

# THE BUSINESS REVIEW

THIRD FEDERAL  
PHILADELPHIA



RESERVE DISTRICT  
January 1, 1929

By RICHARD L. AUSTIN, Chairman and Federal Reserve Agent  
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK of PHILADELPHIA

## BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Industrial activity declined somewhat in November, but continued above the level of a year ago. Wholesale commodity prices declined further, reflecting principally a continued decrease in the prices of farm products. Security loans of member banks declined sharply after the first week of December, while other loans increased.

**Production.** Total output of manufactures was somewhat lower in November, reflecting primarily a decrease in production of automobiles and steel, larger than is usual at this season, but total output continued larger than a year ago. Production of pig iron and copper continued to increase in November, and textile mills remained active. Meat packing and sugar refining declined seasonally during the month, and the production of building materials was smaller. Factory employment and payrolls were seasonally reduced but were larger than in 1927. Mineral production was in about the same volume as in October, according to the Federal Reserve Board's Index which makes allowance for seasonal variations. Increases occurred in the production of copper, zinc, and tin, while both anthracite and bituminous coal decreased and the output of petroleum was somewhat smaller. The value of building

contracts awarded in November and the early part of December receded sharply from the record figures of the two preceding months. The November total was slightly larger than in the corresponding month in 1927, and the volume of contracts for the first two weeks of December was smaller than a year ago.

The December forecast of the Department of Agriculture increased the estimated 1928 production of cotton by 240,000 bales to a total of 14,373,000 bales, which is nearly 11 per cent larger than a year ago. The total value of crops, based on December farm prices, is estimated at \$8,456,052,000 as compared with \$8,522,563,000 in 1927.

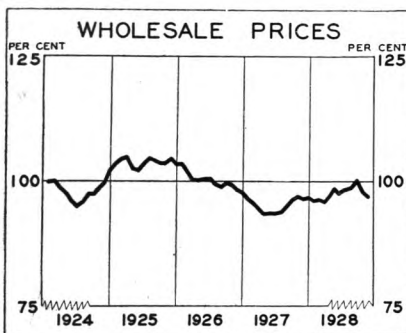
**Trade.** Department store sales showed a seasonal increase in November when allowance is made for the number of business days, and approximated those of a year ago, while inventories continued smaller than in 1927. Sales at wholesale declined seasonally, but were larger than in the same month of last year. Railroad freight shipments decreased in volume during November and the early part of December, but continued larger than in 1927. The decrease from October was especially marked in loadings of miscellaneous freight.

**Prices.** Wholesale commodity prices

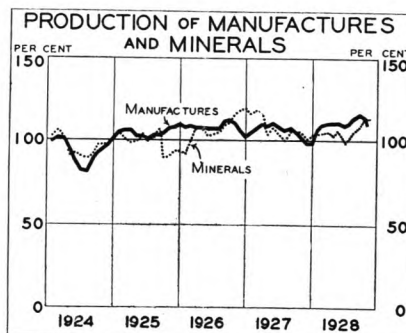
decreased further in November and the first two weeks of December. The largest price declines during the six week period were in farm and food products and leather, while several groups of industrial products notably iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, and cotton goods, were generally higher. Wholesale prices of gasoline and automobile tires declined. Among the agricultural products, prices of raw silk, corn, livestock, and meats were lower during November, while raw cotton and wool, wheat, and oats increased somewhat. During the first two weeks of December, however, prices of all those products, with the exception of raw silk, declined.

Building materials were generally higher in November, but declined somewhat in the middle of December.

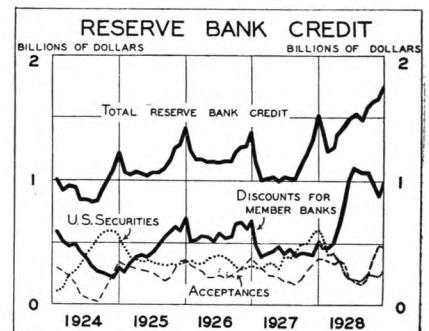
**Bank credit.** Loans and investments of member banks in leading cities increased \$329,000,000 during the four week period ending December 19. The advance during the first two weeks reflected chiefly a rapid increase in security loans, which include loans to brokers and dealers in securities. Subsequently, a sharp decline in loans on securities was more than offset by a rapid increase in all other loans and in holdings of investments. The increase in all other loans,



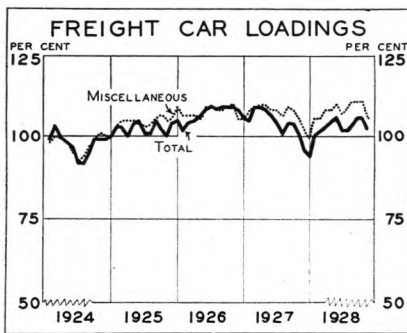
Index of United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (1926=100, base adopted by bureau). Latest figure, November, 96.7



Index numbers of production of manufactures and minerals, adjusted for seasonal variations (1923-25 average=100). Latest figures, November, manufactures 111, minerals 114.



Monthly averages of daily figures for 12 Federal reserve banks. Latest figures are averages of first 21 days in December.



Cars of revenue freight loaded as reported by the American Railway Association. Index numbers adjusted for seasonal variations, (1923-25 average=100). Latest figures, November, total 103, miscellaneous 106.

which include loans for commercial purposes, was contrary to the usual movement at this season and carried the total to the highest figure in eight years.

Seasonal growth in the demand for currency in November and December, together with increases in member bank reserve requirements, consequent upon an increase in their deposits, have been reflected in larger borrowings by the member banks from the reserve banks. This recent growth, following upon demand caused by the loss of gold in earlier months, has carried the total volume of reserve bank credit to the highest level in seven years.

The rates on call and time loans on security collateral increased during the last week in November and the first part of December, while rates for commercial paper were generally steady. Rates on certain maturities of bankers' bills increased somewhat.

### BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE PHILADELPHIA FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

Business in the Philadelphia Federal Reserve District naturally has slackened as the end of the year approaches. Christmas trade has been active and the dollar volume of sales is said to be about equal to that of a year ago.

Mercantile activity in November was at a lower level than in the preceding month and a year earlier. Retail sales declined slightly in the month and were almost 5 per cent smaller than in November, 1927, unfavorable weather conditions being advanced as a reason for the adverse comparison. Only credit and women's apparel stores showed gains in the month and the year. Inventories held by retailers increased seasonally but were smaller than last year.

Business in nearly all wholesale lines declined seasonally and sales were nearly 3 per cent smaller than last year. Stocks carried by wholesale dealers generally were below those of a year ago. Collections also were smaller.

