DISCOUNT AND ADVANCE RATES -- Requests by ten Reserve Banks to maintain the existing rate; request by one Reserve Bank to decrease the primary credit rate; and request by one Reserve Bank to increase the primary credit rate.

Existing rate maintained.
February 6, 2012.

Subject to review and determination by the Board of Governors, the directors of the Federal Reserve Banks of Cleveland, Richmond, St. Louis, Dallas, and San Francisco had voted on January 26, 2012, and the directors of the Federal Reserve Banks of New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, and Minneapolis had voted on February 2 to reestablish the existing rate for discounts and advances (3/4 percent) under the primary credit program (primary credit rate). The directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston had voted on January 26 to establish a rate of 1/2 percent (a decrease from 3/4 percent). The directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City had voted on January 26 to establish a rate of 1 percent (an increase from 3/4 percent). At its meeting on January 23, the Board had taken no action on similar requests by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston to decrease and by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City to increase the primary credit rate.

At today's meeting, no sentiment was expressed in favor of considering the primary credit rate, and the existing rate was maintained.

Participating in this determination: Chairman Bernanke, Vice Chair Yellen, and Governors Duke, Tarullo, and Raskin.

Background: Office of the Secretary memorandum, February 3, 2012.

Implementation: Transmissions from Ms. Johnson to the Reserve Banks, February 6, 2012.

DISCOUNT AND ADVANCE RATES -- Renewal by twelve Reserve Banks of the formulas for calculating the secondary and seasonal credit rates.

Approved.
February 6, 2012.

The Board approved renewal by the Federal Reserve Banks of Boston, Cleveland, Richmond, St. Louis, Kansas City, Dallas, and San Francisco on January 26, 2012, and by the Federal Reserve Banks of New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, and Minneapolis on February 2 of the formulas for calculating the rates applicable to discounts and advances under the secondary and seasonal credit programs.

Voting for this action: Chairman Bernanke, Vice Chair Yellen, and Governors Duke, Tarullo, and Raskin.

Background: Office of the Secretary memorandum, February 3, 2012.

Implementation: Transmissions from Ms. Johnson to the Reserve Banks, February 6, 2012.

DISCOUNT AND ADVANCE RATES -- Requests by ten Reserve Banks to maintain the existing rate; request by one Reserve Bank to decrease the primary credit rate; and request by one Reserve Bank to increase the primary credit rate.

Existing rate maintained.
February 27, 2012.

Subject to review and determination by the Board of Governors, the directors of the Federal Reserve Banks of New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, and Minneapolis had voted on February 16, 2012, and the directors of the Federal Reserve Banks of Cleveland, Richmond, St. Louis, Dallas, and San Francisco had voted on February 23 to reestablish the existing rate for discounts and advances (3/4 percent) under the primary credit program (primary credit rate). The directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston had voted on February 23 to establish a rate of 1/2 percent (a decrease from 3/4 percent). The directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City had voted on February 16 to establish a rate of 1 percent (an increase from 3/4 percent). At its meeting on February 6, the Board had taken no action on similar requests by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston to decrease and by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City to increase the primary credit rate.

Today, Board members considered the primary credit rate and discussed, on a preliminary basis, their individual assessments of the appropriate rate and its communication, which would be discussed at the next meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee. No sentiment was expressed for changing the primary credit rate before the Committee's meeting, and the existing rate was maintained.

Participating in this determination: Chairman Bernanke, Vice Chair Yellen, and Governors Duke, Tarullo, and Raskin.

Background: Office of the Secretary memorandum, February 24, 2012.

Implementation: Transmissions from Ms. Johnson to the Reserve Banks, February 27, 2012.

DISCOUNT AND ADVANCE RATES -- Renewal by twelve Reserve Banks of the formulas for calculating the secondary and seasonal credit rates.

Approved.
February 27, 2012.

