

# THE BUSINESS REVIEW

THIRD FEDERAL  
PHILADELPHIA



RESERVE DISTRICT  
JUNE 1, 1929

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## BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Industrial activity continued at a high level in April and the volume of factory employment and payrolls increased further. Loans and investments of member banks in leading cities continued to decline between the middle of April and the middle of May, and were at that time at approximately the same level as a year ago.

**Production.** Industrial activity increased in April to the highest level on record. The iron and steel and automobile industries continued exceptionally active during April. Activity in copper refining, lumber, cement, silk, and wool textiles, and the meat-packing industry increased, and production of cotton textiles showed a less than seasonal reduction.

Factory employment and payrolls increased, contrary to the seasonal trend. Output of mines was also larger in April. Copper and anthracite coal production increased and the seasonal decline in output of bituminous coal was smaller than usual. Petroleum production declined slightly.

Preliminary reports for the first half of May indicate a continued high rate of operation in the iron and steel industry. Output of lumber and bituminous coal was somewhat larger during the first part of May than at the end of April. Building contracts awarded during the

month of April increased sharply and for the first time in five months approximated the total for the corresponding month in the preceding year. The increase was not continued, however, in the first part of May when awards averaged 20 per cent below the same period in May, 1928. During April most classes of building showed seasonal increases over March, the largest being in contracts for residential building and public works and utilities.

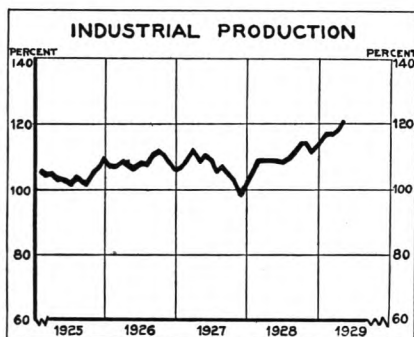
**Distribution.** Shipments of commodities by rail increased during April and were the largest for this month in any recent year. The increase from March reflected larger loadings of miscellaneous freight, lumber, livestock, and ore. During the first half of May shipments of freight continued to increase. Sales at wholesale declined seasonally in April, except in the case of grocery and hardware firms. In comparison with April 1928, all lines of trade reporting to the Federal Reserve System showed increases. Department store sales were also smaller in April than in March, but continued above the level of a year ago.

**Prices.** Wholesale commodity prices averaged slightly lower in April than in March, according to the index of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, reflecting primarily declines in prices of

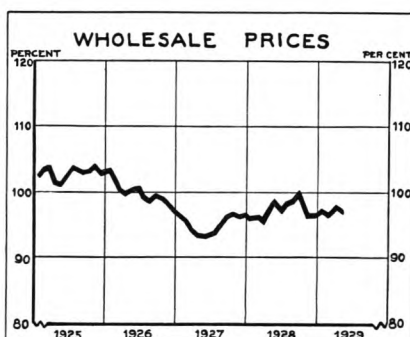
farm products and their manufactures. Prices of mineral and forest products and their manufactures, on the average, showed little change. There were increases in the prices of iron and steel, and sharp declines in copper, lead, and tin. Seasonal declines occurred in prices of coal and coke, while gasoline prices advanced.

Prices of farm products and their manufactures averaged lower in April than in March. Prices of grain, especially wheat, moved downward more sharply, and wool and cotton continued to decline. Livestock and meat prices continued the upward movement of the previous month, but at a slower rate; hides averaged slightly higher in price, and leather somewhat lower. Among imported raw materials, rubber, sugar, and coffee showed marked price recessions. Early in May cattle, hides, and wheat prices declined sharply and the price of rubber increased.

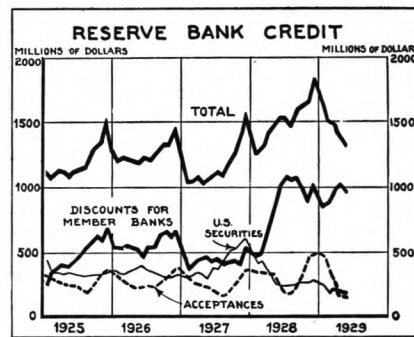
**Bank credit.** During the four weeks ending May 15, loans and investments of member banks in leading cities showed a decrease of nearly \$200,000,000 largely in loans on securities, together with some further decline in investments. All other loans, chiefly for commercial and agricultural purposes, remained unchanged at a relatively high level.



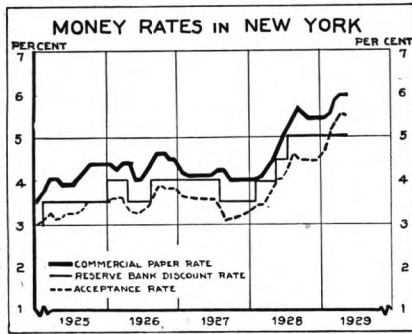
Source: Index number of production of manufactures and minerals combined, adjusted for seasonal variations (1923-25 average = 100). Latest figures April, 121.



Source: Index of United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (1926 = 100, base adopted by Bureau). Latest figure April 96.3.



Source: Monthly averages of daily figures for 12 Federal Reserve Banks. Latest figures are averages of first 22 days in May.



Source: Monthly rates in the open market in New York: commercial paper rate on 4 to 6 month paper and acceptance rate on 90-day Bankers' acceptance. Latest figures are averages of first 24 days in May.

There was a further reduction in the average volume of reserve bank credit outstanding between the weeks ending April 24 and May 22, owing largely to additions to the country's monetary stock of gold. The decline was in discounts for member banks; holdings of acceptances and of United States securities showed practically no change.

Open market rates for commercial paper remained unchanged as did rates on prime bankers' acceptances, except for a temporary decline at the end of April and the first week in May. In the first three weeks in May rates on collateral loans averaged considerably higher than in April.

### BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE PHILADELPHIA FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

Business activity in the Philadelphia Federal Reserve District is being maintained at a fairly high level and seasonal recessions appear to be somewhat less pronounced than was the case in other recent years. Industrial output as well as the distribution of goods compares more than favorably with a year ago.

Productive activity is well sustained and in April reached a somewhat higher level than is usual for that month. The demand for workers by employers during April increased considerably and was almost 21 per cent larger than in April, 1928. Contrary to the usual seasonal tendency, factory employment and payrolls in this section showed gains during the month and were substantially larger than was the case at the same time last year, indicating expansion in plant activity.

The output of hosiery, iron and steel castings, cement, and anthracite coal increased in April while production of shoes, pig iron, bituminous coal, and electric power decreased. Consumption of textile fibers showed appreciable gains during the month.

The demand for manufactured goods in the main is fairly active and compares rather favorably with that of a year ago. Orders on the books of reporting firms, however, declined somewhat in the month

