

# THE MONTHLY BUSINESS REVIEW

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

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA

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No. 1

### GENERAL SUMMARY FOR UNITED STATES

Production and trade show no striking departures from the conditions prevailing at the time of the last report. At this season there usually occurs a period of slackening in various lines of manufacture and this has been true during the past month. Such recession as there has been does not, however, go beyond the proportions to be expected at this time of the year. The Federal Reserve Board's price index for December shows a reduction of only two points, as compared with a month earlier, while the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics shows no change in its index.

On the productive side, interest has been largely centered about the iron and steel trade. The activity in that branch of business has, on the whole, been slightly on the increase, the end of the year showing a slowing down due to the usual inventory period, while during the first part of January better inquiry, particularly from railroads, has tended to increase the volume of orders on hand as well as the activity of the plants. Demand for non-ferrous metals continues quiet.

In cotton and woolen textiles no material change has taken place but in other manufacturing lines there has been, in any thing, a moderate tendency toward improvement.

Little change in crop conditions can be expected during the winter season. Prices of staple farm products have, on the whole, about held their own with fair export demand. Minor agricultural crops, especially citrus fruits and sugar cane, have shown satisfactory yields.

A slight increase in unemployment is attributable largely to seasonal recession and indicates no important changes in the general demand for labor. Building operations have been unusually well maintained, especially for this season of the year, being about double those reported for the corresponding month a year ago.

Wholesale trade lines have shown great variation. Sharp declines have occurred in dry goods and boots and shoes, while hardware sales, although not declining in as marked a degree, have fallen off substantially. Groceries also show a lessened volume of demand. In the southern states declines in wholesale lines have been especially pronounced in dry goods and shoes. The figures, however, make a distinctly favorable showing as compared with a year ago. In retail trade, buying demand in the manufacturing districts of the east and north still shows improvement, while demand in the agricultural regions of the west and south indicates sharp decrease as compared with the corresponding period a year ago.

### SIXTH DISTRICT SUMMARY

The year 1921 has proven to be a trying one for practically all lines of business. Probably no single line of trade or industry has escaped the continuous readjustments which began in the late summer and fall of 1920, and continued well into the summer of 1921. Prices which had continued to rise, reached their peak in the summer of 1920, and began the declines which were not arrested until June 1921, and before the fall months of 1920 were passed the condition of business had been changed and the trend toward reckless expansion had been definitely reversed. What amounted practically to a consumers' strike was in effect. With demand lessened, manufacturing either slowed down or stopped until jobbers, wholesalers and retailers were able to dispose of their stocks. There appeared a surplus of labor, in place of the shortage. Wages began to decline, and substantial reductions in prices were necessary to move the large stocks of merchandise on hand. With unemployment on the increase, and wages of employed workers on the decline, it was difficult to effect sales except of necessities, and at the end of 1920 many business firms found it necessary to charge large amounts to profit and loss accounts. The rapid decline in the early fall of 1920 in the price of cotton, the South's principal money crop, almost brought disaster to many farmers who found it necessary to carry over to 1921 much, if not all, of their 1920 indebtedness.

This was the condition of business at the beginning of 1921. The first six months of the year are now known to have been a period of further decline in prices and in business generally. In the case of necessities, there has been a fairly satisfactory volume of business throughout 1921, but at lower prices. Purchases of luxuries have fallen off substantially. In the summer of 1921 both retail and wholesale prices became more stable, and fluctuations since that time have been comparatively small. Generally, retail prices did not decline in proportion with wholesale prices. During all of 1921 buying by both wholesale and retail firms has been limited to immediate requirements and stocks have been kept as low as possible.

The agricultural situation in the South during the past year has been a rather complex one. The cotton crop was the

shortest in twenty years, but fortunately the price increased and to some extent this offset the shortage in the crop. While this increase did not result in prosperity to the farmer, it did help greatly to improve the general business situation. Other crops were produced in satisfactory volume, but prices were low and markets for most of them were lacking.

Taking into consideration the different level of prices prevailing now as compared with a year ago, the statistics which have been published in this Review regarding retail and wholesale trade show a gradual improvement. Comparisons of sales for December 1921 with those for December a year ago show up much more favorably than was the case six months ago. While the mild winter has affected sales adversely in many lines, it has made possible the carrying on of active building campaigns, and many of the cities in the District report increased value of permits issued in comparison of those of last winter, and many workers in the building trades have been kept employed who would otherwise have been out of work. Unemployment in this District is gradually declining, and public improvements and other projects are expected to furnish employment to many. The iron and steel industry is gradually resuming operations, thirteen furnaces now being in blast as compared with eight in operation six months ago. Textile manufacturing in this District has shown much improvement during the last six months, and is now in much better shape than at this time last year.

#### RETAIL TRADE

Reports received from thirty-four representative Department Stores for the month of December reflect the stagnation which the holiday season always produces, but otherwise indicate little improvement in retail trade for the month.

While November 1921 sales were 21.4 less than those for November 1920, sales in December 1921 were only 14 per cent. smaller than sales by identical firms during December a year ago. Comparison of sales from July 1 to December 31 shows that the business transacted during the six months period was 20.6 per cent. smaller in dollar value than for the same period last year, a percentage only slightly changed from the November comparison.

Stocks on hand reported by these Department Stores were 17.9 per cent. smaller at the end of December than at the close of business for November, showing that merchants desired to have inventories at the end of the year as small as possible. Stocks December 31, 1921, were only 5.3 per cent. smaller than on the same date in 1920. The relation of average stocks on hand at these stores at the end of each month during the last half of the year to sales during this same period was a little more than four to one, as shown by the statement which follows.

There are a number of factors which have operated against any substantial increase in retail trade. Unseasonably warm weather has been the rule, rather than the exception, in most parts of the District so far this winter, and has removed the usual incentive to buy winter clothing, shoes, etc. The continuance of unemployment, even though improvement is noted, makes it impossible for many workers to buy anything but absolute necessities, and the belief generally prevailing that retail prices have not declined in the same proportion with prices at wholesale encourage the hope that further reductions will be made. After-holiday clearance sales have removed a considerable amount of merchandise, and reports generally indicate that business has shown improvement since the turn of the year.

#### CONDITION OF RETAIL TRADE DURING DECEMBER, 1921

##### Federal Reserve District No. 6

##### As Reflected by Reports of Thirty-four Representative Department Stores

	Atlanta (3)	Birming- ham (4)	Jackson (3)	Nash- ville (4)	New Orleans (5)	Savannah (3)	Other Cities (12)	District (34)
1-A. Sales during December 1921 compared with December 1920 -----	-17.0	-30.1	-4.8	-3.7	-13.4	-24.7	-19.5	-16.8
1-B. Sales July 1 to December 31, 1921 compared with same period 1920 -----	-24.6	-32.2	-13.1	-12.8	-15.4	-26.1	-22.8	-20.5
2-A. Stocks December 31, 1921 compared with stocks December 31, 1920 -----	-7.8	+2.2	-5.2	-9.8	-8.1	+11.7	-6.4	-5.3
2-B. Stocks December 31, 1921 compared with stocks November 30, 1921 -----	-25.0	-10.8	-20.2	-15.8	-22.0	-9.0	-14.5	-17.9
3. Relation of stocks July 1 to December 31, 1921 to sales for same period -----	470.6	490.0	x	441.3	392.4	569.7	448.9	435.4
4. Relation of outstanding orders December 31, 1921 to total purchases in 1920 --	3.0	3.3	x	4.5	8.0	2.2	2.1	5.0

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

**WHOLESALE TRADE**

Sales by wholesale firms which reported to the Monthly Business Review for the month of December reflect continued improvement, although there was possibly some slowing up on account of the inventory period. In dry goods and shoes, the principal seasonal lines under investigation, December business was substantially less than during November, but the comparison with December 1920 is much more favorable, an increase of 37.4 per cent being shown in December wholesale shoe sales over those for the same month in 1920, and a decrease of only 8.3 per cent in Dry Goods in December compared with those of a year ago. In groceries, hardware, furniture and drugs the decreases in December sales compared with those during November were small, and stationery and farm implements showed increases of 30 and 43.7 per cent respectively over November sales in those lines.

