

S. FINANCIAL DATA

Week ending March 5, 1969

In the past three months the monetary base, a measure of credit extended by the Federal Reserve and the Treasury to the economy, has grown at a 4.4 per cent annual rate, compared with a 6.3 per cent rate in the past year, and a 3.6 per cent trend rate from 1957 to 1968 (page 2). Total reserves of member banks have continued to increase rapidly. Growth of reserves in the last three months has been at a 9.5 per cent annual rate, compared with an increase of 6.4 per cent in the past year.

The money stock, consisting of private demand posits plus currency in the hands of the public, has increased at a 3.8 per cent annual rate in the past three months as well as in the past six months and 6 per cent in the past year (page 3). The money stock, adjusted for extraordinary changes in Treasury deposits at commercial banks, has continued to increase rapidly, growing at a 5 per cent rate in the past three months, compared with a 5.6 per cent increase in the past year (page 3). On average from 1957 to 1968, money and money adjusted for Treasury deposits increased at about a 3 per cent annual rate.

Most market interest rates have increased moderately since late December, continuing the rise which an last August (pages 8 and 9). Yields on long-term Government bonds averaged 5.94 per cent during the three ys ending March 5, up from 5.82 per cent in late December and about 5 per cent in August. Rates on three-month Treasury bills averaged 6.13 per cent during the first half of this week, down only slightly from 6.20 per cent in late December, compared with about 5 per cent in August.

The high level of interest rates evidently stems mainly from a great demand for loan funds, which in turn reflects, among other factors, large business undertakings for fixed capital investment. Business loans at large commercial banks have increased at an 18 per cent rate in the past three months compared with a 9.6 per cent trend rate from 1960 to 1968 (page 5).

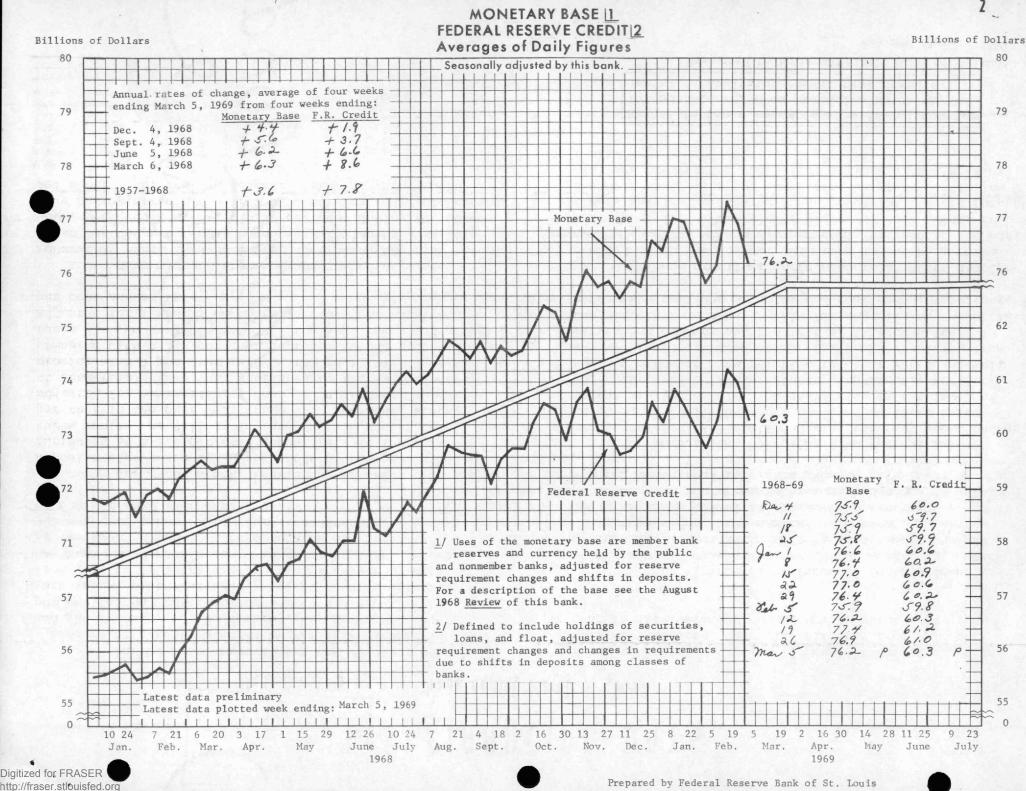
Member bank borrowing from Federal Reserve banks averaged \$833 million during the four weeks ending March 5, \$257 million above the average level three months ago (page 10). The sharp rise in the level of borrowing, which is expansionary, apparently reflects the low discount rate relative to other rates, as well as the great stress on commercial banks resulting from large loan demands and the loss of time deposits. In the past three months, total time deposits at commercial banks have declined at a 1.4 per cent annual rate (page 7).

