

TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW

A MONTHLY SUMMARY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN TEXAS

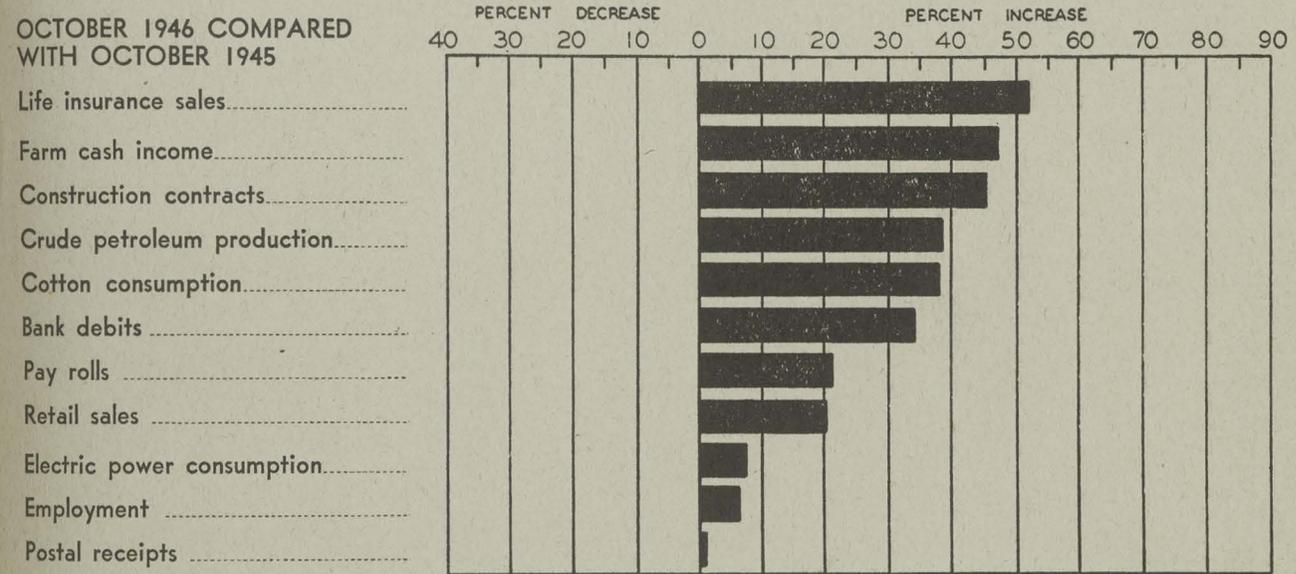
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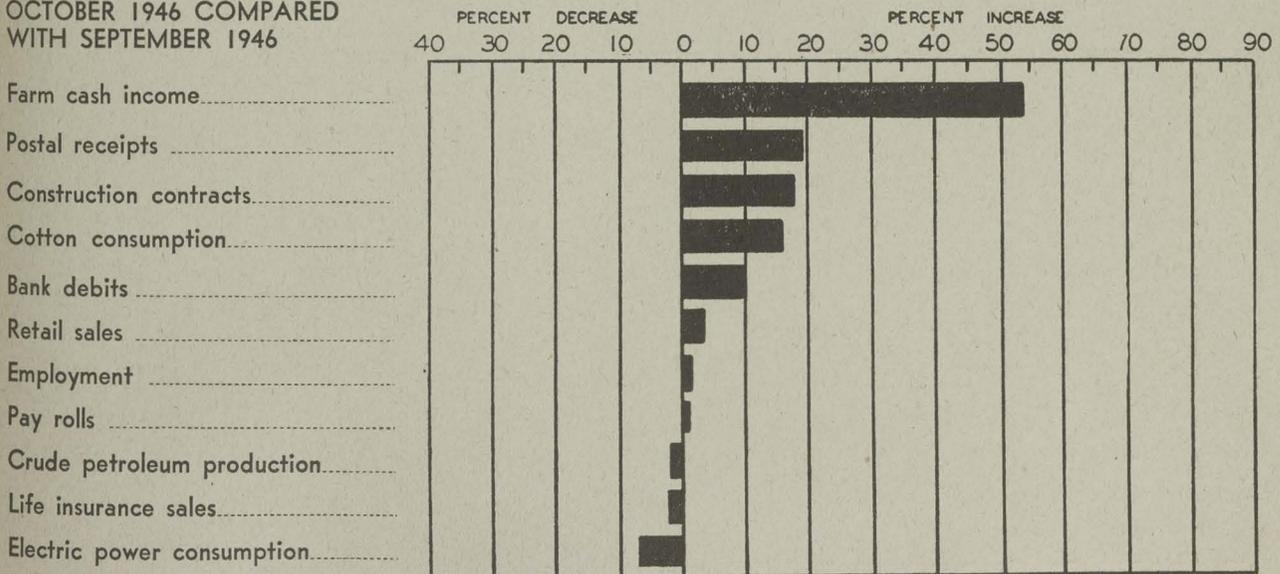
November 1946

HIGHLIGHTS OF TEXAS BUSINESS

OCTOBER 1946 COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1945



OCTOBER 1946 COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1946



TEN CENTS PER COPY

ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR

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FIGURES FOR THE MONTH

	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945
INDEX OF TEXAS BUSINESS ACTIVITY (1935-39=100)*.....	178.8	182.4	160.0
Index of department and apparel store sales (10).....	288.5	316.8	244.3
Index of miscellaneous freight carloadings in Southwestern District (20).....	128.6	131.2	120.3
Index of crude oil runs to stills (5).....	150.7	151.2	118.8
Index of electric power consumption (15).....	244.6	253.6	227.1
Index of employment (25).....	115.1	113.5	110.5
Index of pay rolls (25).....	205.1	203.2	175.6
TRADE			
Retail sales of 1,152 independent stores.....	\$ 46,422,339	\$ 44,917,865	\$ 38,419,892
Ratio of credit sales to net sales in department and apparel stores.....	55.3%	49.6%	44.9%
Ratio of collections to outstandings in department and apparel stores.....	65.6%	59.5%	68.8%
Advertising linage in 31 newspapers.....	25,311,670	23,736,962	21,260,739
Postal receipts in 57 cities.....	\$ 2,928,605	\$ 2,446,724	\$ 2,900,100
PRODUCTION			
Industrial electric power consumption for 10 companies (thousands of kilowatt hours).....	237,809	251,710	224,781
Man-hours worked in 416 manufacturing establishments.....	2,766,470	2,725,586	2,832,760
Crude oil runs to stills (42-gallon barrels).....	43,358,000	42,463,000	34,184,000
Gasoline stocks at refineries (barrels).....	16,131,000	15,116,000	15,627,000
Fuel oil stocks at refineries (barrels).....	19,978,000	17,615,000	12,836,000
Cotton consumption (running bales).....	21,649	18,678	15,666
Cotton linters consumed (running bales).....	1,720	1,136	1,514
Cottonseed crushed (tons).....	103,705	52,067	121,912
Manufacture of dairy products (1000 lbs. milk equivalent).....	77,088	80,677	65,484
Cement production (barrels).....	768,000	1,011,000	812,000
Lumber production in Southern pine mills (weekly per unit average in board feet).....	191,564	185,399	178,433
Construction contracts awarded.....	\$ 33,966,867	\$ 28,827,694	\$ 23,377,316
Construction contracts awarded for residential building.....	\$ 12,650,662	\$ 8,987,228	\$ 2,463,565
Building permits issued in 46 cities.....	\$ 16,681,447	\$ 17,330,481	\$ 9,651,940
Number of loans made by savings and loan associations.....	2,113	2,096	1,755
Amount of loans made by savings and loan associations.....	\$ 8,062,185	\$ 7,803,324	\$ 4,935,720
Telephones in service in 40 cities (end of month).....	771,987	759,237	670,775
Crude petroleum production (daily average in barrels).....	2,050,850	2,089,500	1,482,350
AGRICULTURE			
Farm cash income.....	\$221,471,000	\$135,217,000*	\$150,682,000
Shipments of livestock (carloads).....	12,388	8,025	13,630
Rail shipments of poultry (carloads).....	43	31	27
Rail shipments of eggs (shell equivalent).....	143	103	182
Interstate receipts of eggs at Texas stations (shell equivalent).....	49	93	69
FINANCE			
Loans, reporting member banks in Dallas District (thousands).....	\$ 730,000	\$ 702,000	\$ 461,000
Loans and investments, reporting member banks in Dallas District (thousands).....	\$ 1,958,000	\$ 1,963,000	\$ 1,897,000
Demand deposits adjusted, reporting member banks in Dallas District (thousands).....	\$ 1,479,000	\$ 1,470,000	\$ 1,378,000
Time deposits, reporting member banks in Dallas District (thousands).....	\$ 314,000	\$ 312,000	\$ 274,000
Bank debits in 20 cities (thousands).....	\$ 2,764,661	\$ 2,517,372	\$ 2,060,412
Corporation charters issued (number).....	263	247	137
Ordinary life insurance sales.....	\$ 61,794,000	\$ 62,982,000	\$ 37,425,000
TRANSPORTATION			
Revenue freight loaded in Southwestern District (carloads).....	282,784	263,576	273,550
Export and coastal cars unloaded at Texas ports.....	1,577	8,407	7,563
Miscellaneous freight carloadings in Southwestern District (carloads).....	161,734	152,448	152,513
Air express shipments (number).....	26,213	21,744	15,822
LABOR			
Total manufacturing employment.....	315,900	312,100	311,900
Nonagricultural civilian labor force in 21 areas.....	1,316,303	1,319,497	1,221,118
Unemployment in 21 areas.....	78,366	86,380	66,570
Placements in employment in 21 areas.....	26,162	25,388	23,368
GOVERNMENT			
Cash receipts of State Comptroller.....	\$ 33,064,201	\$ 30,337,760	\$ 28,627,398
Federal internal revenue collections.....	\$ 58,469,523	\$112,030,497	\$ 61,894,051
PRICES			
Index of consumers' prices in Houston (1935-39=100).....	143.9	142.8	128.9
Index of food prices in Houston (1935-39=100).....	174.7	173.5	139.7

*The composite index is made up of the indexes listed. All component indexes except employment and pay rolls are adjusted for seasonal variation, and all indexes are based on the average month of the years 1935-39. Numbers in parentheses following the component indexes indicate the weight of each index in the composite.

The Business Situation in Texas

Business activity in Texas declined again in October, according to the *index of Texas business activity* prepared by the Bureau of Business Research. The decline of 2.0% for the month was not so large as the 5.2% drop in September from the August peak, but it helped to cancel out the remainder of the summer rise and restore business to the May 1946 level.

It now appears that the first wave of postwar reconversion spent itself quickly during the early fall of 1945 immediately after V-J Day. A year ago in the midst of reconversion the September-to-October decline in the State business activity index was 3.9%. Beginning in November, business in Texas picked up a little and leveled out until May of this year, when a small boom began which lasted through the summer. At present Texas business is in a period of downward readjustment, although October 1946 is still 11.8% above the first postwar low of October 1945. The duration of this readjustment is the number one question in the current business situation.

In appraising the present situation, it should be remembered that business activity is still far above its prewar levels. Last month the State index was 78.8% higher than the average month of the prewar (1935-39) period.

The September-to-October decline in the composite index resulted from decreases in four primary business indicators and increases in two. The principal decrease was the 8.9% drop in the seasonally-adjusted *index of department and apparel store sales*. Dollar sales were 3.0% greater in October than in September, but they fell far short of the usual 13.1% rise in stores of this type. After seasonal adjustment, *electric power consumption* was also down 3.5%, *miscellaneous freight carloadings* an even 2.0%, and *crude oil runs to stills* 0.3%. The 1.4% rise in *employment* and the 0.9% advance in *pay rolls* were not large enough to offset these declines.

A year ago the business situation in Texas was quite different. Between September and October 1945, the

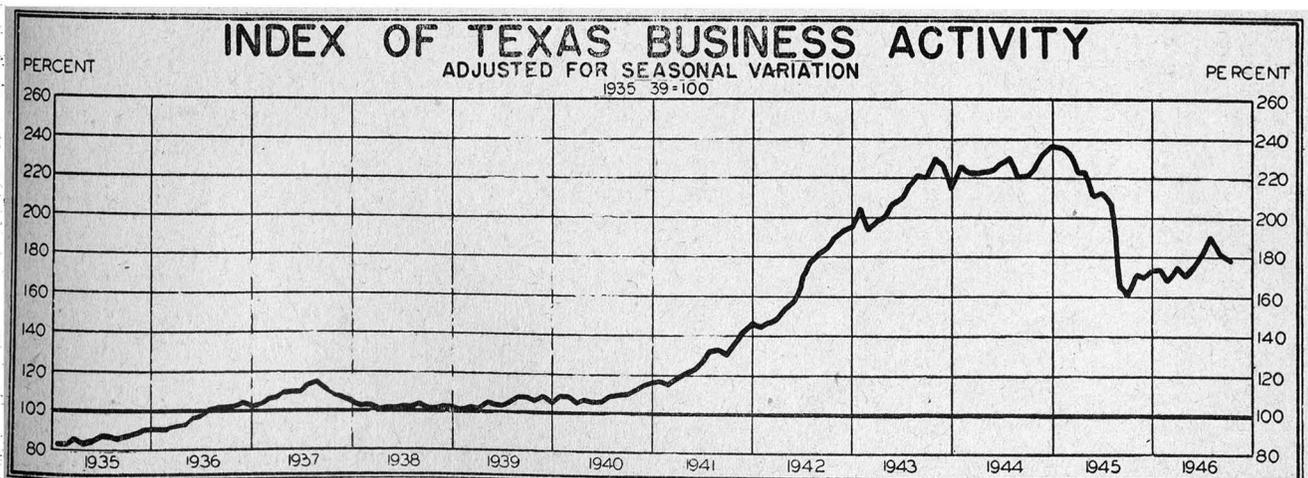
indexes of department and apparel store sales and the runs of crude oil to stills rose 3.6% and 3.8%, respectively. At the same time there were declines of 3.0% in miscellaneous freight carloadings, 6.8% in electric power consumption, 1.6% in employment, and 8.6% in pay rolls.

Over the 12 months from October 1945 to October 1946 all six primary business series have advanced. Crude runs to stills gained 26.8%, department and apparel store sales 18.1%, pay rolls 16.8%, electric power consumption 7.7%, miscellaneous freight carloadings 6.9%, and employment 4.2%. Price rises during the past 12 months have helped to push up the sales and pay rolls indexes, but the other four series reflect increases in the physical volume of business activity.

Last month all six component indexes stood well above their prewar (1935-39) levels. Employment was up 15.1%, miscellaneous freight carloadings 28.6%, crude oil runs to stills 50.7%, pay rolls 105.1%, electric power consumption 144.6%, and department and apparel store sales 188.5%. Here again the gains in the dollar series must be weighed against a 40 to 50% rise in consumers' prices since the beginning of the war.

Shifts in the secondary indexes of Texas business activity which do not enter directly into the general State index reveal the same pattern—(1) activity in most lines was lower in October than September after seasonal factors were considered, (2) business conditions this fall were considerably different from those of a year ago, and (3) in most lines business activity was above last year and far above prewar (1935-39) levels.

Secondary indexes showing advances for October over September this year after seasonal adjustment were *farm cash income* (up 53.8%), *southern pine production* (up 3.7%), and *bank debits* (up 3.6%). The index of *crude petroleum production* was down slightly (0.1%), but the indexes of *cement production* and the *value of building permits* dropped substantially (24.0% and 21.0%, respectively). Between September and Oc-



tober 1945, on the other hand, cement production rose 18.6%, crude petroleum production slumped 18.8%, and farm income increased only 26.4%.

In the comparisons of October 1946 with October of last year all of the secondary indexes showed gains except cement production, which was off 5.4%. The increases for the 12-month period were: southern pine production 7.4%, bank debits 34.2%, crude petroleum production 38.4%, farm cash income 47.0%, and the value of building permits 77.0%.

The decline of one-third in southern pine production from the prewar (1935-39) period to October of this year was the only exception to the general upward movement of the secondary indexes of Texas business activity during the war years. Gains among the several indexes in order of size were: cement production 43.1%, crude petroleum production 65.8%, the value of building permits 196.0%, farm cash income 213.5%, and bank debits 225.5%. The wartime advance in prices was an important factor in the gains made by the last three series.

The greatest weaknesses in the present business situation in Texas are to be found in *trade*. Here the indicators continued generally to edge upward, but the gains were confined principally to the durable goods lines, were created in part by price advances, and were not up to seasonal expectations (particularly in the case of consumer nondurables). *Retail sales* of independent stores, for example, picked up 3.3% for the month and 20.8% over October 1945, but the monthly increase was about two-thirds of the usual seasonal advance, and the 12-month gain was built up chiefly by price rises and the distribution of durable items to war-starved markets. Both *advertising linage* and *postal receipts* were up for the month, but did not match last year's September-to-October gains. Advertising linage last month was also considerably (19.1%) above October 1945. *Credit sales* of department and apparel stores jumped sharply in October over September 1946, and collections also picked up.

