

Money Stock Control*

by ALBERT E. BURGER

In early September 1972 the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston sponsored a conference entitled "Controlling Monetary Aggregates II: The Implementation." A series of articles was presented which analyzed problems arising from the implementation of monetary policy. The following article is an abridged version of one paper presented at this conference. Much of the technical material has been omitted from this abridged version with the intent of conveying in concise form the main ideas and conclusions of the article. The complete article, including comments by the discussant, Professor James Duesenberry, will be published in 1973 by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston as part of its Monetary Conference series. The forthcoming publication also will contain the other papers presented at the Conference.

THE FEDERAL RESERVE stated in 1960, when it began publishing a separate and distinct money stock series, that:

The amount of money in existence and changes in this amount influence the course of economic developments

The Federal Reserve System has primary responsibility for regulating the total volume of money available to meet the public's demands.¹

Over the next ten years a major controversy developed over whether the Federal Reserve recognized or placed enough emphasis on its responsibility for controlling the growth of the money stock. The related question of which operating strategy to follow in controlling the money stock was pushed to the background.

Economists can argue at great lengths over the extent to which the Federal Reserve tried to control money in the past. However, one thing is clear; since early 1970, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) has moved in several stages to a position of placing more emphasis on controlling the money stock, relative to other intermediate objectives, than had previously been the case.² Along with this development, there has been increased scrutiny of alternative short-term operating strategies and analysis of problems involved in controlling growth rates of monetary aggregates.

In this paper the control of one monetary aggregate, the money stock, is considered. It is assumed that the Federal Open Market Committee has chosen a growth path for the money stock that is expected to be consistent with its policy objectives for output, employment, and prices. All the problems relating to how this growth path for money was chosen are ignored. The control problem is to use open market operations to achieve that growth path for money. This involves predicting the effects of open market operations on the money stock. Because of information lags and random weekly fluctuations in money, the Federal Reserve does not aim open market operations directly at the money stock, but picks an operating target intermediate between open market operations and the money stock. The two main candidates for this operating target have been money market conditions, chiefly represented by the Federal funds rate, and some reserve aggregate.

The Control Procedure

A general reserve aggregate-multiplier approach is used here to derive a control procedure the Federal Open Market Committee could use to achieve a given growth path for money. The link between the

five of the twelve Federal Reserve Bank Presidents. The President of the New York Federal Reserve Bank is a permanent voting member of the Committee and is its Vice-Chairman. All other Federal Reserve Bank Presidents attend the meetings and present their views, but votes may be cast by only four of these Presidents, who serve as voting members for one-year terms on a rotating basis. The Committee meets about every four weeks to discuss economic trends and to decide upon the future course of open market operations. The decisions on the exact timing and amount of daily buying and selling operations of securities in fulfilling the Committee's directive are the responsibility of the Account Manager at the Trading Desk of the New York Bank.

*The author wishes to express his appreciation to Anatol Balbach and Robert Rasche for their many comments on this study.

¹"A New Measure of the Money Supply," *Federal Reserve Bulletin* (October 1960), p. 1102.

²The Federal Open Market Committee consists of the seven members of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors and

reserve aggregate — total reserves, non-borrowed reserves, the monetary base, or some variant of these — and the money stock is called a multiplier. The money stock control procedure involves predicting the effect on the money stock of setting the reserve aggregate at a given value.³

The determination of the money stock is summarized in a multiplier-base expression of the following form:⁴

$$M_1 = mB$$

where “M₁” is the money stock (demand deposits plus currency held by the nonbank public), “B” is the net source base, and “m” is the money multiplier. The net source base (B) can be controlled by Federal Reserve open market operations. Sometimes this base concept is referred to as the nonborrowed base to denote that member bank borrowings are excluded. *The net source base is taken as the control variable in the procedure set forth in this article.* In its day-to-day operations

Table I
Sources and Uses of the Net Source Base
August 1972*
(millions of dollars)

