

MONTHLY BUSINESS REVIEW

Covering Conditions in the Sixth Federal Reserve District.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA

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BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES. (Prepared by the Federal Reserve Board.)

Production and distribution of commodities was in larger volume in December than in November, and the volume of retail trade was larger than in any previous month. Wholesale prices declined to the level prevailing last spring, which was the low point for the year.

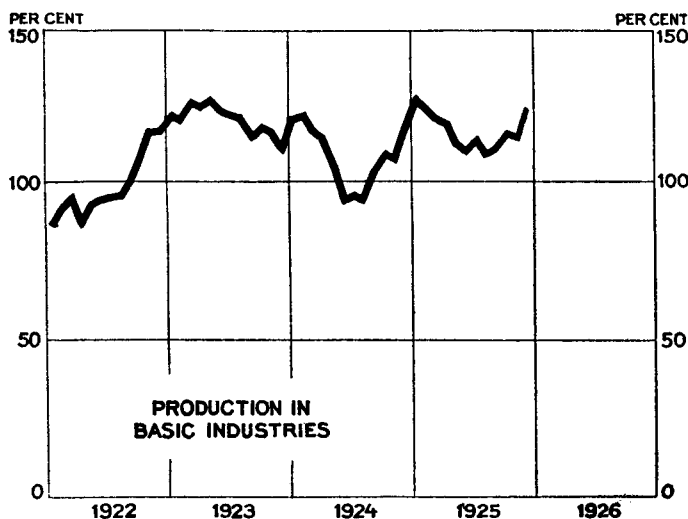
Production The Federal Reserve Board's index of production in basic industries advanced six per cent in December to the highest level in ten months. The rise in this index has been nearly continuous since last August, when the volume of production was at the low point for 1925. In December the production of iron and steel and bituminous coal and factory consumption of cotton increased considerably, and the production of lumber, cement, and copper was maintained at relatively high levels. The volume of factory employment and payrolls after increasing during the late summer and autumn months, continued practically unchanged in November and December, with increases in some important industries offsetting seasonal declines in others. Building contracts awarded during December were the largest recorded for that month and exceeded in value those awarded in November, although a seasonal decrease in building activity usually occurs at that time of the year.

Trade Sales at department stores, chain stores and mail order houses in December indicated the largest volume of Christmas trade on record. Trade at wholesale declined seasonally, but continued larger than last year. Stocks at department stores showed less than the usual decline in December and were 4 per cent larger at the end of 1925 than a year earlier. Freight car loadings continued large during December with shipments of merchandise and miscellaneous commodities, coke and coal particularly heavy.

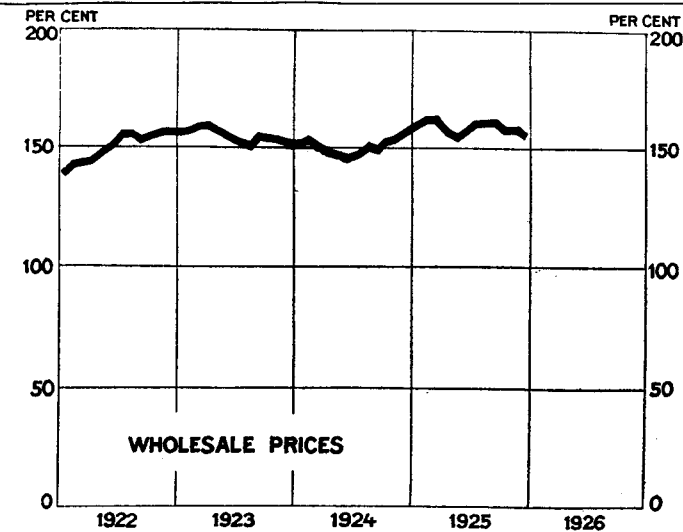
Prices The general level of prices, as measured by the wholesale price index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics declined by about one per cent in December and was at the end of the year somewhat lower than a year earlier. The average of wholesale prices for the year 1925 as a whole, however, was the highest in five years and the changes in

the price level during the year were smaller than in any year in more than a decade. Among agricultural commodities, the prices of livestock and dairy products declined in December, while grain prices advanced. Among non-agricultural commodities the principal declines were in the prices of cotton goods, paper, and rubber while somewhat higher prices were shown for silk, coal and lumber. In the first three weeks of January quotations on hogs, coke, and hardwood lumber advanced while prices of corn, cattle, and rubber declined.

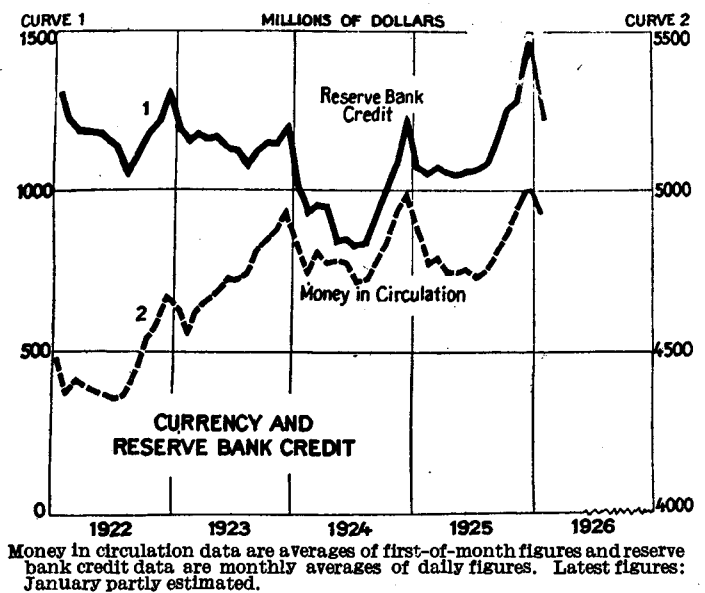
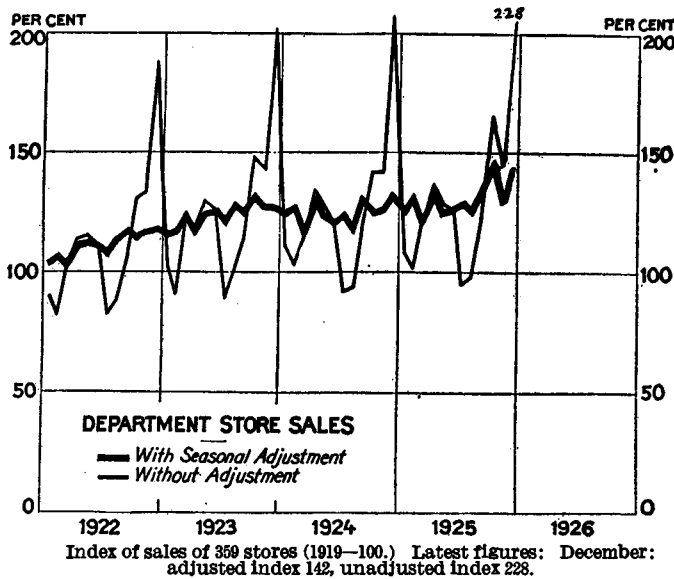
Bank Credit Changes in the demand for currency have been the principal factor influencing the volume of Reserve bank credit in use since the middle of November. During the five weeks between November 18 and December 23, the Reserve banks paid out into domestic circulation a net amount of about \$320,000,000, of currency in the form of gold and gold certificate Reserve notes and other kinds of money and during the following four weeks the return flow of currency from circulation amounted to about \$430,000,000. These currency movements were reflected in corresponding changes in the volume of Reserve bank discounts for member banks. At member banks in leading cities total loans and investments, which had increased almost continuously during 1925, reached the highest level on record at the end of December, but declined by about \$200,000,000, during the first two weeks of the New Year. Both the increase in bank loans in the latter part of December and the decline after the turn of the year were largely in loans on securities, particularly at member banks in New York City, these changes in the demand for loans at member banks were related both to the changes in customers currency requirements and to end-of-year disbursements by many industrial and financial institutions. Conditions in the money market, which had become firmer in the last half of December, were easier in January. Rates on bankers acceptances increased following the advance in the buying rate of the New York Federal Reserve Bank effective January 8, which rates on commercial paper showed little change during the period.



