
of St. Louis
AUG 271958

Yields on most Government securities have declined since early January, following increases in November and December (pages 10 and 11). In the three days ending February 18, the three-month Treasury bill rate averaged 6.78 per cent, the lowest rate since last July, while yields on long-term Government bonds averaged 6.40 per ent, down to about the level of November. Yields on prime four- to six-month commercial paper have also declined since the first of the year. In the first three days of this week commercial paper yields averaged 8.59 per cent, about the same as the average for the months of July and October 1969. Yields on seasoned highestgrade corporate bonds have recently been on a high plateau near 8 per cent.

Many interest rates are lower compared with peaks reached a few weeks ago, but remain high relative to the experience of the past several years. Price expectations based on the past two years of inflation have probably contributed greatly to these higher rates. See "Interest Rates and Price Level Changes, 1952-69" in the December 1969 Review of this bank.

Beginning February 12, certain Federal funds transactions--those involving member banks and a person or corporation other than certain financial institutions or a securities dealer in certain cases--are subject to reserve requirements under Federal Reserve Regulation D and interest rate ceilings under Regulation Q. Since last April the Federal funds rate has fluctuated between 8 and 10 per cent most of the time (page 11).

The money stock has been about unchanged on balance since early June, following periods of growth at a 4 per cent annual rate from January to June 1969 and at a 7.3 per cent average rate during the two years from January 1967 to January 1969 (page 5). The demand deposit component of money shows about the same pattern (page 4). Fluctuations such as the pronounced rise in late December and the marked decline in late January remind us that it may be inappropriate to attach significance to changes in monetary magnitudes observed for short periods.



Seasonally Adjusted
186 - Current data appear in the Board's H. 6 release.


Billions of Dollars

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2
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Wednesday Figures

8
$\sim$ Latest data preliminary



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 Annual rates of change, data not seasonall
adjusted, average of four weeks ending
Feb. 1I, 1970 from four weeks ending.
 (1)
$-35.8$
$=45.7$
-54.4
-Nov. 12, 1969

- Aug. 13, 1969 May 14, 1969
$-50.0$
1964-1969

$$
\stackrel{+5.4}{111}
$$

Billions of Dollars 88


SELECTED SHORT- M INTEREST RATES
Per Cent Averages of Daily Rates Ended Friday
*AVERAGES OF RATES AVAILABLE; FEDERAL FUNDS LAST FIVE DAYS AVAILABLE


