

# Monthly Review of Business and Industrial Conditions

## in the Eleventh Federal Reserve District, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

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Although industrial, financial and business conditions in this district continued in December to show the effects of the tension in the credit situation, the uncertain course of prices and the backwardness of the buying demand in wholesale trade channels, the situation at the end of the month presented certain favorable features which are worthy of notice and which furnish the basis for the belief, already expressed in many quarters, that the district's economic position is underlain with a potential strength that should go far towards rehabilitating commerce and industry when the processes of readjustment and stabilization, now under way, shall have been completed.

Following the production of one of the largest cotton crops on record, an event of widespread interest and importance to the farming industry of the district was the recent organization of a large corporation for the purpose of financing the exportation of Southern farm products.

Official statistics, announced during the past month, credit Texas with a crop production in 1920 valued at \$600,000,000, a large proportion of which was on hand and unsold at the end of the year. Although returns received from that portion of production already sold were insufficient to bring about the expected amount of liquidation, our advices indicate that a steady pressure is being exerted to secure the retirement of indebtedness, and while the process is a slow one some progress in that direction was made during the month just passed. Loans made by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas decreased some \$7,000,000 during the month, bringing the total net retirement since last September up to \$20,000,000.

Retail trade in December took an upward turn of substantial proportions, sales for the month showing an increase of about 25 per cent over those of November, based on statistics of representative stores as tabulated elsewhere in this report.

While bank clearings, building permits and post-office receipts declined during the past month, the figures covering these items for the year 1920 compare favorably with those of the preceding year.

The labor situation in the Eleventh District shows no material variation from the conditions reported last month. There has been no appreciable change in wage scales applicable to skilled labor, although recent reports indicate that the rates paid for common labor are gradually declining, the average reductions ranging from \$1.00 to \$3.00 per day.

### AGRICULTURE:

The general agricultural situation in this district showed but few developments of importance during the month of December. There was still strong evidence of the holding movement among cotton producers begun in November, although the total receipts for the season at the port of Galveston, as compared with the total number of bales ginned in Texas to January 1st, 1921, would indicate that the rate at which cotton was being marketed in this district at the end of the year was not so far below normal. While some progress was made in December towards completing the harvesting of the Texas cotton crop, the close of the year found a considerable amount of cotton still unpicked in the center district and also in the west and northwest. Abandonments and weather damage will probably operate to reduce the state's ultimate production total, but it is believed that most of the unpicked crop will be saved. Evidence continues to accumulate that the farming interests of this district have definitely determined to pursue a more diversified crop program in 1921. That many farmers will curtail their cotton acreage this year, and not a few will eliminate this crop altogether, is reasonably certain in the light of the heavy increase in winter grain acreage already announced by government crop reports and similar advices received direct by this bank from its

field correspondents. Recent reports from West Texas are to the effect that in many instances farmers who, discouraged by the heavy decline in the price of cotton, had decided to abandon the unpicked portion of the present crop, have now decided to take their loss in a different way: They will gather and sell the cotton now in the fields, but will plant no cotton whatever in 1921, utilizing the land thus released to raise a larger supply of their own necessities.

The government crop reports issued last month

contained some interesting statistics on the size of this district's crop production in 1920, as well as figures which seem to denote a significant increase in the district's winter grain acreage. According to these figures the State of Texas has just raised the third largest cotton crop in its history, amounting to 4,200,000 bales (500 pounds gross weight), which compares with 3,098,967 bales in 1919, 4,592,112 bales in 1914, and the record crop of 1912 amounting to 4,880,210 bales. The following table shows the estimated production and value of 21 crops grown in Texas during 1920.

