

# THE MONTHLY REVIEW

*Covering Conditions in the Tenth Federal Reserve District*

## Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

FOR THE INFORMATION OF MEMBER BANKS AND BUSINESS INTERESTS OF THIS DISTRICT

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### THE SITUATION AT A GLANCE

#### HIGH POINTS IN THE STATISTICAL RECORD OF THE TENTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT.

- ¶ Debits by banks against accounts as a measure of business in 28 cities, five weeks ending September 5, total \$1,324,543,000. Increase over corresponding five weeks last year, \$70,501,000 or 5.6%.
- ¶ Business Failures in the Tenth District during August, 68 and liabilities \$1,083,184. Decrease from August last year 27 and \$879,935 or 44.8% in liabilities.
- ¶ Building permits issued in 17 cities during August 2,911, and estimated cost \$6,445,394. Increase 22 permits and decrease \$3,882,173 or 37.6% in estimated cost from August last year.
- ¶ Corn yield in the Tenth District, estimated September 1 as 500,263,000 bushels. Increase over last year's final estimate, 106,678,000 bushels.
- ¶ Cotton in Oklahoma, August 25 estimate 791,000 bales. Increase over last year's final estimate 156,000 bales.
- ¶ Wheat receipts at 4 markets during August, 20,898,150 bushels. Decrease from August last year, 1,344,100 bushels.
- ¶ Flour production at southwestern reporting mills during August, 2,039,239 barrels. Decrease from August last year, 99,018 barrels.
- ¶ Live Stock receipts at 6 markets during August compared with August, 1922: Cattle, 665,121; increase 70,423. Calves, 143,137; increase 33,653. Hogs, 838,209; increase 180,999. Sheep, 494,950; decrease 10,706. Horses and mules, 9,664; increase 3,792.
- ¶ Stocker and feeder cattle shipped to the country from 4 markets during August, 279,780. Increase over August last year, 39,827.
- ¶ Meat animals purchased by packers at 6 markets during August compared with August, 1922: Cattle, 270,550; increase 15,680. Calves, 84,070; increase 21,385. Hogs, 566,027; increase 28,137. Sheep, 230,599; decrease 40,749.
- ¶ Soft coal mining operations in 6 states, average for August, 52.7% of capacity. In August last year, 37.3%.
- ¶ Colorado metal mining in August estimated 50% increase over last year.
- ¶ Crude oil production in Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Wyoming during August, 20,700,350 barrels. Increase over August last year, 2,943,350 barrels.
- ¶ Lead ore shipments from Tri-State District during August, 4,078 tons. Decrease from August last year, 1,725 tons.
- ¶ Zinc ore shipped from Tri-State District during August, 43,067 tons. Increase 13,588 tons.

**I**MPROVEMENT in the economic position of the agricultural and live stock interests is in evidence at this time in all sections of the Tenth Federal Reserve District. Recent rains distributed over this vast area came in time to revive ranges and pastures, insure a bumper corn crop and an abundance of feed in all sections to carry live stock through the coming winter. Advances in prices of farm products and meat animals to levels above those of a year ago and an enormous inflow of money from the marketing of these products of farm and range are factors which have also helped along the improvement. Naturally, the betterment of conditions affecting these paramount interests has stimulated activity in other industries. It has resulted in a substantial increase in the volume of fall trade and a more confident feeling with respect to the underlying soundness of business in general.

The financial situation in recent weeks has changed but slightly from that which prevailed through the spring and summer months, although it is noted that the enormous volume of business at this season calls for bank operations on a tremendously large scale. The demand for credit accommodations continues strong, although liquidations from crop and live stock marketings have held the volume of loans fairly constant around the high level maintained through the spring and summer. In the financing of crop movements the situation is apparently easier than in previous years. The banks throughout the District, with a large volume of deposits, are well supplied with funds, and with the agricultural credit facilities under the Federal Reserve Act available to their use, are better able to meet all demands upon them for currency and credit than at any other time in the history of this country. Although wheat has moved to markets in a volume slightly less than at the corresponding season last year, live stock marketed during the summer season and up to this time has been in much greater volume than was ever before reported, while other products moving through market channels have been proportionately large. Hence, the financing of so large a volume of business has been a greater task than is ordinarily imposed in peace-times upon the banking interests of this District. Current reports, however, indicate that the banks are handling this enormous business with little outside help and without disturbance to commercial and investment financing, which are also unusually heavy at this season.

**MEMBER BANKS OPERATIONS:** The position of banks throughout the District is fairly well indicated by the showing of the principal resource and liability items of seventy-six selected Member Banks reporting weekly to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. These reports show that loans and discounts, and rediscounts, have fluctuated but slightly during the eight months of 1923, the total of \$446,021,000 for seventy-six banks at the first reporting date in September being about mid-way between the high level of \$453,999,000 on March 14 for seventy-eight banks, and the low level of \$439,780,000 on January 17 when seventy-nine banks reported. The following shows the combined

PRINCIPAL RESOURCE AND LIABILITY ITEMS OF  
76 MEMBER BANKS IN SELECTED CITIES

	Sept. 5, 1923	Aug. 1, 1923
1. Loans and Discounts (including rediscounts):		
(a) Secured by U. S. Govt. obligations.....	\$ 6,860,000	\$ 6,779,000
(b) Secured by stocks and bonds, other than U. S. Bonds.....	82,664,000	79,882,000
(c) All other.....	356,497,000	359,871,000
2. Investments:		
(a) U. S. Pre-War Bonds.....	11,600,000	11,416,000
(b) U. S. Liberty Bonds.....	49,312,000	52,558,000
(c) U. S. Treasury Bonds.....	4,881,000	4,839,000
(d) U. S. Victory Notes and Treasury Notes..	19,033,000	22,101,000
(e) U. S. Certificates of Indebtedness.....	5,054,000	5,982,000
(f) Other Bonds, Stocks and Securities.....	61,092,000	59,606,000
3. Total Loans and Discounts, and Investments	596,993,000	603,034,000
4. Reserve Balances with F. R. Bank.....	49,412,000	47,813,000
5. Cash in Vault.....	12,744,000	12,397,000
6. Net demand deposits on which reserve is computed.....	439,974,000	443,633,000
7. Time Deposits.....	135,487,000	128,418,000
8. Government Deposits.....	1,139,000	1,873,000
9. Bills payable and rediscounts with F. R. Bank secured by:		
(a) U. S. Govt. Obligations.....	9,061,000	8,831,000
(b) All other.....	15,624,000	17,426,000
TOTAL (Items 3 to 9 Inclusive) .....	\$1,260,434,000	\$1,263,425,000

totals of loans and discounts on the first reporting date in each month of the present year, with the number of Member Banks reporting:

	Member Banks Reporting	Loans & Discounts, and Rediscounts
January 3.....	81	\$447,370,000
February 7.....	78	444,610,000
March 7.....	78	449,613,000
April 4.....	78	450,408,000
May 2.....	77	449,728,000
June 6.....	77	446,265,000
July 3.....	77	450,147,000
August 1.....	76	446,532,000
September 5.....	76	446,021,000

Investments of reporting Member Banks reached \$156,818,000 on August 8, the highest of record, but declined in successive weeks to \$150,972,000 on September 5, which was about the level maintained throughout the first seven months of the year.

Total loans and discounts, and investments of the reporting Member Banks stood at \$604,692,000 on August 15, the largest of record, but declined to \$596,993,000 on September 5.

Gross deposits reported by the seventy-six Member Banks were maintained at higher levels in August than during the three previous months. The total on September 5 was \$576,600,000, or \$2,676,000 greater than on August 1. Demand deposits aggregating \$439,974,000 on September 5, were \$3,659,000 less than at the first reporting date in August, although they were \$11,028,000 above the total at the first reporting date in July. Time deposits reached the highest point on record September 5, when the total stood at \$135,487,000, an increase of \$7,069,000 between August 1 and September 5.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OPERATIONS: Recent weekly statements of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and branches show that the volume of discounted and purchased bills has fluctuated slightly. The total of \$46,008,123 as of September 19 was \$3,318,756 above the total on August 22 and \$4,696,196 below the total on July 18. Deposits as of September 19 were \$80,569,825, which was \$2,426,208 less than one month previous and \$2,625,707 less than two months previous to this date.

GOVERNMENT FINANCING: New government financing at this season consisted in the offering of an issue of \$200,000,000 of United States Treasury Certificates of Indebtedness dated September 15, 1923, and maturing March 15, 1924, at 4¼%. Subscriptions in the Tenth District through the Fiscal Agency Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas

City and its branches totaled \$12,283,000. The amount allotted however, was \$5,463,000. Subscriptions below \$10,000 were allotted in full; from \$10,000 to \$100,000, 50%, and from \$100,000 up, 20%.

