

AUG 27 1998

Week ending: January 20, 1971

Short-term market interest rates have declined since January 1970, and have fallen quite rapidly since October except for a brief pause in December (pages 10 and 11). The declines in rates have reflected a decrease in the demand of funds relative to supply. Three-month Treasury bill rates averaged 4.23 per cent in the three days ending January 20, compared with about 6 per cent in early October. Yields on four- to six-month commercial paper averaged 5 per cent in the first half of this week, compared with 7 per cent in early October and 8 per cent in mid-August. Federal fund rates averaged 4.18 per cent in the five days ending January 20, compared with about a 5 per cent rate in mid-December, 5-1/2 per cent in the second half of November, and 6 per cent in late September and October.

The prime interest rate, the rate charged by commercial banks on loans made to large high-rated business customers, was marked down from 6-1/2 per cent to 6-1/4 per cent late last week and then to 6 per cent early this week. The latter change was the sixth reduction since early November and the eighth since early 1970, when this rate was at its historical high of 8-1/2 per cent. Even with these numerous declines in recent months, the spread between the prime rate and commercial paper rates (a major competitive rate) has increased from about 65 basis points in October to about 100 basis points now. The declines in the prime rate were necessary in order to adjust to changing supply and demand conditions. Banks have not only gained funds through monetary expansion and rapid growth of time deposits, but have also had less demand for bank loans because of the slowdown in general economic activity and refinancing with longer-term borrowing.

Early this week, six Federal Reserve banks lowered their discount rates from 5-1/4 to 5 per cent, the fourth decline of 1/4 percentage points since early November. This change brings this rate into somewhat closer alignment with market rates.

Total bank loans and investments have increased at a 9.3 per cent annual rate since February 1970, compared with an increase at a 2.4 per cent annual rate from December 1968 to February 1970. However, total loans have increased at only a 4.7 per cent rate since last February, a slower rate than the 7.1 per cent rate from December 1968 to February 1970. Since February total investments have increased at a rapid 20 per cent rate, compared with a decline at about a 7 per cent rate from December 1968 to February 1970. The small growth of total loans since February, while banks apparently had funds to lend, is evidence of a relatively weak demand for loans.

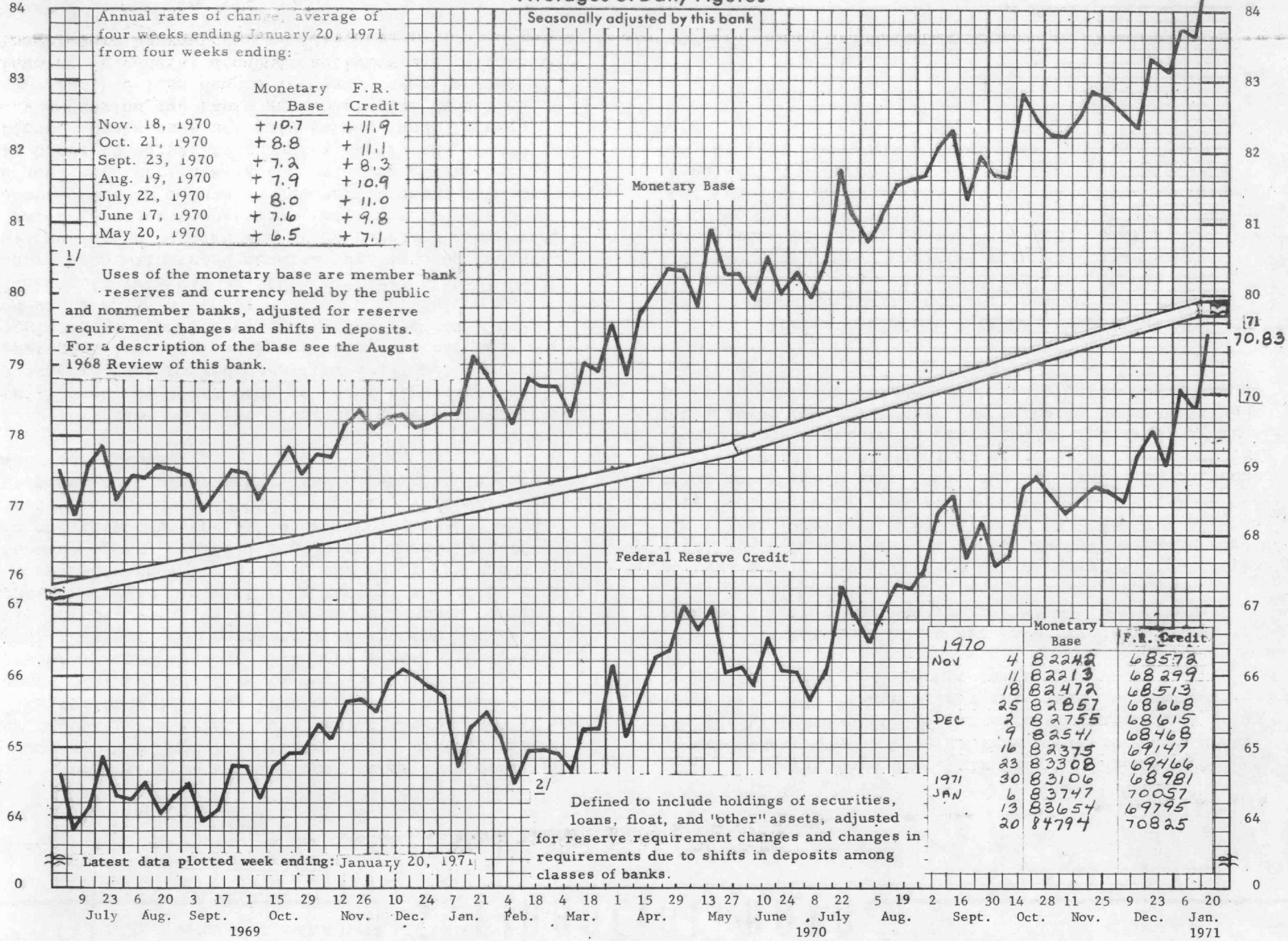
The nation's money stock, consisting of private demand deposits and currency in the hands of the public, has risen at a 5.3 per cent annual rate since December 1969, compared with a 3.1 per cent growth rate in 1969 (page 5). Demand deposits, the major component of money, has increased at a 5.0 per cent rate, compared with a 2.4 per cent rate in 1969 (page 4). The currency component has increased at a 6.5 per cent rate, and a 6 per cent rate in 1969.

