

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. 4

SUMMARY OF BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Further increases in the production of basic commodities, in wholesale prices, employment, wage rates, and wholesale and retail trade, took place in March.

Production

Production in basic industries, according to the Federal Reserve Board's index, increased 4 per cent in March to a level 8 per cent higher than at the 1920 peak and 67 per cent above the low point of 1921. The output of pig iron, steel ingots, automobiles and crude petroleum, and the mill consumption of cotton exceeded all previously reported monthly totals. Building operations showed a further large expansion and the value of contracts let for residences in March was the highest on record. Railroad freight shipments have been larger every week this year than in the corresponding weeks of the past four years. Car shortage has been reduced to the lowest point since September chiefly as a result of the addition of new equipment, a decrease in the number of bad order locomotives and cars, and a concerted effort to increase the average loadings.

Employment in the building trades and in many lines of manufacturing continued to increase in the Eastern States. The surplus of unskilled labor in the west reported in earlier months is being gradually absorbed by the seasonal increase in farm work. A number of leading textile mills, steel mills and packing plants announced general wage advances ranging between 11 and 12½ per cent, and numerous wage advances in other industries also were reported.

Trade

March sales by department stores reporting to Federal Reserve Banks were 22 per cent above those of March a year ago, partly because Easter purchases were made in March this year, whereas last year such purchases were largely deferred until April. Stocks of goods held by department stores were 6 per cent larger than those held a year ago but this increase was not as large as the increase in sales and hence the rate of stock turnover has been somewhat more rapid. Sales by mail order houses were larger than for any month since November 1920, and 35 per cent larger than in March 1922. Wholesale trade in all reporting lines was larger than in March a year ago.

Wholesale Prices

Wholesale prices as measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics index advanced 1.2 per cent during March, and were 15 per cent above the low point of January 1922. As in recent months the prices of metals and building materials showed the greatest increases, while fuel prices showed a further decline from recent high levels. Compared with a year ago, metals were 37 per cent and building materials 28 per cent higher. The cost of living increased slightly more than 1 per cent during March to a level of 3 per cent higher than a year ago.

Bank Credit

During the month prior to April 11 a more moderate growth in the demand for credit from member banks in leading cities resulted in an increase of about \$48,000,000 in their loans made largely for commercial purposes, as compared with an increase of \$235,000,000 in the preceding month. Through withdrawal of funds, from investments and a further inflow of gold, member banks have been able to meet demands of their customers for increased credit and currency independently of the Reserve banks. Consequently, the total volume of Federal Reserve Bank Credit, measured by total earning assets has remained relatively constant during the past month, and in fact since the seasonal liquidation at the turn of the year. The volume of Federal Reserve Notes in circulation has also changed but little as the larger demand for hand-to-hand money has been met chiefly by an increase in other forms of money in circulation.

There has been little change in money rates from those prevailing in March.

SIXTH DISTRICT SUMMARY

Growing momentum characterizes practically all lines of business and industry in the Sixth Federal Reserve District from which reports are received for the month of March. Retail trade, indicated by reports from a number of representative Department Stores throughout the District, was substantially better than either the preceding month or the corresponding month a year ago, and all lines of wholesale trade which report to the Monthly Business Review show increased volume of business compared both with February, and with March 1922.

While weather conditions up to the present have not been all that could be desired, farm work is progressing and the planting of cotton has probably been completed in this District. In some parts of the District the freeze late in March did considerable damage to cotton, and other crops, but replanting has been done where necessary. Sales of fertilizer have been much heavier this year than last, and the use of poison has been greatly increased this year in an effort to destroy the boll weevil.

Savings deposits, reported to the Review by 99 banks, continue to show small increases over the preceding month and for March this year were 14 per cent greater than at the same time last year. Debits to Individual Account at 25

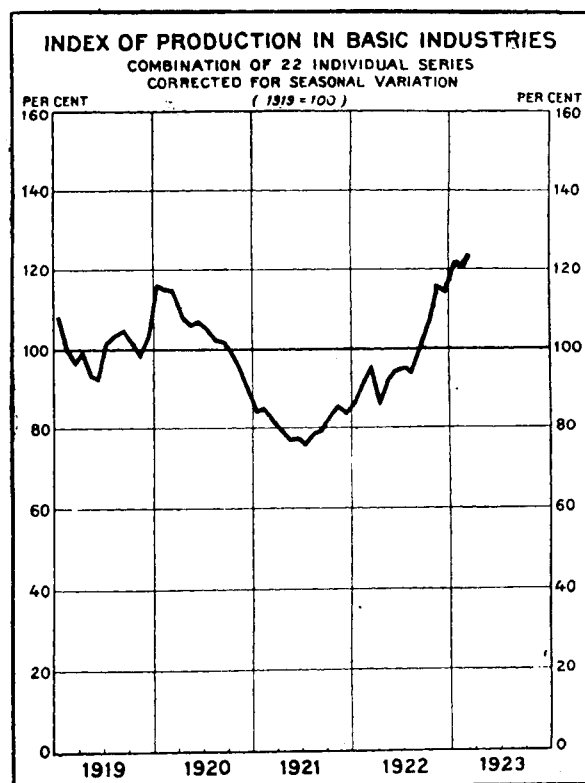
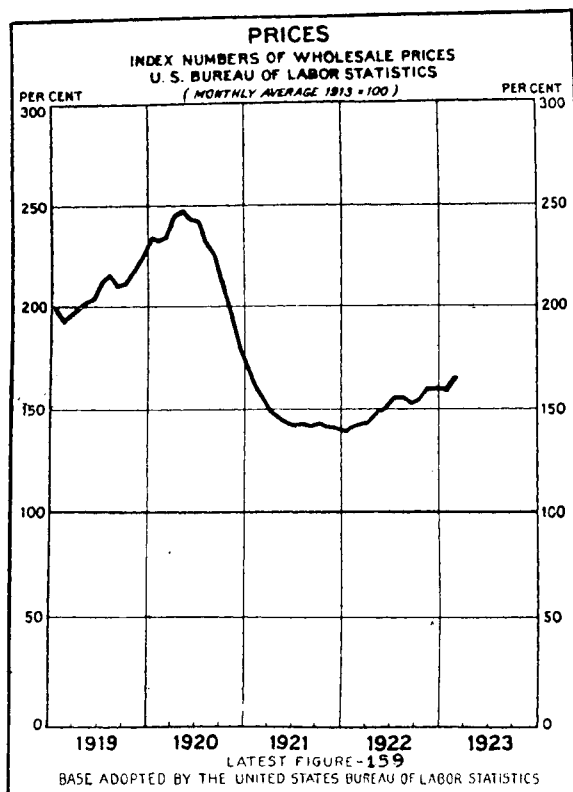
clearing house cities of the District for the week ended April 11, 1923, were \$216,000,000 compared with \$178,000,000 for the corresponding week a year ago. Commercial failures in the Sixth District for March showed a decrease in both number and liabilities, compared with February, while for the United States as a whole the number of failures increased 11.5 per cent, and the liabilities increased 19.1 per cent, in March over February.

Building operations are being carried on in practically all parts of the District at a very high level, and increases in the value of permits issued in March 1923 were reported from 20, out of 24 reporting cities, over the same month last year. The employment situation continues to show a decline in the number unemployed, and there is now reported a shortage in some lines of trade in parts of the District.

The consumption of cotton in the United States, and in the Cotton-growing States, showed a material increase in March, over both February 1923 and March last year, and the output of cotton mills manufacturing cloth, yarn, hosiery and overalls in this District reflected considerable gains.

RETAIL TRADE

Sales during the month of March 1923 reported to the Monthly Business Review by 38 representative Department Stores in various parts of the Sixth District, showed a sub-



stantial increase over the corresponding month last year, and afforded the most favorable comparison that has been possible in many months. In February, the volume of sales by reporting stores was only 7.5 per cent greater than in February 1922, while in March an increase of 23.7 per cent was shown by the figures reported.

