THE MONTHLY

BUSINESS REVIEW

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

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA

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SUMMARY OF BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Production and shipment of goods continued in heavy volume during May; the volume of employment was sustained and many wage advances were reported. Wholesale commodity prices declined during May and the early weeks of June.

Production

Production of iron and steel, cement, and petroleum was larger in May than in any previous month, and mill consumption of cotton was close to maximum. The high level of production in these industries, together with increases in practically all other reporting lines, are reflected in an advance of 2 per cent in May in the Federal Reserve Board's Index of Production in Basic Industries. In the building industry there was a further decline in principal cities in the value of permits granted which represent prospective building operations. Contract awards, however, which represent actual current undertakings, continued to increase, though declines are reported in the New York and Chicago Districts. This industrial activity has been accompanied by a slight increase of employment at industrial establishments. The demand for labor was also reflected in a larger number of wage advances during the thirty day period ending May 15 than in any earlier month this year and average weekly earnings in all reporting industries increased by 3.8 per cent. The advances were most general in the cotton, steel, meat packing, and sugar industries. In agriculture the condition of both winter and spring wheat is reported less favorable than a year ago, while the condition of the cotton crop is slightly better than last year, owing entirely to more favorable growing conditions in Texas. A shortage of farm labor is reported from most sections of the country.

Trade

Active distribution of commodities is indicated by heavy movement of merchandise and miscellaneous freight, and car loadings continued to exceed all previous records for this season. In certain lines of trade a decline in the volume of manufacturer's orders for future delivery is reported. The volume of both wholesale and retail trade was larger in May than in April. Among the wholesale lines sales of clothing and dry goods decreased. The Federal Reserve Board's index of wholesale trade which makes no allowance for seasonal changes, was 5 per cent higher than in April and 14 per cent higher than a year ago. Sales of department stores increased about 8 per cent in May, and all reporting lines of chain store business reported increases. Mail order sales were 6 per cent less than in April, but were larger than in any previous May.

Wholesale Prices

Price declines were reported during May and the first three weeks of June on a large number of commodities. All of the nine groups in the Bureau of Labor Statistics index, except food and house furnishings, show decreases for May and the average for all commodities declined by 2 per cent.

Bank Credit

Loans of reporting member banks in principal cities, which have been increasing since the early part of the year, declined by $115,000,000 between May 16 and June 13. Bank holdings of government securities which increased by over $100,000,000 in connection with the treasury transactions of May 15, later declined as the securities were distributed by the banks.

These decreases in loans of member banks and the receipt during May of $45,000,000 of gold from abroad were accompanied by a decrease in the earning assets of Federal Reserve Banks by $120,000,000 for the four weeks ending June 20. At that time the volume of Federal Reserve Bank credit in use reached the lowest point since the opening of the year and approached the low point reached in August, 1922. Reserve Bank holdings of bankers' acceptances and government obligations are now lower than at any time since early in 1922. The total volume of money in circulation increased by $38,000,000 between May 1 and June 1, the increase being chiefly in gold and silver certificates, rather than in Federal Reserve Notes.

Money rates continued to show a slightly easier tendency. The June 15 issue of $150,000,000 six months treasury certificates carried a rate of interest of 4 per cent, compared with 4¼ per cent on a similar issue sold in March.

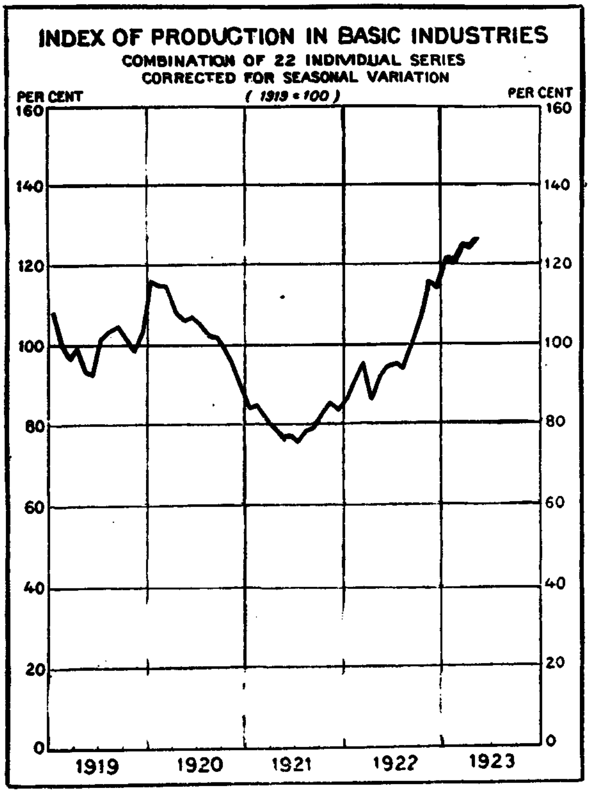
SIXTH DISTRICT SUMMARY

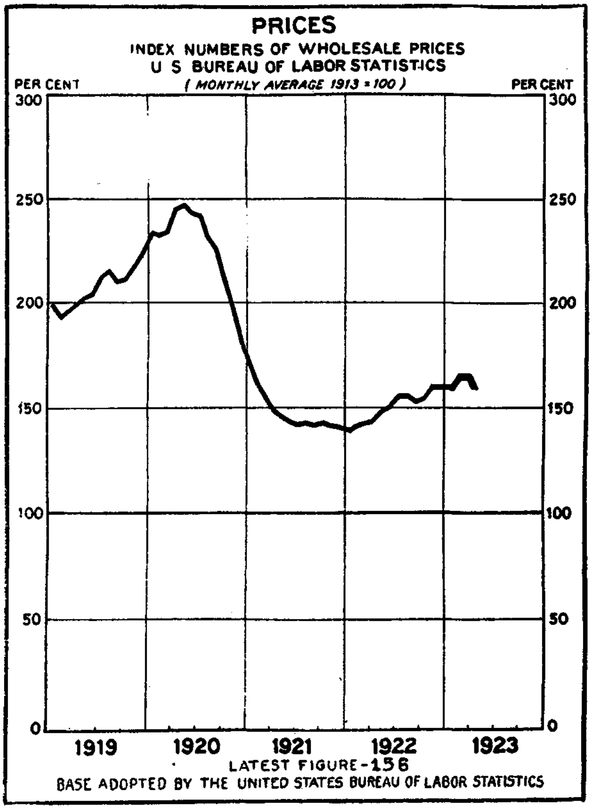
Fundamental business conditions in the Sixth Federal Reserve District are good, regardless of some factors which during the past month or two have had an adverse effect on the forward movement. It was not to be expected that the momentum of the early months of the year could be safely maintained through the spring and summer months indefinitely. Prices were rising, and because of these advances, in some instances merchants were placing orders ahead for goods that were not needed for current consumption, and manufacturing firms were operating at a very high level in order to keep pace with the business they were receiving.

The peak of spring business came in March, and with the disagreeably wet weather that has since followed, delaying and damaging the crops in almost all sections of the District, there has also come a spirit of caution and conservatism which has exerted a restraining influence in mercantile and manufacturing trades. This, with the lower prospective buying power of the agricultural communities, because of the lowering of crop prospects, has probably served to augment the usual seasonal factors which cause more or less hesitation in some lines of trade with the arrival of hot weather. Merchants are making every effort to hold prices and costs down, and there is nowhere in this District evidence of any attempt at a "runaway market" in any line of business.

Retail trade during May showed up somewhat better than did wholesale trade, although five of the eight lines of wholesale trade from which reports are received showed increased sales. Wholesale business in all of the lines was larger than in May a year ago, and retail sales of 39 department stores in May exceeded their sales during May last year by 12.4 per cent.

Agricultural conditions and crop prospects in this District are not so good as they were a month or six weeks ago, because of the exeessive rains. The first report for this season on the condition of cotton was issued by the Department of Agriculture June 1. The average condition in the United States was estimated at 71 per cent of normal, compared with 69.6 per cent of normal on the same date last year. However, only one state in the Sixth District had a condition as high as this average, that state being Florida, which produces a comparatively small crop of cotton.