MONETARY BASE ¹
FEDERAL RESERVE CREDIT ²
Averages of Daily Figures

84.79 ²

Billions of Dollars

Billions of Dollars

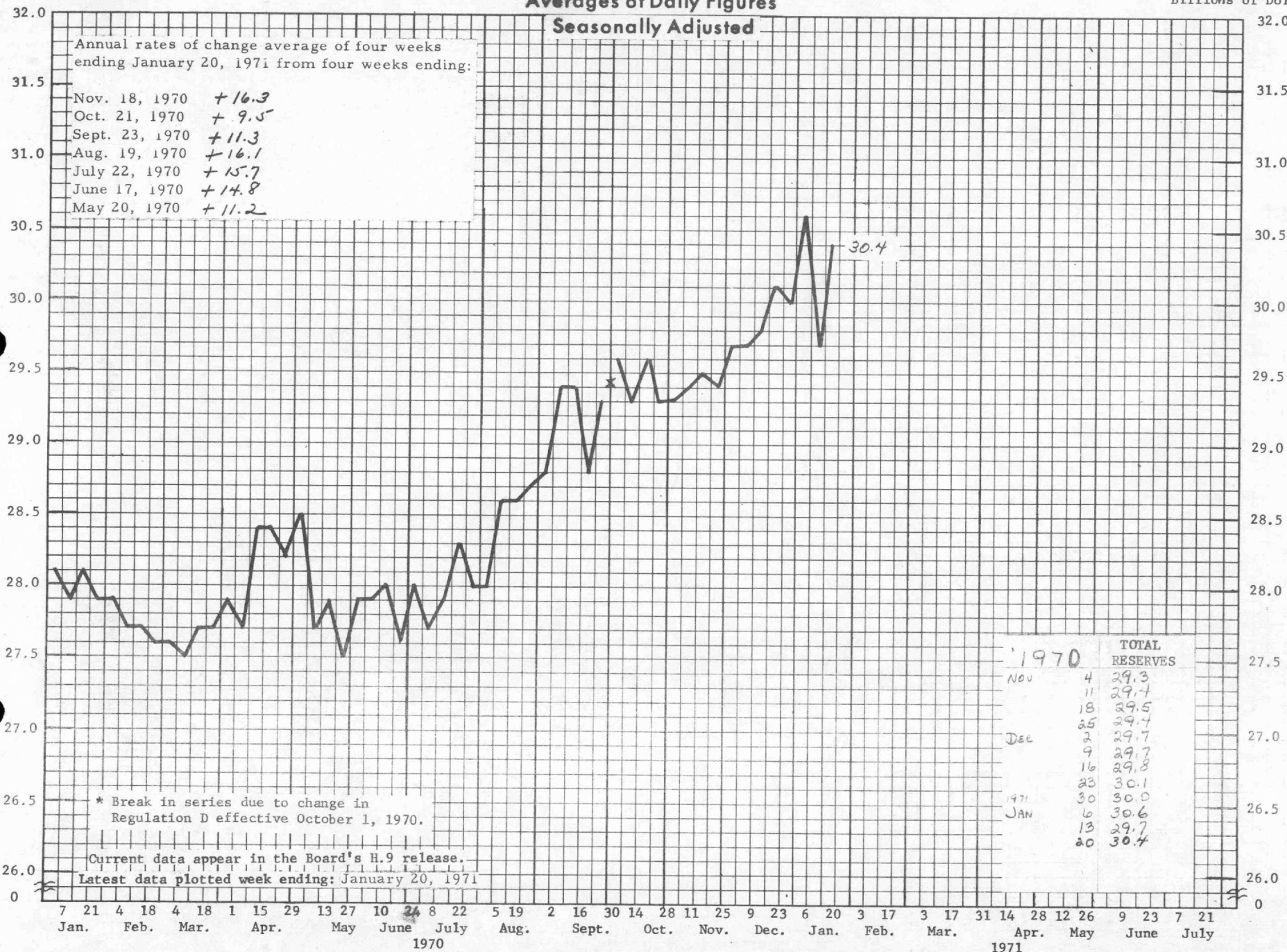


RESERVES
All Member Banks in the Nation