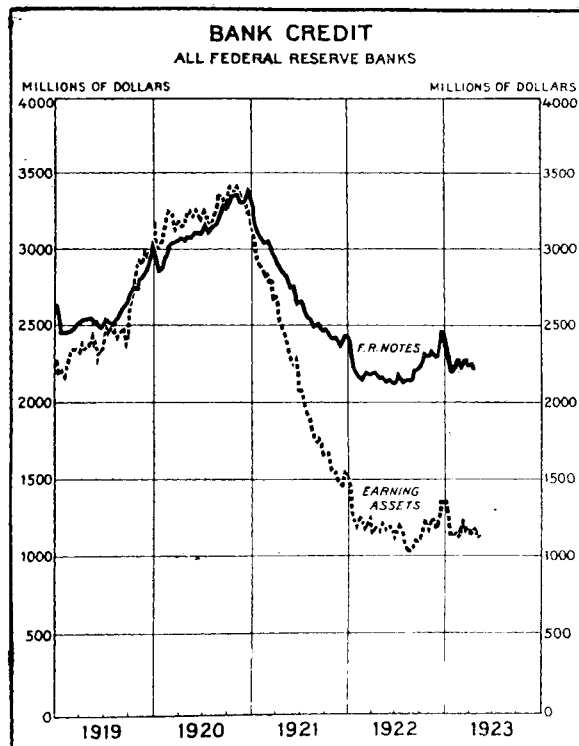
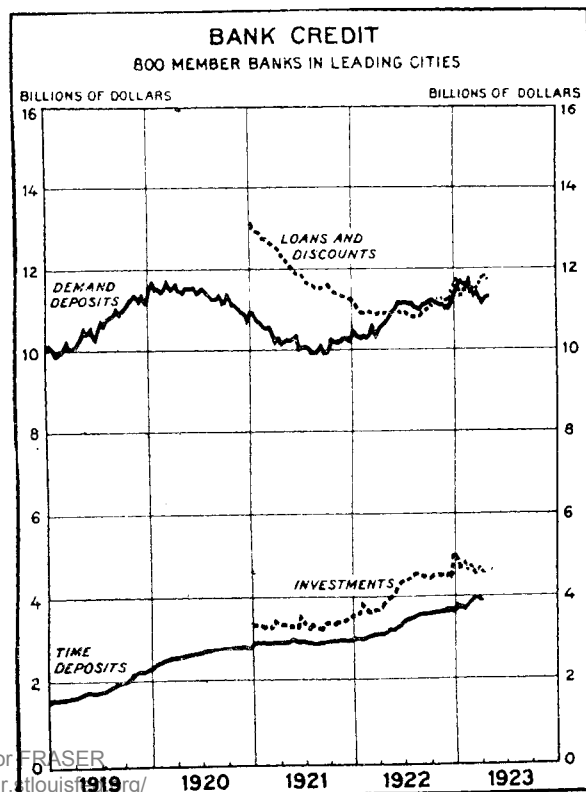
Weather conditions have not been favorable through all of the month, but this does not appear to have interfered greatly with business at retail. As was the case a month ago, the largest increase in sales was shown by the reports

from Birmingham, Chattanooga ranking second for March, and Atlanta third.

Stocks of merchandise on hand at the end of March showed an increase, in the aggregate, of only 2.8 per cent, over stocks on the same date last year, but were 5.4 per cent greater than at the end of February. The rate of turnover, indicated by the relation of stocks at the end of each month this year to sales during the same period, dropped from 2.3 times per year at the end of February, to slightly under 2 times per year for last month.

CONDITION OF RETAIL TRADE—MARCH 1923
Sixth Federal Reserve District

	Percentage of Increase or Decrease				(3)	(4)
	(1)		(2)			
	Comparison of net sales with those of corresponding period last year		Stocks at end of month compared with			
	A March	B January 1 to date	A March 1922	B February 1923	Percentage of average stocks at end of each month from January to date to average monthly sales over same period.	Percentage of outstanding orders at end of March, 1923, to total purchases during calendar year 1922
Atlanta (4).....	+34.0	+27.5	+11.9	+ 7.2	548.0	5.5
Birmingham (5).....	+53.7	+40.2	+ 8.4	+ 4.6	378.7	6.7
Chattanooga (5).....	+38.9	+17.9	+ 6.1	+ 7.0	622.6	5.0
Jackson (3).....	+16.5	+ 1.8	+ 8.4	+10.2	584.0	x
Nashville (4).....	+14.0	+ 8.1	+ 1.3	+ 9.7	470.3	7.1
New Orleans (5).....	+15.3	+ 7.8	— 0.1	+ 3.7	775.0	11.0
Savannah (3).....	+ 9.1	+ 2.6	— 7.3	+ 3.0	621.6	8.0
Other Cities (9).....	+19.6	+13.2	— 0.6	+ 5.1	520.4	5.2
District (38).....	+23.7	+14.5	+ 2.8	+ 5.4	615.0	7.9
United States						



WHOLESALE TRADE

Wholesale trade in the Sixth Federal Reserve District during the month of March 1923, according to reports made to the Monthly Business Review by 148 wholesale firms in eight different lines, was substantially larger than during the corresponding month a year ago. Sales were also greater than during the preceding month, although in some instances the increases were not so large as resulted from the comparison with March 1922. In all of the lines except stationery and drugs, the March increase in sales over February, was greater than the decrease shown in February sales compared with January, so that there is an upward trend in evidence.

The largest increase over February was shown in reports from 13 wholesale shoe dealers, and the smallest increase was shown in the reports from four wholesale stationers in the District. Comparing March 1923 sales with those for the corresponding month last year, 7 wholesale farm implement dealers reported figures showing an increase of 85.6 per cent over March 1922 sales, while the smallest increase over March last year was shown by 42 wholesale grocery firms, whose aggregate sales were 16.4 per cent greater in March this year.

The following table shows percentage comparisons of aggregate figures reported by these 148 firms in eight lines of trade, in March 1923, with sales by these same firms in February, and in March 1922.

Wholesale Trade	March 1923 compared with:	
	Feb. 1923	March 1922
Groceries (42 reports).....	+15.2%	+16.4%
Dry Goods (28 reports).....	+ 9.8%	+30.8%
Hardware (26 reports).....	+17.5%	+31.2%
Furniture (21 reports).....	+28.1%	+46.0%
Shoes (13 reports).....	+46.3%	+26.0%
Stationery (4 reports).....	+ 4.6%	+26.4%
Drugs (7 reports).....	+18.9%	+16.0%
Farm Implements (7 reports).....	+45.4%	+85.6%

Groceries

Sales during March by 42 wholesale grocery firms in various cities in the District showed an aggregate increase of 15.2 per cent over business by the same firms in February, the figures ranging from an increase of 4.0 per cent at Jacksonville to an increase of 24.9 per cent in Atlanta.

A very large proportion of these reports state that buying by both retailers and wholesalers is being done cautiously, and that there is no indication of any speculative buying. Some few reports, however, indicate that in scattered instances merchants are found to be ordering more than they require because of the advancing tendency in prices, especially sugar. These instances, however, are very few, and other reports state that with the end of the winter season merchants are endeavoring to reduce their stocks. Transportation difficulties are still interfering to some extent with deliveries.

The following table shows percentage comparisons, by cities, where three or more reports are received, of March sales with those during February, and during March 1922:

Groceries	March 1923 sales compared with:	
	Feb. 1923	March 1922
Atlanta (3 reports).....	+24.9%	+18.5%
Jacksonville (5 reports).....	+ 4.0%	+29.2%
Meridian (4 reports).....	+19.7%	+25.7%
New Orleans (11 reports).....	+14.9%	+ 0.4%
Vicksburg (4 reports).....	+22.9%	+27.8%
Other Cities (15 reports).....	+17.8%	+28.7%
DISTRICT (42 reports).....	+15.2%	+16.4%

Dry Goods

Dry Goods sales by 28 reporting firms during March were in the aggregate 9.8 per cent greater than during February, and 30.8 per cent in excess of sales by the same firms during March 1922. The largest increase over February was shown by firms in Knoxville, where March business was 29 per cent higher than February, and the largest increase over March 1922 sales was shown by "Other Cities."

Correspondents state that prices are very firm with a tendency to advance, and in a few cases retail merchants are said to be buying in reasonable quantities for their spring and summer requirements. Some reports indicate that there has already been a little slackening up in buying because of the advances in prices already made. Collections are reported to be fair by some firms, and very good by others.

Percentage comparisons of March sales, with those for February and for March last year, are shown in the table below:

Dry Goods	March 1923 compared with:	
	Feb. 1923	March 1922
Atlanta (4 reports).....	+10.7%	+32.3%
Knoxville (3 reports).....	+29.0%	+19.8%
Montgomery (3 reports).....	-10.4%	+10.4%
Nashville (3 reports).....	+ 9.6%	+14.7%
New Orleans (4 reports).....	+ 2.5%	+51.8%
Other Cities (11 reports).....	+ 7.2%	+54.4%
DISTRICT (28 reports).....	+ 9.8%	+30.8%

Hardware

Sales of hardware at wholesale during March, reported by 26 firms throughout the District, were 17.5 per cent greater than during February, and 31.2 per cent larger than their sales during March last year.

The reports received from wholesale hardware correspondents almost all state that price increases have been made in many of their lines, and that retailers and jobbers in a few instances are placing orders ahead not only for immediate needs, and for the present season, but for next season, although in most cases buying is being done only for requirements of the near future. Some of the reporting firms state that price advances are attributed to a materially increased demand for supplies, and inability to obtain shipments from manufacturers, and to a shortage of labor.

Comparisons of sales reported for March 1923, with February, and with March last year, are shown in the following figures:

March 1923 compared with:
Feb. 1923 March 1922

Hardware	Feb. 1923	March 1922
Atlanta (3 reports).....	+ 2.6%	+29.0%
Chattanooga (3 reports).....	+68.2%	+43.0%
Jacksonville (3 reports).....	+18.1%	+19.6%
Nashville (4 reports).....	+17.3%	+34.9%
New Orleans (5 reports).....	+11.0%	+27.7%
Other Cities (10 reports).....	+20.5%	+30.8%
DISTRICT (26 reports).....	+17.5%	+31.2%

Furniture

Reports made to the Review for March by 21 wholesale furniture dealers show sales 28.1 per cent greater than in February, and 46.0 per cent greater than in March last year. The reports all state that price advances have been made necessary because of continued increases in prices of mirrors, lumber, and other raw materials.

