

# THE MONTHLY REVIEW

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

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF KANSAS CITY

Vol. 19

Kansas City, Mo., May 1, 1934

No. 5

**I**N contrast to the banking holiday and prevailing uncertainties of a year ago, business, banking, agriculture, and industry in the Tenth Federal Reserve District reflect a decided improvement for March, 1934, over March, 1933. Gains in payments by check, net demand, time, and savings deposits, merchandise and insurance sales, collections, factory output and mineral production, employment and payrolls, prices of agricultural products and farm purchasing power, and a decline in business insolvencies are disclosed by statistical comparisons.

The dollar volume of wholesale and retail trade was approximately 42 per cent larger than in March, 1933, and somewhat larger than in March, 1932. Department store sales increased 39.9 per cent as compared to February this year, or somewhat more than usual, and wholesalers' sales showed a gain of 10.4 per cent. These increases were due in part to advancing prices, a later Easter, and the low condition of trade at this time last year. Sales of lumber at retail were 23.9 per cent, and of new paid-for life insurance 35.4 per cent, above a year ago. Business insolvencies were at the lowest levels for the month since 1920.

Industrial activity, on the whole, showed considerable improvement over February this year and March last year. Building operations, although comparatively light, were substantially larger than in March, 1933. Flour and crude oil production were slightly under a year ago but the output of bituminous coal and cement and shipments of zinc ore and lead ore were much larger.

Farm work is more advanced than usual at this season. The soil works well and seed bed preparation and planting are making good progress although dryness prevails and rains are needed generally. Winter wheat is in much better condition than a year ago in all states except New Mexico and, although the area seeded last fall was less than the year before, abandonment to date has not been nearly so great. Fruit prospects are, on the whole, good but still subject to frost damage. Livestock wintered well and is in fairly good condition. Calf and lamb crop prospects are excellent.

Agricultural purchasing power showed a slight decline the past month as prices of grains, cotton, hogs, sheep and lambs, and some classes of cattle worked lower. Prices of fed steers improved. All commodities are selling above last year's levels. Farm rentals and wages are slightly higher than a year ago and the supply of labor exceeds the demand.

## Banking and Credit

Combined weekly condition statements of fifty-two reporting member banks in selected cities of the Tenth Federal Reserve District indicated a decrease of 1.2 per cent in loans secured by stocks and bonds and an increase of 0.5 per cent

**BUSINESS IN THE TENTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT**  
Percentages of Increase, or Decrease (—), for March 1934 over February 1934 and March 1933 and for the first three months of 1934 over the like period in 1933.

	March 1934 Compared to		3 Months 1934 Compared to 3 Months 1933
	Feb. 1934	Mar. 1933	
<b>Banking</b>			
Payments by check, 29 cities.....	6.1	39.2	24.6
Federal Reserve Bank clearings.....	15.0	80.2	60.3
Business failures, number.....	27.3	—29.1	—49.8
Business failures, liabilities.....	11.3	—55.5	—67.4
Savings deposits, 44 selected banks.....	2.2	9.3	.....
Savings accounts, 44 selected banks.....	0.5	5.1	.....
<b>Distribution</b>			
Wholesalers' sales, 5 lines combined.....	10.4	42.0	41.0
Retailers' sales, 32 department stores....	39.9	42.3	28.2
Lumber sales, 157 retail yards.....	15.0	23.9	27.3
Life insurance, written.....	27.3	35.4	16.7
<b>Construction</b>			
Building contracts awarded, value.....	88.2	143.4	115.3
Residential contracts awarded, value....	21.1	99.1	78.6
Building permits in 17 cities, value.....	29.9	92.3	48.4
<b>Production</b>			
Flour.....	13.4	— 1.5	— 3.6
Crude petroleum.....	11.0	— 2.7	7.3
Soft coal.....	9.0	38.7	7.0
Zinc ore (shipped) Tristate District.....	— 2.6	82.6	— 0.9
Lead ore (shipped) Tristate District.....	54.3	53.8	— 0.6
Cement.....	53.2	75.9	91.3
<b>Grain receipts</b>			
Wheat.....	21.6	— 9.0	—21.7
Corn.....	— 3.5	91.6	61.9
Oats.....	—52.5	—48.2	—30.0
Rye.....	38.3	— 8.1	53.2
Barley.....	176.2	239.3	72.6
Kafir.....	—14.2	7.4	22.7
<b>Livestock receipts, 6 markets</b>			
Cattle.....	3.7	32.2	24.8
Calves.....	5.1	48.8	27.7
Hogs.....	—16.0	—11.8	2.3
Sheep.....	15.4	—13.7	— 3.8
Horses and mules.....	— 3.9	85.2	70.2
<b>Meat packing, 6 markets</b>			
Cattle.....	— 0.6	27.2	32.6
Calves.....	16.2	65.5	61.0
Hogs.....	—18.0	—17.9	0.1
Sheep.....	7.8	—12.8	2.6

in "all other" loans in the four weeks' period ended April 11. Total loans and discounts outstanding as of that date were virtually the same as four weeks earlier.

Total investments and investments in United States Government securities, which have increased steadily the past few years to record totals of \$357,278,000 and \$249,321,000 on March 7, declined 1.7 and 3.2 per cent, respectively, during the four weeks' period. Investments in other bonds, stocks, and securities advanced 1.8 per cent.

Net demand deposits were 1.7 per cent smaller and time deposits 1.6 per cent larger on April 11 than on March 14.

Changes in the principal resource and liability items of the reporting banks, between March 14 and April 11, are shown in the following table of comparisons:

	April 11, 1934	Mar. 14, 1934
Loans and investments—total.....	\$546,590,000	\$552,572,000
Loans and discounts—total.....	198,329,000	198,449,000
Secured by stocks and bonds.....	61,556,000	62,301,000
All other loans and discounts.....	136,773,000	136,148,000
Investments—total.....	348,261,000	354,123,000
U. S. securities.....	238,302,000	246,128,000
Other bonds, stocks, and securities.....	109,959,000	107,995,000
Reserve with F. R. bank.....	76,361,000	82,954,000
Net demand deposits.....	399,951,000	406,943,000
Time deposits.....	167,439,000	164,797,000
Government deposits.....	26,282,000	30,240,000

**FEDERAL RESERVE BANK:** A continuation of the lessening demand for credit by member banks from the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and branches, between March 14 and April 11, is disclosed by the weekly condition statements of this bank which show the total of bills rediscounted for member banks at new low levels on the latter date. Holdings of bills purchased in the open market also declined and holdings of bills rediscounted and purchased as of April 11 were but a fractional part of the amounts shown by the statement of April 12, 1933.

