

THE WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS:

- New orders for manufactured durable goods fell \$11.9 billion in December, or 6.1 percent. This drop, which was the largest in percentage terms since December 1991, stemmed mostly from a 22.7 percent plunge in orders for transportation equipment. After rising 3.5 percent in the third quarter, durable goods orders, which are not adjusted for price changes, increased 2 percent in the fourth quarter. Shipments of durable goods, however, only rose 0.3 percent in the fourth quarter after rising 2.9 percent in the third quarter.
- After rising at a 3.4 percent annual rate in the third quarter, the employment cost index for private industry workers (ECI) rose at a 4.9 percent rate in the fourth quarter. The wages and salaries component of the ECI increased at a 5 percent rate in the fourth quarter, the largest uptick in 14 years, while benefit costs rose at a 4.3 percent rate. For the year (fourth quarter-to-fourth quarter), the ECI rose 3.5 percent, the biggest increase since 1993.
- The Conference Board reported that its index of consumer confidence fell 8.9 percentage points in January to 127.3 percent (1985=100). Despite this decline, the consumer confidence index remains 8.6 percentage points above a year earlier.
- Sales of existing single-family homes totaled 4.29 million units at an annual rate in December 1997, a 2.1 percent drop from the November sales pace. A total of 4.22 million homes were sold in 1997, the highest total on record (going back to 1968).

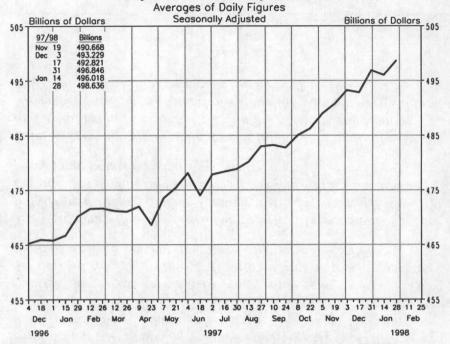
All data are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise indicated.

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.

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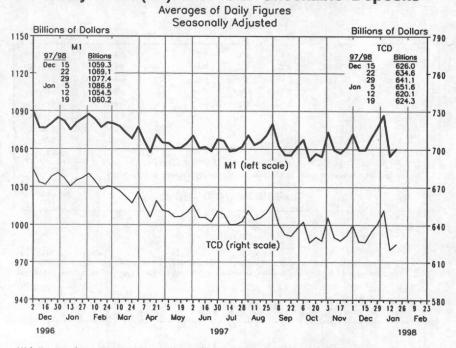
Adjusted Monetary Base



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									
	Compounded annual rates of change, average of two maintenance periods ending:									
To the average of two maintenance periods ending:	1/29/97	4/23/97	7/2/97	7/30/97	8/27/97	9/24/97	10/22/97	12/3/97		
7/2/97	3.8									
7/30/97	4.4	6.7								
8/27/97	4.9	7.1	8.0							
9/24/97	4.8	6.5	6.6	6.2						
10/22/97	5.1	6.6	6.8	6.6	5.6					
12/3/97	6.0	7.6	8.2	8.3	8.2	10.0				
12/31/97	6.1	7.6	8.1	8.2	8.2	9.4	10.3			
1/28/98	6.2	7.5	7.9	8.0	7.9	8.8	9.2	7.3		

Money Stock(M1) and Total Checkable Deposits



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 average	Compounded annual rates of change, average of four weeks ending:									
of four weeks ending:	1/20/97	4/21/97	6/16/97	7/21/97	8/18/97	9/22/97	10/20/97	11/17/97		
6/16/97	-3.7									
7/21/97	-3.3	-1.9								
8/18/97	-2.4	-0.7	0.6							
9/22/97	-2.4	-1.1	-0.4	0.2						
10/20/97	-2.6	-1.6	-1.4	-1.3	-3.3					
11/17/97	-2.2	-1.1	-0.8	-0.5	-1.7	-1.3				
12/22/97	-1.6	-0.4	0.1	0.5	-0.1	0.7	3.1			
1/19/98	-1.0	0.2	0.9	1.3	1.0	1.9	4.0	4.9		

Adjusted Reserves

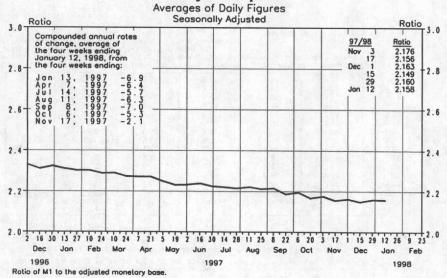
Seasonally Adjusted



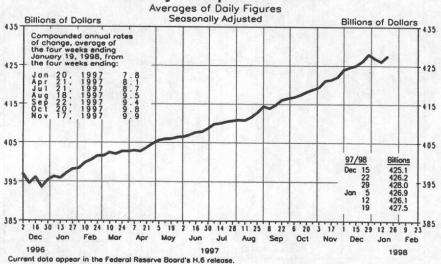
Adjusted reserves is the difference between the adjusted monetary base and the currency component of M1. The adjusted monetary base series was recently revised: See the footnote to the monetary base chart for a description of the change.