While most of the reports state that the present outlook for the year is good, and that retail prices, and prices to the retailers, have not advanced in the same proportion as prices which the wholesalers are paying, quite a number state that further substantial increases may have the effect of curtailing business.

Percentage comparisons of March sales, with those in February, and in March 1922, are shown below:

March 1923 compared with:

Furniture	Feb. 1923	March 1922
Atlanta (8 reports).....	+18.3%	+55.3%
Chattanooga (4 reports).....	+38.8%	+70.6%
Nashville (3 reports).....	+19.6%	- 3.9%
Other Cities (6 reports).....	+16.6%	+36.1%
DISTRICT (21 reports).....	+28.1%	+46.0%

Shoes

Reports made to the Review by 13 wholesale shoe firms in the District show sales 46.3 per cent greater than in February, and 46 per cent larger than in March 1922.

Most of these reports indicate that conditions in this line of business are satisfactory, and that such price advances as have been made have been small. Correspondents state that there is a tendency on the part of dealers to buy rather freely for their immediate needs, but that future buying is being done on a conservative basis, and that there is no indication of any overbuying.

Comparisons of March sales, with the preceding month, and the corresponding month a year ago, are shown in the following figures:

March 1923 compared with:

Shoes	Feb. 1923	March 1922
Atlanta (3 reports).....	+39.4%	+49.4%
Other Cities (10 reports).....	+49.9%	+17.2%
DISTRICT (13 reports).....	+46.3%	+26.0%

District averages for the other three lines of wholesale trade are shown in the first table under this subject, figures not being shown for any individual city because three or more reports were not received from any one city.

Figures reported by 7 wholesale farm implement dealers for March showed a substantial increase over the preceding month, and an increase of 85.6 per cent over their sales during March last year.

Agriculture

Farm operations have been considerably delayed during the past three or four weeks by the rains and inclement weather, and considerable crop damage was done to fruits and cotton by the freezes late in March. In those sections where cotton had been planted and had come up, much replanting was necessary, and the Department of Agriculture's statisticians and crop reporters estimate that the peach crop of Georgia was damaged to the extent of about 37 per cent. The injury to the crop is extremely spotted, in some districts groves being practically ruined, while in other sections little damage being done. Those varieties which were in full bloom suffered most severely, while other varieties in which the blossoms were still closed escaped to a large extent. In some counties in Georgia 25 per cent of the tobacco crop had been transplanted, and was seriously damaged. In the southern and southwestern parts of the state reports indicate that all melons that were up were totally destroyed, and will have to be replanted. Cucumbers, beans and tomatoes were also killed in some sections.

From 30 to 50 per cent of the cotton crop had been planted along the Florida line, and it is probable that all above the ground at the time of the freeze was killed. In the upper part of the state cotton had been planted only in a few areas, and germination had not progressed sufficiently for much damage to occur.

Late reports indicate that early cotton prospects are good in Florida, southern Georgia and Alabama. A noticeable increase in acreage, outside of the regular cotton territory, is reported in Florida.

The supply of farm labor in Alabama at the present time is estimated to be 81 per cent of normal, compared with 96 per cent last year. The demand for labor for farm purposes is reported to be 93 per cent of normal, compared with 87 per cent last year. Reports indicate that there is no serious shortage of farm labor in Florida. Certain sections report a sharp increase of demand over the supply, but for the State as a whole, supply and demand are fairly well balanced. In Louisiana the supply of farm labor is estimated to be 87 per cent of the normal supply, and the demand is estimated at 96 per cent of a normal demand. In Mississippi it is estimated that the demand for farm labor is 17 per cent greater than the supply, compared with a surplus of 1 per cent at this time last year. In Tennessee the supply is estimated at 84 per cent of normal.

CITRUS FRUITS

The recent rains through the citrus belt have had a beneficial effect and the groves are reported to be in a satisfactory condition with a good bloom in all sections. While

the rains have been generally light, they have been well distributed.

There was a serious shortage of refrigerator cars all through the month of March, but this has been relieved to some extent. Unsettled weather conditions in the north with the continued heavy arrival of undesirable sizes have had a tendency to slow the movement of both oranges and grapefruit at the close of the month's trading. Since the first of the month the demand for smaller stock has been steadily increasing and prices have correspondingly advanced.

During the month of March 3,038 cars of grapefruit were shipped from Florida, and 3,117 cars of oranges, compared with 2,227 cars of grapefruit and 1,948 cars of oranges during March 1922. Season figures to the end of March show that 13,510 cars of grapefruit and 20,904 cars of oranges have moved this season compared with 11,650 cars of grapefruit and 16,403 cars of oranges, during the same period last season.

It is estimated that at the end of March probably 2,000,000 boxes of grapefruit, and approximately 15 per cent of the orange crop, remained in the State to be moved.

The following figures show car lot movement of Citrus Fruits and vegetables from Florida during March, and for the Season, compared with similar periods last season:

	March 1923	March 1922	Season's totals to March 31, Inc.	
			1923	1922
Grapefruit.....	3,038	2,227	13,510	11,650
Oranges.....	3,117	1,948	20,904	16,403
Potatoes.....	39	129	39	130
Lettuce.....	497	427	2,537	2,254
Vegetables.....	504	388	1,600	1,190
Cabbage.....	587	1,351	910	2,533
Peppers.....	143	58	372	196
Tomatoes.....	2,084	2,418	3,163	2,947
Strawberries.....	423	154	973	246
Beans.....	0	18	0	22
Beets.....	0	10	0	14
Cucumbers.....	126	47	131	47
Onions.....	0	1	0	1
Celery.....	2,238	1,535	4,027	2,924

COTTON MOVEMENT—MARCH 1923

Sixth Federal Reserve District

RECEIPTS—PORTS:	March 1923	Feb. 1923	March 1922
New Orleans.....	149,506	127,231	89,104
Mobile.....	2,943	2,569	9,950
Savannah.....	61,327	27,003	69,788

INTERIOR TOWNS:

Atlanta.....	18,365	16,066	17,979
Augusta.....	34,839	20,780	29,754
Macon.....	77	436	2,629
Meridian.....	1,381	524	1,221
Montgomery.....	1,302	1,014	587
Vicksburg.....	22,682	21,880	25,786

SHIPMENTS—PORTS:

New Orleans.....	137,944	171,135	122,367
Mobile.....	2,919	8,784	11,195
Savannah.....	55,570	40,031	91,360

INTERIOR TOWNS:

Atlanta.....	30,259	21,616	24,843
Augusta.....	30,416	18,579	39,699
Macon.....	416	653	3,717
Meridian.....	2,690	1,736	3,510
Montgomery.....	7,439	3,327	3,178
Vicksburg.....	19,820	18,003	23,221

STOCKS—PORTS:

New Orleans.....	172,252	160,690	285,356
Mobile.....	6,195	6,661	11,802
Savannah.....	56,603	50,846	136,419

INTERIOR TOWNS:

Atlanta.....	62,047	73,941	40,740
Augusta.....	43,093	55,545	115,925
Macon.....	12,445	13,494	25,187
Meridian.....	5,199	6,508	13,495
Montgomery.....	8,263	14,400	25,618
Vicksburg.....	5,818	7,100	9,777

COTTON MOVEMENT (Bales)—UNITED STATES

August 1—April 6, Inclusive

	1923	1922	1921	1920
Receipts at all U. S. ports.....	5,349,329	4,989,229	5,134,950	6,355,484
Overland to Nor. Mills & Canada.....	997,094	1,350,861	1,090,259	1,407,390
Interior stocks excess of holdover.....	219,219	36,272	690,843	285,757
Southern Mill takings.....	3,200,000	2,813,858	2,141,636	2,965,634
Total movement to date.....	9,765,642	9,117,676	9,057,188	11,014,265
Foreign exports.....	3,924,318	4,323,633		
American mill takings & Canada.....	5,507,369	5,121,379		
Supply to date.....	10,527,846	11,429,372		

Sugar

Weather conditions in the sugar belt of Louisiana were generally favorable through the middle of March, with the exception of one or two cold spells in February. Practically all of the planting had been completed under excellent conditions, with reports of an increase in area and prospects for a larger production than last year. The third week in March, however, brought two cold snaps, almost as cold as any during the winter, and heavy frost and ice were general over the sugar district, with temperatures ranging from 28 to 30 degrees. Due to this, the young cane was cut back and the advancement of the crop checked. Heavy rains following this cold spell brought field operations to a standstill, and rains have since interrupted farm work to some extent. Due to the previous good weather, however, the cane is reported to be growing rapidly, with favorable temperatures now prevailing, and good stands are also reported.

