

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ST. LOUIS

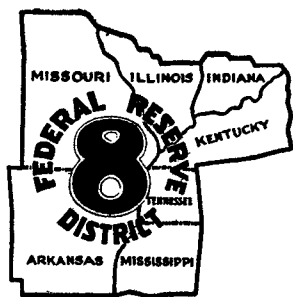
MONTHLY REPORT ON GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

IN FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT No. 8

Released for Publication On and After the Morning of October 31, 1922

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DECIDED improvement has marked the course of general business in this district during the past thirty days. Removal to a large extent of the handicaps incident to the coal and railroad strikes has had the effect of restoring confidence and demands held in abeyance pending the outcome of these controversies are being filled on a large scale. With but few exceptions, reports of merchants and manufacturers indicate substantial gains in sales over the corresponding period a year ago. In many important lines, notably those based on iron and steel, the volume of business during the period under review would have been considerably larger but for the scarcity of freight cars and interference with transportation service, due to congestion at large terminals.

The increase in actual volume of trade was accompanied by considerably more optimism than has existed during the past several months. In the rural sections the advance in prices of farm products, which took place in late September and the opening weeks of October, had a buoyant effect, while in the cities a further reduction in unemployment has increased the general purchasing power and found reflection in greater activity in the retail department of distribution. The latter fact is true particularly of the coal fields where mining has been resumed and business more nearly approximates normal than at any time since the strike was called last April.

Ordering of goods for late fall and winter consumption is on a larger scale than was thought possible a few months back. Thus far the upturn in commodity prices, which commenced toward the end of August, has not affected purchasing. In some lines, notably textiles, boots and shoes, and clothing, the higher prices have stimulated buying. Retail stocks continue moderate, and merchants are disposed to fill out their assortments in order to meet the augmented demand. Due to the strikes and hampered transportation, a scarcity has developed in certain classes of goods, and both manufacturers and wholesalers are far behind on deliveries. Delayed shipments of raw materials have had a tendency to curtail production, but a more general comment is that finished products are accumulating at points of manufacture.

Withal production as a whole recorded progress during the period under review. Iron and steel plants increased their activities, and there were sharp gains in outputs of shoe, furniture, drug and chemical, and fire clay factories, also of flour and lumber mills. Urgent orders held by the iron and steel works necessitated supplementing expected

deliveries of raw materials from distant points by recourse to supplies nearer at hand, and in many instances the spot material commanded stiff premiums. In a lesser degree, similar conditions were reported in other industries, and profits were adversely affected. In the case of heavy goods, reports from manufacturers indicate a shortage of raw materials during the balance of the year. Increased activity in manufacturing was reflected in the heavier sales of electric power to industrial consumers by public utility companies in the district.

Continuance of the dry, hot weather during September over the greater part of the district proved beneficial for harvesting operations, but resulted in a further reduction in size of most late crops. Corn particularly suffered from the drouth, and the further lowering in the estimated yield of tobacco was due in large measure to lack of moisture. Soil preparation and seeding of winter crops was delayed by the dry condition of the soil, and from some important wheat producing counties come reports of reduced acreages. The general rains in the second week of October, however, worked wonders in the matter of restoring fields to tillable condition, besides reviving pastures and promoting growth of seeded grains.

The most important development agriculturally, however, was the accretion in prices recorded on wheat, corn, oats and other farm products. Between September 15 and October 14 wheat futures in St. Louis advanced approximately 11c per bushel, corn 10c and oats 8c. Cash wheat during the same period advanced 13c to 14c, and spot corn and oats were proportionally higher than the futures. Coming at a time when the movement of these cereals is at its height, the upturn in prices will add greatly to returns of the producers, and in addition will serve to partially equalize the discrepancy existing between things which the farmer has to sell and commodities which he is obliged to purchase for his own consumption. The price of hogs and cattle has advanced sympathetically with the rise in corn.

In face of reported car shortage and serious congestion at important terminals, railroads operating in this district accommodated enormous traffic during the period under review. As contrasted with recent months there was a notable gain in the movement of coal, and merchandise, farm products, live stock and lumber were transported in heavy volume. Good gains were reported by virtually all the roads over the preceding month, also over the corresponding period a year ago. Passenger traf-

fic, however, did not share in the improvement shown by freight, and a slight decrease was registered under the same month in 1921. The St. Louis Terminal Railway Association, which includes in its membership 26 roads operating through this gateway, interchanged 185,545 loads in September, the largest number for any month since October, 1921, and comparing with 182,683 in August, 168,368 in July, 167,610 in June and 161,168 in September, 1921. During the first nine days of October 58,550 loads were interchanged, against 56,561 loads in the same period of the preceding month.

