

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

DALLAS, TEXAS 75222

Circular No. 80-59
March 24, 1980

TO CORPORATIONS REPORTING MONTHLY UNDER THE SPECIAL CREDIT RESTRAINT PROGRAM:

President Carter, on March 14, 1980, announced a broad program designed to moderate and reduce inflationary forces in the United States economy. In addition to fiscal, energy, and other measures, the President, under the terms of the Credit Control Act of 1969, provided the Federal Reserve Board with the authority to exercise special restraints on the growth of certain kinds of credit. At the same time, the Federal Reserve Board has taken a series of other steps to restrain credit growth.

In order to clarify these actions, I have enclosed copies of certain new regulations adopted by the Federal Reserve Board and a description of the voluntary special credit restraint program that affects certain finance companies and selected corporations. You will receive instructions for reporting under the program. Please feel free to address questions on this program to Richard D. Ingram, Ext. 6333, and Helen E. Holcomb, Ext. 6166.

Very briefly, here are the highlights of the program, as described in more detail in the enclosures.

Speical Credit Restraint Program

1. Banks are expected to restrain their growth in total loans to a range of 6-9 percent. However, the actual growth for individual institutions will be appraised in light of their location, past growth patterns, their liquidity and capital positions, and other individual circumstances. Similar restraint should be exercised with respect to commitments.

2. Within this general constraint, banks are encouraged to maintain reasonable availability of funds for small businesses, farmers, housing, smaller agriculturally-oriented commercial bank correspondents, and thrift institutions.

3. Credit for automobile and home improvement loans should be treated normally.

4. Special restraint should be applied to financing of corporate takeovers or mergers, of the retirement of corporate stock, of speculative holding or commodities or precious metals, and of extraordinary inventory accumulation.

5. In establishing the price and non-price terms of bank loans, no specific guidelines or formulas are suggested. However, as appropriate and possible, lending rates and other terms should take account of the special needs of small businesses and farmers.

Banks and others are encouraged to use the following incoming WATS numbers in contacting this Bank: 1-800-442-7140 (intrastate) and 1-800-527-9200 (interstate). For calls placed locally, please use 651 plus the extension referred to above.

6. Loans by large finance companies will be monitored, and selected large corporations will be asked to report the amounts of the commercial paper they have issued and the amounts of their borrowings from abroad.

While the Federal Reserve is aware of the burdensome nature of these actions for you, we believe that they are necessary to begin the process of slowing the pace of inflation that has become so painful. We also believe that these programs seek to spread the burden of combating inflation equitably among all lenders and as fairly among borrowers as is practical. Without your wholehearted cooperation, the best interests of our Nation will not be served. The Federal Reserve fully expects your cooperation and assistance in assuring the success of this program.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest T. Baughman

President

Enclosures

FEDERAL RESERVE press release



For immediate release

MARCH 14, 1980

The Federal Reserve Board today announced a series of monetary and credit actions as part of a general government program to help curb inflationary pressures. The actions are:

1. A voluntary Special Credit Restraint Program that will apply to all domestic commercial banks, bank holding companies, business credit extended by finance companies, and credit extended to U.S. residents by the U.S. agencies and branches of foreign banks. The parents and affiliates of those foreign banks are urged to cooperate in similarly restricting their lending to U.S. companies. Special effort will be made to maintain credit for farmers and small businessmen.

2. A program of restraint on certain types of consumer credit, including credit cards, check credit overdraft plans, unsecured personal loans and secured credit where the proceeds are not used to finance the collateral. The Board has established a special deposit requirement of 15 percent for all lenders on increases in covered types of credit. Automobile credit, credit specifically used to finance the purchase of household goods such as furniture and appliances, home improvement loans and mortgage credit are not covered by the program.

3. An increase from 8 percent to 10 percent in the marginal reserve requirement on the managed liabilities of large banks that was first imposed last October 6, and a reduction in the base upon which the reserve requirement is calculated.

4. Restraint on the amount of credit raised by large non-member banks by establishing a special deposit requirement of 10 percent on increases in their managed liabilities.

