

# THE MONTHLY REVIEW

*Of Agricultural, Industrial, Trade and Financial  
Conditions in the Tenth Federal Reserve District*

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF KANSAS CITY

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**D**ISTRIBUTION of commodities by wholesale and retail firms which report their trade statistics to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City increased seasonally in March, and the first quarter of 1928 closed with the dollar volume of sales slightly above that for the first quarter of 1927. Productive activity expanded during the month and the output of manufactures and minerals combined was about up to the level of a year ago. The building season was given an early start, and with a notable increase in general construction and out-door work the employment situation improved. Debits by banks to individual accounts, or payments by check, ran at a higher weekly average during the first fourteen weeks of the year than in the like period of the preceding year. Loans and discounts of reporting member banks rose steadily as the season advanced and on April 4 attained the highest peak since September 1926. Investments were the highest on record covering the past eight years. Demand and time deposits exhibited similar trends, and deposits to savings accounts in a selected list of banks showed consistent gains. Business failures during the month and first quarter were less numerous than in the same month and quarterly period last year.

The outstanding feature in the trade situation in this District during March, aside from the favorable showing of wholesale and retail distribution, was an unusually heavy movement of grain from farms and country elevators to primary markets, due largely to advances in prices to high levels for the year. March receipts of wheat, oats, rye, barley and kafir were larger than a year ago, and receipts of corn for the month were 253.9 percent larger, with cash corn selling around a dollar a bushel. Market supplies of livestock changed but slightly, receipts of cattle and calves showing decreases and receipts of hogs and sheep showing increases over the month and three months of 1927.

Conditions and prospects for farm production in this District improved during March, due to favorable weather with general rains and snows supplying moisture for seasonal needs. However, the fine progress made during March was checked in the second week of April by belated storms of snow, sleet and rain and low temperatures—conditions which were very unfavorable for germination of seed in the ground and damaging to growing field crops, and fruits. With the return of warmer weather in the latter half of April farmers resumed the work of preparing the soil and planting corn, cotton, sugar beets and other spring crops. Winter wheat on April 1 showed a somewhat spotted condition as a result of winter drought and freezing in many sections, though the condition for this District as a whole

## BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN THE TENTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

Statistics for March 1928 compared to those for February 1928 and March 1927, and for the First Quarter of 1928 compared to the First Quarter of 1927, in Percentage of Increase or Decrease.

	March 1928 Feb. 1928	March 1928 March 1927	3 Mos. 1928 3 Mos. 1927
<b>General Business and Banking</b>			
Bank Debits, 29 cities.....	6.2	5.0	3.2
Loans, 65 Member Banks.....	2.0	7.9	5.7
Investments, 65 Member Banks.....	4.4	11.2	2.5
Deposits, 65 Member Banks.....	2.3	6.0	2.9
Savings Deposits, 57 Banks.....	0.7	5.4	2.9
Savings Accounts, 55 Banks.....	0.3	5.8	2.9
Business Failures.....	-42.4	-28.5	-7.0
Amount of Liabilities.....	-25.7	0.7	2.2
<b>Trade</b>			
Sales of Department Stores.....	24.2	5.6	2.1
Sales of Wholesalers, 6 Lines.....	7.9	0.4	3.9
Sales of Lumber, 187 Retail Yds.....	34.1	4.7	-2.3
<b>Market Receipts</b>			
Wheat.....	15.1	7.3	-19.7
Corn.....	-21.7	253.9	192.9
Oats.....	43.8	82.4	33.5
Cattle.....	-7.9	-16.6	-3.4
Calves.....	-12.2	-15.6	-4.6
Hogs.....	-7.6	41.9	41.2
Sheep.....	0.3	16.0	31.3
Horses-Mules.....	-19.4	17.1	40.2
<b>Production</b>			
Flour.....	2.1	-9.0	-5.2
Coal.....	-7.7	-21.7	-14.3
Petroleum.....	6.3	-9.6	-2.2
<b>Refinery Operations</b>			
(daily runs crude oil).....	7.5	12.5	7.6
Lead ore (Shipments).....	-47.7	-60.2	-27.8
Zinc ore (shipments).....	-20.2	-43.0	-26.2
Cement.....	35.3	-7.6	15.0
Face Brick.....	21.6	-24.8	-13.3
<b>Meat Packing</b>			
Cattle.....	-7.3	-19.9	-10.7
Calves.....	-14.2	-24.6	-11.5
Hogs.....	-13.6	41.8	51.3
Sheep.....	-6.4	6.6	21.9
<b>Construction</b>			
Building Permits, 17 cities.....	39.9	1.5	11.6
Value of Permits, 17 cities.....	16.2	-11.2	6.6
Contract Awards, District.....	140.5	103.0	37.1

was about up to the ten-year average, and several points above the United States average officially reported for April 1.

In food production, the reports indicated the March output of flour was larger than in February but smaller than in March last year. Slaughter of cattle and calves at meat packing plants decreased, while the slaughter of hogs and sheep increased, both for the month and the first quarter of the year.

March conditions in the mineral industries were but little

different from those prevailing through the earlier months of the year. The production of crude petroleum during the month was larger than in February, due to the difference in the number of days, but still was smaller than a year ago. Refineries were receiving more crude oil at their stills on April 1 than a month earlier or a year earlier. Soft coal output showed further decline, and the coal year closed March 31 with the output about 14 percent smaller than that for the preceding coal year. March was a dull month in the zinc and lead fields, with ore shipments the lowest of the year, though late reports showed a revival of activity in the second week of April with ore shipments the heaviest for any week in several months and some advance in prices. Manufacture of Portland cement, and also shipments and unfilled orders, at mills showed increases over those reported at this time last year.

The value of building contracts awarded in this District reached exceptional amounts and established new high records both for the month and three months. Permits for new building projects, issued in leading cities, were more numerous than last year, reflecting an active season. While the value of March permits showed a decrease as compared with March a year ago, the aggregate value of permits for the first quarter was considerably higher than for the same period last year.

