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

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF KANSAS CITY

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No. 5

A MODERATE improvement in Tenth District business activity during March was disclosed by the reports to this bank. Trade at wholesale and retail establishments increased at about the usual seasonal rate and a sharp pickup in building operations was accompanied by an improvement in retail sales of lumber and a larger output of finished cement. Payments by check increased somewhat more than usual and bank deposits continued to gain. Flour mill operations were well maintained despite light sales and output exceeded the February volume. Daily average production of crude oil declined slightly but, owing to the longer month, gross production was larger. Marketings of grain and of cattle and sheep were heavier than in the preceding month.

Compared to March, 1934, however, the trend was somewhat irregular although the gross volume of business, as indicated by debits by banks to individual accounts, showed a gain of 13.4 per cent. Wholesale and retail trade, handicapped by a late Easter and unfavorable weather conditions, declined 6.2 and 2.5 per cent, respectively. Live stock marketings and operations at meat packing establishments were restricted by a shortage of live stock, particularly hogs, and market receipts of grain continued to reflect the abnormally small crops of the past two years. Building expenditures, other than for residential construction, declined and the output of cement by mills was smaller. Flour and crude oil production increased 2.5 per cent and zinc ore shipments were up 16.3 per cent, whereas lead ore shipments were down 19.4 per cent. Commercial failures were relatively small, both as to number and as to the amount of liabilities involved.

Weather and soil conditions over the eastern third of the District and along the western slope of the Rocky Mountains have been favorable for crops, and spring farm work and seeding operations are well advanced but the eastern area is becoming dry and is in immediate need of rain. Little moisture has fallen in that section of the District extending westward from central Kansas and Nebraska to the mountains and there the soil is too dry to work and frequent dust storms have injured ranges and growing crops extensively. Winter wheat prospects are good in the favored areas but poor to very poor in the dry farming country. Range feed is short and live stock on western ranges are thin and calf and lamb crop prospects are poor. Elsewhere live stock has been carried through the winter in fair to good condition at a minimum expense. Farm purchasing power, which declined 3 points between February 15 and March 15, now stands at 84 per cent of the pre-war average compared to 70 per cent a year ago. Land values and rentals are somewhat higher than last year and sales are more frequent. Farm labor is plentiful, exceeding the demand, and wages are slightly higher.

BUSINESS IN THE TENTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT
Percentages of Increase, or Decrease (—), for March 1935 over February 1935 and March 1934 and for the first three months of 1935 over the like period in 1934.

	March 1935 compared to		3 Mos. 1935 compared to 3 Mos. 1934
	Feb. 1935	Mar. 1934	
Banking			
Payments by check, 29 cities.....	4.8	13.4	11.9
Federal Reserve Bank clearings.....	12.3	3.8	6.3
Business failures, number.....	—15.0	—39.3	—25.0
Business failures, liabilities.....	49.1	—50.0	—52.2
Loans, 51 member banks.....	—0.3	—1.5	.....
Investments, 51 member banks.....	3.1	13.1	.....
Net demand deposits, 51 member banks..	0.1	23.2	.....
Time deposits, 51 member banks.....	—1.1	—2.6	.....
Savings deposits, 45 selected banks.....	1.1	10.1	.....
Savings accounts, 45 selected banks.....	Even	4.3	.....
Distribution			
Wholesalers' sales, 5 lines combined.....	10.9	—6.2	—7.0
Retailers' sales, 32 department stores....	19.9	—2.5	5.2
Lumber sales, 156 retail yards.....	37.1	12.4	—6.3
Life insurance, written.....	6.3	—12.1	1.3
Construction			
Building contracts awarded, value.....	111.3	—4.6	—1.4
Residential contracts awarded, value.....	71.7	29.3	—14.8
Building permits in 17 cities, value.....	26.3	37.9	29.7
Production			
Flour.....	6.6	2.5	4.5
Crude petroleum.....	10.2	2.5	5.6
Soft coal.....	3.8	14.8	14.9
Zinc ore (shipped) Tri-State district.....	—11.2	34.2	37.2
Lead ore (shipped) Tri-State district.....	6.5	2.8	64.7
Cement.....	26.2	—21.4	—15.3
Grain receipts, 5 markets			
Wheat.....	45.2	—49.1	—50.2
Corn.....	50.7	6.1	—33.9
Oats.....	7.4	74.1	17.0
Rye.....	123.0	—53.4	—84.0
Barley.....	377.9	—60.3	—72.8
Kafir.....	—18.9	—54.4	—61.6
Live stock receipts, 6 markets			
Cattle.....	4.7	—11.3	—4.5
Calves.....	6.3	15.2	25.1
Hogs.....	—21.7	—43.9	—48.7
Sheep.....	37.5	2.0	—10.5
Horses and mules.....	—1.3	24.0	13.7
Meat packing, 6 markets			
Cattle.....	8.1	—26.4	—20.6
Calves.....	3.8	4.4	24.4
Hogs.....	—19.3	—43.3	—49.9
Sheep.....	24.9	—11.5	—22.3

Financial

MEMBER BANK OPERATIONS: The weekly condition statements of fifty-one reporting member banks in the Tenth District as of April 10 showed an increase since March 13 of \$11,867,000 in total investments, with aggregate holdings of \$394,039,000 the highest of record and 13.1 per cent larger than on April 11, 1934. The increase for the four weeks' period was largely in United States Government securities but holdings

of securities fully guaranteed, both as to principal and interest by the United States Government, were up \$1,595,000 and "all other" securities advanced \$1,686,000.

Net demand deposits expanded \$273,000 in four weeks and on April 10 were higher than at any time since November 11, 1930, and within \$32,345,000, or 6 per cent, of their all-time peak of August 14, 1929. Time deposits showed relatively little change, being slightly lower on April 10 than one month or one year earlier.

Commercial loans and loans on securities declined slightly in four weeks, the former showing a gain of 3.7 per cent and the latter a loss of 13.1 per cent in fifty-two weeks.