Bank credit at large commercial banks has increased at only a 2.4 per cent rate in the past three months compared with a 9.4 per cent increase in the past year (page 12). This slower growth of bank credit reflects mainly the flow of funds to ultimate users through channels other than the commercial banks as Regulation Q ceilings prevent the banks from attracting and holding funds.

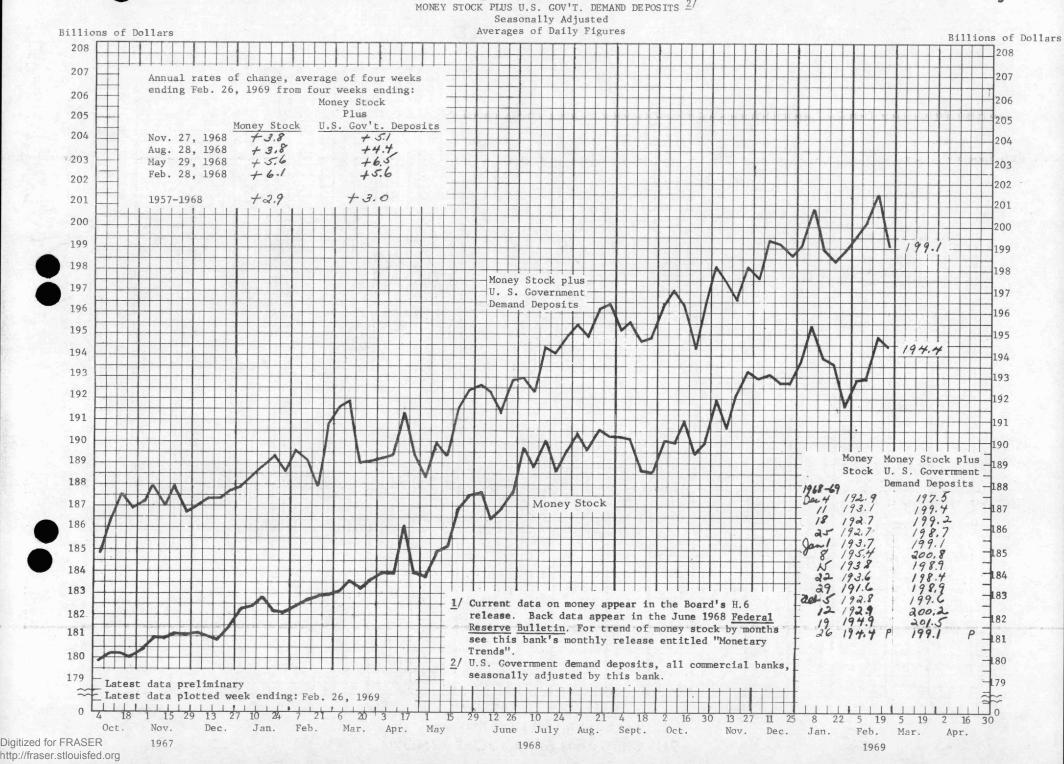
> Rates of change reported in this release are intended to serve as summaries which may be useful in analyzing recent developments.

