



MONTHLY REVIEW

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

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AVAILABLE statistics and data generally bearing on business in the Eighth District during the past thirty days reflected somewhat spotty and irregular trends, but as a whole activities were well sustained and continued at a considerably higher rate than in the like period a year ago. Industrial production continued to contract during October and the first half of November, but in considerably less marked degree than was the case in August and September. As in the preceding thirty days, a relatively much better showing was made in distributive lines than in manufacturing. The volume of retail trade increased in October over both the month before and a year ago. Without exception, wholesaling and jobbing lines investigated by this bank recorded gains over October, 1932, in most instances, of substantial amounts and too large to be entirely accounted for by the higher prevailing price levels. In a number of lines the October volume exceeded that of September, and those classifications which showed declines followed the usual seasonal trend. Among the important lines showing increases in both the yearly and month-to-month comparisons were boots and shoes, clothing, dry goods, electrical supplies and furniture. Reflecting higher prices and increased volume, profits generally were on a more satisfactory basis than in many months.

The movement of seasonal merchandise was adversely affected by the unusually high temperatures which prevailed throughout the district in October and the first days of November. The warm weather also had the effect of reducing activities in certain manufacturing lines. There was a further recession in operations at iron and steel working plants, an exception being in the case of stoves, October production and shipments in that industry being the largest since the fall of 1931. Consumption of electric current by industrial establishments in the principal cities declined slightly in October from the preceding month, but was substantially greater than a year ago. Production of bituminous coal in fields of the Eighth District increased mod-

erately from September to October, but the total was measurably below that of October, 1932. The trend of lumber production continued downward, but due chiefly to heavy demands from the cooperage industry, the output was considerably larger than at this time during the past three years.

October weather was unusually favorable for harvesting of late crops and these operations were completed with a minimum of loss of quantity and quality. In the case of most important productions, earlier estimates were maintained. A constructive development in this area has been the sharp advance in prices of wheat, cotton, corn, oats and other important agricultural products. This change has resulted in a noticeable stimulation in business and substantial liquidation of indebtedness in the rural areas, particularly in the south. Another favorable effect has been to bolster sentiment in the farming community. In addition to larger returns from marketing of their crops, incomes of farmers in many sections have been augmented by receipts from the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

Measured by sales of department stores in the principal cities of the district, retail trade in October was 5.9 per cent greater than in September and 2.5 per cent larger than in October, 1932; cumulative total for the first ten months was 8.2 per cent less than for the comparable period in 1932. Combined sales of all wholesaling and jobbing firms reporting to this bank were 14 per cent and 21.5 per cent larger, respectively, than a month and a year earlier; for the ten months this year the total was 14 per cent in excess of that for the same time in 1932. The dollar value of permits issued for new buildings in the five largest cities in October was 71 per cent larger than in September, and 24 per cent less than in October last year; cumulative total for the first ten months this year was larger by 85 per cent than during the similar period in 1932. Construction contracts let in the Eighth district in October were 27.2 per cent less than in September and 43.9 per cent greater than in October, 1932; the cumulative total to November 1 this year was 13.2

per cent below that of the same period a year ago. Debits to individual accounts in October were larger by 13 per cent and 10 per cent respectively, than a month and a year earlier, but the cumulative total for the first ten months this year is still 15 per cent below that for the comparable period in 1932.

Freight traffic of railroads operating in this district continued above that of the corresponding period last year, but the margin of increase was narrower than at any time since last spring. Since October 1 the trend has been downward to a slightly more marked extent than is usual at this season. This was true particularly of the movement of farm products and merchandise in less-than-car-lots, while a relatively favorable showing was made by forest products, coke and miscellaneous freight. The cumulative movement of coal continued well ahead of a year ago. For the country as a whole, loadings of revenue freight for the first forty-four weeks this year, or to November 4, totaled 24,637,149 cars, against 24,094,042 cars for the corresponding period in 1932, and 32,474,205 cars in 1931. The St. Louis Terminal Railway Association, which handles interchanges for twenty-eight connecting lines, interchanged 74,417 loads in October, against 72,333 loads in September and 72,992 loads in October, 1932. During the first nine days of November, the interchange amounted to 19,954 loads, which compares with 21,285 loads during the corresponding period in October, and 17,794 loads during the first nine days of November, 1932. Passenger traffic of the reporting roads in October decreased 6 per cent under the same month a year ago. The Federal Barge Line between St. Louis and New Orleans carried an estimated tonnage of 97,300 tons in October, against 119,340 tons in September, and 109,442 tons in October, 1932.

As contrasted with the preceding month, reports relative to collections reflected a moderate slowing down, but the showing was generally favorable as compared with a year earlier. In the south the volume of liquidation with both merchants and country banks was in considerable volume, particularly in the typical cotton and rice areas. In the principal centers, retailers and jobbers report November 1 settlements about up to expectations. Retailers in the large cities continue to report spot-tiness and irregularity in payments, with overdue accounts still extremely difficult to collect. Producers and distributors of building materials and other descriptions of heavy commodities report a continuance of the betterment in collections which began in the late summer. Conditions in the bituminous coal areas showed little change from the pre-

ceding thirty days, but were noticeably better than a year ago. Questionnaires addressed to representative interests in the several lines scattered through the district showed the following results:

		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
October, 1933.....		7.0%	25.6%	64.0%	3.4%
September, 1933.....	5.3	30.4	49.0	15.3	
October, 1932.....	1.6	17.9	61.4	19.1	

Commercial failures in the Eighth Federal Reserve District in October, according to Dun and Bradstreet, numbered 42 involving liabilities of \$1,019,098 against 47 defaults in September, with liabilities of \$656,537 and 82 insolvencies for a total of \$1,648,236 in October, 1932.

Money in circulation in the United States on November 18 was \$5,673,000,000 which compares with \$5,673,000,000 on October 11, and an average daily circulation of \$5,643,000,000 in October, 1932.

WHOLESALE AND RETAILING

Boots and Shoes — October sales of the reporting interests were 29 per cent greater than for the same month in 1932, and about one-fifth larger than for the September total this year. Inventories continued to contract, stocks on November 1 being 6 per cent and 17 per cent smaller, respectively, than a month and a year earlier. Production receded in October, but the rate of operations since November 1 has been at a higher than seasonal rate in order to replenish depleted inventories. Due to the continued active demand, which has been accompanied by higher prices, profits are on a more satisfactory basis than during the corresponding season in the past three years. Indications are that production in this district during 1933 will be the heaviest since the peak in 1929.

Clothing — According to the reporting firms, movement of seasonal apparel during October was below expectations, due to the unusually warm weather. Advance sales of both men's and women's clothing for late winter and spring delivery have been in considerable volume, and well in excess of the corresponding period a year ago. Demand for work clothes shows further improvement, both in the large cities and rural areas. The trend of prices was sharply higher, several important clothiers reporting an advance of from 20 to 25 per cent from the levels prevailing three months ago. October sales of the reporting interests were about six times larger than in September, and twice as great as the October, 1932, total. The heavy increase in the month-to-month comparison is seasonal in character.

Drugs and Chemicals—For the fourth consecutive month, the volume of business in this classification during October showed an increase over the corresponding month a year earlier. There was a slight decrease as compared with the preceding month, but this was seasonal and somewhat less than average during the past decade. Demand for seasonal merchandise was generally active. Requirements of manufacturers for heavy drugs and chemicals was less in evidence than earlier in the season. Prices showed little change as contrasted with the preceding thirty days. October sales of the reporting firms were 20 per cent larger than for the same month in 1932, and 3 per cent smaller than in September this year.

Dry Goods—In counter distinction to September, sales of the reporting firms showed increases over both a month and a year earlier. The increase in the month-to-month comparison was contrary to the usual seasonal order. The volume of business during the first half of November showed an upward trend, with indications that the total for that month will exceed that of the same period in 1932. A considerable part of the increase over last year is accounted for by higher prices through practically the entire line, but more particularly in textiles. October sales of the reporting interests were 4 per cent larger than for the same month in 1932, and 6 per cent in excess of the September total this year. Stocks on November 1 were 56 per cent larger than a year earlier, but 6 per cent less than on October 1.

Electrical Supplies—Sales of the reporting firms in October were 10 per cent larger than in September and almost one-third greater than in October, 1932. Stocks on November 1 were 6 per cent larger than a month earlier, and practically the same as a year ago. The increase in the month-to-month sales comparison was seasonal, but its extent was somewhat greater than the average during the past five years. Demand for radio material, household appliances and miscellaneous commodities was in considerable volume, but the outlet through the building and automotive industry failed to expand.

Flour—Production at the twelve leading mills of the district in October totaled 269,264 barrels, the largest since last July, and comparing with 259,458 barrels in September and 237,466 barrels in October, 1932. Conditions generally in the trade showed little change as compared with the preceding thirty days. Purchasing by the large baking interests was on a somewhat freer scale than heretofore, but jobbing and general distributive interests were buying conservatively. Following the movement of cash wheat, prices advanced during the last half of October and early this month, but buyers were not dis-

posed to follow the upturn. Export demand continued disappointing, with bids from abroad mainly too low for acceptance by mills in this district. Mill operations were at from 50 to 55 per cent of capacity.

Furniture—October sales of the reporting firms were 44 per cent greater than for the same month in 1932, and 3 per cent in excess of the September total this year. Inventories showed little change during October, stocks on hand as of November 1 being 3 per cent and 2 per cent larger, respectively, than a month and a year earlier. Ordering of holiday goods and radio cabinets made a favorable showing as contrasted with the same period a year and two years ago. The low ebb of residential construction is reflected in continued quietness in demand for household furniture and furnishings.

Groceries—Sales of the reporting interests in October declined slightly from September, but the total was 12 per cent greater than for October, 1932. Stocks increased 3 per cent between October 1 and November 1, and on the latter date were 12 per cent larger than a year ago. The trend of prices continues upward, with specific advances recorded on a number of commodities. Advance ordering of holiday goods was in less than the usual seasonal volume, though considerably larger than a year ago.

Hardware—Following the usual seasonal trend, sales of the reporting firms in October declined 9 per cent below the September total, but showed an increase of 8 per cent as compared with October, 1932. Inventories decreased 3 per cent between October 1 and November 1, and on the latest date were 11.5 per cent greater than a year ago. Purchasing in the rural areas, particularly in the south, shows considerable improvement as contrasted with earlier this season and a year ago. The trend of prices continues upward in sympathy with the recent advances in raw materials.

Iron and Steel Products—The rate of operations at ferrous metal working plants in this district receded further during the past thirty days, with contraction most pronounced at the steel mills. Requirements of the principal consumers of steel failed to expand and there was a general slowing down in specifications on materials previously acquired, while new ordering declined to the lowest level since last spring. As has been the case for the past several months, miscellaneous demands furnished the principal outlet for products of both mills and foundries. Throughout October, however, the momentum supplied to the industry by the lesser consuming groups declined gradually, and since November 1 there has been a further slowing down, except in the case of seasonal commodities. Stove and heating apparatus manufacturies have been

active later into the year than is ordinarily the case, due to belated orders for their products. Both production and shipments of stoves in October were in measurably larger volume than a year earlier. Jobbing foundries also report October volume in excess of that for the same month in 1932, though less than the two preceding months this year. Farm implement interests reported a dearth of new business, and with few exceptions were not disposed to make up stock in anticipation of future demands. Jobbing and warehouse interests reported a decrease in incoming business during the last half of October and the first two weeks of November. Purchasing is mainly in small lots for immediate requirements. Prices of finished materials showed little change worthy of note as contrasted with the preceding thirty days, save as affected by the new quantity differentials. Pig iron remained unchanged in price, but there was a sharp decline in scrap iron and steel, with purchasing practically at a standstill. Production of pig iron for the country as a whole sustained another sharp recession in October, and, according to the magazine "Steel", was at the lowest daily rate since last June. The output of 1,354,696 tons in October compared with 1,507,931 tons in September, and 644,648 tons in October, 1932. Production of steel ingots in the United States in October totaled 2,112,000 tons, against 2,311,000 tons, in September and 1,087,000 tons, in October, 1932.

AUTOMOBILES

Combined passenger car, truck and taxicab production in the United States in October was 138,475, against 196,082 in September and 48,934 in October, 1932.

Distribution of automobiles in the Eighth District, according to dealers reporting to this bank, declined in October as compared with September, but the volume was substantially larger than in October a year and two years earlier. The decline from September to October is seasonal in character, and, with the exception of 1925, has taken place every year during the past decade. The extent of the decrease was somewhat greater this year than average, due partly to the fact that heavier than the usual purchasing took place in September and August. Inquiries and prospects reported by numerous distributors in the small towns indicate more satisfactory business during the next two or three months than in any similar period since 1930. Demand for trucks of all descriptions continued quite active, October sales exceeding those of September by approximately 70 per cent, though the total was slightly below that of October last year.

Some falling off in demand for repair parts and accessories was noted, and sales of tires were somewhat smaller than during the two preceding months.

Sales of new passenger cars by the reporting dealers in October were 65 per cent larger than during the same month in 1932, and about one-fourth smaller than the September total this year. Stocks of new passenger cars in dealers' hands on November 1 were 7 per cent larger than a month earlier and 14 per cent greater than a year ago. Trends in the used car market followed fairly closely those noted in new vehicles. October sales were 18 per cent below the September total and 42 per cent greater than in October, 1932. Inventories of salable second hand cars on November 1 were 8 and 18 per cent larger, respectively, than a month and a year earlier. According to dealers reporting on that item, the ratio of deferred payment sales to total sales in October was 46 per cent, against 42 per cent in September, and 51 per cent in October, 1932.

RETAIL TRADE

The condition of retail trade is reflected in the following comparative statements showing activities in the leading cities of the district:

Department Stores

	Net sales comparison		Stocks on hand	Stock turnover
	Oct. 1933 comp. to Oct. 1932	10 months ended Oct. 31, 1933 to same period 1932	Oct. 31, 1933 comp. to Oct. 31, 1932	Jan. 1, to Oct. 31, 1933 1932
Evansville	+ 7.8%	- 4.8%	- 7.7%	1.04 .89
Little Rock..+	8.5	-12.5	+13.0	1.66 1.76
Louisville	2.0	- 9.9	- 1.2	2.44 2.03
Memphis	+ 6.5	- 9.1	+ 6.1	2.41 2.38
Quincy	2.5	-10.5	- 5.7	1.94 1.82
St. Louis.....+	1.8	- 7.2	+11.9	2.82 2.83
Springfield	9.7	-13.2	- 8.3	1.15 1.04
8th District..+	2.5	- 8.2	+ 8.7	2.55 2.49

Retail Stores

	Net sales comparison		Stocks on hand	Stock turnover
	Oct. 1933 comp. to Oct. 1932	10 months ended Oct. 31, 1933 to same period 1932	Oct. 31, 1933 comp. to Oct. 31, 1932	Jan. 1, to Oct. 31, 1933 1932
Men's Fur- nishings	+ 8.4%	- 6.4%	+14.7%	2.52 2.32
Boots and Shoes	-13.7	-13.8	-17.9	2.48 2.17

CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY

Public utilities companies in the five largest cities of the district report consumption of electric current by selected industrial customers in October as being about 5 per cent smaller than in September and 10.6 per cent more than in October, 1932. Detailed figures follow:

	No. of Custom- ers	Oct., 1933 *K.W.H.	Sept., 1933 *K.W.H.	Oct. 1933 comp. to Sept. 1933	Oct., 1932 *K.W.H.	Oct. 1933 comp. to Oct. 1932
	Evansville ..	40	1,505	1,656	- 9.1%	1,793**	-16.1%
Little Rock..	35	1,547	1,961	-21.1	1,272**	+21.6
Louisville ..	85	7,353	7,337	+ .2	5,825**	+26.2
Memphis	31	1,427	1,262	+13.1	1,374	+ 3.9
St. Louis.....	195**	17,721	18,950**	- 6.5	16,453**	+ 7.7
Totals	386	29,553	31,166**	- 5.2	26,717**	+10.6

*In thousands (000 omitted).
**Revised figures.

BUILDING

The dollar value of permits issued for new construction in the five largest cities of the district in October was 71 per cent larger than in September, and 23.6 per cent less than in October, 1932. According to statistics compiled by the F. W. Dodge Corporation, construction contracts let in the Eighth District in October amounted to \$10,507,619 which compares with \$14,432,097 in September, and \$7,303,430, in October, 1932. Production of portland cement for the country as a whole in October totaled 5,037,000 barrels against 5,638,000 barrels in September and 7,939,000 barrels in October, 1932. Building figures for October follow:

	New Construction				Repairs, etc.			
	Permits		*Cost		Permits		*Cost	
	1933	1932	1933	1932	1933	1932	1933	1932
Evansville ..	150	129	\$ 25	\$ 33	50	49	\$ 12	\$ 7
Little Rock ..	16	8	2	10	80	78	11	17
Louisville ..	29	42	177	742	25	34	71	34
Memphis ...	108	82	45	63	131	123	83	51
St. Louis....	179	195	563	215	180	206	66	138
Oct. totals..	482	456	\$ 812	\$1,063	466	490	\$ 243	\$247
Sept. " ..	488	528	475	545	666	472	460	200
Aug. " ..	475	437	3,877	413	522	425	261	208

*In thousands (000 omitted).

AGRICULTURE

Under very favorable weather throughout October and the first half of November, harvesting of late crops in the Eighth District was accomplished with a minimum loss of quality and quantity, and routine agricultural operations of all descriptions made good progress. During October, improvement was recorded on several of the late crops, as a result of which November 1 estimates of the U. S. Department of Agriculture indicate larger yields than a month earlier. Due to the deferred dates of killing frosts, October weather was unusually auspicious for rice, peanuts, late beans, potatoes, buckwheat, broomcorn and some other fall vegetables and fruits. Estimates for corn, tobacco and most other crops were little changed, pending the final checkup of harvested acreage. As the estimates stand at present, they indicate smaller yields and acreage harvested, as contrasted with last year. Lack of sufficient rainfall earlier in the autumn in many sections was unfavorable for fall planted grains, but in the immediate past, precipitation has been abundant and fairly widely spread, so that the earlier handicap of drouth has been overcome and growing crops are in the main entering the cold weather in a strong position.

A favorable development during the past several weeks has been the advance in prices of wheat, cotton, corn and some other important farm products. While the upturn has not brought price levels to heights satisfactory to all producers, it has served to improve sentiment generally in the rural areas, and farmers are formulating programs for next sea-

son with more enthusiasm than was thought would be the case a month or six weeks back. There is still a disposition to hold products for more favorable markets, but the movement from farms has been in seasonable volume. An exception to the price betterment has been livestock, particularly hogs, which remain at or around the low levels of recent months. Response to the Agricultural Adjustment Administration's campaign to reduce wheat acreage in states of this district is reported generally satisfactory.

Corn—The estimated production of corn in the Eighth District, based on the November 1 condition, is 287,772,000 bushels slightly below the October 1 forecast, and comparing with 380,505,000 bushels harvested in 1932, and a 10-year average (1923-1932) of 351,832,000 bushels. Despite the fact that the crop matured rapidly, under favorable fall weather conditions, the output will be the lightest in many years, and in certain important growing sections, the smallest on record. Reduced production is due to a number of causes, among them unfavorable planting conditions, drouth during the growing season, and the heaviest infestation of chinch bugs in recent years. A considerable part of the crop has been gathered and housed, and husking returns reflect irregularity in yield and quality. The carryover from the 1932 crop is large, and will help to tide farmers through in areas of small production this year.

Winter Wheat—Eight District production of all wheat in 1933 is estimated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture at 36,048,000 bushels, which compares with the short crop of 34,128,000 bushels in 1932, and a 10-year average of 50,538,000 bushels. Soil conditions have been mainly good for seeding winter wheat and the condition of the growing crop is generally favorable. Germination has been uniformly good in the principal producing sections, and the plant has made rapid growth and is in strong position for entering the cold weather. The movement of wheat to market was in considerably smaller volume than at the corresponding period a year ago.

Fruits and Vegetables—Latest reports tend to confirm generally small yields of fruits and vegetables in this district. In addition to curtailed production, the quality of many species is considerably below the average. Weather conditions were unfavorable, but to a large extent difficulties this year have been due to the economic condition of many fruit growers. Returns from fruit during the three preceding years were low, and producers in many areas found it impossible to finance adequate spray schedules. Resort to less effective spray materials

to effect economics allowed more than the usual opportunity for insect pests to function. This has resulted in a heavy increase in cullage and reduction in commercial crops. These conditions were true particularly of apples, total production of which in states of the Eighth District is estimated at 12,696,000 bushels, of which only 1,654,000 barrels represent commercial crop, against the practical failure in 1932 of 7,174,000 bushels, with 1,189,000 barrels commercial crop, and a 5-year average (1926-1930) of 17,985,000 bushels, with 1,993,000 barrels commercial crop. In these states the pear crop is estimated at 883,000 bushels, against 439,000 bushels in 1932 and a 5-year average of 1,645,000 bushels; grapes, 33,136 tons, against 33,979 tons last year and a 5-year average of 30,649 tons; sweet potatoes, 17,840,000 bushels, against 21,435,000 bushels in 1932 and a 5-year average of 14,951,000 bushels; peanuts, 37,345,000 pounds, against 43,290,000 pounds in 1932, and a 5-year average of 27,703,000 pounds. Production of white potatoes in the district proper is estimated at 8,558,000 bushels, against 13,164,000 bushels in 1932, and a 10-year average (1923-1932) of 14,453,000 bushels.

Live Stock — The condition of livestock generally through the district underwent no notable change during the past thirty days as contrasted with the similar period immediately preceding. Mild weather through October and early November, together with improvement in pastures caused by more abundant precipitation, permitted of carrying herds well into the season without extraordinary use of prepared foods. Hay crops are turning out somewhat better than expected earlier in the season.

Receipts and shipments at St. Louis as reported by the National Stock Yards, were as follows:

	Receipts			Shipments		
	Oct., 1933	Sept., 1933	Oct., 1932	Oct., 1933	Sept., 1933	Oct., 1932
Cattle and Calves.....	140,475	111,650	105,563	69,880	57,820	62,258
Hogs	182,880	543,720	207,362	134,481	266,344	175,532
Horses and mules.....	9,281	6,372	4,246	9,327	6,264	3,126
Sheep	49,438	47,461	55,173	10,259	8,780	21,119

Cotton — While for the country as a whole, cotton prospects improved during October, the estimate, for the Eighth District was slightly smaller on November 1 than a month earlier. Based on the November 1 condition, the U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates the crop in this district at 2,457,000 bales, a decrease of 63,000 bales under the October 1 forecast, and comparing with 2,942,000 bales harvested in 1932, and a 10-year average (1923-1932) of 2,705,000 bales. Weather during October and early this month was ideal for field operations, and with labor plentiful, the harvest progressed without important interruption from September 1 to November 9. Killing frost occurred as of the latter date, which was about average. Practically

all the cotton had matured by that time, and the remnant of the unharvested crop is being secured. Ginning returns shows generally high quality. Despite the increased estimate for production and heavy ginnings, prices for cotton advanced. Inquiries from foreign buyers increased along with higher quotations on foreign currencies in terms of the dollar. In the St. Louis Market the middling grade ranged from 8.90c to 9.75c per pound between October 17 and November 15, closing at 9.75c on the latter date, against 9.00c on October 17, and 5.85c on November 15, 1932. Receipts at Arkansas compresses from August 1 to November 10 totaled 711,799 bales, against 787,008 bales during the corresponding period last year. Stocks on hand as of November 10 were 614,307 bales, which compares with 345,267 bales on October 13, and 758,031 bales on November 11, 1932.

Tobacco — Eighth District tobacco prospects declined between October 1 and November 1, the Government's estimate on the latter being 308,723,000 pounds, a decrease of 16,188,000 pounds under the October 1 forecast, and comparing with 261,257,000 pounds harvested in 1932, and a 10-year average of 308,565,000 pounds. Curing of the crop in both the burley and dark tobacco districts has proceeded satisfactorily, and early reports indicate a desirable quality of all types to be marketed this season. Due to dry, cold weather prevailing in early November, stripping has been delayed. While it is planned to open the auction markets around December 1, actual opening dates will be governed by weather conditions. Purchasing of old crop burley tobacco continues in a limited way. Unsold stocks as of November 15 were estimated to be only about one-third as large as a year earlier. Demand for all classes of dark fired tobacco continues good, with independent stocks the smallest in a number of years.

COMMODITY PRICES

Range of prices in the St. Louis market between November 15, 1933 and October 16, 1933 with closing quotations on the latter date and November 15, 1932, follow:

	High	Low	Close	
			Nov. 15, 1933	Nov. 15, 1932
Wheat				
Dec. ....per bu..	.93½	.67½	\$.89½	\$.45¼
May .....	.96½	.73	.93	.50¼
July .....	.88½	.78	.87½	.51
No. 2 red winter	.95	.77	\$.94 @	\$.50 @
No. 2 hard " ....	.98½	.75½	.98½ @	.49 @
Corn				
*Dec. ....	.50	.37½	.47½	.26
*May .....	.56½	.44	.53½ @	.31¼
*July .....	.58½	.46½	.55¼ @	.....
No. 2 mixed	.45½	.38	.43	.25
No. 2 white	.50½	.40	.50½	.27 @
Oats				
No. 2 white	.38½	.30	.37¼	.17¼ @
Flour				
Soft patent.....per bbl.	6.95	5.75	6.45 @6.95	2.65 @2.95
Spring patent.....	7.10	5.85	6.45 @6.95	4.25 @4.50
Middling cotton....per lb.	.0975	.0890	.0975	.0885
Hogs on hoof.....per cwt.	4.70	3.00	3.60 @4.25	2.25 @3.35

*Nominal quotations.

FINANCIAL

Moderate improvement in demand for bank credit took place in the Eighth District during the past thirty days. The major part of the improvement was in heavier requirements of mercantile and industrial interests, particularly the former. Demand for funds for harvesting and moving fall crops showed the usual seasonal contraction, and country banks noticeably reduced their commitments with city correspondents and at the Federal reserve bank. Harvesting and housing of the tobacco crop has been completed, and markets for that product will open about December 1, subsequent to which time the release of a considerable volume of funds for meeting bank and other obligations is anticipated. The marketing of cotton has been in good volume, and has been reflected in a reduction of loans at banks in the typical areas of production. In the winter wheat sections a contraction was noted in commitments of grain elevator and flour milling interests, but the volume of loans in this category continues substantially larger than at the corresponding period a year and two years earlier. Demand for funds to condition livestock for market continues relatively light.

Except for a further substantial increase in their reserve balances, changes in the condition of reporting member banks in the principal cities between October 18 and November 15 were of small proportions. Total loans and discounts increased 1.3 per cent and there was an increase of 3.4 per cent in investments, represented mainly by larger holdings of Government securities, the volume of which at the end of the four-week period was 13.3 per cent greater than on November 16 a year ago. Net demand deposits increased 3.2 per cent, while a slight contraction was recorded in time deposits. Reserve balances at 54 million dollars as of November 15 were 14 per cent and 46.5 per cent greater, respectively, than a month and a year earlier.

The amount of savings deposits in selected banks on November 1 increased slightly as compared with October 4, but was 14 per cent smaller than on November 4, 1932.

While actual quotations showed little change from the preceding thirty days, the trend of interest and discount rates was slightly firmer. At St. Louis banks, as of the week ended November 15, current rates were as follows: Customers' prime commercial paper, 3½ to 5½ per cent; collateral loans, 4 to 6 per cent; loans secured by warehouse receipts, 1⅞ to 5½ per cent; interbank loans, 5 to 5½ per cent and cattle loans, 5 to 6 per cent.

Condition of Banks — Loans and discounts of the reporting member banks on November 15, 1933

showed an increase of 1.3 per cent as contrasted with October 18, 1933. Deposits increased 2.6 per cent between October 18, 1933 and November 15, 1933 and on the latter date were 3.2 per cent greater than on November 16, 1932. Composite statement follows:

	*Nov. 15, 1933	*Oct. 18, 1933	*Nov. 16, 1932
Number of banks reporting.....	19	19	19
Loans and discounts (incl. rediscounts)			
Secured by U. S. Govt. obligations and other stocks and bonds.....	\$ 87,055	\$ 88,041	\$ 101,185
All other loans and discounts.....	152,000	148,011	160,024
Total loans and discounts.....	\$239,055	\$236,052	\$261,209
Investments			
U. S. Government securities.....	142,356	134,604	109,929
Other securities.....	101,687	101,424	105,595
Total investments.....	\$244,043	\$236,028	\$215,524
Reserve balance with F. R. Bank..	54,102	47,433	36,933
Cash in vault.....	8,993	8,778	5,673
Deposits			
Net demand deposits.....	289,714	280,815	268,733
Time deposits.....	158,694	159,293	183,784
Government deposits.....	25,700	22,081	6,706
Total deposits.....	\$474,108	\$462,189	\$459,223
Bills payable and rediscounts with Federal Reserve Bank.....	180	535	940

*In thousands (000 omitted).

This report covers 19 licensed banks in 4 leading cities instead of 24 banks in 5 leading cities, as heretofore.

Federal Reserve Operations — During October the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis discounted for 64 member banks against 65 in September 208 in October, 1932. The discount rate remained unchanged at 3 per cent. Changes in the principal assets and liabilities of this institution appear in the following table:

	*Nov. 17, 1933	*Oct. 17, 1933	*Nov. 17, 1932
Bills discounted	\$ 1,381	\$ 1,803	\$ 8,798
Bills bought	242	.....	.....
U. S. Securities.....	93,200	89,402	66,156
Federal Inter. Cr. Bk. Debentures.....	.....	.....	.....
Participation in Inv. Foreign Banks.....	155	172	1,008
Total Bills and Securities.....	\$ 94,978	\$ 91,377	\$ 75,962
Total Reserves.....	\$167,126	\$157,277	\$100,408
Total deposits	99,841	91,167	62,902
F. R. Notes in circulation.....	143,813	139,988	101,685
Ratio of reserve to deposits and F. R. Note Liabilities.....	68.6%	68.0%	61.0%

*In thousands (000 omitted).

Debits to Individual Accounts — The following table gives the total debits charged by banks to checking accounts, savings accounts, certificates of deposit accounts and trust accounts of individuals, firms, corporations and U. S. Government in leading cities of the district. Charges to accounts of banks are not included.

	*Oct., 1933	*Sept., 1933	*Oct., 1932	Oct. 1933 Sept. 1933	comp. to Oct. 1932
East St. Louis, & Natl.					
Stock Yards, Ill. \$	20,230	\$ 23,194	\$ 18,570	-12.8%	+ 8.9
El Dorado, Ark.....	3,375	3,057	3,704	+10.4	- 8.9
Evansville, Ind.....	14,124	13,849	13,119	+ 2.0	+ 7.7
Fort Smith, Ark.....	8,326	7,511	7,713	+10.9	+ 7.9
Greenville, Miss.....	4,063	2,927	2,925	+38.8	+38.9
Helena, Ark.....	2,115	1,401	1,839	+51.0	+15.0
Little Rock, Ark.....	18,596	19,468	18,643	- 4.5	- 0.3
Louisville, Ky.....	115,144	107,079	103,470	+ 7.5	+11.3
Memphis, Tenn.....	130,252	108,040	102,861	+47.9	+26.6
Owensboro, Ky.....	2,634	2,494	2,473	+ 5.6	+ 6.5
Pine Bluff, Ark.....	6,695	5,399	5,428	+24.0	+23.3
Quincy, Ill.....	5,036	4,890	5,506	+ 3.0	+ 8.5
St. Louis, Mo.....	418,292	379,600	394,700	+10.2	+ 6.0
Sedalia, Mo.....	1,300	1,295	1,493	+ 0.4	-12.9
Springfield, Mo.....	9,165	9,386	9,511	- 2.4	- 3.6
**Texarkana, Ark.-Tex.....	5,225	5,098	5,362	+ 2.5	- 2.6
Totals	\$764,572	\$674,688	\$697,317	+13.3	+ 9.6

*In thousands (000 omitted).

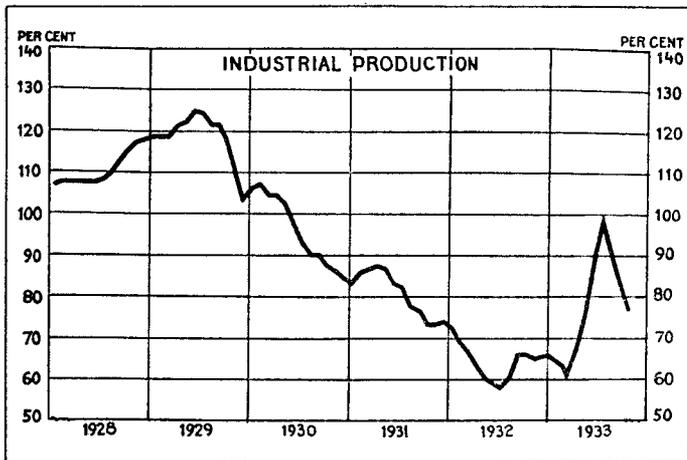
**Includes one bank in Texarkana, Texas not in Eighth District.

(Compiled November 23, 1933)

BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

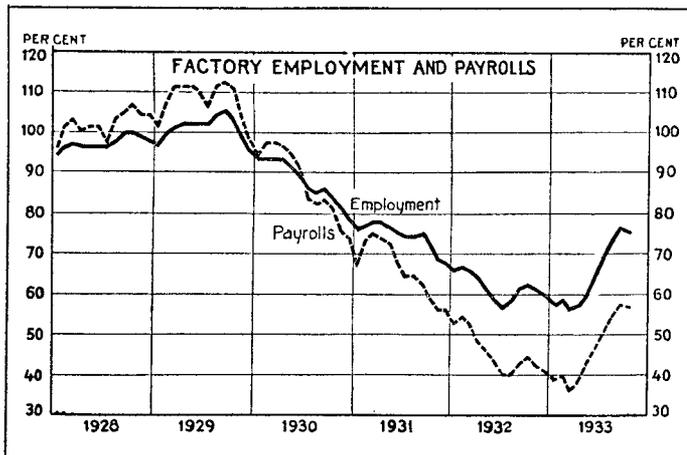
Volume of industrial output continued to decline in October. Factory employment and payrolls, after increasing continuously for six months up to the middle of September, showed little change from then to the middle of October. There was an increase in the volume of construction undertaken, reflecting the expansion of public works.

PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT—Volume of output in basic industries decreased in October as compared with September, contrary to seasonal tendency, and the Board's seasonally adjusted index declined from 84 per cent of the 1923-1925



Index number of industrial production, adjusted for seasonal variation. (1923-1925 average=100). Latest figure, October, preliminary 77.

average to 77 per cent. This compared with an index of 67 in October of last year and of 60 at the low point in March of this year. At steel mills activity declined sharply between the middle of October and the first week in November, but in the following three weeks showed little change. In the automobile industry, output has been curtailed in recent weeks in preparation for new models. For the first ten months of the year the number of cars produced was 50 per cent larger than in the corresponding months of 1932. Output at shoe factories showed a seasonal decline in



Indexes of factory employment and payrolls, without adjustment for seasonal variation. (1923-1925 average 100).

Latest figures for October, employment 75.8, payrolls 57.4.

October as compared with September, and there was some decrease in activity at cotton and wool textile mills, contrary to seasonal tendency. At meat packing establishments activity declined sharply from the unusually high rate prevailing in September, due to the fact that in that month a large number of pigs purchased by the Federal Government were handled. Total number of employees at factories, excluding canning establishments, showed little change from the middle of September to the middle

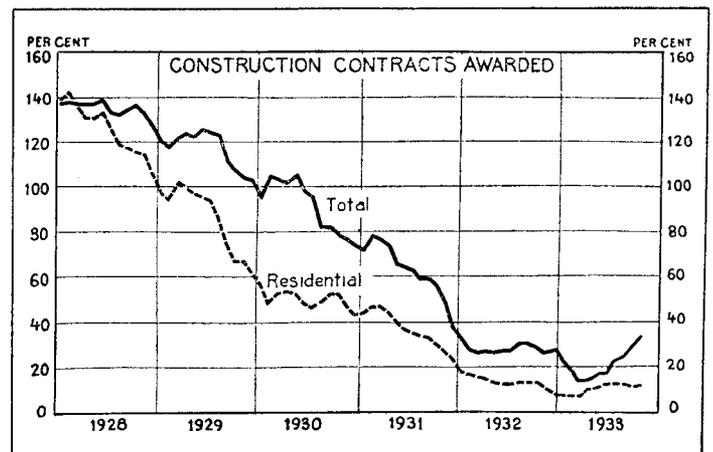
of October. At canning establishments there was a decline of a seasonal character and the Board's index, which includes this industry, showed a slight decrease.

Value of construction contracts awarded during October and the first half of November, as reported by the F. W. Dodge Corporation, showed a considerable advance over the preceding six-weeks period, reflecting a growing volume of public works.

DISTRIBUTION—Shipments of commodities by rail showed a somewhat larger decline between the middle of October and the middle of November than is usual at this season. Department store sales increased in October as compared with September by slightly less than the usual seasonal amount.

PRICES—Wholesale prices, as measured by the weekly index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, declined from 71.3 per cent of the 1926 average in the first week of October to 70.4 per cent in the third week, and then advanced to 71.7 per cent in the third week of November, a level 20 per cent above the low point of last March. Following declines early in October, prices of cotton, grains, lard, rubber, tin, and silver increased considerably, while cattle prices continued to decline and prices of hogs showed little change.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE—The value of the dollar in the foreign exchange market fluctuated around 67 per cent of its gold parity during the latter part of October; declined during the first part of November, to 59 per cent on November 16, and on November 22 was 61 per cent.



Indexes based on three month moving averages of F. W. Dodge data for 37 Eastern States, adjusted for seasonal variation. (1923-1925 average=100). Latest figures, October, total 35, residential 13.

BANK CREDIT—Between October 18 and November 15 there was little change in the reserves of member banks, which continued to be more than \$800,000,000 in excess of legal requirements. Purchases of United States Government securities by the reserve banks declined gradually from \$25,000,000 during the week ending October 25 to \$2,000,000 during the week ending November 15. For the four-week period as a whole the banks' holdings of United States Government securities showed an increase of \$57,000,000, while holdings of acceptances and discounts for member banks showed little change. Total loans and investments of member banks increased by \$90,000,000 during the period, reflecting a growth of \$150,000,000 in holdings of United States Government securities; of \$25,000,000 in holdings of other securities, and of \$30,000,000 in all other loans, while loans on securities declined. Net demand deposits declined by \$70,000,000 during the period, while Government deposits increased by \$180,000,000.

Rates on acceptances and yields on short term United States treasury bills and certificates rose slightly from mid-October to November 20, and yields on Government and high grade corporate bonds advanced somewhat. Discount rates of the Federal Reserve banks of Boston, San Francisco, and Philadelphia were reduced from 3 per cent to 2½ per cent on November 2, 3, and 16, respectively.