

# *The Monthly Business Review*

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in the Fourth Federal Reserve District

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**FEDERAL RESERVE BANK of CLEVELAND**

**D. C. Wills, Chairman of the Board**

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## Editorial

**W**HILE business throughout the country is improving, the rapidity of improvement has not been as great as hoped for in various quarters, and as a result, the general feeling does not appear to be as buoyant as was the case two or three months ago. When, however, business developments during the past month in the whole country, including the Fourth District, are analyzed, it is apparent that the upward trend of the preceding months was continued throughout September. Furthermore, in the case of several important business barometers, the improvement during September cannot be attributed entirely to seasonal factors. Thus, car loadings caught up with last year after having run about 10 per cent behind for the preceding six months; automobile production increased over the previous month, in the face of a normal seasonal decline; building permits almost held their own with August, whereas for the preceding five years there was an average decline of 9 per cent; and coal production increased steadily since August 1, as against a declining tendency shown during September by three of the four years 1920 to 1923.

Viewing the Fourth District separately, favorable factors also predominated during September. The iron and steel industry continued to show moderate improvement in spite of the uncertainties caused by the new pricing system. Textile manufacturing showed a seasonal increase, while a gradual improvement was noted in several other lines of manufacture. The rubber industry slackened, owing to seasonal factors. Coal mines increased their operations with the approach of winter. Employment on the whole showed a slight increase. Department store sales registered a marked gain over August compared with what might normally be expected. Agricultural conditions in this District are not as favorable on the whole as in some other sections of the country. While fair crops of wheat and oats have been harvested and satisfactory prices received, the corn crop is later than usual and even with the recent good weather, there is still considerable doubt as to whether the crop will mature. The tobacco situation is depressed on account of the large unsold stocks held over from last year.

## Commercial Failures Lower

Bills discounted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland declined from 29½ million on September 17 to 19½ million on October 8, but rose to 26 million on October 15. The general level was slightly higher than for the preceding month. Government securities held showed an increase, amounting to \$64,749,000 on October 15, as compared with \$61,744,000 on September 17. Total earning assets stood at \$104,316,000 on October 15, as compared with \$99,334,000 a month previous. During the same period gold reserves increased from \$297,298,000 to \$303,395,000; member bank deposits rose from \$178,616,000 to \$182,005,000, and notes in circulation increased from \$206,761,000 to \$212,582,000.

Loans of reporting member banks in the Fourth District amounted to \$1,155,723,000 on October 8, an increase of about \$7,000,000, or 0.6 per cent, during the month. Investments amounted to \$655,356,000, an increase of nearly \$10,000,000 or 1.5 per cent. Demand deposits declined from \$1,008,677,000 to \$992,715,000, or 1.6 per cent, while time deposits rose from \$691,464,000 to \$692,814,000, or 0.2 per cent.

The reserve ratio on October 15 for the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland stood at 77.1 per cent, as compared with 78.2 per cent on September 17. For

the System, the reserve ratio declined during the month from 78.5 per cent to 77.1 per cent.

On October 14, it was announced that the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis reduced its rediscount rate from 4½ to 4 per cent. The rates of the other banks remained unchanged during the month.

Saving deposits of 66 banks in the Fourth District on September 30 amounted to \$776,643,647, an increase of 0.5 per cent over August 31, and an increase of 8.5 per cent over September 30, 1923.

Commercial failures in the United States numbered 1,306 during September, according to R. G. Dun and Company. This was a decrease of 214 from August and was the lowest number for any month since September, 1923, when there were 1,226 failures. Since early in 1924, the trend in the number of failures has been downward. In September, liabilities amounted to \$34,296,276, a decrease of 21 million from August, but an increase of 5½ million over September of last year. In the Fourth District, there were 102 failures in September with liabilities of \$3,259,688, a decrease from August of 56 in number and about \$360,000 in liabilities. As compared with September, 1923, there was an increase of 7 in number and \$518,000 in liabilities.

## Improvement Noted in Steel Industry in Spite of New Method of Price Quoting

Despite the confusion caused by the inauguration of new pricing methods on steel, market conditions in steel are maintaining some measure of improvement. That the situation should be moving forward, even though slightly, is accepted as reflecting the fundamental soundness of conditions in the industry. The improvement that has come to the market in a steady, though unspectacular way, since the upward turn was made in July, is set forth clearly by production records.

Steel ingot output in September, when the country was producing at the rate of 33,670,000 tons annually, or 10.7 per cent above August, had risen 50.5 per cent over the low point of July. Production in September was running at 67 per cent of the high mark of the year in March. Pig iron production in September, as compiled by *Iron Trade Review*, showed a gain of 12.7 per cent on a daily average over August and was at the rate of 24,250,000 tons annually. The September production represented 61.2 per cent of the high point in March. The number of active furnaces at the end of September had increased by 24 over the preceding month.

Another gauge of the recent improvement is supplied by the unfilled orders of the Steel Corporation, which on the first of October, were approximately 300,000 tons greater than two months previously. The gains in unshipped bookings by the leading producer in August and September followed six consecutive monthly losses.

Not in many years has the steel industry faced such a process of readjustment of settled practices and trade alignments as that which it is now weathering as a result of the agreement of the Steel Corporation to comply with the cease-and-desist orders of the Federal Trade Commission to abandon the time honored system of quoting steel prices on a common Pittsburgh base. This position of compliance without carrying the controversy into the courts, announced by the Steel Corporation late in September, has been followed by the establishment by this producer of numerous price bases on various products at such points where production has been centered. This action has set a new basis of competition in various lines which independent companies gradually are being forced to follow. This has brought much uncertainty and confusion and many complications, and settled practice has not yet been fully re-established. Under the new conditions, some consumers of steel are favored by reason of their location near new basing points. Others have been put at a competitive disadvantage because of this fact. Many independent producers of finished steel likewise feel that their position has been rendered unfavorable by the tendency toward localization of competition which the new conditions tend to effect. All this uncertainty has made buyers feel their way, awaiting the stabilization of marketing methods, and this has put some check upon the volume of new business.

Railroad demand remains the conspicuous feature of the steel market. Buying of equipment, rails and track material by the transportation systems has been going forward with little or no pause. During September, the railroads placed a total of 27,600 cars, which is the largest for any month, with two exceptions, in several years. In August, they bought 6,000 cars after having done little or nothing in May, June and July. In the nine months of the year to date, the railroads have ordered approximately 108,000 cars, as compared with 103,000 cars for the entire calendar year of 1923. Locomotive orders have been better, although not heavy. Contracting for rails for 1925 requirements has continued to be heavy, and probably 500,000 tons have been closed during the past thirty days.

Requirements for building steel are keeping up well, with total fabricated awards in September of 174,000

tons, or 67 per cent of total shop capacity. In some lines the demand is the best it has been in some years. Requirements of the automobile industry have not expanded appreciably but still are running on a large scale.

Prices, despite the recent uncertainties, have fluctuated within narrow limits. For the week of October 16, *Iron Trade Review* composite of fourteen leading iron and steel products stood at \$38.65. Four weeks previously it was \$38.95.

