sales of the general merchandise group, including departmental stores, dry goods stores, general merchandise stores and variety stores, were 4.8 per cent less than in 1937. Sales of the automotive group, including motor vehicle dealers, accessories, tires and batteries stores, filling stations and garages were down 14.5 per cent although within the group the sales of filling stations alone wore 3.4 per cent greater than in 1937. The 1938 sales of the apparel group were 4.9 per cent below tho previous year, the building materials group was down 2.7 per cent, furniture and household group, down 12.1 per cent, and restaurants, cafeterias and eating places, down 14.8 per cent. Sales of jewellery stores wore up 5.8 per cont but sales of farmers' supply stores fell off 19.2 per cont, coal and wo od yards, 4.0 per cent and drug stores, 1.7 per cent.

Nova Scotia

The promise of 1937, in which year retail sales in Nova Scotia almost reached the 1930 level, was not borne out in 1938. Sales fell to a dollar value of $\$ 95,819,000$, a decline of 3.5 per cont from the sales of the previous year. The index for 1938 stands at 96.3 compared with 99.8 for 1937 , 88.7 for $1936,81.6$ for 1935 and 69.2 for 1933.

There was a decline of 1.1 per cent in the sales of the food group which were valued at $\$ 23,286,000$ in 1938 and $\$ 23,546,000$ in 1937. The index for the group stands at 93.9 for 1938 compared with 94.9 for $1937,87.2$ for 1936 and 75.5 for 1933. Declines recorded by other groups of retail stores were as follows: general merchandise group (including department stores, dry goods stores, general merchandise stores and variety stores), 3.6 per cent; automotive group (including motor vehicle dealers, dealers in accessories, tires and batteries, filling stations and garages), 7.0 per cent; apparel group (including men's and boys' clothing and furnishings stores, family clothing stores, women's apparel and accessory stores and shoe stores), 6.1 per cent; building materials group (including nardware stores, lumber and building materials dealers and electrical shops), 4.8 per cent; furniture and household group (including furniture stores, household appliance stores and other home furnishings stores), 10.9 per cent.

Sales of country general stores in 1938 also declined 2.0 per cent from the previous year. Farmers' supply stores declined 2.4 per cent; coal and wood yards, 3.7 per cent; drug stores, 4.2 per cent and jewellery stores, 5.7 per cent; office, school and store supply and equipment dealers, 3.7 per cont. On the other hand, sales of tobacco and news stands were up 2.4 per cent.

## Now Brunswiak

Sales of retail stores in New Brunswick in 1938 were 6.5 per cent less than in the previous year, amounting to $\$ 71,637,000$ in value compared with $\$ 76,656,000$ in 1937. The index of sales stands at 84.9 for $1938,90.9$ for 1937 , 79.4 for 1936, 73.1 for 1935 and 62.1 for 1933.

Retail sales of the stores comprising the food group amounted to $\$ 12,857,000$ which was 2.0 per cent below the value of 1937 sales. The index for the group as a whole stands at 85.8. Sales of the general merchandise group fell 10.8 per cent from $\$ 14,806,000$ in 1937 to $\$ 13,200,000$ in 1938 , the index for the group standing at 70.7 in 1938. The sales of the automotive group, which, as a group has shown remarkable recovery since 1933, were 11.2 per cent below the sales of 1937. Due to the large increase in the years immediately preceding 1938, however, the index stands at 107.8. Sales of the apparel group also fell off in 1938, being 7.2 per cent lower than in the previous year. Sales of the building materials group and furniture and household group declined 8.9 per cent and 10.7 per cent respectively.

Among other retail stores whose 1938 sales recorded decreases from 1937 were country general stores, down 4.7 per cent; restaurants, cafeterias and eating places, 0.7 per cent; book stores, 1.1 per cent; drug stores, 1.4 per cent; office, school and store supplies and equipment dealers, 3.2 per cent and tobacco stores and stands, 2.9 per cent.

## Scope of Report

The figures for 1930 given in this report are taken from the results of the Census of lierchandising and Service Establishments which was taken in connection with the Decennial Consus of 1931. Indexes of sales for years 1931 to 1938 have been computed from annual surveys of retail trade for which returns are received from all chain store companies and from a representative number of independent stores. Including chains and independents, reports were secured from 2,555 stores in the Maritime Provinces and it is estimated that these transacted 72 per cent of the total retail trade of this division. The indexes of sales computed from returns from these reporting firms have been applied to the total sales figures for 1930 in order to give the most accurate estimate possible of the total retail trade in later years. It should, thurefore, be understood that the salos figures given in this report for years subsequant to 1930 are estinates of the total trade and do not relate to the business of only those stores included in the sample covered each year.

