



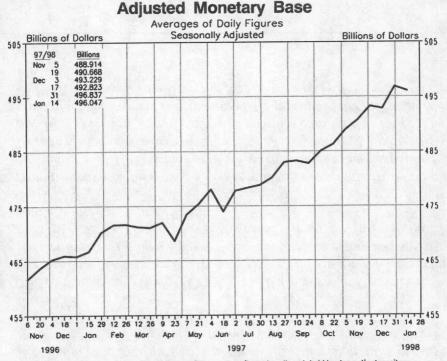
JAN 2 0 1998 THE WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS:

- Total business inventories (nonfarm) accumulated at an annual rate of \$48.2 billion in November after rising at a \$37.1 billion rate in October. For the third quarter, business inventories increased at a rate of \$43.7 billion.
- The nominal value of sales at the nation's retailers rose 0.7 percent in December, or 9 percent at an annual rate. For the fourth quarter, though, growth of retail sales slowed to a 1 percent rate after rising at a 7.5 percent rate in the third quarter.
- The index of U.S. import prices fell 0.6 percent in December, as petroleum prices dropped 5.4 percent. For the 12 months ending in December 1997, import prices declined 4.9 percent, the largest yearly decline since the series began in 1982.
- The consumer price index (CPI-U) rose 0.1 percent in December. For the year (December-to-December), the CPI rose just 1.7 percent, the smallest yearly uptick since 1986. Similarly, the core measure of the CPI (less food and energy prices) rose 2.2 percent in 1997, the smallest increase since 1965.
 - Nonfarm payrolls increased 370,000 in December, modestly less than November's 412,000 gain. For 1997, payroll employment expanded by an average of slightly more than 267,000 a month (2.7 percent), about 56,000 more than the average monthly gain seen in 1996. The civilian unemployment rate averaged 4.7 percent in the fourth quarter of 1997, the lowest rate since the first quarter of 1970.

All data are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise indicated.

U.S. Financial Data is published weekly by the Research Division of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. For more information on data, please call (314) 444-8590. To be added to the mailing list, please call (314) 444-8808 or (314) 444-8809.

Information in this publication is also included in the Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED) electronic bulletin board at (314) 621-1824 or internet World Wide Web server at www.stls.frb.org/fred.



The adjusted monetary base is the sum of Federal Reserve deposits and vault cash held by domestic depository institutions, currency held by the public, and an adjustment for the effect of changes in reserve requirement ratios. The monetary base series was recently revised to include Federal Reserve deposits used to satisfy clearing balance contracts. Data are computed by this bank. A detailed description of the adjusted monetary base is available from this bank. Recent data are preliminary.

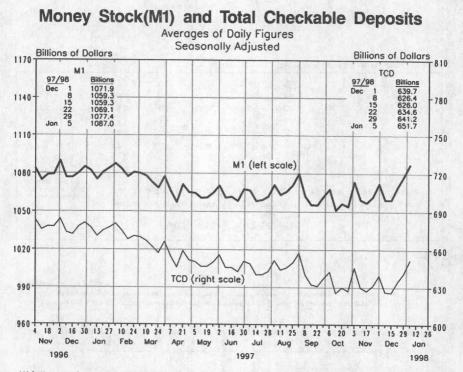
Adjusted Monetary Base

To the overage of two maintenance periods ending:	1/15/97	4/9/97	6/18/97	7/16/97	8/13/97	9/10/97	10/8/97	11/19/97
6/18/97	5.0							
7/16/97	5.1	5.3						
8/13/97	5.0	5.0	4.8					
9/10/97	5.6	5.9	6.6	7.0				
10/8/97	5.2	5.3	5.5	5.4	6.1			
11/19/97	6.0	6.4	7.0	7.3	8.2	7.4		
12/17/97	6.2	6.7	7.3	7.6	8.4	7.9	10.2	
1/14/98	6.5	6.9	7.6	7.8	8.6	8.2	10.0	9.2