ACCEPTANCES: Very little interest in bankers' acceptances has been displayed by banks in this District, the reports showing neither purchases or sales of bills during the thirty-day period ending September 12. On that date one bank held \$49,000 of 90-day wheat paper, while the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City held \$2,012,345 of bills of 60 and 90 days maturity based on imports of silk, sugar and tea and on exports of glass, cotton and coal.

COLLECTIONS: The reports of wholesale merchants indicate collections fair to good during August, though requiring close attention. Collections were generally reported by retailers as good, while department stores reported the percent of collections during August on outstandings a shade lower than during August last year.

### Savings in Banks

Deposits to savings accounts in fifty-nine banks in cities of the Tenth Federal Reserve District on September 1 were \$101,468,461, an increase of \$77,063 over total deposits of the same banks on August 1, and an increase of \$9,637,936, or 10.5% over the total on September 1, 1922. The number of accounts reported by fifty-three banks on September 1 was 317,168, an increase of 4,292, or 1.4%, over August 1, and an increase of 39,489, or 14.2%, over one year ago. The combined reports on savings deposits follow:

	Banks	Sept. 1, 1923	Aug. 1, 1923	Sept. 1, 1922
Denver, Colorado.....	8	\$ 53,586,269	\$ 53,438,472	\$47,863,343
Kansas City, Kansas.....	4	2,430,990	2,360,531	2,156,643
Kansas City, Missouri.....	8	11,703,773	11,885,295	10,842,642
Lincoln, Nebraska.....	3	2,808,596	2,821,928	2,484,344
Oklahoma City, Okla.....	6	3,629,134	3,676,347	3,083,561
Omaha, Nebraska.....	6	7,577,274	7,591,654	6,975,111
St. Joseph, Mo.....	7	9,853,950	9,869,107	8,941,163
Tulsa, Oklahoma.....	7	6,432,857	6,310,236	6,287,951
Wichita, Kansas.....	6	2,247,397	2,262,086	2,145,499
Outside.....	4	1,198,221	1,175,742	1,050,268
Total.....	59	\$101,468,461	\$101,391,398	\$91,830,525

### Business Failures

The August report on business failures in the Tenth Federal Reserve District makes a favorable showing as compared with the records for July of this year and August of last year, as the following indicates:

	Failures Number	Liabilities Amount
August, 1923.....	68	\$1,083,184
July, 1923.....	66	2,795,103
August, 1922.....	95	1,963,119

These figures show August liabilities were \$1,711,919, or 61.3% less than in the previous month of July, and \$879,935, or 44.8% less than the total liabilities reported for August, 1922.

Business failures in the United States during the month of August, 1923, by Federal Reserve Districts, compiled by R. G. Dun & Company, with 1922 totals for comparison, follow:

	NUMBER		LIABILITIES	
	Aug. 1923	Aug. 1922	Aug. 1923	Aug. 1922
First (Boston).....	118	118	\$ 966,830	1,556,039
Second (New York).....	273	269	5,734,168	7,364,329
Third (Philadelphia).....	80	76	5,027,408	2,735,637
Fourth (Cleveland).....	116	156	1,870,656	3,574,148
Fifth (Richmond).....	94	134	2,907,919	2,253,748
Sixth (Atlanta).....	92	152	5,598,050	2,890,891
Seventh (Chicago).....	168	243	6,163,449	6,776,867
Eighth (St. Louis).....	45	135	694,960	2,347,687
Ninth (Minneapolis).....	82	69	1,314,746	888,750
TENTH (Kansas City).....	68	95	1,083,184	1,963,119
Eleventh (Dallas).....	68	85	1,020,596	5,198,294
Twelfth (San Francisco).....	115	182	1,952,756	2,730,209
Total, United States.....	1,319	1,714	\$34,334,722	\$40,279,718

CONDITION OF RETAIL TRADE IN CITIES OF THE TENTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT DURING AUGUST, 1923  
BASED UPON REPORTS FROM SIXTEEN DEPARTMENT STORES

	Kansas City (3)	Denver (4)	Outside (9)	Total (16)
Percentage increase (or decrease) of net sales during August, 1923, over net sales during same month last year.....	Inc. 5.0	Inc. 9.1	Inc. 7.0	Inc. 7.0
Percentage increase (or decrease) of net sales from July 1 1923, to August 31, 1923, over net sales during same period last year.....	Inc. 6.1	Inc. 11.2	Inc. 2.3	Inc. 6.2
Percentage increase (or decrease) of stocks at close of August, 1923, over stocks at close of same month last year.....	Inc. 8.5	Dec. 2.3	Inc. 16.9	Inc. 7.6
Percentage increase (or decrease) of stocks at close of August, 1923, over stocks at close of July, 1923.....	Inc. 11.3	Inc. 5.3	Inc. 9.2	Inc. 8.7
Percentage of average stocks, selling price, at close of each month this season (commencing with July 1) to average monthly net sales, selling price, during the same period.....	610.6	560.5	728.6	630.6
Percentage of outstanding orders (cost) at close of August, 1923, to total purchases (cost) during the calendar year, 1922.....	7.1	11.2	9.3	9.1
Percentage of collections during month of August, 1923, on amount of outstanding accounts on July 31, 1923.....	45.6	34.5	44.0	41.4
Percentage of collections for same period last year.....	46.1	35.0	43.9	41.7

**Banks Debts**

Twenty-eight cities in the Tenth Federal Reserve District reported debts by banks against the accounts of customers aggregating \$1,324,543,000 for a period of five weeks ending September 5, 1923. This total was \$70,501,000, or 5.6%, greater than the total of debts during the corresponding five weeks ending September 6, 1922. The debts of twenty-eight cities reported through their clearing houses to the Federal Reserve Bank at Kansas City, as a measure of the volume of business, are here shown for the five weeks' period in 1923 and 1922, with percentage of increase or decrease for each city:

	Five weeks ending Sept. 5, 1923	Five weeks ending Sept. 6, 1922	Per cent Change
Atchison, Kansas.....	\$ 6,519,000	\$ 6,079,000	7.2
Bartlesville, Okla.....	9,662,000	11,236,000	-14.0
Casper, Wyo.....	22,251,000	15,601,000	42.6
Cheyenne, Wyo.....	12,817,000	9,292,000	37.9
Colorado Springs, Colo.....	14,777,000	14,818,000	-.3
Denver, Colo.....	177,234,000	161,477,000	9.8
Enid, Okla.....	16,307,000	14,892,000	9.5
Fremont, Nebraska.....	3,637,000	3,234,000	12.5
Grand Junction, Colorado.....	3,055,000	2,837,000	7.7
Guthrie, Okla.....	3,327,000	2,753,000	20.8
Hutchinson, Kansas.....	14,030,000	15,647,000	-10.3
Independence, Kansas.....	9,249,000	10,057,000	-8.0
Joplin, Mo.....	14,065,000	11,697,000	20.2
Kansas City, Kansas.....	23,040,000	17,428,000	32.2
Kansas City, Mo.....	402,641,000	356,632,000	12.9
Lawrence, Kansas.....	4,511,000	3,791,000	19.0
McAlester, Oklahoma.....	4,377,000	3,768,000	16.2
Muskogee, Oklahoma.....	23,030,000	25,437,000	-9.5
Oklahoma City, Okla.....	82,219,000	82,852,000	-.8
Okmulgee, Oklahoma.....	8,310,000	8,489,000	-2.1
Omaha, Nebraska.....	220,451,000	215,680,000	2.2
Parsons, Kansas.....	3,263,000	3,934,000	-17.1
Pittsburg, Kansas.....	7,027,000	6,108,000	15.0
Pueblo, Colorado.....	17,772,000	17,165,000	3.5
St. Joseph, Mo.....	62,259,000	62,749,000	-.8
Topeka, Kansas.....	15,605,000	14,026,000	11.3
Tulsa, Oklahoma.....	91,763,000	100,823,000	-9.0
Wichita, Kansas.....	51,345,000	55,540,000	-7.5
Total 28 Cities.....	\$1,324,543,000	\$1,254,042,000	5.6

**Mercantile Trade**

**WHOLESALE:** While the volume of sales by wholesalers during August was but slightly above that in the corresponding month last year—taking the composite figure for all lines—the reports exhibit a healthy condition of trade. Retailers for the past two years have been buying in small lots, according to immediate requirements of their trade, on account of general conditions in the agricultural districts. Merchants who have been visiting the markets during recent weeks, however, report a more optimistic feeling among farmers, due to the fact that

both grain and livestock are bringing better prices. The improvement, according to the reports, is stimulating trade to a very great extent and wholesalers are anticipating a good fall and winter business. A summary of the reports follows:

	SALES		OUTSTANDINGS	
	No. of Stores	Aug. 1923 compared with July, 1923	Aug. 1923 compared with Aug. 1922	Aug. 31 '23 compared with Aug. 31 '22
Dry Goods.....	3	8.3	3.4	13.9
Groceries.....	6	8.2	13.0	5.7
Hardware.....	11	-1.1	-4.1	-2.1
Furniture.....	4	20.3	-3.8	3.1
Drugs.....	7	5.0	1.3	-7
Millinery.....	5	51.5	-1	44.1

Sales of dry goods during August were slightly larger in volume than in July and slightly above one year ago. Stocks of goods in the hands of wholesalers are somewhat larger and better assorted than they were at this time last year. Wholesale millinery houses report buying in August for the fall trade about the same as in the eighth month of last year.

