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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

FINANCE STATISTICS BRANCH

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MUNICIPAL STATISTICS

Bonded Indebtedness of Urban and Rural  
Municipalities

By Provinces

1919 - 1923

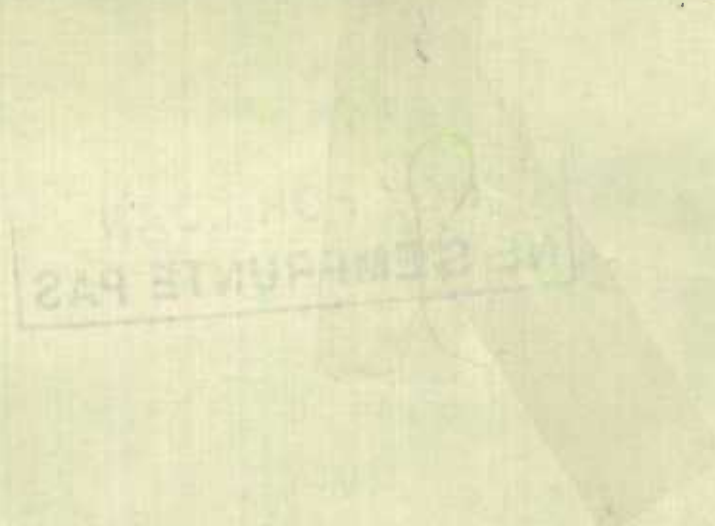
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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
FINANCE STATISTICS BRANCH  
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In view of the public interest in government finance, the Bureau has prepared the present bulletin dealing with the bonded indebtedness of the municipalities of Canada.

The increase in public indebtedness during recent years has not been confined to the Dominion and provincial governments alone. There are over 4,000 municipal governing bodies, with borrowing powers, in Canada classified into, (A) cities, towns and villages representing the urban areas, and (B), rural municipalities, districts and counties, representing the rural areas.

For earlier years provincial reports do not in all instances record the municipal borrowings, but those provinces for which information is available show that a large increase in municipal bonded debt has taken place. Taking the year 1914 as a basis and comparing the figures with those for 1923, which are the latest available for all provinces, the bonded indebtedness of the municipalities of Quebec increased from \$121,174,868 to \$214,260,791; those of Ontario from \$195,357,291 to \$376,512,002; those of Saskatchewan from \$33,804,192 to \$51,709,772; those of Alberta from \$41,656,482 to \$70,999,611, and those of British Columbia from \$92,561,475 to \$96,273,987.

There are of course new municipalities created from time to time, and their activities and development account for a certain portion of the growth of bonded liability, while older municipalities also, especially urban municipalities, have largely increased their population in the last decade. Between 1911 and 1921 the urban municipalities of Canada increased their population from 3,280,964 to 4,352,402, or by nearly 33 per cent, while rural municipalities increased from 3,933,696 to 4,436,361 or by 12.8 per cent.

The present report consists of four tables, Table 1 shows the populations as estimated by the municipalities reporting to their respective provincial governments for each year from 1919 to 1923, also the total and per capita bonded indebtedness of all classes of municipalities. Table 2 shows the total bonded indebtedness of urban and rural municipalities by classes, together with totals for all classes for all provinces combined, for each year from 1919 to 1923. Table 3 shows in detail, the bonded debt of municipalities by classes, for each province, in the years 1919 to 1923. Table 4 shows the estimated populations of the provinces also the total and per capita bonded debt of urban as well as rural classes of municipalities.

In comparing the classes of municipalities as between provinces, it must be borne in mind that the municipal systems of the several provinces vary with regard to the erection and incorporation of different kinds of municipalities, as for example in British Columbia, where eight out of thirty-three cities have a population of 1,000 or less, while town municipalities do not exist. Again, in Prince Edward Island, there is no system of rural municipalities, the provincial government administering all public loans and borrowings other than those made by the incorporated urban municipalities which number one city and six towns. The statistics of population and total as well as per capita indebtedness apply only to the City of Charlottetown and the towns of Summerside and Montague. The towns of Alberton, Kensington and Georgetown had no bonded debt, while no information is available for Souris.

Finally, in New Brunswick the municipalities do not report very systematically to the provincial government and incomplete returns largely account for fluctuations and seeming decreases of debt in the years under review. In these circumstances no attempt is made to show per capita municipal indebtedness in New Brunswick.

Table 1.- Populations and Total and Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness of All Classes of Municipalities by Provinces, years 1919-1922.

