

9.—Circulating Media in the Hands of the General Public, calendar years, 1900-31  
—concluded from p. 763.

Year.	Dominion Notes, \$1, \$2, \$4, \$5 and fractionals. <sup>2</sup>		Totals.		
	Amount. <sup>1</sup>	Per capita.	Amount.	Per capita.	Index Number per capita. <sup>3</sup>
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1900.....	9,997,044	1-88	65,119,251	12-24	100-0
1901.....	10,595,169	1-97	70,152,727	13-06	106-7
1902.....	11,442,138	2-07	75,615,089	13-67	111-7
1903.....	12,321,173	2-17	82,099,447	14-63	119-5
1904.....	12,813,912	2-20	85,393,003	14-66	119-8
1905.....	13,499,894	2-25	88,804,740	14-82	121-1
1906.....	14,797,483	2-40	97,554,017	15-81	129-3
1907.....	15,973,227	2-53	105,111,373	16-68	136-3
1908.....	15,615,082	2-41	100,430,588	15-47	126-4
1909.....	16,235,774	2-43	104,280,702	15-58	127-3
1910.....	18,098,111	2-62	115,513,429	16-70	136-4
1911.....	21,497,429	2-98	138,171,943	17-79	145-3
1912.....	27,277,341	3-70	145,469,387	19-75	161-3
1913.....	29,067,278	3-86	153,360,822	20-37	166-4
1914.....	26,964,063	3-61	151,253,711	19-66	160-6
1915.....	25,881,570	3-29	150,819,823	19-18	156-7
1916.....	27,857,543	3-47	175,640,779	21-86	178-6
1917.....	31,221,311	3-82	215,249,981	26-31	214-9
1918.....	34,146,836	4-10	258,252,022	31-01	253-3
1919.....	35,492,643	4-19	283,182,874	33-40	272-8
1920.....	37,272,725	4-22	296,353,737	34-33	280-5
1921.....	33,825,582	3-85	258,748,277	29-44	240-5
1922.....	31,886,024	3-58 <sup>4</sup>	228,542,645	25-62 <sup>4</sup>	209-3 <sup>4</sup>
1923.....	33,387,155	3-71 <sup>4</sup>	234,043,480	25-98 <sup>4</sup>	212-3 <sup>4</sup>
1924.....	34,332,178	3-76 <sup>4</sup>	230,601,549	25-22 <sup>4</sup>	206-0 <sup>4</sup>
1925.....	32,175,284	3-46 <sup>4</sup>	227,540,412	24-49 <sup>4</sup>	200-1 <sup>4</sup>
1926.....	32,675,174	3-46 <sup>4</sup>	231,603,330	24-51 <sup>4</sup>	200-2 <sup>4</sup>
1927.....	33,689,474	3-50 <sup>4</sup>	235,788,751	24-47 <sup>4</sup>	199-9 <sup>4</sup>
1928.....	35,093,625	3-57 <sup>4</sup>	242,793,303	24-69 <sup>4</sup>	201-7 <sup>4</sup>
1929.....	36,811,966	3-67 <sup>4</sup>	247,362,478	27-67 <sup>4</sup>	201-6 <sup>4</sup>
1930.....	36,431,368	3-57 <sup>4</sup>	228,126,713	22-35 <sup>4</sup>	182-6 <sup>4</sup>
1931.....	36,465,462	3-52	211,262,353	20-36	166-3

<sup>1</sup>Yearly averages.

<sup>2</sup>Dominion notes of larger denominations in hands of banks are not included, but provincial notes, amounting to \$27,602 in 1930, are included.

<sup>3</sup>Per capita circulation in 1900=100.

<sup>4</sup>Figures supplied by the Mint as at Dec. 31 of each year, are the net issues of coinage since 1858 (see Table 4 of this chapter, pp. 758-9).

<sup>5</sup>Per capita figures for the years 1922-30 inclusive are worked out on the basis of revised populations (see p. 110).

## Section 2.—Banking in Canada.

**Historical.**—In the early days of banking one of the chief functions of banks was to issue promissory notes payable to the bearer on demand; where the bank's credit was good these notes passed freely from hand to hand, creating the chief circulating medium in the Canadas. In some cases in the Maritime Provinces bank notes were preferred to those issued by the Provincial Governments.

The need of a uniform circulating medium in Canada was felt by the merchants of Montreal toward the end of the eighteenth century, and the prospectus of a proposed bank of issue to be known as the Canada Banking Company was issued in 1792. This scheme, however, depended chiefly on the co-operation of British capital and was frustrated by the outbreak of war with France. A second project in 1808 for the incorporation of a Bank of Canada failed to secure the assent of the Legislature of Lower Canada.