

THE BUSINESS REVIEW

THIRD FEDERAL
PHILADELPHIA



RESERVE DISTRICT
SEPTEMBER 2, 1929

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BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Industrial production decreased slightly during July, but continued at a higher level than in other recent years. Wholesale commodity prices increased further during the month, reflecting chiefly higher prices of agricultural products. Loans for commercial and agricultural purposes by reporting member banks increased during July and the first half of August.

Production. Output of manufactures decreased in July, while mineral production increased. Average daily output of automobiles, copper, tin, zinc, and cotton and wool textiles decreased and there was a small decline in the production of iron and steel; in all of these industries, however, output was larger than in the same month in earlier years. Activity increased during July in silk and shoe factories and in meat packing plants, and there was also a larger output of bituminous coal and crude petroleum than in June. Reports for the first half of August indicate sustained activity in the iron and steel and automobile industry, and a further increase in the output of coal and petroleum.

Employment in manufacturing industries decreased in July by less than one per cent while a somewhat greater decrease in payrolls was reported. At this level, factory employment and payrolls,

as in earlier months, were larger than in any other year since 1926.

Value of construction contracts awarded in July was higher than in the preceding month or in July 1928, reflecting chiefly a sharp increase in contracts for public works and utilities. For the first half of August, however, total contracts declined to a level below the corresponding period a year ago.

Agriculture. The August estimate of the Department of Agriculture indicates a wheat crop of 774,000,000 bushels, slightly below the five year average, and 128,000,000 bushels below last year's production and a corn crop approximately equal to the five year average crop and about 100,000,000 bushels smaller than in 1928. The cotton crop is estimated as 15,543,000 bales, 7 per cent larger than last year.

Distribution. Freight car loadings increased seasonally during July and the first two weeks of August, reflecting chiefly increased loadings of coal, grain, and ore, while shipments of miscellaneous freight continued in about the same volume as in June.

Sales of department stores declined seasonally from June and on a daily basis were about the same as in July a year ago.

Prices. Wholesale prices in July continued the rise which began in June, according to the Index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, reflecting chiefly higher prices from farm products and their manufactures, particularly livestock and meats, grains and flour, and potatoes. Prices of hides and leather also increased. Wool, rayon, and textile products declined slightly in price. There was a marked advance in the price of sugar, and rubber prices also rose somewhat. Prices of petroleum and gasoline declined and prices of iron and steel were somewhat lower.

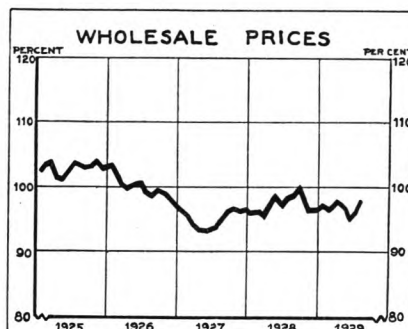
During the first three weeks in August there were declines in the prices of cotton, petroleum, beef, sugar, oats, rubber, and tin, and marked fluctuations in prices of pork and wheat.

Bank credit. Loans for commercial purposes by reporting member banks increased to new high levels during the four weeks ending August 14, while security loans, after increasing further during the latter part of July, declined during the first two weeks in August.

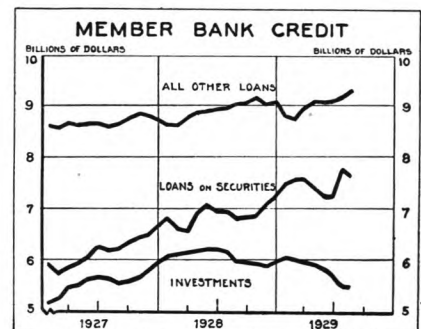
Member bank borrowing at the reserve banks averaged \$45,000,000 less during the week ending August 17 than in the week ending July 20 reflecting increased sales of acceptances to the reserve banks, and further imports of gold.



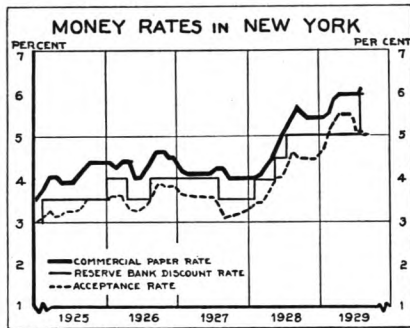
Index number of production of manufactures and minerals combined, adjusted for seasonal variations (1923-25 average = 100). Latest figure July, 124.



Index of United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (1926=100, base adopted by Bureau). Latest figure July, 98.0.



Monthly averages of weekly figures for reporting member banks in leading cities. Latest figures are averages of first three weeks in August.



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

Open market rates on call and time loans on securities were firmer during the last half of July and the first week of August. During the second week of August rates on call loans declined while rates on commercial paper in the open market advanced from 6 to 6¼ per cent. On August 8 the discount rate of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York was increased from 5 to 6 per cent and the buying rate on bankers' acceptances was reduced from 5¼ to the market rate of 5½ per cent.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE PHILADELPHIA FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

Industrial conditions in the Philadelphia Federal Reserve District show considerable strength for this season. The market for manufactured products has been fairly active as shown by larger sales than those of four weeks ago. Comparisons with a year ago also are favorable in the majority of reporting lines.

Unfilled orders generally show increases during the month and in comparison with a year ago, the latter being especially true of orders for fabricated metal products, most textiles, leather and shoes, and tobacco products. Forward business in building materials, on the other hand, has been smaller than that last month or a year ago; exceptions, however, are noted in orders for plumbing materials and slate.

While many manufacturing plants still continue to reflect the usual summer quiet, there has been a noticeable upturn in plant operations in most textile branches, leather and shoes, paper, and tobacco products. Activity of plants fabricating iron and steel products shows a slight recession, following an exceptionally busy period since the early part of this year.

The demand for workers by employers eased off slightly between June and July, but factory employment in this section increased a little further and was considerably larger than in July, 1928. The volume of wage disbursements, while declining seasonally, was substantially

