# MONTHLY REVIEW

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

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA

VOL. 16, No. 5

ATLANTA, GA., May 31, 1931.

This review released for publication in Sunday papers of May 31.

## NATIONAL SUMMARY OF BUSINESS CONDITIONS. By Federal Reserve Board.

Output of manufactures and employment at factories showed little change from March to April, and output of mines, which ordinarily decrease at this season, also remained unchanged. Wholesale prices continued to decline, and money rates eased further.

Production and Industrial production, as measured by the Board's seasonally adjusted index which covers both manufactures and mines, increased from 88 per cent of the

1923-1925 average in March, to 89 in April, compared with 82, the low point reached last December. Steel mill activity declined by considerably more than the usual seasonal amount, while in the automobile industry there was a larger than seasonal increase in output, according to preliminary reports. Comsumption of cotton by domestic mills continued to increase, contrary to the usual seasonal movement, while there was a decrease in unfilled orders for cotton cloth, which was only partly seasonal in nature; comsumption of wool, which ordinarily declines in April, increased considerably; at silk mills activity declined. There were large increases in the output of petroleum and anthracite coal, while production of bituminous coal declined by about the usual seasonal amount.

The number employed in factories at the middle of April was about the same as a month earlier. In car building shops and in establishments producing machinery, employment decreased considerably, while in the automobile and cement industries there were seasonal increases, and in the fertilizer industry a larger than seasonal increase. Employment at textile mills declined by less than the seasonal amount, reflecting chiefly a slight increase in employment at cotton mills, and a small decrease in the clothing industry; at mills producing woolen and silk goods declines in employment were larger than usual. Factory payrolls declined somewhat in April.

Value of building contracts awarded, which fluctuates widely from month to month, declined considerably in April, according to the F. W. Dodge Corporation, and decreases were reported in all the leading classes of construction. In the first four months of the year total awards decreased 26 per cent from the corresponding period of 1930, reflecting declines of 10 per cent for residential building, 17 per cent for public works and utilities, 25 per cent for educational building, 43 per cent for

factories, and 57 per cent for commercial buildings.

Distribution Freight car loadings showed about the usual seasonal increase in April. Department store sales increased 9 per cent from March, and the Board's index, which makes allowance for the usual seasonal variations including changes in the date of Easter, stood at 105 per cent of the 1923–1925 average, compared with 97 per cent in March.

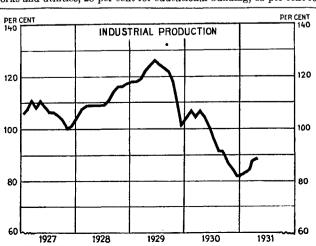
Wholesale Prices The general level of wholesale prices declined 1.6 per cent further in April, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In the first half of May, prices of many leading commodities were reduced further, and for the six week period as a whole there were large declines in the prices of cotton, silk, and textiles; live stock and dairy products; cement, petroleum products, and nonferrous metals.

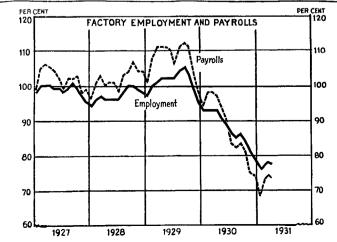
Bank Credit

Loans and investments of reporting member banks in leading cities declined by about \$150,000,000 between April I and the middle of May, reflecting substantial liquidation in loans on securities and in all other loans, largely commercial. This liquidation of loans was offset in part by further large additions to the banks' investments, which on May 13 were over \$1,000,000,000 larger than at the beginning of the year. Volume of reserve bank credit declined somewhat in the six weeks ending on May 16. Contrary to the usual seasonal tendency, there was some further increase in currency demand for the period, reflecting chiefly banking disturbances in the middle west. Gold imports continued in considerable volume and supplied the member banks with sufficient funds to meet the additional demand for currency, and also to reduce somewhat the amount of reserve bank credit outstanding.

Money rates declined to new low levels during May. Rates on bankers acceptances, which had declined from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent in the middle of April to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  per cent by the end of the month, were reduced to 7/8 per cent by the 19th of May. Rates on commercial paper declined from a range of  $2\frac{1}{4}-2\frac{1}{2}$  to a range of  $2-2\frac{1}{4}$  per cent.

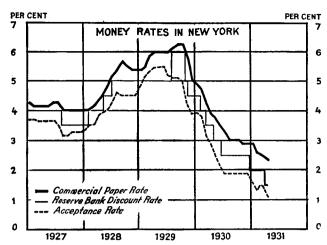
At the reserve banks buying rates on bankers acceptances were reduced in April and the first half of May, and in May discount rates were also reduced, the rate at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York being lowered to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.





Index numbers of factory employment and payrolls, without adjustment for seasonal variations (1923-25 average = 100.) Latest figure April Employment 77.9 payrolls 73.6.

Digitized for FRASE of production of manufactures and minerals combined http://fadjustedo.for/seesonal variations (1923-1925 average=100). Latest figure Federal Pril 89 re Bank of St. Louis



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 20 days in May.

#### PER CENT 120 120 WHOLESALE PRICES 110 110 100 100 90 90 80 80 70 70 60 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931

Index of United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. (1926—100. base adopted by bureau). Latest figures April 73.3.

#### SIXTH DISTRICT SUMMARY

There were further seasonal gains in April in the volume of trade in this district, and in most of the series of figures indicating industrial activity, but a further decline in loans and discounts by weekly reporting member banks, and in discounts by the Federal Reserve Bank.

Following an increase of about 26 per cent in March over February, department store sales registered a further gain of 8 per cent in April, but were 10.2 per cent less than in April last year. For the first four months of 1931 the decrease, compared with that part of 1930, also averages 10.2 per cent. Wholesale trade increased 0.2 per cent in April over March, but was 21.0 per cent less than in April a year ago.

Total building permits issued during April at 20 reporting cities were more than double those in March, due to some large permits issued at New Orleans and Nashville, and for the first time in more than two years were greater than for the corresponding month a year ago. Residential contracts awarded in the district increased 24 per cent over March, but the total of all contract awards declined 28.5 per cent. For the first four months of 1931 contract awards have been 12.9 per cent smaller than in that part of 1930. Comsumption of cotton in the United States was 3.7 per cent greater than in March, and 4.4 per cent less than in April a year ago. Comsumption in Georgia increased 6.2 per cent, and in Alabama 3.6 per cent, over March, and in Georgia was 5.4 per cent, and in Alabama 3.3 per cent, less than a year ago. Production by reporting cloth and yarn mills also increased further in April.

Production of pig iron in Alabama increased 7.8 per cent, and the daily average output increased 11.4 per cent, over March, but was 20.3 per cent less than in April last year. Output of coal declined seasonally, and was less than a year ago.

Weather conditions have afforded ample opportunity for farm work, but temperatures have averaged lower than usual and this has delayed germination of seed and growth of planted crops.

Discounts by the Federal Reserve Bank declined slightly between April 8 and May 13, but holdings of purchased bills and securities increased. A further decline in loans by weekly reporting member banks during this five week period was only partly offset by an increase in investments. Borrowings by these banks from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta continued at a low level.

#### FINANCE

Reserve Bank The volume of reserve bank credit outstanding at Credit the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta as indicated by its total holdings of discounted and purchased bills and securities reached on April 15 a lower level, at 28.3 millions of dollars, than for any other weekly report date in six years. Between April 15 and May 13 there have been increases in holdings of purchased bills and of United States securities, so that the total holdings of bills and securities on May 13 were 11.6 millions greater than at the low point April 15.

Total discounts of this bank declined slightly between April 8, figures for which date were shown in the preceding issue of this Review, and May 13. Discounts secured by United States Government obligations have increased somewhat, but other discounts declined, and the total of May 13 was less than half that for the same report date a year

Holdings of bills bought in the open market declined during the second week of April but have since increased somewhat, and holdings of United States securities increased more than 8 millions of dollars during the two weeks ending May 13. Holdings of purchased bills on that date were substantially smaller, and those of United States securities larger, than at the same time last year. Total holdings of bills and securities on that date were 8.9 millions greater than five weeks earlier, and 10.2 millions less than a year ago.

Total reserves, and Federal reserve note circulation, were less than on April 8, but greater than on May 14, 1930, and deposits were somewhat smaller than on either of those comparative report dates.

