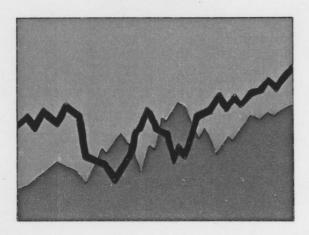
The original documents are located in Box 38, folder "Weekly Briefing Notes, 12/15/1975" of the William J. Baroody Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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WEEKLY BRIEFING NOTES ON U.S. DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS

Prepared for the President and the Vice President

December 15, 1975



COMPILED BY THE FEDERAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

Coordinated by the Bureau of the Census at the request of the Statistical Policy Division, Office of Management and Budget

Vincent P. Barabba, Director Bureau of the Census

Joseph W. Duncan,
Deputy Associate Director
for Statistical Policy
Office of Management and Budget



SOURCES OF DATA

Index of Help Wanted Advertising

The Conference Board

Average Workweek

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment and Earnings Statistics for the United States"

Hourly Earnings of Production Workers

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment and Earnings Statistics for the United States"

Work Stoppages

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Retail Sales

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Monthly Retail Trade Report"

Wholesale Trade

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Monthly Wholesale Trade Report"

Housing Construction

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Construction Reports," Series C

Money Stock

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Statistical Release H.6, "Money Stock Measures"

Consumer Credit

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Statistical Release G.19, "Consumer Credit"

Business Loans

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, "Business Conditions Digest"

Interest Rates

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, "Business Conditions Digest"

Health

U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, National Center for Health Statistics, Vital and Health Statistics Series 10, No. 102, "Acute Conditions, Incidence and Associated Disability, July 1973-June 1974"

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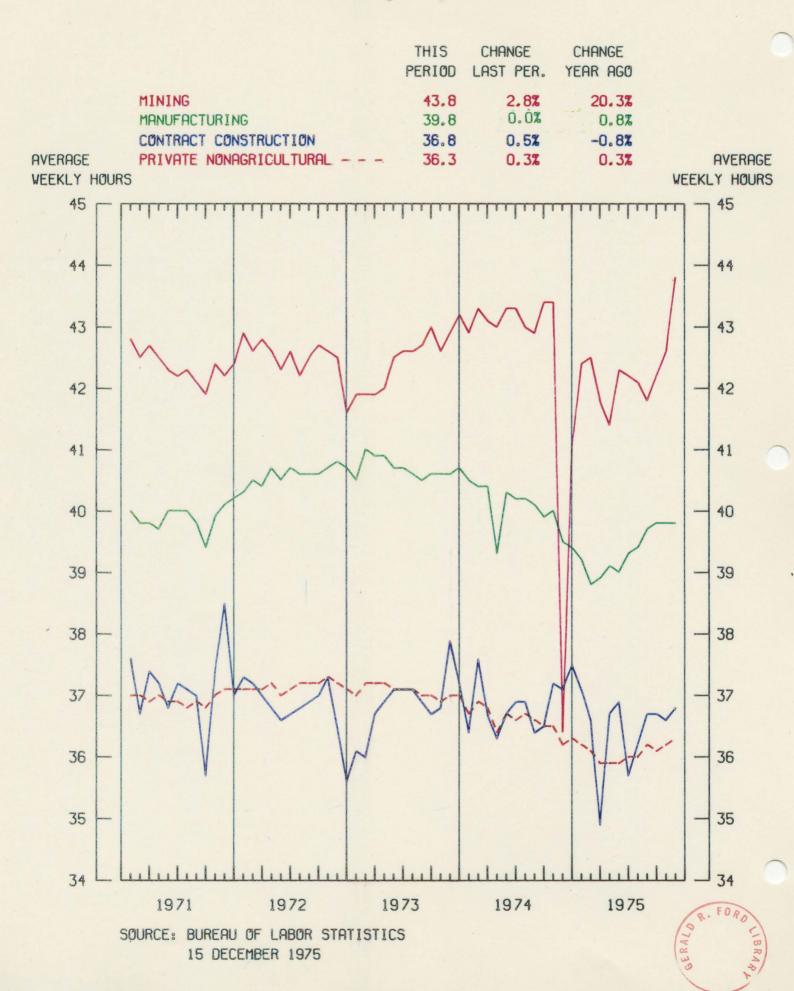
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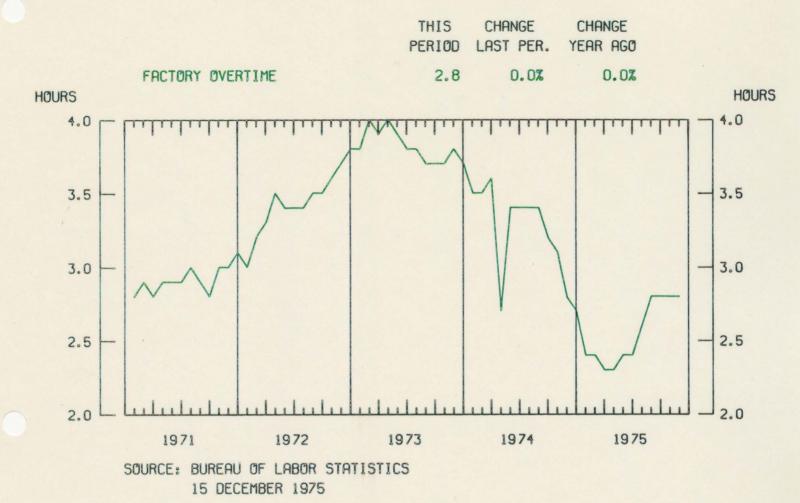
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D.3.4					X X	-	
SECT	ION E—Selected Subjects						J
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A.3.1 - Average Workweek



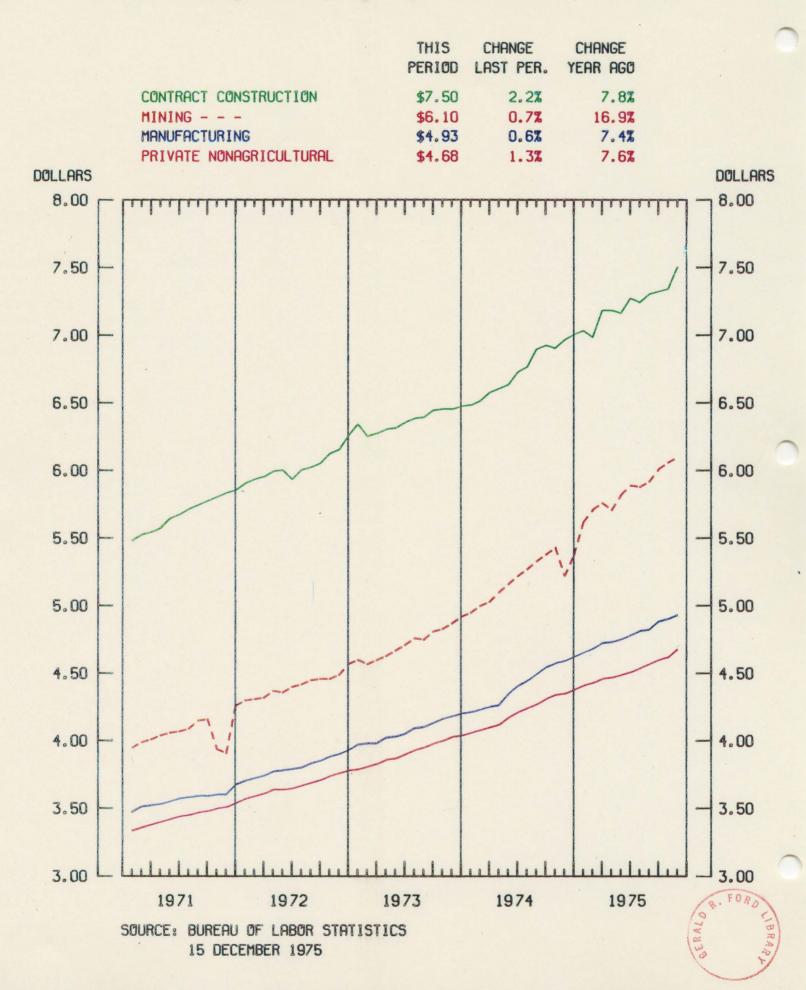
A.3.1 - Average Overtime Hours in Manufacturing



- The Average Workweek of production or nonsupervisory workers on nonfarm payrolls edged up 0.1 hour in October to 36.3.
 - Highest level since December 1974.
 - Majority of gain attributed to 1.2 hour increase in mining, which reached a record high of 43.8 hours.
 - Manufacturing held constant at 39.8 hours for the third consecutive month.
- Factory Overtime has stabilized over the past four months at 2.8 hours.