The Board approved renewal by the Federal Reserve Banks of New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Minneapolis, and Kansas City on February 16, 2012, and by the Federal Reserve Banks of Boston, Cleveland, Richmond, St. Louis, Dallas, and San Francisco on February 23 of the formulas for calculating the rates applicable to discounts and advances under the secondary and seasonal credit programs.

Voting for this action: Chairman Bernanke, Vice Chair Yellen, and Governors Duke, Tarullo, and Raskin.

Background: Office of the Secretary memorandum, February 24, 2012.

Implementation: Transmissions from Ms. Johnson to the Reserve Banks, February 27, 2012.

DISCOUNT AND ADVANCE RATES -- Requests by ten Reserve Banks to maintain the existing rate; request by one Reserve Bank to decrease the primary credit rate; and request by one Reserve Bank to increase the primary credit rate.

Existing rate maintained.
March 12, 2012.

Subject to review and determination by the Board of Governors, the directors of the Federal Reserve Banks of New York, Philadelphia, and Minneapolis had voted on March 1, 2012, and the directors of the Federal Reserve Banks of Cleveland, Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis, Dallas, and San Francisco had voted on March 8 to reestablish the existing rate for discounts and advances (3/4 percent) under the primary credit program (primary credit rate). The directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston had voted on March 8 to establish a rate of 1/2 percent (a decrease from 3/4 percent). The directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City had voted on March 8 to establish a rate of 1 percent (an increase from 3/4 percent). At its meeting on February 27, the Board had taken no action on similar requests by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston to decrease and by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City to increase the primary credit rate.

Federal Reserve Bank directors noted continued improvement in economic activity but remained cautious about the outlook, consistent with their expectations of growth at a moderate pace over coming quarters. Directors generally had positive, though uneven, reports on consumer spending. Some directors had also observed increased capital spending by businesses and continued gains in manufacturing activity. The housing sector was still weak, despite some recent positive developments. While most directors noted encouraging signs in labor markets, the elevated unemployment rate remained a source of concern. Many directors also pointed to downside risks that included the potential for rising energy prices to reduce consumers' purchasing power while pushing up inflation temporarily, as well as the still-significant strains in global financial markets. Against this backdrop, most directors recommended that the current primary credit rate be maintained.

However, other Federal Reserve Bank directors viewed current and anticipated economic conditions as warranting either an increase or decrease in the primary credit rate. Some directors favored decreasing the rate by 25 basis points (to 1/2 percent), while other directors favored increasing the rate by 25 basis points (to 1 percent). In part, directors viewed an increase, which would widen the spread between the primary credit rate and the upper end of the target range for the federal funds rate to 75 basis points, as a move toward restoring the 100-basis-point spread in the pre-crisis discount rate structure.

Today, Board members considered the primary credit rate and discussed, on a preliminary basis, their individual assessments of the appropriate rate and its communication, which would be discussed at the meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee tomorrow. No sentiment was expressed for changing the primary credit rate before the Committee's meeting, and the existing rate was maintained.

Participating in this determination: Chairman Bernanke, Vice Chair Yellen, and Governors Duke, Tarullo, and Raskin.

Background: Office of the Secretary memorandum, March 9, 2012.

Implementation: Transmissions from Ms. Johnson to the Reserve Banks, March 12, 2012.

DISCOUNT AND ADVANCE RATES -- Renewal by twelve Reserve Banks of the formulas for calculating the secondary and seasonal credit rates.

Approved.
March 12, 2012.

The Board approved renewal by the Federal Reserve Banks of New York, Philadelphia, and Minneapolis on March 1, 2012, and by the Federal Reserve Banks of Boston, Cleveland, Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, Dallas, and San Francisco on March 8 of the formulas for calculating the rates applicable to discounts and advances under the secondary and seasonal credit programs.

Voting for this action: Chairman Bernanke, Vice Chair Yellen, and Governors Duke, Tarullo, and Raskin.

Background: Office of the Secretary memorandum, March 9, 2012.

Implementation: Transmissions from Ms. Johnson to the Reserve Banks, March 12, 2012.