

# MONTHLY BUSINESS REVIEW

OF THE

## FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

LYNN P. TALLEY,  
Chairman and Federal Reserve Agent

CHAS. C. HALL—W. J. EVANS,  
Assistant Federal Reserve Agents

(Compiled April 15, 1925)

Volume 10, No. 3

Dallas, Texas, May 1, 1925

This copy released for publication in afternoon papers Apr. 30

### DISTRICT SUMMARY

THE SITUATION AT A GLANCE  
Eleventh Federal Reserve District

	March	February	Inc. or Dec.
Bank debits to individual accounts (at 15 cities).....	\$705,679,000	\$670,051,000	Inc. 5.3%
Department store sales.....			Inc. 18.6%
Reserve Bank loans to member banks at end of month.....	\$ 1,456,376	\$ 2,599,093	Dec. 44.0%
Reserve Bank ratio at end of month.....	78.2%	78.5%	Inc. 4.7 points
Building permit valuations at larger centers.....	\$ 8,416,704	\$ 6,968,818	Inc. 20.8%
Commercial failures (number).....	59	79	Dec. 25.3%
Commercial failures (liabilities).....	\$ 682,936	\$ 1,670,801	Dec. 59.1%
Oil production (barrels).....	15,036,098	12,808,811	Inc. 17.4%
Lumber orders at pine mills (per cent of normal production).....	92%	83%	Inc. 9 points

A further expansion in business activity in the larger cities as reflected by department store sales and charges to depositors' accounts was the outstanding development during the past thirty days. Department store sales evidenced a seasonal expansion of 19 per cent, and were 12 per cent greater than in March, 1924. Charges to depositors' accounts at fifteen principal cities were 24 per cent larger than in the corresponding month last year. In fact, the spread between this year and last year in both department store sales and charges to depositors' accounts has been gradually increasing each month. On the other hand, wholesale distribution has been gradually declining since January, hesitation in buying being the characteristic feature. Purchases in the rural sections are being confined principally to actual day to day needs. Collections are falling off.

While various sections of the district received some precipitation during the past month, the long drouth in the southwest has not been effectually broken. There are many sections which have had no rain since early fall. Small grains have deteriorated rapidly, and are now in very poor condition, the April 1st condition figure being the lowest in several years. In favored sections the planting of corn and cotton has progressed rapidly, but in other sections operations are being further retarded on account of the lack of moisture to germinate the seed. Livestock and range conditions showed a further deterioration during

the month. There has been but little precipitation over the range territory, and the supply of feed and water is becoming scarce.

There was a decline of approximately \$21,000,000 in the deposits of member banks during the month but the demand for credit accommodations remains light. Member bank borrowing at the Federal Reserve Bank evidenced a further decline due to the liquidation of indebtedness by reserve city banks, but there has been an increase in borrowing by banks in the farming sections.

The district's business mortality rate reflected a marked improvement during March, both the number of failures and the volume of indebtedness being the smallest of the current year and less than in March a year ago.

Building operations, as measured by the volume of building permits issued, were on a larger scale than in February but were less than in March, 1924. The production and shipments of lumber and cement were larger than in either the previous month or the corresponding month last year.

A general surplus of labor has developed throughout the district, the supply of workers in both the cities and rural sections being greater than the demand. While there has been a gain in employment in some industries, such as lumber and textiles, there has been a decline in others. A surplus of building craftsmen is in evidence despite the large construction programs under way.

### CROP CONDITIONS

Light showers to heavy rains have fallen over the various sections of Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana during the past thirty days, but the long drouth in the Southwest has not been effectually broken. Many sections have had no rain since early fall and even in the favored sections there is little or no subsoil moisture. The Southwest needs a slow, soaking rain of considerable proportions to place a subsoil season in the ground or the recent rains will have only a temporary value. The mild, open weather has enabled the

farmers to prepare an unusually large proportion of the soil for seeding and it is in condition to absorb the moisture which falls.

Seeding operations are still being retarded by the lack of moisture. However, corn planting has progressed rapidly in those sections favored by rain, particularly in south, east, and northeast Texas, and much of the planted area is up to a good stand and looking well. Cotton planting has made good progress in south and east Texas and in scat-

tered localities elsewhere, but in a large portion of the district planting is being further delayed. In south Texas cotton is up to a stand and is showing fair growth.

Small grains are in poor condition, and made but little growth during the past month. The April 1st condition of the Texas wheat crop was estimated at 47 per cent of normal, which, with the exception of 1918, is the lowest condition figure reported on that date in recent years. The deterioration during the past four months has amounted to 28 points as compared to an average deterioration for that period of 4 points. Although the December estimate of the Texas wheat acreage reflected an increase of 24 per cent over the previous year, a substantial proportion of this increase has already been abandoned. As a general rule the early sown wheat is holding its own but the late sown acreage is deteriorating rapidly. The winter wheat in New Mexico is in a very unsatisfactory condition, being only 56 per cent of normal on April 1st, and conditions have been unfavorable for the seeding of spring wheat. Reports indicate that the abandonment of wheat acreage will be heavy in that state unless there are heavy rains during April. The April 1st condition of the Texas oat crop was estimated at 43 per cent of normal. Much of the fall sown acreage was lost on account of winter-killing and drouth, and some of the spring sown oats have either not come up or have died. Except in a few counties, oats are suffering considerably from the drouth. It is estimated that the combined acreage of fall and spring sown oats this year is only 88 per cent of that seeded last year.

