

THE BUSINESS REVIEW

THIRD FEDERAL
PHILADELPHIA



RESERVE DISTRICT
DECEMBER 1, 1925

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BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Industrial activity and the volume of wholesale and retail trade increased in October. Wholesale prices declined somewhat to the level prevailing at mid-year.

Production. The Federal Reserve Board's index of production in basic industries, which makes allowance for seasonal changes, rose by about 4 per cent in October, reflecting increases in the output of most of the 22 commodities included in the index. Particularly large increases in activity were shown for the iron and steel and textile industries, and the output of bituminous coal and of lumber was in large volume. Production of automobiles in October was the largest on record. Payrolls at factories, including industries not covered by the production index, increased in October to the highest level since early in 1924. The value of building contracts awarded declined further in October, contrary to the usual season tendency in building activity between September and October, but the total was considerably larger than in the corresponding month of any other year.

Estimates by the Department of Agriculture in November indicate a corn crop of 3,013,000 bushels and a cotton crop of 15,298,000 bales, compared with 2,437,000 bushels and 13,628,000 bales in 1924. Marketing of crops was seasonally larger

in October than in September but averaged nearly 10 per cent less than a year ago.

Trade. Wholesale trade, according to the Federal Reserve Board's combined index of sales in six leading lines, reached a seasonal peak in October and was in larger volume than for any month of the past five years. Sales at department stores and mail order houses, owing partly to favorable weather conditions, showed considerably more than the usual increase in October and were the largest on record for that month. Stocks of dry goods, shoes, and hardware at wholesale firms were smaller at the end of October than on September 30, but stocks of groceries were larger. Merchandise stocks at department stores showed slightly more than the usual increase in October, and were somewhat larger than at the end of October a year ago.

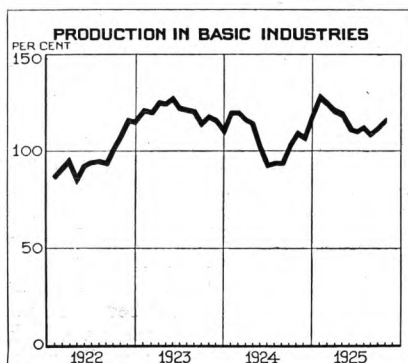
Freight car loadings reached a seasonal peak in October and totaled more than in any previous month, notwithstanding reduced shipments of anthracite and of grains and grain products.

Prices. The Bureau of Labor Statistics index of wholesale prices, after remaining relatively constant for three months, declined from 160 in September to 158 in October, reflecting declines in

the prices of agricultural products, particularly grains, livestock, meats, cotton, and sugar. Since November 1, prices of grains, wool, sugar, pig iron, and rubber have increased.

Bank credit. Between the middle of October and the middle of November, loans for commercial and industrial purposes at member banks in leading cities continued in a volume about \$450,000,000 larger than at mid-summer. Loans on securities increased further and total loans on November 11 were about \$1,000,000,000 larger than at the opening of the year. Demand deposits increased further during October and early November to a level near the high point of last January.

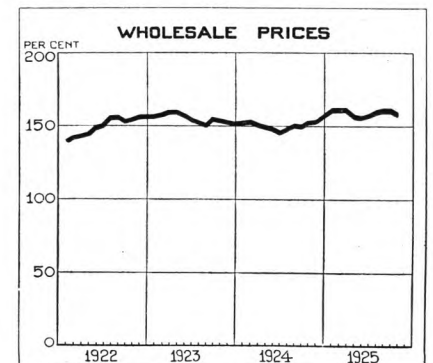
At the Reserve Banks total bills and securities in November were in the largest volume for the year and about \$200,000,000 larger than a year ago. Member bank borrowings declined somewhat from the high point reached early in October while acceptance holdings continued to increase and on November 18 were larger than at any previous time for the year. The growth in reserve bank credit since mid-summer was chiefly in response to the seasonal increase of money in circulation, which on November 1 was about \$180,000,000 larger than on August 1.



Index of 22 basic commodities corrected for seasonal variation (1919-100). Latest figure—October, 116



Index for 33 manufacturing industries (1919-100). Latest figure—October, employment, 97.0, payroll, 111.3



Index of U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (1913-100, base adopted by Bureau). Latest figure—October, 158



Weekly figures for member banks in 101 leading cities. Latest figure—November 11

During the latter part of October and early part of November, open market rates for commercial paper and bankers' acceptances remained substantially unchanged at the levels reached during the early autumn. Discount rates at the Federal Reserve Banks of Boston, Cleveland, Philadelphia and San Francisco were advanced from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 per cent during November.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE PHILADELPHIA FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

Nearly all lines of industrial and mercantile activity and most parts of the Philadelphia Federal Reserve District have experienced substantial improvement in October and early November. Moreover, this expansion has been more than the usual seasonal movement. A big increase in retail buying occurred in October and sales of our reporting firms were much larger than in any previous October. Retail apparel and shoe stores reported a larger volume than in any previous month. The volume of bank debits in 18 cities of the district also reached record levels and was 16.9 per cent larger than in the same month of 1924. Wholesale conditions continue to be somewhat mixed, although sales in all lines were larger than in September, and in five out of eight trades, larger than in October, 1924. Freight car loadings continue heavy and in excess of those of last fall. Manufacturing activity in the district probably reached a peak for the year in October although the volume of factory employment was slightly less than in early spring. Wage payments are larger than in the spring and 9.3 per cent above those in October of last year.

Although most industries shared in this recent improvement, the iron and steel and textile groups seem to have been especially favored. Buying both of basic iron and steel products, and of machinery, tools, castings and other finished goods has increased materially and prices have strengthened in line with heavier production and shipments. Industrial

