

MONTHLY REVIEW

OF
AGRICULTURAL AND BUSINESS CONDITIONS
IN THE
NINTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

J. N. PEYTON, Chairman of the Board
and Federal Reserve Agent

F. M. BAILEY E. W. SWANSON
Assistant Federal Reserve Agents

OLIVER S. POWELL, Statistician
H. C. TIMBERLAKE, Asst. Statistician

Vol. VI (Serial
No. 229)

Minneapolis, Minnesota

January 29, 1934

DISTRICT SUMMARY OF BUSINESS

The volume of business in the district turned upward in December and the first half of January, owing in part to the direct or indirect effects of government funds flowing into the district from the activities of the Civil Works Administration and loans made by the Farm Credit Administration.

The most noteworthy development was a general stimulus to the movement of heavy commodities in the district, represented by miscellaneous freight carloadings of northwestern railroads, which showed much less than the customary seasonal decrease in December from the November totals. As a result, the adjusted index of miscellaneous carloadings, corrected for changes in the season and in the number of business days, rose from 61 in November to 75 in December. This was the sharpest increase which has occurred in any one month during the thirteen-year life of these records, and brought the adjusted index up to the level of July, 1931. Freight traffic officials of northwestern railroads report that the increase in miscellaneous traffic over last year's December volume has been very general, affecting such widely diversified products as paint, shovels, mining machinery, green fruit, potatoes and sugar beets. The index of the movement of l. c. l. freight, corrected for seasonal changes, increased from 60 in November to 63 in December, which was the highest figure since January, 1933. The adjusted index of bank debits increased from 52 in November to 54 in December. The country check clearings index increased from 77 in November to 83 in December. Neither of these latter indexes recovered to the level of midsummer.

Business in the district was in larger volume during December than in the corresponding month last year. Bank debits were 13 per cent larger on a daily average basis, and the increase was very general, for 58 cities out of 93 reporting cities experienced increases. The country check clearings index was 23 per cent higher in December than in the same month last year.

City department stores reported a very definite improvement in trade during December from the level of November, and attributed a considerable portion of the increase to the spending of Civil

Works Administration payroll funds. It will be recalled that department store sales in November were 3 per cent smaller than in November a year ago. In December, sales (of a larger group of stores) were 10 per cent greater than sales in December last year. Inasmuch as December is the most active month in department store sales, this increase takes on added significance. At the close of December, department stores had stocks of merchandise 3 per cent larger than a year ago. Both the increase in sales and the increase in stocks, as compared with last year's figures, should be considered in the light of price changes. An indeterminate portion of the increase in both cases was due to price increases in retail merchandise. Accounts receivable reported by department stores at the close of December were 6 per cent greater than the total one year earlier.

Other increases in December as compared with the same month last year occurred in the freight movement of grains and grain products and forest products, building contracts, marketings of cattle and calves, country lumber sales, securities sales and wholesale trade. Decreases as compared with December, 1932, occurred in the freight movement of coal and in building permits, flour production and shipments, linseed products shipments, copper output, marketings of hogs and sheep and life insurance sales. Business failures reported by Dun and Bradstreet were 41 in December, as compared with 74 in the same month last year.

In the first half of January, it appears that the increases over last year's volume continued and that the level of business, after allowing for seasonal changes, advanced in January over the December level. Bank debits for seventeen cities which make weekly reports were 12 per cent larger during the three weeks ending January 17, 1934, than in the corresponding weeks last year. If this increase is maintained throughout the remainder of the month, the bank debits index for January, 1934, will be slightly higher than the index for December, 1933. Similarly, country check clearings for the first seventeen business days of January were 24 per cent larger than in the corresponding days last year. If this increase is maintained for the remainder of the month, the country check clearings index will also show an increase from December, 1933, to January, 1934.

DISTRICT SUMMARY OF BANKING

The call for condition reports of member banks on December 30 affords an opportunity to make a preliminary survey of changes in the volume of earning assets of member banks in the district during recent months. Between October 25, the date of the preceding call, and December 30, loans and investments of member banks in the district decreased 12 million dollars. Since banks with loans and investments amounting to 4 million dollars were added to the System during this period, it follows that the loans and investments of those banks which were members of the System on October 25 have declined 16 million dollars. Of this decrease, 13 million dollars was in the city banks and 3 million dollars in the country banks of the System.

Dividing earning assets into loans to customers and investments, it is found that loans to customers of banks which were members of the System on October 25, decreased 18 million dollars between that date and December 30, and that investments of this same group of banks increased 2 million dollars.

At the city member banks of this district, loans to customers decreased 13 million dollars during the period from October 25 to December 30. This decrease cancelled the entire seasonal increase which occurred after June 30, but did not reduce the volume of customer loans at these banks to the low level of last spring. Country banks which were members of the Federal Reserve System on October 25, experienced a decrease of 5 million dollars in loans to customers between the last two call dates, thus continuing the decline which has been under way, with only one interruption, since the summer of 1929. The entire increase in investments (2 million dollars) between the last two call dates was reported by country member banks.

Turning now to other data than the call reports, it is found that the daily average of deposits of country member banks during December was nearly 2 million dollars higher than the daily average during November, continuing the increase which has been uninterrupted since the banks reopened after the banking holiday. A portion of this latest increase, as in earlier months, was due to the admission of additional banks to the Federal Reserve System. Since the banking holiday, country member bank deposits in this district have increased 25 million dollars, of which 10 million dollars has been due to the addition of new member banks. Excluding these new member banks from the figures, it is found that deposits of the remaining country member banks have risen 15 million dollars since the banking holiday, but that in December the deposits of those banks were 34 million dollars lower than deposits of the larger group of country member banks in existence a year ago.

Weekly statistics of city member banks in the district have been distorted in recent weeks by the

merger of a large non-member trust company with a reporting national bank. However, it is interesting to note that deposits of city member banks declined slightly during the four weeks preceding the above mentioned merger, but that in spite of this decrease, they were 20 million dollars higher at the close of the year than the total one year earlier. Cash and balances due from banks reported by city member banks increased slightly during the last four weeks of 1933, but at the close of the year were slightly below the level reached one year earlier. Changes in loans and investments of city member banks were adequately reflected in the tabulation from the call reports which was discussed above.

