

ANNUAL ISSUE

TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW

A MONTHLY SUMMARY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN TEXAS

BUREAU OF BUSINESS RESEARCH
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

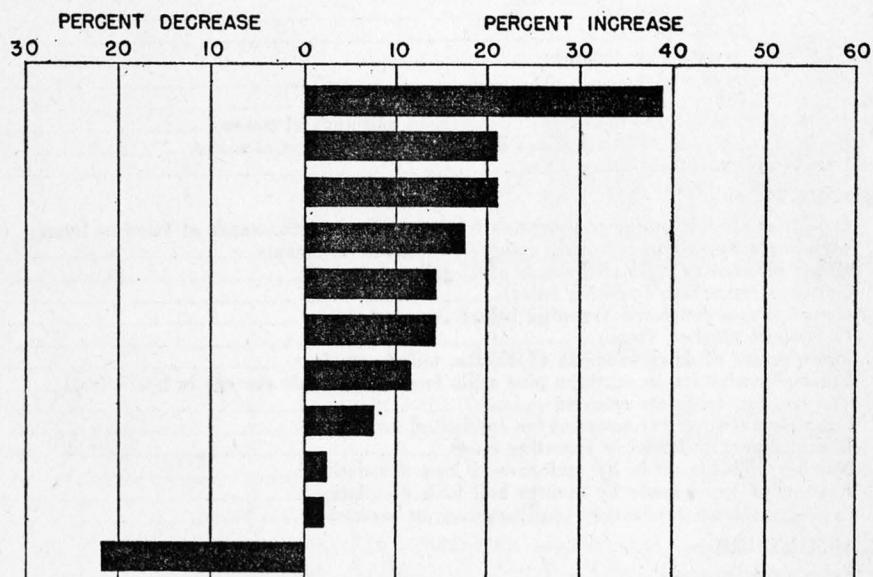
VOL. XXI, NO. 12

JANUARY 1948

HIGHLIGHTS OF TEXAS BUSINESS

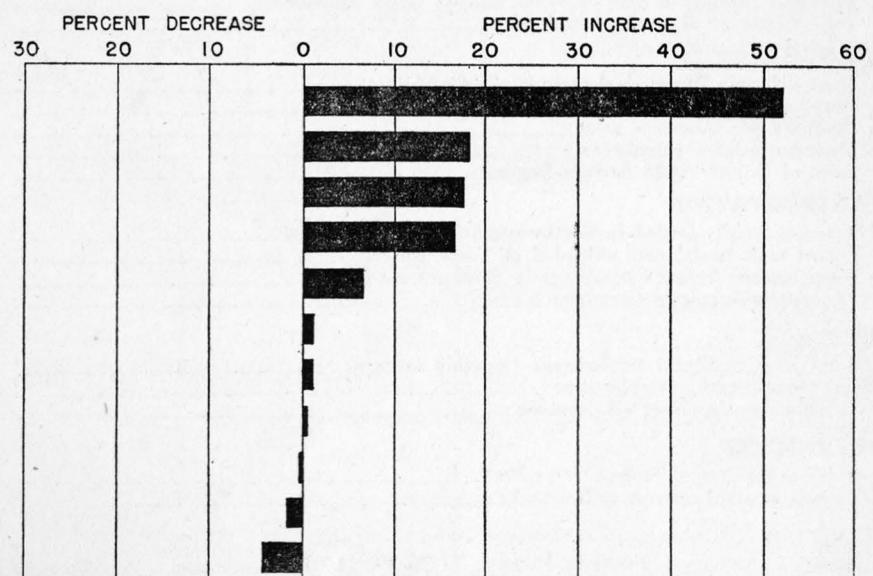
DECEMBER 1947 COMPARED
WITH DECEMBER 1946

- Construction contracts
Bank debits
Retail sales
Crude petroleum production
Postal receipts
Electric power consumption
Pay rolls
Life insurance sales
Revenue freight loaded
Employment
Cotton consumption



DECEMBER 1947 COMPARED
WITH NOVEMBER 1947

- Postal receipts
Retail sales
Life insurance sales
Bank debits
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Employment
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Crude petroleum production
Electric power consumption
Construction contracts
Revenue freight loaded



