

THE BUSINESS REVIEW

THIRD FEDERAL
PHILADELPHIA



RESERVE DISTRICT
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BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Production of basic commodities in November continued in about the same volume as the month before, and the general level of prices remained unchanged. Activity of wholesale and retail trade was below the record level of October, but larger than in November of last year.

Production. Output of basic industries included in the Federal Reserve Board's index of production was at about the same rate in November as in October, but owing to a smaller number of working days, the index declined by about 1 per cent. Increases occurred in average daily production of pig iron, steel ingots, copper, and bituminous coal, and in the consumption of cotton, while the production of flour, sugar, and meat products declined. Automobile production in November was seasonally less than in October, but continued large for this time of the year. Employment and pay-rolls in manufacturing industries showed small increases in November as compared with October. Employment and workmen's earnings increased in the machinery industries, while in food products and tobacco and in the clothing industry there were seasonal declines. Building contracts awarded were smaller in November than in October, but were large when

compared with the volume for November of previous years.

Final estimates by the Department of Agriculture in 1925 indicate that the acreage of all crops harvested was slightly larger than in 1924, but that the aggregate production of crops was in about the same volume. Yields of cotton, corn, and tobacco were considerably larger than last year, while the production of wheat, oats, potatoes, and hay was smaller.

Trade. Sales in leading lines of wholesale trade showed the usual decline in November from the seasonally high levels in October, but continued larger than in the corresponding month of any of the past five years. Total volume of trade at department stores and mail order houses was smaller than in October, owing largely to the smaller number of business days in November. Compared with earlier years, however, department store sales were the largest on record for November and sales at mail order houses were the largest for that month in the past six years. Merchandise stocks at department stores showed considerably more than the usual increase in November and were 4 per cent larger than in November of last year. Distribution of commodities by railroads during Novem-

ber reached new high levels for the month. Movements of merchandise and miscellaneous commodities, coal, and coke were larger, while those of livestock, grain and forest products were somewhat smaller than in November of the two preceding years.

Prices. Wholesale prices according to the index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics remained the same in November as in October. Prices of livestock, meats and cotton goods declined, but these decreases were offset in the general averages by advances in the price of grains, fuel, lumber and rubber.

In the first three weeks of December prices of wheat, flour, and hardwood lumber were slightly higher than in November, while quotations on cattle, cotton, coke, copper and hides were lower.

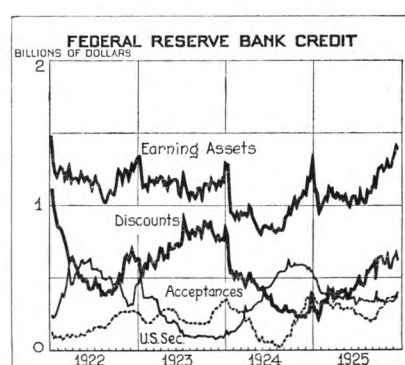
Bank credit. At member banks in leading cities, the volume of credit outstanding on December 9 was near the high level reached early in November. Loans for commercial and agricultural purposes declined somewhat during the period, and there was also a decrease in the banks' security holdings; continued growth of loans on securities, however, was sufficient to offset these reductions and the total of loans and investments remained practically unchanged.



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



Index of 22 basic commodities corrected for seasonal variation (1919-100). Latest figure—November, 115.



Weekly figures for 12 Federal Reserve Banks. Latest figure—December 16.

At the Reserve Banks the seasonal demand for currency and credit resulted in an increase of total bills and securities in December to the highest level in nearly four years. This increase in Reserve Bank credit in use has been in the form of discounts for member banks, and the volume of purchased bills held changed but little between the middle of November and the middle of December, and holdings of United States securities also remained constant, except for a temporary increase connected with Treasury financing on December 15. Money in circulation increased by \$71,000,000 between November 1 and December 1 and the continued demand for currency in December was reflected at the Reserve Banks both in increased reserve note circulation and in a decline in cash reserves.

During the latter part of November and the early part of December open-market rates on commercial paper and acceptances remained substantially unchanged. Later in December increased demand for credit and currency, largely seasonal in character, was reflected in firmer money conditions.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE PHILADELPHIA FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

Developments during the last two months of 1925 have given further evidence of the continued prosperity of business in the Philadelphia Federal Reserve District. The turn for the better which occurred in mid-summer has since been followed by a steady improvement which, though partly seasonal in its nature, has been manifested each month in a consistently larger volume of production and distribution than in the corresponding months of 1924. Factory employment in the states of the district remained virtually unchanged in December from the level of the two preceding months but continued, as it has each month since June, to be substantially larger than in the corresponding month of last year. Wage payments to workers, which is a still better measure of factory activity, also have been materially larger during the last half of 1925 than in the year before. Distribution and consumption of goods, as well as production, also continued in large volume. Freight car loadings in the Allegheny district declined seasonally in November but continued well above last year's figures. Wholesale dealers also reported seasonal slackening after the October peaks though in all lines, except groceries and drygoods, November business was in much larger volume than it was last year. Retail buying also continues very active with every evidence of record Christmas buying. November business in reporting stores was nearly 3 per cent ahead of last year, and total sales for eleven months

