

Operations of the

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ST. LOUIS

in 1953

THE activities of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis were at a higher average level in 1953 than in 1952. The volume of operations was larger at all four offices and the staff departments maintained busy schedules throughout the year.

The story of the record operations during the past year, however, is far more than a list of facts and figures. It is the very human story of the successful efforts of the Bank's men and women to do their jobs well.

A wide variety of jobs are performed by Reserve Bank people. Some are directly connected with the discharge of the Bank's share in the System's major responsibility: adjusting the supply, cost, and availability of money and credit. A major portion of research staff time, for example, is devoted to gathering, processing, and interpreting data to assist officers and directors of this Bank and the System in carrying out this responsibility. Educational activities of the field service and other departments contribute to an understanding and acceptance of the central banking function.

By far the greatest number of jobs, however, are those having to do with daily operational contacts with banks, businesses, and individuals—jobs which arise from or implement the regulation of money and credit, or jobs arising from other statutory responsibilities. Still another group are those concerned with providing help and services for other employees.

Comparative data on the physical volume of work for 1953 and 1952, presented in the table opposite, show that more checks were handled, more currency counted, sorted, and shipped than in any previous year, and more Government securities issued, exchanged, and redeemed this year than in any year since World War II. Previous records were broken in almost every operating department. In part the higher level of activity reflected the peak year in the economy; in part it was attributable to additional duties performed, and in part to trends in Reserve Bank operations not directly related to economic activity in the district.

But, reciting statistics on volume of bank operations does not tell the story of the Bank's progress during the year or give credit to the many individual employees who helped achieve the record. In several departments the record or near-record

Volume of Operations in 1953 and 1952

(Number and dollar amounts in thousands except as specified) 1953 1952

Number of Pieces Handled

Checks (Total)	182,954	180,073
City Checks	24,689	23,632
Country Checks	97,811	92,986
Checks on this Bank.....	174	210
Government Checks	43,239	46,198
Postal Money Orders (cards).....	17,041	17,046
Currency	223,371	217,907
Coin	329,937	332,845
Transfer of Funds.....	115	106
Non-cash Collections	429	378
U. S. Government interest coupons....	723	721
Discounts and Advances (actual number)	1,388	1,491
Safekeeping of Securities:		
Securities received and released.....	163	147
Coupons detached	297	278
Fiscal Agency Operations:		
U. S. Savings Bonds (issue, exchange, redemption).....	6,450	5,939
Other Government Issues.....	248	195
Withheld Tax depository receipts processed	514	496
Treasury Tax and Loan Account transactions	131	123

Amount Handled

Checks handled (Total).....	\$60,697,045	\$56,670,422
City Checks	37,728,457	34,508,923
Country Checks	14,062,546	13,424,700
Checks on this Bank.....	2,392,953	2,494,404
Government Checks	6,222,225	5,953,989
Postal Money Orders.....	290,834	288,406
Currency	1,373,108	1,288,793
Coin	29,416	28,821
Transfer of Funds.....	39,792,037	28,066,885
Non-cash Collections	368,797	365,480
Discounts and Advances.....	5,792,385	6,427,879
Safekeeping of Securities—		
Coupons detached	25,102	20,107
Fiscal Agency Operations:		
U. S. Savings Bonds (issue, exchange, redemption).....	651,243	594,338
Other Government Issues.....	8,038,132	6,808,507

volume was handled with fewer employees. Fewer people were able to handle the volume of checks because new and more efficient proof machines were installed in the outgoing country check division, and several larger capacity machines were added to the incoming proof sections. Increased efficiency

in the fiscal agency division was achieved partially by simplification of certain Treasury Department practices and by streamlining operating procedures, particularly in the savings bond reissue division. Here reductions in personnel requirements more than offset additions resulting from adding two new functions: currency destruction and handling deposits of Federal excise taxes. In July a new automatic teletypewriter communications network having greater capacity and using less manpower than the old was installed throughout the System.

While new records and new procedures were being established in these operating departments, the staff departments also were being kept busy. During the past year, a full-time audit staff made periodic audits in all operating departments to check accuracy of books and compliance with laws and regulations and departmental policies. Legal counsel was available to assist in the interpretation of any rules or regulations affecting Bank operation. Personnel department, which moved to modernized quarters during the year, met employment needs and administered the Bank's merit review, wage-salary, cafeteria, and other personnel programs. The accounting department not only recorded all internal expenses and income, but also kept track of transactions with other Federal Reserve Banks and those between this Bank and member banks in the district.

Further, operations in all departments ran more smoothly because of the efficient work of two other groups: the protection and maintenance departments. Security measures were maintained; physical facilities—lights, heat, water, air-conditioning, and so on—were kept in good working order, the buildings clean and pleasant to work in, and several improvements were made to permit more effective operations.

Total employment at the end of 1953 was 1,286 at the head and branch offices, only 38 higher than at the beginning of the year. The personnel department found it necessary to hire 563 people to maintain the working force. Although this reflects a continued high turnover of employees, it is important to note that about one-third of the employees have been with the Bank ten years or longer.

In December the following appointments and designations were announced:

By the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ST. LOUIS

Mr. M. Moss Alexander

President, Missouri Portland Cement Co.

St. Louis, Missouri

Appointed as Class C director for a three-year term beginning January 1, 1954, and designated as Chair-

man of the Board and Federal Reserve Agent for the year 1954.