Principal items contained in the statements of the three dates of comparison follow:

	April 10, 1935	March 13, 1935	April 11, 1934
Loans and investments—total.	\$589,380,000	\$578,145,000	\$546,590,000
Loans and discounts—total.	195,341,000	195,973,000	198,329,000
Secured by stocks and bonds	53,500,000	53,590,000	61,556,000
All other loans and discounts	141,841,000	142,383,000	136,773,000
Investments—total.	394,039,000	382,172,000	348,261,000
U. S. securities direct.	252,872,000	244,286,000	238,302,000
Obligations fully guaranteed by U. S. Government.	22,881,000	21,286,000	.....
Other securities.	118,286,000	116,600,000	109,959,000
Reserve with F. R. bank.	101,467,000	101,143,000	76,361,000
Net demand deposits.	492,915,000	492,642,000	399,951,000
Time deposits.	163,026,000	164,992,000	167,439,000
Government deposits.	21,289,000	21,271,000	26,282,000

RESERVE BANK OPERATIONS: Changes in the principal items of the weekly condition statements of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and branches during the four weeks' period ended April 10 were generally small. Loans to member banks continued to decline, with present holdings close to the vanishing point. Industrial advances showed a sizable increase but holdings of bills purchased in the open market were down and those of Government securities unchanged. Member bank reserve deposits dropped \$3,657,783, or 2.1 per cent, taxes and crop financing being contributing factors to the decline. Federal reserve note circulation expanded \$1,556,250.

The statement of April 10, 1935, compared to that of April 11, 1934, discloses sharp declines in bills rediscounted for member banks and bills purchased in the open market, and substantial increases in all other items for the year. Member bank reserve deposits are up 30.9 per cent, holdings of United States securities have been increased 14.3 per cent and Federal reserve note circulation enlarged 10.7 per cent.

Changes in the principal items in four weeks and fifty-two weeks are indicated in the following:

	Apr. 10, 1935	Mar. 13, 1935	Apr. 11, 1934
Total reserves.	\$200,249,646	\$197,421,099	\$162,014,595
Bills discounted.	79,584	114,867	307,286
Bills purchased.	143,248	148,603	466,718
Industrial advances.	959,207	639,083	.....
U. S. securities.	106,844,250	106,844,250	93,444,200
Total bills and securities.	108,026,289	107,746,803	94,218,204
Total resources.	338,974,080	339,098,100	287,188,284
F. R. notes in circulation.	119,512,825	117,956,575	107,942,260
F. R. Bank notes in cir.—net.	.....	.....	2,264,200
Member banks' reserve deposits	173,216,888	176,874,671	132,306,903

The discount rate of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, on all classes of paper and maturities, remains unchanged at 2½ per cent.

Savings

Deposits to savings accounts in forty-five selected banks in leading cities of the District increased 1.1 per cent between March 1 and April 1, and the total as of the latter date stood 10.1 per cent above that reported by the same banks as of April 1, 1934. There was also a slight gain in the number of savings accounts during the month, with the number as of

April 1 showing an increase of 4.3 per cent over the corresponding date in 1934. The totals follow:

	Savings Accounts	Savings Deposits
April 1, 1935.....	404,045	\$120,875,949
March 1, 1935.....	403,893	119,563,326
April 1, 1934.....	387,278	109,813,239

Bank Debits

Debits to individual accounts, as reported by banks in twenty-nine leading cities of the District for the four weeks' period ended April 3, aggregated \$888,293,000, or 4.8 per cent above the total reported for the preceding four weeks and 13.4 per cent above that of the corresponding four weeks of last year. Payments by check during the first thirteen weeks this year totaled \$2,796,450,000, an increase of \$298,112,000 over the like period in 1934.

PAYMENTS BY CHECK

	FOUR WEEKS ENDED		Per cent Change
	April 3, 1935	April 4, 1934	
Albuquerque, N. M.	\$ 8,936,000	\$ 7,203,000	24.1
Atchison, Kans.	2,913,000	2,310,000	26.1
Bartlesville, Okla.	18,870,000	21,306,000	-11.4
Casper, Wyo.	3,644,000	2,978,000	22.4
Cheyenne, Wyo.	6,014,000	3,982,000	51.0
Colorado Springs, Colo.	10,802,000	9,073,000	19.1
Denver, Colo.	126,932,000	108,690,000	16.8
Enid, Okla.	6,984,000	6,659,000	4.9
Fremont, Nebr.	2,133,000	2,413,000	-11.6
Grand Junction, Colo.	2,181,000	1,751,000	24.6
Guthrie, Okla.	1,338,000	1,580,000	-15.3
Hutchinson, Kans.	11,354,000	7,985,000	42.2
Independence, Kans.	1,833,000	3,520,000	-47.9
Joplin, Mo.	7,364,000	6,344,000	16.1
Kansas City, Kans.	10,166,000	8,761,000	16.0
Kansas City, Mo.	250,885,000	220,654,000	13.7
Lawrence, Kans.	2,879,000	2,655,000	8.4
Lincoln, Nebr.	23,389,000	23,009,000	1.7
Muskogee, Okla.	5,636,000	6,126,000	-8.0
Oklahoma City, Okla.	73,947,000	63,986,000	14.2
Okmulgee, Okla.	2,400,000	2,437,000	-1.5
Omaha, Nebr.	118,290,000	111,738,000	5.9
Pittsburg, Kans.	3,392,000	2,983,000	13.7
Pueblo, Colo.	13,060,000	12,752,000	2.4
Salina, Kans.	6,662,000	5,866,000	13.6
St. Joseph, Mo.	23,597,000	22,905,000	3.0
Topeka, Kans.	15,058,000	12,093,000	24.5
Tulsa, Okla.	91,622,000	74,136,000	23.6
Wichita, Kans.	36,912,000	27,139,000	36.0
Total 29 cities, 4 weeks.	\$ 888,293,000	\$ 783,034,000	13.4
Total 29 cities, 13 weeks.	2,796,450,000	2,498,338,000	11.9
U. S. 270 cities, 4 weeks.	31,157,530,000	28,574,015,000	9.0
U. S. 270 cities, 13 weeks.	96,601,760,000	88,637,390,000	9.0

Federal Reserve Bank Clearings

Check collections through the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and branches totaled \$811,967,000 for March and \$2,334,299,000 for the first three months of the current year. These totals indicate increases of 3.8 per cent for the month and 6.3 per cent for the quarter over the same month and three months of 1934. There were declines, however, in the number of items handled during March and the first quarter of 1935 as compared with the like month and three months of 1934, the March volume falling off 4.5 per cent and the total for the year to April 1 declining 6.6 per cent.

