

MONTHLY REVIEW

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

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA

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NATIONAL SUMMARY OF BUSINESS CONDITIONS

Prepared by Federal Reserve Board

Industrial activity increased in January by slightly less than the usual seasonal amount, and factory employment and payrolls declined. Money rates in the open market declined further from the middle of January to the middle of February.

Production and Employment The Board's Index of Industrial Production, which is adjusted for seasonal variation, showed a decrease of less than 1 per cent in January compared with declines of 3 per cent in November and in December. Activity in the steel industry, which was at a low level in December, increased during the following month by considerably more than the usual seasonal amount. Output of automobiles, which had shown an unusual increase in December, increased less in January than in the corresponding month of other recent years. The cotton and wool textile industries were more active in January while the output of copper, petroleum, and coal declined. The number of wage earners employed at factories was smaller in the payroll period ending nearest the 15th of January than in the preceding month reflecting in part extended year end shut downs. There were large declines in employment at foundries and at establishments producing hosiery, women's clothing, lumber, brick, cement, and tobacco products. Employment in the men's clothing, leather, and agricultural implement industries increased somewhat more than usual for the season. Factory payrolls were considerably reduced in January. Value of contracts awarded for residential building continued to decline in January, according to the F. W. Dodge Corporation, while contracts for public works and utilities increased. In the first half of February the daily average of contracts awarded for residential building increased.

Distribution Volume of freight car loadings was reduced further in January, contrary to the usual seasonal tendency, reflecting decreases in shipments of coal, merchandise, and miscel-

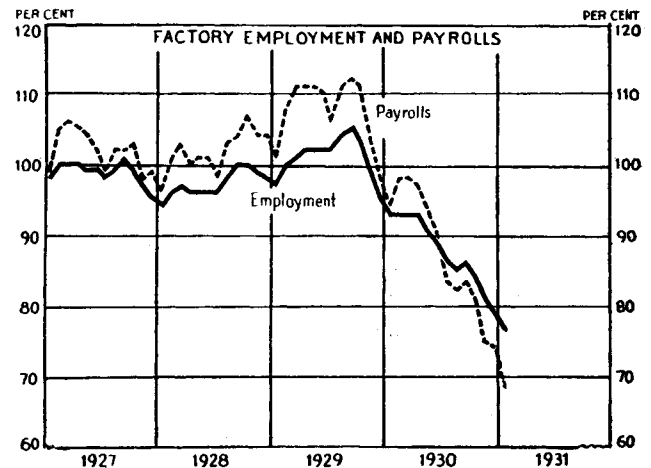
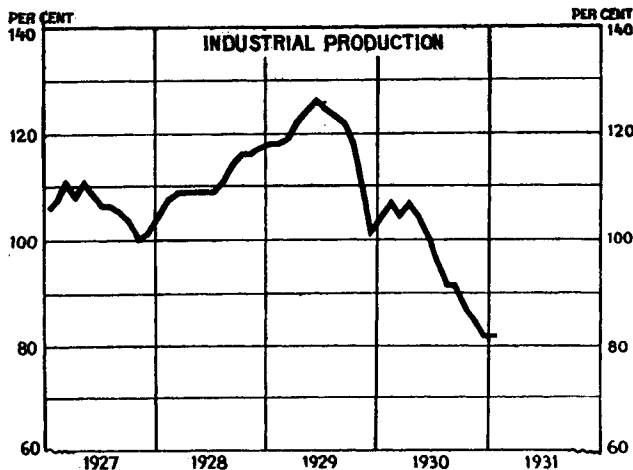
laneous freight. Department store sales, which always show a sharp reduction from December to January, declined by less than the estimated seasonal amount.

Wholesale Prices The general level of wholesale commodity prices declined further by 2 per cent in January, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Prices of many leading agricultural products, and of copper, and silver decreased substantially, while prices of cotton and silk advanced. In the first half of February the price of cotton continued to rise and in the middle of the month copper also advanced, while the price of silver declined to new low levels and prices of live stock continued to decrease.

Bank Credit Volume of credit at member banks in leading cities showed little change from January 14 to February 11, further declines of \$200,000,000 in loans on securities and of \$115,000,000 in all other loans being largely offset by an increase of \$310,000,000 in the banks' holdings of investments. In the first three weeks of February bank suspensions declined sharply and a number of banks, previously suspended, resumed operations.

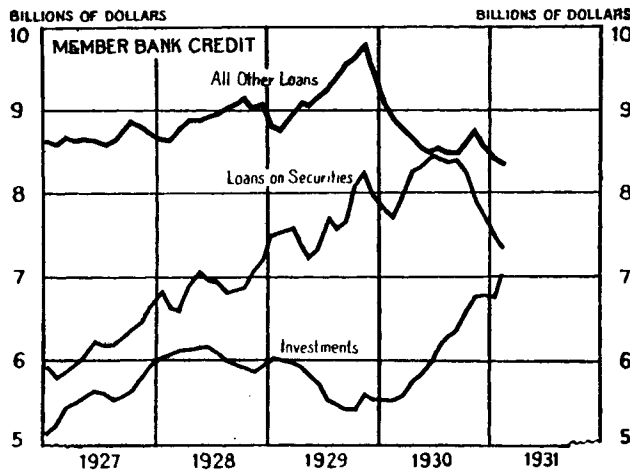
Volume of reserve bank credit outstanding decreased by \$175,000,000 between the weeks ending January 17 and February 14, reflecting a reduction of \$70,000,000 in member bank balances and \$80,000,000 in money in circulation, together with an increase of \$25,000,000 in the stock of monetary gold. The principal reduction has been in acceptance holdings of the reserve banks.

Money Rates Money rates in the open market continued to decline after the middle of January and by the middle of February were at new low levels. The prevailing rate on prime commercial paper declined to a range of $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent; and the rate on bankers' acceptances was reduced to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, but subsequently advanced to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

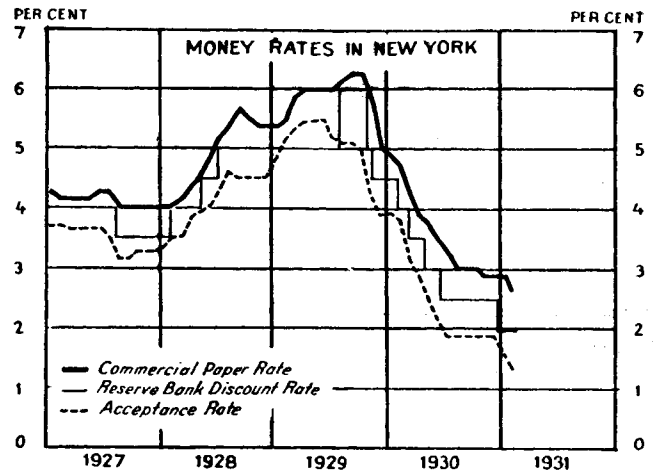


Index numbers of production of manufacturers and minerals combined adjusted for seasonal variations (1923-1925 average=100). Latest figure January 82.

