

# MONTHLY BUSINESS REVIEW

Covering Conditions in the Sixth Federal Reserve District.

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA

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(Compiled March 17, 1926)

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### BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES.

(Prepared by the Federal Reserve Board.)

Production and trade continued in February at the high level of the preceding month, while the general average of prices declined and was lower in February than at any time since the latter part of 1924.

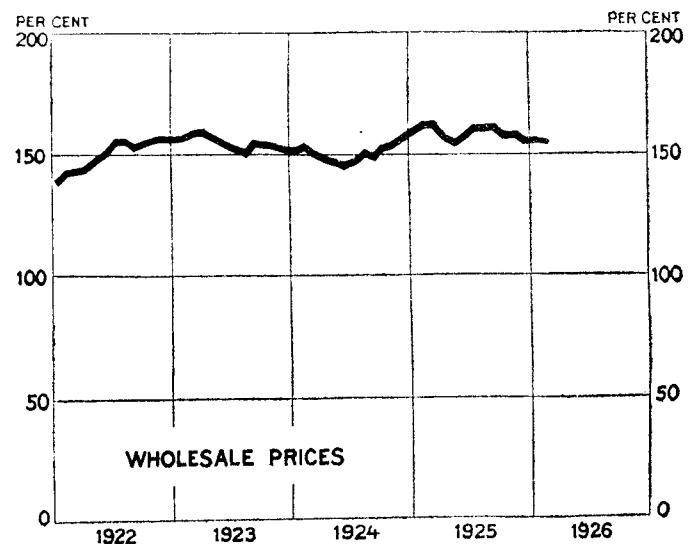
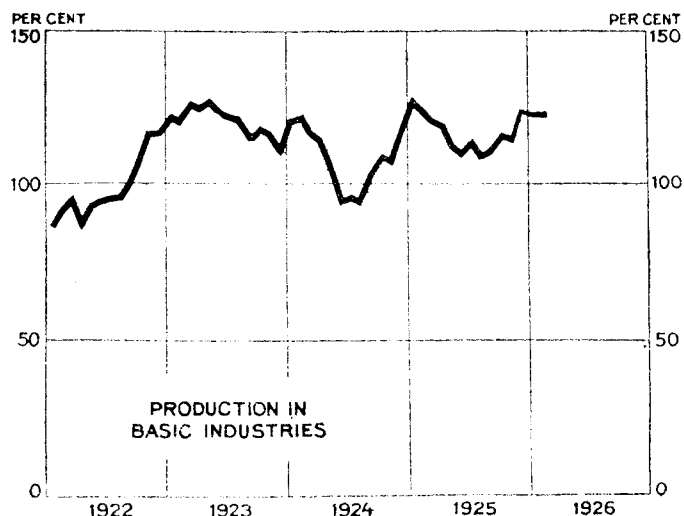
**Production** The Federal Reserve Board's index of production in basic industries, which is adjusted for seasonal variations, indicated a continuation of productive activity during February in about the same volume as in the preceding two months. Mill consumption of cotton and the output of flour, anthracite, copper and newsprint showed increases in February, when allowance is made for usual seasonal changes, and the output of iron and steel and lumber remained practically unchanged. Activity in the woolen industry and the production of cement declined. Automobile production was in considerably greater volume in February and was larger than a year ago, although smaller than in the corresponding month of 1924. Employment and earnings of factory workers increased, after the seasonal recession of January, and were in February at practically the same levels as during the latter part of 1925. The volume of building contracts awarded decline both in January and in February, but remained larger than in the corresponding months of last year. Reports by farmers to the Department of Agriculture of intentions to plant in 1926 indicate that the acreage of spring wheat and tobacco will be slightly smaller, the acreage of corn will be about the same, and that of oats, barley, hay and potatoes larger than that in 1925.

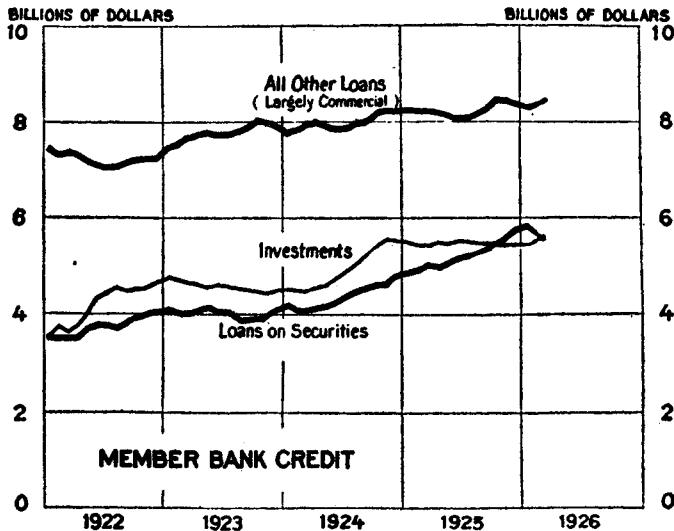
**Trade** Wholesale trade in February was in about the same volume as a year ago. Smaller volume of sales was reported for groceries, dry goods and hardware, while sales of meats, shoes, and drugs were larger. Inventories of wholesale firms dealing in groceries, dry goods, shoes, and hardware were smaller at the end of February than a year ago. Trade at department stores and at mail order houses was larger than in February of last year and department stores stocks were about five per cent greater than on the corresponding date

of 1925. Freight car loadings continued at about the same daily rate in February as in the preceding two months. Shipments of merchandise in less-than-carload lots and of miscellaneous commodities were particularly large.