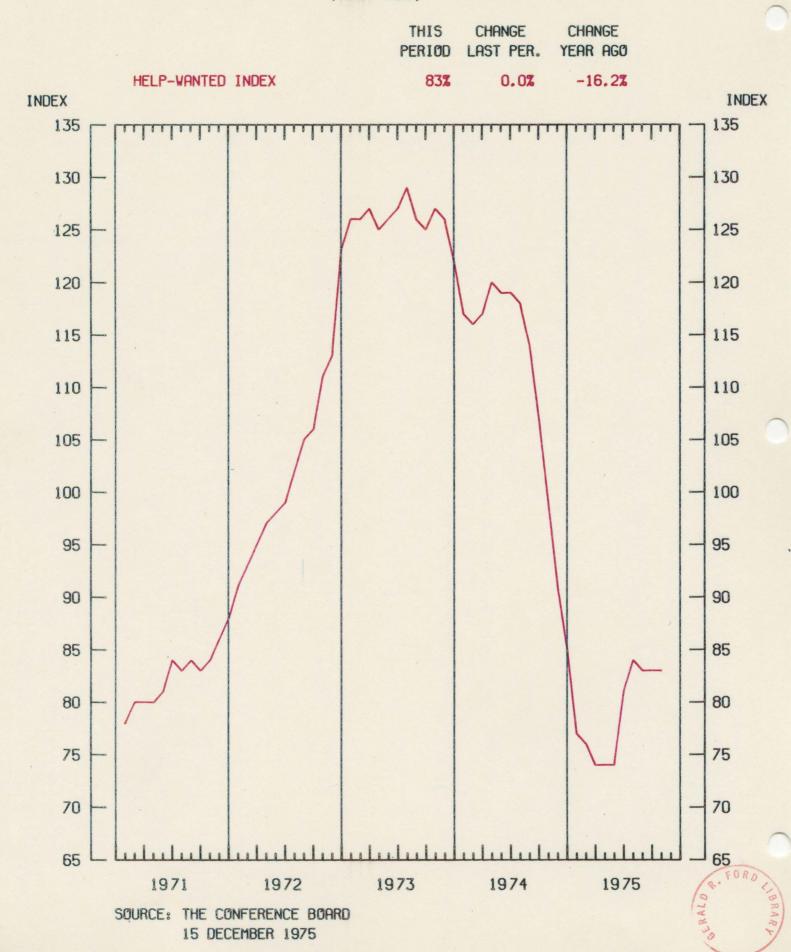
A.3.2 - Average Hourly Earnings of Production Workers



- Average Hourly Earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers increased a record 6 cents an hour in November, surpassing the previous high of 5 cents in May 1974.
- Contract Construction, up 16 cents, posted the largest gain for November.
 - Second highest increase on record, not quite matching the 20 cents per hour gain established in March of this year.
- Mining moved up another 4 cents per hour in November.
- Manufacturing increased 3 cents per hour.



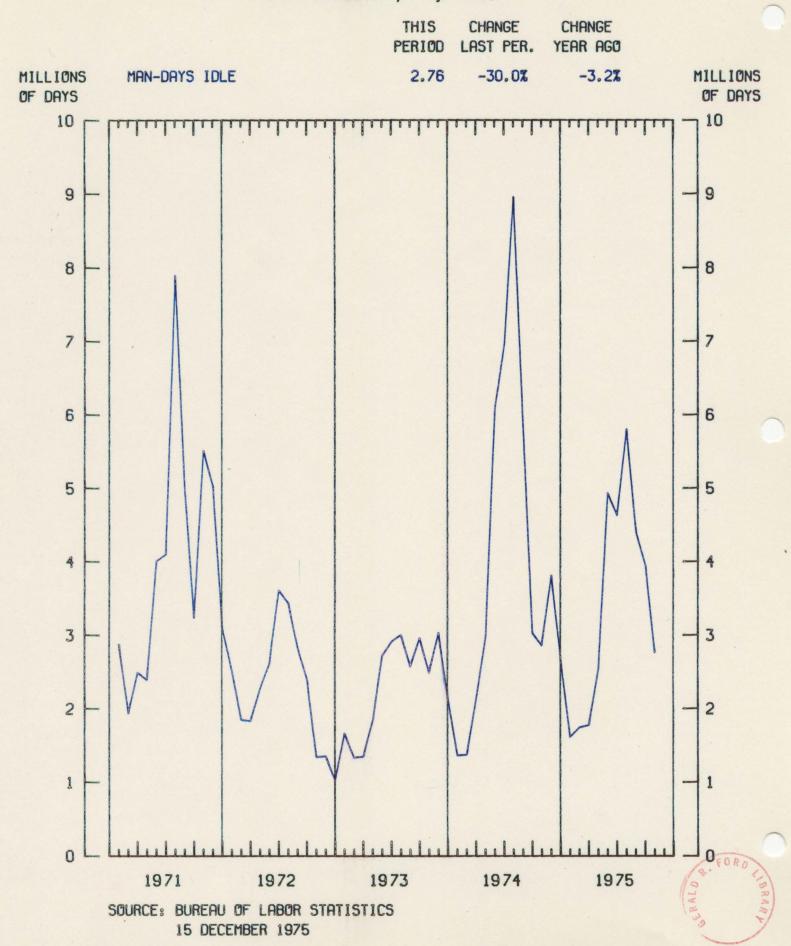
A.2.5 - Index of Help-Wanted Advertising (1967=100)



- The Index of Help-Wanted Advertising remained steady in October at 83 percent.
 - Since the June increase of 9.5 percent, the Index has remained virtually unchanged.
 - •Still 30 percent below the 1974 high of 120 percent recorded in April of that year.

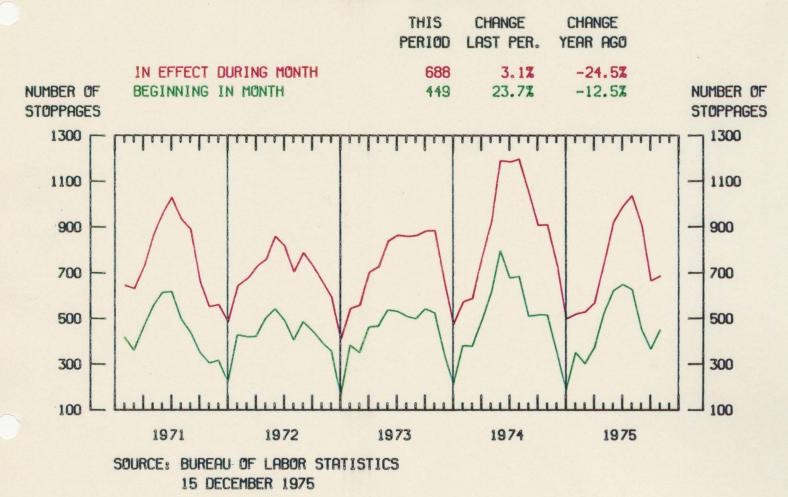


A.3.5 - Days Idle As A Result of Work Stoppages
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



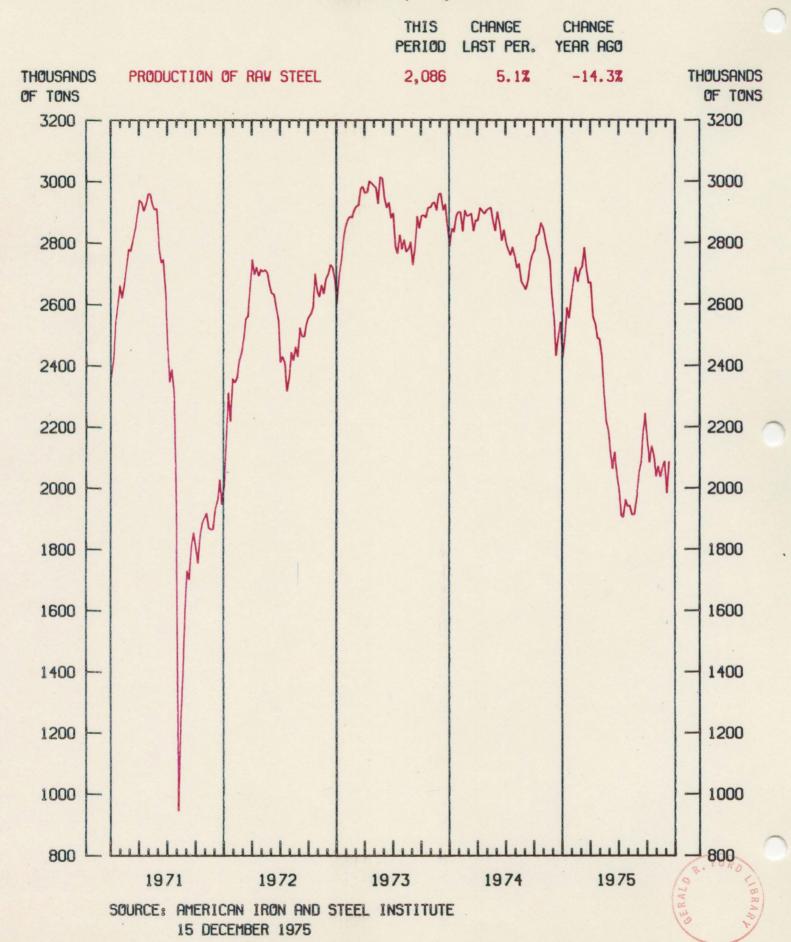
A.3.5 - Number of Work Stoppages

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



- The number of Man-Days Idle continued to fall in October.
 - Third consecutive monthly decline.
 - Down 52.4 percent from the peak of 5.8 million days recorded in July.
- The number of Work Stoppages in Effect During the Month edged up slightly in October after dropping 35.8 percent since the July peak of 1,039 stoppages.
- Contrary to a normal pattern of seasonal decline, the number of Work Stoppages Beginning in the Month of October jumped 23.7 percent from the September level of 363.

A.4.2 - Weekly Production of Raw Steel
Not Seasonally Adjusted



- Weekly Steel Production rebounded in the week ended December 6 to 2,086,000 tons.
 - Production increased 101,000 tons, or 5.1 percent from the November 29 level of 1,985,000 tons, lowest in fourteen weeks.
 - Down 14.3 percent from the year-ago production level of 2,433,000 tons.