The volume of railroad traffic in this

BUSINESS INDICATORS Philadelphia Federal Reserve District	November, 1928	Latest figure compared with	
		Previous month	Year ago
<b>Retail trade—estimated net sales (126 stores)</b> .....	\$25,865,200	- 0.3%	- 4.9%
Department stores (58).....	\$20,923,300	- 1.2 "	- 7.5 "
Apparel stores (34).....	\$3,403,500	+ 4.4 "	+ 4.1 "
Shoe stores (18).....	\$340,300	- 4.3 "	- 6.2 "
Credit stores (16).....	\$1,198,100	+ 4.1 "	+25.7 "
<b>Wholesale trade—net sales (118 firms)</b> .....	\$9,097,817	- 7.6 "	- 2.8 "
Boots and shoes (6).....	\$175,163	- 8.2 "	- 7.0 "
Drugs (10).....	\$1,427,620	- 8.0 "	- 2.6 "
Dry goods (14).....	\$809,457	- 6.4 "	- 9.4 "
Electrical supplies (3).....	\$580,505	- 0.7 "	- 0.9 "
Groceries (41).....	\$3,243,038	-10.5 "	- 0.2 "
Hardware (23).....	\$1,634,362	- 9.1 "	- 7.6 "
Jewelry (11).....	\$590,358	+ 5.3 "	- 2.5 "
Paper (10).....	\$637,314	- 4.9 "	+ 5.6 "
<b>Productive activity:</b>			
Employment—803 plants in Penna.....	265,464	- 0.1 "	+ 0.3 "
Wage payments in above plants.....	\$6,949,722	- 2.4 "	+ 3.3 "
Shoe production* (92 factories).....	prs. 1,204,137	-19.8 "	.....
Hosiery production* (124 mills).....	doz. prs. 1,522,537	- 2.7 "	.....
Wool consumption* (81 mills).....	lbs. 7,570,081	- 1.8 "	.....
Active cotton spindle hours (Penna. and N. J.).....	67,058,907	-13.8 "	-20.7 "
Pig iron production.....	tons 335,849	+ 2.3 "	+33.7 "
Iron casting production (38 foundries).....	tons 6,849	-11.1 "	+22.6 "
Steel casting production (12 foundries).....	tons 5,051	- 8.0 "	+18.0 "
Anthracite.....	tons 7,458,000	-12.8 "	+ 8.8 "
Cement.....	bbls. 3,338,000	-10.8 "	- 0.2 "
Electric power output (12 systems).....	KWH. 523,240	- 1.8 "	+18.7 "
<b>Distribution:</b>			
Freight car loadings (Allegheny district—weekly average).....	218,986	- 6.9 "	+15.6 "
Tonnage of vessels (Port of Philadelphia).....	tons 3,709,823	+ 0.1 "	+12.1 "
<b>Financial and credit:</b>			
Debits (18 cities).....	\$2,916,424,000	- 3.9 "	+16.0 "
Savings deposits (96 banks).....	\$701,522,800	- 0.4 "	+ 6.5 "
Bills discounted held by F. R. B. of Phila. (daily average).....	\$79,289,000	-15.4 "	+108.3 "
Bankers' acceptances outstanding (for third Federal Reserve district at end of month).....	\$16,591,000	+ 1.4 "	+ 1.7 "
Commercial paper sales (5 dealers).....	\$5,185,000	+17.2 "	-44.7 "
Commercial failures—number.....	97	-14.2 "	+34.7 "
Commercial failures—liabilities.....	\$1,793,428	-33.9 "	+20.6 "
<b>Building and real estate:</b>			
Building permits (16 cities).....	\$13,186,418	+13.5 "	+14.4 "
Building contracts awarded (Philadelphia district).....	\$28,017,100	-39.2 "	- 7.0 "
Number of real estate deeds recorded (Philadelphia county).....	4,758	- 9.6 "	- 3.2 "
Value of mortgages recorded (Philadelphia county).....	\$26,028,526	-18.7 "	-13.2 "
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>			
Sales of life insurance (Penna., N. J., and Del.).....	\$91,102,000	- 3.5 "	+18.7 "
Retail sales of automobiles (10 distributors).....	\$1,243,000	-46.8 "	- 4.2 "
Wholesale sales of automobiles (11 distributors).....	\$1,178,000	-54.5 "	-19.5 "

\* Bureau of Census preliminary figures.

section during recent weeks has declined, as usual at this season, but it has remained considerably ahead of last year, owing largely to increased shipments of coal and miscellaneous commodities.

Check payments continue large and in the latest four weeks they have exceeded the volume of a year ago by about 20 per cent. Most city areas have shared in the gains since the latter part of November and in comparison with last year.

As the year draws to a close, productive activity naturally shows a let down in most lines. The demand for finished goods has declined and unfilled orders held by manufacturers are smaller than four weeks ago. This is not unusual, however, in view of the fact that at this time of the year buying is usually deferred until after the completion of inventories. Stocks held by plants appear moderate and smaller than they were a year ago.

Factory employment and payrolls in Pennsylvania were larger than in November, 1927, but smaller than in the previous month. The demand for work-

ers by employers also decreased in the month but was appreciably greater than last year. Plant operations in Delaware likewise showed contraction, but in New Jersey they have expanded further between October and November, contrary to the usual seasonal tendency.

The volume of industrial production decreased in the month but was larger than a year ago in many leading industries. This was especially true of the output of pig iron, iron and steel castings, coal, electric power, and some textile products. Fabrication of metal products has been in large volume.

The value of building contracts declined sharply while that of permits increased as compared with the preceding month and a year earlier. The manufacture of building materials continues seasonally slack. Practically all lines have had smaller sales than last month.

Borrowings from the Federal Reserve Bank have increased materially during the past four weeks, and the demand for currency has been heavy, as usual at this time of the year. Loans on securities

have expanded, according to the reports of member banks, while commercial loans declined seasonally. Rates for business funds for the most part are unchanged, but those for loans secured by stock exchange collateral are firmer than in November.

### THE FINANCIAL SITUATION

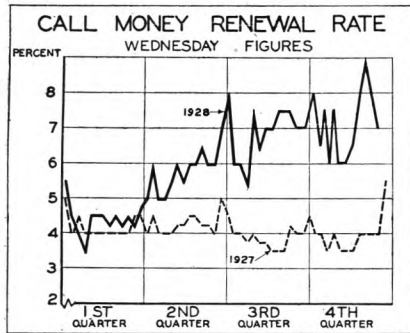
In the past month rates for loans on stock exchange collateral have risen, a strong seasonal demand for currency has been manifest, and the volume of federal reserve credit in use has increased.

**Money rates.** No change was reported in open-market rates for commercial paper and rates for bankers' bills changed little in the month ended December 20. In contrast with the stability in the rates for business loans was a distinct rise in the rates for loans secured by stock exchange collateral. Ninety-day time money rose from 7 to 7¾ per cent, and call money reached the highest point in years.

CITY CONDITIONS Philadelphia Federal Reserve District	Nov., 1928, compared with Nov., 1927						
	Employment	Wage payments	Value of building permits	Debits	Savings deposits	Retail trade sales	Electric power sales
Allentown area...	- 4.6%	- 3.1%	- 51.9%	+ 6.0%	+ 3.2%	- 3.2%	.....%*
Altoona ".....	.....	.....	- 35.4	-10.8	+ 3.1	+ 1.1	- 9.9
Harrisburg ".....	+ 6.2	+ 5.1	- 42.2	+ 2.9	+ 1.8	+ 1.6	.....
Johnstown ".....	-10.9	+15.6	- 79.8	+ 7.1	- 0.2	- 3.6	+ 2.3
Lancaster ".....	- 9.2	- 8.5	- 99.0	+ 6.6	+12.5	- 0.9	+11.4
Philadelphia ".....	+ 3.0	+ 3.1	- 3.3	+18.3	+ 6.3	- 5.9	+15.2
Reading ".....	+ 2.6	+ 5.3	+ 55.3	+ 3.7	- 1.7	- 6.5	+17.7
Seranton ".....	+ 6.0	+ 3.9	+250.1	- 2.4	- 2.2	- 1.9	- 4.9
Trenton ".....	+ 4.3	+ 3.4	- 59.4	+12.2	+ 3.9	+ 0.1	+18.8
Wilkes-Barre ".....	-12.6	- 9.4	+ 11.7	+ 4.5	- 5.4	- 2.9	.....
Williamsport ".....	- 5.9	+11.6	- 92.0	+13.6	-11.7	+ 6.6	.....
Wilmington ".....	+ 0.3	+ 3.0	- 43.8	+54.2	+ 5.0	+ 4.9	+19.8
York ".....	- 2.7	- 2.0	+143.7	+10.6	- 1.2	- 1.5	+13.9

