

DECEMBER, 1931

SURVEY

OF

CURRENT BUSINESS



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
WASHINGTON

Economies ... in research

A Christmas Suggestion

THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

is a suitable gift for a
Business Man

Economy of time!

Authoritative figures prepared by Government statistical experts. Arranged in classifications proven most convenient for industrial and economic investigations and compilations. Such data to measure your production, sales, prices, employment, stocks, consumption, unfilled orders, and general condition in comparison with the totals for your industry.

Substitute these basic facts for time-consuming preliminary compilations in your own office!

Economy of money!

For \$1.50 a year much timely data at your fingertips.

Substituted for the expense of hours of collecting, totaling, checking, revising.

Such economies extend to field as well as desk research... indicating the wisdom of proposed sales procedure. The investigator who has the background of facts at hand will release dollars of research appropriations which will find their way into the net profit column.

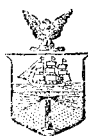
THE SURVEY OF CURRENT
BUSINESS is prepared to help
you effect such economies

WEEKLY DATA THROUGH NOVEMBER 28, 1931
MONTHLY DATA THROUGH OCTOBER

SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

PUBLISHED BY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
WASHINGTON



CONTENTS

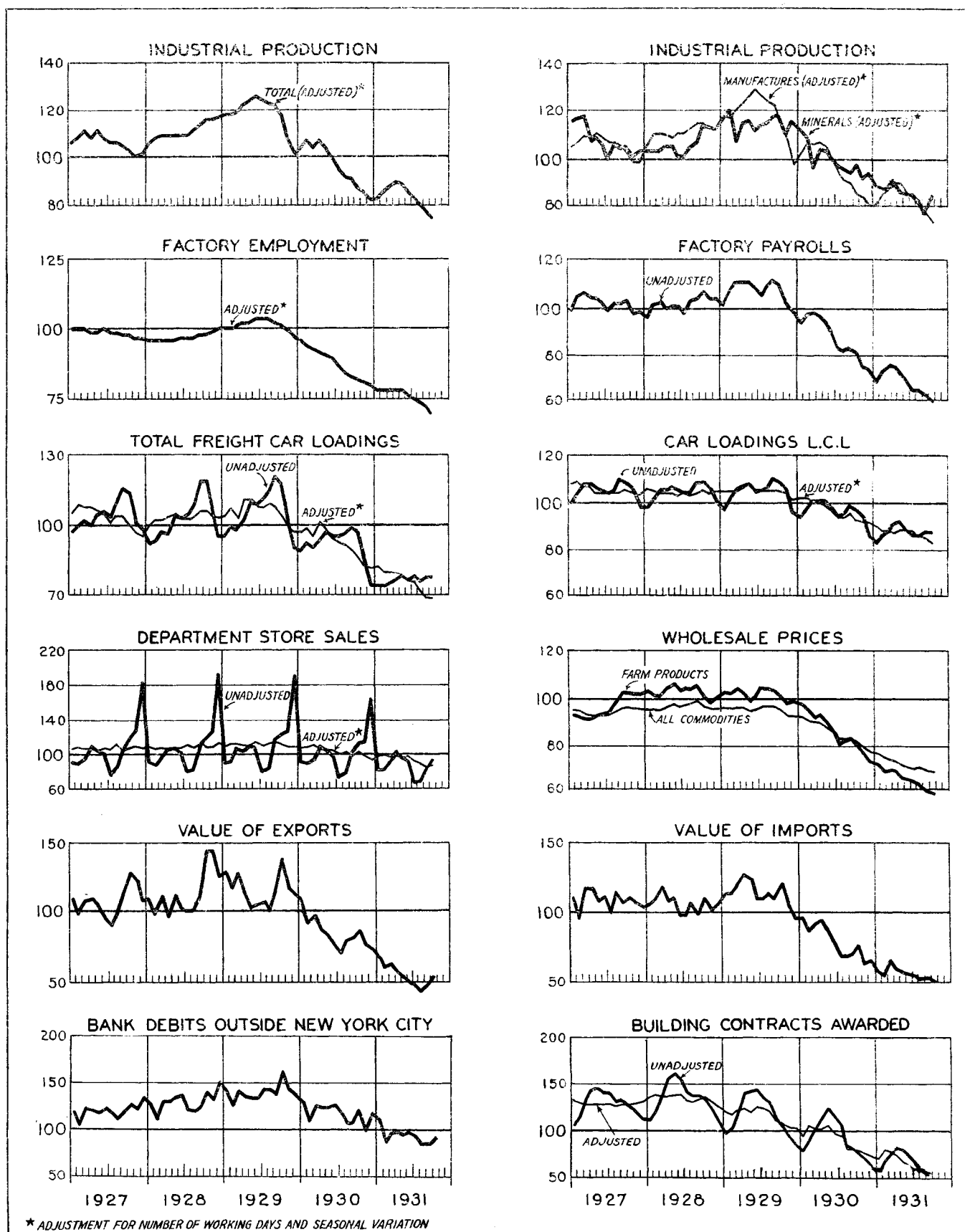
	Page
Monthly business indicators.....	2
Business situation summarized.....	3
Finance.....	4
1931 in comparison.....	6
Commodity prices.....	7
Employment.....	8
Domestic trade.....	9
Foreign trade.....	10
Transportation.....	11
Construction.....	12
Agriculture.....	13
Iron and steel industry.....	14
Chemical industries.....	15
Automobile and rubber industries.....	16
Textile industry.....	17
Food industries.....	18
Forest products industry.....	19
New and revised series.....	20
Weekly business statistics.....	21
Monthly business statistics (Index).....	22

Subscription price of the **SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS** is \$1.50 a year which includes the 12 monthly numbers, the annual supplement, and the 52 weekly supplements; single copies (monthly), 10 cents; annual supplement, 25 cents. Foreign subscriptions without weekly supplements, \$2.50; single copies (monthly issues), including postage, 14 cents; annual supplement, 36 cents. Make remittances only to Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., by postal money order, express order, or New York draft.

Currency at sender's risk. Postage stamps or foreign money not accepted

Monthly Business Indicators

1923-1925=100



Business Situation Summarized

FURTHER recession in general business activity occurred in October and early November, and in general such gains as were realized were less than seasonal. Retail trade expanded and for department stores alone the increase was greater than the usual gain. Industrial production declined for the sixth successive month and in October was 18 per cent below the peak of the spring rise in April. For the elapsed 10 months, the adjusted index averaged 16 per cent below a year ago while the October index was off 15 per cent. The loss in October was the result of a further drop in manufacturing, as the mineral output increased more than seasonally. The principal gains were in the output of coal and petroleum with iron ore sharply lower, and the nonferrous metal group slightly changed. Decreases in manufacturing industries were general.

Factory employment and pay rolls underwent a further contraction in October. The pay-roll index was 4 per cent below the preceding month and was only a little more than half of the peak reached in 1929. Increased employment was confined to the tobacco, and paper and printing industries, but in both the increases were less than seasonal. Pay rolls were lower, except in the paper and printing, chemical, and tobacco groups, with the largest relative decreases in the textile and leather industries which up to now have been doing relatively well.

Car loadings increased in October, but after allowing for the number of working days, the index was unchanged. Variation in the unadjusted index this year has not been large, but the adjusted index has receded steadily and in October was 16 per cent below January and 20 per cent below a year ago. Foreign trade remains restricted with a further slight recession in October imports, contrary to the seasonal trend. Exports increased following the gain of September, but, as in the preceding month, the increase was less than seasonal. The value of building contracts awarded in October declined by more than the usual seasonal amount, and a further reduction occurred in the first half of November.

Financial markets improved following the establishment of new low levels in early October. Stock prices moved irregularly upward during the last three weeks of the month, but the trend since the first week of November has been downward. Bond prices have made little progress. The extremely heavy gold export movement in late September and in October has terminated and recently there has been a substantial net gain of gold on balance.

Wholesale prices declined in October, but the lows reached early in that month were followed by some improvement.

MONTHLY BUSINESS INDEXES

Year and month	Industrial production			Factory employment and pay rolls		Freight car loadings				Department store sales, value		Foreign trade, value		New York City	Building contracts, all types, value, adjusted	Wholesale prices				
	Total, adjusted ¹	Manufactures, adjusted ¹	Minerals, adjusted ¹	Number of employees, adjusted ¹	Amount of pay rolls, unadjusted ¹	Total		Merchandise, L. C. I.		Unadjusted ¹	Adjusted ¹	Exports	Imports			Bank debits	Combined index, 550 commodities	Farm products	Other than farm products and foods	
						Unadjusted ¹	Adjusted ¹	Unadjusted ¹	Adjusted ¹											
Monthly average 1923-1925 = 100																		Monthly average 1926 = 100		
1929: October.....	118	118	118	101	111	118	104	109	104	122	112	139	121	163.2	107	96.3	103.9	92.7		
1930:																				
October.....	87	85	98	82	81	97	86	97	93	112	102	86	77	120.0	78	82.6	82.6	81.5		
November.....	85	84	92	81	75	86	84	94	92	113	98	76	63	99.9	76	80.4	79.3	80.1		
December.....	82	80	94	80	74	74	84	86	92	165	94	72	65	117.2	73	78.4	75.2	79.0		
1931:																				
January.....	83	81	90	78	68	74	82	83	90	79	97	66	57	110.0	71	77.0	73.5	77.8		
February.....	86	86	88	78	73	74	80	87	89	80	98	59	54	86.6	79	75.5	70.1	77.1		
March.....	88	88	87	78	75	75	80	89	89	92	97	62	65	98.4	77	74.5	70.6	75.6		
April.....	90	90	92	78	74	77	80	91	88	101	106	57	58	99.5	73	73.3	70.1	74.2		
May.....	89	89	86	78	72	79	79	92	89	97	97	54	56	95.6	66	71.3	67.1	73.2		
June.....	84	84	85	76	68	77	77	89	89	90	95	49	55	98.4	64	70.0	65.4	71.9		
July.....	83	83	84	75	64	78	76	87	88	65	91	48	54	93.5	61	70.0	64.9	71.8		
August.....	79	79	79	74	64	76	72	86	86	67	88	43	52	83.8	59	70.2	63.5	72.3		
September.....	76	76	77	73	62	78	69	88	85	87	84	48	53	84.3	59	69.1	60.5	72.0		
October.....	74	72	85	70	59	78	69	87	83	94	86	54	50	91.9	55	68.4	58.8	71.4		
Monthly average January through October:																				
1929.....	121	122	115	102	109	108	-----	105	-----	101	-----	108	116	140.3	119	97.0	105.4	92.9		
1930.....	99	99	101	89	90	94	-----	98	-----	95	-----	86	82	119.0	94	87.8	90.7	86.2		
1931.....	83	83	85	76	68	77	-----	88	-----	85	-----	54	55	94.2	66	71.9	66.5	73.7		

¹Adjusted for seasonal variation.¹Adjusted for number of working days.

Finance—Credit and Banking

THE more important credit changes of the month are reflected in the combined statements of the Federal reserve banks which show sharp increases in money in circulation, in total bills discounted, and in bills bought in the open market. The increase in circulation and the foreign demands upon the gold reserves were met by an expansion of Federal reserve credit of approximately \$600,000,000 during the month while the reserve ratio against note and deposit liabilities combined fell from 73.4 per cent to 56.5 per cent.

Toward the end of the month the demands by Europe upon the dollar had practically ceased. With the correction of erroneous impressions abroad concerning the "free gold" holdings of the Federal reserve system and also concerning the method of operation of the new credit corporation, gold exports virtually stopped. Since the end of October the gold holdings of the reserve banks have increased approximately \$135,000,000. During the last week of the month money in circulation reversed its previously upward trend and has shown a relatively small increase since the beginning of November. Also, since the middle of October foreign funds held on deposit with the Federal reserve banks have been steadily withdrawn, not, as several weeks ago, in the form of gold exports, but rather through being reinvested in bankers' acceptances as indicated in the weekly rise in bills purchased by the reserve banks on foreign account.

October gold exports and earmarkings represented a record for one month. The cessation of the outflow was as sudden and complete as its inception had been a month before and by the beginning of November the situation, characterized by a physical export of the metal of \$398,600,000 during October, had largely corrected itself. Money rates have eased slightly and a drop in acceptance rates on November 9 brought new bills into the market. The Federal reserve banks hold an unusually large proportion of the outstanding acceptances but bills subject to renewal are finding their way into the open market to meet the buying orders which it was difficult early in the present month for the dealers to meet.

Bank debits since the beginning of October have continued highly irregular although debits outside of New York showed an increase during the month as well as during the first week of November. Both loans on securities and "all other" loans by reporting member banks declined steadily throughout October and the first half of November, the reason for the drop in the latter being probably accounted for in part by the sale of bill holdings to the Federal reserve banks. Institutional liquidation of bonds, which kept the bond market weak during the period under review, is evidenced by the October decline of commercial bank investment portfolios. Postal savings deposits have shown an unusual rate of increase.

