

MONTHLY BUSINESS REVIEW

Covering Conditions in the Sixth Federal Reserve District.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA

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No. 1

BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES.

By the Federal Reserve Board.

Production and employment in December continued the increase which began in the autumn and wholesale prices advanced further to the highest level for the year. Railroad shipments of goods continued in large volume and trade, both at wholesale and retail, was larger than a year ago.

Production The index of production in basic industries advanced about 10 per cent in December to a point 25 per cent higher than last summer but was still below the level of the opening months of 1924. Practically all of the 22 industries included in the index shared in the advance and the increases were particularly large in iron and steel, cotton manufacturing, coal mining, and meat packing. Among the industries not represented in the index the output of automobiles declined in December and was the smallest for any month in more than two years. Increased industrial activity was accompanied by an advance of about 2 per cent in factory employment, with larger increases in the metal and textile industries, and by a growth of nearly 5 per cent in total factory payrolls. Volume of building, as measured by contracts awarded, was less in December than in November, but continued unusually large for the season of the year.

Trade Distribution of goods was greater in December than in the same month of 1923, as indicated by larger railroad shipments and an increase in the volume of wholesale and retail trade. Christmas trade at department stores was greater than in the previous year, and sales by mail order houses and chain stores were the largest on record. Wholesale trade was seasonally less than in November but in practically all lines was larger than a year ago. Marketing of agricultural products was greater than for the corresponding month of any recent year.

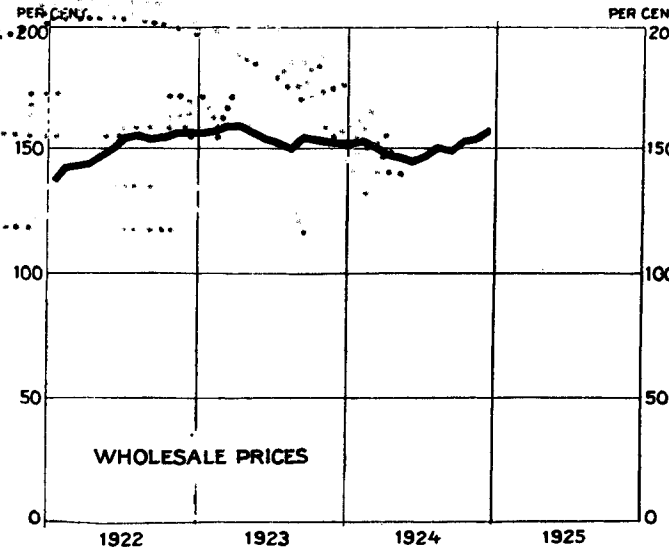
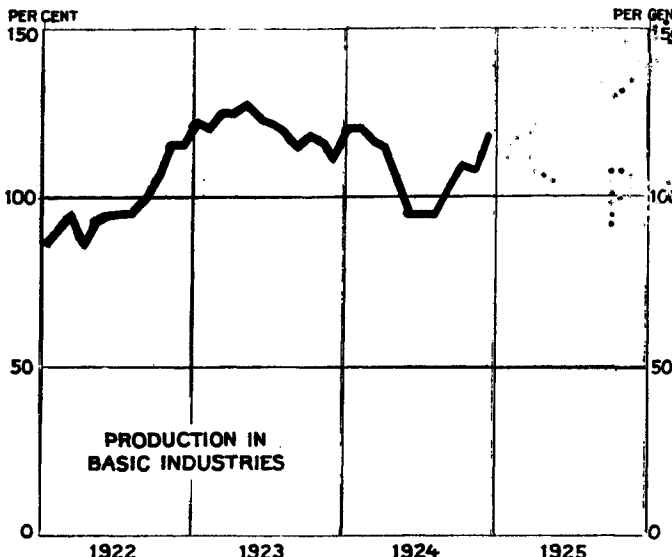
Prices A further advance of more than 2 per cent in the Bureau of Labor Statistics index of wholesale prices carried the average in December 8 per cent above the low point of June and to the highest level

since April, 1923. Prices of all groups of commodities were higher, the principal increases being in farm products and foods. In the first half of January prices of grains, wool, coal, and metals increased further, while sugar, dairy products, silks, coke, and rubber declined.

Bank Credit At the Federal Reserve Banks the rapid return flow of currency after the holiday trade resulted, during the four weeks ending January 21, in a reduction of earning assets about equal to that for the same season a year earlier. The net outflow of currency from the reserve banks during the month preceding Christmas amounted to more than \$200,000,000, and the return flow after the Christmas peak, reflected both in the increase in reserves and in the decline of Federal Reserve note circulation, was in excess of \$300,000,000. Fluctuations in the earning assets of the reserve banks during the past two months have reflected chiefly these seasonal changes in the demand for currency. The decline in Discounts brought their total on January 21 to a smaller volume than at any time in 1924, and acceptances also showed a seasonal decrease. Holdings of United States securities, which have declined for more than two months, were about \$175,000,000 below the level of last autumn and in about the same amount as at the middle of 1924. Net exports of gold, which gave rise to a demand for reserve bank credit, amounted to \$30,000,000 in December and were in larger volume during the first three weeks in January.

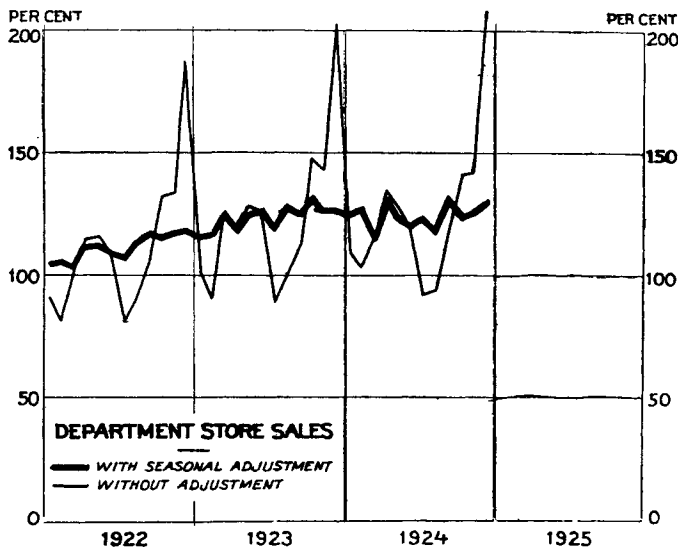
The growth of demand deposits at member banks in leading cities during the three weeks ending in the middle of January, which has been greater than the increase in their total loans and investments, has reflected the return of currency from circulation. In the same period there was some increase in commercial loans and a continued growth in loans secured by stocks and bonds. Holdings of investment securities have decreased somewhat since the middle of November, particularly at the banks in New York City.

