# MONTHLY REVIEW 

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

# FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA 

## NATIONAL SUMMARY OF BUSINESS CONDITIONS

 Prepared by Federal Reserve BoardVolume of industrial production showed little change between April and May, following upon increases for four consecutive months, while factory employment declined by the usual seasonal amount. The general level of wholesale prices continued to decline.

Production and Volume of industrial production, as measured by the Employment Board's seasonally adjusted index, was about the same in May as in April, 9 per cent larger than in December, and 14 per cent smaller than in May 1930. Steel output continued to decline more rapidly than is usual at this season, and consumption of cotton by domestic mills was also curtailed, while wool consumption continued to increase, contrary to the usual seasonal tendency, and shoe production, which ordinarily declines in May, showed little change: daily average output of automobiles, according to preliminary reports, was about the same as in April. During the first three weeks of June activity at ateel mills declined further. In the first five months of the year taken as a whole, output of textile mills and shoe factories has been in about the same volume as in the corresponding period of last year, while output of steel, automobiles, and lumber has been about one third smaller. Changes in employment from the middle of April to the middle of May were of the usual seasonal character in many manufacturing industries. In the iron and steel industry, however, at car building shops, and at eatablishments producing machinery, employment declined considerably, while it increased in the automobile and tire industries. At textile mills employment increased somewhat, contrary to seasonal tendency, while in the clothing industry the number employed decreased. Value of building contracte awarded in May was somewhat smaller than in April, reflecting chiefly a decline in awards for public works and utilities. In the first half of June, daily average value of contracts awarded increased somewhat, reflecting larger awards for public works and utilities, offset in part by decreases in awards for other types of construction.

Distribution Sales by department stores decreased in May, contrary to the usual peasonal tendency, and the Board's index


Index numbers of production of manufictures and minerals combined Digitizecadfurted for seasonal variations (1)-100 averate=100). Latect flure


Monthly average of weokly figures for reporting banks in leading cities. Lates figures ame averages of thest three weeks in June.

## SIXTH DISTRICT SUMMARY

Varying trends are indicated in the available series of statistios relating to business, finance, industry and agriculture in the Sixth District during May. Department store trade was in about the same volume as in April but wholesale trade deolined, and both continued less than a year ago. Disoounts for member banks by the Federal Reserve Bank increased between May 13 and June 10, but loans and investments of weekly reporting member banks declined. Debits to individual accounts at 26 clearing house centers of the district deolined 2 per cent in May compared with April and were 19 per cent lese than in May 1930.

May sales by reporting department stores dechined less than one per cent compared with April, and were 8.3 per cent less than in May 1930. Wholesale distribution decreased 5.9 per cent from April to May and averaged 23.7 per cent amaller than in May a year ago. For the first five months of the year retail trade has been 9.8 per oent, and wholesale trade 25.4 per cent, smaller than in that period of 1830.

Building permits reported from twenty eities declined substantially from the April total, which included several large projects, and were 45.7 per cent less than in May last year. Total contract awards in the sixth district were 66 per cent, and residential contracts 37.3 per cent, less than in May a year ago. Consumption of cotton in May by mills in Georgia was 12.4 per cent, and in Alabama 1.1 per cent, amaller than in May 1930 Output of cotton cloth mills increased over the month and was slightly larger than a year ago, but production of yarn declined. Production of coal in Alabama and Tennessee declined in comparison with April, and was less than a year ago, but total output of pig iron in Alabama gained 3.7 per cent from April to May. For the first five months of 1931 pig iron production has been 25.5 per cent leas in Alabama, and 38.2 per cent less in the United States as a whole, than in that period last year. Production of turpentine and rosin, reflected in receipts at the three principal markets of the district, show decreases in May of 24.1 per cent in turpentine, and 19.7 per cent in robiry; compared with May last year.

The lack of rainfall, and lower than ubual temperatures, continued through May in raany parts of the dstrict, and most crops have been affected to some extent by both of these factors. Some rains have improved conditions during the first half of June. Pdaches are reported mach better than a year ago, and a larger crop is estimated by the United States Department of Agriculture. Sales of fertilizer tags in this district from August through May have averaged 30.4 per cent less than in that part of the preceding season:

## FINANCE

Reserve Bank The volume of reserve bank credit outstandtig at the Credit Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, represented by its total holdings of discounted and purchased bills and securities, increased from 28.3 millions of dollars on April 15, the loweat lerel in stx years, to 42.3 millions on yate 10, lurger than for