Shipments of pig iron to foundries and steel works are still growing gradually and are in excess of the increase of production of merchant furnaces. As a result, some further tonnage is coming off the unusually large stocks of iron in the hands of selling producers. Pig iron prices are well held but show no buoyancy due to the condition of stocks.

### ***Bituminous Coal Situation Improves***

An improvement in bituminous coal markets has recently been manifested, demand has stiffened, and price advances have occurred in many localities. According to Government estimates, stocks of soft coal in the hands of commercial consumers have been decreasing during the past few months, amounting to 47 million tons on September 1 as against 51 million tons on June 1 and 56 million tons on September 1, 1923.

The daily average production of bituminous coal has shown a steady increase since the first of August, according to figures furnished by the Geological Survey. In comparing this movement with last year, it is noticeable that in 1923 production stood at practically the same level early in October as on August 1, there having been an increase up to September 6 which was followed by a decline. The result has been that on October 11, average daily production for 1924 had almost caught up with that of 1923, the two years being nearer together than at any time since March 1.

Mine operations during September throughout the country continued to increase, with very few exceptions. The Pocahontas and Tug River regions of West Virginia, for example, were operating at about 75 per cent capacity on October 4, as compared with about 64 per cent on September 6. Mines in Iowa and Washington were operating at 77 per cent of capacity on October 4, the highest rate of any in the country, while southern Ohio mines continued to be the lowest in this respect, with 23 per cent of capacity.

In the Fourth District, as in the country at large, conditions are less depressed than in recent months. Retailers and jobbers report the usual seasonal improvement in business, and as the winter season approaches,

mines in various sections of the District are increasing operations. This is particularly noticeable in the Pittsburgh district, where the rail mines increased from 43 to 53 per cent of capacity between September 6 and October 4, and the combined rail and river mines increased from 38 to 52 per cent. Central Kentucky mines were also operating on a considerably larger scale on October 4, the Hazard fields having risen from 60 to 70 per cent of capacity, and the Harlan fields from 56 to 70 per cent. The Panhandle region of West Virginia showed an increase of from 51 to 58 per cent, while southern Ohio mines, though still operating at a very low rate of capacity, rose from 16 to 23 per cent during the month. Northern and central Ohio, as well as the Westmoreland fields in Pennsylvania, showed practically no change.

Anthracite production, which had been hampered by floods, showed an increase during the week ending October 11, although somewhat below the 1923 figure. The total September output is estimated to be 7,601,000 tons, according to the Geological Survey. The same source estimates the production of beehive coke at 129,000 tons for the week ending October 11, a decline of 9,000 tons from the preceding week, but a gain of 18,000 tons over the week ending September 13. 70 per cent of this coke was produced in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

A statement issued by the Ore and Coal Exchange shows that during September a total of 3,375,450 net tons of bituminous coal were loaded into vessels at Great Lakes ports, as compared with 3,640,872 net tons in 1923. For the first nine months of 1924, the figure was 17,235,648 net tons, as compared with 23,268,635 net tons for the corresponding period in 1923.

### Large Stocks are Depressing Factor in Oil Industry

Although the country's crude output has been dropping during the past few weeks, and is now about 90,000 barrels a day less than at the high mark for this year, which was reached the early part of August, this production, plus imported crude, is sufficient to meet consumptive needs, and excessive crude stocks are not being drawn upon. The *National Petroleum News* estimates that there are now 500 million barrels of crude and refined oil in storage, a figure of some 200 million barrels in excess of what would probably constitute an ample supply. This over-production of both crude and refined products is responsible for reductions within the past month in retail gasoline prices. According to the index number of the United States

Labor Bureau, this commodity now stands at about the 1913 pre-war level for many localities and at slightly less for some districts in the country.

On October 14, the announcement was made by the Prairie Oil and Gas Company that it would resume the buying of all the crude oil coming from its connections, in place of buying and storing half for the producers' account, as had been done for a few months. While superficially, at least, this would indicate a material improvement in the crude market, leaders within the industry have taken every occasion to warn against too optimistic a feeling and against active resumption of development work.

### Automobile Production Shows Increase

For the first time in the last six years, automobile production during September showed an increase over August, as may be seen in the table given below. This bank's index of automobile production (1919-1923=100) stood at 139 in September as compared with 134 (revised) in August, a gain of 5 points. For the five years, 1919 to 1923, the index for September showed an average decline of 14 points from that of August. These figures demonstrate that at a time when a seasonal decline might be expected, production has actually increased.

In analyzing the curve of production for the last six years, it is found that with the exception of 1919, the peak of production each year was reached in March, April, or May, and that thereafter a more or less marked decline took place until the end of the year. The upward curve in most cases was short and sharp, beginning about January and lasting three or four months. The first part of 1924 conformed to the gen-

eral rule, the index rising rapidly from the low point of 146 in December to the peak of 184 in March. The downward swing which followed, however, was of shorter duration than was generally the case in the preceding years. July, with 127, has been the low point so far, and both August and September have shown a gain.

The impetus for this gain has doubtless been due in large measure to the general improvement in business and the working off of surplus stocks by dealers; nevertheless, the question arises as to whether the present upward movement will be continued throughout the rest of the year in spite of the usual tendency toward a seasonal decline.

Truck manufacturers in the Fourth District report but little change during the month. In general there has been a slight improvement in orders, which, however, is not yet as great as was anticipated two or three months ago.

### Automobile Production 1923-1924

*Figures Represent Practically Complete Production and Are Based Upon Reports Received by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago in Cooperation with the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce from Identical Firms Each Month*

Month	1924			1923		
	Passenger Cars	Trucks	Total	Passenger Cars	Trucks	Total
January.....	287,211	28,247	315,458	223,653	18,913	242,566
February.....	336,284	30,399	366,683	259,383	21,411	280,794
March.....	348,287	33,061	381,348	319,527	34,063	353,590
April.....	336,968	34,977	371,945	343,793	36,786	380,579
May.....	279,385	32,326	311,711	350,073	42,373	392,446
June.....	217,845	27,040	244,885	337,048	39,945	376,993
July.....	237,431	24,895	262,326	297,173	29,712	326,885
August.....	251,553	26,781	278,334	313,972	29,882	343,854
September.....	257,868	29,410	287,278	298,600	27,841	326,441
October.....	.....	.....	.....	334,244	29,638	363,882
November.....	.....	.....	.....	284,758	27,374	312,132
December.....	.....	.....	.....	275,287	27,275	302,562
Total.....	.....	.....	.....	3,637,511	365,213	4,002,724

### *Seasonal Decline in Rubber Industry*

According to reports of tire manufacturers in the Fourth Federal Reserve District, August was in most cases the high point of the year in the tire industry. September business was good, although generally less than that of August, while the early part of October showed the usual seasonal decline, due to a slackening of demand at the approach of Winter. Reports indicate that there has recently been but little change in the number of men employed in Akron rubber plants. As compared with several months ago, however, there has been a material increase in employment, amounting to around 20 per cent in the case of some factories.