Firmer conditions in the money market in December and the first few days in January were followed later in the month by declines in rates on commercial paper to 3½ per cent.

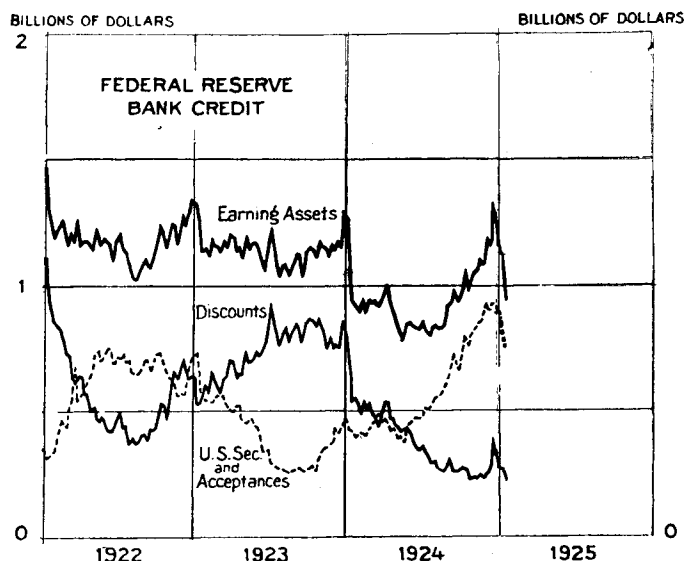


Ind. of 22 basic commodities, adjusted for seasonal variations (1919=100.) Latest figure, December, 117.

Index of United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. (1913=100. base adopted by bureau.) Latest figure, December, 157.0.



Index of sales of 333 stores in 117 cities (1919=100.) Latest figures—December. Adjusted 129, Unadjusted 207.



Weekly figures for 12 Federal reserve banks. Latest figures for January 21.

SIXTH DISTRICT SUMMARY.

Business statistics gathered for the month of December show that improvement has taken place in general business conditions in the Sixth Federal Reserve District. The money return from the season's agricultural production of the six states of the Sixth District is estimated by the Department of Agriculture at nearly a hundred and twenty million dollars more than in 1923, or an increase of eleven per cent.

Improvement in retail trade is indicated by the fact that department store sales for the district were higher in December than in any other month during the past five years except in December 1920. Wholesale trade, which usually falls off very materially in December, showed a smaller decrease than usual compared with the preceding months, and was considerably higher than in December a year ago.

While the loans of reporting member banks were at a high point at the close of the year, demand deposits were also higher than on any reporting date in two years and savings deposits continue to show increases over a year ago. Borrowing from the Federal Reserve Bank showed further declines during the month. Debits to individual accounts at twenty-four cities in the district were about eighteen million dollars greater during the week ended January 14, than in the corresponding week last year. The volume of building in prospect continues at a high level. Permits issued at twenty cities during December totaled \$10,703,651,

and were 46 per cent greater than in December 1923. Activity in the lumber industry was interrupted in December by the holiday season, and by adverse weather, but many mills resumed promptly after Christmas and some are on double shifts. Cotton mills manufacturing cloth and yarn reported figures for December showing increases over the same month a year ago. Prevailing prices for turpentine are not quite up to those received in December 1923, but rosin prices are higher than at that time.

RETAIL TRADE.

Retail trade in December, reflected in reports to the Federal Reserve Bank by 46 department stores located throughout the Sixth District, was more than five per cent greater than in December 1923. December sales were, of course, substantially greater than those in November, at all reporting cities. Increased business over December 1923 was reported from all cities except Nashville, Jackson and Savannah, and the declines at these points were small. The volume of sales during the last half of 1924 in the district was only two per cent lower than in the same period in 1923. The index number for December stands at 177.9, and is higher than for any month since 1920, and less than one point below the high point reached in December of that year. Stocks of merchandise declined 22 per cent compared with November, and were nearly 7 per cent lower than at the end of December 1923.

CONDITION OF RETAIL TRADE—DECEMBER, 1924

Sixth Federal Reserve District

	Percentage of Increase or Decrease (1)		Percentage of Increase or Decrease (2)		(3)	(4)
	Comparison of net sales with those of corresponding period last year.		Stocks at end of month compared with			
	A Dec.	B July to Dec.	A Dec. 1923	B Nov. 1924		
Atlanta (5).....	+13.4	+12.3	+3.4	-25.7	359.1	4.1
Birmingham (5).....	+6.7	+2.2	+15.9	-25.1	355.0	4.2
Chattanooga (6).....	+2.1	+7.3	-28.0	-25.5	420.1	---
Jackson (3).....	-1.4	-3.5	+1.0	-19.7	507.3	---
Nashville (5).....	-1.3	-10.2	-13.3	-16.8	417.8	4.2
New Orleans (5).....	+6.0	-5.4	-0.5	-28.2	428.2	8.6
Savannah (3).....	-2.9	-5.9	-10.1	-16.9	499.0	3.8
Other Cities (14).....	+6.9	-0.4	-4.3	-21.7	467.6	4.6
DISTRICT (46).....	+5.4	-2.0	-6.6	-22.0	410.4	5.0

Figures in parenthesis indicate number of reporting stores.

WHOLESALE TRADE.

Wholesale trade in the Sixth Federal Reserve District during December, reflected in reports from 150 representative firms in nine different lines, compared very favorably with the volume of business a year ago. Increased sales were reported in all lines except stationery. Four lines, groceries, hardware, furniture and electrical supplies, also reported increased business over November, which is unusual at this time of the year because of the desire on the

part of retailers to show small inventories at the end of the year. Statements contained in the reports from many firms indicate that 1924 was the best year in point of volume of business they have experienced, and that the outlook for business during 1925 is good.

Groceries December sales by 38 wholesale grocery firms were 4.1 per cent greater than in November, and 17 per cent larger than in December 1923. The increase over November is due to larger sales at Jack-

sonville, Meridian and New Orleans, while the increase over December 1923 is shared by all reporting cities. The reports indicate that advances have taken place in many articles because of smaller supplies. Buying is for immediate needs only. Collections were reported good by nine firms, and fair by ten. Percentage comparisons of sales are indicated below:

	December 1924 compared with:	
	November 1924	December 1923
Atlanta (5 firms).....	- 6.1	+ 8.8
Jacksonville (4 firms).....	+14.8	+15.4
Meridian (3 firms).....	+ 7.5	+20.7
New Orleans (3 firms).....	+ 8.7	+23.3
Vicksburg (4 firms).....	- 1.1	+29.9
Other Cities (14 firms).....	- 4.7	+ 7.6
DISTRICT (38 firms).....	+ 4.1	+17.0

Dry Goods Wholesale dry goods business in December followed the seasonal trend, but showed an increase of 19.4 per cent over December a year ago. This increase was shared by all reporting cities except New Orleans. Many of the reports indicate that the outlook for spring business is much better than it was last year. Collections were reported good by eleven firms, and fair by four. Retail firms, according to the reports, are only placing orders for their immediate or near future requirements.

