# MONTHLY REVIEW 

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

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA

Vol. 20 No. 4
ATLANTA, GA., APRIL 30, 1935
This review released for publication in afternoon papers of April 30

## NATIONAL SUMMARY OF BUSINESS CONDITIONS

## Prepared by Federal Reserve Board

Volume of industrial production, which usually increases somewhat at this season, showed little change in March. Building activity in the residential field increased in March and the first half of April, reflecting in part seasonal factors. Wholesale prices of farm products and foods, after declining in March, showed a considerable increase in the first three weeks of April.
Production The Federal Reserve Board's adjusted index of
and
Employment industrial production, which makes allowance for changes in the number of working days and for usual seasonal variations, was 88 per cent of the 1923-25 average in March as compared with 89 per cent in February and 90 in January. Steel production, after declining in the latter part of February showed little change during March and the first three weeks of April. Output of automobiles increased further and was larger than in the corresponding period of any other year since 1929. In the cotton textile industry daily average output declined in March and, according to trade reports, showed a further considerable decrease in the early part of April. Activity in the meat packing industry in March, as in other recent months, was at a lower level than a year ago. Output of bituminous coal declined sharply in the early part of April, following an increase earlier in the year.

Factory employment and payrolls increased between the middle of February and the middle of March by somewhat more than the usual seasonal amount. The most marked increases were in industries producing machinery, furniture,
and clothing, while employment in industries producing textile fabrics and foods showed a decline.

Value of construction contracts awarded for residential building increased in March and the first half of April, according to reports by the F. W. Dodge Corporation, while contracts for public projects continued at a lower level than a year ago.
Distribution Distribution of commodities by rail showed little change in March; in the early part of April, however, shipments declined, reflecting a sharp reduction in loadings of coal. Department store sales increased from February to March by more than the estimated seasonal amount.
Commodity The general level of wholesale commodity prices, Prices as measured by the index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, advanced from 78.8 per cent of the 1926 average in the week ending March 23 to 80.3 per cent in the week ending April 20 , reflecting chiefly advances in the prices of farm products and foods. The increase in the general index followed a decline from a level of 79.6 per cent in the early part of March.
Bank During the four weeks ended April 17 member bank Credit balances with the Federal Reserve Banks increased by $\$ 140,000,000$ and excess reserves rose to $\$ 2,100$,000,000 . This increase reflected gold imports of $\$ 120,000,000$ and disbursement of $\$ 105,000,000$ by the Treasury from the balances with the reserve banks offset in part by an increase of $\$ 60,000,000$ in the demand for currency.

Total loans and investments of weekly reporting member banks in leading cities increased by $\$ 150,000,000$ in the four


Index number of industrial production, adjusted for seasonal variation. (1923-1925 average $=100$.) Latest figure March Preliminary 88.


Three month moving averages of F. W. Dodge data for 37 Fastern States adjusted for seasonal variation. March Preliminary. Total 107.5: States adjusted ior seasonal varia


Indexes of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. By months 1929 to 1931 ; by weeks 1932 to date. $(1926=100$.) Latest figures April 13; Farm Products 81.8; Foods 85.3; Other Commodities 77.3.


Wednesday figures for reporting member banks in 90 cities. Latest figures are for Wednesday, April 17.
weeks ended April 17. Loans on securities declined somewhat during this period, while other loans and holdings of investments increased. Net demand deposits of these banks increased by $\$ 380,000,000$.

The rate for call money on the New York Stock Exchange was reduced in April to $1 / 4$ per cent from the 1 per cent level that had been in effect for more than a year. Quotations for 90 -day time money were also lowered to $1 / 4$ per cent and there was a reduction in rates on acceptances of the longer maturities.

## SIXTH DISTRICT SUMMARY

Sixth District business statistics for March indicate increases over February in retail and wholesale trade, in building activities, in pig iron production in Alabama, and in loans and deposits at weekly reporting member banks in selected cities, but department store sales were somewhat less than a year ago because of the earlier date of Easter last year, wholesale trade was only slightly larger, and although building permits issued at principal cities were greater, contracts awarded in the District as a whole were less.

Department store sales increased 22.2 per cent from February to March, and on a daily average basis rose 18.8 per cent. However, after adjustment for the usual seasonal change and the later date of Easter this year, the adjusted index for this District increased from 80 per cent of the 1923-1925 average in February to 90.9 per cent in March which is higher, except for September, 1934, than for any other month since July, 1931. Stocks on hand, and collections, also increased. Wholesale trade increased 10.7 per cent from February to March and was 1.1 per cent above March last year, but for the first quarter of the year sales show a decrease of 1.5 per cent compared with that period a year ago. Debits to individual accounts at 26 clearing house centers of the District were 15.3 per cent greater in March than February, and 5.4 per cent greater than a year ago.

From March 13 to April 10 the volume of reserve bank credit outstanding at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta declined slightly, member bank reserve account declined 5.1 millions, but Federal Reserve note circulation increased 1.4 millions, but total bills and securities were 7.8 millions greater than a year ago, member bank reserve deposits were 1.1 millions greater, but note circulation 1.7 millions less. At weekly reporting member banks loans to customers increased $3.3 \mathrm{mil}-$ lions between March 13 and April 10, and investments increased 5.4 millions, and total loans and investments were 22.6 millions greater than a year ago. Time deposits held by these banks declined slightly, but demand deposits were 39.8 millions greater than on the same Wednesday last year.

