SIXTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

Monthly Review

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, MAY, 1957

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DISTRICT BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

Personal income in the first quarter exceeded both that of the preceding quarter and a year earlier, although manufacturing employment did not increase. Consumer spending is continuing high. Bank loans and deposits have increased further, and as reserve positions of member banks eased somewhat, their borrowings from the Reserve Bank declined.

Personal income is running ahead of last year in each District state.

Nonfarm employment changed little in March from the record of the preceding two months. Manufacturing employment showed a slight decline.

Manufacturing payrolls declined slightly further in March.

Production of crude oil in coastal Louisiana and Mississippi rose to a new high in March, and activity in District **steel mills** continues to hold at near capacity.

Construction contracts awarded rose further in February but changed little in March. Both residential and nonresidential awards in the first three months of this year were above the same period last year.

New and expanded manufacturing plants were announced in record number in the first three months of this year, but the value of the projects was the lowest in two years.

Textile activity, as measured by seasonally adjusted cotton consumption, changed little in March from February's low. Mill employment declined, and the average work-week was reduced further.

Income payments to agriculture in the first quarter were slightly below those in the like period of 1956, largely because of declines in Florida and Mississippi.

Output of vegetables is lower than last year, but citrus output is slightly greater.

Prices of eggs and broilers declined during April and are below those of last April; prices of beef and pork are higher.

The peach crop is forming well and probably will top last year's by a large margin.

Fewer acres of cash crops will be planted this year, largely because of the acreage farmers placed in the soil bank.

Wet weather slowed field work and planting but promoted growth of pastures and early vegetables.

Farm real-estate values increased between July and November last year, especially in Florida; year-to-year gains for November were substantial.

Spending by check, as measured by seasonally adjusted bank debits, declined in March from the all-time record reached in February.

Department store sales in April, after adjustment for the changing date of Easter and trading day differences, exceeded both the previous month and the same month a year earlier.

Furniture store sales, seasonally adjusted, were below those of February as well as those of March 1956.

Consumer instalment credit outstanding grew throughout the first quarter and at the end of March was somewhat above a year ago.

New car registrations in February were slightly below the January number but considerably above February 1956.

Total loans at commercial banks rose a little more than seasonally in March.

Seasonally adjusted deposits at member banks increased during March and apparently rose further in April.

Interest rates charged by selected banks in Atlanta and New Orleans on short-term business loans increased slightly between December and March.

Reserve positions of member banks during April eased somewhat, and borrowings from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta declined to levels below that of excess reserves.

Monetary Policy and the Economy

Monetary policy decisions in 1956 were made against a background of an economy pressing against capacity. Spending in many sectors increased more than goods and services did, forcing prices to rise, and demands for credit, which further boosted spending, were greater than savings could supply. More credit, however, would have produced little more goods and would have pushed prices up even further. Actions of the Federal Reserve System, therefore, were designed to keep money and credit from expanding too rapidly by restricting the supply of bank reserves.

Federal Reserve Policy in 1956

Although monetary actions in 1956 were continually directed toward credit restraint, the Federal Reserve System modified its policy from time to time. Whenever uncertainties developed in the economic outlook, the System moderated the degree of restraint somewhat. On the other hand, it tightened the reins whenever it appeared that the economy was becoming too exuberant.

Last spring, businessmen revealed that they were going to spend more for plant and equipment than they had previously indicated, and they began borrowing more heavily from commercial banks. Moreover, there were indications of a future increase in consumer spending; and prices were moving upward. Ten Federal Reserve Banks, therefore, including the Atlanta Bank, increased the discount rate in April from 2½ to 2¾ percent; the other two raised it from 2½ to 3 percent.

Production and employment, which had slackened somewhat in early summer, picked up again sharply after the steel strike was settled in July. Interest rates likewise advanced, and credit demands continued large. Higher wages and prices of steel and machinery led some observers to fear that a wage-price-spiral might be developing. In this environment, the ten Reserve Banks that still had a 2¾ percent discount rate in August increased it to 3 percent.

For the year as a whole, open market operations resulted in a slight increase in reserves. From time to time, however, the System sold securities, which had the effect of absorbing reserves that banks had gained from seasonal and other factors; on other occasions, the System helped meet seasonal needs by purchasing securities.

Impact on Commercial Banks

In adjusting to Federal Reserve policies, some member banks continued to borrow from the Federal Reserve Banks in 1956. Throughout the nation, these borrowings averaged greater than the year before, but in this District, they were no greater than in 1955. In general, however, member banks had to satisfy the strong loan demand largely by selling securities. Nevertheless, bankers sold less securities than in 1955, partly because they felt that the securities they had already sold had reduced their liquidity as much as they deemed desirable.