	December 1924 compared with:	
	November 1924	December 1923
Atlanta 4 firms).....	-33.0	+21.5
Jacksonville (3 firms).....	-18.1	+21.2
Knoxville (3 firms).....	-24.7	+23.6
Nashville (3 firms).....	-33.8	+35.1
New Orleans (4 firms).....	-16.6	-10.9
Other Cities (9 firms).....	-26.4	+42.1
DISTRICT (26 firms).....	-25.5	+19.4

Hardware Aggregate sales in December by 31 wholesale hardware firms were 5.1 per cent greater than in November, and 12.5 per cent greater than in December a year ago. While prices generally are reported firm, some of the reports indicate that advances have taken place on some articles. Some reports state stocks on the shelves of the retailers are low. Retail merchants, however, according to these reports are buying only for their near future requirements.

	December 1924 compared with:	
	November 1924	December 1923
Atlanta (3 firms).....	- 2.5	+15.3
Chattanooga (3 firms).....	- 9.6	+12.9
Jacksonville (3 firms).....	+12.3	+ 9.2
Nashville (4 firms).....	+ 6.7	+ 9.4
New Orleans (5 firms).....	+ 2.6	+ 2.4
Other Cities (13 firms).....	+10.2	+20.6
DISTRICT (31 firms).....	+ 5.1	+12.5

Furniture Business reported by 18 wholesale furniture dealers in December was only slightly greater than in November, but more than 20 per cent larger than in December 1923. Prices in some instances have increased because of increased manufacturing costs, and the reports indicate small stocks in the hands of retail merchants. December collections were reported excellent by one firm, good by six, and fair by six.

	December 1924 compared with:	
	November 1924	December 1923
Atlanta (6 firms).....	- 0.6	+12.5
Chattanooga (3 firms).....	+ 9.6	+25.1
Nashville (3 firms).....	-19.5	+50.4
Other Cities (6 firms).....	+ 2.0	+18.6
DISTRICT (18 firms).....	+ 1.6	+20.6

Electrical Supplies The increase in sales reported by electrical supply dealers is due partly to the constantly growing demand for radio supplies, and to the continuation of building activity throughout this section. December sales were 28.4 per cent greater than in the same month a year ago, and were 23.5 per cent larger than in November. Collections were reported good by 3 firms, and fair by 4, and the outlook according to the reports is good for business during the present year.

	December 1924 compared with:	
	November 1924	December 1923
Atlanta (3 firms).....	+27.4	+15.9
Jacksonville (3 firms).....	+23.2	+61.4
Other Cities (4 firms).....	+ 8.0	+32.2
DISTRICT (10 firms).....	+23.5	+23.4

Shoes December sales by ten wholesale shoe firms were smaller than in November, but 18.2 per cent greater than in December a year ago. Slight advances in prices have been made during the month, and collections are reported to be improving. The outlook is reported to be good for business during 1925.

	December 1924 compared with:	
	November 1924	December 1923
Atlanta (3 firms).....	-17.0	+20.5
Other Cities (7 firms).....	-30.4	+17.2
DISTRICT (10 firms).....	-26.7	+18.2

Percentage changes for the other three lines are shown only for the District, not enough reports having been received from any single city to show separate figures by cities. While all three of these lines reported smaller business than in November, the change in stationery and drugs was small, and increases were shown over December a year ago in drugs and farm implements.

	December 1924 compared with:	
	November 1924	December 1923
Stationery (3 firms).....	- 0.4	-11.3
Drugs (7 firms).....	- 1.0	+ 2.2
Farm Implements (7 firms).....	- 9.0	+31.8

AGRICULTURE.

Final estimates made by the Department of Agriculture of production of the different agricultural crops, taken with average prices prevailing on December 1, show a money return to the farmers in the six states of the sixth Federal Reserve District of nearly a hundred and twenty million dollars more than in 1923. The figures are based upon estimates for twenty-two principal crops, and a computed ratio which these crops bear to the total agricultural production, based upon a similar ratio shown by the census figures for 1919. All of the states shared in the increase excepting Louisiana, where the Department's estimates show a value lower than in 1923 by four million dollars. This is principally attributable to the lower return from the sugar crop, although decreases were also shown in the farm value of the corn and cotton crops. In the other states due to higher prices of corn and wheat, larger returns were received from these crops, although in Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee the actual production was somewhat smaller than that of 1923. Production of oats and hay was also lower than in 1923, but the crop of tobacco showed a substantial increase, and potatoes were marketed in large volume. Staple crops in Florida are responsible for a large part of the increase shown for that state, as the value of truck crops was slightly lower than in 1923, and the value of the citrus crop, based on December prices, showed only a small increase.

The following table shows the estimated value of all crops produced during 1924 in the six states comprising the Sixth District, compared with 1923.

	1924	1923
Alabama.....	\$ 243,994,000	\$ 218,572,000
Florida.....	82,705,000	70,800,000
Georgia.....	263,090,000	236,106,000
Louisiana.....	153,646,000	162,646,000
Mississippi.....	223,024,000	189,920,000
Tennessee.....	230,333,000	204,463,000
Total.....	\$1,201,792,000	\$1,082,507,000

These figures indicate an increase in value of \$119,285,000, or 11 per cent over 1923.

The hypothetical value of all crops produced in the United States during 1924, arrived at in the manner already indicated, is estimated by the Department of Agriculture to be \$10,326,769,000, compared with \$9,468,123,000 in 1923 or an increase of 9.1 per cent. The estimated values of some of the principal crops are indicated below;

(In Thousands of Dollars)

	1924	1923	1922
Corn.....	\$2,405,468	\$2,217,229	\$1,910,775
Cotton.....	1,437,225	1,571,815	1,161,946
Cottonseed.....	196,049	206,732	174,220
Hay.....	1,487,648	1,398,220	1,319,277
Wheat.....	1,136,596	735,993	873,412
Oats.....	739,495	541,137	478,948
Potatoes—white.....	292,481	324,889	263,355
Potatoes—sweet.....	92,290	95,091	84,295
Tobacco.....	256,346	301,096	289,248
Peanuts.....	37,981	43,918	29,613
Apples.....	212,193	206,696	199,848
Peaches.....	65,914	62,025	74,717
Oranges (2 states).....	64,290	64,940	63,310

Cotton Movement—Sixth District.

