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PERSONAL INCOME IN THE SOUTHWEST IN THE POSTWAR YEARS

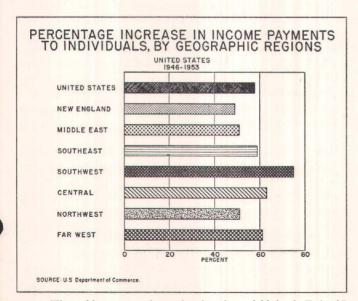
Income payments to individuals have increased at a faster rate in the Southwest in the postwar period than in any other region of the Nation. The 75-percent gain from 1946 to 1953 was appreciably larger than that of the next-ranking region, the Central States, where an increase of 63 percent was registered. Moreover, the Southwest has led the Nation in the postwar rate of expansion in per capita income payments.

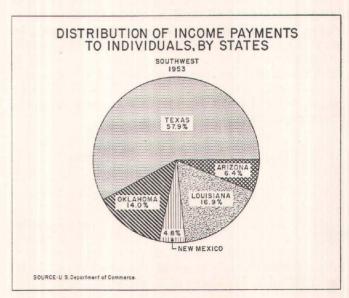
Annual data on income payments to individuals by states and regions are released by the United States Department of Commerce each August in its publication Survey of Current Business. These data are probably the most comprehensive indicator of economic development which is available for individual states and regions. Income payments to individuals represent the composite income derived from the various economic activities carried on, for the most part, in the respective states and regions. Expansions and contractions in the industries making up the economy of the different states tend to be reflected in the income payments to individuals living in those states. Therefore, the rapid growth of income payments to individuals in the Southwest in the postwar period is indicative, at least in part, of the rapid growth of the economy of the Southwest—that is, the rapid

growth of those industries and activities through which the inhabitants of the region obtain their livelihood.

Since income payments are in terms of money, another factor which has been important in their rise has been the increase in prices. While income payments in the Southwest in the period 1946-53 showed an increase of 75 percent, the increase amounts to only 27 percent when these income payments are adjusted to dollars of constant purchasing power by using as a deflator the consumer price index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Similarly, the postwar rise of 58 percent in the Nation's income payments becomes merely 15 percent when adjusted to dollars of constant purchasing power. Despite the importance of the monetary factor in the growth of income payments, the expansion in real income in the Southwest in the postwar years has been very impressive.

In 1953, income payments to individuals in the Southwest totaled \$21,258,000,000, representing about 8 percent of the national total. Texas, with income payments of \$12,279,000,000, accounted for almost three-fifths of the Southwest's income. The balance of the region's income was distributed among the following states in order of descending magnitude: Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arizona, and New Mexico.





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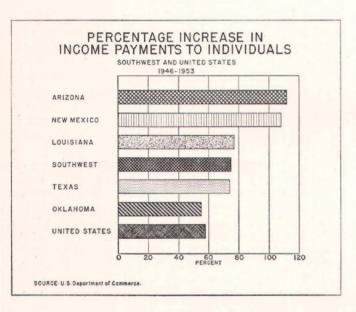
INCOME PAYMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS

(In millions of dollars)

| Year | Arizona | Louisiana | New Mexico | Oklahoma | Texas | Southwest | United States |
|------|---------|-----------|---------------|----------|----------|-----------|------------------|
| 1946 | \$ 644 | \$2,033 | \$ 490 | \$1,926 | \$ 7,065 | \$12,158 | \$170,962 |
| 1947 | 725 | 2,230 | 558 | 2,130 | 8,113 | 13,756 | 185,339 |
| 1948 | 832 | 2,525 | 619 | 2,301 | 8,701 | 14,978 | 202,007 |
| 1949 | 836 | 2,653 | 679 | 2,285 | 9,211 | 15,664 | 196,772 |
| 1950 | 931 | 2,848 | 775 | 2,406 | 9,853 | 16,813 | 217,828 |
| 1951 | 1,145 | 3,138 | 916 | 2,692 | 11,189 | 19,080 | 242,529 |
| 1952 | 1,308 | 3,397 | 975 | 2,880 | 11,916 | 20,476 | 256,091 |
| 1953 | 1,370 | 3,602 | 1,021 | 2,986 | 12,279 | 21,258 | 270,577 |

SOURCE: United States Department of Commerce.

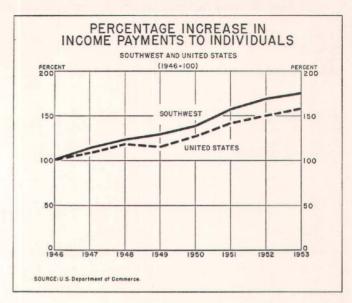
The westernmost states of the Southwest have experienced the largest relative increases in income payments to individuals in the postwar period. Income payments in both Arizona and New Mexico more than doubled. With the exception of Oklahoma, each of the southwestern states had a larger percentage increase than the Nation, and Oklahoma was only a little below the Nation.



Although the Southwest's individual income payments showed an uninterrupted rise from 1946 to 1953, the larger relative increases in the region's, as well as the Nation's, income payments occurred in the early postwar years and following the outbreak of the Korean hostilities, the periods in which most of the price increases took place. A mild decline in the Nation's economic activity in 1949 and again in the latter part of 1953 and the first part of 1954 tempered the rise in income payments.

Major Sources of Income Payments

As one might expect, the sources of income are quite varied in a region as large as the Southwest. No single industry is outstandingly important as a direct source of income. Nevertheless, four major sources—trade and service income, government income payments, manufacturing payrolls, and agricultural income—supply approximately two-thirds of the income received by inhabitants of the region.



Trade and services supply a larger share of the income payments than any other source, accounting for 26.2 percent of the Southwest's total income in 1953. This share is almost the same as in the Nation as a whole. Moreover, the proportion of income supplied by trade and services varies relatively little among the different states of the region, ranging from a high of 27.0 percent in Texas to a low of 24.4 percent in New Mexico. This relatively high degree of uniformity in the proportion of income derived from trade and services reflects a similarity in the tendency to spend of the inhabitants of the various states, as well as the fact that individuals tend to trade in the general area in which they live.

Government ranked next to trade and services in 1953 as a source of income to the region's population, supplying 19.2 percent of the total income. This proportion compares with 15.9 percent in the Nation. Among the regions of the Nation, only the Southeast exceeds the Southwest in the proportion of total income derived from government activities. All the individual southwestern states obtain a larger proportion of their income from government than the national average, with New Mexico receiving more than one-fourth of its income from government sources. The relatively greater importance of government as a source of income in the Southwest than in the Nation is partly the result of the heavy concentration of military installations in this area with their large government payrolls. In addition, other types of government payments, such as public assistance and other welfare payments, comprise a larger proportion of income payments to individuals in some of the southwestern states than in the Nation as a whole.

Manufacturing payrolls, which supplied 13 percent of the region's income in 1953, are third in importance as a source of income in the Southwest. Considerable difference exists, however, among the various states as to the relative importance of manufacturing payrolls. This source is most important in Louisiana, accounting for 15.4 percent of individual incomes in 1953, followed by Texas with 13.9 percent. On the other hand, in Arizona and New Mexico, manufacturing payrolls accounted for only 7.6 percent and 6.5 percent, respectively, of the income in those states. In each of the southwestern

states, the proportion of total income accounted for by manufacturing payrolls was substantially smaller than the 25.7 percent in the Nation in 1953.