TWENTY CENTS PER COPY

TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR

FIGURES FOR THE YEAR

TRADE

	1947	1946	Percent change
Estimated retail sales, total	\$4,685,601,000	\$4,142,748,000	+ 13.1
Durable goods, total	\$1,610,965,000	\$1,214,846,000	+ 32.6
Automotive stores	736,541,000	525,499,000	+ 40.2
Lumber, building materials, and hardware stores	657,349,000	474,434,000	+ 38.6
Furniture—household appliance stores	167,340,000	164,421,000	+ 1.8
Jewelry stores	49,735,000	50,492,000	- 1.5
Nondurable goods, total	\$3,074,636,000	\$2,927,902,000	+ 5.0
Apparel	354,442,000	314,167,000	+ 12.8
Country general	75,085,000	69,008,000	+ 8.8
Department stores	375,152,000	365,672,000	+ 2.6
Eating and drinking places	306,447,000	290,020,000	+ 5.7
Filling stations	317,766,000	347,823,000	- 8.6
Food	941,794,000	864,145,000	+ 9.0
General merchandise	218,430,000	210,648,000	+ 3.7
Drug stores	236,579,000	229,358,000	+ 3.1
Other	248,941,000	237,061,000	+ 5.0
Ratio of credit sales to net sales in department and apparel stores	57.2%	51.9%	+ 10.2
Ratio of collections to outstandings in department and apparel stores	57.0%	63.0%	- 9.5
Postal receipts in reporting cities	\$ 33,583,765	\$ 31,538,756	+ 6.5

PRODUCTION

Industrial electric power consumption for 10 companies (thousands of kilowatt hours)	3,300,136	2,961,949	+ 11.4
Man-hours worked in reporting manufacturing establishments	32,603,028	29,146,933	+ 11.9
Crude oil runs to stills (thousands of 42-gallon barrels)	527,580	511,296	+ 3.2
Cotton consumption (running bales)	168,874	217,362	- 22.3
Cotton linters consumed (running bales)	21,594	25,058	- 13.8
Cottonseed crushed (tons)	854,413	653,989	+ 30.6
Manufacture of dairy products (1,000 lbs. milk equivalent)	809,473	841,120	- 3.8
Lumber production in southern pine mills (weekly per unit average in board feet)	212,217	189,464	+ 12.0
Construction contracts awarded	\$ 646,848,713	\$ 455,746,429	+ 41.9
Construction contracts awarded for residential building	\$ 290,632,620	\$ 127,347,608	+ 128.2
Building permits issued in reporting cities	\$ 321,389,332	\$ 244,869,985	+ 31.2
Number of loans made by savings and loan associations	22,376	25,436	- 12.0
Amount of loans made by savings and loan associations	\$ 97,523,751	\$ 93,882,776	+ 3.9
Crude petroleum production (daily average in barrels)	2,227,212	2,075,367	+ 7.3

AGRICULTURE

Farm cash income	\$ 1,838,387,000	\$ 1,248,870,000	+ 47.2
Shipments of livestock (carloads)	110,891	117,004	- 5.2
Rail shipments of eggs (shell equivalent)	2,538	4,817	- 47.3
Interstate receipts of eggs at Texas stations (shell equivalent)	374	526	- 28.9
Rail shipments of poultry (carloads)	619	961	- 35.6

FINANCE

Bank debits in 20 cities (thousands of dollars)	\$ 36,209,166	\$ 30,632,534	+ 18.2
Corporation charters issued (number)	3,247	3,183	+ 2.0
Ordinary life insurance sales	\$ 682,389,000	\$ 716,592,000	- 4.8
Business failures (number)	55	9	+ 511.1
Sales of United States Savings Bonds	\$ 202,896,124	\$ 217,056,629	- 6.5

TRANSPORTATION

Revenue freight loaded in Southwestern District (carloads)	3,477,767	3,250,669	+ 7.0
Export and coastal cars unloaded at Texas ports	209,757	140,057	+ 49.8
Miscellaneous freight carloadings in Southwestern District	2,070,209	1,907,528	+ 8.5
Air express shipments (number)	316,909	266,160	+ 19.1

LABOR

Total nonagricultural employment (monthly average)	1,643,959	1,580,183	+ 4.0
Manufacturing employment	334,534	308,909	+ 8.3
Nonmanufacturing employment	1,309,424	1,271,274	+ 3.0