A majority of the reports received indicate that retailers were buying in December, as in previous months, for immediate requirements only, and with a view to having small stocks at the time of taking their end-of-the-year inventory. Some of the reports state that the failure of the retailers to follow the downward trend of wholesale prices is tending to curtail buying by the ultimate consumer. Orders, as a rule, are being accepted by wholesale grocery concerns only for immediate delivery. Merchants are coming more and more to realize that costs and margins of profit must be reduced to meet the reduced demands for merchandise.

Probably the most outstanding feature in the business situation in this District is the lack of buying on the part of the farming classes, caused in a great measure, if not entirely, by the short cotton crop, the disposition which has prevailed for several weeks to hold for price recovery the cotton not already disposed of, and the low prices and lack of profitable markets for other agricultural products. Farmers

are unable to liquidate their obligations at banks or supply houses. Many retail concerns, especially in the smaller towns, would be buying except for the fact they are unable to obtain additional credit. The farmers' inability to buy, therefore, is having its effect all through the business life of the District in retarding the progress of all lines of trade.

Weather conditions have also been a deterring factor this winter. The District has experienced little cold weather, and business in winter clothing has suffered on this account. Home building campaigns have been carried on, however, without serious interruption by cold weather, and this has had a favorable effect on the business of furniture houses.

The statement following shows in detail the comparisons of sales by reporting wholesale firms in December 1921 with sales by the same firms in November, and in December 1920. Some of the lines under investigation show increases over sales for the corresponding period in 1920, and the decreases shown by other lines reflect a more favorable volume than has been the case in preceding months, and comments made by reporting firms indicate conclusively that business conditions generally are on the mend. Improvement in collections is reported by an increasing number of firms.

The result of a comparison of the sales for the year 1921 with those for 1920 by those reporting firms whose figures are on file for all months of these two years, is shown in the table immediately following, which indicates the number of firms in each of the four lines which have reported for this period, and the relation which their 1921 sales bear to those of 1920.

Wholesale Groceries (14 firms) .....	-41.5%
Wholesale Dry Goods (17 firms) .....	-42.7%
Wholesale Hardware (17 firms) .....	-37.7%
Wholesale Shoes (7 firms) .....	-37.4%

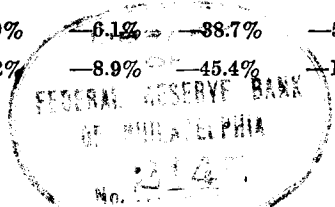
**CONDITION OF WHOLESALE TRADE—DECEMBER, 1921**

Sixth Federal Reserve District

Comparison of Sales during December, 1921, with Sales during November, 1921

	Groceries (29)*	Dry Goods (21)*	Hardware (22)*	Shoes (9)*	Furniture (12)*	Farm Implements (6)*	Stationery (4)*	Drugs (3)*
Atlanta .....	-7.5%	-40.4%	-14.1%	-57.9%	-3.8%	x	x	x
Jacksonville .....	+2.5%	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Knoxville .....	x	-45.5%	x	x	x	x	x	x
Meridian .....	-4.7%	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Nashville .....	x	-42.7%	-10.2%	x	-19.7%	x	x	x
New Orleans .....	+1.9%	x	-7.7%	x	x	x	x	x
Vicksburg .....	-8.4%	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Other Cities .....	-7.9%	-29.9%	-6.1%	-38.7%	-5.9%	+43.7%	+30.0%	-9.6%
District .....	-1.8%	-39.2%	-8.9%	-45.4%	-1.4%	+43.7%	+30.0%	-9.6%

\*Number of reports. ....



## Comparison of Sales During December 1921 With Sales During December 1920

	Groceries (29)*	Dry Goods (21)*	Hardware (22)*	Shoes (9)*	Furniture (12)*	Farm Implements (6)*	Stationery (4)*	Drugs (3)*
Atlanta -----	-29.1%	+15.0%	+6.4%	+31.7%	+128.5%	x	x	x
Jacksonville -----	-20.3%	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Knoxville -----	x	-11.2%	x	x	x	x	x	x
Meridian -----	-21.7%	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Nashville -----	x	+13.6%	+4.6%	x	+310.7%	x	x	x
New Orleans -----	-22.1%	x	-23.7%	x	x	x	x	x
Vicksburg -----	-14.6%	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Other Cities -----	-17.1%	-16.5%	-2.3%	+39.6%	+7.8%	-34.7%	+29.9%	+3.0%
District -----	-21.2%	-8.3%	-9.9%	+37.4%	+37.7%	-34.7%	+29.9%	+3.0%

\*Number of Reports.

## WORLD COTTON CROP

Information compiled and published by the United States Department of Agriculture shows the estimate by that Department of the world production of commercial cotton for the year just ended to be 15,593,000 bales. This is reported to be the smallest crop since 1900, when the Department began publishing world figures, and compares with 20,650,000 bales in 1920, and with a ten-year average of 20,773,000 bales of 500 pounds weight.

Two of the most important countries from a commercial standpoint, the United States and Egypt, which furnish the principal supply of cotton for American and European spindles, had last year what would be considered under normal conditions, crop disasters. These countries, with estimates of 8,340,000 and 684,000 bales, respectively, will produce only 61.4 per cent of their total production last year, or 5,667,000 bales less than was produced in 1920. The cotton crop in China, South America, Mexico and other countries, while not so important commercially, is smaller than usual. Russia, which immediately before the war produced around 1,500,000 bales annually, has practically ceased to grow cotton. India produces more cotton annually than any country in the world outside the United States. Average annual production for the past eleven years was about 3,600,000 bales grown on a little more than 22,000,000 acres. A small portion of the cotton acreage is under irrigation, but the greater part of the crop is planted following the annual monsoons, receiving usually but little moisture afterwards.

Reduced consumption occasioned by the inability of Russia, Turkey and many other countries in Europe and throughout the world to buy cotton cloth since the war, forced the closing down of spinning and weaving establishments in the principal manufacturing countries last year. This in turn curtailed the demand for raw cotton, and prices were forced down in the United States below the cost of production. Confronted with a large carry-over, American farmers last year reduced the acreage planted to cotton, and production

was further reduced because of the small amount of fertilizer used in making the crop, and as a result of the ravages of the boll weevil over practically the entire belt. Unfavorable weather during the growing season prevailed over much of the cotton belt in the United States. Much the same conditions existed in Egypt.

Following is a table showing the cotton production in the principal cotton-growing countries for 1921, compared with the two preceding years and with the year before the outbreak of the war, 1914:

Cotton Production in Principal Cotton-growing Countries  
(Bales 478 Pounds Net)

Country—	1914 (Bales)	1919 (Bales)	1920 (Bales)	1921 (Bales)
United States	16,135,000	11,421,000	13,440,000	8,340,000
Mexico	130,000	362,000	205,000	165,000
Brazil	460,000	560,000	431,000	560,000
Peru	107,000	172,000	157,000	146,000
Argentina	4,000	15,000	16,000	26,000
British India	4,167,000	4,637,000	2,845,000	3,623,000
Japan and Korea	38,000	94,000	105,000	120,000
China	784,000	1,150,000	1,868,000	1,650,000
Russia	1,309,000	440,000	90,000	50,000
British Africa	54,000	60,000	81,000	75,000
Egypt	1,337,000	1,154,000	1,251,000	684,000
Australia	-----	1,000	1,000	4,000
All others	150,000	155,000	160,000	150,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,675,000</b>	<b>20,221,000</b>	<b>20,650,000</b>	<b>15,593,000</b>

## MOVEMENT OF COTTON (BALES)

## RECEIPTS—PORTS:

	Dec. 1921	Nov. 1921	Dec. 1920
New Orleans	122,068	157,354	249,494
Mobile	8,866	12,847	20,650
Savannah	58,836	69,975	55,623

## RECEIPTS—INTERIOR TOWNS:

Atlanta	30,980	37,585	8,232
Augusta	37,953	45,546	48,399
Jackson	1,485	4,980	2,788
Meridian	2,741	5,417	5,865
Montgomery	1,680	7,231	3,856
Vicksburg	23,428	19,078	15,910

