The Federal Reserve’s Role in the Collection and Dissemination of Information on Interest Rates

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The Federal Reserve System collects a great number of interest rate series and publishes most of them. For only a small subset of these rate series is the Federal Reserve the primary or original compiler. This paper describes how the Fed disseminates data on interest rates and some of the practical issues that arise when publishing information collected by others. For the data where the Fed is the primary source, we describe how the data are collected.

Key Words: Interest rate series, original compiler, publishing information collected by others.