



# Monthly Review

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## The Outlook for Construction

The widely-advertised postwar boom in construction so far has failed to measure up to expectations. That is not to say that construction activity now is at a low level; actually it is extremely high. Nevertheless, it has not attained the level anticipated and the present outlook for 1947 is for a dollar volume of new construction but 20 to 30 per cent above 1946 instead of 50 per cent more as originally forecast.

At the beginning of the year a record \$15.1 billion total new construction for 1947 was forecast by the U. S. Department of Commerce, of which \$11.7 billion would be privately financed. This compared with \$10.0 billion new construction last year, of which \$7.9 billion was privately financed.

First quarter figures were hardly written into the record before it became apparent that something was happening to the attitudes of prospective home builders and of boards of directors throughout industry. They were not going ahead with housing plans and expansion programs. Blueprints were being shoved into pigeonholes, apparently to wait for a more propitious time to let contracts. Consequently, increases over last year have not been maintained, although in part the unfavorable comparison reflects the fact that construction contract activity was extraordinarily high in the early months of 1946 because of the anticipation of reinstatement of priorities and other limitations incidental to the Veterans' Housing Program.

As a result of developments in the first quarter of the year, official estimates of probable volume for 1947 as a whole have been lowered significantly.

Instead of the \$15.1 billion volume of new construction originally anticipated for the year, the U. S. Department of Commerce in April estimated that the value of new construction would range between \$11.8 billion and \$13.1 billion.

The lag in new construction projects has not been restricted to any particular category but has appeared in almost all principal types of construction. For example, the value of new private residential building put in place in May was only 5 per cent larger than a year earlier. In January, 1947, it was twice as large as in January, 1946. Similarly, the year-to-year gain in new private industrial construction dropped from 59 per cent in January to 8 per cent in May, while commercial building, after registering an increase of 17 per cent over a year earlier at the opening of 1947, in February actually began to drop below the volume reported last year until in May it was almost 46 per cent less than in May, 1946. The only private construction categories in which a substantial margin over a year ago has been maintained are farm and public utilities construction, with railroads included in the latter classification.

A recent report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicated that 280,000 new nonfarm permanent dwelling units had been started in the first five months of this year. In the comparable period in 1946, about 276,000 were started. The report stated that the April-May levels of new housing starts (about 69,000 each month in comparison with 67,000 a year earlier) were not likely to be exceeded during the balance of 1947. Thus the Bureau of Labor Statistics has revised its original 950,000 unit fore-

cast for 1947 downward to 725,000. Last year, 671,000 units were begun.

It should be stressed again, however, that the concern which has developed in and out of the industry with respect to the outlook for construction in the remainder of the year is not based on a current slackening of building activity, but on the failure of activity to increase sharply. Actual dollar value of new privately financed construction put in place in the first five months is estimated at \$3.2 billion as compared with \$2.6 billion in the same period last year. The five months' total this year is larger, in terms of dollar value, than the full year expenditures for new private construction in ten of the past 15 years. In April more than 1.6 million workers were engaged in contract construction as compared with almost 1.4 million a year earlier. By the autumn peak about 2 million construction workers should be on the job. At these levels it is evident that construction is not exactly in the doldrums at present. Unless the factors making for lag are eliminated or at least reduced, however, troubled times for the construction industry may be approaching.

#### **CONSTRUCTION IN THE EIGHTH DISTRICT**

Construction activity (not to be confused with volume of new contracts) in the Eighth District as well as in other parts of the country has been maintained at a relatively high level in 1947. A substantial part of the work being performed this year, however, is being done on projects begun in 1946 when dollar volume of construction contracts awarded totaled \$445 million. Residential construction contracts last year amounted to \$144 million or about one-third of the total while nonresidential work, including industrial and commercial projects as well as all other types of nonresidential construction, accounted for \$301 million or two-thirds of the total. About 46 per cent of the residential contracts were awarded in the last six months.

In 1946 the time required for completing construction projects was extended considerably beyond the prewar standard. The flow of materials during most of the year was extremely uncertain. Difficulty was experienced in recruiting sufficient construction workers to carry on an uninterrupted flow of productions, and some production was lost as a result of featherbedding practices indulged in by workers. However, by far the most important factor making for a longer completion time was shortages of materials. As a result of these and other causes, the usual time (national average) required for completion of a single-family residence in early 1946 was about eight months as compared

with three and one-half months before the war, according to a survey by the U. S. Department of Labor. With the improvement in materials supply, the completion time has been reduced from eight to about five months. Similar, though perhaps not as significant, delays have been typical in nonresidential construction as well.

The monthly dollar volume of construction contracts let in the district in the first quarter of 1947 was 14 per cent above that in the final quarter of 1946 but 30 per cent less than during the middle half of last year. In the first five months of 1947 the total value of construction contracts awarded in the district amounted to \$169.6 million or \$33.9 million monthly. Last year during the same period it totaled \$191.5 million or \$38.3 million per month.

The drop in dollar volume of nonresidential contracts in the first part of this year caused the slump in total construction contract figures. Through May, \$109.9 million of this class of construction was contracted for as compared with \$138.0 million last year. Part of the explanation lies in the fact that in March, 1946, contracts totaling \$49.3 million were awarded, the second highest monthly total in the year, as industry generally rushed through their expansion programs in order to avoid the limitations that were contained in the Wyatt program to stimulate housing construction. Thus the first quarter figures last year are subject to some discounting when applied as a yardstick to the volume of work contracted for this year. Significantly, however, the monthly volume of nonresidential awards so far this year has averaged 22 per cent less than in second and third quarters last year when projects of this type were subject to the limitations of the housing program.

The dollar volume of residential contracts increased from the first five months of 1946 to the comparable months of this year. Residential contracts through May this year totaled \$59.7 million or \$11.9 million per month as compared with \$53.5 million or \$10.7 million per month last year. Contracts in March and April, 1947, were less in dollar amount than in the same months in 1946, and in May were but slightly larger. It should be noted, however, that the value of contracts awarded in April last year was abnormally high. Housing contracts were near the peak of the year, being exceeded only in June. More significant, however, is the fact that the monthly average in the first five months this year increased appreciably less than the usual seasonal gain.

The aggregate statistics, showing the lower value of construction contracts for the early months of this year as compared with those same months in

1946, like many total figures, fail to reveal trends within the district. In all but one of the major areas in the district the value of housing contracts through May this year was larger than in 1946. However, there was wide variation in the percentage change among the areas. On the other hand, nonresidential construction was off from last year in all the major areas as well as in the out-state sections with the exception of southern Illinois.

In Louisville, construction contracts awarded for residential building in the first five months this year amounted to \$8.8 million as compared with \$5.1 million in the same months last year and averaged half again as much per month as in the closing months of 1946.

