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December 18, 1998

SUPPLEMENT

CURRENT ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

Prepared for the Federal Open Market Committee

By the Staff Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

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THE FINANCIAL ECONOMY

U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services

In October, the U.S. nominal trade deficit in goods and services was \$14.2 billion, about the same as in September, and somewhat smaller than the third-quarter average.

The value of exports rose strongly in October to a level that was 5 percent higher (not an annual rate) than the third quarter average. The largest increases were in machinery, agricultural products, industrial supplies, and automotive exports to Canada. Exports to various developing countries in Asia have moved up in recent months, particularly to China, Korea, Taiwan, and Malaysia.

The value of imports increased in October to a level that was 3 percent above the third-quarter average. All major trade categories posted increases, with the largest rises in capital goods, automotive products from Canada and Mexico, and oil (about half of which was the result of a higher price). Imports of steel were little changed from September at a level about 2 percent less the third-quarter average.

Prices of U.S. Non-oil Imports and Exports

Prices of non-oil imports edged up in October and November, marking the first time since 1995 that these prices increased two months in a row. Nonetheless, for October-November combined, non-oil import prices were down 1/2 percent (annual rate) from the third-quarter average. This was the smallest decline recorded since the fourth quarter of 1996. Excluding oil, computers, and semiconductors, prices of "core" goods imports rose 1/2 percent (annual rate). For all major trade categories except computers and non-oil industrial supplies,

prices of imports swung from declines in previous quarters to increases in October-November. Prices of imported non-oil industrial supplies declined on average, with a sharp decline in October being partly offset by a small increase in November. BLS indicated that recent shifts in the dollar (especially against the yen and European currencies) influenced price movements, particularly for finished goods.

Prices of exports declined in October and then rose slightly in November (the first increase recorded since May). An increase in prices of agricultural exports (particularly grains and oilseed) more than offset small price declines in other trade categories (especially industrial supplies and semiconductors). For October-November combined, prices of exports declined 2-1/4 percent (annual rate) from the third-quarter average. Excluding agricultural products, computers, and semiconductors, prices of exported "core" goods decreased 1 percent (annual rate), the smallest rate of decline since the fourth quarter of 1997. Declines in prices of exported industrial supplies were nearly offset by increases in prices of exported automotive products and consumer goods.

Trade in Goods and Services: Summary (in billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted)

