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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE  
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
FINANCE STATISTICS BRANCH

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REPORT  
on the  
CONDENSED INDEBTEDNESS  
of  
URBAN & RURAL MUNICIPALITIES  
in  
CANADA  
1927

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FINANCE STATISTICS BRANCH  
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Dominion Statistician: R.H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S. (Hon.), F.R.S.C.  
Chief, Finance Statistics Branch: Colonel J. R. Munro.

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BONDED INDEBTEDNESS OF URBAN AND RURAL MUNICIPALITIES.

1927.

Previous bulletins issued by the Bureau on the subject of the bonded indebtedness of the municipalities in Canada covered the years 1919 to 1926. The present compilation covering the year 1927 gives the latest available statistics for all the provinces.

There are 4,131 municipalities in Canada divided into urban and rural classes, the first represented by cities, towns and villages and the second by rural municipalities, districts and counties. Under the control of the municipal departments of provinces wherein they are situated, each of these municipalities has borrowing powers of a greater or less degree.

The bulletin is made up of five tables, the first showing the numbers of municipalities in each province by classes for 1927; the second dealing with the debt of all municipalities reported in each province; the third showing the debt of all urban and all rural municipalities in Canada; the fourth showing the debt of the various classes of municipalities by provinces, and the fifth, a summary of the total and per capita urban as well as rural municipal debt for each province.

The municipal systems of the several provinces vary considerably with regard to the erection and incorporation of the different classes of municipalities, as for instance, in British Columbia where seven out of the thirty-three cities have a population of 1,000 or less while town municipalities do not exist. The province of Prince Edward Island has no rural municipal system and the provincial government administers all public loans and borrowings apart from those contracted by the seven incorporated urban municipalities. The returns made to the provincial government of New Brunswick are incomplete from year to year, consequently no attempt has been made to show the per capita bonded indebtedness of that province.

In previous reports net debenture debt was shown for the municipalities of Saskatchewan, but in order to bring the statistics into a more comparable state with other provinces gross debenture statistics are shown in 1927.

A brief analysis of the total bonded debt for all classes of municipalities reporting throughout Canada showed that there was an increase of \$57,683,923 for 1927 over 1926. Of this total increase urban municipalities comprising cities, towns and villages showed an increase for 1927 over 1926 of \$48,154,986, while rural municipalities which comprised counties, townships and municipal districts showed an increase of \$9,528,937 for 1927 over 1926.



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Table 1.

Number of Municipalities in Canada and in each Province, by  
Classes, 1927.

Provinces	Cities	Towns	Villages	Counties	Rural Munici- palities	Local Improve- ment Districts	Total Number of Munici- palities
Prince Edward Island	1	6	-	-	-	-	7
Nova Scotia	2	43	-	-	24	-	69
New Brunswick 1/	3	23	4	15	-	-	45
Quebec	24	96	288	74	2/ 992	-	1,474
Ontario	26	146	156	3/ 37	4/ 563	-	928
Manitoba	4	30	21	-	120	-	175
Saskatchewan	8	79	5/ 372	-	301	18	778
Alberta	6	54	5/ 128	-	169	5/ 229	586
British Columbia	33	-	6	-	30	-	69
CANADA	107	477	975	126	2,199	247	4,131

1/ From Census returns of 1921.

2/ Including 9 independent rural municipalities.

3/ There are 43 counties in all geographically, but a number of them are united for municipal purposes.

4/ Officially known as townships.

5/ Including six summer resort villages.

6/ In the year 1926.





Table 2.

Populations and Total and Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness of all  
Classes of Municipalities by provinces, year 1927.

Province		1927
Prince Edward Island -		
Population		-
Total Bonded Indebtedness 1/	\$	1,452,425
Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness	\$	-
Nova Scotia -		
Population 2/		523,837
Total Bonded Indebtedness	\$	28,381,616
Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness	\$	54.18
New Brunswick -		
Population 3/		-
Total Bonded Indebtedness	\$	15,707,699
Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness 3/	\$	-
Quebec -		
Population		2,888,677
Total Bonded Indebtedness	\$	260,435,420
Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness	\$	90.16
Ontario -		
Population		2,966,465
Total Bonded Indebtedness	\$	434,464,056
Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness	\$	146.46
Manitoba -		
Population		561,386
Total Bonded Indebtedness	\$	83,017,302
Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness	\$	147.88
Saskatchewan -		
Population		801,829
Total Bonded Indebtedness	\$	54,361,158
Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness	\$	67.80
Alberta -		
Population		592,131
Total Bonded Indebtedness 4/	\$	62,414,660
Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness	\$	105.41
British Columbia -		
Population		449,209
Total Bonded Indebtedness	\$	107,376,118
Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness	\$	239.03