CREDIT AND BANKING STATISTICS

	Bank debits			Reporting member banks Wednesday closest to end of month			Condition of Federal reserve banks, end of month					Total bank-ers' ac-ceptances out-standing end of month	Net gold im-ports in-cluding gold re-leased from ear-mark	Money in cir-culation	De-posits New York State savings banks	Postal savings, balance to credit of de-positors
	New York City	Out-side New York City	Can-ada	Loans on securi-ties	All other loans	In-vest-ments	Total bills dis-count-ed	Total bills bought in the open market	Total United States securi-ties	Total reserve bank credit	Mem-ber bank reserve ac-count					
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS																
1929:} October....	63,325	32,202	4,713	9,179	9,755	5,496	1,000	355	321	1,742	2,666	1,541	13.0	4,810	4,372	161,583
1930:} October....	30,781	23,679	3,618	8,065	8,707	6,731	207	163	602	998	2,418	1,508	20.3	4,501	4,658	192,543
November....	22,490	19,700	2,974	7,708	8,766	6,800	275	175	599	1,079	2,373	1,571	33.1	4,528	4,666	200,668
December....	29,001	23,113	3,012	7,814	8,449	6,693	251	364	729	1,373	2,471	1,556	17.5	4,823	4,792	245,379
1931:} January....	24,557	21,697	2,668	7,379	8,374	6,843	232	125	610	980	2,398	1,520	46.3	4,695	4,888	278,353
February....	20,948	17,084	2,535	7,313	8,151	7,183	198	109	599	925	2,343	1,520	18.6	4,598	4,928	292,059
March....	27,589	19,421	2,570	7,256	8,126	7,551	250	124	599	990	2,426	1,467	28.6	4,590	5,018	302,658
April....	26,821	19,620	2,786	7,052	7,941	7,903	157	163	598	937	2,371	1,422	42.0	4,647	5,059	313,775
May....	25,072	18,858	3,172	6,867	7,863	7,807	174	125	596	917	2,389	1,413	53.6	4,679	5,083	323,028
June....	25,893	19,406	2,694	6,746	7,945	7,795	149	106	668	943	2,381	1,368	156.1	4,750	5,156	347,417
July....	21,007	18,444	2,400	6,544	7,942	7,810	195	73	678	976	2,367	1,228	-10.2	4,836	5,149	370,827
August....	17,501	16,526	2,244	6,519	7,879	7,665	255	215	728	1,255	2,373	1,090	41.5	4,947	5,173	414,986
September....	20,073	16,627	2,451	6,346	7,845	7,916	328	469	742	1,578	2,364	996	-258.5	5,133	5,231	460,915
October....	20,678	18,125	-----	5,897	7,624	7,700	728	681	727	2,184	2,167	1,010	-445.3	5,478	5,217	527,130

Finance—Security and Money Markets

SECURITY and money markets were featured during October by the year's sharpest firming of money rates and by a record outflow of gold. Security prices, after reacting favorably to the President's announcement on October 6, relative to the proposed national credit corporation, weakened again but many of the gains were held throughout the month. A general rise in stock prices early in November was followed, toward the middle of the month, by a series of daily declines which carried quotations close to their early October lows.

Bond prices have also been unable to hold their gains of early October. After the suspension of gold payments in England late in September the market was called upon to absorb both stocks and bonds held abroad. The fears abroad which led temporarily to a flight from the dollar and the necessity of domestic institutions to liquidate bond holdings introduced an element of weakness for a period of several weeks into the security markets generally. With the return of confidence in the dollar late in October gold withdrawals ceased and bond prices turned upward for several days early in November.

New capital issues continued throughout October on a very low level. For the first time since the war a whole week passed during which no new issue was brought

out. As compared with the corresponding months in 1929 and 1930 total dividend and interest payments showed a relatively small decline during October.

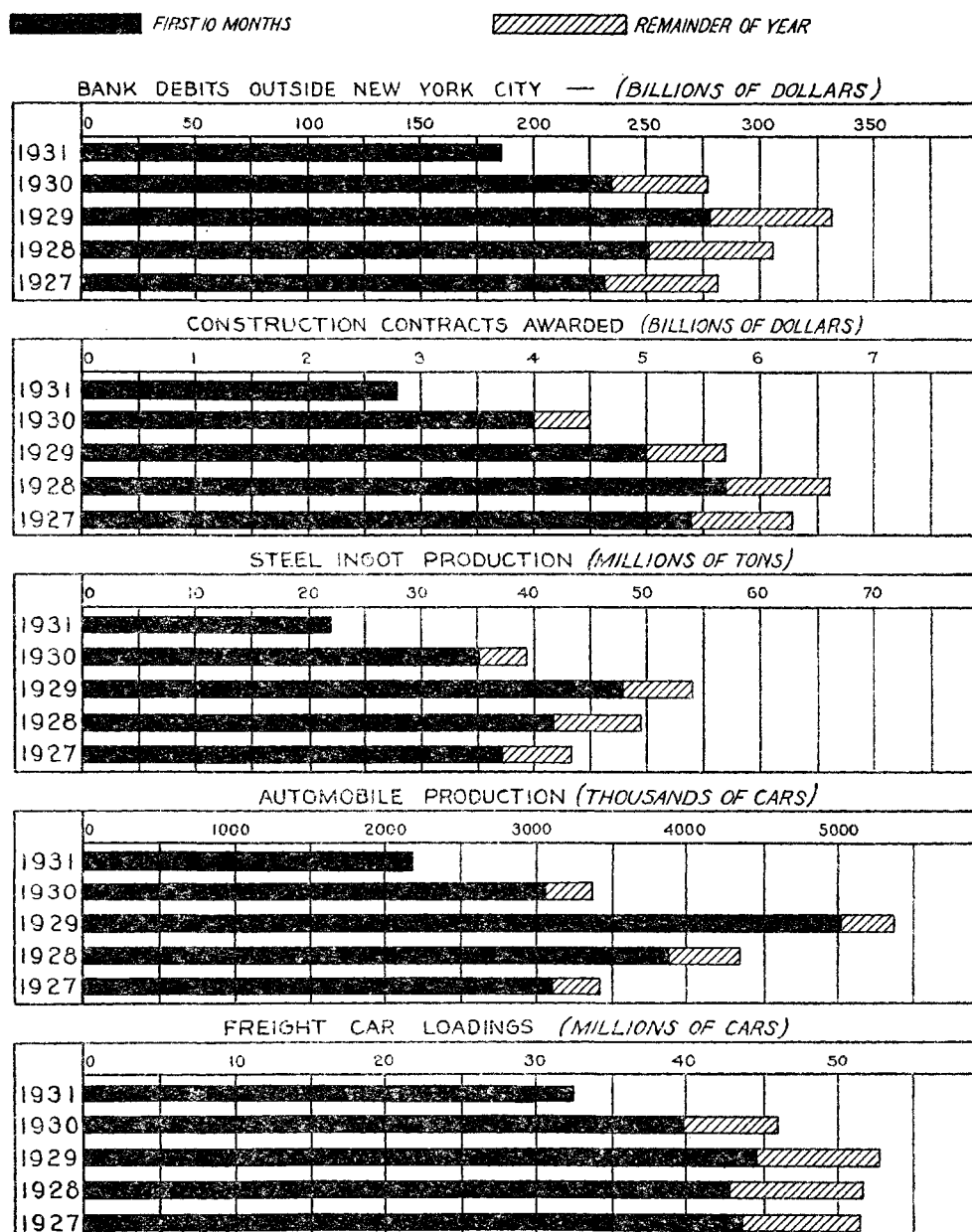
The month's money rates reflected the temporary strain placed upon the financial markets by the pressure on the dollar in foreign centers. The two increases in the New York Federal Reserve Bank's rediscount rate early in October were followed by an upward adjustment in bill rates when the greater part of the bills held by the commercial banks, foreign banks, and acceptance dealers were transferred to the Federal reserve banks. By the middle of the month commercial paper rates and rates on both call and time loans had moved to the highest levels since the end of 1930. Rates have continued firm through the first half of November, although rates on bankers' bills have been cut somewhat owing to the extremely small amount available in the open market after the closing days of October.

The steady decline in brokers' loans, which has been a feature of the security markets throughout the year, continued during October. The recent rule enforced by New York member banks, whereunder they have ceased making loans for the account of outside lenders, has had no perceptible effect owing to the small amount of such loans outstanding.

SECURITY AND MONEY MARKET STATISTICS

	Stock prices	Re-ported sales of stocks	Com-mon-stock yields	Price indices of foreign listed common stock			Bond yields	New capital issues	Long-term real estate bonds	Total dividend and interest payments	Range of open market money rates New York			Brokers' loans		
				London	Paris	Berlin					Call money-renewal	Time loans	Commercial paper	Made by reporting member banks in N.Y.C. Wed. closest to end of month	Re-ported by the New York Stock Ex-change, end of month	Ratio to market value
	Rel. to 1926	Thousands of shares	Per cent	Rel. to Dec. 31, 1923	Relative to 1913	Price to par weighted	Per cent	Thousands of dollars	Thousands of dollars	Thousands of dollars	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Millions of dollars	Per cent	Per cent
1929: October.....	201.7	141,668	3.33	122.97	518	143.2	4.73	724,166	10,275	767,859	6.43	7-9	114	5,538	6,169	8.51
1930:																
October.....	127.9	65,497	5.05	92.68	425	105.0	4.41	151,148	6,625	777,329	2.00	2 1/4-2 3/4	3	2,512	2,556	4.65
November.....	116.7	51,946	5.43	92.16	325	103.4	4.46	137,622	9,065	595,028	2.00	2 -2 1/4	2 3/4-3	2,111	2,162	1.06
December.....	103.4	58,764	5.62	86.94	378	97.0	4.55	180,872	23,877	712,927	2.23	2 -2 3/4	2 3/4-3	1,926	1,894	3.86
1931:																
January.....	112.3	52,543	5.50	88.34	349	90.5	4.43	399,848	4,520	1,121,434	1.57	1 3/4-2 1/2	2 3/4-3	1,734	1,726	3.30
February.....	119.8	64,145	5.12	83.92	365	84.7	4.44	74,231	3,550	523,807	1.50	1 3/4-2	2 1/4-2 3/4	1,798	1,846	3.22
March.....	121.6	65,494	4.95	80.70	373	97.3	4.41	269,030	2,015	594,282	1.55	2 -2 1/4	2 1/4-2 3/4	1,875	1,909	3.58
April.....	169.2	64,335	5.43	81.62	362	101.2	4.43	287,471	7,235	718,873	1.52	1 3/4-2 1/4	2 1/4-2 3/4	1,730	1,651	3.46
May.....	68.0	46,661	5.98	77.65	346	96.6	4.43	169,360	9,485	559,624	1.45	1 3/4-2	2 -2 1/4	1,539	1,435	2.37
June.....	85.1	58,719	5.98	70.33	322	80.6	4.45	131,313	3,425	762,077	1.50	1 3/4-1 3/4	2	1,479	1,391	2.93
July.....	98.2	33,540	5.60	76.42	329	83.7	4.44	115,070	775	945,976	1.60	1 3/4-1 3/4	2	1,390	1,344	3.03
August.....	95.5	24,830	5.74	72.40	309	Closed	4.50	46,197	2,100	480,858	1.50	1 3/4-1 3/4	2	1,356	1,354	3.04
September.....	81.7	51,140	6.51	66.90	304	62.0	4.70	155,381	66,785	532,840	1.50	1 3/4-2	2	1,172	1,044	3.23
October.....	69.7	47,895	7.23	76.14	269	Closed	5.16	17,391	9,125	747,157	2.10	2 1/4-4	2 -4 1/4	569	736	2.33

1931 in Comparison



Commodity Prices

PRICES of commodities in October were slightly lower than in September, 1931, but the decline was less than from September to October, 1930, except for prices received by farmers for the products they sell.

Wholesale commodity prices averaged about 1 per cent lower in October than in September, but the decline was less than from August to September and there was additional evidence of an underlying tendency for prices to fluctuate within a narrower range. Of the 550 commodities or price series included in the combined index of wholesale commodity prices, advances occurred in 190 instances and no change occurred in 256 others. Weekly indexes compiled by private agencies indicate that wholesale commodity prices have remained relatively steady during November. Prices of foods, of metals and metal products, of building materials and of chemicals and drugs declined less than 1 per cent and prices of house furnishing goods, of textile products, of farm products, and of hide and leather products dropped from 1.8

per cent to 3.1 per cent. Fuel and lighting materials and miscellaneous products advanced slightly from September to October, 1931. Among the subgroups of commodities drops in prices exceeding 5 per cent occurred in hides and skins, in livestock and poultry, in nonferrous metals, and in fertilizer materials.

Little change has occurred in retail prices of foods since June. On October 15, 1931, retail food prices were 17.5 per cent lower than on the corresponding date of last year. From September 15 to October 15, 1931, declines occurred in 28 of the 42 articles of foods on which retail price quotations are regularly received, prices of 8 articles advanced and those of 6 articles showed no change.

Farm prices on October 15, 1931 were 5.6 per cent lower than on the corresponding date of the preceding month as a result of drops of about 8 per cent each in prices of grains and meat animals, of 10.6 per cent in the price of cotton and cotton seed and of a fall of 15.7 per cent in prices of fruits and vegetables. Prices of dairy and poultry products advanced 6.5 per cent.

INDEXES OF COMMODITY PRICES

Year and month	Combined index, 550 commodity quotations	Wholesale ¹														Retail ²		Farm ³
		Farm products	Foods	Other than farm products and foods	Hides and leather products	Textile products	Fuel and lighting	Metals and metal products	Building materials	Chemicals and drugs	House furnishing goods	Miscellaneous	Raw materials	Semimanufactures	Finished manufactures	Foods ¹	Cost of living ¹	Combined index, 30 commodities
		Monthly average, 1926=100																
																Mo. average 1913=100	Mo. average 1923=100	Mo. average 1914=100
1929: October.....	96.3	103.99	101.2	92.7	110.5	92.7	81.7	103.6	97.8	94.2	97.1	81.3	97.1	97.9	95.8	161	101.0	140
1930:																		
October.....	82.6	82.6	88.6	81.5	96.5	73.8	75.1	90.4	85.8	86.0	95.3	68.8	80.0	75.5	85.6	144	94.8	106
November.....	80.4	79.3	85.7	80.1	94.0	73.3	71.8	90.2	85.6	85.2	95.2	67.8	76.8	75.6	83.7	141	93.9	103
December.....	78.4	75.2	81.8	79.0	91.2	72.4	70.5	90.0	84.4	84.8	91.3	66.9	74.2	74.3	81.9	137	92.6	97
1931:																		
January.....	77.0	73.5	80.1	77.8	88.6	71.0	69.8	89.3	82.9	83.6	91.1	64.7	72.9	73.4	80.5	133	91.1	94
February.....	75.5	70.1	77.1	77.1	86.6	70.4	69.6	88.9	81.8	82.2	90.8	63.9	70.6	72.3	79.3	127	89.6	90
March.....	74.5	70.6	76.7	75.6	87.4	69.2	64.5	89.0	81.9	81.9	90.8	61.7	69.4	72.2	78.4	126	89.1	91
April.....	73.3	70.1	75.6	74.2	87.3	67.6	61.6	88.7	80.9	80.1	90.8	63.0	68.3	71.1	77.1	124	88.2	91
May.....	71.3	67.1	72.9	73.2	87.3	66.3	60.9	87.8	73.4	79.1	89.2	62.8	66.5	68.9	75.1	121	86.9	86
June.....	70.0	65.4	72.4	71.9	87.8	65.4	58.1	87.4	77.5	77.9	88.6	61.8	64.7	68.5	74.0	118	85.9	80
July.....	70.0	64.9	73.1	71.8	89.2	65.4	58.2	87.5	75.8	77.3	88.0	61.0	64.3	69.5	74.0	119	86.9	79
August.....	70.2	63.5	73.7	72.3	88.5	64.2	62.3	87.1	75.4	75.5	87.5	58.5	64.1	68.3	74.6	120	85.9	75
September.....	69.1	60.5	72.9	72.0	84.8	62.9	63.3	87.2	74.9	74.8	84.7	58.4	62.7	66.3	74.0	119	85.6	72
October.....	68.4	58.8	72.6	71.4	82.2	61.5	63.4	86.5	74.3	74.1	83.2	59.0	61.5	64.7	73.7	119	84.9	68
Monthly average, January through October:																		
1929.....	97.0	105.4	100.0	92.9	109.4	94.3	81.5	104.8	97.3	94.5	96.8	80.6	97.9	95.8	96.7	156	99.9	138
1930.....	87.8	90.7	91.5	86.2	101.5	82.4	77.1	96.3	91.3	89.4	96.2	74.7	86.3	83.9	89.5	149	96.7	120
1931.....	71.9	66.5	74.7	73.7	87.0	66.4	63.2	87.9	78.4	78.7	88.5	61.9	66.5	69.5	76.1	123	87.3	83

¹ Department of Labor.² Department of Agriculture.³ National Industrial Conference Board.