Building permits issued during March at twenty reporting cities of the District increased 38.1 per cent over February and were 64.1 per cent greater than in March, 1934. Construction contracts awarded in the District as a whole increased 46.9 per cent over February, but were 37 per cent less
than in March last year. Residential contracts in March were two and one-half times as large as in February, and greater than in March last year by 132.6 per cent, and for the first quarter were a little more than twice the total for that quarter last year. Consumption of cotton in the three states of this District for which figures are available increased slightly, but on a daily average basis declined 4.3 per cent, from February to March, and was 12.5 ver cent less than a year ago. Orders booked by reporting cotton mills in the District declined substantially over the month and continued in smaller volume than a year earlier. Total production of pig iron in Alabama increased 35.4 per cent, and daily average output increased 22.3 per cent, over February, and was slightly less than in March last year. For the first quarter Alabama production of iron has been 21.7 per cent less than in that part of 1934.

Reserve The total volume of reserve bank credit outstanding Bank at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, repreCredit sented by its holdings of bills and securities, registered a slight decline from March 13 to April 10, and was then 7.8 millions greater than a year ago. Half of the small decline between March 13 and April 10 was in discounts, the remainder being in United States Securities, purchased bills and industrial advances. Total discounts on April 10 were $\$ 668,000$ less than a year earlier, purchased bills smaller by $\$ 555,000$, but holdings of United States securities greater by about 8 millions of dollars. Member bank reserve accounts declined about 5 millions from March 13 to April 10, but were slightly larger than a year ago, and total reserves held by the bank declined 7.6 millions since March 13 and on April 10 were 19.6 millions less than on the corresponding Wednesday last year. Federal Reserve note circulation was 1.4 millions greater on April 10 than four weeks earlier, but 1.7 millions less than a year ago.

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)
$\underset{1935}{\text { April } 10} \quad \underset{1935}{\text { Mar. }{ }^{13}} \quad \underset{1934}{\text { Aprit } 11}$

| Bills Discounted: |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Secured by Govt. Obligations | \$ 65 | \$ | 129 | \$ | 222 |
| All Others. . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 136 |  | 93 |  | 647 |
| Total Discounts | 201 |  | 222 |  | 869 |
| Bills Bought in Open Market | 191 |  | 198 |  | 746 |
| Industrial Advances. | 1,072 |  | 1,075 |  |  |
| U. S. Securities. | 94,224 |  | 94,235 |  | 86,245 |
| Total Bills and Securities | 95,688 |  | 95,730 |  | 87,860 |
| Total Reserves............. | 130,377 |  | 138,026 |  | 149,975 |
| Member Bank Reserve Account | 84,259 |  | 89,398 |  | 83,145 |
| Total Deposits. | 91,407 |  | 100,877 |  | 93,761 |
| F. R. Notes in actual circulation | 126,819 |  | 125,381 |  | 128,531 |
| F. R. Bank Notes in actual circulation |  |  |  |  | 1,254 |
| Reserve Ratio. | 59.7\% |  | 61.0\% |  | $67.5 \%$ |


|  | RAL RESERVE SYSTEM(000 Omitted) |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\underset{1935}{\text { April } 10}$ |  | $\underset{1935}{\text { Mar. } 13}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { April } 11 \\ 1934 \end{gathered}$ |
| Bills Discounted: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Secured by Govt. Obligations | \$ 2,818 | \$ | 3,217 | \$ | 9,276 |
| All Others. | 3,201 |  | 3,208 |  | 33,975 |
| Total Discounts | 6,019 |  | 6,425 |  | 43,251 |
| Bills Bought in Open Market. | 5,307 |  | 5,505 |  | 17,059 |
| Industrial Advances | 21,256 |  | 19,869 |  |  |
| U. S. Securities. | 2,430,431 |  | 2,430,361 |  | 2,431,979 |
| Other Securities.... ${ }_{\text {Total Bill }}^{\text {S }}$ and Securities |  |  |  |  | 2,492.851 |
| Total Total Bills and Securities | 2,463,013 |  | 2,462,160 |  | 2,492.851 |
| Total Reserves................ | 4,286,830 |  | 4,588,213 |  | 3,560,025 |
| Total Deposits. | 4,904,137 |  | 4,913,766 |  | 3,737,748 |
| F. R. Notes in actual circulation | 3,169,329 |  | 3,136,652 |  | 3,025,812 |
| F. R. Bank Notes in actual circulation. |  |  | 100 |  | 88,336 |
| Reserve Ratio. | 72.4\% |  | 72.3\% |  | 68.7\% |

Member Total loans and investments of 17 weekly reporting Bank member banks located in Atlanta, Birmingham, Credit Jacksonville, Nashville, Chattanooga, Mobile and Savannah, increased 8.7 millions of dollars between March 13 and April 10, and were 22.6 millions greater than on the same Wednesday last year. Loans by these banks increased 3.3 millions since March 13, holdings of United States securities increased 1.6 millions, and Other securities increased 3.8 millions. Compared with the corresponding report date a year ago, loans on April 10 show an increase of 10.6 millions, United States securities a decrease of 7.2 millions, and Other securities an increase of 19.1 millions.

Demand deposits, which stood on March 13 at the highest point in the series which began January, 1932, increased the following Wednesday to $\$ 209,178$, but deçlined slightly by April 10, but were then 39.8 millions greater than a year ago. Time deposits held by these banks declined slightly from March 13 to April 10, and were 2.4 millions less than a year ago. Balances held by these banks for correspondents declined about 2.1 millions between March 13 and April 10 and were 5.1 millions greater than a year earlier, while those maintained with correspondents declined 13.3 millions since March 13 and were 3.8 millions less than a year ago.