	Dec. 1924	Nov. 1924	Dec. 1923
Receipts—Ports:			
New Orleans.....	376,639	368,669	257,656
Mobile.....	25,907	24,431	11,874
Savannah.....	67,181	82,731	43,827

Interior Towns:			
Atlanta	36,579	59,375	23,858
Augusta	28,225	40,392	17,861
Montgomery	6,351	9,968	4,077
Vicksburg	29,325	27,244	15,265
Macon	5,293	6,878	4,365
Stocks—Ports:			
New Orleans	467,773	373,361	254,794
Mobile	17,125	18,738	13,613
Savannah	85,544	90,676	72,040
Interior Towns:			
Atlanta	65,558	65,814	43,820
Augusta	70,024	—	54,261
Montgomery	22,938	25,565	16,306
Vicksburg	12,261	14,462	9,115
Macon	10,661	9,271	9,156

Cotton Movement (Bales) United States since 8-1-24.

	1925	1924	1923
Receipts at all U. S. Ports	6,355,275	4,913,805	4,160,813
Overland across the Mississippi, Ohio, Potomac Rivers to Nor. Mills and Canada	608,935	519,824	853,824
Interior Stocks in excess of those held at close of the commercial year	1,109,118	620,134	719,108
Southern Mills Takings	2,350,000	2,265,573	2,459,593
Total movement 155 days	10,423,328	8,319,336	8,193,338
Foreign exports	4,427,436	3,297,436	—
*American Mills N. & S. and Canada	3,547,223	3,598,104	—
American cotton thus far	6,585,000	5,975,000	6,701,000

*Of which 1,019,681 by northern spinners against 1,025,908 last year, and 2,527,542 by southern spinners against 2,572,196 last year.

Citrus Fruits.

Movement of the citrus crop from Florida is still below that of last year, due to the late season, and the effort to keep immature fruit out of the markets. Nearly 17,000 cars had been moved up to December 31, a little over thirty per cent of the probable commercial crop. The following figures show the movement for December, and for the season, with comparisons;

	Dec. 1924		Season through Dec. 1924	
	Dec. 1924	Dec. 1923	Dec. 1924	Dec. 1923
Oranges	5,738	5,929	9,893	11,378
Grapefruit	1,787	1,747	6,198	6,430
Tangerines	563	340	854	538
Total	8,088	8,016	16,945	18,346
Other fruits and vegetables	1,242	1,863	1,646	2,381
Total movement	9,330	9,879	18,591	20,727

Sugar, Syrup and Molasses.

Production of sugar in Louisiana for the 1924 season is estimated at 210,456,000 pounds, equivalent to 105,228 short tons, compared with 162,023 short tons produced in 1923. Cane used in the manufacture of sugar in Louisiana is estimated at 1,422,000 short tons, against 2,386,648 tons in 1923.

Production of syrup in Louisiana is placed at 6,683,000 gallons, compared with 6,718,000 gallons produced in 1923. Cane used in manufacturing syrup was 269,000 short tons, against 329,956 tons in 1923.

Production of molasses this year is estimated at 10,807,000 gallons, against 15,719,425 gallons in 1923.

The total acreage in sugar cane in Louisiana is estimated at 316,000 acres, compared with 317,500 acres in 1923. The average number of pounds of sugar manufactured per ton of cane this year is estimated at 148 pounds, showing a considerably higher sugar content than the figure for 1923, which was 135.8 pounds.

Movement of Sugar (Pounds)

Raw Sugar			
	Dec. 1924	Nov. 1924	Dec. 1923
Receipts:			
New Orleans	52,399,312	36,077,509	101,437,873
Savannah	7,501,239	28,097,110	7,313,518
Meltings:			
New Orleans	43,114,917	16,504,716	82,596,205
Savannah	11,110,104	26,689,368	—
Stocks:			
New Orleans	4,738,225	15,615,678	35,822,525
Savannah	—	3,608,865	14,360,141
Refined Sugar			
	Dec. 1924	Nov. 1924	Dec. 1923
Shipments:			
New Orleans	48,534,925	51,594,774	54,268,512
Savannah	16,056,635	23,352,261	13,680,879
Stocks:			
New Orleans	12,078,816	18,123,541	64,851,856
Savannah	849,223	4,907,668	5,292,331

Rice.

The total production of rough rice in Louisiana in 1924 is estimated by the Department of Agriculture at 17,078,000 bushels, against 16,582,000 bushels in 1923, the acreage in both of these years being 495,000 acres. The price received by growers is higher this year, however, and the Department estimates the total farm value of the Louisiana rice crop of 1924 at \$23,226,000, against \$17,743,000 for the 1923 crop. The following table shows the acreage and production this year compared with last, in the rice producing states;

	Acreage		Production (bu.)	
	1924	1923	1924	1923
S. Carolina	7,000	8,000	126,000	200,000
Georgia	3,000	3,000	45,000	68,000
Florida	2,000	2,000	48,000	46,000
Mississippi	1,000	1,000	10,000	18,000
Louisiana	495,000	495,000	17,078,000	16,582,000
Texas	140,000	145,000	5,600,000	5,800,000
Arkansas	156,000	135,000	6,552,000	5,332,000
California	88,000	106,000	4,497,000	5,671,000
United States	892,000	895,000	33,956,000	33,717,000

MOVEMENT OF RICE

	Rough Rice (Sacks) Port of New Orleans		
	Dec. 1924	Nov. 1924	Dec. 1923
Receipts	114,126	170,815	108,144
Shipments	82,279	158,763	100,309
Stock	85,701	53,854	34,230

	Clean Rice (Pockets)		
	Dec. 1924	Nov. 1924	Dec. 1923
Receipts	226,026	352,968	253,349
Shipments	151,143	339,350	203,738
Stock	267,926	193,043	185,786

	Receipts of Rough Rice (Barrels)		
	Dec. 1924	Season to Last Season to Dec. 31, 1924	Season to Last Season to Dec. 31, 1923
Association Mills	517,554	4,023,444	3,597,677
New Orleans Mills	114,126	763,139	529,393
Outside Mills	341,020	1,568,068	1,093,560
Total	972,700	6,354,651	5,220,630

	Distribution of Milled Rice (Pockets)		
	Dec. 1924	Season to Last Season to Dec. 31, 1924	Season to Last Season to Dec. 31, 1923
Association Mills	656,423	2,754,340	2,695,599
New Orleans Mills	21,405	574,834	517,661
Outside Mills	256,050	1,070,174	849,607
Total	933,878	4,399,348	4,052,867

	Stock on Hand		
	Jan. 1, 1925	Dec. 1, 1924	Jan. 1, 1924
Association Mills	1,423,711	1,540,783	1,383,542
New Orleans Mills	340,432	237,838	425,600
Outside Mills	582,371	486,500	201,385
Total	2,346,514	2,265,121	2,010,527

FINANCIAL.