## SHIPMENTS—PORTS:

New Orleans	217,714	153,899	211,095
Mobile	8,250	14,149	17,056
Savannah	68,119	84,895	66,765

## SHIPMENTS—INTERIOR TOWNS:

Atlanta	20,418	31,079	14,684
Augusta	26,877	35,722	24,575
Jackson	1,130	1,594	1,375
Meridian	2,296	4,955	2,301
Montgomery	1,838	4,814	2,219
Vicksburg	16,926	12,006	7,679

## STOCKS—PORTS:

New Orleans	339,114	434,760	451,626
Mobile	16,802	16,563	18,443
Savannah	167,444	176,727	149,628

## STOCKS—INTERIOR TOWNS:

Atlanta	61,732	51,170	31,258
Augusta	145,330	143,365	163,821
Jackson	14,393	14,004	11,451
Meridian	18,352	17,907	13,142
Montgomery	31,824	31,982	32,584
Vicksburg	13,714	14,284	10,432

## COTTON GINNED

A report issued by the Census Bureau gives the amount of cotton ginned in the United States prior to January 1, 1922, as 7,884,272 running bales, including 123,320 round bales, counted as half bales. 30,093 bales of American-Egyptian, and 3,106 bales of Sea Island cotton. The figures show that in the Sixth District 2,802,659 bales had been ginned prior to January 1, 1922. According to the statement, 243,402 bales of cotton were ginned during December, of which 65,036 bales were ginned in the Sixth District.

## Ginnings to January 1.

	1922	1921	1920	1919
Alabama	584,335	632,300	680,459	750,687
Florida	12,098	18,224	17,515	27,071
Georgia	817,263	1,365,314	1,637,738	1,951,185
Louisiana	281,773	369,982	291,222	523,812
Mississippi	811,830	821,382	823,082	1,501,201
Tennessee	295,360	261,412	239,876	281,571
Tot. Sixth Dis.	2,802,659	3,468,614	3,689,892	5,035,527
Other States	5,981,613	8,086,034	6,319,028	5,738,336
Total U. S.	7,884,272	11,554,648	10,008,920	10,773,863

## COTTON CONSUMPTION DECEMBER, 1921

## U. S. Census Bureau

(In Bales)

	Dec. 1921	Nov. 1921	Dec. 1920
Cotton Consumed:			
Lint -----	511,800	526,610	295,292
Linters -----	41,698	53,257	27,287
On Hand in Consuming establishments:			
Lint -----	1,737,771	1,648,216	1,251,122
Linters -----	167,862	152,840	233,311
In Public Storage and at Compresses:			
Lint -----	5,177,266	5,271,451	5,623,646
Linters -----	171,303	176,689	337,198
Exports:			
Lint -----	635,421	630,140	785,379
Linters -----	4,394	18,555	3,199
Imports -----	60,996	51,440	25,890
Active Spindles -----	34,488,640	34,387,008	29,914,154

## Cotton Growing States

	Dec. 1921	Nov. 1921	Dec. 1920
Cotton Consumed -----	304,825	322,734	193,385
On Hand in Consuming Establishments ----	922,991	877,040	622,074
In Public Storage and at Compresses ----	4,807,823	4,930,850	5,266,147
Active Spindles -----	15,509,256	15,499,127	14,482,640

## CITRUS FRUIT

The production of citrus fruit for the 1921-22 season is estimated by the Agricultural Statistician of the United States Bureau of Markets and Crop Estimates to be 13,600,000 boxes, compared with 13,200,000 boxes last season and 12,500,000 boxes in 1919-20. It is estimated that the orange crop will amount to 8,200,000 boxes, compared with 8,100,000 boxes last season and 7,000,000 boxes the season of 1919-20, and 5,400,000 boxes of grapefruit, compared with 5,100,000 boxes last season and 5,500,000 boxes the season of 1919-20. The yield per 100 trees for the present season is estimated at 196 boxes of oranges and 284 boxes of grapefruit, the quality of both being given at 89 per cent. There are approximately 4,175,000 bearing orange trees, and 1,900,000 grapefruit trees of bearing age. In the storm-swept territory production this year will run below that of last season, and production in some sections of the East Coast was curtailed by dry weather early in the summer. Picked groves, however, are showing heavier production than was estimated and the crop of late fruit, especially of oranges, is larger than usual. There has been a slight advance in the price of oranges during the month, and sellers are reported unwilling to accept orders at prevailing prices except for immediate shipment. The movement of both oranges and grapefruit has been more rapid this season than last, 8,158 carloads of oranges and 5,091 carloads of grapefruit having moved from the State to December 31st, compared with 7,592 cars of oranges and 4,291 cars of grapefruit moving to the same time in 1920. These figures do not include shipments by water routes.

**Statement of Car Lot Shipments of Citrus Fruit and Vegetables From Florida During the Month of December:**

	Month of December		Season totals to December 31st, inc.	
	1921	1920	1921	1920
Grapefruit -----	1295	1141	5091	4291
Oranges -----	5296	3882	8158	7592
Cabbage -----	13	9	13	9
Celery -----	0	7	0	7
Lettuce -----	468	816	504	1036
Peppers -----	24	0	40	1
Tomatoes -----	31	12	31	12
Vegetables -----	91	60	209	91

**SUGAR**

Ideal weather has prevailed in Louisiana throughout the fall for harvesting and grinding of sugar, and for increasing the yield of sugar in the cane. Grinding operations have been about completed, except in the cases of large factories. The sugar crop of 1921 was the largest and the yield the highest in several years. The acreage is reported to have been about 60 per cent larger than in 1920, and the yield is estimated as the highest since 1911. Sugar producers planted larger acreages in sugar in 1921 with the hope of retrieving some of the losses of 1920, but the market has been a little disappointing. Stocks are considerably lower than at this time last year.

**Sugar Production**

Production of:	1921	1920	1919
Sugar (Short tons) ----	267,000	169,127	121,000
Syrup (gals) -----	7,053,000	4,639,885	3,672,000
Molasses (gals) -----	22,568,000	16,856,867	12,991,000
Cane used for:			
Sugar, short tons -----	3,671,000	2,492,524	1,883,000
Syrup, tons -----	349,000	224,205	196,000
Acreage.			
Sugar -----	209,000	182,843	179,900
Syrup -----	21,500	18,297	18,724
Seed -----	57,600	67,152	76,376
Total acreage -----	288,100	268,292	275,000
Yield:			
Tons of cane per acre----	18	13.6	10.5
Pounds sugar per ton of cane-----	142	----	----

**Movement of Sugar (Pounds)**

	Dec. 1921	Nov. 1921	Dec. 1920
Receipts:			
New Orleans -----	49,585,673	60,277,462	16,126,800
Savannah -----	9,341,112	15,437,120	21,508,466
Meltings:			
New Orleans -----	46,573,231	50,969,217	4,062,543
Savannah -----	9,341,112	18,701,120	12,260,017
Shipments:			
New Orleans -----	0	6,817,708	0
Savannah -----	0	0	0

**Stocks:**

New Orleans -----	7,076,738	3,968,296	13,590,386
Savannah -----	0	0	8,194,295

**RICE**

The total production of rice in Louisiana during 1921 is estimated at 16,560,000 bushels, as against 25,200,000 bushels in 1920, and 18,550,000 bushels in 1919. The acreage planted to rice in 1921 was only 480,000, as against 700,000 acres in 1920. The quality averages 86 per cent of normal, compared with 90 per cent last year, and the average price in Louisiana on the first of December 1921 was 83 cents, compared with \$1.10 on the same date in 1920. Louisiana produced more rice than any other state, Arkansas being next in quantity with 6,688,000 bushels, raised on 125,000 acres. The export demand has continued to improve and has offset the light domestic demand for rice.