DISTRICT SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURE

Live Stock Marketings

The outstanding feature of the live stock markets during December was the strength shown by sheep and lamb prices. Receipts were smaller than in the corresponding month of 1932, as had been the case during most of the last half of the year. The "top" prices paid for fat lambs and fat ewes were higher each week during December than in the preceding week with the result that the December median was higher than in any other month since last August. During the first three weeks of January sheep and lamb prices have continued to rise as a result of a continued broad demand and an upturn in the market prices for dressed mutton and lamb.

Cattle receipts at South St. Paul were much smaller in December than in the preceding month and were only slightly larger than in December, 1932. Cattle receipts each month since March, 1933, have been considerably larger than in the corresponding month a year earlier. Total cattle receipts at South St. Paul for 1933 were more than 20 per cent greater than receipts in 1932.

Median prices paid at South St. Paul for cattle and calves received during December were mostly higher or unchanged from the November medians and were higher than in December, 1932. During December, the top for the month was \$6.00 per hundredweight, paid on December 13 for some lightweight butcher steers. Well finished lightweight steers were scarce, and the median price for that class was slightly lower than the median price for heavier steers.

Since January 1, receipts of cattle have been higher each week than in the corresponding week of 1933, both at South St. Paul and at the seven principal live stock markets of the United States. With the increased receipts there has been a noticeable decrease in the quality and finish, indicating that, according to government commentators, beef producers have decided to accept Commodity Credit Corporation loans on their corn rather than to feed it. Owing to poorer quality, prices during the first three weeks of January have averaged lower than

in December, but well finished, medium weight steers have been salable at unchanged prices so that the January "top" shows but little change from that of December.

Hog receipts at South St. Paul during December were smaller than in November or in December, 1932. Hog prices continued to decline during each of the first three weeks, but rose sharply in the last week of the month when cold weather and holidays caused a heavy decrease in receipts.

During the first three weeks of January, receipts have been running lighter than in the same three weeks last year as was to be expected from the slightly smaller spring pig crop in 1933 and from the unseasonably early marketing of pigs last August and September in connection with the AAA purchases. Average prices have declined in January chiefly as a result of an increasing percentage of unfinished and lightweight hogs. The weekly government live stock review suggests that hog producers, as well as beef producers, have evidently decided that chances for profit are larger by taking Commodity Credit Corporation loans on corn than by feeding.

Cold Storage Holdings

Cold storage holdings of all reported commodities in the United States were higher on January 1 than the five-year average for that date, with the exception of eggs, lamb and mutton and miscellaneous meats. As has been the case during the entire second half of 1933, the excess over average holdings was especially pronounced in butter and lard. However, the reduction in butter holdings during the month of December was larger than usual.

Usual seasonal decreases occurred in the stocks of cheese and eggs and usual seasonal increases in beef, lamb and mutton and miscellaneous meats. Stocks of lard and poultry increased by more than the seasonal amount.

Stocks of pork which have been running 15-20 per cent greater than the five-year average for several months, increased by less than the seasonal amount during December and on January 1 were only 9 per cent above the average.

Farm Income

Cash income to farmers from marketings of important products during December was estimated to be 2 per cent larger than income from these sources in December last year. The increase was entirely due to the higher prices prevailing for cash grains and potatoes. The decrease in the prices of dairy products during November brought the farmers' income from dairy products during December down to the level of the same month last year, in spite of a larger physical output. Farm income from the marketing of hogs during December was 25 per cent below the income from this source in December last year, in spite of somewhat higher prices. December prices of all important farm products in the Northwest were equal to, or higher than, prices a year ago, with the exception of butter, hens and eggs. The composite index of farm prices in Minnesota computed by the Agricultural Extension Division of the University of Minnesota was 41.9 in December, as compared with 34.2 in December last year. However, the index for December, 1933 was considerably lower than the index one month earlier.

THE YEARS 1929 TO 1933 IN THE NINTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

GENERAL BUSINESS

| | 1929 | 1930 | 1931 | 1932 | 1933 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| BANK DEBITS | | | | | |
| 94 Cities | \$13,697,233,000 | \$11,799,197,000 | \$ 9,299,931,000 | \$ 6,887,474,000 | \$ 7,034,848,000 |
| Minneapolis | 6,032,376,000 | 5,100,905,000 | 3,894,430,000 | 2,958,446,000 | 3,423,602,000 |
| St. Paul | 2,260,995,000 | 2,037,641,000 | 1,668,625,000 | 1,330,056,000 | 1,203,693,000 |
| South St. Paul | 433,386,000 | 366,829,000 | 275,676,000 | 156,751,000 | 139,665,000 |
| Great Lakes Ports..... | 1,345,757,000 | 1,111,825,000 | 799,534,000 | 544,094,000 | 537,429,000 |
| Beef and Pork, S. E..... | 436,359,000 | 391,162,000 | 333,911,000 | 252,987,000 | 225,006,000 |
| Beef and Pork, S. W..... | 547,541,000 | 526,826,000 | 424,017,000 | 237,576,000 | 243,440,000 |
| Dairy and Mixed Farming... | 586,582,000 | 542,665,000 | 461,538,000 | 344,741,000 | 298,499,000 |
| Wheat and Mixed Farming.. | 757,781,000 | 660,678,000 | 565,133,000 | 440,926,000 | 388,724,000 |
| Wheat and Range..... | 428,380,000 | 357,887,000 | 292,672,000 | 202,536,000 | 184,795,000 |
| Mining and Lumber..... | 868,076,000 | 702,779,000 | 584,395,000 | 419,361,000 | 389,995,000 |
| Electric Power Consumption (K.W.H.) | | | | | |
| Minn., No. Dak. and So. Dak. | 1,733,357,000 | 1,811,807,000 | 1,785,319,000 | 1,634,261,000 | 1,523,899,000 |
| Montana | 1,613,592,000 | 1,317,792,000 | 966,097,000 | 635,093,000 | 932,952,000 |
| Country Check Clearings | | | | | |
| Total | \$ 1,212,684,000 | \$ 1,015,198,000 | \$ 799,150,000 | \$ 665,320,000 | \$ 803,242,000 |
| Minnesota | 445,392,000 | 363,917,000 | 292,122,000 | 263,987,000 | 317,754,000 |
| Montana | 225,631,000 | 173,437,000 | 137,454,000 | 98,980,000 | 112,679,000 |
| North and South Dakota.... | 302,932,000 | 266,234,000 | 194,329,000 | 170,050,000 | 238,880,000 |
| Michigan and Wisconsin.... | 238,729,000 | 211,604,000 | 175,245,000 | 132,303,000 | 133,929,000 |
| Freight Carloadings—N. W. District | | | | | |
| Total—Excluding L. C. L.... | 5,764,501 | 4,790,793 | 3,427,832 | 2,276,749 | 2,741,143 |
| Grain and Grain Products... | 621,375 | 578,506 | 444,812 | 366,208 | 444,280 |
| Livestock | 403,566 | 373,782 | 363,812 | 255,730 | 240,087 |
| Coal | 367,546 | 350,499 | 290,222 | 264,347 | 263,000 |
| Coke | 91,458 | 69,990 | 45,605 | 32,295 | 43,749 |
| Forest Products | 840,929 | 604,625 | 363,525 | 204,537 | 280,631 |
| Ore | 1,311,442 | 941,936 | 466,028 | 68,224 | 384,350 |
| Miscellaneous | 2,128,185 | 1,871,449 | 1,453,828 | 1,085,408 | 1,085,046 |
| Merchandise—L. C. L..... | 1,655,813 | 1,556,659 | 1,343,827 | 1,071,496 | 964,490 |

