# 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 Board

In February industrial production increased by less than the usual seasonal amount, following sharp advances in December and January. Wholesale prices of many leading commodities showed little change in February and declined in the early part of March; prices of livestock and meats, however, advanced further in February and continued at relatively high levels during the first three weeks of March.
Production Daily average output of basic industrial comand
Employment modities increased in February by an amount smaller than is usual at this season and the Federal Reserve Board's index, which makes allowance for seasonal variations, declined from 91 per cent of the 1923-25 average in January to 89 per cent in February. At steel mills activity increased further during the early part of February; later in the month and in the first three weeks of March, however, activity declined, contrary to seasonal tendency. In the automobile industry production continued to increase and the output indicated for the first quarter is larger than in the corresponding period of any other year since 1929. Lumber production remained at a low level. At textile mills activity in February declined somewhat from the relatively high rate of the preceding month. In the meat packing industry output continued to decline.

Factory employment increased between the middle of January and the middle of February by more than the usual seasonal amount, reflecting substantial increases in working forces in the automobile, machinery, iron and steel, and wearing apparel industries and smaller increases in many other lines. At meat packing establishments employment continued to decline and at tobacco factories it showed less than the usual seasonal growth. Payrolls at manufacturing establishments also increased considerably in February. In non-manufacturing industries employment and payrolls showed little change.

Total value of construction contracts awarded in the period from January 1 to March 15, as reported by the F. W. Dodge Corporation, was smaller than in the corresponding period last year, reflecting a reduction in the volume of public projects. The value of contracts awarded for residential building during this period showed a slight increase over the low level of a year ago.
Distribution Daily average volume of revenue freightcar loadings showed a seasonal increase in February and little change in the first half of March. Department store sales increased in February, a month when there is usually little change, and the combined total for the first two months of the year was larger than a year ago by 5 per cent.
Wholesale During the period from the beginning of FebruCommodity ary to the middle of March, there were wide Prices movements in prices of many individual commodities, while the general level of wholesale prices, as measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics index, showed little change. In the third week of March prices of cotton and other textiles, grains other than wheat, coffee, rubber and tires, scrap steel and tin were considerably lower than at the beginning of February, while prices of livestock, meats and sugar were higher.
Bank Credit During the four weeks ended March 20 member bank reserve balances declined by $\$ 280,000,000$, principally in consequence of an increase in Treasury deposits with the Federal Reserve Banks built up in connection with March 15 fiscal operations. Excess reserves of member banks declined to about $\$ 1,950,000,000$.

Demand deposits (net) of weekly reporting member banks in leading cities increased further by $\$ 380,000,000$ during the four weeks ended March 13. The balances of other banks with reporting banks increased by $\$ 100,000,000$ while Government deposits declined, reflecting the withdrawal of funds from depository banks. Loans and investments of reporting


Index number of industrial production, adjusted for seasonal variation. Digitize (1923-1925 average $=100$.) Latost figure February Preliminary 89.


Index of factory employment adjusted for seasonal variation. (1923-25 average $=100$. ) Latest figure February Preliminary 81.9.


Three month moving averages of F. W. Dodge data for 37 Eastern States adjusted for seasonal variation. Latest figure based on data for January, February and estimate for March. Total 114.2: Residential 24.2 ; All Other 90.0.


Wednesday figures for reporting member banks in 90 cities. Latest figures are for Wednesday, March 13 .
banks increased by $\$ 275,000,000$. There was a further growth of $\$ 85,000,000$ in holdings of direct obligations of the United States Government and a smaller increase in obligations guaranteed by the Government. Loans to brokers and dealers in securities increased by $\$ 130,000,000$, while other loans showed little change.
Yields on United States Government obligations declined slightly further, and open-market money rates continued at a low level.

## SIXTH DISTRICT SUMMARY

February business statistics for the Sixth District indicate an increase over January in department store sales somewhat larger than usually occurs at that time of year, an increase in pig iron production in Alabama, and in coal mining in Alabama and Tennessee, and a gain in building permits issued at reporting cities, but wholesale trade declined slightly, contract awards in the District as a whole and operations at textile mills declined.