Purchases of United States Government securities expanded \$10,000,000 during the four weeks' period and on April 11 exceeded the total of April 12, 1933, by \$36,224,100. Federal reserve and Federal reserve bank note circulation declined during the four weeks' period and total note circulation is now \$13,013,065 less than a year ago. Member banks' reserve deposits were 3.6 per cent smaller on April 11 than on March 14 but 76.9 per cent larger than on April 12 last year.

Principal resource and liability items of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and branches as of the three dates:

	Apr. 11, 1934	Mar. 14, 1934	Apr. 12, 1933
Total reserves.....	\$162,014,595	\$182,447,744	\$124,678,642
Redemption fund F. R. B. notes ..	150,000	500,000	.....
Bills discounted.....	307,286	357,187	21,895,491
Bills purchased.....	466,718	1,339,582	6,868,826
U. S. securities.....	93,444,200	83,444,200	57,220,100
Total bills and securities.....	94,218,204	85,140,969	85,984,417
Total resources.....	287,188,284	302,107,587	234,607,445
F. R. notes in circulation.....	107,942,260	109,254,560	123,219,525
F. R. Bank notes in circulation—net	2,264,200	4,278,700	.....
Member banks' reserve deposits....	132,306,908	137,241,044	74,797,916

The discount rate of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, on all classes of paper and all maturities, remains unchanged at 3 per cent.

### Savings

Forty-four selected banks in leading cities of the District reported a gain of 2.2 per cent in savings deposits during March, and deposits on April 1 this year as 9.3 per cent larger than on April 1, 1933. Increases in the number of savings accounts of 0.5 per cent for the month and 5.1 per cent for the year were also reported.

Savings accounts and savings deposits as reported by the forty-four banks for the three dates of comparison:

	Savings Accounts	Savings Deposits
April 1, 1934.....	377,671	\$107,643,506
March 1, 1934.....	375,646	105,289,316
April 1, 1933.....	359,279	98,489,781

### Reserve Bank Clearings

Check collections through the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and branches at Omaha, Denver, and Oklahoma City totaled 5,555,074 items for \$782,439,000 in March. These totals reflect increases over February, 1934, and March, 1933, of 6.9 and 60.3 per cent, respectively, in the number of items handled and 15.0 and 80.2 per cent in dollars. Clearings for the first quarter of the new year were 58 per cent larger in volume and 60.3 per cent larger in amount than in the corresponding

period of 1933. The large increases over 1933 were due in part to Federal disbursements.

Check collections through this bank and branches:

	ITEMS		AMOUNT	
	1934	1933	1934	1933
March.....	5,555,074	3,465,068	\$ 782,439,000	\$ 434,091,000
February.....	5,195,058	3,328,098	680,161,000	443,410,000
Three months..	16,591,199	10,501,274	2,196,145,000	1,369,712,000

### Bank Debits

Debits to individual accounts, as reported by banks in twenty-nine leading cities of the District, for the five weeks ended April 4 this year were, making no allowances for the influence of the banking holiday extending from March 5 to March 14 and 15, 1933, 39.2 per cent larger than in the like period last year. As in February, all cities shared in the increase. The total also exceeded that reported for the preceding five weeks ended February 28, the increase amounting to 6.1 per cent.

Totals by cities, for the five weeks ended April 4 this year and April 5 last year, are shown in the following table:

	FIVE WEEKS ENDED		Per cent Increase
	April 4, 1934	April 5, 1933	
Albuquerque, N. M.....	\$ 9,149,000	\$ 6,714,000	36.3
Atchison, Kans.....	2,932,000	2,319,000	26.4
*Bartlesville, Okla.....	24,874,000	16,863,000	47.5
Casper, Wyo.....	3,968,000	3,430,000	15.7
Cheyenne, Wyo.....	5,226,000	4,196,000	24.5
Colorado Springs, Colo.....	11,364,000	10,577,000	7.4
Denver, Colo.....	142,819,000	111,628,000	27.9
Enid, Okla.....	8,251,000	5,639,000	46.3
Fremont, Nebr.....	3,023,000	1,573,000	92.2
*Grand Junction, Colo.....	2,232,000	650,000	243.4
*Guthrie, Okla.....	1,884,000	923,000	104.1
Hutchinson, Kans.....	10,781,000	8,138,000	32.5
*Independence, Kans.....	4,309,000	1,373,000	213.8
Joplin, Mo.....	7,887,000	6,008,000	31.3
Kansas City, Kans.....	10,710,000	8,907,000	20.2
Kansas City, Mo.....	284,341,000	208,064,000	36.7
Lawrence, Kans.....	3,454,000	2,849,000	21.2
Lincoln, Nebr.....	29,279,000	17,937,000	63.2
Muskogee, Okla.....	9,227,000	5,239,000	76.1
*Oklahoma City, Okla.....	80,751,000	57,806,000	39.7
*Oklmulgee, Okla.....	2,969,000	1,627,000	82.5
Omaha, Nebr.....	140,068,000	97,900,000	43.1
Pittsburg, Kans.....	3,658,000	2,924,000	25.1
Pueblo, Colo.....	15,590,000	10,531,000	48.0
Salina, Kans.....	7,590,000	4,938,000	53.7
St. Joseph, Mo.....	28,511,000	20,098,000	41.9
Topeka, Kans.....	15,096,000	14,697,000	2.7
*Tulsa, Okla.....	91,429,000	55,434,000	64.9
Wichita, Kans.....	34,277,000	26,463,000	29.5

Total 29 cities, 5 weeks..... \$ 995,649,000 \$ 715,445,000 39.2

Total 29 cities, 13 weeks..... 2,498,338,000 2,005,350,000 24.6

\*Does not include debits for one week in March, 1933, for which reports were not received.

### Failures

Business insolvencies in the United States and this District, although showing some increase over February, were in striking contrast to the March totals of recent years. Numerically, failures were lower than in any March since 1920 as was also true of the amount of liabilities involved. In the District March failures declined 29.1 per cent in number and 55.5 per cent in dollars as compared to the like month last year.

