
December 31, 1998

To the Board of Directors:

The management of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond ("FRB Richmond") is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the Statement of Financial Condition, Statement of Income, and Statement of Changes in Capital as of December 31, 1998 (the "Financial Statements"). The Financial Statements have been prepared in conformity with the accounting principles, policies, and practices established by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and as set forth in the Financial Accounting Manual for the Federal Reserve Banks, and as such, include amounts, some of which are based on judgments and estimates of management.

The management of the FRB Richmond is responsible for maintaining an effective process of internal controls over financial reporting including the safeguarding of assets as they relate to the Financial Statements. Such internal controls are designed to provide reasonable assurance to management and to the Board of Directors regarding the preparation of reliable Financial Statements. This process of internal controls contains self-monitoring mechanisms, including, but not limited to, divisions of responsibility and a code of conduct. Once identified, any material deficiencies in the process of internal controls are reported to management, and appropriate corrective measures are implemented.

Even an effective process of internal controls, no matter how well designed, has inherent limitations, including the possibility of human error, and therefore can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to the preparation of reliable financial statements.

The management of the FRB Richmond assessed its process of internal controls over financial reporting including the safeguarding of assets reflected in the Financial Statements, based upon the criteria established in the "Internal Control – Integrated Framework" issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Based on this assessment, the management of the FRB Richmond believes that the FRB Richmond maintained an effective process of internal controls over financial reporting including the safeguarding of assets as they relate to the Financial Statements.

Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

J. Alfred Broaddus, Jr.
PRESIDENT

Walter A. Varvel
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Report of Independent Accountants

To the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond:

We have examined management's assertion that the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond ("FRB Richmond") maintained effective internal control over financial reporting and the safeguarding of assets as they relate to the Financial Statements as of December 31, 1998, included in the accompanying Management's Assertion.

Our examination was made in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and accordingly, included obtaining an understanding of the internal control over financial reporting, testing, and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of the internal control, and such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Because of inherent limitations in any internal control, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected. Also, projections of any evaluation of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the internal control may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, management's assertion that the FRB Richmond maintained effective internal control over financial reporting and over the safeguarding of assets as they relate to the Financial Statements as of December 31, 1998, is fairly stated, in all material respects, based upon criteria described in "Internal Control – Integrated Framework" issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.



Richmond, Virginia
March 5, 1999

Report of Independent Accountants

To the Board of Governors of The Federal Reserve System
and the Board of Directors of The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond:

We have audited the accompanying statements of condition of The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (the "Bank") as of December 31, 1998 and 1997, and the related statements of income and changes in capital for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Bank's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 3, the financial statements were prepared in conformity with the accounting principles, policies, and practices established by the Board of Governors of The Federal Reserve System. These principles, policies, and practices, which were designed to meet the specialized accounting and reporting needs of The Federal Reserve System, are set forth in the "Financial Accounting Manual for Federal Reserve Banks" and constitute a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Bank as of December 31, 1998 and 1997, and results of its operations for the years then ended, on the basis of accounting described in Note 3.



Richmond, Virginia
March 5, 1999

Statements of Condition

(IN MILLIONS)	AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1998	AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1997
Assets		
Gold certificates	\$ 807	\$ 965
Special drawing rights certificates	792	792
Coin	53	63
Items in process of collection	624	474
U.S. government and federal agency securities, net	35,974	41,294
Investments denominated in foreign currencies	3,066	1,177
Accrued interest receivable	340	391
Interdistrict settlement account	4,985	—
Bank premises and equipment, net	201	217
Other assets	85	86
Total assets	\$46,927	\$45,459
Liabilities and Capital		
Liabilities:		
Federal Reserve notes outstanding, net	\$41,577	\$32,459
Deposits:		
Depository institutions	1,898	2,062
Other deposits	54	40
Deferred credit items	676	650
Surplus transfer due U.S. Treasury	157	47
Interdistrict settlement account	—	8,468
Accrued benefit cost	64	59
Other liabilities	25	23
Total liabilities	44,451	43,808
Capital:		
Capital paid-in	1,238	833
Surplus	1,238	818
Total capital	2,476	1,651
Total liabilities and capital	\$46,927	\$45,459