Loans and discounts reported to the Federal Reserve Bank weekly by 36 member banks in selected cities of the district reached a point on December 31st higher than any recorded in the past two years. This was followed by a slight recession the following week. Loans secured by Government Obligations, and "All Other Loans" were lower on January 7 than during the four preceding weeks, but loans on stocks and bonds were higher than on any report date since May 21st. Demand deposits reported by these banks on January 7 reached the highest level of the past two years, and time deposits were also high, although not up to figures reported during the past few weeks. Savings deposits, reported monthly by 94 banks in this district, increased 1.8 per cent in December over November, and were 6.3 per cent higher than at the end of December 1923.

Member Banks in Selected Cities.

	(000 Omitted)		
	Jan. 7, 1925	Dec. 10, 1924	Jan. 9, 1924
Bills Discounted:			
Secured by Govt. Obligations	\$ 7,599	\$ 7,652	\$ 9,293
Secured by Stocks and Bonds	69,232	65,232	65,057
All Others	379,050	381,497	364,848
Total Discounts	455,882	454,382	439,198
U. S. Securities	34,138	31,239	44,480
Other Stocks and Bonds	42,205	42,851	42,335
Total Loans, Discounts and Investments	532,222	528,918	526,013
Time Deposits	188,414	191,896	177,437
Demand Deposits	320,258	306,624	281,351
Accommodation at F. R. Bank	8,967	10,820	33,223

Loans to member banks by the Federal Reserve Bank reached a new low point on January 14. Discounts secured by Government Obligations increased but "All Others" declined, and there were also decreases in bills bought, and in holdings of Government securities. Federal Reserve Notes in circulation declined, compared with a month ago, but deposits increased, and cash reserves showed some increase.

Federal Reserve Bank.

(000 Omitted)

	Jan. 14, 1925	Dec. 17, 1924	Jan. 16, 1924
Bills Discounted:			
Secured by Govt. Obligations.....	\$ 2,476	\$ 1,497	\$ 15,437
All Others.....	12,832	16,647	38,363
Total Discounts.....	15,308	18,144	53,800
Bills bought in open market.....	7,183	8,390	12,747
U. S. Securities.....	3,733	3,815	1,351
Total earning assets.....	26,488	30,613	67,949
Cash Reserves.....	174,191	173,124	122,122
Total deposits.....	68,704	63,052	57,979
F. R. Notes in actual circulation.....	137,912	142,994	137,655
Reserve Ratio.....	84.3	84.0	62.4

SAVINGS DEPOSITS

Comparison of Comparison of

	Dec. 1924	Nov. 1924	Nov. 1924	Dec. 1923	1923
Atlanta (7 banks) ..	\$ 33,088,040	\$ 32,391,825	+2.1	\$ 32,305,254	+2.4
Birmingham (5 bks.)	23,732,227	23,132,623	+2.6	21,912,026	+8.3
Jacksonville (5 bks.)	20,266,924	19,383,352	+4.6	19,878,029	+2.0
Nashville (10 banks)	20,418,513	20,536,876	-0.6	19,422,457	+5.1
New Orleans (8 bks.)	48,671,647	47,727,278	+2.0	45,131,322	+7.7
Other Cities (59 bks.)	91,626,344	90,365,564	+0.3	84,964,426	+7.8
Total (94 bks.).....	237,803,695	233,537,818	+1.8	223,663,514	+6.3

DEBITS TO INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS

Sixth Federal Reserve District

	Jan. 14, 1925	Dec. 10, 1924	Jan. 16, 1924
Albany.....	\$ 1,153,000	\$ 1,375,000	\$ 1,116,000
Atlanta.....	36,015,000	32,086,000	34,564,000
Augusta.....	7,191,000	7,808,000	7,802,000
Birmingham.....	35,258,000	31,946,000	29,882,000
Brunswick.....	771,000	657,000	887,000
Chattanooga.....	11,543,000	9,408,000	10,807,000
Columbus.....	3,441,000	3,122,000	3,186,000
Dothan.....	961,000	821,000	656,000
Elberton.....	376,000	356,000	261,000
Jackson.....	3,700,000	4,200,000	3,930,000
Jacksonville.....	16,050,000	15,650,000	13,404,000
Knoxville.....	9,117,000	6,342,000	8,697,000
Macon.....	5,400,000	5,399,000	4,785,000
Meridian.....	3,249,000	3,561,000	2,982,000
Mobile.....	7,793,000	6,666,000	7,088,000
Montgomery.....	5,780,000	5,142,000	5,686,000
Nashville.....	21,983,000	16,358,000	18,295,000
Newnan.....	736,000	728,000	440,000
New Orleans.....	92,565,000	89,274,000	93,665,000
Pensacola.....	1,602,000	2,432,000	1,840,000
Savannah.....	9,234,000	9,961,000	10,286,000
Tampa.....	11,172,000	11,828,000	7,903,000
Valdosta.....	1,259,000	1,181,000	1,083,000
Vicksburg.....	2,663,000	2,776,000	1,983,000
Total.....	\$289,012,000	\$269,077,000	\$271,188,000

Commercial Failures.

(R. G. Dun & Co.)

