

# THE BUSINESS REVIEW

THIRD FEDERAL  
PHILADELPHIA



RESERVE DISTRICT  
FEBRUARY 2, 1931

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## Business and Financial Conditions in the United States

Production and factory employment declined further in December. Wholesale prices decreased during the first half of the month but thereafter were generally steadier. Conditions in the money market remained easy and in January money rates reached new low levels.

**Production.** Industrial production was further reduced during December, and the Federal Reserve Board's index, which makes allowance for usual seasonal changes, showed a decline of over 2 per cent. Output of steel and iron, textiles, petroleum, cement and copper was substantially curtailed. Activity in meat-packing plants and at anthracite mines increased in December, and in the automobile industry there was an increase in output, reflecting the introduction of new models. After the turn of the year, automobile output increased further, and steel plants were more active.

Construction contracts awarded during December were in about the same volume as in November, according to

reports of the F. W. Dodge Corporation. There were slight declines, partly seasonal in nature, in contracts for residential and commercial construction, while public works and utility awards increased somewhat.

### Employment and wage payments.

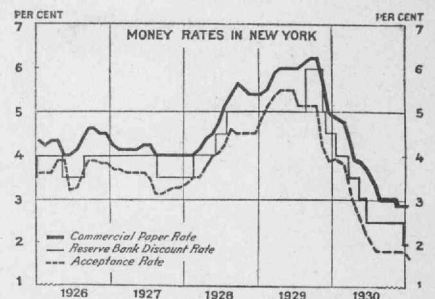
Employment in manufacturing industries was reduced further by 2.5 per cent between the middle of November and the middle of December, and factory payrolls also declined. The largest reductions in working forces were in the canning, lumber, steel, and wearing apparel industries. There was little change in employment in railroad car shops, and in cotton and silk mills, while in the automobile, meat-packing, and paper and printing industries working forces were increased slightly.

In early January, following year-end inventory periods, reports indicate increased employment in certain industries, particularly automobile, steel and railroads.

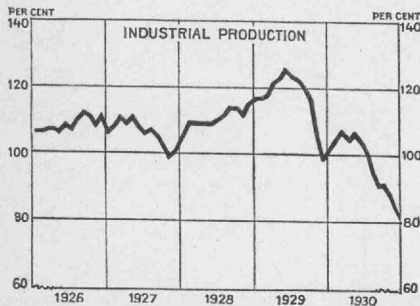
**Distribution.** Sales of department stores increased in December by

slightly less than the amount which is usual for the holiday season, according to preliminary reports to the Federal reserve banks. In December, as in earlier months of the year, the volume of sales probably reflected the influence of declining retail prices. Distribution of commodities by freight showed a further decline for the month of December as a whole.

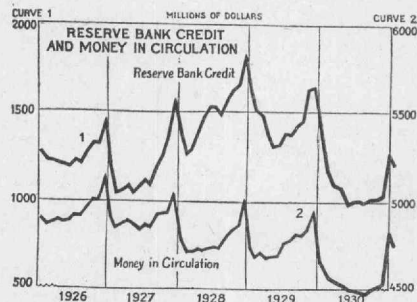
Value of American exports to foreign countries was smaller in December than in November, and approximately 35 per cent below that of De-



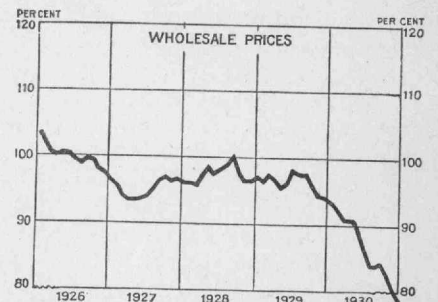
Monthly rates in the open market in New York: commercial paper rate on 4 to 6 month paper. Acceptance rate on 90-day bankers' acceptances. Latest figures are averages of first 20 days in January.



Index number of production of manufactures and minerals combined, adjusted for seasonal variations (1923-1925 average=100). Latest figure December, 82.



Monthly averages of daily figures. Latest figures are averages of first 19 days in January.



Index of United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (1926=100, base adopted by Bureau). Latest figure December, 78.4.

ember 1929, the decrease reflecting in part the decline in wholesale prices.

**Wholesale prices.** Wholesale prices of commodities declined sharply in the first half of December, while in the following four weeks average fluctuations were relatively small. For the month of December as a whole, there were large decreases in prices of corn, hogs, cotton, hides, and lumber, while prices of wheat, beef, and silk averaged somewhat higher than in November.

During the first two weeks in January, prices of corn, sugar, and silk increased, and the price of wheat in American markets remained fairly stable. Silver prices reached new low levels.

**Bank credit and money rates.** Loans

and investments of reporting member banks declined in the four-week period ending January 14, reflecting further liquidation of security loans as well as a reduction in "all other" loans and in investments.

Changes in the position of reserve banks in recent weeks reflected largely changes in the demand for currency. In December this demand increased more than is usual for the season, owing to the withdrawal of cash by banks and by the public in districts where there were important bank failures. In the two weeks after Christmas the return flow of currency from circulation was smaller than the usual seasonal amount and the result was that money in circulation, which during the larger part of 1930 had been in considerably smaller volume

than in 1929, in January 1931 was above the level of a year ago. In the following two weeks the return flow of currency was somewhat larger than usual, indicating a return of part of the extra currency which had been called into use in December.

Money rates in the open market continued at low levels during December and declined further in the first half of January.

The discount rate at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York was reduced to 2 per cent on December 24, and in the following three weeks the rate at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston was reduced to 2½ per cent, and rates at the Federal Reserve Banks of Cleveland, St. Louis, Chicago, Atlanta, and San Francisco, to 3 per cent.

## ***Business and Financial Conditions in the Philadelphia Federal Reserve District***

Industrial production and employment in this district in December declined more extensively than usual, and there was little change for the better in early January. The present rate of productive and mercantile activity remains the lowest in many years. The banking situation continues quite favorable to business, money rates being the lowest in years and the supply of funds for commercial needs remaining ample. But the business demand for bank credit, while showing some gain lately, has been slow and less active than in recent years.

