# MONTHLY REVIEW

BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE SIXTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

### FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA

The volume of retail trade in the Sixth District declined in June by slightly more than the seasonal amount, and there were decreases in construction contracts awarded in the District, and in pig iron production in Alabama. Increases over May, however, contrary to the usual trend, were shown in wholesale trade, in cotton mill activity, and in building permits issued at twenty reporting cities.

Trade Total sales in June by 49 reporting retail firms declined 14.5 per cent from May, were 7.9 per cent less than in June last year, and in the first half of 1938 have been 4.2 per cent smaller than in that part of 1937. The index of daily average sales by 28 of these firms which have reported over a long period of years, after adjustment for the usual seasonal change, declined from 106.0 per cent of the 1923-1925 average for May to 104.3 per cent for June. Preliminary sales figures for the first two weeks in July show a decrease of 2.5 per cent compared with corresponding weeks last year. June inventories declined 8.1 per cent from May and were 7.8 per cent smaller than a year ago.

Wholesale trade in the Sixth District, according to reports by 141 firms to the United States Department of Commerce, increased 1.5 per cent from May to June, contrary to seasonal tendency, but was 13.0 per cent less than in June last year. In the first half of 1938 wholesale trade averaged 13.9 per cent smaller than in that part of 1937. Inventories at 58 reporting wholesale firms declined 4.9 per cent in June and were 18.1 per cent smaller than a year earlier.

**Banking** Total loans and investments at 22 weekly reporting member banks in leading cities of the District declined further in June, and on July 6 were at the

CONDITION OF 22 MEMBER BANKS IN SELECTED CITIES (In Thousands of Dollars)					
	July 13, 1938	Change June 15, 1938	From : July 14, 1937		
Loans and Investments-Total	\$542,277 277,381	7,353 3,417	2,655 +12,056		
Commercial, industrial and agricultural loans Open market paper	149,720 3,029	+ 2,063 87	$^{+14,896}_{-1,863}$		
Loans to brokers and dealers in securities Other loans for purchasing	6,156	676 108	— 555 — 1,537		
or carrying securities Real estate loans Loans to banks	14,922 26,459 4,141	- 1,263 - 37	<u> </u>		
Other loans Investments—Total U. S. direct obligations	264,896 144,035	— 3,309 — 3,936 — 6,684	+ 2,260 -14,711 -26,074		
Obligations guaranteed by U. S Other securities Reserve with F. R. Bank	41,468 79,393 98,300	+ 2,572 + 176 + 8,014	+ 8,635 + 2,728 5,716		
Cash in vault Balances with domestic banks Demand deposits—adjusted	11,861 134,853	+ 1,630 + 2,200 + 5,641			
Time deposits U. S. Government deposits	184,165 23,142	+ 950 + 314	+ 5,369 +10,942		
Deposits of domestic banks Borrowings : From F. R. Bank From Others	193,844 87 40	+ 279 23 10	+17,705 -449 -210		

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http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/ Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis lowest level in more than two years. On July 13 they were about 7.4 millions of dollars less than at the middle of June. Loans for commercial, industrial and agricultural purposes increased 2.1 millions between June 15 and July 13, but other classes of loans declined, and total investments declined 3.9 millions, a decrease of 6.7 millions in holdings of direct obligations of the United States being offset in part by increases in securities guaranteed by the United States and in Other Securities. Compared with the corresponding Wednesday a year ago, total loans by these banks show a gain of 12.1 millions, and commercial loans an increase of 14.9 millions, but investments in United States direct obligations show a decrease of 26.1 millions and total investments a decline of 14.7 millions.

Demand deposits-adjusted on July 13 were somewhat larger than the average for earlier months of the year, although somewhat less than at the corresponding time a year ago. Time deposits and Government deposits have not changed materially in recent weeks, but continue larger than at the same time last year. Deposits of other banks, and balances maintained with correspondents, have recently increased and are larger than a year ago.

At the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta discounts for member banks on the first two Wednesdays in July have been less than on most other report dates since the middle of April last year. This bank's participation in the System's holdings of United States securities was reduced at midyear, and on July 13 its total earning assets were slightly less than a year ago. After declining about 36 millions of dollars between April 6 and June 22, largely because of reduced reserve requirements, member bank reserve deposits increased about 10.6 millions between June 22 and July 13. Daily average figures of deposits and reserves for all member banks in the District indicate that reserves in the first half of June averaged about 34 millions in excess of legal requirements, and in the last half of June about 32 millions. On the basis of latest available figures, member bank reserves on July 13, amounting to \$164,781,000, were about 41 millions of dollars, or 33.1 per cent, in excess of legal requirements.

Agriculture Weather conditions in most parts of the District have recently been more favorable to growing crops than earlier in the season. Rainfall in June

CONDITION OF FEDERAL RE (In Thousands	SERVE BANK of Dollars)	OF	ATLAN	TA
•	July 13, 1938	Jun		ə From : July14,1937
Bills Discounted   Bills Bought in Open Market   Industrial Advances   United States Securities   Total Bills and Securities   Total Beserves   F. R. Note Circulation   Member Bank Reserve Deposits   U.S. Treasurer-General Account   Total Deposits   Commitments to Make Industrial   Advances	19 117 111,196 112,127 249,818 140,499 164,781 41,068 214,644	$\frac{1}{\pm 1}$	267 220 484 4,089 2,008 0,252 4,145 5,895 <b>7</b>	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

July 30, 1938

DEBITS TO INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS (In Thousands of Dollars)							
•	June 1938	Мау 1938		June 1937			
ALABAMA Birmingham	71,479 2,399 33,511 18,813	\$ 75,077 2,669 34,857 18,985	\$	86,432 2,824 37,395 23,680			
FLORIDA Jacksonville Miami Pensacola Tampa GEORGIA	67,180 27,424 7,737 24,820	69,117 33,425 8,240 26,213		72,316 33,182 8,343 28,542			
Albany. Atlanta Augusta. Brunswick. Columbus Elberton. Macon. Newnan. Savannah. Valdosta.	3,725 176,262 14,967 2,326 11,595 976 12,194 1,353 27,582 3,014	4,012 179,716 14,479 2,554 12,031 1,065 12,132 1,309 26,124 3,435		4,256 170,308 16,276 2,912 14,808 1,166 13,910 1,896 34,450 3,721			
LOUISIANA New Orleans. MISSISSIPPI Hattiesburg. Jackson. Meridian. Vicksburg.	191,925 3,584 23,042 8,288 6,166	190,347 3,861 22,036 8,343 7,361		210,045 4,707 18,854 10,269 6,688			
TENNESSEE Chattanooga Knorville Nashville	40,966 25,975 75,039	35,129 25,603 71,625		42,757 27,341 86,242			
TOTAL 26 Cities\$	883,342	\$ 889,745	\$	963,320			

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and early July has been ample in some sections but deficient in the southern and eastern part of Georgia, and in some areas in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

The July Crop Report of the United States Department of Agriculture indicates increased production this year over 1937, in the six states of this District taken as a whole, of corn, oats, hay, tobacco, potatoes, sweet potatoes, peaches, pears, sugar cane in Louisiana and Florida, and rice in Louisiana, but decreases in wheat, apples and grapes. The July estimate of oranges in Florida from the 1937 bloom increased to 26 million boxes, a gain of 15.6 per cent over the season before, and the estimate of grapefruit increased to 14.2 million boxes, but is 21.5 per cent smaller than in the previous season.

The cotton report by the Department of Agriculture showing the acreage on July 1 indicates a decrease of 22 per cent from last year for the United States, and a decrease of 20.5 per cent in the combined estimates for the six states of this District. Comparisons with the acreage on July 1 last year, and the acreage harvested, are shown in the table for these states.

The ten-market average of spot cotton prices rose from 8.06 cents per pound the latter part of May and early June to 9.15 cents on July 8, but a week later was 8.71 cents. A year earlier the average was 12.65 cents. According to the index of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, wholesale prices of farm products rose 3.3 per cent be-

COTTON ACREAGE	— (000 Or Jul 1938		Harvested 1937
Alabama Florida Georgia Louisiana Mississippi Tennessee	90 2,121 1,244 2,726	2,705 120 2,674 1,575 3,495 995	2,694 118 2,661 1,569 3,467 989
Six States		11,564 34,471	11,498 34,001

Digitized for FRASER http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/ Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis tween June 4 and July 9, but were 23.3 per cent lower than a year earlier, and wholesale prices of foods on July 9 had risen 1.8 per cent since June 4 and 3.1 per cent since May 7, but were 15.2 per cent lower than on July 10, 1937.

Estimated receipts from the sale of principal farm products in the six states of this District, including Government payments, declined further in May by 13.5 per cent, and were 20.1 per cent less than a year ago. May receipts from livestock and livestock products were larger than a month, or a year ago, offsetting in part decreases for crops and Government payments.

Fertilizer tag sales declined further in June but were larger than in June of other recent years.

Industry In the first half of 1938 the total value of construction contracts awarded in the Sixth Dis-

trict, according to F. W. Dodge Corporation statistics, was 16.7 per cent smaller than in that part of last year, and the value of building permits issued at twenty reporting cities was 14.4 per cent less. In June contract awards declined 9.5 per cent, and were 14.4 per cent less than a year ago. Residential contracts declined 3.7 per cent in June, and other awards 13.1 per cent. The value of building permits increased 13.2 per cent in June, but was 15.3 per cent less than a year ago. Of the twenty reporting cities, twelve reported increases over May but only five reported gains over June, 1937. The six months total is smaller than for corresponding periods of the past two years, but larger than for the first half of other years since 1929. There was marked improvement in the Southern Pine lumber market in the latter part of June and early July, and in the five weeks ending July 9 orders at Southern Pine mills averaged 25 per cent larger than a year ago, and about one-third larger unan production.

Lotton mills in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee consumed an average of 5,270 bales of cotton for each business day in June, an increase of 2.3 per cent over May and 5.9 per cent larger than in April, but nearly 40 per cent less than in June last year.

Coal production in Alabama and Tennessee declined further in June and was substantially less than a year ago. Daily average production of pig iron in Alabama declined 16.5 per cent in June and was 54.1 per cent less than in June, 1937. The six months total was 33.7 per cent smaller than for that part of last year, which compares with a decrease of 60 per cent for the United States. Since the reduction of \$4.00 per ton, on June 25, in the price of pig iron, press reports indicate a decided improvement in buying and in demand for some steel products. Receipts of turpentine and rosin increased in June and were larger than a year ago, and there was improvement in prices in the latter part of June and early July. Daily average production of electric power increased 2.3 per cent in May but was slightly smaller than a year earlier.

Reports from 6,161 firms in the six states of this District to the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate that employment declined 2.9 per cent in May, to the lowest level since October 1935, and that payrolls declined 1.7 per cent in May, and were the smallest in nearly two years.

#### SIXTH DISTRICT BUSINESS STATISTICS SALES STOCKS

	SA	LES		-June,	STOCKS	Collec-
<b>June</b> 1938 C		d	Com		June 1938 Compared	Ratio
<b>May</b> 1938	vith" June 193	7	v Yea	vith ir Ago	<b>with</b> June 1937	June 1938
RETAIL TRADE   Atlanta		3.6 5.5 7.0 8.5 2.3 2.3 3.1 7.9	     +	3.1 9.0 7.9 12.9 7.6 2.3 5.6 4.2	$-10.1 \\ - 6.2 \\ - 1.7 \\ - 22.6 \\ - 18.6 \\ - 4.1 \\ - 8.1 \\ - 7.8 $	26.7 31.2 30.6 26.6 32.9 30.6 29.5
WHOLESALE TRADE     Groceries	+	11.9 17.7 15.4 32.2 6.3 1.1 7.0 13.0	L LLLL	12.4 17.1 17.5 31.1 3.1 12.8 13.9	$\begin{array}{c}11.7 \\31.1 \\11.1 \\30.1 \\ + 1.9 \\ \\18.1 \end{array}$	77.5 32.4 44.7 72.9 65.4  54.0
			(000	Omitte	od)	
	Ju <b>ne</b> 1938	May 1938		June 19 <b>3</b> 7	JanJu 1938	un <b>e, I</b> ncl. 1937
COMMERCIAL FAILURES— DISTRICT Number (Actual). Liabilities. CONTRACTS AWARDED— DISTRICT. Residential. All Others. All Others. Alabama. Florida. Georgia. Louisiana. Mississippi. Tennessee. BUILDING PERMITS—	10,891 1,724 5,804 3,572 2,899 2,045 5,035	\$ 28 \$ 20,15 7,62 12,53 2,35 5,09 5,21 4,13 3,97 3,52	7 \$ 7 0 3 2 4 1 2 5	21 279 21,299 8,371 12,928 1,985 9,060 2,085 6,628 2,253 3,224 5,947	312 \$ 2,645 \$ 92,478 36,635 55,843 11,372 28,439 18,240 20,145 10,510 21,597 \$ 27,616	177 \$ 1,641 \$111,026 69,740 8,686 48,265 15,884 23,081 14,444 19,538 \$ 32,256
20 CITIES\$ Atlanta Birmingham Jacksonville Nashville New Orleans 15 Other Cities	5,039 342 362 582 77 469 3,206	\$ 4,45 31 19 58 18 2,69	1 6 7 9	5,947 624 228 382 152 508 4,053	\$ 27,616 1,854 1,477 5,717 755 2,568 15,246	\$ 32,256 2,501 2,051 2,554 2,519 2,033 20,599
PIG IRON PRODUCTION-Ton Alabama	<b>18</b> 96	11	9	209	819	1,236
COAL PRODUCTION—Tons Alabama Tennessee r — Revised.	665 303		0r 5r	1,050 444	5,158 1,968	5,782 2,54 <b>2</b>
			1000	A	••	

		(00	0 Omitted		T
	June 1938	May 1938	June 1937	Aug. 1 to Inc 1937-38	
COTTON CONSUMPTION-					
Alabama Georgia	41 83	46 77	77 134	544 1.002	799 1,448
Tennessee Total 3 States	13 137	11 134	15 226	142 1,688	176 2,423
COTTON SEED CRUSHED-	67	102	43	2,266	1,864
FERTILIZER TAG SALES-Ton Total 6 States	<b>s</b> 61	172	55	<b>2,3</b> 62	2,661
*Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana	and Mis	sissippi.			

:	May 1938	(0 April 1938	00 Omitte May 1937		ay, Incl. 1937
FARM INCOME*—Six States \$ Alabama. Florida. Georgia. Louisiana. Mississippi. Tennessee.	38,722 4,993 9,762 4,751 5,669 5,169 8,378	\$ 44,783 5,592 13,064 3,855 7,836 6,581 7,855	\$ 48,469 7,387 15,387 5,111 7,728 5,832 7,024	\$244,673 30,593 63,510 25,969 31,373 41,003 52,225	\$307,049 44,125 83,452 40,343 36,543 49,094 53,492
Florida. Georgia	52,680 77,644 10,054 37,251 5,970 11,104 94,703 14,524 30,179	234,373 83,284 114,342 113,162 5,751 106,114 657,026 410,380 246,646	240,317 70,727 148,340 133,612 5,083 103,474 701,553 449,731 251,822	1,185,342 432,481 584,430 594,509 30,548 569,414 3,396,724 1,875,483 1,521,241	1,170,545 382,382 725,170 623,677 25,020 538,651 3,465,445 2,242,114 1,223,331

\*Includes Government payments.

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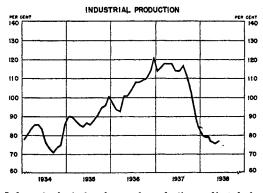
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# SIXTH DISTRICT BUSINESS INDEXES (1923-1925-100 except as noted)

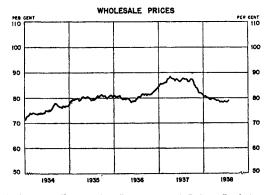
(1923-1925=100 except			
J	une 1938	May 1938	June 1937
RETAIL SALES*—Unadjusted DISTRICT (28 firms)	93.9 160.6 83.9 76.2 78.3 85.9	107.1 190.7 97.8 84.6 94.9 89.5	99.8 165.9 98.3 81.9 80.2 88.1
RETAIL SALES*—Adjusted DISTRICT (28 firms) Atlanta Birmingham Chattanooga Nashville New Orleans	104.3 184.6 90.2 68.6 85.1 96.5	106.0 181.6 96.8 82.1 85.5 92.3	110.9 190.7 105.7 73.8 87.2 98.9
RETAIL STOCKS—Unadjusted DISTRICT (24 firms). Atlanta. Birmingham. Chattanooga. Nashville. New Orleans.	56.5 46.8	69.9 109.2 71.2 61.9 52.9 61.2	69.3 109.6 67.7 57.4 57.5 58.8
RETAIL STOCKS—Adjusted DISTRICT (24 firms). Atlanta Birmingham Chattanooga Nashville. New Orleans.	67.1 102.5 66.6 58.9 48.2 60.1	68.5 108.1 69.8 60.7 52.4 60.6	72.9 114.2 68.4 59.8 59.3 62.6
WHOLESALE SALES—Total Groceries Dry Goods Hardware Furniture Drugs	66.2 51.1 41.4 73.2 71.8 99.9	65.2 49.5 46.0 73.0 61.7 97.4	81.6 57.1 51.1 89.9 79.2 105.0
CONTRACTS AWARDED—DISTRICT All Others Alabama Florida Georgia Louisiana. Mississippi Tennessee	52.4 51.7 37.7 40.0 53.6	57.4 54.4 59.5 35.1 78.2 65.7 206.0 63.6	$\begin{array}{c} 60.7\\ 59.7\\ 61.4\\ 43.4\\ 62.5\\ 31.3\\ 105.4\\ 116.9\\ 58.1 \end{array}$
BUILDING PERMITS—20 Cities Atlanta Birmingham. Jacksonville. Nashville. New Orleans. 15 Other Cities.	44.8 22.1 24.4 70.8 12.1 36.4 58.5	39.5 20.1 13.2 71.3 29.7 36.5 49.3	52.8 40.3 15.4 46.5 24.0 39.4 74.0
PIG IRON PRODUCTION-ALABAMA*	40.5	50.1	91.1
COTTON CONSUMPTION—3 STATES* Alabama. Georgia. Tennessee.	111.1 117.7 105.7 131.1	108.6 131.4 97.8 114.8	183.8 222.2 171.0 151.8
	May 1938	April 1938	May 1937
EMPLOYMENT—(Av. for 1932=100) Alabama Florida Georgia Louisiana Mississippi Tennessee Six States		129.0 117.0 132.2 120.0 103.0 117.8 124.5	150.8 109.0 152.3 125.2 115.9 142.7 140.9

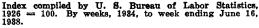
Tennessee	117.1	117.8	142.7
Six States	120.9	124.5	140.9
PAYROLLS-(Av. for 1932==100)			
Alabama	179.1	183.3	230.4
Florida	85.0	92.4	89.5
Georgia	152.5	<b>153</b> .6	204.4
Louisiana	149.0	147.8	153.6
Mississippi	121.5	124.6	160.3
Tennessee	140.0	140. <b>3</b>	186.2
Six States	150.6	153.2	186.3
ELECTRIC POWER PRODUCTION* Alabama. Florida. Georgia. Louisiana.	394.5	303.1 423.2 196.6 439.1	300.8 347.9 246.9 501.7
Mississippi	92.3	91.9	78.5
Tennessee	177.1	174.8	164.9
Six States	271.2	265.0	273.9
By Water Power	307.9	315.0	334.0

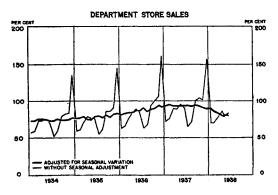
\*Indexes of retail sales, electric power and pig iron production and of cotton consumption are on a daily average basis.



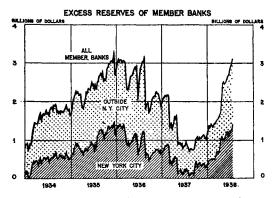
Index of physical volume of production, adjusted for seasonal variation, 1923-1925 average = 100. By months, January, 1934, to June, 1938.







Indexes of value of sales, 1928-1925 average  $\Rightarrow$  100. By months, January, 1984, to June, 1988.



Wednesday figures of estimated excess reserves for all member banks and for selected New York City banks, January 8, 1934, to July 13, 1938.

## National Summary of Business Conditions

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

I NDUSTRIAL activity showed little change in June and increased in the first three weeks of July, although there is usually a considerable decline at this season. Prices of most staple commodities advanced sharply in the latter part of June and early July and there were substantial increases in prices of stocks and lower grade bonds.

#### PRODUCTION

Volume of industrial production, as measured by the Board's seasonally adjusted index, was at 77 per cent of the 1923-1925 average in June as compared with 76 in May and an average of 79 in the first quarter of the year. Available data indicate that in July the index will show a considerable rise.

In June activity in the textile industry increased, reflecting chiefly a further rise at woolen mills. Output of cotton and silk mills, which usually declines at this season, showed little change. Shoe production declined, following a considerable increase earlier in the year.

Automobile output decreased further in June. Sales of new cars continued in excess of production, however, and stocks were further reduced. Steel production declined seasonally in June, and lumber production showed little change, although some increase is usual. Output of plate glass rose sharply from an exceptionally low level. Coal production remained in small volume in June, while output of crude petroleum, which had been sharply reduced in May, declined somewhat further.

In the first three weeks of July activity at steel mills increased, although there is usually a decline in that period, and in the third week of the month ingot production was estimated at 36 per cent of capacity as compared with an average rate of 28 per cent in June. Crude petroleum output also rose sharply, reflecting chiefly a return to production on a six-day week basis in Texas. Automobile production declined seasonally.

Value of construction contracts awarded, as reported by The F. W. Dodge Corporation, showed a decline in June, following a considerable increase in May. Changes in both months reflected chiefly fluctuations in awards for publicly-financed construction. Awards for private residential building were maintained in June at about the same daily rate as in May, although there is usually some decline at this season, and were in slightly larger volume than a year ago. Other private construction work remained at recent low levels.

#### Employment

Factory employment and payrolls decreased further from the middle of May to the middle of June. Employment in the automobile, steel, machinery, and clothing industries continued to decline, while at woolen mills there was an increase and in most other manufacturing lines changes were small. In trade employment was reduced, while in other non-manufacturing industries changes in the number employed were largely seasonal.

#### AGRICULTURE

A total wheat crop of 967,000,000 bushels was indicated by July 1 conditions, according to the Department of Agriculture. A crop of this size would be considerably larger than average and a Government program was announced for loans at close to current market prices. Gotton acreage on July 1 was esimated at 26,900,000 acres as compared with 34,500,000 acres last year when, with exceptionally high yield per acre, a record crop was harvested. Production estimates for most other major crops were slightly under the large harvests of last season.

#### DISTRIBUTION

Distribution of commodities to consumers was maintained in June at about the May level, although a decline is usual at this season. Sales at department and variety stores showed little change and mail order sales increased. In the first half of July department store sales decreased less than seasonally. Freight-car loadings showed little change from May to June and were slightly above the low level of April.

#### **COMMODITY PRICES**

Prices of industrial materials, particularly rubber, hides, non-ferous metals, and steel scrap, showed advances from the middle of June to the third week in July, and there were also increases in prices of livestock and products. Wheat prices declined, following a rise early in June. Prices of iron and steel were reduced and there were also declines in some other industrial products.

#### BANK CREDIT

Excess reserves of member banks increased substantially in June and the first half of July, rising to above \$3,000,000, as compared with \$1,730,000,000 just prior to the reduction in reserve requirements the middle of April. The largest gain in excess reserves occurred at city banks through the retirement of Treasury Bills and the continued growth of bankers' balances.

Total loans and investments of reporting member banks in 101 leading cities, which had increased sharply in the first week of June, declined during the remainder of June, reflecting largely redemption of Treasury Bills held by New York City banks and a decrease in loans to security brokers and dealers. During the first three weeks of July total loans and investments at reporting banks showed little net change.

#### MONEY RATES

Rates on Treasury Bills and Notes were slightly firmer in July but continued at exceedingly low levels. Yields on Treasury Bonds showed little change.

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