## Financial

**MEMBER BANKS SHOWING:** Loans and discounts of 65 member banks in this District, which make reports to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, increased \$8,675,000 during the five-week period between February 29 and April 4. On the last mentioned date the total stood \$32,696,000 above that reported for April 6 of last year and the highest for any weekly reporting date since September 15, 1926. Loans secured by United States Government obligations on the first reporting date in April were smaller than on the corresponding date last year, although those secured by other stocks, bonds and securities were \$28,496,000 larger, and "all other" loans, principally commercial, were \$5,089,000 larger than a year earlier. Investments of the reporting member banks showed a further increase and the April 4 total was \$23,027,000 larger than a year ago. The total of net demand, time and government deposits of the 65 member banks on April 4 was \$15,416,000 larger than on February 29 and \$39,059,000 larger than on April 6, 1927. Net demand deposits on the first reporting date in April were the highest since September 15, 1926. Time deposits, which on March 28 were the highest of record, declined slightly in the week that followed, but were \$20,166,000 above the total reported on April 6, 1927. These and other principal resource and liability items of the 65 reporting member banks are shown as of three reporting dates in the following:

	April 4, 1928	Feb. 29, 1928	April 6, 1927
Loans and Investments-total.....	\$673,509,000	\$655,202,000	\$617,786,000
Loans and discounts-total.....	444,184,000	435,509,000	411,488,000
Secured by stocks and bonds.....	135,697,000	129,777,000	107,201,000
All other loans and discounts.....	304,937,000	302,061,000	299,848,000
Investments-total.....	229,325,000	219,693,000	206,298,000
U. S. Government securities.....	107,277,000	105,119,000	107,390,000
Other bonds, stocks & securities.....	122,048,000	114,574,000	98,908,000
Reserve with F. R. bank.....	58,455,000	57,676,000	54,337,000
Net demand deposits.....	513,617,000	506,081,000	497,660,000
Time deposits.....	167,964,000	166,057,000	147,798,000
Government deposits.....	6,722,000	749,000	3,786,000

**RESERVE BANK OPERATIONS:** During the five weeks running through March to April 4 there was some expansion in the volume of credit extended by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and its branches at Omaha, Denver and Oklahoma City. Bills rediscounted for member banks, as shown by

the first weekly condition statement in April, were \$6,754,853 above the total on February 29 and \$7,015,066 above the total on April 6, 1927. This bank's holdings of purchased bills were larger than on either of the former dates with which comparison is made. And the total of bills and securities on April 4 stood \$9,276,183 above the amount reported five weeks earlier and \$11,006,612 above the amount reported fifty-two weeks earlier. Figures for the three dates shown in the following summary, indicate the changes in the principal resource and liability items in five weeks and one year:

	April 4, 1928	Feb. 29, 1928	April 6, 1927
Gold reserves.....	\$ 86,941,388	\$ 99,582,795	\$102,740,445
Reserves other than gold.....	7,602,905	6,987,209	5,248,274
Total reserves.....	94,544,293	106,570,004	107,988,719
Bills discounted.....	17,523,257	10,768,404	10,508,191
Bills purchased.....	12,991,922	12,106,592	12,009,476
United States securities.....	30,604,600	28,968,600	27,595,500
Total bills and securities.....	61,119,779	51,843,596	50,113,167
Total resources.....	200,616,687	202,505,240	205,846,249
F. R. notes in circulation.....	57,538,325	59,203,775	67,154,275
Total deposits.....	94,375,359	95,258,320	88,971,577

**PAYMENTS BY CHECK:** Twenty-nine cities in the Tenth District reported debits by banks to individual accounts, (exclusive of charges to accounts of banks) amounted to \$1,634,353,000 in five weeks ending April 4. This amount exceeded that for the preceding five weeks ending February 29 by \$94,891,000 or 6.2 percent. It also exceeded that for the corresponding five weeks in last year by \$78,112,000 or 5 percent. It carried the accumulated total for the first fourteen weeks of 1928 to \$4,580,378,000, thus showing an increase of \$140,959,000 or 3.2 percent over the amount reported in the first fourteen weeks of 1927. Debits during the five-week periods of 1928 and 1927 are here shown:

	FIVE WEEKS ENDING		Per Cent Change
	April 4, 1928	April 6, 1927	
Albuquerque, N. M.....	\$ 12,855,000	\$ 13,408,000	- 4.1
Atchison, Kans.....	7,423,000	7,105,000	4.5
Bartlesville, Okla.....	17,434,000	29,417,000	-40.7
Casper, Wyo.....	7,918,000	9,220,000	-14.1
Cheyenne, Wyo.....	6,754,000	6,156,000	9.7
Colorado Springs, Colo.....	18,536,000	16,412,000	13.0
Denver, Colo.....	209,578,000	215,024,000	- 2.5
Enid, Okla.....	15,759,000	17,040,000	- 7.5
Fremont, Nebr.....	5,567,000	4,681,000	18.9
Grand Junction, Colo.....	3,966,000	3,645,000	8.8
Guthrie, Okla.....	4,068,000	4,703,000	-13.5
Hutchinson, Kans.....	17,098,000	17,170,000	- 0.4
Independence, Kans.....	14,242,000	12,419,000	14.7
Joplin, Mo.....	15,510,000	19,807,000	-21.7
Kansas City, Kans.....	22,836,000	23,735,000	- 3.8
Kansas City, Mo.....	462,787,000	409,340,000	13.1
Lawrence, Kans.....	6,195,000	7,428,000	-16.6
Lincoln, Nebr.....	44,445,000	39,584,000	12.0
Muskogee, Okla.....	13,463,000	14,564,000	- 7.6
Oklahoma City, Okla.....	124,931,000	118,720,000	5.2
Okmulgee, Okla.....	9,254,000	11,366,000	-18.6
Omaha, Nebr.....	259,768,000	227,957,000	14.0
Parsons, Kans.....	3,567,000	3,598,000	- 0.8
Pittsburg, Kans.....	6,906,000	7,902,000	-12.6
Pueblo, Colo.....	22,946,000	22,687,000	1.1
St. Joseph, Mo.....	73,740,000	62,766,000	17.5
Topeka, Kans.....	22,802,000	23,090,000	- 1.2
Tulsa, Okla.....	134,756,000	154,507,000	-12.8
Wichita, Kans.....	69,249,000	52,790,000	31.2
Last Five Weeks.....	\$1,634,353,000	\$1,556,241,000	5.0
Fourteen Weeks.....	4,580,378,000	4,439,419,000	3.2

**SAVINGS IN BANKS:** Deposits to savings accounts in 57 reporting banks in leading cities in this District increased 0.7 percent between March 1 and April 1 of the present year, and the total on the latter date was 5.4 percent larger than on the corresponding date last year. The number of savings accounts