Employment

A DECLINE of more than the usual seasonal proportions was recorded in factory employment during October, the seasonally adjusted index thereby receding slightly from the September figure to a new low for the depression. The unadjusted volume of wage payments to factory workers declined by almost 4 per cent from September to October.

The petroleum and rubber products industries were the only groups recording employment increases after seasonal adjustments are made. Declines in employment after seasonal adjustments are made were recorded by the following industrial groups: iron and steel, machinery, textiles, food, paper and printing, lumber, automobiles, leather, cement, clay and glass, nonferrous metals, chemicals, except petroleum, and tobacco.

During the first 10 months of the year factory employment averaged about 15 per cent under the same period last year, and 26 per cent under 1929. Pay rolls during the 10 months were 25 per cent under 1930 and 38 per cent under 1929.

A seasonal increase in employment and volume of pay rolls occurred in retail trade during October; the increase in employment from September was about the same as that recorded for the corresponding period last year. The average number of employees in retail trade during the first 10 months of the year was about 7 per cent less than during the same period last year, while pay rolls averaged about 10 per cent lower.

Both employment and pay rolls of bituminous coal mines increased from September, but the increases were smaller than those normally recorded at this season of the year. The same items for anthracite mining, on the other hand, exceeded the normal increase for the period. Bituminous coal mining employment during the first 10 months of the year averaged about 11 per cent under the same period last year, and employment in anthracite mining averaged 13 per cent under the previous year.

Both employment and pay rolls of power, light, and water companies decreased during October as compared with September. The index of employment decreased by 2.1 per cent, while pay rolls decreased by 1.2 per cent. A similar decrease was recorded during the corresponding period last year. The telephone and telegraph group reported a decline in employment of 1.1 per cent during October as compared with September, and a drop of 0.5 per cent in volume of pay rolls for the same period. Employment and pay rolls of both of these utility groups were materially under October last year.

The proportion of trade-union members employed during October was the same as for the previous three months, 74 per cent. Trade-union employment, however, was more than 6 per cent under October, 1930, and 17 per cent under 1929.

STATISTICS OF EMPLOYMENT, PAY ROLLS AND WAGES

Year and month	Factory employment F. R. B.		F. R. B. factory pay rolls, unad- justed	Bituminous coal mining		Anthracite mining		Power, light, and water		Telephone and telegraph		Retail trade		Employ- ment agencies, appli- cants per 100 jobs	Employ- ment, trade- union mem- bers	Wages, com- mon labor in road build- ing
	Ad- justed	Unad- justed		Em- ploy- ment	Pay rolls	Em- ploy- ment	Pay rolls	Em- ploy- ment	Pay rolls	Em- ploy- ment	Pay rolls					
	Monthly average, 1923-1925=100											Monthly average, 1929=100	Number			
1929:																
October.....	161.3	103.3	110.9	98.8	106.8	106.1	133.9	105.7	106.0	101.9	105.1	101.7	102.6	127	89.0	40
1930:																
October.....	82.2	84.3	80.8	91.8	79.4	99.0	117.2	104.8	105.6	94.5	100.9	95.5	95.1	193	79.0	39
November.....	81.1	81.0	75.1	92.5	79.1	97.2	98.0	103.4	103.7	93.0	97.9	98.4	93.8	227	78.0	38
December.....	80.1	78.8	73.7	92.5	77.7	99.1	100.0	103.2	106.3	91.6	101.3	115.1	97.7	219	77.0	37
1931:																
January.....	78.3	76.4	68.4	93.9	73.3	90.6	89.3	99.2	98.6	90.5	96.3	90.0	89.4	224	73.0	36
February.....	77.8	77.3	73.2	91.5	68.3	89.5	101.9	97.8	99.7	89.2	94.8	87.1	86.7	262	73.0	36
March.....	77.9	78.1	74.9	88.8	65.2	82.0	71.3	96.7	102.4	88.6	97.9	87.8	87.5	179	74.0	37
April.....	78.0	77.9	73.6	85.9	68.6	85.2	75.2	97.1	97.6	88.1	95.0	90.1	88.3	177	75.0	35
May.....	77.8	77.1	72.1	82.4	54.4	80.3	76.1	97.6	98.7	87.4	94.1	89.9	88.0	181	75.9	37
June.....	76.0	75.0	67.6	78.4	52.4	76.1	66.7	97.2	98.3	86.9	95.0	89.1	87.6	205	75.0	37
July.....	75.1	73.8	64.4	76.4	50.4	65.1	53.7	96.7	97.4	86.6	93.3	83.9	83.2	209	74.0	36
August.....	74.1	74.2	64.3	77.0	50.6	67.3	56.4	95.9	95.2	85.9	92.3	81.8	80.3	217	74.0	36
September.....	72.8	74.7	61.8	80.4	53.6	80.0	64.9	94.7	94.3	85.0	92.1	86.6	83.5	196	74.0	34
October.....	79.3	71.4	59.4	81.3	56.2	86.8	91.1	92.7	93.2	84.1	91.6	89.8	84.6	190	74.0	35
Monthly average, Janu- ary through October:																
1929.....		102.0	169.1	99.8	98.6	98.9	96.2	99.3	99.1	99.7	99.5	96.7	97.4	133	88.4	39
1930.....		89.3	90.1	93.6	81.9	92.5	94.6	102.9	104.2	99.0	103.5	93.7	95.0	183	79.0	40
1931.....		75.6	68.0	83.6	58.3	80.3	74.7	98.6	97.6	87.2	94.2	87.6	85.9	183	74.1	36

¹ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

Domestic Trade

RETAIL trade expanded in October, although the unusually warm weather in recent weeks has adversely affected sales of seasonal merchandise. Department store sales increased by somewhat more than the usual seasonal amount, and the adjusted index advanced 2.4 per cent, the first gain since April. The dollar volume of October sales was 16 per cent below a year ago, compared with a cumulative decline for the 10 months of 11 per cent. By districts, the best relative showing was made in Boston, New York, Richmond, and Minneapolis for both the latest month and for the year to date. Stocks of merchandise in department stores increased as is usual at this season of the year, but after adjustment the index has varied but slightly in recent months and in October was 13 per cent below a year ago.

Sales of the two largest mail order houses in October also moved up seasonally, but the decrease as compared with a year ago was 24 per cent as against 16 per cent in September. The expansion in sales of 5-and-10 cent stores in October amounted to 18 per cent, which was somewhat less than the usual gain, and the adjusted index was off 2.6 per cent. Actual sales in the first 10 months of the current year were equal to those in the same period of 1930.

Merchandise l. c. l. car loadings declined after the gain of September, but the adjusted index has shown a downward trend for four months. The adjusted

index in October was 2.4 per cent below September and 11 per cent below a year ago. For the 10 months to date, such loadings were off 10 per cent from the corresponding months of 1930.

Commercial failures are usually more numerous in October than in the months immediately preceding, but the total last month increased to an exceptionally high point as a result of adverse financial and business developments. After decreasing steadily since April, the number of failures increased 22 per cent over September, 1931, and 11 per cent over October, 1930. Liabilities involved were 76 per cent greater than in the preceding month and were the largest since January. For the first 10 months of this year average monthly failures increased 7 per cent as compared with a year ago, and average monthly liabilities were one-eighth greater.

Magazine and newspaper advertising continued the seasonal upward trend in October. Magazine lineage increased 19 per cent and newspaper lineage 14 per cent over the preceding month, but the cumulative total for the 10 months was 22 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively, below a year ago. Postal receipts have been moving upward since August, and in October were 11 per cent below a year ago. Average monthly receipts for the elapsed 10 months of the current year have been 9.2 per cent below the same period of 1930 and 13 per cent below the 1929 level.

DOMESTIC TRADE STATISTICS

Year and month	Department store sales		Department store stocks		Freight car loadings, merchandise, l. c. l.		Five-and-ten cent-store sales		Mail-order sales, 2 houses	Postal receipts, 50 selected cities	Commercial failures		Advertising lineage		Money order value, paid
	Unad-justed ¹	Ad-justed ²	Unad-justed ¹	Ad-justed ²	Unad-justed ¹	Ad-justed ²	Unad-justed ¹	Ad-justed ²			Fail-ures	Liabil-ities	Maga-zine	News-paper	
Monthly average, 1923-1925=100										Thousands of dollars	Num-ber	Thou-sands of doll.	Thou-sands of lines	Mill-ions of lines	Thou-sands of doll.
1929: October.....	122	112	112	101	109	104	176	150	79,256	35,743	1,822	31,314	3,050	119	107,699
1930:															
October.....	112	102	101	92	97	93	168	151	68,878	32,279	2,124	56,297	2,527	98	90,647
November.....	113	98	104	92	94	92	159	158	55,713	28,379	2,031	55,261	2,488	89	79,934
December.....	155	94	85	91	86	92	298	153	72,486	38,572	2,525	83,683	2,265	82	91,923
1931:															
January.....	79	97	78	88	83	90	124	161	41,459	29,172	3,316	94,608	1,585	76	78,273
February.....	80	98	81	86	87	89	127	163	39,422	26,405	2,563	59,608	1,992	72	70,935
March.....	92	97	87	84	89	89	144	159	43,608	30,178	2,604	60,337	2,203	90	81,747
April.....	101	106	85	83	91	88	160	168	52,078	29,257	2,386	50,868	2,421	89	90,646
May.....	97	97	85	83	92	89	155	167	50,070	27,844	2,248	53,371	2,375	88	81,956
June.....	90	95	80	82	89	89	147	161	40,480	26,442	1,993	51,656	2,191	86	79,311
July.....	65	91	75	81	87	88	139	147	45,093	24,578	1,983	60,998	1,613	67	76,365
August.....	67	88	76	79	86	86	142	159	43,064	23,389	1,944	53,025	1,316	67	71,622
September.....	87	84	84	81	88	85	141	155	45,955	26,335	1,936	49,256	1,603	77	74,679
October.....	94	86	88	89	87	83	167	151	52,280	28,618	2,362	70,669	1,911	88	88,227
Monthly average, January through October:															
1929.....	101	-----	99	-----	106	-----	148	-----	57,127	31,467	1,968	26,374	2,676	102	89,227
1930.....	95	-----	94	-----	98	-----	145	-----	53,450	29,978	2,189	52,934	2,453	89	84,305
1931.....	85	-----	-----	-----	88	-----	145	-----	43,185	27,222	2,334	59,544	1,921	79	-----

¹ Corrected to average daily sales.² Adjusted for seasonal variation.³ End of month figures.

S8026—31—2

Foreign Trade

UNITED STATES exports during October increased approximately 14 per cent in value as compared with the exports in September, while imports fell off about 1 per cent. The gain in the former was only slightly less than the normal seasonal increase of 16 per cent, but the drop in imports was contrary to a normal upswing of 7 per cent. The export merchandise balance in October was \$36,000,000.

Exports of gold in October—\$398,600,000—represented in part amounts earmarked for foreign account during September. Gold imports of \$60,900,000 were 26 per cent greater than the imports in September. Exports of gold were shipped largely to France, Netherlands, Switzerland, and Belgium, whereas imports originated in Japan, Argentina, Canada, Sweden, and China, in the order mentioned.

A decline in our exports of industrial machinery during October and the relatively small seasonal expansion in shipments of leaf tobacco were important factors in the less-than-seasonal increase in the value of merchandise exports. Although quantity exports of cotton were considerably lower than the average for the corresponding month of the period 1925 to 1929, inclusive, they were larger than in October, 1930, and showed about the normal increase over shipments in September. Leaf-tobacco exports amounted to only

49,200,000 pounds in comparison with 78,300,000 pounds in the corresponding period of 1930. Shipments of wheat, which had been comparatively small for the first three quarters of 1931, increased considerably during October. Exports to China (including Hong Kong and Kwantung) were heavy, amounting to 4,300,000 bushels, or 36 per cent of the total shipments. Exports of apples and both canned and evaporated fruits showed the usual fall expansion.

Although the decline in the value of exports during October, 1931, in comparison with the corresponding period of 1930, was smaller than the decrease recorded during the two months immediately preceding, it amounted to approximately 37 per cent. Quantity shipments of tobacco, copper, rubber manufactures, cotton cloth, lumber, iron and steel, gasoline, various classes of machinery and automobiles, were considerably smaller and sharp recessions in the price of unmanufactured cotton as well as of practically all other commodities contributed very substantially to the drop in value.

