

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

Industrial output increased further in February and was slightly larger than a year ago, and distribution of commodities by the railroads was larger than for the corresponding period of any previous year. The general level of wholesale prices continued to decline and was in February at the lowest level since the summer of 1924

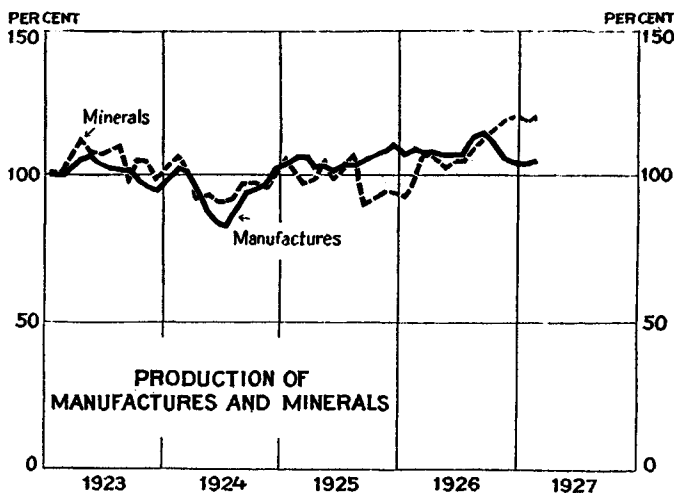
Production

Production of manufactures increased in February for the second consecutive month and the output of minerals, after declining in January, advanced once more in February to the record level reached last December. Factory production and employment, however, continued smaller than during the corresponding month of last year. Production of iron and steel has increased steadily since December and reports indicate that operations of steel mills in March were at almost the same high rate as in March 1926. Automobile production increased from 234,000 cars in January to 298,000 cars in February, and weekly figures of employment in Detroit factories indicate further additions to production in March, but output has continued much smaller than a year ago. Daily average consumption of cotton by mills in February was larger than in any previous month on record, but activity of woolen and silk mills decreased as compared with January. Production of bituminous coal has been maintained in large volume, while that of anthra-

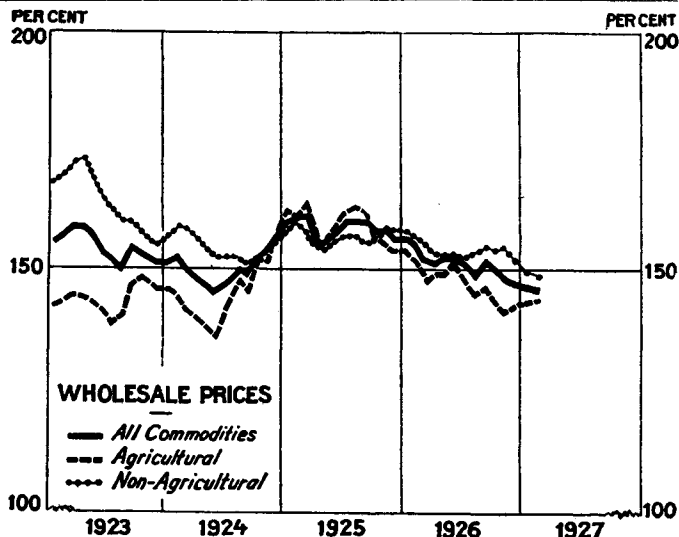
cite has been considerably reduced. The output of building materials was smaller during the first two months of the year than in the corresponding period of 1926. The value of building contracts awarded in February was 3 per cent smaller than in the same month of last year, but awards for the first three weeks in March were in approximately the same volume as in 1926. Contracts in southeastern and northwestern states have been considerably smaller than a year ago, while those in the central west have been much larger.

Trade

Retail trade showed less than the usual seasonal decline between January and February. Sales of department stores and chain stores were larger than in February of last year, while those of mail order houses were smaller. Wholesale firms reported a smaller volume of business in February than a year ago, and this decline occurred in nearly all leading lines. Inventories of department stores increased in February in anticipation of the usual expansion in spring trade, but the growth was less than is customary at this season, and at the end of the month stocks were slightly smaller than a year ago. Stocks of merchandise carried by wholesale firms also increased in February, but they were generally smaller than in the corresponding month of last year. Railroad shipments of commodities have increased steadily since January by more than the usual seasonal amount and have exceeded those for the same period of last year, owing to larger shipments of coal, of miscellaneous commodities, and of merchandise in less-than-car-load lots.



Index numbers of production of manufactures and minerals, adjusted for seasonal variations (1928-25 average=100). Latest figures February manufactures 106, minerals 120.



Indexes of U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (1918=100). Latest figures February all commodities 146.4, non-agricultural commodities 148.3, agricultural commodities 143.8

Prices

Wholesale prices, according to the index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, continued to decline in February. Among non-agricultural products decreases occurred in the prices of coal, petroleum, iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, and lumber, and the index for non-agricultural prices as a group was at the lowest post-war level. Prices of livestock and livestock products and of clothing materials advanced in February. During the first three weeks of March there were decreases in prices of grains, livestock, sugar, silk, wool, coal, petroleum and gasoline, while prices of potatoes, pig iron, hides, and rubber advanced.

Bank Credit

Demand for commercial credit at member banks in leading cities increased seasonally between the middle of February and the middle of March. There was also growth in the volume of funds used in the security market as indicated by increases in loans to brokers and dealers in securities. Consequently total loans of the reporting banks at the end of the period were close to the level of last autumn. Financial operations of the United States Treasury around the middle of March, with disbursements temporarily in excess of receipts, resulted in a temporary abundance of funds which was reflected at member banks in leading cities in a growth of deposits, in reduced indebtedness at the Reserve Banks, and in increased holdings of securities. At the reserve banks, following changes in holdings of bills and securities accompanying the financial operations of the Treasury, the total volume of credit outstanding on March 23 was somewhat larger than four weeks earlier.