While there was a small decline in demand deposits, savings deposits reported by 100 banks in the District were 1.2 per cent larger than at the end of April, and 14.3 per cent greater than at the end of May last year. Debits to Individual Account for the week ended June 13 amounted to $213,211,000, for the 25 reporting cities, compared with $191,047,000 for the corresponding week last year.

There was a recession in the value of building permits issued at principal cities in the District during May, compared with April, although the May total exceeded the total for any previous month. New business has also fallen off in lumber, and in cotton manufacturing, although the Census Bureau figures show that the consumption of cotton in the cotton-growing states during May was the highest on record.

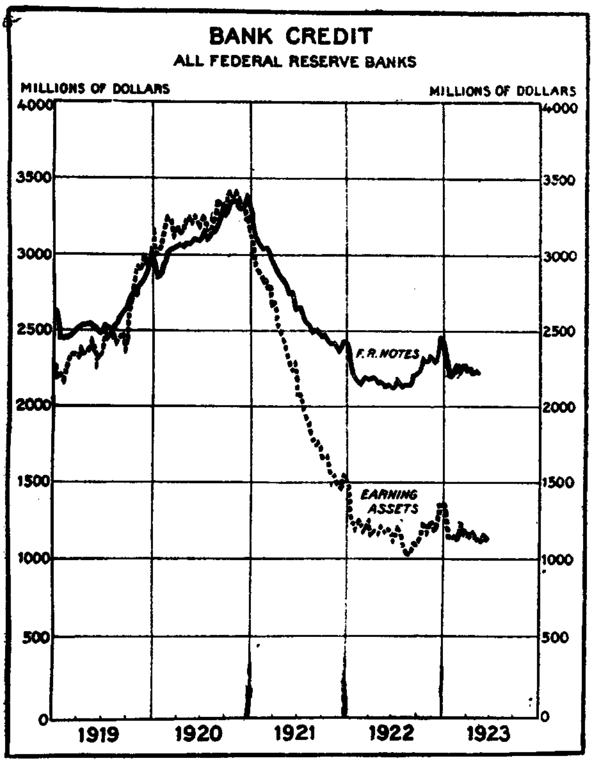
RETAIL TRADE

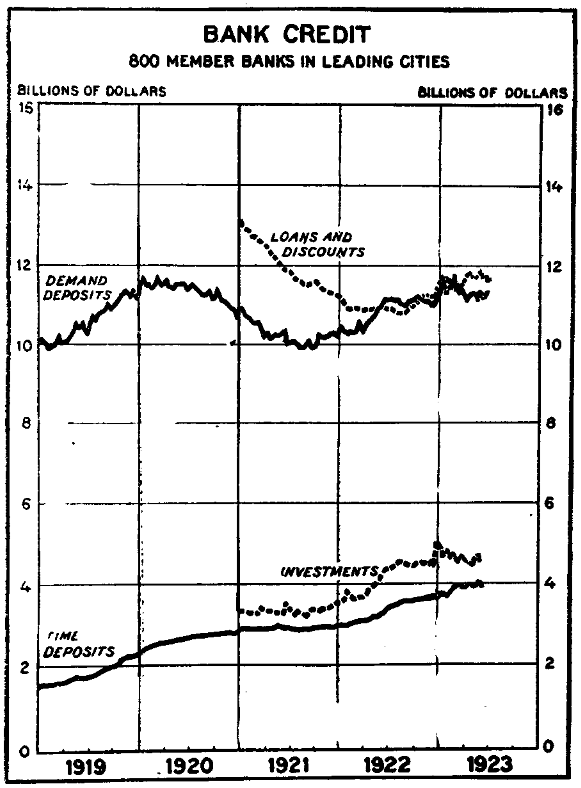
Reports made to the Monthly Business Review for May show a volume of sales during that month 12.4 per cent greater, in the aggregate than during the corresponding month a year ago. Cumulative sales, from January 1 through the month of May, for the thirty-nine reporting stores, averaged 11.4 per cent greater than for the same five months last year.

Birmingham still leads with the most favorable comparison in the District, May sales of five Birmingham department stores having been 37.3 per cent greater than in May, 1922, while for the first five months of the year sales by those stores were 33.5 per cent more than during the same period last year. Figures for the individual cities, from which three or more reports are received, are shown in the table below.

Stocks of merchandise on hand at the end of the month declined 0.8 per cent, compared with stocks at the end of April. Increased stocks were, however, reported by stores in Chattanooga, and slight increases in New Orleans and Savannah. Stocks at the end of May were 9.4 per cent greater for the District than at the same time last year, the only decrease being reported from Savannah.

While these figures show a generally favorable comparison of the volume of business, reports from various parts of the District state that business would have been considerably better had not weather conditions interfered to so great an extent.





CONDITION OF RETAIL TRADE—MAY, 1923
Sixth Federal Reserve District

	Percentage of Increase or Decease (1) Comparison of net sales with those of corresponding period last year		(2) Stocks at end of month compared with		(3) Percentages of average stocks at end of each month from January to date to average monthly sales over same period	(4) Percentage of outstanding orders at end of May to total purchases during calendar year 1922
	A May	B January 1 to May 31	A May 1922	B April 1923		
Atlanta (3)	+26.5	+26.7	+ 7.4	— 4.8	514.9	3.7
Birmingham (5)	+37.3	+33.5	+14.7	— 3.8	444.9	5.5
Chattanooga (5)	+19.5	+16.0	+22.6	+ 5.1	515.5	9.0
Jackson (3)	+ 6.5	+ 0.6	+10.4	— 4.4	548.6	x
Nashville (5)	+ 5.4	+ 6.4	+ 2.2	— 1.8	476.2	9.9
New Orleans (5)	+ 7.8	+ 5.2	+ 9.9	+ 0.6	478.6	8.6
Savannah (3)	— 6.3	— 3.2	— 0.3	+ 0.5	611.7	7.1
Other Cities (10)	+ 4.0	+10.2	+ 5.4	— 1.9	510.9	2.6
District (39)	+12.4	+11.4	+ 9.4	— 0.8	488.3	6.8
United States	+10.8	+12.1	+ 9.6	— 2.5	384.4	8.3

WHOLESALE TRADE

The condition of wholesale trade in the Sixth District during May was only slightly better than during the preceding month. April witnessed recessions in the volume of business done by seven of the eight lines of trade from which monthly reports are received. Figures for May, reported by 150 representative firms, show that some recovery took place during that month in five of these lines of trade. The only material gain was reported by wholesale furniture firms, whose May sales were 11.5 per cent greater than in April, during which month their business was only 1.7 per cent less than in March. Shoe firms also reported increased sales amounting in May to 9.5 per cent more than in April, but their April business was almost 32 per cent smaller than in March, so that in this line, as in groceries, hardware and drugs the ground lost in April was not regained during the month that followed.

Further seasonal declines were shown in the volume of sales reported by wholesale dry-goods and farm implement firms in the District, while stationery also showed a small decrease, of a little less than one per cent.

Comparisons of sales for the current month with those of the corresponding month last year continue favorable, the increase in dry-goods, however, amounting to only 2.8 per cent in May.

Correspondents in almost all of these lines state in their reports that the amount of cool rainy weather this spring has been a seriously deterring factor, and that business would have been considerably better but for this condition.

Wholesale Trade	May 1923 compared with: April 1923	May 1922
Groceries (41 reports)	+ 3.4%	+10.9%
Dry Goods (29 reports)	— 4.0%	+ 2.8%
Hardware (27 reports)	+ 3.4%	+31.0%
Furniture (22 reports)	+11.5%	+58.6%
Shoes (13 reports)	+ 9.5%	+33.7%
Stationery (4 reports)	— 0.9%	+19.9%
Drugs (7 reports)	+ 0.9%	+17.5%
Farm Implements (7 reports)	—16.2%	+17.7%

Groceries

Reports were made to the Review for May by 41 wholesale grocery firms in the District. The volume of sales by these firms was a little higher than in April, except in Jacksonville, where May business showed a very slight decrease. For the District, the total business reported was 3.4 per cent greater than in April, and 10.9 per cent larger than in May last year.

Weather conditions have to some extent interfered with the volume of sales, especially in the smaller towns and country districts, because crop prospects are not so good, and merchants at such points hesitate to buy. Home gardens, however, are late and as a result there has been some buying of canned goods which was a little more than usual at this time of the year.

