

25.—Amount of Exchanges of the Clearing Houses of Chartered Banks in Canada for the calendar years 1927-31.

Clearing House.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Brandon.....	31,888,238	38,724,824	35,408,096	28,763,171	21,016,599
Brantford.....	63,699,310	72,529,308	76,801,737	58,564,628	48,891,417
Calgary.....	436,380,347	666,517,374	697,716,733	451,673,700	319,987,617
Chatham.....	40,639,402	43,568,049	41,712,000	32,815,670	27,388,592
Edmonton.....	286,632,841	351,325,045	358,961,724	293,550,993	237,943,012
Fort William.....	51,979,079	59,688,926	54,159,627	48,543,156	34,553,840
Halifax.....	160,582,907	185,678,418	197,639,723	174,720,962	150,986,615
Hamilton.....	296,401,045	337,852,407	350,328,242	310,976,401	247,414,617
Kingston.....	43,841,462	46,174,085	46,688,914	44,029,362	36,367,267
Kitchener.....	60,999,516	66,254,228	71,569,948	63,410,494	52,182,195
Lethbridge.....	31,865,310	40,774,009	38,164,110	29,064,557	20,849,308
London.....	167,784,864	180,871,281	183,917,716	168,047,076	145,511,234
Medicine Hat.....	18,017,757	26,616,621	26,445,424	17,303,187	12,319,717
Moncton.....	45,999,129	49,385,815	53,623,924	51,039,289	38,911,582
Montreal.....	6,771,872,658	8,072,843,473	8,279,414,820	6,917,957,798	5,773,473,678
Moose Jaw.....	69,893,412	73,000,603	72,493,575	69,359,874	37,751,169
New Westminster.....	41,565,486	44,775,067	50,789,127	43,641,522	30,103,790
Ottawa.....	374,560,769	431,183,370	443,895,304	372,686,750	323,349,845
Peterborough.....	46,265,622	48,837,555	51,283,226	47,113,834	38,026,819
Prince Albert.....	21,206,563	25,131,852	27,339,869	22,887,338	19,749,381
Quebec.....	319,324,254	361,754,089	375,097,842	339,596,344	285,294,714
Regina.....	259,731,291	312,089,797	337,838,121	262,351,215	192,876,885
Saint John.....	134,755,457	150,715,381	152,472,005	124,224,187	115,510,903
Sarnia.....	35,507,682	37,865,490	45,109,018	36,465,041	25,489,715
Saskatoon.....	111,929,059	138,687,497	146,354,851	117,775,186	89,784,777
Sherbrooke.....	47,348,680	50,673,178	54,664,846	45,958,551	37,092,630
Sudbury.....	-	-	27,208,321	57,927,754	36,319,067
Toronto.....	6,484,986,731	7,674,864,018	7,721,761,164	6,936,838,536	5,184,895,419
Vancouver.....	924,784,859	1,109,375,640	1,245,625,052	994,131,725	795,227,626
Victoria.....	119,552,543	134,095,845	151,236,015	125,397,653	95,261,092
Windsor.....	243,913,678	280,032,888	298,142,566	214,689,007	150,917,406
Winnipeg.....	2,794,538,267	3,443,151,986	3,393,339,677	2,517,469,597	2,253,265,522
Tota's.....	30,568,437,223	34,554,338,119	35,105,158,317	30,091,874,458	22,227,602,919

Bank clearings, though generally regarded as a leading barometer of business conditions, are defective in that they record only inter-bank transactions—transactions through which one bank becomes either the debtor or the creditor of another. They do not record the numerous transactions in which the transfer of value is made within a single bank, as, for example, where the purchaser and the seller of values that are paid for by cheque carry their accounts in the same bank. As the number of separate banks has in recent years been steadily diminishing through amalgamations, there being only 10 in December, 1931, as compared with 18 in 1923, inter-bank transactions are bearing a steadily decreasing proportion to the total of business transacted, a fact which goes far to explain the relative smallness of the increase in bank clearings from 1926 to 1929 and makes the extent of the decrease in 1931, as shown in Table 25, open to question.

Bank Debits.—Since bank clearings have ceased to be a satisfactory measure of general business, the Bureau of Statistics in 1923 took up with the Canadian Bankers' Association the question of securing a record of bank debits, i.e., of all cheques charged against accounts at all banks. The Bankers' Association agreed to secure from January, 1924, the monthly aggregate figures of the amount of cheques charged to accounts at all banking offices situated in the clearing-house cities of Canada, and the figures of cheques charged to accounts (bank debits) are given for the years 1927-1931 in Table 26. The Weyburn Security Bank, which operated in southern Saskatchewan, voluntarily added a total of all cheques charged to accounts at all of its branches.

It will be noted, as establishing the need of the newer record, that bank debits for 1931 decreased 12.5 p.c. as compared with those of 1927, while bank clearings in