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Statements of Income

(IN MILLIONS)	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1997
Interest Income:		
Interest on U.S. government securities	\$2,212	\$2,309
Interest on foreign currencies	65	26
Total interest income	2,277	2,335
Other Operating Income (Loss):		
Income from services	65	62
Reimbursable services to government agencies	31	26
Foreign currency gains (losses), net	290	(179)
Government securities gains, net	3	1
Other income	4	2
Total other operating income (loss)	393	(88)
Operating Expenses:		
Salaries and other benefits	157	141
Occupancy expense	24	24
Equipment expense	84	104
Cost of unreimbursed Treasury services	—	6
Assessments by Board of Governors	57	48
Other expenses (credits)	(60)	(57)
Total operating expenses	262	266
Net income prior to distribution	\$2,408	\$1,981
Distribution of Net Income:		
Dividends paid to member banks	\$ 61	\$ 34
Transferred to surplus	420	515
Payments to U.S. Treasury as interest on Federal Reserve notes	733	—
Payments to U.S. Treasury as required by statute	1,194	1,432
Total distribution	\$2,408	\$1,981

Statements of Changes in Capital

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998
AND DECEMBER 31, 1997
(IN MILLIONS)

	Capital Paid-in	Surplus	Total Capital
Balance at January 1, 1997			
(6.4 million shares)	\$ 318	\$ 310	\$ 628
Net income transferred to surplus	—	515	515
Statutory surplus transfer to the U.S. Treasury	—	(7)	(7)
Net change in capital stock issued			
(10.3 million shares)	515	—	515
Balance at December 31, 1997			
(16.7 million shares)	\$ 833	\$ 818	\$1,651
Net income transferred to surplus	—	420	420
Net change in capital stock issued			
(8.0 million shares)	405	—	405
Balance at December 31, 1998			
(24.7 million shares)	\$1,238	\$1,238	\$2,476

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Notes to Financial Statements

1. Organization

The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (“Bank”) is part of the Federal Reserve System (“System”) created by Congress under the Federal Reserve Act of 1913 (“Federal Reserve Act”) which established the central bank of the United States. The System consists of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (“Board of Governors”) and twelve Federal Reserve Banks (“Reserve Banks”). The Reserve Banks are chartered by the federal government and possess a unique set of governmental, corporate, and central bank characteristics. Other major elements of the System are the Federal Open Market Committee (“FOMC”), and the Federal Advisory Council. The FOMC is composed of members of the Board of Governors, the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (“FRBNY”) and, on a rotating basis, four other Reserve Bank presidents.

Structure

The Bank and its branches in Baltimore, Maryland, Charlotte, North Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, and Charleston, West Virginia serve the Fifth Federal Reserve District, which includes Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, District of Columbia, and a portion of West Virginia. In accordance with the Federal Reserve Act, supervision and control of the Bank is exercised by a Board of Directors. Banks that are members of the System include all national banks and any state chartered bank that applies and is approved for membership in the System.

Board of Directors

The Federal Reserve Act specifies the composition of the board of directors for each of the Reserve Banks. Each board is composed of nine members serving three-year terms: three directors, including those designated as Chairman and Deputy Chairman, are appointed by the Board of Governors, and six directors are elected by member banks. Of the six elected by member banks, three represent the public and three represent member banks. Member banks are divided into three classes according to size. Member banks in each class elect one director representing member banks and one representing the public. In any election of directors, each member bank receives one vote, regardless of the number of shares of Reserve Bank stock it holds.

2. Operations and Services

The System performs a variety of services and operations. Functions include: formulating and conducting monetary policy; participating actively in the payments mechanism, including large-dollar transfers of funds, automated clearinghouse operations and check processing; distribution of coin and currency; fiscal agency functions for the U.S. Treasury and certain federal agencies; serving as the federal government’s bank; providing short-term loans to depository institutions; serving the consumer and the community by providing educational materials and information regarding consumer laws; supervising bank holding companies, and state member banks; and administering other regulations of the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors’ operating costs are funded through assessments on the Reserve Banks.

The FOMC establishes policy regarding open market operations, oversees these operations, and issues authorizations and directives to the FRBNY for its execution of transactions. Authorized transaction types include direct purchase and sale of securities, matched sale-purchase transactions, the purchase of securities under agreements to resell, and the lending of U.S. government securities. Additionally, the FRBNY is authorized by the FOMC to hold balances of and to execute spot and forward foreign exchange and securities contracts in fourteen foreign currencies, maintain reciprocal currency arrangements (“F/X swaps”) with various central banks, and “warehouse” foreign currencies for the U.S. Treasury and Exchange Stabilization Fund (“ESF”) through the Reserve Banks.

