

These considerations led to an agreement by which the Canadian Banker's Association secured, from January, 1924, the monthly aggregate figures of the amount of cheques charged to accounts at all banking offices situated in the clearing house centres of Canada.

Reflecting the active economic conditions occasioned by six years of war, the cheques cashed by the banks reached a historical maximum during 1945. The transactions of 1944, the preceding high point, were exceeded by nearly 13 p.c. The advance was continuous year by year from 1938 to 1945, the gain over the pre-war period having been 121 p.c. While statistics of cheques cashed have been collected since 1924, it is evident that the standing of 1945 was greater than in any other year. The transactions of this nature amounted to \$46,670,000,000 in 1929, the culmination of the last major economic cycle, about 32 p.c. less than the \$68,385,000,000 recorded for 1945.

The average of six strategic factors, indicating the trend of economic conditions was greater in 1945 than in any other year. Five indexes used in this connection rose to a higher position than in 1944.

The advance in cheques cashed in 1945 over 1938 was general in each of the five economic areas. The percentage gain in the Prairie Provinces during the last two years over the pre-war period was pronounced. The total in 1945 at \$11,562,000,000 was nearly 153 p.c. greater than in 1938. The relative importance of the Prairie Provinces in this respect rose from 14.8 p.c. in 1938 to 16.9 p.c. in 1945.

13.—Cheques Cashed at the Clearing-House Centres of Canada, by Individual Centres, 1941-45

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

Clearing-House Centre	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Maritime Provinces—					
Halifax.....	532,366,368	601,963,388	672,762,400	707,345,558	850,393,003
Moncton.....	154,748,067	184,165,605	207,076,041	231,547,502	257,723,155
Saint John.....	253,597,717	289,607,897	363,924,420	388,767,904	445,474,600
Totals, Maritime Provinces.	940,712,152	1,075,736,890	1,243,762,861	1,327,660,964	1,553,590,758
Quebec—					
Montreal.....	9,904,907,872	11,392,049,905	13,761,657,086	15,441,044,068	17,486,992,168
Quebec.....	1,050,000,221	1,231,242,129	1,476,503,724	1,633,078,085	1,648,626,349
Sherbrooke.....	113,758,487	127,801,593	135,720,215	148,165,207	173,714,466
Totals, Quebec.....	11,068,666,580	12,751,093,627	15,373,881,025	17,222,287,360	19,309,332,983
Ontario—					
Brantford.....	163,477,014	208,615,177	232,033,285	239,304,256	253,506,245
Chatham.....	124,725,615	119,967,266	132,107,887	144,553,172	171,783,508
Fort William.....	110,017,118	122,471,043	131,640,784	158,928,865	171,655,637
Hamilton.....	1,105,198,410	1,311,159,162	1,331,492,619	1,375,804,380	1,360,759,670
Kingston.....	105,513,274	136,325,283	155,048,257	166,553,903	179,185,124
Kitchener.....	218,414,890	261,214,568	277,983,952	288,161,663	324,490,838
London.....	497,464,748	543,181,606	594,565,226	667,833,039	819,218,952
Ottawa.....	3,334,459,483	6,306,952,488	7,041,856,827	7,702,608,563	7,810,891,068
Peterborough.....	114,549,341	141,611,607	148,557,997	149,188,780	166,315,914
St. Catharines.....	140,738,965 ¹	243,221,277	263,819,718	246,493,553	241,951,191
Sarnia.....	105,820,585	132,311,935	164,342,335	185,769,583	231,195,323
Sudbury.....	96,812,765	104,074,081	103,585,400	112,651,722	127,466,405
Toronto.....	11,354,826,471	11,540,621,984	13,091,307,830	14,445,952,616	18,760,599,503
Windsor.....	742,770,161	964,436,773	1,013,360,025	1,009,140,966	924,342,237
Totals, Ontario.....	18,214,788,841	22,136,164,250	24,681,702,142	26,902,944,561	31,543,361,615

¹Eight-Month figure only. First reported May, 1941