THE MONTHLY

BUSINESS REVIEW

Covering Business and Agricultural Conditions in the Sixth Federal Reserve District.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA

JOS. A. McCORD, Chairman of the Board and Federal Reserve Agent

WARD ALBERTSON, Assistant Federal Reserve Agent

VOL. 6 | ATLANTA, GEORGIA, DECEMBER 29, 1921 | No. 12

GENERAL SUMMARY FOR UNITED STATES.

Comparison of the year end reports with those for the corresponding month in 1920 demonstrates the continued upward movement of business and indicates general restoration of normal conditions. This is in spite of the fact that the month of December, which is normally a period of comparative slowing down or transition, indicates, as is usually the case, some recession from the higher levels of preceding autumn activity of business. Chief importance is usually assigned at the close of the year to the holiday trade, emphasis being rather on the side of distribution than on the side of production. This intensified demand serves to bring into actual use the goods produced in the earlier industrial period. The holiday trade is thus a test of the soundness of the preceding business activity.

Reports from the various Federal Reserve Districts covering over half the month show that this year's demand in the eastern districts has registered an increase running as high as 10 per cent over that of 1920, while in other districts the situation is pronounced satisfactory. Manufacturing lines, although slowed down because of lessened seasonal demand, generally report a fairly satisfactory condition, although a lack of forward orders still testifies to the uncertainty with which the prospects of the coming months are regarded by many firms. Freight rates continue as a disturbing factor, due to the belief that reductions already announced as affecting some commodities may be much more widely extended in the near future.

The relatively lower prices which have been realized both for cereals and for cotton, have proved discouraging to the trade in the agricultural districts, and have also resulted in retarding the process of liquidating frozen loans representing past advances of credit. Wholesale prices are showing increased stability. Unemployment conditions, on the whole, are but little changed from those reported a month ago.

A decided improvement in European exchanges has tended to some extent to help the foreign trade situation during the month of December, but the extreme caution in the extension of bank credit which was previously so notable a phase of our foreign trade still continues. Export figures indicate a still further decline of activity in staples, while imports show an advance. Disturbed conditions in various countries of Europe still render a maintenance of business relations with them uncertain and hazardous. Rates of interest which had already made a notable decline during the Autumn have tended, on the whole, still further downward, partly owing to the fact that there was no foreign outlet for our capital.

SIXTH DISTRICT SUMMARY

The slow movement of crops in the Sixth Federal Reserve District, and the unseasonably warm weather, have probably been the most important factors, in the month of November, affecting the business of the District. During the latter part of August and the early part of September, when the price of raw cotton rose rapidly from around eleven cents a pound to more than twenty cents, there was a distinct tone of optimism. Definite upward trends were evidenced in both retail and wholesale business. In terms of dollars, sales for recent months by department stores and most of the wholesale lines under inquiry show declines as compared with those of a year ago, but it is generally recognized that the prevailing level of prices is now from twenty to thirty-five or forty per cent below the general price level of last year. The decreases, therefore, compared with last year do not reflect decreased volume of merchandise, but rather a larger volume.

September and October business was stimulated by the increase in the price of cotton and where producers disposed of their crop on the advanced price, some liquidation took place and business generally benefitted. The price of cotton has sagged, however, and those producers who did not sell on the upward price movement now show a tendency to hold for price recovery. This recent disposition to hold has had a wide effect on the business of the District which is not confined to the farmers, but extends all through business activity.

In contrast to the lull in business reported by the retail and wholesale firms, the debits to individual accounts show an increase at the fifteen important clearing house cities in the Sixth District. For the five weeks ended November 2, 1921, debits to individual account in this District were 17.5 per cent less than for the same period last year, while for the four weeks ended November 30, 1921, debits were larger than for the preceding period, and only 10.1 per cent less than for the corresponding period last year. The decrease for the United States, for the last period indicated, was 17.3 per cent. Demand deposits on November 30th were about two per cent lower than those of the previous month. Savings deposits showed very little fluctuation during the month, but were almost two per cent greater than on November 30, 1920.

Building activity has continued at some points in the District in unusual volume for this season of the year, and some of the cities from which building statistics have been received show substantial increases over the value of permits issued a year ago. At nine of the reporting cities, permits were issued in November for the erection of 541 residences, compared with 169 for November a year ago in these same cities. The same relation does not exist with regard to the total value of residences now as compared with last year, because of the decline in cost of construction. This continued activity in building has resulted in the lumber production holding up well, although in November there was a lull in orders and shipments, and weather conditions at some points have begun to interfere with logging operations.

Manufacturing in the District showed further improvement, though slight, in November. Notwithstanding the uncertainty prevailing in the cotton market, and the somewhat lower volume of orders received by the mills, their production in November was larger than during October. Other lines of manufacturing also report some increased production.

The labor situation has improved, on the whole, over that of two or three months ago. The number of unemployed is slowly decreasing. With the approach of cold weather, however, it is believed the seriousness of unemployment is being more keenly recognized than has been the case earlier in the fall. Campaigns are being waged by various civic organizations to relieve the situation. Property owners are being urged to have needed repairs and other work done now, and public improvements are also being suggested. Textile mills increased the number of employees on their payrolls during November, and the increased production of pig iron in Alabama has added to the number of workers employed.

RETAIL TRADE

November was a comparatively quiet month in retail trade in this District. There had been a somewhat uncertain seasonal increase in retail sales in October, but November sales by thirty representative Department Stores, reporting to the Monthly Business Review, were smaller than those of the preceding month. The unseasonably warm weather throughout the month has had the effect of retarding the usual inclination that exists at this time of the year for the public to invest in winter clothing.

There appeared little indication of holiday buying in November. The exception to this statement is at Nashville, where correspondent firms state that the Christmas trade has opened both earlier and stronger than has ever before been experienced. Figures reported by Nashville firms bear out this statement. The decrease in Nashville sales for November 1921 compared with November 1920 was only 8.8 per cent, and was the smallest percentage decrease for any city shown in the November retail statement. Nashville figures for the period July 1 to the end of November, this year, compared with the same period of last year, also compare more favorably than any other point, with New Orleans showing only a slightly higher decrease.

Except at Savannah, stocks of merchandise on hand at the end of November were a little smaller than at the close of October's business, the average decrease for the District being, however, only one-half of one per cent. Compared with those on hand at the end of November 1920, stocks showed a decrease of 14.5 per cent.

Correspondent firms are almost universal in reporting that their customers are shopping very closely, and are buying only the merchandise in which they are satisfied they are receiving good values. Where Christmas buying has been at all in evidence, reports state that customers are purchasing practical and useful articles for gifts, and are making selections very carefully. There appears also to be a continuation of the increase in the proportion of charge sales being made to cash sales. The slow movement and sale of cotton and other agricultural products is having the effect of not only slowing up sales all through the District but also is having an adverse effect on collections in all lines of business.

CONDITION OF RETAIL TRADE DURING NOVEMBER 1921.
Federal Reserve District No. 6.
As indicated by reports of Thirty Representative Department Stores.

	Atlanta (3)	Birmingham (3)	Nashville (4)	New Orleans (5)	Savannah (3)	Other Cities (12)	District (30)
1. A. Sales during November 1921 compared with November 1920	—20.5	—34.2	—8.8	—20.5	—24.5	—22.3	—21.4
1. B. Sales July 1, November 30, 1921 compared with same period 1920	—28.5	—31.7	—14.5	—15.1	—26.6	—20.2	—20.4
2. A. Stocks November 30, 1921 compared with stocks November 30, 1920	—13.2	—17.7	—13.9	—9.4	—11.0	—23.3	—14.5
2. B. Stocks November 30, 1921 compared with stocks October 31, 1921	—0.6	—1.2	—1.5	—0.9	+5.5	—0.6	—0.5
3. Average stocks July 1 to November 30, compared with average sales for same period	565.2	733.6	555.7	338.3	635.3	450.0	520.6
4. Outstanding orders November 30, 1921 compared with total purchases in 1920	3.5	4.2	4.0	6.5	3.8	2.4	4.8

Note:—"Other Cities" include cities in this Federal Reserve District from which fewer than three reports were received

WHOLESALE TRADE.

