

Life Insurance & Financial Services Briefs

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Gov. Romney breaks ground for MassMutual Center

SPRINGFIELD, MASS. — After a \$71 million expansion, the Springfield Civic Center will be known as the MassMutual Center. Gov. Mitt Romney traveled to Springfield last week to break ground on the project, a major component of the region's economic development strategy.

Once it's completed in 2005, the center will host the Springfield Falcons hockey team and be used as a convention center and exhibit hall. MassMutual is part owner of the hockey team and has signed a \$5 million naming rights agreement with the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority. The naming rights revenues will be used to help pay for the renovation. □

Banks earned \$1.73 billion in insurance for first 6 months

Banks earned \$1.73 billion in insurance commissions and fee income in the first half of 2003, according to Michael White's 2003 Mid-Year Bank Insurance & Investment Fee Income Report.

Among the report's significant findings are these:

- Of 8,321 commercial and federally insured savings banks, 3,833 or 46.1 percent participated in insurance activities in the first six months of 2003 and reported \$1.73 billion in insurance income in the first half of 2003, down 3.2% from \$1.79 billion at mid-year 2002.

- The largest banks, those over \$10 billion in assets, had the highest participation rate (76.4 percent) in insurance and produced \$1.25 billion in insurance fee income, 7.2 percent more than the \$1.16 billion recorded in the first half of 2002.

- Banks in the eastern and central regions of the country dominated insurance income in the first half of 2003. The Northeast, Midatlantic and Southeast regions collectively accounted for \$1.33 billion of insurance income, 76.9 percent of the industry's year to date total. Insurance income in these regions changed, respectively, 22.4 percent, -8.8 percent and 2.9 percent YTD compared to the same six-month period last year. Insurance income dropped 35.2 percent in the Midwest region from \$438.6 million to \$284.3 million. The Midwest region once led all other regions, but its bank-market share of insurance revenue has declined from 24.5 percent to 16.4 percent.

- BHCs in the Northeast produced the most investment fee income, \$2.1 billion or a 43.5% share. □