| BUSINESS INDICATORS<br>Philadelphia Federal Reserve District           | April, 1929         | Latest figure compared with |          |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
|  |                     | Previous month              | Year ago |
| <b>Retail trade</b> —estimated net sales (141 stores).....             | \$22,654,900        | - 9.5%                      | - 1.7%   |
| Department stores (63).....  | \$18,619,700        | - 7.5 "                     | - 0.9 "  |
| Apparel stores (41).....   | \$2,909,500         | -19.2 "                     | - 3.8 "  |
| Shoe stores (18).....  | \$350,100           | -25.1 "                     | -12.5 "  |
| Credit stores (19).....  | \$775,600           | - 6.1 "                     | - 6.1 "  |
| <b>Wholesale trade</b> —net sales (112 firms).....                     | \$7,858,194         | + 1.2 "                     | + 7.6 "  |
| Boots and shoes (6).....   | \$137,259           | -28.1 "                     | -13.6 "  |
| Drugs (11).....  | \$1,534,962         | + 0.8 "                     | + 4.7 "  |
| Dry goods (13).....  | \$483,617           | - 8.2 "                     | + 4.6 "  |
| Electrical supplies (3).....   | \$192,720           | + 8.2 "                     | +17.0 "  |
| Groceries (41).....  | \$2,926,735         | + 0.8 "                     | + 7.5 "  |
| Hardware (21).....   | \$1,755,977         | +11.0 "                     | + 8.8 "  |
| Jewelry (10).....  | \$301,425           | -13.9 "                     | +32.5 "  |
| Paper (7).....   | \$505,499           | + 4.2 "                     | + 8.7 "  |
| <b>Productive activity</b> —   |                     |                             |          |
| Employment—782 plants in Penna.....                                    | 271,957             | + 1.0 "                     | + 7.7 "  |
| Wage payments in above plants.....                                     | \$7,440,041         | + 1.1 "                     | +18.1 "  |
| Shoe production* (91 factories).....                                   | prs. 1,510,409      | - 2.8 "                     | .....    |
| Hosiery production* (115 mills).....                                   | doz. prs. 1,537,051 | + 0.5 "                     | .....    |
| Wool consumption* (79 mills).....                                      | lbs. 7,430,510      | + 4.0 "                     | .....    |
| Active cotton spindle hours (Penna. and N. J.).....                    | 76,118,381          | + 0.7 "                     | - 3.4 "  |
| Pig iron production.....   | tons 347,282        | - 2.4 "                     | +20.1 "  |
| Iron casting production (37 foundries).....                            | tons 6,697          | + 0.2 "                     | +22.2 "  |
| Steel casting production (12 foundries).....                           | tons 7,614          | + 4.6 "                     | +76.0 "  |
| Anthracite.....  | tons 6,386,000      | +26.6 "                     | - 7.6 "  |
| Bituminous coal—Penna.....   | tons 10,570,000     | - 4.6 "                     | +13.2 "  |
| Cement.....  | bbls. 3,005,000     | +19.6 "                     | - 2.6 "  |
| Electric power output (12 systems).....                                | KWH. 554,538,900    | - 0.6 "                     | +25.9 "  |
| <b>Financial and credit</b> —  |                     |                             |          |
| Debits (18 cities).....  | \$3,169,548,000     | + 2.2 "                     | +14.6 "  |
| Loans and investments—middle of May—108 member banks.....              | \$1,595,406,000     | -1.9 "                      | - 1.4 "  |
| Bills discounted held by F. R. B. of Phila. (daily average).....       | \$110,000,000       | + 8.3 "                     | +108.7 " |
| Bankers' acceptances outstanding—end of month (district).....          | \$11,049,000        | -36.1 "                     | - 28.7 " |
| Commercial paper sales (4 dealers).....                                | \$1,490,000         | -23.9 "                     | -79.5 "  |
| Commercial failures—number.....  | 90                  | +16.9 "                     | +18.4 "  |
| Commercial failures—liabilities.....                                   | \$2,015,410         | +27.3 "                     | + 0.5 "  |
| <b>Building and real estate</b> —                                      |                     |                             |          |
| Building permits (16 cities).....                                      | \$13,698,861        | -10.4 "                     | -12.2 "  |
| Building contracts awarded (Philadelphia district).....                | \$67,064,100        | +89.5 "                     | +10.0 "  |
| Number of real estate deeds recorded (Philadelphia county).....        | 5,284               | - 2.8 "                     | + 3.8 "  |
| Value of mortgages recorded (Philadelphia county).....                 | \$24,375,613        | +11.1 "                     | -35.6 "  |
| Sheriff sale (Philadelphia county)—number of writs issued for May..... | 1,158               | +23.2 "                     | +42.4 "  |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b> —   |                     |                             |          |
| Freight car loadings (Allegheny district—weekly average).....          | 207,028             | + 4.7 "                     | + 6.4 "  |
| Tonnage of vessels (Port of Philadelphia).....                         | tons 4,021,194      | - 5.7 "                     | + 9.1 "  |
| Sales of life insurance (Penna., N. J., and Del.).....                 | \$111,103,000       | -11.1 "                     | +15.1 "  |
| Automobile sales (registrations of new passenger cars):                |                     |                             |          |
| Pennsylvania.....  | 36,138              | +54.8 "                     | +48.7 "  |
| New Jersey.....  | 15,725              | +22.2 "                     | +25.6 "  |
| Delaware.....  | 971                 | + 3.2 "                     | +31.8 "  |

\* Bureau of Census preliminary figures.

but were slightly larger than those at the same time last year. Inventories carried by manufacturers are moderately light, although some reports show slight accumulation. In comparison with a month and a year ago, stocks generally are smaller.

The market for building materials shows some strength, but sales in general are somewhat smaller than they were a year ago. The value of building contracts awarded in April was larger than in the same month last year; it also rose very sharply in contrast with March, owing principally to a few large projects. Building permits declined from the volume in the previous month and year. Contract awards in the first three weeks of May averaged less than a month or a year ago.

The coal situation continues mixed. The demand for both anthracite and bituminous coal has slackened consider-

ably since the middle of last month. Nevertheless, production in the latest four weeks has increased noticeably. Compared with a year ago, the output of bituminous coal also was larger, while that of anthracite was much smaller.

Distribution of commodities continues fairly active. Railroad shipments in this section in the latest four weeks increased materially, and the volume also was greater in April than in March. In contrast with a year ago, freight car loadings have continued larger.

Wholesale and jobbing trade is fair. Sales in April showed gains over March and were considerably larger than in April, 1928. Wholesale prices generally have declined somewhat since the middle of last month. Business at retail is fairly active for this time, although reports showing gains are outnumbered by those showing losses. Sales in April declined noticeably and were smaller than a year

ago. The total for March and April, however, was larger than in the corresponding period last year; such comparison is desirable because of variation in the date of Easter.

Automobile sales in this section showed large gains from March to April and exceeded substantially those of a year ago. Sales of ordinary life insurance, on the other hand, declined, as is usual for that month, but were larger than in April, 1928.

Check payments in this district in the latest three weeks were slightly smaller than in the preceding three weeks but were nearly 4 per cent larger than a year ago. Check payments in April, however, increased instead of declining as usual and were almost 15 per cent larger than in the same month last year.

In the past month the total loans and investments of reporting member banks in this district have declined materially, despite an increase in commercial loans. The decrease was particularly marked in loans on securities, although there also was a reduction in investment holdings. Gains in the settlements were large and the borrowings of member banks were substantially reduced. The reserve position of the Federal Reserve Bank was much improved by the incoming flow of funds which added to reserve cash.

## FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

**Money rates.** Call money continued to fluctuate sharply in the past month. The range of renewal rates in the first twenty-two days of the month was from 7 to 14 per cent, as compared with 7 to 12 per cent in the same period of April, and 5 to 6 per cent a year ago. In the following table the months are divided into periods to facilitate comparison:

| Call money renewals<br>(Daily average rates—%) | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May  |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| For period from—                               |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1st to 5th....                                 | 10.0 | 7.0  | 8.0  | 10.0 | 10.3 |
| 6th to 10th....                                | 6.7  | 6.3  | 9.3  | 7.3  | 12.4 |
| 11th to 15th....                               | 6.7  | 7.1  | 7.4  | 8.7  | 8.0  |
| 16th to 20th....                               | 7.3  | 7.2  | 8.0  | 7.9  | 9.7  |
| 21st to 25th....                               | 6.0  | 6.5  | 9.0  | 7.7  | 7.0* |
| 26th to 31st....                               | 6.5  | 8.0  | 14.0 | 11.7 |      |

\* Average for 21st and 22nd only.

Commercial paper rates have not changed in the past month, and bankers' bills of ninety days' maturity are only slightly firmer. Time money, on the other hand, is definitely higher, though loans are few; ninety-day money is nominally quoted at 9¼ per cent, as compared with 8¼ per cent a month ago.

**Brokers' loans.** In comparison with April 24, the figures on brokers' loans for May 22 show that the reporting banks in New York city have further reduced their own loans, and those placed for correspondent banks are practically unchanged, but those for "others", which include firms, corporations, and individuals, have risen to a new high record.

| CITY CONDITIONS<br>Philadelphia Federal Reserve District |       | April, 1929, compared with April, 1928 |               |                           |         |                    |                      |
|--|-------|--|---------------|---------------------------|---------|--------------------|----------------------|
|  |       | Employment                             | Wage payments | Value of building permits | Debits  | Retail trade sales | Electric power sales |
| Allentown area   | ..... | - 1.7%                                 | + 5.3%        | - 52.7%                   | + 11.4% | - 2.2%             | .....%               |
| Altoona  | "     | + 10.2                                 | + 13.8        | - 31.2                    | + 11.7  | + 0.6              | + 10.8               |
| Harrisburg   | "     | + 14.7                                 | + 24.9        | + 20.4                    | + 14.7  | + 5.6              | .....                |
| Johnstown  | "     | - 10.0                                 | + 12.0        | + 30.9                    | + 4.6   | - 5.2              | + 5.1                |
| Lancaster  | "     | - 8.8                                  | - 6.3         | + 65.9                    | + 15.6  | - 1.2              | + 20.1               |
| Philadelphia   | "     | + 13.4                                 | + 22.8        | - 20.2                    | + 15.7  | - 0.9              | + 12.0               |
| Reading  | "     | + 11.7                                 | + 26.1        | + 97.2                    | + 18.9  | - 1.4              | + 31.3               |
| Scranton   | "     | - 4.0                                  | - 4.0         | - 42.0                    | + 0.4   | - 12.0             | + 3.3                |
| Trenton  | "     | + 2.4                                  | + 7.6         | - 21.8                    | + 14.5  | - 8.8              | + 12.4               |
| Wilkes-Barre   | "     | + 0.5                                  | + 3.1         | + 605.3                   | - 6.3   | - 1.4              | .....                |
| Williamsport   | "     | + 9.3                                  | + 26.0        | - 73.0                    | + 20.2  | .....              | .....                |
| Wilmington   | "     | + 8.4                                  | + 11.0        | + 3.1                     | + 23.0  | - 6.9              | + 25.1               |
| York   | "     | + 2.3                                  | + 2.3         | - 73.8                    | + 16.7  | .....              | + 3.2                |