BUSINESS INDICATORS Philadelphia Federal Reserve District	October, 1925	Latest figure compared with	
		Previous month	Year ago
Retail trade —net sales† (156 stores)	\$29,891,000	+48.0%	+14.8%
Department stores (68)	\$23,745,000	+46.3 "	+12.0 "
Apparel stores (40)	\$4,257,000	+69.9 "	+35.2 "
Shoe stores (27)	\$681,000	+28.5 "	+27.6 "
Credit stores (21)	\$1,208,000	+29.3 "	+4.8 "
Wholesale trade —net sales (150 firms)	\$12,179,948	+11.1 "	-2.8 "
Boots and shoes (10 firms)	\$261,360	+0.9 "	-8.4 "
Drugs (14 firms)	\$1,668,688	+3.3 "	+8.5 "
Dry goods (17 firms)	\$1,472,139	+20.2 "	+4.4 "
Electrical supplies (7 firms)	\$815,520	+39.9 "	+9.7 "
Groceries (51 firms)	\$4,178,062	+4.4 "	-11.6 "
Hardware (29 firms)	\$2,318,741	+17.2 "	+0.4 "
Jewelry (10 firms)	\$587,520	+19.5 "	+10.5 "
Paper (12 firms)	\$877,918	+8.0 "	-10.8 "
Production:			
Shoes* (103 factories)	prs. 1,459,777	-0.4 "
Pig iron	tons 295,881	+12.4 "	+3.7 "
Hosiery* (132 mills)	doz. prs. 1,260,154	+10.8 "
Iron castings (34 foundries)	tons 5,657	+9.7 "	-3.0 "
Steel castings (12 foundries)	tons 6,109	+12.6 "
Cement	bbls. 3,851,000	+4.5 "	+7.0 "
Bituminous coal—Pennsylvania	tons 12,638,000	+16.8 "
Wool consumption* (86 mills)	lbs. 7,942,656	+0.6 "
Active cotton spindle hours (Penna. and N. J.)	128,864,260	+7.4 "	+44.6 "
Electric power—11 systems	KWH 301,752,000	+9.4 "	+18.3 "
Distribution:			
Freight car loadings (Allegheny district—weekly average)	tons 214,229	+3.1 "	+2.1 "
Tonnage of vessels (Port of Philadelphia)	tons 3,093,117	+1.1 "	+1.5 "
Exports of wheat (from Port of Philadelphia)	bus. 2,414,841	+112.5 "	-2.4 "
Exports of flour (from Port of Philadelphia)	lbs. 6,178,543	+124.7 "	-61.3 "
Imports of crude oil (into Port of Philadelphia)	gals. 8,169,000	-26.9 "	-45.5 "
Financial:			
Loans, discounts and investments of member banks (weekly average)	\$1,107,500,000	+1.8 "	+6.6 "
Bills discounted held by Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia (daily average)	\$53,380,000	+8.8 "	+186.4 "
Acceptances executed (11 banks for month ended November 10)	\$3,769,000	-15.0 "	-44.1 "
Bankers' acceptances sales (5 dealers—weekly average for period ended middle following month)	\$753,000	-6.7 "	-55.0 "
Commercial paper sales (6 dealers)	\$7,014,000	+27.1 "	-19.8 "
Savings deposits (98 banks)	\$569,324,000	+0.2 "	+6.3 "
General:			
Debits (18 cities)	\$2,564,617,000	+13.7 "	+16.9 "
Commercial failures—number	73	+14.1 "	+23.7 "
Commercial failures—liabilities	\$1,784,719	+92.2 "	+28.5 "
Building permits (16 cities)	\$25,120,779	+66.9 "	+34.4 "
Building contracts awarded (Philadelphia district)	\$51,447,300	+6.1 "	-12.5 "
Employment—1,262 plants in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware:			
Number of wage earners	428,609	+1.6 "	+5.1 "
Total wages	\$11,341,205	+7.7 "	+9.3 "
Average weekly earnings	\$26.46	+6.0 "	+3.9 "
Sales of life insurance (Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware)	\$74,321,000	+9.7 "	+6.8 "

* Bureau of Census preliminary figures. † Estimated.

buying of soft coal has been seasonally larger and, because of the anthracite strike, domestic demand has been very heavy, with consequent advances in prices.

Cotton, silk and hosiery mills in the district also report active operations and increased business accompanied by some price advances. Woolen mills are rather quiet and some weaves of carpets and rugs are selling at lower prices.

Building continues in large volume with October showing increases in the value of building permits and contract awards. Plumbing supplies, paint, bricks and lumber are meeting a large demand and manufacturing operations continue at a high rate.

The latest estimates indicate increased yields of important crops in the district and in many cases production will exceed last year's totals. Truck and fruit crops are somewhat short, however. Livestock is in normal condition. Prices of farm

products dropped in October but are considerably above 1924 levels.

City conditions. The business improvement in October was experienced quite generally among the cities of the district, the principal exceptions to the upward movement being the Wilkes-Barre and Scranton areas. These sections, affected by the anthracite strike, alone reported a smaller volume of debits and of retail business in October, 1925, than in October, 1924. In nearly all the areas building permits, savings deposits and electric power sales were much above last year's totals. Marked gains in business activity occurred between September and October, 1925, but this improvement was to be expected in October when industrial activity normally reaches a high level. Changes in business conditions in the cities of the district are shown in the accompanying table.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

Commercial loans of member banks in four of the leading cities of the Philadelphia Federal Reserve District averaged approximately 383 millions during September and October. In the first two weeks of November commercial loans declined to 373 millions, notwithstanding the general activity of business at this time. Loans on securities continued to advance and are now 25 per cent higher than they were at the beginning of the year. Total loans on November 11 were 78 millions above the level of a year ago, whereas deposits had advanced only 23 millions. In the course of the year 29 millions of investments have been sold and borrowings from the reserve bank were increased by 11 millions.

At the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia earning assets on November 18 were 10 millions lower than four weeks earlier, but 18 millions higher than a year ago. Bills discounted, at 54 millions on November 18, were 31 millions above November 19, 1924, but in the last four weeks have declined 4 millions. A small increase in deposits between October 21 and November 18 was nearly balanced by a decline in note circulation; cash reserves, however, gained 9 millions and the reserve ratio advanced from 72.3 to 75.2 per cent.

During the month the Federal Reserve Banks of San Francisco, Boston, Cleveland and Philadelphia advanced their discount rates from 3½ to 4 per cent.

RETAIL TRADE [Philadelphia Federal Reserve District]	Comparison of net sales		Comparison of stocks		Percentage of sales to average stocks from Jan. 1 to Oct. 31	
	Oct., 1925, with Oct., 1924	Jan. 1 to Oct. 31, 1925, with Jan. 1 to Oct. 31, 1924	Oct. 31, 1925, with Oct. 31, 1924	Oct. 31, 1925, with Sept. 30, 1925	1925	1924
	All reporting firms	+14.8%	+ 1.5%	+ 1.1%	+ 2.1%	2.64
All department stores	+12.0%	- 0.1%	- 1.2%	+ 0.8%	2.61	2.61
in Philadelphia	+12.5%	- 0.3%	+ 0.2%	- 1.0%	2.88	2.91
outside Philadelphia	+10.7%	+ 0.4%	- 3.7%	+ 4.1%	2.10	2.06
All apparel stores	+35.2%	+ 9.5%	+16.0%	+ 9.6%	3.31	3.28
Men's apparel stores	+23.7%	+ 3.9%	- 3.1%	+ 1.9%	1.85	1.77
in Philadelphia	+28.0%	+ 7.4%	+ 4.2%	- 2.3%	2.14	2.01
outside Philadelphia	+17.5%	- 0.7%	- 8.9%	+ 6.0%	1.56	1.52
Women's apparel stores	+17.7%	+ 6.7%	+ 7.1%	+19.5%	4.17	4.07
in Philadelphia	+17.7%	+ 7.0%	+ 7.1%	+20.8%	4.44	4.40
outside Philadelphia	+17.5%	+ 5.2%	+ 5.1%	+14.4%	3.10	2.84
Credit houses	+ 4.8%	+ 2.7%	+ 5.4%	+ 7.3%	1.98	2.02
Shoe stores	+27.6%	+12.3%	+ 7.2%	+ 0.9%	2.08	1.96

Commercial paper. The demand for commercial paper in the Philadelphia Federal Reserve District is poor and unchanged. Neither city nor country banks are much interested. Outside of this district, however, sales are in fair volume and as new offerings are moderate, dealers' lists are small. Few sales are reported to local buyers at less than 4½ per cent, but in other districts, transactions at 4¼ per cent are fairly frequent.