Movement of Sugar—March 1923**Raw Sugar—Pounds**

RECEIPTS:	March 1923	Feb. 1923	March 1922
New Orleans.....	212,882,083	101,508,002	171,251,295
Savannah.....	45,902,241	45,269,150	43,843,658
MELTINGS:			
New Orleans.....	162,953,264	113,006,131	146,042,848
Savannah.....	42,129,084	32,876,799	35,256,874
STOCKS:			
New Orleans.....	63,390,704	13,461,885	32,666,907
Savannah.....	16,535,179	12,762,022	14,178,715

Refined Sugar—Pounds

SHIPMENTS:	March 1923	Feb. 1923	March 1922
New Orleans.....	122,417,155	132,267,383	120,975,274
Savannah.....	27,908,451	32,695,917	23,508,696
STOCKS:			
New Orleans.....	53,448,489	23,764,801	3,493,915
Savannah.....	12,681,428	5,351,676	12,725,268

MOVEMENT OF RICE—MARCH 1923**Rough Rice (Sacks)**

New Orleans:	March 1923	Feb. 1923	March 1922
Receipts.....	17,365	51,284	232,778
Shipments.....	27,553	43,961	236,356
Stocks.....	54,061	64,249	63,200

Clean Rice (Pockets)

New Orleans:	March 1923	Feb. 1923	March 1922
Receipts.....	184,257	203,795	531,478
Shipments.....	205,865	306,663	423,044
Stock.....	153,572	175,180	311,774

Receipts of Rough Rice (Barrels)

	March 1923	Season to March 31, 1923	Last Season to March 31, 1922
Association Mills...	235,215	5,114,921	5,069,917
New Orleans Mills...	17,365	1,035,012	1,279,111
Outside Mills.....	143,117	1,914,320	1,604,230
	395,697	8,064,253	7,953,258

Distribution of Milled Rice (Pockets)

	March 1923	This Season to Mar. 31, 1923	Last Season to Mar. 31, 1922
Association Mills...	410,380	4,520,834	4,502,110
New Orleans Mills...	51,372	1,202,550	1,153,694
Outside Mills.....	192,730	1,470,975	1,463,281
	654,482	7,194,359	7,119,085

Stocks on Hand

	April 1, 1923	April 1, 1922
Association Mills.....	1,062,288	945,399
New Orleans Mills.....	206,232	357,826
Outside Mills.....	474,500	237,320
	1,743,020	1,540,545

FINANCIAL

Reports received from member banks in various parts of the Sixth District state that financial conditions continue to show improvement, and that the District is in excellent shape from a financial standpoint. The banks are better prepared now than they have been in the past two or three years to meet the requirements of making and harvesting the crops.

Reports made weekly to the Federal Reserve Bank by thirty-nine member banks in selected cities of the District show a decline during the month in loans and discounts, being on April 4, 1923, \$406,486,000 compared with \$486,825,000 on March 7, this year, but an increase over the same date last year.

Loans secured by Government Obligations declined slightly to \$7,346,000 on April 4, compared with \$7,395,000 on March 7, and with \$10,458,000 on April 5, 1922.

Total loans, discounts and investments of these 39 banks on April 4, 1923, amounted to \$488,891,000 compared with \$484,322,000 on March 7, and with \$416,175,000 on April 5, 1922.

Demand deposits on April 4 were \$278,707,000 compared with \$286,632,000 on March 7, and with \$230,781,000 on April 5, last year.

The volume of bills on hand with the Federal Reserve Bank on April 11, 1923 amounted to \$46,982,887.92 compared with \$27,526,472.10 on March 14, and with \$42,469,566.44 on April 5, 1922.

Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation on April 11 totaled \$126,035,835 compared with \$135,316,685 on March 14, and with \$110,751,155 on April 5, last year.

The following figures show aggregate amounts of savings deposits reported by 99 banks in the Sixth District, showing comparisons with the preceding month and with the corresponding month last year:

SAVINGS DEPOSITS—MARCH 1923

	March 31, 1923	Feb. 28, 1923	Comparison of March 31-Feb. 28, 1923	March 31, 1922	Comparison of March 31, 1923- 1922
Atlanta (8 banks).....	\$ 29,477,127	\$ 29,075,259	+1.4%	\$ 25,057,351	+17.6%
Birmingham (5 banks).....	20,290,423	19,896,350	+2.0%	17,698,802	+14.6%
Jacksonville (6 banks).....	17,927,682	17,533,080	+2.3%	15,350,658	+16.8%
Nashville (11 banks).....	15,727,630	15,614,653	+0.7%	14,078,351	+11.7%
New Orleans (9 banks).....	47,411,532	47,126,389	+0.6%	45,337,689	+4.6%
Other Cities (60 banks).....	80,120,117	78,651,297	+1.9%	67,541,124	+18.6%
TOTAL (99 banks).....	\$210,954,511	\$207,897,028	+1.5%	\$185,063,975	+14.0%

DEBITS TO INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS

Sixth Federal Reserve District

	Week Ended		
	April 11, 1923	Mar. 14, 1923	April 12, 1922
Albany, Ga.....	\$ 1,044,000	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 823,000
Atlanta, Ga.....	29,030,000	31,245,000	23,320,000
Augusta, Ga.....	6,846,000	9,482,000	4,966,000
Birmingham, Ala.....	23,445,000	23,272,000	14,456,000
Brunswick, Ga.....	657,000	621,000	588,000
Chattanooga, Tenn.....	8,472,000	8,838,000	6,252,000
Columbus, Ga.....	2,557,000	3,735,000	2,524,000
Cordele, Ga.....	264,000	365,000	236,000
Dothan, Ala.....	633,000	615,000	500,000
Elberton, Ga.....	222,000	304,000	229,000
Jackson, Miss.....	3,345,000	3,181,000	3,067,000
Jacksonville, Fla.....	14,132,000	13,056,000	11,131,000
Knoxville, Tenn.....	6,196,000	6,728,000	6,339,000
Macon, Ga.....	4,666,000	5,201,000	4,204,000
Meridian, Miss.....	2,372,000	2,506,000	1,836,000
Mobile, Ala.....	7,025,000	6,452,000	4,387,000
Montgomery, Ala.....	5,025,000	5,605,000	3,589,000
Nashville, Tenn.....	17,368,000	16,335,000	15,938,000
Newnan, Ga.....	525,000	558,000	275,000
New Orleans, La.....	61,208,000	70,192,000	54,317,000
Pensacola, Fla.....	1,590,000	1,512,000	1,790,000
Savannah, Ga.....	8,811,000	10,310,000	9,200,000
Tampa, Fla.....	7,986,000	7,614,000	5,863,000
Valdosta, Ga.....	1,095,000	1,174,000	937,000
Vicksburg, Miss.....	1,560,000	1,951,000	1,409,000
Total.....	\$216,076,000	\$232,552,000	\$178,176,000

COMMERCIAL FAILURES

Commercial failures in the Sixth Federal Reserve District were smaller in March than in either the preceding month or the corresponding month a year ago, according to figures compiled by R. G. Dun & Co.

While March figures for the United States at large showed a larger number of failures, and greater total liabilities, the number in the Sixth District during March was 13.3 per cent smaller, and the amount of liabilities 30.8 per cent smaller, than in the preceding month. Compared with March last year, figures for the month just ended showed a decline of 47.1 per cent in the number, and of 49.8 per cent in total liabilities, for the Sixth Federal Reserve District.

For the United States the number of failures reported during March was 1682, an increase of 11.5 per cent over the number in February, and the total of liabilities was \$48,393,138, an increase of 19.1 per cent over the liabilities in February. Compared with March 1922, however, a decrease of 31.7 per cent in number and 32.4 per cent in liabilities was shown by the national figures.

March failures were smaller in number than in February in the Boston, Richmond and Atlanta districts, the number was the same in the Dallas district, while the remaining Federal Reserve Districts showed a larger number in March than in February. Liabilities were larger than in February in six of the Districts, and smaller in the other six. Compared with March last year, the twelfth district showed the only increase in number of failures, while the Philadelphia, Cleveland and Dallas districts reported increases in liabilities, the remaining districts reporting decreases.

	Sixth District		United States	
	No.	Liabilities	No.	Liabilities
March 1923.....	117	\$2,788,463	1,682	\$48,393,138
February 1923.....	135	4,029,704	1,508	40,627,939
March 1922.....	221	5,559,986	2,463	71,608,192
Comparison of March-Feb. 1923.....	-13.3%	-30.8%	+11.5%	+19.1%
Comparison of March 1923-1922.....	-47.1%	-49.8%	-31.7%	-32.4%

ACCEPTANCES

Five banks in the Sixth District reported the execution of domestic acceptances during March in amounts aggregating a little more than \$2,700,000. This was slightly in excess of the total amount executed by these banks during February, but a little less than the aggregate amount for March last year.

Foreign acceptances executed during March were reported by five banks in amounts totalling slightly more than \$5,409,000, being a little less than for the preceding month, but about \$1,200,000 more than during March 1922.