The drug trade is reported good with prices practically unchanged, deliveries satisfactory and stocks increased. August sales were a shade heavier than in July and slightly above those of last year at this season. The grocery trade reports exhibit an increase in sales during August over those in July and one year ago.

Furniture sales by wholesalers in August were considerably better than those in July but running slightly below sales one year ago. The fall trade outlook was regarded as good.

Wholesalers of hardware reported sales slow during August but showing improvement at the beginning of September with prospects favorable for a good fall business. Unusually hot weather was said to have been chiefly responsible for the August dullness. Shipments from mills and factories were generally satisfactory.

The implement trade has been generally unsatisfactory during the season. Farmers have been buying only the implements and equipment urgently needed. The reports of distributors indicate sales far below those of last year. In some lines of implements sales this year are 40% to 50% below last year's sales.

**RETAIL TRADE:** The reports on the retail trade show the volume of sales during August exceeded sales in the corresponding month last year, although the hot and dry weather and crop uncertainties in the first half of the month had a depressing effect on the trade in sections where these conditions prevailed. The department stores reporting to the Federal Reserve Bank show August sales were around 7% above those of August, 1922. Retailers of men's and women's apparel and millinery at the end of August were doing a fair business, with indications of a good fall trade.

Agriculture

Light to heavy rains and cooler weather coming late in August brought improvement to agricultural conditions throughout the Tenth Federal Reserve District. The six to eight weeks of drought and heat, which were injurious to growing crops, was effectually relieved. Although the rainfall came too late to be of value to corn in southern sections of the District, deterioration of cotton was checked and kafirs, forage, broom corn and other late crops were greatly helped. Over the broad area from the central portions of Missouri and Kansas northward and northwestward the rainfall was generous to heavy and made conditions excellent for finishing the late crops. Colorado and Wyoming received so liberal a share of rainfall as to give late August verdure the freshness of May and June, while New Mexico, the Panhandle country on the east and Arizona on the west were visited by rains of varying depths and all immeasurably beneficial. Fall plowing and preparation for planting, which had been stopped in many sections by too hard and too dry soil, was resumed at the end of the month. Late harvesting of wheat in the Rocky Mountain regions and threshing in northwestern Kansas and Nebraska were interrupted by rains and wet fields, but were making good progress early in September.

**CORN CROP LARGE:** Prospects at the beginning of September were favorable for a 500,263,000 bushel corn crop, or 106,678,000 bushels more than was grown in 1922 in the Tenth Federal Reserve District. The Nebraska report indicated that, with about 1,000,000 more acres of corn under cultivation than last year, this year's yield would be 257,418,000 bushels and the largest annual corn crop ever grown in that state. Corn there was maturing nicely under ideal weather conditions with indications that the bulk of the crop was safe from frost by the middle of September. Missouri corn was reported as making satisfactory progress toward maturity during the first week of September. The condition was good to excellent save in the southwest counties where it had been damaged about 30% by drought and hot winds. The Kansas report as of the first week in September said corn was in good to excellent condition in the northeast and northwest counties but only fair in the north central counties. In the lower three or four tiers of counties of the south central and southeastern portions of the state it was in poor condition and was being cut for ensilage almost entirely. According to the Oklahoma State Board of Agriculture, the rains came too late to be of much value to the corn crop in that state. However, some of the corn planted in the low lands will probably return fair yields. Much of the crop has been cut for ensilage. Moisture conditions in Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico were favorable to corn and September prospects were for a crop above normal.

ESTIMATED YIELD OF CORN IN LEADING STATES

(U. S. Department of Agriculture Reports)

	Pct. cond. Sept. 1	Est. bushels Sept. 1	Est. bushels Aug. 1	Final Est. 1922, bus.
Nebraska.....	90%	257,418,000	220,399,000	182,400,000
Missouri.....	83	204,384,000	195,718,000	175,275,000
Kansas.....	65	126,905,000	126,641,000	98,391,000
Oklahoma.....	41	39,491,000	50,688,000	57,600,000
Colorado.....	95	31,267,000	29,908,000	18,320,000
New Mexico.....	65	3,429,000	3,763,000	2,475,000
Wyoming.....	96	2,316,000	2,248,000	1,560,000
Seven States.....		665,210,000	629,365,000	537,021,000
United States.....	83.3%	3,075,786,000	2,980,000,000	2,891,000,000

**WHEAT CROP REDUCED:** Threshing in the great winter wheat regions of the Tenth District was nearing completion at mid-September. The returns from many sections were disappointing, due to dry weather and rust. The spring wheat crop in eastern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming was reduced by rust damage. It was evident from the September 1 estimates of the United States Department of Agriculture that this year's wheat crop in the District, both winter and spring wheat, would be 178,337,000 bushels, or 68,534,000 bushels less than was harvested last year. However, the Tenth District retains first rank in production of all wheat.

Disappointing yields, low prices and a movement in the direction of diversified farming are expected to result in a marked reduction in the area of winter wheat sown this fall. A survey by the United States Department of Agriculture indicates that the area of winter wheat in the entire country sown this fall will be 15.5% less than the area sown in the fall of 1922, if the expressed intention of 25,000 farmers on August 1 is carried out. The Department's figures by states place the greater reduction in winter wheat area in states of the Tenth Federal Reserve District in which from 40% to 50% of the nation's annual winter wheat crop is produced. The figures for these five winter wheat states, all of Missouri included, follow:

	Sown, Fall of 1922 Acres	Intention to Sow Pct. of 1922	Fall of 1923 Acres, est.
Kansas.....	12,284,000	80.0%	9,827,200
Oklahoma.....	3,733,000	78.0	2,911,740
Nebraska.....	3,527,000	75.0	2,645,250
Missouri.....	3,132,000	75.0	2,349,000
Colorado.....	1,578,000	90.0	1,366,000
Five States.....	24,254,000	78.7%	19,099,190
United States.....	46,379,000	84.5%	39,750,000

Of the 24,254,000 acres of winter wheat sown in these states in the fall of 1922, there was an abandonment of 5,235,000 acres, or 21.5%, leaving for this year's harvest 19,019,000 acres. This acreage harvested is slightly less than the acreage intended to

SEPTEMBER CROP REPORT: FORECAST OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT	WINTER WHEAT Bushels		SPRING WHEAT Bushels		ALL WHEAT Bushels	
	Sept. 1 forecast 1923	Estimate 1922	Sept. 1 forecast 1923	Estimate 1922	Sept. 1 forecast 1923	Estimate 1922
Boston.....			404,000	464,000	404,000	464,000
New York.....	9,361,000	9,710,000	311,000	336,000	9,672,000	10,046,000
Philadelphia.....	19,444,000	22,714,000	179,000	170,000	19,623,000	22,884,000
Cleveland.....	51,036,000	42,312,000	507,000	460,000	51,543,000	42,772,000
Richmond.....	33,081,000	29,224,000			33,081,000	29,224,000
Atlanta.....	6,129,000	5,738,000			6,129,000	5,738,000
Chicago.....	87,696,000	74,010,000	3,504,000	4,165,000	91,200,000	78,175,000
St. Louis.....	79,189,000	78,356,000	283,000	296,000	79,472,000	78,652,000
Minneapolis.....	8,954,000	10,614,000	1,545,000	2,270,820	16,345,400	23,769,600
Kansas City.....	165,758,000	235,809,000	12,579,000	11,062,000	178,337,000	246,871,000
Dallas.....	18,503,000	10,259,000	450,000	224,000	18,953,000	10,483,000
San Francisco.....	89,235,000	67,458,000	48,124,000	31,628,000	137,359,000	99,086,000
Total United States.....	568,386,000	586,204,000	220,841,000	275,887,000	789,227,000	862,091,000

be planted this fall. The improved soil conditions late in August, however, was generally more favorable to farm work than at the beginning of that month and some of the late reports would indicate that many farmers are revising their figures on the number of acres to be sown this fall.