There was a noticeable improvement in the current *production* picture in Texas during October. Of the 18 production series carried by the Bureau, 5 declined and 13 advanced between September and October. Some of the improvement was undoubtedly seasonal (last year at this season 12 out of the 18 series registered gains), but there were some significant increases. *Cotton consumption*, for example, climbed 15.9% last month to double the comparable 1945 increase. *Southern pine production* likewise increased 3.3%, whereas a year ago it fell 2.7% from September to October. Labor difficulties in the State's cement industry this year were primarily responsible for the largest monthly decrease (24.0%) in production. Sixteen out of the 18 production series marked up gains this past month over October a year ago. The declines for the 12-month period were in *cement production* (5.4%) and *cottonseed crushings* (14.9%).

Texas *agriculture* continued to enjoy a favorable position in the current business situation during October. Sizable gains were made over September in *farm cash income*, *livestock shipments*, *poultry shipments*, and *egg*

shipments. *Interstate egg receipts* declined, whereas last year they rose at this season, and the monthly gain in poultry shipments did not come up to last year's jump. However, the increases in farm cash income and livestock shipments were well over the corresponding 1945 percentages. The 12-month comparisons were less favorable. Income and poultry shipments this year were considerably larger than they were in October 1945, but livestock shipments, egg shipments, and interstate egg receipts were all down substantially.

Indicators in the field of *finance* pointed upward in October this year with the exceptions of *loans and investments* (down 0.3%) and *ordinary life insurance sales* (down 1.9%). Generally the financial situation this fall is not as strong as it was a year ago when all indicators rose between September and October and the gains in most cases were larger. All of the Bureau's financial series during October this year were well above October 1945 levels.

The several *transportation* series for the State evidenced a larger flow of goods to domestic markets in October than in September this year. On the other hand, *export and coastal cars unloaded* at Texas ports dropped precipitously (81.2%). Seasonal gains this fall compared well with those of last year. Twelve-month increases were recorded by all series except export and coastal car unloadings.

Labor continued to ride the crest of the first postwar boom, *employment* and *pay rolls* rising and *unemployment* falling during October. The situation this fall is in sharp contrast to that of a year ago when the State's economy felt the full force of reconversion. During the past 12 months there has been a 7.8% increase in the *nonagricultural civilian labor force* and a 17.7% rise in urban unemployment, although *manufacturing employment* had edged up 1.3%.

The State's business situation during October can be summarized in these terms. Business generally is far above prewar levels. During the past 12 months substantial gains have been recorded in most lines. The situation this fall cannot be compared with the situation a year ago because the underlying conditions were so different. Nevertheless, there were noticeable weaknesses in almost every sector of Texas business during September and again during October of this year. The greatest weaknesses thus far have appeared at the retail level in the sales of nondurable consumer goods. Production was in a stronger position in October than in September, but close analysis of the several production series reveals uncertainties in the advance. What is true of production likewise applies to finance. Agriculture and labor at the moment seem to be best situated in the current Texas business picture.

Throughout the State and national business situation this fall are two factors of great importance—price rises and labor troubles. These tie into the problems of general postwar inflation and cost-price relationships which are now perplexing businessmen all over the country. For the next few months what happens to prices and to labor-management relations will be of great significance in determining the course of business.

TRADE

Retail Trade

(The movement of goods into the hands of consumers is one of the fundamental series of statistical data on business activity, since for business to be sound the volume of retail trade must be good. During a period of rising prices, such as the present, an increase in sales may result from a rise in prices as well as from an increase in the amount of business. The fluctuations in retail credit ratios are important conditioning factors of the volume of trade. Newspaper advertising linage and postal receipts are secondary trade indicators.)

The total retail sales of independent stores in Texas increased 3.3% in October over September, and were 20.8% higher than a year ago. These percentages were computed from the summary of reports received by the Bureau from 1,152 stores representing all sections of the State and all lines of business. The normal pattern for October sales is to increase approximately 6% over September, which means that an increase of only 3.3% is in reality a decline. This small decline in sales is consistent with the trend all over the country that is keeping merchants watching inventories and outstanding orders with extreme care.

RETAIL SALES OF INDEPENDENT STORES BY KINDS OF BUSINESS

Source: Bureau of Business Research in co-operation with the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce

Business	Number of reporting establishments	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
TOTAL	1,152	+ 20.8	+ 3.3
APPAREL	147	+ 6.0	- 1.0
Family clothing stores	33	+ 1.6	+ 2.8
Men's and boys' clothing stores	48	+ 1.6	+ 5.5
Shoe stores	23	+ 15.5	+ 1.0
Women's specialty shops	43	+ 7.9	- 4.7
AUTOMOTIVE*	98	+128.1	+ 9.3
Motor vehicle dealers	82	+145.3	+ 9.1
COUNTRY GENERAL	78	+ 8.4	+ 5.0
DEPARTMENT STORES	61	+ 14.7	+ 2.1
DRUG STORES	108	+ 4.5	- 0.4
GENERAL MERCHANDISE	39	+ 0.7	- 0.2
FILLING STATIONS	38	+ 19.6	+ 3.4
FLORISTS	26	+ 6.2	+ 16.2
FOOD*	159	+ 6.5	+ 3.1
Grocery stores (without meat)	42	+ 10.2	+ 5.4
Combination stores (groceries and meats)	87	+ 11.1	+ 8.1
Other grocery and combination stores	19	- 1.0	- 4.5
FURNITURE AND HOUSEHOLD*	81	+ 25.9	+ 6.3
Furniture stores	70	+ 19.0	+ 4.2
JEWELRY	33	+ 11.4	+ 12.9
LUMBER, BUILDING MATERIALS, AND HARDWARE*	169	+ 37.2	+ 10.6
Farm implement dealers	20	+ 49.7	+ 28.3
Hardware stores	48	+ 26.5	+ 7.4
Lumber and building material dealers	98	+ 36.0	+ 8.8
EATING AND DRINKING PLACES*	66	+ 9.0	+ 3.4
Restaurants	41	+ 11.0	+ 4.9
ALL OTHER STORES	49	+ 9.9	+ 11.4

*Total includes kinds of business other than the classifications listed.

The seasonally-adjusted index of department and apparel store sales prepared by the Bureau dropped sharply for the second consecutive month, after reaching unusually high levels in July and August. The peak of the index was reached in August when it stood at 383.5% of the 1935-39 base. In September it declined to 313.4%, and in October had declined still further to 288.5%.

The sales of consumer durable goods continued to register substantial increases, as they have in the past months. These increases have been the direct result of an increasing supply of goods, and for the present there appears to be no variation in sales with the seasons, as was the case before the war. The sales of motor vehicle dealers increased 9.1%, farm implement dealers 28.3%, hardware stores 7.4%, and lumber and building material dealers 8.8%.

The level of retail sales in October was higher than for the same month a year ago, but not so far ahead as in September. Total sales were 20.8% better than October 1945, but September sales were 36.9% better than September 1945. Apparel store sales were 6.0% greater than a year ago, while in September this same group reported sales 22.9% greater. Department store sales were 14.7% more than a year ago, but in September were 30.2% better than in September of the preceding year.

Sales of durable goods continued to exceed the levels of a year ago by substantial percentages. Motor vehicle dealers reported sales 145.3% above October 1945. Other durable goods stores reported gains over a year ago as follows: farm implement dealers, 40.7%; hardware stores, 26.5%; lumber and building material dealers, 36.0%; and furniture and household stores, 25.9%.

Sales increased in every crop-reporting district, varying from 10.6% in the Northern High Plains (District 1-N) and the Trans-Pecos (District 6) to 0.1% in the Western Cross Timbers (District 3). Five districts reported increases greater than the average for the State, and seven reported increases less than the average. The

RETAIL SALES OF INDEPENDENT STORES BY DISTRICTS

Source: Bureau of Business Research in co-operation with the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce

District	Number of reporting establishments	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
TOTAL	1,152	+ 20.8	+ 3.3
Northern High Plains (District 1-N)	53	+ 23.8	+ 10.6
Southern High Plains (District 1-S)	24	+ 24.4	+ 2.3
Red Bed Plains (District 2)	78	+ 10.0	+ 1.3
Western Cross Timbers (District 3)	35	+ 3.7	+ 0.1
Black and Grand Prairies (District 4)	226	+ 18.8	+ 0.6
East Texas Timbered Plains (District 5)	213	+ 15.6	+ 3.0
Trans-Pecos (District 6)	31	+ 33.9	+ 10.6
Edwards Plateau (District 7)	44	+ 19.8	+ 5.3
Southern Texas Prairies (District 8)	152	+ 26.1	+ 8.9
Coastal Prairies (District 9)	136	+ 20.5	+ 0.6
Southern Texas Plains (District 10)	97	+ 31.4	+ 9.3
Lower Rio Grande Valley (District 10-A)	36	+ 27.8	+ 4.0
Not specified	27	+ 14.4	- 6.0

Southern Texas Plains (District 10) showed an increase of 9.3%, the Southern Texas Prairies (District 8) 8.9%, the Edwards Plateau (District 7) 5.3%, and the Lower Rio Grande Valley, 4.0%.

Other districts reporting increases less than the average for the State were the Southern High Plains 2.3%, Red Bed Plains 1.3%, Black and Grand Prairies 0.6%, East Texas Timbered Plains 3.0%, and Coastal Prairies 0.6%.

All districts reported increases in comparison with the same month a year ago. The greatest increase was in the Trans-Pecos with 33.9%, and the smallest in the Red Bed Plains with 10.0%. Four other districts reported increases less than the average for the State, while the remainder increased more than the State average.

The increase in sales of the largest cities in the State was less than the average for the State as a whole, while all other population groups except the group under 2,500 showed increases greater than the average. The four cities with over 100,000 population reported sales 1.2% greater than in September, in comparison with an increase in all cities of 3.3%. Sales in San Antonio increased 5.9%, and in Fort Worth 4.1%, while sales in Houston decreased 3.7% and in Dallas 1.5%.

Stores in the cities with a population between 50,000 and 100,000 reported an average increase of 7.7%, with the individual cities showing the following changes: Corpus Christi 12.1%, Beaumont 12.0%, El Paso 10.8%, Amarillo 10.4%, Austin 3.9%, and Waco 0.9%. Galveston stores reported a decrease of 0.6%.

Cities in the 2,500 to 50,000 population group registered an average increase of 4.9% over September,

RETAIL SALES OF INDEPENDENT STORES BY CITY-SIZE GROUPS AND CITIES

Source: Bureau of Business Research in co-operation with the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce

City-size group and city	Number of reporting establishments	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
TOTAL	1,152	+ 20.8	+ 3.3
OVER 100,000 POPULATION			
Dallas	277	+ 19.7	+ 1.2
Fort Worth	58	+ 17.6	- 1.5
Houston	113	+ 21.7	+ 4.1
San Antonio	33	+ 22.0	- 3.7
Waco	73	+ 19.6	+ 5.9
50,000-100,000 POPULATION			
Amarillo	160	+ 27.7	+ 7.7
Austin	19	+ 20.1	+ 10.4
Beaumont	24	+ 37.1	+ 3.9
Corpus Christi	43	+ 29.1	+ 12.0
El Paso	25	+ 47.5	+ 12.1
Galveston	11	+ 35.8	+ 10.8
Waco	11	+ 1.2	- 0.6
Waco	27	+ 4.9	+ 0.9
2,500-50,000 POPULATION			
Abilene	508	+ 18.0	+ 4.9
Lubbock	16	+ 18.9	- 3.0
Port Arthur	13	+ 28.5	- 1.3
Plainview	34	+ 21.4	+ 11.4
Temple	10	+ 14.9	+ 13.8
Tyler	22	+ 5.9	+ 7.3
Wichita Falls	11	+ 12.8	- 6.3
Other	14	- 3.9	- 4.6
Other	338	+ 19.3	+ 6.8
UNDER 2,500 POPULATION			
Other	207	+ 13.8	+ 1.8

while the increase in places under 2,500 population was 1.8%.

Every population group registered a substantial increase over October 1945. In the largest cities it was 19.7%; for the 50,000 to 100,000 group it was 27.7%; for the 2,500 to 50,000 cities 18.0%; and for those under 2,500 the increase was 13.8%. The greatest increase over last year reported was 47.5% for Corpus Christi, and of the cities for which separate tabulations were made only Wichita Falls reported a decrease in sales from September 1945 (3.9%).

The ratio of credit sales to total sales in 59 department and apparel stores reporting to the Bureau was 55.3% in October compared to 44.9% for October 1945 to continue the level of the series substantially above last year. All sources of information indicate that the volume of consumer credit outstanding continues to increase. The ratio of collections to accounts receivable outstanding was 65.6% in comparison with 68.8% for October 1945. The ratio of credit salaries to credit sales was 0.9% in October, unchanged from September.

Every city for which separate reports were compiled reported an increase in the ratio of credit sales to net sales. Three cities, Corpus Christi, Dallas, and Fort Worth, reported higher ratios of collections to accounts receivable in October over September. All other cities reported a decrease.

CREDIT RATIOS IN DEPARTMENT AND APPAREL STORES (in percent)

Classification	Number of reporting stores	Ratio of credit sales to net sales*		Ratio of collections to outstandings†		Ratio of credit salaries to credit sales‡	
		Oct. 1946	Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946	Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946	Oct. 1945
ALL STORES	59	55.3	44.9	65.6	68.8	0.9	0.9
BY CITIES:							
Austin	6	44.6	35.8	73.0	75.4	1.3	1.3
Beaumont	3	57.5	49.5	63.9	67.8	0.9	0.8
Corpus Christi	3	48.7	40.7	82.6	77.2	1.4	1.5
Dallas	6	58.8	55.0	70.0	66.6	0.5	0.6
El Paso	3	48.1	49.5	59.0	64.6	1.3	1.2
Fort Worth	4	53.9	45.8	74.7	73.4	1.0	0.9
Houston	6	54.1	42.2	63.6	71.5	1.3	1.3
San Antonio	4	38.5	35.8	64.6	67.4	1.2	1.0
Waco	3	52.1	42.0	58.9	68.7	0.9	1.1
Other	21	61.0	34.3	62.3	75.4	0.9	1.0
BY TYPE OF STORE:							
Department stores (annual sales over \$500,000)							
	18	54.5	45.0	67.4	71.0	1.0	1.0
Department stores (annual sales under \$500,000)							
	10	45.4	35.7	71.6	71.4	1.0	1.1
Dry goods - apparel stores							
	4	40.0	31.5	67.8	71.1	1.8	1.5
Women's specialty shops							
	15	61.7	50.9	60.8	63.7	0.6	0.6
Men's clothing stores							
	12	47.2	32.2	70.8	72.8	0.8	1.1
BY VOLUME OF NET SALES (1945):							
Over \$2,500,000	19	58.2	48.2	64.9	68.3	0.8	0.8
\$1,000,000-\$2,500,000	13	45.8	34.6	68.6	72.8	0.7	1.0
\$500,000-\$1,000,000	13	41.6	31.9	70.9	69.6	0.7	0.7
Less than \$500,000	14	36.3	24.4	70.2	72.7	1.5	1.9

*Credit sales divided by net sales.

†Collections during the month divided by the total accounts unpaid on the first of the month.

‡Salaries of the credit department divided by credit sales.

The ratio of credit sales for department stores with annual sales of more than \$500,000 increased from 45.0% in October 1945 to 54.5% in October 1946. For department stores with annual sales under \$500,000 the ratio increased from 35.7% to 45.4%. For dry goods and apparel stores the ratio rose from 31.5% to 40.0%; for women's specialty shops from 50.9% to 61.7% and for men's clothing stores from 32.2% to 47.2%.