WHOLESALE TRADE IN THE TENTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

	Reporting Stores	SALES		OUTSTANDINGS (Mo. End)		COLLECTIONS		STOCKS (Mo. End.)	
		Mar. 1928 compared with Feb. 1928	Mar. 1927	Mar. 31, 1928 compared with Feb. 29, 1928	Mar. 31, 1927	March 1928 compared with Feb. 1928	Mar. 1927	Mar. 31, 1928 compared with Feb. 29, 1928	Mar. 31, 1927
Dry Goods.....	8	-13.1	-3.6	0.7	5.6	6.7	-1.7	-1.7	33.5
Groceries.....	7	14.5	4.8	6.5	0.5	7.6	1.7	-0.4	6.1
Hardware.....	9	25.6	-3.5	7.3	-1.3	21.9	12.2	3.5	4.8
Furniture.....	7	20.6	-1.5	11.6	-1.3	12.8	1.3	3.1	3.4
Drugs.....	6	22.9	18.5	9.3	5.5	5.8	2.2	-0.3	4.9

in 55 banks on April 1 showed an increase of 0.3 percent for the month and 5.8 percent for the year. The reports by cities:

	Banks	April 1, 1928	March 1, 1928	April 1, 1927
Denver, Colo.....	6	\$ 50,989,976	\$ 50,003,223	\$ 48,861,984
Kansas City, Kans.....	4	2,959,200	2,932,238	2,582,073
Kansas City, Mo.....	10	18,717,042	18,707,127	16,692,675
Lincoln, Nebr.....	3	2,760,878	2,787,003	2,956,862
Oklahoma City, Okla.....	6	8,056,196	8,828,130	8,189,510
Omaha, Nebr.....	5	9,038,443	8,829,277	8,011,239
St. Joseph, Mo.....	6	8,746,427	8,358,354	7,729,436
Tulsa, Okla.....	5	13,228,260	13,350,277	14,037,186
Wichita, Kans.....	8	5,998,912	5,873,640	5,206,904
Other Cities.....	4	1,063,177	1,044,552	1,103,231
Total.....	57	\$123,558,511	\$120,713,821	\$115,371,100

**BUSINESS FAILURES:** There was a very perceptible decrease in the number of business failures in the Tenth District during March, both as compared with the preceding month and the corresponding month last year. Reports also showed fewer failures during the first quarter of 1928 than in the first quarter of 1927. The amount of liabilities involved in March failures in this District fell 25.7 percent below the total for February, but was seven-tenths of 1 percent larger than in March last year. Liabilities for the first quarter of the current year were 2.2 percent larger than for first quarter of 1927. Statistics of failures in the United States reported by R. G. Dun and Company are shown by Federal Reserve Districts in the following:

Districts	NUMBER		LIABILITIES	
	1928	1927	1928	1927
First, Boston.....	241	234	\$ 5,853,382	\$ 7,960,696
Second, New York.....	443	380	9,978,787	10,932,189
Third, Philadelphia.....	126	83	2,173,682	3,966,722
Fourth, Cleveland.....	183	193	8,433,754	4,724,804
Fifth, Richmond.....	141	147	4,754,919	3,585,847
Sixth, Atlanta.....	147	152	7,572,435	4,530,678
Seventh, Chicago.....	348	322	5,885,547	11,840,265
Eighth, St. Louis.....	104	111	3,983,257	1,088,841
Ninth, Minneapolis.....	83	89	996,828	868,720
TENTH, KANSAS CITY.....	83	116	1,696,032	1,684,193
Eleventh, Dallas.....	66	59	945,144	1,415,400
Twelfth, San Francisco.....	271	257	2,540,378	5,292,550
United States, March.....	2,236	2,143	\$ 54,814,145	\$ 57,890,905
United States, 3 Mos.....	7,055	6,643	147,519,198	156,121,853
Tenth District, 3 Mos.....	358	385	5,585,467	5,464,229

Trade

The volume of trade in the Tenth District during the month of March, indicated by dollar sales figures of wholesale and retail firms reporting to the Monthly Review, showed some expansion over February, after making allowance for three more trading days in March, and were slightly above the totals for March, 1927. Accumulated sales for the first quarter of 1928 ran ahead of those for the first three months of 1927. General conditions of trade were good.

**WHOLESALE:** Reports of wholesale firms showed March sales of groceries, hardware, furniture, drugs and millinery were larger than in February, while sales of drygoods during the month were a shade below those of the preceding month. March sales of drygoods, hardware, furniture and millinery were smaller than in March of last year, while sales of groceries and drugs showed moderate increases. During the first quarter of 1928 sales of all reporting lines, except millinery, were larger than in the first quarter of 1927. Wholesalers of stationery reported the volume of their business was 3.3 percent larger than that for February and 12.6 percent larger than that for March 1927.

Distribution of implements and farm machinery during the early weeks of the busy spring season were reported as running considerably ahead of the like period in 1927.

Stocks of wholesalers of drygoods, groceries and drugs were smaller on March 31, and those of hardware and furniture were larger, than on February 29. Stocks of all reporting lines except millinery at the close of March were larger than on the same date last year, according to the reports.

**RETAIL:** Reports of department stores operating in cities throughout this District reflected a marked increase in the volume of their March sales over those for February and moderate increases for March of this year over March of last year. Of the 33 stores included in the summary, 21 reported their March sales were larger than in the same month last year. The heavy March business at department stores carried the total for the first quarter of the year 2.1 percent above that for the like period last year.

Sales during March at retail apparel stores, shoe stores and furniture stores showed small declines as compared with the volume reported for February, though as compared with a year ago sales at apparel stores increased 3 percent, sales of shoes

RETAIL TRADE AT 33 DEPARTMENT STORES IN THE TENTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

Stores Reporting	SALES		(RETAIL) STOCKS		STOCK TURNOVER		ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE		COLLECTIONS	
	March 1928 compared to March 1927	3 Months 1928 compared to 3 Months 1927	March 31, 1928 compared to Feb. 29, 1928	Mar. 31, 1927	March 1928	3 Months	March 31, 1928 compared to Feb. 29, 1928	Mar. 31, 1927	March 31, 1928 Compared to	Mar. 31, 1927
Kansas City.....	4	6.5	1.4	5.1	.24	.22	.68	.66	-1.4	1.3
Denver.....	5	5.5	-1.1	2.9	.17	.16	.48	.49	-1.2	3.0
Oklahoma City..	2	5.9	6.4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	-5.7	18.5
Omaha.....	4	10.3	4.4	4.0	.24	.22	.69	.69	1.2	1.9
Lincoln.....	2	5.2	7.0	6.4	.22	.20	.64	.58	0.6	-12.4
Topeka.....	3	Even	-0.8	-2.2	.22	.21	.59	.56	0.3	-5.7
Tulsa.....	3	-4.7	-1.5	5.5	.32	.36	.92	.99	1.7	5.3
Other Cities.....	10	7.2	9.0	3.5	.15	.15	.47	.45	2.9	8.3
Total.....	33	5.6	2.1	3.7	.21	.20	.60	.60	-0.6	0.6

NOTE: Percentage of collections in March on outstanding accounts February 29, all stores reporting, 40.3%. Collections same month last year, 40.4%.



were about the same, sales of furniture were 22.7 percent smaller.