3. Significant Accounting Policies

Accounting principles for entities with the unique powers and responsibilities of the nation’s central bank have not been formulated by the Financial Accounting Standards Board. The Board of Governors has developed specialized accounting principles and practices that it believes are appropriate for the significantly different nature and function of a central bank as compared to the private sector. These accounting principles and practices are documented in the “Financial Accounting Manual for Federal Reserve Banks” (“Financial Accounting Manual”),

which is issued by the Board of Governors. All Reserve Banks are required to adopt and apply accounting policies and practices that are consistent with the Financial Accounting Manual.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Accounting Manual. Differences exist between the accounting principles and practices of the System and generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"). The primary differences are the presentation of all security holdings at amortized cost, rather than at the fair value presentation requirements of GAAP, and the accounting for matched sale-purchase transactions as separate sales and purchases, rather than secured borrowings with pledged collateral, as is required by GAAP. In addition, the Bank has elected not to present a Statement of Cash Flows or a Statement of Comprehensive Income. The Statement of Cash Flows has not been included as the liquidity and cash position of the Bank are not of primary concern to the users of these financial statements. The Statement of Comprehensive Income, which comprises net income plus or minus certain adjustments, such as the fair value adjustment for securities, has not been included because as stated above the securities are recorded at amortized cost and there are no other adjustments in the determination of Comprehensive Income applicable to the Bank. Other information regarding the Bank's activities is provided in, or may be derived from, the Statements of Condition, Income, and Changes in Capital. Therefore, a Statement of Cash Flows or a Statement of Comprehensive Income would not provide any additional useful information. There are no other significant differences between the policies outlined in the Financial Accounting Manual and GAAP.

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with the Financial Accounting Manual requires management to make certain estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of income and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Unique accounts and significant accounting policies are explained below.

a. Gold Certificates

The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to issue gold certificates to the Reserve Banks to monetize gold held by the U.S. Treasury. Payment for the gold certificates by the Reserve Banks is made by crediting equivalent amounts in dollars into the account established for the U.S. Treasury. These gold certificates held by the Reserve Banks are required to be backed by the gold of the U.S. Treasury. The U.S. Treasury may reacquire the gold certificates at any time and the Reserve Banks must deliver them to the U.S. Treasury. At such time, the U.S. Treasury's account is charged and the Reserve Banks' gold certificate accounts are lowered. The value of gold for purposes of backing the gold certificates is set by law at \$42 2/9 a fine troy ounce. The Board of Governors allocates the gold certificates among Reserve Banks once a year based upon Federal Reserve notes outstanding in each District at the end of the preceding year.

b. Special Drawing Rights Certificates

Special drawing rights ("SDRs") are issued by the International Monetary Fund ("Fund") to its members in proportion to each member's quota in the Fund at the time of issuance. SDRs serve as a supplement to international monetary reserves and may be transferred from one national monetary authority to another. Under the law providing for United States participation in the SDR system, the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury is authorized to issue SDR certificates, somewhat like gold certificates, to the Reserve Banks. At such time, equivalent amounts in dollars are credited to the account established for the U.S. Treasury, and the Reserve Banks' SDR certificate accounts are increased. The Reserve Banks are required to purchase SDRs, at the direction of the U.S. Treasury, for the purpose of financing SDR certificate acquisitions or for financing exchange stabilization operations. The Board of Governors allocates each SDR transaction among Reserve Banks based upon Federal Reserve notes outstanding in each District at the end of the preceding year.

c. Loans to Depository Institutions

The Depository Institutions Deregulation and Monetary Control Act of 1980 provides that all depository institutions that maintain reservable transaction accounts or nonpersonal time deposits, as defined in Regulation D issued by the Board of Governors, have borrowing privileges at the discretion of the Reserve Banks. Borrowers execute certain lending agreements and deposit sufficient collateral before credit is extended. Loans are evaluated for collectibility, and currently all are considered collectible and fully collateralized. If any loans were deemed to be uncollectible, an appropriate reserve would be established. Interest is recorded on the accrual basis and is charged at the applicable discount rate established at least every fourteen days by the Board of Directors of the Reserve Banks, subject to review by the Board of Governors. However, Reserve Banks retain the option to impose a surcharge above the basic rate in certain circumstances. There were no outstanding loans to depository institutions at December 31, 1998 and 1997 respectively.

d. U.S. Government and Federal Agency Securities and Investments Denominated in Foreign Currencies

The FOMC has designated the FRBNY to execute open market transactions on its behalf and to hold the resulting securities in the portfolio known as the System Open Market Account (“SOMA”). In addition to authorizing and directing operations in the domestic securities market, the FOMC authorizes and directs the FRBNY to execute operations in foreign markets for major currencies in order to counter disorderly conditions in exchange markets or other needs specified by the FOMC in carrying out the System’s central bank responsibilities.

Purchases of securities under agreements to resell and matched sale-purchase transactions are accounted for as separate sale and purchase transactions. Purchases under agreements to resell are transactions in which the FRBNY purchases a security and sells it back at the rate specified at the commencement of the transaction. Matched sale-purchase transactions are transactions in which the FRBNY sells a security and buys it back at the rate specified at the commencement of the transaction.