Conditions in the money market in March were slightly firmer than in February. Rates on prime commercial paper advanced from 4 per cent to 4-4¼ per cent, and call money was also higher, while rates on acceptances declined somewhat.

SIXTH DISTRICT SUMMARY

Business statistics and other data gathered for the Monthly Business Review continue to exhibit varying tendencies in the business situation. The volume of retail trade, reported by 44 department stores located throughout the district, was slightly greater in February than in that month last year. Stocks on hand at the end of February were larger than a month earlier, no doubt

in anticipation of spring trade, and were also greater than a year ago, but the rate of turnover was slightly slower. The ratio of collections in February to accounts due at the beginning of the month was slightly lower than for January. Wholesale trade during February, reflecting the purchasing by retail merchants, was in smaller volume than a year ago. Savings deposits at the end of February were 2.4 per cent greater than at the same time a year ago. Debits to individual accounts, reflecting the general volume of business, declined 11.8 per cent compared with January, and were 19.2 per cent less than in February 1926. Loans and discounts by member banks in selected cities of the district on March 9 were slightly greater than four weeks earlier, but were smaller than on the corresponding report date a year ago. Discounts by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta for its member banks on March 9 were also slightly higher than four weeks earlier, but were not so great as at the same time a year ago. Total bills and securities held by the Federal Reserve Bank were nearly 25 million dollars less than at that time due to smaller holdings of United States securities and of bills bought in the open market. Building permits reported from twenty cities in the district, and contracts awarded in the district, during February indicate that construction activities amounted to about one-half the total recorded for February 1926. The production of cotton cloth and yarn by reporting mills in February was somewhat smaller than in January, but was greater than in February last year. Coal mining in Alabama and Tennessee has been more active than at the same time last year. February production of pig iron in Alabama, while somewhat smaller than in January, was greater than in February 1926. Prevailing prices for rosin and turpentine during February were slightly lower than in January, or in February last year. Weather conditions during February and early March, have for the most part, been rather favorable for farm work in preparation for the season's crops, but rains have interfered with work in some sections. Considerably less fertilizer has been purchased so far this season, than for the same part of the previous season.

RETAIL TRADE

The volume of retail trade in the sixth district during February was somewhat larger than in January, as evidenced by the index number of 95.5, computed from reports by 39 department stores, compared with 91.3 (revised) for January, and with 93.1 for February last year.

**CONDITION OF RETAIL TRADE DURING FEBRUARY 1927
IN THE SIXTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT BASED UPON REPORTS FROM 44 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 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 preceding calendar year 1926.	
	(A) Feb. 1926	(B) Jan. 1 to Feb. 28, '26	(A) Feb. 1926	(B) Jan. 1927	(A) 1926	(B) 1927	(A) 1926	(B) 1927	(A) Jan.	(B) Feb.
Atlanta (4)	+ 2.4	+ 5.9	- 4.5	+ 7.5	25.9	28.3	54.0	58.8	2.9	8.0
Birmingham (5)	- 8.3	- 5.6	+13.1	- 1.4	22.5	18.4	44.6	35.6	5.3	5.4
Chattanooga (6)	+ 6.3	+ 7.5	- 0.6	+ 6.5	17.0	16.7	35.9	37.1	5.1	6.3
Nashville (5)	- 0.6	+ 1.0	- 6.1	+17.3	23.5	26.9	43.7	50.3	9.6	7.7
New Orleans (5)	+10.3	+ 1.7	+16.7	+17.4	18.8	19.5	40.7	39.3	6.1	9.2
Savannah (3)	+10.2	+12.9	- 8.4	- 2.4	17.4	19.5	35.5	39.6	8.1	8.2
Other Cities (16)	- 9.2	- 7.5	+ 3.8	+10.4	26.6	22.4	52.0	43.5	6.3	6.4
District (44)	+ 1.2	- 0.1	+ 7.0	+10.4	21.6	21.4	44.2	42.7	5.5	7.7

February sales by 44 reporting stores were 1.2 per cent greater than in February 1926, decreases at Birmingham, Nashville, and other cities being more than offset in the total by increases reported from other points. Stocks of merchandise at the end of February were 7.0 per cent greater than a year ago, and were 10.4 per cent greater than at the end of January. The rate of stock-turnover is slightly lower than for the corresponding period of last year. Outstanding orders at the end of February were 45.7 per cent greater than a month ago, and 60.6 per cent greater than a year ago. Accounts receivable were 5.9 per cent less than for January, but were 0.6 per cent greater than for February 1926. Collections were 16.9 per cent less than in January, and 1.7 per cent less than in February last year. The ratio of collections during February to accounts outstanding and due at the beginning of the month for 25 firms was 34.0 per cent, compared with 35.5 per cent for January.

WHOLESALE TRADE

The volume of wholesale trade in the sixth district, reflected in confidential reports made to the Federal Reserve Bank by wholesale firms in eight lines of trade located throughout the district, continued in February to compare unfavorably with the corresponding month a year ago. Sales of shoes in February were greater than in February 1926, but sales in other lines indicate a smaller volume of business. Compared with the preceding month of January, February sales of dry goods, furniture, electrical supplies, shoes and stationery showed increases, but sales of groceries, hardware and drugs were smaller. In the tables which follow are shown percentage comparisons of sales in the eight reporting lines, divided by cities where three or more reports are received from a city.