Wholesale trade in the Sixth Federal Reserve District has not maintained during November the pace set in the preceding two months, and confidential reports received from firms in the various lines of wholesale trade under investigation show that November sales were smaller in each line than sales by the same firms during October. September sales in all of these lines had shown substantial increases over those for August, and had been followed by increases in October sales over those for September in all of the lines except dry goods, farm implements and drugs. Increases in sales during November were shown by the reports from firms dealing in shoes, furniture and farm implements over sales by these same firms during November of last year, but in other lines sales for November were not up to those of a year ago.

In those lines where large increases were shown in October over those for September, merchants state that while much of the increased volume was naturally seasonal, some of the increase was undoubtedly due to merchants stocking up, at least to some extent, in anticipation of the railroad strike called for the last of October. This would naturally cause less buying to be done in November.

Probably the most important factor in connection with the lull in trade has been the slow movement of cotton to markets, and also the slow movement of rice and sugar. Farmers have been loath to sell their cotton at the prices prevailing during the month, and many of them are making a strenous effort to hold for an increase. The farmers constitute one of the largest classes of consumers in the District, if, indeed, it is not the largest. With buying by this large number of people limited to what it is actually necessary to buy, the effect extends through the entire business life of the District.

GROCERIES.

Wholesale grocery merchants attribute most of the decrease in November sales, compared with those for October, to the fact that retailers were fairly well stocked and did not desire to carry normal stocks because of some uncertainty as to prices. Buying power, the reports indicate, is somewhat limited, and confidence is lacking. Collections are reported poor except by a few of the larger city merchants.

DRY GOODS.

November was a decidedly quiet month in the wholesale dry goods trade. This line is highly seasonal and most of the retailers had laid in their fall and winter supplies, and buying for spring requirements has not yet begun. November buying was principally limited to actual necessities. The warm weather throughout the month was a deterrent factor and had much influence on the volume of sales. Retail trade is also having an adverse influence on the volume of business in dry goods at wholesale.

HARDWARE.

Following an increase in October sales of 15.4 per cent over those in September, wholesale hardware sales declined 10.5 per cent during November. Collections from those firms which are in a financial shape to pay are reported to be good, but there are many retailers who, reports indicate, will have to be carried over, due to the slow movement of cotton, rice and sugar. Correspondents state that while much cotton was sold on the advance in September, that the small dealers received little benefit, as farmers applied the money received to their indebtedness at the bank. The wholesalers, therefore, have not been paid up, and the fact that credit lines are pretty well used up is causing a loss of some business.

SHOES.

Warm weather was the principal cause of the decrease in November sales by wholesale shoe firms compared with those for the preceding month. Collections in this line are reported improving. Compared with November 1920, sales for November of this year reflected an increase of 23.6 per cent. No spring buying has been reported, and merchants are reported to be only purchasing for actual requirements.

FURNITURE.

Wholesale furniture correspondents state their business in the larger cities is holding up fairly well, but that sales in the smaller towns have declined. For the District, sales were 5.8 per cent less than in October, but 44.4 per cent greater than in November 1920. Collections have also slowed up in the small towns. Unemployment, however, is having some effect in the cities, of limiting sales.

OTHER LINES.

Correspondent dealers in farm implements at wholesale, report their sales to be 33.3 per cent smaller in November than during October, but 3.6 per cent larger than during November 1920. But for the sagging of the price of cotton, many farmers would undoubtedly have invested in farm machinery which has been needed during the past season. The 1921 crops were made with a minimum of expense, not only as regards expenditures for labor and fertilizer, but many farmers have denied themselves new farming implements, having repaired their old implements or done without.

Reports from wholesale stationery and drug firms also show declines in sales, though small, compared with October sales, and also with November 1920.

CONDITION OF WHOLESALE TRADE-NOVEMBER 1921.
Sixth Federal Reserve District.
Comparison of Sales during Nov. 1921 with Sales during Oct. 1921.

	Groceries (29)*	Dry Goods (20)*	Hardware (19)*	Shoes (10)*	Furniture (12)*	Farm Implements (6)*	Stationery (3)*
Atlanta	—24.2	—46.6	—15.7	—23.2	+7.1	x	x
Jacksonville	—3.9	x	—1.8	x	x	x	x
Meridian	—10.6	x	x	x	x	x	x
Nashville	x	—43.2	x	x	x	x	x
New Orleans	—9.0	—10.3	—16.1	x	x	x	x
Other Cities	—7.0	—39.1	—4.0	—24.2	—9.2	x	x
District	—9.9	—37.6	—10.5	—23.9	—5.8	—33.3	—0.7

Comparison of Sales during Nov. 1921 with Sales during Nov. 1920.

	Groceries	Dry Goods	Hardware	Shoes	Furniture	Farm Implements	Stationery
	(29)*	(20)*	(19)*	(10)*	(12)*	(6)*	(3)*
Atlanta	—35.0	+4.2	—22.5	+68.7	+41.3	x	x
Jacksonville	—25.9	x	—22.2	x	x	x	x
Meridian	—15.4	x	x	x	x	x	x
Nashville	x	+4.4	x	x	x	x	x
New Orleans	—35.2	—14.4	—24.8	x	x	x	x
Other Cities	—16.6	—36.2	—2.2	+9.1	+45.4	x	x
District	—30.4	—16.6	—16.0	+23.6	+44.4	+3.6	+9.4

*-Indicates number of reports received.

x-Figures are shown for individual cities only where three more reports are received. If fewer than three are received, they are included with "Other Cities."

AGRICULTURE.

The Cotton Crop.

The final estimate by the United States Department of Agriculture of the total production of cotton during the 1921 season is 8,340,000 bales. While this final estimate is 1,000,000 larger than the estimate made two months earlier by the Department, the 1921 crop is stated to be the smallest crop of cotton produced in the United States since 1895. The 1920 production was 13,439,603 bales, for 1919 it was 11,420,763, and for 1918 it was 12,040,532 bales. The average weight per running bale this year is estimated as 497.8 pounds gross, compared with 506.4 pounds in 1920, 504.2 pounds in 1919 and 505.6 pounds in 1918. Linters are not included in this estimate. Production of linters is about 8.6 per cent as much as the lint production according to the average for the years 1915-19.

The prices of lint cotton to producers on December 1, 1921, is stated to have been 16.2 cents, compared with a December 1 price of 13.9 cents in 1920, 35.6 cents in 1919, and 27.6 cents in 1918.

The following statement shows the estimated production, by states, and comparison with the 1920 figures and the five-year average 1915-19:

State	1921	1920	1915-19 Average
Virginia	16,000	21,337	21,824
North Carolina	800,000	924,761	740,028
South Carolina	760,000	1,623,076	1,259,737
Georgia	840,000	1,415,129	1,879,091
Florida	13,000	18,114	34,495
Alabama	635,000	662,699	717,198
Mississippi	870,000	895,312	971,650
Louisiana	295,000	387,663	461,674
Texas	2,200,000	4,345,282	3,174,817
Arkansas	860,000	1,214,448	959,120
Tennessee	340,000	325,085	313,222
Missouri	78,000	78,856	59,544
Oklahoma	530,000	1,336,298	803,050
California	74,000	75,183	50,691
Arizona	40,000	103,121	29,434
All other states	13,000	13,239	5,508
Total	8,340,000	13,439,603	11,481,083

The figures, reduced to percentages, disclose an average decrease in cotton production for the United States during the 1921 season, compared with the 1920 season, of 37.9 per cent, and a decrease, compared with the five-year average production, (1915-1919) of 27.4 per cent.

The only state showing an increase in production in 1921 over 1920 was Tennessee, which produced 4.6 per cent more cotton in 1921 than in 1920; some of the other states, however, showed very small decreases, for example, Alabama only 4.2 per cent, Mississippi only 2.8 per cent, Missouri only 1.1 per cent, and California only 1.6 per cent. Of the larger cotton growing states, decreases were shown by Texas of 49.4 per cent, South Carolina 53.2 per cent, Oklahoma 70.3 per cent, and Georgia 40.6 per cent.