	NIPA Real Net Exports		Balance	From	tì 		hly Pres Exports			Imports	
	G & S */	G&S	Merch.	Serv.	ı	G&S	Merch.	Serv.	G&S	Merch.	Serv.
Years	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1996 1997	-111.3 -136.2	-108.6 -110.2							959.4 1047.8	803.3 877.3	156.0 170.5
Quarter	s (AR):	 -					_~_~~				
1997 Qt	2 -131.6 3 -142.4	-112.5 -106.1 -108.4 -113.8	-196.4 -197.2	90.3 88.8		904.7 936.1 951.7 957.8	677.0	259.1		873.3	164.4 168.8 173.8 175.2
1998 Qt	2 -245.2	-140.0 -175.5 -183.8	-257.8	82.3				260.3 263.0 255.0			177.5 180.8 180.6
Monthly								 -			
1996 Ja Fe Ma Ap Ma Ju Ju Se Oc	b r r y n l g g p t	-8.4 -6.8 -7.9 -9.4 -10.2 -8.6 -11.5 -10.6 -11.0 -7.0 -7.2 -10.0	-14.8 -12.8 -15.0 -16.0 -17.2 -15.7 -17.2 -16.9 -17.4 -15.1 -15.5	6.4 6.0 7.1 6.5 7.0 7.1 5.7 6.3 6.4 8.1 8.3 7.8		68.4 69.8 70.2 69.9 70.7 68.5 70.6 70.2 74.1 74.8 72.8	49.5 51.0 50.4 50.5 50.9 49.4 51.1 50.8 52.7 53.2 51.8	18.9 18.9 19.8 19.4 20.1 19.8 19.1 19.5 21.4 21.5 21.0	76.8 76.6 78.1 79.3 81.0 79.3 80.0 81.2 81.2 81.1 81.9 82.8	64.3 63.8 65.4 66.4 66.5 66.5 68.0 68.2 67.8 68.7 69.6	12.5 12.8 12.7 12.8 13.0 12.7 13.4 13.2 13.3
1997 Ja Fe Ma Ap Ma Ju Ju Au Se Oc	b r r y m il ig g p it	-10.3 -9.4 -8.4 -9.0 -9.4 -8.2 -8.6 -9.3 -9.2 -8.7 -9.6 -10.2	-17.5 -16.5 -15.8 -16.5 -17.0 -15.6 -15.9 -16.5 -16.3 -17.0	7.2 7.1 7.4 7.6 7.6 7.5 7.3 7.6 7.0 6.8		73.4 75.1 77.7 77.8 77.8 78.5 79.1 79.7 80.6 79.1 79.8	52.7 54.3 56.5 56.3 56.1 56.8 57.1 57.7 58.5 57.5 57.5	20.8 20.8 21.2 21.4 21.7 21.7 21.6 22.0 22.1 21.6 21.4	83.8 84.5 86.0 86.7 87.2 86.6 87.7 88.4 88.9 89.2 88.7 90.0	70.2 70.8 72.3 72.8 73.1 72.4 73.3 74.0 74.3 74.7 74.1 75.3	13.6 13.7 13.8 13.9 14.1 14.2 14.4 14.7 14.5 14.6
1998 Ja Fe Ma Ap Ma Ju Ju Au Se Oc	ar or ay un il ag	-9.9 -11.6 -13.5 -14.0 -15.6 -14.2 -14.9 -16.7 -14.4 -14.2	-17.1 -18.1 -20.5 -21.3 -22.6 -20.5 -21.0 -22.7 -20.8 -20.6	7.2 6.5 7.0 7.3 6.3 6.1 6.1 6.4		79.7 77.8 79.1 77.7 76.7 76.2 75.0 75.0 77.5 79.6	57.9 56.4 57.2 55.3 54.8 53.8 53.9 56.0 57.9	21.8 21.5 21.8 22.4 21.9 21.5 21.2 21.1 21.5 21.7	89.6 89.4 92.6 91.7 90.4 89.9 91.7 91.8 93.8	75.0 74.5 77.7 76.7 77.3 75.3 74.9 76.6 76.8 78.6	14.6 15.0 14.8 15.1 15.0 15.1 15.1 15.1

^{1/} U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census and Bureau of Economic Analysis,
 BOP valuation.
*/ In billions of chained (1992) dollars.
Note: Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

B.1.b. December 17, 1998 TABLE 2

DETAILS OF GOODS AND SERVICES: LEVELS (Millions of dollars, seasonally adjusted)