Monthly Averages of dally figures. Latest figures are averages of first 17 days in June.
any other Wednesday since January 7. With the exception of the last report date of 1930 , and the four weeks from March 19 through April 9 of that year, this total was smaller than for other weekly report dates in 1930, 1929 and the last nine months of 1928. The gain since the low point at the middle of April has been due hargely to an increase of nearly 8 millions of dollars in this bank's holdings of United States Government securities, although holdings of purchased bills have increased 3.5 millions, and discounts have increased 2.6 millions since April 15.
Total discounts increased from 10 millions on May 13, figures for which date were shown in the preceding issue of this Review, to nearly 12.5 millions on June 10 , compared with 30 millions a year ago. Discounts secured by United States Government obligations increased from $\$ 343,000$ on May 13 to $\$ 986,000$ a week later, but declined to $\$ 534,000$ on June 10. Other discounts gained approximately 2.2 millions between May 13 and June 10, but were less than half those a year ago.
Holdings of purchased bills increased slightly during this four week period and were 1.3 millions less than at the same time last year, but holdings of United States seourities, although slightly less than on May 13, amounted to $\$ 20,673,000$ compared with $\$ 3,433,000$ at the same time last year.
Total holdings of bills and securities on June 10 amounted to $\$ 42: 341$ 000 , compared with $\$ 39,946,000$ four weoks earlier, and with $\$ 44,142,000$ on the same report date a year ago.
Reserves and Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation declined, but deposits increased, between May 13 and June 10, and decreases are shown in each of these items compared with the corresponding report date last year.
Principal items in the weekly statement are shown comparatively in the table.
(000 Omitted)

| Bills Discounted | June 10. 1931 |  | June 11. 1930 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| gecured by Gort. Oblizations. | 3 534 | - 343 | 3 1.294 |
| Al Others |  | ${ }^{\text {P/648 }}$ | ${ }_{30}^{38.898}$ |
| Bills Bounh in 0 den mar | \% 2,267 | 10,049 | 30.189 10.520 |
| U. 8. Securties | 20, 昰 | 20,970 | 3,433 |
| Total Bills'and Seonmeke | 42,341 | 39,98 | 4,142 |
| Total Reserves. | 149,660 | 156,101 | 155,206 |
| Memmor banks irestrve Pevosits | 60. 1880 | 80, 020 | ${ }_{64,}^{6}$ |
| R. Notes in | 124,775 | 120,659 | 131,092 |
| esorve Ratio | 180.3 | 181.8 | 78.0 |

## Condition of <br> Member Banks in <br> Selected Cities

After inereasing from 562 millions on January 28 to approtimately 587.6 millions on April 15; total losns and investments of 25 weekly reporting member banks located in Atlanta, New Orleans, Birmingham, Jacksonville, Nashville, Chattanooga, Mobile and \$avannah have stace that thithe declited to 550.6 millions on June 10 , the lowedt level since June 3, 1925.

Loans by these banks against mecurities increased slightly between May 13 and June 10, but were about 33.5 millions less than a year ago, and All Other Loans, which include those for commercial, industrial and agricultural purposes declined 7.9 millions from May 13 to June 10 and were 50.4 millions less than on the same report date last year. Total loans on June 10 were smaller by $\$ 6,939,000$ than four weeks earlier, and $\$ 83,857,000$ less than on June 11, 1930.
Total investment holdings of these banks declined about 10.2 millions from May 13 to June 10, but were 37.6 millions greater than on June 11 last year. Holdings of United States securities declined \$12,390,000 , but investments in other bonds and securities increased $\$ 2$,206,000 , from May 13 to June 10, and holdings of Government obligations were larger by $\$ 17,410,000$, and those of other securities greater by $\$ 20,203,000$ than a year ago.
Time deposits of these banks on June 10 were slightly less than four weeks earlier, and were $\$ 16,875,000$ smaller than a year ago, and demand deposits declined $\$ 4,237,000$ from May 13 to June 10, and were $\$ 11,690,000$ less than on the same report date last year.
Borrowings by these banks from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta increased from $\$ 1,056,000$ on May 13 to $\$ 2,430,000$ a week later, and on June 10 were $\$ 1,980,000$ compared with $\$ 11,272,000$ a year ago.