Although it is considerably more important in the Southwest's economy than in the Nation's, last year agriculture directly supplied only 8.5 percent of the region's individual income payments. This proportion is lower than in any other year of record. Drought, and the resulting reduction in crop yields and the decline in farm prices, tended to depress the region's agricultural income. Nevertheless, the proportion of income supplied by agriculture has been following a declining trend over the past two decades.

Mining payrolls are a considerably more important source of income in the Southwest than in any other region of the Nation. In 1953, mining payrolls supplied 5.1 percent of the income payments in the Southwest, compared with only 1.4 percent in the Nation. The major portion of the mining payrolls in all of the southwestern states except Arizona stems from oil and gas exploration and production activities. In Arizona, however, mining payrolls are derived largely from nonferrous metals mining operations.

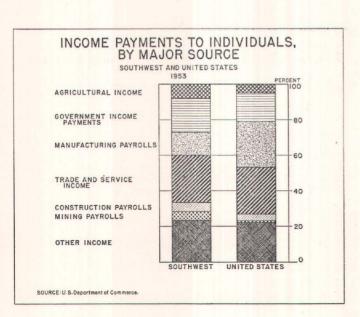
Similar to mining payrolls, construction payrolls also have been a more important source of income to the people of the Southwest than to the inhabitants of the Nation as a whole. In 1953, construction payrolls comprised 4.6 percent of the individual income payments of the region, compared with 4.0 percent in the Nation. Oklahoma was the only southwestern state in which construction accounted for a smaller share of income than in the Nation. On the other hand, construction payrolls accounted for a larger proportion of income in Arizona than in all but three other states in the Nation. The relatively greater importance of construction in the income stream of the region than in that of the Nation reflects the fasterthan-national-average rate of growth in the economy of the Southwest. Heavy investments have promoted and accompanied the regional growth, and substantial amounts of investments have taken the form of construction.

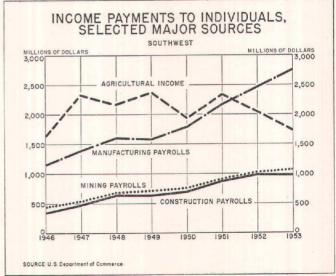
Although the Southwest's income from each of the major sources has shown increases during the postwar period, wide differences have been apparent in the magnitude of the gains of the various sources. These differences reflect some of the shifts which have occurred in the Southwest's economy. Moreover, they tend to reveal some of the important factors which have shaped the development of the region's economy during the postwar period.

In examining the growth in income of various major sources, emphasis will be placed on the commodity-producing segments. These sources are the more dynamic in the regional economy, with the service and other noncommodity-producing sources frequently dependent to a large extent upon developments in the commodity-producing industries. The commodity-producing sources include payrolls of construction, manufacturing, and mining and agricultural income (wages and salaries and proprietors' income).

Construction payrolls have shown a larger relative growth in the postwar period than any other major source of income in the Southwest. In 1953, construction payrolls in the region were 195 percent larger than in 1946; during the same period, the Nation's construction payrolls rose 156 percent. This tremendous growth clearly reflects the construction boom which has accompanied the expansion of the regional economy in the postwar years. Relative to the Nation, the regional gains in the postwar period were narrowed somewhat last year, when construction payrolls declined a little at the same time that the Nation posted a moderate increase. Texas alone accounted for the decline in the region's construction payrolls in 1953.

Mining payrolls, largely reflecting the continued expansion in the Southwest's petroleum industry, have risen uninterruptedly in the postwar period and in 1953 were 141 percent greater than in 1946. This increase was substantially greater than that in the Nation as a whole. Within the region itself, New Mexico registered the largest increase, 230 percent, and Oklahoma had the smallest, 106 percent.





PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN INCOME PAYMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS BY MAJOR SOURCES, 1946-1953

| Source | Ariz. | La. | New Mexico | Okla. | Texas | South- west | United States |
|---|-------|-----|---------------|-------|-------|----------------|------------------|
| NONAGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES | | | | | | | |
| Gross wages and salaries | 136 | 100 | 144 | 94 | 110 | 109 | 81 |
| Mining | 126 | 169 | 230 | 106 | 142 | 141 | 56 |
| Manufacturing | 247 | 105 | 196 | 135 | 148 | 140 | 92 |
| Construction | 231 | 289 | 146 | 158 | 177 | 195 | 156 |
| Transportation | 40 | 60 | 43 | 52 | 58 | 56 | 45 |
| Power and gas | 351 | 144 | 571 | 121 | 176 | 181 | 118 |
| Communication | 152 | 105 | 238 | 120 | 132 | 130 | 93 |
| Trade | 116 | 81 | 127 | 81 | 99 | 96 | 75 |
| Finance | 128 | 112 | 236 | 112 | 161 | 147 | 80 |
| Services | 152 | 72 | 145 | 76 | 84 | 87 | 69 |
| Miscellaneous | 15 | 27 | 49 | 22 | 15 | 19 | 4 |
| Net income of proprietors | 56 | 33 | 65 | 28 | 41 | 40 | 24 |
| AGRICULTURE (wages and salaries and | | | | | | | |
| proprietors' income) | 109 | 33 | 21 | -26 | 3 | 8 | 16 |
| GOVERNMENT | 99 | 73 | 117 | 64 | 65 | 71 | 54 |
| PROPERTY (dividends, interest, net rents, | | | | | | | |
| and royalties) | 122 | 70 | 139 | 61 | 65 | 70 | 62 |
| TOTAL | 113 | 77 | 108 | 55 | 74 | 75 | 58 |

SOURCE: United States Department of Commerce.

The growing importance of manufacturing in the regional economy is indicated by the marked increase in manufacturing payrolls in the postwar years. In 1953, these payrolls amounted to almost \$2,800,000,000, which is 140 percent higher than in 1946; in the Nation, manufacturing payrolls rose 92 percent during this period. The Southwest has shown a larger relative growth in manufacturing payrolls in the postwar period than any other region of the Nation except one, the Northwest. While Texas accounted for the major portion of the expansion in the Southwest's manufacturing payrolls, Arizona and New Mexico led the region in the rate of growth in these payrolls with increases of 247 percent and 196 percent, respectively. Louisiana, which had the smallest relative increase, more than doubled its manufacturing payrolls in the 1946-53 period.

In contrast with the marked gains in construction, mining, and manufacturing payrolls, the increase in income from agriculture in the postwar period 1946-53 was quite small, amounting to only 8 percent. In fact, this represented a relatively smaller gain than that of any other major source of income. Moreover, the increase in the Southwest was some-

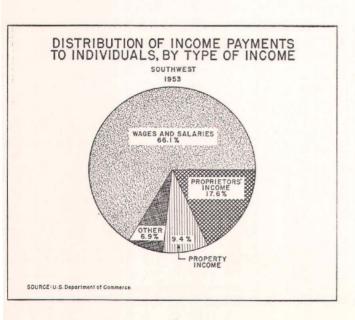
what less than that in the Nation as a whole. The failure of cotton prices to show any significant increase and the substantial decline in cottonseed prices in 1953 as compared with 1946, coupled with the marked rise in the cost of producing these commodities, probably constitute the major factors in the relatively less favorable experience of southwestern agricultural income. In contrast with the small increase in agricultural income in the region as a whole, Arizona's agricultural income rose 109 percent between 1946 and 1953, primarily because of a tremendous expansion in irrigation farming.