In 1954, member banks throughout the nation had, on the average, 55 percent of their total assets in cash, balances with other banks, or Government issues that can be quickly turned into cash. By mid-1956, such assets had declined to 47 percent of the total, and loans made up a larger proportion than in 1954. District banks showed a more favorable liquidity position in mid-1956 than banks throughout the nation.

Banks' increasing reluctance to sell investments was influenced by the behavior of security prices. Between the summer of 1954 and end of 1956, prices of Treasury issues, especially the longer maturity issues, declined almost steadily. Since many banks had exhausted their short-term obligations by late 1955, they realized increasingly greater losses on sales of their relatively longer Treasury issues. The narrowing in differentials between yields on investments and interest rates on loans also diminished the incentive to shift to loans, especially since loans frequently involve greater credit risks. Bankers, therefore, probably scrutinized more carefully the loan requests of their regular customers and were increasingly reluctant to accommodate new ones.

Accompanying the slackening in the loan expansion and security liquidation was a slowing down in the growth of the money supply. Demand deposits plus currency outside banks rose slightly less than one percent last year, compared with about 3 percent in the two preceding years.

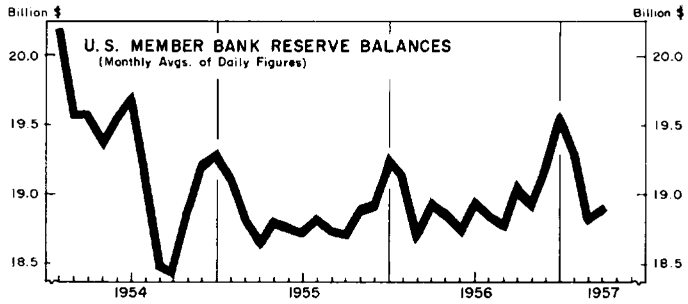
Other Effects of Tight Money

While the growth in the money supply slackened, the public used its money more actively; that is, the same deposits did more work. Many businessmen found it increasingly attractive to keep their bank balances to a minimum because of the yields available on short-term securities. Others managed with less borrowing by drawing down their bank accounts.

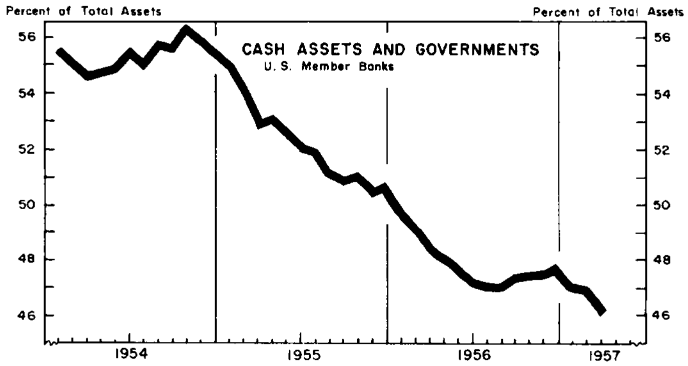
Corporations needed a great deal more money to finance inventories, receivables, and plant and equipment than they could get by economizing cash or by using funds set aside for such purposes or by borrowing from banks. They obtained over 10 billion dollars from selling securities last year, which was appreciably more than in any previous year.

With demands for credit greater than savings could supply, interest costs increased almost steadily throughout 1956 and, as a consequence, some would-be borrowers decided to postpone or forego their financing plans. The amount of proposed security issues that was postponed was apparently larger for state and local governments than for corporations, partly because administrative limitations kept would-be state and local government borrowers from paying the rates set by the market. A sizable number of previously postponed issues, however, was sold, and state and local governments still spent more money for schools and other facilities in 1956 than in 1955.