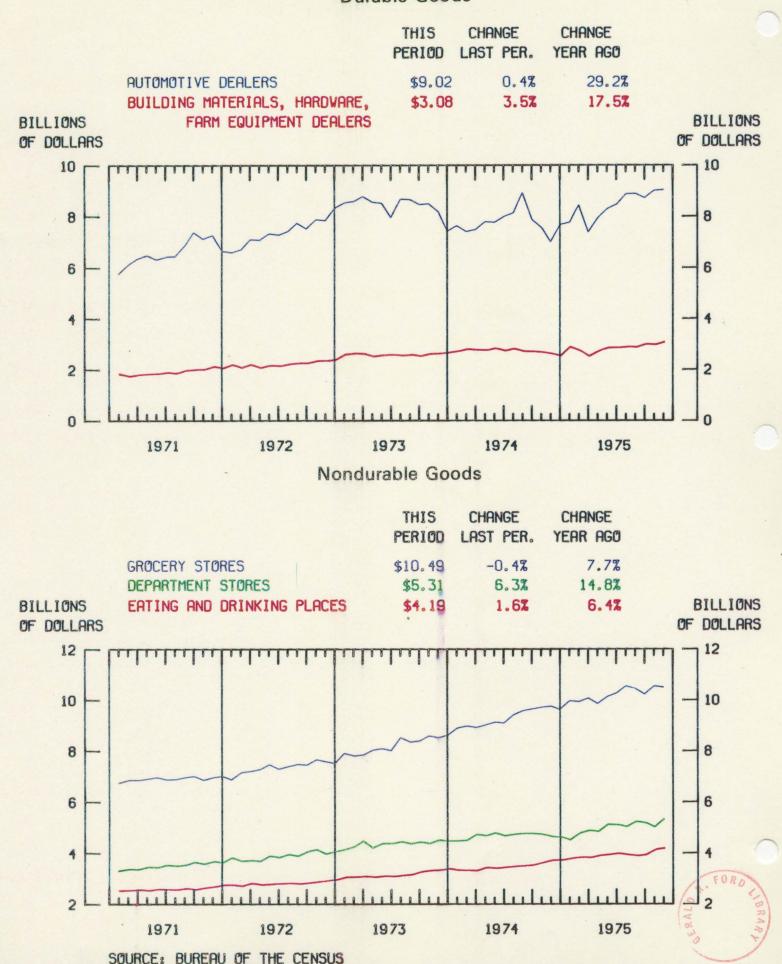
A.4.6 - Monthly Retail Sales November Advance

					THIS PERIOD	CHANGE LAST PER.	CHANGE YEAR AGO		
		TOTAL RETAIL	SALES		\$50.71	1.0%	14.0%		
			UDING AUTOMOTI	VE	\$41.69	1.2%	11.0%		
		NONDURABLE			\$34.78	1.0%	10.4%		
OF DOLLE		DURABLE GOO	US		\$15.93	1.1%	22.2%		BILLIONS DOLLARS
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		SOURCE: BUREAL	OF THE CENSU	S				RAL	N B R
		15 DEC	EMBER 1975					130	3

- Advance data for November indicate that Retail Sales increased 1 percent over the revised October figure of \$50.19 billion.
 - November Sales were up 14 percent above the year earlier \$44.53 billion, the largest year-to-year gain in 28 months.
 - The year-to-year increase substantially tops the 7.6 percent rise in consumer prices over the past year, indicating that the physical volume of sales last month was well ahead of November 1974.
- Nondurable Goods Sales continued to increase, rising 1.0 percent from October, equalling the average monthly gain over the past eleven months.
- Durable Goods Sales grew 1.1 percent over the revised October figure of \$15.76 billion.
 - A 22.2 percent increase from last November's depressed level.



A.4.6 - Monthly Retail Sales Durable Goods

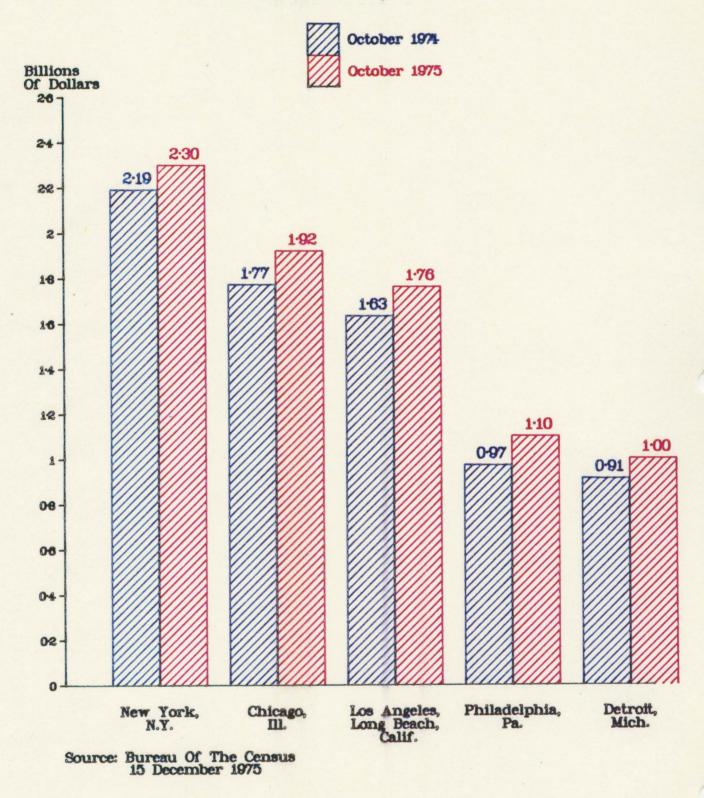


15 DECEMBER 1975

- The November Sales gain reflected nearly equal increases in both Durable and Nondurable Goods.
 - A 3.5 percent advance in Sales of Building Materials, Hardware and Farm Equipment Dealers accounted for over 60 percent of the gain in Durable Goods.
 - Automotive Dealers posted a modest 0.4 percent increase which pushed Total Sales above \$9 billion for the first time.
 - More than 50 percent of the advance in Nondurable Goods was accounted for by a large 6.3 percent rise in Department Store Sales.
 - Restaurant Receipts rose for the third straight month, up 1.6 percent from October and 6.4 percent from last year.
 - Partially offsetting was a 0.4 percent decline in Grocery Store Sales.



A.4.6 - Retail Sales for Selected Metropolitan Areas October Preliminary

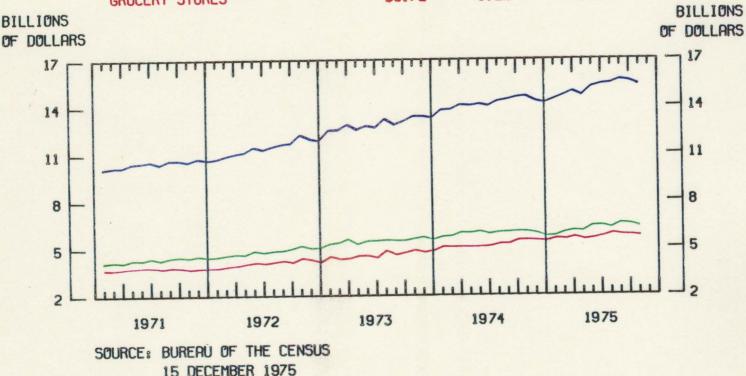




A.4.6 - Retail Sales of Chain Stores

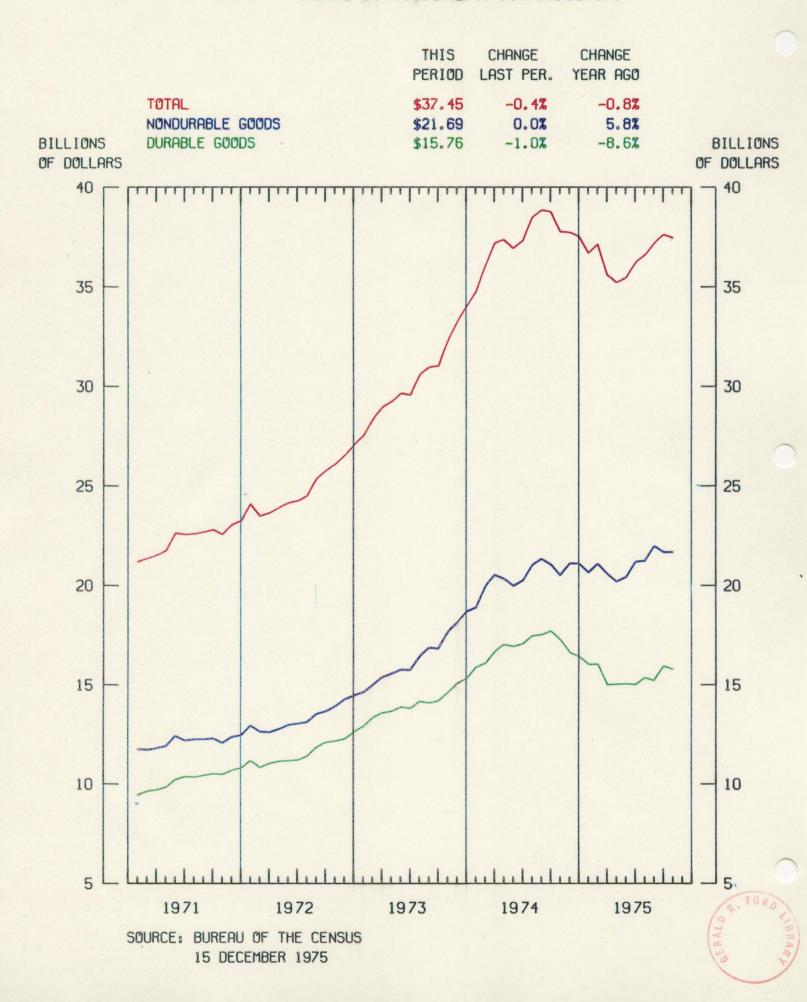
Eleven or More Stores

	THIS PERIOD	CHANGE LAST PER.	CHANGE YEAR AGO
CHAIN STORES	\$15.31	-1.4%	4.9%
GENERAL MERCHANDISE, TOTAL	\$6.30	-2.3%	5.0%
GROCERY STORES	\$5.72	-1.2%	4.3%