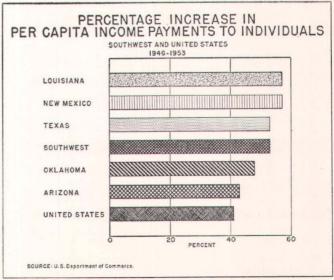
Considerable variation also is evident in the increases in income from other major sources in the postwar period. The larger relative gains occurred in payrolls in public utilities industries and finance; and smaller increases took place in income from government, property income, payrolls in transportation industries, and net income of proprietors of unincorporated nonagricultural enterprises.

Per Capita Income

The rise in total income payments to individuals in the Southwest in the postwar period has been accompanied by a marked, although somewhat smaller, rise in per capita income payments. Per capita income payments to individuals increased 53 percent from 1946 to 1953. As noted earlier, this increase is larger than that of any other region in the Nation and compares with the national average of 41 percent. While variations are apparent in the magnitude of the rise in per capita income among the different southwestern states, each southwestern state experienced a greater increase than the Nation as a whole.

Despite the faster-than-national-average rate of increase in per capita income payments in the postwar period, per capita income in the Southwest continues appreciably below that of the Nation. In 1953, per capita income payments in the Southwest amounted to \$1,406, compared with \$1,709 for the Nation; in other words, the Southwest's per capita income was only 82 percent as large as that of the Nation. Within the



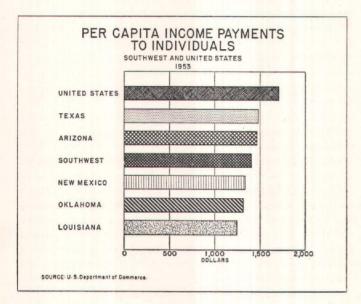


PER CAPITA INCOME PAYMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS

| Year | Arizona | Louisiana | New Mexico | Oklahoma | Texas | Southwest | United States |
|------|---------|-----------|---------------|----------|--------|-----------|------------------|
| 1946 | \$1,032 | \$ 794 | \$ 858 | \$ 899 | \$ 966 | \$ 920 | \$1,211 |
| 1947 | 1,110 | 865 | 959 | 999 | 1,098 | 1,032 | 1,292 |
| 1948 | 1,206 | 973 | 1,025 | 1,101 | 1,141 | 1,101 | 1,383 |
| 1949 | 1,171 | 1,007 | 1,054 | 1,086 | 1,208 | 1,142 | 1,324 |
| 1950 | 1,235 | 1,052 | 1,133 | 1,076 | 1,272 | 1,190 | 1,440 |
| 1951 | 1,438 | 1,131 | 1,288 | 1,196 | 1,386 | 1,306 | 1,581 |
| 1952 | 1,503 | 1,230 | 1,327 | 1,293 | 1,457 | 1,386 | 1,644 |
| 1953 | 1,473 | 1,249 | 1,347 | 1,327 | 1,480 | 1,406 | 1,709 |

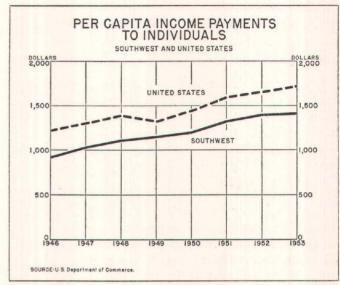
SOURCE: United States Department of Commerce.

region, per capita income payments varied from a high of \$1,480 in Texas to a low of \$1,249 in Louisiana.



Recent Developments

While the expansion in income payments to individuals in the Southwest in the postwar period has been substantially larger than the national average, in 1953—the last year for which data are available—the region lagged a little behind the Nation. Income payments in the Southwest rose 4 percent from 1952 to 1953, compared with a 6-percent increase in the Nation. The larger-than-national-average decline in agricultural income in the region was primarily responsible for the less favorable showing in the Southwest's total income payments. In most nonagricultural sources of income, the relative increases in the region were comparable with those in the Nation. Only in construction payrolls did the Southwest lag significantly behind the Nation, with the region showing practically no change, compared with a 4-percent increase in the Nation.



Income payments to individuals in the Southwest in 1954 are likely to be fairly close to the 1953 level. The region apparently will experience a further decline in agricultural income—perhaps as much as 8 to 10 percent—because of a substantial reduction in cotton acreage, widespread drought conditions, and a further small increase in the cost of agricultural production. On the other hand, employment in nonagricultural activities has been maintained at almost the same high levels of last year. Small declines in employment in manufacturing and transportation industries have been offset by small to moderate increases in most other nonagricultural industries. Wage rates have edged a little higher, and wages and salaries of nonagricultural industries, in the aggregate, probably will be slightly higher in 1954 than they were in 1953.

REVIEW OF BUSINESS, AGRICULTURAL, AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS



Department store sales in the District in September were 5 percent above August and 1 percent above September 1953, but the year's sales to

the close of the month were 3 percent below a year ago. Sales during the 2 weeks ended October 16 rose 1 percent above the comparable year-earlier figure.

Credit sales accounted for a larger proportion of total sales in September than in the same month last year; receivables and collections were up 2 percent and 3 percent, respectively. Inventories rose seasonally 8 percent from August but were 5 percent under September 1953; orders outstanding were 1 percent above a year ago.

Light to heavy rains in the first half of October brought an improvement in moisture conditions over the District. Cotton harvest progressed rapidly during September and October; cotton production prospects improved. Marketing of cattle and calves has been seasonally heavy. Price changes for major agricultural commodities were relatively small in October.

October daily average crude oil production in the District declined slightly from September. Refinery, crude runs in September rose for the second consecutive month to reach the highest level for any month thus far this year, but October brought a moderate decrease.

Nonagricultural employment in District states rose in August and September, partly because of seasonal factors, and manufacturing employment also increased.

The value of construction contracts awarded in the District in September was 55 percent above August and 12 percent above a year earlier; the sharpest gain was in residential awards. Total construction contract awards in the first 9 months of 1954 exceeded those of a year ago by 10 percent; residential awards were up 29 percent, and all others, down 3 percent.

Loans of the weekly reporting member banks in the District rose seasonally by 2.5 percent in the 4 weeks ended October 20. During the same period, deposits increased 1.9 percent. Investments expanded considerably, primarily because of recent Treasury financing.



Retail sales at District department stores during September rose 5 percent above August and 1 percent above September 1953. The moderate September increase over Au-

gust was substantially less than seasonal but was 2 percentage points greater than during the same period last year.

Department store sales during the 2 weeks ended October 16 were approximately 1 percent above the same period a year earlier. Cumulative sales during the first 9 months of 1954 were 3 percent under those in the same months of 1953.