LIVESTOCK

The month of March witnessed a continuation of adverse conditions in the major portion of the district's range territory. While rain has fallen in some sections it has been inadequate to relieve the dry ranges and to replenish the supply of stock water. The precipitation in New Mexico and southeastern Arizona has been light and the high winds and warm weather have dried the soil to such an extent that very little moisture remains. The condition of the New Mexico ranges declined to 65 per cent of normal on April 1st and livestock were reported to be in poor condition. Some good rains have fallen in scattered sections of Texas, particularly in the south, but a large portion of the state remains dry. In the south the weeds, grass, and brush have made a good start, but more rain is needed to maintain this growth. Many of the surface tanks in this section are still dry. While some dry grass remains in various sections of the state, the condition of the ranges generally is very poor. On account of the poor growth of the grass during the spring, stockmen have found it necessary to greatly increase the amount of feeding. In most sections the scarcity of water is becoming a serious problem.

The condition of Texas cattle ranges had declined to 66 per cent of normal on April 1st, or a loss of three points during the month. Sheep and goat ranges declined from 68 per cent of normal on March 1st to 56 per cent on April 1st. Heavy feeding has aided materially in maintaining livestock, but their condition generally is very unsatisfactory except in those localities favored by rain. While a fair calf crop is indicated for Texas, the lack of green feed is cutting short the milk supply and a large percentage of the calves are not growing off well. In the sheep country feeding has been general in order to maintain the ewes in condition to lamb and in such cases the lambs are being saved but losses are heavy among the poor ewes.

*Movements and Prices.* Receipts of all classes of livestock at the Fort Worth market showed a substantial increase as compared to both the previous month and the corresponding month last year. The heaviest increase, however, occurred in the cattle division.

Most classes of cattle sold at higher values during March, there being an advance of approximately 50 to 75 cents on fat cows, 25 cents on yearlings, 75 cents to \$1.00 on calves, and 25 to 50 cents on bulls. The market on beef steers and canners closed steady. During the first week in March hog prices reached \$14.40, but a steady downward revision followed. At the close of the month the best were bringing \$12.80 as against a top of \$12.40 at the close of the previous month. The sheep market evidenced a further downward revision of about 50 cents and lambs dropped about \$1.50.

FORT WORTH LIVESTOCK RECEIPTS

	March 1925	March 1924	Loss or Gain	February 1925	Loss or Gain
Cattle	74,637	39,669	G 34,968	59,151	G 15,486
Calves	13,102	11,787	G 1,315	10,603	G 2,499
Hogs	46,614	44,698	G 1,916	40,393	G 6,221
Sheep	21,262	16,832	G 4,430	18,033	G 3,229

COMPARATIVE TOP LIVESTOCK PRICES

	March 1925	March 1924	February 1925
Beef steers	\$ 9.75	\$ 8.35	\$ 7.80
Stocker steers	8.25	7.15	7.75
Butcher cows	6.40	6.50	5.60
Stocker cows	3.25	3.25	3.50
Calves	9.00	8.50	8.00
Hogs	14.40	7.60	12.40
Sheep	9.00	10.50	10.50
Lambs	15.25	16.25	16.00

*Movements. Cotton* Receipts of cotton at Houston and Galveston showed a seasonal decline but were substantially above those of the same month of 1924. Exports continued to reflect a heavy increase over those of a year ago.

COTTON MOVEMENTS THROUGH THE PORT OF GALVESTON

	March 1925	March 1924	Aug. 1st to Mch. 31st This Season	Last Season
Net receipts	185,138	75,887	3,490,973	2,697,145
Exports	316,879	151,079	3,245,233	2,574,979
Stocks			350,252	156,013

GALVESTON STOCK STATEMENT

	March 31, 1925	March 31, 1924
For Great Britain	18,987	200
For France	15,200	100
For other foreign ports	47,400	11,971
For coastwise ports	3,000	2,000
In compresses and depots	265,665	141,742
Total	350,252	156,013

HOUSTON COTTON MOVEMENTS

	March 1925	March 1924	Aug. 1st to Mch. 31st This Season	Last Season
Receipts—Gross	208,575	45,505	4,614,278	3,351,785
Receipts—Net	114,958	24,635	2,578,841	1,765,020
Exports	158,090	37,522	1,617,506	995,725
Stocks			394,634	151,756

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

	This Season	Last Season
Receipts since Aug. 1st	8,711,569	6,068,105
Exports: Great Britain	2,312,061	1,469,994
France	784,426	605,870
Continent	2,906,879	1,965,642
Japan-China	808,474	515,803
Mexico	19,107	6,469
Total foreign ports	6,830,947	4,563,778
Stocks at all U. S. ports March 31st	1,012,355	602,995

COTTON CONSUMED AND ON HAND

	COTTON GROWING STATES				UNITED STATES			
	March 1925	March 1924	Aug. 1 to March 31		March 1925	March 1924	Aug. 1 to March 31	
			This Season	Last Season			This Season	Last Season
Cotton consumed .....	391,492	333,202	2,795,422	2,755,446	582,674	485,840	4,072,111	4,090,884
Cotton on hand at end of month:								
(a) in consuming establishments.....			950,569	856,399			1,644,793	1,503,852
(b) in public storage and compresses.....			1,911,030	1,737,090			2,237,115	2,000,552

SPOT COTTON PRICES  
(Middling basis)

	March, 1925		Apr. 15, 1925
	High	Low	
New York .....	26.05	24.60	24.65
New Orleans .....	26.00	24.50	24.60
Dallas .....	25.95	24.35	24.40
Houston .....	26.60	25.00	25.20
Galveston .....	26.50	25.00	25.10

COTTONSEED PRODUCTS

Reports from 77 cottonseed oil mills in this district show that 22,520,276 pounds of crude oil were shipped during March at an average price of \$ .0938 per pound, which was slightly higher than the average price received for February shipments. Cake and meal shipments brought an average price of \$35.57 per ton, as compared to \$37.25 per ton in February. Prices on hulls and linter shipments reflected an increase as compared to the previous month.