POSTAL RECEIPTS

City	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945	Percent change	
				Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
TOTAL	\$2,928,605	\$2,446,724	\$2,900,100	+ 1.0	+19.7
Abilene	32,449	27,418	32,017	+ 1.3	+18.3
Amarillo	59,305	50,731	64,836	- 8.5	+16.9
Austin	129,600	100,987	105,705	+22.6	+28.4
Beaumont	55,570	42,103	50,297	+ 9.4	+32.0
Big Spring	9,213	10,099	14,894	-38.1	- 8.8
Borger	9,810	6,331	9,521	+ 3.0	+55.0
Brownsville	14,365	7,343	13,219	+ 8.7	+95.6
Brownwood	10,576	10,596	18,717	-43.5	- 0.2
Bryan	8,623	7,638	10,530	-18.1	+12.9
Childress	3,966	2,790	6,285	-36.9	+42.2
Cleburne	5,340	4,872	6,258	-14.7	+ 9.6
Coleman	4,091	3,969	4,709	-13.1	+ 3.1
Corpus Christi	66,062	56,741	78,623	-16.0	+16.4
Corsicana	9,652	7,823	11,378	-15.2	+23.4
Dallas	742,105	609,956	659,605	+12.4	+21.7
Del Rio	5,083	3,970	5,672	-10.4	+28.0
Denison	9,723	8,019	10,711	- 9.2	+21.2
Denton	13,181	10,330	15,083	-12.6	+27.6
Edinburg	6,940	4,508	5,984	+16.0	+53.9
El Paso	97,157	86,171	101,290	- 4.1	+12.7
Fort Worth	326,222	261,997	321,445	+ 1.5	+24.5
Gainesville	6,708	5,080	8,672	-22.7	+32.0
Galveston	47,685	47,105	55,654	-14.3	+ 1.2
Gladewater	5,323	3,354	4,875	+ 9.2	+58.7
Graham	3,765	3,388	4,225	-10.9	+11.1
Greenville	10,337	7,857	11,155	- 7.3	+31.6
Harlingen	14,520	10,959	16,276	-10.8	+32.5
Houston	471,144	390,373	435,517	+ 3.2	+20.7
Jacksonville	5,705	5,066	5,991	- 4.8	+12.6
Kenedy	2,048	1,680	2,271	- 9.8	+21.9
Kerrville	5,745	3,975	5,403	+ 6.3	+44.5
Laredo	16,838	13,362	20,189	-16.6	+26.0
Longview	15,348	11,338	15,665	- 2.0	+29.7
Lubbock	44,039	36,392	43,518	+ 1.2	+21.0
Lufkin	8,077	7,433	8,934	- 9.6	+ 8.7
McAllen	11,936	7,635	10,253	+16.4	+56.3
Marshall	11,746	9,813	12,361	- 5.0	+19.7
Midland	14,768	11,112	19,747	-25.2	+32.9
Orange	12,652	10,859	17,165	-26.3	+16.5
Palestine	8,628	7,321	10,410	-17.1	+17.9
Pampa	11,517	8,762	12,027	- 4.3	+31.4
Paris	10,838	9,346	14,640	-26.0	+16.0
Plainview	6,133	6,371	7,299	-16.0	- 3.7
Port Arthur	24,063	17,858	26,982	-10.8	+34.7
San Angelo	24,465	19,151	30,192	-19.0	+27.7
San Antonio	285,605	231,257	290,797	- 1.8	+23.5
Seguin	4,841	3,968	4,837	+ 0.1	+22.0
Sherman	13,913	11,185	16,940	-17.9	+24.4
Sweetwater	9,726	7,116	7,816	+24.4	+36.7
Temple	13,243	12,399	17,296	-23.4	+ 6.8
Texarkana	30,733	24,275	33,038	- 7.0	+26.6
Texas City	7,517	6,312	7,530	- 0.2	+19.1
Tyler	29,239	23,886	31,812	- 8.1	+22.4
Vernon	7,806	5,923	9,272	-15.8	+31.8
Victoria	9,858	8,054	13,230	-25.5	+22.4
Waco	62,599	53,395	64,492	- 2.9	+17.2
Wichita Falls	40,464	34,522	56,340	-28.2	+17.2

Gasoline taxable sales in Texas totaled 153,335,458 gallons in September, a decline of 2.4% from August, according to data released by the State Comptroller. In September 1945 taxable sales were 140,879,206; sales in September of this year represented an increase of 9.0%. Sales to the Federal Government were 26,822,460 gallons, compared to 150,362,404 gallons in September 1945.

Reports from 31 Texas newspapers showed an increase of 6.6% in newspaper advertising lineage for October in comparison with September. These same papers reported an increase of 19.1% over the lineage a year ago.

Postal receipts in 57 Texas cities in October increased 19.7% over September. While October normally shows an increase over September, this year's rise was unusually good, being exceeded only twice in the last ten years. A year ago October receipts increased 21.6% over September, and in 1944 between the same months the increase was 20.0%.

The rise over last month was State-wide, with only three cities out of the 57 showing a decrease. The largest increase (96%) was in Brownsville.

In comparison with a year ago, October receipts were up 1.0%. Considerable variation appeared between cities, with 15 showing increases and 42 showing decreases. Although more cities showed decreases than increases, the total for all cities advanced due to the fact that the larger cities generally registered gains over a year ago.

Wholesale Trade

(Wholesale sales represent the movement of goods to retailers, and when compared with the changes in retail sales indicate whether stocks in the hands of retailers are being maintained at a constant level or are being allowed to increase or decrease. The information on inventories of wholesalers gives an indication of the availability of goods to retailers, which in this period of shortages is a significant factor in the business situation.)

September 1946 sales reported by 139 Texas wholesalers to the Bureau of the Census were 41% above September 1945, but remained unchanged from August 1946. Three of the six types of business registered increases over August 1946, and three declined. All types

WHOLESALESALES

Source: Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce

Business	Number of reporting firms	Percent change	
		Sept. 1946 from Sept. 1945	Sept. 1946 from Aug. 1946
TOTAL	139	+41	0
Automotive supplies	13	+26	- 9
Drugs and sundries*	18	+19	+ 6
Electrical goods	26	+97	+12
Groceries and foods (except farm products)	50	+26	- 6
General hardware	17	+49	+ 1
Machinery, equipment, and supplies (except electrical)	4	+79	-13
All other	11	+44	+ 1

*Includes liquor departments of other trades.

of business increased substantially over the same month a year ago.

Sales of automotive supply dealers decreased 9% from August, groceries and foods 6%, and machinery, equipment, and supplies 13%. Sales of wholesalers of drugs and sundries increased 6%, electrical goods 12%, and general hardware 1%. In comparison with September 1945 automotive supplies increased 26%, drugs and sundries 19%, electrical goods 97%, groceries and foods 26%, general hardware 49%, and machinery, equipment, and supplies 79%.

Inventories of wholesale establishments were 35% greater in September 1946 than a year ago, and increased 7% from August. For automotive supplies there was no change from August; for drugs and sundries the increase was 8%; electrical goods, 6%; groceries and foods, 8%; general hardware, 10%; and machinery, equipment, and supplies 4%. Automotive supplies were 2% below a year ago, but all other types of business reported larger inventories. For electrical goods, inventories were 137% greater than in September 1945. Drugs and sundries were up 12%, groceries and foods 37%, general hardware 40%, and machinery, equipment, and supplies 13%.

WHOLESALE INVENTORIES

Source: Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce

Business	Percent change	
	Sept. 1946 from Sept. 1945	Sept. 1946 from Aug. 1946
TOTAL	+ 35	+ 7
Automotive supplies	- 2	0
Drugs and sundries*	+ 12	+ 8
Electrical goods	+137	+ 6
Groceries and foods (except farm products)	+ 37	+ 8
General hardware	+ 40	+10
Machinery, equipment, and supplies (except electrical)	+ 13	+ 4
All other	+ 49	- 4

*Includes liquor departments of other trades.

Foreign Trade

(Tonnage figures for export shipments from the principal ports of the State provide an accurate physical measure of the current volume of foreign export trade. Value figures for exports and imports, however, represent a more common measurement of foreign trade transactions.)

Exports from Galveston, Houston, and Texas City dropped from 641,658 tons in August to 352,144 tons in September, a decrease of 45.1%, according to figures compiled by the Galveston and Houston Maritime Associations. The decline was largely attributable to the strikes of maritime workers which plagued the shipping industry throughout the month and brought to an end the month-to-month gains which began in June.

All ports suffered decreases in exports during September. Houston exports were off 65.6%, Galveston exports 37.4%, and Texas City exports 31.4%. There were increases in the exports of only a few commodities for the month. Houston exported more flour in Septem-

EXPORTS FROM GALVESTON, HOUSTON, AND TEXAS CITY

(in tons)

Source: Galveston and Houston Maritime Associations, Inc.

Port and product	Sept. 1946	Aug. 1946	Percent change	
			Sept. 1946 from Aug. 1946	
TOTAL	352,144	641,658	- 45.1	
GALVESTON, TOTAL	262,800	419,514	- 37.4	
Canned goods	3,238	899	+260.2	
Cotton	12,245	28,564	- 57.1	
Flour	36,757	40,211	- 8.6	
Metals	1,008	236	+327.1	
Packing house products	107	3,910	- 97.3	
Products of mines	18,468	27,885	- 33.8	
Rice	688	1,754	- 60.8	
Sulphur	62,518	124,795	- 49.9	
Wheat	125,173	163,665	- 23.5	
Other	2,598	27,595	- 90.6	
TEXAS CITY, TOTAL	25,774	37,576	- 31.4	
Fertilizer	3,207	5,882	- 45.5	
Potash	2,400	2,444	- 1.8	
Wheat	18,630	25,733	- 27.6	
Other	1,537	3,517	- 56.3	
HOUSTON, TOTAL	63,570	184,568	- 65.6	
Carbon black	4,201	5,082	- 17.3	
Cotton	7,875	22,010	- 64.2	
Fire brick, clay and cement	1,354	3,499	- 61.3	
Flour	19,552	8,664	+125.7	
Lube oil and greases	2,081	6,264	- 66.8	
Metals	3,369	6,359	- 47.0	
Products of mines	15,853	61,902	- 74.4	
Sulphur	2,235	4,329	- 48.4	
Other	7,050	66,459	- 89.4	

ber than in August and Galveston exported more metals and canned goods. Exports of all other commodities from the three ports moved downward.

Exports of domestic and foreign merchandise slumped to \$98,017,000 in July from \$106,180,000 in June, a decrease of 7.7%. Last year between the same two months the decline was 6.8%. However, July exports this year topped the July 1945 total by 26.0%. The Galveston and Laredo districts, through which the bulk of Texas exports move, showed drops of between 6 and 7% for the month. El Paso's exports fell only 2.7% from June to July, and the Sabine District's exports decreased 18.1%. The 12.1% rise in Galveston's exports in July 1946 over the same month of 1945 was considerably less than the increases registered by the other districts.

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MERCHANDISE

(in thousands of dollars)

Source: Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce

Customs district	July 1946	June 1946	July 1945	Percent change	
				July 1946 from July 1945	July 1946 from June 1946
TOTAL	98,017	106,180	77,770	+ 26.0	- 7.7
El Paso	3,106	3,191	2,113	+ 47.0	- 2.7
Galveston	61,560	66,095	54,902	+ 12.1	- 6.9
Laredo	24,570	26,176	16,746	+ 46.7	- 6.1
Sabine	8,781	10,718	4,009	+119.0	-18.1

Important among the commodities moving from Texas ports at the present time are cotton and wool consigned to European ports.

Imports of general merchandise into the four Texas customs districts amounted to \$12,816,000 in July, the latest month for which figures are available. This represented an increase of 12.3% over the June importations resulting primarily from the 28.0% jump in imports through the Galveston District. In 1945 the June-to-July increase was only 8.7%, but the 23.9% gain in the Galveston District's imports offset declines in two other districts and a small rise in one.

Imports in July of this year were 4.4% lower than in the same month a year ago. Three districts—El Paso, Galveston, and Sabine—turned in gains for the 12-month comparison, but the 26.7% fall in imports through the Laredo District dropped the total inward movement of foreign commodities well below last year's figure.

Customs district	July 1946	June 1946	July 1945	Percent change	
				July 1946 from July 1945	July 1946 from June 1946
TOTAL	12,816	11,412	13,401	- 4.4	+ 12.3
El Paso	1,439	1,785	877	+ 64.1	- 19.4
Galveston	6,005	4,691	5,246	+ 14.5	+ 28.0
Laredo	5,331	4,935	7,273	- 26.7	+ 8.0
Sabine	41	1	5	+ 720.0	+4000.0

The value of merchandise imports and exports by air fell rather sharply from \$3,164,374 in June to \$2,769,145 in July. This decline was due entirely to the 32.9% drop in exports, since imports rose 146.1% between the two months. Furthermore, exports were eight times as large as imports in June and only slightly more than twice as large in July for the three Texas customs districts.

While exports from the Laredo and Galveston districts were decreasing 30.7% and 52.9%, respectively, between June and July of this year, El Paso exports rose 58.1%. On the other hand, during the same period the Laredo District increased its imports 10.5% and the Galveston District 336.3%, while El Paso's imports declined 62.2%.

PRODUCTION

Manufacturing

(The volume of manufacturing activity in any industrial area is a sensitive measure of the changes in business activity. The volume of durable goods manufactured tends to fluctuate more violently than the volume of nondurable goods such as foods, and may serve to indicate changes in the business situation at an early date. Since many manufacturing industries vary regularly with the seasons, this factor must be taken into consideration in interpreting the changes from month to month.)

Crude oil runs to stills for Texas, totaling 43,358,000 barrels, were somewhat above (2.1%) the figure for the preceding month and were 26.8% above those for October 1945.

The index of crude oil runs to stills, with seasonal adjustments, remained almost unchanged from the Sep-

tember level. It was 50.7% above the 1935-39 average month.

Refinery stocks of gasoline in Texas at the end of October 1946 were 6.7% above the September 1946 figure; distillate stocks were up 19.9%; and residual stocks 6.0%. The respective percentages for the Texas Gulf Coast were nearly identical with the percentages for the State as a whole, while Inland Texas reported a somewhat different situation, as shown in the accompanying table.

Section and item	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945	Percent change	
				Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
TEXAS					
Gasoline	16,131	15,116	15,627	+ 3.2	+ 6.7
Distillate	11,225	9,361	6,069	+85.0	+19.9
Residual	8,753	8,254	6,767	+29.3	+ 6.0
TEXAS GULF COAST					
Gasoline	13,256	12,463	13,093	+ 1.2	+ 6.4
Distillate	10,585	8,753	5,593	+89.3	+20.9
Residual	8,027	7,518	5,757	+39.4	+ 6.8
INLAND TEXAS					
Gasoline	2,875	2,653	2,534	+13.5	+ 8.4
Distillate	640	608	476	+34.5	+ 5.3
Residual	726	736	1,010	-28.1	- 1.4

*Figures shown for week ending nearest last day of month.

The consumption of cotton by Texas mills during October 1946 was 15.9% above the figure for the preceding month, and linters consumption registered a gain of 51.4%. In comparison with October 1945, 38.2% more cotton and 13.6% more linters were used at Texas mills.

Item	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945	Percent change	
				Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Cotton	21,649	18,678	15,666	+38.2	+15.9
Linters	1,720	1,136	1,514	+13.6	+51.4

Active cotton spindles in Texas for October 1946 were 2.2% above the September 1946 figure, but the average spindle hours were up 9.4%. Compared with October 1945, active spindles were 2.6% more, and average hours per spindle climbed 21.5%.

Item	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945	Percent change	
				Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Spinning spindles in place*	247,532	242,140	241,796	+ 2.4	+ 2.2
Spindles active	245,310	239,990	238,992	+ 2.6	+ 2.2
Average spindle hours	441	403	363	+21.5	+ 9.4

*End of the month.

Cottonseed received at Texas mills during October 1946 was more than twice as large as the figure for the preceding month. Cottonseed crushed registered a gain of 99.2%, while stocks at the end of the month were 58.2% above the corresponding figure at the end of September 1946. These seasonal gains compare with increases between September and October last year of 31.3% in mill receipts, 98.1% in amount crushed, and 16.9% in end-of-the-month stocks.

For the 12-month period (October 1945 to October 1946) mill receipts of cottonseed rose 23.2% and end-of-the-month stocks 11.6% but total crushings fell 14.9%.

COTTONSEED PRODUCTION

(in tons)

Source: Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce

Item	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945	Percent change	
				Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Received at mills	185,877	92,147	150,851	+23.2	+101.7
Crushed	103,705	52,067	121,912	-14.9	+99.2
Stocks at end of month	223,209	141,097	200,041	+11.6	+58.2

Wheat ground for flour in Texas for September 1946 was nearly the same as for the previous month, but flour production was off 4.7%.

With adjustment for seasonal variation, the Bureau's index of wheat ground for flour in Texas dropped 2.2% from August 1946, but was 46.0% above the prewar (1935-39) average.

WHEAT GRINDINGS AND FLOUR PRODUCTION

Source: Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce

Item	Unit	Sept. 1946	Aug. 1946	Sept. 1945	Percent change	
					Sept. 1946 from Sept. 1945	Sept. 1946 from Aug. 1946
Wheat ground	1,000 bu.	3,658	3,634	3,767	-2.9	-0.7
Wheat flour	1,000 sks.	1,599	1,677	1,625	-1.6	-4.7

The total milk equivalent consumed in the *manufacture of dairy products* for October was 4.4% below the September 1946 figure. Creamery butter production,

MANUFACTURE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

Product	Unit	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945	Percent change	
					Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
TOTAL MILK EQUIVALENT*						
EQUIVALENT*	1,000 lbs.	77,088	80,677	65,484	+17.7	-4.4
Creamery butter	1,000 lbs.	1,815	1,492	1,485	+22.2	+21.6
Ice cream†	1,000 gal.	1,959	2,428	1,945	+0.7	-19.3
American cheese	1,000 lbs.	625	775	606	+3.1	-19.4
All other	1,000 lbs.	3,592	4,818	2,894	+24.1	-25.4

*Milk equivalent of dairy products was calculated from production data.

†Includes sherbets and ices.

however, was up 21.6%, whereas ice cream and American cheese output were down 19.3% and 19.4%. The manufacture of other dairy products dropped off 25.4%.

Compared with a year ago, production of all types of dairy products was higher in October 1946. Ice cream production was up only 0.7%, however, and American cheese 3.1%, while creamery butter output rose 22.2% and other milk products 24.1%.

Cement production in Texas for October 1946 was 24.0% below that for the preceding month; shipments were off 78.5%, and end-of-the-month stocks were down 19.4%.

Since there is normally no seasonal change between September and October, none of this decline in cement production can be attributed to seasonal factors. Work stoppages were the primary force in last month's sharp slump in cement production. Moreover, the Bureau's *index of cement production* in October was only 43.1% above the 1935-39 average, while the September figure was 88.4% higher than in prewar years.

CEMENT PRODUCTION

(in thousands of barrels)

Source: Bureau of Mines, U. S. Department of Interior

Item	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945	Percent change	
				Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Production	768	1,011	812	-5.4	-24.0
Shipments	840	1,021	790	+6.3	-78.5
Stocks	295	366	660	-55.3	-19.4

The weekly production of *lumber* per unit in southern pine mills for October 1946 was slightly above (3.3%) the figure for the preceding month and was 7.4% above the corresponding figure a year ago. Average weekly shipments per unit were down 1.3% from the September 1946 figure, almost the same as in October 1945, and average unfilled orders were off 4.8% for the month—21.6% less than the figure for October 31, 1945.