BUSINESS INDICATORS Philadelphia Federal Reserve District	November 1925	Latest figure compared with	
		Previous month	Year ago
Retail trade —net sales† (151 stores)	\$26,156,000	- 2.5%	+ 2.8%
Department stores (66)	\$20,589,000	- 0.9 "	+ 1.0 "
Apparel stores (41)	\$3,906,000	- 7.8 "	+14.4 "
Shoe stores (27)	\$602,000	-11.6 "	+ 9.1 "
Credit stores (19)	\$1,059,000	- 6.4 "	- 4.0 "
Wholesale trade —net sales (151 firms)	\$11,080,634	-10.9 "	+ 0.8 "
Boots and shoes (12 firms)	\$360,121	-18.1 "	+13.3 "
Drugs (14 firms)	\$1,531,866	- 8.2 "	+ 5.5 "
Dry goods (17 firms)	\$1,159,975	-21.1 "	- 6.6 "
Electrical supplies (6 firms)	\$728,479	- 9.7 "	+13.2 "
Groceries (50 firms)	\$3,843,296	- 6.3 "	- 6.7 "
Hardware (27 firms)	\$1,830,483	-14.6 "	+ 1.8 "
Jewelry (12 firms)	\$598,058	- 8.1 "	+15.0 "
Paper (13 firms)	\$1,028,356	- 9.5 "	+ 3.7 "
Production:			
Shoes* (99 factories)	prs. 1,182,835	-15.8 "	.....
Pig iron	tons 236,980	+ 0.4 "	+ 3.2 "
Hosiery* (128 mills)	doz. prs. 1,063,201	- 9.1 "	.....
Iron castings (35 foundries)	tons 5,834	- 6.5 "	+17.0 "
Steel castings (11 foundries)	tons 5,775	- 2.0 "	.....
Cement	bbbls. 3,457,000	-10.2 "	+ 2.4 "
Anthracite	tons 151,000	+122.1 "	-97.7 "
Bituminous coal—Pennsylvania	tons 12,263,000	- 3.6 "	.....
Wool consumption* (78 mills)	lbs. 6,893,629	-13.9 "	.....
Active cotton spindle hours (Penna. and N. J.)	113,569,701	-11.9 "	+65.8 "
Electric power—12 systems	KWH 305,253,000	- 3.4 "	+16.5 "
Distribution:			
Freight car loadings (Allegheny district—weekly average)	tons 201,638	- 5.9 "	+ 5.8 "
Tonnage of vessels (Port of Philadelphia)	2,942,934	- 4.9 "	- 0.5 "
Exports of wheat (from Port of Philadelphia)	bus. 2,690,915	+11.4 "	-20.6 "
Exports of flour (from Port of Philadelphia)	lbs. 6,092,390	- 1.4 "	-18.8 "
Imports of crude oil (into Port of Philadelphia)	gals. 12,767,370	+56.3 "	-39.6 "
Financial:			
Loans, discounts and investments of member banks (weekly average)	\$1,102,900,000	- 0.4 "	+ 4.2 "
Bills discounted held by Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia (daily average)	\$53,397,000	+ 0.0 "	+133.2 "
Acceptances executed (11 banks for month ended December 10)	\$4,292,000	+13.9 "	+20.7 "
Bankers' acceptances sales (5 dealers—weekly average for period ended middle following month)	\$1,628,000	+116.2 "	+132.2 "
Commercial paper sales (6 dealers)	\$4,686,500	-33.2 "	-29.6 "
Savings deposits (98 banks)	\$569,832,000	+ 0.1 "	+ 5.9 "
General:			
Debits (18 cities)	\$2,245,574,000	-12.4 "	+11.1 "
Commercial failures—number	49	-32.9 "	-21.0 "
Commercial failures—liabilities	\$1,011,228	-43.3 "	-10.5 "
Building permits (16 cities)	\$18,278,258	-27.2 "	+51.2 "
Building contracts awarded (Philadelphia district)	\$37,248,100	-27.6 "	- 1.9 "
Employment—1,271 plants in Penna., N. J. and Del.:			
Number of wage earners	436,092	+ 0.2 "	+ 4.5 "
Total wages	\$11,389,762	- 0.9 "	+ 6.9 "
Average weekly earnings	\$26.12	- 1.1 "	+ 1.6 "
Sales of life insurance (Penna., N. J. and Del.)	\$76,667,000	+ 3.2 "	+11.8 "

* Bureau of Census preliminary figures. † Estimated.

of 1925 was 2 per cent above that of the same period in 1924, in spite of the fact that the first six months of 1925 showed a decline.

In the construction industry 1925 has proved to be a record year in the Philadelphia district as it has elsewhere. In nearly every month the cost of building for which permits were issued has been much greater than in the corresponding month of 1924, and the value of contract awards for eleven months was 15.0 per cent greater than in the same period last year. November permits in 16 cities of the district were 51.2 per cent greater in value than in 1924. Building material manufacturers have naturally experienced good business although seasonal recessions occurred in November.

Among the manufacturing industries the iron and steel group has been especially active, with foundries, railroads, machinery and tool manufacturers and other fabricators placing large orders,

and to an increasing extent for future delivery. The continuance of the anthracite strike has stimulated domestic demand for petroleum fuels and for soft coal, and production of the latter is especially active.

Among the textile industries silk manufacture has been very active but business in cotton and wool goods has slowed down somewhat. Makers of floor coverings, underwear and hosiery also report seasonal slackening although in hosiery, some silk and wool lines are quite active.

City conditions. That recent improvement in the district has not been evenly distributed among the cities of the district is evident from the accompanying table. The effects of the coal strike are seen in the decreases in debits in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton as compared with last year and in the large falling off in retail sales in those cities. As compared with most of the smaller cities

of the district, conditions in Philadelphia were especially favorable in November.

FINANCIAL

Loans on securities, as reported by member banks in four of the larger cities of the Philadelphia Federal Reserve District, advanced from 397.7 millions on November 10 to 401.3 millions on December 9, so attaining a new high point for the year. Commercial loans, however, declined 9.7 millions in the four weeks and, at 362.8 millions on December 9, were 23.0 millions below the peak for the year reached three months before. Investments changed little in the last four weeks, but total loans and investments declined 6.8 millions and total deposits, 18.2 millions.

Rediscounts at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia increased 5.2 millions from November 18 to December 2, but in the two following weeks fell 2.9 millions. In the four weeks ended December 16 other bills and securities were reduced by 2.4 millions. The usual seasonal need for currency was evidenced by an increase of 15.8 millions in Federal reserve note circulation. Deposits declined slightly, but cash reserves gained 16.5 millions, and the reserve ratio rose from 75.2 per cent on November 18 to 76.9 per cent on December 16.

Debits to individual account at banks in 18 cities of this district totaled \$1,762,899,000 in the three weeks ended December 16. This was an increase of 10.4 per cent over a year ago, notwithstanding the fact that debits for three cities in the anthracite belt—Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and Hazelton—declined 17.6 per cent.

Christmas savings deposits as reported

RETAIL TRADE Philadelphia Federal Reserve District	Comparison of net sales		Comparison of stocks		Percentage of sales to average stocks from January 1 to November 30	
	Nov., 1925, with Nov., 1924	Jan. 1 to Nov. 30, 1925, with Jan. 1 to Nov. 30, 1924	Nov. 30, 1925, with Nov. 30, 1924	Nov. 30, 1925, with Oct. 31, 1925	1925	1924
	All reporting firms.....	+ 2.8%	+ 2.0%	+ 3.0%	+ 7.1%	2.99	2.97
All department stores.....	+ 1.0 "	+ 0.2 "	+ 0.6 "	+ 8.9 "	2.94	2.94
in Philadelphia.....	+ 3.7 "	+ 0.4 "	+ 1.5 "	+14.6 "	3.33	3.35
outside Philadelphia.....	- 5.1 "	- 0.1 "	- 1.8 "	+ 0.9 "	2.34	2.31
All apparel stores.....	+14.4 "	+10.4 "	+18.0 "	- 0.5 "	3.68	3.66
Men's apparel stores.....	- 5.1 "	+ 3.6 "	+ 0.6 "	+ 4.5 "	2.05	1.98
in Philadelphia.....	+ 1.3 "	+ 6.6 "	+ 7.3 "	+13.0 "	2.39	2.26
outside Philadelphia.....	-15.6 "	- 0.9 "	- 5.7 "	- 3.3 "	1.71	1.69
Women's apparel stores.....	+ 6.0 "	+ 6.6 "	+ 8.3 "	- 1.5 "	4.61	4.51
in Philadelphia.....	+ 8.0 "	+ 7.1 "	+ 8.9 "	- 0.6 "	4.91	4.87
outside Philadelphia.....	- 5.1 "	+ 4.0 "	+ 4.1 "	- 5.0 "	3.42	3.16
Credit houses.....	- 4.0 "	+ 2.8 "	+ 7.2 "	+ 3.2 "	2.43	2.42
Shoe stores.....	+ 9.1 "	+11.1 "	+ 7.3 "	- 0.4 "	2.26	2.16

by 1,033 banks (including national banks, trust companies, state banks and savings banks), out of a total of 1,267 banks in the Philadelphia Federal Reserve District, amounted to \$35,557,118 in December, 1925. Reports of 1,020 banks, for which both the 1924 and 1925 figures are available, show an increase from \$31,480,000 in 1924 to \$35,223,000 in 1925, or almost 12 per cent. Figures submitted by 103 banks in Philadelphia indicate that 69 banks maintained clubs this year and that deposits increased from \$7,100,000 in 1924 to \$8,736,000 in 1925, or 23 per cent.