Averages of Daily Figures

Seasonally Adjusted

Billions of Dollars

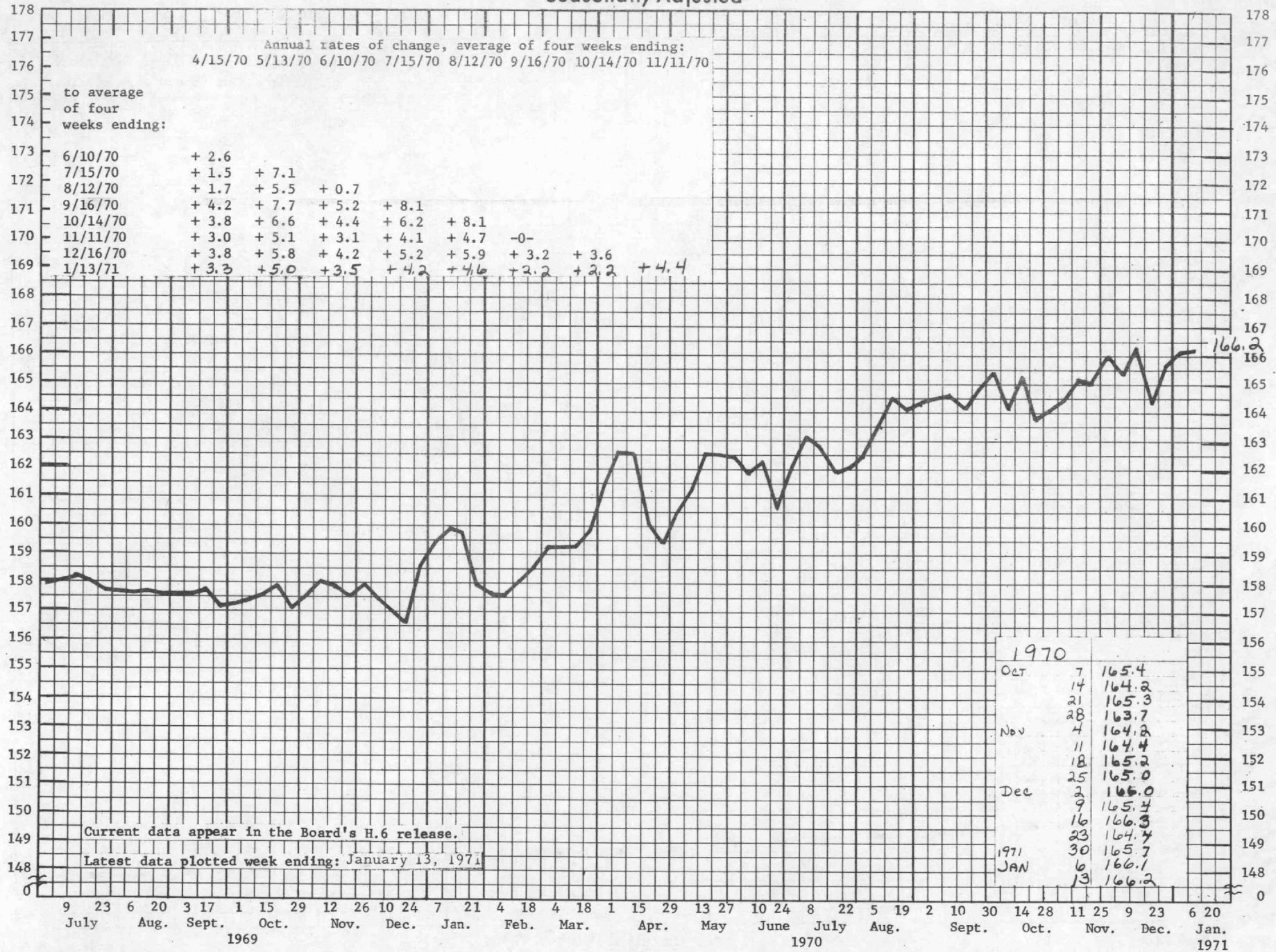
Billions of Dollars



DEMAND DEPOSIT COMPONENT OF MONEY STOCK
Averages of Daily Figures
Seasonally Adjusted