**Rough Rice (Sacks) Port of New Orleans**

	Dec. 1921	Nov. 1921	Dec. 1920
Receipts -----	193,487	83,941	131,886
Shipments -----	159,648	85,581	173,736
Stock -----	69,664	35,825	58,082
Left-over from last season	24,158	24,158	6,428

**Clean Rice (Pockets) Port of New Orleans**

	Dec. 1921	Nov. 1921	Dec. 1920
Receipts -----	315,233	198,314	355,309
Shipments -----	277,821	215,978	228,537
Stock -----	171,450	134,038	415,570
Left-over -----	89,691	89,691	173,428

**Receipts of Rough Rice (Barrels)**

	Dec. 1921	Tot. this season	Same time last season
Association Mills -----	518,837	2,918,082	
New Orleans Mills -----	193,487	839,856	
Outside Mills -----	173,059	933,559	
	885,383	4,691,497	5,633,515

**Distribution of Milled Rice**

	Dec. 1921	Tot. this season	Same time last season
Association Mills -----	494,152	2,503,777	
New Orleans Mills -----	148,812	804,529	
Outside Mills -----	116,600	729,724	
	759,564	4,038,030	3,319,400

**Stock (Rough and Milled)**

	Jan. 1, 1922	Same time last year
Association Mills -----	760,823	
New Orleans Mills -----	214,251	
Outside Mills -----	283,380	
	1,258,454	2,922,698

Foreign Trade in Rice—United States (Pounds)

	Nov. 1921	Tot. this season	Same time 1920
<b>IMPORTS:</b>			
Rough Rice -----	1,175,393	2,914,919	10,860,509
Clean Rice -----	5,254,289	25,244,062	21,169,850
Brewers Rice -----	79,100	356,326	449,647
<b>EXPORTS:</b>			
Foreign Rice -----	3,531,665	17,577,048	24,697,447
Domestic Rice -----	34,099,644	191,261,054	60,868,479

**FINANCIAL**

The volume of business transacted in fifteen clearing house cities of the Sixth Federal Reserve District, represented by debits to individual accounts during the four weeks ended December 28th compared less favorably with the total for the United States than did figures for the preceding four weeks. The total for this district for the December period was \$706,336,000, and was 16.5 per cent less than the total of \$845,805,000 for the same four weeks of 1920. The total of debits for the United States for this same period reflects a decline of only 11.4 per cent in 1921 as compared with 1920. For the period ended November 30, figures for the Sixth District published in the December Review reflected a decrease of only 10.1 per cent, while figures for the United States were 17.3 per cent smaller than for the same period in 1920. These figures represent actual payments by check against individual accounts in the fifteen clearing house cities of the district.

Figures reported by forty-three member banks in selected cities of the District show a decline of \$2,505,000 in total loans and investments on December 28, 1921, as compared with November 30, 1921, and a decline of \$100,292,000 as compared with December 24, 1920. The December 28, 1921, total of loans and investments of the forty-three banks was \$445,093,000, 18.4 per cent less than the figure for December 24, 1920. Demand deposits reported by the same banks on December 28, 1921, were \$213,528,000, or \$102,000 smaller than on November 30, and 8.5 per cent, or \$21,010,000 smaller than the total of \$234,538,000 held on deposit subject to check in these banks on December 24, 1920.

The total of bills discounted for member banks and bought in the open market by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta declined from \$138,567,392 on December 28, 1920, to \$98,070,353 on December 28, 1921. This was slightly in excess, however, of the total of \$97,295,076 on November 30, 1921. Federal Reserve Notes of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta in actual circulation December 28th, 1921, were \$123,387,055, compared with \$119,798,975 on November 30, 1921, and with \$176,420,890 on December 28, 1920.

Seventy-eight banks rendered reports direct to the Monthly Business Review showing their Savings Deposits at the end of December, compared with the preceding month and with the corresponding date one year earlier. In all of the six states savings deposits were larger on December 31st, 1921, than on November 30, 1921, the net average increase being 1.5 per cent. For the District, there is little difference in the total for December 31st, 1921, and for the same date

one year ago. Banks in Alabama, Florida and Tennessee reported smaller savings, and in Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi larger savings were reported, the net average increase for the District being one-half of one per cent.

While actual preparation for the coming crop season is not yet under way, plans are being made to produce crops with a minimum of expense. This was done very generally throughout the District last year, but with the small crop of cotton, and the lack of market for other products, there are still a great many farmers laboring under the burden of a large part of their 1920 debts, as well as their 1921 obligations. The past season's crops were produced with less outlay of money, perhaps, than any previous crop, and efforts were made to reduce indebtedness wherever it was possible to do so. The large production of foodstuffs has enabled a large number of farmers to improve their position who would under other conditions have been compelled to seek further accommodation.

**DEBITS TO INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS AT FIFTEEN CLEARING HOUSE CITIES**

Sixth Federal Reserve District

	Four weeks ended Dec. 28, 1921	Four weeks ended Dec. 29, 1920	Increase or Decrease
<b>ALABAMA:</b>			
Birmingham -----	58,050,000	68,457,000	-15.2%
Mobile -----	24,663,000	29,393,000	-16.1%
Montgomery -----	15,187,000	16,090,000	+ 5.6%
<b>FLORIDA:</b>			
Jacksonville -----	40,914,000	50,978,000	-19.7%
Pensacola -----	5,748,000	7,144,000	-19.5%
Tampa -----	21,998,000	23,081,000	- 4.7%
<b>GEORGIA:</b>			
Atlanta -----	101,637,000	102,867,000	- 1.2%
Augusta -----	25,748,000	25,963,000	- 0.8%
Macon -----	16,757,000	19,607,000	-14.5%
Savannah -----	42,600,000	50,926,000	-16.3%
<b>LOUISIANA:</b>			
New Orleans -----	234,947,000	292,350,000	-19.6%
<b>MISSISSIPPI:</b>			
Vicksburg -----	6,512,000	6,194,000	+ 5.1%
<b>TENNESSEE:</b>			
Chattanooga -----	31,860,000	42,733,000	-25.4%
Knoxville -----	23,457,000	26,225,000	-10.6%
Nashville -----	56,258,000	83,797,000	-32.8%
Total 6th District----	706,336,000	845,805,000	-16.5%
Total United States--	32,760,959,000	36,994,516,000	-11.4%

**ACCEPTANCES**

Of twenty-one reports regarding acceptance transactions during December 1921 received from accepting member banks in this District, eleven reports showed no transactions in acceptances of any kind during the month. Nine reports showed amounts of domestic acceptances executed during December aggregating 5.7 per cent more than during November, but

5.6 per cent less than during December 1920. Foreign acceptances executed during December 1921 were approximately 34 per cent greater in amount than during November 1921, but about 14 per cent less than during December 1920.

Acceptances purchased in the open market during December 1921 by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta were larger by 64.8 per cent than during the preceding month, and were 33.5 per cent in excess of the total for December 1920. Except for September and October 1921, this total for December is larger than for any month since April, 1920.

### FAILURES

The year just ended records the largest total amount of insolvencies on record, and, with one exception, the largest number of failures. The number of failures during 1921 was 19,652, compared with 8,881 failures in 1920, and the total liabilities in 1921 were \$627,401,883, compared with a total for 1920 of \$295,121,805. Only in 1915, when 22,000 failures were recorded, has the 1921 number been exceeded. The maximum of liabilities prior to 1921 was in 1914 when the total was \$358,000,000. While there was an unusually large number of large failures, the average of liabilities is slightly less than that of 1920. In the Sixth District the year 1921 recorded 1944 failures with liabilities totalling \$43,477,704, compared with 597 failures, for \$9,349,352, in 1920.

Both the number and total liabilities for December 1921 were larger, in the United States and in the Sixth District, than those for December 1920. December liabilities were larger than those for November by 63.5 per cent in the Sixth Federal Reserve District, and 63.6 per cent in the United States, and the increase compared with December 1920 for the Sixth District was 94.1 per cent, and for the United States 48.6 per cent. The number of failures in the Sixth District in December was smaller than for November by 6.9 per cent, but larger by 46.1 per cent than for December 1920, while for the United States the December number was 22.9 per cent larger than for November, and 60.3 per cent larger than for December 1920.