	1998 Jun	1998 Jul		1998 Sep	1998 Oct	1997 Qtr-3	Qtr-4	Qtr-1		1998 Qtr-3
TRADE BALANCE (G&S)	-14,213	-14,917	-16,674	-14,369	-14,194	-27,108	-28,456		-43,872	
EXPORTS, Total (G&S) Services Agricultural Gold (BOP) Nonag Goods ex Gold	76,225 21,458 4,391 399 49,978	74,994 21,169 4,352 226 49,247	74,988 21,126 4,121 548 49,193	77,467 21,462 3,767 529 51,709	79,618 21,697 4,471 818 52,632	237,930 65,628 14,316 862 157,124	65,176 15,121 855	236,539 65,070 14,094 1,324	230,582	227,449 63,757 12,240 1,303
<pre>Ind Supplies (Ex Ag, Gold) Fuels (coal,petrol,etc) Chemicals Building Materials Other Ind Supplies</pre>	1,045	10,781 1,092 3,675 628 5,387	980	1,015 3,604 632	10,925 1,056 3,729 676 5,464	4,205 11,870 2,339	4,380 11,771 2,248	3,519 11,518 2,114	33,537 3,387 11,300 1,961 16,890	3,087 10,985 1,911
Capital Goods Aircraft & Parts Computers & Access Semiconductors Other Capital Goods	24,369 4,054 3,836 2,943 13,536	24,843 4,594 3,717 2,980 13,551	23,863 3,857 3,778 3,162 13,065	26,099 6,057 3,774 3,206 13,062	26,747 5,852 3,903 3,307 13,685	75,999 10,691 12,963 10,055 42,289	10,899 12,267 9,687	12,212 11,371 9,444	71,957 11,191 11,193 8,864 40,709	14,509 11,269 9,348
Automotive Products To Canada To Mexico (NSA) To Rest of World	5,601 2,829 894 1,878	4,732 2,325 679 1,728		1,095	3,447	2,822	10,333 3,329	10,196	9,757 3,084	8,457 2,620
Consumer Goods All Other Merchandise	2,325	2,232	6,692 2,360	6,735 2,261	6,843 2,126	19,368 7,122	19,689 7,085	19,584 7,191	20,016 7,198	20,085 6,853
IMPORTS, Total (G&S) Services Petroleum Gold (BOP) Nonpetroleum Goods ex Gold	90,438 15,141 4,122 472 70,703	89,911 15,057 4,172 427 70,255	91,662 15,065 4,124 764 71,709	91,836 15,030 4,009 639 72,158	93,812 15,262 4,435 675 73,439	265,038 43,440 17,577 741 203,280	267,917 43,794 17,156 952 206,015	271,547 44,380 13,728 1,673 211,766	274,454 45,190 13,486 1,364 214,415	273,409 45,152 12,305 1,830 214,123
Ind Supplies (Ex Oil, Gold) Chemicals Iron & Steel Mill Prod Building Materials Other Ind Supplies	12,181 2,403 1,500	12,245 2,474 1,561	12,432 2,367 1,693	12,212 2,275	12,214 2,450 1,565 1,512 6,687	35,289 7,445	35,574 7,383 3,579 4,311	36,123 7,522 3,742 4,411	36,836 7,380	36,889 7,116 4,799 4,515
Capital Goods Aircraft & Parts Computers & Access Semiconductors Other Capital Goods	22,179 1,979 5,794 2,691 11,715	22,284 2,019 5,916 2,596 11,753	22,223 1,634 5,861 2,695 12,033	22,236 1,823 6,010 2,604 11,800	22,984 2,204 6,212 2,548 12,020	9,444	66,188 4,525 17,713 9,434 34,516	67,224 4,469 18,089 9,218 35,448	67,618 5,609 17,913 8,383 35,713	7,895
Automotive Products From Canada From Mexico (NSA) From Rest of World	11,774 3,619 2,243 5,912	10,677 3,317 1,689 5,670	12,236 3,923 2,373 5,940	4,617	13,309 5,077 2,726 5,506	6,403	12,480	13,263 6,806	12,254 7,121	35,872 11,857 6,452 17,563
Consumer Goods Foods, Feeds, and Beverages All Other Merchandise	18,174 3,590 2,806	18,267 3,436 3,346	3,353	18,014 3,330 3,406	18,162 3,343 3,429		10,062		10,443	54,262 10,119 10,237
Memo Items, NSA: Oil Imports: Value (SITC) Volume (mbd) Price (\$/bbl)	4,177 11.735 11.86	4,055 11.504 11.37	4,038 11.731 11.10	3,625 10.530 11.47	4,393 11.700 12.11		10.441	13,018 10.610 13.63	11.816	11,719 11.255 11.31

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, monthly press release (FT-900).

DETAILS OF GOODS AND SERVICES: DOLLAR CHANGES (Millions of dollars, seasonally adjusted)