5. Restraint on the rapid expansion of money market mutual funds by establishing a special deposit requirement of 15 percent on increases in their total assets above the level of March 14.

6. A surcharge on discount borrowings by large banks to discourage frequent use of the discount window and to speed bank adjustments in response to restraint on bank reserves. A surcharge of 3 percentage points applies to borrowings by banks with deposits of \$500 million or more for more than one week in a row or more than four weeks in any calendar quarter. The basic discount rate remains at 13 percent.

In making the announcement, the Board said:

"President Carter has announced a broad program of fiscal, energy, credit and other measures designed to moderate and reduce inflationary forces in a manner that can also lay the ground work for a return to stable economic growth.

"Consistent with that objective and with the continuing intent of the Federal Reserve to restrain growth in money and credit during 1980, the Federal Reserve has at the same time taken certain further actions to reinforce the effectiveness of the measures announced in October of 1979. These actions include an increase in the marginal reserve requirements on managed liabilities established on October 6 and a surcharge for large banks on borrowings through the Federal Reserve discount window.

"The President has also provided the Federal Reserve, under the terms of the Credit Control Act of 1969, with authority to exercise particular restraint on the growth of certain types of consumer credit extended by banks and others. That restraint will be achieved through the imposition of a requirement for special deposits equivalent to 15 percent of any expansion of credit provided by credit cards, other forms of unsecured revolving credit, and personal loans.

"One consequence of strong demands for money and credit generated in part by inflationary forces and expectations has been to bring heavy pressure on credit and financial markets generally, with varying impacts on particular sectors of the economy. At the same time, restraint on growth in money and credit must be a fundamental part of the process of restoring stability. That restraint is, and will continue to be, based primarily on control of bank reserves and other traditional instruments of monetary policy. However, the Federal Reserve Board also believes the effectiveness and speed with which appropriate restraint can be achieved without disruptive effects on credit markets will be facilitated by a more formal program of voluntary restraint by important financial intermediaries, developing further the general criteria set forth in earlier communications to member banks."

Special Credit Restraint Program

In adopting this program, the Board said increases in lending this year should generally be consistent with the announced growth ranges for money and credit

reported to Congress on February 19. Although growth trends will vary among banks and regions of the country, growth in bank loans should not generally exceed the upper part of the range of 6-9 percent indicated for bank credit (that is, loans and investments). Banks whose past lending patterns suggest relatively slow growth should expect to confine their growth to the lower portion or even below the range for bank credit.

The Board said the commercial paper market and finance companies--both a growing source of business credit--will be monitored closely in the program. Since activity in the commercial paper market is normally covered by bank credit lines, banks are expected to avoid increases in commitments for credit lines to support such borrowing out of keeping with normal business needs. Thrift institutions and credit unions will not be covered by the special program in light of the reduced trend in their asset growth.

No numerical guidelines for particular types of credit are planned but banks are encouraged particularly:

- To restrain unsecured lending to consumers, including credit cards and other revolving credits. Credit for automobiles, home mortgage and home improvement loans should be treated normally in the light of general market conditions.
- To discourage financing of corporate takeovers or mergers and the retirement of corporate stock, except in those limited instances in which there is a clear justification in terms of production or economic efficiency commensurate with the size of the loan.
- To avoid financing for purely speculative holdings of commodities or precious metals or extraordinary inventory accumulation.
- To maintain availability of funds to small business, farmers homebuyers and others without access to other forms of financing.
- To restrain the growth in commitments for back-up lines in support of commercial paper.

No specific guidelines will be issued on the terms and pricing of bank loans. However, rates should not be calculated in a manner that reflects the cost of relatively small amounts of marginal funds subject to the marginal reserve requirement on managed liabilities. The Board also expects that banks, as appropriate and possible, will adjust lending rates and other terms to take account of the special needs of small business and others.

Lenders covered by the program are asked to supply certain data and information. The President, in activating the Credit Control Act, has provided the authority to require such reports.

Monthly reports are requested from domestic banks with assets in excess of \$1 billion and for branches and agencies of foreign banks that have worldwide assets in excess of \$1 billion. Monthly reports are also requested on the business credit activities of domestic affiliates of bank holding companies with total assets in excess of \$1 billion. Banks with assets between \$300 million and \$1 billion are asked to report quarterly. Smaller institutions need not report unless subsequent developments warrant it.