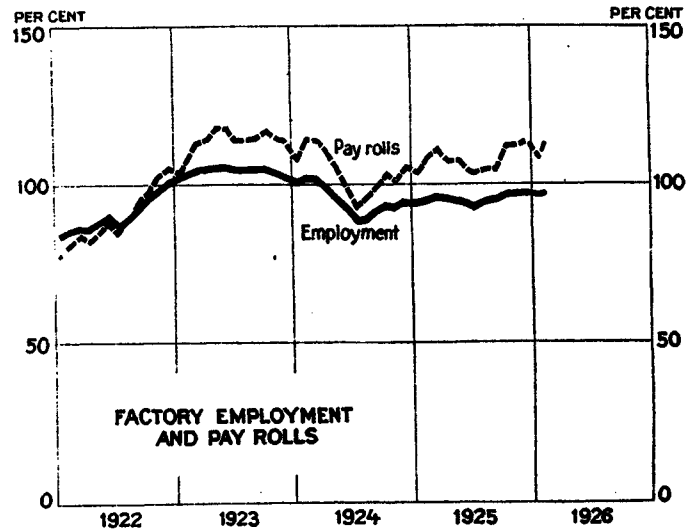
**Prices** The general level of wholesale prices as measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics index, after remaining unchanged for two months, declined in February to a point slightly below the low figure of 1925, reported for last May. The greater part of the decline since last autumn has been in prices of agricultural commodities. In February prices of all major groups of commodities, except fuels, declined and particularly large reductions occurred in the prices of grains, cotton, wool, silk and rubber. Price advances in February were shown for petroleum, coke, and paper. During the first three weeks of March prices of grains, cotton, wool and silk continued to decline and recessions were also reported in the prices of sugar and hardwood lumber.

**Bank Credit** At member banks in leading cities demand for loans chiefly for commercial purposes showed an increase, partly seasonal in character, between the middle of February and the middle of March, and on March 17 the total volume of these loans was close to the high point reached last autumn. A further decline of loans on securities, which accompanied the sharp recession in security prices in March, carried the total to a point nearly \$430,000,000 below that reached at the end of the year. Following a growth during February in the volume of Reserve Bank credit outstanding, there was a sharp decline early in March to about the same level as a year ago. Factors contributing to the decline have been continued imports of gold and some reduction in member bank reserve requirements, as well as the temporary abundance of funds resulting from the excess of treasury disbursements over receipts around March 15. Open market rates on prime commercial paper, after a slight decline in February advanced in March to  $4\frac{1}{4}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent the level which had prevailed since last October.





Monthly averages of weekly figures for banks in 101 leading cities. Latest figures are averages for first weekly report dates in March.



Federal Reserve Board's indexes of employment and pay-rolls (1919-100). Latest figures February 1926. Employment 97.0; Pay Rolls 111.5.

### SIXTH DISTRICT SUMMARY.

Except for the retarding effect continued cold weather has had upon farm work in preparation for the coming season, generally satisfactory conditions are reported from nearly all parts of the sixth district. Farm work has been delayed considerably, and the low temperatures recorded the middle of March damaged the peach crop in middle Georgia to some extent where the peach crop was ten days earlier than usual.

Wholesale and retail trade continue to exceed figures reported for the corresponding period last year. The February index number of sales by wholesale firms is the highest for February since 1920, and the index number of retail sales, computed from figures reported by department stores, is higher for February this year than for any other February since this series was started in 1920. Stocks of merchandise reported by department stores at the close of February were 2.3 per cent larger than a year ago, and the rate of turnover for the first two months of 1926 was slightly better than for the same period last year. Accounts receivable and collections were both reported in larger volume than a year ago.

The volume of building in course of construction and in prospect continues large, as indicated in building permits issued from month to month. In February permits were issued at twenty reporting cities for buildings to be valued at more than 20 millions of dollars, an increase over February 1925 of 53.7 per cent. Prices prevailing on the Savannah Naval Stores market during February receded slightly from those recorded in January, but were higher than for February 1925.

The volume of debits to individual accounts at 24 reporting cities in the sixth district, reflecting the volume of general business transactions settled by check continues to exceed figures for the same week a year ago, in February

there was an increase of 13.9 per cent over February last year. Savings deposits reported at the close of February by 91 banks were 13.6 per cent greater than a year ago, and liabilities of firms failing in February in this district were approximately one-half the amount recorded for February last year. Discounts by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta for its member banks are at a higher level than a year ago, and weekly reports by banks in selected cities show a larger volume of demand and time deposits.

### RETAIL TRADE.

Retail trade conditions in the sixth district, reflected in reports of sales by representative department stores throughout the district, continue to compare favorably with a year ago. There was a small rise in February in the index number of retail sales, computed from figures reported by more than forty stores, compared with the month before, and the February index number was higher than for any other February since this series was started in 1920. February sales reported by 47 department stores were 8.3 per cent greater than sales by the same firms in February 1925. Stocks of merchandise on hand at the end of February increased six tenths of one per cent over those on hand the previous month, and were 2.3 per cent larger than a year ago. The stock-turnover, expressed in the relation of sales to average stocks, was lower for February this year than last at five of the cities, which are shown separately, but the average for the district was the same as recorded in February 1925. Due to an increase in January over a year ago, the turnover for the first two months of 1926 was fractionally better than for the same period last year. Statistics on Accounts Receivable and Collections are available for February, comparatively with February last year, for 17 of the reporting firms. Accounts Receivable for these 17 firms were 12.1 per cent greater than a year ago, and February collections exceeded those in February 1925 by 5.8 per cent.

### CONDITION OF RETAIL TRADE DURING FEBRUARY 1926 IN THE SIXTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT BASED UPON REPORTS FROM 47 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 Feb. (stock turnover for the month):		Percentage of sales to average stocks from Jan. 1 to Feb. 28 (Stock turnover for year to date)		Percentage of outstanding orders at end of month to purchases during calendar year, 1925:	
	(A) Feb. 1925	(B) Jan. 1 to Feb. 28, 1925	(A) Feb. 1925	(B) Jan. 1926	(A) 1925	(B) 1926	(A) 1925	(B) 1926	(A) Jan.	(B) Feb.
Atlanta (4).....	+ 1.6	+ 6.6	+11.2	+ 3.2	28.8	25.9	52.5	54.0	5.1	6.1
Birmingham (6).....	+13.1	+10.6	+10.9	- 3.3	20.5	22.5	42.4	44.6	4.8	6.9
Chattanooga (6).....	+ 1.8	- 5.8	- 2.4	+12.8	15.8	17.0	38.0	35.9	4.3	4.1
Jackson (8).....	+26.1	+18.6	-11.0	+12.6	16.6	14.9	34.9	28.9	x	x
Nashville (6).....	- 0.9	- 3.2	+ 0.0	+ 1.4	24.2	23.5	45.0	43.7	4.5	4.8
New Orleans (5).....	+ 5.7	+ 5.4	- 2.4	- 3.5	20.2	18.8	43.8	40.7	7.7	9.4
Savannah (3).....	+ 3.6	- 9.1	+13.1	+12.0	18.4	17.4	40.6	35.5	x	13.5
Other Cities (16).....	+21.5	+23.9	+ 0.7	+ 3.8	22.2	26.6	41.7	52.0	6.0	8.5
DISTRICT (47).....	+ 8.3	+ 7.6	+ 2.3	+ 0.6	21.6	21.6	44.1	44.2	5.9	7.6