**Manufacturing.** The demand for manufactured products has been exceptionally dull and sales in the aggregate have declined since the middle of last month. Orders on the books of the reporting factories also have decreased and are substantially smaller than a year ago. As a result, operations have been curtailed further.

Factory employment and payrolls in this section were noticeably smaller in December than November. In comparison with December 1929, declines in employment amounted to 15 per cent in Pennsylvania, 26 per cent in Delaware, and 10 per cent in New Jersey; recessions in wage payments were 29 per cent in Pennsylvania, 30 per cent in Delaware, and 16 per cent

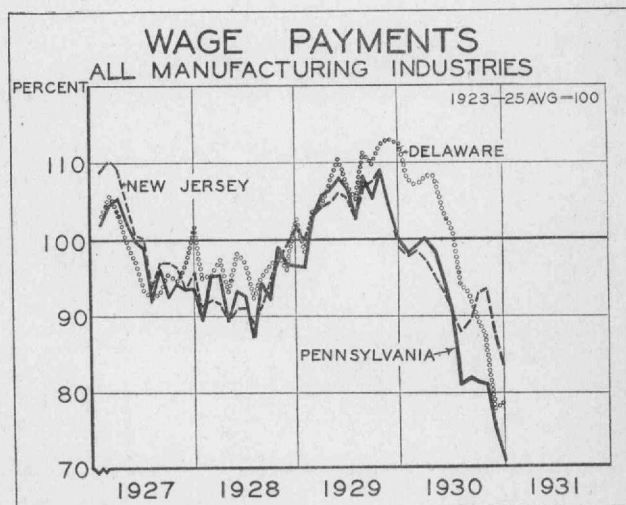
in New Jersey. Translated into actual figures, it appears that Pennsylvania factories employed about 146,000 fewer wage earners in December 1930 than December 1929, and their monthly payroll was \$31,000,000 smaller; Delaware factories employed 6,400 less workers with the payroll reduced by \$750,000; and New Jersey showed a drop of 36,000 wage earners and the payroll was decreased by \$7,000,000. For the year as a whole, the estimate shows that the monthly average of factory employment in the three states declined by about 130,000 wage earners and the average monthly payroll was about \$26,000,000 smaller than in 1929.

The decline in working time has been continuous since late 1929, except for brief halts in the spring and fall seasons. The index of employee-hours worked in Pennsylvania factories in December stood at the lowest level in the past four years, being about one-third below the high peak of that period. The

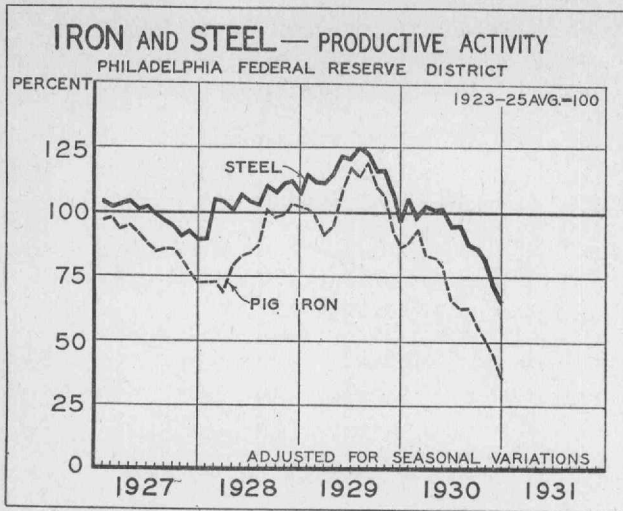
demand for workers by employers continued downward, so that in December it reached the lowest level since the depression of 1921.

The decline in productive activity during December was larger than usual and was relatively greater than in the country as a whole, so that the rate of output remained the lowest in several years. Operations in early January showed further curtailment except for some gains in a few lines of manufacture.

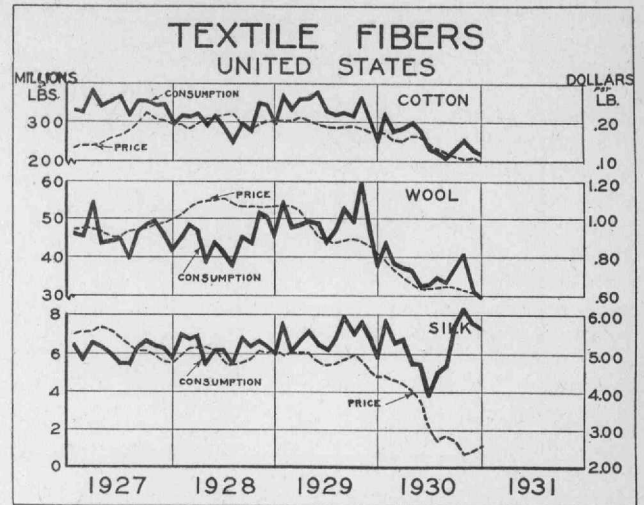
Activity in iron and steel products was at an exceptionally low rate in December, but since then there has







Source: Iron Age



Sources: Department of Commerce, Fairchild Textile Price Index, Silk Association of America, Inc.

been some indication of an upturn in response to advance orders for fabricated metal products. This is also true in some lines of the transportation equipment group. Prices continue to show weakness, although quotations for finished steel and steel scrap have advanced slightly since the middle of last month.

Noticeable decreases are reported in the output of textile products. Analysis of the latest returns show some improvement in business sentiment but they fail to indicate any marked betterment either in the volume of demand or production. Textile prices have risen fractionally since December 20, owing to advances in cotton and silk fibers and some of their products. Quotations for domestic and foreign wool fibers have declined, the situation in the Australian market being somewhat aggravated by the state of the exchange rates now prevailing. Appreciable reductions are also noted in the price of rayon fibers.