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

|                                   | May 13.  | April 8. | May 14.  |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Bills Discounted:                 | 1931     | 1931     | 1930     |
| Secured by Govt. Obligations      |          | \$ 291   | \$ 1,437 |
| All Others                        | 9.698    | 10.954   | 23,498   |
| Total Discounts                   | 10.041   | 11.245   | 24,935   |
| Bills Bought in open market       | 8,989    | 7,034    | 16.405   |
| U. S. Securities                  | 20,916   | 12,753   | 8,833    |
| Total Bills and Securities        | 39, 946  | 31,032   | 50, 173  |
| Total Reserves                    | 155, 101 | 169, 855 | 148,662  |
| Member Banks Reserve Deposits     | 58, 420  | 60,874   | 64,465   |
| Total Deposits                    |          | 62,579   | 65, 815  |
| F. R. Notes in actual circulation | 129,659  | 131,770  | 125, 851 |
| Reserve Ratio.                    |          | 87.4     | 77.6     |

Condition of Total loans and discounts of 25 weekly reporting
Member Banks in member banks located in Atlanta, New Orleans,
Selected Cities Birmingham, Jacksonville, Nashville, Chattanooga,
Mobile and Savannah, continued to decline during

the five weeks period between April 8 and May 13, the decrease being only partly offset by an increase in investments.

Loans on securities declined \$13,870,000 between April 8 and May 13, and were smaller by \$39,897,000 than a year ago, and other discounts decreased \$6,663,000 between April 8 and May 13 and were \$48,709,000 less than on May 14 last year.

Investment holdings of these banks, however, have continued to increase, and on May 13 were greater by \$48,894,000 than on the same report date a year ago, the larger part of this gain being in holdings of United States securities.

Total loans and investments on May 13 were 14.5 millions less than five weeks earlier, and 39.7 millions smaller than a year ago.

There were declines in both demand and time deposits compared with both April 8 this year and May 14 last year. Borrowings by these banks from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta decreased to a new low level, at \$592,000, on May 6, but increased to \$1,056,000

Time

the following week, but were substantially less than at the same time a year ago.

Principal items in the weekly report are shown comparatively below.
(000 Omitted)

|                             | May 13,   | April 8,           | May 14,   |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| Loans:                      | 1931      | 1931               | 1930      |
| On Securities               | \$115.318 | <b>\$</b> 129, 188 | \$155.215 |
| All Others                  |           | 280,410            | 322,456   |
| Total Loans                 | 389,065   | 409,598            | 477.671   |
| U. S. Securities            | 92,785    | 87, 393            | 62, 239   |
| Other Stocks and Bonds      | 85, 897   | 85, 275            | 67.549    |
| Total Investments           |           | 172,668            | 129,788   |
| Total Loans and Investments |           | 582, 266           | 607,459   |
| Time Deposits               |           | 231, 284           | 243,484   |
| Demand Deposits             |           | 310,619            | 325,529   |
| Due to Banks                |           | 123, 135           | 103,052   |
| Due from Banks              |           | 95, 451            | 71,990    |
| Borrowings from F. R. Bank  |           | 1,160              | 7,769     |
|                             |           |                    |           |

Deposits of All Following a decline of 77 millions of dollars between Member Banks February 1930 and January this year, the daily average of demand deposits of all member banks in the district has increased 10.5 millions in February and March. The March daily average was 0.9 per cent larger than that for February, but 10.8 per cent less than for March a year ago. Daily average time deposits of all member banks, which include savings deposits, declined about 62 millions between May 1930 and February 1931, but increased 6.6 millions, or 1.7 per cent in March, and was 10.9 per cent less than for March last year. Changes over the past year are shown

|                   | Demand        | 111116        |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1930:             | Deposits      | Deposits      |
| March.            | \$569,662,000 | \$442,987,000 |
| April             | 563,762,000   | 439, 980, 000 |
| Мау               |               | 450, 145, 000 |
| June              |               | 447, 126, 000 |
| July              | 513,185,000   | 440.316.000   |
| August            |               | 439, 054, 000 |
| September         |               | 441, 347, 000 |
| October           |               | 437, 617, 000 |
| November          |               | 434,502,000   |
| December          |               | 413,822,000   |
| 1931:             |               |               |
| January           | 497, 490, 000 | 397,942,000   |
|                   |               | 388,008,000   |
| February<br>March |               | 394.622.000   |
| Maich             | 200,010,000   | 001,066,000   |
|                   |               |               |

Savings Total savings deposits held at the close of April by 63

Deposits banks located throughout the district averaged less than one per cent larger than for March, and less than one per cent smaller than for April a year ago. Increases at Atlanta, Jacksonville, Nashville and New Orleans were partly offset by decreases at Birmingham and "Other Cities", while New Orleans reported the only increase over April last year except for a few banks included in the group for "Other Cities". Comparisons for the month are shown in the table.

#### (000 Omitted)

|              | Percentage change—April 193 |               |               |               |                           | ril 1931               |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
|              | No. of<br>Banks             | April<br>1931 | March<br>1931 | April<br>1930 | compared<br>March<br>1931 | with:<br>April<br>1930 |
| Atlanta      | 4                           | \$ 40,528     | \$ 39,699     | \$ 42,380     | +2.1                      | - 4.4                  |
| Birmingham   | 3                           | 21,045        | 21,046        | 24,411        | -0.0                      | 13.8                   |
| Jacksonville | 4                           | 18,283        | 18,205        | 19,078        | +0.4                      | 4.2                    |
| Nashville    | 5                           | 32,741        | 31,851        | 33,624        | +2.8                      | -2.6                   |
| New Orleans  | 6                           | 51,868        | 51,342        | 50,247        | +1.0                      | + 3.2                  |
| Other Oities | 41                          | 82,295        | 82,870        | 98,468        | -0.7                      | -16.4                  |
| Total        | 63                          | 246,760       | 245,013       | 268, 208      | +0.7                      | 0.8                    |

Debits to Individual Accounts

Accounts

The volume of business transactions settled by check during April, reflected in debits to individual accounts at clearing house banks in 26 cities of the district, declined 3.1 per cent compared with March and was 20

per cent smaller than in April last year. Debits to individual accounts have always declined from March to April in this district, the average decrease at this period during the past ten years being 4.6 per cent. The April total is the smallest for any month since August last year, and with that exception, the smallest since August 1924. It was smaller than for any April since 1922. Monthly totals shown in the table are derived from weekly reports by pro-rating figures for those weeks which do not fall entirely within a single calendar month.

| (000 | Omitted) |
|------|----------|
|------|----------|

| A                | pril 1931 | March 1931 | A) | pril 1930 |
|------------------|-----------|------------|----|-----------|
| Alabama-4 Cities |           | \$153,684  | \$ | 189,247   |
| Birmingham       |           | 102,110    |    | 123,013   |
| Dothan           |           | 2,726      |    | 2,505     |
| Mobile           |           | 32,085     |    | 37,648    |
| Montgomery       | 19,008    | 16,763     |    | 26,081    |
|                  |           |            |    |           |

|                        | April 1931 | March 1931 | April 1930      |
|------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| Florida-4 Oities       | 125, 233   | 135.078    | 161,710         |
| Jacksonville           | 66,560     | 71,049     | 78.468          |
|                        |            | 28,528     |                 |
|                        | 60,101     |            | 43,546          |
| Pensacola              |            | 6,056      | 7,097           |
| Tampa.                 | 28,959     | 29,445     | 32,599          |
| Georgia—10 Cities      | 225,343    | 238, 171   | 269,930         |
| Albany                 | 3,207      | 3,072      | 3,494           |
| Atlanta                | 138,744    | 152,087    | 163, 497        |
| Augusta                | 19,843     | 19,409     | 24,690          |
| Brunswick              |            | 2,431      | 3,338           |
| Columbus               | 10,987     | 10,763     | 14,108          |
| Elberton               | 810        | 752        | 999             |
| Macon                  | 12,865     | 13,077     | 16,801          |
| Newnan                 | 1,575      | 1,505      | 1,508           |
| Sayannah               | 31,595     | 31,768     | 37,833          |
| _ Valdosta             | 3,196      | 3,307      | 3,662           |
| Louisiana: New Orleans | 255,977    | 262,914    | 326, 225        |
| Mississippi-4 Cities   | 33,754     | 37,065     | 50, 141         |
| Hattiesburg            | 5,069      | 5,229      | 5,961           |
| Jackson                | 17,565     | 20,929     | 24,479          |
| Meridian               | 6,489      | 6,527      | <b>13</b> , 510 |
| _ Vicksburg            | 4.631      | 4.380      | 6, 191          |
| Tennessee—3 Cities     | 135.951    | 138.633    | 172,700         |
| Chattanooga            | 39,610     | 39,731     | 48, 471         |
| Knoxville              | 22,109     | 23,011     | 31,536          |
| Nashville              |            | 75,891     | 92,693          |
| Total 26 Cities        | \$935,587  | \$965,545  | \$1,169,953     |

#### **AGRICULTURE**

Weather conditions during April were on the whole favorable for most of the Florida crops. There has been much replanting of staple crops because of conditions earlier in the season and they are still late, but stands are now fairly good. The Citrus crop, while not so favorable as a year ago, promises to be better than the average of past years. Truck crops generally are late and yields will average considerably below normal. Orange bloom was generally heavy. Grapefruit bloom was more uneven and lighter. Insect damage is reported to be more than usual.

