Monetary expansion since July has decelerated as measured by the money stock, accelerated as measured by money plus time deposits, and remained at about an unchanged rate as measured by the monetary base. As a result, questions arise as to which monetary aggregate may be currently most meaningful in indicating monetary influence on economic activity.

Deceleration of the rate of growth of money (page 3) from an 8 per cent annual rate from January to July to a 1.9 per cent rate in the past three months, in the face of maintained rapid growth of the monetary base, may be ascribed in considerable part to absorption of reserves by the accelerated growth of time deposits. In addition, Government deposits at commercial banks have increased since July which causes private demand deposits to decrease.

Accelerated growth of money plus time deposits (page 4) and of commercial bank credit since mid-year, without faster growth of the base, is accounted for mainly by the increased growth rate of time deposits. The reserve requirements on time deposits are smaller than the requirements on demand deposits so that a given amount of reserves can support a much larger amount of time deposits than demand deposits. Time deposits (page 7) have risen at a very rapid 19 per cent rate during the last three months after increasing at a slow 7 per cent rate from January to July. The 1957 to 1967 trend growth rate of time deposits was 12 per cent. The accelerated growth of time deposits, and therefore the diversity between the growth rates of money and of bank credit may be explained by the mid-year decline of market
interest rates relative to the maximum rates banks are permitted to pay on time deposits. This decline enabled commercial banks to compete more effectively for time deposits which had increased very slowly earlier in the year when the competitive ability of banks was constrained by the Regulation Q ceilings.

The monetary base (page 2), which strongly influences the trend growth of money over periods of several months, has risen at a 5 per cent annual rate during the past three months, similar to the 5.4 per cent rate of the first half of the year, but considerably faster than the 3.3 per cent average annual rate from 1957 to 1967. Growth in Federal Reserve credit (page 2), which largely determines the trend of the base, has been at a 12 per cent annual rate during the past three months compared with a 10.5 per cent rate during the preceeding six months and a 7.6 per cent trend rate from 1957 to 1967.

Since the more rapid growth in bank credit and in money plus time deposits reflects almost entirely a change of paths of financial flows without materially affecting the total flows, it does not appear to indicate a more expansive monetary stance. The slower growth in money stock, assuming growth in demand to hold money remained about unchanged, probably does reflect less expansive monetary influence. However, it is unlikely that money will continue to rise at the recent slower pace unless the growth in the monetary base also slows, since the recent developments in both Treasury deposits and time deposits will probably not continue at these rates.

> Rates of change reported in this release are intended to serve as summaries which may be useful in analyzing recent developments.

Prepared by Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Released: November 8,1968

MONETARY BASE [1





|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 7. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |

MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

| UNADJUSTED | SEASONALLY |
| :---: | :---: |
| ADJUSTED |  |
| 69,000 | 69,069 |

Large Commercial Banks

[^0]Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
Prepared by Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

TIME DPPOSITS* All Commucial Banks Averages of Daily Figures

Billions of Dollars



Prepared by Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis




[^0]:    Billions of Dollars Wednesday Figures