The Bureau's *index of lumber production* in southern pine mills rose to 66.7% of the 1935-39 average from 64.3% in September.

LUMBER PRODUCTION IN SOUTHERN PINE MILLS

(in board feet)

Source: Southern Pine Association

Item	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945	Percent change	
				Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Average weekly production per unit	191,564	185,399	178,433	+7.4	+3.3
Average weekly shipments per unit	183,497	185,873	181,782	+0.9	-1.3
Average unfilled orders per unit, end of month	867,671	911,405	1,107,108	-21.6	-4.8

Construction

(Because of the accumulated deficiency of building in all sections of the State, data on the volume of construction work are an extremely important part of the business situation. Building permits or contracts awarded are generally used to measure building activity, but recent studies by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate there is considerable lag in beginning construction of buildings for which permits have been issued, and that actual costs are now 25% or more above the permit valuation. Loans by savings and loan associations reflect the financing of residential housing. At the present both building permits and contracts are affected by government restrictions.)

The dollar value of the *building permits* issued by 46 Texas cities continued the downswing which began in September with a 3.7% decline between September and October of this year. Last year when Texas and the nation were reconverting to peace the value of building permits picked up 6.8% between these two months. Since there is usually a September-to-October increase of 23.1%, the seasonally-adjusted *index of building permits* declined 21.8%. October 1946 permits were val-

ued 72.8% above those issued in the same month a year ago, while the index last month stood 193.1% above its prewar (1935-39) base.

Despite material shortages exemplified by the shortage of cement in the Dallas area due to a major work stoppage, cost uncertainties, and OPA controls, the *Texas Contractor* estimated that *construction contract awards* totaled \$33,966,867 in October as against \$28,827,694 in September, a gain of 17.8%. The monthly dollar volume of awards, however, was running well below the summer totals of \$55,464,997 in July and \$65,913,262 in August. Compared to October 1945, construction contract awards were up 45.3% last month. All types of construction moved ahead in October of this year, but nonresidential construction was off 26.0% for the 12-month interval.

BUILDING PERMITS			
City	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945
TOTAL	\$16,681,447	\$17,330,481	\$ 9,651,940
Abilene	180,080	342,569	44,950
Austin	1,318,835	1,875,193	678,640
Beaumont	393,642	441,210	197,272
Big Spring	52,370	60,580	68,235
Borger	69,050	118,200	20,000
Brownsville	54,480	54,453	107,236
Bryan	178,973	93,270	56,185
Childress	11,000	23,700	12,280
Coleman	36,750	45,225	34,700
Corpus Christi	946,468	741,161	437,176
Dallas	2,855,724	3,162,240	1,740,729
Denison	69,374	88,824	44,496
Denton	158,450	108,100	13,750
Edinburg	51,100	44,140	70,550
El Paso	398,899	517,709	269,140
Fort Worth	1,597,680	1,265,571	1,007,609
Gainesville	33,755	55,305	11,850
Galveston	102,463	516,249	81,060
Gladewater	5,650	707	29,610
Graham	5,880	10,400	9,753
Harlingen	60,163	108,560	43,275
Houston	2,988,941	3,478,511	1,673,913
Jacksonville	17,100	43,000	48,800
Kenedy	7,250	5,075	9,150
Kerrville	84,535	121,681	66,011
Longview	6,975	46,820	29,302
Lubbock	288,205	543,956	408,465
McAllen	72,634	54,650	89,640
Marshall	172,301	62,047	97,125
Midland	583,700	174,250	57,550
New Braunfels	43,345	23,580	53,594
Palestine	29,365	53,779	34,986
Pampa	158,650	67,100	38,425
Paris	56,985	63,845	29,975
Plainview	75,500	77,000	40,175
Port Arthur	97,209	140,442	85,543
San Antonio	2,216,971	1,378,558	1,377,514
Seguin	21,450	18,425	14,130
Sherman	91,266	122,483	24,927
Sweetwater	70,905	38,275	19,880
Texarkana	101,780	76,856	69,755
Texas City	47,907	36,452	26,770
Tyler	263,662	460,022	136,605
Victoria	36,440	27,775	10,040
Waco	434,300	584,993	136,880
Wichita Falls	133,285	97,203	94,289

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

Source: *Texas Contractor*

Type of building	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945	Percent change	
				Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
TOTAL	\$33,966,867	\$28,827,694	\$23,377,316	+ 45.3	+ 17.8
Engineering	11,124,925	10,981,722	7,138,098	+ 55.9	+ 1.3
Nonresidential	10,191,280	8,858,744	13,775,653	- 26.0	+ 15.0
Residential	12,650,662	8,987,228	2,463,565	+413.5	+ 40.8

Loans made by savings and loan associations in Texas during October reversed a downward movement of several months' duration to rise 0.8% in number and 3.3% in amount over the September figures. This advance may indicate an increase in building activity or merely a shift to this type of financing. Rising costs likewise affect the dollar volume of such loans. Last year between September and October loans rose over 25% in number and amount but the October 1946 totals were well over the corresponding 1945 figures (20.5% in number and 63.4% in amount).

LOANS MADE BY SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS*

Source: Federal Home Loan Bank of Little Rock

Type	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945	Percent change	
				Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
NUMBER, TOTAL	2,113	2,096	1,755	+ 20.4	+ 0.8
Construction	533	466	248	+114.9	+14.4
Purchase	1,114	1,154	1,078	+ 3.3	- 3.5
Refinance	142	135	101	+ 40.6	+ 5.2
Recondition	170	174	177	- 4.0	- 2.3
Other	154	167	151	+ 2.0	-10.2
AMOUNT, TOTAL	\$8,062,675	\$7,808,324	\$4,935,720	+ 63.4	+ 3.3
Construction	2,460,185	2,142,049	850,712	+189.2	+14.9
Purchase	4,641,811	4,728,641	3,335,108	+ 39.2	- 1.8
Refinance	445,240	467,322	281,711	+ 58.0	- 4.7
Recondition	178,770	162,867	211,752	- 15.6	+ 9.8
Other	336,669	307,445	256,437	+ 31.3	+ 9.5

*These data cover the lending activities of the 119 insured associations in Texas. There are 21 uninsured savings and loan associations in the State which are not covered.

Public Utilities

(The consumption of electric power by industrial concerns is a measure of the volume of industrial activity, since it may be assumed that the amount of power used will be directly related to manufacturing volume. Residential and commercial power consumption shows a seasonal variation due to the changing amount of lighting needed.)

Total electric power consumption for October 1946 as reported by 10 electric power companies in Texas, was down 6.2% from the preceding month. All categories of consumption were down: commercial, 7.2%; industrial, 5.5%; residential, 3.3%; and other, 10.5%.

After seasonal adjustment, the Bureau's index of electric power consumption in Texas dropped 3.5% from its September level. The index in October was still 144.6% above the average prewar (1935-39) base.

Despite last month's seasonal drop, power consumption in October 1946 was 7.4% above October 1945, with the major types of consumption showing gains as follows: commercial 10.6%, industrial 5.8%, and residential 16.8%.

TELEPHONES IN SERVICE

Source: Southwestern Bell Telephone Company

City				Percent change	
	Oct. 31	Sept. 30	Oct. 31	Oct. 31	Oct. 31
	1946	1946	1945	1946 from 1945	1946 from 1945
TOTAL	771,987	759,237	670,775	+15.1	+ 1.7
Abilene	10,062	9,963	8,951	+12.4	+ 1.0
Amarillo	19,691	18,779	18,082	+ 8.9	+ 4.9
Austin	32,519	32,367	29,176	+11.5	+ 0.5
Beaumont	22,266	21,623	19,357	+15.0	+ 3.0
Big Spring	3,532	3,503	3,372	+ 4.7	+ 0.8
Borger	3,900	3,855	2,631	+48.2	+ 1.2
Brownsville	3,764	3,730	3,268	+15.2	+ 0.9
Cleburne	2,779	2,724	2,345	+18.5	+ 2.0
Corpus Christi	24,415	24,150	21,863	+11.7	+ 1.1
Corsicana	4,212	4,141	3,577	+17.8	+ 1.7
Dallas	147,760	145,035	126,687	+16.6	+ 1.9
Denison	5,359	5,348	4,548	+17.8	+ 0.2
Edinburg	1,483	1,438	1,153	+28.6	+ 3.1
Fort Worth	73,049	72,193	64,041	+14.1	+ 1.2
Gainesville	2,795	2,777	2,567	+ 8.9	+ 0.6
Galveston	20,901	20,856	18,810	+11.1	+ 0.2
Harlingen	3,954	3,899	3,643	+ 8.5	+ 1.4
Houston	171,526	168,276	146,849	+16.8	+ 1.9
Kingsville	2,114	2,069	1,983	+ 6.6	+ 2.2
Laredo	5,253	5,108	4,582	+14.6	+ 2.8
Longview	5,846	5,753	5,180	+12.9	+ 1.6
Lubbock	13,005	12,836	10,695	+21.6	+ 1.3
Marshall	4,562	4,299	3,799	+20.1	+ 6.1
McAllen	3,132	3,048	2,492	+25.7	+ 2.8
McKinney	2,444	2,378	2,079	+17.6	+ 2.8
Midland	4,493	4,393	3,744	+40.0	+ 2.3
Mineral Wells	2,898	2,828	2,989	- 3.1	+ 2.5
Orange	4,380	4,247	3,506	+24.9	+ 3.1
Pampa	4,523	4,493	3,603	+25.5	+ 0.7
Paris	5,130	5,051	4,371	+17.4	+ 1.6
Port Arthur	15,943	15,703	13,288	+20.0	+ 1.5
San Antonio	84,437	83,054	73,924	+14.2	+ 1.7
San Benito	1,412	1,388	1,145	+23.3	+ 1.7
Sweetwater	2,398	2,344	2,157	+11.2	+ 2.3
Temple	4,681	4,495	4,135	+13.2	+ 4.1
Tyler	10,303	10,164	8,453	+21.9	+ 1.4
Vernon	2,550	2,533	2,254	+13.1	+ 0.7
Victoria	4,376	4,343	4,129	+ 6.0	+ 0.8
Waco	18,238	18,114	15,510	+17.6	+ 0.7
Wichita Falls	15,902	15,939	15,837	+ 0.4	- 0.2

ELECTRIC POWER CONSUMPTION*

(in thousands of kilowatt hours)

Use	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945	Percent change	
				Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
TOTAL	479,069	510,962	446,057	+ 7.4	- 6.2
Commercial	101,340	109,183	91,602	+10.6	- 7.2
Industrial	237,809	251,710	224,781	+ 5.8	- 5.5
Residential	75,699	78,290	64,823	+16.8	- 8.3
Other	64,221	71,779	64,851	- 1.0	-10.5

*Prepared from reports of 10 electric power companies to the Bureau of Business Research.

Electric energy production for public use in Texas for September 1946 was 10.7% less than the figure for the preceding month. Totalling 642,664,000 kilowatt hours, September output was 6.0% above that of September 1945.

Telephones in service in Texas for October 1946 as reported by the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, registered gains over September 1946 in each of the 40 cities reported with the single exception of Wichita Falls. Largest percentage increases were registered for Marshall (6.1%), Amarillo (4.9%), Temple (4.1%), Edinburg (3.1%), and Beaumont (3.9%). The total gain from last month was 1.7%, representing an addition of 12,750 instruments in the 40 cities combined.

Natural Resources

(The production of crude petroleum is a major industry in Texas, and the changes in the volume of production have a direct effect upon the income produced in the State. Figures on the number of well completions by districts indicate the extent to which new sources of oil and gas are being developed and the areas of the State in which drilling operations are in process.)

Daily average production of crude petroleum in Texas for October 1946 amounted to 2,050,850 barrels, for a decrease of 1.9% from the preceding month. The October 1946 figure, however, was 38.4% above that for October 1945.

When adjustments are made for seasonal variation, the October decline was reduced to 0.1%, since most of the drop could be attributed to the operation of normal seasonal forces. In October 1946 the index of crude petroleum production was 65.8% higher than in the average month of the years 1935-39.

WELL COMPLETIONS

Source: The Oil and Gas Journal

District	October*				Jan.-Oct. (all wells)	
	Total	Oil	Gas	Dry	1946	1945
TEXAS	554	336	49	169	6,466	5,882
North Central Texas	159	87	0	72	2,282	1,797
West Texas	142	121	0	21	1,422	1,447
Panhandle	30	19	9	2	273	460
Eastern Texas	48	17	19	12	587	290
Texas Gulf Coast	135	75	16	44	1,426	1,358
Southwest Texas	40	17	5	18	476	530

*For 4 weeks ending October 26, 1946.

Oil well completions in Texas from January-October 1946 numbered 6,466, in comparison with 5,882 for the corresponding period of 1945. For October 1946 North Central Texas led in completions with 159, of which 72 were dry holes. West Texas led in number of oil well completions, followed by North Central Texas and the Texas Gulf Coast. Eastern Texas led in number of gas well completions with the Texas Gulf Coast having second position.

AGRICULTURE

Income

(The amount of income received by farmers is a composite measure of the prosperity of agriculture, taking into account both the volume of products sold and the prices received. Since the marketings of many products are concentrated in certain seasons of the year, it is important that the data be adjusted for seasonal variation in order to show the basic changes in the situation of agriculture.)

Texas farmers and ranchers received approximately \$221,471,000 in cash income during October. This is an increase of 63.8% over the September income of \$135,217,000. Compared with the *farm cash income* for October 1945 of \$150,682,000, income this October was up 47.0%.

Farm cash income in Texas amounted to \$1,018,980,000 for the period January-October of 1946. This is an 11.4% increase over the same period of 1945. District changes ranged from a 46.9% increase in the Trans-Pecos area to an 8.3% decline in the East Texas Timbered Plains.

District	Indexes, 1935-39=100 adjusted for seasonal variation			Amount, Jan.-Oct. (in thousands of dollars)	
	Oct. 1946	Sept.† 1946	Oct. 1945	1946	1945
TEXAS	313.5	203.8	213.3	1,018,980	915,047
1-N	354.5	292.1	291.9	107,119	95,755
1-S	215.6	313.8	131.7	68,755	67,304
2	230.9	163.6	189.4	102,973	99,082
3	331.5	227.1	261.7	51,659	45,959
4	455.0	154.5	238.8	176,820	134,199
5	178.0	68.2	101.5	55,250	60,272
6	525.4	711.3	248.2	54,370	37,007
7	288.1	209.3	250.4	79,896	72,309
8	305.6	162.2	206.1	104,898	96,688
9	484.6	364.7	403.8	66,540	65,991
10	480.8	136.7	434.1	31,263	30,867
10-A	194.5	185.2	308.7	119,437	109,614

*Farm cash income as computed by the Bureau understates actual farm cash income by from 6 to 10%. This situation does not impair the accuracy of the indexes.

†Revised.

Prices

(The prices received by farmers constitute one of the elements of farm cash income. Changes in prices are of primary concern to farmers and all businessmen relying on the farm market. Farmers are also concerned with the prices which they have to pay for commodities used in family maintenance and production since these prices help to determine their real income.)

With the lifting of price ceilings on livestock and meats on October 15 and the subsequent decontrol of most food products, prices received for the majority of farm products shot sharply upward last month. The prices reported here are those of the United States Department of Agriculture, as of October 15, the day when livestock ceilings were removed.

PRICES OF TEXAS FARM PRODUCTS
Source: Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Commodity	Unit	Oct. 15 1946	Sept. 15 1946	Oct. 15 1945
Cotton	lb.	\$ 0.368	\$ 0.348	\$ 0.2125
Cottonseed	ton	70.00	63.00	53.57
Corn	bu.	1.54	1.50	1.18
Grain sorghum	cwt.	2.55	2.50	2.06
Oats	bu.	.95	.89	.70
Rice	bu.	2.20	1.95	1.89
Wheat	bu.	1.88	1.80	1.50
Barley	bu.	1.39	1.34	1.01
Potatoes	bu.	1.15	1.15	2.14
Sweet potatoes	bu.	2.15	2.70	2.06
Beef cattle	cwt.	16.00	14.00	11.02
Milk cows	head	98.00	95.00	82.61
Veal calves	cwt.	15.80	14.90	12.28
Hogs	cwt.	20.00	15.90	14.03
Sheep	cwt.	8.80	8.10	7.39
Horses	head	55.00	55.00	54.14
Mules	head	79.00	75.00	81.84
Wool	lb.	.41	.41	.404
Eggs	doz.	.475	.418	.3997
Butterfat	lb.	.800	.66	.482
Chickens	lb.	.300	.257	.2494
Turkeys	lb.	.344	.280	.2934

The *index of prices paid* by farmers for all commodities used for family maintenance and farm production rose 4% for the nation as a whole from September and stood 20% higher than in October 1945. Compared with the average month of the years 1935-39 the index was up 74%. Prices paid for commodities used for family living broke their previous 1920 high to reach a new peak at 231% of their 1910-14 average, according to the monthly survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. Prices of production goods alone, however, advanced only 1% during the month.

Marketings

(The level of farm income is affected not only by changes in prices, but by the volume of products farmers send to market in a given month. Data on shipments of farm products must also be used to explain the changes in the level of farm income from month to month.)

Total marketings of cattle, calves, hogs, turkeys, eggs, fruits, and vegetables rose sharply during October, while chickens, sheep, and dried eggs showed marked decreases.