#### TEXAS CROP PRODUCTION FOR 1920

Crop	Production	Value
Cotton	4,200,000 bales	\$277,200,000
Corn	174,200,000 bushels	146,328,000
Wheat	15,925,000 bushels	27,391,000
Oats	44,100,000 bushels	29,106,000
Barley	253,000 bushels	190,000
Rye	48,000 bushels	72,000
Sweet Potatoes	9,345,000 bushels	12,148,000
Rice	9,554,000 bushels	11,942,000
Hay	1,315,000 tons	17,978,000
Broom Corn	3,800,000 pounds	448,000
Apples	351,000 bushels	702,000
Peaches	480,000 bushels	1,488,000
Pears	231,000 bushels	474,000
Cabbage	79,000 tons	5,904,000
Onions	2,596,500 bushels	5,608,000
Peanuts	4,784,000 bushels	8,563,000
Sorghum Syrup	743,000 gallons	780,000
Cowpeas	715,000 bushels	2,038,000
Irish Potatoes	2,340,000 bushels	5,148,000
Grain Sorghums	61,000,000 bushels	73,800,000
Value of 21 Texas Crops, 1920		\$627,309,000

The winter wheat acreage planted in Texas during the past fall is estimated to be 1,834,000 acres, which is an increase of more than 500,000 acres over that of 1919. For the United States a decrease of 2.8 per cent is shown by the report of the Bureau of Crop Estimates. The December condition of the Texas crop is estimated at 89 per cent of normal, which compares with 79 per cent a year ago.

Texas produced during the past year about 33 per cent of the cotton raised in the United States, 5.4 per cent of the total production of corn, 2.9 per cent of the country's oat crop, 2 per cent of its wheat crop, according to recent government estimates.

Early truck crops in the Rio Grande Valley are reported in good condition and the outlook is promising in that section.

to 1,672,010 bales, which was equivalent to 44 per cent of the total number of bales ginned in Texas during the present season prior to January 1st, 1921. For the corresponding period last season total receipts amounted to 52 per cent of total ginnings in this state. These figures would seem to indicate that while cotton is not moving to market as freely as it did last season, the slowing up has not been so pronounced as might have been reasonably expected in view of the condition of the market.

More than three-fourths of the cotton received at Galveston this season had been exported at the close of the year 1920, the export movement being somewhat more brisk than last season, when the end of the year found only about two-thirds of the season's receipts shipped from that port.

**Cotton Movements** Receipts of cotton at the port of Galveston in December amounted to 333,612 bales, which compares with 483,824 bales received in November, 1920, and 325,570 bales for December, 1919. From August 1st to December 31st, the receipts at this port amounted

#### COTTON MOVEMENTS THROUGH THE PORT OF GALVESTON

	December		This Season	Last Season
	1920	1919		
Gross receipts	333,612	325,570	1,672,010	1,282,181
Exports	332,295	338,016	1,392,466	834,971
Stocks Dec. 31st			388,628	311,763

**GALVESTON STOCK STATEMENT**

	Dec. 31, 1920	Dec. 31, 1919
For Great Britain.....	43,692	90,137
For France .....	6,397	.....
For other foreign ports .....	48,487	24,984
For coastwise ports .....	2,000	9,000
In compresses .....	288,052	187,642
	<b>388,628</b>	<b>311,763</b>

**SEASON'S RECEIPTS, EXPORTS AND STOCKS AT ALL UNITED STATES PORTS**

	This Season	Last Season
Receipts to December 31st .....	3,438,444	3,854,498
Exports		
Great Britain .....	946,258	1,480,413
France .....	342,501	309,570
Continent .....	1,015,889	825,781
Japan—China .....	65,853	269,558
Mexico .....	21,205	497
Total foreign ports .....	2,391,706	2,885,819
Stock at all U. S. ports .....	1,452,913	1,550,798

**Grain Movements** Wheat receipts at the principal grain centers of the district showed an increase of 2,029 cars in December, as compared with the previous month. There was an increase in the number of cars of corn arriving at these markets and a decrease in the movement of oats. Comparative statistics for November and December, based on inspectors' reports, are shown below.

**COMPARATIVE GRAIN RECEIPTS**

	December (cars)	November (cars)
Wheat .....	5,839	3,810
Corn .....	321	136
Oats .....	170	210

**LIVESTOCK:**

**Condition of Ranges** The weather during December was characterized by very light precipitation and the end of the month found most of the range country in need of moisture.

In Arizona cold weather which visited the ranges during the early part of the month caused some shrinkage in livestock. The month closed, however, with temperatures rising and ranges benefited from moisture derived from snow and rain.