During October, the amount of paper sold to Philadelphia banks was \$2,946,000 and to outside institutions \$4,068,000. Rates on these sales varied from 4¼ to 5 per cent, but about 90 per cent of the total was at 4¼ to 4½ per cent.

RETAIL TRADE

Retail sales in November appear from preliminary reports to be large and to be running ahead of November, 1924. Prices of merchandise are fairly stable; in ready-to-wear clothing, however, it is possible, as is usual at this season, for the retail stores to shade prices on their purchases.

During October sales in this district were 14.8 per cent larger than in October, 1924. The gain extended to all cities except Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, where the continuation of the anthracite strike has curtailed business. Especially large increases are shown by apparel and shoe stores.

In some departments very large gains were made as compared with the sales in October, 1924. In the following 13 departments sales increased more than 25 per cent and in the first two were almost double, leather goods, furs, musical instruments and radio, silk and muslin underwear including petticoats, sweaters, juniors' and girls' ready-to-wear, gloves, misses' ready-to-wear, boys' wear, women's and children's hosiery, women's coats, infants' wear, and knit underwear. In 12 other departments gains of from 13 to 19 per cent were reported. Losses exceeding 20 per cent were made only in the following four departments: women's suits, waists and blouses, women's skirts, toys and sporting goods.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Preliminary reports indicate that wholesale trade during November has been maintained at a high level. Prices are firm but generally unchanged.

During October, sales in all lines were larger than in September; electrical supplies, drygoods, jewelry and hardware made notable gains. As compared with October, 1924, however, sales of gro-

CITY CONDITIONS Philadelphia Federal Reserve District	October, 1925, compared with September, 1925						
	Employment	Wage payments	Value of building permits	Debits	Savings deposits	Retail trade sales	Electric power sales
Philadelphia	+ 0.7%	+ 8.1%	+33.3%	+13.8%	+ 0.3%	+51.0%	+ 6.7%
Trenton	+ 0.6%	+ 9.9%	-19.2%	+ 8.9%	- 1.9%	+47.6%	+14.8%
Wilmington	+ 1.2%	+ 6.9%	+ 9.1%	+29.2%	+ 0.3%	+48.5%	- 1.5%
Reading	+ 3.9%	+16.6%	+133.3%	+10.0%	- 0.6%	+52.4%	+ 7.1%
Lancaster	- 0.1%	+ 5.7%	-19.7%	+22.6%	+ 1.9%	+54.9%	+ 2.9%
York	+ 1.6%	+ 3.1%	+287.0%	+16.5%	+ 0.5%	+49.8%	+ 4.2%
Harrisburg	+ 0.2%	+11.2%	-52.8%	+22.0%	+ 2.8%	+19.8%	†
Allentown	+ 1.7%	+ 4.4%	+164.1%	+18.5%	+ 1.2%	+42.6%	+ 1.8%
Wilkes-Barre	+ 6.7%	+ 8.7%	+19.9%	+ 7.2%	- 0.3%	+42.2%	†
Scranton	+ 1.0%	+ 6.3%	+158.9%	+ 2.2%	+ 0.1%	+38.1%	- 1.0%
Altoona	- 0.1%	- 3.7%	+76.8%	+10.7%	+ 0.7%	+37.1%	+14.0%
Johnstown	+ 4.6%	+13.0%	†	+14.5%	+ 0.1%	+34.0%	†
Williamsport	+ 4.1%	+ 9.1%	+33.2%	+10.4%	+ 3.0%	+47.4%	†

October, 1925, compared with October, 1924

Philadelphia	+ 6.0%	+18.4%	+ 7.4%	+16.4%	+21.4%
Trenton	-10.9%	+18.2%	- 3.4%	+15.5%	+37.1%
Wilmington	+88.8%	+29.6%	+ 5.3%	+ 9.4%	+14.0%
Reading	+84.7%	+31.3%	+15.5%	+16.1%	+80.2%
Lancaster	-22.9%	+ 9.3%	+16.8%	+23.1%	+22.5%
York	+12.0%	+16.2%	+10.6%	+20.9%	+20.5%
Harrisburg	-59.0%	+ 6.8%	+22.5%	+ 5.9%	†
Allentown	+307.0%	+18.2%	+ 6.3%	+14.4%	- 5.6%
Wilkes-Barre	+19.7%	- 4.2%	+ 5.4%	- 4.9%	†
Scranton	+20.2%	- 8.8%	+ 5.4%	- 3.6%	- 0.6%
Altoona	+ 8.4%	+22.0%	+12.9%	+16.1%	+41.6%
Johnstown	†	+ 8.3%	+ 0.7%	+11.8%	†
Williamsport	+36.0%	+18.8%	+13.8%	+10.7%	†

* Includes Camden area. † Includes Wilkes-Barre and Williamsport areas.
‡ Included in Allentown area.

AUTOMOBILES

Sales of new cars by 17 reporting distributors in the Philadelphia Federal Reserve District were smaller in October than in the preceding month. This decline is of a seasonal nature and was not surprising in view of the heavy sales in September following announcements of new models and price reductions. The decline in both wholesale and retail business in October was accompanied by an accumulation in stocks of new cars in the hands of local distributors. Business in used cars was better in October than in September although stocks of these cars were also larger.

WHOLESALE TRADE Philadelphia Federal Reserve District	Net sales Oct., 1925, compared with		Stocks Oct., 1925, compared with		Accounts outstanding Oct., 1925, compared with		Ratio of accounts outstanding to sales		
	Sept., 1925	Oct., 1924	Sept., 1925	Oct., 1924	Sept., 1925	Oct., 1924	Oct., 1925	Sept., 1925	Oct., 1924
	Boots and shoes..	+ 0.9%	- 8.4%	- 6.9%	+ 2.4%	+ 5.9%	+ 2.5%	342.8%	324.1%
Drugs	+ 3.3	+ 8.5	+ 4.7	+ 10.0	151.4	152.0	149.9
Dry goods	+20.2	+ 4.4	- 7.4	+ 0.7	+16.4	- 0.4	200.5	207.1	210.2
Elec. supplies...	+39.9	+ 9.7	- 9.5	-16.9	+18.1	- 1.8	112.4	133.2	125.6
Groceries	+ 4.4	-11.6	+ 9.8	+ 0.6	+ 4.7	- 8.3	107.0	104.1	100.2
Hardware	+17.2	+ 0.4	-10.3	-12.7	+ 5.8	- 2.3	163.8	181.2	167.7
Jewelry	+19.5	+10.5	- 4.9	+ 1.5	+15.9	+ 6.9	291.2	300.1	301.1
Paper	+ 8.0	-10.8	+ 6.1	+ 8.0	+ 7.0	- 9.0	140.5	141.7	137.7

ceries, paper and shoes were smaller. Some firms attribute part of this decrease to the large falling off in business in the anthracite regions. Stocks decreased during October except in groceries and paper. Collections improved during that month in all lines except groceries and shoes.