Index numbers of factory employment and payrolls, without adjustment for seasonal variations (1923-25 average=100). Latest figures January Employment 76.4, payrolls 68.4.



Monthly averages of weekly figures for reporting banks in leading cities. Latest figures are averages of first two weeks in February.



Monthly rates in the open market in New York: commercial paper rate on 4- to 6-month paper and acceptance rate on 90-day bankers' acceptances. Latest figures are averages of first 19 days in February.

SIXTH DISTRICT SUMMARY

There were increases in January over December in the volume of business transactions settled by check as indicated in debits to individual accounts, in building permits and in the production of pig iron in Alabama and of bituminous coal in Tennessee, but the volume of trade declined seasonally, and all of these series show decreases compared with January a year ago.

Following an increase of 16 per cent in December over November, debits to individual accounts showed a further gain of 2.6 per cent in January, but were 16.0 per cent less than in January 1930. Department store sales declined in January from the holiday volume recorded for December, but the decrease was less than usual, and wholesale trade decreased 9.4 per cent. Compared with January 1930 retail trade was 7.4 per cent, and wholesale trade 30.2 per cent, smaller.

Building permits at 20 cities increased 15 per cent over December but were 46.3 per cent less than in January 1930. Production of pig iron in Alabama gained 11.6 per cent in January over December, and output of coal in Tennessee increased about 5 per cent, and there was a further small gain in production by cotton cloth mills.

There were decreases in loans on securities and in other loans by weekly reporting member banks between January 14 and February 11, but an increase in their investments, while at the reserve bank there were slight increases in discounts, and in holdings of United States securities, but a decrease in holdings of bills bought in the open market.

FINANCE

Reserve Bank Credit The volume of reserve bank credit outstanding at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, represented by its total holdings of bills and securities, declined \$5,758,000, or 14 per cent, between January 14, figures for which date were shown in the preceding issue of this Review, and February 11. These figures also show a decrease of more than 20 millions, or 37 per cent, in reserve bank credit outstanding at this bank since December 10, and a decline of 35.6 per cent compared with the corresponding report date a year ago.

Holdings of discounted bills secured by United States Government obligations declined slightly between January 14 and February 11, and were less than one-fifth as large as at the same time last year. Other discounts increased slightly and were a little less than a year ago, and the total holdings of discounted paper were less than one per cent larger than on January 14 and were 13.4 per cent smaller than on February 12, 1930. Holdings of United States securities have fluctuated little, but holdings of purchased bills declined by more than one-half between January 14 and February 11, or from \$10,702,000 to \$4,802,000, and were only about 30 per cent as large as on the first report date in January, and about 25 per cent of those held on February 12 last year.

There was an increase in Federal Reserve note circulation of this bank from 132.7 millions on January 14 to 135.1 millions a week later, but during the three weeks ending February 11 circulation declined to 130.7 millions at which time it was only slightly less than a year ago. This bank's circulation increased from a low point for the year 1930, at 110.1 millions on September 24, to 136 millions on December 24, and by February 11 had declined 5.3 millions from that level. Reserves increased slightly between January 14 and February 11, and were 8 per cent larger than a year ago, but deposits were 12.4 per cent less than those held at the same time last year.

Principal items in the weekly statement of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta are shown comparatively in the table.

	(000 Omitted)		
	Feb. 11, 1931	Jan. 14, 1931	Feb. 12, 1930
Bills Discounted:			
Secured by Govt. Obligations.....	\$ 505	\$ 539	\$ 2,884
All Others.....	21,474	21,254	22,501
Total Discounts.....	21,979	21,793	25,385
Bills Bought in open market.....	4,802	10,702	19,350
U. S. Securities.....	7,719	7,763	8,791
Total Bills and Securities.....	34,500	40,258	53,626
Cash Reserves.....	161,947	159,870	149,663
Member Banks Reserve Deposits.....	59,839	58,797	62,215
Total Deposits.....	61,932	63,155	70,735
F. R. Notes in Actual Circulation.....	130,701	132,749	131,327
Reserve Ratio.....	84.1	81.6	74.1

Condition of Member Banks in Selected Cities There was a small decline in the volume of loans by weekly reporting member banks in the sixth district between January 14 and February 11, but investment holdings increased. Loans on securities reported by these banks decreased 4.8 per cent during this period, and were 16.6 per cent less than on the same report date last year. "All Other" loans, which include those for commercial, industrial and agricultural purposes, declined slightly since January 14 and were 13.6 per cent smaller than a year ago. Total loans were, therefore, 1.9 per cent smaller on February 11 than four weeks earlier, and 14.6 per cent less than a year ago. Investments of these banks in United States Government securities varied only slightly for these comparative report dates, but their holdings of Other Stocks and Bonds increased 11.7 per cent from January 14 to February 11 and were 43.5 per cent greater than a year ago. Their combined investments in Government and other securities were 7.6 per cent greater than on January 14 and 23 per cent greater than on February 12, 1930. While total loans increased slightly during the four weeks ending February 11, they were less than for any report date during 1930, or in fact, for any weekly report date between August 19, 1925, and January 14, 1931.

There was a decline of 3.4 per cent in demand deposits held by these banks from January 14 to February 11, and time deposits were 1.9 per cent less, and there were decreases of 8.8 per cent and 8.3 per cent, respectively, in demand and time deposits compared with those held a year ago. Borrowings by these banks from the Federal Reserve Bank

of Atlanta declined slightly from January 14 to February 11, and were smaller by one-third than on February 12 last year.

Principal items in the weekly report are shown comparatively in the table.

	(000 Omitted)		
	Feb. 11, 1931	Jan. 14, 1931	Feb. 12, 1930
Loans:			
On Securities	\$132,379	\$139,047	\$158,884
All Others	288,974	290,311	334,502
Total Loans	421,353	429,358	493,386
U. S. Securities	61,731	60,498	60,616
Other Stocks and Bonds	90,685	81,172	63,189
Total Investments	152,396	141,670	123,805
Total Loans and Investments	573,749	571,028	616,991
Time Deposits	220,335	224,498	240,365
Demand Deposits	301,595	312,235	330,455
Due to Banks	112,539	100,653	113,472
Due from Banks	89,453	86,573	75,520
Borrowings from F. R. Bank	9,336	9,903	13,933

Deposits of All Member Banks Following small increases each month from August through November, the daily average of demand deposits of all member banks in the sixth district decreased \$13,713,000 in December to a point lower than for any other month since September 1924.