Department store sales reported by 60 firms located throughout the District increased 6.9 per cent from January to February, and were 5.3 per cent larger than in February, 1934. On a daily average basis, February sales were 15.8 per cent greater than in January. The usual increase at that time of year has been 11.4 per cent. Total sales during the first two months of the year were 6.1 per cent greater than in that period a year ago. Stocks of merchandise held by department stores increased 8.9 per cent from January to February, and were 5.2 per cent greater than a year ago. The collection ratio declined somewhat from January, but was slightly higher than for February last year. Bank debits to individual accounts at twenty-six cities declined 4.5 per cent, on a daily average basis, from January to February, but were 1.7 per cent greater than a year ago.

February sales by 95 reporting wholesale firms were 1.8 per cent less than in January and were about the same as in February last year, and for the two months combined have been 2.9 per cent less than in that part of 1934.

Between February 13 and March 13 there was a further small increase in the volume of discounts at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, and holdings of United States securities also increased somewhat. Total reserve bank credit outstanding on March 13 was, however, only $\$ 63,000$ larger than four weeks earlier, but was 12.1 millions greater than a year ago because of larger holdings of United States securities. At weekly reporting banks a decline of 8.0 millions in holdings of United States securities between February 13 and March 13 was only partly offset by increases of $\$ 542,000$ in loans and $\$ 1,477,000$ in holdings of Other Securities. Total loans by these banks were 4 millions greater than a year ago, and total loans and investments were 4.2 millions greater than at that time.

Building permits issued at twenty reporting cities in the District increased 9.4 per cent from January to February and were 11.4 per cent greater than a year ago, but for the two were 11.4 per cent greater than a year ago, but for the two
of last year because of a large total for January, 1934. Construction contracts awarded in the District as a whole, however, declined 24.6 per cent from January and were 25.8 per cent less than a year ago. Residential contracts, although less than half as large as in January, were 67.3 per cent greater than in February, 1934. For the two months combined, total contract awards were 52.7 per cent less, but residential awards were 83.9 per cent greater, than in those months last year. Cotton consumption in the three states of the District for which figures are available declined 12.8 per cent, and the daily average declined 5.5 per cent, from January, and was 3.4 per cent less than a year ago. Orders reported by both cloth and yarn mills declined over the month and were also less than for February, 1934. Coal mining increased somewhat over January in both Alabama and Tennessee, and was larger in Tennessee but smaller in Alabama than at the same time a year ago, and pig iron production in Alabama, on a daily average basis, increased 41 per cent over January but continued less than at the same time last year.

## FINANCE

Reserve The total volume of reserve bank credit outstandBank ing at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, repreCredit sented by its holdings of bills and securities, changed little from February 13 to March 13, but was 12 millions greater than on the corresponding Wednesday a year ago. This total has not changed materially since the middle of last year. There were small increases from February 13 to March 13 in discounts and in holdings of United States securities, but discounts continued to be much less than a year ago, although they were at a low level then, while holdings of United States securities were about 13 millions greater than a year ago.

Member bank reserve deposits held by this bank reached a new high level at 89.4 millions on March 13, when they were 8.8 millions greater than at the same time last year, and total deposits increased 9.4 millions during the four weeks since February 13 and were 6.3 millions greater than a year ago. Federal Reserve notes of this bank's issue outstanding on March 13 were slightly larger than four weeks, or a year, earlier.

Principal items in the weekly statement are compared in the table, which is followed by another table setting out similar comparisons for the twelve Federal Reserve Banks combined.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA (000 Omitted) $\begin{array}{cc}\text { Mar. } 13 & \text { Feb. } 13 \\ 1935 & 1935\end{array}$ $\qquad$
Bills Discounted:

| FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA (000 Omitted) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Bills Discounted: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Secured by Govt. Obligations | \$ | 129 | \$ | 115 | $\$$ | 86 |
| All Others. |  | 93 |  | 49 |  | 1,082 |
| Total Discounts |  | 222 |  | 164 |  | 1,168 |
| Bills Bought in Open Market. . |  | 198 |  | 198 |  | 1,177 |
| Industrial Advances. |  | 1,075 |  | 1,076 |  |  |
| U. S. Securities. |  | 94,235 |  | 94,229 |  | 81,247 |
| Total Bills and Securities |  | 95,730 |  | 95,667 |  | 83,592 |
| Total Reserves. . . . . . . . . . . . . |  | 138,026 |  | 128,373 |  | 147,088 |
| Member Bank Reserve Deposits |  | 89,398 |  | 85,513 |  | 80,586 |
| Total Deposits................ |  | 100,877 |  | 91,450 |  | 94,504 |