Planting of most field crops was about finished by May 1 in the southern and central parts of Georgia, while frequent rains and cool nights the latter part of April checked planting in the northern part of the state and delayed growth elsewhere. Prospects for the peach crop in Georgia are much better than a year ago, and the condition is reported as generally good. A heavy crop of fruit was set in all sections and circulio infectation is the lightest in eleven years, due to the comparatively low temperatures during February and March. Car lot shipments are estimated for the season at about 14,100 cars, compared with 8,632 cars shipped during the 1930 season.

Louisiana crops are all reported late but were making good progress at the beginning of May. About 75 per cent of the total rice sowing this season was accomplished by May 1st, compared with about 79 per cent a year ago. Considerable re-sowing of rice has been necessary this season. Sugar cane was about fifteen days later than usual, but fields are clean and well cultivated. Cool weather has retarded germination and growth of early crops in Mississippi, and has affected water-melons and truck crops in other states.

Potatoes Because of better yields this year than last, and increases in acreage, except in Florida, production of potatoes in this district is estimated to be greater than it was in 1930. Figures in the table show the acreage, estimated yield per acre, and estimated production of potatoes this year compared with similar figures for 1930.

| _                        | Acre             | age              | (bt        |           | (1,000         | ction<br>bu.)  |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|
|                          | 1931             | 1930             | 1931       | 1930      | 1931           | 1930           |
| FloridaAlabama           | 26,600<br>14,600 | 31,000<br>11,800 | 110<br>113 | 80<br>100 | 3,140<br>1,650 | 2,480<br>1,180 |
| Georgia                  | 2,500            | 2,200            | 165        | 150       | 412            | 330            |
| Louisiana<br>Mississippi | 30,800<br>2,000  | 22,000<br>1,870  | 80<br>88   | 75<br>73  | 2,464<br>176   | 1,650<br>137   |
| Note: 1931 yield and     | product          | ion figure       | s are esti | imates.   |                |                |

Fertilizer Statistics compiled by the National Fertilizer Association

Tag Sales indicate that sales of fertilizer tags by state authorities declined in April compared with March, as they have done

in other years, and continued to be less than for the corresponding month last year. The March peak was, however, much below the totals for March of the two previous years, and the decrease in April was proportionately smaller than occurred at the same time in those years. Cumulative sales of tags for the nine months period, August through April, for the six states of this district average 30.6 per cent less than for that period a year ago. Comparisons for the month, and for the nine months, are shown in the table.

in the table.

|                       | April<br>1931 | April<br>1930 | Au<br>1930-3 | igusi  | t-April 1<br>1929-30 O | Percentage<br>omparison |   |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------|------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Alabama               | 165, 250      | 194,950       | 407.5        | 50     | 636,050                | -35,9                   |   |
| Florida               | 29,796        | 30,397        | 345,1        |        | 379,978                | - 9.2                   |   |
| Georgia               | 148,904       | 191.828       | 670,3        | 03     | 888, 117               | 24.5                    |   |
| Louisiana             | 12.065        | 10,691        | 95.3         | 73     | 182,795                | -47.8                   |   |
| Mississippi           | 72,470        | 86,436        | 186, 1       |        | 384,511                | 51.6                    |   |
| Tennessee             | 51, 176       | 66,025        | 112,9        | 37     | 147,885                | 23.6                    |   |
| Total                 | 479,661       | 580, 327      | 1,817,4      | 43     | 2,619,336              | -30.6                   |   |
|                       | SUGA          | R MOVEME      | NT (Po       | unds   | 3)                     |                         |   |
| Receipts:             |               | April l       |              |        | . 1931                 | April 1930              |   |
| New Orleans.          |               |               | .347         | 118.   | 625, 980               | 195, 267, 302           |   |
| Savannah              |               | 41,104        | , 937        | 55,    | 096,436                | 53, 204, 312            |   |
| Meltings:             |               |               |              |        |                        |                         |   |
| New Orleans.          |               | 145,789       |              |        | 002,018                | 166,066,916             |   |
| Savannah              |               | 34, 130       | , 180        | 35,    | 602,950                | 50, 242, 489            |   |
| Stocks:               |               |               |              |        |                        |                         |   |
| New Orleans.          |               | 53,938        | 3,392        | 44,    | 301,545                | 105, 988, 479           |   |
| Savannah              |               | 67,851        | ,065         | 60,    | 884,308                | 24,454,650              |   |
|                       | REF           | INED SUGA     | R. (Pour     | nds)   |                        |                         |   |
| Shipments:            |               |               |              |        |                        |                         |   |
| New Orleans.          |               | 123, 40       | 7.952        | 74.    | 329,575                | 135,428,004             |   |
| Savannah              |               |               | 0.103        | 22     | 659,515                | 26, 107, 926            |   |
| Stocks:               |               | • •           | .,           |        | ,000,010               | 00,101,000              |   |
| New Orleans.          |               | 80,80         | R. 146       | 61     | .565.647               | 112,047,948             |   |
| Savannah              |               | 17,48         |              |        | 188,279                | 29, 870, 992            |   |
|                       |               | MOVEMENT      |              |        |                        | NO, 010, 000            |   |
|                       |               | TO A ENTERNI  |              |        |                        |                         |   |
| Rough Rice (Sac       | ks):          |               | Apri         | l 1931 | March 193              |                         |   |
| Receipts              |               |               |              | ,707   | 12,307                 | 5, 162                  |   |
| Shipments             |               |               | 20           | ,847   | 17,694                 | 10,773                  |   |
| Stocks                |               |               | 17           | , 899  | 14,039                 | 26,011                  |   |
| Olean Rice (Pock      | ets):         |               |              |        |                        |                         |   |
| Receipts<br>Shipments |               |               | 50           | , 955  | 49,559                 | 61,762                  |   |
| Shipments             |               |               | 68           | 753    | 69,349                 | 63,189                  |   |
| Stocks                |               |               |              | , 952  | 141,750                | 118,672                 |   |
| RIC                   | E MILLE       | RS' ASSOCI    | ATION        | STA    | TISTICS                |                         |   |
|                       |               | (Barre        |              |        |                        |                         |   |
|                       |               | (Daire        | ,            |        |                        |                         |   |
| D                     | . Di          |               |              |        | 4                      | august 1 to             |   |
| Receipts of Rous      | in Rice:      |               |              |        | April                  | April 30                |   |
| Season 1930-3         | <u> </u>      |               |              |        | 566,225                | 8,933,051               |   |
| Season 1929-3         |               |               |              |        | 145,638                | 8,775,707               |   |
| Distribution of 1     | Milled Ric    | e:            |              |        |                        |                         |   |
| Season 1930-3         | 1             |               |              |        | 780, 289               | 8,494,963               |   |
| Season 1929-3         | 0             |               |              |        | 686,342                | 8,439,373               |   |
| Stocks of Rough       | and Mille     | ed Rice:      |              |        | 1 000 000              | -,,510                  |   |
| May 1, 1931           |               |               |              |        | 1,387,874              |                         |   |
| April 1, 1931         |               |               |              |        | 1,561,252              |                         |   |
| May 1, 1930           |               |               |              |        | 1,394,421              |                         |   |
|                       |               |               | 77.00        | ATT    |                        |                         | _ |
|                       |               |               | KET.         | ALL '  | TRADE IN               | THE SIXT                | E |

#### TRADE

Retail There was a further seasonal increase in the distribution

Trade of merchandise at retail in the sixth district during April,
reflected in sales figures reported to the Federal Reserve Bank
by 41 department stores in 23 cities of the district. Stocks on hand
show a larger decrease than sales, however, compared with corresponding
months a year ago, and the rate of stock turnover is higher than it was
a year ago.

