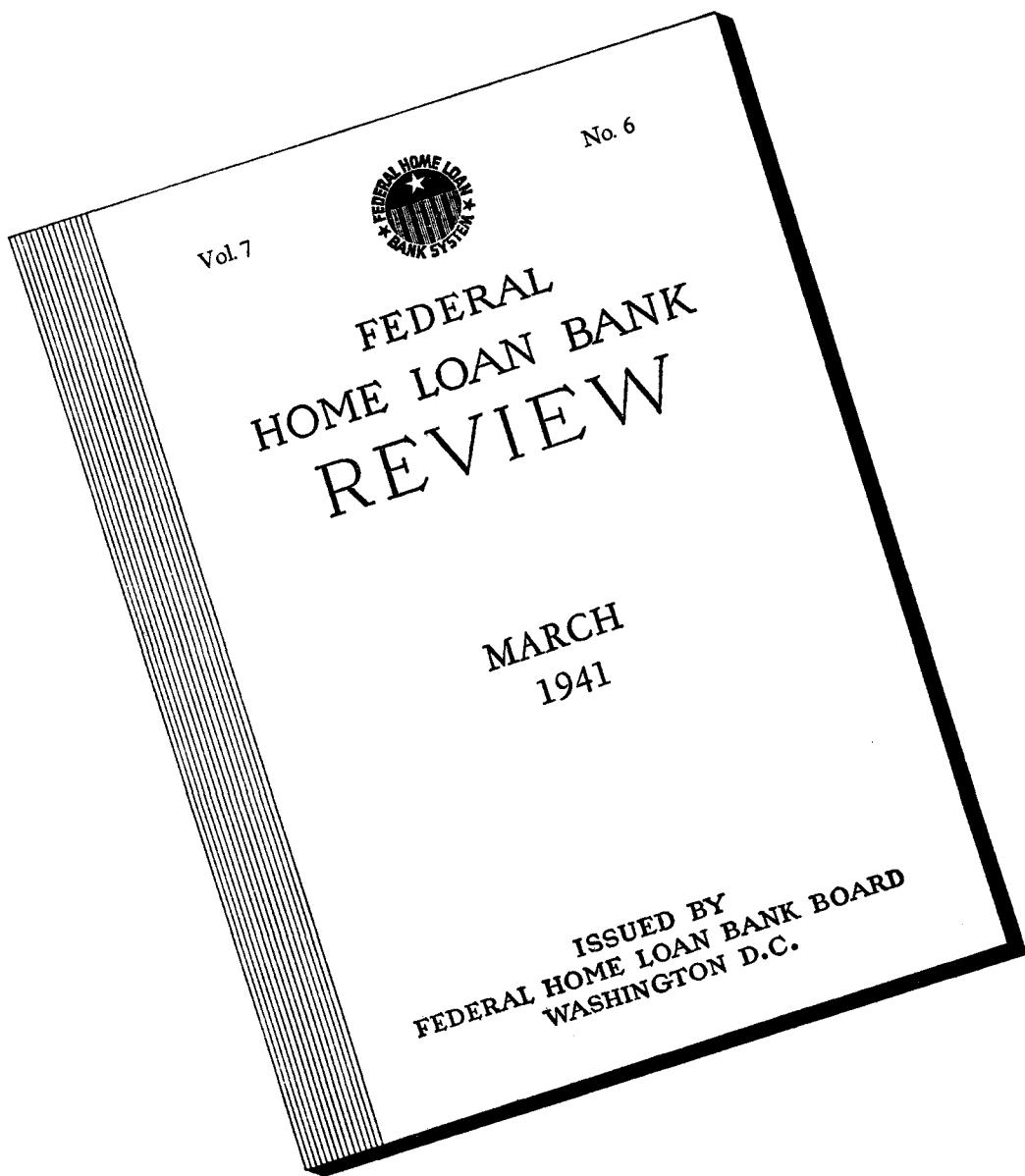


Statistical Supplement



March

1941

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Foreword

■ THIS Statistical Supplement to the FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK REVIEW is designed to bring together, in a convenient form, a vast quantity of pertinent reference material bearing upon residential construction and home-financing activities.