According to the October report of the Rubber Association of America, giving information as of September 1, production of high pressure inner tubes during August amounted to 4,588,385 tubes, an increase of about 30 per cent over July. Shipments aggregated 5,250,579, or 3 per cent in excess of July, while inventory stood at 5,006,578, a decrease of 16 per cent from July.

An analysis of this report gives some interesting facts with regard to balloon tires. It is noticeable that since March, when figures were first compiled on balloon tires, production of balloon inner tubes has run consistently ahead of shipments, being over twice as great during the considerable portion of the period. This is true even though shipments showed

a steady increase during the same period. For the six months, March to August inclusive, the actual excess of production amounted to 50 per cent, resulting in the building up of a large inventory. A similar condition holds true in the case of balloon casings, although slightly less marked. Turning to the high pressure inner tubes and cord casings, the situation is entirely reversed. Production in the case of the former for the six months ran 9 per cent under shipments, and in the case of the latter was 10 per cent less. Of course, it must be remembered that the stocks of both high pressure tubes and casings were high at the beginning of March, and might naturally be expected to decline, whereas the stocks of balloon tires at that time were low. The fact remains, however, that at the present time stocks are much greater in relation to shipments in the case of balloon tires than in the case of the older style tires. It may also be noted that the inventory of balloon tires still shows an increasing tendency, while that of inner tubes and casings has recently declined sharply.

In view of the fact that the balloon tires are newcomers on the market, it will be interesting in the future to note whether the large production schedules will be justified by a corresponding increase in shipments, and whether shipments will continue steadily upward during the winter months when a slackening may normally be expected.

### *Increased Activity in Textile Lines*

After an extended period of dullness, the textile industry in the Fourth District showed definite improvement in September, due to seasonal factors for the most part. There was a let-down in the early part of October, but manufacturers are practically unanimous in attributing this to the unusually warm weather, which has naturally held back the purchase of winter clothing. Manufacturers generally appear to be more optimistic than they were a month or two ago.

The market for knit goods has been improving since August 1, and September was a very satisfactory month. In men's wear, orders have been good considering the warm weather, which would indicate that dealers' stocks had been allowed to get too low. The recent advance in the price of wool has brought numerous buyers into the market for woolen goods, and there has been more than a seasonal betterment

in this line. Manufacturers of women's wear report an encouraging increase in orders.

In the jobbing trade, sales of 18 wholesale dry goods firms reporting to this bank showed an increase of 23 per cent over August, and were only 10 per cent below the sales of September, 1923. This last percentage is closer to last year than for any month since April. This bank's index of wholesale dry goods sales in the Fourth District (1919-1923=100) stood at 106 in September, 1924, as compared with 86 in August, an increase of 20 points. In 1923, on the other hand the September index was 118, as compared with 123 in August, a decrease of 5 points.

The Harvard index of prices (1919-1921=100) shows an increase in wool of from 102 in August to 109 in September. Cotton dropped sharply from 107 to 90, while other textiles showed practically no change.

### *Shoe Production Greater*

On the whole, the gradual improvement of recent months in the shoe manufacturing industry in the Fourth District was continued during September. Preliminary figures from the Census Bureau indicate that September exceeded August by over 5 per cent in

the matter of production. Some manufacturers, however, report that orders have recently been showing a slackening tendency. Turning to the jobbers, September showed a marked improvement. Sales of wholesale shoe firms reporting to this bank showed an in-

crease of 44 per cent over August whereas August had shown a slight decrease from July.

According to the final figures for August, furnished by the Census Bureau, shoe production in the United

States amounted to 25,261,762 pairs, as compared with 21,389,498 pairs in July, an increase of 18 per cent. August production in the Fourth District ran 5 per cent ahead of the previous month.

### *Manufacturing Generally is Slightly Better*

Conditions in manufacturing industries in the Fourth District on the whole are but little different from a month ago. Where there were any noticeable changes, however, they were usually of a favorable nature, reports from a considerable number of lines indicating that about 50 per cent showed very little, if any, change; about 33 per cent showed improvement of varying degree; while the remainder reported a slump in business.

Probably the most noticeable betterment has occurred in the paint industry. September business is reported as running far ahead of last year, and the same is true of the early part of October. The gains appear

to be distributed over all classes of customers. The paper industry also reports an improving tendency, with orders coming in in larger volume. A hardware manufacturer reports that the upward swing which began in July still continues. Some improvement is also reported by manufacturers of glass and of storage batteries. On the other hand, some machinery manufacturers report a let-up during recent weeks, and a slackening has also been experienced in boxboard and lead manufacturing. The electrical supply and stove manufacturing lines, as well as various others, report that no real change has occurred during the month.

Buying still appears to be on a conservative basis on the part of nearly all customers.

### *Conditions a Little Better in Agricultural Implement Industry*

Reports from agricultural implement manufacturers in this District give a somewhat conflicting picture of the situation in this industry. In general, it appears that conditions have improved slightly during the month, but not to the extent anticipated. The poor corn crop in this District has had a depressing effect upon orders. One manufacturer reports a slightly more liberal buying tendency along some lines, and there is a general

disposition among manufacturers to look for improvement in this regard because of the extremely conservative buying of recent months. The confidence expressed two or three months ago, however, has diminished. As pointed out in last month's Review, this is due to the fact that the increased price of farm commodities has not yet been reflected in any noticeable increase in the purchase of farm implements by the farmers in this District.

### *Agricultural Conditions*

Latest available forecasts issued by the United States Department of Agriculture show still further declines in the prospects for the corn crop, viewed from a country-wide standpoint. In the corn belt of the Middle West, it is now practically certain that much of the crop will not mature before killing frosts, and that a greatly increased acreage will be cut for fodder this year. All reports indicate that silos are being filled to capacity.

Potatoes, in the country at large, have shown a marked improvement over their condition a month ago, and the crop forecast in the United States is now approximately 3 per cent greater than the crop of last year.

Post-harvest reports from practically all hay producing sections show that the early forecasts of an abundant crop have been fully verified, except for a few areas in the South and West.

Plowing and wheat sowing is reported as somewhat belated, due to the lateness of this year's harvest, and to some extent, unfavorable weather conditions.

#### OHIO

##### CORN

The weather has been favorable for the corn crop, during September and early October, but most of the acreage had received too late a start to profit by it. The State forecast is now placed at 90,650,000 bushels, as compared with 159,860,000 bushels last year, a decrease of about 43 per cent. The decrease in the country at large is estimated at about 30 per cent from that of 1923.

The shortage of the corn crop has had a somewhat demoralizing effect on the cattle market, and many farmers are reported as sending grass-fed cattle to market at very unsatisfactory prices, on account of not having corn to feed them.

##### POTATOES

During the month there has been a slight falling off in the outlook for potatoes. Latest estimates from the State Department of Agriculture is for a total crop of 9,800,000 bushels, which is a decrease of 2 per cent from last year.

At this writing, digging has been in progress for some time in certain areas, and the quality generally is reported good.

#### FRUITS

The fruit crop has not kept up to the estimates made earlier in the year—apples, peaches and pears being generally estimated at about half a crop or less, with the quality falling far below normal. Peaches are very late, but the fine weather of the past four weeks has had the effect of materially increasing the quality. Grapes are reported somewhat better than conditions of a month ago indicated, the fine weather of the first half of October having come at a very opportune time.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### CORN

A further decline in the prospects for the corn crop is reported, due in a large measure, to severe frost on September 24, which was general throughout the State. The present estimate of the State Department of Agriculture is for about 79 per cent of last year's crop.