Drygoods. Business in drygoods continues good. Orders, with few exceptions, call for delivery in time for the Christmas trade. Prices generally are steady, slight advances, however, being reported for silk hosiery and woollens, while some cotton goods are lower.

Articles in demand include hosiery both of silk and wool, underwear, blankets, napped goods and holiday novelties.

Jewelry. Jewelry business is good, with a demand which covers most lines. The price of platinum wedding rings is higher, but white and green gold ring mountings with platinum trimmings are lower. Other articles are practically unchanged. Billings for each of the months of August, September and October showed large increases over the same months of 1924 and unfilled orders for the balance of the year compare favorably with those of a year ago.

Groceries. A fair volume of grocery sales is reported during November. The largest shipments were of canned fruits and vegetables, many of which had been previously contracted for, salt fish, sugar, and holiday specialties which include mince meat, dates, figs, raisins, currants and nuts.

Prices average about the same as in the previous month. Canned and evaporated fruits, raisins, beans, with the exception of dried limas, coffee and white potatoes are some of the articles which have advanced, but these gains are about balanced by declines in canned vegetables, lard, syrup, peanuts and cottonseed oil products. Sugar has fluctuated considerably but recently has regained its early loss.

Paper. Trading in all grades of paper has been more active since October 20 than that of the previous month. Sales of print, fine, book, envelope, crêpe and

towel, kraft, wrapping and board papers surpass last month's volume. Paper mill operations in this district now average 90 per cent of capacity, compared with 80 per cent for October. Production and shipments of news print during October exceeded that of any of the preceding nine months. Stocks in the hands of dealers and manufacturers are light. Prices remain firm.

Electrical supplies. During the past four weeks the demand for electrical supplies has been more active than that of the previous month or a year ago. Sales, which increased greatly in October, continue to reach sizable proportions. Prices are steady at levels unchanged from those of the preceding month.

Hardware. Since October 20, business in hardware has been fairly brisk, although the volume of sales has not come up to that for the similar period of last year. Among active buyers at present are factories, contractors, builders and general stores. Because of the anthracite coal strike, the demand for miners' tools is negligible. Prices are fairly steady and in the main are unchanged from those of four weeks ago.

Drugs. Following October improvement, drug sales have further expanded during the last three weeks, the call being active for winter specialties and holiday articles. Prices of iodine and essential oils have advanced slightly, whereas price of ammonia has declined. In the main, however, quotations remain firm. The index number for botanical drugs stood at 119.5 on November 20, as against 120.8 on October 20, according to the "Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter."

Shoes. With due consideration to seasonal tendency, sales of shoes have been in fair volume. Practically all orders booked are for immediate shipment and the lines called for are about the same as they were a month ago. Prices generally are unchanged. In some instances in which lower quotations have been made, it has been ascertained that the merchandise is of inferior quality.

AUTOMOBILE TRADE Philadelphia Federal Reserve District- 17 distributors	Oct., 1925, change from Sept., 1925	
	No.	Value
Sales, new cars, wholesale.....	-11.7%	- 8.2%
Cars under \$1,000.....	- 8.9	+ 0.2
Cars \$1,000 to \$2,000.....	-18.6	-19.7
Cars over \$2,000.....	-20.2	-14.2
Sales, new cars at retail.....	- 7.3	- 6.1
Cars under \$1,000.....	- 8.0	- 8.7
Cars \$1,000 to \$2,000.....	- 7.7	- 8.4
Cars over \$2,000.....	0	- 1.3
Stocks of new cars.....	+ 7.4	+10.8
Cars under \$1,000.....	+ 5.0	+ 5.0
Cars \$1,000 to \$2,000.....	+22.8	+16.5
Cars over \$2,000.....	+13.0	+15.3
Sales of used cars.....	+ 2.8	+ 2.6
Stocks of used cars.....	+10.8	+ 4.7
Retail sales, def. payment....	- 8.7	-10.3

ELECTRIC POWER

Output of electric power by central stations in the Philadelphia district and sales to all classes of consumers were seasonally larger in October and also showed substantial advances over the totals for the same month of 1924. Total sales were nearly 21 per cent ahead of last year while sales to industries increased 15 per cent. Nearly all sections reported advances except the anthracite, where there has been some slackening.

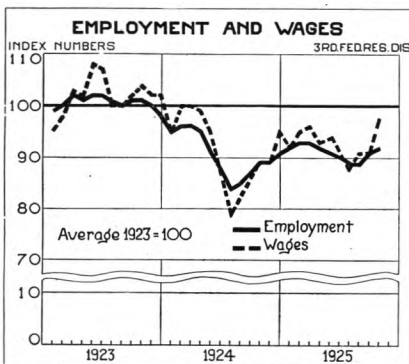
ELECTRIC POWER Philadelphia Federal Reserve District	Change from Sept., 1925*	Change from Oct., 1924†
Rated generator capacity.....	0.0%	+ 2.5%
Generated output.....	+ 9.4	+18.3
Hydro-electric.....	+77.7	-25.9
Steam.....	+ 7.2	+15.9
Purchased.....	+23.2	+37.8
Sales of electricity.....	+ 6.6	+20.7
Lighting.....	+20.3	+16.2
Municipal.....	+15.5	+12.2
Residential and commercial	+21.2	+17.0
Power.....	+ 2.6	+15.1
Municipal.....	+12.0	+37.6
Street cars and railroads..	+ 6.8	+13.6
Industries.....	+ 1.2	+15.4
All other sales.....	+11.2	+93.6

* 11 systems. † 10 systems.

EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

Factory employment throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware increased 1.6 per cent during October, and total wage payments advanced 7.7 per cent after the decline in September caused by suspension of operations at a great many plants over Labor Day. The food and tobacco group was the only one to show a decrease. This was almost entirely caused by the canning season drawing to a close, thus causing a decline in the industry.

The most marked increases in employment and wages among the individual industries occurred at iron and steel blast furnaces, and automobile, heating appliance, cigar and tobacco, glass, furniture and musical instrument factories. The iron and steel forging, shipbuilding, carpet, woollens and worsteds, and pottery industries fell off slightly in employment, but showed notable gains in operations. The only industries to show declines in both employment and total wages paid, besides canning, were the hat, sugar refining and explosive industries.



Industrial improvement in the states of the district since summer is evident from recent increases in employment and wage payments.