Groceries

Sales of groceries at wholesale during February by 33 reporting firms averaged 3.5 per cent less in volume than in January, the increase at Vicksburg being more than offset in the total by decreases reported from other points. All cities reported decreases compared with February 1926, the district average being 18.3 per cent. Stocks on hand were 3.9 per cent greater than for January, but were 19.0 per cent smaller than a year ago. Accounts receivable were 4.0 per cent less than for January, and 13.7 per cent less than for February 1926. Collections during February were 8.6 per cent less than in January, and 23.8 per cent less than in February last year.

February 1927 compared with:

	Jan. 1927	Feb. 1926
Atlanta (4 firms).....	- 7.0	-11.3
Jacksonville (4 firms).....	- 9.5	-34.9
New Orleans (7 firms).....	- 0.7	- 5.1
Vicksburg (3 firms).....	+12.9	-12.7
Other Cities (15 firms).....	- 2.9	-11.7
District (33 firms).....	- 3.5	-18.3

Dry Goods

February sales of dry goods at wholesale, reported by 23 firms, showed an increase of 17.9 per cent over those in January, but compared with February 1926 an increase at Atlanta was more than offset in the total by decreases from other places, and the average was a decrease of 10.1 per cent compared with that month. Stocks on hand at the end of February were 1.3 per cent smaller than a month earlier, and 18.1 per cent smaller than a year ago. Accounts Receivable were 2.9 per cent less than for Jan-

uary, and 6.0 per cent less than for February last year, and Collections in February were 15.6 per cent less than in January, and 12.9 per cent less than in February 1926.

February 1927 compared with:

	Jan. 1927	Feb. 1926
Atlanta (3 firms).....	+12.8	+21.6
Nashville (3 firms).....	+45.4	20.6
Other Cities (17 firms).....	+13.4	-10.4
District (23 firms).....	+17.9	-10.1

Hardware

Sales of hardware at wholesale during February, reported by 29 firms in the district, averaged 11.5 per cent less than in January, and 27.2 per cent less than in February last year. Increases over both of those months were reported from Nashville, but decreases occurred at other points. Stocks on hand at the end of February were 1.4 per cent greater than a month earlier, but were 10.8 per cent less than a year ago. Accounts Receivable were 5.6 per cent less than for January, and 18.6 per cent less than for February last year. Collections were 4.6 per cent less than in January, and 11.6 per cent less than in February 1926.

February 1927 compared with:

	Jan. 1927	Feb. 1926
Atlanta (3 firms).....	-14.5	-22.1
Jacksonville (3 firms).....	-14.5	-22.1
Nashville (3 firms).....	+11.7	+ 0.5
New Orleans (6 firms).....	-11.7	-20.6
Other Cities (12 firms).....	-16.2	-36.7
District (30 firms).....	-11.5	27.2

Furniture

Increases in sales during February over January were shown in reports from 13 wholesale furniture firms, but a decrease of 22.4 per cent was shown compared with February last year. Stocks on hand were 1.2 per cent greater than for January, but were 2.1 per cent less than for February 1926. Accounts Receivable were 1.7 per cent less than for January, and 15.3 per cent less than for February a year ago, and Collections showed decreases of 11.3 per cent compared with January and 19.6 per cent compared with February 1926.

February 1927 compared with:

	Jan. 1927	Feb. 1926
Atlanta (4 firms).....	+1.7	-32.3
Other Cities (9 firms).....	+4.8	-19.6
District (13 firms).....	+4.2	-22.4

Electrical Supplies

Sales of electrical supplies at wholesale averaged 1.1 per cent greater in February than in January, but were 33.7 per cent less than in February 1926. Stocks on hand declined 4.5 per cent compared with January, but were 14.9 per cent greater than a year ago. Accounts Receivable were 10.1 per cent less than for January, and 41.8 per cent less than for February 1926. Collections were 5.3 per cent less than in January, and 19.9 per cent less than in February last year.

February 1927 compared with:

	Jan. 1927	Feb. 1926
New Orleans (3 firms).....	-11.4	-13.6
Other Cities (7 firms).....	+ 6.6	-38.8
District (10 firms).....	+ 1.1	-33.7

Sales in the other three lines are shown only for the district as three reports in any of these lines were not received from a single city. Sales of shoes and stationery were larger than in January, but drug sales were less, and sales of shoes were greater than in February last year, but decreases were shown in sales of drugs and stationery.

February 1927 compared with:

	Jan. 1927	Feb. 1926
Shoes (5 firms).....	+13.2	+ 1.4
Stationery (4 firms).....	+ 5.5	- 7.0
Drugs (5 firms).....	- 5.4	- 5.4

AGRICULTURE

With the exception of one or two cold snaps, weather conditions during the last half of February and the first half of March have been such as might have been expected several weeks later in the season. The report of crop conditions issued by the Department of Agriculture for the week ended March 16 indicates that the persistent abnormally high temperature has had the effect of prematurely and unfavorably advancing fruit trees, and subjecting them to possible killing frosts which normally occur as late as the middle of March. There has been much interruption to farm work by the rains which were more or less general. This report indicates that peaches in some parts of northern Alabama were killed by the freezes early in March, but that late advices indicate that in Georgia early and late varieties of peaches are in bloom and apparently uninjured.

Fertilizer

Statistics compiled by the Secretary of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange indicate that the sale of fertilizer tags from August to March in nine of the cotton-growing states has been very much smaller than in the same period of the previous year. These statistics indicate the sale of 935,298 tons, during this period, compared with 1,452,886 tons during the same period a year ago, a decrease of 517,588 tons compared with 1926; the figures also show decreases of 71,340 tons compared with 1925, and 483,363 tons compared with 1924.