Only two banks reported the purchase of acceptances during March.

The total of acceptances bought in the open market and rediscounted for member banks by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta during March was \$22,907,175.22, being considerably larger than during any month in recent years.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Imports—January

Preliminary statistics issued by the Department of Commerce show imports valued at \$319,000,000, in January 1923, an increase of \$102,000,000 over the value of imports during January 1922.

During the seven months ended January 1923, imports amounted to \$2,012,000,000, an increase of \$607,000,000 over the corresponding period ending January 1922.

There has been a rising tendency in imports of merchandise during the entire calendar year 1922, according to the Department's figures. Imports during the first half of that year were \$100,000,000 larger in value than in the first half of 1921. The third quarter showed an increase of \$279,000,000, and the last quarter an increase of \$224,000,000, making a total increase in imports of \$603,000,000 in the calendar year 1922 over 1921. An analysis of the figures for the last three months of 1922 shows increased importations of \$149,000,000 in the group of crude materials, and \$88,000,000 of partly manufactured articles for further use in manufacturing.

Exports—March

Exports for March amounted to \$350,000,000, an increase of \$43,000,000 over the preceding month, and of approximately \$20,000,000 over exports during March 1922.

For the nine months ended with March, the total value of

exports is given at \$3,003,819,728, compared with \$2,810,001,333, for the same period a year ago, an increase of \$193,818,395.

PORT OF NEW ORLEANS

Statistics showing imports through the port of New Orleans for the month of December indicate a valuation of \$10,443,786, a gain of nearly a million dollars over the value of merchandise imported during the same month 1921. This total valuation for December is greater than for any preceding December, except in the boom year of 1919, when the total was approximately two and one-half million dollars greater than for December 1922. Figures show that increased quantities of most of the principal articles of import were received, although decreases occurred in coffee, mineral oils, and sugar. No sugar was received through the port of New Orleans during the month of December 1922. The principal increases were noted in creosote oil, nitrate of soda, sisal, bananas, mahogany, molasses and burlaps.

The following figures show the principal articles imported during December, in quantity and value, compared with the same month a year ago:

Commodity	December 1922		December 1921	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Coffee, lbs.	43,357,653	\$5,425,101	46,277,275	\$5,117,504
Bananas, bunches	1,519,452	499,211	1,281,154	419,748
Copra, lbs.	7,026,077	235,844	-----	-----
Garbanse peas, lbs.	887,766	45,793	-----	-----
Ootton Waste, lbs.	800,078	116,087	-----	-----
Sisal, tons	6,451	480,381	4,097	383,873
Newsprint paper, lbs.	4,957,040	137,522	-----	-----
Mineral oils, gal.	36,187,872	435,094	103,325,000	1,261,876
Tin blocks, lbs.	1,344,940	46,024	1,120,922	282,776
Oreosote oil, gal.	2,938,216	264,485	1,994,469	216,166
Nitrate of soda, tons	8,005	371,088	2,139	106,950
Burlaps, lbs.	15,967,357	1,700,402	15,261,425	1,118,203
Mahogany, ft.	2,898,000	205,574	1,019,000	121,530
Molasses, gal.	7,059,080	47,955	2,256,972	39,138
Sugar, lbs.	none	none	2,688,000	72,946

Comparative figures for the month of December for the past few years, are shown below:

1922.....	\$10,443,786	1918.....	\$5,983,513
1921.....	9,568,730	1914.....	4,032,652
1920.....	9,138,561	1912.....	5,005,872
1919.....	12,997,097		

Figures recently published show that the value of merchandise imported through this port during the year 1922

amounted to approximately \$19,000,000 more than for the year 1921. Imports of sugar and nitrate of soda during 1922 showed a gain of almost 100 per cent in volume over 1921, while sisal only totaled about one half of the 1921 receipts. The falling off in the volume of mineral oil received is attributed largely to the decline in production in the Mexican oil fields. Figures for the year, compared with the preceding year, for a few of the principal articles, are shown below:

Commodity	1922		1921	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Coffee, lbs.	365,383,506	\$444,983,554	333,556,780	\$31,097,497
Sugar, lbs.	1,320,392,000	33,060,302	579,287,240	30,167,453
Burlaps, lbs.	146,230,000	12,729,249	110,752,418	10,897,195
Mineral Oil, gal.	779,824,551	9,417,336	845,875,956	10,235,552
Bananas, bunches	20,973,944	6,805,872	19,811,883	7,233,007
Sisal, tons	39,385	3,507,995	68,117	7,124,911
Nitrate of soda, tons	65,011	3,281,675	35,122	1,561,874
Mahogany, ft.	15,547,000	1,576,129	13,391,000	1,515,372
Oreosote Oil, gal.	12,913,179	1,151,221	14,666,200	2,150,377

GRAIN EXPORTS—MARCH 1923

Exports of grain through the port of New Orleans continue to show declines as compared with the preceding year. Shipments in March 1923 amounted to 2,838,340 bushels, compared with 7,299,976 bushels in March 1922. Considerable decreases were noted in both wheat and corn, while increased shipments occurred of oats and rye.

The following figures show the movement for March, and for the season since July 1, 1922, compared with similar periods of last season:

	Mar. 1923	Mar. 1922	Season to Mar. 31, 1923	Season to Mar. 31, 1922
Wheat.....	539,354	1,707,691	23,263,897	29,059,630
Corn.....	1,972,920	5,444,888	16,408,796	21,377,569

Oats.....	77,495	70,255	530,614	448,020
Barley.....	-----	-----	10,428	291,110
Rye.....	248,571	77,142	773,571	393,828
Total.....	2,838,340	7,299,976	40,987,306	51,570,157

FREIGHT MOVEMENT

The freight movement at New Orleans shows continued increase, the total of incoming and outgoing freight during the first two months of the present year amounting to 80,659 cars, compared with a total of 67,887 cars during the same period last year.

BUILDING PERMITS**Sixth Federal Reserve District**

	Alterations No.	& Repairs Value	New Buildings No.	Buildings Value	Total March 1923	Total March 1922	Increase or Decrease
Alabama:							
Anniston.....	9	2,700	23	90,625	93,325	18,325	+409.3%
Birmingham.....	177	44,300	372	1,203,295	1,247,595	700,106	+ 78.2%
Mobile.....	8	4,850	30	128,600	133,450	51,900	+157.1%
Montgomery.....	74	23,915	14	137,100	161,015	9,500	+1594.9%
Florida:							
Jacksonville.....	212	51,074	75	397,940	449,014	394,816	+ 13.7%
Miami.....	104	30,000	129	392,600	422,600	266,700	+ 58.5%
Orlando.....	26	6,985	96	437,510	444,495	259,210	+ 71.5%
Pensacola.....	57	30,264	12	19,695	49,959	26,292	+ 90.0%
St. Petersburg.....	30	19,550	126	1,190,700	1,209,250	274,930	+ 339.8%
Tampa.....	141	78,961	87	276,056	355,007	279,877	+ 26.8%
Georgia:							
Atlanta.....	125	127,231	427	2,011,053	2,138,284	2,110,818	+ 1.3%
Augusta.....	132	11,478	38	135,951	147,429	100,958	+ 46.0%
Columbus.....	21	21,250	20	46,300	67,550	70,075	+ 3.6%
Macon.....	141	15,702	58	73,387	89,089	88,889	+ 0.2%
Savannah.....	24	21,585	33	121,200	142,785	138,510	+ 3.1%
Louisiana:							
New Orleans.....	46	50,525	182	672,450	722,975	844,205	— 14.4%
Alexandria.....	41	34,805	16	21,485	56,290	29,399	+ 91.5%
Mississippi:							
Meridian.....	6	11,880	5	37,850	49,730	75,050	— 33.7%
Vicksburg.....	17	7,065	7	32,150	39,215	10,502	+ 273.4%
Jackson.....	-----	-----	81	73,000	73,000	85,600	— 14.6%
Tennessee:							
Chattanooga.....	-----	-----	-----	-----	295,768	110,619	+ 167.4%
Johnson City.....	1	300	30	56,450	56,750	53,625	+ 5.8%
Knoxville.....	235	58,274	127	644,020	702,294	445,212	+ 57.7%
Nashville.....	95	32,406	96	400,825	440,513	432,204	+ 1.9%

LUMBER

There has been some further slowing down in the lumber industry in this District during the past month or six weeks, the volume of orders for the week ended March 30 reaching the lowest point touched during the present year. Orders received by 129 members of the Southern Pine Association for that week amounted to 53,542,053 feet, or approximately

35 per cent less than normal production of these mills. Actual production for reporting mills has ranged from about 4 per cent under normal, during the week ended March 16, to approximately 17 per cent less than normal, during the week ended April 6. The volume of orders received by the mills showed some improvement during the week ended April 6, being only 21 per cent under normal output of the

reporting mills. That the slowing up in business is attributed in part to the lack of supplies, is indicated by the prompt manner in which mill offerings are absorbed. Individual mills reporting to the Monthly Business Review state that rainy weather during the past few weeks has interfered to a considerable extent with their operation, and that the car supply is another adverse factor. Firms dealing in hardwoods as well as pine, state that their unfilled order files remain at a high level, and that they have about all of the business they can handle at present. Prices have shown a tendency to advance during the month. The supply of labor is short in many communities caused by the northward movement of colored labor.