Comparing the 1921 production with the average production for the five years preceding the 1920 crop, (1915-1919), Georgia showed a larger percentage of decline than any other state, except Florida, which produces only a small crop. Georgia's percentage of decrease was 55.3 per cent, that for Alabama only 11.5 per cent, Mississippi 10.5 per cent, and Louisiana 36.1 per cent, while Tennessee showed an increase over the five-year average of 8.5 per cent. South Carolina's 1920 crop was 39.7 per cent below the five-year average, Texas 30.7 per cent and Oklahoma 34.0 per cent, while North Carolina and Missouri showed increases of 8.1 per cent and 31.0 per cent respectively.

The 1921 crop began with a bad start, the late cold spring hindering planting, germination and growth of the plant. Continuous cold weather killed outright much of the young cotton, and in some parts of the District as much as fifty per cent of the crop had to be replanted. Not a few farmers planted as many as three times. Some of the cotton acreage abandoned was planted to other crops.

Resulting partly from the active campaign for a reduction in the acreage planted to cotton, partly to the low prevailing price for the staple, and partly from inability of some growers to properly finance their operations, the acreage for 1921 was estimated to be almost thirty per cent smaller than for the preceding season. June was favorable, but wet weather in July caused increased activity by the boll weevil. To the sparing use of fertilizer can be attributed, also, much of the decreased production.

July was especially unfavorable in Georgia, where the wet weather caused a great increase in boll weevil damage to the crop. There is an area in middle Georgia where the estimated yield of cotton this year is only 45 pounds to the acre. Through the remainder of central Georgia the yield is stated to be 79 pounds; in the southwestern and southeastern parts of the state the yield was 107 pounds, while in the northern tier of counties the highest yield for the state, 142 pounds, were produced per acre. In Alabama weevils made their appearance early, but a drought set in rather early in the season and limited the damage from this source. In Tennessee the unfavorable factors appear to have been reversed, and an increase was shown in the total production over last year, the only increase over 1920 production which has been recorded. The crop was heavier than was at first believed, and a late frost and one of the best picking seasons ever known have resulted in the crop being picked earlier than usual. Fields have been picked cleaner than is usual.

SUGAR.

Conditions in the Louisiana sugar district are reported excellent. Not only has the weather been propitious for grinding since the opening of the grinding season, but also the tonnage of cane in the fields seems to be exceeding expectations on many plantations. Indications are that the final out turn of the crop will be greater than anticipated, and although the price has been low, the yield is considerably larger than expected. The crop has been both made and harvested with less cost than is usual, but labor is said to be lacking in quality rather than quantity.

MOVEMENT OF RAW SUGAR (POUNDS.)

	Nov. 1921	Oct. 1921	Nov. 1920
RECEIPTS:			
New Orleans	60,277,462	36,351,897	11,156,022
Savannah	15,437,120	14,496,425	17,094,675
MELTINGS:			
New Orleans	50,969,217	35,497,956	11,766,206
Savannah	18,701,120	11,403,392	14,312,548
SHIPMENTS:			
New Orleans	6,817,708	0	0
Savannah	0	0	0
STOCKS:			
New Orleans	3,968,296	1,477,759	3,772,746
Savannah	0	3,264,000	0

RICE.

There has been some slight increase in activity in the rice market during the month. Domestic demand is still light, but the export demand is gradually improving. Press statements recently stated that the distribution of rice for the four months ended November 30 were well above the average. The Japanese rice crop is said to be short, and European inquiries are being received regarding Louisiana rice.

ROUGH RICE (Sacks) PORT OF NEW ORLEANS.

	Nov. 1921	Oct. 1921	Nov. 1920
Receipts	83,941	143,017	209,144
Shipments	85,581	145,971	254,266
Stock	35,825	37,465	99,932
Left over from last season	24,158		6,428

CLEAN RICE (Pockets) PORT OF NEW ORLEANS.

	Nov. 1921	Oct. 1921	Nov. 1920
Receipts	198,314	220,570	429,144
Shipments	215,978	205,417	329,539
Stock	134,038	151,702	288,798
Left over from last season	89,691		173,426

RECEIPTS OF ROUGH RICE (Barrels.)

	Nov. 1921	Total this Season	Same time last season
Association Mills	554,883	2,399,245	
New Orleans Mills	83,941	622,211	
Outside Mills	216,949	760,500	
	855,773	3,781,956	4,531,898

DISTRIBUTION OF MILLED RICE (Pockets.)

	Nov. 1921	Total this Season	Same time last Season
Association Mills	447,687	2,009,625	
New Orleans Mills	116,710	655,717	
Outside Mills	180,200	613,124	
	744,597	3,278,466	2,725,976

STOCK (Rough and Milled.)

	Dec. 1, 1921	Same time Last Year
Association Mills	705,106	
New Orleans Mills	150,419	
Outside Mills	273,400	
	1,128,925	2,338,517

FOREIGN TRADE IN RICE. UNITED STATES (Pounds.)

	Oct. 1921	Total this Season	Same time 1920
IMPORTS:			
Rough rice	826,704	1,739,526	6,809,415
Clean rice	11,146,710	19,989,773	20,597,198
Brewers rice	62,038	277,226	378,801
EXPORTS:			
Foreign rice	6,276,292	14,045,383	18,268,512
Domestic rice	40,602,930	157,161,410	27,192,204

CITRUS FRUIT.

The condition of both oranges and grapefruit has declined slightly during the past month, oranges being reported at 77 per cent of normal, compared with 81 per cent a month ago, and grapefruit about 78 per cent of normal compared with 80 per cent last month. A year ago the condition of oranges was 90 per cent of normal, while grapefruit was 78 per cent of normal. Sizes on all varieties are reported to be medium to small. The September estimate of 8,000,000 boxes of oranges and 5,000,000 boxes of grapefruit will be reduced as a result of the storm on the west coast. The movement of grapefruit to November 30th has been almost equal to the volume moved up to December 15 last year, while orange shipments are not much more than half those to that date of last season. Railroad reports show 3747 cars of grapefruit, and 2671 cars of oranges shipped from Florida to November 30th. Grapefruit are bringing from $2.00 to $2.50 per box, at packing point, while oranges are from $2.50 to $3.50 per box. The weakness in grapefruit is attributed to the fact that some quantities of inferior stock are reported to have been shipped. This also applies to oranges but in a lesser degree, as the shipment of oranges has been smaller. Warm and humid weather lasting over the shipping period to November 27th has been a serious drawback, preventing the fruit from coloring and reaching maturity, with the result that much green and offsize stock has interfered with shipments of desirable fruit.

STATEMENT OF CAR LOT SHIPMENTS OF CITRUS FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FROM FLORIDA DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.

	Month of Nov.		Seasons totals to November 30th.	
	1921	1920	1921	1920
Grapefruit	1956	1937	3747	3095
Oranges	2093	3213	2671	3552
Lettuce	23	207	23	207
Peppers	14	1	14	1
Vegetables	94	31	117	31

PECANS.

The following statement shows a comparison of the crop of pecans raised in the states of this District in 1921, with the crop of last year, and with the five-year (1915–1919) average. Production in 1921 was much greater in each State than in 1920, and was larger in Louisiana and Mississippi than the average for the five-year period, though smaller in Georgia and Florida. The quality of the nuts is the same in Georgia, lower in Florida by six points, but higher in Louisiana and Mississippi than last year. Average prices are reported to range from 38 cents per pound in Louisiana, to 49 cents per pound, in Georgia for the improved varieties; and for seedlings, from 15 cents per pound in Louisiana to 20 cents per pound in Mississippi.

	Per cent of a full crop			Quality of nuts		Proportion of nuts that are improved varieties	Per cent of crop being sold to outside markets	
	1921	1920	1915 to 1919	1921	1920		1921	1920
Georgia	70	31	81	82	82	78	70	69
Florida	68	32	76	86	92	43	70	60
Alabama		29	58	--	70	51	--	53
Mississippi	75	15	70	86	71	62	47	18
Louisiana	75	13	66	88	86	12	53	8

LIVE STOCK.