Sources		Uses	
Federal Reserve holdings of Government securities	\$71,936	Member bank deposits at Federal Reserve Banks less loans	\$27,018
Federal Reserve float	3,347	Currency held by banks	7,426
Gold stock plus special drawing rights	10,810	Currency held by the public	55,300
Treasury currency outstanding	8,137		
Other Federal Reserve assets	957		
Less:			
Treasury cash holdings	319		
Treasury deposits at Federal Reserve Banks	2,025		
Foreign deposits at Federal Reserve Banks	171		
Other deposits at F. R. plus other F. R. liabilities and capital	2,928		
Equals:		Equals:	
NET SOURCE BASE	\$89,744	NET SOURCE BASE	\$89,744
Plus:		Plus:	
Loans at Federal Reserve Banks	439	Loans at Federal Reserve Banks	439
Equals:		Equals:	
Source base	\$90,183	Source base	\$90,183
Plus:		Plus:	
Reserve adjustment	3,904	Reserve adjustment	3,904
Equals:		Equals:	
Monetary base	\$94,087	Monetary base	\$94,087

*Preliminary data, not seasonally adjusted.

this would be the variable toward which the Desk would primarily direct its open market operations.⁵

On a daily basis, the Federal Reserve has information on the value of the previous day's net source base (B). This information comes from totaling the sources of the base, as shown in Table I. Special care should be taken to distinguish between the sources and uses of the base. In order to measure the base, the Desk does not have to estimate excess reserves and currency. This would be the case only if the Manager of the System Open Market Account had to rely solely on information about the uses of the base. By collecting data on the sources of the base, which come from the books of the Federal Reserve and the Treasury, a more accurate estimate can be obtained on a short-run basis.

The money multiplier (m) is the connecting link between the net source base and money stock. Changes in the multiplier reflect portfolio decisions by banks and the public, Treasury actions, and Federal Reserve policy actions such as changes in reserve requirements and the discount rate. The multiplier is not constant. Therefore, under this proposed procedure, the Federal

³This is not the only approach that could be used to address the problem of controlling the money stock. Other economists within the Federal Reserve have attacked the problem from a different approach. James Pierce and Thomas Thompson have studied the problem with their monthly money market model using the Federal funds rate as the control variable. See James L. Pierce and Thomas D. Thompson, "Some Issues in Controlling the Stock of Money" (paper prepared for the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Conference on "Controlling Monetary Aggregates II: The Implementation"). Richard Davis has used a reduced form relationship that takes the demand deposit component of the money stock as the variable to be explained. His reduced form equation includes nonborrowed reserves (or alternatively the Federal funds rate), business sales, Government deposits and a variable to capture the effects of Regulation Q. His results are discussed in the Pierce-Thompson paper.

⁴The specific procedure presented in this paper is designed within the framework of a non-linear money supply hypothesis developed by Karl Brunner and Allan Meltzer:

$$m = \frac{1+k}{(r-b)(1+t+d)+k}$$

where k, t, and d, respectively, are the ratios of currency held by the public, time deposits, and U. S. Government demand deposits at commercial banks to the demand deposit component of the money stock. The variables r and b, respectively, are the ratios of bank reserves and member bank borrowings to commercial bank deposit liabilities (excluding interbank deposits). See Karl Brunner and Allan H. Meltzer, "Liquidity Traps for Money, Bank Credit, and Interest Rates," *Journal of Political Economy* (January/February 1968), pp. 1-37, and Albert E. Burger, *The Money Supply Process* (Belmont, California: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1971).

⁵The Manager of the System Open Market Account may be referred to as the "Account Manager" or the "Desk," meaning the Trading Desk of the New York Federal Reserve Bank.

Reserve must estimate the multiplier to determine how much base to supply to achieve a desired path for the money stock.

Forecasting the Money Multiplier

The procedure used in this paper to forecast the money multiplier takes as inputs only those variables that the Federal Reserve could be assumed to know without error. The two major independent variables used to forecast the next month's money multiplier are the lagged 3-month moving average of the multiplier and the percent change in the Treasury bill rate in the previous month.⁶ This procedure is an extension of the procedure used in a previous article co-authored with Lionel Kalish and Christopher Babb. The major modification is to remove the reserve adjustment magnitude and include the lagged percentage change in the Treasury bill rate.⁷

In essence, this is a very mechanical method that does not attempt to incorporate any information the Federal Reserve might have concerning expected movements of key factors such as Treasury deposits in the forecast month. Therefore, the results of simulations based on this procedure should not be viewed as an indication of the best control the Federal Reserve could attain. Instead, they provide a standard against which other procedures could be evaluated. Any alternative procedure should be able to perform at least as well as this simple, mechanical method.

