## Prefatory Note

The attached document represents the most complete and accurate version available based on original copies culled from the files of the FOMC Secretariat at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. This electronic document was created through a comprehensive digitization process which included identifying the bestpreserved paper copies, scanning those copies, ${ }^{1}$ and then making the scanned versions text-searchable. ${ }^{2}$ Though a stringent quality assurance process was employed, some imperfections may remain.

Please note that some material may have been redacted from this document if that material was received on a confidential basis. Redacted material is indicated by occasional gaps in the text or by gray boxes around non-text content. All redacted passages are exempt from disclosure under applicable provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

[^0]
## SUPPLEMENT

## CURRENT ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

Prepared for the Federal Open Market Committee

## The Domestic Economy

Wholesale prices. Wholesale prices rose 1.3 percent, seasonally adjusted (not at an annual rate), between April and May. The change reflected a further large advance in prices of industrial commodities and the third consecutive month of decline in the index of farm products and foods.

## Whoiestale prices

| Commodity groups | Percentage changes to May 1974 from: |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & 1 \text { month } \\ & \text { earlier } 1 / \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1 \text { year } \\ & \text { earlier 2/ } \end{aligned}$ |
| All commodities | 1.3 | 16.4 |
| Farm products 3/ | -2.2 | 8.1 |
| Industrial commodities | 2.7 | 20.1 |
| Textile products and apparel | 1.2 | 13.7 |
| Hides, skins, leather, and related products | 1.0 | 2.9 |
| Fuels and related products and power | 2.9 | 55.8 |
| Chemicals and allied products | 3.3 | 25.3 |
| Rubber and plastic products | $3.3 \mathrm{l} /$ | 19.9 |
| Lumber and wood products | -. 3 | 5.9 |
| Pulp, paper and allied products | 1.7 | 21.5 |
| Metals and metal products | 4.7 | 28.1 |
| Machinery and equipment | 2.5 | 10.4 |
| Furniture and household durables | 1.3 | 8.2 |
| Nonmetallic minerals | 3.2 | 15.5 |
| Transportation equipment | 1.721 | 5.5 |
| Miscellaneous products | 3.9 2/ | 11.5 |

$1 /$ Seasonally adjusted.
2/ Not seasonally adjusted.
3/ Farm products and processed foods and feeds.

The index of industrial commodities rose by 2.7 percent, seasonally adjusted, as price increases were large and widespread. Increases for metals and metal products, machinery and equipment, fuels and power, and chemicals and products accounted for about three-fourths of the increase.

The index of farm products and food fell 2.2 percent, seasonally adjusted. Lower prices posted for livestock, meats, dairy products, manufactured animal feeds, and fluid milk accounted for most of the decline.

The WPI for May reflects not only the annual revision of seasonal factors but also a revision of prices for refined petroleum products. Pricing of petroleum products formerly was based on spot prices published in a trade journal. The new data are obtained directly from petroleum companies. The following graphs depict some wholesale price indexes before and after the recent revision.


WPI INDUSTRIAL COMMODITIES $1967=100$



Real estate. Merchant builder sales of new single-family homes edged down in April, and while a tenth above the first quarter average, continued well below a year earlier and the peak in October 1972. Builder stocks of unsold homes remained at 9 months' supply, as the number of such units declined only slightly. The median price of new homes sold was essentially unchanged and still above the rising median price on unsold units. In contrast to new-home sales, April sales of used homes were almost 8 percent above a year earlier--the first year-over-year increase since July 1973. The median price for existing homes sold, at $\$ 31,690$, tended higher and was 11 percent more than April 1973.

SALES, STOCKS AND PRICES OF NEW SINGLE FAMILY HOMES

|  | Homes <br> soldI/ | Homes <br> for sale2/ | Months <br> supply | Median price of: <br> Homes sold |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Homes for sale |  |  |  |  |

[^1]In the case of nonsubsidized rental apartment units completed in the fourth quarter of 1973 , 64 percent had been leased by the end of March 1974--still relatively high though somewhat less than in the same period last year. The median rent on fourth quarter completions turned upward, but was only 2 percent above a year ago.