Foreign banks will be asked to respect the substance and spirit of the guidelines in their loans to U.S. borrowers or loans designed to support U.S. activity.

A panel of large corporations will be asked to report monthly on their commercial paper issues and their borrowings abroad. Finance companies with more than \$1 billion in business loans outstanding will also be asked to report monthly on their business credit outstanding.

Consumer Credit Restraint

The special deposit requirements of 15 percent on increases in some types of consumer credit is designed to encourage particular restraint on such credit extensions. Methods used by lenders to achieve such restraint are a matter for determination by the individual firms. Increases in covered credit above the base date—March 14--will be subject to the special deposit requirement.

Among lenders subject to the regulation are commercial banks, finance companies, credit unions, savings and loan associations, mutual savings banks, retail establishments, gasoline companies and travel and entertainment card companies--in all instances where there is \$2 million or more in covered credit.

Typical examples of credit that is covered are credit cards issued by financial institutions, retailers and oil companies; overdraft and special check-type credit plans; unsecured personal loans; loans for which the collateral is already owned by the borrower; open account and 30-day credit without regard to whether a finance charge is imposed; credit secured by financial assets when the collateral is not purchased with the proceeds of the loan.

Examples of consumer credit not covered are:

Secured credit where the security is purchased with the proceeds of the loan such as an automobile, mobile home, furniture or appliance; mortgage loans where the proceeds are used to purchase the home or for home improvements; insurance company policy loans, credit extended for utilities, health or educational services; credit extended under State or Federal government guaranteed loan programs; and savings passbook loans.

All creditors with \$2 million or more of covered credit outstanding on March 14 must file a base report by April 1 directly with the Federal Reserve or through the Federal Home Loan Bank Board or the Federal Credit Union Administration. This report will state the amount of credit outstanding on March 14 or a figure for the nearest available date.

Thereafter, these creditors must file a monthly report on the amount of covered consumer credit outstanding during the month, based on the daily average amount of covered credit if that data is available, or the amount outstanding on other appropriate dates approved by the Federal Reserve. The first report--for the period from March 15 through April 30--is due by May 12. The report for subsequent months is due by the second Monday of the following month.

The first 15 percent deposit requirement must be maintained beginning May 22 on increases in outstanding credit.

Marginal Reserve Requirement

On October 6, the Board established an 8 percent marginal reserve requirement on increases in managed liabilities that had been actively used to finance a rapid expansion in bank credit. The base for this reserve requirement was set at the larger of \$100 million or the average amount of managed liabilities held by a member bank, an Edge corporation, or a family of U.S. agencies and branches of a foreign bank as of September 13-26. Any increase in managed liabilities above that base period was subject to the additional 8 percent reserve requirement.

Managed liabilities include large time deposits (\$100,000 or more) with maturities of less than a year, Eurodollar borrowings, repurchase agreements against U.S. government and federal agency securities, and federal funds borrowed from a nonmember institution.

In today's action, the Board increased the reserve requirement to 10 percent and lowered the base by (a) 7 percent or (b) the decrease in a bank's gross loans to foreigners and gross balances due from foreign offices of other institutions between the base period and the week ending March 12, whichever is greater. In addition, the base will be reduced to the extent a bank's foreign loans continue to decline. The minimum base amount remains at \$100 million.

Nonmember Banks

The special deposit requirement for nonmember banks is designed to restrain credit expansion in the same manner as the marginal reserve requirement on the managed liabilities of member banks.

For nonmembers, the base is the two-week period that ended March 12 or \$100 million, whichever is greater. The 10 percent special deposit will be maintained

at the Federal Reserve on increases in managed liabilities above the base amount. The base will be reduced in subsequent periods to the extent that a nonmember bank reduces its foreign loans.

Money Market Mutual Funds

Money market mutual funds and similar creditors must maintain a special deposit with the Federal Reserve equal to 15 percent of the increase in their total assets after March 14.