CITY CONDITIONS Philadelphia Federal Reserve District	Nov., 1928, compared with Oct., 1928						
	Employment	Wage payments	Value of building permits	Debits	Savings deposits	Retail trade sales	Electric power sales
Allentown area...	+ 0.7%	- 1.0%	- 71.2%	- 9.8%	+ 0.5%	+ 8.3%	- 0.4%*
Altoona ".....	+ 1.8	+ 5.9	- 21.7	-14.2	+ 0.2	+10.1	- 1.4
Harrisburg ".....	0.0	-12.2	- 43.9	- 0.5	- 1.6	+14.7	.....
Johnstown ".....	- 6.6	+ 4.4	- 92.9	- 8.3	+ 0.0	+ 7.0	- 2.0
Lancaster ".....	+ 0.4	+ 1.3	- 54.7	-17.2	+ 0.8	+ 6.6	+ 2.3
Philadelphia ".....	- 1.4	- 3.0	+ 8.1	- 2.7	+ 0.1	- 2.6	+ 9.5
Reading ".....	+ 3.0	- 1.9	- 32.5	- 2.8	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	+ 7.2
Seranton ".....	+ 4.2	- 4.0	+190.2	- 4.1	- 5.3	+32.7	- 0.1
Trenton ".....	+ 1.1	- 2.2	- 60.5	- 4.0	- 0.0	+ 2.3	+11.3
Wilkes-Barre ".....	- 0.9	+ 1.4	- 84.2	-13.3	- 1.4	+ 7.8	.....
Williamsport ".....	- 4.4	- 2.6	- 41.1	- 1.8	- 1.6	+12.6	.....
Wilmington ".....	- 0.9	- 1.9	- 62.3	- 8.7	- 0.1	+ 3.5	+ 3.6
York ".....	- 3.2	- 5.8	- 35.7	- 3.9	- 4.3	+ 0.4	+ 1.1

\* Includes Harrisburg, Wilkes-Barre and Williamsport areas. † Production (not sales). ‡ Includes Camden area. § Included in Allentown area.



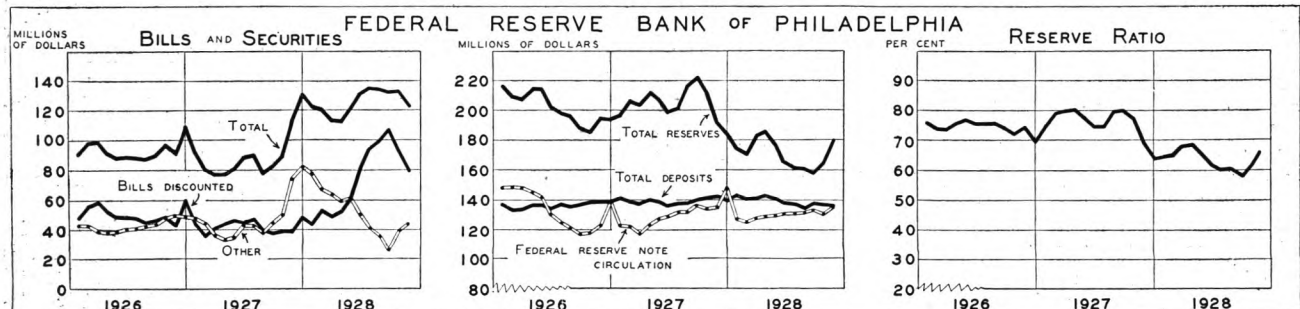
**Condition of federal reserve banks.** In the period from November 21 to December 19 the bill and security holdings of the federal reserve system increased 186 millions, of which 147 millions was accounted for by heavier discounting for member banks. Cash reserves declined and federal reserve note circulation increased, with the result that the reserve ratio declined from 68.4 to 64.5 per cent. In comparison with a year ago the cash reserves of the system on December 19 were 134 millions smaller, reserve deposits have declined, and note circulation has increased. Bill and security holdings

in total exceed the figures of a year ago by 168 millions, an increase of 456 millions in bills more than compensating for a decline of 288 millions in securities. During the four weeks ended December 19 there was a heavy demand for currency in this district, as usual at this

season, and collections of income tax checks by the Government and withdrawals of funds from depositary banks exceeded Government disbursements. These factors, which tended to deplete the reserves of member banks, were only partly offset by gains in the settlements. Member banks' reserve deposits declined nearly 3 millions despite an increase of about 28 millions in borrowing from the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. The cash reserves of the bank show a decline of one million. A slight decrease in total deposits occurred, but federal reserve note circulation increased 27 millions and the reserve ratio fell from 68.6 to 62.6 per cent.

Operations in connection with Government financing in this district were large during the past month. By the 15th of December practically all of the Government funds held by depositaries in this district were withdrawn. On that date there were two new issues of certificates and 30 millions was paid for by credit, of which about 6 millions was called for payment on December 19. From Decem-

Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia (Dollar figures in millions)	Dec. 19, 1928	Changes in	
		Four weeks	One year
Bills discounted for member banks in—			
Philadelphia.....	\$ 51.2	+ \$17.9	+ \$27.0
20 other large cities.....	27.9	+ 4.6	+ 16.3
Other communities.....	18.7	+ 5.3	+ 5.4
Total bills discounted.....	\$ 97.8	+ \$27.8	+ \$48.7
Bills bought.....	15.2	- 7.0	- 26.5
United States securities.....	21.1	- .6	- 24.6
Other securities.....	.1	0	0
Total bills and securities.....	\$134.2	+ \$20.2	- \$2.4
Federal reserve note circulation.....	155.9	+ 26.7	+ 5.6
Member banks' reserve deposits.....	132.5	- 2.7	- 1.4
Cash reserves.....	181.0	- 1.0	+ 6.9
Reserve ratio.....	62.6%	- 6.0%	+ 1.6%





ber 1 to December 19, inclusive, 35 millions of income tax checks was credited to the account of the Treasurer of the United States. Redemptions of maturing Government securities amounted to 17.5 millions from the 15th to the 19th, inclusive, and a little over 2 millions also was disbursed in the payment of Government coupons in this period.

**Condition of member banks in this district.** Loans on securities increased in the four weeks ended December 12, but the total loans and investments of member banks in 21 cities declined slightly, reflecting a decrease in commercial loans, which is to be expected at this time, and smaller investment holdings. A reduction in time deposits was responsible for a decrease in the total of net demand and time deposits.

Loans on securities are materially larger than a year ago and in this period total loans and discounts have expanded 62 millions. Investments have decreased 49 millions, however, and net demand and time deposits are 65 millions lower than in December, 1927.

Reporting member banks in twenty-one leading cities (In millions of dollars)	Dec. 12, 1928	Changes in	
		Four weeks	One year
<b>Loans and discounts:</b>			
Philadelphia*	\$ 668.3	- 7.0	+25.0
Outside Philadelphia†	416.3	+11.7	+36.8
Totals	\$1,084.6	+ 4.7	+61.8
<b>Investments:</b>			
Philadelphia*	282.3	- 4.6	-39.0
Outside Philadelphia†	218.1	- 3.3	- 9.6
Totals	\$ 500.4	- 7.9	-48.6
<b>Net demand deposits:</b>			
Philadelphia*	587.4	- 3.8	-69.1
Outside Philadelphia†	258.1	+ 6.0	- 2.6
Totals	\$ 845.5	+ 2.2	-71.7
<b>Time deposits:</b>			
Philadelphia*	218.4	- .4	+11.3
Outside Philadelphia†	281.4	- 6.7	- 4.6
Totals	\$ 499.8	- 7.1	+ 6.7

\* 32 banks. † 85 banks.

**Bankers' bills.** The volume of bankers' acceptances outstanding in the country on November 30 totaled \$1,200,000,000, which represents an increase of 78 millions in a month and 171 millions in a year. The increase during November was due principally to gains in bills to finance exports and domestic warehouse credits.