| F. R. Notes in actual circulation F. R. Bank Notes in actual circulation <br> Reserve Ratio | 125,381 | 125,141 | 125,707 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | 61.0\% | 59.3\% | $\begin{array}{r} 3,035 \\ 66.8 \% \end{array}$ |
| FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | Mar. 13 | Feb. 13 | Mar. 14 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Bills Discounted: |  |  |  |
| Secured by Govt. Obligations | \$ 3,217 | \$ 3,451 | \$ 12,607 |
| All Others. | 3,208 | 3,059 | 42,280 |
| Total Discounts | 6,425 | 6,510 | 54,887 |
| Bills Bought in Open Market . | 5,505 | 5,502 | 37,459 |
| Industrial Advances. | 19,869 | 18,375 |  |
| U. S. Securities. | 2,430,361 | 2,430,334 | 2,431,840 |
| Other Securities............... |  |  | 2,524,853 |
| Total Bills and Securities | $2,462,160$ $5,824,135$ | $2,460,721$ $5,730,959$ | 2,524,839 |
| Member Bank Reserve Deposits | 4,588,213 | 4,580,341 | 3,454,492 |
|  | 4,913,766 | 4,834,165 | 3,614,082 |
| Total Deposits. . . . . . . . . . . . | 3,136,652 | 3,118,015 | 2,989,052 |
| F. R. Bank Notes in actual circulation. | 100 | 1,192 | 159,371 |
| Reserve Ratio.. | 72.3\% | $72.1 \%$ | 68.2\% |

$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Member } & \begin{array}{l}\text { Because of a further decline in holdings of United } \\ \text { Bank }\end{array} \\ \text { States securities, total loans and investments of } 17\end{array}$ Credit weekly reporting member banks located in Atlanta, Birmingham, Jacksonville, Nashville, Chattanooga, Mobile and Savannah declined 6 millions of dollars between February 13 and March 13, but were 4.2 millions greater than on the same Wednesday a year ago. Between February 13 and March 13, increases of $\$ 542,000$ in loans and of $\$ 1,477,000$ in holdings of Other Securities were more than offset by a decline of $\$ 8,042,000$ in holdings of United States securities. Compared with the corresponding report date of last year, total loans on March 13 were larger by 4 millions and holdings of Other Securities by 15.9 millions, but holdings of United States securities were smaller by 15.7 millions, and were less than on any other Wednesday since October 25, 1933.

Demand deposits held by these 17 weekly reporting member banks on March 13 had increased 8 millions since February 13 , were 42.9 millions greater than a year earlier, and were greater than on any other Wednesday in the series which begins in January, 1932. Time deposits were slightly less than four weeks, or a year, earlier. Bankers' balances increased since February 13 and continued to be greater than on corresponding report dates last year.

In the tables which follow are shown comparisons of principal items in the weekly report, monthly averages of weekly figures over the past year for some of these items, and comparisons of savings deposits reported by a list of banks located throughout the District.


MONTHLY AVERAGES OF WEEKLY FIGURES OF
17 REPORTING MEMBER BANKS IN SELECTED CITIES

Loans \begin{tabular}{c}
Invest- <br>
ments

 

Loans and <br>
Investments

 

Demand <br>
Deposits

 

Time

 