COTTONSEED PRODUCTS SHIPPED AND AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED

	March	
	Products Shipped	Average Price F.O.B. Mill
Crude oil .....	22,520,276 lbs.	.0938 per lb.
Cake and meal.....	30,901 tons	\$35.57 per ton
Hulls .....	26,471 tons	9.37 per ton
Linters .....	8,420,122 lbs.	.0428 per lb.

STATISTICS OF COTTONSEED AND COTTONSEED PRODUCTS

	Texas		United States	
	Aug. 1 to March 31	Aug. 1 to March 31	Aug. 1 to March 31	Aug. 1 to March 31
Cottonseed received at mills (tons).....	1,526,000	1,303,000	4,439,000	3,205,000
Cottonseed crushed (tons).....	1,409,000	1,188,000	4,129,000	2,977,000
Cottonseed on hand (tons).....	124,000	123,000	325,000	233,000
Crude oil produced (pounds).....	410,140,000	333,114,986	1,245,546,000	876,815,228
Cake and meal produced (tons).....	657,000	552,109	1,892,000	1,365,286
Hulls produced (tons).....	410,000	347,341	1,182,000	847,642
Linters produced (500-lb. bales).....	267,000	231,214	792,000	602,089
Stocks on hand March 31st.....				
Crude Oil (pounds).....	20,359,000	25,045,195	64,376,000	91,400,735
Cake and meal (tons).....	40,000	37,757	134,000	172,895
Hulls (tons).....	42,000	42,455	160,000	94,379
Linters (500-lb. bales).....	33,000	50,168	129,000	168,977

TEXTILE MILLING

The March production of reporting textile mills of this district reflected an increase of 3.3 per cent as compared to the previous month and 10.0 per cent over the corresponding month last year. There were 3,023 bales of cotton consumed by these mills in April as compared to 2,796 bales in February and 2,790 in March, 1924. Unfilled orders on hand at the close of March were slightly less than those at the close of February, but were almost three times as large as those on hand at the close of March a year ago. Stocks at the end of March were smaller than either a month ago or a year ago.

Buying continues on a hand-to-mouth basis. Prices are generally steady with a tendency toward lower levels. Manufacturers report that, as a rule, business is still unsatisfactory.

TEXTILE MILLING STATISTICS

	March 1925	March 1924	February 1925
Number bales cotton consumed.....	3,023	2,790	2,796
Number spindles active.....	101,912	91,352	101,912
Number pounds cloth produced.....	1,397,896	1,270,950	1,353,842

WHOLESALE TRADE

The restricted demand for merchandise at wholesale which became evident during the latter part of February continued throughout March. While three reporting lines of trade—groceries, hardware, and drugs—disclosed larger sales than in the previous month, the increases were small and were less than the usual seasonal expansion. Sales of dry goods and farm implements were substantially less than in February. Four lines reported larger sales than in March a year ago, but it will be remembered that distribution in the latter month was lighter than usual for that season and this fact in part accounts for the increase this year. Retail trade in the larger cities continued active but in the rural sections the serious effect of the drouth has greatly curtailed consumer demand and this is naturally affecting wholesale distribution. However, in a few favored localities business remains active.

Merchants, generally, show a disposition to hold their stocks to a minimum and buy only when the actual demand for merchandise arises. Purchases, therefore, are being made mostly in small quantities, and frequent reorders continue as the main feature of trade. There is practically no buying for forward delivery.

Dealers state that collections are falling off and in some sections where the drouth has been most severe many accounts are hard to collect.

It seems to be the concensus of opinion that distribution during the remainder of the spring season will depend largely upon weather conditions. Many dealers feel that if the drouth is broken in sufficient time for planting of crops under reasonably favorable conditions trade will respond quickly to the improved conditions.

The demand for dry goods at wholesale evidenced a marked falling off in March, when the sales of reporting firms were 12.0 per cent less than February sales. While sales were 13.9 per cent greater than in the same month last year, it should be remembered that sales in March, 1924, were unusually small. The distribution for the first quarter of 1925 has averaged 9.5 per cent less than for the corresponding period of 1924. Merchants are buying principally on a hand-to-mouth basis. While frequent orders are received, each order as a rule represents only a small quantity of merchandise. Dealers state that there will not be any appreciable revival in trade until the drouth is broken. Prices remained at practically the same level as a month ago.

The sales of reporting grocery firms during March reflected a gain of 1.6 per cent over the previous month and 5.9 per cent as compared to the corresponding month last year. Reports indicate that the buying demand during the past month was from fair to good. While the drouth has not affected the grocery trade to the same extent as some other lines, consumer buying is beginning to show a marked decline in some sections. Prices remained firm.

While the March sales of drug firms were at about the same level as during the previous month and the corresponding month last year, conditions in the trade are spotted and reports indicate that distribution is being retarded in many sections. In some sections the drouth is reported to be seriously affecting trade while in other sections the demand continues strong. Buying is still limited to immediate requirements. Prices have remained at practically the same level. Collections are reported to be falling off and are very poor in some sections.