Increasing interest in Livestock is evident from reports coming from Tennessee. Inquiries are on the increase at the Nashville market for feeding pigs, and there seem to be few coming to market. The sharp and frequent fluctuations of the hog market in Tennessee during the past two years has resulted in a great many farmers disposing of most of their brood sows. Notwithstanding the good corn crop last year, Tennessee farmers sent a great proportion of their hogs and cattle to market. Prices were not high enough to lend an incentive to further production.

With the large corn crop raised this year hog raising is coming again into pupularity with the average farmer. At present prices, hogs are more profitable than during the war, when prices for meat products, though higher than those now prevailing, were out of line with the cost of feed, labor, and all things entering into the cost of production.

TREND OF FARM PRICES.

The level of prices paid producers of the United States for the principal crops decreased about 11.6 per cent during October, in the last 10 years the price level decreased about 5.6 per cent during October. On November 1 the index figure of prices was about 39.6 per cent lower than a year ago, 56.5 per cent lower than two years ago, and 33.7 per cent lower than the average of the past 10 years on November 1.

The prices of meat animals—hogs, cattle and sheep—to producers of the United States decreased 3.2 per cent from September 15 to October 15; in the past 10 years prices decreased in like period 3.2 per cent. On October 15 the index figure of prices for these meat animals was about 41 per cent lower than a year ago, 43.6 per cent lower than two years ago, and 25.5 per cent lower than the average of the past 10 years on October 15.

COTTON CONSUMPTION—NOVEMBER 1921.

U. S. Census Bureau.

(In Bales.)

	Nov. 1921	Oct. 1921	Nov. 1920
Cotton Consumed:			
Lint	526,610	494,745	332,712
Linters	53,257	61,513	34,827
On Hand in Consuming establishments:			
Lint	1,648,216	1,404,931	1,118,418
Linters	152,840	159,729	223,613
In Public Storage and at Compresses:			
Lint	5,271,451	4,981,856	5,100,978
Linters	176,689	211,376	340,137
Exports:			
Lint	630,140	866,391	680,822
Linters	18,555	8,119	2,501
Imports	51,440	31,269	22,513
Active spindles	34,387,008	34,255,522	31,700,014

COTTON GROWING STATES.

	Nov. 1921	Oct. 1921	Nov. 1920
Cotton consumed	322,734	297,578	214,122
On hand in consuming establishments	877,040	785,548	552,144
In public storage and at Compresses	4,930,850	4,574,227	4,767,879
Active Spindles	15,499,127	15,436,576	17,033,980

COTTON GINNED.

A report of the amount of cotton ginned prior to December, issued by the Census Bureau, states that 7,640,870 bales of cotton were ginned up to December 1921. This figure is 1,103,870 bales more than the estimated production of cotton for the 1921 season, based upon the condition of the crop on September 25th. The total includes 121,859 round bales, counted as half bales; 22,058 bales of American-Egyptian, and 2,915 bales of Sea Island cotton.

Ginnings to December 1, 1920, were 10,141,293 bales, including 191,539 round bales, 46,169 bales of American-Egyptian, and 965 bales of Sea Island Cotton.

Ginnings in the States of the Sixth Federal Reserve District, with comparative figures for previous years, are as follows:

	1921	1920	1919	1918
Alabama	575,310	570,922	632,287	682,693
Florida	11,724	16,063	15,779	21,983
Georgia	803,815	1,261,326	1,556,137	1,764,895
Louisiana	275,197	331,041	260,457	460,203
Mississippi	790,326	730,471	726,514	892,906
Tennessee	281,251	209,741	197,094	224,049
Total 6th Dist.	2,737,623	3,119,564	3,388,268	4,046,929
All other states	4,903,247	7,021,729	5,456,092	5,524,485
Total United States	7,640,870	10,141,293	8,844,360	9,571,414

MOVEMENT OF COTTON (BALES.)

	Nov. 1921	Oct. 1921	Nov. 1920
RECEIPTS—PORTS:			
New Orleans	157,354	220,410	281,655
Mobile	12,847	24,880	21,029
Savannah	69,975	147,964	105,889
RECEIPTS—INTERIOR TOWNS:			
Atlanta	37,585	52,959	29,572
Augusta	45,546	63,678	67,827
Jackson	4,980	6,605	4,932
Meridian	5,417	10,067	5,432
Montgomery	7,231	12,968	17,859
Vicksburg	19,078	11,628	6,492
SHIPMENTS—PORTS:			
New Orleans	153,899	215,600	153,666
Mobile	14,149	25,939	11,853
Savannah	84,895	119,159	54,930
SHIPMENTS—INTERIOR TOWNS:			
Atlanta	31,079	34,678	21,696
Augusta	35,722	33,250	26,590
Jackson	1,594	4,444	1,759
Meridian	4,955	7,890	2,024
Montgomery	4,814	11,142	6,530
Vicksburg	12,006	7,965	976
STOCKS—PORTS:			
New Orleans	434,760	431,299	413,201
Mobile	16,563	18,412	15,003
Savannah	176,727	191,647	160,770
STOCKS—INTERIOR TOWNS:			
Atlanta	51,170	44,664	27,710
Augusta	143,365	140,218	142,677
Jackson	14,004	10,618	10,572
Meridian	17,907	17,445	9,578
Montgomery	31,982	29,475	22,162
Vicksburg	14,284	10,876	11,010

COTTON MOVEMENT—UNITED STATES.

August to November, inc.

	1921	1920	1919	1918
Total for Nov.	1,704,398	1,934,634	2,445,698	1,747,069
Receipts at all U. S. ports	2,970,476	2,691,337	2,808,577	2,198,810
Overland to North Mills and Canada	641,857	336,191	534,145	545,187
Southern Mill Takings	1,560,000	1,076,247	1,508,256	1,613,000
Interior Stock excess of those held at end of coml. yr.	250,389	527,412	389,895	468,789
Crop brought into sight for 4 months	5,422,722	4,631,187	5,240,874	4,825,786
Northern spinners takings for				
Nov.	436,518	231,726	491,007	
4 months	1,024,274	583,635	995,212	
Foreign exports for 4 months	2,338,370	1,732,034	2,014,314	

FINANCIAL.

The volume of business as measured by debits to individual accounts at the banks in the fifteen clearing house cities of the Sixth Federal Reserve District for the four weeks ended November 30th, 1921 was $822,683,000, compared with $915,547,000 for the same period last year. These figures represent a decrease of 10.1 per cent. This compares favorably with the figures for the whole of the United States, which disclose a decrease of 17.3 per cent in comparing totals for the period indicated. This total for the Sixth District for November represent a relative increase of approximately 17 per cent when compared with the preceding period. Figures for the individual cities range from an increase of 6.4 per cent at Vicksburg to a decrease of 35.6 at Savannah compared with a year ago.

Liquidation of agricultural loans through the District has not progressed during November as well as had been exptected. The lagging of the price of cotton has caused a great number of producers, and others who have cotton on hand, to withdraw from the market until the price should recover. Correspondent member banks in different parts of the District state that if sufficient improvement takes place the sales which would be made would enable many of their customers to liquidate loans which have been carried many months. Merchants are also affected, and are themselves unable to liquidate their bank loans for this reason. Very little agricultural paper is being paid in full. Where they are in a position to do so, merchants and farmers are making payments on their loans, and are looking to future improvement in the market. There is some renewed activity in the rice market, and Louisiana correspondents state that liquidation in that section has resulted to some extent. While sugar is now coming on the market in some volume, the price has declined and this is retarding sales.

A comparison of figures reported by member banks in selected cities of the District shows a decline of approximately 3 per cent in the total amount of loans and investments on November 30, compared with the same item a month earlier. Total loans and investments on November 30th were $447,598,000, compared with $461,461,000 on November 2nd, and $557,449,000 on December 3, 1920, or 19.7 per cent less than one year ago.

These same member banks reported demand deposits on November 30, $213,630,000 which is approximately 2 per cent lower than deposits four weeks earlier, ($217,880,000 on November 2), and 11.1 per cent less than demand deposits on December 3, 1920, which were $240.275,000.

