

# MONTHLY REVIEW

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

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA

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## NATIONAL SUMMARY OF BUSINESS CONDITIONS

**Prepared by the Board of Governors of the  
Federal Reserve System**

Industrial production increased in April, reflecting principally larger output of steel and of automobiles. Employment and payrolls in the durable goods industries showed advances.

### Production and Employment

Volume of industrial production, as measured by the Board's seasonally adjusted index, increased from 93 per cent of the 1923-25 average in March to 100 per cent in April. The average rate of production at steel mills in April was 69 per cent of capacity as compared with 59 per cent for the preceding month. At automobile factories output amounted to 503,000 passenger cars and trucks and, except for the spring months of 1929, was larger than in any previous month. In the first three weeks of May activity in both the steel and automobile industries was maintained at about the levels reported for April. Output of nondurable manufactures in April was slightly larger than in March, due chiefly to increases at cotton textile mills, meat packing establishments, and tobacco factories. Activity at woolen and silk mills declined. Bituminous coal production showed little change from March to April, although a

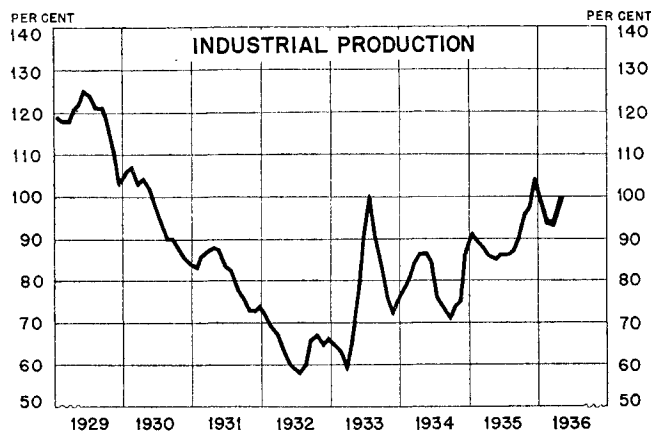
considerable decrease is usual at this season, while at anthracite mines there was a sharp rise, from the low level of March. Output of crude petroleum continued to increase.

Factory employment and payrolls were larger in the middle of April than a month earlier. Increases in the number of workers were general in the durable goods industries, with the most marked advances at steel mills and at plants producing machinery, automobiles, and building materials. There was an increase in employment at rubber tire factories, which in March had been affected by a strike, while at woolen mills employment declined.

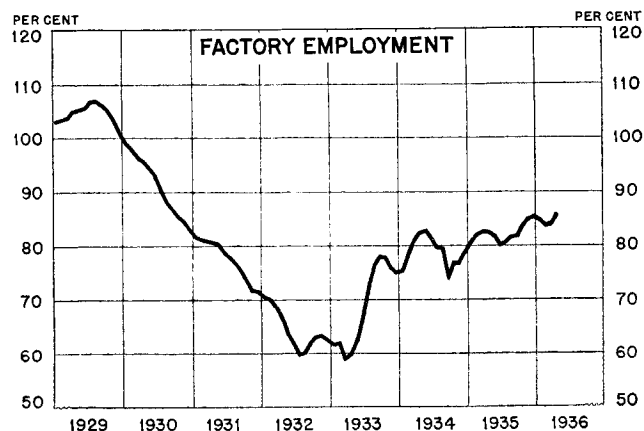
Value of construction contracts awarded, according to figures of the F. W. Dodge Corporation, increased in April by somewhat more than the usual seasonal amount. Contracts for residential building were in considerably larger volume, and privately-financed projects other than residential continued to increase.

**Distribution** Retail trade showed a seasonal increase in April, following a considerable advance in March. Department store sales rose by less than the usual seasonal amount, while at variety stores and mail-order houses there were further increases. Freight-car loadings increased from March to April.

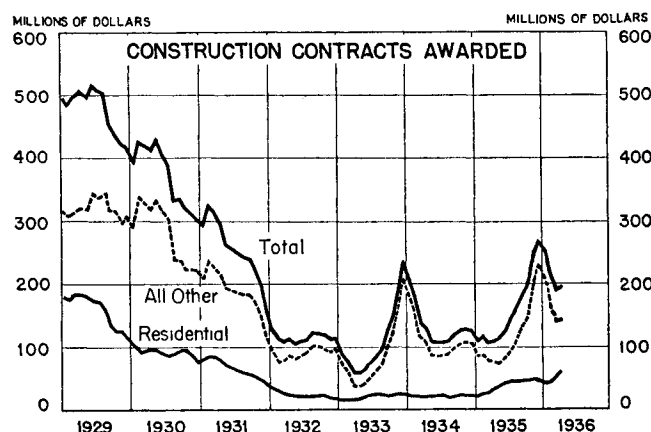
**Commodity Prices** Wholesale prices of commodities showed little change during April and declined during the early part of May, reflecting decreases in the prices of farm products and foods, while prices of other commodities as a group continued to show little change.



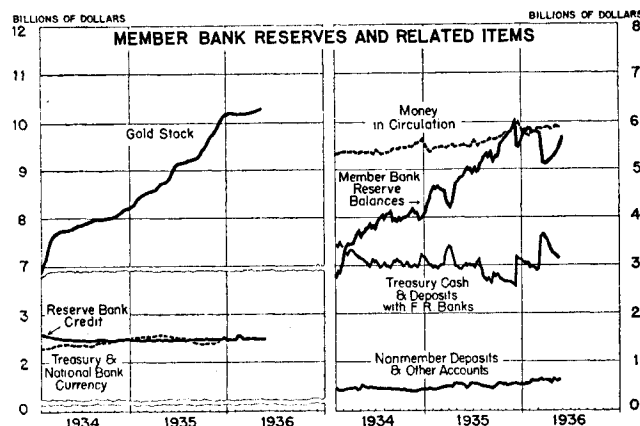
Index number of industrial production, adjusted for seasonal variation. (1923-1925 average = 100.) Latest figure April Preliminary 100.



Index of factory employment, adjusted for seasonal variation. (1923-25 average = 100.) Latest figure April Preliminary 84.9.



Three-month moving averages of F. W. Dodge data for value of contracts awarded in 37 Eastern States, adjusted for seasonal variation. Latest figures based on data for February, March, and estimate for April.