The March distribution of farm implements evidenced a further decline of 26.9 per cent from the previous month, and was 32.1 per cent below the corresponding month last year. Dealers report that the dry weather has greatly curtailed the demand for implements, as farmers are now waiting to ascertain the outcome of the drouth situation before making further purchases. Dealers feel that the demand for implements would respond quickly to a heavy general rain, and all are of the opinion that the volume of business in the next few months will depend upon the amount of rain obtained.

The sales of wholesale hardware firms were 2.5 per cent greater than in February and were 16.7 per cent larger than in March, 1924. Some sections report that business continues good, but others state that the drouth is curtailing distribution. As a rule, there has been an active demand from the city trade, due in part to the large volume of building, but in the rural sections there has been a slacken-

ing in demand. Collections have shown a tendency to slow down.

#### CONDITION OF WHOLESALE TRADE DURING MARCH, 1925

Percentage of Increase or Decrease in

	Net Sales March 1925 compared with		Net Sales Jan. 1 to date compared with same period last year	Stocks March 1925 compared with	
	March 1924	Feb. 1925		March 1924	Feb. 1925
Groceries .....	+ 5.9	+ 1.6	+ 4.5	+ 3.0	- 2.9
Dry goods .....	+13.9	-12.0	- 9.5	-19.2	+ 1.6
Farm implements.....	-32.1	-26.9	-14.2	- 5.9	+ .2
Hardware .....	+16.7	+ 2.5	+ 9.4	- 6.9	- .9
Drugs .....	+ .9	+ .4	+ 3.0	+ 4.4	+ 3.6

#### RETAIL TRADE

A further marked improvement in department store business was an outstanding feature of trade developments in the retail channels of distribution. The March sales of twenty-four reporting firms were 18.6 per cent greater than in February, and 12.3 per cent greater than in March, 1924. It will be noted that the spread between sales this year and last year has been increasing each month this year. Pre-Easter buying during the latter part of March and early part of April was very satisfactory. The outlook for spring trade is encouraging.

Stocks at the close of March showed a further increase of 7.4 per cent as compared to the previous month, but were 3.8 per cent less than at the close of March last year. The ratio of sales to stocks during the first quarter of 1925 was 67.1 per cent as against 59.1 per cent during the same period last year, reflecting a substantial improvement in the rate of stock turnover.

The ratio of outstanding orders at the close of March to total purchases during the previous year was 7.2 per cent as against 10.0 per cent at the close of February.

The ratio of March collections to accounts receivable was 40.9 per cent as compared to 39.0 per cent during March a year ago.

#### BUSINESS OF DEPARTMENT STORES

	Dallas	Ft. Worth	Houston	All Others	Total District
Total sales—					
March 1925, compared with March 1924.....	+11.0	+ 9.3	+11.5	+15.5	+12.3
March 1925, compared with February 1925.....	+14.4	+ 16.4	+21.3	+22.7	+18.6
Jan. 1st to date compared with same period last year.....	+ 8.8	+ 8.0	+ 8.9	+10.8	+ 9.4
Credit sales—					
March 1925, compared with March 1924.....	+11.2	+12.2	+16.1	+18.1	+14.2
March 1925, compared with February 1925.....	+14.5	+ 8.7	+17.2	+26.1	+17.6
Jan. 1st to date compared with same period last year.....	+ 4.7	+13.5	+12.1	+16.4	+10.4
Stocks—					
March 1925, compared with March 1924.....	- 3.8	- 1.5	- 9.1	- 2.4	- 3.8
March 1925, compared with February 1925.....	+ 6.2	+ 4.3	+ 9.4	+ 9.5	+ 7.4
Percentage of sales to average stocks in					
March, 1924 .....	19.7	17.6	22.6	19.9	19.9
March, 1925 .....	22.7	19.5	27.8	23.8	23.3
Percentage of sales to average stocks—					
Jan. 1st to March 31, 1924.....	58.7	50.4	65.2	61.1	59.1
Jan. 1st to March 31, 1925.....	66.0	54.7	76.9	70.4	67.1
Ratio of outstanding orders to last year's purchases.....	9.0	8.0	6.5	5.1	7.2
Ratio of March collections to accounts receivable, due and outstanding March 1, 1925.....	40.6	36.1	42.2	42.5	40.9

#### FINANCIAL

Reflecting the continued activity of business in the larger cities, the volume of public spending as measured by debits to individual accounts at banks in fifteen principal cities of this district evidenced a gain of 23.9 per cent over the corresponding month of 1924. A seasonal increase of 5.3 per cent was shown as compared to the previous month.

**Acceptance Market.** A further decline was registered during March in the volume of bills which were executed by accepting banks of this district and which were outstanding at the close of the month. The amount outstanding on March 31st totaled \$2,045,-

#### CHARGES TO DEPOSITORS' ACCOUNTS

	March 1925	March 1924	Inc. or Dec.	February 1925	Inc. or Dec.
Albuquerque ..	\$ 8,416,000	\$ 8,984,000	- 6.3	\$ 8,395,000	+ .3
Austin .....	32,880,000	18,087,000	+81.8	21,767,000	+51.1
Beaumont .....	17,269,000	16,707,000	+ 3.4	17,685,000	- 2.4
Corsicana .....	9,199,000	8,417,000	+ 9.3	10,265,000	-10.4
Dallas .....	219,568,000	165,481,000	+16.7	203,672,000	+ 7.8
El Paso .....	34,667,000	34,481,000	+ .5	31,514,000	+10.0
Fort Worth ..	74,672,000	63,998,000	+16.7	70,890,000	+ 5.3
Galveston .....	45,877,000	33,915,000	+35.3	47,321,000	- 3.1
Houston .....	149,492,000	112,693,000	+32.7	144,491,000	+ 3.5
Roswell .....	2,598,000	2,448,000	+ 6.1	2,888,000	-10.0
San Antonio ..	35,866,000	32,013,000	+12.0	36,707,000	- 2.3
Shreveport ..	38,417,000	35,569,000	+ 8.0	37,321,000	+ 2.9
Texarkana .....	9,099,000	10,650,000	-14.6	9,231,000	+ 1.4
Tucson .....	8,746,000	8,361,000	+ 4.6	8,107,000	+ 7.9
Waco .....	18,913,000	17,838,000	+ 5.8	19,797,000	- 4.5
Total, 11th District.....	\$705,679,000	\$569,687,000	+23.9	\$670,051,000	+ 5.3