Observers in New Mexico report that, although the condition of livestock and grazing continues good, the ranges in most sections are becoming dry and stock water somewhat scarce. In fact, the

drouth in the vicinity of Roswell, Silver City and Magdalena is beginning to cause some apprehension on the part of cattle interests. Aside from the scarcity of moisture, the mild open weather that has prevailed so far this winter has been very beneficial to livestock in New Mexico. From many sections in that state come reports that ranges are generally understocked, although the large calf crop which is expected this year should improve the situation.

In the Panhandle and South Plains section of Texas conditions of moisture and temperatures were less favorable for ranges and livestock than in the preceding month. The condition of both, however, is reported to be fair to good. One favorable feature of the present winter is the fact that very little feeding is necessary in most localities and cattle are wintering in excellent condition.

**Livestock Movements and Prices** An exceptionally low level of prices and an extreme scarcity of livestock was the unusual combination which constituted the principal feature of the Fort Worth market during the month of December. Notwithstanding the fact that the 39,000 head of cattle received at that market made up the smallest December receipts on record for the past thirteen years, the price situation was characterized by as much weakness and instability as if the yards had been glutted with cattle. Perhaps the most notable demoralization in values was shown in the beef steer division. Though the supply was small the demand was even smaller, and sellers were unable to stem the downward course of prices which had been in evidence since last June. Beef steers, which sold as high as \$11.00 in November, brought only \$9.25 at the best period in December, and the bulk of receipts was cleared at from \$8.00 to \$8.50. Hogs opened at around \$10.00 and under steady hammering during the first three weeks of the month sagged away to \$9.15, but rallied from that point on until the close of the month when values had worked back to about \$10.00. The decline of about \$3.00 from the November top price of hogs to the December top, reflects the generally demoralized condition which prevailed in December at all markets and was in no sense to be accounted for by the size of the local supply, which was the smallest of any December receipts since the year 1907. Receipts of sheep were also extremely meager, being less than for any month of the year except January and February, and were also well below the December average of recent years. Despite this fact, however, stocker sheep declined something like \$2.00, while fat sheep lost from \$1.25 to \$1.50.

### FORT WORTH LIVE STOCK RECEIPTS

	December 1920	November 1920	Loss or Gain	December 1919	Loss or Gain
Cattle .....	38,543	75,353	L 36,810	90,080	L 51,537
Calves .....	14,433	31,776	L 17,343	13,615	G 818
Hogs .....	21,311	32,831	L 11,520	44,917	L 23,606
Sheep .....	12,887	16,911	L 4,024	32,110	L 19,223

### COMPARATIVE TOP LIVESTOCK PRICES

	Dec. 1920	Nov. 1920	Dec. 1919
Beef steers .....	\$ 9.25	\$11.00	\$12.65
Stocker steers .....	7.85	8.50	10.35
Butcher cows .....	8.25	8.10	8.50
Stocker cows .....	6.50	7.35	9.00
Calves .....	10.00	10.75	14.25
Hogs .....	10.30	13.65	16.00
Sheep .....	8.15	9.00	12.00
Lambs .....	10.75	11.00	14.75

### LUMBER:

**Pine Mill Operations** Under the combined influence of the general depression and seasonal conditions the December activities of Eleventh District pine mills were conducted upon a very conservative basis. Our reports indicate that quite a number of mills in this district suspended operation temporarily and those which did operate in December restricted their output to a volume commensurate with the reduced demand of the trade. Twenty-four mills reported a combined weekly average production of 6,691,465 feet for December, which compares with 12,085,533 feet reported by thirty-five mills for the month of November. Unfilled orders on hand December 31st, were reported by twenty-four mills as totaling 32,358,330 feet. At the end of the previous month thirty-five reporting mills were behind with their orders to the extent of 49,290,387 feet.

In the following table there is presented a summary of pine mill operations in this district for the month of December.

### DECEMBER PINE MILL STATISTICS

Number of reporting mills.....	24
Average weekly production.....	6,691,465 feet
Average weekly shipments.....	7,757,312 feet
Average weekly orders received.....	5,781,065 feet
Unfilled orders December 31st.....	32,358,330 feet
Average weekly normal production.....	12,691,294 feet
Production below shipments .....	1,065,847 feet=13%
Actual production below normal.....	5,999,827 feet=47%
Orders below normal production.....	6,910,229 feet=54%

### OIL:

**Production Slightly Off** Eleventh District oil wells produced 12,833,574 barrels of oil in December, as against 13,347,352 barrels in November, which reflects a decrease of 513,778 barrels.

