FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF ATLANTA.

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Monthly Report on Business and Agricultural Conditions in the Sixth Federal Reserve District.

— BY —
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INTRODUCTION

There has never been a time when the economic situation in the United States requires so much thought and consideration by every influential citizen. The general restlessness and high prices make it necessary for increased production and decreased consumption by everyone, regardless of his position, and it is believed that the thoughtful men and women have realized the conditions and are resolved to find a solution for the problems which are now before them, and to bring about better social and economic conditions.

The restlessness in the public mind is principally due to the cost of living, and while the wage for individual labor has been climbing upward, the demands are for still further increases which are made as a result of the high cost of living. This condition could go on still further and no good result would be accomplished. After all, the real question is not so much the cost of living, but the margin between the amount earned and the cost of living. It therefore seems imperative for everyone to use all their efforts and energies toward increased production and decreased consumption, and especially those in positions of leadership, for it is to them that the people look for example. Let this be the slogan of all: "Work and Save."

COMMERCIAL

The volume of fall trade as reported by both wholesale and retail dealers is active; merchants generally, while not carrying large stocks, seem to have sufficient to meet ordinary demands. Both retail and wholesale houses are buying as needed, replenishing their stocks from time to time and meeting any depletions that may take place caused by heavy purchases in any line in excess of what they anticipated. This frequent buying is partly caused by inability of many merchants to receive shipments of purchased goods.

The warm weather has caused delay in purchasing by consumers, such lines as drygoods, shoes and clothing, but this trade has taken on considerable activity during the past two or three weeks of cooler weather. The volume of trade as reported by one large wholesale shoe house is about 15% better than that of last October.

FINANCIAL

There has been no reduction in the demand for money throughout the District. Interest rates are reported steady, and collections are satisfactory for the season of the year.

Many reports indicate increases in deposits, due in some cases to sales of cotton, which many have held for 40 cents a pound.

EXPORTS

Statistics just published by the Department of Commerce covering the foreign commerce of the United States for the first eight months of 1919, ending with August, show that the port of Savannah has gained more than 100% in exports as compared with the same period last year, and very nearly 100% in the total of import and export trade combined. The imports at Savannah during the first eight months of 1919 were $11,740,334, compared to $9,638,042 for the same period 1918. The exports for the first eight months of 1919 were $143,432,496, compared to $71,051,191 for the same period 1918.

AGRICULTURAL

Crops have practically all matured with the exception of velvet beans and sugar cane, which in some sections is still in splendid growing condition. All hay crops have been harvested. Peanuts are being picked from the vines and marketed, and practically all corn has been housed. The yield of hay has been exceptionally good. Peanuts are giving fair yield, though poorly cultivated on account of excessive rains during the growing and cultivating period.

The cotton crop is the shortest on record in this territory. The damage caused by the boll weevil has been very great, and the infested area is still spreading. It is estimated the crop in Alabama will be about 50% of a normal crop, and at least 100,000 bales less than produced last year. The total of the corn crop of Alabama is estimated to be 66,375,000 bushels, which is slightly under last year's production.

The average yield of peanuts in Alabama is estimated at 21 bushels per acre. The acreage planted this year to peanuts was about 530,000, which is more than 200,000 less than that of last year. This will mean a total crop for this season of over 11,000,000 bushels, compared to 17,470,000 bushels gathered last year.

The sweet potato crop is not equal to earlier forecasts, although it is more than five million bushels larger than the crop of last season. The crop this year is estimated at 19,928,000 bushels.

It is estimated the total cotton produced in Alabama will be 696,000 bales. Other farm products estimated as follows:

Hay, tons	1,590,000	Oats, threshed, bushel	2,620,000
Irish Potatoes, bushels	5,100,000	Sorghum Syrup, gallons	13,923,000
Wheat, bushels	1,530,000		

The production of apples in Alabama is estimated at 35 percent of normal, and the average quality is only 60 percent of a high medium grade.

The following figures show the estimated production of the crops indicated in Mississippi:

Corn	60,528,000	bushels
Sweet Potatoes	9,400,000	"
Sugar Cane (syrup)	6,630,000	gallons

The fall crop of Irish potatoes in Mississippi consists largely of patches for home consumption. The yield is estimated at 85 bushels to the acre. The crop of cowpeas is very short in both acreage and yield; the fall rains have rotted or severely damaged a very large proportion of the actual production.

The following figures show the estimated average yield per acre of the crops shown, in Georgia, the information being taken from the November crop sketch issued by the Co-operative Crop Reporting Service for Georgia:

Corn	15.1	bushels
Irish Potatoes	68.8	"
Sweet Potatoes	95.2	"
Tobacco	613.6	pounds
Peanuts	29.2	bushels
Sorghum	89.5	gallons

Reports from Florida indicate that the Sea Island cotton market has improved somewhat, sales now being made at 75 cents. There has been an increase of about 20% in the cotton goods market, notwithstanding the prevailing high prices. Collections are good. Large orders for spring delivery are beginning to be received.

Interest continues to grow, throughout the District, in winter cover crops and in deep ploughing, and there is a decided increase in the number of alfalfa and clover plots. During the summer and early fall tractor manufacturers and selling agents have been active, and many tractors have been placed which are now being used in the preparation of grain crops and in fall ploughing.

Interest in live stock continues to increase, and the demand for breeding animals is greater than it has ever been. There is also a decided increased interest in sheep.