GOVERNMENT

Revenue receipts of State Comptroller*	\$ 167,514,117	\$ 112,137,795	+ 49.4
Federal internal revenue collections†	\$ 457,072,060	\$ 411,894,806	+ 11.0

PRICES

Index of consumers' prices in Houston (1935-39 = 100)	159.8	136.3	+ 17.2
Index of food prices in Houston (1935-39 = 100)	201.2	158.4	+ 27.0

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

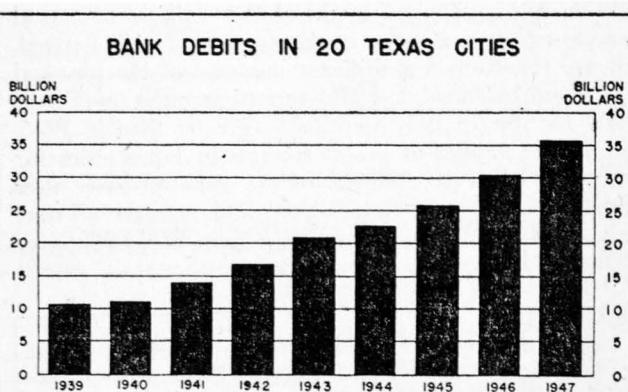
†Federal fiscal year to date—July 1—December 31.

The Business Situation in Texas in 1947

The year 1947 ended with business activity in Texas continuing the climb that has been under way since October 1945. The Bureau's composite *index of business activity* stood at 209.1 in December, the highest point reached since July 1945, when it was at 213.1 (1935-39 = 100). The December 1947 level was only 12.1% below the wartime peak of 237.9. The almost uninterrupted rise in Texas business for the past 26 months is shown in the chart below. Once, in the summer of 1946, the index fell for two consecutive months, but all the other declines were for only one month and the following month invariably reversed the trend. When the period since reconversion is viewed as a whole, the rise seems remarkably steady. The index for December 1947 was 11.1% above December 1946, which was in turn 10.0% above December 1945. Since the low point of October 1945 the index has risen 30.7%, an average increase of 1.2% per month over the 26 months. The 12 months of 1947 average 10.3% above the 12 months of 1946; this may be interpreted to mean that business for the year 1947 was approximately 10% better than for 1946. In brief, it seems beyond contradiction that 1947 witnessed the largest volume of peacetime business in the State's history.

The behavior of the Bureau's index of business activity is corroborated by the *index of bank debits* in Texas cities, compiled by the Bureau from data collected by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Debits to individual accounts in 20 Texas cities are a measure of the volume of transactions, since most business payments are made by check. For the year 1947 the dollar volume of checks was 18.2% above 1946, while for the month of December 1947 the volume was 20.9% over December 1946. This index has risen 65.6% since October 1945, which was the low point of the reconversion period in Texas business. Continuing without serious interruption, this incline represents an average increase of 2.5% per month over the 26-month period. The increase in the total has been

the result of a rising volume of business and an upward spiraling of prices, and because there is no accurate measure of the over-all increase in prices, it is impossible to compute the amount of the increase due to each of these factors. An estimate, however, indicates that somewhat more than half of the increment is due to increased prices and the remainder to an increased volume of business.



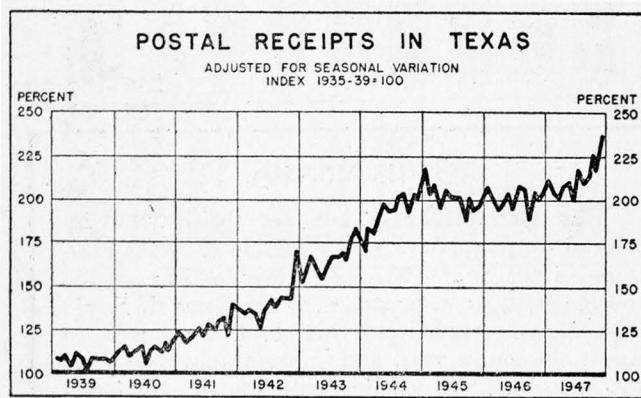
THIS MONTH

This special 32-page issue of the REVIEW includes six pages devoted exclusively to Texas business in the year 1947. The lead article on the business situation, prepared by Dr. John R. Stockton, Bureau statistician, has been broadened to cover the entire year, and appropriate charts have been inserted. In keeping with the theme of this annual edition, the center pages of the REVIEW feature local business conditions for the year 1947 as compared with 1946. Summary State and local business conditions for the month are carried in the back of this issue.