Stocks of department stores at the close of March were 3.7 percent larger than at the close of February, but were smaller by less than 1 percent than on March 31, 1927. Stocks of appare stores increased slightly during the month under review and were 0.6 percent larger for apparel and 3.6 percent smaller for shoes than a year ago. Retail furniture stores reported their stocks on hand at the close of March were 1.1 percent smaller than a month earlier and 5.3 percent smaller than on March 31, 1927.

**COLLECTIONS:** Total department store collections during March was 40.3 percent of amounts outstanding on their books at the close of February. This figure compares with 39.7 for February and 40.4 for March of last year. Reports of wholesale firms combined for five reporting lines showed the percentage of collections to outstandings was 47.9 for March against 46.7 for February and 47.6 for March 1927. Retail lumber yard reports showed the percentage of collections for the month was about 1 point above the figure reported one year ago.

Further increase in the lumber movement in the United States during the four weeks ending March 31 was shown in the reports of manufacturers to the National Lumber Manufacturers Association. A comparison of the figures of both softwoods and hardwood manufacturers for the first thirteen weeks of 1928 with those for its like period in 1927, shows this year's softwood movement ran about 20 percent above that for last year, while the movement of hardwood lumber was about 30 percent larger. The figures as reported for both years:

	THIRTEEN WEEKS ENDING	
	March 31, 1928	April 2, 1927
<b>Softwoods</b>		
Board Feet		
Cut.....	3,049,446,692	2,537,939,823
Shipments.....	3,231,727,189	2,698,830,655
Orders.....	3,472,712,837	2,856,636,701
<b>Hardwoods</b>		
Cut.....	513,210,000	374,495,000
Shipments.....	513,567,000	370,473,000
Orders.....	536,677,000	384,927,000

**RETAIL LUMBER TRADE:** Reports from 187 retail yards in cities and towns in the Tenth District showed March sales of lumber in board feet increased 34.1 percent over February and were 4.7 percent larger than in March a year ago. During the first three months of 1928 sales of lumber at these yards were 2.3 percent less than in the first three months of 1927. March business of these yards is here compared with that for February 1928 and March 1927 in percentage of increase or decrease:

	Mch. 1928 Compared to	
	Feb. 1928	Mch. 1927
Sales of Lumber, Board Feet.....	34.1	4.7
Sales of all Materials, dollars.....	31.5	— 1.6
Stocks of Lumber, end of Month.....	4.9	7.5
Outstandings, end of Month.....	8.5	— 5.7
Collections during Month.....	11.3	—10.8

**CEMENT:** The advent of the season for general construction and out-door work was accompanied by a substantial increase in operations in the Portland cement industry. Statistics reported by the Bureau of Mines, United States Department of Commerce, show mills in this District in March produced 35.3 percent more cement than in February, but the month's total was 7.6 percent smaller than in March last year. However, production in the first quarter of the current year was 15 percent larger than in the like period last year. Shipments from mills during March were 72.9 percent larger than in February and 16.2 percent larger than in the same month last year; and for

the first quarter of 1928 shipments were 6.9 percent larger than in the first quarter of 1927. Figures showing production and shipments in this District during the month and the first quarter of 1928, with comparisons, follow:

	March 1928	Feb. 1928	March 1927	3 Months 1928	3 Months 1927
Production, bbls.....	805,000	595,000	871,000	2,026,000	1,761,000
Shipments, bbls.....	1,003,000	580,000	863,000	2,101,000	1,966,000

Stocks of finished cement at Tenth District mills totaled 1,945,000 barrels at the close of March, as compared with 2,143,000 barrels at the close of February and 2,054,000 on March 31, 1927.

United States production of Portland Cement during the first three months of the year was 28,790,000 barrels as compared with 27,085,000 barrels in the same period last year. Shipments for the three months were 23,244,000 barrels as compared with 23,800,000 barrels last year. Stocks on hand at mills March 31 were 27,436,000 barrels, against 27,339,000 barrels one month earlier and 23,922,000 barrels a year earlier.

**FACE BRICK:** The production of face brick at 64 plants located in 16 states, including those of the Tenth District, averaged 640 thousand per plant in March, while shipments averaged 686 thousand, and unfilled orders averaged 899 thousand. These totals for March indicated increases over February of 21.6 in production, 53.4 in shipments and 6.5 percent in unfilled orders. Compared with March of last year there were decreases of 24.8 percent in production, 0.15 percent in shipments and 10.7 in unfilled orders. Stocks of brick at plants on March 31 were 2.5 percent less than a month earlier but 0.7 percent greater than a year earlier.

## Building

Cities in the Tenth District, which report their monthly statistics to this Bank, showed increases in the number of building permits both during March and the three months period over the same month and three months of the preceding year. The value of permits for the month was smaller, though for the three months it was larger than values reported last year. The reports in detail showed construction made rapid progress during the month, although retarded at times by snow storms and low temperatures. The figures in detail:

	PERMITS		ESTIMATED COST		Per Cent Change
	1928	1927	1928	1927	
Albuquerque, N. M.....	108	91	\$ 156,957	\$ 113,941	37.7
Cheyenne, Wyo.....	30	26	116,405	123,100	— 5.4
Colorado Springs, Colo.....	72	76	50,265	63,106	—20.3
Denver, Colo.....	630	624	1,739,300	1,320,800	31.7
Hutchinson, Kans.....	94	53	134,563	70,145	91.8
Joplin, Mo.....	48	41	70,735	233,900	—69.8
Kansas City, Kans.....	118	128	83,845	113,230	—25.9
Kansas City, Mo.....	303	500	1,168,950	2,568,475	—54.5
Lincoln, Nebr.....	114	96	259,545	187,167	38.7
Muskogee, Okla.....	30	34	42,400	66,620	—36.4
Oklahoma City, Okla.....	285	225	1,318,496	1,289,258	2.3
Omaha, Nebr.....	124	114	655,365	627,130	4.5
Pueblo, Colo.....	155	110	154,188	149,995	2.8
St. Joseph, Mo.....	72	62	176,980	75,211	135.3
Topeka, Kans.....	118	145	284,107	298,722	— 4.9
Tulsa, Okla.....	437	349	1,080,910	854,885	26.4
Wichita, Kans.....	223	244	520,336	865,185	—39.9
Total 17 Cities.....	2,961	2,918	\$8,013,347	\$9,020,870	—11.2

Statistics of building contracts awarded, as compiled by the F. W. Dodge Corporation and subdivided by Districts by the Federal Reserve Board's Division of Research and Statistics, reflect a very marked increase in construction activity in this District during the first quarter of 1928 over the like period for 1927. The increase in the value of awards for the first quarter was placed at 37.1 percent for the Tenth District and at 6.1 per-

cent for the eleven districts of the United States covered by the report. The value of contract awards during the three months of 1928 and 1927 is here shown:

	TENTH DISTRICT		THIRTY SEVEN STATES	
	1928	1927		
January.....	\$13,317,854	\$11,457,000	\$ 427,168,700	\$ 384,455,000
February.....	13,792,810	16,173,000	465,331,300	394,869,000
March.....	33,173,982	16,342,000	592,567,000	620,738,000
Three Months.....	\$60,284,646	\$43,972,000	\$1,485,067,000	\$1,400,062,000

Combined reports for the three months period show that of the \$60,284,646 of contracts awarded in this District \$21,948,056, or 36.4 percent, was for residential building.

### The Crops

**WINTER WHEAT:** Official reports of the United States Department of Agriculture and cooperating State Boards of Agriculture showed winter wheat came to April with an average condition of 76.2 percent of normal for the seven states whose areas or parts form the Tenth District. This figure was 4.6 point lower than on April 1 last year, and 3.2 point lower than the ten year average condition on April 1. Still, the April 1 condition in the seven states, (having 53.8 percent of the United States wheat area sown last fall), was 7.4 points better than the average for the entire country. The reports further disclose that the decline in condition between December 1 and April 1 was 2.6 points for the seven states, while for the United States there was a decline of 17.2 points during this period. Official statements of the abandonment of wheat acreage, and on production, are not to be made until May 1. The somewhat spotted condition of the crop in these seven states indicated heavy losses of wheat acreage in some parts and moderate losses in others, though an increase of 1,439,000 acres in the planted area, and additional moisture received in April, would in part offset the low average condition reported.

In Kansas, where 13,041,000 acres were sown to winter wheat last fall, the crop on April 1 showed an improvement of 2 points since December 1. The condition of wheat in that state was described by the report:

Wheat condition was uniformly close to or above the state average on April 1 in all the counties of the eastern and central thirds of Kansas and in most of the counties of the southwest. In the west central and north-western counties conditions were generally low and a heavy abandonment is already well established in that portion of the state. Moderate abandonment is probable in many eastern and central counties due to winter killing. Rather heavy loss in acreage is probable in several southwestern counties on late planted and poorly prepared fields. The menace from Hessian fly is generally considered less than the average of recent years although it is not to be ignored in many central counties. Present moisture conditions are quite satisfactory although much of the western third of Kansas is deficient in subsoil moisture.

Nebraska wheat was reported in generally satisfactory condition except in some of the southwestern counties. The winter season had been very short of moisture and a heavy abandonment was expected. The much needed moisture came in February and while generally light stimulated growth and matting the fields, thereby preventing injury from the spring winds. Oklahoma's winter wheat condition on April 1 was the same as on December 1, and 3 points above the ten year average for that state. The condition in that state was spotted and prospects were for heavy abandonment in some parts. Missouri prospects were for the greatest abandonment in twenty-five years. The early sown wheat generally survived the winter but a large part of the late seeded was winter killed. Comparatively favorable conditions prevailed over Colorado, except in parts of the eastern and southeastern counties. There was generally a deficiency in subsoil moisture in the eastern plains non-irrigated sections and more than the usual amount of moisture would be required to make a satisfactory wheat crop. In New Mexico

### CONDITION OF WINTER WHEAT, RYE AND PASTURES

	(Percent of Normal)					
	Winter Wheat		Rye		Pastures	
	1928	1927	1928	1927	1928	1927
On April 1.....						
Colorado.....	70	75	75	79	87	85
Kansas.....	77	79	83	83	86	80
Missouri.....	56	80	72	87	84	88
Nebraska.....	84	91	84	90	84	87
New Mexico.....	60	70	60	70	75	80
Oklahoma.....	80	85	80	88	82	80
Wyoming.....	91	85	94	85	91	92
Seven States.....	76.2	80.8	82.6	86.7	83.6	84.3
United States.....	68.8	84.5	79.3	86.4	80.7	86.8

winter wheat declined 2 points between December 1 and April 1 and on the latter date was 4 points below the ten year average condition. The highest reported condition of winter wheat in the district was in Wyoming, 91 percent of normal on April 1 and 3 points above the ten year average, but with small acreage planted.

**OTHER SMALL GRAINS:** Rye, like wheat, suffered from winter killing in parts of this District, though the average April condition of 82.6 percent stood 3.3 points above that for the United States. Early seedings of oats in southern sections generally showed fine condition during March. The April freeze caused some damage to the early seeded crop and interrupted late seedings in the northern sections. Little progress was made in the seeding of spring wheat, but in the latter part of April this work was showing fine progress.

**CORN:** Some corn was planted as far north as southern Kansas by April 1, and farmers in other sections of the western belt were busy preparing for corn planting when stopped by cold weather. The work was resumed in the latter part of April and indications were this year's acreage would closely approximate the acreage which produced last year's bumper corn crop in this District, though depending on the weather and soil conditions.

**COTTON:** While growers made good progress in field work during March and some planting was reported in southern parts of this District, activities were retarded by cold and wet weather and the bulk of this year's acreage remained unplanted at the middle of April.