Page I-19, end of paragraph one, should be "a third of commercial and industrial outlays" (not of nonresidential outlays).

The Domestic Financial Situation
Mortgage market. According to the HUD (FHA) opinion survey, average interest rates on new commitments for conventional new- and existinghome loans in the primary market rose 25 basis points further during May to new highs of 9.15 percent-a finding that is consistent with the weekly survey of conventional mortgage rates at selected S\&L's. Private secondary market yields on FHA-insured new-home mortgages rose 29 basis points to 9.46 percent-a new high for the series, and 28 basis points above the peak last September.

AVERAGE RATES AND YIELDS ON NEW-HOME MORTGAGES (HUD-FHA Field Office Opinion Survey)

| End of month | Primary market |  | Secondary market 1/ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Conventional loansLevel $2 /$ Spread 4/(percent) (basis points) |  | FHA-insured loans |  |  |
|  |  |  | Level 3/ (percent) (bas | Spread 4/ <br> is points) | Discounts (points) |
| 1973-1 | 7.70 (Jan.) | 30 (Jan.) | 7.55 (Jan.) | 15 (Jan.) | 2.2 (Dec.) |
|  | 8.95 (Sept.) | 114 (Sept.) | 9.18 (Sept.) | 137 (Sept.) | 9.4(July) |
|  | 8.95 | 114 | 9.18 | 137 | 5.2 |
|  | 8.80 | 83 | 8.97 | 100 | 3.6 |
|  | 8.75 | 90 | 8.86 | 101 | 2.8 |
|  | 8.75 | 77 | 8.78 | 80 | 2.2 |
| 1974 - | 8.65 | 40 | -- | -- | -- |
|  | 8.55 | 45 | 8.54 | 44 | 2.3 |
|  | 8.60 | - 4 | 8.66 | 2 | 3.2 |
|  | 8.90 | - 8 | 9.17 | 19 | 5.1 |
|  | 9.15 | 6 | 9.46 | 37 | 5.3 |

1/ Any gaps in data are due to periods of adjustment to changes in maximum permissible contract rates on FHA-insured loans.
2/ Average contract rate (excluding fees or points) on commitments for conventional first mortgage loans, rounded to the nearest 5 basis points.
$3 /$ Average gross yield (before deducting servicing costs) to investors on 30year minimum-downpayment FHA-insured first mortgages for immediate delivery in the private secondary market (excluding FNMA), assuming prepayment in 15 years.
4/ Average gross mortgage rate or yield minus average yield on new issues of Aa utility bonds in the last week of the month.