Mr. Caffey Robertson

President, Caffey Robertson Co.

Memphis, Tennessee

Appointed as Class C director, effective January 1, 1954, for the unexpired portion of a term ending December 31, 1955.

LITTLE ROCK BRANCH

Mr. Sam B. Strauss

President, Pfeifers of Arkansas

Little Rock, Arkansas

Reappointed director for a three-year term beginning January 1, 1954.

LOUISVILLE BRANCH

Mr. David F. Cocks

Vice President and Treasurer

Standard Oil Company (Kentucky)

Louisville, Kentucky

Appointed director for a three-year term beginning January 1, 1954.

MEMPHIS BRANCH

Chancellor John D. Williams

University of Mississippi

University, Mississippi

Appointed director for a three-year term beginning January 1, 1954.

Mr. A. E. Hohenberg

President, Hohenberg Bros. Company

Memphis, Tennessee

Appointed director, effective January 1, 1954, for the unexpired portion of a term ending December 31, 1954.

By the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

LITTLE ROCK BRANCH

Mr. Donald Barger

President, Peoples Exchange Bank

Russellville, Arkansas

Appointed director for a three-year term beginning January 1, 1954.

LOUISVILLE BRANCH

Mr. Noel Rush

President, Lincoln Bank & Trust Co.

Louisville, Kentucky

Reappointed director for a three-year term beginning January 1, 1954.

MEMPHIS BRANCH

Mr. John K. Wilson

President, First National Bank

West Point, Mississippi

Appointed director for a three-year term beginning January 1, 1954.

MEMBER OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mr. W. W. Campbell

President, National Bank of Eastern Arkansas

Forrest City, Arkansas

Appointed as member of the Federal Advisory Council to represent the Eighth Federal Reserve District for the year 1954.

Also during 1953, five official appointments were made: Darryl R. Francis, Vice President; John J.

Hofer and Victor M. Longstreet, Assistant Vice Presidents; Orville O. Wyrick, Assistant Chief Examiner, and Gerald T. Dunne, Counsel.

Earnings of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis were \$25,448,000 during 1953. Expenses totaled \$6,468,000. Out of the \$18,907,000 net earnings, dividends totaling \$537,000 were paid to the stockholding member banks and \$1,837,000 was transferred to surplus. The difference was paid to the Treasury as interest on outstanding Federal Reserve notes.

The many employees of the Bank can look back with justified pride at their accomplishments of 1953. However, long before the close of that year these same people began looking ahead to 1954. The planning and budget division, in cooperation with each department manager, prepared plans and cost estimates of the next year's operation. Changes in physical facilities were projected and detailed drawings prepared. Last, but not least, considerable thought by employees at every level was given to how this Bank could render even more effective service more efficiently in the year ahead.

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ST. LOUIS

February 1, 1954

Directors

M. Moss Alexander, *Chairman*

Caffey Robertson, *Deputy Chairman*

Phil E. Chappell	Joseph H. Moore
J. E. Etherton	Ralph E. Plunkett
William A. McDonnell	Louis Ruthenburg

Officers

Delos C. Johns, *President*
 Frederick L. Deming, *First Vice President*
 William E. Peterson, *Vice President*
 Howard H. Weigel, *Vice President and Secretary*
 Joseph C. Wotawa, *Vice President*
 Dale M. Lewis, *Vice President*
 G. O. Hollocher, *Assistant Vice President*
 Earl R. Billen, *Assistant Vice President*
 John J. Christ, *Assistant Vice President*
 Willis L. Johns, *Assistant Vice President*
 Stephen Koptis, *Assistant Vice President*
 Woodrow W. Gilmore, *Assistant Vice President*
 Victor M. Longstreet, *Assistant Vice President*
 John J. Hofer, *Assistant Vice President*
 William J. Abbott, Jr., *Director of Research*
 George E. Kroner, *Chief Examiner*
 Orville O. Wyrick, *Assistant Chief Examiner*
 Gerald T. Dunne, *Counsel and Assistant Secretary*

LITTLE ROCK BRANCH

Donald Barger	Shuford R. Nichols	C. M. Stewart, <i>Vice President and Manager</i>
Stonewall J. Beauchamp	Thos. W. Stone	M. L. Bennett, <i>Assistant Manager</i>
Harvey C. Couch, Jr.	Sam B. Strauss	Clifford Wood, <i>Assistant Manager</i>
H. C. McKinney, Jr.		W. J. Bryan, <i>Assistant Manager</i>

LOUISVILLE BRANCH

Smith Broadbent, Jr.	M. C. Minor	Fred Burton, <i>Assistant Manager</i>
David F. Cocks	Noel Rush	L. K. Arthur, <i>Assistant Manager</i>
Magnus J. Kreisle	Ira F. Wilcox	L. S. Moore, <i>Assistant Manager</i>
Pierre B. McBride		

MEMPHIS BRANCH

Henry Banks	Ben L. Ross	Darryl R. Francis, <i>Vice President and Manager</i>
A. E. Hohenberg	John D. Williams	C. E. Martin, <i>Assistant Manager</i>
John A. McCall	John K. Wilson	S. K. Belcher, <i>Assistant Manager</i>
William B. Pollard		H. C. Anderson, <i>Assistant Manager</i>