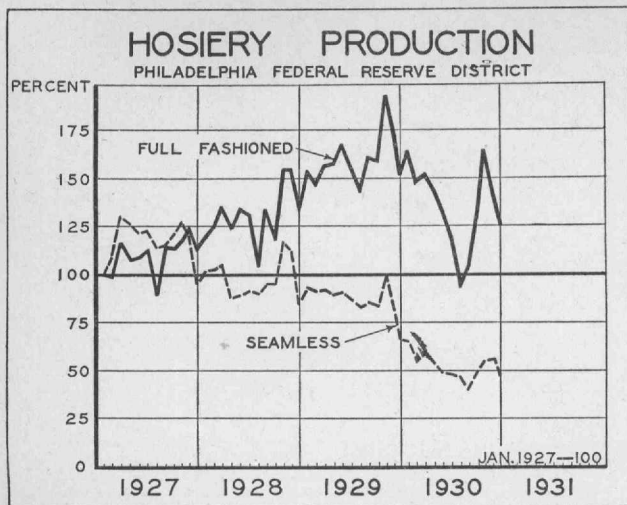
With the exception of gains in confectionery, and meat packing and slaughtering, the food industry shows a reduction in output, so that the adjusted index in December was the lowest in the past eight years. Unusual declines also occurred in the output of tobacco products.

The output of leather and leather products has continued to decline sharply even after adjustment for seasonal variations is made; the index in December was at the lowest level since early 1925. Daily production of shoes declined drastically for the third successive month; in early January, however, there was some improvement in unfilled orders. The hide and skin

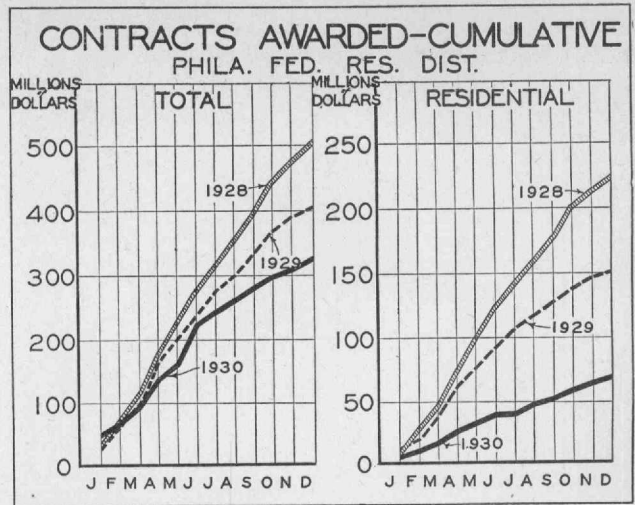
BUSINESS INDICATORS Philadelphia Federal Reserve District	December, 1930		
	Amount	Percentage change since	
		Nov., 1930	Dec., 1929
<b>Retail trade*</b> —estimated net sales (153 stores).....			
Department (63).....	\$1,400,000	+36.7	-11.5
Men's apparel (21).....	\$1,219,700	+38.2	-11.8
Women's apparel (17).....	\$35,600	+52.1	-12.8
Shoe (37).....	\$108,300	+25.1	-4.8
Credit (15).....	\$13,900	+9.4	-14.5
Credit (15).....	\$22,500	+17.8	-20.8
<b>Wholesale trade*</b> —net sales (123 firms).....			
Boots and shoes (5).....	\$288,998	-0.3	-17.5
Drugs (10).....	\$3,184	-15.4	-28.9
Dry goods (11).....	\$54,887	-3.2	-11.9
Electrical supplies (9).....	\$10,158	-18.7	-17.9
Groceries (32).....	\$25,025	+9.7	-33.8
Hardware (21).....	\$103,872	-1.1	-9.0
Jewelry (9).....	\$57,822	-5.3	-21.8
Paper (26).....	\$23,682	+48.9	-24.8
Paper (26).....	\$10,368	-14.9	-24.5
<b>Productive activity*</b> —			
Employment—835 plants in Penna. ....	279,029	-3.6	-15.2
Wage payments (weekly average).....	\$6,321,617	-6.0	-29.0
Shoe production†—82 factories.....	prs. 31,397	-15.6	.....
Hosiery production†—134 mills.....	doz. prs. 54,864	-18.3	.....
Underwear production†—52 mills.....	doz. pcs. 9,253	-31.3	.....
Wool consumption†—68 mills.....	lbs. 149,089	-22.7	.....
Active cotton spindle hours (Penna.).....	581,231	-9.9	+2.5
Pig iron production.....	tons 3,876	-20.1	-58.1
Iron casting production—32 foundries.....	tons 136	-12.3	-35.2
Steel casting production—11 foundries.....	tons 169	-14.6	-41.5
Anthracite.....	tons 236,500	+4.5	-19.9
Bituminous coal (Penna.).....	tons 383,200	-5.5	-16.5
Petroleum receipts at Port of Philadelphia—domestic and foreign.....	bbls. 42,500	-21.6	-4.7
Cement.....	bbls. 62,500	-21.6	-21.8
Electric power output—12 systems.....	KWH 18,417,300	+3.1	-6.5
<b>Financial and credit</b> —			
Debits (check payments)—18 cities.....	\$2,604,385,000	+28.2	-16.9
Loans and investments—middle of January—91 member banks.....	\$1,685,100,000	-0.9	+6.3
Bills discounted held by F. R. B. of Phila. (daily average).....	\$27,500,000	+40.3	-65.7
Bankers' acceptances outstanding—end of month.....	\$24,589,000	-3.3	-4.1
Commercial paper sales—4 dealers.....	\$2,970,000	-37.4	+12.9
Commercial failures—number.....	129	+38.7	+65.4
Commercial failures—liabilities.....	\$4,550,492	+11.9	+82.7
<b>Building and real estate</b> —			
Building permits—16 cities.....	\$2,157,574	-76.4	-71.7
Building contracts awarded.....	\$18,976,300	+50.0	+46.8
Number of real estate deeds recorded (Philadelphia county).....	4,133	+7.5	-18.0
Value of mortgages recorded (Philadelphia county).....	\$19,941,382	+65.1	+28.8
Sheriff sale—number of writs issued for January—(Philadelphia county).....	1,584	+29.3	+28.8
<b>Miscellaneous</b> —			
Freight car loadings (Allegheny district).....	615,337	-5.9	-17.3
Tonnage of vessels (Port of Philadelphia).....	4,224,608	+6.1	-0.6
Sales of life insurance (Penna., N. J., and Del.).....	\$100,943,000	+12.3	-8.7
Automobile sales registrations of new passenger cars.....	6,463	+9.8	-23.4

\* Daily average of monthly figures.