It should also bo clcarly understood that all retail sales figures given in this report relatc to stores grouped according to kind of business and not to commodity sales. Grocery storos scll a number of lines of goods in addition to strictly grocery itoms. On the other hand, grocories are sold in many kinds of stores in addition to those units classified as grocery stores.

Table l.--Total Net Sales and Sales Indexes, for Kinds of Business Groups and Selected Kinds of nusiness

| Kind of Business | 1930 |  | Estimated Sales(2) |  | Indexes of Retail Sales$(1930-100)$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \bar{\gamma} \text { of } \\ & \text { Change, } \\ & 1938 / 37 \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Number (1) | Total Net |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Of Stores | Sales | 1937 | 1938 | 1930 | 1231 | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 | 1935 | 1936 | 1937 | 1936 |  |
|  |  | \% | + | \% |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total, All | 11,749 | 127,665,500 | 187,740,000 | 178,578,000 | 100.0 | 87.6 | 71.3 | 65.8 | 73.3 | 77.3 | 84.3 | 95.0 | 90.31 | - 4.9 |
| Food Group | 5,071 | 41,924,100 | 38,632,000 | 38,060,000 | 100.0 | 92.1 | 80.3 | 74.8 | 79.1 | 81.8 | 85.1 | 92.1 | 90.8 | - 1.5 |
| Country General Stores | 1,736 | 30,002,900 | 28,063,000 | 27,236,000 | 100.0 | 84.7 | 72.0 | 69.6 | 77.7 | 80.3 | 86.5 | 93.5 | 50.8 | - 2.9 |
| General Merchandise Grour | 255 | 32,423,100 | 29,564,000 | 27,398,000 | 100.0 | 87.3 | 69.9 | $6 \% .2$ | 73.6 | 76.5 | 83.3 | 91.2 | 84.5 | - 7.3 |
| Automotive Group | 1,038 | 29,912,900 | 35,383,000 | 32,185,000 | 100.0 | 75.8 | 56.6 | 50.0 | 64.7 | 78.7 | 95.1 | 118.3 | 107.6 | - 9.0 |
| Apparel Group.. | 819 | 16,813,400 | 14,371,000 | 13, 4 , 5,000 | 100.0 | 86.4 | 69.5 | 66.0 | 71.8 | 73.3 | 77.3 | 85.5 | 80.0 | - 6.4 |
| Building Materials Group | 288 | 8,301,600 | 7,409,000 | 6,926,000 | 100.0 | 80.5 | 60.9 | 53.7 | 64.5 | 66.4 | 75.5 | 89.2 | 83.4 | - 6.5 |
| Furniture and Household Group ........ Restaurants Cafeterias and Ratinc | 246 | 6,379,100 | 5,264,000 | 4,687,000 | 100.0 | 83.8 | 58.0 | 49.7 | 62.1 | 63.9 | 71.5 | 82.5 | 73.5 | - 11.0 |
| Restaurants, Cafeterias and sating <br>  | 414 | 2,820,700 | 2,499,000 | 2,481,000 | 100.0 | 88.8 | 70.3 | 66.5 | 71.1 | 75.2 | 80.7 | 83.6 | 02.0 | - 0.7 |