Billions of Dollars

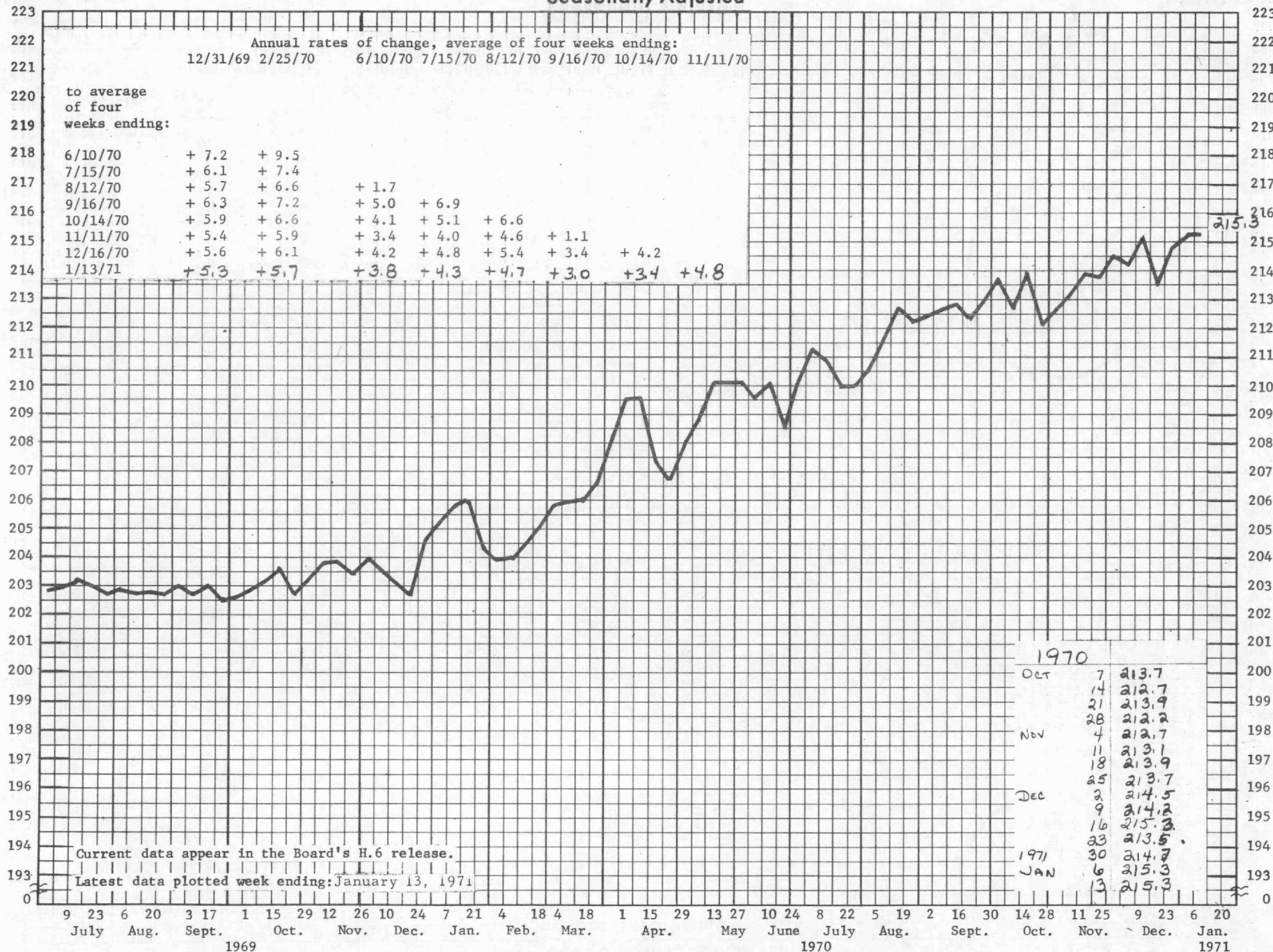
Billions of Dollars



MONY STOCK
Averages of Daily Figures
Seasonally Adjusted

Billions of Dollars

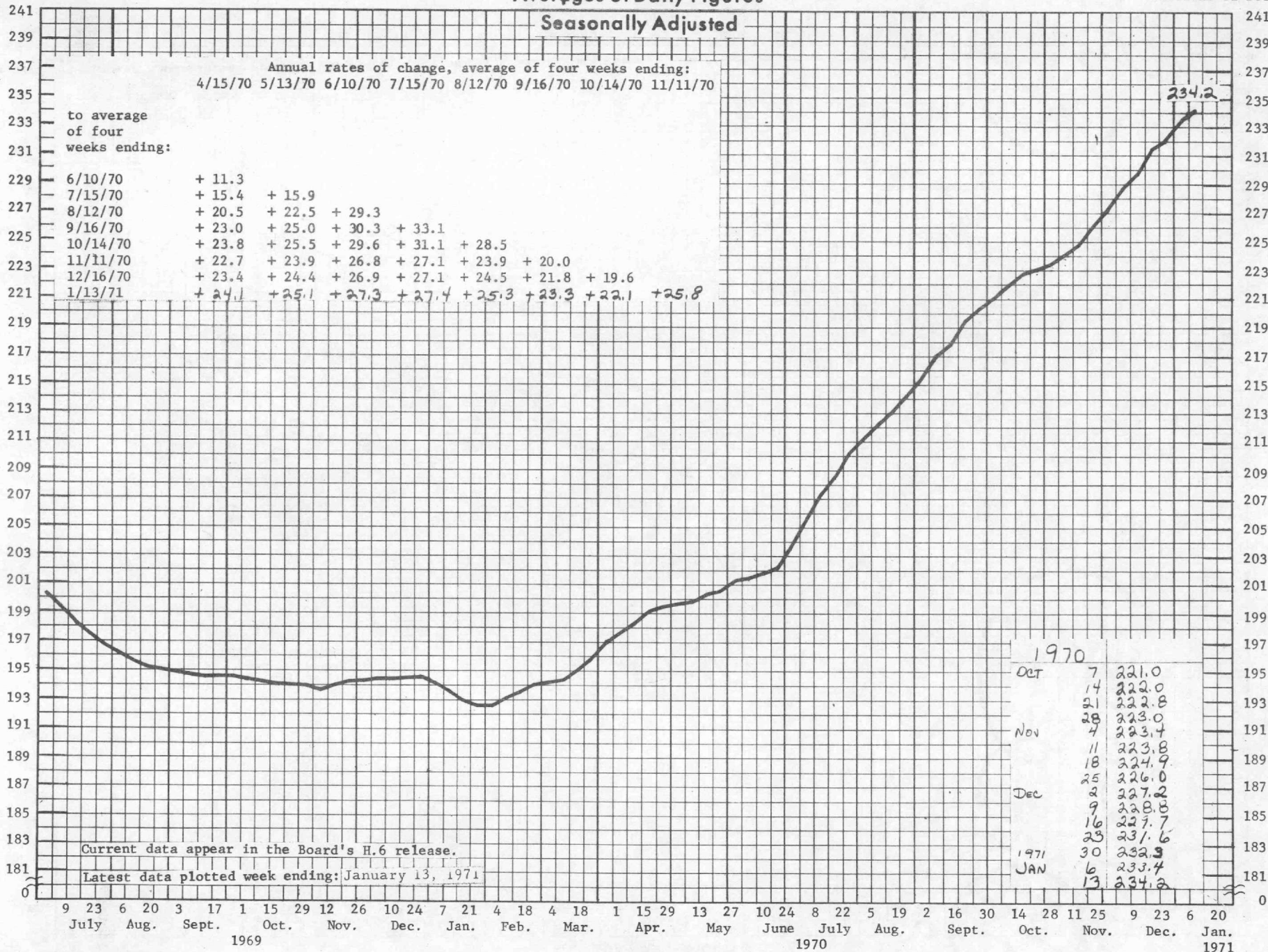
Billions of Dollars



TIME DEPOSITS
All Commercial Banks
Averages of Daily Figures
Seasonally Adjusted

Billions of Dollars