Seven hundred and seventy banks in the district gave complete figures on number of depositors and amounts on deposit for both years. Totals for these banks, by states, are shown in the accompanying table.

Commercial paper. During the first two weeks of December the demand for

	1924	1925	Change
Number of depositors:			
Penna.*.....	580,666	630,102	+ 8.5%
New Jer.*.....	106,072	111,144	+ 4.8 "
Delaware.....	7,230	8,387	+16.0 "
District totals.....	693,968	749,633	+ 8.0%
Amounts on deposit:			
Penna.*.....	\$25,677,022	\$29,001,747	+12.9%
New Jer.*.....	5,058,727	5,320,838	+ 5.2 "
Delaware.....	249,766	304,660	+22.0 "
District totals.....	\$30,985,515	\$34,627,245	+11.8%

* That part of state located in Third Federal Reserve District.

commercial paper in Philadelphia continued poor, but in the third week of the month it improved considerably. In the Third Federal Reserve District outside of the city a better call for paper is also reported. The best demand, however, comes from outside the district, both the south and central west having bought in fair volume. Dealers' lists are somewhat fuller than they were a month ago and rates are unchanged. In the city no sales below 4½ per cent have been reported.

During November, the amount of paper sold to Philadelphia banks was \$1,116,500 and to outside institutions \$3,570,000. Rates on these sales varied from 4 to 5¼ per cent but more than 95 per cent of the business was transacted at from 4¼ to 4¾ per cent.

RETAIL TRADE

Preliminary reports show that Christmas trade in the retail stores in this district is large; indeed, a number of retailers state that it is the heaviest on record. Price changes are unimportant.

During November, sales in the district were 2.8 per cent larger than in November, 1924. This increase, however, was not well distributed but was almost wholly in Philadelphia and "all other cities," although Wilmington and Easton showed slight gains. In the other cities,

CITY CONDITIONS Philadelphia Federal Reserve District	November, 1925, compared with October, 1925						
	Employment	Wage payments	Value of building permits	Debits	Savings deposits	Retail trade sales	Electric power sales
Philadelphia.....	-0.8%	- 1.1%	+ 2.6%	-12.3%	+0.2%	+ 0.0%	+ 2.5%
Trenton.....	-1.2 "	- 6.1 "	+21.7 "	- 7.5 "	+2.7 "	-12.0 "	- 5.8 *
Wilmington.....	+1.7 "	+ 2.2 "	-53.1 "	-15.6 "	+0.6 "	- 5.7 "	+ 3.9 "
Reading.....	+1.7 "	+ 1.6 "	-86.8 "	- 7.9 "	+0.7 "	- 4.9 "	-13.0 "
Lancaster.....	-3.9 "	- 5.7 "	-61.0 "	-18.1 "	-0.3 "	- 9.3 "	- 0.1 "
York.....	+1.6 "	+ 2.1 "	-74.8 "	-16.4 "	0	-10.7 "	+ 5.8 "
Harrisburg.....	+0.5 "	- 5.4 "	-37.2 "	- 8.8 "	-0.3 "	- 1.4 "	.....
Allentown.....	-2.1 "	- 4.8 "	-43.4 "	-13.9 "	-0.1 "	- 8.7 "	+ 1.8 †
Wilkes-Barre.....	+4.1 "	+12.5 "	-36.9 "	-16.3 "	-1.1 "	-11.0 "	.....
Scranton.....	+1.6 "	+ 0.4 "	-57.5 "	-19.9 "	-1.0 "	- 9.5 "	+ 3.6 †
Altoona.....	+2.9 "	+ 3.9 "	-53.1 "	- 9.8 "	+2.3 "	-10.8 "	- 6.3 "
Johnstown.....	+2.0 "	- 1.9 "	.....	- 8.7 "	-1.3 "	- 8.0 "	.....
Williamsport.....	+0.2 "	- 0.8 "	+173.2 "	-21.4 "	-3.3 "	- 2.6 "	.....

November, 1925, compared with November, 1924

Philadelphia.....	+113.0%	+11.4%	+ 7.3%	+ 6.4%	+19.2%
Trenton.....	+ 44.1 "	+16.6 "	- 1.1 "	- 1.9 "	+34.6 *
Wilmington.....	- 65.3 "	+25.9 "	+ 5.4 "	+ 1.0 "	+10.2 "
Reading.....	- 76.7 "	+31.0 "	+12.6 "	- 8.6 "	+31.8 "
Lancaster.....	- 24.0 "	+ 9.8 "	+14.8 "	- 2.4 "	+22.7 "
York.....	- 16.0 "	+ 0.6 "	+11.3 "	- 2.1 "	+19.1 "
Harrisburg.....	- 33.4 "	+ 9.0 "	+22.1 "	- 6.4 "	.....
Allentown.....	+301.3 "	+17.5 "	+ 5.9 "	- 2.8 "	+ 2.7 †
Wilkes-Barre.....	- 46.0 "	-11.0 "	+ 1.5 "	-16.3 "	.....
Scranton.....	- 64.4 "	-15.6 "	+ 4.3 "	-14.3 "	+ 1.8 †
Altoona.....	- 35.6 "	+ 3.4 "	+13.4 "	-13.6 "	+33.6 "
Johnstown.....	.....	+11.5 "	- 0.7 "	- 5.2 "	.....
Williamsport.....	- 43.0 "	+14.5 "	+ 8.9 "	- 4.0 "	.....

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

trade was poorer than in November, 1924, and, as was to be expected, showed heavy decreases in the anthracite region, Scranton decreasing 14.3 and Wilkes-Barre, 16.3 per cent. Sales in women's apparel stores increased, but in men's, decreased. Shoe stores again showed a good gain—9.1 per cent—and for the eleven months of 1925 are 11.1 per cent ahead of their sales for the corresponding period of 1924.

The five departments showing the largest percentage of increase were sweaters, furs, neckwear and veilings, ribbons, and books and stationery; and those in which the percentage of decrease was heaviest were women's suits, waists and blouses, woolen dress goods, knit underwear and men's clothing.

WHOLESALE TRADE

Preliminary estimates of wholesale trade during December indicate that sales have been large. Price advances are reported for a number of groceries, drugs and papers, and declines are confined to a few groceries, cotton goods and radios, so that in general it can be said that the level of wholesale prices is somewhat higher than it was a month ago.