Although most major departmental groups at department stores showed little change in total sales during September as compared with a year ago, there were some noteworthy changes among the various categories of merchandise within departments. In the piece goods and household textiles department, a gain of 2 percent in sales of household textiles was more than offset by a loss of 6 percent in sales of piece goods. In the women's and misses' ready-to-wear department, a year-to-year decline of 7 percent in sales of coats and suits was offset by increases in sales of women's and misses' dresses and girls' wear. Likewise, in homefurnishings, a 5-percent smaller demand for furniture and bedding and a 17-percent decline in sales of television sets were balanced by a gain of 8 percent in sales of housewares. Two departments showing substantial increases over 1953 were men's and boys' wear, up 8 percent, and small wares, up 11 percent. The gain in the small wares department was principally in jewelry and watches, with a sales increase of 31 percent over a year ago.

In relation to total purchases, the average buyer in the District spent less cash and bought more on credit in September than he did in the previous month or in September 1953. On the other hand, due primarily to larger debt obligations, his

RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS

(Percentage change)

| | | NET SA | LES | STO | CKS1 |
|--|--|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| | Sept. 19 | 54 from | 0 - 1054 | Sept. 1954 from | |
| Line of trade by area | Sept. 1953 | Aug. 1954 | 9 mo, 1954 comp. with 9 mo, 1953 | Sept. 1953 | Aug. 1954 |
| DEPARTMENT STORES Total Eleventh District. Corpus Christi. Dallas. El Paso. Fort Worth. Houston. Shreveport, La. Waco. Other cities. | 1 8 1 -1 -2 2 -3 12 -1 | 5 -6 12 5 3 2 12 8 0 | -3 -2 -1 -5 -4 -3 -2 -1 -4 | -5 4 -3 -6 -7 -8 -6 -4 -4 | 8 8 11 9 6 8 11 |
| FURNITURE STORES Total Eleventh District | 3 -3 12 14 1 -11 -11 8 | -7 -17 -11 -2 -7 -6 4 -10 | | -15 -21 -11 -12 - - - -7 | 4 5 3 8 — |
| Total Eleventh District | _7 2 | 17 22 | = | = | = |

¹ Stocks at end of month.

INDEXES OF DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS

(1947-49 = 100)

| | UNADJUSTED | | | | ADJUSTED1 | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Area | Sept. 1954 | Aug. 1954 | July 1954 | Sept. 1953 | Sept. 1954 | Aug. 1954 | July 1954 | Sept. 1953 |
| SALES—Daily average | | | | | | | | |
| Eleventh District | 121 | 115 | 111 | 119 | 114 | 127 | 132 | 112 |
| Dallas | 120 | 107 | 108 | 119 | 109 | 122 | 133 | 108 |
| Houston | 140 | 137 | 129 | 137 | 128 | 152 | 148 | 125 |
| STOCKS—End of month | | | | | | | | |
| Eleventh District | 139p | 129 | 123 | 148 | 134p | 132 | 133 | 142 |

Adjusted for seasonal variation.

cash repayments on outstanding balances were 3 percent greater than in both the previous month and the same month last year. Department store receivables rose 6 percent above August to a total 2 percent greater than in September 1953.

Receipts of fall and winter merchandise during September exceeded sales by approximately 29 percent. As a consequence, department store inventories rose seasonally 8 percent above August but were 5 percent under a year earlier. New orders placed during the month were 8 percent greater than during September last year, but, because of heavy receipts, orders outstanding at the end of the month were only 1 percent above a year ago.

Total furniture store sales at reporting stores in the District during September were 7 percent below those of August but 3 percent above sales in September 1953. Collections on outstanding accounts, although up 1 percent from the previous month, were down 4 percent compared with the year-earlier total. A 4-percent excess of new credit sales over collections resulted in a year-to-year rise of 1 percent in furniture store receivables. Inventories rose 4 percent from August but on September 30 were 15 percent lower than on the same date last year.



Moisture conditions in the District improved sharply during the first half of October, as light to heavy rains occurred in virtually all sections. The heaviest rains were in

west Texas and eastern New Mexico, while light amounts fell in the Low Rolling Plains section of Texas. Southwest New Mexico continues generally dry, with very little range feed available. In most sections of the District, rainfall has been insufficient to replenish subsoil moisture, and additional rains are needed for continued development of fall-planted crops and winter pastures.

Wheat prospects in northwestern Texas counties improved sharply during October. Seeding was completed following the October rains, and about 80 percent of seeded acreage is estimated to be up to a stand. Early fields already are providing considerable grazing. Throughout central and eastern parts of the District, small grains and winter legumes generally are growing satisfactorily.

Harvest of the 1954 cotton crop made unusually rapid progress during September and October. Prior to October 1,

COTTON PRODUCTION

Texas Crop Reporting Districts

(In thousands of bales-500 lb. gross wt.)

| 1954 Indicated October 1 | 1953 | 1952 | 1954 as percent of 1953 |
|--------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|
| 405 | 548 | 469 | 74 |
| 965 | 835 | 1.005 | 116 |
| | 143 | 182 | 122 |
| | 285 | 59 | 61 |
| | | | 46 |
| | | | |
| | | | 41 51 |
| | | | 59 |
| | | | 83 |
| | | | |
| | | | 44 |
| 140 | | | 65 |
| 210 | 76 | 222 | 276 |
| 185 | 238 | 231 | 78 |
| 70 | 32 | 61 | 219 |
| 410 | 258 | 310 | 159 |
| 3,575 | 4,317 | 3,808 | 83 |
| | Indicated October 1 405 965 175 175 18 455 70 70 210 17 140 210 185 70 410 | Indicated 1953 19 | Indicated |

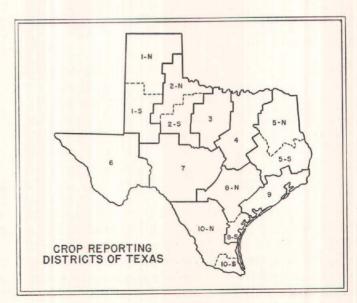
SOURCE: United States Department of Agriculture.

ginnings in District states amounted to 2,226,951 bales—42 percent of the estimated production.

Cotton production in District states was indicated by the United States Department of Agriculture at 5,350,000 bales as of October 1. This is 285,000 bales more than the September 1 forecast but 1,607,000 bales below last year's production. The Texas crop, placed at 3,575,000 bales, was 200,000 bales larger than was indicated a month earlier but 742,000 bales lower than the 1953 crop. The per acre yield in Texas, at 225 pounds, is only 8 pounds below last year's exceptionally high yield and is 43 pounds above the 1943-52 average.

The national cotton crop was indicated at 12,511,000 bales as of October 1—up 679,000 bales from the forecast a month earlier but 3,954,000 bales below last year's production. The indicated per acre yield of 311 pounds compares with a record yield of 324 pounds in 1953.

Secretary of Agriculture Benson has announced a national 1955 upland cotton marketing quota of 10,000,000 bales—the minimum permitted by law. Marketing quotas will be in effect if approved by at least two-thirds of the cotton farmers voting in a national referendum to be held December 14.