Department store sales in April averaged 8 per cent greater than in March, despite the fact that most of the Easter buying came in March, and were 10.2 per cent smaller than in April last year. The increase from March to April was shared by all of the cities shown in the statement except Birmingham, while the small increase of 0.5 per cent at Atlanta is the only gain reported over April last year. Cumulative sales for the first four months of 1931 also average 10.2 per cent smaller than during that period of last year. Stocks on hand declined 1.3 per cent from March, and were 17.3 per cent smaller than for April 1930. These comparisons are in dollar figures and make no allowance for any difference in prices.

Accounts receivable at the end of April declined 1.9 per cent compared with March, and were 6.2 per cent smaller than a year ago, and April collections increased 5.2 per cent over those in March, but were 5.7 per cent smaller than in April 1930.

The ratio of collections during April to accounts receivable and due at the beginning of the month, for 33 firms, was 32.3 per cent, compared with 30.2 per cent for March, and with 31.8 per cent for April last year. For April the ratio of collections against regular accounts for 33 firms was 34.7 per cent, the highest ratio since January 1930, and the ratio of collections against installment accounts for 12 firms was 17.9 per cent, the highest since October 1929. Detailed comparisons of reported figures are shown in the table, and index numbers appear on page 8.

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

|  | April 1931<br>with<br>April 1930                                | Jomparison of Net S<br>April 1931<br>with<br>March 1931                             | Sales<br>Jan. 1 to April 30,<br>1931, with the same<br>period in 1930               | Comparison<br>April 30, 1931,<br>with<br>April 30, 1930                        | of Stocks<br>April 30, 1931.<br>with<br>March 31, 1931 | Ra<br>April<br>1930                           | te of Sto<br>April<br>1931                    | ck Turno<br>Jan. 1 to<br>1930                  | ver<br>o April 30,<br>1930                     |  |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| Atlanta (4) Birmingham (4) Chattanooga (5) Nashville (4) New Orleans (5) Other Ottles (19) DISTRIOT (41) Note: The rate of stock turno | + 0.5' - 8.5 - 11.9 - 11.8 - 16.1 - 13.0 - 10.2 ver is the rati | +13.7<br>6.3<br>+13.6<br>+- 3.1<br>+14.1<br>+- 3.8<br>+- 8.0<br>o of sales during g | - 0.4<br>-11.2<br>-13.5<br>-10.3<br>-14.6<br>-12.6<br>-10.2<br>iven period to avera | -13.7<br>-15.2<br>-19.6<br>-12.8<br>-18.9<br>-19.5<br>-17.3<br>ge stocks on ha | +1.9<br>+1.7<br>-12.9<br>+0.6<br>-1.5<br>-1.7<br>-1.3  | .35<br>.21<br>.18<br>.24<br>.19<br>.20<br>.22 | .42<br>.22<br>.18<br>.24<br>.21<br>.23<br>.24 | 1.24<br>.78<br>.69<br>.85<br>.68<br>.72<br>.81 | 1.45<br>.81<br>.66<br>.86<br>.76<br>.82<br>.88 |  |

There was a further fractional increase in the volume Wholesale Trade of wholesale distribution in the sixth district in April as compared with March. Wholesale trade declined each month from the fall peak in October through February, and in March increased 9.6 per cent over February. The gain in April over March was only 0.2 per cent, and April sales were 21.0 per cent smaller than in April last year. The small increase in total volume over March is due to gains reported in sales of dry goods, hardware and shoes, the other five lines reporting decreases. Stocks and accounts receivable for April declined from March and were smaller than a year ago, and collections increased 1.7 per cent over those in March but were 24.5 per cent smaller than in April last year. Cumulative sales for the first four months of the year averaged 25.8 per cent less than in that period of 1930, the comparison for each line being indicated in the figures below.

These comparions are all of dollar figures and make no allowance for the difference in the prevailing level of prices.

|                     | January-April 1951 compai |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
|                     | with same period in 1930  |
| Groceries           | _23.3                     |
| Dry Goods           | -29.4                     |
| Hardware            | 29.8                      |
| Furniture           | -28.1                     |
| Electrical Supplies | _ —27.1                   |
| Shoes               |                           |
| Stationery          | + 2.5                     |
| Drugs               | <u>-17.3</u>              |
|                     |                           |
| Total               |                           |
|                     |                           |

Percentage comparison of sales

#### WHOLESALE TRADE IN APRIL 1931 SIXTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT (\*)

Percentage che

|   |                                   | April 1931 con   | tage change<br>npared with   |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Line, item and area:  | No. of firms                      | March 1931   | April 1930   |
| All Lines Combined: Sales. Stocks on hand. Accounts receivable. Collections. Groceries:                           | 57                                | $\begin{array}{c} + \ 0.2 \\ - \ 4.0 \\ - \ 0.6 \\ + \ 1.7 \end{array}$                              | 21.0<br>19.2<br>13.5<br>24.5   |
| Sales Sales Atlanta Jacksonville New Orleans Vicksburg Other Oities Stocks on hand Accounts receivable Odlections | 4<br>4<br>5<br>3<br>12<br>4<br>13 | - 1.1<br>+ 5.5<br>5.0<br>1.4<br>+- 0.4<br>3.8<br>1.4<br>3.4  | -20.3<br>-27.1<br>-16.0<br>-18.6<br>-24.0<br>-20.7<br>-16.3<br>-10.8<br>-23.9                              |
| Dry Goods: Sales  | 3<br>3<br>14<br>12<br>13          | + 2.5<br>+ 3.6<br>+ 0.8<br>+ 8.2<br>+ 0.7<br>- 4.5<br>- 0.5<br>+ 8.0                                 | -21.1<br>-32.7<br>-39.4<br>-28.2<br>-12.7<br>-31.7<br>-20.2<br>-24.4                                       |
| Hardware: Sales   | 3<br>3<br>4<br>5<br>14<br>9       | $\begin{array}{c} +5.2 \\ +5.3 \\ +5.8 \\ +22.5 \\ -1.1 \\ +2.3 \\ -3.7 \\ -0.4 \\ +7.8 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c} -24.4 \\ -8.1 \\ -15.5 \\ -22.1 \\ -36.9 \\ +20.6 \\ -11.6 \\ -6.9 \\ -24.1 \end{array}$ |

WHOLESALE TRADE IN APRIL 1931 SIXTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT (\*)

| Line, item and area: |  | of firms                     | July 1931 comp<br>March 1931 |       |
|----------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Furniture:           |  |                              |                              |       |
| Sales                |  | 13                           | 13.0                         | -22.2 |
| Atlanta              |  | 5                            | + 4.9                        | -9.2  |
| Other Cities         |  | 8                            | -17.2                        | -25.4 |
| Stocks on hand       |  | 5<br>8<br>4<br>8             | -5.0                         | -35.3 |
| Accounts receivable  |  | 8                            | + 0.5                        | -27.7 |
| Collections          |  | 7                            | -3.7                         | 33.5  |
| Electrical Supplies: |  |                              |                              |       |
| Sales                |  | 17                           | 1.9                          | -19.7 |
| Atlanta              |  | 3                            | + 2.5                        | -6.6  |
| New Orleans          |  | 5                            | + 7.4                        | -24.8 |
| Other Cities         |  | 9                            | -15.7                        | -25.0 |
| Stocks on hand       |  | x                            | X                            | X     |
| Accounts receivable  |  | 3<br>5<br>9<br><b>X</b><br>3 | -1.1                         | -18.6 |
| Collections          |  | 4                            | +1.0                         | -34.9 |
| Drugs:               |  |                              |                              |       |
| Sales                |  | 8                            | 1.3                          | -14.6 |
| Accounts receivable  |  | 4<br>5                       | -0.9                         | -10.9 |
| Collections          |  | 5                            | - 2.4                        | -15.6 |
| Shoes:               |  |                              |                              |       |
| Sales                |  | 3                            | +14.8                        | -22.1 |
| Stationery:          |  |                              |                              |       |
| Sales                |  | 4                            | -9.7                         | -1.1  |

<sup>\*</sup>Based upon confidential reports from 125 firms.

Life There was a further increase of 9.7 per cent in the volume Insurance of new, paid-for, ordinary life insurance sales in this district in April compared with March, but a decrease of 20.7 per cent compared with April 1930. For the first four months of 1931 total sales have been 25.1 per cent less than in that period last year. Figures compiled by the Life Insurance Sales Research Bureau for the states of this district are shown in the table.

