

at December 31, 1976, had \$38 billion under administration in estate, trust and agency accounts. Summary statistics are given in Tables 19.18, 19.32 and 19.33.

Mortgage companies had total assets of \$9,332 million at the end of 1976 compared with \$8,017 million a year earlier. Their holdings of mortgages amounted to \$7,548 million, or 81% of total assets. To finance their investments, these companies sold \$5,525 million of term deposits and debentures and \$804 million of demand deposits.

More complete and up-to-date financial information may be found in quarterly financial statements published by Statistics Canada and the Bank of Canada, the reports of the superintendent of insurance on loan and trust companies and the reports of provincial supervisory authorities.

Small loans companies

19.2.2

Small loans companies and money-lenders are subject to the Small Loans Act (RSC 1970, c.S-11). This act, first passed in 1939, sets maximum charges on personal cash loans not in excess of \$1,500 and is administered by the federal department of insurance. Lenders not licensed under the act may not charge more than 1.0% a month. Those wishing to make small loans at higher rates must be licensed each year by the minister of finance under the Small Loans Act. The act allows maximum rates, including charges of every kind, of 2.0% a month on unpaid balances not exceeding \$300, 1.0% a month on the portion of unpaid balances exceeding \$300 but not exceeding \$1,000 and one-half of 1.0% on any remainder of the balance exceeding \$1,000. Loans in excess of \$1,500 are not regulated and lenders operating entirely above this limit and the larger loans of licensed lenders are exempt from the act; nor does the act regulate charges for the instalment financing of sales. Prior to January 1, 1957, the act applied only to loans of \$500 or less and the maximum interest charge allowed was 2.0% a month.

At the end of 1976, there were four small loans companies and 38 money-lenders licensed under the act. Small loans companies are incorporated federally; money-lenders include provincially incorporated companies. Many of the small loans companies and money-lenders are affiliated with other financial institutions, principally Canadian sales finance companies and US finance or loan companies. These affiliations reflect the close relationship between instalment financing and the consumer loan business.

Statistics Canada publishes quarterly balance sheets for sales finance and consumer loan companies as a whole and does not attempt to distinguish the two groups within the industry (see *Financial institutions*, Catalogue 61-006).

Annual figures of assets and liabilities given in Table 19.19 are from the department of insurance report. More complete data on the business of licensed lenders are given in the report on small loans companies and money-lenders, published annually by the superintendent of insurance.

Insurance

19.3

Insurance business is transacted in Canada by about 900 companies and societies. All are licensed or registered by provincial insurance authorities; at the end of 1976, 421 were also registered by the federal insurance department. Details of the classes of insurance each company or society is authorized to transact and statistical information may be found in the published reports of individual superintendents of insurance for the provinces. Financial statistics of the federally registered companies and fraternal benefit societies are published in the annual report of the federal superintendent.

Life insurance

19.3.1

Total life insurance in force in Canada at the end of 1976 amounted to \$262,400 million of which about 93% was written by federally registered companies and fraternal benefit societies. Canadian companies reported an additional \$56,828 million in force out of Canada at the end of 1976.

At the end of 1976, 153 companies were registered by the federal insurance department to transact life insurance (59 Canadian, 13 British and 81 foreign). There were also 42 registered fraternal benefit societies (16 Canadian and 26 foreign).