Simulating the Control Procedure

The forecasting horizon and the net source base target period are set at one month. For example, at the start of each month, a money multiplier for that month is forecast, and a new setting for the net source base is determined. This procedure was simulated over the 96-month period, 1964-71. The forecasted multiplier times the actual net source base for each month gives the money stock the Federal Reserve would have expected to achieve if it had been

using this procedure.⁸ The results of this exercise and statistics relevant for evaluating these results are given in the Appendix at the end of this article. Since no forecasting errors are involved in the independent variables, the results of these simulations indicate how well the procedure would have worked over the 1964-71 period.

The evaluation of the performance of a money stock control procedure should not be based solely on monthly errors. For example, a one-half percent error in one month, converted to an annual rate becomes a 6 percent error. This does not necessarily imply that using this method would result in that magnitude of error over a relevant control period. Errors resulting from the simulation do not tend to accumulate, and positive errors are offset by negative ones. The mean forecasting error is \$140 million and the mean percent forecasting error is less than 0.1 percent; this indicates that the procedure, on average, does not substantially over- or underestimate the money stock associated with a set value of the net source base.

Comparing consecutive 3-month moving averages of the money stock resulting from simulating the control procedure to actual money over the 1964-71 period results in a mean percent error of .07 percent and an absolute mean percent error of 0.31 percent. In other words, if the desired level of the money stock can be expressed as a moving average for 3-month periods, the procedure should permit its achievement with only small errors.

Another means of analyzing the effectiveness of the control procedure is to compare the expected growth rates of the money stock resulting from simulating the control procedure with actual growth rates of the money stock. The simulated monthly values of the money stock are what the FOMC would have expected from setting the net source base at its historical values if it had been using this procedure to forecast the money multiplier.

In this way, an analysis can be made of the effectiveness of the control procedure at times when there were marked reversals in the growth rate of the money stock. During the period 1964-71 there were at least 6 marked changes in the growth rate of the money stock. Table II presents a comparison of actual growth rates of money and the growth rates that the

⁶The regression equation used to forecast the multiplier was estimated using not seasonally adjusted data. The coefficients used to forecast each month's multiplier were estimated by least squares using the previous 36 months' observations. Each month the coefficients were re-estimated by adding the most recent month and dropping the first month of the previous 36 observations. In making the forecasts ρu_{t-1} was added, where u_{t-1} is the lagged value of the error in the estimate of the money multiplier and ρ is the correlation coefficient for consecutive error terms in the equation during the sample period.

⁷Albert E. Burger, Lionel Kalish III, and Christopher T. Babb, "Money Stock Control and Its Implications for Monetary Policy," this *Review* (October 1971), pp. 6-22.

⁸The forecasted not seasonally adjusted money multiplier was multiplied by the actual not seasonally adjusted net source base to obtain not seasonally adjusted money (NSAM). Then NSAM was multiplied by the implicit seasonal factor for that month (computed by dividing seasonally adjusted money by not seasonally adjusted money) to obtain the seasonally adjusted money stock.

Table II

Actual Compared to
Expected Rates of Money Growth¹

Average of 3 Months Ended	Actual Growth Rate of Money ²	Growth Rate of Money Expected Using the Control Procedure ³
May '66 - Dec. '66	0.2%	1.1%
Dec. '66 - Jan. '69	7.2	7.1
Jan. '69 - Feb. '70	3.4	3.7
Feb. '70 - Dec. '70	5.4	5.0
Dec. '70 - July '71	9.4	9.5
July '71 - Dec. '71	2.4	3.2

¹Periods were chosen on the basis of a significant change in the growth rate of the money stock.

²Simple annual rates.

³Computed by comparing 3-month average of actual money in the initial period to 3-month average of forecasted money in the terminal period.

FOMC would have expected if it had been using the control procedure over these periods.