- INTEREST RATES

|  | 1974 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Highs | Lows | May 20 | Inne 13 |
| Short-Term Rates |  |  |  |  |
| Federal funds (wkly. avg.) | 11.60(6/12) | $8.81(2 / 27)$ | 11.46(5/15) | 11.60(6/12) |
| 3-month |  |  |  |  |
| Treasury bills (bid) | $8.90(4 / 30)$ | $6.93(2 / 6)$ | 7.94 | 8.36 |
| Comm. paper (90-119 day) | $11.00(6 / 13)$ | 7.75(2/22) | 11.00 | 11.00 |
| Bankers' acceptances | 11.50(6/13) | 8.13(2/25) | 11.50 | 11.50 |
| Euro-dollars | 12.19(5/14) | 8.25(2/18) | 12.00 | 11.75 |
| CD's (NYC) 90-119 day Most often quoted new | 11.00(5/22) | 7.88(2/20) | 11.00(5/15) | 10.50(6/12) |
| 6-month |  |  |  |  |
| Treasury bills (bid) | 8.86(5/6) | 6.80(2/19) | 8.26 | 8.44 |
| Comm. paper ( 4 m 6 mo.) | $10.88(6 / 13)$ | 7.50(2/22) | 10.75 | 10.88 |
| Federal agencies | $9.69(5 / 7)$ | 7.16 (2/19) | 9.25 | $9.27(6 / 12)$ |
| CD's (NYC) 180-269 day Most often quoted new | 10.00(6/12) | 7.50(2/27) | $9.75(5 / 15)$ | 10.00(6/12) |
| 1-year |  |  |  |  |
| Treasury bills (bid) | 8.65(5/3) | $6.37(2 / 15)$ | 8.23 | 8.28 |
| Federal agencies CD's (NYC) | 9.40 (5/9) | 7.01 (2/19) | 9.08 | $8.97(6 / 12)$ |
| Most often quoted new | 9.25(5/29) | 7.00(2/27) | 9.25(5/15) | 9.00(6/12) |
| Prime municipals | $5.75(5 / 10)$ | $3.70(2 / 15)$ | 5.35(5/17) | $5.25(6 / 14)$ |
| Intermediate and Long-Term |  |  |  |  |
| Treasury coupon issues 80 |  |  |  |  |
| 5-years | 8.56(5/7) | 6.72(2/14) | 8.21 | 8.10 |
| 20-years | 8.23(5/6) | $7.40(1 / 4)$ | 8.17 | 8.07 |
| Corporate |  |  |  |  |
| Seasoned Aaa | 8.42(6/13): | 7.73(1/2) | 8.36 | 8.42 |
| Baa | $9.31(6 / 13)$ | 8.54(1/2) | 9.12 | 9.31 |
| New Issue Aaa Utility | $9.34(5 / 22)$ | 8.05(2/13) | 9.23 (5/15) | 9.28p(6/12) |
| Municipal |  |  |  |  |
| Bond Buyer Index | $6.08(5 / 30)$ | $5.16(2 / 6)$ | $6.04(5 / 16)$ | 6.04 |
| Mortgage--average yield |  |  |  |  |
| in FNMA auction | $9.54(6 / 3)$ | 8.43(2/25) | 9.48 | $9.54(6 / 3)$ |

# SUPPLEMENTAL APPENDIX A* <br> QUARTERLY SURVEY OF BANK LENDING PRACTICES 

MAY 15, 1974
The responses to the May Quarterly Survey of Changes in Bank Lending Practices taken at 125 large commercial banks reflected the very sharp recent growth of the banks' loan portfolios, Over 75 percent of the bank officers reported stronger loan demand compared to three months earlier, and almost as many thought the heavy pace would continue or even strengthen in the coming three months. In response to surging loan demand, there was a severe tightening of both price and nonprice terms of lending, particularly at large, money center banks. There were essentially no moves toward easing.

Many of the respondents complained of the high cost of funds, and a few of the slow growth of their deposits, that forced the adoption of very tight lending policies. A sizable minority of banks surveyed expressed a desire to hold back on commitments and new loan applications to improve liquidity and to reduce the ratio of loans to total assets.

After the February survey in which 90 percent of the respondents had expected loan demand to weaken or remain unchanged, the prime rate declined from the $9-1 / 4$ percent level then prevailing to $8-3 / 4$ percent in March, but then rose steeply after mid-March and reached $11-1 / 4$ percent at the time of the May survey. Thus, 80 percent of the banks reported firmer interest rate policies. Many of the respondents thought that the high rates charged were still too low relative to market rates, and compensating balance requirements were substantially stiffened. The value of borrowers as depositors or as sources of collateral business grew in importance between surveys.

The purpose of loans and the customer relationships of the loan applicants also became more critical determinants of whether loans were made, as the bankers attempted to maintain the flow of credit to established borrowers. More than half the banks adopted tougher policies regarding standards of credit worthiness, and 80 percent of the respondents have become firmer toward the loan applications of new customers since the last survey, though by necessity about half the banks had to become more selective with the loan applications of established customers as well.

Between the February and May surveys, loans to finance companies at large banks increased substantially, and price and nonprice terms of lending to finance companies also tightened, but not to the degree of tightening toward nonfinancial businesses. In contrast to the 80 percent of the respondents who reported higher interest rates to nonfinancial firms, less than half the respondents indicated that rates charged finance companies had become firmer. Similarly, the compensating balance requirements and new commitments to finance companies did not show the tightening adopted for loans to nonfinancial businesses.