Districts:	Dec. 1924 Number	Dec. 1924 Liabilities	Nov. 1924 Liabilities	Dec. 1923 Liabilities
Boston.....	182	\$ 4,847,858	\$ 5,368,846	\$ 2,149,587
New York.....	450	8,107,914	6,278,358	18,710,337
Philadelphia.....	99	1,812,308	1,129,368	2,272,823
Cleveland.....	173	3,678,704	2,441,042	3,006,938
Richmond.....	152	2,771,624	1,715,396	7,413,606
Atlanta.....	123	2,445,897	1,604,013	1,370,250
Chicago.....	304	7,962,883	4,429,890	5,148,003
St. Louis.....	100	2,133,944	1,039,945	1,954,500
Minneapolis.....	94	2,032,300	2,063,142	2,842,381
Kansas City.....	111	6,667,478	1,082,957	2,199,495
Dallas.....	52	368,159	904,820	2,046,743
San Francisco.....	200	2,450,212	3,066,133	2,500,087
Total.....	2,040	\$45,279,281	\$31,123,910	\$51,614,730

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total value of imports during 1924 was smaller by \$181,085,320 than in 1923, while exports exceeded those in 1923 by \$420,773,169. December imports were the largest of the year, but exports during the month were not so large as during October and November. Both imports and exports exceeded figures for December a year ago. Preliminary figures for December with comparisons, are shown in the following table:

	1924	1923
Imports:		
December.....	\$ 334,000,000	\$ 288,904,766
November.....	296,358,121	291,333,346
12 months ending with December.....	3,610,980,643	3,792,065,963
Exports:		
December.....	\$ 443,000,000	\$ 426,665,519
November.....	433,597,351	401,483,872
12 months ending with December.....	4,538,266,249	4,167,493,080

New Orleans.

Imports through the port of New Orleans during October 1924 amounted to \$15,908,057, an increase of nearly \$2,500,000 over the same month a year earlier, and higher than for any other October. Increased importations of coffee, and the higher price prevailing, are responsible for the increase in the total. Bananas, mahogany and molasses also showed increases, while burlaps and mineral oils, although smaller in volume, showed increased values. Sugar, gasoline and sisal showed declines in both volume and value. Some of the principal articles imported during October were;

	Volume	Value
Coffee, lbs.....	41,859,766	7,323,692
Burlap, lbs.....	10,268,614	1,160,927
Sugar, lbs.....	46,447,304	1,818,534
Mineral Oils, gals.....	46,354,340	1,134,944
Gasoline, gals.....	5,800,000	552,459
Bananas, bunches.....	1,521,990	563,344
Molasses, gals.....	7,655,577	403,097

Total figures for October for the past six years are shown below for comparison:

October 1924.....	\$15,908,057	October 1921.....	\$ 5,480,716
October 1923.....	13,438,161	October 1920.....	12,201,083
October 1922.....	11,655,448	October 1919.....	13,756,354

Grain Exports—New Orleans

The large increase in wheat exports through New Orleans continued in December. Corn exports showed a decrease compared with December 1923, but oats showed an increase. Following are figures for the month, and for the season through December:

	Dec. 1924	Dec. 1923	Season through	
			Dec. 1924	Dec. 1923
Wheat.....	2,676,880	367,680	20,282,562	5,610,595
Corn.....	201,395	390,963	1,406,112	1,143,951
Oats.....	108,550	25,770	408,163	204,775
Rye.....	-----	-----	-----	195,913
Total.....	2,986,825	784,413	22,096,837	7,155,234

BUILDING PERMITS.

The value of building permits issued at twenty cities in the Sixth District during December was higher than during that month of any of the preceding four years, and exceeded December 1923 by 46 per cent. The total for December was the third highest for the year. During the entire year of 1924 there were issued at these twenty cities permits valued at \$115,453,529, an increase of more than \$12,500,000 over 1923.

	December 1924 No.	December 1924 Value	December 1923 No.	December 1923 Value	Percentage change in value
Alabama:					
Anniston.....	5	\$ 4,400	21	\$ 23,726	- 81.5
Birmingham.....	468	2,376,022	453	1,451,500	+ 63.7
Mobile.....	54	370,805	66	158,300	+134.2
Montgomery.....	68	20,290	56	30,244	- 32.9
Florida:					
Jacksonville.....	212	315,257	260	370,163	- 14.8
Lakeland.....	---	503,985	---	104,175	+383.8
Miami.....	348	786,380	253	925,692	- 15.0
*Miami Beach.....	21	769,500	19	4,185,600	- 81.6
Orlando.....	172	221,567	847	347,805	- 36.3
Pensacola.....	40	28,446	29	21,088	+ 34.9
Tampa.....	343	821,730	170	159,958	+413.7
Georgia:					
Atlanta.....	259	3,133,880	228	2,340,606	+ 33.9
Augusta.....	102	30,003	77	27,965	+ 7.3
Columbus.....	16	90,980	10	29,235	+211.2
Macon.....	99	56,645	187	36,977	+ 53.2
Savannah.....	58	102,425	36	72,310	+ 41.6
Louisiana:					
New Orleans.....	147	474,000	194	696,950	- 32.0
Alexandria.....	62	93,531	41	44,314	+111.1
Tennessee:					
Chattanooga.....	119	151,925	116	191,515	- 20.7
Johnson City.....	21	106,000	24	90,200	+ 17.5
Knoxville.....	261	1,196,280	117	143,394	+734.3
Nashville.....	175	323,085	95	186,904	+ 93.6
Total 20 Cities.....	3,029	\$10,703,651	3,280	\$7,328,844	+ 46.0
Index Number.....		296.8		203.3	

*-Not included in totals or index numbers.

LUMBER.

Conditions in the lumber industry in the south have not differed during the past month from what is normally expected at this time of the year. Production was interfered with to some extent by adverse weather conditions, and a number of mills closed down during the holidays. During the weeks ending December 26 and January 2 orders, production and shipments were all relatively low, but for the week ended January 9 production was only 9 per cent below normal, while orders and shipments registered 19 per cent normal production. Of 84 mills which reported their running time for that week, 54 operated full time and 16 operated five days. Six mills reported overtime, three of them operating double shifts. Preliminary figures for December, reported to the Southern Pine Association up to the 15th of January, are shown below, with comparisons;

	Dec. 1924 140 Mills	Nov. 1924 147 Mills	Dec. 1923 143 Mills
Orders.....	293,544,546	377,861,646	356,506,423
Shipments.....	299,684,395	354,065,178	291,660,436
Production.....	299,143,580	313,427,922	284,806,873
Normal production these mills.....	330,280,474	348,949,072	355,408,825
Stocks end of month.....	703,904,374	789,144,345	847,240,486
Normal stocks these mills.....	903,646,991	956,478,867	963,441,445
Unfilled orders end of month.....	245,894,418	258,754,605	307,510,938

COTTON CONSUMED**UNITED STATES**

	Dec. 1924	Nov. 1924	Dec. 1923
Cotton Consumed:			
Lint.....	532,047	492,233	463,789
Linters.....	46,182	50,960	41,199
In Consuming Establishments:			
Lint.....	1,319,265	1,046,612	1,627,628
Linters.....	118,924	95,781	113,237
In Public Storage and at Compresses:			
Lint.....	4,623,863	4,914,219	3,512,577
Linters.....	53,017	51,804	66,040
Exports.....	1,075,923	1,306,550	845,731
Imports.....	48,633	17,549	35,173
Active Spindles.....	32,661,949	31,789,876	34,049,852