Reserve Banks are authorized by the FOMC to lend U.S. government securities held in the SOMA to U.S. government securities dealers and to banks participating in U.S. government securities clearing arrangements, in order to facilitate the effective functioning of the domestic securities market. These securities-lending transactions are fully collateralized by other U.S. government securities. FOMC policy requires the lending Reserve Bank to take possession of collateral in amounts in excess of the market values of the securities loaned. The market values of the collateral and the securities loaned are monitored by the lending Reserve Bank on a daily basis, with additional collateral obtained as necessary. The securities loaned continue to be accounted for in the SOMA.

Foreign exchange contracts are contractual agreements between two parties to exchange specified currencies, at a specified price, on a specified date. Spot foreign contracts normally settle two days after the trade date, whereas the settlement date on forward contracts is negotiated between the contracting parties, but will extend beyond two days from the trade date. The FRBNY generally enters into spot contracts, with any forward contracts generally limited to the second leg of a swap/warehousing transaction.

The FRBNY, on behalf of the Reserve Banks, maintains renewable, short-term F/X swap arrangements with authorized foreign central banks. The parties agree to exchange their currencies up to a pre-arranged maximum amount and for an agreed upon period of time (up to twelve months), at an agreed upon interest rate. These arrangements give the FOMC temporary access to foreign currencies that it may need for intervention operations to support the dollar and give the partner foreign central bank temporary access to dollars it may need to support its own currency. Drawings under the F/X swap arrangements can be initiated by either the FRBNY or the partner foreign central bank, and must be agreed to by the drawee. The F/X swaps are structured so that the party initiating the transaction (the drawer) bears the exchange rate risk upon maturity. The FRBNY will generally invest the foreign currency received under an F/X swap in interest-bearing instruments.

Warehousing is an arrangement under which the FOMC agrees to exchange, at the request of the Treasury, U.S. dollars for foreign currencies held by the Treasury or ESF over a limited period of time. The purpose of the warehousing facility is to supplement the U.S. dollar resources of the Treasury and ESF for financing purchases of foreign currencies and related international operations.

In connection with its foreign currency activities, the FRBNY, on behalf of the Reserve Banks, may enter into contracts which contain varying degrees of off-balance sheet market risk, because they represent contractual commitments involving future settlement, and counter-party credit risk. The FRBNY controls credit risk by obtaining credit approvals, establishing transaction limits, and performing daily monitoring procedures.

While the application of current market prices to the securities currently held in the SOMA portfolio and investments denominated in foreign currencies may result in values substantially above or below their carrying values, these unrealized changes in value would have no direct effect on the quantity of reserves available to the banking system or on the prospects for future Reserve Bank earnings or capital. Both the domestic and foreign components of the SOMA portfolio from time to time involve transactions that can result in gains or losses when holdings are sold prior to maturity. However, decisions regarding the securities and foreign currencies transactions, including their purchase and sale, are motivated by monetary policy objectives rather than profit. Accordingly, earnings and any gains or losses resulting from the sale of such currencies and securities are incidental to the open market operations and do not motivate its activities or policy decisions.

U.S. government and federal agency securities and investments denominated in foreign currencies comprising the SOMA are recorded at cost, on a settlement-date basis, and adjusted for amortization of premiums or accretion of discounts on a straight-line basis. Interest income is accrued on a straight-line basis and is reported as “Interest on U.S. government securities” or “Interest on foreign currencies,” as appropriate. Income earned on securities lending transactions is reported as a component of “Other income.” Gains and losses resulting from sales of securities are determined by specific issues based on average cost. Gains and losses on the sales of U.S. government and federal agency securities are reported as “Government securities gains, net.” Foreign currency denominated assets are revalued monthly at current market exchange rates in order to report these assets in U.S. dollars. Realized and unrealized gains and losses on investments denominated in foreign currencies are

reported as "Foreign currency gains (losses), net." Foreign currencies held through F/X swaps, when initiated by the counter party, and warehousing arrangements are revalued monthly, with the unrealized gain or loss reported by the FRBNY as a component of "Other assets" or "Other liabilities," as appropriate.