Source—Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

REAL ESTATE

Except in the Camden area, the real estate market in the Philadelphia district is rather quiet, although houses selling at from \$6,000 to \$10,000 continue in moderate demand, as are dwellings selling at about \$15,000. In the main, buyers find little or no difficulty in obtaining financial accommodations, the prevailing rate of interest on mortgages being steady at 6 per cent. Commission charges by brokers vary from 3 to 5 per cent on first mortgages and from 4 to 10 per cent on second mortgages. Compared with the fall of 1924, the volume of financing for new commercial and residential construction has dropped somewhat. Most of the current loans are made to operative builders, although in

EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES In Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware	No. of plants report- ing	Number of wage earners— week ended		Total weekly wages— week ended		Average weekly earnings— week ended	
		Oct. 15, 1925	Per cent change	Oct. 15, 1925	Per cent change	Oct. 15, 1925	Per cent change
All industries (49)	1,262	428,609	+ 1.6	11,341,205	+ 7.7	\$26.46	+ 6.0
Metal manufactures:							
Automobiles, bodies, and parts....	408	194,028	+ 2.5	5,443,708	+ 9.8	28.06	+ 7.1
Car construction and repair.....	26	10,624	+ 6.9	322,482	+12.2	30.35	+ 4.9
Elec. machinery and apparatus....	19	18,999	+ 1.7	522,125	+ 0.2	27.48	- 1.4
Engines, machines, mach. tools....	39	23,920	+ 6.5	595,314	+16.3	24.89	+ 9.3
Foundries and machine shops....	55	13,124	+ 1.5	378,250	+10.4	28.82	+ 8.9
Heating appliances and apparatus....	78	13,508	+ 2.4	386,268	+12.9	28.60	+10.3
Iron and steel blast furnaces.....	20	6,478	+ 5.9	199,483	+20.6	30.79	+13.8
Iron and steel forgings.....	13	13,141	+ 5.3	371,607	+12.5	28.28	+ 6.8
Steel works and rolling mills.....	13	3,595	- 0.4	85,778	+16.5	23.86	+17.0
Structural iron works.....	48	41,758	+ 0.4	1,197,215	+ 8.3	28.67	+ 7.9
Misc. iron and steel products.....	21	6,400	+ 4.4	181,205	+ 9.6	28.31	+ 4.9
Shipbuilding.....	44	26,670	+ 2.3	757,916	+ 9.5	28.42	+ 7.0
Hardware.....	9	9,211	- 3.3	264,315	+ 3.9	28.70	+ 7.5
Non-ferrous metals.....	8	1,906	+ 1.0	49,072	+11.4	25.75	+10.3
	15	4,694	+ 2.3	132,678	+10.4	28.27	+ 8.0
Textile products:							
Carpets and rugs.....	268	83,806	+ 1.5	1,885,654	+ 8.9	22.50	+ 7.9
Clothing.....	15	3,802	- 1.1	105,140	+12.1	27.65	+13.3
Hats, felt and other.....	44	6,616	+ 1.6	117,842	+ 1.2	17.81	- 0.4
Cotton goods.....	10	5,046	- 3.5	126,260	-11.7	25.02	- 8.5
Silk goods.....	31	9,845	+ 2.9	216,326	+19.9	21.97	+16.5
Woolens and worsteds.....	72	25,087	+ 1.5	519,401	+ 6.9	20.70	+ 5.3
Knit goods and hosiery.....	27	10,586	- 1.0	239,483	+13.4	22.62	+14.5
Dyeing and finishing textiles.....	39	12,600	+ 3.6	294,719	+13.1	23.39	+ 9.2
Miscellaneous textile products.....	22	8,725	+ 4.0	238,236	+13.0	27.80	+ 8.6
	8	1,499	+ 0.7	28,247	- 2.6	18.34	- 3.3
Foods and tobacco:							
Bakeries.....	137	34,259	- 4.0	725,264	- 2.0	21.17	+ 2.1
Canneries.....	38	4,660	+ 2.0	137,353	+ 5.9	29.47	+ 3.8
Confectionery and ice cream.....	11	3,991	-36.2	82,989	-35.2	20.79	+ 1.7
Slaughtering and meat packing....	27	6,187	+ 0.3	129,279	+ 2.9	20.90	+ 2.0
Sugar refining.....	15	2,802	+ 4.2	81,480	+13.5	29.08	+ 9.7
Cigars and tobacco.....	4	3,408	- 1.2	95,393	- 5.6	27.99	- 4.5
	42	13,211	+ 5.3	198,770	+ 8.2	15.05	+ 2.8
Building materials:							
Brick, tile, and terra cotta products	99	28,535	+ 1.7	855,127	+ 7.3	29.97	+ 5.5
Cement.....	41	5,288	- 0.5	138,926	+ 6.5	26.27	+ 7.1
Glass.....	15	8,179	+ 0.1	260,764	+ 1.2	31.88	+ 1.0
Pottery.....	28	9,829	+ 5.3	283,137	+12.2	28.81	+ 6.5
	15	5,239	- 0.2	172,300	+10.2	32.89	+10.4
Chemicals and allied products:							
Chemicals and drugs.....	86	30,762	+ 0.7	977,370	+ 1.7	31.77	+ 0.9
Explosives.....	46	6,912	+ 3.3	189,936	+ 3.0	27.48	- 0.3
Paints and varnishes.....	11	2,328	- 1.4	67,184	- 0.6	28.86	+ 0.8
Petroleum refining.....	18	1,665	+ 2.0	42,497	+ 3.1	25.52	+ 1.0
Coke.....	8	18,697	- 0.1	643,918	+ 1.4	34.44	+ 1.5
	3	1,160	+ 2.3	33,835	+ 2.5	29.17	+ 0.2
Miscellaneous industries:							
Lumber and planing mill products	264	57,219	+ 2.5	1,454,082	+ 8.1	25.41	+ 5.4
Furniture.....	33	5,130	+ 2.2	109,522	+ 2.8	21.35	+ 0.6
Musical instruments.....	26	3,828	+ 6.9	100,890	+13.6	26.36	+ 6.3
Leather tanning.....	5	7,086	+ 6.6	203,139	+21.9	28.67	+14.4
Leather products.....	35	8,976	+ 1.0	230,158	+ 8.2	25.64	+ 7.2
Boots and shoes.....	12	1,907	+ 2.5	38,244	- 2.5	20.05	- 4.9
Paper and pulp products.....	30	5,046	+ 0.4	98,392	+ 6.5	19.50	+ 2.0
Printing and publishing.....	28	6,758	+ 1.8	168,716	+ 4.6	24.97	+ 6.8
Rubber tires and goods.....	52	5,035	+ 3.5	157,884	+ 4.0	31.36	+ 0.5
Novelties and jewelry.....	18	5,468	- 1.8	154,712	+ 6.2	28.29	+ 8.1
Other industries.....	12	3,740	+ 4.3	93,386	+12.7	24.97	+ 8.0
	13	4,245	+ 2.1	99,039	+ 1.3	23.33	- 0.8

such cities as Wilmington, Trenton, York and Wilkes-Barre, borrowings by owners exceed greatly those of operative builders. In Philadelphia, the supply of houses and apartments renting from \$50 to \$150 a month is ample, the demand being fair; suburban apartments and houses renting from \$50 to \$60 a month are in strong request. Office space generally is in adequate supply. Except for a few reductions, rentals for dwellings and business offices have remained fairly steady during the last three months. Building sites continue in good demand at increasing prices. This is especially true of Camden and vicinity where buying of farm lands for development purposes has been exceedingly active in recent months, and prices have advanced sharply.