Borrowings <br>
From
\end{tabular}

| 1934 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| January. | \$ 187,795 | \$ 148,305 | \$ 336,100 | \$151,935 | \$ 130,048 | \$ 2,060 |
| February | 187,358 | 162,054 | 349,412 | 158,695 | 131,505 | 441 |
| March . | 184,851 | 155,608 | 340,460 | 161,794 | 130,406 | 161 |
| April. | 180,670 | 152,679 | 333,349 | 168,070 | 130,649 | 0 |
| May. | 178,019 | 151,172 | 329,191 | 167,404 | 132,911 | 0 |
| June. | 177,687 | 156,522 | 334,209 | 169,196 | 130,786 | 0 |
| July. | 167,294 | 169,780 | 336,513 | 172,707 | 131,560 | 0 |
| August | 166,546 | 167,502 | 334,048 | 172,917 | 129,194 | ) |
| September | 167,243 | 163,759 | 331,002 | 179,195 | 127,402 | 0 |
| October.. | 176,456 | 159,810 | 336,266 | 180,374 | 128,944 | 0 |
| November. | 187,788 | 156,775 | 344,563 | 189,297 | 130,313 |  |
| December. | 193,141 | 162,168 | 355,309 | 196,394 | 128,492 | 0 |
| 1935 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| January.. | 187,215 | 162,038 | 349,253 | 190,945 | 127,012 | 0 |
| February. | 188,683 | 163,058 | 351,741 | 193,894 | 130,053 | 0 |

Truck Weather conditions in the Southeastern States during Crops February were intermittently cold and warm. Moderate to heavy rains accompanied the warm period during the middle of the month. In North Florida frosts the latter part of February cut almost the entire potato crop to the ground. In Alabama about ten per cent of the potato crop was up and this was frozen back; small damage to the cabbage crop was reported, and the strawberry crop was delayed. In Louisiana the blooms and berries on strawberry plants were destroyed and the crop set back about three weeks. In Mississippi the loss of about ten per cent of the cabbage acreage is expected to be replanted, ten to fifteen per cent of the acreage in green peas was heavily damaged, but there was only small loss of tomato plants.
Production of asparagus in Georgia is forecast at 86,000 crates compared with 83,000 last year. The Florida acreage in green peppers is estimated at 3,800 , against 4,800 acres in 1934. Recent cold weather has not been favorable. The acreage in Louisiana planted to spinach is estimated at 1,000 , compared with 1,500 in 1934. The estimated production of strawberries in Florida is the same as reported a month ago, 546,000 crates compared with 675,000 crates last year; the Alabama estimate 225,000 crates against 220,000 last year; the Louisiana estimate $1,362,000$ crates against $1,242,000$ last year; and the Mississippi estimate 42,000 crates against 77,000 last year. Watermelon acreage increased this year over last in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, but declined in Florida.

Citrus The March 1 estimate of Florida citrus fruits indiFruits cates a total production for the 1934-35 season of 27 million boxes, of which 14.5 million are oranges and tangerines and 12.5 million grapefruit. These estimates represent increases over the February estimate of 900,000 boxes of oranges and $1,500,000$ boxes of grapefruit, and compare with total production for the previous season of 18.1 million boxes of oranges and tangerines and 10.7 million boxes of grapefruit.


* New Orleans figures are totals for three refineries-figures previously published included four.


| RICE MILLERS' | ASSOCIA Barrels Feb. 1935 | statistics Aug. 1 to Feb. 28 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Receipts of Rough Rice: <br> Season 1934-35. <br> Season 1933-34................. | $\begin{array}{r} 1,279,992 \\ 931,591 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 6,543,380 \\ & 6,511,206 \end{aligned}$ |
| Distribution of Milled Rice: <br> Season 1934-35 <br> Season 1933-34. | $\begin{array}{r} 1,053,545 \\ 854,771 \\ \text { Rough } \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 5,702,574 \\ & \text { 5,084,567 } \\ & \text { Clean } \end{aligned}$ |
| Stocks of Rough and Clean Rice: Feb. 28, 1935. <br> Feb. 28, 1934. | $\begin{array}{r} 1,183,331 \\ 996,505 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1,378,437 \\ & 1,635,658 \end{aligned}$ |

Fertilizer There was a further seasonal increase of 154.5 Tag Sales per cent in sales of fertilizer tax tags in the six states located wholly or partly in the Sixth District in February over January, and February sales were larger by one-third than in that month last year, and were also substantially greater than two and three years ago. The peak of tag sales in these states comes usually in March or April. For the seven months of the season, August through February, total sales in these states have been 10.6 per cent greater than in that part of the previous season. Figures in the table are from those compiled by the National Fertilizer Association.