465.95 as compared to \$2,653,993.75 on February 28th. Acceptances executed against import and export transactions declined from \$1,127,614.31 on February 28th to \$919,592.51 on March 31st, and those based on the domestic shipment and storage of goods declined from \$1,526,379.44 to \$1,125,873.44 during the same period.

*Condition of Member Banks in Selected Cities.* Reports from member banks in selected cities reflected a substantial reduction in both loans and deposits during the past month. Total loans declined from \$318,053,000 on March 4th to \$305,043,000 on

April 1st, or a net reduction of \$13,010,000. It will be noted, however, that loans secured by corporate securities increased \$2,296,000. During the same period total deposits decreased \$15,945,000, there being a loss of \$15,026,000 in demand deposits, and \$919,000 in time deposits. The United States Government securities owned by these banks increased \$8,444,000, but all other securities owned declined \$1,337,000. Their bills payable and rediscounts with the Federal Reserve Bank showed a gradual reduction during the month, being \$105,000 on April 1st as against \$1,750,000 on March 4th.

CONDITION STATISTICS OF MEMBER BANKS IN SELECTED CITIES

	Apr. 1, 1925	Apr. 2, 1924	Mch. 4, 1925
1. Number of reporting banks.....	49	50	49
2. U. S. securities owned.....	\$52,715,000	\$ 52,865,000	\$50,271,000
3. All other stocks, bonds and securities owned.....	19,861,000	14,018,000	21,198,000
4. Loans secured by U. S. Government obligations.....	3,378,000	3,021,000	3,612,000
5. Loans secured by stocks and bonds other than U. S. Government obligations.....	75,532,000	60,866,000	73,236,000
6. All other loans.....	226,133,000	210,223,000	241,205,000
7. Net demand deposits.....	279,424,000	231,651,000	294,450,000
8. Time deposits.....	95,010,000	84,519,000	95,929,000
9. Reserve with Federal Reserve Bank.....	30,373,000	26,135,000	32,666,000
10. Bills payable and rediscounts with Federal Reserve Bank.....	105,000	3,340,000	1,750,000
11. Ratio of loans* to net demand deposits.....	82%	92%	83%

\*Loans include only items 4 and 6.

*Savings Deposits.* The savings deposits of 105 reporting banks which operate a savings department reflected a gain of 1.8 per cent as compared to last month and 8.0 per cent as compared to the

same month last year. The number of savings depositors of 100 banks on March 31st was 223,574, as compared to 221,688 on February 28th, and 195,082 on March 31, 1924.

SAVINGS DEPOSITS

	Number of Reporting Banks:	March 31, 1925		March 31, 1924		Inc. or Dec.	February 28, 1925		Inc. or Dec.
		Number of Savings Depositors	Amount of Savings Deposits	Number of Savings Depositors	Amount of Savings Deposits		Number of Savings Depositors	Amount of Savings Deposits	
Beaumont.....	4*	4,715	2,290,365	4,597	2,321,887	- 1.4	4,808	2,288,452	+ .1
Dallas.....	6	43,915	14,171,803	35,503	11,732,520	+20.8	43,683	13,869,886	+ .2
El Paso.....	3	16,268	5,839,358	15,447	6,865,976	-15.0	16,025	5,832,444	+ .1
Fort Worth.....	3	12,913	4,881,981	11,419	4,293,176	+13.7	12,873	4,767,688	+2.4
Galveston.....	3	13,543	8,191,012	11,363	7,225,898	+13.4	13,494	8,130,916	+ .7
Houston.....	12*	39,594	19,927,269	32,302	18,222,133	+ 9.4	38,981	19,866,147	+ .3
San Antonio.....	6*	18,696	11,213,186	15,658	9,869,806	+13.6	18,449	11,000,807	+1.9
Shreveport.....	5	24,305	10,354,080	22,933	11,481,817	- 9.8	24,149	9,714,201	+6.6
Waco.....	5	7,829	4,318,666	5,730	2,942,255	+46.8	7,773	4,187,429	+3.1
Wichita Falls.....	3	6,746	1,591,903	6,694	1,600,095	- .5	6,642	1,568,235	+1.5
All others.....	55*	35,045	15,938,925	32,936	14,783,567	+ 7.8	34,811	15,731,374	+1.3
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>223,574</b>	<b>98,718,548</b>	<b>195,082</b>	<b>91,339,130</b>	<b>+ 8.0</b>	<b>221,688</b>	<b>96,957,586</b>	<b>+1.8</b>

\*Only 3 banks in Beaumont, 11 banks in Houston, and 51 banks in all others reported the number of savings depositors.