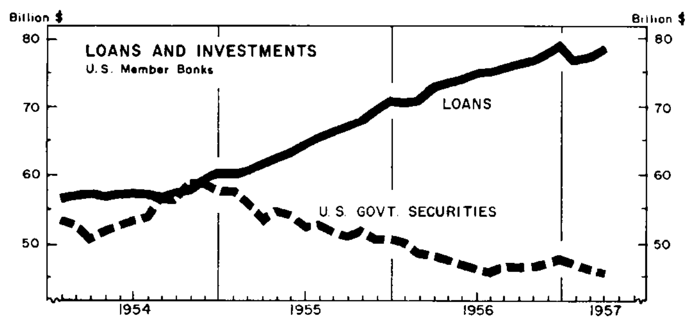
How System Policy Affected Banks in 1956 and 1957



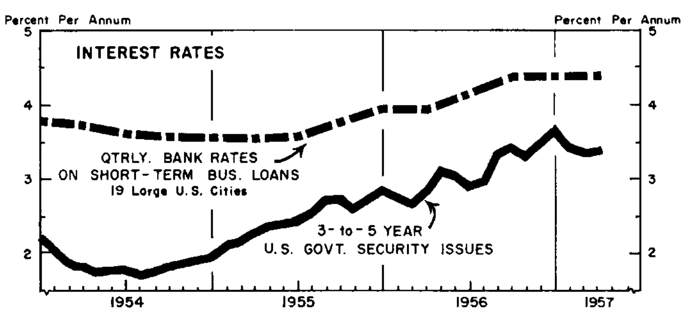
Bank Reserves Rose Only Slightly, After Seasonal Adjustment . . .



And Liquidity Positions Continued to Weaken.



To Meet the Increased Loan Demand, Banks Had to Sell Government Securities . . .



But This Became Somewhat Less Profitable.

Mortgage lenders reduced the flow of funds into Federally insured or guaranteed mortgages carrying relatively lower fixed interest rates and increased their acquisitions of conventional mortgages on which yields were growing increasingly attractive.

Conditions in 1957

Economic conditions thus far in 1957 have in many ways been similar to those in late 1956. Consumer prices, employment, output, and spending have reached or stayed near record highs, and a few economic sectors that were weak last year have continued so. Some additional soft spots appeared, notably cutbacks in appliance production and reductions in raw material prices to pre-Suez levels. Advances in inventories and plant and equipment expenditures have slowed down and retail sales have declined slightly, which have caused some observers to conclude that the economic expansion has stopped. Mindful of rising wages and Government spending, others are still worried about inflation.

There is also disagreement over what the behavior of bank loans means. In the first quarter of 1956 business loans at all commercial banks increased 1.3 billion dollars; in 1957, they rose only 300 million. At that time of year, however, loans have declined more often than they have increased. Interest rates charged by banks on business loans have stabilized and money rates have shown a declining trend since late December. Some persons say that reduced liquidity positions made banks increasingly reluctant to make new loans. Others explain that the inventory slow-down and less buoyant economic conditions brought about the decline in the rate of loan growth.

What the easier tone in the capital market means has also been interpreted in various ways. Despite a record-breaking volume of capital issues for this time of year, yields on outstanding corporate, municipal, and Treasury obligations so far in 1957 have been somewhat lower than in late 1956. It has also become somewhat easier to sell corporate and municipal issues than it was last winter. Greater uncertainty about the economic outlook was responsible for the change in bond markets and the somewhat less enthusiastic behavior of stock prices, according to some observers. Others view these events merely as a technical correction between yields of bonds and stocks.

Discount rates, which when changed are often heralded as the Reserve System's way of recognizing a fundamental change in business or credit conditions, have not been changed further in 1957. Open-market operations, meanwhile, have been carried on in the light of seasonal factors and other circumstances. During January and February, the System reduced its holdings of total Government securities by 2 billion dollars. In March and early April, open-market operations did not supply enough reserves to take care of the increase in required reserves accompanying the growth in bank credit and the drain on reserves from other factors. As of late April, reserve positions of banks were roughly comparable to those prevailing in early autumn 1956.

HARRY BRANDT

Bankers Finance Intermediate-Term Farm Investments

District farmers are finding that they need more credit as they change their farming methods. Expenditures for current production costs as well as farm investments have grown rapidly in recent years. From 1949 to 1955, for example, annual farm expenses increased from 1.2 billion dollars to 1.6 billion dollars, and in the same period farm capital depreciation, or capital consumption, moved up from 200 million to 350 million dollars annually—a gain of 75 percent. Those gains have prompted farmers to ask credit institutions for an increasing volume of loans even though they have been able to maintain comparatively high equities in their businesses. Furthermore, they are requesting a different type of credit than formerly. The growth in use of machinery and equipment and in livestock enterprises has brought an expansion in the need for credit to finance intermediate-term investments.