Adjusted Reserves										
	Compounded annual rates of change, average of two maintenance periods ending:									
To the average of two maintenance periods ending:	1/15/97	4/9/97	6/18/97	7/16/97	8/13/97	9/10/97	10/8/97	11/19/97		
6/18/97	-7.8									
7/16/97	-5.2	0.6								
8/13/97	-7.6	-4.9	-7.1							
9/10/97	-4.1	0.3	3.1	-0.3						
10/8/97	-6.4	-3.9	-4.5	-9.0	-1.8					
11/19/97	-3.5	-0.4	0.9	-1.1	5.7	-1.8				
12/17/97	-2.8	0.3	1.6	0.1	5.8	0.3	12.2			
1/14/98	-1.2	2.1	3.9	2.9	8.2	4.4	14.4	12.7		



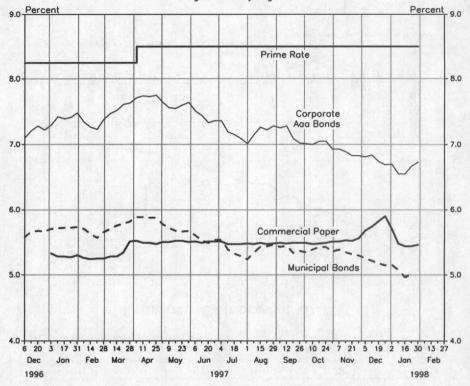


Currency Component of M1



Yields on Selected Securities

Averages of Daily Figures

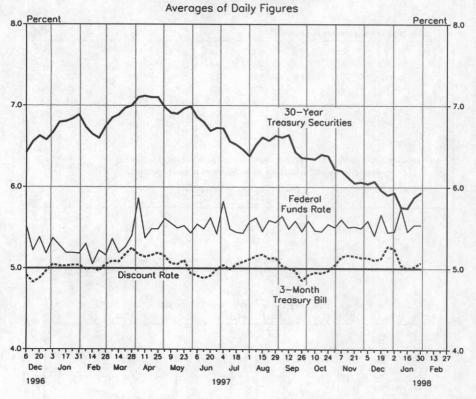


1997	7/98	30-Day Commercial Paper	90-Day CDs	90-Day Bankers' Acceptances	Corporate Aaa Bonds	Corporate Boa Bonds	Municipal Bonds **
Nov	7	5.51	5.68	5.57	6.93	7.47	5.38
	14	5.53	5.76	5.69	6.89	7.44	5.34
	21	5.52	5.76	5.67	6.83	7.38	5.31
	28	5.56	5.78	5.72	6.83	7.38	5.29
Dec	5	5.68	5.81	5.77	6.81	7.36	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	5.44	5.50	5.47	6.55	7.14	4.96
	23	5.44	5.51	5.45	6.67	7.24	5.03
	30	5.46	5.54	5.48	6.73	7.30	N.A.

Current data are from the Federal Reserve Board's H.15 release, and are averages of rates available for the week ending on January 30, 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

Selected Interest Rates



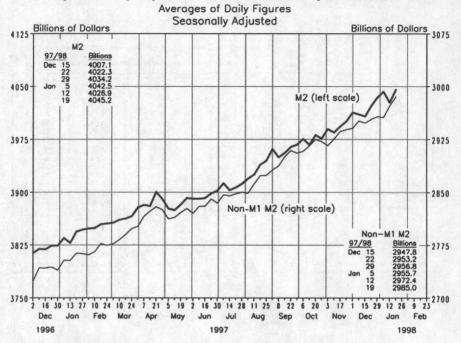
1997/98	Federal Funds ••	3-Month Treosury Bill	1-Year Treasury Bill	5-Year Treasury Securities	10-Year Treasury Securities	30-Year Treasury Securities
Nov 7	5.60	5.14	5.15	5.81	5.92	6.20
14	5.50	5.16	5.15	5.81	5.88	6.12
21	5.51	5.15	5.18	5.79	5.84	6.05
28	5.49	5.13	5.21	5.82	5.86	6.06
Dec 5	5.58	5.13	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
Jan 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	5.00	4.92	5.32	5.45	5.74
23	5.53	5.02	4.96	5.45	5.59	5.87
30 •	5.53	5.07	5.03	5.53	5.67	5.93

Current data appear in the Federal Reserve Board's H.15 release.