CROP PRODUCTION

Texas and Five Southwestern States

(In thousands of bushels)

| | | TEXAS | | FIVE SOU | STATES1 | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| Crop | Estimated October 1, 1954 | 1953 | Average 1943-52 | Estimated October 1, 1954 | 1953 | Average 1943-52 |
| Cotton ² | 3,575 | 4,317 | 3,239 | 5,350 | 6,957 | 4,791 |
| Corn | 35,152 | 33,874 | 51,266 | 52,477 | 52,991 | 91,288 |
| Rice ³ | 16,430 | 14,924 | 10,162 | 30,292 | 27,080 | 20,839 |
| Sorghum grain | 83,953 | 55,198 | 79,379 | 92,524 | 66,156 | 94,745 |
| Hay4 | 1,539 | 1,705 | 1,546 | 4,741 | 5,063 | 4,740 |
| Peanuts ⁵ | 89,365 | 179,400 | 282,635 | 125,365 | 299,890 | 395,214 |
| Irish potatoes | 2,100 | 2,484 | 3,818 | 4,850 | 6,099 | 8,303 |
| Sweet potatoes | 1,320 | 2,550 | 4,047 | 10,540 | 11,511 | 13,894 |

Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas,

Harvest of the rice crop is nearing completion in Texas, with both acreage and yield per acre expected to be the highest of record. A grain sorghum crop of 83,953,000 bushels is indicated for Texas, compared with 55,198,000 bushels harvested in 1953 and a 10-year average of 79.379.000 bushels. Harvest is about complete, except in the Texas High Plains.

Fall range and pasture prospects are improved since the recent rains. In central, northern, and northeastern counties of Texas, native grasses, clovers, and rescue grass are providing green feed. Winter range feed prospects are unusually promising in some western Plateau counties.

LIVESTOCK RECEIPTS

(Number)

| Class | FORT | WORTH MA | RKET | SAN ANTONIO MARKET | | | |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|--|
| | September 1954 | September 1953 | August 1954 | September 1954 | September 1953 | August 1954 | |
| Cattle | 104,562 | 105,857 | 98,467 | 40,006 | 22,021 | 44,646 | |
| Calves | 36,338 | 32,310 | 30,923 | 39,506 | 17,229 | 36,587 | |
| Hogs | 36,180 | 30,139 | 31,636 | 2,597 | _ | 2,610 | |
| Sheep | | 65,917 | 44,434 | 134,017 | 127,683 | 136,778 | |

¹ Includes goats.

Marketings of cattle and calves continue seasonally heavy but in recent weeks have shown little or no increase over those in the comparable period in 1953. During the remaining months of 1954, marketings may be somewhat smaller

FARM COMMODITY PRICES Top Prices Paid in Local Southwest Markets

| Commodity and market | Unit | Week ended Oct. 20, 1954 | week | Comparable week last year |
|---|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| COTTON, Middling 15/16-inch, Dallas | lb. | \$.3400 | \$.3425 | \$.3205 |
| WHEAT, No. 1 hard, Fort Worth | bu. bu. bu. | 2.65 1.00½ 1.96¼ 2.62 | 2.63 1.01½ 1.94 2.62 | 2.581/4 1.003/4 1.80 2.85 |
| HOGS, Choice, Fort Worth SLAUGHTER STEERS, Choice, Fort Worth SLAUGHTER CALVES, Choice, Fort Worth STOCKER STEERS, Choice, Fort Worth SLAUGHTER LAMBS, Choice, Fort Worth | cwt. cwt. cwt. cwt. | 19.75 25.00 21.00 21.00 19.50 | 20.50 25.00 17.50 20.00 18.00 | 22.25 24.00 16.00 16.50 18.00 |
| BROILERS, south Texas EGGS, current receipts, Fort Worth | lb. | 9.50 | 9.50 | .30 |
| WOOL, 12-months, west Texas | lb. | 11.65 1.01½ | 1.00 | 11.83 1.031/2 |

Clean basis. ² No sales reported.

than during the comparable months a year earlier because of the very heavy sales during the last quarter of 1953.

Price changes for major agricultural commodities during the past month were relatively small, with some decline in the price of cotton and advances of 50 cents to \$1 per hundredweight in the prices of most classes of cattle and calves. Prices of rough rice have shown some strengthening, but no substantial advance has been noted in selling prices. A substantial volume of rice is moving into the Commodity Credit Corporation loan.



Loans at the weekly reporting member banks in the Eleventh Federal Reserve District during the 4 weeks ended October 20 continued the expansion that is usual for this

time of year by increasing \$48,425,000, or 2.5 percent. Among the various classes of loans, increases were registered in all categories except loans to banks, which declined \$124,-000. Commercial, industrial, and agricultural loans of these banks rose \$33,599,000, or 2.7 percent, reflecting primarily increased borrowings of commodity dealers, construction firms, and manufacturers in grain and milling lines. Other manufacturing concerns-notably those in the fields of petroleum and related activities, food and liquor, and metal and metal products-also increased their borrowings substantially. The over-all increase in commercial, industrial, and agricultural loans in the 4-week period was \$7,225,000 greater than the rise in the comparable weeks of 1953.

Except for loans to banks, changes in other categories of loans paralleled those in the commercial, industrial, and agricultural sector. Loans to brokers and dealers in securities, combined with other loans for purchasing and carrying securities, rose \$11,129,000; loans secured by real estate increased \$1,967,000; and "all other" loans-reflecting primarily extensions of credit to consumers-expanded \$1,854,000.

CONDITION STATISTICS OF ALL MEMBER BANKS Eleventh Federal Reserve District

(In millions of dollars)

| Îtem | Sept. 29, 1954 | Sept. 30, 1953 | Aug. 25, 1954 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Loans and discounts | \$3,100 | \$2,896 | \$3,060 |
| United States Government obligations | 2,600 | 2,340 | 2,633 |
| Other securities | 492 | 437 | 477 |
| Reserves with Federal Reserve Bank | 961 | 956 | 911 |
| Cash in vaulte | 125 | 124 | 121 |
| Balances with banks in the United States | 1,102 | 985 | 1,100 |
| Balances with banks in foreign countriese | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Cash items in process of collection | 329 | 341 | 309 |
| Other assetse | 158 | 130 | 152 |
| TOTAL ASSETS® | 8,869 | 8,211 | 8,764 |
| LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL | | | |
| Demand deposits of banks | 1,148 | 937 | 1,087 |
| Other demand deposits | 5,957 | 5,726 | 5,938 |
| Time deposits | 1,089 | 915 | 1,078 |
| Total deposits | 8,194 | 7,578 | 8,103 |
| Borrowings ^a | 1 | 14 | 2 |
| Other liabilitiese | 67 | 54 | 56 |
| Total capital accountse | 607 | 565 | 603 |
| | _ | | |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITALE | 8,869 | 8,211 | 8,764 |

e-Estimated.

In thousands of bales.
In thousands of bags, 100 pounds each.

⁴ In thousands of tons.
5 In thousands of pounds.
5 OURCE: United States Department of Agriculture.

