Monthly Review

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ST. LOUIS

Volume XXIX APRIL 1, 1947 Number 4

Full Employment in the Eighth Federal Reserve District

Less than eighteen months after the end of World War II, total employment in the Eighth District's major urban centers has almost reached the level which had been forecast for it by the various surveys conducted by the local Committees for Economic Development. In the five major metropolitan areas in the district, which in 1940 employed 30 per cent of all workers in the district, current employment is within 3 per cent of the seasonally adjusted anticipated postwar level and is only 6 per cent below the wartime peak. In January, 1947, there were 25 per cent more workers employed in these areas than in 1940, and during the remainder of 1947 further increases are anticipated. However, available estimates by employers indicate that the rate of increase in 1947 is not expected to equal that of the postwar period to date.

Exact current data on employment in areas outside the urban centers are not available, but such evidence as there is indicates that an equally creditable record is being registered in those sections. In other words, the district is presently operating at an employment level anticipated under conditions of full peacetime employment. There is every reason to point with pride to this situation but the problem is to maintain full employment, and with the long run outlook for a considerable body of surplus farm population, that problem is no minor one. Increased industrialization is necessary, particularly outside the metropolitan areas. The need is greatest for industries which will employ a large proportion of male workers, for in outstate areas the trend has been toward the establishment of industries, such as leather and textile, which employ primarily women. Eighth District out-migration traditionally has been large. One of the basic problems of the district is to develop its resources in order to provide more employment opportunities within the district for its normally surplus labor force.

A number of factors have contributed to the present high level of employment. Of primary importance is the fact that industrial activity rose steadily throughout 1946. With consumer demand at unprecedented levels, many district establishments found it necessary to expand their facilities and employment to meet the enlarged demand. In addition, a substantial number of workers were employed in new plants established in the district since V-J Day. The further fact that reconversion difficulties in this district were relatively less complicating than in areas in which a larger proportion of industrial capacity was geared directly to strictly war goods production completely dissimilar to normal operations, increased the rate at which Eighth District industry was able to resume peacetime activities.

While the achievement of present employment levels has been accomplished with satisfactory results, the transition from a war production economy to concentration on peacetime civilian goods production was not without its problems. A major challenge to district industry was the absorption of a large number of returned veterans. The migration of workers during the war period and the impact of returning migrants to this area after the war also were of considerable importance. In many industries, particularly in the early postwar period, materials shortages, which were intensified by work stoppages in a number of instances, retarded operations. Finally, labor shortages in certain skilled, clerical, and low-paying occupations were acute, even though over-all labor requirements were met without too great difficulty.

The various social security programs eased the transition from a war to a peacetime economy. Unemployment compensation for civilian workers and the Servicemen's Readjustment Allowances not only helped maintain purchasing power but enabled workers to seek jobs utilizing their highest skills. The old age insurance benefits made it easier for older workers to retire, resulting in more jobs for veterans and displaced workers.

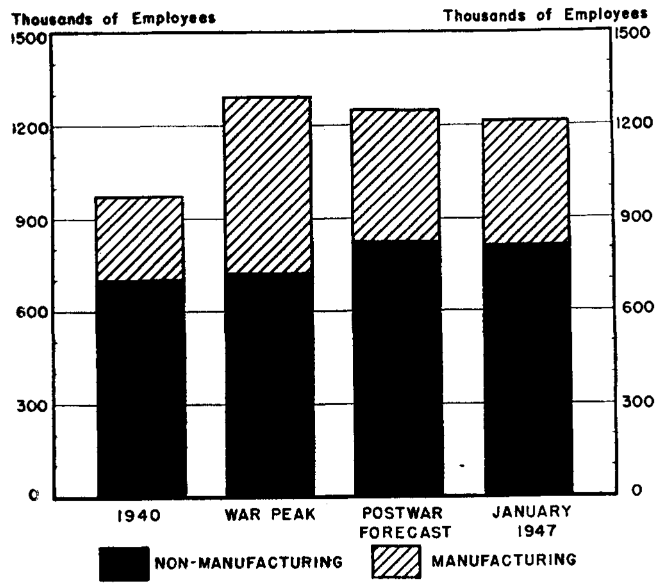
EMPLOYMENT IN THE METROPOLITAN AREAS

A substantial proportion of total district employment is concentrated in the five metropolitan areas of St. Louis, Louisville, Memphis, Evansville and Little Rock.[1] In January, 1947, total employment in these centers was estimated at 1,219,000 or only 50,000 less than the number expected to be at work under conditions of full peacetime employment. When the postwar estimate is adjusted for the January seasonal factor, actual employment in that month was within 3 per cent of the hoped-for postwar level and was 9 per cent larger than in September, 1946, when postwar employment was at its low.

All areas had a decrease in manufacturing employment and an increase in the number of workers engaged in nonmanufacturing between their war peak and January, 1947. The peak wartime employment in the fall of 1943 was only 6 per cent higher than the current level, since the decline of approximately 170,000 workers in manufacturing after the war was partly offset by an increase of 90,000 workers in nonmanufacturing. All nonmanufacturing employment except Government employment increased after the war.

A quarter of a million more people were working in these areas in January, 1947, than in 1940. Each of the five areas had one-fourth more people employed than in 1940. Manufacturing employment was almost 50 per cent larger than in 1940. Nonmanufacturing industries had increased their em-

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN 8th DISTRICT METROPOLITAN AREAS



ployment less, percentagewise, but the absolute increase was approximately the same as in the manufacturing industries.

These additional workers have been drawn from the unemployed, from those who normally would not have entered the labor market, and from the normal increase in the labor force. Many who went to work during the war from economic or patriotic motives remained in the postwar labor force. This is particularly true of housewives who did not return to their homes in the numbers anticipated.

Since 1940 the employment pattern in the major areas has shifted considerably. The ratio of manufacturing to total employment increased from 28 per cent in 1940 to 44 per cent at the war peak. In January, 1947, one of every three workers was in manufacturing. The increase over 1940 is particularly significant in terms of district income since manufacturing wages generally are higher than in the nonmanufacturing lines.

St. Louis—The St. Louis area is somewhat behind the other district areas in meeting its employment goal, although in January, 1947, total employment of 671,000 was only 7 per cent below that forecast. Generally, the industries in the St. Louis area which have not increased as much as expected are those which were affected relatively more by labor disputes or material shortages. These industries include iron and steel, textiles and textile products, electrical machinery, construction, and mining. The service industries also have not increased employment as much as forecast because workers were reluctant to enter this com-

[1] St. Louis includes St. Louis City, St. Charles and St. Louis Counties, Missouri, and Madison and St. Clair Counties, Illinois; Louisville includes Jefferson County, Kentucky, and Floyd and Clark Counties, Indiana; Memphis includes Shelby County, Tennessee; Evansville includes Gibson, Posey, Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties, Indiana, and Henderson County, Kentucky; Little Rock includes Pulaski and Saline Counties, Arkansas.

paratively low-paying field when jobs were available elsewhere. During 1947 employment gains are anticipated in these industries, although they are not expected this year to reach the peak originally forecast. Nonelectrical machinery, printing and publishing, public utilities and Government have exceeded their forecast employment, with minor increases indicated for the remainder of the year.