#### (000 Omitted)

|   | April 1931                       | Mar. 1931   | April 1930   |
|---|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Alabama. Florida. Georgia. Louisiana. Mississippi Tennessee | 5,945<br>8,911<br>6,494<br>2,662 | \$ 4,551<br>5,397<br>8,322<br>5,262<br>2,921<br>7,716 | \$ 6,063<br>7,163<br>9,935<br>8,257<br>4,032<br>11,824 |
| Total   | \$37,499                         | \$34,169  | \$47,274   |

Commercial Statistics compiled by R. G. Dun & Co. indicate that **Failures** there were 2,383 business failures in the United States during April, compared with 2,604 in March, and with 2,198 in April last year, and liabilities for April amounted to \$50,868,135, compared with \$60,386,550 for March, and with \$49,059,308 for April 1930.

In the Sixth District there were 121 failures in April, 174 in March, and 96 in April last year, and liabilities for April were \$2,117,635, smaller by 36 per cent than the total for March, but 8.3 per cent greater than for April a year ago.

Cumulative figures for the first four months of 1931 amount to 723 in number, and \$13,204,471 in liabilities, compared with 532 in number and \$9,935,153 in liabilities for that period of 1930.

#### GRAIN EXPORTS—New Orleans

|                            | April 1931      | (Bushels)<br>April 1930                   | July 1<br>1931                 | to April 30,<br>1930                                |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Wheat Corn Oats Barley Rye | 6,912<br>10,312 | 585, 236<br>14, 228<br>17, 148<br>65, 000 | 6,045,530<br>85,059<br>108,938 | 7,642,134<br>456,912<br>515,125<br>68,336<br>26,393 |
| Total                      | 285,693         | 681,612                                   | 6, 239, 527                    | 8,708,900   |

#### INDUSTRY

The value of building permits issued at 20 reporting cities in the sixth district increased further in April, and for the first time in more than two years, showed an increase over the corresponding month a year ago. Total contract awards, however, declined, but residential contracts increased.

Total building permits issued during April at these 20 reporting cities amounted to \$5,148,425, more than double the total for the preceding month, and 28.6 per cent greater than the total for April 1930. The Digitized for total is larger than for any month since July last year, and with

the exception of that month and March 1930, was the largest monthly total in about a year and a half. There were some large projects included in the April total, among them being a \$1,000,000 Medical Arts Building, a \$400,000 school building, a hospital and a Government building, all in New Orleans, a hospital and nurses' home at Nashville to cost \$400,000, and an addition to a hotel at Macon.

Cumulative totals of permits for these reporting cities for the first four months of 1931 amount to \$11 329,808, a decrease of 36.3 per cent compared with the total of \$17,786,764 for that period of last year.

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

|                            | Number  |        |     |                | ılue | • Pe     | Percentage |  |  |
|----------------------------|---------|--------|-----|----------------|------|----------|------------|--|--|
|                            | Ar      | ril    |     | A <sub>I</sub> | oril |          | change     |  |  |
| Alabama:                   | 1931    | 1930   |     | 1931           |      | 1930     | in value   |  |  |
| Anniston                   | 17      | 25     | \$  | 23,010         | \$   | 36,925   | -37.7      |  |  |
| Birmingham                 | 226     | 389    |     | 391,113        |      | 325, 106 | +20.3      |  |  |
| Mobile                     | 44      | 49     |     | 55.154         |      | 78,786   | - 30.0     |  |  |
| Montgomery                 | 95      | 136    |     | 71,265         |      | 117,033  | - 39.1     |  |  |
| Florida:                   |         |        |     | ,              |      | ,        |            |  |  |
| Jackson ville              | 314     | 334    |     | 236, 695       |      | 254.640  | - 7.0      |  |  |
| Miami                      | 373     | 390    |     | 254, 114       |      | 247,000  | + 2.9      |  |  |
| Orlando                    | 61      | 58     |     | 18,370         |      | 50,625   | - 63.7     |  |  |
| Pensacola                  | 96      | 78     |     | 48, 126        |      | 115,420  | 58.3       |  |  |
| Tampa                      | 301     | 272    |     | 71,740         |      | 66.901   | $+\ 7.2$   |  |  |
| *Lakeland                  | ĩô      | ~ 9    |     | 2,990          |      | 1,600    | +86.9      |  |  |
| *Miami Beach               | 56      | 43     |     | 173, 245       |      | 354,954  | - 51.2     |  |  |
| Georgia:                   | 00      | 10     |     | 110,210        |      | 001,001  | ۵.10       |  |  |
| Atlanta                    | 364     | 339    |     | 245,083        |      | 876,241  | -72.0      |  |  |
| Augusta                    | 60      | 143    |     | 38, 413        |      | 123, 457 |            |  |  |
| Columbus                   | 39      | 41     |     | 25, 395        |      |          | - 68.9     |  |  |
|                            | 243     | 263    |     | 251,396        |      | 101,399  | -75.0      |  |  |
| MaconSayannah              |         |        |     |                |      | 56,527   | +344.7     |  |  |
|                            | 22      | 18     |     | 36,550         |      | 36,620   | - 0.2      |  |  |
| Louisiana:                 | 109     | 194    | 0   | 674 004        |      | 000 000  | 1.040.     |  |  |
| New Orleans                | 123     | 134    | 2   | ,674,204       |      | 283,683  | +842.7     |  |  |
| Alexandria                 | 68      | 80     |     | 16,775         |      | 58,344   | -71.2      |  |  |
| Tennessee:                 |         | 051    |     | 04.000         |      |          |            |  |  |
| Chattanooga                | 267     | 351    |     | 94,366         |      | 451,836  | -79.1      |  |  |
| Johnson City               | 10      | 9      |     | 5,425          |      | 14,875   | -63.5      |  |  |
| Knoxville                  | 67      | 106    |     | 75,819         |      | 225,360  | -66.4      |  |  |
| Nashville                  | 195     | 234    |     | 515,412        |      | 481,762  | + 7.0      |  |  |
| Total 20 Cities            | 2,985   | 3,449  | \$5 | 148, 425       | \$4  | ,002,540 | + 28.6     |  |  |
| Index No.                  | .,      | 0,110  | 40  | 45.8           | 41   | 35.6     | 1 40.0     |  |  |
| *Not included in totals or | inder n | umbers |     | -0.0           |      | 55.0     |            |  |  |

Not included in totals or index numbers.

There was a decline of 28.5 per cent in total contract awards in this district in April compared with March according to statistics compiled by the F. W. Dodge Corporation and subdivided into district figures by the Division of Research and Statistics of the Federal Reserve Board. The April total was \$14,445,124, compared with \$20,-188,876 for March. and with \$21,745,165 for April last year.

Residential contracts in this district have increased each month since the low point in December, when they amounted to only \$1,516,000. For April they amounted to \$3,948,190, an increase of 24.3 per cent over those for March, and the largest amount for any month since June last year. Residential contracts in April accounted for 27.3 per cent of the total, the largest percentage since April of last year.

Cumulative totals for the first four months of 1931 for this district amounted to \$72,848,617, a decrease of 12.9 per cent compared with the total of \$83,602,684 for the corresponding part of 1930.

Total contracts awarded during April in the 37 states east of the Rocky Mountains amounted to \$336,925,200, compared with \$370,-406,300 for March, and with \$482,876,700 for April last year. Of the April total, residential building accounted for \$95,896,400, non-residential building for \$108,035,600, and public works and utilities for \$132,993,200. Cumulative totals for these 37 states for the first four months of 1931 amount to \$1,170,268,000, compared with \$1,580-023,900 for that part of 1930.

Lumber According to press reports conditions in the lumber industry in the South have not changed materially during the past month or more. Prices have held at about the same levels, but are reported to be unprofitable to producers. Some improvement in demand is observed in some localities, but buying is reported to be in spurts, and the yard trade demand continues backward. Retail yard stocks are reported to be small but dealers are slow to replenish them until a more active consumer demand develops.

Production by mills reporting weekly to the Southern Pine Association continues to be less than orders. In the table are shown comparisons of weekly figures for mills which reported for the same weeks a year ago. During this six weeks period orders have averaged 2.3 per cent larger than production. Unfilled orders have averaged somewhat less than three weeks production Orders have averaged 23 per cent less than those booked by these mills during the corresponding

weeks last year, and production and unfilled orders have averaged 35 per cent smaller than a year ago.

|             |      | (      | In thous | ands of f | eet)    |          |          |
|-------------|------|--------|----------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|
| N           | umbe | er Or  | ders     | Prod      | uction  | Unfille  | d Orders |
| Week Ended: |      |        | 1930     | 1931      | 1930    | 1931     | 1930     |
| April 4     | 116  | 36,372 | 42,883   | 32,413    | 51,813  | 107,079  | 159,898  |
| April II    | 121  | 31,710 | 45,663   | 36, 180   | 53,813  | 102,942  | 160,967  |
| April 18    | 123  | 37,548 | 49.246   | 39, 369   | 56,760  | 102,375  | 160,383  |
| April 25    | 114  | 37,821 | 47,720   | 36,207    | 55, 104 | 99, 267  | 154,609  |
| May 2       | 118  | 39,018 | 49.192   | 34,072    | 53,648  | 100, 170 | 155,658  |
| May 9       | 116  | 31,836 | 42,650   | 31,217    | 50,313  | 93,597   | 144,736  |

Consumption Statistics compiled by the United States Census Bureau show that the consumption of cotton by mills in the United States increased further in April, and was the largest since April last year, and the number of spindles also increased and was the largest since June.