Daily average time deposits, which include savings deposits, declined more than 20 millions of dollars from November to December and were less than any other month since August 1925. Changes over the past year are shown in the table:

	Demand Deposits	Time Deposits
1929:		
December	\$550,424,000	\$427,978,000
1930:		
January	570,622,000	433,737,000
February	574,809,000	443,184,000
March	569,662,000	442,987,000
April	563,762,000	439,980,000
May	550,343,000	450,145,000
June	518,808,000	447,126,000
July	513,185,000	440,316,000
August	503,651,000	439,054,000
September	510,694,000	441,347,000
October	511,050,000	437,617,000
November	512,420,000	434,502,000
December	498,707,000	413,822,000

Savings Deposits Savings deposits reported to the Federal Reserve Bank by 65 banks located throughout the district declined an average of 5.7 per cent between December 31, and January 31, and averaged 9.1 per cent less than at the end of January 1930. Totals for Atlanta and for cities in which branches of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta are located are shown in the table, and reports from banks located elsewhere are grouped under "Other Cities."

	No. of Banks	(000 Omitted)				Percentage change	
		Jan. 1931	Dec. 1930	Jan. 1930	Dec. 1930	Jan. 1930	
Atlanta	4	\$ 39,098	\$ 42,660	\$ 41,209	- 8.3	- 5.1	
Birmingham	3	21,009	25,015	24,222	-16.0	-13.3	
Jacksonville	4	16,192	16,807	20,050	- 3.7	-19.2	
Nashville	5	25,993	25,074	32,282	+ 3.7	-19.5	
New Orleans	6	50,758	54,463	48,000	- 6.8	+ 5.7	
Other Cities	43	82,905	86,095	93,699	- 3.7	-11.5	
Total	65	235,955	250,114	259,462	- 5.7	- 9.1	

Debits to Individual Accounts Total debits to individual accounts at 26 clearing house centers of the sixth district registered a gain of 2.6 per cent in January over December, but averaged 16.0 per cent less than in January last year. The January total was, however, the smallest for that month since 1924.

During the past ten years there have been four instances when bank debits increased in January over the preceding December, namely, January of 1923, 1925, 1930 and 1931. In the other six instances January debits have declined compared with the month before. The increase from December to January this year was 2.6 per cent, while last year at the same time the gain was only 1.5 per cent. Monthly totals shown in the table are derived from weekly reports by prorating figures for those weeks which do not fall entirely within a single calendar month.

	(000 Omitted)		
	Jan. 1931	Dec. 1930	Jan. 1930
Alabama:			
Birmingham	\$ 130,270	\$ 125,604	\$ 160,823
Dothan	2,430	2,678	3,061
Mobile	38,775	37,239	50,559
Montgomery	22,329	23,821	30,018
Florida:			
Jacksonville	69,395	69,885	81,607
Miami	24,787	23,261	42,744
Pensacola	6,031	6,967	7,208
Tampa	29,495	31,671	34,221
Georgia:			
Albany	3,446	4,215	4,324
Atlanta	158,060	175,805	202,791
Augusta	20,636	23,956	25,335
Brunswick	2,480	2,934	4,235
Columbus	12,939	13,041	14,715
Elberton	755	939	1,084
Macon	19,495	18,053	18,783
Newnan	1,960	1,792	2,755
Savannah	37,821	35,672	38,516
Valdosta	3,858	4,286	4,868
Louisiana:			
New Orleans	334,188	300,507	358,761
Mississippi:			
Hattiesburg	6,263	5,241	7,268
Jackson	27,713	25,132	29,100
Meridian	8,159	8,010	15,295
Vicksburg	6,023	5,554	7,784
Tennessee:			
Chattanooga	50,122	45,298	57,790
Knoxville	27,289	25,295	39,135
Nashville	81,290	80,528	98,099
Total 26 Cities	\$1,126,009	\$1,097,374R	\$1,340,879

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AGRICULTURE

Live Stock on Farms The annual estimate by the United States Department of Agriculture indicates a decline of 1.3 per cent in the number of farm animals in the six states of this district on January 1, 1931, compared with a year ago, and a decline in value amounting to 24.5 per cent. The number of "All Cattle and Calves," and of Milk Cows and Heifers, and of Sheep and Lambs, increased slightly during this period, but values are lower than a year ago for all classes of live stock. Comparative figures are shown in the table.

	(000 Omitted)			
	1931		1930	
	Number	Value	Number	Value
Alabama: Total		\$ 49,044		\$ 66,300
Horse and Colts	51	2,570	57	3,656
Mules and Mule Colts	333	24,506	330	30,518
Swine	724	5,727	804	8,448
Sheep and Lambs	68	219	68	296
All Cattle and Calves	688	16,822	688	23,382
*Milk Cows and Heifers	358	11,814	354	16,992
Florida: Total		\$ 18,264		\$ 23,431
Horse and Colts	23	1,732	24	2,100
Mules and Mule Colts	37	3,881	39	4,320
Swine	470	2,378	490	3,697
Sheep and Lambs	56	182	56	223
All Cattle and Calves	410	9,541	432	12,591
*Milk Cows and Heifers	74	3,478	78	4,290
Georgia: Total		\$ 61,521		\$ 76,334
Horse and Colts	33	2,067	35	2,672
Mules and Mule Colts	337	29,247	344	36,018
Swine	1,154	9,444	1,154	10,894
Sheep and Lambs	51	194	49	205
All Cattle and Calves	863	20,569	846	26,545
*Milk Cows and Heifers	360	12,960	350	17,150
Louisiana: Total		\$ 33,895		\$ 41,949
Horse and Colts	92	4,124	97	4,929
Mules and Mule Colts	171	12,490	171	14,353
Swine	394	2,396	415	3,783
Sheep and Lambs	118	322	115	391
All Cattle and Calves	613	14,063	595	18,493
*Milk Cows and Heifers	212	7,632	206	9,682
Mississippi: Total		\$ 49,885		\$ 69,552
Horse and Colts	86	3,372	96	5,505
Mules and Mule Colts	343	22,449	343	29,792
Swine	620	4,348	620	5,751
Sheep and Lambs	34	98	34	119
All Cattle and Calves	965	19,118	902	28,385
*Milk Cows and Heifers	435	13,050	410	19,270
Tennessee: Total		\$ 68,345		\$ 94,640
Horse and Colts	179	9,881	192	12,308
Mules and Mule Colts	314	22,651	320	28,039
Swine	687	5,251	741	7,054
Sheep and Lambs	394	2,221	366	3,516
All Cattle and Calves	987	28,341	987	43,723
*Milk Cows and Heifers	465	18,135	456	27,360
Total Six States:		\$280,954		\$372,206
Horse and Colts	464	24,296	501	31,170
Mules and Mule Colts	1,535	115,224	1,547	143,540
Swine	4,029	30,544	4,224	39,627
Sheep and Lambs	707	3,236	688	4,750
All Cattle and Calves	4,526	107,654	4,450	153,119
*Milk Cows and Heifers	1,904	67,069	1,854	94,744

*Milk Cows and Heifers are included in "All Cattle and Calves."