Gains over September 15 levels went as high as 20 to 25% in the individual commodities reported. Of 22 farm products, 18 rose over September, 1 declined, and 3 remained unchanged. The largest gain was in hog prices, which jumped 25.8% over September levels to reach their all-time high.

October shipments of livestock rose from 8,025 carload lots in September to 12,388 carload lots in October,

LOCAL BUSINESS

ABILENE	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Retail sales of independent stores		+ 18.9	- 3.0
Department and apparel store sales		- 4.3	+ 0.1
Postal receipts	\$ 32,449	+ 1.3	+ 18.3
Building permits	\$ 180,080	+300.6	- 47.4
Telephones in service	10,062	+ 12.4	+ 1.0
Air express shipments	120	+110.5	+ 17.6
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 29,430	+ 53.0	+ 21.6
Placements in employment	779	+ 38.9	+ 16.4
Unemployment	1,026	+ 57.8	- 30.7

AMARILLO	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Retail sales of independent stores		+ 20.1	+ 10.4
Postal receipts	\$ 59,305	- 8.5	+ 16.9
Telephones in service	19,691	+ 8.9	+ 4.9
Air express shipments	408	+ 20.0	+ 16.2
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 71,271	+ 43.1	+ 19.8
Placements in employment	769	+ 49.0	+ 7.3
Unemployment	1,100	+214.3	- 15.4

AUSTIN	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Retail sales of independent stores		+ 37.1	+ 3.9
Department and apparel store sales		+ 10.9	+ 2.7
Postal receipts	\$ 129,600	+ 22.6	+ 28.4
Building permits	\$1,318,835	+ 94.3	- 29.7
Telephones in service	32,519	+ 11.5	+ 0.5
Air express shipments	449	+ 58.1	- 3.0
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 87,077	+ 17.0	- 13.3
Placements in employment	1,057	+106.4	+ 16.3
Unemployment	2,651	+ 93.2	- 3.6

BEAUMONT	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Retail sales of independent stores		+ 29.1	+ 12.0
Postal receipts	\$ 55,570	+ 9.4	+ 32.0
Building permits	\$ 393,642	+ 99.5	- 10.8
Telephones in service	22,266	+ 15.0	+ 3.0
Air express shipments	226	- 2.6	- 17.5
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 68,196	+ 19.5	+ 11.7
Placements in employment (area)	2,609	+ 49.4	+ 12.3
Unemployment (area)	8,025	+108.4	- 3.3

CORPUS CHRISTI	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Retail sales of independent stores		+ 47.5	+ 12.1
Department and apparel store sales		+ 35.7	+ 10.2
Postal receipts	\$ 66,062	- 16.0	+ 16.4
Building permits	\$ 946,468	+116.5	+ 27.7
Telephones in service	24,415	+ 11.7	+ 1.1
Air express shipments	551	+ 50.1	+ 7.6
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 63,910	+ 12.0	+ 6.8
Placements in employment	479	+ 6.7	- 27.3
Unemployment	2,700	+ 14.6	- 3.6

CORSIANA	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Postal receipts	\$ 9,652	- 15.2	+ 23.4
Telephones in service	4,212	+ 17.8	+ 1.7
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 10,457	+ 34.6	+ 14.4

DALLAS	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Retail sales of independent stores		+ 17.6	- 1.5
Department and apparel store sales		+ 14.5	- 2.2
Postal receipts	\$ 742,105	+ 12.4	+ 21.7
Building permits	\$2,855,724	+ 64.1	- 9.7
Telephones in service	147,760	+ 16.6	+ 1.9
Air express shipments	9,220	+ 64.1	+ 32.5
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 780,940	+ 42.0	+ 11.1
Placements in employment	4,752	+ 33.6	+ 2.0
Unemployment	8,000	- 40.7	- 11.1

EL PASO	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Retail sales of independent stores		+ 35.8	+ 10.8
Department and apparel store sales		+ 18.2	+ 14.4
Postal receipts	\$ 97,157	- 4.1	+ 12.7
Building permits	\$ 398,899	+ 48.2	- 23.0
Air express shipments	1,353	+ 67.9	+ 13.8
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 103,398	+ 42.3	+ 15.1
Placements in employment	958	- 20.8	+ 17.8
Unemployment	2,250	+ 32.4	+ 4.7

FORT WORTH	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Retail sales of independent stores		+ 21.7	+ 4.1
Department and apparel store sales		+ 15.7	+ 0.6
Postal receipts	\$ 326,222	+ 1.5	+ 24.5
Building permits	\$1,597,680	+ 58.6	+ 26.2
Telephones in service	73,049	+ 14.1	+ 1.2
Air express shipments	2,547	+ 46.6	+ 22.9
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 272,390	+ 33.6	+ 18.5
Placements in employment	3,761	+ 22.2	+ 15.0
Unemployment	8,500	+ 13.3	- 5.6

GALVESTON	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Retail sales of independent stores		+ 1.2	- 0.6
Postal receipts	\$ 47,685	- 14.3	+ 1.2
Building permits	\$ 102,463	+ 26.4	- 80.2
Telephones in service	20,901	+ 11.1	+ 0.2
Air express shipments	341	+ 3.3	- 4.7
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 52,579	+ 17.9	+ 6.2
Placements in employment (area)	740	- 33.6	- 35.9
Unemployment (area)	2,500	+117.4	+ 8.7

CONDITIONS

HOUSTON	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Retail sales of independent stores	-----	+ 22.0	- 3.7
Department and apparel store sales	-----	+ 4.5	+ 5.7
Postal receipts	\$ 471,144	+ 8.2	+ 20.7
Building permits	\$2,988,941	+ 78.6	- 14.1
Telephones in service	171,526	+ 16.8	+ 1.9
Air express shipments	3,810	+123.7	+ 15.9
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 738,462	+ 33.4	+ 6.6
Placements in employment (area)	5,163	- 5.8	+ 8.4
Unemployment (area)	17,000	+ 78.9	- 5.6

JACKSONVILLE	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Postal receipts	\$ 5,705	- 4.8	+ 12.6
Building permits	\$ 17,100	- 65.0	- 60.2

LUBBOCK	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Retail sales of independent stores	-----	+ 28.5	- 1.3
Postal receipts	\$ 44,039	+ 1.2	+ 21.0
Building permits	\$ 288,205	- 29.4	- 47.0
Telephones in service	13,005	+ 21.6	+ 1.3
Air express shipments	211	+131.9	+ 11.1
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 47,707	+ 52.7	+ 23.6
Placements in employment	808	+ 19.7	+ 72.6
Unemployment	900	+ 65.1	- 25.0

PLAINVIEW	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Retail sales of independent stores	-----	+ 14.9	+ 13.8
Postal receipts	\$ 6,133	- 16.0	- 3.7
Building permits	\$ 75,500	+ 87.9	- 1.9

PORT ARTHUR	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Retail sales of independent stores	-----	+ 21.4	+ 11.4
Postal receipts	\$ 24,063	- 10.8	+ 34.7
Building permits	\$ 97,209	+ 13.6	- 30.8
Telephones in service	15,943	+ 20.0	+ 1.5
Air express shipments	213	+180.3	+ 29.1
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 29,033	+ 53.2	+ 10.4
Placements in employment (area)	2,609	+ 49.4	+ 12.3
Unemployment (area)	8,025	+108.4	- 3.3

SAN ANGELO	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Postal receipts	\$ 24,465	- 19.0	+ 27.7
Air express shipments	252	+121.1	+ 8.2
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 27,517	+ 41.2	+ 15.1

SAN ANTONIO	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Retail sales of independent stores	-----	+ 19.6	+ 5.9
Department and apparel store sales	-----	+ 16.2	+ 10.2
Postal receipts	\$ 285,605	- 1.8	+ 23.5
Building permits	\$2,216,971	+ 60.9	+ 60.8
Telephones in service	84,437	+ 14.2	+ 1.7
Air express shipments	2,027	+ 28.2	+ 45.6
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 217,135	+ 28.2	+ 9.7
Placements in employment	1,843	- 8.6	- 21.4
Unemployment	10,000	+ 5.0	- 28.6

TYLER	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Retail sales of independent stores	-----	+ 12.8	- 6.3
Postal receipts	\$ 29,239	- 8.1	+ 22.4
Building permits	\$ 263,662	+ 93.0	- 42.7
Telephones in service	10,303	+ 21.9	+ 1.4
Air express shipments	575	0.0	+ 60.6
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 34,060	+ 11.6	+ 11.9

WACO	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Retail sales of independent stores	-----	+ 4.9	+ 0.9
Department and apparel store sales	-----	- 0.9	- 3.2
Postal receipts	\$ 62,599	- 2.9	+ 17.2
Building permits	\$ 434,300	+217.3	- 25.8
Telephones in service	13,238	+ 17.6	+ 0.7
Air express shipments	179	+ 51.7	- 5.8
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 47,942	+ 32.7	- 0.5
Placements in employment	595	+ 45.5	- 20.1
Unemployment	3,300	+ 32.0	0.0

WICHITA FALLS	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
Retail sales of independent stores	-----	- 3.9	- 4.6
Postal receipts	\$ 40,464	- 28.2	+ 17.2
Building permits	\$ 133,285	+ 41.4	+ 37.1
Telephones in service	15,902	+ 0.4	- 0.2
Air express shipments	288	+ 41.6	+ 1.8
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 42,867	+ 23.9	+ 15.6
Placements in employment	464	+ 6.4	+ 13.2
Unemployment	1,639	+ 15.2	- 21.4

SHIPMENTS OF LIVESTOCK

(in carloads)*

Source: Bureau of Business Research in co-operation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Classification	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945	Percent change	
				Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
TOTAL SHIPMENTS	12,388	8,025	13,630	- 9.1	+ 54.4
Cattle	8,607	4,627	9,396	- 8.4	+ 86.0
Calves	2,448	1,257	2,732	- 10.4	+ 94.7
Hogs	218	89	202	+ 7.9	+144.9
Sheep	1,115	2,052	1,300	- 14.2	- 45.7
INTERSTATE PLUS FORT WORTH	10,090	6,490	11,451	- 11.9	+ 55.5
Cattle	6,916	3,776	8,023	- 13.8	+ 83.2
Calves	2,185	1,090	2,364	- 7.6	+100.5
Hogs	218	89	146	+ 49.3	+144.9
Sheep	771	1,535	918	- 16.0	- 49.8
INTERSTATE MINUS FORT WORTH†	2,298	1,535	2,179	+ 5.5	+ 49.7
Cattle	1,691	851	1,373	+ 23.2	+ 98.7
Calves	263	167	368	- 28.5	+ 57.5
Hogs			56		
Sheep	344	517	382	- 9.9	- 33.5

*Rail-car basis: cattle, 30 head per car; calves, 60; hogs, 80; and sheep, 250.

†Intrastate truck shipments are not included. Fort Worth shipments are combined with interstate forwardings in order that the bulk of market disappearance for the month may be shown.

a gain of 54.4%. This is a decrease of 9.1% from the 13,630 carload lots shipped in October 1945. Converted to actual numbers, October shipments represented 258,210 head of cattle, 146,880 calves, 17,440 hogs, and 278,750 sheep.

Shipments of poultry and eggs by rail showed diverse movements, the most outstanding of which was the more than trebling of turkey shipments to meet seasonal demands. Turkey shipments increased by 26½ carloads from September to October, while chicken shipments dropped 14½ carloads; eggs—shell equivalent—decreased from 183 cars in September to 143 cars during October, a decline of 21.9%.

INTERSTATE RECEIPTS OF EGGS BY RAIL AT TEXAS STATIONS

(in carloads)

Source: Bureau of Business Research in co-operation with the Division of Agricultural Statistics, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture

Type	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946†	Oct. 1945
TOTAL RECEIPTS—SHELL EQUIVALENT*	49	93	69
Shell	47	89	43
Frozen	1	2	1
Dried	0	0	3

*Dried eggs and frozen eggs are converted to a shell-egg equivalent on the following basis: 1 rail-carload of dried eggs = 8 carloads of shell eggs and 1 carload of frozen eggs = 2 carloads of shell eggs.

†Revised.

During the month there were 34 carloads of turkeys shipped and 9 carloads of chickens. There were 15 carloads of turkeys shipped in October 1945 and 12 carloads of chickens.

Interstate receipts of eggs by rail at Texas stations totaled 49 cars for the month, a loss of 44 cars from the total September receipts. The October figure represented a 20-car decrease from the October 1945 receipts. Frozen egg receipts were up by one car. No movements of dried eggs were reported.

Rail shipments of fruits and vegetables totaled 1,632 carloads during October as compared with 3,118 carloads shipped during the same period of 1945. During the month there were 1,390 carloads of citrus fruits shipped and 242 carloads of vegetables.

RAIL SHIPMENTS OF POULTRY AND EGGS FROM TEXAS STATIONS

(in carloads)

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Division of Agricultural Statistics, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Classification	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945
TOTAL SHIPMENTS			
Chickens	9	24	12
Turkeys	34	8	15
Eggs—shell equivalent*	143	183	182
Shell	9	7	52
Frozen	27	16	21
Dried	10	18	11
INTRASTATE SHIPMENTS			
Chickens	4	4	5
Turkeys	12	1	0
Eggs—shell equivalent*	11	36	13
Shell	9	6	13
Frozen	1	3	0
Dried	0	3	0
INTERSTATE SHIPMENTS†			
Chickens	5	20	7
Turkeys	22	6	15
Eggs—shell equivalent*	132	147	169
Shell	0	1	39
Frozen	26	13	21
Dried	10	15	11

*Dried eggs and frozen eggs are converted to a shell-egg equivalent on the following basis: 1 rail-carload of dried eggs = 8 carloads of shell eggs and 1 carload of frozen eggs = 2 carloads of shell eggs.

†The destination above is the first destination as shown by the original waybill. Changes in destination brought about by conversion factors are not shown.

Cold Storage

(In both periods of shortages and surpluses, the storage holdings of perishable food products are important because of their effect on prices. The seasonal nature of farm production is in part offset by the accumulation of stocks in periods of peak production to be withdrawn in periods of low production. Deviations from the normal levels of holdings will exert pressure on the price structure.)

The occupancy rate in public cold storage warehouses dropped somewhat between October 1 and November 1. Private warehouses and meat-packing establishments showed an increase in amount of space occupied. The percentage of total space occupied in public cold storage coolers dropped 5.5% in cooler space and gained 2.5% in freezer space.

Cold storage holdings of fluid cream for October decreased 33.2% over the September holdings; plastic

cream holdings decreased 14.8%. Creamery butter, poultry, shell, and frozen egg holdings all showed decreases.

Fertilizer Sales

(Sales of fertilizer are indicative of the amount of money farmers need and are able to spend in keeping up the soil fertility of their farms. Sales figures are based on monthly statistics for the equivalent number of short tons of fertilizer represented by the tax tags sold to fertilizer producers and which are required by law to be attached to each bag of fertilizer sold.)

Sales of fertilizer tax tags in Texas represented 26,251 short tons in October 1946. This was half again as large as purchases in October 1945 and more than twice as great as in October 1944. For the year to date 314,083 short tons of fertilizer have been sold in Texas, compared with only 191,855 in the first ten months of 1945 (a gain of 64%) and 170,714 short tons in October 1944. These figures are compiled by the National Fertilizer Association from monthly statistics reported by State fertilizer control officials.

Cotton

(The cotton balance sheet shows the basic demand and supply factors affecting cotton, which is an outstanding element in the farm income of the State.)

Cotton price determining factors vary from one season of the year to another, especially in terms of their relative importance. During the summer and early fall the forces associated with the new crop are the most important. By November the size of the crop is generally accurately enough known to eliminate it as a factor causing important price changes. Even a change of 200,000 bales in the November 8 Government estimate should not change the price more than 40 to 50 points.

The major forces causing changes in cotton prices from now until May come from the demand side of the market, wherein the uncertainties lie. The unknown factors are the rate of mill consumption of cotton in this country, the volume of exports, and—this year especially—the trends of general prices.

The cotton balance sheet shows that so far this year both consumption and exports are running ahead of the same months last year at an increasing rate of over 100,000 bales per month.

FINANCE

Bank Credit

(Since bank credit is essential to all business, the condition of the commercial banks and the Federal Reserve Banks is a significant indicator of the state of business. Changes in the volume of credit the banks have outstanding reflect the state of business. The condition of the Federal Reserve Banks in like manner reflects the condition of credit available to commercial banks.)