COTTON GROWING STATES

	Dec. 1924	Nov. 1924	Dec. 1923
Cotton Consumed.....	355,662	347,548	308,466
In Consuming Establishments.....	867,960	699,862	1,032,677
In Public Storage and at Compresses.....	4,351,023	4,646,786	3,206,714
Active Spindles.....	16,785,949	16,682,076	16,258,108

MANUFACTURING.**Cotton.**

Reports for December were made to the Federal Reserve Bank by mills which manufactured during the month nearly seven million pounds of cotton yarn, and more than 23,000,000 yards of cotton cloth. Production and shipments of both cloth and yarn were larger in December than in the preceding month or corresponding month a year ago. Orders on hand at the end of December were smaller than a month earlier, but slightly larger in the case of cloth than at the end of December 1923, and substantially larger in the case of yarn. Stocks on hand declined during December, but were larger than a year ago. The number of workers on the payrolls of reporting mills was larger than at the same time a year earlier. Cloth manufacturers report that prices being obtained are very close, and the same is true to a large extent among the yarn mills.

	Cloth		Yarn	
	Dec. 1924 compared with: Nov. 1924	Dec. 1923	Dec. 1924 compared with: Nov. 1924	Dec. 1923
Production.....	+ 7.9	+17.2	+ 0.8	+34.8
Shipments.....	+ 5.9	+19.8	+ 4.4	+30.0
Orders booked.....	-34.2	+19.1	-----	-----
Unfilled orders.....	-11.5	+ 1.4	-13.5	+34.5
Stocks on hand.....	- 6.7	+ 3.1	-12.9	+ 3.8
Number on payroll.....	- 0.4	+ 6.6	+ 2.2	+ 3.7

Overalls.

Production of overalls was at a slightly lower rate than in November, or in December 1923. Stocks on hand increased but orders booked, and unfilled orders on hand, declined compared with November, but were larger than for Decem-

ber a year ago. Cancellations were somewhat smaller than in either of those months. The plants operated at 84 per cent of capacity in December, against 90 per cent in November, and 75 per cent in December a year ago.

	Dec. 1924 compared with:	
	Nov. 1924	Dec. 1923
Overalls manufactured.....	- 1.4	- 2.8
Overalls on hand.....	+18.1	+ 2.0
Orders booked.....	-21.3	+28.0
Unfilled orders.....	-13.2	+12.2
Number on payroll.....	+ 2.2	+15.9

Brick.

Declines in production, stocks, orders booked and unfilled orders, compared with November, are indicated in reports from brick manufacturers. The figures show increase production and orders, however, over December 1923.

	Dec. 1924 compared with:	
	Nov. 1924	Dec. 1923
Brick manufactured.....	- 2.0	+34.1
Brick on hand.....	-20.6	-32.9
Orders booked.....	-10.1	+74.8
Unfilled orders.....	-49.3	-23.7
Number on payroll.....	-15.8	+24.9

Hosiery.

The following figures, reported to the Census Bureau, show increased production of hosiery during December by 23 identical establishments in the Sixth District, but a falling off in orders received, shipments, and unfilled orders. Stocks on hand declined only slightly, but cancellations decreased 58 per cent.

	(Dozen pairs)	
	Dec. 1924	Nov. 1924
Production.....	474,443	441,058
Shipments.....	473,891	509,315
Stocks on hand.....	1,195,007	1,201,671
Orders booked.....	473,574	675,467
Cancellations.....	43,060	102,846
Unfilled orders.....	1,221,919	1,253,407

COAL.

Production of bituminous coal in the United States, indicated by statistics compiled by the Geological Survey, was 4,300,000 tons larger during the weeks ended December 13 to Jan. 10, than during the corresponding period a year ago. Production declined during Christmas week, but recovered during the following week, and during the week ended January 10 production was the largest of any week since December 1920, and was within 800,000 tons of the largest output on record. The increased demand is attributed to the arrival of severe winter weather in many parts of the country. Weekly figures, compared with a year ago, follow:

Week Ended:	1924-25	1923-24
December 13.....	10,723,000 tons	9,936,000 tons
December 20.....	10,760,000 tons	10,543,000 tons
December 27.....	7,638,000 tons	6,713,000 tons
January 3.....	10,805,000 tons	9,068,000 tons
January 10.....	12,555,000 tons	11,921,000 tons

IRON.

December brought the fifth consecutive monthly increase in pig iron production. Total output in December was 2,961,702 tons, against 2,509,673 tons in November, and 2,920,982 tons in December 1923. The daily rate of production in December was 95,539 tons, against 83,656 tons in November. There was a net gain of 23 furnaces in active operation, the same increase as that which occurred in November. Our index number for production in December is 116.2, against 98.5 in November, and 114.6 in December 1923.

Iron production in Alabama declined slightly in December, and according to the Iron Age, there was one furnace blown out during the month, leaving 21 active on January 1. Two additional furnaces were blown in early in January and others are being made ready for operation. December output in Alabama was 230,760 tons, compared with 233,124 tons in November, and 214,013 in December 1923. Delivery of iron on contracts in hand is being made. Some sales for immediate delivery have been made at \$20.50 per ton, and the probable make of the first quarter is well covered, with some business booked beyond that time.

Unfilled Orders—U. S. Steel Corporation.

Unfilled orders at the end of December, reported by the United States Steel Corporation, amounted to 4,816,756 tons, the largest since February. This was an increase of 784,787 tons over November, the largest increase shown in five years.

NAVAL STORES.

Receipts of turpentine during December were slightly larger than in November, although lower than in December 1923. Rosin receipts were materially higher than in November, but only slightly larger than in December 1923. Supplies of turpentine were larger, but stocks of rosin although larger than for November, were considerably smaller than at the end of December a year ago. The average price of spirits of turpentine during December was 77½ cents, compared with 79¾ cents in November, and 86½ cents in December 1923, and the average price of rosin was \$6.82½, compared with \$6.72½ in November, and \$4.62½ in December 1923. Prices on both commodities exhibited improvement the first week in January, when turpentine reached 87½ cents.