[^2]Major bank lenders to finance companies were contacted by Reserve Banks, and the majority indicated that lending policies are typically firmer toward finance companies than toward nonfinancial businesses and that in the present period the terms on loans to nonfinancial businesses were not more strict than loans to finance companies.

Almost half the respondents indicated less willingness to make mortgage loans than at the time of the previous survey. There was also more reluctance to make consumer instalment loans, participation loans, and loans to brokers.

The large banks on the survey panel had experienced heavier loan demand in the last three months and expected heavier loan demand in the coming period than the smaller banks on the panel, those with assets of less than $\$ 1$ billion, and the larger banks tended to be somewhat more firm in their lending policies. Regionally, the tightening of terms was most evident at banks in the major money centers--that is, in the Second, Seventh, and Tweifth Districts.

QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CHANGES IN BANK LENDING PRACTICES
ISTATUS OF POLICY ON at SElected large banks in the ll.S. $1 /$
STATUS DF POLICY ON MAY 15,1974 COMPARED TG THREE MONTHS EARLIER) (NUMBER OF EANKS \& PERCENT OF TOTAL BANKS REPORTINGI

|  | TOTAL |  | MUCH STRONGER |  | MODERATELY STRONGER |  | ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED |  | MODERATELY WEAKER |  | MLCH WEAKER |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | BANKS | PCT | BANKS | PCT | BANKS | PCT | BANKS | PCT | BANKS | PCT | EANK 5 | PCT |  |
| STRENGTH DF [EMAND FOR COMMEFCIAL ANC INDUSTRIAL LOANS (AFTER ALLOWANCE FOR <br> BANK'S USUAL SEASONAL VARIATION) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| COMP ARED IT THREF MONTHS AGO | 125 | 100.0 | 38 | 30.4 | 58 | 46.4 | 24 | 19.2 | 5 | 4.0 | 0 | 0.0 |  |
| ANTICIPATED DEMAMD IN NEXT 3 MONTHS | 125 | 100.0 | 4 | 3.2 | 27 | 21.6 | 58 | 46.4 | 36 | 28.8 | 0 | 0.0 |  |
|  | ANSWERING OUESTION |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { MUCH } \\ & \text { FIRMER } \\ & \text { POLICY } \end{aligned}$ |  | MODERATELY <br> FIPMER <br> PDLICY |  | ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED PDLICY |  | MODFRATELY EASIER POLICY |  | MUCH EASIER POLICY |  |  |
| LENGING 10 NCNFINANCIAL BUSINESSES | BANKS | PCT | BANKS | PCT | BANKS | PCT | BANKS | PCT | BANK S | PCT | BANKS | PCT | 1 |
| TERMS ANO CONDITIONS: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $\omega$ |
| INTEREST RATES CHARGED | 125 | 100.0 | 60 | 48.0 | 41 | 32.8 | 23 | 18.4 | 1 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.0 |  |
| CTMPFNSATING RR SUPPORTING BALANCES | 125 | 100.0 | 28 | 22.4 | 50 | 40.0 | 45 | 36.0 | 2 | 1.6 | 0 | 0.0 |  |
| Stancares of crecit worthiness | 125 | 100.0 | 26 | 20.8 | 45 | 36.0 | 54 | 43.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |  |
| MATURITY OF TERM LOANS | 125 | 100.0 | 11 | 8.8 | 28 | 22.4 | 85 | 68.0 | 1 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.0 |  |
| REVIEWING CREDIT LINES OR LOAN APPLICATIONS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ESTAEL ISHFD CUSTOMFPS | 125 | 100.0 | 3 | 2.4 | 53 | 42.4 | 69 | 55.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |  |
| NEW CUSTOMERS | 125 | 100.0 | 48 | 38.4 | 50 | 40.0 | 26 | 20.8 | 1 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.0 |  |
| LCCAL SERVICF ARFA CUSTOMERS | 124 | 100.0 | 4 | 3.2 | 49 | 29.5 | 70 | 56.5 | 1 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.0 |  |
| NONLDCAL SERVICE AOEA CUSTCMERS | 124 | 100.0 | 42 | 33.9 | 40 | $32 \cdot 3$ | 41 | 33.0 | 1 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.0 |  |