BUILDING

In October both the number and estimated cost of building permits in 16 cities of the Philadelphia Federal Reserve District were larger than in September. As compared with October, 1924, the estimated cost was more than \$6,000,000 higher, though the number of permits decreased. The largest gains in cost as compared with last year occurred in Atlantic City and Bethlehem. Details will be found in tables on pages 2 and 3. Cost of industrial building during October, according to the Aberthaw index, is unchanged at 194 per cent of the 1914 average, the level prevailing since June.

Bricks. Sales of bricks continue in good volume and many of the plants in

this district are running at capacity. The average of operations is over 80 per cent. Stocks are moderate but have increased somewhat during the past month. The majority of orders are for immediate shipment and, in many cases, are filled from stock. Prices in most cases are unchanged; shading of quotations, however, is reported by a few manufacturers.

Lumber. The request for lumber continues fairly good and is better than it was a year ago. The volume of sales of building lumber is large, but prices have been held down by the heavy arrivals from the west coast. Quotations are unchanged from those of a month ago and are somewhat below those of a year ago. Hardwoods, however, have advanced recently. Mill operations average over 80 per cent but those whose business is largely in the anthracite regions are working at a much reduced rate. Unfilled orders are sufficient to maintain present operations for an average period of between one and two months. Stocks continue to be moderate.

Paint. Business in paint continues fair, being larger than it was a year ago. The majority of sales are for prompt delivery and few firms have sufficient orders to maintain the present average operations of 80 per cent for longer than four weeks. Prices of paints are unchanged but raw materials, including lead, zinc and turpentine, have advanced; an exception to this is linseed oil, which declined from 97.5 cents per gallon in carload lots, cooerage basis, on October 23, to 96 cents on November 23. Collections are classed as fair in a majority of the reports but a number complain that they are unusually slow.

Plumbing supplies. Reports from manufacturers and wholesale distributors of plumbing supplies state that the demand is good; better in fact than in the previous month or at the same time last year. Operations are being carried on at an average of over 80 per cent of capacity, and stocks are moderate. Although some manufacturers have sufficient orders to keep them busy for three months, many have only enough orders to occupy them for three or four weeks. Prices generally are firm and, for soil pipe, fittings and all brass goods, are higher. Quotations, however, for pottery, especially earthenware, are slightly lower. Raw materials, including lead, brass, copper and iron, have advanced.

FURNITURE

The furniture business has improved during the past month and is good; it is also better than at this time in 1924. Factories are operating at an average rate of close to 90 per cent of capacity and have sufficient orders to maintain that rate of production for from one to two months. The demand covers all kinds

of household furniture, including parlor, library, dining and bed room articles; office pieces also are in good call. Prices are firm and unchanged. Stocks are moderate and decreasing. Collections are fair.

IRON AND STEEL

Increased orders, a higher rate of production and an upward trend of prices have featured the iron and steel industries in the Philadelphia district during the past thirty days. Pig iron, castings, fabricated structural and scrap steel, machinery and tools show material improvement over last month's demand. But the gain in sales of iron bars, sheets, plates and shapes, and hardware materials is only slight. Among active buyers of iron and steel products are foundries, structural steel plants, machinery builders, railroads, automobile, electrical and plumbing supply manufacturers, paper mills and jobbers. Raw commodities are in moderate supply, whereas stocks of finished merchandise are now somewhat lower than they were last month. During October an additional blast furnace was blown in, making a total of 26 active furnaces in this district as against 25 in September. About half of the plants are working at from 80 to 90 per cent of capacity, although operations in the district as a whole average 76 per cent of capacity. The following table shows a pronounced gain in both unfilled orders and the output of pig iron and steel ingots:

In gross tons	October	September
Production in U. S.—		
Pig iron.....	2,370,382	2,726,198
Steel ingots.....	3,892,946	3,492,904
Unfilled orders—		
U. S. Steel Corp.....	4,109,183	3,717,297

Philadelphia 2X pig iron has advanced 50 cents during the last four weeks and now is selling at \$23.76 a ton. "The Iron Age" composite prices stood on November 24 at \$21.29 per gross ton for pig iron and 2.439 cents a pound for finished steel, as compared with \$20.38 and 2.403 cents, respectively, one month ago. Principally because of larger production, abundant supply and prompt deliveries, Connellsville furnace coke dropped from \$8.50 a ton on October 22 to from \$4.50 to \$5 on November 24.

Iron foundries. The iron foundries' output is maintained at a high rate, production of malleable iron in October showing the greatest increase. Large increases also are noted in shipments. However, unfilled orders, though ahead of last year's volume, declined in October below those for September.

Iron foundry operations	October	Change from Sept., 1925	Change from Oct., 1924
Capacity.....	10,920 tons	0	0
Production.....	5,657 "	+ 9.7%	- 3.0%
Malleable iron.....	1,279 "	+30.6 "	+62.1 "
Gray iron.....	4,378 "	+ 4.8 "	-13.2 "
Jobbing.....	3,448 "	+ 6.5 "	- 1.3 "
For further mfr.....	930 "	- 1.2 "	-40.0 "
Shipments.....	6,169 "	+16.3 "	+19.7 "
Value.....	\$982,110	+17.1 "	+13.1 "
Unfilled orders.....	3,887 tons	-18.0 "	+13.5 "
Value.....	\$624,602	-18.6 "	+ 5.8 "
Raw stock:			
Pig iron.....	7,019 tons	+ 3.8 "	- 7.8 "
Scrap.....	2,561 "	+28.7 "	+38.4 "
Coke.....	1,891 "	+ 1.2 "	- 2.7 "

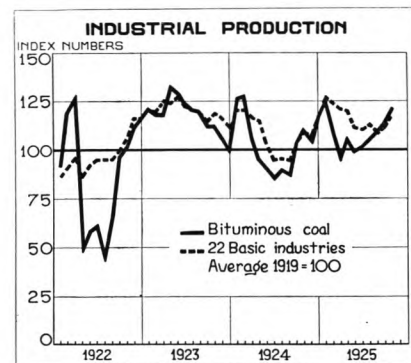
Steel foundries. October production and unfilled orders of identical steel foundries in the Philadelphia district show a large increase over the volume for last September and for October, 1924.