During November sales in all reporting lines were seasonally smaller than in October, but, except in drygoods and groceries, were larger than in November, 1924. The largest gains were in jewelry, shoes and electrical supplies. Stocks of electrical supplies and groceries increased during the month but in other lines were smaller. As compared with a year ago, a large reduction in stocks of electrical supplies, hardware and shoes is noted. Collections, as usual, became slower during November, but in five lines were better than in the same month of 1924.

Drygoods. Sales of drygoods have been in fair volume but naturally smaller than they were a month ago. Although the bulk of orders are for delivery before Christmas, some business has been closed for shipment during the first quarter of 1926. Prices are unchanged except that some cotton lines, including hosiery and underwear, are lower. Articles in demand included holiday goods, novelties, underwear, hosiery and handkerchiefs.

Jewelry. A good demand is reported for the general jewelry lines. The call for men's wrist watches has been of such size that some have found difficulty in meeting the demand. Rings, brooches and circle pins have also been good sellers. Prices are practically unchanged. In November, for the fourth month in succession, sales have been considerably ahead of the corresponding month in 1924.

Groceries. The best demand for groceries at this season is for holiday goods,

WHOLESALE TRADE Philadelphia Federal Reserve District	Net sales, Nov., 1925, compared with		Stocks, Nov., 1925, compared with		Accounts outstanding, Nov., 1925, compared with		Ratio of accounts outstanding to sales		
	Oct., 1925	Nov., 1924	Oct., 1925	Nov., 1924	Oct., 1925	Nov., 1924	Nov., 1925	Oct., 1925	Nov., 1924
	Boots and shoes.....	-18.1%	+13.3%	-7.8%	-12.7%	-6.6%	+5.2%	334.4%	288.5%	367.7%
Drugs.....	-8.2	+5.3			+2.7	+14.0	176.9	151.4	162.2
Dry goods.....	-21.1	-6.6	-7.6	+5.8	+0.6	-1.5	255.8	200.6	242.5
Elect supplies.....	-9.7	+13.2	+5.1	-17.7	+5.8	+0.6	131.5	112.2	148.0
Groceries.....	-6.3	-6.7	+2.9	+0.8	+1.5	-6.3	120.2	105.3	116.6
Hardware.....	-14.6	+1.8	-3.7	-15.2	-1.7	-1.1	190.3	165.3	194.9
Jewelry.....	-8.1	+15.0	-8.0	-1.6	+13.7	+6.6	360.7	291.5	389.6
Paper.....	-9.5	+3.7	-0.5	+4.0	-3.5	-2.4	155.4	145.7	165.1

which include nuts, raisins, mincemeat, confectionery, figs, dates, citron, dried orange and lemon peel and spices. A good volume of staples has been sold, among which are canned vegetables and fruits, evaporated fruits and sugar.

More price advances than declines are reported, the following being higher than they were a month ago: evaporated and canned fruits, raisins, sugar, flour, spices and rice. Lower quotations have been made for lard, syrups, dried lima beans and canned tomatoes. Grocers in the anthracite regions report that business has decreased sharply and that collections are poor.

Paper. The wholesale demand for various grades of paper, though a trifle below that of thirty days ago, remains fair and slightly stronger than it was at this time last year. Book, fine, newsprint, wrapping, kraft, towel and tissue, wall and board papers are in fairly good request at prices unchanged from last month's level. Paper mills in the Philadelphia district are now working at from 60 to 100 per cent of capacity, the average being about 90 per cent. Unfilled orders are sufficient to insure plant operations for about one month. Stocks generally are moderate.

Electrical supplies. Since November 20, the demand for electrical goods has increased somewhat, sales of appliances, radios, lamps, toys and Christmas merchandise generally exceeding those of the preceding month. Prices are the same as they were four weeks ago, except for a slight advance in wires and decline in radios. Collections are fairly prompt.

Hardware. Seasonal recession in nearly all grades of hardware is indicated by reports received from wholesalers in this district. Items selling most actively at present are iron and steel products, building, plumbing and heating materials, electrical goods, factory supplies and holiday articles generally. With a few exceptions, prices remain unchanged from those of four weeks ago. November collections declined but slightly.

Drugs. Activity in drugs continues at about the same rate as for the month ended November 20. Among the articles

now selling most actively are pharmaceuticals, proprietary and patent medicines and holiday items. Prices are steady, and advances are noted in such products as essential oils, chemicals, denatured alcohol, bismuth salts, mercurials and oil of peppermint. Quotations for castor oil, however, have declined slightly. Collections are good.

Shoes. The holiday demand for leather and felt slippers has been good and in other lines trade has been fair. Rubbers, men's calf oxfords, women's pumps of patent leather, satin and velvet have been in best request. With a few exceptions orders call for immediate shipment. Some business in tennis lines for spring delivery has been booked but up to the present this has not been large. Prices are unchanged.

AUTOMOBILES

Reports from 15 automobile distributors in Philadelphia show that both wholesale and retail sales of new cars and retail business in used cars were considerably smaller in November than in October. This seasonal decline was experienced in all price groups except the sales at wholesale of medium priced cars, which showed a substantial increase in both number and value. Stocks of new cars held by distributors increased by about a third between October 31 and November 30, and it is also significant that stocks of used cars again showed an increase in November.

AUTOMOBILE TRADE Philadelphia Federal Reserve District 15 distributors	Nov., 1925, change from Oct., 1925	
	No.	Value
Sales, new cars, wholesale.....	-10.8%	-8.3%
Cars under \$1,000.....	-14.9	-14.6
Cars \$1,000 to \$2,000.....	+21.6	+16.1
Cars over \$2,000.....	-6.5	-4.4
Sales new cars at retail.....	-17.5	-13.3
Cars under \$1,000.....	-17.3	+2.4
Cars \$1,000 to \$2,000.....	-13.9	-37.5
Cars over \$2,000.....	-20.9	-24.9
Stocks of new cars.....	+34.2	+32.3
Cars under \$1,000.....	+33.0	+31.7
Cars \$1,000 to \$2,000.....	+15.5	+18.4
Cars over \$2,000.....	+50.8	+36.9
Sales of used cars.....	-10.9	-10.2
Stocks of used cars.....	+16.4	+9.6
Retail sales, def. payment.....	+11.8	+5.1

ELECTRIC POWER

November sales of electric current for lighting purposes in the Philadelphia Reserve District increased considerably over those for October and for November, 1924. But consumption of electricity for power by industries, municipalities, street cars and railroads dropped somewhat below October totals, though it exceeded those for November, 1924. Production of electricity by central stations also declined, but there was a very large increase in the output of hydro-electric power over that of last October and November, 1924.

