MONTHLY REVIEW

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

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA

VOL. 16, No. 12

ATLANTA, GA., December 31, 1931

This review released for publication in morning papers of December 31

NATIONAL SUMMARY OF BUSINESS CONDITIONS Prepared by Federal Reserve Board

Industrial activity and factory employment declined further from October to November, reflecting in part the usual seasonal tendencies. Continued gold imports and further reduction in member bank reserve requirements during November and the first half of December were reflected in a considerable decline in the outstanding volume of reserve bank credit.

Production and In November industrial production showed Employment a somewhat larger decrease than is usual at this season, and the Board's seasonally adjusted Index declined from 73 to 72 per cent of the 1923-1925 average. Activity declined at woolen mills, lumber mills, and coal mines, while daily average output at steel mills increased and volume of automobile production showed less than the usual seasonal decline from the low level of October. The November increase in steel production was followed by a considerable decline in the first three weeks of December. Output of petroleum increased further in November to a level slightly lower than that prevailing last summer before output was sharply curtailed.

Volume of employment in most manufacturing industries declined by more than the seasonal amount between the middle of October and the middle of November. Reductions were particularly large in the wearing apparel, leather, and building materials industries, while in the automobile and tire industries declines were smaller than usual at this season.

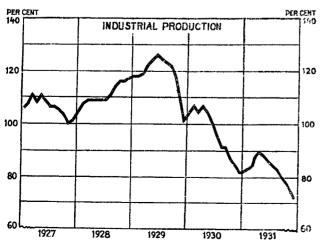
The value of building contracts awarded, as reported by the F. W. Dodge Corporation, has declined further in recent months and a preliminary estimate of the Board's seasonally adjusted Index for the last quarter of 1931 is 49 per cent of the 1923-1925 average, compared with 59 for the third quarter, 65 for the second quarter, and 79 for the first quarter of the year; part of this decline in dollar volume reflects lower building costs.

Production of principal crops in 1931 was about 10 per cent larger than in 1930, according to the December crop report of the Department of Agriculture, while acreage harvested was slightly smaller than a year ago. There were large increases in the crops of cotton, corn, winter wheat, apples, and peaches, while the harvests of oats, barley and rye were smaller than last year; as in 1930 the hay crop was unusually small.

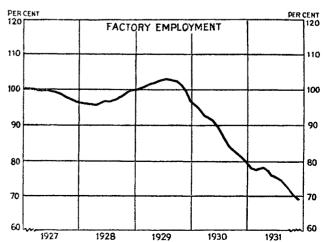
Distribution Commodity distribution continued at about the same rate in November as in October, the volume of freight-car loadings showing a seasonal decline, while sales at department stores increased by about the usual amount for that month.

Wholesale Prices The general level of wholesale prices remained practically unchanged from October to November, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Index; prices of grains, petroleum, and silver advanced, while those of livestock and dairy products showed declines, partly of a seasonal character. Between the middle of November and the middle of December there were decreases in the prices of many leading commodities including live stock, meats, grains, sugar, silk, and silver; during this period prices of copper and rubber showed a decline, followed by a recovery.

Bank Credit Volume of reserve bank credit outstanding declined during November and the first half of December, and averaged \$360,000,000 less in the week ending December 12 than at its October peak seven weeks earlier. The decrease was in large part in the banks' portfolio of acceptances, as discounts for member banks and holdings of United States Government Securities showed little change for the period. The decline in total volume of reserve bank credit outstanding during the period reflected a growth of \$100,000,000 in the stock of monetary gold, largely through imports from Japan, and a continued reduction in the reserve balances of member banks, reflecting a further liquidation of member bank credit. Demand for currency declined during the last three weeks of November, and showed considerably less than the usual seasonal increase in the first half of December. After the middle of December, however, bank suspensions in New England were followed by (Continued on Page 7)

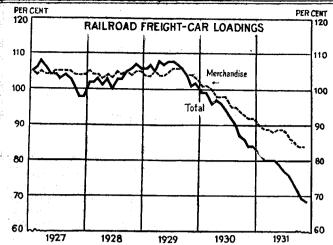


Index numbers of production of manufactures and minerals combined adjusted for seasonal variations (1923-1925 average=100). Latest figure Digitized November preliminary 72.



Federal Reserve Board's index of factory employment with adjustment for seasonal variation. (1923-25 average=100.) Latest figure November 69.2.

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



Indexes of daily average number of cars loaded; adjusted for seasonal variation. (1923-25 average=100).

BRILIONS OF DOLLARS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS 10 10 MEMBER BANK CREDIT All Other Loans 9 9 Securitie Loans 8 7 7 Investments 6 6 5 5 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931

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

SIXTH DISTRICT SUMMARY

Following seasonal increases from midsummer through October, the month of November disclosed seasonal declines from October in the volume of trade at both retail and wholesale, and in debits to individual accounts at reporting clearing house cities of the sixth district. Department store sales in November averaged 16.7 per cent less than in October, and were also 16.7 per cent smaller than in November last year. Wholesale trade declined 11.2 per cent from October and averaged 19.4 per cent less than in November, 1930, and bank debits decreased 17.8 per cent over the month and were 20.7 per cent less than a year ago. November had 24 business days as against 27 in October, a difference of about 11 per cent. In these comparisons no allowance is made for the different number of days, compared with October, or in the different price levels compared with a year ago.

Federal Reserve Bank credit outstanding at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta declined somewhat between November 11 and December 9, but continued much larger than a year ago. Member bank credit outstanding at weekly reporting member banks declined between November 11 and December 9 and continued less than a year ago. Both demand and time deposits decreased further, and borrowing by these weekly reporting member banks from the Federal Reserve Bank increased slightly.

Building permits issued at 20 reporting cities increased 59.5 per cent, but contracts awarded in the district as a whole declined 51 per cent, compared with October, and permits were 51.9 per cent, and contracts 63 per cent, less than in November, 1930. For the eleven months of 1931 permits have been 35.5 per cent, and contracts 25 per cent. less than in that part of 1930. Coal production in Alabama and Tennessee, and pig iron production in Alabama, declined in November, and continued less than a year ago. Cotton consumption in the United States declined 7.2 per cent, and in three states of this district 7.5 per cent, but the daily average increased about 2 per cent. from October to November, and in the United States was 3.3 per cent. and in these three states 3.7 per cent. larger than in November last year. Production of cotton cloth by reporting mills in this district was larger in November than for the same month a year ago for the seventh consecutive month.