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 RFPORTING MEMBER BANKS IN SELECTED CITIES
(000 Omitted)
Total

| Loans | Investments | Total Loans and Investments | Demand Deposits | Time Deposits | Borrowings From <br> F. R. Bank |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 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 |  |
| May....... . 178,019 | 151,172 | 329,191 | 167,404 | 132,911 |  |
| June........ 177,687 | 156,522 | 334,209 | 169,196 | 130,786 |  |
| July . . . . . . . . 167,294 | 169,780 | 336,513 | 172,707 | 131,560 |  |
| Angust...... 166,546 | 167,502 | 334,048 | 172,917 | 129,194 |  |
| September ... 167,243 | 163,759 | 331,002 | 179,195 | 127,402 |  |
| October..... 176,456 | 159,810 | 336,266 | 180,374 | 128,944 |  |
| November. . . 187,788 | 156,775 | 344,563 | 189,297 | 130,313 |  |
| $\begin{array}{lllllll}\text { December } \ldots . .193,141 & 162,168 & 355,309 & 196,394 & 128,492 \\ 1935\end{array}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| January..... 187,215 | 162,038 | 349,253 | 190,945 | 127,012 |  |
| February.... 188,683 | 163,058 | 351,741 | 193,894 | 130,053 |  |
| MarchERASER ${ }^{\text {190,559 }}$ | 161,445 | 352,004 | 204,498 | 128,723 |  |

potatoes was higher in Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi but lower in Florida. The acreage planted to potatoes in Florida increased from 23,500 acres in 1934 to 24,800 acres this year, but because of cold damage in February resulting in low condition, the estimated production is $2,579,200$ bushels, against $3,125,500$ bushels last year. Tennessee's wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition on April 1, stands were almost perfect and with plenty of moisture the plants were growing rapidly.

Farm Stocks The April report of the United States Departof Grain ment of Agriculture indicates that stocks of wheat, corn and oats on the farms throughout the United States on April 1 were, respectively, 19.4 per cent, 47.9 per cent, and 24.4 per cent, smaller than on the corresponding date last year. In contrast to these decreases for the country as a whole, farm stocks of wheat in this District were 56.5 per cent, stocks of oats 32.0 per cent, and stocks of corn 12.3 per cent, greater than a year ago. Figures for the six states of this District are compared in the table.

|  | (000 Bushels) |  |  |  | Oats |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $1935{ }^{\text {W }}$ | $1934$ | 1935 | 1934 | 1935 | ts 1934 |
| Alabama | 3 | 1 | 21,896 | 14,684 | 125 | 22 |
| Florida. |  |  | 2,207 | 1,395 | 12 | 2 |
| Georgia. . | 91 | 21 | 14,824 | 15,200 | 447 | 425 |
| Louisiana.... |  | ....... | 3,676 | 3,378 | 45 | 26 |
| Mississippi. |  |  | 15,815 | 12,722 | 33 | 10 |
| Tennessee. . | 305 | 233 | 23,022 | 25,158 | 258 | 209 |
| Six States... | 399 | 255 | 81,440 | 72,537 | 916 | 694 |
| United States | 93,699 | 116,298 | 438,180 | 841,498 | 208,185 | 275,425 |


|  | SUGAR | MOVEMENTRaw Sugar March 1935 | (Pounds) <br> Feb. 1935 | March 1934 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Receipts: |  |  |  |  |
| New Orleans |  | 93,130,079 | 49,262,197 | 90,154,908 |
| Savannah |  | 43,130,025 | 63,257,882 | 22,965,805 |
| Meltings: |  |  |  |  |
| New Orleans |  | $97,241,243$ $13,541,731$ | $65,554,418$ $43,856,153$ | $92,726,349$ $18,528,614$ |
| Stocks: |  |  |  |  |
| New Orleans. |  | 47,892,419 | 50,050,210 | 38,842,732 |
| Savannah |  | 101,586,333 | 71,998,039 | 106,154,966 |
|  |  | Refined Sugar |  |  |
| Shipments: |  |  |  |  |
| New Orleans. |  | 79,419,779 | 66,639,941 | 60,149,274 |
| Savannah |  | 33,734,442 | 37,692,840 | 17,922,077 |
| Stocks: |  |  |  |  |
| New Orleans. |  | 30,865,184 | 27,908,608 | 37,756,537 |
| Stocks. |  | 5,033,024 | 6,956,964 | 9,445,862 |
|  | RICE MOVE | EMENT-NEW | ORLEANS |  |
|  |  | March 1935 | Feb. 1935 | March 1934 |
| Rough Rice-Barrels: |  |  |  |  |
| Receipts. |  | 86,097 | 98,323 | 48,019 |
| Shipments. |  | 17,360 | 73,775 | 46,202 |
| Stocks... | ... | 101,263 | 32,526 | 45,266 |
| Clean Rice-Pockets: |  |  |  |  |
| Receipts. |  | 40,920 | 94,387 | 74,276 |
| Shipments. |  | 32,620 | 102,553 | 64,492 |
| Stocks. . . | . | 145,885 | 137,585 | 174,003 |