ELECTRIC POWER Philadelphia Federal Reserve District	Change	
	from Oct., 1925*	from Nov., 1924†
Rated generator capacity.	+ 5.1%	+ 8.4%
Generated output.	- 3.4 "	+ 16.5 "
Hydro-electric.	+96.4 "	+115.1 "
Steam.	- 8.6 "	+ 7.4 "
Purchased.	+27.1 "	+ 85.5 "
Sales of electricity.	- 1.0 "	+ 17.0 "
Lighting.	+14.3 "	+ 15.8 "
Municipal.	+ 6.8 "	+ 9.7 "
Residential and commercial.	+15.7 "	+ 16.9 "
Power.	- 2.7 "	+ 14.4 "
Municipal.	- 4.1 "	+ 6.6 "
Street cars and railroads.	- 2.3 "	+ 6.2 "
Industries.	- 2.9 "	+ 17.4 "
All other sales.	-16.9 "	+ 45.4 "

* 12 systems. † 11 systems.

EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

Employment and wages throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware scarcely changed during November as compared with October. Employment advanced .2 per cent, whereas the amount of wages paid declined .9 per cent. The suspension of operations in many plants over Armistice Day accounted for the declines in wage payments. The metal, food and tobacco, and building material groups fell off in both employment and operations but the chemical and allied product group declined only in operations. The textile and miscellaneous group showed increases in both employment and wages.

CHEMICALS

Trading in and manufacture of chemicals have continued active during the past thirty days, sales of crude methanol, acetate of lime, wood oils, charcoal, zinc oxide, lithopone and coal tar products reaching fair proportions. The bulk of current buying is for prompt delivery. Future commitments for fertilizers, however, are increasing. Contract withdrawals have improved considerably in the last thirty days and are now satisfactory. Plant operations in this district average about 80 per cent. Stocks of both finished products and raw commodities are moderate, although, in a few

EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES In Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware	No. of plants reporting	Number of wage earners— week ended		Total weekly wages— week ended		Average weekly earnings— week ended	
		Nov. 15, 1925	Per cent change	Nov. 15, 1925	Per cent change	Nov. 15, 1925	Per cent change
All industries (49)	1,271	436,092	+ 0.2	\$11,389,762	- 0.9	\$26.12	- 1.1
Metal manufactures:	409	195,219	- 0.5	5,412,995	- 1.6	27.73	- 1.1
Automobiles, bodies, and parts.	27	11,711	- 8.7	345,261	-13.4	29.48	- 5.1
Car construction and repair.	22	20,154	+ 0.8	568,538	+ 5.4	28.21	+ 4.6
Elec. machinery and apparatus.	40	22,764	- 5.8	611,615	+ 1.9	26.87	+ 8.2
Engines, machines, mach. tools.	55	13,374	+ 2.1	379,063	+ 0.6	28.34	- 1.5
Foundries and machine shops.	77	13,447	+ 0.6	375,902	- 2.0	27.95	- 2.6
Heating appliances and apparatus.	20	6,010	- 7.2	172,928	-13.3	28.77	- 6.6
Iron and steel blast furnaces.	12	12,793	- 1.8	351,563	- 4.5	27.48	- 2.7
Iron and steel forgings.	14	4,300	+ 5.5	101,844	+ 2.4	23.68	- 3.0
Steel works and rolling mills.	48	42,811	+ 2.5	1,189,467	- 0.6	27.78	- 3.1
Structural iron works.	20	5,724	- 1.7	160,258	- 2.3	28.00	- 0.6
Misc. iron and steel products.	43	25,562	- 1.5	688,818	- 6.5	26.95	- 5.1
Shipbuilding.	9	10,004	+ 8.6	288,759	+ 9.2	28.86	+ 0.6
Hardware.	8	1,970	+ 3.4	52,524	+ 7.0	26.66	+ 3.5
Non-ferrous metals.	14	4,595	+ 2.8	126,455	+ 0.1	27.52	- 2.6
Textile products:	269	85,920	+ 1.2	1,909,989	+ 0.7	22.23	- 0.5
Carpets and rugs.	15	4,218	+10.9	113,847	+ 8.3	26.99	- 2.4
Clothing.	43	6,809	+ 0.8	122,702	+ 2.3	18.02	+ 1.5
Hats, felt and other.	10	5,141	+ 1.9	125,389	- 0.7	24.39	- 2.5
Cotton goods.	32	10,080	+ 2.4	223,471	+ 3.3	22.17	+ 0.9
Silk goods.	71	25,197	+ 1.0	514,470	+ 0.3	20.42	- 0.6
Woolens and worsteds.	26	9,873	+ 0.5	208,752	- 3.0	21.14	- 3.5
Knit goods and hosiery.	43	14,480	- 0.8	336,002	- 0.8	23.20	+ 0.0
Dyeing and finishing textiles.	21	8,606	+ 3.1	233,017	- 0.8	27.08	- 1.2
Miscellaneous textile products.	8	1,516	+ 1.1	32,339	+14.5	21.33	+13.2
Foods and tobacco:	140	33,521	- 2.4	717,134	- 1.4	21.39	+ 1.0
Bakeries.	40	4,729	+ 0.9	136,219	- 1.1	28.81	- 2.0
Canneries.	11	3,609	- 9.6	75,242	- 9.3	20.85	+ 0.3
Confectionery and ice cream.	27	6,013	- 2.8	121,583	- 6.0	20.22	- 3.3
Slaughtering and meat packing.	16	2,976	+ 3.7	85,174	+ 2.1	28.62	- 1.5
Sugar refining.	4	3,116	- 8.6	96,376	+ 1.0	30.93	+10.5
Cigars and tobacco.	42	13,078	- 1.0	202,540	+ 1.9	15.49	+ 2.9
Building materials:	101	28,583	- 0.5	818,198	- 4.9	28.62	- 4.4
Brick, tile, and terra cotta products.	43	5,521	+ 0.5	141,305	- 1.9	25.59	- 2.4
Cement.	15	8,002	- 2.2	245,672	- 5.8	30.70	- 3.7
Glass.	28	10,049	+ 2.2	277,283	- 2.1	27.59	- 4.2
Pottery.	15	5,016	- 4.3	153,938	-10.7	30.69	- 6.7
Chemicals and allied products:	87	33,773	+ 1.8	1,028,296	- 1.2	30.45	- 3.0
Chemicals and drugs.	47	8,616	+ 3.1	243,240	+ 5.6	28.23	+ 2.4
Explosives.	12	3,500	+ 3.0	97,150	+ 4.8	27.76	+ 1.8
Paints and varnishes.	17	1,626	+ 3.6	42,086	+ 3.8	25.88	+ 0.2
Petroleum refining.	8	18,908	+ 1.1	617,093	- 4.2	32.64	- 5.2
Coke.	3	1,123	- 3.2	28,727	-15.1	25.58	-12.3
Miscellaneous industries:	265	59,071	+ 2.2	1,503,150	+ 2.4	25.45	+ 0.2
Lumber and planing mill products.	33	5,180	+ 1.0	107,668	- 1.7	20.79	- 2.6
Furniture.	27	4,171	+ 3.3	108,503	+ 2.7	26.01	- 0.6
Musical instruments.	7	8,070	+ 6.7	232,685	+ 7.3	28.83	+ 0.6
Leather tanning.	34	8,871	- 0.1	227,226	+ 0.1	25.62	+ 0.1
Leather products.	12	1,932	+ 1.3	41,875	+ 9.5	21.67	+ 8.1
Boots and shoes.	30	5,081	- 0.6	91,695	- 7.7	18.05	- 7.1
Paper and pulp products.	28	6,743	- 0.2	164,545	- 2.5	24.40	- 2.2
Printing and publishing.	51	5,325	+ 6.0	180,663	+14.5	33.93	+ 8.2
Rubber tires and goods.	18	5,467	+ 0.9	148,736	- 2.7	27.21	- 3.5
Novelties and jewelry.	12	3,777	+ 1.0	90,335	- 3.3	23.92	- 4.2
All other industries.	13	4,454	+ 4.9	109,179	+10.2	24.51	+ 5.1