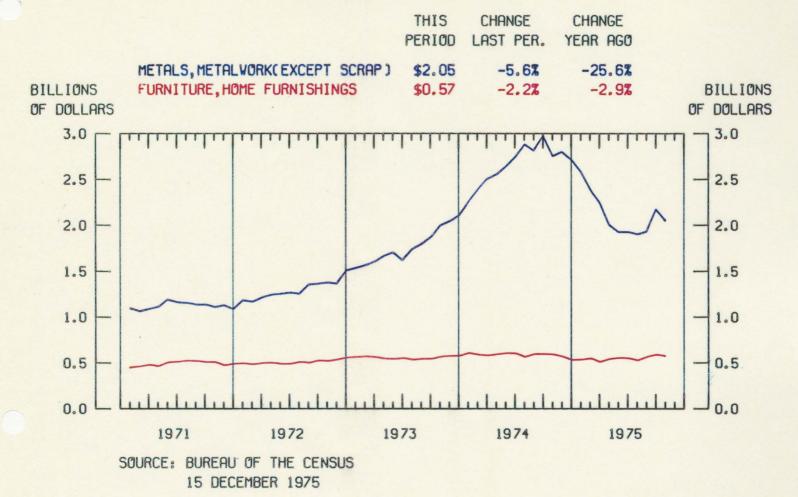
- Among the selected metropolitan areas, Retail Sales in Philadelphia rose 13.8 percent over last year.
 - Detroit and Chicago followed with 9.7 percent and 8.7 percent, respectively.
- Los Angeles increased 7.7 percent, while New York gained 4.8 percent.
- Chain Store Sales declined again this month, down 1.4 percent to \$25.32 billion.
 - The decrease reflected declines in General Merchandise Stores, which dropped 2.3 percent, and Grocery Stores which slid for the third straight month.

A.4.7 - Sales of Merchant Wholesalers



A.4.7 - Sales of Merchant Wholesalers

Components of Durable Goods

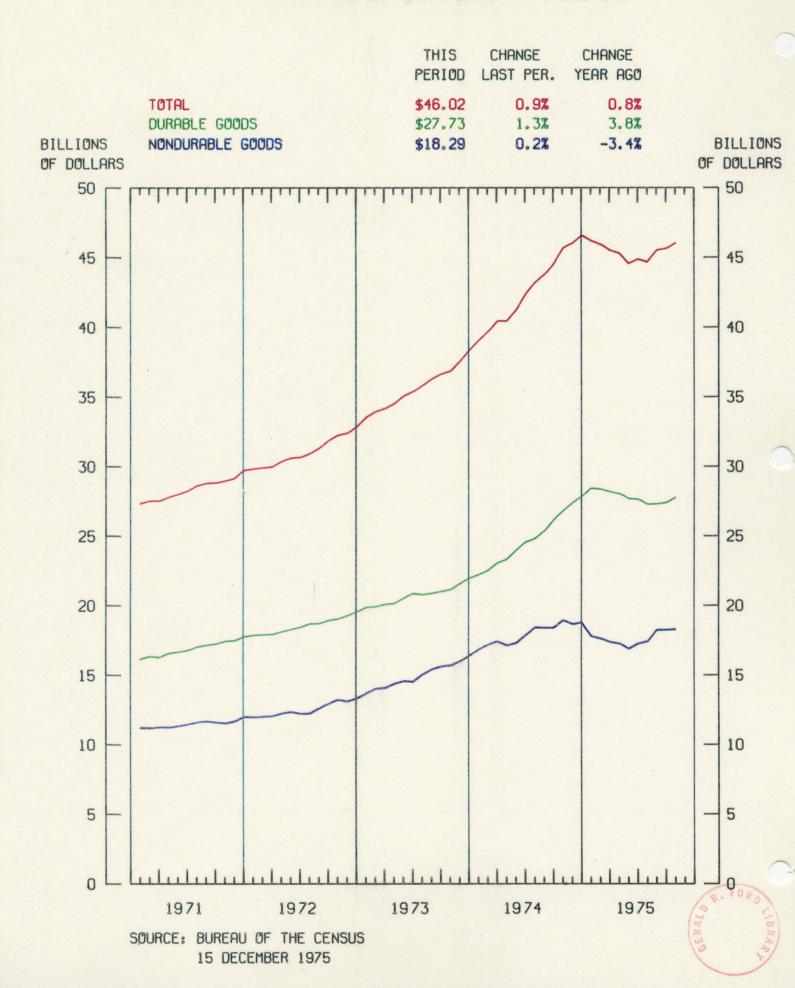


- October Sales of Merchant Wholesalers were \$37.45 billion, down 0.4 percent.
 - Halted a six-month rise which began in May, totalling 6.3 percent.
- The overall decline was due to a 1 percent drop in Durable Goods Sales.
 - Metals, Metalwork (Except Scrap) fell 5.6 percent, following a two-month increase of 14.1 percent.
 - Furniture, Home Furnishings declined for the first time in three months, down 2.2 percent.



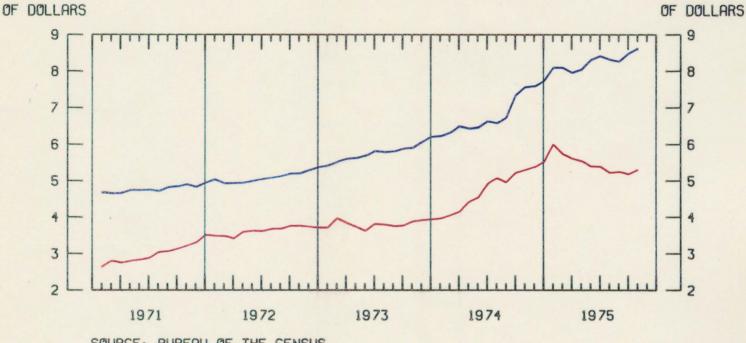
Nondurable Goods Sales remained unchanged from September's level of \$21.69 billion, after declining 1.3 percent in September.

A.4.7 - Inventories of Merchant Wholesalers



A.4.7 - Inventories of Merchant Wholesalers Components of Durable Goods

		1112	CHHNGE	CHHNGE	
		PERIOD	LAST PER.	YEAR AGO	
	MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES	\$8.62	1.6%	14.0%	
	MOTOR VEHICLES, AUTOMOTIVE EQUIP	. \$5.30	2.2%	-1.4%	
BILLIONS					



BILLIONS

SOURCE: BUREAU OF THE CENSUS 15 DECEMBER 1975

- Inventories of Merchant Wholesalers, which have increased in four of the past five months, were up another 0.9 percent in October.
 - 1.2 percent below the high in December 1974.
- Durable Goods accounted for the bulk of the overall increase, rising
 1.3 percent in October.
 - Machinery, Equipment, Supplies rose for the second straight month, continuing its general upward trend.
 - Rose 1.6 percent to a high of \$8.62 billion.
 - Motor Vehicles, Automotive Equipment rose 2.2 percent following an eight-month downward trend totalling 13.6 percent.