#### POTATOES

The October forecast of potato production indicates a crop of something more than 26 million bushels, which is virtually the same as the harvest of last year. Conditions improved in practically all sections of the State during the last month.

Shipments of Pennsylvania potatoes up to October 4 totaled 458 cars, nearly double the number shipped up to the same date last year.

#### APPLES

Prospects have declined during the month, present indications pointing to a decrease to about 60 per cent of last year's yield.

### KENTUCKY

#### CORN

With the growing season practically ended, pres-

ent indications point to a total production of about 71,306,000 bushels, as compared with 87,866,000 bushels produced in 1923, a decrease of about 19 per cent.

Owing to the immaturity of much of the crop, large areas are being utilized for fodder, and silos are being filled to a greater extent than ever before.

#### POTATOES

The weather of the past few weeks has been favorable to this crop, present estimate of 5,676,000 bushels being an increase of 15 per cent over last year. The quality is reported as being good.

Sweet potatoes, which constitute an important crop in this State, will show a decrease in production of more than 10 per cent from last year, present indications placing the total yield at 1,824,000 bushels.

#### OTHER CROPS

Other crop estimates show the following increases over 1923:

Oats, 5,536,000 bushels—17 per cent

Buckwheat, 164,000 bushels—1.2 per cent.

Hay, 1,465,000 tons—23.5 per cent.

Apples, 5,958,000 bushels—127 per cent

#### CANNING

With the bulk of the crops harvested and canned, the actual shortage of corn and tomatoes anticipated by the canning interests is shown to be greater than was expected a month ago.

The jobbers, having failed to place sufficient orders for future deliveries, will, in the opinion of the canners, be able to get only pro rata deliveries on these orders. This condition makes for a very active market on these commodities.

The pack of peas this season was approximately 40 per cent greater than that of any previous year; notwithstanding this fact, the market remains firm, and it is the consensus of opinion that prices will hold and the entire pack be disposed of in an orderly manner.

## *Tobacco Crop Less than Last Year*

During the past month, weather conditions in the Burley tobacco regions of Kentucky have been largely favorable, and most of the crop has been cut and housed. It is now estimated that the total Kentucky crop will be about 26 per cent less than that of 1923, and about 18 per cent under the five-year average from 1918 to 1922 inclusive. As stated in last month's Review, the large stocks of unsold tobacco on hand have had a depressing influence on the whole tobacco situation in the Burley regions, and growers during the month have continued to hold meetings to discuss the advisa-

bility of either materially reducing the 1925 acreage or cutting out the crop altogether next year.

The October Government crop report places the 1924 Kentucky tobacco crop of all types at 364,126,000 pounds. The estimate of production by types is not yet available, but the estimate for the crop as a whole shows a decline of 7,070,000 pounds, or 2 per cent, from the preceding month's figure. The 1923 crop amounted to 494,190,000 pounds, and the five-year average, 1918-1922 inclusive, was 446,072,000 pounds. The entire United States tobacco



crop for 1924 is estimated at 1,181,620,000 pounds, a decrease of 21 per cent from 1923 and 13 per cent from the 1918-1922 average.

It will be noted that the Kentucky crop shows

a 5 per cent greater loss than that of the United States, both from the 1923 and the five-year average. Last year Kentucky produced 34 per cent of the total tobacco crop of the country.

### ***Lumber Trade Slowly Improving***

September showed a slow improvement in the manufacturing of lumber in the Fourth District. Better conditions have been manifested in the Southern Pine trade in the shape of increased demand and price advances. Reports indicate that furniture factories are experiencing a considerable increase in orders. Buying in general throughout the industry, although well sustained, is still on a hand-to-mouth basis, due, at least in part, to the excellent transportation situation.

Reports from about 375 mills in the United States, which furnish weekly figures to the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association, show that for the four weeks ending October 4, production amounted to 1,019,223,000 feet, shipments were 978,732,000 feet, and orders were 928,927,000 feet. For the preceding four weeks, production was 961,303,000 feet, shipments were 948,693,000 feet, and orders were 961,298,000 feet.

### ***Car Loadings for 1924 attain the 1923 Level***

Car loading figures for the past month give an encouraging picture of business activity. For the five weeks ending October 4, car loadings for 1924 were equal to those of 1923, whereas from April 1 to September 1, loadings for 1924 consistently ran about 10 per cent behind last year.

Loadings exceeded the million mark during each of the four weeks ending October 4, the total for all classes of commodities aggregating 4,302,430 cars, as compared with 3,876,454 cars for the preceding four weeks. Grain loadings have been running far ahead of 1923, and the week ending October 4 exceeded

all previous records in the number of cars loaded with grain and grain products. Miscellaneous car loadings are also considerably greater than those of last year. Merchandise L. C. L. loadings were the largest in history for the week ending October 4. On the other hand, ore loadings for the four weeks were only about two-thirds as great as in 1923, and loadings of coke, forest products, and livestock were also less than a year ago. Coal loadings during the four weeks were about the same as in 1923, but showed a 20 per cent increase over the preceding four weeks of this year.

### ***Decline in Building Permits During September Less than Usual***

The value of building permits in the United States during September showed a very slight decrease of 1.9 per cent from August, according to a report of Bradstreet's covering 163 identical cities. As compared with September of last year, there was an increase of 9 per cent, and the first nine months of 1924 showed an increase of 6 per cent over the corresponding period in 1923. It is noteworthy that the usual September decrease, as compared with August, was noticeably less this year than for any of the previous five years. In 1920, September showed a decrease of 16 per cent from August, and the average decline for 1919-1923 was about 9 per cent. When it is remembered that August of this year showed up unusually well as compared with July, it will be seen that the building industry is making a good recovery after the lengthy slump of the spring months.

In the Fourth Federal Reserve District, the trend in building permits was similar to that in the country as a whole. The value of permits issued during September in thirteen centers was \$18,050,000, as compared with \$18,367,000 in August, or a decrease of 1.7 per cent. There was a substantial

increase of 15 per cent over September of last year. The largest percentage gains were made by Cincinnati, Dayton, Lexington, Wheeling, and Youngstown; while Akron, Columbus, and Springfield showed the greatest decreases. The first nine months of 1924 showed a gain of 0.8 per cent over the same period of 1923. For the nine months, the largest percentage increases were shown by Youngstown, Wheeling and Erie, with 67, 44 and 41 per cent, respectively; while Columbus, with 30 per cent, showed the greatest percentage decline. Cleveland and Pittsburgh both ran slightly ahead of 1923, but the reverse was true of Cincinnati.

The Aberthaw index of factory building costs (1914-100) declined one point in September, standing at 195. The advances early in the month noted in some lines were insufficient to change the general downward trend, which has now continued for five months. During this period, August was the only month not showing a decline from the previous month. That there has not been any great change, however, is seen from the fact that the index stood in March and April at 202, only 7 points higher than in September. A study of the cost of build-

ing materials in the Fourth District on September 1 as compared with July 1 shows the same steadiness. In eight cities in this District, according to a report of the Department of Commerce, declines during the two months predominated over ad-

vances at a ratio of about 4 to 3, but by far the greater number of materials showed no change. There was a general tendency to advance, among various lumber products. Steel products, on the other hand, showed some weakness.

### ***Building Brick Slightly Better; Paving Brick Slackens***

There has been some tendency toward improvement in the building brick industry during the past month. Conditions of the trade in the agricultural sections of the country continue to be favorable, and there has been some betterment in New York City. Reports indicate that throughout the country the volume of business is normal. A report of the Common Brick Manufacturers' Association as of September 1 from 92 firms shows that orders at that time amounted to \$256,017,000, as compared with \$314,588,000 on August 1. Information as to orders on October 1 is not yet available.

There was a slight decline in activity in the paving brick industry during September, according to the report of the National Paving Brick Manufacturers' Association. Shipments of No. 1 brick finally showed a decline, after an upward movement which began with March. Production and unfilled orders also registered decreases. These decreases were small, however, and it may be added that similar declines took place during September a year ago as compared with August. Shipments are still running ahead of production, and September shipments were about 7 per cent ahead of a year ago.

### ***Cement Production Declines***

Cement production in Ohio, West Virginia, and western Pennsylvania during September, according to the Geological Survey, amounted to 1,628,000 barrels, or about 11 per cent of that in the United States. Total United States production was 14,519,000 barrels, a decrease of 4 per cent from August, but an increase of 10 per cent over September a year ago. Shipments during September aggre-

gated 16,827,000 barrels, a decline of 0.2 per cent from August, but a gain of 23 per cent over last year. Stocks at the end of September were 8,358,000 barrels, as compared with 10,666,000 at the end of August and 5,533,000 at the end of September, 1923. Stocks have now declined steadily for six months, a condition which was also true in 1923.

### ***Employment Shows a Small Gain***

Employment in the Fourth District increased to a slight extent during September, due partly to an increase in the number of men employed and partly to an increase in working time. In analyzing reports from a large number of manufacturers, it is found that approximately 54 per cent stated that employment conditions had shown no change, 32 per cent reported increases, mostly slight, and 14 per cent reported small decreases. In some sections, a good demand for skilled workers is reported, while there is a surplus of common labor. Several manufacturers state that the number of men on the payroll remains the same as during the previous month, but that working time has been increased. The various reports on the situation are borne out by figures furnished by the Cham-

bers of Commerce of Cleveland and Cincinnati, the former city showing an increase of 2.5 per cent during September for 100 large concerns, while the latter shows a gain of 1.1 per cent for 19 representative firms. These figures do not take account of any increases in working hours.

Turning to the various industries in the District, the rubber factories generally report practically no change from a month ago. An improvement is evident in the textile lines as well as in some lines of machinery manufacturing. The increase in the paint business has been accompanied by some increase in employment. Paper manufacturers report a slight gain. In most other cases, the change either way was negligible.

### ***Department Store Sales Show Good Gain in September***

September department store sales in the Fourth District showed a considerably greater increase over August than might normally be expected. This bank's index number of department store sales in the District jumped from 86.7 in August to 101.0 in September, and even after correcting the figures for normal seasonal variations, September sales still show an increase of about 7 per cent over those of

August. Another point of interest is that September sales were less than 1 per cent under those of 1923, being the best month, as compared with last year, since April.

Sales in a number of cities exceeded those of last year, the largest gains being shown by Dayton, with 6.7 per cent, and Akron, with 4.6 per cent. For the third quarter of the year, the District ran

4.6 per cent behind last year, Akron and Dayton being the only cities to show increases.

Every city reported an increase in stocks on hand over August, which is natural at this time of year. Stocks were also 1.2 per cent greater than last year. Eight cities reported decreases, while only four reported increases; among the latter, however, were Pittsburgh and Cleveland.

September sales of 55 department stores in this District have been exceeded twice in the last six years, in 1920 and 1923. Taking the five-year average monthly sales, 1919-1923, as a base, the index numbers for September of each year are as follows: 1919, 82; 1920, 102; 1921, 77; 1922, 92; 1923, 102; 1924, 101.

**Department Store Sales**

Percentage of Increase or Decrease

	No. of Reports	Comparison of Net Sales		Comparison of Stocks at End of Month		Percentage of average stocks outstanding at end of each month from July 1 to Sept. 30 to total purchases during calendar period	
		1A September, 1924 compared with September, 1923	1B July 1 to Sept. 30, 1924, compared with same period in 1923	2A Sept., 1924 compared with Sept. 1923	2B Sept. 1924 compared with August, 1924	Sept., 1924, to end of orders at end of Sept., 1924, to total purchases during calendar year 1923	Sept., 1924, to end of orders at end of Sept., 1924, to total purchases during calendar year 1923
Akron.....	4	4.6	2.5	— 2.5	4.6	426.8	....
Canton.....	3	— 1.1	— 3.9	1.2	6.9	880.5	....
Cincinnati....	7	3.9	— 0.7	— 9.8	12.8	481.7	8.9
Cleveland....	6	— 1.7	— 6.6	0.4	9.7	404.7	5.9
Columbus....	5	2.0	— 0.9	— 5.0	16.9	384.0	9.8
Dayton.....	5	6.7	0.1	— 3.4	6.7	434.8	....
New Castle....	3	— 5.8	— 7.8	— 3.9	6.8	718.0	....
Pittsburgh....	7	— 1.5	— 4.7	8.6	10.6	462.1	8.3
Toledo.....	5	— 5.9	— 11.7	— 1.0	6.2	569.6	5.7
Wheeling.....	5	— 7.5	— 7.7	— 8.1	18.1	484.8	7.0
Youngstown..	3	2.1	— 2.4	— 2.3	14.1	340.9	6.8
Other Cities*	7	— 4.7	— 7.0	2.9	13.3	646.5	9.1**
District.....	60	— 0.6	— 4.6	1.2	10.3	451.7	7.8
U.S. Average.	...	5.1	— 0.03	— 1.7	8.6	453.9	8.4

\*Includes reports from Erie, Portsmouth, Springfield, and Lima.

\*\*Includes reports from Erie, Portsmouth, Akron, Springfield, Lima and Dayton.

**Index Numbers of Sales of 55 Department Stores  
Fourth Federal Reserve District**

(Average Monthly Sales for the Five-Year Period 1919-1923 Inclusive—100)

1923	Akron	Canton*	Cincin- nati	Cleve- land	Colum- bus	Dayton	New Castle	Pitts- burgh	Toledo	Wheel- ing	Youngs- town	Other Cities**	Dis- trict
Apr. ....	108	109	104	117	112	107	117	110	106	111	108	98	111
May. ....	112	129	122	111	118	118	114	124	117	129	118	113	119
June. ....	115	118	114	117	128	116	123	121	119	126	115	112	119
July. ....	79	89	76	82	95	92	90	80	92	89	81	79	82
Aug. ....	90	96	84	104	97	92	96	94	105	91	113	80	97
Sept. ....	88	90	94	111	106	112	81	99	101	105	96	87	102
Oct. ....	113	136	126	127	149	154	113	130	128	141	127	128	130
Nov. ....	102	120	120	125	134	131	113	120	120	127	121	105	122
Dec. ....	156	194	183	169	199	219	206	168	187	212	187	194	176
1924													
Jan. ....	78	88	94	92	102	101	91	98	91	102	84	74	94
Feb. ....	88	97	87	90	94	92	81	103	98	87	120	77	96
Mar. ....	95	115	103	104	114	124	93	100	100	107	118	91	104
Apr. ....	112	128	114	133	124	131	127	122	117	128	124	112	124
May. ....	106	124	118	110	116	121	109	118	100	118	117	109	114
June. ....	93	107	99	102	117	109	98	115	100	115	111	104	108
July. ....	84	83	80	78	95	87	86	79	83	89	79	78	80
Aug. ....	88	92	78	91	92	93	83	84	85	76	105	75	87
Sept. ....	92	89	96	109	108	118	76	97	95	96	98	89	101

\*Based on 3-year average (1921-1922-1923).

\*\*Includes Springfield, Portsmouth, and Erie.

## September Wholesale Sales Greater than August

All wholesale lines showed an increase in sales during September, as compared with August, but with the exception of hardware, sales ran below those of September, 1923. The largest increase over August was shown by wholesale dry goods, with 23.2 per cent.

Sales during the first nine months of 1924 were less than for 1923 in the case of all lines. Dry goods showed the largest decrease, 16.4 per cent, while drugs, with 2.8 per cent, had the smallest decrease.

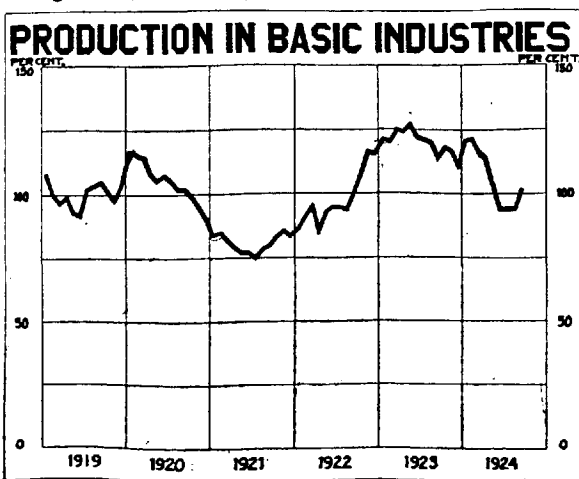
### Wholesale Trade Sales

	Number of Firms Reporting	Percentage change in net sales during Sept., 1924, compared with Aug., 1924.	Percentage change in net sales during Sept., 1924, compared with Sept., 1923.	Percentage change in net sales from Jan. 1, 1924 to Sept. 30, 1924, compared with same period last year.
Groceries—				
Cincinnati.....	3	44.5	18.2	2.3
Cleveland.....	3	9.5	— 3.2	0.7
Columbus.....	3	17.6	— 5.7	— 5.4
Erie.....	4	8.5	— 7.3	4.9
Lexington.....	3	11.2	— 9.8	— 6.2
Pittsburgh.....	7	19.9	3.6	— 3.0
Portsmouth.....	3	7.1	— 3.4	— 3.5
Toledo.....	3	11.8	— 11.3	— 6.3
Youngstown.....	3	25.8	— 0.2	— 4.1
Other Cities*	17	14.6	— 7.0	— 9.2
DISTRICT.....	49	15.1	— 3.6	— 3.9
Dry Goods—District.....	18	23.2	— 9.7	— 16.4
Drugs—District.....	16	0.7	— 4.0	— 2.8
Hardware—District.....	18	14.9	1.8	— 7.8

\*Includes Akron, Canton, Dayton, Dover, Ironton, Lima, Mansfield, Massillon, Springfield and Steubenville, Wheeling and Xenia.

## Summary of Business and Credit Conditions in the United States

### By The Federal Reserve Board



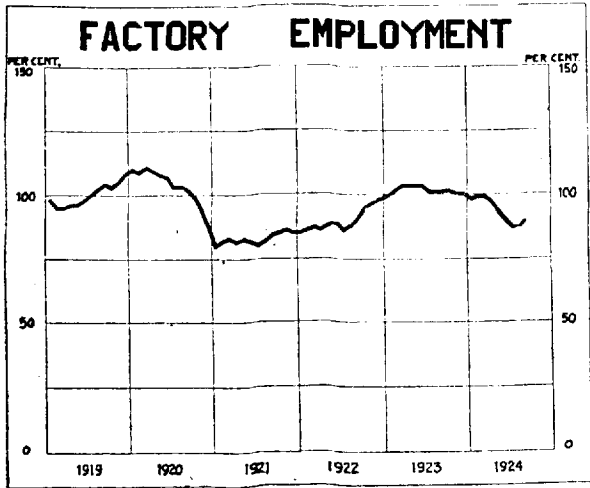
Index of 22 basic commodities corrected for seasonal variations (1919=100). Latest figure—September, 102.

Production of basic commodities, factory employment and distribution of merchandise increased in September. During September and early in October there was a considerable increase in the volume of borrowing for commercial purposes.

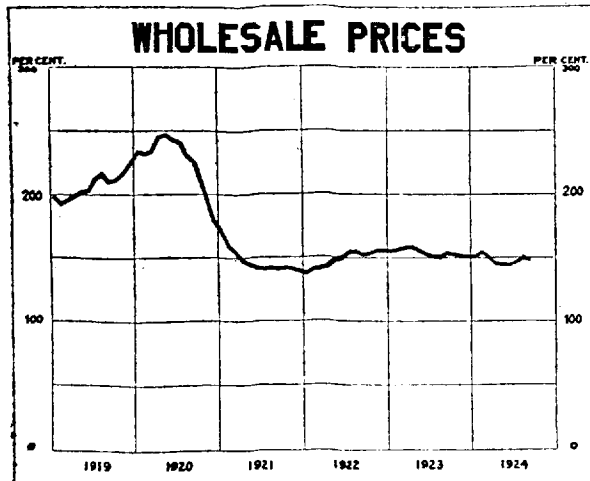
#### PRODUCTION

The Federal Reserve Board's index of production in basic industries, adjusted to allow for seasonal variations, rose 9 per cent in September, the first advance since last January. Increased activity was reported in many lines of industry, including textiles, iron and steel, and coal. Factory employment increased 2 per cent during September, reflecting larger working forces in nearly all reporting industries. Average weekly earnings of industrial workers increased slightly, owing to a decrease in the extent of part time employment. Building contracts awarded showed a small seasonal decline in September, but were considerably larger than a year ago.

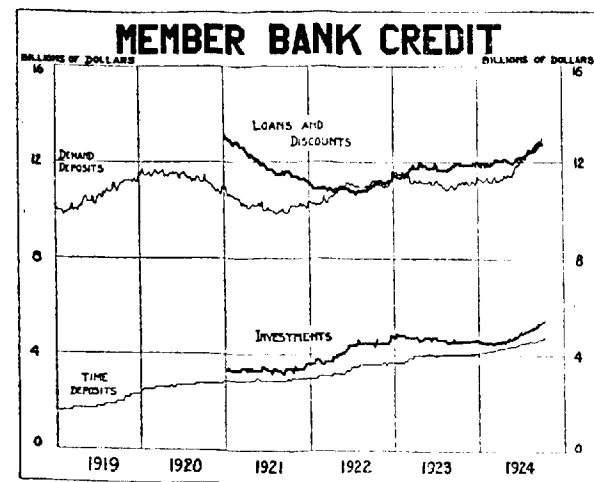
Crop conditions, as reported by the Department of Agriculture, showed a further slight improvement during September, and the estimates of production for spring wheat, oats, barley, and white potatoes on October 1 were larger than the



Index for 33 manufacturing industries (1919=100). Latest figure, September, 90



Index of U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (1913=100, base adopted by Bureau). Latest figure—September, 149



Weekly figures for Member Banks in 101 leading cities. Latest figures—October 15.

month before. Estimates of the yields of corn, tobacco, and cotton, however, were reduced. Marketing of wheat was exceptionally heavy in September and exports of wheat and cotton were larger than for the same month of any recent year.

TRADE

Distribution of commodities, as reflected in railroad shipments, increased during September and was greater than last year, owing to larger loadings of miscellaneous merchandise, grain and coal.

Wholesale trade was 11 per cent larger than in August as a result of increased business in almost all reporting lines. Sales of groceries and drugs were larger than a year ago, while sales of meat and shoes were smaller. Retail trade showed more than the usual seasonal increase in September and sales of department stores and mail order houses were considerably larger than last year. Merchandise stocks of department stores increased more than usual during September, but continued to be slightly smaller than a year ago.

PRICES

Wholesale prices of farm products, clothing, fuel and metals declined somewhat in September, while prices of food products, building materials, and chemicals advanced. The general level of prices as measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' index was slightly lower in September than in August. During the first half of October, quotations on wheat, flour, cattle, hogs, wool, and rubber increased, while prices of cotton, lumber and gasoline declined.

BANK CREDIT

During the five weeks ending October 15, loans and investments of reporting member banks in leading cities increased by more than \$600,000,000. Credit demand for financing the marketing of crops and the fall activity of trade were reflected in increased commercial loans throughout the country, and the total volume of these loans rose to a level considerably above the peak of October, 1923. Member bank investment securities continued to increase and loans on stocks and bonds also advanced. A further growth of demand deposits carried their total to the highest figure on record.

At the Federal Reserve Banks, discounts changed but little in September and declined in the first three weeks of October while holdings of acceptances increased considerably. There was also some increase in the United States securities as a consequence. Total earning assets were larger than at any time since early in the year. Larger currency requirements, partly seasonal in character, were reflected between August 1 and October 1, an increase of \$140,000,000 in the total volume of money in circulation.

Money rates in the New York market remained relatively constant in the latter part of September and the early part of October. On October 15, the discount rate of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis was reduced from 4½ to 4 per cent.

**Comparative Statement of Selected Member Banks in the Fourth District**

	Oct. 8, 1924 (77 Banks)	Sept. 10, 1924 (78 Banks)	Increase	Decrease
Loans and Discounts secured by U. S. Government obligations .....	\$ 18,790,000	\$ 19,629,000	\$.....	\$ 839,000
Loans and Discounts secured by other stocks and bonds.....	422,195,000	416,619,000	5,576,000	.....
Loans and Discounts, all other.....	714,738,000	712,513,000	2,225,000	.....
U. S. Pre-War Bonds.....	45,664,000	45,661,000	3,000	.....
U. S. Liberty Bonds.....	195,857,000	197,302,000	.....	1,445,000
U. S. Treasury Bonds.....	2,065,000	2,040,000	25,000	.....
U. S. Treasury Notes.....	53,944,000	55,812,000	.....	1,868,000
U. S. Certificates of Indebtedness.....	20,977,000	5,805,000	15,172,000	.....
Other Bonds, Stocks and Securities.....	336,849,000	338,934,000	.....	2,085,000
Total Loans, Discounts and Investments.....	1,811,079,000	1,794,315,000	16,764,000	.....
Reserve with Federal Reserve Bank.....	117,554,000	126,066,000	.....	8,512,000
Cash in Vault.....	32,334,000	30,599,000	1,735,000	.....
Net Demand Deposits.....	992,715,000	1,008,677,000	.....	15,962,000
Time Deposits.....	692,814,000	691,464,000	1,350,000	.....
Government Deposits.....	29,857,000	10,021,000	19,836,000	.....
Total Resources on date of this report.....	2,295,366,000	2,285,555,000	9,811,000	.....

**Building Operations for Month of September, 1924-1923**

	Permits Issued				Valuation				Increase or Decrease	
	New Construction		Alterations		New Construction		Alterations		Amount	Per Cent
	1924	1923	1924	1923	1924	1923	1924	1923		
Akron.....	350	271	70	58	\$ 577,308	\$ 874,974	\$ 132,590	\$ 28,985	\$— 194,061	—21.5
Canton.....	227	231	92	70	489,314	489,389	82,665	82,665	— 075	—0.01
Cincinnati...	359	368	214	229	2,183,885	1,411,220	327,705	226,215	874,155	53.4
Cleveland*...	638	602	1,206	1,205	5,635,940	4,910,386	827,840	706,615	846,779	15.1
Columbus...	509	509	144	132	1,245,975	1,782,530	242,825	230,370	— 524,100	—26.0
Dayton.....	284	220	124	129	780,170	377,255	86,271	205,324	283,862	48.7
Erie.....	148	115	67	35	311,696	338,722	162,016	50,530	84,460	21.7
Lexington...	51	45	32	48	147,500	87,165	16,895	18,742	58,488	55.2
Pittsburgh...	544	372	200	119	1,809,135	1,549,926	176,099	264,457	170,851	9.4
Springfield...	102	93	39	21	81,920	140,090	10,040	15,800	— 63,930	—41.0
Toledo.....	522	415	196	207	942,371	963,423	162,906	249,289	— 107,435	— 8.9
Wheeling...	96	92	26	40	832,880	215,894	41,748	35,326	623,408	248.2
Youngstown...	234	173	41	41	687,490	443,125	55,350	18,725	280,990	60.8
Total.....	4,064	3,506	2,451	2,334	\$15,725,584	\$13,584,099	\$2,324,950	\$2,133,043	\$2,333,392	14.8

\*Includes figures for Shaker Heights, East Cleveland and Lakewood.

**Building Operations for Nine Months Ended September 30, 1924**

	Permits Issued				Valuation				Increase or Decrease	
	New Construction		Alterations		New Construction		Alterations		Amount	Per Cent
	1924	1923	1924	1923	1924	1923	1924	1923		
Akron.....	2,254	2,328	1,026	568	\$ 4,929,907	\$ 5,010,704	\$ 818,461	\$ 873,915	\$— 136,251	— 2.3
Canton.....	1,785	1,771	674	636	6,112,470	4,849,119	495,643	833,064	925,930	16.3
Cincinnati...	3,024	3,472	2,073	2,243	16,697,600	16,769,280	2,730,435	3,176,725	— 517,970	— 2.6
Cleveland*...	5,469	5,752	10,081	9,697	54,073,920	52,122,720	8,512,512	9,224,302	1,239,410	2.0
Columbus...	3,541	4,370	1,307	1,171	11,746,025	17,339,205	1,654,075	1,862,095	—5,801,200	—30.2
Dayton.....	1,930	2,230	1,081	1,160	6,543,287	7,474,482	937,713	1,154,592	—1,148,074	—13.3
Erie.....	1,172	1,009	512	481	3,309,431	2,420,705	1,109,116	717,584	1,280,258	40.8
Lexington...	390	403	283	330	1,212,423	1,300,848	218,697	244,364	— 114,092	— 7.4
Pittsburgh...	4,373	4,298	2,082	1,181	22,833,532	23,686,659	2,980,802	1,933,196	194,479	0.8
Springfield...	740	793	247	232	1,022,693	1,190,315	171,575	135,970	— 132,017	—10.0
Toledo.....	3,961	3,306	1,681	1,885	12,053,415	10,168,914	1,701,506	2,152,750	1,433,257	11.6
Wheeling...	787	694	399	397	3,711,663	2,518,342	523,388	432,695	1,284,014	43.5
Youngstown...	1,990	1,465	298	306	6,812,170	3,951,290	287,185	300,250	2,847,815	67.0
Total.....	31,416	31,891	21,744	20,287	\$151,058,536	\$148,802,583	\$22,141,108	\$23,041,502	\$ 1,355,559	0.8

\*Includes figures for Shaker Heights, East Cleveland, and Lakewood.

**Debits to Individual Accounts**

(In thousands of dollars)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	4 Weeks	4 Weeks	4 Weeks	% Incr.	% Incr.	1924	1923	% Incr.
	Ending	Ending	Ending	or Decr.	or Decr.	to date	to date	or Decr.
	Oct. 15,	Sept. 17,	Oct. 17,	Col. 1	Col. 1	(Jan. 2—	(Jan. 4—	Col. 6
	1924	1924	1923	over	over	Oct. 15)	Oct. 17)	over
				Col. 2	Col. 3			Col. 7
Akron.....	\$ 69,769	\$ 64,648	\$ 63,576	7.9	9.7	\$ 682,174	\$ 692,232	— 1.5
Butler, Pa.....	12,239	9,603	13,548	2.7	— 9.7	102,169	110,438	— 7.5
Canton.....	39,067	39,538	40,199	— 1.2	— 2.8	418,118	421,401	— 0.8
Cincinnati.....	284,893	259,038	298,048	10.0	— 4.4	2,903,177	3,114,005	— 6.8
Cleveland.....	593,323	511,816	612,826	15.9	— 3.2	5,875,859	6,092,494	— 3.6
Columbus.....	126,879	119,275	134,046	6.4	— 5.3	1,248,725	1,441,275	—13.4
Connellsville.....	4,263	4,105	5,446	3.8	—21.7	44,841	55,745	—19.6
Dayton.....	60,344	57,801	61,293	4.4	— 1.5	642,249	661,361	— 2.9
Erie.....	31,311	26,962	32,108	16.1	— 2.5	295,607	303,525	— 2.6
Greensburg.....	20,475	19,093	21,715	7.2	— 5.7	209,581	202,110	3.7
Homestead.....	4,175	3,678	4,371	13.5	— 4.5	40,383	36,064	12.0
Lexington, Ky.....	15,815	14,350	16,972	10.2	— 6.8	208,145	235,342	—11.6
Lima.....	16,913	16,512	15,922	2.4	6.2	173,564	163,215	6.3
Lorain.....	6,481	6,639	6,362	— 2.4	1.9	58,672	58,624	0.1
Middletown.....	7,963	7,971	9,082	— 0.1	—12.3	85,583	93,348	— 8.3
Oil City.....	12,199	10,632	11,509	14.7	6.0	125,475	126,421	— 0.7
Pittsburgh.....	757,070	686,900	777,765	10.2	— 2.7	7,830,000	7,906,954	— 1.0
Springfield.....	17,372	16,945	18,541	2.5	— 6.3	184,620	200,508	— 7.9
Toledo.....	186,204	149,174	158,883	24.8	17.2	1,697,255	1,659,932	2.2
Warren, O.....	12,497	12,618	12,013	— 1.0	4.0	128,521	127,155	1.1
Wheeling.....	41,079	36,016	41,965	14.1	— 2.1	425,974	432,501	— 1.5
Youngstown.....	61,492	49,952	63,703	23.1	— 3.5	575,476	586,126	— 1.8
Zanesville.....	12,066	11,135	11,547	8.4	4.5	124,319	121,309	2.5
Total.....	\$2,393,889	\$2,134,401	\$2,431,440	12.2	— 1.5	\$24,080,487	\$24,842,085	— 3.1

**Explanation of Charts on Following Page**

All charts are monthly.

All charts have a relative scale, i.e., the actual 5-year average in figures has been called 100.

Sources of information are as follows:

1. Member Bank Credit. Figures for the last week in the month from about 800 banks reporting weekly to the Federal Reserve Board.

2. Member Bank Deposits. Same as preceding.

3. Volume of Payments by Check. Debits to individual accounts at 140 cities, reporting to the Federal Reserve Board (not including New York).

4. Commercial Failures. Number of commercial failures as reported by R. G. Dun & Company.

5. Retail Trade. The index number of the Federal Reserve Board with 1919 equaling 100, is recomputed with the monthly average, 1919-1923, as a base. The index covers sales of about 350 department stores in the country.

6. Wholesale Trade. The Federal Reserve Board's Index Number has been recomputed, as in the preceding chart. This index covers sales of a large number of wholesale lines.

7. Building Permits. Reports from about 170 cities as shown by Bradstreet's.

8. Car Loadings. Figures reported weekly by

the American Railway Association converted into a monthly basis.

9. Exports of Merchandise. Figures reported by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, U. S. Department of Commerce.

10. Bituminous Coal Production. Figures from the Geological Survey, Department of the Interior.

11. Pig Iron Production. From the IRON AGE.

12. Automobile Production (both passenger cars and trucks). National Automobile Chamber of Commerce.

Last figures for each chart:

(1) a. Loans	September, 110
b. Investments	September, 131
(2) a. Demand Deposits	September, 117
b. Time Deposits	September, 157
(3) Check Payments	August, 101
(4) Commercial Failures	September, 101
(5) Retail Trade	September, 106
(6) Wholesale Trade	August, 93
(7) Building Permits	September, 141
(8) Car Loadings	September, 122
(9) Exports	September, 90
(10) Bituminous Coal Production,	September, 102
(11) Pig Iron Production	September, 80
(12) Automobile Production	September, 139

## Indexes of National Business Conditions

The base (100) for all the charts except the first is the monthly average for the five years 1919-1923 inclusive. For the first chart the base is the monthly average for the three years 1921-1923. For further explanations, see preceding page.