The totals as of the dates of comparison appear in the following table:

	ITEMS		AMOUNT	
	1935	1934	1935	1934
March.....	5,305,795	5,555,074	\$ 811,967,000	\$ 782,439,000
February.....	4,910,336	5,195,058	723,156,000	680,161,000
Three months..	15,494,545	16,591,199	2,334,299,000	2,196,145,000

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

Stores Reporting	SALES		STOCKS (RETAIL)		STOCK TURNOVER				ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE		AMOUNTS COLLECTED		
	Mar. 1935	Year 1935	March 31, 1935		March		Year		March 31, 1935		March 1935		
	compared to	compared to	compared to		1935		1934		compared to		compared to		
	Mar. 1934	Year 1934	Feb. 28, 1935	Mar. 31, 1934	1935	1934	1935	1934	Feb. 28, 1935	Mar. 31, 1934	Feb. 1935	Mar. 1934	
Kansas City....	4	2.5	8.9	1.0	-15.8	.29	.25	.77	.60	4.5	5.3	-3.2	15.2
Denver.....	4	-4.3	10.9	14.4	5.5	.28	.31	.85	.78	1.2	10.4	-4.9	16.0
Oklahoma City	3	-5.8	-1.1	3.4	1.6	.36	.39	1.01	1.05	-2.2	2.4	-4.6	6.5
Tulsa.....	3	-3.1	-0.4	3.1	6.3	.38	.40	1.03	1.03	4.7	7.1	-6.9	1.9
Wichita.....	3	4.6	12.4	6.1	6.2	.30	.30	.81	.77	1.8	8.5	8.3	13.0
Other cities.....	15	-4.9	-0.3	6.0	3.0	.26	.28	.69	.71	1.3	0.3	-4.4	1.5
Total.....	32	-2.5	5.2	6.5	-1.4	.29	.30	.81	.75	1.5	5.5	-3.8	9.8

NOTE: Percentage of collections in March on open accounts February 28, all stores reporting 43.8. Collections same month last year 43.1.

Business Failures

Business insolvencies in the United States and the Tenth District, during March and the first three months of 1935, were less numerous and the amount of liabilities involved smaller than in any like month or three months since 1920. There were 34 defaults in the District during March, compared with 40 in February and 56 a year ago. Liabilities amounted to \$301,548 in March, an increase of 49.1 per cent for the month and a decrease of 50 per cent for the year.

The totals for March and the first quarter, with comparisons, as reported by Dun and Bradstreet, Incorporated:

	TENTH DISTRICT		UNITED STATES	
	Number	Liabilities	Number	Liabilities
March 1935.....	34	\$ 301,548	976	\$18,522,840
February 1935.....	40	202,303	1,005	18,737,657
March 1934.....	56	604,283	1,102	27,227,511
Three months 1935.....	111	741,441	3,165	56,084,194
Three months 1934.....	148	1,550,595	3,515	79,577,657

Trade

Trade at Tenth District wholesale and retail establishments increased at about the customary seasonal rate in March. The improvement in retail trade, however, was not as pronounced as last year as Easter is much later and some stores were compelled to close several days during the month owing to severe dust storms.

RETAIL: The March dollar volume of sales, of thirty-two department stores located in cities throughout the District, was larger by 19.9 per cent than in February but fell 2.5 per cent short of the sales total reported for March, 1934. The accumulated total of sales of these stores for the first quarter of 1935 stood 5.2 per cent higher than for the like period in 1934.

Department store stocks as of March 31 were larger by 6.5 per cent than one month earlier but smaller by 1.4 per cent than one year earlier. Collections on both open accounts and installment accounts displayed some improvement over February and were slightly better than a year ago. Collections during March on open accounts averaged 43.8 per cent and on installment accounts 16.7 per cent of amounts receivable at the close of February.

Preliminary estimates, released April 12 by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and based on rural chain store and mail order sales, indicate sales of general merchandise in small towns and rural areas of the country for March, 1935, were about 22 per cent higher in dollar volume than for March, 1934, and were 105 per cent above March, 1933, when they were the lowest in recent years.

WHOLESALE: Each of the five leading wholesale lines, dry goods, groceries, hardware, furniture, and drugs, reported a seasonal increase in the dollar volume of their sales for March over the preceding month, sales of groceries, hardware, and furniture making a comparatively better showing than they did a year ago. March sales of the five lines combined, compared with the same month last year, declined 6.2 per cent. Sales of dry goods were down 18.1 per cent, groceries 1.7 per cent, hardware 1 per cent, furniture 6 per cent, and drugs 5.8 per cent. Combined sales for the year to April 1 were smaller by 7 per cent than in the same period last year, the losses by individual lines being as follows: dry goods, 18.6; groceries, 2.4; hardware, 4.1; furniture, 7.7; and drugs, 4.1 per cent.

Excepting an 8.7 per cent increase in stocks of furniture, inventory changes during March were of little importance, stocks of groceries and hardware being slightly larger on March 31 and those of dry goods and drugs a shade lower than on February 28. On March 31, furniture stocks were 5 per cent and hardware stocks were 8.5 per cent smaller than one year earlier, but inventories of dry goods were 5.3, groceries 15.2, and drugs 1.3 per cent heavier.

Amounts receivable at the close of the month were somewhat smaller than a year ago as were collections during the month.

Lumber

Comparative figures of identical mills, reported to the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, show lumber production in the United States during the thirteen weeks ended March 30, 1935, totaled 2,006,440 M feet, shipments 2,333,346 M feet, and orders booked 2,496,226 M feet. Production for the period was 1 per cent below the same period in 1934 but shipments were 23 per cent and orders booked 18 per cent larger.

RETAIL: Reports from 156 retail yards, scattered throughout the Tenth District, showed March sales of lumber in board feet increased 37.1 per cent and dollar sales of all materials 38 per cent over February. Lumber sales were 12.4 per cent and dollar sales were 25.2 per cent larger than in March a year ago. During the first three months of 1935, sales of lumber were 6.3 per cent less than in the first three months of 1934.

Lumber inventories, although showing a slight increase for the month, were 8 per cent lighter on March 31 this year than on the like date last year. Collections improved during March, averaging 37.2 per cent of amounts receivable at the close of

WHOLESALE TRADE IN THE TENTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

Stores Reporting	SALES		OUTSTANDINGS		AMOUNTS COLLECTED		STOCKS		
	Mar. 1935	Mar. 1934	Mar. 31, 1935	Mar. 31, 1934	Mar. 1935	Mar. 1934	Mar. 31, 1935	Mar. 31, 1934	
	compared to		compared to		compared to		compared to		
	Feb. 1935	Mar. 1934	Feb. 28, 1935	Mar. 31, 1934	Feb. 1935	Mar. 1934	Feb. 28, 1935	Mar. 31, 1934	
Dry goods.....	6	2.9	-18.1	3.6	-8.3	3.3	-24.8	0.1	5.3
Groceries.....	5	5.4	-1.7	0.2	5.3	9.0	-10.9	1.7	15.2
Hardware.....	9	33.9	-1.0	6.0	-7.4	24.8	-2.9	0.5	-8.5
Furniture.....	4	25.3	-6.0	5.4	-14.7	19.9	-4.6	8.7	-5.0
Drugs.....	7	2.2	-5.8	-0.2	-6.7	3.3	-1.4	-1.5	1.3

the previous month as compared with the February ratio of 32.7 per cent and the March, 1934, average of 31.4 per cent.

March business of these yards is here compared with that for February, 1935, and March, 1934, in percentages of increase or decrease:

	March 1935 compared to	
	February 1935	March 1934
Sales of lumber, board feet.....	37.1	12.4
Sales of all materials, dollars.....	38.0	25.2
Stocks of lumber, board feet.....	0.7	- 8.0
Outstandings, end of month.....	8.7	- 2.5

Building

Seasonal expansion in building activity resulted in gains for March over February of 71.7 per cent in residential construction and of 111.3 per cent in total construction contracts awarded in the District, as reported by the F. W. Dodge Corporation. Expenditures for residential construction were 29.3 per cent larger than a year ago but total expenditures for all types of construction were 4.6 per cent smaller. The March improvement in residential construction failed to overcome the losses recorded in the two preceding months, and first quarter expenditures for this type of construction fell 14.8 per cent short of a year ago and resulted in a decline in total expenditures for the period of 1.4 per cent.

Building contracts awarded in the District and the United States, as reported by the F. W. Dodge Corporation:

	RESIDENTIAL		TOTAL	
	Tenth District	United States	Tenth District	United States
Mar. 1935.....	\$1,403,135	\$32,207,400	\$ 7,349,615	\$123,043,500
Feb. 1935.....	817,053	16,616,800	3,478,710	75,083,500
Mar. 1934.....	1,084,891	28,076,100	7,705,146	178,439,800
3 Mos. 1935..	2,740,613	71,234,400	19,387,864	297,900,900
3 Mos. 1934..	3,215,115	57,706,800	19,657,221	462,619,800

Reports from seventeen cities in the District disclose substantial gains in the number and value of permits issued for new buildings, alterations, and repairs in March over February this year and March last year, and during the first three months of 1935 over the corresponding period in 1934.

BUILDING PERMITS IN TENTH DISTRICT CITIES

	PERMITS		ESTIMATED COST	
	1935	1934	1935	1934
Albuquerque, N. M.....	59	41	\$ 38,864	\$ 32,729
Cheyenne, Wyo.....	42	24	56,545	8,666
Colorado Springs, Colo.....	27	30	96,961	21,945
Denver, Colo.....	271	254	231,139	156,312
Joplin, Mo.....	18	8	17,950	7,775
Kansas City, Kans.....	44	30	19,340	46,035
Kansas City, Mo.....	205	161	225,100	188,800
Lincoln, Nebr.....	102	103	35,758	27,496
Oklahoma City, Okla.....	124	61	156,219	192,830
Omaha, Nebr.....	88	47	141,715	90,105
Pueblo, Colo.....	57	36	20,682	6,467
Salina, Kans.....	14	14	23,416	3,540
Shawnee, Okla.....	9	8	2,025	6,525
St. Joseph, Mo.....	16	16	4,475	55,400
Topeka, Kans.....	60	37	56,680	20,450
Tulsa, Okla.....	63	50	108,870	74,543
Wichita, Kans.....	148	70	93,458	24,023
Total 17 cities, March.....	1,347	990	\$1,329,197	\$ 963,641
Three months.....	3,170	2,293	3,292,793	2,539,189

Life Insurance

Companies reporting to the Life Insurance Sales Research Bureau, representing 90 per cent of the total legal reserve life insurance outstanding in the United States on January 1, 1934, sold \$38,030,000 of new paid-for ordinary life insurance in the seven Tenth District states during March, \$2,266,000 more than in February but \$5,221,000 less than in March, 1934. Sales were larger for the month in all states but Colorado. New Mexico and Wyoming were the only states to report gains over last March. First quarter sales for the District aggregated \$114,737,000 this year and \$113,304,000 last year.

Life insurance sales, by states, as reported to the Life Insurance Sales Research Bureau:

	Mar. 1935	Feb. 1935	Mar. 1934
Colorado.....	\$ 4,068,000	\$ 4,106,000	\$ 4,712,000
Kansas.....	5,299,000	5,177,000	6,916,000
Missouri.....	16,718,000	15,304,000	18,944,000
Nebraska.....	4,451,000	4,124,000	4,994,000
New Mexico.....	803,000	768,000	792,000
Oklahoma.....	5,859,000	5,590,000	6,073,000
Wyoming.....	832,000	695,000	820,000
Seven states.....	\$ 38,030,000	\$ 35,764,000	\$ 43,251,000
United States.....	545,450,000	533,784,000	570,835,000

Flour Milling

A steady flow of small orders and good shipping directions enabled flour mills in this District to operate at 63.6 per cent of full-time capacity in March as against 64.5 per cent in February and 59.8 per cent in March, 1934. March production is estimated at 1,960,647 barrels, or 121,762 barrels more than in February and 48,393 barrels more than a year ago. Output of these mills for the first quarter totaled 5,748,937 barrels this year and 5,499,994 barrels last year.

Flour production in the principal milling centers of the District, as estimated from the weekly reports of southwestern mills to the Northwestern Miller:

	Mar. 1935	Feb. 1935	Mar. 1934
	Barrels	Barrels	Barrels
Atchison.....	118,221	102,550	120,546
Kansas City.....	554,867	502,199	510,513
Omaha.....	114,336	99,304	110,015
Salina.....	148,376	146,117	156,690
Wichita.....	198,069	154,096	180,256
Outside.....	826,778	834,619	834,234
Total.....	1,960,647	1,838,885	1,912,254
*United States.....	5,155,654	4,907,282	5,622,822

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

Sales volume was small, purchases being limited to immediate requirements. Lower prices the forepart of the month failed to attract buyers and, although a stronger wheat market developed toward the close and flour sales made substantial gains on a rising market, the improvement was short lived.

Grain Marketing

Offerings of grain at the five principal markets of the District during March, although substantially below the ten-year average for the month, were somewhat heavier than in the preceding month for all classes but kafir, and marketings of corn and oats exceeded last year's volume. Much of the wheat and corn arriving at these markets was under contract and, with demand generally fair to good, public elevator stocks again declined.

Receipts for the year to April 1 of all grains but oats, which increased 17 per cent, were considerably smaller than for the like period in 1934.