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

| Loans: (000 Omitted) | June 10. 1981 | $\begin{gathered} \text { May } 13 . \\ 1931 . \end{gathered}$ | June 11. 1950 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| On Securities. | \$116,280 | \$115,318 | 9149,785 |
| All Others. | 225,846 | 273,747 | 316,218 |
| U. 8. Socurities | ${ }_{80,300}$ | Q2,785 | 66, |
| Other Bonds and securities | 88,103 | 88,897 |  |
| Total Inventumits-..--- |  | ${ }_{567,777}^{17888}$ | 120,88 |
| me Deposits. | 227,431 | 228,350 | 24, 8 |
| D | 300 | 310,000 | 317,473 |
| to Ban | 117,889 | 117,417 |  |
|  | 81,800 | 1,058 | 11,272 |

$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Deposits of All } & \text { Daily average of demand deposits held in April by } \\ \text { Member Banks } & \begin{array}{l}\text { all member banks in the Sixth District registered a } \\ \text { further small increase over preceding months. Aver- }\end{array}\end{array}$ age time deposits declined slightly, and both demand and time deposits averaged lower than at the same time last year.

Demand deposits in April averaged 0.6 per cent larger than in March, and were 2.7 per cent above the low point reached in December, but were 9.4 per cent less than in April last year. Time deposits in April averaged 0.2 per cent less than for March, but were 1.5 per cent larger than in February, and averaged 10.5 per cent lese than in April 1930. Changes in these daily averages over the past year are shown in the table.

|  | Demand Deposits | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Tyme } \\ & \text { Deposits } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1930: |  |  |
| Aprll | $\begin{gathered} 68,769,000 \\ 500,34,000 \end{gathered}$ | E490,080,000 |
| June | 518,008,000 | 447,12\%,000 |
| July | 513,185,000 | 440,316,000 |
| August. | 509,661,000 | 439,054,000 |
| Septemb | 510,601,000 | 41,47,090 |
| October | $511,060,000$ | 457,67,009 |
| November | 512,200,000 | 43, $418.822,0000$ |
| 1931: |  |  |
| January... |  | 397,942,000 |
| March | 808,016,000 |  |
| April. | 510,940,000 | 398,918,000 |

Savings Total savings deposits held by 63 reporting banks located Deposits throughout the district at the end of May averaged 1.4 per cent smaller than a month earlier, and were 9.4 per cent less than at the end of May last year. Gains over April at Atlanta, Birmingham and New Orleans were offeet in the district total by decreases at other points. New Orleans showed the only increase over May 1930 included in the table. Percentage comparisons are shown for Atlanta and for cities in which branches of the Federal Reserve Bank are located, and reports from banks located elsewhere are grouped under "Other Cities".

|  | (000 Omitted) |  |  | Percentaze change May 1831 compared with: |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | No. of Banks | $\mathbf{f}_{\mathbf{s}}^{\text {May }} 1931$ | ${ }_{1931}{ }^{\text {April }}$ |  |  | Aprl | $\frac{\text { Hay }}{1930}$ |
| Atlanta | $\frac{4}{3}$ | \$ 40,838 | \$ 40,528 | \% | 43,123 | + 0.8 | - 5.3 |
| Birmingham......... | ${ }^{3}$ | ${ }^{21,171}$ | ${ }^{21,045}$ |  | 24,490 | +0.6 | $-13.6$ |
| Jocatile |  | $\xrightarrow{161.488}$ | 32,741 |  | - ${ }_{33,218}$ | - 12.0 | -13.6 |
| Nem Orleans. | 6 | 62,481 | 51,868 |  | 52,038 | $+1.2$ | +0.9 |
| Other Oit | 41 | 81,168 | 82,295 |  | 97,032 | -1.4 | $-16.4$ |
| Total. | 63 | 243,280 | 246,760 |  | 268,519 | - 1.4 | -9 |

Dobits to There was a further decrease of 2.0 per cent in the total Individual of debits to individual accounts reflecting the volume of Accounts business transactions settled by check at 26 reporting cities of the district in May compared with April. The May total is smaller than for any other month since August last year, and except for that month is the smallest since August 1924. There were increases in May over April at Atlanta, Columbus, Jackson and Knoxville but decreases compared with May last year are shown for all reporting cities. 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 calender month.


## AGRICULTURE

In most parts of the sixth district weather conditions during May were not particularly favorable to growing crops. Temperatures continued to be lower than usual at that time of the year and rainfall was insufficient. There have been scattered rains during the first half of June, but rain is still needed in most sections.