Sugar Cane and Sugar

Weather conditions during most of February in the Louisiana cane belt were, for the most part, favorable for the cane crop, with temperatures generally high for that season of the year. The lowest temperature of the year was recorded early in March, and during most of March the weather has been variable, with rains which have interfered with field work. The cane is reported well advanced, however, and while its growth has been somewhat checked by the cool weather, it is progressing satisfactorily and is materially further advanced than for the past two seasons at this time.

FINANCIAL

Savings Deposits

Savings deposits at the end of February 1927, reported by 91 banks in the sixth district, increased seven-tenths of one per cent over the preceding month, and were 2.4 per cent greater than at the same time a year earlier. Increases in February over January at Atlanta, Jacksonville and Nashville slightly more than offset decreases at other points, while compared with February 1926 increases were shown for all points except New Orleans. Total figures with percentage changes are shown for Reserve Bank and branch cities:

(000 Omitted)

	Feb. 1927	Jan. 1927	Comparison		Comparison	
			Feb.-Jan. 1927	Feb. 1926	Feb. 1926-27	Feb. 1926-27
Atlanta (7 banks).....	\$ 37,778	\$ 36,624	+3.2	\$ 35,547	+6.3	
Birmingham (5 banks).....	25,221	25,503	-1.1	24,163	+4.4	
Jacksonville (5 banks).....	29,559	29,239	+1.1	29,424	+0.5	
Nashville (10 banks).....	27,462	26,520	+3.6	25,310	+8.5	
New Orleans (8 banks).....	45,997	46,365	-0.8	47,594	-3.4	
Other Cities (56 banks).....	111,277	111,374	-0.1	108,858	+2.2	
Total (91 banks).....	277,294	275,425	+0.7	270,896	+2.4	

Debits to Individual Account Debits to individual accounts at 24 regularly reporting cities in the sixth district during February declined 11.8 per cent compared with January, and were 19.2 per cent less than in February last year. Beginning with August last year, debits have each month been smaller than in the corresponding month a year earlier. The monthly figures, shown in the table, are derived from weekly figures by prorating the figures for those weeks which do not fall entirely within a single month.

(000 Omitted)

	Feb. 1927	Jan. 1927	Feb. 1926
Alabama:			
Birmingham	\$130,644	\$156,272	\$127,110
Dothan	2,688	3,180	3,648
Mobile	37,936	46,092	35,830
Montgomery	23,378	25,224	23,580
Florida:			
Jacksonville	94,079	103,806	121,899
*Miami	71,962	77,042	---
Pensacola	7,494	8,817	9,079
Tampa	53,374	61,019	90,538
Georgia:			
Albany	4,296	5,095	5,052
Atlanta	147,470	164,911	151,271
Augusta	23,750	26,266	24,669
Brunswick	8,222	8,871	3,269
Columbus	12,753	14,162	13,244
Elberton	699	760	814
Macon	19,756	22,341	22,452
Newnan	2,156	2,229	1,987
Savannah	42,015	58,305	40,412
Valdosta	5,919	6,765	6,170
Louisiana:			
New Orleans	328,802	362,299	313,564
Mississippi:			
*Hattiesburg	8,442	8,242	---
Jackson	21,363	22,969	20,439
Meridian	17,031	16,901	14,323
Vicksburg	7,682	8,954	8,556
Tennessee:			
Chattanooga	42,460	50,862	38,391
Knoxville	31,968	38,559	29,839
Nashville	83,360	88,351	80,908
Total 24 Cities	\$1,144,295	\$1,298,010	\$1,415,646

*Not included in totals due to lack of figures for 1926.

Condition of Member Banks in Selected Cities

The total loans and investments of the 35 member banks located in Atlanta, New Orleans, Birmingham, Jacksonville, Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville and Savannah, which report regularly each week to the Federal Reserve Bank, were 0.4 per cent greater on March 9 than four weeks earlier, but were 3.8 per cent less than on the corresponding report date last year. Loans secured by stocks and bonds, other than Government obligations, were greater on March 9 this year by \$11,851,000 than a year ago, but decreases are shown in loans secured by Government obligations and in "All Other Loans." United States securities owned by these banks increased \$607,000 over those held a year ago, and Other Stocks and Bonds were owned in amounts \$6,636,000 greater than at that time. Total loans, discounts and investments were \$12,546,000 less than a year ago. Both demand and time deposits increased on March 9 over figures four weeks earlier. Demand deposits were more than 23 millions smaller than a year ago, and time deposits were more than 17 millions greater. Accommodation extended by the Federal Reserve Bank to these 35 banks on March 9 amounted to \$13,508,000, compared with \$8,979,000 on February 9, and with \$19,816,000 on March 10, last year. Principal items in the weekly report, with comparisons, are shown in the table:

(000 Omitted)

	March 9, 1927	Feb. 9, 1927	March 10, 1926
Bills Discounted:			
Secured by Govt. obligations	\$ 5,562	\$ 5,886	\$ 7,787
Secured by stocks and bonds	110,519	109,568	98,668
All other	388,372	387,692	418,287

Total Discounts	504,953	508,146	524,742
U. S. Securities	41,267	38,299	40,660
Other Stocks and Bonds	59,281	58,413	52,645
Total Loans, Discounts and Investments	605,501	599,858	618,047
Demand Deposits	343,584	339,317	367,018
Time Deposits	233,631	227,965	216,525
Accommodation at F. R. Bank	13,508	8,979	19,816