For example, beginning in mid-1966 the growth rate of money slowed markedly. By setting the net source base at its historical values, the FOMC would have expected, given the forecasts of the money multiplier, that the money stock would have grown at a 1.1 percent annual rate from the average of 3 months ending May 1966 to the average of 3 months ending December 1966. The actual growth rate of the money stock over this same period was 0.2 percent. In early 1967 the FOMC moved to a much more expansionary policy. Simulating the control procedure results in an expected growth rate of the money stock of 7.1 percent from the average of 3 months ending December 1966 to the average of 3 months ending January 1969. The actual growth rate of money associated with setting the net source base at its historical values was 7.2 percent over this period.

As shown in Table II, the FOMC would also have been able to achieve the growth path of money through the slowdown in 1969, the renewed growth in 1970, the acceleration in the first half of 1971, and the sharp slowdown in the last half of 1971. These results indicate that even if the FOMC sought very marked reversals in the growth of money, over at least a 6-month period it could quite accurately achieve the growth of money it desired by using the procedure presented in this article.

Impediments to Money Stock Control

The 1964-71 period presented an especially difficult period for money stock control. A significant part of

this difficulty was introduced by Federal Reserve actions. During this 8-year period there were several major reversals in the direction of the influence of Federal Reserve policy actions on the money stock.⁹ In addition, reserve requirements were changed 7 times and lagged reserve requirements were introduced in this period. The Federal Reserve also permitted Regulation Q ceiling rates to frequently restrain banks from responding in a competitive manner to changes in market rates.¹⁰

The money stock control procedure outlined above is not designed to capture the *initial* effects of these actions by the Federal Reserve. Since a lagged 3-month moving average of the multiplier is used, a sharp reversal of policy may cause a change in the multiplier that is not immediately captured by the procedure used to forecast the multiplier. For example, at times of sharp reversals in the growth rate of the money stock relatively larger errors occur for a short period. After mid-1966 the forecasting procedure substantially over-estimates the multiplier; the opposite occurs in early 1967. Also, a similar tendency seems to have been in effect in 1971 as forecasting errors tended to be negative in the first half of the year and positive in the second half. The exact size and direction of this effect depends upon a number of factors. However, given the characteristics of the procedure for forecasting the money multiplier, it does seem likely that a substantial change in the thrust of policy actions on the money stock will introduce additional problems for accurately predicting the initial influence of open market actions on the money stock.

The results shown in Table II indicate that through the use of this procedure the FOMC could quite accurately achieve sharp changes in the growth path of money over a longer period of time. The same results point out that, in the initial stages of a marked change in the desired growth rate of the money stock, the Federal Open Market Committee should not abandon the procedure just because they initially observe larger than average monthly errors. However, given that the policymakers are also concerned with large movements in short-term interest rates, large monthly

⁹Policy actions resulted in an acceleration of the base from late 1965 through mid-1966 followed by a deceleration of the base through the end of 1966. This was followed by a renewed acceleration during 1967-68, followed by a deceleration in 1969, then a more rapid growth in 1970. A rapid acceleration in the growth rate of the base over the first half of 1971 again was followed by a rapid deceleration in the second half of 1971.

¹⁰The secondary market yield on large 6-month CDs exceeded the Regulation Q ceiling rate in the 8-month period from June 1966 through January 1967, the 9-month period from November 1967 through July 1968, and the 24-month period from November 1968 through October 1970.

errors may make the task of returning to the desired money stock path more difficult. The author conjectures that most methods would tend to show relatively larger errors at times when the target growth of money is markedly changed. Again, the point should be emphasized that it is the performance of the procedure over a period of several months or longer that is crucial.

With regard to reserve requirements, there is clear evidence that reserve requirement changes create substantial difficulties for predicting the growth path of money with this technique. The root mean square forecasting error for months when reserve requirements were changed and the following month is about 63 percent larger than for the whole sample period, \$1.74 billion compared to \$1.07 billion.¹¹

If reserve requirements are raised, the money multiplier is reduced, and hence the money stock resulting from simulating this procedure would be expected to exceed actual money, resulting in positive errors. In July and September 1966 reserve requirements were raised and the period July - October 1966 encompasses some of the largest positive errors of the sample period. Likewise, large positive errors occur following the raising of reserve requirements in mid-January 1968 and mid-April 1969. Several of the largest negative errors followed lowering of reserve requirements in March 1967 and October 1970.