FINANCE

Reserve Bank
Credit

The volume of reserve bank credit outstanding at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta declined from 104 millions on November 11 to 96.5 millions on November 25, increased to approximately

96.5 millions on November 25, increased to approximately 103.8 millions a week later and declined to 96.3 millions on December 11. These changes were due partly to fluctuations in discounts, but principally to the decline in holdings of purchased bills.

Holdings of discounted paper increased from \$50,671,000 on November 11 to \$58,098,000 on December 2, but declined to \$54,081,000 a week later, a net increase of \$3,410,000 in the four week period from November 11 to December 9. This Digitized increases in discounts was more than offset, however, by a

decline of \$11,044,000 in the bank's holdings of bills bought in the open market. Compared with the corresponding report date a year ago, discounts on December 9 this year show an increase of \$21,666,000, holdings of purchased bills were greater by \$9,699,000, and United States securities owned by the bank show an increase of \$9,485,000. Other securities were held on December 9 amounting to \$600,000.

Cash reserves increased between November 11 and Decembr 9 by \$6,165,000, and were then \$86,756,000, compared with \$135,293,000 on the same report date a year ago.

Member bank reserve deposits declined slightly between November 11 and December 9, and were \$11,517,000 less than a year ago, and total deposits declined \$1,764,000 between November 11 and December 9 and were \$5,198,000 smaller than at the same time last year.

Federal Reserve Notes in actual circulation on December 9 were \$234,000 greater than four weeks earlier, but \$3,380,000 less than a year ago.

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

(000 Omitted)
Dec. 9, 1931. Nov. 11, 1931 Dec. 10, 1930.

Bills Discounted:					
Secured by Govt. Obligations	\$ 12,586	\$	14,945	- \$,720
All Others	41,495	-	35,726		31,695
Total Discounts	54,081		50,671		32,415
Bills Bought in open market	24,440		35,484		14,741
U. S. Securities	17,209		17,306		7,724
Other Securities	600		600		
Total Bills and Securities	96,330		104,061		54,88 0
Total Reserves	86,756		80.591		135,293
Member Banks Reserve Deposits.	48.591		49,029		60,108
Total Deposits	55.311		57,075		60,509
F. R. Notes in actual circulation -	210,552		120,318		123,935
Reserve Ratio	49.3		45.4		73 .4

Condition of Member Banks in Selected Cities

There was a further decrease of 14.5 millions in total loans and investments of 24 weekly reporting member banks located in Atlanta, New Orleans, Birmingham, Jack-

sonville, Nashville, Chattanooga, Mobile and Savannah between November 11 and December 9. This total for December 9 was only slightly above the low point reached on September 9, at \$543,474,000, which increased to \$570,524,000 two weeks later, and was \$57,914,000 less than for the same report date last year.

Between November 11 and December 9 total loans by these weekly reporting member banks declined \$7,296,000, and on December 9 they were smaller by \$70,760,000 than on the same report date last year. Investments of these banks declined \$7,254,000 btween November 11 and December 9 and were then \$32,846,000 greater than a year ago.

Demand and time deposits of these banks have continued to decline, and demand deposits on December 9 were \$47,033,-000 smaller, and time deposits \$24,429,000 less, than a year

Borrowings by these banks from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta on December 9 were slightly larger than four weeks earlier, and \$14,879,000 greater than a year ago.

Principal items in the weekly report are shown comparatively in the table, and are followed by monthly averages of weekly figures over the past year.

	新安/美		(000 Omitted)			
	Dec.	921931.	Nov.	11, 1931,	Dec.	10, 1930.
Loans:			_		_	
On Securities	\$	111,814	\$	114,282	\$	134,821
All Others		255,314		260,142		313,067
Total Loans		367,128		374,424		447,888
U. S. Securities		85,249		91,860		62,598
Other Bonds and Securities		91,129		91.772		80,934
Total Investments		176,378		183,632		143,532
Total Loans and Investments		543,506		558,056		591,420
Time Deposits		209.104		213.836		233,533
Demand Deposits		257.888		260.337		304,921
Due To Banks		74,531		79.877		101,123
Due from Banks		47,786		57,769		69,039
Borrowings from F. R. Bank		32,220		31,891		17,341

Monthly Averages of Weekly Figures for Reporting Member Banks in Selected Cities.

1930	Loans on Securities	All Other Loans	Invest- ments	Demand Deposits	Time Deposits	Borrowings Trom F. R. Bank
Nov Dec 1931—	\$ 142,228 135,374					
Jan Peb March	137,811 131,886 132,893		141,561 148,405 160,534	305,018 306,455 303,616		8,550
April May June	126,991 115,937	278,270 271,544 265,159	178,257 175,038 177,587	311,170 307,486 302,461	227,729 226,625	1,503
July Aug Sept	114,134 113,341 114,082	263,351 262,759	178,487 173,381 181,450	299,850 290,772 280,966	234 .860 228 .099	6,109
Oct Nov	115,508 114,264		185,199 181,274	267,026 259,056		

Savings Total savings deposits held by 64 reporting banks

Deposits in the district at the end of November declined
further compared with earlier months, and averaged 8.7 per cent less than a year ago. Totals for Atlanta
and Branch Federal Reserve Bank cities are shown in the
table, and reports from banks located elsewhere are grouped

under "Other Cities".

	(000 Omitted)							
	Number of Banks	Nov. 1931	Oct. 1931	Nov. 1930	Percentage change Nov. 1931 Compare with Oct. 1931 Nov. 193			
Atlanta	4	\$38,949	\$39,048	\$42,910	-0,3	- 9,2		
Birmingham	3	20,807	20,803	24,687	+0.02	15.7		
Tacksonville	4	14,461	14.594	16,890	0.9	14 .4		
Nashville	5	28,375	29,433	29,019	3.6	2.2		
New Orleans	6	50,697	51,158	51,701	-0.9	1.9		
Other Cities	42	79.186	81,193	89,409	2.5	11.4		
Total	64	232,475	236,229	254,616	1 .6	8.7		

Debits to Individual Accounts

There is always a decrease from October to November in bank debits at reporting cities in this district. This year the decline was 17.8 per cent. and at the same time last year the decrease was

and at the same time last year the decrease was 17.3 per cent. The November total was 20.7 per cent smaller than for November, 1930. An increase was reported for Jackson over October, and Knoxville reported a gain over November last year. Monthly totals 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.