**THE YEARS 1929 TO 1933 IN THE NINTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT
(CONTINUED)**

| | 1929 | 1930 | 1931 | 1932 | 1933 |
|---|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Building Permits | | | | | |
| Number (18 Cities)..... | 16,941 | 15,125 | 15,188 | 10,063 | 9,419 |
| Valuation (18 Cities).....\$ | 47,741,900 | \$ 38,098,500 | \$ 34,512,600 | \$ 13,885,000 | \$ 10,391,600 |
| Minneapolis | 20,960,000 | 13,449,300 | 12,371,900 | 6,427,000 | 5,537,400 |
| St. Paul | 9,255,200 | 11,055,400 | 13,994,700 | 3,053,800 | 5,309,200 |
| Duluth-Superior | 4,911,000 | 3,233,700 | 1,275,900 | 1,616,900 | 1,111,600 |
| 4 Wheat Belt Cities..... | 5,964,900 | 3,561,800 | 2,210,700 | 1,928,400 | 376,900 |
| 6 Mixed Farming Cities..... | 5,346,800 | 5,656,700 | 4,219,700 | 1,720,200 | 728,100 |
| 4 Mining Cities..... | 1,304,000 | 1,064,900 | 439,700 | 447,300 | 328,400 |
| Building Contracts Awarded | | | | | |
| Total | \$ 104,120,000 | \$ 98,711,600 | \$ 93,815,300 | \$ 61,516,400 | \$ 44,071,400 |
| Residential | | 15,659,200 | 15,934,500 | 7,112,000 | 5,565,200 |
| Commercial and Industrial.. | | 24,147,600 | 8,723,300 | 4,479,900 | 6,541,300 |
| Public Works and Utilities... | | 41,754,800 | 49,235,300 | 39,946,300 | 25,001,800 |
| Educational | | 8,935,200 | 7,114,300 | 2,455,400 | 1,880,200 |
| All Other | | 8,214,800 | 12,807,900 | 7,522,800 | 5,082,900 |
| Real Estate Activity in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties | | | | | |
| Warranty Deeds Recorded... | 17,379 | 15,169 | 14,179 | 11,147 | 8,110 |
| Mortgages Recorded | 18,252 | 16,028 | 15,490 | 11,787 | 8,963 |
| Manufacturing and Mining | | | | | |
| Flour Prod. at Mpls. (bbls.).. | 10,429,146 | 10,876,778 | 9,123,970 | 8,262,834 | 7,253,242 |
| Flour Ship. at Mpls. (bbls.).. | 11,421,249 | 11,407,056 | 9,701,671 | 7,685,170 | 7,594,616 |
| Linseed Prod. Ship. (lbs.)... | 381,341,683 | 274,075,113 | 255,642,803 | 157,000,958 | 155,635,844 |
| Cop. Output (3 firms) (lbs.) | 455,930,200 | 337,494,000 | 271,053,500 | 143,800,700 | 140,115,000 |
| Business Failures | 621 | 705 | 867 | 928 | 725 |

AGRICULTURE**Farmers' Cash Income**

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Bread Wheat | \$ 155,317,000 | \$ 104,901,000 | \$ 53,010,000 | \$ 43,551,000 | \$ 75,065,000 |
| Durum Wheat | 61,095,000 | 42,153,000 | 21,723,000 | 9,086,000 | 12,682,000 |
| Rye | 13,062,000 | 7,868,000 | 1,645,000 | 2,056,000 | 4,969,000 |
| Flax | 40,045,000 | 30,038,000 | 16,802,000 | 10,651,000 | 10,072,000 |
| Dairy Products | 250,741,000 | 197,259,000 | 147,551,000 | 108,016,000 | 116,093,000 |
| Hogs | | | 119,704,000 | 70,160,000 | 67,027,000 |
| Wool | 14,271,000 | 11,108,000 | 7,801,000 | 4,735,000 | 10,862,000 |
| Potatoes | 26,844,000 | 22,918,000 | 11,048,000 | 8,458,000 | 11,465,000 |
| Butter Production (Lbs.)... | 512,264,000 | 501,392,000 | 514,120,000 | 504,641,000 | 527,000,000* |

**Grain Marketings at Minneapolis
and Duluth-Superior (Bus.)**

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Bread Wheat | 115,436,000 | 111,554,000 | 71,217,000 | 75,330,000 | 93,912,000 |
| Durum Wheat | 50,547,000 | 50,974,000 | 29,738,000 | 15,945,000 | 15,161,000 |
| Rye | 13,425,000 | 13,452,000 | 4,094,000 | 5,696,000 | 8,483,000 |
| Flax | 12,863,000 | 15,563,000 | 11,689,000 | 9,635,000 | 5,863,000 |

Livestock Receipts at South St. Paul (Head)