Wednesday figures. January 31, 1934, to May 20, 1936.

**Bank Credit** Excess reserves of member banks have increased steadily since the latter part of March and by May 20 amounted to \$2,860,000,000. The growth was due in April to Treasury disbursements from accumulated balances and in May to continued disbursements together with substantial imports of gold.

Treasury disbursements and gold imports have also been reflected in a sharp increase of deposits at reporting member banks in leading cities since the beginning of April. Adjusted demand deposits at these banks increased to a new high level and time deposits rose to the highest figure in three years. Holdings of United States Government obligations by the reporting banks have increased further, while holdings of other securities and loans to customers have remained at the levels reached early in April. Loans to brokers and dealers in securities, which increased considerably in March and April, declined in the first half of May.

The rate charged on call loans with Stock Exchange collateral was raised on May 11 by New York City banks from  $\frac{3}{4}$  of one per cent to one per cent, and that on time loans from one per cent to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. Rates on other open-market loans have continued at low levels.

## SIXTH DISTRICT SUMMARY

Available statistics for the Sixth Federal Reserve District indicate further improvement in most lines of industrial activity from March to April, but the increase in retail trade was smaller than usual, and the volume of wholesale trade and life insurance sales declined slightly. Debits to individual accounts at 26 reporting cities declined 3.8 per cent from March, but were 4 per cent greater than in April last year.

April sales by 57 reporting retail firms in the District averaged 0.9 per cent larger than in March, and were 8.1 per cent greater than in April last year and were the largest reported for April in six years. For the four months of 1936 retail sales have been 9.6 per cent greater than in that part of last year. The volume of wholesale trade declined 2.7 per cent from March to April but was 14.5 per cent greater than a year ago, and was also at the highest level for April since 1930. For the four months' period wholesale trade has been 11.3 per cent greater than a year ago.

Sales of life insurance declined 1.6 per cent from March to April, were 5.7 per cent less than a year ago, and were smaller than in April of other recent years except 1933. For the four months sales have been 15 per cent less than in that part of 1935.

Total loans and investments at 22 weekly reporting member banks increased between April 15 and May 13, an increase in loans being partly offset by a decline in holdings of investment securities. Both demand and time deposits increased during this period, but inter-bank deposits declined. At the Federal Reserve Bank there was a small increase in outstanding Federal Reserve note circulation, reserves and deposits declined, and for the first time since the early days of its organization the bank held no discounts for member banks.

Employment statistics compiled by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate gains in both number of workers and in amount of payrolls of reporting firms in this District from February to March, the increase in number employed being 1.8 per cent, and in payrolls 3.3 per cent. The figures for March indicate that both employment and payrolls were at the highest level for any month since these figures became available in December, 1931. Building permits issued at twenty reporting cities in the District declined 6.5 per cent in value from March, but were 49.2 per cent greater than a year ago, and for the first four months of 1936 have been more than double the total for that period last year and the largest total for the same part of other years since 1929. Construction contract awards increased from March to April and continued greater than a year ago. Production, shipments, orders and unfilled

### FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA (In Thousands of Dollars)

	May 18 1936	April 15 1936	May 15 1935
<b>Bills Discounted:</b>			
Secured by Govt. Obligations	\$	\$ 50	\$ 160
All Others		6	166
Total Discounts		56	326
Bills Bought in Open Market	164	164	169
Industrial Advances	811	840	1,110
U. S. Securities	100,209	100,209	94,247
Total Bills and Securities	101,184	101,269	95,552
Total Reserves	211,290	219,388	180,749
Member Bank Reserve Account	109,733	114,490	85,049
Total Deposits	144,390	152,853	92,963
F. R. Notes in Actual Circulation	161,039	160,867	125,644
Reserve Ratio	69.2	69.9	59.8
<b>Commitments to make Industrial Advances</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>724</b>

orders at Southern Pine lumber mills continue substantially larger than at the same time last year. Consumption of cotton in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee combined increased over that in March, and except for January was larger than for any month in nearly three years. Production and employment at reporting cotton mills increased in April over March and over April a year ago, but orders declined somewhat. Coal production increased from March to April in both Alabama and Tennessee and was much larger than in April, 1935, and production of pig iron in Alabama also increased over that in March and was 42.6 per cent greater than a year ago, and for the four months of 1936 has been 61.9 per cent greater than in that part of 1935 and the largest for that period since 1931.

## FINANCE

**Reserve Bank Credit** Principal changes in the weekly statement of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta between April 15 and May 13 were decreases of more than eight million dollars in total deposits, and in reserves, a decrease of about 4.7 millions in member banks' reserve account, a small increase in note circulation, and the retirement of the small amount of discounts for member banks. During the week ended April 29 member banks paid their indebtedness on discounts to this bank, and for the first time since the early days of the organization the bank held no discounts for member banks. Holdings of purchased bills increased slightly and those of United States securities remained at the previous level, so that total bills and securities declined only \$85,000 between April 15 and May 13. Compared with the same report date a year ago, however, there was an increase of nearly 6 millions of dollars because of larger holdings of Government securities.

Total deposits held on May 13 were about 8.5 millions less than four weeks earlier, but 51.4 millions greater than a year ago, and member banks' reserve accounts declined about 4.8 millions since April 15, but were 24.7 millions larger than at the middle of May last year. Total reserves held by the bank declined 8.1 millions since April 15, but were 80.5 millions greater than a year ago.

Federal Reserve notes of this bank's issue in actual circulation increased in recent weeks to 162 millions on May 6, the highest level since the banking holiday three years ago, and declined only slightly by May 13, when they were 35.4

millions greater than on the corresponding Wednesday last year. Principal items in the weekly statement are compared in an accompanying table.

**Member Bank Credit** There was a further small increase in total loans and investments held by 22 weekly reporting member banks in leading cities of the District between April 15 and May 13, and the total was about 53.4 millions greater than a year ago. The increase over April 15 was due to an increase of about 2.3 millions in total loans, offset in part by a decline of \$905,000 in investment holdings. Loans on securities increased 1.4 millions during this four weeks' period, and there were smaller increases in other classes of loans. Compared with the corresponding Wednesday a year ago, total loans on May 13 were about 29 millions smaller, the only class of loans showing an increase for the year being those on real estate.