In 1940 slightly less than one-third of the total employment in the St. Louis area was in manufacturing industries. This ratio increased to almost one-half at the war peak and then declined to 37 per cent by January, 1947. Shifts also occurred within manufacturing. Durable goods employment increased from 41 per cent of total manufacturing employment in 1940 to 48 per cent at the war peak and in January, 1947, was 46 per cent of the total. The trend since 1940 is important since wages not only are higher in manufacturing than in nonmanufacturing but also average higher in durable than in nondurable goods industries.

Louisville—In January, 1947, employment in the Louisville area was within 5,000 of the postwar estimate. Manufacturing employment had not yet reached the estimated level but nonmanufacturing was at the level forecast. The January, 1947, employment of 205,000 was only 15,000 below the war peak and was 51,000 higher than in 1940.

Manufacturing employment, which constituted only 28 per cent of the total in 1940, increased to 45 per cent at the war peak and is currently at 37 per cent. Louisville had a larger proportionate increase in manufacturing employment between 1940 and 1947 than any other district city. Manufacturing employment is expected to increase considerably during 1947, with little further increase expected in nonmanufacturing activity.

Memphis—Employment in January, 1947, was slightly higher than the postwar forecast because a much larger than expected increase occurred in nonmanufacturing lines, more than offsetting the failure of manufacturing industries to reach the anticipated peacetime level. The January, 1947, employment of 177,000 was only 3,000 below the war peak and was 36,000 above 1940. While Memphis has shown somewhat less success than other district cities in meeting its postwar manufacturing employment goal, the number of manufacturing workers has increased from 18 per cent of total employment in 1940 to 22 per cent in January, 1947.

Evansville—Although manufacturing employment in January, 1947, was only half that of the wartime peak, it was higher than was anticipated for the postwar period. Nonmanufacturing employment also was slightly higher than expected. About 19,000 more people were employed in January, 1947, than in 1940. Thirty-four per cent of the January, 1947, employment of 93,000 was in manufacturing as compared with 30 per cent in 1940 and 55 per cent during the war. Substantial employment increases are forecast for 1947, principally in the nonelectrical machinery and automobile industries.

Little Rock—Employment in January, 1947 exceeded both manufacturing and nonmanufacturing postwar forecasts by a larger percentage than in any other district city. January employment of 73,000 was the same as at the war peak and was 15,000 higher than in 1940. Little Rock is the only major district city whose current employment is equal to that at the war peak. An upward trend in employment is expected during 1947, with three new manufacturers expected to create over 1,000 new jobs by the end of the year.

NEW INDUSTRIES AND PLANT EXPANSION

An important factor in explaining the high level of employment in the district is the growth of new industries and expansion of established enterprises that have characterized many sections of the district. However, the promise for the future that lies in this development is more significant, perhaps, than its effect on current employment levels since many of the new plant and expansion programs are in the early or intermediate stages of construction. Thus, due to the time lag between the planning stage and actual operation of new or expanded plant, the full effect of new industrial facilities for which definite commitments have been made will not be apparent until later in 1947 and 1948.

The significance of these developments is indicated by the fact that estimated expenditures for new and expanded manufacturing plant and equipment definitely planned in 1946 in the major industrial areas total in excess of $100 million. In the Louisville area, 42 new plants with total estimated employment of 7,800 workers and 122 plant expansions which will require an additional 2,300 employees, were reported as programmed in 1946. Total expenditures for both types of projects, when completed, are estimated at $15.3 million. In Memphis, 87 new plants, costing $30 million and expected to employ 7,100 workers, were projected in 1946, while 101 plant expansions were announced at a cost of $8 million. In Little Rock, combined expenditures of $12 million are expected when all projects reported in 1946 are completed, while in St. Louis new and expanded plant facilities will total $32.7 million when completed and will provide employment for 9,700 workers.

In addition to the industrial development in the major urban areas, a substantial number of industries are locating in the less populated centers. For example, in the district portion of Tennessee, excluding Memphis, 31 new plants costing more than $25,000 each were placed under construction, completed or definitely planned in 1946. It should be noted that almost twice as many new plants were located in towns with population under 2,500 as in cities ranging in size from 10,000 to 50,000 population. Although total new employment probably will be greater in the plants to be built in the larger centers, the growth of industry in the smaller towns is of particular significance to the district economy.

EMPLOYMENT OF VETERANS

The absorption into productive employment of the district's one million World War II veterans, of whom more than 800,000 were discharged within a few months after V-J Day, constituted one of the most important postwar employment problems in the district. Most of these veterans were absorbed by industry or educational institutions in a remarkably short time with a minimum of unemployment. In January, 1947, an estimated 810,000 of this district's veterans were employed, 70,000 were unemployed and the remaining 120,000 were not in the labor force.

Although the great majority have completed their readjustment from military to civilian life, a number of veterans still are unable to find employment, are dissatisfied with their jobs, or are dropping out of school. The principal causes of dissatisfaction in the employment field are lower-than-anticipated wages and the inability to use skills acquired in service.

The veteran is becoming an important factor in practically all industries as the percentage of the total employment consisting of veterans increases. The Bureau of the Census reports that in February, 1947, one of every five employed persons was a World War II veteran, with one of every three employed men a veteran. The highest proportion of veterans is found in the durable goods manufacturing industries and the lowest in agriculture.

The impact of one million returning servicemen on the district's labor market was cushioned by the large numbers of veterans returning to school, by the Servicemen's Readjustment Allowances which permitted veterans to shop around for suitable jobs, and by the long vacations many took before seeking work.

Although the Government's program for aid to veterans has been abused and former servicemen object to some phases, the veteran employment problem would have been immeasurably greater without it. The school benefits, by enabling veterans to return to school, decreased the number who otherwise would have been seeking work at the peak of unemployment. The Servicemen's Readjustment Allowances gave the veteran time to locate a satisfactory job and thus, in some industries, helped reduce labor turnover, a saving for both employer and veteran.

Approximately 40 to 45 per cent of all dischargees had drawn unemployment benefits by the end of 1946. While the ratio appears large and has led to numerous complaints directed toward the so-called "52-20 Clubs", the percentage of veterans collecting benefits and not actively seeking work is believed to be small, with the majority using their allowance for only a short period to tide them over until a suitable job was found.

