



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF DALLAS

HELEN E. HOLCOMB
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

DALLAS, TEXAS
75265-5906

March 5, 1998

Notice 98-20

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

SUBJECT

Standard Holiday Schedule

DETAILS

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System has announced that Federal Reserve Banks will adhere to a standard holiday schedule next year and remain open for normal operations on December 31, 1999.

Although various financial and trade groups have been considering whether a banking holiday on December 31, 1999, would ease potential disruptions that may be caused by the century date change, the Board believes that a banking holiday is not warranted. The Board believes bank resources would be better spent preparing for the Year 2000 changeover rather than addressing the operating, financial, legal, and other consequences that would flow from a date-change holiday.

As part of its Year 2000 preparations, the Federal Reserve plans a comprehensive program for banks to test computers used for Fedwire transfers, automated clearinghouse transactions, and other central bank services for compliance with the date change. A schedule will be issued shortly, with actual testing beginning at midyear and continuing through 1999. This program will permit banks to send test transactions across a variety of dates pertaining to the century date change. Testing for depository institutions will be coordinated through their district Federal Reserve Banks.

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.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information regarding the holiday schedule, please contact this Bank's Legal Department at (214) 922-5101. For more information regarding the Year 2000 preparations, please contact Sarah Jennings via E-mail at sarah.jennings@dal.frb.org or by phone at (214) 922-5259.

For additional copies of this Bank's notice, please contact the Public Affairs Department at (214) 922-5254.

Sincerely,

Helen E. Holcomb