# SAVINGS AND LOANS: A SURVEY AND ANALYSIS OF THE INDUSTRY'S RESPONSE TO DEREGULATION 

by

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#### Abstract

Savings and Loans: A Survey and Analysis Of the Industry's Response to Deregulation Which Conforms To The University Undergraduate Fellows Program Requirements (April 1985) Theresa Joffrion, B.B.A., Texas A\&M University Advisor: Dr. Peter S. Rose This paper examines savings and loans in their recently-deregulated environment. The study involves a nationwide mail survey of S\&Ls, statistical analysis of factors affecting S\&L profitability and risk, and a series of personal interviews with savings and loan managers. Results indicate a high level of diversification within the industry, wide-spread use of adjustable-rate mortgages, and growth of institutions through mergers and acquisitions.


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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

## CHAPTER <br> Page

INTRODUCTION ..... 1
REVIEW OF LITERATURE ..... 5
Recent S\&L Industry Problems ..... 5
Current and Expected Changes in the S\&L Industry ..... 6
An Analysis of State S\&Ls ..... 7
Summary of the Literature ..... 8
METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY ..... 10
The Survey Instrument and Sample ..... 10
Statistical Analysis of S\&L Financial Statements ..... 11
Interviews with Savings and Loan Officials ..... 13
SURVEY ..... 14
Organization and Structure ..... 14
Asset Portfolios ..... 16
Sources of Funds ..... 18
Marketing Information Sources ..... 18
Present and Planned Services ..... 19
Other Profitability Factors ..... 22
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS ..... 23
INTERVIEWS OF SAVINGS AND LOAN MANAGERS ..... 27
Associations with Assets of Less Than $\$ 75$ Million ..... 27
Organization ..... 27
Assets ..... 27
Sources of Funds ..... 28
Views on Deregulation ..... 28
Organization ..... 29
Assets ..... 30
Sources of Funds ..... 30
Views on Deregulation ..... 31
Associations with Assets from $\$ 75$ Million to $\$ 500$ Million ..... 32
Organization ..... 32
Assets ..... 32
Sources of Funds ..... 32
Services ..... 33
Views on Deregulation ..... 33

## Table of Contents (Continued)

CHAPTER ..... Page
Organization ..... 33
Assets ..... 34
Sources of Funds ..... 35
Future Development ..... 35
Views on Deregulation ..... 35
Associations with Assets Over $\$ 500$ Million ..... 36
Organization ..... 36
Assets ..... 36
Sources of Funds ..... 37
Services ..... 37
Views on Deregulation ..... 38
Organization ..... 38
Assets ..... 39
Services ..... 39
Views on Deregulation ..... 39
CONCLUSIONS ..... 40
REFERENCES ..... 42
VITA ..... 43

## LIST OF TABLES

TABLE Page
1 SAVINGS AND LOAN CHARTER DATES ..... 14
2 MERGERS AMONG RESPONDING ASSOCIATIONS SINCE 1980 ..... 15
3 LENDING SERVICES OFFERED BY RESPONDING S\&Ls ..... 17
4 BALANCE SHEET ITEMS ..... 19
5 MARKET INFORMATION USED IN PRICING NEW SERVICES ..... 20
6 NEW SERVICES ..... 20
7 SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSET RETURNS BASED ON PARTIAL REGRESSION COEFFICIENTS ..... 23
8 ADDITIONAL S\&L ASSETS CONSIDERED IN THE PROFITABILITY EQUATIONS ..... 24
9 COST OF LIABILITIES CONSIDERED IN THE S\&L REGRESSION EQUATIONS ..... 25
10 FIXED-COST FACTORS CONSIDERED IN PROFITABILITY REGRESSION EQUATIONS ..... 26

## LIST OF POCKET MATERIALS

## MATERIAL

1 A copy of the S\&L survey instrument. . . . . . . . . . . . . in Map Pocket
2 A computer listing of the survey results. . . . . . . . . . . . in Map Pocket

## INTRODUCTION

The savings and loan industry in the United States has entered a new era. In years past, a savings and loan's main function was to accept passbook savings deposits and extend long-term, fixed-rate mortgage loans, principally to finance the purchase of single-family homes. In other words, S\&Ls historically have been essentially dual-product firms--encouraging family thrift and supporting home construction. However, the traditional savings and loan institution is rapidly disappearing in an environment of volatile interest rates, fierce competition from other types of financial intermediaries, and changing laws and regulations.

The major environmental changes which began in the late 1960 s and 1970 s included inflation, rising and historically high interest rates, and a proliferation of new financial services, in addition to a greater customer sophistication and sensitivity to the pricing of financial services. For savings and loans as a whole, this combination of developments was disastrous. Inflation-driven interest rates had risen far above the maximum rate that savings and loans were allowed to pay on their passbook deposits. Because the purchasing power of investors' money simply eroded by remaining in these accounts, saving of this type was discouraged by basic economic factors. Due to advances in electronics and communications, national brokerage houses and other financial firms were able to offer money market accounts through which customers could make payments, thus giving them market returns but with convenience advantages comparable to those offered by S\&Ls deposit accounts. Investors, in an effort to make the most of their savings, withdrew funds from the S\&Ls and reinvested them with brokerage firms and investment companies. This

[^0]disintermediation drained the $S \& L s$ of a substantial proportion of their deposited funds and thereby restricted the availability of mortgage credit to individuals and families.

Congress, partly in response to distress signals from $S \& L$ management and owners, passed the Depository Institutions Deregulation and Monetary Control Act (DIDMCA) in 1980. Savings and loans were then able to offer interest-bearing checking accounts (NOWs) but with regulated interest rates. The new law succeeded in attracting funds for thrifts, but the interest rates being paid for these new accounts of ten exceeded the average return earned on all S\&L mortgage loans outstanding, especially on loans made during years when inflation was far more moderate.

As the declining profits of savings and loans turned to losses and S\&Ls began to fail, it became clear to federal legislators and regulatory agencies that the asset side of the savings and loan balance sheet had to be deregulated along with the liability side if the industry were to survive. In the mean time, the F.S.L.I.C. worked vigorously to assist in mergers and acquisitions of failing S\&Ls by healthy ones. In cooperation with the Federal Home Loan Bank System, it suppiied additional funds to prevent more failures, and in the process, the federal insurance fund was itself weakened.

The Garn-St Germain Depository Institutions Act of 1982 removed the majority of restrictions on the types of loans that S\&Ls could offer. The Garn bill increased the balance-sheet percentages allowed for commercial and consumer lending. This change opened the door to further diversification for savings and loans, offering the possibility of reduced risk and providing a base for expansion through entry into new markets.

S\&L assets increased from $\$ 579$ billion in 1979 to $\$ 772$ billion in 1983. The growth in S\&L assets, however, was not matched by an increase in equity capital (net
worth). Therefore the capital adequacy (i.e., proportion of equity to liabilities and to risky assets) of S\&Ls was reduced. During this period from 1979 to 1983, industry net worth to total assets fell from $5.64 \%$ to $4.00 \%$. The added risk from changing interest rates, combined with lower amounts of equity capital and a soaring S\&L failure rate, has placed the F.S.L.I.C. in a more precarious position. Pending legislation may raise the capital adequacy requirement for federally supervised S\&Ls from its present standard of three percent of total assets to five percent. While many institutions are struggling simply to remain solvent, others have seized upon their new powers and are expanding into markets previously forbidden to S\&Ls. The savings and loan of today can take a variety of forms, including: (1) the traditional S\&L which accepts savings deposits and makes home mortgage loans; (2) the family financial center, resembling a commercial bank in that it seeks to meet all of a consumer's retail banking needs; (3) the real estate model, which acts as a mortgage bank by selling off its long-term mortgages and serving as a real estate service organization; and, (4) the diversified financial service firm, distinguished by its holding-company organizational form and wide array of service lines.