A movement at the principal market centers and in cities throughout the middle west and southwest to supply seed wheat to farmers in dry regions has met with generous and hearty response on the part of grain dealers, millers, business men and bankers. As a result the seed wheat shortage in those regions has been relieved and more acres will be sown to wheat than was announced by farmers August 1.

Fewer acres and more bushels per acre are urged upon growers of winter wheat by agricultural experts, farm bureaus, co-operative organizations, grain dealers, millers, business men and bankers co-operating with the Southwest Wheat Improvement Association. Early plowing, planting good seed, observing Hessian fly free dates and rotation of crops are advocated as the best and surest way for farmers to produce more and better wheat and obtain larger returns from fewer acres. Rotation of crops is particularly recommended for sections where rainfall is limited.

**BETTER RETURNS FOR POTATOES:** The late reports are that the acreage of potatoes cultivated by growers in this District was about 8% less than that of last year, and the year's crop will be reduced about 2,000,000 bushels, to around 40,000,000 bushels for the entire District. Present indications, however, are that the growers will receive more money for the 1923 output than they received for the larger crop of 1922. The price was so low last year that many fields were not harvested, and a substantial portion of the potatoes harvested were fed to live stock. The crop of late potatoes is reported in good condition in Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska and total production, while short of that of last year, will be above the average annual yield.

**SUGAR BEET CROP LARGE:** Reports from the fields in Colorado and Wyoming are that sugar beets made splendid growth, the best in years in many sections, and with abundant moisture the crop will be better than the average. In Nebraska the beet crop was in good condition at the end of August with prospects of a yield about 10% above the average. Kansas beets made good progress during the month of August with indications of a large yield. Estimates place the yield in Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska and Kansas at about 6% above the tonnage of beets produced in 1922.

**HAY CROP IMPROVED:** In Nebraska and Kansas, according to reports, the harvesting of tame hay was completed by the end of August and harvesting of prairie hay was in full

swing, with good yields and quality. The alfalfa crop in Nebraska was benefitted by rains and the north Kansas crop was reported good. The southern part of Kansas would not have one-third of a crop. In Missouri the alfalfa crop was promising. The late rains were favorable to forage crops and an abundance of rough feed is promised in most sections. The broom corn crop, although suffering injury by drought, is turning out fairly good.

**COTTON HELPED BY RAINS:** The Federal State crop reporting service in Oklahoma reported September 3 that all cotton in the state would improve and a fair crop might be expected as a result of general rains of August 21, 26 and 27, which came at a critical time also for broom corn and kafirs. The report stated: "Cotton is late, and has had to stand too long a drought—middle of June to the latter part of August—to yield any satisfactory returns, though in some localities showers have helped the crop considerably. Very little boll weevil damage is reported."

While the yield of 791,000 bales for Oklahoma, forecast by the United States Department of Agriculture as of August 25 condition, is generally accepted as official, most of the private estimates on the Oklahoma crop are more conservative, placing the state's total around 700,000 bales. One bank survey making allowance for the extreme heat stopping propagation of the boll weevil, reported that the cotton crop would be far better than the general public had reason to expect.

The cotton crop in the United States, as reported September 1 by the United States Department of Agriculture is here given by Federal Reserve Districts:

Federal Reserve District	Sept. 1, Forecast	Estimate
	1923, Bales	1922, Bales
Richmond.....	1,643,000	1,371,000
Atlanta.....	2,029,000	1,949,000
St. Louis.....	1,947,000	2,085,000
Kansas City.....	850,000	670,000
Dallas.....	4,201,000	3,617,000
San Francisco.....	*118,000	70,000
Total United States.....	10,788,000	9,762,000

\*—Does not include Lower California (Mexico) estimated 87,000 bales this year against 70,000 bales last year.

**FRUIT AND TRUCK CROPS:** Apples are maturing well in the Missouri Valley territory and in the Rocky Mountains, with about the usual worm damage. In the southern sections the crop was injured by the drought. Colorado reports a fair to good peach crop has been harvested in the Grand Valley section, with harvest just beginning in the Delta County District. The movement of early cabbage is about completed. Late cabbage is generally in fine condition, and will soon be moving, and onions are also promising a good yield though less than reported a month ago. The marketing of lettuce is in full progress, with the production exceeding last year and the quality good.

SEPTEMBER CROP REPORT: FORECAST OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT	CORN Bushels		OATS Bushels		HAY, Tame and Wild Tons	
	Sept. 1 forecast	Estimate	Sept. 1 forecast	Estimate	Sept. 1 forecast	Estimate
	1923	1922	1923	1922	1923	1922
Boston.....	11,596,000	11,963,000	9,151,000	9,404,000	4,400,000	4,486,000
New York.....	29,552,000	33,735,000	34,014,000	33,810,000	6,704,000	7,297,000
Philadelphia.....	57,398,000	62,304,000	20,173,000	25,954,000	2,202,000	3,533,000
Cleveland.....	228,980,000	199,540,000	69,869,000	57,835,000	5,064,000	7,168,000
Richmond.....	181,853,000	178,229,000	22,582,000	22,222,000	2,994,000	4,518,000
Atlanta.....	195,928,000	204,142,000	19,459,000	19,621,000	2,879,000	3,647,000
Chicago.....	1,002,962,000	984,328,000	494,214,000	461,600,000	15,986,000	20,677,000
St. Louis.....	421,893,000	394,916,000	52,003,000	35,861,000	7,084,000	8,217,000
Minneapolis.....	328,831,000	282,352,000	334,188,000	341,874,000	17,478,000	19,351,000
Kansas City.....	500,263,000	393,585,000	162,678,000	126,889,000	16,635,000	16,781,000
Dallas.....	102,516,000	132,938,000	53,726,000	36,240,000	1,270,000	1,777,000
San Francisco.....	14,014,000	12,680,000	39,630,000	30,126,000	15,310,000	15,339,000
United States.....	3,075,786,000	2,890,712,000	1,311,687,000	1,201,436,000	98,006,000	112,791,000

## RECEIPTS OF GRAIN AT FOUR MARKETS IN AUGUST, 1923

	(In Bushels)				
	Wheat	Corn	Oats	Rye	Barley
Kansas City.....	12,313,350	1,077,500	1,892,100	34,100	265,500
Omaha.....	2,909,200	1,873,200	2,876,000	145,600	150,400
St. Joseph.....	1,526,000	892,500	1,366,000	3,000	26,250
Wichita.....	4,149,600	142,800	78,000	.....	20,400
August, 1923.....	20,898,150	3,986,000	4,982,100	182,700	462,550
July, 1923.....	17,106,150	3,645,750	1,382,700	57,300	94,200
August, 1922.....	22,242,250	4,316,350	2,098,200	330,400	162,200

## Grain Movements

Arrivals of wheat at Kansas City, Omaha, St. Joseph and Wichita during August totaled 20,898,150 bushels, the largest for any month since August, 1922. This total was 3,792,000 bushels, or 22.2%, greater than the July receipts, although 1,344,100 bushels, or 6%, less than the total receipts during August, 1922.

During the first two months of the wheat year beginning July 1, 1923, the receipts of wheat at these four markets were 38,004,300 bushels, or 9.3% below the receipts during the first two months of the previous wheat year beginning July 1, 1922.

Receipts of corn at the four markets during August, totaling 3,986,000 bushels, were also larger than those in July by 9.3%, although falling 7.7% below the receipts during August of last year.

Oats arriving at the four markets aggregated 4,982,100 bushels the largest for any month in four years, and an increase of 3,599,400 bushels, or 260.3%, over July receipts and also an increase of 2,883,900 bushels, or 137.4%, over receipts in August last year.

The marketing of rye was in greater volume by 218.8% than in July, although the August total of 182,700 bushels was 44.7% below the total for the corresponding month last year. Barley receipts at the four markets were 462,550 bushels, which was 391% greater than in July and 185.2% greater than a year ago. The marketing of kafir at Kansas City in August was very light, less than one-half the volume in July, 1923, and in August, 1922.