**SUGAR BEETS:** Growers of sugar beets in the Rocky Mountains and Upper Great Plains region late in March were signing contracts with refiners and reports indicated the year's sugar beet acreage would be almost as large as the acreage planted last year.

**FRUIT:** The condition of fruit on April 1 indicated about an average crop over the Tenth District. Middle April reports, however, showed most fruits had been injured more or less severely by the freeze in the second week of the month, particularly through the east-central portion of the District. The extent of the injury had not been fully ascertained at the close of the month.

**COTTONSEED PRODUCTS:** During the current season, August 1 to March 31, mills in Oklahoma received 363,000 tons and crushed 350,732 tons of cottonseed, as compared with 583,447 tons received and 497,157 tons crushed during the eight months of the preceding cotton year. Stocks on hand March 31, 1928 were 33,824 tons against 86,670 tons on hand at the same date last year. Manufacture of cottonseed products during the eight months of the current year to March 31 totaled 107,024,273 pounds of crude cottonseed oil, 165,387 tons of cake and meal, 91,758 tons of hulls, and 63,656 tons linters, or running bales. Stocks of these products on hand at mills on March 31 were

15,835,720 pounds of oil, 6,229 tons of cake and meal, 5,430 tons of hulls and 15,269 lintners.

**GRAIN MARKETINGS:** Arrivals of wheat at five markets in this District were larger during March than in either February or in the same month last year. Marketings of corn during the the month were less than in the preceding month but were 253.9 percent greater than a year ago. Receipts of oats and kafir showed substantial increases over both former periods. Receipts of rye and barley, though lighter than in February, were larger than in March of the preceding year. The receipts at the five markets:

	Wheat	Corn	Oats	Rye	Barley	Kafir
Hutchinson.....	1,035,450	138,750	.....	.....	.....	347,100
Kansas City.....	3,607,890	5,472,000	368,000	12,000	49,600	591,800
Omaha.....	1,478,400	3,390,800	1,186,000	74,200	36,800	.....
St. Joseph.....	501,200	1,281,000	178,000	.....	1,750	1,500
Wichita.....	1,260,900	223,200	9,000	.....	.....	9,600

March 1928.....	7,883,840	10,505,750	1,741,000	86,200	88,150	950,000
February 1928.....	6,850,460	13,408,800	1,211,000	102,200	108,800	880,400
March 1927.....	7,345,400	2,968,350	954,500	56,200	23,650	460,000
Three Mos. 1928.....	23,465,500	38,497,950	4,064,000	307,700	386,550	3,039,400
Three Mos. 1927.....	29,243,900	13,179,550	3,044,500	354,600	134,100	2,094,700

**FLOUR PRODUCTION:** Returns from mills in this District show the March output of flour exceeded that for February but fell below that for March of last year. The number of barrels produced at principal milling centers, reported to the Northwestern Miller, is here shown:

	Mch. 1928 Barrels	Feb. 1928 Barrels	Mch. 19-7 Barrels
Atchison.....	113,276	106,857	109,307
Kansas City.....	628,261	587,124	614,154
Omaha.....	117,418	101,276	94,846
Salina.....	177,399	160,937	82,248
St. Joseph.....	101,875	106,954	132,448
Wichita.....	152,415	146,906	180,869
Outside.....	649,835	691,127	918,910
Total.....	1,940,479	1,901,181	2,132,782

Total production of flour at the reporting mills during the first three months of the calendar year was 5,847,067 barrels, compared with 6,168,048 barrels for the like period in 1927, a decrease of 320,981 barrels or 5.2 percent.

### Live Stock

All classes of livestock in this district came through the winter in highly satisfactory condition, according to the April reports of the United States Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates. Storms near the middle of March and in the forepart of April compelled some feeding, but temperatures during the storm periods were not severe enough to cause material losses. Soil and moisture conditions improved and, with widespread snows and rains there were good prospects for grazing. There was a distinctly optimistic feeling, particularly among cattlemen, and a desire to restock or build up herds, although expansion was restricted by limited supplies and high prices of stock cattle.

The movement of cattle into the Flint Hills or Kansas blue stem region, and also into the Osage grazing region of Oklahoma, was under way at the beginning of April, though not expected to reach its maximum until late in the month or early in May. The feed outlook in these two great summer grazing grounds was very promising, with a good supply of moisture. Up to April 1 it was reported 66 percent of the available pasture in the Flint Hills had been leased, as compared with 67 percent to the same date last year. In the Osage country 90 percent of the available pasture had been leased to April 1 as compared with 70 percent last year. Reports from Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico indicated that in most localities cattle would be turned on the ranges between April 15 and May 1, though in some sections as early as April 1.

Notwithstanding the snows during March required extra care and feeding of sheep in Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico, sheep were reported as having maintained a high condition and on the whole about equal to a year ago. Reports indicated a large lamb crop, with losses of spring lambs below average. A number of reports said lambs were being contracted at prices around 11 cents per pound. A large percent of this years wool crop had been contracted at prices ranging from 33 cents to 35 cents per pound, some contracts running as high as 40 cents. Last year the Tenth District produced 47,018,000 pounds of wool.

Farm reports from over the western corn belt states indicate this year's loss of spring pigs to April 1 was less than the average of recent years. While no figures are available for this year the reports thus far indicated hog production would be less than last year.

**MARKET MOVEMENTS:** Supplies of livestock at markets in the Tenth District showed about the usual seasonal decline between February and March on all classes except sheep, which registered a slight increase. The March receipts, compared with those for the same month last year, showed decreases in cattle and calves were 16.6 percent and 15.6 percent, respectively, while receipts of hogs increased 41.9 percent, sheep 16 percent, and horses and mules 17.1 percent.

Reports covering the first three months of 1928 showed receipts of cattle were 3.4 percent smaller and of calves 4.6 percent smaller than in the corresponding first three months of 1927. Receipts of other classes of livestock during this period were larger than last year. The increases were: hogs, 41.2 percent, sheep 31.3 percent, horses and mules 40.2 percent.