**WHOLESALE TRADE.**

Confidential reports received from representative wholesale firms throughout the sixth district show a larger volume of sales than was recorded a year ago. In all of the eight reporting wholesale lines, February 1925 sales were in larger volume than for the same month last year, increases ranging from 2 per cent in furniture to 87.2 per cent in electrical supplies. Increases in sales in February over the previous month were shown in dry goods, furniture, electrical supplies and shoes, but decreases in the other four lines. The index number of sales, computed from reports by firms dealing in groceries, dry goods, hardware and shoes, is 90.3 for February, compared with a revised figure of 96.0 for January, and is higher than for any other February since 1920. This is also true of the individual index numbers for groceries, hardware and shoes, but the dry goods index number for February was exceeded in February 1923.

**Groceries** February sales by 37 reporting wholesale grocery firms were smaller than their January sales by 7.8 per cent, but were 6 per cent greater than in February 1925. This increase, like those shown during the previous four months, is due to larger volume of sales reported from Jacksonville and "Other Cities", decreases being reported from other points shown in the table. Meridian is the only city to report an increase in February over January. Accounts receivable, reported by a few of these firms, were nine tenths of one per cent smaller at the close of February than a month earlier, but 8.6 per cent greater than a year ago. Collections were reported excellent by 1 firm, good by 8, and fair by 10. Collection figures reported for February showed decreases of 8.8 per cent compared with January, and 2.3 per cent compared with February 1925.

	Feb. 1925 compared with:	
	Jan. 1925	Feb. 1925
Atlanta (5 firms).....	-7.9	-5.2
Jacksonville (4 firms).....	-6.6	+39.5
Meridian (3 firms).....	+2.0	-7.3
New Orleans (3 firms).....	-14.5	-17.0
Vicksburg (3 firms).....	-10.8	-18.3
Other Cities (14 firms).....	-5.5	+13.7
DISTRICT (37 firms).....	-7.8	+6.0

**Dry Goods** Reports from 25 wholesale dry goods firms showed a volume of sales in February 8.5 per cent greater than in January, and 6.9 per cent greater than in February last year. Increased sales over January were reported from all cities shown separately in the statement except one, but decreases compared with February 1925 were recorded at three of these cities. Some of the reports indicate that prices declined slightly during the month. According to these reports retail merchants continue to buy in small lots. Collections were reported good by 4 firms, fair by 9, and poor by 2. Collection figures reported by a few of these reporting firms showed February collections 17.9 per cent smaller than in January, but 19.0 per cent greater than in February 1925. Stocks were 7.4 per cent greater than a month ago, and 19.8 per cent greater than for February last year, and accounts receivable were greater by 0.8 per cent, and 9.5 per cent, respectively, than a month ago and the same time last year.

	Feb. 1925 compared with:	
	Jan. 1925	Feb. 1925
Atlanta (3 firms).....	+6.1	-10.4
Jacksonville (3 firms).....	-20.1	+30.3
Nashville (3 firms).....	+32.9	-4.9
New Orleans (3 firms).....	+29.4	-3.0
Other Cities (13 firms).....	+8.2	+11.8
DISTRICT (25 firms).....	+8.5	+6.9

**Hardware** February sales by 30 wholesale hardware firms were in the aggregate 8 per cent smaller than in January, and 24.8 per cent greater than in February a year ago. Only one city reported sales in larger volume than in January, but increases were reported from all cities shown in the statement over February 1925. Collections were reported good by 3 firms, and fair by 12. Collection figures reported for February showed an increase of 7.4 per cent over January, but were only two-tenths of one per cent greater than in February 1925. Stocks on hand were five-tenths of one per cent smaller than a month ago, but 2.9 per cent larger than a year ago. Accounts receivable were nine tenths of one per cent larger than at the end of January, and 15.9 per cent greater than a year ago.

	Feb. 1925 compared with:	
	Jan. 1925	Feb. 1925
Atlanta (3 firms).....	12.6	+15.8
Chattanooga (3 firms).....	+11.7	+0.3
Jacksonville (3 firms).....	-6.2	+62.6
Nashville (3 firms).....	-0.3	+28.2
New Orleans (6 firms).....	-8.4	+6.1
Other Cities (12 firms).....	-10.9	+47.2
DISTRICT (30 firms).....	-8.0	+24.8

**Furniture** Reports received from 18 wholesale furniture firms showed an increase of 2.2 per cent in February sales over January, and an increase of 2.0 per cent over February 1925. The reports indicate retail merchants are buying in limited quantities for immediate needs. Collections were reported good by 5 firms, fair by 7, and poor by 1. Collection figures showed a decrease of 28.2 per cent compared with January, but an increase of 9.4 per cent over February 1925. Stocks increased fractionally over January, and were 8.8 per cent greater than a year ago. Accounts receivable at the end of February were 6 per cent greater than a month earlier, and 8 per cent greater than a year ago.

	Feb. 1925 compared with:	
	Jan. 1925	Feb. 1925
Atlanta (7 firms).....	-7.8	+25.9
Chattanooga (3 firms).....	+3.6	-15.4
Other Cities (8 firms).....	+3.3	+3.4
DISTRICT (18 firms).....	+2.2	+2.0

**Electrical Supplies** February sales by 11 wholesale electrical supply firms were 6.4 per cent greater than for January, and exceeded sales during February last year by the same firms by 87.2 per cent, reflecting both the large amount of building and construction in progress in the district, and the growth in popularity and demand for radios and supplies. Collections were reported good by 1 firm, and fair by 8. Collection figures showed an increase of 8.3 per cent over January, and an increase of 78.8 per cent over February last year. Stocks on hand were 5.4 per cent larger than a month ago, but 5.9 per cent smaller than for February 1925. Accounts receivable were 10.4 per cent smaller than at the end of January, but 69.1 per cent greater than a year ago.