Commercial failures in the United States and the Tenth District as reported by Dun and Bradstreet, Inc.:

	TENTH DISTRICT		UNITED STATES	
	Number	Liabilities	Number	Liabilities
March 1934.....	56	\$ 604,283	1,102	\$ 27,227,511
February 1934.....	44	543,032	1,049	19,444,718
March 1933.....	79	1,359,137	1,948	48,500,212
Three months 1934.....	148	1,550,595	3,515	79,577,657
Three months 1933.....	295	4,757,813	7,245	193,176,882



RETAIL TRADE AT 32 DEPARTMENT STORES IN THE TENTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

Stores Reporting	SALES		STOCKS (RETAIL)		STOCK TURNOVER				ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE		AMOUNTS COLLECTED	
	March 1934	Year 1934	March 31, 1934		March		Year		March 31, 1934		March 1934	
	compared to	compared to	compared to		1934		1933		compared to		compared to	
March 1933	Year 1933	Feb. 28, 1934	Mar. 31, 1933	1934	1933	1934	1933	Feb. 28, 1934	Mar. 31, 1933	Feb. 1934	Mar. 1933	
Kansas City..... 4	43.4	23.8	18.3	— 1.5	.24	.16	.60	.48	9.3	5.8	—11.3	17.2
Denver..... 4	41.6	28.9	7.7	12.3	.29	.23	.76	.62	7.6	18.0	— 1.4	30.5
Oklahoma City.... 3	40.7	31.8	2.5	5.6	.39	.29	1.05	.81	— 1.2	4.4	0.3	30.7
Tulsa..... 3	40.3	27.6	— 1.2	20.2	.40	.34	1.10	1.12	3.0	10.4	Even	35.0
Wichita..... 3	34.2	30.3	— 0.2	24.5	.30	.29	.77	.62	4.6	5.3	10.6	36.0
Other cities..... 15	48.1	29.3	5.6	13.9	.27	.21	.70	.61	1.0	Even	1.5	31.4
Total..... 32	42.3	28.2	8.2	8.9	.29	.22	.75	.62	4.3	7.6	— 1.7	28.7

NOTE: Percentage of collections in March on open accounts February 28, all stores reporting 43.6. Collections same month last year 35.4.

Trade

RETAIL: Reports from thirty-two department stores, located in Tenth District cities, disclose an unusual expansion in trade during March and the first three months of 1934.

After four consecutive years of declines, March and first quarter sales exceeded the dollar volume for the like month and three months of the preceding year by 42.3 and 28.2 per cent, respectively. The stores also reported a gain for March over February of 39.9 per cent, the largest ever recorded. Higher prices, an earlier Easter, and the bank moratorium of a year ago are partially accountable for these unprecedented gains.

Merchandise stocks at the reporting stores were enlarged 8.2 per cent in March. This increase, the largest reported for the month since 1926, corresponds with an average increase of 4 per cent. On March 31 inventories were 8.9 per cent heavier than on the like date last year, the first increase for that date over the like date of the preceding year reported since March 31, 1926, as compared to March 31, 1925.

Collections for the month on open accounts totaled 43.6 per cent of amounts outstanding at the close of February. This collection figure compares with 39.6 per cent in February this year and 35.4 per cent in March, 1933. Collections on installment accounts averaged 16.7 per cent in March, 15.5 per cent in February, and 13.0 per cent last March.

WHOLESALE: Sales of merchandise at wholesale also increased as compared with the preceding month this year and the corresponding month and three months last year. The improvement was general, extending to all reporting lines. Dollar sales of dry goods were 46.5, groceries 7.7, hardware 60.7, furniture 115.6, drugs 52.0, and of the five lines combined 42.0 per cent larger this March than last. These gains over the previous March follow six years of declines for dry goods and hardware, five for groceries and the composite of all lines, four for drugs, and three for furniture. Increases for the initial quarter of 1934 over that of 1933 were reported as follows: dry goods 51; groceries 12; hardware 60; furniture 97; drugs 44; and the five lines 40.4 per cent. All lines reported March sales as somewhat above the February volume, the combined increase averaging 10.4 per cent.

Wholesalers of drugs reported a slight reduction in stocks between February 28 and March 31, but the other four lines showed inventories as somewhat heavier at the end of March than one month earlier. Compared to March 31, 1933,

stocks of dry goods were 24.3, groceries 2.1, hardware 29.1, furniture 53.0, drugs 7.4, and all lines combined 19.4 per cent larger. Collections improved in all lines both as compared to February, 1934, and March, 1933.

Lumber

Reports from 157 retail yards located throughout the District showed March sales of lumber in board feet increased 15 per cent over February and were 23.9 per cent larger than in March, 1933. Dollar sales of all materials showed gains of 22.4 per cent for the month and 57.6 per cent for the year.

Inventories were increased 3.1 per cent between February 28 and March 31 and on the latter date were 4.9 per cent heavier than one year earlier. Collections improved slightly, averaging 31.4 per cent of amounts receivable at the close of February as compared to collection percentages of 30 per cent in February and 17.9 per cent in March, 1933.

March business is here compared with that for February, 1934, and March, 1933, in percentages of increase or decrease:

	March 1934 Compared to	
	February 1934	March 1933
Sales of lumber, board feet.....	15.0	23.9
Sales of all materials, dollars.....	22.4	57.6
Stocks of lumber, board feet.....	3.1	4.9
Outstandings, end of month.....	2.4	— 5.8

National lumber production for the year to March 31, as reported to the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, was 58 per cent larger than for the same period in 1933. Shipments showed an increase of 23 per cent and lumber orders booked an increase of 29 per cent. Orders for the three months' period were 3 per cent above output but shipments were 7 per cent below.

Building

Building activity expanded seasonally in March and the returns for the month and three months indicate construction in the District was considerably ahead of the like month and three months of 1933.

The value of construction contracts awarded in the District during March was 88.2 per cent higher than for February and 143.4 per cent higher than for March last year, according to reports of the F. W. Dodge Corporation. Residential construction increased 21.1 per cent over February and 99.1 per cent over March, 1933. Gains for the first quarter amounted to 115.3 per cent in total awards and 78.6 per cent in residential building.

WHOLESALE TRADE IN THE TENTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

Reporting Stores	SALES		OUTSTANDINGS		AMOUNTS COLLECTED		STOCKS	
	March 1934	March 1933	March 31, 1934	March 31, 1933	March 1934	March 1933	March 31, 1934	March 31, 1933
	compared to	compared to	compared to		compared to		compared to	
Feb. 1934	March 1933	Feb. 28, 1934	Mar. 31, 1933	Feb. 1934	March 1933	Feb. 28, 1934	Mar. 31, 1933	
Dry goods..... 6	6.8	46.5	1.9	— 4.6	17.5	56.9	6.5	24.3
Groceries..... 5	1.1	7.7	— 0.1	— 20.0	20.9	23.8	28.1	2.1
Hardware..... 9	24.8	60.7	3.5	10.5	13.5	58.4	2.7	29.1
Furniture..... 5	15.2	115.6	2.0	18.4	26.5	116.3	6.4	53.0
Drugs..... 7	9.5	52.0	2.5	2.7	2.7	33.0	— 0.3	7.4