Cattle marketed during March showed improvement in quality, which was directly attributed to the abundant supply of feed in the District. Prices of fat steers declined in the early part of the month but the loss was recovered later. The range of prices on all grades of cattle was narrower than it had been for several months. The market price for fat lambs advanced to a March top of \$18.40 per hundred pounds for Arizona spring lambs, as compared with \$17.35 per hundred pounds paid in

### MOVEMENTS OF LIVESTOCK IN MARCH AND THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE YEAR

	RECEIPTS				STOCKERS and FEEDERS				PACKERS PURCHASES			
	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep
Kansas City.....	112,774	15,642	367,499	129,399	28,583	4,600	10,267	14,118	61,010	13,824	324,359	92,522
Omaha.....	110,702	6,728	439,193	239,581	14,645	1,884	5,336	13,760	68,691	5,041	290,953	153,905
St. Joseph.....	33,627	6,040	143,768	164,637	4,149	389	3,152	26,895	24,375	5,350	102,116	109,529
Denver.....	25,641	4,321	66,084	205,259	9,916	2,253	1,002	10,091	9,509	2,015	58,759	20,213
Oklahoma City.....	19,821	6,937	51,903	1,067	.....	.....	.....	.....	12,790	5,868	46,990	566
Wichita.....	23,267	4,741	74,552	7,188	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,463	2,503	71,515	6,620
March 1928.....	325,832	44,409	1,142,999	747,131	57,293	9,126	19,757	64,864	183,838	34,601	894,692	383,355
Feb. 1928.....	353,945	50,590	1,237,539	744,733	76,844	8,843	19,365	71,187	198,261	40,340	1,035,614	409,534
March 1927.....	390,829	52,599	805,400	644,189	80,561	4,833	18,357	80,565	229,329	45,875	630,722	359,552
3 Months 1928.....	1,133,335	153,773	3,402,168	2,054,260	242,989	26,570	55,099	205,123	607,918	117,784	2,772,911	1,165,368
3 Months 1927.....	1,172,749	161,242	2,409,844	1,564,414	247,869	14,186	56,293	286,760	681,116	133,035	1,833,059	955,714



March 1927. Woolled lambs were at the highest level since January of last year, with the March top at \$16.75. Matured sheep advanced about 50 cents per hundred pounds during the month. Prices of hogs showed but slight change in March, top prices ranging from \$8 to \$8.35 per hundred pounds, the same as in February, against \$12.15 in March a year ago. In April hog prices advanced to the highest level of the year, but still were below the price at this time last year.

**MEAT PACKING:** March reports of packers' purchases of meat animals for slaughter showed declines from February for all classes, in line with the smaller market supplies. Compared with March of last year, there were decreases in the slaughter of cattle and calves and increases in the slaughter of hogs and sheep. Returns for the first three months showed decreases in the slaughter of cattle and calves and increases in the slaughter of hogs and sheep as compared with the like period in 1927.

The heavy slaughter of hogs was reflected in an increase in storage stocks of pork and lard. Total stocks at Kansas City on March 31 were 65,721,000, pounds against 53,993,000 pounds at the close of February, and 40,779,300 pounds at the close of March 1927.

### Petroleum

The production of crude oil in the fields of the Tenth District was at a daily rate of 826,300 barrels during March as compared with 830,700 barrels in February and 913,700 barrels in March 1927. All of the producing states shared in the decrease in the daily average. Because of a difference of two days in the month the gross production for March exceeded that for February by 1,523,000 barrels or 6.3 percent, although it was 2,714,000 barrels or 9.6 percent less than in March 1927. Production figures follow:

	*Mch. 1928 Barrels	Feb. 1928 Barrels	Mch. 1927 Barrels
Oklahoma.....	20,053,000	19,017,000	22,558,000
Kansas.....	3,480,000	3,245,000	3,590,000
Wyoming.....	1,767,000	1,531,000	1,793,000
Colorado.....	238,000	229,000	243,000
New Mexico.....	73,000	66,000	141,000
Total.....	25,611,000	24,088,000	28,325,000

\*Estimated American Petroleum Institute.

The March field summary, while reflecting but slight changes from February, showed decreases from a year ago in the number of new wells completed, in daily new production, and in the number of new wells drilling:

	Wells Completed	Barrels Daily New Production	Dry Wells	Gas Wells	Rigs-Wells Drilling
Oklahoma.....	288	37,562	86	50	806
Kansas.....	115	13,191	36	16	263
Wyoming.....	10	1,580	1	0	142
Colorado.....	11	1,604	6	0	97
New Mexico.....	6	85	3	1	100
March 1928.....	430	54,022	132	67	1,408
February 1928.....	425	65,773	179	53	1,418
March 1927.....	594	184,404	189	50	2,424
Three Months 1928.....	1,327	177,123	463	198	.....
Three Months 1927.....	1,709	496,254	555	138	.....

Reports for Oklahoma and Kansas as of April 1 showed daily runs of crude oil to refineries operating on that date were 19,700 barrels greater than on March 1 and 31,400 barrels greater than on April 1, 1927. The figures:

	Plants Operating	Daily Runs Barrels
April 1, 1928.....	55	282,475
March 1, 1928.....	56	262,775
April 1, 1927.....	57	251,075

### Coal

The March output of soft coal in the six producing states in this District declined 7.7 percent from February and 21.7 percent from March 1927. New Mexico and Wyoming were the only states to report an increase in production over February, while all of the states except Missouri showed smaller production than in March of last year. The figures compiled from reports of the Bureau of Mines, United States Department of Commerce:

	*March 1928 Tons	February 1928 Tons	March 1927 Tons
Colorado.....	684,000	848,000	1,013,000
Kansas.....	211,000	220,000	447,000
Missouri.....	338,000	356,000	293,000
New Mexico.....	257,000	253,000	275,000
Oklahoma.....	194,000	208,000	239,000
Wyoming.....	548,000	532,000	713,000
Total.....	2,232,000	2,417,000	2,980,000

\*Estimated

Production of soft coal in the six states during the first three months of the calendar year totaled 7,643,000 tons, against 8,916,000 tons produced during the first three months of 1927. The United States total for the three months was 129,514,000 tons as compared with 169,810,000 tons in the same period last year.

