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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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WARMER weather and general rains throughout the Tenth District at the close of April and early in May materially improved crop prospects, providing more favorable growing conditions and needed moisture supplies for fall sown grains and spring planted crops, the May 1 conditions of which were generally somewhat below a year ago. Seeding operations, which had been delayed by the continued dry weather, were resumed and were progressing rapidly following the rains. A substantial increase in the production of winter wheat in this District, as indicated by the May 1 condition, reflected an increase in the acreage seeded last fall and a lower percentage of abandonment this spring, although abandonment was excessive in the western Great Plains area and the indicated production for the District was substantially below normal. Low winter temperatures and early April frosts have damaged the fruit crops. The Department of Agriculture reported that the cash income received by farmers from the sale of farm products during the first quarter of 1936 increased 20 per cent and total cash income increased 7 per cent compared to the first quarter of 1935, despite a slight decline in prices of farm products.

General business activity in the Tenth District showed little change from March to April but was well maintained above the levels of a year ago, as indicated by reports showing a slight increase in debits to individual accounts in banks and a slight decrease in department store sales and wholesale trade during the month compared to increases of 10.7 per cent in bank debits, 8.4 per cent in retail trade, and 9.2 per cent in wholesale trade over April, 1935. Retail lumber sales and building operations showed further moderate increases during April and continued at a level substantially above last year.

The production of flour, crude petroleum, and bituminous coal declined seasonally during April, but the production of petroleum and coal was above that of a year ago. Shipments of zinc ore showed an increase, while shipments of lead ore decreased. Packers' purchases of live stock indicated a decline in meat packing operations, with the slaughter of calves and sheep smaller and the slaughter of cattle and hogs greater than in April of last year. Marketings of grain and live stock during April were generally somewhat smaller than in March, but there was a further increase in the countryward movement of stocker and feeder live stock during the month and a substantial increase in grain receipts compared to April, 1935.

Member Bank Operations

Loans and discounts of fifty-two reporting member banks in the Tenth District increased 2.2 per cent during the four weeks ended May 6, reflecting principally an increase in "all other" loans, which include loans for commercial, industrial, and agricultural purposes. Investments, following an increase during March, declined slightly during the four weeks, owing chiefly to a decrease in holdings of United States Government

BUSINESS IN THE TENTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT
Percentages of Increase, or Decrease (—), for April 1936 over March 1936 and April 1935 and for the first four months of 1936 over the like period in 1935.

	April 1936 compared to		4 Mos. 1936 compared to
	Mar. 1936	Apr. 1935	4 Mos. 1935
Banking			
Payments by check, 29 cities.....	1.4	10.7	11.8
Federal Reserve Bank check collections..	— 4.0	6.0	8.6
Business failures, number.....	—25.5	—12.5	14.0
Business failures, liabilities.....	—86.8	—67.9	77.1
Loans, 52 member banks.....	2.2	12.8	.....
Investments, 52 member banks.....	— 0.7	— 0.2	.....
Adjusted dem. depts., 52 member banks..	0.3	6.8	.....
Time deposits, 52 member banks.....	— 0.5	— 1.7	.....
Savings deposits, 45 selected banks.....	— 0.3	2.3	.....
Savings accounts, 45 selected banks.....	Even	1.0	.....
Distribution			
Wholesalers' sales, 5 lines combined.....	— 3.3	9.2	8.5
Retailers' sales, 32 department stores....	— 0.2	8.4	8.2
Lumber sales, 158 retail yards.....	11.7	70.2	58.5
Life insurance, written.....	— 4.9	— 2.5	— 8.2
Construction			
Building contracts awarded, value.....	4.0	162.0	54.8
Residential contracts awarded, value.....	— 4.7	75.1	89.2
Building permits in 17 cities, value.....	12.7	91.0	145.6
Production			
Flour.....	— 1.9	—10.4	— 4.8
Crude petroleum.....	— 4.3	5.0	6.6
Soft coal.....	—17.1	25.5	25.3
Zinc ore (shipped) Tri-State district.....	6.1	35.6	22.2
Lead ore (shipped) Tri-State district.....	—47.9	— 1.4	22.8
Cement.....	78.2	79.8	33.3
Grain receipts, 5 markets			
Wheat.....	—38.0	—24.0	41.9
Corn.....	23.1	59.6	52.2
Oats.....	—47.9	68.3	90.5
Live stock receipts, 6 markets			
Cattle.....	— 5.6	— 5.2	Even
Calves.....	— 1.1	—18.5	—16.1
Hogs.....	—12.2	0.5	14.7
Sheep.....	— 1.6	—17.9	— 0.1
Horses and mules.....	—52.4	—39.6	—18.7
Meat packing, 6 markets			
Cattle.....	— 2.6	9.5	16.9
Calves.....	—10.6	—20.0	—11.3
Hogs.....	— 7.5	5.7	15.5
Sheep.....	—10.5	—30.6	2.1
Stocker and feeder shipments, 4 markets			
Cattle.....	0.4	—21.0	—16.5
Calves.....	14.2	—56.9	—44.3
Hogs.....	3.7	—48.7	—43.4
Sheep.....	61.7	22.6	—24.4

obligations. Loans and discounts on May 6 were 12.8 per cent greater and investments fractionally smaller than on May 8, 1935. Reserves with the Federal Reserve Bank, which had decreased during March, largely as a result of Treasury operations in connection with tax collections and receipts from the sale of new securities, increased 10.8 per cent from April 8 to May 6 to a level but slightly lower than a year ago.

Adjusted demand deposits increased fractionally during the four weeks ended May 6 and there was a slight increase in

balances held for domestic banks, which had declined during March. Time deposits and United States Government deposits showed little change between April 8 and May 6 and slight decreases compared to a year ago. Adjusted demand deposits on May 6 were 6.8 per cent and inter-bank deposits of domestic banks 9.8 per cent greater than on May 8, 1935.