† Bureau of the Census preliminary figures.



Source: Bureau of the Census



Source: F. W. Dodge Corporation

market remains quiet, though several reports indicate that lately there have been some gains over the past three months. Prices generally have declined further.

The paper and printing industry reports a slight increase in the rate of operation. Building materials, on the other hand, show exceptionally large declines in output, so that the adjusted index in December was only about 50 per cent of the 1923-25 average.

After rising in November, the consumption of electrical energy by industries dropped sharply. Such increase in the output of electricity as occurred in the month was due chiefly to seasonal demand for lighting purposes and for power by street cars and railroads. Comparisons follow:

sion is not unusual at the turn of the year. Contract awards, on the contrary, were about one-half larger than in November and in December 1929. Daily awards in early January, however, were substantially smaller than in the previous month and a year before.

Contracts awarded Philadelphia Federal Reserve District	1930 (000's omitted)	Per cent change from	
		1929	1925-28 average
Philadelphia.....	\$130,478	-11.6	-34.0
Reading.....	2,916	-64.8	-54.6
Scranton.....	3,746	+56.0	-20.1
Camden.....	4,335	-67.9	-50.6
Trenton.....	3,620	-67.6	-54.1
Wilmington.....	7,278	-23.3	+24.1
Total for district...	\$329,192	-18.1	-25.6

Source: F. W. Dodge Corporation

The value of contracts in 1930 declined considerably from that of the previous year and from 1928, which was the peak year in the last decade, so that last year's dollar volume was the lowest since 1923. This decline was due partly to lower prices and partly to conditions within the building industry as well as to the general business situation. The sharpest drop occurred in contracts for residential buildings, while public works and utilities was the only important class that showed gains over 1928 and 1929.

The proposed expenditure under permits issued in eighteen cities declined further. For the year as a whole, the value of building permits was materially smaller than in several years past.

The real estate market, while continuing at a relatively low rate, showed

some improvement between November and December. Both the number of deeds and the value of mortgages recorded in Philadelphia showed increases in the month. Compared with a year ago, mortgages also increased noticeably, whereas the number of deeds declined further. Writs issued in December for sheriff's sale of property in Philadelphia reached the highest monthly total in the past twelve years.

**Coal.** Colder weather in December served to strengthen the anthracite market. The daily output of collieries increased and the total production in the month of 6,150,000 tons was larger than in November, although it was noticeably smaller than in the same period of last year. In the first fortnight of January, the weekly production of collieries increased further, but failed to equal the output for the corresponding two weeks of a year earlier.

Wholesale prices of Pennsylvania anthracite continue steady and since the middle of 1930 they have been below the level of a year before. This reduction has also been reflected in the average of retail prices for the country as a whole. In Philadelphia, on the other hand, retail quotations for anthracite, as measured by stove and chestnut sizes, since March have been above the 1929 level and in November were about 4 per cent higher than in the same month of 1929, when computed on the basis of tons of uniform weights.

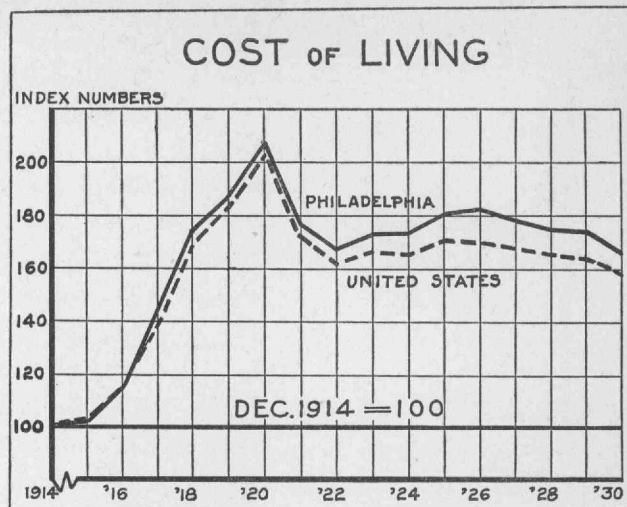
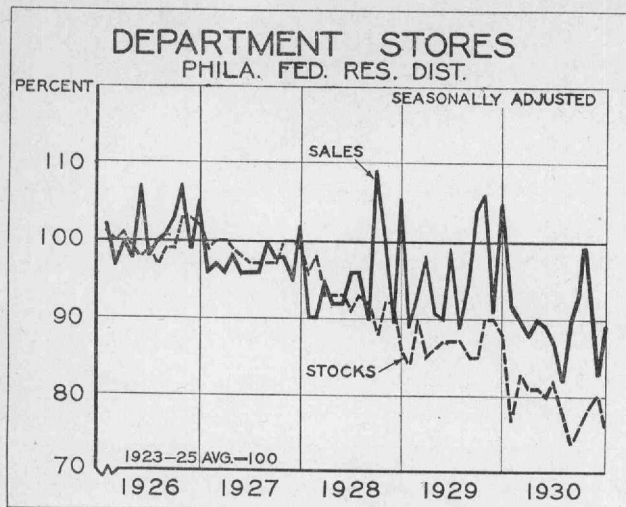
Reflecting further the light demand from industry, the production of Pennsylvania bituminous coal remained small during December. Although the

Philadelphia Federal Reserve District 12 systems	December, 1930 (Daily average)	
	Change from Dec., 1929 Per cent	Change from Nov., 1930 Per cent
Rated generator capacity.....	+ 4.6	- 0.2
Generated output.....	- 6.5	+ 3.1
Hydro-electric.....	-79.8	+62.9
Steam.....	+26.0	+ 0.4
Purchased.....	- 1.1	+ 2.7
Sales of electricity.....	- 8.5	- 6.3
Lighting.....	+12.0	+ 8.8
Municipal.....	+10.6	+ 4.3
Residential and commercial	+12.2	+ 9.4
Power.....	- 6.6	-11.3
Municipal.....	+12.9	-14.5
Street cars and railroads..	+ 2.9	+10.4
Industries.....	- 9.1*	-15.2*
All other sales.....	-46.4	+ 1.7

\* Working days average; other items are computed on calendar days.