Balances of U.S. government and federal agencies securities bought outright, investments denominated in foreign currency, interest income, amortization of premiums and discounts on securities bought outright, gains and losses on sales of securities, and realized and unrealized gains and losses on investments denominated in foreign currencies, excluding those held under an F/X swap arrangement, are allocated to each Reserve Bank. Securities purchased under agreements to resell and the related premiums, discounts and income, and unrealized gains and losses on the revaluation of foreign currency holdings under F/X swaps and warehousing arrangements are allocated to the FRBNY and not to other Reserve Banks. Income from securities lending transactions is recognized only by the lending Reserve Bank.

e. Bank Premises and Equipment

Bank premises and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis over estimated useful lives of assets ranging from 2 to 50 years. New assets, major alterations, renovations and improvements are capitalized at cost as additions to the asset accounts. Maintenance, repairs and minor replacements are charged to operations in the year incurred.

f. Interdistrict Settlement Account

At the close of business each day, all Reserve Banks and branches assemble the payments due to or from other Reserve Banks and branches as a result of transactions involving accounts residing in other Districts that occurred during the day's operations. Such transactions may include funds settlement, check clearing and automated clearinghouse ("ACH") operations, and allocations of shared expenses. The cumulative net amount due to or from other Reserve Banks is reported as the "Interdistrict settlement account."

g. Federal Reserve Notes

Federal Reserve notes are the circulating currency of the United States. These notes are issued through the various Federal Reserve agents to the Reserve Banks upon deposit with such Agents of certain classes of collateral security, typically U.S. government securities. These notes are identified as issued to a specific Reserve Bank. The Federal Reserve Act provides that the collateral security tendered by the Reserve Bank to the Federal Reserve Agent must be equal to the sum of the notes applied for by such Reserve Bank. In accordance with the Federal Reserve Act, gold certificates, special drawing rights certificates, U.S. government and agency securities, loans allowed under Section 13, and investments denominated in foreign currencies are pledged as collateral for net Federal Reserve notes outstanding. The collateral value is equal to the book value of the collateral tendered, with the exception of securities, whose collateral value is equal to the par value of the securities tendered. The Board of Governors may, at any time, call upon a Reserve Bank for additional security to adequately collateralize the Federal Reserve notes. To satisfy its obligation to provide sufficient collateral for its outstanding Federal Reserve notes, the Reserve Banks have entered into an agreement that provides that certain assets of the Reserve Banks are jointly pledged as collateral for the Federal Reserve notes of all Reserve Banks. In the event that this collateral is insufficient, the Federal Reserve Act provides that Federal Reserve notes become a first and paramount lien on all the assets of the Reserve Banks. Finally, as obligations of the United States, Federal Reserve notes are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government.

The "Federal Reserve notes outstanding, net" account represents Federal Reserve notes reduced by cash held in the vaults of the Bank of \$9,343 million, and \$6,713 million at December 31, 1998 and 1997, respectively.

h. Capital Paid-in

The Federal Reserve Act requires that each member bank subscribe to the capital stock of the Reserve Bank in an amount equal to 6% of the capital and surplus of the member bank. As a member bank's capital and surplus changes, its holdings of the Reserve Bank's stock must be adjusted. Member banks are those state-chartered banks that apply and are approved for membership in the System and all national banks. Currently, only one-half of the subscription is paid-in and the remainder is subject to call. These shares are nonvoting with a par value of \$100. They may not be transferred or hypothecated. By law, each member bank is entitled to receive an annual dividend of 6% on the paid-in capital stock. This cumulative dividend is paid semiannually. A member bank is liable for Reserve Bank liabilities up to twice the par value of stock subscribed by it.

i. Surplus

The Board of Governors requires Reserve Banks to maintain a surplus equal to the amount of capital paid-in as of December 31. This amount is intended to provide additional capital and reduce the possibility that the Reserve Banks would be required to call on member banks for additional capital. Reserve Banks are required by the Board of Governors to transfer to the U.S. Treasury excess earnings, after providing for the costs of operations, payment of dividends, and reservation of an amount necessary to equate surplus with capital paid-in. Payments made after September 30, 1998 represent payment of interest on Federal Reserve notes outstanding.

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-66, Section 3002) codified the existing Board surplus policies as statutory surplus transfers, rather than as payments of interest on Federal Reserve notes, for federal government fiscal years 1998 and 1997 (which began on October 1, 1997 and 1996, respectively). In addition, the legislation directed the Reserve Banks to transfer to the U.S. Treasury additional surplus funds of \$107 million and \$106 million during fiscal years 1998 and 1997, respectively. Reserve Banks were not permitted to replenish surplus for these amounts during this time. The Reserve Banks made these transfers on October 1, 1997 and October 1, 1996, respectively. The Bank's share of the 1997 transfer is reported as "Statutory surplus transfer to the U.S. Treasury."