All of the major fields showed a decrease in daily average flow. North Louisiana produced more oil in December than in the preceding month, though the difference was so small that the extra day in December reduced the daily average yield in that state sufficiently to show a loss for the month in rate of flow.

The Texas coastal fields reported the heaviest decline in monthly production, all other Texas fields showing yields only slightly below the high mark set for the month of November. The decrease registered by the coastal fields, amounting to 413,808 barrels, was caused by the heavy falling off in production at West Columbia, where, despite the bringing in of a 14,000 barrel well, the total recovery for December was 646,129 barrels less than during the month of November. Notwithstanding this showing, however, West Columbia made an unusually good record in the matter of initial production from new completions, which amounted to 42,722 barrels, or about one-half of the December initial production of the entire state.

While weather conditions probably had something to do with the district's reduced output for December, a factor of perhaps greater importance was the fact that during the latter part of November production in certain fields—notably Stephens County and the coastal region—overtaxed pipe line capacity and storage facilities to such an extent that drilling activities had to be sharply curtailed. Our reports indicate that new pipe lines now being completed in Central West Texas, are expected to relieve the situation there and make possible a normal development of production activities.

**Year's Production Shows Gain** The total amount of oil recovered in the Eleventh Federal Reserve District during the year just ended amounted to 140,670,702 barrels.

This output, by comparison with the 1919 total of 111,903,600, reflects an increase of about 25%. Texas fields contributed 103,460,160 barrels to the district's 1920 oil yield, the remainder amounting to 37,210,542 barrels, coming from the North Louisiana wells. In point of production the State of Texas last year was second only to California according to the best available statistics. A total of 7,044 wells were completed in Texas during 1920 of which 5,111 were producers having a combined initial production of 1,427,469 barrels. This state contributed one-third of all the producing wells in the Mid-Continent field during the year 1920, the combined total number of producers in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Louisiana being 14,833 wells.

## OIL PRODUCTION

Field	November		December		Increase or Decrease	
	Total	Daily Avg.	Total	Daily Avg.	Total	Daily Avg.
North Texas .....	2,516,250	83,875	2,440,415	78,723	Dec. 75,835	Dec. 5,152
Central-West Texas.....	4,515,540	150,518	4,448,556	143,502	Dec. 66,984	Dec. 7,016
Texas Coastal .....	3,658,312	121,943	3,244,504	104,661	Dec. 413,808	Dec. 17,282
Totals Texas .....	10,690,102	356,336	10,133,475	326,886	Dec. 556,627	Dec. 29,450
North Louisiana .....	2,657,250	88,575	2,700,099	87,100	Inc. 42,849	Dec. 1,475
Totals 11th Dist.....	13,347,352	444,911	12,833,574	413,986	Dec. 513,778	Dec. 30,925

## DECEMBER DRILLING RESULTS

	Completions	Producers	Failures	Initial Production
North Texas .....	204	144	60	9,446
Central-West Texas .....	182	145	37	45,036
Texas Coastal .....	46	38	8	42,722
Texas Wildcats .....	19	6	13	260
Totals Texas .....	451	333	118	97,464
North Louisiana .....	86	68	18	16,645
December Totals, District.....	537	401	136	114,109
November Totals, District.....	623	438	185	143,277

## CRUDE OIL PRICES

Texas		Louisiana (38 Gravity and Above)	
Corsicana light .....	\$3.50	Caddo .....	\$3.50
Corsicana heavy .....	1.75	Homer .....	3.25
Texas Coastal field.....	2.50	Bull Bayou .....	3.15
All other Texas fields.....	3.50	De Soto .....	3.40

(Oil Statistics compiled by The Oil Weekly, Houston, Texas.)