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Cattle | 878,509 | 779,143 | 811,361 | 689,930 | 835,173 |
| Calves | 546,459 | 559,423 | 603,231 | 544,125 | 515,370 |
| Hogs | 2,868,883 | 2,759,166 | 3,251,214 | 2,599,915 | 2,742,455 |
| Sheep | 1,139,073 | 1,353,995 | 1,690,080 | 1,522,383 | 1,551,906 |

Prices in December**Median Cash Grain Prices at Mpls.**

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Wheat—No. 1 D. N. S. (bu.) | \$1.30 ³ / ₄ | \$0.76 ³ / ₄ | \$0.73 ³ / ₈ | \$0.49 | \$0.83 ³ / ₈ |
| Durum—No. 2 Amber (bu.) | 1.21** | .74 | .84 ³ / ₈ | .50 ¹ / ₈ | 1.00 ⁵ / ₈ |
| Corn—No. 3 Yellow (bu.).. | .83 ¹ / ₄ | .65 ¹ / ₂ | .43 ³ / ₄ | .21 ¹ / ₂ | .43 ³ / ₈ |
| Oats—No. 3 White (bu.)... | .42 ³ / ₄ | .29 ¹ / ₂ | .26 ³ / ₄ | .14 ¹ / ₂ | .33 |
| Barley—No. 3 (bu.)..... | .58 | .42 | .50 ³ / ₈ | .27 | .66 |
| Rye—No. 2 (bu.)..... | .97 ¹ / ₂ | .43 ¹ / ₄ | .45 | .30 ¹ / ₂ | .58 ⁷ / ₈ |
| Flax—No. 1 (bu.)..... | 3.20 ¹ / ₂ | 1.61 | 1.43 | 1.07 ¹ / ₂ | 1.77 |

Median Livestock Prices at South St. Paul

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Butcher Cows (Cwt.)..... | \$7.50 | \$5.50 | \$3.50 | \$2.50 | \$2.75 |
| Butcher Steers (Cwt.)..... | 10.50 | 8.35 | 4.75 | 4.00 | 4.50† |
| Prime Butcher Steers (Cwt.) | 12.85 | 10.25 | 6.50 | 5.50 | 5.55† |
| Stocker & Feeder Steers (Cwt) | 9.00 | 6.50 | 3.50 | 3.00 | 3.25†† |
| Veal Calves (Cwt.)..... | 12.00 | 8.00 | 4.00 | 3.50 | 4.00 |
| Hogs (Cwt.)..... | 9.15 | 7.75 | 3.90 | 2.80 | 3.00 |
| Heavy Hogs (Cwt.)..... | 8.25 | 7.00 | 3.35 | 2.50 | 2.75 |
| Lambs (Cwt.) | 12.50 | 7.75 | 4.75 | 5.75 | 6.75 |
| Ewes (Cwt.) | 3.75 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 1.50 | 3.00 |
| Wool (lb.) (Farm Price)... | .29 | .18 ¹ / ₂ | .12 ¹ / ₂ | .09 | .25 |

THE YEARS 1929 TO 1933 IN THE NINTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT
(CONTINUED)

| Wholesale Produce Prices at Mpls. | 1929 | 1930 | 1931 | 1932 | 1933 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Butter (Lb.) | \$0.37½ | \$0.27 | \$0.27 | \$0.21 | \$0.17 |
| Milk (Cwt.) | 2.30 | 1.75 | 1.46 | 1.16 | 1.24 |
| Hens (lb.) | .17½ | .16½ | .14½ | .09½ | .07½ |
| Eggs (doz.) | .39½ | .26½ | .22¾ | .24 | .16¼ |
| Potatoes (bu.) | 1.28 | .77 | .49 | .27 | .58 |

TRADE

| Retail Sales | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Lumber (449 yds.) (bd. ft.) | 129,205,000 | 107,294,000 | 78,802,000 | 52,319,000 | 53,894,000 |
| Dept. Store Sales (19 firms) .. \$ | 41,107,950 | 38,789,650 | 35,285,330 | 28,009,620 | 26,546,970 |
| Furniture Store Sales (5 firms) .. | | | 1,244,350 | 945,790 | 891,750 |
| Securities sold (9 firms) | 174,610,300 | 156,343,000 | 141,441,900 | 96,977,800 | 108,611,700 |
| Life Insurance Sales | 305,407,000 | 296,664,000 | 237,236,000 | 186,206,000 | 153,843,000 |
| Wholesale Sales | | | | | |
| Shoes (5 firms) | \$ 5,732,490 | \$ 4,108,940 | \$ 2,817,870 | \$ 2,288,020 | \$ 2,904,100 |
| Hardware (12 firms) | 25,618,970 | 21,324,000 | 15,799,820 | 11,330,160 | 12,600,930 |
| Groceries (35 firms) | 49,015,500 | 47,233,780 | 41,484,880 | 33,813,520 | 34,673,180 |

BANKING

| City Bank Condition (¹) Dec. 31 | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Loans | \$ 239,000,000 | \$ 226,000,000 | \$ 222,000,000 | \$ 176,000,000 | \$ 177,000,000² |
| Investments | 178,000,000 | 166,000,000 | 155,000,000 | 139,000,000 | 158,000,000² |
| Deposits | 454,000,000 | 466,000,000 | 431,000,000 | 384,000,000 | 378,000,000² |
| Borrowings | 8,100,000 | 83,000 | 164,000 | 15,000 | 75,000² |

| Country Bank Condition, Dec. 31 | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Loans | \$ 696,000,000 | \$ 611,000,000 | \$ 478,000,000 | \$ 384,000,000 | \$ 288,000,000² |
| Investments | 392,000,000 | 391,000,000 | 365,000,000 | 313,000,000 | 285,000,000² |
| Deposits | 1,180,000,000 | 1,082,000,000 | 879,000,000 | 704,000,000 | 616,000,000² |
| Borrowings | 9,700,000 | 10,600,000 | 14,098,000 | 30,464,000 | 8,770,000² |