Index of 22 basic commodities adjusted for seasonal variations (1919-100.)
Latest figure, December 122.



Index of United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. (1913-100, base adopted by bureau.) Latest figure December 156.



SIXTH DISTRICT SUMMARY.

Conditions at the close of 1925 in the Sixth Federal Reserve District, taken as a whole, were probably better than at the end of any recent year. Most of the series of business statistics, and other information gathered for the Review, compare very favorably with the years immediately preceding. There are parts of the district where agricultural conditions were unfavorable. A number of counties in the north-central and northeastern part of Georgia, devoted largely to cotton, suffered to a greater extent perhaps than any other part of the district from the long extended drought and the extreme temperatures. The drought in Louisiana also affected the rice crop, and while the sugar crop in Louisiana is estimated by the Department of Agriculture at a figure considerably larger than that of 1924, the low price of sugar has prevented the growers from receiving a return commensurate with the increased production. On the whole, however, according to the estimate of the Department of Agriculture, the six states have received approximately 96½ million dollars more for their 1925 crops than the year before, and this figure is probably lower than the actual return for the reason it is based on December 1 prices, and most of the cotton produced in this district was probably sold before that time, when the price was somewhat higher.

The volume of debits to individual accounts at 24 cities in the district is greater than for corresponding periods a year ago. Demand deposits at reporting member banks are substantially higher, and savings deposits at the close of December held by 92 banks were 13.8 greater than a year ago. There were decreases of 18.4 per cent in the number of failures and 24.2 per cent in liabilities, in the sixth district in 1925, compared with 1924. Naval Stores producers have received materially better prices during 1925 than during the year before. The volume of building in this district in 1925 has exceeded all previous figures, and was 61.5 per cent greater than in 1924.

RETAIL TRADE.

Retail trade in the sixth district during December reached a very high level. Due to the large volume of holiday business, sales and stock turnover were both greater than for any other month during the year. Confidential reports received from 48 representative department stores scattered throughout the district show a volume of sales in December 9.2 per cent greater than in the corresponding month a year ago, and the December index number computed from sales figures of 42 of these reporting stores reached 193.4, the highest point touched since this series of index numbers was first begun in 1920. The December index number was also the highest so far recorded for Atlanta, Birmingham, Jackson, Savannah and Other Cities, but higher numbers were recorded for Chattanooga in December 1924 and 1923, for Nashville in December 1922 and 1920, and for New Orleans in December 1920, as indicated in the following table:

	Dec. 1925	Dec. 1924	Dec. 1923	Dec. 1922	Dec. 1921	Dec. 1920
Atlanta.....	202.7	185.8	146.3	142.3	126.6	152.2
Birmingham.....	235.8	217.8	209.9	183.5	156.7	217.1
Chattanooga.....	135.3	151.7	144.1	99.4	99.5	-----
Jackson.....	199.6	180.5	161.8	164.1	171.8	-----
Nashville.....	166.3	161.3	183.8	166.7	166.1	172.5
New Orleans.....	199.8	188.9	179.6	174.6	174.5	200.1
Savannah.....	157.6	127.4	130.9	123.9	138.9	-----
Other Cities.....	198.5	156.1	150.0	151.4	132.1	139.3
District.....	193.4	177.9	167.8	161.7	154.3	178.7

Sales for the year 1925 by the 48 reporting stores were 4.1 per cent greater than for the preceding year. Stocks at the end of December were six-tenths of one per cent greater than a year earlier, but were 19.7 per cent smaller than at the end of November. Stock turnover for December was better except at Birmingham, Chattanooga and New Orleans, than during December 1924, and for the year a better rate of turnover was shown for each city in the statement except Chattanooga. Collections were reported Excellent by 6 stores, Good by 14, and Fair by 8.

CONDITION OF RETAIL TRADE DURING DECEMBER 1925
IN THE SIXTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT BASED UPON REPORTS FROM 48 STORES

	1		2		3		4		5	
	Net sales—percentage increase or decrease compared with:		Stocks at end of month, percentage increase or decrease compared with:		Percentage of sales to average stocks in Dec. (stock turnover for the month):		Percentage of sales to average stocks from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 (Stock turnover for year to date)		Percentage of outstanding orders at end of month to purchases during calendar year. 1924:	
	(A) Dec. 1924	(B) Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1924	(A) Dec. 1924	(B) Nov. 1925	(A) 1924	(B) 1925	(A) 1924	(B) 1925	(A) Nov.	(B) Dec.
Atlanta (5).....	+ 9.1	+ 6.6	- 9.9	-23.1	44.5	55.0	319.0	378.1	2.9	1.3
Birmingham (5).....	+ 8.2	+ 3.0	+ 9.9	-18.3	46.4	45.4	300.2	321.2	7.0	5.6
Chattanooga (6).....	-10.8	-16.9	+ 3.0	-18.6	37.8	35.0	251.5	247.3	2.1	1.8
Jackson (3).....	+24.3	+ 8.0	- 6.6	-20.2	32.7	43.2	255.7	290.0	x	x
Nashville (5).....	+ 3.1	- 0.1	- 8.4	-19.3	40.8	45.2	280.9	316.7	3.2	2.6
New Orleans (5).....	+ 5.8	+ 3.9	+10.0	-17.1	42.8	42.3	279.5	292.2	9.3	11.2
Savannah (3).....	+23.7	+10.8	- 5.0	-18.1	36.5	47.2	245.8	300.9	7.8	8.0
Other Cities (16).....	+24.0	+14.2	- 6.7	-25.0	39.8	52.8	262.6	321.5	3.4	5.6
DISTRICT (48).....	+ 9.2	+ 4.1	+ 0.6	-19.7	42.1	46.0	282.6	312.0	5.5	4.7

WHOLESALE TRADE.

Distribution of merchandise at wholesale in the sixth district was seasonally smaller in December than in the months of September, October and November, but was greater in all reporting lines than during December 1924. December sales by reporting wholesale firms dealing in groceries, electrical supplies, stationery and drugs were greater than for November, but smaller totals were shown for dry goods, hardware, furniture and shoes. Wholesale trade is usually at a comparatively low level in December, but all of the eight reporting lines showed increased sales over December last year, and index numbers of sales by firms dealing in groceries, dry goods, hardware and shoes are higher for December 1925 than for December of any year since this series was begun in 1920, as indicated in the following table;

	Dec. 1925	Dec. 1924	Dec. 1923	Dec. 1922	Dec. 1921	Dec. 1920
Groceries.....	98.3	95.0	84.1	76.0	69.9	91.5
Dry Goods.....	66.0	53.4	45.2	51.2	37.0	40.1
Hardware.....	122.6	93.1	78.5	80.1	67.2	73.4
Shoes.....	49.4	45.0	36.6	45.9	42.4	33.3
Total.....	94.3	81.4	69.9	69.7	60.6	73.1

Groceries December sales by 38 reporting wholesale grocery firms were 3.4 per cent greater than in November, and 3.2 per cent greater than in December 1924. Atlanta is the only point shown in the table at which sales were smaller than in November, while the increase over December last year is due to larger sales at Jacksonville and "Other Cities." Some reports indicate price advances on same articles during the month. Collections were reported good by 12 firms, and fair by 8. Percentage comparisons of sales are shown in the table:

	Dec. 1925 compared with: Nov. 1925	Dec. 1924
Atlanta (5 firms).....	-8.3	-6.2
Jacksonville (4 firms).....	+9.4	+48.7
Meridian (3 firms).....	+0.9	-16.3
New Orleans (8 firms).....	+3.4	-23.6
Vicksburg (4 firms).....	+3.9	-10.2
Other Cities (14 firms).....	+0.8	+11.4
DISTRICT (36 firms).....	+3.4	+3.2