Although the exact magnitude of the influence of Regulation Q ceilings is difficult to isolate empirically, it can be conjectured from a theoretical analysis that this impediment added to the errors in money stock control. For example, as market interest rates rise above Regulation Q ceiling rates, this results in a rapid decline in the growth of time deposits, hence affecting the t-ratio in the money multiplier, and therefore influencing the growth of the money stock.

Comparison of RPDs and the Net Source Base as Operating Targets

Prior to 1972 a key element of open market strategy had been use of a configuration of measures of money market conditions as operating guides for the Manager of the System Open Market Account. At the

¹¹Most reserve requirement changes occurred in the middle of a month. Hence, their potential influence carried over to the following month. The dates of reserve requirement changes and the amount of reserves released or absorbed are as follows: July 1966 (\$420 million), September 1966 (\$445 million), March 1967 (-\$850 million), January 1968 (\$550 million), April 1969 (\$660 million), introduction of a 10 percent marginal reserve requirement on certain foreign borrowings by banks in October 1969 (\$400 million), October 1970 (-\$500 million).

start of 1972 the Federal Open Market Committee began a series of steps that moved open market operating strategy decidedly closer to a reserve aggregate approach. At the February 15 FOMC meeting, the Committee adopted, as its reserve aggregate target, reserves available to support private nonbank deposits (RPDs), defined specifically as total member bank reserves less those required to support Government and net interbank deposits.¹²

The move toward guiding open market operations more by an RPD target than an interest rate target is a major constructive development, especially to those individuals who emphasize the System's role in controlling the growth of the money stock. However, RPDs are only one among several reserve aggregates that might serve the same purpose.

In choosing a reserve aggregate as an operating target for controlling money it seems desirable to select one that (1) has the most predictable relationships to money stock and (2) is easiest for the Desk to track in its day-to-day operations. The first criterion concerns the selection of a target path for the reserve aggregate. The second criterion concerns how well the Desk can stay on that path.¹³

Choosing a Growth Path for an Operating Target — Although the Federal Reserve has not made public the method used in selecting the RPD path, there are at least two ways this path could be chosen. One approach would be to predict the RPD-money stock multiplier, a procedure very similar to the one discussed in this paper. The simulation of this money stock control procedure was repeated wherein an RPD-money multiplier was predicted in the same manner as a base-money multiplier. Not seasonally adjusted RPDs were used as the control variable instead of not seasonally adjusted net source base. The results with RPDs were substantially worse. For example, the root mean square forecasting error for money over the 1964-71 period was \$1.60 billion using RPDs, compared to \$1.07 billion with the net source base as the control variable.

¹²Deposits subject to reserve requirements include all time and savings deposits, and net demand deposits, which are defined as total demand deposits less cash items in process of collection and demand balances due from domestic commercial banks. Net interbank demand deposits include all demand deposits due to domestic and foreign commercial banks and due to mutual savings banks, less demand balances due from domestic commercial banks. In the April 1972 revision of the reserve series, net interbank deposits were revised to reflect the netting of a portion of cash items in process of collection against interbank deposits. Formerly, all cash items were netted against other private demand deposits.

¹³See Charlotte E. Ruebling, "RPDs and Other Reserve Operating Targets," this *Review* (August 1972), pp. 2-7.

An alternative procedure stresses that RPDs are reserves used to support private member bank deposits, one component of which, member bank private demand deposits, is a part of the money stock. This alternative first takes a projected value for GNP over the forecasting horizon. It then assumes that the effect of alternative growth rates of money on financial conditions could be worked out without any effects on GNP during the forecasting period. A relationship between M_1 and interest rates is then developed, and this relationship, along with other factors, is used to project a pattern of member bank time, demand, government, and interbank deposits.¹⁴ From these results a path for RPDs could then be developed.

RPDs can be determined in the following expression:

$$\text{RPDs} = \text{TR} - rD^G - rD^{\text{IB}} = rD + r^tT + \text{ER}$$

where TR = total member bank reserves

D^G = member bank U.S. Government demand deposits

D^{IB} = member bank net interbank demand deposits

D = member bank private demand deposits

T = member bank time deposits

ER = excess reserves

r = reserve requirement against D^G , D, D^{IB}

r^t = reserve requirement against time deposits

Therefore, to select a path for RPDs consistent with the member bank demand deposit component of the money stock (D), which, given the projected values of the currency and nonmember bank deposit components of money, would result in the desired money stock, requires that the Federal Reserve estimate the path of time deposits (T) and member bank excess reserves (ER). At present there are no means to evaluate how accurately the Federal Reserve can make forecasts of the nonmember bank deposit component of the money stock, currency, member bank time deposits, and excess reserves.

