

MONTHLY REVIEW

Of Agricultural, Industrial, Trade and Financial
Conditions in the Sixth Federal Reserve District

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA

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BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Production and distribution of commodities increased further in February, while wholesale commodity prices remained practically unchanged. Commercial loans of member banks showed a larger increase in February and the first half of March than at the same season in other recent years.

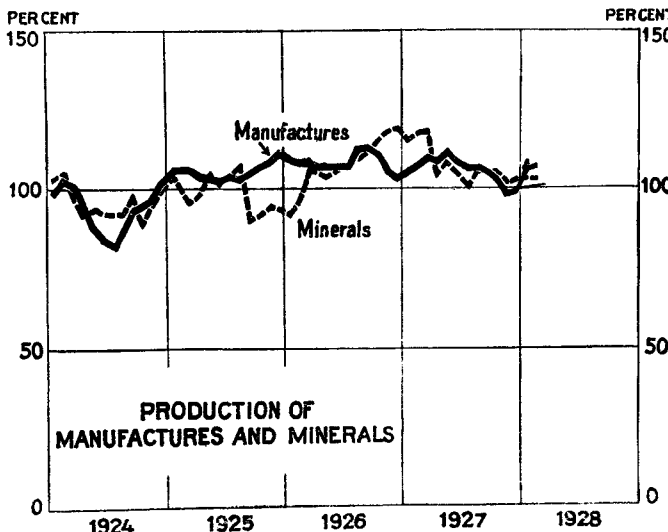
Production Production of manufactures in February, as indicated by the Federal Reserve Boards index, increased 3 per cent over January and was 2 per cent larger than a year ago, while production of minerals declined slightly and continued to be substantially smaller than last year. Factory employment and payrolls showed a seasonal increase in February but continued at a lower level than a year ago. Output of iron and steel, automobiles, and agricultural machinery has increased considerably since the first of the year. Daily average production of steel ingots in February was larger than in any other month since last March and current reports indicate that output was sustained in the first three weeks in March. Production of nonferrous metals was also increased in February. Activity in the textile industries has shown little change since the first of the year. Production of bituminous coal and crude petroleum, which decreased in February, increased slightly in the first half of March. Building contracts awarded were larger in February than in the corresponding month of any previous year, reflecting chiefly a large volume of awards for residential construction in the New York and Chicago districts. Contracts let in the first two weeks of March were in approximately the same volume as in the corresponding period of last year.

Trade Sales of wholesale firms in leading lines increased in February and were slightly larger than a year ago, while sales of department stores, after allowance for the customary seasonal changes

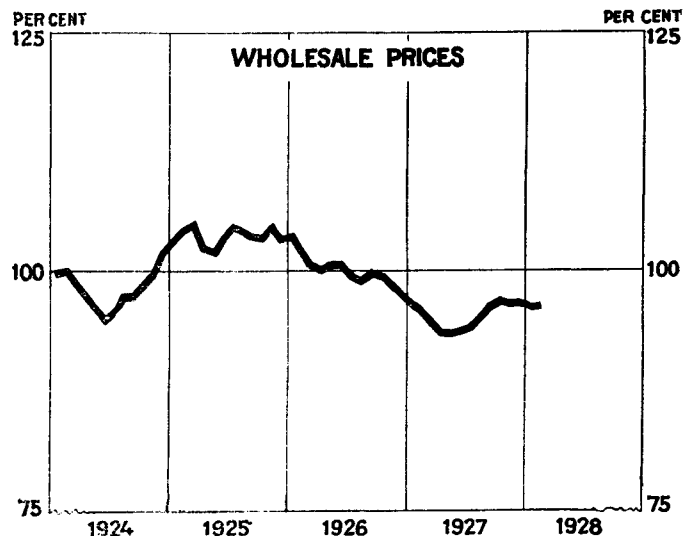
were in about the same volume as in January and somewhat smaller than a year ago. Stocks of merchandise carried both by wholesale firms and by department stores showed a seasonal increase in February. Freight car loadings have shown somewhat more than the usual seasonal increase since the beginning of the year, but have continued to be in smaller volume than in the corresponding period of last year owing chiefly to much smaller shipments of coal. Loadings of merchandise in less than car-load lots and of miscellaneous commodities have been less than in the corresponding period of the last two years, while loadings of live stock and grain products have been larger.

Prices The general level of wholesale commodity prices as indicated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics index remained practically unchanged in February at approximately 96 per cent of the 1926 average. There were decreases in the prices of cotton, sugar, nonferrous metals, chemicals and rubber, as well as a seasonal decline in dairy products. Increases occurred in prices of grain, metals, hides and leather products and steel. In the first two weeks in March, prices of grains, hogs, and cotton advanced, while those of cattle and rubber showed further declines.

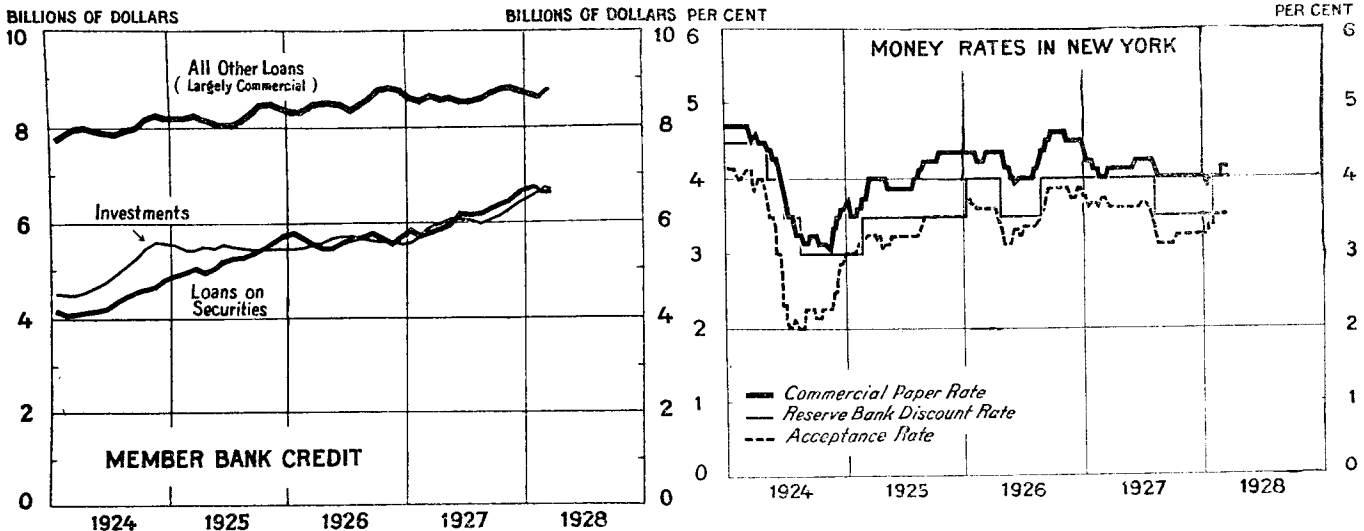
Bank Credit From the middle of February to the middle of March the loans and investments of member banks in leading cities increased by \$200,000,000 reflecting a growth in the banks' commercial loans. The banks' loans on securities and investments showed little change for the period. The volume of reserve bank credit outstanding increased somewhat from February to March chiefly in consequence of increased borrowing by member banks, which in part reflected further withdrawals of gold for export. During the four weeks ending March 21 conditions in the money market were firmer; and the rate on prime commercial paper increased from 4 to 4-4½ per cent and there were advances in time rates on security loans.