> > Prepared by Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Released: March 7, 1969

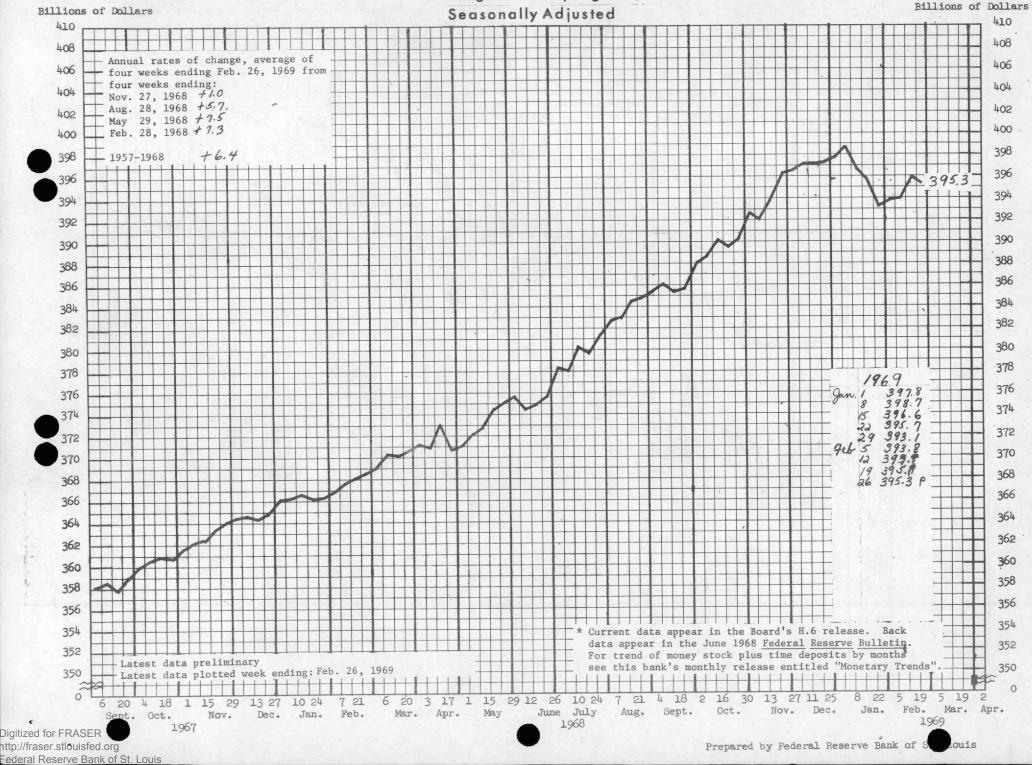
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