	Amount Ci	Aug	Sep	Oct	Amount Qtr-4	Qtr-1	irom Prev Qtr-2	Qtr-3	\$ Change from Year Earlier Q3-Q3
EXPORTS, Total (G&S) Services Agricultural Gold (BOP) Nonag Goods ex Gold	-289 -39 -172	-230 321	336	2,151 235 704 289 923	-452	-106 -1,026 469	-268	-2,004 -764 248	-10,481 -1,871 -2,076 442 -6,975
Ind Supplies (Ex Ag, Gold) Fuels (coal,petrol,etc) Chemicals Building Materials Other Ind Supplies	-38 47 22 -29 -78	-103 -113 33 24 -47	-56 36 -103 -19 30	41 125	189 175 -99 -91 204	-861 -253	-132 -218	-315	-I,118 -884
Capital Goods Aircraft & Parts Computers & Access Semiconductors Other Capital Goods	474 540 -119 37 16	-980 -737 61 182 -486	2,236 2,200 -4 43 -3	648 -206 130 101 623	254 208 -696 -368 1,110	-1,105 1,313 -896 -243 -1,279	-3,190 -1,021 -178 -580 -1,411	2,847 3,318 76 485 ~1,031	-1,194 3,818 -1,694 -707 -2,611
Automotive Products To Canada To Mexico (NSA) To Rest of World			139 249 4		416 506 -464	-137 -24 426	-439 -221 -714		-1,460 -203 -715
Consumer Goods All Other Merchandise	-206 -93	33 128 	43 -99 	109 -135 	322 -37	-105 106	432 7 	69 -346 	717 -269
IMPORTS, Total (G&S) Services Petroleum Gold (BOP) Nonpetroleum Goods ex Gold	-84 50 -45 -448			232 427 37 1,281	354 -420 210 2,735	586 -3,428 722 5,751	810 -242 -309 2,649	-1,045 -38 -1,181 466 -292	1,712 -5,272 1,088 10,842
Ind Supplies (Ex Oil, Gold) Chemicals Iron & Steel Mill Prod Building Materials Other Ind Supplies	72 61 12	187 -108 132 87 76	-220 -91 -148 -53 73	2 175 20 13 -207	-62 -61 62	139 163 101	-142 679 -4 2	379 146	-328 1,160 266
Capital Goods Aircraft & Parts Computers & Access Semiconductors Other Capital Goods	105 40 122 -95 39	99	-92	381 202	-484 -10	-56 376 -216		-133 -127 -488	•
Automotive Products From Canada From Mexico (NSA) From Rest of World	-1,097 -302 -553 -242	1,559 606 684 269	724 694 17 13	349 460 336 -447	-112 566	•	315	-627 -397 -670 439	445
Consumer Goods Foods, Feeds, and Beverages All Other Merchandise	93 -154 541	-286 -83 138	33 -23 -78	148 13 22	1,560 -71 169	1,764 370 295		-79 -323 1,559	5,303 -13 1,995
Memo Items, NSA: Oil Imports: Value (SITC) Volume (mbd) Price (S/bbl)	-122 -0.231 -0.49	-17 0.227 -0.27	-413 -1.201 0.37	1.170 0.64	-0.375 0.20	0.168 -3.83	1.206 -1.38	-0.561 -0.94	0.438 -5.96

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, monthly press release (FT-900).

DETAILS OF GOODS AND SERVICES: PERCENT CHANGES (Percent change from previous period)