The principal resource and liability items of the consolidated weekly condition statements of the fifty-two reporting banks, for the three dates of comparison:

	May 6, 1936	April 8, 1936	May 8, 1935
Loans and investments—total..	\$628,139,000	\$626,137,000	\$603,604,000
Loans and discounts—total.....	222,375,000	217,620,000	197,168,000
Secured by stocks and bonds	49,303,000	48,283,000	47,019,000
All other loans and discounts	173,072,000	169,337,000	150,149,000
Investments—total.....	405,764,000	408,517,000	406,436,000
U. S. securities direct.....	237,243,000	244,629,000	255,845,000
Obligations fully guaranteed by the U. S. Government..	43,347,000	42,420,000	28,269,000
Other securities.....	125,174,000	121,468,000	122,322,000
Reserve with F. R. Bank.....	114,424,000	103,254,000	116,669,000
Demand deposits—adjusted.....	433,343,000	432,037,000	405,909,000
Time deposits.....	144,091,000	144,815,000	146,627,000
U. S. Government deposits.....	18,652,000	18,442,000	19,296,000
Inter-bank deposits:			
Domestic banks.....	354,697,000	349,290,000	323,026,000
Foreign banks.....	134,000	118,000	163,000

Reserve Bank Operations

Holdings of bills discounted and bills purchased, although larger than a year ago, continued at a low level during the four weeks ended May 6. Industrial advances reached their highest level on April 15, when they totaled \$1,221,760, then declined to a point on May 6 slightly below a year ago. Holdings of United States Government obligations were unchanged from April 8 to May 6 and were 9.4 per cent greater than on May 8, 1935.

Federal Reserve note circulation continued to increase during the four weeks ended May 6 and on that reporting date was 21.1 per cent greater than on the corresponding date of last year. Member banks' reserve deposits, which had declined in March, increased 8.3 per cent from April 8 to May 6 but were 8.2 per cent below the level of May 8, 1935.

The principal resource and liability items of the weekly condition statements of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and branches, for the three dates of comparison:

	May 6, 1936	April 8, 1936	May 8, 1935
Total reserves.....	\$241,564,938	\$221,706,376	\$211,951,631
Bills discounted.....	141,270	379,526	106,142
Bills purchased.....	133,256	132,904	126,779
Industrial advances.....	943,118	1,164,431	962,180
U. S. securities.....	116,844,200	116,844,200	106,844,250
Total bills and securities.....	118,242,844	118,702,061	108,039,351
Total resources.....	394,467,064	373,210,736	352,394,658
F. R. notes in circulation.....	146,361,475	144,928,375	120,814,525
Member banks' reserve deposits	173,505,066	160,272,195	189,015,611

The discount rate of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, on all classes of paper and all maturities, remained unchanged at 2 per cent.

Reserve Bank Check Collections

The dollar volume of check collections through this bank and branches during April decreased 4 per cent from the total of the preceding month but exceeded the dollar volume in April, 1935, by 6 per cent. Transit operations for the first four months of 1936 increased 8.6 per cent in dollar volume and 10.8 per cent in the number of items handled compared to the first four months of 1935.

Check collections through the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and branches at Omaha, Denver, and Oklahoma City:

	ITEMS		AMOUNT	
	1936	1935	1936	1935
April.....	5,984,869	5,341,879	\$ 857,426,000	\$ 809,243,000
March.....	6,188,634	5,395,795	892,690,000	811,967,000
Four months.....	23,083,948	20,836,424	3,413,464,000	3,143,542,000

Bank Debits

Debits by banks to individual accounts in twenty-nine reporting cities in the District increased 1.4 per cent during the four weeks ended April 29 and were 10.7 per cent greater than during the corresponding four-week period in 1935. Debits for the first seventeen weeks of 1936 exceeded the total for the same period in 1935 by 11.8 per cent.

PAYMENTS BY CHECK

	FOUR WEEKS ENDED		Per cent Change
	April 29, 1936	May 1, 1935	
Albuquerque, N. M.....	\$ 10,233,000	\$ 9,460,000	8.2
Atchison, Kans.....	2,739,000	3,038,000	— 9.8
Bartlesville, Okla.....	23,316,000	19,556,000	19.2
Casper, Wyo.....	4,561,000	4,070,000	12.1
Cheyenne, Wyo.....	7,164,000	6,254,000	14.6
Colorado Springs, Colo.....	12,781,000	10,470,000	22.1
Denver, Colo.....	133,559,000	123,758,000	7.9
*Emporia, Kans.....	2,929,000	.....	.....
Enid, Okla.....	7,618,000	7,993,000	— 4.7
Fremont, Nebr.....	2,499,000	2,337,000	6.9
Grand Junction, Colo.....	2,743,000	2,099,000	30.7
Guthrie, Okla.....	1,462,000	1,314,000	11.3
Hutchinson, Kans.....	9,054,000	10,088,000	— 10.2
Independence, Kans.....	2,242,000	1,849,000	21.3
Joplin, Mo.....	8,524,000	7,508,000	13.5
Kansas City, Kans.....	11,832,000	10,191,000	16.1
Kansas City, Mo.....	260,378,000	254,508,000	2.3
Lawrence, Kans.....	2,800,000	2,960,000	— 5.4
Lincoln, Nebr.....	24,325,000	21,960,000	10.8
Muskogee, Okla.....	7,292,000	5,950,000	22.6
Oklahoma City, Okla.....	88,389,000	72,744,000	21.5
Okmulgee, Okla.....	2,726,000	2,713,000	0.5
Omaha, Nebr.....	139,826,000	117,089,000	19.4
Pittsburg, Kans.....	3,439,000	3,474,000	— 1.0
Pueblo, Colo.....	18,555,000	12,858,000	44.3
Salina, Kans.....	6,285,000	7,205,000	— 12.8
St. Joseph, Mo.....	25,196,000	24,244,000	3.9
Topeka, Kans.....	14,797,000	14,798,000	Even
Tulsa, Okla.....	118,946,000	98,549,000	20.7
Wichita, Kans.....	36,947,000	35,094,000	5.3
Total 29 cities, 4 weeks.....	\$ 990,228,000	\$ 894,131,000	10.7
Total 29 cities, 17 weeks.....	4,127,816,000	3,690,581,000	11.8
U. S. 273 cities, 4 weeks.....	33,863,639,000	31,121,422,000	8.8
U. S. 273 cities, 17 weeks.....	147,420,623,000	127,392,945,000	15.7

*Not included in totals.

Savings

Savings deposits at forty-five selected banks in leading cities of the District declined slightly during April but on May 1 were 2.3 per cent greater than a year ago. There was little change in the number of savings accounts during the month and an increase of 1 per cent over the number on May 1, 1935.

Savings accounts and savings deposits reported by the forty-five banks:

	Savings Accounts	Savings Deposits
May 1, 1936.....	408,715	\$125,008,400
April 1, 1936.....	408,653	125,327,167
May 1, 1935.....	404,500	122,148,979

Business Failures

The number and the amount of liabilities involved in commercial failures in the Tenth District, following increases in March, declined during April to the low levels which have obtained generally the past two years, although there were increases during the first four months of 1936 compared to the same period in 1935 owing to increases in January and March.