Index numbers of production of manufactures and minerals, adjusted for seasonal variations (1923-25 average=100). Latest figures, February manufactures 109; minerals 103.



Index of United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. (1926=100, base adopted by bureau). Latest figure February 96.4.



SIXTH DISTRICT SUMMARY

Statistics compiled for the Monthly Review continue to show varying comparisons with previous periods. Among the important series of statistics, retail trade and savings deposits show increases for February 1928 over February 1927, while wholesale trade, building permits and debits to individual accounts were in smaller volume.

The volume of retail trade during February in the Sixth Federal Reserve District, as indicated by sales figures of reporting department stores, averaged 3.6 per cent greater than in February last year, and was at a higher level than in February of any other recent year. Wholesale trade, on the whole, was at a lower level than in January or in February a year ago, although sales of groceries, dry goods, furniture, shoes and stationery increased over January, and February sales of furniture, stationery and drugs were larger than in February last year. Savings deposits at the end of February were 6.9 per cent greater than a year ago. Debits to individual accounts in February were 11.3 per cent less than in January, and 4.9 per cent less than in February 1927. Failures in February increased in both number and liabilities over both of those periods. Building permits issued at twenty reporting cities in February increased 5.3 per cent over January, but were 23 per cent less than in February last year. Cotton consumption in the cotton-growing states during February was slightly smaller than in January, but greater than in February 1927, and active spindles, while fewer by 27,346 than in January, were greater by 297,740 than in February a year ago. Production of cloth and yarn by reporting mills in the sixth district was slightly greater than a year ago. Output of pig iron in Alabama during February declined in comparison with January, and was smaller than in February last year, and there was a decrease of one in the number of active furnaces. A smaller demand for bank credit in the district is indicated by decreases in loans to customers by reporting member banks in selected cities,

and in the amount of discounts for member banks by the Federal Reserve Bank. During February and early March farm work has been retarded by continued wet weather, although in some localities progress has been made in preparation for the seasons crops.

RETAIL TRADE

The distribution of merchandise at retail in the sixth Federal reserve district during February 1928 reflected in sales figures reported confidentially by 46 department stores located throughout the district, was at a higher level than in the same month of any of the past eight years. February sales by these 46 department stores were 3.6 per cent greater than in February last year, and the index number, 93.1, was higher than for any other February in the series which began with 1920. Index numbers for Atlanta, Birmingham and Nashville are also higher for February this year than in the same month of any other year. Sales by these stores for the first two months of 1928 averaged 1.8 per cent greater than in the same period of 1927. Stocks of merchandise on hand at the end of February were three-tenths of one per cent smaller than a year ago, due to decreases at Birmingham, New Orleans and "Other Cities." Increases are shown at all cities over stocks on hand at the end of January, no doubt in anticipation of spring business. The rate of stock turnover was slightly less rapid both for the month of February, and for the first two months of the year, than in corresponding periods last year. Accounts receivable at the end of February were 5.5 per cent less than a month earlier, but were 14.7 per cent greater than a year ago. February collections were 11.8 per cent smaller than in January, but 18.6 per cent greater than in February 1927. The ratio of collections during February to accounts outstanding and due at the beginning of the month, for 30 firms, was 35.4 per cent. For January this ratio was 35.8 per cent, and for February last year 34.0 per cent.

RETAIL TRADE AT 46 DEPARTMENT STORES FEBRUARY 1928 Sixth Federal Reserve District

	Comparison of Net Sales		Comparison of Stocks		Rate of Stock Turnover			
	Feb. 1928 with Feb. 1927	Jan. 1 to Feb. 29, 1928 with the same period in 1927	Feb. 29, 1928 with Feb. 28, 1927	Feb. 29, 1928 with Jan. 31, 1928	February 1927	February 1928	Jan. 1 to Feb. 29, 1927	Jan. 1 to Feb. 29, 1928
Atlanta (5).....	+16.8	+13.9	+23.8	+12.1	.28	.23	.59	.46
Birmingham (5).....	+16.9	+10.0	+13.5	+ 7.7	.18	.22	.36	.39
Chatanooga (6).....	4.6	- 3.3	+ 3.1	+11.4	.17	.16	.37	.37
Nashville (5).....	+ 9.6	+ 9.9	+13.5	+14.0	.27	.24	.50	.46
New Orleans (5).....	2.7	- 4.5	- 6.2	+ 6.9	.20	.18	.39	.36
Other Cities (20).....	- 5.8	- 5.7	- 3.1	+ 9.4	.22	.19	.44	.37
District (46).....	+ 3.6	+ 1.8	- 0.3	+ 9.2	.21	.20	.43	.39

NOTE: The rate of stock turnover is the ratio of sales during given period to average stocks on hand.

WHOLESALE TRADE

The total volume of sales reported to the Federal Reserve Bank confidentially by 118 wholesale firms in eight different lines of trade registered a further slight decline in February. This is the fifth consecutive month in which wholesale trade has declined from the seasonally high level reached in September last year. The decline in February as compared with January was due principally to a decrease of 15.1 per cent in hardware sales, and to small declines shown in sales of electrical supplies and drugs. Groceries, dry goods, furniture, shoes and Stationery were sold in larger volume than in January. Compared with February a year ago, increases are shown in sales of furniture, stationery and drugs, but decreases occurred in the other five lines. The index number of sales in the eight lines for February was 84.2, compared with 85.9 for January, and with 86.5 for February last year. In the tables which follow are shown percentage comparisons of reported figures, and percentage changes are shown for individual cities from which three or more reports in a line were received. Index numbers by lines are shown on page 8.

Groceries February sales by 31 reporting wholesale grocery firms averaged four tenths of one per cent greater than in January, decreases at Atlanta, New Orleans and Vicksburg being offset in the average by increases at Jacksonville and Other Cities. The decrease compared with February last year is due entirely to the decline of 23.0 per cent at Jacksonville, as increases are shown for the other points in the table. Stocks on hand at the end of February were larger than for either of the months under comparison, but accounts receivable and collections show decreases in both instances.

