

Canadian Mint and operated as a branch of the Department of Finance. The Mint was established as a Crown corporation in 1969 by the Government Organization Act of 1969 to allow for a more industrial type of organization and for flexibility in producing coins of Canada and other countries; to buy, sell, melt, assay and refine gold and precious metals; and to produce medals, plaques and other devices. The Mint reports to Parliament through the Minister of Supply and Services.

In December 1971, a Cabinet decision was made to locate a plant in Winnipeg for the mass production of coins. The plant was officially opened on April 30, 1976. It supplies all of Canada's circulating coins and produces coinage for foreign countries that lack minting capacity. The Ottawa plant produces gold, platinum, and silver bullion investment coins, collectors' coins, medals, plaques and other devices and refines Canadian gold.

#### 18.1.4 Chartered banks

Canada's chartered banks operate under the Bank Act which regulates certain internal aspects of bank operations, such as auditing accounts, issuing stock, setting aside reserves and similar matters. In addition, the Bank Act generally provides for the supervision of the banks by the superintendent of financial institutions, a government-appointed official. The Act is revised at approximately 10-year intervals; the latest revision was enacted in December 1980. Under the revised Bank Act, foreign banks are permitted to incorporate subsidiaries by letters patent. The banking system, at October 31, 1987, consisted of eight Canadian-owned banks which have been chartered by Parliament, and 59 foreign-owned banks which have received their letters patent. The banks operated 6,958 banking offices in Canada, including about 170 offices of the foreign bank subsidiaries.

Among the foreign banks with subsidiaries in Canada, 44 had head offices in Toronto as at July 1988. These included 12 banks from the United States, four from the United Kingdom, 10 from Japan, three each from Switzerland and Israel, two each from Italy and the Federal Republic of Germany, and one each from France, Spain, India, Taiwan, Singapore, the Netherlands, Korea and Australia.

Montreal had headquarters for banks from France, the United States, Greece and Luxembourg. Vancouver had head offices for banks from Hong Kong, Japan and Korea.

Canadian banks generally accept various types of deposits from the public, including accounts payable on demand, both chequing and non-chequing notice deposits, and fixed-term deposits.

In addition to holding a portfolio of securities, they typically make loans under various conditions for commercial, industrial, agricultural, and consumer purposes. Under the current revision to the Bank Act, banks may also carry out certain types of leasing and factoring business through subsidiaries. Banks also generally deal in foreign exchange, receive and pay out bank notes, and provide safekeeping facilities.

Chartered bank financial statistics for recent years are given in Tables 18.7 - 18.10; month-end data are available in the *Bank of Canada Review*.

#### 18.1.5 Federal Business Development Bank

The Federal Business Development Bank (FBDB) was established by an Act of Parliament in 1974 as a federal Crown corporation to succeed the Industrial Development Bank. Under the Act, which came into force in October 1975, this bank assists the development of new or existing business enterprises in Canada by providing financial and management services. It supplements such services available from other sources and it gives particular attention to the needs of smaller businesses.

It extends financial help in various forms to new or existing businesses of almost every type which are unable to obtain required financing from other sources on reasonable terms and conditions. To qualify for this financing, a business should have investment by others — to ensure a continuing commitment to the business — and the business should have reasonable expectation of success.

The bank's management counselling service, counselling assistance to small businesses, can help small businesses improve their methods. This service, supplementing counselling services available from the private sector, makes available the experience of successful business persons who are often retired.

To help improve management skills in small businesses, the bank conducts management training seminars in communities across Canada. It also develops 30-hour business management courses that are offered through the adult education divisions of community colleges. The FBDB also publishes booklets on a wide range of topics pertaining to the management of small businesses and provides information about assistance programs for small businesses sponsored by the federal government and others.

The head office is in Montreal; there are five regional offices and 77 branch offices across Canada. Some 98% of the loans made by the bank are approved at the branch or regional offices.