	(00)	Omitted)	
	Nov.	Oct.	Nov.
Alabama—4 Cities \$ Birmingham Dotham Mobile	1931 125,618 \$ 80,733 1,741 26,683 16,461	1931 143,778 \$ 92,140 2,142 29,923 19,573	1930 173,702 114,572 2,639 33,543
Montgomery Florida—4 Cities Jacksonville Miami Pensacola Tampa.	82,274 43,387 14,293 5,065 19,529	93,203 49,896 15,428 6,151 21,728	22,948 108,832 56,541 19,506 6,182 26,603
Georgia—10 Cities Albany. Atlanta Augusta Brunswick Columbus Riberton Macon Newnan Savannah	181,628 2,932 112,463 15,379 1,787 8,890 774 10,719 1,191 24,937	230,590 3,480 144,224 17,866 2,322 12,193 891 13,217 1,488 31,810	225,538 4,104 135,323 19,059 2,549 11,319 1,019 14,517 1,833 32,785
Valdosta Louisiana—New Orleans Mississippi—4 Cities Hattiesburg Jackson Meridian Vicksburg Tennessee—3 Cities Chattanooga	2,556 215,933 36,770 3,231 23,277 5,831 4,431 113,540 31,610	3,099 281,816 35,153 4,089 19,557 6,958 4,549 134,580 36,252	3,030 257,814 40,582 4,991 23,735 6,561 5,295 146,288 43,218
Knoxville Nashville Digitized for Total 26 Cities Significant Sign	27,701 54,229 755,763 \$	32,046 66,282 919,120 \$	25,184 77,886 952,75

AGRICULTURE

The last monthly cotton estimate for the 1931 season by the United States Department of Agriculture issued in December indicates a cotton crop amounting to 16,918,000 bales. This is a slight increase over the November estimate, larger by 8.6 per cent than the first estimate of the season in August, and 21.4 per cent greater than the 1930 crop. The estimated crop this year is the second largest ever produced in the United States, the record crop having been that of 1926 amounting to 17,977,000 bales.

In the six states of this district the crop is estimated at 6,063,000 bales, larger by 9.9 per cent than the August estimate, and 6.9 per cent larger than the 1930 crop in these states. Production has been smaller than in 1930 in Alabama, Florida and Georgia, but larger in Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. The Tennessee crop is the largest on record, both in yield per acre and in total production. Final estimates for 1931, and total ginnings for the year before, are shown comparatively in the table.

	Final			
·	Estimate Dec. 1, 1931	Production 1930	Percentage Comparison	
Alabama	1,430,000	1.473.000	— 2.9	
Florida	43,000			
Georgia	1.395.000	1.593.000		
Louisiana	865,000	715.000		
Mississippi	1,725,000	1.464.000		
Tennessee	605,000	377,000	+60.5	
Total Six States	6,063,000	5,672,000	· + 6.9	

Total ginnings from the 1931 crop prior to December 1 amounted to 15,023,451 bales, greater by 17 per cent than the total of 12,837,099 bales ginned to the same time last year. For the six states of this district the increase over last year was 4.6 per cent, as indicated by these figures.

	Cetton Ginned to	December 1 1930	Percentage Comparison
Alabama	1,365,016	1.380.035	1.1
Florida	42.948	50.521	
Georgia	1.345.376	1.512.698	11.0
Louisiana	813.454	682.141	+19.3
Mississippi	1,518,893	1.377.068	
Tennessee	504,556	341,637	+ 47 .7
Total Six States		5,344,100	+ 4.6
Average of Cotton Prices	at Ten Designated	Spot Market	3

Sugar Movem	ent (Pounds)-	Raw Sugar	1.5
	Nov. 1931	Oct. 1951	Nov. 1930
Receipts:			
New Orleans	71,821,889	51,546,879	114,716,097
Savannah	6,304,738	63.237	22,457,821
Meltings:			
New Orleans	74.942.212	69.966.812	93.175.913
Savannah	23.700,228	18,413,563	34,766,819
Stocks:			
New Orleans	52.115.696	55,246,429	91,354,301
Savannah	6,304,026	23,699,516	43,215,685
R	Refined Sugar		فوجوا أأدم
Shipments:	ta de la companya de		
New Orleans	72,680,884	86,791,830	111,256,930
Savannah	20,363,714	21,194,841	22,955,962
Stocks:		1977	
New Orleans	63,142,806	62,164,343	69,118,324
Savannah	14,106,179	11,861,103	15,460,766
D: 34			
Rice Mov	ement—New O	ricans	
Rough Rice—Barrels:	Nov. 1931	Oct. 1931	Nov. 1930

Rough Rice—Barrels:	Nov. 1931 80,281	Oct. 1931 89,721	Nov. 1930 40,678
ShipmentsStocks	86,873	76,139 18,231	42,428 7,833
Clean Rice—Pockets: Receipts	181,322	169.954	116,112
ShipmentsStocks			126,781 129,996
Rice Miller	s Association St		

* •		化二氯化二甲二二甲二甲二二甲二甲二二甲二二甲二二甲二二甲二二甲二二甲二二甲二二甲二二甲
Rice Millers Association (Barrels)	Statistics ¶	roman sakar ji talagi Limita sakar sakar sakar
(November	Aug. 1 to Nov. 30
Receipts of Rough Rice:		2.5046
Season 1931-32	1,408,134	5,035,070
Season 1930-31	1,257,171	
Distribution of Milled Rice:		
Season 1931-32	1.216.289	3.914.858
Season 1930-31	1,207,562	
Stocks of Rough and Milled Rice:	-,,	
November 30, 1931	2,050,823	the control of the control of
November 30, 1930	1,776,059	

Fertilizer November sales of fertilizer tax tags in Florida Tag Sales increased 95 per cent over those in October, but in other states of the district were only nominal. The total for the six states was 19.1 per cent larger than for October, but 13.9 per cent less than for November, 1930, and for the four months of the season, August through November, the total is 23.6 per cent less than for that part of the previous season. Figures in the table are taken from those compiled by the National Fertilizer Association.