**GRAIN PRICES:** All grains developed strength during August at the principal markets of the District, advances being made in wheat and corn to prices several points above those of one year ago. The following shows Kansas City cash prices in cents per bushel of wheat, corn and oats at the dates mentioned, as compiled from the United States Department of Agriculture market reports:

	Sept. 8 1923	Aug. 18-24 1923	Aug. 4-10 1923	Sept 8 1922
<b>WHEAT</b>				
No. 2 Dark Hard Winter.....	120	108	96	111¾
No. 2 Hard Winter.....	118	104	96	105½
No. 2 Red Winter.....	113	104	95	108
<b>CORN</b>				
No. 2 White.....	87	81	81	58
No. 2 Yellow.....	.....	84	85	59
No. 2 Mixed.....	.....	80	82	59¾
<b>OATS</b>				
No. 2 White.....	40	41	42	36¾

Average prices paid Kansas producers for dark hard winter wheat during the weeks ending July 13, 20 and 27 was 76 cents, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture. During the week ending August 3, the average price paid was 77 cents, the week of August 10 it was 80 cents, and the week of August 17 it was up to 86 cents.

## Flour Milling

Operation of southwestern flour mills during August was at an average of 69.5% of full time capacity, with total production of 2,039,239 barrels, an increase of 305,964 barrels, or 17.6% over July production and a decrease of 99,018 barrels, or 4.6% as compared with production during August, 1922. The production for August, as compiled from the Northwestern Miller's reports, follows:

	Production Barrels	Percent Capacity
Kansas City.....	501,988	79.5%
Omaha.....	91,696	88.2
Salina.....	98,664	47.5
St. Joseph.....	122,331	57.4
Wichita.....	195,506	67.2
Outside.....	1,029,054	69.2
Total, August, 1923.....	2,039,239	69.5%
Total, July, 1923.....	1,733,275	61.6
Total, August, 1922.....	2,138,257	78.4%

The largest production of flour Kansas City mills have ever attained was in the week ending September 1, according to the Northwestern Miller. The record for that week of 136,724 barrels, with 90% operating activity, at Kansas City was largely due to the opening of a new 3,000-barrel mill which ran full time for the week.

Moderate buying in small lots featured the flour market during August. While more flour has been booked by mills than is usual for this season there was complaint of a lack of shipping directions. The situation however showed improvement during September.

## Live Stock

The early fall reports from over the Trans-Mississippi territory, the Great Plains, and the Rocky Mountain regions, are highly encouraging to the live stock industry, indicating marked improvement in recent weeks in ranges and pastures and in the condition of live stock, and also evidencing an increase in the meat supply.

Colorado and Wyoming reported ranges better than normal, in many localities "as green as in June." In New Mexico and Arizona "considerable improvement is noted since the advent of recent rains and the outlook for fall and winter range is now good, and stock in satisfactory shape in nearly all portions."

In the southern tiers of counties of Kansas, the southwestern counties of Missouri, the state of Oklahoma and on through Texas, where live stock was declining and pastures were feeling the effects of the July and August drought, recent general rains have greatly relieved the situation. There has been a remarkable improvement in the condition of live stock. Grass and late crops are making vigorous growth and there are prospects for a much better supply of winter stock feed than was indicated a month or six weeks ago.

Throughout the broad agricultural and live stock area lying between the Mississippi river and the Rocky Mountains, and extending north and northwest from Central Missouri and Kansas through Iowa and Nebraska, weather and soil conditions have been right for the making of what is described in some of the reports as "the best fall pasturage ever known." This is the heart of the "corn belt," a great feeding ground for meat animals, and according to some reports there never was another fall when stock feed of all kinds was more plentiful than the fall of 1923.

The fine condition of ranges and pastures throughout the District reflects a general excellent condition of all classes of live stock. There is very little disease among animals reported, and, save in some sections visited by drought during the summer, live stock of all kinds are in good flesh and doing well.

RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK AT SIX MARKETS IN AUGUST, 1923

	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep	Horses Mules
Kansas City.....	363,241	90,303	220,893	117,857	2,995
Omaha.....	134,189	13,274	326,606	263,512	2,061
St. Joseph.....	63,689	12,769	167,140	51,030	1,325
Denver.....	26,483	4,116	31,314	48,117	1,815
Oklahoma City.....	41,844	11,667	42,293	920	280
Wichita.....	35,675	11,008	49,963	13,514	1,188
August, 1923.....	665,121	143,137	838,209	494,950	9,664
July, 1923.....	469,214	99,505	846,831	460,798	4,945
August, 1922.....	594,698	109,484	657,210	505,656	5,872

**HEAVY AUGUST MARKET MOVEMENT:** The largest movement of live stock for the eighth month of any year is reported for August, 1923, from the six leading markets of this District. The receipts of all meat animals at these markets were 2,141,417 head, compared with 1,876,348 head in July of this year, and 1,867,048 in August of last year.

Receipts of cattle at the six markets in August numbered 665,121 head. This total is 195,907 greater than the number received in July and 70,423 greater than the receipts during August, 1922. Calves received totaled 143,137 head, indicating an increase of 43,632 over July and an increase of 33,653 over August of last year. There was a large increase in the volume of range cattle. Southern cattle reached high limits and exhibited something of a "dumping" tendency. Supplies of finished choice beef cattle were limited and the increased demand for this class was a factor in pushing values upward and widening the spread of values between the extremes of quality.

Arrivals of hogs at the six markets continued heavy in August with a total of 838,209 head received, 8,622 less than July receipts and 180,999 more than the receipts at the same markets in August last year. The heavy receipts of hogs during the summer months has been a surprise to the trade and is accepted as an indication that the swine industry has expanded greater than statistics had previously disclosed.

Receipts of sheep, totaling 494,950 head in August at the six markets, were 34,152 above the receipts of July but were 10,706 short of the total received in the corresponding month last year. The decrease in the market supply of sheep is attributed to the exceptionally good condition of ranges which caused large numbers to be held back and also to the fact that the sheep industry has made rapid recovery from the depression of three years ago and sheepmen are in a stronger position financially than they have been for some time.

**STOCKER AND FEEDER MOVEMENT:** The outgo of stocker and feeder cattle, hogs and sheep from the western markets to the country reached unprecedented figures, giving evidence that recent advances in market prices, and success in feeding operations, have determined farmers and feeders to become enthusiastic for feeding this year's huge crop of corn. A survey of the stock yards reports shows that the unusual feeder demand during August was a factor in the upturn of prices during the month. More than one-half of the high record volume of cattle arriving at Kansas City was returned to the country as stockers

STOCKERS AND FEEDERS TO THE COUNTRY FROM FOUR MARKETS IN AUGUST, 1923

	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep
Kansas City.....	183,616	9,331	29,423	36,969
Omaha.....	59,410	.....	134	115,309
St. Joseph.....	24,704	1,827	647	14,210
Denver.....	12,050	1,889	8,947	11,274
August, 1923.....	279,780	13,047	39,151	177,762
July, 1923.....	93,895	5,473	17,856	94,689
August, 1922.....	239,953	10,854	13,424	169,534

AVERAGE PRICES OF LIVE STOCK AT KANSAS CITY

	1923			1922
	Average Prices for Weeks			
	Aug. 27- Sept. 1	Aug. 13- 18	July 30- Aug. 4	Aug. 28- Sept. 2
Steers (1100 lbs up) Choice to Prime.....	\$11.88	\$11.31	\$10.86	\$10.26
Feeder Steers, Common to Choice .....	7.25	7.12	6.75	6.86
Hogs, bulk of sales.....	8.61	7.79	7.22	8.68
Lambs (light and handy weight) Medi- um to Prime.....	12.18	11.81	11.37	12.09
Yearling Weathers, Medium to Prime....	9.42	9.20	9.00	9.50

and feeders. In a number of instances at the Missouri river markets, stocker and feeder purchasers bought nearly finished offerings at premiums over the best prices killer buyers would pay.

**MEAT PACKING:** Heavily increased operations were reported at western packing centers as a result of the enormous supply of live stock marketed during August. The returns from slaughter of cattle and calves exceeded the totals for July and for August of last year. The slaughter of hogs did not come up to the large total for July but exceeded that of one year ago. The total number of sheep killed and dressed by the packers at the centers reporting was about 22% below the July slaughter and 15% below the total slaughter during August, 1922.