## ELEVENTH DISTRICT PRODUCTION YEAR 1920

	Texas	North Louisiana	Total
January .....	8,628,111	2,305,950	10,934,061
February .....	7,263,195	3,209,899	10,473,094
March .....	7,393,002	3,739,022	11,132,024
April .....	7,317,470	3,706,875	11,024,345
May .....	7,884,363	3,830,050	11,714,413
June .....	8,033,000	3,441,000	11,474,000
July .....	8,487,371	3,136,875	11,624,246
August .....	9,291,626	3,052,260	12,343,886
September .....	8,713,460	2,776,050	11,489,510
October .....	9,624,985	2,655,212	12,280,197
November .....	10,690,102	2,657,250	13,347,352
December .....	10,133,475	2,700,099	12,833,574
Totals 1920 .....	103,460,160	37,210,542	140,670,702
Total 1919 .....			111,903,600

### TRADE:

**Wholesale Trade** Measured by values, the volume of sales in the wholesale trade during the month of December was the smallest of any month during the past year, according to reports on hand. Buying, as heretofore, continued to follow closely the immediate needs of the retailers, and even these needs were abnormally light. We learn that many travelling representatives of wholesale houses were withdrawn from the field in December, awaiting a revival of trade.

December sales reported by grocery firms showed a shrinkage of 43 per cent last month, as compared with the corresponding month in 1919, and a decrease of 21 per cent as compared with November, 1920. During the same comparative periods, however, there were declines of 20 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively, in the price of leading grocery staples, which would indicate that the decline in sales was largely a shrinkage in values rather than in the amount of goods moved during the month.

Wholesale drug dealers report that although their

December trade was below normal there is now visible some slight improvement in the outlook for the immediate future.

The farm implement trade shows no reaction from the inertia which has characterized the buying demand for several months. Sales during the past month, according to our reporting firms, showed a decrease of 71 per cent by comparison with those of December, 1919, although prices reflected an average increase of 13 per cent for the twelve-month period.

A noteworthy feature of our reports received from wholesale dry goods houses is the fact that despite the heavy falling off in their sales during the closing months of 1920, their business for the last six months of the year was 7 per cent larger than for the corresponding period in 1919. Stocks on hand

December 31st had been reduced to a point 18 per cent below the inventory figures of a year ago. Due allowance, of course, should be made for the fact that this reduction is largely accounted for by the recent decrease in values.

Wholesale collections during December were slow, being retarded by the same conditions which affected sales. The ratio of total collections for the month to total outstandings on December 1st was reported by the grocery trade as only 68 per cent; drugs 59 per cent; dry goods 29 per cent; and farm implements 10 per cent.

The following table expresses, in the form of average percentual increases and decreases, the principal changes in the condition of wholesale trade during the month of December, as compared with November, 1920, and December, 1919.

CONDITION OF WHOLESALE TRADE DURING DECEMBER, 1920  
Percentage of Increase or Decrease

	Net Sales		July 1st to Dec. 31 compared with Same Period 1919	Prices		Stocks at end of month compared with	
	December, 1920, compared with Dec. 1919	Nov. 1920		December, 1920, Compared with Dec. 1919	Nov. 1920	Dec. 1919	Nov. 1920
Groceries .....	-43.	-21.	-16.	-20.	-5.	-16.	-7.
Drugs .....	9.	8.	-11.	3.	.....	+44.	.....
Dry Goods .....	-60.	-66.	+ 7.	-21.	-33.	-18.	-6.
Farm Implements.....	-71.	- 1.	- 7	+13.	Same	.....	.....

**Retail Trade** Stimulated by price reductions and Christmas shopping, December retail sales reached a volume which, though slightly less, in value, than the volume of business transacted in December, 1919, was sufficiently large to effect a healthy liquidation of stocks, as shown by the statistics of department store trade printed in the table below. Figures submitted by thirteen of the leading department stores in the district disclose an increase of 26.3 per cent in the amount of net sales for December over the sales of the preceding month, and a decrease of 28.8 per cent in the volume of stock goods on hand at the end of the month.

Sales during the last half of the year were larger by 10.5 per cent than those recorded for the last half of 1919. Special reports received by this bank indicate that the value of department store sales for

the year 1920 exceeded the previous year's business by about 25 per cent, and was about double the amount of sales for the year 1918.