Billions of Dollars



Current data appear in the Board's H.6 release.

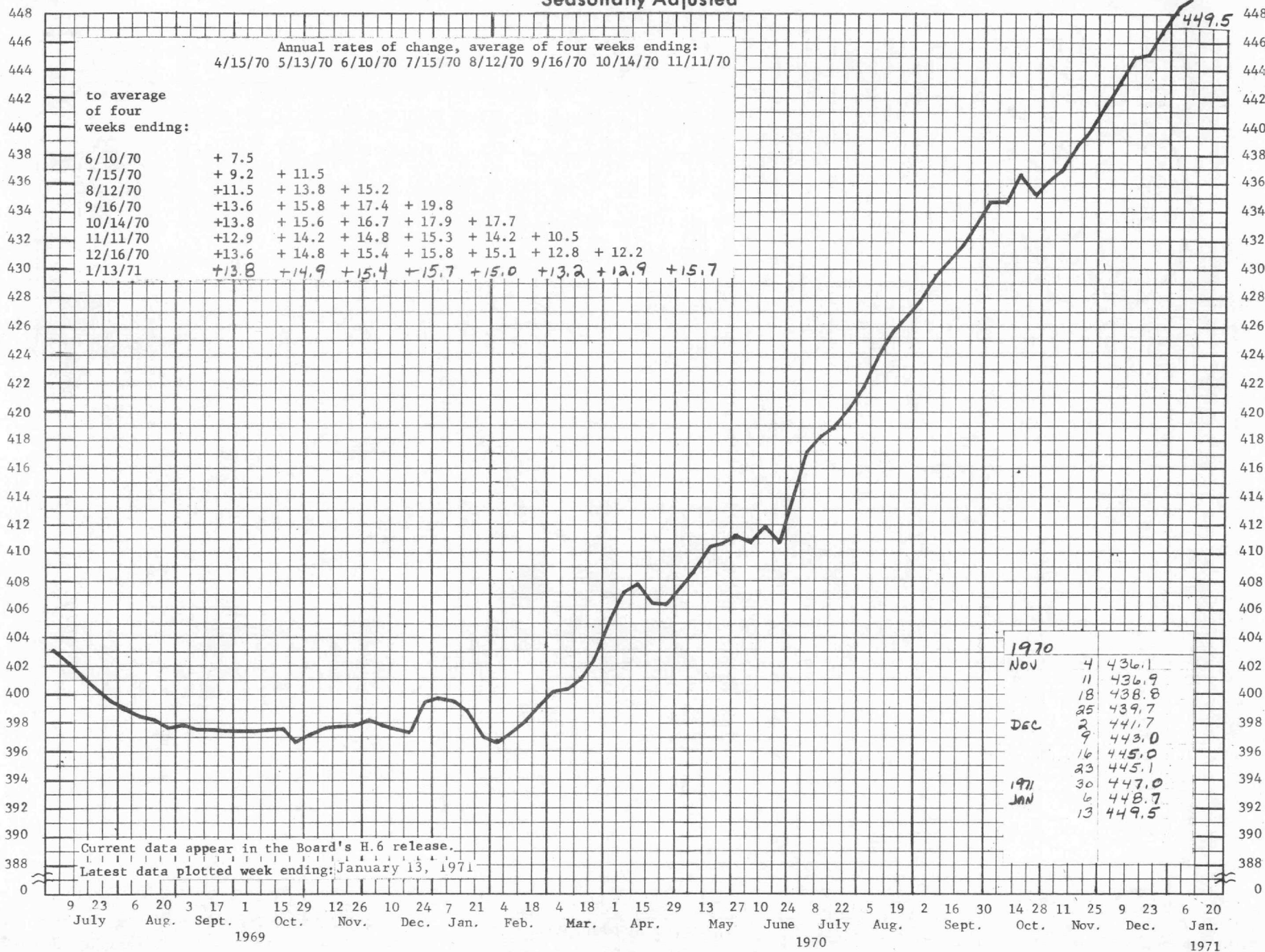
Latest data plotted week ending: January 13, 1971

1970		
OCT	7	221.0
	14	222.0
	21	222.8
NOV	28	223.0
	4	223.4
	11	223.8
DEC	18	224.9
	25	226.0
	2	227.2
1971	9	228.8
	16	229.7
	23	231.6
JAN	30	232.9
	6	233.4
	13	234.2

