

M&S Timeline



1884 Michael Marks, a Jewish immigrant opens a market stall, Marks' Penny Bazaar, in Kirkgate market, Leeds. It is a success and he expands to other towns in Yorkshire.

1894 Marks goes into partnership with Thomas Spencer, they each invest £300.

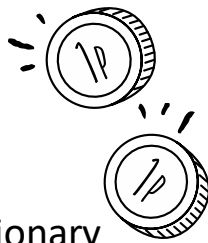
1903 Marks & Spencer is registered as a private limited company (Ltd). Tom Spencer retires.

1904 Marks & Spencer open their first permanent shop in Leeds.

1905 Tom Spencer dies. **1907** Michael Marks dies.

1916 Simon Marks becomes Chairman of Marks & Spencer.

1920s Simon begins buying goods directly from suppliers – a revolutionary decision.



1926 Marks & Spencer Limited becomes a public limited company (Plc), funding the transformation from penny bazaars to high street superstores.

1928 Simon introduces the St. Michael trademark as a guarantee of quality on products made to M&S specifications.

1933 A staff welfare service is set up to provide pensions, subsidised staff canteens, health & dental services, hairdressing and even camping holidays!

1934 M&S is the first British retailer to set up its own research lab to develop new fabrics.

1940s M&S textile technologists work with government to set quality standards for wartime utility clothing.

1948 M&S launch a Food Technology department to work with suppliers, producers and farmers.

M&S Timeline continued

1950s New synthetic fabrics mean M&S can make the latest fashions affordable and advertise them in our first on-screen cinema adverts.

1960s M&S franchise stores open, exporting the M&S brand and products abroad.

1970s We focus on convenience, creating boil in the bag, frozen and microwave food ranges.

1974 Indian and Chinese foods are introduced.

1975 The first M&S-owned stores (not franchises) open in Europe in France and Belgium.

1980s We launch our first calorie-controlled convenience food range.

1986 We open our first 'out of town' store at the Metro Centre, Gateshead.

1992 Percy Pigs are launched!

1999 Online shopping is introduced via our website.

2001 The first Simply Food stores open in south west London.

2004 The first of our famous 'It's not just food...It's M&S food' adverts screens on TV.

2007 Plan A (our eco and ethical corporate social responsibility plan) launches, aiming to become the world's most sustainable major retailer.

2018 Easy Dressing adaptive clothing launches for children with additional needs.

2019 Plant Kitchen, our first vegan convenience food range, arrives in stores.

2020 Our partnership with Ocado begins. Customers can order our full food range online for the first time.