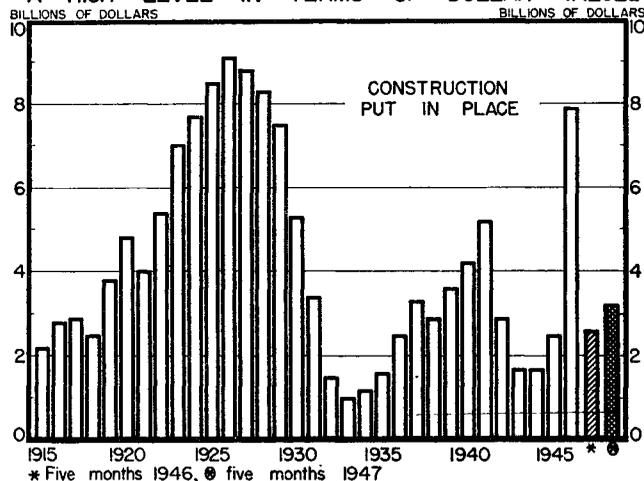
In the same period nonresidential contracts totaling \$4.0 million were awarded in Louisville, a decline of 36 per cent from a year ago. The decline was centered chiefly in commercial construction, with only a slight decrease occurring in contracts

for new manufacturing plants.

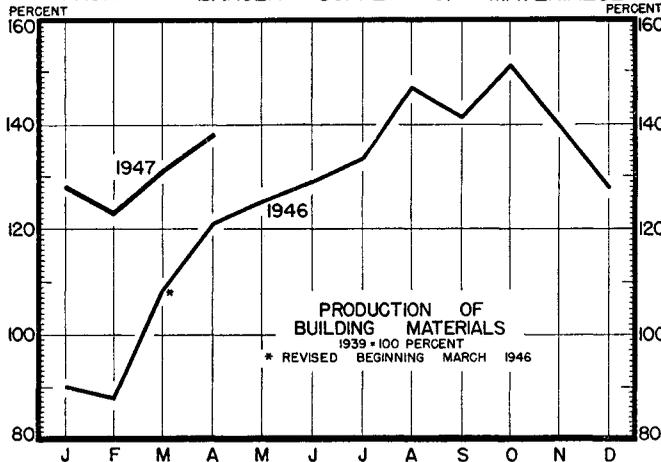
The need for housing in Louisville, as in virtually every other part of the district, continues at a high level. Early this year it was reported that approximately 9,500 families in the Louisville area were without adequate housing, of which 4,600 were distress cases. Late in 1946 a survey made by the Bureau of the Census indicated that about 30 per cent of the married white World War II veterans and 50 per cent of the married Negro veterans in the Louisville area were doubling up with relatives or friends or were living in rented rooms, trailers or tourist cabins. At that time only 1 per cent of all the dwelling units in the Louisville area were unoccupied.

In Memphis, too, the value of new residential construction contracts through May was considerably higher than in 1946, amounting to \$11.5 million as compared with \$7.6 million last year.

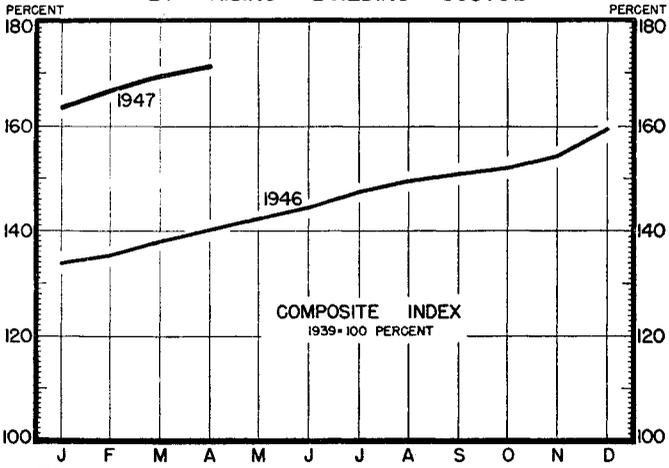
NEW PRIVATELY FINANCED CONSTRUCTION IS AT A HIGH LEVEL IN TERMS OF DOLLAR VALUE...



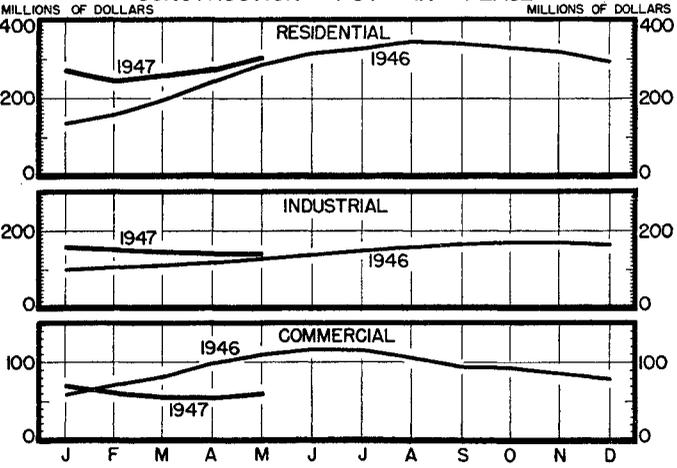
BUT THE STIMULUS EXPECTED TO RESULT FROM A LARGER SUPPLY OF MATERIALS...



HAS BEEN OFFSET TO A LARGE EXTENT BY RISING BUILDING COSTS...



RESULTING IN A LAG IN NEW PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION PUT IN PLACE



SOURCE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Housing contracts through May, however, have barely measured up to the volume recorded late last year. In July, 1946 the Housing Goals Committee estimated the shortage in Memphis and Shelby County at 11,477 dwelling units, and established a quota of 8,500 units to be started in 1946 and 1947. According to the latest report of the Housing Committee, 4,479 units, constructed for sale, had been started through April and slightly more than 1,000 units for rental were started. This report stated that substantially more progress has been made in the Memphis area in the construction of houses for sale than in the rental classification, although in June it was indicated that the number of rental starts for white occupancy during the remainder of 1947 will be sufficient to meet the budget quota. The number of units started for sale or rental for negroes was said to be far below the demand and the need.

Nonresidential construction in Memphis was about 72 per cent less, in terms of dollar amount of construction contracts awarded, in the first five months of this year than in the early part of 1946. Most of the decline was in the manufacturing field, although commercial construction was off about 48 per cent. The value of both commercial and manufacturing contracts awarded through May increased sharply from the low level reached in the last few months of 1946 but was considerably below the peak of last year.

The value of contracts for residential construction in Little Rock was 12 per cent larger in the first five months this year than in 1946, increasing from \$3.4 million last year to about \$3.8 million in 1947. The increase in Little Rock was somewhat larger than that in the rest of Arkansas where residential contracts in the first five months were only fractionally higher than in the same period last year. In Little Rock as elsewhere, the pressure for rental property is great and according to a recent survey is almost as critical as in early 1946. The Employment Security Division in Arkansas reported early in March that one of the most serious deterring factors in the construction outlook in Arkansas is a shortage of skilled laborers.

Nonresidential construction contracts in Little Rock during the first five months were valued at 46 per cent less than in 1946. In the remainder of Arkansas the decline was slightly less, percentage-wise.

In the Greater Evansville area as covered by the F. W. Dodge reports, the value of residential contracts awarded through May was larger than in 1946. Last year, housing contracts totaled \$1.3 mil-

lion and in the first five months of 1947 amounted to \$1.5 million—an increase of 15 per cent. Available evidence indicates that most of the increase occurred in Evansville proper.

Nonresidential dollar contract volume in 1947 is considerably below last year, both in the Evansville area as a whole and in the city proper. The value of nonresidential construction contracts awarded through May in the Evansville area was about \$1.3 million as compared with \$1.8 million last year, while in the city proper, building permits for new nonresidential work in the five months totaled \$179,000 as compared with \$595,000. As in other areas, the largest decline from last year was in commercial construction awards, although the value of contracts for manufacturing plants in the first five months was 43 per cent less than last year.

Among the district areas covered by the F. W. Dodge service, St. Louis City and County is the only major industrial area in which residential contracts in the first five months this year were less in value than in the same period of 1946. According to the Dodge reports, housing contracts in St. Louis City and County this year were 42 per cent below last year, totaling \$12.7 million as compared with \$22.1 million through May of 1946. In the five-month period in early 1947 the value of these residential contracts averaged a little more than \$2.5 million a month as compared with \$3.6 million per month late in 1946. Thus it is apparent that in this area residential volume this year has measured up to neither the early part of 1946 nor the latter part of the year when volume normally is at a seasonal low. This partly reflects a very late spring.

Across the Mississippi river in Madison County, Illinois, an even greater percentage decline has occurred from 1946, but in East St. Louis residential volume this year was five times as large as in the first five months of last year. In Eastern Missouri, excluding St. Louis City and County, contracts through May increased 90 per cent over last year while in Southern Illinois, excluding East St. Louis and Madison County, housing contracts this year actually were more than twice as large as those in the first five months of last year.

Following the district trend, the value of nonresidential construction contracts in St. Louis City and County through May was 44 per cent less than in 1946 and totaled \$10.2 million as compared with \$18.3 million last year. Contracts for new manufacturing establishments were slightly lower in value than in 1946 but commercial building dropped sharply, totaling less than \$2.2 million as compared with \$9.4 million last year. It should be

noted, however, that commercial construction contracts in the first five months of 1946 were at an abnormally high level, and in March were at their postwar peak. Somewhat smaller declines in nonresidential contracts occurred in Madison County and East St. Louis.

#### **CURRENT BUILDING ACTIVITY**

As noted earlier, actual construction work in the Eighth District as reflected in employment figures has been maintained at a relatively high level in the first part of the year. In March, approximately 40 per cent more workers were employed in the industry in this district than were at work in March last year.

The trend in district construction employment so far this year was complicated by a number of factors. In the St. Louis area, new starts in the first three months were retarded by adverse weather conditions. In addition, a jurisdictional dispute in the industry slowed down operations in March. Latest estimates by the Missouri State Employment Service indicate that in the St. Louis area, approximately 2,000 construction workers were added between March and May.

#### **FACTORS RETARDING CONSTRUCTION GAINS**

The story behind the leveling off, or in many instances the decline in construction volume, may be complex but it is not mysterious. It is complicated partly because the construction industry itself is complex, being a loosely organized group of builders, general contractors, architects, building trades workers, materials suppliers, and others engaged in construction. But the story is complicated, too, because of the interplay of numerous special problems confronting the industry since the end of the war, all of which have had varying degrees of influence on construction volume this year.

Shortages of key materials last year were of major importance, not only in retarding the physical volume of building but also in pushing construction costs to a high level. Actually, total production of materials last year as measured by the Department of Commerce was large, averaging one-fourth higher than in 1939 and only about 5 per cent less than in 1941. Output of some items, including hardwood flooring, nails, cast iron radiation, and range boilers, was below 1939 volume, but most materials were produced in quantities considerably larger than prewar. Nevertheless, sizable though it was, production was not equal to the task of supplying the needs of the construction industry and at the same time building up inventories to a

level that would assure a steady flow of materials when and where they were needed.

To a large extent, the supply problem has been overcome, and except for a few items, materials production is at a rate sufficient to maintain the physical volume of construction at a level well above that of 1939. Since late last year, the Department of Commerce index of building materials production has been at least one-third higher than in 1939. Local shortages of some items continue, however, as a result of transportation difficulties, labor disputes, and an unbalanced situation with respect to inventories and distribution. This is true of cement, clay pipe, gypsum board, and lumber, for example. However, the fact remains that over-all materials output is much less a deterring factor now than last year.

Similarly, a considerably more favorable situation exists with respect to controls over materials and to other aspects of the construction industry. Although rent controls remain in effect, their provisions have been liberalized since the end of the war, particularly on new structures. However, the question of controlled rent levels continues to play some part in the lag in new building activity.

In addition, such factors as antiquated building codes in most parts of the country, inefficiencies throughout the industry, uncertainty with respect to the pattern of business activity, availability of construction sites and of old houses for sale or rent and many others are of varying degrees of importance in the current construction situation.

By far the most important factor in the outlook is the level of construction costs, which since 1939 have climbed fast and far. Exactly how far, no one knows. The U. S. Department of Commerce estimates the average increase at more than 60 per cent for the nation as a whole, from 1939 to 1946. Further increases have occurred this year, and in April this index was 6 per cent higher than the monthly average in 1946 and 22 per cent above April a year ago. Other indexes for 1946 ranged from 50 to 100 per cent above 1939.

It would be difficult to estimate the number of housing plans that have been cancelled, or how many industrial and commercial projects have been postponed as a result of the rise in construction costs. There is no doubt, however, that present building costs have priced housing out of the market for a great many people. Insofar as veterans' housing requirements are concerned, evidence of the cost-pressure is available and is pertinent to most nonveterans as well.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics interviewed vet-

erans in 109 localities throughout the nation. This survey revealed that the average veteran can afford to pay no more than \$6,000 for a house. Yet, in the first part of this year, the median construction cost, excluding land cost and builders' profit, of the single-family houses started was about \$5,250. One-fourth of these houses were to cost \$7,250 or more. Including land and other costs, typical selling prices would range upwards from \$7,000 to \$8,000, or more than 17 per cent above the amount the average veteran could afford.

In the industrial and commercial field, a study by the Civilian Production Administration early this year showed that 48 per cent of the non-residential projects approved by the CPA between March 26 and the end of September, 1946, but upon which actual construction was deferred beyond July 1, 1947, were postponed because of "excessive costs".

In this district, costs have risen as fast as in the nation as a whole, and in some areas the increase has been larger than the national average. Precise measures are not available but data published by the National Housing Administration suggest the extent of the rise. In Memphis the cost of building a standard six-room frame house is estimated by the NHA to have increased 47 per cent from the first quarter of 1939 to the last quarter of 1946. During the same period the increase in Louisville is estimated at 51 per cent, in Little Rock 60 per cent, and in St. Louis 67 per cent. Private estimates in Evansville put the increase from 1939 levels at 50 to 75 per cent.

A somewhat larger gain is estimated for St. Louis by Roy Wenzlick and Company. Cost data as compiled by this company indicate that a six-room frame house built in 1939 for \$5,894 would have cost about \$11,300 to build in the last quarter of 1946 and \$13,170 in April, 1947. Part of the rise indicated since last fall is purely statistical. The cost level of October, 1946, almost certainly was understated, whereas present costs probably are more correct. The Wenzlick series naturally uses legal prices in its compilations and actual costs were higher last fall than the series showed. In May the cost declined \$140, the first decrease since 1943. Between 1939 and May, 1947, the cost of building this house increased more than \$7,000, two-thirds of which occurred since the end of the war.

Final construction costs to owners represent a composite of many items, chief of which is the materials cost. In St. Louis, materials used in the Wenzlick compilation account for 48 per cent of the cost of the house, while labor represents 32 per

cent and other costs 20 per cent of the total. Average wholesale prices of building materials in May were 95 per cent higher than in 1939 with most of the increase occurring since the end of the war. The elimination of price controls in late 1946 resulted in a sharp rise in the official prices of most materials. However, some downward adjustment has occurred recently, in lumber and paints particularly, and the rate of increase in production and inventories of other items, coupled with the lag in new construction, suggests the possibility of adjustments in prices of other building materials.

The current level of construction costs not only reflects increased materials prices as compared with earlier periods but also results from higher labor costs. Part of the increase in labor costs has been due to higher wage rates which since the end of the war have increased on the average about 15 per cent nationally. In some areas, multiple-time work, frequently instituted only to obtain or hold workmen, has inflated total wage costs to the owner. Probably the most serious cause for higher total labor costs are the innumerable delays in completing a project as a result of shortages and the uneven flow of materials to the workmen on the job. Under such conditions, laborers not only tend to slow down on the job but builders continue to keep workmen on the payroll, even though work is stopped by a lack of materials, in order to keep their construction crews intact. This pressure on costs is being reduced as production and inventories expand, permitting a steady flow of materials to the projects.

In addition to high prices of materials and inflated labor costs, the current construction cost level results in many instances from other factors as well. According to a survey of the construction industry by the Engineering News-Record, contractors' bids also are a cost factor subject to careful scrutiny. This trade journal points out that while rising materials and labor costs make it difficult to estimate total costs precisely, there is some indication that many contractors still are making estimates on the liberal basis used during the war and that costs could be lowered somewhat by such contractors "sharpening their pencils a bit". A general pressure for more efficient methods of construction also might contribute to lower costs.

A survey of opinion in the construction industry in St. Louis suggests that some improvement in the price situation may come during the remainder of 1947. Prices of most building materials are expected to hold about at their present levels. The major exception to this is lumber. A further drop in lumber prices would have appreciable effect on

dwelling costs. For example, lumber accounts for about 60 per cent of total cost of materials in a frame house. Contractors also anticipate that labor productivity will increase (and unit labor costs decrease) if construction volume continues to lag. This factor, coupled with the steady improvement in materials supply, is expected to result in an actual reduction in over-all construction costs.

It should be pointed out, however, that "some" reduction in costs may not be enough to bring about a strong upswing in construction activity. Thus a total reduction of 5 per cent from the current level would lower the cost of the standard house as computed by the Wenzlick Company to \$12,350, while a 10 per cent reduction would mean a price of \$11,700. In either instance the resulting price would be very much higher than obtained a year ago and would be double the 1939 cost.

A substantial volume of projected industrial construction is reported in the St. Louis area. Many manufacturers and commercial establishments, however, are postponing the actual awarding of contracts pending stabilization of the cost structure. Local contractors who were interviewed indicate the belief that such contracts will materialize promptly if prices stabilize and that there will be no appreciable holding back in the hope of lower prices. Most of the work that has been put in abeyance, the contractors state, is of a more or less emergency nature and will be undertaken as soon as some assurance can be given that actual construction costs can be held to a specific upper limit. These contractors do not anticipate a construction boom as previously expected, but do look for a fairly steady volume of activity in 1947.

### CONCLUSIONS

It is apparent that in the Eighth District, as well as in the nation as a whole, building activity in the first part of 1947 has been at a relatively high level. However, much of the actual construction work performed to date is on projects begun several months ago and in many cases last year. Measured in terms of the dollar volume of construction contracts awarded and building permits issued, it is evident that new projects begun or contracted for have not expanded as rapidly as was expected. The lag has developed in virtually all categories of privately financed construction except farm and public utilities construction, although public activity has increased substantially. Obviously the delay in instituting new building projects is related neither to a lack of need for housing nor for industrial and commercial construction. This is

true in the nation as a whole and in this district.

Many factors contribute to the tendency of potential builders to postpone construction, of which the high cost level appears to be most important. To what extent costs must decline before the anticipated volume will be forthcoming cannot be estimated. Informed opinion in the St. Louis area indicates that a substantial amount of industrial and commercial work will be started when costs become reasonably stable. Many projects are of an urgent nature and when builders are able to estimate the upper limits of their total outlay, construction of this type is expected to become active. In other instances, particularly in the residential field, an appreciably lower cost level appears to be necessary to stimulate new construction.

There appears to be little prospect of a substantial reduction in costs during the remainder of 1947, although some decline is anticipated. This probably will result primarily from increased efficiency and shortening of the time required for completion of building projects. These improvements should be a direct outgrowth of the increased level of materials production and inventories which lead to a more efficient flow of materials.

The future level of construction volume may prove to be of considerable importance to the national economy. Expenditures for construction this year generally have been regarded as a major source of support in the event of a decline in industrial activity and employment in other fields. Private construction normally accounts for a relatively small part of the total value of goods and services produced in the nation, averaging only 4.5 per cent of the gross national product from 1929 to 1939, inclusive. Last year these expenditures became increasingly more important throughout the year and in the fourth quarter were at an annual rate equal to 4.3 per cent of the total as compared with 3.5 per cent in the first quarter.

In view of the large backlog of heavy construction and the tremendous need for housing, the industry's output was expected to assume greater relative importance this year. The tendency of construction to level off since late 1946 raises doubts as to the validity of this assumption. This is particularly true in view of the fact that no significant reduction in costs appears to be in the offing for this year. Thus, while activity probably will remain at a relatively high level this year, the building boom and its anticipated bolstering effect on the economy in the event it were needed is not likely to materialize in 1947.