Business failures in the Tenth District and the United States, reported by Dun and Bradstreet, Incorporated:

	TENTH DISTRICT		UNITED STATES	
	Number	Liabilities	Number	Liabilities
April 1936.....	35	\$ 226,000	830	\$14,157,000
March 1936.....	47	1,709,000	946	16,271,000
April 1935.....	40	704,000	1,083	16,529,000
Four months 1936.....	171	2,543,000	3,709	62,621,000
Four months 1935.....	150	1,436,000	4,125	61,710,000

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

In Percentages of Increase or Decrease

Stores Reporting	SALES		STOCKS (RETAIL)		STOCK TURNOVER				ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE		AMOUNTS COLLECTED		
	compared to		April 30, 1936		April		Year		April 30, 1936		April 1936		
	April 1935	Year 1935	Mar. 31, 1936	Apr. 30, 1935	1936	1935	1936	1935	Mar. 31, 1936	Apr. 30, 1935	Mar. 1936	Apr. 1935	
Kansas City....	4	8.4	8.2	5.6	-1.6	.35	.31	1.27	1.08	3.0	13.7	9.1	11.1
Denver.....	4	15.1	10.3	0.3	0.9	.31	.27	1.16	1.12	3.6	7.8	-0.7	9.8
Oklahoma City	3	6.5	7.8	1.5	8.0	.35	.35	1.41	1.37	2.3	12.4	14.2	15.0
Tulsa.....	3	10.7	9.9	2.2	6.2	.36	.34	1.43	1.37	2.4	12.1	12.3	17.8
Wichita.....	3	-2.2	5.1	-0.9	Even	.29	.31	1.11	1.12	-1.1	5.9	7.4	5.5
Other cities.....	15	5.0	6.7	2.4	2.2	.25	.24	.99	.93	0.7	7.3	11.6	12.8
Total.....	32	8.4	8.2	2.3	1.6	.31	.29	1.18	1.10	2.2	9.4	7.2	11.7

NOTE: Percentage of collections in April on open accounts March 31, all stores reporting 45.4. Collections same month last year 44.4.

Life Insurance

Sales of new paid-for ordinary life insurance in the seven states in the District declined 4.9 per cent during April, following an increase in March, and were 2.5 per cent below sales in April, 1935. Sales during the first four months of 1936 declined 8.2 per cent compared to sales during the same period in 1935.

Life insurance sales reported to the Life Insurance Sales Research Bureau by companies representing 90 per cent of the total legal reserve ordinary life insurance outstanding in the United States:

	April 1936	March 1936	April 1935
Colorado.....	\$ 4,718,000	\$ 4,695,000	\$ 4,392,000
Kansas.....	4,991,000	5,033,000	5,001,000
Missouri.....	14,450,000	15,475,000	14,949,000
Nebraska.....	4,301,000	4,299,000	4,587,000
New Mexico.....	933,000	735,000	788,000
Oklahoma.....	5,332,000	6,273,000	6,125,000
Wyoming.....	913,000	961,000	696,000
Seven states.....	\$ 35,638,000	\$ 37,471,000	\$ 36,538,000
United States.....	506,207,000	525,043,000	540,280,000

Trade

RETAIL: The dollar volume of sales at thirty-two reporting department stores in leading cities of the District was approximately the same in April as in March and was 8.4 per cent greater than in April, 1935. A decline of only two-tenths of one per cent in the sales volume during the month, compared to an increase of 1.4 per cent in April of last year, reflected in part the earlier arrival of Easter this year and indicated that the movement of seasonal merchandise was well maintained despite the usual post-Easter slackening. Sales for the first four months of 1936 exceeded sales for the same period in 1935 by 8.2 per cent.

Stocks of merchandise increased 2.3 per cent from March 31 to April 30 and at the close of April were 1.6 per cent greater than one year earlier. Collections on open accounts during April averaged 45.4 per cent of amounts outstanding at the close of the preceding month, compared to collection ratios of 44 per cent in March and 44.4 per cent in April, 1935. Collections on installment accounts averaged 16.3 per cent in April, 16.4 per cent in March, and 15.7 per cent in April a year ago.

WHOLESALE: The combined dollar volume of five representative wholesale lines reporting to this bank decreased 3.3 per cent during April but was 9.2 per cent greater than in

April, 1935, recording the tenth consecutive increase over the corresponding month of the preceding year. All lines except furniture showed a decrease compared to March and all lines except groceries an increase compared to last April. The combined sales volume during the first four months of 1936 exceeded sales in the first four months of 1935 by 8.5 per cent, with dry goods showing an increase of 2.4 per cent, groceries 1.9 per cent, hardware 14.6 per cent, furniture 15.5 per cent, and drugs 12.1 per cent during the four-month period.

Stocks of merchandise of the five lines combined were enlarged 1.6 per cent from March 31 to April 30 and on that date were 1 per cent larger than on April 30, 1935. Stocks of dry goods and drugs increased during April, while stocks of groceries, hardware, and furniture decreased. Stocks of hardware, furniture, and drugs at the close of April were larger than one year earlier, while stocks of dry goods and groceries had declined during the year.

Lumber

Sales of lumber in board feet at 158 reporting retail yards in the District continued to expand in April and were substantially larger than in April of last year, in line with substantial increases in building activity this year. The dollar volume of sales of all materials showed a similar upward trend. The seasonal increase in lumber trade this spring has been somewhat greater than in recent years, and retail sales of lumber in board feet during the first four months of 1936 were 58.5 per cent greater than during the first four months of 1935.

Stocks of lumber were increased substantially during April and on April 30 were 20.8 per cent larger than a year ago. Outstandings increased somewhat from March 31 to April 30 and were 31.9 per cent greater than on April 30, 1935. Collections during April averaged 45.5 per cent of amounts outstanding at the close of the preceding month compared to a ratio of 45 per cent in March and of 40 per cent in April of last year.

April business at the 158 reporting yards, in percentages of increase:

	April 1936 increase over March 1936	April 1936 increase over April 1935
Sales of lumber, board feet.....	11.7	70.2
Sales of all materials, dollars.....	8.1	36.3
Stocks of lumber, board feet.....	43.5	20.8
Outstandings, end of month.....	10.5	31.9

WHOLESALE TRADE IN THE TENTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

In Percentages of Increase or Decrease

Stores Reporting	SALES		OUTSTANDINGS		AMOUNTS COLLECTED		STOCKS		
	Apr. 1936		Apr. 30, 1936		Apr. 1936		Apr. 30, 1936		
	Mar. 1936	Apr. 1935	Mar. 31, 1936	Apr. 30, 1935	Mar. 1936	Apr. 1935	Mar. 31, 1936	Apr. 30, 1935	
Dry goods.....	5	-4.5	7.5	-1.3	-1.0	-1.1	1.5	7.3	-2.6
Groceries.....	5	-2.3	-1.9	-2.4	-10.8	5.3	9.9	-1.9	-10.8
Hardware.....	8	-2.8	19.2	2.4	2.3	18.5	19.4	-2.8	8.9
Furniture.....	3	5.3	24.4	5.7	29.6	21.8	30.3	-2.4	15.7
Drugs.....	7	-5.1	10.4	-1.4	5.5	1.4	17.6	3.9	16.8

Building

Building operations in the District showed a further slight increase during April to the highest level for that month since 1931, with the value of total construction contracts awarded, according to statistics of the F. W. Dodge Corporation, equal to 83.2 per cent of the average volume for April during the past ten years. Total awards for the first four months of 1936 increased 54.8 per cent compared to awards for the first four months of last year.

The value of construction contracts awarded, as reported by the F. W. Dodge Corporation:

	RESIDENTIAL		TOTAL	
	Tenth District	United States	Tenth District	United States
April 1936....	\$2,459,885	\$ 67,151,000	\$ 10,939,733	\$234,806,300
March 1936..	2,581,925	55,270,600	10,520,169	199,028,300
April 1935....	1,404,526	42,280,800	4,176,113	124,284,600
4 Mos. 1936..	7,843,225	191,036,600	36,468,666	780,677,600
4 Mos. 1935..	4,145,139	113,515,200	23,563,977	422,185,500

The number of permits issued by building departments in seventeen Tenth District cities increased during April and was the largest for the month since 1930, exceeding the number for April, 1935, by 31.8 per cent. Estimated expenditures for April, which were almost twice the amount of expenditures a year ago, were at the highest level for the month since 1931.

BUILDING PERMITS IN TENTH DISTRICT CITIES

	PERMITS		ESTIMATED COST	
	1936	1935	1936	1935
Albuquerque, N. M.....	85	68	\$ 176,495	\$ 47,619
Cheyenne, Wyo.....	52	34	46,855	19,121
Colorado Springs, Colo.....	47	40	45,169	61,685
Denver, Colo.....	525	330	651,586	434,609
Joplin, Mo.....	22	10	50,550	9,950
Kansas City, Kans.....	49	45	93,345	31,620
Kansas City, Mo.....	256	292	313,300	438,800
Lincoln, Nebr.....	204	169	146,768	76,950
Oklahoma City, Okla.....	265	121	680,080	163,245
Omaha, Nebr.....	141	138	443,792	83,464
Pueblo, Colo.....	75	61	46,135	15,946
Salina, Kans.....	25	19	46,700	14,772
Shawnee, Okla.....	13	19	7,325	23,375
St. Joseph, Mo.....	29	26	16,650	21,680
Topeka, Kans.....	98	72	116,520	126,940
Tulsa, Okla.....	108	81	288,918	100,935
Wichita, Kans.....	226	160	211,938	100,320
Total 17 cities, April.....	2,220	1,685	\$ 3,382,126	\$ 1,771,031
Four months.....	5,798	4,855	12,435,265	5,063,753

Cement

The production of finished Portland cement in the District showed another substantial increase during April, accompanied by a moderate increase in shipments and a slight decline in stocks. Production was 10.9 per cent above the April average during the past ten years and exceeded production a year ago by a substantial margin, with both production and shipments for the current year to May 1 about 30 per cent ahead of production and shipments during the first four months of last year.

Cement production, shipments, and stocks reported by the Bureau of Mines, in thousands of barrels:

	TENTH DISTRICT			UNITED STATES		
	Production	Shipments	Stocks	Production	Shipments	Stocks
April 1936.....	998	1,092	1,885	8,519	9,089	20,556
March 1936.....	560	971	1,980	5,263	7,138	21,126
April 1935.....	555	795	1,876	6,136	6,198	21,219
4 Months 1936	2,285	2,911	.....	20,866	23,272	.....
4 Months 1935	1,714	2,231	.....	16,690	16,873	.....

Flour Milling

Flour milling operations in the District averaged 55.2 per cent of full-time capacity in April compared to 56.3 per cent in March, and production declined 1.9 per cent. Production during April was 11.9 per cent below the average for the month during the past ten years and was 10.4 per cent below production for April, 1935, when milling operations averaged 61.9 per cent of capacity.

Flour production for the first four months of 1936 declined 4.8 per cent compared to the first four months of 1935.

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

	April 1936	March 1936	April 1935
	Barrels	Barrels	Barrels
Atchison.....	107,408	98,071	114,161
Kansas City.....	470,155	491,900	550,092
Salina.....	152,293	140,074	147,565
Wichita.....	122,023	129,167	154,171
Outside.....	861,846	888,031	946,970
Total.....	1,713,725	1,747,243	1,912,959
*United States.....	4,992,363	5,383,759	5,026,340

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

Flour trade in the southwest was stimulated somewhat after the middle of April by a sharp advance in the wheat market and a consequent increase in flour prices, and a substantial volume of sales resulted, mostly for shipment within sixty to ninety days. Additional round lot sales were made toward the close of the month on a subsequent price decline, and the volume of unfilled orders on mills' books was reported relatively good for this season of the year. The decline in flour prices at Kansas City late in April erased earlier increases and prices closed the month slightly lower. Millfeed prices were materially higher during April, although prices of bran declined in the latter part of the month when rains improved pasturage. The small supplies of shorts were in heavy demand for spring pig and poultry feeding and prices advanced to the greatest premium over bran that has obtained in several months.