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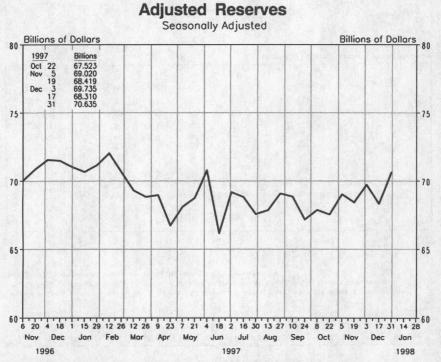




M1 is the sum of currency held by the nonbank public, demand deposits, other checkable deposits and travelers checks. Total checkable deposits is the sum of demand deposits and other checkable deposits at depository institutions. Current data appear in the Federal Reserve Board's H.6 release.

		Money Stock (M1)							
To the susses	Compounded annual rates of change, average of four weeks ending:								
To the average of four weeks ending:	1/6/97	4/7/97	6/2/97	7/7/97	8/4/97	9/8/97	10/6/97	11/3/97	
6/2/97	-3.8								
7/7/97	-3.2	-2.8							
8/4/97	-2.9	-2.4	-0.9						
9/8/97	-1.5	-0.3	1.9	3.4					
10/6/97	-2.6	-2.1	-1.1	-1.3	-1.4				
11/3/97	-2.5	-2.0	-1.2	-1.3	-1.4	-6.4			
12/8/97	-1.8	-1.2	-0.3	-0.2	0.0	-2.6	1.4		
1/5/98	-0.7	0.3	1.4	1.8	2.4	1.0	5.1	8.1	

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Adjusted reserves is the difference between the adjusted monetary base and the currency component of M1. The adjusted monetary base series was recently revised: See the footnote to the monetary base chart for a description of the change.

Adjusted Reserves										
	Compounded annual rates of change, average of two maintenance periods ending:									
To the average of two maintenance periods ending:	1/1/97	3/26/97	6/4/97	7/2/97	7/30/97	8/27/97	9/24/97	11/5/97		
6/4/97	-5.0									
7/2/97	-9.9	-7.3								
7/30/97	-7.4	-3.7	-13.8							
8/27/97	-6.0	-2.0	-7.8	7.9						
9/24/97	-6.2	-3.1	-8.0	2.1	-1.7					
11/5/97	-5.0	-1.9	-5.0	2.6	0.5	-1.4				
12/3/97	-3.3	0.0	-1.9	5.0	3.9	3.4	8.5			
12/31/97	-2.5	0.8	-0.7	5.4	4.5	4.3	8.3	12.0		

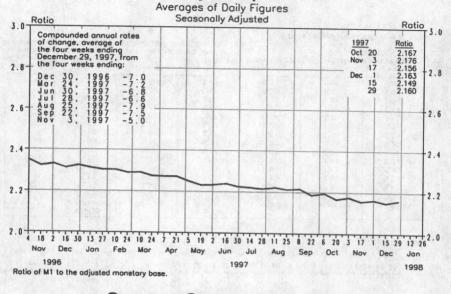
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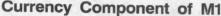
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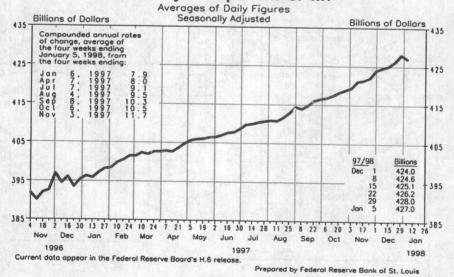




Money Multiplier



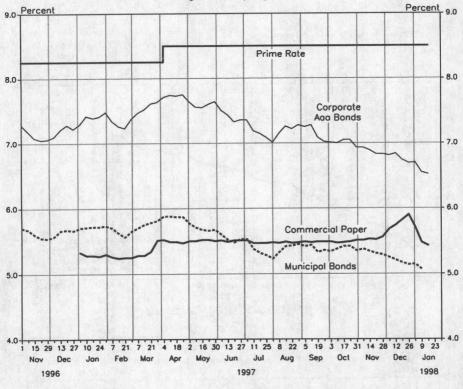




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Yields on Selected Securities