Sales:	Feb. 1928 compared with:	
	Jan. 1928	Feb. 1927
Atlanta (4 firms).....	- 5.1	+ 5.7
Jacksonville (4 firms).....	+ 0.7	-23.0
New Orleans (5 firms).....	- 4.6	+ 5.4
Vicksburg (3 firms).....	- 3.4	+ 3.3
Other Cities (15 firms).....	+13.8	+10.2
DISTRICT (31 firms).....	+ 0.4	- 0.9
Stocks on hand.....	+14.4	+ 7.2
Accounts receivable.....	- 4.7	- 3.3
Collections.....	- 5.6	- 4.0

Dry Goods Sales of dry goods at wholesale increased seasonally in February, and averaged 10.1 per cent greater than in January. Compared with February 1927, sales in February this year averaged 8.1 per cent less in total volume, although an increase of 11.8 per cent was reported from Nashville. Stocks on hand increased over both months under comparison. Accounts receivable were smaller than for January, but slightly larger than for February a year ago, while collections show decreases in both instances.

Sales:	Feb. 1928 Compared with:	
	Jan. 1928	Feb. 1927
Atlanta (3 firms).....	+17.2	-13.6
Nashville (3 firms).....	+22.7	+11.8
Other Cities (16 firms).....	+ 5.3	-12.7
DISTRICT (22 firms).....	+10.1	- 8.1
Stocks on hand.....	+ 8.2	+27.6
Accounts receivable.....	- 1.4	+ 0.4
Collections.....	- 7.9	- 1.3

Hardware Sales figures reported by 26 wholesale hardware firms show a smaller volume of business in February than in either the preceding month or the corresponding month last year. Stocks on hand at the end of February increased slightly over the month before, and collections were larger than in January, but both items show decreases compared with February last year, and accounts receivable show decreases compared with both of those months.

Sales:	Feb. 1928 Compared with:	
	Jan. 1928	Feb. 1927
Atlanta (3 firms).....	-27.8	-11.3
Nashville (3 firms).....	- 4.1	- 1.3
New Orleans (5 firms).....	-12.8	- 5.3
Other Cities (15 firms).....	-17.0	- 7.4
DISTRICT (26 firms).....	-15.1	- 6.3
Stocks on hand.....	+ 0.5	- 4.5
Accounts receivable.....	- 4.6	-10.6
Collections.....	+ 3.5	- 5.6

Furniture February sales by 13 wholesale furniture firms averaged 18.3 per cent greater than in January, and were 25.0 per cent greater than in February a year ago. Stocks on hand and accounts receivable were greater than for January, but less than for February 1927, while collections show increases over both of those months.

Sales:	Feb. 1928 Compared with:	
	Jan. 1928	Feb. 1927
Atlanta (5 firms).....	+35.0	- 5.5
Other Cities (8 firms).....	+15.2	+33.3
DISTRICT (13 firms).....	+18.3	+25.0
Stocks on hand.....	+ 3.3	- 5.9
Accounts receivable.....	+ 5.0	- 3.3
Collections.....	+17.6	+14.2

Electrical Supplies Sales of electrical supplies at wholesale during February by 11 reporting firms averaged 2.4 per cent smaller than in January, and 14.8 per cent less than in February last year. Stocks on hand, accounts receivable and collections also show decreases compared with both periods under comparison, as indicated in the figures which follow:

Sales:	Feb. 1928 Compared with:	
	Jan. 1928	Feb. 1927
New Orleans (4 firms).....	- 4.6	+ 2.0
Other Cities (7 firms).....	- 1.0	-22.5
DISTRICT (11 firms).....	- 2.4	-14.8
Stocks on hand.....	- 2.9	-26.5
Accounts receivable.....	- 8.3	-17.0
Collections.....	- 8.2	- 9.2

Figures for the other three lines are given below only for the district, as three reports were not received in any of these lines from a single city. February sales of shoes were 23.1 per cent greater than in January, but 10.7 per cent smaller than in February a year ago. Stationery sales show increases over both months, and sales of drugs show a decrease compared with January, but were larger than in February a year ago.

Sales:	Feb. 1928 Compared with:	
	Jan. 1928	Feb. 1927
Shoes (5 firms).....	+23.1	-10.7
Stationery (4 firms).....	+ 8.1	+ 3.5
Drugs (6 firms).....	- 6.0	+ 4.5

AGRICULTURE

A recent report by the United States Department of Agriculture states that stocks of grain on the farms of the United States on March 1 were substantially below holdings on any recent March 1 except 1925. Stocks of wheat on farms on March 1, 1928 are estimated to have been about 14.9 per cent of last year's crop, or about 130 million bushels, only slightly smaller than a year ago. Farm stocks of corn on March 1 were about 10 per cent less than a year ago, and amounted to 36.6 per cent of last year's corn crop. Stocks of oats were also less than a year ago, but supplies of barley and rye were greater. The figures also show smaller stocks of wheat in Tennessee, and stocks of corn and oats in this district were smaller than a year ago.

Plowing and planting generally are going forward slowly in the south because of bad weather, although in some localities reports indicate progress in the preparation of the land for the seasons crops. According to reports of the United States Department of Agriculture growers of potatoes in ten early-shipping states plan to increase their combined acreage about five per cent over last season. The report also indicates the intention on the part of growers to plant increased acreages to corn, barley, tobacco, sweet potatoes and peanuts, while decreases are indicated in oats, hay and spring wheat. These are not forecasts of acreages for the 1928 season, but are merely what reporting farmers intended on March 1 to plant to these various crops. If these intentions should be followed, there appears probable an increase of 40 per cent in the tobacco acreage in Florida, and of 32 per cent in Tennessee, over the 1927 acreage.

A late January freeze caused severe damage to tomatoes on the lower east coast of Florida. A large part of the damaged acreage has been replanted, but shipments during February and March were reduced about 75 per cent, and the movement is not expected to become normal until April. Citrus fruits show a good early bloom,

which is heavy in many groves, but more moisture is needed.

Cotton Movement (United States) since August 1	1928			1927			1926					
	Receipts at all U. S. Ports	Overland across the Miss. Ohio, and Potomac Rivers to Nor. Mills and Canada	Interior stocks in excess of those held at close of commercial year	Southern Mills takings, net	Total 215 days	Foreign exports	Receipts at all U. S. Ports	Overland across the Miss. Ohio, and Potomac Rivers to Nor. Mills and Canada	Interior stocks in excess of those held at close of commercial year	Southern Mills takings, net	Total 215 days	Foreign exports
	7,132,901	1,241,005	393,337	3,177,000	11,458,463	5,317,190	10,749,486	1,241,005	571,021	3,263,141	15,824,653	7,765,166
	755,225	1,226,514	4,793,974	4,793,974	5,659,662	10,009,000	11,427,000	10,596,999				

*of which 1,221,665 by Northern spinners against 1,907,007 last year and 3,572,309 by Southern spinners against 3,752,655 last year.