April, 1929, compared with March, 1929

|                |       |        |        |         |        |        |        |
|----------------|-------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| Allentown area | ..... | - 0.6% | + 1.3% | - 4.9%  | + 9.2% | - 8.7% | + 5.1% |
| Altoona        | "     | + 0.7  | + 4.3  | + 39.7  | + 11.2 | - 31.5 | + 7.3  |
| Harrisburg     | "     | - 1.6  | - 4.9  | - 52.5  | + 7.6  | - 23.8 | .....  |
| Johnstown      | "     | + 4.2  | + 2.0  | + 143.8 | + 1.2  | - 8.5  | - 5.2  |
| Lancaster      | "     | - 3.2  | - 1.4  | + 29.7  | + 17.6 | - 21.5 | + 3.8  |
| Philadelphia   | "     | + 1.3  | + 1.0  | - 28.3  | + 1.2  | - 11.1 | + 2.3  |
| Reading        | "     | - 0.3  | - 0.8  | + 105.3 | + 7.5  | + 6.4  | + 3.7  |
| Scranton       | "     | + 2.8  | - 2.7  | + 62.4  | - 1.3  | - 17.6 | + 1.6  |
| Trenton        | "     | + 1.0  | - 3.3  | + 324.7 | + 6.7  | - 9.5  | + 4.1  |
| Wilkes-Barre   | "     | + 0.1  | - 2.8  | + 240.6 | + 2.7  | - 8.0  | .....  |
| Williamsport   | "     | - 0.8  | + 1.1  | - 64.2  | + 6.5  | .....  | .....  |
| Wilmington     | "     | + 3.8  | + 3.2  | - 18.7  | + 5.3  | - 22.2 | + 3.6  |
| York           | "     | + 1.8  | + 0.8  | - 17.1  | + 10.6 | .....  | - 0.2  |

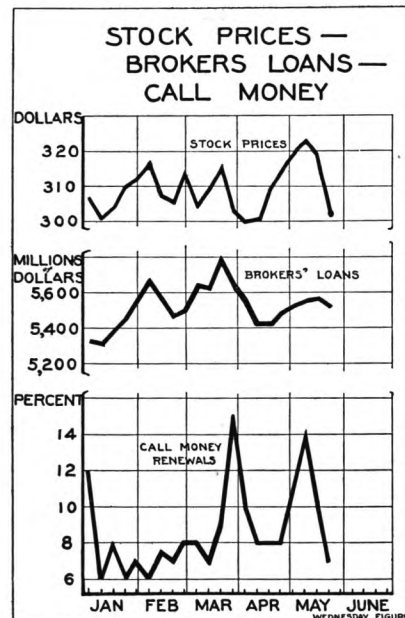
\* Includes Harrisburg, Wilkes-Barre and Williamsport areas. † Production (not sales). ‡ Includes Camden area. § Included in Allentown area.

| Brokers' loans<br>(000,000's omitted) | For own account | For out-of-town banks | For others | Totals  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| 1929—Mar. 20..                        | \$1,091         | \$1,768               | \$2,934    | \$5,793 |
| Apr. 24..                             | 924             | 1,652                 | 2,916      | 5,492   |
| May 1..                               | 979             | 1,676                 | 2,876      | 5,532   |
| " 8..                                 | 864             | 1,734                 | 2,953      | 5,551   |
| " 15..                                | 860             | 1,725                 | 2,979      | 5,565   |
| " 22..                                | 827             | 1,651                 | 3,042      | 5,520   |
| 1928—May 23..                         | 1,247           | 1,607                 | 1,602      | 4,456   |

ume than in the corresponding month of 1928. As in other recent months, stock issues made up the bulk of the corporate securities.

| New capital issues*<br>(000,000's omitted) | Apr., 1928 | Mar., 1929 | Apr., 1929 |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| Corporate issues:                          |            |            |            |
| Long term bonds and notes.....             | \$250      | \$314      | \$160      |
| Short term bonds and notes.....            | 16         | 7          | 29         |
| Stocks.....                                | 225        | 555        | 402        |
| Total corporate.....                       | \$491      | \$876      | \$591      |
| Foreign government.....                    | 75         | 10         | 0          |
| Farm loan.....                             | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| Municipal.....                             | 123        | 98         | 85         |
| Canadian.....                              | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| U. S. Possessions.....                     | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| Totals.....                                | \$689      | \$984      | \$676      |

\* Refunding excluded.



Source: Stock prices—30 industrial average Dow-Jones Co.

**New capital issues.** In April, for the first time this year, new capital issues, refunding excluded, were in smaller vol-

Banking in the Philadelphia District. Within the past month large changes in the banking figures of this district have taken place, which may be partly ascribed to new legislation in Pennsylvania permitting arrangements by contract for the charging of more than six per cent on demand loans of \$5,000 or more secured by stocks and bonds, etc.

A small increase in the demand for currency was reported by the Federal Reserve Bank, but gains in the settlements were large, cash reserves increased materially, and the reserve position was considerably improved. Accompanying this was a large decline in the borrowings of member banks with comparatively little change in their reserve deposits.

Loans on securities, as reported by member banks in twenty-one cities of the district, fell off sharply in the four



| Fed. Res. Bank of Philadelphia<br>(Dollar figures in millions) | May 22, 1929   | Changes in     |                |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|  |                | Four weeks     | One year       |
| Bills discounted for member banks in Philadelphia.....         | \$ 31.2        | -\$36.5        | +\$ 5.3        |
| 20 other large cities.....                                     | 23.4           | - 1.5          | + 9.5          |
| Other communities.....   | 22.2           | + 1.2          | + 6.6          |
| <b>Total bills discounted</b> .....                            | <b>\$ 76.8</b> | <b>-\$36.8</b> | <b>+\$21.4</b> |
| Bills bought.....  | 11.6           | - .7           | - 24.3         |
| United States securities.....                                  | 16.7           | - .5           | - 5.7          |
| Other securities.....  | .4             | - .8           | + .4           |
| <b>Total bills and securities</b> .....                        | <b>\$105.5</b> | <b>-\$38.8</b> | <b>-\$ 8.2</b> |
| Fed. res. note circulation.....                                | 140.6          | + .2           | + 14.6         |
| Member banks' reserve deposits.....                            | 133.5          | - 1.2          | - 2.4          |
| Cash reserves.....   | 201.2          | + 35.7         | + 22.8         |
| Reserve ratio.....   | 72.9%          | +13.4%         | + 5.2%         |

weeks ended May 15. To this was added a moderate decline in investments. Notwithstanding an increase in loans largely commercial in character, total loans and investments decreased from 1,625 to 1,595 millions. There was little change in the total of net demand and time deposits, an increase in the former being nearly equal to a decline in time deposits.

Large member banks in Philadelphia continue to charge from 5½ to 6 per cent for loans to customers on prime commercial paper. Brokers' loans in this city, however, now are subject to renewal rates similar to those levied in New York.

| Reporting member banks in 21 leading cities<br>(000,000's omitted) | May 15, 1929 | Changes in |          |
|--|--------------|------------|----------|
|  |              | Four weeks | One year |
| Reported by 92 banks   |              |            |          |
| Loans on securities.....   | \$ 528       | -\$37      | +\$27    |
| Other (largely commercial) loans.....                              | 550          | + 14       | + 19     |
| Reported by 108 banks  |              |            |          |
| Total loans and discounts.....                                     | 1,153        | - 21       | + 45     |
| Investments.....   | 443          | - 9        | - 67     |
| Net demand deposits.....   | 849          | + 17       | - 67     |
| Time deposits.....   | 466          | - 19       | - 41     |

**Commercial paper sales.** Commercial paper sales in this district in April were in small volume and fell considerably below those of a year ago.

| Reports of four dealers | Sales to    |               | Totals      |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
|                         | City banks  | Country banks |             |
| 1929-Jan.....           | \$3,612,500 | \$2,827,500   | \$6,440,000 |
| Feb.....                | 777,500     | 2,495,000     | 3,272,500   |
| Mar.....                | 705,000     | 1,252,500     | 1,957,500   |
| Apr.....                | 135,000     | 1,355,000     | 1,490,000   |
| 1928-Apr.....           | 4,147,500   | 3,108,500     | 7,256,000   |

**Bankers' bills.** Appreciable declines during April in the amount of bankers' acceptances are shown by the figures for this district and for the country as a whole. Acceptances of banks in this district outstanding totaled \$11,049,000 on

April 30, as against \$17,290,000 on March 30, and \$15,488,000 on April 30, 1928. Changes in the national figures by classes of transactions and in total are given below:

| Acceptances outstanding<br>(000,000's omitted)                     | Apr. 30, 1928  | Mar. 30, 1929  | Apr. 30, 1929  |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Imports.....   | \$ 333         | \$ 360         | \$ 324         |
| Exports.....   | 379            | 387            | 377            |
| Domestic shipments.....  | 19             | 17             | 16             |
| Domestic warehouse credits.....                                    | 153            | 124            | 99             |
| Dollar exchange.....   | 25             | 50             | 45             |
| Based on goods stored in or shipped between foreign countries..... | 161            | 266            | 249            |
| <b>Totals.....</b>   | <b>\$1,070</b> | <b>\$1,204</b> | <b>\$1,110</b> |

## INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS MANUFACTURING

Conditions in manufacturing are beginning to reflect seasonal influences. The demand for finished products continues well maintained, despite a general downward tendency; sales of some of the metal products and building materials are exceptions. Comparisons with a year ago, on the whole, are favorable. More reports of declines in prices have been received than of advances.