Florida Citrus Fruits A revised estimate by the United States Department of Agriculture for the citrus crop of the present season indicates a commercial production of 24,500,000 boxes, of which 14,500,000 will be oranges and 10,000,000 grapefruit. This is for fruit to move by rail and boat, and includes express. In addition to the shipped crop, an increasing volume is being utilized for canning, preserving, and juice extraction, more fruit is being consumed locally, and more is being trucked out of the state than heretofore. This is estimated at about 4,500,000 boxes, and the total crop estimate is 29 million boxes, 16 million of oranges and 13 million of grapefruit.

SUGAR MOVEMENT (Pounds)

	Jan. 1931	Dec. 1930	Jan. 1930
Receipts:			
New Orleans.....	43,569,180	54,096,067	99,705,308
Savannah.....	11,352,424	6,299,998	11,100,842
Meltings:			
New Orleans.....	45,061,027	67,455,610	137,340,693
Savannah.....	31,250,671	6,818,931	8,690,446
Stocks:			
New Orleans.....	115,230,534	116,990,892	122,788,954
Savannah.....	22,793,505	42,696,752	45,598,162

REFINED SUGAR (Pounds)

	Jan. 1931	Dec. 1930	Jan. 1930
Shipments:			
New Orleans.....	76,445,401	61,978,766	110,675,236
Savannah.....	19,240,618	13,385,837	22,247,056
Stocks:			
New Orleans.....	58,860,413	80,848,751	67,572,865
Savannah.....	17,342,833	14,474,052	7,626,470

RICE MOVEMENT—New Orleans

	Jan. 1931	Dec. 1930	Jan. 1930
Rough Rice (Sacks):			
Receipts.....	28,223	47,186	12,449
Shipments.....	9,768	47,266	8,363
Stocks.....	26,206	7,751	21,749
Clean Rice (Pockets):			
Receipts.....	51,418	100,801	77,760
Shipments.....	82,116	75,426	88,638
Stocks.....	124,673	155,371	89,345

RICE MILLERS' ASSOCIATION STATISTICS
(Barrels)

	January	August 1 to January 31
Receipts of Rough Rice:		
Season 1930-31.....	1,146,938	6,902,995
Season 1929-30.....	869,702	7,385,107
Distribution of Milled Rice:		
Season 1930-31.....	1,119,362	5,918,123
Season 1929-30.....	1,073,165	5,954,602
Stocks of Rough and Milled Rice:		
February 1, 1931.....	1,793,078	-----
February 1, 1930.....	2,317,594	-----

TRADE

Retail Trade The volume of retail trade in the sixth district in January declined by more than one-half, compared with the month before, but the decrease was not as large as has usually occurred from December to January in other recent years. The average decrease for the district was 53.7 per cent. Compared with January a year ago, department store sales showed a decline of 7.4 per cent for the district. These comparisons are based upon dollar figures, and make no allowance for declines in the prices of goods sold by reporting stores.

Stocks of merchandise on hand at the close of January averaged 2.7 per cent smaller than for December, and 13.1 per cent smaller than for January 1930. The rate of stock turnover for January was higher than for that month last year. Accounts receivable decreased 16.2 per cent from December to January and were 9.4 per cent less than for January a year ago. Collections in January, following the holiday period, increased 11.8 per cent over those in December, but were 13.6 per cent less than in January 1930. The ratio of collections during January to accounts receivable and due at the beginning of the month, for 33 firms, was 31.1 per cent; for December this ratio was 31.0 per cent, and for January a year ago 32.6 per cent. For January the ratio of collections against regular accounts for 33 firms was 33.1 per cent, and the ratio of collections against installment accounts for 11 firms was 16.0 per cent. Detailed comparisons of reported figures are shown in the table, and index numbers appear on page 8 of this Review.

RETAIL TRADE IN THE SIXTH DISTRICT DURING JANUARY 1931
BASED ON CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FROM 41 DEPARTMENT STORES

	Comparison of Net Sales		Comparison of Stocks		Rate of Stock Turnover	
	January 1931 with January 1930	January 1931 with December 1930	Jan. 31, 1931, with January 31, 1930	Jan. 31, 1931, with December 31, 1930	January 1930	January 1931
Atlanta (4).....	+ 0.6	-53.9	-14.0	-3.4	.29	.34
Birmingham (4).....	-12.8	-54.2	-6.3	-0.1	.16	.17
Chattanooga (5).....	-7.3	-43.5	-0.8	+0.2	.18	.17
Nashville (4).....	-12.4	-57.4	-10.3	-4.3	.19	.19
New Orleans (5).....	-8.8	-53.6	-16.0	-1.6	.15	.19
Other Cities (19).....	-8.8	-54.3	-16.4	-5.5	.15	.19
DISTRICT (41).....	-7.4	-53.7	-13.1	-2.7	.18	.21

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

Wholesale Trade The volume of sales by 116 reporting wholesale firms in the sixth district showed a further loss in January and the index number of combined sales declined to a point lower than for any other month in the series. It is not unusual, however, for the decrease which follows the peak for the year in October to continue through January, or even February. January sales by these 116 firms averaged 9.4 per cent less than in December, and were 30.2 per cent less than in January 1930. These comparisons are of sales in dollar figures, and do not make allowance for the declines in prices. Detailed percentage comparisons of reported figures are shown in the table.