A large majority of the reports indicate that buying is being done very cautiously, and that price trends are being watched carefully.

Groceries	May 1923 compared with: April 1923	May 1922
Atlanta (5 reports)	+ 8.3%	+ 9.9%
Jacksonville (5 reports)	— 0.1%	+ 0.1%
Meridian (4 reports)	+ 0.0%	+14.8%
New Orleans (9 reports)	+ 0.6%	+ 4.8%
Vicksburg (4 reports)	+ 2.4%	+31.6%
Other Cities (14 reports)	+10.0%	—18.5%
DISTRICT (41 reports)	+ 3.4%	+10.9%

Dry Goods

The volume of business in wholesale drygoods has been influenced principally during the past month or two by two factors, the fluctuating price of raw cotton, and the very unfavorable weather conditions prevailing in almost all sections. The very wet and cool spring has curtailed purchases by both consumer and retailer. There has been very little spring weather, except the weeks of daily rain between the late freezes in March and the hot summer weather of the most recent weeks.

The dry goods market, according to reports from 29 firms in the District, has been very quiet during May, and sales for these firms averaged 4.0 per cent less than in April, Montgomery being the only city to report an increased volume of business. Montgomery and Nashville reported figures which were smaller than their sales in May 1922, while other cities showed small increases, the percentage for the District being only 2.8. Buying is being done very cautiously, according to all of the reports, and for immediate needs only.

Dry Goods	May 1923 compared with: April 1923	May 1922
Atlanta (4 reports)	— 4.6%	+ 3.2%
Knoxville (3 reports)	— 4.0%	+ 7.4%
Montgomery (3 reports)	+10.6%	—11.2%
Nashville (3 reports)	—17.9%	— 6.5%
New Orleans (4 reports)	— 3.4%	+ 2.2%
Other Cities (12 reports)	— 1.5%	+ 8.0%
DISTRICT (29 reports)	— 4.0%	+ 2.8%

Hardware

Twenty-seven wholesale hardware firms in the District reported for the month of May a volume of business 3.4 per cent greater than in April. Decreased sales were reported from Atlanta, Jacksonville and Nashville, while increases were shown in the reports from Chattanooga, New Orleans, Montgomery, and "Other Cities." All reporting cities did a larger amount of business in May this year than in the same month last year, this increase in the aggregate volume being 31 per cent.

While the reports indicate that in some instances wholesalers and retailers are placing orders for sixty or ninety day requirements, the majority of the reports state that buying is being done only for immediate needs and with considerable caution. Hardware, as in the case of other lines, has felt the generally adverse effect which the weather has had upon mercantile trade.

Hardware	May 1923 compared with: April 1923	May 1922
Atlanta (3 reports)	—13.2%	+ 7.1%
Chattanooga (3 reports)	+ 4.4%	+43.6%
Jacksonville (3 reports)	— 7.7%	+35.7%
Nashville (3 reports)	— 1.8%	+26.9%
New Orleans (5 reports)	+ 8.7%	+38.1%
Montgomery (3 reports)	+29.7%	+64.2%
Other Cities (7 reports)	+ 3.3%	+22.4%
DISTRICT (27 reports)	+ 3.4%	+31.0%

Furniture

Reports from 22 wholesale furniture firms show the most favorable comparison in May sales with the preceding month and with the same month last year, of any of the eight lines of wholesale trade. May business reported by these 22 firms was 11.5 per cent greater than during April, while sales reported for April showed a decrease of only 1.7 per cent compared with March.

Most of the reports state that dealers are buying with caution for immediate needs only, and that in some instances they are refusing to buy on advanced prices.

Furniture	May 1923 compared with: April 1923	May 1922
Atlanta (6 reports)	+16.5%	+71.2%
Chattanooga (4 reports)	+ 8.7%	+62.5%
Nashville (3 reports)	—14.9%	+40.8%
Other Cities (9 reports)	+19.7%	+55.1%
DISTRICT (22 reports)	+11.5%	+58.6%

Shoes

Sales during May 1923 by 13 wholesale shoe firms showed an increase of 9.5 per cent over April, recovering only a part of the ground lost in April when business was 31.8 per cent smaller than in March. The comparison with the same month last year, however, is much more favorable, April business having shown a decline of 9.5 per cent compared with April 1922, while May sales were 33.7 per cent greater than during May last year.

Correspondents state that there is some disposition to recede from advances which were made on the more staple lines, but that trade in novelties is very active and that the demand is strong for immediate shipment. Collections are reported to be only fair.

Shoes	May 1923 compared with: April 1923	May 1922
Atlanta (3 reports)	+36.8%	+59.4%
Other Cities (10 reports)	— 1.6%	+22.5%
DISTRICT (13 reports)	+ 9.5%	+33.7%

District averages for the other three lines are shown in the first table under Wholesale Trade. Drugs and Stationery are not highly seasonal lines, and do not show material fluctuations from month to month. Both of these lines, however, show favorable comparisons with the corresponding month a year ago.

Farms Implements, after showing substantial increases in sales for each of the first four months of the year, showed a decline of 16.2 per cent in May compared with April, and an increase of 17.7 per cent compared with May last year. These less favorable comparisons may be attributed principally to seasonal factors, although the lowering of farm prospects during recent weeks has also in all probability had some influence.

AGRICULTURE

Continued rainy weather during May and early June have adversely affected agricultural conditions in the Sixth Federal Reserve District. The reports issued by the Department of Agriculture show that most sections have had excessive rains, and that crops have been delayed and damaged by the rains, and by the cool weather.

There has been a marked deterioration in the condition of wheat and oats in Georgia, heavy and continuous rains having caused considerable lodging of both grains and prevented proper pollination. The condition of wheat, 76 per cent of normal, is better than at the same time last year, but is much lower than the ten year average. The season has been very similar to that of last year, in that such crops as sweet potatoes, clovers, grasses and pastures that are able to utilize the great amount of excess moisture, have made good growth.

Prospects for the corn crop are reported to be good in Florida, where rapid progress is being made, but in Alabama and Georgia much of it has a sickly appearance, indicating lack of work. A great deal remains to be planted in North Georgia and Tennessee.

Both Georgia and Florida report splendid pecan prospects. Peaches are short in Tennessee but are said to be excellent in the peach district of Georgia, where the fruit shows unusual size and the commercial movement now promises to be greater than last year.

Cotton

The first estimate of the condition of the cotton crop, made by the Department of Agriculture, was released on June 1, and showed an average condition of 71 per cent of normal throughout the cotton producing states on May 25, compared with 69.6 per cent on the same date last year, 66 per cent on the same date in 1921, and with an average condition of 73.6 per cent on May 25 for the last ten years.

The condition of the crop by states, on May 25, is shown in the following table:

	1923	1922	1921
Alabama	70	80	57
Florida	87	85	60
Georgia	65	71	63
Louisiana	68	70	57
Mississippi	70	75	60
Tennessee	70	79	69
Virginia	79	91	77
North Carolina	77	84	65
South Carolina	64	67	58
Texas	87	61	71
Arkansas	66	76	70
Missouri	54	90	75
Oklahoma	63	67	74
California	93	84	75
Arizona	92	81	84
All other states	90	73	95
United States	71.0	69.6	66.0

These figures indicate a better condition of the crop on May 25 in only one state in the Sixth District, namely, Florida, which produces a comparatively small crop. Lower condition figures are also shown for Virginia, North and South Carolina, Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma, but Texas, the largest producing state in the country, shows a condition of 87 per cent of normal for the present crop compared with 61 per cent at the same time last year.

The lower condition of the crop this year may be attributed principally to the unfavorable weather which has prevailed since late winter. While actual damage from excessive rains in Florida has been confined to low lands, the damage in other states has been pretty general. Planting has been delayed in many sections, and in other places replanting has been necessary, and boll weevil damage has also been pretty general. The labor shortage, due to the exodus of negro workers, has forced the farmers to attempt to cultivate larger areas per plow than usual. To partially offset this, however, more farmers are using fertilizer this year, and the use of calcium arsenate is very much more general this year than last.

Citrus Fruits

The condition of the Florida citrus crops showed improvement during May, with prospects of heavy 1923-24 production. This is unusual, however, for with usual May weather, the condition of trees and prospects for the next crop have always dropped, and for the past two seasons the drop has been acute on account of the very dry weather.