	Feb. 1925 compared with:	
	Jan. 1925	Feb. 1925
Atlanta (3 firms).....	+16.8	+113.1
New Orleans (4 firms).....	-12.5	+0.0
Other Cities (4 firms).....	+5.6	+144.4
DISTRICT (11 firms).....	+6.4	+87.2

In the other three lines percentages are shown only for the district as three reports were not received in any of these lines from a single city. Increases over February 1925 are shown in all three lines. February sales of drugs and stationery were somewhat smaller than in January, but sales of shoes increased 21 per cent. Collection figures reported by shoe firms showed a decrease of 14.8 per cent compared with January, and an increase of 28.5 per cent over February last year. Stocks increased 3.5 per cent over January, but were 10.2 per cent smaller than a year ago.

	Feb. 1925 compared with:	
	Jan. 1925	Feb. 1925
Shoes (7 firms).....	+21.0	+15.5
Stationery (4 firms).....	-2.7	+2.1
Drugs (5 firms).....	-0.8	+12.7

**AGRICULTURE.**

During February and early March temperatures generally through the district have been lower than usual for this season of the year, and this with some rain has prevented the accomplishment of farm work and planting to some extent. Reports from Florida indicate that it has been too cool for rapid growth of corn, truck and melons, but beans, potatoes and cucumbers have made fair progress in the north and central parts of the state. Strawberries have improved and tobacco plants are reported doing well. In the extreme southern part of Georgia planting of corn, potatoes and melons and bedding of sweet potatoes is under way. In Alabama planting of potatoes has made generally good progress, but truck crops are behind for the season. The freeze which occurred on Sunday, March 14, is estimated to have damaged the peach from 40 to 60 per cent. The damage within the Fort Valley section, the principal peach producing area of the state, is estimated by the government horticulturist at 40 per cent. The low temperatures prevailed generally over the belt, ranging from 18 to 23 degrees. With the blooms further advanced than in other varieties, Hileys and Elbertas, two of the principal varieties, suffered the heaviest loss. In the northern edge



compared with figures four weeks earlier. Holdings of United States securities declined \$2,580,000 during this period, but holdings of "Other Stocks and Bonds" increased \$235,000. As a result there was a net decline of \$4,311,000 in the total of loans, discounts and investments for this period. Demand deposits held by these 36 banks decreased \$1,294,000, and time deposits decreased \$941,000 during this time. Accommodation extended these 36 banks by the Federal Reserve Bank on March 10 was greater by \$5,908,000 than a month ago. Compared with figures for the corresponding report date last year, total loans and discounts of these 36 banks showed an increase of \$59,225,000. Holdings of United States securities were larger by \$10,785,000 than on March 11, 1925, and holdings of "Other Stocks and Bonds" increased \$10,696,000 compared with that date. Total loans, discounts and investments on March 10 this year were \$618,047,000, compared with \$537,338,000 on March 11, last year, an increase of \$80,709,000. Demand deposits were \$41,916,000 greater than a year ago, and time deposits held by these 36 banks were \$22,009,000 greater than at that time. Principal items in the weekly report are shown in the table:

**Member Banks in Selected Cities.**

(000 Omitted.)

	Mar. 10, 1926	Feb. 10, 1926	Mar. 11, 1925
<b>Bills Discounted:</b>			
Secured by Govt. Obligations	\$ 7,787	\$ 7,595	\$ 7,388
Secured by Stocks and Bonds	98,668	98,003	75,566
All Others	418,287	421,110	382,563
<b>Total Discounts</b>	<b>524,742</b>	<b>526,708</b>	<b>465,517</b>
U. S. Securities	40,660	43,240	29,875
Other Stocks and Bonds	52,645	52,410	41,946
<b>Total loans, discounts and investments</b>	<b>618,047</b>	<b>622,358</b>	<b>537,338</b>
Time Deposits	216,525	217,466	194,516
Demand Deposits	367,018	368,312	325,102
Accommodation at F. R. Bank	19,816	18,908	6,811

**Operations of the Federal Reserve Bank** During the four weeks period February 17 to March 17, there was an increase in the total discounts by the Federal Reserve Bank for its member banks amounting to \$16,842,000. Discounts secured by Government obligations increased \$3,623,000 and "All Others" increased \$3,219,000. During this period holdings by the Federal Reserve Bank of United States securities decreased \$3,753,000. Bills bought in open market have shown a constant decline each week since December 30, 1925, when the total was approximately 76 million dollars. During the four weeks period under review there was a decline in this item of \$13,641,000, bringing the total to the low point for the year at \$14,851,000. The net change in total bills and securities for this period was an increase of \$30,000. Cash reserves declined \$4,339,000, and total deposits showed a decrease of \$5,825,000, while Federal Reserve Notes in circulation increased \$1,536,000. Compared with figures for the corresponding report date a year ago, total discounts, and the total of bills and securities for the current week were 157.6 per cent, and 113.9 per cent, respectively, greater than those recorded on March 18, 1925. Cash reserves were smaller by \$6,100,000, and deposits were \$3,751,000 greater than at that time. Federal Reserve Notes were in circulation in a volume \$17,802,000 larger than a year ago. Important items in the weekly statement, with comparisons, are shown in the table:

**Federal Reserve Bank.**

(000 Omitted)

	Mar. 17, 1926	Feb. 17, 1926	Mar. 18, 1925
<b>Bills Discounted:</b>			
Secured by Govt. Obligations	\$ 13,059	\$ 4,436	\$ 4,764
All Others	30,241	22,022	12,047
<b>Total Discounts</b>	<b>43,301</b>	<b>26,459</b>	<b>16,811</b>
Bills bought in open market	14,851	28,492	12,294
U. S. Securities	11,890	15,843	3,584
<b>Total Bills and Securities</b>	<b>70,910</b>	<b>70,880</b>	<b>33,152</b>
Cash Reserves	173,356	177,695	179,456
Total Deposits	82,259	88,084	73,508
F. R. Notes in actual circulation	160,309	158,773	142,507
Reserve Ratio	71.5	72.0	83.1

**Commercial Failures** According to statistics compiled and published by R. G. Dun & Co., commercial failures in the United States during February numbered 1,801, and total liabilities amounted to \$34,176,348. This was a decrease of 495 in number, and nearly 9½ million dollars in liabilities, compared with January. Figures for the sixth district show increases over January, but record a decrease of 3 in number, and a decrease of 50 per cent in liabilities compared with February 1925. Failures for the United States, divided by Federal Reserve Districts, are shown in the table:

District	Number		Liabilities	
	Feb. 1926	Feb. 1926	Jan. 1926	Feb. 1925
Boston	170	\$ 2,338,036	\$ 6,691,046	\$ 2,095,778
New York	308	6,174,315	8,636,584	13,046,091
Philadelphia	93	2,104,852	1,348,759	2,162,977
Cleveland	188	3,966,625	5,581,160	2,057,013
Richmond	118	1,845,307	3,516,504	3,690,398
Atlanta	100	1,762,288	1,355,434	1,596,333
Chicago	252	7,729,996	8,180,404	5,464,081
St. Louis	100	3,186,884	2,116,266	3,343,246
Minneapolis	85	843,138	1,298,733	1,548,919
Kansas City	87	703,410	1,348,728	1,008,915
Dallas	62	689,997	1,457,716	1,670,801
San Francisco	238	2,851,500	2,130,060	2,353,415
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,801</b>	<b>\$34,176,348</b>	<b>\$43,661,444</b>	<b>\$40,123,017</b>

**IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.**

**United States** Preliminary figures compiled and released by the United States Department of Commerce show an excess of imports over exports during the month of February amounting to 36 millions of dollars. Declines compared with January were recorded for both imports and exports, but this is usual due probably to the shorter month. February exports this year were approximately 17½ millions smaller than in February last year, but imports were approximately 55½ millions greater than in that month. For the eight months ending with February 1926, exports have exceeded imports by \$328,123,512, while for the same period of the previous season there was an excess of \$878,456,423 of exports over imports. Preliminary figures for February with comparisons, are shown below:

	1926	1925
<b>Imports:</b>		
February	\$ 339,000,000	\$ 333,387,369
January	416,767,339	346,185,239
Eight months ending with February	2,968,599,915	2,489,924,346
<b>Exports:</b>		
February	\$ 353,000,000	\$ 380,676,434
January	397,195,333	446,443,088
Eight months ending with February	3,296,723,427	3,318,380,769

**Imports New Orleans** Merchandise was imported through the port of New Orleans during the month of December 1925 (the latest month for which detailed figures are available) to the value of \$9,282,106. This is a considerable decrease compared with the figure for December 1924, and is smaller than the December total for any year since 1920. Increases over last year were shown in the volume and value of bananas, molasses and burlaps imported, while decreases were shown for coffee, gasoline and crude petroleum. The value of sisal imported during December was greater than a year ago although the quantity was somewhat smaller. Principal items imported during December were:

	Volume	Value
Bananas, bunches	1,053,252	\$ 501,920
Coffee, pounds	13,313,326	2,697,753
Gasoline, gallons	3,548,790	406,738
Sugar, pounds	29,599,839	613,314
Molasses, gallons	9,977,360	645,373
Burlap, pounds	9,972,504	1,352,233
Mahogany, feet	5,630,000	552,324
Sisal, tons	4,498	750,962
Crude Petroleum, gallons	14,522,000	405,319

The total value of imports at New Orleans during December for preceding years is shown for comparison:

December 1925	\$ 9,282,106	December 1922	\$10,443,786
December 1924	14,921,213	December 1921	9,568,730
December 1923	13,650,149	December 1920	9,138,561

**Exports New Orleans** The total value of merchandise exported through the port of New Orleans during the month of December 1925 amounted to \$43,148,851. This is a decrease of about nine million dollars compared with November, and is smaller by \$13,395,147 than the value of exports during December 1924. Increases over that month are shown in December exports of lard, short staple cotton, rough Southern Pine boards, and gasoline, but decreases occurred in other important items. Some of the principal commodities exported in December were:

	Volume	Value
Short staple cotton, bales	166,906	\$13,533,502
Long staple cotton, bales	52,673	6,598,117
Gasoline, in bulk, gallons	39,359,481	4,920,820
Illuminating oil, in bulk, gallons	9,191,894	569,361
Gas and fuel oil, gallons	12,567,039	447,462
Refined paraffin wax, pounds	7,750,405	397,393
Lard, pounds	4,263,473	715,767
Wheat flour, barrels	108,562	311,684
Rough Sou. Pine Boards, feet	9,904,000	529,393
Tobacco, pounds	3,188,932	579,294

### Grain Exports New Orleans

With the exception of corn, exports of grain through the port of New Orleans show a considerable decrease compared with 2,439,671 bushels exported in February 1925; the greater decrease is in wheat exports showing a deficit of 2,159,549 bushels.

The following table compares figures for February, and for the present season, with corresponding periods a year ago.

	Feb. 1926	Feb. 1925	Season through Feb. 28, 1926	Feb. 28, 1925
Wheat.....	13,494	2,173,043	2,353,164	24,171,681
Corn.....	585,832	163,879	4,726,330	1,865,534
Oats.....	27,910	102,749	491,048	616,794
	627,236	2,439,671	7,570,542	26,654,009

### BUILDING.

Building permits were issued in large volume during February in the sixth district. Figures reported by twenty cities for the month aggregate \$20,217,136, compared with \$13,931,680 for January, and with \$13,155,489 for February last year. The index number computed from the figures reported by these twenty cities is 560.7 for February, and has been exceeded only twice (in September and October 1925) since this series was first started in 1920. The February total this year exceeds the total for February 1925 by 53.7 per cent. The February index number for Atlanta is the highest recorded for that city in this series, and the index number for New Orleans has been exceeded only twice (in August 1924 and September 1925). Detailed figures with percentage changes for February were shown in the table, and index numbers appear on page 8:

	No.	Feb. 1926 Value	No.	Feb. 1925 Value	Percentage Change in Value
<b>Alabama:</b>					
Anniston.....	19	\$ 13,700	21	\$ 20,869	- 34.4
Birmingham.....	491	1,916,527	686	2,276,350	- 15.8
Mobile.....	45	67,881	75	58,980	+ 15.1
Montgomery.....	65	64,710	59	32,815	+ 97.2
<b>Florida:</b>					
Jacksonville.....	372	1,436,530	280	404,620	+255.0
Miami.....	1,094	4,163,663	338	3,716,990	+ 12.0
Orlando.....	233	692,167	150	319,639	+116.5
Pensacola.....	67	58,040	192	27,421	+111.7
Tampa.....	867	2,365,747	410	753,667	+213.9
Lakeland.....	178	693,440	86	226,650	+206.0
Miami Beach.....	43	630,925	---	274,250	+130.1
<b>Georgia:</b>					
Atlanta.....	298	5,781,575	343	1,241,502	+365.7
Augusta.....	95	57,181	147	125,531	- 54.4
Columbus.....	41	248,045	51	52,000	+373.2
Macon.....	144	65,604	148	158,437	- 58.6
Savannah.....	58	132,139	44	64,285	+105.6
<b>Louisiana:</b>					
New Orleans.....	174	2,292,845	146	1,201,621	+ 90.8
Alexandria.....	79	71,862	110	99,928	- 28.1
<b>Tennessee:</b>					
Chattanooga.....	230	268,630	232	430,116	- 37.5
Johnson City.....	5	3,900	11	10,450	- 62.7
Knoxville.....	212	292,821	202	347,650	- 15.8
Nashville.....	168	225,669	186	1,822,598	- 87.6
<b>Total 20 Cities.....</b>	<b>4,807</b>	<b>\$20,217,136</b>	<b>3,881</b>	<b>\$13,155,489</b>	<b>+ 53.7</b>
<b>Index No.....</b>	<b>560.7</b>			<b>364.8</b>	

\*Not included in total or index numbers.

### LUMBER.

Preliminary figures for February received from subscribing mills by the Southern Pine Association up to the middle of March show a volume of orders received during February by 118 mills amounting to 285,004,027 feet. This total of orders was 13.5 per cent greater than the February production by these mills, which amounted to 251,194,643 feet, but was 3.7 per cent smaller than their normal production, computed to be 295,924,534 feet. Orders exceeded shipments for the month by 4.7 per cent. Shipments during February, amounting to 272,175,007 feet, exceeded production by 8.4 per cent, but was 8 per cent smaller than the normal production for these reporting mills. Actual production during February was smaller by 15.1 per cent than the normal production of these mills. Stocks on hand at the end of February amounted to 700,348,094 feet, and were 9.4 per cent smaller than normal stocks for these mills, but nearly three times the amount of unfilled orders on file at that time. Unfilled orders amounted to 248,916,860 feet, and were 12.7 per cent smaller than orders booked during February, and nine-tenths of one per cent smaller than February production. The latest weekly report of operating time issued by the Association (for week ending March 5) indicates that of 120 reporting mills 108 operated full time or 5½ days for the week, and of this number, 18 reported overtime aggregating 728 hours, an average of a little more than 40 hours each. Preliminary figures for February, with comparisons, are shown in the table:

	Feb. 1926 (118 mills)	Jan. 1926 (124 mills)	Feb. 1925 (136 mills)
Orders.....	285,004,027	296,854,730	280,297,323
Shipments.....	272,175,007	278,708,420	281,519,048
Production.....	251,194,643	282,657,113	300,844,470
Normal production these mills	295,924,534	309,665,415	321,799,285
Stock end of month.....	700,348,094	753,978,418	780,437,338
Normal stocks these mills.....	772,936,302	814,465,634	879,849,216
Unfilled orders end of month	248,916,860	249,904,200	237,746,712

### TEXTILES.

**Cotton Consumption** According to the statement compiled and published by the United States

Census Bureau, the consumption of cotton in the United States during February amounted to 567,244 bales, a decrease of 2.7 per cent compared with the consumption in January due partly to the shorter month. This is not unusual, however, for during the past six years February consumption has exceeded that in January only once, in 1921. The figure for February 1926 shows an increase in consumption of 3 per cent over the corresponding month last year. Stocks of lint cotton on hand at consuming establishments increased 1.1 per cent in February over January, and were 288,914 bales, or 18.7 per cent greater than at the same time last year. Stocks of lint cotton in public storage and at compresses decreased 8.3 per cent, compared with January, but were 1,670,694 bales, or 54.4 per cent greater than a year ago. Exports during February declined 25.8 per cent compared with January, and were 31.5 per cent smaller than exports during February 1925. This was due partly to the fact the crop was marketed earlier, and the larger volume of exports was recorded earlier than last year. The number of spindles active during February was seven tenths of one per cent greater than in January, but was one tenth of one per cent smaller than in February 1925.

For the cotton-growing states, the statement shows a decrease of 3.2 per cent in consumption compared with January, but an increase of 7.1 per cent over February 1925. Stocks in consuming establishments increased one-half of one per cent over last month, and were 23.3 per cent larger than a year ago. Stocks in public storage and at compresses declined 8.5 per cent during the month, but were 64.7 per cent greater than a year ago. The number of spindles active in the cotton-growing states during February is greater than has been recorded for any month in more than six years for which these statistics are available, exceeding the figure for February 1925 by 1.4 per cent.

### United States.

	Feb. 1926	Jan. 1926	Feb. 1925
<b>Cotton Consumed:</b>			
Lint.....	567,244	533,192	550,775
Linters.....	53,978	56,465	51,414
<b>Stocks—In Consuming Establishments:</b>			
Lint.....	1,831,296	1,811,392	1,542,382
Linters.....	174,976	159,875	150,913
<b>Stocks—In Public Storage and at Compresses:</b>			
Lint.....	4,744,090	5,175,834	3,073,396
Linters.....	80,151	69,538	69,488
<b>Exports.....</b>	<b>556,135</b>	<b>749,965</b>	<b>811,838</b>
<b>Imports.....</b>	<b>38,355</b>	<b>62,061</b>	<b>59,902</b>
<b>Active Spindles.....</b>	<b>33,028,966</b>	<b>32,803,156</b>	<b>33,357,798</b>

### Cotton Growing States.

	Feb. 1926	Jan. 1926	Feb. 1925
<b>Cotton Consumed.....</b>	<b>399,046</b>	<b>412,242</b>	<b>372,560</b>
<b>Stocks:</b>			
In Consuming Establishments.....	1,127,859	1,122,299	915,004
In Public Storage and at compresses.....	4,526,920	4,944,981	2,749,271
<b>Active Spindles.....</b>	<b>17,221,236</b>	<b>17,176,666</b>	<b>16,990,842</b>

**Cotton Cloth** Reports for February were made to the Federal Reserve Bank by mills in the sixth district which during that month produced more than 27½ million yards of cloth. The aggregate figures showed a small decrease in production compared with the month before, and also with February last year. February shipments varied fractionally, compared with both of those periods, being slightly larger than in January but slightly smaller than in February 1925. Orders booked were 10 per cent greater than in January, but 27.3 per cent smaller than a year ago, and unfilled orders showed declines in both instances. Stocks on hand were 1.1 per cent greater than a month ago, but were 29.8 per cent greater than a year ago.