| BUSINESS INDICATORS Philadelphia Federal Reserve District | July, 1929 | Latest figure compared with | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| | | Previous month | Year ago |
| Retail trade —estimated net sales (139 stores)..... | \$15,855,200 | -32.3% | -2.9% |
| Department stores (62)..... | \$13,273,400 | -32.1 " | -3.8 " |
| Apparel stores (40)..... | \$1,822,600 | -36.3 " | -0.2 " |
| Shoe stores (19)..... | \$341,800 | -26.4 " | +0.4 " |
| Credit stores (18)..... | \$417,400 | -26.6 " | +14.7 " |
| Wholesale trade —net sales (101 firms)..... | \$6,873,235 | -0.9 " | +4.3 " |
| Boots and shoes (5)..... | \$91,098 | -14.8 " | -12.9 " |
| Drugs (10)..... | \$1,082,522 | +1.8 " | -0.9 " |
| Dry goods (12)..... | \$311,893 | -13.8 " | -9.3 " |
| Groceries (34)..... | \$3,074,074 | +5.9 " | +8.5 " |
| Hardware (22)..... | \$1,520,258 | -8.9 " | +1.9 " |
| Jewelry (11)..... | \$301,074 | -16.6 " | +9.1 " |
| Paper (7)..... | \$492,316 | +4.3 " | +9.6 " |
| Productive activity — | | | |
| Employment—\$52 plants in Penna..... | 295,411 | +0.6 " | +10.5 " |
| Wage payments in above plants..... | \$7,532,088 | -5.0 " | +15.6 " |
| Shoe production* (89 factories)..... | prs. 1,463,353 | +8.9 " | +30.6 " |
| Hosiery production* (122 mills)..... | doz. prs. 1,227,919 | -11.1 " | +11.1 " |
| Wool consumption* (82 mills)..... | lbs. 7,001,528 | +12.8 " | +12.5 " |
| Active cotton spindle hours (Penna. and N. J.)..... | 66,612,616 | -6.2 " | +12.5 " |
| Pig iron production..... | tons. 351,582 | -2.5 " | +30.6 " |
| Iron casting production (35 foundries)..... | tons. 5,617 | +10.5 " | +8.4 " |
| Steel casting production (11 foundries)..... | tons. 6,817 | +16.3 " | +49.0 " |
| Anthracite..... | tons. 4,993,000 | -1.5 " | -13.6 " |
| Bituminous coal—Penna..... | tons. 11,244,000 | +3.5 " | +20.1 " |
| Cement..... | bbls. 3,709,000 | +0.3 " | -3.2 " |
| Electric power output (12 systems)..... | KWH. 531,892,000 | +2.9 " | +14.5 " |
| Financial and credit — | | | |
| Debits (18 cities)..... | \$3,125,074,000 | -1.0 " | +20.8 " |
| Loans and investments—middle of August—105 member banks..... | \$1,596,000,000 | -0.1 " | -1.4 " |
| Bills discounted held by F. R. B. of Phila. (daily average)..... | \$77,300,000 | -8.7 " | -17.6 " |
| Bankers' acceptances outstanding—end of month (district)..... | \$15,046,000 | -1.1 " | -2.8 " |
| Commercial paper sales (4 dealers)..... | \$3,034,500 | -15.9 " | -0.4 " |
| Commercial failures—number..... | 57 | -8.1 " | -25.0 " |
| Commercial failures—liabilities..... | \$1,267,519 | +1.6 " | -7.3 " |
| Building and real estate — | | | |
| Building permits (17 cities)..... | \$26,945,128 | +65.0 " | +43.7 " |
| Building contracts awarded (Philadelphia district)..... | \$33,928,400 | -11.5 " | -17.8 " |
| Number of real estate deeds recorded (Philadelphia county)..... | 5,262 | -2.2 " | -6.3 " |
| Value of mortgages recorded (Philadelphia county)..... | \$25,049,900 | +39.2 " | -24.9 " |
| Sheriff sale (Philadelphia county)—number of writs issued for August..... | 1,197 | +28.6 " | +28.3 " |
| Miscellaneous — | | | |
| Freight car loadings (Allegheny district—weekly average)..... | 215,582 | -1.9 " | +8.5 " |
| Tonnage of vessels (Port of Philadelphia)..... | tons. 4,542,800 | +11.4 " | +21.2 " |
| Sales of life insurance (Penna., N. J., and Del.)..... | \$105,662,000 | -3.7 " | +19.3 " |
| Automobile sales (registrations of new passenger cars)..... | 20,066 | -16.3 " | +21.8 " |

* Bureau of Census preliminary figures.

above that of a year before, indicating a higher level of plant operations. Consumption of electric power by industries also declined, as usual, but was appreciably ahead of the amount used in July, 1928.

Reports on the physical output of various commodities in this district on the whole are rather favorable, particularly as compared with a year earlier. The output of shoes was noticeably larger in July than in June, while production of hosiery declined. Mill takings of wool in this district increased at a somewhat higher rate than that reported for the country. Production of iron and steel castings and cement also exceeded the volume reported for June. This is likewise true of bituminous coal, while anthracite showed a slight decrease.

Construction activity is only fair at best and the volume does not measure up to that of a year ago. The value of contract awards in July declined further and was materially smaller than in the same month last year. Building permits, on

the other hand, showed a pronounced gain over the preceding month and a year earlier. The value of mortgages recorded in Philadelphia rose materially in the month but showed a marked decline in comparison with July, 1928. Foreclosures increased further in the month and in the year.

Distribution of commodities compared rather favorably with the volume of a year ago. Railroad shipments in this section in the latest four weeks showed a slight upturn and continued materially in excess of those in the same time last year and two years ago. Sales at wholesale fell off slightly in the month but rose appreciably in comparison with the volume in July, 1928. Reports on retail trade showed declines in the month and in the year.

Sales of new passenger cars in this district, after rising sharply to the peak which was reached in April, turned downward as is to be expected at this time; compared, however, with sales in the same month for several years past, the

number of new passenger cars sold in July this year was considerably larger. Sales of ordinary life insurance in this territory also declined in the month but were much larger than in July, 1928.

Member banks in this district report little change in loans and investments during the past month, but a decline in net demand deposits. There was a loss in the settlements, and borrowings from the Federal Reserve Bank increased materially. The loss in cash reserves, without corresponding reductions in note circulation and deposits, caused the reserve ratio to fall from 77.6 to 69.4 per cent.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

Since the middle of July there has been little change in the total amount of reserve bank credit in use. Currency in circulation also is in nearly the same volume as a month ago, but the gold stock shows some increase, chiefly as the result of imports from Argentina.

On August 8 the Federal Reserve Bank of New York raised its discount rate from 5 to 6 per cent, and lowered its buying rate on bankers' bills from 5¼ to 5½ per cent. Call money, following rates as high as 12 per cent early in August, more recently has renewed at 7 per cent and new loans have been made at as low as 6 per cent on several days. Other classes of funds are somewhat firmer than a month ago; time money of ninety-days' maturity is definitely higher and offering rates on bankers' bills of the longer maturities have been advanced by dealers.

| Call money renewals (Daily average rates) | 1929 | | | | 1928 |
|---|-------|------|-------|-------|------|
| | May | June | July | Aug. | Aug. |
| For period from— | | | | | |
| 1st to 5th.... | 10.3% | 6.7% | 11.0% | 10.0% | 7.2% |
| 6th to 10th.... | 12.4 | 7.0 | 8.3 | 9.5 | 6.5 |
| 11th to 15th.... | 8.0 | 7.7 | 9.0 | 7.5 | 7.3 |
| 16th to 20th.... | 9.7 | 7.0 | 10.0 | 7.0 | 5.7 |
| 21st to 25th.... | 6.5 | 8.0 | 7.2 | ..... | 7.0 |
| 26th to 31st.... | 6.0 | 10.0 | 9.5 | ..... | 7.4 |

Brokers' loans and securities. A further rise in brokers' loans to a new high point of 6,085 millions is reported by member banks in New York City. Loans for own account declined materially, but heavier loans for out-of-town banks and particularly for "others" were sufficient to raise the total 272 millions above the report for the middle of July.

| Brokers' loans (000,000's omitted) | Aug. 21, 1929 | July 17, 1929 | Aug. 22, 1928 |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| For own account.... | \$ 926 | \$1,136 | \$ 809 |
| For out-of-town banks | 1,787 | 1,676 | 1,512 |
| For others..... | 3,372 | 3,002 | 1,880 |
| Totals..... | \$6,085 | \$5,813 | \$4,201 |

| CITY CONDITIONS Philadelphia Federal Reserve District | July, 1929, compared with July, 1928 | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|--------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Employment | Wage payments | Value of building permits | Debits | Retail trade sales | Electric power sales |
| Allentown area..... | - 0.8% | + 1.6% | + 131.9% | + 4.8% | + 0.7% | - 3.2%* |
| Altoona..... | +13.5 | +14.8 | - 2.9 | +12.9 | + 0.4 | +20.3 |
| Harrisburg..... | +10.2 | +16.5 | +1678.8 | + 9.9 | - 3.0 | ..... |
| Johnstown..... | + 3.6 | + 5.8 | - 51.9 | +19.4 | + 0.5 | + 8.1 |
| Lancaster..... | + 1.0 | - 3.6 | - 64.0 | +13.5 | + 6.2 | +16.4 |
| Philadelphia..... | +12.8 | +12.7 | + 29.8 | +22.7 | - 3.3 | +14.3 |
| Reading..... | +10.0 | +21.2 | + 26.3 | + 8.5 | - 1.1 | +21.2 |
| Scranton..... | +19.2 | +22.0 | - 57.6 | + 8.1 | - 9.6 | -15.9 |
| Trenton..... | + 6.1 | + 8.9 | + 604.9 | +31.1 | - 7.7 | +15.5 |
| Wilkes-Barre..... | + 6.9 | + 0.2 | + 38.6 | - 4.6 | - 6.9 | ..... |
| Williamsport..... | +21.7 | +33.2 | + 107.5 | +15.6 | ..... | ..... |
| Wilmington..... | +17.4 | +20.9 | - 5.2 | +41.1 | - 0.3 | +19.4 |
| York..... | - 3.4 | - 7.0 | + 69.4 | +16.6 | ..... | + 7.4 |