April consumption of cotton totaled 508,744 bales, 3.7 per cent greater than in March, but 4.4 per cent less than in April 1930. Stocks in consuming establishments declined 7.3 per cent from March to April, and were 17.6 per cent smaller than a year ago, and stocks in public storage and at compresses decreased 9.2 per cent compared with March but were 65.9 per cent greater than for April 1930. Exports declined seasonally in April, but were 12.1 per cent greater than in April last year. The number of spindles active in the Unites States increased by 155,572 in April over March, but was smaller by 2,205,708 than in April 1930.

Cumulative consumption for the nine months of the cotton season, August through April, has amounted to 3,899,272 bales, a decline of 19.6 per cent compared with the total of 4,848,298 bales consumed during that period a year ago, and exports for the nine months period have totaled 5,901,595 bales, 3.6 per cent less than the total of 6,120,526 bales for that part of the preceding season.

Cunsumption in Georgia during April amounted to 90,934 bales, an increase of 6.2 per cent over March, but 5.4 per cent less than in April last year, and in Alabama April consumption was 49,384 bales, 3.6 per cent larger than in March but 3.3 per cent smaller than in April 1930. For the nine months period Georgia consumption has been 19 per cent, and Alabama consumption 14.7 per cent, less than during that part of the preceding season. Detailed comparisons of the Census Bureau figures are shown in the table.

| UNITED STATES (Bales)                   |            |   |              |  |  |  |
|---|------------|---|--------------|--|--|--|
| Cotton Consumed:                        | April 1931 | March 1931                              | April 1930   |  |  |  |
| Lint                                    | 508,744    | 490,586                                 | 531,911      |  |  |  |
| Linters                                 | 66,807     | 62,771                                  | 67.454       |  |  |  |
| Stocks in Consuming Establishmen        | its:       | ,                                       |              |  |  |  |
| Lint.                                   | 1,370,044  | 1,477,758                               | 1,662,215    |  |  |  |
| Linters                                 | 290,883    | 292,955                                 | 239, 485     |  |  |  |
| Stocks in Public Storage and at Co      |            | ,                                       | ,            |  |  |  |
| Lint                                    | 6.034.295  | 6,642,648                               | 3,637,046    |  |  |  |
| Linters                                 | 86,767     | 81,661                                  | 103,066      |  |  |  |
| Exports                                 | 391,871    | 605,461                                 | 349,762      |  |  |  |
| Imports                                 |            | 10, 266                                 | 67.397       |  |  |  |
| Active Spindles (Number)                | 26,645,404 | 26, 489, 832                            | 28, 851, 112 |  |  |  |
| - · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |            |   | 10,001,110   |  |  |  |
| COTTON GROW                             | ING STAT   | ES (Bales)                              |              |  |  |  |
| Ootton Consumed                         | 390,418    | 383.552                                 | 412, 232     |  |  |  |
| Stocks in Consuming Establish-          |            | *************************************** | 120,000      |  |  |  |
| ments.                                  | 1,001,380  | 1,089,981                               | 1,223,136    |  |  |  |
| Stocks in Public Storage and at         | 2,002,000  | 2,000,001                               | 1,000,100    |  |  |  |
|   | 5,632,775  | 6,238,059                               | 3,381,769    |  |  |  |
| Active Spindles (Number)                | 17,110,202 |   | 17.783.926   |  |  |  |
| Active opiniones (Number)               | 11,110,202 | 11,140,012                              | 11,100,960   |  |  |  |
| OTHER STATES (Bales)                    |            |   |              |  |  |  |
| Ootton Consumed                         | 118, 326   | 107,034                                 | 119,679      |  |  |  |
| Stocks in Consuming Establish-          | 110,000    | 201,002                                 | 110,010      |  |  |  |
| ments                                   | 368,664    | 387.777                                 | 439.079      |  |  |  |
| Stocks in Public Storage and at         | 000,001    | 001,111                                 | 108,018      |  |  |  |
| Compresses                              | 401,520    | 404,589                                 | 255, 277     |  |  |  |
| Active Spindles (Number)                | 9,535,202  |   |              |  |  |  |
| Active apmines (Number)                 | 3,000,202  | 8,040,320                               | 11,067,186   |  |  |  |

Cotton Manufacturing There were increases in production and shipments in April over March by mills producing cotton yarn and cotton cloth reporting to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Orders booked during April declined.

however, and unfilled orders were reported less than a month earlier, and stocks increased. Compared with April last year shipments of cotton cloth showed a slight gain, but other items showed decreases, but all items reported by yarn mills showed increases except the number of workers on payrolls. Reported figures indicate larger reductions in the total number of workers than in other recent months, although some of the mills reported increases in the number of their employees. Percentage comparisons of reported figures are shown in

|                     |        | Percenta        | ge change  |
|---------------------|--------|-----------------|------------|
|                     | No. of | April 1931 comp | ared with: |
| Ootton Cloth:       | Mills  | March 1931      |            |
| Production          | 14     | +5.7            | - 2.6      |
| Shipments           | 13     | +1.4            | + 0.6      |
| Orders booked       |        | -39.8           | -52.3      |
| Unfilled orders     | 11     | - 4.7           | -16.9      |
| Stocks on hand      |        | + 2.5           | -14.4      |
| Number on payroll   | 13     | - 5.4           | -13.7      |
| Cotton Yarn:        |        |                 |            |
| Production          | 7      | + 2.7           | + 0.3      |
| Shipments           |        | +5.8            | +14.2      |
| Orders booked       |        | -22.2           | + 0.3      |
| Unfilled orders     |        | - 0.5           | +34.6      |
| Stocks on hand      |        | +24.1           | +21.3      |
| Number on payroll   |        | -11.9           | -14.3      |
| MARIDOL OIL PASTOIL | •      | 11.5            | 11.0       |
|                     |        |                 |            |

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

|  | (Dozen F                                  | Pairs)   | Percentage   |
|--|---|--|--|
|  | April 1931                                | March 1931   | Comparison   |
| Production Shipments Stock on hand Orders booked Oancellations Unfilled orders | 862,512<br>1,506,816<br>795,200<br>26,180 | 788, 341<br>826, 644<br>1, 472, 452<br>847, 107<br>13, 791<br>716, 635 | $\begin{array}{c} +4.3 \\ +2.3 \\ -6.1 \\ +89.8 \end{array}$ |

Cotton Seed There has been a continued decline in activity of cottonseed oil mills in this district during recent months

as the cotton season progresses. The amount of cottonseed received by these mills during April decreased by about two-thirds as compared with March, the amount crushed declined substantially, and output of cottonseed products was also considerably smaller. Cumulative figures for the nine months of the season, August through April, show that the amount of cottonseed received by mills in this district was slightly larger than during that period of the preceding season, and the quantity crushed increased by 4.6 per cent. Production of crude oil, cake and meal, and hulls was greater than for the previous season, but production of linters decreased 7.2 per cent. Stocks of crude oil, and of hulls, held by the mills at the end of April were smaller than a year ago, and stocks of cake and meal and of linters were larger.

For the country as a whole, production has been smaller this season that last, and stocks of crude oil at the end of April were smaller, but stocks of other products larger than a year ago.

Combined totals for Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi are shown comparatively in the first two columns of the table, and totals for the country as a whole are shown in the last two columns.