	Percent Jul	Change f Aug	rom Prev Sep	. Month Oct	Percent Qtr-4	Change 1 Qtr-1	from Prev Qtr-2	. Qtr. Qtr-3	% Change from Year Earlier Q3-Q3
EXPORTS, Total (G&S) Services Agricultural Gold (BOP) Nonag Goods ex Gold							1.1 -7.7 -20.2 -3.4	-5.9 23.5	-14.5 51.3
Ind Supplies (Ex Ag, Gold) Fuels (coal,petrol,etc) Chemicals Building Materials Other Ind Supplies							-3.4 -3.8 -1.9 -7.3 -3.8	-8.8 -2.8	-10.7 -26.6 -7.4 -18.3 -8.1
Capital Goods Aircraft & Parts Computers & Access Semiconductors Other Capital Goods	1.9 13.3 -3.1 1.3 0.1	-3.9 -16.0 1.6 6.1 -3.6	9.4 57.0 -0.1 1.4 -0.0	2.5 -3.4 3.4 3.2 4.8	0.3 1.9 -5.4 -3.7 2.6	-1.4 12.0 -7.3 -2.5 -2.9	-1.6 -6.1	0.7 5.5	-1.6 35.7 -13.1 -7.0 -6.2
Automotive Products To Canada To Mexico (NSA) To Rest of World									
Consumer Goods All Other Merchandise	-3.0 -4.0	0.5 5.7	0.6 -4.2	1.6 -6.0	1.7 -0.5	-0.5 1.5	2.2 0.1	0.3 -4.8	3.7 -3.8
IMPORTS, Total (G&S) Services Petroleum Gold (BOP) Nonpetroleum Goods ex Gold	-0.6 -0.6 1.2 -9.5 -0.6	1.9 0.1 -1.2 78.9 2.1	0.2 -0.2 -2.8 -16.4 0.6	2.2 1.5 10.6 5.7 1.8	1.1 0.8 -2.4 28.4 1.3	1.4 1.3 -20.0 75.8 2.8	1.1 1.8 -1.8 -18.5 1.3	-0.4 -0.1 -8.8 34.2 -0.1	3.2 3.9 -30.0 146.8 5.3
Ind Supplies (Ex Oil, Gold) Chemicals Iron & Steel Mill Prod Building Materials Other Ind Supplies									4.5 -4.4 31.9 6.3 2.5
Capital Goods Aircraft & Parts Computers & Access Semiconductors Other Capital Goods	0.5 2.0 2.1 -3.5 0.3	-0.3 -19.1 -0.9 3.8 2.4	0.1 11.6 2.5 -3.4 -1.9	3.4 20.9 3.4 -2.1 1.9	1.5 -4.7 -2.7 -0.1 5.1	1.6 -1.2 2.1 -2.3 2.7	0.6 25.5 -1.0 -9.1 0.7	-1.3 -2.4 -0.7 -5.8 -0.4	2.3 15.3 -2.3 -16.4 8.4
Automotive Products From Canada From Mexico (NSA) From Rest of World	-9.3 -8.4 -24.7 -4.1	14.6 18.3 40.5 4.7	2	2.7 10.0 14.1 -7.5	0.5	0.0		-1.7 -3.2 -9.4 2.6	1.3 -5.8 0.8 6.9
Consumer Goods Foods, Feeds, and Beverages All Other Merchandise	19.3	4.1	0.2 -0.7 -2.2	0.8 0.4 0.6	3.2 -0.7 2.1	3.7	3.9 0.1 -0.3	-0.1 -3.1 18.0	10.8 -0.1 24.2
Memo Items, NSA: Oil Imports: Value (SITC) Volume (mbd) Price (\$/bbl)	-2.9 -2.0 -4.2	-0.4 2.0 -2.3	-10.2 -10.2 3.3	21.2 11.1 5.5		1.6		-11.0 -4.7 -7.7	-31.8 4.1 -34.5

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, monthly press release (FT-900).

Commercial Bank Credit

(Percent change; seasonally adjusted annual rate)

	Type of credit				1998			Level,
			Q2	Q3	Sep	Oct	Nov	Nov 1998 (billions of \$)
1. Ba	nk credit: Reported	9.0	5.4	9.2	15.5	25.2	9.5	4,527.7
2.	Adjusted ¹	8.6	6.0	8.1	10.2	18.1	15.3	4,398.0
3. \$	Securities: Reported	10.3	0.5	12.3	20.7	42.0	9.3	1,225.7
4.	Adjusted ¹	8.5	2.3	8.2	-0.1	15.1	32.8	1,096.1
5.	U.S. government	6.2	-3.4	0.6	-6.5	11.3	22.5	788.0
6.	Other ²	20.8	9.2	37.6	75.2	99.5	-13.8	437.7
7. L	_oans ³	8.6	7.2	8.0	13.6	19.1	9.5	3,301.9
8.	Business	8.8	7.0	12.7	15.3	28.4	11.1	950.7
9.	Real estate	9.2	6.3	1.9	1.1	5.2	19.4	1,307.1
10.	Home equity	15.5	-0.8	-2.5	4.9	-7.4	17.3	98.3
11.	Other	8.7	6.9	2.2	0.9	6.2	19.8	1,208.9
12.	Consumer: Reported	-1.5	1.7	-5.4	7.7	-1.4	5.0	501.4
13.	Adjusted ⁴	4.1	9.1	3.8	6.8	-0.2	5.7	745.4
14.	Other ⁵	20.9	16.1	30.6	47.7	56.6	-12.3	542.7

Note. Adjusted for breaks caused by reclassifications. Monthly levels are pro rata averages of weekly (Wednesday) levels. Quarterly levels (not shown) are simple averages of monthly levels, Annual levels (not shown) are levels for the fourth quarter. Growth rates shown are percentage changes in consecutive levels, annualized but not compounded.

^{1.} Adjusted to remove effects of mark-to-market accounting rules (FIN 39 and FASB 115).