Operations of the Federal Reserve Bank

Total discounts by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta increased \$3,148,000 between February 9, shown in the last issue of the Review, and March 9, due principally to an increase of \$3,094,000 in the amount of loans to member banks secured by Government obligations. The volume of United States securities owned by the bank increased \$306,000 during this period, but Bills Bought in the Open Market decreased \$3,540,000, resulting in a decline of \$87,000 in total bills and securities. Cash reserves increased \$8,890,000 during this period, and there were also increases in deposits and in Federal Reserve Notes in circulation, the reserve ratio being practically the same on March 9 as four weeks earlier. Compared with figures for the corresponding report date last year, discounts show a decrease of \$2,356,000, and, due to decreases in the volume of United States securities and of Bills Bought in the Open Market, the total of bills and securities shows a decrease compared with a year ago of \$24,715,000. Cash reserves are greater by \$15,909,000 than a year ago. Federal Reserve Notes in circulation show an increase of \$7,157,000, but deposits show a decrease of \$20,559,000. Principal items in the weekly statement, with comparisons, are shown in the table:

(000 Omitted)

	March 9, 1927	Feb. 9, 1927	March 10, 1926
Bills Discounted.			
Secured by Govt. obligations	\$ 3,554	\$ 460	\$ 4,393
All Others	24,426	24,372	25,943
Total Discounts	27,980	24,832	30,336
Bills bought in open market	11,391	14,931	18,499
U. S. Securities	2,320	2,014	17,219
Total Bills and Securities	41,691	41,778	66,496
Cash Reserves	203,853	194,963	137,944
Total Deposits	72,291	69,677	82,850
F. R. Notes in actual circulation	168,370	160,702	161,213
Reserve Ratio	84.7	84.6	74.0

Commercial Failures

Statistics compiled by R. G. Dun & Co. indicate that failures in the United States during February were 17.4 per cent fewer in number, and 8.5 per cent less in total liabilities than in January, but 13 per cent greater in number and 37.3 per cent greater in liabilities than in February a year ago. February failures in the sixth district numbered 191, compared with 148 in January, and with 100 in February 1926, and total liabilities for February were \$1,686,424, compared with \$2,769,484 for January, and with \$1,762,288 for February last year.

District—	Number Feb. 1927	Liabilities Feb. 1927	Liabilities Jan. 1927	Liabilities Feb. 1926
Boston	210	\$3,412,009	\$3,775,982	\$2,338,036
New York	276	9,722,481	12,378,664	6,174,315
Philadelphia	63	8,272,430	2,482,158	2,104,352
Cleveland	162	3,494,055	3,048,821	3,966,625
Richmond	156	4,248,597	3,533,544	1,845,307
Atlanta	191	1,686,424	2,769,484	1,762,288
Chicago	260	3,738,344	8,967,726	7,729,996
St. Louis	127	2,006,081	6,728,951	3,186,884
Minneapolis	77	1,114,000	1,161,290	843,138
Kansas City	143	2,137,188	1,642,848	703,410
Dallas	103	2,023,100	2,348,320	669,997
San Francisco	262	5,086,007	2,452,444	2,851,500
Total	2035	\$46,940,716	\$51,290,232	\$34,176,348

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

United States

Preliminary figures compiled by the United States Department of Commerce indicate a smaller volume of both imports and exports during February than in January, and while ex-

ports were greater than in February last year, imports were in smaller volume. In February exports exceeded imports by \$61,000,000, and in January, exports were greater than imports by \$62,737,000. In February last year imports exceeded exports by \$34,401,000. For the eight months ending with February, exports have exceeded imports by \$596,691,000, compared with an excess of \$329,378,000 for the same period of the previous fiscal year. Preliminary figures for February, with comparisons, are shown below:

	1927	1926
Imports:		
February	\$ 312,000,000	\$ 387,306,000
January	357,268,000	416,752,000
8 months ending with Feb.	2,798,120,000	2,966,891,000
Exports:		
February	373,000,000	352,905,000
January	420,005,000	396,836,000
8 months ending with Feb.	3,394,811,000	3,296,269,000

Imports New Orleans

The value of merchandise imported through the port of New Orleans during December 1926, totaled \$16,511,673, compared with \$17,886,826 in November, and with \$9,282,106 in December 1925. Increases in volume and value, over December 1925, are shown in a number of items imported, but decreases were shown in burlaps, mahogany and molasses. The quantity of sugar imported was somewhat smaller, but the total value was greater than a year ago. Some of the larger items are shown in the table:

	Volume	Value
Coffee, lbs.	36,141,832	\$6,774,807
Sugar, lbs.	25,652,390	749,152
Bananas, bunches	1,608,883	912,411
Sisal, tons	9,370	1,528,600
Newsprint paper, lbs.	4,704,594	141,966
Crude petroleum, gals	43,807,784	1,328,902
Gasoline, gals	11,768,610	1,354,500
Molasses, gals	5,244,338	142,354
Burlaps, lbs.	5,436,116	613,565
Mahogany, feet	2,501,000	222,408

Exports New Orleans

The total value of commodities exported through the port of New Orleans during December 1926, amounted to \$43,201,148, compared with \$42,515,215 for November, and with \$43,148,851 for December 1925. Some of the larger items exported during December are listed below:

	Volume	Value
Gasoline, gals	\$41,133,795	\$5,592,723
Illuminating oil, gals	13,391,782	1,158,136
Cylinder lubricating oil, gals	2,087,421	505,845
Lard, lbs.	3,849,316	551,927
Wheat flour, barrels	226,083	1,614,970
Tobacco, lbs	10,053,343	1,098,690
Rough Sou. Pine Boards, feet	11,500,000	594,565

Grain Exports—New Orleans

The volume of wheat, oats and rye exported through the port of New Orleans continues larger than for corresponding periods a year ago, while corn is being exported in smaller volume. Below are figures for February, and for the season to date, with comparisons:

	Feb. 1927	Feb. 1926	Season Through Feb. 1927	Season Through Feb. 1926
Wheat, bushels	328,803	13,494	6,846,771	2,353,164
Corn, bushels	436,707	585,832	3,019,635	4,726,330
Oats, bushels	81,378	27,910	797,684	491,048
Rye, bushels	205,714		291,428	
Total	1,052,602	627,236	10,955,518	7,570,542

BUILDING

Building permits were issued during February 1927 at the twenty regularly reporting cities in the sixth district for building to be valued at \$10,224,570, an increase of 9.0 per cent over the value of permits issued in January, but smaller by 50.6 per cent than the total for February 1926. Increases over February last year were reported by 10 of these cities, and decreases by 10. The

decrease of 81.5 per cent, compared with February last year shown for Atlanta is due in large part to the fact that during February 1926 permits were issued for the \$3,000,000 plant erected by Sears, Roebuck & Co., for the large department store erected by Macy's, and other large items, with nothing of that nature in February this year. The decrease shown in the district total is also affected in this way. The index number for the district for February is 283.6, compared with 260.2 for January, and with 560.7 for February 1926.

Statistics of building contracts awarded, compiled by the F. W. Dodge Corporation and divided by Federal Reserve districts by the Division of Research and Statistics of the Federal Reserve Board, show a total of awards in the sixth district during February amounting to \$31,927,801, a decrease of 1.6 compared with the total for January, and a decrease of 49.8 compared with February last year.

	No.	Feb. 1927 Value	No.	Feb. 1926 Value	Percentage Change in Value
Alabama:					
Anniston	20	\$ 28,870	19	\$ 13,700	+110.7
Birmingham	513	1,774,134	491	1,916,527	- 7.4
Mobile	64	116,042	45	67,881	+ 70.9
Montgomery	80	40,550	65	64,710	- 87.3
Florida:					
Jacksonville	708	1,318,835	372	1,436,530	- 8.2
Miami	538	1,163,911	1094	4,163,663	- 72.0
Orlando	130	159,979	233	692,167	- 76.9
Pensacola	62	98,000	67	58,040	+ 68.8
Tampa	401	525,890	867	2,365,747	- 77.8
*Lakeland	38	99,700	178	693,440	- 85.6
Georgia:					
Atlanta	368	1,070,201	298	5,781,575	- 81.5
Augusta	138	85,328	95	57,181	+ 49.2
Columbus	42	111,837	41	246,045	- 54.5
Macon	129	157,520	144	65,604	+140.1
Savannah	40	105,060	58	132,139	- 20.5
Louisiana:					
New Orleans	184	2,000,287	174	2,292,845	- 12.8
Alexandria	96	92,931	79	71,882	+ 29.3
Tennessee:					
Chattanooga	319	520,853	230	268,630	+ 93.9
Johnson City	13	22,975	5	3,900	+489.1
Knoxville	148	490,806	212	292,821	+ 67.6
Nashville	237	340,561	168	225,569	+ 51.0
Total 20 Cities	4230	\$10,224,570	4807	\$20,217,136	- 50.6
Index Number		283.6		560.7	

*Not included in totals or index numbers.

LUMBER

Preliminary figures for the month of February, reported to the Southern Pine Association up to the middle of March by 130 mills, indicate a volume of orders received by these mills amounting to 271,330,645 feet, smaller by 2.1 per cent than February production by these mills, but 7.9 per cent greater than their shipments during that month. February production by these mills which totaled 277,208,001 feet, was 15.1 per cent below the computed normal production for these mills. Stocks on hand at the end of February were 2.8 per cent greater than the computed normal stocks for these mills, and more than three times the volume of production, and of orders, for the month. Unfilled orders on hand at the end of February totaled 219,205,180 feet, and were 19.2 per cent less than the month's production. Figures for the week ended March 11, in comparison with figures for the previous week and same week last year, reported by 93 mills, indicate a gain over the previous week in orders booked, shipments, orders on hand, and in production, but compared with the same week last year all of these items except shipments show decreases. The statement of operating time for the week ended March 11 indicates that of 116 mills reporting, 100 operated full time or 5½ days, and of those reporting full time, 15 reported overtime aggregating 589 hours, or an average of over 39 hours each, for the week. Preliminary figures

for February, with comparisons, are shown below:

	Feb. 1927	Jan. 1927	Feb. 1926
Orders	271,330,645	289,581,610	285,004,027
Shipments	251,417,649	265,612,035	272,175,007
Production	277,208,001	289,253,562	251,194,643
Normal production these mills	326,604,182	327,047,391	295,924,534
Stocks, End of Month	862,661,854	831,520,835	700,348,094
Normal Stocks these mills	838,989,173	838,795,690	772,936,302
Unfilled orders, End of Month	219,205,180	203,439,425	248,916,860

TEXTILES

Cotton Consumption The consumption of cotton in the United States during February 1927, according to statistics compiled by the United States Census Bureau, amounted to 590,447 bales, a decrease of 2.3 per cent compared with January, due to the fact that February has fewer business days than January. February consumption this year was greater by 4.1 per cent than in the same month last year.

Consumption of cotton in the cotton-growing states decreased 2.8 per cent in February compared with the month before, but was 6.6 per cent greater than in February a year ago. The Census Bureau's statement indicates that in February 72.1 per cent of the total cotton consumption was in the cotton-growing states, compared with 72.4 per cent in January, and with 70.3 per cent in February a year ago.