July, 1929, compared with June, 1929

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| Allentown area..... | - 1.6% | - 7.1% | + 78.8% | + 0.3% | -23.3% | - 6.7%* |
| Altoona..... | + 2.1 | - 4.7 | - 48.0 | + 4.0 | -11.6 | + 7.7 |
| Harrisburg..... | + 0.3 | - 5.9 | + 489.2 | + 1.2 | -26.7 | ..... |
| Johnstown..... | - 0.5 | - 1.0 | - 4.8 | + 0.9 | -20.7 | + 2.2 |
| Lancaster..... | - 5.2 | -10.3 | - 16.0 | - 1.1 | -13.2 | + 0.9 |
| Philadelphia..... | + 2.1 | - 3.8 | + 61.0 | - 8.9 | -37.5 | - 2.1 |
| Reading..... | - 0.7 | - 4.8 | + 0.2 | + 0.3 | -26.0 | - 5.5 |
| Scranton..... | + 1.4 | + 0.8 | - 74.2 | + 0.7 | -18.5 | -12.0 |
| Trenton..... | - 0.5 | -10.1 | + 146.2 | +17.2 | -32.1 | + 7.6 |
| Wilkes-Barre..... | + 2.2 | - 4.4 | + 84.6 | + 2.5 | -21.8 | ..... |
| Williamsport..... | + 1.5 | - 1.3 | + 116.1 | + 1.3 | ..... | ..... |
| Wilmington..... | + 6.9 | + 1.9 | + 70.7 | + 1.0 | -27.9 | + 0.4 |
| York..... | - 1.3 | - 1.6 | + 27.3 | + 7.1 | ..... | - 7.0 |

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

Stock prices have risen further. The Standard Statistics Company reports that the average yield on 60 bonds was 4.74 per cent on August 15, as compared with 5.54 per cent on 20 high-grade industrial preferred stocks, and 3.03 per cent on an assorted group of 90 common stocks.

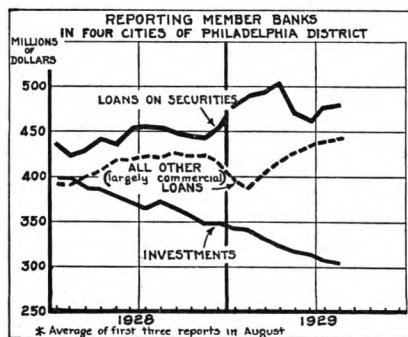
New capital issues increased from \$773,000,000 in June to \$879,000,000 in July, according to the "Chronicle". These figures, which are exclusive of refunding issues, compare with only \$407,000,000 a year ago. Little foreign financing was reported in July; public utility offerings amounted to \$295,000,000, and more than 200 millions additional was accounted for in financing by investment trusts, and trading and holding companies.

Banking conditions in the Philadelphia district. Changes in the loans and investments of reporting member banks in twenty-one cities of the Philadelphia Federal Reserve District were small in the four weeks ended August 14, but net demand deposits, owing chiefly to declines in Philadelphia, receded from 847

to 827 millions. Philadelphia banks, too, account largely for an increase in borrowing from the Federal Reserve Bank during this period.

In comparison with a year ago, the reporting banks show approximately equal increases in loans on securities and in other loans. Expansion in the latter class, which includes largely commercial loans, was to have been expected in view of the rising activity of business. The banks suffered a material loss of deposits, time deposits in particular, and their investment holdings were considerably reduced.

| Reporting member banks in 21 leading cities (000,000's omitted) | Aug. 14, 1929 | Changes in | |
|---|---------------|------------|----------|
| | | Four weeks | One year |
| Reported by 90 banks: | | | |
| Loans on securities.. | \$ 544 | +\$ 1 | +\$24 |
| Other (largely commercial) loans.... | 557 | + 2 | + 22 |
| Reported by 105 banks: | | | |
| Total loans and discounts..... | 1,171 | + 2 | + 49 |
| Investments..... | 425 | - 4 | - 71 |
| Net demand deposits | 827 | - 20 | - 11 |
| Time deposits..... | 450 | + 1 | - 48 |



Borrowings from the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia increased by 24 millions in the five weeks ended August 21, owing chiefly to heavier discounting for Philadelphia banks. Cash reserves felt the influence of losses in the settlements, showing a reduction from 226 to 199 millions and the reserve ratio fell from 77.6 to 69.4 per cent. There was little change in the demand for currency.

Although borrowing from this bank is in approximately the same amount as a

year ago, holdings of other bills and securities are in smaller volume, cash reserves are larger and the reserve ratio is more than 8 per cent higher.

| Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia (Dollar figures in millions) | Aug. 21, 1929 | Changes in | |
|--|---------------|------------|----------|
| | | Five weeks | One year |
| Bills discounted for member banks in Philadelphia..... | \$ 53.4 | +\$21.8 | -\$ 8.2 |
| 20 other large cities | 25.6 | + 4.6 | + 4.3 |
| Other communities | 18.5 | - 2.5 | + 2.8 |
| Total bills discounted | \$ 97.5 | +\$23.9 | -\$ 1.1 |
| Bills bought..... | 4.5 | + .2 | - 9.1 |
| United States securities..... | 17.7 | + 1.3 | - 3.2 |
| Other securities..... | .3 | 0 | + .3 |
| Total bills and securities..... | \$120.0 | +\$25.4 | -\$13.1 |
| Federal reserve note circulation..... | 152.6 | + .8 | + 23.2 |
| Member banks' reserve deposits..... | 132.8 | - 4.6 | - .1 |
| Cash reserves..... | 199.4 | - 26.8 | + 38.5 |
| Reserve ratio..... | 69.4% | - 8.2% | + 8.3% |

Commercial paper. Sales of commercial paper to banks in Philadelphia were very small in July, and an increase in purchases by country banks was not sufficient to bring total sales up to the June figure. July sales, however, were little short of those made a year earlier, though far smaller than in July, 1927.

| Commercial paper sales | Sales to | | Total sales |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| | City banks | Country banks | |
| 1929—May.. | 0 | \$1,227,500 | \$ 1,227,500 |
| June.. | \$2,780,000 | 827,500 | 3,607,500 |
| July.. | 120,000 | 2,914,500 | 3,034,500 |
| 1928—July.. | 1,585,000 | 1,462,500 | 3,047,500 |
| 1927—July.. | 3,099,500 | 7,317,500 | 10,417,000 |

Bankers' bills. The total of bankers' acceptances outstanding in this country increased from \$1,113,000,000 on June 29 to \$1,127,000,000 on July 31; this compares with declines of \$48,000,000 during July, 1928 and of \$10,000,000 in July, 1927. Acceptances outstanding of banks in the Philadelphia Federal Reserve District declined from \$15,211,000 to \$15,046,000 during July, and at the end of the month were in smaller volume than a year earlier.

INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS MANUFACTURING

The market for manufactured products on the whole is satisfactory and sales have increased in most lines since the middle of last month. The volume of business compares more than favorably with that of the same time last year, except for building materials which reflect lessened construction operations. Unfilled orders as a rule show further gains in the past four weeks and in comparison with last year. Productive activity likewise shows expansion in the month and is

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above the level of a year ago in nearly all of the manufacturing groups.