The purpose of this study is to analyze $S \& L s$ in their new legal environment and to identify characteristics that may aid in the future success of the various types of savings and loans. The impact of government regulations will be considered in addition to S\&L management characteristics and a number of demographic features. It is hoped that this project might aid S\&L managers by pointing out the strengths and limitations that of ten accompany certain loans, accounts, services, and organizational forms. It will also explore alternative legislative recommendations for further deregulation of the industry. Specifically, this study will:

1. Review current studies pertaining to $\mathrm{S} \& \mathrm{~L}$ deregulation.
2. Examine the goals and strategies of S\&Ls through personal
interviews and a mail survey of a stratified random sample of S\&Ls nationwide.
3. Statistically analyze a variety of factors, such as service mix, market size and growth, S\&L size and organizational form, and competition as they relate to savings and loan profitability and risk.
4. Identify legal and practical constraints on S\&L growth and profitability and suggest means of avoiding them.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

## Recent $\underline{\text { S }} \& \underline{\text { Industry Problems }}$

Several recent articles and research studies have reviewed the circumstances that preceded the deregulation movement of the early 1980's. For example, Handorf, Losey, and McCarthy [5] divide savings and loan history since World War II into two parts: 1946-1964, when thrifts' main concern was minimizing credit risk; and 1965 to the present, characterized by volatile interest rates and pursuit of the basic borrow-short and lend-long (i.e., maturity intermediation) practice of thrifts. Their report identifies inflation as the major cause of problems in the industry, accompanied by continued surges in federal budget deficits, declining personal savings ratios, and the phaseout of regulatory limits on maximum interest payments. Competitive factors, including increased customer sophistication and improved access to alternative investment and savings plans and growth in nonregulated financial intermediaries such as money market funds, also have played a significant role in recent S\&L financial problems, according to Handorf, Losey, and McCarthy.

The S\&L industry's net worth position has been eroded by recent earnings losses. According to Moran [10], 16 percent of the industry had a net worth below 2 percent of assets as of midyear 1982, which is below the minimum amount of three percent required by the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. He notes, too, that in the last few years the liabilities issued by thrift institutions have gone to market rates faster than the assets that they hold. The growth of the industry's core deposit base (i.e., deposits from households and smaller organizations) has slowed due to competition from money market funds, the loss of a regulated rate advantage vis-avis commercial banks, and a cautious attitude among savers toward an industry with earnings difficulties. These trends forced S\&Ls to seek more costly sources of funds.

A recent account of the thrift industry's solvency problems by Hector [6] reveals that the industry's net worth position in 1984 dropped drastically from its 1981 level. He reports that a third of the nation's thrifts never regained positive profitability during 1983.

## Current and Expected Changes in the S $\& \mathrm{~L}$ Industry

Cassidy [2], commenting on the future of the S\&L industry, emphasizes the potentially restrictive effects of continuing competition from money market funds, commercial banks, and other financial institutions, along with more intense competition within the industry itself. Cassidy sees the following probable outcomes: (1) more S\&L failures, (2) more efficiently operated surviving associations, and (3) better service to consumers of savings and loans services. Along with Marcis [9], he predicts the industry's diversification into family financial centers, mortgage bankers, and other strategic organizational forms. Marcis goes on to argue that realestate oriented and mortgage-banking S\&Ls will likely be multistate operations due to advantages in economies of scale. Both Cassidy and Marcis foresee greater volatility in mortgage interest rates and, therefore, the need for greater portfolio and managerial flexibility in the savings and loan business.

Presenting a more optimistic view of the thrift industry's future outlook, Ollard [11] examines several of the new means through which S\&Ls are gathering funds. He discusses entrance into the Eurobond market, conversion from mutual to stock form, and selling adjustible rate mortgages to the Government National Mortgage Association. Ollard points out that the $S \& L$ industry's great strength is that it operates in the nation's largest financial market-- at $\$ 1.5$ trillion, mortgage debt is even larger than the federal government's debt.

## An Analysis of State $\underline{S} \& \underline{L}$

Prior to the passage of Garn-St Germain, Crockett and King [3] conducted a study on the performance of savings and loans in Texas, since state-chartered S\&Ls in that state already had asset powers similar to, or even exceeding, those proposed in the Garn bill. They first compared all Texas federal-chartered S\&Ls to all Texas state-chartered S\&Ls, separating stock and mutual forms. They also used regression analysis to examine individual assets' contributions to the pre-tax profits of Texas state-chartered stock associations. During the five-year period covered in this study, the number of S\&Ls in their sample ranged from 302 to 336 .

According to their findings, the most important contribution of the additional asset powers is the opportunity to diversify $\mathrm{S} \& \mathrm{~L}$ portfolios, create a better match between the maturities of assets and liabilities, and lessen exposure to interest-rate risk. They noted that the right to purchase real estate for development has been especially profitable, with average net returns on these assets exceeding conventional mortgage portfolio returns by over five hundred basis points. For the period 1977 to 1981 studied by Crockett and King, the Texas state-chartered stock S\&Ls had an average pre-tax return on assets of 40 basis points compared with 33 basis points for federal-chartered associations. Another observation made was that stock associations tend to use their expanded powers more than mutual associations do. This contrast is an expression of the different attitudes toward risk and profitability in other areas of operation noted in other studies.

A similar study of a state's expanded powers was made by Baker [1] for Florida S\&Ls. In July of 1980, Florida S\&Ls were granted investment powers resembling those of the Garn bill. They were also allowed to offer non-interest-bearing NOW accounts to corporate customers. Baker used ratio comparisons of four separate groupings of Florida associations. These comparisons were: (1) state to federal
charter; (2) state-chartered associations formed since 1979 to all other state S\&Ls; (3) newly-formed state associations to $\mathrm{S} \& \mathrm{Ls}$ which changed from federal to state charter during 1980; and (4) state-chartered associations with commercial banks. The sample included 93 federal associations and 25 state-chartered associations.

While state associations were engaged in more corporate and consumer lending than federal S\&Ls, Baker viewed their overall involvement as insignificant when the whole organization was considered. Comparisons of the new S\&Ls with the others revealed that newer associations were much more liquid than older S\&Ls, and many of the new state associations were operating mainly as mortgage bankers. The four associations which converted to state charters more closely resembled federallychartered associations than new state-chartered ones, both in asset and deposit composition and in operating losses. State-chartered S\&Ls had made only limited moves toward a commercial banking structure at the time of the Baker study. Overall, Baker concluded that Florida S\&Ls were moving very cautiously to adopt expanded service powers. Given the careful reaction to deregulation, the powers granted are more likely to have only long-run benefits.

## Summary of the Literature

As the articles reviewed here point out, the savings and loan industry has experienced severe earnings losses in the 1980 s, caused mainly by inflation and more competition from alternative investments. These losses have reduced net worth, thereby increasing solvency risk in the S\&L industry. Deregulatory legislation has given S\&Ls an opportunity to diversify their asset portfolios and offer several new services. A goal of this legislation is to reduce S\&Ls' susceptibility to economic changes and thus strengthen the industry as a whole. One important question for the S\&Ls' future--the extent of S\&Ls' commitment to the housing industry--remains to
be answered.
The statistical studies considered in this review were geographically limited to specific states but attempted to predict the behavior of S\&Ls across the country. Now that major changes in regulation and legislation affecting S\&Ls have been in effect for a few years, an evaluation of the $S \& L s$ reactions nationwide should be helpful in assessing their needs and goals. Whereas these reports used only statistical analyses, this study will approach the savings and loans directly through a survey and personal interviews as well.

## METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The research methodology of this savings and loan study is divided into three parts: 1) a nationwide stratified random survey of S\&Ls, 2) statistical analysis of S\&L balance sheets, income statements, and survey responses, and 3) personal interviews of selected S\&L managers.