instances, supplies appear to be heavy. Prices are firm, advances being noted in heavy acids, pigments, fertilizers and coal tar products. On the other hand, quotations for textile chemicals and some dyestuffs have dropped slightly below last month's level. Sodas and bleaching powder are selling at about the same prices as those of four weeks ago.

BUILDING

In November, as is usual at that time of the year, both the number and estimated cost of building permits in 16 cities of the Philadelphia Federal Reserve District were smaller than in October. As compared with November, 1924, however, though the number of permits fell from 2,296 to 2,073, the estimated cost increased from \$12,092,667 to \$18,-

278,258. The gain was entirely in the Philadelphia area which includes Camden, the Allentown area which includes Bethlehem and Easton, and in Trenton; in all other cities a decrease was shown. Details will be found in tables on pages 2 and 5. According to the statistics issued by the F. W. Dodge Corporation, contracts awarded in November in the United States broke all previous records for that month. The cost of industrial building during November, according to the Aberthaw index, remained at 194 per cent of the 1914 level, though the Aberthaw Company states that indications point to an upward trend.

Lumber. The demand for lumber, though seasonally smaller than a month ago, is fairly good. Prices are strong, and white pine, yellow pine and shingles

have advanced. Quotations for millwork also have risen and business in this line is active. Hard woods have easily held the gain in prices previously reported. The rate of operations is slightly lower than it was in November but is not far from 80 per cent of capacity.

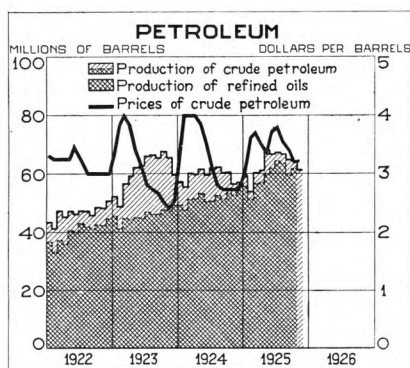
Paint. As the outdoor painting season in this district is over, orders received naturally reflect this condition and are smaller, but are about equal to those of the same period in 1924. All buying is for immediate delivery and plant operations have been reduced sufficiently to keep stocks stationary. Prices generally are unchanged but it is reported that in an effort to secure business some firms have offered to shade quotations slightly.

Bricks. A seasonal slackening in orders for building bricks is reported, although a fair volume of business has been booked. Prices are firm and unchanged. Stocks are moderate but have increased in some plants in which operations have been maintained at last month's level. As a whole production has decreased.

Pottery. Sales of pottery have been in good volume but scarcely sufficient to absorb the output, which is being maintained at the same high level as it was a month ago. This, in some cases, has resulted in overproduction, and consequent keen competition, with lower prices on staple goods.

OILS

Sales of kerosene and fuel oils have been large during the past four weeks, the demand from householders, industries and railroads having increased greatly since the beginning of the anthracite coal strike. Waxes and lubricating oils also are in good request, whereas the call for gasoline has slackened somewhat, owing to the seasonal drop in the automobile traffic. The output of refineries in the Philadelphia district is somewhat



The steady increase in production of refined oils has been sufficient to absorb a large share of crude oil stocks which accumulated in 1923.

Sources—Department of Interior; Dun's Review

greater than it was both thirty days ago and at this time last year. Stocks of refined petroleum are moderate. Prices are steady; tank wagon gasoline sold at 17 cents a gallon on December 21. Quotations for kerosene and fuel oils show an advance of about one cent a gallon since November 1.

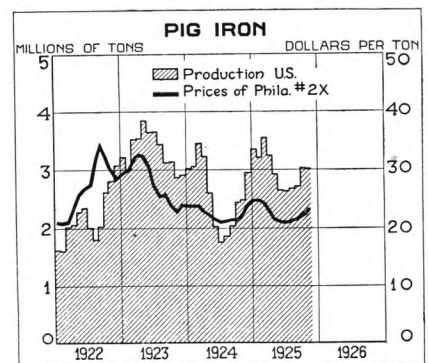
As a result of the increased trade in refined oils, refinery demand for Pennsylvania crude is considerably heavier than is usual at this time of the year, and present stocks are somewhat lighter than they were last month or a year ago. The total output for the country declined from 2,051,850 barrels for the week ended November 21 to 2,016,150 barrels for the week ended December 19. Quotations are firm and most Pennsylvania grades have increased from 10 to 25 cents a barrel.

IRON AND STEEL

Although recently the market for pig iron has slackened somewhat, business in iron and steel products generally has been fairly active during the past four weeks. The call for railway equipment has increased over last month's volume. Sales of plates have been sizeable and prospects for the nearby future appear to be favorable. Shipments of structural shapes are considerable, although new orders are neither large nor numerous. Fabricating shops, however, are well provided with work for the next few months. A number of producers state that lately there has been a marked tendency toward ordering for future delivery, although conservative buying for prompt shipment still predominates. At present, builders, foundries, railroads, and manufacturers of machinery, tools, automobiles and trucks are among the most active buyers. Compared with last month, stocks of finished goods are slightly lower and are now moderate, as also are supplies of raw materials. The majority of iron and steel plants in the Philadelphia Federal Reserve District are now working at about 85 per cent of capacity, but operations as a whole average about 65 per cent. The number of active furnaces increased from 26 in October to 27 in November. Production of pig iron in the United States during November declined slightly, whereas unfilled orders and the output of steel ingots exceeded last month's volume.

In gross tons	Nov.	Oct.
Production in U. S.—		
Pig iron	3,015,482	3,023,370
Steel ingots	3,907,353	3,893,028
Unfilled orders—		
U. S. Steel Corp.	4,581,780	4,109,183

Quotations have strengthened somewhat during the past thirty days, several



Although lately production of pig iron has turned upward, it is considerably below the high point reached in 1923. Prices also are much lower than the 1922 peak, in spite of the recent upward trend.