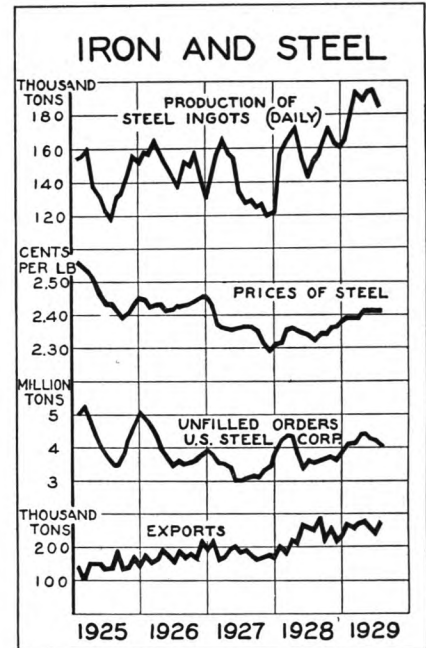
Factory employment in Pennsylvania increased further nearly one per cent from June to July and was almost 11 per cent above July, 1928. Payrolls, on the other hand, showed a decline of 5 per cent in the month, but a gain of about 16 per cent in comparison with a year earlier, indicating higher rate of operation. Similarly, the number of wage earners in Delaware and New Jersey showed a gain over that in June, while the volume of wage disbursements declined in the four weeks.

Industrial consumption of electrical energy in this district was slightly smaller in July than in June but almost 11 per cent larger than in July, 1928. Total sales of electricity also were a trifle smaller in the month, but were nearly 16 per cent larger than a year before. The output of electric power by 12 systems of this district, however, increased nearly 3 per cent in the month and was approximately 15 per cent greater than in July, 1928. Comparisons are given in the accompanying table:

| ELECTRIC POWER Philadelphia Federal Reserve District 12 systems | July, 1929— change from | |
|--|----------------------------|---------------|
| | July, 1928 | June, 1929 |
| Rated generator capacity..... | + 1.3% | + 0.6% |
| Generated output..... | +14.5 " | + 2.9 " |
| Hydro-electric..... | -59.6 " | -37.4 " |
| Steam..... | +78.6 " | +15.8 " |
| Purchased..... | +28.7 " | +12.1 " |
| Sales of electricity..... | +15.9 " | - 0.9 " |
| Lighting..... | + 5.2 " | - 9.1 " |
| Municipal..... | + 9.8 " | - 4.7 " |
| Residential and commercial..... | + 4.6 " | - 9.7 " |
| Power..... | +10.7 " | - 2.2 " |
| Municipal..... | +43.5 " | +32.3 " |
| Street cars and railroads..... | + 6.9 " | - 2.2 " |
| Industries..... | +10.9 " | - 3.0 " |
| All other sales..... | +47.3 " | +10.7 " |

Iron and steel. The market for fabricated iron and steel products continues unusually active. The volume of sales has shown little change since the middle of last month. Increased buying has been reported by public utilities, construction companies, and foundries, while railroads, jobbers, automobile producers, and manufacturers show a slight let-down in their purchases of iron and steel products. Prices generally have been stable, showing little change during the month. Average quotations for finished steel have declined but slightly since last month, while those for pig iron were firm and unchanged.

Orders on the books of reporting firms continue materially larger than at the same time last year. Unfilled orders of the United States Steel Corporation at the end of July were 169,000 tons smaller than in June but were the largest for that month since 1923. New orders for fabricated structural steel, about one-fifth of



Source: Iron Age.

which is produced in this district, likewise declined a little from June to July but were noticeably larger than a year before.

Plant operations show less than the usual seasonal decline and the present rate is considerably higher than that prevailing at the same time last year or two years ago. Wage disbursements in Pennsylvania during July, while declining about 5 per cent from June, were over 24 per cent greater than in July, 1928—large gains being shown by many industries fabricating finished products in eastern Pennsylvania.

The daily output of pig iron in this district declined somewhat from June but was the largest for any July since 1923. Similarly, the daily tonnage in the country decreased in the month but was the largest ever recorded for July. This is also true of daily production of steel ingots in the country. Exports of iron and steel products from this country during the first half of this year were much larger than in the same period of the past five years.

Production and shipments of iron and steel castings in this district were noticeably larger in July than in June and in comparison with a year earlier. Unfilled orders for iron castings also increased appreciably in the month but declined from the volume in July, 1928. Orders on the books of steel foundries, on the other hand, dropped from June but were much larger than a year before.

Textiles. Conditions in the textile industry, while still reflecting seasonal quiet, are more satisfactory than was the case a year ago. In comparison with last month the demand for silk, cotton, and woolen and worsted piece goods has been slightly more active, and sales have exceeded the volume of a year ago. Sales of

| EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES in Pennsylvania | No. of plants reporting | EMPLOYMENT July, 1929 | | | | PAYROLLS July, 1929 | | | | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS week ended | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------------|--|
| | | July index* | Per cent change since | | July index* | Per cent change since | | July 15, 1929 | June 15, 1929 | | |
| | | | July 1928 | June 1929 | | July 1928 | June 1929 | | | | |
| All manufacturing industries (51) | 852 | 95.0 | +10.5 | + 0.6 | 96.4 | +15.6 | - 5.0 | \$25.50 | \$27.04 | | |
| Metal products | 235 | 96.3 | +14.4 | + 2.3 | 98.9 | +24.2 | - 4.6 | 27.41 | 29.46 | | |
| Blast furnaces..... | 9 | 47.3 | + 4.0 | + 1.1 | 52.0 | + 9.7 | + 0.8 | 30.38 | 30.45 | | |
| Steel wks. & rolling mills..... | 43 | 82.4 | + 8.1 | + 0.2 | 85.0 | +26.3 | - 7.7 | 28.07 | 30.49 | | |
| Iron and steel forgings..... | 10 | 107.5 | +46.3 | + 3.6 | 113.3 | +49.9 | + 0.2 | 25.55 | 26.44 | | |
| Structural iron work..... | 10 | 111.0 | + 9.8 | - 0.8 | 104.8 | + 5.5 | - 9.1 | 26.04 | 28.44 | | |
| Steam & hot water htg. ap..... | 17 | 96.7 | + 2.2 | + 0.4 | 108.7 | + 5.8 | - 0.5 | 30.52 | 30.98 | | |
| Stoves and furnaces..... | 8 | 61.1 | +15.5 | -19.8 | 56.5 | +19.2 | -16.7 | 26.33 | 25.39 | | |
| Foundries..... | 38 | 94.2 | +12.9 | - 1.3 | 101.4 | +24.7 | - 4.0 | 29.05 | 29.93 | | |
| Machinery and parts..... | 44 | 121.4 | +17.0 | + 2.2 | 136.6 | +25.3 | + 0.7 | 31.46 | 32.02 | | |
| Electrical apparatus..... | 15 | 238.9 | +57.4 | +23.7 | 228.2 | +41.7 | + 5.3 | 21.77 | 25.57 | | |
| Engines and pumps..... | 10 | 101.8 | +14.5 | + 0.3 | 111.7 | +24.1 | + 0.7 | 29.61 | 29.49 | | |
| Hardware and tools..... | 19 | 84.8 | + 6.5 | - 7.1 | 85.6 | + 6.9 | -10.4 | 23.51 | 24.36 | | |
| Brass and bronze prods..... | 12 | 76.1 | -23.1 | -18.2 | 75.2 | -15.8 | -21.5 | 26.74 | 27.91 | | |
| Transportation equipment | 42 | 82.4† | + 8.9 | - 1.3 | 81.2† | + 9.7 | - 3.6 | 28.68 | 29.97 | | |
| Automobiles..... | 6 | 129.5 | +37.6 | + 0.5 | 136.8 | +45.5 | - 4.9 | 30.47 | 32.99 | | |
| Auto. bodies and parts..... | 13 | 92.9 | +10.9 | - 6.5 | 82.2 | + 1.9 | - 3.3 | 28.58 | 27.64 | | |
| Locomotives and cars..... | 13 | 65.4 | +11.6 | + 0.3 | 63.9 | +18.8 | - 2.1 | 28.22 | 28.90 | | |
| Railroad repair shops..... | 6 | 89.7 | +12.7 | - 0.3 | 94.4 | +20.3 | - 7.7 | 27.85 | 30.10 | | |
| Shipbuilding..... | 4 | 48.9 | +91.0 | + 2.1 | 47.1 | +102.1 | - 0.6 | 27.99 | 28.70 | | |
| Textile products | 177 | 97.1 | + 5.7 | - 1.1 | 99.9 | + 9.5 | - 8.9 | 20.88 | 22.62 | | |
| Cotton goods..... | 13 | 74.3 | + 0.7 | - 6.2 | 67.9 | - 0.4 | -13.1 | 21.73 | 22.87 | | |
| Woolens and worsteds..... | 15 | 84.9 | - 4.2 | + 6.3 | 85.7 | + 1.8 | + 2.3 | 21.49 | 22.32 | | |
| Silk goods..... | 51 | 95.2 | + 4.6 | - 2.6 | 91.3 | + 5.3 | -12.9 | 17.36 | 19.42 | | |
| Textile dyeing & finishing..... | 12 | 112.8 | - 1.3 | - 1.7 | 117.5 | - 1.6 | - 6.2 | 25.07 | 26.29 | | |
| Carpets and rugs..... | 9 | 83.6 | + 3.6 | - 8.3 | 70.1 | + 2.3 | -21.1 | 21.11 | 24.52 | | |
| Hats..... | 4 | 97.0 | - 0.3 | - 1.3 | 97.6 | + 3.3 | - 5.0 | 25.65 | 26.62 | | |
| Hosiery..... | 30 | 124.8 | +13.4 | - 0.8 | 145.4 | +19.7 | - 9.7 | 25.11 | 27.57 | | |
| Knit goods, Other..... | 15 | 91.9 | +26.8 | + 2.2 | 102.1 | +42.6 | + 2.2 | 19.66 | 19.66 | | |
| Men's clothing..... | 10 | 92.0 | - 1.4 | + 2.2 | 99.7 | + 8.1 | + 5.1 | 18.56 | 18.07 | | |
| Women's clothing..... | 9 | 112.2 | + 7.4 | + 2.1 | 107.1 | +14.1 | - 3.8 | 13.48 | 14.42 | | |
| Shirts and furnishings..... | 9 | 97.1 | +11.0 | + 2.2 | 90.9 | +11.0 | - 2.9 | 14.64 | 15.39 | | |
| Foods and tobacco | 104 | 96.4 | - 0.1 | - 0.2 | 97.6 | + 0.6 | - 2.5 | 20.45 | 20.94 | | |
| Bread & bakery products..... | 29 | 107.7 | + 1.1 | + 0.1 | 101.9 | + 1.4 | - 2.4 | 27.35 | 28.03 | | |
| Confectionery..... | 13 | 87.7 | - 2.3 | - 2.1 | 94.6 | + 1.2 | -10.1 | 19.13 | 20.80 | | |
| Ice cream..... | 11 | 112.3 | + 5.0 | + 1.1 | 117.9 | + 3.8 | + 6.1 | 31.09 | 29.58 | | |
| Meat packing..... | 14 | 98.4 | + 6.5 | - 1.8 | 100.7 | + 8.7 | + 0.4 | 30.01 | 29.36 | | |
| Sugar refining..... | 37 | 94.3 | - 1.9 | + 0.5 | 91.0 | - 3.9 | - 2.4 | 14.75 | 15.17 | | |
| Cigars and tobacco..... | 14 | 94.3 | - 1.9 | + 0.5 | 91.0 | - 3.9 | - 2.4 | 14.75 | 15.17 | | |
| Stone, clay & glass products | 68 | 83.7 | - 3.1 | - 2.1 | 80.2 | + 0.1 | - 8.2 | 26.14 | 27.88 | | |
| Brick, tile & pottery..... | 32 | 97.3 | + 8.7 | + 3.0 | 91.4 | +11.2 | - 5.0 | 23.39 | 25.29 | | |
| Cement..... | 14 | 75.2 | -15.4 | - 0.5 | 81.1 | -10.6 | - 4.5 | 31.32 | 32.65 | | |
| Glass..... | 22 | 88.1 | + 1.0 | - 7.7 | 77.4 | + 6.8 | -15.4 | 23.60 | 25.69 | | |
| Lumber products | 54 | 81.3 | + 3.7 | 0 | 78.2 | + 2.1 | - 4.2 | 21.79 | 23.04 | | |
| Lumber and planing mill..... | 17 | 82.6 | + 9.3 | + 2.9 | 83.6 | + 4.4 | + 5.8 | 20.82 | 20.20 | | |
| Furniture..... | 30 | 77.1 | + 8.0 | - 2.0 | 70.7 | + 6.5 | -11.1 | 23.26 | 25.80 | | |
| Wooden boxes..... | 7 | 103.1 | -14.4 | + 0.7 | 111.6 | - 3.5 | + 0.5 | 19.49 | 19.54 | | |
| Chemical products | 51 | 110.4 | +18.3 | + 4.9 | 114.7 | +15.4 | + 1.5 | 28.06 | 28.72 | | |
| Chemicals and drugs..... | 28 | 91.3 | + 3.6 | + 0.1 | 96.0 | + 4.7 | - 2.5 | 30.68 | 28.86 | | |
| Coke..... | 3 | 119.5 | - 0.2 | 0 | 113.4 | - 0.7 | - 4.5 | 26.80 | 28.05 | | |
| Explosives..... | 3 | 133.9 | +13.2 | - 0.2 | 115.4 | +17.3 | - 5.3 | 23.81 | 25.10 | | |
| Paints and varnishes..... | 12 | 134.2 | +11.8 | - 0.9 | 140.4 | +25.1 | - 4.3 | 27.09 | 28.07 | | |
| Petroleum refining..... | 5 | 110.0 | +34.3 | +10.0 | 115.6 | +24.4 | + 6.8 | 28.66 | 29.49 | | |
| Leather and rubber products | 53 | 97.8 | + 0.7 | + 0.2 | 100.4 | + 0.2 | - 1.5 | 22.82 | 23.21 | | |
| Leather tanning..... | 17 | 104.9 | - 0.6 | + 0.4 | 105.4 | - 2.6 | - 2.7 | 24.73 | 25.49 | | |
| Shoes..... | 22 | 90.9 | + 2.9 | + 0.3 | 93.9 | + 8.2 | + 1.8 | 18.65 | 18.37 | | |
| Leather products, Other..... | 10 | 109.8 | +10.5 | - 1.3 | 96.8 | + 8.0 | - 3.6 | 22.48 | 23.01 | | |
| Rubber tires and goods..... | 4 | 76.6 | - 4.1 | + 0.4 | 90.7 | - 3.5 | - 1.6 | 28.96 | 29.57 | | |
| Paper and printing | 68 | 94.8 | + 3.8 | - 0.7 | 103.1 | + 1.8 | - 7.2 | 30.70 | 32.84 | | |
| Paper and wood pulp..... | 12 | 82.8 | - 2.2 | - 0.5 | 88.5 | - 4.1 | - 6.7 | 27.42 | 29.28 | | |
| Paper boxes and bags..... | 10 | 91.7 | + 4.1 | + 0.5 | 102.2 | + 7.8 | - 4.9 | 15.65 | 16.53 | | |
| Printing and publishing..... | 46 | 103.4 | + 2.6 | - 1.0 | 111.6 | 0.0 | - 7.4 | 33.66 | 36.02 | | |
| Anthracite | 155 | 85.6 | -15.0 | -10.3 | 56.8 | -31.2 | -20.0 | 23.94 | 26.75 | | |
| Bituminous coal | 368 | ..... | ..... | - 0.8 | ..... | ..... | - 6.1 | 23.93 | 25.29 | | |
| Construc. and contracting | 57 | 156.4 | +69.1 | +21.7 | 132.7 | +65.0 | +17.1 | 25.94 | 26.88 | | |
| Street railways | 5 | 90.9 | - 3.9 | - 1.0 | 90.8 | - 7.2 | - 6.2 | 32.27 | 34.06 | | |
| Retail trade | 52 | 91.6 | - 3.1 | - 7.1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |  |
| Wholesale trade | 84 | 95.9 | + 0.1 | + 0.6 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |  |  |

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

woolen and worsted yarns also have improved in the month and in the year. Business in thrown silk and cotton yarns is larger than last year, but a little smaller than four weeks ago.