Predicting the relationship between any reserve aggregate and the money stock involves explicitly or implicitly predicting a multiplier relationship. Therefore, some evidence on the stability of the overall relationship between RPDs, other reserve aggregates, and money can be obtained by comparing the stability of the multiplier relationships. An examination of regressions relating the current values of the RPD-money multiplier and the net source base-money multiplier to a lagged 3-month moving average of these multipliers did not provide any basis for conjecture

that there has been a more stable relationship between the money stock and RPDs than between the net source base and money.¹⁵

These results are not conclusive evidence on the relative predictability of base-money relationships versus RPD-money relationships. There may exist a method of relating RPDs to money which past evidence indicates would have permitted the Federal Reserve to have more accurately predicted the effect of an RPD target on money than the results in this paper indicate for a base target. Also, there may be other money stock control procedures in which both the net source base and RPDs perform better.

Tracking an Operating Target—The second criterion for selecting an operating target concerns the information required by the Desk to track its reserve aggregate on a daily basis. RPDs require information that would appear to be considerably more difficult to project than the net source base data. Referring to the previous formula for RPDs, it can be seen that the following have to be estimated to track RPDs: Government demand deposits, interbank demand deposits, member bank borrowings, currency demands of the public and nonmember banks, and float.¹⁶ Referring back to Table I, it can be seen that all the data for tracking the net source base comes from the daily records of the Federal Reserve and the Treasury. The most troublesome component on a daily basis, which is common both to RPDs and net source base, would be Federal Reserve float.¹⁷

¹⁵The regressions used the appropriate reserve aggregate multiplier as the dependent variable and a 3-month moving average of past values of the multiplier and the lagged percent change in the Treasury bill rate as independent variables. The sample period was 1966-71. Since RPDs, nonborrowed reserves, and total reserves include only member bank reserves and exclude currency, these multipliers were computed on the basis of the member bank component of the money stock. The base-money multipliers were computed on the basis of the total money stock. All equations were run with seasonally adjusted data. The coefficients of variation show that the standard error of estimate is much larger relative to the mean of the RPD multiplier than for the base multiplier. These results are shown in detail in the complete version of this paper to be published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

¹⁶Richard G. Davis discusses the characteristics of short-run operating targets in "Short-Run Targets for Open Market Operations," *Open Market Policies and Operating Procedures—Staff Studies* (Washington, D. C.: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 1971), pp. 37-69. He points out additional difficulties that may arise when, in addition to the operating transactions, behavior of factors such as Treasury deposits at commercial banks must be forecast and other factors such as member bank borrowing and excess reserves, which are functionally related to open market operations, must be forecast.

¹⁷Proposed changes in the Federal Reserve's check collection procedures are expected to reduce substantially the average level of Federal Reserve float, from about \$3 billion to around \$1 billion. The only sizable component that would

¹⁴For a discussion of this type of procedure see Steven H. Axilrod and Darwin L. Beck, "Role of Projections and Data Evaluation with Monetary Aggregates as Policy Targets," (paper prepared for Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Conference on "Controlling Monetary Aggregates II: The Implementation").

Conclusions

A simple procedure for determining the effect on the money stock of setting the net source base at a given value was presented. This proposed method was not intended to be the definitive answer to the money stock control problem. It does, however, provide a useful framework within which several aspects of money stock control can be analyzed.

remain would be transportation float. One would expect that even this component would be predictable, within limits, by monitoring such factors as weather conditions and rail or truck strikes. For a discussion of this change, see "Recent Regulatory Changes in Reserve Requirements and Check Collection," *Federal Reserve Bulletin* (July 1972), pp. 626-630.

The results of simulating the procedure over an 8-year period suggest that, using a method for forecasting the net source base-money multiplier which relies only on past, known data, the Federal Open Market Committee could exercise close control over the trend growth of the money stock. The simulation results indicate that errors resulting from using this method to determine the effect on the money stock of setting the net source base at a given value do not tend to accumulate, signifying that use of this procedure would not result in "loss of control over money" for a prolonged period. An analysis of errors for 3-month moving averages and periods of marked shifts in policy support the conclusion that the growth of the money stock could be set at about the rate desired by the Federal Open Market Committee.