Grain Marketing

Receipts of wheat, oats, rye, and kafir at the five primary markets in the District declined during April with an increase in spring farming activity, while receipts of corn and barley increased. Marketings were substantially larger than in April, 1935, with the exception of wheat, farm supplies of which on April 1 were considerably smaller in this District than a year ago. Marketings for the first four months of 1936 showed a substantial increase for all classes of grain compared to marketings for the first four months of 1935. Receipts of wheat represented 51.8 per cent, oats 99.3 per cent, and kafir 28.3 per cent of the average volume for April during the past ten years, while receipts of corn exceeded the average by 38 per cent. Marketings of rye and barley were sharply above the average. Receipts of grain at the five markets:

	Wheat	Corn	Oats	Rye	Barley	Kafir
	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
Hutchinson.....	405,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,200
Kansas City.....	1,856,000	2,256,000	278,000	7,500	97,600	84,000
Omaha.....	328,587	1,988,000	264,000	58,800	155,200	.....
St. Joseph.....	108,800	778,500	306,000	.....	24,500	1,500
Wichita.....	198,000	31,200	.....	.....	.....	2,600

April 1936.....	2,896,387	5,053,700	848,000	66,300	277,300	93,300
March 1936.....	4,674,329	4,103,718	1,626,500	104,200	270,900	140,500
April 1935.....	3,810,178	3,166,330	504,000	30,000	14,050	46,100
4 Months 1936	14,993,892	14,970,918	4,379,000	232,400	910,500	455,300
4 Months 1935	10,564,779	9,836,310	2,298,500	59,800	633,500	224,400

Cash prices of wheat and kafir advanced at the Kansas City market during April, while prices of corn, oats, rye, and barley closed steady to slightly lower.

Cash grain prices at Kansas City:

	May 15 1936	Apr. 30 1936	Mar. 31 1936	May 15 1935	Apr. 30 1935	Apr. 30 1934
No. 1 hard, dk. wheat, bu. \$	.89½	\$.99	\$.97½	\$1.00¼	\$1.05	\$.73
No. 2 mixed corn, bu. ....	.60¾	.62	.62½	.88½	.91½	.42
No. 2 white oats, bu. ....	.27	.26	.26	.48½	.51	.31
No. 2 rye, bu. ....	.53	.51	.52½	.64	.71	.55½
No. 2 barley, bu. ....	.45	.44	.45	.68	.71	.41½
No. 2 white kafir, cwt.	1.11	1.13	1.02	1.98	1.95	.84

Agriculture

CROPS: Tenth District crop prospects, after declining steadily throughout most of April because of continued dry weather and the late spring, improved materially after May 1 when warmer weather and general rains occurred, providing sufficient moisture for current needs and putting the top soil into a workable condition for the planting of spring crops which had been delayed by continued drought conditions. The precipitation was particularly beneficial to wheat, oats, rye, barley, early potatoes, sugar beets, alfalfa, and pastures, the conditions of which on May 1 were generally somewhat below a year ago. Corn planting and the planting of grain sorghums and other field crops progressed rapidly following the rains.

In the western Great Plains area, however, especially from western Kansas southward, a large acreage of winter wheat seeded last fall had already been lost because of extreme drought and wind erosion before the moisture was received, and abandonment in this area was heavy, although generally somewhat less than that of last year. The indicated May 1 abandonment in the seven states, all or parts of which are included in the Tenth District, was 27.3 per cent of the fall seeded acreage, compared to 39.9 per cent last year, with the yield on the acreage remaining for harvest, without allowing for any recent improvement, estimated at 212,736,000 bushels compared to 157,594,000 bushels harvested in 1935 and an average of 325,059,000 bushels harvested from 1928 to 1932. The indicated 1936 production for the seven states showed an increase of 35 per cent over last year and for the United States an increase of 7 per cent. These increases reflected in part increases in the acreage seeded to wheat last fall, amounting to 8.1 per cent in the seven states in this District and to 6.7 per cent in the United States. Winter wheat production in the United States, on the basis of the May 1 condition, was estimated at 463,708,000 bushels compared to 433,447,000 bushels produced last year and the five-year, 1928 to 1932, average production of 618,186,000 bushels. National abandonment amounted to 24.4 per cent of the seeded acreage compared to 30.4 per cent in 1935 and an average of 12.6 per cent from 1923 to 1932.

The production of rye in the seven states was estimated at 57,577,000 bushels compared to 8,866,000 bushels harvested last year and an average of 4,282,000 bushels harvested from 1928 to 1932. There was a decrease of 11 per cent in the acreage seeded to rye in the seven states last fall but an increase of 2.9 per cent in the United States. Rye production in the United States was forecast at 35,253,000 bushels compared to a crop of 57,936,000 bushels in 1935 and the five-year average of 38,655,000 bushels.

As a result of low winter temperatures and early April frosts, the prospects for good fruit crops in the District were generally unfavorable except on the western slope of Colorado and in

The fall sown acreage, abandonment, and indicated production of winter wheat on May 1, as reported by the United States Department of Agriculture, acreage and production in thousands of units:

	Fall Sown Acreage		Per cent Abandoned		Acreage remaining for harvest		Production Indicated	
	1935	1936	1935	1936	1935	1936	May 1, 1936	Final 1935
Colo.....	1,287	919	55.0	79.0	579	135	5,790	2,220
Kans.....	14,103	13,058	26.0	49.6	10,436	6,394	114,796	59,887
Mo.....	2,048	1,969	8.0	3.5	1,884	1,870	24,492	24,130
Nebr.....	3,566	3,333	20.0	22.0	2,853	2,435	35,662	36,400
N. M.....	444	370	60.0	73.0	178	90	1,068	700
Okla.....	4,868	4,726	33.0	30.0	3,262	3,233	29,358	33,080
Wyo.....	285	228	45.0	53.0	157	77	1,570	1,177
7 States.....	26,601	24,603	27.3	39.9	19,349	14,234	212,736	157,594
U. S.....	47,529	44,530	24.4	30.4	35,932	31,000	463,708	433,447

northern New Mexico. Very light crops of peaches were expected to be harvested in Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri, with production in Oklahoma estimated on May 1 at 33,000 bushels compared to a crop of 816,000 bushels last year and an average of 458,000 bushels for the years 1928 to 1932. Cherries, apples, pears, and grapes were also damaged, although somewhat less extensively.

STOCKS OF HAY ON FARMS: The below average alfalfa crop, as indicated by the May 1 condition, was offset by the large stocks of hay on hand. Farm stocks of all hay in the seven states on May 1 were sharply above a year ago, reflecting the increase in production in 1935, and were substantially larger than the five-year average holdings for that date. United States stocks of all hay represented 15 per cent of the 1935 crop compared to an average carryover of 12 per cent.

Farm stocks of hay on May 1, reported by the United States Department of Agriculture:

	1936	1935	Average 1928-32
Colorado.....	381,000	56,000	230,000
Kansas.....	223,000	23,000	297,000
Missouri.....	343,000	71,000	444,000
Nebraska.....	1,032,000	66,000	489,000
New Mexico.....	52,000	12,000	39,000
Oklahoma.....	143,000	49,000	119,000
Wyoming.....	225,000	38,000	152,000
Seven states.....	2,399,000	315,000	1,770,000
United States.....	13,371,000	4,537,000	9,666,000

Live Stock

MARKETINGS: Receipts of live stock at the six principal markets in the District, including direct shipments of hogs to packers, declined during April and were somewhat smaller than in April of last year with the exception of hog receipts, which showed a slight increase over a year ago, although representing but 51.2 per cent of the average volume for the month during the past ten years. Receipts of cattle represented 93.9 and of sheep 81.3 per cent of the average volume, while receipts of

APRIL 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.....	95,821	20,324	*132,974	128,060	41,041	4,940	1,965	11,248	48,134	14,450	*121,134	83,168
Omaha.....	110,376	6,763	102,505	118,842	12,348	1,295	621	6,809	71,348	5,343	82,762	86,762
St. Joseph.....	24,807	7,073	52,639	121,440	3,332	471	804	12,447	19,364	6,558	46,244	93,526
Denver.....	29,819	4,195	31,798	238,873	5,256	1,060	68	13,408	15,309	3,102	21,539	27,806
Oklahoma City.....	35,103	10,743	39,791	9,127	.....	.....	.....	.....	22,273	4,852	36,433	8,264
Wichita.....	25,952	5,879	27,485	17,027	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,969	4,814	25,608	17,019
April 1936.....	321,878	54,977	387,192	633,369	61,977	7,766	3,458	43,912	186,397	39,119	333,720	316,545
March 1936.....	340,895	55,603	441,133	643,734	61,706	6,800	3,336	27,163	191,284	43,765	360,787	353,547
April 1935.....	339,413	67,477	385,411	771,583	78,447	18,021	6,747	35,817	170,260	48,879	315,577	455,863
Four months 1936....	1,329,240	218,840	1,829,484	2,330,618	233,175	25,751	14,867	148,163	783,405	177,774	1,519,327	1,312,406
†Four months 1935....	1,329,855	260,836	1,595,588	2,333,578	279,288	46,268	26,247	195,905	669,941	200,347	1,315,081	1,285,848

*Includes 78,055 hogs shipped direct to packers' yards. †Receipts include Government purchases of cattle and calves.

calves exceeded the average by 14.6 per cent. Marketings for the first four months of 1936 showed approximately the same number of cattle and sheep, an increase in the number of hogs, and a decrease in the number of calves compared to marketings for the first four months of 1935. Marketings of horses and mules totaled 9,439 head in April, the average number for that month, compared to 19,844 head in March and 15,628 head in April, 1935.

PRICES: With a liberal proportion of beef steers in the light cattle receipts, prices of fed steers at the Kansas City market declined 25 to 75 cents per hundredweight during April, and the better quality of offerings closed at the lowest level since December, 1934. The top price for fed steers was \$9.75 compared to \$14.25 in April of last year. Stocker and feeder cattle prices averaged about 25 cents lower as demand was restricted until the closing week of the month when rains improved pastures. Hog prices fluctuated within a narrow range until the last three days of April when weakness resulted in a decline of 20 to 35 cents for the month. Butcherweights sold up to \$10.55, the highest level for any April since 1929 and \$1.55 above a year ago. Prices of stock pigs were steady. Lamb prices advanced during April to the highest level since 1930 and fed woolled lambs closed \$1.50 to \$1.75, spring lambs 75 cents to \$1.10, and sheep \$1.00 to \$1.35 higher, despite a downward reaction late in the month. Nearly all of the old crop offerings had been marketed by the end of the month, although the season usually extends through May, and prices of fed woolled old crop lambs reached \$12.35, on a par with spring lamb prices, which were strengthened by the Easter demand and by unfavorable growing conditions in the spring lamb areas. The top price a year ago was \$8.35 for fed woolled lambs and \$10.00 for spring lambs.

STOCKERS AND FEEDERS: The countryward movement of live stock from four markets in the District increased during April, but shipments were substantially below a year ago with the exception of sheep, and shipments of all classes of stocker and feeder live stock showed a decline for the first four months of 1936 compared to shipments for the first four months of 1935. The April movement of cattle and calves was approximately of normal proportions, while shipments of hogs represented but 25 and of sheep 65.7 per cent of the average volume for the month during the past ten years.

The Department of Agriculture estimated that there were 220,000 lambs left in feed lots in the Northern Colorado, Arkansas Valley, and Scottsbluff areas on April 18 compared to 240,000 lambs a year ago and 250,000 lambs two years ago. Between January 1 and April 18 these three sections had shipped out 6,321 cars of lambs compared to 5,522 cars during the same period last year and 5,542 cars two years ago, and by May 1 the season was practically completed.

Unfavorable weather and feed conditions continued in many of the early lambing areas of the Corn Belt during the greater part of April, and the normal development of early lambs was retarded by a lack of green feed. As a result, the condition of early lambs about May 1 was considerably below average for that date, and marketings were expected to be delayed somewhat. Subsequent rains, however, materially improved pasture prospects.

RANGES AND PASTURES: Late April and early May rains gave range feed a good start over most of Wyoming and western Nebraska, and range feed prospects were reported good in the mountain and western sections of Colorado and New Mexico. Drought conditions continued in southwestern Kansas, western Oklahoma, northeastern New Mexico, and southeastern Colorado, with rains affording but temporary relief to parts of this area. Ranges were dry in eastern New

Mexico and feed was short in Oklahoma. The Department of Agriculture reported that cattle and sheep on May 1 were generally in good condition except in the dry areas and that calf crop and late lamb crop prospects continued good. Considerable supplemental feeding was necessary in northern sections because of severe weather early in April, but death losses were light. Wool sales were generally very limited during April, with prices in Wyoming around 25 cents per pound. Shearing was about completed in western Colorado and fleece weights were reported heavier than last year.

The seasonal movement of cattle from the southwest to Oklahoma and Kansas pastures was delayed somewhat by the prolonged dry weather and the late development of the grass, but rains in the Blue Stem section of Kansas late in April gave impetus to the movement and it was in full swing by the close of the month and early in May. Pastures in Kansas were relatively better than in Oklahoma and were developing rapidly following the rains.

Meat Packing

Meat packing operations in the District, as reflected by packers' purchases at the six principal live stock markets, direct shipments of hogs included, declined during April but were heavier in the beef and swine divisions than in April of last year, although the slaughter of hogs was substantially below normal. Purchases of hogs represented 55.8, sheep 75.7, and cattle 98.9 per cent of the average volume for April during the past ten years, while purchases of calves exceeded the average by 8.3 per cent. During the first four months of 1936, the slaughter of cattle, hogs, and sheep was greater and of calves smaller than during the first four months of 1935.

The Department of Agriculture report on Federally inspected commercial live stock slaughter in the United States showed an increase in the slaughter of cattle and calves and a decrease in the slaughter of hogs and sheep during April, with the slaughter of all classes of meat animals except sheep above a year ago. The slaughter of cattle and calves was at a high level, exceeding the April ten-year average by 16 and 13.4 per cent, respectively. Sheep slaughter was 1.9 per cent above the average, but hog slaughter represented only 75.8 per cent of the average volume.

Live stock slaughtered under Federal meat inspection in the United States, reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from compilations of the Bureau of Animal Industry:

	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep
April 1936.....	812,264	524,694	2,558,614	1,266,393
March 1936.....	763,067	482,841	2,617,246	1,373,784
April 1935.....	683,719	511,501	2,177,575	1,483,395
Four months 1936.....	3,222,932	1,877,380	10,922,756	5,494,345
Four months 1935.....	2,824,470	1,846,008	9,792,392	5,339,086

NOTE: Slaughter for Government relief purposes excluded.

Coal

The production of bituminous coal in the District declined seasonally during April, following a sharp decline in March from the unusually high level reached in February, but there was an increase of 25.5 per cent compared to production in April of last year. Production for the first four months of 1936 increased 25.3 per cent compared to the first four months of 1935.

Bituminous coal production reported by the Bureau of Mines:

	April 1936	March 1936	April 1935
	Tons	Tons	Tons
Colorado.....	395,000	490,000	328,000
Kansas and Missouri.....	407,000	540,000	275,000
New Mexico.....	115,000	110,000	99,000
Oklahoma.....	43,000	91,000	41,000
Wyoming.....	405,000	416,000	345,000
Six states.....	1,365,000	1,647,000	1,088,000
United States.....	30,350,000	31,233,000	21,970,000

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

Petroleum

The production of crude oil in the District declined 4.3 per cent during April, reflecting a decline of 1.1 per cent in daily average production and one less producing day than in March. Production was 5.5 per cent above the average for April during the past ten years and was 5 per cent above production in April, 1935. Production for the first four months of 1936 exceeded production for the same period in 1935 by 6.6 per cent.

Gross and daily average production, estimated from the weekly reports of the American Petroleum Institute for April, and officially reported by the Bureau of Mines for March, 1936, and April, 1935:

	GROSS PRODUCTION		
	April 1936 Barrels	March 1936 Barrels	April 1935 Barrels
Oklahoma.....	16,505,000	16,989,000	15,653,000
Kansas.....	4,608,000	4,815,000	4,550,000
Wyoming.....	1,030,000	1,200,000	1,066,000
Colorado.....	158,000	135,000	150,000
New Mexico.....	1,911,000	2,148,000	1,639,000
Total five states.....	24,212,000	25,287,000	23,058,000
Total United States.....	87,394,000	90,568,000	78,427,000

	DAILY AVERAGE PRODUCTION		
	April 1936 Barrels	March 1936 Barrels	April 1935 Barrels
Oklahoma.....	550,200	548,100	521,800
Kansas.....	153,600	155,300	151,700
Wyoming.....	34,300	38,700	35,500
Colorado.....	5,300	4,400	5,000
New Mexico.....	63,700	69,300	54,600
Total five states.....	807,100	815,800	768,600
Total United States.....	2,913,100	2,921,500	2,614,200

Mid-continent crude oil prices were unchanged during April at posted schedules ranging from 86 cents per barrel for oil testing below 25 degrees gravity to \$1.18 per barrel for that testing 40 degrees and over.

Zinc and Lead

Shipments of zinc ore from Tri-State mines and tailing mills increased during the five weeks ended May 2 and were substantially larger than in the corresponding five-week period in 1935. Stocks of zinc concentrates in mill bins were at the highest level since January, 1933, owing to recent increases in production, and the number of active tailing mills was reduced from 73 to 61 during the latter part of April in an effort to keep supplies on a demand basis. Lead deliveries declined substantially during the five weeks and were slightly below deliveries for the same period of last year. Shipments of zinc

were 22.2 and lead 22.8 per cent larger during the first eighteen weeks of 1936 than during the first eighteen weeks of 1935.

The tonnage and value of zinc ore and lead ore shipments from the Tri-State district:

	ZINC ORE		LEAD ORE	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
Oklahoma.....	27,966	\$ 893,312	2,560	\$128,000
Kansas.....	17,734	567,488	1,211	60,550
Missouri.....	3,980	127,360	289	14,450
5 Weeks ended May 2, 1936.....	49,680	\$1,588,160	4,060	\$203,000
5 Weeks ended Mar. 28, 1936.....	46,810	1,497,920	7,799	386,750
5 Weeks ended May 4, 1935.....	36,647	944,839	4,117	145,326
18 Weeks ended May 2, 1936.....	160,290	5,127,680	18,259	890,550
18 Weeks ended May 4, 1935.....	131,194	3,403,061	14,863	515,328

Zinc and lead prices at the Joplin market remained unchanged during April at \$32 per ton for zinc and \$50 per ton for lead compared to \$26 and \$36, respectively, at the close of April last year. The combined value of shipments for the first eighteen weeks of 1936 was not equaled in 1935 until the thirty-second week had been reached.

Cold Storage Holdings

United States cold storage stocks of all commodities except pork, lard, and eggs declined seasonally between April 1 and May 1. Holdings of beef, lamb and mutton, and cheese declined by somewhat more than the usual rate, and the seasonal accumulation of fresh eggs was somewhat smaller than the average accumulation during the past five years. Holdings of all commodities on May 1 except frozen eggs and cheese were below holdings a year ago, with total stocks of meats at the lowest level of recent years. Storage stocks of beef and cheese exceeded the five-year average by 30.3 and 25 per cent, respectively, but stocks of pork were 35.2, lamb and mutton 7.2, poultry 4.7, lard 25.5, cased eggs 29.6, frozen eggs 3.5, and butter 54.2 per cent below the average.

United States cold storage holdings reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in thousands of units:

	*May 1 1936	April 1 1936	May 1 1935	May 1 5-Yr. Av.
Beef, lbs.....	64,923	79,509	77,559	49,837
Pork, lbs.....	456,184	450,149	564,881	703,582
Lamb and mutton, lbs.....	1,795	2,334	3,031	1,935
Poultry, lbs.....	49,316	69,494	61,815	51,724
**Turkeys, lbs.....	13,907	17,749	16,143	10,178
Miscellaneous meats, lbs.....	60,846	66,604	66,298	60,883
Lard, lbs.....	83,331	76,814	101,224	111,783
Eggs, cases.....	3,031	807	3,901	4,308
Eggs, frozen (case equivalent).....	1,976	1,310	1,695	2,048
Butter, creamery, lbs.....	4,997	5,346	5,676	10,900
Cheese, all varieties, lbs.....	67,946	73,952	54,459	54,344

*Subject to revision. **Included in Poultry.

National Summary of Business Conditions

By the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Industrial production increased in April, reflecting principally larger output of steel and of automobiles. Employment and payrolls in the durable goods industries showed advances.

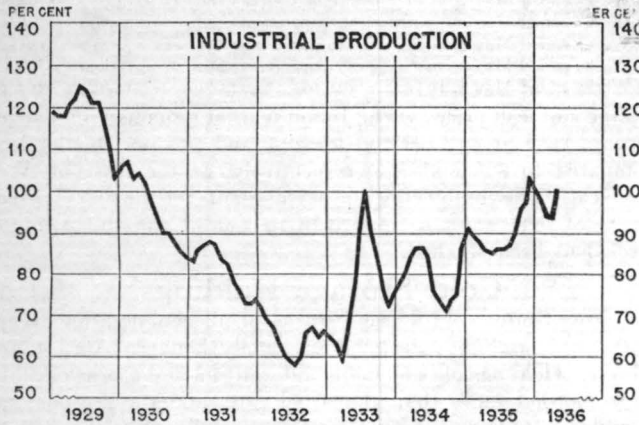
PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT: Volume of industrial production, as measured by the Board's seasonally adjusted index, increased from 93 per cent of the 1923-1925 average in March to 100 per cent in April. The average rate of production at steel mills in April was 69 per cent of capacity as compared with 59 per cent for the preceding month. At automobile factories output amounted to 503,000 passenger cars and trucks and, except for the spring months of 1929, was

larger than in any previous month. In the first three weeks of May activity in both the steel and automobile industries was maintained at about the levels reported for April. Output of nondurable manufactures in April was slightly larger than in March, due chiefly to increases at cotton textile mills, meat packing establishments, and tobacco factories. Activity at woolen and silk mills declined. Bituminous coal production showed little change from March to April, although a considerable decrease is usual at this season, while at anthracite mines there was a sharp rise from the low level of March. Output of crude petroleum continued to increase.

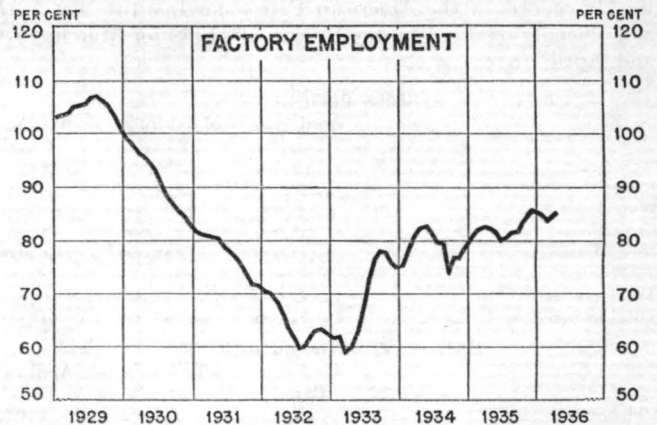
Factory employment and payrolls were larger in the middle of April than a month earlier. Increases in the number of workers were general in the durable goods industries, with the most marked advances at steel mills and at plants producing machinery, automobiles, and building materials. There was an increase in employment at rubber tire factories, which in March had been affected by a strike, while at woolen mills employment declined.

and foods, while prices of other commodities as a group continued to show little change.

BANK CREDIT: Excess reserves of member banks have increased steadily since the latter part of March and by May 20 amounted to \$2,860,000,000. The growth was due in April to Treasury disbursements from accumulated balances and in May to continued disbursements together with substantial imports of gold. Treasury disbursements and gold imports



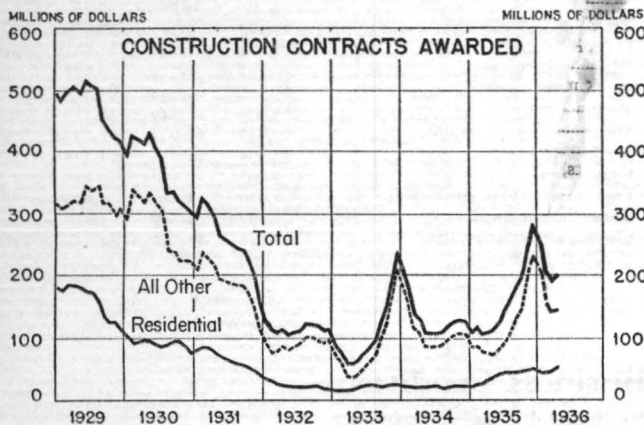
Index of physical volume of production, adjusted for seasonal variation, 1923-1925 average=100. By months, January 1929 through April 1935.



Index of number employed, adjusted for seasonal variation, 1923-1925 average=100. By months, January 1929 through April 1935.

Value of construction contracts awarded, according to figures of the F. W. Dodge Corporation, increased in April by somewhat more than the usual seasonal amount. Contracts for residential building were in considerably larger volume and privately-financed projects other than residential continued to increase.

have also been reflected in a sharp increase of deposits at reporting member banks in leading cities since the beginning of April. Adjusted demand deposits at these banks increased to a new high level and time deposits rose to the highest figure in three years. Holdings of United States Government obligations by the reporting banks have increased further, while holdings of



Three-month moving averages of F. W. Dodge data for value of contracts awarded in 37 Eastern States, adjusted for seasonal variation. Latest figures based on data for February and March and estimate for April.



Wednesday figures. January 31, 1934, through May 20, 1936.

DISTRIBUTION: Retail trade showed a seasonal increase in April, following a considerable advance in March. Department store sales rose by less than the usual seasonal amount, while at variety stores and mail-order houses there were further increases. Freight-car loadings increased from March to April.

other securities and loans to customers have remained at the levels reached early in April. Loans to brokers and dealers in securities, which increased considerably in March and April, declined in the first half of May.

COMMODITY PRICES: Wholesale prices of commodities showed little change during April and declined during the early part of May reflecting decreases in the prices of farm products

The rate charge on call loans with stock exchange collateral was raised on May 11 by New York City banks from $\frac{3}{4}$ of one per cent to one per cent and that on time loans from one per cent to $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Rates on other open market loans have continued at low levels.