Steel foundry operations	October	Change from Sept., 1925*	Change from Oct., 1924†
Capacity.....	12,490 tons	0	0
Production.....	6,109 "	+12.6%	+ 5.2%
Shipments.....	4,544 "	+ 6.1 "	- 3.0 "
Value.....	\$835,068	- 4.9 "	+ 6.9 "
Unfilled orders‡.....	4,794 tons	+53.6 "	+15.2 "
Value.....	\$740,738	+36.9 "	+18.3 "
Raw stock:			
Pig iron.....	2,160 tons	+10.9 "	- 1.7 "
Scrap.....	10,333 "	+ 6.3 "	-16.0 "
Coke.....	1,458 "	+11.6 "	+16.6 "

* 12 plants. † 6 plants. ‡ Figures of one plant omitted.

COAL

Bituminous. Principally because of the prolonged strike in the anthracite region, the market for both low and high volatile grades of soft coal has been exceptionally strong during the past four weeks. Central Pennsylvania coals especially have been in good demand, as is indicated by heavy car loadings in that



Owing partly to the effects of the anthracite strike, production of bituminous coal lately has risen sharply. In recent years the output of soft coal generally has followed operations in basic industries, excepting the sharp decline in 1922 occasioned by the strike in the union bituminous mines.

Source—Federal Reserve Board

field. Eastern industries continue to be among the most active buyers, although a considerable volume is being sold to household consumers. Spot prices have advanced more rapidly than have contract quotations. On November 23, Pool 10 sold in Philadelphia at from \$2 to \$2.15 a ton, a rise of from 15 to 30 cents since October 26. Weekly production has increased very greatly, as is shown below.

Week ended	In thousands of net tons*		Per cent of change
	1925	1924	
October 24 . . .	12,088	10,645	+13.6
October 31 . . .	12,475	10,405	+19.5
November 7 . . .	12,189	9,695	+25.7
November 14 . .	12,167	10,466	+16.3

* Compiled by the Geological Survey.

TEXTILES

Cotton. Substantial improvement is reported in the distribution and output of cotton manufacturers in this district during the past four weeks. Orders for both immediate and future deliveries exceed those of the previous month, and stocks in the hands of dealers and producers are fairly light. Mills making cotton goods are now working at from 75 to 80 per cent of capacity, which is about 10 per cent above last month's rate. Current prices of cotton yarns, though firm at lower levels, are about 13 per cent below last year's quotations. Fairchild's index number for cotton goods, which stood at 15.0 on October 24 and 15.7 on November 20, 1924, dropped to 14.7 on November 20, 1925.

The following table shows the present position of American cotton:

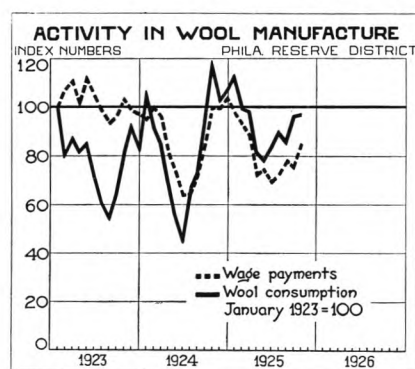
American cotton* (thousands of bales)	Season '25-'26	Season '24-'25	Season '23-'24
Visible supply at end of previous season (July 31)	1,125	952	870
Crop in sight on November 20	8,659	7,460	6,353
Total	9,784	8,412	7,223
Visible supply on November 20	4,765	4,232	3,161
World's takings to November 20	5,019	4,180	4,062

* Compiled by the New York Cotton Exchange

October cotton consumption reached the highest point since last April, the figure being 619,429 bales, linters included, as compared with 553,274 bales for September and 591,735 bales for October, 1924. October exports totaled 1,421,482 bales, the largest volume since October, 1913, when it amounted to 1,517,891 bales. Mill and warehouse stocks on October 31 were about 15 per cent greater than those of a year ago. Official estimates as of November 14 show the probable cotton output of 15,298,000 bales as against 13,627,936 bales

last year. Ginnings up to November 14 totaled 12,249,935 running bales as compared with 11,162,235 bales a year ago. In an active market, prices continue to fluctuate narrowly, spot cotton selling on November 23 at 21.45 cents a pound as compared with 21.80 cents on October 23 and 24.10 on November 22, 1924.

Wool. Activity in the wool industry in this district remains moderate. Several reports, notably from producers of worsted yarns and goods, show improvement over the previous month, although weakness in demand is still noticeable. Compared with last year, the call for woolen and worsted yarns shows greater improvement than that for goods. Mills producing the latter, however, are now working at about 80 per cent of capacity on the average, whereas spinners are operating at about 75 per cent of capacity. In both cases the increase in production is about 10 per cent over the preceding month. Unfilled orders are sufficient to insure plant operation at this



Both wool consumption and wage payments in this district show that in recent months the rate of activity in the wool manufacturing industry, which reached in 1924 the lowest level in the past three years, has increased materially.

Sources—Department of Commerce and Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

rate for about two months. Stocks are light. Prices of wool manufacturers recently have turned upward, nearly all worsted fabrics advancing from 5 to 7½ cents a yard.

Despite the rise of 10 per cent in quotations for foreign wools, American buyers are fairly active in both the British Colonies and South America. Western reports indicate that growers have sold nearly all of their wools to dealers or manufacturers. Compared with last month, prices of domestic wools have appreciated about 5 per cent, but are 10.9 per cent below those of last year. October wool consumption in this district rose about one per cent above the September level. United States imports also have increased considerably during the past four weeks. But stocks on September 30 were about 3 per cent lower than those on June 30. Official estimates show that domestic production of shorn and pulled

wools this year will total 293,885,000 pounds, a gain of 4.1 per cent over last season's output.

Silk. Trading in and production of thrown silk and silk goods continue very active, the demand for broad silks and such yarns as crêpe and organzine being exceedingly strong. Most throwsters are now working at capacity, and the average rate of output for silk goods, ribbons excepted, remains unchanged at from 90 to 95 per cent of capacity. No particular change is noted in the volume of unfilled orders, most of them calling for delivery within the next sixty days. Stocks of silk goods are moderately light, whereas supplies of thrown silk in many instances are inadequate. Collections are satisfactory. Silk goods prices recently have stiffened somewhat; Fairchild's index number, which stood at 130.82 on October 1, rose to 131.07 on November 23. Thrown silk, however, shows a slight decline; organzine double-extra cracks sold at \$8.25 a pound on November 23, as against \$8.45 on October 22.

Quotations for raw silk have fluctuated during the past four weeks within a narrow range. Kansai double-extra cracks, which sold at \$7.10 a pound on October 23 and \$6.80 on November 22, 1924, were quoted at \$6.95 a pound on November 23. Buying of raw silk, despite some irregularity, continues active in both the New York and Yokohama markets. Index of silk movements is as follows:

Raw silk* (in bales)	Oct., 1925	Sept., 1925	Oct., 1924
Imports	43,530	52,375	37,932
Stocks	39,423	42,708	44,398
Mill takings	46,815	41,684	35,794

* Silk Association of America.