Holdings of direct obligations of the United States, and of those guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States, increased somewhat from the middle of April to May 13, and were 60.3 millions, and 14.6 millions, respectively, greater than a year earlier. Holdings of Other Securities, however, declined 1.4 millions since April 15, but were 6.5 millions greater than on May 15 last year.

Demand deposits-adjusted rose about 5.6 millions between the middle of April and May 13, and were 40 millions greater than a year ago, and time deposits increased slightly since April 15 but were smaller than on May 15 last year. Balances maintained by these banks with correspondents registered a further small decline since April 15 but were 32.4 millions greater than a year ago, and deposits held for other banks also declined since the middle of April, but were 52.9 millions greater than at the middle of May last year. Reserves maintained by these banks with the Federal

### DEBITS TO INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS\* (In Thousands of Dollars)

	April 1936	March 1936	April 1935
<b>ALABAMA—4 Cities</b> .....	\$117,864	\$117,985	\$109,964
Birmingham .....	69,283	68,737	60,857
Dothan .....	2,140	2,676	2,112
Mobile .....	27,633	27,111	23,284
Montgomery .....	18,808	19,461	23,711
<b>FLORIDA—4 Cities</b> .....	137,327	144,620	121,570
Jacksonville .....	67,800	64,447	61,389
Miami .....	36,296	46,394	30,433
Pensacola .....	7,338	7,315	6,408
Tampa .....	25,893	26,464	23,340
<b>GEORGIA—10 Cities</b> .....	214,142	228,448	215,465
Albany .....	3,440	3,200	2,813
Atlanta .....	134,883	147,772	142,223
Augusta .....	16,212	16,263	17,939
Brunswick .....	2,297	2,130	2,022
Columbus .....	10,475	11,182	9,919
Elberton .....	1,006	914	758
Macon .....	11,428	12,258	10,919
Newnan .....	2,020	1,816	1,567
Savannah .....	29,150	29,911	24,596
Valdosta .....	3,231	3,002	2,709
<b>LOUISIANA—New Orleans</b> .....	170,270	184,202	174,484
<b>MISSISSIPPI—4 Cities</b> .....	40,874	38,834	37,183
Hattiesburg .....	3,948	4,081	3,889
Jackson .....	21,754	20,171	20,406
Meridian .....	8,870	8,574	7,146
Vicksburg .....	6,302	6,009	5,742
<b>TENNESSEE—3 Cities</b> .....	131,846	130,495	122,238
Chattanooga .....	35,725	34,597	32,929
Knoxville .....	23,451	23,245	21,277
Nashville .....	72,670	72,653	68,032
<b>Total—26 Cities</b> .....	\$812,323	\$844,584	\$780,904

\*Monthly totals are derived from weekly reports by prorating figures for those weeks which do not fall entirely within a single calendar month.

### CONDITION OF 22 MEMBER BANKS IN SELECTED CITIES (In Thousands of Dollars)

	May 13 1936	April 15 1936	May 15 1935
<b>Loans and Investments—Total</b> .....	\$539,019	\$537,641	\$486,630
<b>Loans—Total</b> .....	221,619	219,336	250,606
On Securities .....	57,163	55,720	59,003
To Brokers and Dealers .....	6,105	6,923	3,998
To Others .....	51,058	48,797	55,005
<b>Real Estate Loans</b> .....	22,088	21,544	19,638
Acceptances and com'l paper bought .....	5,488	5,487	5,780
Loans to Banks .....	737	614	9,085
<b>Other Loans</b> .....	136,143	135,972	157,100
<b>Investments—Total</b> .....	317,400	318,305	236,024
U. S. Gov't. Direct Obligations .....	201,109	201,070	140,803
Obligations Guaranteed by U. S. .....	39,263	38,766	24,710
<b>Other Securities</b> .....	77,028	78,469	70,511
<b>Reserve with F. R. Bank</b> .....	60,838	61,746	43,358
Cash in Vault .....	10,522	9,675	8,548
<b>Balances with domestic banks</b> .....	144,223	145,770	111,780
<b>Demand deposits—adjusted</b> .....	297,178	291,624	257,158
<b>Time deposits</b> .....	170,873	170,067	172,549
<b>Inter-bank deposits: Domestic</b> .....	188,764	196,447	135,907
<b>Foreign</b> .....	1,167	1,331	936
<b>Borrowings</b> .....			

Reserve Bank of Atlanta declined slightly since mid April, but were 17.5 millions larger than a year ago.

Savings deposits at the end of April reported by 57 banks located throughout the District increased 1.3 per cent over a month earlier, and averaged 3.2 per cent larger than a year ago.

Debits to individual accounts at reporting banks in 26 clearing house centers of the District declined 3.8 per cent from March to April, but were 4.0 per cent greater than in April last year. A year ago the decrease from March to April was 4.5 per cent.

## AGRICULTURE

After favorable weather conditions during most of March, followed by excessive rainfall and lower temperatures in the first half of April, most parts of the Sixth District have had a lack of moisture since that time which, at the middle of May, was becoming serious. Yields of truck crops being harvested have been cut, and the condition of vegetables to be harvested has been lowered. Watermelons and cantaloupes have not suffered from the dry weather up to this time, but will be damaged if rains are delayed much longer.

The May 1 estimate by the Department of Agriculture indicates an orange crop of 17.7 million boxes from the bloom of 1935, about the same as last year's production of 17.6 million boxes. This estimate represents an increase of 800,000 boxes over that for April 1, which was, in turn, larger by 900,000 boxes than earlier estimates. The May estimate of grapefruit is 11.5 million boxes, a gain of one million boxes over the estimate a month earlier, and compares with production of 15.2 million boxes a year ago.

The condition of peaches in the ten southern states on May 1 was 49.1 per cent of normal, compared with 68.2 per cent at that time last year, and total production in these states was estimated at 11,648,000 bushels, compared with 15,671,000 bushels in 1935. While the condition of peaches

in only two of the producing states of this District was higher than a year ago, increases in production are indicated in Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi, but a small decline in Alabama.

Although the estimate of winter wheat production in the United States declined from 493 million bushels at the beginning of April to 463.7 million a month later, estimated production in Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama increased somewhat, and is 7.8 per cent larger than in 1935. Rye production in Georgia and Tennessee is less than last year, and the condition of tame hay is lower than a year ago in all states of the District except Florida.