Last month's holiday trade, according to our reports, was confined more largely to utility gifts than was the case in December, 1919. Notable decreases in the inquiry for such goods as jewelry, fur coats, and other articles of a similar character, were noted by all reporting firms, evidencing a definite turning away from the habit of extravagant spending which had featured the Christmas shopping of recent years.

The reduced ratio of average stocks to average monthly sales, as shown in the subjoined table, was one of the favorable features of the condition of retail trade as reflected in our correspondents' reports.

BUSINESS OF DEPARTMENT STORES

Net Sales:		Per cent of increase
December, 1920, compared with December, 1919 .....		2.9*
December, 1920, compared with November, 1920 .....		26.3
For period July 1st to December 31st, compared with same period last year.....		10.5
Stocks at end of December, 1920:		
Compared with stocks at end of November, 1920 .....		28.8*
Compared with December, 1919.....		8.8
Ratio of average stocks at end of each month from July 1st to December 31st to average monthly sales over same period .....		383.7
Ratio of outstanding orders on December 31st, 1920, to total purchases 1919 .....		2.7
Ratio of December collections to total accounts receivable on December 1st .....		40.

\* Decrease

## FINANCIAL:

**Federal Reserve Bank's Operations** December witnessed a further contraction in the volume of this bank's outstanding loans to member banks. Loans made during the month amount to \$110,867,775.73, against which there was a retirement of \$117,952,795.25 or a net liquidation of \$7,085,019.52. Our rediscounts with other Federal Reserve Banks, which on November 30th totalled \$28,755,000, had been reduced to \$26,694,600 on December 31st. Member banks' rediscounts held by us December 31st amounted to \$56,909,962.33, as against \$59,403,488.29 on November 30th. During the same period member banks' collateral notes decreased from \$16,349,425.74 to \$14,786,659.63. At the end of December our investment in Bankers' Acceptances stood at \$246,672.55, which was \$31,000 more than the total of November 30th.

Federal reserve notes outstanding showed a decrease of \$3,180,250 during the month of December, the total as of December 31st being \$84,753,545.

There was a decrease of \$2,410,436.63 during the past month in member banks' reserve deposits, which aggregated \$46,994,823.71 at the end of the month.

**Condition of Reserve City Banks** Member banks in the eight reserve cities of the district improved their position slightly during the month of December, reducing their loans about \$5,000,000 and their obligations with the Federal Reserve Bank approximately \$10,000,000. There was also a small contraction in the volume of deposits, and a corresponding increase in their reserve with the Federal Reserve Bank.

At the close of the month the ratio of loans to deposits, held by these banks, was 110 per cent, as against 111 per cent at the beginning of the month, and 88 per cent a year ago. The December decline in both loans and deposits presented a striking contrast with the situation a year ago when loans and deposits of reserve city banks were steadily increasing.

### CONDITION STATISTICS OF MEMBER BANKS IN SELECTED CITIES

	Dec. 31, 1920	Nov. 26, 1920	Jan. 2, 1920
Number of reporting banks .....	51	51	44
U. S. Securities owned .....	46,137,000	50,664,000	70,649,000
Loans secured by U. S. War Obligations.....	8,590,000	8,281,000	13,880,000
All other loans and investments.....	227,908,000	232,985,000	213,116,000
Net demand deposits .....	215,259,000	217,448,000	259,151,000
Reserve with Federal Reserve Bank.....	24,465,000	21,993,000	25,905,000
Bills payable with Federal Reserve Bank.....	34,631,000	44,861,000	12,151,000
Ratio of loans to deposits .....	110%	111%	88%

**Bank Clearings** Bank clearings at the eleven cities in this district continued the downward trend which had been noticeable for some time. All cities reported a decrease, as compared with the previous month, except Galveston and San Antonio. Combined clearings for December totaled \$491,725,677, which was 5.4 per cent less than the previous month's clearings, and 22.4

per cent less than those of December, 1919.

By reason of the heavy gain in clearings recorded during the earlier months of the year, the total for 1920 showed a gain of 14.4 per cent over the total for the previous year, all reporting cities with one exception showing an increase for the twelve-month period.