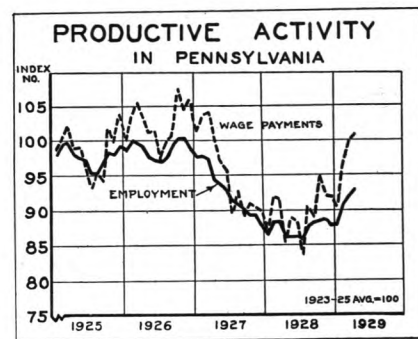
Unfilled orders have declined since last month, although those for building materials show the usual seasonal rise. Compared with a year ago, forward business is somewhat larger, iron and steel and some of the textile products being largely responsible for this increase.

Stocks of finished goods held by manufacturers in this district are from moderate to light, although a number of firms show some accumulation; inventories generally are smaller than last month or a year ago.

Lately plant operations show somewhat less than seasonal let-down, but in the earlier part of the month productive activity was at a high level. Manufacturing, as measured by employment and payrolls, continued to show the upward trend which began in the early part of this year. The level of production in the first four months of this year was higher than that prevailing in the same period last year.

Factory payrolls in Pennsylvania showed a gain of 1.1 per cent between March and April and were 18.1 per cent larger than those in April, 1928. Employment also increased 1 per cent in the month and was 7.7 per cent ahead of last year. Employe-hours worked likewise increased almost 2 per cent from March to April. Last year at the same time both employment and wage payments declined sharply as compared with the month and the year before.

In Delaware the number of wage earners increased 3.6 per cent and the volume of wage payments was 2.6 per cent larger in April than in March. Increases of



nearly 1 per cent in employment and wage disbursements also were reported in New Jersey.

Consumption of electrical energy by industries increased almost 8 per cent from March to April and was 22 per cent ahead of a year before. Total sales of electricity also increased about 3 per cent in the month and exceeded that of a year ago by nearly 25 per cent. Production of electric power by twelve central stations of this district was a trifle smaller than in March but approximately 26 per cent larger than in April, 1928.

**Iron and steel.** The market for iron and steel products continues more than seasonally active and sales have increased further since last month. This is especially true of castings, plates and shapes, sheets, hardware, and track supplies. Public utilities, railroads, construction companies, and manufacturers appear to be among the most active buyers. Foundries also show increased purchases, while jobbers and automobile makers report little change in comparison with four weeks ago.

Prices continue firm and in several instances advances are noted. Average quotations for pig iron in the country have increased almost steadily since March and on May 21 the index was almost 8 per cent higher than a year earlier. Prices of finished steel remained unchanged during the month but were nearly 3 per cent higher than a year ago.

Unfilled orders for fabricated metal products are much larger than they were a year ago. Forward business on the books of the U. S. Steel Corporation at the end of April totaled 4,428,000 tons, which was the largest volume since March 1926. Plant operations show further expansion. Wage payments increased further between March and April and were considerably larger than in April 1928. This is in sharp contrast with the declining tendency in the same period last year.

While total production of pig iron in this district declined from March to April, daily output averaged 11,576 tons or the largest tonnage since March 1927. Daily production of pig iron in the country amounted to 122,087 tons, which was the third largest month on record, the other two high months being May and June, 1923. Production of steel ingots

| EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES in Pennsylvania           | No. of plants reporting | EMPLOYMENT April, 1929 |                       |              |              | PAYROLLS April, 1929  |              |                |                | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS week ended |  |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------------|--|
|  |                         | Apr. index*            | Per cent change since |              | Apr. index*  | Per cent change since |              | Apr. 15, 1929  | Mar. 15, 1929  |                                    |  |
|  |                         |                        | Apr., 1928            | Mar., 1929   |              | Apr., 1928            | Mar., 1929   |                |                |                                    |  |
| <b>All manufacturing industries (51)</b> ..... | <b>782</b>              | <b>92.8</b>            | <b>+ 7.7</b>          | <b>+ 1.0</b> | <b>100.9</b> | <b>+18.1</b>          | <b>+ 1.1</b> | <b>\$27.36</b> | <b>\$27.32</b> |                                    |  |
| <b>Metal products</b> .....                    | <b>228</b>              | <b>89.6</b>            | <b>+ 8.6</b>          | <b>+ 1.1</b> | <b>100.5</b> | <b>+18.9</b>          | <b>+ 1.7</b> | <b>29.96</b>   | <b>29.78</b>   |                                    |  |
| Blast furnaces.....                            | 9                       | 46.8                   | - 5.8                 | + 6.8        | 49.5         | - 2.2                 | + 1.6        | 29.26          | 30.75          |                                    |  |
| Steel wks. & rolling mills.....                | 43                      | 81.3                   | + 2.5                 | + 1.2        | 94.1         | +15.9                 | + 2.6        | 31.46          | 31.01          |                                    |  |
| Iron and steel forgings.....                   | 10                      | 97.2                   | +13.6                 | + 2.5        | 112.4        | +16.8                 | + 5.7        | 28.03          | 27.19          |                                    |  |
| Structural iron work.....                      | 10                      | 112.7                  | +19.3                 | + 2.0        | 112.9        | +25.7                 | - 1.7        | 27.66          | 28.65          |                                    |  |
| Steam & hot water htg. ap.....                 | 17                      | 95.8                   | + 2.0                 | + 2.4        | 107.1        | + 9.7                 | - 0.4        | 30.42          | 31.23          |                                    |  |
| Stoves and furnaces.....                       | 9                       | 71.1                   | - 7.1                 | - 9.3        | 61.4         | -13.4                 | -13.6        | 24.69          | 25.90          |                                    |  |
| Foundries.....                                 | 38                      | 93.9                   | +14.0                 | + 2.4        | 105.6        | +30.7                 | + 4.7        | 30.35          | 29.71          |                                    |  |
| Machinery and parts.....                       | 39                      | 113.2                  | +12.4                 | + 1.9        | 128.0        | +20.4                 | + 2.7        | 32.04          | 31.89          |                                    |  |
| Electrical apparatus.....                      | 15                      | 130.4                  | +42.0                 | + 1.7        | 140.7        | +46.0                 | + 2.9        | 24.62          | 24.21          |                                    |  |
| Engines and pumps.....                         | 10                      | 103.3                  | +15.5                 | - 1.5        | 111.5        | +22.8                 | - 4.9        | 29.12          | 30.15          |                                    |  |
| Hardware and tools.....                        | 18                      | 93.5                   | +12.5                 | - 2.0        | 99.3         | +18.2                 | - 3.3        | 24.68          | 25.04          |                                    |  |
| Brass and bronze prods.....                    | 10                      | 99.9                   | +29.9                 | + 0.9        | 102.9        | +35.6                 | + 0.1        | 27.21          | 27.45          |                                    |  |
| <b>Transportation equipment</b> .....          | <b>40</b>               | <b>89.0†</b>           | <b>+13.7</b>          | <b>+ 5.0</b> | <b>97.2†</b> | <b>+29.3</b>          | <b>+ 5.3</b> | <b>31.77</b>   | <b>31.66</b>   |                                    |  |
| Automobiles.....                               | 6                       | 119.9                  | +31.9                 | + 2.8        | 144.2        | +38.7                 | + 3.1        | 34.69          | 34.62          |                                    |  |
| Auto. bodies and parts.....                    | 11                      | 138.3                  | +74.0                 | + 5.8        | 137.7        | +83.6                 | + 4.5        | 32.21          | 32.64          |                                    |  |
| Locomotives and cars.....                      | 13                      | 65.3                   | + 2.0                 | + 6.9        | 67.3         | +22.4                 | + 6.3        | 29.79          | 29.98          |                                    |  |
| Railroad repair shops.....                     | 6                       | 91.6                   | +13.1                 | - 0.1        | 109.6        | +40.3                 | + 1.8        | 31.68          | 31.11          |                                    |  |
| Shipbuilding.....                              | 4                       | 36.8                   | +13.6                 | + 1.9        | 42.6         | +36.5                 | +18.0        | 33.68          | 28.98          |                                    |  |
| <b>Textile products</b> .....                  | <b>156</b>              | <b>102.2</b>           | <b>+ 7.4</b>          | <b>+ 0.1</b> | <b>111.5</b> | <b>+17.1</b>          | <b>- 1.9</b> | <b>22.52</b>   | <b>22.97</b>   |                                    |  |
| Cotton goods.....                              | 14                      | 81.6                   | - 4.3                 | - 0.2        | 83.5         | +11.0                 | - 3.8        | 23.76          | 24.63          |                                    |  |
| Woolens and worsteds.....                      | 15                      | 88.4                   | + 8.6                 | - 1.9        | 88.3         | +31.4                 | - 2.6        | 21.25          | 21.40          |                                    |  |
| Silk goods.....                                | 38                      | 105.6                  | +13.7                 | + 0.8        | 111.7        | +14.4                 | - 4.1        | 19.37          | 20.37          |                                    |  |
| Textile dyeing & finishing.....                | 9                       | 122.4                  | - 1.3                 | - 1.2        | 130.9        | + 4.8                 | - 5.5        | 25.49          | 26.64          |                                    |  |
| Carpets and rugs.....                          | 9                       | 91.2                   | + 9.0                 | + 2.0        | 90.6         | +24.6                 | + 0.9        | 25.00          | 25.28          |                                    |  |
| Hats.....                                      | 4                       | 96.6                   | - 4.1                 | - 1.9        | 85.9         | - 7.0                 | -15.8        | 22.66          | 26.38          |                                    |  |
| Hosiery.....                                   | 25                      | 125.5                  | + 7.4                 | + 1.7        | 160.4        | +21.7                 | + 4.6        | 28.80          | 28.00          |                                    |  |
| Knit goods, Other.....                         | 15                      | 87.6                   | + 3.9                 | + 1.6        | 100.4        | +19.2                 | + 1.0        | 20.30          | 20.41          |                                    |  |
| Men's clothing.....                            | 9                       | 97.3                   | +13.8                 | - 3.2        | 103.3        | +51.7                 | - 7.8        | 18.88          | 19.82          |                                    |  |
| Women's clothing.....                          | 9                       | 130.0                  | +10.3                 | - 2.8        | 139.9        | +14.9                 | + 4.3        | 15.39          | 14.33          |                                    |  |
| Shirts and furnishings.....                    | 9                       | 91.3                   | - 0.1                 | - 5.3        | 93.4         | + 4.4                 | - 1.1        | 15.99          | 15.30          |                                    |  |
| <b>Foods and tobacco</b> .....                 | <b>96</b>               | <b>94.2</b>            | <b>+ 2.3</b>          | <b>- 0.4</b> | <b>94.2</b>  | <b>+ 7.9</b>          | <b>- 1.4</b> | <b>20.18</b>   | <b>20.67</b>   |                                    |  |
| Bread & bakery products.....                   | 27                      | 106.3                  | + 1.6                 | + 0.9        | 100.6        | + 1.8                 | 0.0          | 28.01          | 28.75          |                                    |  |
| Confectionery.....                             | 13                      | 89.9                   | + 6.0                 | - 4.0        | 101.2        | +16.9                 | - 8.3        | 19.95          | 20.88          |                                    |  |
| Ice cream.....                                 | 11                      | 90.3                   | + 6.5                 | +11.5        | 98.4         | + 7.7                 | +10.1        | 32.26          | 32.68          |                                    |  |
| Meat packing.....                              | 14                      | 101.0                  | +11.8                 | - 0.8        | 97.1         | +16.0                 | + 0.2        | 28.22          | 27.92          |                                    |  |
| Cigars and tobacco.....                        | 31                      | 92.0                   | - 0.9                 | - 0.4        | 85.1         | + 5.5                 | - 1.7        | 13.69          | 13.86          |                                    |  |
| <b>Stone, clay &amp; glass products</b> .....  | <b>66</b>               | <b>81.6</b>            | <b>- 1.1</b>          | <b>+ 0.7</b> | <b>82.6</b>  | <b>+ 7.1</b>          | <b>+ 3.3</b> | <b>27.63</b>   | <b>26.96</b>   |                                    |  |
| Brick, tile & pottery.....                     | 30                      | 91.1                   | + 5.6                 | + 1.1        | 93.5         | +13.5                 | + 9.6        | 25.50          | 23.50          |                                    |  |
| Cement.....                                    | 14                      | 70.9                   | -12.3                 | - 1.4        | 77.1         | - 2.9                 | + 2.5        | 31.60          | 30.43          |                                    |  |
| Glass.....                                     | 22                      | 92.0                   | + 8.9                 | + 2.4        | 88.6         | +18.1                 | - 0.7        | 25.84          | 26.68          |                                    |  |
| <b>Lumber products</b> .....                   | <b>42</b>               | <b>68.5</b>            | <b>- 2.1</b>          | <b>- 4.9</b> | <b>69.0</b>  | <b>+ 3.0</b>          | <b>- 4.3</b> | <b>21.56</b>   | <b>21.45</b>   |                                    |  |
| Lumber and planing mills.....                  | 17                      | 63.9                   | + 3.1                 | - 7.8        | 69.5         | + 3.9                 | - 2.4        | 22.34          | 21.13          |                                    |  |
| Furniture.....                                 | 19                      | 66.7                   | - 4.6                 | - 4.6        | 63.1         | + 4.8                 | - 6.8        | 22.71          | 23.22          |                                    |  |
| Wooden boxes.....                              | 6                       | 99.9                   | -10.9                 | + 4.8        | 102.1        | - 6.5                 | - 4.0        | 16.48          | 17.99          |                                    |  |
| <b>Chemical products</b> .....                 | <b>48</b>               | <b>99.8</b>            | <b>+ 4.3</b>          | <b>+ 1.8</b> | <b>107.1</b> | <b>+ 1.6</b>          | <b>+ 0.8</b> | <b>28.73</b>   | <b>29.01</b>   |                                    |  |
| Chemicals and drugs.....                       | 28                      | 98.0                   | + 3.2                 | + 3.7        | 103.8        | + 8.8                 | + 4.6        | 28.29          | 28.03          |                                    |  |
| Coke.....                                      | 3                       | 118.5                  | - 3.9                 | - 0.2        | 116.2        | - 5.3                 | - 4.5        | 27.71          | 28.96          |                                    |  |
| Explosives.....                                | 3                       | 139.5                  | +18.9                 | + 2.5        | 128.8        | +33.2                 | +11.0        | 25.50          | 23.56          |                                    |  |
| Paints and varnishes.....                      | 9                       | 130.3                  | + 0.9                 | + 3.9        | 141.9        | +14.3                 | + 2.2        | 28.11          | 28.61          |                                    |  |
| Petroleum refining.....                        | 5                       | 89.0                   | + 8.3                 | + 1.8        | 97.5         | - 0.9                 | + 1.5        | 29.84          | 29.96          |                                    |  |
| <b>Leather and rubber products</b> .....       | <b>49</b>               | <b>95.0</b>            | <b>- 4.8</b>          | <b>- 1.2</b> | <b>98.7</b>  | <b>- 2.7</b>          | <b>- 0.1</b> | <b>22.96</b>   | <b>22.70</b>   |                                    |  |
| Leather tanning.....                           | 17                      | 98.2                   | - 8.4                 | - 1.5        | 102.1        | - 4.5                 | + 1.3        | 25.57          | 24.87          |                                    |  |
| Shoes.....                                     | 22                      | 90.3                   | - 0.9                 | - 1.1        | 89.0         | - 1.0                 | - 4.0        | 17.94          | 18.49          |                                    |  |
| Leather products, Other.....                   | 6                       | 119.0                  | +11.1                 | - 2.1        | 111.3        | +13.8                 | - 0.1        | 21.51          | 21.06          |                                    |  |
| Rubber tires and goods.....                    | 4                       | 77.0                   | - 8.2                 | + 0.4        | 93.9         | - 4.0                 | + 3.3        | 29.82          | 28.98          |                                    |  |
| <b>Paper and printing</b> .....                | <b>57</b>               | <b>88.5</b>            | <b>- 4.3</b>          | <b>- 2.5</b> | <b>104.3</b> | <b>- 0.9</b>          | <b>- 3.4</b> | <b>30.98</b>   | <b>31.25</b>   |                                    |  |
| Paper and wood pulp.....                       | 13                      | 75.2                   | -10.2                 | - 5.9        | 86.6         | - 7.9                 | - 8.2        | 29.58          | 30.28          |                                    |  |
| Paper boxes and bags.....                      | 6                       | 90.0                   | + 1.7                 | + 0.6        | 108.4        | + 9.5                 | - 3.8        | 15.69          | 16.40          |                                    |  |
| Printing and publishing.....                   | 38                      | 105.0                  | + 0.3                 | + 0.1        | 122.8        | + 4.3                 | + 0.5        | 34.85          | 34.71          |                                    |  |
| <b>Anthracite</b> .....                        | <b>104.1</b>            | <b>-10.5</b>           | <b>+ 2.8</b>          | <b>77.4</b>  | <b>-33.7</b> | <b>- 2.6</b>          | <b>26.74</b> | <b>28.26</b>   |                |                                    |  |
| <b>Bituminous</b> .....                        | <b>353</b>              | <b>-10.5</b>           | <b>- 4.5</b>          | <b>.....</b> | <b>.....</b> | <b>-10.2</b>          | <b>23.98</b> | <b>25.50</b>   |                |                                    |  |
| <b>Construc. and contracting</b> .....         | <b>27</b>               | <b>74.5</b>            | <b>- 2.5</b>          | <b>+41.4</b> | <b>61.5</b>  | <b>- 7.8</b>          | <b>+34.9</b> | <b>25.34</b>   | <b>26.36</b>   |                                    |  |
| <b>Street railways</b> .....                   | <b>5</b>                | <b>93.0</b>            | <b>- 0.6</b>          | <b>- 0.1</b> | <b>99.0</b>  | <b>- 1.7</b>          | <b>0</b>     | <b>34.41</b>   | <b>34.38</b>   |                                    |  |
| <b>Retail trade</b> .....                      | <b>55</b>               | <b>96.4</b>            | <b>- 1.8</b>          | <b>- 3.2</b> | <b>.....</b> | <b>.....</b>          | <b>.....</b> | <b>.....</b>   | <b>.....</b>   |                                    |  |
| <b>Wholesale trade</b> .....                   | <b>90</b>               | <b>95.0</b>            | <b>+ 0.7</b>          | <b>- 0.4</b> | <b>.....</b> | <b>.....</b>          | <b>.....</b> | <b>.....</b>   | <b>.....</b>   |                                    |  |