March and first quarter receipts of grain at the five markets:

	Wheat	Corn	Oats	Rye	Barley	Kafir
	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
Hutchinson.....	519,750	1,250	.....	.....	.....	1,300
Kansas City.....	894,400	2,098,500	124,000	16,500	30,400	50,400
Omaha.....	342,487	507,271	186,000	.....	6,400	.....
St. Joseph.....	240,000	357,000	270,000	.....	.....	1,500
Wichita.....	631,500	29,900	7,500	.....	.....	3,900
March 1935.....	2,628,137	2,993,921	587,500	16,500	36,800	57,100
February 1935..	1,810,250	1,986,150	547,000	7,400	7,700	70,400
March 1934.....	5,158,600	2,821,800	337,500	35,400	92,800	125,100
3 Mos. 1935.....	6,754,601	6,669,980	1,794,500	29,800	49,300	178,300
3 Mos. 1934.....	13,554,550	10,083,700	1,534,000	186,000	181,450	464,600

All grain prices weakened during March to strengthen the forepart of April as supplies diminished and wheat prospects declined.

Agriculture

Crop conditions in the Tenth District are fair to good from central Kansas eastward and in the extreme western areas but poor in southeastern Wyoming, eastern Colorado, northeastern New Mexico, western Kansas, western Nebraska, and the Oklahoma panhandle. Most of the eastern third of the District received some moisture in March and the forepart of April, and farm work is well advanced, pastures are improving, oats and alfalfa are making good growth, and wheat prospects are fair. Conditions on the western slope are the best in several years. In the dry regions, which have received little or no moisture throughout the winter and are entering their fourth year of deficiency, the soil is too dry to work well and spring planting has been delayed, pasture growth retarded, and growing crops extensively injured by high winds and dust storms. Good rains are needed generally over the District.

Fruit prospects are generally reported as having survived the hazardous weather of recent weeks and, barring subsequent frost injury, 1935 yields of apricots, peaches, pears, cherries, plums, and apples will be fair to good. All fruit was injured somewhat by last summer's drouth, particularly raspberries, blackberries, and strawberries. Peaches were damaged by low temperatures in January. Spraying has been general and orchards on the whole have been well cared for. Potatoes and early garden truck were retarded by cold weather. The Kaw Valley potato acreage now being planted is estimated at 12,900 acres, a decrease of about 11 per cent compared with the acreage planted in 1934. Cotton planting is commencing along the southern border of Oklahoma.

Although the April 1 condition of wheat, rye, and pastures throughout the United States is about average for this season of the year, prospects in all states of this District but Missouri, where the outlook is good, are decidedly poorer than a year ago or normally. Pastures in Oklahoma show some improvement over last year and winter wheat and rye prospects in that state are fair.

The April 1 condition of winter wheat, rye, and pastures expressed in percentages of normal as reported by the Department of Agriculture:

	WINTER WHEAT			RYE			PASTURES		
	1935	1934	10-Yr. Aver.	1935	1934	10-Yr. Aver.	1935	1934	10-Yr. Aver.
Colorado.....	9	72	77	28	83	80	27	80	84
Kansas.....	47	70	77	60	78	82	38	64	82
Missouri.....	89	83	79	85	81	84	73	65	81
Nebraska.....	62	80	82	67	73	87	48	72	85
New Mexico.....	29	49	75	---	---	---	36	64	79
Oklahoma.....	64	71	80	63	69	81	65	61	74
Wyoming.....	41	72	86	35	75	87	40	75	87
United States	69.8	74.3	78.9	76.4	63.8	82.3	68.7	67.1	80.8

Production of winter wheat in the United States in 1935 is forecast on the basis of April 1 conditions at 435,499,000 bushels compared with the 1934 production of 405,034,000 bushels and a five-year average (1928-1932) crop of 618,186,000 bushels. The final outturn for the seven states, all or parts of which are in the Tenth District, is estimated at 168,338,000 bushels, 10,251,000 bushels more than harvested in 1934 but 156,721,000 bushels less than the average production of the years 1928 to 1934, inclusive.

FARM STOCKS OF GRAIN: Stocks of wheat, corn, and oats on farms in the United States and the Tenth District as of April 1 were the lowest in many years. Farm stocks of wheat in the District were down 12.1 per cent, corn 83.3 per cent, and oats 43.6 per cent as compared to April 1, 1934. Net disappearance of wheat and oats in the United States during the last quarter of 1934, although the smallest in years, was about the

usual percentage of the crop. Corn disappearance was unusually large in relation to the size of the crop. The supply of corn and oats is only about equal to the usual quantity fed between now and July 1.

Farm stocks of wheat, corn, and oats on April 1 as reported by the United States Department of Agriculture:

	WHEAT		CORN		OATS	
	1935	1934	1935	1934	1935	1934
Colorado.....	1,097	1,242	404	6,971	1,003	1,900
Kansas.....	14,346	13,801	1,625	23,967	4,024	7,014
Missouri.....	2,554	2,209	8,086	48,103	4,483	8,485
Nebraska.....	5,543	9,638	20,028	110,992	5,741	12,154
New Mexico.....	78	74	184	859	83	209
Oklahoma.....	5,229	5,679	2,219	3,651	3,627	3,866
Wyoming.....	437	663	67	335	1,046	1,839
Seven states....	29,284	33,306	32,613	194,878	20,007	35,467
United States	93,699	116,298	438,180	841,498	208,185	275,425

BENEFIT PAYMENTS: Rental and benefit payments to farmers in the seven states of the Tenth District through the Agricultural Adjustment Administration amounted to \$12,262,657 in February, distributed as follows: Colorado, \$904,535; Kansas, \$3,013,089; Missouri, \$2,389,823; Nebraska, \$4,033,149; New Mexico, \$151,394; Oklahoma, \$1,411,515; and Wyoming, \$359,152. Signers of corn-hog adjustment contracts received \$9,181,441, wheat \$1,710,087, sugar beets \$744,233, cotton \$543,323, and tobacco \$83,573.

LABOR AND RENTS: The supply of farm labor being slightly in excess of normal and the demand exceedingly light, farm wages are very little higher than a year ago. Cash rents for general farm lands are about the same as last year but pasture rentals are higher.

Live Stock

Marketings of all classes of live stock but calves and horses and mules, offerings of which exceeded the ten-year average by 18 and 39 per cent, respectively, were again light in March. Receipts of cattle at the six principal markets of the Tenth District, although 4.7 per cent larger than in February, were 11.3 per cent lighter than a year ago, 16 per cent below the ten-year average, and, with the exception of March, 1933, the smallest for the month in seventeen years of record. The shrinkage in swine numbers was reflected in a reduction in March receipts, packers' direct purchases included, of 21.7 per cent compared with February, 43.9 per cent compared with March, 1934, and 60 per cent as compared to normal. March and first quarter receipts of hogs at these markets were the lightest of record and numbers on farms are estimated as the smallest in about fifty years. Compared to the light receipts of a year ago, marketings of sheep and lambs increased 2 per cent but were otherwise the lightest for the month since March, 1934, falling 15 per cent below the average number. Offerings consisted largely of wool skins from western feed lots as the movement of spring lambs from the southwest did not start until the first week of April.

The six markets received 17,754 head of horses and mules in March, 17,992 head in February, and 14,315 head in March, 1934. Offerings during the first three months of 1935 totaled 51,199 head as against 45,045 head in the same period last year.

PRICES: Cattle prices were irregularly higher, limited supplies being counter-balanced by narrowing demand for dressed beef. Prime offerings were scarce, a few highly finished steers reached \$13.75 on the Kansas City market, a new high since December, 1930, and \$6.75 per hundredweight above the best price attained in March, 1934. Other grades, showing corresponding increases over a year ago, also advanced from 25 to 50 cents per hundredweight over the February close. Hog prices, which advanced sharply the forepart of the

month to a top of \$9.70 a hundred pounds, establishing a new high since October, 1930, closed 25 to 35 cents net lower for the month. Stock pigs were an exception, strengthening 25 cents per hundredweight. Sheep and lambs were mostly 50 to 65 cents lower, with fed shorn lambs and two year old wethers \$1 lower.

FEEDING OPERATIONS: According to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics there were 36 per cent fewer cattle on feed in the eleven corn belt states April 1 than on the corresponding date in 1934. Ohio and Indiana are the only states having a larger number on feed this year than last, the estimated decrease for Missouri amounting to 40 per cent, Nebraska 58 per cent, and Kansas 65 per cent. Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle and calves from four Tenth District markets during March were 12.7 per cent and 27.4 per cent, respectively, larger than in March, 1934. Cattle shipments for the three months, January to March inclusive, increased 29.6 per cent, whereas those of calves declined 2.1 per cent as compared to the movement during the corresponding period last year.

Government estimates place the number of lambs left in the feed lots of northern Colorado, Arkansas Valley, and Scottsbluff sections on April 6 at 400,000 head, 90,000 head less than at this time last year and 100,000 less than two years ago. Shipments from these three areas since January 1 totaled 4,507 cars this year, 4,495 cars last year, and 5,249 cars in 1933.

RANGES AND PASTURES: Most cattle and sheep on western ranges are in thin flesh as feed is very short and, in the absence of rains, new grass has been slow to start. Hay and feed supplies are exhausted over much of the area and supplemental feeding has been heavy. Recent dust storms have injured ranges and been hard on live stock. Unless the drouth is broken soon, the movement of a large number of cattle and sheep will become necessary. The weather being mild, losses have been light. Calf and lamb crop prospects are only fair. Sheep shearing has commenced, with very little wool being sold or contracted. Cattle prices are encouraging but sheep and wool are low.

Leasing of pastures in the Blue Stem section of Kansas and the Osage region of Oklahoma has been the most active since 1929, with 85 per cent of the Blue Stem and 87 per cent of the Osage pastures reported under contract April 1. Prices range from 25 to 50 per cent higher than last year and are the highest since 1931. Acreage guarantees are from 15 to 20 per cent over last year and range from four to six acres for older stock and three to four acres for calves. Pastures, showing the effects of the drouth and overgrazing last season, have been slow in starting but moisture conditions are good and water supplies are adequate except in the extreme northern part where they are limited. Cattle wintered over or shipped in from drouth areas will constitute a larger than usual percentage of the total as the spring movement from Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona is expected to be from 15 to 20 per cent smaller than last year, eventual shipments depending on feed supplies.

Meat Packing

The reduction in live stock marketings has compelled meat packing plants to curtail operations. Cattle slaughter at establishments in the District, as indicated by packers' purchases at the six principal market centers, declined 26.4 per cent in March and 20.6 per cent during the first three months this year as compared to the like month and three months of 1934. Packers' purchases of hogs during March and the first quarter this year, direct purchases included, fell 43.3 and 49.9 per cent, respectively, below a year ago and March purchases of sheep and lambs declined 11.5 per cent and cumulative slaughter was off 22.3 per cent. Calf slaughter showed a slight increase over March, 1934, and a gain of 24.4 per cent for the first quarter. The March slaughter of cattle fell 27 per cent, hogs 56 per cent, and sheep and lambs 24 per cent short of the ten-year average slaughter for the month, whereas calf slaughter increased 15 per cent.

Federally inspected slaughter figures for the United States, issued April 10 by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, discloses decreases of 10.4 per cent for cattle, 11.5 per cent for calves, and 29 per cent for hogs in March compared with a year ago. Fewer hogs were slaughtered during the month than in any month since September, 1920, or any March since 1910. Cattle slaughter, with the exception of last year, was the largest for the month since 1927 and calf slaughter, with the same exception, established a record for the month. The slaughter of sheep and lambs, showing an increase of 10.6 per cent over March, 1934, was, with two exceptions, 1932 and 1933, the heaviest for the month on record.

Animals slaughtered under Federal Meat Inspection:

	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep
March 1935.....	690,796	472,802	2,158,326	1,374,103
February 1935.....	659,987	389,521	2,408,826	1,136,873
March 1934.....	771,244	534,179	3,039,024	1,242,450

Cold Storage Holdings

Despite heavier than usual seasonal withdrawals during March, United States cold storage holdings of all meats as of April 1 were, with the exception of pork, considerably above a year ago and the five-year average for the season. Compared to the average, April 1 holdings of beef were up 71.7, lamb and mutton 20.5, poultry 6.1, and miscellaneous meats 17.1 per cent. Reflecting the light current receipts of hogs, heavy withdrawals of pork and lard reduced supplies of the former 4.6 per cent as compared to April 1, 1934, and 14.2 per cent as compared to the average. Stocks of lard, although 39.7 per cent under a year ago, are approximately normal for this time of the year.

The out-of-storage movement of butter was considerably lighter than a year ago or normally but as stocks were low at the beginning of the month, present holdings are 65.2 and 67.6 per cent, respectively, smaller than on April 1, 1934, or the five year average.

MARCH MOVEMENT OF LIVE STOCK 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.....	96,698	20,858	*108,056	134,872	35,265	5,559	2,740	25,229	37,980	16,037	*103,632	75,977
Omaha.....	80,852	8,745	91,382	148,077	13,630	2,205	705	16,512	51,014	6,540	62,480	99,306
St. Joseph.....	23,813	7,241	48,669	125,291	3,147	373	1,557	21,463	19,351	6,728	46,632	93,033
Denver.....	24,555	5,234	33,888	206,536	6,661	1,141	605	1,953	11,892	4,003	20,919	21,654
Oklahoma City.....	37,084	9,891	29,443	14,187	-----	-----	-----	-----	15,211	7,214	24,951	10,089
Wichita.....	30,789	7,560	18,531	13,625	-----	-----	-----	-----	8,732	4,385	16,615	12,759
March 1935.....	293,791	59,529	329,969	642,588	58,703	9,278	5,607	65,157	144,180	44,907	275,229	312,818
February 1935.....	280,509	55,977	421,571	467,498	61,087	9,264	7,345	46,401	133,438	43,266	341,936	250,429
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
3 Months 1935.....	990,442	193,359	1,210,177	1,561,995	200,841	28,247	19,500	160,088	499,681	151,468	999,504	829,985
3 Months 1934.....	1,037,290	154,605	2,358,596	1,754,501	154,939	28,846	19,183	158,745	629,439	121,712	1,993,814	1,068,053

*Includes 62,994 hogs shipped direct to packers' yards.

The initial month of the new storage season witnessed a heavier into-storage movement of eggs than expected at prevailing prices. Net accumulations amounted to 1,465,000 cases in March as against 1,118,000 cases last year and an average of 1,372,000 the past five years. Present holdings total 1,499,000 cases, 291,000 cases more than a year ago.

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

	*Apr. 1 1935	Mar. 1 1935	Apr. 1 1934	Apr. 1 5-Yr. Av.
Beef, lbs.....	98,180	110,777	55,848	57,165
Pork, lbs.....	627,163	666,598	657,222	731,267
Lamb and mutton, lbs.....	3,206	3,506	2,024	2,660
Poultry, lbs.....	83,174	106,776	74,197	78,368
**Turkeys, lbs.....	19,844	22,973	14,499	11,608
Miscellaneous meats, lbs.....	78,434	89,495	55,631	66,987
Lard, lbs.....	104,861	110,197	173,775	104,880
Eggs, cases.....	1,499	34	1,208	1,573
Eggs, frozen (case equivalent).....	1,129	1,126	1,105	1,603
Butter, creamery, lbs.....	5,338	8,110	15,351	16,453
Cheese, all varieties, lbs.....	62,849	70,156	62,153	56,524

*Subject to revision. **Included in Poultry. (ooo omitted).

NOTE: Meats held for the account of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration are not included in the above.

Petroleum

Daily average crude oil production, of the five oil producing states of the District, dropped 0.4 per cent in March and was below Federal quotas but, owing to the longer month, gross production increased 10.2 per cent over February. Production exceeded that of March, 1934, for all states but Oklahoma, Kansas output reaching an all-time peak.

Gross production figures for March, as estimated from the weekly reports of the American Petroleum Institute, are here compared with the Bureau of Mines' estimates for February, 1935, and March, 1934:

	*Mar. 1935 Barrels	Feb. 1935 Barrels	Mar. 1934 Barrels
Oklahoma.....	15,220,000	13,730,000	15,451,000
Kansas.....	4,646,000	4,177,000	4,064,000
Wyoming.....	992,000	963,000	985,000
Colorado.....	149,000	117,000	81,000
New Mexico.....	1,468,000	1,402,000	1,341,000
Total five states.....	22,475,000	20,389,000	21,922,000
Total United States.....	79,571,000	72,763,000	75,548,000

*Estimated, American Petroleum Institute.

Posted schedules for mid-continent crude oil, unchanged since September, 1933, range from 76 cents per barrel for oil testing below 25 degrees gravity to \$1.08 per barrel for grades testing 40 degrees and over. Most refined products were steady to strong throughout March, notably gasoline. Furnace oils were weak.

Field developments continue especially active in comparison with recent years, Oklahoma and Kansas leading in new discoveries and development. Several new pools have been opened lately in Kansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. About 20 per cent of the new drilling operations in the District are on wildcat locations. With the older big fields passing or producing their limit, operators are desirous of maintaining or increasing their reserves in line with present requirements.

A summary of March field operations with comparisons:

	Wells Completed	Barrels Daily New Production	Dry Wells	Gas Wells	Rigs-Wells Drilling
Oklahoma.....	114	267,155	38	8	537
Kansas.....	95	83,154	28	5	272
Wyoming.....	5	460	1	1	73
Colorado.....	1	1,440	0	0	31
New Mexico.....	32	34,171	1	1	101
March 1935.....	247	386,380	68	15	1,014
February 1935.....	219	119,293	47	16	1,024
March 1934.....	259	114,734	60	15	892

Bituminous Coal

Estimates, based on the weekly reports of the United States Bureau of Mines, Department of Commerce, indicate mines in the District produced 1,794,000 tons of soft coal in March. This output exceeds the officially estimated production for February by 66,000 tons and that for March, 1934, by 231,000 tons. Cumulative production for the year to April 1, tentatively placed at 5,779,000 tons, represents an increase of 14.9 per cent over the like period in 1934.

Output by states during February and March, 1935, and March, 1934:

	*Mar. 1935 Tons	Feb. 1935 Tons	Mar. 1934 Tons
Colorado.....	456,000	489,000	433,000
Kansas and Missouri.....	677,000	613,000	588,000
New Mexico.....	119,000	106,000	101,000
Oklahoma.....	78,000	127,000	88,000
Wyoming.....	464,000	393,000	353,000
Total six states.....	1,794,000	1,728,000	1,563,000
Total United States.....	38,848,000	34,423,000	38,470,000

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

Cement

Cement mills in the District produced 56.2 per cent and shipped 82.8 per cent as much finished Portland cement in March as they averaged for the like month over the past ten years. Output, exceeding the February volume by 26.2 per cent, declined 21.4 per cent as compared to March, 1934. Production for the year to April 1 was 15.3 per cent less than in the like period a year ago.

Production, shipments, and stocks of finished Portland cement as reported by the Bureau of Mines, in thousands of barrels, ooo omitted:

	TENTH DISTRICT			UNITED STATES		
	Production	Shipments	Stocks	Production	Shipments	Stocks
March 1935.....	419	651	2,123	4,299	4,877	21,319
February 1935..	332	398	2,355	3,053	2,952	21,897
March 1934.....	533	609	1,971	5,257	4,618	21,422
3 Mos. 1935.....	1,159	1,436	.....	10,554	10,675	.....
3 Mos. 1934.....	1,368	1,447	.....	13,204	11,348	.....

Zinc and Lead

Shipments of zinc ore from Tri-State mines and tailing mills, during the four weeks' period ended March 30, fell 11.2 per cent below the preceding four weeks' period ended March 2 but were 34.2 per cent larger than in the like period last year. Deliveries of lead ore, which increased 6.5 per cent in four weeks, were 2.8 per cent above a year ago.

First quarter comparisons show zinc ore shipments were 37.2 per cent and lead ore shipments 64.7 per cent greater this year than last. Prices being somewhat lower than a year ago, the value of zinc and lead ore shipments increased only 26.3 per cent and 32.7 per cent, respectively.

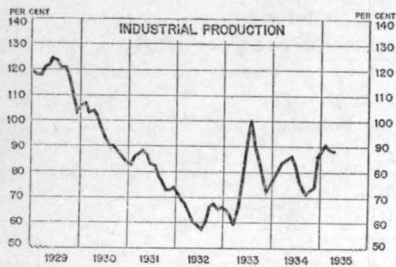
The tonnage and value of zinc ore and lead ore shipments:

	ZINC ORE		LEAD ORE	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
Oklahoma.....	22,571	\$ 586,846	2,807	\$ 93,540
Kansas.....	4,792	124,592	24	797
Missouri.....	1,277	33,202	73	2,421
4 Weeks ended March 30, 1935..	28,640	\$ 744,640	2,904	\$ 96,758
4 Weeks ended March 2, 1935..	32,258	838,708	2,728	89,140
4 Weeks ended March 31, 1934..	21,337	640,110	2,825	120,062
13 Weeks ended March 30, 1935..	94,547	2,458,222	10,746	370,002
13 Weeks ended March 31, 1934..	68,889	1,946,879	6,526	278,806

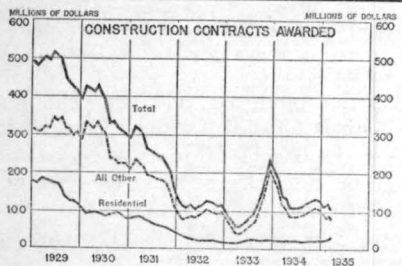
Zinc ore prices have stayed at \$26 per ton for seventeen consecutive weeks but two \$1 per ton advances during March carried lead concentrates to \$35 a ton for car load lots, or within \$1 of the January high. At present zinc ore is \$2 per ton and lead ore \$7.50 per ton below a year ago.

Business Conditions in the United States

By the Federal Reserve Board



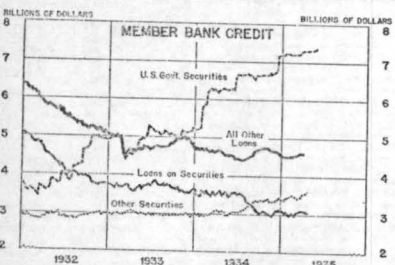
Index of industrial production, adjusted for seasonal variation. (1923-1925 average=100.) Latest figure: March, 88.



Three month moving averages of F. W. Dodge data for 37 eastern states, adjusted for seasonal variation. Latest figure based on data for January and February and estimate for March: total, 107.5; residential, 28.6; all other, 78.9.



Indexes of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. (1926=100.) By months, 1929 to 1931; by weeks, 1932 to date. Latest figure, April 20: farm products, 81.8; foods, 85.3; other commodities, 77.3.



Wednesday figures for reporting member banks in 91 leading cities. Latest figures are for April 17.

Volume of industrial production, which usually increases somewhat at this season, showed little change in March. Building activity in the residential field increased in March and the first half of April, reflecting in part seasonal factors. Wholesale prices of farm products and foods, after declining in March, showed a considerable increase in the first three weeks of April.

PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT: The Federal Reserve Board's adjusted index of industrial production, which makes allowance for changes in the number of working days and for usual seasonal variations, was 88 per cent of the 1923-1925 average in March as compared with 89 per cent in February and 90 per cent in January. Steel production, after declining in the latter part of February, showed little change during March and the first three weeks of April. Output of automobiles increased further and was larger than in the corresponding period of any other year since 1929. In the cotton textile industry daily average output declined in March and, according to trade reports, showed a further considerable decrease in the early part of April. Activity at woolen mills also decreased somewhat in March while shoe production showed little change. Activity in the meat packing industry in March, as in other recent months, was at a lower level than a year ago. Output of bituminous coal declined sharply in the early part of April, following an increase earlier in the year.

Factory employment and payrolls increased between the middle of February and the middle of March by somewhat more than the usual seasonal amount. The most marked increases were in industries producing machinery, furniture, and clothing, while employment in industries producing textile fabrics and foods showed a decline.

Value of construction contracts awarded for residential building increased in March and the first half of April, according to reports by the F. W. Dodge Corporation, while contracts for public projects continued at a lower level than a year ago.

DISTRIBUTION: Distribution of commodities by rail showed little change in March; in the early part of April, however, shipments declined, reflecting a sharp reduction in loadings of coal. Department store sales increased from February to March by more than the estimated seasonal amount.

COMMODITY PRICES: The general level of wholesale commodity prices, as measured by the index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, advanced from 78.8 per cent of the 1926 average in the week ending March 23, to 80.3 per cent in the week ending April 20, reflecting chiefly advances in the prices of farm products and foods. The increase in the general index followed a decline from a level of 79.6 per cent in the early part of March.

BANK CREDIT: During the four weeks ended April 17 member bank balances with the Federal reserve banks increased by \$140,000,000 and excess reserves rose to \$2,100,000,000. This increase reflected gold imports of \$120,000,000 and disbursement of \$105,000,000 by the Treasury from the balance with the reserve banks, offset in part by an increase of \$60,000,000 in the demand for currency.

Total loans and investments of weekly reporting member banks in leading cities increased by \$150,000,000 in the four weeks ended April 17. Loans on securities declined somewhat during this period, while other loans and holdings of investments increased. Net demand deposits of these banks increased by \$380,000,000.

The rate for call money on the New York Stock Exchange was reduced in April to $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent from the 1 per cent level that had been in effect for more than a year. Quotations for 90-day time money were also lowered to $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent, and there was a reduction in rates on acceptances of the longer maturities.