United States

	Feb. 1927	Jan. 1927	Feb. 1926
Cotton Consumed:			
Lint	590,447	604,584	567,244
Linters	60,336	55,149	53,978
Stocks in Consuming Establishments:			
Lint	1,933,077	1,852,987	1,831,296
Linters	195,106	161,724	174,976
Stocks in Public Storage and at Compresses:			
Lint	5,443,820	6,070,020	4,744,090
Linters	71,988	57,876	80,151
Exports	1,010,507	1,115,792	556,185
Imports	39,702	56,939	38,355
Active Spindles	32,872,102	32,633,550	33,028,966

Cotton Growing States

	Feb 1927	Jan. 1927	Feb. 1926
Cotton Consumed	425,442	437,788	399,046
Stocks in Consuming Establishments	1,310,937	1,272,021	1,127,859
Stocks in Public Storage and at Compresses	5,068,744	5,742,740	4,526,920
Active Spindles	17,545,358	17,482,426	17,221,236

Cotton Cloth

Confidential reports for February were rendered to the Federal Reserve Bank by mills in the sixth district which during that month manufactured 28,367,000 yards of cloth, an output smaller by 5.7 per cent than in January, but slightly greater than in February last year. February shipments were 11.5 per cent smaller than in January, but 8.8 per cent greater than a year ago. Orders booked by the mills declined 35.7 per cent compared with January, but were 82.8 per cent greater than a year ago. Unfilled orders showed increases compared with both of those periods, and stocks on hand, while greater than a month ago, were 25.4 per cent smaller than at the end of February 1926. The number of workers on the payrolls of these mills increased 1.1 per cent over January, but was 5.1 per cent smaller than a year ago.

	February 1927	1927 compared with:
Production	- 5.7	+ 0.9
Shipments	-11.5	+ 8.8
Orders booked	-35.7	+82.8
Unfilled orders	+ 2.1	+11.2
Stocks on hand	+ 4.4	-25.4
Number on payroll	+ 1.1	- 5.1

Cotton Yarn

Reports were received from mills which during February manufactured 6,877,000 pounds of yarn, an output 9.7 per cent smaller than in January, but 5.9 per cent greater than in February 1926. Compared with January, declines are also shown in shipments, orders booked and unfilled or-

ders, stocks and in the number of workers on payrolls. Compared with February last year, increases are shown for February 1927 in orders booked, unfilled orders, and stocks on hand, while shipments and the number of workers showed decreases.

	February 1927 compared with:	
	Jan. 1927	Feb. 1926
Production	+ 9.7	+ 5.9
Shipments	- 7.3	- 1.1
Orders booked	+30.5	+19.2
Unfilled orders	+ 6.2	+11.2
Stocks on hand	+ 4.8	+38.5
Number on payroll	- 8.5	-10.1

Hosiery Figures reported to the United States Census Bureau by 33 identical establishments manufacturing hosiery in the sixth district, show increases in all reported items for February over January. Production increased 3 per cent, shipments 7.1 per cent, orders 7.9 per cent, unfilled orders 13.2 per cent, and stocks 4.1 per cent. Cancellations were 9.4 per cent greater than in January.

	(Dozen Pairs)	
	Feb. 1927	Jan. 1927
Production	664,305	644,798
Shipments	653,621	610,390
Stocks	1,534,966	1,478,834
Orders	754,886	699,302
Cancellations	20,555	18,738
Unfilled orders	916,340	809,225

Cottonseed and Cottonseed Products

	*Sixth District		United States	
	Aug. 1 to Feb. 28 1927	1926	Aug. 1 to Feb. 28 1927	1926
Cottonseed, tons:				
Received at mills	1,787,894	1,703,001	5,752,981	5,192,843
Crushed	1,563,792	1,440,671	4,951,671	4,478,441
On hand	232,033	263,800	818,528	744,246
Production:				
Crude Oil, lbs.	490,757,982	428,410,426	1,471,752,045	1,228,592,633
Cake and Meal, tons ..	671,475	661,307	2,218,245	2,081,965
Hulls, tons	471,273	402,275	1,442,861	1,234,029
Linters, 500 lb. bales	247,232	267,626	806,087	839,706
Stocks—Feb. 28:				
Crude Oil, lbs.	26,856,897	16,992,437	95,393,521	57,708,561
Cake and Meal, tons ..	56,724	109,437	153,639	357,495
Hulls, tons	55,402	38,264	226,521	178,720
Linters, 500 lb. bales	49,519	62,392	194,336	300,105

*Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

COAL

Statistics compiled by the United States Bureau of Mines show that the production of bituminous coal has continued during February at a level well above that which prevailed at the same time last year, although not quite so high as in January. Production during the week ended February 26 was affected to some extent by the partial observance of Washington's birthday as a holiday in some fields.

Weekly figures indicate that production in the Alabama district has also exceeded figures for corresponding weeks last year, and in Tennessee production has been greater during February except for the week ending February 12, when it fell 2,000 tons below the output of that week of 1926.

(000 Omitted)

Week Ended	United States		Alabama		Tennessee	
	1927	1926	1927	1926	1927	1926
February 5	13,533	12,167	523	470	137	127
February 12	13,487	12,011	508	465	132	134
February 19	13,193	11,509	493	442	129	121
February 26	12,763	10,890	484	424	131	117
March 5	13,269	10,460	---	---	---	---

IRON

Statistics compiled and published by the Iron Age indicate that while the total production of pig iron in the United States during February was somewhat less than in January, because of the shorter month, there was a gain in the average daily output of 4901 tons, or 4.9

per cent, over the daily rate in January. Total production of pig iron during February amounted to 2,940,679 tons, compared with 3,103,820 tons in January, and with 2,923,415 tons in February 1926. There were 217 furnaces active on March 1, as compared with 208 on February 1, and with 226 active on March 1 last year.

Alabama output for the 31 days of January averaged approximately 7,953 tons per day, while for the 28 days of February the average output was 8,457 tons per day. There was no change in the number of furnaces active in Alabama during February, 22 having been active at the beginning and at the end of the month. At the same time a year ago, there were 24 furnaces active in Alabama.