Dry Goods Sales of Dry Goods at wholesale during December were 25.7 per cent smaller in the aggregate than in November, but, due to larger sales at Jacksonville and "Other Cities", an increase of 5.5 per cent is shown over December a year ago. Small decreases in prices are indicated in some of the reports because of the lower price of cotton. Collections were reported good by 5 firms, and fair by 7. Percentage comparisons of sales are shown in the table:

	Dec. 1925 compared with: Nov. 1925	Dec. 1924
Atlanta (4 firms).....	-18.8	-9.2
Jacksonville (3 firms).....	-6.0	+69.9
Nashville (3 firms).....	-31.9	+7.7
New Orleans (3 firms).....	-45.5	-19.5
Other Cities (13 firms).....	-26.2	+3.9
DISTRICT (26 firms).....	-25.7	+5.5

Hardware Sales during December by 30 reporting wholesale hardware firms were only fractionally smaller than in November, increases at Jacksonville, Nashville and "Other Cities" being slightly more than offset by decreases at Atlanta, Chattanooga and New Orleans. The aggregate, however, was 25 per cent greater than in December a year ago. Florida firms still report difficulty in obtaining merchandise. Collections in December were reported good by 5 firms, fair by 6, and poor by 1. Percentage comparisons of sales are shown below:

	Dec. 1925 compared with: Nov. 1925	Dec. 1924
Atlanta (3 firms).....	-9.3	+25.4
Chattanooga (3 firms).....	-3.1	-16.7
Jacksonville (3 firms).....	+1.3	+64.6
Nashville (3 firms).....	+6.8	+27.0
New Orleans (7 firms).....	-8.3	+6.0
Other Cities (11 firms).....	+6.3	+47.1
DISTRICT (30 firms).....	-0.6	+25.0

Furniture December sales of furniture at wholesale were 8.5 per cent smaller than in November, Nashville being the only city to report an increase. Compared with December 1924, a decrease at Chattanooga partly offset increases at other points, but the aggregate sales were 7.3 per cent greater. December collections were reported good by 6 firms, and fair by 4. Percentage comparisons of sales follow:

	Dec. 1925 compared with: Nov. 1925	Dec. 1924
Atlanta (5 firms).....	-8.9	+34.4
Chattanooga (3 firms).....	-8.8	-16.8
Nashville (3 firms).....	+5.1	+43.2
Other Cities (7 firms).....	-10.6	+5.2
DISTRICT (18 firms).....	-8.5	+7.3

Electrical Supplies Sales during December by 12 wholesale electrical supply firms exceeded their sales in November by 27.6 per cent, and were 82.3 per cent greater than in December a year ago. The reports indicate that merchants are buying cautiously. No material changes in prices are indicated. Collections were reported good by 4 firms, and fair by 4. Percentage comparisons of sales are shown in the table:

	Dec. 1925 compared with: Nov. 1925	Dec. 1924
Atlanta (3 firms).....	+43.0	+101.6
New Orleans (4 firms).....	-3.8	+12.0
Other Cities (5 firms).....	+27.8	+119.2
DISTRICT (12 firms).....	+27.6	+82.3

In the other three lines, December sales exceeded those in the same month a year ago in each instance, but wholesale shoe sales were seasonally smaller than in November. No price changes of importance were reported. Collections were reported good by 2 shoe firms and fair by 3, good by 2 stationery firms, and 1 drug firm, and fair by 1. Percentage comparisons of sales are shown only for the district, three reports not having been received in any of these lines from a single city.

	Dec. 1925 compared with: Nov. 1925	Dec. 1924
Shoes (7 firms).....	-31.2	+4.7
Drugs (3 firms).....	+10.1	+4.2
Stationery (3 firms).....	+2.4	+16.1

AGRICULTURE

Final estimates made by the Department of Agriculture of the production during 1925 of the different agricultural crops, taken with price statistics on December 1, show a farm value on that date of the crops produced in the six states of the sixth Federal Reserve District amounting to \$1,268,571,000, an increase of \$96,636,000, over the value on December 1, 1924, of the agricultural crops produced during that season. Values in arriving at this comparison are based upon December 1 prices and are therefore not entirely representative of the actual average return to the farmers from the season's crops. The figures, particularly those relative to cotton, show a smaller return than has been actually received by the farmers for the reason a large part of the cotton crop was harvested early and sold at a better price than that which prevailed on December 1.

Total figures for these six states disclose a decrease in the value of agricultural production in Georgia, and in Tennessee, compared with 1924, but increases in the other four states. The table below shows the estimates of these total farm values, by states, compared with figures for 1924, revised since a year ago;

Farm Values of Crops:	1925	1924
Alabama.....	\$254,757,000	\$246,324,000
Florida.....	108,550,000	95,199,000
Georgia.....	230,524,000	257,921,000
Louisiana.....	179,755,000	136,802,000
Mississippi.....	287,005,000	214,689,000
Tennessee.....	213,000,000	230,000,000

The final estimates by the Department of Agriculture divided according to the boundaries of the district (parts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee are located in other Federal Reserve Districts) show the following estimated totals for this district in the principal crops:

	1925	1924
Corn, bushels.....	159,448,000	156,149,000
Wheat, bushels.....	5,214,000	3,688,000
Oats, bushels.....	14,389,000	10,067,000
Hay, tons.....	1,974,000	2,428,000
Tobacco, pounds.....	127,518,000	113,493,000
Potatoes, bushels.....	8,421,000	10,933,000
Cotton, bales.....	3,302,000	2,455,000

Florida The car lot movement of fruits and vegetables for December was, as in the case of **Vegetables** November, considerably smaller than for the same month a year ago. Through December, only 12,039 cars of oranges, grapefruit and tangerines had been shipped, compared with 17,128 cars shipped during the same period of the 1924 season, and only 1,162 cars of vegetables, compared with 1,700 cars the previous season. Comparisons are shown below:

	Season through		Season through	
	Dec. 1925	Dec. 1924	Dec. 1925	Dec. 1924
Citrus Fruits:				
Oranges.....	3,921	5,852	6,705	10,017
Grapefruit.....	2,015	1,863	4,838	6,247
Tangerines.....	410	572	496	864
Total.....	6,346	8,287	12,039	17,128
Total movement of vegetables	679	1,267	1,162	1,700

Cotton Movement—Sixth District. (Bales)

	Season to		
	Dec. 1925	Nov. 1925	Dec. 1924
Receipts:			
New Orleans.....	397,414	379,801	376,639
Mobile.....	29,764	33,527	25,907
Savannah.....	84,892	87,541	87,181
Atlanta.....	30,459	39,354	36,579
Augusta.....	42,525	39,610	28,225
Montgomery.....	6,448	9,597	6,351
Macon.....	5,560	4,017	5,293
Stocks:			
New Orleans.....	500,199	451,015	467,773
Mobile.....	24,429	28,302	17,125
Savannah.....	104,642	129,514	85,544
Atlanta.....	60,447	60,637	65,558
Augusta.....	108,957	110,727	70,024
Montgomery.....	28,897	28,710	22,938
Macon.....	26,286	25,331	10,661

Cotton Movement—United States Since August 1, (Bales)

	Season to		
	1925	1924	1923
Receipts at all U. S. Ports.....	7,074,358	6,885,910	5,203,343
Overland across the Mississippi, Ohio, Potomac Rivers to Nor. Mills and Canada.....	914,945	781,932	569,411
Interior stocks in excess of those held at close of Commercial year.....	1,519,035	1,054,057	546,913
Southern Mills takings.....	2,886,000	2,552,855	2,441,246
Total 168 days.....	12,394,338	11,274,754	8,760,913
Foreign exports.....	4,966,414	4,826,786	
*American Mills Nor. & South and Canada.....	4,601,537	4,030,716	
American cotton thus far.....	8,444,000	7,486,000	6,556,000
*Of which 1,500,691 by Northern spinners against 1,271,241 last year and 3,100,846 by Southern spinners against 2,759,475 last year.			