Comparative figures showing the condition of the citrus crops are as follows:

	Oranges	Grapefruit	Limes
	Per cent of Normal Condition		
June 1, 1923	92%	90%	90%
May 1, 1923	90%	88%	90%
June 1, 1922	84%	80%	79%
Average condition on June 1	83%	80%	78%

COTTON MOVEMENT—MAY 1923
Sixth Federal Reserve District

	May 1923	April 1923	May 1922
RECEIPTS—PORTS:			
New Orleans	43,150	55,760	113,711
Mobile	4,160	1,419	16,557
Savannah	14,722	23,683	68,764
INTERIOR TOWNS:			
Atlanta	1,873	5,678	12,322
Augusta	7,487	6,788	36,091
Macon	1,143	340	1,898
Meridian	51	196	1,371
Montgomery	540	935	1,608
Vicksburg	22,824	22,737	26,585
SHIPMENTS—PORTS:			
New Orleans	66,295	107,265	147,590
Mobile	4,531	5,226	19,181
Savannah	27,549	42,941	88,968
INTERIOR TOWNS:			
Atlanta	20,429	17,699	19,317
Augusta	11,007	13,032	46,366
Macon	2,384	1,162	5,401
Meridian	1,949	1,014	6,179
Montgomery	823	2,151	5,461
Vicksburg	20,957	20,243	29,149
STOCKS—PORTS:			
New Orleans	97,602	120,747	193,725
Mobile	1,115	1,896	4,358
Savannah	24,518	37,345	91,778
INTERIOR TOWNS:			
Atlanta	31,470	50,026	25,598
Augusta	21,995	30,616	94,149
Macon	10,721	11,962	8,230
Meridian	2,483	4,381	5,718
Montgomery	7,746	7,047	16,774
Vicksburg	4,823	5,450	4,748

COTTON MOVEMENT FOR UNITED STATES
August to May, Inclusive (Bales)

	1923	1922,	1921	1920
Receipts at U. S. Ports	5,614,854	5,836,273	6,140,405	7,026,737
Overland to N. Mills and Canada	1,073,270	1,479,503	1,292,159	1,530,287
Southern Mill Takings	3,682,000	3,139,000	2,365,810	3,070,263
Total movement of crop brought to sight for 10 months	10,410,079	10,088,977	10,380,795	11,804,266
Northern Spinners Takings	2,144,506	2,257,291	1,828,035	2,593,815
Foreign Exports	4,253,041	5,220,343	4,515,179	6,001,496
Stocks at Seaboard and Southern Int. Centers	739,564	1,502,691	2,899,294	1,913,407
Supply this season	11,172,283	12,400,673	11,842,202	13,733,225

SUGAR

The sugar cane crop in Louisiana is now making good progress, but averages in general about two weeks late. Because of the excessive rains in March, April and May farm work has been delayed. Since the latter part of May weather conditions have been somewhat more favorable, and planters have resumed cultivation, and clearing out the grass which got such a good start during the rainy spells. The crop is growing rapidly, though it is still late; the cane is vigorous, and a good stand is generally reported.

The latest report by the Department of Agriculture indicates a sugar cane acreage in Louisiana this year of 331,700 acres. This compares with 319,600 acres in 1922, and 294,500 acres in 1921. Most of the sugar produced in Louisiana is made in the twenty-two southern parishes, known as the Louisiana Sugar Belt. Nearly 54,000 acres, or about 17 per cent of the sugar cane in the Sugar Belt will probably be required for replanting, the remainder, about 262,000 acres being available for making sugar and syrup. Present indications are that more than 252,000 acres of this cane will be used for making sugar, compared with 241,400 acres so used last year, and a five year average of 212,300 acres.

MOVEMENT OF SUGAR—May 1923
Raw Sugar

RECEIPTS:	May 1923	April 1923	May 1922
New Orleans	181,664,377	144,189,787	119,302,465
Savannah	43,089,951	32,468,327	41,109,655

MELTINGS:			
New Orleans	178,731,262	165,636,860	131,291,948
Savannah	39,083,196	33,133,142	42,856,778
STOCKS:			
New Orleans	44,859,367	41,943,631	29,217,011
Savannah	19,877,119	15,870,364	14,522,050

Note:—16,183 lbs. raw sugar shipped from New Orleans during May.

Refined Sugar

SHIPMENTS:	May 1923	April 1923	May 1922
New Orleans	126,127,402	138,129,791	136,079,307
Savannah	36,288,950	31,514,756	38,365,447
STOCKS:			
New Orleans	102,655,496	71,045,565	20,194,157
Savannah	11,783,796	11,733,630	11,725,746

RICE

According to the report of the Department of Agriculture, the rice acreage in Louisiana was approximately only 64 per cent sown on June 1, 1923, as against 90 per cent on June 1 last year. Early sown rice, however, was growing nicely and doing very well at that time. Apparently a smaller amount of fertilizer was used on the rice acreage this season than last. The actual acreage planted to rice was also smaller this year than in 1922.

Rough Rice (Sacks) Port of New Orleans

	May 1923	April 1923	May 1922
Receipts	19,721	96,324	24,326
Shipments	37,173	98,859	33,243
Stock	34,074	51,526	67,151

Clean Rice (Pockets) Port of New Orleans

	May 1923	April 1923	May 1922
Receipts	210,736	317,446	110,558
Shipments	202,717	315,485	200,198
Stock	163,552	155,533	248,964

Rough Rice Received (Barrels)

	May 1923	Total to May 31, 1923	Total to May 31, 1922
Association Mills	74,815	5,466,788	5,239,301
New Orleans Mills	19,721	1,151,057	1,388,988
Outside Mills	42,580	2,112,717	1,725,116
	137,116	8,730,562	8,353,405

Distribution of Milled Rice (Pockets)

	May 1923	Total to May 31, 1923	Total to May 31, 1922
Association Mills	374,151	5,306,071	5,049,401
New Orleans Mills	37,829	1,351,829	1,322,149
Outside Mills	148,057	1,804,232	1,728,827
	560,037	8,462,132	8,100,377

Stocks on Hand

	June 1, 1923	June 1, 1922
Association Mills	657,689	534,028
New Orleans Mills	193,039	311,959
Outside Mills	319,061	126,435
	1,169,789	972,422

FINANCIAL

Reports received for May from member banks in various parts of the District, while complaining pretty generally about the continuous rainy weather, state that financial conditions throughout the District continue satisfactory.

During May there was a slight decrease in the volume of loans and discounts held by reporting banks in selected cities, and also a decline in demand deposits. Loans secured by Government Obligations, however, registered a small increase over figures for a month ago.

Savings deposits, reported to the Federal Reserve Bank by 100 banks in the District, show approximately the same percentage increases over April which were shown in April over March figures.

Reports made to the Federal Reserve Bank weekly by thirty-nine member banks in selected cities show the total of Loans and Discounts on June 6, 1923, to be $404,077,000, compared with $405,006,000 on May 2, and with $348,885,000 on June 7, last year.

Loans secured by Government Obligations on June 6, amounted to $7,886,000, compared with $7,756,000 a month ago, and with $8,492,000 on June 7, 1922.

The total of all loans, Discounts and Investments held by these reporting banks on June 6, 1923, was $486,882,000, compared with $486,240,000 on May 2, 1923, and with $417,324,000 on June 7, 1922.

Demand deposits reported by these 39 banks on June 6, amounted to $278,099,000, a small decline compared with figures a month earlier, but an increase over the corresponding date in 1922.

The volume of bills on hand with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta declined from $58,575,030.28 on May 9, to $46,692,552.06, on June 13, due to a reduction in the volume of purchased acceptances held. This total is about half again as large, however, as the figure for the corresponding date last year. This total of bills on hand June 13 is composed of $4,901,238.75 secured by Government Obligations, $24,733,978 other bills discounted, and $17,057,335.31 bills bought in the open market.

The volume of Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation on June 13 was $133,735,885, compared with $134,593,535 on May 9, and with $114,847,905 on June 7, 1922.