RICE MILLERS ASSOCIATION STATISTICS

|  | March | Aug. to March |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Receipts of Rough Rice: |  |  |
| Season 1934-35. | 824,774 | 7,368,154 |
| Season 1933-34 | 496,099 | 7,007,305 |


| Distribution of Milled Rice: |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Season 1934-35 . . . . . . . . . . | 909,714 | 6,612,288 |
| Season 1933-34. . . . . . . . . . . | 746,470 | 5,831,037 |
|  | Rough | Clean |
| Stocks: |  |  |
| March 31, 1935. | 1,185,973 | 1,364,242 |
| March 31, 1934. | -800,550 | 1,638,853 |

Fertilizer Sales of fertilizer tax tags in the six states Tag Sales located wholly or partly in the Sixth District slightly more than doubled from February to March, and were 10.1 per cent greater than in March last year and were the largest for any month in about four years. In the past two years the peak of fertilizer tag sales has come in March, while in 1932 it was in April. For the eight months, August through March, tag sales in these states have been 10.3 per cent greater than in that part of the previous season. Figures compared in the table are from those compiled by the National Fertilizer Association.

|  | (Short Tons) |  |  | ${ }_{1934-35}^{\text {Aug. } 1} \text { to }$ | $\underset{1933-34}{\text { Mar. } 31}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\underset{1935}{\text { March }}$ | $\underset{1935}{\text { February }}$ | $\underset{1934}{\text { March }}$ |  |  |
| Alabama | 215,000 | 64,600 | 142,450 | 306,550 | 234,050 |
| Florida. | 43,064 | 51,046 | 39,775 | 341,649 | 295,292 |
| Georgia | 290,490 | 151,275 | 304,801 | 480,393 | 464,094 |
| Iouisiana | 27,855 | 19,800 | 13,800 | 79,056 | 64,828 |
| Mississippi. | 62,829 | 16,962 | 79,425 | 97,751 | 126,600 |
| Tennessee. | 15,792 | 15,023 | 14,683 | 50,849 | 44,184 |
| Total | 655,030 | 318,706 | 594,934 | ,356,248 | , 229,048 |

TRADE
Retail Department store sales in the Sixth District increased Trade from February to March by considerably more than the usual seasonal amount, but were slightly smaller than a year ago. Stocks on hand at the end of March were somewhat larger than a month or a year earlier, and collections also improved over the month and were slightly better than a year ago.

March sales by 60 reporting firms were 22.2 per cent greater in dollar volume than in February, but 4.8 per cent less than in March, 1934. On a daily average basis, however, the increase over February was 18.8 per cent, and the decrease compared with March last year was only 1 per cent. After adjustment for the usual seasonal trend and the changing date of Easter, which is twenty days later this year than last, the adjusted index of department store sales increased from 80 per cent of the 1923-25 average in February to 90.9 per cent in March, which, excepting for September last year, is higher than for any other month since July, 1931. First quarter sales this year by these 60 reporting department stores were 1.6 per cent greater than in that part of 1934.

Stocks of merchandise at the end of March averaged 5.3 per cent larger than a month earlier, and 6.4 per cent greater than a year ago, and the rate of stock turnover, although higher than for February, was slightly below that for March last year. The collection ratio rose from 31.3 per cent in February to 34.1 per cent in March, compared with 34.0 per cent for March, 1934. For regular accounts the March ratio was 37.2 per cent, and for installment accounts 16.9 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 MARCH 1935
Based on confidential reports from 60 department stores

|  | Compariso <br> Mar. 193 |  | Thales <br> Year to date | Mar. 28, 1935 | of Sroc |  | Tu | NOVER |  | Collect | Ratt |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Same month a year ago | Previous <br> Month | Same period L,ast Year | Same month a year ago | Previous Month | ${ }_{1935}^{\mathbf{M}}$ | $1934$ | Jan. to 1935 | ar. Inc. 1934 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Mar. } \\ & 1935 \end{aligned}$ | Feb. <br> 1935 | Feb. <br> 1934 |
| Atlanta (6) | - 4.5 | +32.2 | $+2.8$ | $+7.7$ | +7.6 | . 39 | . 43 | 1.08 | 1.07 | 31.0 | 27.9 | 30.9 |
| Birmingham (6) | -9.0 | +41.0 | + 4.4 | $+10.7$ | +6.3 | . 30 | . 36 | . 78 | . 83 | 34.6 | 32.1 | 43.0 |
| Chattanooga (4) | +1.4 | +42.7 | +1.9 | +11.8 | $+3.1$ | . 29 | . 29 | . 78 | . 80 | 35.8 | 29.4 | 32.0 |
| Jacksonville (3). | - 2.5 | +22.2 | + 5.1 | +1.9 | +8.3 | . 20 | . 20 | . 55 | 52 |  |  |  |
| Miami (3) . . | +1.6 | $-9.7$ | +12.1 | +27.0 | -8.5 | . 46 | . 55 | 1.37 | 1.47 |  |  |  |
| Nashville (4) | -3.5 | +45.3 | +3.6 | -0.4 | +5.1 | . 25 | . 28 | . 66 | . 67 | 32.4 | 29.1 | 32.0 |
| New Orieans (5). | -3.4 | +13.8 |  | +1.3 | $+9.0$ | . 24 | . 24 | . 68 | . 66 | 39.1 | 36.2 | 38.7 |
| Other Cities (29). | -9.8 | $+29.0$ | $-1.9$ | + 5.4 | +4.3 | . 27 | . 32 | . 71 | . 78 | 34.3 | 32.6 | 32.9 |
| DISTRICT (60).. | - 4.8 | +22.2 | + 1.6 | + 6.4 | +5.3 | . 30 | . 33 | . 82 | . 83 | 34.1 | 31.3 | 34.0 |