Sugar, Syrup The production of sugar in Louisiana during 1925 is estimated by the Department of Agriculture at 395,055,332 pounds, equivalent to 197,528 short tons. The production in 1924 was 88,483 short tons, and two years ago was 162,023 short tons. The production of syrup in the Louisiana cane belt is estimated at 4,628,250 gallons, compared with 9,280,118 gallons in 1924. The production of molasses is estimated at 22,981,058 gallons, compared with 9,589,544 gallons in 1924. The acreages in sugar cane used for sugar, syrup and seed, are shown in the table:

	1925		1924	
	Acres	Value	Acres	Value
Sugar cane acreage used for Sugar.....	221,078	162,640		
Sugar cane acreage used for Syrup.....	15,000	44,536		
Sugar cane acreage used for Seed.....	51,822	88,129		
Total.....	287,900	295,305		

Sugar Movement. Raw Sugar (Pounds)

	Season to		
	Dec. 1925	Nov. 1925	Dec. 1924
Receipts:			
New Orleans.....	103,010,045	48,464,218	52,399,312
Savannah.....	31,111,238	22,054,834	7,501,239
Meltings:			
New Orleans.....	102,618,168	41,745,727	43,114,917
Savannah.....	31,111,238	22,054,834	11,110,104
Stocks:			
New Orleans.....	8,851,358	8,459,481	4,738,225
Savannah.....			

Refined Sugar (Pounds)

	Season to		
	Dec. 1925	Nov. 1925	Dec. 1924
Shipments:			
New Orleans.....	80,158,695	71,415,679	48,534,925
Savannah.....	26,038,324	21,646,178	16,056,635
Stocks:			
New Orleans.....	30,571,181	11,421,445	12,078,816
Savannah.....	5,332,633	1,646,867	849,223

Rice The production of rough rice in Louisiana in 1925 is estimated by the Department of Agriculture at 15,985,000 bushels, compared with 15,224,000 bushels in 1924. The average yield per acre is estimated at 33.3 bushels, and the harvested acreage is estimated at 450,000 compared with 440,000 acres in 1924. The total farm value of the rice crop in Louisiana on December 1, 1925, was \$22,927,000, compared with \$20,705,000 a year earlier.

Rice Movement. Rough Rice (Sacks) Port of New Orleans.

	Season to		
	Dec. 1925	Nov. 1925	Dec. 1924
Receipts.....	141,345	78,948	114,126
Shipments.....	128,534	68,553	82,279
Stock.....	39,734	26,923	85,701

Clean Rice (Sacks) Port of New Orleans.

Receipts.....	240,874	190,724	226,026
Shipments.....	204,210	172,564	151,143
Stock.....	159,348	122,684	267,926

Receipts of Rough Rice (Barrels).

	Season to		
	Dec. 1925	Dec. 31, 1925	Dec. 31, 1924
Association Mills.....	1,056,330	3,508,957	4,023,444
New Orleans Mills.....	140,345	568,986	763,139
Outside Mills.....	475,050	1,069,500	1,568,068
Total.....	1,671,725	5,147,443	6,354,651

Distribution of Milled Rice (Pockets).

Association Mills.....	495,441	2,282,675	2,754,340
New Orleans Mills.....	107,560	502,215	574,834
Outside Mills.....	148,700	578,098	1,070,174
Total.....	751,701	3,362,988	4,399,348

Stock.

	Jan. 1, 1926	Dec. 1, 1925	Jan. 1, 1924
Association Mills.....	1,318,077	742,326	1,423,711
New Orleans Mills.....	191,454	142,245	340,432
Outside Mills.....	536,250	206,000	582,371
Total.....	2,045,781	1,090,571	2,346,514

FINANCIAL.

Financial statistics gathered for the Monthly Business Review, and replies to general inquiries addressed to member banks scattered over the district continue to reflect generally favorable comparisons with the corresponding period a year ago.

Savings Deposits Savings deposits reported to the Federal Reserve Bank for December by 92 banks which operate savings departments showed an aggregate increase over the preceding month of 1.6 per cent, and an increase over savings deposits at the end of December 1924 of 13.8 per cent. Increases greater than the average were shown from Jacksonville, Nashville and Other Cities, as indicated in the following table:

Savings Deposits.

(000 Omitted)

	Dec.		Compari- son of 1925	Compari- son of 1924	
	1925	1925		1924	1925-1924
Atlanta (7 banks).....	\$ 35,513	\$ 34,691	+2.4	\$ 33,088	+ 7.3
Birmingham (5 banks).....	25,017	24,450	+2.4	23,732	+ 5.4
Jacksonville (5 banks).....	28,640	27,813	+3.0	20,267	+11.3
Nashville (10 banks).....	24,898	23,619	+5.4	20,419	+21.9
New Orleans (6 banks).....	48,777	48,138	+1.3	48,072	+ 0.2
Other Cities (57 banks).....	107,075	106,894	+0.2	90,934	+17.8
Total (92 banks).....	269,920	265,585	+1.6	237,112	+13.8

Condition of Member Banks in Selected Cities Weekly reports received by the Federal Reserve Bank from 36 member banks in Atlanta, New Orleans, Jacksonville, Birmingham, Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville and Savannah show a decrease of \$3,850,000 in the volume of discounts on January 6, compared with a month earlier. In this period there was a decline of \$2,967,000 in loans secured by Government Obligations, an increase of \$4,219,000 in loans secured by other stocks and bonds, but a decrease of \$5,102,000 in All Other loans. Holdings of United States securities on January 6 were \$3,331,000 greater than on December 9, however, and investments in other stocks and bonds increased \$4,868,000 bringing the total of loans, discounts and investments to \$625,591,000, an increase of \$4,349,000 over the total on December 9. There was also an increase in time deposits and demand deposits, and accommodation at the Federal Reserve Bank increased from \$16,966,000 on December 9 to \$24,720,000 on January 6. Compared with figures for January 7, 1925, figures for the current report date show a decline in loans secured by Government Obligations but increases in other loans and in investments, and the total of loans, discounts and investments on January 6 this year was \$93,369,000 greater than a year ago. Principal items in the weekly statement, with comparisons, are shown in the following table:

Member Banks in Selected Cities
(000 Omitted.)

	Jan. 6, 1926	Dec. 9, 1925	Jan. 7, 1925
Bills Discounted:			
Secured by Govt. Obligations	\$ 5,366	\$ 8,333	\$ 7,599
Secured by Stocks and Bonds	98,176	93,957	69,232
All Others	422,629	427,731	379,050
Total Discounts	526,171	530,021	455,882
U. S. Securities	45,030	41,699	34,138
Other Stocks and Bonds	54,390	49,522	42,205
Total loans, discounts and investments	625,591	621,242	532,222
Time Deposits	219,923	217,156	188,414
Demand Deposits	370,490	365,756	320,258
Accommodation at F. R. Bank	24,720	16,966	8,967

Operations Total discounts by the Federal Reserve Bank of the Feder-on January 13, 1926 showed a decline of al Reserve \$7,225,000 compared with figures for the corresponding report date a month earlier. Decreases were shown both in loans secured by Government Obligations, and in "All Other" loans. Holdings of bills bought in the open market declined \$9,480,000 during this period, but there was an increase of \$4,919,000 in United States Securities owned. There was a decrease for the period in total bills and securities of \$11,860,000. There was an increase of \$5,096,000 in cash reserves, and a decrease of \$2,144,000 in deposits and a decrease of \$1,773,000 in Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation, resulting in a rise in the Reserve Ratio from 56.9 on December 16 to 59.9 on January 13. Compared with the corresponding report date a year ago, January 14, 1925, there was an increase of \$5,258,000 in discounts, and holdings of bills bought in the open market and United States securities were very much larger, resulting in an increase in total bills and securities from \$26,488,000 a year ago to \$95,340,000 on January 13 this year. Principal items in the weekly statement of the Federal Reserve Bank, with comparisons, are shown in the table:

Federal Reserve Bank.
(000 Omitted.)