SAVINGS DEPOSITS—MAY, 1923

	May 31, 1923	April 30, 1923	Comparison of May 31-Apr. 30, 1923	May 31, 1922	Comparison of May 31, 1923-1922
Atlanta (8 banks)	$ 30,504,408	$ 29,973,595	+1.8%	$ 25,337,623	+20.4%
Birmingham (5 banks)	21,285,108	20,828,209	+2.2%	18,090,510	+17.7%
Jacksonville (7 banks)	18,236,290	18,567,560	—1.5%	16,311,692	+12.1%
Nashville (11 banks)	17,015,006	16,624,486	+2.3%	14,253,058	+19.3%
New Orleans (9 banks)	47,674,804	47,061,051	+1.3%	43,441,276	+ 4.9%
Other Cities (60 banks)	81,306,621	80,509,982	+1.0%	69,431,070	+17.1%
TOTAL (100 banks)	$216,072,237	$213,564,883	+1.2%	$188,865,229	+14.3%

DEBITS TO INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS

Sixth Federal Reserve District

	Week Ended		
	June 13, 1923	May 9, 1923	June 14, 1922
Albany, Ga.	$ 1,104,000	$ 994,000	$ 821,000
Atlanta, Ga.	29,357,000	29,253,000	25,059,000
Augusta, Ga.	5,577,000	6,580,000	6,943,000
Birmingham, Ala.	23,446,000	23,250,000	15,876,000
Brunswick, Ga.	845,000	728,000	587,000
Chattanooga, Tenn.	8,737,000	8,831,000	7,213,000
Columbus, Ga.	2,688,000	3,129,000	2,590,000
Cordele, Ga.	261,000	299,000	240,000
Dotham, Ala.	566,000	710,000	381,000
Elberton, Ga.	202,000	218,000	197,000
Jackson, Miss.	2,897,000	3,279,000	3,264,000
Jacksonville, Fla.	11,971,000	13,206,000	11,100,000
Knoxville, Tenn.	7,395,000	6,612,000	5,499,000
Macon, Ga.	5,385,000	5,322,000	3,772,000
Meridian, Miss.	4,480,000	2,379,000	1,948,000
Mobile, Ala.	6,488,000	6,657,000	5,569,000
Montgomery, Ala.	4,074,000	5,000,000	3,611,000
Nashville, Tenn.	17,789,000	21,251,000	15,011,000
Newnan, Ga.	258,000	441,000	306,000
New Orleans, La.	58,973,000	64,845,000	62,501,000
Pensacola, Fla.	1,782,000	1,788,000	1,463,000
Savannah, Ga.	8,710,000	11,215,000	9,614,000
Tampa, Fla.	7,712,000	8,084,000	5,046,000
Valdosta, Ga.	1,052,000	1,075,000	1,086,000
Vicksburg, Miss.	1,463,000	1,390,000	1,350,000
TOTAL	$213,211,000	$226,536,000	$191,047,000

COMMERCIAL FAILURES

Commercial failures in the Sixth Federal Reserve District during May were slightly larger in number, and more than half again as large in total of liabilities, than during the preceding month, according to statistics compiled by R. G. Dun & Co. May failures were, however, substantially less than during the same month last year.

According to these figures, there were 101 failures in the Sixth District during May, compared with 97 in April, and with 179 in May a year ago. The liabilities of these 101 firms were reported as $1,960,346, compared with $1,260,290 in April, and with $3,784,262 in May 1922.

For the United States as a whole, 1,530 failures were reported in May, with a total liabilities of $41,022,277, compared with 1,520 failures in April, with total liabilities of $51,491,941, and with 1,960 failures in May last year, with total liabilities of $44,402,886.

	Sixth District		United States	
	No.	Liabilities	No.	Liabilities
May 1923	101	$1,960,346	1,530	$41,022,227
April 1923	97	1,260,290	1,520	51,491,941
May 1922	179	3,784,262	1,960	44,402,686
Comparison of May-April 1923	+ 4.1%	+55.5%	+ 0.7%	—20.3%
Comparison of May 1923-1922	—43.6%	—48.2%	—21.9%	— 7.8%

ACCEPTANCES

Reports received from a number of accepting banks in the District for May reflected a low degree of activity in the acceptance market. Actual figures showing acceptances executed during May were received from only two banks, and few of the reports indicated the purchase or holding of acceptances.

The total of acceptances bought in the open market and rediscounted for member banks by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta during May amounted to $4,193,014.63, compared with $14,407,269.48 during the preceding month, and with $2,814,820, in May 1922.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Announcement has been made by the Department of Commerce that the delays in compilation of the import and export statistics due to the greatly increased number of items required under the last Tariff Act have been overcome, and the import and the export figures are again issued coincidently at the usual time.

The total value of merchandise exports for May 1923 was $319,000,000, and the value of imports was $370,000,000, showing an excess of imports for the month of $51,000,000.

The following figures are shown for purpose of comparisons:

	Imports 1922-1923	Imports 1921-1922	Exports 1922-1923	Exports 1921-1922
July	$ 251,771,881	$ 178,159,154	$ 301,157,335	$ 325,181,138
August	281,376,403	194,768,751	301,774,517	366,887,538
September	298,493,403	179,292,165	313,196,557	324,863,123
October	276,103,979	188,007,629	370,718,595	343,330,815
November	291,804,826	210,948,036	379,999,622	294,092,219
December	293,788,573	237,495,505	344,327,560	296,198,373
January	329,902,779	217,185,396	335,417,156	278,848,469
February	303,446,419	215,743,282	306,957,419	250,619,841
March	398,178,382	256,177,796	341,351,354	329,979,817
April	364,230,006	217,023,142	325,449,548	318,469,578
May	370,000,000	252,817,254	319,000,000	307,568,828
TOTAL 11 months	$3,459,096,651	$2,347,618,110	$3,639,349,663	$3,436,039,739

PORT OF NEW ORLEANS

Detailed figures for both February and March imports through the Port of New Orleans have become available during the past month. The total value of imports during February 1923 shows an increase of more than $5,000,000, or more than 50 per cent, over similar figures for February 1922, although lower than the peak figure for February, which was in 1920. March imports were more than double the value of imports during March 1922, although less than those in March 1920.

February figures show substantial increases in sugar molasses, nitrate of soda, and burlaps, over the same month in 1922, while coffee showed a small decrease, and mineral oil a substantial one. March figures show a material decrease in burlaps, but increases in sugar, coffee, sisal, newsprint paper nitrate of soda, and even a slight increase in mineral oil which for several months has shown a steady decline in comparison with the same months a year ago.

The following table shows some of the principal articles of import for February and March this year, compared with the same months in 1922:

	February 1923 Volume	February 1923 Value	February 1922 Volume	February 1922 Value	March 1923 Volume	March 1923 Value	March 1922 Volume	March 1922 Value
Sugar, lbs.	115,535,886	$4,112,014	95,188,741	$1,781,141	199,161,431	$9,260,530	186,611,786	$3,768,191
Coffee, lbs.	28,239,879	3,918,681	29,399,470	3,517,179	60,199,259	8,271,526	26,192,717	3,096,787
Burlaps, lls.	11,304,598	1,140,447	2,341,176	195,098	9,517,569	1,090,955	20,835,216	1,733,678
Bananas, bunches	1,304,858	428,347	1,281,429	407,140	1,782,498	588,397	1,834,459	602,621
Sisal, tons	3,694	316,977	8,210	70,921	5,203	388,770	2,847	286,851
Newsprint paper, lbs	1,084,599	83,063	2,471,274	66,035	7,599,053	259,455	937,302	28,803
Mineral Oil, gals.	53,285,076	703,517	123,980,000	1,472,300	57,707,009	979,824	57,159,437	662,292
Tin, lbs.	1,345,006	483,747	----------	--------	1,344,881	493,314	1,703,704	530,559
Creosote Oil, gals.	3,023,147	390,282	----------	--------	777,751	135,342	----------	--------
Nitrate of Soda, tons	21,221	937,218	2,012	90,104	9,740	449,083	5,266	238,586
Linseed, bu.	45,583	101,801	----------	--------	84,849	169,365	----------	--------
Mahogany, ft.	861,000	60,400	813,000	80,879	1,772,000	110,473	928,000	78,630
Molasses, gals	4,382,710	76,941	1,275,627	25,513	12,401,183	225,837	2,718,194	53,201
Ferro-Mangan., tons	1,032	86,002	----------	--------	1,704	212,067	----------	--------