Wholesale March sales by 95 reporting wholesale firms in Trade the Sixth District increased 10.7 per cent over February, and were 1.1 per cent greater than in March last year. First quarter sales were, however, 1.5 per cent less than in that quarter a year ago. Gains over the month were shown in sales by all reporting lines except stationery, and over March a year ago in sales of hardware, furniture, electrical supplies, stationery and drugs. Stocks declined slightly over the month but were 6.1 per cent greater than a year ago. Comparisons of reported figures are shown in the table.


|  | COLLECTION RATIO** March 1935 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { February } \\ & 1935 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { March } \\ & 1934 \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Groceries. | 69.5 | 70.6 | 82.6 |
| Dry Goods. | 38.8 | 38.3 | 42.5 |
| Hardware. | 40.1 | 37.8 | 34.6 |
| Furniture | 35.0 | 28.9 | 29.2 |
| Electrical Supplies | 80.1 | 67.0 | 63.6 |
| Drugs............ | 35.7 | 37.6 | 31.3 |
| Total. | 49.6 | 47.4 | 49.0 |

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

Life March sales of new, paid-for, ordinary life insurInsurance ance in the six states located wholly or partly in the Sixth District were about the same as in February, and 3.7 per cent less than in March, 1934. At the same time last year there was an increase from February to March amounting to 17.2 per cent. For the first quarter of the year, however, total sales have been 16 per cent greater than in that part of 1934. Comparisons for the month, and for the quarter, for these six states are shown in the table. The figures are from those compiled by the Life Insurance Sales Research Bureau.

|  | (000 Omitted) |  |  |  |  | Percent Change |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\underset{1935}{\text { March }}$ | $\underset{1935}{\text { February }}$ | $\underset{1934}{\text { March }}$ | $\underset{1935}{\text { January }} \mathrm{M}$ | rch Inc. 1934 |  |
| Alabama | \$ 3,994 | \$ 4,372 | \$ 3,850 | \$ 12,587 | \$ 10,030 | +25.5 |
| Florida. | 4,730 | 4,937 | 4,642 | 14,539 | 12,471 | +16.6 |
| Georgia | 6,425 | 6,073 | 6,549 | 20,440 | 18,498 | +10.5 |
| Louisiana. | 4,570 | 4,764 | 4,653 | 16,556 | 11,674 | +41.8 |
| Mississippi | 2,466 | 1,917 | 2,561 | 6,893 | 6,579 | + 4.8 +4 |
| Tennessee. | 5,390 | 5,464 | 6,383 | 18,100 | 17,544 | + 3.2 |
| Total. | 27,575 | 27,527 | 28,638 | 89,115. | 76,796 | +16.0 |
| United States | 545,450 | 533,784 | 570,835 | 1,724,568 | 1,514,125 | +13.9 |

COMMERCIAL FAILURES
(From statistics compiled by Dun \& Bradstreet, Inc.)

|  | Sixth District |  |  | United States |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Numbe |  | Liabilities | Number | Liabilities |
| March 1935. | 28 | \$ | 245,594 | 976 | \$ 18,522,840 |
| February 1935 | 33 |  | 248,054 | 1,005 | 18,737,657 |
| March 1934. | 33 |  | 569,978 | 1,102 | 27,227,511 |
| January-March 1935. | 94 |  | 697,188 | 3,165 | 56,084,194 |
| January-March 1934.. | 108 |  | 1,735,280 | 3,515 | 79,577,657 |

## INDUSTRY

## Building and Construction

The total value of buildings for which permits were issued during March at twenty reporting cities in the Sixth District increased 38.1 per cent over February, and was 64.1 per cent greater than for March, 1934. The March total is the largest for any month since January last year, and except for that month since October, 1932. Fifteen cities reported gains over February, and seventeen reported increases over March last year. The combined total for the first three months of 1935 is 4 per cent larger than for that quarter in 1934, nearly three times that in the first quarter of 1933, and the largest first quarter total since 1930. Comparisons for the month are shown in the table.

|  | $\begin{array}{r}\text { BUIL } \\ \text { N } \\ 1935 \\ \hline\end{array}$ | G PER 1934 | MITS $\begin{gathered}\text { Val } \\ \text { Mar } \\ 1935\end{gathered}$ | h 1934 | Percentage Change in Value |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Alabama |  |  |  |  |  |
| Aniston. | 39 | 10 | \$ 15,535 | \$ 3,665 | +323.9 |
| Birmingham | 455 | 120 | 700,592 | 72,618 | +864.8 |
| Mobile. | 41 | 28 | 23,275 | 78,489 | -70.3 |
| Montgomery | 122 | 131 | 33,372 | 27,117 | + 23.1 |
| Florida |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jacksonville. | 600 | 497 | 181,223 | 159,590 | +13.6 |
| Miami | 409 | 286 | 256,283 | 111,998 | +128.8 |
| Miami Beach | 47 | 55 | 346,035 | 516,050 | - 32.9 |
| Orlando. | 62 | 64 | 34,959 | 14,547 | $+140.3$ |
| Tampa | 194 | 179 | 38,529 | 23,952 | + 60.9 |
| Georgia |  |  |  |  |  |
| Atlanta. | 253 | 199 | 187,659 | 124,793 | + 50.4 |
| Augusta. | 33 | 37 | 19,708 | 8,421 | +134.0 |
| Columbus | 117 | 60 | 62,264 | 14,311 | +335.1 |
| Macon. | 136 | 130 | 32,257 | 31,178 | + 3.5 |
| Savannah | 25 | 19 | 13,437 | 5,750 | +133.7 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New Orleans. | 79 | 76 | 148,222 | 63,855 | +132.1 |
| Alexandria. | 8 | 67 | 16,052 | 12,630 | + 27.1 |
| Tennessee |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chattanooga | 227 | 188 | 52,706 | 49,798 | + 5.8 |
| Johnson City. | 5 | 2 | 2,000 | 2,300 | +13.0 |
| Knoxville. | 51 | 37 | 230,248 | 86,407 | +166.5 |
| Nashville. | 138 | 107 | 138,758 | 136,356 | + 1.8 |
| Total 20 Cities. | 3,041 | 2,239\% | ,533,144\$ | ,543,825 | +64.1 |