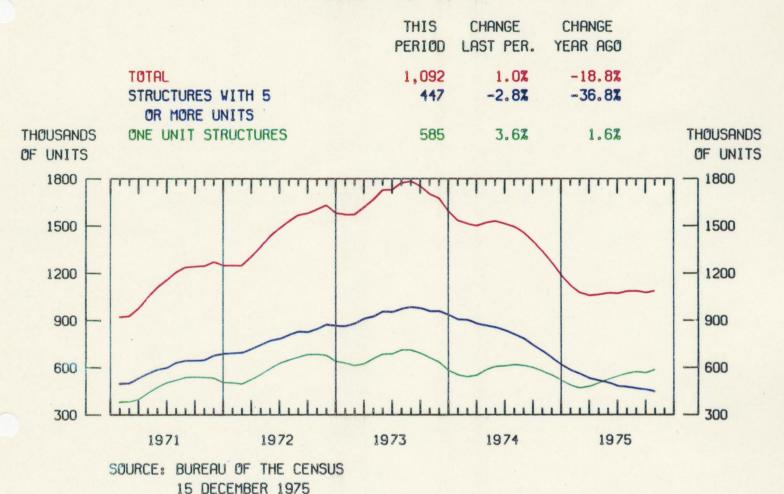
A.7.1 - New Housing Units Completed

Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates



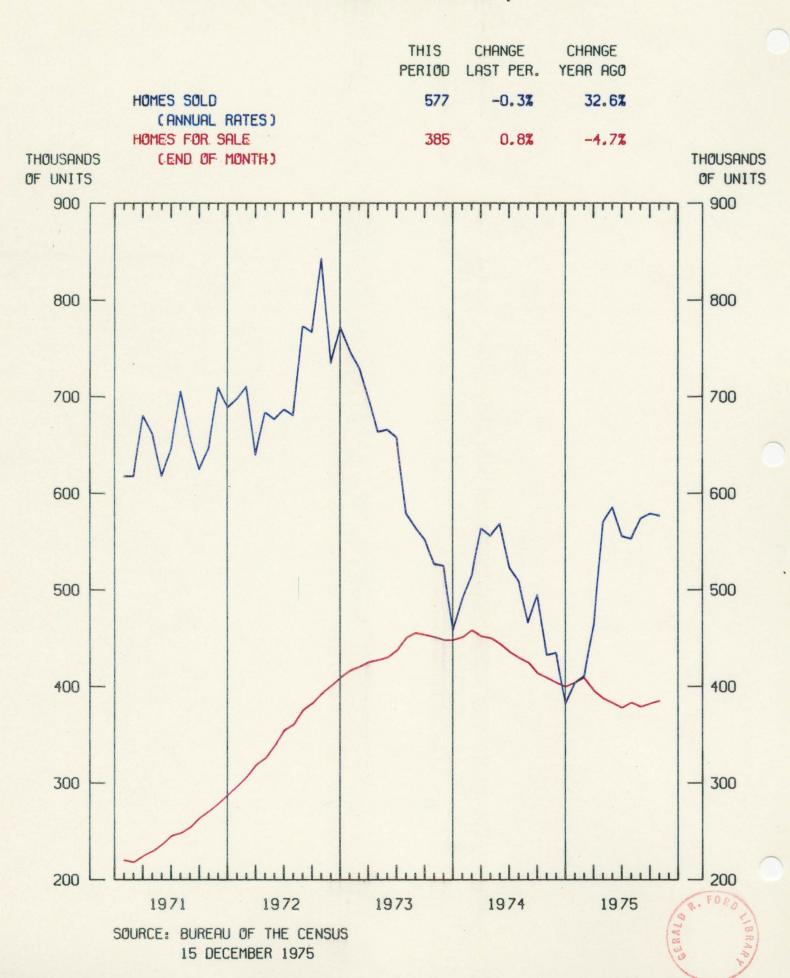
A.7.1 - New Housing Units Under Construction

Not Seasonally Adjusted

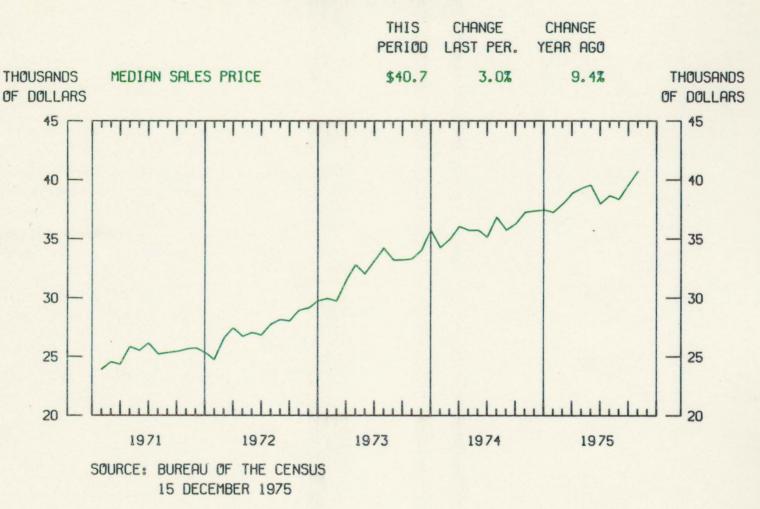


- After remaining relatively flat in August and September, Total Housing Units Completed dropped 14.0 percent in October, spurred by the dropoff in One-Unit Structures.
 - One-Unit Completions fell 24.9 percent to 717,000 units, the largest monthly decline on record and the lowest level since March 1970.
 - 5 or More Units improved in October, recording the largest onemonth gain since December 1972.
- Total Units Under Construction showed little change in October.
 - Have remained within the narrow range of 1.06 to 1.09 million units since February 1975.
 - The rise in One-Unit Structures continued to offset the decline in Multi-Unit Structures.

A.7.1 - Sales of New One-Family Homes

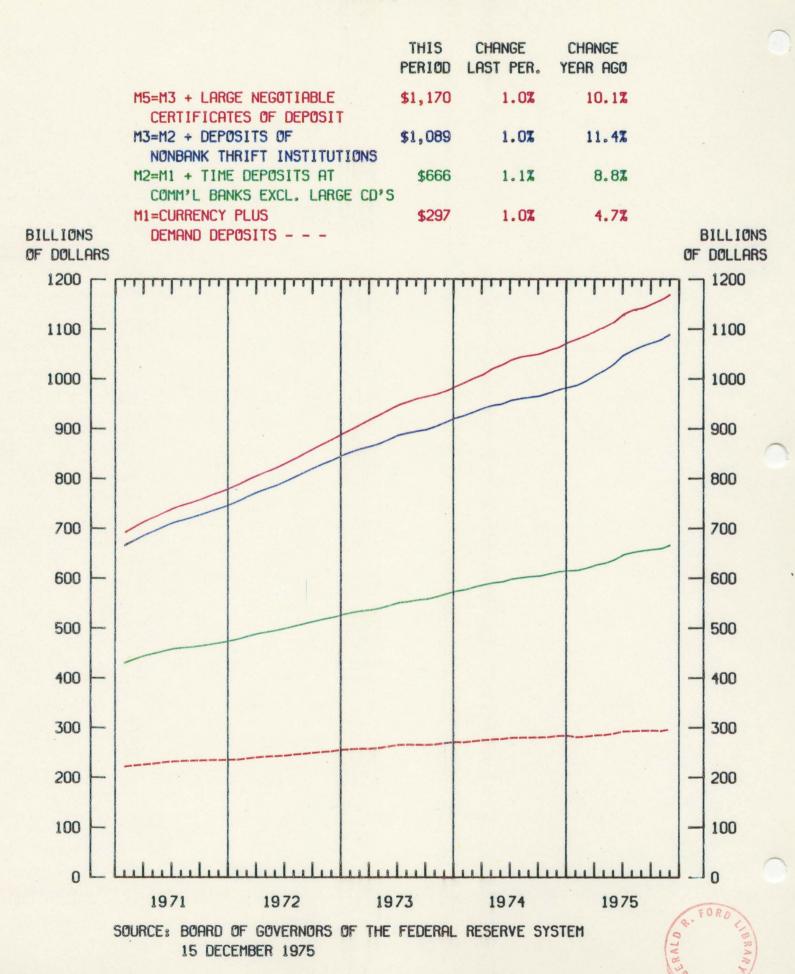


A.7.1 - Prices of New One-Family Homes Not Seasonally Adjusted



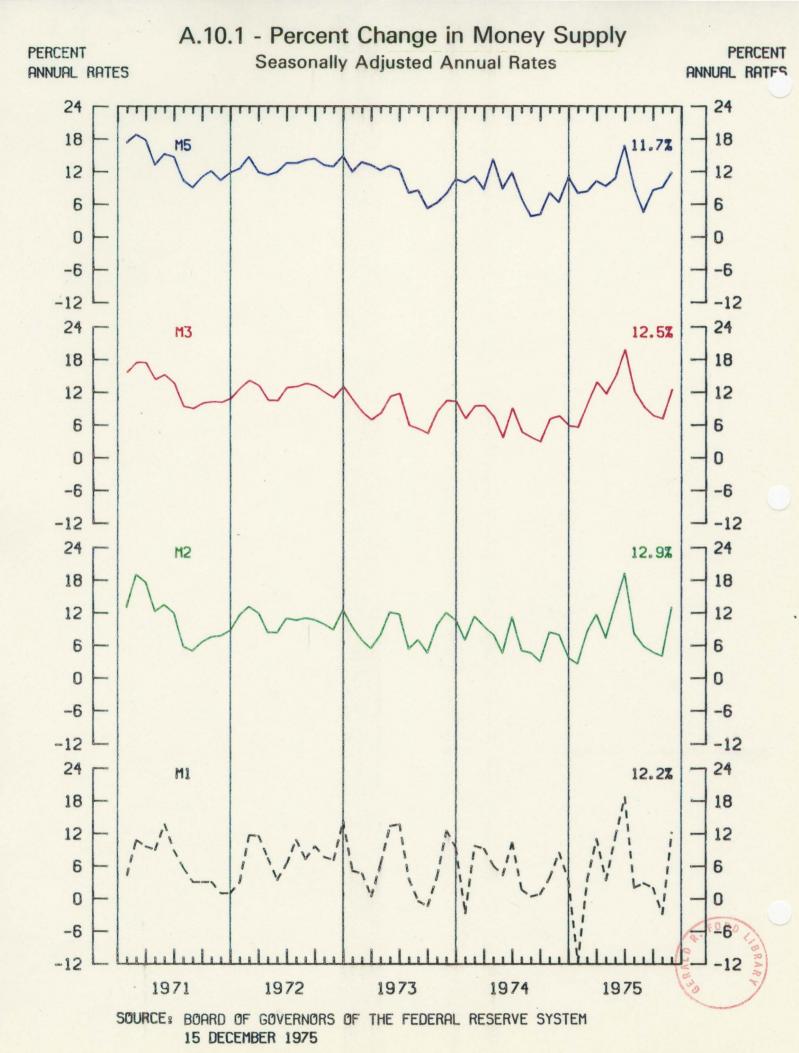
- The number of Homes Sold in October was virtually unchanged, dropping a marginal 0.3 percent.
 - 32.6 percent above October 1974 when 433,000 units were sold.
 - Since April, the number of Homes Sold has fluctuated within a range of 550-590 thousand.
- Homes for Sale in October increased 0.8 percent to 385,000 units, the highest since April when 388,000 homes were on the market.
 - The current Inventory of Homes for Sale represents an 8.2 month's supply at the October sales rate.
- The Median Sales Price reached a new record high of \$40,700 in October, surpassing the previous high of \$39,500 set in May and September, 1975.

