Chapter 22

Mutual Savings Banks*

Introduction: Basic Industry Functions and Characteristics

Mutual savings banks are the oldest specialized thrift institutions in the Nation. Throughout their 150-year history, savings banks have been devoted to the performance of two basic economic functions: (1) stimulating and safeguarding the savings of individuals and (2) channeling these savings into productive investments.

Currently, there are 506 mutual savings banks in 18 of the 50 States, in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and in the Virgin Islands. The three leading savings bank States are New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, where nearly three-fourths of all mutual savings banks, with over four-fifths of the industry's resources, are located (table 1).

Table 1.—*Number and assets of mutual savings banks, by State, May 31, 1966, and Dec. 31, 1964*

[In millions of dollars]

State	Number of banks		Amounts of assets	
	May 31, 1966	Dec. 31, 1964	May 31, 1966	Dec. 31, 1964
Massachusetts	179	179	9,714	8,859
New York	126	125	34,277	31,456
Connecticut	70	71	4,179	3,841
Maine	32	32	716	640
New Hampshire	32	32	982	882
New Jersey	21	21	2,304	2,049
Pennsylvania	7	7	3,522	3,211
Rhode Island	7	7	906	811
Maryland	6	6	810	744
Vermont	6	6	223	195
Indiana	4	4	86	74
Washington	4	4	695	616
Wisconsin	3	4	34	33
Delaware	2	2	272	236
Alaska	2	1	23	13
Minnesota	1	1	511	476
Ohio	1	2	3	32
Oregon	1	1	73	69
Virgin Islands	1	1	1	(1)
Puerto Rico	1	----------	1	----------
Total	506	506	59,330	54,238

1 Less than $500,000.

Source: National Association of Mutual Savings Banks.

The confinement of mutual savings banks largely to the New England and Middle Atlantic States of the country is principally due

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