	Jan. 13, 1926	Dec. 16, 1925	Jan. 14, 1925
Bills Discounted:			
Secured by Govt. Obligations	\$ 3,910	\$ 5,715	\$ 2,476
All Others	16,656	22,076	12,832
Total Discounts	20,566	27,791	15,308
Bills bought in open market	56,558	66,038	7,183
U. S. Securities	17,929	13,010	3,733
Total Bills and securities	95,340	107,200	26,488
Cash Reserves	146,062	140,968	174,191
Total Deposits	82,425	84,569	68,704
F. R. Notes in actual circulation	161,312	163,085	137,912
Reserve Ratio	59.9	56.9	84.3

DEBITS TO INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS
Sixth Federal Reserve District

	Week Ended		
	Jan. 13, 1926	Dec. 16, 1925	Jan. 14, 1925
Albany	\$ 1,285,000	\$ 1,344,000	\$ 1,153,000
Atlanta	38,100,000	40,613,000	36,015,000
Augusta	7,197,000	6,969,000	7,191,000
Birmingham	36,290,000	35,210,000	35,258,000
Brunswick	331,000	884,000	771,000
Chattanooga	12,238,000	11,756,000	11,543,000
Columbus	3,244,000	4,034,000	3,441,000
Dothan	1,063,000	941,000	961,000
Elberton	214,000	226,000	376,000
Jackson	5,102,000	5,100,000	3,700,000
Jacksonville	33,693,000	35,834,000	16,050,000
Knoxville	10,237,000	8,098,000	9,117,000
Macon	5,452,000	6,281,000	5,400,000
Meridian	3,657,000	3,798,000	3,249,000
Mobile	8,921,000	9,864,000	7,793,000
Montgomery	6,465,000	6,190,000	5,730,000
Nashville	19,987,000	22,565,000	21,983,000
Newnan	566,000	551,000	736,000
New Orleans	83,315,000	96,241,000	92,565,000
Pensacola	2,196,000	2,738,000	1,602,000
Savannah	12,252,000	12,276,000	9,234,000
Tampa	26,252,000	24,839,000	11,172,000
Valdosta	1,761,000	1,812,000	1,259,000
Vicksburg	2,115,000	2,441,000	2,663,000
Total 24 Cities	\$322,754,000	\$340,575,000	\$289,012,000

Commercial Failures According to statistics compiled and published by R. G. Dun & Co., commercial failures in the United States during December amounted to \$36,528,160. This compares with \$35,922,421 for November, and with \$45,279,281 for December 1924. The number of failures in December was 1,878, compared with 1,672 in November, and with 2,040 in December a year ago.

Figures for the sixth district show that there were 64 failures in December, compared with 74 in November, and with 123 in December 1924, and that liabilities amounted to \$1,206,227, compared with \$2,065,090 in November, and with \$2,445,897 in December 1924. The number of failures shows

a decrease of 13½ per cent compared with November, and the liabilities a decrease of 41.6 per cent, while both number and liabilities were approximately half those reported for December a year ago. Total figures for 1925 for the sixth district show that during the year there were 1,089 failures, with liabilities amounting to \$19,985,666, a decrease of 18.4 per cent in number and 24.2 per cent in liabilities compared with total figures for 1924. Statistics for December divided by Federal Reserve Districts are shown in the table:

	Number		Liabilities	
	Dec. 1925	Dec. 1925	Nov. 1925	Dec. 1924
Boston	228	\$ 4,994,177	\$ 2,118,334	\$ 4,847,858
New York	422	7,521,099	5,734,875	8,107,914
Philadelphia	92	2,649,331	1,011,228	1,812,308
Cleveland	194	4,338,840	3,428,114	3,678,704
Richmond	106	3,596,748	1,631,370	2,771,624
Atlanta	64	1,206,227	2,065,090	2,445,897
Chicago	260	5,467,071	7,065,391	7,962,883
St. Louis	80	1,323,752	5,173,004	2,133,944
Minneapolis	89	1,414,078	963,797	2,092,300
Kansas City	100	1,176,400	1,153,488	6,667,478
Dallas	49	608,088	995,237	368,159
San Francisco	194	2,232,349	4,582,493	2,450,212
Total	1,878	\$36,528,160	\$35,922,421	\$45,279,281

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

United States Preliminary figures compiled and released by the Department of Commerce indicate increases in the value of both imports and exports of merchandise during December 1925 compared with November, and with December a year ago. Imports in December amounted to 394 millions, and exceeded the value of November imports by \$17,362,000 and were \$60,808,000 greater than in December 1924. Exports in December 1925 amounted to 468 millions, exceeding November exports by \$20,987,000 and exceeding exports in December 1924 by \$22,252,000. For the 12 months of 1925 imports totaled \$4,224,225,962, compared with a total of \$3,609,962,579 for 1924, and exports totaled \$4,908,743,259 compared with a total of \$4,590,983,845 for 1924. Preliminary figures for December, with comparison, are shown in the table:

	1925	1924
Imports:		
December	\$ 394,000,000	\$ 333,192,059
November	376,637,798	296,147,998
12 months ending with December	4,224,225,962	3,609,962,579
Exports:		
December	\$ 468,000,000	\$ 445,748,393
November	447,012,945	493,572,921
12 months ending with December	4,908,743,259	4,590,983,845

Imports Merchandise valued at \$15,690,666 was imported through the port of New Orleans during the month of October 1925, (the latest month for which detailed figures are available). This is somewhat lower than the total value of imports in October 1924, but larger than for the same month of any other recent year. The volume of sugar imported was larger than in October 1924 but the value was smaller owing to lower prices. Decreases in both volume and value were shown in coffee, crude petroleum, gasoline and mahogany, but increases were shown in burlaps, bananas, molasses, newsprint paper and sisal. Principal commodities imported in October were:

	Volume	Value
Coffee, pounds	32,994,244	\$6,518,640
Sugar, pounds	60,221,416	1,353,062
Burlaps, pounds	14,513,337	2,130,244
Bananas, bunches	1,603,088	755,696
Crude Petroleum, gallons	28,161,000	745,628
Gasoline, gallons	2,940,000	276,383
Cresote, Oil, gallons	1,516,461	199,371
Mahogany, feet	953,000	110,022
Molasses, gallons	12,612,420	779,230
Newsprint paper, pounds	6,238,545	187,935
Sisal, tons	5,734	922,287

The total volume of imports during October of previous years is shown for comparison:

October 1925	\$15,690,666	October 1922	\$11,655,448
October 1924	15,903,057	October 1921	5,480,716
October 1923	13,433,161	October 1920	12,201,083

Grain Exports Grain exports through the port of New Orleans during December continued very much smaller than last year. Corn exports were larger, but oats were exported in smaller volume during December, and wheat exports continued to show substantially decreased volume.

	Season through			
	Dec. 1925	Dec. 1924	Dec. 1925	Dec. 1924
Wheat, bushels.....	80,712	2,676,880	2,301,370	20,282,562
Corn, bushels.....	929,441	201,395	3,148,617	1,406,112
Oats, bushels.....	56,744	108,550	407,599	408,163
Total.....	1,066,897	2,986,825	5,857,586	22,096,837

BUILDING.

The value of building permits issued during December at twenty reporting cities was \$16,633,014, compared with \$15,671,210 for November, and with \$10,703,651 for December a year ago. The index number for December for these twenty cities is 461.3, compared with 434.6 for November, and with 296.8 for December 1924. The percentage increase over December a year ago is 55.4 per cent. Of the twenty-two cities from which reports are received, twelve reported increases over December a year ago, and ten reported decreases.