Fifty-one banks in the District reported to the Monthly Business Review the total amount of their savings deposits on the last business day of November and October 1921, and November 1920. The aggregate savings deposits on November 30, 1921, of these 51 banks totalled $80,087,147. This was smaller, by only a fraction over one-tenth of one per cent, than the total for the preceding month, which was $80,182,662 but was 1.8 per cent larger than savings deposits of the same banks on November 30, 1920, which were $78,666,481. Of the fifty-one reports received, twenty-three showed increases over October, while twenty-eight showed decreases, and thirty reports showed increases over November 1920, and twenty one banks reported savings smaller than those of a year ago.

The total of bills discounted for member banks and bought in the open market by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta declined from $99,836,521 on November 2nd, to $97,-295,076, on November 30th. Total bills on hand on November 30th 1920, were $138,775,676. Federal Reserve Notes of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta in actual circulation November 30th were $119,798,975, compared with $125,779,905 on November 2nd, and with $172,089,890 on November 30th, 1920.

DEBITS TO INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNT AT FIFTEEN CLEARING HOUSE CITIES SIXTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT.

	Four weeks ended Nov. 30, 1921	Four weeks ended Dec. 1, 1920	Increase or Decrease
ALABAMA:			
Birmingham $	50,263,000$	71,765,000	—30.0%
Mobile	23,568,000	28,854,000	—18.3%
Montgomery	14,445,000	16,086,000	—10.2%
FLORIDA:			
Jacksonville	37,266,000	48,244,000	—22.7%
Pensacola	5,612,000	7,642,000	—26.6%
Tampa	21,099,000	25,367,000	—16.7%
GEORGIA:			
Atlanta	95,151,000	107,486,000	—11.4%
Augusta	23,788,000	30,055,000	—20.9%
Macon	15,673,000	20,116,000	—22.1%
Savannah	41,183,000	63,983,000	—35.6%
LOUISIANA:			
New Orleans	238,285,000	319,993,000	—25.5%
MISSISSIPPI:			
Vicksburg	7,149,000	6,717,000	+ 6.4%
TENNESSEE:			
Chattanooga	31,392,000	43,739,000	—28.2%
Knoxville	22,899,000	31,035,000	—26.2%
Nashville	94,910,000	94,465,000	+ .5%
Total 6th District $	822,683,000$	915,547,000	—10.1%
Total United States	30,540,428,000	36,922,598,000	—17.3%

CLEARINGS—NOVEMBER 1921.

	Nov. 1921	Oct. 1921	Nov. 1920	Nov. 1921 Compared with Nov. 1920
ALABAMA:				
Birmingham $	84,061,625$	87,786,821$	85,111,168	— 1.2%
Mobile	6,910,288	7,234,333	9,839,255	—29.7%
Montgomery	5,715,780	6,978,875	7,195,625	—20.5%

FLORIDA:				
Jacksonville	39,228,184	36,079,827	49,422,967	—20.6%
Pensacola	6,228,757	6,123,455	8,459,925	—26.4%
Tampa	8,915,614	8,086,008	9,435,195	— 5.5%
GEORGIA:				
Atlanta	182,556,606	217,254,392	244,399,744	—25.3%
Augusta	7,606,037	9,959,126	12,981,077	—41.4%
Columbus	3,653,889	4,166,458	4,200,566	—13.0%
Macon	19,738,499	18,245,908	21,503,506	— 8.2%
Savannah	20,151,072	24,136,427	36,005,480	—44.0%
LOUISIANA:				
New Orleans	190,835,807	213,044,503	255,114,829	—25.2%
MISSISSIPPI:				
Meridian	2,347,699	2,607,623	2,620,677	—26.4%
Vicksburg	1,784,408	1,987,717	1,733,340	+ 3.0%
TENNESSEE:				
Chattanooga	23,337,607	21,788,335	31,125,768	—25.0%
Knoxville	12,077,436	14,150,597	13,717,082	—12.0%
Nashville	72,213,798	75,475,067	92,132,462	—21.6%
Total 6th District	$687,363,106	$ 755,105,472	$ 884,998,666	—22.3%

FAILURES.

According to statistics compiled and published by R. G. Dun & Co., the number of commercial failures, both in the Sixth District and in the United States, was larger in November than in any previous month during the current year, and also larger than the number of failures in November during recent years. The total of liabilities in the Sixth District were $3,711,252, being smaller, by 29.6 per cent. than liabilities for October, but larger by 94.1 per cent than those for November last year. For the United Sgates, the total liabilities for November failures was $53,469,839, being eight-tenths of one per cent larger than for October, and 73.8 per cent, or more than twenty two million dollars, in excess of liabilities for the 1050 failures during November 1920. November liabilities in the aggregate are the heaviest on record for November.

	Nov. 1921	Oct. 1921	Nov. 1920	%Change Nov.1921 Oct.1921	%Change Nov.1921 Nov.1920
NUMBER:					
Sixth District	204	153	90	+33.3	+126.7
United States	1988	1713	1050	+16.1	+89.3
LIABILITIES:					
Sixth District	3,711,262	5,271,140	1,911,992	+29.6	+94.1
United States	53,469,839	53,058,659	30,758,130	+0.8	+73.8

In connection with these increases in both numbers and liabilities, compared with previous periods, it should be borne in mind that the number of firms in business has substantially increased during recent years, and in this way the possibilities of financial embarrassment have been greatly augmented.

ACCEPTANCES.

Of fourteen reports regarding acceptance transactions during November 1921, received from accepting member banks in this District, only four showed any transactions. Domestic acceptances executed by these reporting banks were about five times as large in November as in October, but approximately 22½ per cent less than were executed during November last year. Foreign acceptances executed during November were approximately 24 per cent less than during October, and 31.4 per cent less than during November of last year.

Acceptances purchased in the open market during November by the Federal Reserve Bank were smaller, by 44 per cent than those purchased during October 1921, but were larger, by 28.4 per cent than the total for November 1920. The November total was larger than for any previous month this year except September and October

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports into the United States during the month of November were 15.5 larger than October imports, although 34.2 percent small than those for November 1920, according to the statement of the Department of Commerce. The November total was $211,300,000, compared with $183,000,000 for October, and $321,209,065 for November of last year. For the eleven months ended November 30, 1921 imports were $2,272,070,209, or 54.6 per cent smaller than those for the same period last year, $5,012,424,047.

Total exports for November are given as $295,500,000, or 14.6 per cent less than the total for October, $346,000,000, and representing a decrease of 56.3 per cent compared with the total for November 1920, which was $676,528,311. The total exports for the eleven months ended with November 1921 was $4,191,246,358. This total is 44.2 per cent less than exports for the same period in 1920, which were $7,507,729,533.

PORT OF NEW ORLEANS.

Imports through the port of New Orleans during the month of October 1921 were $5,480,716. This is a little more than three-quarters of a million dollars in excess of the total value of imports for September 1921, but does not compare favorably with the value of imports for October 1920, which were $12,201,083. Imports for October 1919 were $13,756,354, the high figure for October in recent years. Comparison of the volume and total value of important articles imported at New Orleans during October is shown in the following table:

	Oct. 1921 Volume	Oct. 1921 Value	Oct. 1920 Volume	Oct. 1920 Value
Cocoa—lbs.	180,495	$ 15,287		
Coffee—lbs.	16,817,428	1,787,803	37,695,666	$5,429,616
Sisal—tons	5,263	441,142	7,608	832,719
Burlaps—lbs.	9,040,200	753,255	5,029,000	696,634
Bananas—bunches	1,615,248	576,716	1,444,000	581,493
Ferro-manganese—tons	255	13,971	851	150,170
Mineral oil—gals.	55,062,000	573,447	99,414,000	1,156,213
Mahogany logs—ft.	3,233,000	343,665	1,995,000	258,530
Bags of jute—lbs.	549,604	27,237	----	----
Lemons—lbs.	577,275	12,148	----	----
Molasses—gals.	3,300,000	66,012	7,403,566	166,693
Sugar—lbs.	20,564,606	510,567	562,940	59,547
Beet Seed—lbs.	----	----	676,000	155,896

It will be noted that substantial decreases occurred in the total volume and value of coffee, sisal, ferro-manganese, mineral oil, and molasses. Increases are shown in burlaps, bananas, mahogany and sugar, but not sufficient to overcome the decreases in other articles of import. Decline in the value of imported articles caused a substantial part of the decrease in total imports.