APPENDIX

Monthly Forecasting Errors of the Money Stock Control Procedure: 1964-1971

(Dollar Amounts in Billions)

Date	Forecasted NSA Multiplier	Actual NSA Multiplier	Forecasted SA Money	Actual SA Money	Forecasted Minus Actual	Percent Forecasting Error ¹	
1964	J	2.949	2.943	\$154.409	\$154.100	.309	0.2%
	F	2.924	2.906	155.470	154.500	.970	0.6
	M	2.885	2.871	155.772	155.000	.772	0.5
	A	2.906	2.896	155.714	155.200	.514	0.3
	M	2.851	2.836	156.708	155.900	.808	0.5
	J	2.835	2.823	157.055	156.400	.655	0.4
	J	2.816	2.832	156.573	157.500	-.927	-0.6
	A	2.828	2.834	158.072	158.400	-.328	-0.2
	S	2.850	2.850	159.096	159.100	-.004	0
	O	2.873	2.871	159.851	159.700	.151	0.1
	N	2.896	2.873	161.573	160.300	1.273	0.8
	D	2.885	2.879	160.829	160.500	.329	0.2
1965	J	2.925	2.921	161.113	160.900	.213	0.1
	F	2.888	2.869	162.308	161.200	1.108	0.7
	M	2.848	2.852	161.473	161.700	-.227	-0.1
	A	2.878	2.882	161.759	162.000	-.241	-0.1
	M	2.822	2.807	163.111	162.200	.911	0.6
	J	2.801	2.813	162.403	163.100	-.697	-0.4
	J	2.805	2.805	163.663	163.700	-.037	0
	A	2.802	2.803	164.149	164.200	-.051	0
	S	2.816	2.836	164.001	165.200	-1.199	-0.7
	O	2.847	2.848	166.326	166.400	-.074	0
	N	2.866	2.848	167.919	166.900	1.019	0.6
	D	2.865	2.861	168.217	168.000	.217	0.1
1966	J	2.902	2.903	169.122	169.200	-.078	0
	F	2.861	2.850	170.374	169.700	.674	0.4
	M	2.834	2.850	169.544	170.500	-.956	-0.6
	A	2.866	2.886	170.520	171.700	-1.180	-0.7
	M	2.813	2.805	172.023	171.500	.523	0.3
	J	2.812	2.819	171.245	171.700	-.455	-0.3
	J	2.814	2.763	174.146	171.000	3.146	1.8
	A	2.802	2.765	173.405	171.100	2.305	1.3
	S	2.804	2.779	173.421	171.900	1.521	0.9
	O	2.792	2.778	172.215	171.400	.815	0.5
	N	2.807	2.769	173.502	171.200	2.302	1.3
	D	2.774	2.782	171.210	171.700	-.490	-0.3
1967	J	2.816	2.785	173.290	171.400	1.890	1.1
	F	2.727	2.734	172.748	173.200	-.452	-0.3
	M	2.703	2.753	171.626	174.800	-3.174	-1.8
	A	2.745	2.774	172.289	174.100	-1.811	-1.0
	M	2.687	2.726	173.301	175.800	-2.499	-1.4
	J	2.718	2.753	175.085	177.300	-2.215	-1.2
	J	2.717	2.741	177.084	178.700	-1.616	-0.9
	A	2.738	2.746	179.222	179.800	-.578	-0.3
	S	2.772	2.763	181.488	180.900	.588	0.3
	O	2.779	2.771	182.198	181.700	.498	0.3
	N	2.777	2.774	182.593	182.400	.193	0.1
	D	2.790	2.793	182.872	183.100	-.228	-0.1
1968	J	2.826	2.811	184.870	183.900	.970	0.5
	F	2.767	2.746	186.351	184.900	1.451	0.8
	M	2.757	2.755	186.003	185.900	.103	0.1
	A	2.787	2.794	186.089	186.600	-.511	-0.3
	M	2.725	2.749	186.888	188.500	-1.612	-0.9
	J	2.764	2.766	189.922	190.100	-.178	-0.1
	J	2.737	2.752	190.322	191.400	-1.078	-0.6
	A	2.746	2.740	192.960	192.500	.460	0.2
	S	2.769	2.764	193.727	193.400	.327	0.2
	O	2.779	2.762	195.518	194.300	1.218	0.6
	N	2.771	2.781	195.289	196.000	-.711	-0.4
	D	2.797	2.812	196.383	197.400	-1.017	-0.5

