

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.

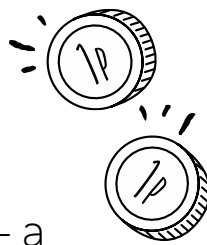
1928 Simon introduces the St. Michael trademark as a guarantee of quality on products made to M&S specifications.

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.