In the event of losses, payments to the U.S. Treasury are suspended until such losses are recovered through subsequent earnings. Weekly payments to the U.S. Treasury vary significantly.

j. Cost of Unreimbursed Treasury Services

The Bank is required by the Federal Reserve Act to serve as fiscal agent and depository of the United States. By statute, the Department of the Treasury is permitted, but not required, to pay for these services. The costs of providing fiscal agency and depository services to the Treasury Department that have been billed but will not be paid are reported as the "Cost of unreimbursed Treasury services."

k. Taxes

The Reserve Banks are exempt from federal, state, and local taxes, except for taxes on real property, which are reported as a component of "Occupancy expense."

4. U.S. Government and Federal Agency Securities

Securities bought outright and held under agreements to resell are held in the SOMA at the FRBNY. An undivided interest in SOMA activity, with the exception of securities held under agreements to resell and the related premiums, discounts and income, is allocated to each Reserve Bank on a percentage basis derived from an annual settlement of interdistrict clearings. The settlement, performed in April of each year, equalizes Reserve Bank gold certificate holdings to Federal Reserve notes outstanding. The Bank's allocated share of SOMA balances was approximately 7.877% and 9.515% at December 31, 1998 and 1997, respectively.

The Bank's allocated share of securities held in the SOMA at December 31, that were bought outright, were as follows (in millions):

	1998	1997
Par value:		
Federal agency	\$ 27	\$ 65
U.S. government:		
Bills	15,343	18,756
Notes	14,801	16,575
Bonds	5,473	5,652
Total par value	35,644	41,048
Unamortized premiums	582	590
Unaccreted discounts	(252)	(344)
Total allocated to Bank	\$35,974	\$41,294

Total SOMA securities bought outright were \$456,667 million and \$434,001 million at December 31, 1998 and 1997, respectively.

The maturities of U.S. government and federal agency securities bought outright, which were allocated to the Bank at December 31, 1998, were as follows (in millions):

Maturities of Securities Held	Par value		Total
	U.S. Government Securities	Federal Agency Obligations	
Within 15 days	\$ 91	\$—	\$ 91
16 days to 90 days	7,809	2	7,811
91 days to 1 year	11,315	6	11,321
Over 1 year to 5 years	8,486	5	8,491
Over 5 years to 10 years	3,531	14	3,545
Over 10 years	4,385	—	4,385
Total	\$35,617	\$27	\$35,644

At December 31, 1998, and 1997, matched sale-purchase transactions involving U.S. government securities with par values of \$20,927 million and \$17,027 million, respectively, were outstanding, of which \$1,648 million and \$1,620 million were allocated to the Bank. Matched sale-purchase transactions are generally overnight arrangements.

5. Investments Denominated in Foreign Currencies

The FRBNY, on behalf of the Reserve Banks, holds foreign currency deposits with foreign central banks and the Bank for International Settlements and invests in foreign government debt instruments. Foreign government debt instruments held include both securities bought outright and securities held under agreements to resell. These investments are guaranteed as to principal and interest by the foreign governments.

Each Reserve Bank is allocated a share of foreign-currency-denominated assets, the related interest income, and realized and unrealized foreign currency gains and losses, with the exception of unrealized gains and losses on F/X swaps and warehousing transactions. This allocation is based on the ratio of each Reserve Bank's capital and surplus to aggregate capital and surplus at the preceding December 31. The Bank's allocated share of investments denominated in foreign currencies was approximately 15.499% and 6.906% at December 31, 1998 and 1997, respectively.

The Bank's allocated share of investments denominated in foreign currencies, valued at current exchange rates at December 31, were as follows (in millions):

	1998	1997
German Marks:		
Foreign currency deposits	\$1,620	\$ 571
Government debt instruments including agreements to resell	368	222
Japanese Yen:		
Foreign currency deposits	103	40
Government debt instruments including agreements to resell	960	338
Accrued interest	15	6
Total	\$3,066	\$1,177

Total investments denominated in foreign currencies were \$19,769 million and \$17,046 million at December 31, 1998 and 1997, respectively, which include \$15 million and \$3 million in unearned interest for 1998 and 1997 respectively, collected on certain foreign currency holdings that is allocated solely to the FRBNY.

The maturities of investments denominated in foreign currencies which were allocated to the Bank at December 31, 1998, were as follows (in millions):

Maturities of Investments Denominated in Foreign Currencies	
Within 1 year	\$2,917
Over 1 year to 5 years	77
Over 5 years to 10 years	72
Total	\$3,066

At December 31, 1998 and 1997, there were no open foreign exchange contracts or outstanding F/X swaps.

At December 31, 1998, the warehousing facility was \$5,000 million, with nothing outstanding.