Date	Forecasted NSA Multiplier	Actual NSA Multiplier	Forecasted SA Money	Actual SA Money	Forecasted Minus Actual	Percent Forecasting Error ¹	
1969	J	2.841	2.833	\$198.937	\$198.400	\$.537	0.3%
	F	2.783	2.784	199.432	199.500	-.068	0
	M	2.797	2.802	199.909	200.300	-.391	-0.2
	A	2.832	2.834	200.867	201.000	-.133	-0.1
	M	2.783	2.749	203.870	201.400	2.470	1.2
	J	2.776	2.783	201.692	202.200	-.508	-0.3
	J	2.767	2.784	201.666	202.900	-1.234	-0.6
	A	2.760	2.753	202.933	202.400	.533	0.3
	S	2.774	2.774	202.746	202.700	.046	0
	O	2.773	2.776	203.022	203.200	-.178	-0.1
	N	2.773	2.764	204.133	203.500	.633	0.3
	D	2.794	2.776	204.991	203.700	1.291	0.6
1970	J	2.801	2.806	205.126	205.500	-.374	-0.2
	F	2.745	2.736	205.371	204.700	.671	0.3
	M	2.748	2.757	206.048	206.700	-.652	-0.3
	A	2.787	2.777	209.043	208.300	.743	0.4
	M	2.725	2.715	209.750	209.000	.750	0.4
	J	2.755	2.736	210.799	209.400	1.399	0.7
	J	2.728	2.732	210.027	210.300	-.273	-0.1
	A	2.709	2.700	212.295	211.600	.695	0.3
	S	2.734	2.709	214.761	212.800	1.961	0.9
	O	2.714	2.725	212.179	213.100	-.921	-0.4
	N	2.722	2.732	212.852	213.600	-.748	-0.4
	D	2.741	2.744	214.553	214.800	-.247	-0.1
1971	J	2.765	2.741	217.184	215.300	1.884	0.9
	F	2.687	2.690	217.425	217.700	-.275	-0.1
	M	2.696	2.705	218.929	219.700	-.771	-0.4
	A	2.730	2.732	221.044	221.200	-.156	-0.1
	M	2.690	2.679	224.688	223.800	.888	0.4
	J	2.705	2.718	224.401	225.500	-1.099	-0.5
	J	2.722	2.714	228.057	227.400	.657	0.3
	A	2.699	2.703	227.683	228.000	-.317	-0.1
	S	2.707	2.697	228.426	227.600	.826	0.4
	O	2.711	2.699	228.705	227.700	1.005	0.4
	N	2.710	2.700	228.505	227.700	.805	0.4
	D	2.720	2.715	228.624	228.200	.424	0.2

¹ $\frac{\text{Forecasted} - \text{Actual}}{\text{Actual}} \times 100$

NOTE: SA and NSA refer to seasonally and not seasonally adjusted data, respectively.

Summary Results									
Levels	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	
Mean Square Forecasting Error	\$4.747	\$4.359	\$2.2479	\$2.6592	\$8.710	\$8.942	\$8.299	\$7.744	
Root Mean Square Forecasting Error	.6890	.6602	1.4993	1.6307	.9333	.9456	.9110	.8800	
Summary Results for Selected Periods									
Levels	1964-1971	1966-1971	1969-1971	1970-1971					
Mean Square Forecasting Error	\$1.1483	\$1.3795	\$8.328	\$8.021					
Root Mean Square Forecasting Error	1.0716	1.1745	.9126	.8956					
Mean Error	.1404	.1114	.2743	.2865					
Absolute Mean Error	.8273	.9220	.7379	.7725					
Percent Forecasting Error									
Levels	1964-1971	1966-1971	1969-1971	1970-1971					
Mean Error	.0760%	.0514%	.1306%	.1375%					
Absolute Mean Error	.4469	.4875	.3528	.3625					