1/ SURVFY QF LENDING PRACTICES AT 125 LARGE EANKS REPORTING IN THE FECERAL RESERVE QUARTERLY INTFREST RATE SURVEY AS DF MAY 15, 1974.

|  | ANSWER ING QUESTION |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { MUCH } \\ & \text { FIRMER } \\ & \text { POLICY } \end{aligned}$ |  | MODERATELY FIRMER POLICY |  | ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED POLICY |  | MODERATELY EASIER POLICY |  | MUCH EASIER POLICY |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | BANKS | PCT | EANKS | PCT | EANKS | PCT | EANKS | PCT | BANKS | PCT | BANKS | PCT |  |
| FACTORS RELATING TO APPLICANT 21 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| value as ofpositor or SOURCE OF COLLATERAL BUSINESS | 125 | 100.0 | 32 | 25.6 | 48 | 38.4 | 45 | 36.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |  |
| INTFNDED USE OF THE LOAN | 125 | 100.0 | 22 | 17.6 | 40 | 32.0 | 63 | 50.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |  |
| LENDING TO "NCNCAPTIVE" FINANCE COMPANIES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TERMS AND CCNDITICNS: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| INTEREST FATES CHARGED | 125 | 100.0 | 31 | 24.8 | 25 | 20.0 | 69 | 55.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |  |
| COMPENSATING GR SUPPORTINC EALANCES | 125 | 100.0 | 11 | 8.8 | 24 | 19.2 | 90 | 72.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |  |
| ENFORCEMENT OF EALANCE REGUIREMENTS | 125 | 100.0 | 18 | 14.4 |  | 23.2 | 78 | 62.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |  |
| ESTABL ISHING NEW OR LARGER CREDIT LIMES | 125 | 100.0 | 36 | 28.8 | 30 | 31.2 | 49 | 39.2 | 1 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.0 | i 1 $f$ |
|  | ANSW QUE | $\begin{aligned} & \text { ER ING } \\ & \text { ST ION } \end{aligned}$ | CONS IO <br> LE <br> WIL | ERABLY <br> S <br> ING | MODER LES WILL | ately S ING | ESSEN UNCHA | tIALLY ANGED | MCCERA MOR WILL | $\begin{aligned} & \text { TELY } \\ & \text { ING } \end{aligned}$ |  | ABLY ING |  |
| WILLINGNESS TO MAKE OTHER TYPES OF LOANS BANKS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TERM LCANS TO BUSINESSES | 125 | 100.0 | 15 | 12.0 | 46 | 36.8 | 64 | 51.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |  |
| CONSUMER INSTALMENT LOANS | 124 | 100.0 | 5 | 4.0 | 18 | 14.5 | 96 | 77.5 | 5 | 4.0 | 0 | 0.0 |  |
| SINGLF FAMILY MCPTGAGF LOANS | 122 | 100.0 | 26 | 21.3 | 31 | 25.4 | 64 | 52.5 | 1 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.0 |  |
| MULTI-FAMILY MCRTGAGE LOANS | 121 | 100.0 | 25 | 20.7 | 29 | 24.0 | 67 | 55.3 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |  |
| ALL OTHER MORTGAGE LOANS | 121 | 100.0 | 21 | 17.4 | 45 | 37.2 | 55 | 45.4 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |  |
| PARTICIPATION LCANS WITH CORRESPONDENT EANKS | 125 | 100.0 | 12 | 0.6 | 28 | 22.4 | 83 | 66.4 | 2 | 1.6 | 0 | 0.0 |  |
| LOANS TO EROKERS | 124 | 100.0 | 21 | 16.9 | 25 | 20.2 | 78 | 62.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |  |

2/ FOR THESE FACTORS, FIRMER MEANS THE FACTORS WERE CONSIDERED MORE IMPORTANT IN MAKING DECISIONS FOR APPROVING CREDIT RECUFSTS, AND EASIER MEANS THEY WERE LESS IMPORTANT.