During the past year loans of weekly reporting member banks in the Dallas Federal Reserve District increased \$270 million, while during the same period Treasury security holdings declined \$220 million. Both the increase in loans and the decline in Government securities have been gradual, but at the end of October loans were 58% above those a year earlier, whereas Treasury securities were about 15% smaller. The decline in holdings of Government securities probably reflects in large part the retirement (in whole or

CONDITION OF WEEKLY REPORTING MEMBER BANKS

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Item	Percent change		
	Oct. 30 1946 from Oct. 31 1945	Oct. 30 1946 from Sept. 25 1946	Oct. 31 1945 from Sept. 26 1945
	ASSETS		
Loans and investments.....	+ 3.2	- 0.3	+ 1.3
Loans	+58.4	+ 4.0	+ 3.4
Treasury bills	-19.4	+14.9	+ 4.7
Treasury certificates of indebtedness	-25.6	- 9.7	- 1.7
Treasury notes	-44.4	- 5.8	+ 5.4
United States bonds	+ 4.0	+ 0.9	- 0.5
Other securities	+21.1	- 5.5	+ 1.8
Reserve with Federal Reserve Banks	+ 0.8	- 2.0	+ 2.7
Cash in vault	+ 8.0	+ 3.8	- 7.4
Balances with domestic banks	-13.9	+ 1.4	+ 9.4
LIABILITIES			
Demand deposits adjusted	+ 7.3	+ 0.6	+ 4.9
Time deposits	+14.6	+ 0.6	+ 2.6
United States Government deposits	-32.8	-16.2	-14.8
Interbank deposits:			
Domestic banks	-10.8	+ 1.0	+ 3.4
Foreign banks	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	+14.5	+ 0.7	0.0

COTTON BALANCE SHEET FOR THE UNITED STATES AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 1946

(figures in thousands of running bales except as noted)

Year	Carryover Aug. 1	Imports to Nov. 1*	Final ginnings	Total	Consumption to Nov. 1	Exports to Nov. 1	Total	Balance Nov. 1
1937-38	4,498	22	18,243	22,763	1,729	1,626	3,355	19,408
1938-39	11,533	40	12,137	23,710	1,637	1,054	2,691	21,019
1939-40	13,033	37	11,845	24,915	1,941	1,744	3,685	21,230
1940-41	10,596	30	12,847	23,473	2,064	350	2,414	21,059
1941-42	12,376	109	11,020	23,505	2,703	439	3,142	20,363
1942-43	10,590	91	13,329	24,010	2,364	435	3,299	20,711
1943-44	10,687	43	11,442	22,172	2,560	564	3,124	19,048
1944-45	10,727	55	12,320	23,102	2,430	259	2,689	20,413
1945-46	11,160	79†	9,368	20,607	2,201	433	2,634	17,973
1946-47	7,522	59†	8,487	16,068	2,605	653	3,258	12,810

*Figures are in 500-lb. gross bales.

†Figures to October 1.

part) of several issues of certificates of indebtedness and Treasury notes, since most of the decline occurred in these two types of obligations. During the year the Treasury reduced its deposits with the weekly reporting banks \$65 million, but these deposits (or their equivalent) returned to the banks in the form of demand deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations. At the end of October total deposits were therefore somewhat larger than on the corresponding date in 1945.

During October all *member banks* increased their borrowings from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and at the end of the month discounts and advances of that Bank stood at \$7,314,000, compared with only \$560,000 a year earlier. Federal Reserve notes of the Dallas Reserve Bank in actual circulation amounted to \$606 million at the end of October, an increase of \$6 million during the month, but \$13 million below the amount outstanding at the end of October 1945.

Bank Debits

(Since the bulk of business transactions are settled by check, changes in bank debits to individual accounts represent changes in the volume of transactions and are a basic measure of business activity.)

The dollar volume of *bank debits* in 20 Texas cities rose to a new peak of \$2,765 million during October and was 34% above October 1945. Substantial gains over last year occurred in each of the major reporting centers, the largest percentage increases occurring in

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CONDITION OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

(in thousands of dollars)

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Item	Oct. 30 1946	Sept. 25 1946	Oct. 31 1945	Percent change	
				Oct. 30 1946 from Oct. 31 1945	Oct. 30 1946 from Sept. 25 1946
ASSETS					
Gold certificate reserves	491,426	480,763	472,630	+ 4.0	+ 2.2
U.S. Government securities	898,970	907,538	890,228	+ 1.0	- 1.0
Discounts and advances	7,314	4,360	560	+1206.1	+67.8
Other cash	9,278	10,493	9,183	+ 1.0	-11.6
Other assets	91,879	102,213	76,585	+ 20.0	-10.1
TOTAL ASSETS	1,498,867	1,505,367	1,449,186	+ 3.4	- 0.4
LIABILITIES					
Federal Reserve notes	606,573	600,426	619,663	- 2.1	+ 1.0
Deposits	789,046	798,681	752,474	+ 4.9	- 1.2
Other liabilities	80,154	83,509	58,039	+ 38.1	- 4.0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,475,773	1,482,616	1,430,176	+ 3.2	- 0.5
Capital paid in	6,781	6,716	5,965	+ 13.7	+ 1.0
Surplus	11,977	11,977	7,332	+ 63.4	0.0
Other capital accounts	4,336	4,053	5,713	- 24.1	+ 6.9
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	1,498,867	1,505,367	1,449,186	+ 3.4	- 0.4

Lubbock, Port Arthur, and Abilene, where the increases amounted to 53% or more.

During the past six months bank debits in Texas have been more than three times as large as the 1935-39 average. When adjustment is made for seasonal variation, the Bureau's *index of bank debits* for October stood at 325% of the 1935-39 average, or 4% above the September figure.

BANK DEBITS*

(in thousands of dollars)

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

City	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945	Percent change	
				Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
TOTAL	2,764,661	2,517,372	2,060,412	+34.2	+ 9.8
Abilene	29,430	24,194	19,240	+53.0	+21.6
Amarillo	71,271	59,489	49,790	+43.1	+19.8
Austin	87,077	100,410	74,394	+17.0	-13.3
Beaumont	68,196	61,039	57,079	+19.5	+11.7
Corpus Christi	63,910	59,854	57,066	+12.0	+ 6.8
Corsicana	10,457	9,141	7,771	+34.6	+14.4
Dallas	780,940	702,747	549,922	+42.0	+11.1
El Paso	103,898	89,801	72,674	+42.3	+15.1
Fort Worth	272,390	229,853	203,893	+33.6	+18.5
Galveston	52,579	49,509	44,587	+17.9	+ 6.2
Houston	738,462	692,835	553,412	+33.4	+ 6.6
Laredo	15,604	14,458	11,696	+33.4	+ 7.9
Lubbock	47,707	38,583	31,037	+53.7	+23.6
Port Arthur	29,033	26,309	18,947	+53.2	+10.4
San Angelo	27,517	23,913	19,483	+41.2	+15.1
San Antonio	217,135	197,952	169,360	+28.2	+ 9.7
Texarkana†	24,686	21,600	18,834	+31.1	+14.3
Tyler	34,060	30,427	30,510	+11.6	+11.9
Waco	47,942	48,180	36,125	+32.7	- 0.5
Wichita Falls	42,867	37,078	34,592	+23.9	+15.6

*Debits to deposit accounts except interbank accounts.

†Includes two banks in Arkansas, Eighth District.

Corporations

(The issue of corporation charters measures the additions to the business population and reflects the state of optimism or pessimism of businessmen.)

According to the Secretary of State's office, 263 new companies received *corporation charters* in Texas during October as compared with 247 in September and 137 in October a year ago. Total capitalization, however, dropped from \$6,697,000 in September to \$6,533,000 this past month, although it was still far above the \$2,942,000 reported for October 1945. This year in October the greatest activity in the formation of new domestic companies took place in merchandising, manufacturing, and construction. Firms with a capitalization

CORPORATION CHARTERS ISSUED BY CAPITALIZATION

Source: Secretary of State

Capitalization	Oct. 1946	Sept.† 1946	Oct. 1945
Over \$100,000	11	14	6
\$5,000-\$100,000	147	131	104
Less than \$5,000	62	47	27
Capitalization not specified	6	3	*
No capital stock	37	52	*

*Not tabulated in 1945.

†Revised.

of over \$100,000 were fewer than in the previous month's tabulations, and there were relatively more small businesses (with less than \$5,000 capitalization) incorporated in October than in September 1946.

Thirty-two foreign corporations entered Texas to do business in October, as compared with 38 in September and 15 in October 1945.

Classification	Oct. 1946	Sept.† 1946	Oct. 1945
DOMESTIC CORPORATIONS			
Capitalization (1,000 dollars)	6,533	6,697	2,942
Number	263	247	137
Banking-finance	5	3	4
Construction	18	9	*
Manufacturing	37	27	19
Merchandising	76	59	41
Oil	7	6	4
Public service	2	3	2
Real estate	15	13	19
Transportation	4	11	5
All others	62	64	43
No capital stock	37	52	*
FOREIGN CORPORATIONS			
Number	32	38	15

*Not tabulated separately.
†Revised.

Life Insurance Sales

(Since the sales of life insurance are relatively sensitive to the changes in consumer income, they may be used as a measure of the consumer market.)

Sales of ordinary life insurance in Texas declined to \$61,794,000 during October, to register the smallest volume sold since May this year. Nevertheless, sales were 52% above those sold in October 1945.

Failures

(The number of failures and the amount of liabilities vary inversely with the prosperity of business and reflect in a simple and direct manner what is happening to business.)

According to Dun and Bradstreet there were no business failures in Texas during October, leaving the total number of failures in the State at 6 for the first 10 months of the current year.

Veterans' Loans

(At the present time there is considerable interest in the volume of government guaranteed or insured loans to veterans as a factor in the business and economic adjustment to peacetime conditions.)

The number of applications for veterans' loans received during October by the five Regional Offices of the Veterans Administration in Texas was slightly under the September number.

A total of 3,171 applications were reported for October, compared with 3,723 for September.

During October Veterans Administration offices in Texas approved 3,315 applications, reducing considerably the load of pending applications. Sixty applications were denied and 540 withdrawn during the month.

Of the total applications received of 3,171, the majority (1,240) were at Dallas, 767 at Houston, 424 at Lub-

bock, 390 at San Antonio, and 350 at the Waco office. Of the 3,315 loans approved, 1,186 were handled at the Dallas office, 773 at Houston, 609 at Lubbock, 401 at San Antonio, and 346 at Waco.

TRANSPORTATION

Rail

(The movement of goods by rail is fundamental to all business operations, and changes in the number of freight cars loaded reflect basic changes in the volume of business. The commodity groups are significant for the information they give on specific industries. The miscellaneous group includes manufactured goods, and is generally considered a measure of the volume of trade. Merchandise l.c.l. shipments include the same type of goods shipped in smaller lots. Cars unloaded for export reflect the changes in the volume of exports.)

An October gain of 7.3% over September in total revenue freight loaded, representing an increase of 19,208 cars, was reported in the Southwestern District. Coke and livestock registered strong gains of 19.7% and 15.3%, respectively, over September. The removal of price ceilings from meat products stimulated livestock loadings after they had dropped 27.5% in September from August. Shipments of ore and forest products held relatively steady for October over September shipments, with a negligible (0.8%) loss on ore and a similar (0.7%) gain in forest products movements.

Although actual loadings of miscellaneous freight rose 6.1% over September, the gain was not as large as the regular seasonal gain of 8.3% from September to October. The index of miscellaneous freight carloadings therefore dropped 2.0%. It was still 28.6% above the average prewar (1935-39) months, however.

REVENUE FREIGHT LOADED IN SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT (in carloads)

Source: Car Service Division, Association of American Railroads

Item	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945	Percent change	
				Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
TOTAL	282,734	263,576	273,550	+ 3.4	+ 7.3
Grain and grain products ..	22,376	19,954	25,293	-11.5	+12.1
Livestock	9,427	8,173	12,026	-21.6	+15.3
Coal	27,127	24,264	28,722	- 5.6	+11.8
Coke	803	671	845	- 5.0	+19.7
Forest products	25,324	25,158	19,323	+31.1	+ 0.7
Ore	2,192	2,210	1,765	+24.2	- 0.8
Merchandise (l.c.l.)	33,801	30,698	33,063	+ 2.2	+10.1
Miscellaneous	161,734	152,448	152,513	+ 6.0	+ 6.1

Export and coastal carloads unloaded in five Texas ports during October, revealed the influence of the maritime strike. With a total decline of 81.2% from the September total, Texas City was the hardest hit with a 96.0% loss. Port Arthur showed the least decline in October with a 70.4% loss. The total decrease in handlings of export and coastal freight for the five ports was 6,830 carloads.

The only port unloading coastal freight for the month of October was Port Arthur. The total number of cars unloaded was 164 against 248 for September, a 33.9% decline.

EXPORT AND COASTAL CARLOADS UNLOADED*

Source: Car Service Division, Association of American Railroads

Port and type	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945	Percent change	
				Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
TOTAL	1,577	8,407	7,563	- 79.1	- 81.2
Beaumont	17	166	0	0.0	- 89.8
Galveston	839	5,013	4,788	- 82.5	- 83.3
Houston	448	1,961	1,451	- 69.1	- 77.2
Port Arthur	243	515	791	- 69.3	- 52.8
Texas City	30	752	533	- 94.4	- 96.0
EXPORT TOTAL	1,413	8,159	7,460	- 81.1	- 82.7
Beaumont	17	166	0	0.0	- 89.8
Galveston	839	5,013	4,788	- 82.5	- 83.3
Houston	448	1,961	1,451	- 69.1	- 77.2
Port Arthur	79	267	688	- 88.5	- 70.4
Texas City	30	752	533	- 94.4	- 96.0
COASTAL TOTAL	164	248	103	+ 59.2	- 33.9
Port Arthur	164	248	103	+ 59.2	- 33.9

*Excluding coal.

Air Express

(The total volume of commodities shipped by air express is only a very small percentage of all commodities moved, but the rapid increase in the use of this type of transportation makes its growth of general interest to business.)

Reversing the decline of 1.5% for the month of September, *air express shipments* for October increased 20.6% at the 22 cities reporting. Laredo, with a 19.6% loss, was the only city showing a decline for two months straight. Sixteen cities registered gains, headed by Midland, with a 65.8% increase over September. Total air shipments for this period showed a 20.6% increase,

AIR EXPRESS SHIPMENTS
(in number of shipments)

Source: Railway Express Agency

Cities	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945	Percent change	
				Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
TOTAL	26,213	21,744	15,822	+ 65.7	+ 20.6
Abilene	120	102	57	+110.5	+ 17.6
Amarillo	408	351	340	+ 20.0	+ 16.2
Austin	449	463	284	+ 58.1	- 3.0
Beaumont	226	274	232	- 2.6	- 17.5
Big Spring	53	58	61	- 13.1	- 8.6
Brownsville	2,902	2,797	1,819	+ 59.5	+ 3.8
Corpus Christi	551	512	367	+ 50.1	+ 7.6
Dallas	9,220	6,960	5,619	+ 64.1	+ 32.5
El Paso	1,353	1,189	806	+ 67.9	+ 13.8
Fort Worth	2,547	2,073	1,737	+ 46.6	+ 22.9
Galveston	341	358	330	+ 3.3	- 4.7
Houston	3,810	3,287	1,703	+123.7	+ 15.9
Laredo	348	433	243	+ 43.2	- 19.6
Lubbock	211	190	91	+131.9	+ 11.1
Midland	119	72	33	+260.6	+ 65.3
Port Arthur	213	165	76	+180.3	+ 29.1
San Angelo	252	233	114	+121.1	+ 8.2
San Antonio	2,027	1,392	1,581	+ 28.2	+ 45.6
Texarkana	81	63	50	+ 62.0	+ 28.6
Tyler	575	358	*	*	+ 60.6
Waco	179	190	118	+ 51.7	- 5.8
Wichita Falls	228	224	161	+ 41.6	+ 1.8

*Airport opened February 1946.

compared to a 65.7% increase for the same period last year. The total air express shipments increased to 26,213 for October from 21,744 for September.

Water

(Since a sizable volume of traffic moves into and out of the State by water, statistics on water-borne commerce are an important indicator not only of transportation but of general business activity.)

The October movement of cargo freight through the Port of Brownsville totaled 66,299 tons, more than doubling the September movement. Outgoing cargo, domestic and foreign, was about twice as great as incoming cargo in October, while in September inbound cargo was almost half again as large as outbound cargo. Mexican bananas were the principal imports in both months and the coastwise export of crude oil and other petroleum products were the chief exports.

LABOR

Employment

(Employment statistics are among the most important indicators of Texas business and economic activity. The estimates of total employment in Texas manufacturing industries include all employees, both production workers and others. The Bureau's statistics of nonmanufacturing industries also comprise all employees. However, the statistics of manufacturing employment and manufacturing pay rolls are based on production and related workers only. Proprietors, officers of corporations, and other principal executives are excluded from all the series.)

Employment in Texas in October 1946 rose 1.4%, more than recovering its slight September setback of

ESTIMATES OF TOTAL MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)

Source: Bureau of Business Research in co-operation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

Industrial group	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945	Percent change	
				Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
TOTAL	315.9	312.1	311.9	+ 1.3	+ 0.2
Food	62.0	62.1	57.5	+ 7.8	- 0.2
Textile mill products and other fiber manufactures	8.6	8.5	7.7	+11.7	+ 1.2
Apparel and other finished textile products	23.3	22.9	21.4	+ 8.9	+ 1.7
Furniture and finished lumber products	11.5	11.3	10.4	+10.6	+ 1.8
Lumber and timber basic products	28.5	27.7	25.1	+13.5	+ 2.9
Paper and allied products	3.9	3.8	3.6	+ 8.3	+ 2.6
Printing, publishing, and allied industries	17.9	17.7	15.5	+15.5	+ 1.1
Chemicals and allied products	18.9	18.6	21.2	-10.8	+ 1.6
Products of petroleum and coal	39.6	39.5	36.7	+ 7.9	+ 0.3
Stone, clay, and glass products	9.7	9.9	7.6	+27.6	- 2.0
Iron and steel and their products	16.8	16.9	15.8	+ 6.3	- 0.6
Transportation equipment except automobiles	24.2	22.6	41.5	-41.7	+ 7.1
Nonferrous metals and their products	9.9	9.8	9.0	+10.0	+ 1.0
Machinery, except electrical	29.3	29.0	30.2	- 3.0	+ 1.0
Miscellaneous industries	4.2	4.0	3.1	+35.5	+ 5.0
All others	7.7	7.8	5.6	+37.5	- 1.3

0.4%, according to reports collected from 1,516 establishments by the Bureau of Business Research in co-operation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor. This increase was general, since it was shared by 17 of the 23 industrial groups reporting. In the miscellaneous manufacturing group the largest gain (15.2%) appeared. The six groups showing decreases were petroleum refining (0.8%), stone and clay products (6.6%), iron and steel products (1.1%), nonferrous metal products (0.8%), crude petroleum production (1.8%), and quarrying (0.3%). It should be noted that all the decreases were small.