Florida crops generally are later than usual, because of the cool weather and lack of rain. Corn is backward, setting of sweet potato slips has been retarded and growth of tobacco is stunted. Condition of citrus fruits declined materially between May 1 and June 1. Oranges declined from 89 per cent of normal on May 1 to 75 per cent a month later, and grapefruit declined from 77 per cent to 65 per cent. More than the usual amount of insect damage is reported and loss from dropping has become heavy in some of the groves. Georgia reports indicate the best yields of small grain in several years, and good prospects for fruit crops. Most field crops need rain, however, and early plantings of tobacco have suffered. Watermelon vines are shedding some of the young melons. Rainfall in Tennessee was almast two inches below normal, and temperatures averaged about four degrees colder than usual. Tennessee wheat is reported at 91 per cent of normal compared with 76 per cent a year ago, and rye is reported at 87 per cent compared with 75 per cent a year ago.
Peaches The condition of peaches on June 1 this year, and the prospective production as estimated by the United States Department of Agriculture, are considerably higher than at this time a year ago. A comparison of the condition of the crop in each of these
states, and the estimated production for each state, are shown in the table following.

|  | $\underset{1581}{\text { Oondition June }} 1$ | Estimated <br> 1031 | oduction hels) 1980 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Albama | $77 \quad 56$ | 1,202,000 | 1,105,000 |
| Florida | 88 | 728,000 | 102, 000 |
| Coulsiana | - ${ }_{78}^{80}$ | 7,880,000 | 4, 128.000 |
| Mississidid. | 88 | $\begin{aligned} & 72,000 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | 490,000 |
| Tennessee. | 828 | 2,240,000 | 630,000 |

Fertilizer According to statistics compiled by the National FertiTag Sales lizer Association, sales of fertiliser tags by state authorities in the six states of this district registered a further substitantial seasonal decline in May, and continued less than for the same period a year ago. The month of March usually accounts for a large proportion of the annual total, and with the passing of the planting season sales of tags decline materially. Cumulative totals for the ten months August through May show decreases compared with that part of the preceding season ranging from 10 per cent for Florida to 51.6 per cent for Mississippi, as indicated in the table following.

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { May } \\ 1931 \end{gathered}$ | $\frac{\text { May }}{1930}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { August-May } \\ & \text { 1950-31 } \\ & \text { 1920-30 } \end{aligned}$ |  | Percentage |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | arlson |
| Alabama. | 8,800 | 8,550 | 416,350 | 64,600 | -35.4 |
| Hiorida. | 38,360 | 46,150 | 383,520 | 421,128 | -10.0 |
| Georga | 18,110 | 28,130 | 688, 413 | 916,247 | -24.9 |
| Louislana. | 1,095 | 850 | 96, 468 | 183,645 | -47.6 |
| Mississippl | 9,600 | 20,000 | 195,720 | 404,511 | -51.6 |
| Trannessee. | 10,442 | 11,883 | 123,379 | 159,768 | $-22.8$ |
| Total. | 86.407 | 115,563 | 1,903,850 | 2,734,899 | -30.4 |

Sugar Cane The final report of the United States Department of and Sugar Agriculture on the Louisiana sugar crop of 1930 indicates a total production of 183,693 tons, compared with 199,609 tons produced the year before. A comparison of the production of cane, sugar and syrup over the past three years is shown in the table.

| Factories making sugar <br> Sugar made, tons <br> Oane used for susar, tons <br> Syrup made, callons--- |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 199,609 |  |
|  | - $\mathbf{8}, 5059,007$ | 2,917,925 | 1,880, ${ }^{6361}$ |
|  | - 16,888,749 | 29,619,018 | 13,534, 589 |
| SUGAR MOVEMEST (Pounds) |  |  |  |
| sedpts | May 1831 | April 1891 | May 1030 |
| New Oriean | 94,794,134 | 165,674,847 | 190,161,058 |
| Savannah. | 14,573,869 | 41,104,937 | 73,277,888 |
| Meltines: |  |  |  |
| New Orleans | ${ }^{74.3008,049}$ | 14,7,780,059 | ${ }^{14 .} 88.789 .7881$ |
| Stocks: |  |  |  |
| New Orleans | ${ }^{73,980,800}$ | 63,938,302 | 161,848,014 |
| Savannah | 73,128,420 | 67,859,065 | 1,412,857 |
| Reftived sugar Pounds) |  |  |  |
| Shipments: | Kay 1831 | April 1831 | May 1930 |
| New Orleans | 104,617,458 | 123,407,082 | 144,907,490 |
| Stocks: |  |  |  |
| New Orleans.................... | 55,009,523 | $80,808,146$ $17,48,060$ | 107,388,640 |

## RIOE MOVEMCENT-New Orleans




Retail Following a gain of a little more than 33 per cent from FebTrade ruary to April, retail distribution of merchandise through department stores reporting to the Federal Reserve Bank declined less than 1 per cent in May, and continuedsomewhat less in dollar volume than at the same time last year. Stocks continued to decline but the rate of turnover is higher than a year ago.