WHOLESALE TRADE IN JANUARY 1931
SIXTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT (a)

Line, item and area:	No. of firms	Percentage change:	
		Jan. 1931 compared with: Dec. 1930	Jan. 1930
All Lines Combined:			
Sales.....	116	- 9.4	-30.2
Stocks on hand.....	29	+ 0.1	-15.2
Accounts receivable.....	56	- 6.3	-13.6
Collections.....	61	- 9.0	-23.3
Groceries:			
Sales.....	28	- 6.6	-24.8
Atlanta.....	4	+ 5.0	-35.7
Jacksonville.....	4	- 4.0	-23.2
New Orleans.....	5	-13.7	-22.0
Vicksburg.....	3	+ 1.2	-24.8
Other Cities.....	12	- 7.5	-24.7
Stocks on hand.....	3	- 1.0	-15.9
Accounts receivable.....	12	- 1.5	-13.2
Collections.....	12	+ 0.0	-22.2

Line, item and area:	No. of firms	Percentage change Jan. 1931 compared with:	
		Dec. 1930	Jan. 1930
Dry Goods:			
Sales.....	22	-16.5	-35.6
Atlanta.....	3	-17.0	-40.1
Nashville.....	3	-17.0	-41.6
Other Cities.....	16	-16.3	-33.4
Stocks on hand.....	10	+ 4.3	-28.8
Accounts receivable.....	12	-10.5	-13.6
Collections.....	14	-19.2	-21.8
Hardware:			
Sales.....	29	- 3.3	-34.7
Atlanta.....	3	+13.3	-36.2
Mobile.....	3	- 2.2	-36.5
Nashville.....	4	-23.7	-36.6
New Orleans.....	5	+ 2.2	-39.3
Other Cities.....	14	- 0.1	-27.5
Stocks on hand.....	9	+ 1.9	-10.7
Accounts receivable.....	16	- 5.6	-10.2
Collections.....	18	- 6.5	-27.1
Furniture:			
Sales.....	12	- 1.4	-35.4
Atlanta.....	5	+13.8	-23.7
Other Cities.....	7	- 5.0	-38.2
Stocks on hand.....	3	- 5.8	-38.0
Accounts receivable.....	7	- 7.1	-23.9
Collections.....	6	-23.9	-25.3

Line, item and area:	No. of firms	Percentage change	
		Jan. 1931 compared with Dec. 1930	Jan. 1930
Electrical Supplies:			
Sales.....	10	-36.9	-36.2
New Orleans.....	4	-38.1	-47.9
Other Cities.....	6	-36.3	-28.2
Stocks on hand.....	4	-10.5	-0.4
Accounts receivable.....	5	-16.0	-28.6
Collections.....	6	-19.2	-24.3
Drugs:			
Sales.....	8	-2.8	-22.1
Accounts receivable.....	4	-1.4	+11.1
Collections.....	5	-4.4	-12.5
Shoes:			
Sales.....	3	-36.2	-36.4
Stationery:			
Sales.....	4	-2.9	-15.6

(a) Based upon confidential reports from 116 firms.

Life Insurance Following an increase of 30.3 per cent in December over November, the volume of sales of new, paid-for, ordinary life insurance in the six states of this district during January declined 30.1 per cent, and were 27.2 per cent less than in January 1930. Comparisons by states are shown in the table.

(000 Omitted)

	Jan. 1931	Dec. 1930	Jan. 1930
Alabama.....	\$ 3,756	\$ 5,330	\$ 5,424
Florida.....	3,908	5,637	4,797
Georgia.....	6,446	9,261	8,798
Louisiana.....	4,760	5,776	6,123
Mississippi.....	1,741	3,592	3,773
Tennessee.....	7,408	10,490	9,578
Total.....	\$28,019	\$40,086	\$38,493

Commercial Failures Statistics compiled by R. G. Dun & Co. indicate that in January there were 3,316 business failures in the United States compared with 2,525 in December, and with 2,759 in January 1930, and liabilities amounted to \$94,608,212 in January, compared with \$83,683,361 in December, and with \$61,185,171 in January a year ago.

In the sixth district there were 245 failures in January, compared with 168 in December, and 147 in January last year, and liabilities in January were \$4,686,225, against \$21,472,501 for December, and \$2,618,590 for January 1930.

GRAIN EXPORTS—New Orleans

	Jan. 1931	Jan. 1930	July 1 to Jan. 31	
			1930-31	1929-30
Wheat, bushel.....	73,436	1,679,977	5,360,056	6,700,016
Corn, bushel.....	11,155	24,484	64,213	402,205
Oats, bushel.....	13,423	82,082	68,942	412,255
Barley, bushel.....	-----	3,336	-----	3,336
Total, bushel.....	98,014	1,789,879	5,493,211	7,542,633

INDUSTRY

Building and Construction There was an increase of 15 per cent in the value of building permits reported by 20 cities in the sixth district for January over December, but a decrease of 46 per cent compared with January last year. The total for December was the smallest for any month in the eleven years this series has been compiled, and the total for January was, next to December, the smallest in the series. The increase of 15 per cent over December was due to gains in permits issued at Birmingham, Jacksonville, Chattanooga, Tampa, Pensacola, Miami, Montgomery and Anniston. Increases over January 1930 were reported only from Birmingham, Pensacola and Macon.

Comparisons for the month are shown in the table, and index numbers appear on page 8 of this Review.

City	Number		Value		Percentage change in value
	1931	1930	1931	1930	
Alabama:					
Anniston.....	5	18	\$ 3,805	\$ 86,135	-95.6
Birmingham.....	167	207	390,063	244,070	+59.8
Mobile.....	30	64	27,696	45,829	-39.6
Montgomery.....	100	141	62,873	67,175	-6.4
Florida:					
Jacksonville.....	229	269	105,770	273,900	-61.4
Miami.....	231	409	125,172	212,953	-41.2
Orlando.....	49	36	19,825	23,885	-17.0
Pensacola.....	16	94	194,434	151,688	+21.6
Tampa.....	238	209	41,950	409,108	-89.7
*Lakeland.....	5	11	850	1,900	-55.3
*Miami Beach.....	19	67	48,960	231,815	-79.1

City	Number		Value		Percentage change in value
	Jan. 1931	Jan. 1930	Jan. 1931	Jan. 1930	
Georgia:					
Atlanta.....	427	233	318,831	656,800	-51.5
Augusta.....	62	69	15,779	44,758	-64.7
Columbus.....	20	41	21,245	59,590	-64.3
Macon.....	162	61	45,690	28,475	+60.5
Savannah.....	5	26	17,200	86,235	-80.1
Louisiana:					
New Orleans.....	97	86	109,468	314,374	-65.2
Alexandria.....	56	44	38,581	48,636	-20.7
Tennessee:					
Chattanooga.....	209	249	69,634	308,551	-77.4
Johnson City.....	3	3	950	2,800	-66.1
Knoxville.....	31	43	44,960	91,700	-51.0
Nashville.....	117	143	182,264	241,436	-24.5
Total 20 Cities.....	2,251	2,445	\$1,826,240	\$3,398,038	-46.3
Index No.....			16.2	30.2	

*Not included in totals or index numbers.