APRIL DISCOUNT RATES

Prevailing Rates

	Dallas	El Paso	Ft. Worth	Houston	San Antonio	Waco
Rate charged customers on prime commercial paper such as is now eligible for rediscount under the Federal Reserve Act:						
(a) running 30-60-90 days.....	4-6	8	4½-6	5-6	4-8	5-7
(b) running 4-6 months.....	4-6	8	4½-6	5-6	5¾-8	5-7
Rate charged on loans to other banks, secured by bills receivable.....	5-6	6-8	5-6	5-6	5-6	5-6
Rate on ordinary commercial loans running 30-60-90 days secured by Liberty Bonds and certificates of indebtedness (not including loans to enable purchase of bonds)	5-6	8	5-6	5-6	4½-8	6
Rate on loans secured by prime stock exchange or other current collateral:						
(a) demand.....	5-7	8	6-8	5-7	6-8	6-7
(b) time.....	5-8	8	6-8	5-7	6-8	6-7
Rate on commodity paper secured by warehouse receipts, etc.	5-8	8	6-8	5-8	6-8	6-8
Rate on cattle loans.....	7-8	8	6-8	5-8	7-8	8

*Deposits of Member Banks.* There was a net reduction of \$20,681,000 in the deposits of member banks during the past month. The net demand deposits

declined \$17,566,000, and time deposits declined \$3,115,000. Total deposits on March 25th were \$102,585,000 greater than on March 26, 1924.

## DEPOSITS OF MEMBER BANKS

	All Member Banks		Banks in Cities with a population of less than 15,000		Banks in Cities with a population of over 15,000	
	Total Demand	Total Time	Demand	Time	Demand	Time
Mch. 26, 1924.....	568,800	155,257	276,019	43,430	292,781	111,827
Apr. 23, 1924.....	549,057	156,696	265,618	46,326	283,444	110,370
May 28, 1924.....	522,820	154,085	250,732	45,837	272,088	108,248
June 25, 1924.....	512,565	157,153	244,723	46,329	267,842	110,824
July 23, 1924.....	502,768	157,714	237,982	47,006	264,781	110,708
Aug. 27, 1924.....	510,092	160,201	242,995	46,387	267,097	113,814
Sept. 24, 1924.....	562,288	160,260	276,886	46,029	285,397	114,231
Oct. 29, 1924.....	609,594	159,889	303,481	44,983	306,113	114,906
Nov. 26, 1924.....	641,603	158,722	315,786	43,967	325,817	114,755
Dec. 24, 1924.....	670,487	158,107	322,361	41,676	348,126	116,431
Jan. 28, 1925.....	660,847	160,584	320,036	44,219	340,811	116,865
Feb. 25, 1925.....	680,428	166,895	321,650	45,834	358,778	121,061
Mch. 25, 1925.....	662,862	163,780	304,459	45,132	358,403	118,648

*Operations of the Federal Reserve Bank.* Due to the liquidation of indebtedness at the Federal Reserve Bank by the reserve city banks, our loans to member banks showed a gradual decline during the latter

part of March. At the close of the month loans stood at \$1,456,376.49, or a decrease of \$1,142,716.81 from those on February 28th. However, the reserve city banks had reduced their borrowings from \$1,593,029.53 on February 28th to \$105,000 on March 31st, which reflects an increase of approximately \$450,000 in the borrowings of country banks during the month. There were 71 banks borrowing on March 31st as against 54 on February 28th. Since the first of April there has been a slightly increased demand for funds from banks in the farming sections.

Total bills held by this bank declined from \$17,803,381.97 on February 28th to \$11,664,543.01 on March 31st, distributed as follows:

Member banks collateral notes (secured by U. S. Government obligations).....	\$ 173,000.00
Rediscounts and all other loans to member banks.....	1,283,376.49
Open market purchases (bankers' acceptances).....	10,208,166.52

Total bills held .....\$11,664,543.01

Federal reserve notes in actual circulation showed a further decline of \$2,259,775 during the month and stood at \$44,014,360 on the last day of the month. The reserve deposits declined from \$66,154,077.86 on February 28th to \$63,383,020.88 on March 31st.

## FAILURES

A marked decline in the commercial failure rate was registered during March when both the number of insolvencies and the amount of indebtedness reached the lowest level of the current year and was substantially below that of the corresponding month last year. There were 59 failures during March with liabilities amounting to \$682,936, as compared to 79 defaults in February with an indebtedness of \$1,670,801, and 74 insolvencies in March last year owing \$950,677.

## PETROLEUM

There was an increase of 27,578 barrels in the daily average production of crude oil in the Eleventh District during March, when a total of 15,036,098 barrels of oil were produced as compared to the February output of 12,808,811 barrels. The influence of the increases in the price of crude oil during January and February were evident in the increased number of wells completed during March, there being 608 completions of which 393 were successful oil wells having a flush production of 116,639 barrels of oil and 30 were gas wells, as compared to 574 completions in February which netted 353 successful wells having an initial flow of 97,602 barrels of oil and 17 gas wells. Drilling operations were hampered to some extent by the lack of water due to the prolonged drouth.

The largest individual increase in production occurred in the Gulf Coast territory, where the South Liberty field added many good producers. The Archer County field continues to increase its production, while the Wortham field is steadily declining. As compared to the previous month, the Louisiana daily average production during March increased 540 barrels.

*Crude Oil Prices.*

There were no changes in the posted prices on crude oil at the various fields of the district between March 12th and April 10, 1925. However, the payment of premiums on crude oil has been almost entirely discontinued.