Averages of Daily Figures



1993	7/98	30-Day Commercial Paper	90-Doy CDs	90-Day Bonkers' Acceptonces	Corporate Aaa Bonds	Corporate Baa Bonds	Municipal Bonds ••
Oct	24	5.49	5.69	5.58	7.05	7.57	5.42
	31	5.51	5.67	5.58	6.93	7.49	5.35
Nov	7	5.51	5.68	5.57	6.93	7.47	5.38
	14	5.53	5.76	5.69	6.89	7.44	5.34
	21	5.52	5.76	5.67	6.83	7.38	5.31
	28	5.56	5.78	5.72	6.83	7.38	5.29
Dec	5	5.68	5.81	5.77	6.81	7.36	5.25
	12	5.74	5.81	5.78	6.84	7.39	5.21
	19	5.82	5.80	5.77	6.74	7.30	5.17
	26	5.90	5.82	5.76	6.69	7.26	5.14
Jan	2	5.71	5.74	5.62	6.70	6.91	5.15
	9	5.48	5.58	5.52	6.55	7.13	5.07
	16	5.43	5.50	5.47	6.52	7.11	N.A.

Current data are from the Federal Reserve Board's H.15 release, and are overages of rates available for the week ending on January 16, 1998. Beginning September 2, 1997, the commercial paper rate reflects new source data, which is currently available only back to the first of the year. •• Bond Buyer's Average Index of 20 municipal bonds, Thursday data

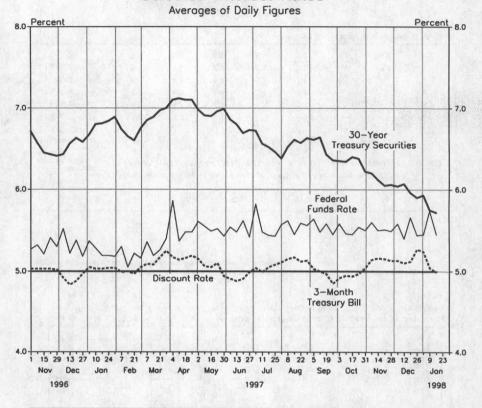
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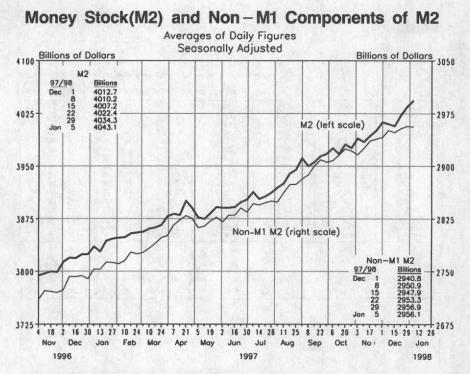
Selected Interest Rates



1997	/98	Federal Funds ••	3-Month Treasury Bill	1-Year Treasury Bill	5-Year Treasury Securities	10-Year Treasury Securities	30-Year Treasury Securities
Oct	24	5.54	4.97	5.23	6.02	6.09	6.38
	31	5.50	5.04	5.07	5.78	5.90	6.22
Nov	7	5.60	5.14	5.15	5.81	5.92	6.20
	14	5.50	5.16	5.15	5.81	5.88	6.12
	21	5.51	5.15	5.18	5.79	5.84	6.05
	28	5.49	5.13	5.21	5.82	5.86	6.06
Dec	5	5.58	5.13	5.25	5.82	5.86	6.04
	12	5.40	5.10	5.23	5.83	5.87	6.07
	19	5.66	5.12	5.20	5.74	5.77	5.96
	26	5.44	5.27	5.26	5.72	5.74	5.90
Jon	2	5.45	5.24	5.23	5.71	5.75	5.93
	9	5.74	5.04	4.99	5.38	5.49	5.75
	16 •	5.45	4.99	4.90	5.28	5.42	5.72

Current data appear in the Federal Reserve Boord's H.15 release. • Averages of rates available •• Seven-day averages for week ending two days earlier than date shown