CONDITION STATISTICS OF WEEKLY REPORTING MEMBER BANKS IN LEADING CITIES

Eleventh Federal Reserve District

(In thousands of dollars)

| Item | Oct. 20, | Oct. 21, | Sept. 22, |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 1954 | 1953 | 1954 |
| ASSETS | | | |
| Commercial, industrial, and agricultural loans Loans to brokers and dealers in securities. Other loans for purchasing or carrying securities. Real estate loans. Loans to banks. All other loans. | \$1,282,760 | \$1,184,578 | \$1,249,161 |
| | 14,789 | 16,824 | 8,787 |
| | 94,774 | 72,065 | 89,647 |
| | 155,361 | 134,753 | 153,394 |
| | 9,134 | 2,465 | 9,258 |
| | 404,695 | 416,481 | 402,841 |
| Gross loans | 1,961,513 | 1,827,166 | 1,913,088 |
| Less reserves and unallocated charge-offs | 17,965 | 18,214 | |
| Net loans | 1,943,548 | 1,808,952 | 1,895,233 |
| U. S. Treasury bills. U. S. Treasury certificates of indebtedness U. S. Treasury notes. U. S. Government bonds (inc. gtd. obligations) Other securities. | 160,101 | 129,436 | 160,250 |
| | 151,461 | 261,647 | 169,664 |
| | 287,250 | 209,960 | 205,256 |
| | 879,014 | 610,714 | 868,676 |
| | 227,025 | 189,401 | 212,870 |
| Total investments. Cash items in process of collection. Balances with banks in the United States. Balances with banks in foreign countries. Currency and coin. Reserves with Federal Reserve Bank. Other assets. | 1,704,851 | 1,401,158 | 1,616,716 |
| | 332,192 | 317,853 | 334,321 |
| | 541,351 | 488,700 | 534,373 |
| | 1,657 | 1,415 | 1,822 |
| | 45,277 | 46,860 | 45,442 |
| | 616,227 | 600,241 | 631,897 |
| | 115,641 | 92,091 | 109,209 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 5,300,744 | 4,757,270 | 5,169,013 |
| Demand deposits Individuals, partnerships, and corporations. United States Government. States and political subdivisions. Banks in the United States. Banks in foreign countries. Certified and officers' checks, etc | 2,731,362 | 2,574,341 | 2,718,782 |
| | 136,730 | 61,405 | 79,915 |
| | 156,975 | 211,107 | 172,821 |
| | 1,012,704 | 843,142 | 1,029,652 |
| | 14,717 | 11,892 | 12,287 |
| | 73,194 | 47,009 | 46,546 |
| Total demand deposits | 4,125,682 | 3,748,896 | 4,060,003 |
| Time deposits Individuals, partnerships, and corporations United States Government Postal savings States and political subdivisions. Banks in the U. S. and foreign countries | 606,376 | 498,354 | 586,164 |
| | 13,369 | 10,139 | 13,365 |
| | 452 | 450 | 451 |
| | 105,475 | 88,737 | 98,640 |
| | 1,278 | 1,938 | 1,203 |
| Total time deposits | 726,950 | 599,618 | 699,823 |
| Total deposits. Bills payable, rediscounts, etc | 4,852,632 | 4,348,514 | 4,759,826 |
| | 30,000 | 38,500 | 2,000 |
| | 63,422 | 48,949 | 59,319 |
| | 354,690 | 321,307 | 347,868 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL | 5,300,744 | 4,757,270 | 5,169,013 |

While total investments of the weekly reporting member banks rose \$88,135,000, or 5.5 percent, during the 4 weeks ended October 20, movements among the various classes of investments were mixed. The reporting banks reduced their holdings of Treasury bills and certificates, while increasing their investments in Treasury notes and bonds and other securities. The largest increment, which accounted for almost all of the rise in investments, occurred in holdings of Treasury notes; net purchases of these instruments amounted to \$81,994,000. This large expansion resulted mainly from purchase by banks of the new 15/8-percent notes sold by the Treasury on October 4.

Expansion of the earning assets of the weekly reporting banks in the 4-week period was matched partially by a rise of \$92,806,000, or 1.9 percent, in total deposits. Of the increase, \$65,679,000 was in demand deposits and \$27,127,000, in time deposits. The largest single factor contributing to the expansion in demand deposits was the increase of \$56,815,000 in deposits of the United States Government, which also was related to the sale of notes on October 4. In addition, individuals, partnerships, and corporations increased their demand deposits \$12,580,000, while demand deposits of banks de-

GROSS DEMAND AND TIME DEPOSITS OF MEMBER BANKS

Eleventh Federal Reserve District

(Averages of daily figures. In thousands of dollars)

| | COMBINE | D TOTAL | RESERVE CIT | Y BANKS | COUNTRY BANKS | |
|-------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Date | Gross demand | Time | Gross demand | Time | Gross demand | Time |
| Sept. 1952 | \$6,692,788 | \$ 767,553 | \$3,190,957 | \$421,871 | \$3,501,831 | \$345,682 |
| Sept. 1953 | 6,647,956 | 912,860 | 3,236,056 | 501,477 | 3,411,900 | 411,383 |
| May 1954 | 6,752,376 | 1,073,865 | 3,263,439 | 599,299 | 3,488,937 | 474,566 |
| June 1954 | 6,804,576 | 1,083,140 | 3,313,244 | 605,899 | 3,491,332 | 477,241 |
| July 1954 | 6,874,500 | 1,081,651 | 3,349,903 | 600,870 | 3,524,597 | 480,781 |
| August 1954 | 6,992,543 | 1,078,297 | 3,439,030 | 600,994 | 3,553,513 | 477,303 |
| Sept. 1954 | 7,086,193 | 1,081,850 | 3,499,932 | 600,926 | 3,586,261 | 480,924 |

clined \$16,948,000 and those of states and political subdivisions decreased \$15,846,000. Most of the increase in time deposits resulted from a rise in deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations.

Gross demand deposits of all member banks in the District averaged \$7,086,193,000 during September, up \$93,650,000 from the preceding month and \$438,237,000 above September 1953. Of the August-to-September increase, \$60,902,000, or 65 percent, was accounted for by reserve city member banks. Time deposits of all member banks in the District rose to an average of \$1,081,850,000 in September, reversing the downward trend that prevailed in July and August. The average level in September, although only one-third of 1 percent higher than the August figure, was 19 percent greater than the level in September 1953.

Debits to deposit accounts reported by banks in 24 cities of the District rose in September to a level 4 percent higher

BANK DEBITS, END-OF-MONTH DEPOSITS AND ANNUAL RATE OF TURNOVER OF DEPOSITS

(Amounts in thousands of dollars)