The totals as reported by the F. W. Dodge Corporation:

	TOTAL BUILDING CONTRACTS AWARDED			
	TENTH DISTRICT		UNITED STATES	
	1934	1933	1934	1933
March.....	\$ 7,705,146	\$ 3,165,116	\$178,439,800	\$ 59,958,500
February.....	4,094,506	1,799,194	96,716,300	52,712,300
Three months	19,657,221	9,129,510	462,619,800	196,026,800

	RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTS AWARDED			
	TENTH DISTRICT		UNITED STATES	
	1934	1933	1934	1933
March.....	\$ 1,084,891	\$ 544,991	\$ 28,076,100	\$ 16,021,000
February.....	895,510	308,188	14,520,300	11,805,300
Three months	3,216,115	1,800,662	57,706,800	39,777,200

Building departments of seventeen cities in the District issued 990 building permits in March for operations estimated to cost \$963,641. These totals, although much below normal, represented increases over March, 1933, of 56 permits and \$462,591 in estimated construction costs. Expenditures in the first quarter, with an increase of 241 permits, were 48.4 per cent above the 1933 totals for the like period.

BUILDING PERMITS IN TENTH DISTRICT CITIES

	PERMITS		ESTIMATED COST	
	1934	1933	1934	1933
Albuquerque, N. M.....	41	45	\$ 32,729	\$ 17,242
Cheyenne, Wyo.....	24	14	8,666	3,909
Colorado Springs, Colo.....	30	35	21,945	11,861
Denver, Colo.....	254	326	156,312	176,192
Joplin, Mo.....	8	16	7,775	5,100
Kansas City, Kans.....	30	29	46,035	12,390
Kansas City, Mo.....	161	106	188,800	66,250
Lincoln, Nebr.....	103	34	27,496	22,862
Oklahoma City, Okla.....	61	55	192,830	58,666
Omaha, Nebr.....	47	51	90,105	56,605
Pueblo, Colo.....	36	51	6,467	5,290
Salina, Kans.....	14	11	3,540	3,840
Shawnee, Okla.....	8	3	6,525	2,450
St. Joseph, Mo.....	16	22	55,400	9,090
Topeka, Kans.....	37	27	20,450	4,725
Tulsa, Okla.....	50	56	74,543	25,868
Wichita, Kans.....	70	53	24,023	18,710
Total 17 cities, March.....	990	934	\$ 963,641	\$ 501,050
Three months.....	2,293	2,052	2,539,189	1,710,623

Flour Milling

March and first quarter output of flour at Tenth District mills were respectively 1.5 and 3.6 per cent short of a year ago and the ten-year average. Production exceeded the February total by 13.4 per cent, or somewhat more than usual and, although lighter than in the like month in the two preceding years, was the largest for any month since July. Mills operated at 59.8 per cent of full-time capacity in March as compared to 59.2 per cent in February and 61.3 per cent in March, 1933.

Production figures, as estimated from the weekly reports of southwestern mills to the Northwestern Miller, follow:

	Mar. 1934	Feb. 1934	Mar. 1933
	Barrels	Barrels	Barrels
Atchison.....	120,546	111,506	129,721
Kansas City.....	510,513	442,179	573,506
Omaha.....	110,015	96,858	105,962
Salina.....	156,690	137,780	154,169
Wichita.....	180,256	148,861	195,257
Outside.....	834,234	749,746	867,570
Total.....	1,912,254	1,686,930	2,026,185
*United States.....	5,588,186	5,119,342	5,671,696

\*Represents about 60 per cent of the total output in the United States.

Flour sales were restricted although inquiry was active and prices weakened somewhat. Bookings were well scattered and largely for small amounts although an occasional round lot was sold. Most sales were for shipment within the present crop year with mills hesitant to contract on a new crop basis as millfeeds were, owing to prospective large Govern-

ment purchases for grasshopper control, superficially high. Buyers who were considered booked for sometime ahead are reported again in the market. Shipping directions were slow. Export trade was of a routine character except for a Government order of flour for relief distribution in Porto Rico.

Millfeed demand was very good throughout the month with the supply tight. Bran advanced about \$4 and shorts \$3.50 per ton to sell on the same basis at the close. Quotations broke sharply the middle of April as demand diminished and grain prices declined.

Grain Marketing

Receipts of wheat, oats, and rye at the five principal grain markets of the District were 9.0, 48.2, and 8.1 per cent, respectively, lighter than in March, 1933. Arrivals of corn, the heaviest for the month in three years, were almost double and of barley, the largest since 1930, were over three times as great. Kafir receipts were 7.4 per cent heavier. March receipts of all classes of grain, except barley, were substantially below the ten-year average, with receipts of wheat the smallest for the month since 1926 and of oats in over fifteen years.

First quarter marketings were also substantially below normal, the various classes showing the following percentage declines as compared to the ten-year average: wheat and corn 50; oats 60; barley 45; kafir 75; and rye 6 per cent.

Arrivals of six classes of grain at the five markets:

	Wheat	Corn	Oats	Rye	Barley	Kafir
	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
Hutchinson.....	645,300	2,500	6,000	.....	.....	26,000
Kansas City.....	3,060,800	1,417,500	102,000	6,000	49,600	95,200
Omaha.....	758,400	613,200	24,000	29,400	43,200	.....
St. Joseph.....	329,600	688,500	204,000	.....	.....	.....
Wichita.....	364,500	100,100	1,500	.....	.....	.....

March 1934.....	5,158,600	2,821,800	337,500	35,400	92,800	121,200
February 1934.....	4,241,350	2,924,200	711,000	25,600	33,600	141,200
March 1933.....	5,665,750	1,472,550	651,500	38,500	27,350	112,900
3 Mos. 1934.....	13,554,550	10,083,700	1,534,000	186,000	181,450	455,500
3 Mos. 1933.....	17,309,600	6,229,350	2,191,000	121,400	105,150	371,100

Grain prices remained relatively steady in March. Cash wheat, corn, rye, and barley declined 1 cent and oats 2½ cents per bushel during the month, whereas, number 2 white kafir advanced 6 cents per bushel, Kansas City basis. No changes of consequence were recorded the first two weeks of April but on April 16 all grains broke about the maximum limits allowed for one day under code regulations.