### BANK CLEARINGS

	December, 1920		November, 1920		December, 1919		Twelve Months 1920		November, 1919	
	\$	% Inc. or Dec.	\$	% Inc. or Dec.	\$	% Inc. or Dec.	\$	% Inc. or Dec.	\$	% Inc. or Dec.
Austin .....	6,350,361	-10.0	7,060,085	-10.0	8,827,632	-28.1	84,349,049	213,728,049	-60.5	
Beaumont .....	5,654,057	-3.4	5,852,113	-3.4	7,311,471	-22.7	75,779,546	70,361,813	+7.7	
Dallas .....	140,332,750	-6.9	150,837,886	-6.9	193,279,859	-27.4	1,868,685,312	1,631,376,165	+14.5	
El Paso .....	28,099,129	-4.5	29,416,000	-4.5	32,329,904	-13.1	346,074,091	308,861,839	+12.0	
Fort Worth .....	65,640,233	-11.6	74,284,500	-11.6	102,386,742	-35.9	992,888,032	900,098,820	+10.3	
Galveston .....	43,786,299	+2.3	42,807,000	+2.3	43,237,103	+1.3	409,843,066	397,359,563	+3.1	
Houston .....	124,577,566	-3.8	129,473,905	-3.8	146,648,457	-15.1	1,504,251,520	1,117,571,425	+34.6	
San Antonio .....	34,091,522	+1.4	33,604,154	+1.4	40,121,875	-15.0	425,016,741	376,516,801	+12.8	
Shreveport .....	17,538,760	-5.4	18,544,772	-5.4	22,737,166	-22.9	251,133,509	175,859,143	+42.8	
Waco .....	11,655,000	-11.0	13,096,000	-11.0	15,479,000	-24.7	164,917,421	148,213,082	+11.3	
Wichita Falls .....	14,000,000	-6.7	15,000,000	-6.7	21,009,890	-33.4	228,476,113	211,316,745	+8.1	
Total .....	491,725,677	-5.4	519,976,415	-5.4	633,370,099	-22.4	6,351,414,400	5,551,263,445	+14.4	

**Discount Rates** Bank rates at Dallas, Houston and San Antonio for the 30-day period ending January 15th were slightly higher than the rates during the 30 days preceding that period. At El Paso, Fort Worth and Waco,

however, rates remained practically steady. Below will be found a table showing the "high," "low," "customary" discount rates prevailing on January 15th at the cities named.

DECEMBER DISCOUNT RATES

	H L C Dallas	H L C El Paso	H L C Ft. Worth	H L C Houston	H L C San Antonio	H L C Waco
Prime Commercial Paper:						
Customers' 30 to 90 days.....	8 6½ 7½	10 7 8	8 7 8	7½ 6 7½	8 6 7½	10 8 8
Customers' 4 to 6 months.....	8 6½ 7½	10 7 8	8 7 8	7 7 7	8 6 7½	8 8 8
Open market 30 to 90 days .....	8 8 8	8 8 8	8 8 8	.. .. .	.. .. .	8 8 8
Open market 4 to 6 months.....	8 8 8	8 8 8	8 8 8	.. .. .	.. .. .	8 8 8
Interbank loans.....	8 6 6½	9 7 8	7 6 6½	7 6 6	7 6 6	7 6 7
Collateral loans, demand .....	8 6 7	10 7 8	10 7 8	8 6 7	8 6 7½	8 8 8
Collateral loans, 3 months .....	8 6 7	10 8 8	10 7 8	7½ 6 7	8 6 7½	8 8 8
Collateral loans, 3 to 6 months.....	8 6 7	10 8 8	10 7 8	8 6 7	8 6 7½	8 8 8
Cattle loans .....	8 7 8	10 8 9	10 8 8½	8 7 7½	9 6 8	8 8 8
Loans secured by warehouse receipts, Bs-L, etc.....	8 7 7½	10 8 8	9 7 8	8 7 8	8 6 7½	8 8 8
Loans secured by Government securities.....	8 6 8	10 6 8	10 6 8	8 6 7	8 6 7	8 6 8

**Failures** There was a sharp increase in both the number and magnitude of the suspensions occurring in the Eleventh District during the month of December, the total number of failures being 124, as compared with 50 for the previous month and 16 for the corresponding month in 1919. The total indebtedness represented by the December failures was \$2,141,462, as against \$839,548 in November, 1920, and \$186,817 in December, 1919.