A covered fund must file by April 1 a base report of its outstanding assets as of March 14. Thereafter, a monthly report on the daily average amount of its assets must be filed by the 21st of the month. For example, a report on the first month's assets--from March 15 to April 14--must be filed by April 21 and the special deposit requirement will be maintained beginning May 1. A fund that registers as an investment company with the Securities and Exchange Commission after March 14 must file a base report within two weeks after it begins operations.

Discount Rate

In fixing the surcharge for large bank borrowing, the Board acted on requests from the directors of all 12 Federal Reserve Banks. The action is effective Monday. The discount rate is the interest rate that member banks are charged when they borrow from their district Federal Reserve Bank.

The surcharge above the basic discount rate would generally be related to market interest rates. It is designed to discourage frequent use of the discount window and to encourage banks with access to money markets to adjust their loans and investments more promptly to changing market conditions. This should facilitate the ability of the Federal Reserve to attain longer-run bank credit and money supply objectives.

The surcharge will apply to banks with more than \$500 million in deposits on their borrowings for ordinary adjustment credit, when such borrowing occurs successively in two statement weeks or more, or when the borrowing occurs in more

than four weeks in a calendar quarter. There will be no other change in the administration of the discount window with respect to adjustment credit. Such credit will continue to be available to member banks only on a short-term basis to assist them in meeting a temporary requirement for funds or to provide a cushion while orderly adjustments are made in response to more sustained charges in a bank's position.

The surcharge will not apply to borrowing under the seasonal loan program, which will continue at the basic discount rate, nor to borrowing under the emergency loan program.

Attached are copies of the following documents:

1. The Special Credit Restraint Program.
2. Regulation CC establishing a special deposit requirement on increases in certain types of consumer credit.
3. An amendment to Regulation D increasing the marginal reserve requirement on managed liabilities to 10 percent and reducing the base period.
4. A subpart of Regulation CC establishing a special deposit requirement for nonmember banks.
5. A subpart of Regulation CC establishing a special deposit requirement for money market mutual funds.

Special Credit Restraint Program

Background

President Carter has announced a broad program of fiscal, energy, credit, and other measures designed to moderate and reduce inflationary forces in a manner that can also lay the groundwork for a return to stable economic growth.

In connection with those actions, and consistent with the continuing objective to restrain growth in money and credit during 1980, the Federal Reserve has also taken certain further actions to reinforce the effectiveness of the measures announced in October of 1979. These actions include an increase in the marginal reserve requirements on managed liabilities established on October 6 and the establishment of a surcharge on borrowings through the discount window by large banks.

The President has also authorized the Federal Reserve, under the terms of the Credit Control Act of 1969, to exercise particular restraint on certain types of credit. The Board has determined to restrain the growth of certain types of consumer credit through the imposition of a requirement for special deposits equivalent to 15% of any expansion of consumer credit provided by any lender through credit cards, other forms of unsecured revolving credit, and personal loans. Under the authority of the Credit Control Act, the Federal Reserve has also (a) applied a special deposit requirement on the growth of managed liabilities of large non-member banks and (b) imposed a special deposit requirement on the growth in the net assets of money market mutual funds and other similar entities.

One consequence of strong demands for money and credit generated in part by inflationary forces and expectations has been to bring heavy pressure on credit and financial markets generally, with varying impacts on particular sectors of the economy. At the same time, restraint on growth in money and credit must be a fundamental part of the process of restoring stability. That restraint is, and will continue to be, based primarily on control of bank reserves and other traditional instruments of monetary policy. However, the Federal Reserve Board also believes

the effectiveness and speed with which appropriate restraint can be achieved without unnecessarily disruptive effects on credit markets will be facilitated by a program of voluntary credit restraint by important financial intermediaries. The program set forth here develops certain general criteria to help guide banks and others in their lending policies during the period ahead.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Special Credit Restraint Program is to encourage lenders and borrowers, in their individual credit decisions, to take specific account of the overall aims and quantitative objectives of the Federal Reserve in restraining growth in money and credit generally. The guidelines set forth are consistent with the continuing interest of the Federal Reserve and individual institutions to:

- Meet the basic needs of established customers for normal operations, particularly smaller businesses, farmers, thrift institution bank customers, and agriculturally-oriented correspondent banks, and homebuyers with limited alternative sources of funds.
- Avoid use of available credit resources to support essentially speculative uses of funds, including voluntary buildup of inventories by businesses beyond operating needs, or to finance transactions such as takeovers or mergers that can reasonably be postponed, that do not contribute to economic efficiency or productivity, or may be financed from other sources of funds.
- Limit overall loan growth so that adequate provision is made for liquidity and acceptable capital ratios.