| Other Retail Stores ..... | 1,813 | 22,288,000 | 18,372,000 | 17,950,000 | 100.0 | 91.0 | 77.2 | 69.3 | 74.1 | 73.5 | 75.7 | 82.4 | S0. 5 | - 2.3 |
| Govermment Liquor Stores | . 69 | 5,799,700 | 8,183,000 | 8,210,000 | 100.0 | 128.2 | 96.2 | 73.0 | 76.5 | 83.8 | 95.9 | 120.3 | 120.7 | $+0.3^{\prime}$ |
| Grocery and combination stores ...... | 3.327 | 33,515,700 | 31,810,000 | 31,201,000 | 100.0 | 92.4 | 81.9 | 76.9 | 81.6 | 84.5 | 37.8 | 94.9 | 93.1 | - 1.0 |
| Meat markets (including fish markets) | 374 | 2,826,400 | 1,964,000 | 2,041,000 | 100.0 | 83.6 | 66.1 | 59.2 | 59.3 | 62.4 | 65.5 | 69.5 | 72.2 | $+3.91$ |
| Deparment stores | 20 | 24,212,700 | 20,507,000 | 18,627,000 | 100.0 | 85.8 | 67.1 | 65.7 | 71.0 | 72.6 | 77.6 | 84.7 | 76:9 | - 9.2 |
| Motor vehicle dealer | 235 | 22,409,500 | 27,510,000 | 24,106,000 | 100.0 | 71.1 | 47.8 | 42.1 | 59.4 | 75.5 | 95.9 | 122.8 | 107.6 | - 12.1. |
| Filling stations (3) ............... | 440 | 3,803,000 | 4,837,000 | 5,028,000 | 100.0 | 97.7 | 99.0 | 88.6 | 100.2 | 110.8 | 114.4 | 127.2 | 1-32.2 | $+\quad 3.9$ |
| Men's and boys' clothing and furnishing stores (includes custom tailors) Women's apparel and accessories | 340 | 5,505,900 | 4,740,000 | 4,391,000 | 100.0 | 81.6 | 64.5 | 63.2 | 70.1 | 72.8 | 77.1 | 86.1 | 79.8 | 7.9 $-\quad 7.4$ |
| stores .................................... | 233 | 3,295,300 | 2,154,000 | 2,052,000 | 100.0 | 88.1 | 69.3 | 58.6 | 61.5 | 60.4 | 61.7 | 66.4 | 63.0 | - 5.2 |
| Shoe stores | 116 | 2,467,800 | 2,002,000 | 1,965,000 | 100.0 | 81.5 | 68.9 | 68.6 | 71.7 | 73.1 | 74.7 | 81.1 | 79.6 | - 1.8 |
| Hardware stores | 134 | 4,081,900 | 3,857,000 | 3,625,000 | 100.0 | 84.2 | 65.3 | 59.3 | 69.6 | 72.8 | 81.2 | 94.5 | 88.8 | - 6.0 |
| Lumber and building material dealers. | 37 | 2,521,300 | 1,956,000 | 1,706,000 | 100.0 | 73.3 | 51.8 | 44.6 | 53.0 | 54.1 | 63.3 | 77.6 | 67.7 | - 12.8 |
| Furniture stores | 76 | 3,405,100 | 3,193,000 | 2,799,000 | 100.0 | 85.8 | 63.6 | 56.4 | 68.5 | 70.6 | 80.4 | 93.8 | 82.2 | - 12.3 |
| Radio and music stores | 76 | 1,787,200 | 756,000 | 655,000 | 100.0 | 81.1 | 47.6 | 38.4 | 42.3 | 40.5 | 40.9 | 42.3 | 36.6 | - 13.4 |
| Coal and wood yards | 120 | 6,494,100 | 5,034,000 | 4,916,000 | 100.0 | 93.9 | 85.2 | 80.0 | 82.2 | 78.1 | 75.7 | 77.5 | 75.7 | - 2.3 |
| Drug stores ............................. | 282 | 5,699,100 | 5,269,000 | 5,123,000 | 100.0 | 93.7 | 83.5 | 73.7 | 77.2 | 79.3 | 83.1 | 92.5 | 89.9 | - 2.8 |