May sales by 41 reporting department stores located in 23 cities of the sixth district averaged 0.9 per cent less than in April, and were 8.3 per cent smaller than in May 1930. There were increases over April reported from New Orleans, Birmingham, Chattanooga and Nashville, and an incresse at Atlanta over May last year, but these increases were offset in the district average by decreases at other points. Department store sales during the first five months of the year average 9.8 per cent less than in that period of 1930 . These comparisons are of dollar amounts and do not make allowance for the lower level of prices. Reports from some of these firms indicate that their prices in May averaged approximately 19 per cent lower than a year ago.

Stocks of merchandise at the end of May averaged 3.2 per cent smaller than a month earlier, and 17.1 per cent less than a year ago, and the rate of stock turnover was higher for the month, and for the first five months of the year than for those periods in 1930. Accounts receivable at the end of May increased 1 per cent over those for April, but were 5.8 per cent amaller than for May last year, and collections declined 3.2 per cent over the month and were 9.5 per cent smaller than a year ago.

The ratio of collections during May to accounts receivable and due at the beginning of the month for 33 firms was 31.3 per cent, compared with 32.3 per cent for April, and with 31.4 per cent for May last year. For April the ratio of collections by these firms against regular accounts was 33.5 per cent, and the ratio of collections against installment accounts for 11 firms was 17.4 per cent. Detailed comparisons of reported figures are shown in the table.

RETAIL TRADE IN THE SIXTH DISTRIOT DURING MAY 1931 BASED ON OONFIDENIIAL REPORTS FROM 41 DEPARTMENT STORES

|  | Oomparson of Net Sales |  |  | Comparison of Stocks |  | Rate of Stock Turnorer |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | 1951, with same perlod in 1930 |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{Y}_{1}^{120} 0 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | ${ }_{1931}^{\text {Mas }}$ | $\underset{\substack{\text { Jan. } 1 \text { to } \\ 1230}}{ }$ | $\begin{gathered} 41021 . \\ 1891 \end{gathered}$ |
| Alame | ${ }_{\text {¢ }}{ }^{+10.5}$ | - ${ }^{-10.8}$ | - ${ }_{-10.4}^{+12.7}$ |  | $\stackrel{-4.9}{-7.0}$ |  | , | 1.1.56 | (1:88 |
|  | - ${ }_{\text {- }}^{12.0}$ | $\pm{ }_{+0.6}^{11.0}$ | -9:0 | -15.8 | -1. | :28 | 21 | 1:109 | 1:14.4. |
|  | ${ }_{-8.3}^{18.6}$ | - 0.0 .2 | ${ }_{-12}$ | -18.0 | -2.22 | :28 | .23 | 1.04 | ${ }_{1: 12}^{1.06}$ |

Wholesale Trade

Distribution of merchandise at wholesale in this district reflected in sales figures reported by 124 wholesale firms declined 5.9 per cent in May compared with April, and was smaller by 23.7 per cent than in May last year. During the past ten years wholesale trade has increased from April to May in only two instances. The decrease at the same time last year was 4 per cent. There were small increases reported over April in sales by firms dealing in furniture and electrical supplies. Stocks, accounts receivable and collections also declined and were at lower levels than in May last year.
Cumulative sales for the first five months of 1931 have averaged 25.4 per cent less than in that period of 1930, comparisons for individual lines being indicated in the following percentages. This cumulative comparison is followed by a table showing detailed percentage comparisons for the month.

All of these comparisions are of dollar figures and make no allowance for the difference in the prevailing level of prices.


## WHOLesALE TRADE in MAY 1931

 SIXTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRIOT (a)Percentaze chance
May 1931 compared with:
Line, Item and area
No. of ftrms
ADril 1981
Yay 1930


Life Insurance in May over April in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi, Sales of new, paid-for, ordinary life insurance increaseed but declined in Florida, Louisiana and Tennessee. The May total for the six states was 0.5 per cent larger than for April, but 21.7 per cent smaller than for May last year. Cumulative sales for the first five months of 1931 average 24.4 per cent less than for that period of 1930. Comparisons of figures compiled by the Life Insurance Sales Research Bureau are shown in the table.

|  | (000 Omitted) |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | May |  | January-May |  |
|  | 1931 | 1930 |  | 1930 |
| Alabama. | - \$ 5,157 | \$ 8, 835 | \$ 22,155 | \$30,212 |
| Florida- | 5,418 | 7,006 | 24,385 | 30,259 |
| Georgia- | 10,179 | 10,352 | 40,400 | 46,842 |
| Loutsiana | 6,379 | 7,064 | 27,359 | 35,152 |
| Mississiop | 2,752 | 4,000 | 12,010 | 18,873 |
| Tennessee | 7,791 | 12,131 | 37,754 | 55,582 |
| Total | . 837.676 | \$48,148 | \$164,013 | \$216,920 |

Commercial According to figures compiled by R. G. Dun \& Co., Failures there were 2,248 failures in the United States during May, compared with 2,383 in April and with 2,179 in May last year, and liabilities for May totaled $\$ 53,371,212$, against $\$ 50,863$,135 for April, and $\$ 55,541,462$ for May 1930.