Prices of textiles have declined somewhat during the month. Exceptions to this are found in slight advances in quotations for cotton gray goods, cotton and domestic wool fibres, and raw silk.

Local wool dealers report that their business is fair and sales have improved since last month but not in comparison with those of a year ago.

Little change is noted in the market for full-fashioned hosiery. The demand continues at a fair rate and sales have been in about the same volume as four weeks ago. Seamless hosiery is passing through a period of summer quiet, sales having fallen off somewhat since the middle of last month. No pronounced change in prices has occurred in either full-fashioned or seamless hosiery.

The demand for carpets and rugs is moderate, although buying has been more active than was the case four weeks ago or at the same time last year. Virtually no price changes are noted.

Forward business in most textile lines is somewhat larger than at the same time last year. Comparisons with a month ago are rather favorable, particularly in point of increased orders for silk, cotton and wool fabrics, and floor coverings. Unfilled orders for men's seamless hosiery increased from June to July while those for both men's and women's full-fashioned hosiery declined.

Manufacturers of broad silks, wool fabrics, floor coverings, and woolen and worsted yarns report gains in plant operations while producers of cotton goods and hosiery show the usual seasonal recessions. Factory activity, as measured by the volume of wage payments, declined almost 9 per cent from June to July but was nearly 10 per cent above the level prevailing in July, 1928, most textile lines sharing in this gain over a year before.

Consumption of wool fibres in this district increased nearly 13 per cent from June to July as against an increase of about 9 per cent in the country. Takings of raw wool by local carpet mills also showed a gain of approximately 12 per cent. Deliveries of raw silk to American mills likewise showed a substantial gain over the June volume and were much larger than in July last year or two years ago. National consumption of cotton fibres declined seasonally but was noticeably above the amount used in July, 1928.

The output of hosiery in this district was about 11 per cent smaller in July than in June as against a decline of 12 per cent in the same period last year. Shipments also were smaller than in the preceding month. Stocks on hand at the end of July, finished and in the gray, were slightly lighter than on the same date of the previous month.

Inventories of textiles are light except for a few instances where slight accumulation is apparent. In comparison with a month ago stocks generally are smaller. This is also true when compared with stocks at the same time last year, save for slight increases in silk manufactures and full-fashioned hosiery. Raw wool stocks held by dealers in Philadelphia on June 30 were a trifle larger than a year

before, while stocks carried by manufacturers in this section were smaller.

Leather and shoes. Current demand for shoes is active, and sales have increased appreciably since the middle of last month. Comparisons with a year ago, however, are not altogether favorable in point of sales but more than favorable with respect to unfilled orders. Forward business on the books of reporting firms has increased substantially during the month. Plant operations also show a marked seasonal upturn. The output of shoes in this district was nearly 9 per cent larger in July than in June as against an increase of about 7 per cent in the country. Stocks are fairly light and are materially smaller than on the same date last month and last year.

Conditions in the leather market also show noticeable betterment. Sole leather is in active demand and sales exceed those of four weeks ago. Unfilled orders likewise show a pronounced gain since last month. Sales of black and colored kid leather likewise have expanded somewhat, but the increase in advance business has been smaller than that in orders for sole leather. Operations of factories preparing black and colored kid leather have increased measurably. Leather inventories have declined further in the month. The market for hides and goatskins is active and prices continue firm. There were a few increases in prices of sole leather, while prices of shoes and kid leather remain virtually unchanged.

Building materials. The market for building materials was fairly active during the past month. Some declines in sales were reported by lumber dealers and brick manufacturers, while the demand for paint, slate and plumbing supplies has been fairly good. The slackening in building activity during the present year, however, has been reflected in a lessening in demand as compared with last year. There were some price declines in the past month in paint and cement. Unfilled orders were smaller in the paint, brick, cement and lumber lines, but were larger for plumbing and slate. Slate stocks are heavy in some instances, although generally they are smaller than a month and a year ago. Shipments of cement were greater during July than in the same month last year and stocks on hand were smaller than last month or a year ago. Factory operations show little change since the previous month in all the building material industries.

Miscellaneous. Activity in paper continues well maintained. Sales show a slight gain in comparison with last month but no change from the volume of a year ago. No change in prices has occurred during the month. Orders on the books of reporting firms have increased somewhat since the middle of last month, but the total is about the same as it was at this time last year. Plant operations show about the usual seasonal upturn, the average rate being about 90 per cent

of capacity as against 85 per cent last month and 90 per cent a year ago.

The demand for cigars and tobacco leaf is fairly active. Sales have increased noticeably during the month and year. Quotations for cigars show no change, while those for tobacco leaf have advanced in the past four weeks. Forward orders for cigars are larger than either last month or at the same time last year, while those for tobacco leaf show a small gain over a year ago but a slight loss in comparison with last month. Production of cigars shows the customary upward trend; the present rate of operation averages about 85 per cent of capacity, which is higher than was the case last month but is about the same as it was a year ago.

The market for furniture varies from fair to poor, and sales have been smaller than those of a year ago. Some decline in prices has been noted. Unfilled orders, while a trifle larger seasonally, do not compare well with the volume held on the books at the same time last year. Little change is reported in plant activity, the present rate averaging about 65 per cent.

Manufacturers of rubber products have enjoyed a good rate of activity thus far this year, a fact which reflects largely increased business in automobiles. The demand for pneumatic casings and tubes of all types continues in good volume, showing further gains in comparison with four weeks ago. Unfilled orders have increased, and plant operations show an upward trend.

The demand for mechanical rubber goods is fair, though sales show a somewhat adverse comparison with four weeks ago. Only a few reports indicate price declines. Orders on the books of reporting producers show some gain in the month, but plant operations have declined slightly.

Business in crude rubber continues in satisfactory volume and prices have fluctuated somewhat above the level prevailing at the same time last year. Imports of crude rubber into this country during the first seven months of this year were considerably larger than those in the corresponding period last year.

BUILDING AND REAL ESTATE

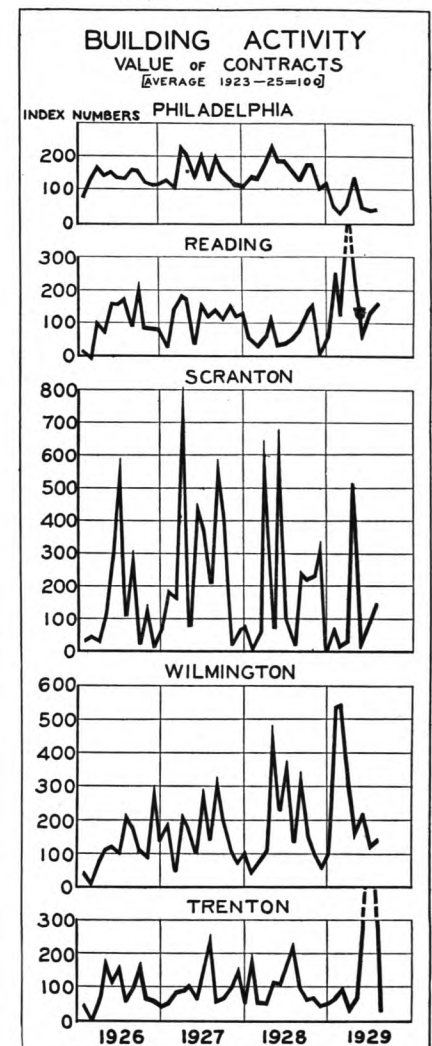
Building operations have declined somewhat during the past month. The value of building contracts awarded in this district decreased materially in July in contrast with the figure for the previous month and with that of the same month last year. Southern New Jersey was responsible for the smaller value of contracts as compared with the preceding month, while eastern Pennsylvania caused the decline from last year's figure. Among the cities in this district, Trenton, Camden, Wilmington and Philadelphia showed losses, while Reading and Scranton showed gains in comparison with July, 1928. The decline in the value of residential contracts in this dis-

| Building activity | July, 1929 (000's omitted) | Change from July, 1928 | 7 mos. of 1929 com- pared with 7 mos. of 1928 |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Contract awards | | | |
| Phila. Fed. Res. Dist. | | | |
| Total..... | 33,928 | -17.8 | -14.6 |
| Residential..... | 14,482 | -14.6 | -24.2 |
| United States | | | |
| Total..... | 652,436 | +11.6 | -25.9 |
| Residential..... | 200,000 | -12.6 | - 8.6 |
| Permits issued | | | |
| Phila. Fed. Res. Dist. | | | |
| (17 cities)..... | 26,945 | +43.7 | - 3.7 |
| United States (577 cities)..... | 289,156 | -13.0 | ..... |

Source: F. W. Dodge Corporation & S. W. Strauss & Co.

trict so far this year in comparison with the first seven months of 1928 is especially noticeable when compared with the much smaller decline in the country. Construction costs advanced somewhat during July but were not as high at the end of the month as on August 1, 1928.