**Building and real estate.** Building operations in December declined further as indicated by employment and payrolls in this section, but this recession





Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

total production in the month of 9,964,000 tons was slightly larger than in November, the daily output of collieries continued to decline and was noticeably smaller than a month and year ago. Prices declined noticeably between November and December and continued downward in early January.

**Distribution.** Wholesale business in the aggregate was slightly smaller in December than November, the largest declines occurring in the sale of dry goods, shoes, and paper; sales of electrical supplies and jewelry, on the other hand, showed substantial gains. In comparison with a year ago, all lines reported smaller sales, the decline in the total value being 18 per cent. As indicated by the table on page seven, sales for the year as a whole were less than in 1929, declines varying from 2 per cent in drugs to 43 per cent in electrical supplies. Since these sales are reported in dollars, the decline reflected, as in earlier months, lower prices, the general level of wholesale prices being about 17 per cent lower in December 1930 than 1929.

Business in early January was only fair at best; reports showing further declines outnumbered those reporting increases. Dealers' stocks decreased in the month and were noticeably smaller than at the end of 1929. Collections generally increased in December but were appreciably smaller than in the same month of the previous year.

Retail sales on the daily basis in December increased by about the usual seasonal percentage. The largest gains were reported by men's apparel and department stores. In comparison with December 1929, the value of

retail sales by department, apparel, shoe and credit stores was 12 per cent smaller. Dollar sales for the year as a whole were 8 per cent less than in 1929. This unfavorable comparison with the previous year is due partly to reductions in prices which, though less rapidly, followed the downward trend of wholesale quotations.

Early reports covering the first fortnight of January indicate that retail trade was rather quiet as is usually the case immediately after the holiday activity; nevertheless, clearance sales are said to have compared rather well in point of quantity sold with other years. Stocks at retail establishments declined sharply in December and were 11 per cent smaller than at the end of 1929.

Railroad shipments of commodities in this section declined less than usual; in 1930 they were about 15 per cent smaller than in 1929 and 12 per cent smaller than in 1928. The movement of milk to the Philadelphia area showed a gain over November. The quantity of milk and cream shipped in 1930 almost equalled that of the preceding year. A slight increase in the shipment of milk by truck was offset by a corresponding decline in the deliveries by rail.

Foreign trade at the port of Philadelphia was smaller in 1930 than 1929. The physical volume of imports of thirty commodities declined almost 5 per cent and exports of twenty-three commodities decreased 14 per cent.

Sales of new passenger automobiles increased from November to December instead of declining as in other years. In comparison with 1929,

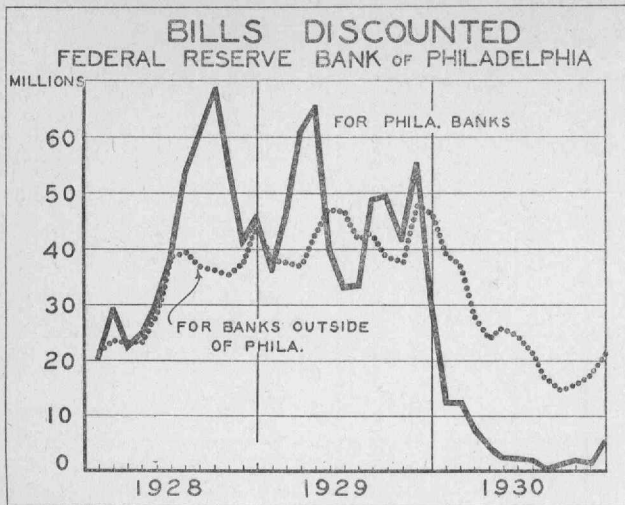
registrations of new cars in this district declined 24 per cent and the decline from 1928 amounted to 11 per cent. A somewhat different development occurred in the market for used cars. In Pennsylvania, for example, registrations of used automobiles were 7 per cent greater in 1930 than 1929, while those of new cars declined almost 26 per cent.

Life insurance sales increased seasonally by 12 per cent, although they were 9 per cent smaller than in December 1929. For the year as a whole, this district showed a drop of one per cent, whereas the decline for the country amounted to 4 per cent.

**Cost of living.** The cost of living in Philadelphia and Scranton, as well as in the United States, was about 6 per cent lower in December 1930 than 1929, as shown by the accompanying tables and chart. Percentage declines in specific items in Philadelphia were as follows: food, 13.9; clothing, 3.7; rent, 3.4; furniture and furnishings, 5.1. Fuel and light, on the contrary, showed an increase of 5.1 per cent. Changes in the cost of living in selected cities follow:

Territory	December, 1930 —per cent decrease from—		
	June, 1920	December, 1929	June, 1930
Philadelphia.....	23.0	6.0	2.7
Scranton.....	21.1	6.1	3.2
Boston.....	24.4	5.5	2.4
Baltimore.....	22.6	5.3	3.4
Cleveland.....	24.6	4.6	4.1
Detroit.....	31.5	9.1	6.2
U. S. (avg. 32 cities).....	25.8	6.2	3.5

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



In comparison with December 1914, the cost of living in Philadelphia at the end of 1930 was relatively higher than the average for thirty-two cities of the United States.