In import trade for the period January–October, 1931, as compared with the corresponding period of 1930, our quantity purchases of coffee, cocoa, and raw silk increased, while crude rubber, cane sugar, newsprint and unmanufactured wool fell off only slightly.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

Year and month		Exports, including reexports)	Exports of United States merchandise											General imports				
			Crude materials		Foodstuffs				Finished manufactures					Total	Crude materials	Foodstuffs	Semi-manufactures	Finished manufactures
			Total	Raw cotton	Total	Wheat and flour	Meats and fats	Fruits and preparations	Semi-manufactures	Total	Machinery	Automobiles, parts, and accessories	Gasoline					
Millions of dollars																		
1929: October.....	528.5	174.3	128.9	71.8	19.5	16.1	18.6	64.6	211.7	52.9	32.7	26.3	391.1	126.5	52.3	82.3	100.0	
1930:																		
October.....	326.9	104.8	64.8	47.2	11.3	9.8	17.1	38.0	132.7	30.8	14.5	21.8	247.4	77.5	56.0	45.6	68.3	
November.....	289.0	90.9	59.3	45.6	7.8	11.6	17.5	33.1	115.8	33.2	14.1	12.4	203.6	59.2	48.4	38.3	57.8	
December.....	274.9	76.7	47.2	40.5	6.3	9.8	15.1	33.9	119.7	36.1	15.3	13.7	208.6	69.1	52.3	38.1	49.2	
1931:																		
January.....	249.6	58.6	31.2	35.5	4.9	12.2	10.7	34.5	117.1	37.7	14.4	13.8	183.1	59.4	42.1	35.9	44.8	
February.....	224.3	47.7	25.4	29.5	3.2	10.6	8.9	27.5	116.1	44.0	16.1	10.6	174.9	56.4	46.1	31.5	41.2	
March.....	235.9	56.5	33.0	33.0	3.9	10.1	10.7	31.4	110.3	29.4	18.5	8.4	210.2	64.0	56.6	39.8	49.2	
April.....	215.1	40.0	22.9	28.2	5.7	8.5	6.4	30.6	111.1	31.1	18.0	10.7	185.7	54.7	51.9	33.4	45.7	
May.....	204.0	36.5	18.9	29.4	7.4	7.8	6.5	29.9	103.5	26.6	14.2	12.5	179.7	54.7	49.6	30.4	45.5	
June.....	187.1	29.1	13.5	28.7	8.8	7.1	5.7	24.5	97.7	28.3	12.8	7.2	173.5	52.4	47.2	29.8	44.2	
July.....	180.7	28.3	13.5	32.3	11.6	6.8	7.6	28.0	88.3	22.7	11.5	9.0	174.5	50.0	47.1	30.0	47.5	
August.....	164.8	25.5	9.9	28.1	7.0	6.4	8.0	23.9	84.1	20.4	10.7	8.8	166.7	47.7	45.4	28.3	45.3	
September.....	180.2	44.4	23.5	28.4	6.7	6.3	9.2	21.4	83.2	24.7	8.7	7.2	170.4	52.9	35.1	30.3	52.0	
October.....	265.0	63.6	39.8	39.3	8.8	7.1	16.2	21.2	77.3	20.2	8.5	7.2	163.7	52.4	36.8	29.0	50.5	
Cumulative, January through October:																		
1929.....	4,372.2	871.6	573.4	628.9	157.3	169.2	109.3	622.7	2,177.8	512.2	488.1	223.8	3,751.1	1,321.5	827.3	761.1	841.2	
1930.....	3,279.3	661.4	390.2	455.1	143.4	132.7	77.1	445.9	1,663.4	448.7	224.5	224.5	2,648.7	873.8	593.0	531.8	650.1	
1931.....	2,046.7	430.3	234.7	312.3	68.1	82.9	90.0	276.2	987.9	284.9	133.2	95.1	1,787.4	544.6	457.6	319.2	466.0	

¹ Reexports of foreign merchandise during October, 1931, were \$3,515,000.

Transportation

COMMODITY distribution during October, as reflected by the average daily total freight-car loadings, was of about the same proportions as during September and the seasonally adjusted index of the Federal Reserve Board was unchanged from the September figure. Average daily loadings during October were 20 per cent under October, 1930, and 34 per cent under 1929. The average monthly car loadings during the first 10 months of the year were 19 per cent under the corresponding period in 1930 and 29 per cent under 1929.

The daily average movement of merchandise in less-than-carload lots during October decreased by about 1 per cent, and the seasonally adjusted index of the Federal Reserve Board was 2 points below the September figure. October loadings of merchandise were about 10 per cent under October, 1930, and 20 per cent under 1929. During the first 10 months of the current year the average monthly merchandise movement by the railroads was 10 per cent under the same period in 1930, and 17 per cent under 1929. Coal and coke was the only commodity group to register a material increase in car loadings as compared with September, after corrections are made for the number of business

days in the two months. During the first 10 months of the year 18 per cent less loadings of coal and coke were reported than for the corresponding period in 1930. Car loadings of ore during the 10-month period were only about one-half those during the same period last year.

The number of idle freight cars was the lowest since November of last year. A drop in number of idle cars was recorded from September to October, although an increase is usual at this season of the year. While the October surplus was the smallest of the year so far, it was still 132,000 cars, or 33 per cent, above the number of idle cars on hand during October, 1930. The October surplus was 24 per cent under the peak recorded in December, 1930.

Monthly payments of dividends by railroads during the first 10 months of the year averaged \$38,810,000, compared with \$43,280,000 during the same period in 1930 and \$33,980,000 in 1929.

The seasonal decrease in traffic tonnage through the Sault Ste. Marie Canal which started in September was continued through October. Traffic through the Cape Cod Canal increased by 12 per cent as compared with the September tonnage.

RAIL AND WATER TRAFFIC

Year and month	Freight-car loadings										Freight-car surplus	Dividend payments, steam railways	Canal and river traffic				Panama Canal traffic, both directions	Ocean traffic clearances, American ports
	F. R. B. index		Total	Merchandise, l.c.l.	Grain and products	Livestock	Coal and coke	Forest products	Ore	Miscellaneous			Canals			River		
	Ad-justed (1)	Unad-justed (1)											Sault Ste. Marie	New York State	Cape Cod	Missis-sippi (Govt. owned barges)		
Monthly average, 1923-1925=100		Thousands of cars ¹								Thous. of dollars	Thousands of short tons				Thous. of long tons	Thous. of net tons		
1929: October.....	104	118	5,752	1,357	224	183	1,060	314	286	2,321	124	45,500	11,213	491	244	137	1,244	3,041
1930:																		
October.....	86	97	4,751	1,206	201	161	917	107	189	1,874	403	44,160	9,654	608	230	103	1,133	2,651
November.....	84	85	4,127	1,133	190	140	852	174	92	1,546	580	38,560	8,130	390	225	83	1,069	2,501
December.....	84	74	2,784	820	143	94	638	121	22	946	707	30,600	312	0	225	108	953	1,991
1931:																		
January.....	82	74	3,491	997	196	124	817	156	26	1,175	647	55,600	0	6	234	76	953	1,843
February.....	80	74	2,836	842	165	88	584	138	22	997	651	44,900	0	0	166	70	804	1,685
March.....	80	75	2,940	886	153	79	555	138	23	1,105	622	45,500	0	0	163	83	910	1,773
April.....	80	77	2,986	899	151	85	486	130	29	1,296	603	38,100	922	349	203	82	929	2,092
May.....	79	79	3,736	1,097	180	106	611	165	80	1,496	616	32,500	4,335	457	217	100	937	2,525
June.....	77	77	2,991	876	140	75	465	125	119	1,192	596	34,000	6,615	385	203	86	828	2,241
July.....	76	78	2,931	830	220	71	452	106	139	1,113	564	41,560	7,611	506	211	104	820	2,742
August.....	72	76	3,747	1,069	228	106	617	138	175	1,413	574	33,500	8,385	425	186	104	859	2,734
September.....	69	78	2,908	841	149	96	516	104	121	1,081	564	26,500	7,126	587	198	107	884	2,478
October.....	69	78	3,813	1,081	193	145	755	133	102	1,415	535	36,000	6,248	505	221	105	930	2,420
Monthly average, January through October:																		
1929.....		108	4,567	1,129	208	119	814	285	215	1,796	203	38,980	8,519	254	178	112	1,236	2,685
1930.....		94	3,991	1,049	198	108	711	211	158	1,555	432	43,280	6,746	322	205	96	1,124	2,746
1931.....		77	3,238	942	177	98	586	132	84	1,219	598	38,810	4,127	321	200	92	892	2,254

¹ Daily average basis.

² Data for January, May, August, November, and October are for 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

Construction

CONSTRUCTION activity during October was marked by a slight increase in residential building, although this revival was confined to only a few sections of the country. The construction of public works and utilities declined from that of the previous month, as did other classes of nonresidential building, and the total value of all types of construction showed a decrease from that in September, although the measurable volume was slightly larger. The seasonal decline in the production, shipments, and new orders of important building materials continued, and the index of construction costs dropped to a new low. Building-material prices for both frame and brick houses showed an increase over those of the previous month.

The total volume of all types of construction contracts awarded increased 2 per cent from September, 1931, but was 22 per cent less than in October, 1930. The total value declined 4 per cent from September and 28 per cent from that of October, 1930. For the 10 months of 1931, volume and value decreased 27 and 30 per cent, respectively, compared with a year ago.

Residential building increased 17 per cent in terms of the total number of square feet and 11 per cent in value from September, but a comparison with October a year ago shows a decline of 32 per cent in volume and 42 per cent in value. During the first 10 months of this year the value decreased 23 per cent from that of the same period in 1930. The value of contracts awarded for public works and utilities fell 3.1 per cent below that of September and was 27 per cent less than in October, 1930.

The shipments of maple flooring declined 14 per cent from those in September, but were only 6.3 per cent less than in the same month last year. Oak flooring shipments declined 6.6 per cent, and cement production fell off 11 per cent from the preceding month. New orders for fabricated structural steel were 44 per cent less than in September.

The index of construction costs (composed of the prices of structural steel shapes, cement, lumber, and the rates paid common labor) declined 0.9 per cent, but building material prices for frame and brick houses rose 1.3 and 0.6 per cent, respectively.

BUILDING MATERIALS, CONSTRUCTION, AND REAL ESTATE

Year and month	Building contracts awarded							Building materials				Building material prices			Real-estate market activity—deeds recorded	Long-term real-estate bonds			
	F. R. B. index (3 months moving average of values unadjusted)	All types of construction		Residential building		Public works and utilities		Maple flooring	Oak flooring	Cement	Fabricated structural steel	Frame house	Brick house	Construction cost, Eng. News-Rec.		Total	To finance new construction		
		Monthly average 1923-1925=100	Millions of square feet	Millions of dollars	Millions of square feet	Millions of dollars	Thousands of square feet	Millions of dollars	Thousands of feet, board measure	Production	New orders	Thousands of barrels	Thousands of short tons	First of month, monthly average 1913=100				Monthly average 1926=100	Thousands of dollars
1929: October	194	65.6	446	23.8	137.7	1,229	87.9	6,687	32,987	16,731	320	178	183	206.3	85.8	19,275	13,875		
1930:																			
October	75	39.5	337	22.3	104.7	339	113.0	2,886	20,649	14,410	209	171	176	198.7	74.0	6,635	1,210		
November	68	33.1	254	18.8	83.8	468	76.4	2,554	15,844	11,098	151	165	172	198.5	64.6	9,965	1,535		
December	59	29.1	249	14.7	70.9	697	73.6	1,811	17,152	8,480	153	168	174	196.9	68.9	29,877	530		
1931:																			
January	58	24.6	228	12.2	54.4	393	95.2	2,351	18,365	6,595	162	163	170	194.5	66.6	4,520	2,850		
February	68	28.3	235	15.6	77.9	246	78.6	2,676	21,713	5,920	158	165	171	196.6	66.7	3,590	1,500		
March	77	38.0	370	22.1	160.9	522	151.7	3,017	26,243	8,245	184	163	170	194.5	61.7	2,015	1,000		
April	82	39.4	337	22.6	95.9	785	133.0	3,226	28,155	11,245	293	157	167	191.6	62.0	7,235	1,700		
May	73	38.9	306	21.9	88.9	387	108.0	3,315	27,745	14,010	153	160	167	189.3	61.3	9,485	0		
June	74	35.0	332	16.9	72.7	2,367	154.5	3,778	23,131	14,118	177	158	166	187.4	58.4	3,425	1,000		
July	68	33.8	286	15.9	63.9	1,233	116.3	3,447	25,091	13,899	159	155	164	174.4	61.1	775	600		
August	63	30.6	233	14.1	60.2	737	73.0	3,397	21,464	13,549	124	156	163	171.4	59.8	2,100	565		
September	60	30.1	251	13.0	54.6	353	85.1	3,114	19,486	12,092	107	154	161	171.4	66.785	395			
October	52	39.7	242	15.2	60.5	171	82.5	2,763	18,263	10,762	110	159	162	169.5	9,135	500			
Monthly average, January through October:																			
1929	123	60.6	594	34.9	168.8	990	131.3	6,235	39,818	14,493	269	177	182	206.7	85.1	31,796	12,738		
1930	97	44.8	402	19.6	95.0	1,314	149.6	3,883	26,683	14,133	239	174	178	203.9	71.3	13,123	5,493		
1931	65	32.9	282	17.1	73.0	719	107.9	3,105	23,020	11,044	172	159	166	184.1	10,966	1,011			

Agriculture

MARKETING of animal products during October increased by slightly more than the usual seasonal amount. The combined index recorded a rise of 4.6 per cent, but part of this advance is discounted by the low revised figure for September. The index for October was 1 per cent below the same month last year, and the monthly average for the first 10 months of the current year was less than 1 per cent under the same period in 1930.

Wool receipts fell off sharply, due largely to a reaction from the high level of the last five months. The monthly average to date still exceeds 1930, by a margin of 3.5 per cent. Livestock marketing reached the high point of the year and brought the monthly average to a level less than 2 per cent below a year ago. Poultry, eggs, dairy products, and fish receipts all declined. The index for fish marketing was 12 per cent below the revised figure for September and was the second marked monthly recession. Average receipts for January through October were 4 per cent higher than last year for poultry and eggs, 2 per cent higher for dairy products, and 22 per cent lower for fish.

Crop marketings in October continued to increase seasonally, but the combined index for the month was 24 per cent below October of last year. Cotton receipts were more than double the September amount

and partially absorbed the loss resulting from the less than seasonal gain of the last two months. Fruits, which did not record the usual seasonal grain in September, reached a high for the year. This is only partially a seasonal increase, and extended the gain in the monthly average over a year ago.

The November 1 estimate of wheat production in the United States, made by the Department of Agriculture, showed no change from October, and remained at 884,000,000 bushels. The 1931 potato crop is expected to exceed last year's somewhat scant yield by 39,000,000 bushels and is estimated at 1,000,000 bushels in excess of the 1925-1929 average. No improvement is anticipated in the light crops of hay and feed grains.

Of the citrus fruit crops, it is estimated that oranges will be less plentiful than a year ago except in the case of the Texas output and Florida Satsumas. California and Florida grapefruit will probably be more abundant and the lemon crop will approximate the high output of last year. Due to dry weather the movement of Florida fruit has been late and to date is considerably below 1930.