	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep
Kansas City.....	128,851	53,503	122,897	72,706
Omaha.....	66,845	5,063	224,110	109,232
St. Joseph.....	32,675	8,989	115,693	36,871
Denver.....	9,856	1,826	23,150	10,065
Oklahoma City.....	25,519	10,551	34,876	383
Wichita.....	6,804	4,138	45,301	1,342
August, 1923.....	270,550	84,070	566,027	230,599
July, 1923.....	242,479	68,965	637,465	293,670
August, 1922.....	254,870	62,685	537,890	271,348

Present industrial activity throughout the United States is having a tendency to increase domestic consumption of meats, according to reports. The foreign trade in American meats has shown a steady growth in recent months.

Stocks of pork and lard in Kansas City August 31 were 47,693,300 pounds, 10,984,000 pounds less than on July 31 and 3,104,700 more than on August 31, 1922.

Mining

**SOFT COAL PRODUCTION:** A new high record for this year was made in the week ending September 1 when soft coal production, including coal coked, mine fuel and local sales, in the United States reached 11,633,000 net tons, an increase of 250,000 tons over the revised figures of the United States Geological Survey for the previous week. The official reports show that a total of 368,706,000 net tons of soft coal were mined in the United States during the eight months of 1923 to September 1, an average of 1,781,000 tons per day. The total for the eight months of 1923 has not been exceeded in any similar period of a year since 1918 when the total to September 1 was 393,093,000 tons. The 1923 total is 135,788,000 tons greater than production during the first eight months of last year.

The volume of production in the six coal states of the Tenth Federal Reserve District during August was about the same as in July. The percentage of full time capacity at which the mines were operated during the month was 52.7% as compared with 52.5% in July and 37.3% in August of last year. There was a noticeable improvement in the market situation in all states except Missouri which reported a 44.6% loss of operation due to "o market" as compared with a loss of 24.1% in July. Follow-

ing shows the percent of loss of full time operation in the six states during August due to various causes:

Loss due to.	Colo.	Kans.	Mo.	N. M.	Okla.	Wyo.	Dist.
Transportation disability.	4.5%	3.7%	-----	6.3%	1.6%	-----	2.7%
Labor Shortage.....	2.3	-----	-----	-----	0.2	-----	0.4
Strikes.....	0.1	-----	-----	-----	1.2	-----	0.2
Mine Disability.....	6.3	5.2	0.6	3.2	11.5	3.7	5.1
No Market.....	43.7	34.7	44.6	33.2	40.4	34.5	38.5
All Other Causes.....	0.9	-----	0.9	-----	0.4	-----	0.4
Total Loss All Causes.....	55.4	46.0	46.1	42.7	55.3	38.2	47.3
Percent Production.....	44.6	54.0	53.9	57.3	44.7	61.8	52.7

These figures on lost operation indicate that, in spite of a stronger demand, due in part to the threatened anthracite strike and also to the advent of the season for laying in coal for domestic winter use, the "no market" continues to be the chief factor limiting production.

**COLORADO METAL MINING INCREASED:** Production this season continues to increase in the metal mining districts of Colorado, notwithstanding the temporary slump in the silver camps following the expiration of the operation of the Pittman Act. Reliable estimates of mining authorities indicate a 50% increase in operations over this season last year. Several old time producers are resuming on a large scale. There is a shortage of labor in the Cripple Creek and San Juan districts.

**ZINC AND LEAD:** The reports from the Tri-State District, Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma, says shipments of zinc ore during August totaled 43,067 tons, compared with 29,479 tons during the same period last year. Prices ranged from \$37.00 per ton at the beginning of the month to \$40.00 per ton at the end of the month, the average price for the month being \$38.34 per ton. This compares with an average price of \$36.25 per ton for the month of August, 1922. The total value of zinc ore shipped from the district during August aggregated \$1,651,572.

Shipments of lead ore aggregated 4,078 tons, compared with 5,803 tons for August, 1922. Prices for lead ore ranged from \$75.00 to \$80.00 per ton, the latter price being paid the last two weeks of the month. The average price for the month was \$78.76 per ton, which compared with \$79.27 for August last year. The total value of lead ore shipped during the month amounted to \$321,233.

It is estimated that there is approximately 50,000 tons of unsold surplus zinc now held in the bins of the ore producers, which is approximately the same amount that was carried this time last year. There is practically no surplus of lead.

Lack of water supply in the Tri-State field augmented the curtailment of production brought about by the five-day week plan.

## Petroleum

Production of crude oil in the United States during the last half of 1923 is continuing remarkably high. While the weekly reports show considerable fluctuation in the daily average flow, there has been to this date no indication of any large reduction in the output. The following shows the daily average for all fields in the United States covering a period of ten weeks:

Week Ending	Daily Average Barrels
June 30.....	2,263,067
July 7.....	2,298,681
July 14.....	2,320,514
July 21.....	2,275,236
July 28.....	2,317,742
August 4.....	2,276,485
August 11.....	2,288,945
August 18.....	2,270,373
August 25.....	2,276,042
September 1.....	2,299,738

The exhibit of output for the week ending September 1 showed a reduction from the previous week's daily average of 3,000 barrels in California's huge production, bringing the daily average to 879,000 barrels. In the same week Oklahoma's daily average dropped 6,147 barrels to 450,198 and the Kansas daily average fell 2,100 barrels to 77,400. These reductions, however, were more than offset by an increase in the daily average for Texas fields of 21,790 barrels, and increase of 7,753 barrels in the Wyoming-Montana field, and small increases in Arkansas, the Gulf Coast, North Louisiana and eastern fields.

The estimated output of crude oil from wells in the Tenth Federal Reserve District during the month of August was 20,700,350 barrels or 174,650 barrels less than the total production during the month of July and 2,943,350 barrels greater than production in August, 1922. The daily average for August was 667,753 barrels, 5,632 barrels below the daily average of the previous month and 94,943 barrels above August last year. Production and daily averages for the four oil states of the District, with totals for July, 1923, and August, 1922, for comparison, were as follows:

### TOTAL PRODUCTION

	*Aug. 1923	**July, 1923	**Aug., 1922
Kansas.....	2,447,000	2,303,000	2,734,000
Oklahoma.....	14,028,200	14,675,000	12,868,000
Colorado.....	4,650	4,600	8,200
Wyoming.....	4,220,500	3,892,400	2,146,800
Total.....	20,700,350	20,875,000	17,757,000

### DAILY AVERAGE

	*Aug., 1923	**July, 1923	**Aug., 1922
Kansas.....	78,935	74,290	88,194
Oklahoma.....	452,523	473,387	415,100
Colorado.....	150	148	264
Wyoming.....	136,145	125,560	69,252
Total.....	667,753	673,385	572,810

\*—Estimated, American Petroleum Institute.

\*\*—Official, United States Geological Survey.

The field reports for August show a decrease in the number of wells completed and also a decrease in the number of barrels daily new production from the totals for the previous month and a year ago. The completions were the smallest for any month since last March and the daily new production was the smallest since February, 1922. The figures for three states follow:

	Wells Completed	Bbls. Daily New Prod'n	Rigs & Drilling Wells
Oklahoma.....	563	83,512	1,376
Kansas.....	141	2,786	206
Wyoming.....	46	14,531	538
August, 1923.....	750	100,838	2,120
July, 1923.....	753	167,020	2,377
August, 1922.....	997	173,461	3,016

A decrease in new development work is indicated by the reports at the end of August. Oklahoma reported 236 less rigs and drilling wells and Kansas 48 less than at the end of July. Wyoming's total indicated an increase for the month of 27.

Stocks of crude oil in storage continue at highest of record totals. Stocks in Oklahoma and Kansas at the end of July were 102,351,598 barrels, 2,017,000 barrels more than at the end of June and 15,624,793 barrels more than reported July 31, 1922.



## Cement Production

All records for production and shipment of portland cement were broken in August, according to figures issued by the United States Geological Survey. Production in the United States during August was 12,967,000 barrels, an increase of 350,000 barrels over July, the best previous record, and 1,300,000 barrels over August last year. Production for eight months ending August 31 was nearly 88,000,000 barrels, or more than was produced in any one of the entire years 1915, 1918 or 1919.

Production of cement at sixteen mills in the Tenth Federal Reserve District during August was 1,257,000 barrels, against 1,153,000 barrels produced in August, 1922. Eight months production of the 16 mills this year was 7,749,000 barrels against 6,137,000 barrels during a like period last year.

Cement stocks at the mills of the District on August 31 were 760,000 barrels against 871,000 barrels on the corresponding date last year.