A.10.1 - Money Stock Measures



- In November all aggregate measures of the Money Stock posted the largest growth rates since June.
 - M1 increased \$3.0 billion compared to a \$0.7 billion decline in October.
 - M2 rose \$7.1 billion, the largest absolute increase since June.
 - M3 and M5 both were up more than \$11 billion.





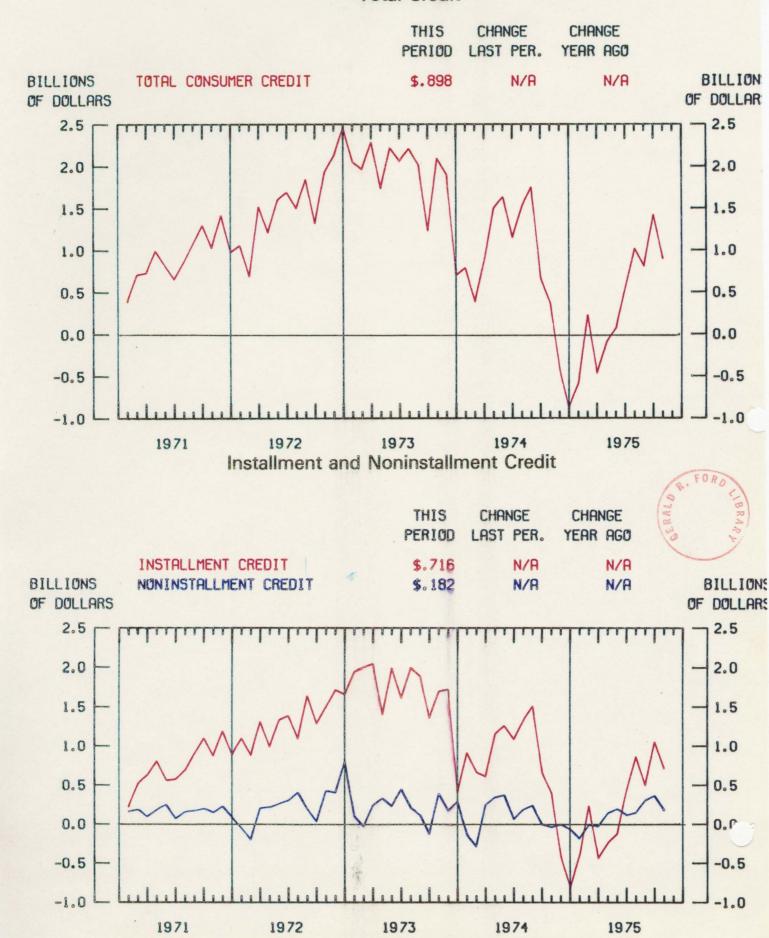
- The growth rates of the major monetary aggregates increased sharply in November following four months of diminishing gains.
 - For the three months ended in November, Money Stock growth slowed compared with the previous three-month period.

Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rates (Percent)

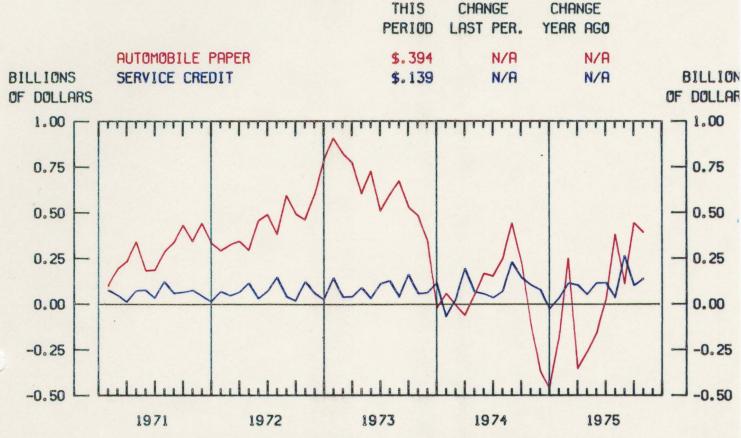
	June-August	September-November
• M1	7.9	3.8
• M2	11.2	7.3
• M3	14.0	9.2
• M5	10.2	9.8



A.10.3 - Net Change in Consumer Credit Outstanding Total Credit



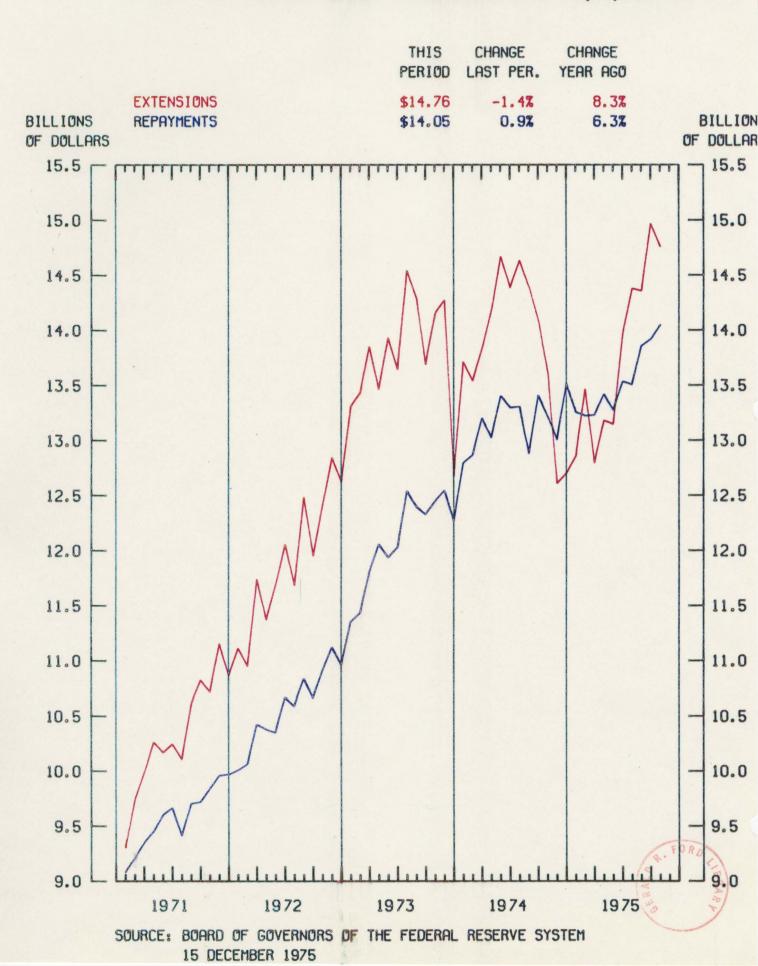
A.10.3 - Net Change in Consumer Credit Outstanding Selected Components of Installment and Noninstallment Credit



SOURCE: BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
15 DECEMBER 1975

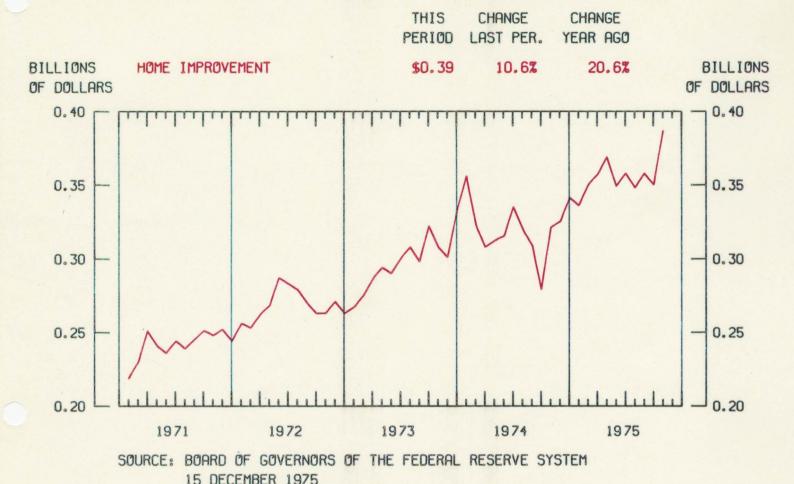
- Consumers added \$898 million to their outstanding credit in October, down from the \$1.43 billion in September.
 - Continued the pattern of sharp fluctuations of recent months.
- The slower growth in Installment Credit Outstanding during October occurred in all major types of credit.
 - Although Automobile Paper rose \$394 million, compared with an increase of \$446 million in September, it was still at a 14-month high.
- The increase in Noninstallment Credit slowed to \$182 million in October, following a three-month pickup.
 - Service Credit was the only type of credit to extend September's gain, adding \$139 million in October.