The index of stocks of meat in cold storage decreased 21 per cent during October, and reached the lowest point of the year. This was the usual seasonal decline, but the monthly index was 5 per cent below October of last year.

INDEXES OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AND STOCKS

Year and month	Indexes of marketing											Indexes of stocks, end of month		
	Animal products						Crops							
	Com- bined index	Wool	Liv- e-stock	Poultry and eggs	Dairy products	Fish	Com- bined index	Grains	Vege- tables	Fruits	Cotton	Wheat, visible supply, United States	Meats, cold- storage	Cotton, United States
	Monthly average, 1923-1925=100													
1929: October.....	102.6	52.2	112.8	85.4	90.7	187.2	238.6	102.9	171.2	245.2	372.8	345.3	76.4	176.9
1930:														
October.....	96.7	79.1	108.0	79.2	82.2	172.0	212.1	82.6	168.4	219.0	327.5	349.8	55.7	234.8
November.....	88.5	84.5	88.0	121.6	77.8	146.2	148.8	72.3	89.6	109.0	240.6	344.8	62.3	264.9
December.....	97.8	57.1	93.9	137.8	92.7	98.9	105.8	79.8	79.4	67.1	144.9	333.3	76.9	266.8
1931:														
January.....	94.7	25.3	96.2	95.0	96.4	103.4	74.3	81.0	98.0	70.2	64.0	335.8	100.1	254.2
February.....	85.5	50.8	79.8	94.0	91.3	116.2	66.8	84.6	91.1	68.1	45.1	343.7	114.0	235.8
March.....	94.0	61.9	79.6	121.8	102.9	169.4	64.4	80.0	104.3	75.1	38.6	352.7	111.8	216.4
April.....	101.2	78.2	82.6	137.0	113.1	174.3	53.1	63.9	93.3	70.6	29.8	339.8	114.8	196.9
May.....	106.7	197.1	80.2	125.6	130.9	138.5	62.0	69.0	135.6	102.2	28.3	336.4	110.8	179.5
June.....	118.0	405.4	77.9	115.6	156.6	144.5	55.2	68.6	165.8	88.8	9.1	324.7	105.8	162.3
July.....	105.2	573.2	72.6	88.6	123.6	161.2	103.0	182.9	103.4	139.3	22.6	370.4	98.7	146.8
August.....	94.3	259.6	82.5	88.0	96.3	180.3	83.9	130.0	64.1	154.6	29.2	413.5	83.3	140.1
September.....	91.5	125.1	88.3	88.4	90.5	160.1	119.3	70.8	163.2	129.2	152.1	407.7	66.6	188.1
October.....	55.7	59.5	104.2	86.4	86.5	149.5	161.9	80.5	131.9	191.1	233.4	393.4	52.7	231.0
Monthly average, Jan- uary through Octo- ber:														
1929.....	100.2	142.0	87.3	100.1	110.8	181.6	155.8	107.4	123.4	114.7	98.1	242.9	116.7	111.4
1930.....	99.4	176.4	85.8	100.5	106.3	192.8	95.5	97.5	117.0	101.7	87.1	276.6	92.8	154.5
1931.....	98.7	182.5	84.4	194.9	108.8	149.8	84.4	92.0	109.1	108.9	65.2	361.8	95.9	200.1

Iron and Steel Industry

SEASONAL factors, which usually cause an upturn in activity in the iron and steel industry in October, were lacking last month, and operations continued to recede, although at a slackened pace. Measured by the adjusted index of the Federal Reserve Board, production in the industry declined 6.5 per cent, the smallest relative decline since May. Actual output of pig iron and steel ingots increased slightly for the first time since March, but in each case the daily average output was smaller than in the preceding month. Operations in the steel industry were at the rate of 28 per cent of capacity, the same as in September, but in the first three weeks of November the rate advanced to 30 per cent.

Maintenance of the extremely low rate of operations was reflected in a contra-seasonal recession in both employment and pay rolls, although the latter index was also affected by the wage reductions effective October 1. Employment, after making allowance for the seasonal trend, declined 1.8 per cent, as compared with September, while the unadjusted index of pay rolls was off 2.9 per cent.

Unfilled orders of the United States Steel Corporation declined during the month and while the drop was

small, its main significance lies in the fact that it was the first decrease reported for the month since 1923. Bookings of the corporation at the end of the month were 10 per cent below a year ago and 24 per cent below the same month of 1929. The index of new orders for the industry declined sharply during October to the lowest level reached so far. Specifications from some of the leading outlets, particularly the railroad, building, and automotive industries, have been in small volume. The index of structural-steel orders declined to a new low, following the substantial gain in September. The decline in the index of new orders for the 10 months compared with a year ago was 34 per cent, while structural steel orders dropped 28 per cent.

Iron and steel exports again declined in October and were 16 per cent below the preceding month and 55 per cent below October, 1930. Imports were off, but the recession in imports this year has not been as severe as in the export trade. Prices have been easier and the composite iron and steel price has recently eased off to \$30.63, against a September average of \$31.03. Scrap prices have increased only slightly from the low reached at the end of October.

IRON AND STEEL STATISTICS

Year and month	General operations				Iron and steel		Steel ingots		Fabricated structural steel		United States Steel Corporation, unfilled orders end of month	Manganese ore imports (Manganese content)	Prices				
	F. R. B. index (adjusted) ¹	Rate of operations, electric energy consumption	Employment adjusted	Pay rolls unadjusted	Exports	Imports	Pig-iron production	Production	Per cent of capacity	New orders			Shipments	Steel billets, Bessemer (Pittsburgh)	Iron and steel composite	Structural steel beams	Composite finished steel
Monthly average, 1923-1925=100					Thousands of long tons				Per cent	Thousands of short tons		Thousands of long tons		Dolls. per long ton		Dolls. per 100 pounds	
1929: October.....	124	144.8	99.1	107.9	218	50	3,588	4,534	86	320	324	4,087	25	35.00	36.27	1.90	2.51
1930:																	
October.....	74	126.0	81.3	75.8	132	30	2,165	2,693	50	209	239	3,482	18	31.00	32.31	1.60	2.22
November.....	65	106.5	80.2	68.9	112	35	1,867	2,212	44	151	195	3,640	10	31.00	31.95	1.60	2.20
December.....	59	110.2	79.1	66.7	102	24	1,666	1,980	38	153	168	3,944	29	30.60	31.76	1.60	2.19
1931:																	
January.....	64	103.4	77.5	62.4	93	34	1,714	2,450	43	162	172	4,132	17	30.00	31.70	1.63	2.22
February.....	73	116.5	75.9	67.5	91	22	1,707	2,592	49	158	166	3,965	10	30.00	31.65	1.65	2.22
March.....	78	119.4	76.6	70.0	110	33	2,032	2,994	54	184	151	3,995	2	30.00	31.66	1.65	2.23
April.....	75	108.1	76.5	69.1	101	41	2,020	2,722	49	203	158	3,898	33	30.00	31.61	1.65	2.22
May.....	72	106.8	74.8	64.9	91	30	1,994	2,505	45	153	148	3,620	21	29.50	31.39	1.65	2.21
June.....	64	86.6	72.6	57.6	76	31	1,639	2,076	38	177	162	3,479	37	29.00	31.02	1.65	2.19
July.....	59	83.1	72.1	52.4	84	28	1,493	1,886	34	159	182	3,405	38	29.00	31.05	1.65	2.20
August.....	51	78.0	70.3	50.6	73	22	1,281	1,719	31	124	169	3,169	22	29.00	31.05	1.60	2.19
September.....	45	78.3	67.4	45.2	70	25	1,160	1,548	28	197	150	3,145	27	29.00	31.03	1.60	2.20
October.....	43	76.3	66.2	43.9	59	23	1,172	1,592	28	110	146	3,119	21	29.00	30.81	1.60	2.18
Monthly average, January through October:																	
1929.....	137	154.9	99.5	107.9	258	48	3,627	4,789	94	309	280	4,139	28	34.63	36.58	1.93	2.55
1930.....	100	127.0	88.6	87.7	177	36	2,787	3,509	68	239	262	4,041	24	32.05	33.90	1.73	2.34
1931.....	63	95.7	73.0	58.4	85	29	1,619	2,290	40	172	160	3,593	23	29.45	31.30	1.63	2.21

¹ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

Chemical Industries

CHEMICAL industry developments in October were characterized by a slightly increased activity in certain seasonal products. Employment in the industry declined slightly during the month, according to the Federal Reserve Board indexes. The present level of employment is about 15 per cent under a year ago and almost 30 per cent below the high record employment in October, 1929, the decline from that point having been fairly regular from month to month. Pay rolls in October maintained the slight gain recorded for September, but did not show the small seasonal rise which is normal in the fall.

Stocks of manufactured chemicals and oils rose sharply, but seasonally, in October as compared with the revised September estimate. While stocks in October of this year are higher than at this time in several years past, the average for the first ten months of this year was below that of last year. Stocks of chemical and oil raw materials rose 21 per cent in October as compared with the unusually low stocks of September, present stocks being still about 10 per cent below the quantities on hand at this time in several years past.

Wood rosin production increased slightly in October as is usual at this season. The present level of production is, however, 25 per cent below that of a year ago

and 36 per cent below two years ago. Wood turpentine production also increased slightly, though seasonally, in October, with the present output below that of this season one and two years ago by 33 per cent and 49 per cent, respectively.

Alcohol production increased more than seasonally in October, though still 13 per cent under a year ago.

The production of by-product coke increased a little in October as is customary at this time of year. The present level of production is below that of October a year ago by 30 per cent and under that of two years ago by 48 per cent.

Fertilizer consumption in the Southern States, which shows large seasonal fluctuations, increased slightly in October, although there is usually a seasonal decline at this time. Present consumption is, however, about 10 per cent under that of the last two years at this season.

Imports of potash salts and nitrate of soda declined in October, although imports of potash salts usually increase greatly and of nitrate soda slightly at this season. Imports of potash salts in October were about a third less than those of a year ago, and were almost 60 per cent less than imports two years ago at this season. Nitrate of soda imports for the month were 20 per cent greater than a year ago.

CHEMICALS STATISTICS

Year and month	General operations					Ethyl alcohol	Explosives	Rosin, wood	Turpentine, wood	Superphosphates	By-product coke	Arsenic, refined	Fertilizer	Potash salts	Nitrate of soda
	Employment F. R. B. Indexes			Stocks											
	Ad-justed	Unad-justed	Pay-rolls, unad-justed	Manu-fac-tured goods	Raw ma-terials										
Monthly average, 1923-1925=100					Thous. of gals.	Thous. of lbs.	Barrels		Thous. of short tons		Short tons	Thous. of short tons	Long tons		
1929: October.....	115.8	116.1	118.2	120.7	134.3	25,426	42,198	40,903	7,640	350	4,605	1,036	163	122,011	54,821
1930:															
October.....	101.1	101.4	99.9	125.1	132.7	18,455	34,113	34,818	5,817	336	3,468	1,265	106	73,945	27,207
November.....	98.3	98.6	96.1	124.2	128.3	20,861	30,248	38,931	6,584	303	3,114	1,508	61	19,706	35,474
December.....	97.9	97.8	94.7	123.9	124.2	17,770	24,024	34,332	6,200	336	3,055	1,439	74	25,324	35,512
1931:															
January.....	96.6	96.2	90.4	128.8	107.7	11,869	24,056	24,488	4,757	326	3,092	1,570	343	41,663	45,890
February.....	94.5	95.6	92.9	130.7	103.2	8,859	28,751	32,332	5,634	249	2,398	1,469	640	33,822	68,421
March.....	89.8	93.3	89.8	132.0	96.5	11,929	25,414	33,544	5,740	226	3,256	1,596	1,352	60,394	120,164
April.....	91.7	96.7	92.0	129.0	91.5	11,162	27,647	35,585	6,344	195	3,146	964	1,132	30,206	67,068
May.....	93.0	91.4	88.4	129.3	88.4	13,120	26,960	33,593	5,996	162	3,126	1,644	195	17,706	34,006
June.....	89.6	86.7	84.1	123.3	87.0	25,981	34,747	5,675	146	2,715	1,024	74	74	14,650	29,711
July.....	89.4	86.2	82.9	119.2	86.7	11,975	25,068	28,495	4,370	143	2,569	997	25	67,958	18,809
August.....	86.6	84.4	80.4	117.4	85.3	12,363	24,548	17,074	2,607	162	2,443	1,238	40	65,043	35,367
September.....	85.7	86.0	80.8	121.0	90.5	12,952	26,598	25,058	3,797	142	2,310	1,252	91	66,440	48,590
October.....	85.4	85.7	80.8	130.4	120.7	16,637	26,102	3,922	2,389	2,389	2,389	2,389	94	69,071	33,968
Monthly average, January through October:															
October:															
1929.....		112.2	113.2	120.6	107.4	16,950	37,164	37,223	6,889	296	4,492	886	534	68,100	82,184
1930.....		105.8	105.6	129.8	106.8	12,854	32,789	40,682	7,057	336	3,905	994	535	78,885	49,691
1931.....		90.2	86.3	126.1	96.7	12,252	29,162	4,884	2,794	2,794	2,794	2,794	399	44,795	50,193

¹ Average of 9 months.

Automobiles and Rubber

SCHEDULES of production in the automobile industry were reduced in October by a margin greatly in excess of that usually recorded at this season. The adjusted production index of the Federal Reserve Board stood at the lowest level recorded in recent years and was 43 per cent below October a year ago. The monthly average for January through October is 29 per cent lower than the figure for the same months in 1930 and 59 per cent below the high level of 1929. Passenger-car output continued its decline of the previous five months and was approximately half the already low product of September. Truck production, which had remained fairly steady for three months, also declined sharply and registered a loss for the month of 31 per cent.

Employment in the automotive industry decreased 19 per cent in October, according to the seasonally adjusted index of the Federal Reserve Board. Pay rolls, however, remained practically the same, indicating an increase in working hours. The unadjusted pay-roll index fell less than 1 per cent while the unadjusted employment index declined 21 per cent. In the first two weeks of November some improvement was apparent from the employment index of the

Detroit Board of Commerce, which rose from 41.7 to 50.

The export of trucks was the most active section in the entire industry. Total trucks shipped abroad during October exceeded all months since April and the number was 10 per cent greater than shipments in October of last year. Passenger car exports, on the contrary, were less than half the total for October, 1930, and the average monthly exports for January through October were 46 per cent below the same months a year ago.