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, increased 46.9 per cent from February to March, and was larger than for any other month since April last year, but was 37 per cent less than in March, 1934. Residential awards in the District in March were two and one-half times the total for February and considerably more than double those in March last year. The total of residential awards in March was larger than for any other month since May, 1930. Other classes of contracts increased 20 per cent from February to March, but were smaller than a year ago by 54.8 per cent.
For the first quarter of 1935, residential contract awards exceeded those in that part of last year by 102.6 per cent, but other awards were smaller by 40.7 per cent, and the total of all contracts was 47.7 per cent less than in the first three months of 1934.

State totals for March increased over February, except for Alabama, but were less than a year ago except for Tennessee. For the first quarter all six states showed declines compared with the first quarter last year.

Total awards in the 37 states east of the Rocky Mountains increased 64 per cent from February to March, residential awards 93.8 per cent, non-residential awards 45.6 per cent, and those for public works and utilities 66.3 per cent. Compared with a year ago, however, residential awards were 14.7 per cent greater, but other classes were less, and the total was smaller by 31 per cent. Comparisons for the month are shown in the table.

| BUIL, DING AND | CONSTRUCTION March 1935 | CONTRACTS Feb. 1935 | AWARDED March 1934 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sixth District-Total. | \$ 12,780,069 | \$ 8,701,970 | \$ 20,291,594 |
| Residential. | 4,486,748 | 1,788,259 | 1,929,310 |
| All Others. | 8,293,321 | 6,913,711 | 18,362,284 |
| State Totals: |  |  |  |
| Alabama. | 712,100 | 1,705,200 | 846,700 |
| Florida. | 1,932,400 | 1,643,900 | 5,374,700 |
| Georgia | 4,651,400 | 1,626,500 | 5,527,900 |
| Louisiana | 4,215,100 | 3,546,300 | 8,310,100 |
| Mississippi | -852,700 | 631,700 | 2,155,800 |
| Tennessee. | 2,408,700 | 1,178,500 | 1,866,900 |
| United States (37 Eastern States) |  |  |  |
| Total. . . . . . . . . | . . . 123,043,500 | 75,047,100 | 178,345,800 |
| Residential. | 32,207,400 | 16,616,800 | 28,076,100 |
| Non-Residential | 44,581,600 | 20,612,800 | 57,329,100 |
| Public Works and Util | ties.. $46,254,500$ | 27,817,500 | 92,940,600 |

Lumber Weekly statements of the Southern Pine Association and press reports indicate some improvement during the latter half of March in the demand for lumber, and in shipments. During the six weeks ending April 6, orders booked by reporting mills averaged 13.5 per cent greater than during the same period a year ago, and production was 4.3 per cent larger, but unfilled orders averaged 21.3 per cent less. During this six weeks period orders averaged 9.8 per cent greater than production, while at the same time last year they were less than one per cent larger. Weekly figures compared in the table are from those compiled by the Southern Pine Association.

| Week Ended | (In Thousands of Feet) |  |  |  |  | Unfilled Orders |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Number of Mills | Orders |  | Production |  |  |  |
|  |  | 1935 | 1934 | 1935 | 1934 | 1935 | 1934 |
| 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 |
| March 16. | 149 | 22,198 | 22,848 | 22,665 | 24,617 | 60,540 | 71,621 |
| March 23. | 157 | 31,349 | 33,899 | 26,272 | 25,459 | 54,374 | 90,117 |
| March 30. | 140 | 24,624 | 23,760 | 22,862 | 19,562 | 54,178 | 75,407 |
| April 6. | 146 | 26,074 | 15,147 | 23,485 | 23,122 | 57,513 | 75,998 |

Cotton Total consumption of cotton by American mills Consumption increased only slightly from February to March, and because of the difference in the number of working days, daily average consumption declined 7.1 per cent. March consumption was 11.7 per cent less than a year ago, and smaller than for that month of any year since 1921. In the cotton growing states March consumption increased 2 per cent in total, but declined 5.9 per cent in daily average from February, and was 9.9 per cent less than a year ago, and in other states total consumption declined 4.8 per cent, and daily average 12.1 per cent from February, and was 18.6 per cent less than in March, 1934. Cumulative totals for the eight months, August through March, indicate the consumption in the United States of $3,634,027$ bales, a decline of 7.9 per cent compared with that part of the previous season. In the cotton states the decrease for this seven months period was 7.5 per cent, and in other states 9.5 per cent.

Exports of cotton from the United States in March were 18.6 per cent less than in February and 42.2 per cent less than a year ago, and the smallest for March since 1918. For the eight months of the season exports have been 41.4 per cent less than in that part of the season before.