Source—The Iron Age

advances being reported in pig iron, castings, sheets, plates and shapes. Philadelphia 2X pig iron rose from \$23.76 a ton on November 24 to \$24.26 a ton on December 22. "The Iron Age" composite prices stood on December 22 at \$21.54 a ton for pig iron and 2.453 cents a pound for finished steel, compared with \$21.29 and 2.439 cents, respectively, one month ago. Quotations for Connellsville furnace coke, after dropping from \$4 a ton on November 24 to \$3.75 on December 15, rose to \$5 a ton on December 22. Collections in the iron and steel trade are fairly prompt.

Iron foundries. November iron casting production, shipments and unfilled orders generally decreased below the October level but were considerably above the volume for November, 1924. Raw stocks of pig iron are somewhat larger than they were last month.

Iron foundry operations	November	Change from Oct., 1925	Change from Nov., 1924
Capacity	12,719 tons	0	0
Production	5,834 "	- 6.5%	+17.0%
Malleable iron	1,059 "	-17.2 "	+21.6 "
Gray iron	4,775 "	- 3.8 "	+16.1 "
Jobbing	3,393 "	- 5.9 "	+16.6 "
For further mfr.	1,382 "	+ 1.8 "	+14.8 "
Shipments	5,430 "	-20.1 "	+24.7 "
Value	\$832,428	-21.5 "	+11.9 "
Unfilled orders	4,267 tons	- 4.7 "	+30.5 "
Value	\$629,087	- 9.3 "	+12.1 "
Raw stock:			
Pig iron	8,782 tons	+12.5 "	- 0.7 "
Scrap	2,823 "	-22.6 "	- 7.9 "
Coke	2,554 "	+20.4 "	+22.6 "

Steel foundries. Unfilled orders booked in November by identical steel foundries in the Philadelphia District increased greatly. But production and shipments decreased below the levels both of last October and November, 1924. Stocks are considerably heavier than they were a month ago and last year.

Steel foundry operations	November	Change from Oct., 1925*	Change from Nov., 1924†
Capacity.....	12,240 tons	0	0
Production.....	5,775 "	- 2.0%	- 6.7%
Shipments.....	4,204 "	- 3.9 "	-16.3 "
Value.....	\$664,662	-15.4 "	-25.5 "
Unfilled orders‡	4,989 tons	+10.4 "	+ 7.1 "
Value‡.....	\$759,968	+12.5 "	+12.8 "
Raw stock:			
Pig iron.....	2,338 tons	+10.3 "	-54.3 "
Scrap.....	9,881 "	- 3.5 "	-27.6 "
Coke.....	2,089 "	+48.5 "	- 8.2 "

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

COAL

The demand for bituminous coal continues strong, although recently the volume of sales has dropped slightly below that of thirty days ago, owing probably to early stocking by dealers and to rumors of an early strike settlement in the anthracite region. Industries and railroads are among the most active buyers; household consumers also have purchased a considerable amount during the past four weeks. Most of the present orders are being shipped on contracts, although spot sales are now somewhat larger than they have been for some months past. Prices generally remain unchanged, Pool 10 selling in Philadelphia from \$2 to \$2.15 a ton. The majority of soft coal mines in this district are now operating close to capacity. The total weekly production for the United States is given below:

Week ended	In thousands of net tons*		Per cent of change
	1925	1924	
Nov. 21.....	12,596	10,910	+15.5
Nov. 28.....	11,600	9,885	+17.3
Dec. 5.....	12,768	10,831	+17.9
Dec. 12.....	12,899	10,873	+18.6

*Compiled by the Geological Survey.

TEXTILES

Cotton. Business in cotton goods is but moderately active, the demand being affected somewhat by seasonal changes. Compared with last month, firms reporting decreases in sales during the past four weeks outnumber those reporting increases, but the volume of goods distributed has been considerably ahead of that of last year. The average rate of output continues at about 80 per cent of capacity; and unfilled orders, although a trifle smaller than those of a month ago, are sufficient to insure plant operation at this rate for about fifty days. Stocks are moderate. Prices of both gray and finished fabrics, though fairly steady, show a slight decline. Fairchild's index number of average prices, which stood at 14.7 for the week ended November

20, dropped to 14.3 on December 18. Last year's index for the corresponding week was 15.6. Spot cotton was quoted on December 23 at 19.40 cents a pound, compared with 21.45 cents a pound on November 23.

Cotton consumption declined from 619,429 bales, linters included, in October, to 609,064 bales in November, but it was about 11 per cent above that for the same month last year. Exports continue large. Mill and warehouse stocks on November 30 were 12 per cent greater than those of a year ago. According to official reports, 14,826,452 running bales of cotton were ginned to December 13, as against 12,792,294 bales last year. This season's production is indicated to be 15,603,000 bales, an increase of 2 per cent over the estimate made on November 14. This compares with 13,627,936 bales produced last year, or an increase of 14.5 per cent. The abandonment of acreage is estimated at 4.6 per cent of the estimated acreage in cultivation on June 25, compared with an abandonment of 3 per cent in 1924. The position of American cotton is shown below.

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 Dec. 18.....	11,259	9,745	7,900
Total.....	12,384	10,697	8,770
Visible supply on Dec. 18.....	5,399	4,877	3,405
World's takings to Dec. 18.....	6,985	5,820	5,365

* Compiled by the New York Cotton Exchange.

Wool. Sales of wool manufactures have fallen off considerably during the past fortnight, current demand lagging behind that of thirty days ago and of last year. Buying for future delivery also has declined somewhat. Unfilled orders are sufficient to insure plant operations at the present rate for about two months in woolen and worsted yarns and about forty days in wool fabrics. At present, spinners are working at about 70 per cent of capacity, whereas most producers of woolen and worsted cloth are operating at from 65 to 70 per cent. This is a drop in production of from 5 to 10 per cent below last month's rate. November wool consumption in this district decreased about 14 per cent below the October volume. Stocks of finished goods are moderately light.

Quotations for wool yarns are fairly steady and unchanged from those of last month, but prices of woolen and worsted goods recently have eased off somewhat. Domestic wool prices have dropped slightly. Dun's average of ninety-eight quotations stood at 81.22 cents a pound on December 18 as compared with 81.26 cents on November 20 and 102.04 cents on December 19, 1924. Quotations for foreign wools, including tops, are from 5 to 10 per cent lower than they were a

month ago, and from 25 to 30 per cent below last year's prices. American buying abroad continues restricted. United States imports rose from 23,920,262 pounds in October to 25,169,525 pounds in November.

Silk. The distribution of silk goods continues in large volume and sales of thrown silk are considerably ahead of those of last month and a year ago. The rate of production remains unchanged at 95 per cent of capacity. Unfilled orders will enable manufacturers of silk fabrics to operate their mills at this rate up to March 1, 1926, whereas throwsters have enough business on hand to assure operation of their plants for about fifty days. Stocks of broad silks are somewhat larger than they were thirty days ago, but supplies of thrown silk are light, although recently throwsters have been buying raw silk freely and throwing it for stock in anticipation of increased activity after January first. Prices of both silk goods and thrown silk are firm and unchanged from last month's level. Collections are prompt.