Pneumatic tire production in September was 19 per cent less than in the preceding month and only slightly under September, 1930. During September domestic shipments in the industry also receded from the August total. The Federal Reserve Board adjusted index of October employment in the rubber products industries recorded a small gain. The unadjusted pay-roll index declined 2 per cent.

Following three successive decreases the importation of crude rubber gained in volume during October. The total import receipts were 6 per cent above the amount recorded for September but 9 per cent below October, 1930.

AUTOMOBILE AND RUBBER STATISTICS

Year and month	Automobile production					Automobile exports		Automobile accessories, shipments	Automobile financing		Pneumatic tires		Crude rubber		
	F. R. B. index, ad-justed	United States				Canada	Passen-ger cars		Trucks	By whole-sale dealers	By con-sumers	Pro-duction	Do-mestic ship-ments	Im-ports	World stocks, end of month
		Total	Pas-sen-ger cars	Taxi-cabs	Trucks	Total pro-duction									
Monthly av-erages, 1923=1925=100	Thousands	Number					January, 1925=100	Millions of dollars	Thousands	Long tons					
1929: October.....	113	380	318	868	60,687	14,523	19,931	11,512	91	64	126	3,689	3,520	38,454	282,837
1930:															
October.....	49	154	113	582	40,593	4,541	7,136	4,079	79	36	81	2,866	2,613	45,375	425,423
November.....	74	137	101	609	35,613	5,407	6,039	6,039	63	30	60	2,123	2,119	29,733	427,427
December.....	85	156	121	1,425	33,443	5,622	9,096	5,102	55	36	66	2,261	2,550	37,370	439,728
1931:															
January.....	63	172	138	512	33,531	6,466	8,304	4,534	46	40	62	2,940	2,855	36,598	460,479
February.....	68	220	180	529	39,521	9,871	9,187	4,187	53	50	66	3,188	2,580	34,374	471,285
March.....	67	276	231	410	45,161	12,993	11,526	6,092	65	63	92	3,730	3,143	40,788	487,716
April.....	77	337	286	665	50,022	17,159	11,228	6,499	66	71	113	3,955	3,804	44,908	487,696
May.....	78	317	271	340	45,688	12,738	8,468	4,498	61	73	109	4,543	4,197	35,844	497,707
June.....	65	251	210	360	40,241	6,835	5,843	4,340	61	58	105	4,538	4,320	46,939	496,238
July.....	60	218	184	180	34,317	4,220	6,478	3,518	57	49	96	3,941	4,244	44,052	509,139
August.....	52	187	155	104	31,772	4,544	5,699	2,356	66	44	80	3,125	3,845	59,033	511,750
September.....	40	141	109	141	31,338	2,646	4,577	4,171	66	36	68	2,538	3,034	38,653	512,774
October.....	28	80	58	651	21,727	1,410	3,207	4,596	-----	26	61	-----	-----	41,398	556,874
Monthly average, January through October:															
1929.....	145	502	431	1,446	69,543	24,838	31,168	17,396	86	61	144	4,983	4,823	47,668	259,436
1930.....	84	306	255	690	50,219	14,316	13,793	7,380	72	60	108	3,640	3,616	41,842	388,487
1931.....	60	220	182	389	37,332	7,894	7,452	4,361	-----	51	85	-----	-----	40,367	497,166

Textile Industry

THE increased activity in the textile industry registered in September was not maintained in October, and, although the index of the Federal Reserve Board adjusted for seasonal variations in October was 7 per cent below its 1923-1925 average, it was 2 per cent higher than in the same month of last year. Consumption of raw cotton in October was about the same as in September.

Production of 300 classifications or constructions of carded cotton cloths, representing output of a very large proportion of the industry, averaged nearly 57,000,000 yards per week in October, 4.3 per cent more than in September, and the largest weekly output for any month since June. Sales of these cloths in October averaged 45 per cent larger per week than in September, and were 47 per cent more than production. The increase of 117,500,000 yards in unfilled orders considerably more than offset the increase in stocks of 10,900,000 yards; unfilled orders on October 31 represented 6 weeks of production at the current rate of activity, although they were slightly lower than on October 31, 1930. Prices of cotton goods were steady during October, at a level about 25 per cent lower than a year ago.

Wool receipts at Boston in October declined for the second successive month, which was not unusual at that time of the year, and were 24.4 per cent less than in October of last year; the accumulated wool receipts at Boston for the first 10 months of 1931 have been only 2.7 per cent less than during the same period of 1930. The price of territory, fine, staple wool at Boston averaged 58 cents per pound in October as compared with 62 cents in the preceding month and 75 cents per pound in October of last year. Spinning activity in the woolen and worsted industry was at a much lower rate in October than in September, 1931. As compared with the average for the first 10 months of last year the rate of activity from January to October, 1931, averaged higher in both the woolen and worsted industries.

Raw silk deliveries to American mills in October were 8.4 per cent less than in October of last year, but were the largest quantities received by mills in any one month since November, 1930. Wholesale prices of Japanese, double, extra cracks, raw silk at New York changed only slightly from September to October, 1931. Wholesale prices of rayon did not change during that period.

TEXTILE STATISTICS

Year and month	F. R. B. index, adjusted	Cotton, raw		Cotton manufactures						Wool		Wool manu- factures		Silk	Rayon, wholesale price, A grade, bleached
		Mill consump- tion	Stocks, mills and warehouses, end of month	Spindle activity, total	Cotton textiles (23 groups of textile constructions)				Wholesale price, Fairchild com- posite	Receipts, at Bos- ton, total	Price, territory fine, staple, scoured (Bos- ton)	Spinning spindles		Deliveries to mills	
					Produce- tion ¹	Ship- ments ¹	Stocks, end of month	Unfilled orders, end of month				Woolen	Worsted		
	Month- ly av- erage, 1923- 1925 = 100	Bales	Thou- sands of bales	Mil- lions of spindle hours	Thousands of yards				Month- ly av- erage, 1911- 1913 = 100	Thou- sands of pounds	Dol- lars per pound	Per cent of ac- tive hours to total reported	Bales	Dol- lars per pound	
1929: October.....	118	639,759	6,652	9,006	283,064	265,450	362,657	395,698	160	12,148	0.90	78	72	57,489	1.15
1930:															
October.....	91	443,284	8,829	6,243	228,866	270,383	350,889	350,845	124	12,739	.75	53	62	61,937	.95
November.....	93	415,315	9,962	5,825	206,633	200,661	356,861	333,251	124	6,240	.72	52	52	57,333	.95
December.....	87	405,518	10,031	5,924	234,052	226,951	363,962	288,956	122	11,574	.72	45	52	55,424	.95
1931:															
January.....	86	450,117	9,557	6,365	202,149	210,597	355,514	317,465	120	10,795	.68	48	52	55,910	.75
February.....	93	433,376	8,864	6,122	212,168	248,354	319,328	395,802	119	13,269	.66	66	54	54,242	.75
March.....	97	490,509	8,136	7,000	271,638	317,185	273,781	373,951	121	13,279	.66	57	57	55,383	.75
April.....	98	508,691	7,404	7,125	225,955	217,582	282,154	294,118	119	17,775	.65	55	57	41,356	.75
May.....	98	465,363	6,748	6,733	225,392	205,603	301,943	248,544	115	30,341	.63	60	66	45,073	.75
June.....	97	453,901	6,102	6,630	260,163	273,871	288,235	330,575	112	56,743	.62	61	73	42,161	.75
July.....	102	450,884	5,520	6,528	192,545	211,331	269,449	277,597	111	79,381	.62	64	83	44,746	.75
August.....	100	425,819	5,266	6,193	209,050	227,644	250,855	217,508	100	36,850	.63	66	78	46,454	.75
September.....	100	463,704	7,072	6,540	272,118	278,049	244,924	227,167	95	18,707	.62	63	70	53,819	.75
October.....	93	462,025	10,566	6,595	227,116	216,207	255,833	344,639	95	9,628	.58	53	49	56,668	.75
Monthly average, January through October:															
1929.....	118	605,605	4,188	8,531	293,850	296,759	368,283	414,780	162	27,651	1.00	81	68	52,503	1.25
1930.....	91	455,606	5,809	6,493	237,904	248,916	434,220	307,323	136	29,486	.77	57	55	46,947	1.07
1931.....	96	460,439	7,524	6,583	229,829	240,642	284,202	302,737	136	28,677	.64	59	64	49,581	.75

¹ Months do not contain same number of weeks.

Food Industries

PRODUCTION in the food products industry declined slightly during October, according to the adjusted index of the Federal Reserve Board. The October level corresponded to the average monthly figure, from January through October of the current year. The monthly average for the first 10 months was 4 per cent below last year and 9 per cent below 1929. After remaining comparatively steady for three months, the Federal Reserve Board's adjusted index of employment in the food industries declined. The October index was 2 per cent lower than that recorded for September and 6 per cent below October of last year. The monthly average to date is 7 per cent under the average for the first 10 months of 1930 and 11 per cent below a similar period in 1929. The level of wholesale prices in the industry remained steady and receded only a fraction of 1 per cent for the month of October. Prices were 18 per cent below October of last year, while the monthly average for the first 10 months of 1931 was also 18 per cent lower than during the same period a year ago.

Wheat receipts at the principal markets continued in October the seasonal decline of the two preceding months. The total receipts for the month were 14 per

cent above the same month in 1930, and brought the average for the first 10 months of 1931 to 8 per cent above a similar period last year. The visible supply of wheat in the United States at the end of October was 3 per cent less than the amount recorded a month earlier. Exports were 25 per cent above October of last year and reached the same level as October, 1929.

October receipts of corn at primary markets increased sharply from the extremely low figure of the preceding month, but the 10-month average was 29 per cent below last year. The visible corn supply in the United States increased slightly during October. The decline in price of the last four months, evidenced by No. 3 yellow at Chicago, continued during October. The price fell to a low mark for the year and was 54 per cent lower than that quoted for the same month a year ago.

Cattle receipts at principal markets recorded a delayed seasonal increase. Hog receipts continued the gain of last month which was also seasonal. The total volume of hogs received was slightly greater than the figure for October, 1930.

Raw sugar imports in October had a further decrease, while coffee imports were greater after a decline of two months.

FOODSTUFFS STATISTICS

Year and month	Food products in- dustry			Crop marketings	Animal products, market- ings	Wheat				Corn			Animal products			Total raw sugar imports	Coffee imports	
	F. R. R.		Wholesale prices			Receipts, principal markets	Visible supply, United States, end of month	Exports, including flour	Price, wtd. average, 6 markets, all grades	Receipts, principal markets	Visible supply, United States	Price, No. 3 yellow, Chicago	Cattle receipts	Hog receipts	Total meats, cold- storage, end of month			
	Production adjusted	Employment adjusted																
Monthly average, 1923-1925=100		Monthly av- erage 1926=100	Monthly average, 1923-1925=100	Millions of bushels				Dollars per bushel	Millions of bushels		Dollars per bushel	Thousands		Millions of pounds	Thousands of long tons	Thousands of bags		
1929: October.....	96	99.8	101.2	238.6	102.6	36	203	15	1.24	18	4	.95	2,407	3,701	732	349	1,004	
1930:																		
October.....	94	90.9	88.6	212.1	96.7	29	205	12	.76	15	5	.82	2,377	3,441	534	360	1,159	
November.....	94	91.4	85.7	148.8	88.5	25	202	8	.70	17	7	.71	1,696	3,439	597	344	957	
December.....	89	90.8	81.8	105.8	97.8	22	196	6	.73	27	17	.69	1,736	4,002	737	312	1,098	
1931:																		
January.....	93	91.2	80.1	74.3	94.7	29	197	6	.71	19	18	.65	1,508	4,652	959	204	1,094	
February.....	92	90.3	77.1	66.8	85.5	31	202	4	.71	21	20	.61	1,303	3,704	1,092	364	1,289	
March.....	87	89.9	76.7	64.4	94.0	31	207	5	.71	19	22	.60	1,535	3,207	1,072	515	1,407	
April.....	96	90.6	75.6	53.1	101.2	21	200	7	.75	17	20	.58	1,617	3,067	1,100	415	1,126	
May.....	91	90.8	72.9	62.0	106.7	31	198	10	.76	11	12	.56	1,551	2,938	1,062	373	1,415	
June.....	83	88.7	72.4	55.2	118.0	30	191	12	.67	13	8	.58	1,540	2,854	1,014	382	1,037	
July.....	88	88.1	73.1	103.0	105.2	104	218	17	.47	16	9	.57	1,488	2,511	946	413	1,100	
August.....	88	88.1	73.7	83.9	94.3	61	243	12	.51	11	8	.46	1,821	2,454	798	532	884	
September.....	92	87.5	72.9	119.3	91.5	39	239	12	.56	8	6	.42	1,797	2,727	638	330	794	
October.....	90	85.5	72.6	161.9	95.7	33	231	15	.58	14	7	.38	2,137	3,462	505	269	907	
Monthly average, January through October:																		
1929.....	99	99.8	100.0	105.8	100.2	42	143	12	1.17	22	19	.95	1,694	3,591	1,118	517	945	
1930.....	94	95.6	91.5	95.5	99.4	38	162	13	.96	21	12	.84	1,673	3,333	890	388	1,005	
1931.....	90	89.1	74.7	84.4	98.7	41	213	10	.64	15	13	.54	1,630	3,158	919	374	1,105	

Forest Products

LUMBER production in October, according to the adjusted index of the Federal Reserve Board, continued the steady decline which has been taking place since last May. Present production, which is down to 35 per cent of the 1923-1925 average, represents a decline of 35 per cent from that of October, 1930, and about 60 per cent from production two years ago.

Employment and pay rolls both declined more than seasonally in October. Employment has been declining steadily since the summer of 1929, the present level being approximately 22 per cent below October a year ago and less than half of the 1923-1925 average. Pay rolls have been declining more rapidly than employment, reflecting wage readjustments in the industry and part-time employment; in October, 1930, the index for pay rolls (1923-1925 average = 100) was 3 per cent less than that for employment and in October of this year pay rolls were 21 per cent below.

Marketing of forest products increased seasonally in October, being now about 9 per cent less than a year ago and 38 per cent under average marketings in 1923-1925. Naval stores, or gum, marketings in October increased slightly as compared with the revised estimate for September, whereas there is usually a small seasonal decrease at this time.

