# District Business Conditions 

## Price Changes

IT Now takes around $\$ 112$ to buy the same commodities at wholesale that could be bought for $\$ 100$ in June of this year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' index of wholesale prices. A consumer buying the goods and services included in the Bureau's index of consumer prices, on the other hand, would now have to pay around $\$ 103$ for what he could buy for $\$ 100$ at midyear.
These indexes cover a wide range of commodities and services. The over-all increases, therefore, have been less spectacular than the increases in prices of certain individual commodities. Nevertheless, the rise in wholesale prices since the outbreak of the Korean War has been more rapid than in any comparable period since the removal of price controls in June 1946.
before korea. The general trend of wholesale prices continued upward after 1946 except for a few short periods of relatively minor declines. In August 1948, the all-commodity index reached a peak 50 percent above the level of June 1946. Consumer prices, usually less subject to as great or as rapid changes, climbed 27 percent between June 1946 and September 1948, when they reached their peak. Afterwards, the all-commodity index of wholesale prices declined 11 percent to its lowest point in December 1949. Consumer prices also declined and by February 1950 they were 4.6 percent below the 1948 peak. The trends were slightly upward again in 1950 even before the outbreak of the Korean War.
after korea. The outbreak of the Korean War signaled an immediate and rapid rise in the prices of so-called basic commodities such as grains, cotton, meat, rubber, and metals. Crude rubber, which had been selling at 28.2 cents a pound on Saturday before the war broke out, sold at 30.5 cents a pound the following Monday, and thirty days later the price had climbed to 48.8 cents. Cotton jumped from 33.7 cents to 39 cents a pound in the same period. Lard rose from 11 cents a pound to 16 cents. Less spectacular rises occurred in the prices of other commodities. In fact, the prices of many metals remained unchanged for a time.

Despite short periods of hesitation after the immediate excitement had subsided, commodity prices in general have continued to climb. Five months after the outbreak of the war, the rise averaged 29 percent. Of the 28 basic commodities included in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' index, only two were selling at lower prices at the end of the period than at the beginning. The prices of two commodities had risen over 100 percent; five between 50 and 100 percent; and seven between 25 and 50 percent.

Wholesale prices of other than basic commodities do not generally change as rapidly. However, since basic commodities are the raw materials for many manufactured articles, changes in their prices are later translated into price changes in a wide variety of other goods, and eventually into changes in retail prices. Therefore, the pressure exerted by rising costs is being reflected in price advances of the wide range of goods included in the more comprehensive all-commodity index.

## Expanded Bank Credit

Bank credit has helped make possible the demand which created rising prices and, at the same time, rising prices themselves have created additional demands for credit. Consumers and businessmen were able to pay for much of their heavy buying during the period by using existing liquid assets, but in many cases they could not have bought in as great quantities if credit had not been available.

Although consumer credit has increased substantially since the start of the Korean War, growth in business credit has been of greater importance. In the Sixth District, for example, it is estimated that consumer credit at all commercial banks increased 43 million dollars in the months of June through October and nonbank credit rose correspondingly. It is estimated that other types of loans rose 328 million dollars in the same period. Most of the latter growth was in commercial loans. inventory loans. Increased demands for cotton textiles and a short cotton crop combined to spur commodity dealers and textile mills to increase their cotton inventories. Textile mills, which ordinarily would have delayed the purchasing of cotton until after the first of the year, tried to secure enough materials for the completion of their heavy orders. They borrowed from banks to pay for the increased inventories.

A spot check of member banks in leading cities of the District showed that loans to textile concerns and commodity dealers with which to finance cotton inventories accounted for over a quarter of the total increase in commercial and industrial loans between the end of June and the first of November. These loans, together with inventory loans made to other types of manufacturers and trade concerns, accounted for approximately half of the total increase. Most of the remaining growth came from borrowing to secure additional working capital, a large portion of which was borrowed by sales finance companies. Further additions arose from temporary loans to finance urban mortgages.
private credit expansion. A significant feature revealed by the survey was already evident. Recent increases in demand have come largely from the private sector of the economy.

So far as commercial banks in this area are concerned, expansion of credit for defense purposes has been negligible.

Military demands, however, can be expected to exert an increasing pressure in the future. Total expenditures by the Air Force, Army, and Navy averaged 1,007 million dollars in the third quarter of this year, only 6 percent more than the average monthly expenditures in the first half of the year. By November they had risen to 1,466 million dollars and can be expected to climb further.

Because the restriction of private credit expansion will diminish inflationary pressures, a halt in the loan expansion at District banks would be encouraging. During both October and November, total loans at reporting banks in leading cities rose over 50 million dollars. During the three weeks ended December 20, they rose 20 million dollars more.
C. T. T.

## What has happened to prices

1. When the Korean War started in June, wholesale prices had declined 8.4 percent from their postwar peak and consumer prices 2.5 percent. PERGENT CHANGE JUNE 1950 FROM POSTWAR PEAK

2. Since June of this year, wholesale prices have increased 9.2 percent and consumer prices have increased 2.7 percent, both to the highest points on record.


## Bank Announcements

On December 14, the Merchants Trust and Savings Bank, Kenner, Louisiana, opened for business as a member of the Federal Reserve System. This bank began its operations with capital stock of $\$ 150,000$, surplus of $\$ 30,000$, and reserves of $\$ 20,000$. Its officers are J. P. Morgan, President; William B. Wood, Executive Vice President; Lurry D. Lacour, Vice President; and J. F. Nelson, Cashier.

## Price Controls on Farm Products

Both farmers and consumers of farm products are certain to be affected by the rapid re-imposition of economic controls that seems to be in prospect. Representatives of the meat processing industry have already been conferring with Government officials in regard to price controls on some meats and meat products. Because expenditures for meat are such a large proportion of the average family's total food cost, the level of meat prices has important effects upon the socalled "cost-of-living" index, which in turn is used in wage negotiations and in other decisions that have far-reaching effects upon the entire economy.

As the nation enters another period of governmentally directed effort, it has one potential advantage that it did not have in previous similar periods. The experience with controls in the last war is recent enough that it can be used to avoid many of the mistakes that were made and it will provide some general guides for establishing more efficient programs. Whether or not this advantage will be exploited will depend, in part, upon how well the purposes and limitations of controls are generally understood.

Although controls such as price ceilings and rationing may become quite complicated, some of the simple but basic facts can be illustrated with reference to meat. Early in 1948 when the question of rationing meat was intensively investigated by a congressional committee, the purposes of controlling meat prices and consumption were set forth as: to maintain the meat supply as far as other conditions permit; to prevent large increases in meat prices; and to assure a more equitable distribution among classes of consumers. This statement of purposes seems fairly applicable to the situation today.

The experience with controls on meat during the last war and the postwar period shows clearly that programs can be successful and efficient only if there is a general acceptance by farmers, processors, distributors, administrators, and consumers that controls serve a useful purpose. The record indicates that few persons oppose the maintenance of the meat supply, the prevention of large price increases, or a more equitable distribution. When price controls have been used as a means to these ends, however, many persons have been disappointed with the results. The feeling that controls have not worked satisfactorily is partly because their limitations were not fully appreciated before the programs began.

Pork supplies, for example, cannot be maintained unless farmers get as much money from producing hogs as they do from alternative enterprises. This means that pork prices must be high enough to give the land, labor, and money used in pork production as high a return as these production factors could earn producing something else.

Because of rising costs of pork production or more attrac-
tive returns elsewhere, price ceilings on pork may have to be adjusted to prices of other commodities if the supply of pork is to be maintained. Under these circumstances it may be impossible to achieve the second objective-the prevention of large price increases.

During the last war, this conflict in purposes was partly resolved by the Government paying the farmer the approximate difference between the ceiling price and the price required to keep him producing pork. The essential point is that price controls and rationing are not, by themselves, adequate tools for achieving the purposes set forth by many of their proponents. An early recognition that direct Government subsidies may also be required would do much to avoid future dissatisfaction.

Although subsidies can be used to overcome some of the shortcomings of direct controls on meat, there is no ready answer on how to achieve the third purpose, that is, a more equitable distribution among classes of consumers. In this connection it may be helpful to remember that there are price controls and rationing of a sort even in a free market. Governmental pricing and rationing are merely substitutes for the price determination process and for the rationing by prices.

In the free market the determination of prices and the allocation of supplies have a high degree of precision. In a controlled market, on the other hand, an evaluation of some one individual, pricing board, or group is imposed on the entire market. Just how subjective these evaluations can be and how difficult it is to define the terms used is illustrated by some of the testimony during the 1948 hearings on meat rationing proposals. One witness urged that "action be taken to restore meat prices to reasonable levels," and that "a fair distribution and allocation of meat is desirable."
Most major changes in meat prices occur because of changes in consumer incomes. Presumably the "unfair distribution" that occurs when prices rise is a result of an "unfair" sharing in income increases. Here again, the limitations of price control and rationing as a means of obtaining a more equitable distribution of meat become apparent. Rationing alone will not enable the low income consumers to buy more meat unless the price of meat is lowered or unless the price of meat is held constant while the low incomes rise. Subsidies, in addition to rationing and price control, would be necessary to create either of the favorable situations for low income consumers.
B. R. R.

## Industry and Employment

The November volume of construction contracts awarded in the Sixth District was about the same as the October amount; steel mill operations continued above rated capacity; coal output was at about the same rate as in October; and textile mill operations were off only slightly.
total value of construction contracts awarded was off less than one percent from October to November and was 11.2 percent less than in November 1949. Residential awards, however, declined 12.4 percent further in November. The value of residential contracts has declined each month since July, and the November amount was 38 percent below that for July. For the first eleven months of 1950 , total contract awards amounted to $1,458,779$ dollars, an increase of 41 percent over the corresponding part of 1949. Residential awards, which accounted for 43.4 percent of the total in the first eleven months of 1949, and to 49 percent in that part of 1950, increased 58.9 percent in amount. In the January-November

Sixth District Statistics

| CONDITION OF 27 MEMBER BANKS IN LEADING CITIES |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| (In Thousands of Dollars) |  |  |  |  |  |  |


| DEBITS TO INDIVIDUAL BANK ACCOUNTS (In Thousands of Dollars) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Nov. 1950 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Oct. } \\ & 1950 \end{aligned}$ | Nov. 1949 | Percent Change |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Nov. 1950 from |  | Year-to- <br> date 11 <br> mos. 1950 <br> from 1949 |
|  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Oct. } \\ & 1950 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | Nov. $1949$ |  |
| ALABAMA |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Anniston.. | 25,735 | 27,828 | 21,215 | -8 | +21 | +13 |
| Birmingham. | 389,541 | 416,489 | 310,036 | $-10_{6}^{6}$ | $+26$ | $+16$ |
| Dothan..... | 17,591 | 19,449 | 14,483 | $-10$ | +21 | +15 |
| Gadsden | 23,183 141.883 | 23,919 | 18,249 | -3 | +27 +22 | +18 |
| Mobile... | 141,883 92,321 | 148,549 | 116,648 78,970 | -14 | +22 +17 | +6 |
| FLORIDA |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jacksonville... | 375,000 | 319,641 | 272.904 | $+17$ | +37 | +19 |
| Miami......... | 280,314 | 263,846 | 240,454 | +6 | +17 | $+15$ |
| Greater Miami* | 411,443 | 389,074 | 335,860 | $+6$ | +22 | +19 |
| Orlando....... | 52,507 | 58,614 | 53,416 | -10 | -2 | $+24$ |
| Pensacola | 38,676 | 38,842 | 35,807 | -0 | $+8$ | +8 |
| St. Petersburg. | 75,037 146,177 | 69,283 131,973 | 56,993 130,724 | +8 +11 | +32 +12 | + 23 |
| GEORGIA |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Albany. . | 33,504 | 32,061 | 25,683 | +4 | $+30$ | +15 |
| Atlanta. | 1,014,902 | 1,121,301 | 830,559 | -9 | +22 | $+17$ |
| Augusta | -68,514 | -79,375 | 54,618 | -14 | +25 | +13 |
| Brunswick | 10,383 | 9,258 | 8,132 | +12 | +28 | +13 |
| Columbus. | 68,549 | 68,386 | 53,655 | +0 | +28 | +27 +13 |
| Elberton.... | 4,865 | [5,411 | +4,201 | +10 -5 | +16 +57 | +13 +29 |
| Gainesville* | 22,184 | 23,228 <br> 15,406 | 14,164 11,970 | -5 | +57 +19 | +29 +12 |
| Macon. | 74,994 | 77,345 | 57,854 | -3 | +30 | +19 |
| Newnan | 11,458 | 13.461 | 9,519 | -15 | +20 | +14 |
| Rome*. | 28,835 | 27,882 | 22,643 | +3 | +27 | +18 |
| Savannah | 102,938 | 107,316 | 81,384 | -4 | +26 | $+13$ |
| Valdosta. | 12,912 | 12,574 | 12,281 | +3 | $+5$ | +1 |
| LOUISIANA |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Alexandria*... | 29,370 | 41,619 | 31,452 | -29 | $-7$ | +15 |
| Baton Rouge. . | 108.579 | 111.599 | 102,925 | -3 | + 5 | -3 |
| Lake Charles.. | 44,180 843,999 | 42,116 849,087 | 700,556 | + | +26 +20 | +11 +12 |
| MISSISSIPPI |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hattiesburg. | 19,001 | 20,086 | 16,446 | -5 | $+16$ | +13 |
| Jackson..... | 161,268 | 159,874 | 136,776 | $+1$ | +18 | +13 |
| Meridian.. | 30,916 | 33,753 | 25,386 | -8 | +22 | +15 |
| Vicksburg. . | 30,342 | 31,488 | 27,155 | -4 | +12 | +3 |
| T'ENNESSEE |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chattanooga. | 170,883 | 166,492 |  | +3 | +25 | $+15$ |
| Knoxville.. | 125,827 | 138,125 | 102,154 | -5 | +23 | +14 |
|  | 372,986 | 386,067 | 320,280 | -3 | +16 | +18 |
| SIXTH DIS'TRICT | 4,968,965 | 5,084,793 | 4,090,920 | -2 | +21 | +15 |
| UNITED STATES |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 333 Cities. | 123,544,000 | 125,784,000 | 99,491,000 | -2 | $+24$ | +5 |

period other awards increased 26.8 percent over the same period in 1949. Florida again led the other five states of the District in both total and residential contracts.
textile mill activity in November, on the basis of daily average rate of cotton consumption by the mills, was off less than 2 percent from October this year in the District states and was off nearly 12 percent in the nation. Consumption averaged 17 percent more than in November 1949, and for the country it was up 14 percent. For the four months of the current cotton year, District consumption totaled 1,337,575 bales, an increase of 31.8 percent over the corresponding part of the previous year; in the entire country, consumption increased 26.2 percent. Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee accounted for 36.9 percent of the country's total consumption in the August-November 1950 period.
electric power production in the District was off slightly from September to October, but the daily rate in October was 14.7 percent higher than it was a year earlier. Hydro-generated current dropped nearly 10 percent in October, following increases in both August and September. But production at plants using fuels increased 7.3 percent in October after declining by slightly more than that in September. Fuelproduced power was up 35 percent in October, compared with October 1949, but hydro-generated current was off about 5 percent.
manufacturing employment in the District states increased slightly further in October. The October index, which stood at 152.2 percent of the 1939 average, was nearly 9 percent above that for April, but most of that increase was in July, August, and September. The October index was 10.3 percent higher than the index for October 1949. There were small declines from September in Alabama and Tennessee that were a little more than offset in the total by increases in the other four states. In comparison with October 1949, there were gains in all six of the District states, ranging from 4.6 percent in Louisiana to 19.5 percent in Alabama.

In the more important lines of industry-textiles, chemicals, primary metals, fabricated metals products, and paper and paper products-employment increased in October. There were small declines, mostly seasonal, in lumber, food and food products, apparel, and transportation equipment. In all important lines, employment was at a higher level than it was in October a year earlier, the gains for the year ranging up to 22.6 percent in the transportation equipment industry and to about 77 percent in primary metals.

In Alabama there was a rather substantial decrease in October employment in shipbuilding that was followed by a smaller reduction in November. Employment in food and food products was off, but there was a 7.6 percent gain in chemicals and allied products. The October index for Florida was up 2.6 percent from September because of gains in canning and preserving food products, in apparel, fabricated metals products, tobacco, chemicals, and transportation equipment. In Georgia, October gains in textiles, chemicals, and some other lines slightly more than made up for losses in food, metals, and apparel. Louisiana's principal gains for the month were in shipbuilding and repair and chemicals. Mississippi reported gains in textiles, chemicals, and some other lines which were about offset by reductions in food, lumber, and apparel. Tennessee losses in food products, tobacco, lumber, and transportation equipment slightly more than offset gains in other industries.
D. E. M.

# Deposit Growth at Tennessee Member Banks 

Since the end of World War II, changes in total deposits at Sixth District member banks in Tennessee have closely resembled those in deposits at banks throughout the country. After a period of greater-than-national growth, beginning with 1941 and extending through 1945, the annual rates of change at Tennessee banks have been almost identical with the national rates of change from year to year.

The preceding studies in this series on bank deposits have shown marked deviation in the trends of deposits in the other District states from the national trend. Most of these have been explained by variations in the states' chief incomeproducing activities. In Mississippi, the main source of income was agriculture; in Florida, it was the tourist industry; in Georgia, nondurable goods manufacturing, particularly textiles. In Alabama, the influence of heavy industry was clearly evident; in Louisiana, trade and service incomes were found to be of great importance.

The more a single type of income-producing activity predominates in any state, the more are changes in deposits at banks in that state likely to diverge from the national average. That deposit trends at Tennessee member banks have conformed closely to national trends can probably be explained by the diversified character of the state's income base.

## A Diversified Economy

The 68 member banks located in the 74 counties east of the Tennessee River, the area included in the Sixth Federal Reserve District, serve a territory in which manufacturing has more relative importance as a source of income than in any other District state except Alabama. Manufacturing is almost as important in this area as it is in the nation.

Tennessee's manufacturing is diversified. The textile industry is the leading employer, but it has much less relative importance than in other Distriet states. The same is true of the lumber industry, the second most important employer. In addition, the state has important metal and metal working manufacturing establishments, chemical plants, and a wide variety of other manufacturing activities.

Although agriculture is a source of over 10 percent of the income payments to individuals in Tennessee, it, too, is diversified. A greater proportion of agricultural income is from livestock rather than from crops. Cotton is of minor importance in most of the Sixth District section of Tennessee; no other single crop predominates as a source of income.

Of course the income base in each area is more specialized than that for the state as a whole. Consequently, there is more divergence from the national trend of deposits in these areas than throughout the entire state. The greatest rate of increase between 1939 and 1949 in deposits at member banks occurred in the Tri-Cities area of Bristol, Johnson City, Kingsport, and the surrounding counties, where deposits rose 281 percent. The 10 -year increase for the Knoxville area was next, 244 percent, followed by a gain of 236 percent in the Nashville area and by one of 162 percent in the Chattanooga area. Each of these rates exceeded the national rate.

Member banks in Middle and East Tennessee, the area served by the Nashville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, have on their books approximately 75 percent of total bank deposits in the area. Banks in this area hold approximately 65 percent of total bank deposits in the state. Changes in deposits at the member banks, therefore, represent fairly well changes at both nonmember and member banks.

## Prewar and Wartime Gains

Even before the beginning of the defense program, which pushed deposits up almost everywhere, deposits were increasing more rapidly at the Tennessee banks than throughout the country. The upward climb began after the lowest point of the depression had been reached in 1933 and it was not even interrupted by the recession in 1937, which was reflected in lower deposits in many parts of the country. Sixth District member banks in Tennessee had only 132 million dollars in deposits on their books at the end of 1933. By 1935 they had more than regained deposits lost in the depression, and by the end of 1941 their deposits totaled 405 million dollars.