Items included in the cost of living index	Per cent increase from Dec., 1914, to Dec., 1930	
	32 cities	Philadelphia
Food.....	30.7	34.4
Clothing.....	51.5	64.9
Rent.....	46.5	51.2
Fuel and light.....	73.3	95.8
House furnishing goods.....	81.1	75.3
Miscellaneous.....	102.0	120.7
All items.....	56.0	64.5

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Financial conditions.** During 1930 there was a substantial reduction in borrowings from this bank and a rise in its reserve ratio to an average in excess of 80 per cent. Member banks in Philadelphia reported the rapid accumulation of deposits, a decrease in loans and large expansion in their holdings of investments. Accompanying this was a decline in rates charged on commercial loans to prime customers, and a reduction in the discount rate of the Federal Reserve Bank from 5 to 3½ per cent, the rate now in effect. These conditions, resulting largely from recessions in business activity and in prices, indicate that the banking situation is distinctly favorable to business recovery.

Changes in the banking figures since the middle of December are linked closely with fluctuations in the demand for currency. Normally currency demand is active over most of December owing to the holiday trade. Last month, following the closing of a

nonmember bank, the call for currency was unusually large. The figures of this bank indicate that payments exceeded receipts by 40 millions during the week ended December 24; in neither of the two years preceding was the excess of payments as much as 10 millions in the corresponding week.

This exceptional demand for currency was promptly met through the facilities of the Federal Reserve Bank. Although the banks also had to meet heavy payments of income taxes early in the same week, they found it necessary to increase their borrowings from the reserve bank by only 16 millions, for large sums were transferred from other districts, giving this bank a very favorable balance in the interdistrict settlements. During the four weeks following, currency returned from circulation, although not to the extent that might have been expected in view of the preceding increase. The return flow was sufficient, however, to enable the banks to meet an unfavorable balance in the settlements and to pay off a substantial part of their borrowings from the reserve bank.

On January 21 bills discounted held by this bank totaled 26 millions, slightly more than on December 17, but only about half of the borrowings of member banks a year ago. The reserve ratio has declined from 85.5 to 83.4 per cent in the last five weeks.

The deposits of member banks in Philadelphia, Camden, Scranton, and Wilmington have continued in large volume during the past month. Although time and United States deposits declined between December 17 and January 21, net demand deposits climbed to high points. Amounts held on deposit for other banks rose

from 230 to 253 millions; in view of the low level of open-market rates, it is not surprising to find that the reporting banks in turn show an increase from 87 to 139 millions in balances with other banks.

The outstanding credit of the reporting banks declined from 1,314 to 1,308 millions; diverse tendencies in the various classes of loans and investments are brought into relief in the following table:

Weekly reporting member banks (000,000's omitted)	Dec. 17	Dec. 31	Jan. 21
Loans on securities.....	\$ 452	\$ 476	\$ 463
Bought commercial paper and bankers' acceptances.....	45	35	31
Other loans and discounts.....	381	372	392
Investments.....	436	408	422
Total loans and investments.....	\$1,314	\$1,291	\$1,308

Investment holdings were at a high point on December 17; the decline during the last two weeks of 1930 was entirely in United States securities, as other issues rose slightly. This trend was reversed in the three weeks following; the banks largely replaced the government securities but permitted holdings of other securities to decline somewhat.

Sales of commercial paper usually do not reach large totals in the last

91 banks in 20 cities (000,000's omitted)	Jan. 15, 1930	Jan. 14, 1931	Changes
Loans on securities.....	\$ 598	\$ 568	-\$ 30
Other loans and discounts.....	595	586	- 9
Investments.....	392	531	+ 139
Total loans and investments.....	\$1,585	\$1,685	+\$100
Net demand deposits.....	842	906	+ 64
Time deposits.....	479	555	+ 76



month of the year and December 1930 was no exception to this. The amount sold by four reporting dealers was \$2,970,000, the smallest for any month of 1930.

	Sales to—		Total sales
	City banks	Country banks	
Commercial paper sales (Four dealers)			
1930—Sept....	\$4,685,000	\$2,767,500	\$7,452,500
Oct....	3,165,000	2,827,500	5,992,500
Nov....	3,165,000	1,582,500	4,747,500
Dec....	1,705,000	1,265,000	2,970,000
1929—Dec....	495,000	2,135,500	2,630,500
1928—Dec....	643,500	1,722,500	2,366,000

Retail trade Philadelphia Federal Reserve District	Percentage change				Rate of turnover-year	
	Net sales: 1930, compared with 1929		Stocks: Dec. 31, 1930, compared with		1929	1930
	Dec.	Twelve months	Dec. 31, 1929	Nov. 30, 1930		
All reporting stores.....	-11.5	-7.9	-11.2	-19.0	3.98	3.98
Department.....	-11.8	-8.1	-11.1	-18.9	3.96	3.98
in Philadelphia.....	-12.3	-7.9	-10.2	-18.6	4.36	4.38
outside Philadelphia.....	-10.6	-8.6	-13.1	-19.8	3.17	3.20
Men's apparel.....	-12.8	-10.2	-9.5	-13.6	2.62	2.36
in Philadelphia.....	-16.0					
outside Philadelphia.....	-10.5	-7.8	-13.7	-17.4	2.48	2.30
Women's apparel.....	-4.8	-3.1	-15.2	-28.5	6.02	6.00
in Philadelphia.....	-2.7	-2.3	-13.4	-28.1	6.44	6.43
outside Philadelphia.....	-17.3	-8.2	-22.8	-30.3	4.27	4.10
Shoe.....	-14.5	-10.3	-11.1	-8.2	2.78	2.67
Credit.....	-20.8	-16.2	-8.2	-12.3	2.72	2.45

Wholesale trade Philadelphia Federal Reserve District	Percentage change				Collections: Dec. 1930, compared with 1929
	Net sales: 1930 compared with 1929		Stocks: Dec. 31, 1930, compared with		
	Dec. (daily av.)	Twelve months	Dec. 31, 1929	Nov. 30, 1930	
Boots and shoes.....	-28.9	-14.6			-17.4
Drugs.....	-11.9	-1.8	-13.3	-5.9	-3.6
Dry goods.....	-17.9	-12.5	-11.3	-8.8	-15.1
Electrical supplies.....	-33.8	-43.0	-32.7	-19.7	-31.6
Groceries.....	-9.0	-5.2	-11.5	-8.7	-9.8
Hardware.....	-21.8	-11.6	-10.4	-4.4	-23.0
Jewelry.....	-24.8	-22.7	-13.0	-13.3	-33.8
Paper.....	-24.5	-16.0			-22.6