The acreage planted to watermelons in Florida this year was 16,000, compared with 20,000 in 1935, and production is estimated at 4.8 million, against 6.6 million last year. Alabama acreage is estimated at 6,000, same as last year; that in Georgia 54,000, compared with 64,000 last year; and that in Mississippi 8,500, against 5,800 last year.

April sales of fertilizer tax tags in the six states located wholly or partly in the Sixth District declined seasonally from the peak in March, but were 33 per cent greater than in April last year, and also were the largest for April in recent years. For the nine months, August through April, total tag sales in these states have been 8.8 per cent greater than in that part of the previous season.

Receipts from the sale of principal farm products, including live stock and live stock products, declined somewhat from February to March, and were less than in March of the past two years. Figures by states are shown in the table.

RECEIPTS FROM SALE OF PRINCIPAL FARM PRODUCTS  
(In Thousands of Dollars)

	March 1936	March 1935	March 1934	March 1933
Alabama .....	\$ 5,990	\$ 6,921	\$ 7,867	\$ 3,720
Florida .....	14,110	13,695	14,675	9,362
Georgia .....	5,361	5,786	4,409	2,748
Louisiana .....	3,598	4,781	2,789	2,783
Mississippi .....	5,149	5,592	4,289	2,917
Tennessee .....	6,203	6,142	6,889	3,259
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$40,411</b>	<b>\$42,917</b>	<b>\$40,918</b>	<b>\$24,789</b>

## SUGAR MOVEMENT—(Pounds)

	Raw Sugar		
	April 1936	March 1936	April 1935
<b>Receipts:</b>			
New Orleans .....	95,239,598	120,131,749	118,791,387
Savannah .....	75,873,328	77,645,804	24,696,644
<b>Meltings:</b>			
New Orleans .....	95,192,465	109,728,195	80,703,605
Savannah .....	49,115,447	56,498,736	38,298,168
<b>Stocks:</b>			
New Orleans .....	49,095,447	49,055,155	85,922,851
Savannah .....	61,521,897	34,764,016	87,984,814
	Refined Sugar		
<b>Shipments:</b>			
New Orleans .....	68,860,732	104,531,115	96,277,229
Savannah .....	29,082,227	42,685,756	36,127,298
<b>Stocks:</b>			
New Orleans .....	35,674,797	16,206,302	21,513,868
Savannah .....	8,713,603	8,611,782	5,005,011

## RICE MOVEMENT

Rice Millers' Association Statistics

Receipts of Rough Rice*	April	August-April, Incl.
Season 1935-36 .....	160,622	7,797,184
Season 1934-35 .....	175,091	7,543,245
<b>Distribution of Milled Rice**</b>		
Season 1935-36 .....	788,099	7,423,588
Season 1934-35 .....	953,389	7,565,677
<b>Stocks:</b>	<b>Rough*</b>	<b>Milled**</b>
April 30, 1936 .....	266,992	976,606
April 30, 1935 .....	586,214	1,256,060

\*Barrels of 162 lbs. \*\*Pockets of 100 lbs.

## TRADE

**Retail Trade** Department store sales in the Sixth District increased only slightly from March to April, but continued greater than a year ago, and similar comparisons are shown in stocks on hand. The collection ratio declined somewhat from March to April but was slightly higher than in April last year.

April sales reported by 57 firms averaged 0.9 per cent larger than in March, but were 8.1 per cent greater than in April last year, and were the largest for April since 1930. After adjustment for the changing date of Easter and the seasonal trend, the adjusted index of daily average sales declined from 102.6 per cent of the 1923-25 average in March to 96.3 in April. For the first four months total sales averaged 9.6 per cent greater than in that part of last year. Stocks increased less than 1 per cent from March to April but averaged 3.4 per cent larger than a year ago. The rate of stock turnover declined slightly over the month, but was better than a year ago, both for the month and for the four months' period. The collection ratio for April was 32.8 per cent compared with 34.1 per cent for March and

RETAIL TRADE IN THE SIXTH DISTRICT DURING APRIL, 1936  
Based on confidential reports from 57 department stores

	COMPARISON OF NET SALES			COMPARISON OF STOCKS			STOCK TURNOVER				COLLECTION RATIO		
	April 1936 with:		Year to date with	April 30, 1936 with:		Previous month	April		Jan.-April, Incl.		Apr. 1936	Mar. 1936	Apr. 1935
	Same month a year ago	Previous month	same period last year	Same month a year ago	Previous month		1936	1935	1936	1935			
Atlanta (6) .....	+ 2.2	— 2.9	+ 7.1	+ 1.6	+ 4.8	.37	.37	1.43	1.45	27.8	30.6	27.9	
Birmingham (5) .....	+18.7	— 3.5	+20.9	+20.8	— 0.5	.26	.28	.99	1.06	35.3	35.6	34.1	
Chattanooga (4) .....	+ 2.4	+ 9.8	+ 1.6	+10.5	+ 0.7	.26	.27	.96	1.05	31.1	29.2	34.1	
Jacksonville (3) .....	+14.5	+ 3.1	+ 7.6	+ 2.1	+ 0.1	.21	.19	.80	.74	-----	-----	-----	
Miami (3) .....	+11.4	—22.6	+ 7.4	— 0.5	— 4.9	.43	.38	1.89	1.76	-----	-----	-----	
Montgomery (3) .....	+14.1	+ 8.9	+10.1	+ 2.5	+ 1.7	.29	-----	1.07	-----	-----	-----	-----	
Nashville (4) .....	+ 4.9	+ 0.9	+ 6.3	— 5.0	— 3.3	.33	.25	1.28	.96	30.5	30.1	30.9	
New Orleans (4) .....	+13.0	+18.0	+15.8	— 2.3	+ 1.3	.31	.26	1.14	.95	40.2	41.5	38.1	
Other Cities (25) .....	+ 2.3	+ 6.3	+ 4.0	+ 4.1	+ 0.7	.26	.28	.94	.99	33.9	34.8	32.3	
DISTRICT (57) .....	+ 8.1	+ 0.9	+ 9.6	+ 3.4	+ 0.7	.30	.29	1.18	1.12	32.8	34.1	32.1	

NOTE: The rate of stock turnover is the ratio of sales during given period to average stocks on hand. The collection ratio is the percentage of accounts outstanding and due at the beginning of the month which were collected during the month.

32.1 per cent for April a year ago. For April the ratio for regular accounts was 36.8 per cent, and for installment accounts 15.9 per cent.

Percentage comparisons in the table are based upon figures reported in actual dollar amounts and make no allowance for changes in price levels. 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.

A statement by the United States Department of Commerce indicates that sales of general merchandise in small towns and rural areas of the South increased 10½ per cent from February to March, compared with an average for the country of 18 per cent, and March sales in the South averaged 6½ per cent larger than a year ago, compared with an increase of 9½ per cent for the country.

**Life Insurance** Life insurance sales in this District declined 1.6 per cent from March to April, and were 5.7 per cent less than in April, 1935, and were also less than in April of other recent years with the exception of 1933. Gains over March were reported for Alabama and Tennessee, and over April last year for Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi. For the four-month period sales averaged 15 per cent less than in that part of 1935, against a decrease of 13 per cent for the United States as a whole. Figures in the table are from those compiled by the Life Insurance Sales Research Bureau.

	(In Thousands of Dollars)				
	April 1936	March 1936	April 1935	Jan. to Apr., 1936	Incl. 1935
Alabama .....	\$ 3,537	\$ 3,430	\$ 4,378	\$ 12,456	\$ 16,965
Florida .....	4,904	5,248	4,656	18,221	19,195
Georgia .....	6,139	6,322	7,225	23,006	27,665
Louisiana .....	4,681	4,761	4,582	17,316	21,138
Mississippi .....	2,308	2,328	2,228	8,645	9,121
Tennessee .....	5,394	5,300	5,526	20,408	23,626
Total .....	\$ 26,958	\$ 27,389	\$ 28,595	\$ 100,052	\$ 117,710
United States .....	506,207	525,043	540,280	1,970,731	2,264,848

**Wholesale Trade** Total sales in April by 81 reporting wholesale firms in the District declined 2.7 per cent from March, but exceeded the total for April last year by 14.5 per cent, and were larger than in April of other years since 1930. For the first four months sales by these firms have been 11.3 per cent greater than in that period last year. Sales of groceries and electrical supplies increased over March, and all reporting lines showed gains over April, 1935. Reported figures are compared in the table.

WHOLESALE TRADE IN APRIL, 1936

Sixth Federal Reserve District\*

Percentage Comparisons

	Number of firms	Mar. 1936	April 1936 with Apr. 1935	Jan.-Apr. Incl. with same period last yr.
All Lines Combined:				
Sales .....	81	- 2.7	+14.5	+11.3
Stocks .....	27	- 1.7	+ 4.7	.....
Groceries:				
Sales .....	18	+ 1.4	+ 5.4	+ 0.4
Jacksonville .....	3	+ 5.7	+ 2.3	- 4.1
New Orleans .....	3	+ 6.7	- 4.3	- 6.2
Vicksburg .....	3	- 7.4	+40.2	+20.2
Other Cities .....	9	+ 0.6	+ 1.8	+ 0.4
Dry Goods:				
Sales .....	14	- 7.2	+ 8.7	+ 3.2
Nashville .....	3	-13.4	+10.5	- 2.7
Other Cities .....	11	- 5.3	+ 8.2	+ 4.9
Stocks .....	7	- 3.1	+ 0.3	.....
Hardware:				
Sales .....	25	- 4.1	+13.7	+17.1
Nashville .....	3	- 3.7	+ 4.2	+ 4.6
New Orleans .....	5	+ 4.9	+36.0	+36.1
Other Cities .....	17	- 8.9	+13.1	+10.3
Stocks .....	9	+ 0.7	+ 6.3	.....
Furniture:				
Sales .....	7	- 5.1	+20.0	+17.4
Atlanta .....	3	- 3.6	+29.7	+ 8.6
Other Cities .....	4	- 5.4	+17.9	+19.6
Stocks .....	5	+ 0.9	+ 2.6	.....
Electrical Supplies:				
Sales .....	5	+15.5	+43.9	+40.1
Stocks .....	3	- 5.7	+ 3.8	.....
Drugs:				
Sales .....	7	-10.5	+ 7.9	+14.2
Stationery:				
Sales .....	3	-12.1	+ 7.1	+ 7.5

COLLECTION RATIO\*\*

	April 1936	March 1936	April 1935
Groceries .....	72.7	71.0	67.8
Dry Goods .....	41.4	41.5	40.0
Hardware .....	43.4	44.9	38.5
Furniture .....	36.4	43.2	35.5
Electrical Supplies .....	78.8	82.9	69.7
Total .....	50.3	51.9	47.8

\*Based on confidential reports from 81 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.

INDUSTRY

Value of building permits issued at twenty cities in the District during April was 6.5 per cent smaller than the March total, but 49.2 per cent greater than that for April last year, and the largest April total since 1931. For the first four months of 1936 the total for these twenty cities amounts to \$18,552,512, a little more than twice as large as for the corresponding period last year, and the largest total for the first four months of any year since 1929. Only eight of the twenty reporting cities had increases from March to April, and fourteen reported increases over April, 1935. Figures for the month are compared in an accompanying table.

## BUILDING PERMITS—April

	Number		Value		Percentage Change in Value
	1936	1935	1936	1935	
Alabama					
Anniston .....	28	29	\$ 14,319	\$ 7,342	+ 95.0
Birmingham .....	465	382	185,644	147,841	+ 25.6
Mobile .....	30	45	20,310	25,556	— 20.5
Montgomery .....	135	137	61,920	58,377	+ 6.1
Florida					
Jacksonville .....	549	602	381,845	193,503	+ 97.3
Miami .....	633	568	777,410	319,724	+143.2
Miami Beach .....	95	85	1,070,675	954,700	+ 12.1
Orlando .....	71	78	62,952	50,877	+ 23.7
Tampa .....	213	199	56,928	38,369	+ 48.4
Georgia					
Atlanta .....	329	315	354,833	254,526	+ 39.4
Augusta .....	19	39	20,030	23,736	— 15.6
Columbus .....	117	104	52,396	57,690	— 9.2
Macon .....	195	131	25,818	29,440	— 12.3
Savannah .....	38	20	72,367	12,605	+474.1
Louisiana					
New Orleans .....	133	95	337,915	202,361	+ 67.0
Alexandria .....	62	84	25,373	16,191	+ 56.7
Tennessee					
Chattanooga .....	535	321	130,040	73,556	+ 76.8
Johnson City .....	6	7	1,360	1,875	— 27.5
Knoxville .....	106	70	193,336	479,135	— 59.6
Nashville .....	259	157	659,717	72,402	+811.2
Total—20 Cities .....	4,018	3,468	4,505,188	3,019,306	+ 49.2

The value of building and construction contracts awarded in the Sixth District, according to statistics compiled by the F. W. Dodge Corporation and subdivided into district totals by the Division of Research and Statistics of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, increased 52.7 per cent from March to April, was 117.2 per cent greater than in April last year, and for the first four months show an increase of 55.2 per cent over that part of 1935. Since June, 1930, there have been only seven monthly totals larger than that for April this year. Residential awards increased 27.6 per cent over March, and were 61.8 per cent greater than a year ago, and other classes of contracts increased 66.5 per cent over March and were 153.9 per cent greater than in April last year. State totals for this district increased over March except in Mississippi and Tennessee, and over April, 1935, except in Mississippi.

Total awards in the 37 states east of the Rocky Mountains increased 18 per cent from March to April, and were 89.3 per cent greater than a year ago, and for the first four months have been 85.1 per cent greater than in that period last year.

## BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED

(F. W. Dodge Corporation)

	Apr. 1936	Mar. 1936	Apr. 1935
Sixth District—Total .....	\$20,274,903	\$13,279,155	\$9,335,016
Residential .....	6,018,485	4,718,443	3,719,919
All Others .....	14,256,418	8,560,712	5,615,097
<b>State Totals:</b>			
Alabama .....	7,272,200	1,558,600	1,335,800
Florida .....	6,441,100	5,280,400	2,965,900
Georgia .....	2,359,200	1,933,800	1,701,000
Louisiana .....	2,268,200	2,099,500	1,590,000
Mississippi .....	873,500	1,019,200	1,532,300
Tennessee .....	3,226,900	4,126,600	1,684,200

The Southern Pine market, according to press reports, continues "at a most satisfactory rate of activity, with all items of stock used in residential construction still selling actively at prices easily maintained on the newer levels. The continued active demand has depleted mill stocks and brought about scarcities in a number of standard items." Lumber for residential building continues to furnish the bulk of current demand. Weekly statements of the Southern Pine Association indicate that during the six weeks ended May 9, orders averaged 9.8 per cent, shipments 26.2 per cent, production 28.5 per cent, and unfilled orders 35.7 per cent, greater than in that period last year. Orders exceeded production by 6.6 per cent, compared with 24.7 per cent a year ago.

Consumption of cotton by American mills increased further in April over March by 5.1 per cent, was 23.1 per cent greater than in April a year ago, and with the exception of January was larger than for any month since August, 1933. It was the largest for April since 1929. In the cotton states April consumption was 4.7 per cent and in other states 7.2 per cent larger than in March, and in the cotton states it was 28.3 per cent and in other states 1 per cent, larger than a year ago. Total consumption during the nine months of the season was 13 per cent, and that in the cotton states 18.5 per cent, greater than in that period a year earlier, while in other states it was 9.4 per cent smaller. In April, consumption in the cotton states accounted for 84.4 per cent of the total, compared with 81 per cent a year ago, and for the nine months' period it accounted for 84 per cent of total consumption, compared with 80 per cent for that part of the season before.

Exports of cotton declined 13 per cent from March to April, but were 51.9 per cent greater than in April a year ago, and for the nine months' period have amounted to 5,167,070 bales, greater by 35.8 per cent than in that part of the previous season. The decline from March to April was about half as large as occurred at that time last year. Exports and consumption combined from August 1 through April 30 have totaled 9,816,591 bales, an increase of 23.9 per cent over that period a year ago.

Stocks of cotton at the end of April were 8.8 per cent smaller than a month earlier, and 12.8 per cent less than a year ago. Active spindles declined slightly in April, and 3.1 per cent compared with April last year. Census Bureau figures are compared in an accompanying table.

April consumption of cotton in Georgia amounted to 112,169 bales, in Alabama 62,850 bales, and in Tennessee 14,080 bales, and the combined total of 189,099 was larger, excepting for January, than for any other month since June, 1933. For the nine months, August through April, con-

## COTTON CONSUMPTION, EXPORTS, STOCKS, AND ACTIVE SPINDLES, UNITED STATES—Bales

	Apr. 1936	Mar. 1936	Apr. 1935
Cotton Consumed .....	576,762	548,913	468,402
Stocks .....	7,210,939	7,904,576	8,265,550
In Consuming Establishments .....	1,190,413	1,334,394	1,062,143
In Public Storage and at Compresses .....	6,020,526	6,570,182	7,203,407
Exports .....	352,710	404,741	232,155
Active Spindles—Number .....	23,123,536	23,175,502	23,854,052
<b>COTTON GROWING STATES—Bales</b>			
Cotton Consumed .....	486,749	464,934	379,290
Stocks .....	6,882,485	7,564,889	7,844,131
In Consuming Establishments .....	972,743	1,112,177	824,259
In Public Storage and at Compresses .....	5,909,742	6,452,712	7,019,872
Active Spindles—Number .....	17,118,660	17,053,028	17,028,872

sumption in these states amounted to 1,519,752 bales, larger by 23.9 per cent than in that part of the previous season.

Confidential reports from cotton mills in this District show increases of 6.7 per cent in production of cloth, and 7.9 per cent in yarn, from March to April, and an increase of 15.1 per cent in production of cloth, and of 21.3 per cent in yarn, over April last year. Orders declined over the month, and stocks increased somewhat, but continued smaller than a year ago. Employment increased about 1 per cent over March, and was about 5.5 per cent greater than a year ago.