A.10.3 - Consumer Credit Extensions and Repayments



A.10.3 - Consumer Installment Credit

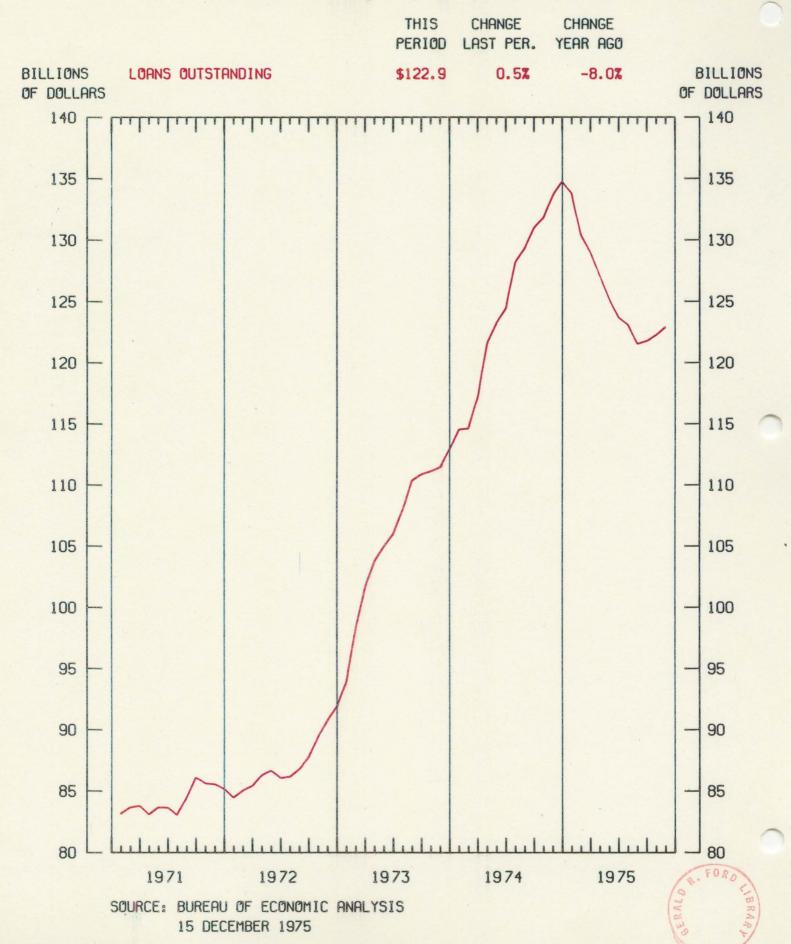
Selected Components of Repayments



- Extensions of Consumer Installment Credit dropped 1.4 percent from the September high of \$14.97 billion.
- Repayment of Installment Debt continued at a high level, with individuals liquidating a record \$14.05 billion in consumer obligations.
 - Up 0.9 percent from the record high in September.
 - After four months of narrow fluctuation, Repayments of Home Improvement Debt rose 10.6 percent in October to a record high of \$387 million.
 - •4.9 percent above the previous high in April.



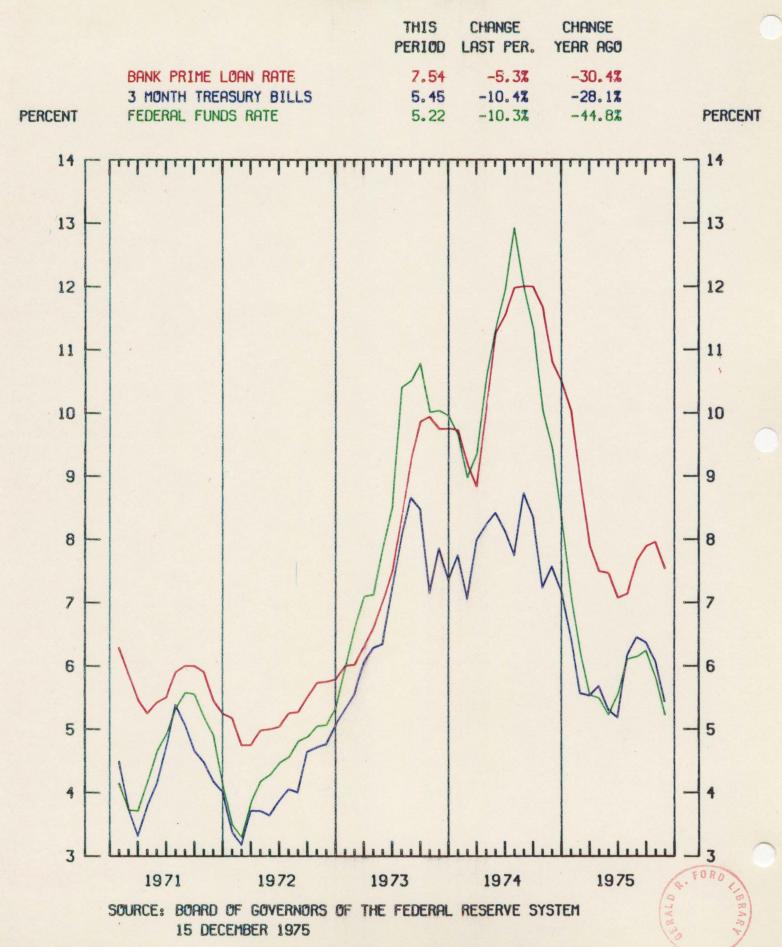
A.10.6 - Commercial and Industrial Loans Outstanding Weekly Reporting Large Commercal Banks



- After declining for the first eight months of 1975, Commercial and Industrial Loans Outstanding recorded the third consecutive monthly increase in November, up 0.5 percent to \$122.9 billion.
 - Up 1.1 percent from August when loans were at the lowest level since April 1974.
 - Down 8.8 percent from the high posted in December of \$134.8 billion.



A.10.7 - Short-Term Interest Rates Not Seasonally Adjusted

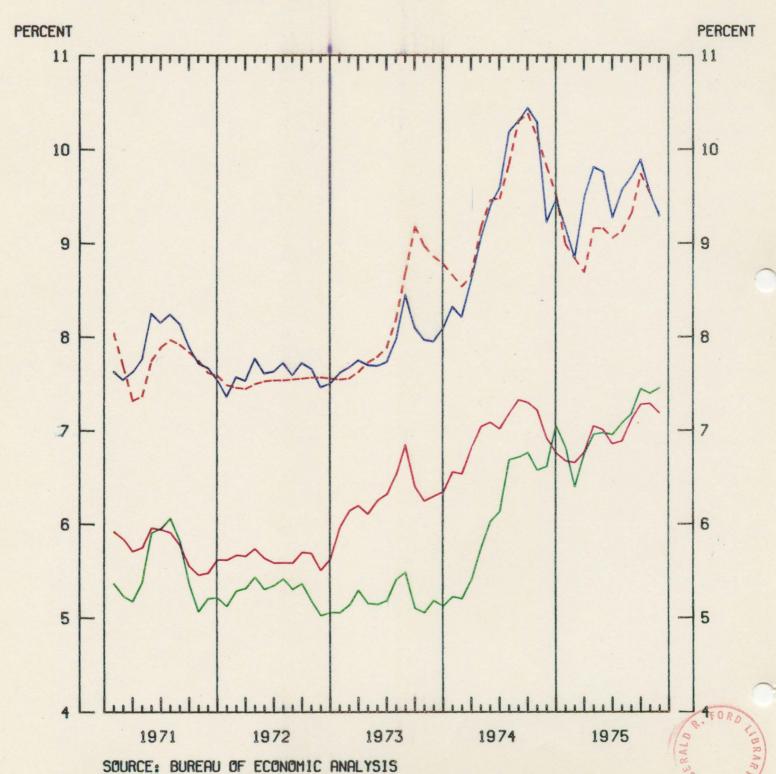


- The Average Prime Rate Charged By Banks declined to 7.54 percent in November, reversing a four-month upswing begun in July.
 - Up 6.5 percent from the two-year low of 7.08 percent established in June.
- Rates on 3-Month Treasury Bills declined for the third straight month approaching the two and one-half year low recorded in June.
 - Down 37.6 percent from the August 1974 peak of 8.74 percent.
- The Federal Funds Rate declined for the second month in a row to 5.22 percent equalling the May low.



A.10.7 - Long-Term Interest Rates Not Seasonally Adjusted

	THIS	CHANGE	CHANGE
	PERIOD	LAST PER.	YEAR AGO
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE YIELDS	9.53	-2.2%	-5.9%
CORPORATE AAA BONDS	9,29	-2.6%	0.8%
LONG-TERM TREASURY BONDS	7.19	-1.4%	3.8%
HIGH-GRADE MUNICIPAL BONDS	7.45	0.8%	12.7%



15 DECEMBER 1975

- Residential Mortgage Yields* declined for the first time since June.
 - Down 2.2 percent from the 1975 high of 9.74 recorded in September.
- Yields on Corporate AAA Bonds dropped for the second month in a row in November.
 - Down 11.0 percent from the September 1974 high of 10.44 percent.
- Long-Term Treasury Bond Yields declined for the first time in five months.
 - Up 3.8 percent from last November when rates were in the midst of a seven-month decline.
- Municipal Bond Yields matched September's record high of 7.45 percent after declining 0.7 percent in October.

*Data only available through October.