Hosiery. Supported by a good demand, hosiery mills continue to operate at a high rate. For women, full-fashioned silk hosiery and seamless hosiery of silk and of silk and rayon mixture are in good request. For men, fancy half-hose continues to be the leader. Following the announcement last month of advances in price made by some of the large manufacturers of full-fashioned silk hosiery, other makers have raised their quotations, but these changes appear in no way to have checked business. For seamless hosiery some manufacturers made slight increases in prices for silk goods, but silk and rayon lines are unchanged and reductions are reported for mercerized and cotton lines. In October the output of 132 identical mills in this district was 10.8 per cent larger than in September. The operations of 322 establishments in the United States during September as compared with August show that production increased 0.3 per cent and that orders booked were 17.3 per cent larger.

Floor coverings. At the opening of the market for the spring of 1926 the largest factor made considerable reductions in the prices of Axminster and velvet rugs, the heavier cut being for the former. Quotations for carpets in these weaves, however, were unchanged. The prices were stated to be good for orders placed before December 15, on which date quotations are to be advanced by an amount greater than the recent reduction. Other manufacturers of rugs of the above weaves made similar reductions. Most Wilton prices remained unchanged. Although business since the opening has increased, the orders taken will not take the present output of the mills for more than from four to six weeks. Salesmen, however, are now on the road and orders are beginning to be received from them in a volume which manufacturers say augurs well for the season's business. Production has increased, but a number of the local factories are still running at a low percentage of their capacity. Increased purchases by manufacturers have resulted in higher prices for carpet wool and the market for jute has advanced sharply.

Lower quotations for inlaid and printed linoleums and felt base goods were named by the leading makers, but other grades of smooth surface floor covering were unchanged. The reductions are reported to have stimulated business and factories are receiving a good volume of orders.

LEATHER

Hides and skins. Packer hides are lower, some selections being 1½ cents a pound under the prices of a month ago. Goat skins are active and higher, the Calcutta market making a notable advance.

Stocks of cattle hides and goat and kid skins decreased during September, but holdings of calf and kip and sheep and lamb skins increased.

Leather, Sept., 1925, as compared with August, 1925*	Changes in	
	Production	Stocks
Backs, bends and sides	-13.4%	-2.0%
Belting butts	-5.1 "	-1.2 "
Offal, sole and belting	+3.1 "	-6.5 "
Cattle side, upper	-1.0 "	-1.3 "
Calf	-3.5 "	+0.1 "
Goat and kid	+1.5 "	-0.4 "
Cabretta	+13.5 "	-1.2 "

* Bureau of the Census.

Leather. The leather markets are seasonally duller. Prices for lots of standard quality are unchanged. In upper leathers heavyweights in calf are in good request and the export demand for kid is somewhat better. The preceding table shows changes in production and stocks of leather in September. The output of

sole leather was lower than in any month since June, 1924. Changes in stocks, except of offal, were comparatively small, but that item decreased 6.5 per cent to the lowest figure recorded since these statistics were begun in 1920. The decrease in offal since September, 1924, was over 20,000,000 pounds.

Shoes. Sales of shoes by manufacturers, though seasonally smaller, are in good volume. Some factories, however, have finished their fall business and work in them is slack; other makers report that they have booked orders for both prompt and early spring delivery. Stocks of shoes are moderate and have decreased. Prices are unchanged. Production in this district in October is shown in the following table. In the United States the output in September was 29,658,760 pairs as compared with 27,715,872 pairs in September, 1924.

PRODUCTION OF SHOES* Philadelphia Federal Reserve District (in thousands of pairs)	Oct.	Per cent change from Sept.
Boots and shoes, total	1,460	-0.4
High and low cut (leather) total	1,353	-3.6
Men's	118	-15.0
Boys' and youths'	194	+20.7
Women's	251	-11.7
Misses' and children's	449	-2.9
Infants'	341	-4.5
All other leather or part leather footwear	106	+70.9

* Preliminary report—Bureau of the Census.

RUBBER

Business in rubber products is fairly active and the volume of advance business at present compares favorably with that of the previous month. Production of rubber tires in this district now averages 90 per cent of capacity, whereas the rate of output for mechanical rubber goods continues at about 75 per cent of capacity. Stocks of finished goods are moderate, but supplies of raw materials are limited somewhat, owing mainly to the British restriction on exports of crude rubber from the Malay States. Prices of rubber goods are very firm, and those of rubber tubes and tires have advanced during the last five months about 60 per cent. This sharp rise is due chiefly to

the steady upward trend of quotations for crude rubber. Average prices of first latex crêpe, which stood at 93 cents a pound in October and 34¼ cents in November, 1924, reached \$1.03 in November. This is an advance of about 200 per cent above last year's level.

AGRICULTURE

Estimates of the yields of crops in the Philadelphia district have been increased materially since October 1, the production of corn, wheat, oats, rye and buckwheat being considerably above both last year's output and that of the five-year average. However, potatoes, tobacco, hay, truck and fruit crops are somewhat below the 1924 yield. Harvesting of potatoes has been completed, whereas only about 75 per cent of corn has been husked throughout the district. Wages for husking are about the same as those of last year, varying from 7 to 12 cents a shock in some counties and from \$2.50 to \$4.00 a day in others. Fall plowing is up to normal. The acreage of winter wheat planted this year compares favorably with that of last fall. Wheat stand is good, though in some localities somewhat short, owing to the unfavorable weather since seeding time. Cover crops are in excellent condition in most counties.

Livestock is up to its November normal in health and production. Some farmers have begun to feed their stock from silos earlier than usual, because of the lack of pasturage. Compared with last fall, the marketing and slaughter of hogs have increased slightly. October prices of grains, livestock and poultry, and other farm commodities, dropped 3 per cent below the September level, but they are still about 4 per cent above last year's quotations.

CIGARS

The demand for cigars has increased and is fairly good. Sales are larger than they were at this time in 1924. Production is greater and averages over 85 per cent of capacity. Stocks are moderate and have decreased. Orders on hand will keep factories busy at the present rate for from 2 to 3 weeks. Prices are firm and unchanged.

CROP ESTIMATES

November 1, 1925
(000's omitted)

	Pennsylvania			New Jersey		
	1925 yield, preliminary	1924 yield	Average	1925 yield, preliminary	1924 yield	Average
Corn bus.	83,640	55,692	66,567	12,636	8,024	10,429
Buckwheat "	5,980	5,150	4,821	231	220	216
White potatoes "	28,314	28,792	26,449	6,360	11,544	10,890
Sweet potatoes* "				2,226	2,431	2,440
Tobacco lbs.	57,400	59,800	60,352			
Apples bus.	6,970	7,267	10,063	2,070	2,300	
Pears bbls.	468	629	576	512	624	
Grapes tons	11.2	19.8	20.4	2.2	2.3	
Cloverseed bus.	31	22	23			

* Preliminary estimates of white potato yield for Delaware totals 1,375,000 bushels as compared with 1,300,000 bushels for 1924 and the ten-year average of 1,215,000 bushels.