Statistics of contract awards, compiled by the F. W. Dodge Corporation, and divided into district figures by the Federal Reserve Board's Division of Research and Statistics, indicate a total for January for the sixth district amounting to \$17,860,344, an increase of 79.6 per cent over the low total of \$9,942,703 for December, and 16.7 per cent less than the total of \$21,432,576 for January 1930. In January 9 per cent of the total was for residential construction, in December 15.2 per cent, and in January a year ago, 13.7 per cent. Figures by states show substantial increases over December for Louisiana, Alabama and Georgia, but decreases for Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee. State totals are shown comparatively in the table; parts of the figures for Louisiana and Mississippi apply to other Federal reserve districts.

	Percentage Change		Percentage Change		
	Jan. 1931	Dec. 1930	Jan. 1930	Change	
Alabama.....	\$ 2,259,500	\$1,393,600	+ 62.1	\$ 2,697,600	-16.3
Florida.....	1,020,900	1,095,600	- 6.9	2,158,300	-52.7
Georgia.....	2,506,500	1,872,200	+ 33.9	5,186,400	-51.7
Louisiana.....	14,403,700	4,567,400	+215.4	11,825,600	+21.8
Mississippi.....	694,400	2,184,600	- 68.2	1,914,600	-63.7
Tennessee.....	1,008,800	1,135,600	- 11.2	1,676,700	-39.8

Contracts awarded in January in the 37 states east of the Rocky Mountains amounted to \$227,956,400, a decrease of 8.6 per cent from the December total of \$249,435,500, and 29.6 per cent less than the total of \$323,975,200 for January 1930. In the January total, residential construction accounted for \$54,375,500, non-residential construction \$78,369,000, and public works and utilities \$95,211,100.

Lumber Although there has been some recovery in the early weeks of the new year from the extreme quiet of the holiday and inventory period, buying of Southern Pine for the most part has continued at a comparatively low level. Press reports appear to indicate small stocks in the hands of retailers, and there was reference the latter part of January to an increase in inquiries and a small degree of buying for stock.

In the table are shown orders, production and unfilled orders reported to the Southern Pine Association by mills which also reported for corresponding weeks of last year. For this period orders received by these mills averaged 24 per cent less than a year ago, production averaged 33 per cent less, and unfilled orders averaged 39 per cent lower. Orders for the period, however, averaged 12 per cent larger than production by these mills, and unfilled orders averaged about three times as large as current weekly production.

Week Ended:	(In thousands of feet)						
	Number of Mills	Orders		Production		Unfilled Orders	
		1931	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930
January 3.....	121	27,342	43,320	32,509	50,431	92,442	147,396
January 10.....	121	36,708	61,629	33,458	53,979	96,705	165,467
January 17.....	116	39,144	49,546	31,719	49,022	103,362	170,792
January 24.....	129	40,446	49,245	34,393	50,100	108,843	184,996
January 31.....	124	47,103	50,571	35,313	51,445	111,321	179,388
February 7.....	127	38,829	46,074	38,125	53,776	112,602	180,679

Consumption of Cotton Following the usual trend, the amount of cotton consumed by mills in the United States increased in January over the preceding month, although it is still considerably below last year. Census Bureau statistics indicate that consumption of cotton nearly always increases in January over December. This year the increase was 12 per cent, while at the same time last year the gain was 27 per cent. January consumption was larger than for other months since May last year, but was 21 per cent less than in January 1930. The number of spindles active in January increased by 85,638 over the number active in December, but was smaller by 3,565,770 than for January a year ago.

Cumulative totals for the first six months of the cotton season, August through January, indicate the consumption by American mills of 2,466,432 bales, compared with 3,314,345 bales during that part of the previous season. Exports for January declined 18.4 per cent compared with December, and were 14.3 per cent less than in January last year, and for the season through January exports amounted to 4,571,227 bales, compared with 4,891,012 bales exported during the same part of the preceding season.

Stocks of cotton held at the end of January by consuming establishments were 2.8 per cent less than a month earlier, and 11.6 per cent smaller than for January last year, and stocks in public storage and at compresses declined 5.3 per cent from December to January but were 46.7 per cent larger than a year ago. Detailed comparisons of figures compiled by the United States Census Bureau are shown in the table.

	UNITED STATES (Bales)		
	Jan. 1931	Dec. 1930	Jan. 1930
Cotton Consumed:			
Lint.....	454,188	406,207	576,160
Linters.....	49,346	43,989	62,694
Stocks in Consuming Establishments:			
Lint.....	1,613,475	1,659,432	1,825,793
Linters.....	264,869	248,310	197,508
Stocks in Public Storage and at Compresses:			
Lint.....	7,930,454	8,377,720	5,404,731
Linters.....	82,672	80,473	94,170
Exports.....	624,631	765,835	728,737
Imports.....	11,299	4,461	51,474
Active Spindles.....	25,611,458	25,525,820	29,177,228

Cotton Manufacturing There was a further small gain in January over December in the production of cotton cloth by mills in the sixth district reporting to the Federal Reserve Bank, and an appreciable gain in shipments, but other reported items show decreases, and all items show declines compared with January a year ago. Stocks of cotton yarn mills increased somewhat over December, and stocks and unfilled orders were reported larger, but other items smaller, than for January 1930. Percentage comparisons of reported figures follow.

	Percentage change Jan. 1931 compared with:	
	Dec. 1930	Jan. 1930
Cotton Cloth:		
Production.....	+ 1.8	-17.9
Shipments.....	+12.9	-16.9
Orders booked.....	-17.8	-29.3
Unfilled orders.....	- 4.6	-23.3
Stocks on hand.....	- 2.9	- 2.9
Number on payroll.....	- 2.0	-14.9
Cotton Yarn:		
Production.....	- 7.2	-19.7
Shipments.....	- 4.6	-24.6
Orders booked.....	-32.7	-38.6
Unfilled orders.....	- 6.9	+ 7.7
Stocks on hand.....	+ 3.4	+43.2
Number on payroll.....	- 1.2	- 6.1

**HOSIERY STATISTICS FOR 42 IDENTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS
SIXTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT**

	(Dozen Pairs)		Percentage Change
	Jan. 1931	Dec. 1930	
Production	723,487	668,513	+ 8.2
Shipments	897,222	688,311	+ 1.7
Stocks on hand	1,503,402	1,485,062	+ 1.2
Orders booked	780,215	677,918	+15.1
Cancellations	32,627	70,421	-53.7
Unfilled orders	695,726	645,360	+ 7.8

Cottonseed Products Cumulative figures compiled by the Census Bureau through January continue to indicate more advanced operations by cottonseed oil mills this season than last, both for this district and for the country as a whole. For the six months of the season, August through January, mills in Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi had received 10.3 per cent more cottonseed, they had crushed 16 per cent more, and they had 19.3 per cent less on hand at the end of January, than for the corresponding part of the season before. Production and stocks of cottonseed products for this district also show increases over the previous season. Increases are also shown in most items for the country as a whole, excepting stocks of cottonseed, and of linters, on hand at the end of January. Combined figures for Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi are shown comparatively in the first two columns of the table, and figures for the country as a whole are shown in the last two columns.