Grain exports from New Orleans for the month of November 1921 totalled 2,236,318 bushels, compared with 5,067,821 bushels during November 1920. This total is comprised of 1,189,291 bushels of wheat, 894,000 bushels of corn, 72,485 bushels of oats, and 80,458 bushels of barley. In November 1920, 4,684,529 bushels of wheat were exported, 107,801 bushels of corn, 21,495 bushels of oats, 211,139 bushels of barley, and 42,857 bushels of rye. For the season July 1 to November 20, 1921 total grain exports at New Orleans were 27,054,293 bushels, compared with 41,608,519 bushels for the same period in 1920.

Figures recently compiled regarding the port of New Orleans indicate the Oriental trend of exports from that port. With the exception of the year 1920, when imports from Japan totalled $2,604,250, consisting principally of large consignments of sugar, there has been a very small increase of import from that country. Export business of the port with Japan, however, has increased from $362 in 1911 to $27,689,000 in 1920. Cotton was the principal commodity exported to Japan, and with the lower price the total of exports for the present year will probably be less than the 1920 total, but it is estmated the quantity will be about the same as last year. Iron and steel products, tobacco and mineral oil are among other articles exported, while Japanese imports through New Orleans consist largely of cane sugar, matting and rice.

BUILDING.

Permits for the construction of residences continue to show up favorably in comparison with figures reported for a year ago. At that time building materials, labor, and all of the items that enter into the cost of construction were still unreasonably high. Reductions have since taken place in almost all items connected with building. Following is a comparison of the number and value of residence permits issued at important cities in this District in November 1921–1920:

	Nov. 1921 No.	Nov. 1921 Value	Nov. 1920 No.	Nov. 1920 Value
Atlanta	87	$294,185	4	$77,900
Birmingham	118	246,450	52	125,198
Chattanooga	19	48,450	0	0
Jacksonville	59	197,950	20	81,900
Knoxville	43	134,580	14	45,625
Macon	13	33,351	3	31,150
Nashville	31	90,250	12	46,500
New Orleans	153	383,125	46	131,375
Tampa	28	97,850	18	63,100

BUILDING PERMITS—NOVEMBER 1921.

	Repairs and Alterations No.	Repairs and Alterations Value	New Buildings No.	New Buildings Value	Total Nov. 1921	Nov. 1920	Increase or Decrease
ALABAMA:							
Anniston	10	3,985	5	15,750	19,735	86,000	—77.1%
Birmingham	184	45,450	167	576,415	621,865	371,113	+67.6%
Mobile	9	8,300	20	104,430	112,730	13,675	+724.4%
Montgomery	122	13,400	4	11,000	24,400	27,901	— 12.5%
FLORIDA:							
Jacksonville	223	56,765	73	260,400	317,165	176,110	+ 80.1%
Miami	81	23,300	135	416,700	440,000	--	--
Orlando	46	12,015	82	113,235	125,250	207,708	— 39.7%
Pensacola	----	--------	----	--------	90,134	35,464	+154.2%
Tampa	100	50,614	123	178,947	229,561	228,071	+ 0.7%

BUILDING PERMITS—NOVEMBER 1921,—Continued

GEORGIA:							
Atlanta	111	48,285	265	619,376	667,661	364,965	+ 82,7%
Augusta	174	171,759	31	35,325	207,084	66,213	+212.8%
Columbus	0	0	11	7,038	7,038	323,075	— 97.8%
Macon	37	11,647	16	37,976	49,625	146,765	— 64.9%
Savannah		--------	----	--------	80,175	156,825	— 48,9%
LOUISIANA:							
New Orleans	57	94,400	189	523,610	618,010	916,479	— 32.6%
MISSISSIPPI:							
Meridian	2	2,000	3	5,450	7,450	1,475	+405.1%
Vicksburg	1	135	1	15,000	15,135	--------	--------
TENNESSEE:							
Chattanooga	149	38,710	26	103,850	142,560	42,007	+239.4%
Johnson City	3	8,300	16	41,700	50,000	14,900	+235.6%
Knoxville	79	23,802	58	183,660	207,462	112,312	+ 84.7%
Nashville	75	22,330	58	95,710	118,040	96,395	+ 22.5%

LUMBER.

The impetus given to the lumber industry during the preceding month or two in this District subsided somewhat about the middle of November. With the approach of cold weather orders from the North are naturally declining. Prospects are, however, that in the South building will continue through the winter in larger volume than is usual. The inventory season is given as another cause for slowing up, while the uncertainty regarding the expected reduction of freight rates is causing some mills to delay shipments of lumber for future use in order to effect a possible saving in transportation costs in case of early reductions. Weather conditions in some parts of the District have begun to interfere with logging operations, with the prospect that production will be restricted from this cause for the next two or three months. The statistical statement of the Southern Pine Association, however, for the week ended December 2, shows production for that week more favorable than was the case for the last period in October, actual production for the week ended October 31 being 20.46 per cent below normal, and for the wek ended December 2, 17.36 per cen below normal. Orders and shipments, however, and unfilled orders declined during the month. Shipments for the week ended October 31 were 30.26 per cent above production, and for the week ended December 2 were 3.32 per cent below the week's production. Orders for the week were 28.46 per cent below actual production, and 40.88 per cent below normal production of the reporting mills. Correspondents state that stocks at milling plants are broken and much reduced. Most of the demand is for high grades of lumber, and the sale of the common grades is restricted in distribution to nearby sections by reason of the high freight rates.

Sixty-five mills also reported operating time for the week ended December 2. Fifty-four, of these sixty-five mills, reported full-time operations; eight mills were operating five days a week, one mill three days a week, and only two were shut down.

Correspondent dealers in hardwood lumber in this District state that business has improved during November; that inquiries are coming in freely, and that sales during the last part of the month were substantially larger than in October. The demand for hardwoods is also restricted mostly to the better grades, dealers being unable to move the lower grades at a profit.

SOUTHERN PINE STATISTICS.

Month of November 921

123 MILLS REPORT:	
Orders	270,398,021 ft.
Shipments	312,901,889 "
Production	298,703,651 "
Normal production these mills	337,901,775 "
Stocks November 30th	798,701,239 "
Normal stocks these mills	949,938,471 "
Unfilled orders November 30th	186,453,432 "

The following shows the detailed statistical report of the Southern Pine Association for the week ended December 2, and comparisons with previous weeks:

128 Mills Report:

	Cars	Feet
Orders on hand beginning of week	10,234	216,899,396
Orders received during week	2,416	51,204,704
TOTAL	12,650	268,104,100
Shipments during week	3,265	69,198,410
Orders on hand end of week	9,385	198,905,690

For the week (128 Mills)	Total	Average per Mill
Orders	51,204,704 Feet	400,037 Feet
Shipments	69,198,410 Feet	540,613 Feet
Production	71,575,164 Feet	559,181 Feet
Normal production these mills	86,615,978 Feet	676,687 Feet

Shipments below production for the week	2,376,754 Feet	= 3.32%
Orders below production for the week	20,370,460 Feet	=28.46%
Orders below shipments for the week	17,993,706 Feet	=26.00%
Actual production below normal	15,040,814 Feet	=17.36%
Shipments below normal production	17,417,568 Feet	=20.11%
Orders below normal production	35,411,274 Feet	=40.88%
Decrease in "Orders on Hand" during week	17,993,706 Feet	= 8.30%

PREVIOUS REPORTS.

Week ended	Mills reporting	Avg. Orders (feet)	Avg. Shipments (feet)	Avg. Production (feet)	Avg. Normal production (feet)	Total Unfilled cars	Avg. Unfilled Orders Per Mill (feet)
Nov. 4	138	571,908	671,240	566,696	675,967	13,130	2,066,928
11	131	515,406	601,473	562,834	682,767	11,727	1,944,713
18	136	564,134	583,614	583,851	695,719	12,945	2,017,326
25	140	438,413	565,880	534,174	669,106	11,290	1,709,145
Dec. 2	128	400,038	540,613	559,181	676,687	9,385	1,553,947

MANUFACTURING.

