

In the more detailed analyses of fire insurance dealt with in Table 2, the statistics cover only the operations of companies with Dominion registration, but, as shown in Table 1, such companies account for approximately 90 p.c. of the insurance in force.

1.—Fire Insurance in Canada, 1945

Item	Gross Insurance Written	Net in Force at End of Year	Net Premiums Written	Net Losses Incurred
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Dominion Licensees.....	14,533,602,054	15,054,848,612	58,335,728	30,585,357
Provincial Licensees—				
(a) Provincial companies within provinces by which they are incorporated.....	793,020,276	1,367,302,367	5,380,910	2,788,060
(b) Provincial companies within provinces other than those by which they are incorporated....	129,214,003	124,412,777	824,340	425,161
Totals, Provincial Licensees.....	922,234,279	1,491,715,144	6,205,250	3,213,221
Lloyds, London.....	188,184,085	210,464,955	1,359,590	837,517
Grand Totals.....	15,644,020,418	16,757,028,711	65,900,568	34,636,095

Subsection 2.—Historical and Operational Statistics of Dominion Fire Insurance Companies

Historical Statistics of Dominion Fire Insurance.—The report of the Superintendent of Insurance for the year ended Dec. 31, 1945, shows that at that date there were 269 fire insurance companies under Dominion registration; of these, 59 were Canadian, 73 were British, and 137 were foreign companies. In 1875, the first year for which authentic records were collected by the Department of Insurance, 27 companies operated in Canada—11 Canadian, 13 British and 3 United States. The proportionate increase in the number of British and foreign companies from 59 p.c. to 78 p.c. of the total number is a very marked point of difference between the fire and life insurance businesses in Canada, the latter being carried on very largely by Canadian companies.

The trend in the average rate payable for fire insurance has been generally downward, although the increases in fire losses experienced in the years from 1941 to 1945 have had the effect of checking that tendency. The increase in value of insurable buildings and their contents tends to increase fire insurance premiums in spite of the trend of the average rate. Another factor that has tended to increase the amount of premiums during the past few years is that, in the years before 1939, fire insurance companies were prohibited under provincial legislation from insuring mercantile or manufacturing risks for terms exceeding one year, but since that time they have been free to insure such property without a term limitation. The figures indicate that this privilege was not taken advantage of to any great extent until 1941.