| Member Bank Deposits | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| In Cities over 15,000 pop. .. \$ | 461,412,000 | \$ 477,458,000 | \$ 432,983,000 | \$ 376,751,000 | \$ 388,269,000 |
| In Cities under 15,000 pop. .. | 445,482,000 | 400,630,000 | 343,663,000 | 280,588,000 | 256,351,000 |
| Michigan—15 Cos. | 58,802,000 | 64,368,000 | 60,198,000 | 50,038,000 | 39,812,000 |
| Minnesota | 168,251,000 | 155,390,000 | 134,763,000 | 112,270,000 | 106,328,000 |
| Montana | 65,536,000 | 59,168,000 | 50,158,000 | 39,239,000 | 39,591,000 |
| North Dakota | 61,566,000 | 43,113,000 | 33,626,000 | 27,468,000 | 24,644,000 |
| South Dakota | 61,909,000 | 51,062,000 | 41,075,000 | 31,927,000 | 32,214,000 |
| Wisconsin—26 Cos. | 29,418,000 | 27,529,000 | 23,843,000 | 19,646,000 | 13,762,000 |

| Interest Rates | Jan. '30 | Jan. '31 | Jan. '32 | Jan. '33 | Jan. '34 |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Minneapolis Banks | 5¾-6 | 4¾-5 | 4¾-5 | 4½-4¾ | 4¼-4½ |
| Commercial Paper (net to borrower) | 5½ | 3½ | 4½ | 1¾ | 1¾ |
| Minneapolis Fed. Res. Bank .. | 5 | 3½ | 3½ | 3½ | 3½ |

| Selected City Member Banks | Jan. 15, 1930 | Jan. 14, 1931 | Jan. 13, 1932 | Jan. 18, 1933 | Jan. 17, 1934 |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Loans to customers | \$ 240,653,000 | \$ 213,324,000 | \$ 215,321,000 | \$ 166,466,000 | \$ 169,041,000 |
| Other Invested Funds | 130,573,000 | 147,465,000 | 137,504,000 | 118,637,000 | 158,373,000 |
| Deposits due to Banks | 76,774,000 | 83,237,000 | 62,210,000 | 59,821,000 | 81,454,000 |
| Public Demand Deposits | 18,900,000 | 23,039,000 | 20,784,000 | 18,297,000 | 21,456,000 |
| Other Demand Deposits | 179,904,000 | 178,561,000 | 145,362,000 | 126,853,000 | 158,058,000 |
| Time Deposits | 132,161,000 | 147,837,000 | 156,042,000 | 138,566,000 | 126,637,000 |
| Total Deposits | 407,739,000 | 433,175,000 | 385,350,000 | 344,323,000 | 388,766,000 |
| Borrowings at Fed. Res. Bank | 2,200,000 | 0 | 3,741,000 | 130,000 | 34,000 |

| Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Loans to Member Banks | \$ 4,238,000 | \$ 4,188,000 | \$ 9,952,000 | \$ 10,266,000 | \$ 1,736,000 |
| Twin Cities | 2,230,000 | 0 | 3,666,000 | 0 | 20,000 |
| Minn., Wis., and Mich. | 805,000 | 1,287,000 | 2,692,000 | 3,877,000 | 674,000 |
| No. Dak. and Mont. | 684,000 | 1,206,000 | 1,678,000 | 2,692,000 | 301,000 |
| So. Dak. | 519,000 | 1,695,000 | 1,916,000 | 3,697,000 | 741,000 |
| Fed. Res. Notes in Circulation | 64,885,000 | 50,844,000 | 68,018,000 | 80,982,000 | 92,794,000 |
| Fed. Res. Bank Notes in Cir. | | | | | 7,945,000 |

*Estimated for December.

**Duluth

† 1,100 lbs. down.

†† 800 lbs. down.

(1) National Banks in Minneapolis and St. Paul and Savings Banks and Trust Companies in Minnesota.

(2) October 25, 1933 for National Banks; Autumn call dates for State Banks.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS OF BUSINESS IN THE NINTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