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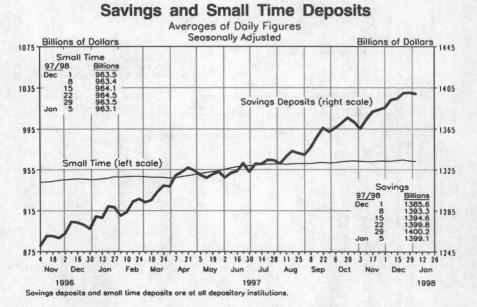
M2 is the sum of M1, savings (including money market deposit accounts), small time deposits and retail money funds. Current data appear in the Federal Reserve Board's H.6 release.

	Money Stock (M2)								
	Compounded annual rates of change, average of four weeks ending:								
To the average of four weeks ending:	1/6/97	4/7/97	6/2/97	7/7/97	8/4/97	9/8/97	10/6/97	11/3/97	
6/2/97	3.9								
7/7/97	4.0	3.0							
8/4/97	3.9	3.0	3.9						
9/8/97	4.8	4.7	6.3	7.2					
10/6/97	4.9	4.9	6.1	6.8	8.4				
11/3/97	4.9	4.8	5.8	6.2	7.1	5.0			
12/8/97	5.1	5.1	6.0	6.3	7.1	5.7	5.7		
1/5/98	5.3	5.4	6.2	6.5	7.2	6.2	6.3	7.2	

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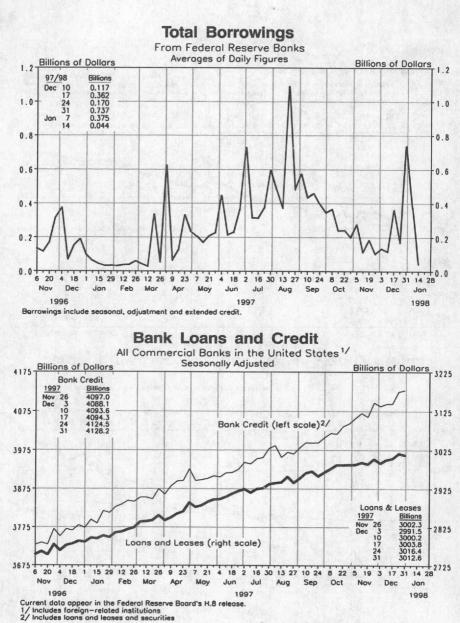


Large Time Deposits and Retail Money Funds Averages of Daily Figures



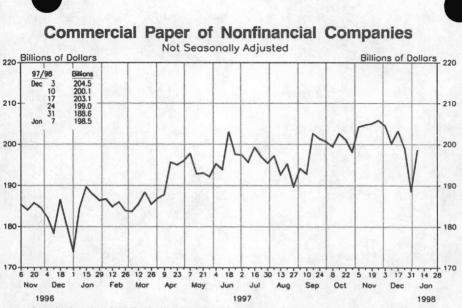
Large time aeposits and retail maney runas are at all despository institutions. Large time deposits are those issued in denominations of \$100,000 or more. Retail money funds were originally called general purpose and broker/dealer money market funds. Prepared by Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

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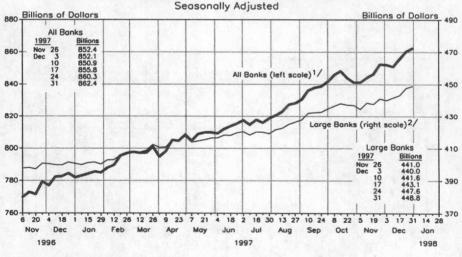
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Note: Beginning September 2, 1997, the value of commercial paper outstanding uses new source data. See the Federal Reserve Board's H.15 release for more information.

Commercial and Industrial Loans



Current data appear in the Federal Reserve Board's H.8 release. 1/ Includes foreign-related institutions 2/ Weekly reporting, domestically chartered banks

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Current data appear in the Federal Reserve Board's H.10 release. Data are weighted averages of the foreign-currency price of the U.S. dollar, computed using 10 industrial country currencies.

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