COTTON SEED AND COTTON SEED PRODUCTS

	(*) Sixth District Aug. 1 to Jan. 31.		United States Aug. 1 to Jan. 31.	
	1930-1931	1929-1930	1930-1931	1929-1930
Cotton Seed, Tons:				
Received at mills....	1,654,986	1,500,872	4,299,928	4,297,509
Crushed.....	1,450,357	1,250,429	3,725,113	3,579,957
On Hand Jan. 31....	212,269	263,171	620,231	757,874
Production:				
Crude Oil, lbs.....	447,726,599	400,307,233	1,125,462,886	1,106,472,748
Oake and Meal, tons	633,453	537,763	1,685,778	1,590,901
Hulls, tons.....	409,063	355,409	1,032,086	984,558
Linters, bales.....	256,072	249,588	647,089	737,719
Stocks at mills, Jan. 31:				
Crude Oil, lbs.....	28,527,914	17,185,030	80,757,112	77,862,491
Oake and Meal, tons	123,055	63,919	343,665	206,452
Hulls, tons.....	37,206	31,877	153,862	130,945
Linters, bales.....	107,776	77,988	346,855	263,999

(*) Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Electric Power There was a further small decrease in total production of electric power by public utility power plants in the six states of this district in December, compared with preceding months, and a decrease of 4.4 per cent compared with December 1929. Production by water power plants increased 5.6 per cent over November, but was 6.8 per cent less than a year ago, and output of plants using fuels declined 8.5 per cent from November to December, and was 0.2 per cent less than in December 1929. Consumption of coal, and of natural gas, in the production of electric power, declined in comparison with the preceding month and the same month a year ago, but consumption of fuel oil increased 8.5 per cent over November and was less than one per cent smaller than in December 1929.

Totals for the year 1930 show a decrease of 1.4 per cent in total production of electric power in these states compared with 1929. Output of water power plants declined 3.2 per cent, while production by those plants using fuels increased 1.6 per cent. Consumption of coal in production of electric power was 28.4 per cent, and of fuel oil 2.1 per cent, less than in 1929, but consumption of natural gas increased 4.3 per cent. Preliminary December figures with comparisons are shown in the table.

	Dec. 1930	Nov. 1930	Dec. 1929
Total Production of Electric Power:			
000 k. w. hours.....	455,949	457,321	476,880
By use of:			
Water Power.....	281,311	266,519	301,809
Fuels.....	174,638	190,802	175,071

Fuels Consumed in Production of

	Dec. 1930	Nov. 1930	Dec. 1929
Electric Power:			
Coal—tons.....	18,962	26,912	21,780
Fuel Oil—bbls.....	216,513	199,534	217,964
Natural Gas—000 cu. ft.....	1,718,442	1,848,278	2,691,065

Note: November figures slightly revised:

Bituminous Coal Mining Statistics compiled by the United States Bureau of Mines indicate declines of 2.4 per cent in total output, and of 3.6 per cent in average daily production, of bituminous coal in the United States during January compared with December, and decreases of 22.2 per cent in total output and of 21.9 per cent in daily average production compared with January a year ago. Comparisons for the month are as follows:

	Total Production (Tons)	Number of working per Days	Average output working day(tons)
January 1931.....	38,745,000	26.3	1,473,000
December 1930.....	39,716,000	26	1,528,000
January 1930.....	49,778,000	26.4	1,866,000

Weekly figures continue below the level for corresponding periods a year ago. January weekly figures for Alabama were about 2 per cent below those for December, and 18 per cent less than for January 1930, while in Tennessee weekly figures for January increased nearly 5 per cent over those for December but were 10 per cent less than for January a year ago. Comparisons of weekly figures follow:

Week Ended:	(In thousands of tons)					
	United States		Alabama		Tennessee	
	1931	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930
January 3.....	8,369	10,190	253	351	112	123
January 10.....	9,184	11,166	275	359	120	124
January 17.....	9,195	10,667	291	308	115	115
January 24.....	8,835	11,703	307	848	115	132
January 31.....	8,037	11,628	277	351	97	129
February 7.....	7,828	10,935	262	372	94	129

Cumulative production in the United States for the coal year to date, April 1 through February 7, approximately 263 working days amounted to 382,894,000 net tons, and was smaller than output during that part of other recent years.

A comparison of total production of bituminous coal in Alabama and Tennessee during 1930, with other recent years, is shown in the figures following:

	Alabama	Tennessee
1930.....	15,240,000 tons	5,103,000 tons
1929.....	17,943,923 tons	5,405,464 tons
1928.....	17,621,362 tons	5,610,959 tons
1927.....	19,765,866 tons	5,783,367 tons
1926.....	21,000,962 tons	5,788,741 tons

Pig Iron Production According to statistics compiled and published by the Iron Age, the production of pig iron in the United States, and in Alabama, increased in January over December, and the decreases shown in comparison with the corresponding month a year ago were smaller than were shown for December, compared with that month a year earlier. There was also a gain in furnace activity over December.

Total production of pig iron in the United States during January gained 3 per cent over the preceding month, and was 39 per cent less than in January 1930. A year ago there was a small decline from December to January. The number of furnaces active on February 1 was larger by 7 than the number active a month earlier, but smaller by 71 than a year ago.

Alabama production of pig iron increased 11.6 per cent, both in total production and in daily average, in January over December, but was 32 per cent less than in January 1930. The number of active furnaces increased by 2 over the month before, and was 10, compared with 16 active a year ago. Press reports indicate that pig iron consumers in the Birmingham district are continuing their policy of covering nearby requirements only. January shipments are reported to have been

better than those in December, and some melters are reported to have covered their requirements for February and March. During the latter part of January prices are reported to have become unsettled and some sales were made at \$13 per ton, or \$1 less than the recent base price, with some further shading of prices on large orders. Production figures are shown in the table for convenience of comparison, and index numbers appear on page 8 of this Review.