The total value of permits issued in the district during 1925 has amounted to \$186,608,172, an increase of 61.5 per cent over the total for the year 1924. The volume of building in Florida was very large for 1925, and permits issued for the year at Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando and Tampa aggregate \$106,397,942, as compared with \$33,893,812 during 1924.

Detailed figures for December are shown in the table, with comparisons:

	Dec. 1925		Dec. 1924		Percentage Change in Value
	No.	Value	No.	Value	
Alabama:					
Anniston.....	22	23,750	5	4,400	+439.8
Birmingham.....	416	1,941,956	468	2,376,022	- 18.3
Mobile.....	31	43,470	54	370,805	- 88.3
Montgomery.....	49	23,270	68	20,290	+ 14.7
Florida:					
Jacksonville.....	339	2,584,380	212	315,257	+719.8
Miami.....	1,434	6,172,489	348	786,380	+684.9
Orlando.....	287	684,185	172	221,567	+208.8
Pensacola.....	57	57,885	40	28,446	+103.5
Tampa.....	600	2,967,950	343	821,730	+261.2
*Lakeland.....	198	892,750	106	503,985	+ 77.1
*Miami Beach.....	48	1,077,950	21	769,500	+ 40.1
Georgia:					
Atlanta.....	153	242,153	259	3,133,880	- 92.3
Augusta.....	71	36,644	102	30,003	+ 22.1
Columbus.....	36	25,675	16	90,980	- 71.8
Macon.....	90	55,418	99	56,645	- 2.2
Savannah.....	34	125,275	58	102,425	+ 22.3
Louisiana:					
New Orleans.....	132	636,702	147	474,000	+ 34.3
Alexandria.....	68	50,510	62	93,531	- 46.0
Tennessee:					
Chattanooga.....	197	131,740	119	151,925	- 13.3
Johnson City.....	8	15,600	21	106,000	- 85.3
Knoxville.....	155	613,232	261	1,196,280	- 48.3
Nashville.....	103	200,730	175	323,085	- 37.9
Total 20 Cities.....	4,282	\$16,633,014	3,029	\$10,703,651	+ 55.4
Index No.....		461.3		296.8	

LUMBER.

Preliminary figures received by the Southern Pine Association up to the middle of January from 127 subscribing mills show a falling off in the volume of orders in proportion to shipments, production, and normal production, as compared with months past. For a number of months past the volume of orders has exceeded shipments and actual production, and has been in excess of normal production of the reporting mills. Orders booked in December by the 127 reporting mills amounted to 259,366,248 feet, 8.2 per cent smaller than their December shipments, 5.8 per cent smaller than their production in December, and 12 per cent below their normal monthly production. Shipments by these 127 reporting mills in December amounted to 282,519,153 feet, and exceeded their actual production by 2.6 per cent, but were 4.2 per cent smaller than their normal production. Actual production during December amounted to 275,349,514 feet, 6.6 per cent below the normal production of these reporting mills. Stocks on hand at the end of December amounted to 735,686,993 feet, and were smaller by 6.1 per cent than normal stocks for these mills. Unfilled orders on hand at the end of December reported by these 127 mills amounted to 229,814,020 feet, 16.5 per cent smaller than their actual production for the month, 22 per cent below their normal production, and were 88.6 per cent of the volume of orders booked during the month. The latest weekly report of running time issued by the Southern Pine Association, for the week ended January 8, shows that of 114 mills reporting, 90 operated 5½ or 6 days, and of those operating full time 12 reported overtime aggregating 459 hours, or an average overtime for each of these 12 of 38 hours for the week. Preliminary figures for December, with comparisons, are shown in the table:

gating 459 hours, or an average overtime for each of these 12 of 38 hours for the week. Preliminary figures for December, with comparisons, are shown in the table:

	Dec. 1925	Nov. 1925	Dec. 1924
	(127 mills)	(133 mills)	(140 mills)
Orders.....	259,366,248	324,078,313	293,544,546
Shipments.....	282,519,153	309,141,405	299,684,395
Production.....	275,349,514	276,529,144	299,143,580
Normal production these mills.....	294,821,138	317,048,268	330,280,474
Stock end of month.....	735,686,993	774,383,281	703,904,374
Normal stocks these mills.....	783,723,049	845,559,118	903,646,991
Unfilled orders end of month.....	229,814,020	265,540,296	245,894,418

TEXTILES

Cotton The consumption of cotton during the month Consumption of December, according to the Census Bureau's report, amounted to 575,271 bales of lint cotton, compared with 543,098 bales consumed in November, and with 533,789 bales consumed in December a year ago. December consumption was the highest reported since last April. Cotton reported on hand at consuming establishments was about four hundred thousand bales greater than a year ago, and cotton in public storage and at compresses showed an increase over that time of about a million bales. Exports during December were 984,061 bales, compared with 1,206,786 bales in November, and 1,075,923 bales in December a year ago.

The consumption of cotton in the cotton-growing states during December amounted to 399,908 bales which was greater with one exception than for any month since the beginning of the 1919-1920 season. The number of spindles active during December showed an increase of 83,750 over November, and an increase of 411,178 over December a year ago.

COTTON CONSUMPTION—DECEMBER

	United States.		
	Dec. 1925	Nov. 1925	Dec. 1924
Cotton Consumed:			
Lint.....	575,271	543,098	533,789
Linters.....	55,701	65,966	47,738
Stocks:			
In Consuming Establishments:			
Lint.....	1,717,972	1,456,166	1,319,736
Linters.....	135,448	106,370	121,095
In Public Storage and at Compresses:			
Lint.....	5,608,066	5,206,283	4,616,919
Linters.....	50,723	36,608	53,525
Exports.....	984,061	1,206,786	1,075,923
Imports.....	34,474	27,000	48,663
Active Spindles.....	33,000,874	32,892,324	32,720,568

Cotton Growing States.

	Dec. 1925	Nov. 1925	Dec. 1924
	Cotton Consumed.....	399,908	382,136
Stocks:			
In Consuming Establishments.....	1,104,001	1,007,567	867,675
In Public Storage and at Compresses.....	5,389,070	5,074,085	4,343,421
Active Spindles.....	17,191,442	17,107,692	16,780,264

Cotton Cloth Production of cotton cloth during December by mills which manufactured 28,649,000 yards during the month, was at a rate 12.5 per cent greater than in November, and 11.1 per cent greater than in December 1924. Stocks on hand at the end of the month increased 16.6 per cent over November, and were 0.7 per cent larger than stocks a year ago, but shipments, orders and unfilled orders showed decreases compared both with November and with December last year. The number of workers employed by these mills declined 10.1 per cent compared with November, but was 6.6 per cent greater than in December 1924.

	Dec. 1925 compared with:	
	Nov. 1925	Dec. 1924
Production.....	+12.5	+11.1
Shipments.....	- 4.3	- 6.4
Orders booked.....	- 6.1	- 9.1
Unfilled orders.....	-10.1	-16.2
Stocks on hand.....	+16.6	+ 0.7
Number on payroll.....	-10.1	+ 6.6

Cotton Yarn Reports received from mills which manufactured during December 7,756,000 pounds of yarn, showed an increase of 9.6 per cent over their output in November, and an increase of 10.2 per cent over December 1924. These reports also show an increase in shipments of 15.2 per cent over November, and of 8.1 per cent over December a year ago. Orders booked during the month, however, showed decreases compared with both periods, as did also the volume of unfilled orders on hand at the end of the month, but stocks were larger than for either of those periods. Percentage changes are shown in the table:

	Dec. 1925 compared with:	
	Nov. 1925	Dec. 1924
Production.....	+ 9.6	+10.2
Shipments.....	+15.2	+ 8.1
Orders booked.....	-45.0	-30.5
Unfilled orders.....	- 9.8	- 6.2
Stocks on hand.....	+14.1	+13.5
Number on payroll.....	- 0.7	- 1.2

Overalls Production of overalls at reporting plants during December was at a rate 17.1 per cent smaller than in November, but 15.6 per cent greater than in December a year ago. Stocks on hand were larger than at either of those periods, but unfilled orders were smaller. Orders booked during December declined 19.1 per cent compared with November, but were 146.8 per cent greater than a year ago.