The Supplement provides statistical information covering the period from 1930 to 1940 including all revisions made up to the beginning of the current year. The indexes are presented on a base of 1935-1939=100, and thus conform with the recommendations of the Central Statistical Board to place all indexes on this base to facilitate comparisons between various statistical series. In addition, space is provided on each page for inserting 1941 data as such material is made available in the regular tables appearing in the Monthly Survey section of the REVIEW.

Because this is the first attempt to compile a statistical handbook in this field, it is only natural that there is ample room for improvement. In the interest of perfecting future supplements, the Editor of the REVIEW will welcome all comments and suggestions which will make these tables more practical for use by executives and economists in the field of residential construction and home-mortgage finance.

The presentation of this Supplement would not have been possible without the full cooperation of the Division of Research and Statistics of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board and the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the U. S. Department of Labor, and their contribution is sincerely appreciated.

Explanatory notes on pages 22-24 give a description of the source, coverage, method of computation, and application of the statistical series included on the following pages.

MARCH 1941.

Explanatory Notes

Page 2

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION: Compiled by the *Federal Home Loan Bank Board, Division of Research and Statistics*, from building permits reported to the *U. S. Department of Labor*, and based upon estimates for the number of dwelling units provided in all cities of 10,000 and over. The monthly totals are related to the average number of units built during the 1935-1939 period and are adjusted for the high degree of seasonal fluctuations which normally occur during the year. The index reveals essential movements in the volume of new housing facilities currently provided, and allows direct comparisons with other indexes on the same base period.

NONFARM FORECLOSURES: Compiled by the *Federal Home Loan Bank Board, Division of Research and Statistics*. The index is adjusted for normal seasonal variations, and is based upon data reported monthly from approximately 1,800 counties, cities, townships, or other governmental divisions. Approximately 75 percent of all nonfarm dwellings are included in this reporting sample. It measures the number of properties currently being acquired through foreclosure, expressed as a percentage of the average 1935-1939 month. Although non-residential and multifamily foreclosures comprise about 15 percent of the totals used, this index is essentially a gauge of the ability of home owners to meet their obligations.

RENTAL INDEX: Compiled by the *National Industrial Conference Board* on a base of 1923=100, and converted by the Division of Research and Statistics of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board to the 1935-1939 base period. The basic data are obtained from real estate boards, chambers of commerce, real estate agents, social agencies, and individuals who are in close touch with the rental situation in their localities. The index is based on the average rents of houses and apartments of the kind occupied by wage earners (4 or 5 rooms, with bath, unheated, except in a few instances where heated apartments are the prevailing type). Since rentals for newly tenanted as well as occupied structures are included, this index is a good indicator of market factors.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION: Compiled by the *Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Division of Research and Statistics*. This seasonally adjusted index was completely revised in August 1940, and a detailed description of its preparation is included in the August 1940 issue of the *Federal Reserve Bulletin*. The index is made up of two components: manufactures and minerals. The manufactures portion is further broken down into the production of durable and non-durable goods. It is derived from 81 individual series distributed among 16 groups of manufacturing industries and two groups of mining industries. The index serves as a measure of changes in the physical volume of the country's industrial output.

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT: Compiled by the *U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics*, on a base equal to the monthly average of the period 1923-1925. The index is converted to a 1935-1939 base and adjusted for seasonal variations by the Division of Research and Statistics of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. It is based upon monthly reports received from establishments employing approximately 55 percent of all factory wage earners in the

country. A further breakdown is available from the Department of Labor between employment in durable and non-durable goods industries. Since all component parts are adjusted to the periodic Federal Census of Manufactures, they accurately reflect the long-time as well as the short-term trends in employment.