#### COTTON SEED AND COTTON SEED PRODUCTS

|                            | (*) Sixth<br>Aug. 1 to | District    | United        | States<br>April 30, |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Cotton Seed, Tons:         | 1930-31                | 1929-30     | 1930-31       | 1929-30             |
| Received at mills          | 1,815,995              |             | 4,612,740     | 4,886,583           |
| Crushed                    | 1,798,370              | 1,719,596   | 4,562,859     | 4,728,681           |
| On Hand, April 30          | 29, 265                | 105,980     | 95, 297       | 197,393             |
| Production:                | FF0 004 010            |             |               |                     |
| Crude Oil, lbs             | 558,904,612            | 553,776,447 | 1,392,117,980 | 1,477,104,897       |
| Cake and Meal, tons        | 792,791                | 739,759     | 2,087,157     | 2, 102, 489         |
| Hulls, tons                | 505, 890               |             | 1, 261, 958   | 1,304,119           |
| Linters, bales             | 318,965                | 343,750     | 795,575       | 975, 959            |
| Stocks at mills, April 30: |                        |             |               |                     |
| Crude Oil, lbs             | 10,326,186             | 12,809,143  | 32,349,167    | 40,082,454          |
| Cake and Meal, tons        | 89,674                 | 31,467      | 253,609       | 120,952             |
| Hulls, tons                | 17,971                 | 18,438      | 90,173        | 66, 457             |
| Linters, bales             | 89,886                 | 67,382      | 271,824       | 224,494             |

(\*) Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

**Electric** Production of electric power for public use by plants in the Power six states of this district increased 7.7 per cent from February to March, and was 1.5 per cent greater than in March Output of plants using water power increased 12.4 per cent in March over February, and was 4.5 per cent greater than a year ago, while production by use of fuels decreased 0.8 per cent over the month and was 4 per cent less than in March 1930. Consumption of coal and of natural gas in the production of electric power declined from February to March and was less than in March last year, but the consumption of fuel oil increased 6.4 per cent over February, and was 5.4 per cent less than in March 1930. Cumulative figures for the first quarter of the year show increases of 0.5 per cent in total production of electric power, and 0.8 per cent in production by use of water power, but a decrease of 0.1 per cent by use of fuels, compared with the corresponding period a year ago. Consumption of fuels show decreases of 19.2 per cent in coal, 5.4 per cent in fuel oil, and 1.3 per cent in natural gas, during this quarter compared with the first quarter of 1930. Comparisons for the month are shown in the table.

| Total Production of Electric Power: 000 k. w. hours. By use of: Water Power. Fuels Fuels Consumed in Production of | 325, 358             | Feb. 1931<br>453,652<br>289,358<br>164,294       | Mar. 1930<br>481,073<br>311,310<br>169,763 |
|--|----------------------|--|--|
| Electric Power: Coal, tons. Fuel Oils, bbls. Natural Gas—000 cu. ft. March figures preliminary—February            | 205,098<br>1,503,340 | 15,021<br>192,699<br>1,608,917<br>sed since last | 18,985<br>216,777<br>1,675,209             |

Bituminous Figures compiled by the United States Bureau of
Coal Mining Mines indicate that in April, the first month of the new
coal year, total production of bituminous coal in the
United States declined 15.9 per cent, and average daily output de-

United States declined 15.9 per cent, and average daily output decreased 15.3 per cent, compared with the month before, and both total and daily average production were 20.6 per cent smaller than in April last year. These comparisons are shown in the table which follows.

|            | Total      | Number of          | per                                 |
|------------|------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
|            | Production | working            | working                             |
|            | (tons)     | days               | day (tons)                          |
| April 1931 | 33,870,000 | 25.8<br>26<br>25.8 | 1,104,000<br>1,303,000<br>1,390,000 |

Weekly production figures for the country as a whole, and for Alabama and Tennessee, shown in the table below, continue to show a smaller volume of production than for corresponding periods a year ago. Average weekly output for those weeks ending in April was smaller in Alabama than for any month since July last year, and in Tennessee the April average is the smallest in more than two years.

| Week Ending: | United :   |  | lousand<br>Alaba<br>1931        |                                 |                            | 1930                         |
|--------------|--|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| April 4      | 7,214<br>6,784<br>6,326<br>6,314<br>6,422<br>6,708 | 8,248<br>8,257<br>8,103<br>8,191<br>8,335<br>8,285 | 264<br>246<br>245<br>225<br>224 | 319<br>307<br>303<br>295<br>318 | 98<br>89<br>79<br>77<br>81 | 103<br>101<br>92<br>97<br>95 |

Pig Iron Statistics compiled and published by the Iron Age indicate that production of pig iron in Alabama increased in April for the fourth consecutive month, and

was greater than for any month since June last year. There was an increase in the daily average production for the country as a whole, but because of the shorter month total output declined slightly compared with March.

Total production of pig iron in the United States during April amounted to 2,019,529 tons, a decrease of 0.6 per cent compared with March and 36.5 per cent less than in April 1930. Daily average output, however, increased 2.7 per cent from March to April, and was the largest daily average since October last year. There was a loss of 3 in the number of active furnaces on May 1 compared with a month earlier, and a decrease of 70 compared with the number active on May 1 a year ago.

Production of pig iron in Alabama gained 7.8 per cent in April compared with March, and was 38.5 per cent greater than output in the low month of December, but showed a decrease of 20.3 per cent compared with April last year. Because of the shorter month, the average daily production in April was 11.4 per cent greater than in March, and was the largest since June 1930. The number of furnaces in Alabama which were active on May 1 was the same as a month earlier, but smaller by 4 than at the same time a year ago. Press reports indicate little change in market conditions, except that during the last ten days of April and the first week of May shipments were curtailed and have been somewhat below production. Current business continued to be mostly in small lots, and quotations remain at \$12 to \$13 per ton.

Cumulative production for the first four months of the year for the United States as a whole has amounted to 7,472,664 tons, a decline of 38.2 per cent compared with the total of 12,094,423 tons produced in that period of 1930, and output in Alabama during the first four months of 1931 has amounted to 663,667 tons, smaller by 27.6 per cent, than the total of 916,627 tons produced in the same part of 1930. Comparisons for the month are shown in the table, and index numbers appear on page 8.

| United States:  | April 1931 | March 1931                 | April 1930                  |
|---|------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total Production (tons)  Average per day (tons)  *Active furnaces       | 67,317     | 2,032,248<br>65,556<br>116 | 3,181,868<br>106,062<br>183 |
| Alabama: Total Production (tons)Average per day (tons) *Active furnaces | 6,218      | 172,982<br>5,580<br>13     | 233, 972<br>7, 779<br>17    |

\*First of following month.

Naval Seasonal increases occurred in April receipts of both tur-**Stores** pentine and rosin at the three principal markets of the district. Demand for both commodities continued slack through April, but improved somewhat early in May. April receipts of turpentine were 6.8 per cent less than in April last year, but receipts of rosin were 2.2 per cent larger than a year ago. The first week of May, however, brought unfavorable weather with heavy rains at some places in the belt, and the comparison for the period April 1 through May 7 shows a decrease of 12.5 per cent in turpentine, and 4.6 per cent in rosins, compared with that period a year ago. Last year there was a large increase from April to May, because of favorable weather conditions and a rapid movement to market. Stocks of both turpentine and rosin at the end of April were larger than a month earlier, and were 52.3 per cent, and 128.4 per cent, respectively, greater than a year ago. Quotations in the Naval Stores Review indicate that during the week which ended April 18 the price of turpentine increased to 56 cents, but the following week it declined to 48-50 cents, and has been at about that level since. Both domestic and foreign demand lagged during April, but during the first week of May there was improvement in both, and prompt shipments are called for. During that week there were some gains noted in the quotations for some of the grades of rosin. Comparisons for the month are shown in the table.

| Receipts—Turpentine (1): | April 1931 | Mar. 1931 | April 1930 |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Savannah                 | . 12.199   | 4.012     | 13,507     |
| Jackson ville            | 10,750     | 4.367     | 10,700     |
| Pensacola                | 3,153      | 1,132     | 3,792      |
| Total                    | 26,102     | 9,511     | 27,999     |
| Receipts—Rosin (2):      |            |           |            |
| Savannah                 | 41,246     | 14,156    | 41.122     |
| Jacksonville             | . 38,403   | 20,177    | 34,747     |
| Pensacola                | 9,092      | 4,644     | 11,004     |
| Total                    | 88,741     | 38,977    | 86,873     |
| Stocks—Turpentine (1):   |            |           |            |
| Savannah                 | 16,216     | 9,946     | 5,288      |
| Jacksonville             | 17,037     | 11,826    | 11,229     |
| Pensacola                | 20,140     | 23,460    | 18,536     |
| Total                    | 53,393     | 45,232    | 35,053     |
| Stocks—Rosin (2):        |            |           |            |
| Savannah                 | 164,583    | 134.001   | 58,761     |
| Jacksonville             |            | 99,065    | 69, 197    |
| Pensacola                |            | 32,990    | 8,000      |
| T OTTBUOOTA              | . 00,000   | 02,000    | 0,000      |
| Total                    | 310,576    | 266,056   | 135,958    |
|                          |            |           |            |

(1) Barrels of 50 gallons.