Cash grain prices at Kansas City as of the dates indicated:

	Apr. 16	Mar. 31	Feb. 28	Apr. 15	Mar. 31	Feb. 28
	1934	1934	1934	1933	1933	1933
No. 1 dark wheat.....	\$ .73½	\$ .80½	\$ .81½	\$ .59	\$ .50½	\$ .43¼
No. 2 mixed corn.....	.39	.43	.44	.32¼	.29½	.20¾
No. 2 white oats.....	.28	.32	.34½	.22½	.20	.17
No. 2 rye.....	.52	.57	.58	.44	.41	.32
No. 2 barley.....	.38	.43½	.44½	.31	.29	.23½
No. 2 kafir.....	.78	.80	.74	.72	.55	.42

Crops

Farm work is more advanced than is usual at this time. Soil preparation and planting is making good progress. Seeding of oats and barley is nearly completed. Corn planting has begun in the southern half of the District and cotton planting has commenced in New Mexico and southeastern Oklahoma. Sugar beets are being planted in the lower valleys of eastern Colorado and truck crops are being planted generally.

On April 15, dry weather prevailed over Nebraska, New Mexico, Kansas, the Oklahoma Panhandle, and the extreme eastern portion of Colorado. In other areas rainfall was sufficient for immediate needs. A sub-soil moisture deficiency continues to exist generally. Green bugs are reported damaging wheat and alfalfa in Oklahoma and eastern and southern Kansas.



**WINTER WHEAT:** On the basis of April 1 conditions the seven states of this District will produce 234,499,000 bushels of winter wheat in 1934, according to estimates of the United States Department of Agriculture. Production in 1933 totaled 137,471,000 bushels and in the five years, 1927 to 1931, an average of 332,227,000 bushels. Conditions in all states except New Mexico are much better this year than last. Regarding the condition of wheat in the various parts of that state, the monthly report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture said:

"Crop prospects are good in the eastern third of the state and fair in the central and south central portions. The outlook is poor in the southwest but production in this area promises to be larger than in either 1932 or 1933. The outlook is also poor in some of the north central and northwestern counties. Prospects are fair in the west central area. Wheat throughout the state is well rooted, but subsoil moisture is deficient generally and surface moisture is lacking in some counties which have not shared in recent rains."

Drying winds and moisture shortages caused wheat in the District to deteriorate somewhat the first three weeks of April.

United States production is estimated at 491,793,000 bushels this year, 351,030,000 bushels last year, and 632,061,000 bushels as the five-year average. The fall sown acreage was 4 per cent below that of 1932 but abandonment to date has been much less than a year ago. No estimate of abandonment will be made until May 1, however, present indications are for an abandonment of 14 per cent of the fall sown area, as against 33.4 per cent last year and 12.2 per cent for the years 1922 to 1931.

April 1 condition and production figures of winter wheat as estimated by the United States Department of Agriculture, production in thousands of bushels, thousands omitted:

	CONDITION APRIL 1			PRODUCTION		
	1934	1933	Average 1922-31	Indicated, bu. Apr. 1, 1934	1933	Harvested, bu. 1927-1931
Colorado.....	72	34	80	7,884	2,412	15,491
Kansas.....	70	37	77	124,012	57,452	175,876
Missouri.....	83	74	80	19,396	16,600	20,225
Nebraska.....	80	59	83	41,190	25,894	62,866
New Mexico.....	49	59	70	842	1,210	3,421
Oklahoma.....	71	49	79	40,172	33,095	52,641
Wyoming.....	72	45	87	1,003	808	1,707
Seven states.....	73.0	48.7	78.8	234,499	137,471	332,227
United States.....	74.3	59.4	79.2	491,793	351,030	632,061

All states of the District report rye in much better condition than a year ago and about normal for the season. Oats are coming up to good stands. Pastures are in below average condition. In Wyoming and Colorado pastures are much better than at this time last year but other states report conditions about the same, except Missouri, where they have declined. Colorado, Kansas, and Missouri report alfalfa making excellent growth and promising an early first cutting under favorable conditions. Sugar beet growers have signed acreage contracts with refiners on virtually the same basis as last year when they received an average return of about \$5.50 per acre. Under Government quotas the acreage will be cut about 10 per cent.

Cold weather in February and the latter part of March killed a large part of the peach crop in Nebraska, Kansas, northeastern Missouri, and eastern Oklahoma, but elsewhere the damage was slight. The outlook for peaches on the western slope of Colorado is good, as are Missouri prospects. In Oklahoma prospects are the best in several years and on April 1 the condition of the crop in that state was placed at 66 per cent of normal as compared to 8 per cent on April 1, 1933, and an eight-year average of 44 per cent. The present outlook for all other kinds of fruit is promising but the danger of frost damage is not past. Spraying is general.

**STOCKS OF GRAIN ON FARMS:** Stocks of wheat and corn on farms in the seven states, whose areas or parts thereof

comprise this District, were 29 per cent smaller on April 1, 1934, than on April 1, 1933, and stocks of oats were 43 per cent less. Colorado and Nebraska reported farm holdings of wheat as slightly larger than a year ago. Holdings of corn in Colorado and of oats in Colorado and Wyoming were also somewhat larger than last year.

April 1 farm stocks of grain as reported by the Crop Reporting Board, United States Department of Agriculture, in thousands of bushels, 000 omitted:

	WHEAT		CORN		OATS	
	1934	1933	1934	1933	1934	1933
Colorado.....	1,242	1,070	7,275	4,065	1,900	1,681
Kansas.....	13,801	22,834	23,967	44,409	7,014	10,026
Missouri.....	2,163	3,304	48,476	78,869	8,485	12,158
Nebraska.....	9,638	9,506	110,992	126,563	12,154	31,160
New Mexico.....	74	365	859	961	209	276
Oklahoma.....	5,957	8,725	3,651	18,789	3,866	5,523
Wyoming.....	663	1,086	290	190	1,883	1,663
Seven states.....	33,538	46,890	195,510	273,846	35,511	62,487
United States.....	114,647	182,935	834,337	1,123,809	271,339	468,009

**WAGES AND RENTS:** Farm wages which have declined steadily since 1928, although low, are slightly higher in all states of the District than a year ago. The supply of farm labor is above and the demand below normal. Demand for help may be less than in 1933, due to acreage reductions under Government contracts.

Less farm land is being rented for cash than in the past and most contracts are on a share basis. Rental values per acre average slightly higher than a year ago.

**PRICES:** The Department of Agriculture reported no change between February 15 and March 15 in the index of prices received by farmers for commodities sold. As prices paid by farmers for commodities purchased advanced 1 point to 120 per cent of pre-war, farm purchasing power declined 1 point to 63 per cent of the 1909-1914 average of 100. A year ago the ratio of prices received to prices paid stood at 50 and two years ago at 54.

### Livestock

**MARKETING:** The six principal livestock markets of the District received 32.2 per cent more cattle, 48.8 per cent more calves, and 85.2 per cent more horses and mules in March, 1934, than in March, 1933. Receipts of sheep at these market centers declined 13.7 per cent and marketings of hogs, including those shipped direct to packers' yards, showed a loss of 11.8 per cent. Marketings during the first three months this year were larger than in the same period last year for all classes except sheep and lambs. March and first quarter receipts of calves were 4 per cent and of horses and mules 7 per cent in excess of the ten-year average for the like month and three months. Marketings of cattle, hogs, and sheep were below normal for both periods, hogs showing the greater and cattle the lesser decline.

Countryward shipments of stocker and feeder livestock from four markets were somewhat larger for all species than in March, 1933. The January 1 to March 1 outgo of cattle and calves was fractionally smaller than in 1933, whereas, that of hogs was 16.1 per cent and of sheep 10.4 per cent heavier.

**PRICES:** Livestock prices suffered their first setback of the year in March. Medium to heavy weight steers, which have been depressed, were the exception to the rule, advancing 50 cents per hundredweight. Cattle were in heavy supply and other classes closed steady to 25 cents lower. Although offerings of hogs were limited, values were mostly 50 cents to \$1 lower with light lights showing the greater weakness. Stock pigs sold lower than a year ago but other classes closed 25 to

50 cents per hundredweight higher. Many unfinished and poor quality hogs were received on the markets.

Light receipts of sheep and lambs did not prevent a sharp reversal of the rapid advances to the end of February and fed lambs closed mostly \$1 lower for the month. Other classes, except fat ewes, which were steady to higher, were off 25 to 75 cents per hundredweight. March top prices at Kansas City this year and last were: beef steers, \$7 and \$6.50; fed lambs, \$9.85 and \$5.65; hogs, \$4.40 and \$4 per hundred pounds.

**FEEDING OPERATIONS:** A reduction of about 12 per cent, or 170,000 head, in the number of cattle on feed in the eleven Corn Belt states on April 1 this year as compared to April 1 last year, is indicated by estimates of the United States Department of Agriculture. The decrease was general, Nebraska being the only state to show no change. Operations in Kansas were reduced 20 per cent and in Missouri 3 per cent.

The Department of Agriculture reported 415,000 lambs in the feed lots of northern Colorado, Arkansas Valley, and Scottsbluff sections on April 7, compared with 500,000 head last year and 590,000 head two years ago. Shipments from the three sections from January 1 to date have totaled 4,480 cars compared with 5,249 cars in 1933 and 5,434 cars in 1932.

**RANGES:** Owing to the mild and open weather, which has prevailed throughout the winter, and despite short feed supplies, livestock has wintered well and is in fair to good condition although below normal for the season. Trading and sales have been limited. Losses have been light except in the dry areas where livestock was thin. Calf and lamb prospects are very good.

Range conditions are reported spotted, varying from fair to good, depending on moisture supplies. Conditions improved slightly in March and on April 1 were the same as a year ago but substantially below the ten-year average. Growth has started unusually early and spring feed prospects are generally favorable except in the drier areas. Nearly all areas are in need of more moisture.

**FLINT HILLS PASTURES:** According to the April 1 report of the United States Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates, released for publication April 14:

"The leasing of pastures in the Osage and Blue Stem sections of Oklahoma and Kansas has been heavier than in recent years, with an increase in lease prices. About 70 per cent of the Blue Stem pastures have been leased. This is a much higher percentage than at this time in the past three years. In the Osage section about 82 per cent of the pastures are leased, which is above the leasing to April first in the past three years.

"The increased leasing would indicate that more cattle would be grazed than in recent years, with an earlier movement of cattle to the pastures. Lease prices are generally about 10 per cent higher than last season but below past years. Acreage guarantees are slightly higher than last year. Pasture conditions are below average in both areas, but have been improved by rains since the first of April. Osage pasture conditions are lower than last season, while Blue Stem pastures are better than the low condition a year ago, but there is some shortage of water.

"The spring movement of cattle from the southwest (Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona) will be about 5 to 10 per cent larger than last spring. Reports indicate an increase in cattle shipments from each state over last spring's movement."

**Meat Packing**

Operations at meat packing plants in the District during March, as indicated by the number of meat animals purchased by packers at the six principal market centers, were substantially larger for beef and 17.9 and 12.8 per cent, respectively, smaller for pork and mutton than in March, 1933. All departments showed increased operations for the first quarter this year over the first quarter last year.

The slaughter of cattle and calves in the United States, under Federal meat inspection, during March and the first quarter this year, was larger and of hogs smaller than in the like month and three months of any of the five preceding years. March slaughter of sheep and lambs was the lightest since 1929 and first quarter slaughter the lightest since 1930.

Animals slaughtered under Federal meat inspection:

	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep
March 1934.....	771,000	534,000	3,039,000	1,242,000
February 1934.....	733,000	437,000	3,433,000	1,159,000
March 1933.....	617,000	398,000	3,602,000	1,413,000
Three months 1934..	2,335,000	1,442,000	11,863,000	3,808,000
Three months 1933..	1,798,000	1,060,000	11,949,000	3,995,000

**Cold Storage Holdings**

A heavier than usual out-of-storage movement of beef, pork, lamb and mutton, poultry, miscellaneous meats, and creamery butter occurred in March, according to the report of United States cold storage holdings issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The outgo of cheese and the input of eggs was somewhat lighter than usual and, contrary to seasonal trends, stocks of lard were reduced.

Reductions in the burdensome storage stock of butter were again heavy, amounting to 21,501,000 pounds as compared with 2,325,000 pounds in March, 1933, and five-year average withdrawals of 8,698,000 pounds. The surplus over the previous year, which stood at 101,000,000 pounds on December 1, is now reduced to 6,097,000 pounds. Record holdings of September 1, 1933, totaled 175,476,000 pounds.

Storage stocks of all meats totaled 771,086,000 pounds on April 1, 83,389,000 pounds more than on April 1, 1933, but 152,208,000 pounds less than the five-year average for the date. Stocks of 173,414,000 pounds of lard exceeded last year's holdings by 111,740,000 pounds and the average by 67,403,000 pounds. Government holdings of pork, included in the report, totaled about 29,000,000 pounds on April 1 as compared with 52,000,000 pounds on March 1.

The seasonal into-storage movement of cased eggs was a third lighter than a year ago and 11 per cent short of the five-year average. April 1 holdings of cased eggs were 16.4 per cent and of frozen eggs 30.1 per cent below normal.