		(Short	Tons)		
	Nov.	Oct.	Nov.	August 1 through	November 30
	1931	1931	1930	1931	1930
Alabama	250	600	550	1,550	3,950
Florida	53.348	27,412	60,775	117,469	153,225
Georgia	220	395	800	848	2.611
Louisiana	500	11,620	700	17,926	17,585
Mississippi	200	150	0	600	800
Tennessee	260	5,822	770	11,634	18,225
Total	54,778	45,999	63,595	150,027	196,396

TRADE

Retail Department store sales in this district usually in-Trade crease from midsummer to October, decline somewhat in November, and reach the high point for the year in December because of the holiday trade. The gain this year from September to October was somewhat larger than the average increase at that time, and there was a decrease from October to November of somewhat larger than usual proportions. November sales were 16.7 per cent less than in October, and were also 16.7 per cent smaller than in November, 1930. There were, however, only 24 business days in November as against 27 in October, and the decrease in daily average sales was 6.7 per cent from October to November. For the first eleven months of the year department store sales have averaged 11 per cent less than in that part of 1930.

Stocks of merchandise at the end of November were about the same as a month earlier, and 17.8 per cent smaller than a year ago, and the rate of stock turnover has been slightly higher than it was last year.

Accounts receivable at the end of November averaged 0.2 per cent smaller for October, and 12.6 per cent less than a year ago, and November collections increased 0.7 per cent over October but were 19.4 per cent less than in November, 1930.

The ratio of collections during November to accounts receivable and due at the beginning of the month for 33 firms was 29.2 per cent, compared with 30.9 per cent a month earlier and with 32.2 per cent a year ago. For regular accounts the ratio for November was 31.4 per cent, against 33.2 per cent for October and 34.6 per cent for November last year, and for installment accounts the November ratio was 15.8 per cent compared with 17.1 per cent for October and 15.6 per cent for November 1930.

All of these statistics are reported in dollar amounts and the percentage comparisons do not make allowance for the different level of prices.

RETAIL TRADE IN THE SIXTH DISTRICT DURING NOVEMBER 1931

Based on confidential reports from 41 department stores

	Comparison of Net Sales			Comparison	Rate of Stock Turnover				
	Nov. 1931 with Nov. 1930	Nov. 1931 with Oct. 1931	Jan. 1 to Nov. 30, 1931. with same period in 1930	with Nov. 30, 1930.	Nov. 30, 1931. with Oct. 31, 1931	Nov. 1930	Nov. 1931	Jan. 1 to No. 1930 1931	
Atlanta (4) Birmingham (4) Chattanooga (5) Nashville (4) New Orleans (5) Other Cities (19) District (41)	—13 .3 —20 .6 —12 .6 —19 .6 —17 .7 —16 .1 —16 .7	-19.4 20.0 28,6 21.3 11.0 14,2 16.7	- 5.7 -13.2 -12.8 -13.1 -12.0 -12.9 -11.0	14.6 19.2 19.7 17.3 17.7 18.8 17.8	+ 1.7 - 1.7 + 4.1 + 2.0 - 2.2 + 0.7 - 0.1	.32 .20 .15 .21 .21 .18	.32 .21 .16 .20 .22 .20 .23	3 .52 2 .21 1 .92 2 .35 1 .94 1 .95 2 .26	3.86 2.30 1.89 2.38 2.23 2.26 2.48

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

Wholesale Distribution of merchandise at wholesale in the Trade sixth district declined by 11.2 per cent in November compared with October, and was 19.4 per cent smaller than in November last year. The decrease in November was just equal to the gains shown in September and October, and the combined index number of sales in the eight reporting lines was the same for November as for August. For the eleven months of 1931 sales at wholesale have averaged 23.6 per cent less than in that period of 1930, as indicated in the following comparisons by lines.

	Percentage Comparison of Sales January to November inclusive 1931 with same period in 1930
Groceries	-22.1
Dry Goods	-23.6
Hardware	−27.0
Furniture	—24.0
Electrical Supplies	—25 ,4
Shoes	— <u>29</u> .0
Stationery	
Drugs	
Total	-23.6

WHOLESALE TRADE IN NOVEMBER 1931 Sixth Federal Reserve District (a)

	Number of Firms	compar	ange Nov. 1931 ed with Nov. 1930
All Lines Combined:			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Sales	119	11.2	-19.4
Stocks on hand	32	— 1.2	-18.2
Accounts receivable	57	— 1.4	-12.1
Collections	61	5.6	 25 . 5
Groceries:			
Sales	27	8.0	-17.4
Atlanta	3	— 8.5	-10.3
Jacksonville	4	— 2.8	-2.5
New Orleans	4 5 3	— 3.1	-16.1
Vicksburg	3	-18.9	21.5
Other Cities	12	11.9	-27.2
Stocks on hand	4	+ 0.2	25.8
Accounts receivable	12	- 0.2	- 8.0
Collections	12	6.8	-28.1
ed for FRASER			

	Number of Firms	Percentage che compar Oct. 1931	ange Nov. 1931 ed with Nov. 1930
Dry Goods:			·
Sales Nashville Nashville Other Cities Stocks on hand Accounts receivable Collections	21 3 18 11 12 14	15.7 16.3 15.5 5.2 2.6 + 5.1	12.9 24.4 9.0 25.4 18.1 16.7
Hardware:			
Sales	29 3 4 5 14 8 16	9 .4 5 .4 +- 4 .1 13 .3 14 .3 9 .3 0 .4 0 .3 7 .2	-21 .7 -14 .8 -14 .6 -16 .6 -27 .7 -24 .1 -12 .4 -7 .7 -28 .9
Furniture:			
Sales	13 5 8 6 9	17.6 31.8 14.6 2.6 5.4 0.1	26.6 44.6 22.5 30.2 19.5 19.6
Electrical Supplies:			
Sales	14 4 10 3 4 5	-14.7 -19.3 -11.3 + 2.9 - 1.8 -11.2	-26.5 -29.4 -24.5 + 0.5 -12.9 -27.3
Drugs:			
Sales	8 4 5	-10.9 -0.1 -14.4	-17.1 -13.4 -25.7
Shoes: Sales	3	+ 1.8	- 9.9
Stationery: Sales	4	—39.6	—33 .2
(a)-Based upon confidential reports	from 119 firm	ns.	