A further easing in the fuel situation took place throughout the district during the past thirty days. The movement from mines showed a steady increase, and additional declines were recorded, both in prices of steaming and heating coal. It is remarked, however, that consumers nearest to the mines are being much more efficiently supplied than those at greater distances, due to congestion on the railroads. Many mines in the Illinois fields are working only from two to three days a week, because of inability to obtain empty coal cars. Coke is still scarce, both metallurgical and domestic grades, and relatively little reduction has taken place in prices of this fuel. Production of bituminous coal for the entire country in the second week of October was 9,900,000 tons, against 9,711,000 tons for the same week in 1921 and 12,103,000 in 1920. Total production for the calendar year to October 7 was 280,719,000 tons, against 304,574,000 tons for the corresponding period in 1921.

There was a sharp decrease in automobile production for the country at large during September, as contrasted with August. The output of passenger cars during September by companies reporting direct or through the Automobile Chamber of Commerce was 186,076 against 248,785 in August. Pro-

duction of trucks in September totaled 18,268 against 23,897 in August. According to reports of 230 dealers scattered through the district, sales of cars in September were about 9 per cent larger than for the same month in 1921. A slowing down in sales was noted during the first two weeks of October, the total falling behind the corresponding period a year ago. The used car market is reported in better condition than at any time in eighteen months, the surplus having been materially reduced during the past six weeks. A steady and satisfactory growth in sales of accessories is noted, but recent price cuts have had a tendency to disturb the tire market, and both volume of sales and profits are disappointing.

Collections during the period under review in this district were the most satisfactory for any month this year. Marked improvement was reported over the preceding thirty days, and many important interests showed gains over the same period last year. Particularly notable was the performance in the South, where cotton planters are paying their bills and loans at banks have been materially reduced. October settlements with shoe and dry goods houses in the larger cities were heavy, and somewhat above expectations. A slight slowing down was reported in settlements in the grain sections, but on the other hand, live stock loans are being liquidated promptly. Answers to 333 questionnaires addressed to representative interests in various lines throughout the Eighth Federal Reserve District asking for data relative to collections show the following results: 7.6 per cent excellent; 45.5 per cent good; 42.4 per cent fair and only 4.6 per cent poor.

The per capita circulation of the United States on October 1 was \$41.04, against \$39.93 on September 1 and \$42.99 on October 1, 1921.

Commercial failures in the 12 Federal Reserve Districts during the months of September and August, with comparative figures for September, 1921, as compiled by Dun's, were as follows:

District	NUMBER			AMOUNT		
	Sept. 1922	Aug. 1922	Sept. 1921	Sept. 1922	August 1922	Sept. 1921
Boston, First.....	118	118	124	\$ 1,479,198	\$ 1,556,039	\$ 2,725,247
New York, Second.....	376	269	317	12,209,811	7,364,329	10,439,409
Philadelphia, Third.....	61	76	63	1,107,680	2,735,637	978,713
Cleveland, Fourth.....	128	156	118	3,848,535	3,574,148	2,815,406
Richmond, Fifth.....	128	134	85	4,269,453	2,253,748	1,692,840
Atlanta, Sixth.....	120	152	125	2,765,041	2,890,891	2,328,764
Chicago, Seventh.....	212	243	179	3,863,884	6,776,867	6,777,026
St. Louis, Eighth.....	100	135	80	2,417,725	2,347,687	2,383,404
Minneapolis, Ninth.....	50	69	57	575,947	888,750	980,471
Kansas City, Tenth.....	66	95	61	738,243	1,963,119	1,042,641
Dallas, Eleventh.....	70	85	104	1,480,222	5,198,294	2,872,281
San Francisco, Twelfth.....	137	182	153	2,152,387	2,730,209	1,984,635
	1,566	1,714	1,466	\$36,908,126	\$40,279,718	\$37,020,837

MANUFACTURING AND WHOLESALE

Boots and Shoes—The volume of business is determined largely by ability of producers to supply the demand. Plants of leading manufacturers are operating at capacity, in spite of which fact orders in September exceeded goods available for shipment. Sales of the 11 reporting interests in September showed an increase of 1.8 per cent over the same month in 1921, and a decrease of 12 per cent under the August total of this year. The decrease is seasonal, but somewhat larger than expected, due to the sold up condition of some interests, and transportation delays. Trade in men's

shoes is exceptionally good, both for immediate and future delivery. Owing to radical changes in styles, future business on women's footwear is not quite up to normal for this season. Prices advanced from 2 to 5 per cent during the past thirty days, and the higher prices of virtually all raw materials going into shoes leads to the belief that a further upturn in finished goods is likely. Salesmen are out for the spring selling campaign, and orders received thus far in October show no diminution in the demand.

Clothing — Unseasonably warm weather throughout September served to hold down sales and orders for clothing for winter wear, but toward the close of the month and early in October there was a decided improvement, many merchants appearing in the spot market to get goods which they had deferred buying earlier in the season. Manufacturers generally report a scarcity of raw materials, and the trend of cotton and woolen goods is upward. Clothing being offered for spring is at higher prices. Sales of 23 leading interests during September were 4.5 per cent less than for the same month in 1921, and 1.7 per cent below the August total.

Iron and Steel Products—Production during the past thirty days was held in check to some extent by a shortage of suitable railroad cars for the movement of both raw and finished materials. Despite this handicap, however, production of interests reporting to this bank showed gains over August and substantial increases over the corresponding period a year ago. The melt of pig iron was approximately $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent heavier than in August and 20 per cent larger than for the same period in 1921. Prices were for the most part higher on finished and semi-finished steel and iron goods. Pig iron holds strong, No. 2 Southern (1.75 to 2.75 per cent silicon) ranging from \$28 to \$30 per ton furnace, while Northern iron of the same grade is held at \$32, furnace. Delayed shipments from the East have resulted in a sharp reduction in warehouse stocks. Railroad buying continues on a liberal scale, but fabricators of structural material report a falling off in orders. Stove makers, 7 interests reporting, show September sales 27.4 per cent larger than a year ago and 11.7 per cent in excess of August this year. Job foundries, boiler makers and metal bed manufacturers report an increase in orders, and the steel plants report business booked to absorb their full capacity during the balance of the year. A scarcity of moulders and common labor is reported by the iron and steel works. The depleted condition of farm equipment and better feeling in the rural communities is reflected in an excellent revival in business of implement makers, one leading interest showing an increase of 50 per cent in September sales over the same month in 1921.

Hardware — September sales of the 12 leading interests were 13.7 per cent larger than during the same month in 1921, and 3.3 per cent in excess of the preceding month this year. A feature of the month's business was a sharp gain in orders for future delivery, the proportion to total sales being larger than at any time in more than two years. Builders' and farmers' tools are moving in good volume, and there is an excellent demand for shelf hardware and all goods for household use. Staple articles continue in good demand, and in some sections shortages are reported in wire and wire products. Complaints relative to delayed deliveries were numerous. Some few declines in prices took place during the period under review, but the general trend through the line is toward higher levels, especially on steel goods. Sales of woodenware were 12 to 20 per cent larger than a year ago.

Electrical Supplies — Sales of the 7 reporting interests during September showed virtually no change as contrasted with August, and were approximately 1 per cent larger than for September,

1921. Comment of all the firms indicates gradual and steady improvement in business. There is a brisk demand for household electrical appliances and small motors, and orders for radio equipment are more numerous. Construction and installation work throughout the district is on a large scale, though the advent of cold weather tends to reduce outside construction. The trend of prices on steel and brass goods is upwards, but some declines were reported, notably on large Mazda lamps.

Flour — Production of 11 leading mills in the district during September was 364,306 barrels, the largest for any month this year, and comparing with 353,367 barrels in August, 281,783 barrels in July and 223,428 barrels in June. Buying for domestic account is still on a conservative scale, but light stocks and improved financial conditions in the South have materially aided the flour business in that region. Some slight improvement was noted in the demand from Europe, but bids have been too low to make that business attraction to millers in this section. There is a scarcity of choice milling wheat, due mainly to car shortages. Some of the smaller mills have been grinding at capacity during the past month, but the larger mills were less active, operating at only from 50 to 70 per cent of capacity. Prices advanced slightly toward the end of the period, in sympathy with the upturn in wheat.

Dry Goods — Sales of the 11 reporting interests during September showed a gain of 4.5 per cent over the same month in 1921, but due to seasonal considerations the total was 4 per cent under the preceding month this year. The trend of prices on cotton and woolen goods is upward, with primary markets very active. The mills are well sold up, but the comment is made that their commitments have been mainly to jobbers, and that the goods have not yet passed in the usual volume to the retail trade. Generally buying in the agricultural districts is extremely conservative, but during the past few weeks a decided improvement is noted in orders from the South. October sales are running ahead of a year ago, and collections are almost universally reported good.

Groceries — As compared with the corresponding month last year, sales of the 17 reporting interests showed a decrease of 5.4 per cent, but as contrasted with August the September total recorded a gain of 6.6 per cent. There continues considerable diversity in accounts relative to business, some sections reporting improvement, while others indicate a falling off in the demand. Stores in the South almost unanimously report a picking up in business since the middle of September.

Drugs and Chemicals — The outstanding feature in this line during the period under review was a marked increase in sales of materials to manufacturing concerns. Generally the volume of business was about steady with a year ago, the 7 leading interests reporting September sales ranging from $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent less to 3 per cent larger than in 1921. The trend of prices continues upward, 16 of the 26 changes occurring in chemicals and crude drugs during the past month being advances. The entire list of proprietary preparations holds firm.

Furniture — The past six weeks have been marked by the most active business experienced by furniture manufacturers and distributors in a number of years. Orders received have been far in

excess of supplies, and factories are operating at capacity in order to meet the demand. September sales of the 11 reporting interests were from 30 to 40 per cent larger than for the same month in 1921, and 8 to 12 per cent in excess of August. Outputs have been held down by a scarcity of raw materials, particularly lumber and glass. There was a general advance in prices during September, and according to some producers the upward movement will be pushed still further before the end of the year. The present activity is ascribed largely to the fact that stocks had been allowed to fall to unusually low levels, and another factor has been the heavy demand for furniture incident to the building of new homes. Several of the larger factories have disposed of their outputs through the balance of 1922.

Lumber—Taking into consideration the increasing difficulties and delays in transportation, receipts of lumber at the leading gateways of this district during the period under review were of much better volume than the normal movement for early autumn. So much stock had been put in transit for earlier delivery, by weeks, than it was possi-

ble to handle, that arrivals from congested side tracks declined rather slowly, despite the exceptionally small percentage of car supply in the mean time for new loading requirements at the mills. The continued heavy consumption of building lumber held soft wood prices about stationary, notwithstanding less active buying. The market for Southern pine weakened a bit in spots, as for example in common boards, finish and other items, but later rallied to some extent and advanced rather sharply on edge grain flooring and lath. Western lumbers held strong, with red cypress firm and a marked advancing tendency in yellow cypress, particularly in the shop and common grades. Car shortage and embargos, coupled with an improved and more urgent demand from the furniture trade and other sources, started hardwood prices upward in September. The movement has since spread pretty generally over the list, with advances particularly marked in sap gum. The production of all kinds of Southern lumber has been adversely affected by the transportation handicap.

Industrial Power Consumption—Public utility companies in three of the four leading cities of the district report sharp increases in the consumption of electrical power for industrial purposes during September as compared with the same month last year, Little Rock registering the only decline. Losses and gains for September as compared with August about balance each other, the net gain for reporting cities being 0.3 per cent. Comparative figures follow:

Representative Customers	Sept., 1922	Aug., 1922	Sept., 1922 comp. to Aug., 1922	Sept., 1921	Sept., 1922 comp. to Sept., 1921
St. Louis.... 66	12,109,221 k. w. h.	12,006,244 k. w. h.	+0.9	10,166,522 k. w. h.	+19.1
Memphis.... 31	881,580 "	867,420 "	+1.6	815,100 "	+ 8.2
Little Rock 11	553,591 "	529,899 "	+4.5	694,505 "	-20.3
Louisville..... 81	2,778,354 "	2,873,287 "	-3.3	1,666,000 "	+66.8
Total.... 190	16,322,746 "	16,276,850 "	+0.3	13,342,127 "	+22.3

RETAIL

Department Stores—The condition of retail trade during September, 1922, in the leading cities of this district is reflected in the following statement, compiled from reports of 21 representative department stores:

(Percentages)	St. Louis	Louisville	Memphis	Little Rock	Evansville	Quincy	8th District
Net Sales:							
Sept., 1922, compared with Sept., 1921.....	+ 9.9	- 0.6	+19.3	- 5.6	+ 0.2	+ 8.1	+ 8.6
Period July 1 to Sept. 30, 1922, compared with same period in 1921.....	+ 3.0	+ 1.4	+11.8	-17.1	-16.3	- 1.2	+ 2.2
Stock at end of Sept., 1922:							
Compared with same month in 1921.....	- 4.3	-18.9	- 7.3	+ 2.8	-20.4	-10.0	- 6.4
Compared with stocks at end of Aug., 1922....	+ 5.0	+13.1	+15.1	+16.8	+10.7	+ 5.2	+ 8.7
Average stocks on hand at end of each month since July 1, 1922, to average monthly sales during same period.....	470.3	395.1	506.3	557.2	656.8	517.5	480.8
Outstanding orders for Sept., 1922, compared with previous year's purchases.....	9.2	6.8	11.2	7.0	5.3	12.8	9.2

AGRICULTURE

Changes in prospective yields of leading crops in this district were of a minor importance during September. According to figures of the U. S. Department of Agriculture the most important change as compared with the preceding month was in corn, the indicated yield of which on October 1 was 391,149,000 bushels, a decrease of 10,037,000 bushels. The October 1 total, however, represents a decrease of 25,394,000 bushels under the yield of the district in 1921. The total indicated wheat crop on October 1 was 72,440,000 bushels, which compares with 72,456,000 bushels on September 1, and a total yield of 66,442,000 bushels in 1921. Oats,

with an indicated outturn of 38,745,000 bushels represented a decrease of 1,283,000 bushels under the preceding month and 10,355,000 bushels under last season's total. Cotton on the other hand, improved slightly during the month, the indicated yield of 1,967,000 bales being 16,000 bales better than on September 1, and comparing with a total crop for the district of 1,662,000 bales in 1921. The Department of Agriculture estimates the combined condition of all crops in states wholly or partly within the Eighth Federal Reserve District (100= average) on October 1 at 97.2 per cent, against 94.1 per cent on October 1, 1921.

Husking of corn is proceeding rapidly, and silo filling is about completed. Early returns indicate quality somewhat under the average, due to premature ripening and damage from insect pests. Corn in parts of Indiana, Illinois and Missouri is chaffy, but in the Southern states quality is relatively high.

Plowing and seeding of fall sown grains has been generally delayed by lack of moisture in the soil, but this delay may prove beneficial in the end, as it will insure freedom from Hessian fly. Fly dates are being generally observed in the wheat areas of the district. Reports direct to this bank relative to seeding vary considerably, but on the whole indicate slight decreases in acreage under last fall.

Late fruit crops throughout the district are large, though apple prospects were cut to some extent by heavy dropping caused by the excessively hot weather in August and September. Truck gardens have been benefited by the recent rains, and the same is true of pastures, especially in the South. Reports relative to live stock are almost uniformly favorable, with few complaints of disease in any section.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, in its report as of October 1, 1922, gives the condition of corn, oats and tobacco in the states of this district as follows:

CORN									
	Condition		Forecast 1922		Production		Price per Bu.		
	Oct. 1 1922	10 yr. av.	*Production from condition		1921	5 yr. av. 1916-20	October 1 1922 1921		
	%	%	Bu.	Bu.	Dec. Est.	Bu.	cents	cents	
Arkansas	69	74	46,850	48,887	60,148	48,167	79	64	
Illinois	80	77	313,251	325,421	305,966	337,245	56	44	
Indiana	83	82	176,391	177,783	169,848	182,569	57	47	
Kentucky	83	82	89,578	88,155	82,150	97,152	82	72	
Mississippi	73	76	49,186	50,339	57,096	55,702	82	77	
Missouri	77	71	169,372	176,201	182,880	176,224	61	46	
Tennessee	75	82	75,214	75,214	90,713	86,490	79	73	

TOBACCO									
	1922	10 yr. av.	1922	1921	1921	5 yr. av. 1916-20			
Kentucky	79	83	454,045	454,212	325,710	467,000			
Tennessee	76	84	99,286	103,305	78,750	86,660			

*In thousands of bushels—i. e., 000 omitted.

OATS									
	Yield per Acre		Total Production in		Quality		Price per Bu.		
	1922	10 yr. av.	Thousands of Bu.		1922	10 yr. av.	October 1 1922 1921		
	Bu.	Bu.	1922	1921	%	%	cents	cents	
Illinois	28.0	37.2	110,628	121,741	84	87	34	28	
Indiana	21.0	34.1	33,516	45,072	76	87	35	29	
Missouri	16.0	27.3	20,624	42,960	70	85	41	29	

Range of prices on typical products in the St. Louis market between September 15 and October 14, with closing quotations on each of these dates, and on October 15, 1921:

	Per bu.	Close Sept. 15	High	Low	Close Oct. 14	Close Oct. 15, 1921
December wheat	Per bu.	\$1.00½	\$1.11¾	\$1.00¼	\$1.11¾	\$1.15¾
May wheat	"	1.05¾	1.11¾	1.04¾	1.11¾	1.19¾
July wheat	"	1.03½	1.00	1.03¼	1.03¼	-----
December corn	"	.56½	.66¾	.56¾	.66¾	.45¾
May corn	"	.59¾	.67¾	.59¾	.67¾	.51¾
July corn	"	.67½	.62½	.67½	.67½	-----
December oats	"	.34¾	.44	.34¾	.44	.33¾
May oats	"	-----	.42¾	.38	.42¾	.37½
No. 2 red winter wheat	"	\$1.11 @ 1.13	1.28	1.11	\$1.26 @ 1.28	1.32
No. 2 hard wheat	"	1.03	1.17	1.03	1.16 @ 1.17	\$1.14 @ 1.22
No. 2 corn	"	.61 @ .61¾	.72	.61¾	.72	.44 @ .45
No. 2 white corn	"	.61¾	.73	.62½	.72½ @ .73	.44½
No. 2 white oats	"	.40	.47	.40	.47	.33
Flour: soft patent	Per bbl.	5.25 @ 6.25	7.00	5.25	5.75 @ 7.00	6.00 @ 7.00
Flour: hard patent	"	5.90 @ 6.10	6.60	5.75	6.30 @ 6.35	6.80 @ 7.40
Middling cotton	Per lb.	.21¾	.21¾	.20¾	.21¾	.19½
Hogs on hoof	Per cwt.	6.75 @ 9.80	10.65	6.75	6.85 @ 9.50	5.75 @ 8.60

NOTE:—September wheat closed at \$1.05; September corn at 63c and September oats at 39c.

COMMODITY MOVEMENT

Receipts and shipments of important commodities at St. Louis during September, 1922 and 1921, and August, 1922, as reported by the Merchants' Exchange, were as follows:

	Receipts			Shipments		
	Sept., 1922	Aug., 1922	Sept., 1921	Sept., 1922	Aug., 1922	Sept., 1921
Flour, barrels.....	383,120	428,280	621,390	544,310	570,010	817,055
Wheat, bushels.....	3,460,884	7,058,479	5,457,000	2,539,380	6,379,160	4,369,230
Corn, bushels.....	2,796,300	2,568,800	1,855,100	1,734,005	1,771,790	1,173,240
Oats, bushels.....	1,760,000	2,580,000	2,437,260	1,341,490	2,155,075	1,728,670
Lead, pigs.....	384,890	322,220	221,960	218,690	245,680	91,050
Zinc and Spelter, slabs.....	147,390	166,940	219,810	211,020	279,550	317,520
Lumber, cars.....	16,313	15,228	11,724	12,084	12,488	9,783
Meats, pounds.....	23,451,900	19,527,000	20,182,600	30,867,400	28,483,500	25,501,800
Fresh Beef, pounds.....		43,300		20,964,000	24,256,900	22,765,900
Lard, pounds.....	7,736,900	6,229,300	3,216,300	10,301,600	9,915,000	9,036,900
Hides, pounds.....	4,967,500	6,954,000	4,403,900	7,459,600	8,934,100	6,682,800

LIVE STOCK MOVEMENT

As reported by the St. Louis National Stock Yards, receipts and shipments of live stock in September, 1922 and 1921, and August, 1922, were as follows:

	Receipts			Shipments		
	Sept., 1922	Aug., 1922	Sept., 1921	Sept., 1922	Aug., 1922	Sept., 1921
Cattle and Calves.....	175,481	157,864	114,200	126,660	102,403	71,622
Hogs	253,963	240,535	199,356	166,117	158,565	125,643
Sheep	48,235	81,669	39,463	17,004	20,866	14,293
Horses and Mules.....	9,990	6,031	5,387	8,927	4,827	5,701

BUILDING

Building permits issued in the five largest cities of the district during September were larger numerically than for the same month in 1921, but fell off in dollar amount involved. As compared with August, conversely, the number of permits in September was slightly less while a gain of \$183,172 was noted in the dollar value. Generally favorable weather permitted of intensive work on buildings under construction, but progress was held back in some localities by scarcity of skilled labor and delayed deliveries of material. The trend of building material prices continues upward, and producers report the demand in excess of their ability to manufacture the goods. The output of Portland cement in September declined slightly, totaling 11,424,000 barrels against 11,664,000 barrels in August.

Comparative building permits figures for September in leading cities of the district follow:

	New Construction				Repairs, etc.			
	Permits		Cost		Permits		Cost	
	1922	1921	1922	1921	1922	1921	1922	1921
St. Louis.....	790	687	\$1,390,157	\$4,003,252	552	464	\$324,960	\$303,920
Louisville	226	164	901,200	469,950	107	133	63,175	78,200
Memphis	316	275	2,142,540	683,940	50	52	25,440	24,780
Little Rock.....	71	73	384,830	190,300	141	188	40,036	66,553
Evansville	58	74	100,705	106,300	62	37	10,999	10,430
Sept. totals.....	1,461	1,273	\$4,919,432	\$5,453,742	912	874	\$464,610	\$483,883
Aug. totals.....	1,539	1,287	4,725,270	3,121,521	933	870	671,337	372,731
July totals.....	1,478	1,166	5,233,075	3,164,464	813	845	465,717	513,818

POSTAL RECEIPTS

	Quarter ended Sept. 30, 1922	Quarter ended June 30, 1922	Quarter ended Sept. 30, 1921
St. Louis.....	\$2,318,915.75	\$2,430,695.47	\$2,062,550.71
Memphis	362,387.43	378,275.73	310,538.07
Little Rock.....	178,288.33	161,204.98	161,935.58
Evansville	117,921.56	123,107.21	112,333.02
Total.....	\$2,977,513.07	\$3,093,283.39	\$2,647,357.38

FINANCIAL

The past thirty days have been marked by gradual improvement in the demand for credits from commercial sources, and needs for agricultural financing made themselves felt to a somewhat greater extent than heretofore. In the South, where cotton is being rapidly picked and marketed, banks in the smaller communities are experiencing excellent liquidation. Financial institutions in the larger centers are being called upon to supply funds for the actual movement of the crop. Delayed shipments of wheat, incident to car shortage, are holding back liquidation of grain loans in some instances, but for the most part the condition of banks in the typical grain areas has undergone no change worthy of comment during the period under review. There is a continued excellent demand for purchasing and feeding live stock, particularly in the northern stretches of the district. October settlements with shoe and dry goods interests in the larger centers were exceptionally large, and are being reflected in a heavy reduction of bank loans based on those commodities. Deposits are holding up well, and there are ample funds in the hands of commercial banks to take care of all needs of legitimate business. Aside from a stiffening in quotations on commercial paper, interest rates remain about steady with the preceding thirty days. Loans of the member banks have moved steadily upward since the third week of September. Savings deposits continue to increase, and for the five leading cities of the district on October 4 were 12.9 per cent larger than on the same date in 1921. Between September 15 and October 14 net deposits of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis increased \$6,649,000. Federal

Reserve notes in circulation increased \$12,586,000, and there was an increase in bills discounted for member banks of \$3,711,362. The total reserve carried against combined Federal Reserve Note and deposit liabilities increased 9.9 per cent, standing at 71.1 on October 14.

Acceptances — The market for acceptances continues dull and featureless. Practically no bills are originating in the district, and the demand from all sources is almost nil. During September the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis purchased \$200,000 of acceptances, a decrease of \$2,016,176 under the preceding month. Rates on acceptances have advanced from 3 to 3¾ per cent during the past month.

Commercial Paper — The past thirty days were featured by an excellent demand for commercial paper, with both city and country banks in the market. Sales of brokers, while less than the preceding month, were well in excess of the corresponding period a year ago. Offerings during the past two weeks have been fairly liberal and rates are higher, ranging from 4½ to 4¾ per cent, which compares with 4 to 4¼ per cent during the preceding thirty days.

Bonds — The chief feature of the bond market during the period under review was the offering of \$500,000,000 U. S. Treasury 4¼ per cent bonds, dated October 16, 1922 and maturing October 15, 1952. The cash subscription quota of this district, \$20,000,000, was more than twice oversubscribed. Generally the market for investment bonds continues active, but a slight softening in prices had been noted.

Interest Rates — Between October 15 and September 15 the high, low and customary interest rates prevailing in St. Louis, Louisville, Memphis and Little Rock, as reported by banks in those cities were as follows:

	St. Louis			Louisville			Memphis			Little Rock		
	H	L	C	H	L	C	H	L	C	H	L	C
Customers' Prime Commercial Paper:												
30 to 90 days.....	6	4	5	6	5	6	6	6	6	8	6	7
4 to 6 months.....	6	4	5½	6	5	6	6	6	6	8	6	7
Prime Commercial Paper purchased in open market:												
30 to 90 days.....	5	4¼	4½	4½	4¼	4½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
4 to 6 months.....	4½	4¼	4½	4½	4¼	4½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Loans to other banks.....	7	4½	5½	6	5	6	6	6	6	7	6	6
Bankers' Acceptances of 60 to 90 days:												
Endorsed.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Unendorsed.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Loans secured by prime stock exchange collateral or other current collateral:												
Demand.....	6	4	5	6	5	6	6	6	6	7	6	7
3 months.....	6	4¼	5½	6	5	6	6	6	6	8	6	7
3 to 6 months.....	6	4½	5½	6	5	6	6	6	6	8	6	7
Cattle Loans.....	8	5	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	7	8
Commodity paper secured by warehouse receipts, etc.....	6	5	5½	6	5	6	6	6	6	8	7	7
Loans secured by Liberty Bonds and certificates.....	6	4¼	5½	6	5	6	6	6	6	8	6	7

Savings Deposits — The changes in the number of savings accounts and the amount of savings deposits, exclusive of postal savings deposits, since a month ago and a year ago, as reported by the largest member banks in the leading cities of this district, are shown in the following table:

	Oct. 4, 1922			Sept. 6, 1922		Oct. 1, 1921	
	Number Banks Reporting	Number Savings Accounts	Amount Savings Deposits	Number Savings Accounts	Amount Savings Deposits	Number Savings Accounts	Amount Savings Deposits
St. Louis.....	12	241,668	\$ 66,817,000	240,963	\$ 66,909,000	225,789	\$ 59,934,650
Louisville.....	7	140,721	21,053,000	133,312	20,960,000	118,343	17,621,709
Memphis.....	7	57,460	14,391,000	57,058	14,255,000	58,782	12,663,649
Little Rock.....	5	24,965	6,323,000	24,867	6,158,000	23,297	5,353,956
Evansville.....	4	22,067	8,552,000	21,976	8,433,000	20,389	8,213,821
Total.....	35	486,881	\$117,136,000	478,076	\$116,715,000	446,600	\$103,787,785

Condition of Banks — The condition of banks in this district and changes since a month ago and last year, are reflected in the following comparative statement showing the principal resources and liabilities of member banks in St. Louis, Louisville, Memphis, Little Rock and Evansville:

	Oct. 11, 1922	Sept. 13, 1922	Oct. 12, 1921
Number of banks reporting.....	37	37	37
Loans and discounts (excluding rediscounts):			
Secured by U. S. Govt. obligations.....	\$ 15,273,000	\$ 15,555,000	\$ 19,220,000
Secured by Stocks and bonds other than U. S. Bonds	127,484,000	124,493,000	118,549,000
All other loans and discounts.....	277,190,000	278,139,000	300,952,000
Total loans and discounts.....	\$419,947,000	\$418,187,000	\$438,721,000
Investments:			
U. S. Bonds	36,512,000	36,045,000	27,164,000
U. S. Victory Notes.....	3,252,000	4,543,000	2,069,000
U. S. Treasury Notes.....	10,872,000	8,102,000	1,859,000
U. S. Certificates of Indebtedness.....	6,007,000	7,391,000	3,277,000
Other bonds, stocks and securities.....	86,766,000	84,176,000	68,118,000
Total investments.....	\$143,409,000	\$140,257,000	\$102,487,000
Reserve Balance with Federal Reserve Bank.....	40,285,000	38,591,000	37,421,000
Cash in Vault.....	7,868,000	7,246,000	7,166,000
Net demand deposits on which reserve is computed.....	333,058,000	331,565,000	285,854,000
Time deposits.....	173,181,000	170,415,000	147,066,000
Government deposits.....	4,428,000	3,749,000	15,539,000
Bills discounted with Federal Reserve Bank.....	6,885,000	1,719,000	33,898,000
Bills payable with Federal Reserve Bank.....	1,338,000	1,356,000	10,422,000

Debits to Individual Accounts — The following table gives the total debits charged by banks to checking accounts, savings accounts and trust accounts of individuals, firms, corporations and U. S. Government and also certificates of deposit paid, in the leading cities of this district during the past month and corresponding period a year ago. Charges to the accounts of banks and bankers are not included. These figures are considered the most reliable index available for indicating actual spending by the public during the period which they cover:

	Oct. 11, 1922	Sept. 13, 1922	Oct., 1922 comp. to Sept., 1922	Oct. 12, 1921	Oct., 1922 comp. to Oct. 1921
Debits for four weeks ending.....					
East St. Louis & Nat. Stock Yards, Ill. \$	40,426,000	\$ 31,595,000	+28.0	\$ 31,541,000	+28.2
Evansville, Ind.....	28,938,000	21,590,000	+34.0	19,628,000	+47.4
Fort Smith, Ark.....	13,170,000	8,646,000	+52.3	.....	.....
Greenville, Miss.....	3,401,000	2,438,000	+39.4	.....	.....
Helena, Ark.....	6,599,000	3,880,000	+70.1	.....	.....
Little Rock, Ark.....	55,493,000	37,085,000	+49.6	51,305,000	+ 8.2
Louisville, Ky.....	126,286,000	110,728,000	+14.1	84,786,000	+48.9
Memphis, Tenn.....	125,029,000	84,427,000	+48.1	117,332,000	+ 6.6
Owensboro, Ky.....	4,334,000	3,988,000	+ 8.7	.....	.....
Quincy, Ill.....	9,524,000	7,812,000	+21.9	7,970,000	+19.5
St. Louis, Mo.....	586,524,000	471,350,000	+24.4	491,736,000	+19.3
Springfield, Mo.....	11,470,000	10,644,000	+ 7.8	11,203,000	+ 2.4
Total.....	\$1,011,194,000	\$794,183,000	+27.3	.....	.....

FEDERAL RESERVE OPERATIONS

During August the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis discounted for 271 of its 606 members, which compares with 252 out of its 606 members accommodated in August. The discount rate of this bank remains unchanged at 4½ per cent.

Changes in the assets and liabilities of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis since a month ago and last year are shown in the following comparative statement (in thousands of dollars):

RESOURCES:				LIABILITIES:			
	1922 Oct., 18,	1922 Sept., 20,	1921 Oct., 19,		Oct. 18, 1922	Sept. 20, 1922	Oct. 19, 1921
Gold Reserves.....	\$ 97,878	\$ 75,029	\$ 90,793	Capital paid in.....	\$ 4,787	\$ 4,786	\$ 4,568
Legal Tender, Notes, Silver, etc.....	5,018	8,101	13,757	Surplus	9,388	9,388	9,114
Total Cash Reserves.....	\$102,896	\$831,130	\$104,550	Deposits	64,728	63,349	62,679
Discounts secured by U. S. Govt. obligations.....	7,268	8,054	26,330	F. R. Notes in circulation	86,425	74,260	103,126
Discounts otherwise secured or unsecured..	18,405	16,860	44,407	F. R. Bank Notes in circulation	3,396	3,411	4,217
Bills bought in open market.....	8,810	14,153	299	Deferred Availability items	46,694	35,642	37,815
U. S. Govt. Securities....	26,563	28,212	9,332	Other Liabilities.....	957	901	2,638
Total earning assets.....	\$ 61,046	\$ 67,279	\$ 80,368	Total Liabilities.....	\$216,375	\$191,737	\$224,157
Uncollected items.....	50,752	39,666	37,283	Combined Reserve Ratio	68.1%	60.4%	63.1%
Other resources.....	1,681	1,662	1,956				
Total Resources.....	\$216,375	\$191,737	\$224,157				

(Compiled Oct. 20, 1922)