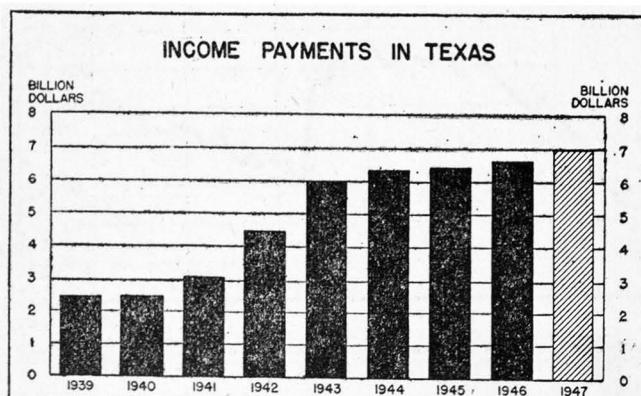


Two measures of the physical volume of business exist in the series representing *revenue freight loaded in the Southwestern District* and the volume of *postal receipts* in Texas cities. Since the volume of freight loaded is expressed in carloads, the rise in the price level has no effect. Carload movements of all revenue freight in the Southwestern District were 7.0% greater in 1947 than in 1946, and loadings of miscellaneous freight were up 8.5%.

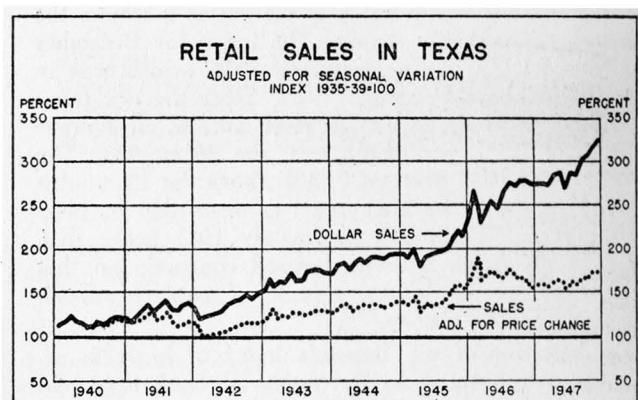
The volume of postal receipts is expressed in dollars, but since there has been no significant change in postal rates in 1947, changes in the dollar volume of postal receipts reflect variations in the amount of mail carried, and are therefore a significant measure of the physical volume of business. For the reporting cities in Texas, postal receipts in 1947 were 6.5% greater than in 1946. The Bureau's index of postal receipts in Texas cities for December 1947 was 238.9% of the 1935-39 base, after adjustment for seasonal variation. This was the all-time high for the index, representing a gain of 14.9% over December 1946.



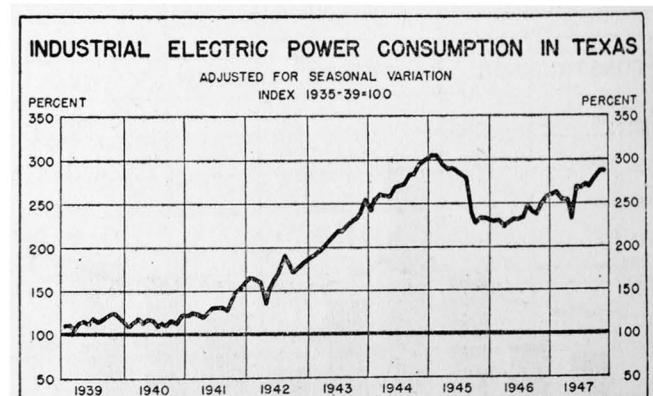
The most comprehensive measure of total business activity in the State is the data on *income payments* compiled by the United States Department of Commerce. The 1946 income payments for Texas were reported as \$6,748 million and it appears that the 1947 value of income payments will be in excess of \$7,000 million. The chart below shows the expansion in the volume of income payments from 1939 to 1946, and the estimate for 1947.