|  | (Short Tons) |  |  | $\underset{1934-35}{\text { Aug. } 1} \text { to } \begin{array}{r} \text { Feb. } 28 \\ 1933-34 \end{array}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Feb. } \\ & 1935 \end{aligned}$ | $\mathrm{Jan}_{1935}$ | Feb. 1934 |  |  |
| Alabama | 64,600 | 20,300 | 54,150 | 91,550 | 91,600 |
| Florida. | 51,046 | 51,133 | 39,560 | 298,585 | 255,517 |
| Georgia | 151,275 | 23,139 | 94,500 | 189,903 | 159,293 |
| Louisiana. | 19,800 | 10,950 | 16,747 | 51,201 | 51,028 |
| Mississippi | 16,962 | 16,249 | 19,755 | 34,922 | 47,175 |
| Tennessee. | 15,023 | 3,469 | 14,760 | 35,057 | 29,501 |
| Total. | 318,706 | 125,240 | 239,472 | 701,218 | 634,114 |

## TRADE

Retail Department store sales in the Sixth District, reflected Trade in figures reported confidentially by 60 firms, increased 6.9 per cent over January and averaged 5.3 per cent greater than in February last year, and were also greater than in February, 1933 or 1932. On a daily average basis, however, because of the shorter month, February sales increased 16 per cent over January, compared with a usual seasonal gain of 11.4 per cent, and the daily average index number after adjustment for seasonal variations, rose from 76.6 per cent of the 1923-25 average in January to 80 per cent in February. For the first two months of 1935 sales by these 60 reporting firms were 6.1 per cent greater than in that period a year ago. Department store stocks increased 8.9 per cent from the end of January to the close of February, and were 5.2 per cent greater than a year earlier, and the rate of stock turnover was slightly higher for the month, and for the two months combined, than at the same time last year. The collection ratio declined slightly from January to February, but was slightly higher than a year ago. For regular accounts the February ratio was 33.5 per cent, and for installment accounts 18.5 per cent.
Percentage comparisons shown in the table are based upon figures reported in actual dollars and make no allowance for changes in the level of prices. Index numbers on page 8 are based upon reports from a smaller number of firms whose figures have been reported over a long period of years.

RETAIL TRADE IN THE SIXTH DISTRICT DURING FEBRUARY 1935
Based on confidential reports from 60 department stores


Wholesale Total sales during February reported by 95 Trade wholesale firms in the District declined 1.8 per cent from January and were about the same as in February last year. Increases over the month were reported in sales of dry goods, furniture, and electrical supplies and over February last year by firms dealing in hardware, electrical supplies, stationery and drugs. The collection ratio declined somewhat in February, but continued higher than a year ago. Comparisons of reported figures are shown in the table.

## WHOLESALE TRADE IN FEBRUARY 1935

 Sixth Federal Reserve District*

* Based on confidential reports from 95 firms. ** The collection ratio is the percentage of accounts and notes receivable out-
standing at the beginning of the month which were collected during the month.

Life
Sales of new, paid-for, ordinary life insurance in Insurance the six states located wholly or partly in the Sixth District declined 19.1 per cent from January to February, but were 13.7 per cent greater than in February last year, and for the first two months of the year the combined total was 27.1 per cent greater than for those months a year ago. Figures compared in the table are from those compiled by the Life Insurance Sales Research Bureau.


## INDUSTRY

Building and Construction There was a further gain of 9.4 per cent in the total value of buildings for the construction of which permits were issued during February at twenty reporting cities in the Sixth District, compared with January, and February permits were 11.4 per cent greater than in that month a year ago. Ten of these cities reported increases over January, and twelve reported increases over February, 1934. For the first two months of 1935 the total value of permits was 17.7 per cent smaller than for that period last year, because of a larger total for January, 1934, but was more than two and one-half times the total for that part of 1933 and 42.7 per cent greater than in the same period of 1932. Comparisons for the month are shown in the table.