Page 3

NATIONAL INCOME PAYMENTS: Compiled by *U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce*, on the basis of 1929=100. The monthly indexes are converted to a 1935-1939 base by the Division of Research and Statistics of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. The index is made up of estimates of the income received from salaries and wages, direct and other relief payments, social security benefits and other labor income, entrepreneurial income and net rents and royalties, and other nonagricultural income. The National Income Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has prepared a bulletin entitled "Monthly Income Payments in the United States, 1929-1940" which describes in greater detail the sources and methods used in compiling the series. It is useful primarily in indicating the changes in the dollar volume of income payments. However, because the index does not reflect changes in the basic price levels, it does not measure the purchasing power of a given income.

WHOLESALE BUILDING MATERIAL PRICES: Compiled by the *U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics*, on an original base of 1926=100. The index is converted to the 1935-1939 base by the Division of Research and Statistics of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. It is one of the 10 major classifications included in the weekly price series based on 813 commodities and prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The building material index is composed of sub-classifications on brick and tile, cement, lumber, paint and paint materials, plumbing and heating, structural steel, and a miscellaneous group. Wholesale delivery prices are obtained weekly for these items in 48 selected cities and a monthly average is computed from these figures. The composite building material index does not pertain strictly to home building but provides the best available guide to the fluctuations in wholesale prices of materials which loom large in the construction of residential dwellings.

WHOLESALE LUMBER PRICES: Compiled by the *U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics*, on an original base of 1926=100. Converted by the Division of Research and Statistics of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board to a 1935-1939 base. This index is one of the component parts of the wholesale building material price index mentioned above. It was completely revised in October 1940 and is now based on a larger sample of prices and an improved method of weighting. In all, 44 different lumber items are included in the new series. Because of the important bearing of the lumber factor upon the total cost of the typical single-family home, price fluctuations evidenced in this individual series are of particular significance to institutions in the home-financing fields.

NOTE.—Current data for each of the foregoing indexes may be found in the summary of the Monthly Survey section of the *FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK REVIEW*.

COST OF THE STANDARD HOUSE: Compiled since January 1936 by the *Federal Home Loan Bank Board, Division of Research and Statistics*, and placed on a 1935-1939 base by computing an estimate for 1935. The index is a 3-month moving average of cost estimates for approximately 80 different cities reporting in 3-month intervals. The various units of materials and labor are selected to conform with their contribution to the total cost of the completed dwelling. A detailed description of the index and specifications for the standard house appeared in the January and February 1936 issues of the *FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK REVIEW* and reprints of these articles are available on request. (See also the following notes on pages 4 and 5.) The figures for this index appear each month in Table 4 of the statistical section of the *REVIEW*.

Pages 4 and 5

COST OF BUILDING THE SAME STANDARD HOUSE IN SELECTED CITIES: Compiled by the *Federal Home Loan Bank Board, Division of Research and Statistics*, with the cooperation of the Reconditioning Division of the Home Owners' Loan Corporation. These data are the basic material for the computation of the small-house building cost index, and in view of the influence exercised by construction costs on the volume of home building, and on the value of existing security for mortgages, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board has continued to refine and improve the collection and accuracy of these figures.

In figuring costs, current prices on the same building materials list are obtained every three months from the same dealers, and current wage rates are obtained from the same reputable contractors and operative builders. Cities in the New York, Indianapolis, Des Moines, and Portland Federal Home Loan Bank Districts report in January, April, July, and October of each year; those in the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Little Rock, and Los Angeles Districts report in February, May, August, and November; and those in the Boston, Winston-Salem, Chicago, and Topeka Districts report in March, June, September, and December.

DESCRIPTION OF HOUSE

The house on which costs are reported is a detached 6-room home of 24,000 cubic feet volume. Living room, dining room, kitchen, and lavatory on first floor; three bedrooms and bath on second floor. Exterior is wide-board siding with brick and stucco as features of design. Best quality materials and workmanship are used throughout.