Southern pine production remained steady at 117,000,000 board feet in October, which is 45 per cent

below production at this time a year ago. New orders declined to 135,000,000 board feet, which is about 37 per cent less than new orders at this time in 1930. Unfilled orders dropped to the lowest in many years, being about 47 per cent below the October, 1930, figure.

Douglas fir production declined sharply in October (the estimate for this month includes an extra week) to 150,000,000 board feet, the lowest yet recorded. This is about 28 per cent less than production a year ago and 52 per cent less than two years ago. New orders likewise declined to a new low point in October and at present are about 26 per cent below those of a year ago and less than half those of October, 1929. Unfilled orders, which reached a record low point, were 41 per cent off from a year ago and only a little more than a quarter of unfilled orders two years ago.

Production of hardwoods remained steady in October as compared with the preceding month, but present output is 33 per cent less than a year ago and 65 per cent less than two years ago. New orders have remained about the same for several months, while unfilled orders rose somewhat in September but declined again in October.

Car loadings of forest products increased about 20,000 cars from the low point recorded in September.

FOREST PRODUCTS STATISTICS

Year and month	General operations			Indexes of marketing		Southern pine			Douglas fir ¹			Hardwoods			Car-loadings, forest products	Furniture, unfilled orders, southeastern district
	Lumber production adjusted F. R. B.	Employment, adjusted	Pay roll, unadjusted	Total forest products	Naval stores	Production	New orders	Unfilled orders	Production	New orders	Unfilled orders	Production	New orders	Unfilled orders		
Monthly average 1923-1925=100						Millions of feet board measure									Thousands of cars	Dollars per firm
1929: October.....	89	87.2	96.8	89.1	130.1				312	304	296	296	281	660	254	
1930:																
October.....	54	62.1	60.4	68.1	143.1	211	213	109	208	203	138	158	154	466	197	29,117
November.....	47	60.4	54.7	62.9	112.9	185	177	105	192	186	176	143	133	452	174	19,917
December.....	50	58.8	50.4	58.0	117.7	157	146	99	167	189	188	134	125	456	121	14,400
1931:																
January.....	49	56.3	44.0	55.9	37.1	165	191	116	160	192	183	143	169	456	156	31,781
February.....	45	56.3	45.6	55.8	25.5	154	171	107	179	189	182	158	188	481	138	34,160
March.....	50	55.7	46.2	60.9	39.7	165	174	121	186	217	197	165	173	473	138	29,798
April.....	49	55.4	44.9	64.0	98.3	165	169	104	202	224	216	146	154	463	130	28,248
May.....	50	55.4	45.7	68.3	136.5	148	158	84	207	189	136	146	158	431	165	19,338
June.....	49	54.4	44.6	67.4	189.9	127	140	83	200	191	163	143	176	419	125	56,865
July.....	44	52.0	41.7	65.6	186.7	122	147	83	149	181	166	109	139	402	106	47,997
August.....	40	51.1	41.3	66.3	141.5	120	151	82	172	188	111	101	131	375	138	47,706
September.....	38	49.4	40.3	59.3	111.9	117	138	74	155	159	125	105	131	587	104	42,180
October.....	35	48.4	38.2	62.0	114.0	117	135	58	150	151	81	105	131	374	123	22,100
Monthly average, January through October:																
1929.....	92	89.1	91.6	87.3	123.3				330	339	332	313	308	646	279	
1930.....	71	71.2	68.4	69.0	123.9	237	229	155	250	247	209	214	178	564	211	39,039
1931.....	45	53.4	43.3	62.6	108.1	140	157	91	176	188	156	132	155	426	132	36,017

IMPORTS OF FERTILIZER AND FERTILIZER MATERIALS ¹

[Long tons]

Months	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
Total										
January.....	72,077	210,426	266,623	199,363	224,139	152,659	231,522	195,387	240,130	137,172
February.....	69,220	142,350	232,558	197,963	277,525	119,897	300,524	289,414	257,596	141,421
March.....	78,927	222,955	227,361	298,781	326,592	184,813	324,468	221,443	287,555	255,905
April.....	92,641	193,032	111,783	246,939	211,540	150,861	224,681	226,883	177,327	143,250
May.....	97,472	134,685	96,247	174,002	92,781	75,462	157,773	204,007	87,994	72,159
June.....	116,515	72,625	53,592	101,946	45,120	74,732	126,526	107,023	89,547	59,970
July.....	183,270	116,740	87,271	152,467	109,527	151,602	160,447	159,486	164,546	97,358
August.....	158,793	153,820	109,445	202,576	155,499	249,862	277,363	201,655	157,732	127,599
September.....	80,599	145,123	141,028	215,088	124,412	188,724	198,575	154,569	160,784	146,700
October.....	122,573	169,616	172,517	153,457	159,728	181,202	183,737	237,113	150,656	120,822
November.....	151,735	110,360	189,944	164,581	163,978	140,414	163,666	149,843	95,798	-----
December.....	115,492	195,134	204,511	161,365	191,781	148,710	185,788	162,942	107,198	-----
Total.....	1,393,334	1,857,866	1,892,880	2,268,528	2,082,622	1,818,938	2,535,070	2,309,775	1,976,893	-----
Nitrogenous										
January.....	13,616	129,314	186,444	111,578	134,899	73,197	110,722	132,527	143,191	82,466
February.....	21,051	102,634	161,670	118,294	186,361	59,497	181,898	193,550	136,211	98,435
March.....	26,267	141,874	136,017	221,506	210,460	129,617	242,099	142,573	165,811	170,587
April.....	32,732	112,952	79,352	177,081	140,909	121,680	164,489	148,628	105,471	102,342
May.....	66,016	117,860	78,639	149,813	64,736	62,349	131,132	144,335	58,205	46,602
June.....	53,893	38,058	40,977	68,973	21,816	52,117	91,578	80,395	34,962	37,998
July.....	37,726	65,967	57,688	87,226	32,365	69,230	59,219	67,356	43,350	24,730
August.....	48,199	65,727	74,514	107,684	71,728	100,596	122,448	75,109	35,949	47,935
September.....	57,984	68,966	81,897	75,727	56,497	100,327	75,543	63,366	49,791	70,022
October.....	91,631	80,763	105,227	83,922	66,843	98,340	87,189	97,566	65,859	61,904
November.....	124,377	50,339	89,841	106,063	69,090	95,239	86,521	82,574	66,044	-----
December.....	61,312	120,190	85,310	64,390	88,285	97,738	122,920	98,609	68,250	-----
Total.....	634,805	1,089,524	1,177,576	1,372,167	1,143,899	1,050,927	1,475,758	1,326,994	973,115	-----
Phosphates										
January.....	1,491	4,139	8,233	4,017	3,155	8,733	9,468	5,304	7,807	6,279
February.....	1,868	3,683	1,701	1,312	3,437	8,806	21,164	8,524	8,896	3,726
March.....	447	4,604	3,234	1,260	11,960	9,645	10,740	5,036	15,874	15,158
April.....	1,307	7,466	4,293	2,380	7,974	6,530	8,931	6,773	6,240	5,578
May.....	1,014	2,757	929	4,079	1,971	3,453	5,415	14,924	5,025	4,832
June.....	2,697	2,003	5,736	1,948	5,294	10,041	8,111	12,182	17,482	3,339
July.....	1,261	7,976	2,805	3,963	3,169	7,415	11,811	4,666	4,074	3,768
August.....	3,445	11,261	1,306	3,823	11,672	10,083	13,421	13,043	6,707	9,858
September.....	4,389	4,863	4,930	3,415	5,452	4,368	9,423	5,212	3,603	6,175
October.....	7,146	7,067	8,138	3,025	5,150	11,506	8,560	5,641	6,922	3,331
November.....	1,873	5,727	1,728	4,229	3,916	13,168	11,520	10,769	4,157	-----
December.....	10,176	5,800	2,075	2,906	5,569	8,107	14,383	12,740	9,766	-----
Total.....	37,105	67,346	45,128	36,357	68,710	101,915	132,847	104,814	96,547	-----
Potash										
January.....	42,763	73,717	63,770	82,037	82,114	67,044	105,765	46,184	85,188	41,663
February.....	38,576	32,701	67,327	77,207	85,925	47,817	89,528	77,156	106,200	33,822
March.....	43,999	72,338	84,693	71,536	99,250	46,048	65,664	64,433	92,208	60,394
April.....	43,919	67,360	25,215	63,279	61,081	19,344	45,814	56,791	55,119	30,206
May.....	19,260	11,773	13,925	14,240	24,704	6,624	17,384	35,543	18,828	17,706
June.....	52,613	31,330	6,328	29,827	15,836	11,154	15,820	9,975	34,616	14,650
July.....	136,383	41,421	26,087	59,710	71,094	74,355	83,854	83,661	113,423	67,958
August.....	100,695	74,476	32,706	86,154	65,269	135,965	137,924	101,873	106,209	65,043
September.....	11,366	75,018	53,007	130,405	57,511	80,354	107,601	83,374	103,113	66,440
October.....	17,853	70,657	54,588	63,386	69,714	66,447	79,161	122,011	73,945	50,671
November.....	18,758	52,604	88,932	52,627	88,184	29,321	55,362	50,198	19,706	-----
December.....	41,237	62,061	115,441	90,229	95,032	38,636	38,679	46,710	25,324	-----
Total.....	567,422	665,456	632,019	820,637	815,714	623,109	842,556	777,909	833,879	-----
Other Fertilizer										
January.....	14,207	3,256	8,176	1,731	3,971	3,685	5,567	11,372	3,944	6,764
February.....	7,725	3,332	1,860	1,240	1,802	3,717	7,934	9,778	6,289	5,438
March.....	8,214	4,139	3,417	4,479	4,922	8,503	5,965	9,401	13,662	9,766
April.....	14,682	5,254	2,923	4,199	1,576	3,397	5,447	14,691	10,497	5,124
May.....	11,182	2,295	2,754	5,870	1,370	3,036	3,842	9,205	5,936	3,019
June.....	7,312	1,234	551	1,198	2,174	1,420	11,017	4,471	2,487	3,983
July.....	7,900	1,376	691	1,568	2,899	602	5,563	3,803	3,699	902
August.....	6,454	2,356	919	4,915	6,830	3,218	3,670	11,640	8,876	4,763
September.....	6,869	1,336	1,174	5,541	5,042	3,675	6,008	2,617	4,277	4,663
October.....	5,943	2,189	4,564	3,124	18,021	4,909	8,827	11,895	3,930	5,516
November.....	6,747	1,690	9,443	1,662	2,788	2,686	10,263	6,302	5,891	-----
December.....	2,767	7,083	1,685	3,840	2,904	4,229	9,806	4,883	3,564	-----
Total.....	106,002	35,540	38,157	39,367	54,299	42,987	83,969	100,058	73,352	-----

¹ Compiled by the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The item "Other Fertilizer" represents the total imports of Nitrophoska, lime-stone ground and pulverized for agricultural purposes, prepared fertilizer mixtures, and substances used chiefly for fertilizer not elsewhere specified.

Monthly Business Statistics

The following table contains a summary of the monthly figures designed to show the trend in important industrial and commercial movements. These data represent continuations of the figures presented in the 1931 Annual Supplement to the Survey of Current Business, in which monthly figures for the past seven years may be found, together with explanations as to the sources and basis for the figures quoted. The figures given below should always be read in connection with these explanations. For later data, which have become available since these data were compiled, see recent Weekly Supplements to the Survey.

CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Industrial indexes.....	22	Commodity groups—Continued.	
Wholesale prices.....	23	Rubber and rubber products.....	40
Commodity groups:		Stone, clay, and glass.....	41
Automobiles.....	25	Textiles.....	42
Chemicals and allied products.....	26	Tobacco.....	44
Foodstuffs.....	28	Miscellaneous.....	44
Forest products.....	32	Fuels.....	44
Leather and leather products.....	33	Distribution movement.....	45
Iron and steel.....	34	Foreign trade.....	47
Machinery.....	36	Employment and wages.....	48
Nonferrous metals.....	37	Construction.....	50
Paper and paper products.....	38	Public utilities.....	50
Printing.....	40	Finance.....	52