Building permits issued in 17 cities of this district during July indicated that



Source: F. W. Dodge Corporation.

proposed expenditures were over 40 per cent larger than in the same month last year. Building activity is indicated in the preceding table.

The value of mortgages recorded in Philadelphia in July reached the highest volume in the past six months and was 39 per cent higher than in the preceding month, although about 25 per cent smaller than in the same month in 1928. At the same time the number of real estate deeds recorded was the smallest in the past five months and was over 6 per cent below last July's figure.

COAL

Anthracite. The market for anthracite is still rather slow. Sales of both domestic and steam sizes have declined in the month. Prices show advances as is customary at this time. Colliery operations indicate expansion since the latter part of last month. Production in the four weeks ended August 17 totaled 4,796,000 tons, which was an increase of 10.6 per cent over the preceding four weeks, but a decrease of 4.7 per cent in comparison with a year ago. Stocks of hard coal are somewhat larger than they were a year ago.

Bituminous. Marked improvement is reported by producers of bituminous coal. While the demand still varies from fair to poor, sales have increased appreciably since the middle of last month. More price declines than advances are noted. Colliery activity in eastern central Pennsylvania has begun the usual seasonal expansion in response to the call from industries. The output in the country during the four weeks ended August 17, amounted to 37,826,000 tons. This was a gain of 6.5 per cent over the previous four weeks and of 6.1 per cent over the volume of a year ago. Stocks at the reporting mines are smaller than those on the same date last year.

DISTRIBUTION

Distribution of merchandise is moving forward in good volume for this time of the year. Railroad shipments of merchandise and miscellaneous commodities in the Allegheny district in the four weeks ended August 10 showed a gain of 2.5 per cent over the previous four weeks and 5.0 per cent in comparison with a year ago. Total freight car loadings in the four weeks ended August 10 also were 4.1 per cent larger than in the preceding four weeks and 6.8 per cent in excess of the amount in the corresponding period last year.

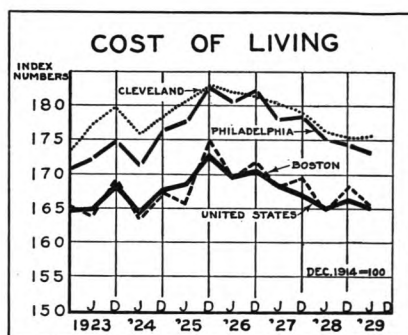
Sales of new passenger cars in this district declined seasonally from June to July but were 21.8 per cent larger than in July, 1928. Sales of ordinary life insurance in this section likewise were about 4 per cent smaller than in the previous month but a little over 19 per cent larger than a year before.

Wholesale trade. Wholesale and jobbing trade continues at a moderate gait in practically all reporting lines, according to early reports. Some increases since the middle of last month are noted in the sales of dry goods, hardware, and jewelry, while slight declines are reported in the demand for drugs, groceries, and paper. Prices are unchanged except for advances in quotations for groceries.

The dollar volume of wholesale trade in July was about 1 per cent less than in June but over 4 per cent larger than in July, 1928, groceries, hardware, jewelry, and paper being responsible for this gain over last year. This increase is due partly to the fact that there was one more trading day in July this year than last. Sales of drugs, groceries, and paper also were larger in July than in June, while the remaining lines showed declines.

Inventories held by wholesale dealers and jobbers at the end of July generally were smaller than on the same date last year. Accounts outstanding were larger in groceries, hardware, jewelry, and paper, but smaller in shoes, drugs, and dry goods than in July, 1928; in comparison with the preceding month only groceries and paper showed gains. Collections were larger in all lines, except shoes, than in July, 1928 but in contrast with those in June only jewelry reported an increase.

Retail trade. Business at retail, while generally fair, continues to be affected largely by summer dullness in buying. Preliminary reports show that sales in



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

The index given for each city is based on the cost of living in that city in December, 1914. Thus the cost of living in Philadelphia in June was 73.1 per cent higher than in December, 1914. The index for the United States, originally relative to 1913, has been adjusted to the common base, December, 1914.

the early part of August have declined somewhat since last month. With the exception of a few instances showing declines, retail prices have remained steady.

Sales in July were nearly 3 per cent smaller than in the same month last year. Women's apparel stores in Philadelphia, shoe, and credit stores reported increases, while department and men's apparel stores showed declines in their sales. Among the city areas, Lancaster, Allentown and Bethlehem, Altoona, and Johnstown alone reported larger sales than a year earlier. In the first seven months of this year, the sales of reporting stores were a little less than 1 per cent under the volume in the same period last year.

Stocks carried by retailers declined fur-

| RETAIL TRADE Philadelphia Federal Reserve District | Comparison of net sales | | Comparison of stocks | | Rate of turnover, Jan. 1 to July 31 | | Accounts receivable at end of month compared with year ago | Collections during month compared with year ago |
|---|-----------------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|--|---|
| | July, 1929, with July, 1928 | Jan. 1 to July 31, 1929, with Jan. 1 to July 31, 1928 | July 31, 1929 | | 1928 | 1929 | | |
| | | | with July 31, 1928 | with June 30, 1929 | | | | |
| All reporting stores..... | - 2.9% | - 0.8% | - 8.9% | - 6.2% | 1.90 | 2.09 | ..... | ..... |
| Department stores..... | - 3.8 " | - 1.6 " | - 9.8 " | - 5.4 " | 1.83 | 2.04 | ..... | ..... |
| in Philadelphia..... | - 4.6 " | - 2.4 " | -13.5 " | - 6.1 " | 1.97 | 2.27 | ..... | ..... |
| outside Philadelphia..... | - 2.2 " | + 0.4 " | - 2.1 " | - 4.3 " | 1.61 | 1.69 | + 5.9% | +11.2% |
| Apparel stores..... | - 0.2 " | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Men's apparel stores..... | - 9.7 " | - 0.7 " | + 5.6 " | -11.2 " | 1.59 | 1.58 | ..... | ..... |
| in Philadelphia..... | - 2.7 " | + 4.5 " | +10.9 " | -14.9 " | 1.92 | 1.87 | ..... | ..... |
| outside Philadelphia..... | -13.9 " | - 5.3 " | + 2.4 " | - 8.6 " | 1.33 | 1.33 | + 1.3 " | + 9.8 " |
| Women's apparel stores..... | + 4.3 " | + 6.5 " | + 2.0 " | -15.8 " | 3.52 | 3.58 | + 9.5 " | +21.4 " |
| in Philadelphia..... | + 6.2 " | + 7.9 " | + 3.0 " | -16.1 " | 3.77 | 3.85 | +11.1 " | +21.7 " |
| outside Philadelphia..... | - 6.6 " | - 2.6 " | - 1.6 " | -14.7 " | 2.43 | 2.31 | + 3.6 " | +19.6 " |
| Shoe stores..... | + 0.4 " | + 2.0 " | - 7.9 " | - 3.1 " | 1.52 | 1.62 | + 7.6 " | + 4.1 " |
| Credit stores..... | +14.7 " | - 1.0 " | -13.2 " | - 6.7 " | 1.24 | 1.38 | + 7.2 " | +14.2 " |