Cottonseed oil mills in this Federal Reserve District are operating at from 80 to 100 per cent of capacity. Reporting mills state that substantial increases have taken place in production during November over preceding months One mill reports that product sold and on hand is due to buyers being unable to re-sell and furnish shipping instructions, stating that the warm weather this fall has made feeding of hulls and meal unnecessary to any great extent.

Continued improvement is reported by manufacturers of cotton hosiery during November, reporting factories operating at from 80 to 100 per cent of capacity. One reporting plant states they are running full night and day capacity, and have sufficient orders to keep their plant running for months on this basis. Production for November was slightly above that for October, but ranged as high as fifty per cent at one mill in excess of production for Novmeber last year. One mill reports skilled labor as being scarce, although stating there is plenty of unskilled labor to be had.

Incident to the Christmas trade, reports from confectionery manufacturers indicate increased activity over previous months. While buying is reported rather late this year, indications point to a good volume. Other lines of manufacturing are just about holding their own. Brick manufacturing shows no change compared with the preceding month, but is on a much better basis than at this time last year. Furniture factories are operating at about 75 per cent of capacity, sales and shipments being about equal to productions. Overall manufacturers are working to full capacity filling orders already received. New business being received is light, but merchants are calling for prompt delivery. Stocks are very low, and are principally being shipped out as fast as manufactured.

COTTON MANUFACTURING.

Cotton Cloth.

Cotton cloth production showed further improvement during the month of November compared with the preceding months, and compared with the November 1920 production.

Thirty-seven representative cotton mills manufacturing cloth report productions figures which aggregate 4.2 per cent greater than their production in October, and compared with November 1920, the increase for November 1921 is 31.3 per cent. October production was 3.5 per cent larger than that for September, and 17.4 per cent greater than for October 1920.

At this time last year the rapid decline in the price of raw cotton, as well as in other lines, had had a striking effect on production; cancellations of orders were frequent, and production was being curtailed because of the uncertainty then prevailing. This is further evidenced by the fact that November shipments of cloth were 96.3 per cent greater than those for November last year, but were 13.3 smaller than shipments for October 1921.

Unfilled orders on hand at the end of November declined 6.7 per cent compared with October, but were 34.3 per cent in excess of those on hand at the close of November a year ago. Stocks of manufactured cloth on hand at the end of November were also smaller, by 17.8 per cent, than those at the end of October, but 11.6 per cent less than for November 1920.

While the total of unfilled orders reported shows a decline, some of the reporting mills have large orders on hand which will require full time operation for many weeks. One mill states that it will require forty weeks, running full time, to complete its orders on hand. Most of the reporting mills are operating on full time, and some of them are operating day and night shifts.

37 Mills	Nov. 1921 Cotton Cloth Statistics Compared with: Oct. 1921	Nov. 1920
1. Cloth production	+ 4.2	+31.3
2. Cloth shipments	—13.3	+96.3
3. Orders on hand at end of month	— 6.7	+34.3
4. Stock of manufactured cloth on hand at end of month	—17.8	—11 6

Cotton Yarn.

The production of cotton yarn in this District was also greater in November than in October, notwithstanding the month had two holidays. November's increase over production in October was 3.2 per cent, according to reports received from 40 representative cotton mills manufacturing yarn, which report to the Monthly Business Review. The production of yarn in November 1921 was 67.0 per cent greater than in November 1920.

Cotton yarn shipments, which for October were 12.9 larger than in September, declined 2.2 per cent in November in comparison with October figures, but were 120.8 per cent larger than yarn shipments for November a year ago.

Orders on hand at the end of November likewise declined 12.7 per cent compared with October figures, but were 68.3 per cent larger than at the end of November 1920. Stocks of yarn on hand at the end of the month were 1.4 per cent less than for October, and only 3.9 per cent larger than one year ago.

Two factors have been important during November in limiting the amount of orders placed for future delivery. Buyers were satisfied some time ago that the October estimate by the Department of Agriculture of the total production of cotton in the United States was lower than was justified, and that the total crop would be somewhat larger than those figures had indicated. The approach of the time for inventory taking is also given by some of the mills as the cause of the slackening of orders, as buyers desire not to have larger stocks on hand. Some of the reporting mills, however, have sold their production for many weeks ahead, and at prices which allow some profits, through a few of the mills state that operation is being carried on without profit at the present.

40 Mills	Nov. 1921 Cotton Yarn Statistics Compared with Oct. 1021	Nov. 1920
1. Yarn production	+ 3.2	+67.8
2. Yarn shipments	— 2.2	+120.8
3. Orders on hand at end of month	—12.7	+68.3
4. Stocks of yarn on hand at end of month	— 1.4	+ 3.9

LABOR

Unemployment continues to be a problem, although some improvement has been made in some parts of the District. According to statistics complied by the Department of Labor, employment increased at Atlanta, by 2.7 per cent, and at Birmingham, by 1.5 per cent, during November compared with the situation in October, while employment is shown to have decreased 9.4 per cent at New Orleans and 2 per cent at Chattanooga, during that month. The statistics upon which the Department's information is based are gathered each month by special agents in 65 principal industrial centers. 1425 firms each usually employing more than 500 workers, on November 30 had 7,219 more employees on their payrolls than were carried on October 31st, or an increase of .46 per cent.

The increase in employment which began in August and September showed a tendency to recede during November. While iron and steel continued to add to its forces, industry as a whole remains inactive. Railroad repair shops let out about 5 per cent of their workers; food and kindred products also made heavy reductions, undergoing the usual seasonal slackness. A slight increase in employment has occurred in textiles as compared with the end of October. Reports from 231 of the principal industrial centers of the country indicate that owing to season and climatic conditions, unemployment is increasing.

In Georgia 140 textile mills employing 34,936 on November 15, show an increase for the month of 940. 17 lumber plants employing 761 on November 15, show a decrease of 69, and 33 fertilizer factories employing 550 on November 15 report an increase of 31. Unemployment continues general in Atlanta, though there is some improvement. A decrease of 124 is shown in the number of employees on the payrolls November 15 of 148 industrial concerns in Atlanta usually employing between 100 and 500. Cotton oil mills are operating at nearly full time and textile plants in Atlanta are at about full time. Railroads are reported adding men to their shops, and building trades continue to be well occuppied.

At Savannah unemployment continues, especially in office and clerical help. Fertilizer plants and cotton compresses are renewing operation, but with about 25 per cent of normal forces. Lumber industries are showing some improvement. Employment conditions in Augusta, Macon and Columbus are not acute. Idleness is confined principally to common labor.

Employment conditions generally throughout Florida, with the exception of the metal trades, shipbuilding and cigar making, continue to be satisfactory. There is a surplus of labor at Jacksonville, principally among those who drift to Florida during the cold weather. Some clerical workers are idle, and some unemployment still continues in shipbuilding and on the waterfront. Part time prevails in practically all metal shops in Tampa, with continued unemployment. Wage controversies in the cigar making trade have resulted in the unemployment of 10,000 or more. Cigar making at Key West is not yet up to normal, and forces have been reduced at the naval station. Unemployment at Pensacola is principally confined to unskilled labor, with reduced forces also reported in metal trades, shipbuilding and waterfront workers.

Reports indicate improvement in employment conditions in Birmingham. Now furnaces have been blown in and some of the pipe plants have increased working forces. Building and construction have kept labor in these line pretty well occupied, through there is still a surplus of semi-skilled and common labor. At Mobile, however, unemployment is still excessive, though there are indications of some improvement. Through municipal operations the city is endeavoring to furnish employment for the idle. Improvement in lumber plants and in cotton mill operations are reported from Mississippi, where unemployment is stated to be not serious. In Tennessee mining conditions are not quite up to those of a month ago, and there are possibly a few more idle workers than at that time.

COAL.

Production of soft coal has continued the decline which set in the last week in October, and has continued, except for the week ended November 12, since that time. Statistics of the United States Geological Survey show that for the week ended December 3rd soft coal production touched the lowest level reached at any time since last April. The daily rate, 1,179,000 tons, showed a decrease of 16 per cent in comparison with the rate of Thanksgiving week. In comparison with production in late October, the decrease was 36 per cent. The present slump is stated to be in large part a reaction against the artificial stimulus lent by the apprehension of consumers over a possible stoppage of transportation.