In May there were 138 failures in the sixth district, against 121 in April and 58 in May a year ago, and liabilities for May this year were reported as $\$ 370,979$, compared with $\$ 2,117,635$ for April and $\$ 2,338,007$ for May 1930.
Cumulative totals for January-May inclusive amount to 861 failures with liabilities amounting to $\$ 13,575,450$ this year, compared to 590 failures with liabilities of $\$ 12,273,160$ in the first five months of 1930.


Bullding and Following a gain in April to the largest monthly total Construction since July last year, building permits issued at twenty reporting cities in the sixth district declined in May. There was also a decrease in contracts awarded in May, and both permits and contracts were smaller than for that month a year ago.

Permits issued during May at twenty cities in the district for the construction of buildings within their corporate limits totaled $\$ 2,359$,435, compared with $\$ 5,148,425$ in April, and $\$ 4,342,161$ for May last year. Only four cities, Miami, Tampa, Pensacola and Anniston, reported increases over May 1930, and the district total averaged 45.7 per cent amaller than for that month.

Cumulative totals for the first five months of 1931 amount to $\$ 13$,689,243 , a decrease of 38.1 per cent compared with the total of $\$ 22,128$,925 for that period last year.

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

|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Number } \\ & \text { May } \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Value } \\ & \text { May } \end{aligned}$ |  | Percantage |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Alabama: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Anniston. | 15 | 15 | \$ 17,980 | \$ | 16,800 |  |
| Brrmienam- | ${ }^{3} 8$ | ${ }_{65}$ | 30, 40.008 |  | 341,205 | 二 |
| Yontsomery. | 142 | 118 | 83,780 |  | 84,435 | - 0.8 |
| Flords: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jacksonville | ${ }^{303}$ | ${ }_{328}^{208}$ | 120,435 |  | ${ }_{210,503}^{155,100}$ |  |
| Oriando. | 67 | 58 | 18,450 |  | 46,790 | - |
| Pensacola | 0 | 18 | 326,070 |  | 28.025 | +1063 |
| Tampa. | 294 | 28 | 84.788 |  | 81,843 | + 4.2 |
| - Lami Beach...- | 38 | 77 | 123,875 |  | 717,17\% | 二 ${ }_{88}^{81.1}$ |



## Yot included in totals of index numbers.

Not reported.
There was a further decline of 10.9 per cent in total contracts awarded in the sixth district during May compared with April, according to statistics compiled by the F. W. Dodge Corporation and subdivided into district totals by the Division of Research and Statistics of the Federal Reserve Board. The May total for this district was \$12,876,971 , compared with $\$ 14,445,124$ for April, and with $\$ 37,923,178$ for May 1930.

Residential contracts in this district during May amounted to $\$ 3,070,858$, amaller by 22.2 per cent than in April, and 37.3 per cent less than in May 1930. In May residential contracts accounted for 23.8 per cent of the total awards.

Cumulative totals for the first five months of 1931 have amounted to $\$ 85,725,588$, a decrease of 29.5 per cent compared with the total for the corresponding part of last year.

Total contracts awards during May in the 37 states east of the Rocky Mountains amounted to $\$ 306,079,100$, a decline of 9.2 per cent compared with the total of $\$ 336,925,200$ for April, and 33.1 per cent smaller than the total of $\$ 457,416,000$ for May 1930. In May public works and utilities accounted for $\$ 108,948,400$ of the total, non-residental building for $\$ 108,231,100$, and residential building for $\$ 88,899-$ 600.