| GENERAL BUSINESS | | | AGRICULTURE | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|----------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | Dec. '33 | Dec. '32 | Per Cent of Dec. '33 | | Dec. '33 | Dec. '32 | Per Cent of Dec. '33 |
| Debits to Individual Accounts¹ | | | | Farmers' Cash Income | | | |
| All Reporting Cities..... | \$ 24,137,900 | \$ 21,397,800 | 113 | Total of 7 Items..... | \$ 18,717,000 | \$ 18,326,000 | 102 |
| Minneapolis | 10,963,000 | 9,139,000 | 120 | Bread Wheat | 4,625,000 | 2,817,000 | 164 |
| St. Paul | 4,570,000 | 4,177,000 | 109 | Durum Wheat | 718,000 | 414,000 | 173 |
| South St. Paul..... | 396,000 | 456,000 | 87 | Rye | 85,000 | 93,000 | 91 |
| Great Lakes Ports..... | 1,873,600 | 1,590,700 | 118 | Flax | 276,000 | 434,000 | 64 |
| Beef and Pork, S.E..... | 827,500 | 782,600 | 106 | Potatoes | 383,000 | 185,000 | 207 |
| Beef and Pork, S.W..... | 820,100 | 840,800 | 98 | Dairy Products | 7,365,000 | 7,858,000 | 100 |
| Dairy and Mixed Farming..... | 1,097,300 | 1,064,500 | 103 | Hogs | 5,265,000 | 7,025,000 | 75 |
| Wheat and Mixed Farming..... | 1,369,500 | 1,311,400 | 104 | Butter Production (Lbs.)..... | 29,654,000 | 31,370,000 | 95 |
| Wheat and Range..... | 721,100 | 690,100 | 104 | Grain Marketings at Minneapolis and Duluth-Superior (Bus.) | | | |
| Mining and Lumber..... | 1,499,800 | 1,345,700 | 111 | Bread Wheat | 4,963,000 | 5,152,000 | 96 |
| Electric Power Consumption (K.W.H.)^{1,2} | | | | Durum Wheat | 714,000 | 825,000 | 87 |
| Minn., No. Dak and So. Dak..... | 4,527,700 | 4,578,200 | 99 | Rye | 144,000 | 304,000 | 47 |
| Montana | 2,997,700 | 1,558,800 | 192 | Flax | 152,000 | 404,000 | 38 |
| Country Check Clearings¹ | | | | Grain Stocks at END of Month at Minneapolis and Duluth-Superior (Bus.) | | | |
| Total | \$ 3,021,700 | \$ 2,461,000 | 123 | Wheat | 37,832,132 | 39,249,954 | 96 |
| Minnesota | 1,160,500 | 983,000 | 118 | Corn | 9,017,962 | 1,057,086 | 853 |
| Montana | 446,400 | 360,400 | 124 | Oats | 27,869,546 | 12,609,851 | 221 |
| North and South Dakota..... | 899,800 | 712,000 | 126 | Barley | 10,389,923 | 5,722,527 | 182 |
| Michigan and Wisconsin..... | 515,000 | 405,600 | 127 | Rye | 5,978,643 | 5,068,842 | 118 |
| Freight Carloadings—N. W. District | | | | Flax | 1,038,632 | 1,210,673 | 86 |
| Total—Excluding L. C. L..... | 184,929 | 168,562 | 110 | Livestock Receipts at So. St. Paul (Head) | | | |
| Grains and Grain Products..... | 28,772 | 26,245 | 110 | Cattle | 44,575 | 42,309 | 105 |
| Livestock | 17,369 | 23,322 | 74 | Calves | 43,115 | 38,849 | 111 |
| Coal | 31,810 | 33,414 | 95 | Hogs | 219,557 | 291,185 | 75 |
| Coke | 3,601 | 3,359 | 107 | Sheep | 93,787 | 130,920 | 72 |
| Forest Products | 19,258 | 14,023 | 137 | Median Cash Grain Prices (Bus.) | | | |
| Ore | 601 | 210 | 299 | Wheat—No. 1 Dark Northern..... | \$0.83½ | \$0.49 | 171 |
| Miscellaneous | 83,518 | 67,989 | 123 | Durum—No. 2 Amber | 1.00% | .50½ | 201 |
| Merchandise—L.C.L. | 75,921 | 80,328 | 95 | Corn—No. 3 Yellow..... | .43% | .21½ | 202 |
| Building Permits | | | | Oats—No. 3 White | .33 | .14½ | 228 |
| Number—18 Cities | 291 | 235 | 124 | Barley—No. 3 | .66 | .27 | 244 |
| Value—18 Cities | \$ 274,900 | \$ 2,413,400 | 11 | Rye—No. 2 | .58% | .30½ | 193 |
| Minneapolis | 58,200 | 2,308,000 | 3 | Flax—No. 1 | 1.77 | 1.07½ | 165 |
| St. Paul | 148,300 | 33,300 | 445 | Median Livestock Prices (Cwt.) | | | |
| Duluth-Superior | 19,400 | 10,300 | 188 | Butcher Cows and Heifers..... | \$2.75 | \$2.50 | 110 |
| 4 Wheat Belt Cities | 15,900 | 9,700 | 164 | Heavy Butcher Steers..... | 4.50 | 3.75 | 120 |
| 6 Mixed Farming Cities | 31,100 | 50,300 | 62 | Light Butcher Steers..... | 4.35 | 4.00 | 109 |
| 4 Mining Cities | 2,000 | 1,800 | 111 | Prime Heavy Butcher Steers..... | 5.60 | 5.50 | 102 |
| Building Contracts Awarded | | | | Prime Light Butcher Steers..... | 5.50 | 5.50 | 100 |
| Total | \$ 5,391,000 | \$ 2,028,900 | 266 | Heavy Stocker & Feeder Steers..... | 3.00 | 3.00 | 100 |
| Commercial | 316,000 | 81,300 | 389 | Light Stocker & Feeder Steers..... | 3.25 | 3.00 | 108 |
| Factories | 50,000 | 60,900 | 82 | Veal Calves | 4.00 | 3.50 | 114 |
| Educational | 852,000 | 0 | | Hogs | 3.00 | 2.80 | 107 |
| Hospitals, etc. | 35,000 | 12,300 | 285 | Heavy Hogs | 2.75 | 2.50 | 110 |
| Public | 329,000 | 5,000 | 6,580 | Lambs | 6.75 | 5.75 | 117 |
| Religious and Memorial..... | 2,000 | 7,000 | 29 | Ewes | 3.00 | 1.50 | 200 |
| Social and Recreational..... | 230,000 | 10,000 | 2,300 | Wholesale Produce Prices | | | |
| Residential | 551,000 | 195,600 | 282 | Butter (Lb.) | \$0.17 | \$0.21¼ | 80 |
| Public Works | 2,639,000 | 1,590,000 | 166 | Milk (Cwt.) | 1.24 | 1.16 | 107 |
| Public Utilities | 387,000 | 66,000 | 586 | Hens (Lb.) | .07½ | .09½ | 79 |
| Real Estate Activity in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties | | | | Eggs (Doz.) | 1.6¼ | .24 | 68 |
| Warranty Deeds Recorded..... | 1,954 | 2,419 | 81 | Potatoes (Bu.) | .58 | .27 | 215 |
| Mortgages Recorded | 993 | 964 | 103 | TRADE | | | |
| Manufacturing and Mining | | | | Department Stores³ | | | |
| Flour Production at Mpls., St. Paul and Duluth-Superior (Bbls.)..... | 589,230 | 693,379 | 85 | Sales | \$ 5,848,310 | \$ 5,370,080 | 110 |
| Flour Shipments at Mpls. (Bbls.)..... | 525,899 | 624,057 | 84 | Merchandise Stocks | 7,927,180 | 7,679,520 | 103 |
| Linseed Product Shipments (Lbs.)..... | 9,225,447 | 11,086,452 | 83 | Receivables | 5,520,440 | 5,207,530 | 106 |
| Copper Output (3 Firms) (Lbs.)..... | 11,319,300 | 11,537,400 | 98 | Instalment Receivables | 1,092,940 | 1,051,120 | 104 |
| Business Failures | | | | Furniture Stores³ | | | |
| Number | 41 | 74 | 55 | Total Sales | \$ 95,650 | \$ 72,290 | 132 |
| Liabilities | \$ 686,980 | \$ 945,199 | 73 | Instalment Sales | 68,100 | 50,380 | 135 |
| | | | | Merchandise Stocks | 464,930 | 435,040 | 107 |
| | | | | Instalment Receivables | 753,540 | 698,060 | 108 |
| | | | | Country Lumber Yards³ | | | |
| | | | | Sales (Bd. Ft.) | 2,266,000 | 1,805,000 | 126 |
| | | | | Lumber Stocks (Bd. Ft.)..... | 56,513,000 | 51,123,000 | 111 |
| | | | | Total Sales | \$ 384,200 | \$ 426,100 | 90 |
| | | | | Receivables | 1,617,700 | 1,751,200 | 92 |
| | | | | Life Insurance Sales | | | |
| | | | | Four States | \$ 14,673,000 | \$ 15,994,000 | 92 |
| | | | | Minnesota | 10,684,000 | 11,995,000 | 89 |
| | | | | Montana | 1,333,000 | 1,140,000 | 117 |
| | | | | North Dakota | 1,334,000 | 1,425,000 | 94 |
| | | | | South Dakota | 1,322,000 | 1,434,000 | 92 |