Since the beginning of 1923, the value of imports received at New Orleans each month has been higher than for the corresponding month in any year, excepting the record year of 1920, in the history of the port. For purposes of comparison, February and March totals for a number of years past are given in the following tables:

	February	March
1923	$13,585,903	$23,552,610
1922	8,147,452	11,757,367
1921	11,518,660	16,704,456
1920	15,401,369	28,249,555
1919	8,224,476	17,762,192
1918	9,772,231	11,266,683
1914	6,102,733	7,710,592
1913	6,555,382	7,606,315

GRAIN EXPORTS—MAY

Grain exports through New Orleans during May 1923 total 2,064,534 bushels, a decline of 1,208,686 bushels compared with May 1922. The decline in corn exports was principally responsible, as the figures shown below indicate improvement in wheat, oats, and rye. This table shows comparative figures for the month of May, and for the season beginning July 1, 1922, through May 1923, compared with the same period a year earlier:

	May 1923	May 1922	Season to May31,1923	Season to May31,1922
Wheat	1,065,699	929,244	24,750,511	29,988,874
Corn	644,778	2,110,925	18,491,124	23,488,495
Oats	36,915	33,130	601,459	481,150
Barley	-----	11,350	10,428	302,460
Rye	317,142	188,571	1,189,174	582,400
Total	2,064,534	3,273,220	45,042,696	54,863,379

BUILDING

The value of building permits issued at principal cities of the Sixth Federal Reserve District during May, while not so large as the total value of permits issued in April, was greater than for any other month on record. At Sixteen important cities in this District, permits were issued during May for the erection of buildings to be valued at $8,597,133, compared with a total of $11,887,623 in April, and $7,054,343 in May 1922.

The following statement shows the value of permits issued during May, 1923, compared with similar totals for May last year, at principal cities in the Sixth District.

BUILDING PERMITS
Sixth Federal Reserve District

	Alterations & Repairs No.	Alterations & Repairs Value	New Buildings No.	New Buildings Value	Total May 1923	Total May 1922	Increase or Decrease
ALABAMA:							
Anniston	16	3,070	6	17,500	20,570	8,160	+152.1%
Birmingham	219	66,265	352	939,910	1,006,175	571,157	+ 76.2%
Mobile	44	16,624	18	108,890	125,514	86,600	+ 44.9%
Montgomery	52	30,613	6	2,000	32,613	62,350	— 47.7%
FLORIDA:							
Jacksonville	261	126,425	86	424,645	551,070	605,496	— 9.0%
Miami	84	92,500	113	406,700	499,000	385,600	+ 29.4%
Orlando	42	19,725	94	193,236	212,961	109,070	+ 95.3%
Pensacola	65	17,394	10	18,500	35,500	76,444	— 53.6%
St. Petersburg	40	39,810	95	1,500,775	1,540,585	377,350	+308.3%
Tampa	223	92,855	101	623,172	716,027	322,272	+122.2%
GEORGIA:							
Atlanta	135	138,739	338	2,267,675	2,406,414	1,743,054	+ 38.1%
Augusta	160	14,778	21	23,330	38,108	131,665	— 71.1%
Macon	127	14,765	65	133,848	148,613	129,437	+ 14.8%
Savannah	15	9,175	35	111,347	112,264	238,390	— 52.9%
LOUISIANA:							
New Orleans	55	103,825	255	911,775	1,015,600	1,102,375	— 7.9%
Alexandria	41	22,933	24	26,040	49,033	70,909	— 30.9%
MISSISSIPPI:							
Vicksburg	14	9,300	15	17,925	27,225	209,515	— 87.0%
Jackson	--	----	--	-----	97,000	97,000	same
TENNESSEE:							
Chattanooga	156	60,553	26	190,250	250,803	792,596	— 68.4%
Johnson City	1	500	44	276,220	276,720	28,100	+884.8%
Knoxville	211	84,682	132	1,057,790	1,142,472	426,414	+167.9%
Nashville	103	22,165	61	269,200	303,999	588,217	— 48.3%

LUMBER

The production of lumber by mills of the Southern Pine Association has been maintained at a fairly steady rate in the neighborhood of 90 per cent of normal, since the beginning of May. Shipments have fluctuated between 80 and 95 per cent of normal production for the reporting mills, while the volume of orders received has shown a progressive decline from 12 per cent under normal production for the week ended May 11, to 38 per cent under normal production for the weeks ended June 1, and June 8.

Correspondents state that both production and shipments were interferred with to a considerable extent during the last ten days of May by the rainy weather, especially in the case of the large number of smaller mills. Production is still held up, however, partly as a result of depleted stocks and partly because of large files of unfilled orders booked during the first few weeks of the year. Average unfilled orders, however are showing a gradual decline, due to the fact shipments have exceeded orders booked for many weeks.

A large majority of the mills which report their running time, are still on full time operations, while the report include a few working overtime. For the week ended June 8, of 75 mills reporting their running time, 62 operated full time or overtime, 4 mills operated five days, 4 mills four days, 1 mill three days, 1 mill two two days, and three were shut down.

Monthly figures for May, compared with the preceding month and the corresponding month last year, for reporting mills, are shown in the following table:

	May 1923 (142 Mills)	April 1923 (144 Mills)	May 1922 (122 Mills)
Orders	279,319,437	331,849,143	463,614,967
Shipments	352,050,163	369,892,729	399,769,587
Production	329,856,158	329,941,954	346,992,585
Normal production of reporting mills	332,910,664	363,498,414	341,635,915
Stocks end of month	739,675,049	830,745,147	814,253,152
Normal stocks of reporting mills	904,738,626	971,287,243	913,013,391
Unfilled orders at end of month	286,643,392	396,283,804	331,182,095

COTTON CONSUMPTION—MAY 1923

Cotton manufacturing was at a very high rate during May, the consumption of lint cotton having been 620,-956 bales, exceeded only once before in the history of the industry. Consumption was about 43,000 bales more than in April of this year, and 125,000 bales more than in May last year, but it was 2,140 bales less than the monthly record consumption attained in March.

Consumption in cotton-growing states for May established a record, indicating growth of the manufacturing industry in this section. Total consumption in the cotton-growing states during May was 392,575 bales, or 500 bales more than the record consumption in March.

Fewer spindles were operated in the United States as a whole in May, compared with March, but in conton-growing states the number established a new record of 16,089,463.

Figures compiled by the Census Bureau for May are shown in the following tables:

Cotton Consumed:	May 1923	April 1923	May 1922
Lint	620,695	577,396	495,337
Linters	54,278	52,192	56,057
On Hand in Consuming Establishments:			
Lint	1,621,290	1,889,219	1,420,428
Linters	163,892	180,980	159,604
In Public Storage and at Compresses:			
Lint	1,579,606	1,966441	2,559,451
Linters	47,583	53,656	94,276
Active Spindles	35,390,137	35,515,791	31,641,131
Imports	23,593	37,068	14,320
Exports:			
Lint	157,545	257,215	457,336
Linters	2,818	2,769	12,061

Cotton-Growing States

	May 1923	April 1923	May 1922
Cotton Consumed	392,575	363,865	331,481
On Hand in Consuming Establishments	890,128	1,078,444	685,792
In Public Storage and at Compresses	1,255,036	1,655,890	2,053,451
Active Spindles	16,089,463	16,072,152	15,518,365

MANUFACTURING

Cotton Cloth

Cotton manufacturing in the Sixth District is still in a more or less unsatisfactory condition. Lack of demand for the manufactured product is reported to be the principal cause, although there was an increase in production of mills reporting to the Monthly Business Review during May over April output.

Thirty-four representative mills manufacturing cotton cloth reported to the Review for May. The output of these mills during May was approximately 35,000,000 yards of cloth, and was 12.2 per cent greater than the amount of goods manufactured by these same mills during April. Shipments, however, showed a decline, and stocks of cloth on hand at the end of May were almost 28 per cent greater than at the end of April.

Twenty-eight of the mills reported the time required to complete orders remaining on hand at the end of May. While some of the mills have large files of unfilled orders, the average of all of the reports was only 7-1/3 weeks.