### Zinc and Lead

Continued curtailment of the ore output and lighter shipments, due to refusal of operators to sell concentrates at prevailing price levels, was reflected in recent weekly reports from the zinc and lead fields in the Tristate District, composed of Southwest Missouri, Southeast Kansas and the eastern part of Oklahoma. Shipments of both classes of ores, and their values, during March were the lowest of the year and considerably below those for the like period in 1927. The record of shipments follows:

	ZINC ORE		LEAD ORE	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
Oklahoma.....	22,411	\$856,748	2,246	\$ 162,834
Kansas.....	13,153	500,200	1,737	125,931
Missouri.....	862	32,560	81	5,872
4 Weeks ending Mch. 31, '28.....	36,426	\$1,389,508	4,064	\$ 294,637
4 Weeks ending Mch. 3, '28.....	45,624	1,641,145	7,771	623,255
4 Weeks ending Apr. 2, '27.....	63,938	2,864,877	10,215	1,008,970
13 Weeks ending Mch 31, 1928.....	132,811	\$4,864,423	20,552	\$1,658,837
13 Weeks Ending Apr. 2, 1927.....	180,027	7,962,005	28,484	2,719,226

During the last half of March and the first week of April zinc ores sold at \$38 per ton. Lead ore, which averaged \$72.50 per ton during March, rose \$5 to \$77.50 per ton in the week ending April 7.

**LIFE INSURANCE:** New paid-for life insurance sold in seven states by eighty-one companies amounted to \$63,401,000 for March as compared with \$64,411,000 for March last year. Nebraska, New Mexico and Oklahoma reported sales were larger than the same month last year, while Colorado, Kansas, Missouri and Wyoming reported decreases in sales.

## Business Conditions in the United States

Industrial production during March was in about the same volume as in February and there was seasonal increase in the distribution of commodities. Wholesale prices remained practically unchanged. During the past month there have been increases in bank credit in use and in member bank borrowing at the reserve banks, and open market money rates have shown further advances.

**PRODUCTION:** Production of manufactures was maintained during March at the high level reached in February, and the output of minerals also showed little change.

Production of passenger automobiles and trucks during March totaled 413,000 the largest output recorded for any month since August, 1926, and production schedules in automobile plants continued large during April. Activity in the iron and steel industry was also maintained at a high level during March and April, and lumber production was in larger volume than a year ago. Cotton and wool consumption declined in March, but silk deliveries were the largest on record. There was some decline in meat packing and in the production of sole leather, and the output of boots and shoes in March showed less than the usual seasonal increase. Mining of bituminous coal decreased during March by less than the usual seasonal amount, but as the result of a strike in certain middle-western mines production in the early weeks of April was considerably curtailed. Building contracts awarded were smaller in March than a year ago, while those for the first three weeks in April were in about the same volume as in the corresponding period of last year. As a result of large contracts during the first two months of this year, total awards for the year to April 20 exceeded those for the same period of 1927. Contracts for residential buildings and for public works have been especially large.

**TRADE:** Sales of wholesale firms increased less than usual in March and were somewhat smaller than in the same month of last year. Sales of department stores, on the other hand, after allowance is made for customary seasonal changes and the early date of Easter, were about the same in March as in the preceding month and in March 1927. Stocks of merchandise carried in March by wholesale firms were larger while those of department stores were smaller, than at this time last year.

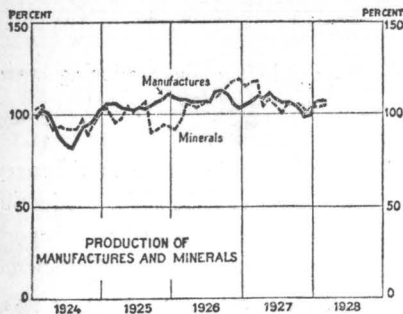
The volume of freight-carloadings showed more than the usual seasonal increase in March, but declined in the first two weeks of April. Loadings continued smaller than a year ago for all classes of commodities except grains and livestock.

**PRICES:** The general level of wholesale commodity prices showed little change in March, the index of the Bureau of Labor statistics declining slightly from 96.4 to 96 percent of the 1926 average. There were decreases in the prices of livestock, dairy products, meats, coal, and rubber; prices of grains, cattle, feed, cotton, and steel, on the other hand, advanced. During the first three weeks in April there were further substantial increases in the prices of grains and more moderate advances in flour, hogs, cotton, and lumber, while prices of cattle and rubber declined.

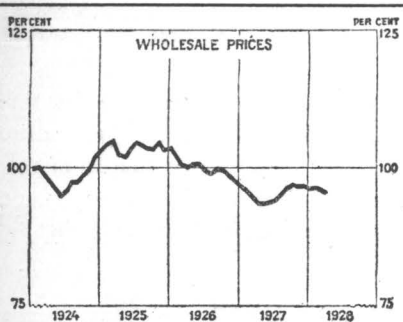
**BANK CREDIT:** Between March 21 and April 18 total loans and investments of member banks in leading cities increased by about \$410,000,000, reaching the highest level on record. The advance was largely in loans on securities which showed an increase of nearly \$380,000,000 and in April were close to the high point of the first of the year. Loans for commercial purposes continued the increase which began in February and notwithstanding a small decline during the last week of the period were nearly \$350,000,000 larger on April 18 than at the end of January.

The volume of reserve bank credit in use increased by \$180,000,000 during the five weeks ending April 25, reflecting increased Federal requirements of member banks and a further net outflow of gold amounting to more than \$50,000,000. Reserve holdings of securities were reduced by about \$80,000,000 during the period, while discounts for member banks increased by \$230,000,000. Acceptance holdings also showed a small increase.

A firmer tendency in the money market was evidenced at the end of March and during April by further increases in rates on call and time loans on securities, and by increases of from 4-4¼ percent to 4½ percent in the rates on commercial paper, and from 3½ percent to 3⅞ percent in the rate on 90-day bankers acceptances. Between April 20 and April 25 discount rates were raised from 4 to 4½ percent at the Boston, Chicago, St. Louis, Richmond and Minneapolis Federal Reserve banks.



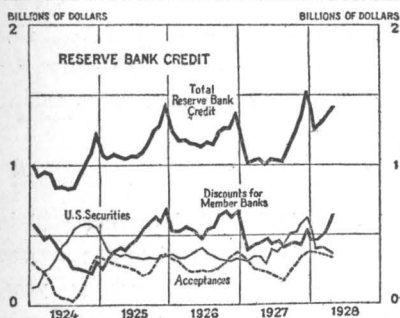
Index of Production of Manufactures and Minerals combined, adjusted for seasonal variations (1923-25 average 100). Latest figures March, Manufactures 111, Minerals 104.



Index of U. S. Department of Labor Statistics (1926-100, base adopted by bureau.) Latest figures March 96.



Monthly averages of weekly figures for banks in 101 leading cities. Latest figures are averages first three weekly report dates in April.



Monthly averages of day figures for 12 Federal Reserve Banks. Latest figures are averages first 23 days in April.