Farmers, agricultural research and extension workers, and others concerned with the progress of agriculture have frequently criticized the credit policies of commercial banks, especially those relating to financing intermediate-term farm investments. Those critics readily acknowledge the effectiveness of lending practices with respect to both short- and long-term loans, but they suggest that commercial bankers do not provide intermediate-term loans of adequate size and maturity to finance purchases of livestock and machinery and other capital equipment needed in modern farming.

Despite the criticism, however, bankers are extending a substantial proportion of their farm credit to finance intermediate-term investments. Information obtained in a survey of bank loans outstanding to farmers on June 30, 1956, shows that commercial bankers in the Sixth District had 336 million dollars in loans to 220,000 farmers. Although a large share of those loans was made to finance current farm expenses, banks had extended credit amounting to 104 million dollars to 38 percent of their farm borrowers to finance capital item purchases like tractors, trucks, and livestock—items that have a productive life beyond the crop season.

Notes made for those intermediate-term purposes amounted to nearly one-third of the outstanding farm loans at commercial banks in mid-1956—a time when farm loans for production purposes were near their annual peak. Of the 301,000 farm notes outstanding at insured commercial banks in mid-1956, 16 percent were made to finance machinery and equipment purchases; 5 percent were made to finance livestock purchases for establishing or adding to brood herds; 6 percent were made to finance automobile or other consumer durable good purchases; and 5 percent were made to finance land and building improvements.

The original size of the average loan made to finance intermediate-term investments, however, was generally smaller than the average loan made to farmers—1,068 dollars compared with 1,118 dollars. Notes made to finance automobiles and other consumer durable purchases were substantially smaller than the average of all notes. Notes made to finance machinery and equipment averaged 927 dollars, only about 200 dollars smaller than the average size note for all purposes. Notes made for other intermediate-term purposes were substantially larger than the average.

Forty percent of the notes made to finance intermediate-term investments had maturities of 15 months or more, compared with only 27 percent for all notes, including those made to finance purchases of real estate. Among the intermediate-term investment notes, those made to finance machinery and equipment purchases had substantially longer maturities than others: 50 percent had maturities of 15 months or more.

Loans to Finance Intermediate-Term Investments, Compared with All Farm Loans
All Insured Commercial Banks, Sixth District, June 30, 1956

	Number of		Percent of		Total Amount Outstanding		Average Size (Dollars) of	
Purpose	Borrowers	Notes	Borrowers	Notes	Thousand Dollars	Percent	Debt per Borrower	Note
All Intermediate-term Investment Purposes	83,821	97,306	38.1	32.3	103,910	30.9	1,240	1,068
Purchase of Mach. and Equipment	—	49,419	—	16.4	45,826	13.6	—	927
Purchase of Other Than Feeder Livestock	—	14,723	—	4.9	22,437	6.7	—	1,524
Purchase of Autos and Other Consumer Durable Goods	—	18,328	—	6.1	8,242	2.4	—	450
Improvement of Land and Buildings	—	14,836	—	4.9	27,405	8.2	—	1,847
All Other Purposes	136,076	203,485	61.9	67.7	232,337	69.1	1,707	1,142
All Purposes	219,897	300,791	100.0	100.0	336,247	100.0	1,529	1,118

In practice, renewals were used to further lengthen maturities on loans made for intermediate-term purposes. Nearly 14 percent of such loans were renewed in accordance with previous agreements, compared with 11 percent for all farm loans. Loans for intermediate-term purposes, however, were renewed without previous agreements more frequently than all loans, indicating, perhaps, that the former more often had inadequate maturities or that the borrowers were unable to meet scheduled payments.

Interest Rates on Notes to Finance Intermediate-Term Investments

By Size of Note and Repayment Method, June 30, 1956
All Insured Commercial Banks, Sixth District

		Original Size of Note (Dollars)						
Repayment Method	All Loans	Under 250	250-499	500-999	1,000-1,999	2,000-4,999	5,000-9,999	10,000 & Over
		(Avg. Annual Rate in Percent)						
All Repayment Methods .	6.8	8.2	8.0	7.6	7.4	7.0	5.9	5.2
Single Payment . .	6.2	7.4	7.1	7.0	6.7	6.4	5.6	5.1
Instalment with Int. on Unpaid Bal.	6.3	7.8	7.5	7.1	6.8	6.6	6.0	5.3
Instalment with Int. on Orig. Amt.	8.8	10.0	9.9	9.2	8.9	8.9	6.7	6.0