 of firms. The total number of stores in operation in these later years is not known.
(2) In some instances, figures for years subsequent to 1930 have been revised.
(3) Sales figures for filling stations for years subsequent to 1930 have been estimated from data on gasoline consumption and retail prices.


Table 3.--Comparison of Total Sales and Chain Store Sales, by Provinces


Nois: In some instancos, figures for years suksequent to 1930 have been revised.


(2) In some instances, figures for years subsequent
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(3) Sales figures for filling stations for years subsequent to 1930 have been estimated from data on gasoline consumption and retail prices.

Note: Group totals may include figures for classifications not separately shown.

Table 5.--NOVA SCOTIA - Total Net Sales and Sales Indexes, by Kinds of Business

(1), (2) and (3): See footnotes on Page 8.

MARITIME PROVINCES - RETAIL MERCHAN DISE TRADE, 1938
Table 5.--NOYA SCOTIA - Total Net Sales and Sales Indexes, by Kinds of Business (Cont'd.)

 of firms. The total number of stores in operation in these later years is not known.
(2) In some instances, figures for years subsequent to 1930 have been revised.
(3) Sales figures for filling stations for years subsequent to 1930 have been estimated from data on gasoline consumption and retail prices.
(4) Govermment liquor stores not inciuded.

Note: Group totals may include figures for classifications not separately shown.

Table 6.--NEW BRUNSMICK - Total Net Sales and Sales Indexes, by Kinas of Business

(1), (2) and (3): See footnotes on page 10.

Table 6. - NEW BRUNSWICK - Total Net Sales and Sales Indexes, by Kinds of Business (cont'd.)

| Kind of Business | $1930$ |  | Estimated Sales(2) |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Indexes of Retail Sales } \\ (1930=100) \end{gathered}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $\%$ ofChange,$1930 / 7$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | of Stores | Sales | 1937 | 1938 | 1930 | 1931: | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 | 1935 | 1936 | 1937 | 1938 |  |  |
| Furniture and Household Group | 87 | 2,592,300 | 2,224,000 | 1,985,000 | 100.0 | 85.7 | 53.9 | 44.2 | 59.6 | 63.8 | 74.5 | 85.8 | 76.6 | - | 10.7 |
| Furniture stores | 35 | 1,678,000 | 1,484,000 | 1,299,000 | 100.0 | 83.5 | 57.9 | 49.3 | 61.3 | 66.2 | 73.2 | 88.4 | 77.4 | - | 12.5 |
| Eating Places | 174 | 1,204,300 | 1,074,000 | 1,066,000 | 100.0 | 88.8 | 70.2 | 66.4 | 71.7 | 75.6 | 60.5 | 89.2 | 83.5 | - | 0.7 |
| Other Retail Stores(4) | 641 | 8,445,000 | 7,203,000 | 7,125,000 | 100.0 | 93.3 | 81.1 | 71.3 | 75.3 | 74.3 | 77.4 | 85.3 | 84.4 | - | 1.1 |
| Farmers' supply stores | 40 | 759,100 | 671,000 | 690,000 | 100.0 | 92.2 | 72.7 | 68.8 | 76.8 | 75.1 | 76.4 | 88.4 | 90.9 | + | 2.8 |
| Book stores ........... | 15 | 350,500 | 279,000 | 276,000 | 100.0 | 81.0 | 63.9 | 59.9 | 64.2 | 67.0 | 71.3 | 75.6 | 78.7 |  | 1.1 |
| Coal and wood yards | 53 | 2,426,100 | 1,825,000 | 1,827,000 | 100.0 | 93.7 | 84.0 | 75.9 | 79.2 | 75.7 | 73.8 | 75.2 | 75.3 | + | 0.1 |
| Drug stores ....... | 115 | 2,331,000 | 2,430,000 | 2,396,000 | 100.0 | 103.6 | 94.3 | 80.4 | 83.8 | 85.6 | 91.5 | 104.2 | 102.8 | - | 1.4 |
| Jewellery stores | 37 | 502,900 | 409,000 | 413,000 | 100.0 | 76.4 | 64.2 | 56.3 | 65.2 | 68.8 | 75.4 | 81.3 | 82.1 | + | 1.0 |
| Office and school and store supplies and equipment dealers | 11 | . 297,600 | 253,000 | 245,000 | 100.0 | 66.9 | 43.0 | 39.3 | 52.4 | 56.1 | 65.2 | 85.0 | 82.3 | - | 3.2 |
| Tobacco stores and stands ................ | 43 | 608,500 | 456,000 | 443,000 | 100.0 | 102.2 | 87.1 | 74.8 | 70.2 | 66.2 | 70.7 | 74.9 | 72.8 | - | 2.9 |
| Miscellaneous kinds of business <br> (includes secondhand stores). | 310 | 967,000 | 746,000 | 692,000 | 100.0 | 83.8 | 69.6 | 60.0 | 64.8 | 60,9 | 66.9 | 77.1 | 71.6 |  | 7.2 |
| Government liquor stores ....... | 37 | 4,801,600 | 3.535,000 | 3,525,000 | 100.0 | 78.2 | 57.8 | 44.9 | 47.5 | 49.5 | 56.0 | 73.6 | 73.4 | - | 0.3 |

 of firms. The total number of stores in operation in these later years is not known.
(2) In some instances, figures for years subsequent to 1930 have been revised.
(3) Sales figures for filling stations for years subsequent to 1930 have been estimated from data on gasoline consumption and retail prices.
(4) Government liquor stores not included.

Note: Group totals may include figures for classifications not separately shown.

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