April operations at cotton seed oil mills in the District declined seasonally from March, and although receipts of seed were greater than in April last year, crushings and production were smaller. For the nine months of the season, August through April, receipts and crushings of seed, and production of the principal cotton seed products, have been greater in this District, and in the country as a whole, than in that part of the previous season. In this District receipts of seed for the season have been 5.9 per cent, and crushings 12.2 per cent, greater than a year ago, and increases in production have been 8.5 per cent in crude oil, 14.4 per cent in cake and meal, 12.2 per cent in hulls and 14.8 per cent in linters. Stocks of crude oil at the mills at the close of April were larger than a year ago, both in this District and in the country as a whole, but supplies of other cotton seed products were smaller. Census Bureau figures are compared in an accompanying table.

Total production of electric power for public use in the six states located wholly or partly in the Sixth District increased 3.2 per cent in March over February, because of the longer month, and was 17.8 per cent greater than in March, 1935. The daily average rate of production declined 3.4 per cent from February to March. March production was, however, only slightly less than in January, when a new high level was reached. In March production by use of water power accounted for 66.1 per cent of the total, in February 64.7 per cent, and in March a year ago, 67.5 per cent. Total production in the first three months of 1936 in these six states was 17.4 per cent greater than in the first quarter of 1935. In this period production by water power accounted for 65.4 per cent of the total, compared with 67 per cent in that part of last year.

Weekly statistics compiled by the United States Bureau of Mines show that coal production averaged slightly higher during the five weeks ending May 2 than in the four weeks ending March 28 in both Alabama and Tennessee, and was

substantially larger than in corresponding weeks last year, Alabama production averaging 37.2 per cent, and Tennessee output 48.3 per cent, larger. For the year through May 2, however, production in Alabama has averaged 13.2 per cent larger than in that part of 1935, and Tennessee production has averaged 9.0 per cent larger.

Preliminary figures indicate that production in the United States during April was 2.8 per cent less than in March, but 38.1 per cent greater than in April, 1935, and for the first four months total production has been 8.6 per cent larger than in the first four months of 1935.

Production of pig iron in the United States during April amounted to 2,403,683 tons, larger by 17.8 per cent than in March, 44.5 per cent greater than a year ago, and the largest monthly total since August, 1930. Because of the shorter month, daily average production increased 21.7 per cent from March to April. There were 144 furnaces active in the United States on May 1, 126 a month earlier, and 97 a year ago.

April production of pig iron in Alabama totaled 163,731 tons, a gain of only 1 per cent over March but 42.6 per cent greater than in April, 1935, and the largest total for any month since June, 1931. Daily average production increased 4.4 per cent from March to April, in Alabama. The number of Alabama furnaces active on May 1 continued at 12, the same as for the past four months, compared with 8 active on that date a year ago. Total production in Alabama during the first four months of 1936 amounted to 635,912 tons, larger by 61.9 per cent than in that period a year ago, and also larger than for the first four months of other years since 1931. Press reports continue to indicate a sluggish market for iron in the Birmingham territory on account of stocks accumulated by foundries during the previous quarter. The base price continues at \$15.50 per ton.

Receipts of both turpentine and rosin at the three principal markets of the District increased substantially from March to April. Because of earlier unfavorable weather conditions, April receipts this year were somewhat less than in that month a year ago. Stocks of both turpentine and rosin declined over the month, but supplies of turpentine were larger, although those of rosin smaller, than a year ago. There was some improvement in demand during the second week of May, compared with earlier weeks. Quotations for turpentine on the Savannah market declined from 38 cents per gallon on April 11 to 35½ cents on April 25, but rose to 37 cents on May 9 and 16. Average quotations on the thirteen grades of rosin declined from \$4.34 per 280 pounds on April 11 to \$4.18 on May 9, but a week later were \$4.23. Receipts and stocks are compared in the table.

#### COTTON SEED AND COTTON SEED PRODUCTS

	Sixth District*		United States	
	Aug. 1 to Apr. 30		Aug. 1 to Apr. 30	
	1935-36	1934-35	1935-36	1934-35
Cotton Seed—Tons				
Received at Mills.....	1,384,629	1,307,143	3,677,215	3,340,365
Crushed .....	1,381,278	1,230,550	3,668,437	3,314,148
On Hand April 30.....	48,884	144,525	98,853	248,878
Production:				
Crude Oil, lbs.....	431,894,276	398,109,281	1,113,561,526	1,081,998,905
Cake and Meal, tons ..	615,214	537,698	1,668,436	1,507,941
Hulls, tons .....	364,290	324,568	950,305	852,474
Linters, bales .....	309,921	270,001	835,925	747,091
Stocks at Mills, Apr. 30:				
Crude Oil, lbs.....	20,882,196	9,619,352	64,875,139	28,315,862
Cake and Meal, tons ..	54,992	111,336	202,429	263,899
Hulls, tons .....	15,749	47,418	94,564	128,776
Linters, bales .....	36,791	47,672	113,578	147,481

\*Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

#### NAVAL STORES MOVEMENT

	Turpentine (1)		Rosin (2)	
	Apr. 1936	Apr. 1935	Apr. 1936	Apr. 1935
Receipts:				
Savannah .....	6,466	9,460	24,857	31,772
Jacksonville .....	6,733	6,747	28,849	31,181
Pensacola .....	2,271	2,203	6,198	6,337
Total .....	15,470	18,410	59,904	69,290
Stocks:				
Savannah .....	27,691	26,569	56,497	119,891
Jacksonville .....	41,576	37,251	50,454	34,376
Pensacola .....	28,413	24,151	36,865	35,946
Total .....	97,680	87,971	143,816	250,213