City areas*	Percentage change—December, 1930, from December, 1929				
	Employment	Wage payments	Building permits (value)	Debits	Retail trade sales
Allentown.....	-15.4	-25.6	-66.9	-9.5	-13.8
Altoona.....	-12.2	-20.2	+40.0	-12.7	-11.9
Harrisburg.....	-15.4	-26.1	+112.1	-8.4	-5.6
Johnstown.....	-31.0	-42.4	+204.4	-17.0	-14.0
Lancaster.....	-9.3	-17.7	-90.6	-10.6	-11.1
Philadelphia.....	-18.4	-28.4	-84.1	-16.2	-11.5
Reading.....	-15.8	-35.8	-49.7	-18.1	-19.0
Seranton.....	-10.6	-14.7	-59.2	-17.1	-9.7
Trenton.....			+137.7	-2.8	-9.0
Wilkes-Barre.....	-9.6	-17.1	+809.6	-13.5	-6.9
Williamsport.....	-19.5	-29.5	-89.3	-15.9	
Wilmington.....	-21.0	-22.7	-36.8	-49.4	-10.9
York.....	-3.1	-11.5	+330.1	+6.2	

City areas*	December, 1930, from November, 1930				
	Employment	Wage payments	Building permits (value)	Debits	Retail trade sales
Allentown.....	-1.9	+0.9	-42.1	+15.1	+59.3
Altoona.....	-5.7	-2.9	-66.5	+10.0	+74.7
Harrisburg.....	-2.1	-1.9	+366.7	+17.9	+56.5
Johnstown.....	-14.5	-22.8	+4.4	+6.2	+60.9
Lancaster.....	-0.5	-5.5	-70.2	+6.9	+55.1
Philadelphia.....	-6.5	-7.9	-87.5	+30.7	+45.1
Reading.....	-2.6	-5.1	-38.1	+9.6	+57.5
Seranton.....	-4.6	-0.7	-50.9	+8.2	+44.0
Trenton.....			+67.6	+52.2	+63.2
Wilkes-Barre.....	-0.1	-3.4	+83.2	+9.2	+48.4
Williamsport.....	+3.9	+10.3	-96.1	+14.1	
Wilmington.....	+0.7	+2.5	-37.8	+37.6	+62.0
York.....	-0.9	-1.6	-68.7	+27.5	

\* Area not restricted to the corporate limits of cities given here.

Employment and wages in Pennsylvania	Employment December, 1930		Payrolls December, 1930			
	Dec. index *	Per cent change since		Dec. index *	Per cent change since	
		Dec., 1929	Nov., 1930		Dec., 1929	Nov., 1930
All manufacturing industries (51).....	82.5	-15.2	-3.6	70.8	-29.0	-6.0
Metal products.....	78.8	-18.0	-4.1	64.7	-33.6	-7.8
Blast furnaces.....	48.8	-23.4	+3.8	44.0	-29.5	+3.0
Steel wks. and rolling mills.....	71.6	-14.9	-3.6	57.5	-31.5	-4.6
Iron and steel forgings.....	86.6	-23.0	-0.5	84.0	-23.7	-0.8
Structural iron works.....	96.0	-19.9	-5.1	75.9	-36.7	-7.6
Steam & hot wtr. htg. app.....	93.0	-9.4	-2.2	81.5	-17.3	-4.7
Stoves and furnaces.....	73.9	-16.8	-3.7	54.9	-30.7	-11.7
Foundries.....	78.8	-25.3	+0.3	63.2	-40.9	+0.5
Machinery and parts.....	88.1	-20.3	-2.0	74.0	-38.6	-1.1
Electrical apparatus.....	102.0	-21.1	-8.8	89.6	-35.9	-21.2
Engines and pumps.....	68.8	-31.8	-2.3	57.9	-45.2	+0.7
Hardware and tools.....	79.2	-19.4	-1.2	65.6	-34.3	+1.5
Brass and bronze products.....	73.9	-29.5	-1.5	66.9	-39.7	0
Transportation equipment.....	59.4†	-22.7	-3.6	46.5†	-41.6	-6.6
Automobiles.....	51.8	-11.6	+16.1	26.6	-25.9	+28.5
Auto. bodies and parts.....	53.5	-31.2	-5.0	44.5	-46.0	+0.5
Locomotives and cars.....	34.9	-35.0	-5.4	27.9	-50.8	-11.1
Railroad repair shops.....	74.7	-5.4	-0.9	60.2	-29.0	-8.4
Shipbuilding.....	78.7	-8.5	-12.4	120.4	-23.6	-15.5
Textile products.....	90.7	-15.6	-5.9	84.3	-27.8	-8.4
Cotton goods.....	58.8	-26.7	-0.2	48.6	-30.6	-3.0
Woolens and worsteds.....	51.8	-18.2	-11.0	46.8	-22.6	-5.3
Silk goods.....	101.3	-13.6	-5.3	107.4	-17.4	-3.6
Textile dyeing & finishing.....	92.2	-7.5	-0.1	83.0	-16.9	-5.8
Carpets and rugs.....	58.2	-24.3	-5.5	44.4	-34.1	-15.4
Hats.....	86.7	-11.1	-0.6	64.2	-34.1	-2.6
Hosiery.....	109.2	-17.9	-8.0	111.7	-37.0	-12.0
Knit goods, Other.....	82.6	-22.5	-18.9	66.5	-43.6	-38.5
Men's clothing.....	73.6	-2.5	-6.8	55.0	-25.3	-15.5
Women's clothing.....	124.9	+9.9	+8.0	124.7	+7.2	+11.0
Shirts and furnishings.....	143.9	-6.3	-0.3	131.4	-19.4	-1.0
Foods and tobacco.....	105.0	-5.0	-1.3	101.4	-8.7	+1.6
Bread & bakery products.....	110.4	-3.0	-0.8	107.7	-5.4	-0.9
Confectionery.....	101.5	-12.6	+0.3	99.4	-14.2	+17.9
Ice cream.....	90.2	-1.2	-3.6	89.9	-5.2	-3.9
Meat packing.....	96.6	-7.0	-0.8	97.4	-4.4	+4.5
Cigars and tobacco.....	102.7	-1.9	-2.1	92.0	-10.2	-4.2
Stone, clay & glass products.....	61.0	-19.9	-4.5	49.1	-29.4	-2.4
Brick, tile and pottery.....	68.8	-20.0	-9.6	49.7	-36.3	-11.4
Cement.....	55.0	-9.4	-2.8	45.4	-17.0	+3.9
Glass.....	62.0	-28.7	-1.3	56.8	-35.6	-2.1
Lumber products.....	60.2	-35.5	-10.5	51.3	-46.1	-14.9
Lumber and planing mills.....	41.9	-49.9	-21.2	35.5	-55.2	-20.0
Furniture.....	65.2	-34.9	-8.4	56.9	-47.1	-16.2
Wooden boxes.....	66.4	-9.2	-1.6	54.6	-21.1	-2.3
Chemical products.....	93.1	-5.6	+8.9	88.8	-12.2	+1.7
Chemicals and drugs.....	70.7	-20.7	+9.8	70.1	-21.1	+9.9
Coke.....	75.1	-16.5	-0.5	61.1	-23.5	+0.2
Explosives.....	77.1	-14.3	-2.5	80.0	-22.4	-14.1
Paints and varnishes.....	86.9	-8.7	+0.7	85.5	-13.2	+0.8
Petroleum refining.....	121.2	-6.1	+5.1	126.9	-5.3	+1.9
Leather and rubber products.....	91.0	-11.9	-6.2	89.3	-17.2	-1.9
Leather tanning.....	105.8	+3.4	-5.0	100.5	-9.4	-4.6
Shoes.....	78.6	-22.6	-10.5	69.7	-34.6	-1.8
Leather products, Other.....	78.5	-25.5	-0.8	85.2	-24.1	-2.1
Rubber tires and goods.....	82.1	-8.8	-1.0	91.8	-12.9	+19.5
Paper and printing.....	97.0	-6.1	+0.1	101.8	-9.5	+1.2
Paper and wood pulp.....	81.1	-9.5	-2.3	78.9	-16.6	+5.6
Paper boxes and bags.....	87.6	-22.7	-5.8	98.8	-23.4	-5.0
Printing and publishing.....	103.7	-2.1	+2.0	109.7	-6.1	+0.7
Anthracite.....	96.5†	-12.9	+1.9	85.0†	-22.9	+2.2
Bituminous coal.....			-1.0			-4.1
Construction & contracting.....	67.2	-25.9	-19.6	58.8	-27.1	-10.1
Street railways.....	78.9	-10.7	-1.5	82.7	-12.3	-2.2
Retail trade.....	113.6	-4.9	+2.0			
Wholesale trade.....	92.3	-6.5	+0.9			