## The Survey Instrument and Sample

The survey sample was drawn from the 3183 S\&Ls represented on the Federal Home Loan Bank Board (FHLBB) data file at year-end 1983. Those S\&Ls listed as having zero assets were removed, which left 3146 institutions as the population to be sampled. The file was then stratified by the 12 FHLBB districts and asset-size catagories in the following increments: total assets of $\$ 0$ million - $\$ 25$ million; over $\$ 25$ million but less than $\$ 50$ million; over $\$ 50$ million but less than $\$ 100$ million; over $\$ 100$ million but less than $\$ 200$ million; over $\$ 200$ million but less than $\$ 500$ million; over $\$ 500$ million but less than $\$ 1$ billion; and over $\$ 1$ billion. A ten-percent random sample was then drawn from each of 84 cells ( 12 districts by 7 asset-size categories). By rounding up to the nearest whole number, it was guaranteed that each cell had at least one representative in the survey. The sample was drawn using the random number generator developed by IBM and no seed was used. In the end, surveys were mailed to 376 S\&Ls throughout the United States. Approximately six weeks after the original survey was mailed, a follow-up mailing of the same survey was sent to the $300 \mathrm{~S} \&$ Ls that did not respond to the first request.

The first part of the survey asked basic questions about the S\&Ls' charter year, possible conversion from a stock to a mutual organization, and possible affiliation with other S\&Ls. Later sections dealt with the types of loans and services presently offered, as well as future plans for offering loans and other services. Other survey
items inquired about the S\&Ls' sources of funds, such as the types of deposit accounts offered and Euromarket borrowing, as well as non-lending income sources. The questionnaire also focused upon marketing procedures and asked for a list of unprofitable services used for cross-selling purposes as well as parallel competitors' programs. A copy of the survey instrument used in this study is contained in Pocket Material 1 which follows this thesis.

## Statistical Analysis of $\mathbf{S} \& \underline{L}$ Financial Statements

The FHLBB tape file of financial statements for 1979-83 was used, along with the survey sample, in a number of regression equations to examine factors affecting S\&L profitability. Specifically, stochastic regressions were estimated in two different forms. The first was a market model of the form:
(1) $\mathrm{P}=$
$a_{0}+a_{1}[\mathrm{SM}]+a_{2}[\mathrm{I} / \mathrm{D}]+a_{3}[\mathrm{ORG}]+a_{4}[\mathrm{MS}]+a_{5}[\mathrm{STR}]+a_{6}[\mathrm{MG}]+\mathrm{e}_{1}$ and.
(2) $R=\beta_{0}+\beta_{1}[S M]+\beta_{2}[1 / D]+\beta_{3}[$ ORG $]+\beta_{4}[M S]+\beta_{5}[S T R]+\beta_{6}[M G]+$ ${ }^{e}$,
where the dependent variables were:
$P=S \& L$ profitability (measured by after-tax net income to total association assets); and
$\mathrm{R}=\mathrm{S} \& \mathrm{~L}$ risk (measured by the leverage ratio of equity to total assets);
and the independent variables were:
$\mathrm{SM}=\mathrm{S} \& \mathrm{~L}$ service mix (measured by alternate asset-portfolio ratios);
$\mathrm{D}=$ total deposits of each S\&L;
ORG = S\&L organizational form (stock or mutual);


#### Abstract

MS = market size (indicated by total deposits of all S\&Ls or of all S\&Ls plus commercial banks in the local market);

STR = market structure (measured by concentration in ratios or numbers of S\&Ls or in S\&Ls plus commercial banks in the local market); and $M G=$ market growth (as reflected in $S \& L$ or in $S \& L$ plus commercial bank deposit growth).


The parameters $a_{0}, a_{1}, \ldots, a_{6}$ and $\beta_{0}, \beta_{1}, \ldots, \beta_{6}$ represent partial regression coefficients. Each measures the net impact of each independent variable on individual $\mathrm{S} \& \mathrm{~L}$ profitability and degree of risk.

The $e_{1}$ and $e_{2}$ terms represent error terms which are assumed to be random variables with zero mean and constant variance. Each equation was estimated separately by employing the SAS linear regression algorithm.

Because the market model performed relatively poorly with extremely low explanatory power (generally under 5 percent) and frequent instances of insignificant F tests, a second regression model--the individual-association profit model--was developed. This model had the following form:
(3) $\pi=\sum_{i=1} r_{i} A_{i}-\sum_{j=1}^{m} c_{j} L_{j}-F C(O R G, 1 / D)$
where:

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\pi= net profitability of each S&L
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$r_{i}=$ rate of return on the ith category of earning assets held by each S\&L;
$A_{i}=$ dollar volume of the ith earning asset held in each $S \& L$ on the report date;
$c_{j}=\operatorname{cost}$ rate on the jth category of liability issued by each $S \& L$;
$\mathrm{L}=$ dollar volume of the jth liability item outstanding at each S\&L on the report date; and
$\mathrm{FC}=$ fixed-cost function for the sampled associations, expressed as a function of the particular organizational form (ORG) and deposit size (D) of each S\&L.

This second model considers the mix of $\mathrm{S} \& \mathrm{~L}$ asset portfolios (including the proportion of total assets in single-family mortgages, multi-family mortgage loans, land investments, home-improvement loans. consumer auto loans, other consumer loans, real-estate investments, investment securities, and junior mortgages), the mix of operating expenses (including wage and salary costs, lending costs, advertising expenses, and deposit interest), and overhead costs.

## Interviews with Savings and Loan Officials

Finally, a series of six interviews were conducted with savings and loan managers to gather more complete information relating to management and planning in an environment of deregulation. The savings and loans concerned were chosen based on preliminary inquiries regarding their general strategies, so that the different types of associations mentioned in the introduction (i.e., traditional, real estate, family financial center, and diversified) could each be examined from the perspective of a key member of each institution's management team. Organizational form, asset-size, and the size and location of the markets served were also considered in selecting the particular associations whose management was to be interviewed. Of the six S\&Ls, three are federal associations and three have state charters. The institutions range in age from two years to sixty-six years.

## SURVEY

## Organization and Structure

The following is a summary of the survey responses received from the 112 S\&Ls that responded to the national survey questionnaire sent to 318 randomly-selected associations. For more detailed information on the sample and the responses, refer to the computer listing located in Pocket Material 2.

Savings and loans included in the responses have charter dates ranging from 1872 to 1983. Eighty-five percent of them were chartered prior to 1960 and 91 percent began their operations before 1970. Thus, it is clear that a preponderant majority of the responding associations were established institutions, rather than new S\&Ls, and had experienced the wide swings in interest rates, inflation, and economic conditions that characterized the American economy over the past three decades. Table 1 shows the cumulative percentages of the $\mathrm{S} \& L \mathrm{~L}$ chartered by the years listed.

## Table 1. SAVINGS AND LOAN CHARTER DATES

| Year | Cumulative Percent Chartered |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1900 | 25.0 |
| 1925 | 53.6 |
| 1950 | 78.6 |
| 1975 | 92.9 |
| 1983 | 100.0 |

Fifteen organizations, 13.4 percent of the total responding, reported that they had converted recently from a mutual to a stock form of ownership. Of these 15,12 converted to the stock form between 1982 and the present, pursuant to the Garn bill's passage in 1982 which allowed relatively free convertibility. Prior to the passage of that law, each proposed conversion had to be individually approved by
regulators. Conversion from mutual to stock form represents a way to raise new capital other than merely selling deposits.

In the catagory of multistate activities, just $17.0 \%$ participate in real estate lending, $13.4 \%$ in mortgage banking, and $15.2 \%$ in construction lending across state boundaries. In addition, only $3.6 \%$ answered that they have multistate interests other than those specified. Thus the majority of S\&Ls chose not to spread their resources and marketing activities beyond state boundaries, continuing the strong local orientation historically characteristic of this industry.

Over a quarter of the responding $\mathrm{S} \& L \mathrm{~s}$ have participated in mergers recently. These include 21 associations acquiring other S\&Ls, 6 of which were acquired, and 2 that did not specify the type of merger in which they were involved. The majority of the reported mergers occurred in 1982 and 1983, as Table 2 illustrates.