Reports indicate that practically every farmer is handicapped to some extent on account of the shortage of farm labor. They are, however, taking every advantage by using tractors and other labor-saving implements, and it may be expected that the system of farming may be gradually adjusted to a basis of proportionately more horse power to man power than heretofore.

FLORIDA FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

The citrus fruits have been greatly affected by the unseasonable weather and are not maturing as they should. Some shipments have not carried well, and owing to this, and to poor color of the fruit, the market has been very poor, and returns for both oranges and grapefruit have been disappointing. It is felt that with cooler weather the market will improve, and that the fruit will take color and carry better.

Excepting cotton and peanuts, all staple crops and live stock in North and Middle Florida are reported fully normal. Reports are that truckers are preparing land for fall planting. Very warm weather during October and early November has been had for fall vegetables and especially celery.

FLORIDA MEATS

The run of cattle has been very light and the prices have been on a very good level for heavy stuff throughout October; the market being dull, however, in all medium and off quality stock, with indications that few cattle will be fed in this territory during this winter.

The October run of hogs was about in line with that for October of last year. An advance in price in the last few days gives promise of a better run for the balance of November.

The increase, in Florida, in hog production is estimated at about 20% over that of last year; the increase in cattle about 15%, and of other live stock 10%.

LUMBER

The volume of trade in lumber is reported to be satisfactory for the season of the year. There has been a slight let-up in the number of orders received, but it is expected this will be followed within the next few weeks by active buying for spring requirements; some dealers are already receiving orders for January and February delivery. Lumber stocks are very light at the mills, probably averaging about 75 of normal. Production in this section is estimated to be not above 80% of normal for the season, due to shortage and inefficiency of labor and to unfavorable weather conditions.

NAVAL STORES

Florida reports indicate that the weather has been favorable for Naval Stores products, and receipts have been proportionately larger than previous months. Notwithstanding the heavier receipts, the market has kept up well and prices continue excellent. Export demand is increasing and there is a large domestic demand for both rosin and turpentine.

COAL

The nationwide strike of coal miners has had its effect upon conditions in the Alabama and Tennessee Districts, though there are a large number of miners in these districts not affiliated with the unions. Where the miners have been well organized, the strike has been effective, but those mines operated on an open shop policy have succeeded in producing coal, and consumers drawing their coal requirements from those districts have so far not materially suffered.

IRON, STEEL AND MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIALS

Business in iron and steel is reported to be very active in the Alabama district. The demand for both products is increasing, and the plants are working to capacity. Pig Iron production in October amounted to 208,793 tons as compared to 195,252 tons in September.

CLEARINGS—OCTOBER

	1918.	1919.
Atlanta, Ga.	$319,925,472.10	$406,219,578.93
Augusta, Ga.	22,975,597.69	35,584,891.54
Macon, Ga.	.....	40,551,757.85
Savannah, Ga.	45,750,745.97	69,977,569.33
Jacksonville, Fla.	29,359,042.92	41,168,973.17
Pensacola, Fla.	8,265,944.58	10,306,350.07
Tampa, Fla.	6,151,433.58	8,229,177.54
New Orleans, La.	237,217,322.65	318,237,459.01
Vicksburg, Miss.	2,369,907.55	2,691,413.70
Chattanooga, Tenn.	25,683,829.19	32,088,246.27
Knoxville, Tenn.	13,086,033.09	15,674,784.40
Nashville, Tenn.	84,009,803.26	86,670,847.45
Birmingham, Ala.	61,670,195.00	81,511,899.00
Mobile, Ala.	6,875,823.00	10,358,461.00
Montgomery, Ala.	8,502,843.00	8,863,938.00

BUILDING OPERATIONS—OCTOBER, 1919

	Repairs and Additions		New Buildings	
	NUMBER	VALUE	NUMBER	VALUE
Atlanta, Ga.	199	$305,613	56	$500,200
Augusta, Ga.	158	42,187	29	100,300
Brunswick, Ga.	13	2,010	15	7,700
*Macon, Ga.	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rome, Ga.	5	104,200	2	7,575
Savannah, Ga.	21	9,325	56	639,595
Waycross, Ga.	6	2,645	.....	.....
Anniston, Ala.	9	4,800	5	11,000
Bessemer, Ala.	10	5,700	76	146,040
Birmingham, Ala.	311	87,898	126	406,122
Florence, Ala.	6	7,150	1	4,000
Gadsden, Ala.	.....	.....	9	19,875
Mobile, Ala.	2	6,000	16	48,975
Montgomery, Ala.	136	40,702	43	124,409
Sheffield, Ala.	.....	.....	2	5,375
Gainesville, Fla.	12	2,425	3	1,550
Jacksonville, Fla.	19	78,500	38	255,250
Miami, Fla.	6	5,600	93	262,650
Palm Beach, Fla.	5	22,350	11	209,100
**Pensacola, Fla.	.....	.....	.....	164,344
Tampa, Fla.	85	37,155	25	141,925
West Tampa, Fla.	5	355	5	2,000
Chattanooga, Tenn.	190	13,988	13	73,100
Clarkeville, Tenn.	5	645	17	842
Knoxville, Tenn.	75	17,595	24	121,938
Nashville, Tenn.	252	39,678	48	212,035
Johnson City, Tenn.	.....	.....	10	28,550

*Not reporting.

**Combined figure.