In this district the total outstanding was \$16,591,000 at the end of November, as compared with \$16,359,000 on October 31, and \$16,308,000 a year ago.

**Commercial paper sales.** There was a further increase in commercial paper sales from October to November, but the total remains considerably below that of a year ago. In the four months from August to November, inclusive, total sales were but \$15,600,000, as compared with \$36,900,000 in the same period of 1927.

(Reported by 5 dealers)	Sales to		Total sales
	City banks	Country banks	
1928—Aug...	\$1,717,500	\$1,530,000	\$3,247,500
Sept...	225,000	2,532,500	2,757,500
Oct...	1,147,500	3,275,000	4,422,500
Nov...	2,960,000	2,225,000	5,185,000
1927—Nov...	3,503,200	5,877,500	9,380,700

**Brokers' loans.** Brokers' loans, as reported by New York city member banks, increased steadily up to December 5, attaining a record total of 5,395 millions. In the two following weeks there were declines and the total outstanding on December 19 was \$5,111,000,000, of which \$4,551,000,000 was in the form of demand loans. Comparative figures follow:

(In millions of dollars)	Dec. 19, 1928	Peak Dec. 5, 1928	Dec. 21, 1927	Dec. 22, 1926
For own account	1,030	1,272	1,302	907
For out-of-town banks	1,750	1,838	1,337	1,037
For others	2,331	2,285	1,005	779
Totals	5,111	5,395	3,644	2,723

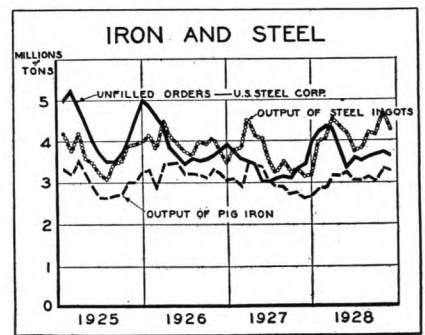
**New security issues.** New security issues in November (refunding excluded) amounted to \$900,000,000, which compares with \$739,000,000 in October and \$554,000,000 in November, 1927. For the first eleven months of the year the 1928 total was \$6,926,000,000, and 1927—\$7,003,000,000.

## INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS

**Manufacturing.** Business in manufactured products generally is moderately active for this time of the year, when buying usually slackens until after the completion of inventories. Smaller sales, unfilled orders, and volume of production reflect this seasonal recurrence. Comparisons with a year ago appear to be rather favorable.

The market for iron and steel products continues strong. Consumers of fabricated metal products have been exceptionally active since the middle of the summer, their purchases surpassing those of last year by a considerable margin. Foundries, jobbers, and manufacturers appear to be among the most active buyers at present. Prices for finished steel have advanced fractionally while those of pig iron have eased off slightly.

Demand for various textiles, particularly wool fibers and manufactures, hosiery, knit goods, heavy weight clothing, and floor coverings, showed some improvement early in the month but lately activity has slackened a little. With some exceptions in silk and cotton, textile busi-



Source: Iron Age.

ness as a whole compares favorably with the volume at the same time last year.

Prices of textile fibers, except foreign wool, have risen since the middle of last month. Cotton manufactures have followed this upward trend, but broad silks have shown some ease. Virtually no price changes have been reported in hosiery and floor coverings.

Shoes continue in fairly good demand, and prices remain practically unchanged. Sales have increased somewhat since last month but are smaller than a year ago. The market for leather goods has been seasonally active. Business in sole leather has improved slightly in the month, while that in both black and colored kid has slowed down, this being more pronounced in black than in colored kid. The demand and prices for hides are seasonally easier, but the market for goat skins remains firm and moderately active.

Seasonal activity is reported in confectionery and tobacco products, although sales do not seem to measure up to the volume of a month and a year ago. The demand for chemicals generally is good. Manufacturers of paper boxes and bags have had the usual amount of business, but sales of paper have declined slightly in recent weeks.

Building materials are naturally passing through a period of seasonal quiet, reflecting conditions in building trades. Nearly all lines report smaller sales than four weeks or a year ago. Little variation in prices has occurred since last month.

Orders on the books of reporting manufacturers have shown some decline during the month and are smaller than a year ago. Exceptions to this, however, are afforded by fabricators of metal products, wool dealers and spinners, and producers of floor coverings. Forward business of the United States Steel Corporation declined in November for the first time since July, but it continued to exceed the total of a year earlier. Unfilled orders for steel castings increased materially in the month and the year, while those for iron castings were smaller than a month before but larger than in November, 1927.

Plant operations in the main have declined slightly, as is customary at this season, although some textile and metal industries report expansion. The de-

EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES in Pennsylvania	No. of plants reporting	EMPLOYMENT Nov., 1928				PAYROLLS Nov., 1928				AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS week ended	
		Nov. index*	Per cent change since		Nov. index*	Per cent change since		Nov. 15, 1928	Oct. 15, 1928		
			Nov., 1927	Oct., 1928		Nov., 1927	Oct., 1928				
<b>All manufacturing industries (51)</b> .....	<b>803</b>	<b>89.5</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>- 0.1</b>	<b>93.2</b>	<b>+ 3.3</b>	<b>- 2.4</b>	<b>\$26.18</b>	<b>\$26.73</b>		
<b>Metal products</b> .....	<b>235</b>	<b>89.2</b>	<b>+ 7.7</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>95.2</b>	<b>+16.4</b>	<b>- 2.4</b>	<b>28.48</b>	<b>29.23</b>		
Blast furnaces.....	9	42.0	-16.0	+ 3.2	44.9	-11.8	+ 3.7	29.52	29.45		
Steel wks. & rolling mills.....	44	77.7	- 2.4	+ 0.9	82.8	+ 5.9	- 3.2	28.99	30.17		
Iron and steel forgings.....	10	94.1	+15.6	+ 5.7	113.7	+28.9	+11.6	29.30	27.74		
Structural iron work.....	10	106.3	+11.8	- 2.6	109.8	+17.4	- 5.6	28.48	29.42		
Steam & hot water htg. ap.....	17	91.0	+10.6	- 1.9	102.4	+22.3	- 2.5	30.60	30.34		
Stoves and furnaces.....	9	86.8	+ 4.7	+ 2.2	91.8	- 1.3	- 5.2	30.26	32.57		
Foundries.....	38	87.7	+ 7.3	+ 3.4	93.1	+14.5	+ 2.2	28.62	28.98		
Machinery and parts.....	40	106.3	+14.8	+ 1.8	117.4	+22.9	+ 1.7	31.41	31.37		
Electrical apparatus.....	17	196.7	+80.0	- 6.0	220.9	+96.5	- 8.1	25.50	26.09		
Engines and pumps.....	10	97.7	+11.0	0.0	105.4	+38.1	- 3.2	29.11	30.07		
Hardware and tools.....	20	85.3	+ 1.8	+ 4.7	88.3	+ 9.7	+ 1.3	23.92	24.72		
Brass and bronze prods.....	11	106.5	+29.4	- 3.3	100.7	+27.1	+ 0.1	25.09	24.21		
<b>Transportation equipment</b> .....	<b>40</b>	<b>66.5</b> †	<b>-16.8</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>65.1</b> †	<b>-18.7</b>	<b>- 1.2</b>	<b>28.52</b>	<b>28.55</b>		
Automobiles.....	6	92.3	+38.8	+ 0.5	104.6	+51.4	+ 4.1	32.69	29.61		
Auto. bodies and parts.....	11	83.9	-20.4	- 0.1	80.6	+18.9	- 4.2	31.12	32.41		
Locomotives and cars.....	13	53.4	-26.5	- 1.8	46.0	-31.9	- 5.3	24.95	25.81		
Railroad repair shops.....	6	85.4	+ 2.4	+ 5.6	89.4	+ 5.2	+ 3.2	27.70	28.36		
Shipbuilding.....	4	25.2	-43.0	+ 4.6	27.3	-36.1	+18.2	31.47	27.86		
<b>Textile products</b> .....	<b>163</b>	<b>97.7</b>	<b>- 4.9</b>	<b>+ 1.0</b>	<b>105.0</b>	<b>- 7.4</b>	<b>- 1.9</b>	<b>22.16</b>	<b>22.84</b>		
Cotton goods.....	14	82.3	- 7.8	+ 3.4	88.6	- 8.7	+ 7.0	24.99	24.14		
Woolens and worsteds.....	15	90.9	-10.0	+ 2.6	87.0	-17.5	- 5.1	20.33	22.03		
Silk goods.....	39	101.1	- 3.2	+ 0.4	105.5	- 6.8	- 2.0	19.13	19.59		
Textile dyeing & finishing.....	9	116.9	- 4.6	- 0.1	127.8	+ 1.3	+ 4.1	26.07	27.14		
Carpets and rugs.....	10	87.4	-14.9	+ 4.4	83.0	-22.6	- 3.8	23.96	26.03		
Hats.....	4	96.9	+ 0.9	+ 0.7	89.7	-14.2	- 1.1	23.60	24.02		
Hosiery.....	27	109.9	- 6.5	+ 0.5	138.5	- 4.7	- 3.1	28.18	29.34		
Knit goods, Other.....	15	92.5	+ 9.7	+ 0.2	106.7	+19.4	+ 1.9	20.40	20.07		
Men's clothing.....	10	74.6	-22.6	-12.6	65.6	-28.3	-21.2	17.40	19.30		
Women's clothing.....	9	110.7	+ 1.9	+ 4.1	120.3	+ 4.0	+ 7.4	15.53	15.08		
Shirts and furnishings.....	11	98.4	- 1.8	+ 3.1	100.4	+ 0.8	+ 4.0	16.43	16.31		
<b>Foods and tobacco</b> .....	<b>101</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>+ 2.5</b>	<b>- 2.3</b>	<b>100.9</b>	<b>+ 2.3</b>	<b>- 3.1</b>	<b>20.61</b>	<b>20.77</b>		
Bread & bakery products.....	30	105.8	- 2.5	+ 0.5	100.6	- 4.1	- 0.2	28.62	28.82		
Confectionery.....	13	100.0	- 0.8	- 5.0	104.9	- 3.1	-12.6	18.59	20.21		
Ice cream.....	11	80.8	+ 0.9	- 4.4	87.0	+ 0.8	- 7.3	31.84	32.88		
Meat packing.....	14	102.4	+ 4.0	+ 3.3	107.5	+ 7.0	+ 7.1	30.80	29.71		
Sugar refining.....	33	100.6	0.0	- 2.9	102.0	- 2.1	- 2.3	14.99	14.88		
Cigars and tobacco.....	33	100.6	0.0	- 2.9	102.0	- 2.1	- 2.3	14.99	14.88		
<b>Stone, clay &amp; glass products</b> .....	<b>66</b>	<b>81.9</b>	<b>-10.1</b>	<b>- 0.5</b>	<b>83.5</b>	<b>- 7.3</b>	<b>- 3.4</b>	<b>27.84</b>	<b>28.63</b>		
Brick, tile and pottery.....	30	88.4	- 4.6	+ 0.1	87.9	- 1.0	- 2.8	24.69	25.43		
Cement.....	14	75.3	-23.0	- 1.3	81.1	-21.7	- 7.2	31.31	33.29		
Glass.....	22	90.1	+ 2.3	- 0.3	90.9	+ 9.4	+ 1.1	27.08	26.68		
<b>Lumber products</b> .....	<b>43</b>	<b>80.2</b>	<b>- 4.2</b>	<b>- 5.2</b>	<b>90.6</b>	<b>+ 7.9</b>	<b>- 1.1</b>	<b>24.11</b>	<b>23.11</b>		
Lumber and planing mills.....	17	68.5	-11.8	- 6.7	74.9	- 8.5	- 5.3	22.47	22.14		
Furniture.....	20	87.5	+ 9.9	- 5.3	102.2	+28.7	+ 0.8	27.70	26.01		
Wooden boxes.....	6	111.6	-14.2	- 0.3	127.7	+ 0.8	+ 6.7	18.43	17.24		
<b>Chemical products</b> .....	<b>49</b>	<b>97.7</b>	<b>+ 2.7</b>	<b>- 0.3</b>	<b>104.8</b>	<b>+ 0.7</b>	<b>- 1.4</b>	<b>28.70</b>	<b>29.02</b>		
Chemicals and drugs.....	29	91.7	+ 3.1	- 2.3	92.8	+ 0.2	- 3.0	27.00	27.19		
Coke.....	3	119.2	+ 6.2	+ 0.3	122.8	+ 5.0	- 0.3	29.09	29.23		
Explosives.....	3	139.5	+11.5	+ 4.7	130.2	+ 4.2	+ 6.9	25.77	25.25		
Paints and varnishes.....	9	126.2	- 7.6	- 1.3	132.9	- 8.1	- 3.0	27.22	27.70		
Petroleum refining.....	5	87.1	+ 2.5	- 0.3	94.4	+ 0.1	- 2.2	29.55	30.07		
<b>Leather and rubber products</b> .....	<b>49</b>	<b>95.7</b>	<b>- 6.0</b>	<b>- 1.7</b>	<b>94.8</b>	<b>- 7.9</b>	<b>- 8.6</b>	<b>21.91</b>	<b>23.54</b>		
Leather tanning.....	17	101.0	- 6.7	- 2.5	102.8	- 7.8	- 5.3	25.04	25.76		
Shoes.....	22	87.2	- 6.7	- 1.5	76.7	-15.4	-17.1	16.01	19.03		
Leather products, Other.....	6	129.7	- 3.0	+ 4.1	131.6	+13.3	+ 8.8	23.33	22.33		
Rubber tires and goods.....	4	76.7	- 8.8	- 2.3	81.4	- 9.3	-13.1	25.96	29.22		
<b>Paper and printing</b> .....	<b>57</b>	<b>94.1</b>	<b>- 1.8</b>	<b>- 0.3</b>	<b>109.3</b>	<b>+ 2.8</b>	<b>+ 0.6</b>	<b>30.50</b>	<b>30.25</b>		
Paper and wood pulp.....	13	83.1	- 3.9	- 0.8	98.0	+ 2.6	- 0.5	30.27	30.19		
Paper boxes and bags.....	6	103.6	- 6.3	+ 2.6	125.8	- 5.1	+ 1.5	15.82	15.98		
Printing and publishing.....	38	106.3	+ 1.8	- 0.4	120.0	+ 4.4	+ 1.4	33.63	33.06		
<b>Anthracite</b> .....	<b>113.3</b>	<b>- 2.8</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>108.7</b>	<b>- 6.5</b>	<b>- 9.3</b>	<b>34.10</b>	<b>36.88</b>			
<b>Construct. and contract</b> .....	<b>30</b>	<b>103.6</b>	<b>- 6.1</b>	<b>- 1.4</b>	<b>93.0</b>	<b>- 6.1</b>	<b>- 5.4</b>	<b>26.33</b>	<b>27.53</b>		
<b>Street railways</b> .....	<b>5</b>	<b>95.6</b>	<b>+ 1.2</b>	<b>- 1.9</b>	<b>101.6</b>	<b>+ 2.0</b>	<b>- 1.0</b>	<b>34.30</b>	<b>34.01</b>		
<b>Retail trade</b> .....	<b>58</b>	<b>107.9</b>	<b>- 1.2</b>	<b>+ 7.9</b>	<b>107.9</b>	<b>- 1.2</b>	<b>+ 7.9</b>	<b>107.9</b>	<b>107.9</b>		
<b>Wholesale trade</b> .....	<b>94</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>- 0.8</b>	<b>+ 0.1</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>- 0.8</b>	<b>+ 0.1</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>97.8</b>		