## Table 2. MERGERS AMONG RESPONDING ASSOCIATIONS SINCE 1980

| Year | Number of <br> Mergers | Cumulative Percent <br> of Responding S\&Ls |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1980 | 3 | 2.7 |
| 1981 | 3 | 5.4 |
| 1982 | 13 | 17.0 |
| 1983 | 7 | 23.2 |
| 1984 | 2 | 25.0 |
| 1985 | 1 | 25.9 |

Of the 29 S\&Ls involved in mergers, 5 were supervisory and one was F.S.L.I.C.-assisted. These figures reflect the recent fragile state of the industry and the high degree of regulatory intervention in the $S \& L$ merger process in recent years. Still, $73.9 \%$ of the reported mergers were carried out on a voluntary basis.

Over half ( $55.4 \%$ ) of the savings and loan managers questioned did not feel that commercial banks or bank holding companies should be allowed to purchase healthy

S\&Ls. Major reasons cited were that S\&Ls have a responsibility to the housing industry and that banks and S\&Ls are still perceived as two distinct types of institutions. Of the $37.5 . \%$ who supported such purchases, most replied that these activities are consistent with free enterprise.

## Asset Portfolios

Table 3 presents a breakdown of the types of loans which the responding S\&Ls offer. These S\&Ls still have a strong tie with the housing industry, as evidenced by the high percentage of those offering conventional mortgages and loans for home improvements, construction, and real estate development. Because $74.1 \%$ offer automobile loans and $71.4 \%$ make consumer installment and cash loans, however, there seems to be a firm commitment to serving consumer credit needs.

The surveyed institutions were asked whether they wished to increase, decrease, or hold constant the current proportions of their portfolios invested in the various loan forms. Overall, respondents wished to increase their lending for home improvement, the purchase of automobiles, credit card accounts, and business activities. No institution reported a desire to decrease their holdings of credit-card loans (a lending area only available to S\&Ls since 1980) or business loans (available also after 1980). In fact, over $83 \%$ of the credit-card lenders and $74 \%$ of those offering business loans want to add to their holdings of these types of credit accounts. A strong commitment to conventional mortgage lending remains, however, as evidenced by the $75 \%$ of responding associations that desire to increase their portfolio holdings in this area.

Approximately half of those involved in real estate development activities want to reduce their investments there. They may find that recent market fluctuations are too risky or that deregulation has introduced more profitable investment opportunities

Table 3. LENDING SERVICES OFFERED BY RESPONDING S\&Ls

| Types of Loans | S\&Ls Now <br> Offering | Percent of <br> All Responses |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| a. Home Improvement | 98 | 87.5 |
| b. Automobiles | 83 | 74.1 |
| c. Consumer Installment, Cash Loans | 80 | 71.4 |
| d. Credit Card | 30 | 26.8 |
| e. Construction | 93 | 83.0 |
| f. Business | 48 | 42.9 |
| g. Real Estate Development | 68 | 60.7 |
| h. Education | 49 | 43.8 |
| i. Mobile Homes | 22 | 19.6 |
| j. Mortgages: FHA or VA | 44 | 39.3 |
| k. Mortgages: Conventional | 109 | 97.3 |

elsewhere. Nearly half of the respondents plan to raise the proportion of their assets held in cash and investment securities, indicating a move toward greater liquidity. This increase is probably a response to more volatile deposits, greater use of money-market borrowing, and the move toward more short-term lending.

Sixty-four percent participate in commercial loans with other S\&Ls. This high response could reflect S\&L leaders' interest in larger loans and a readily available opportunity to invest in assets other than residential mortgages. Service companies are viewed as beneficial. Seventy-five percent of those reporting currently have investments in service corporations, and $44 \%$ of these wish to increase their holdings in this area. Slightly more than a third of the institutions have become involved in reverse repurchase agreements, and most of these would like to hold the amounts of such agreements steady.

Deregulation has had a significant impact on S\&L loan portfolios. The changes in S\&L liability structures, however, have exerted a less noticeable influence on these institutions. When asked if the new higher-yield savings and time accounts had
affected their institutions' lending and investment policies, $86.6 \%$ of the survey participants gave a positive response.

## Sources of Funds

Eighty-three percent of S\&Ls offer jumbo C.D.'s, and $77 \%$ offer other types of high-yield deposit accounts. Most respondents wish to hold steady or decrease the amounts of these high-priced funds. Likewise, the desired increases checked by $82 \%$ for NOW accounts and $73 \%$ for passbook savings reflect the desirability of attracting less costly deposits. Again, probably due to their high cost, FHLB advances were not targeted for enlarged holdings by responding institutions.

Less than $12 \%$ have issued subordinated debentures, and only $5.4 \%$ borrow in the Euromarket. These sources are not practical for smaller institutions, and the high degree of sophistication in these markets may cause many larger institutions to avoid them as well. Table 4 provides further information on S\&L balance-sheet holdings and the institutions' plans for these items.

To help meet net worth requirements, twenty-two $S \& L s$ responded that they included appraised equity capital in their net worth calculations. This large number points to the dangerously low capital levels which have characterized the industry in recent periods.

## Marketing Information Sources

When considering new services and their pricing, S\&Ls most frequently check with other financial institutions with similar accounts and with $S \& L$ trade associations. Government regulatory agencies, according to the survey reponses, are consulted by only $22 \%$ of the S\&Ls. Table 5 surveyed S\&Ls' preferences for sources of market information. These associations were generally concerned with collecting

## Table 4. BALANCE SHEET ITEMS

## Percent of Respondent S\&Ls Indicating Their Preference

| Assets or Liabilities | Increased | Decreased | Held <br> Constant | Do Not <br> Have |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| a. Real Estate Owned for Development | 10.7 | 24.1 | 14.3 | 43.8 |
| b. Cash and Investment Securities | 43.8 | 14.3 | 33.0 | 0.9 |
| c. Investments in Service Corps. | 33.0 | 6.3 | 35.7 | 17.9 |
| d. Reverse Repurchase Agreements | 9.0 | 4.5 | 22.3 | 56.3 |
| e. Mortgage-Backed Securities | 25.0 | 14.3 | 32.1 | 19.6 |
| f. Jumbo CD's | 17.9 | 22.3 | 42.9 | 9.8 |
| g. Other High-Yield Deposit Accounts | 17.0 | 31.3 | 28.6 | 14.3 |
| h. NOW Accounts | 82.1 | 2.7 | 3.6 | 3.6 |
| i. Passbook Accounts | 73.2 | 5.4 | 12.5 | 0.9 |
| j. FHLB Advances | 9.0 | 21.4 | 29.5 | 32.1 |
| k. Long-Term Borrowed Money | 23.2 | 14.3 | 1.5 | 42.9 |
| l. Subordinated Debentures | 7.1 | 1.8 | 2.7 | 82.1 |
| m. Euromarket Borrowing | 3.6 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 84.8 |

information on competitors' deposit account rates, as was the case with offering new services. Eighty-six percent are presently engaged in this activity, and $84 \%$ also evaluate the desirability of their deposit services to potential customers in comparison with their competitors' deposit programs. Slightly fewer S\&Ls (66\%) actually define specific target groups to whom they promote various accounts. Overall, these responses reflect the high level of competition in the current financial marketplace.

## Present and Planned Services

Recent legislation has removed many divisions in the financial industry, and as a result, many S\&Ls are now offering services primarily identified with mutual funds, insurance companies, or brokerage firms. Table 6 gives the percentages of those who now offer the listed services, those who would like to offer them, and those who actually plan to offer the services within the next three years.