As elsewhere, the growth of deposits at the Tennessee banks was extremely rapid during the war years. The more rapid growth at Tennessee banks than in other states can be traced chiefly to expansion of manufacturing activity as well as to the expanded military establishments there. Growth in agricultural income played a minor role.

By 1945, Tennessee manufacturing pay rolls were more than double what they were in 1941. Although agricultural income had increased 81 percent, the amount added to the state's income by manufacturing pay rolls was more than twice as great as the increase in income from agriculture. Total income payments in 1945 were practically double what they were in 1941, whereas throughout the country income

INDEX OF TOTAL MEMBER BANK DEPOSITS

payments had increased 68 percent. Deposits had climbed to over a billion dollars at the end of 1945.

Particularly outstanding during the war period was the growth of deposits at banks in the Knoxville area. At the end of 1945 these banks had over four times as much on their books in deposits as at the end of 1939. Much of this spectacular growth can be attributed to the development of the atomic center at Oak Ridge.

But aside from the atomic development, the growth in manufacturing employment during the war in Tennessee was not concentrated at plants strictly classified as war manufacturing plants. The state added to its diversified manufacturing. The war industries of shipbuilding, aircraft, and munitions manufacturing were important, but the bulk of the additional employment came at existing, expanded, or permanent new installations. As a consequence, the end of war demands did not mean as great a problem of reconversion as would have been the case otherwise.

## Postwar Changes

Despite the cut in some types of war manufacturing in 1946 with a resulting decline in manufacturing pay rolls, total income payments in Tennessee were slightly greater in 1946 than in 1945. Most of the drop in total deposits was caused by a decline in United States Government deposits. The drop of 10 percent in Tennessee corresponded very closely to that of the country as a whole. At many banks outside the major cities, where Government deposits were relatively unimportant, deposits were practically unchanged.

TOTAL DEPOSITS AT TENNESSEE MEMBER BANKS

| Area | Percent Change, End of Year |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1939-45 | 1945-46 | 1946-48 | 1948-49 | 1939-49 |
| Chattanooga Area*. | +185 | -7 | -1 | -0 | $+162$ |
| City of Chattanooga. | +173 | -5 | -1 | +1 | $+161$ |
| Outside Chattanooga. | $+255$ | -15 | -3 | -7 | +171 |
| Knoxville Area. . . . . . . . | $+322$ | -15 | $+1$ | -2 | $+254$ |
| City of Knoxville. | $+306$ | -18 | +3 | -2 | +236 |
| Outside Knoxville | $+398$ | -6 | -5 | -2 | $+338$ |
| Nashville Area**. . | $+271$ | -11 | $+3$ | +2 | $+244$ |
| City of Nashville. | $+248$ | -15 | +4 | $+3$ | $+218$ |
| Outside Nashville | + +361 | -1 | +1 | -2 | $+347$ |
| Tri-Cities Area. | +281 | $-0$ | $+5$ | -5 | +281 |
| Tennessee***. | $+253$ | -10 | +2 | +1 | $+224$ |
| Sixth District. | +254 | -8 | +1 | +0 | +228 |
| United States. | $+163$ | -9 | +2 | $+2$ | +151 |

* Includes 3 north Alabama counties.
* Includes 2 north Alabama and 4 Georgia counties.
** Includes only counties in the Sixth District part of Tennessee.
The same type of economic changes that raised deposits at all member banks in the country 2 percent between 1946 and 1948 meant a growth of 2 percent at the Tennessee banks. The rates of change were also approximately the same from 1948 to 1949. Again in 1950, changes in Tennessee deposits have conformed more closely to national than to District trends. At the end of October this year, deposits at the Tennessee member banks were up 4.3 percent from a year ago; throughout the nation, deposits increased 4.5 percent.