\* 1923-1925 average=100. † Preliminary figures. ‡ Figures from May to November, inclusive, have been revised.

## Synopsis of Industrial and Trade Conditions in the Philadelphia Federal Reserve District

	Demand	Operations	Stocks
<b>Manufacturing</b>			
<b>Iron and Steel</b>			
Blast furnaces .....	Declined, some price declines	Pig iron output declined	
Steel works and rolling mills .....	Quiet, some gain	Declined, some gain in unfilled orders	
Foundries and machine shops .....	Poor, little change	Output of iron and steel castings declined	
Electrical apparatus .....	Declined	Declined sharply	
<b>Transportation equipment</b>			
Locomotives and cars .....	Slow, little change	Declined	
Shipbuilding .....	Quiet	Declined in December	
<b>Textiles</b>			
Silk manufactures .....	Fair, some increase for silk goods	Declined	Moderate, little change
Wool dealers .....	Poor, declined, prices lower		Fairly heavy
Wool manufactures .....	Quiet, little change, prices lower	Declined	Moderate, somewhat smaller than a month ago
Cotton manufactures .....	Declined, prices changed little	Declined	Light, declined, smaller than a year ago
Hosiery .....	Declined, prices unchanged to lower	Declined sharply	Increased in December
Floor coverings .....	Quiet, some improvement, prices unchanged	Declined	Smaller
<b>Leather products</b>			
Shoes .....	Quiet, though some gain is indicated; prices lower	Declined	Declined
Leather—sole .....	Little change, prices lower	Little change	Some increase
kid .....	Quiet, some improvement, prices lower	Declined	Little change
<b>Building materials</b>			
Brick .....	Quiet, declined	Declined	Rather heavy, little change
Cement .....	Quiet seasonally, prices lower	Declined	Larger
Lumber—mills .....	Poor, little change	Declined	Rather heavy
Paints and varnishes .....	Quiet seasonally, some decline; prices unchanged to lower	Some increase	Moderate, smaller than last month or last year
Pottery .....	Poor, declined, prices unchanged	Declined	Moderate, smaller than a month or year ago
<b>Miscellaneous</b>			
Paper .....	Fair, little change	Increased, but much lower than a year ago	Moderate, little change
Tobacco—cigars .....	Poor, declined	Declined sharply	Moderate, smaller than last month and a year ago
leaf .....	Poor, declined, prices unchanged	Declined	Moderate, smaller than a month and year ago
<b>Building</b>			
	Building permits declined	Building contracts increased and were larger than in December, 1929; declined in early January	
<b>Coal mining</b>			
Anthracite .....	Fair, increased slightly in December; prices firm	Some increase	
Bituminous .....	Quiet, little change; prices declined	Declined	
<b>Trade</b>			
Retail .....	Increased in December, but declined sharply in January. Prices lower		Declined, smaller than a year ago
Wholesale and jobbing .....	Some decline, prices lower		Declined, smaller than a year ago