^{2.} Includes securities of corporations, state and local governments, and foreign governments and any trading account assets that are not U.S. government securities.

^{3.} Excludes interbank loans.

^{4.} Includes an estimate of outstanding loans securitized by commercial banks.

^{5.} Includes security loans, loans to farmers, state and local governments, and all others not elsewhere classified. Also includes lease financing receivables.

III-T-1 Selected Financial Market Quotations

(One-day quotes in percent except as noted)

	1997		1998			e to Dec. 17 fi tes (percentag		
Instrument		Dec. 31	Oct. 14	FOMC* Nov. 17	Dec. 17	Dec. 31	Oct. 14	FOMC* Nov. 17
Short-term								
Federal funds	ľ					_		
FOMC intended rate		5.50	5.25	5.00	4.75	75	50	25
Realized rate ¹		5.44	5.40	5.08	4.80	64	60	28
Treasury bills ²								
3-month		5.22	3.93	4.41	4.35	87	.42	06
6-month		5.23	4.06	4.42	4.37	86	.31	05
1-year		5.22	4.01	4.34	4.25	97	.24	09
Commercial paper								
1-month		5.65	5.26	5.13	5.24	41	02	.11
3-month		5.57	5.11	5.09	5.01	56	10	08
Large negotiable CDs 2								
1-month		5.65	5.34	5.19	5.52	13	.18	.33
3-month		5.72	5.30	5.31	5.14	58	16	17
6-month		5.74	5.09	5.12	4.99	75	10	13
Eurodollar deposits ³								
1-month	İ	5.63	5.25	5.19	5.44	19	.19	.25
3-month		5.72	5.25	5.31	5.13	59	12	18
Bank prime rate		8.50	8.25	8.00	7.75	75	50	25
Intermediate- and long-term U.S. Treasury (constant maturity)							
2-year	<i>′</i>	5.66	4.08	4.56	4.42	-1.24	.34	14
10-year		5.75	4.58	4.85	4.58	-1.17	.00	27
30-year		5.93	5.00	5.28	5.01	92	.01	27
U.S. Treasury 10-year indexed n	ote	3.70	3.72	3.80	3.78	.08	.06	02
Municipal revenue (Bond Buyer) 4	5.40	5.17	5.28	5.21	19	.04	07
Corporate bonds, Moody's seaso	oned Baa	7.28	7.23	7.37	7.20	08	03	17
High-yield corporate 5		9.06	11.20	10.62	10.46	1.40	74	16
Home mortgages (FHLMC surve	ey rate) 6	:						
30-year fixed		6.99	6.49	6.93	6.69	30	.20	24
1-year adjustable		5.53	5.36	5.56	5.53	.00	.17	03
	Record	high		1998			inge to Dec. 17	
Charle analyses in day				FOMC*		Record		EOM C
Stock exchange index	Level	Date	Oct. 14	Nov. 17	Dec. 17	high	Oct. 14	FOMC* Nov. 17

	Record high			1998		Change to Dec. 17 from selected dates (percent)		
Stock exchange index	Level	Date	Oct. 14	FOMC* Nov. 17	Dec. 17	Record high	Oct. 14	FOMC* Nov. 17
Dow-Jones Industrial	9,374.27	11-23-98	7,968.78	9,011.25	8,875.82	-5.32	11.38	-1.50
S&P 500 Composite	1,192.33	11-27-98	1,005.53	1,135.87	1,179.98	-1.04	17.35	3.88
NASDAQ (OTC)	2,050.42	12-9-98	1,540.97	1,861.68	2,043.88	32	32,64	9.79
Russell 2000	491.41	4-21-98	324,98	390.42	393.78	-19.87	21,17	.86
Wilshire 5000	11,106.10	7-17-98	9,060.47	10,383.89	10,731.68	-3.37	18.45	3.35

^{1.} Average for two-week reserve maintenance period ending on or before date shown. Most recent observation is average for current maintenance period to date.

^{2.} Secondary market.

^{3.} Bid rates for Eurodollar deposits collected around 9:30 a.m. Eastern time.

^{4.} Most recent Thursday quote.

^{5.} Merrill Lynch Master II high-yield bond index composite.

^{6.} For week ending Friday previous to date shown.

^{*} Data are as of the close on November 16, 1998.