MONEY STOCK AND TIME DEPOSITS
Averages of Daily Figures
Seasonally Adjusted

Billions of Dollars

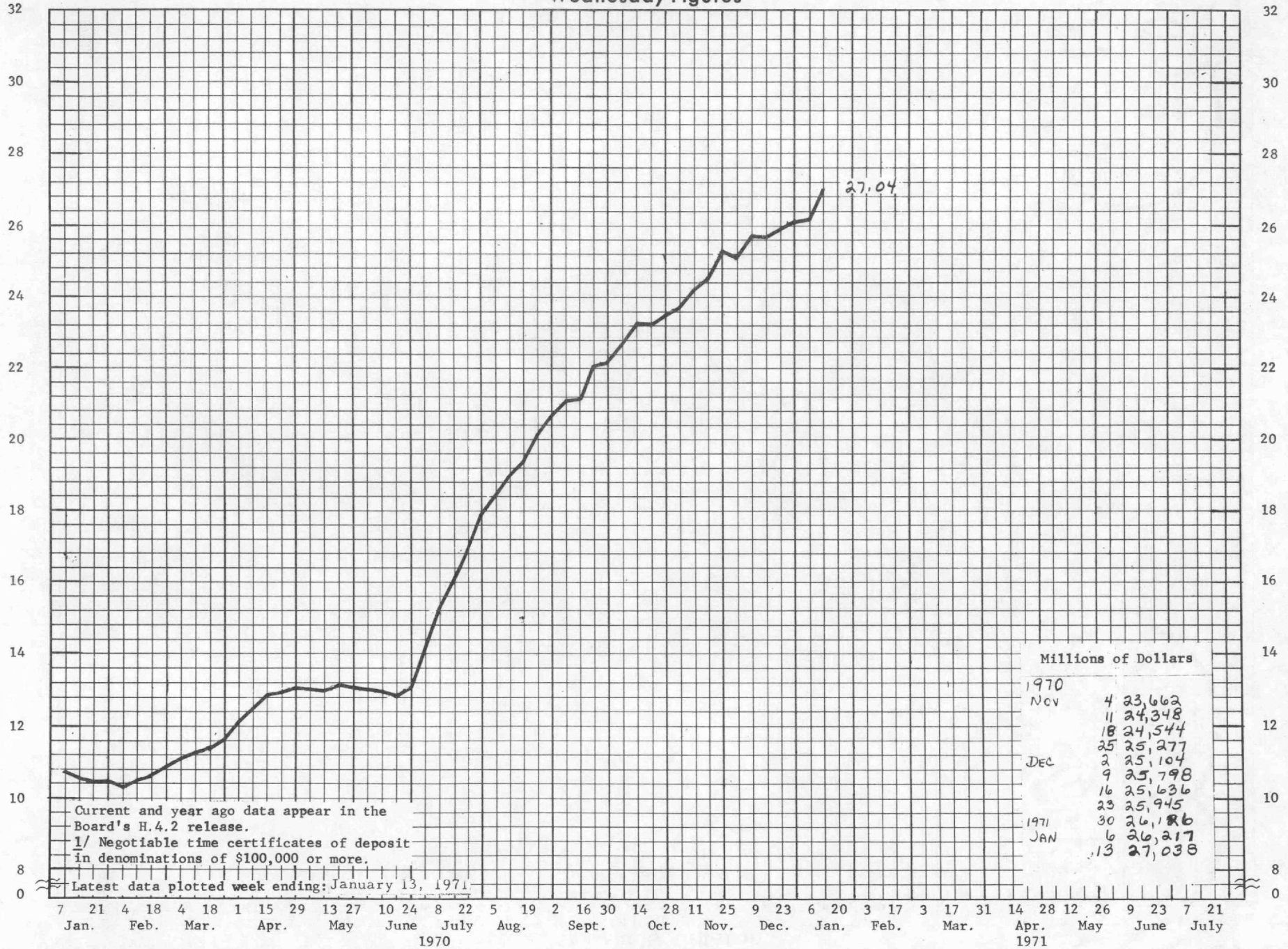
Billions of Dollars



CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT ^{1/}
Large Commercial Banks
Wednesday Figures