		1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Prince Edward Island -						
Population 1/		15,934	15,934	15,934	15,934	15,934
Total Bonded Indebtedness 1/	\$	970,300	1,086,500	1,202,200	1,254,900	1,290,800
Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness	\$	60.88	68.19	75.45	78.76	81.01
Nov. Scotia -						
Population 2/		523,837	523,837	523,837	523,837	523,837
Total Bonded Indebtedness	\$	17,863,881	19,192,462	22,451,743	23,511,759	24,248,782
Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness	\$	34.10	36.64	42.86	44.94	46.29
New Brunswick -						
Population 3/						
Total Bonded Indebtedness	\$	11,128,467	10,841,466	7,578,567	10,025,633	7,974,362
Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness	\$					
Quebec -						
Population		2,486,500	2,503,548	2,538,916	2,557,738	2,626,397
Total Bonded Indebtedness	\$	171,168,650	190,204,326	194,877,251	207,883,993	214,260,791
Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness	\$	68.84	75.97	76.76	81.28	81.58
Ontario -						
Population		2,621,785	2,649,936	2,738,407	2,792,482	2,817,890
Total Bonded Indebtedness	\$	243,226,877	269,727,271	317,613,283	349,276,606	376,512,002
Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness	\$	92.77	101.79	115.98	125.08	133.61

Note:- 1/ Census of 1921 populations for Charlottetown, Summerside and Montague.

2/ Census of 1921 population.

3/ Returns for New Brunswick are so incomplete that it would be misleading to show per capita figures.



Table 1.- Populations and Total/Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness of all Classes of Municipalities by Provinces, years 1919-1923.

		1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Manitoba -						
Population		507,442	541,466	552,701	573,209	564,518
Total Bonded Indebtedness	\$	55,562,788	57,820,588	65,463,239	68,811,040	73,908,963
Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness	\$	109.50	106.79	118.44	120.03	130.92
Saskatchewan -						
Population		794,328	814,236	726,899	729,118	793,241
Total Bonded Indebtedness	\$	39,585,388	34,989,751	35,040,336	52,787,655	51,719,648
Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness	\$	49.84	42.97	48.21	72.40	65.20
Alberta -						
Population		2/ 590,000	2/ 620,000	1/ 588,454	1/ 588,454	505,403
Total Bonded Indebtedness	\$	66,870,464	57,205,275	53,429,558	60,832,650	70,999,611
Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness	\$	113.34	92.27	90.80	103.38	140.48
British Columbia -						
Population		374,740	383,380	398,085	400,375	400,863
Total Bonded Indebtedness	\$	94,741,615	96,107,911	97,495,984	98,761,630	96,273,987
Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness	\$	252.82	250.69	244.91	246.67	240.17

Note:- 1/ Census of 1921 population

2/ These figures are from the Alberta Vital Statistics Report.

Table 2.- Bonded Indebtedness of Each Class of Urban and Rural Municipality for all Provinces combined, years 1919-1923

	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cities	570,235,145	596,400,624	639,595,803	687,764,730	723,071,201
Towns	78,676,136	81,388,735	88,013,212	97,348,076	101,948,018
Villages	741,446	710,043	652,097	557,678	557,676
Total Urban Municipalities	649,652,727	678,499,402	728,261,112	785,670,484	825,576,895
Rural Municipalities	17,266,141	21,279,364	26,544,281	43,799,329	46,214,402
Districts	22,160,489	22,857,901	23,842,662	24,175,080	24,794,937
Municipal Districts	73,094	99,712	99,833	90,788	78,940
County Councils	231,678	108,500	159,236	142,637	194,536
Counties	11,734,101	14,330,671	16,245,037	19,297,548	20,329,236
Total Rural Municipalities	51,465,503	58,676,148	66,891,049	87,505,382	91,612,051
Total All Municipalities, Urban and Rural	701,118,230	737,175,550	795,152,161	873,175,866	917,188,946

TABLE 3.- BONDED INDEBTEDNESS OF MUNICIPALITIES BY CLASSES FOR EACH PROVINCE,  
Years 1919-1923.