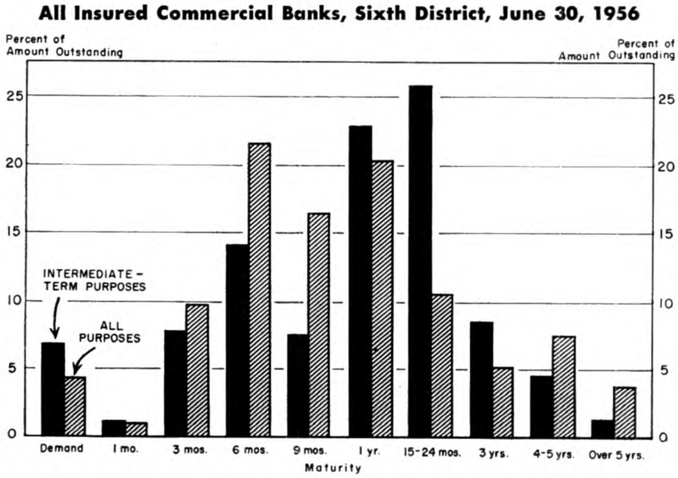
Chattel mortgages were the predominant security for intermediate-term investment loans. Two-thirds of all notes and four-fifths of the notes made to finance machinery and equipment purchases were secured by chattel mortgages, presumably on the specific item purchased.

Nearly one-half of the intermediate-term loans were repaid in instalments, compared with only 12 percent of all other farm loans. Repayments were made in instalments more frequently in the longer maturities both for intermediate-term and all other loans.

Bankers extend credit for financing intermediate-term investments through merchants and dealers about as often as they make direct loans to farmers for those purposes. Much of the credit for purchasing machinery and equipment, as well as that for automobiles and other consumer durable goods was extended indirectly: At banks with deposits of over 3 million dollars, about three-fourths of the notes on intermediate-term investment loans were acquired from dealers or merchants. At smaller banks, however, less than one-half the notes were so acquired.

Maturities of Outstanding Bank Loans to Farmers By Purpose of Loan

All Insured Commercial Banks, Sixth District, June 30, 1956



Interest rates on loans made to finance intermediate-term investments averaged 6.8 percent. Rates showed a marked tendency to decline as size of note increased. Notes under 250 dollars had an average interest of 8.2 percent, and notes of 10,000 dollars and over were made at an average annual rate of 5.2 percent. The annual interest rate, furthermore, varied according to the method of repayment. Single payment loans, for example, had an average annual interest rate of 6.2 percent, whereas the average annual rate was 8.8 percent for loans repaid in instalments with interest charged on the original amount.

The information provided by the farm loan survey indicates that many bankers are adapting their lending policies to meet the changing credit needs of farmers. The substantial proportion of loans made to finance intermediate-term investments reveals bankers' willingness to accommodate the increased demand for credit arising from the greater capital use in farming. The longer-than-average loan maturities and higher proportionate use of chattels as security for intermediate-term investment loans suggest that bankers recognize the need for substantially different terms when lending for such purposes than when making traditional crop loans. In addition, the prevalence of loans acquired through merchants and dealers and the rather general use of instalment repayment indicate that bankers have flexible farm lending policies, and that they are adapting their lending practices to the needs of farmers in their trade areas. Farmers with opportunities to use additional capital in their businesses can usually obtain adequate credit tailored to their needs at commercial banks.

John T. Harris and
Arthur H. Kantner

Bank Announcements

On April 8, the Bank of Tavares, Tavares, Florida, a nonmember bank, began remitting at par for checks drawn on it when received from the Federal Reserve Bank. The bank's officers are J. B. Prevatt, President; W. J. Rogers, Executive Vice President; Osler Adams, Cashier; and J. D. Duncan, Assistant Cashier. Capital amounts to $100,000 and surplus and undivided profits $146,497.

On April 22, the Citizens Bank and Trust Co., Plaquemine, Lousiana, a nonmember bank, began to remit at par. Officers are W. B. Middleton, Jr, President; V. J. Kurzweg, Vice President; C. E. Postell, Cashier; and J. Melvin Marque, Assistant Cashier. Capital totals $50,000 and surplus and undivided profits $319,434.

On May 13, the Warrior Savings Bank, Warrior, Alabama, will open for business as a nonmember, par-remitting bank. Officers are Julius S. Pilgreen, President and Cashier, and Carl Jolly, Vice President. Capital amounts to $50,000 and surplus and undivided profits to $25,000.

Sixth District Statistics

Instalment Cash Loans

Lender	No. of Lenders	Volume: Mar. 1957 from Feb. 1957	Volume: Mar. 1957 from Mar. 1956	Outstandings: Mar. 1957 from Feb. 1957	Outstandings: Mar. 1957 from Mar. 1956
		Percent Change			
Federal credit unions	37	+6	+0	—0	+15
State credit unions	16	+16	+57	+4	+18
Industrial banks	7	+4	+7	+0	+7
Industrial loan companies	12	+13	+6	+0	+4
Small loan companies	22	+2	—5	—0	+8
Commercial banks	38	+8	+14	+1	+11

Condition of 27 Member Banks in Leading Cities

In Thousands of Dollars)

Item	April 17, 1957	March 20, 1957	April 18, 1956	Percent Change April 17, 1957 from March 20, 1957	Percent Change April 17, 1957 from April 18, 1956
Loans and investments—					
Total	3,407,015	3,412,305	3,354,976	—0	+2
Loans—Net	1,879,459	1,890,760	1,752,857	—1	+7
Loans—Gross	1,913,832	1,924,770	1,780,835	—1	+7
Commercial, industrial and agricultural loans	1,035,560	1,048,633	964,788	—1	+7
Loans to brokers and dealers in securities	36,482	37,535	38,733	—3	—6
Other loans for purchasing or carrying securities	49,941	49,524	48,807	+1	+2
Real estate loans	172,655	170,531	154,663	+1	+12
Loans to banks	24,374	25,347	17,145	—4	+42
Other loans	594,820	593,200	556,699	+0	+7
Investments—Total	1,527,556	1,521,545	1,602,119	+0	—5
Bills, certificates, and notes	482,979	478,084	569,042	+1	—15
U. S. bonds	746,070	750,192	722,582	—1	+3
Other securities	298,507	293,269	310,495	+2	—4
Reserve with F. R. Bank	507,796	473,860	531,293	+7	—4
Cash in vault	50,465	50,474	49,301	—0	+2
Balances with domestic banks	301,139	283,840	311,011	+6	—3
Demand deposits adjusted	2,318,269	2,263,152	2,424,952	+2	—4
Time deposits	738,131	726,922	623,407	+2	+18
U. S. Govt deposits	83,036	106,295	80,655	—22	+3
Deposits of domestic banks	775,844	739,358	765,571	+5	+1
Borrowings	15,500	55,050	46,100	—72	—66

Department Store Sales and Inventories*

Place	Sales: Mar. 1957 from Feb. 1957	Sales: Mar. 1957 from Mar. 1956	Sales: 3 Months 1957 from 1956	Inventories: Mar. 31, 1957, from Feb. 28 1957	Inventories: Mar. 31, 1957, from Mar. 31 1956
	Percent Change				
ALABAMA	+27	—8	—2	+15	+1
Birmingham	+26	—9	—4	+27	+4
Mobile	+38	+3	+7	..	..
Montgomery	+17	—19	—10	..	..
FLORIDA	+16	—5	+2	—1	+2
Jacksonville	+23	—16	—7	+6	+3
Orlando	+16	—6	—0	..	..
St. Ptrsbg-Tampa Area	+12	—6	+1	..	..
St. Petersburg	+8	—1	+5	+5	+10
Tampa	+16	—12	—3	..	..
GEORGIA	+26	—12	—5	+6	+1
Atlanta**	+26	—9	—2	+5	+3
Augusta	+32	—20	—12	..	..
Columbus	+18	—22	—16	+10	—14
Macon	+22	—16	—7	+10	+5
Rome**	+27	—32	—17	..	..
Savannah	+29	—16	—9	..	..
LOUISIANA	+14	—18	—6	+8	+14
Baton Rouge	+18	—6	+10	+9	+37
New Orleans	+12	—22	—10	+8	+11
MISSISSIPPI	+20	—18	—8	+10	—2
Jackson	+23	—15	—7	+11	—4
Meridian**	+16	—22	—11	..	..
TENNESSEE	+28	—13	—3	+7	—0
Bristol (Tenn. & Va.)**	+27	—15	—5	+9	+6
Bristol-Kingsport-Johnson City**	+26	—16	—6	..	..
Chattanooga	+27	—15	—5	..	..
Knoxville	+24	—19	—7	+9	—9
Nashville	+34	—6	+3	+6	+3
DISTRICT	+21	—10	—3	+6	+3

* Reporting stores account for over 90 percent of total District department store sales.
** In order 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 percent changes.

Wholesale Sales and Inventories*

Type of Wholesaler	Sales: No. of Firms	Sales: March 1957 from Feb. 1957	Sales: March 1957 from March 1956	Inventories: No. of Firms	Inventories: March 1957 from Feb. 1957	Inventories: March 1957 from March 1956
	Percent Change					
Grocery, confectionery, meats	22	+10	—5	19	+2	—12
Edible farm products	8	—14	—9	5	+18	—24
Tobacco	7	—7	—1	7	—7	+0
Dry goods, apparel	7	+9	+2	5	+0	+41
Furniture, home furnishings	7	—13	—10	5	—2	—14
Paper, allied products	29	+9	+9	26	—1	+8
Automotive	45	—4	+10	45	+3	+8
Hardware	10	—18	—7	10	—2	—5
Machinery: equip. and supplies	15	—3	+14	15	+3	+18

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

Retail Furniture Store Operations

	Percent Change March 1957 from February 1957	Percent Change March 1957 from March 1956
Total sales	+0	—6
Cash sales	+6	+6
Instalment and other credit sales	—0	—7
Accounts receivable, end of month	—3	+2
Collections during month	+6	—1

Debits to Individual Demand Deposit Accounts

(In Thousands of Dollars)

	Mar. 1957	Feb. 1957	Mar. 1956	Percent Change: Mar. 1957 from Feb. 1957	Percent Change: Mar. 1957 from Mar. 1956	Percent Change: 1957 from 1956
ALABAMA						
Anniston	35,091	32,175	38,815	+9	—10	—5
Birmingham	702,283	709,670	690,082	—1	+2	+9
Dothan	25,802	22,118	24,097	+17	+7	+5
Gadsden	31,262	28,711	28,581	+9	+9	+9
Mobile	296,171	294,414	235,422	+1	+26	+27
Montgomery	131,428	122,182	123,600	+8	+6	+9
Tuscaloosa*	40,242	39,055	40,462	+3	—1	+1
FLORIDA						
Jacksonville	638,540	584,381	651,018	+9	—2	+7
Miami	712,146	711,663	654,598	+0	+9	+17
Greater Miami*	1,126,112	1,102,592	1,018,803	+2	+11	+17
Orlando	160,752	155,483	137,313	+3	+17	+21
Pensacola	84,342	75,259	75,431	+12	+12	+13
St. Petersburg	169,625	147,382	143,107	+15	+19	+20
Tampa	324,600	297,938	277,567	+9	+17	+15
West Palm Beach*	104,024	94,595	100,719	+10	+3	+10
GEORGIA						
Albany	52,689	48,370	53,137	+9	—1	+4
Atlanta	1,553,551	1,457,373	1,548,630	+7	+0	+3
Augusta	83,657	83,278	98,963	+0	—15	—5
Brunswick	18,530	17,272	17,412	+7	+6	+7
Columbus	92,707	88,180	101,716	+5	—9	—5
Elberton	7,224	6,132	6,833	+18	+6	+20
Gainesville*	43,215	40,763	44,310	+6	—2	+6
Griffin*	15,263	14,002	16,539	+9	—8	—2
Macon	105,939	92,295	104,464	+15	+1	—2
Newnan	14,978	15,303	14,786	—2	+1	+9
Rome*	35,728	35,250	39,857	+1	—10	—3
Savannah	177,233	157,495	155,709	+13	+14	+19
Valdosta	27,565	22,723	24,104	+21	+14	+8
LOUISIANA						
Alexandria*	65,388	61,423	57,285	+6	+14	+13
Baton Rouge	173,925	163,017	153,960	+7	+13	+14
Lake Charles	80,857	74,025	75,673	+9	+7	+8
New Orleans	1,241,701	1,222,617	1,223,887	+2	+1	+9
MISSISSIPPI						
Hattiesburg	30,489	28,304	28,312	+8	+8	+9
Jackson	193,317	177,178	203,220	+9	—5	—2
Meridian	35,544	31,748	34,028	+12	+4	+4
Vicksburg	16,489	18,455	16,618	—11	—1	+7
TENNESSEE						
Bristol*	39,207	32,920	35,707	+19	+10	+13
Chattanooga	269,296	243,801	262,688	+10	+3	+4
Johnson City*	36,850	33,471	36,490	+10	+1	+3
Kingsport*	77,418	59,667	73,161	+30	+6	+6
Knoxville	153,407	147,912	158,253	+4	—3	—2
Nashville	560,765	518,547	544,082	+8	+3	+5
SIXTH DISTRICT 32 Cities	8,201,905	7,795,401	7,906,106	+5	+4	+8
UNITED STATES 344 Cities	197,024,000	177,343,000	189,793,000	+11	+4	+7

* Not included in Sixth District totals.

Sixth District Indexes

1947-49 = 100

	Nonfarm Employment			Manufacturing Employment			Manufacturing Payrolls			Construction Contracts			Furniture Store Sales */*		
	Feb. 1957	Jan. 1957	Feb. 1956	Feb. 1957	Jan. 1957	Feb. 1956	Feb. 1957	Jan. 1957	Feb. 1956	Mar. 1957	Feb. 1957	Mar. 1956	Mar. 1957	Feb. 1957	Mar. 1956
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED															
District Total	134	134	130r	121	121	121r	192	193r	177r	..	..	..	102	116	104
Alabama	122	123	119r	109	110	110r	177	180	163r	..	..	..	117	126	114
Florida	169	167	157r	167	166	155r	267	257	224r	..	..	..	103	117	107
Georgia	131	131	129r	122	123	124r	193	198	184r	..	..	..	105	118	109
Louisiana	131	130r	124r	103	102	102r	178	172	160r	..	..	..	118	122	116
Mississippi	126	126	124r	126	125r	125r	213	207r	188r	..	..	..	89	100	95
Tennessee	120	121r	120	117	119	120r	188	189	180	..	..	..	83	91	83
UNADJUSTED															
District Total	134	134	129r	121	121	121r	194	195r	179r	..	..	..	90	97	92
Alabama	122	122	118r	111	112	111r	177	182r	163r	320	320	279	101	106	99
Florida	178	177r	164r	180	177	166r	286	278	240r	372	362	330	92	97	95
Georgia	129	129	128r	122	123	124r	195	200	186r	348	245	396	92	106	96
Louisiana	129	129	122r	100	100	99r	171	167	154r	332	689	334	101	105	98
Mississippi	124	124	122r	124	123r	123r	209	201r	184r	453	198	258	77	82	82
Tennessee	119	119	119	118	118	120r	186	187	178	226	119	250	70	75	70

Department Store Sales and Stocks**

	Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Mar. 1957	Feb. 1957	Mar. 1956	Mar. 1957	Feb. 1957	Mar. 1956
DISTRICT SALES*	149	153r	144r	137	122r	147r
Atlanta[1]	153	150	140	134	115	142
Baton Rouge	137	149r	120r	120	111	123r
Birmingham	138	128	128r	123	105	129r
Chattanooga	133	133	134	117	100	132
Jackson	110	115	112r	100	88	114r
Jacksonville	116	127r	121r	104	92	120r
Knoxville	140	140	148	122	107	144
Macon	145	144	132r	120	106	138r
Nashville	131	137	133	127	103	130
New Orleans	127	142	138	115	112	141
St. Ptrsbg-Tampa Area	152	162	151	157	152	161
Tampa	120	136	126	116	109	127
DISTRICT STOCKS*	166	165r	163r	174	163r	169r

[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 nondepartment 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: Nonfarm and 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. All indexes calculated by this Bank.

Other District Indexes

	Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Mar. 1957	Feb. 1957	Mar. 1956	Mar. 1957	Feb. 1957	Mar. 1956
Construction contracts*	..	..	..	n.a.	345	331
Residential	..	..	..	n.a.	454	317
Other	..	..	..	n.a.	263	341
Petrol. prod. in Coastal Louisiana and Mississippi**	208	197	167r	208	200	167r
Cotton consumption**	86	86	96	91	91	101
Furniture store stocks*						
Turnover of demand deposits*	22.7	23.4	21.0	22.9	23.2	21.2
10 leading cities	23.9	24.9	22.1	24.5	25.1	22.7
Outside 10 leading cities	19.2	19.0	17.7	18.8	18.4	17.3
	Feb. 1957	Jan. 1957	Feb. 1956	Feb. 1957	Jan. 1957	Feb. 1956
Elec. power prod., total**	..	..	..	294	312	297
Mfg. emp. by type						
Apparel	172	172r	171r	171	170	170r
Chemicals	132	132	130r	133	133	131
Fabricated metals	166	165	159r	169	167	161r
Food	117	117	113	116	115	112
Lbr., wood prod., furn. & fix.	83	83r	88r	82	83r	87r
Paper and allied prod.	161	164	159r	162	164	160r
Primary metals	107	108	109r	108	109	110r
Textiles	91	92	97	91	92	97r
Trans. equip.	206	213	188r	212	213	194r

r Revised   p Preliminary   n.a. Not available