Federal Reserve Bank
of St. Louis

## AUG 27 1998 Week ending April 2, 1969

Growth rates of some monetary aggregates over the last three months have moderated substantially, compared with the previous two years. The monetary base, for example, has risen at a 3.5 per cent annual rate since December (page 2). This is much slower than the rapid 6.4 per cent pace of the previous year and similar to the 3.6 per cent trend rate from 1957 to 1968. The base has grown at a 6 per cent rate in the last six and nine months, about the same as from January 1967 to June 1968

The money stock, consisting of private demand deposits and currency in the hands of the public, has grown at a 2.3 per cent rate during the past three months (page 3), less than half the rate of the previous year. Money has grown at a 5 per cent rate in the past six and nine months, compared with a 7 per cent rate from January 1967 to June 1968.

Time deposits at commercial banks have declined at a 6.7 per cent rate since December, compared with an 11 per cent increase in the previous year (page 7). Because Regulation $Q$ ceilings on rates banks are permitted to pay on time deposits are low relative to market rates on alternative instruments, banks have been unable to compete for time deposits.

Member bank borrowing from the Federal Reserve has generally increased since the first of the year. Borrowings averaged $\$ 951$ million in the four weeks ending April 2 compared with $\$ 600$ million in the four weeks of December (page 10). The rise in borrowings probably reflects the decline in the
supply of time deposits to banks, strong credit demands, and the disparity between market interest rates and the discount rate.

The discount rate at eleven of the twelve Federal Reserve Banks was raised from 5-1/2 per cent to 6 per cent effective April 4. The Federal Reserve Board has also announced an increase of $1 / 2$ of 1 per cent in reserve requirements on demand deposits at member banks. The increase in reserve requirements will be effective for the reserve computation period ending Wednesday April 23, and applicable to average deposits for the week ending April 9.

Interest rates on 4 - to 6 -month commercial paper averaged 6.88 per cent during the three days ending April 2, up from 6.38 per cent in late December and 5.88 per cent in August (page 9). Rates on three-month Treasury bills have declined somewhat since late December averaging 6.02 per cent during the first half of this week (page 8). The 6.02 per cent bill rate on a discount basis is equivalent to 6.20 per cent on a bond yield basis and remains well above the 5.75 per cent ceiling rate which banks are permitted to pay on certificates of deposit with maturities between two and three months.

Most longer-term rates have recently remained high or continued to rise. Yields on highest grade corporate bonds averaged 7 per cent during the three days ending April 2 compared with 6.53 per cent in late December and about 6 per cent in August.

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

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MONETARY BASE LI
FEDERAL RESERVE CREDITI2
Billions of Dollars


## Averages of Daily Figures






YIELDS ON SELECTED SECURITIES











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