**MARCH MOVEMENT OF LIVESTOCK IN THE TENTH DISTRICT**

	RECEIPTS				STOCKERS AND FEEDERS				PURCHASED FOR SLAUGHTER			
	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep
Kansas City.....	95,423	20,365	*188,603	142,900	24,051	3,001	3,120	15,577	56,799	18,521	*174,581	109,388
Omaha.....	124,657	7,572	198,282	153,668	14,298	1,235	1,839	10,609	73,916	6,337	140,552	118,957
St. Joseph.....	34,863	8,742	95,148	115,071	4,758	391	1,194	6,857	27,317	8,228	91,324	94,459
Denver.....	24,051	4,805	46,649	197,677	8,963	2,654	581	14,168	10,740	2,672	24,752	10,990
Oklahoma City.....	29,660	4,006	31,923	4,911	-----	-----	-----	-----	19,022	3,765	27,883	4,719
Wichita.....	22,551	6,203	27,913	15,583	-----	-----	-----	-----	8,224	3,484	26,228	14,939
March 1934.....	331,205	51,693	588,518	629,810	52,070	7,281	6,734	47,211	196,018	43,007	485,320	353,452
February 1934.....	319,295	49,197	700,574	545,762	43,315	6,844	5,587	50,650	197,206	36,999	592,158	327,928
March 1933.....	250,516	34,729	667,213	729,585	38,867	6,288	5,334	40,019	154,099	25,980	590,781	405,506
Three months 1934..	1,037,290	154,605	2,358,596	1,745,401	154,939	28,846	19,183	158,745	629,439	121,712	1,993,814	1,068,053
Three months 1933..	830,996	121,026	2,306,396	1,814,074	155,644	28,920	16,519	143,820	474,714	75,575	1,991,287	1,041,116

\*Includes 113,707 hogs shipped direct to packers' yards.



United States cold storage holdings as reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics:

	*Apr. 1	Mar. 1	Apr. 1	Apr. 1
	1934	1934	1933	5-Yr. Av.
Beef, lbs.....	55,905	64,745	33,781	62,317
Pork, lbs.....	657,466	733,956	610,240	784,213
Lamb and mutton, lbs.....	2,023	3,052	1,818	2,877
Poultry, lbs.....	74,201	101,776	67,285	77,274
**Turkeys, lbs.....	14,354	19,177	12,765	11,017
Miscellaneous meats, lbs.....	55,692	65,548	41,858	73,887
Lard, lbs.....	173,414	176,044	61,674	106,011
Eggs, cases.....	1,207	90	1,833	1,443
Eggs, frozen (case equivalent).....	1,106	1,119	1,288	1,582
Butter, creamery, lbs.....	15,352	36,853	9,255	14,489
Cheese, all varieties, lbs.....	62,155	67,819	48,806	56,338

\*Subject to revision. \*\*Included in Poultry. (000 omitted).  
 NOTE: Figures do not include "Dry Salt Rough Sides" held for the account of the Government under the Emergency Hog Control Program but do include meats held for the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation.

**Petroleum**

Estimated production of crude oil in this District, as indicated by the weekly reports of the American Petroleum Institute, was 11 per cent larger in March than in the shorter month of February. Daily average production was only 0.3 per cent greater, totaling 676,000 barrels or 30,900 barrels in excess of allowables set by the Federal Administrator. Output, as compared to the official reports of the Bureau of Mines for March, 1933, was 2.7 per cent less than a year ago. First quarter production was 7.3 per cent above the 1933 flow.

The Federal Oil Administration authorized allowable production in the United States for April and May to be increased 83,400 barrels per day over March. New daily average allowables for the states in this District are: Oklahoma, 476,000; Kansas, 122,100; New Mexico, 45,800; Wyoming, 32,400; Colorado, 3,000; and the five states 679,700 barrels. March allowables for the five states totaled 645,100 barrels.

Gross and daily average production of crude oil in the five states and the United States:

	GROSS PRODUCTION		
	*Mar. 1934	Feb. 1934	Mar. 1933
	Barrels	Barrels	Barrels
Oklahoma.....	14,856,000	13,495,000	15,699,000
Kansas.....	3,754,000	3,217,000	3,597,000
Wyoming.....	951,000	893,000	980,000
Colorado.....	81,000	83,000	87,000
New Mexico.....	1,308,000	1,186,000	1,175,000
Total five states.....	20,950,000	18,874,000	21,538,000
Total United States.....	72,396,000	65,450,000	75,302,000

	DAILY AVERAGE PRODUCTION		
	*Mar. 1934	Feb. 1934	Mar. 1933
	Barrels	Barrels	Barrels
Oklahoma.....	479,000	482,000	506,000
Kansas.....	121,000	115,000	116,000
Wyoming.....	31,000	32,000	32,000
Colorado.....	3,000	3,000	3,000
New Mexico.....	42,000	42,000	38,000
Total five states.....	676,000	674,000	695,000
Total United States.....	2,335,000	2,338,000	2,429,000

\*Estimated, American Petroleum Institute.

Posted prices of mid-continent crude oil remain unchanged, selling up from 76 cents per barrel for low gravity oil to \$1.08 per barrel for oil testing 40 degrees and over. A year ago the price range was from 28 cents to 52 cents per barrel. Natural and refinery gasoline prices were weak throughout the month

and closed lower. Kerosene, fuel oils, and other refined products were mostly steady and unchanged.

Field work, encouraged by extensive purchases of promising acreage and important new discoveries, expanded and the personnel was enlarged.

Stocks of crude oil reported to the Secretary of the Interior, Administrator of the Petroleum Code, by companies holding 100,000 barrels or more, aggregated 339,116,000 on March 3 and 341,363,000 barrels on March 31.

**Bituminous Coal**

Bituminous mines in the six coal producing states of the District had, as estimated from the weekly reports of the United States Bureau of Mines, an output of 1,586,000 tons of coal in March this year as compared to 1,187,000 tons in March last year. Contrary to seasonal tendencies, production exceeded the February tonnage by 5 per cent.

Tenth District production for the first three months of the calendar year was 5.7 per cent and United States production was 32.6 per cent above that of a year ago.

The estimated production figures for March are shown in the following table by states:

	*Mar. 1934	Feb. 1934	Mar. 1933
	Tons	Tons	Tons
Colorado.....	473,000	454,000	379,000
Kansas and Missouri.....	570,000	530,000	427,000
New Mexico.....	96,000	92,000	80,000
Oklahoma.....	89,000	124,000	44,000
Wyoming.....	358,000	310,000	257,000
Total six states.....	1,586,000	1,510,000	1,187,000
Total United States.....	38,392,000	31,970,000	23,685,000

\*Estimated from the weekly reports of the United States Bureau of Mines.