The house is *not* completed ready for occupancy. It includes all fundamental structural elements, an attached 1-car garage, an unfinished cellar, an unfinished attic, a fireplace, essential heating, plumbing, and electric wiring equipment, and complete insulation. It does *not* include wall-paper or other wall or ceiling finish on interior plastered surface, lighting fixtures, refrigerators, water heaters, ranges, screens, weather stripping, and window shades.

Reported costs include, in addition to material and labor costs, compensation insurance, an allowance for contractor's overhead and transportation of materials, plus 10 percent for builder's profit.

Reported costs do *not* include the cost of land or of surveying the land, of planting the lot, and of providing walks and driveways; they do *not* include architect's fee, cost of building permit, financing charges, and sales costs.

A WORD OF CAUTION

While there are many uses for the small-house building cost index, there are several ways in which it should *not* be used. In the first place, *the total cost in one city cannot be compared directly with the total cost in another city*. Second, *the estimated total cost figure of the index house for a given city is not comparable with the actual cost of constructing a 6-room house in that city*. (See: September 1939, *FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK REVIEW*, page 383.)

These limitations, however, do not invalidate in any way a study of the *trend* of costs within an individual reporting community or a comparison of the trends in different cities and Bank Districts—the real purpose of the index.

Figures presented in these tables include all revisions up to the present time. Revisions are unavoidable, however, as more complete information is obtained. All current changes are indicated in the regular monthly table (Table 3) appearing in the *REVIEW*.

Pages 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION: Compiled by the *U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics*, from building permits received from more than 2,000 cities and towns.

Page 6: This table presents, by States and Federal Home Loan Bank Districts, the annual estimates of the number and cost of *all* new residential construction for which building permits were issued in cities having a population of 2,500 or more persons. This is the first time that it has been possible to present this material on an expanded basis and henceforth the regular monthly tables in the *REVIEW* will include this larger coverage.

Page 7: To bring the residential construction statistics closer to the actual operations of savings and loan associations, this table analyzes the number and cost of *privately constructed* 1- and 2-family dwellings—the type of dwellings which these institutions accept as security for the vast majority of their mortgage loans. This information is not yet available by States for the years 1936 and 1937, but the Department of Labor is completing statistics for the back years as rapidly as possible.

Pages 8 and 9: To facilitate the comparison of 1941 building with the previous year, the table spread across these two pages presents the estimated number of dwelling units built in all urban communities (2,500 or more population) during each 1940 month, and provides space so that similar data may be recorded for the current year. This information will appear each month in Table 2 of the *FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK REVIEW* and is prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor from its building permit records.

Page 10: The tables on this page include summaries of new residential construction volume running back as far as 1930, and give some indication of the proportion of the total volume of building which is undertaken in the urban areas. The two tables at the top of the page (Tables 7 and 8) are summaries of all construction in urban areas of the United States, broken down by the type of construction and the source of finance,

whether private or public. These tables may be kept up-to-date with the information given in Table 1 of the statistical section of the FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK REVIEW. Estimates for those years prior to 1936 have been made by the National Bureau of Economic Research and were published in the *Monthly Labor Review* for January 1938.

The table at the bottom of the page (Table 9) presents the statistics on all new residential construction in *nonfarm* areas for this same period, 1930-1940. Estimates for 1936 and the following years have been prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor, and those prior to that time, by the National Bureau of Economic Research. A comparison of this table with the table at the top of the page reveals that approximately 72 percent of all nonfarm residential construction in 1940 took place in urban areas, and this percentage has been growing smaller in recent years.

Pages 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15

SAVINGS AND LOAN MORTGAGE-LENDING STATISTICS: Compiled by the *Federal Home Loan Bank Board, Division of Research and Statistics*, from the monthly reports of cooperating savings and loan associations. Approximately 3,000 Federal, State-member, and nonmember associations whose assets represent about 65 percent of the total assets of all savings and loan associations are included in the sample of institutions upon which the final estimates are based.