The on-the-job training program has seen both the greatest abuse and the greatest increase in the number of participants of any of the veterans' aid programs. Nationally 750,000 veterans were enrolled as trainees in January, 1947, as compared to only 40,000 in January, 1946. Some employers have used this program as a method of obtaining low-cost labor and as a payroll subsidy, while some veterans have attempted to collect this allowance without being bona fide trainees. The chief difficulty in most areas has been a serious lack of adequate supervision and inspection on the part of the states responsible for policing this program.

WAR AND POSTWAR MIGRATION

The tremendous volume of migration during and immediately following the war was made necessary by geographical shifts in employment opportunities. In the United States, 15 million civilians, fourteen years of age and over, migrated from their home counties during the war years and 6 million migrated in the year immediately after V-J Day. These figures are exclusive of the movement into and out of the armed forces. While migration probably is necessary to maintain full employment, serious community and employment problems are created thereby. Workers on the move in the postwar period temporarily increased unemployment and added to the problem of absorption by industry.

An unexpected trend in postwar migration is that relatively few migrants have returned to their prewar residence. Only one out of every four postwar migrants has returned to the county in which he lived in 1940. The majority of postwar migrants were either people who had not moved during the war or wartime migrants moving on to new places.

With the exception of the immediate postwar period, the Eighth District has constantly experienced net out-migration, principally because of a lack of sufficient job opportunities. This trend was accelerated during the war years when the district lost a net of 900,000 civilians. No data are available on the exact number who have returned although estimates indicate that the district has gained perhaps 100,000 to 200,000 inhabitants, excluding veterans, since the end of the war. Apparently, almost all of the out-migrants who intend to return to this district have done so, and in the near future the volume of out-migration again is expected to exceed the flow of workers into the district.

During the war, the Indiana section of this district was the only area in which in-migrants exceeded the movement of workers from the area. The Arkansas, Mississippi, and Missouri sections lost the largest number during the war. Interstate unemployment compensation claims give some indication of postwar migration. In Missouri, Kentucky, Arkansas, and Mississippi the number of claims filed by people currently residing in the state but whose last covered employment was elsewhere was larger than the number of claims filed by workers whose last employment was in one of the above states but who were currently living elsewhere. The reverse was true for Indiana, Tennessee and Illinois.

HOURS AND WAGES

Since the end of the war, the forty-hour work week has become commonly accepted in manufacturing with a definite trend toward the forty-hour week apparent in nonmanufacturing industries. In January, 1947, St. Louis manufacturers had an average scheduled work week of 41.1 hours as compared with 46.1 hours in April, 1945. In the survey referred to earlier in this article, St. Louis employers, on the average, anticipated a work week of 40.9 hours for the postwar period. In January, 1947, three out of four had a forty-hour scheduled work week. Fewer than 2 per cent of the manufacturing industries had less than forty hours scheduled and the remainder had work weeks in excess of forty hours.

Immediately after the end of the war, income from wages and salaries declined sharply, principally as the result of a decrease in total employment, the elimination of overtime pay, and the shift from manufacturing to the lower-paid nonmanufacturing jobs. By January, 1947, however, actual weekly earnings of individual employees in manufacturing were almost as high as at the wartime peak as a result of wage increases which have offset the loss of overtime pay. However, real weekly earnings in manufacturing are somewhat below the war peak because of increases in the cost of living. According to the National Industrial Conference Board, real weekly earnings in December were 15 per cent below the war peak but were 27 per cent above 1939 and 16 per cent higher than in 1941.

CONCLUSION

The outlook for a continued increase in employment during 1947 is good, particularly in the manufacturing industries. However, the rate of growth is not expected to equal that experienced during the past eighteen months. Little if any increase is anticipated for the non-manufacturing industries during the remainder of the year except in reflection of seasonal requirements. With total employment higher than in 1946, total income from salaries and wages in 1947 should be in excess of 1946. The decline in the work week, directed toward a forty-hour week in most industries, is expected to be offset in non-manufacturing and more than compensated for in the manufacturing industries by higher hourly wage rates.

In view of the real progress that has been made since the end of the war, the major task in the future is to work toward the development of district industry and resources in such a way that present levels of employment and output can be sustained on a sound base.

Gertrude M. Krausnick
Weldon A. Stein

Member Bank Earnings in 1946

The annual study of banking operations, recently completed by this bank, shows that member banks in the Eighth Federal Reserve District emerged from the first full postwar year with peak earnings and with assets more fully invested than in any year since before the war began. Earning assets accounted for 73.2 per cent of total resources in 1946 as compared to 69.7 in 1945 and a wartime low of 59.5 in 1942.

The first full postwar year of operations resulted in some changes in distribution of assets and therefore in sources of income. The proportion of member bank assets invested in Government securities reached an all-time peak in 1946, being 54.3 per cent as compared to 52.8 in 1945. Holdings of other securities amounted to 5.1 per cent, a slight increase over the previous year. In addition to maintaining a strongly invested position, member banks met the increased credit needs of their communities, a loan expansion of $260 million during the year raising loans to 13.8 per cent of total assets as compared to 12.1 per cent in 1945. Because of the tremendous increase in Government security holdings during the war, however, loan portfolios still accounted for a substantially smaller portion of total assets than in 1939 when the percentage was 34.4.

The shifts in the distribution of earning assets were not uniform in all size groups of banks. The proportion of resources invested in securities increased in all size groups except at the 29 large banks (with deposits over $25 million) in which there was a small decrease. Loans accounted for a larger proportion of total assets at all size groups except banks having deposits between $10 million and $25 million, which experienced a slight decline. The large banks showed the greatest increase in the proportion of their assets in loans, the ratio rising from 13.3 per cent in 1945 to 17.1 in 1946 for banks with deposits of $25 to $50 million, and from 21.5 to 25.3 percent for banks with deposits of $50 million and over. To enlarge the proportion of earning assets member banks in the district generally reduced the percentage of resources held as cash assets, banks with deposits over $50 million being the only group to report an increase from 23.8 per cent in 1945 to 24.5 in 1946.

Investments contributed a somewhat smaller portion of total earnings in 1946 than in 1945, despite a slight increase in the proportion of assets held in this form, interest on securities accounting for 50.7 per cent of gross earnings as compared to 51.6 per cent in 1945. The increase in loan volume together with an increase in average yield on loans from 5.3 to 5.4 per cent raised earnings on loans from 32.3 per cent of the total in 1945 to 35.2 per cent in 1946.

The greater shift from securities to loans in the large banks is reflected in changes in the sources of income in 1946. Banks with deposits of $50 million and over received nearly 42 per cent of their gross income from loans as compared to 34 per cent in 1945, and those with deposits of $25 to $50 million received 34 per cent of their income from this source in 1946 as compared to 27 per cent in 1945. However, the small banks with deposits under $500,000 still relied most heavily on loans as a source of earnings, obtaining 50 per cent of their income from this source as compared to an average of 35 per cent for all district member banks. The average yield on loans was considerably higher for the small banks, the range being from a high of 6.3 per cent for the smallest size group to a low of 2.9 per cent for banks with deposits of $50 million and over.

Expenses did not increase as much as earnings in 1946 and used up a smaller proportion of income than in 1945. Expenses, including all taxes, absorbed 68.2 per cent of earnings—the smallest proportion since before the war. Salaries and wages, the largest single expense item, absorbed 28.5 per cent of income in 1946. Interest on time and savings deposits in 1946 used up 8.2 per cent of income as compared to 8.7 in 1945 and 16.6 in 1939.

After paying operating expenses and all taxes in 1946, net current earnings averaged 31.8 per cent of income. This represents an increase from both the 1945 average of 28.5 per cent and the 1939 average of 29.3 per cent. Profits from the sale of securities and recoveries from losses previously charged off amounted to 2.2 per cent of earnings. This addition raised net profits to 34 per cent of total income in 1946 as compared with 32.3 per cent in 1945 and 26.5 per cent in 1939.

The return on invested capital averaged 12.9 per cent in 1946, an increase over the 10.8 per cent earned in 1945. Despite this high rate of return, member banks continued to follow their traditionally conservative dividend policy, paying stockholders approximately 25 per cent of their net profits or 3.1 per cent on invested capital. The remaining 75 per cent was retained by the banks to strengthen their capital positions, increasing them by 9.8 per cent.

The increase in capital has not kept pace with the growth in deposits, however, the ratio of capital to deposits continuing to decline. This ratio, which was 15.5 per cent in 1939, has dropped each year since, reaching 6.2 in 1945 and 6.0 in 1946. This ratio does not appear unduly low, however, because of the liquidity and high quality of member bank assets. Moreover, the high level of earnings should make it easier for banks to obtain additional capital through the issue of capital stock.

Member banks in this district generally are maintaining a more liquid position than after World War I. At the end of 1919 Eighth District member banks had 56.5 per cent of their total assets in loans, 9.8 per cent in Government securities, and 21.1 per cent in cash assets. At the end of 1946 only 13.8 per cent of total assets was in loans while 54.3 per cent was in Government securities and 26.2 per cent was in cash assets. The ready convertibility of Government securities gives the banks a very liquid position with Government securities and cash assets constituting 80.5 per cent of total resources in contrast to 30.9 per cent at the end of 1919. Thus it appears that member banks, with good earnings and high quality assets, are in a strong position to meet the remaining postwar readjustments and the sound credit needs of individuals and business firms.

EARNINGS AND EXPENSES OF ALL MEMBER BANKS EIGHTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

	1946	1945	1939
Percentage of Total Earnings			
Interest on Government securities	44.3	44.1	29.3
Interest on other securities	6.4	7.5	
Earnings on loans	35.2	32.3	55.3
All other earnings	14.1	16.1	15.4
Total Earnings	100.0	100.0	100.0
Salaries and wages	28.5	29.4	28.1
Interest on time and savings accounts	8.2	8.7	16.6
All other expenses[1]	31.5	33.4	26.0
Total Expenses	68.2	71.5	70.7
Net current earnings	31.8	28.5	29.3
Net recoveries	2.2	3.8	— 2.8
Net Profits	34.0	32.3	26.5
Percentage of Total Assets			
U. S. Government securities	54.3	52.8	30.8
Other securities	5.1	4.8	
Loans	13.8	12.1	34.4
Cash Assets	26.2	29.6	31.6

[1] Includes all taxes.

E. Francis De Vos.

Survey of Current Conditions

International developments again have been projected to the forefront in the current economic scene. The Government's proposed program of financial aid to Greece and Turkey may be expected to have only relatively minor initial repercussions on the domestic economy. The volume of funds involved is small relative to total Government expenditures and should constitute no particular fiscal problem. The effects may be more pronounced in the realm of prices, particularly farm prices, as a result of heavy Government purchases for export, but the level of industrial production in the immediate future will be relatively unaffected by the program.

Within the framework of an intensified foreign situation the current domestic outlook contains little new evidence of potential weakness. Income payments in January were at an annual rate of $176 billion or almost 7 per cent larger than for the full year 1946. However, sharp increases in the wholesale price level during recent weeks, particularly in farm and food products and raw materials, indicate the probability of further advances in the consumer's cost of living. On the other hand, there are scattered signs of impending price adjustments in the apparel and other industries where production rapidly is catching up to effective demand. To a large degree the orderliness and extent of whatever downward price adjustments occur during the coming months will determine the severity of any general realignment that develops in our economy in 1947.

EMPLOYMENT

District employment remained stable during February, 1947, with slight seasonal increases in the number of agricultural and construction workers offset by a decline in trade employment.

The number of unemployed has remained at approximately the same level for the past few months, although the composition of the unemployed labor force has changed. The proportion of veterans has decreased while the number and the proportion of women has increased. Also the average duration of unemployment has increased greatly. In the year following the end of the war most unemployment was of short duration, while many of the current unemployed have been seeking work for a much longer period of time. The demand and supply for labor are coming more in balance as the shortages become less acute and as workers are more willing to accept jobs in lower-paying industries.

INDUSTRY

When adjusted for the shorter work month, overall industrial activity in the Eighth District in February was at a slightly higher level than in the preceding month. Increases over a year ago were registered in many industries but in some instances must be partially discounted due to the fact that in February, 1946, operations were adversely affected by coal and steel shortages resulting from the work stoppages at that time. Manufacturing output in February averaged somewhat larger than in January, while coal and oil production declined.

Total industrial power consumption in the district's industrial areas declined 11 per cent from the January level due to the shorter work month, but was 9 per cent larger than in February, 1946. Daily average consumption during February was unchanged from January for the district as a whole, although declines occurred in St. Louis and Pine Bluff sufficient to offset increases in the remaining industrial areas.

Manufacturing—Total manufacturing output declined during February but, on a daily average basis, was slightly higher than in January and substantially above February, 1946. Increases were indicated for the electrical equipment, iron and steel products, automobile and shoe industries. The flow of materials in most industries has improved considerably in recent months, a factor which is reflected in more continuous operating schedules and increased output.

The basic steel industry in the St. Louis area operated at an average of 74 per cent of capacity during February, the highest operating level since the third quarter of 1944. This compares with 58 per cent in January and 31 per cent in February, 1946, when operations were depressed by work stoppages.

According to preliminary estimates, lumber production in the district, when adjusted for the shorter month, increased in February. Average weekly output in the southern pine industry was substantially larger than in the previous month, while the southern hardwood industry operated at an average of 81 per cent of capacity as compared with 73 per cent in January and 44 per cent in February, 1946. Final estimates of southern pine production in January indicate output in that month totaled 602 million board feet, or almost 18 per cent more than in January, 1946. Shipments were in excess of production during the month, resulting in a slight decline in unsold stocks which were estimated at 639 million board feet at the end of January.