Sugar Cane and Sugar

The Louisiana cane crop is reported in good condition, although during most of February field work was prevented by wet weather. All spring plantings were completed early in March, however, with more favorable weather conditions and rising temperatures. The area of planting is reported considerably larger than for the last few years and the condition decidedly better.

SUGAR MOVEMENT (Pounds)

	Raw Sugar			Refined Sugar		
	Feb. 1928	Jan. 1928	Feb. 1927	Feb. 1928	Jan. 1928	Feb. 1927
Receipts:						
New Orleans	69,528,357	64,482,359	186,024,092	86,078,895	72,771,367	108,405,253
Savannah	52,983,450	25,163,263	69,088,698	20,615,425	18,974,858	27,615,835
Meltings:						
New Orleans	62,750,057	77,576,944	122,934,790	31,949,448	58,298,625	54,835,375
Savannah	27,584,828	22,049,604	34,419,865	18,484,291	7,874,768	13,465,239
Stocks:						
New Orleans	30,489,279	23,930,630	109,183,351			
Savannah	34,527,795	9,129,173	41,727,570			

RICE MOVEMENT—NEW ORLEANS

	Rough Rice (Sacks)			Clean Rice (Pockets)		
	Feb. 1928	Jan. 1928	Feb. 1927	Feb. 1928	Jan. 1928	Feb. 1927
Receipts	46,531	34,899	48,467	174,728	196,367	210,967
Shipments	35,108	48,275	51,979	224,932	158,323	177,220
Stocks	27,529	16,106	26,575	226,087	276,291	310,630

Rice Millers Association Statistics (Barrels)

Season	Receipts of Rough Rice		February to date
	1927-28	1926-27	
Season 1927-28	804,645	643,369	7,434,903
Season 1926-27	643,369		6,832,916
Season	Distribution of Milled Rice		February to date
	1927-28	1926-27	
Season 1927-28	961,109	877,798	6,722,232
Season 1926-27	877,798		6,032,620
Month	Stocks of Rough and Milled Rice		February to date
	1928	1927	
March 1, 1928	2,038,415	1,957,608	
March 1, 1927	1,957,608		

FINANCIAL

Savings Deposits

The total volume of savings deposits at the end of February 1928 reported by 86 banks located throughout the sixth district averaged three-tenths of one per cent smaller than a month earlier, but was 6.9 per cent greater than at the same time a year ago. Increases compared with January at Birmingham, Jacksonville, Nashville and New Orleans were outweighed in the average by decreases at Atlanta and Other Cities, while compared with February 1927, increases are shown for each city except Birmingham.

(000 Omitted)

	Comparison			Comparison		
	Feb. 1928	Jan. 1928	Jan.-Feb. 1928	Feb. 1927	Feb. '28-'27	Feb. '28-'27
Atlanta (7 banks)	\$ 44,037	\$ 44,819	+ 1.7	\$ 37,778	+ 16.6	+ 16.6
Birmingham (4 banks)	25,080	25,031	+ 0.2	25,221	+ 0.6	+ 0.6
Jacksonville (5 banks)	29,895	29,378	+ 1.8	29,559	+ 1.1	+ 1.1
Nashville (8 banks)	27,863	27,793	+ 0.3	22,745	+ 22.5	+ 22.5
New Orleans (8 banks)	49,250	49,215	+ 0.1	45,998	+ 7.1	+ 7.1
Other Cities (54 banks)	114,069	114,712	+ 0.6	110,218	+ 3.5	+ 3.5
Total (86 banks)	290,195	290,943	+ 0.3	271,518	+ 6.9	+ 6.9

Debits to Individual Accounts

The volume of debits to individual accounts at 26 weekly reporting cities in the sixth district was seasonally smaller than in January, and was also in smaller volume than in February 1927. February debits at these 26 cities averaged 11.3 per cent less than in January, and were 4.9 per cent less than in February a year ago. Eleven of these cities showed increases over February last year, and fifteen showed decreases.

(000 Omitted)

	Feb. 1928	Jan. 1928	Feb. 1927
Alabama			
Birmingham	\$ 132,678	\$ 159,852	\$ 130,644
Dothan	3,302	3,646	2,688
Mobile	35,813	40,606	37,936
Montgomery	26,814	27,678	23,378
Florida			
Jacksonville	80,348	79,086	94,079
Miami	42,200	39,364	71,962
Pensacola	6,961	7,629	7,494
Tampa	40,461	43,885	53,374
Georgia			
Albany	3,475	4,075	4,296
Atlanta	143,465	159,866	147,470
Augusta	29,094	30,853	23,750
Brunswick	2,792	3,547	3,222
Columbus	12,798	13,954	12,753
Elberton	897	1,042	699
Macon	18,929	21,460	19,756
Newnan	1,865	2,461	2,156
Savannah	36,682	44,061	42,015
Valdosta	4,822	5,549	5,919
Louisiana			
New Orleans	315,429	373,714	328,802
Mississippi			
Hattiesburg	7,293	7,818	8,442
Jackson	25,423	29,283	21,363
Meridian	17,207	18,395	17,031
Vicksburg	7,319	8,935	7,682
Tennessee			
Chattanooga	43,527	51,539	42,460
Knoxville	34,720	39,914	31,953
Nashville	90,975	95,313	83,360
Total 26 cities	\$1,165,289	\$1,313,520	\$1,224,699

Condition of Member Banks in Selected Cities

Weekly reports rendered to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta by 33 member banks located in Atlanta, New Orleans, Birmingham, Jacksonville, Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville and Savannah indicate a volume of loans and discounts on March 14, 1928 about five million dollars less than on February 15, 1928 as shown in the last issue of the Review. Loans on securities during this period increased \$1,851,000, but All Other Loans, which are largely for commercial and industrial purposes show a net decrease of \$6,693,000, having declined from \$369,352,000 on February 15 to \$359,562,000 on March 7, but increased during the following week to \$362,659,000. Holdings of United States securities and of Other Stocks and Bonds decreased slightly during this period, and total loans and investments show a decline for the four weeks period of \$6,490,000. Compared with figures for the corresponding report date last year, March 16, 1927, current figures show that loans on securities are greater by \$13,400,000 than a year ago, but other commercial loans show a decrease of \$27,796,000. Securities owned by these banks are slightly greater in volume than a year ago, and the resulting comparison of total loans, discounts and investments show a decrease compared with a year ago of \$14,396,000. Time deposits and demand deposits, shown in the table below, on March 14 were slightly smaller than four weeks earlier, but greater than a year ago, and total borrowings from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta by these banks show decreases compared with both of those reporting dates. Principal items in the weekly report, with comparisons, are shown in the table.