• Averages of rates available

• Seven—day averages for week ending two days earlier than date shown

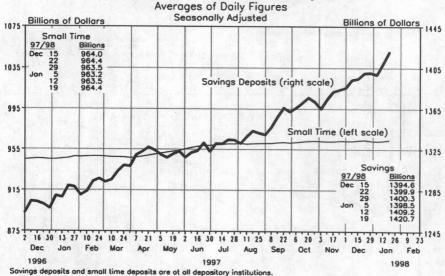
Money Stock(M2) and Non-M1 Components of M2



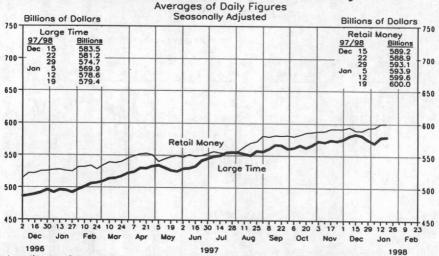
M2 is the sum of M1, savings (including money market deposit accounts), small time deposits and retail money funds. Current data appear in the Federal Reserve Board's H.6 release.

Money Stock (M2)										
	Compou	Compounded annual rates of change, average of four weeks ending:								
To the average of four weeks ending:	1/20/97	4/21/97	6/16/97	7/21/97	8/18/97	9/22/97	10/20/97	11/17/97		
6/16/97	3.8									
7/21/97	3.9	2.2								
8/18/97	4.2	3.1	5.0							
9/22/97	4.9	4.5	6.5	7.9						
10/20/97	4.9	4.6	6.2	7.0	7.4					
11/17/97	4.8	4.5	5.8	6.3	6.4	4.7				
12/22/97	5.1	4.9	6.1	6.6	6.7	5.7	6.0			
1/19/98	5.3	5.3	6.4	6.8	6.9	6.3	6.7	7.7		

Savings and Small Time Deposits



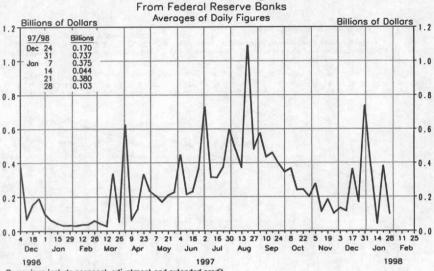
Large Time Deposits and Retail Money Funds



Large time deposits and retail money funds 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.

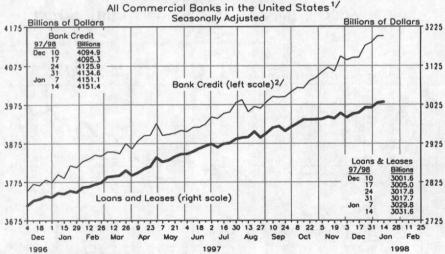
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Total Borrowings



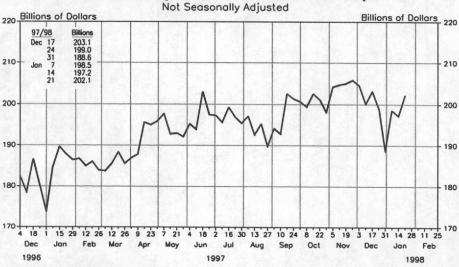
Borrowings include seasonal, adjustment and extended credit.

Bank Loans and Credit



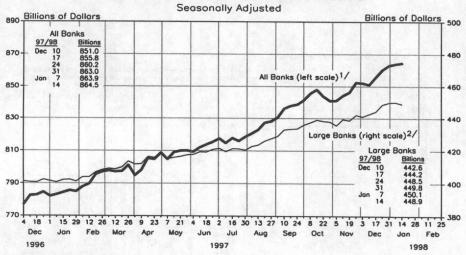
Current data appear in the Federal Reserve Board's H.8 release.
1/ Includes foreign—related institutions
2/ Includes loans and leases and securities

Commercial Paper of Nonfinancial Companies



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

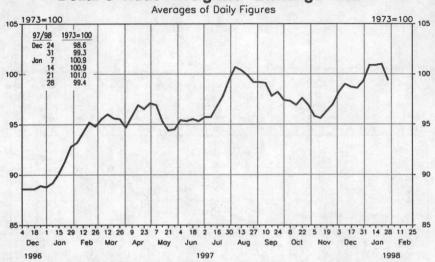


Current data appear in the Federal Reserve Board's H.8 release.

1/ Includes foreign—related institutions

2/ Weekly reporting, domestically chartered banks

Dollar's Trade - Weighted Exchange Index



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.

Prepared by Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

9 LIBRARY