November production of soft coal in the United States is estimated at 35,955,000 tons, which is a decrease, compared with October, of 7,778,000 tons, or 18 per cent. This is stated to be by far the smallest output in any November of recent years except two, the year 1914 when a business depression was in progress, and the year 1919 when a general strike had closed all the union mines. The November 1921 total output is 30 per cent smaller than that for November 1920, and a little more than 12 per cent less than the average for November for the eight years 1913 to 1920. Cumulative production for the year to November 30 is given as 376,000,000 tons, compared with 504,000,000 tons in 1920, and an average for the eight year period of 458,000,000 tons.

Figures received from Tennessee show that during November 7,141 cars, representing a tonnage of approximately 357,050 tons, were loaded by all mines reporting to the Southern Appalachian Coal Operators Association. This shows a decline, in comparison with October figures, of 439 cars, or approximately 21,900 tons. The number of tipple mines in operation remains stationary. The demand for coal of all grades is reported to be growing smaller. Reports show that from 50 to 60 per cent of the total mines, representing 70 per cent of the state's normal production, have successfully negotiated a reduction in the wage scale to the level of 1917, and the mines now in operation are said to be working on that scale.

STOCKS OF COAL.

November 1, 1921.

There has been conducted jointly by the Bureau of the Census, of the Department of Commerce, and the Geological Survey, of the Department of the Interior, an investigation of the commercial stocks of coal on November 1, 1921, compared with certain provious dates. The results of this study are of interest in connection with current conditions in this industry.

Consumer's stocks of bituminous coal in the United States on November 1st are estimated at from 44,000,000 to 50,000,000 net tons, probably about 47,000,000 tons. This does not include coal in the bins of domestic consumers, concerning which statistics are not available, nor steamship fuel, nor coal on the docks at the head of the Lakes, which is classed as coal in transit. This figure estimated for November 1, is 16,000,000 tons, or 25 per cent, below the maximum of 63,000,000 tons reached during the war. Estimated stocks on October 1, 1916, were 27,000,000 tons. One year later stocks were 28,100,000 tons, and on October 1, 1918, stocks had risen to 59,000,000. On Armistice Day stocks were 63,000,000. This figure is based upon an actual count of stocks made by the Fuel Administration.

Of all classes of consumers, the report states that public utilities were in the strongest position on November 1. Reporting coal-gas plants on that date had an average supply of 87 days, and the electric utilities an average of 54 days. The actual tonnage in the hands of 364 utility plants on November 1 was 9 per cent greater than what the same plants carried on January 1, 1919. At the present dimished rate of consumption, the stocks of both coking coal and steam and gas coal held by the steel industry appear great. Measured in tons actually on hand, however, the present stocks at steel plants are barely half of those in January 1919. The yards of retail coal merchants generally, the report shows, are well stocked. The possibility of a railroad strike had induced many dealers to increase their reserves in the last half of October, and on November 1 retail stocks were larger, both in tonnage and in days' supply, than at any other time of record. Returns from 255 railroads indicated that the carriers had about 29 days' supply on hand on November 1, at the present rate of consumption.

The following figures show the relation of stocks in the yards of reporting retail coal dealers in states of this District on November 1 1921 to the dates indicated:

	Stocks November 1, 1921 compared with:			
	Aug. 1, 1921	Jan. 1, 1921	June 1, 1920	Jan. 1, 1919
Alabama	+18	+313	+349	+828
Florida	—18	+ 15	+384	+ 48
Georgia	—20	+130	+254	+ 66
Louisiana	—23	+ 3	+333	+252
Mississippi	+ 3	+ 82	+113	+ 67
Tennessee	+ 3	+ 58	+318	+ 5

Total figures for the United States show that stocks on November 1, 1921, were 12 per cent larger than on August 1, 1921, and 36 per cent larger than on January 1, 1921; 286 per cent greater than on June 1, 1920, and 14 per cent larger than on January 1, 1919.

IRON AND STEEL

Statistics compiled and published by the Iron Trade Review show that twenty-five additional furnaces were blown in in the United States during November, and the total production of pig iron during the month was 1,414,958 tons. This is an increase of 180,508 tons over the October total, which was 1,234,450, notwithstanding the fact that November was one day shorter than October. November is the fourth consecutive month to show an increase over the preceding month, the November total production being 550,316 tons in excess of the low figure shown for last July. August was the first month to show an increase in production after a series of declines beginning in October 1920. The blowing in of 25 additional furnaces during November increased the number of active furnaces from 95 on October 31 to 120 on November 30. In September 11 furnaces were lighted, and in October 15. Thus the November gain is equal to that for both of the preceding months. Total production of merchant pig iron during November was 304,535 tons, a gain of 85,545 tons over the 218,900 tons produced in October, and non-merchant or steelworks furnaces made 1,110,423 tons, a gain of 94,963 tons over the 1,015,460 tons produced in October.

In the Alabama district, of the forty-three furnaces, twelve are in operation, two making charcoal iron and ten on coke iron. On October 31st ten furnaces in Alabama were in operation, and two additional furnaces were blown in on November 1. Production of iron in this district is reported at 108,201 tons for November, compared with 100,297 tons during October. The prevailing price of pig iron is now $18.00, for $2 foundry, compared with $42.00 for the same grade at this time one year ago. Alabama's November production is divided into 55,230 tons of merchant, and 52,971 tons of non-merchant uron.

Business being done in the southern pig iron market is confined to spot orders for immediate requirements, very few purchasers being willing to place orders for any future business. Local consumption, however, is encouraging. No iron is being accumulated at present and, on the whole, the stocks on yards are being reduced. The market for steel products, nails, rods, etc., and for structual steel is reported to be not so good as during October. New business has fallen off and prices are somewhat weaker.

Unfilled orders of the United States Steel Corporation declined 30,287 during November, the total unfilled tonnage on November 30th being 4,250,542, against 4,286,829 on October 31, 4,560,670 on September 30th, and 9,021,474 on November 30,1920.

NAVAL STORES

The condition of the Naval Stores market at important points in this District continued to exhibit the irregularity which has characterized this market during the past two or three months. There have been fluctuations, but the gains made in prices have not always been maintained, although the general trend has been upward. Correspondents state that the season will draw to a close about thirty days earlier this year than usual, owing to the favorble weather which has been experienced through the season. The unsatisfactory prices on rosins which have prevailed have had the effect of curtailing production, although our information is that turpentine prices have been more favorable. Receipts of both turpentine and rosin at Pensacola during November were notably larger than for October, although at Savannah and Jacksonville receipts for the two months were about equal. Shipments of turpentine declined in November at Savannah and Pensacola, while rosin shipments declined at Jacksonville and Pensacola, Savannah rosin shipments being considerably larger in November than for October. Stocks at Savannah, of both turpentine and rosin, were reported the same as for October, but increased at the other two points.

MOVEMENT OF NAVAL STORES

November 1921.

	Nov. 1921	Oct. 1921	Nov. 1920
Receipts—Turpentine:			
Savannah	9,369	9,243	*
Jacksonville	10,160	10,356	10,706
Pensacola	5,272	3,841	4,190
Receipts—Rosin:			
Savannah	39,291	35,214	*
Jacksonville	39,903	32,121	32,537
Pensacola	19,066	11,940	16,380
Shipments—Turpentine:			
Savannah	7,528	9,181	*
Jacksonville	7,843	7,602	9,190
Pensacola	3,583	4,100	882
Shipments—Rosins:			
Savannah	53,273	28,172	*
Jacksonville	34,489	40,063	5,383
Pensacola	16,905	21,622	5,759
Stocks—Turpentine:			
Savannah	9,160	9,160	*
Jacksonville	30,542	28,225	23,111
Pensacola	22,370	20,681	10,275
Stocks—Rosins:			
Savannah	83,466	83,466	*
Jacksonville	171,993	166,580	129,343
Pensacola	66,019	63,858	48,814

*Not reported.

SIXTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

NOTE: NORTHERN PART OF LOUISIANA IN 11th DISTRICT
NORTHERN PART OF MISSISSIPPI AND WESTERN PART OF TENNEESSEE IN 8th DISTRICT.