http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/ Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Life Sales of new, paid for, ordinary life insurance Insurance in the six states of this district increased further by 5 per cent in November over October, and averaged 7.5 per cent less than in November, 1930. For the eleven months of 1931 there has been an average decrease of 19.9 per cent for these six states compared with that part of 1930. Figures in the table are from those compiled by the Life Insurance Sales Research Bureau.

	N	ovember 1 1931	N	vember 1930	Jar	(000 omitted) nuary through 1 1931	November 1930	Percentage Comparison
Alabama Florida	\$	3,538 4,911	\$	4,165 4,211	\$	45,922 \$ 53,148	58,703 61,554	-21 .8 -13 .7
Georgia Louisiana		6,641 4,556		7,437 5,188		85,829 56,709	97,018 69,989	11.5 19.0
Mississippi Tennessee		2,016 6,803		2,348 7,419		25,707 80,389	36,349 110,288	29.3 27.1
Total	\$	28.465	\$	30.768	\$	347 704 \$	433 901	-19 9

Commercial Statistics compiled by R. G. Dunn & Co. indicate that in Novemebr there were 2,195 business failures in the United States, compared with 2,362 in October, and with 2,031 in November last year, and liabilities for November were \$60,659,612, compared with \$70,660,436 in October, and with \$55,260,730 in November 1930

In the sixth district there were 117 business failures in November, 131 in October, and 110 in November, 1930, and liabilities totaled \$2,353,485, smaller by 18.6 per cent than the October total of \$2,891,249, and 26.6 per cent less than the total of \$3,208,115 for November last year. The cumulative totals for the first eleven months of 1931 amount to 1,537 failures with liabilities amounting to \$28,565,163, against 1,232 failures with liabilities totaling \$28,336,409 during that period of 1930, and represent increases of 24.8 per cent in number and of 0.8 per cent in liabilities.

Grain	Exports—N (Bushe)		3	
	Nov. 1931	Nov. 1930	July 1 throug 1931	th Nov. 30 1930
Wheat Corn	935,678 6,130 38,907 49,000	154,858 7,175 6,155	2,996,327 32,104 172,385 112,285	4,928,498 48,128 40,032
Total	1,029,715	168,188	3,313,101	5,016,658

INDUSTRY

Building and Construction building permits issued at twenty reporting cities in the sixth district during November for the construction of buildings within their corporate limits increased 59.5 per cent over the total for October, and were 51.9 per cent greater than for November last year. With the exception of April, the November total is the largest since October, 1930. The cumulative total for the first eleven months of 1931 amounts to \$27,144,850, a decrease of 35.5 per cent compared with the total of \$42,-109,228 for the same part of 1930. Comparisons for the month are shown in the table.

		umber vember	Vali Noven		Percentage
City	1931	1930	1931	1930	change in value
Alabama		1,00	-,01	1750	in value
Anniston	3	9	\$ 1,300	\$ 25,260	94.9
Birmingham	152	157	133,528	73,487	+81.7
Mobile	37	49	43,348	146,231	70.4
Montgomery	80	76	40,721	29,070	+40.1
Florida	00	,,	10,721	29,070	T 40 .1
Jacksonville	264	245	111,110	89,055	+ 24 .8
Miami	294	288	1,373,547	127,461	+977.6
Miami Beach	77	66	135,675	193,335	-29.8
Orlando	33	41	9,070	18,295	-53.0
Tampa	191	173	44,029	34,263	+ 28.5
*Lakeland	6	*/6	3,000	3,150	- 4 .8
Georgia	Ü	U	3,000	3,130	- 4.8
Atlanta	387	211	216,583	167,436	+ 29 .4
Augusta	83	83	40,923		
Columbus	30	32	12,329	48,058	-14.8
Macon	144	244	67,564	33,272	-62.9
Savannah	15	~ 13	22,530	103,031	-34.4
Louisiana	13	7	22,330	34,150	—34.0
New Orleans	73	88	100 470	544 221	~~ -
Alexandria	62	54	122,478	544,221	-77.5
Tennessee	02	34	58,432	30,608	+ 90 .9
Chattanooga	197	100	104 201	171 100	•• •
		199	104,381	171,136	-39.0
Johnson City Knoxville	2 39	4	1,650	5,700	-71.1
		44	25,754	29,404	-12.4
Nashville	125	67	501,119	114,690	+336.9
Total 20 Cities	∡,∠88	2,139	\$3,066,071\$		+51.9
Index No.			27 .2	17.9	
gitized to or included in total	s or inde	x numbers.			

Contract awards in the sixth district during November reached a new low point, according to statistics compiled by the F. W. Dodge Corporation and subdivided into district figures by the Federal Reserve Board's Division of Research and Statistics. The November total was \$5,859,223, smaller by 51 per cent than the total of \$11,960,901 for October, and 63 per cent smaller than the total of \$15,851,202 for November last year. Residential contracts, which in November accounted for 26.6 per cent of the total, were \$1,559,499, smaller by 14.9 per cent than for October and 34.7 per cent less than for November 1930. Cumulative totals for the eleven months of 1931 amount to \$167,345,292 for total contract awards, a decline of 25 per cent compared with that period in 1930, and residential contracts for the eleven months of 1931 total \$27,735,649, a decline of 37.7 per cent compared with the same part of 1930. Comparisons of state totals for the month are shown in the table; parts of the figures for Louisiana and Mississippi apply to other Federal Reserve Districts. For the eleven month period Louisiana contracts have been greater by 62 per cent than for that part of 1930, but the other states show declines.