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

| | Dec. '33 | Dec. '32 | Per Cent Dec. '33 of Dec. '32 | | Dec. '33 | Dec. '32 | Per Cent Dec. '33 of Dec. '32 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--|---|---------------|---------------|--|
| Investment Dealers | | | | Interest Rates² | | | |
| Sales to Banks..... | \$ 1,397,000 | \$ 1,691,400 | 83 | Minneapolis Banks | 4 1/4-4 1/2 | 4 1/2-4 3/4 | |
| Sales to Insurance Companies..... | 1,191,100 | 376,400 | 316 | Commercial Paper (net to borrower) | 1 3/4 | 1 3/4 | |
| Sales to General Public..... | 3,844,000 | 3,145,100 | 122 | Minneapolis Fed. Res. Bank..... | 3 1/2 | 3 1/2 | |
| Wholesale Trade | | | | Selected City Member Banks | 1-17-34 | 1-18-33 | |
| Groceries³ | | | | Loans to Customers..... | \$169,041,000 | \$166,466,000 | 102 |
| Sales | \$ 2,793,260 | \$ 2,324,360 | 120 | Other Invested Funds..... | 158,373,000 | 118,637,000 | 133 |
| Stocks | 5,496,520 | 4,582,110 | 120 | Cash and Due from Banks..... | 114,726,000 | 106,114,000 | 108 |
| Receivables | 3,589,100 | 3,628,310 | 99 | Deposits Due to Banks..... | 81,454,000 | 59,821,000 | 136 |
| Hardware³ | | | | Public Demand Deposits..... | 21,456,000 | 18,297,000 | 117 |
| Sales | \$ 1,215,490 | \$ 674,260 | 180 | Other Demand Deposits..... | 158,058,000 | 126,853,000 | 125 |
| Stocks | 2,268,440 | 2,196,530 | 103 | Time Deposits | 126,637,000 | 138,566,000 | 91 |
| Receivables | 1,200,970 | 1,152,950 | 104 | Total Deposits | 388,766,000 | 344,323,000 | 113 |
| Shoes | | | | Borrowings at Fed. Res. Bank..... | 34,000 | 130,000 | 26 |
| Sales | \$ 114,410 | \$ 102,310 | 112 | Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank | | | |
| Stocks | 589,000 | 505,200 | 117 | Loans to Member Banks..... | \$ 1,736,000 | \$ 10,266,000 | 17 |
| Receivables | 571,970 | 459,280 | 125 | Twin Cities | 20,000 | 0 | |
| BANKING | | | | Minn., Wis. and Mich..... | 674,000 | 3,877,000 | 17 |
| Member Bank Deposits | | | | N. Dak. and Mont..... | 301,000 | 2,692,000 | 11 |
| In Cities Over 15,000 pop..... | \$388,269,000 | \$376,751,000 | 103 | South Dakota | 741,000 | 3,697,000 | 20 |
| In Cities Under 15,000 pop..... | 256,351,000 | 280,588,000 | 91 | Fed. Res. Notes in Circulation..... | 92,793,000 | 80,982,000 | 115 |
| Michigan—15 Cos. | 39,812,000 | 50,038,000 | 80 | Fed. Res. Bank Notes in Circulation | 7,945,000 | 0 | |
| Minnesota | 106,328,000 | 112,270,000 | 95 | Member Bank Reserve Deposits..... | 59,396,000 | 38,665,000 | 154 |
| Montana | 39,591,000 | 39,239,000 | 101 | | | | |
| North Dakota | 24,644,000 | 27,468,000 | 90 | | | | |
| South Dakota | 32,214,000 | 31,927,000 | 101 | | | | |
| Wisconsin—26 Cos. | 13,762,000 | 19,646,000 | 70 | | | | |

¹Daily Averages.
²Latest Reported Data.
³Figures for the various items in this section not always from identical firms.