|  | BUILDING PERMITS |  |  |  |  |  | Percentage Change in Value |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Number February |  |  | Value February |  |  |  |
| Alabama |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Anniston. . . | 28 | 2 | \$ | 12,012 | \$ | 5,200 | +131.0 |
| Birmingham. | 440 | 140 |  | 108,874 |  | 70,449 | + 54.5 |
| Mobile. | 33 | 24 |  | 36,466 |  | 11,581 | +214.9 |
| Montgomery... | 82 | 51 |  | 140,913 |  | 9,182 | +1,434.7 |
| Florida |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jacksonville... | 445 | 361 |  | 166,199 |  | 261,317 | - 36.4 |
| Miami. . | 395 | 240 |  | 220,461 |  | 94,064 | +134.4 |
| Miami Beach . . | 45 | 36 |  | 264,500 |  | 291,585 | + 9.3 |
| Orlando. | 58 | 63 |  | 29,325 |  | 15,018 | +95.3 |
| Tampa. | 169 | 162 |  | 88,749 |  | 39,901 | +122.4 |
| Georgia |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Atlanta. | 236 | 116 |  | 299,364 |  | 323,820 | - 7.6 |
| Augusta.. | 26 | 31 |  | 13,491 |  | 229,401 | $-94.1$ |
| Columbus. | 56 | 34 |  | 36,629 |  | 4,610 | $+694.6$ |
| Macon. | 150 | 20 |  | 23,284 |  | 53,270 | - 56.3 |
| Savannah | 16 | 19 |  | 28,612 |  | 35,363 | - 19.1 |
| Louisiana |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New Orleans... | 79 | 48 |  | 122,440 |  | 51,165 | +139.3 |
| Alexandria. | 45 | 49 |  | 6,657 |  | 6,426 | + 3.6 |
| Tennessee |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chattanooga... | 180 | 131 |  | 43,824 |  | 68,573 | $-36.1$ |
| Johnson City. . | 3 | 1 |  | 1,100 |  | 11.700 | $+57.1$ |
| Knoxville...... | 40 | 28 |  | 141,013 |  | 11,547 | +1,121.2 |
| Nashville. . | 48 | 53 |  | 50,707 |  | 63,224 | -19.8 |
| Total 20 Cities. | 2,574 | 1,609 |  | ,833,620 |  | 646,396 | + 11.4 |

The value of building and construction contracts awarded in the Sixth District, indicated in statistics compiled by the F. W. Dodge Corporation and subdivided into District totals by the Federal Reserve Board's Division of Research and Statistics, amounted in February to $\$ 8,701,970$, a decline of 24.6 per cent from January, and 25.8 per cent smaller than the total for February, 1934. Residential contracts, although 54.3 per cent less than in January, when they accounted for 33.9 per cent of the District total and were three times as large as in December, were in February 67.3 per cent greater than in that month last year. For the two months of 1935 total contract awards in the District have been 52.7 per cent smaller, but residential awards have been 83.9 per cent greater, than in that period last year.

In the 37 states east of the Rocky Mountains February construction contracts were 24.7 per cent less than in January, and 22.4 per cent less than a year ago, and for the two months combined have been 38.3 per cent less than in those months a year ago. Comparisons for the month are shown in the table.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED
Feb. 1935 Jan. 1935 Feb. 1934


Lumber Weekly statements of the Southern Pine Association indicate that during the six weeks ending March 9 orders booked by reporting mills have averaged 12.7 per cent greater than those received by the same mills during that period a year ago, and production has averaged 8.4 per cent larger, but unfilled orders have averaged about 19 per cent smaller. During this six weeks period orders have averaged 0.7 per cent above production, while at the same time last year they were 3.2 per cent smaller. The Southern Lumberman indicates some softening in demand during the early part of March due in part to adverse weather conditions in the North and East, but states that "In spite of its up and downs during recent months the general tendency of the pine mar-. ket has been distinctly upward". Weekly figures compared in the table are from those compiled by the Southern Pine Association.

| (In Thousands of Feet) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Week <br> Ended | Number of Mills | Orders |  | Production |  | Unfilled Orders |  |
|  |  | 1935 | 1934 | 1935 | 1934 |  |  |
| February 2. | 144 | 21,939 | 21,155 | 22,484 | 18,057 | 48,243 | 63,324 |
| February 9 . | 150 | 25,359 | 20,427 | 26,486 | 24,703 | 57,330 | 68,823 |
| February 16 | 156 | 20,193 | 21,167 | 23,161 | 23,341 | 55,423 | 68,738 |
| February 23 | 116 | 26,471 | 24,639 | 25,481 | 23,847 | 56,764 | 72,387 |
| March 2. | 144 | 29,393 | 18,570 | 22,480 | 20,736 | 55,300 | 68,425 |
| March 9 | 145 | 19,397 | 20,660 | 21,647 | 20,123 | 54,746 | 60,158 |