	Dec. 1925 compared with:	
	Nov. 1925	Dec. 1924
Overalls manufactured.....	-17.1	+ 15.6
Overalls on hand.....	+24.1	+ 54.7
Orders booked.....	-19.1	+146.8
Unfilled orders.....	-28.3	- 6.5
Number on payroll.....	0.0	+ 14.4

Brick December production at reporting brick plants was 16.4 per cent less than in November and as compared with December a year ago there was an increase of 18.6 per cent. Stocks on hand were smaller than a month ago, and 14 per cent greater than a year ago. Orders increased 2.8 per cent over November, but were 6.7 per cent smaller than a year ago, unfilled orders, while 2.9 per cent smaller than a month ago, were substantially greater than at the end of December 1924. Percentage comparisons are shown in the table:

	Dec. 1925 compared with:	
	Nov. 1925	Dec. 1924
Brick manufactured.....	-16.4	+ 18.6
Brick on hand.....	- 4.9	+ 14.0
Orders booked.....	+ 2.8	- 6.7
Unfilled orders.....	- 2.9	+268.9
Number on payroll.....	-15.6	+ 43.7

Hosiery Figures for December reported to the Census Bureau by 36 identical establishments in the sixth district, show seasonal declines in production, shipments, etc., of hosiery compared with November. Orders booked, and unfilled orders on hand at the end of the month, were also smaller, as indicated in the table showing total figures for these two months for the 36 reporting establishments:

	(Dozen pairs)	
	Dec. 1925	Nov. 1925
Production.....	662,594	765,063
Shipments.....	633,690	731,273
Stocks on hand.....	1,550,257	1,510,731
Orders booked.....	497,300	602,323
Cancellations.....	36,969	46,127
Unfilled orders.....	1,160,552	1,263,238

COAL.

Production of bituminous coal in the United States, according to weekly statistics of the Geological Survey, has been maintained at a high level during December, excepting for the last two weeks, in which holidays occurred. During Christmas week production fell off sharply, the report indicating that Saturday of that week was observed also as a holiday at many mines, and the week ending January 2 also showed a lower level than other weeks because of the occurrence of New Year's day, observed in some of the mines as a holiday, but not in all. With the exception of these two weeks, however, the output since December first has been at a level higher than has prevailed during the past two or three years. Statistics for Alabama and Tennessee also show a larger volume of production during the first three weeks of December than for the month before, but due to the holidays the output was not so large in the latter part of the month.

The estimated production of bituminous coal in the United States for the calendar year 1925 amounted to 522,967,000 tons, compared with 483,687,000 tons in 1924, and with 564,565,000 tons in 1923. Weekly figures for December are shown in the table:

Week Ended	1925-6	1924-5
December 5.....	12,867,000	10,612,000
December 12.....	12,914,000	10,723,000
December 19.....	12,684,000	10,760,000
December 26.....	8,431,000	7,638,000
January 2.....	10,687,000	10,805,000
January 9.....	12,883,000	12,555,000
Week Ended	Alabama	Tennessee
December 5.....	513,000	140,000
December 12.....	530,000	155,000
December 19.....	520,000	143,000
December 26.....	306,000	81,000
January 2.....	445,000	127,000

IRON.

Statistics compiled and published by the Iron Age show increases in the daily average, in total production, and in the number of pig iron furnaces active at the close of December, as compared with similar statistics for November. The total production of iron in the United States during December was 3,250,448 tons, compared with 3,023,006 tons (revised) produced in November, and with 2,961,702 tons produced in December 1924. The daily average output in December was 104,853 tons, an increase of 4,086 tons greater than the daily average of 100,767 tons for November, and showed a material increase over the daily average of 95,539 tons for December last year. There was a net gain of 14 furnaces in active operation at the end of December, the total being 234, compared with 220 active at the end of November. The total production and the daily average for December are higher than for any month since April last year.

Statistics for Alabama contained in the Iron Age's tabulations show a production in that state during December of 257,705 tons, the highest during the past five years except the total for April last year. There were no changes in furnace activity reported in Alabama, and the number of active furnaces remained at 25. Correspondents report that stocks are unusually low due to the fact shipments during the past several months have been constant and heavy. Furnaces are reported to be sold up for the first quarter of the year, and the price remains firm at from \$22 to \$23 per ton. Bookings for second quarter delivery are not heavy although inquiries indicate large needs for that period.

Unfilled Orders—U. S. Steel Corporation.

Unfilled orders on the books of the United States Steel Corporation at the close of December amounted to 5,033,364 tons, an increase of 451,584 tons over the total reported for November. There has been a steady increase since August, and the total is now higher than for any month since last February.

NAVAL STORES

Receipts of both spirits of turpentine and rosin at the three principal markets of the district were somewhat greater during December than in November, and stocks on hand at the close of December showed increases in both commodities over November. Compared with December 1924, however, receipts of turpentine showed a decrease of 6,080 barrels, and receipts of rosins a decrease of 17,146 barrels. Stocks of turpentine on hand at the end of December were smaller than a year ago by 10,132 barrels, and stocks of rosins were 36,003 barrels smaller than at that time. Statistics for the naval stores year to date, (April 1 to December 31) show decreases in receipts of both turpentine and rosins compared with the two years preceding 1925. Stocks of rosin at the end of 1925 were smaller than at the same time of any previous year since 1919. There were small declines in prices of both turpentine and rosin before the holidays, but there has been some recovery since that time. The average price in December for turpentine, according to statistics compiled by the Turpentine and Rosin Producers Association, was 94½ cents, compared with \$1.05½ in November, and with 77½ cents in December 1924. The average price of rosins in December was \$13.45, compared with \$14.37½ in November, and with \$6.82½ in December a year ago. Figures showing receipts and stocks at the three principal markets of the district are shown below:

Receipts—Turpentine:	Dec 1925	Nov. 1925	Dec. 1924
Savannah.....	8,636	7,804	11,381
Jacksonville.....	8,149	6,968	11,489
Pensacola.....	3,324	3,229	3,319
Total.....	20,109	18,001	26,189
Receipts—Rosin:			
Savannah.....	38,293	34,265	49,127
Jacksonville.....	39,129	28,860	55,633
Pensacola.....	14,648	14,366	14,456
Total.....	102,070	77,491	119,216
Stocks—Turpentine:			
Savannah.....	15,222	11,382	16,826
Jacksonville.....	24,984	22,628	31,176
Pensacola.....	11,041	11,046	13,377
Total.....	51,247	45,056	61,379
Stocks—Rosin:			
Savannah.....	90,754	85,349	94,529
Jacksonville.....	99,347	86,166	120,620
Pensacola.....	30,378	25,424	41,333
Total.....	220,479	196,939	256,482

