

12.—Loans, According to Class, Made by Chartered Banks in Canada, and Outstanding as at Oct. 31, 1943-45

NOTE.—Figures for earlier years will be found in the corresponding table of previous editions of the Year Book.

Class of Loan	1943	1944	1945
	\$	\$	\$
Provincial government.....	5,322,470	5,358,057	11,484,285
Municipal government and school district.....	48,006,438	33,236,575	20,219,900
Agricultural—			
Loans to farmers, cattlemen and fruit growers.....	49,829,095	57,685,220	71,277,960
Loans to grain dealers, grain exporters and seed merchants.....	245,923,181	209,280,135	109,526,961
Totals, Agricultural.....	295,752,276	266,965,355	180,804,921
Financial—			
Call loans and other accommodation to brokers and bond dealers.....	39,447,194	56,813,397	130,617,338
Loans to trust, loan, mortgage, investment and insurance companies, and other financial institutions.....	27,089,437	27,615,373	34,182,234
Loans to individuals against approved stocks and bonds not otherwise classified.....	100,024,759	125,033,226	172,542,182
Totals, Financial.....	166,561,390	209,461,996	337,341,754
Merchandising, wholesale and retail.....	100,044,572	122,199,056	153,883,437
Manufacturing—dealers in lumber, pulpwood, and products thereof.....	43,425,645	52,830,841	61,445,295
Other manufacturing of all descriptions.....	259,377,198	201,576,162	189,210,529
Mining.....	9,967,090	12,731,923	11,472,036
Fishing, including packers and curers of fish.....	8,314,336	11,558,311	11,445,196
Public utility, including transportation companies.....	13,392,496	6,317,757	7,823,631
Building—contractors and others for building purposes.....	45,505,354	39,047,702	47,578,121
Charitable, religious and educational institutions—churches, parishes, hospitals, etc.....	7,692,424	6,243,283	6,388,526
Other.....	74,424,403	82,032,417	100,369,928
Grand Totals.....	1,077,786,092	1,049,568,435	1,139,467,559

Cheque Payments.—The great bulk of monetary transfers in Canada and most other countries is made through the banks, payments in notes and coin being of relatively minor proportions. It is estimated that about 80 p.c. of our business transactions are financed by cheques. It follows that the amount of the cheques paid through the banks and charged to deposit accounts is widely used as a measure of the volume of financial transactions.

Statistics regarding these payments were formerly secured through the clearing houses or meeting places for representatives of the various banks in the principal cities and towns. There, they daily presented for payment the notes of other banks and the cheques drawn on other banks which had been cashed at their branches. The first clearing house was established at Halifax, N.S., in 1887. To-day, clearing houses are operating in 33 leading Canadian cities.

Bank Debits.—The statistics of bank clearings, the publication of which has been discontinued in Canada, have one great fault as a means of estimating the aggregate amount of cheque payments within Canada and, through it, the volume of business transactions. It records only dealings between two separate banks, ignoring cheque payments completed within one bank. These inter-banks payments have become relatively less important during the last twenty-five years with the number of separate banks declining from 18 in 1923 to 10 in 1931, at which standing it has remained.