## OIL PRODUCTION

Field	March		February		Increase or Decrease	
	Total	Daily Average	Total	Daily Average	Total	Daily Avg.
North Texas.....	2,881,295	92,945	2,446,170	87,363	Inc. 435,125	Inc. 5,582
Central-West Texas.....	1,469,240	47,395	1,263,200	45,114	Inc. 206,040	Inc. 2,281
East-Central Texas.....	4,989,600	160,955	4,495,365	160,549	Inc. 494,235	Inc. 406
Texas Coastal.....	2,377,847	76,704	1,552,404	55,443	Inc. 825,443	Inc. 21,261
Miscellaneous fields.....	1,537,600	49,600	1,458,588	52,092	Inc. 79,012	Dec. 2,492
Total, Texas.....	13,255,582	427,599	11,215,727	400,561	Inc. 2,039,855	Inc. 27,088
North Louisiana.....	1,780,516	57,436	1,593,084	56,896	Inc. 187,432	Inc. 540
Total, 11th District.....	15,036,098	485,035	12,808,811	457,457	Inc. 2,227,287	Inc. 27,578

## MARCH DRILLING RESULTS

Field	Completions	Producers	Failures	Initial Production
North Texas.....	288	198	90	29,059
Central-West Texas.....	44	25	19	4,100
East-Central Texas.....	80	67	13	18,727
Texas Coastal.....	82	69	13	57,323
East Texas.....	18*	17*	1*	.....
Miscellaneous fields.....	6	6	.....	2,125
Texas wildcats.....	29	1	28	.....
Totals, Texas.....	547	383	164	111,334
North Louisiana.....	61	40**	21	5,305
March totals, District.....	608	423	185	116,639
February totals, District.....	574	370	204	97,602

\*Gas wells. \*\*Includes 13 gas wells.

## CRUDE OIL PRICES

TEXAS	Apr. 10, 1925	Apr. 12, 1924
	Corsicana light.....	\$2.00
Corsicana heavy.....	1.00	1.00
Texas Coastal.....	2.00	2.00
Mexia.....	2.00	2.00
Currie.....	2.00	2.25
North Texas (42 gravity and above).....	2.35	.....
LOUISIANA	Apr. 10, 1925	Apr. 12, 1924
Caddo (38 gravity and above).....	\$2.05	\$1.85
Bull Bayou (38 gravity and above).....	1.85	1.80
Homer (35 gravity and above).....	1.80	1.85
Haynesville (33 gr. and above).....	1.70	1.75
De Soto Crude.....	1.90	1.85

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

LUMBER

The mild, dry weather during March enabled the pine mills of the Eleventh District to produce a total amount of lumber one per cent above their normal output for March, which is the first time that the actual production of the mills has exceeded normal production since April, 1924. Shipments of lumber from the mills increased to 7 per cent below production during March as compared to shipments of 9 per cent below production during February. Orders received called for 92 per cent of normal production as against orders for only 83 per cent of normal production during February. Due to the heavy shipments during the month, however, orders remaining on the books of the reporting mills at the close of March called for only \$53,666,010 feet of lumber, as compared to unfilled orders

for 55,211,619 feet held at the end of February. Stocks of lumber on hand are still steadily increasing, and were only 20 per cent below normal stocks at the close of March, as against 24 per cent below normal on February 28th.

MARCH PINE MILL STATISTICS

Number of reporting mills.....	48
Production .....	108,810,523 feet
Shipments .....	101,027,854 feet
Orders .....	99,674,574 feet
Unfilled orders March 31st.....	53,666,010 feet
Normal production .....	108,002,031 feet
Stocks, March 31st .....	260,989,146 feet
Normal stocks .....	325,924,250 feet
Shipments below production.....	7,782,669 feet= 7%
Actual production above normal.....	808,492 feet= 1%
Orders below normal production.....	8,327,457 feet= 8%
Stocks below normal.....	64,935,114 feet=20%

BUILDING

Building projects launched during March in this district, as measured by building permits issued at twelve of the principal centers, had an estimated valuation of \$8,416,704, which represented an increase of 20.8 per cent from the \$6,968,818 valuation of permits issued during February,

but was 9.8 per cent less than the \$9,332,036 valuation of permits issued in March, 1924.

During the first quarter of 1925 the total valuation of permits was \$22,343,739, as compared to \$24,618,127 during the same period of 1924, or a decrease of 9.2 per cent for the quarter.

BUILDING PERMITS

	March, 1925		March, 1924		Inc. or Dec.	February 1925		Inc. or Dec.	First Three Months				Inc. or Dec.
	No.	Valuation	No.	Valuation		No.	Valuation		1925		1924		
									No.	Valuation	No.	Valuation	
Austin.....	52	60,625	62	128,945	- 53.0	62	126,905	- 52.2	159	254,705	147	410,228	- 37.9
Beaumont.....	195	169,539	237	545,236	- 68.9	163	171,230	- 1.0	495	542,927	617	847,416	- 35.9
Dallas.....	554	2,058,841	443	2,712,158	- 24.1	488	2,147,552	- 4.1	1,516	7,109,463	1,266	7,888,622	- 9.9
El Paso.....	86	254,309	96	267,366	- 4.9	68	99,070	+156.7	211	403,334	224	442,019	- 8.8
Fort Worth.....	238	722,884	185	416,984	+ 73.4	200	834,882	- 13.4	628	2,248,065	582	1,820,339	+ 23.5
Galveston.....	320	166,092	385	474,734	- 65.0	330	141,798	+ 17.1	900	392,919	972	1,301,099	- 69.8
Houston.....	685	2,507,264	669	1,556,272	+ 61.1	550	1,639,668	+ 52.9	1,679	5,445,798	1,757	4,606,854	+ 18.2
Port Arthur.....	177	128,854	182	177,242	- 27.3	145	108,630	+ 18.6	446	296,064	547	469,491	- 36.9
San Antonio.....	353	982,180	375	895,948	+ 9.6	340	760,207	+ 17.9	1,005	2,346,807	1,074	2,413,608	- 2.8
Shreveport.....	281	358,684	331	1,476,042	- 75.7	260	369,012	- 2.8	809	1,084,041	860	3,078,301	- 64.8
Waco.....	76	174,742	69	300,000	- 41.8	68	264,554	- 33.9	219	718,106	179	606,866	+ 13.4
Wichita Falls.....	133	832,790	92	381,109	+118.5	119	305,310	+172.8	342	1,501,510	226	733,784	+104.6
Total.....	3,150	8,416,704	3,126	9,332,036	- 9.8	2,793	6,968,818	+ 20.8	8,409	22,343,739	8,451	24,618,127	- 9.2