GUPPLEMENTAL APPENDIK B*<br>MONTHLY SURVEY OF BANK LOAN COMMITMENTS<br>APRIL 30, 1974

The very rapid growth of loans made under commitments to financial and nonfinancial businesses during April caused outstanding unused commitments to decline for the second consecutive month at the 131 large banks participating in the Monthly Loan Commitment Survey. The rate of growth of new commitments slowed from the extreme pace of March, but was still rapid. However, the new commitments were not large enough to offset takedowns, cancellations, and expirations.

Nonbank financial institutions had large takedowns at commercial banks in April, and the decline in outstanding unused commitments to these institutions accounted for most of the decline in total unused commitments (Table 1). A reduction of commitments to commercial and industrial borrowers made up the remainder of the decline in total unused commitments. In contrast, unused commitments for real estate loans showed a modest increase, the first increase of any proportion in eight months.

The decline in the rate of growth of C\&I loans at all commercial banks in April from the previous month was relatively larger on an unadjusted basis than on a seasonally adjusted basis. Similarly, C\&I loans made under commitments, unadjusted, showed a much slower growth in April than in May, and the less rapid pace of takedowns of C\&I loans accounted for the lower rate of growth of total loans under commitments (Table 2). Loans to nonbank financial institutions accelerated, and real estate loans increased after three months of almost no growth. The total growth of loans under commitments, though less than in March, was considerable, and the utilization ratios for nearly all types of loans rose (Table 3).

New commitments decelerated from the exceedingly high rate of growth which the series reached in March, but new commitments still appear. to be expanding rapidly (Table 4). Most of the growth was in new commitments to C\&I borrowers.

[^3]MONTHLY SUR VEY OF BANK LOAN COMMITMENTS
AT SELECTED LARGE U.S. EANKS I/
(AS CF APR. 30. 1974 )
TABLE 1 - UNUSED CGMMITMENTS
(UOLLAR AMCUNTS IN BILLJONSI

JuLY 31
AUGUST 31
SEPTEMEFR 30
OCTOEER 31
NOVEMBER 30
DECEMEEK 31
JANUARY 31
FEBRUARY 28
MARCH 31
APRIL 30

JUL 73 - AFR 7
AVERAGE

NUMBER OF EANKS
131

I/ GANKS PARTICIPATING IN THE MONTHLY LOAN COMMITMENT SURVEY ARE SELECTED WEEKLY REPORTING BANKS WITH TOTAL DEPOSITS OF SIOO MILLION OR MORE.

MONTHLY SLRVEY GF EANK LOAN COMMITMENTS
AT SELECTED LARGE U.S. HANKS 1 /
(AS OF AFR. 30. 1974)
TABLE 2 - LOANS UNDER COMMITMENTS ${ }^{2 /}$
(GOLLAR AMOUNTS IN EILLIONS)

## JULY 31

AUGUST 31
SEPTEMBEF 30 OCTOBER 31

## NOVEMEFR 30

DECEMBEP 31
JANUARY 31
FEERUARY 24
MARCH 31
APRIL 30

JUL 73 - ATR 74
AVERAGE


NUMEER GF EANIS
131

1/ tANKS PARTICIPATING IN THI MONTHLY LOAN COMMITMENT SURVEY ARE SELECTED WEEKLY REPORTING BANKS WITH TOTAL DEPOSITS OF SIOO MILLION OR MORE.
2/ LOANS UNDER COMMTTTENTS ARE DEFINED AS ALL LOANS UNDER COMMITMENTS CURRENTLY OR PREVIOUSLY IN FORCE, LESS REPAYMENTS OF THE PRINGIPAL, THE REPORTED DATA ARE DISTORTED BY TAKEDOWNS OF LOAN COMMITMENTS BY OVERSEAS BRANCHES OF U.S. BANKS AND LQAN SALES.

