An Advisory Committee representing employers, employees, self-employed persons and the public, reviews from time to time the operations of the Plan, the state of the investment fund and the adequacy of coverage and benefits, and reports to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. The legislation authorizes arrangements to be made with other countries to achieve as full coverage of persons in the labour force in Canada as is possible and to ensure the portability of pension credits between Canada and the countries concerned.

The Minister of National Health and Welfare is responsible for the administration of all parts of the program except coverage and the collection of contributions which come under the jurisdiction of the Minister of National Revenue. The Unemployment Insurance Commission is responsible for the assignment of social insurance numbers and for the maintenance of the Central Index. The Department of Finance is responsible for the administration of the Canada Pension Plan Account and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Fund. The Department of Supply and Services gives assistance to the Department of National Health and Welfare in the operation of the electronic data processing service which is required to maintain the records of earnings of contributors and to calculate benefits payable under the Plan. The Chief Actuary, Department of Insurance, is responsible for the preparation of reports on the future financial progress of the Plan and on the effect on the Fund of proposed amendments to the Plan.

The Canada Pension Plan Administration of the Department of National Health and Welfare consists of a head office establishment in Ottawa, a network of district offices located in the major population centres in Canada outside Quebec, and local offices operated on a part-time basis.

Private pension plans. Subsequent to introduction of the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans, legislation aimed at establishing more uniform standards for private pension plans was introduced at the federal level as well as in a number of provincial jurisdictions. A more detailed description appears in the *1972 Canada Year Book*, p. 360.

6.5.2 Old age security and guaranteed income supplement

Old age security. Under the Old Age Security Act of 1951, as amended, the federal government pays a monthly pension to all persons aged 65 or over who meet the necessary residence qualifications. Effective from April 1, 1973, the basic old age security pension was raised to $100 a month. This will be adjusted each April by the full increase in the consumer price index.

The old age security pension is payable to a person of attained age who has resided in Canada for ten years immediately preceding the approval of his application for the pension. Any gaps in the ten-year period may be offset if the applicant had been present in Canada in earlier years for periods of time after reaching age 18 equal in total to three times the length of the gaps; in this case, however, the applicant must also have resided in Canada for one year immediately before the month in which his application for pension may be approved. The pension is also payable to persons of attained age who have left Canada before reaching that age but who have had 40 years of residence in Canada since age 18. A pensioner may absent himself from Canada and continue to receive payments. If he has lived in Canada for 20 years since his 18th birthday, payment outside Canada may continue indefinitely; if not, payment is continued for six months, in addition to the month of departure, and is then suspended, to be resumed only with the month in which he returns to Canada.

The program is administered by the Income Security Branch of the Department of National Health and Welfare through regional offices located in each provincial capital; application for pension should be made through these offices. The regional office in Edmonton administers the program for residents of the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Up to the end of 1971, the old age security plan was financed through a 3% sales tax, a 3% tax on corporation income and, subject to a limit of $240 a year, a 4% tax on taxable personal income. The revenues from these sources were paid into the Old Age Security Fund. The Old Age Security Act was amended effective January 1, 1972, to repeal these taxes and to provide for the crediting to the Fund of an amount estimated to be equal to what would have been credited had these taxes not been repealed. Old age security pensions and benefits under the guaranteed income supplement program are paid from the Fund. Summary statistics concerning the old age security program appear in Tables 6.5 and 6.6.