

Cheque Payments.—A monthly record of the value of cheques charged to customer accounts at all chartered bank offices in 35 major clearing-house centres of Canada is available from 1924. During the ten-year period 1954-63, the total value of cheques cashed in these centres showed a gain of 143.3 p.c., an advance well distributed throughout the five economic areas. Quebec reported the largest gain with an increase of 153.9 p.c. followed by Ontario with 147.2 p.c., the Prairie Provinces with 135.1 p.c., the Atlantic Provinces with 112.6 p.c., and British Columbia with an advance of 109.7 p.c.

All the reporting centres with the exception of Victoria, B.C., Sarnia, Ont., and Medicine Hat, Alta., reported increases in 1963 over 1962. The largest advances in this comparison were made by Winnipeg, Man., with a gain of 25.3 p.c., Edmonton, Alta., with one of 23.3 p.c., St. John's, Nfld., with 18.5 p.c., Windsor, Ont., with 16.8 p.c. and Halifax, N.S., with 14.7 p.c.

17.—Cheques Cashed at 35 Clearing-House Centres, 1962 and 1963

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

Clearing-House Centre	1962	1963	Clearing-House Centre	1962	1963
	\$'000	\$'000		\$'000	\$'000
Atlantic Provinces	6,509,096	7,405,754	Ontario—concluded		
Halifax.....	3,101,706	3,557,104	Sarnia.....	761,867	745,363
Moncton.....	771,911	819,463	Sudbury.....	792,746	812,918
Saint John.....	1,352,215	1,508,102	Toronto.....	121,733,430	130,999,231
St. John's.....	1,283,264	1,521,085	Windsor.....	2,517,840	2,939,769
Quebec	97,851,664	108,813,868	Prairie Provinces	48,301,500	56,777,845
Montreal.....	88,211,662	98,803,788	Brandon.....	271,465	289,517
Quebec.....	8,818,728	9,092,942	Calgary.....	11,415,990	12,291,349
Sherbrooke.....	821,273	917,138	Edmonton.....	7,850,912	9,311,561
Ontario	149,812,492	162,200,060	Lethbridge.....	580,068	616,173
Brantford.....	791,851	855,872	Medicine Hat.....	295,133	282,610
Chatham.....	665,473	756,246	Moose Jaw.....	422,339	424,312
Cornwall.....	476,467	519,027	Prince Albert.....	253,269	257,849
Fort William.....	500,329	544,409	Regina.....	5,326,695	5,727,082
Hamilton.....	6,709,167	7,429,937	Saskatoon.....	1,265,700	1,361,303
Kingston.....	627,367	709,932	Winnipeg.....	20,919,929	26,206,089
Kitchener.....	1,580,719	1,796,074	British Columbia	23,089,746	25,069,589
London.....	4,184,759	4,759,177	New Westminster.....	19,602,381	21,679,909
Ottawa.....	6,765,125	7,472,755	Vancouver.....	3,487,365	3,389,680
Peterborough.....	615,616	696,514	Victoria.....		
St. Catharines.....	1,089,736	1,162,836	Totals	325,564,498	360,267,116

Subsection 2.—Government and Other Banking Institutions

There are three distinct types of savings banks in Canada in addition to the savings departments of the chartered banks and of trust and loan companies: (1) the Post Office Savings Bank, in which deposits are a direct obligation of the Government of Canada; (2) Provincial Government savings banking institutions in Ontario and Alberta, where the depositor becomes a direct creditor of the province; and (3) two important savings banks in the Province of Quebec—the Montreal City and District Savings Bank and La Banque d'Économie de Québec—established under federal legislation and reporting monthly to the federal Department of Finance. In addition, co-operative credit unions encourage savings among low-income classes and extend small loans to their members.

Post Office Savings Bank.—The Post Office Savings Bank was established under the Post Office Act of 1867 (SC 1867, c. 10) to "enlarge the facilities now available for the deposit of small savings, to make the Post Office available for that purpose, and to give the direct security of the nation to every depositor for repayment of all money deposited by him together with the interest due thereon". Branches of the Government of Canada's