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

## MONTHLY INDEX NUMBERS COMPUTED BY FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA

MONTHLY AVERAGE 1923-1925 = 100

DEPARTMENT STORE TRADE—SIXTH DISTRICT	Feb. 1936	Mar. 1936	Apr. 1936	Feb. 1935	Mar. 1935	Apr. 1935
<b>Daily Average Sales—Unadjusted</b>						
Atlanta (3 firms).....	147.8	172.9	168.6	129.9	162.9	163.3
Birmingham (3 firms).....	80.0	92.8	89.1	55.1	68.6	65.3
Chattanooga (4 firms).....	59.0	67.8	74.4	55.4	73.0	72.7
Nashville (4 firms).....	69.2	83.2	83.9	60.5	81.1	80.0
New Orleans (4 firms).....	75.8	75.3	88.9	62.0	65.1	76.2
DISTRICT (30 firms).....	86.1	95.4	100.2	70.4	83.6	88.0
<b>Daily Average Sales—Adjusted*</b>						
Atlanta (3 firms).....	173.9	183.9	157.6	152.8	175.2	151.2
Birmingham (3 firms).....	88.9	96.7	89.1	61.2	72.2	64.7
Chattanooga (4 firms).....	74.7	75.3	73.7	70.1	82.0	71.3
Nashville (4 firms).....	81.4	91.4	82.3	71.2	90.1	77.7
New Orleans (4 firms).....	86.1	82.7	83.9	70.5	72.3	71.2
DISTRICT (30 firms).....	97.8	102.6	96.3	80.0	90.9	83.8
<b>Monthly Stocks—Unadjusted</b>						
Atlanta (3 firms).....	92.3	98.8	104.6	88.4	97.4	103.7
Birmingham (3 firms).....	56.6	62.7	62.2	46.2	47.2	49.2
Chattanooga (3 firms).....	56.2	57.5	57.9	48.8	50.3	52.4
Nashville (3 firms).....	52.6	57.8	55.9	62.1	65.3	66.1
New Orleans (4 firms).....	53.8	57.5	58.3	54.8	59.7	59.6
DISTRICT (25 firms).....	61.6	65.9	66.4	59.5	63.5	64.9
<b>Monthly Stocks—Adjusted*</b>						
Atlanta (3 firms).....	96.1	96.9	99.6	92.1	95.5	98.8
Birmingham (3 firms).....	59.0	61.5	59.2	48.1	46.3	46.9
Chattanooga (3 firms).....	57.9	54.2	55.1	50.3	47.5	49.9
Nashville (3 firms).....	55.4	56.7	53.8	65.4	64.0	63.6
New Orleans (4 firms).....	53.8	55.3	56.1	54.8	57.4	57.3
DISTRICT (25 firms).....	62.9	64.0	63.2	60.7	61.7	61.8
<b>WHOLESALE TRADE—SIXTH DISTRICT—TOTAL</b>	59.0	71.2	69.3	55.2	61.1	60.5
Groceries (18 firms).....	48.9	53.3	54.1	50.4	52.9	50.8
Dry Goods (14 firms).....	52.2	67.8	62.9	52.1	59.8	56.2
Hardware (25 firms).....	59.9	76.6	73.4	54.2	61.0	61.8
Furniture (7 firms).....	61.3	76.5	72.6	52.6	56.8	58.0
Electrical Supplies (5 firms).....	109.7	137.8	159.2	71.4	91.6	102.6
Stationery (3 firms).....	41.1	45.0	39.5	40.7	39.4	36.9
Drugs (7 firms).....	89.8	97.3	87.0	79.2	82.0	80.1
<b>LIFE INSURANCE SALES—SIX STATES—TOTAL</b>	53.9	65.2	64.2	65.6	65.7	88.1
Alabama.....	40.4	50.6	52.1	64.5	58.9	64.5
Florida.....	66.7	88.7	82.9	83.4	79.9	78.7
Georgia.....	57.2	68.9	66.9	66.2	70.1	78.8
Louisiana.....	61.8	75.1	73.9	75.2	72.1	72.3
Mississippi.....	44.3	53.2	52.7	43.8	56.4	51.0
Tennessee.....	51.6	56.3	57.3	58.1	57.3	58.7
<b>BUILDING PERMITS—TWENTY CITIES—TOTAL</b>	43.0	42.8	40.0	16.3	22.5	26.8
Atlanta.....	11.3	52.1	22.9	19.4	12.1	16.5
Birmingham.....	5.5	13.4	12.5	7.3	47.3	10.0
Jacksonville.....	30.5	34.5	46.4	20.2	31.1	23.5
Nashville.....	307.3	67.2	104.0	8.0	21.9	11.4
New Orleans.....	11.3	25.6	26.2	9.5	11.5	15.7
Fifteen Other Cities.....	40.8	50.6	47.2	19.8	21.5	39.2
<b>CONTRACT AWARDS—SIXTH DISTRICT—TOTAL</b>	35.9	37.8	57.8	24.8	36.4	26.6
Residential.....	30.0	33.6	42.9	12.7	32.0	26.5
All Others.....	39.8	40.6	67.7	32.8	39.4	26.7
<b>WHOLESALE PRICES—UNITED STATES †</b>						
ALL COMMODITIES.....	80.6	79.6	79.7	79.5	79.3	80.1
Farm Products.....	79.5	76.5	76.9	79.1	78.3	80.4
Foods.....	83.3	80.1	80.2	82.7	81.9	84.5
Other Commodities.....	79.0	78.9	79.0	77.4	77.3	77.2
Hides and leather products.....	96.1	94.9	94.6	86.0	85.4	86.3
Textile products.....	71.0	70.8	70.2	70.1	69.4	69.2
Fuel and lighting.....	76.1	76.2	76.7	72.5	72.9	72.8
Metals and metal products.....	86.7	86.6	86.6	85.8	85.7	85.9
Building materials.....	85.5	85.3	85.7	85.0	84.9	84.6
Chemicals and drugs.....	80.1	79.3	78.5	80.4	81.5	81.0
Housefurnishing goods.....	81.5	81.4	81.4	80.7	80.7	80.7
Miscellaneous.....	68.1	68.3	68.6	70.1	69.2	68.7
<b>COTTON CONSUMPTION—UNITED STATES</b>	100.3	106.6	112.0	92.9	93.4	89.9
Cotton-Growing States.....	126.1	135.8	142.2	111.2	113.4	109.2
All Other States.....	49.3	48.7	52.1	56.6	53.9	51.5
Georgia.....	127.9	135.1	143.9	106.9	109.9	110.9
Alabama.....	159.4	172.0	182.8	141.4	151.1	153.1
Tennessee.....	124.5	142.8	141.5	106.6	102.9	111.2
<b>COTTON EXPORTS—UNITED STATES</b>	79.1	78.8	68.7	76.0	61.9	62.9
<b>PIG IRON PRODUCTION—United States</b>	61.0	68.3	80.5	53.8	59.2	55.7
Alabama.....	65.1	69.8	70.5	38.1	51.6	49.4

\*Adjusted for Seasonal Variation.

†Compiled by Bureau of Labor Statistics. 1926-100.