Figures showing the operating time of members of the Southern Pine Association show that for the week ended March 30, out of 76 reporting mills, 57 operated full time or 5 days during the week, and during the following week, out of 71 mills reporting, 54 mills operated full time or 5 days during the week.

The following figures show the volume of orders, shipments, production, etc., for the month of March, by the mills indicated:

	March 1923 (145 mills)	Feb. 1923 (138 mills)	March 1922 (118 mills)
Orders.....	333,602,041	349,693,622	305,651,455
Shipments.....	372,899,145	324,873,650	297,134,215
Production.....	365,163,546	301,957,332	296,272,361
Normal Production these mills.....	364,230,617	350,214,930	333,373,397
Stocks end of month.....	840,813,306	830,672,460	850,544,025
Normal Stocks these mills.....	963,424,520	954,879,389	897,657,586
Unfilled Orders end of month.....	425,850,544	455,096,789	198,636,480

COTTON CONSUMPTION—MARCH 1923

New high records of cotton consumed were established during March, when more cotton was used than in any month in the history of the industry. Total consumption was 623,105 bales of lint cotton, or more than 100,000 bales larger than consumption in March a year ago.

The new record of consumption exceeds the previous record made in May 1917 by almost 8,000 bales. Consumption in the cotton-growing states also was a record, 392,027 bales having been used, compared with the previous record of 351,240 bales in May 1917.

Cotton Consumed:	March 1923	Feb. 1923	March 1922
Lint.....	623,105	566,924	519,761
Linters.....	51,745	47,611	48,648
On hand in consuming Establishments:			
Lint.....	2,034,535	2,021,923	1,557,023
Linters.....	169,509	156,054	185,650
In Public Storage and at Compresses:			
Lint.....	2,377,799	2,804,494	3,752,258
Linters.....	48,434	44,167	123,391
Imports.....	53,219		48,648

Exports:

Lint.....	309,863	354,732	252,384
Linters.....	8,347	4,925	9,100
Active Spindles.....	35,500,518	35,307,707	31,872,842

Cotton Growing States

	March 1923	Feb. 1923	March 1922
Cotton Consumed.....	392,027	356,315	337,497
On Hand in Consuming Establishments.....	1,228,949	1,253,164	767,166
In Public Storage and at Compresses.....	2,056,904	2,489,335	3,333,948
Active Spindles.....	16,065,554	16,034,743	15,302,124

MANUFACTURING

Cotton Cloth

Although there has been some general slowing up in the cotton manufacturing industry, following the decline in the price of raw cotton, 35 mills in the Sixth District reported to the Monthly Business Review figures showing their aggregate production during March was 8.2 per cent greater than in February, and 15.4 per cent greater than in March last year. Shipments, however, showed a small decline, compared with the preceding month, and orders on hand at the end of March were almost 14 per cent less in volume than at the end of February.

Compared with March 1922, figures reported for the month just ended show increases in all items, with the exception that stocks of manufactured cloth on hand at the end of March 1923 were smaller by 60.1 per cent than one year ago.

Correspondent mills state that in some instances where prices on their product were based on 31 cent cotton, the demand has fallen off greatly, and since the decline practically no sales have been made on that basis. Some reporting mills state that orders from the central west, and from South America, are excellent, and that their business as a whole shows a very nice increase over last year.

The following figures show percentage comparisons of figures reported for March, 1923, with February, and with March last year:

35 Mills	March 1923 compared with: Feb. 1923 March 1922
1. Cloth Production.....	+ 8.2% +15.4%
2. Cloth Shipments.....	- 2.0% + 8.9%
3. Orders on hand at end of month.....	-13.7% +54.5%
4. Stocks of manufactured cloth on hand at end of month.....	- 5.5% -60.1%
5. Average time required to com- plete orders on hand.....	-16.0% +45.7%
6. Number on payroll.....	- 3.0% +21.3%

Cotton Yarn

Figures reported to the Review for March by 35 mills manufacturing cotton yarn are more favorable than those reported by cloth mills, and show an increase in all items for March over February.

The output of these reporting mills during March was 13.8 per cent greater than in February, and 24.5 per cent greater than during March last year. Shipments also increased over February, and orders on hand showed a small increase.

Compared with March 1922, figures reported for March 1923 show increases in all items, except stocks of yarn on hand, which declined 40 per cent compared with the same date last year.

Correspondents state that the market at present is rather dull, because of the decline in the price of cotton, which resulted in buyers withdrawing from the market for the time being.

The following figures show percentage comparisons of figures reported for March, with February and with March last year:

35 Mills	March 1923 compared with:	
	Feb. 1923	March 1922
1. Yarn Production.....	+13.8%	+24.5%
2. Yarn Shipments.....	+ 7.2%	+22.4%
3. Orders on hand at end of month	+ 2.7%	+109.6%
4. Stocks of manufactured yarn on hand at end of month.....	+ 5.8%	-40.0%
5. Average time required to complete orders on hand.....	+ 8.0%	+94.7%
6. Number on payroll.....	+ 1.1%	+16.4%

Cotton Hosiery

Reports received from 19 cotton hosiery mills for March show that these mills gained during the month considerably more than was lost during the preceding month in point of output and orders. Production by these 19 mills in March was 15.0 per cent greater than in February, and orders received during March were 42.3 per cent in excess of those booked during February. Shipments during March also showed an increase over the preceding month, and while cancellations were also larger, the amount of unfilled orders on hand at the end of the month was 13.6 per cent greater than at the close of February. Stocks of the manufactured product declined a little less than 2 per cent during March.

Compared with the corresponding month a year ago, March 1923 production showed an increase of 56.3 per cent, orders booked were 67.9 per cent greater, and shipments and unfilled orders also showed increases of 127.2 per cent, and 104.4 per cent, respectively.

Correspondent mills state that in some cases they are not booking the business offered because the price offered does not give any margin of profit, and because of the fact they already have business which will warrant several months' operation. Some of the mills state that the demand for cotton hosiery during the past three months has been unprecedented, and has been even greater than during the war.

The output of the 19 mills reporting for March amounted to 488,867 dozen pairs of hosiery, orders booked during March,

647,060 dozen pairs; shipments during the month 495,827 dozen pairs, and unfilled orders on hand, 1,415,396 dozen pairs.

The following table shows percentage comparisons of figures reported for March, with the preceding month, and with the corresponding month last year:

19 Mills	March 1923 compared with:	
	Feb. 1923	March 1922
1. Hosiery production.....	+15.0%	+56.3%
2. Hosiery on hand at end of month.....	- 1.8%	- 1.7%
3. Orders booked during month....	+42.3%	+67.9%
4. Cancellations received during month.....	+30.3%	x
5. Shipments during month.....	+ 9.5%	+127.2%
6. Unfilled orders on hand at end of month.....	+13.6%	+104.4%

Overalls

Figures reported by 7 overall manufacturing companies show an increase in production of 15.3 per cent during the month. Stocks on hand at the end of the month, however, showed a larger increase, and unfilled orders on hand at the end of March were 22.1 per cent less than at the close of February.

Correspondents state that their production is held back to some extent by their inability to secure a sufficient supply of denims. Reports state that the demand is good for high grade garments, but that the prices have increased. Labor is said to be scarce.

Comparisons of figures reported for March, with those for February, and for March 1922, are shown below:

7 mills	March 1923 compared with:	
	Feb. 1923	March 1922
1. Overall Production.....	+15.3%	+ 11.1%
2. Overalls on hand at end of month.....	+18.1%	- 21.7%
3. Orders booked during month....	- 1.8%	+ 65.8%
4. Unfilled orders on hand at end of month.....	-22.1%	+179.0%
5. Number on payroll.....	- 1.0%	- 4.8%

Brick

Brick production, reported by six plants in this District, showed an increase of 64 per cent during March over the February output. The increase is attributable largely to the extensive building programs which are being carried on all over the District.

Orders received by these plants during March showed an increase of 85.8 per cent over the business booked during February, and unfilled orders on hand at the end of March were larger by 140.8 per cent than a month earlier.

Correspondents state that in some instances they have booked a good volume of business ahead. It has been necessary to advance prices somewhat. The car situation is reported to have improved, but not all plants are able to obtain the cars they desire.

The following table shows percentage comparisons of March figures, with those for February, and for March 1922:

6 Plants	March 1923 compared with:	
	Feb. 1923	March 1922
1. Brick Production.....	+ 64.2%	+ 10.8%
2. Brick on hand at end of month.....	+ 9.7%	- 24.6%
3. Orders booked during month.....	+ 85.8%	+ 73.0%
4. Unfilled orders on hand at end of month.....	+140.8%	+713.2%
5. Number on payroll.....	+ 22.7%	+ 34.7%

EMPLOYMENT

The employment situation in the United States continues to show improvement from month to month, according to the survey conducted by the U. S. Employment Service. Statistics gathered by this Service for March indicate an increase in the number employed in 54 of the 65 principal industrial centers from which reports were received, only 11 cities reporting a smaller number employed on the last day of March than at the end of February. The statement issued by the Service states that due to the large building programs in practically every city, a shortage of building tradesmen has occurred in a number of communities. Road building and other construction work has also absorbed the greater part of the available common labor, and a shortage of farm labor is also indicated in many agricultural sections.