United States:	Jan. 1931	Dec. 1930	Jan. 1930
Production—tons.....	1,714,266	1,665,690	2,827,464
Average per day—tons.....	55,299	53,732	91,209
*Active furnaces.....	102	95	173
Alabama:			
Production—tons.....	150,251	134,650	220,781
Average per day—tons.....	4,847	4,344	7,122
*Active furnaces.....	10	8	16

Naval Stores Receipts of turpentine and rosin are usually at a seasonally low level during the first three months of the calendar year, which constitute the last quarter of the Naval Stores Year. January receipts of turpentine at the three principal markets of the district declined about 74 per cent compared with December, and were 29 per cent less than in January last year. Receipts of rosin in January declined 65 per cent compared with December, and were 18.6 per cent smaller than in January a year ago. For the ten months of the naval stores season turpentine and rosin receipts have been slightly less than for that part of the 1929-30 season or the 1927-28 season, but larger than for other recent years. Stocks of rosin at the end of January were the largest for that date since 1923, and stocks of turpentine were larger than for January of other recent years except 1928 and 1929. According to press reports there was some improvement in demand for both commodities the first week in February, the domestic demand was reported as general, from all sections and from the chief consuming industries, and the foreign demand was widespread although for small lots, but constituted a seasonable total for early February. There was some strengthening in prices but this appears to have checked the demand during the following week.

	Jan. 1931	Dec. 1930	Jan. 1930
Receipts—Turpentine (1):			
Savannah.....	3,388	12,989	4,942
Jacksonville.....	3,090	10,651	3,854
Pensacola.....	750	3,842	1,441
Total.....	7,228	27,482	10,237
Receipts—Rosin (2):			
Savannah.....	15,629	57,534	24,902
Jacksonville.....	22,127	44,136	19,575
Pensacola.....	3,589	15,819	6,814
Total.....	41,345	117,489	50,791
Stocks—Turpentine (1):			
Savannah.....	19,084	25,708	11,040
Jacksonville.....	15,727	24,967	18,673
Pensacola.....	33,509	34,246	28,772
Total.....	68,320	84,911	58,485
Stocks—Rosin (2):			
Savannah.....	174,558	198,035	109,988
Jacksonville.....	118,303	182,436	100,077
Pensacola.....	36,765	41,619	11,503
Total.....	329,626	372,090	221,568

(1) Barrels of 50 gallons.
(2) Barrels of 500 pounds.

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 trades 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, except as indicated in the foot-notes, are based upon the monthly averages for the three year period 1923-25 as represented by 100.

RETAIL TRADE 6th DISTRICT (Department Stores)	November	December	January	November	December	January
	1930	1930	1931	1929	1929	1930
Atlanta.....	156.1	270.7	124.8	161.4	264.9	124.0
Birmingham.....	88.6	137.9	63.1	117.0	173.3	72.4
Chattanooga.....	72.0	112.1	63.8	90.3	127.6	68.0
Nashville.....	98.9	154.0	65.6	117.1	180.0	74.9
New Orleans.....	96.3	135.6	62.9	108.1	152.5	66.8
Other Cities.....	85.1	143.8	65.3	107.4	167.2	72.8
DISTRICT.....	96.0	154.0	72.4	112.0	171.0	76.0
RETAIL TRADE U. S. (1)						
Department Stores.....	112	165	82	125	191	88
WHOLESALE TRADE 6th DISTRICT						
Groceries.....	64.1	69.1	64.8	86.9	84.0	83.6
Dry Goods.....	61.6	43.6	39.1	82.0	59.3	59.4
Hardware.....	63.6	57.8	58.8	91.9	83.2	85.5
Furniture.....	54.6	49.8	49.1	98.9	77.3	76.1
Electrical Supplies.....	76.4	85.4	55.7	88.8	106.9	81.5
Shoes.....	62.3	40.7	26.0	97.0	46.0	40.9
Stationery.....	59.6	60.1	58.3	73.4	68.0	72.7
Drugs.....	81.0	88.3	86.0	100.8	104.8	109.2
TOTAL.....	64.8	62.8	58.2	89.1	82.4	81.4
WHOLESALE PRICES U. S. (2)						
Farm Products.....	79.3	75.2	73.5	101.1	101.9	101.0
Foods.....	85.7	81.8	80.1	98.8	98.6	97.2
Hides and leather products.....	94.0	91.2	88.6	108.4	107.4	105.1
Textile products.....	73.3	72.4	71.0	91.5	90.4	89.4
Fuel and lighting.....	71.8	70.5	69.8	81.7	81.3	79.9
Metals and metal products.....	90.2	90.0	89.3	102.3	102.1	101.2
Building materials.....	85.6	84.4	82.9	96.0	96.2	96.2
Chemicals and drugs.....	95.2	84.8	83.6	94.0	93.6	93.0
Housefurnishing goods.....	95.2	91.3	91.1	97.1	97.3	97.3
Miscellaneous.....	67.8	66.9	64.7	80.1	79.8	78.7
ALL COMMODITIES.....	80.4	78.4	77.0	94.4	94.2	93.4
BUILDING PERMITS 6th DISTRICT						
Atlanta.....	10.8	21.2	20.6	23.2	17.8	42.5
Birmingham.....	5.0	8.8	26.3	26.5	33.5	16.5
Jacksonville.....	10.8	9.2	12.9	23.5	20.1	33.3
Nashville.....	18.1	36.4	28.7	16.7	19.7	38.1
New Orleans.....	42.3	18.6	8.5	21.6	48.3	24.4
Other Cities.....	16.4	10.7	13.1	27.4	18.3	30.4
DISTRICT (20 Cities).....	16.8	14.1	16.2	25.2	23.9	30.2
CONTRACTS AWARDED 6th DISTRICT	45.2	28.3	50.9	35.8	33.6	61.2
COTTON CONSUMED:						
United States.....	81.6	78.9	89.4	107.1	89.3	113.6
Cotton-Growing States.....	95.3	92.2		122.3	101.3	129.2
All Other States.....	51.5	52.9		73.5	62.9	79.1
Exports.....	147.7	124.6	101.6	170.6	148.1	118.6
PIG IRON PRODUCTION:						
United States.....	62.5	55.8	57.4	106.5	95.0	94.6
Alabama.....	61.2	58.0	64.7	98.2	99.0	95.1
UNFILED ORDERS—U. S. STEEL CORPORATION	76.2	82.6	86.5	86.4	92.5	93.6

(1) Compiled by Federal Reserve Board.

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