

Cheque Payments.—A monthly record of the amounts of cheques charged to customer accounts at all chartered bank offices in 35 major clearing-house centres of Canada is available from 1924. Except for a minor setback in 1938, the value of cheques cashed shows a continuously upward trend from 1932, the low point of the depression years. The total of \$221,289,954,000 in 1958 was a record, 616 p.c. greater than in 1938; the increase equalled the gain in gross national product during the same period. The advance was well distributed throughout Canada's five economic areas. British Columbia showed the largest gain in this comparison with an increase of 739 p.c. The Prairie Provinces were second with an advance of 654 p.c., followed in order by Ontario, the Atlantic Provinces and Quebec.* As compared with 1957, four of the five areas showed gains, with Ontario accounting for nearly 65 p.c. of the \$15,938,000,000 advance.

Value of cheques cashed in 28 centres was higher in 1958 than in 1957. Payments in the two leading centres reached all-time peaks, Toronto advancing nearly 12 p.c. and Montreal over 5 p.c. In the same comparison Winnipeg rose 16.5 p.c. and Vancouver declined nearly 3 p.c.

* St. John's, Nfld., was included in the 1958 figure but not in 1938 data. Excluding this centre in 1958 the ranking would be: British Columbia, the Prairie Provinces, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces.

16.—Cheques Cashed at 35 Clearing-House Centres, 1954-58

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

Clearing-House Centre	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Atlantic Provinces	3,483,572,588	3,623,885,796	4,136,063,557	4,253,883,344	4,438,573,264
Halifax.....	1,578,537,898	1,627,402,746	1,900,368,542	1,862,262,193	1,952,996,188
Moncton.....	516,387,794	558,648,038	616,097,610	610,987,505	644,872,678
Saint John.....	686,419,892	720,696,563	824,915,065	974,094,965	974,038,472
St. John's.....	702,227,004	717,138,449	794,682,340	806,538,681	866,665,926
Quebec	42,853,000,654	47,931,766,648	57,635,780,762	60,153,465,596	63,318,151,553
Montreal.....	38,498,287,577	43,262,348,510	52,524,281,929	54,937,929,994	57,779,113,688
Quebec.....	3,946,839,332	4,220,646,837	4,575,848,864	4,675,308,837	4,994,969,283
Sherbrooke.....	407,873,745	448,771,301	535,649,989	540,226,765	544,068,582
Ontario	65,614,571,762	71,973,447,183	84,580,096,136	92,469,365,362	102,798,608,161
Brantford.....	494,781,493	529,527,130	596,455,633	587,964,512	611,025,605
Chatham.....	403,893,774	425,388,521	448,947,214	552,228,607	639,882,625
Cornwall.....	214,915,773	292,898,906	387,278,729	405,239,116	400,904,549
Fort William.....	130,230,256	354,323,721	410,549,615	455,892,329	458,694,532
Hamilton.....	3,175,436,695	3,556,484,589	4,179,292,551	4,355,968,082	4,681,253,378
Kingston.....	366,274,647	419,087,713	464,435,514	449,613,360	499,922,445
Kitchener.....	766,279,900	817,143,240	940,310,341	978,856,453	1,050,153,291
London.....	2,047,498,306	2,055,087,653	2,279,949,005	2,489,582,356	2,756,333,193
Ottawa.....	3,415,300,005 ¹	3,267,767,785 ¹	3,567,496,334 ¹	3,823,157,651 ¹	4,823,536,910 ¹
Peterborough.....	368,850,304	380,474,408	515,640,907	533,262,032	534,560,585
St. Catharines.....	616,343,148	683,520,885	780,623,214	795,132,217	800,628,561
Sarnia.....	434,253,776	476,917,287	552,812,970	571,839,628	589,935,036
Sudbury.....	444,396,796	497,174,554	580,450,567	641,458,123	613,036,685
Toronto.....	50,646,604,608	55,628,552,603	66,301,163,713	73,497,632,863	82,217,905,492
Windsor.....	1,909,512,281	2,589,098,188	2,574,689,829	2,331,538,033	2,120,835,274
Prairie Provinces	21,155,325,487	25,008,924,359	30,706,483,084	32,060,426,593	34,490,157,168
Brandon.....	184,748,103	191,777,756	217,917,059	222,033,280	229,039,246
Calgary.....	4,985,475,389	5,415,909,240	7,280,076,762	8,319,489,021	7,646,109,483
Edmonton.....	3,609,993,451	4,051,760,277	4,728,775,559	4,876,156,389	5,149,338,883
Lethbridge.....	344,029,413	354,898,604	410,410,718	421,533,161	441,664,205
Medicine Hat.....	142,905,140	146,543,311	176,626,478	193,144,298	201,480,020
Moose Jaw.....	311,252,949	295,191,500	324,438,043	340,909,600	392,210,021
Prince Albert.....	160,153,483	155,489,736	165,300,168	185,407,182	204,350,582
Regina.....	2,297,905,822	2,395,122,040	2,885,106,529	3,233,572,111	3,622,192,049
Saskatoon.....	701,960,040	708,209,073	773,856,439	849,665,271	971,923,570
Winnipeg.....	11,416,901,697	11,294,022,822	13,572,495,329	13,418,516,280	15,631,849,109
British Columbia	11,956,325,458	12,812,853,961	15,231,472,672	16,621,305,755	16,244,463,967
New Westminster.....	608,576,723	673,630,786	716,803,680	742,204,569	824,007,009
Vancouver.....	9,752,576,977	10,398,019,050	12,579,751,243	13,523,017,398	13,143,565,802
Victoria.....	1,595,171,758	1,741,204,125	1,934,917,749	2,356,083,788	2,276,891,156
Totals	148,062,795,949	161,350,877,947	192,239,896,211	205,558,446,650	221,289,954,113

¹ Includes some debits reported in preceding years.