Unemployment throughout Georgia is generally decreasing. Increases in the number working in textiles and textile products, iron and steel, lumber and its manufacture, and stone, clay and glass products, were noted. Large building programs through the State have employed practically all of building craftsmen. In Atlanta there is a small surplus of semi-skilled and unskilled labor, but there is some demand for skilled workers which is not being met. All plants operating on a full time basis. Practically all plants in other cities of the State are working full time.

The employment situation in Florida is about normal, though there is reported to be a scarcity of common labor in some localities, with indications that the demand for labor of this class will continue throughout the summer. Considerable State road work is soon to be commenced, which will tax the labor supply. A majority of the plants at Jacksonville are running full time, while a few machine shops are on part time, and some lumber mills are operating overtime. There is slight surplus of unskilled labor in Pensacola. All plants are running on a full time basis. Increased employment in March was noted particularly in railroad repair shops, chemicals and allied products, and lumber and its manufacture. At Tallahassee there is a shortage of building and metal workers, with all plants on a full time basis. The demand and supply of labor appear to be about equal at other points in the State, except that a shortage of bricklayers and plasterers prevails at Tampa.

Slight increases in employment in the principal industries throughout Alabama continues to reduce unemployment in that State. A shortage of coal miners, labor in lumber mills, and a slight surplus of textile workers, is reported. Build-

ing craftsmen are fully employed by a steady increase in building construction, and there is a shortage of skilled mechanics. At Birmingham, forty industrial plants show a considerable increase in employment, all plants operating full time. A shortage of labor is apparent in most all industries, especially mechanics, molders, welders, quarrymen, sawmill workers, as well as common labor. A scarcity of flat cars is becoming more pronounced, in spite of increase of equipment. Coke production and demand at high peak. Other points in the State report similar conditions, with no surplus, and a shortage in many instances.

Throughout Louisiana a gradual increase in employment is apparent. Major industries display a steady, and in some lines a pronounced, upward trend. Food products, excepting lines that are strictly seasonal, display more stable operations and appreciable additions to working force. Lumber mills averaged important gains during the month. While idleness among shop craftsmen, due to controversies, persists to some extent, a majority of these workers have been absorbed in other lines. Building employment is somewhat more extensive, though some cities report a small surplus of building craftsmen. Agricultural labor is in generally increased demand, with a shortage anticipated as the season advances. At New Orleans there appears an excess of clerical workers, and the demand for seasonal help has not yet appreciably increased. Food and kindred products show appreciable recovery from February declines, both in numbers employed and operating time. Railroad shops display increased activity, with the outlook good for gradual employment gains.

There is some unemployment in Mississippi, lumber and textiles having shown small decreases in March. Road construction will shortly be increased. A shortage of common labor prevails in most parts of the State. At most points in the State the supply and demand of labor are fairly well balanced, with most industrial plants operating full time.

With the exception of a slight surplus of common labor, there appears little unemployment in Tennessee. A shortage of help in knitting mills and skilled labor in lumber mills is reported, and a small surplus of workers in the mines. The constant increase in building construction is taxing the building trades. Increases in employment continue at Chattanooga in most all lines of industry, with most of the plants running full time. Lumber, iron and steel, and food and kindred products show the largest increases, while there is a shortage of skilled labor in lumber mills and wood-working plants. Other points report no surplus, and a shortage of workers in some lines.

COAL

Production of bituminous and anthracite coal in the United States during the month of March, according to statistics compiled and published by the Geological Survey, continued to range above 12,000,000 tons per week, and exceeded 13,000,000 tons for the week ended March 3.

The published reports showed no general change in operating conditions among the mines during the week ended March 10. Improvement in the car supply during that week in the northern and southern Appalachian regions was more than offset by greater transportation disability in the middle Appalachian district, and production declined. Reports of losses due to "no market" continued to be received from the states west of the Mississippi and in that territory lack of orders was the chief factor limiting production.

Mine reports for the week ended March 17 indicated a widespread improvement in traffic conditions, and losses through transportation disability decreased in 15 of the 25 eastern producing districts. In some of the eastern districts, however, the car shortage became more serious. Despite the improvement in transportation, production decreased, an important factor in the decline being the extension of "lack of demand" into the eastern territory. During the following week reports show a further increase in transportation difficulties, and some increased losses on this account.

The following figures show the weekly production of bituminous and anthracite coal in the United States, according to figures prepared by the Geological Survey:

Week Ended	Bituminous	Anthracite	Total Output
March 3.....	10,946,000	2,104,000	13,050,000
March 10.....	10,628,000	2,049,000	12,677,000
March 17.....	10,428,000	2,057,000	12,485,000
March 24.....	10,424,000	2,126,000	12,550,000
March 31.....	10,430,000	2,008,000	12,438,000
April 7.....	9,629,000	1,602,000	11,231,000
April 14.....	10,393,000	2,067,000	12,460,000

Reports from Birmingham indicate that the total production of bituminous coal in that District during March amounted to 1,840,000 tons, compared with 1,475,000 tons in February, and with 1,378,000 tons in March 1922.

Correspondents in Tennessee report that the production of coal in the Southern Appalachian coal fields during March was at a rate of approximately 178,000 tons per week, and only about 39 per cent of capacity, most of the losses being attributed to the car shortage.

Stocks of coal in the hands of commercial consumers in the United States on March 1, amounted to approximately 36,000,000 tons, according to statistics prepared by the Geological Survey. This is a decrease of 2,000,000 tons compared with estimated stocks on February 1, but is the same as was estimated to be on hand January 1st, of this year. The average stocks for all consumers on March 1 were sufficient to last 22 days at the rate of consumption in February, while the stocks on February would have lasted 24 days at the January rate of consumption.

IRON AND STEEL

Production of pig iron during the month of March was the greatest of any calendar month in the history of the American iron industry, according to statistics compiled and published by the Iron Trade Review. The total output for the month amounted to 3,521,902 tons. The previous comparative record was in October 1916 when 3,508,180 tons were made. Both of these months were 31-day periods. On

a daily basis, however, the output of March with 113,610 tons per day was the second highest in history, having been exceeded by the daily rate of 113,774 tons in September 1918, by a difference of 164 tons per day. In March pig iron was produced at a daily rate of 7,001 tons better than the average daily rate for 1916, when the highest total for a year was established. This record was accomplished with a total of 296 furnaces in blast on the last day of the month, while during the high point production of September 1918, 364 furnaces were active.

As compared with the 2,993,918 tons produced in February, the March output of 3,521,902 tons was a gain of 527,984 tons. The daily average of 113,610 tons per day showed an increase of 6,685 tons per day over the daily average for February. Merchant iron produced in March amounted to 776,144 tons, compared with 708,901 tons in February, and non-merchant iron produced in March was 2,745,758 tons compared with 2,285,017 tons. The number of blast furnaces in active operation at the end of the month increased from 278 in February to 296 at the end of March, compared with 155 furnaces active at the end of March 1922.

Production in Alabama during March totaled 253,632 tons, compared with 227,285 tons in February, and with 157,493 tons produced in March last year. The March output consisted of 144,269 tons of merchant iron, and 109,363 tons of non-merchant iron. Blast furnaces in active operation in Alabama at the end of March numbered 27, compared with 25 a month earlier, and 15 on the same date last year.

Correspondents reporting to the Review state that the pig iron in Alabama is firm at \$27.00 for No. 2 foundry, with some reports of quotations on a \$28.00 basis, and that sales during the month have been so heavy that some of the larger producers have withdrawn from the market. Wages have advanced and labor is none too plentiful. Some reports indicate that southern industries are losing men each week, both skilled and unskilled, because of the northward movement of labor which has been going on for some time.

The following figures show the output in March, compared with the preceding month, and with March 1922:

	United States		
	March 1923	Feb. 1923	March 1922
Merchant Iron.....	776,144	704,706	390,643
Non-Merchant Iron....	2,745,758	2,285,113	1,645,265
Total Output.....	3,521,902	2,989,819	2,035,908
Average daily output..	113,610	106,779	65,674
Active furnaces.....	296	278	155
	Alabama		
	March 1923	Feb. 1923	March 1922
Merchant Iron.....	144,269	130,502	x
Non-Merchant Iron....	109,363	96,783	x
Total Output.....	253,632	227,285	157,493
Active furnaces.....	27	25	15

NAVAL STORES

Receipts of both turpentine and rosin during March were considerably larger than during the same month a year ago, and prices also showed improvement during the month. The price of turpentine advanced from around \$1.45 the early part of March to \$1.51 on the last day of the month, the unfavorable weather during the month contributing partly

to the advance. While rosin showed some recovery the advance was small, and while the statistical position of rosin is improving, reports state that supplies are still too large for a pronounced advance.