Compared with figures for the same mills for May a year ago, production in May this year showed an increase of 19 per cent, but shipments, orders on hand, and stocks showed declines.

Percentage comparisons of figures reported for May, with April and with May 1922, are shown in the following tables:

34 Mills	May 1923 compared with: April 1923	May 1922
1. Cloth Production	+12.2	+19.2
2. Cloth Shipments	— 5.0	—16.1
3. Orders on hand at end of month	—16.3	—18.6
4. Stocks of cloth on hand at end of month	+27.9	+28.1
5 Average time required to complete orders on hand	—26.7	+ 0.7
6. Number on payroll	— 0.8	+19.0

Cotton Yarn

The yarn market was very dull and unsatisfactory all through the month of May, but there is some indication of a slight improvement in the number of inquiries since the beginning of June. Reports to the Review by yarn manufacturers for May, however, state they were unable to obtain prices for their yarn equal to the cost, and were compelled to refuse such offers.

Thirty-four mills manufacturing yarn reported to the Review for May, the total output of these mills being more than 6,500,000 pounds of yarn. This output for May was 5.6 per cent greater than in April, and shipments of these mills also increased to the extent of 9.4 per cent, but orders on hand at the end of May were 20 per cent smaller than a month earlier.

Twenty-seven mills reported figures showing the time required to complete their orders on hand, the average for all of these being 6-4/5 weeks.

Percentage comparisons of figures reported for May those for April and for May last year, are shown in the following table:

34 Mills	May 1923 compared with: April 1923	May 1922
1. Yarn Production	+ 5.6	+19.6
2. Yarn Shipments	+ 9.4	+12.0
3. Orders on hand at end of month	--20.1	+12.2
4. Stocks of yarn on hand at end of month	+11.0	—34.4
5. Average time required to complete orders on hand	—20.4	— 9.7
6. Number on payroll	— 0.1	+14.2

HOSIERY

Recovery in production and shipments of hosiery is indicated in reports received from 23 representative hosiery mills in the Sixth District for May, but the volume of orders booked during the month suffered decline compared with April.

The 23 mills which reported for May, manufactured during that month more than half a million dozen pairs. This was an increase in output of 6.9 per cent over production in April by these same mills, and was almost 32 per cent greater than their output during May of last year. Shipments during May were almost 11 per cent greater than in April, and showed an increase over May 1922 of nearly 40 per cent. Figures in the reports showed orders booked during April by the mills were 21.3 per cent smaller in the aggregate than during April, and but 1 per cent in excess of orders booked during May last year. Unfilled orders on hand at the end of May also showed a decline compared with April, but were substantially larger than those on hand a year ago.

While the market for hosiery is reported to be rather dull, some of the mills state that they are receiving frequent small orders, most of them repeat orders, for immediate shipment.

Percentage comparisons of May figures, with those for April, and for May 1922, are shown in the following table:

23 Mills	May 1923 compared with: April 1923	May 1922
1. Hosiery Production	+ 6.9	+31.7
2. Hosiery on hand at end of month	+ 2.1	+ 2.3
3. Orders booked during month	—21.3	+ 1.0
4. Cancellations	+52.7	x
5. Shipments	+10.9	+39.9
6. Unfilled orders on hand at end of month	— 9.6	+68.7

OVERALLS

Overall production during May was reported to the Review by 7 mills, the output being only two-tenths of one per cent greater than in April. While some of the reports state that the demand for fall delivery is good, business for immediate shipment is small. This is partly indicated in a drop of over 25 per cent in the volume of orders booked during May compared with April although showing an increase of 13 per cent over business booked during May last year. A few of the mills reported cancellations during May somewhat larger than in April, and showing a rather substantial increase over similar figures for May 1922.

Five of these mills reported the capacity at which they operated during May, during April and during May 1922. The average of the figures reported for May 1923 was 67 per cent of capacity, for April 68 per cent of capacity, and for May 1922 73 per cent of capacity

Unfilled orders on hand at the end of May, while substantially larger than at the same time a year ago, were 40 per cent smaller than at the end of April.

Percentage comparisons of figures reported for May 1923, with those for April, and for May 1922, are shown below:

7 Mills	May 1923 compared with: April 1923	May 1922
1. Overall production	+ 0.2	+12.5
2. Overalls on hand at end of month	—14.3	—47.1
3. Orders booked during month	—25.7	+13.3
4. Unfilled orders on hand at end of month	— 8.3	x
5. Number on pay roll	— 4.2	— 4.3

BRICK

A small decline in production, and a more substantial reduction in the volume of orders received during the month, were reported to the Review by 6 brick manufacturing plants for May. In April, while the output was larger than during the preceding month, orders booked during the month showed a decline of 30 per cent. In May orders booked showed a further decline of nearly 14 per cent, and unfilled orders on hand at the end of May also showed a decrease of over 8 per cent compared with April, although more than three times as large as orders on hand at the end of May last year.

Some of the reporting plants state that continual rains have interfered with building and construction work to some extent, and that this has caused a slowing up in buying.

Comparisons of May 1923 figures with those for April and for May last year, are shown below:

6 plants	May 1923 compared with: April 1923	May 1922
1. Brick Production	— 2.8	+29.1
2. Brick on hand at end of month	— 6.2	+ 0.7
3. Orders booked	—13.9	—14.6
4. Unfilled orders on hand at end of month	— 8.3	+19.1
5. Number on payroll	+ 7.2	+19.1

EMPLOYMENT

The monthly survey of employment conditions conducted by the United States Employment Service for May indicates that there are now fewer men out of employment than at any time in a number of months past. The number employed by the larger industrial concerns, those usually employing 500 or more workers, in 65 principal industrial centers of the United States made further gains in May, and the survey shows that in many of the major industries there is a demand for common and skilled labor which is far greater than the available supply.

Building construction in all parts of the country is progressing on an exceptionally large scale. All building tradesmen in the larger cities are fully employed, and at many points there is a shortage of help in this line.

In Georgia cotton mills are running on a full time basis, with some overtime, and in most centers all industries are operating, a few on part time. Fertilizer mills, due to the seasonal closing down, have released numbers of workers, but most of them have found employment in other lines. A shortage of skilled workers in practically all lines in Atlanta. At Augusta and Columbus there is practically no unemployment, while at Macon there is a surplus of clerical workers, although the supply of skilled workers and common labor is not equal to the demand.

In Florida almost all industries are operating at full time capacity, and in Jacksonville some lumber mills are working over time, with night shifts. There is also a shortage of brick masons and common labor. At other points in the State there is great activity, with very little unemployment.

Alabama reports indicate a general increase in employment throughout the state in all industries, except fertilizer plants which have made their usual seasonal reductions. Substantial increases are reported in Iron and Steel, coal mining, lumber, textiles, and other lines. A steadily increasing building program is employing all building craftsmen. There is a reported shortage of common labor in the lumber mills, and miners and loaders in coal mining.

Industrial employment in Louisiana is reported to be satisfactory. Metal-working concerns made moderate reductions. Lumber mills show slight temporary curtailments due to high water. Railroad shops show limited gains with common labor in demand for track maintenance. There appears in New Orleans a small surplus of clerical workers, but common labor is in increasing demand for agricultural and public improvement work which has practically absorbed the surplus previously reported.

In Mississippi there is a shortage of labor on farms and in lumber mills which is growing more serious. Lumber mills and textile plants report decreased employment. Industrial plants at all points are operating at nearly normal capacity with full forces.

Increased employment is reported by 58 industrial concerns in Chattanooga, most of which are operating full time and full force. Textiles and miscellaneous industries show increases in Knoxville, where a shortage of skilled weavers, spinners and loopers is reported. A slight shortage is also reported of common labor in the iron, steel, and metal-working plants, and of skilled mill workers and mechanics in furniture plants and lumber mills. All plants at Nashville are operating full time with full forces.

COAL

The production of bituminous and anthracite coal in the United States, according to statistics compiled by the Geological Survey, has continued through May at a level in the neighborhood of 12,000,000 tons. The total output rose for the week ended May 19 to 12,315,000 tons, and the week following to 13,005,000 tons, but due to the holiday May 30, production dropped to 11,665,000 tons for the week ended June 2.