	November	October	Percentage	November	Percentage
	1931	1931	Comparison	1930	Comparison
Alabama Florida Georgia Louisiana Mississippi Tennessee (6th dist.)	1,232,200 1,089,100 1,097,700 362,900	\$ 926,40 1,974,40 1,577,40 5,778,20 516,60 2,942,10	0037.6 0031.0 0081.0 0029.8	\$2,477,200 2,246,000 3,083,500 7,373,500 1,507,000 1,836,200	-68.3 -45.1 -64.7 -85.1 -75.9

Total contracts awarded in the 37 states east of the Rocky Mountains during November amounted to \$151,195,900, a decrease of 37.5 per cent from October, and 40.0 per cent smaller than the total for November last year.

Lumber For the five-week period ending December 5 orders booked by mills reporting to the Southern Pine Association for corresponding periods a year ago averaged about 39 per cent smaller, and production averaged about 37 per cent less, than at that time. Orders for this five-week period averaged smaller than production by less than one-half of one per cent. Reports continue to indicate that mill stocks are badly broken and retail yard stocks continue depleted. Prices are being maintained more firmly, with advances in some items. Comparisons of weekly figures for identical mills are shown in the table.

Week Ended:	Number	Orde	ers	Produ	ction	Unfilled	Orders
	of Mills	1931	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930
Nov. 7 Nov. 14 Nov. 21 Nov. 28 Dec. 5	121 124 111	28,959 28,245 21,231	36,711 32,737 38,426 41,649 28,768	25,342 27,120 23,087	39,814 41,734 34,669	68,628 72,828 60,123	101,825 105,954 95,250

Consumption of Cotton There was a decline of 7.2 per cent in total consumption of cotton in the United States during November, compared with October, but

an increase of 3.3 per cent is shown over November last year. Because of the different number of business days in October and November, however, there was an increase of about 4 per cent in the daily average consumption. Exports increased 5.6 per cent over those in October, and were 18 per cent greater than in November 1930. Cumulative figures for the first four months of the cotton season, August through November, indicate the consumption of 1,780,418 bales by American mills, an increase of 11 per cent over the corresponding period of last year, and exports have totaled 2,854,046 bales, a decrease of 10.3 per cent compared with exports during the same part of last season.

Stocks held by consuming plants increased 29.2 per cent from October 31 to November 30, but were 7.9 per cent smaller than a year ago, and stocks in public storage and at compresses increased 13.2 per cent over the month and were 27.4 per cent greater than a year ago. Spindles active in November declined 1.3 per cent compared with October and were 3.6 per cent less than in November 1930. Compari-

sons for the month are shown in the table.

Umited States	(Bales)	
Nov. 1931	Oct. 1931	Nov. 1930
428,870	462,025	415,315
52,687	61,243	54,173
1,441,165	1,115,793	1,564,011
211,042	197,821	223,440
10,695,797	9,449,987	8,397,549
45,952	39,878	75,255
1,070,643	1,014,180	907,649
5,986	2,636	3,410
24,860,684	25,188,112	25,796,748
	Nov. 1931 428,870 52,687 1,441,165 211,042 10,695,797 45,952 1,070,643	428,870 462,025 52,687 61,243 1,441,165 1,115,793 211,042 197,821 10,695,797 9,449,987 45,952 39,878 1,070,643 1,014,180 5,986 2,636

In the three states of this district for which figures are available, cotton consumption declined 7.5 per cent in November compared with October, and was 3.7 per cent greater than in November 1930. Because of the shorter month, however, the daily average increased 1.9 per cent over October. Cumulative consumption for the four months of the new season has been 9.2 per cent greater in these three states than in that part of the previous season. Comparisons for these states are shown below.

	Bales Consumed			
	November	October	November	
	1931	1931	1930	
Alabama	34,133	47,544	41,703	
Georgia	74,872	80,315	73,135	
Tennessee	13,114	15,023	12,623	
Total 3 States	132,119	142,882	127,461	

Cotton

Manufacturing

for the seventh consecutive month production of cotton cloth by mills reporting to this bank was greater in November than in the corresponding month a year ago. Other items reported by cloth mills for November also show increases over that month last year except number of workers, and November stocks and unfilled orders increased over the previous month. Unfilled orders, stocks and number of workers reported by yarn mills increased over October, but all reported items declined from November 1930. Percentage comparisons of reported figures are shown in the table.

	Number of Mills		change Nov. pared with Nov. 1930
Cotton Cloth:			
Production	18	- 2.6	+11.8
Shipments	17	-12.4	+ 1.0
Orders booked	12	-13.1	+35.2
Unfilled orders	15	+ 13 .1	+47,5
Stocks on hand	15 17	$\frac{+14.1}{-1.3}$	+ 9.4 7.0
Cotton Yarn:			
Production	11	14.7	- 0.4
Shipments	11	-13.5	4.9
Orders booked	6	-34.6	27 .6
Unfilled orders	9	+ 4.9 + 3.1	7,9 44,3
Number on payroll	10 10	÷ 3.3	16.4

HOSIERY STATISTICS FOR 45 IDENTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE SIXTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT.

	(Dozen Pairs)		
	Nov. 1931 Oct. 1931		
Production	886,518	876,792	
Shipments	890,727	956,274	
Stocks on hand		1,480,734	
Orders booked		853.866	
Cancellations		16, 107	
Unfilled orders	636,254	600,935	

Cotton Seed and Cotton Seed Products Activities of cotton seed oil mills continued in November on a seasonably large scale, but for the first four months of the season were samewhat less advanced than

at the same time a year earlier. Cotton seed received by mills throughout the country during this four months period was 8.4 per cent greater, but the amount crushed 9.2 per cent less, than in that period of the previous season. Volume of cotton seed products manufactured this season has been smaller than a year ago, and stocks of crude oil and hulls were larger at the end of November, but stocks of cake and Digitized formeal and of linters smaller, than at the close of November

1930. Production by mills in this district has likewise been much smaller than last year. In the first two columns of the table below are shown combined totals for Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, compiled by the United States Census Bureau.