(000 Omitted)

	Mar. 14, 1928			Feb. 15, 1928			Mar. 16, 1927		
	1928	1928	1927	1928	1927	1927	1928	1927	
Bills Discounted:									
Secured by Govt. Obligations	\$ 5,463	\$ 5,397	\$ 5,531	\$ 5,463	\$ 5,397	\$ 5,531	\$ 5,463	\$ 5,397	
Secured by Stocks and Bonds	122,246	120,461	108,778	122,246	120,461	108,778	122,246	108,778	
All Other	362,659	363,352	390,455	362,659	363,352	390,455	362,659	390,455	
Total Discounts	490,368	490,368	490,368	490,368	490,368	490,368	490,368	490,368	
U. S. Securities	54,061	55,403	55,637	54,061	55,403	55,637	54,061	55,403	
Other Stocks and Bonds	64,806	65,112	63,050	64,806	65,112	63,050	64,806	65,112	
Total Loans & Investments	609,235	615,725	623,451	609,235	615,725	623,451	609,235	615,725	
Time Deposits	238,507	239,375	234,453	238,507	239,375	234,453	238,507	239,375	
Demand Deposits	347,506	351,807	338,543	347,506	351,807	338,543	347,506	351,807	
Borrowings from F. R. Bank	11,441	14,270	17,607	11,441	14,270	17,607	11,441	14,270	

The weekly statement showing the condition of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta indicates that total bills and securities increased from \$46,698,000 on February 15, 1928, to \$50,213,000 a week

later, but declined to \$42,387,000 on March 14. Declines during this period are shown in the volume of loans to member banks secured by United States Government obligations, as well as in "All Other" loans and discounts, and holdings of bills bought in the open market and United States securities also show small decreases. Compared with figures for the corresponding report date a year ago, current figures show a decline of about eight million dollars in the volume of discounts for member banks, and a decrease of \$1,481,000 in holdings of bills bought in the open market, while holdings of United States securities on March 14 this year were greater by \$7,810,000 than at the same time a year ago; as a result, total bills and securities show a decrease of only \$1,700,000 compared with a year ago. Reserves increased \$4,275,000 between February 15 and March 14, but were \$27,772,000 less than a year ago when reserves were at a high level. Total deposits were \$2,332,000 less than four weeks ago but show a small increase over the corresponding date last year, and Federal Reserve Notes in circulation increased slightly over the total for February 15, but show a decrease of \$29,592,000 compared with a year ago. Principal items in the weekly statement, with comparisons, are shown in the table.

(000 Omitted)

	Mar. 14, 1928	Feb. 15, 1928	Mar. 14, 1927
Bills Discounted:			
Secured by Govt. Obligations	\$ 2,605	\$ 3,364	\$ 3,804
All Others	20,209	22,113	27,039
Total Discounts	22,814	25,477	30,843
Bills Bought in open market	9,803	11,302	11,284
U. S. Securities	9,770	9,919	1,960
Total Bills & Securities	42,387	46,698	44,087
Cash Reserves	175,913	171,643	203,690
Total Deposits	70,704	73,036	69,266
F. R. Notes in actual circulation	142,001	140,889	171,593
Reserve Ratio	82.7	80.2	84.6

Commercial Failures Statistics compiled by R. G. Dun & Company, indicate that commercial failures in the United States during February 1928 numbered 2,176, compared with 2,643 in January, and with 2,035 in February last year, and liabilities of failing firms in February amounted to \$45,070,642, compared with \$47,634,411 in January, and with \$46,940,716 in February 1927. Figures for the sixth district, however, show substantial increases in both number and liabilities for February, compared with both the preceding month and the corresponding month last year. In the table are shown total figures for the United States divided by Federal reserve districts.

District:	Number	Liabilities	Liabilities	Liabilities
	Feb. 1928	Feb. 1928	Jan. 1928	Feb. 1927
Boston	238	\$ 9,950,081	\$ 4,909,450	\$ 3,412,009
New York	369	9,285,206	14,371,229	9,722,481
Philadelphia	99	2,296,593	1,435,695	8,272,430
Cleveland	186	4,727,509	5,995,461	3,494,058
Richmond	158	4,304,424	3,192,390	4,245,597
Atlanta	294	7,254,112	1,203,497	1,686,424
Chicago	128	2,204,866	5,629,352	3,735,344
St. Louis	105	1,853,273	3,858,852	2,006,081
Minneapolis	72	393,730	552,950	1,114,000
Kansas City	144	2,283,548	1,605,887	2,137,188
Dallas	47	1,637,036	1,767,713	2,023,100
San Francisco	386	4,890,264	3,111,395	5,086,007
Total	2,176	\$46,070,642	\$47,634,411	\$46,940,716

Gold Movement Exports of Gold from the United States during February amounted to \$25,776,000, compared with \$52,086,000, in January and with \$2,414,000 in February a year ago. For the eight months ending with February exports of gold amounted to \$249,446,000, compared with \$91,276,000 for the corresponding period a year ago. Imports for this period amounted to \$99,168,000 compared with \$172,049,000 for the same period a year ago. Exports of gold in February exceeded imports by over eleven million dollars, while in February 1927 imports were nearly twenty million dollars greater than exports.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

United States According to statistics compiled by the United States Department of Commerce, the export movement of merchandise declined in February compared with January, while imports increased. Exports for the month were only slightly greater than for February 1927, and imports increased over 42 million dollars compared with that month. Exports exceeded imports in February this year by 20 million dollars, and in

February last year by 61½ million. In the table are shown preliminary figures for February, and for the eight months ending with February, with comparative figures for corresponding periods a year ago.

	1928	1927
Exports:		
February	\$ 373,000,000	\$ 372,438,000
January	410,820,000	419,402,000
8 mo. ending with Feb.	3,283,034,000	3,393,637,000
Imports:		
February	\$ 353,000,000	\$ 310,877,000
January	337,956,000	356,341,000
8 mo. ending with Feb.	2,752,521,000	2,796,567,000

New Orleans Merchandise valued at \$17,593,047 was imported through the port of New Orleans during the month of December 1927, the latest month for which detailed figures are available. This represents an increase of \$3,796,579 or 27.5 per cent over the value of imports in November, and was \$1,081,374, or 6.5 per cent greater than in December 1926. Increases over that month were shown in imports of coffee, newsprint paper, molasses, and burlaps, but decreases were shown in some of the other important items.

The value of commodities exported through the port of New Orleans during December 1927 was \$29,767,426, greater by \$891,868 or 3.1 per cent than in November, but smaller by 31 per cent than the value of exports through New Orleans in December 1926, which amounted to \$43,201,148. Most of the important items exported during December 1927 showed decreases compared with the same month a year earlier.