Lumber Press reports continue to indicate unsatisfactory conditions in the lumber industry, not only in regard to the small demand for lumber, but also the lack of stability of prices. Buying by retail dealers is still limited to their current requirements, and reports indicate that retail stocks have been allowed to run very low, with no visible evidence of buying for replemishment of stocks. There has recently been a slight improvement in the market for big timbers. Weekly reports issued by the Southern Pine Association indicate that orders being received by reporting mills continue to exceed their output. For the six weeks ending with June 6, orders booked by reporting mills averaged 7 per cent greater than their output, while at the same time last year orders were 13 per cent amaller then production. For the mills which reported for corresponding weeks last year, orders during this six weeks period have averaged 17.7 per cent amaller than a year ago, production has averaged 33.1 per cent smaller and unfilled orders have averaged 35.2 per cent less. Unfilled orders average somewhat less than three weeks production. Comparisons of reported figures are shown in the table:

| Weak Ended: | $\begin{aligned} & \text { No. of } \\ & \text { yills } \end{aligned}$ | 1931 | ${ }_{1980}$ |  |  | nds of Feat) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\square^{2}$ | 118 | ${ }^{39,018}$ | 49.192 | 34,072 | ${ }^{88,648}$ | 100, 170 |  |
| May | 115 | 31. | ${ }_{3}^{29,187}$ | 83,217 | 50, 4738 |  |  |
| May 2 |  | 29,421 | 37, 689 | 31,169 | 44,657 | 83,349 | 188,861 |
| May ${ }^{\text {June }}$ | 114 | 31,980 | ${ }^{37,789}$ | 20,907 | 40,753 | 79, 7 839 | 1120,946 |

Consumption Census Bureau statistics indicate a decline in the conof Cotton sumption of cotton by American mills from April to May, and a decrease of only 1.6 per cent in May compared with that month last year. Exports also declined seasonally, but were substantially greater than in May 1930. Spindle activity also declined.

May consumption of cotton in the United States totaled 465,770 bales, smaller by 8.4 per cent than in April. Stocks held by consuming establishments at the close of May also decined 8.2 per cent compared with those a menth earlier, and were 17.6 per eent fenaller than for May 1930. Stocks of cotton in public storage and at compresses Digitizeddeelized 9.0 per cent from April to May, but were 62.6 per cent great-
er than a year ago. Exports in May were 14.3 per cent less than in April, but were larger by 60.9 per cent than in May last year, and the number of apindles active declined by 247,498 compared with April, and show a decrease of $1,960,002$ compared with May 1930.

Cumulative totals show that exports from the United States during the ten months of the cotton season, August through May, have totaled $6,237,391$ bales, a decline of only 1.5 per cent compared with exports of $6,329,221$ bales during that part of the proceding season, and American consumption during this period has totaled $4,365,042$ bales, smailer by 18 per cent than the total of $5,321,582$ bales for the same part of the season before.

Consumption of cotton by Georgia mills amounted in May to 80,686 bales, a decrease of 11.3 per cent compared with April, and 12.4 per cent less than for May 1930, and Alabama consumption in May was 46,164 bales, 6.5 per cent less than in April and 1.1 per cent less than in May last year. Cumulative totals for the ten months of the season through May amount for Georgia to 768,153 bales, a decline of 18.4 per cent, and for Alabama to 434,820 bales, a decrease of 13.4 per cent, compared with that part of the season before.

UNITED STATES (Bales)


Cotton Production and shipments by cotton cloth mills reManufacturing porting to this bank increased further in May and were also slightly greater than in May last year. Orders booked by reporting cloth mills increased substantially over April and were greater than a year ago, and the number of workers increased 1.5 per cent over the month. Unfilled orders and stocks declined and were smaller than a year ago. Production by reporting yarn mills was smaller than in April, or in May last year. Other items reported were also smaller than for April, but shipments, orders unfilled orders and stocks were greater than a year ago. Percentage comparisons of reported figures are shown in the table.


Cotton Seed Activity at cotton seed oil mills in this district, and in Products the country as a whole, has continued to decline with the approach of the end of the present season and the beginning of the next one. For the ten months of the present season, August through May, the amount of cotton seed received by mills in Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi has been 1 per cent smaller than during that part of the preceding season, but the quantity crushed by these mills has been 1.8 per cent greater. Stock of seed on hand at the mills at the close of May were very much less than a year ago. Production of crude oil during this ten months period has been 1.8 per cent less, and pioduction of linters 9.4 per cent amaller, but production of cake and meal increased 4.7 per cent, and of hulls 1 per cent, over output during that part of the season before. Stocks of cake and meal, and of linters, were greater than a year ago, but stocks of crude oil and of hulls were smaller.

For the country as a whole production of crude oil has been 6.8 per cent, cake and meal 1.6 per cent, hulls 4.3 per cent, and linters 19.1 per cent smaller than during the first ten months of the 1929-30 season, and stocks of crude oil at the end of May were 19.3 per cent smaller, but stocks of other products larger, than a year earlier.