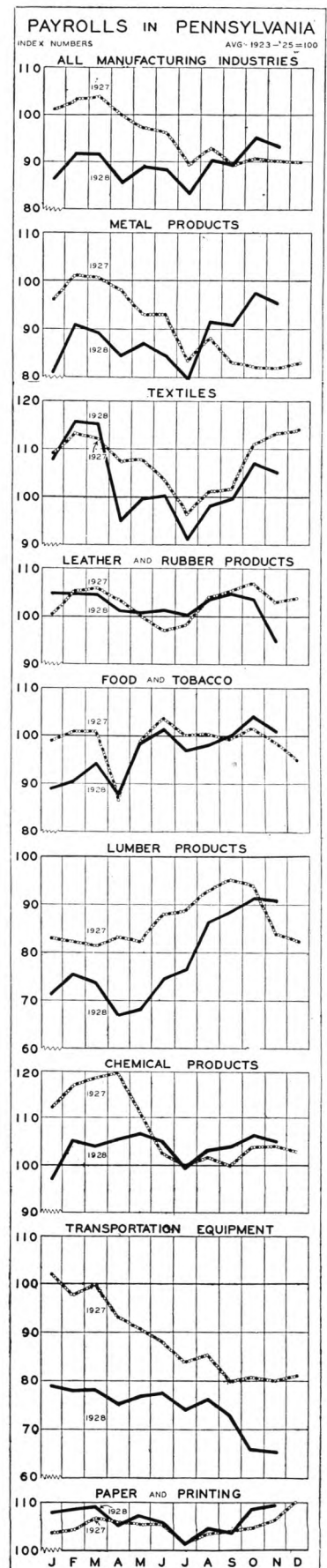
\* 1923-1925 average = 100. † Preliminary figures.

mand for workers by employers in November decreased seasonally for the third successive month but continued about 7 per cent in excess of a year earlier.

Factory employment in Pennsylvania showed little change between October and November but was slightly above the level of a year before. Payrolls declined somewhat, owing largely to sea-

sonal influences and to the observance of Armistice Day by a number of reporting plants; they were larger than those of a year earlier. This favorable comparison is attributable in large measure to the high level of activity in the metal industry, a substantial portion of which is located in western Pennsylvania.

Manufacturing plants in New Jersey

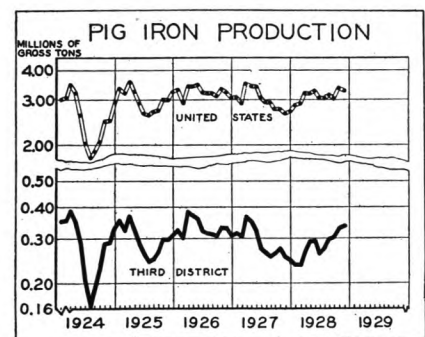


experienced gains in both the number of workers and the volume of wage disbursements during November, most industrial groups sharing in the increase. In Delaware, on the other hand, a slight let down occurred in most of the manufacturing groups, as indicated by figures on employment and wage payments.

Industrial consumption of electrical energy during November declined slightly but was more than 15 per cent larger than that of a year earlier. Total sales of electricity showed a substantial gain in the month and the year. The output of electrical power by 12 systems was slightly smaller than in October but materially larger than in November, 1927. Details follow:

ELECTRIC POWER Philadelphia Federal Reserve District 12 systems	Nov., 1928, change from	
	Nov., 1927	Oct., 1928
Rated generator capacity . . .	+ 25.4%	+ 1.2%
Generated output . . . . .	+ 18.7 "	- 1.8 "
Hydro-electric . . . . .	+158.3 "	+15.9 "
Steam . . . . .	+ 9.4 "	- 7.1 "
Purchased . . . . .	+12.6 "	+12.6 "
Sales of electricity . . . . .	+ 25.9 "	+ 4.2 "
Lighting . . . . .	+ 18.5 "	+20.8 "
Municipal . . . . .	+ 6.7 "	+ 7.8 "
Residential and commercial . . . . .	+ 20.3 "	+22.7 "
Power . . . . .	+ 16.7 "	+ 0.4 "
Municipal . . . . .	+374.3 "	+12.1 "
Street cars and railroads . . . . .	+ 11.6 "	+ 3.7 "
Industries . . . . .	+ 15.3 "	- 0.7 "
All other sales . . . . .	+ 93.4 "	+ 0.7 "

Metal fabricating plants have shown some expansion in activity during the month, contrary to the usual downward tendency at this time. Production of machinery and tools, track supplies, castings, and pig iron particularly have been in larger volume than four weeks ago. The daily output of pig iron in this



Source: Iron Age.

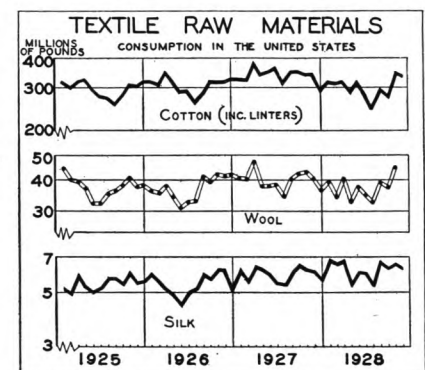
district in November reached the largest volume since April, 1927. This also was true for the country as a whole. Daily production of steel ingots declined nearly 5 per cent from the record volume reached in October but was the largest tonnage ever attained in November. In the eleven months of this year steel ingot output was the largest ever shown for a like period in the past and surpassed the

twelve-month figures of all previous years except 1926.

Iron and steel Daily output	Nov., 1928 (gross tons)	Change from Oct., 1928	11 mos., 1928, com- pared with 11 mos., 1927
Pig Iron— United States . . . . .	110,084	+1.2%	+ 2.5%
Philadelphia Dist. . . . .	11,195	+5.7 "	- 3.9 "
Steel ingots— United States . . . . .	163,822	-4.8 "	+13.5 "

Production of iron and steel castings declined in November but was considerably larger than in the same month last year.

Plant operations in the textile industry show a slight recession since last month. The textile industry as a whole is now working at about 75 per cent of capacity, which is almost 3 per cent below the level of last month. Larger operations are noted in the manufacture of wool fabrics, hosiery, and floor coverings, while the cotton and silk goods industries show a decline. Consumption of textile fibers has turned seasonally downward, after an almost steady rise since the early fall.



Sources: Dept. of Commerce, Silk Association of America, Inc.

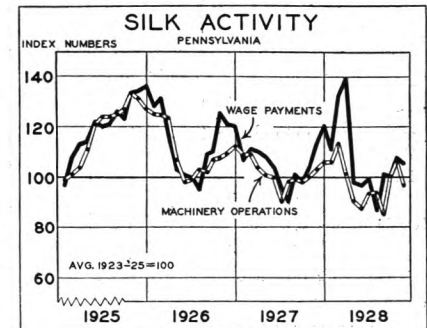
Productive activity in the shoe industry has increased slightly in December, following a recession in November, but operations of leather plants show a slight contraction from the level prevailing up to the middle of last month. No marked changes have taken place in the rate of production of paper and tobacco products, but the output of confectionery has decreased slightly.

The output of building materials, particularly cement, lumber, brick, and paint, has declined seasonally. Activity in the pottery, glass, and furniture industries appears to be above the rate prevailing at the same time last year.

In response to the usual increase in demand for all types of printing and commercial advertising, the productive activity of printing and publishing plants has expanded appreciably since the middle of November and compares favorably with

the level of a year ago. The industry as a whole is now working at about 75 per cent of capacity. Printing and publishing costs during the past two months have been fairly stable, despite a few reported decreases. Collections are said to be satisfactory.

Inventories of finished goods carried by manufacturers generally are said to be moderate and smaller than a month ago, except for wool and silk fabrics, seamless hosiery, shoes, leather, and pottery. Compared with a year ago, stocks are smaller in practically all lines with the exception of silk manufactures.



Sources: Silk Association of America, Inc., Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank.

**Building and real estate.** The value of contract awards declined rather sharply in November and was the smallest for that month since 1925. In contrast with a year earlier, southern New Jersey and Delaware showed large decreases, while eastern Pennsylvania reported a slight gain. In the first eleven months of this year, however, the total value of contracts was nearly 3 per cent ahead of that for the same period last year; the gain in residential contracts amounted to about 22 per cent over last year. The proposed expenditure under permits issued in 16 cities of this district increased in the month and was larger than a year or two years before. Contract changes in six cities were as follows:

Contract Awards	11 months of 1928 compared with 11 mos. of 1927, per cent change	
	Floor space, sq. ft.	Value
Camden . . . . .	+ 5.9%	+39.7%
Philadelphia . . . . .	+ 3.8 "	- 1.7 "
Reading . . . . .	-25.4 "	-43.2 "
Seranton . . . . .	+11.9 "	-21.5 "
Trenton . . . . .	+14.2 "	+ 2.5 "
Wilmington . . . . .	+17.4 "	+14.5 "

Source: F. W. Dodge Corp.

The real estate market in Philadelphia has been rather quiet, the number of deeds recorded declining noticeably between October and November. Foreclosures, which in October were the fewest since the same month last year, in November reached the largest volume shown for any month in the last decade.



**Coal.** Seasonal buying of anthracite by householders continues well sustained, although recently a slight falling off has been noted in purchases by dealers. Sales, however, have been in excess of the volume at the same time last year. Prices of domestic sizes have shown little change while those of steam sizes declined slightly. In the four weeks ended December 15 the output of anthracite totaled 6,862,000 tons, an increase of 0.3 per cent from the previous four weeks and of 26.0 per cent from the volume of a year before.

The market for bituminous coal shows a slight improvement since the middle of last month. Despite some variations, prices remain fairly steady. Production in the country during the four weeks ended December 15 amounted to 43,123,000 tons, a decrease of 1.7 per cent from the preceding four weeks but a gain of 15.4 over the same period last year.

### DISTRIBUTION

Railroad shipments in the Allegheny district have continued in the largest volume since 1926, when allowance is made for seasonal variations. The movement of coal and miscellaneous commodities has been chiefly responsible for the favorable showing this fall. Such downward tendency as has occurred since early November is characteristically seasonal. Compared with a year earlier, total shipments and loadings of merchandise and miscellaneous commodities were noticeably larger in the latest four weeks.

Sales of ordinary life insurance in this section declined from October to November instead of increasing as is customary at this season, but were substantially larger than in the same month last year.

**Retail trade.** Business at retail is seasonally active. Sales have increased sharply during the month, as may be expected at the Christmas season. Except for a few declines, prices remain unchanged. Sales in November declined slightly from the previous month and were nearly 5 per cent smaller than in November 1927. This unfavorable comparison was attributable partly to unsatisfactory weather conditions. While in the country retail sales also declined, the extent of it was smaller than in this district. Department, men's apparel, and shoe stores recorded noticeable decreases. This was also true of women's apparel stores outside of Philadelphia. Credit stores and women's apparel stores in Philadelphia, on the other hand, showed substantial increases as compared with a year earlier. Total sales in the first eleven months of this year were almost 3 per cent less than in the same period last year, women's apparel stores in Philadelphia, shoe and credit stores alone showing gains.

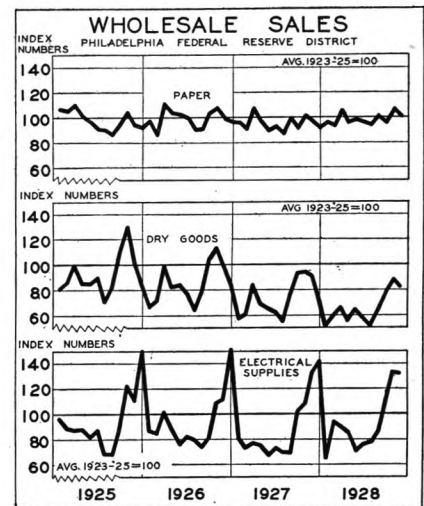
Inventories carried by reporting retailers increased seasonally but were 8 per

cent smaller than on the same date last year, only women's apparel and shoe stores carrying larger stocks.

**Wholesale trade.** Business in wholesale lines is in moderate volume, and prices show little change except for some advances in groceries and hardware. Sales of jewelry, drugs, hardware, and paper appear to be slightly larger than four weeks ago, while those of dry goods have declined. Reports on shoes and electrical supplies show no change.

Sales in November declined seasonally and were nearly 3 per cent smaller than in the same month last year. All lines had smaller sales in the month except jewelry. Compared with a year ago, paper alone reported larger business. Stocks of groceries and jewelry were larger, while those carried by dry goods, electrical supply, hardware, and paper wholesalers were smaller than a year before. The majority of dealers report an increase in accounts outstanding at the end of the month but a decrease as compared with the same date last year. Collections in most lines were smaller in November than in the preceding month, and in all were less than a year ago.

**Automobile trade.** Sales of new passenger cars by retailers declined seasonally but were larger in number, though not in value, than a year ago, according to reports from 11 distributors. Sales by wholesalers were considerably smaller



than in the preceding month and a year earlier. Deferred payment sales at retail also decreased in the month but exceeded noticeably those at the same time last year. This was also true of business in used cars.

Stocks of new automobiles held by distributors declined during November but on November 30 were appreciably larger in number and value than a year before. Inventories of used cars also were much heavier than on the same date last year, but only slightly larger than in the preceding month.

RETAIL TRADE Philadelphia Federal Reserve District	Comparison of net sales		Comparison of stocks		Rate of turnover, Jan. 1 to Nov. 30		Accounts receivable at end of Nov. compared with year ago	Collections during Nov. compared with year ago
	Nov., 1928, with Nov., 1927	Jan. 1 to Nov. 30, 1928, with Jan. 1 to Nov. 30, 1927	Nov. 30, 1928		1927	1928		
			with Nov. 30, 1927	with Oct. 31, 1928				
All reporting stores.....	- 4.9%	- 2.6%	- 8.0%	+ 2.6%	3.00	3.08	.....	.....
Department stores.....	- 7.5 "	- 3.6 "	- 8.7 "	+ 3.0 "	2.90	2.97	.....	.....
in Philadelphia.....	- 9.2 "	- 4.3 "	-11.6 "	+ 4.1 "	3.07	3.18	.....	.....
outside Philadelphia.....	- 3.0 "	- 1.6 "	- 2.0 "	+ 0.9 "	2.48	2.49	+ 7.5%	+ 7.1%
Men's apparel stores.....	- 5.2 "	- 3.4 "	-11.2 "	+ 3.1 "	2.58	2.67	.....	.....
in Philadelphia.....	- 3.6 "	- 3.0 "	- 7.3 "	+ 7.7 "	2.80	2.94	.....	.....
outside Philadelphia.....	- 7.9 "	- 4.1 "	-15.6 "	- 2.2 "	2.18	2.18	+ 2.2 "	- 0.9 "
Women's apparel stores.....	+ 7.5 "	+ 0.5 "	+ 2.7 "	- 0.8 "	5.92	5.82	.....	.....
in Philadelphia.....	+ 9.3 "	+ 0.7 "	+ 1.9 "	- 1.3 "	6.32	6.32	.....	.....
outside Philadelphia.....	+ 8.2 "	+ 0.8 "	+ 6.7 "	+ 1.5 "	3.89	3.49	+10.9 "	+ 6.7 "
Shoe stores.....	- 6.2 "	+ 2.4 "	+ 2.9 "	- 2.8 "	2.28	2.26	+ 7.1 "	+ 5.9 "
Credit stores.....	+25.7 "	+ 8.8 "	- 8.4 "	+ 1.2 "	1.94	2.16	+ 0.9 "	+ 2.2 "