Cotton
Consumption
Total consumption of cotton by American mills during February amounted to 478,291 bales, a decrease of 12.5 per cent from January and only slightly larger than the total for February a year ago. In the cotton-growing states, which accounted for 79.6 per cent of the total, February consumption declined 12.7 per cent over the month but was 1.5 per cent greater than a year ago, while in other states consumption in February was 11.7 per cent smaller than in January and 4.2 per cent less than in February last year. Stocks declined 6.1 per cent from the end of January to the close of February and were 7.4 per cent smaller than a year ago. Total consumption in the seven months of the cotton season was 7.3 per cent less in the United States, 7.1 per cent less in the cotton states, and 8 per cent smaller in other states, than during that part of the previous season.

Exports of cotton from the United States declined 16.2 per cent from January to February, and were 37.9 per cent smaller than in February last year, and for the seven months of the season have been 41.3 per cent.

Spindles active during February, of which 70 per cent were in the cotton states, declined 0.9 per cent from January and 5.5 per cent from February, 1934. Census Bureau figures are compared in the table.

|  | Feb. 1935 | Jan. 1935 | Feb. 1934 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cotton Consumed | 478,291 | 546,787 | 477,046 |
| Stocks. | 9,534,186 | 10,158,028 | 10,293,372 |
| In Consuming Establishments | 1,161,117 | 1,193,748 | 1,656,776 |
| In Public Storage and at | 8,373,069 | 8,964,280 | 8,636,596 |
| Exports.... | ,390,294 | 8,465,711 | ,628,457 |
| Active Spindles-Number | 24,925,168 | 25,145,964 | 26,379,906 |
| COTTON GROWING STATES-Bales |  |  |  |
| Cotton Consumed. | 380,643 | 436,220 | 375,109 |
| Stocks. | 9,094,697 | 9,713,442 | 9,573,384 |
| In Consuming Establishments | 927,792 | 959,250 | 1,302,358 |
| In Compresses............. | 8,166,905 | 8,754,192 | 8,271,026 |
| Active Spindles-Number | 17,436,902 | 17,494,428 | 17,893,736 |
| OTHER STATES-Bales |  |  |  |
| Cotton Consumed. | 97,648 | 110,567 | 101,937 |
| Stocks. | 439,489 | 444,586 | 719,988 |
| In Consuming Establishments | 233,325 | 234,498 | 354,418 |
| In Public Storage and at |  |  |  |
| Compresses. | 206,164 | 210,088 | 365,570 |
| Active Spindles-Number | 7,488,266 | 7,651,536 | 8,486,170 |

Electric Total production of electric power for public use in Power the six states located wholly or partly in the Sixth District increased by 5 per cent from December to January and was 12.7 per cent greater than in January, 1934. Except for the month of October, 1934, the total for January, 1935, is the largest for any month in figures immediately available, which begin with 1927. Production by use of water power accounted for 66.3 per cent of the total in January, against 62.8 per cent a year ago. Figures compared in the table are from those compiled by the United States Geological Survey.

| PRODUCTION OF ELECTRIC POWER (k. w. Hours) |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Jan. 1935 | Dec. 1934 | Jan. 1934 |
| Alabama | 180,902 | 160,290 | 148,366 |
| Florida. | 62,963 | 61,954 | 60,549 |
| Georgia. | 107,619 | 94,692 | 87,079 |
| Louisiana. | 88,348 | 93,357 | 90,119 |
| Mississippi | 4,212 | 4,284 | 4,175 |
| Tennessee | 101,805 | 105,205 | 94,112 |
| Total. | 545,849 | 519,782 | 484,400 |
| By use of: Water Power. | 362,098 | 331,965 | 304,097 |
| Fuels . . . . . . . . . . | 183,751 | 187,817 | 180,303 |
| Fuels consumed in production of Electric Power: |  |  |  |
| Coal-tons. . . . . . . . | 11,986 | 11,601 | 12,142 |
| Fuel Oil-tons. ${ }^{\text {a }}$. ${ }^{\text {a }}$. | 220,711 | -220,196 | 214,291 |
| Natural Gas-000 cu. ft. | 1,849,613 | 1,959,824 | 1,785,860 |