Table 5. MARKET INFORMATION USED IN PRICING NEW SERVICES

|  | Number of |
| :--- | :---: |
| Other financial institutions offering similar accounts |  |
| Institutions in other markets of fering similar accounts | 85 |
| S\&L trade associations | 55 |
| Government regulatory agencies | 79 |
| Outside consultants | 25 |
| Other sources | 36 |

Table 6. NEW SERVICES
Percent of All Respondents Indicating:
$\left.\begin{array}{lrrr} & & & \text { Expect to } \\ & \text { Offer } \\ \text { Would like } \\ \text { Offer Within }\end{array}\right)$

Over twenty-two percent of respondents who presently do not offer corporate
pension plans showed an interest in initiating that service. This response may relate to the portion of $\mathrm{S} \& \mathrm{~L}$ management who wishes to emphasize commercial banking. Further evidence of this trend is that 25 of the 112 responding $\mathrm{S} \& \mathrm{Ls}$ now offer business inventory loans and 21 deal in accounts receivable financing. Business checking deposits are now accepted by $39.3 \%$ of the surveyed associations, and another $28.6 \%$ would like to accept them.

Institutions appear to be more reluctant to get involved in areas of higher sophistication and risk, such as leveraged lease plans, loan syndications, venture capital financing, and investment banking. Particularly in the case of investment banking, most savings and loans are too small to handle the volume necessary to make these operations profitable.

Institutions displayed a greater interest in consumer cash mranagement than in corporate cash management--both among those who now offer these services and among those who plan to offer them. Investment planning also shows strong promise, with $17.9 \%$ of the surveyed S\&Ls now offering this service and another $26.8 \%$ who would like to offer it. In contrast, tax counseling is offered by only $3.6 \%$, but $10.7 \%$ of responding associations wish to add it to their programs.

Discount brokerage, another service which targets mainly individuals, $\cdot$ is already available through $22.3 \%$ of the surveyed $S \& L s$, and an additional $19.6 \%$ are considering it. Likewise $23.2 \%$ offer life insurance and another $18.75 \%$ would like to sell it. Associations revealed a similar interest in property/casualty insurance. Over half of the surveyed institutions handle direct deposits of payrolls, and many more would like to make this service available.

Savings and loans are taking major steps in electronic data transmission through the use of automatic teller machines (ATMs), point-of-sale transactions, and transactions through home and office computers. Over $20 \%$ of the $\mathrm{S} \& L s$ now have
access to ATM networks, and more than $33 \%$ expect to have access within the next three years. Although only $5.4 \%$ have point-of-sale transactions processing, $22.3 \%$ would like to have this processing. Also, $23.2 \%$ want to offer transactions by home and office computers. Despite their high installation and usage costs, all of these advanced transaction methods are becoming increasingly popular among S\&L managers.

## Other Profitability Factors

Survey respondents were asked to mention federal and/or state legislation which they feel limits the feasibility and profitability of certain S\&L services. While the answers ranged from "All of them" to "No real problem at this time," items commonly listed include restrictions on commercial checking, net worth requirements that limit growth, and the I.R.S. definition for S\&Ls, which restricts real-estate investment. Those surveyed were also asked to list services which the S\&Ls offer that are unprofitable in themselves but seem to contribute by cross-selling other services. In this category, "ATMs" was by far the most frequently listed item. Others mentioned money orders, travelers' checks, automatic utility payments, Christmas club accounts, and balancing customers' checkbooks. Other S\&Ls commented that they are working to price these items to provide positive profits.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The third segment of this $\mathrm{S} \& \mathrm{~L}$ study deals with a statistical analysis using regression techniques of the balance sheets and income statements for the ten percent of the $S \& L$ population included in the survey sample. The tables in this section report partial regression coefficients whose $t$ statistics indicate the significance of major asset portfolio items, operating costs, and fixed costs in affecting $S \& L$ profitability (as measured by return on assets).

Table 7. SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSET RETURNS BASED ON PARTIAL REGRESSION COEFFICIENTS

Types of Loans:

| Net Income | Singlefamily | Multi- <br> family | Land | Home improvement | Consumer auto |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total Assets | TA | TA | TA | TA | TA |
| 1983 Ratio | . 0053 | . 0077 | . 0197 | -. 0077 | -. 0463 |
| T-Value | 1.265 | 0.969 | 1.604 | -. 180 | -1.166 |
| 1982 Ratio | -. 0016 | -. 0092 | .0349* | -. 0077 | . 0484 |
| T-Value | -. 604 | -1.817 | 2.345 | -. 361 | 1.108 |
| 1981 Ratio | -. 0029 | -. 0079 | -. 0167 | -. 0003 | . 0376 |
| T-Value | -1.243 | -1.907 | -. 905 | -. 020 | . 605 |
| 1980 Ratio | -. 0011 | -. 0025 | . 0109 | -. 0036 | ----- |
| T-Value | -. 671 | -. 989 | . 802 | -. 292 |  |

* Statistically significant at least at the 5-percent risk level.

As Tables 7 and 8 reveal, few asset-composition items displayed a statistically significant impact on savings and loan profitability during the $1980-83$ period covered by the regression equations. The 1982 return earned on land investments as a percent of total assets is the only statistically significant figure in Table 7. High 1982 returns on $S \& L$ investments in land probably reflect capital gains received for
properties that had expanded in value during this period of relatively high inflation. The few other statistically significant asset-portfolio items were negatively related to return on assets.

Table 8. ADDITIONAL S\&L ASSETS CONSIDERED IN THE PROFITABILITY EQUATIONS

Types of Loans and Investments:

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Other } \\ \text { consumer } \\ \mathrm{TA} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Real-estate } \\ & \frac{\text { investment }}{\mathrm{TA}} \end{aligned}$ | Investment securities TA | $\begin{gathered} \begin{array}{c} \text { Junior } \\ \text { mortgages } \\ \text { TA } \end{array} \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1983 Ratio | -.1271* | -. 0152 | . 0051 | . 0434 |
| T-Value | -5.162 | -. 411 | . 521 | 1.755 |
| 1982 Ratio | -. 0109 | . 0234 | -. 0035 | -. 0089 |
| T-Value | -. 514 | . 483 | -. 691 | -. 423 |
| 1981 Ratio | . 0043 | . 0043 | -. 0114 | . 0602 |
| T-Value | . 163 | . 089 | -1.449 | 1.132 |
| 1980 Ratio | -. 0014 | -. 0413 | -.0183* | ----- |
| T-Value | -. 068 | -1.060 | -2.440 | ---- |

* Statistically significant at least at the 5-percent risk level.

For example, as reported in Table 8, the 1983 "other consumer loans" provided a net loss. Possible explanations include low consumer-loan volume, resulting in diseconomies of scale, or excessively competitive pricing used to attract a larger customer base. The 1980 investment securities returns were significantly negative as well. Net losses in this area most likely relate to the high and rising interest rates prevalent during much of this period, which caused a corresponding reduction in security prices.

In contrast to the relative lack of significance of asset-composition variables, selected expense items tend to be highly significant (at the one-percent risk level), as

Table 9. COST OF LIABILITIES CONSIDERED IN THE S\&L REGRESSION EQUATIONS

|  | Officer and <br> employee <br> compensation | Loan <br> expenses | Advertising <br> expenses | TA | TA <br> interest |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1983 Ratio | -.3614 | -1.311 | $-6.7067 *$ | $-5.445 *$ |  |
| T-Value | -.923 | -1.329 | -4.169 | -4.989 |  |
| 1982 Ratio | .4506 | 1.4167 | -.1709 | $-.2672 *$ |  |
| T-Value | 1.645 | 1.151 | -.268 | -5.005 |  |
| 1981 Ratio | . .2618 | $1.7611 *$ | -.1740 | $-.1829 *$ |  |
| T-Value | 1.028 | 2.285 | -.329 | -3.732 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1980 Ratio | $-.6874 *$ |  | .6812 | $-1.3349 *$ | $-2.804 *$ |
| T-Value | -4.247 | 1.853 | -3.994 | -6.438 |  |

shown in Table 9. Not surprisingly, the dominant expense factor is deposit interest costs, statistically significant in all 4 years analyzed. Advertising expenses relative to total assets were significant at the one-percent risk level in 1983 and 1980, though not statistically significant in 1982 and 1981. Two other expense items were employee costs in 1980 and the loan expenses in 1981.