THE MONTHLY BUSINESS REVIEW

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 (Department Stores.)	October	November	December	October	November	December
	1925	1925	1925	1924	1924	1924
Atlanta.....	172.0	133.1	202.7	105.9	111.0	185.8
Birmingham.....	170.5	150.9	235.8	151.8	145.1	217.8
Chattanooga.....	125.4	98.8	135.3	121.6	118.6	151.7
Jackson.....	164.8	126.2	199.6	118.5	110.5	160.5
Nashville.....	128.3	103.6	166.3	111.9	100.4	161.3
New Orleans.....	140.2	129.7	199.8	129.5	122.1	180.9
Savannah.....	118.2	97.1	157.6	97.8	80.4	127.4
Other Cities.....	143.6	123.7	198.5	106.8	97.7	156.1
District.....	146.5	125.0	193.4	111.6	114.9	174.7
RETAIL TRADE U. S. (1)						
Department Stores.....	164	145	224	141	141	210
Mail Order Houses.....	170	144	166	141	131	148
Chain Stores:						
Grocery.....	315	268	330	236	226	250
Drug.....	179	167	220	159	145	186
Shoe.....	164	136	188	138	146	188
5 & 10 Cent.....	237	220	427	203	199	366
Music.....	141	139	214	124	111	184
Candy.....	215	195	280	202	184	276
Cigar.....	151	136	212	144	138	192
WHOLESALE TRADE 6TH DISTRICT						
Groceries.....	111.0	94.8	98.3	106.4	90.4	95.0
Dry Goods.....	133.7	88.4	66.0	100.6	73.5	53.4
Hardware.....	137.6	129.1	122.6	102.3	90.6	93.1
Shoes.....	98.4	71.8	49.4	76.9	61.3	45.0
Total.....	120.8	99.9	94.3	101.8	84.5	81.4
WHOLESALE PRICES U. S. (2)						
Farm Products.....	155.3	153.9	152.2	149.2	149.5	156.7
Foods.....	157.6	160.2	157.1	151.6	153.8	157.9
Cloths and Clothing.....	189.5	187.9	187.1	188.4	190.4	191.4
Fuel and Lighting.....	171.7	174.8	174.8	162.1	162.8	164.6
Metals and Metal Products.....	127.9	129.8	129.5	127.2	128.7	132.9
Building Materials.....	173.9	175.6	177.0	170.7	171.6	175.1
Chemicals and Drugs.....	134.9	135.4	134.5	132.2	134.0	134.6
House Furnishings.....	167.9	165.9	165.9	171.0	172.0	172.4
Miscellaneous.....	138.0	142.0	138.2	119.9	122.9	128.6
All Commodities.....	157.5	157.7	156.2	151.9	152.7	157.0
BUILDING PERMITS 6TH DISTRICT						
Atlanta.....	76.5	50.8	27.8	153.3	154.3	359.9
Birmingham.....	480.4	331.2	593.7	760.5	591.1	726.4
Jacksonville.....	670.0	723.9	864.0	163.4	108.3	105.4
Nashville.....	105.0	108.8	106.0	109.8	92.9	170.7
New Orleans.....	236.6	239.9	145.6	325.9	149.5	108.4
Other Cities.....	1012.8	723.7	741.7	208.9	249.2	275.4
District (20 Cities).....	567.7	434.6	461.3	250.7	225.3	296.8
COTTON CONSUMED:						
United States.....	101.6	101.5	107.5	99.6	92.0	99.5
Cotton-Growing States.....	124.0	129.4	135.5	126.5	117.7	120.5
All Other States.....	75.1	68.1	74.2	67.4	61.2	74.6
Cotton Exports.....	258.5	219.5	179.0	172.3	237.6	195.7
PIG IRON PRODUCTION:						
United States.....	118.6	118.3	127.5	97.2	98.5	116.2
Alabama.....	123.2	134.7	146.6	142.5	133.6	131.3
UNFILED ORDERS—U. S. STEEL CORPORATION						
	68.5	76.4	84.0	58.8	67.3	80.3

(1) Compiled by Federal Reserve Board.

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

SUPPLEMENT TO THE

MONTHLY BUSINESS REVIEW

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA

JANUARY, 1926

SELECTION AND DUTIES OF FEDERAL RESERVE BANK DIRECTORS

The taking of office at the beginning of the New Year by a number of new Federal Reserve Bank directors makes it appropriate to review the method by which directors of the Reserve Banks are chosen, the type of men who serve, and their powers and duties.

Method of Selection

Each of the twelve Federal Reserve Banks has a Board of nine directors which is responsible, under the general supervision of the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, for the policy and administration of the bank. Of the nine directors, six are elected by the member banks and three are appointed by the Federal Reserve Board. Of the six elected by member banks three may be bankers, and the other three must be actively engaged in commerce, agriculture, or industry in the district, and while serving as Reserve Bank directors may not serve as directors or officers of any other bank. Of the three directors appointed by the Federal Reserve Board, one acts as chairman of the board, a man of banking experience, and devotes his entire time to the Federal Reserve Bank, carrying in addition the title and duties of Federal Reserve Agent. The other two appointed by the Federal Reserve Board must have no other banking connection while serving as directors. Hence, they are usually business men.

Business Men in Majority

Thus, of the nine directors of each Reserve Bank, five are ordinarily business men, three are active bankers (frequently with business interests in addition), and one is chairman and Federal Reserve Agent. Directors hold office for three years and may be re-appointed or re-elected.

Of the present 108 directors of the twelve Reserve Banks, twelve are chairmen of the board and thirty-six are active bankers. The remaining sixty, constituting the majority, have the following occupations:

19 manufacturers	2 lawyers
14 merchants	2 railroads
4 farmers	1 contractor
4 lumbermen	1 cattleman
2 insurance	1 public utilities
3 investment bankers	1 mining
3 retired business men	1 savings bank officer
2 publishers	

In each of the twelve Federal Reserve districts it is men with this wide range of interests and familiar with conditions in the districts who are responsible for the management of the Reserve Bank.

Directors of the Atlanta Bank

The directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta are the following:

Elected by Member Banks:

W. H. Hartford,	Manufacturer
Leon C. Simon,	Merchant
E. R. Black,	Banker
J. A. McCrary,	Municipal Contractor
E. C. Melvin,	Banker
Vacancy.	

Appointed by the Federal Reserve Board:

Oscar Newton,	Banker
W. H. Kettig,	Merchant and Manufacturer
Lindsey Hopkins,	Investment Banker

Of these directors, Mr. Melvin, just elected by the banks, is serving his first term. Mr. Kettig, Mr. Hartford, and Mr. McCrary have served on the Board since it was first organized, in 1914.

In addition to the directors of the 12 Reserve Banks each of the 23 branches has a board of seven directors, residents of the branch territory, of whom 4 are appointed by the Federal Reserve Bank of the district and 3 by the Federal Reserve Board. The directors of branches have a range of occupations and interests similar to that indicated above for the directors of the banks. In the Atlanta district there are 4 branches, located at New Orleans, Birmingham, Jacksonville and Nashville. The following are directors of these branches:

New Orleans Branch:

Leon C. Simon,	Merchant
Marcus Walker,	Banker
J. P. Butler, Jr.,	Banker
P. H. Saunders,	Investment Banker
R. S. Hecht,	Banker
F. W. Foote,	Banker
A. P. Bush,	Merchant

Birmingham Branch:

W. H. Kettig,	Merchant and Manufacturer
Alex E. Walker,	Banker
Oscar Wells,	Banker
W. E. Henley,	Banker
W. W. Crawford,	Banker
J. H. Frye,	Banker
John P. Kohn,	Insurance

Jacksonville Branch:

Fulton Saussey,	Commission Broker
George R. DeSaussure,	Banker
Edw. W. Lane,	Banker
C. P. Kendall,	Banker
John C. Cooper,	Attorney
G. G. Ware,	Banker
L. C. Edwards,	Citrus Fruits

Nashville Branch:

W. H. Hartford,	Manufacturer
Joel B. Fort, Jr.,	Banker
E. A. Lindsey,	Banker
J. E. Caldwell,	Banker
Paul M. Davis,	Banker
T. A. Embry,	Banker
Wm. P. Ridley,	Farmer

Local and National Interest

The Board of Directors of each Reserve Bank appoints its officers and is responsible for its policy and management, subject to the general supervision of the Federal Reserve Board. A certain co-ordination is necessary between the twelve Reserve Banks in important matters of policy. The law therefore provides that decisions of any Reserve Bank as to changes in the discount rate must be approved by the Federal Reserve Board. Transactions in bankers acceptances and short government securities in the open market are co-ordinated through a committee of Reserve Bank officers appointed by the Federal Reserve Board and acting under the approval and authority of the directors of those Reserve Banks which may from time to time participate in such transactions.

Under the terms of the Federal Reserve Act and current procedure, the management of the Federal Reserve System is so designed as to bring to bear upon any important question of policy both local and national points of view, together with the opinions of men of many different occupations and interests.