Quotations for raw silk have held firm during the past four weeks, Kansai double-extra cracks selling at \$7.05 on December 23, compared with \$6.78 on November 23 and \$6.85 on December 23, 1924. The rate of exchange for yen also has been fairly steady at about 43 cents. Trading in raw silk has continued active in both the Yokohama and New York markets, as is indicated below.

Raw silk* (in bales)	Nov., 1925	Oct., 1925	Nov., 1924
Imports.....	49,238	43,530	44,243
Stocks.....	46,813	39,423	44,398
Mill takings.....	41,848	46,815	33,125

* Silk Association of America.

Hosiery. The holiday rush for hosiery being over, the market has quieted down considerably, though the call for full-fashioned silk for women and fancy half-hose for men continues active. Manufacturers who have been able to make quick shipments of wool mixtures have also been fairly busy. A number of mills making circular knit hosiery for women are in need of orders if the recent rate of production is to be maintained. Prices generally are unchanged, although some unsettlement has been caused by lower quotations for children's lines by large southern producers.

In November the output of 128 mills in this district was 9.1 per cent smaller than in October. The operations of 325 establishments in the United States during October as compared with September increased 7.7 per cent; the largest gain was 13.0 per cent in full-fashioned hosiery

for women. Orders booked during the month increased 7.7 per cent and unfilled orders at the end of October were 3.9 per cent larger.

Underwear. Considered as a whole the knit underwear business has been good; all mills, however, have not shared in this to be desired condition. The winter weight season just drawing to a close has found many mills sold to capacity and, though purchases of summer weights during the last month or two have been comparatively light, some mills booked a good initial business and are fairly well sold ahead. At the present time buyers are holding back, awaiting lower prices based on the present cotton market. Manufacturers, however, contend that though yarns are slightly easier, they have by no means kept pace with raw cotton, and few price reductions have been announced for summer weights. A number of large producers have quoted their line of winter weights for the autumn of 1926 at prices about 5 per cent lower than those of a year ago; one large maker of fleeced underwear, however, has advanced his quotations. It is too early to state the result of these openings.

The following table shows production by 150 identical mills in the United States during August, September and October.

Knit underwear * (in dozen garments)	Winter weights	Summer weights
August.....	641,906	326,651
September.....	685,111	382,523
October.....	729,623	399,297

* Department of Commerce.

Floor coverings. Carpet and rug mills in this district are slightly more active than they were a month ago. Orders for Axminsters and velvets have increased, but for Wiltons have been somewhat disappointing. Prices are unchanged except for the advances announced by the largest factor in November to take effect on December 15. This led to the placing of a considerable business with this company before the latter date and the statement by them that they are now sold up for three months. Stocks are moderate and about stationary.

Business in linoleums and felt base lines has been only fair and prices of the latter are barely steady, one manufacturer having announced a further lowering of quotations.

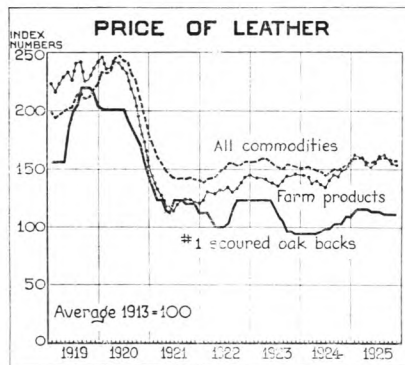
LEATHER

Hides and skins. Hides continued the decline started two months ago, the fall in prices during the month varying from

¼ to 1 cent per pound on different descriptions. Calf skins were lower by 1 to 1½ cents, but goat skins were firm and in some cases higher.

Stocks of cattle hides increased during October, but holdings of sheep and lamb, calf and kip and goat and kid were smaller.

Leather. Leather sales, although smaller in the aggregate than in the previous month, are in fair volume. Shoe manufacturers are buying only for their actual needs and are endeavoring to keep down year-end inventories by having as many shipments as possible held back until after January 1. In the heavy leather market of fall continues to be the strongest feature and in upper leathers colored glazed kid is the leader, but a fair demand is also reported for calf leather in both black and colors. Prices are firm with the exception of calf leathers which, especially in the light weights, are easier in sympathy with the raw stock situation.



During the past seven years the dollar of the sole leather tanner has had considerably less purchasing power than that of the farmer. And whereas the farmer's price index is almost on a parity with the all-commodity figure the index of sole leather was 112 in November as compared with 157.7 for all commodities.

Sources—Bureau of Labor Statistics; Dun's Review

Sales of both leather goods and of leather belting have been in good volume and larger than in the same period in 1924. During October stocks of leather decreased notwithstanding a considerable gain in production. In belting butts and goat and kid leathers, however, stocks were slightly heavier.

Leather Oct., 1925, as compared with Sept., 1925 *	Changes in	
	Production	Stocks
Backs, bends and sides....	+19.1%	-3.5%
Belting butts.....	+3.4 "	+0.7 "
Offal, sole and belting....	+7.1 "	-9.5 "
Cattle side, upper.....	+4.8 "	-3.2 "
Calf.....	+5.4 "	-0.7 "
Goat and kid.....	+16.8 "	+0.9 "
Cabretta.....	-1.2 "	-7.9 "

*Bureau of the Census.

Shoes. Manufacturers of shoes report that, in view of the season, business is good and that they have booked orders in fair volume for shipment during January and February. For women's shoes of high grade, the material most called for is kid in the light shades of tan and gray, and patent leather is still popular. Prices are unchanged. Production in this district in November is shown in the following table. In the United States the output in October was 30,903,120 pairs and was the largest since May, 1923; it compared with 30,825,998 pairs made in October, 1924.

PRODUCTION OF SHOES * Philadelphia Federal Reserve District (in thousands of pairs)	Nov.	Per cent change from Oct.
Boots and shoes, total.....	1,183	-15.8
High and low cut (leather) total	1,099	-15.2
Men's.....	92	-21.8
Boys' and youths'.....	163	-14.8
Women's.....	188	-24.1
Misses' and children's.....	358	-14.2
Infants'.....	299	-7.6
All other leather or part leather footwear.....	84	-22.6

* Preliminary report—Bureau of the Census.

CONFECTIONERY

Considered as a whole, the Christmas trade in confectionery has been good and larger than it was last year. In some cases, however, it was late in starting and culminated with a rush of business. Prices of finished candies are unchanged but chocolate for coating, icing and other purposes was lower than last year because of lower sugar and cocoa markets and also on account of new and keen competition in the early season. The largest gains in sales are in bars of various descriptions which retail at from 5 to 10 cents and in candies retailing at from 80 cents to \$1 per pound. Part of this increase is due to the spread of chain stores which sell goods of their own manufacture.

Now that the rush is over, plants are curtailing operations but they expect to begin shortly the manufacture of goods for the Easter trade.

CIGARS

The holiday trade in cigars has been good and is reported to be larger than it was a year ago. Both 5 and 10 cent cigars have shared in this increase. Production has been maintained at about the same rate as last month—85 per cent—but manufacturers state it will probably decrease until buying in the new year gets into full swing. Orders on hand are small, as is usual at this season. Prices are firm and unchanged.