6. Bank Premises and Equipment

A summary of bank premises and equipment at December 31 is as follows (in millions):

	1998	1997
Bank premises and equipment:		
Land	\$ 16	\$ 16
Buildings	115	115
Building machinery and equipment	32	31
Construction in progress	3	1
Furniture and equipment	288	310
	454	473
Accumulated depreciation	(253)	(256)
Bank premises and equipment, net	\$201	\$217

Depreciation expense was \$44 million and \$61 million for the years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997, respectively.

Bank premises and equipment at December 31 include the following amounts for leases that have been capitalized (in millions):

	1998	1997
Bank premises and equipment	\$86	\$77
Accumulated depreciation	(77)	(66)
Capitalized leases, net	\$ 9	\$11

The Bank leases unused space to outside tenants. Those leases have terms ranging from 1 to 3 years. Rental income from such leases was \$1.4 million and \$1.3 million for the years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997, respectively. Future minimum lease payments under agreements in existence at December 31, 1998, were (in millions):

1999	\$1.2
2000	1.0
2001	0.9
	\$3.1

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7. Commitments and Contingencies

At December 31, 1998, the Bank was obligated under noncancelable leases for premises and equipment with terms ranging from 1 to approximately 6 years. These leases provide for increased rentals based upon increases in real estate taxes, operating costs or selected price indices.

Rental expense under operating leases for certain operating facilities, warehouses, and data processing and office equipment (including taxes, insurance and maintenance when included in rent), net of sublease rentals, was \$37 million and \$38 million for the years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997, respectively. Certain of the Bank's leases have options to renew.

Future minimum rental payments under noncancelable operating leases and capital leases, net of sublease rentals, with terms of one year or more, at December 31, 1998, were (in millions):

	Operating	Capital
1999	\$1.3	\$0.7
2000	0.9	0.5
2001	0.6	0.4
2002	0.3	—
2003	0.2	—
Thereafter	0.1	—
	\$3.4	1.6
Less: Amount representing interest		(0.1)
Present value of net minimum lease payment		\$1.5

At December 31, 1998, there were no other commitments and long-term obligations in excess of one year.

Under the Insurance Agreement of the Federal Reserve Banks dated as of June 7, 1994, each of the Reserve Banks has agreed to bear, on a per incident basis, a pro rata share of losses in excess of 1% of the capital of the claiming Reserve Bank, up to 50% of the total capital and surplus of all Reserve Banks. Losses are borne in the ratio that a Reserve Bank's capital bears to the total capital of all Reserve Banks at the beginning of the calendar year in which the loss is shared. No claims were outstanding under such agreement at December 31, 1998 or 1997.

The Bank is involved in certain legal actions and claims arising in the ordinary course of business. Although it is difficult to predict the ultimate outcome of these actions, in management's opinion, based on discussions with counsel, the aforementioned litigation and claims will be resolved without material adverse effect on the financial position or results of operations of the Bank.

8. Retirement and Thrift Plans

Retirement Plans

The Bank currently offers two defined benefit retirement plans to its employees, based on length of service and level of compensation. Substantially all of the Bank's employees participate in the Retirement Plan for Employees of the Federal Reserve System ("System Plan") and the Benefit Equalization Retirement Plan ("BEP"). The System Plan is a multi-employer plan with contributions fully funded by participating employers. No separate accounting is maintained of assets contributed by the participating employers. The Bank's projected benefit obligation and net pension costs for the BEP at December 31, 1998 and 1997, and for the years then ended, are not material.

Thrift plan

Employees of the Bank may also participate in the defined contribution Thrift Plan for Employees of the Federal Reserve System ("Thrift Plan"). The Bank's Thrift Plan contributions totaled \$3 million and \$4 million for the years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997, respectively, and are reported as a component of "Salaries and other benefits."

9. Postretirement Benefits Other Than Pensions and Postemployment Benefits

Postretirement benefits other than pensions:

In addition to the Bank's retirement plans, employees who have met certain age and length of service requirements are eligible for both medical benefits and life insurance coverage during retirement.

The Bank funds benefits payable under the medical and life insurance plans as due and, accordingly, has no plan assets. Net postretirement benefit cost is actuarially determined using a January 1 measurement date.