The savings and loan size variable shown in Table 10 suggests an interesting situation. The deposit-size ratio, which is 1 /deposits, decreased from 1980 to 1983 as S\&Ls grew primarily through mergers and acquisitions. In the regulated environment of 1980 , smaller $S \& L s$ were more profitable; however as the period of heaviest deregulation from 1981 through 1983 progressed, larger S\&Ls most frequently achieved greater returns on assets than did smaller savings associations. Overall, the regressions are significant with $F$ values high enough to qualify for statistical significance at the one-percent risk level. The equations have relatively modest
explanatory power, however, with $\mathrm{R}^{2 \text {,s }}$ ranging from 11 percent in 1981 to 35 percent in 1980.

Table 10. FIXED-COST FACTORS CONSIDERED IN PROFITABILITY REGRESSION EQUATIONS

|  | Organizational <br> Form <br> (Stock vs. Mutual) | Inverse of <br> Deposit <br> Size | Intercept | $\mathrm{R}^{2}$ | F |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1983 Ratio | -.0100 | $-.0617 *$ | 2.3863 | .24 | 7.442 |
| T-Value | -.066 | -2.463 |  |  | .0001 |
| 1982 Ratio | -.0073 | 1.1135 | .9861 | .17 | .4772 |
| T-Value | -.076 | 1.652 |  |  | .0001 |
| 1981 Ratio | .0568 | $-1.4192 *$ | .6625 | .11 | 2.923 |
| T-Value | .686 | -3.094 |  |  | .0002 |
| 1980 Ratio | .0883 | $2.1668 *$ | 1.3806 | .35 | 14.251 |
| T-Value | 1.815 | 7.193 |  |  | .0001 |

[^1]
# INTERVIEWS OF SAVINGS AND LOAN MANAGERS 

## Associations with Assets of Less Than $\$ 75$ Million

## Organization

The first S\&L interviewed has assets of less than $\$ 40$ million and operates in a rural area. It also owns three other S\&Ls in nearby communities, a mortgage company in a nearby metropolitan area, and an insurance company. Despite its limited assets, this organization competes in a variety of geographic and financial markets.

## Assets

Historically, this institution has been both a mortgage lender and a mortgage banker, packaging and selling loans to large investors, such as insurance companies and large commercial banks. Thus it has had the advantage of maintaining a relatively current mortgage portfolio. With the advent of variable-rate home loans, the association gradually converted to adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs), mostly oneyear adjustables using the Treasury bill rate as an index.

While the firm's major emphasis remains in residential lending, it has cautiously added consumer lending and some commercial lending to its portfolio. The commercial business is not advertized; it is carried out on a selective basis by targeting local companies and soliciting their business. It is mostly "bulge" lending, such as inventory and receivables financing, which relies on the customer's short-term cash flows for repayment. Because the main purpose of the savings and loan's participation in commercial lending is to develop short-term assets, it is involved in very little capital financing. The mortgage company was formed to 1 ) originate income property loans for the S\&L, and 2) function as a mortgage banker in placing
income property loans throughout the country.

Sources of Funds

The institution handles consumer and commercial deposits in its geographic markets. The manager commented that it competes for its funds with local banks and S\&Ls as well as large money market funds. It offers a tiered system of checking accounts (higher interest rates for higher balances), money market deposit accounts, fixed- and variable-rate C.D.s, jumbo C.D.s (deposits over $\$ 100,000$ ), and individual retirement accounts.

## Views on Deregulation

- The president of this S\&L generally agrees with deregulation and the laissez-faire approach, but he notes that the current changes have several social implications. First of all, housing is no longer a priority in the allocation of capital resources, since home-buyers must now compete with commercial borrowers for funds.

Secondly, S\&L failures have damaged the integrity of the FSLIC and the FDIC Some of these failures, he believes, have been in institutions whose lack of discretion in handling the new powers has brought their downfall. In light of these failures, the manager sees proposed regulatory changes, such as growth rate restrictions and increased net worth requirements, as necessary for safeguarding the reputation of the regulatory institutions.

Commenting on deregulation in other areas of the financial industry, the manager disagrees with the existence of non-bank banks and sees them merely as a means of circumventing the laws. He does not approve of Sears-type businesses' entering the financial industry either, because they are unregulated.

## Organization

The second S\&L reviewed was founded after deregulation began with the intention of operating much like a commercial bank while obtaining the advantages of a savings and loan charter. A few of these advantages include:

1. Participation in joint ventures.
2. Placement of long-term, fixed-rate mortgages with participants.
3. Fewer restrictions on amount of assets loaned to any one customer.

The organization, which considers itself a "private banking center," is comprised mainly of former commercial bank executives.

This association targets the commercial market and "high dollar" professionals, just as many commercial banks do. Management attributes its effectiveness, however, to the association's personnel, location, and its board of directors. The institution's loan officers have from 5 to 30 years of commercial banking experience. These lenders, they feel, are more capable of making high-quality commercial loans than S\&L lenders, who have been limited in the past to mortgage loans. In targeting more affluent customers, the management places great importance on the institution's location. It is situated near several established neighborhoods and is close to a medical complex as well. The savings and loan's third major strength is its board of directors. These individuals, most of whom are extremely well known in the area and are of substantial means, played a major role in attracting investors and borrowers to this new institution.

## Assets

Due to the emphasis on the commercial market, most loans are over $\$ 300,000$. The manager attributes some cost savings to these high volume loans. It holds no fixed-rate loans, and its officers will not make fixed-rate loans unless matched funding is available. Types of loans include construction loans (from interim financing to the permanent loans) and commercial and consumer loans targeting executive and professional clientel. In addition to its loan portfolio, this S\&L has invested in two service companies. One of these is a capital company used for participating in joint ventures. The other, a mortgage company, while not yet active, will be used for packaging and selling loans in the event that a bank or savings and loan is acquired in the future.

## Sources of Funds

Because of its commercial bank lending orientation, this S\&L is atypical of most S\&Ls in that its loans are all variable rate, with rates that float daily, as opposed to the general long-term, fixed-rate loans. It is therefore seeking to shorten the maturity of its deposits to better match this unusual asset portfolio. It presently has the following mix of deposits:
$40 \%$ certificates of deposit of $\$ 100,000$ or more;
$15 \%$ certificates of deposit of less than $\$ 100,000$;
$15 \%$ "free" commercial deposits; and
$30 \%$ mixture of IRA's, money market accounts, and other savings deposits.

Management plans to maintain this composition. None of its deposits are brokered, and the average deposit is in excess of $\$ 50,000$.

In its first year of operation, this $S \& L$ grew from $\$ 2.5$ million in capital to $\$ 42$ million. Despite this rapid growth, the institution still has a capital adequacy ratio in excess of seven percent of total assets. When their assets reach $\$ 100,000$, as they anticipate for 1985, the board has already made provisions for a voluntary capital call so that the institution can maintain a solid equity base.

Views on Deregulation

Commenting on deregulation, the manager pointed out that recent regulatory changes have made his type of organization possible. He sees its effects as good for competition and consumers, and added that it will either force some of the larger, stagnant associations out of business or revise their thinking. He attributes the push for reregulation to the high proportion of trouble loans being made by inexperienced lenders. Because bad loans increase earnings losses and thus lower capital, the manager views higher capital requirements as attacking the symptom but not the disease. Commercial loans and joint ventures are lucrative, he says, but professional expertise is essential for obtaining high-quality loans. Two types of reregulation are being considered--one prohibiting use of brokered funds and a second raising capital requirements-- but these proposed regulations would have no effect on this institution. The manager again pointed out that brokered funds are not currently used, and the $7 \%$ capital ratio they are maintaining is above the proposed requirement. Because of this institution's success, the manager commented, other financial institutions of its type are being formed in its city.

## Associations with Assets from $\$ 75$ Million to $\$ 500$ Million

## Organization

Medium-size S\&Ls offered a somewhat different perspective on the effects of deregulation. One S\&L, which operates in a major metropolitan area and has assets of over $\$ 100$ million, has switched its emphasis from mortgage lending to commercial banking. As a part of this strategy, it changed from a federal savings and loan to a federal savings bank. This institution has sought and hired commercial bank expertise to help implement this plan.