MONTHLY SUR VEY OF BANK LOAN COMMITMENTS
AT SELECTED LARGE U.S. BANKS 1
(AS OF APR. 30, 1974)
TABLE 3 - UTILIZATION RATIO ${ }^{2 /}$

## (PERCENTAGES)



NUMEER OF BANKS
131

1/ BANKS PARTICIPATING IN IHE MONTHLY LDAN COMMITMENT SURVEY ARE SELECTED WEEKIY REPORTING BANKS WITH TOTAL DEPOSITS OF \$100 MILLION OR MORE.
2/ THE UTILIZATION RATIO IS THE RATIO, EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE, OF LOANS UNDER COMMITMENTS TO THE SUM OF UNUSED COMMITMENTS AND LOANS UNDER COMMITMENTS 3/ EXCLUDES REAL ESTATE LOANS AND TERM LOANS.


I/ gANKS PARTICIPATING IN THE MONTHLY LOAN COMMITMENT SURVEY ARE SELECTED WEEKLY REPORTING BANKS WITH TOTAL DEPOSITS OF SIOO MILLION OR MORE.

## SUPPLEMENTAL APPENDIX C* CONSTRUCTION LOANS AT COMMERCIAL BANRS

A special Federal Reserve survey of more than 100 commercial banks during the first two weeks of June indicated that over half of the respondents have experienced more than the usual number of problems with outstanding construction loans. These problems, which have primarily taken the form of an increased incidence of builder requests for loan size increases and loan maturity extensions, most frequentiy are related to cost overruns associated with the high interest rates on construction loans (usually 3-to-5 points above the prime rate) and with construction delays imposed by material shortages. Loans for construction of all types of properties, not just residential units, seemed to be affected. Even so, condominiums and single-family homes were most frequently cited. The respondents also noted that such problems appear to be shared by other lenders in their geographic area. In this connection REIT's were mentioned in several instances. However, most banks did not consider the situation particularly serious at this time, although many have already taken a number of steps to minimize their difficulties, including tightening of standards for construction loans and either limiting new commitments on such loans, or curtailing them altogether.

Requests for larger loan amounts appear to be more frequent not only because of the higher interest costs, but also because of rising prices of material and related components. While builder labor costs are expected to rise significantly during the remainder of 1974 , they were mentioned as a factor in only a couple of instances.

Requests for loan maturity extensions seem to be more frequent for several reasons. In several instances bankers noted that builder commitments for permanent financing had expired because of completion delays due to material shortages, but such shortages did not appear uniform ${ }^{\text {y }}$, to relate to the same types of products in the country as a whole or even within specific districts. Also, extensions have been needed to carry the larger than normal builder inventories of unsold new single-family homes and condominiums. Nationally, sales of such units have remained relatively slow for some time, and in April, the median number of months from start to sale of single-family units was 7.3 -nearly 3 months more than a year earlier.

[^4]
[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ In some cases, original copies needed to be photocopied before being scanned into electronic format. All scanned images were deskewed (to remove the effects of printer- and scanner-introduced tilting) and lightly cleaned (to remove dark spots caused by staple holes, hole punches, and other blemishes caused after initial printing).
    ${ }^{2}$ A two-step process was used. An advanced optical character recognition computer program (OCR) first created electronic text from the document image. Where the OCR results were inconclusive, staff checked and corrected the text as necessary. Please note that the numbers and text in charts and tables were not reliably recognized by the OCR process and were not checked or corrected by staff.

[^1]:    I/ Seasonally adjusted annual rate.
    $2 /$ Seasonally adjusted, end of period.

[^2]:    *Prepared by Paul W. Boltz, Economist, Banking Section, Division of Research and Statistics.

[^3]:    *Prepared by Paul W. Boltz, Economist, Banking Section, Division of Research and Statistics.

[^4]:    *Prepared by Albert M. Teplin, Economist, Mortgage, Agricultural, and Consumer Finance Section, Division of Research and Statistics.