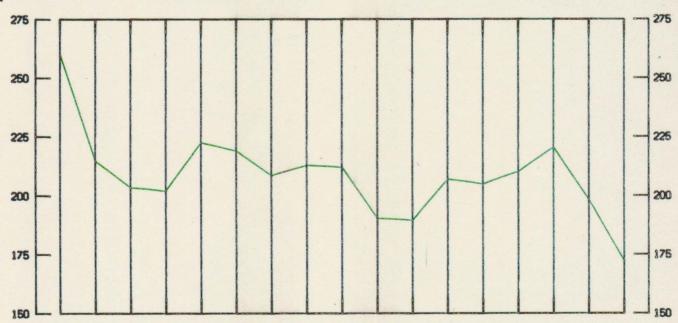


B.3.2 - Incidence of Acute Conditions: 1957-58 to 1973-74 (Rate per 100 persons per year)

THIS CHANGE CHANGE PERIOD LAST PER. YEAR AGO

RATE

INCIDENCE OF ACUTE CONDITIONS 172.0 N/A -13.2%
RATE



1959 1959 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974

B.3.2 - Incidence of Acute Conditions: 1964-65 to 1973-74

(Rate per 100 persons per year)

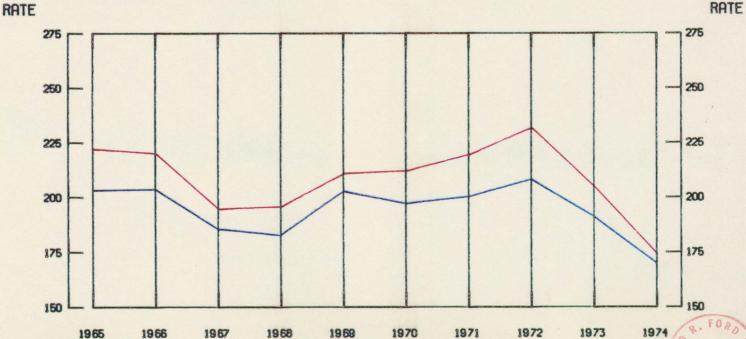
THIS CHANGE CHANGE
PERIOD LAST PER. YEAR AGO

EMALE

174.1 N/A -14.9%

 FEMALE
 174.1
 N/A
 -14.9%

 MALE
 169.7
 N/A
 -11.2%



SOURCE: NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS
15 DECEMBER 1975

- Between July 1973 and June 1974 an estimated 355 million acute illnesses or injuries involving medical attention or restriction of usual daily activity occurred among the U.S. civilian population not confined in institutions.
- While the incidence rate of 172.0 per 100 persons appears to be the lowest reported in the Health Interview Survey since its inception in 1957, this decline may only be the result of a slight change in the content of the survey questionnaire.
- Regardless of the apparent decline, the difference in rates by sex that is usually present in these data was not evident in this year's incidence rates.
 - Over the past 10 years the incidence rate for females exceeded that for males by a substantial margin, however in 1973-74 the difference of 4.4 percentage points was not statistically significant.

NOTE: Acute conditions included in these estimates are conditions which had their onset during the two weeks prior to the interview week and which involved either medical attention or restricted activity, with the exception of certain conditions such as heart trouble or diabetes which are always considered chronic regardless of duration or onset.



B.3.2 - Incidence of Acute Conditions: 1964-65 to 1973-74

By Age

		THIS CHANGE PERIOD LAST PER.	CHANGE YEAR AGO	
	UNDER 6 YEARS 6 - 16 YEARS		-11.6% -7.4%	
	17 - 44 YEARS 45 - 64 YEARS	170.2 N/A 98.3 N/A		
	65 YEARS AND OVER	75.7 N/A		
RATE				RATE
400		CONTROL TO THE		100
350				350
				300
300				300
300				7300
			1	, ,
		+	- 1	
260 —				— 250
200				200
150				150
100 -	1 1 1+-	+		100
50 —				50
٥				O TURD
15	965 1966 1967 1968 1969	1970 1971 19	972 1973 1974	BRAA
	SOURCE: NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALT			10 E
	15 DECEMBER 1975	5111151165		

- The incidence of acute conditions per 100 persons per year followed the usual pattern of declining with advancing age.
 - Persons 65 years and over suffered less than half the number of acute conditions as persons 17 to 44 years of age and about one-fourth as many incidents as children under 6 years of age.



B.3.3 - Disability Days: 1964-65 to 1973-74

(Rate per 100 persons per year)

THIS

CHANGE

CHANGE

		PERIOD LAST PER.	YEAR AGO	
	RESTRICTED ACTIVITY DAYS LOST FROM SCHOOL BED DISABILITY	922.2 N/A 493.2 N/A 400.4 N/A	0.6% 12.0% 0.7%	
	DAYS LOST FROM WORK	355.8 N/A		
RATE				RATE
960				950
900				900
860				- 850 ,
800				800
750				750
700			-	700
650				650
550				- 550
500			1	- 500
450				450
400				- 400
350		1		350
300				- 300 FOR
250	1965 1966 1967 1968 19	69 1970 1971 19	372 1973 197	250 V.

SOURCE: NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

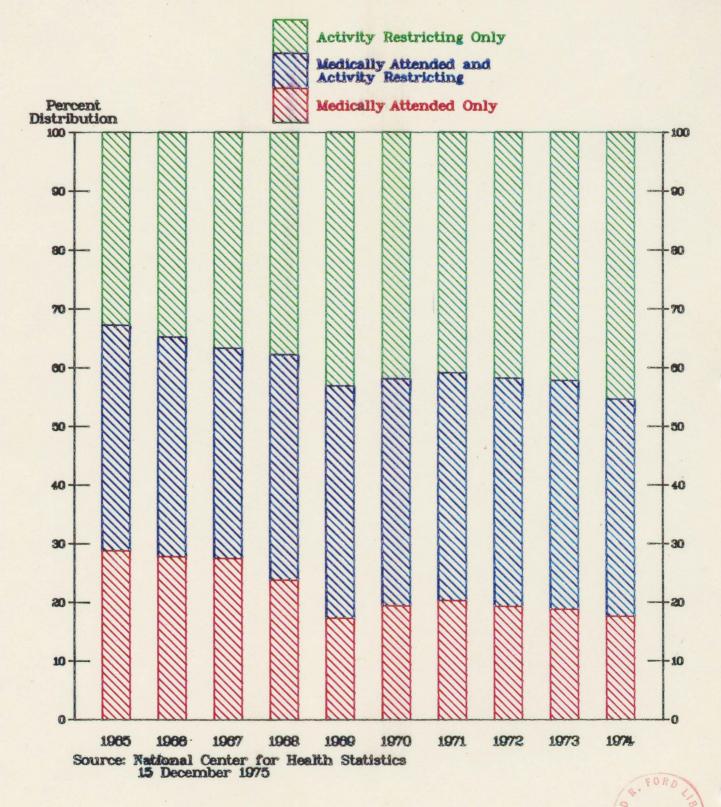
15 DECEMBER 1975

- The rates of days of restricted activity and bed disability and days of work lost per 100 persons currently employed remained at about the same levels as for the previous year.
 - Acute conditions caused 9.2 days of restricted activity, and 4.0 days of bed disability per person during the 12 months ending in June 1974.
- The rate of days lost from school among children 6 to 16 years of age rose about 12 percent between 1972-73 and 1973-74.



B.3.2 - Impact of Acute Conditions: 1964-65 to 1973-74

(Percent Distribution of Measures of Impact)

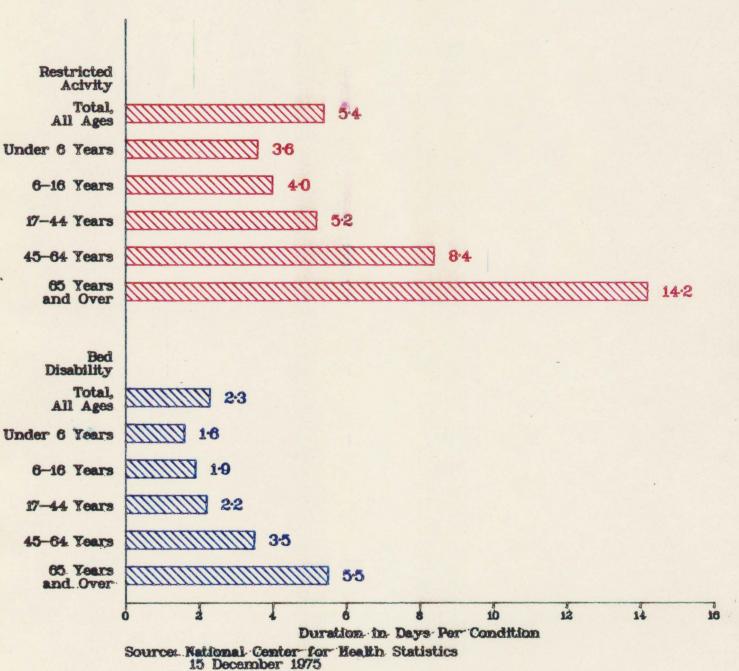


- Between July 1973 and June 1974 less than one-fifth (18 percent) of acute conditions were medically attended but did not restrict activity, down from nearly 30 percent 10 years ago.
- Nearly half (45.5 percent) of all acute conditions reported caused activity restriction but were not medically attended.
 - During recent years the percentage of these conditions with no medical attention has been increasing.
- Nearly two-fifths of the acute conditions reported in 1973-74 were both medically attended and caused restriction of normal activity.



B.3.3 - Average Duration of Disability Per Condition: 1973-74

By Age





- The average duration of disability per condition was 5.4 days of restricted activity and 2.3 days of bed disability.
 - The average duration of restricted activity and bed disability rose with age from 3.6 and 1.6 days, respectively, for children under 6 years to 14.2 and 5.5 days, respectively, for persons 65 years and over.