- 1/ Urban bonded indebtedness only there being no rural municipal system.
- 2/ Census of 1921
- 3/ Returns for New Brunswick are so incomplete that it would be misleading to show per capita figures.
- 4/ Net debenture debt except for municipal districts.

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1950-1951

1952-1953

1954-1955

1956-1957

1958-1959

1960-1961

1962-1963

1964-1965

1966-1967

1968-1969

1970-1971

1972-1973

1974-1975



Table 3.

Bonded Indebtedness of Each Class of Urban and Rural Municipalities  
for all Provinces combined, year 1927.

	1927
	\$
Cities	810,441,021
Towns	118,953,393
Villages 1/	569,761
Total Urban Municipalities	929,964,175
Rural Municipalities	2/ 63,673,492
Districts	29,550,484
Municipal Districts	39,210
County Councils	221,521
Counties	24,061,472
Total Rural Municipalities	117,646,279
Total All Municipalities, Urban and Rural	1,047,610,454

1/ In Quebec the villages are included in counties and in Ontario they are included in towns.

2/ Including \$24,000 Bonded Debt of Independent Rural Municipalities of Quebec.



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Table 4.

Bonded Indebtedness of Municipalities, by Provinces and classes, 1927.

Provinces	Classes of Municipalities	1927
		\$
Prince Edward Island -	Cities	1,191,300
	Towns	261,125
	Rural	-
	Total	1,452,425
Nova Scotia -	Cities	16,030,739
	Towns 1/	10,837,910
	Counties	1,512,967
	Total	28,381,616
New Brunswick -	Cities	11,985,217
	Towns	3,359,882
	Villages	80,000
	Counties	282,600
	Total	15,707,699
Quebec -	Cities	225,446,608
	Towns	26,906,106
	County Councils	221,621
	Counties	6,837,085
	Ind. Rural Mun.	24,000
	Total	260,435,420
Ontario -	Cities	310,952,920
	Towns 2/	65,709,577
	Rural	42,372,739
	Counties	15,428,820
	Total	434,464,056
Manitoba -	Cities	67,567,935
	Towns	3,201,721
	Villages	90,150
	Rural	12,157,496
	Total	83,017,302
Saskatchewan -	Cities	38,973,268
	Towns	5,938,994
	Villages	329,639
	Rural 3/	9,119,257
	Total	54,361,158
Alberta -	Cities 4/	59,567,400
	Towns 4/	2,738,078
	Villages 4/	69,972
	Munic. Districts	39,210
	Total	62,414,660
British Columbia -	Cities	77,725,634
	Districts	29,650,454
	Total	107,376,118

- 1/ Dartmouth Ferry bonds not included.  
 2/ Including villages.  
 3/ Including rural telephone debt.  
 4/ Net debenture debt.





Table 5.

Populations, Total and Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness of Urban and Rural  
Municipalities by Provinces for the year 1927.

Provinces	Population		Total Bonded Indebtedness		Per Capita Bonded Indebtedness	
	Urban	Rural	Urban \$	Rural \$	Urban \$	Rural \$
Prince Edward Island	1/ 19,093	-	1,452,425	-	75.07	-
Nova Scotia	1/ 227,038	295,799	26,868,649	1,512,967	118.34	5.10
New Brunswick	2/ -	-	15,425,099	282,600	-	-
Quebec	1,674,166	1,214,511	253,352,714	7,082,706	151.33	5.83
Ontario	1,883,594	1,082,871	376,662,497	57,801,559	199.97	53.38
Manitoba	288,974	272,412	70,859,806	12,157,496	245.21	44.63
Saskatchewan	248,319	553,510	45,241,901	9,119,257	182.19	16.48
Alberta	253,617	338,514	3/62,375,450	39,210	245.94	.12
British Columbia	272,435	176,774	77,725,634	29,650,484	285.30	167.73

1/ Census of 1921.

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

3/ Net debenture debt.