| WHOLESALE TRADE Philadelphia Federal Reserve District | Net sales, July, 1929, compared with | | Stocks, July 31, 1929, compared with | | Accounts outstanding, July 31, 1929, compared with | | Ratio of accounts outstanding to sales, July, 1929 | Collections, July, 1929, compared with | |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|--|---------------|--|--|------------|
| | July, 1928 | June, 1929 | July 31, 1928 | June 30, 1929 | July 31, 1928 | June 30, 1929 | | July, 1928 | June, 1929 |
| Boots and shoes.. | -12.9% | -14.8% |% |% | -13.1% | - 2.5% | 521.3% | -17.6% | -13.9% |
| Drugs..... | - 0.9 " | + 1.8 " | ..... | ..... | - 0.4 " | - 0.8 " | 112.8 " | + 0.5 " | - 6.2 " |
| Dry goods..... | - 9.3 " | -13.8 " | -17.8 " | + 0.5 " | -11.3 " | - 7.0 " | 238.4 " | + 2.4 " | - 4.6 " |
| Groceries..... | + 8.5 " | + 5.9 " | - 0.5 " | - 0.3 " | + 1.1 " | + 3.4 " | 111.0 " | + 7.8 " | - 0.4 " |
| Hardware..... | + 1.9 " | - 8.9 " | + 0.2 " | - 0.2 " | + 0.4 " | - 3.3 " | 212.7 " | + 3.2 " | - 2.0 " |
| Jewelry..... | + 9.1 " | -16.6 " | - 4.8 " | + 9.8 " | + 5.2 " | - 5.8 " | 507.5 " | +11.3 " | +32.7 " |
| Paper..... | + 9.6 " | + 4.3 " | - 5.6 " | + 3.2 " | + 7.1 " | + 4.9 " | 145.9 " | +11.7 " | - 3.8 " |

ther in the month and were about 9 per cent smaller than at the end of July, 1928. Department, shoe and credit stores were responsible for this decline. In comparison with June, all reporting lines showed stock decreases. The rate of turnover thus far this year was higher than was the case in the first seven months last year. This was also true in July as compared with June.

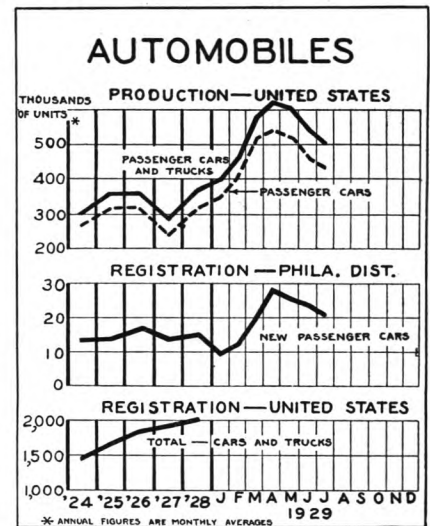
AGRICULTURE

Agricultural conditions in this district have improved lately owing to more favorable weather. Considerable damage has been caused by drought and more recently by insect pests and plant diseases, but despite these adverse factors the corn and tobacco crops are estimated to be somewhat larger than last year. The outlook for potatoes and truck produce, however, is only fair, the indicated production being below that of last year. The peach crop is also reported as being some-

what smaller but is of good quality and is in a better position than the other fruit crops.

Grazing meadows have been helped greatly by the recent rains and dairying conditions generally are satisfactory. The yield of milk and butter is fairly good.

| Crop estimates (Figures in thousands of units) | 1928 yield | Estimate Aug. 1, 1929 | Per cent change |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Phila. Fed. Res. Dist. | | | |
| Corn.....bus. | 45,500 | 49,334 | + 8.4 |
| Wheat....." | 16,140 | 18,753 | +16.2 |
| Oats....." | 21,770 | 19,504 | -10.4 |
| Potatoes (white)....." | 30,208 | 24,578 | -18.6 |
| Hay.....tons | 3,353 | 3,004 | -10.4 |
| Tobacco.....lbs. | 49,580 | 51,792 | + 4.5 |
| United States | | | |
| Corn.....bus. | 2,835,678 | 2,740,514 | - 3.4 |
| Wheat....." | 902,191 | 773,885 | -14.2 |
| Oats....." | 1,448,677 | 1,202,895 | -17.0 |
| Potatoes (white)....." | 464,483 | 372,812 | -19.7 |
| Hay.....tons | 92,983 | 97,421 | + 4.8 |
| Tobacco.....lbs. | 1,378,139 | 1,519,383 | +10.2 |



BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE PHILADELPHIA FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

| | Prices | Demand | Unfilled orders | Operations | Stocks |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Retail trade | Little change | Fair, declined | | | Smaller |
| Wholesale and jobbing trades: | | | | | |
| Drugs | Firm, little change | Fair, little change | | | |
| Dry goods | Little change | Fair to poor, some gain | | | Little change |
| Groceries | Higher | Fairly active, some decline | | | Little change |
| Hardware | Unchanged | Active, increased | | | Little change |
| Jewelry | Unchanged | Fair | | | Larger |
| Paper | Little change | Fair, some decline | | | Larger |
| Shoes | Unchanged | Fair, unchanged | | | |
| Lumber | Some decline | Fair, declined | Slightly smaller | | Smaller |
| Wool | Some advance | Fair, increased | Little change | | Smaller |
| Cotton yarns | Lower | Fair to poor, declined | Smaller | | Smaller |
| Manufacturing: | | | | | |
| Iron and steel products | Firm, little change | Active, little change | Larger than year ago | Declined slightly | Unchanged |
| Cotton goods | Lower slightly | Fair, increased | Larger | Declined | Larger but smaller than a year ago |
| Silk goods | Some decline | Fair, some gain | Larger | Increased | Larger than a year ago |
| Silk throwsters | Little change | Fair, better than last year | Slightly smaller | Little change | Larger than a year ago |
| Wool goods | Little change | Fairly good, improved | Larger | Increased | Smaller |
| Wool yarns | Some decline | Fairly good, increased | Larger | Increased | Smaller |
| Hosiery—full-fashioned | A few declines | Fair, little change | Little change | Declined | Larger |
| Hosiery—seamless | Little change | Fair, declined | Smaller | Declined | Smaller |
| Carpets and rugs | Little change | Fair, some gain | Larger | Increased | Smaller |
| Shoes | Little change | Active, increased | Larger | Increased | Smaller |
| Leather— | | | | | |
| Sole | Some advances | Active, increased | Larger | Slightly lower | Smaller |
| Black kid | Unchanged | Fair, increased | Some gain | Increased | Smaller |
| Colored kid | Unchanged | Active, increased | Some gain | Increased | Smaller |
| Paper | Unchanged | Fair, some gain | Larger | Increased | Smaller |
| Rubber— | | | | | |
| Tires and tubes | Some declines | Fairly good | Increased | Some gain | Moderate |
| Mechanical goods | Few declines | Fair, little change | Larger | Declined | Little change |
| Cigars | Unchanged | Fair, increased | Larger | Some gains | Smaller |
| Tobacco leaf | Higher | Fair, increased | Little change | | Smaller |
| Furniture | Some decline | Fair to poor, little change | Little change | Little change | Little change |
| Brick | Little change | Fair, declined | Smaller | Little change | Larger |
| Lumber mills | Unchanged | Fair, little change | Smaller | Little change | Little change |
| Slate | Little change | Fairly active, little change | Larger | Little change | Smaller |
| Paint | Some decline | Fair, little change | Smaller | Little change | Smaller |
| Plumbing supplies | Some advances | Fairly good, some gain | Slightly larger | Little change | Little change |
| Cement | Some declines | Fair, little change | Smaller | Little change | Smaller |
| Building | Construction costs a little higher | Fair | Value of permits increased | Value of contracts declined | |
| Anthracite | Some advances | Fair to poor, declined | | Increased | |
| Bituminous coal | Declines outnumber advances | Slow, some gain | | Increased | |