The following table shows a record of failures occurring in this district during the past year.

COMMERCIAL FAILURES

Year 1920

Eleventh Federal Reserve District	Number	Liabilities
January .....	33	\$ 284,096
February .....	31	1,830,522
March .....	19	203,445
April .....	16	100,582
May .....	15	168,165
June .....	35	278,668
July .....	41	1,148,614

August .....	33	411,027
September .....	36	864,924
October .....	42	2,947,957
November .....	50	839,548
December .....	124	2,141,462
1920 totals .....	475	\$11,219,010
1919 totals .....	322	3,884,398

CHARGES TO DEPOSITORS' ACCOUNTS

('000 omitted).

	Dec. 29, 1920	Dec. 22, 1920	Dec. 31, 1919
Albuquerque .....	\$ 1,574	\$ 1,978	\$ 1,581
Austin .....	2,650	3,663	3,997
Beaumont .....	3,101	4,625	4,133
Dallas .....	34,123	42,095	54,135
El Paso .....	8,670	10,990	8,230
Fort Worth .....	24,187	24,877	33,841
Galveston .....	23,011	24,824	10,727
Houston .....	29,130	35,479	37,595
San Antonio .....	6,085	8,096	8,032
Shreveport .....	7,838	8,687	7,067
Texarkana .....	1,650	1,800	1,816
Tucson .....	1,684	1,394	1,349
Waco .....	3,574	4,325	3,700
Totals, Eleventh District.....	\$147,277	\$172,833	\$176,203
Totals, all reporting cities in United States.....	\$8,484,050	\$9,744,557	\$9,534,768

BUILDING PERMITS

No.	December		Inc. or Dec.	No.	Year		Inc. or Dec.
	1919	No. 1920			1919	No. 1920	
Austin .....	14,020	8	+ 23.8	145	250,317	188	+200.9
Beaumont .....	32,004	305	+284.5	968	1,057,074	2347	+ 53.4
Dallas .....	3,164,600	181	- 54.7	1599	13,921,565	2647	- 1.2
El Paso .....	237,385	66	- 58.4	1242	2,245,587	1473	+ 47.0
Ft. Worth .....	3,071,270	114	-929.9	2000	19,053,157	2234	- 45.5
Galveston .....	31,464	342	- 21.1	5720	666,272	3793	+ .9
Houston .....	542,715	265	- 39.1	4066	6,874,380	3878	+ 24.5
San Antonio .....	299,190	243	- 11.1	2710	3,973,330	2594	+ 21.1
Shreveport .....	765,510	154	- 72.7	1637	3,538,386	2286	+ 62.1
Total .....	8,158,158	1678	- 66.8	20087	51,580,068	21440	- 3.8

POSTOFFICE RECEIPTS

	Fourth Quarter		Inc. or Dec.	Twelve Months		Inc. or Dec.
	1919	1920		1919	1920	
Austin .....	70,375	71,937	+ 2.2	250,749	253,841	+ 1.2
Beaumont .....	46,287	50,020	+ 8.1	174,988	180,235	+ 3.0
Dallas .....	647,034	647,741	+ .1	2,206,458	2,365,913	+ 2.7
El Paso .....	127,438	125,271	- 1.7	434,132	457,223	+ 5.3
Fort Worth .....	287,607	100,530	-65.0	947,542	981,527	+ 3.6
Galveston .....	48,478	61,192	+26.2	209,186	215,869	+ 3.2
Houston .....	308,433	342,024	+10.9	1,167,825	1,328,196	+18.7
San Antonio .....	294,498	234,681	-20.3	926,130	862,359	- 6.9
Shreveport .....	80,252	92,664	+15.5	319,006	373,099	+16.9
Waco .....	69,749	72,470	+ 3.9	252,439	252,782	+ .1
Wichita Falls .....	59,619	61,402	+ 3.0	211,828	244,497	+15.4
Total .....	2,039,770	1,859,932	- 8.8	7,100,283	7,515,541	+ 5.8