In requesting cooperation of individual institutional lenders in achieving the general objectives of this program, the Federal Reserve Board is strongly conscious of the fact that sound decisions concerning the distribution of credit and specific loans

can be made only by individual institutions dealing directly in financial markets and intimately familiar with the needs and conditions of particular customers. We are also aware, however, that in existing market circumstances, individual institutions may be under competitive pressure to make loans or commitments that, in the aggregate, cannot be sustained within our overall monetary and credit objectives or that, for particular institutions, may exceed prudent limits. By more clearly considering individual lending and commitment decisions in the light of the national objectives reflected in this program, undue market pressures and disturbances can be avoided and available credit supplies be used to meet more urgent requirements.

Nature of the Program

Coverage

The Special Credit Restraint Program will be directed primarily toward the domestic credit supplied by commercial banks and the domestic business credit extended by finance companies. Surveillance will also be exercised over borrowing in the commercial paper market and borrowings abroad by U.S. corporations.

With regard to domestic commercial banks, the program is designed to cover credit extended to U.S. residents by both the domestic and overseas offices of such banks. Credit extended to U.S. residents by agencies and branches of foreign banks domiciled in the United States will be specifically covered. Affiliates abroad of banks operating in the U.S. are expected to respect the substance and spirit of the guidelines in their loans to U.S. borrowers or loans otherwise designed to support U.S. activity.

In recent months, the commercial paper market and finance companies have been a growing source of business credit. In recognition of this trend and to assure comparable competitive treatment, finance companies (including subsidiaries of bank holding companies) are asked to follow the general guidelines in their business lending.

Activity in the commercial paper market is normally covered by bank credit lines. That practice is strongly encouraged in the interest of continuing to provide a sound base to that market. But the use of commercial paper should be restrained, and growth in the market and activity of the larger users of that market will be closely monitored. For their part, banks are expected to give special attention to avoiding increases in commitments for credit lines for purposes of supporting commercial paper borrowing for other than normal business operating purposes.

Thrift institutions and credit unions are not specifically covered by the Special Program in light of recent patterns in their asset growth.

Reporting arrangements are described below.

Quantitative Guidelines

The Federal Reserve has recently set forth growth ranges for the monetary aggregates for 1980 as follows:

M1A	3½% -	6%
M1B	4% -	6½%
M2	6% -	9%
M3	6½% -	9½%

The growth ranges set forth for M3 encompass almost all the relatively short-term liabilities of banks and other depository institutions. That liability growth was broadly estimated to be consistent with growth in total bank credit (loans and investments) of 6-9%. We are aware that in current market circumstances, banks may be requested to carry a larger than normal share of growth in business and certain other types of credit. However, prudent attention to liquidity and capital positions will also be required, and liquidity of banks is already somewhat depleted. Taking these factors into account, growth in bank loans, consistent with the monetary growth ranges and maintenance of prudent liquidity positions, should not generally exceed the upper part of the indicated range of growth in total bank credit. That growth should

be spread out over time in an orderly fashion, taking account of normal seasonal patterns.

Growth trends vary among banks and regions of the country. Individual institutions will wish to appraise their own prospects and policies in that light. Banks whose past patterns suggest relatively slow growth, and particularly those serving more slowly growing areas, should expect to confine growth to the lower portion or even below the indicated range for bank credit, particularly in instances where liquidity or capital ratios are below average. More rapidly growing banks should also evaluate their ability to support such growth without impairing liquidity or capital ratios.