An important factor in connection with the large number and amount of liabilities during 1921 is the fact that during the inflation of the war period and immediately following, commonly considered a period of large and easy profits, there were many firms formed with small capital and little experience, and these were the first to fail when the readjustment set in. The effects of the general slowing down of business in all lines, and the consequent reduction in buying power, have been far reaching, and have not yet entirely disappeared, although conditions are gradually improving.

	Comparison		Comparison		
	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.	Dec.	
	1921	1921	1921	1921	
	with		with		
	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.	Dec.	
	1921	1921	1920	1920	
<b>NUMBER:</b>					
Sixth District	-- 190	204	-- 6.9%	130	+46.1%
United States	--2444	1988	+22.9%	1525	+60.3%
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>					
<b>Sixth</b>					
Dist.	\$ 6,066,401	\$ 3,711,262	+63.5%	\$ 3,125,655	+94.1%
U. S.	87,502,382	53,469,839	+63.6%	58,871,539	+48.6%

### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS—UNITED STATES

Statistics issued by the Department of Commerce of the United States show the total value of imports into the United States during the year 1921 was \$2,508,452,065, or 52.5 per cent smaller in dollar value than the total value of imports for the year 1920, which was \$5,278,481,490. For the month of December the total imports are shown as \$236,800,000. This is an increase of 12.1 per cent over the November figure, although 11 per cent below the figure for December last year, \$266,057,443.

The value of exports for December was \$295,900,000, compared with \$720,286,774 for December 1920, showing a decrease of 58.9 per cent. Exports for December were one-tenth of one per cent larger than during November. For the year 1921, total exports from the United States were \$4,484,766,889, or 45.5 per cent lower than the total of \$8,228,016,307 for the year 1920. The excess of exports over imports for December 1921 was \$59,100,000; for December 1920, \$565,229,331; and for the year 1921 the excess of exports over imports was \$1,976,314,824, and for the year 1920 \$2,949,534,817.

Exports for December were smaller than for any month of the year excepting November, and the figure for imports for December was larger than for any month in the year except March and April.

#### Port of New Orleans

Merchandise to the value of \$6,788,624 was imported during the month of November through the port of New Orleans. This figure does not include any Cuban sugar, as no sugar was imported from the Island during that month, a condition quite unusual for this season of the year. These receipts were \$1,300,000 greater than receipts during October 1921, and a still greater increase over the September figure. For the first time in a number of years, such items as tin, print paper and olive oil are listed among the important articles of import. Large increases occurred over October imports in coffee, burlaps, and mineral oil, although the last named article showed a decline as compared with figures for November 1920. Comparison of the volume and value of important articles of import for November 1921 and November 1920 follows:



	November 1921		November 1920	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Coffee—pounds	26,092,549	\$ 2,772,990	12,289,037	\$ 1,368,662
Burlaps—lbs.	13,734,096	1,100,251	6,346,655	759,721
Mineral				
Oils—gals	72,609,000	815,794	89,733,244	999,517
Creosote				
Oils—gals	896,000	38,608,000	—	—
Sisal—tons	3,640	249,747	4,890	561,061
Bananas—				
Bunches	1,818,407	608,937	1,647,791	729,721
Cocoanuts	2,539,494	76,575	2,336,500	83,213
Printing				
Paper—lbs.	920,568	30,658	—	—
Tin—lbs.	1,142,820	285,705	—	—
Wood pulp—				
Tons	1,100	46,802	—	—
Mahogany—ft.	816,000	87,962	2,488,000	303,062
Olive Oil—				
Gals	16,755	32,597	—	—
Molasses—gals	980,000	19,600	2,315,000	149,500
*Sugar—lbs	7,730,100	194,195	11,823,940	1,276,981

\*1921 figures show sugar importations at New Orleans during November from Honduras, no sugar having been received during that month from Cuba.

The total value of imports during November 1921 compares with imports for November of preceding years as follows:

1921	\$ 6,788,624
1920	8,317,750
1919	20,670,304
1918	9,933,487
1914	5,241,126

Grain exports from the port of New Orleans for the month of December amounted to 5,291,974 bushels, compared with 5,067,830 bushels exported during December 1920. This total for December 1921 is comprised of 1,352,459 bushels of wheat, 3,798,448 bushels of corn, 40,825 bushels of oats, and 100,242 bushels of rye. A larger quantity of wheat, but a smaller quantity of corn, was exported in December 1920, the figure for that month being comprised of 4,684,529 bushels of wheat, 107,810 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 the end of December, total grain shipments for New Orleans amounted to 32,346,368 bushels, compared with 41,608,519 bushels for the same period of 1920. The steady growth of exports of grain from New Orleans.

	1921	1920	1919
Wheat	55,903,904	49,589,787	12,677,755
Corn	13,757,818	1,244,282	1,060,292
Oats	598,315	906,960	5,788,181
Barley	831,439	6,203,382	7,011,668
Rye	1,079,227	237,857	0

Total 72,170,703 58,182,268 26,537,896

The tonnage of vessels entering and clearing at the port of New Orleans during 1921 was 10,887,968, or 14.5 per cent larger than in 1920, and 64.7 per cent larger than in 1919. Of this total, 5,538,970 represented American vessels and 5-

298,998 represented foreign vessels. The first direct shipment of tea in large quantities from Japan was received at New Orleans in December. The shipment consisted of 1,200 chests. Other large bookings are reported. Coffee records at New Orleans were broken in December, when 13 ships brought 500,000 bags into port, valued at \$7,000,000. The reduction of 25 per cent in freight rates on iron and steel manufactured articles from Chicago, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Pueblo and allied territory to New Orleans and Gulf Ports is expected to increase the shipment of these commodities through these ports. An issue of bonds amounting to six millions of dollars was sold during December, the proceeds to be used for port improvement. The Government Barge Line on the Mississippi River during December 1921 carried cargoes exceeding by 15,000 tons the total carried for any other month since the line has been in operation. It is estimated that approximately 165,000 bales of cotton were shipped on this line between Memphis and New Orleans during 1921.

### LUMBER

The Southern Pine Market has passed through a period of seasonal inactivity, due to the holiday season and inventory taking. Winter weather is interfering in some parts of the District with mill and logging operations, and the seasonal decline in building, though not great, has had some effect on lumber manufacturing. Of seventy-eight mills reporting their operating time to the Southern Pine Association for the week ended December 30, twenty-two were shut down. This is not unusual during the holiday season. Of the fifty-eight mills in operation only six operated full time, twelve operated five days, seventeen operated four days and seventeen three days, and four mills operated only two days during the week. Actual production for the week, reported by 132 mills, was 45 per cent below normal production, shipments were 46.86 per cent below normal production, and orders were 46.15 per cent below normal production. Correspondents state, however, that the first part of January has seen quite an appreciable increase in orders being received, and some increase in prices. Stocks on retail yards are said to be rather low and require replenishing.

Following are shown statistics for mills reporting to the Southern Pine Association for December comparatively with November.

	December 1921 117 Mills	November 1921 123 Mills
Orders	228,412,667 ft	270,398,021 ft
Shipments	248,346,779 ft	312,901,889 ft
Production	284,834,989 ft	298,703,651 ft
Normal production these mills	333,901,127 ft	337,901,775 ft
Stocks, end of month	797,433,127 ft	798,701,239 ft
Normal stocks these mills	896,842,859 ft	949,938,471 ft
Unfilled orders end of month	156,775,680 ft	186,453,432 ft

### BUILDING

Building statistics for December 1921 for most of the cities in this District for which these figures are gathered, compare favorably with figures for December 1920. At most of the cities increases in substantial amount are shown as compared with permits issued in December last year. Some of the de-

creases are caused by large single items in December 1920 which were not overcome in the same month this year, while the increases in some instances are largely due to permits issued for the construction of residences. The campaigns of home construction in the larger cities are being retarded only slightly at some points by reason of weather conditions, but the lower cost of building has made it attractive to many who last year felt they could not afford to build. The efforts being made to relieve unemployment may have some effect on the volume of building. Following is a comparison of the number and value of residences for which permits were issued in December 1921 at some of the more important points, compared with December 1920:

	Residence Permits			
	December 1921		December 1920	
	Number	Value	Number	Value
Atlanta	76	\$233,425	23	\$54,100
Birmingham	100	197,300	21	43,500
Chattanooga	17	42,850	1	1,000
Jacksonville	43	161,850	18	48,100
Knoxville	32	103,020	8	15,000
Nashville	19	60,500	3	18,000
New Orleans	97	409,350	33	84,950
Tampa	35	79,975	28	68,175

### BUILDING—DECEMBER, 1921

	Repairs and Alterations		New Buildings		Total	Total	Increase or Decrease
	No.	Value	No.	Value	Dec. 1921	Dec. 1920	
<b>ALABAMA:</b>							
Anniston -----	5	3,200	4	4,650	7,850	2,000	+292.5%
Birmingham -----	160	25,185	131	294,270	219,455	136,960	+133.2%
Mobile -----	2	1,700	14	23,200	24,900	4,300	+479.1%
Montgomery -----	91	11,087	2	700	11,787	20,216	- 41.7%
<b>FLORIDA:</b>							
Jacksonville -----	206	61,529	63	275,300	336,829	111,990	+200.8%
Miami -----	52	41,300	152	616,400	657,700	399,800	+ 64.5%
Orlando -----	28	16,545	59	115,351	131,896	146,491	- 10.0%
Pensacola -----	44	5,872	10	54,340	60,212	31,113	+ 48.3%
St. Petersburg -----	(Combined)		--	-----	325,600	-----	-----
Tampa -----	95	33,329	111	137,354	170,683	128,300	+ 33.0%
<b>GEORGIA:</b>							
Atlanta -----	99	56,593	137	513,963	570,556	299,891	+ 90.3%
Augusta -----	133	37,942	29	45,192	83,134	82,409	+ 0.9%
Columbus -----	(Combined)		--	-----	6,880	-----	-----
Macon -----	30	5,423	25	33,102	38,525	69,315	- 52.2%
Savannah -----	(Combined)		--	-----	87,225	58,300	+ 49.6%
<b>LOUISIANA:</b>							
New Orleans -----	27	49,050	138	615,650	664,700	1,210,437	- 45.1%
<b>MISSISSIPPI:</b>							
Meridian -----	50	67,281	52	280,745	348,026	114,815	+203.1%
Vicksburg -----	4	1,430	--	-----	1,430	-----	-----
<b>TENNESSEE:</b>							
Chattanooga -----	123	23,185	25	210,650	233,835	33,990	+589.5%
Johnson City -----	1	1,000	17	23,800	24,800	49,000	- 49.4%
Knoxville -----	30	10,252	54	163,080	173,332	24,931	+595.2%
Nashville -----	72	17,865	20	125,500	143,365	53,116	+169.9%

**MANUFACTURING**

Cotton seed oil mills in the Sixth Federal Reserve District were not so active during December as in November, when increased production was noticeably above that of the preceding months. December activity as indicated in figures reported by five mills, however, was substantially larger than was the case in December a year ago. The amount of cotton seed crushed by these five mills in December was about 25 per cent less than in November, but 39 per cent greater than in December 1920. Crude oil manufactured in December was reported to be approximately 25 per cent less than in November, but 43 per cent more than in December last year. Shipments increased 5 1-2 per cent over those for November, and 71 per cent over December 1920 shipments. Production of cake and meal was 51 per cent greater than in December 1920, although 29 per cent less than in November 1921. The number of employees on the payrolls in December 1921 was more than double the number employed in December last year, but was less, by 18 per cent, than in November 1921. Prices paid for cotton seed are reported to be about the same as those paid at this time last year, and the value of the products about the same. Demand is said to be limited.

Brick manufacturing shows little change from conditions which have prevailed in that industry during the past few months. A slight increase in production, with a falling off in orders booked during the month is indicated in reports received from correspondents for December.

Overall manufacturing continues active and mills are operating on full time. Some increase has taken place during December in the number of workers employed. The demand during August, September and October was unusually heavy due to the small stocks in the hands of retailers and the advance in price of cotton. Orders are still for small lots but prompt delivery is insisted upon. Orders for cotton hosiery during December were considerably larger than either the preceding month or December 1920; production is reported, however, as slightly under the November production, but about the same as during December last year. Unfilled orders on hand at the end of the month were about the same as one month earlier, but substantially larger than at the end of December a year ago. Orders booked by candy manufacturers during December were approximately a third larger than during November, but about twenty-five per cent smaller than the total for December last year. The amount of candy manufactured during December was greater than in November, but only a little more than two-thirds of the amount produced during December 1920.

**COTTON MANUFACTURING****Cotton Cloth**

Following increased production during November and October over the preceding months, a decrease of 4.3 per cent occurred in December compared with November, in the amount of cloth manufactured by 39 mills reporting to the Monthly Business Review. Some of the mills closed down a few days on account of the holiday season, but generally throughout

the District cotton mills are operating at full capacity. Some of the mills are operating day and night shifts, and information gathered by the United States Employment Service indicates that textile mills have been adding to their forces the last few months.

Figures reported to the Monthly Business Review by representative cotton mills throughout the District reflect greatly improved conditions over those existing a year ago. Production in December was 38.0 per cent greater than in December 1920. Cloth shipments, while 1.6 per cent below November 1921 shipments, were 126.7 per cent larger than during December 1920. Unfilled orders on hand at the end of December 1921 increased 2.7 per cent over those at the end of November, and were 22.1 per cent greater than for December 31, 1920. Stocks of cloth on hand were 4.5 per cent smaller than at the close of November, and one-tenth of one per cent smaller than on the same date one year ago.

**December 1921 Cotton Cloth Statistics**

	Compared with	
	Nov. 1921	Dec. 1920
1 Cloth Production -----	- 4.3%	+ 38.0%
2 Cloth Shipments -----	- 1.6%	+ 126.7%
3 Orders on hand at end of month -----	+ 2.7%	+ 22.1%
4 Stocks of manufactured cloth on hand at end of month-----	- 4.5%	- 0.1%

**COTTON YARN**

While the production of cotton yarn in this District fell off slightly in December as compared with preceding months, figures reported by 33 representative mills show production greater by 80.3 per cent than the amount of yarn manufactured by the same mills during December 1920. The amount of yarn manufactured in December was only 2.4 per cent smaller than in November, while in November production was 3.2 per cent larger than during October.

Shipments of cotton yarn in December, while 4.2 per cent smaller than in November, were 141.5 per cent in excess of shipments during December 1920.

Orders on hand declined 3.8 per cent during December, following a decline in November orders on hand compared with those at the end of October of 12.7 per cent. Compared with orders on December 31, 1920, however, an increase of 54.8 per cent is shown.

Stocks of yarn on hand December 31, 1921, were 1.0 per cent larger than on November 30, but 5.7 per cent smaller than on December 31, 1920.

Some of the reporting mills state they are now operating at a small profit, and that notwithstanding the December figures, conditions are improving. Cotton yarn buyers were loath to buy except what was necessary because of the taking of inventories on the last of the year, but business appears to have assumed better volume since the turn of the year.

## LABOR

Labor conditions generally in the United States were not quite so favorable at the close of December as at the end of November. Statistics compiled and published by the United States Employment Service, Department of Labor, gathered from 65 principal industrial centers of the United States, show that 1,428 firms usually employing more than five hundred workers on December 15, had on their payrolls 1,493,107 workers, compared with 1,567,374 on November 15, or a net decrease of 74,267, or 4.7 per cent. The net decrease in these same establishments since January 31, 1921, has been 135,027, or 8.3 per cent. The largest increase in employment shown by the statement was in leather and finished leather products, which showed a gain of 1.8 per cent for the month. Textiles and their products, and paper and printing, showed gains of 1.3 per cent, and iron and steel, metal and metal products, and lumber, followed with gains of less than one per cent. Decrease occurred in automobile manufacture of 37.8 per cent, in liquors and beverages of 25 per cent, in railroad repair shops of 6.4 per cent, food and kindred products of 5.2 per cent, and to a smaller extent in other lines. Among the cities showing increases in employment in these larger establishments which employ 500 or more, are Chattanooga 1.6 per cent, New Orleans 1.5 per cent, and Birmingham .3 per cent. Firms employing 500 or more in Atlanta show a decrease of 5.7 per cent during December.