Census Bureau figures for the month are compared in the table.

COTTON CONSUMPTION, EXPORTS, STOCKS AND ACTIVE SPINDLES

|  | Mar. 1935 | Feb. 1935 | Mar. 1934 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cotton Consumed | 481,135 | 478,291 | 544,870 |
| Stocks. | 8,901,975 | 9,534,186 | 9,499,269 |
| In Consuming Establishments | 1,117,069 | 1,161,117 | 1,650,908 |
| In Public Storage and at |  |  |  |
| Compresses. | 7,784,906 | 8,373,059 | 7,848,361 |
| Exports ${ }^{\text {E }}$, | , 317,798 | 390,294 | 550, 104 |
| izactiverspindres=-Number | 24,571,314 | 24,925,168 | 26,525,454 |

COTTON GROWING STATES-Bales

| Cotton Consumed | 388,134 | 380,643 | 430,552 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Stocks | 8,460,466 | 9,094,697 | 8,778.441 |
| In Consuming Establishments | 875,237 | 927,792 | 1,280,351 |
| In Public Storage and at |  |  |  |
| Compresses | 7,585,229 | 8,166,905 | 7,498,090 |
| Active Spindles-Number | 17,274,884 | 17,436,902 | 17,964,358 |
| OTHER STATES-Bales |  |  |  |
| Cotton Consumed | 93,001 | 97,648 | 114,318 |
| Stocks | 441,509 | 439,489 | 720,828 |
| In Consuming Establishments | 241,832 | 233,325 | 370,557 |
| In Public Storage and at |  |  |  |
| Compresses. | 199,677 | 206,164 | 350,271 |
| Active Spindles-Number | 7,296,430 | 7,488,266 | 8,561,096 |

Consumption of cotton in the three states of this District for which separate figures are available increased 3.7 per cent from February to March, but was 12.5 per cent less than a year ago, but on a daily average basis March consumption was 4.3 per cent less than in February and 9.1 per cent less than in March, 1934. For the eight months of the season, August through March, consumption in these states was 11.3 per cent less than in that part of the season before. Census Bureau figures for these states are compared in the table.

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { COTTON } \\ \text { March } \\ 1935 \end{gathered}$ | CONSUMPTION-Bales |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { February } \\ & 1935 \end{aligned}$ | March 1934 | $\text { Aug. } 1 \text { to }$ | $\underset{1933-34}{\text { March } 31}$ |
| Alabama | 51,940 | 48,623 | 55,242 | 363,903 | 400,848 |
| Georgia | 85,620 | 83,339 | 101,951 | 630,940 | 732,358 |
| Tennessee | 10,243 | 10,609 | 11,711 | 82,127 | 80,579 |
| Tot | 147,803 | 142,571 | 168,904 | 1,076,970 | 1,213,785 | $\begin{array}{ll}\text { Cotton } & \text { Production at reporting cloth and yarn mills } \\ \text { Manufacturing } & \text { in this District increased somewhat in March }\end{array}$ over February and was also larger than a year ago, but orders booked by these mills declined substantially compared with both of those comparative periods. Employment averaged 1.8 per cent greater in March than in February, but was 4.6 per cent less than a year ago. Reported figures are compared in the table.


|  | Cloth <br> Mar. 1935 compared with: |  | Yarn <br> ar. 1935 compared with: |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Mar. 1934 | Feb. 1935 | Mar. 1934 |
| Production | +9.5 $+\quad 5$ | + 4.0 | +9.8 | + 7.2 +15. |
| Orders | +3.5 +39.8 | $-10.5$ | +10.1 | +15.5 |
| Unfilled Orders | -11.7 | -29.9 | -38.5 | -6.1 |
| Stocks on Hand. | + 3.4 | +46.6 | -11.5 | +26.7 |
| Number on payroll. | + 1.9 | $-4.6$ | + 1.7 | - 4.6 |

Cotton Seed Receipts of seed at cotton seed oil mills in and Cotton Seed this District declined from February to Products March, but crushings increased slightly because of the longer month. For the eight months of the season, receipts and crushings, and production of the principal cotton seed products continue to be larger than for the same part of last season. Stocks of crude oil were smaller, but stocks of other principal products larger, at the close of March than a year ago. For the country as a whole, however, receipts, crushings and production have been smaller, but stocks, except of crude oil, larger, than a year ago. In the first two columns of the table are compared combined totals for Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, and in the last two columns are totals for the country as a whole. The figures are from those compiled by the United States Census Bureau.

|  | Sixth District* Aug. 1 to Mar. 31 |  | United States <br> Aug. 1 to Mar. 31 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cotton Seed, Tons: |  |  |  |  |
| Received at Mills. | 1,297,944 | 1,145,387 | 3,319,314 | 3,962,029 |
| Crushed | 1,161,403 | 965,327 | 3,180,486 | 3,678,319 |
| On Hand Mar. 31. . | 204,473 | 208,830 | 361,489 | 504,131 |
| Production: |  |  |  |  |
| Crude Oil, Lbs . . . . 3 | 375,349,731 | 313,021,622 | 987,854,903 | 1,143,337,767 |
| Cake \& Meal, tons.. | 508,221 | 419,801 | $1,444,513$ | 1,666,148 |
| Hulls, tons. | 308,330 | 263,991 | 821,179 | 979,385 |
| Linters, Bales. . . . . . | 252,426 | 186,608 | 712,844 | 694,024 |
| Stocks at Mills Mar. 31 |  |  |  |  |
| Crude Oil, Lbs..... | 13,226,203 | 27,120,180 | 42,326,106 | 111,365,263 |
| Cake \& Meal, tons. | 122,047 | 83,829 | 311,279 | 265,348 |
| Hulls, tons | 54,139 | 16,194 | 157,561 | 77,174 |
| Linters, Bales.... . . | 52,337 | 43,706 | 178,312 | 144,608 |

* Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

Electric Because of the shorter month, there was a decline Power of 5.8 per cent in the production of electric power for public use in the six states located wholly or partly in the Sixth District from January to February, but February production was 14.9 per cent greater than in that month a year ago. On a daily average basis, however, February production was 4.3 per cent greater than in January. Production by use of water power accounted for 66.3 per cent of the total in February, 67.1 per cent in January, and 52 per cent in February, 1934. For the first two months of 1935 total production has been 15.3 per cent greater than in that period a year ago. Figures compared in the table are from those compiled by the United States Geological Survey.


Bituminous Preliminary figures compiled by the United Coal Mining States Bureau of Mines indicate that total production of bituminous coal in the United States increased 12.9 per cent from February to March, and was 1 per cent greater than in March last year. March was, however, 8.8 per cent longer in number of working days than Feburary, but 3.7 per cent shorter than March, 1934, so that daily average production increased 3.8 per cent over the month, and was 4.8 per cent greater than a year ago. For the first quarter of 1935 total production was 5 per cent greater than in that part of 1934. Preliminary figures for the month are compared in the table.

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

Pig Iron Statistics compiled and published by the Iron Production Age indicate that total production of pig iron in the United States increased 10 per cent from February to March, and was 9.3 per cent greater than in March, 1934. Because of the longer month, however, the daily average rate declined 0.6 per cent from February to March. There was an increase of two in the number of active furnaces at the end of March, over a month earlier.

In Alabama March production of pig iron increased 35.4 per cent in total and 22.3 per cent in daily average, over February, to the highest level since June last year, but was 4.1 per cent less than in March a year ago. The number of Alabama furnaces increased from 8 to 9 , at the close of March, compared with 10 active a year ago. March shipments are reported slightly larger than in February. Press reports indicate that jobbers and consumers are buying only in limited quantities for early requirements. The quotation continues at $\$ 14.50$ per ton. Reports indicate an active market for sheets and wire products. Pressure pipe orders have increased somewhat in early April.

In the first quarter of 1935 , production of pig iron in the United States was 18.5 per cent greater than in that part of 1934, nearly three times the output in the first quarter of 1933, and 67.2 per cent greater than in the same part of 1932 , and in Alabama first quarter production this year has been 21.7 per cent less than a year ago, 241.9 per cent greater than two years ago, and 11.7 per cent greater than three years ago. Production figures are compared in the table.


* First of following month.

Naval March receipts and stocks of both turpentine and Stores rosin at the three principal markets of the District increased somewhat over those for February, and were also larger than for March last year. Press reports indicate that the new crop is moving to market freely and in heavier volume than a year ago. Quotations on the Savannah market for turpentine declined from $50 \% / 4$ cents per gallon on March 9 to $46 \frac{3}{4}$ cents on April 6, but rose to $481 / 4$ cents a week later, and the average of quotations on the thirteen grades of rosin declined from $\$ 4.94$ per 280 pounds on March 9 to $\$ 4.63$ on April 6, and increased to $\$ 4.71$ on April 13. Receipts of both commodities were somewhat smaller for the Naval Stores year, ending March 31, than in the previous season. Receipts and stocks at the three principal markets for the past nineteen years are shown in the table.

| Season: | Turpentine (1) |  | Rosin (2) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Receipts | Stocks | Receipts | Stocks |
| 1934-35. | 242,489 | 88,081 | 974,922 | 255,622 |
| 1933-34. | 258,208 | 46,010 | 1,009,402 | 142,574 |
| 1932-33. | 224,313 | 63,679 | 865,733 | 237,350 |
| 1931-32. | 328,099 | 73,640 | 1,182,780 | 347,591 |
| 1930-31. | 385,093 | 45,232 | 1,319,212 | 266,056 |
| 1929-30. | 391,894 | 40,068 | 1,396,212 | 149,232 |
| 1928-29. | 343,130 | 48,396 | 1,214,228 | 100,722 |
| 1927-28. | 401,732 | 40,338 | 1,401,374 | 123,074 |
| 1926-27. | 310,883 | 24,668 | 1,108,452 | 81,013 |
| 1925-26. | 286,035 | 26,866 | 1,019,371 | 117,182 |
| 1924-25. | 308,245 | 22,831 | 1,136,219 | 174,197 |
| 1923-24. | 318,683 | 23,487 | 1,150,998 | 226,775 |
| 1922-23. | 266,629 | 14,592 | 1,013,062 | 222,501 |
| 1921-22. | 253,712 | 19,280 | 850,578 | 282,428 |
| 1920-21. | 262,426 | 29,299 | 829,198 | 301,972 |
| 1919-20. | 184,876 | 4,819 | 671,241 | 103,443 |
| 1918-19. | 152,828 | 99,500 | 557,076 | 243,813 |
| 1917-18. | 276,413 | 139,466 | 962,418 | 345,547 |
| 1916-17. | 315,744 | 109,640 | 1,115,879 | 353,507 |

(1) Barrels of 50 Gallons.
(2) Barrels of 500 Pounds.


