



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF DALLAS

HELEN E. HOLCOMB
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

DALLAS, TEXAS
75265-5906

October 7, 1997

Notice 97-92

TO: The Chief Operating Officer of each
financial institution and others concerned
in the Eleventh Federal Reserve District

SUBJECT

Series 1996 \$50 Note Issuance

DETAILS

On September 29, 1997, the Treasury and the Federal Reserve System announced that Series 1996 \$50 notes (the second denomination of new design currency) will be issued by Federal Reserve Banks beginning October 27, 1997.

The new \$50 note has a new feature designed to make the denomination of U.S. currency easier to identify, especially among the aging population and the low-vision community. The numeral indicating the denomination in the lower right corner of the note's back side has been enlarged to nearly twice the size of the numeral found on old series notes. The numeral has been further highlighted by contrasting dark, uniform type with a light background. This low-vision feature will be included on subsequent denominations of U.S. currency.

Similar to Series 1996 \$100 notes, the new \$50 note is designed to help protect against the use of evolving technologies for counterfeiting, while making authentication by the general public easier. Security-enhancing features include:

- A larger, off-center portrait,
- A matching watermark portrait,
- Color-shifting ink in the lower right-hand numeral on the front of the note, and
- Fine-line printing in the background on the note's front and back.

For additional copies, bankers and others are encouraged to use one of the following toll-free numbers in contacting the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas: Dallas Office (800) 333-4460; El Paso Branch *Intrastate* (800) 592-1631, *Interstate* (800) 351-1012; Houston Branch *Intrastate* (800) 392-4162, *Interstate* (800) 221-0363; San Antonio Branch *Intrastate* (800) 292-5810.

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Also, the security thread and microprinting introduced in 1990 were modified, and the unique Federal Reserve District seal was replaced with a universal Federal Reserve System seal. The size of the newly designed currency and its overall "American" look remain the same.

Although counterfeit-detering features of new design currency will become more effective as old series currency is removed from circulation, no U.S. currency will be recalled or devalued. All U.S. currency will be honored indefinitely at full face value. To encourage the rollover, as of the close of business on October 24, 1997, Reserve Banks will discontinue issuing old series \$50 notes. Also, Reserve Banks will temporarily suspend the cross-shipping policy for the \$50 denomination.

You can play an important role in helping the general public understand and accept new design currency and in facilitating the replacement of old series currency in circulation.

MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions about new design currency or the issuance of Series 1996 \$50 notes, please contact Donald Curtis, (214) 922-6808, at the Dallas Office; Dieter Stanchos, (915) 521-8265, at the El Paso Office; Marilyn Salmon, (713) 652-1521, at the Houston Office; or Mario Garcia, (210) 978-1300, at the San Antonio Office. For additional copies of this Bank's notice, contact the Public Affairs Department at (214) 922-5254.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen E. Holcomb". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered below the word "Sincerely,".