The report shows, however, that 131 industrial concerns in Atlanta which on December 15 employed 19,940 workers, reported an increase of 146 for the month. About 75 per cent of the industries in Atlanta are running from one-half to two-thirds of full time. Cotton oil mills are operating at 90 per cent of full time, and employing about 75 per cent of their maximum. Steel plants and kindred industries are at a very low ebb, not more than 20 per cent of capacity. Work will soon begin on improvements provided for in the recent bond issue, and this is expected to furnish employment for a large number of workers. Housing conditions show improvement, and an active building program continues. Little employment exists in Columbus. Textiles, the principal industry of that city, show gains in employment. A slight decrease is noted in employment in Macon, although conditions generally are fairly satisfactory. 35 industrial concerns in that city show a decrease of 135 workers for the month. Augusta reports an increase of only 9 workers in 20 industrial concerns which on December 15 employed 3,102 workers. Unemployment is said to be general in all trades and occupations. No plants are closed down, but practically all, except textile mills, are working on part time with reduced forces. Savannah reports show an increase of 192 workers in 26 industrial establishments which on December 15 employed 2,359 workers. Unemployment continues serious, however, in many industries, and is acute in office and clerical work. Fertilizer plants and cotton compresses are running only about 25 per cent. The sugar refinery, employing about 450, and the canning factory, closed temporarily until the beginning of 1922 for lack of orders. Improvement is reported in cotton and naval stores, and in the building trades and the lumber industry.

In Florida unemployment continues to present no very se-

rious problem, although there is still unemployment in various industries. Some unemployment in Jacksonville, among metal workers, shipbuilding and waterfront industries, is being augmented by the influx of itinerants. In Tampa also unemployment in the metal trades exists to the extent of about 50 per cent. Building trades in Tampa are more active than any other, but due to the influx of outsiders, there are many unemployed. Some machinists, boiler makers, electricians and carpenters in Key West are idle, and further reductions in employment among cigar makers has been caused by the closing of two factories. Pensacola reports an increase of 23 workers by 16 industrial concerns which on December 15 employed 1,257 workers. 28 lumber mills in Florida which on December 15 employed 4,426 workers, report a decrease of 87. However, the packing and shipping of citrus fruits, and the planting and cultivating of early vegetables, are furnishing employment for large numbers. Road contracts, bridge building and other construction, are also giving employment to many.

Alabama reports indicate that coal mines are operating on about 40 per cent of full time. Business with the soil pipe works is reported exceptionally good, but the iron and steel industry is improving only slightly. Reports state that about 50 per cent of iron ore miners and 60 per cent of coal miners are unemployed. In Birmingham little change has taken place, except in the manufacture of soil pipes. Many lines show an increase, but almost all railroads entering the city are reducing forces. Montgomery reports little unemployment, with building active. The movement of lumber, steel and cotton has increased employment at Mobile. Lumber mills at Tuscaloosa are running full time with a full force, and other smaller mills are reported on full time.

Unemployment and part time continue in the manufacture of food products, in ship yards, the metal trades, and among clerical and waterfront workers, and in unskilled labor, in New Orleans. Cotton textiles, railroad repair shops, garment plants and cigar factories are active, and report improvement. Building is rather quiet. Floaters from the north and east are arriving in large numbers. The housing situation is improving, but there is still a shortage of low and medium priced houses for renting purposes.

The activity indicated in the lumber industry in Mississippi is stated not to be on account of an immediate demand for lumber, but retail stocks are becoming exhausted and preparations are being made for spring demand. Little unemployment is indicated in Mississippi cities. At Jackson business has slowed down due to the inventory period, but lumber manufacturing plants, the chief industries of that section, are running full time. Building is active. Meridian also indicates a shortage of houses, and building and street improvements are furnishing employment to many. Railroad shops are reducing their forces.

There has been some let up during December in Tennessee hardwood lumber plants, due to the holiday and inventory season. Weather conditions no doubt will prevent resumption to the fullest extent in the lumber industry until spring. 25 knitting mills in Tennessee which on December 15 employed 3,630 workers, report a decrease for the month of only 17

workers. 9 industrial concerns in Chattanooga employing 585 workers on December 15, show an increase of 50. Employment and industrial conditions in Chattanooga are reported good, with increased building activities. At Knoxville 8 industrial concerns which on December 15 employed 3,870 workers, report an increase of 55 during the month. Housing conditions are improving and building is active. Most of the industries are operating regularly, but a large textile mill is reported closed on account of industrial controversies affecting 1,400 employees. Some textile mills are running overtime. Little change has taken place in Nashville. Building continues active, and the lumber industry has shown some improvement. Coal mining in Tennessee during December was at a low ebb, and the number of unemployed was larger than during previous months.

### IRON AND STEEL

Pig Iron production in the United States during the month of December, according to statistics compiled and published by the Iron Trade Review, amounted to 1,634,611 tons, an increase of 15.5 per cent over production during the preceding month, November 1921, but 39.5 per cent less than produced in December 1920. The December production was the largest during the year since February, and continued the upward trend in production which began in August. On the last day of December 124 blast furnaces were operating, this being a gain of four furnaces over the number active on November 30. During the month four merchant furnaces were blown in and none blown out, while three non-merchant furnaces were blown in and three blown out. Of the total number of stacks active on the last day of the year, 38 were merchant and 86 non-merchant.

Total production for the year 1921 was 16,498,400 tons, or a decrease of 57.4 per cent compared with the production of 36,400,968 tons in 1920.

In the Alabama district, thirteen furnaces are now in blast, as against twelve on the last of November, one additional furnace having been blown in during the month. Alabama production of pig iron during December is given at 114,296 tons, compared with 108,201 tons produced during November. Of this total, 59,580 tons are merchant and 54,716 tons are non-merchant iron. Of the thirteen furnaces in operation, eleven are producing coke iron, and two are producing charcoal iron. While production increased in December, shipments are reported to have declined during the last half of the month, and correspondents state that furnaces were obliged to place iron on their yards due to lack of shipping instructions. Pig iron production was decreasing at a rapid rate at this time last year, and the output in January 1922 is expected to approach more nearly to the production of a year ago. The price of No. 2 iron during January 1921 ranged from \$27.50 to \$30.00 while at the present time \$16.50 is being quoted for the same grade. Business which developed during the week before Christmas served to stimulate the market and correspondents appear more hopeful in regard to business for the present year. The market for steel nails, rods, and other products was reported to be quiet during December, but this was ex-

pected, on account of the holiday and inventory season. During the month prices on nails and wire products were reduced and are stated to be very close to the cost of production.

### COAL

Production of coal in the United States during 1921, according to statements issued by the United States Geological Survey, amounted to 495,000,000 tons, the smallest year's output in ten years. 1920 production was given at 646,000,000 tons, or 151,000,000 more than the output for the year just ended. This fact means more than simple comparison with the tonnages of previous years would indicate, for bituminous production in the United States normally increases rapidly. From 1891 to 1901 the rate was nearly doubled, and from 1901 to 1911 it almost doubled again. That this rate should continue was not to be expected, but the record of recent years shows that the normal production is now not far short of 550,000,000 tons. Of the total of 495,000,000 tons produced during 1921, 406,990,000 was bituminous coal; 1920 bituminous coal output was 556,516,000 tons.

The December output in Alabama is reported at 960,000 tons, compared with 1,170,000 tons produced in November, and 1,320,000 tons produced in December 1920. The winter has so far been mild, and the demand for domestic coal has been low as a natural consequence. Retail coal dealers have preferred to dispose of the stocks they have on hand rather than increase their orders; some of the railroads declined to accept delivery of any coal Christmas week, and the cessation of work by various industries which closed for that week had its effect on the total amount of coal consumed. Correspondents indicate that their customers are expecting a reduction of freight rates and are placing orders only for actual requirements.