NAVAL STORES

Receipts of both turpentine and rosin continued in February to decline seasonally compared with preceding months, and stocks of both commodities also decreased in comparison with supplies on hand at the end of January. Compared with statistics for February last year, receipts of turpentine showed a small increase, but receipts of rosin showed a decrease of 32.5 per cent. Stocks of turpentine on hand at the end of February were 6.4 per cent greater than a year ago, and were somewhat larger than have been reported at the end of February during the past five years. Supplies of rosin at the end of February were 12.7 per cent smaller than a year ago, and, with the exception of February 1920, were smaller than reported for February during the past ten years. Price statistics compiled by the Turpentine and Rosin Producers Association indicate that the average price of turpentine on the Savannah market during February was 68½ cents, compared with 75 cents in January, and with 91¾ cents in February 1926, and that the average of all grades of rosins during February was \$12.65, compared with \$12.77½ in January, and with \$13.57½ in February last year. Receipts and stocks at the three principal markets of the district are shown in the table:

Receipts—Turpentine:			
	Feb. 1927	Jan. 1927	Feb. 1926
Savannah	2,057	2,790	1,433
Jacksonville	2,174	3,429	2,402
Pensacola	907	1,167	841
Total	5,138	7,386	4,681
Receipts—Rosin:			
Savannah	10,509	15,347	10,780
Jacksonville	7,076	17,932	17,794
Pensacola	4,542	5,807	4,188
Total	22,127	39,136	32,762
Stocks—Turpentine:			
Savannah	8,130	9,268	7,657
Jacksonville	23,321	28,223	23,435
Pensacola	8,596	11,502	6,506
Total	40,047	48,993	37,648
Stocks—Rosin:			
Savannah	44,595	53,607	53,676
Jacksonville	74,408	76,824	94,203
Pensacola	28,632	29,659	21,266
Total	147,635	160,120	169,150

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 1926	January 1927	February 1927	December 1925	January 1926	February 1926
Atlanta	212.2	112.7	106.5	202.7	98.9	104.0
Birmingham	236.0	102.1	110.9	235.8	104.9	120.9
Chattanooga	146.3	77.9	71.3	135.3	71.7	67.1
Nashville	159.1	68.2	78.9	166.3	69.0	79.4
New Orleans	202.1	94.1	99.4	199.8	100.2	90.2
Savannah	166.0	64.2	62.2	157.6	55.5	56.5
Other Cities	199.2	91.6	98.6	198.5	93.5	102.6
District	196.1	91.5	95.5	193.4	91.6	93.1
RETAIL TRADE U. S. (1)						
Department Stores	233.7	114.3		224.	115	105
Mail Order Houses	165.5	107.4		166	116	
Chain Stores.						
Grocery	371.6	342.8		330	281	289
Drug	261.0	209.2		220	178	172
Shoe	215.2	106.3		188	108	97
5 & 10 Cent	465.8	177.3		427	166	170
Music	223.1	94.2		214	101	105
Candy	303.3	178.1		280	167	173
Cigar	221.7	134.4		212	127	127
WHOLESALE TRADE 6TH DISTRICT						
Groceries	97.6	89.0	87.1	98.3	106.6	98.1
Dry Goods	55.9	62.2	87.1	66.0	73.3	79.0
Hardware	99.2	95.4	78.0	122.0	122.1	109.7
Shoes	54.3	57.1	64.6	49.4	52.4	63.3
Total	81.3	78.0	75.6	94.3	96.0	90.3
WHOLESALE PRICES U. S. (2)						
Farm Products	134.9	137.2	136.9	152.2	151.8	149.9
Foods	151.0	149.6	148.9	157.1	156.2	153.2
Cloths and Clothing	168.6	167.3	168.7	187.1	185.5	183.9
Fuel and Lighting	182.9	179.8	177.1	174.8	176.5	179.4
Metals and Metal Products	125.7	124.4	122.2	129.5	128.9	128.4
Building Materials	172.7	169.7	167.9	177.0	177.9	177.1
Chemicals and Drugs	128.2	122.1	122.0	134.5	133.2	132.3
House Furnishings	159.4	157.4	157.5	165.9	164.9	163.9
Miscellaneous	117.8	117.9	118.5	138.2	135.3	132.9
All Commodities	147.2	146.9	146.4	156.2	156.0	155.0
BUILDING PERMITS 6TH DISTRICT						
Atlanta	44.7	122.4	122.9	27.8	170.4	663.8
Birmingham	366.8	553.8	542.4	593.7	383.0	585.9
Jacksonville	335.0	335.6	440.9	864.0	462.6	480.3
Nashville	257.9	202.1	179.9	106.0	331.4	119.1
New Orleans	88.9	287.6	457.3	145.6	167.6	524.2
Other Cities	380.1	260.4	251.1	741.7	570.3	577.9
District (20 Cities)	257.5	260.2	283.6	461.3	386.4	560.7
COTTON CONSUMED:						
United States	113.1	113.0	110.4	107.5	109.0	106.0
Cotton-Growing States	149.0	148.3	144.1	135.5	139.6	135.2
All Other States	70.0	70.6	69.8	74.2	72.3	71.1
Cotton Exports	278.5	202.9	183.8	179.0	136.4	101.1
PIG IRON PRODUCTION:						
United States	121.3	121.8	115.4	127.5	130.1	114.7
Alabama	143.9	140.2	134.7	146.6	141.2	130.2
UNFILLED ORDERS—U. S. STEEL CORPORATION						
.....	66.1	63.4	60.0	84.0	81.4	77.0

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