Earlier data for items shown here may be found in the 1931 Annual Supplement to the Survey	1931										1930		
	October	September	August	July	June	May	April	March	February	January	December	November	October
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION													
Federal Reserve Board													
Total, unadjusted.....rel. to 1923-25.....	76	77	78	80	83	89	90	89	87	82	78	85	90
Total, adjusted.....rel. to 1923-25.....	74	76	79	83	84	89	89	87	86	82	82	84	87
Manufactures, total unadjusted.....rel. to 1923-25.....	73	76	77	79	82	90	91	91	88	81	76	84	88
Manufactures, total adjusted.....rel. to 1923-25.....	72	76	79	83	84	89	89	87	85	81	80	84	85
Automobiles.....rel. to 1923-25.....	28	40	52	61	65	77	77	67	68	63	85	74	49
Cement.....rel. to 1923-25.....	83	95	102	108	112	96	90	81	80	84	83	86	97
Food products.....rel. to 1923-25.....	90	92	88	88	83	91	96	87	92	93	89	94	94
Iron and steel.....rel. to 1923-25.....	43	46	51	59	64	72	75	78	73	64	69	65	75
Leather and shoes.....rel. to 1923-25.....	86	97	104	101	101	107	102	92	87	77	81	80	89
Lumber.....rel. to 1923-25.....	35	38	40	44	49	50	49	50	45	49	50	47	54
Nonferrous metals.....rel. to 1923-25.....	65	65	64	65	68	73	73	77	79	78	85	87	95
Paper and printing.....rel. to 1923-25.....	104	105	109	108	108	113	110	110	111	107	101	103	107
Petroleum refining.....rel. to 1923-25.....	161	165	162	161	163	161	152	149	144	149	149	151	160
Polished plate glass.....rel. to 1923-25.....	55	72	91	91	91	112	117	119	111	90	65	91	101
Auto tires and tubes.....rel. to 1923-25.....	79	90	112	126	123	107	107	98	94	88	73	77	88
Textiles.....rel. to 1923-25.....	93	100	100	102	97	101	98	97	93	86	87	93	91
Tobacco manufactures.....rel. to 1923-25.....	112	118	118	122	133	137	134	131	132	121	128	119	129
Minerals, total unadjusted.....rel. to 1923-25.....	82	82	85	85	84	83	82	82	84	86	89	85	104
Minerals, total adjusted.....rel. to 1923-25.....	85	77	79	84	85	86	92	87	83	80	84	82	98
Anthracite.....rel. to 1923-25.....	91	65	61	57	66	71	84	72	89	93	93	83	105
Bituminous coal.....rel. to 1923-25.....	71	70	74	74	74	75	77	76	73	77	75	86	87
Copper.....rel. to 1923-25.....	60	59	59	59	67	68	69	70	73	72	76	83	83
Crude petroleum.....rel. to 1923-25.....	119	107	122	122	122	122	121	112	110	110	111	114	115
Iron-ore shipments.....rel. to 1923-25.....	42	51	59	55	46	27	0	0	0	0	0	51	74
Lead.....rel. to 1923-25.....	68	67	61	64	60	78	71	79	82	83	92	83	94
Silver.....rel. to 1923-25.....	40	40	45	42	46	51	54	63	62	68	71	73	70
Zinc.....rel. to 1923-25.....	47	49	49	49	54	54	61	65	65	65	68	70	90
Industrial Consumption of Electrical Energy													
Consumption by geographic sections:													
United States.....rel. to 1923-25.....	97.1	100.4	97.3	97.9	101.7	109.8	106.4	108.2	110.3	97.6	99.1	105.4	103.2
New England.....rel. to 1923-25.....	87.5	97.0	89.9	100.0	98.4	104.4	109.4	105.8	105.5	90.2	86.3	96.3	93.2
North Central.....rel. to 1923-25.....	87.4	92.6	90.0	92.1	102.7	109.2	105.0	105.7	109.0	100.2	99.0	100.6	107.3
Middle Atlantic.....rel. to 1923-25.....	103.3	104.0	99.5	95.7	91.5	101.3	97.6	102.8	108.0	96.6	97.5	103.5	99.6
Southern.....rel. to 1923-25.....	113.2	113.8	112.8	117.5	114.3	118.2	108.6	117.5	130.6	105.8	116.4	113.4	118.4
Western.....rel. to 1923-25.....	102.2	102.3	108.8	96.8	108.4	119.1	114.0	115.7	120.0	111.0	99.9	121.3	116.1
Consumption by industries:													
All industry.....rel. to 1923-25.....	97.1	100.4	97.3	97.9	101.7	109.8	106.4	108.2	110.3	97.6	99.1	104.3	103.2
Automobiles, including repair parts.....rel. to 1923-25.....	57.4	53.7	43.6	55.9	71.3	89.7	90.8	94.1	88.9	67.5	71.5	74.9	80.9
Electrical apparatus and equipment.....rel. to 1923-25.....	128.5	129.8	128.0	130.1	130.8	132.0	136.7	124.3	149.0	144.7	132.4	137.5	140.6
Food and kindred products.....rel. to 1923-25.....	136.5	142.0	146.4	147.0	136.2	126.8	122.0	116.8	112.9	118.3	107.1	124.4	137.2
Leather and its products.....rel. to 1923-25.....	81.8	81.9	77.1	83.8	85.4	81.0	83.9	71.2	76.1	71.6	68.7	73.0	84.9
Lumber and its products.....rel. to 1923-25.....	82.2	82.2	70.4	76.9	86.3	97.2	91.5	93.2	84.2	82.6	73.3	86.5	77.1
Metals group.....rel. to 1923-25.....	73.0	76.2	75.0	74.5	81.5	98.5	99.5	112.2	114.0	97.4	102.3	99.5	101.2
Metal-working plants.....rel. to 1923-25.....	71.0	75.0	73.3	69.3	78.6	94.0	94.6	103.5	112.3	95.0	97.8	80.6	87.0
Rolling mills and steel plants.....rel. to 1923-25.....	76.3	78.3	78.0	83.1	86.6	106.8	108.1	119.4	116.5	103.4	110.2	106.5	126.0
Paper and pulp.....rel. to 1923-25.....	113.0	138.3	121.7	104.0	112.4	135.1	109.6	123.0	127.0	111.8	117.0	112.3	120.0
Rubber and its products.....rel. to 1923-25.....	82.8	88.0	98.5	97.4	121.0	122.3	109.0	109.6	122.0	106.5	84.3	95.3	99.0
Shipbuilding.....rel. to 1923-25.....	84.5	88.9	85.6	82.0	84.8	88.7	92.5	98.3	114.8	113.9	99.0	105.5	121.5
Stone, clay, and glass.....rel. to 1923-25.....	113.4	113.9	105.0	104.8	118.7	132.0	116.5	105.1	102.6	75.3	100.6	106.2	106.3
Textiles.....rel. to 1923-25.....	98.2	98.7	95.0	98.2	100.5	103.7	100.0	97.3	99.3	86.4	89.8	87.0	85.4

Revised.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

Earlier data for items shown here may be found in the 1931 Annual Supplement to the Survey	1931										1930		
	October	September	August	July	June	May	April	March	February	January	December	November	October
FINANCE—Continued													
Stocks and Bonds—Continued													
Stocks—Continued													
Stock sales, N. Y. Stock Exchange.....thous. of shares..	47,895	51,140	24,890	33,540	58,719	48,661	54,335	65,494	64,145	52,543	58,764	51,946	65,497
Stock yields:													
Preferred high-grade industrial (20).....per cent..	6.40	6.03	5.80	5.77	5.85	5.71	5.59	5.54	5.61	5.66	5.77	5.62	5.52
Total common (90).....per cent..	7.28	6.51	5.74	5.66	5.96	5.95	5.43	4.95	5.12	5.50	5.62	5.43	5.65
Industrials (50).....per cent..	7.49	6.63	5.94	5.89	6.26	6.23	5.89	5.17	5.35	5.73	5.79	5.69	5.39
Public utilities (20).....per cent..	5.74	5.11	4.36	4.33	4.47	4.42	4.04	3.60	3.89	4.26	4.37	4.16	3.61
Railroads (20).....per cent..	10.07	9.59	8.15	7.54	7.70	7.91	7.12	6.75	6.29	6.56	7.05	6.46	5.98
New Security Issues													
Bond sales, Canada:													
Total.....thous. of dolls..	446	51,073	1,923	7,133	62,240	666,840	57,994	44,958	39,834	109,864	48,839	69,563	156,873
Corporation.....thous. of dolls..	150	240	400	683	5,085	8,660	3,975	17,054	19,300	2,685	12,355	7,000	33,690
Dominion and provincial.....thous. of dolls..	0	0	0	5,000	33,650	650,141	25,764	8,057	8,000	35,444	7,714	60,009	112,404
Municipal.....thous. of dolls..	246	833	1,523	1,450	13,565	7,039	28,254	18,097	12,534	1,735	2,520	2,563	10,779
Railways.....thous. of dolls..	0	50,000	0	0	0	0	0	1,750	0	70,000	24,250	0	0
Bond sales (U. S.):													
Corporation—													
Total.....thous. of dolls..	17,891	176,264	51,997	155,934	252,918	250,599	456,078	401,229	88,226	580,706	187,644	141,855	212,795
Class of industry—													
Industrial.....thous. of dolls..	2,169	4,550	9,197	15,439	4,350	4,850	95,932	82,400	2,925	69,173	21,839	10,562	44,665
Land and building.....thous. of dolls..	9,625	67,009	2,650	1,651	3,813	10,415	7,577	3,765	6,495	8,021	30,002	15,365	8,740
Oil.....thous. of dolls..	0	0	499	0	5,000	2,099	4,940	2,053	0	1,500	0	4,250	35,750
Public utilities.....thous. of dolls..	2,099	42,000	27,456	133,800	220,416	210,925	305,661	101,393	61,266	324,108	116,778	89,738	104,612
Railroads.....thous. of dolls..	0	60,000	12,265	0	16,113	22,500	6,000	200,018	12,009	175,004	14,250	7,600	5,000
Shipping and miscellaneous.....thous. of dolls..	4,196	2,625	0	2,044	1,228	800	35,568	11,600	2,630	2,960	4,725	14,340	15,058
Purpose of issue—													
New capital.....thous. of dolls..	17,891	156,381	16,197	115,070	131,343	169,360	267,471	260,030	74,251	399,848	180,872	137,622	151,148
Refunding.....thous. of dolls..	500	19,883	5,800	40,864	121,575	81,239	189,207	132,199	13,975	180,858	6,772	4,233	62,647
Type of security—													
Bonds and notes.....thous. of dolls..	14,245	163,399	39,835	153,814	247,034	190,665	354,969	301,758	61,460	535,404	114,135	123,417	183,959
Stocks.....thous. of dolls..	3,646	12,885	12,162	2,120	5,884	60,525	101,709	9,471	26,766	45,302	73,509	18,438	30,136
Bond sales on N. Y. Stock Exchange:													
Miscellaneous.....thous. of dolls..	290,822	267,323	191,035	219,615	252,585	221,256	215,631	238,298	174,535	247,308	250,707	182,906	264,557
Liberty—Treasury.....thous. of dolls..	53,157	38,493	8,673	8,284	15,167	14,431	12,127	8,723	19,911	16,509	15,055	6,610	7,773
Total.....thous. of dolls..	343,979	305,816	199,719	227,899	267,752	235,687	227,758	247,021	194,446	263,817	265,762	189,516	272,330
Foreign governments.....thous. of dolls..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,500	0
Foreign loans in the United States.....thous. of dolls..	0	23,692	0	1,900	38,800	69,184	44,303	13,791	8,707	95,657	22,377	5,662	103,545
States and municipalities:													
Permanent loans.....thous. of dolls..	15,650	121,392	275,813	91,327	120,336	169,022	111,395	279,413	119,589	49,977	97,703	93,982	158,380
Temporary loans.....thous. of dolls..	49,664	102,129	21,522	45,602	30,892	24,745	196,598	64,979	238,436	81,697	76,531	80,422	81,222

* Revised

EXPLANATORY

The Survey of Current Business is designed to present each month a picture of the business situation by setting forth the principal facts regarding the various lines of trade and industry. The figures are very largely those already in existence. The chief function of the Survey is to bring together those data which, if available at all, are scattered in hundreds of different publications. A portion of these data are collected by Government departments, other figures are compiled by technical journals, and still others are reported by trade associations. The Survey of Current Business computes the indexes on total stocks, new orders, agricultural marketings, crop marketings, and unfilled orders based on available data.

SOURCES OF DATA

The sources and inclusiveness of the data appearing in the table "Monthly Business Statistics" will be found noted in the 1931 Annual Supplement to the Survey of Current Business, and the sources of the weekly data are given on page 4 of the February 5, 1931, issue of the Weekly Supplement to the Survey of Current Business.

HISTORICAL DATA

Monthly data on all the various series carried in the Monthly Survey will be found in the 1931 Annual Supplement to the Survey, running back seven years and in some cases eight years. Data previous to that included in the 1931 Annual Supplement will be found in the monthly Surveys prior to 1924.

RELATIVE AND INDEX NUMBERS

To facilitate comparison between different important items and to chart series expressed in different units, relative numbers (often called "index numbers," a term referring more particularly to a special kind of numbers described below) have been calculated. The monthly average for 1923-1925 has usually been used as a base equal to 100.

The relative numbers are computed by allowing the monthly average for the base year to equal 100. If the movement for the current month is greater than the base, the relative number will be greater than 100, and vice versa. The difference between 100 and the relative number will give at once the per cent increase

or decrease compared with the base period. Thus, a relative number of 115 means an increase of 15 per cent over the base period, while a relative number of 80 means a decrease of 20 per cent from the base.

Relative numbers may also be used to calculate the approximate percentage increase or decrease in a movement from one period to the next. Thus, if a relative number for one month is 120 and for a later month is 144, there has been an increase of 20 per cent.

When two or more series of relative numbers are combined by a system of weightings, the resulting series is denominated an index number. The index number, by combining many relative numbers, is designed to show the trend of an entire group of industries, or for the country as a whole, instead of for the single commodity or industry which the relative number covers. Comparisons with the base year or with other periods are made in the same manner as in the case of relative numbers.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENTS TO INDEXES

Seasonal variations are found in most series of economic statistics for which monthly values are obtainable. Consumption and production of commodities, interest rates, bank clearings, railroad freight traffic, and many other types of data are marked by seasonal swings repeated with minor variations year after year. These, in so far as they exist at all, are definitely periodic in character, with a constant 12-month period. In cases where an adjustment is noted for a series carried in the Survey, the index has been corrected for number of working or business days in the various months and then adjusted for seasonal variation. The index figures thereby become comparable throughout the series.

METHODS OF USE

Methods of using and interpreting current business statistics have been collected by the Department of Commerce from many business concerns and are described in a booklet entitled "How to Use Current Business Statistics," together with methods of collecting statistics. This booklet may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 15 cents per copy.

This arrow points to a billion dollars—or more of purchasing power

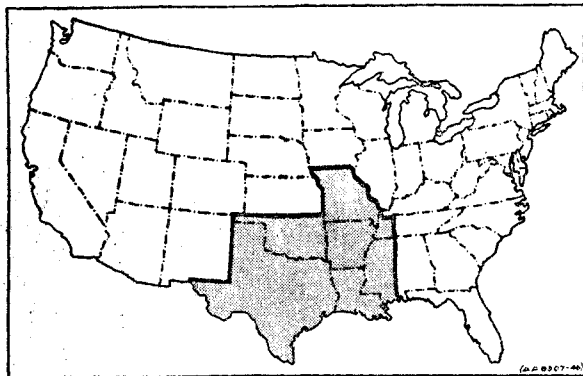
*If you plan to do business in or with the
Gulf Southwest it is very important for
you to keep tabs on this billion*

In other words, the cotton crop of this region is worth annually a billion dollars—or more. It is subject, however, to the vagaries of weather and insect infestation and to price fluctuations, resulting sometimes in a variation of over \$5,250,000 in the income of one county during a 3-year period.

COTTON PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION IN THE GULF SOUTHWEST

a 311-page illustrated volume, gives you the findings of the extensive survey of production and distribution of cotton and cottonseed in this area, conducted by the Domestic Regional Division. To quote the foreword: "All the different factors affecting cotton production are discussed, and, in so far as possible, are correlated with particular production districts."

Income from cotton is estimated on a county basis and expenses such as feed, fertilizer, and hired labor are listed. The relative importance of different markets is revealed.



ISSUED AS DOMESTIC COMMERCE SERIES No. 49
Price 80 cents. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents
United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or
any district office of the United States Department of Commerce