## Building

Combined returns from cities in the Tenth District, although showing a small increase in the number of permits issued during August, reflect a marked falling off in the estimated cost of construction from that of July and also from that of August last year. The decrease in the August investment in new building projects is in part accounted for by the fact that permits for many of the larger business office buildings were issued in the earlier months of the year. Their construction is a big factor in maintaining quite unusually high building activity through the later months of the year, with the building trades fully employed and shortages of labor reported in many cities.

The August returns show decreases in eleven cities and increases in six cities. The high percentage of decrease reported by Kansas City, Missouri, is mainly accounted for by the fact that permits for a \$1,000,000 office building were included in the figures for August, 1922. In other cities fewer permits for buildings of this class are being issued this late in the season, although residential construction continues large.

Building operations in seventeen cities of the District during eight months of 1923 included 23,934 permits issued and \$75,673,259, estimated cost, compared with last year's eight months record of 21,384 permits issued and \$64,720,037 estimated cost. These totals indicate an increase for this year's eight months period of 12.0% in the number of permits and 16.9% in the estimated cost of construction.

### BUILDING IN CITIES OF THE TENTH DISTRICT

	Permits Issued	Estimated Cost	% Inc. orDec
Casper, Wyoming.....	131	\$ 321,900	131.2
Cheyenne, Wyoming.....	41	61,035	-59.9
Colorado Springs, Colorado.....	77	77,300	37.5
Denver, Colorado.....	591	1,430,500	-30.6
Hutchinson, Kansas.....	33	13,165	-94.6
Kansas City, Kansas.....	201	386,840	57.3
Kansas City, Missouri.....	469	1,137,750	-65.2
Lincoln, Nebraska.....	159	254,079	0.4
Muskogee, Oklahoma.....	22	58,375	-53.0
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.....	257	519,549	-10.8
Okmulgee, Oklahoma.....	19	61,300	-53.8
Omaha, Nebraska.....	234	1,029,995	.04
Pueblo, Colorado.....	53	53,187	-40.2
St. Joseph, Missouri.....	95	124,225	-6.2
Topeka, Kansas.....	137	111,450	38.1
Tulsa, Oklahoma.....	124	505,713	-55.1
Wichita, Kansas.....	268	299,031	-50.7
Total, August, 1923.....	2,911	\$ 6,445,394	-37.6
Total, August, 1922.....	2,889	10,327,567	

## Labor

The supply of common labor is still insufficient to meet the demands being made upon this class of workers, although seasonal slackening in some lines has rendered the situation less acute than a month ago. According to the September report of the United States Department of Labor through its employment service, building in practically every industrial center shows signs of moderating, but there is nowhere a serious surplus of artisans. Road construction is progressing without indications of a let-up and continues to make heavy calls on available skilled labor.

The report from Greater Kansas City says that the volume of employment decreased slightly during the month. An aid to the general situation here is the fact that the harvest and general farm requirements took much of the surplus of common labor from this vicinity. While building operations under way are of considerable magnitude, there are indications of slowing down and a slight surplus of skilled tradesmen is seen, especially carpenters, painters, plumbers and lathers. A surplus of female, but good call for male clerical workers is reported.

St. Joseph reports that state highways and city street and sewer work are progressing without interruption and supplying employment to a large volume of semi-skilled labor, although the supply of this class of workmen is slightly in excess of the demands. Building tradesmen fairly busy. Flour mills have resumed full time operations. There is continued good call for general farm help.

In the Joplin-Carthage district there is a surplus of common labor, largely transient. Less employment in lead and zinc mines than last month. Building tradesmen are fairly well employed. Employees are working overtime in Carthage quarries and shoe factories. There is a good call for competent farm help.

While the major industries in Kansas are not increasing forces, both skilled and semi-skilled labor is well employed, and the outlook for the ensuing ninety days is excellent. Sixty per cent of estimated unemployed are engaged in part time work. There is a good call for unskilled labor on road construction and the demand for farm labor remains strong. Meat packing, railroads and other leading industries are employing normal forces. No surplus of skilled labor is apparent anywhere in the state.

At Topeka skilled and semi-skilled labor is slightly better call than last month. Demand for general farm help, especially for threshing and potato picking, continues brisk. Large power plant, railroad office building and laying of oil pipe lines will call at least one thousand men and likely to continue through the winter months. Ice plants and creameries are working overtime. Other industries are on normal basis.

Wichita reports that paving projects are still calling for a large volume of common labor. Persistent demand for farm help. A surplus of casual labor is reported, due to curtailment of activities in adjacent oil fields, but improvement in this direction is expected within a very short time. No slackening of operations is seen in other lines. Building mechanics finding plenty of employment and the general industrial situation shows a healthy tone.

Hutchinson reports no marked change in local industry and employment conditions since July. Normal forces are at work in all industries with the exception of salt works which are on part time. There is a shortage of common labor for road work. Call is strong for general farm labor.

At Leavenworth, employment conditions are about normal and all local industries except coal mines working full quotas. Road construction continues to draw heavily on unskilled labor.

At Atchison there is a shortage of farm help, especially threshers; also common labor for road construction jobs. Industrial plants there are all on full time, except one foundry which is expected to resume about October 1. Flour mills and elevators are working overtime. There is plenty of work for all local skilled labor.

At Parsons, employment conditions remain highly satisfactory, with major industries all on normal basis. Farm help is in good demand. Additional forces are employed by railroads.

Pittsburg reports a slight surplus of common labor. Building projects there include many residences and skilled workers are all engaged. Increased employment since July in coal mines and railroad shops is reported.

The reports from Nebraska indicate that there is an influx of men from the northwest harvest fields which is creating temporary labor surplus; but road construction, railroad work and other activities are drawing heavily on this class. Moisture retarded building and road work somewhat, but operations are under way and contemplated which promise adequate employment for skilled and semi-skilled labor until cold weather sets in. General farm help is in good call. The major industries are all on normal employment basis.

At Omaha the men returning from the harvest fields are being rapidly absorbed in other lines. Skilled labor is finding plenty of employment on projects under construction and this condition will continue for some time. Road construction in city and country, also railroad work, continues to draw heavily on available semi-skilled workers. General farm help is in good demand with an acute shortage of this class of labor existing. Domestic and clerical help, also salesmen, are in fair demand.

Lincoln reports a slight surplus of common labor, due to the fact that heavy rains interrupted the building program and paving work. Building operations under way and contemplated for the next two months indicate adequate employment for all local skilled workmen during the present season. Call for general farm labor is good.

At Hastings there is a continued good call for general farm labor, with a shortage obtaining. Skilled and semi-skilled workers are well employed, local industrial plants at Grand Island are employing full forces, while road projects remain the outstanding factor in calling for common labor. At North Platte all resident labor is fully employed. Additional contracts for street paving awarded have augmented the demand for common labor. A strong call for men in hay fields and general farm help is reported.

### Electrical Energy

The Middle West Utilities Company's report for the month of July on the output of electric energy in the Tenth District follows:

	July, 1923	July, 1922
<b>PRODUCTION</b>		
Plant Capacity K. W.....	46,357	32,857
Plant Output K. W. H.....	10,652,335	9,155,000
Peakload K. W.....	28,750	22,750
<b>SALES</b>		
Number of Industrial Customers.....	2,978	2,590
Connected Industrial Load K. W.....	33,701	29,200
Industrial K. W. H. Sales.....	5,721,321	5,162,600

### Insurance

Business conditions as reflected by new sales of ordinary life insurance are favorable, according to figures published by the life insurance sales research bureau. The figures representing new

paid business written in August by 48 companies with percent of increase over August of last year, follow:

	New August Paid Business	Percent Increase
Colorado.....	\$ 4,241,000	23%
Kansas.....	4,010,000	6
Missouri.....	15,171,000	23
Nebraska.....	3,982,000	28
New Mexico.....	617,000	17
Oklahoma.....	4,731,000	-3
Wyoming.....	667,000	-19
Total Seven States.....	\$ 33,419,000	16%
Total United States.....	\$471,410,000	22%

### STATEMENT OF CONDITION, FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF KANSAS CITY, INCLUDING BRANCHES

At Close of Business September 19, 1923

#### RESOURCES

Gold Coin and Certificates.....	\$ 3,437,745.50
Gold Settlement Fund F. R. Board.....	37,751,821.56
Gold with Federal Reserve Agent.....	43,959,500.00
Gold Redemption Fund.....	3,821,963.14
Reserves other than Gold.....	2,782,904.00
Non-Reserve Cash.....	4,997,135.01
Bills Discounted for Member Banks:	
Secured by Govt. Obligations.....	14,284,189.80
All Other.....	129,636,590.42
Bills Bought in Open Market.....	12,087,343.13
U. S. Bonds and Notes.....	10,876,650.00
United States Cert. of Indebtedness.....	178,500.00
Municipal Warrants.....	266,000.00
Bank Premises.....	4,969,523.60
Uncollected Items.....	41,905,432.69
All Other Resources.....	1,065,138.42
<b>Total Resources.....</b>	<b>\$202,020,437.27</b>