Tennessee correspondents state the production in that state during December was the lowest for any month in the past twenty-five years. Reports to the Southern Appalachian Coal Operators Association indicate the loading of 5,981 cars of coal during December, representing a tonnage of approximately 299,050 tons. Compared with November statistics these figures indicate a falling off of 1160 cars, or approximately 58,000 tons. Fewer mines operated during December than during any other month of the year. Mild weather conditions and the slackened state of coal consuming industries which obtain their supplies from Tennessee are given as reasons for the decrease.

### NAVAL STORES

The close of December brings to an end a year of continued uncertainty and unsatisfactory conditions in the Naval Stores Industry. The 1921 production of both rosin and turpentine has been smaller than for the preceding year, but the carry-over from the 1920 crop, coupled with the small volume of export business, by reason of the unsettled condition of foreign trade, has brought a feeling of relief that the year is ended. Stocks of both turpentine and rosin at the end of December were much larger than for the same time in 1920.

Shipments during December were considerably above those of December 1920, and receipts of rosin were larger by a substantial margin than those of a year ago. Turpentine receipts also reflected an increase over those of December a year ago, although at Savannah and Pensacola they were smaller than during the preceding month. The favorable weather during December has enabled many operators to wind up the season more rapidly than usual, and an increase in December receipts is shown at Jacksonville over those for November. Operations for the ensuing crop are now in progress and correspondents indicate that because of the large stock of rosin still in producers' hands, and because of general conditions in the trade, the next crop must be reduced in volume.

#### MOVEMENT OF NAVAL STORES DECEMBER, 1921

	Dec. 1921	Nov. 1921	Dec. 1920
<b>RECEIPTS—TURPENTINE:</b>			
Savannah	7,587	9,369	*
Jacksonville	10,718	10,160	9,582
Pensacola	4,831	5,272	3,909
<b>RECEIPTS—ROSIN:</b>			
Savannah	41,467	39,291	*
Jacksonville	48,057	39,903	33,955
Pensacola	25,657	19,066	13,310
<b>SHIPMENTS—TURPENTINE.</b>			
Savannah	5,004	7,528	*
Jacksonville	11,619	7,843	6,473
Pensacola	3,416	3,583	2,561
<b>SHIPMENTS—ROSIN:</b>			
Savannah	21,495	53,273	*
Jacksonville	45,308	34,489	1,730
Pensacola	9,174	16,905	7,228
<b>STOCKS—TURPENTINE:</b>			
Savannah	13,584	9,160	*
Jacksonville	29,641	30,542	26,220
Pensacola	23,740	22,370	11,620
<b>STOCKS—ROSIN:</b>			
Savannah	89,456	83,466	*
Jacksonville	174,472	171,993	161,569
Pensacola	72,482	66,019	54,896

\*Not reported.

#### WHOLESALE PRICES—UNITED STATES

The index number of wholesale prices in the United States compiled by the Federal Reserve Board for the purpose of international comparisons showed that prices during December declined 2 points. On the basis of prices in 1913—100 commodities imported rose 3 points, while goods exported declined 2 points. All groups of raw materials and manufactured goods declined during the month.

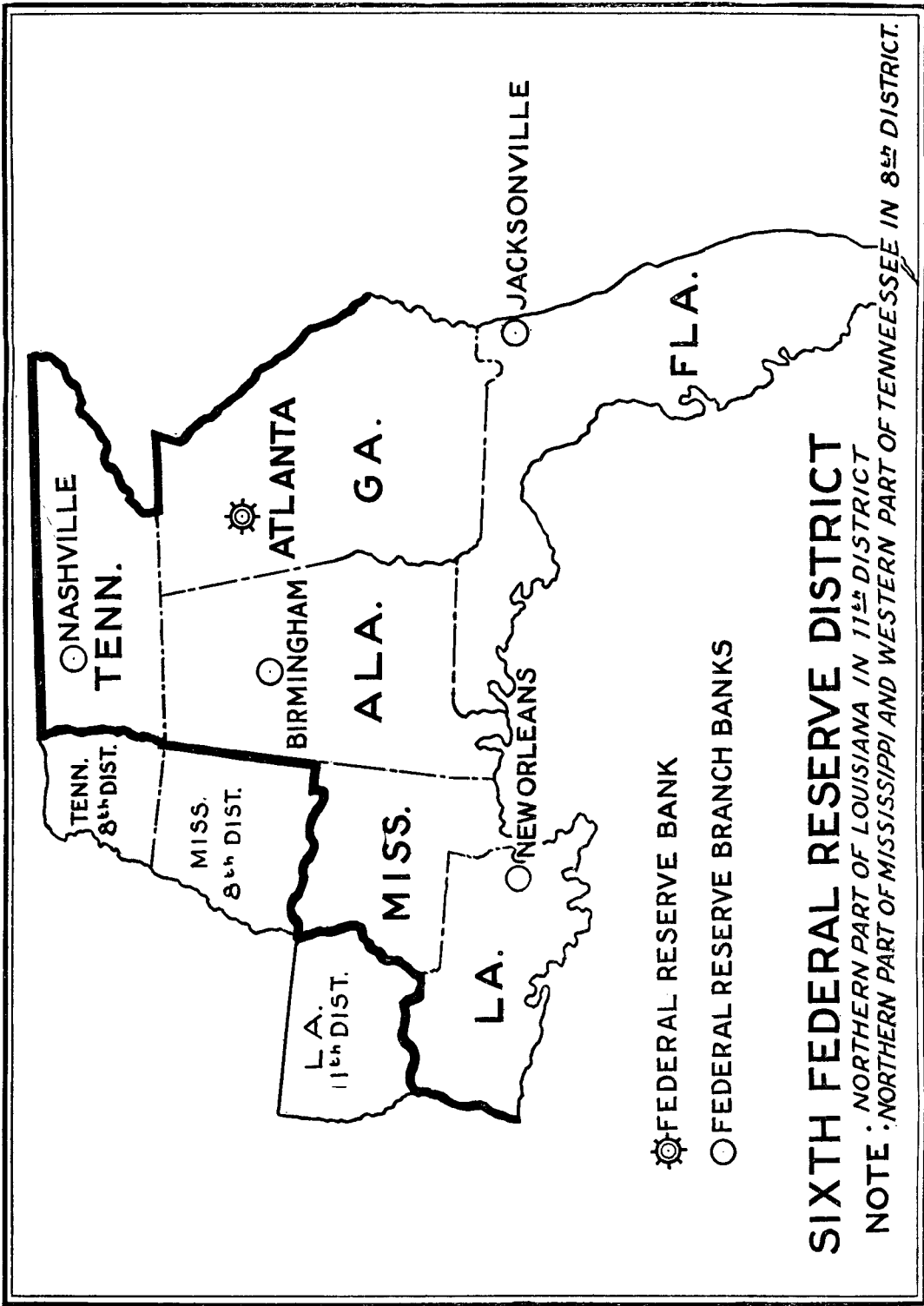
#### Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices

(Average price for 1913—100)

	Goods pro-	Goods import-	Goods export-	Raw mate-	Pro-ducers'	Con-sumers'	All
1920	duced	ed	ed	rials	goods	goods	
December 1921	178	112	146	176	171	171	173
January	166	114	142	164	166	159	163
February	156	113	135	152	158	152	154
March	152	114	125	146	153	151	150
April	145	109	121	136	148	147	143
May	145	105	125	139	145	144	142
June	141	102	122	133	140	144	139
July	144	103	122	134	136	152	141
August	145	104	123	133	133	157	143
September	145	106	144	138	133	152	143
October	143	107	141	140	132	145	141
November	142	108	138	141	128	143	140
December	139	111	136	140	127	140	138

The index number is compiled from 90 wholesale price quotations for representative commodities taken in leading United States markets. In most cases weekly quotations are averaged to obtain the monthly figures, and these in turn are weighted according to the importance of the commodity before the index number is constructed. Part of the quotations used are furnished by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the rest are compiled from trade journals and private firms of recognized authority.





- ☼ FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
- FEDERAL RESERVE BRANCH BANKS

**SIXTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT**

**NOTE :** NORTHERN PART OF LOUISIANA IN 11<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT  
 NORTHERN PART OF MISSISSIPPI AND WESTERN PART OF TENNESSEE IN 8<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT.