

Monithly Review

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# DISTRICT BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS 

Considerable replanting of cotton has been necessary because unseasonably cold weather damaged first stands.

Exports of cotton are running larger than last year's and are expected to be well above those of the last marketing season.
-
Farm income during the remainder of 1954 is likely to continue slightly under 1953 levels because of reduced crop marketings and lower prices.

Factory employment, seasonally adjusted, declined during March at the same rate as in the nation; it was lower than a year ago in all District states except Florida.
Factory payrolls in March, seasonally adjusted, were almost unchanged from February.
Unemployment compensation claims declined slightly during March, for the first time since September; preliminary figures show a further decrease in April.

Steel production in the Birmingham area during the week ending May 20 jumped sharply from April, with the reopening of a major mill previously closed down for repairs.
Construction contract awards were lower during April than in March, but above those of a year earlier.

Cotton textile activity, as measured by seasonally adjusted cotton consumption, rose slightly in April, but was still substantially below the 1953 level.

Department store sales picked up more than seasonally in April and May. Furniture store business also rallied in April.

New car registrations during March showed less increase than during last March and were below a year earlier for the first time this year.
Bank debits, seasonally adjusted, increased somewhat in April.
-
Total deposits at member banks increased slightly during April and, according to preliminary information, continued to increase during May.

The rediscount rate was reduced from $13 / 4$ percent to $11 / 2$ percent on May 15 by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

The reserve position of member banks remained easy in May, as excess reserves averaged considerably higher than indebtedness to the Federal Reserve Bank.
Business loans at banks in leading cities declined in May, but were substantially above the year-earlier level.

## Beans and Bonds...OR

## The PRICE of GOVERNMENT IOU's

Until recently, Government bond prices have been rising, in contrast to most commodity prices, which have jogged along or fallen slightly since the recession began. Despite the recent reversal in bond quotations, the price level of the IOU's of the Federal Government is substantially higher than it was a year ago.

The high price of Governments, of course, means lower cost of borrowing to the Treasury. In addition, it is indicative of eased credit conditions that mean lower cost and greater availability of credit to private borrowers. On the other hand, banks and other lenders obtaining most of their revenue from interest charges are hard pressed to maintain their 1953 earnings level.

## Legumes and Liabilities

Although both lenders and borrowers are usually aware of the changes taking place in credit conditions and in the securities markets, less well understood is the background behind these changes. To facilitate such an understanding, it might be well to consider here a somewhat more familiar commodity-beans, for example. The price of beans, like the price of Governments, is determined by supply and demand conditions. Unlike the price of beans, which are perishable, however, today's price of Governments is affected by estimates of the future pricenot only tomorrow's but a year from tomorrow's. For this reason the background of today's price has more than passing relevance in indicating the factors that are possibly

important in determining tomorrow's and next year's price. In turn these background factors affecting Government prices are important in determining the future terms of private borrowing, so closely are the various markets for loanable funds tied together.

The supply of marketable Government securities has remained fairly constant since last fall at about 154.5 billion dollars, although a slight drop did occur in March when tax receipts were used to pay off some Federal obligations. More important than the constancy of the supply of Governments has been the changes in types of securities available to would-be purchasers. Just as there are many kinds of beans, there are numerous types of Governments, the various issues differing principally in the maturity or date of repayment. Since last summer there have been sharp changes in the amount of securities available in the various maturity ranges. Principal among these changes has been the sharp reduction in short-term securitiesthose maturing under one year.

## Demand for Early Varieties Heavy

This reduction has been particularly important because of the large demand for these securities. Nonfinancial businesses investing funds being held for tax payments find them attractive, and some corporations have put funds obtained from reducing inventories into short-term securities. Finally, many state and local governments have put money raised for major construction projects into shortterm Governments until they are ready to go ahead with the project. The heavy corporate and local government demand for short-terms beating upon the reduced supply of this particular variety of Government IOU's has helped to increase the price, making the return received a smaller proportion of the original cost. Short-term interest rates on Treasury bills, in other words, have fallen to a level lower than that at any time since 1947.

But what has this done to prices and interest rates on long-term Governments? To answer this question, let us return to our example of beans. When the price of pole beans gets too high, some people will shift to butter beans or snap beans. As a result, the price of butter beans or snap beans will start up too. The same thing happens in the case of Governments. When the prices are thought to be too high and the rates of return too low on short-term securities, some investors switch to long-term securities. Banks, for instance, have sold short-term Governments in order to invest in long-term Governments. Some investors even shift into different markets such as municipal securities or mortgages. The increased competition causes an increase in price and a decrease in interest earned on these types of debt obligations. Thus the high price of beans
even causes the price of black-eyed peas to rise-and that's another vegetable!

Just as the actions of the largest buyer or potential buyer can affect the bean market, so Federal Reserve policy is indirectly important in the securities market. During the last part of 1952 and early 1953 the Reserve System supplied bank reserves only niggardly, causing banks to restrict their lending and investing activity. This was done, of course, to head off the apparent inflationary bubble at that time and it resulted in falling Government bond prices. As the economy began to turn around, however, Reserve Bank policy also turned around in order to discourage deflationary developments. This action shortly manifested itself in sharply rising prices of Government bonds.

## Neither Too Fast Nor Too Slow

The shift in Federal Reserve policy last year is perhaps best illustrated by changes in wording of the directives of the Federal Open Market Committee, a record of which is published as a part of the annual report of the Board of Governors. In early March the committee was directing that the open market account continue to be operated "with a view to exercising restraint upon inflationary developments." At the June meeting the directive was changed to "avoiding deflationary tendencies without encouraging a renewal of inflationary developments." In September the directive was again changed to prescribe operations "avoiding deflationary tendencies." Finally, at the December meeting the Committee prescribed that operations be carried on with the view "to promoting growth and stability in the economy by actively maintaining a condition of ease in the money market."

Here the official record ends, yet the reduction in the rate at which Reserve Banks lend to their member banks to $13 / 4$ percent in January and another reduction at some Reserve Banks in April to $11 / 2$ percent seem to indicate

## Bank Announcements

> On May 20, the Jackson-Hinds Bank, Jackson, Mississippi, a nonmember bank, located in territory served by the New Orleans Branch, together with its branches in Leavell Woods and Terry, Mississippi, began to remit at par for checks drawn on it when received from the Federal Reserve Bank. Officers of this bank include Marvin Collum, President; Max T. Allen, Jr., Vice President and Cashier; George A. Morgan and George W. Morgan, Vice Presidents; and Chester Thornton and Mrs. Clyda Harper, Assistant Cashiers. Its capital amounts to $\$ 400,000$ and surplus and undivided profits to $\$ 114,377$.

> The Bank of Dickson, Dickson, Tennessee, did not open April 1 as was announced in the April issue of this Review. The exact opening date was May 28. A nonmember state bank, it will remit at par. Officers are Hugh Wynns, President; Wayne Sensing, Executive Vice President; and Glenn Hamilton, Cashier. It has a capital of $\$ 100,000$ and surplus of $\$ 100,000$.
that the policy of "active ease" has not been changed. So far, however, the Reserve Banks have not flooded member banks with reserves but instead have released reserves in some weeks and sopped them up in other weeks as the private credit needs of the economy required. Free re-serves-that is, excess reserves minus borrowings-have been maintained in this manner at an average level of about 500 million dollars during most of 1954 , as is shown by the weekly Federal Reserve statements. Present monetary policy, therefore, although directed toward freer credit conditions as is consistent with a period of declining business conditions, can hardly be characterized as a "crash" program designed to stimulate the economy at all costs.

The fact that large pools of excess reserves do not exist at present is evidence that monetary policy has been effective in stimulating banks to expand loans and investments at rates of return attractive both to themselves and to their borrowers. The high price of Governments, particularly short-term Governments, is therefore only partially the result of deliberate Federal Reserve policy.

## The "Natural" Price

The record of policy actions taken by the Federal Open Market Committee in 1953, contained in the Annual Report of the Board of Governors, indicates that during most of last year open market purchases and sales were conducted only in short-term Government securities and were "entered into solely for the purpose of providing or absorbing reserves." In the discussion of this policy it was made clear that this course was adopted because it was felt the monetary authority should not attempt to determine "what the market should be" and that direct purchases and sales in the short-term sector would affect least the dollar price of securities. Thus, "the market would still reflect natural forces of supply and demand and thus furnish a signal of the effectiveness of credit policy aimed primarily at the volume and availability of bank reserves." The price of butter beans was not being determined directly by the biggest potential buyer, for he was buying only pole beans. Butter bean prices still reflected the "natural" forces of the market as well as the manner in which the demand for them "spilled over" from highpriced pole beans.

Although long-term operations are not precluded in the event of disorderly market conditions or when otherwise required, the weekly statements of Reserve Bank holdings of the various classes of securities show no operations in the long-term sector this year.

As long as monetary policy continues to be a foremost weapon in fighting cyclical swings in economic activity and as long as changes occur in both the supply and type of Government debt instruments, some changes in the price of Governments may well be expected. Because changes in the price of Governments are both a reflection of general credit conditions and an important causal factor in determining movements in the cost and availability of private credit, alert investors and businessmen who make use of credit as well as lenders who supply credit, might well say with Thoreau "I was determined to know beans."

Thomas R. Atkinson

# Balance Sheet of Agriculture sixth IIsfinct sants 

|  | Ala. | Fla. | Ga. | La. | Miss. | Tenn. | $\begin{gathered} \text { District } \\ \text { States } \end{gathered}$ | Outside District States | United States |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ASSETS | (Millions of Dollars) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PhYSICAL AsSETS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Real Estate | 1,312 | 1,332 | 1,375 | 1,105 | 1,507 | 1,727 | 8,358 | 83,942 | 92,300 |
| Non-Real Estate |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Livestock | 197 | 173 | 183 | 196 | 201 | 238 | 1,188 | 13,712 | 14,900 |
| Motor Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment | 427 | 172 | 492 | 356 | 522 | 551 | 2,520 | 14,680 | 17,200 |
| Crops, Stored off and on Farms . . | 72 | 8 | 94 | 56 | 204 | 148 | 582 | 8,518 | 9,100 |
| Household Furnishings and Equipment | 145 | 84 | 168 | 105 | 75 | 153 | 730 | 9,270 | 10,000 |
| Financial Assets |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Deposits and Currency | 104 | 94 | 120 | 103 | 165 | 140 | 726 | 13,474 | 14,200 |
| U. S. Savings Bonds (E) . - | 38 | 18 | 38 | 38 | 48 | 40 | 220 | 4,780 | 5,000 |
| Investments in Cooperatives. | 16 2,311 | 24 1,905 | 29 2,499 | 26 1,985 | 30 2,752 | 35 3,032 | 160 14,484 | 2,540 150,916 | 2,700 165,400 |
| Total Assets. | 2,311 | 1,905 | 2,499 | 1,985 | 2,752 | 3,032 | 14,484 | 150,916 | 165,400 |
| CLAIMS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Liabilities |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Real Estate Debt | 102 | 114 | 133 | 71 | 136 | 113 | 669 | 6,431 | 7,100 |
| Non-Real Estate Debt |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| To Principal Institutions |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Excluding CCC . . | 52 | 46 | 62 | 43 | 82 | 65 | 350 | 3,850 | 4,200 |
| Held or Guaranteed by CCC | 16 | * | 40 | 14 | 30 | 26 | 126 | 1,074 | 1,200 |
| To Others . . . . . . . | 22 | 70 | 36 | 12 | 44 | 63 | 247 | 3,153 | 3,400 |
| Total Liabilities | 192 | 230 | 271 | 140 | 292 | 267 | 1,392 | 14,508 | 15,900 |
| Proprietors' Equities | 2,119 | 1,675 | 2,228 | 1,845 | 2,460 | 2,765 | 13,092 | 136,408 | 149,500 |
| Total Liabilities and Net Worth | 2,311 | 1,905 | 2,499 | 1,985 | 2,752 | 3,032 | 14,484 | 150,916 | 165,400 |

*\$401,000

For the past couple of years threats of lower prices and reduced incomes have been snapping at District farmers’ heels like a pack of yelping dogs. Although declines have not been as large as was feared, they have been large enough to halt the improvement in farmers' financial position that had begun in the early forties. District state farmers' equities in their farms rose consistently from year to year, from about 3.3 billion dollars in 1940 to slightly more than 13 billion dollars in 1952. By 1953, however, the upward trend had ended. At the start of that year District farmers' net worth in their composite farm businesses was some 47 million dollars less than a year earlier.

The pronounced improvement in farmers' financial standing in recent years is revealed in a Balance Sheet of Agriculture for Sixth District states prepared by this Bank. According to the Balance Sheet, farmers generally, through 1947 at least, found it fairly easy to borrow money; had little difficulty paying back the loans; and did, in fact, reduce their total debt. After 1947, however, they went more heavily into debt.

But the over-all growth in debt between 1940 and 1953 did not severely retard the improvement in the financial standing of District farmers. During this period, inflation pushed asset valuations to record peaks and gave a marked lift to incomes. A little more than half of the gain in farmers' equities came from greatly expanded land values. Many farmers had to acquire additional assets, such as livestock, machinery, and certain other farm and home equipment, so that they could produce enough to meet the increased needs of the nation's growing population and those of our wartime allies. Some of the new strength in Southern agriculture came from farmers' increased holdings of financial assets, which gave them greater flexibility in arranging their investment programs. All these additions
to assets other than land and buildings accounted for nearly half of the gain in farmers' equity.

Farmers in the District have less liquidity than farmers in the balance of the nation. For each dollar of short-term farm debt in 1953, District farmers had $\$ 1.30$ of deposits, currency, and Government bonds, which represent their "quick assets." For the balance of the nation there was $\$ 2.25$ of "quick assets" for each dollar of short-term debt. District farmers' holdings of some 14.5 billion dollars worth of assets were, however, a source of satisfaction. Their assets were compromised by a debt of only 1.4 billion dollars, roughly a tenth of the value of all assets.

Judging from District farmers' equities in their farm businesses, a further large decline in value of assets or a rise in debts could occur without being fatal. Of course, on the basis of a lowered financial standing, the volume of capital attracted to the region's agriculture would likely diminish. At present the anxieties of District farm people center about the need for preventing a shrinkage in asset values and in their equities and a curtailment in their ability to get funds from the capital markets.

Unfortunately some of these anxieties are well founded for there has been a further deterioration in farmers' financial standings since early 1953. Land values, for example, have declined and livestock inventories are worth less. Very likely there has been a cut in their holdings of savings bonds. At the end of 1953, long-term debt at member banks was still rising.

It seems quite probable that these trends are persisting in 1954. Consequently, District farmers' equities in their composite farm businesses could, by year-end, be as much as half a billion dollars below the 1953 level.

Arthur H. Kantner

## Ownership of Demand Deposits

Demand deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations in all commercial banks of this District were estimated at 5,628 million dollars as of January 30, 1954. This figure is about 220 million above the January 1953 level and about 3 billion above the level of 1943, when the first survey of demand deposit ownership was made. The large increase in these deposits during 1953 and since 1943 did not appreciably change the ownership distribution, as individuals and trade and manufacturing and mining firms continued to hold relatively large shares.

In January 1954, individuals, including farmers, held about 84 percent of the four million accounts and about 46 percent of the total dollar volume. At present the mean average personal checking account in this District is about 760 dollars. This may seem high to most individuals, but it does reflect the large balances held by a relatively few persons. There are about 300 personal deposits of over 100,000 dollars, and some 5,600 accounts between 25,000 and 100,000 dollars. There are about 3.3 million accounts of less than 10,000 dollars, totaling 1,914 million dollars.

Although business firms hold only 11 percent of the accounts, their deposits amount to 49 percent of the dollar volume. Together these firms have about 2,768 million dollars in their demand deposit accounts, with trade firms holding 964 million and manufacturing and mining companies holding 656 million. Financial businesses, such as

## DEMAND DEPOSITS OF INDIVIDUALS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND CORPORATIONS

| All Commercial Banks, Sixth Federal Reserve District January 30, 1954 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Type of Owner | Number ofAccounts (Thousands) | Dollar Volume |  |  |  |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Millions } \\ & \text { of Dollars } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Percent } \\ \text { Change } \\ \text { from } \\ \text { Jan. } 1953 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | PercentDistribution |  |
|  |  |  |  | 1953 | 1954 |
| Manufacturing and Min | 36 | 656 | + 4.6 | 11.6 | 11.7 |
| a. Corporate | 18 | 572 | + 3.4 | 10.2 | 10.1 |
| b. Noncorporate | 18 | 84 | +13.9 | 1.4 | 1.6 |
| Public Utilities | 15 | 265 | - 1.6 | 5.0 | 4.7 |
| a. Corporate | 8 | 233 | - 3.5 | 4.5 | 4.1 |
| b. Noncorporate | 7 | 32 | +15.1 | . 5 | . 6 |
| Trade | 234 | 964 | + 3.6 | 17.2 | 17.1 |
| a. Corporate | 49 | 505 | $-2.8$ | 9.6 | 9.0 |
| b. Noncorporate | 185 | 459 | +11.7 | 7.6 | 8.1 |
| Construction and Service | 106 | 401 | + 4.1 | 7.1 | 7.2 |
| a. Corporate | 21 | 181 | + 1.6 | 3.3 | 3.3 |
| b. Noncorporate | 85 | 220 | + 6.3 | 3.8 | 3.9 |
| Financial |  |  |  |  |  |
| (Excl. Trust Accts.) | 48 | 482 | $-0.6$ | 9.0 | 8.6 |
| a. Corporate | 17 | 347 | + 0.8 | 6.4 | 6.2 |
| b. Noncorporate | 31 | 135 | $-4.0$ | 2.6 | 2.4 |
| Total Business | 439 | 2768 | + 2.7 | 49.9 | 49.3 |
| a. Corporate | 113 | 1838 | + 0.1 | 34.0 | 32.7 |
| b. Noncorporate | 326 | 930 | + 8.2 | 15.9 | 16.6 |
| Personal Accounts | 3370 | 2566 | + 6.1 | 44.7 | 45.5 |
| a. Farmers | 354 | 314 | $+7.6$ | 5.7 | 5.8 |
| b. Other | 3016 | 2252 | + 5.9 | 39.0 | 39.7 |
| Nonprofit Organizations | 168 | 198 | - 7.2 | 3.9 | 3.5 |
| All Other | 23 | 96 | +16.1 | 1.5 | 1.7 |
| District Total | 4000 | 5628 | + 4.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

investment, loan, real-estate, and insurance firms, have balances totaling 482 million dollars, followed by construction and services with 401 million, and by public utilities which include transportation and communication and power companies with 265 million. Nonprofit organizations and trust funds of banks hold about 5 percent of the number and of the dollar volume of accounts.

Although total deposits incteased about 4 percent between January 1953 and January 1954, all types did not share in the increase. "All other deposits," which include trust funds of banks and, to a lesser extent, foreign balances had the largest rate of increase- 16 percent, despite a decline at large banks. Personal accounts, other than farm, increased 6 percent, although farm accounts, despite lower farm prices and farm income, increased 8 percent. Manufacturing and mining accounts and balances of services and construction firms also increased during the year. The increase in these deposits generally took place at all banks, although manufacturing and mining balances declined at small banks and construction and service balances decreased slightly at banks with 10 million to 100 million dollars in deposits.

Deposits of public utilities, financial firms, and nonprofit organizations were the only types showing declines for the year. The decline in deposits of public utilities was generally in corporation accounts and was not restricted to banks of any particular size. The drop in holdings of financial firms was concentrated in the noncorporate accounts and was general among banks of all sizes.

Changes since 1943 have more significance, of course, than the relatively small changes during the past year. Personal depositors who now hold about 46 percent of the dollar volume of all deposits held only 43 percent in 1943. Financial businesses had the largest percentage increase since 1943. In that year they held about 5.6 percent of the total dollar volume, compared with 8.6 percent in 1954. Although deposits of trade and manufacturing and mining firms increased, they did not increase as rapidly as holdings of other segments of the economy, since deposits held by these firms dropped from 33.5 percent of total deposits in 1943 to 28.8 percent in 1954. For the same period balances of public utilities dropped from 6.2 percent to 4.7 percent.

The postwar trend in demand deposits in this District has continued despite the recent softness in the nation's economy. There were some shifts in distribution among accounts during 1953, but on a relative basis the changes were small. Manufacturing and mining, services and construction, and personal deposits increased in relative importance, whereas balances of public utilities, nonprofit organizations, and financial businesses dropped slightly. In each case, the shift was less than one percent. It would appear, therefore, that the economy of this District was not appreciably affected by the recent downturn and that the purchasing power of the region remains high.

## Charles S. Overmiller

# Sixth District Statistics 

Instalment Cash Loans

| Lender | No. of Lenders ing | Volume |  | Outstandings |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Percent Change Apr. 1954 from |  | Percent Change Apr. 1954 from |  |
|  |  | March | April | March | April |
|  |  | 1954 | 1953 | 1954 | 1953 |
| Federal credit unions | 35 | -6 | +9 | +0 | +20 |
| State credit unions . | . 17 | +6 | -9 | +1 | +1 |
| Industrial banks . . . | . 8 | -10 | -39 | +1 | -40 |
| Industrial loan companies | . 11 | -1 | +4 | +2 | -1 |
| Small loan companies. . | . 31 | -2 | +3 | -1 | +9 |
| Commercial banks . | . 32 | +0 | -15 | +1 | +2 |

## Retail Furniture Store Operations

| Item | Number of Stores Reporting | Percent Change April 1954 from |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Mar. 1954 | Apr. 1953 |
| Total sales. | . 128 | +6 | -2 |
| Cash sales . . . . . . . . . | . . 112 | $+10$ | -3 |
| Instalment and other credit sales | . . 112 | +5 | -3 |
| Accounts receivable, end of month | . . 118 | -1 | -1 |
| Collections during month . . . | . . 118 | $-9$ | -7 |
| Inventories, end of month . . | . 88 | +3 | -3 |

Wholesale Sales and Inventories*

| Type of Wholesaler | Sales |  |  | Inventories |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | No. of Firms Reporting | Percent Change Apr. 1954 from |  | No. of Firms Report ing | Percent ChangeApr. 30, 1954, from |  |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Mar. } \\ & 1954 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Apr. } \\ 1953 \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Mar. } 31 \\ 1954 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Apr. } 30 \\ 1953 \end{array}$ |
| Automotive supplies |  | -7 | +10 | 3 | +7 | +3 |
| Electrical-Wiring supplies | 3 | -31 | -26 | 3 | +7 | -6 |
| " Appliances . . | - 7 | -14 | -30 | 6 | +8 | -22 |
| Hardware . . . . | - 10 | +4 | -3 | 5 | -8 | -8 |
| Industrial supplies | 19 | +5 | -8 | 6 | +2 | $+1$ |
| Jewelry . . . . | 4 | -3 | -8 | 3 | -8 | +8 |
| Lumber and bldg. mat'ls. | 8 | +4 | -1 | 7 | -1 | -3 |
| Plumbing \& heating supplie | es 4 | +3 | +3 | 3 | -3 | -1 |
| Refrigeration equipment. | - 6 | +43 | $+24$ | 6 | +17 | +19 |
| Confectionery . . . | - 3 | +14 | +5 | . |  |  |
| Drugs and sundries . | - 7 | -9 | + |  |  |  |
| Dry goods . . . . | - 16 | -11 | -1 | 12 | -8 | -6 |
| Groceries-Full-line . ${ }^{\text {a }}$ - | - 30 | -4 | -1 | 15 | -1 | +2 |
| " Specialty lines | 7 | -15 | -13 | 3 | -4 | +2 |
| Tobacco products . . . | - 12 | +9 | -0 | 8 | -1 | +0 |
| Miscellaneous . . | - 13 | +0 | $+10$ | 9 | +19 | +11 |
| Total . | . 153 | -1 | -3 | 89 | +0 | -3 |

*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 | Percent Change |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Sales |  |  | Inventories |  |
|  | April | from | $\begin{gathered} 4 \text { Months } \\ 1954 \text { from } \\ 1953 \end{gathered}$ | Apr.30, 1954, from |  |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { May. } \\ 1954 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Apr. } \\ 1953 \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { Mar. } 31 \\ 1954 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Apr. } 30 \\ 1953 \end{array}$ |
| ALABAMA | +18 | +7 | -5 | -4 | -14 |
| Birmingham | +12 | +6 | -6 | -2 | -13 |
| Mobile . - | +22 | +15 | -1 | .. | .. |
| Montpomery . | +22 | +6 | -4 |  |  |
| FLORIDA Jacksonville . . . . |  | +7 +16 | +1 | -2 | - ${ }^{4}$ |
| Miami . . | -3 | +7 | -1 | -5 | +2 |
| Oriando . . | -1 | +4 | -1 |  |  |
| St. Ptrsbg-Tampa Area | -3 | +1 | -2 |  |  |
| St. Petersburd . | -10 | -2 | -5 | -4 | -13 |
| Tampa . - | $+3$ | +3 | +1 |  |  |
| GEORGIA. | +18 | $+16$ | +0 | -2 | -4 |
| Atlanta**. | +18 | $+20$ | +2 | -1 | -1 |
| Augusta . . | +15 | +4 | -4 |  |  |
| Columbus . | +18 | +10 | -1 | $+1$ | -i0 |
| Macon - . | +24 | +9 | -7 | -4 | -6 |
| Rome** ${ }^{\text {a }}$. | +41 | +11 | -6 | . |  |
| Baton Rouge . | +22 | +7 | -1 | -3 | +3 |
| New Orleans. | +14 | +13 | $+2$ | -3 | -2 |
| MISSISSIPPI . | +21 | $+12$ | -1 | -6 | -6 |
| Jackson . - . | +18 | +12 | -1 | -6 | -6 |
| Meridian** |  | +10 | -2 |  |  |
| TENNESSEE . . |  | +11 | -1 | -3 | -12 |
| Bristol, Tenn-Va** | +2 | +5 | -1 | -2 | -4 |
| Bristol-KingsportJohnson City** |  | +6 | -4 |  |  |
| Chattanooga . . . |  | +19 | -1 |  |  |
| Knoxville . . . . . |  | +16 | +4 | +0 | -21 |
| Nashrille . . . . . | +15 | +3 | -5 | -5 | -15 |
| DISTRICT . . . . . . | +14 | +10 | -1 | -3 | -6 |

*Includes reports from 126 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 $\mathbf{2 7}$ Member Banks in Leading Cities
(In Thousands of Doliars)

|  |  |  |  | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Percen } \\ \text { May } 19, \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { hange } \\ & \hline 54 \text {, from } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Item | $\begin{array}{r} \text { May } 19 \\ 1954 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Apr. 21 1954 | May 20 1953 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Apr. } 21 \\ & 1954 \end{aligned}$ | May 20 1953 |
| Loans and Investments- |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 2,996,984 | 2,983,679 | 2,870,303 | +0 | +4 |
| Loans-Ne | 1,293,345 | 1,289,314 | 1,229,607 | +0 | +5 |
| Loans-Gross . . . . . 1,314,781 1,310,743 1,251,386 +0 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Commercial, industrial, and agricultural loans | 760,118 | 767,504 | 701,937 | -1 | +8 |
| Loans to brokers and dealers in securities | 16,827 | 15,218 | 17,679 | +11 | -5 |
| Other loans for purchasing or carrying |  |  |  |  |  |
| securities .... | 34,356 | 33,770 | 37,190 | + | -8 |
| Real estate loans | 89,180 | 86,831 | 91,132 | + ${ }^{2}$ |  |
| Loans to banks. | 12,839 | 10,490 | 10,466 | +22 | +23 |
| Other loans | 401,461 | 396,930 | 392,982 | +1 | +2 |
| $\begin{gathered}\text { livestments-Total } \\ \text { Bills, certificates, }\end{gathered} . \begin{array}{lllll}\text { a }\end{array}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| and notes. . | ${ }_{610,806}$ | 578,728 | 659,168 | +6 | -7 |
| U. S. bonds | 815,158 | 846,730 | 723,612 | -4 | +13 |
| Other securities. . . | 277,675 | 268,907 | 257,916 | +3 | + |
| Reserve with F. R. Bank | 508,641 | 511,157 | 496,946 | -0 | +2 |
| Cash in Vault | 44,667 | 46,048 | 46,111 | -3 | -3 |
| Balances with domestic |  |  |  |  |  |
| Demanks deposits ${ }^{\text {bad }}$ adusted | 229,619 | 235,819 | 221,088 | -3 | +4 |
| Demand deposits adjusted | 2,196,329 | 2,206,078 | 2,167,060 | -0 | +1 |
| Time deposits, ${ }^{\text {a }}$ - | 592.516 | 586,135 |  | +1 | +5 |
| U. S. Gov't deposits | 103,518 | 75,648 | 52,802 | +37 | +96 |
| Deposits of domestic banks | 598\%,919 | 628,478 | 561,117 |  | +7 |
| Borrowings . . . | 20,700 | 17,000 | 42,750 | +22 | -52 |

## Debits to Individual Demand Deposit Accounts

(In Thousands of Dollars)

*Not included in Sixth District totals.

# Sixth District Indexes 

|  | Manufacturing Employment |  |  | Manufacturing Payrolls |  |  | Cotton Consumption** |  |  | Construction Contracts |  |  | Furniture Store Sales*/** |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { Mar. } \\ 1954 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Feb. } \\ 1954 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar. } \\ 1953 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Mar. } \\ & 1954 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Feb. } \\ 1954 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar. } \\ 1953 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Apr. } \\ 1954 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Mar. } \\ & 1954 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Apr. } \\ 1953 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { Apr. } \\ & 1954 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar. } \\ 1954 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Apr. } \\ 1953 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Apr. } \\ 1954 . \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Mar. } \\ 1954 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Apr. } \\ 1953 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| UNADUSTED 120 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| District Total | 111 | 112 | ${ }_{107}^{115}$ | 151 | ${ }_{136 r}^{151 r}$ | 155 | 92 | 94 | 106 | 160 | 196 | 166 | 87 | 82 | 86 88 |
| Florida. | 139 | 140 | 136 r | 187 | 192r | 183 |  |  | 1 | 204 | 248 | 186 | ${ }_{91 p}$ | 89 r | 89 |
| Georgia. | 113 | 113 | $116 r$ | 150 | 150r | 160 | 93 | 94 | 105 | 189 | 183 | 171 | 87 | 84 | 90 |
| Louisiana | 105 | 108 | 106r | 149 | 150 | 145 |  |  |  | 201 | 141 | 176 | 93p | 90 | 82 |
| Mississippi | 107 | 106 | $115 r$ | 155 | 153 | 163 | 110 | 113 | 135 | 115 | 195 | 101 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| District Total | 110 | 112 | 113 | 150 | 150r | 154 | 92 | 90 | 106 | - | - | - | 96 | 93 r | 94 |
| Alabama . |  | 103 | 106 | 136 | 136 r | 141 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 86 | 92 r | 91 |
| Florida . . | ${ }_{113}^{133}$ | ${ }_{113}^{132}$ | ${ }_{116}^{131 r}$ | 175 150 | 179r | 171 |  |  | - |  |  |  | ${ }_{93}^{101 p}$ | 98 C | 98 |
| Georvia ${ }_{\text {L }}$ Louisiana | 107 | 111 | ${ }_{108 r}$ | 153 | 156 | 1160 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 99 p | 106 | 87 |
| Mississippi | 108 | 108 | 115 | 160 | 156 | 168 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tennessee. | 110 | 110r | 115 | 154 | 154r | 159 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 77 | 75r | 76 |

Department Store Sales and Stocks**

|  | Adjusted |  |  | Unadjusted |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { Apr. } \\ & 1954 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Mar. } \\ 1954 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Apr. } \\ 1953 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { Apr. } \\ 1954 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar. } \\ 1954 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Apr. } \\ 1953 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| DISTRICT SALES* | 127p | 117 | 118r | 129p | 110 | 117 r |
| Atlanta ${ }^{1}$. | 132 | 120 | $120 r$ | 132 | 108 | 110 |
| Baton Rouge . | 105 | 107 | $111 r$ | 116 | 92 | 108 |
| Birmingham . | 110 | 105 | 112 | 113 | 97 | 106 |
| Chattanooga . | 134 | 116 | $120 r$ | 135 | 106 | 114r |
| Jackson. . | . 115 | 103 | 108r | 116 | 95 | 104 |
| Jacksonville | 117 | 101 | 106r | 116 | 93 | 100r |
| Knoxville . | 129 | 118 | 122r | 133 | 106 | 115 |
| Macon . | 133 | 116 | 139r | 129 | 100 | 118 |
| Miami | 129 | 127 | $125 r$ | 134 | 133 | 125r |
| Nashville | 114 | 112 | $116 r$ | 120 | 100 | 117 r |
| New Orleans . . . . . | - 122p | 117 | 117 r | 128p | 108 | 114 r |
| St. Ptrsbg.-Tampa Area | 136 | 135 | $140 r$ | 140 | 139 | 139 |
| Tampa ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | 120 | 121 | 117 | 123 | 115 | 119 |
| DISTRICT STOCKS* . | 135p | 141 | 143 r | $143 p$ | 147 | 152r |

${ }^{1}$ To permit publication of figures for this city, a special sample has been constructed that is not confined exclusively to department stores. Figures for non-department stores, however, are not used in computing the District index.
*For Sixth District area only. Other totals for entire six states.
**Daily average basis.
Sources: Mfg. emp. and payrolls, state depts. of labor; cotton consumption, U. S. Bureau Census; construction contracts, F. W. Dodge Corp.; 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 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Apr. } \\ & 1954 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Mar. } \\ & 1954 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Apr. } \\ 1953 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Apr. } \\ & 1954 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Mar. } \\ & 1954 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Apr. } \\ 1953 \end{gathered}$ |
| Construction contracts* |  | . | . | 180 | 252r | 173 |
| Residential | . | . . | . | 216 | 217r | 159 |
| Other |  |  |  | 152 | 278r | 184 |
| Petrol. prod. in Coastal |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Louisiana and Mississippi** |  | $141 r$ | 142 | 147 | 141r | 144 |
| Furniture store stocks* . . . | 119 | 119 | 123 | 127 | 120 | 131 |
| Turnover of demand deposits* | 19.8 | 20.4 | 19.0 | 20.0 | 20.6 | 19.2 |
| 10 leading cities | 21.7 | 21.5 | 20.9 | 21.2 | 22.0 | 24.0 |
| Outside 10 leading cities | 16.7 | 17.2 | 16.2 | 16.7 | 16.9 | 16.2 |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { Mar. } \\ & 1954 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Feb. } \\ & 1954 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Mar. } \\ & 1953 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar. } \\ 1954 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Feb. } \\ & 1954 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar. } \\ 1953 \end{gathered}$ |
| Elec. power prod., total** |  | . | . | 195 | 191 | 184 |
| Mfg. emp. by type |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ${ }_{\text {Apparel }}$ Chemicals - . |  | $141 r$ | 143 r | 141 | 140 r | 143 r |
| Fabricated metals ${ }^{\circ}$ |  | 144 r | 153r | 145 | 146 r | 157 r |
| Food . . . . . |  | 111 | 107r | 107 | 110 | 106r |
| Lhr., wood prod., furn. \& fix | 85 | 87 | $91 r$ | 86 | 86 | 92r |
| Paper and allied prod. . . | 142 | 140 | 140 r | 142 | 141 | 140 r |
| Primary metals . . . | 95 | 96 r | 105r | 96 | 97 r | 106 r |
| Textiles | 94 | 95 | 101 r | 95 | 95 | 102r |
| Trans. equip. . . . . | 165 | 167 | 154r | 172 | 172 | 160 r |

$r$ Revised p Preliminary