The table on page 11 shows a breakdown of the total loans by purpose as well as by class of association originating the loans. The percent distribution in the column following the annual total indicates the relation of that purpose or class to the aggregate loans for the year. For example, in 1936, construction loans accounted for 23.6 percent of the total loans made by all savings and loan associations. Likewise in the same year nonmember associations were responsible for 28.7 percent of all loans made.

These tables follow closely the style of Tables 6 and 7 which appear regularly each month in the REVIEW, and may be kept current with this information. All figures are expressed in dollar amounts.

Pages 16, 17, 18, and 19

MORTGAGE-RECORDING DATA: Compiled by the *Federal Home Loan Bank Board, Division of Research and Statistics*, from monthly reports prepared by cooperating institutions. The coverage upon which the final mortgage-recording estimates are made includes approximately 600 counties and similar political subdivisions, which contain almost two-thirds of the total nonfarm population. No data are available prior to January 1939.

Since every mortgage, to be most effective and assure priority of lien, must be registered with the county clerk or similar local official who maintains the record of land ownership, this index provides an adequate appraisal of the role being played by various types of lender. To relate mortgage recordings as closely as possible to the financing of 1- to 4-family homes, only instruments with a face amount of \$20,000 or less and on properties located in nonfarm areas are counted.

It must be pointed out, however, that mortgage-recording data are not directly comparable with the estimates on home-mortgage lending presented in Tables 10 and 11 on pages 11-15.

The period covered by mortgages recorded and loans made is not necessarily the same. Lending statistics are reported as of the date of loan commitment, while recording figures reflect the actual date of mortgage registrations. Further, alterations in the terms of an existing contract may necessitate a new registration. In the case of refinancing an institution's own mortgage, for example, the face amount of the instrument would appear in the recording totals whereas only that portion which represented an increase of funds loaned would be included in the monthly lending figures.

The table on page 16 shows the estimated number and amount of mortgages recorded throughout the United States by each type of lender in each month since January 1939. It also shows the relationship of the business done by each type of mortgagee to the total volume of business for any given month as well as by 6-month periods and the annual total. Current data for this table are available in Table 9 of the REVIEW.

The tables on pages 17, 18, and 19 provide a detailed analysis of the recordings made by all savings and loan associations during this period, and the data are broken down by Federal Home Loan Bank Districts and by individual States. The percentage figures relate to the savings and loan share of the total mortgage-recording business in a given area. For example, during 1940 savings and loan associations in the State of Connecticut accounted for \$12,926,000 in recordings of \$20,000 or less and this was equal to 16.2 percent of the total dollar amount of recordings in Connecticut for that year. (For 1941 statistics, see Table 8 of the REVIEW.)

Page 19

NONFARM FORECLOSURES: Compiled by the *Federal Home Loan Bank Board, Division of Research and Statistics*. These statistics represent the estimated number of foreclosures in the United States in all nonfarm areas, and are based upon data reported monthly from approximately 1,800 counties, cities, townships, or other political divisions, and shown regularly in Table 10 of the REVIEW. About 75 percent of all nonfarm dwellings are located in the areas included in this sample. No monthly data are available prior to 1934, but estimates have been made of the annual number of nonfarm foreclosures from 1926 through 1933.

Pages 20 and 21

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK ADVANCES: Compiled by the *Federal Home Loan Bank Board, Bank Operations Section*.

The ability of the Federal Home Loan Bank System to serve as a credit reservoir for its member institutions is best demonstrated by the volume of Federal Home Loan Bank advances since the inception of the System in 1932. The table at the top of page 20 shows, by months, the amount of new advances made, the repayments on old balances, and the advances still outstanding at the end of the period. From this it will be noted that the balance due at the end of December 1940 represents the highest level of Bank advances for any month to date.

The table at the bottom of the page and continued on page 21 indicates the balance outstanding at the end of each month for each of the 12 regional Federal Home Loan Banks. Monthly figures to supplement these tables appear in Table 13 of the REVIEW.