

Not as Bad as Last Time

Contributed by TNS
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EDWARD GARNER, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, TNS WORLDPANEL, comments: "The latest TNS Worldpanel grocery market share figures, published today for the 12 weeks ending 9th September 2007, show sales through grocers growing at an annual rate of 4%. It is encouraging that this is up on the 3% seen in the last report – the spending slowdown may be not as sharp as feared. Continuing the recent pattern, Tesco, Asda and Sainsbury have all exceeded the market growth rate and have therefore all lifted their shares compared with a year ago. Morrisons growth rate remains low at 2% and the share has dipped from 11.0% a year ago to 10.8% now. Angus McIver, the newly appointed board-level Marketing Director, will be keen to raise the profile of the new "Fresh Choice for You" positioning. Iceland continues its recovery from the turnover declines it suffered in 2004/2005 with a solid 8% growth this time. Similarly, there is strong growth for the "Hard" discounters with their combined share lifting from 5.3% a year ago to 5.6% now. The aftermath of the Kwik Save collapse is still being felt. Somerfield is still suffering, posting a turnover decline of 7% - similar to last time.