	Dec. 1924	Nov. 1924	Dec. 1923
Receipts—Turpentine:			
Savannah.....	11,381	10,722	11,093
Jacksonville.....	11,489	10,092	12,518
Pensacola.....	3,319	4,110	4,375
Total.....	26,189	24,924	27,986
Rosin:			
Savannah.....	49,127	44,428	48,697
Jacksonville.....	55,633	46,316	49,027
Pensacola.....	14,456	14,263	21,287
Total.....	119,216	105,007	119,011
Stocks—Turpentine:			
Savannah.....	16,826	12,750	17,893
Jacksonville.....	31,176	26,254	26,863
Pensacola.....	13,377	12,485	5,567
Total.....	61,379	51,489	50,323
Rosin:			
Savannah.....	94,529	80,895	145,873
Jacksonville.....	120,620	109,551	142,229
Pensacola.....	41,333	38,227	58,098
Total.....	256,482	228,673	346,200

RULINGS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD**Loans on real estate and farm lands by national banks having no time deposits.**

Inquiry has been made of the Federal Reserve Board as to whether a national bank which has no deposits that are classed as time deposits may make loans on improved and unencumbered farm lands and real estate under the provisions of section 24 of the Federal reserve act.

The board has considered this question and is of the opinion that the right of national banks to make loans on farm land and real estate should not be restricted to banks having deposits which are classed as time deposits. Section 24 provides in part that "Any national banking association not situated in a central reserve city may make loans secured by improved and unencumbered farm land * * * and may also make loans secured by improved and unencumbered real estate * * *." From this it seems apparent that the only restriction intended to be placed upon the right of national banks to make real estate loans is that they shall not be situated in a central reserve city, provided, of course, that the loans comply in other respects with the provisions of Section 24 of the Federal reserve act. The provision of this section with regard to the aggregate sum which a national bank may loan upon real estate, that is, up to 25 per cent of its capital and surplus or to one-third of its time deposits, whichever may be the greater, is merely limitation on the amount of such loans which a national bank, otherwise qualified, may make and was not intended to restrict the right to make such loans only to those banks having time deposits.

Necessity of new Clayton Act application where director has resigned from and again is elected to serve the same institution.

The question has recently been raised whether an officer or director of a bank who has received permission from the Federal Reserve Board under the Kern amendment to the Clayton Act to serve such bank and later resigns his position as officer or director, must apply again for the permission of the board if he subsequently desires to serve the same institution. This is a question upon which the board has never heretofore been called to rule.

It is believed that the most reasonable interpretation of the law is that a resignation from a bank which a director has been permitted to serve by permission of the board is ipso facto a termination of the permission in so far as service upon that particular bank is concerned. Such a resignation is in reality an abandonment by the director of his right to serve the particular bank. It is a voluntary relinquishment of a privilege granted to him.

There are also certain practical considerations which would make the requirement for a new permit in such cases desirable. Conditions may change materially between the date of the permit and the time when the director wishes to renew his connection with the bank from which he has resigned. The board, moreover, would rarely receive information as to changes of this character if a new application were not required.

In cases of this kind, therefore, the board will require that the director in question make a new application to the board for permission to serve the bank or banks from which he has resigned together with the other banks which he is serving at the time.

MONTHLY INDEX NUMBERS

The following index numbers, except where indicated otherwise, are computed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, and are based upon average figures for 1919. That is, average monthly figures for the year 1919 are represented by 100, and the current monthly index numbers show the relation of activity in these lines to that prevailing in 1919.

RETAIL TRADE 6TH DISTRICT	October	November	December	October	November	December
(Department Stores)	1924	1924	1924	1923	1923	1923
Atlanta.....	105.9	111.0	185.8	118.1	104.1	146.3
Birmingham.....	151.8	145.1	217.8	168.4	155.1	209.9
Chattanooga.....	121.6	118.6	151.7	146.5	127.2	144.1
Jackson.....	118.5	110.5	160.5	138.4	114.0	161.8
Nashville.....	111.9	100.4	161.3	130.5	118.0	163.8
New Orleans.....	129.5	122.1	180.9	138.4	127.7	179.6
Savannah.....	97.8	80.4	127.4	90.4	83.7	130.9
Other Cities.....	106.8	97.7	156.1	117.9	104.0	150.0
District.....	111.6	114.9	174.7	134.3	121.3	167.8
RETAIL TRADE U. S. (1)						
Department Stores.....	141	141	210	148	142	202
Mail Order Houses.....	141	131	148	134	122	118
Chain Stores:						
Grocery.....	236	226	250	200	202	201
Drug.....	159	145	186	152	141	185
Shoe.....	138	146	188	139	131	171
5 & 10 cent.....	203	199	366	180	176	331
Music.....	124	111	184	137	149	214
Candy.....	202	184	276	185	174	261
Cigar.....	144	138	192	138	134	192
WHOLESALE TRADE 6TH DISTRICT						
Groceries.....	106.4	90.4	95.0	100.7	94.7	84.1
Dry Goods.....	100.6	73.5	53.4	103.6	80.4	45.2
Hardware.....	102.3	90.6	93.1	102.1	89.5	78.5
Shoes.....	76.9	61.3	45.0	82.7	72.1	36.6
Total.....	101.8	84.5	81.4	100.2	81.2	69.9
WHOLESALE PRICES U. S. (2)						
Farm Products.....	149	149.5	156.7	144	146	145
Foods.....	152	153.8	157.9	149	148	147
Cloths and Clothing.....	188	190.4	191.4	199	201	203
Fuel and lighting.....	162	162.8	164.6	172	167	162
Metals and metal products.....	127	128.7	132.9	142	141	142
Building materials.....	171	171.6	175.1	182	181	178
Chemicals and drugs.....	132	134.0	134.6	129	130	130
House furnishings.....	171	172.0	172.4	183	176	176
Miscellaneous.....	120	122.9	128.6	120	118	116
All commodities.....	152	152.7	157.0	153	152	151
BUILDING PERMITS 6TH DISTRICT						
Atlanta.....	153.3	154.3	359.9	130.1	216.9	268.7
Birmingham.....	760.5	591.1	726.4	472.1	245.2	443.8
Jacksonville.....	163.4	108.3	105.4	816.7	106.5	123.8
Nashville.....	109.8	92.9	170.7	377.6	1530.7	88.2
New Orleans.....	325.9	149.5	108.4	356.2	214.8	159.3
Other Cities.....	208.9	249.2	275.4	147.3	193.1	155.4
District (20 cities).....	250.7	225.3	296.8	265.6	269.3	203.3
PIG IRON PRODUCTION:						
United States.....	97.2	98.5	116.2	123.6	113.6	114.6
Alabama.....	142.5	133.6	131.3	121.2	122.7	121.7
UNFILED ORDERS—U. S. STEEL CORPN.	58.8	67.3	80.3	77.9	72.9	74.2

(1) Compiled by Federal Reserve Board.

(2) Compiled by Bureau of Labor Statistics. (1913=100)