Bituminous Preliminary figures compiled by the United Coal Mining States Bureau of Mines indicate that total production of bituminous coal in the United States declined 5.4 per cent from January to February, but the daily average increased 3.3 per cent, because of the shorter month, and February output was 6 per cent larger than in that month last year. For the first two months of 1935 total production has been 7.3 per cent greater than in those months a year ago. Preliminary figures are compared in the table.

|  | Coal Production-Tons <br> Total |  | Number of <br> Daily Average |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Working Days |  |  |  |

Weekly figures available through February 16, indicate that production in both Alabama and Tennessee was larger than the average for other recent months, but in Alabama was smaller than a year ago, while Tennessee output continued larger.
Pig According to Iron Age statistics there was a further Iron increase of 8.9 per cent in total, and of 20.5 per cent in daily average, production of pig iron in the United States in February compared with January, and February production was 27.3 per cent greater than a year ago. There were 96 furnaces in blast on March 1, an increase of 6 over the revised number active a month earlier, and compared with 89 active a year earlier.

In Alabama February production of pig iron increased 27.3 per cent, and the daily rate gained 41 per cent, over that in January, but February output was 21.8 per cent below that of Februaryer 1934. February production was, however, the
largest since July. The number of furnaces active on March 1 was 8 , double the number active a month earlier, and compared with 10 active a year ago. The price of iron in the Birmingham District continues at $\$ 14.50$ per ton. Press reports indicate that pig iron buying continues to consist of small spot orders and small contracts for early requirements. Operations at steel mills have increased, however, because of orders for rails and cars placed recently by railroads. An increased demand is also indicated for small structural shapes, and a fair volume of business in sheets and wire products continues.

In the first two months of 1933 total production in the United States has been 24.5 per cent greater than a year ago, greater by 174.8 per cent than in those months of 1933 , and 59.3 per cent greater than in that part of 1932, while in Alabama production in January and February this year was 31.2 per cent less than a year ago, but nearly three times that in the first two months of 1933. Production figures are compared in the table.

|  | Production-Tons <br> Total |  | Furnaces <br> Daily Average |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| Active* |  |  |  |

* First of following month. r Revised.

Naval Receipts of both turpentine and rosin at the three Stores principal Naval Stores markets of the District in both January and February were the smallest for those months of any year in records immediately available. Stocks of turpentine at the close of February were the largest for that month of any recent year. Press reports indicate that demand for both commodities continued unsatisfactory in February and early March, and there were only minor changes in the published quotations. Comparisons of receipts and stocks are shown in the table.

|  | NAVAL STORES Feb. 1935 | Jan. 1935 | Feb. 1934 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Receipts-Turpentine (1) |  |  |  |
| Savannah... | 477 | 1,782 | 1,011 |
| Jacksonville | 1,485 | 1,788 | 1,371 |
| Pensacola. | 273 | 730 | 257 |
| Total. | 2,235 | 4,300 | 2,639 |
| Receipts-Rosin (2) |  |  |  |
| Savannah. | 14,809 | 11,580 13 | 14,309 |
| Jacksonville | 13,344 1,182 | 13,109 | 16,386 1,945 |
| Total. | 19,525 | 27,411 | 32,640 |
| Stocks-Turpentine (1) |  |  |  |
| Savannah. | 11,572 | 13,919 | 7,195 |
| Jacksonville. | 35,062 | 48,850 32,012 | 23,334 23,609 |
| Total. | 86,987 | 94,781 | 54,138 |
| Stocks-Rosin (2) |  |  |  |
| Savannah.. | 58,902 | 91,654 | 84,638 |
| Jacksonville. | 123,662 | 144,406 | 59,058 |
| Pensacola. | 34,925 | 36,414 | 8,873 |
| Total. | 217,489 | 272,474 | 152,569 |

## MONTHLY INDEX NUMBERS COMPUTED BY FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA MONTHLY AVERAGE 1923-1925=100