	Feb. 1926 compared with: Jan. 1926	Feb. 1925
Production.....	- 1.5	- 3.9
Shipments.....	+ 0.9	- 0.9
Orders booked.....	+10.0	-27.3
Unfilled orders.....	- 8.1	-15.5
Stocks on payroll.....	+ 1.1	+29.8
Number on payroll.....	- 3.1	+ 3.9

**Cotton Yarn**

February production of cotton yarn, by reporting mills in the sixth district which manufactured nearly 7½ million pounds during February, was 12.1 per cent smaller than their January output, but only 1 per cent smaller than figures for February last year. Compared with January, decreases were shown in shipments, orders booked, unfilled orders and stocks on hand. Compared with February 1925, increases were shown in shipments, orders booked, and stocks, but a decrease in unfilled orders.

	Feb. 1926 compared with:	
	Jan. 1926	Feb. 1925
Production.....	-12.1	- 1.0
Shipments.....	- 2.8	+ 8.9
Orders booked.....	-28.9	+ 3.6
Unfilled orders.....	-14.6	-11.9
Stocks on hand.....	- 8.5	+ 4.1
Number on payroll.....	+ 9.1	- 0.0

**Overalls.**

February production by reporting overall plants was 9.7 per cent greater than in January, and 8.3 per cent greater than a year ago. Stocks increased over January, but orders, and unfilled orders, showed decreases. Compared with February 1925, stocks and orders booked were greater, but unfilled orders were reported in the same volume.

	Feb. 1926 compared with:	
	Jan. 1926	Feb. 1925
Overalls manufactured.....	+ 9.7	+ 8.3
Overalls on hand.....	+ 5.3	+22.7
Orders booked.....	- 6.8	+15.8
Unfilled orders.....	-44.4	same
Number on payroll.....	- 0.2	+13.2

**Brick.**

Increased production, orders and stocks, over January, were shown in February reports of brick plants, but there was a decrease of 6 per cent in unfilled orders on hand at the end of the month. Compared with February last year, production, stocks and unfilled orders showed increased, but orders booked were reported in smaller volume. Percentage comparisons are shown in the table.

	Feb. 1926 compared with:	
	Jan. 1926	Feb. 1925
Brick manufactured.....	+43.8	+ 6.6
Brick on hand.....	+29.8	+76.2
Orders booked.....	+11.6	-23.2
Unfilled orders.....	- 6.0	+88.0
Number on payroll.....	+10.0	+ 3.4

**Hosiery.**

Decreases in production, orders booked, and unfilled orders on hand at the end of the month, are shown in February figures reported to the Census Bureau by 37 identical establishments in the sixth district, shown comparatively with figures for January, below:

	(Dozen Pairs)	
	Feb. 1926	Jan. 1926
Production.....	740,119	770,998
Shipments.....	743,616	694,242
Stocks on hand.....	1,717,009	1,698,083
Orders booked.....	585,539	702,853
Cancellations.....	35,420	31,334
Unfilled orders.....	1,044,785	1,180,967

**COAL.**

There has been during February and early March a further gradual falling off in bituminous coal production in the United States, according to statistics prepared and published by the United States Geological Survey. This is probably due to the approaching of the end of the coal year, which begins April 1 and ends March 31, as statistics for previous years have shown similar declines. The birth-days of Lincoln and Washington on February 12 and 22, respectively, were partially observed as holidays in some sections of the country. Production has continued, however, each week to show increases over figures for corresponding periods last year, and the Geological Survey's figures show that for the present coal year, through March 6, approximately 286 days, production has amounted to 505,092,000 tons, as compared with 442,890,000 tons produced in the corresponding period of the previous coal year.

The table below shows current weekly figures for the United States, and for Alabama and Tennessee, the two coal-producing states in the sixth district:

Week Ended	1926		1925	
	Production	Alabama	Production	Tennessee
February 6.....	12,167,000		10,910,000	
February 13.....	12,011,000		9,758,000	
February 20.....	11,509,000		9,484,000	
February 27.....	10,890,000		8,855,000	
March 6.....	10,500,000		9,384,000	
February 6, 1926.....		470,000		127,000
February 13.....		465,000		134,000
February 20.....		442,000		121,000
February 27.....		424,000		117,000

**IRON.**

Statistics compiled and published by the Iron Age show a decline in total production of pig iron in February, but a small increase in the number of furnaces active. The output for the 28 days of February was 2,923,415 tons, compared with 3,316,201 tons for the 31 days in January, and with 3,214,143 tons produced in February last year. The index number of production for February is 114.7, compared with 130.1 for January, and with 126.1 for February 1925. The daily average output in February was 104,408 tons, a decline of 2,566 tons, or 2.4 per cent, compared with the average of 106,974 tons for January, and smaller by 10,383 tons than the daily average for February 1925. The number of active furnaces at the end of February was 226, a gain of 2 compared with the month before.

February production of pig iron in Alabama according to the Iron Age statistics was somewhat smaller than in January, but was greater than in February a year ago. The output in Alabama in February was 228,799 tons, compared with 248,274 tons produced in January, and with 224,679 tons produced in February 1925. Furnaces active numbered 24, there being no change during the month. Correspondents state that the market remains firm at \$22. to \$23. per ton, and the demand is steady, although foundries are not shipping a heavy tonnage.

**Unfilled Orders—U. S. Steel Corp'n.**

Unfilled orders on hand at the end of February by the United States Steel Corporation, showed a decline of 265,917 tons compared with the month before. The total reported at the close of February amounted to 4,616,822 tons, compared with 4,882,739 tons at the end of January, and with 5,284,771 at the end of February a year ago.