Transportation difficulties in some districts, and no market in other districts, continue to be the chief causes of losses in production. During the week ended May 12, small improvement in traffic conditions was almost entirely offset by increased losses on account of no market. Transportation disability and lack of demand were about equally effective in limiting production during the week ended May 19, although not to the extent experienced during the preceding week. Reports for the week ended May 26 showed a rather general increase in working time and tonnage produced, only a few districts reporting increased time lost, and in these districts the principal cause was "no market." Traffic conditions during that week were notably improved, while labor shortages accounted for a small increase in losses in some districts.

The following table shows the weekly production of bituminous and anthracite coal in the United States since the beginning of May:

Week Ended	Bituminous	Anthracite	Total Output
May 5	10,061,000	2,021,000	12,082,000
May 12	10,175,000	1,903,000	12,078,000
May 19	10,270,000	2,045,000	12,315,000
May 26	11,049,000	1,956,000	13,005,000
June 2	10,091,000	1,606,000	11,697,000
June 9	10,676,000	2,046,000	12,722,000
June 16	10,775,000	2,053,000	12,828,000

Loadings of coal in the Southern Appalachian Coal Field, according to figures prepared by the Secretary of the Southern Appalachian Coal Operators Association, ranged from 177,885 tons loaded during the week ended May 5, to a high figure of 191,520 tons loaded during the week ended May 26, but dropped to 160,635 tons for the week ended June 2, on account of the holiday. The following figures show the reported loadings for that period:

Week Ended	Tonnage	Per Cent. of Capacity
May 5	177,885	39.9
May 12	180,410	38.9
May 19	182,650	39.5
May 26	191,520	45.3
June 2	160,635	36.3

The principal cause of the loss in output was car shortage or railroad disability, while labor shortage, no market, and mine disability were also responsible in part for the reduced production.

IRON AND STEEL

For the third consecutive month, a new high record has been established in the production of pig iron in the United States for May. March production exceeded figures for any previous month, and the output during April and May have continued higher than for any month in the history of the industry.

Total production during the month of May, according to statistics compiled by the Iron Trade Review, amounted to 3,866,386 gross tons, or a production at the rate of 124,722 tons each day. This average daily output is also the highest ever attained, exceeding the average daily production for any month before. These figures compare with a total output of 3,546,308 tons, and a daily average rate of 118,210 tons per day, for April, and a total output of 2,309,348 tons, and a daily average rate of 74,495 tons per day, during May last year. Part of the increased output was attributed to the fact May had 31 days while April had only 30, and the number of active furnaces also was increased by 10 during the month.

Merchant iron produced in May amounted to 906,220 tons, while non-merchant iron totaled 2,960,166 tons. In April 795,558 tons of merchant iron, and 2,750,750 tons of non-merchant iron, were produced, while in May 1922 the production of 2,309,348 tons was divided into 410,404 tons of merchant and 1,898,944 tons of non-merchant iron. The Iron Trade Review calls attention to the fact that during May the daily rate of production was 18,000 tons greater than the average daily rate for 1916, when the highest total for a full year was established.

Production of pig iron in Alabama during May amounted to 246,607 tons, compared with 238,694 tons produced in April, and with an output of 196,066 tons in May last year. While some new business is being booked, the volume is not large and the sales are in small lots. Furnace activity is at a higher rate, however, and all producers have been shipping heavily during the month. The Birmingham pig iron market is firm at $27.00, with some iron having been sold at a higher price. Inquiries are being received, and some business is being booked, for fourth quarter delivery, at this price, with no indication of any weakening.

United States

	May 1923	April 1923	May 1922
Merchant Iron	906,220	795,558	410,404
Non-Merchant Iron	2,960,166	2,750,750	1,898,944
Total Output	3,866,386	3,546,308	2,309,348
Average daily output	124,722	118,210	74,495
Active furnaces	321	311	175

Alabama

	May 1923	April 1923	May 1922
Merchant Iron	143,394	123,324	113,970
Non-Merchant Iron	103,213	115,370	82,096
Total Output	246,607	238,694	196,066
Active furnaces	28	27	19

NAVAL STORES

Receipts of spirits of turpentine at the three principal naval stores markets of this District were more than twice as great in May as during April, and also showed an increase over the receipts during May 1922. Rosin receipts were also larger, though not in quite so great a degree, compared with both the preceding month and with the same month a year ago.

The price of turpentine on June 9 was 97 cents, at the Savannah market, having recovered from 95½ cents, to which point it declined, compared with $1.05 cents on May 5. There has also been some weakening in the price of rosins.

MOVEMENT OF NAVAL STORES—MAY 1923

Receipts—Turpentine:	May 1923	April 1923	May 1922
Savannah	15,062	6,107	11,764
Jacksonville	14,039	8,792	13,049
Pensacola	5,029	350	4,346
Total	34,130	15,249	29,159

Rosin:			
Savannah	43,772	20,211	37,136
Jacksonville	47,816	38,212	44,879
Pensacola	14,038	1,285	11,869
Total	105,626	59,706	93,884
Shipments—Turpentine:			
Savannah	10,630	5,052	12,576
Jacksonville	14,919	6,550	18,786
Pensacola	5,669	244	4,277
Total	31,218	11,846	35,639
Rosin:			
Savannah	29,442	28,464	31,183
Jacksonville	54,289	45,410	53,605

Pensacola	13,223	11,963	12,619
Total	96,954	85,837	97,407
Stocks—Turpentine:			
Savannah	7,209	2,777	1,672
Jacksonville	9,508	10,388	1,904
Pensacola	1,507	2,253	1,025
Total	18,224	15,418	4,601
Rosin:			
Savannah	70,260	55,930	59,003
Jacksonville	108,979	115,452	138,584
Pensacola	31,824	32,294	54,236
Total	211,063	203,676	251,823

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA
Weekly Statement of
RESOURCES AND LIABILITIES

Resources:	June 13, 1923	June 14, 1922
Gold and Gold Certificates	$ 6,063,173.00	$ 5,557,885.50
Gold Settlement Fund	23,255,661.35	26,162,421.33
Total Gold held by Bank	$ 29,318,834.35	$ 31,720,306.83
Gold with Federal Reserve Agent	$103,587,085.00	102,371,005.00
Gold Redemption Fund	2,855,961.53	1,123,971.97
Total Gold Reserve	$135,761,880.88	$135,215,283.80
Reserves other than Gold	5,691,559.00	6,152,737.15
Total Reserve	$141,453,439.88	$141,368,020.95
Non Reserve Cash	7,278,737.54	------------
Bills Discounted for Member Banks:		
Secured by U. S. Government Obligations	4,901,238.75	3,243,545.54
Other Bills Discounted	24,733,978.00	26,711,204.67
Bills Bought in Open Market	17,057,335.31	811,116.66
Total Bills on Hand	$ 46,692,552.06	$ 30,765,866.87
U. S. Bonds and Notes	241,950.00	127,850.00
One Year Certificate of Indebtedness (Pittman Act)	------------	6,699,000.00
All Other Certificates of Indebtedness	930.00	1,027,906.00
Total Earning Assets	$ 46,935,432.06	$ 38,620,622.87
Bank Premises	2,581,416.33	1,357,851.39
Five per cent Fund against Federal Reserve Bank Notes	------------	467,550.00
Uncollected items	24,408,782.39	23,691,054.13
All Other Resources	475,382.88	169,969.98
Total Resources	$223,133,191.08	$205,675,069.32
Liabilities:		
Capital Paid in	$ 4,415,450.00	$ 4,271,000.00
Surplus fund	8,941,553.43	9,113,570.99
Reserved for Government Franchise Tax	------------	411,781.14
Deposits:		
Government	114,115.26	5,147,413.59
Member Banks—Reserve account	56,123,799.81	48,052,238.23
All Other	233,510.61	410,527.38
Total Deposits	$ 56,471,425.68	$ 53,610,179.20
Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation	133,735,885.00	$114,847,905.00
Federal Reserve Bank Notes in actual circulation	------------	4,948,750.00
Deferred availability items	18,592,993.71	17,625,698.19
All other Liabilities	975,883.27	846,184.80
Total Liabilities	$223,133,191.08	$205,675,069.32
Ratio of total Reserves to Deposits and F. R. Note liability combined	74.4%	83.9%