Billions of Dollars

Billions of Dollars



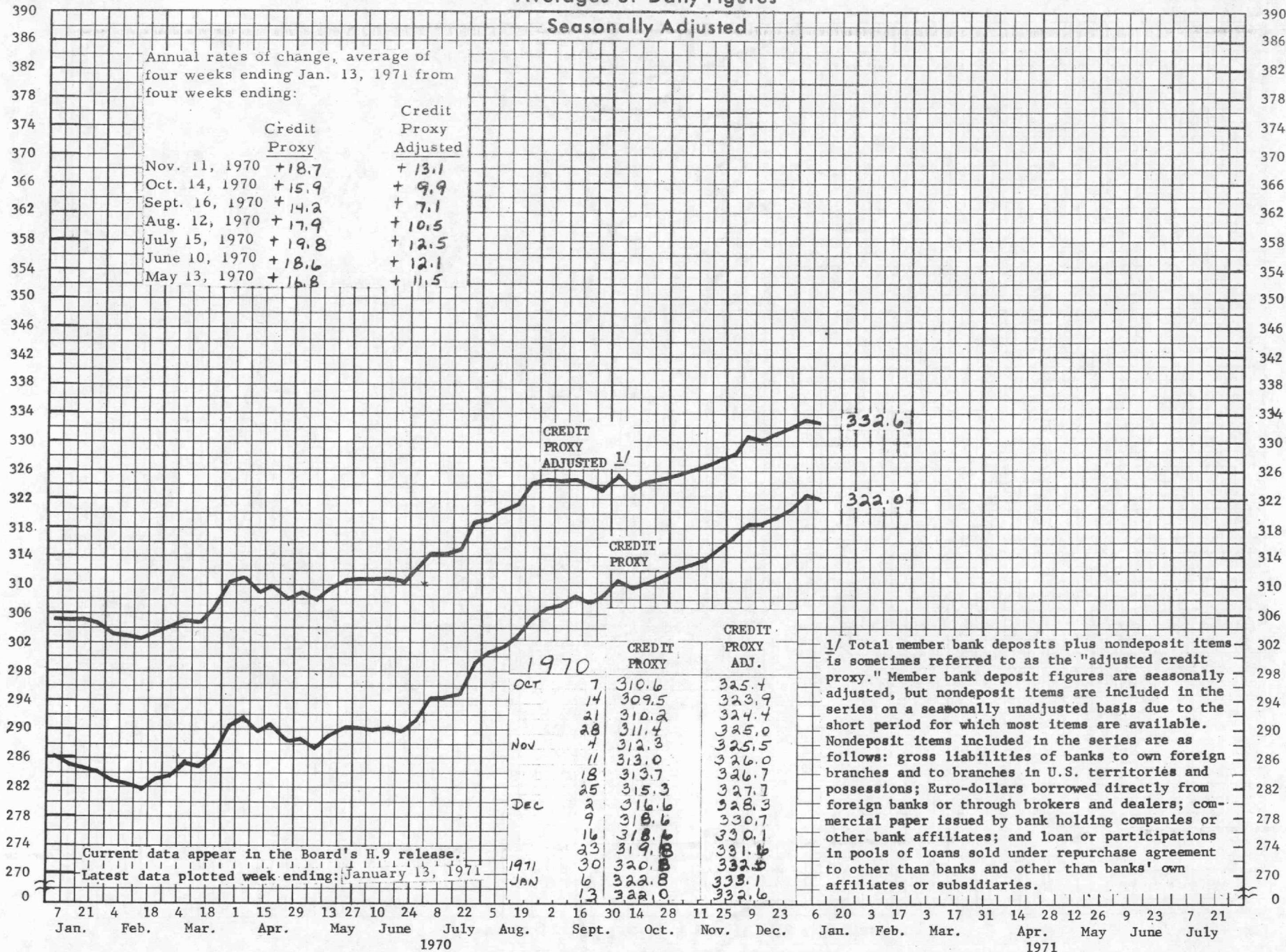
**MEMBER BANK DEPOSITS SUBJECT TO RESERVE REQUIREMENTS
(CREDIT PROXY)**

Averages of Daily Figures

Seasonally Adjusted

Billions of Dollars

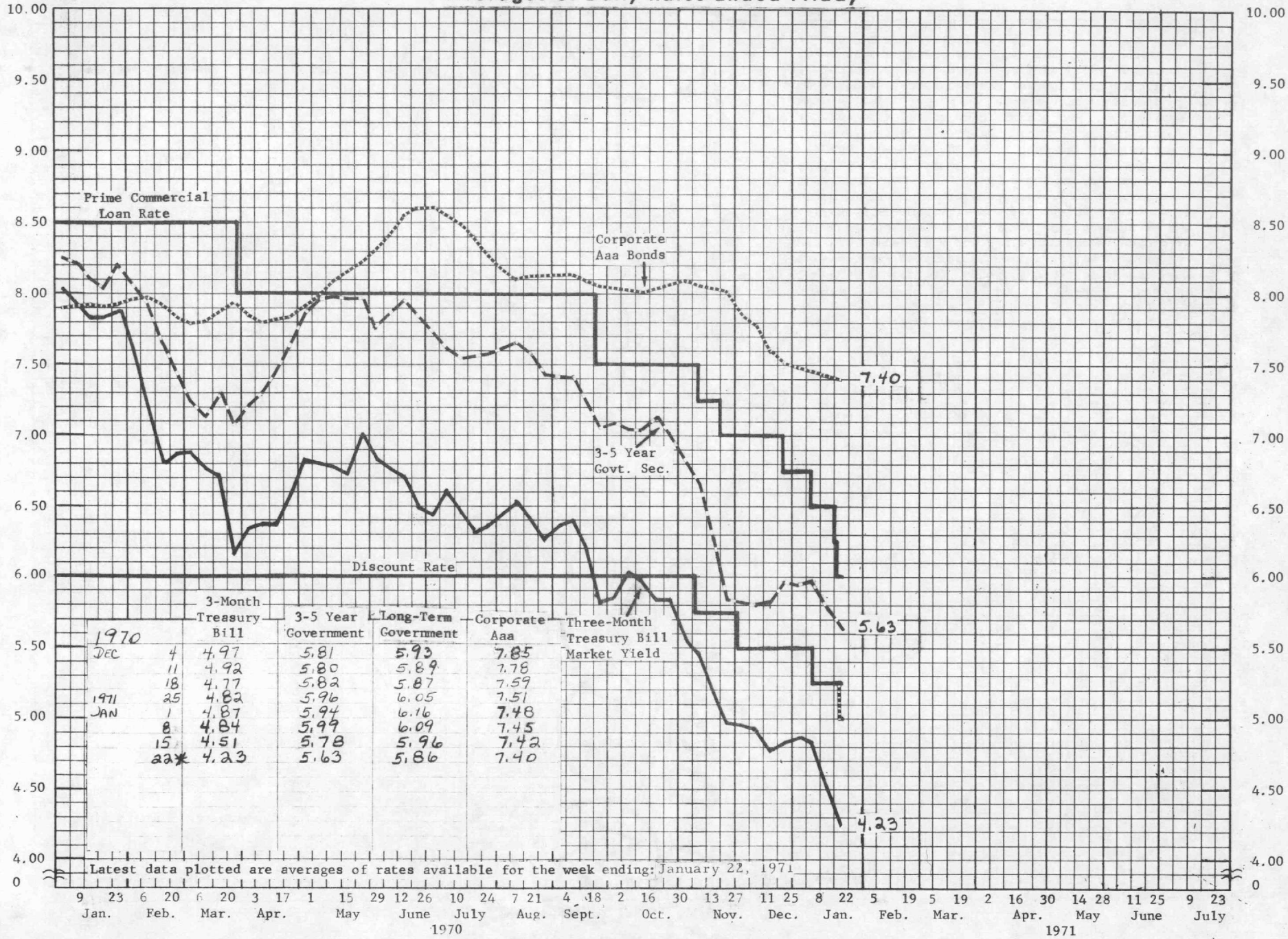
Billions of Dollars



YIELDS ON SELECTED SECURITIES Averages of Daily Rates Ended Friday

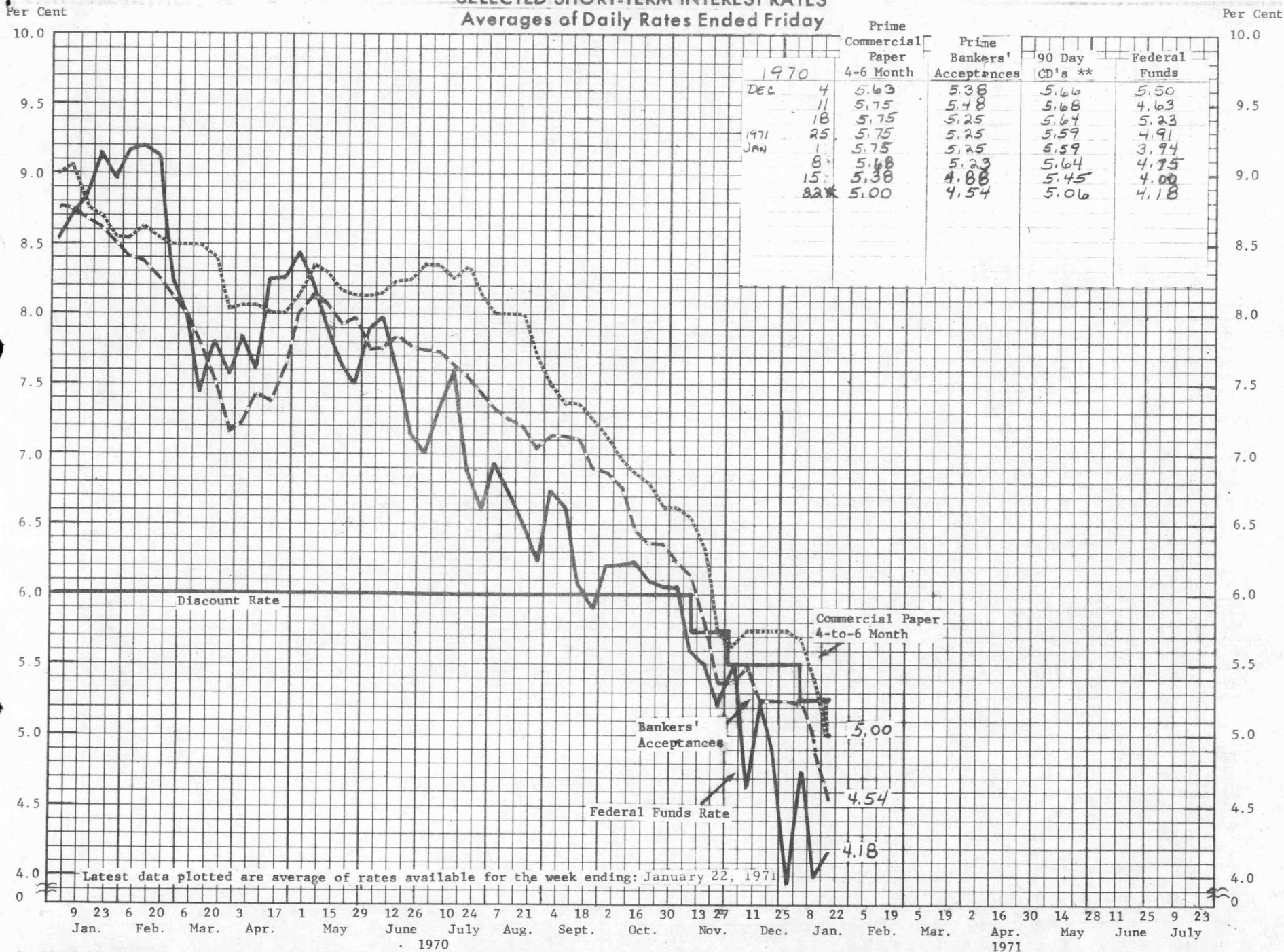
Per Cent

Per Cent



* Latest data plotted are averages of rates available for the week ending: January 22, 1971

SELECTED SHORT-TERM INTEREST RATES Averages of Daily Rates Ended Friday



* AVERAGES OF RATES AVAILABLE; FEDERAL FUNDS LAST FIVE DAYS AVAILABLE

** DATA ARE SECONDARY MARKET RATE, WEEKLY AVERAGES ENDING WEDNESDAY
 ** DATA ARE SEVEN DAYS EARLIER. CURRENT DATA APPEAR IN THE BOARD'S H.9 RELEASE.

BORROWINGS AND EXCESS RESERVES

All Member Banks in the Nation

Averages of Daily Figures

Millions of Dollars

Millions of Dollars

