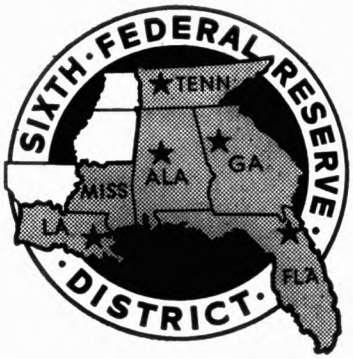

Monthly Review

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, JULY 31, 1953

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Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

DISTRICT BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

Total payments made by bank checks continued to exceed those of a year ago in practically all reporting cities of the District.

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Department store sales in July were slightly above those of a year ago, and if the normal seasonal increases occur during the remainder of the year, they will surpass last year's high levels.

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Total employment, according to latest figures, is up this year although 13 out of 19 areas surveyed still had moderate labor surpluses.

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Manufacturing employment edged up more than seasonally in May in all leading industries except lumber, chemicals, and transportation equipment.

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Money became easier as reduced reserve requirements went into effect at member banks. Banks used freed reserves to repay indebtedness to Federal Reserve Bank and to purchase Government securities.

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Business loans began to rise at weekly reporting banks in leading cities during the last weeks of July, about the time the seasonal upturn has occurred in previous years.

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Number of employees on Federal payroll in District states, after declining steadily since January, fell below the year-ago level in April, for the first time this year, and in May continued below last year.

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Foreign trade through District ports was down in the first third of this year from a year ago because a slight rise in imports was more than offset by a sharp drop in exports.

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Cash farm receipts in District states were off 5 percent for the first four months of 1953 and probably have continued to decline at this rate.

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Cotton acreage in District states is estimated to be one percent higher than last season, compared with a 9-percent decline for the nation, but boll weevil damage may cause District crop to be smaller than last year.

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Although some farm costs, such as wages and gasoline and fertilizer prices, continue to rise, lower prices for pesticides and feed have helped reduce costs to some District farmers.

•

Major new manufacturing plants, or expansion projects, announced for the District during the first half of 1953, were greater in both number and dollar value than those announced in the preceding six months, but considerably lower than during the like period of 1952.

Bank Loans to Retailers Climb

Higher Inventories and More Credit Sales Lead to Expanded Borrowing

Retailers in the Sixth District relied more upon bank borrowing in the first half of this year than in the like period last year. Between January 1 and the end of June, retail trade loans outstanding at 22 weekly reporting member banks in leading cities rose 12 million dollars. This increase is noteworthy in that it is in direct contrast with a half-million-dollar decline in the same period of 1952.

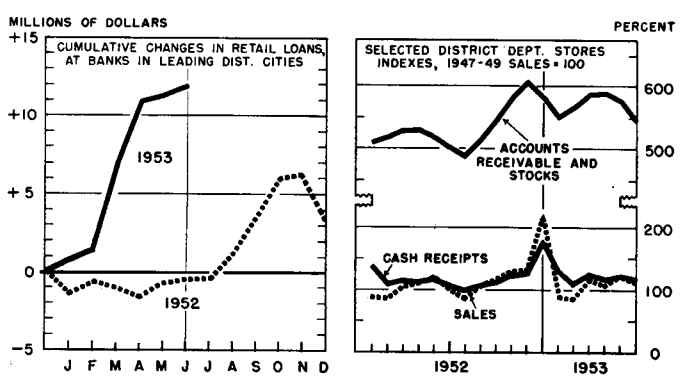
A high level of retail sales has accompanied this borrowing. Since a substantial proportion of these sales is made on credit, merchants have had to carry a large dollar volume of receivables and inventories.

Consumer spending in the District during 1953 has continued at a record level. Indicative of the trend in retail trade through July 18 this year is the 5-percent gain in department store sales over the year-ago dollar volume. After declining moderately from the December level, seasonally adjusted sales rose sharply in May to a point only slightly below the dollar volume of the June 1952 all-time high. In June this year seasonally adjusted sales were off a little from May, a trend apparently continuing into July.

Because department stores sell a wide variety of merchandise and because they are among the largest retail outlets in the District, what happens to them gives some indication of developments in retail trade at large. Consequently, department store data can be used to shed some light on the forces prompting expanded borrowings by retailers.

Consumers Owe More The seasonal pattern of sales at department stores causes variations in working capital requirements. During the spring, when cash receipts are down from the winter peak, these stores need more funds to carry their receivables. As is usual, charge and instalment accounts receivable increased somewhat during the first half of the year. And, although the proportion of department store sales made on credit has been practically constant since the start of 1952, receivables are up considerably from last year simply because of the larger dollar volume of sales. Charge and instalment receivables in the first half of this year averaged 6 and 21 percent higher, respectively, than in the same period a year ago. The latter gain particularly reflected higher sales of major household appliances and furniture.

COMMERCIAL BANK LOANS to retailers have risen more rapidly this year than last, largely because inventories and receivables have increased at a faster pace than cash receipts.



Coincident with the expansion in receivables has been an increase in collections on these accounts. In most months since the beginning of 1952, however, debts have grown more rapidly than repayments. As a result, some merchants have had to turn to banks to obtain working capital for financing credit purchases of their customers.

Working capital requirements have risen because the cash inflow at District department stores has not kept pace with the growth in receivables and inventories. According to data from a representative group of these stores, the average expansion in receivables and inventories combined in the first half of 1953, as compared to the same period of 1952, was twice as great as the growth in cash receipts.

Inventories Increase Seasonally Retailers' inventory policies have been still another drain on their cash resources. Department store inventories rose seasonally from January through June. After taking this seasonal movement into consideration, inventories have remained virtually unchanged since December at a level of around 140 percent of the 1947-49 average.

Although inventories in most lines of goods handled by department stores were higher in the first half of this year than a year ago, the largest gains occurred in soft goods. Inventories of women's clothing and men's wear averaged 11 percent and 9 percent higher, respectively, whereas, inventories of home furnishings—the chief durable line sold at department stores—advanced only 6 percent.

The inventory influence on the loan trend this year may be visualized also in terms of the relationship of inventories to sales. Department stores were carrying an average of 3.2 months supply of merchandise on hand in the first half of 1953. This average was only slightly below the postwar high recorded in the comparable period of 1951, but was a little above the corresponding 1952 rate.

Bigger Tax Payments Still another element affecting the department store demand for bank credit is a corporate tax law change designed to speed up income tax payments. This year corporations electing to pay their taxes on the instalment plan are required to pay 40 percent in the first quarter following the close of their business year, as opposed to 35 percent last year. For most department stores, January closes the fiscal year, so payments were made in April. The tax law also requires payment of 40 percent of the annual tax in the second quarter and 10 percent in each of the last two quarters.

Commercial bank loans to retailers probably will rise in the last half of 1953 if only because of the usual seasonal advance in sales. In anticipation of this increase, merchants can be expected to build up inventories and to carry a larger dollar volume of receivables.

BASIL A. WAPENSKY

Bank Adjustments to Seasonal Business Requirements

Within a few weeks, bank loans will reach a seasonal low point. After that, barring unforeseen developments, the normal fall and winter growth will commence. Partly in recognition of the probable seasonal requirements this fall and winter, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System recently announced a reduction in member bank reserve requirements. To the extent that the recent reduction was designed to ease seasonal pressures, this action has precedent, for one of the Federal Reserve System's responsibilities is to provide the banking system with the reserves necessary to meet the needs of the economy. Determining the degree of adjustment needed and choosing a proper method of meeting seasonal business fluctuations are two of the major recurrent problems of the monetary authority.

Seasonal Business Fluctuations Present a Major Problem in Bank Operations

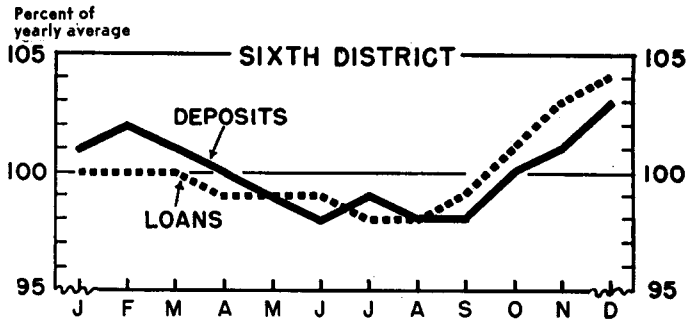
Individual commercial banks also face the problem of adjusting to seasonal fluctuations in loan demand. Many banks find this to be their most difficult problem, and they are forced to make considerably greater adjustments proportionately than those required for the entire banking system. Two factors tend to make their seasonal problem greater. On the one hand, the seasonal pattern of loan demand of a single bank may not coincide with that of the entire banking system because of particular economic characteristics of the community it serves. This means that it sometimes has to "paddle against the current" of the seasonal monetary adjustments of the Federal Reserve System. On the other hand, unlike the banking system, the individual bank's ability to grant loans is strictly circumscribed by the amount of its deposits. Because some banks experience seasonal deposit fluctuations almost directly opposed to the seasonal pattern of loan fluctuations, they frequently find that their ability to lend is weakest at the time when demand for loans is strongest.

In the Sixth Federal Reserve District, aggregate member bank loans follow almost the same pattern as that for the nation. Loans begin to rise in late summer or early fall, reaching a peak in December. In the early months of the year, a substantial liquidation of loans occurs until the low point is reached in midsummer. The seasonal pattern of bank loans for the entire District is, of course, a sum of many diverse movements in individual segments of the regional economy, and few individual banks find their experience to be precisely the same as that of the District aggregate. The process of meeting the seasonal requirements of business is a crucial point in the relation of the individual commercial bank to the Federal Reserve System, and is one of the greatest internal difficulties of bank management. Consequently, some knowledge of the seasonal problem is essential both to an understanding of Federal Reserve policy and to the intelligent operation of a commercial bank.

Seasonal Pattern of Loan Demand Varies Among Banks

In agricultural areas, bank loans typically increase in the spring because of farmers' needs for seed, fertilizer, and other production items. As the season advances and farmers need additional funds to cultivate the growing crops and to tide themselves over until the mature crops can be harvested and sold, loans increase. In some cases the loans are made directly to farmers, and in others they are made to retailers who extend trade credit to their farm customers. Normally, bank loans then are liquidated and remain at a low level until the cycle begins again in the spring.

In a number of areas in the Sixth District, the agricultural cycle dominates bank lending. In the South Georgia, Orlando, Jackson, Dothan, Macon, and Lafayette-Iberia areas, the agricultural loan cycle appears to be the characteristic pattern of lending. In these sections it is estimated that agricultural income payments to individuals

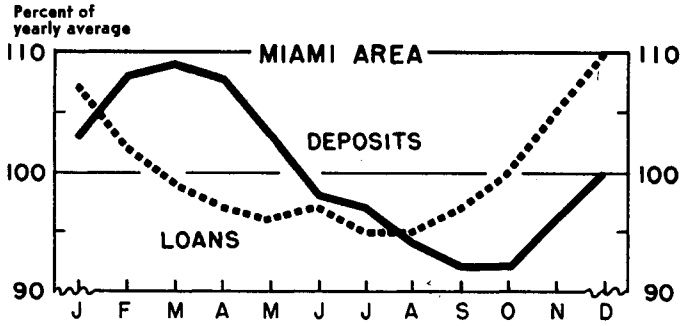


For the consolidated District banking system, deposit and loan patterns are similar, but variations occur in particular areas. For example, member banks . . .

are more than twice as great as manufacturing payrolls. The time of the peaks and troughs of total loans varies from area to area depending both upon the dates of planting and harvesting the major crops and upon the typical financing practices in regard to these crops.

Most major cities and non-agricultural areas of the District experience a seasonal pattern of loans almost directly the reverse of that experienced in areas dominated by agriculture. Loans begin to rise in late summer and early fall, reaching a peak in December. Then they decline throughout the spring. This pattern, in the main, is probably the result of the seasonal needs of trade and

manufacturing concerns. Many manufacturing concerns find some portion of their sales directly dependent upon holiday promotions, and they must accumulate inventories to meet this need. Also retailers ordinarily must build their inventories and extend more trade credit for holiday seasons. Finally, some institutions in the major centers



. . . in the Miami area find loan demand declining in the spring when tourist dollars are flowing in, whereas . . .

are important in financing the holding of farm commodities in the interval between the harvest and the actual processing or distributing of the finished products. All these activities combine to produce a trade and manufacturing pattern of seasonal loan demand. The importance of the major city banks is such that the over-all loan activity for the Sixth District in any year roughly follows this trade and manufacturing pattern.

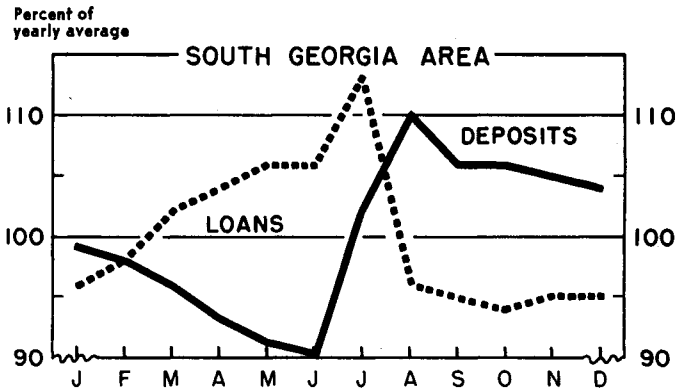
Loan and Deposit Fluctuations Do Not Coincide at Many District Banks

Nationally, seasonal fluctuations in deposits approximate very closely seasonal fluctuations in total loans. This, of course, follows from the very nature of the banking process. For many individual banks, however, loan and deposit fluctuations do not coincide, and the broad principles of credit creation and extinction offer little comfort. The problem of adjusting to seasonal patterns of business activity, therefore, constitutes a continuing and crucial aspect of the operations of these banks. Two types of areas in the District seem to be particularly affected in this respect.

In some areas of Florida, banks typically experience an enormous increase in deposits in the winter and early spring as a consequence of the inflow of tourists. Although there is little question that the communities obtain the major portion of their livelihood from such business, as the tourist season ends the banks begin to experience an outflow of deposits. Some deposits are lost when the transient population leaves. In addition, when the tourist season is over, the permanent residents ordinarily purchase goods from outside the area at a faster rate than they sell locally produced goods. Thus the banks periodically find themselves with large amounts of resources available for only very short-term loans. Unfortunately, however, the tourist industry has little demand for such loans since funds for current payrolls and inventories are obtained from cash payments by the guests. This means that banks in these areas must find short-term outlets for their funds elsewhere. Their problem is made more acute by the heavy peak servicing load, the need for temporary help, and the low return that can be realized on short-term funds.

Adjusting to seasonal changes is even more difficult for banks located in areas that are largely agricultural. Here the sharp fall of deposits during the spring and summer—nearly the entire period of rising loan demand—acts to restrict bank lending. On the other hand, the financing of agriculture is so important to these communities that, without adequate bank credit, it is extremely doubtful that they could survive. The seasonal problem, therefore, is of considerable importance to the community as well as to the lending institution itself.

Agricultural banks face another difficult time when the crops are sold. Almost immediately loans drop and deposits shoot skyward. Banks find themselves with free reserves and little loan demand. Furthermore, the high deposit level shrinks throughout winter and spring as the



. . . member banks in South Georgia face a growing loan demand in the spring and early summer when deposits are falling.

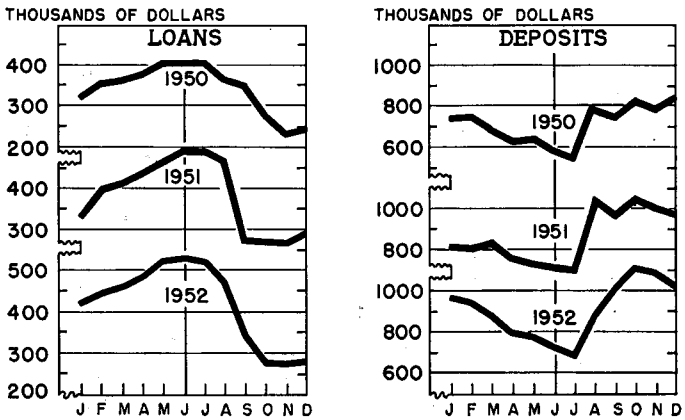
community continues to purchase goods from outside the area at a greater rate than outside areas purchase goods from it. This means that agricultural banks typically invest little of their fall rise in deposits in medium- and long-term outlets but instead keep most of it fairly liquid.

Each Banker Must Recognize His Seasonal Pattern and Make Appropriate Adjustments

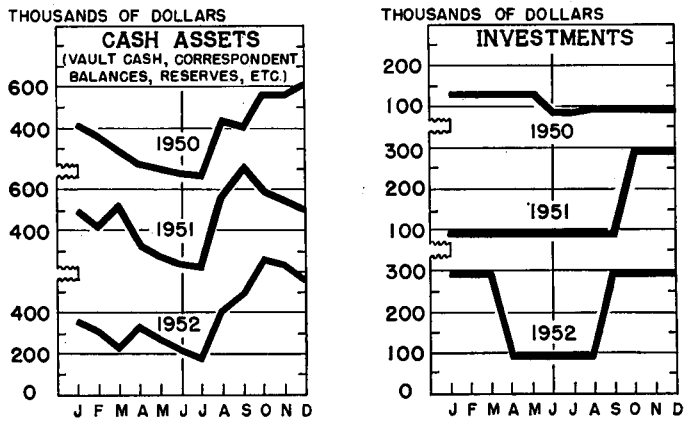
Some bankers, because of long experience in their communities, are able to make appropriate adjustments to seasonal loan and deposit fluctuations almost intuitively. Others find it necessary to keep records and make simple charts showing the monthly volume of loans, deposits, cash assets, and investments. If the monthly figures for the last few years are placed one year above another, as in the chart on page 6, the banker can obtain an idea of the timing and amplitude of the seasonal cash requirements of his area, as well as some impression of mistakes made in previous years. If the seasonal pattern is obscured by major growth trends, assistance in isolating the seasonal pattern may be obtained from the Research Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

There are many methods by which the individual bank can deal with the seasonal problem. Fluctuations in loans and deposits may be dealt with entirely by variations in

SEASONAL PATTERNS AT A SIXTH DISTRICT RURAL BANK



To plant, grow, and harvest crops, farmers need money; therefore, BANK LOANS rise in the spring. But since farm income is low then, DEPOSITS fall. When crops are sold, deposits rise, loans are repaid, and . . .



. . . at this particular bank, CASH ASSETS increase. The bank is finding that the most profitable way to utilize its funds is to adjust its INVESTMENTS so that they mature as cash is needed.

cash assets such as balances with correspondent banks, reserves, or vault cash. It is apparent, however, that banks following such a practice are missing important opportunities for obtaining revenue through short-term investments. The most widely favored method of adjusting to seasonal cash requirements is to purchase Treasury bills when funds are available so that the bills mature in time to provide the cash required to meet expected deposit run-offs.

To banks that are located in small towns and have staff limitations, the purchase of Treasury bills is perhaps the best method of adjusting to seasonal needs. In recognition of the problems of those who cannot follow money market conditions constantly, individuals and banking institutions are allowed to purchase as much as 200,000 dollars' worth of three-month Treasury bills on a non-competitive basis in any one week. The non-competitive-bill buyer gets the average rate of accepted bids on bills in the particular week in which the purchase is made. Because the bills are short-term and readily marketable before maturity, there is only a small chance of loss if a miscalculation is made.

The third method of adjusting to seasonal business requirements is to maintain a more fully invested position on a permanent basis and to rely upon borrowings in periods of heavy cash requirements. This is attractive in that it allows a bank to invest in longer-term securities with the added advantage of higher earnings. To follow this practice naturally requires the maintenance of favorable relations with the institution supplying the temporary loans. It is a well-established rule of prudence among banks that borrowing should only be occasional and for short periods, and to replenish reserves temporarily rather than to meet continuing operating needs. Many bankers, however, are reluctant to depend upon these temporary loans to supply their customers' needs.

The ideal solution, of course, would be to develop offsetting seasonal credit outlets. In some agricultural communities, new industries whose seasonal patterns are the opposite of those of the farm economy offer an outlet for bank funds during the periods of peak deposits and low loan demand. In major cities, banks can partly counteract the typical spring loan decline by developing a farm loan department that, of course, would do its peak business in the spring. While the offsetting of credit outlets is perhaps the most profitable solution, it is not always practical. Most agricultural communities do not have enough industrial activity to offset the enormous seasonal swings in farm credit demands. City banks, moreover, may be reluctant to alienate correspondent banks by entry into the farm loan field.

Federal Reserve System Aids Seasonal Adjustment But Methods May Change From Time to Time

One of the tangible accomplishments of the System has been its success in dealing with the seasonal fluctuations in credit needs. Short-term interest rate fluctuations that followed a seasonal pattern before the founding of the Federal Reserve System have shown much less seasonal change in recent years. There has seldom been any serious question that this function of the System is both legitimate and most useful to the economy.

Despite the nature of the recurring problem, no routine procedure for assisting commercial banks in meeting seasonal needs has been developed. Because both the seasonal pattern and the amplitude of fluctuation are changing constantly and can seldom be predicted with absolute accuracy, the monetary authorities must determine continually whether the provision of reserves in the fall is only allowing seasonal needs to be met or whether the added reserves may be feeding inflation. Finally, the method of making seasonal adjustments must be determined in the light of current conditions.

THOMAS R. ATKINSON

Sixth District Statistics

Instalment Cash Loans

Lender	No. of Lenders Reporting	Volume: Percent Change June 1953 from May 1953	Volume: Percent Change June 1953 from June 1952	Outstandings: Percent Change June 1953 from May 1953	Outstandings: Percent Change June 1953 from June 1952
Federal credit unions	34	+32	+12	+5	+34
State credit unions	17	—25	—6	+5	+34
Industrial banks	9	+2	—6	—1	+7
Industrial loan companies	10	—3	+7	+1	+6
Small loan companies	30	+4	—2	+2	+4
Commercial banks	32	+1	+3	+0	+26

Retail Furniture Store Operations

Item	Number of Stores Reporting	Percent Change June 1953 from May 1953	Percent Change June 1953 from June 1952
Total sales	144	—11	—13
Cash sales	128	—14	—3
Instalment and other credit sales	128	—11	—15
Accounts receivable, end of month	137	—0	+14
Collections during month	137	—2	+13
Inventories, end of month	104	—4	+3

Wholesale Sales and Inventories*

Type of Wholesaler	Sales: No. of Firms Reporting	Sales: Percent Change June 1953 from May 1953	Sales: Percent Change June 1953 from June 1952	Inventories: No. of Firms Reporting	Inventories: Percent Change June 30, 1953, from May 31 1953	Inventories: Percent Change June 30, 1953, from June 30 1952
Automotive supplies	6	—1	—2	5	+2	—3
Electrical—Wiring supplies	3	0	+10	3	+5	—3
" Appliances	5	+6	—18	4	—10	+1
Hardware	11	+6	+2	6	—1	+6
Industrial supplies	16	+7	+32	4	—1	+6
Jewelry	4	+2	—4	3	+3	—6
Lumber and bldg. mat'ls	4	—13	—1	.	..	..
Plumbing & heating supplies	4	+5	+5	3	+9	+19
Refrigeration equipment	6	+10	+18	6	+17	—13
Confectionery	6	+5	+10	3	—11	0
Drugs and sundries	6	+2	+7	.	..	..
Dry goods	14	—4	+10	9	+4	+11
Groceries—Full-line	42	+5	+4	27	—5	—4
" Voluntary group	3	+3	+8	.	..	..
" Specialty lines	10	+2	—4	6	+5	+4
Tobacco products	14	+2	—8	11	+1	+8
Miscellaneous	11	+14	+1	12	—4	+2
Total	165	+4	+4	102	—1	+4

*Based on information submitted by wholesalers participating in the Monthly Wholesale Trade Report issued by the Bureau of the Census.

Department Store Sales and Inventories*

Place	Sales: Percent Change June 1953 from May 1953	Sales: Percent Change June 1953 from June 1952	Sales: Yr-to-Date 1953-1952	Inventories: Percent Change June 30, 1953, from May 31 1953	Inventories: Percent Change June 30, 1953, from June 30 1952
ALABAMA	—11	+1	+6	—6	+8
Birmingham	—11	+2	+3	—8	+4
Mobile	—15	+3	+14	..	..
Montgomery	—12	+5	+7	..	..
FLORIDA	—14	+1	+5	—2	+18
Jacksonville	—27	—12	—2	—4	+9
Miami	—18	+3	+6	—2	+19
Orlando	—18	—0	+5	..	..
St. Ptrsbg-Tampa Area	—2	+5	+5	..	..
St. Petersburg	—6	+3	+5	—5	+19
Tampa	+0	+6	+5	..	..
GEORGIA	—20	—3	+2	—6	+10
Atlanta**	—23	+0	+3	—6	+11
Augusta	—18	—17	—4	..	..
Columbus	—12	—5	—3	—4	+5
Macon	—10	—1	+1	—5	+8
Rome**	—25	—1	+6	..	..
Savannah	—13	—6	+6	..	..
LOUISIANA	—5	+4	+6	—8	+10
Baton Rouge	—5	+9	+12	—5	+13
New Orleans	—8	+5	+6	—8	+7
MISSISSIPPI	—12	—4	+1	—3	+11
Jackson	—12	—1	—3	—4	+11
Meridian**	—18	+2	+7	..	..
TENNESSEE	—16	+4	+8	—5	+14
Bristol**	—7	—1	—0	—9	+12
Bristol-Kingsport-Johnson City**	—12	+1	+3	..	..
Chattanooga	—12	+11	+10	..	..
Knoxville	—18	+6	+9	—6	+17
Nashville	—17	—1	+7	—5	+11
DISTRICT	—13	+1	+4	—5	+12

*Includes reports from 124 stores throughout the Sixth Federal Reserve District.
**In order to permit publication of figures for this city, a special sample has been constructed which is not confined exclusively to department stores. Figures for non-department stores, however, are not used in computing the District percent changes.

Condition of 27 Member Banks in Leading Cities

(In Thousands of Dollars)

Item	July 22 1953	June 24 1953	July 23 1952	Percent Change July 22, 1953, from June 24 1953	Percent Change July 22, 1953, from July 23 1952
Loans and investments—Total	2,984,614	2,829,348	2,856,145	+5	+4
Loans—Net	1,221,014	1,216,448	1,130,037	+0	+8
Loans—Gross	1,242,573	1,238,153	1,149,848	+0	+8
Commercial, industrial, and agricultural loans	684,021	688,546	636,902	—1	+7
Loans to brokers and dealers in securities	14,780	16,580	16,996	—11	—13
Other loans for purchasing or carrying securities	38,215	38,075	54,048	+0	—29
Real-estate loans	91,179	90,804	91,152	+0	+0
Loans to banks	21,120	4,237	4,020	*	*
Other loans	393,258	399,911	346,730	—2	+13
Investments—Total	1,763,600	1,612,900	1,726,108	+9	+2
Bills, certificates, and notes	806,253	641,982	749,554	+26	+8
U. S. bonds	698,644	710,919	725,130	—2	—4
Other securities	258,703	259,999	251,424	—0	+3
Reserve with F. R. Banks	509,131	511,364	521,415	—0	—2
Cash in vault	49,369	48,697	48,928	+1	+1
Balances with domestic banks	212,005	229,655	208,731	—8	+2
Demand deposits adjusted	2,172,919	2,161,411	2,092,949	+1	+4
Time deposits	569,869	565,964	554,385	+1	+3
U. S. Gov't deposits	175,340	63,767	202,181	*	—13
Deposits of domestic banks	560,093	547,937	536,996	+2	+4
Borrowings	33,500	36,500	28,000	—8	+20

*Over 100 Percent.

Debits to Individual Demand Deposit Accounts

(In Thousands of Dollars)

Place	June 1953	May 1953	June 1952	Percent Change: June 1953 from May 1953	Percent Change: June 1953 from June 1952	Percent Change: Yr.-to-date 5 Mos. 1953 from 1952
ALABAMA						
Anniston	30,329	30,763	31,531	—1	—4	+3
Birmingham	420,846	435,777	416,378	—3	+1	—2
Dothan	17,392	18,450	16,152	—6	+8	+1
Gadsden	25,058	24,842	20,844	+1	+20	+9
Mobile	176,434	167,495	161,401	+5	+9	+7
Montgomery	91,926	95,702	83,111	—4	+11	+3
Tuscaloosa*	33,137	33,444	28,623	—1	+16	+7
FLORIDA						
Jacksonville	450,271	414,182	383,464	+9	+17	+12
Miami	365,519	362,244	319,201	+1	+15	+14
Greater Miami*	547,344	554,477	483,869	—1	+13	+11
Orlando	91,299	85,853	75,022	+6	+22	+15
Pensacola	56,910	54,284	47,441	+5	+20	+14
St. Petersburg	83,360	87,483	75,806	—5	+10	+11
Tampa	194,990	186,597	169,081	+4	+15	+14
West Palm Beach*	55,771	58,641	49,906	—5	+12	+9
GEORGIA						
Albany	38,398	39,219	32,500	—2	+18	+17
Atlanta	1,247,794	1,136,251	1,098,498	+10	+14	+8
Augusta	87,448	87,275	88,286	+0	—1	+1
Brunswick	13,016	11,395	11,844	+14	+10	+3
Columbus	79,680	77,114	78,866	+3	+1	—1
Elberton	4,826	5,011	4,945	—4	—2	+12
Gainesville*	25,801	26,004	23,142	—1	+11	+5
Griffin*	13,605	13,542	11,958	+0	+14	+7
Macon	95,741	78,969	74,994	+21	+28	+3
Newnan	9,473	10,769	10,623	—12	—11	—12
Rome*	28,218	28,087	22,904	+0	+23	+16
Savannah	132,168	127,896	114,189	+3	+16	+10
Valdosta	16,085	16,559	16,901	—3	—5	+4
LOUISIANA						
Alexandria*	46,654	39,961	47,553	+17	—2	—2
Baton Rouge	134,455	133,817	112,418	+0	+20	+14
Lake Charles	54,886	49,521	52,556	+11	+4	+7
New Orleans	928,330	923,769	840,002	+0	+11	+8
MISSISSIPPI						
Hattiesburg	20,543	21,644	19,132	—5	+7	+5
Jackson	149,168	152,735	155,353	—2	—4	—1
Meridian	30,063	30,469	29,553	—1	+2	+2
Vicksburg	14,778	17,291	12,508	—15	+18	+14
TENNESSEE						
Chattanooga	224,711	203,786	174,950	+10	+28	+21
Knoxville	157,838	155,567	128,162	+1	+23	+22
Nashville	470,748	429,172	404,217	+10	+16	+7
SIXTH DISTRICT 32 Cities	5,914,483	5,671,901	5,259,929	+4	+12	+8
UNITED STATES 345 Cities	154,106,000	142,173,000	139,759,000	+8	+10	+9

*Not included in Sixth District totals.

Sixth District Indexes

1947-49 = 100

	Manufacturing Employment			Cotton Consumption**			Construction Contracts			Gasoline Tax Collections			Furniture Store Sales*/**		
	May 1953	Apr. 1953	May 1952	June 1953	May 1953	June 1952	June 1953	May 1953	June 1952	June 1953	May 1953	June 1952	June 1953	May 1953	June 1952
UNADJUSTED															
District Total	114	114	109r	103	106	95	..	..	..	153	158	154	102p	106	116
Alabama	107	108	104r	100	104	94	94	121	193	154	160	151	106p	113	124
Florida	132	135	122r	..	..	..	100	224	229	154	166	147	103	108	123
Georgia	114	114	112r	105	107	95	173	176	281	153	157	151	106	107	117
Louisiana	106	105	100	..	..	..	159	460	166	128	134	167	103	107	115
Mississippi	112	114	108	140	141	117	111	118	110	168	194	172	..	..	..
Tennessee	118	116	109r	106	108	101	157	104	347	164	147	146	90	91	103
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED															
District Total	114	114	109r	109	105	100	..	..	..	152	156	153	104p	106	117
Alabama	108	109	105	..	..	..	..	..	..	148	157	145	109p	110	125
Florida	132	133	122	..	..	..	..	..	..	154	165	147	105	113	123
Georgia	116	115	114	..	..	..	..	..	..	149	157	148	105	109	116
Louisiana	107	107	101	..	..	..	..	..	..	125	136	164	98	106	110
Mississippi	113	116	109	..	..	..	..	..	..	163	198	167	..	..	..
Tennessee	118	117	109	..	..	..	..	..	..	163	147	144	91	86	104

Department Store Sales and Stocks**

	Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	June 1953	May 1953	June 1952	June 1953	May 1953	June 1952
DISTRICT SALES*	134p	137	138	114p	131	117
Atlanta[1]	128	143	135	105	136	110
Baton Rouge	127	111	122	110	116	105
Birmingham	113	110	118	101	113	105
Chattanooga	136	136	129	120	136	114
Jackson	129	118	135	103	117	108
Jacksonville	105	120	125	93	127	110
Knoxville	123	132	121	109	133	108
Macon	156	150	164	129	144	136
Miami	135	151	136	107	130	107
Nashville	124	118	130	108	130	113
New Orleans	128p	127	128	110p	120	110
Tampa	130	124	129	117	116	116
DISTRICT STOCKS*	140p	140	125	134p	141	120

[1]To permit publication of figures for this city, a sample has been constructed that is not confined to department stores. Such non-department stores are not included in the District index.

*Data for La., Miss., and Tenn. for District part only. Other totals for entire six states.

**Daily average basis.

Sources: Mfg. emp., state depts. of labor; cotton consumption, U. S. Bureau Census; construction contracts, F. W. Dodge Corp.; gas. tax, state depts. of rev.; furn. sales, dept. store sales, turnover of dem. dep., FRB Atlanta; petrol. prod., U. S. Bureau of Mines; elec. power prod., Fed. Power Comm. Indexes calculated by this Bank.

Other District Indexes

	Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	June 1953	May 1953	June 1952	June 1953	May 1953	June 1952
Construction contracts*	..	..	..	131	232r	246
Residential	..	..	..	80	215r	192
Other	..	..	..	169	245r	287
Petrol. prod. in Coastal Louisiana and Mississippi**	144	145	136	143	143	135
Turnover of demand deposits*	25.0	23.8	23.9	23.9	22.4	22.8
Index	129.9	123.5	124.1	..	..	..
Mfg. emp. by type	May 1953	Apr. 1953	May 1952	May 1953	Apr. 1953	May 1952
Apparel	142	137r	126	139	139	124
Chemicals	119	120	112	117	121	110
Fabricated metals	173	168r	149	170	168	147
Food	107	104	106	105	101	104
Lbr., wood prod., furn. & fix.	92	93	94	92	93	94
Paper and allied prod.	140	140	128	139	138	127
Primary metals	107	107	102	106	107	101
Textiles	102	101r	100	100	101	98
Trans. equip.	159	160	150	161	165	152
Elec. power prod.**	..	..	..	175	174	146
Hydro-gen.	..	..	..	125	112	84
Fuel-gen.	..	..	..	220	232	202

r Revised
p Preliminary