| | DEB | ITS1 | | | EPOSIT | 52 | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | Percentage change from | | | Annual | rate of 1 | urnove |
| City | September 1954 | Sept. 1953 | Aug. 1954 | Sept. 30, 1954 | Sept. 1954 | Sept. 1953 | Aug. 1954 |
| ARIZONA Tucson | \$ 107,042 | 6 | 10 | \$ 84,768 | 14.9 | 14.9 | 13.6 |
| LOUISIANA | 4 107,042 | | 10 | 4 04,700 | 14.7 | 1.4.7 | 13.0 |
| Monroe | 52,091 197,988 | 12 | 18 | 40,602 175,171 | 15.1 | 14.8 14.9 | 12.7 13.2 |
| NEW MEXICO | | | | | | | |
| Roswell | 25,487 | 7 | 8 | 27,406 | 10.9 | 10.4 | 9.8 |
| TEXAS | | | | | | | |
| Abilene | 56,921 | 10 | 7 | 54,049 | 12.7 | 12.4 | 12.0 |
| Amarillo | 130,288 | 8 | 0 | 104,571 | 15.0 | 14.4 | 15.2 |
| Austin | 124,371 | -14 | 9 | 110,392 | 13.8 | 13.3 | 13.2 |
| Beaumont | 111,211 | 10 | -10 | 91,586 121,644 | 14.4 | 17.3 | 13.8 |
| Corsicana | 16,028 | 2 | 28 | 20,574 | 9.4 | 9.4 | 7.3 |
| Dallas | 1,683,835 | 10 | 1 | 935,972 | 21.7 | 21.0 | 22.0 |
| El Paso | 186,893 | 1 | 9 | 121,691 | 18.2 | 19.0 | 16.9 |
| Fort Worth | 527,018 | 9 | 5 | 339,481 | 18.6 | 17.8 | 17.9 |
| Galveston | 77,088 | 6 | 6 | 65,379 | 13.9 | 10.4 | 13.0 |
| Houston | 1,760,805 | 5 | 6 | 1,141,940 | 18.7 | 19.1 | 18.2 |
| Laredo | 17,156 | -4 18 | 10 | 17,749 80,439 | 11.6 | 11.9 | 11.2 |
| Port Arthur | 103,701 | 3 | 2 | 38,793 | 14.0 | 14.5 | 14.0 |
| San Angelo | 41,752 | 16 | 2 7 | 46,327 | 10.7 | 10.0 | 10.1 |
| San Antonio | 411,656 | 14 | 2 | 317,813 | 15.6 | 13.9 | 15.4 |
| Texarkana3 | 17,054 | -6 | 4 | 17,519 | 11.6 | 11.9 | 11.3 |
| Tyler | 61,763 | 4 | 3 | 55,356 | 13.6 | 13.2 | 13.1 |
| Waco | 86,420 | 11 | 4 | 65,593 | 16.0 | 14.8 | 15.7 |
| Wichita Falls | 82,842 | 9 | 0 | 99,359 | 9.8 | 9.4 | 9.7 |
| Total—24 cities | \$6,083,351 | 7 | 4 | \$4,174,174 | 17.5 | 17.3 | 17.2 |

Debits to demand deposit accounts of individuals, partnerships, and corporations and of states and political subdivisions.
Demand deposit accounts of individuals, partnerships, and corporations and of states

and political subdivisions.

Texarkana, Texas-Arkansas, including two banks located in the Eighth District, amounted to \$34,430,000 for the month of September 1954.

CONDITION OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

(In thousands of dollars)

| Item | October 15, 1954 | October 15, 1953 | Sept. 15, 1954 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Total gold certificate reserves | \$830,233 | \$ 719,482 | \$748,661 |
| Discounts for member banks | 319 | 33,012 | 1,829 |
| Other discounts and advances | 8,695 | 315 | 4,935 |
| J. S. Government securities | 960,988 | 1,006,886 | 942,565 |
| Total earning assets | 970,002 | 1,040,213 | 949,329 |
| Member bank reserve deposits | 995,289 | 969,811 | 914,842 |
| Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation | 732,292 | 740,086 | 730,676 |

than that for the preceding month and 7 percent above the year-earlier figure. Increases for the month were realized by practically all cities; two cities reported no change, and only one experienced a decline. The annual rate of deposit turnover, reflecting the increase in debits, rose to 17.5 in September, as contrasted with 17.2 in August of this year and 17.3 in September 1953.

Member bank reserve deposits at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas rose \$80,447,000 between September 15 and October 15. The new level of \$995,289,000 was \$25,478,000 higher than the total of such deposits on October 15, 1953. The expansion in member bank reserves was matched by a September-to-October rise of \$81,572,000 in gold certificate reserves of the bank. This increase—due primarily to a flow of funds into the District arising from commercial and financial transactions—brought the bank's holdings of gold certificates to \$830,233,000, a gain of \$110,751,000 from a year ago. Other changes in the bank's statement of condition during the month included an increase of \$1,616,000 in Federal Reserve notes in circulation, a rise of \$18,423,000 in holdings of United States Government securities, and a decline of \$1,510,000 in discounts and advances for member banks.

On September 23 the Treasury accepted subscriptions for the purchase on October 4 of \$4,155,032,000 of 15/8-percent Treasury notes maturing on May 15, 1957. The issue was heavily oversubscribed, being generally attractive to commercial banks because of the relatively short maturity and the privilege of subscribing by crediting the Treasury's Tax and Loan Account. The allotment of \$4,155,032,000 represented only slightly more than 50 percent of subscriptions. Investors in the Eleventh Federal Reserve District subscribed to \$287,668,000 of the issue and were allotted \$147,905,000.



Crude oil production in the District during the first part of October averaged 2,907,000 barrels per day, which is 12,000 barrels less than in September and 145,000 barrels be-

low a year earlier. In the Nation, crude production averaged 6,172,000 barrels per day, or about the same as in September but 89,000 barrels lower than in October 1953.

November production in the District is likely to rise, as the Texas Railroad Commission has raised daily allowables for that month 64,300 barrels over the mid-October level. In view of this action, an increase in production in the Nation also is possible.

CRUDE OIL: DAILY AVERAGE PRODUCTION

(In thousands of barrels)

| | | | | Change from | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Area | September 1954 ¹ | September 1953 ² | August 1954 ¹ | September 1953 | August 1954 |
| ELEVENTH DISTRICT | 2,919,1 | 3,135.4 | 2,875.0 | -216.3 | 44.1 |
| Texas | | 2,821.2 | 2,560.5 | -214.5 | 46.2 |
| Gulf Coast | 560.1 | 629.9 | 553.8 | -69.8 | 6.3 |
| West Texas | 1,008.4 | 1,059.5 | 992.7 | -51.1 | 15.7 |
| East Texas (proper) | 209.1 | 253.1 | 205.6 | -44.0 | 3.5 |
| Panhandle | 84.1 | 77.8 | 83.5 | 6.3 | .6 |
| Rest of State | 745.0 | 800.9 | 724.9 | -55.9 | 20.1 |
| Southeastern New Mexico | 203.6 | 200.8 | 204.1 | 2.8 | 5 |
| Northern Louisiana | 108.8 | 113.4 | 110.4 | -4.6 | -1.6 |
| OUTSIDE ELEVENTH DISTRICT. | 3,251.1 | 3,421.8 | 3,271.7 | -170.7 | -20.6 |
| UNITED STATES | 6,170.2 | 6,557.2 | 6,146.7 | -387.0 | 23.5 |

SOURCES: 1 Estimated from American Petroleum Institute weekly reports.
2 United States Bureau of Mines.

Imports of crude oil and refined products rose during September and early October, although in the week ended October 15, there was a substantial reduction. The average for the 5 weeks ended October 15 was 1,023,000 barrels per day, which is 35,000 barrels higher than in the previous 5-week period but 20,000 barrels below a year earlier.

September crude runs to refinery stills in this District, increasing for the second consecutive month, were at the highest level for any month this year. Refinery crude runs, at 2,067,000 barrels per day, were 78,000 barrels above August and 33,000 barrels more than in September a year ago. In the Nation, refinery crude runs turned up in September after three consecutive monthly declines, but the level of runs, at 6,980,000 barrels per day, was still 43,000 barrels lower than a year earlier. In the first half of October, refinery crude runs declined in both the District and the Nation.