**Zinc and Lead**

Shipments of zinc ore from mines in Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma declined 2.6 per cent for the four weeks' period ended March 31 as compared to the preceding four weeks ended March 3, whereas deliveries of lead ore advanced 54.3 per cent. Compared to the exceedingly small movement during the like period a year ago, zinc ore shipments were 82.6 per cent and lead ore shipments 53.8 per cent larger. Although deliveries of concentrates for the three months' period were fractionally lighter than a year ago, prices were higher and the value of zinc ore shipments showed a gain of 61.3 per cent and of lead ore a gain of 29.8 per cent.

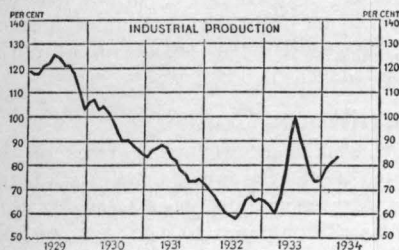
Shipments and value of concentrates from the Tri-state district for the periods of comparison:

	ZINC ORE		LEAD ORE	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
Oklahoma.....	17,668	\$ 530,040	2,632	\$ 111,860
Kansas.....	2,614	78,420	133	5,652
Missouri.....	1,055	31,650	60	2,550
4 Weeks ended Mar. 31, 1934.....	21,337	\$ 640,110	2,825	\$ 120,062
4 Weeks ended Mar. 3, 1934.....	21,912	647,470	1,831	77,817
4 Weeks ended Apr. 1, 1933.....	11,682	207,524	1,837	63,396
13 Weeks ended Mar. 31, 1934.....	68,889	1,946,879	6,526	278,806
13 Weeks ended Apr. 1, 1933.....	69,517	1,207,328	6,568	214,788

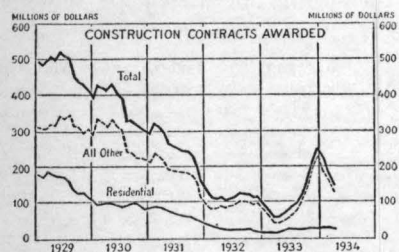
Prices of zinc ore declined \$2 per ton the closing week of March to \$28 per ton. Lead ore prices remained constant at \$42.50 per ton. Both ores closed \$10 per ton higher than a year ago.

## Business Conditions in the United States

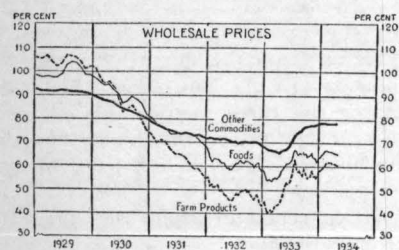
By the Federal Reserve Board



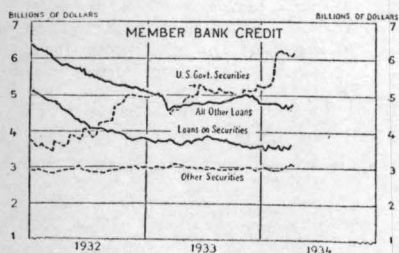
Index number of industrial production, adjusted for seasonal variation. Latest figure, March, 84.



Three month moving averages of F. W. Dodge data for 37 eastern states, adjusted for seasonal variation. Latest figure based on data for February and March and estimate for April, total 142.2; residential, 20.2; all other, 122.0.



Indexes of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. By months 1929 to 1931; by weeks 1932 to date. (1926=100.) Latest figure, April, 14; farm products, 60.5; foods, 65.8; other commodities, 78.9.



Wednesday figures for reporting member banks in 90 leading cities. Latest figures are for April 11.

Volume of industrial production increased further in March and there was considerable growth in factory employment and payrolls. The general level of commodity prices showed little change between the middle of March and the middle of April but in the third week of April there was a sharp decline in grain prices.

**PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT:** Output of manufactures and minerals, as measured by the Federal Reserve Board's seasonally adjusted index of industrial production, advanced from 81 per cent of the 1923-1925 average in February to 84 per cent in March. This advance reflected chiefly increases of more than the usual seasonal amount in the output of steel, automobiles, and lumber, and an increase contrary to seasonal tendency in the output of coal. Production of textiles showed little change in volume on a daily average basis. In the early part of April, activity at steel mills and automobile factories increased further, according to trade reports, while coal production declined by a more than seasonal amount.

Volume of employment at factories increased further between the middle of February and the middle of March by about 4 per cent, an amount larger than is usual at this season. Employment on the railroads and at mines also showed an increase. The number on the payrolls of the Civil Works Administration was reduced from about 3,700,000 in the middle of February to about 2,400,000 in the middle of March and 1,900,000 at the end of the month.

The value of construction contracts awarded in March, as reported by the F. W. Dodge Corporation, showed a considerable increase from the low level of February, followed, in the first half of April, by a decline. For the first quarter, as a whole, the value of contracts was somewhat smaller than in the last quarter of 1933; publicly-financed projects continued to make up about three-fourths of the total.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Volume of freight carloadings showed a further increase in March, reflecting chiefly seasonal increases in shipments of merchandise and miscellaneous freight and a continued large volume of coal shipments, which usually decline in March. In the early part of April, total carloadings showed a decline, reflecting a sharp reduction in coal shipments. Dollar volume of trade at department stores increased in March by considerably more than the estimated seasonal amount, after allowance for the early date of Easter this year.

**PRICES:** The general level of wholesale commodity prices, as measured by the index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, was 73.3 per cent of the 1926 average in the week ending April 14 as compared with 73.8 per cent in the week ending March 10. During this period, prices of steel, copper, and automobiles advanced, while prices of farm products decreased somewhat. In the third week of April, wheat prices declined sharply and there were also declines in the prices of other grains, cotton, and silver.

**BANK CREDIT:** During the four weeks ending April 18 member bank reserve balances increased by \$220,000,000, raising the volume of reserves in excess of legal requirements to \$1,600,000,000. This increase reflected a growth of \$105,000,000 in the monetary gold stock and further disbursements by the Treasury of funds from its cash holdings and its deposits with the reserve banks.

At reporting member banks in leading cities an increase of \$400,000,000 in net demand and time deposits for the four-week period ending April 11 reflected chiefly the deposit by the public of funds disbursed by the Treasury, as well as a growth in bankers' balances. Government deposits were reduced by about \$200,000,000. Holdings by these banks of securities, other than United States Government obligations, increased by \$64,000,000 and their loans, both on securities and all other, also increased slightly, with the consequence that total loans and investments showed a growth of \$100,000,000 for the period. Money rates in the open market declined further in April. Rates on prime four to six month commercial paper were reduced from a range of 1-1/4 per cent to 1 per cent and rates on 90-day acceptances were reduced from 3/4 per cent to a range of 1/8-1/4 per cent. Yields on Government securities also declined.