The Federal Reserve and other federal bank regulatory agencies will carefully review patterns of loans and commitments at institutions that are experiencing growth in lending at or above the top of the range specified. Account will be taken of their own past experience and regional trends as well as the banks' capacity to finance their loan portfolios without straining capital or liquidity. Increases in loans by banks resulting in lower capital or liquidity ratios, particularly when the bank ratios are below peer groups, will be especially closely reviewed to assure their position is not weakened. In that connection, other regulatory authorities will be consulted as appropriate.

Individual institutions should adopt commitment policies that enable them to maintain adequate control over growth in loan totals and to assure funds are available to meet the priority needs specified below.

Qualitative Guidelines

The Board does not intend to set forth numerical guidelines for particular types of credit. However, banks are encouraged particularly:

- (1) To restrain unsecured lending to consumers, including credit cards and other revolving credits. Credit for auto,

home mortgage and home improvement loans should not be subject to extraordinary restraint.

- (2) To discourage financing of corporate takeovers or mergers and the retirement of corporate stock, except in those limited instances in which there is a clear justification in terms of production or economic efficiency commensurate with the size of the loan.
- (3) To avoid financing of purely speculative holdings of commodities or precious metals or extraordinary inventory accumulation out of keeping with business operating needs.
- (4) To maintain reasonable availability of funds to small businesses, farmers, and others without access to other forms of financing.
- (5) To restrain the growth in commitments for backup lines in support of commercial paper.
- (6) To maintain adequate flow of credit to smaller correspondent banks serving agricultural areas and small business needs and thrift institutions.

The terms and pricing of bank loans are expected to reflect the general circumstances of the marketplace. No specific guidelines or formulas are suggested. However, the Board does not feel it appropriate that lending rates be calculated in a manner that reflects the cost of relatively small amounts of marginal funds subject to the marginal reserve requirements on managed liabilities. Moreover, the Board expects that banks, as appropriate and possible, will adjust lending rates and other terms to take account of the special needs of small businesses, including farmers, and others.

Reporting

The Federal Reserve will closely monitor developments in all sectors of the credit markets and will ask that certain data and information be supplied by banks and others. The President, in activating the Credit Control Act of 1969, has provided authority for requiring such reports.

In the case of domestic banks with assets in excess of \$1 billion, and for U.S. branches and agencies of foreign banks that have worldwide assets in excess of \$1 billion, a monthly report will be requested. Monthly reports will also be requested on the business credit activities of domestic affiliates of bank holding companies with U.S. financial assets in excess of \$1 billion. As will be noted, the bank reports include, apart from qualitative information, certain data on the movements in broad categories of loans and commitments, liquid asset holdings, and capital accounts. Certain data, including that on capital and liquidity, will be requested on a consolidated worldwide basis. Banks with less than \$1 billion but more than \$300 million in assets will report quarterly. Smaller institutions, while requested to observe the program, will not have special reporting requirements unless warranted by subsequent developments.

A group of large corporations will be requested to complete a brief monthly form about their activities in the commercial paper market, including the extent and usage of "backup" lines of credit at banks and their borrowing abroad. Finally, finance companies — including subsidiaries of bank holding companies — with more than \$1 billion in loans outstanding to business borrowers will be requested to provide monthly reports concerning their business lending activities.

Consultative Arrangements

In instances warranted by trends in loans and commitments, Federal Reserve Bank officials in consultation with other federal bank regulatory agencies, will review with individual banks and others their progress in achieving and

maintaining appropriate restraint on lending. In general, such consultations will be sought if:

- (1) Bank or finance company lending is occurring at a pace that appears to be significantly in excess of the national objective, taking account of the location or past experience of the bank or other institution.
- (2) Commitment policies appear to suggest the possibility of large subsequent increases in lending or exceptional expansion of commercial paper borrowing.
- (3) Explanations of "takeover" or "speculative" financing contained in regular reports raise significant questions.
- (4) The distribution of credit at an institution generally appears disproportionate in light of the qualitative guidelines above.
- (5) Liquidity positions or capital ratios reflect developing strains, particularly in the case of institutions whose ratios are below peer group averages.

In the case of nonbanks, the Federal Reserve may also wish to hold informal discussions with such institutions if such discussions seem warranted by developments.