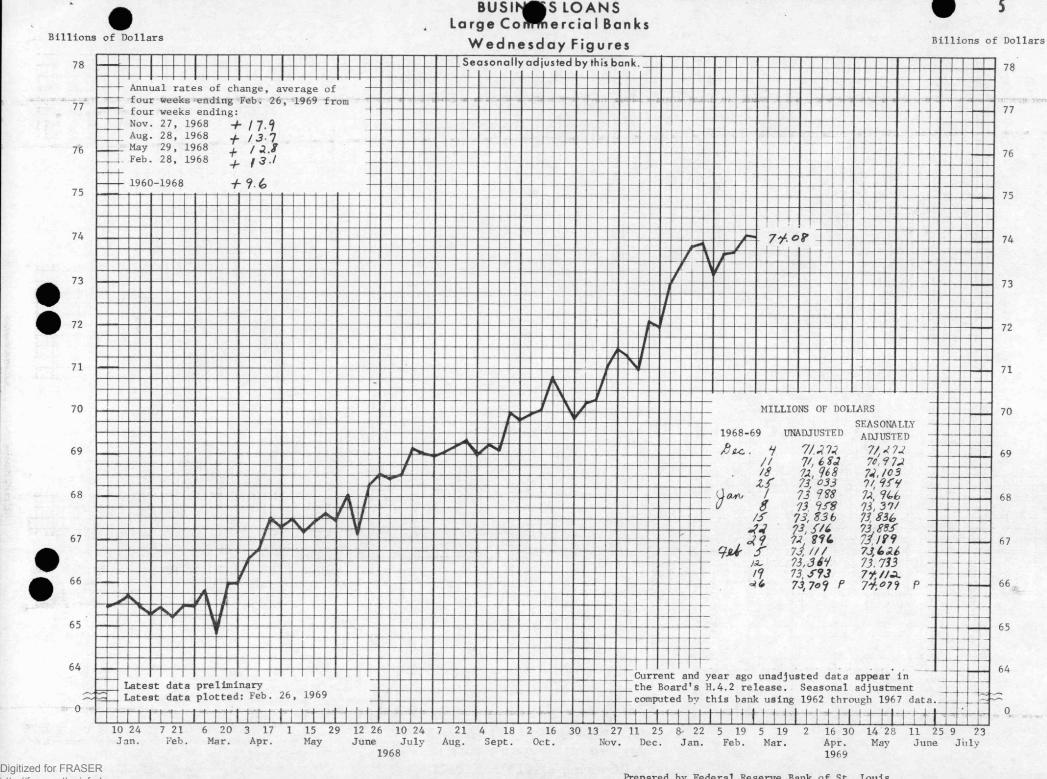
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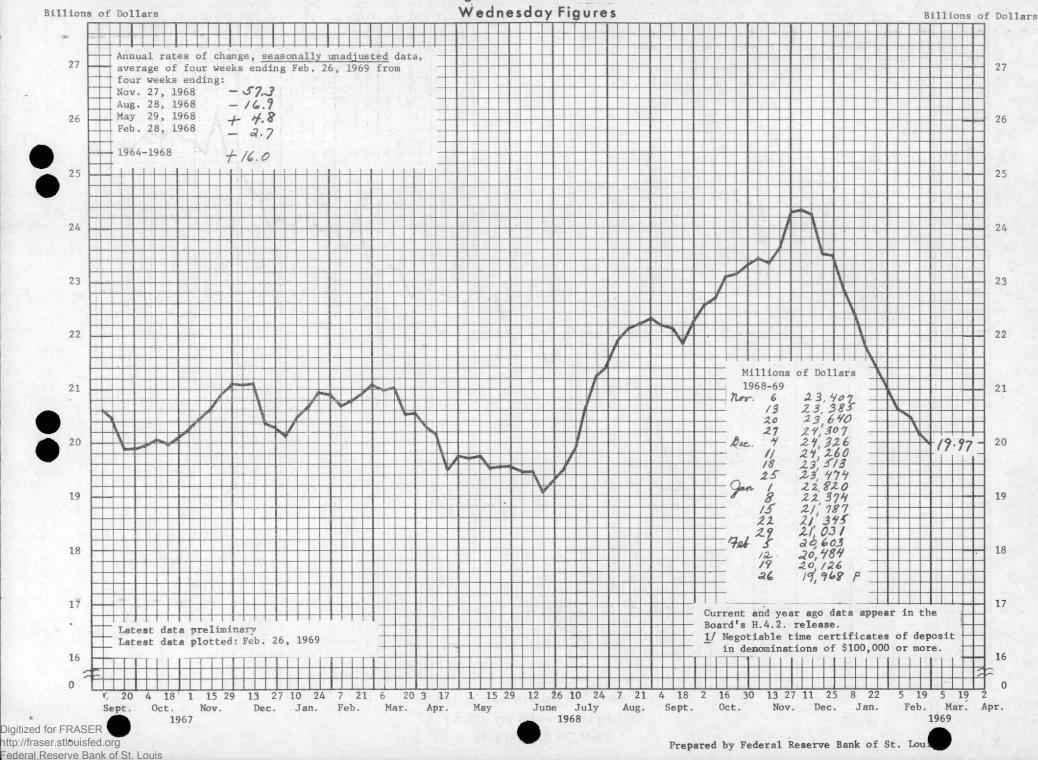