CEMENT

The production of Portland cement at Texas mills during March increased 24.5 per cent over the February production, and was 22.0 per cent greater than the amount produced during March, 1924. There were 422,000 barrels of cement shipped from the mills during March, as compared to 374,000 barrels shipped during the previous month, and 351,000

barrels shipped during the corresponding month last year. There was no change in the amount of stocks on hand at the close of March as compared to those held at the end of February, but stocks were 13.6 per cent less than those held on March 31, 1924.

PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF PORTLAND CEMENT. (Barrels)

	March, 1925		March, 1924		Per Cent Inc. or Dec.	February 1925	Per Cent Inc. or Dec.	First Three Months		Per Cent Inc. or Dec.
								1925	1924	
Production of Texas Mills.....	422,000		346,000		+22.0	339,000	+24.5	1,065,000	1,023,000	+ 4.1
Shipments from Texas Mills.....	422,000		351,000		+20.2	374,000	+12.8	1,076,000	906,000	+18.8
Stocks at end of the month at Texas Mills.....	342,000		396,000		-13.6	343,000	None			

# SUMMARY OF NATIONAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

(Compiled by the Federal Reserve Board, as of April 24, 1925.)

Production in basic industries was smaller in March than in the two preceding months, but was as large as at any time in 1924. Distribution of merchandise both at retail and wholesale was in greater volume than a year ago. Wholesale prices, after increasing since the middle of 1924, remained in March at about the same level as in February.

## PRODUCTION

The Federal Reserve Board's index of production in basic industries declined in March to a level 5 per cent below the high point reached in January. Iron and steel production and cotton consumption showed less than the usual seasonal increase during March, and activity in the woolen industry declined. There was a further decrease in the output of bituminous coal. Increased activity in the automobile industry was reflected in larger output, employment, and payrolls. In general, factory employment and payrolls increased during the month. Value of building contracts awarded in March was the largest on record, notwithstanding the recent considerable reduction in awards in New York City.

## TRADE

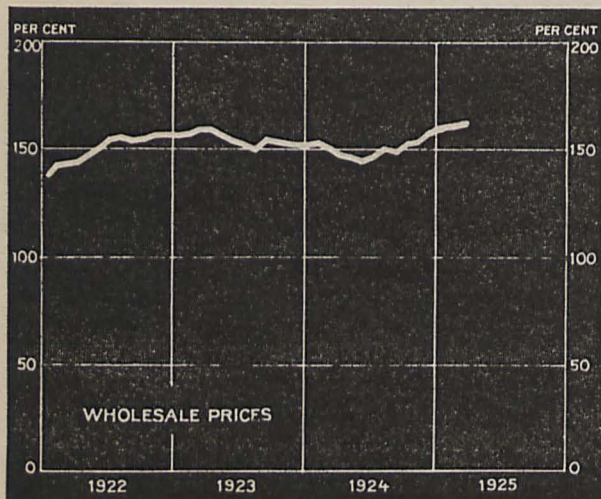
Wholesale trade in all principal lines increased in March, and the total was larger than a year ago. Sales at department stores and by mail order houses increased less than is usual at this time of the year. Stocks of shoes and groceries carried by wholesale dealers were smaller at the end of March than a month earlier, and stocks of dry goods, shoes, and hardware were smaller than last year. Stocks of merchandise at department stores showed more than the usual seasonal increase and were somewhat larger than last year.

## PRICES

Wholesale prices of most groups of commodities included in the index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics declined somewhat in March, but owing to an advance of food prices, particularly of meats, the general level of prices remained practically unchanged. Prices of many basic commodities, however, were lower at the middle of April than a month earlier.

## BANK CREDIT

Volume of loans and investments at member banks in principal cities continued at a high level during the five week period ending on April 15th. Total loans declined reflecting chiefly a reduction in loans on stocks and bonds, and also some decrease in loans for commercial purposes. Investment holdings, which early in March had been nearly \$300,000,000 below the high point of last autumn, increased by the middle of April by about half this amount. Demand deposits after declining rapidly between the middle of January and March 25th, increased during the following weeks, but on April 15th were still \$633,000,000 below the maximum reached in January. At the reserve banks the volume of earning assets on April 22nd was about \$75,000,000 below the high point at the end of February, but continued above the level of a year ago. Discounts for member banks were about twice as large in April as at the exceptionally low point in the middle of January, while total United States securities and acceptances held were in smaller volume than at any time during the year. Somewhat easier money conditions in April were indicated by a decline of one-eighth of one per cent in the open market rate on 90 day acceptances to  $3\frac{1}{8}$  per cent, and by sales of prime commercial paper at below 4 per cent.



Index of U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (1913=100, base adopted by Bureau.) Latest figure March, 161.



Index of 22 basic commodities corrected for seasonal variations (1919=100). Latest figure March, 120.