# OPERATING RATIOS OF MEMBER BANKS ELEVENTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT 

## To Member Banks of the <br> Eleventh Federal Reserve District:

The annual statement of operating ratios of the member banks in the Eleventh Federal Reserve District for 1951, with comparative figures for 1950 , is presented on the inside pages of this letter. The 1951 ratios shown under each deposit-size group are averages of the ratios of individual banks computed from data taken from the reports of condition as of December 30, 1950, June 30, 1951, and October 10, 1951, and from reports of earnings and expenses for the year 1951. Ratios for your bank are included for your convenience in making comparisons.

Member bank profits declined somewhat during 1951, while total capital accounts rose. Consequently, ratios of net profits to total capital accounts declined at banks in all deposit-size groups, with the exception of those reporting average deposits of less than $\$ 500,000$. The larger decreases occurred at banks with deposits of $\$ 10,000,000$ or more. Cash dividends declared in 1951 represented approximately the same proportion of capital accounts as in 1950 at banks with deposits of $\$ 5,000,000$ or more, but the ratios for banks in the smaller size groups declined.

The proportion of earnings derived from loans increased further during 1951 at banks in all deposit-size groups except the $\$ 5,000,000-\$ 9,999,999$ group, while the ratios of interest on Government securities to total earnings declined, with the exception of the fractional increases shown by banks with deposits of $\$ 2,000,000$ to $\$ 9,999,999$. Although both the yields and the aggregate member bank holdings of Government securities rose during the year, the effects of these increases were more than matched by the rates of growth in earnings on loans.

Expenses absorbed a larger proportion of the earnings of banks in most deposit-size groups, due principally to increases in the relative importance of salaries and wages. The ratios of expenses to earnings declined notably, however, at banks in both the largest and the smallest size groups. Reflecting principally the increases in corporate tax rates, a larger proportion of the earnings of banks in each size group, except banks with deposits of $\$ 500,000$ to $\$ 999,999$, was absorbed by taxes on net income.

During 1951 there was a further strengthening of member bank capital accounts in relation to deposit liabilities. Although the ratio of total capital accounts to total deposits of banks reporting deposits of $\$ 10,000,000$ to $\$ 24,999,999$ remained unchanged, the ratios for all the other size groups showed increases. The capital-to-deposits ratios ranged from 5.9 percent for the larger banks to 14.6 percent for banks with deposits of less than $\$ 500,000$.

Comparisons of the ratios for your bank with those of other banks of comparable size should be made with the understanding that the individual bank ratios from which the average ratios were computed differed rather widely in some cases.

Yours very truly,

## R. R. GILBERT

President