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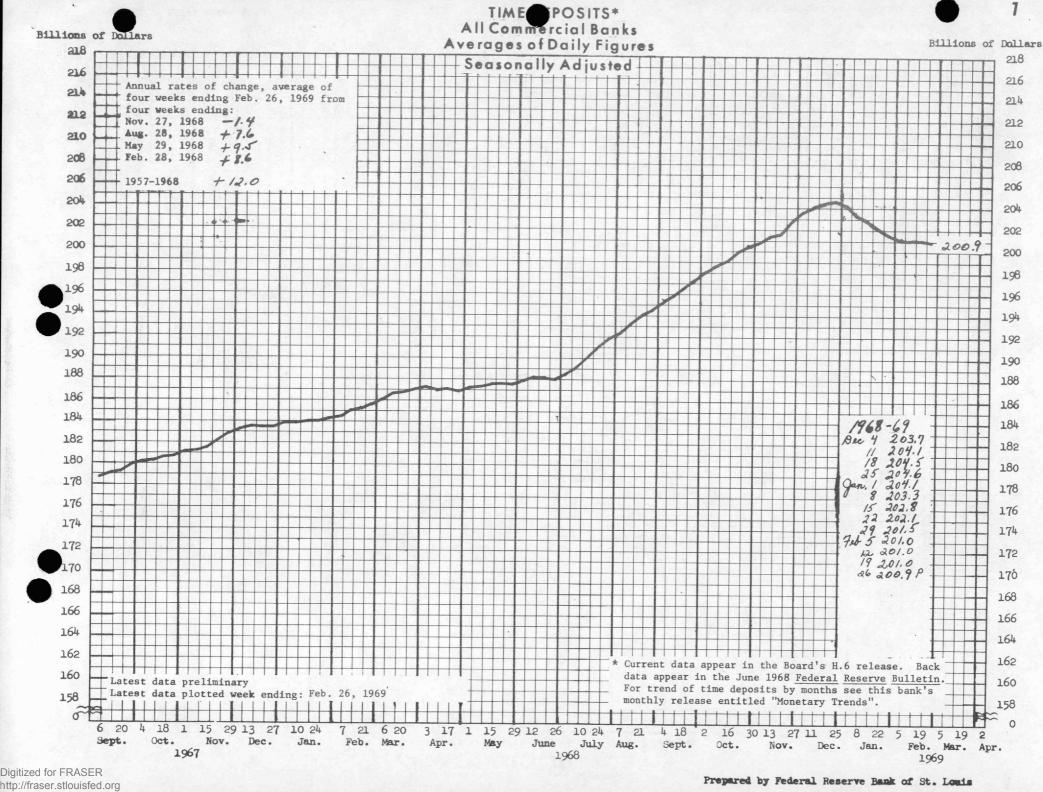


