

Earnings of Canadian Banks.—The chartered banks of Canada are for the most part Dominion-wide institutions, doing business in all parts of the country. Their earnings, therefore, reflect with very considerable accuracy the fluctuations of general business.

19.—Net Profits of Canadian Banks and Rates of Dividend Paid, for Their Business Years Ended 1935-40

NOTE.—These figures are not strictly comparable owing to variations from year to year in the practices of individual banks and between banks. With the exception of La Banque Provinciale du Canada, the profits for 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939 and 1940 are shown after deducting Dominion and provincial government taxes.

Bank	1935		1936		1937	
	Net Profits	Dividend Rate	Net Profits	Dividend Rate	Net Profits	Dividend Rate
	\$	p.c.	\$	p.c.	\$	p.c.
Bank of Montreal.....	3,005,212	8	3,181,501	8	3,408,328	8
Bank of Nova Scotia.....	1,834,174	12	1,926,686	12	1,982,140	12
Bank of Toronto.....	806,391	10	1,141,810	10	1,156,372	10
Banque Provinciale du Canada.....	400,843	6	402,678	6	444,410	6
Canadian Bank of Commerce	3,389,031	8	2,909,124	8	2,934,117	8
Royal Bank of Canada.....	4,340,522	8	3,504,241	8	3,711,379	8
Dominion Bank.....	901,556	10	951,277	10	976,838	10
Banque Canadienne Nationale.....	915,790	8	727,935	8	774,228	8
Imperial Bank of Canada....	1,208,079	10	962,813	10	967,977	10
Barclays Bank (Canada)....	¹	—	¹	—	¹	—
Totals, Net Profits.....	16,801,598	—	15,708,065	—	16,355,789	—
	1938		1939		1940	
	Net Profits	Dividend Rate	Net Profits	Dividend Rate	Net Profits	Dividend Rate
	\$	p.c.	\$	p.c.	\$	p.c.
Bank of Montreal.....	3,398,390	8	3,462,446	8	3,435,941	8
Bank of Nova Scotia.....	1,980,769	12	2,033,333	12	1,941,330	12
Bank of Toronto.....	1,163,716	10	1,324,229	10	1,294,549	10
Banque Provinciale du Canada.....	450,427	6	457,173	6	436,684	6
Canadian Bank of Commerce	2,648,975	8	2,938,105	8	3,009,035	8
Royal Bank of Canada.....	3,696,233	8	3,724,842	8	3,526,894	8
Dominion Bank.....	960,121	10	802,296	10	958,788	10
Banque Canadienne Nationale.....	780,240	8	783,184	8	812,588	8
Imperial Bank of Canada....	961,342	10	966,258	10	961,017	10
Barclays Bank (Canada)....	¹	—	¹	—	¹	—
Totals, Net Profits.....	16,040,213	—	16,491,866	—	16,373,826	—

¹ Not reported.

Branches of Chartered Banks.—During the period from 1881 to 1901, the number of chartered banks doing business in Canada under the Bank Act remained almost the same (36 in 1881 and 1891, and 34 in 1901), but during the present century there has been in banking, as in industry, an era of amalgamations, the number of banks having dropped to 25 in 1913 and to 10 in 1931. That this has been far from involving a curtailment of banking facilities is seen in Table 9, which shows the development of the banking business since 1867, and in Table 20, which compares the number of branch banks existing in Canada at different periods, and shows a growth from 123 at Confederation to 4,083, inclusive of sub-agencies, at Dec. 31, 1930. Since then some unprofitable branches have been closed and the total has declined to 3,311, exclusive of 134 branches and agencies in other countries, as at Dec. 31, 1940.