**NAVAL STORES.**

Further seasonal declines in receipts of both turpentine and rosin are shown in figures reported from the three principal markets in the sixth district for February. Receipts of spirits of turpentine for February were 24.1 per cent smaller than in February last year, and rosin receipts were 33.6 per cent smaller than for that month. Supplies of turpentine at these three markets were only 42 barrels larger than a year ago, but stocks of rosin decreased 15.4 per cent. Statistics compiled by the Turpentine and Rosin Producers Association show that total receipts at the three markets for the present naval stores year through February have amounted to 283,716 barrels of turpentine, compared with 307,600 barrels for the same period last season, and 1,004,805 barrels of turpentine, compared with 1,067,921 barrels for the corresponding period last season. Active demand for both turpentine and rosin appears to have been lacking during recent weeks on the Savannah market. Reports indicate that there has been only a small amount of buying of futures for May-August delivery, and this has been on a basis of 80 cents per gallon. The average price for turpentine on the Savannah market during February, according to statistics compiled by the Turpentine and Rosin Producers Association, has been 91½ cents, a decline of nearly eight cents compared with the average of 99½ cents for January, and nearly four cents over the price of 87½ cents for February 1925. There was some strengthening in the price of the higher grades of rosin during February, but a weakening in the price of the lower grades, resulting in an average price for the month of \$13.57½, compared with \$14.00 for January, and with \$7.62½ for February last year. Receipts and stocks at the three principal markets are shown in the table:

	Feb. 1926	Jan. 1926	Feb. 1925
<b>Receipts—Turpentine:</b>			
Savannah.....	1,438	2,214	2,323
Jacksonville.....	2,402	3,273	2,810
Pensacola.....	841	1,025	1,034
Total.....	4,681	6,512	6,167
<b>Receipts—Rosin:</b>			
Savannah.....	10,780	12,346	19,590
Jacksonville.....	17,794	18,961	22,319
Pensacola.....	4,188	5,159	7,413
Total.....	32,762	36,466	49,322
<b>Stocks—Turpentine:</b>			
Savannah.....	7,657	12,192	8,557
Jacksonville.....	23,485	23,227	19,761
Pensacola.....	6,506	8,998	9,238
Total.....	37,648	44,417	37,606
<b>Stocks—Rosin:</b>			
Savannah.....	53,676	73,588	63,676
Jacksonville.....	94,208	100,233	100,114
Pensacola.....	21,286	25,680	36,106
Total.....	169,150	199,501	199,896

## 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.)	December	January	February	December	January	February
	1925	1926	1926	1924	1925	1925
Atlanta.....	202.7	98.9r	104.0	185.8	87.5	101.6
Birmingham.....	235.8	104.9	120.9	217.8	97.3	109.0
Chattanooga.....	135.3	71.7r	67.1	151.7	81.3	65.9
Jackson.....	199.6	89.3	90.0	160.5	79.7	71.4
Nashville.....	166.3	69.0	79.4	161.3	73.1	80.1
New Orleans.....	199.8	100.2	90.2	180.9	95.3	85.3
Savannah.....	157.6	55.5	56.5	127.4	68.7	54.5
Other Cities.....	198.5	93.5	102.6	156.1	72.8	81.3
District.....	193.4	91.6r	93.1	174.7	85.9	85.5
<b>RETAIL TRADE U. S. (1)</b>						
Department Stores.....	224	115	105	210	109	100
Mail Order Houses.....	166	116		148	108	116
Chain Stores:						
Grocery.....	330	281	289	250	245	246
Drug.....	220	178	172	186	155	161
Shoe.....	188	108	97	188	107	149
5 & 10 Cent.....	427	166	170	366	151	209
Music.....	214	101	105	184	92	120
Candy.....	280	167	173	276	162	207
Cigar.....	212	127	127	192	122	140
<b>WHOLESALE TRADE 6TH DISTRICT</b>						
Groceries.....	98.3	106.6r	98.1	95.0	97.2	86.6
Dry Goods.....	66.0	73.3r	79.0	53.4	87.3	71.2
Hardware.....	122.6	122.1r	109.7	93.1	94.1	85.8
Shoes.....	49.4	52.4r	63.3	45.0	44.5	54.2
Total.....	94.3	96.0r	90.3	81.4	89.2	80.2
<b>WHOLESALE PRICES U. S. (2)</b>						
Farm Products.....	152.2	151.8	149.9	156.7	163.4	161.5
Foods.....	157.1	156.2	153.2	157.9	159.8	156.9
Cloths and Clothing.....	187.1	185.5	183.9	191.4	191.1	191.0
Fuel and Lighting.....	174.8	176.5	179.4	164.6	167.9	177.5
Metals and Metal Products.....	129.5	128.9	128.4	132.9	136.3	135.6
Building Materials.....	177.0	177.9	177.1	175.1	179.3	182.8
Chemicals and Drugs.....	134.5	133.2	132.3	134.6	235.2	134.5
House Furnishings.....	165.9	164.9	163.9	172.4	172.6	172.5
Miscellaneous.....	138.2	135.3	132.9	128.6	127.1	124.5
All Commodities.....	156.2	156.0	155.0	157.0	160.0	160.6
<b>BUILDING PERMITS 6TH DISTRICT</b>						
Atlanta.....	27.8	170.4	663.8	359.9	168.1	142.5
Birmingham.....	593.7	383.0	585.9	726.4	530.1	696.0
Jacksonville.....	864.0	462.6	480.3	105.4	125.2	135.3
Nashville.....	106.0	331.4	119.1	170.7	136.4	962.7
New Orleans.....	145.6	167.6	524.2	108.4	143.0	274.7
Other Cities.....	741.7	570.3	577.9	275.4	222.3	419.0
District (20 Cities).....	461.3	386.4	560.7	296.8	214.9	364.8
<b>COTTON CONSUMED:</b>						
United States.....	107.5	109.0	106.0	99.5	110.2	102.8
Cotton-Growing States.....	135.5	139.6	135.2	120.5	136.7	126.2
All Other States.....	74.2	72.3	71.1	74.6	78.7	75.1
Cotton Exports.....	179.0	136.4	101.1	195.7	195.7	147.6
<b>PIG IRON PRODUCTION:</b>						
United States.....	127.5	130.1	114.7	116.2	132.1	126.1
Alabama.....	146.6	141.2	130.2	131.3	131.7	127.8
<b>UNFILED ORDERS—U. S. STEEL CORPORATION</b>						
	84.0	81.4	77.0	80.3	84.0	88.2

(1) Compiled by Federal Reserve Board.  
(2) Compiled by Bureau of Labor Statistics. (1913—100.) r-Revised.