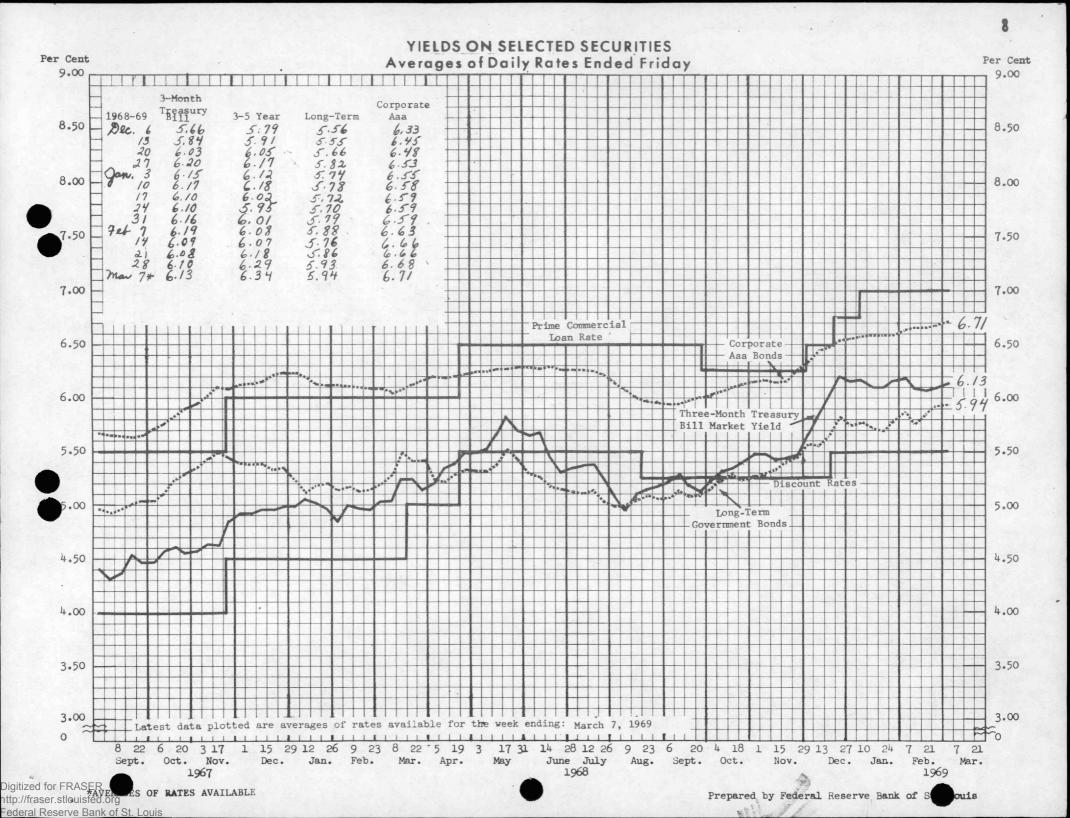
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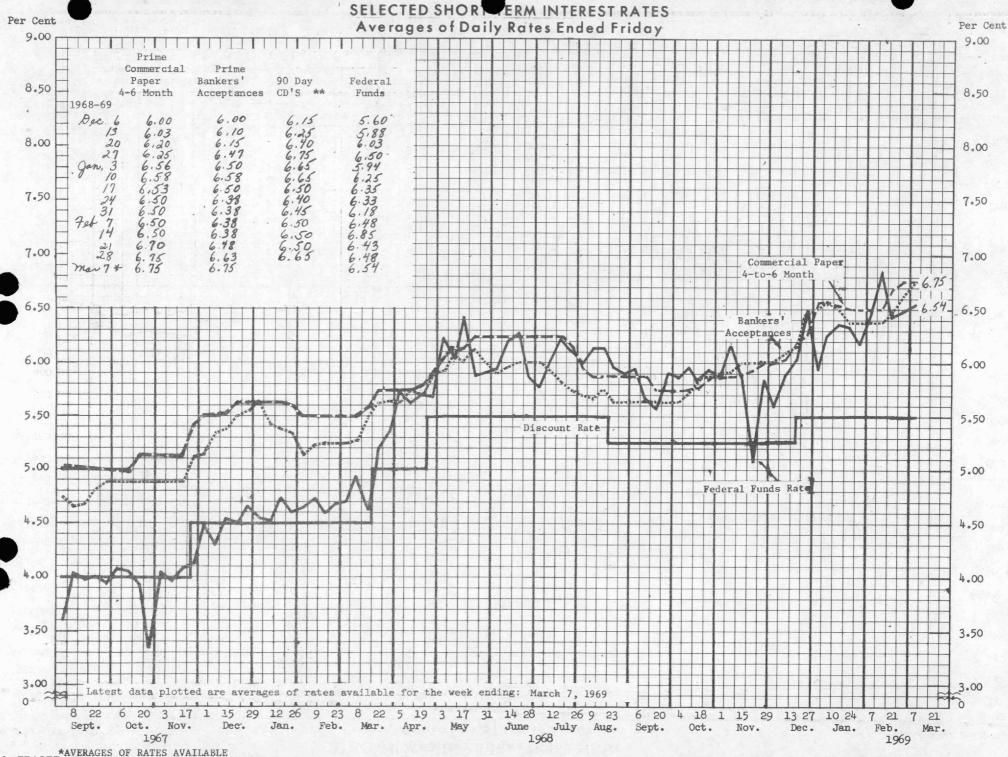
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT [] Large Commercial Banks



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