Following is a reconciliation of beginning and ending balances of the benefit obligation (in millions):

	1998	1997
Accumulated postretirement benefit obligation at January 1	\$54.1	\$54.9
Service cost-benefits earned during the period	1.8	1.6
Interest cost of accumulated benefit obligation	3.9	3.7
Actuarial loss (gain)	9.3	(4.4)
Contributions by plan participants	0.3	0.3
Benefits paid	(2.2)	(2.0)
Plan amendments, acquisitions, foreign currency exchange rate changes, business combinations, divestitures, curtailments, settlements, special termination benefits	—	—
Accumulated postretirement benefit obligation at December 31	\$67.2	\$54.1

Following is a reconciliation of the beginning and ending balance of the plan assets, the unfunded postretirement benefit obligation, and the accrued postretirement benefit cost (in millions):

	1998	1997
Fair value of plan assets at January 1	\$ —	\$ —
Actual return on plan assets	—	—
Contributions by the employer	1.9	1.7
Contributions by plan participants	0.3	0.3
Benefits paid	(2.2)	(2.0)
Fair value of plan assets at December 31	\$ —	\$ —
Unfunded postretirement benefit obligation	\$67.2	\$54.1
Unrecognized initial net transition asset (obligation)	—	(1.4)
Unrecognized prior service cost	0.7	0.6
Unrecognized net actuarial gain (loss)	(12.7)	(1.8)
Accrued postretirement benefit cost	\$55.2	\$51.5

Accrued postretirement benefit cost is reported as a component of "Accrued benefit cost."

The weighted-average assumption used in developing the postretirement benefit obligation as of December 31 is as follows:

	1998	1997
Discount rate	6.25%	7.00%

For measurement purposes, an 8.5% annual rate of increase in the cost of covered health care benefits was assumed for 1999. Ultimately, the health care cost trend rate is expected to decrease gradually to 4.75% by 2006, and remain at that level thereafter.

Assumed health care cost trend rates have a significant effect on the amounts reported for health care plans. A one percentage point change in assumed health care cost trend rates would have the following effects for the year ended December 31, 1998 (in millions):

	1 Percentage Point Increase	1 Percentage Point Decrease
Effect on aggregate of service and interest cost components of net periodic postretirement benefit cost	\$ 1.2	\$ (1.1)
Effect on accumulated postretirement benefit obligation	13.0	(12.2)

The following is a summary of the components of net periodic postretirement benefit cost for the years ended December 31 (in millions):

	1998	1997
Service cost-benefits earned during the period	\$1.8	\$1.6
Interest cost of accumulated benefit obligation	3.9	3.7
Amortization of prior service cost	—	—
Recognized net actuarial loss	—	—
Net periodic postretirement benefit cost	\$5.7	\$5.3

Net periodic postretirement benefit cost is reported as a component of "Salaries and other benefits."

Postemployment benefits:

The Bank offers benefits to former or inactive employees. Postemployment benefit costs are actuarially determined and include the cost of medical and dental insurance, survivor income, and disability benefits. Costs were projected using the same discount rate and health care trend rates as were used for projecting postretirement costs. The accrued postemployment benefit costs recognized by the Banks at December 31, 1998 and 1997, were \$8.8 million and \$7.6 million, respectively. This cost is included as a component of "Accrued benefit cost." Net periodic postemployment benefit costs included in 1998 and 1997 operating expenses were \$1.9 million and \$1.8 million, respectively.

Summary of Operations

(UNAUDITED)

	DOLLAR AMOUNT		VOLUME	
	1998	1997	1998	1997
Cash				
Currency received and counted	30.9 Billion	35.8 Billion	2.5 Billion	2.5 Billion
Currency destroyed	7.0 Billion	8.2 Billion	609.5 Million	711.9 Million
Coin bags received and counted	71.5 Million	106.7 Million	124.5 Thousand	184.4 Thousand

Noncash Payments

Commercial checks processed	1.2 Trillion	1.0 Trillion	1.6 Billion	1.5 Billion
Commercial checks, packaged items handled	494.2 Billion	274.3 Billion	783.2 Million	578.1 Million
U.S. government checks processed	62.2 Billion	76.3 Billion	35.7 Million	43.6 Million
Automated Clearing House transactions:				
Commercial	650.5 Billion	586.2 Billion	178.0 Million	150.8 Million
Government	347.3 Billion	382.1 Billion	17.8 Million	17.6 Million
Fedwire funds transfers	18.7 Trillion	18.5 Trillion	9.9 Million	7.8 Million

Loans to Depository Institutions

Discount window loans made	2.0 Billion	3.5 Billion	39	33
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Securities Services

Safekeeping balance of book-entry securities as of December 31	278.0 Billion	180.1 Billion	N/A	N/A
Fedwire securities transfers	10.1 Trillion	5.2 Trillion	674.9 Thousand	489.5 Thousand

Services to U.S. Treasury and Government Agencies

Issues, redemptions and exchanges of U.S. savings bonds	760.2 Million	935.0 Million	8.8 Million	8.6 Million
Federal tax deposits processed	239.8 Million	263.5 Million	10.9 Thousand	12.4 Thousand
Food stamps redeemed	902.7 Million	1.1 Billion	176.1 Million	211.2 Million

N/A = not applicable