Grain Exports—New Orleans

The export movement of wheat and corn was greater in February 1928 than a year ago, but small decreases are shown in the movement of oats and rye. For the season, July through February, wheat and rye show increases over the previous season, but corn and oats moved in smaller volume. Figures for the month and the season are shown in the table:

	Feb. 1928	Feb. 1927	Season 1928	Season 1927
Wheat, bushels	460,207	328,803	7,521,454	6,846,771
Corn, bushels	1,045,211	436,707	2,271,404	3,019,635
Oats, bushels	80,878	81,378	647,901	797,684
Rye, bushels	200,468	205,714	668,388	291,428
Total	1,786,764	1,052,602	11,109,147	10,955,518

BUILDING

Permits issued during February for the construction of buildings within the corporate limits of twenty regularly reporting cities in the sixth district totaled \$7,865,704, an increase of 5.3 per cent over the January total, but 23.1 per cent smaller than for February 1927. Only six of these regularly reporting cities showed increases in February over the corresponding month a year ago, while fourteen reported decreases. The index number of permits issued at the twenty cities during February, based upon the monthly average for the three-year period 1923-25 as represented by 100, was 69.9, compared with 66.4 for January, and with 90.9 for February last year. Index numbers for the Federal reserve bank and branch cities are shown on page 8, and figures for the other fifteen cities are grouped under "Other Cities."

Contracts awarded during February in the 37 states east of the Rocky Mountains, totaled \$465,331,300, an increase of 8.9 per cent over the total of \$427,168,700 for January, and 17.8 per cent greater than the total of \$394,869,500 for February 1927. Figures for the sixth Federal reserve district indicate a total of awards amounting to \$22,301,238, in February 1928 compared with \$27,696,197 in January, and with \$31,927,801 in February a year ago.

In the table are shown the number and value of permits issued at reporting cities, and comparative figures for the corresponding month a year ago.

	Feb. 1928		Feb. 1927		Percentage
	No.	Value	No.	Value	Change in value
Alabama					
Anniston	15	\$ 14,650	20	\$ 28,870	- 49.3
Birmingham	548	2,214,229	513	1,774,134	+ 24.8
Mobile	55	82,414	64	116,402	- 29.0
Montgomery	168	180,653	80	40,550	+345.5
Florida					
Jacksonville	400	878,752	708	1,318,835	- 33.3
Miami	221	181,760	538	1,163,911	- 84.4
Orlando	87	111,540	130	159,979	- 30.3
Pensacola	58	86,400	62	98,000	- 11.8

Tampa	315	155,830	401	525,890	- 70.4
*Lakeland	8	43,850	38	99,700	- 56.0
*Miami Beach	25	260,500			
Georgia					
Atlanta	341	1,119,254	368	1,070,201	+ 4.6
Augusta	134	74,576	138	85,328	- 12.6
Columbus	71	101,036	42	111,837	- 9.7
Macon	134	110,443	129	157,520	- 29.9
Savannah	54	164,380	40	105,660	+ 56.4
Louisiana					
New Orleans	221	1,115,234	184	2,000,287	- 44.2
Alexandria	74	74,559	96	92,931	- 19.8
Tennessee					
Chattanooga	239	220,295	319	520,853	- 57.7
Johnson City	11	195,700	13	22,575	+ 751.8
Knoxville	179	494,376	148	493,806	+ 0.7
Nashville	241	289,603	237	340,561	- 15.0
Total 20 Cities	3,560	\$7,865,704	4,230	\$10,224,570	- 23.1
Index No.		63.9		90.9	

*Not included in totals or index numbers.

LUMBER

Reports through the press, and statistics compiled by the Southern Pine Association indicate that in spite of the adverse effects of bad weather during February and early March, activity in the lumber industry continues fairly active, operating time of reporting mills was slightly above normal during February, and orders continue to exceed output. Preliminary reports received up to the middle of March by the Southern Pine Association from 114 mills indicate a volume of production in February amounting to about 283 million feet, orders amounting to more than 285 million feet, and shipments amounting to about 280 million feet, as indicated in the table below. Orders for the month exceeded production by a little less than one per cent, and shipments by about two per cent. In January orders of reporting mills exceeded their output by 14 per cent, while in February a year ago orders were 2.1 per cent less than output. Actual production during February by the 114 reporting mills was 4.2 per cent below the three-year average of these same mills, and stocks on hand at the end of February were 7.6 per cent greater than the three-year average stocks held by the same mills. Preliminary figures for February, with similar figures for January and for February a year ago, are shown in the table:

(feet)	Feb. 1928	Jan. 1928	Feb. 1927
	114 mills	109 mills	130 mills
Orders	285,240,090	314,012,267	271,330,645
Shipments	279,914,970	281,452,283	251,417,649
Production	282,977,509	275,598,040	277,208,001
Three-Year average production	295,320,778	293,850,958	326,604,182
Stocks, end of month	799,710,975	802,558,825	862,661,854
Three-year average stocks	743,410,994	739,711,017	838,989,173
Unfilled orders, end of month	241,033,920	235,991,920	219,205,180

TEXTILES

Cotton Consumption

Analysis of the monthly statement compiled and published by the United States Census Bureau indicates curtailment in textile activity in the cotton-growing states during February, but a slight increase in consumption and in the number of active spindles, in other states. February consumption in the United States, shown in the table below, was 1.5 per cent less than in January, and 2.7 per cent less than in February 1927. Stocks declined compared with both of those periods. Exports in February were 12.9 per cent smaller than in January, and 37.2 per cent smaller than in February last year. Active spindles declined 10,864 in number compared with January, and 1,186,268 compared with February 1927.

Figures for the cotton-growing states indicate that February consumption in these states was 2.1 per cent smaller than in January, but 1.1 per cent greater than in February a year ago. The number of spindles active in the cotton-growing state in February was smaller by 27,346 than in January, but was 297,740 greater than in February 1927. The Census Bureau's statement indicates that in February 74.9 per cent of the total consumption of cotton was in the cotton-growing states, compared with 75.4 per cent in January, and with 72.1 per cent in February a year ago.

UNITED STATES (Bales)

Cotton Consumed:	Feb. 1928	Jan. 1928	Feb. 1927
Lint	573,810	582,417	589,513
Linters	56,153	54,471	61,285
Stocks in Consuming Establishments:			
Lint	1,668,650	1,706,893	1,931,794
Linters	233,662	228,436	195,841

Stocks in Public Storage and at Compresses:			
Lint	4,312,929	5,014,029	5,453,313
Linters	63,599	57,690	72,322
Exports	634,890	728,935	1,010,507
Imports	38,200	41,445	39,702
Active Spindles	31,687,012	31,697,876	32,873,280
Cotton Growing States (Bales)			
Cotton Consumed	Feb. 1928	Jan. 1928	Feb. 1927
Stocks in Consuming Establishments	429,713	438,977	425,164
Stocks in Public Storage and at Compresses	1,124,955	1,170,909	1,309,215
Active Spindles	3,998,439	4,708,667	5,078,237
	17,848,812	17,871,158	17,546,072

Cotton Cloth Confidential reports were rendered to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta by cotton mills in the sixth district which during February produced 28.8 million yards of cloth, an output 2.1 per cent smaller than in January, but 4.3 per cent greater than in February a year ago. As indicated in the table below, shipments and the number of workers increased over January, but orders, unfilled orders and stocks declined, while compared with February 1927, shipments, orders and unfilled orders show decreases, and stocks on hand and number of workers increased. Percentage comparisons of reported figures follow.