Reports are beginning to be made of a labor shortage, due partly to the migration of negro laborers to the north and west, and the absorption of common labor in other industries.

NAVAL STORES MOVEMENT—MARCH

RECEIPTS—TURPENTINE:	Mar. 1923	Feb. 1923	Mar. 1922
Savannah.....	1,627	1,504	834
Jacksonville.....	2,947	3,227	1,976
Pensacola.....	183	1,083	591
Total.....	4,757	5,814	3,401
Rosin:			
Savannah.....	16,603	12,952	15,072
Jacksonville.....	22,882	23,135	24,174
Pensacola.....	8,960	10,557	4,890
Total.....	48,445	46,644	44,136

SHIPMENTS—TURPENTINE:

Savannah.....	5,836	5,754	4,138
Jacksonville.....	11,502	6,696	10,026
Pensacola.....	2,797	3,347	4,501
Total.....	20,135	15,837	18,665
Rosin:			
Savannah.....	30,542	29,801	23,125
Jacksonville.....	67,840	34,662	33,070
Pensacola.....	11,304	21,125	134,635
Total.....	109,686	85,788	190,830

STOCK—TURPETINE:

Savannah.....	1,722	5,931	624
Jacksonville.....	8,146	16,711	13,124
Pensacola.....	4,724	6,596	5,657
Total.....	14,592	29,238	19,405
Rosin:			
Savannah.....	64,183	78,122	65,652
Jacksonville.....	122,650	167,598	151,709
Pensacola.....	35,668	36,890	64,650
Total.....	222,501	282,610	282,011

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA Weekly Statement of RESOURCES AND LIABILITIES

Resources:

	April 11, 1923	April 12, 1922
Gold and Gold Certificates.....	\$ 5,935,333.00	\$ 5,834,208.00
Gold Settlement Fund.....	19,847,176.78	31,016,491.67
Total Gold held by bank.....	\$ 25,782,509.78	\$ 36,850,699.67
Gold with Federal Reserve Agent.....	100,872,885.00	82,503,305.00
Gold Redemption Fund.....	1,248,456.03	2,195,681.97
Total Gold Reserve.....	\$127,903,850.81	\$121,049,686.64
Reserves other than Gold.....	8,317,035.00	4,943,805.00
Total Reserve.....	\$136,220,885.81	\$125,993,491.64
Non Reserve Cash.....	7,001,646.23	
Bills Discounted for Member Banks:		
Secured by U. S. Government Obligations.....	\$ 2,237,409.01	\$ 9,288,799.48
Other Bills Discounted.....	17,067,318.58	32,084,700.29
Bills Bought in Open Market.....	27,678,160.33	1,096,066.67
Total Bills on Hand.....	\$ 46,982,887.92	\$ 42,469,566.44
U. S. Bonds & Notes.....	508,050.00	113,650.00
One Year Certificate of Indebtedness (Pittman Act).....		7,199,000.00
All Other Certificates of Indebtedness.....	2,000,926.00	30,902.00
Total Earning Assets.....	\$ 49,491,863.92	\$ 49,813,118.44
Bank Premises.....	2,339,760.61	1,200,320.00
Five Per Cent Fund Against Federal Reserve Bank Notes.....		467,550.00
Uncollected Items.....	25,868,443.59	21,842,577.95
All Other Resources.....	403,315.38	153,581.70
Total Resources.....	\$221,325,915.54	\$199,470,639.73
Liabilities:		
Capital paid in.....	\$ 4,426,750.00	\$ 4,241,600.00
Surplus fund.....	8,941,553.42	9,113,570.99
Reserved for Government Franchise Tax.....		421,193.88
Deposits:		
Government.....	3,713,943.93	3,867,130.52
Member Banks—Reserve Account.....	54,507,597.02	46,901,992.82
All Other.....	259,026.57	286,557.96
Total Deposits.....	\$ 58,480,567.52	\$ 51,055,681.30
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation.....	126,035,835.00	110,751,155.00
Federal Reserve Bank Notes in Actual Circulation.....		5,793,950.00
Deferred Availability Items.....	22,627,265.66	17,367,432.56
All Other Liabilities.....	813,943.94	726,056.00
Total Liabilities.....	\$221,325,915.54	\$199,470,639.73
Ratio of total Reserves to Deposits & F. R. Note liability combined.....	73.8%	77.9%

RELATION OF CREDIT TO BUSINESS

The following extract from the recent report of Secretary Hoover's Committee on Business Cycles and Unemployment will be of interest to any one who is analyzing the present business and credit situation:

"Expansion of bank credit is a necessary condition of expansion of business operations. But an over-expansion of credit may so increase the purchasing power of business men that it will merely result in enabling them to bid against one another for limited supplies of goods and materials, so as to force prices above what consumers are willing and able to pay. Bank credit often expands so rapidly that it lifts the buying or investment power of business men out of line with the general buying power of the community. Because of their strategic position the banks have an unusual duty and an exceptional opportunity to give sound information and counsel to business men.

"While the relationship between the volume of credit and the volume of business and the movement of prices is not always simple to interpret, it appears to be sufficiently close to make it a matter of first importance that the volume and the flow of credit should at all times be tested by the contribution which additions to the volume of credit make to the total of economic production. Additions to credits which cannot be economically validated by a commensurate effect in actual production are speculative, and as such should be subjected to control, so that business and industry can be maintained in a healthy state."

The foregoing is a statement of principle by a committee of leading business men. Facts are presented below which relate to the three divisions referred to, viz: the volume of business, prices and the volume of credit.

The volume of Business

In the following summary comparisons are made between those months when low points were reached and the month of March 1923.

Industry—Production, measured by the index of output in 22 basic industries, has increased since July 1921, 67 per cent.

Employment, measured by the number of workers employed in New York State factories (fairly representative of industrial employment in the country as a whole) has increased since August 1921, 28 per cent.

Trade—Wholesale trade, measured by the sales reported by about 700 firms representing practically all sections of the country (with allowance made for seasonal changes), has increased since July 1921, 23 per cent.

Retail trade, measured by the sales reported by about 300 Department Stores in principal cities throughout the country (with allowance made for seasonal changes), has increased since September 1921, 15 per cent.

The growth in the physical volume of production indicates a rate of industrial recovery almost without parallel in American business and the volume of goods produced and passed into consumption during the first quarter of 1923 probably exceeds that of any similar period in the history of the country.

Prices and Wages

Changes in prices and wages from the low points may be summarized as follows:

Prices—The Bureau of Labor Statistics index of wholesale prices increased from January 1922 to March 1923, 15 per cent.

Wages—The hiring rate of wages for unskilled labor in eastern industrial centers increased from April 1922 to April 15, 1923, 22 per cent. Average weekly earnings of workers in New York state factories (fairly representative of industrial earnings in the country as a whole) increased from April 1922 to March 15, 1923, 11 per cent.

The Volume of Credit

The high industrial activity has involved a great increase in the volume of bank credit in use. Comparisons are made below between those dates when low points were reached and April 11, 1923:

Member banks in leading cities: Total loans and investments have increased \$1,974,000,000 since March 8, 1922, or 14 per cent.

Commercial loans have increased \$783,000,000 since August 30, 1922, or 11 per cent.

Demand and time deposits have increased \$2,453,000,000 since September 21, 1921, or 19 per cent.

Since the first of the year the growth of total loans and investments has been due entirely to the rapid increase in commercial loans; loans on stocks and bonds and the investment holdings of these banks have declined. This shift in the form of bank credit is in response to the increasing demand for credit for commercial and industrial purposes.

The use of Reserve Bank credit, particularly in the industrial sections of the country, has also increased from the low point of last summer, as follows:

All Federal Reserve Banks—Earning Assets have increased \$138,000,000 since August 9, 1922, or 14 per cent. Loans to member banks have increased \$263,000,000 since July 26, 1922, or 69 per cent.

Included in Earning Assets are the Government securities and acceptances held by the Reserve Banks, as well as their loans to member banks. As the volume of securities and acceptances owned has decreased, the volume of loans to member banks has risen to somewhat larger amount and Earning Assets consequently have risen. The lending power of the Reserve Banks remains very large, as is apparent in the high reserve ratio, the result mainly of the heavy inflow of gold.

The Relation of Credit Capacity to Production Capacity

The relation of this great supply of credit, still held in reserve, to the productive capacity of the country, is referred to as follows, in the current issue of the Federal Reserve Bulletin:

"The present lending capacity of the country's banking system, in view of the great growth of the reserves at the reserve banks, is not far in excess of the credit needs of the country's productive capacity. In such a situation it is the available supplies of labor and equipment and not the potential supply of credit that in the end must fix the limit which may be attained by aggregate national production. As these limits are approached credit policy must be increasingly influenced by careful consideration of the continued effectiveness of further additions to the total volume of credit in contributing to increased productivity."