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

on the daily basis was the second largest in the history of that industry, the peak being in March.

Activity in iron and steel foundries increased from March to April and was

substantially larger than in the same month last year.

**Textiles.** Activity in the textile industry generally shows seasonal recessions. The demand for most products, though fair, has slackened somewhat

since the middle of last month. Comparisons with a year ago, however, are rather favorable, particularly as shown by sales of cotton and wool manufactures.

Prices of most of the textile products have declined since last month. In comparison with a year ago, quotations for cotton, wool, and silk manufactures also are lower. Prices of seamless hosiery and floor coverings, however, show no change from last month.

Advance business on the books of textile manufacturers has declined, as usual at this season, but in contrast with a year ago there has generally been little change. Such increases as occurred in cotton and wool piece goods, and in floor coverings are offset by declines in other lines.

Plant operations lately have shown the usual seasonal decreases. Factory payrolls in this industry declined almost 2 per cent from March to April but were over 17 per cent larger than a year earlier. The decline in wage payments during the month was much less pronounced than that which occurred in April, 1928. Total consumption of wool in this district increased 4 per cent between March and April, while in the country the gain amounted to a little over 1 per cent. Local consumption of carpet wool showed a gain of almost 16 per cent as compared with the preceding month. National mill takings of cotton fibers increased further, reaching in April the highest total for that month ever shown. Deliveries of raw silk to American mills in April were the largest since January and exceeded considerably any of the past nine Aprils.

Production of hosiery in this district increased less than 1 per cent from March to April. Shipments, on the other hand, declined, while stocks were nearly 3 per cent larger than at the end of March. New orders exceeded shipments, but this gain was offset by the volume of cancellations, so that unfilled orders at the end of April were slightly smaller than on the same date the month before.

Textile stocks held by manufacturers generally are moderate and are smaller than a month ago or at the same time last year. Plants making silk fabrics and full-fashioned hosiery, however, show some accumulation in inventories in contrast with a year ago. The sharpest declines from last year are noted in cotton and wool yarns, woolen and worsted goods, seamless hosiery, and floor coverings.

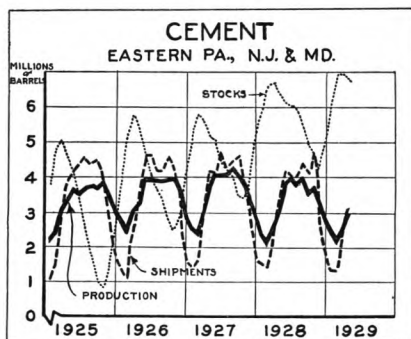
**Leather and shoes.** Business in shoes is moving forward at a fair rate, although sales show seasonal decline. Numerous price recessions have also been noted during the month. Unfilled orders show little change from those of last month but are slightly smaller than a year ago. Seasonal letdown is reported in plant operations. The output of shoes in this district was almost 3 per cent smaller in April than in March as against a decline of nearly 5 per cent in the coun-

try. Smaller production of women's, misses', and children's shoes was principally responsible for the decline in this district. Stocks are moderately light and are smaller than those in the preceding month or a year ago.

Sole leather is in fair demand, and some gain since the middle of last month is shown. The market for black and colored kid leather has improved during the month, although the extent of this improvement is less pronounced in colored than in black kid. Unfilled orders for black kid increased since last month, while those for colored kid show little change. Leather plant operations continue at about the same level as a month ago. Stocks of sole leather show no change, while kid leather inventories are slightly larger.

The hide market has been fair and lately shows slight improvement. Some advances in prices are also noted. Not much change is reported in the market for goatskins, prices being fairly steady and demand moderately active. The supply of goatskins generally is sufficient for present needs.

**Building materials.** The demand for building materials is increasingly active, as is to be expected at this season. Sales generally, however, do not show favorable comparisons with those of a year ago. Increases during the month have occurred in most reporting lines but in comparison with a year ago only the manufacturers of plumbing supplies show appreciable gains. Prices for the most part show little change. The volume of unfilled orders, while increasing materially during the month, was somewhat smaller than at the same time last year. Plant operations have been enlarged, as usual at this time. Payrolls, which reflect productive activity, were higher in April than in the same month last year. Production and shipments of cement in this section turned upward from March to April, but the volume was smaller than at the same time last year. Stocks held by manufacturers of building materials generally are moderate and smaller than a month or a year ago. Inventories of cement, however, while lately declining somewhat, were appreciably heavier



Source: Department of Commerce

at the end of April than on the same date in any of the past four years.

**Miscellaneous.** The demand for paper continues fairly active and sales are somewhat larger than they were a year ago. No marked change is reported in the volume of business as compared with last month. Prices remain stable. Unfilled orders show little change from last month or a year ago. No further expansion is noted in factory operations. Stocks are somewhat larger than they were last month, but show little change as compared with a year ago.

Business in cigars is fair, showing no improvement since last month. Sales are a trifle lower than they were at the same time last year. Unfilled orders also are smaller than a month and a year ago. Plant operations show little change. Stocks vary between moderate and light and in the main are smaller than last month and year.

The market for rubber and rubber products in this district has improved considerably since last month. This is especially true of mechanical rubber goods. Plant operations have expanded and factory payrolls showed appreciable gains between March and April.

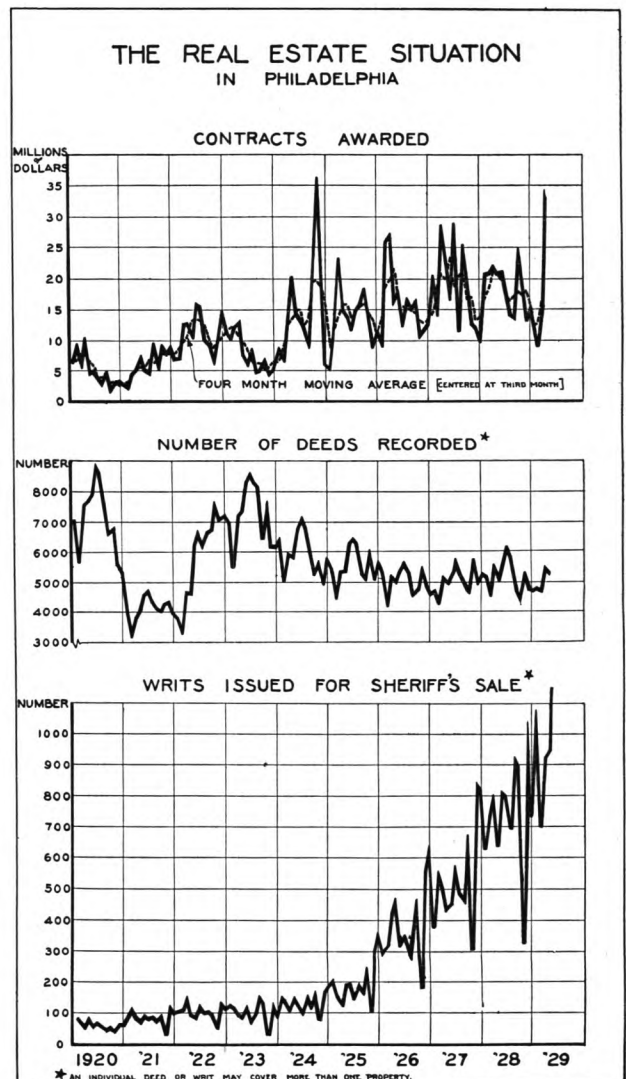
Conditions in the rubber industry in the country are reflected by the accompanying figures compiled from data collected by the Rubber Manufacturers Association of America:

**AGRICULTURE**

Conditions in agriculture in this district in the main are satisfactory, despite very changeable weather, and compare more than favorably with those at the same time last year. At the opening of the season, unusually high temperatures stimulated vegetation somewhat prematurely, but subsequently cool and rainy weather retarded the growth to some extent. For the same reason, farm operations did not progress as rapidly as had been anticipated. Since the end of April, however, plowing and

| Rubber and its products (crude rubber figures in long tons) | First quarter of 1928 | First quarter of 1929 | Per cent change |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Crude rubber used by—                                       |                       |                       |                 |
| Tires & tire sundries                                       | 80,871                | 102,091               | +26.2           |
| Other rubber products                                       | 14,402                | 16,189                | +12.4           |
| Total   | 95,273                | 118,280               | +24.1           |
| Crude rubber on hand—                                       |                       |                       |                 |
| Manufacturers   | 91,700                | 65,615                | -28.4           |
| Importers and dealers                                       | 20,403                | 29,495                | +44.6           |
| Total   | 112,103               | 95,110                | -15.2           |
| Crude rubber afloat—  |                       |                       |                 |
| Manufacturers   | 11,600                | 12,265                | + 5.7           |
| Importers and dealers                                       | 23,972                | 39,071                | +63.0           |
| Total   | 35,572                | 51,336                | +44.3           |
| Shipments of rubber products *—                             |                       |                       |                 |
| Tires & tire sundries                                       | \$179,615             | \$172,053             | - 4.2           |
| Other rubber products                                       | 77,312                | 80,073                | + 3.6           |
| Total sales value   | 256,927               | 252,126               | - 1.9           |

\* 000's omitted in dollar figures. Source: The Rubber Manufacturers' Association, Inc.



Sources: Provident Title Company of Philadelphia, Real Estate Board, and W. F. Dodge Corporation.



planting have been active in most counties. County agents estimate that planting of crops has amounted to about 50 per cent of the total acreage. The supply of labor for the most part is normal and adequate.

Crops generally appear to be in thriving condition. Winter wheat and rye vary from good to excellent, more especially wheat, which is considered by many to be the best crop in the last five years. Early field potatoes, particularly in the south central and southeastern counties, show vigorous advance. Orchard fruits are fairly good. The peach crop is estimated to be in better condition than was the case at the same time in any of the preceding three years, and it seems to be fully up to the average. The expected yield of truck compares favorably with last year, in spite of a somewhat late season. Such damage as resulted from low temperatures and storms is not regarded as very serious, according to official reports.

Pastures and hay meadows are in very good condition, growth being stimulated by abundant rain; comparisons with last year are decidedly favorable. The general condition of livestock is healthy, and in some instances is better than a year ago. Farmers have sold nearly half of their fattened steers, and the balance is expected to be sent to slaughter by June.

#### BUILDING AND REAL ESTATE

Building operations naturally show expansion at this season although the extent of this improvement is no more pronounced than was the case at the same time last year. The value of contract awards during April increased more than usual, owing chiefly to contracts for a large office building, a realty project, a bridge, and a city hall. Compared with a year ago, contract valuations also were appreciably greater. Eastern Pennsylvania mainly was responsible for the gain in the year, southern New Jersey and Delaware showing marked declines. Increases were reported by Philadelphia, Camden, Reading, and Scranton, while decreases were shown by Trenton and Wilmington.

Renting demand for houses and apartments shows little change during the month but is slightly more active than was the case a year ago. Houses renting from \$35 to \$50 a month are in the most active demand at the present time. Rents for both houses and apartments generally have decreased during the past three months. The supply of houses for renting and apartment space is more than ample. In some of the industrial sections, in fact, many vacancies are reported.

Building for sale continues to dominate the market. Several reports indicate that a considerable portion of the present residential building is in apartments, a fact especially true of large cities. The demand for houses selling at less than six thousand dollars has been more active

than at the same time last year, while the sale of houses costing from six thousand to ten thousand dollars and over has declined slightly.

Prospective home buyers find no difficulty in obtaining funds for the purchase of houses, although investors appear to be more conservatively discriminating than was the case at the same time in other recent years. The volume of financing for new commercial construction and new residential buildings is smaller than that of a year ago. The average commission rates on first mortgages run at about 2 per cent while those on second mortgages average over 11 per cent.

#### COAL

**Anthracite.** The market for domestic and steam sizes is sluggish and sales have declined further during the month. The majority of reports show price advances on domestic sizes after the usual seasonal reductions in certain sizes in April.

Several reports show improvement in output in recent weeks. Production during the four weeks ended May 18 totaled 6,213,000 tons, or a gain of about 24 per cent over the volume in the preceding four weeks but a decline of almost 15 per cent as compared with a year ago. Inventories held by operators are fairly moderate and show little change since last month. Stocks of hard coal carried by retail dealers on April 1 declined substantially from those on February 1,

but were noticeably larger than on April 1, 1928.

**Bituminous.** General dullness prevails in the market for bituminous coal and sales have declined appreciably since the middle of last month. Colliery operations in this section also show seasonal recessions. Production in the country during the four weeks ended May 18 totaled 35,973,000 tons. This was a gain of nearly 11 per cent from the volume mined in the preceding four weeks and of 9 per cent in comparison with a year ago. Estimates show that stocks of bituminous coal in the hands of commercial consumers on April 1 amounted to 36 million tons, a decline of nearly 14 per cent from January 1, and almost 26 per cent from April 1, 1928.

#### DISTRIBUTION

Distribution of commodities continues well sustained. Railroad shipments of merchandise and miscellaneous commodities in the Allegheny district are ahead of the volume at the same time in any of the previous three years. Total railroad shipments appear more than seasonally active, and the volume rose sharply between March and April, surpassing the total shown for that month in the past seven years. The larger movement of merchandise and miscellaneous commodities and, to some extent, coal is chiefly responsible for this favorable comparison.

| RETAIL TRADE<br>Philadelphia Federal Reserve<br>District | Comparison of<br>net sales              |   | Comparison of<br>stocks  |                          | Rate of<br>turnover,<br>Jan. 1, to<br>Apr. 30, |       | Accounts<br>receiv-<br>able<br>at end of<br>April<br>com-<br>pared<br>with<br>year ago | Collec-<br>tions<br>during<br>April<br>com-<br>pared<br>with<br>year ago |
|--|---|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|-------|--|--|
|  | Apr.,<br>1929,<br>with<br>Apr.,<br>1928 | Jan. 1 to<br>Apr. 30,<br>1929,<br>with<br>Jan. 1 to<br>Apr. 30,<br>1928 | Apr. 30, 1929            |                          | 1928   | 1929  |  |  |
|  |   |   | with<br>Apr. 30,<br>1928 | with<br>Mar. 31,<br>1929 |  |       |  |  |
| All reporting stores.....                                | - 1.7%                                  | + 0.4%  | - 9.5%                   | + 0.5%                   | 1.05   | 1.19  | .....  | .....  |
| Department stores.....                                   | - 0.9 "                                 | - 0.1 "   | -10.7 "                  | + 0.4 "                  | 1.01   | 1.15  | .....  | .....  |
| in Philadelphia.....                                     | - 0.6 "                                 | - 0.7 "   | -13.6 "                  | - 0.8 "                  | 1.08   | 1.29  | .....  | .....  |
| outside Philadelphia.....                                | - 1.7 "                                 | + 1.2 "   | - 4.6 "                  | + 2.8 "                  | 0.89   | 0.94  | + 9.0%   | +14.0%   |
| Apparel stores.....                                      | - 3.8 "                                 | .....   | .....                    | .....                    | .....  | ..... | .....  | .....  |
| Men's apparel stores.....                                | -14.8 "                                 | - 0.0 "   | + 1.9 "                  | + 6.7 "                  | 0.92   | 0.93  | .....  | .....  |
| in Philadelphia.....                                     | - 3.4 "                                 | + 7.2 "   | +11.5 "                  | +10.5 "                  | 1.11   | 1.10  | .....  | .....  |
| outside Philadelphia.....                                | -24.1 "                                 | - 6.0 "   | - 4.4 "                  | + 3.9 "                  | 0.80   | 0.80  | + 3.4 "  | +12.7 "  |
| Women's apparel stores.....                              | - 0.3 "                                 | + 7.5 "   | + 9.8 "                  | + 0.7 "                  | 1.99   | 2.04  | .....  | .....  |
| in Philadelphia.....                                     | + 1.7 "                                 | + 8.9 "   | +10.9 "                  | + 2.2 "                  | 2.12   | 2.19  | .....  | .....  |
| outside Philadelphia.....                                | -14.7 "                                 | - 2.9 "   | + 4.7 "                  | - 6.3 "                  | 1.39   | 1.31  | +10.0 "  | +10.2 "  |
| Shoe stores.....   | -12.5 "                                 | + 0.8 "   | -11.3 "                  | - 0.1 "                  | 0.81   | 0.87  | + 5.2 "  | + 8.0 "  |
| Credit store.....  | - 6.1 "                                 | - 5.7 "   | -17.2 "                  | - 4.9 "                  | 0.89   | 0.96  | + 8.0 "  | +13.1 "  |

| WHOLESALE<br>TRADE<br>Philadelphia<br>Federal Reserve<br>District | Net sales,<br>Apr., 1929,<br>compared with |               | Stocks,<br>Apr. 30, 1929,<br>compared with |                  | Accounts out-<br>standing,<br>Apr. 30, 1929,<br>compared with |                  | Ratio of ac-<br>counts<br>out-<br>standing to<br>sales,<br>Apr.,<br>1929 | Collections,<br>Apr., 1929,<br>compared<br>with |               |
|---|--|---------------|--|------------------|---|------------------|--|---|---------------|
|   | Apr.,<br>1928                              | Mar.,<br>1929 | Apr. 30,<br>1928                           | Mar. 31,<br>1929 | Apr. 30,<br>1928  | Mar. 31,<br>1929 |  | Apr.,<br>1928                                   | Mar.,<br>1929 |
| Boots and shoes....   | -13.6%                                     | -28.1%        | .....%                                     | .....%           | - 8.3%  | - 3.7%           | 427.3%   | - 7.8%  | +10.3%        |
| Drugs.....  | + 4.7 "                                    | + 0.8 "       | ..... "                                    | ..... "          | -11.3 "   | - 4.8 "          | 132.3 "  | + 7.0 "   | + 2.5 "       |
| Dry goods.....  | + 4.6 "                                    | - 8.2 "       | -27.0 "                                    | - 1.4 "          | - 6.8 "   | - 3.3 "          | 314.0 "  | + 5.9 "   | + 3.9 "       |
| Electrical supplies.....  | +17.0 "                                    | + 8.2 "       | ..... "                                    | ..... "          | + 2.5 "   | + 2.5 "          | 201.5 "  | ..... "   | ..... "       |
| Groceries.....  | + 7.5 "                                    | + 0.8 "       | + 4.4 "                                    | + 0.8 "          | - 1.7 "   | - 0.9 "          | 126.9 "  | + 6.9 "   | + 3.3 "       |
| Hardware.....   | + 8.8 "                                    | +11.0 "       | - 7.0 "                                    | + 1.8 "          | - 1.4 "   | + 5.1 "          | 185.7 "  | + 1.8 "   | +15.2 "       |
| Jewelry.....  | +32.5 "                                    | -13.9 "       | +17.7 "                                    | + 3.2 "          | + 9.0 "   | - 0.9 "          | 484.9 "  | +18.0 "   | - 4.6 "       |
| Paper.....  | + 8.7 "                                    | + 4.2 "       | - 5.7 "                                    | - 1.7 "          | + 1.1 "   | + 0.9 "          | 131.1 "  | +14.7 "   | +13.8 "       |

Sales of ordinary life insurance in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, while declining from March to April, were larger than in April of the past eight years. Sales of new passenger cars in this section, as indicated by automobile registrations in April, were much larger than in any of the preceding months this year or in any of the first four months last year.

**Wholesale trade.** Wholesale and jobbing trade is progressing at a fair rate, according to the majority of preliminary reports. Marked gains in the sale of groceries and hardware since the middle of last month and some declines in drugs and dry goods, have been reported.

Sales in April were 7.6 per cent larger than in the like month last year. Business in shoes alone was smaller. Compared with the preceding month wholesale

sales also showed a gain of 1.2 per cent, in spite of the decline noted in shoes, dry goods, and jewelry. Accounts outstanding in most lines were smaller at the end of April than at the same time either the previous month or a year earlier. Collections in the main were larger in April than in the same month last year or in March this year.

**Retail trade.** The distribution of goods at retail continues in fair volume. Many reports show increases since the middle of last month but these were offset by reports showing decreases. Some decline in retail prices has been noted during the month. Sales during April declined seasonally and were almost 2 per cent smaller than in the same month last year, all reporting lines showing declines. While the month had one more business

day this year than last, Easter occurred on March 31 or eight days earlier than last year. Computed on a daily basis for March-April, retail sales were 2.4 per cent larger than in the same period last year. Cumulative sales in the first four months of this year were slightly larger than was the case at the same time last year. Inventories held by retailers increased slightly during April but were almost 10 per cent smaller than a year before. Department stores in Philadelphia, shoe and credit stores showed the largest reduction in stocks as compared with April 1928. The most pronounced gains in stocks over a year earlier were reported by men's and women's apparel stores in Philadelphia. The rate of turnover in the first four months of this year was larger than in the same period last year.

## BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE PHILADELPHIA FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

|                                      | Prices                              | Demand  | Unfilled orders                     | Operations                   | Stocks                                 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Retail trade .....                   | Some declines                       | Fair, losses offset gains   |                                     |                              | Some gain, but smaller than a year ago |
| <b>Wholesale trade:</b>              |                                     |   |                                     |                              |  |
| Drugs .....                          | Little change                       | Fair, some declines   |                                     |                              |  |
| Dry goods .....                      | Unchanged                           | Fair, declined  |                                     |                              | Smaller                                |
| Electrical supplies..                | Little change                       | Fair, active, some gains  |                                     |                              |  |
| Groceries .....                      | Little change                       | Fair, increased   |                                     |                              | Slightly larger                        |
| Hardware .....                       | Little change                       | Fair, increased   |                                     |                              | Slightly larger                        |
| Jewelry .....                        | Unchanged                           | Fair, little change   |                                     |                              | Smaller                                |
| Paper .....                          | Unchanged                           | Fairly active   |                                     |                              | Smaller                                |
| Shoes .....                          | Unchanged                           | Fair, unchanged   |                                     |                              |  |
| Lumber .....                         | Unchanged                           | Fair, little change   |                                     |                              | Little change                          |
| Wool .....                           | Declined                            | Slow, declined  | Smaller than a year ago             |                              | Larger than a year ago                 |
| Cotton yarns .....                   | Declined                            | Slow, declined  | Smaller than a year ago             |                              | Smaller                                |
| <b>Manufacturing:</b>                |                                     |   |                                     |                              |  |
| <b>Iron and steel products</b> ..... | Some advances                       | Active, increased   | Larger than a year ago              | Increased                    | Smaller                                |
| Cotton goods .....                   | Some declines                       | Fair to poor, declined  | Smaller, but larger than a year ago | Decreased                    | Larger                                 |
| Silk goods .....                     | Declined                            | Fair to poor, declined  | Smaller                             | Decreased                    | Larger                                 |
| Silk throwsters .....                | Declined                            | Fair, declined but larger than a year ago   | Smaller                             | Decreased                    | Smaller                                |
| Wool goods .....                     | Some declines                       | Fair, some gains  | Little change                       | Some gains                   | Smaller                                |
| Wool yarns .....                     | Declined                            | Fair to poor, declined  | Smaller                             | Little change                | Smaller                                |
| Hosiery—full-fashioned .....         | Little change                       | Active, some gains  | Slightly smaller                    | Little change                | Larger                                 |
| Hosiery—seamless .....               | Unchanged                           | Fair, little change   | Smaller                             | Decreased                    | Larger but smaller than a year ago     |
| Carpets and rugs...                  | Unchanged                           | Fair, little change   | Smaller, but larger than a year ago | Decreased                    | Smaller                                |
| Shoes .....                          | Declined                            | Fair, some declines   | Little change                       | Slightly lower               | Smaller                                |
| <b>Leather—</b>                      |                                     |   |                                     |                              |  |
| Sole .....                           | Declined                            | Fair, some gains  | Little change                       | Little change                | Little change                          |
| Black kid .....                      | Little change                       | Fair, some gains  | Larger                              | Little change                | Slightly larger                        |
| Colored kid .....                    | Little change                       | Fair, some gains  | Little change                       | Little change                | Slightly larger                        |
| Paper .....                          | Unchanged                           | Fair, little change   | Little change                       | Little change                | Larger                                 |
| Mechanical rubber goods .....        | Unchanged                           | Fair, increased   | Little change                       | Increased                    | Smaller                                |
| Cigars .....                         | Unchanged                           | Fair, little change   | Slightly smaller                    | Little change                | Smaller                                |
| Brick .....                          | Unchanged                           | Fair, increased   | Larger                              | Increased                    | Smaller                                |
| Lumber—mills .....                   | Unchanged                           | Fair, increased   | Larger                              | Increased                    | Smaller                                |
| Paint .....                          | Little change                       | Fairly active, increased  | Some gains                          | Little change                | Smaller                                |
| Plumbing supplies...                 | Little change                       | Fair, increased   | Larger than a year ago              | Increased                    | Larger                                 |
| Real estate .....                    | Rents declined in past three months | Active for houses renting from \$35 to \$50 month; lower-priced houses in fair demand |                                     |                              |  |
| Building .....                       | Construction costs unchanged        | Fair  | Value of permits declined           | Value of contracts increased |  |
| Anthracite .....                     | Higher                              | Slow, declined  |                                     | Increased                    |  |
| Bituminous coal .....                | Little change                       | Poor, declined  |                                     | Increased                    |  |