Deposit trends at Tennessee member banks since the end of the war well illustrate the advantages of a diversified economic structure. Because Tennessee is not subject to as extreme economic changes as the states with less balanced economies, the purchasing power represented by deposits in its banks reflects the basic strength of its long-time growth.

Charles T. Taylor

## Sixth District Statistics

| INSTALMENT CASH LOANS |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lender | No. of Lenders Reporting | Volume |  | Outstandings |  |
|  |  | Percent Change Nov. 1950, from |  | Percent Change Nov. 1950, from |  |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Oct } \\ & 1950 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Nov. } \\ & 1949 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Oct. } \\ & 1950 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Nov. } \\ & 1949 \end{aligned}$ |
| Federal credit unions. | 40 | +13 | $+1$ | +0 |  |
| State credit unions......... | 19 | +25 | $-0$ | -1 | +31 |
| Industrial banks.......... | 8 | -7 | $+7$ | -1 | $+10$ |
| Industrial loan companies. . | 10 | +2 | $-24$ | $+25$ | $+11$ |
| Small loan companies...... | 38 | +3 | +2 | $+1$ | +9 |
| Commercial banks......... | 33 | -17 | -8 | $-1$ | +32 |

Retail furniture store operations

| Item | $\begin{gathered} \text { Number } \\ \text { of } \\ \text { Stores } \\ \text { Reporting } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Percent Change Nov. 1950, from |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Oct. 1950 | Nov. 1949 |
| Total sales. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 115 | -1 | $-11$ |
| Cash sales. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 199 | $+7$ | $+9$ |
| Instalment and other credit sales.. | 99 | -4 | -16 |
| Accounts receivable, end of month | 110 | -2 | $+16$ |
| Collections during month......... | 110 | -5 | +11 |
| Inventories, end of month......... | 84 | -1 | +18 |

WHOLESALE SALES AND INVENTORIES*

| Type of Wholosalor | SALES |  |  | Inventories |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{\|c} \begin{array}{c} \text { No. of } \\ \text { Firms } \\ \text { Roport } \\ \text { ing } \end{array} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Percent Change } \\ & \text { Nov. 1950, irome } \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{array}{\|l\|l\|} \hline \begin{array}{c} \text { No. of } \\ \text { Firmg } \\ \text { Repori- } \end{array} \end{array}$ | Percent ChangeNov. 30,1950, from |  |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Octiot } \\ & 19950 \end{aligned}$ | $\xrightarrow{\text { Nor }}$ |  |  | ${ }_{\text {Nog }}{ }_{\text {Nas }}$ |
| Electrical group |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wiring supplies. |  | -88 |  | ${ }_{3}^{3}$ | +3 +24 +24 | $\square_{+10}$ |
| Generat hardware. ${ }_{\text {S }}^{\text {Industrial supplies.. }}$ | 11 | -13 | $\stackrel{+22}{+59}$ |  |  |  |
| Jewerry.......i... |  | $-1$ | $\stackrel{+8}{+8}$ | 3 | $+\ddot{2}$ | +5 |
| Lumber and build- |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Contectionery | ${ }_{4}^{4}$ | -20 | + + + |  |  |  |
| Dryss and sundries. | $\begin{array}{r}9 \\ 18 \\ \hline 9\end{array}$ | - $-\frac{1}{9}$ | +8 +9 +9 +9 | 13 | -3 | +35 |
| dry goods. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\underset{\substack{\text { Fulliline. } \\ \text { Specialty } \\ \text { line }}}{ }$ | 34 10 | +5 +9 +9 | +66 | $\stackrel{25}{4}$ | +5 +17 | +28 +19 |
| Shoes and other |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tobacco product |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Miscellaneous... | 149 | $\begin{array}{r}+8 \\ +3 \\ +2 \\ \hline\end{array}$ | + +17 +17 | ${ }^{17}$ | +8 +8 +8 + | +14 ++20 +1 |



[^0] * When fewer than three stores report in a given city, the sales or stocks are grouped together under "other cities." They are, however, included in state figures.

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[^0]:    * Includes reports from 118 stores in the Sixth Federal Reserve District.