(2) Barrels of 500 pounds.

#### MONTHLY INDEX NUMBERS

The following index numbers, except those of wholesale prices, 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.

| DEPARTMENT STORE TRADE 6th        | February<br>1931 | March<br>1931        | April<br>1931   | February<br>1930 | March<br>1930                                | April<br>1930                               |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---|------------------|--|---|
| DISTRICT<br>Atlanta               | 117.1            | 155.5                | 176.7   | 126.2            | 150.6  | 175.8                                       |
| Birmingham                        |                  | 92.5                 | 86.7  | 88.5             | 97.6   | 94.8  |
| Chattanaara                       | 49.5             | 64.1                 | 72.8  | 62.9             | 73.1   | 81.8  |
| ChattanoogaNashville              |                  | 94.2                 | 97.0  | 79.6             | 100.0  | 110.1                                       |
| New Orleans                       | 59.7             | 68.3                 | 77.9  | 75.9             | 79.2   | 91.3  |
| Other Cities                      | 1 22.2           | 81.7                 | 84.7  | 81.8             | 89.3   | 98.0  |
| DISTRICT                          | 70.4             | 88.6                 | 97.5  | 83.0             | 93.0   | 104.0                                       |
| WHOLESALE TRADE 6th DISTRICT      |                  |                      |   | l                |  |   |
| Groceries.                        | 60.3             | <b>6</b> 6. <b>4</b> | 65.7  | 81.8             | 85.0   | 82.3  |
| Dry Goods                         | 43.4             | <b>5</b> 1.8         | 53.2  | 65.4             | 73.0   | 68.9  |
| Hardware                          | 53.1             | 56.1                 | <b>59.0</b>   | 73.1             | 74.1   | 73.7  |
| Furniture                         | 60.3             | 70.0                 | 60.1  | 84.0             | 92.3   | 77.7  |
| Electrical Supplies               | 57.7             | 70.5                 | 72.1  | 77.7             | 91.1   | 82.3  |
| Shoes                             |                  | 51.8                 | 59.4  | 65.9             | <b>82.3</b>                                  | 76.3  |
| Stationery                        | 82.1             | 61.7                 | <b>55.7</b>   | 62.0             | 64.0   | 56.3  |
| Drugs<br>TOTAL                    | 81.8<br>56.9     | 88.4<br>62.6         | $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{87.3} \\ \textbf{63.0} \end{array}$ | 94.9<br>76.8     | $\begin{array}{c} 101.7 \\ 81.4 \end{array}$ | $\substack{101.5 \\ 78.0}$                  |
| LIFE INSURANCE SALES 6th DISTRICT |                  | <b>V</b>             | 00.10   |                  | 3272   |   |
| Alabama                           | 64.5             | 78.6                 | 85.6  | 104.5            | 104.3  | 104.7                                       |
| Florida                           | 66.8             | 98.3                 | 108.3   | 95.3             | 109.2  | 103.4                                       |
| Georgia                           |                  | 97.2                 | 104.0   | 99.2             | 108.1  | 116.0                                       |
| Louisiana                         |                  | 88.3                 | 109.0   | 97.6             | 117.4  | 138.6                                       |
| Mississippi                       | 1                | 79.7                 | 72.6  | 91.4             | 101.4  | 110.0                                       |
| Tennessee                         | 69.1             | 84.5                 | 93.4  | 107.7            | 133.7  | 129.5                                       |
| TOTAL                             | 69.0             | 88.5                 | 97.1  | 100.5            | 114.6  | 122.5                                       |
| BUILDING PERMITS 6th DISTRICT     |                  |                      |   |                  |  |   |
| Atlanta                           | 18.3             | 26.1                 | 15.8  | 44.9             | <b>136.</b> 8                                | 56.6  |
| Birmingham                        | 11.9             | 18.9                 | 25.7  | 21.3             | 25.8   | 21.9  |
| Jacksonville                      | 15.1             | 23.0                 | <b>28.</b> 8  | 25.8             | 35.2   | 31.0  |
| Nashville                         | 39.9             | 32.3                 | 81.2  | 108.2            | 79.0   | 75.9  |
| New Orleans                       | 22.7             | 26.5                 | 207.7   | 14.5             | <b>65.</b> 8                                 | 22.0  |
| (15) Other Cities                 |                  | 18.6                 | 19.8  | 23.0             | 43.8   | 32.5  |
| DISTRICT (20 Cities)              | 17.0             | 21.7                 | <b>45.</b> 8  | 29.8             | 58.1   | 35.6  |
| CONTRACTS AWARDED 6th DISTRICT    | 15.0             | 00.6                 | 00.1  | 01.0             | ro 4   | F1 1  |
| Residential                       | 15.2             | 22.6                 | 28.1  | 21.3             | 50.4   | 51.1  |
| All Other                         | 86.5<br>58.0     | 80.8<br>57.5         | $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{49.8} \\ \textbf{41.2} \end{array}$ | 78.5.<br>55.6    | $\begin{array}{c} 65.6 \\ 59.5 \end{array}$  | $\substack{69.2\\62.0}$                     |
| WHOLESALE PRICES U. S. (*)        |                  |                      |   |                  |  |   |
| ALL COMMODITIES                   | 75.5             | 74.5                 | 73.3  | 92.1             | 90.8   | 90.7  |
| Farm Products                     | 70.1             | 70.6                 | 70.1  | 98.0             | 94.7   | 95.8  |
| Foods                             | 77.1             | 76.7                 | 75.6  | 95.5             | 93.9   | 94.6  |
| Other Commodities                 | 77.1             | 75.6                 | 74.2  | 89.6             | 88.7   | 88.3  |
| Hides and leather products        | 86.6             | 87.4                 | 87.3  | 103.9            | 103.2  | 102.7                                       |
| Textile products                  | 70.4             | 69.2                 | 67.6  | 88.3             | 86.5   | 85.5  |
| Fuel and lighting                 |                  | 64.5                 | 61.6  | 78.8             | 77.4   | 77.9  |
| Metals and metal products         | 88.9             | 89.0                 | 88.7  | 100.9            | 100.6  | 98.8  |
| Building materials                | 81.9             | 81.9                 | 80.9  | 95.7             | 95.4   | 94.7  |
| Chemicals and drugs               | 82.2             | 81.9                 | 80.1  | 92.3             | 91.2   | 91.0  |
| Housefurnishing goods             | 90.8<br>63.9     | $90.8 \\ 64.7$       | 90.8<br>63.9  | 97.0<br>78.5     | $\begin{array}{c} 96.5 \\ 78.2 \end{array}$  | $\begin{array}{c} 96.2 \\ 78.5 \end{array}$ |
|                                   | 00.8             | 04.7                 | 00.9  | 10.0             | 10.2   | 10.0  |
| COTTON CONSUMED:                  | 05.0             | 00.7                 | 100 1   | 07.4             | 100 1  | 10.   |
| United States                     |                  | 96.5                 | 100.1   | 97.4             | 100.1  | 104.7                                       |
| Cotton-Growing States             | 97.7             | 109.8                | 111.8   | 109.4            | 113.0  | 118.2                                       |
| Georgia.                          | 95.2             | 109.9                | 116.7 $143.6$   | 110.7            | 115.4  | 123.3                                       |
| Alabama<br>Tennessee              | 124.4            | 138.7 $128.1$        |   | 134.2            | $\substack{135.6\\130.5}$                    | 148.6                                       |
| All Other States                  | 114.3<br>58.1    |                      | $\substack{126.4\\74.4}$                                      | 136.6<br>71.2    |  | 147.4                                       |
| Exports                           |                  | 67.3<br>98.5         | 63.8  | 65.4             | 71.5<br>77.7                                 | $\substack{75.1\\56.9}$                     |
| PIG IRON PRODUCTION:              |                  |                      |   |                  |  |   |
| United States                     | 57.1             | 68.0                 | 67.6  | 95.0             | 108.7  | 106.5                                       |
| Alabama                           | 66.3             | 74.5                 | 84.6  | 93.0             | 105.9  | 100.7                                       |
| UNFILLED ORDERS—U. S. STEEL       |                  |                      |   |                  |  |   |
| CORPORATION                       | 83.0             | 83.7                 | 81.6  | 93.8             | 95.7   | 91.2  |

<sup>(\*)</sup> Compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Base 1926-100.

r-Revised.

Digitized for FRASER http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/ Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis