MONTHLY REVIEW

OF

AGRICULTURAL AND BUSINESS CONDITIONS

IN THE

NINTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

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DISTRICT SUMMARY OF BUSINESS

Business in the district entered the fall period of active operations on a higher level than in any preceding year. September records exceeded those for any preceding September in debits to individual accounts, the country clearings index and carloadings of miscellaneous freight. Business in October will apparently equal the volume in October last year, which was the largest October volume in our records, according to the developments of the first half of the month. An increase in the volume of business in Minneapolis and in the rural portions of the district offsets a decrease at St. Paul and Duluth, as compared with October a year ago.

The daily average of debits to individual accounts at seventeen cities was larger than in any previous September and exceeded average debits in September last year by 2 per cent. The only cities where debits to individual accounts were smaller than a year ago were Minneapolis, Duluth, Aberdeen, Red Wing and Winona. In the first three weeks of October debits to individual accounts were 1 per cent smaller than in the corresponding weeks last year. St. Paul, Duluth and four smaller cities experienced decreases and Minneapolis and ten smaller cities experienced increases. An important factor in the smaller volume of debits at Minneapolis and Duluth

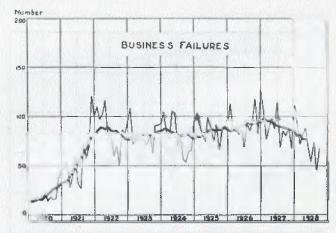
140
120
100
80
60 1923 1974 1975 1930 1935

Debits to Individual Accounts at Banks in Seventeen Cities in the Ninth Federal Reserve District. Heavy curve represents figures adjusted to eliminate seasonal changes; light curve represents unadjusted figures as percentages of the average month.

during September and at Duluth during the first part of October was the smaller grain movement. Grain began to move later this year than a year ago and has been hindered by congestion at the head of the lakes, where the high percentage of dockage in wheat retarded the handling of incoming grain. A feature of the grain movement this year is the heavy outward movement of barley which is fortunate inasmuch as the barley crop in the Northwest is of record size.

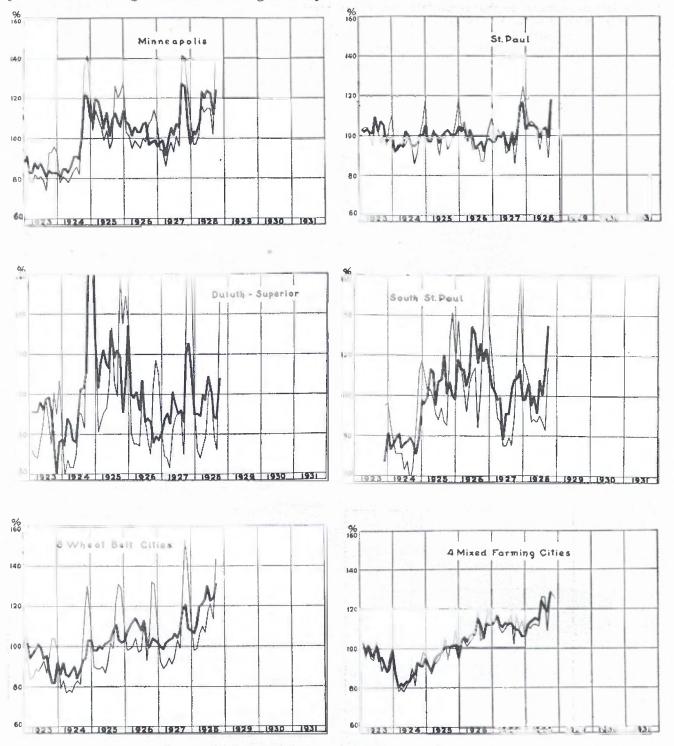
The country check clearings index also made a new high record for the month of September, and was 10 per cent higher than in September last year. The index for North Dakota and South Dakota combined exceeded the index for September last year by 14 per cent. For the other portions of the district the increases were as follows: Michigan and Wisconsin, 11 per cent; rural Minnesota, 9 per cent and Montana 7 per cent. In the first fifteen business days of October, the country check clearings exceeded the volume in the corresponding days of October last year by 7 per cent. The Dakotas showed the largest increase and Montana experienced a decrease.

Carloadings of freight, excluding less-than-carlot shipments, were I per cent larger in September, 1928 than in September, 1927. Carloadings of



Business Failures in the Ninth Federal Reserve District, as reported by R. G. Dun and Company. The heavy curve is the twelve-month moving average of the monthly data. miscellaneous merchandise made a new high record for the month and were 3 per cent larger than in September last year. Increases were also shown in carloadings of livestock, coke and ore.

In specific lines of industry and trade, building permits and building contracts were larger in September this year than in September last year. Department store sales, life insurance sales, country lumber sales and shipments of linseed products also increased, while flour shipments, security sales and wholesale trade decreased. Some of the decreases in trade can be explained by the fact that there was



Debits to Individual Accounts at Banks in Cities and Regional Groups of Cities in the Ninth Federal Reserve District. Heavy curves represent figures adjusted to eliminate seasonal changes; light curves represent actual figures.

one less business day in September this year than a year ago. Business failures were smaller in September than in the same month last year.

Farm income from cash grains, potatoes and hogs was 23 per cent smaller than in September last year. The reduced income from grains is partly due to the late movement, so that some farm income is merely postponed to later months of the crop year. The August income from dairy products was 16 per cent larger than the August income from this source last year. Prices of livestock, butter, milk, hens, eggs, rye and corn were higher in September than last year, and prices of other farm products were lower than last year.

DISTRICT SUMMARY OF BANKING

During the year between October 10, 1927 and October 3, 1928, the one hundred and seventeen representative country member banks, whose called reports are used to indicate changes in rural banking conditions, experienced an increase of 8 per cent in deposits. This increase is probably somewhat larger than the increase which will be shown for all country member banks in the district. Loans increased 9 per cent during the year at these representative banks. These banks were able to increase their holdings of bonds and other securities 13 per cent during the year. The largest percentage increase in deposits was in the livestock range banks.

Developments of the last month in the rural portions of the district indicate two distinct trends. In the western half of the district, where the grain crops are the most important source of farm income, banks have reduced their borrowings from the Federal Reserve Bank steadily for the last seven weeks, and on October 17 were borrowing less than on the corresponding date in any recent year. On the other hand, rural banks in the eastern part of the district have been increasing their borrowings for five weeks and on October 17 these banks were

borrowing more than on the corresponding date in any year since 1924. As a result of these divergent trends, the Federal Reserve Bank was lending more to country banks on October 17 than a year ago, but less than in other recent years.

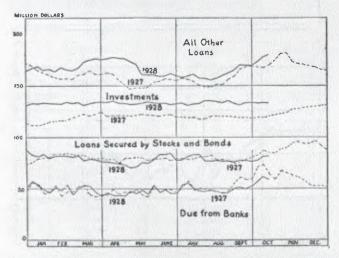
Balances carried by country banks with city correspondent banks in this district increased during the eight weeks ending October 10, and declined slightly during the following week. At their peak, these correspondent balances were lower than in 1927, but higher than in 1926.

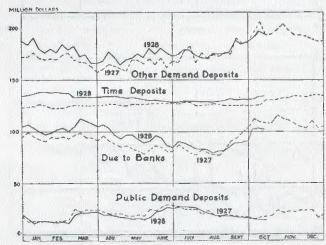
City member banks experienced increases in all classes of deposits during the last month, with the exception of public deposits, which decreased slightly. The total increase in deposits amounted to 25 million dollars, or 6 per cent, between September 19 and October 17. Loans, both collateraled by stocks and bonds and "all other," balances with correspondent banks and items in process of collection all increased during the month. Investment holdings remained practically unchanged.

REGIONAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE COUNTRY CLEARINGS INDEX

Two months ago, in the Review of August 28, 1928, there was presented and described a new index of business outside of the larger cities of the district which for brevity was called "The Country Clearings Index." This index closely agreed in its general fluctuations with other indexes of rural business. Recently the index has shown a very marked upward trend. In September the index, adjusted to remove seasonal variations, reached the highest level in the record.

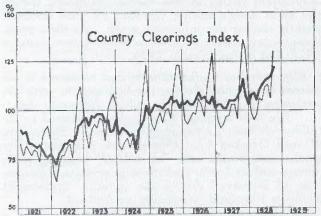
This country clearings index consists of the dollar value of checks collected by this Federal Reserve Bank from country banks in the district, with an allowance made for changes in the proportion of country banks which are on the par list. A large





Principal Assets and Liabilities of Selected Member Banks in the Ninth Federal Reserve District, as Reported Weekly in 1927 and 1928.

portion of the checks consists of those drawn in payment for merchandise ordered from out-of-town firms. Another large portion comprises transfers of deposits of chain stores, gasoline retailers and other firms to their head office bank accounts, which indirectly reflect retail buying from these branch stores in the rural portions of the district.

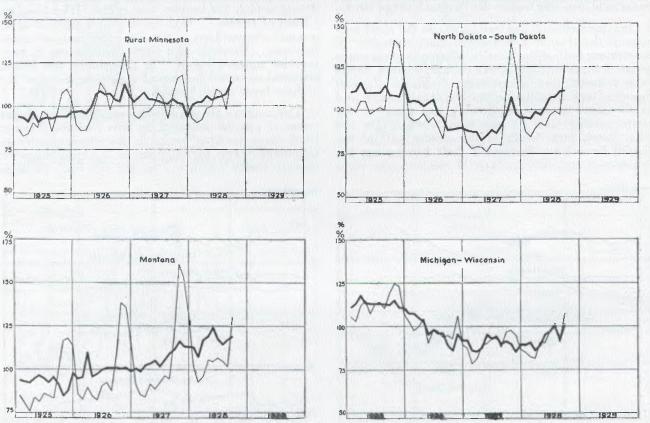


Country Check Clearings Index for the Ninth Federal Reserve District. The light curve represents figures without seasonal adjustments. The heavy curve represents figures with seasonal adjustments.

Recent research has made available monthly records of the country check clearing operations of this

Federal Reserve Bank for four subdivisions of the district. These divisions are the groups of banks set up for convenience by the Transit Department of this institution. There are two groups of Minnesota banks divided alphabetically and these two groups combined comprise the record of Minnesota check collections outside of Minneapolis and St. Paul. North Dakota and South Dakota are treated as one unit in the Transit Department and, consequently, their records cannot be separated as indexes of business in those states. The check collections of the Helena Branch of this bank, together with checks sent direct from the head office to Montana banks for collection, give a complete index for Montana. The portions of Wisconsin and Michigan, which are in this Federal Reserve District, are grouped together in the fourth unit and must be treated as one inseparable region. Government checks drawn by public officials are not separated by states and are excluded from these regional business indexes for that reason. They constitute a very small dollar amount and their exclusion is of trifling importance.

Daily averages of the monthly dollar volumes of check clearings in these four rural subdivisions of the district have been computed. The records were only traced back through 1925, since prior to that time banks were being removed from the par list in rapid succession. It has been considered inadvisable to make any adjustments for changes in the



Regional Subdivisions of the Country Check Clearings Index for the Ninth Federal Reserve District. The light curves represent figures without seasonal adjustments. The heavy curves represent figures with seasonal adjustments.

par list for these regional series. Since the beginning of 1925, the reduction in the proportion of banks in the par list has not been important, but there is a certain downward bias in these regional clearings indexes which must be taken into consideration in drawing conclusions from them as to the state of business and in comparing them with the district index, based on the four regional series combined.

The seasonal variations in business in the four regions vary considerably. In the Dakota and Montana regions, there is only one active period of business in the year, extending over four months from September to December, inclusive. The peak of business ordinarily falls in October. In Minnesota, there are two active periods of business; a minor peak in June and July and a major peak in October, November and December. These periods correspond roughly to the peak of dairy production in the summer and the peak of livestock marketing in the fall. In the portions of Wisconsin and Michigan which are in this district, the fall is shown to be the most active period of business, but the seasonal fluctuations are not as pronounced as in the other areas.

The largest of the four regions as far as the volume of business is concerned is the Minnesota region. In this region the country clearings index shows an almost horizontal trend, with higher volumes in 1926 and 1928 than in 1925 and 1927.

The next most important area is North Dakota and South Dakota combined. In this region the effect of the cash crop fluctuations has been very apparent. The level of the index was high in 1925, following the good 1924 crop, and fell off in 1926 and the first part of 1927, owing to the somewhat smaller income from the 1925 crop and the very poor crop return in 1926. The 1927 crop yielded a large income, and business, as indicated by the index, has followed an upward course since the summer of 1927.

In Montana, the course of the index has been quite steadily upward during the period surveyed. In the last twelve months, due to a combination of a large wheat crop, a favorable price situation for range cattle and sheep and an expansion of mineral output, the index has risen more rapidly than in the preceding two years.

The portions of Wisconsin and Michigan, which are in this district, suffered a decline in business in 1926 and 1927, which has been followed by a considerable recovery in 1928, according to the evidence of the country clearings index for that area.

OCTOBER 1, 1928 PRODUCTION FORECASTS AND PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES OF YIELD AND PRODUCTION BY STATES WITH COMPARISONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

(Yields in bush	els per	acre, except	tame ha	y, which is	s in tons.	Producti	on in t	housands, i	e., 000	s omitted.)	
	CORN FLAX				POTATOES							
Forecast 10-1-28			etion 927	Forecast 10-1-28	Forecast 9-1-28		uction 927	Forecast 10-1-28	Forec	east Prod -28	uction 1927	
Minn 147,796 Mont 5,179 No. Dak 24,740 So. Dak 94,792	4 24	,720 7 ,365 23	,246 ,168 ,975 ,995	6,167 2,325 8,720 4,641	6,528 2,235 9,147 4,915	10,	343 138 184 940	36,904 5,174 11,237 6,786	11.0	233 911 1	33,128 5,400 11,526 7,590	
4 States 272,507 U. S 2,903,272	285 2,930		,384 ,288	21,853 22,472	22,825 23,448			60,101 463,722	59,1 466,8		7,644	
	SPRI	SPRING BREAD WHEAT				NUM WHE	AT	ALL SPRING V		G WHEAT	WHEAT	
1928			927	1		192	27	192	1928 1927		7	
Preliminary Estimate	Yield	Produc- tion	Yield	Prelimina Estimate	ry Yield	Produc- tion	Yield	Preliminar Estimate	y Yield	Produc- tion	Yield	
Minn. 18,473 Mont. 63,085 No. Dak. 74,158 So. Dak. 20,528	14.5 18.5 13.2 10.3	14,542 65,652 69,054 27,902	10.5 20.6 11.8 14.0	4,896 270 66,715 13,004	16.0 18.0 14.4 10.9	3,538 300 55,916 16,401	13.2 20.0 14.0 16.5	23,369 63,355 140,873 33,532	14.8 18.5 13.7 10.5	18,080 65,952 124,970 44,303	10.9 20.6 12.7 14.8	
4 States 176,244 U. S 240,381	14.3 15.5	177,150 243,152	14.3	84,885	13.8	76,155	14.4	261,129 325,266	14.2 15.0	253,305 319,307	14.3 15.4	
		OATS			BARLEY			TAME HAY				
1928		1927		1928		1927		1928		1927		
Preliminary Estimate	Yield	Produc- tion	Yield	Prelimina Estimate	ry Yield	Produc- tion	Yield	Preliminar Estimate	y Yield	Produc- tion	Yield	
Minn 155,765 Mont 19,944 No. Dak. 59,954 So. Dak 58,914	37.3 36.0 31.0 27.0	120,493 23,840 45,688 72,664	26.8 40.0 21.5 29.3	59,130 5,970 51,740 31,435	30.0 30.0 25.5 22.2	45,090 6,435 42,406 32,670	30.0 33.0 25.5 30.0	3,935 2,682 1,755 1,758	1.65 2.00 1.80 1.50	4.818 2,706 1,943 2,269	2.02 2.12 1.87 2.05	
4 States 294,577 U. S 1,452,966	33.3 34.6	262,685 1,195,006	27.1 28.3	148,275 350,593	26.4 28.6	126,601 265,577	28.4 28.0	10,130 92,688	1.72	11,736 106,219	2.02	

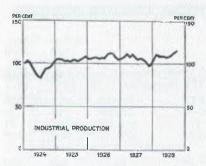
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS OF BUSINESS IN THE NINTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS OF BUSINES	S III IIII IIII	TIT TEDEK	AL RESERVE	%Sept. 1928	
				of	of
Debits to Individual Accounts, Daily Averages—Unit	September, 1928	August, 1928	September, 1927	Aug. 1928	Sept. 1927
17 Cities Minneapolis St. Paul Duluth-Superior 8 Wheat Belt Cities 4 Mixed Farming Cities South St. Paul	\$40,619,000 20,795,000 7,536,000 5,818,000 3,108,000 1,807,000 1,555,000	\$29,448,000 15,467,000 5,988,000 2,848,000 2,477,000 1,534,000 1,134,000	2,786,000 1,640,000	138 134 126 204 125 118 137	102 98 114 91 112 110 125
Carloadings-Northwestern District-					
Total—Excluding L. C. L. Cars Grains and Grain Products Cars Livestock Cars Coal Cars Coke Cars Forest Products Cars Ore Cars Miscellaneous Cars Merchandise—L. C. L. Cars	603,988 103,288 35,125 30,827 5,525 63,610 168,698 196,915 140,398	588,949 71,086 27,507 24,106 5,411 68,165 187,689 204,985 151,766	150,624 191,195	103 145 128 128 102 93 90 96 93	101 94 102 87 101 93 112 103
Building Permits—					
Number—18 Cities Value—18 Cities Minneapolis St. Paul Duluth-Superior 4 Wheat Belt Cities 6 Mixed Farming Cities 4 Mining Cities	1,738 \$ 4,946,900 2,235,000 877,600 341,500 793,200 644,900 54,700	1,718 \$ 4,480,100 2,128,300 673,800 215,600 620,500 692,400 149,500	\$ 3,992,800 1,405,300 822,200 358,900 854,600 480,700	101 110 105 130 158 128 93 37	102 124 159 107 95 93 134
Building Contracts Awarded-					
Total Residential Commercial and Industrial Public Works and Utilities Educational All Other	6,811,400 1,861,500 1,588,600 2,666,400 174,700 520,200	10,448,500 2,295,000 1,724,500 5,045,600 396,500 986,900	2,310,600 1,193,400 1,028,400 474,600	65 81 92 53 44 53	124 81 133 259 37
Cash Value of Farm Products Sold—	and the same				
Bread Wheat Durum Wheat Rye Flax Potatoes Dairy Products—See Note	40,762,000 19,335,000 4,597,000 6,628,000 2,370,000 23,332,000 7,556,000	15,111,000 3,488,000 1,377,000 1,203,000 735,000 25,562,000 6,226,000	25,056,000 8,223,000 7,133,000 5,382,000 20,044,000	270 554 334 551 322 91 121	79 77 56 93 44 116 88
Grain Stocks at End of Month at Minneapolis					
Bu. Bu. Corn Bu. Corn Bu. Corn Bu. Rye Bu. Flax Bu. Bu.	32,785,075 26,392 4,016,407 3,791,487 1,550,080 616,711	15,722,878 116,814 2,139,930 2,222,196 570,274 307,858	2,127,963 11,196,444 1,567,335 1,529,349	209 23 188 171 272 200	131 36 242 101 39
Median Cash Grain Prices-					
Wheat—No. 1 Dark Northern Bu. Durum—No. 2 Amber Bu. Corn—No. 3 Yellow Bu. Oats—No. 3 White Bu. Barley—No. 3 Bu. Rye—No. 2 Bu. Flax—No. 1 Bu.	\$1.25\\8 1.03\\4 .97 .37\\4 .61 .933\\4 2.07\\2	\$1.2334 1.041/ .981/ .351/4 .62 .93 2.041/	1.22 ¹ / ₄ .93 ¹ / ₂ .43 ³ / ₄ .72 .91 ³ / ₈	101 99 98 106 98 101	92 84 104 85 85 103
Wholesale Produce Prices-	, ,		/2		
Butter Lb. Milk Cwt. Hens—4½ Pounds Lb. Eggs Doz. Potatoes Bu.	.46½ 2.65 .22½ .29½ .52½	.44 2.56 .21 .281/ .581/	1.05	106 104 107 104 90	111 107 117 107 50

Note: Dairy Products figures for August, 1928, July, 1928, and Aug., 1927

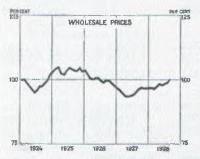
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS OF BUSINESS IN THE NINTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT (Continued)

	,			1928 of	%Sept. 1928 of
Livestock Receipts at South St. Paul-Unit.	September, 1928	August, 1928	September, 1927	Aug. 1928	Sept. 1927
Cattle Head Calves Head Hogs Head Sheep Head	121,356 33,765 107,741 151,091	87,947 36,396 73,135 57,295	99,384 36,004 132,270 100,685	138 93 147 264	122 94 81 150
Median Livestock Prices at South St. Paul-	40.00	40.00	* (7°	100	122
Butcher Cows Cwt. Butcher Steers Cwt. Prime Butcher Steers Cwt. Stocker and Feeder Steers Cwt. Veal Calves Cwt. Hogs Cwt. Heavy Hogs Cwt. Lambs Cwt. Ewes Cwt.	\$9.00 12.00 16.50 10.75 16.50 11.00 13.50 6.00	\$9.00 14.00 16.15 10.50 16.00 11.00 10.50 13.90 5.00	13.75 7.50 13.50 10.75 9.50 12.75	100 86 102 102 103 105 110 97 120	133 126 120 143 122 107 116 106
Production—Twin Cities and Duluth-					
Superior Bbls. Shipments from Minneapolis Bbls.	1,156,430 1,066,222	1,193,769 1,108,329		97 96	85 82
Linseed Products Shipments from Minneapolis-Lbs.	40,699,774	29,622,052	32,389,997	137	126
Retail Sales-					
Department Stores Furniture Stores	\$ 2,478,690 663,480	\$ 2,059,590 643,880		120 103	104 108
Country Lumber Yards Bd. Ft.	17,860,000	17,632,000		101	126
Retail Merchandise Stocks-	AC 051 720	45 838 ATO	46 //0 220	101	0.1
Department Stores Furniture Stores Country Lumber Yards Bd. Ft.	\$6,051,730 2,784,270 84,984,000	\$5,838,970 2,881,430 86,807,000	2,863,090	104 97 98	91 97 99
Life Insurance Sales—(4 States)	\$20,571,000	\$22,787,000	\$20,298,000	90	101
Wholesale Trade—					
Farm Implements Hardware Shoes Groceries	350,740 2,458,270 621,840 5,551,590	875,410 2,152,990 645,580 5,899,400	2,319,320 833,950	40 114 96 94	94 106 75 97
Business Failures—	3,321,320	3,073,100	3,7(1,220	74	//
Number Liabilities	\$405,656	46 \$404,105		146 100	- 83 76
Securities Sold—			,,		
To Banks To Insurance Companies To General Public	2,348,300 1,136,000 6,697,000	1,783,200 1,040,100 7,476,400	1,210,300	132 109 90	72 94 103
Real Estate Activity in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties—					
Warranty Deeds Recorded	1,468 1,634	1,492 1,829		98 89	89 94
				%Oct 1928 of	1928 of
Member Bank Deposits-	Oct. 10, 1928	Sept. 12, 1928	3 Oct. 26, 1927	Sept 1928	
In Cities under 15,000 Population In Cities over 15,000 Population	\$474,612,000 470,110,000	\$459,461,000 451,200,000		103 104	
24 City Member Banks—	Oct. 17, 1928	Sept. 12, 1921		100	
Loans Secured by Stocks and Bonds All Other Loans	\$82,991,000 179,127,000	\$77,165,000 169,706,000		108 106	
Securities Net Demand Deposits Subject to Reserve	132,874,000 235,023,000	130,822,000	120,517,000	102 107	110
Time Deposits	134,283,000	130,096,000	130,196,000	103	103
Borrowings at Federal Reserve Bank Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank—	16,237,000	13,968,000	0	116	
Bills Discounted Federal Reserve Notes in Circulation	20,789,544 62,197,640	19,164,966 55,549,04		108	

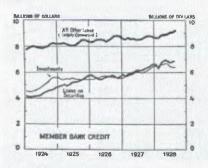


Index numbers of production of manufactures and minerals combined, adjusted for seasonal variations (1923-25 average=100).

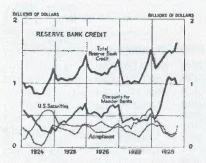
Latest figure, September, 114.



Index of United States Burcau of Labor Statistics (1926=100, base adopted by Bureau). Latest figure, September, 100.1.



Monthly averages of weekly figures for banks in 101 leading cities. Latest figures are averages for first three weekly report dates in October,



Monthly averages of daily figures for 12 Federal reserve banks. Latest figures are averages of first 23 days in October.

Summary of National Business Conditions (Compiled October 26 by Federal Reserve Board)

The volume of production and distribution of commodities increased seasonally in September, and was larger than a year ago. There was a further advance in the general price level. Loans of member banks in leading cities increased in September and October in response to the seasonal demand for commercial credit.

PRODUCTION: Industrial production increased further in September and the output of manufactures was in larger volume than in any previous month. Factory employment and payrolls also increased. The production of iron and steel and of automobiles was unusually large during September and October, although there has recently been some curtailment of operations in these industries. There were also increases in September in the activity of the textile, meat packing and tire industries and in the output of coal, petroleum and copper, while lumber production showed a decline. Building contracts awarded, after declining in volume for three months, increased considerably in September and exceeded all previous records for that month. The increase was due chiefly to certain large contracts for industrial plants and subway construction. During the first three weeks of October awards exceeded those for the same period last year, the excess being especially large in the eastern districts.

The Department of Agriculture's estimates of this year's crop yields indicate that the production of all crops in the aggregate will exceed last year's output by about 5 per cent. The corn crop is estimated at 2,903,000,000, or 5 per cent above last year's production. The October 8 estimate indicated a cotton crop of 13,993,000 bales, or 446,000 bales less than was forecast on September 8, compared with a yield of 12,955,000 bales in 1927.

TRADE: Department store sales increased considerably in September and were larger than a year ago, reflecting in part the influence of cooler weather. Inventories of department stores at the end of the month were smaller than on the same date of last year. Wholesale distribution in all leading lines, except meats, was somewhat smaller than in September, 1927. Freight carloadings showed more than a seasonal increase in September and continued large in October. Shipments of miscellaneous commodities in recent weeks have continued in larger volume than in previous years.

PRICES: Wholesale commodity prices increased further in September and the Bureau of Labor Statistics' index advanced to 100.1 per cent of the 1926 average. Increases, which were largest in farm products and foods, occurred in nearly all groups except hides and leather and textiles, which showed slight declines. Since the latter part of September there have been decreases in the prices of livestock and meats, grains, wool and hides and increases in cotton, silk, rubber and iron and steel.

BANK CREDIT: Demand for bank credit for commercial purposes increased between the middle of September and the middle of October, reflecting seasonal activity in trade and marketing of crops. There was also a growth in loans to brokers and dealers in securities, though total loans on securities of reporting member banks showed little change. During the weeks ending October 24, a growth of about \$40,000,000 in the total volume of Reserve bank credit in use was due chiefly to continued increase in the demand for currency, offset in part by a small inflow of gold from abroad. Reserve bank holdings of acceptances increased by about \$140,000,000 during the period, while the volume of discounts for member banks declined by about \$100,000,000. United States security holdings remained practically unchanged. Open market rates on commercial paper and on bankers' acceptances remained unchanged between the middle of September and the latter part of October, while rates on security loans declined in October.