Cotton Seed and Cotton Seed Products

	(*) Sixth Aug. 1 to 1931	Nov. 30	United States Aug. 1 to Nov. 30 1931 1930		
Cotton Seed, Tons:	1931	1930	1931	1930	
Received at mills	1,171,065		3,799,016	3,503,339	
Crushed	733,689	965,401	2,239,198		
On Hand, Nov. 30	411,157	415,921	1,584,602	1,083,156	
Production:				•	
Crude Oil, 1bs.	236,361,865	297.555.424	693.337.630	742.581.965	
Cake and Meal, tons	317,150			1,109,481	
Hulls, tons	204.158				
Linters, bales	125,439				
Stock at mills, Nov. 30:					
Crude Oil, lbs.	25,136,490	16,907,288	84,293,055	62,943,249	
Cake and Meal, tons	51,918	80,757	167,359	254.075	
Hulls, tons	50,545		206,809		
Linters, bales	95,492		280,357		
(*)-Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.					

Electric Production of electric power for public use in this Power district increased further by 2 per cent in October over September, but was 6.5 per cent less than in October last year. There was a decrease of 22.7 per cent from September to October in production of current by use of water power, and an increase of 29.5 per cent in output by use of fuels. This important shift was probably due to the continued dry weather and low streams, and the necessity of some plants changing from water power to fuels. Consumption of coal in the production of electric power increased 28.6 per cent over September, and 53.6 per cent over October 1930, and consumption of natural gas increased 29.5 per cent over September and was 37.7 per cent greater than in October last year. Consumption of fuel oil increased 2.7 per cent over September, but was 5 per cent less than in October a year ago. Cumulative production of current for the first ten months of 1931 has been 2 per cent less than in that part of 1930. Production by use of water power has been 5.3 per cent less, but output by use of fuels 3.8 per cent greater, than last year. Comparisons for the month are shown in the table.

	October 1931	September 1931	October 1930
Total Production of Electric Power: 000 k. w. hours	478,492	2 477,506	511,717
By use of: Water Power	207,094	267,906	315,514
Fuels	271,502	209,600	196,203
Fuels Consumed in Production of Electric Power:			
Coal-tons	43,379	33,735	28,244
Fuel Oil, bbls	183,236	5 178, 4 05	192,944
Natural Gas-000 cul ft.	2,739,183	3 2,115,949	1,988,993
Note: October figures preliminary	-September f	igures revised.	

Coal Mining duction in the United States indicated a decrease of 15.9 per cent in total output, and a decline of 3.9 per cent in average daily production, compared with the October, and decreases of 21.3 per cent in total production and 22.2 per cent in daily average, compared with Novemberlast year. Thanksgiving Day was almost universally observed as a holiday, and November 3rd, Election Day, and November 11th, Armistice Day, were observed as holidays in some states. Preliminary estimates by the Bureau of Mines are shown comparatively below.

	Total	Number of	Average per	
	Production	working	working day	
	(tons)	days	(tons)	
November 1931	30,020,000	23 .6	1,272,000	
October 1931	35,700,000	27 .0	1,324,000	
November 1930	38,122,000	23 .3	1,636,000	

Weekly production figures for Alabama, for those weeks ending in November, averaged 4.8 per cent smaller than in October, and 33.8 per cent less than in November last year, and output in Tennessee averaged 10.7 per cent smaller than in October, and 27.2 per cent less than in November 1930. Mild weather has continued into December and has seriously retarded the demand for coal on the part of domestic users. Comparisons of weekly figures follow.

| Variety | Vari

Production

There was a further reduction of 6.0 per cent in total production of pig iron in the United States during November as against the month before, and a decrease of 40.9 per cent compared with November a year ago. Because of the shorter month, however, the decline in daily average output was 2.8 per cent from October to November. Both the daily average and the month's total made new low records for the past ten years. There was a further loss of three in the number of active furnaces on December 1, compared with November 1, and a decrease of 40 compared with the number active a wear ago.

decrease of 40 compared with the number active a wear ago. Alabama production of pig iron declined 9.3 per cent, and the daily average output decreased 6.3 per cent, from October to November, and was 39.2 per cent smaller than in November last year. November also registered a new low level in Alabama for the past ten years, being smaller than for any other month since September 1921. There was a loss of one in the number of Alabama furnaces active on December 1, compared with a month earlier, and a decrease of four compared with the corresponding time a year ago. Press reports indicate that shipments during November were possibly a little smaller than production and some of the furnaces have added to their yard stocks. Melters continue to buy only for immediate requirements, and the year-end tapering off in foundry melt appears to have begun earlier than usual. Quotations for district delivery continue at \$12 per ton.

Cumulative production in the United States during the first eleven months of 1931 has amounted to 17,294,789 tons, a decline of 41.8 per cent from the total of 29,733,415 tons produced in that period of 1930, and in Alabama cumulative output has amounted to 1,591,823 tons, smaller by 27.9 per cent than the total of 2,208,684 tons for the same part of last year. Comparisons for the month are shown in the table.

	Nov. 1931	Oct. 1931	Nov. 1930
United States:			
Production—tons		1,173,283 37,848 70	1,867,107 62,237 107
Alabama:			
Production—tons	86,408 2,860 6	95,282 3,074 7	142,186 4,740 10

^{*-}First of following month.

Naval There was a further seasonal decline in receipts of Stores both turpentine and rosin at the three principal naval stores markets of the district in November, and receipts of turpentine were 17.6 per cent, and of rosin 11 per cent, less than in November a year ago. November receipts of both commodities were the smallest for that month of any year since 1925, and for the season to date, April through November, turpentine receipts have been smaller than for that part of the previous four seasons, and rosin receipts have been smaller than for that part of the past two seasons. Notwithstanding these smaller receipts, stocks of both commodities at three parts at the end of November were greater than at the same time of any other recent year. Quotations published in the Naval Stores Review indicate that after declining to 30 cents on October 13, the

declined by December 12 to 34 cents. During the four weeks ending December 12 there were some increases in the quotations on the higher grades of rosin, but other grades declined somewhat. Comparisons of receipts and stocks for the month are shown in the table.