Total manufacturing employment in Texas in October was estimated at 315,900 by the Bureau of Business Research in co-operation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor. Compared with September, this was an increase of 1.2% or 3,800 persons. The largest increases were in transportation equipment (7.1%) and miscellaneous industries (5.0%). Small declines were registered by employers in the food industry (0.2%), stone, clay, and glass products (2.0%), iron and steel and their products (0.6%), and the miscellaneous group (1.3%).

Pay Rolls

(Pay roll figures are generally recognized as significant indicators of income and purchasing power by both economists and businessmen. Emphasis on the maintenance of purchasing power as a goal for the

country's postwar economy gives particular importance to these figures at this time.)

Pay rolls in Texas in October 1946 rose 0.9%, more than erasing the 0.1% decline in September, according to reports collected from 1,516 employers by the Bureau of Business Research in co-operation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor. Advances were registered in 15 of the 23 industrial groups, with the biggest gain in miscellaneous manufacturing (12.7%) and public utilities (7.8%). In contrast, employment in stone and clay products dropped 12.9%, while seven other industrial groups reported smaller decreases.

Hours and Earnings

(Statistics on hours and earnings show clearly the effects of the shift of the State's economy and the general upward movement of wages since V-J Day. Average hourly earnings are computed by dividing the total number of man-hours worked in reporting establishments into total pay rolls.)

Average weekly hours worked were generally lower for October 1946 than they were in September 1946 for the 14 manufacturing industries reported, with 8 of the groups reporting a work week of over 42 hours and 6 of the groups reporting a work week below 42 hours. The longest work week (48.9 hours) was in the finished lumber products industry, while the apparel industry reported the shortest work week (37.0 hours). Two in-

PRELIMINARY COMPARISON OF EMPLOYMENT AND PAY ROLLS IN IDENTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Source: Bureau of Business Research in co-operation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

Industrial group	EMPLOYMENT					PAY ROLLS			
	Number of reporting establishments	Number of wage earners*		Percent change		Amount (weekly)		Percent change	
		Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
TOTAL	1,516	123,071	121,327	+ 6.3	+ 1.4	\$5,545,941	\$5,494,486	+ 21.1	+ 0.9
MANUFACTURING									
Food products	140	9,016	8,882	- 7.5	+ 1.5	365,743	356,585	- 4.5	+ 2.6
Textiles	5	3,813	3,776	+ 13.8	+ 1.0	142,468	139,085	+ 44.1	+ 2.4
Apparel	34	2,742	2,711	+ 5.5	+ 1.1	70,790	69,426	+ 22.7	+ 2.0
Finished lumber products	23	1,766	1,743	+ 18.9	+ 1.3	63,756	60,852	+ 35.7	+ 4.8
Forest products	17	2,187	2,120	+ 8.5	+ 3.2	76,269	72,674	+ 29.4	+ 4.9
Paper products	8	836	819	+ 3.1	+ 2.1	31,721	29,965	+ 22.1	+ 5.9
Printing and publishing	32	942	923	+ 24.9	+ 2.1	49,706	46,219	+ 41.1	+ 7.5
Commercial products	68	5,622	5,528	+ 8.1	+ 1.7	304,358	315,266	+ 21.1	- 3.5
Petroleum refining	44	25,320	25,518	+ 21.1	- 0.8	1,436,202	1,499,761	+ 64.7	- 4.2
Stone and clay products	32	2,559	2,739	+ 44.9	- 6.6	91,397	104,908	+ 45.0	- 12.9
Iron and steel products	30	3,390	3,428	+ 21.8	- 1.1	146,115	149,132	+ 26.9	- 2.0
Nonferrous metal products	8	1,581	1,563	+ 10.1	- 0.8	83,089	83,911	+ 17.6	- 1.0
Machinery (except electrical)	45	8,962	8,797	- 14.6	+ 1.9	470,084	431,260	- 10.1	+ 9.0
Other manufacturing	18	12,250	10,636	- 26.2	+ 15.2	579,197	513,995	- 17.9	+ 12.7
NONMANUFACTURING									
Crude petroleum production	43	7,231	7,360	+ 14.7	- 1.8	425,554	437,572	+ 14.1	- 2.7
Dyeing and cleaning	10	349	338	+ 16.1	+ 3.3	11,523	11,162	+ 27.6	+ 3.2
Hotels	19	2,753	2,743	+ 0.8	+ 0.4	63,760†	61,967†	+ 7.3	+ 2.9
Insurance	104	2,072	2,044	+ 19.3	+ 1.4	88,339	87,837	+ 27.4	+ 0.6
Laundries	10	482	477	- 4.8	+ 1.0	11,325	11,027	+ 5.1	+ 2.7
Public utilities	234	7,560	7,407	+ 30.2	+ 2.1	340,291	315,575	+ 36.1	+ 7.8
Quarrying	14	1,623	1,628	+ 12.3	- 0.3	78,228	80,957	+ 14.7	- 3.4
Retail trade	406	15,399	15,010	+ 14.8	+ 2.6	422,064	416,268	+ 27.2	+ 1.4
Wholesale trade	129	3,536	3,520	+ 9.2	+ 0.5	150,115	152,560	+ 44.6	- 1.6

*Does not include proprietors, firm members, officers of corporations, or other principal executives. Manufacturing employment comprises production and related workers; nonmanufacturing employment comprises all employees.
 †Cash payments only; the additional value of board, room, and tips cannot be computed.

HOURS AND EARNINGS*

Source: Bureau of Business Research in co-operation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics,
U. S. Department of Labor

Industrial group	Average weekly hours		Average hourly earnings (in cents)		Average weekly earnings (in dollars)		Percent change Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945		
	Oct. 1946	Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946	Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946	Oct. 1945	Weekly hours	Hourly earnings	Weekly earnings
	MANUFACTURING								
Food products	46.7	48.6	77.7	70.0	36.29	34.02	- 3.9	+ 11.0	+ 6.7
Textiles	42.9	43.2	86.0	73.0	36.89	31.54	- 0.7	+ 17.8	+ 17.0
Apparel	37.0	37.0	68.1	60.3	25.20	22.31	0.0	+ 12.9	+ 13.0
Finished lumber products	48.9	45.9	65.2	67.3	31.88	30.89	+ 6.5	- 3.1	+ 3.2
Forest products	46.4	46.4	76.7	65.1	35.59	30.21	0.0	+ 17.8	+ 17.8
Paper products	40.5	44.5	90.7	81.7	36.73	36.86	- 9.0	+ 11.0	+ 1.0
Printing and publishing	40.5	44.1	118.0	112.5	47.79	49.61	- 8.2	+ 4.9	- 3.7
Commercial products	46.3	47.6	110.2	92.9	51.02	44.22	- 2.7	+ 18.6	+ 15.4
Petroleum refining	40.2	35.7	141.2	123.0	56.76	43.91	+ 12.6	+ 14.8	+ 29.3
Stone and clay products	42.0	49.5	86.1	71.3	36.16	35.29	- 15.2	+ 20.8	+ 2.5
Iron and steel products	42.6	44.9	103.4	90.6	44.05	40.68	- 5.1	+ 14.1	+ 8.3
Nonferrous metal products	44.5	45.6	118.9	101.5	52.91	46.28	- 2.4	+ 17.1	+ 14.3
Machinery (except electrical)	44.7	46.1	109.2	106.0	48.81	48.87	- 3.0	+ 3.0	- 0.1
Other manufacturing	37.8	39.1	125.0	118.2	47.25	46.22	- 3.3	+ 5.8	+ 2.2
NONMANUFACTURING									
Crude petroleum production	41.1	46.0	145.7	117.0	59.88	53.82	- 10.7	+ 24.5	+ 11.3
Dyeing and cleaning	47.5	49.7	68.2	71.6	32.40	35.59	- 4.4	- 4.7	- 9.0
Hotels	45.3	44.9	37.9	35.3	17.17	15.85	- 0.9	+ 7.4	+ 8.3
Laundries	46.4	45.1	47.2	43.9	21.90	19.80	+ 2.9	+ 7.5	+ 10.6
Public utilities	41.8	42.8	109.9	86.0	45.94	36.81	- 2.3	+ 27.8	+ 24.8
Quarrying	40.4	45.4	119.4	100.6	48.24	45.67	- 11.0	+ 18.7	+ 5.6
Retail trade	39.0	41.1	74.6	67.3	29.09	27.66	- 5.1	+ 10.8	+ 5.2
Wholesale trade	44.8	45.6	93.1	77.7	41.71	35.43	- 1.8	+ 19.8	+ 17.7

*Figures do not cover proprietors, firm members, officers of corporations, or other principal executives. Manufacturing data cover production and related workers; nonmanufacturing data cover all employees.

dustrial groups reported increases in average hours worked in October 1946 over October 1945—finished lumber products (6.5%) and petroleum refining (12.6%). All the other manufacturing groups reported either no changes or decreases in the average number of hours worked. The most notable decreases in weekly hours for the same period occurred in stone and clay products (15.2%), paper products (9.0%), and printing and publishing (8.2%).

In the nonmanufacturing group 4 of the industries worked over 42 hours a week and the other 4 industries reported a work week of less than 42 hours. Compared with October 1945, all the nonmanufacturing groups reported a shorter work week this year except laundries, which reported an increase of 2.9% over last year's average weekly hours.

Hourly earnings between October 1945 and October 1946 increased in all manufacturing and nonmanufacturing groups except finished lumber products (3.1% less) and dyeing and cleaning (4.7% less).

Weekly take-home pay showed a general increase in all industries in both the manufacturing and nonmanufacturing groups. The only decreases in weekly earnings occurred in printing and publishing (3.7%), machinery, except electrical (0.1%), and dyeing and cleaning (9.0%).

Man-hours

(The reports which the Bureau receives on employment include every employee who worked any part of the week. This means that changes in the number of employees in an industry do not always measure the changes in the volume of output. Changes in the number of man-hours worked, however, are closely associated

with the rate of manufacturing activity, and may be used as a measure of the volume of production.)

Total man-hours worked in 416 establishments were down only 2.3% in October 1946 as compared to October 1945. However, between September and October 1946 total man-hours worked were up 1.5%. This gain in man-hours worked stems from a general rise in the number employed, since average hours per employee were nearly unchanged.

MAN-HOURS WORKED IN IDENTICAL MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS

Source: Bureau of Business Research in co-operation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

Industrial group	Number of reporting establishments	Percent change	
		Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
TOTAL	416	- 2.3	+ 1.5
Food products	101	-17.6	- 1.7
Textiles	12	+12.9	+ 0.2
Apparel	23	+ 3.6	+ 1.6
Finished lumber products	21	+17.9	+ 1.6
Forest products	14	+ 1.9	- 0.2
Paper products	8	+ 0.3	+ 2.0
Printing and publishing	24	+27.2	- 1.7
Commercial products	58	+ 1.3	+ 2.0
Petroleum refining	34	+19.7	- 3.8
Stone and clay products	31	+18.3	-12.1
Iron and steel products	29	+ 8.6	- 1.4
Nonferrous metals	7	+ 6.0	+ 1.1
Machinery (except electrical)	39	-15.0	+ 9.6
Other manufacturing	15	-25.8	+15.5

Man-hours worked in food products (down 17.6%), machinery (down 15.0%), and other manufacturing (down 25.8%) were below comparable 1945 figures, while all the other industrial groups reported increases in man-hours worked between October 1945 and October 1946, ranging from 0.3% (paper products) to 27.2% (printing and publishing).

Industrial Relations

(Although no statistical data are available on industrial disputes in Texas, a knowledge of current developments in industrial relations is necessary to an understanding of the State's labor picture.)

Following a 16-day maritime strike in September, a new and equally serious maritime strike began October 1 and continued until October 28, paralyzing Texas port activity. Although the national strike was settled October 28, unions in Houston and Galveston rebelled against this settlement, and full port activity had not been resumed by the end of the month.

As October ended, workers at two cement plants in Texas continued a strike begun 20 days earlier, while the United States Conciliation Service attempted a settlement. Air transportation in Texas was affected by a strike of Trans-World Airlines pilots, who were out when the month ended. The three-weeks' strike of workers at a San Antonio flour mill ended October 5.

A court decision of interest during October was that of the Fifth Court of Civil Appeals upholding the constitutionality of a Dallas city ordinance prohibiting city employees from joining labor unions. If this ruling is upheld, it will greatly restrict union organization in local government activities in Texas.

The C. I. O. made news with its 10th Annual Texas State Industrial Union Council convention in Austin, where it was announced that 200 Texas plants were on its "organization waiting list." Later the union's State headquarters announced that it had won 36 elections in its "operation Texas" from May 15 to date.

NONAGRICULTURAL CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

Source: State Employment Service, Texas Unemployment Compensation Commission

Area	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Percent change	
			Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946	
TOTAL	1,316,303	1,319,497	- 0.3	
Abilene	18,552	18,666	- 0.6	
Amarillo	27,550	27,700	- 0.6	
Austin	43,602	43,403	+ 0.5	
Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange	85,770	86,538	- 0.9	
Brownsville	12,875	12,590	+ 2.3	
Corpus Christi	50,400	53,500	- 5.8	
Dallas	211,735	210,475	+ 0.6	
El Paso	49,050	48,950	+ 0.2	
Fort Worth	124,900	122,400	+ 2.0	
Galveston-Texas City	51,800	51,300	+ 1.0	
Houston-Baytown	305,250	305,200	+ 0.02	
Longview	21,550	21,400	+ 0.7	
Lubbock	25,130	25,190	- 0.2	
San Antonio	167,000	170,800	- 2.2	
Texarkana	41,500	41,500	0.0	
Waco	46,000	46,000	0.0	
Wichita Falls	33,639	33,885	- 0.7	

Labor Force

(Estimates of the nonagricultural civilian labor force are made currently for the State's 17 principal labor market areas by the Texas State Employment Service. Labor force data, indicating the total supply of labor in these areas, include all employed workers, as well as all others who are available for jobs and who are willing and able to work.)

The slight drop in the State's nonagricultural civilian labor force of 0.3% between September and October of this year was due to the exodus of workers from the labor force for educational purposes, according to the Texas State Employment Service. Eight of the 17 cities included in the State estimate showed increases in their labor force, 7 showed decreases, and 2 no change between the two months. Principal gains were recorded in Brownsville (2.3%) and Fort Worth (2.0%); principal losses occurred in San Antonio (2.2%) and Corpus Christi (5.8%). Other gains and losses for the month were within the range of plus and minus 1%.

Placements

(The number of placements reported by the State Employment Service indicates roughly the relationship of the supply of and the demand for jobs in various parts of the State. Placements do not include private placements in business and industry, but only those made through the State Employment Service. Furthermore, the number of placements made should not be considered as additions to total employment, since many of them represent shifts from one job to another.)

Placements reported by the Texas State Employment Service for 17 areas totaled 26,162 in October, a gain of 3.0% over September 1946 and 12.0% over October 1945. Last year when Texas was in the first throes of reconversion placements fell 8.8% between September and October.

Among the leading cities of the State there was considerable variation in the number of placements this fall. Eleven cities reported more placements in October than September, and six reported fewer. The same ratio of increases and decreases among the 17 cities appeared in the October 1945-October 1946 comparisons.

PLACEMENTS IN EMPLOYMENT

Source: State Employment Service, Texas Unemployment Compensation Commission

Area	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945	Percent change	
				Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
TOTAL	26,162	25,388	23,368	+12.0	+ 3.0
Abilene	779	669	561	+38.9	+16.4
Amarillo	769	717	516	+49.0	+ 7.3
Austin	1,057	909	512	+106.4	+16.3
Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange	2,609	2,324	1,746	+49.4	+12.3
Brownsville	116	171	326	-64.4	-32.2
Corpus Christi	479	659	449	+ 6.7	-27.3
Dallas	4,752	4,660	3,557	+33.6	+ 2.0
El Paso	958	813	1,209	-20.8	+17.8
Fort Worth	3,761	3,270	3,079	+22.2	+15.0
Galveston-Texas City	740	1,154	1,115	-33.6	-35.9
Houston-Baytown	5,163	4,764	5,478	- 5.8	+ 8.4
Longview	659	605	473	+39.3	+ 8.9
Lubbock	308	468	675	+19.7	+72.6
San Antonio	1,843	2,345	2,017	- 8.6	-21.4
Texarkana	610	705	790	-22.8	-13.5
Waco	595	745	409	+45.5	-20.1
Wichita Falls	464	410	436	+ 6.4	+13.2

Unemployment

(Estimates of unemployment in various areas of the State are currently made by the Texas State Employment Service. Data on the payment of unemployment benefits also provide a rough measure of unemployment in Texas, although only employees in establishments employing 8 or more workers for 20 or more weeks per year are covered. Veterans' claim actions and disbursements are less inclusive, but throw light on the important problem of veteran re-employment.)