At the end of February, 60 of the 63 distilleries in Kentucky were in operation as compared with 58 at the end of January and 46 at the end of February, 1946. Actual production of whisky in January amounted to 12.6 million tax gallons or 23 per cent more than in December and 54 per cent more than production in January, 1946. The increase in output in Kentucky as compared with a year ago was substantially greater than the year-to-year increase in total United States production. In January, Kentucky distilleries accounted for 51 per cent of the United States whisky production as compared with 47 per cent a year earlier.

Meat packing operations in the St. Louis area declined seasonally in February. The number of animals slaughtered under Federal inspection at St. Louis was almost 35 per cent smaller than in January and, reflecting a decrease in the slaughter of hogs and sheep, totaled 9 per cent less than in February, 1946.

Mining and Oil—Production of coal in the district fields declined in February, both in terms of total output and daily average production. During the month 15.9 million tons of coal were produced as compared with 18.7 million tons in January and 16.2 million tons in February, 1946.

Daily average production of crude oil in the district in February was slightly less than in January, totaling 318,000 barrels as compared with 322,000 in the previous month and 334,000 in February, 1946. The decline in February continued the downward trend in daily average output that has prevailed for seven months. During the first half of 1946 production increased from an average of 332,000 barrels per day in the first quarter to 337,000 barrels in the second quarter. The postwar peak was reached in July when output averaged 339,000 barrels per day. Since July, daily production has declined each month and in February averaged 6 per cent below the July peak. Lower production in Illinois and Kentucky largely accounts for the decline from the July peak. Daily average output in Arkansas and Indiana in February was at approximately the July level, while combined daily production in Illinois and Kentucky was about 8 per cent less than in July.

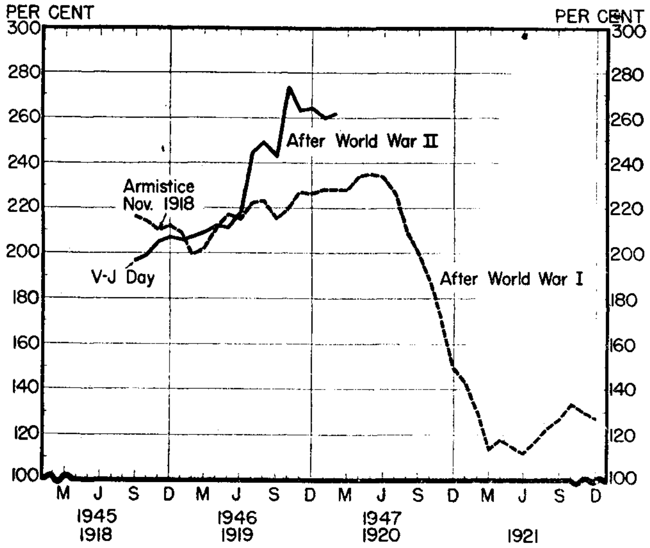
Construction—The value of building permits awarded in the major district cities declined 26 per cent in February, totaling $3.4 million as compared with $4.6 million in January and $5.9 million in February, 1946. The decline from January was general with decreases ranging from 3 per cent in Evansville to 39 per cent in St. Louis. Except for December, 1946, the February volume was at the lowest level since July, 1945.

A larger decline occurred in the value of permits for new construction than in repair awards during February. Authorizations for new construction amounted to $2.7 million or 29 per cent less than in the previous month and 46 per cent less than a year ago. Relative to the value of all awards, new construction permits were at the lowest level since September, 1946. New residential permits in Little Rock, Memphis and St. Louis totaled $1.1 million in February as compared with $1.5 million in January and $1.7 million in February, 1946.

AGRICULTURE

Prices of agricultural commodities have risen sharply since mid-February, overshadowing other changes in the agricultural situation. Most rapid increase in prices of hogs occurred from February 13 to March 1, during which hog prices advanced from $25.50 to $29.75 per hundred at National Stockyards, East St. Louis. For the month ending March 15, cotton advanced 2 cents, wheat nearly 50 cents, and corn 30 cents. Prices of some agricultural products, hogs and wheat for example, exceeded October, 1946 levels, the previous high. Only mild increases in agricultural prices were registered from January 15 to February 15, the index of prices received rising from 260 to 262.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS FOR ALL FARM PRODUCTS
INDEX 1910-1914



Prices paid by farmers rose 3 per cent from an index of 215 to 221 during the month ending February 15, the highest on record. For this period, prices paid increased more than prices received and the parity ratio declined from 121 to 119. Although prices paid continued to rise in the succeeding month, the ratio of prices paid to prices received probably increased for the month ending March 15.

AGRICULTURE

CASH FARM INCOME

(In thousands of dollars)	Jan., 1947	Jan., '47, comp. with Dec., 1946	Jan., '47, comp. with Jan., 1946	12 mo. total, Feb. to Jan. '46-'47	'46-'47 comp. with '44-'45	'46-'47 comp. with '45-'46
Arkansas	$ 49,415	— 18%	+ 94%	$ 492,852	+43%	+70%
Illinois	143,809	+ 4	+ 57	1,451,370	+23	+26
Indiana	63,602	— 23	+ 36	794,719	+17	+18
Kentucky	107,875	+ 28	+ 24	438,230	+20	+ 2
Mississippi	17,429	— 58	— 17	343,634	— 1	+18
Missouri	80,522	— 17	+ 58	868,225	+21	+24
Tennessee	56,372	— 18	+ 33	427,515	+28	+32
Totals	$519,024	— 9	+ 42	$4,816,545	+21	+25

RECEIPTS AND SHIPMENTS AT NATIONAL STOCK YARDS

	Receipts Feb., '47	Receipts Feb., '47 comp. with Jan., '47	Receipts Feb., '47 comp. with Feb., '46	Shipments Feb., '47	Shipments Feb., '47 comp. with Jan., '47	Shipments Feb., '47 comp. with Feb., '46
Cattle and Calves	109,687	—20%	+13%	46,462	— 3%	—29%
Hogs	171,802	—34	— 6	58,694	—22	—22
Horses and Mules	3,481	—36	—58	3,481	—36	—58
Sheep	38,466	—23	—45	13,131	+27	+52
Totals	323,436	—28	— 9	121,770	—12	—23

INDUSTRY

CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY

(K.W.H. in thou.)	No. of Customers*	Feb., 1947 K.W.H.	Jan., 1947 K.W.H.	Feb., 1946 K.W.H.	Feb., 1947 compared with Jan., '47	Feb., 1947 compared with Feb., '46
Evansville	40	7,404	8,132	5,022 R	— 9.0%	+47.4%
Little Rock	35	3,380	3,644	3,164	— 7.2	+ 6.8
Louisville	80	53,522	57,712	48,675 R	— 7.3	+10.0
Memphis	31	5,730	5,600	5,257	+ 2.3	+ 9.0
Pine Bluff	19	1,248	1,545	1,570	—19.2	—20.5
St. Louis	99	57,252	67,835	53,773 R	—15.6	+ 6.5
Totals	304	128,536	144,468	117,461 R	—11.0	+ 9.4

*Selected industrial customers.
R—Revised.

LOADS INTERCHANGED FOR 25 RAILROADS AT ST. LOUIS

Feb.,'47	Jan.,'47	Feb.,'46	First Nine Days Mar.,'47	First Nine Days Mar.,'46	2 mos.'47	2 mos.'46
123,879	123,390	111,258	40,236	36,236	247,269	233,210

Source: Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis.

COAL PRODUCTION

(In thousands of tons)	Feb., '47	Jan., '47	Feb., '46	Feb., '47, comp. with Jan., '47	Feb., '47, comp. with Feb., '46
Illinois	5,739	6,743	6,183R	—14.9%	—7.2%
Indiana	2,378	2,706	2,166R	—12.1	+9.8
Kentucky	6,221	7,461	6,357R	—16.6	—2.1
Other District States	1,529	1,818	1,523R	—15.9	+0.4
Totals	15,867	18,728	16,229R	—15.3	—2.2

R — Revised.

TRADE

DEPARTMENT STORES

	Net Sales: Feb., 1947 compared with Jan.,'47	Net Sales: Feb., 1947 compared with Feb.,'46	Net Sales: 2 mos. 1947 to same period '46	Stocks on Hand: Feb. 28, '47 comp. with Feb.28,'46	Stock Turnover: Jan. 1, to Feb. 28 1947	Stock Turnover: Jan. 1, to Feb. 28 1946
Ft. Smith, Ark.	+ 3%	—16%	—10%	+35%	.60	.98
Little Rock, Ark.	+ 5	— 7	+ 6	+47	.70	1.03
Quincy, Ill.	— 3	+ 6	+12	+63	.57	.84
Evansville, Ind.	— 5	+ 9	+20	+52	.47	.64
Louisville, Ky.	— 1	+ 4	+ 9	+72	.65	1.05
St. Louis Area[1]	— 3	+ 5	+14	+66	.57	.92
St. Louis, Mo.	— 2	+ 5	+12	+66	.57	.92
E. St. Louis, Ill.	—17	+47	+84	...	...	...
Springfield, Mo.	— 5	— 1	+ 5	+89	.52	.91
Memphis, Tenn.	- 0 -	+ 2	+ 8	+58	.63	1.03
*All other cities	+ 5	— 1	- 0 -	+62	.51	.84
8th F.R. District	— 1	+ 3	+10	+64	.59	.95

*El Dorado, Fayetteville, Pine Bluff, Ark.; Alton, Harrisburg, Mt. Vernon, Ill.; New Albany, Vincennes, Ind.; Danville, Hopkinsville, Mayfield, Paducah, Ky.; Chillicothe, Mo.; and Jackson, Tenn.

[1] Includes St. Louis, Mo., East St. Louis and Belleville, Ill.

Trading days: February, 1947—24; January, 1947—26; February, 1946—24.

Outstandings orders of reporting stores at the end of February, 1947, were 42 per cent less than on the corresponding date a year ago.

Percentage of accounts and notes receivable outstanding February 1, 1947, collected during February, by cities:

	Instalment Accounts	Excl. Instal. Accounts		Instalment Accounts	Excl. Instal. Accounts
Fort Smith	....%	53%	Quincy	32%	67%
Little Rock	30	55	St. Louis	33	61
Louisville	31	50	Other cities	30	55
Memphis	36	45	8th F. R. Dist.	33	55

INDEXES OF DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS
8th Federal Reserve District

	Feb., 1947	Jan., 1947	Dec., 1946	Feb., 1946
Sales (daily average), Unadjusted[2]	244	228	463	236
Sales (daily average), Seasonally adjusted[2]	290	278	303	281
Stocks, Unadjusted[3]	266	250	246	158
Stocks, Seasonally adjusted[3]	296	291	292	175

[2] Daily Average 1935-39=100.
[3] End of Month Average 1935-39=100.

SPECIALTY STORES

	Net Sales: Feb., '47 compared with Jan.,'47	Net Sales: Feb., '47 compared with Feb.,'46	Net Sales: 2 mos. 1947 to same period '46	Stocks on Hand: Feb. 28, '47 comp. with Feb.28,'46	Stock Turnover: Jan. 1, to Feb. 28 1947	Stock Turnover: Jan. 1, to Feb. 28 1946
Men's Furnishings	— 2%	— 3%	+ 7%	+173%	.49	1.20
Boots and Shoes	—10	— 1	+ 7	+152	.58	1.39

Percentage of accounts and notes receivable outstanding February 1, 1947, collected during February:

Men's Furnishings .... 52%   Boots and Shoes.................... 43%

Trading days: February, 1947—24; January, 1947—26; February, 1946—24.

RETAIL FURNITURE STORES

	Net Sales: Feb., 1947 compared with Jan.,'47	Net Sales: Feb., 1947 compared with Feb.,'46	Inventories: Feb. 28, 1947 compared with Jan.31,'47	Inventories: Feb. 28, 1947 compared with Feb.28,'46	Ratio of Collections Feb.,'47	Ratio of Collections Feb.,'46
St. Louis Area[1]	— 2%	+ 4%	+ 7%	+ 53%	48%	53%
St. Louis	— 4	+ 4	+ 7	+ 53	50	53
Louisville Area[2]	+ 2	+ 4	+ 6	+ 55	28	34
Louisville	+ 7	+ 11	+ 4	+ 70	28	33
Memphis	+26	+ 18	+11	+ 73	23	26
Little Rock	— 4	+ 14	— 1	+109	30	31
Springfield	+15	+ 11	*	*	*	*
Fort Smith	+ 3	— 22	*	*	*	*
8th Dist. Total[3]	+ 1	+ 5	+ 6	+ 72	36	41

*Not shown separately due to insufficient coverage, but included in Eighth District totals.

[1] Includes St. Louis, Missouri; East St. Louis and Alton, Illinois.

[2] Includes Louisville, Kentucky; and New Albany, Indiana.

[3] In addition to above cities, includes stores in Blytheville, and Pine Bluff, Arkansas; Henderson, Hopkinsville, Owensboro, Kentucky; Greenville, Greenwood, Mississippi; Cape Girardeau, Hannibal, Missouri, and Evansville, Indiana.

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FURNITURE SALES

	Feb., '47	Jan., '47	Feb., '46
Cash Sales	23%	23%	28%
Credit Sales	77	77	72
Total Sales	100	100	100

A downward readjustment of prices is still in prospect for the latter half of 1947 according to recent reports from the Department of Agriculture. Some economists believe that the slump is apt to be more abrupt since the last up-surge in prices. Thus far, prices during and after World War II have followed a pattern similar to that in World War I, although the rise since V-J Day has been more pronounced than that following the end of World War I (see chart). If similar movements continue, the break in prices would occur in the latter half of 1947. However, present and prospective domestic and foreign demand plus price support policies for agricultural products should prevent the drastic decline in prices that occurred in the last half of 1920.

Cash farm income in the United States for the first quarter of 1947 is expected to be $5.8 billion, 28 per cent above that of the first quarter in 1946. Volume of sales is somewhat larger but most of the increase is the result of higher prices. Receipts from crop marketings are up 33 per cent. Receipts from livestock and livestock products are about 45 per cent more than last year, prices being about 35 per cent higher. Government payments to farmers are only one-third as large as last year. Total cash receipts in February were about $1.7 billion, 25 per cent above February, 1946. Cash receipts for March probably will exceed $1.9 billion, more than a third above March, 1946.

Fall and winter weather has been favorable for crop production in 1947. Quality seeds should be in ample supply; soil moisture is generally adequate; and more machinery and farm labor is available. These conditions with average weather during the crop season indicate a prospective farm production 30 per cent above the 1923-32 pre-drouth period, a production exceeded only in 1942, 1944, and 1946.

TRADE

Retail sales volume at Eighth District reporting stores in February was down slightly (about the usual seasonal decline) from January, but was a little above the level in February, 1946. Sales last February were very high and the fact that the year-to-year gain was small is not especially significant. On a seasonally adjusted basis, February sales were at approximately the same level as those in the last quarter of 1946. Preliminary reports indicate that March volume also will be in line. In other words, on the basis of the performance to date in 1947, the popularly-anticipated downturn in sales has not yet occurred.

Durable goods sales continued to record larger percentage gains than the non-durables, both because of increased supplies of the former and the tendency for larger expenditures for durables to encroach upon the sales of soft goods. Inventories of both durables and non-durables (in terms of value) continued to increase at district reporting retail stores and are substantially above a year ago.

February dollar sales volume at reporting department stores in this district was 1 per cent less than in the previous month, but registered an increase of 3 per cent over February, 1946. In the first two weeks in March, department store sales averaged about 4 per cent higher than in the like period of 1946 and, with Easter coming in the first week of April this year, sales may well increase appreciably during the last half of March. Total department store inventories on February 28, 1947, were up 8 per cent for the month and 64 per cent greater than at the end of February, 1946.

At reporting women's apparel stores for February, volume of dollar sales was 2 per cent above January but 14 per cent less than February, 1946. The ratio of sales to average monthly inventories during February was about one-fifth below the same period last year. Inventories, however, were up only slightly. This indicates that unit sales in February were below the corresponding period last year. In terms of value, women's apparel store inventories at the end of February were up 17 per cent from January 31, 1947, and were 8 per cent more than on February 28, 1946. The increase, however, was considerably less than that of women's wear divisions in department stores.

During February, dollar sales at reporting men's wear stores were virtually unchanged from the previous month and from the corresponding period last year. Department store men's wear divisions experienced a slight increase in sales volume, both for the month and as compared to the same period last year. In terms of dollars, inventories at both types of outlets are substantially higher than in the comparable period in 1946. At the end of February, men's wear store inventories were approximately one-fifth greater than at the end of the previous month and one and a half times more than at the end of February, 1946.

Reporting furniture store sales in February increased 1 per cent over January, and were 5 per cent larger than during February, 1946. Inventories at furniture stores were 6 per cent larger at end of February than on January 31, and 72 per cent greater than on February 28, 1946. Stocks at

WHOLESALING

Lines of Commodities	Net Sales		Stocks
Data furnished by Bureau of Census, U. S. Dept. of Commerce.*	Feb., 1947 compared with Jan., '47	Feb., '46	Feb. 28, 1947 compared with Feb. 28, 1946
Automotive Supplies	— 9%	+ 1%	.......%
Drugs and Chemicals	— 4	-0-	....
Dry Goods	— 5	+ 14	+ 75
Electrical Supplies	— 4	+ 38	....
Groceries	— 8	+ 13	+ 35
Hardware	+ 4	+ 39	+ 76
Tobacco and its Products	— 5	+ 1	....
Miscellaneous	— 8	+ 10	+ 56
Total all lines**	— 7	+ 11	+ 63

*Preliminary.
**Includes certain lines not listed above.

CONSTRUCTION

BUILDING PERMITS

(Cost in thousands)	Month of February New Construction Number 1947	1946	Cost 1947	1946	Repairs, etc. Number 1947	1946	Cost 1947	1946
Evansville	31	32	$ 72	$ 206	55	119	$ 105	$ 94
Little Rock	92	108	419	517	105	188	45	114
Louisville	116	152	541	708	46	69	37	144
Memphis	635	772	1,008	2,838	195	213	194	194
St. Louis	157	218	680	732	184	198	307	398
Feb. Totals	1,031	1,282	2,720	5,001	585	787	688	941
Jan. Totals	1,021	786	3,849	6,298	550	696	736	1,258

BANKING

CHANGES IN PRINCIPAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ST. LOUIS

(In thousands of dollars)	Mar. 19, 1947	Change from Feb. 19, 1947	Mar. 20, 1946
Industrial advances under Sec. 13b....$	....	....	....
Other advances and rediscounts	17,763	+ 3,005	— 20,847
U. S. securities	1,098,608	— 11,032	+ 39,861
Total earning assets	1,116,371	— 8,027	+ 19,014
Total reserves	639,259	+ 45	+ 44,606
Total deposits	659,626	— 11,755	+ 7,412
F. R. notes in circulation	1,090,121	— 4,252	+ 44,756
Industrial commitments under Sec. 13b	4,200	— 25	+ 4,200

PRINCIPAL RESOURCE AND LIABILITY ITEMS OF REPORTING MEMBER BANKS

(In thousands of dollars)	Mar. 19, 1947	Change from Feb. 19, 1947	Mar. 20, 1946
Total loans and investments	$1,868,424	+ 8,366	—309,039
Commercial, industrial, and agricultural loans*	430,465	— 5,311	+ 88,614
Loans to brokers and dealers in securities	6,465	— 3,069	— 1,288
Other loans to purchase and carry securities	38,636	— 2,467	— 37,308
Real estate loans	105,506	+ 2,217	+ 33,461
Loans to banks	1,896	+ 720	+ 118
Other loans	139,741	+ 3,386	+ 35,771
Total loans	722,709	— 4,524	+119,368
Treasury bills	22,495	+ 16,352	+ 10,026
Certificates of indebtedness	97,110	— 6,107	—216,921
Treasury notes	124,896	— 17,215	—152,142
U. S. Bonds	766,233	+ 20,020	— 70,258
Obligations guaranteed by U. S. Government	366	- 0 -	+ 4
Other securities	134,615	— 160	+ 884
Total investments	1,145,715	+ 12,890	—428,407
Balances with domestic banks	108,240	+ 9,119	+ 4,495
Demand deposits—adjusted**	1,144,936	+ 11,169	+ 84,391
Time deposits	379,813	+ 1,239	+ 29,213
U. S. Government deposits	69,864	— 2,909	—373,920
Interbank deposits	583,300	— 7,258	— 32,473
Borrowings	12,000	+ 3,700	— 24,700

*Includes open market paper.
**Other than interbank and Government deposits, less cash items on hand or in process of collection.
Above figures are for selected member banks in St. Louis, Louisville, Memphis, Little Rock and Evansville.

home furnishings divisions in department stores, where data are available on types of goods, indicate increasing receipts of major appliances.

BANKING AND FINANCE

Treasury operations were an important factor in banking and financial developments during the last four weeks but the effects of such transactions were largely cancelled out. Income tax payments and a 20 per cent withdrawal from War Loan accounts, both due on March 15, shifted large sums from private and Government deposits in member banks to Government deposits in the Federal Reserve banks. On the other hand, cash redemption of $1 billion of certificates of indebtedness on March 1 and nearly $2 billion of Treasury notes on March 15, together with other Treasury expenditures, resulted in heavy transfers from Government deposits in the Federal Reserve banks to holders of the redeemed securities and other recipients of Government payments. Treasury expenditures and the redemption of securities held by nonbank investors tended to build up private deposits, while income tax payments tended to draw them down. The net effect, after adjustments, of the redemption of commercial bank held securities was a decrease in their War Loan accounts and in their Government security holdings. To the extent the redeemed securities were held by the Federal Reserve banks, the net effect was a decrease in member bank War Loan accounts and a decrease in their reserve balances with the Federal Reserve banks.

Since the large Treasury transactions pretty well offset each other, there were only relatively minor changes in the condition of weekly reporting banks in this district between February 19 and March 19. Total loans of weekly reporting banks decreased seasonally $4.5 million as compared to a decrease of $8 million during the same period last year, but were still $119 million above a year ago. Commercial and industrial loans apparently have leveled off after reaching a postwar peak of $439 million on January 15, 1947. The decrease of $5 million in the four weeks is in line with the slight decline which usually occurs during this period. Loans on securities were off $5 million and are now $39 million below the same period last year. Real estate loans gained $2 million, continuing the consistent increase which began just about two years ago. Other loans, reflecting primarily changes in consumer credit, gained $3 million but were $9 million below the postwar peak of $149 million reached December 31, 1946.

Total investments on March 19 were up $13 million from the level of February 19 in contrast to a decrease of $35 million during the same period last year. Cash redemption of Treasury securities totaled $2.3 billion during the first half of March last year as compared to $2.9 billion this year. The drop of $6 million in reporting bank holdings of certificates of indebtedness and of $17 million in Treasury notes reflects the effects of the cash redemption of these two issues. However, increases in other issues more than offset the declines, reflecting district bank purchases in excess of the amounts of the redeemed issues held.

DEBITS TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS

(In thousands of dollars)	Feb., 1947	Jan., 1947	Feb., 1946	Feb., '47 comp. with Jan., '47	Feb., '46
El Dorado, Ark.......$	15,335 $	16,898 $	11,658	— 9%	+32%
Fort Smith, Ark.....	32,289	34,506	27,484	— 6	+17
Helena, Ark.	7,146	7,729	4,890	— 8	+46
Little Rock, Ark.....	92,107	106,320	77,128	—13	+19
Pine Bluff, Ark.......	20,940	26,769	16,121	—22	+30
Texarkana, Ark.-Tex.	7,975	9,705	6,751	—18	+18
Alton, Ill.	19,449	19,414	15,122	-0-	+29
E.St.L.-Nat.S.Y.,Ill.	87,187	108,623	62,925	—20	+39
Quincy, Ill.	23,178	24,936	17,495	— 7	+32
Evansville, Ind.	77,555	90,123	60,977	—14	+27
Louisville, Ky.	414,617	471,089	348,181	—12	+19
Owensboro, Ky.	26,202	30,191	23,427	—13	+12
Paducah, Ky.	12,251	13,633	9,912	—10	+24
Greenville, Miss.	16,926	16,354	12,065	+ 3	+40
Cape Girardeau, Mo.	8,402	9,742	6,814	—14	+23
Hannibal, Mo.	6,108	7,568	5,366	—19	+14
Jefferson City, Mo...	33,114	51,187	26,072	—35	+27
St. Louis, Mo.........	1,191,652	1,322,736	931,879	—10	+28
Sedalia, Mo.	8,870	9,558	7,345	— 7	+21
Springfield, Mo.	44,767	49,359	37,300	— 9	+20
Jackson, Tenn.	13,901	15,834	10,967	—12	+27
Memphis, Tenn...	434,167	468,944	320,017	— 7	+36
Totals	2,594,138	2,911,218	2,039,896	—11	+27

PRICES

WHOLESALE PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES

Bureau of Labor Statistics (1926=100)	Feb., '47	Jan., '47	Feb., '46	Feb., '47, comp. with Jan., '47	Feb., '46
All Commodities	144.6	141.5	107.7	+ 2.2%	+34.3%
Farm Products	170.4	165.0	130.8	+ 3.3	+30.3
Foods	162.0	156.2	107.8	+ 3.7	+50.3
Other	128.6	127.6	101.3	+ 0.8	+26.9

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Bureau of Labor Statistics (1935-39=100)	Feb. 15, 1947	Jan. 15, 1947	Feb. 15, 1946	Feb. 15, '47 comp. with Jan. 15, '47	Feb. 15, '46
United States	152.8	153.0	129.6R	— 0.1%	+17.9%
St. Louis	151.6	151.0	128.1R	+ 0.4	+18.3
Memphis	*	*	*	*	*

*Not Available.
R—Revised.

RETAIL FOOD PRICES

Bureau of Labor Statistics (1935-39=100)	Feb. 15, 1947	Jan. 15, 1947	Feb. 15, 1946	Feb. 15, '47 comp. with Jan. 15, '47	Feb. 15, '46
U. S. (51 cities)	182.3	183.8	139.6	— 0.8%	+30.6%
St. Louis	188.4	187.4	142.3	+ 0.5	+32.4
Little Rock....	182.9	182.4	138.1	+ 0.3	+32.4
Louisville	176.6	177.7	132.7	— 0.6	+33.1
Memphis	198.6	200.2	149.2	— 0.8	+33.1