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

Existing rate maintained.
November 12, 2013.

Subject to review and determination by the Board of Governors, the directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis had voted on October 31, 2013, and the directors of the Federal Reserve Banks of Boston, New York, Cleveland, Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago, and San Francisco had voted on November 7, 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 Minneapolis had voted on November 7 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 October 31, and the directors of the Federal Reserve Banks of Philadelphia and Dallas had voted on November 7, to establish a rate of 1 percent (an increase from 3/4 percent). At its meeting on October 28, the Board had taken no action on similar requests by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis to decrease, and by the Federal Reserve Banks of Philadelphia, Kansas City, and Dallas 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: Vice Chair Yellen and Governors Tarullo, Raskin, Stein, and Powell.

Background: Office of the Secretary memorandum, November 8, 2013.

Implementation: Transmissions from Mr. Frierson to the Reserve Banks, November 12, 2013.

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

Approved.
November 12, 2013.

The Board approved renewal by the Federal Reserve Banks of St. Louis and Kansas City on October 31, 2013, and by the Federal Reserve Banks of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago, Minneapolis, Dallas, and San Francisco on November 7, of the formulas for calculating the rates applicable to discounts and advances under the secondary and seasonal credit programs.

Voting for this action: Vice Chair Yellen and Governors Tarullo, Raskin, Stein, and Powell.

Background: Office of the Secretary memorandum, November 8, 2013.

Implementation: Transmissions from Mr. Frierson to the Reserve Banks, November 12, 2013.

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

Existing rate maintained.
November 25, 2013.

Subject to review and determination by the Board of Governors, the directors of the Federal Reserve Banks of Boston, Cleveland, St. Louis, and San Francisco had voted on November 14, 2013, and the directors of the Federal Reserve Banks of New York, Richmond, Atlanta, and Chicago had voted on November 21, 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 Minneapolis had voted on November 21 to establish a rate of 1/2 percent (a decrease from 3/4 percent). The directors of the Federal Reserve Banks of Philadelphia, Kansas City, and Dallas had voted on November 21 to establish a rate of 1 percent (an increase from 3/4 percent). At its meeting on November 12, the Board had taken no action on similar requests by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis to decrease, and by the Federal Reserve Banks of Philadelphia, Kansas City, and Dallas 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 Tarullo, Raskin, Stein, and Powell.

Background: Office of the Secretary memorandum, November 22, 2013.

Implementation: Transmissions from Mr. Frierson to the Reserve Banks, November 25, 2013.

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

Approved.
November 25, 2013.

The Board approved renewal by the Federal Reserve Banks of Boston, Cleveland, St. Louis, and San Francisco on November 14, 2013, and by the Federal Reserve Banks of New York, Philadelphia, Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago, Minneapolis, Kansas City, and Dallas on November 21, 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 Tarullo, Raskin, Stein, and Powell.

Background: Office of the Secretary memorandum, November 22, 2013.

Implementation: Transmissions from Mr. Frierson to the Reserve Banks, November 25, 2013.

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

Existing rate maintained.
December 16, 2013.

Subject to review and determination by the Board of Governors, the directors of the Federal Reserve Banks of Boston, New York, Richmond, Chicago, and St. Louis had voted on December 5, 2013, and the directors of the Federal Reserve Banks of Cleveland, Atlanta, and San Francisco had voted on December 12, 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 Minneapolis had voted on December 5 to establish a rate of 1/2 percent (a decrease from 3/4 percent). The directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia had voted on December 5, and the directors of Federal Reserve Banks of Kansas City and Dallas had voted on December 12, to establish a rate of 1 percent (an increase from 3/4 percent). At its meeting on November 25, the Board had taken no action on similar requests by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis to decrease, and by the Federal Reserve Banks of Philadelphia, Kansas City, and Dallas to increase, the primary credit rate.

Federal Reserve Bank directors offered generally positive reports on recent economic activity, and most directors were cautiously optimistic about the prospects for economic growth. In general, directors reported gradual increases in consumer spending, although some higher-end retailers had experienced stronger gains. Some directors cited notable strength in the auto sector, as well as some improvements in residential and commercial construction. Activity in housing markets, on balance, had remained near recent levels. Labor market conditions had improved, but the unemployment rate was still elevated. Concerns about fiscal policy had diminished, but several directors commented on the potential effect of increased health care costs on hiring and economic activity more broadly. Although recent inflation readings were lower than the Federal Open Market Committee's (the Committee's) longer-run goal, directors did not note a change in longer-term inflation expectations, which had remained stable. 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 a decrease in the primary credit rate. Some directors favored increasing the rate by 25 basis points (to 1 percent), while other directors favored reducing the rate by 25 basis points (to 1/2 percent). In part, those directors requesting 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, were interested in moving toward the 100-basis-point spread in the pre-crisis discount rate structure. Those directors favoring a reduction in the primary credit rate believed that a lower setting would help to foster the Committee's macroeconomic objectives of maximum employment and price stability.

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 Committee's meeting this week. No sentiment was expressed for changing the primary credit rate before the Committee's meeting, and the existing rate was maintained. Thereafter, a discussion of economic and financial developments and issues related to possible policy actions took place. (NOTE: Governor Raskin was not present for this discussion.)

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

Background: Office of the Secretary memorandum, December 13, 2013.

Implementation: Transmissions from Mr. Frierson to the Reserve Banks, December 16, 2013.

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

Approved.
December 16, 2013.

The Board approved renewal by the Federal Reserve Banks of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Richmond, Chicago, St. Louis, and Minneapolis on December 5, 2013, and by the Federal Reserve Banks of Cleveland, Atlanta, Kansas City, Dallas, and San Francisco on December 12, 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 Tarullo, Raskin, Stein, and Powell.

Background: Office of the Secretary memorandum, December 13, 2013.

Implementation: Transmissions from Mr. Frierson to the Reserve Banks, December 16, 2013.