WHOLESALE TRADE Philadelphia Federal Reserve District	Net sales, Nov., 1928, compared with		Stocks, Nov. 30, 1928, compared with		Accounts outstanding, Nov. 30, 1928, compared with		Ratio of accounts outstanding to sales, Nov., 1928	Collections, Nov., 1928, compared with	
	Nov., 1927	Oct., 1928	Nov. 30, 1927	Oct. 31, 1928	Nov. 30, 1927	Oct. 31, 1928		Nov., 1927	Nov., 1928
Boots and shoes.....	- 7.0%	- 8.2%	.....%	.....%	- 7.0%	+ 1.0%	413.5%	-16.5%	- 6.4%
Drugs.....	- 2.6 "	- 8.0 "	.....	.....	- 1.8 "	+ 1.4 "	161.7 "	- 3.6 "	- 7.1 "
Dry goods.....	- 9.4 "	- 6.4 "	-20.7 "	-14.5 "	- 5.8 "	+ 0.5 "	262.5 "	-12.1 "	- 0.4 "
Electrical supplies.....	- 0.9 "	- 0.7 "	- 8.0 "	+15.9 "	.....	+ 7.3 "	143.7 "	.....	.....
Groceries.....	- 0.2 "	-10.5 "	+ 4.0 "	+ 1.9 "	- 0.8 "	- 1.9 "	126.8 "	- 0.7 "	- 7.8 "
Hardware.....	- 7.6 "	- 9.1 "	- 4.3 "	- 4.2 "	- 8.2 "	+ 0.6 "	207.8 "	- 2.3 "	+ 3.2 "
Jewelry.....	- 2.5 "	+ 5.3 "	+ 9.1 "	- 4.7 "	+ 3.7 "	+16.4 "	370.2 "	-12.4 "	+11.8 "
Paper.....	+ 5.6 "	- 4.9 "	- 3.3 "	- 3.1 "	+ 6.8 "	- 0.2 "	144.3 "	- 1.5 "	- 8.5 "

AUTOMOBILE TRADE Philadelphia Federal Reserve District 11 distributors	Nov., 1928, change from			
	Nov., 1927		Oct., 1928	
	Number	Value	Number	Value
Sales, new cars, wholesale	-24.7%	-19.5%	-61.0%	-54.5%
Sales, new cars, at retail	+4.7	-4.2	-51.2	-46.8
Stocks of new cars	+17.1	+16.5	-31.5	-20.5
Sales of used cars	+17.4	+36.8	-15.9	-0.6
Stocks of used cars	+31.3	+23.3	+0.2	+0.4
Retail sales, deferred payment	+43.8	+9.5	-27.0	-6.0

### COMMODITY PRICES

Wholesale prices have shown a slight recession since the latter part of last month. On December 21 Fisher's weekly index was 96.9 per cent of the 1926 average, as against 97.3 per cent four weeks earlier and 95.9 per cent a year before.

The general level of wholesale prices during November also showed a downward trend, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The decline in the month amounted to one per cent, but the index at 96.7 per cent of the 1926 average coincided with that for November 1927. Increases occurred in quotations

for metals and metal products, building materials, and chemicals and drugs, while the textile group remained unchanged and other groups showed declines. Prices of raw materials generally were lower than in the preceding month and a year before, but finished products, while declining in the month, were somewhat higher than a year earlier.

Retail food prices in the country showed an increase of about one third of one per cent since October 15 and were a little more than one half of one per cent higher than in the middle of November last year. In Philadelphia re-

Index numbers of wholesale commodity prices (1926=100)	Nov.,	Oct.,	Nov.,
	1927	1928	1928
All commodities	96.7	97.8	96.7
Farm products	104.3	103.5	101.6
Foods	101.5	102.3	100.1
Hides & leather products	114.3	117.5	115.5
Textile products	97.5	96.1	96.1
Fuel and lighting	82.9	84.9	84.4
Metals & metal products	97.0	101.0	101.7
Building materials	90.2	95.0	96.0
Chemicals and drugs	97.4	95.6	96.0
Housefurnishing goods	98.9	96.5	96.4
Miscellaneous	88.3	80.3	80.0
Raw materials	99.0	97.4	96.2
Semimanufactured articles	97.0	96.9	96.9
Finished products	95.3	98.5	97.2
Nonagricultural commodities	94.6	96.4	95.4

tail food prices showed a decline while in Scranton there was no change. This is also true of Philadelphia as compared with a year ago, while Scranton registered a slight advance. In contrast with the pre-war level, food prices were 59 per cent higher in Philadelphia, 65 per cent in Scranton, and 57 per cent in the country.

### BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE PHILADELPHIA FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

	Prices	Demand	Unfilled orders compared with a year ago	Operations	Stocks
Retail trade	Practically unchanged	Increased seasonally			Larger, though below a year ago
Wholesale and jobbing trade					
Drugs	Little change	Fairly active, little change			
Dry goods	Little change	Fair; some decline			Smaller
Electrical supplies	Unchanged	Fair			Larger
Groceries	Higher	Active; some decline			Larger
Hardware	Little change; some advances	Fair; little change			Smaller
Jewelry	Unchanged	Fairly active; increased			Smaller but larger than a year ago
Paper	Unchanged	Fair; little change			Smaller
Shoes	Unchanged	Only fair; unchanged			
Wool	Higher	Active; increased	Larger		Smaller than a year ago
Manufacturing					
Iron and steel products	Higher	Fairly good	Larger	Some gain	Smaller
Cotton	Slightly higher	Fairly active; declined	Smaller	Declined	Smaller
Silk	Little change	Fair; declined for fabrics	Smaller	Declined slightly	Little change
Wool	Higher	Fairly active; better than a year ago	Some gain	Increased in fabrics	Little change
Hosiery	Unchanged	Fairly active; increased	Little change	Increased	Larger in seamless
Carpets and rugs	Little change	Fairly active; increased	Larger	Increased	Smaller than a year ago
Shoes	Little change	Fair; unchanged	Larger than month ago	Increased	Larger
Leather goods	No change	Fair; increased	Smaller	Some declines	Smaller
Leather—kid	Little change	Fair	Smaller for colored	Some declines	Larger
Leather—sole	Little change	Fair; increased	Larger than month ago	Unchanged	Larger
Paper	Lower	Fair to poor; declined	Smaller	Unchanged	Unchanged
Chemicals	Little change	Fairly good; little change	Smaller	Declined	
Tobacco leaf	Higher	Fair; little change	Little change		Smaller than a year ago
Cigars	Unchanged	Fair; declined	Smaller	Unchanged	Smaller
Brick	Little change	Fair to poor; declined	Smaller	Declined	Smaller than a year ago
Lumber—mills	Some decline	Fair to poor; declined	Smaller	Declined	Smaller
Paint	Little change	Poor; declined	Smaller	Declined slightly	Little change
Pottery	Unchanged	Fair; little change	Larger than a year ago	Little change	Larger
Confectionery	Some decline	Fair; declined	Little change	Declined	Little change
Building	Construction costs slightly higher	Fair	Value of permits increased	Value of contracts declined	
Anthracite	Steam sizes declined	Fairly active for domestic sizes		Changed little	Moderate
Bituminous coal	Little change	Fair to poor, some increase		Decreased slightly	Moderate