	Feb. 1928	Jan. 1928	Feb. 1927
Production	+ 2.1		+ 4.3
Shipments	+ 5.0		+ 6.9
Orders booked	- 33.8		- 5.3
Unfilled orders	- 10.7		- 24.1
Stocks on hand	+ 1.8		+ 51.3
Number on payroll	+ 0.4		+ 1.6

Cotton Yarn

Reports for February were rendered to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta by mills which manufactured about 6.9 million pounds of yarn, an output 1.8 per cent greater than in January, and 1.2 per cent greater than in February a year ago. Shipments and orders increased over January, but unfilled orders, stocks and number of workers decreased. Compared with February 1927, shipments, unfilled orders, and number of workers show decreases, but orders and stocks show increases.

	Feb. 1928	Jan. 1928	Feb. 1927
Production	+ 1.8		+ 1.2
Shipments	+ 4.7		+ 1.9
Orders booked	+ 22.0		+ 9.3
Unfilled orders	- 5.5		- 21.3
Stocks on hand	- 1.1		+ 31.2
Number on payroll	- 0.9		- 0.2

Hosiery

Production, shipments and stocks of hosiery increased in February, compared with January, while orders, unfilled orders and cancellations declined, as indicated in figures reported to the United States Census Bureau by 34 identical establishments, shown in the table below:

	(Dozen Pairs)	
	Feb. 1928	Jan. 1928
Production	688,146	684,765
Shipments	662,705	656,170
Stocks on hand	1,754,012	1,696,373
Orders booked	539,855	599,736
Cancellations	34,916	44,370
Unfilled orders	875,925	1,008,540

COTTON SEED AND COTTON SEED PRODUCTS

	Sixth District*		United States	
	Aug. 1 to Feb. 29	1927	Aug. 1 to Feb. 29	1927
Cotton Seed, tons:	1928	1927	1928	1927
Received at Mills	1,379,761	1,787,894	4,428,736	5,751,008
Crushed	1,248,870	1,563,792	4,028,065	4,949,561
On Hand Feb. 29	157,355	232,033	489,955	818,715
Production:				
Crude Oil, lbs.	404,585,766	490,757,982	1,262,036,719	1,473,253,608
Cake and Meal, tons	539,749	671,475	1,796,268	2,215,770
Hulls, tons	361,811	471,273	1,143,133	1,442,344
Linters, bales	222,776	247,232	747,092	804,683
Stocks, Feb. 29:			**	**
Crude Oil, lbs.	36,730,481	26,856,897	123,015,070	95,142,633
Cake and Meal, tons	54,024	56,724	170,827	152,147
Hulls, tons	27,851	55,402	151,091	229,307
Linters, bales	41,853	49,519	155,307	192,848

*Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.
**Not including stocks held by refining and manufacturing establishments, and in transit to refiners and consumers.

COAL

According to statistics compiled by the United States Bureau of Mines, the output of bituminous coal in the United States during February 1928 was smaller than in January or in February a year ago. The decline in February compared with the preceding month, was however, smaller than at the same time of other recent years. Feb-

ruary output totaled 41,351,000 tons, compared with 44,208,000 tons produced in January, and with 52,904,000 tons in February 1927. Weekly figures for the United States as a whole, and for Alabama and Tennessee, the coal producing states of this district, indicate that current weekly production continues at a lower level than at the same time a year ago. The weekly figures compiled by the Bureau of Mines indicate that production during the week ended February 25, which included Washington's birthday, was greater than for any other week in February, and the Bureau's statement indicates that average time worked on February 22 amounted to about nine-tenths of a normal working day.

In the table are shown weekly figures for the United States, and for Alabama and Tennessee, for February this year and for corresponding weeks in 1927.

Week Ended:	(000 Omitted)					
	United States		Alabama		Tennessee	
	1928	1927	1928	1927	1928	1927
February 4.....	10,105	13,583	332	523	108	137
February 11.....	9,749	13,487	333	508	116	132
February 18.....	9,374	13,193	315	493	115	129
February 25.....	10,117	12,763	343	484	126	131
March 3.....	10,036	13,262	339	482	115	129
March 10.....	10,422	13,778	344	479	120	133

IRON

According to statistics compiled and published by the Iron Age, the production of pig iron in the United States during February amounted to 2,900,126 tons, greater by 30,365 tons than the output in January, but 40,553 tons smaller than production in February last year. February production was at the rate of 100,004 tons per day, compared with a daily rate of 92,573 tons in January, and larger than for any month since June last year. In February 1927 the average daily rate was 105,024 tons. The index number of pig iron production in February was 97.1 compared with 96.1 in January, and with 98.4 in February last year. During February eight furnaces were blown in, and six were shut down, resulting in a gain of two furnaces. In January there was a gain of 16 in the number of furnaces active. On March 1 there were 187 furnaces active, compared with 185 a month earlier, and with 217 active on March 1 last year.

Production of pig iron in Alabama during February amounted to 207,108 tons, compared with 224,132 tons in January, and with 236,786 tons in February last year. The index number of February production in Alabama was 89.2, compared with 96.5 in January, and with 102.0 in February 1927. The February output is the smallest in total number of tons produced reported for any month since September 1922. One furnace was blown in during February and one blown out, leaving 17 active on March 1, compared with 22 active at the same time a year ago. Press reports indicate that some business has been booked for the second quarter, but mostly in small tonnage lots. The price continues at \$16.00 per ton. Shipments continue close to production.

Unfilled Orders—U. S. Steel

Unfilled orders reported through the press by the United States Steel Corporation at the end of February amounted to 4,398,189 tons, a gain of 122,242 tons compared with the total of 4,275,947 at the end of January, and more than 800,000 greater than at the end of February last year. The total for February this year is the largest reported since February 1926.

