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During the first quarter in the Fourth District most production figures have shown an expansion from month to month, but the March records (the latest complete ones available), in all cases except building, indicate that the growth during the first quarter from the low point of December was no greater and in some cases even less than seasonal. Steel production declined in March and coal output was down more than is usual for that time of year. Retail and wholesale distribution was in smaller volume and employment showed little change from February. On the other hand automobile output showed practically the same increase from February as was reported in 1929 and March building contracts awarded exhibited more than the usual seasonal expansion. They are, however, still well below the level of other recent years. Bank debits also increased more than seasonally.

The second quarter seems to have opened in a slightly more favorable manner. Industrialists in many parts of the District state that the trend of general business is now definitely upward, though the rate of improvement is still quite slow. Substantiating this, might be mentioned the increase in steel mill operations, particularly at Cleveland, where they averaged 86 per cent of capacity in the latter part of April compared with 60-70 per cent in March. Automobile producers, especially those of small cars, have expanded schedules in response to increased demand. This resulted in a distribution of parts orders throughout the District and increased operations at many factories. Tire production schedules were considerably larger in April than a month earlier and inventories of both dealers and manufacturers are smaller than one year ago. Coal production has been increasing in preparation for Lake shipments. Department store sales were reported in good volume, although still under last year and car loadings increased more than seasonally in early April.

The employment situation was improved in April by expanding industrial activity and the commencement of out-door work such as construction and farming. Credit conditions are practically unchanged from one month ago and are favorable to continued improvement.

Although the extent of business recovery from the low point has not been particularly impressive, the fact that the general downward movement appears at least to have been stopped is encouraging.

FINANCIAL

The credit situation in the Fourth District continues about the same as a month ago, few changes of any importance having occurred during the past four weeks.

Member Bank Credit. Reporting member banks in this District did not experience the increase in demand for funds which has occurred in the spring of other recent years. Loans on securities in mid-April were almost identical with a month earlier, but were about \$29,000,000 higher than one year ago. "All other" loans declined slightly during the month and were about \$26,000,000 below April, 1929. These two changes about counter-balanced each other so that total volume of credit extended by local reporting banks was practically the same as last year. Investments, although still about \$20,000,000 smaller than in April, 1929, have increased nearly \$50,000,000 since the first of the year. Indebtedness at the Reserve bank has been further reduced.

Both demand and time deposits increased in April and are higher than a year ago. The increase in total deposits since the first of the year has been \$73,000,000, about the same as was reported in 1928, but which contrasted with a decline of about \$7,000,000 in the corresponding period of 1929.

Reserve Bank Credit. Demand for funds by member banks declined further during the past month, total bills discounted on April 23 being only \$22,870,000 as against \$26,470,000 in March and \$75,078,000 one year ago.

BANKING OPERATIONS

Federal Reserve Banks

	Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland (In Millions)			Federal Reserve System (In Millions)		
	Apr. 23, 1930	Apr. 24, 1930	Mar. 26, 1930	Apr. 23, 1930	Apr. 24, 1930	Mar. 26, 1930
Gold Reserves	296	286	306	3,049	2,799	3,051
Discounts	23	75	26	211	975	207
Acceptances	20	16	19	257	141	256
U. S. Securities.....	50	28	35	527	150	529
Total bills and securities	93	120	81	1,005	1,281	1,001
Federal Reserve notes in circulation	181	209	180	1,518	1,668	1,573
Total deposits	190	181	189	2,422	2,650	2,988

Reporting Member Banks

	Fourth District (In Millions)			United States (In Millions)		
	Apr. 23, 1930	Apr. 24, 1930	Mar. 26, 1930	Apr. 23, 1930	Apr. 24, 1930	Mar. 26, 1930
Loans on securities..	740	702	769	8,325	7,385	8,184
All other	789	819	797	8,629	9,052	8,702
Total loans	1,529	1,421	1,566	16,954	16,437	16,886
Investments	648	670	647	5,791	5,871	5,678
Demand deposits	1,042	1,023	1,048	13,455	12,977	13,208
Time deposits	965	993	982	7,064	6,775	7,085

This was the lowest amount reported since September, 1924.

Member banks have been assisted in reducing rediscounts by the Reserve bank's increased holdings of acceptances and government securities which has contributed to ease the general situation. Acceptances held rose from \$15,827,000 on April 2, the low point of the year, to \$20,117,000 on April 23 when they were about \$5,000,000 higher than one year ago. Government securities increased \$15,000,000 during the month ended April 23 and at \$49,995,000 compared with \$28,308,000 in April, 1929. Total credit extended by this bank on April 23 was \$27,000,000 below last year, but was slightly higher than in early April, when at \$77,000,000, was the lowest since the middle of 1924.

Federal Reserve notes in circulation increased about \$10,000,000 between February 5, the low point so far this year, and April 23. This was almost identical with the increase shown in the same period of last year and was greater than in 1928. It was in contrast with the trend exhibited throughout the country, however, where note circulation has been generally downward.

Money Rates. Reports covering rates charged customers by banks in larger cities in the Fourth District indicate little change from last month at Cleveland, but a slight downward revision at Pittsburgh and Cincinnati. Rates at all centers are generally lower than since early 1928. Weakness in the spring demand for commercial funds has thus been reflected in money rates as well as in an increase in investments by member banks.

Easy money rates at financial centers both in this country and abroad continued during the past month and were in decided contrast with those of a year ago. Call money at New York renewed at four per cent in April, but declined to 3½ and three per cent on several occasions. This compared with a range of seven to fifteen per cent and an average of 8½ per cent in April, 1929. There was a slight increase in rates on 90-day bankers' acceptances at mid-April, but even the higher rate, three per cent, was 2½ per cent below last year's level. Time money (90-day) was being loaned at 4-4¼ per cent which compared with 8½-9 per cent last year. Bond yields, after showing a decrease in March, increased slightly in April.

Savings. Savings deposits at 61 large banks in Ohio and western Pennsylvania on April 1 showed an increase from the preceding month for the first time since last August, excluding the January 1 figure which was increased by interest credits.

Bank Debits. Check payments at principal cities in the District showed a larger increase from February to March than was reported in any year since 1923. The first three weeks in April exhibited about the usual seasonal increase from March, but the difference between 1930 and 1929 continues to be near ten per cent. Although debit figures are still somewhat distorted by security transactions, which increased in March and early April, the month to month growth being larger than in other recent years seems to indicate improvement in general activity.

Commercial Failures. Commercial failures in the Fourth District in March numbered 169, only one more than in February, considerably less than the 196 reported in March, 1929, which was the smallest number re-

ported in that month since 1924. Defaults in the first quarter aggregated 534, which was four per cent less than one year ago. Liabilities, however, both for March and the first quarter, were larger than last year, the increases being 27 and 23 per cent respectively.

MANUFACTURING, MINING

Iron and Steel The iron and steel industry in the Pittsburgh-Youngstown-Cleveland district in the month ended April 15 was characterized by an unsettled production and price situation, due, in large measure, to the lag in the automotive industry.

In the last half of March there was a moderate gain in production, and the uptrend was continued in April. Those sheet, strip and bar mills which are supplying the small car manufacturers enjoyed slightly heavier specifications in early April; other mills dependent on automotive demand barely held their own. Cleveland steel works increased operations to 86 per cent of capacity in the week ended April 19, but mills at Youngstown and other centers are making steel at lower levels.

March Fourth District operations averaged about 70 per cent, contrasted with 90 per cent or better one year ago. Normally the period from March 15 to April 15 is the most buoyant of the year in production, but this year there has been no apparent bulge as yet. Tin plate mills, many of which are located near Steubenville, are the only ones comparing favorably with last year. Pipe mills have been operating at the lowest levels.

Prices declined at a slow but steady rate during the month, with an unusual degree of apathy being shown on the part of producers of heavy finished steel. No efforts to stabilize or strengthen the market have been made. Heavy finished steel declined \$1 a ton, nails 10 cents a keg, steel pipe \$4 a ton and sheets and strip are at the low point of the first quarter.

Inert secondary buying and unsettled prices have made consumers most cautious in their commitments. Another contributor to the dull market situation was the Bethlehem-Sheet & Tube merger and the discussion which surrounded it. While this was under consideration, business was unusually slack. At mid-April it was felt that the automotive situation would slowly improve, but it was still doubtful whether this would offset the slow general manufacturing demand and the decline in railroad orders.

Directly reflecting the weak price situation, the Iron Trade Review composite of fourteen leading iron and steel products has declined rapidly. On April 23 it was \$34.40, compared with an average of \$34.95 for March, \$35.24 for February and \$36.81 for April, 1929. This index is now the lowest since March, 1922, and bears out other price comparisons which show many products now more cheaply priced than since the war.

Pig iron and steel ingot output exhibited opposite trends in March, the former showing an increase of 3.8 per cent from February while the latter displayed a 2.7 per cent decline in the daily average which contrasted with a usual seasonal increase of five per cent.

Daily average pig iron production in March was 105,520 gross tons, compared with 101,640 in February and 119,662 tons last March. The gain for the month was the third reported since the low point of last December.

Total output for March, 3,271,122 tons, brought the first quarter production to 8,955,810 tons, as against 10,360,922 tons in the first quarter of 1929, and 8,953,358 tons in the same period of 1928.

Unfilled steel orders increased in March at the expense of lower production. Output for the month averaged 164,961 tons a day in contrast with 169,499 tons in February and 194,458 tons last March. First quarter steel ingot output was 12,143,406 tons, compared with 13,874,612 tons in the same period last year. Production so far this year was only slightly less than the 12,544,000 tons manufactured in the initial quarter of 1928.

Coal Demand for bituminous coal throughout the country was below average in March despite the cold weather in the latter part of the month which affected many sections. This sluggishness caused a curtailment of operations at most mines and a smaller monthly output than was reported in either the preceding month or March, 1929.

Total coal production in March was estimated at 35,740,000 tons, a decrease of 4,130,000 tons from last year and of 3,815,000 tons from February. There is normally a contraction from February to March, but the decline from last year was a reflection of smaller industrial and railroad demand. For the year-to-date (January 1-April 19) production has been nine per cent below the same period of 1929.

March production in the Fourth District was 14,689,000 tons, a decline of eight per cent from one year ago. The decrease of six per cent which was reported for the first quarter, compared with the same period of 1929, was less than the nine per cent decline reported for the entire country and indicated that local mines were operating at relatively higher levels compared with last year than were mines in other parts of the country.

April reports of coal companies in this District tend to show an improvement in demand from March, part of which was in preparation for lake shipments which began in late April. This coal movement to upper lake ports is always beneficial to local mines. Household demand continued somewhat longer than usual because of the cold weather during the month. It is generally felt that conditions in local fields are about the same as a year ago.

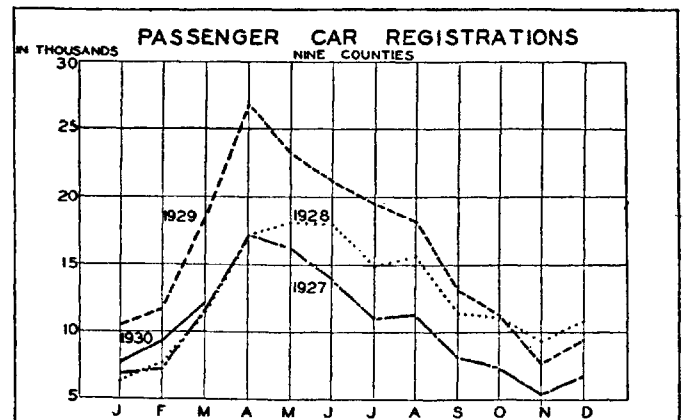
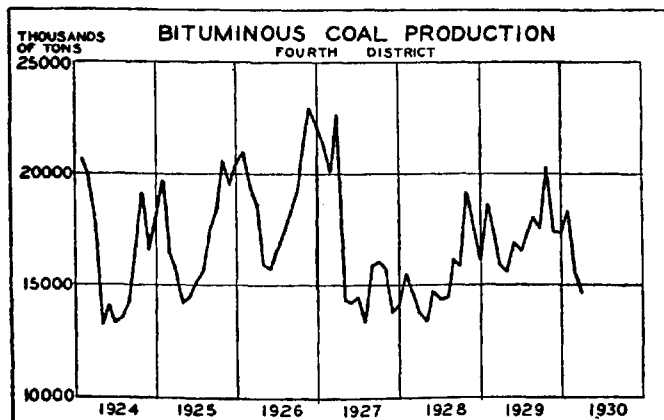
Automobiles Probably the most significant development during the past month so far as its effect on this District is concerned was the improvement shown in the automobile industry in late March and the first three weeks of April. While output early in March was at a lower rate than in February, the expansion in the last part of the month brought the March total of passenger cars and trucks produced in the United States to 401,378 units, an increase of 24 per cent from February. This was only two per cent less than the increase shown from February to March last year. The March figure shows no improvement from a year ago, output in the first quarter being 31 per cent below the corresponding period of 1929.

It is generally admitted in the trade that 1929 was a year of abnormal activity, especially in the automobile industry, and that 1930 output will be below last year's figure. First quarter production, however, amounted to 998,566 cars and trucks this year and was larger than the 968,838 units manufactured in the first three months of 1928, the year of second largest production in history. So far this year, monthly figures have followed rather closely those of early 1928.

Production of trucks has made a relatively better showing than passenger cars. March truck output was only eight per cent below last year, improvement having been shown since the first of the year, as first quarter production was 13 per cent under one year ago. The motor truck business has not been affected by conditions which have confronted the passenger car industry. Fourth District manufacturers report operations below last year, but state that the trend is upward.

Schedules of the more important manufacturers were expanded slightly in April so that at the middle of the month the industry was producing slightly more than 100,000 cars per week. This was about 40,000 cars below the corresponding period of 1929. A slight improvement in retail demand has been reported coincident with spring weather.

The increase in output is corroborated by reports from steel concerns at Cleveland and Youngstown which supply a great deal of material for Detroit factories, and by many parts and accessory plants throughout the District which have been receiving larger orders during the past few weeks. Employment at 49 parts concerns in



Ohio, according to the Ohio State Bureau of Business Research, increased four per cent in March, but was 36 per cent below last year. April figures have increased further.

New Passenger Car Registrations

Ten Principal Counties

	March 1930	March 1929	% change from 1929	Jan.-Mar. 1930	Jan.-Mar. 1929	% change from 1929
Akron (Summit).....	808	1,381	-41.6	1,959	3,303	-40.7
Canton (Stark).....	508	968	-47.5	1,245	2,021	-38.4
Cincinnati (Hamilton)...	1,477	1,982	-25.5	3,673	4,454	-17.5
Cleveland (Cuyahoga)...	3,430	5,529	-38.0	8,179	11,779	-30.6
Columbus (Franklin)...	863	1,522	-43.3	2,377	3,457	-31.2
Dayton (Montgomery)...	672	1,208	-44.4	1,900	2,854	-33.4
Pittsburgh, Pa.						
(Allegheny).....	3,366	3,431	-1.9	7,036	7,542	-6.7
Toledo (Lucas).....	729	1,740	-58.1	1,808	3,551	-49.1
Youngstown (Mahoning)	460	789	-41.7	1,182	1,797	-34.2
Wheeling, W. Va. (Ohio).	181	191	-5.2	403	420	-4.0
Total.....	12,494	18,741	-33.3	29,762	41,178	-27.7

New passenger car registration figures, emanating from the above and other sources, for ten counties in the District representing all the more important cities, increased 33 per cent from February, but were still that much behind March, 1929. The preceding chart shows new registrations in nine counties for the years 1927 to March, 1930 (Ohio County, West Virginia registrations not available before 1929). So far this year auto registrations have exceeded 1927 and 1928, but are below those of 1929. The increase from January to February was larger than in the three preceding years, but the improvement from February to March was smaller than in 1927-8-9. Unfavorable weather was a contributing factor to the retardation shown in March.

Rubber and Tires Reports from rubber manufacturers indicate that business is decidedly better than a month ago, the improvement from March, however, being only of a seasonal nature. With April 1 inventories of both dealers and producers considerably below last year, the seasonal increase in demand for replacement tires and the slight improvement in automobile production are cited as the reasons for increased activity at local plants.

The following table shows the average stocks per dealer in the United States as of April 1, for the past five years, as compiled by the Department of Commerce from over 22,000 reports. Dealers' stocks have been considerably reduced from last year and are also lower than in 1928. The increase in the importance of the balloon casing, which until this year has been segregated from the total number of casings, is also shown.

(Number of Tires per Dealer)
1930 1929 1928 1927 1926

Total casings (Inc. balloons)	75.1	94.4	78.9	70.6	63.9
Balloon casings (alone)	(1)	69.1	40.1	35.5	21.9
Inner tubes	109.0	143.5	121.2	120.9	119.6
Solid and cushion tires	24.4	35.0	33.2	24.7	26.6

(1) Not segregated

March consumption of crude rubber in the United States increased slightly from February, but at 35,914 tons was about 9,000 tons below the amount consumed in March, 1929. Imports during the month, though considerably below last year, were 10,000 tons larger than consumption so that stocks of rubber on April 1 were 156,516 tons, an increase of 56,000 tons over last year.

Crude rubber prices continued near the 15-cent level

in March and the first half of April. There has been a slight advance since the first of the year, but the general price is still lower than at any time since 1922.

Tire production in March (preliminary) totaled 3,923,000 units, including solids. This compared with 5,675,000 last year and was a decline of 31 per cent. First quarter output was 30 per cent under 1929.

Shoes

Shoe manufacturers in the southern part of this District did not report the increase in production in March that was shown by the entire country. Output of local factories declined 2.5 per cent from February to March while all concerns in the country reported an increase of nine per cent in the same period. A similar condition was reported last year, however, the District showing a decline while the country experienced an improvement.

March production was 14 per cent below the corresponding month of 1929 and first quarter output declined 16.3 per cent from one year ago.

Since the beginning of the year the shoe business has been quite irregular. Being very dependent on weather conditions and the occurrence of Easter, sales both at wholesale and retail have been considerably below other recent years. Manufacturers report early April demand about on a par with last year; March was a very poor month, few orders beyond actual needs were received.

Hide prices were quite steady during the past two months, but are slightly lower than at this time last year. Hides were quoted at 14.00 cents a pound in March compared with 14.50 in 1929 and 23.50 cents in March, 1928.

Other

Reports from a number of manufacturing lines, which appear below, indicate that industrial recovery is proceeding at a slow, but steady rate as the year advances. First quarter operations in most lines were considerably below the corresponding period of last year and in most cases below average. It now appears that the trend is slightly upward, however.

Agricultural Implements. The agricultural implement industry is one of the few which has so far exceeded 1929 in volume. Both domestic and foreign demand has been good; exports were more than twice as large as in the early part of 1929, due chiefly to tractor sales in Russia. Farmers seem to be going ahead with large mechanization programs.

Brick and Ceramics. A seasonally improved employment situation and greater demand for products characterized this industry in southeastern part of the District. Operations are still much below those of recent years.

Cork. A slight betterment from the first quarter has been shown in demand for cork products. Operations are still considerably below last year, but are stated to be about normal.

Electrical Supplies. Equipment demand has been showing an upward trend with a slight increase in the size of orders received. Uncertainty in the copper price situation has been a retarding factor for some time, but following the drop of four cents a pound in mid-April, sales both of metal and manufactured products improved.

Glass. A slight increase in glass production was re-

ported over February and March. Employment increased about four per cent in March compared with February, but was slightly under 1929. Plate glass output has been at a much lower level than other products. Household glassware demand is slow.

Hardware, Machinery. March operations declined rather sharply after increasing in February. Considerable improvement has been shown in April, however. The slight expansion in automobile production has benefited parts concerns in this District. High grade engineering specialty demand has slackened slightly, but still seems to be showing no marked trend.

Paint. Business has shown a seasonal increase and is better than one month ago. Orders from automobile and furniture manufacturers are still well below last year, other lines, however, compare very favorably. Orders have been received in good volume and the quantities specified have increased during the past two or three weeks. The trend appears definitely upward and collections are more prompt.

Paper. Employment at 11 concerns in March was better than last year or the preceding month. Considerable irregularity exists, however, and April has exhibited slight change from March, some establishments reporting a better demand while others state that the opposite is true.

Stoves, Ranges, etc. A very slight increase in the demand for kitchen equipment was reported in early April. Operations continue below last year. Competition is very keen.

AGRICULTURE

Considerable interest is being shown at this time in reports of condition of agricultural crops, particularly wheat, and planting intentions because of their ultimate effect on the price situation. Generally a small or poor crop results in higher prices while a large crop many times has the opposite effect.

The table below gives the April 1 condition of winter wheat for the states comprising this District and for the entire United States:

	Ohio	Penna.	Ky.	West Va.	U. S.
April 1,					
1930	67	86	86	89	77.4
1929	89	89	89	88	82.7
1919-28 average	74	86	78	81	80.9

It will be noticed that the condition of winter wheat on April 1 was somewhat below last year's figure, both in this District and the entire country. Kentucky and West Virginia report better wheat than the 10-year average, while Ohio reports a condition quite a bit under average.

More damage from winter-killing occurred in this territory than was at first realized. This was particularly true in western Ohio and the condition for the entire state has declined 22 points since December 1, 1929. While it is somewhat early to make any accurate estimate of the probable crop based on the April 1 condition because too many things might intervene between now and harvest, a crop of about 550,300,000 bushels for the entire country is indicated by an analysis of past relationships between condition and yield. This is a decline of five per cent from last year's harvest. The low condition figure for Ohio indicates a much larger decline in this District's wheat output. No figures are available on abandonment, but it has been larger locally than in 1929.

The following table shows the planting or planting intentions of spring crops as a percentage of the acreage actually harvested in 1929. These figures are compiled by the United States Department of Agriculture from data supplied by representative farmers throughout the country. They are not to be construed as indicating the acreage that will actually be planted, since conditions may cause farmers to change materially their present plans. They are simply an indication of what farmers had in mind to plant when they made their reports, compared with the acreage harvested by them last year.

	Ohio	Penn.	Ky.	W. Va	U. S.
Corn	100	103	99	103	102.8
Oats	106	107	102	105	102.5
Barley	95	120	140	—	101.7
Potatoes	104	105	105	113	103.4
Tobacco	113	101	106	125	105.7
Tame Hay	96	98	101	100	99.2

On the whole there is an increase indicated in acreages of most crops, both locally and throughout the country. The state figures show that the gain from last year is somewhat larger than the two per cent composite increase estimated for the United States.

In spite of the cold weather in late March, the present season appears to be opening up favorably. Spring work was fairly well advanced by that time and warm weather in early April caused fruit trees to blossom. The extent of the damage to the fruit crop by the freezing weather in the latter part of the month has not definitely been determined. Peach and cherry prospects are rather poor generally, crop injury ranging from complete to only average in the various sections. No damage has yet been reported in the grape belt surrounding Lake Erie and it is too early to state the condition of apples and pears.

The general index of farm prices declined 5 points in March and at 126 was 14 points below last year and the lowest since May, 1927. The most drastic declines occurred in wheat, which reached the lowest level for this time of year since 1913, and poultry products, which fell 39 points in one month.

Tobacco All indications point to a larger tobacco crop this year than was raised in 1929. Plant beds were damaged in some localities by the dry weather and had to be re-sown, but, so far as can be determined, the supply of plants is still large enough for the acreage intended.

Official estimates indicate that tobacco planting intentions throughout the entire country were 5.7 per cent larger than the average harvested in 1929. Reports point to increases in all types, but the largest are shown in the burley, flue-cured and dark types of Kentucky and Tennessee. Farmers expected to increase burley acreage by about 15 per cent, which would result in approximately 478,100 acres being planted, compared with 417,200 acres harvested in 1929. With only an average yield this would mean an increase in production of about 75,000,000 pounds over 1929 and about 100,000,000 pounds over the average consumption of recent years.

The present situation in the burley district is not so dissimilar from that of 1926 when growers realized only

13.1 cents a pound on the average for their crop. In that year production was 301,000,000 pounds and stock carry-over from 1925 was 466,000,000 pounds. This year stocks are likely to be about 360,000,000 pounds, according to the Kentucky State Department of Agriculture, and with production estimated anywhere from 375,000,000 pounds upward, the total supply is expected to approximate that of 1926.

It is to be remembered, however, that many things including weather may materially change the 1930 crop situation. The above figures are only based on present intentions in comparison with actual occurrences of other recent years.

BUILDING

Total building contracts awarded in the Fourth District in March showed more than the full seasonal increase from February. Amounting to \$60,012,000, they exceeded March, 1929, by 28 per cent and February, 1930, by 65 per cent. This large increase reduced the discrepancy between the first quarter of 1930 and 1929 to five per cent.

Except for residential building which showed only a 24 per cent increase from February and which at \$9,218,000 was 44 per cent below the low level of March last year, construction work in the first quarter made fair progress. Non-residential building exceeded the first three months of 1929 by 6.4 per cent, just about the same increase that was shown for all states east of the Rockies.

The increase in this District was not well distributed, however, being due principally to large projects at Cincinnati, Dayton and Toledo. Some of the more sizeable declines are explained by large contracts which were let early last year. This was particularly true of Pittsburgh, Erie and Akron.

Although the increase in March was regarded by many as a sign that building had definitely turned upward, the figures of the F. W. Dodge Corporation for the first part of April, for this territory at least, do not bear out this fact. Daily average contracts for the first 18 days of April were 33 per cent below the daily average of March and 19 per cent below April, 1929. Unfavorable weather no doubt has had some effect on building activity recently. With contemplated projects reported in March larger than one year ago, it is hoped that the advent of warm weather will enable some of these building programs to get under way.

TRADE

Retail Trade Retail buying showed some improvement in April compared with March, but was still slightly below the level of the pre-Easter volume of other recent years.

In comparing department store sales in March with the corresponding month of last year, which is the usual procedure, allowance must be made for the occurrence of Easter if any fair conclusion as to the present state of retail trade is to be reached. In 1929, Easter occurred on the last day of March so that nearly all Easter buying fell in the third month. This year with Easter in the latter part of April, buying, which always increases prior to that date, occurred mostly in the fourth month. Until April figures have been received, the true condition of retail trade in the Fourth District cannot be definitely ascertained.

March sales of 58 large department stores were 16 per cent below last year and sales in the first quarter were eleven per cent below the corresponding period of 1929. This latter figure will no doubt be somewhat modified by the April reports.

The stock figures are slightly more significant. On March 31, 1930, which marked the beginning of the Easter sales, stocks of department stores were five per cent lower than at the close of March last year after all Easter buying had been done. This clearly indicates that retail stores, in this District at least, are carrying smaller inventories than one year ago.

Wholesale Trade

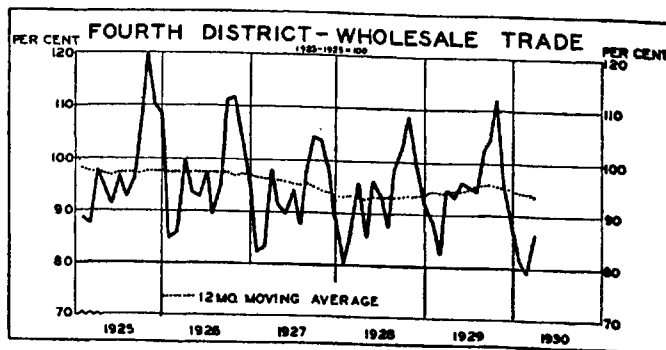
Wholesale trade in general in the Fourth District has been showing a downward tendency since last fall. As shown on the chart, for more than a year following August, 1928, wholesale trade exhibited gradual improvement, but the high point was reached in October and since that time it has receded rather sharply. March sales were larger than those of February; the increase, however, was less than seasonal and the March volume was below that of any other recent year. The decline in commodity prices has been the cause of part of this falling-off, but the greater part of it is probably a reflection of the retailer's policy of keeping stocks at a minimum, which has been adhered to during the past few months. Little or no forward buying has been done.

Of all reporting wholesale lines, groceries made the best showing. March sales were only slightly below the same month of 1929 and first quarter business was down 0.5 per cent from last year. Accounts receivable were three per cent larger, but collections were three per cent smaller than in the corresponding month of 1929.

Wholesale drug sales in March declined six per cent and were ten per cent smaller in the first quarter compared with corresponding periods of 1929. Accounts receivable were considerably larger, but collections were smaller than one year ago.

All reporting wholesale dry goods firms experienced a smaller demand for merchandise during March as compared with the same month of 1929. Sales for the month and the first quarter were 16 and 14 per cent below the corresponding periods of last year. Accounts receivable were down 11 and collections 15 per cent.

Hardware sales also showed sizeable declines both in March and the first quarter, being 19 and 13 per cent below the same intervals of 1929. Stocks were slightly larger and accounts receivable and collections somewhat smaller than a year ago.



Fourth District Business Statistics

(000 Omitted)

	March, 1930	% from 1929	Jan.-Mar. 1930	% from 1929
Fourth District Unless Otherwise Specified	\$ 3,164,000	-10.9	9,356,000	-11.4
Bank Debits—24 cities	\$ 770,558	-1.8	767,687 ¹	-2.6
Savings Deposits—end of month:	\$ 274,020	-1.2	273,614 ¹	-0.6
Ohio—36 banks	\$ 1,044,578	-1.7	1,041,301 ¹	-2.1
Western Pa.—25 banks	\$ 3,217	-3.6	9,617	+2.0
Total—61 banks	\$ 141,347	+7.0	382,979	+8.9
Postal Receipts—9 cities	\$ 22,402	-16.2	61,409	-11.1
Life Insurance Sales:	\$ 1,545	-27.8	3,964	-17.9
Ohio and Pa.	\$ 788	-27.6	2,224	-20.6
Retail Sales:				
Department stores—58 firms	\$ 5,746	-0.2	17,045	-0.5
Wearing Apparel Stores—17 firms	\$ 1,803	-15.7	4,823	-13.6
Furniture—46 firms	\$ 1,863	-18.6	5,128	-13.2
Wholesale Sales:	\$ 1,728	-6.1	4,978	-10.4
Grocery—41 firms	\$ 17,412	-16.3	38,483	-16.0
Dry Goods—11 firms	\$ 9,218	-44.6	24,518	-35.7
Hardware—17 firms	\$ 60,012	+27.5	130,865	-5.3
Drugs—13 firms	\$ 5,263	+27.1	14,387	+23.3
Building permits—27 cities	\$ 3,271	-11.8	8,956	-13.6
Building contracts:	\$ 4,289	-15.2	12,143	-12.5
Residential	\$ 2,267 ²	+26.0	4,638 ⁴	+23.1
Total, all classes	\$ 14	-14.4	5	-16.3
Commercial Failures:	\$ 3,923 ⁵	-30.9	11,174	-29.6
Number	169 ²	-12.9	534 ²	-4.0
Liabilities	\$ 5,263	+27.1	14,387	+23.3
Production:				
Pig iron, U. S.	Tons 3,271	-11.8	8,956	-13.6
Steel ingots, U. S.	Tons 4,289	-15.2	12,143	-12.5
Automobiles:				
Passenger cars—U. S.	335,789 ²	-34.6	846,127 ²	-33.2
Trucks—U. S.	64,200 ²	-8.3	149,456 ²	-17.1
Bituminous coal	14,689	-7.6	48,419	-6.2
Cement—O., Wn. Pa., W. Va.	Bbls. 1,205	+32.7	2,694	+5.4
Electric Power—O., Pa., Ky.	kw hrs. 1,230 ²	+2.0	2,612 ⁴	+3.8
Petroleum—O., Pa., Ky.	Bbls. 2,267 ²	+26.0	4,638 ⁴	+23.1
Shoes	Pairs 14	-14.4	5	-16.3
Tires, U. S.	Casings 3,923 ⁵	-30.9	11,174	-29.6

¹ Monthly average
² Actual number
³ February

⁴ January-February
⁵ Confidential
⁶ Preliminary

Retail and Wholesale Trade

(1930 compared with 1929)

	Percentage Increase or Decrease		
	SALES Mar.-Mar.	SALES First 3 Mos.	STOCKS Mar.-Mar.
DEPARTMENT STORES (58)			
Akron	-28.5	-20.4	-20.6
Cincinnati	-14.0	-6.6	-2.5
Cleveland	-13.3	-10.2	-8.3
Columbus	-11.1	-6.1	-6.4
Dayton	-15.3	-11.1	-12.4
Pittsburgh	-15.4	-10.5	-1.4
Toledo	-24.4	-19.7	+6.3
Wheeling	-27.0	-17.1	+3.9
Other Cities	-19.9	-14.4	+1.5
District	-16.2	-11.1	-5.0
WEARING APPAREL (17)			
Akron	-60.9	-42.5	...
Cincinnati	-23.2	-14.7	+1.2
Cleveland	-28.8	-20.0	+0.9
Other Cities	-22.6	-12.8	+2.3
District	-27.8	-17.9	+1.0
FURNITURE (46)			
Cincinnati	-20.4	-18.2	...
Cleveland	-24.0	-15.1	...
Columbus	-9.8	-16.5	...
Dayton	-24.7	-15.2	...
Toledo	-50.8	-37.6	...
Other Cities	-34.9	-25.1	...
District	-27.6	-20.6	...
CHAIN STORE* (3)			
Drugs—District (3)	-1.0	+0.7	...
Groceries—District (6)	-4.5	-2.5	...
WHOLESALE GROCERIES (41)			
Akron	-15.3	-13.3	...
Cincinnati	+6.8	+4.4	...
Cleveland	-5.9	-3.1	...
Eric, Pa.	-1.4	-4.9	...
Pittsburgh	-5.9	-4.6	...
Toledo	+0.7	-2.0	...
Other Cities	+7.2	+4.9	...
District	-0.2	-0.5	-4.3
WHOLESALE DRY GOODS (11)	-15.7	-13.6	-1.1
WHOLESALE DRUGS (13)	-6.1	-10.4	...
WHOLESALE HARDWARE (17)	-18.6	-13.2	+0.5
WHOLESALE SHOES (5)	-39.8	-29.1	-5.8

*Sales per individual unit operated.

Fourth District Business Indexes

(1923-1925=100)

	Mar. 1930	Mar. 1929	Mar. 1928	Mar. 1927	Mar. 1926
Bank Debits (24 cities)	117	131	119	118	110
Commercial Failures (Number)	116	133	125	132	147
“(Liabilities)”	119	94	191	107	85
Postal Receipts (9 cities)	126	129	132	132	130
Sales—Life Insurance (Ohio and Pa.)	169	158	140	141	132
—Dept. Stores (55 firms)	88	105	101	98	98
—Wholesale Drugs (13 firms)	110	117	117	117	120
—Dry Goods (11 firms)	78	93	88	89	92
—Groceries (41 firms)	87	88	93	92	94
—Hardware (15 firms)	79	98	93	107	104
—All (83 firms)†	87	95	96	98	100
—Chain Drugs (3 firms)**	88	89	95	99	105
Building Contracts (Total)	126	99	140	119	139
“(Residential)”	54	97	125	141	146
Production—Coal (O., Wn. Pa., E. Ky.)	81	88	76	125	103
—Cement (O., Wn. Pa., W. Va.)	100	76	71	105	52
—Petroleum (O., Pa., Ky.)*	123	97	102	98	91
—Elec. Power (O., Pa., Ky.)	146	144	138	127	121
—Shoes	79	92	103	112	99

*February.
**Per individual unit operated.
†Includes 3 shoe firms.

Debts to Individual Accounts

(Thousands of Dollars)

	5 weeks ending April 23, 1930	% change from 1929	Year to date, 1930 (Dec. 31-Apr. 23)	Year to date, 1929 (Jan. 2-Apr. 24)	% change from 1929
	Akron	126,394	-12.2	388,953	450,101
Butler	13,996	+1.0	44,271	43,978	+0.7
Canton	61,060	-12.3	191,854	213,930	-10.3
Cincinnati	486,343	-13.9	1,490,834	1,765,536	-15.6
Cleveland	1,088,201	-4.4	3,235,669	3,447,560	-6.1
Columbus	226,448	-1.5	699,720	715,748	-2.2
Connellsville	3,886	-7.2	12,742	13,648	-6.6
Dayton	110,022	-12.3	372,592	413,654	-9.9
Eric	46,432	+2.2	148,638	143,536	+3.6
Franklin	6,463	-5.4	20,351	20,780	-2.1
Greensburg	21,851	-10.8	70,883	74,953	-5.4
Hamilton	18,755	-13.4	60,316	63,472	-5.0
Homestead	4,974	-6.2	16,232	17,562	-7.6
Lexington	25,495	-32.3	121,399	133,478	-9.0
Lima	16,802	-9.3	51,287	61,851	-17.1
Lorain	6,907	-14.2	21,776	22,963	-5.2
Middletown	14,010	-6.3	45,075	48,256	-6.6
Oil City	21,036	-6.0	62,165	67,365	-7.7
Pittsburgh	1,126,885	-14.2	3,600,319	4,126,364	-12.7
Springfield	27,804	-6.3	91,243	96,418	-5.4
Stuebenville	11,952	-22.6	39,719	46,041	-13.7
Toledo	212,922	-26.4	718,567	902,025	-20.3
Warren	15,076	-17.9	49,460	55,667	-11.2
Wheeling	53,193	-11.6	169,698	198,686	-14.6
Youngstown	88,012	-7.3	268,973	291,882	-7.8
Zanesville	13,028	-22.1	38,652	49,823	-22.4
Total	3,847,947	-11.2	12,031,388	13,485,277	-10.8

Building Operations

(Value of Permits)

	March 1930	Per Cent change from 1929	Jan.-Mar. 1930	Jan.-Mar. 1929	Per Cent change from 1929
	Akron	611,903	-80.1	1,908,081	4,874,630
Ashtabula	4,935	-65.0	45,771	19,829	+130.8
Barberton	28,562	-75.5	69,292	164,576	-57.9
Canton	67,440	-76.4	669,365	541,005	+23.7
Cincinnati	6,267,980	+181.2	12,714,438	6,687,375	+90.1
Cleveland	1,469,925	-47.8	6,835,775	8,120,175	-15.8
Cleveland suburbs:					
Cleveland Heights	176,225	-59.4	667,960	641,995	+4.0
East Cleveland	2,090	-99.8	253,950	1,157,899	-78.1
Euclid	197,775	-64.5	453,880	711,905	-36.2
Garfield Heights	138,500	+30.7	198,800	255,000	-22.0
Lakewood	64,106	-66.5	414,066	285,541	+45.0
Parma	113,990	-49.4	318,810	462,610	-31.1
Rocky River	111,975	-67.1	210,515	480,830	-56.2
Shaker Heights	428,250	-39.5	995,750	1,336,170	-25.5
Columbus	680,350	-52.1	1,277,700	2,633,050	-51.5
Covington, Ky.	65,400	-62.5	170,800	413,150	-58.7
Dayton	1,879,327	+56.0	2,377,398	2,260,159	+5.2
Eric, Pa.	190,194	-51.5	327,664	3,091,640	-89.4
Hamilton	116,390	-48.4	269,058	368,780	-27.0
Lexington, Ky.	95,270	-17.4	201,025	472,514	-57.5
Lima	16,135	-88.3	288,960	177,685	+62.6
Newark	30,125	-31.6	56,900	65,025	-12.5
Pittsburgh, Pa.	1,783,623	-39.6	3,877,465	6,433,539	-39.7
Springfield	46,715	-57.0	154,530	316,870	-51.2
Toledo	2,651,836	+96.7	3,284,602	2,740,383	+19.9
Wheeling, W. Va.	36,361	-66.4	146,752	259,836	-43.5
Youngstown	136,805	-58.0	294,155	822,876	-64.3
Total	17,412,187	-16.3	38,483,462	45,795,047	-16.0

Summary of National Business Conditions

By the Federal Reserve Board

Industrial production declined in March, while factory employment and payrolls showed little change, and wholesale prices continued to decline. There was an increase in construction, as is usual at this season. Interest rates continued to decline in the first three weeks of March, but later became somewhat firmer.

Production

Production in basic industries declined in March, contrary to the usual seasonal trend. Average daily output of steel, coal and copper decreased substantially, while output of cotton and wool textiles declined at about the usual seasonal rate. Production of automobiles and lumber increased.

For the first quarter of the year, taken as a whole, output of basic industries was considerably smaller than in the unusually active first quarter of 1929 and smaller than in any other first quarter since 1925. In the steel and automobile industries output for the first three months, though smaller than in 1929, was about the same as in the corresponding months in 1928, while in most of the other major industries it was smaller than in either of the two preceding years.

Building contracts awarded increased substantially in March as is usual at this season, according to reports of the F. W. Dodge Corporation. In comparison with a year ago, a large increase in contracts for public works and utilities was more than offset by a decrease in residential building. Average daily awards in the first half of April were somewhat larger than in March, but continued smaller than a year ago.

Employment

Factory employment and payrolls, which usually increase during March, changed little from February and continued to be considerably smaller than in other recent years. The number of workers employed in the automobile industry increased somewhat less than is usual at this season and reductions in employment and in earnings were reported in the iron and steel, machinery and car building industries.

Distribution

Freight car loadings which have been at low levels in recent months, did not show the usual seasonal increase during March. Department store sales continued in smaller volume than a year ago.

Wholesale Prices

Wholesale prices, which began to decline last summer, continued to move downward in March to the lowest level since 1916, the decline reflecting chiefly, sharp decreases in prices of agricultural products. Prices of imported raw materials, such as sugar, coffee and silk, fluctuated around the low levels reached in February. The price of silver advanced slightly from the low point reached early in March.

In the last week in March and the first week in April there were advances in prices of agricultural products, especially grains and cotton, while the price of steel declined. On April 15, the price of copper was sharply reduced and in the same week prices of a number of other important commodities also declined.

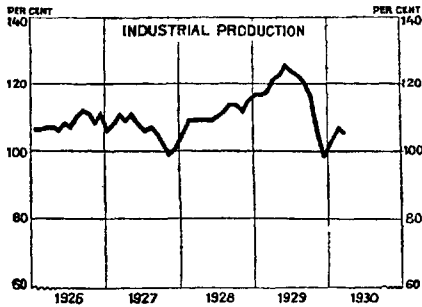
Bank Credit

At member banks in leading cities, total loans and investments increased in the four week period ending April 16, reflecting a growth of \$184,000,000 in loans on securities and \$80,000,000 in investments, offset in part by a further decrease of \$186,000,000 in "all other" loans.

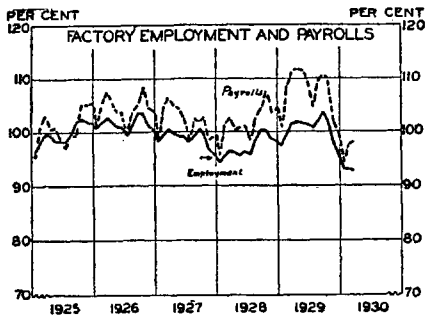
Member bank indebtedness at the Reserve banks and total reserve bank credit declined further between the weeks ending March 15 and April 12, reflecting primarily additional imports of gold from the Orient.

In the third week of March, money rates in the open market reached the lowest levels since 1924, but in the next three weeks were somewhat firmer. Rates on commercial paper declined to a range of 3½-4 per cent on March 24 and remained steady at that level; rates of 60-90 day bankers' acceptances were reduced to 2½ per cent on March 20, but later advanced to 3 per cent. Bond yields, after declining during most of March, increased gradually in the first half of April.

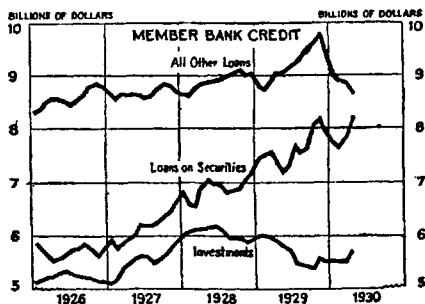
During April the rediscount rates of the Federal reserve banks of Richmond, Atlanta, St. Louis, Minneapolis and Dallas were reduced to 4 per cent, the rate prevailing at all of the reserve banks except New York where the rate is 3½ per cent.



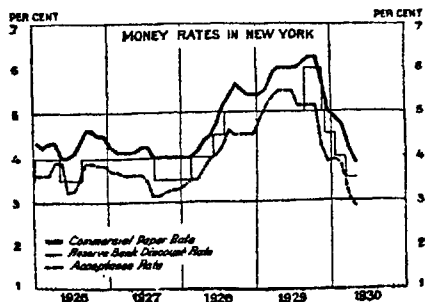
Index number of production of manufactures and minerals combined, adjusted for seasonal variations (1923-25 average = 100). Latest figure—March, 103.



Index numbers of factory employment and payrolls, without adjustment for seasonal variations (1923-25 average = 100). Latest figures, March, employment 92.7, payrolls 98.0.



Monthly averages of weekly figures for reporting member banks in leading cities. Latest figures are averages of first three weeks in April.



Monthly rates in the open market in New York: commercial paper rate on 4-6 month paper. Acceptance rate on 90-day bankers' acceptances. Latest figures are averages of first 20 days in April.