Unemployment in the State's 17 principal labor markets during October was estimated at 78,366 by the State Employment Service of the Texas Unemployment Compensation Commission. This figure represented a decrease of 8,014 or 9.3% for the month, but an increase of 17.7% over October 1945. Last year between September and October unemployment soared 33.5% on the first wave of reconversion. Only 3 of the 17 cities covered in the State report had more unemployment in October than September this year; they were El Paso

(up 4.7%), Galveston-Texas City (up 8.7%), and Brownsville (up 16.0%).

The amount of *benefits* paid out by the Texas Unemployment Compensation Commission declined in October for the fifth consecutive month. October 1946 payments of \$705,811 left a balance of \$157,160,636 in the Unemployment Trust Fund. Employers' contributions during the month were \$2,155,008, which was approximately three times the size of disbursements.

There were only 4,848 applications for veterans benefits filed in October 1946 as compared to 7,103 applications in September 1946. This brings the yearly total to 222,140 claims filed—and the total to date to 304,553 claims that have been filed by veterans for benefit payments.

GOVERNMENT

Federal Finance

(Federal collections of income, pay roll, and excise taxes vary directly with the level of business prosperity. During the war period federal taxation has likewise become an important determinant of general business activity.)

Federal internal revenue collections in Texas in October amounted to \$58,469,523, or 5.5% below the collections in October 1945. The principal decrease was in the income tax withheld, and the most probable explanation for this is the lowering of the income tax rates by the Revenue Act of 1945. Social Security collections were above those of the corresponding month last year, reflecting a larger volume of employment.

The First (or South Texas) District, with collections of \$29,597,769, showed a decrease of 10.7% from October 1945, while the Second (or North Texas) District had an increase of 0.4%, although in the Second District the amount of income tax withheld decreased 8.5%.

Estate taxes, excise, and other collections were 6.5% below those of October 1945.

Total collections in Texas for the first four months of the current fiscal year were 5.1% below those of the corresponding period last year, but those of the income tax, other than that withheld, were ahead 1.2%, and Social Security taxes were 6.9% more. Income tax

UNEMPLOYMENT

Source: State Employment Service, Texas Unemployment Compensation Commission

Area	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945
TOTAL	78,366	86,380	66,570
Abilene	1,026	1,480	650
Amarillo	1,100	1,300	350
Austin	2,651	2,750	1,372
Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange	8,025	8,300	3,850
Brownsville	1,525	1,315	585
Corpus Christi	2,700	2,800	2,357
Dallas	8,000	9,000	13,500
El Paso	2,250	2,150	1,700
Fort Worth	8,500	9,000	7,500
Galveston-Texas City	2,500	2,300	1,150
Houston-Baytown	17,000	18,000	9,500
Longview	1,750	1,900	2,100
Lubbock	900	1,200	545
San Antonio	10,000	14,000	9,523
Texarkana	5,500	5,500	7,965
Waco	3,300	3,300	2,500
Wichita Falls	1,639	2,085	1,423

FEDERAL INTERNAL REVENUE COLLECTIONS

Source: Office of the Collector, Internal Revenue Service, Treasury Department

District	October			July 1-Oct. 31		
	1946	1945	Percent change	1946-47	1945-46	Percent change
TEXAS	\$ 58,469,523	\$ 61,894,051	- 5.5	\$289,479,282	\$305,005,815	- 5.1
Income	12,604,719	4,007,624	+11.9	142,527,082	140,789,066	+ 1.2
Employment	4,483,509	4,007,624	+11.9	15,956,666	14,921,432	+ 6.9
Withholding	29,878,879	33,098,877	- 9.7	83,859,506	95,255,753	-12.0
Other	11,502,416	12,306,501	- 6.5	47,136,028	54,039,564	-12.8
FIRST DISTRICT	29,597,769	33,140,657	-10.7	148,731,149	162,494,012	- 8.5
Income	6,238,617	7,453,915	-16.3	74,110,590	76,201,120	- 2.7
Employment	2,464,503	2,227,702	+10.6	7,641,301	7,730,526	- 1.2
Withholding	14,978,041	16,819,153	-10.9	43,605,203	50,302,001	-14.2
Other	5,916,608	6,639,837	-10.9	23,374,055	27,760,365	-15.8
SECOND DISTRICT	28,871,754	28,753,394	+ 0.4	140,748,133	142,511,303	- 1.2
Income	6,366,102	5,027,134	+26.6	68,416,492	64,587,946	+ 5.9
Employment	2,019,006	1,779,922	+13.4	8,315,365	7,190,906	+15.6
Withholding	14,900,838	16,279,724	- 8.5	40,254,303	44,453,752	- 9.4
Other	5,585,808	5,666,614	- 1.4	23,761,973	26,279,199	- 9.6

withholdings were down 12%, and all other collections had a decrease of 12.8%.

State Finance

(Statistics on State finance are closely connected with changes in the level of business activity. State occupation, production, use, and sales taxes and license fees vary directly with changing business conditions.)

Total cash receipts of the State, as reported by the State Comptroller, were \$33,064,207 in October, as compared with \$30,337,760 in September. For the first two months of the current fiscal year collections were \$63,401,969, or 25.6% above receipts for the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year. Total revenue receipts, which from the taxpayers' viewpoint are more significant than total cash receipts, were \$30,815,472 in October, as compared with \$25,055,435 in September. For the first two months of the current fiscal year revenue receipts were \$55,870,907, a gain of 31.5% over the amount for the comparable period of the previous fiscal year.

October is the month when 1946 payments may begin on State property and poll taxes, and the increase in October over September is attributable mainly to payments of these taxes. The current fiscal year is the first in the 110 years of Texas' existence, both as a Republic and as a State, when a property tax for general revenue purposes has not been levied. The property taxes levied by the State this year are for the public free schools and for Confederate pensions.

The main support of the State Treasury continues to come from the gross production and selective sales taxes. Motor fuel, crude oil, liquor, and cigarette taxes are in that order the leading indirect tax sources, and all of these show an increase over a year ago. In October the receipts from the direct taxes (general property, inheritance, and poll) amounted to \$3,344,909; from production, gross receipts, and general occupation taxes, \$6,886,466; from sales and use taxes, \$9,204,115; from

license fees and maintenance taxes, \$619,797; income from public lands and buildings, \$915,119; from interest, \$1,057,972; from miscellaneous sources, \$442,106; from federal aid, \$6,315,963; from unemployment compensation taxes, \$1,922,908; from Teachers' Retirement contributions, \$94,753; and from donations, \$11,464. Nonrevenue receipts (redemption of securities, counties' payments on highway bonds, and gasoline tax refunds) totaled \$4,248,737.

The General Revenue Fund had a net balance of \$35,506,760 on October 31. This was an all-time high for this fund. It is to be compared with a net balance of \$13,887,199 on October 31, 1945. In the State Highway Fund the balance was \$23,282,360. The Confederate Pension Fund had a balance of \$2,516,366, and it is predicted that this amount will be adequate for all future demands upon this fund and consequently that no tax upon property need be levied hereafter for the benefit of this fund. The total of the net balances for the 171 different funds maintained by the State Treasury was \$122,733,590 on October 31, 1946, as compared with a total of \$81,262,870 on October 31, 1945.

PRICES

Wholesale Prices

(Changes in the prices of commodities are of fundamental importance to businessmen, since the level of prices has an important effect on profits. The index of wholesale prices compiled by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics is the most comprehensive measure of price changes published in the United States.)

The index of wholesale prices on a nation-wide basis for September fell 4.0% from its August level, but was 17.9% above September 1945 and 24.0% above the 1926 base period, according to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. During September this year the unusually large decreases in the prices of farm products and foods were more than enough to offset the slight (0.5%) advance in other prices. All prices were substantially higher in September this year than last. Leaders in the 12-month advance were farm products (24.1%), textile products (25.6%), and foods (25.7%). Biggest gains over 1926 were made by lumber (78.2%), foods (54.3%), and hides and leather products (41.6%).

CASH RECEIPTS OF STATE COMPTROLLER

Source: State Comptroller of Public Accounts

Item	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1-Oct. 31		Percent change
		1946-47	1945-46	
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS	\$33,064,201	\$63,401,969	\$50,459,817	+25.6
TOTAL REVENUE RECEIPTS	30,815,472	55,870,907	42,475,664	+31.5
Ad valorem, inheritance, and poll taxes	441,965	532,726	486,843	+ 9.4
Occupation, gross receipts, and production taxes	6,886,466	10,947,072	8,377,954	+30.7
Use and sales tax	9,204,115	18,000,529	14,586,297	+23.4
License fees and maintenance taxes	619,797	1,153,564	946,488	+21.9
Income from public lands and buildings	915,119	1,821,274	1,283,371	+41.9
Interest	1,057,972	1,734,051	1,836,931	- 5.6
Miscellaneous revenues	3,344,950	5,692,459	5,870,716	- 3.0
Contributions and aid	8,345,088	15,989,232	9,087,064	+76.0
NONREVENUE RECEIPTS	2,248,737	7,531,062	7,984,153	- 5.7

INDEXES OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES

(1926=100)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

Group	Sept. 1946	Aug. 1946	Percent change	
			Sept. 1945	Sept. 1946 from Sept. 1945
ALL COMMODITIES	124.0	129.1	105.2	+17.9
Farm products	154.3	161.0	124.3	+24.1
Foods	131.9	149.0	104.9	+25.7
Hides and leather products	141.6	138.9	118.7	+19.3
Textile products	125.7	123.6	100.1	+25.6
Building materials	133.8	132.7	118.0	+13.4
Cement	106.5	105.8	99.6	+ 6.9
Lumber	178.2	177.6	155.0	+15.0
All commodities other than farm products	117.2	121.9	100.9	+16.2
All commodities other than farm products and foods	112.2	111.6	99.8	+12.4

Further advances in wholesale prices were reported during October to bring the increase in all commodities to 19.1% since June 29 when price controls were first relaxed. Uncontrolled commodities jumped 34.8% during this period; controlled prices rose 5.8%. The first weeks of November saw a fractional decline in wholesale prices. Fears were generally expressed that the prices of many items, such as farm products, real estate, and construction were becoming dangerously out of line.

Consumers' Prices

(All income figures must be used in connection with a measure of changes in consumers' prices, since the purchasing power of income is more significant than the aggregate amount in dollars. The increasing cost of living, as measured by indexes of consumers' prices, is of vital importance to all businessmen and consumers. The Bureau of Labor Statistics warns users of the index that it shows only partially the wartime effects of changes in the quality and availability of consumer goods.)

Consumers' prices in Houston edged upward during October 0.8% over September to stand 43.9% higher than in the prewar period. Food prices picked up the same amount (0.8%) in October over September but had risen 74.7% since before the war.

The monthly increases in food prices and all consumers' prices in Houston did not keep pace with national gains. In the nation's largest cities food prices increased 3.4% and the prices of all consumer items 1.7%. Compared with the 1935-39 period, food prices were up 80.0% nationally and all consumer goods and services had climbed 48.4%.

In Dallas the prices of food advanced 2.3% from mid-September to Mid-October to bring the over-all increase since the prewar years to 77% in that city.

Rent controls were imposed in Corsicana, Abilene, Alice, Palestine, and Vernon during October effective November 1. In other parts of the State a landlords' strike against the OPA was brewing or was actually in progress on a limited scale. Even the retention of the controls on rents, sugar, and rice was resented in many quarters. Decontrol brought November advances in the prices of clothing, soap, automobiles, and many other items not only in Texas but elsewhere. Although there was little evidence in the State of an organized consumer resistance to higher prices, there was little doubt that Texas consumers were becoming very price-conscious and merchants began to wonder about the failure of fall sales to come up to seasonal expectations.

INDEXES OF CONSUMERS' PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES
(1935-39=100)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

Group	Percent change				
	Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Oct. 1945	Oct. 1946 from Sept. 1946
	ALL ITEMS	148.4	145.9	128.9	+15.1
Food	180.0	174.1	139.3	+29.2	+ 3.4
Clothing	167.0	165.9	148.5	+12.5	+ 0.7
Rent	*	108.8	*	—	—
Fuel, electricity, and ice	114.4	114.4	110.5	+ 3.5	0.0
Housefurnishings	167.6	165.6	146.9	+14.1	+ 1.2
Miscellaneous	180.8	129.9	124.7	+ 4.9	+ 0.7

*Index for rent not computed.

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FIGURES FOR THE YEAR TO DATE

	1946	January-October 1945	Percent change
TRADE			
Retail sales of reporting independent stores, total.....	\$341,696,472	\$264,073,826	+ 29.4
Apparel stores.....	\$ 65,828,384	\$ 54,872,273	+ 20.0
Automotive dealers.....	\$ 42,777,952	\$ 22,737,343	+ 88.1
Country general stores.....	\$ 6,851,662	\$ 5,761,567	+ 18.9
Department stores.....	\$124,381,902	\$100,705,102	+ 23.5
Drug stores.....	\$ 8,585,880	\$ 7,692,118	+ 11.6
General merchandise stores.....	\$ 5,676,738	\$ 5,254,988	+ 8.0
Filling stations.....	\$ 2,971,875	\$ 2,290,663	+ 29.7
Florists.....	\$ 1,294,374	\$ 1,123,238	+ 15.2
Food stores.....	\$ 21,180,188	\$ 18,088,232	+ 17.1
Furniture-household stores.....	\$ 17,978,244	\$ 11,869,687	+ 51.5
Jewelry stores.....	\$ 3,701,696	\$ 2,958,556	+ 25.1
Lumber, building materials, and hardware stores.....	\$ 28,593,858	\$ 19,941,760	+ 43.4
Restaurants.....	\$ 7,845,883	\$ 7,274,355	+ 7.9
Ratio of credit sales to net sales in department and apparel stores (monthly average).....	48.5%	42.3%	+ 14.7
Ratio of collections to outstandings in department and apparel stores (monthly average).....	66.0%	66.9%	- 1.3
Postal receipts in reporting cities.....	\$ 25,866,154	\$ 25,386,684	+ 1.9
PRODUCTION			
Lumber production in southern pine mills (weekly per unit average in board feet).....	188,429	193,503	- 2.6
Cotton consumption (running bales).....	182,268	159,202	+ 14.5
Cotton linters consumed (running bales).....	20,942	14,239	+ 47.1
Cotton spinning activity (average spindle hours per spindle).....	386	361	+ 6.9
Cottonseed crushed (tons).....	439,739	686,114	- 35.9
Cement (barrels).....	8,989,000	6,410,000	+ 40.2
Manufacture of dairy products (1,000 lbs., milk equivalent).....	817,532	998,166	- 18.1
Man-hours worked in reporting manufacturing establishments (April-October total).....	21,221,722	29,401,625	- 27.8
Crude oil runs to stills (42-gallon barrels) <i>(than bbls)</i>	427,243	416,752	+ 2.5
Building permits issued in reporting cities.....	\$221,455,951	\$ 91,433,927	+142.2
Construction contracts awarded.....	\$383,123,477	\$ 19,407,069	+100.2
Construction contracts awarded for residential building.....	\$ 89,151,215	\$ 16,229,789	+449.3
Number of loans made by savings and loan associations.....	22,124	13,682	+ 61.7
Amount of loans made by savings and loan associations.....	\$ 81,621,170	\$ 37,458,040	+117.9
Industrial electric power consumption for 10 companies (thousands of kilowatt hours).....	2,266,518	2,681,830	- 15.5
Crude petroleum production (daily average in barrels).....	2,079,725	2,103,060	- 1.1
AGRICULTURE			
Farm cash income (thousands).....	\$ 1,018,980	\$ 915,047	+ 11.4
Shipment of livestock (carloads).....	96,213	99,418	- 3.2
Rail shipments of poultry (carloads).....	446	231	+ 93.1
Rail shipments of eggs (shell equivalent).....	4,702	7,116	- 33.9
Interstate receipt of eggs at Texas stations (shell equivalent).....	371	668	- 44.5
FINANCE			
Bank debits in 20 cities (thousands of dollars).....	\$ 24,798,439	\$ 20,841,534	+ 19.0
Corporation charters issued (number).....	2,757	749	+268.1
Ordinary life insurance sales.....	\$654,094,000	\$362,870,000	+ 80.3
Business failures (number).....	6	5	+ 20.0
TRANSPORTATION			
Revenue freight loaded in Southwestern District (carloads).....	2,701,314	3,044,156	- 11.3
Export and coastal cars unloaded at Texas ports.....	111,991	81,577	+ 37.3
Miscellaneous freight carloadings in Southwestern District.....	1,580,927	1,935,459	- 18.3
Air express shipments (number).....	205,798	128,924	+ 59.6
LABOR			
Total manufacturing employment (monthly average).....	340,770	375,910	- 9.3
GOVERNMENT			
Cash receipts of State Comptroller*.....	\$ 63,401,969	\$ 50,459,817	+ 25.6
Federal internal revenue collections†.....	\$289,479,282	\$305,005,815	- 5.1
PRICES			
Index of consumers prices in Houston (monthly average; 1935-39=100).....	138.0	127.3	+ 8.4
Index of food prices in Houston (monthly average; 1935-39=100).....	163.4	139.8	+ 16.9

*State fiscal year to date—September 1—October 31.

†Federal fiscal year to date—July 1—October 31.

BAROMETERS OF TEXAS BUSINESS