	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Prince Edward Island 1/					
Cities	843,100	924,600	1,042,100	1,092,100	1,128,300
Towns	127,000	161,900	160,100	162,800	162,500
Total All Municipalities	970,100	1,086,500	1,202,200	1,254,900	1,290,800
Nova Scotia -					
Cities	8,542,106	9,222,016	11,515,916	12,189,516	12,613,866
Towns 2/	8,198,555	8,515,146	9,614,160	9,935,265	10,201,152
Counties	1,123,220	1,455,300	1,321,667	1,416,978	1,433,764
Total All Municipalities	17,863,881	19,192,462	22,451,743	23,541,759	24,248,782
New Brunswick 4/ -					
Cities	7,602,407	8,256,620	5,595,821	7,306,470	6,620,210
Towns	2,893,400	2,066,100	1,464,000	1,849,100	1,306,900
Counties	632,660	518,746	518,746	870,063	47,252
Total All Municipalities	11,128,467	10,841,466	7,578,567	10,025,633	7,974,362
Quebec -					
Cities	146,706,369	164,600,766	169,690,341	179,331,391	185,881,650
Towns	20,985,250	21,980,692	21,129,018	23,451,119	23,087,239
County Councils	231,678	108,500	159,236	142,637	194,536
Counties 3/	3,245,353	3,514,368	3,898,656	4,958,846	5,097,366
Total All Municipalities	171,168,650	190,204,326	194,877,251	207,883,993	214,260,791
Ontario -					
Cities	190,848,817	210,469,968	246,627,178	266,304,269	287,048,092
Towns 3/	34,423,817	37,328,734	43,481,113	49,135,776	53,020,070
Rural Municipalities	11,221,375	13,086,312	16,999,024	21,784,900	22,692,986
Counties	6,732,868	8,842,257	10,505,968	12,051,661	13,750,854
Total All Municipalities	243,226,877	269,727,271	317,613,283	349,276,606	376,512,002

Note:- 1/ The statistics shown represent the City of Charlottetown and the towns of Summerside and Montague only.

2/ Dartmouth Ferry bonds not included.

3/ Including villages.

4/ Yearly returns are incomplete.



TABLE 3.- BONDED INDEBTEDNESS OF MUNICIPALITIES BY CLASSES FOR EACH PROVINCE,  
Years 1919-1923.

	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Manitoba -					
Cities	47,900,713	48,305,654	53,875,874	57,619,139	59,571,998
Towns	2,679,597	2,309,628	3,035,073	2,262,255	3,438,899
Villages	86,893	96,416	101,074	29,816	90,957
Rural Municipalities	4,895,585	7,108,890	8,451,218	8,899,830	10,807,109
Total All Municipalities	55,562,788	57,820,588	65,463,239	68,811,040	73,908,963
Saskatchewan -					
Cities	3,512,569 1/2	27,615,010 1/2	27,452,960 1/2	31,977,457 1/2	31,275,998 1/2
Towns	5,387,708	5,784,151	6,031,758	7,265,003	7,356,231
Villages	535,930	506,428	461,579 1/2	430,596 1/2	373,112
Rural Municipalities	1,149,181	1,084,162	1,094,039 2/3	13,114,599 2/3	12,714,307 1/2
Total All Municipalities	39,585,388	34,989,751	35,040,336	52,787,655	51,719,642
Alberta -					
Cities	62,697,938	53,855,980	50,142,291	57,357,838	67,452,037
Towns	3,980,809	3,242,384	3,097,990	3,286,758 1/2	3,375,027 1/2
Villages	118,623	107,199	89,444	97,266 1/2	93,607
Municipal Districts	73,094	99,712	99,833	90,788	78,940
Total All Municipalities	66,870,464	57,205,275	53,429,558	60,832,650	70,999,611
British Columbia -					
Cities	72,581,126	73,250,010	73,653,322	74,586,550	71,479,050
Districts	22,160,429	22,857,901	23,842,662	24,175,020	24,794,937
Total All Municipalities	94,741,615	96,107,911	97,495,984	98,761,630	96,273,987

Note:- 1/ Net debenture debt.

2/ Including rural telephone debt.



Table 4.- Populations, Total and Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness, of Urban and Rural Municipalities by Provinces for the year 1923.

Province	Population		Total Bonded Indebtedness		Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Prince Edward Island	1/ 15,934	-	1,290,800	-	81.01	-
Nova Scotia	2/ 227,038	2/ 296,799	22,815,018	1,433,764	100.49	4.83
New Brunswick	3/ -	3/ -	7,927,110	47,252	3/ -	3/-
Quebec	1,428,372	1,198,025	208,968,889	5,291,902	146.30	4.42
Ontario	1,761,865	1,056,025	340,068,162	36,443,840	193.02	34.51
Manitoba	284,678	279,840	63,101,854	10,807,109	221.66	38.62
Saskatchewan	234,950	558,291	39,005,341	12,714,307	166.02	22.77
Alberta	239,433	265,970	70,920,671	78,940	296.20	.30
British Columbia	247,183	153,680	71,479,050	24,794,937	289.17	161.34

Note:- 1/ Census of 1921 populations for Charlottetown, Summerside and Montague.

2/ Census of 1921 population.

3/ Returns for New Brunswick are so incomplete that it would be misleading to show per capita figures.

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