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

OOTTON SEED AND OOTTON SEED PRODUOTS

| OOTTON SEED AND OOTTON SEED PRODUOT |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cotton Seed, Tons: | (*) Sixth District Aug. 1 to May 31. |  |  |  |
|  | 1930-31 | 1929-30 |  | 1829-30 |
| Recelved at mills. | I, 881,426 | 1,850,679 | 4,649,882 | 4,947,022 |
| Crushed | 1,833,352 | 1,800,339 | 4,649,873 |  |
| On Hand, May 31 | 9,714 | 61,826 | 45,375 | 118,028 |
| Production: | $570,143,671$ | 580, | 3 | 6 |
| Oake and Meal | 809,790 | T73, 6 | 2,130,507 | 2,164,729 |
| Hulls, tons | 515,590 | 510,575 | 1,286,317 | 1,343, 819 |
| Linters, bales | 326,065 | 359,735 | 813,303 | 1,004,821 |
| Stocks at mins, Mas 31 : |  |  |  |  |
| Orude O1L, lbs. | 5,527,919 | 6,273,7 | 17,387,8 | ,557 |
| Cake and Meal, tons | 76,701 | 25,513 | 223,084 | 100,871 |
| Hulls, tons.-- | 16,173 | 16,353 | 82,693 | 52,328 |
| Linters, bales | 83,661 | 54,554 | 248,340 | 185,299 |

(*) Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippl.
Electric Total production of electric power for public use by plants Power in the six states of the sixth district declined 0.6 per cent in April compared with March, and was 0.4 per cent greater than in April last year. Output of plants using water power to generate current declined 0.6 per cent from March, but increased 2.6 per cent over A pril 1930, and production by the use of fuels decreased 0.7 per cent from March and was 3.7 per cent less than in April a year ago. The proportion of total current produced by the use of water power was 66.7 per cent in March and April this year, and 65.3 per cent in April last year. There was an increase of 10 per cent in the amount of natural gas used by these power plants in April over March, but decreases of 11 per cent in coal and 8.4 per cent in fuel oil, and there were decreases of 24.1 per cent in the amount of coal, 0.5 per cent in fuel oil, and 11.1 per cent in natural gas, used compared with April last year. Cumulative totals for the first four months of 1931 show increases over that period last year of 0.5 per cent in total production of electric power, and 1.3 per cent in production by water power, but a decrease of 1.1 per cent in output by use of fuels. Consumption of coal declined 25.3 per cent, fuel oil 3.9 per cent, and natural gas 3.9 per cent, compared with the first four months of 1930 . Comparisons for the month are shown in the table.

April 1931 March 1931 April 1930


Bituminous Total production of bituminous coal in the United Coal Mining States during May declined 0.6 per cent, but the average daily output increased 1 per cent, over April. Total output was 21.2 per cent, and daily average production 18.1 per cent, less than in May last year. A comparison of monthly totals, compiled by the United States Bureau of Mines, is shown below.

|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Total } \\ & \text { Production } \\ & \text { (tons) } \end{aligned}$ | Number of working days | Average per working day(tons) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mas 1931 | 28,314,000 | 25.4 | 1,115,000 |
| April 1931 | 28,478,000 | 2.8 | 1,104,000 |
| May 1930 | 35,954,000 | 26.4 | 1,362,000 |

Weekly figures for Alabama and Tennessee continue to decline, the average output for those weeks ending in May being 2.5 per cent less in Alabams and 10.5 per cent smaller in Tennessee, than for April, and 15.5 per cent smaller in Alabama and 26 per cent smaller in Tennessee than for May last year. Weekly comparisons are shown in the table.

|  | (In thousands of tons) |  |  |  | Tennessee |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Week Ending: | 1931 | 1930 | 1931 | 1930 | 1931 | 1930 |
| May 2 | 6,422 | 8,335 | 224 | 318 | 81 | 95 |
| May 9 | 6,715 | 8,285 | 249 | 294 | 85 | 112 |
| May 16 | 6,783 | 8,169 | 248 | 278 | 83 | 86 |
| May 23. | 6,628 | 8,272 | 245 | 276 | 68 | 83 |
| May 30 | 6,481 | 7,590 | 229 | 270 | 67 | 90 |
| June 6. | 6,595 | 8,151 |  |  |  |  |

Pig Iron According to statistics compiled and published by the Production Iron Age the total production of pig iron in the United States declined in May compared with April and conDigitized fotinuedsate a substantially lower level than a year ago. Production in http://fraserAlabomedinergreed over the month before, bat was atoo lese than at

## MONTHLY INDEX NUMBERS

The following index numbers, except those of wholesale prices, are computed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atanta monthly. The index numbers of retsil 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 figurea 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 .