The increase in refinery runs in September had the effect of drawing down crude stocks in the Nation, which declined 6,400,000 barrels during the month. The Nation's crude stocks on October 9 totaled 273,200,000 barrels, or 13,000,000 barrels lower than a year earlier. In contrast with the year-to-year decline in stocks of crude, stocks of each of the major refined products were higher than a year ago. On October 15, stocks of gasoline were up 7 percent; residual fuel oil, 6 percent; kerosene, 4 percent; and distillate fuel oil, 2 percent.

Demand for major refined products at refineries and bulk terminals during the 5 weeks ended October 15 was 3 percent lower than in the corresponding period last year. A small year-to-year increase in gasoline demand was offset by decreases in kerosene and distillate and residual fuel oil. For the first 9 months of the year, total demand for all oils was

NATURAL GAS: MARKETED PRODUCTION

(In millions of cubic feet)

| Area | Second quarter 1954 | Second quarter 1953 | First quarter 1954 |
|------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Louisiana | 281,600 | 261,200 | 313,900 |
| New Mexico | 105,200 | 97,100 | 127,200 |
| Oklahoma | 153,800 | 154,600 | 171,000 |
| Texas | 1,106,500 | 1,080,200 | 1,180,900 |
| Total | 1,647,100 | 1,593,100 | 1,793,000 |

SOURCE: United States Bureau of Mines.

the same as in the comparable period of 1953, according to data released recently by the United States Bureau of Mines. Domestic demand during this period showed an increase of less than 1 percent, which was offset by a decline of 11 percent in exports.

Marketed production of natural gas in the four producing states lying wholly or partly within this District—Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas—in the second quarter of 1954 totaled 1,647 billion cubic feet, which—although seasonally lower than in the previous quarter—is 3 percent higher than in the same quarter of 1953. Nevertheless, this year-to-year increase was smaller than that in other recent years. The four southwestern states accounted for slightly over 80 percent of the Nation's marketed production of natural gas.



Nonagricultural employment in the District states in August totaled 3,837,900, which is 1,200 above July. However, this total is 17,700 below the number of wage and salary work-

ers employed in August of last year. Most of the nonmanufacturing employment categories declined from July to August; construction was the only nonmanufacturing industry which showed a gain. Manufacturing employment rose 3,100 during the month.

It is estimated that total nonagricultural employment in September climbed to 3,865,500 and manufacturing employment to 712,200. Much of the gain was of a seasonal nature, with employment increases reported in trade, government, and chemical industries. Transportation equipment manufacturing—especially aircraft—also contributed to the rise. Although the demand for construction continued at a high level, work stoppages held down the level of employment.

The construction industry anticipates that 1954 will be another record year. The value of construction contracts awarded in the District rose sharply during September to 55

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT Five Southwestern States¹

| | N | Percent change Aug. 1954 from | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Type of employment | August 1954p | August 1953 | July 1954 | Aug. 1953 | July 1954 |
| Total nonagricultural wage and salary workers | 3,837,900 | 3,855,600 | 3,836,700 | 5 | .03 |
| Manufacturing | 709,600 | 739,900 | 706,500 | -4.1 | .4 |
| Nonmanufacturing Mining Construction | 3,128,300 234,500 303,100 | 3,115,700 233,900 289,800 | 3,130,200 236,000 298,900 | .4 .3 4.6 | 1 6 1.4 |
| Transportation and public utilities. Trade. Finance. Service. Government. | 393,000 978,600 158,400 457,500 603,200 | 410,600 979,900 154,200 450,000 597,300 | 393,100 979,900 158,400 458,300 605,600 | -4.3 1 2.7 1.7 1.0 | 1 0 2 4 |

Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. p—Preliminary. SOURCE: State employment agencies.

VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED

(In thousands of dollars)

| | C | C-1-1- | | January—September | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Area and type | September 1954p | September 1953 | August 1954 | 1954p | 1953 | |
| Residential | 164,898 84,750 80,148 | 29,630 | \$ 106,197 45,298 60,899 | \$ 1,043,062 490,792 552,270 | \$ 949,297 381,268 568,029 | |
| UNITED STATES ¹ Residential All other | 1,816,232 777,332 1,038,900 | 1,741,673 507,430 1,234,243 | 1,572,865 692,736 880,129 | 14,477,241 6,196,199 8,281,042 | 12,857,261 4,926,893 7,930,368 | |

^{1 37} states east of the Rocky Mountains. p—Preliminary. SOURCE: F. W. Dodge Corporation.

percent above awards during August and 12 percent above those in September 1953. Residential awards, apparently stimulated by easier terms under recent housing legislation, rose to \$84,750,000—up 87 percent from August and 186 percent above September of last year. For the first 9 months of 1954, total awards were 10 percent above a year ago; residential awards were up 29 percent, while all other awards were down 3 percent. Total awards for the United States during this period were 13 percent higher than last year; residential awards were up 26 percent, and all other contract awards were up 4 percent.

Reflecting the high level of construction activity in the Southwest and other regions, shipments and orders of southern pine—as reported by 64 mills in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Arkansas—exceeded production by 11 percent and 6 percent, respectively.

Capital outlays by local governments should be a strong support to construction activity in subsequent months. Last year, these expenditures accounted for 32 percent of total general expenditures by Texas cities with over 25,000 inhabitants. The national average for cities in this population bracket was 21 percent.

BUILDING PERMITS

| | | | | | | 9 months 1954 | 1 |
|-----------------|--------|----------------|---------------|---|--------|---------------|--|
| | S | September 1954 | | Percentage change in valuation from | | | Percentage change in valuation from 9 |
| City | Number | Valuation | Sept. 1953 | Aug. 1954 | Number | Valuation | months 1953 |
| LOUISIANA | | | | | | | |
| Shreveport | 473 | \$ 3,721,915 | 162 | 21 | 3,360 | \$ 20,540,716 | 20 |
| TEXAS | | | | | | | |
| Abilene | 118 | 704,495 | 16 | -19 | 1,234 | 10,150,275 | 49 |
| Amarillo | | 1,088,351 | | _47 | 1,936 | 14,367,256 | |
| Austin | | 3,637,679 | | 17 | 2,501 | 29,447,812 | |
| Beaumont | | 937,539 | | -9 | 2,344 | 6,821,897 | 26 |
| Corpus Christi. | 517 | 2,923,747 | | 26 | 4,255 | 26,261,898 | 20 |
| Dallas | 2,453 | 18,042,280 | | 38 | 20,086 | 113,023,873 | |
| El Paso | 601 | 3,407,862 | | 35 | 4,155 | 20,221,407 | 23 |
| Fort Worth | | 3,979,145 | | 8 | 6,789 | 33,421,790 | |
| Galveston | | 1,539,798 | | 96 | 900 | 5,829,706 | |
| Houston | | 21,835,473 | | 61 | 9,728 | 120,480,236 | |
| Lubbock | | 1,927,454 | | 1 | 3,027 | 20,300,024 | |
| Port Arthur | | 369,952 | | 1 | 1,268 | 2,848,179 | |
| San Antonio | | 6,297,958 | | -11 | 13,024 | 40,204,997 | |
| Waco | | 1,277,837 | | -14 | 2,272 | 11,378,298 | |
| Wichita Falls | 197 | 1,274,222 | 304 | 105 | 1,178 | 7,126,201 | 24 |
| Total-16 cities | 9,552 | \$72,965,707 | 61 | 27 | 78,057 | \$482,424,565 | 20 |