Receipts—Turpentine (1):	Nov. 1931	Oct. 1931	Nov. 1930
Savannah Jacksonville Pensacola	10,039 9,597 3,511	14,401 13,305 3,143	11,840 12,827 3,440
Total	23 .147	30,849	28,107
Receipts—Rosin (2):			
Savannah Jacksonville Pensacola	44,533 38,954 12,155	44,297 46,156 10,704	48,936 44,751 13,727
Total	95,642	101,157	107,414
Stocks—Turpentine (1):			
Savannah Jacksonville Pensacola	35,798 57,976 25,614	36,759 59,215 24,979	26,860 37,377 31,623
Total	119,386	120,953	95,860
Stocks—Rosin (2):			k .
Savannah Jacksonville Pensacola	251,568 211,560 34,310	231,365 203,002 31,099	174,577 113,853 34,712
Total	497,438	465,466	323,142
(1) The second of the second o			

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

(Continued from Page 1)

some increased with-drawals of currency, part of which has begun to return. Loans and investments of member banks in leading cities continued to decline and on December 9 were \$370,000,000 smaller than four weeks earlier. The decrease was equally divided between the banks' loans and their investments. Deposits of these banks, both demand and time, also showed a decrease, with a consequent reduction in required reserves. Money rates in the open market showed little change from the middle of November to the middle of December. Rates on prime commercial paper continued at 3% to 4 per cent, while rates on 90 day bankers acceptances advanced from 2% to 3 per cent on November 25.

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 priod 1923-25 as represented by 100.

DEPARTMENT STORE TRADE 6th DISTRICT	Sept. 1931	Oet. 1931	Nov. 1931	Sept. 1930	Oct. 1930	Nov. 1930
Atlanta.	129.2	167.8	135.3	167.3	203.9	156.1
Birmingham	67.2	88.0	70.4	89.6	105.8	88.6
Chattanooga	56.6	90.9	64.9	68.5	102.0	72.0
Nashville.	70.4	101.0	79.5	93.3	122.6	98.9
New Orleans	65.8	87.8	78.1	79.6	100.1	96.3
Other Cities	64.4	82.7	71.0	76.6	101.2	85.1
DISTRICT	75.2	101.1	84.3	90.0	115.0	96.5
VHOLESALE TRADE 6th DISTRICT				į		
Groceries	58.1	60.2	55.1	73.6	78. 6	64.1
Dry Goods.	55.2	63.1	53.2	75.3	88.5	61.6
Hardware	56.8	58.2	52.7	69.6	80. 6	63.6
Furniture	55.8	52.7	43.4	84.0	83.0	54.6
Electrical Supplies	-68.9	68.6	58.6	68.1	77.2	76.4
Shoes	54.8	55.4	56.1	71.9	82.9	62.3
Stationery	55.0	65.9	40.0	72.9	86.7	59.6
Drugs	81.0	75.2	67.0	97.2	99. 6	81.0
TOTAL	59.0	60.8	54.0	73.9	81.9	64.8
IFE INSURANCE SALES 6th DISTRICT						
Alabama	63.7	57.9	61.1	75.3	76.9	71.9
Florida	72.7	69.9	89.4	82.2	86.9	76.9
Georgia	75.4	78.7	77.5	83.8	90.9	86.8
Louisiana	72.1	75.3	76.5	95.4	83.8	87.1
Mississippi	47.8	57.3	55.0	58.7	75.3	64.0
Tennessee	70.0	72.2	74.5	80.6	101.5	81.2
TOTAL	68.8	70.2	73.7	80.9	88.2	76.8
UILDING PERMITS 6th DISTRICT	10.0				 .	4.4
Atlanta	16.6	13.6	14.0	46.4	67.2	10.8
Birmingham	7.2	4.3	9.0	11.2	12.6	5.0
Jacksonville	12.6	25.7	13.5	37.6	25.2	10.8
Nashville	17.5	58.2	79.0	35.4	53.8	18.1
New Orleans	40.1	9.4	9.5	14.3	61.0	42.3
(15) Other Cities DISTRICT (20 Cities)	20.7 19.8	17.3 17.1	$\begin{array}{c} 36.2 \\ 27.2 \end{array}$	25.4 26.6	$\frac{20.0}{32.2}$	16.4 17.9
CONTRACTS AWARDED 6th DISTRICT			22		V2.2	****
Residential	17.2	13.1	11.1	20.9	20.1	17.0
All Other	53.7	48.1	20.4	50.1	45.9	63.9
TOTAL	39.1	34.1	16.7	38.4	35.6	45.2
VHOLESALE PRICES U. S. (*)						
ALL COMMODITIES	69.1	68.4	68.3	84.2	82.6	80.4
Farm Products	60.5	58.8	58.7	85.3	82.6	79.3
Foods	72.9	72.6	70.9	89.2	88.6	85.7
Other Commodities	72.0	71.4	71.8	82.8	81.5	80.1
Hides and leather products	84.8	82.2	81.3	99.1	96.5	94.0
Textile products	62.9	61.5	60.7	75.5	73.8	73.3
Fuel and lighting	63.3	63.4	65.0	76.3	75.1	71.8
Metals and metal products	87.2	86.5	86.2	91.8	90.4	90.2
Building materials	74.9	74.3	74.0	86.4	85.8	85.6
Chemicals and drugs	74.8	74.1	74.7	86.6	86.0	85.2
Housefurnishing goods	84.7	83.2	83.1	95.4	95.3	95.2
Miscellaneous	58.4	59.0	59.7	69.7	68.8	67.8
COTTON CONSUMED:						
United States	91.2	90.9	84.4	77.6	87.4	81.6
Cotton-Growing States	107.6	108.5	102.7	90.1	101.0	95.3
Georgia	103.7	103.1	96.1	91.4	102.7	93.9
Alabama	142.0	138.3	128.4	109.8	138.2	121.3
Tennessee	151.2	150.9	131.8	128.9	148.5	26.8
All Other States	55.2	52.3	44.0	50.1	57.6	51.5
Exports	90.8	165.0	174.2	146.9	163.4	147.7
PIG IRON PRODUCTION:				1 .		
United States	39.1 41.1	39.3 41.0	36.9 37.2	76.2 69.7	72.5 63.6	62.5
	41.1	41.0	37.2	09.7	63.6	61.2
INFILLED ORDERS—U. S. STEEL				ļ		

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

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Digitized for FRASER http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/