NAVAL STORES

Seasonal declines were shown in both receipts and stocks of turpentine and rosin in February, compared with preceding months. Receipts of turpentine in February declined 41 per cent compared with January receipts, and were 11 per cent smaller than receipts of turpentine in February a year ago. Rosin receipts in February declined 25.8 per cent compared with January, but were 38 per cent greater than a year ago. Stocks of turpentine on hand at the end of February were 14 per cent smaller than a month earlier, but were 54.6 per cent greater than a year ago, and supplies of rosin at the end of February were 20.6 per cent smaller than at the end of January but 7.7 per cent greater than a year ago. Only twice, in 1920 and 1922, during the past twelve years, have February receipts of turpentine been smaller than those in February this year. Turpentine and rosin receipts for the naval stores year to date (April-February), however, have been greater than for the corresponding part of any of the last ten years. Stocks of turpentine at the end of February were larger than at the same time of any year since 1919, and supplies of rosin while larger than a year ago, were smaller than at the end of February of any other year since 1920. Press reports indicate that the market was dull through February, but that there has been some interest exhibited in the early part of March, and some sales of futures, although not in large volume. Prices of both commodities have fluctuated within a narrow range between the middle of February and the middle of March. Receipts and stocks at the three principal markets of the district, with comparisons, are shown in the table.

	Feb. 1928	Jan. 1928	Feb. 1927
Receipts—Turpentine			
Savannah.....	1,754	3,617	2,057
Jacksonville.....	2,026	2,943	2,174
Pensacola.....	788	1,204	907
Total.....	4,568	7,764	5,138
Receipts—Rosin			
Savannah.....	12,027	13,311	10,509
Jacksonville.....	13,778	13,356	7,076
Pensacola.....	4,744	3,993	4,542
Total.....	30,549	41,160	22,127
Stocks—Turpentine			
Savannah.....	17,875	21,356	8,130
Jacksonville.....	27,477	30,985	23,321
Pensacola.....	16,554	19,694	8,596
Total.....	61,906	72,035	40,047
Stocks—Rosin			
Savannah.....	63,234	91,841	44,595
Jacksonville.....	84,298	94,391	74,408
Pensacola.....	11,521	13,530	23,632
Total.....	159,053	200,262	147,635

MONTHLY INDEX NUMBERS

The following index numbers, except as indicated otherwise, are computed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta monthly. The index numbers of retail and wholesale trade are based upon sales figures reported confidentially by representative firms in the lines of trade indicated, and the other series of index numbers are based upon figures reported to the bank or currently available through the daily or trade press. These index numbers have recently been revised and, except as indicated in the foot-notes, are based upon the monthly averages for the three year period 1923-25 as represented by 100. This affords a broader and a more recent base period.

(Department Stores.) RETAIL TRADE 6TH DISTRICT	Dec. 1927	Jan. 1928	Feb. 1928	Dec. 1926	Jan. 1927	Feb. 1927
Atlanta.....	237.1	104.2	109.0	180.2	93.8	93.3
Birmingham.....	194.3	81.0	100.4	182.7	79.1	85.9
Chattanooga.....	150.2	75.5	67.5	145.0	77.1	70.7
Nashville.....	184.4	76.7	88.8	163.2	69.6	81.0
New Orleans.....	180.7	85.6	88.1	184.0	85.7	90.5
Other Cities.....	196.1	88.7	93.4	196.6	95.5	101.8
DISTRICT.....	191.0	85.0	91.2	181.0	87.0	88.0
RETAIL TRADE U. S. (1)						
Department Stores.....	186	88.1		184	89	83
Mail Order Houses.....	180	112.8		166	114	107
Chain Stores:						
Grocery.....	450	418.4		373	347	332
5 & 10 Cent.....	511	189.8		466	177	191
Drug.....	279	223.4		261	209	201
Cigar.....	215	125.3		222	134	137
Shoe.....	234	111.4		215	106	110
Music.....	176	96.5		223	94	98
Candy.....	309	187.6		303	178	194
WHOLESALE TRADE 6TH DISTRICT						
Groceries.....	86.4	85.0	85.8	96.9	88.4	85.4
Dry Goods.....	64.3	72.6	80.0	67.3	73.8	87.0
Hardware.....	92.6	96.4	81.8	100.3	99.4	87.2
Furniture.....	98.8	80.3	95.1	89.1	70.3	76.0
Electrical Supplies.....	95.7	75.0	73.2	147.3	85.5	85.9
Shoes.....	64.7	69.7	85.8	76.7	84.9	96.1
Stationery.....	84.5	84.0	90.7	94.1	83.1	87.7
Drugs.....	110.8	106.6	100.1	108.8	100.9	95.9
TOTAL.....	87.1	85.9	84.2	97.2	88.7	86.5
WHOLESALE PRICES U. S. (2)						
Farm products.....	104.4	106.1	104.5	94.9	96.5	95.4
Foods.....	100.7	98.5	98.7	100.7	96.9	95.9
Hides and leather products.....	116.9	121.0	124.1	100.4	101.0	100.2
Textile products.....	97.2	96.7	96.6	95.2	94.3	94.6
Fuel and lighting.....	82.5	80.8	81.2	99.4	97.7	95.8
Metals and Metal products.....	98.4	98.1	98.3	100.4	98.8	98.0
Building materials.....	90.4	90.8	91.0	99.2	97.5	96.2
Chemicals and drugs.....	97.2	96.3	95.8	98.8	97.6	97.6
Housefurnishing goods.....	98.8	98.6	98.4	98.8	97.9	97.9
Miscellaneous.....	89.0	89.0	87.3	89.9	90.3	90.6
ALL COMMODITIES.....	96.8	96.3	96.4	97.9	96.6	95.9
BUILDING PERMITS 6TH DISTRICT						
Atlanta.....	46.8	90.2	72.3	25.1	68.9	69.2
Birmingham.....	157.4	115.2	149.4	80.9	122.2	119.7
Jacksonville.....	61.7	94.4	106.8	121.8	122.0	160.3
Nashville.....	75.1	61.9	45.7	77.0	60.3	53.7
New Orleans.....	43.0	65.5	86.6	44.6	97.8	155.4
Other Cities.....	53.8	42.9	41.0	102.8	70.4	67.9
DISTRICT (20 cities).....	67.0	66.4	69.9	82.5	83.4	90.9
CONTRACTS AWARDED 6th DISTRICT	70.7	78.9	63.5	80.4	92.5	91.0
COTTON CONSUMED:						
United States.....	106.9	114.6	112.9	119.1	118.9	116.2
Cotton-Growing States.....	116.4	125.7	123.0	125.9	125.3	121.8
All Other States.....	86.1	90.2	90.7	104.0	104.9	103.8
Exports.....	124.8	118.6	103.3	249.1	181.5	164.4
PIG IRON PRODUCTION:						
United States.....	90.2	96.1	97.1	103.5	103.9	98.4
Alabama.....	98.1	96.5	89.2	108.9	106.2	102.0
UNFILED ORDERS—U. S. STEEL CORPORATION	83.2	89.5	92.1	82.9	79.6	75.3

(1) Compiled by Federal Reserve Board. Department Store index numbers are based upon monthly average for 1923-25—100. Mail Order and Chain Store index numbers based upon monthly average for 1919—100.

(2) Compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Base 1926—100.