Weldon A. Stein

## Survey of Current Conditions

As the first six months of 1947 end, the economic scene contains essentially the same elements of strength and weakness as were apparent earlier in the year. Some shifting in relative importance may have occurred within each group but there is little evidence of new weak spots or of a shift from strength to weakness.

On the credit side of the ledger is the fact that employment continues at peak levels, with the Bureau of the Census reporting 58.3 million persons employed in May. Average weekly earnings of manufacturing workers are at the highest point ever attained. The downward trend in the over-all price level anticipated by some has not materialized, but in recent weeks prices generally have tended to level off. Despite high prices, consumer demand has continued strong and, of course, reflecting the price rise, retail trade volume is running substantially higher than last year. Production is at a high level, with only scattered signs of reduced output apparent. Corporate profits in the second quarter probably approximated those in the first three months of the year, while cash dividend payments are expected to exceed the first quarter volume.

Some unfavorable factors persist, and in coming months will merit further watching. As indicated elsewhere in this Review, new private construction started this year has tended to fall below the volume anticipated. The inventory situation generally is spotty. In some lines further accumulations are to

be expected in order to bring stocks into a better relation to sales. However, expansion of inventories at the rate experienced in recent months cannot be expected to continue for an extended period. Thus, the portion of total output that has gone into rebuilding inventories will have to find other outlets if production volume is to be maintained at current levels. In addition, the failure of consumers' prices to decline probably will exert ever growing pressure on individual incomes, which is the reason for considerable apprehension with respect to future consumer expenditures.

### EMPLOYMENT

The Eighth District followed the national pattern of increasing employment between April and May, 1947. A seasonal gain in agricultural employment accounted for the largest part of the increase, but nonagricultural employment also picked up slightly—a rise in trade, service and construction employment more than offsetting a decline in the number of Government job holders, while manufacturing employment remained about constant. The net increase in employment was sufficient to reduce unemployment even though the total labor force was swelled by the entrance of seasonal workers, principally women farm workers, and some school graduates.

While the over-all employment picture looks good, some weak spots are evident. Construction employment is not increasing as much or as rapidly as was expected, and a number of manufacturers have been forced to lay off workers mostly because of material shortages, but in some cases because of order cancellations. Comparing labor force, employment, and unemployment figures for this district for May, 1947 with May, 1946 gives a favorable picture, however. The total labor force, including the armed forces, is larger; unemployment is smaller; and both agricultural and nonagricultural employment have increased. Agricultural employment, due largely to the late season, showed a smaller gain from May, 1946 to May, 1947 than did nonagricultural employment. Approximate percentage increases for the year were 1 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively.

Not only is unemployment lower today than in May, 1946, but the average unemployed person is not out of work for as long a period of time as he was a year ago. Labor turnover and new entrants into the labor market create a certain amount of unemployment even under the most favorable eco-

### INDUSTRY

CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY						
(K.W.H. in thous.)	No. of Customers*	May, 1947 K.W.H.	Apr., 1947 K.W.H.	May, 1946 K.W.H.	May, 1947 compared with	
					Apr., '47	May, '46
Evansville .....	40	8,730	8,784	6,800	- 0.6%	+28.4%
Little Rock.....	35	3,458	3,455	3,214	+ 0.1	+ 7.6
Louisville .....	80	63,179	59,945	52,999 R	+ 5.4	+19.2
Memphis .....	31	5,266	5,328	5,219	- 1.2	+ 1.0
Pine Bluff.....	19	1,065	1,112	1,027	- 4.2	+ 3.7
St. Louis.....	99	62,865	67,460	60,278 R	- 6.8	+ 4.3
Totals .....	304	144,563	146,084	129,537 R	- 1.0	+11.6

\*Selected industrial customers.  
R—Revised.

LOADS INTERCHANGED FOR 25 RAILROADS AT ST. LOUIS						
First Nine Days						
May, '47	Apr., '47	May, '46	June, '47	June, '46	5 mos. '47	5 mos. '46
131,959	129,668	114,430	34,290	36,406	651,610	592,955

Source: Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis.

CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION—DAILY AVERAGE						
(In thousands of bbls.)	May, '47	Apr., '47	May, '46	May, '47 comp. with		
				Apr., '47	May, '46	
Arkansas .....	80.4	80.3	77.7	- 0.1%	+ 3%	
Illinois .....	187.0	185.3	209.9	+ 1	-11	
Indiana .....	17.8	18.3	19.2	- 3	- 7	
Kentucky .....	25.7	25.7	30.9	- 0	-17	
Total .....	310.9	309.6	337.7	- 0	- 8	

nomic conditions. In April, 1947, only one-half of the unemployed persons had been seeking work for more than a month as compared with three-fourths a year earlier.

### INDUSTRY

Eighth District industry in May maintained operations at the high level established during recent months. Manufacturing activity generally was unchanged during the month while coal and oil production increased. The total of industrial electric power used in the major cities was only 1 per cent less in May than in April, although changes in consumption varied considerably within the cities. Declines, which were reported in all cities except Little Rock and Louisville, ranged from 0.6 per cent in Evansville to 6.8 per cent in St. Louis. In each city, however, consumption was larger than in May, 1946.

**Manufacturing**—Schedules in automobile and accessories plants were interrupted in May by materials and parts shortages. The iron and steel products group operated at a slightly lower level during the month and declines from April also were indicated in other metals and metal products industries.

In the basic steel industry in the St. Louis area, unsettled labor conditions together with a loss of production due to maintenance requirements resulted in a further decline in scheduled operations in May. Open hearth production was scheduled at only 41 per cent of capacity in May as compared with 66 per cent in April and a 1947 peak of 77 per cent in March. Considerable improvement occurred in June, however, and in the first part of the month operations recovered to about the April level.

Lumber production increased in May according to preliminary reports, and was larger than in May last year. There are indications, however, that the districtwide gain is falling behind the national increase. In March, latest month for which full production figures are available, district output increased almost 6 per cent over February, but the gain was less than the increase in production nationally. Thus, March output of 438 million board feet represented 15.5 per cent of the total as compared with 16.0 per cent in February when 415 million board feet were produced.

Whisky production is continuing at a fairly high level in Kentucky, although the number of distilleries in operation at the end of May dropped off to 40 as compared with 55 a month earlier. The amount of whisky in storage continues to increase, reflecting the slower sales and high production volume of recent months. In April, Kentucky distilleries produced 10.2 million gallons of whisky and

while output trended downward through April, it has been high for the first four months, averaging 11.3 million gallons. Last year monthly output averaged but 6.4 million gallons in the same period.

Preliminary figures indicate that district shoe production in April amounted to approximately 8.3 million pairs, an increase of 3 per cent over March and slightly larger than a year ago. Leather supply problems continue to be an important factor in scheduling operations in most plants.

Meat packing operations increased sharply in May. In the St. Louis area the number of animals slaughtered under Federal inspection increased to 465,000 from 402,000 in April. Large increases occurred in the slaughter of calves and hogs with a lesser gain reported in the number of sheep slaughtered. Cattle slaughter increased only slightly.

**Petroleum**—Crude oil production for the country as a whole established new records at month's end, but district production increased only slightly. This increase, however, did interrupt a downward trend which had continued month by month since May, 1946. Daily average production in the district is estimated at 311,000 barrels in May, compared with 310,000 barrels in April.

### TRADE

During May, 1947, dollar sales at Eighth District reporting department stores increased 7 per cent over April and were 17 per cent greater than in

### WHOLESALE

Lines of Commodities	Net Sales		Stocks
	May, 1947 compared with April, '47	May, '46	May 31, 1947 compared with May 31, 1946
Automotive Supplies .....	1%	— 1%	.....%
Drugs and Chemicals.....	— 12	— 2	.....
Dry Goods .....	+ 6	— 14	+ 19
Furniture .....	+ 2	+ 33	.....
Groceries .....	3	- 0	+ 45
Hardware .....	+ 2	+ 23	+ 75
Tobacco and its Products.....	+ 2	— 1	+ 40
Miscellaneous .....	+ 6	+ 48	+ 54
Total all lines**.....	+ 2	+ 2	+ 38

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

### CONSTRUCTION

(Cost in thousands)	BUILDING PERMITS (Month of May)							
	New Construction				Repairs, etc.			
	Number		Cost		Number		Cost	
	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946
Evansville .....	58	45	\$ 184	\$ 138	138	162	\$ 40	\$ 51
Little Rock.....	85	91	503	428	178	173	114	65
Louisville .....	213	148	1,338	548	89	55	53	41
Memphis .....	947	856	2,259	1,922	182	221	120	144
St. Louis .....	284	269	1,086	1,270	355	280	402	538
May Totals.....	1,587	1,409	\$5,370	\$4,306	942	891	\$729	\$839
April Totals.....	1,560	1,237	\$7,247	\$3,656	847	979	\$719	\$645

TRADE

DEPARTMENT STORES

	Net Sales		Stocks on Hand		Stock Turnover			
	May, 1947 compared with Apr., '47		5 mos. 1947 to same period '46		Jan. 1, to May 31, 1947			
	May, '46	Apr., '47	May 31, '47	May 31, '46	1947	1946		
Ft. Smith, Ark.....	- 0 %	—	5%	—	10%	+ 3%	1.69	2.42
Little Rock, Ark.....	+ 5	+ 3	+ 1	+ 7			1.94	2.66
Quincy, Ill.....	+ 1	+ 17	+ 11	+ 21			1.83	2.38
Evansville, Ind.....	+ 9	+ 26	+ 16	+ 21			1.45	1.84
Louisville, Ky.....	+ 9	+ 25	+ 13	+ 35			1.94	2.82
St. Louis Area <sup>1</sup> .....	+ 5	+ 19	+ 14	+ 24			1.62	2.30
St. Louis, Mo.....	+ 5	+ 17	+ 12	+ 24			1.62	2.30
E. St. Louis, Ill.....	- 1	+ 113	+ 101					
Springfield, Mo.....	- 1	+ 5	+ 5	+ 25			1.59	2.45
Memphis, Tenn.....	+ 17	+ 17	+ 7	+ 20			1.81	2.62
*All other cities.....	+ 3	+ 11	+ 4	+ 40			1.60	2.43
8th F. R. District.....	+ 7	+ 17	+ 11	+ 23			1.70	2.44

\*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.

<sup>1</sup>Includes St. Louis, Mo., East St. Louis and Belleville, Ill.

Trading days: May, 1947—26; April, 1947—26; May, 1946—26.

Outstanding orders of reporting stores at the end of May, 1947, were 65 per cent less than on the corresponding date a year ago.

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

	Instalment Accounts	Excl. Instal. Accounts	Instalment Accounts	Excl. Instal. Accounts
Fort Smith.....	52%		36%	71%
Little Rock.....	32	60	37	63
Louisville.....	32	54	29	63
Memphis.....	42	53	36	59

INDEXES OF DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS

	8th Federal Reserve District			
	May, 1947	Apr., 1947	Mar., 1947	May, 1946
Sales (daily average), Unadjusted <sup>2</sup> .....	315	297	288	272
Sales (daily average), Seasonally adjusted <sup>2</sup>	321	306	294	277
Stocks, Unadjusted <sup>3</sup> .....	272	281	279	211
Stocks, Seasonally adjusted <sup>3</sup> .....	272	281	288	211

<sup>2</sup> Daily Average 1935-39=100.

<sup>3</sup> End of Month Average 1935-39=100.

SPECIALTY STORES

	Net Sales		Stocks on Hand		Stock Turnover	
	May, 1947 compared with Apr., '47		5 mos. 1947 to same period '46		Jan. 1, to May 31, 1947	
	May, '46	Apr., '47	May 31, '47	May 31, '46	1947	1946
Men's Furnishings.....	+22%	+24%	+ 5%	+79%	1.51	3.21
Boots and Shoes.....	+ 1	+13	+ 7	+61	1.82	3.61

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

Men's Furnishings.....57% Boots and Shoes.....53%

Trading days: May, 1947—26; April, 1947—26; May, 1946—26.

RETAIL FURNITURE STORES

	Net Sales		Inventories		Ratio of Collections	
	May, 1947 compared with Apr., 1947		May 31, 1947 compared with Apr. 30, May 31, 1946		May, 1947	
	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946
St. Louis Area <sup>1</sup> .....	- 6%	+ 6%	-20%	+68%	48%	48%
St. Louis.....	- 8	+ 5	-20	+68	48	46
Louisville Area <sup>2</sup> .....	+ 8	+29	+ 4	+53	30	34
Louisville.....	+ 7	+27	+ 4	+52	29	34
Memphis.....	+ 9	-11	*	*	28	36
Little Rock.....	-13	+ 6	- 1	+53	31	35
Springfield.....	+33	+13	*	*	*	*
8th District Total <sup>3</sup> .....	- 3	+ 7	- 8	+67	40	42

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

<sup>1</sup>Includes St. Louis, Missouri; East St. Louis and Alton, Illinois.

<sup>2</sup>Includes Louisville, Kentucky; and New Albany, Indiana.

<sup>3</sup>In addition to above cities, includes stores in Blytheville, Fort Smith and Pine Bluff, Arkansas; Henderson, Hopkinsville, Owensboro, Kentucky; Greenville, Greenwood, Mississippi; and Evansville, Indiana.

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FURNITURE SALES

	May, 1947	April, 1947	May, 1946
Cash Sales.....	21%	20%	27%
Credit Sales.....	79	80	73
Total Sales.....	100	100	100

May, 1946. The greater than seasonal gain placed the adjusted index of department store sales in this district at 321 per cent of the 1935-39 average, which is but slightly under the all-time peak of 330 reached in August, 1946. On the basis of preliminary data during June, the district year-to-date gain of 11 per cent over 1946 probably will not be maintained during the month, reflecting in large part the substantial sales declines in St. Louis because of the public transportation strike here.

In department stores reporting data by departments the largest increases in sales from a year earlier were in certain lines of homefurnishings. However, in women's wear divisions, which normally have accounted for a major portion of total store sales, gains from May, 1946 to May, 1947 were generally noted except in those lines which might be considered unseasonal. In men's wear divisions, sales of men's furnishings showed somewhat smaller gains than sales of major items of men's wear. For the most part sales volume of lines in the piece goods, small wares, and other divisions was over that for the comparable period last year. Continuing the trend of recent months, the volume of sales in basement store divisions showed greater gains than that in comparable lines of goods in the main store divisions.

In terms of value, at the end of May, 1947, inventories of reporting department stores were down 4 per cent from April 30 but were 23 per cent greater than on May 31, 1946. In those stores reporting by departments, a comparison of individual store data reveals considerable variation in inventory changes among various divisions and departments. Many retailers seem to be taking so-called "normal markdowns" in an effort to liquidate excess stocks and to make present inventories competitive, pricewise, with new lines of goods introduced. In order to move out-of-season goods and past-season styles of merchandise, some stores are selling present stocks of such items at considerably reduced prices and are replacing them with higher cost goods.

At Eighth District reporting furniture stores, May, 1947, sales, while showing little change from the previous month, were 7 per cent above those of May, 1946. The increase from the previous year was somewhat less than in the corresponding divisions of department stores. In dollars, furniture store inventories at the end of May were 8 per cent less than on April 30 but were 67 per cent greater than at the end of May last year.

## BANKING AND FINANCE

Heavy withdrawals from War Loan accounts during the last four weeks brought a sharp drop in Government deposits at weekly reporting member banks. The total of \$17 million on June 18 was \$33 million below a month ago and \$256 million less than a year ago. On the other hand, demand deposits of individuals and business firms increased \$14 million to a total \$83 million higher than on the same date last year. Time deposit growth slowed down considerably, amounting to less than \$1 million during the last four weeks as compared to an increase of \$2 million during the same period last year. The increase over a year ago was \$22 million, an average increase of approximately \$2 million per month.

Earning assets of Eighth District reporting banks were down \$7 million in the four weeks, reflecting both a small decrease in loans and a continued drop in investments. The total of \$1.8 billion was \$196 million less than a year ago, a \$304 million decrease in investments more than offsetting the \$107 million expansion in loans.

Commercial and industrial loans continued the seasonal decline which began early in the year—a drop of \$6 million bringing the total to \$383 million. A year ago, however, such loans totaled but \$299 million. Declines also were registered at district reporting banks in loans on securities, which were \$41 million as compared to \$81 million on the same date last year. Real estate and other loans were the only types of loans which continued to register gains in the past month. Loans on real estate were up slightly more than \$2 million, most of the gain being at reporting banks in St. Louis. This compares with a gain of \$3 million for the same period last year and an average monthly increase of \$2.7 million for the last twelve months. Other loans, consisting in large part of loans to consumers, registered a sharp gain of more than \$4 million for the month as compared to a monthly average rise of \$2.5 million during the last year.

## AGRICULTURE

A general rise in agricultural prices during the month ending June 15 overshadowed unfavorable weather and crop conditions. The rise in prices was led by corn, St. Louis Number 2 yellow rising from \$1.80 per bushel on May 15 to \$2.10 on June 14. Much of the rise occurred following the adverse weather reports of early June.

## PRICES

### WHOLESALE PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES

Bureau of Labor Statistics (1926=100)				May, '47 compared with	
	May, '47	Apr., '47	May, '46	Apr., '47	May, '46
All Commodities .....	146.9	147.7	111.0	-0.6%	+32.3%
Farm Products.....	175.7	177.0	137.5	-0.7	+27.8
Foods .....	159.8	162.4	111.5	-1.6	+43.3
Other .....	131.7	131.8	103.9	-0.1	+26.8

### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Bureau of Labor Statistics (1935-39=100)				May 15, '47 comp. with	
	May 15, 1947	Apr. 15, 1947	May 15, 1946	Apr. 15, '47	May 15, '46
United States .....	155.8	156.1	131.5	- 0.2%	+18.5%
St. Louis .....	154.5	155.0	129.5	- 1.3	+19.3
Memphis .....	*	*	*	*	*

\*Not available.

### RETAIL FOOD PRICES

Bureau of Labor Statistics (1935-39=100)				May 15, '47 comp. with	
	May 15, 1947	Apr. 15, 1947	May 15, 1946	Apr. 15, '47	May 15, '46
U. S. (51 cities).....	187.6	188.0	142.6	- 0.2%	+31.6%
St. Louis .....	193.4	195.2	144.5	- 0.9	+33.8
Little Rock ..	188.1	193.0	141.6	- 2.5	+32.8
Louisville .....	180.0	183.6	133.2	- 2.0	+35.1
Memphis .....	201.6	204.6	151.7	- 1.5	+32.9

## BANKING

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

(In thousands of dollars)	Change from		
	June 18, 1947	May 21, 1947	June 19, 1946
Industrial advances under Sec. 13b.....	\$ .....	\$ .....	\$ .....
Other advances and rediscounts.....	12,203	+ 7,240	- 13,477
U. S. securities.....	1,066,785	- 48,453	+ 12,565
Total earning assets.....	1,078,988	- 41,213	- 912
Total reserves .....	606,642	- 1,814	+ 3,096
Total deposits .....	609,438	- 39,499	- 28,795
F. R. notes in circulation.....	1,074,253	- 303	+ 26,835
Industrial commitments under Sec. 13b	400	- 1,800	- 3,200

### PRINCIPAL RESOURCE AND LIABILITY ITEMS OF REPORTING MEMBER BANKS

(In thousands of dollars)	Change from		
	June 18, 1947	May 21, 1947	June 19, 1946
Total loans and investments.....	\$1,802,916	\$- 6,801	\$-196,358
Commercial, industrial, and agricultural loans*	383,092	- 5,921	+ 83,963
Loans to brokers and dealers in securities .....	5,414	- 513	- 6,922
Other loans to purchase and carry securities .....	35,550	- 574	- 72,632
Real estate loans.....	113,243	+ 2,149	+ 32,470
Loans to banks.....	2,358	+ 63	+ 53
Other loans .....	147,357	+ 4,495	+ 30,266
Total loans .....	687,014	- 27	+107,198
Treasury bills .....	17,085	+ 3,386	+ 6,959
Certificates of indebtedness.....	77,048	- 6,941	-136,912
Treasury notes .....	116,345	- 7,723	-114,404
U. S. Bonds.....	773,519	+ 1,060	- 50,717
Other securities .....	131,905	- 1,056	- 8,482
Total investments .....	1,115,902	- 6,374	-303,556
Balances with domestic banks.....	103,077	- 7,607	-11,573
Demand deposits—adjusted** .....	1,204,993	+ 14,335	+ 83,318
Time deposits .....	385,621	+ 591	+ 22,352
U. S. Government deposits.....	17,476	- 33,450	-255,842
Interbank deposits.....	504,164	- 5,950	- 48,351
Borrowings .....	10,690	+ 6,890	- 10,610

\*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.

Spot cotton at the ten major markets increased more than a cent a pound from May 15 to June 16, reaching 37.34 cents on the latter date. Hog prices held strong on the St. Louis market during the same period, increasing from \$24.50 to \$25.50 per hundred pounds. Beef cattle prices increased about \$2 per hundred pounds. Wheat prices declined seasonally as winter wheat harvesting progressed.

At the retail level, meat prices increased sharply. The gain, however, was only partly reflected in increased prices paid to farmers. Increased demand from the public rather than shorter supply apparently brought about the upsurge. Anticipated meat supplies of 153 pounds per capita in 1947 will exceed slightly per capita consumption in 1946 and will exceed average (1937-41) per capita consumption by 20 pounds. Some trade reports have indicated that purchases for export were creating scarcities. However, meat exports were but 3 per cent of total production for the second quarter, April through June, a smaller proportion than was called for in earlier commitments.

June 1 production forecasts for small grains were sharply higher than those of May 1. A wheat crop of 1.4 billion bushels for this season is now predicted, an increase of more than 100 million bushels from the forecast a month earlier. An estimated 1.2 billion bushel oat crop, although 17 per cent less than last year's record crop, will be 7 per cent higher than the ten year (1936-45) average. Barley and rye production in 1947 is expected to exceed last year's crops, but will be smaller than ten year average production.

### ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF VARIOUS CROPS IN THE UNITED STATES, JUNE 1, 1947

	1947	1947 compared with	
		1946	Avg. 1936-45
Winter wheat.....	1,093,071	+25%	+67%
Spring wheat.....	316,822	+12	+34
All wheat.....	1,409,893	+22	+58
Oats.....	1,247,333	-17	+7
Barley.....	268,319	+2	-7
Rye.....	25,208	+35	-34

Optimistic production figures for small grains are offset by less optimistic reports on corn planting. Floods have caused widespread damage to areas along the Missouri and Mississippi rivers affecting sizable areas of this district. Local damage is severe, although crop losses in these areas will not alter greatly the over-all picture of crop production. However, corn has been planted one to two weeks later than usual throughout the Corn Belt. Better than average production depends on favorable weather during the rest of the growing season. An early frost would also cause greater than normal damage, resulting in considerable soft corn.

Other major district crops apparently are doing well. Condition of the cotton crop improved generally throughout the district in the week ending June 10. Favorable weather for that week permitted completion of planting and fair progress in chopping. An exception to this statement was Tennessee where cotton was late and up to poor stands. Generally fair weather is needed to permit cultivation and completion of chopping. Less unfavorable weather in Kentucky permitted transplanting of tobacco during the second week of June, but the crop will be late, even though weather conditions improve during the remainder of the growing season. Plants in fields were in generally fair to good condition, but some resetting was believed necessary because of the heavy rains.

### DEBITS TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS

(In thousands of dollars)	May, 1947	Apr., 1947	May, 1946	May, '47 comp. with Apr., '47	May, '47 comp. with May, '46
El Dorado, Ark.....	\$ 17,058	\$ 16,542	\$ 14,331	+ 3%	+19%
Fort Smith, Ark.....	31,033	32,035	28,961	- 3	+ 7
Helena, Ark.....	5,166	6,019	4,886	-14	+ 6
Little Rock, Ark.....	102,302	105,781	85,778	- 3	+19
Pine Bluff, Ark.....	18,898	21,176	17,822	-11	+ 6
Texarkana, Ark.-Tex.	8,529	9,899	8,507	-14	- 0
Alton, Ill.....	20,473	19,405	17,160	+ 6	+19
E.St.L.-Nat.S.Y.Ill.	101,656	103,808	66,645	- 2	+53
Quincy, Ill.....	27,309	25,431	21,503	+ 7	+27
Evansville, Ind.....	91,327	86,471	73,035	+ 6	+25
Louisville, Ky.....	425,387	427,958	370,713	- 1	+15
Owensboro, Ky.....	20,616	23,061	21,859	-11	- 6
Paducah, Ky.....	13,414	13,276	11,355	+ 1	+18
Greenville, Miss.....	12,625	13,476	11,366	- 6	+11
Cape Girardeau, Mo.....	9,672	9,089	7,718	+ 6	+25
Hannibal, Mo.....	6,563	6,650	5,682	- 1	+16
Jefferson City, Mo.....	39,144	47,747	32,621	-18	+20
St. Louis, Mo.....	1,259,948	1,292,960	1,185,806	- 3	+ 6
Sedalia, Mo.....	9,807	9,395	8,661	+ 4	+13
Springfield, Mo.....	51,464	49,436	44,364	+ 4	+16
Jackson, Tenn.....	14,995	14,987	12,393	-0-	+21
Memphis, Tenn.....	375,987	430,609	350,943	-13	+ 7
Totals.....	\$2,663,373	\$2,765,211	\$2,402,109	- 4	+11

### AGRICULTURE

#### CASH FARM INCOME

(In thousands of dollars)	Apr., 1947	Apr., '47, comp. with		12 mo. total May to April		
		Mar., 1947	Apr., 1946	'46-'47	'45-'46	comp. with '44-'45
Arkansas.....	\$ 19,461	+ 2%	+16%	\$ 492,564	+71%	+37%
Illinois.....	141,383	+ 6	+56	1,584,961	+37	+38
Indiana.....	74,967	+ 2	+50	866,475	+28	+31
Kentucky.....	21,531	-11	+44	465,656	+21	+11
Mississippi.....	13,338	+ 3	+ 2	335,564	+15	- 6
Missouri.....	65,275	- 1	+49	938,076	+36	+32
Tennessee.....	21,084	-25	+20	447,727	+41	+32
Total.....	\$357,039	- 0	+45	\$5,131,023	+35	+28

#### RECEIPTS AND SHIPMENTS AT NATIONAL STOCK YARDS

	Receipts			Shipments		
	May, '47 comp. with			May, '47 comp. with		
	May, '47	Apr., '47	May, '46	May, '47	Apr., '47	May, '46
Cattle and Calves.....	137,779	+ 8%	+21%	62,538	+ 17%	-33%
Hogs.....	220,797	+ 9	+18	61,975	+ 28	-11
Horses and Mules.....	1,570	- 18	-83	1,570	- 18	-83
Sheep.....	104,047	+252	+31	69,746	+467	+28
Totals.....	464,193	+ 28	+19	195,829	+ 69	-13