## Assets

In the early 1980's, this savings bank packaged and sold much of its low-interest mortgage portfolio. The residential lending now centers around one-year ARMs, although high-priced, fixed-rate mortgages are available as an alternative. The institution also deals in second mortgages, auto loans, and a few personal loans.

After the Garn bill went into effect, the savings bank became active in realestate loans and other types of commercial lending as well. The commercial loans float on a daily basis with the Chase-Manhattan interest-rate index. The institution encourages these short-term, adjustable loans.

## Sources of Funds

The organization is aggresively seeking more low-cost funds, primarily through intensified advertising. Jumbo C.D.s have been de-emphasized in favor of checking accounts, especially those with commercial loan customers. Also, Christmas club accounts were discontinued because they were considered too much of a loss leader. To help improve the asset-liability match, special incentives have been offered for

# longer-term deposits. For example, video games and Cabbage Patch dolls were recently offered for individuals opening 1-year certificates for $\$ 10,000$ or $\$ 20,000$. 

## Services

The institution affiliated with an ATM network in late 1984. These ATMs have been extremely helpful, since the bank is currently operating under tight space constraints. A limited number of safe deposit boxes are presently available.

Views on Deregulation

The savings bank is pleased with the flexibility available in a deregulated environment. However, because the industry is still in a restructuring process, the savings bank president is against an immediate increase in the net worth requirements.

## Organization

Operating with assets near $\$ 300$ million. one thrift has divided into two major segments: 1) a "typical" S\&L, and 2) a real estate group. The savings and loan division handles residential and construction lending, deposit activities, and maintains a dozen branch locations. The real estate group consists of a real estate investment company and several subsidiaries, including an appraisal company, title company, property management company, and an architectural and engineering firm. The organization is one of the largest land owners in its city. While the manager identified residential lending as the association's main function, he related that the S\&L has increased its profits through vertical integration. More specifically, by getting involved in property acquisition and development, management feels that they have improved their chances of obtaining quality real estate loans. Their philosophy
is to run the financial side (the $S \& L$ ) at break-even and make the majority of their profits from real estate activities.

This association began altering its goals in 1983 with an acquisition and a general alteration of operating philosophy. The management started with a healthy institution and built the infrastructure needed for increased real estate activities. The new subsidiaries took from 12 to 18 months to start their operations.

Management classifies this $S \& L$ as an innovator. The association's conversion from mutual to stock form in 1974 was one of the earliest in the country. It was also one of the first in the country to offer an earnings-based certificate of deposit (a $\$ 50$-million public offering of real-estate-related C.D.'s.) In addition, the manager pointed out that this S\&L developed the zero-coupon C.D. in its state.

Assets

Soon after deregulation went into effect, the institution disposed of its fixed-rate loans and now maintains a current portfolio with rate sensitivity equal to its sources of funds. Any fixed-rate mortgages made are sold immediately, but most mortgage loans are one-year, Treasury-indexed ARM's. They deal in both single-family home and commercial construction as well as consumer lending and loans for land acquisition and development. Instead of directly making corporate loans, the S\&L has invested in a venture capital fund.

This association hired people with real estate expertise from around the country. Recognizing that the organization's talents are concentrated in real estate and certain savings and loan services, management does not attempt to expand into such unrelated areas as non-real-estate secured commercial lending. They cite diversification within the limits of their expertise as a key factor in their success.

Sources of Funds

This particular association offers a variety of deposit accounts, including tiered checking and flex C.D.'s. In both cases, a higher balance commands a higher interest rate. Around $25 \%$ of its deposits are in jumbo C.D.'s ( $\$ 100,000$ and over), while another $40 \%$ of the deposit portfolio is in other C.D.'s. A small percentage ( 5 to $6 \%$ ) of the association's funds is in passbook accounts, and the remainder is held in money-market checkable deposits.

## Future Development

The S\&L has plans for starting a securities corporation for selling real estate securities. The savings and loan segment plans to serve as a "correspondent bank" for other S\&Ls in the area by offering such services as cash management, property appraising, and title services.

## Views on Deregulation

This S\&L manager sees a new regulatory emphasis on higher capital requirements and limits on direct investments. He agrees with the need for higher capital requirements, but feels that an "overkill" exists. Of particular concern to him is the FSLIC's push for a "special premium" of $1 / 8$ of a percent on all deposits in 1985 , which could put a severe strain on many S\&Ls. In the manager's opinion, many of the savings and loan's problems with deregulation stem from their failure to plan and develop an adequate infrastructure before offering new products and services.

## Associations with Assets Over $\$ 500$ Million

## Organization

While recent deregulatory legislation has provided S\&Ls with many new options, some of these institutions have continued to specialize heavily in mortgage financing. One S\&L interviewed, which has assets in excess of $\$ 1.7$ billion and serves a major metropolitan area, has elected to maintain its position as a conservative mortgage lender. This S\&L converted from mutual to stock form of ownership in 1983, but otherwise its operations have remained basically unchanged.

Assets

For this federal institution, deregulation has allowed them to change from longterm, fixed-rate mortgages to one-year adjustable-rate mortgage loans (ARMs). The S\&L manager related that their conversion to ARMs was gradual. They first introduced a 3-year ARM and priced their fixed-rate mortgage at an unfavorable interest rate. After the public became familiar with ARMs, this S\&L began to emphasize the 1 -year ARMs over the 3 -year ARMs.

S\&L management estimates that it will be 5 to 7 years before the majority of its mortgage portfolio is comprised of variable-rate instruments. They indicated that this time frame is less than the national average of around 10 years. Partly because of this favorable maturity position, the institution's management has chosen to retain its older, lower-rate mortgage loans rather than package them for sale at a discount from par.

Prior to deregulation, this institution participated to a limited extent in consumer lending. It has continued with these personal loans and has become more active in commercial lending as well. The manager indicated that the institution actively buys
land for development and sells the lots to builders. It usually handles the interim financing and the final loan in these arrangements. Management's opinion, however, is that the $S \& L$ itself should not be involved in developing this land. Therefore, the S\&L works with developers in partner-type relationships.

Since deregulation went into effect, this $S \& L$ offered and subsequently discontinued an innovative loan product due to poor public response and complications in servicing the loans. This was a "flex mortgage" which can temporarily stop the interest payments on an existing home mortgage while interest continues to accrue. Its purpose was to indirectly use the home as collateral in a state which forbids borrowing against the homestead except for making improvements to the home. The $S \& L$ will continue to service those flex mortgages made during the time the product was offered.

Sources of Funds

This S\&L offers the basic checking accounts and money market deposit accounts (MMDAs) permitted by law. One special account offered is a real-estate participation certificate of deposit. This savings instrument, which earns a relatively low fixed rate of return, is tied to a block of real estate loans. When the loans are sold, the savings customer "participates" in the profits from the real estate sale.

## Services

In regard to services, depositors have access to an ATM network and safe deposit boxes. Because of the high costs involved in introducing a new product, such as data processing setups, marketing, and employee education, this $\mathrm{S} \& \mathrm{~L}$ is very selective in instituting new products and services. It usually assumes a "wait-and-see" position regarding innovative products. It is interesting that the largest $S \& L$ involved in the
interviews was the most wary of using its new powers.

## Views on Deregulation

Aware of its limitations, management maintains a cautious approach toward the innovations allowed as a result of deregulation. Overall, this S\&L still considers its mission as accepting savings deposits and extending mortgage loans. In recent years, it has offered relatively few new products, and perhaps the most drastic change has been the switch to variable-rate mortgages. In consideration of its regulated, relatively sheltered past, management feels that $S \& L s$ are not a place for entrepreneurs.