#### LIABILITIES

Capital Paid In.....	\$ 4,550,750.00
Surplus.....	9,488,299.89
Deposits:	
Government.....	2,071,075.48
Member Banks, Reserve Account.....	77,815,689.17
All Other.....	683,060.87
F. R. Notes in Actual Circulation.....	63,309,085.00
Deferred Availability Items.....	43,085,531.61
All Other Liabilities.....	1,016,945.25
<b>Total Liabilities.....</b>	<b>\$202,020,437.27</b>

#### OTHER TOTALS

Total Gold Reserves.....	\$ 88,971,030.20
Total Discounted and Purchased Bills Held.....	46,008,123.35
Total Earning Assets.....	57,329,273.35
Total Deposits.....	80,569,825.52
Ratio of Total Reserves to Deposit and Federal Reserve Notes Liabilities Combined.....	63.7%
Total Clearings for Week.....	\$187,345,925.27
Total Number of Items Handled.....	1,142,693

## Business Conditions in the United States

The volume of merchandise distributed during August, as indicated by railway traffic and wholesale and retail trade, was large. Production of certain basic commodities and industrial employment showed further slight decreases.

**PRODUCTION:** The Federal Reserve Board's index of production in basic industries declined 2% during August and was at the lowest point for this year. The August output, however, was 27% larger than a year ago and production in every month this year has been at a higher level than in any month of the previous five years. Lower production index in August reflected reduced output, after a correction for the usual seasonal trend, of pig iron, woolen goods, flour, and cement. Cotton consumption, sugar meltings, lumber cut and bituminous coal production increased. The number and value of new building projects, as measured by permits granted in 168 leading cities, increased during August, but actual contract awards were smaller than in July.

Employment at industrial establishments throughout the United States was slightly smaller in August, while average weekly earnings advanced about 1%. Increases in wages amounting to 10% were granted to anthracite coal miners. Readjustment of wages and hours in the steel industry continued, but wage advances during August were fewer than in any month since last winter.

The principal changes in crop estimates shown by the September 1 forecast of the Department of Agriculture were a large reduction in the expected cotton crop, slight decreases in the probable yield of wheat, barley and oats, and increases of yields of corn, tobacco and potatoes.

**TRADE:** Railroad freight shipments were larger in August than in any previous month on record. This was due to seasonal increase in shipments of coal, miscellaneous merchandise, and agricultural products. Wholesale trade, according to the index of the Federal Reserve Board, increased 12% in August, which is more than the usual seasonal increase, and sales were the largest of any month in three years. Sales of clothing, drygoods and shoes showed substantial gains as compared with July and were larger than a year ago. Retail trade also increased in August and sales in all reporting lines were larger than in August, 1922.

Department store sales in all sections of the country averaged 12% above last year's level.

**PRICES:** The general level of wholesale prices, according to the index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, remained relatively constant in August, the change for the month being a reduction of less than one-fifth of one percent, compared with declines of about 2% in each of the three preceding months. Prices of building materials, house furnishings and fuel were materially reduced, while prices of farm products and foods increased. Prices of certain raw materials, particularly cotton and silk, advanced substantially during September, while prices of petroleum and copper declined.

**BANK CREDIT:** After a decline during July and the first part of August, the volume of bank credit in use showed a seasonal increase during the last week of August and the first two weeks of September. Total loans and demand deposits of member banks in principal cities increased during recent weeks, reversing the trend of the preceding two months. Loans chiefly for commercial and agricultural purposes increased by \$122,000,000 and reached a high point for the year. Investment holdings of these banks, on the contrary, continued to decline and on September 12 were lower than at any time since the middle of October of last year.

Between August 22 and September 19 the amount of accommodation extended to member banks by Federal Reserve banks in industrial districts declined, while in agricultural districts the seasonal demand for credit and currency resulted in a considerable growth of reserve bank credit in use.

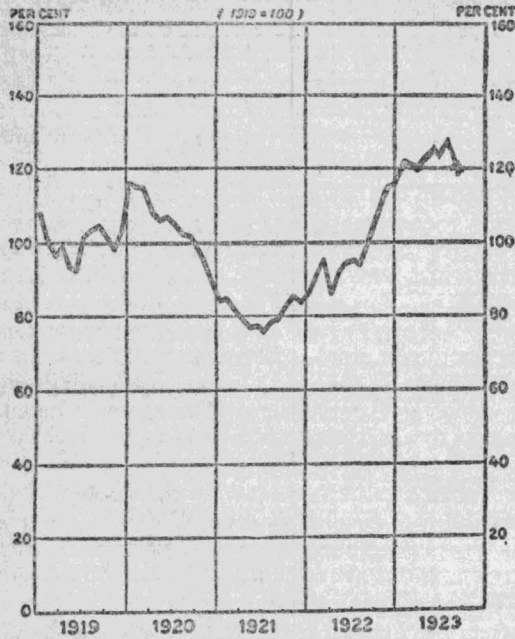
The demand for currency arising out of crop moving and fall trade has been reflected in an increase of \$82,000,000 in money and in circulation between August 1 and September 1. Of this amount about \$44,000,000 represents an increase in Federal notes circulation.

Money rates were firmer during the first two weeks of September, but eased somewhat after the 15th, partly because government disbursements were temporarily in excess of tax collections.

The Treasury issued on September 15th \$200,000,000 of six months certificates bearing 4¼% interest, compared with 4% borne by six months certificates issued in June.

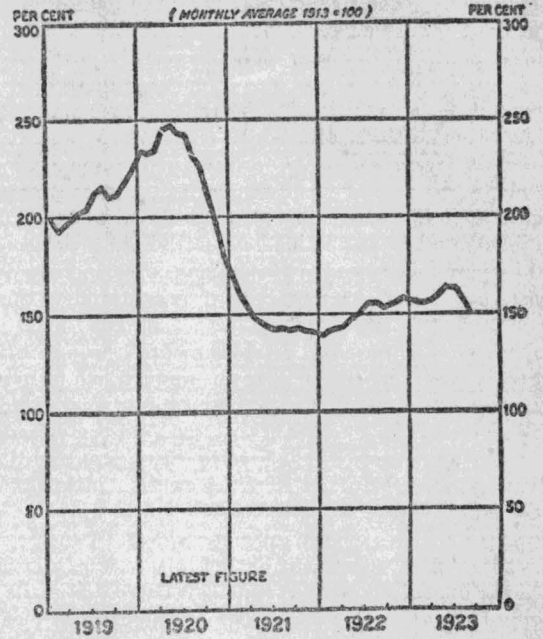
**INDEX OF PRODUCTION IN BASIC INDUSTRIES**

COMBINATION OF 22 INDIVIDUAL SERIES  
CORRECTED FOR SEASONAL VARIATION



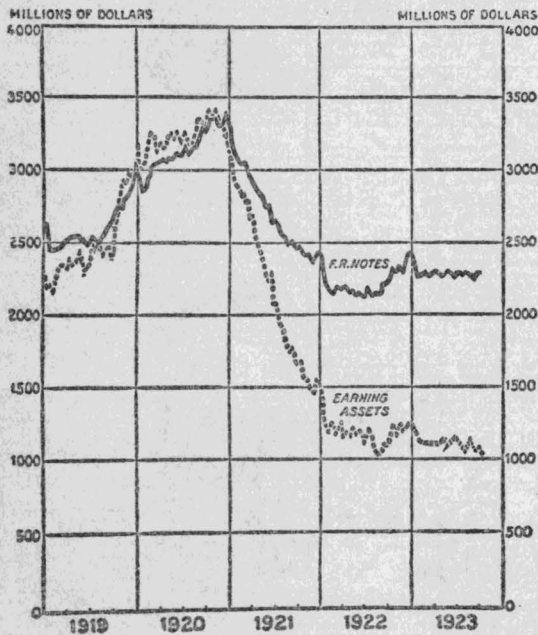
**PRICES**

INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES  
U. S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS



**BANK CREDIT**

ALL FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS



**BANK CREDIT**

600 MEMBER BANKS IN LEADING CITIES