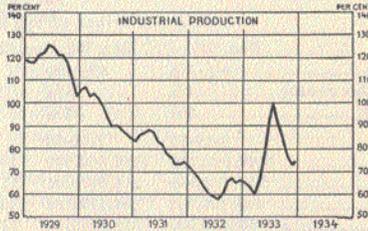
BANK DEBITS

| Number of Business Days: | Dec. 1933 | Nov. 1933 | Dec. 1932 | Nov. 1932 | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Michigan and Wisconsin..... | 25 | 25 | 26 | 24 | Montana | | | |
| All other States in District | 25 | 24 | 26 | 23 | Anaconda | 1,101 | 1,038 | 980 |
| | | | | | Billings | 5,796 | 5,998 | 5,405 |
| | | | | | Bozeman | 1,511 | 1,340 | 1,612 |
| | | | | | Butte (2 Banks)..... | 7,155 | 6,430 | 6,364 |
| | | | | | Deer Lodge | 459 | 367 | 633 |
| | | | | | Glendive | 700 | 588 | 771 |
| | | | | | Great Falls | 7,531 | 7,289 | 7,437 |
| | | | | | Harlowton | 211 | 243 | 245 |
| | | | | | Havre | 1,053 | 1,041 | 1,096 |
| | | | | | Helena | 7,367 | 5,582 | 7,473 |
| | | | | | Kalispell | 1,378 | 1,090 | 1,628 |
| | | | | | Lewistown | 1,318 | 1,063 | 1,363 |
| | | | | | Malta | 496 | 420 | 502 |
| | | | | | Miles City (1 Bank)..... | 1,023 | 1,000 | 1,048 |
| | | | | | North Dakota | | | |
| | | | | | Bismarck | 8,788 | 7,457 | 8,396 |
| | | | | | Devils Lake | 906 | 954 | 851 |
| | | | | | Dickinson | 977 | 900 | 816 |
| | | | | | Fargo | 11,819 | 11,321 | 11,450 |
| | | | | | Grafton | 476 | 575 | 359 |
| | | | | | Grand Forks | 3,359 | 3,761 | 3,598 |
| | | | | | Jamestown | 1,422 | 1,516 | 1,243 |
| | | | | | Mandan | 604 | 725 | 749 |
| | | | | | Minot | 3,259 | 3,341 | 3,517 |
| | | | | | Valley City | 722 | 919 | 799 |
| | | | | | Wahpeton | 649 | 781 | 584 |
| | | | | | Williston | 634 | 694 | 685 |
| | | | | | South Dakota | | | |
| | | | | | Aberdeen | 3,026 | 2,750 | 3,442 |
| | | | | | Brookings (1 Bank)..... | 494 | 605 | 525 |
| | | | | | Deadwood | 676 | 816 | 668 |
| | | | | | Huron | 2,199 | 2,387 | 3,006 |
| | | | | | Lead | 1,581 | 1,533 | 1,422 |
| | | | | | Madison | 635 | 542 | 595 |
| | | | | | Milbank | 294 | 325 | 312 |
| | | | | | Mitchell | 1,779 | 1,814 | 2,057 |
| | | | | | Mobridge | 461 | 463 | 443 |
| | | | | | Pierre | 1,540 | 978 | 1,141 |
| | | | | | Rapid City | 1,707 | 1,884 | 1,877 |
| | | | | | Sioux Falls | 11,062 | 10,468 | 11,319 |
| | | | | | Watertown | 1,649 | 1,844 | 1,807 |
| | | | | | Yankton | 1,188 | 1,142 | 1,087 |
| | | | | | Wisconsin | | | |
| | | | | | Chippewa Falls | 1,561 | 1,350 | 1,462 |
| | | | | | Eau Claire | 4,361 | 3,959 | 3,694 |
| | | | | | Hudson | 312* | 198* | 381 |
| | | | | | La Crosse | 6,704 | 5,804 | 6,302 |
| | | | | | Merrill | 999 | | |
| | | | | | Superior | 3,265 | 2,648 | 3,735 |

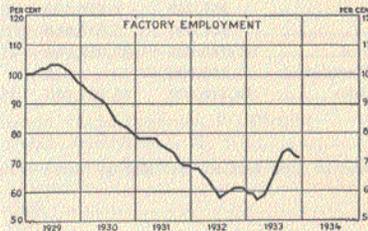
*Figures for a smaller number of banks.

Summary of National Business Conditions

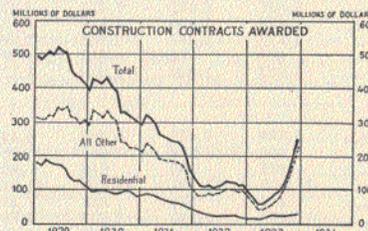
(Compiled January 24 by Federal Reserve Board)



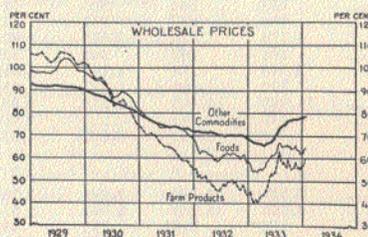
Index number of industrial production, adjusted for seasonal variation. (1923-1925 average=100.)



Federal Reserve Board's index of factory employment with adjustment for seasonal variation. (1923-1925 average=100.)



Three month moving averages of F. W. Dodge data for 37 Eastern states, adjusted for seasonal variation. Latest figure based on data for November, 1933, December, 1933 and estimates for January, 1934.



Indexes of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. By months 1929 to 1931; by weeks 1932 to date. (1926=100.)

Industrial activity, as measured by the Federal Reserve Board's seasonally adjusted index, showed an increase in December, following upon four months of decline. Factory employment declined somewhat, while employment by public agencies showed a considerable increase.

PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT: The Board's index of industrial production, which is adjusted to allow for seasonal variation, advanced from 73 per cent of the 1923-1925 average in November to 74 per cent in December. For the fourth quarter of 1933 as a whole, the volume of industrial output was 13 per cent larger than for the corresponding period of 1932. Activity in the steel industry, contrary to seasonal tendency, increased considerably in December, and there was also an increase in the output of automobiles. Shoe production declined by an amount smaller than is usual in December. At textile mills, activity declined further by considerably more than the usual seasonal amount, to about the low level of last spring.

The number of employees at factories declined between the middle of November and the middle of December by somewhat more than the usual seasonal amount, reflecting chiefly reductions in working forces at cotton, woolen and silk mills and at clothing factories. At automobile factories, there was a substantial increase in employment.

The value of construction contracts awarded, as reported by the F. W. Dodge Corporation, increased further in December and the first half of January. There was a large increase in contracts awarded for public works. Private construction also increased. In the fourth quarter of 1933 as a whole, construction contracts in thirty-seven states totaled \$500,000,000, as compared with \$300,000,000 in the last quarter of 1932.

DISTRIBUTION: Freight carloadings, particularly of miscellaneous freight, declined in December as compared with November by less than the usual seasonal amount. Dollar value of sales by department stores showed an increase slightly larger than is usual for December.

DOLLAR EXCHANGE: The foreign exchange value of the dollar which had fluctuated around 64 per cent of parity from the end of November to January 13, declined to 62 per cent on January 17, and subsequently advanced to a range from 62 to 63 per cent.

PRICES: Wholesale commodity prices, which had shown a slight decline between the middle of November and the third week of December, advanced in the following month, reflecting chiefly increases in the prices of farm products and foods. Cotton and grains showed marked increases and live stock prices also advanced somewhat.

BANK CREDIT: At the Reserve Banks the seasonal return of currency from circulation after the holiday demand amounted to about \$250,000,000 from the high point on December 22 to January 17. A large part of the funds arising from this inflow of currency to the Reserve Banks was added to the reserve balances of member banks, with the consequence that these balances increased by January 17 to \$900,000,000 in excess of legal requirements.

The return flow of currency from circulation and the reduction of balances held by commercial banks for the United States Government were reflected in an increase of demand deposits at reporting member banks. Loans of the banks declined between December 13 and January 17, while holdings of United States Government and other securities increased.

Short-term money rates in the open market, which had shown a slight advance in December, declined in January to the previous level.