## Organization

The last savings and loan whose management was interviewed has integrated three industries into a holding-company format. These industries are mortgage banking, real estate development, and retail banking. The president commented that an S\&L charter is the only charter which allows these three activities to be combined. This state-chartered institution was founded in 1978 in a state which had already removed many S\&L asset restrictions. It has, therefore, operated in a deregulated environment over a much longer period than has been true in most other parts of the nation. In such an atmosphere, according to the president, entrepreneurism is the key to success. The company is therefore divided into independent profit centers so that each center can develop a unique entrepreneural spirit. The company then functions to blend the centers together and insure that they strive to meet common goals. Competent managers for these divisions, along with accurate reporting and control, are recognized as crucial in this arrangement. There are presently eight profit centers, but more are developing.

The association has chosen to be a national company, operating thirty loan origination offices in twenty states. The profit center concept aids this activity as well, while the company maintains the support operations.

Assets

The mortgage bank initiates the mortgage loans, sells them to investors, and continues to service these loans for their customers. The real estate development involves joint ventures for the purchase, development, and sale of land, as well as construction. The retail banks operate like commercial banks by accepting deposits and making consumer and commercial loans. Because of the wide range of products and services available through these three types of operations, the company is able to purchase land, meet the financing requirements of the builder, and later serve the home-buyer's mortgage and retail banking needs.

## Services

Services offered through the retail banking facilities include discount brokerage, ATM's, insurance, and financial planning. The organization's marketing department is constantly monitoring customer needs through surveys and other means of analysis, so that the company can adapt to the public's changing demands for financial services.

## Views on Deregulation

Relating his views on deregulation, the manager emphasized that consumers have benefitted through more favorable prices, better service, and an increase in alternatives. Deregulation, he says, has given $S \& L s$ the responsibility of being innovative. He favors capital requirements as a means of regulation and adds that S\&Ls meeting the stated capital requirements should be allowed to be creative.

## CONCLUSIONS

Savings and loans have experienced a major transformation within the last five years, largely due to volatile economic conditions, increased competition with other types of financial institutions, and deregulatory legislation. This new legal environment has presented $S \& L$ management with a wide variety of alternatives. The S\&L managers interviewed possess a broad array of goals and strategies for their institutions, ranging from a traditional $S \& L$ and a private banking center to a realestate group and a "full-service" holding company; this research finding supports Cassidy's and Marcis' predictions of industry diversification.

The increased diversification of $S \& L$ portfolios has not become the panacea that some legislators anticipated. The regression results produced in this study, in fact, showed that a broader asset mix had an adverse effect on S\&L earnings in some instances. Possible explanations include the higher risk involved in many nonmortgage loans, small loan volume in these new areas, and lack of experience in commercial and consumer lending.

Another approach to the $S \& L$ asset/liability mismatch problem has been the offering of adjustable-rate mortgages. All six of the institutions interviewed offer ARMs, and most of these favor one-year adjustables. Because almost all of the surveyed institutions ( $97.3 \%$ ) continue to offer conventional mortgage loans, this development should be very beneficial. The $75 \%$ positive response to the national survey for an increase in mortgage lending indicates a continuing commitment to the housing industry.

Several structural changes have occured in the $S \& L$ industry during the 1980 's. As indicated by the survey, a large portion of the industry has participated in mergers, which resulted in larger institutions, on average. The survey also revealed that many mutual associations have raised capital by converting to a stock form of
ownership, as Ollard observed.
The low net worth for the industry has shaken the public's confidence in the industry. Proposed legislation would restore the net worth requirement to five percent, but many S\&Ls would need a substantial "grace period" before they could meet this new standard. As a further control, the $S \& L$ examiners may wish to institute even more strict evaluations of institutions because of the increased risk of their activities and investments.

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INSTRUCTIONS:
We have tried to make this survey short and simple to complete. The majority of
questions can be answered with a simple check mark or an "x" on the appropriate
line. For those questions asking for specific dates or other information,
please mark "NA" if that information is unavailable. However, please complete
all the items you can. All individual responses are confidential. Only
statistical summaries of grouped responses will be reported without revealing
the identity of any one S&L or individual. Your efforts in answering these
questions should be of significant help to those managers and planners in the
S&L industry. That effort is appreciated!
1. When was your institution chartered? Year
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2. Is your institution:
    Part of a larger holding company
    _Owner of one or more smaller S&Ls
    _Independent
3. Are you involved in any commercial loan participations with other S&Ls?
    __Yes __No
4. Has your institution converted from mutual to stock form?
__Yes __No
If "yes," please give conversion date:
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5. Have you included appraised equity capital in your regulatory net worth
calculation?
If so, give the year:
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6. Are you involved in any significant multistate operations in any of the following areas? (Please check which, if any.)
Real estate lending
Mortgage banking
__Construction lending
__Other (Please describe.)
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7. Has your institution participated in a merger recently?
                                    Yes __No
If so, were you the acquiring or acquired institution? (Please check.)
    __Acquiring Acquired ___Other (Including Phoenix-type merger)
Please indicate the year of the merger:
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8. If you were involved in a merger, how was it classified?
                                    Voluntary
                                    Supervisory
                                    FSLIC-assisted
```

9. Below is a list of specific lending services provided by some SELs. Please check the appropriate columns indicating whether or not you currently offer the type of loan indicated, or formerly offered the loan but have now discontinued it. Please indicate as well whether you would like to see such loans increased, decreased, or held about where they are as a proportion of your institution's loan portfolio.

Types of Loans


As Fraction of Loan Portfolio
|lncreaselDecreasel Hold

10. Please indicate whether you would like to see the following items on your institution's balance sheet held constant, increased, or decreased. Mark with an "x" those you do not have on your balance sheet.

| Assets or Liabilities | Increased As Fracti | Decreased n of Total | Held Constant Assets | Do Not Have ( x ) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. Real Estate Owned for Development |  |  |  |  |
| b. Cash and Investment Securities |  |  |  |  |
| c. Investments in Service Corps. |  |  |  |  |
| d. Reverse Repurchase Agreements |  |  |  |  |
| e. Mortgage-Backed Securities |  |  |  |  |
| f. Jumbo CD's |  |  |  |  |
| g. Other High-Yield Deposit Accounts |  |  |  |  |
| h. NOW Accounts |  |  |  |  |
| i. Passbook Accounts |  |  |  |  |
| . FHLB Advances |  |  |  |  |
| $k$. Long-Term Borrowed Money |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Subordinated Debentures |  |  |  |  |
| $m$. Euromarket Borrowing |  |  |  |  |
| n. Other |  |  |  |  |
| O. Other |  |  |  |  |
| p. Other |  |  |  |  |

11. What federal and/or state legislation do you feel prohibits or severely limits the feasibility and profitability of certain S\&L services? Please explain.

12. Do you believe the offering of new higher yield savings and time accounts has influenced your institution's lending and investment policies?
__Yes __No _No idea
13. Is your institution currently involved in the following activities?
a. Defining specific target market groups to whom your SEL will promote various accounts.
__Yes ___No No Idea
b. Systematically collecting information on competitors' deposit account rates.
_Yes __No _No ldea
c. Evaluating the desirability of your deposit services to your potential customers in comparison to your competitors' deposit programs.
Yes __No __No Idea
14. Are you in favor of allowing commercial banks or bank holding companies to buy healthy SELs?
$\qquad$ No
Why or why not?
Yes
15. Please check the following services you would like to offer, if it were possible. Also check those services which you expect to offer within the next 3 years. Please place an "x" beside any service already offered. By not checking any of the columns in a catagory, you indicate that you neither offer nor plan to offer that particular service.

Expect to


Thank you for your patience and attentior to detail in answering the foregoing questions. Please return this survey form to:

```
Dr. Peter S. Rose
Finance Department
Blocker Building
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-4218
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Please note: The format and content of this survey instrument. are not intended to express or reflect any official policy of Texas AGM University.



1:58 SATURDAY, MARCH 23.1985



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[^0]:    This document follows the style of The Journal of Finance.

[^1]:    * Statistically significant at least at the 5 -percent risk level.