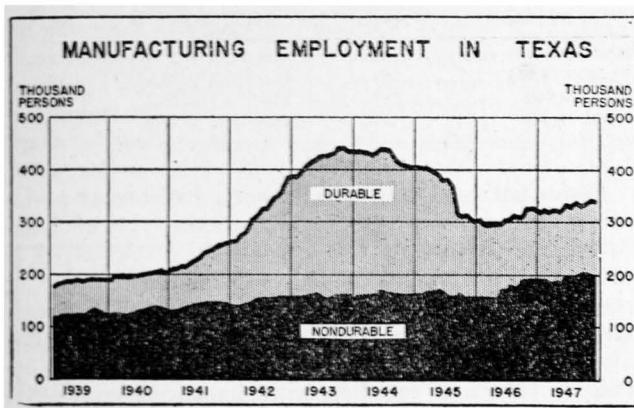
Although the volume of *retail sales* in 1947 failed to show the same gain over the preceding year that 1946 registered, the expansion of retail trade continued to be a strong factor in the upward movement of business. Retail sales were up 13.1% over 1946, bringing total 1947 sales in the State to \$4,686 million. Retail sales for 1946 increased 29.1% over 1945. In both years a considerable portion of the sales increase was the result of the rapidly rising prices of items sold in the retail stores. The 1946 rise in sales exceeded the rise in prices, but for 1947 the rising level of prices accounted for all the increase in total sales. The following chart shows two indexes of retail sales: total dollar sales and sales after adjustment for retail price changes.



The most comprehensive measure of industrial activity in Texas is the *index of industrial power consumption* compiled by the Bureau of Business Research, which in December 1947 was 286.2% of the 1935-39 base. This level was 11.3% higher than in December 1946, and the level for the year 1947 was 11.4% above 1946. During 1944 and 1945, with the munitions industries in the State operating at full capacity, the consumption of industrial power exceeded the total for 1947, but the peak year 1945 was only 3.0% above 1947, while 1944 exceeded 1947 by 1.4%. On the basis of this index, it appears safe to conclude that Texas industry operated at a level more than two and one-half times the prewar level, and by the end of the year had almost regained the wartime production peak.



The number of persons engaged in manufacturing increased 5.1% between December 1946 and December 1947, and was 82% greater than the number employed in 1939. The average number of persons employed in manufacturing during the year 1947 was 8.3% greater than the average number employed during 1946.

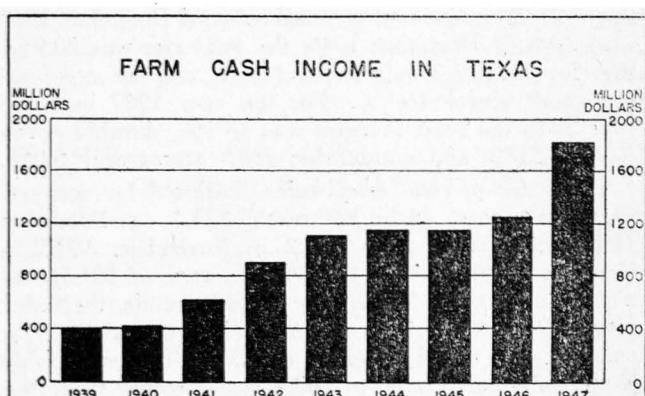


The petroleum industry exceeded its 1946 level both in production of crude and in refining. Crude oil production for 1947 was 7.3% greater than the 1946 volume, which had been above the wartime peak. The average daily production of crude is shown for each year since 1939 in the chart below. Refining, as measured by crude runs to stills, established an all-time high in December 1947. In that month the Bureau's index was 5.8% above the highest point of the war period.

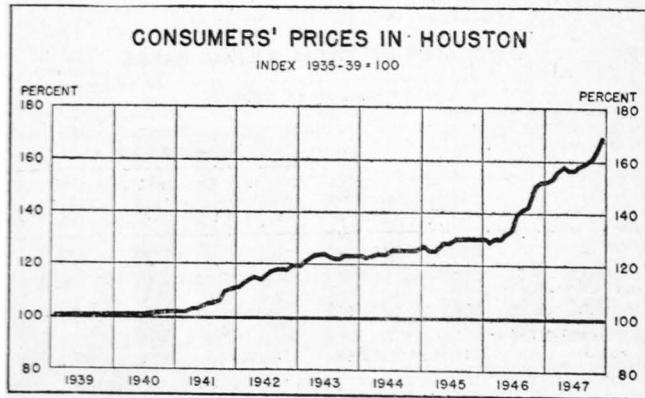
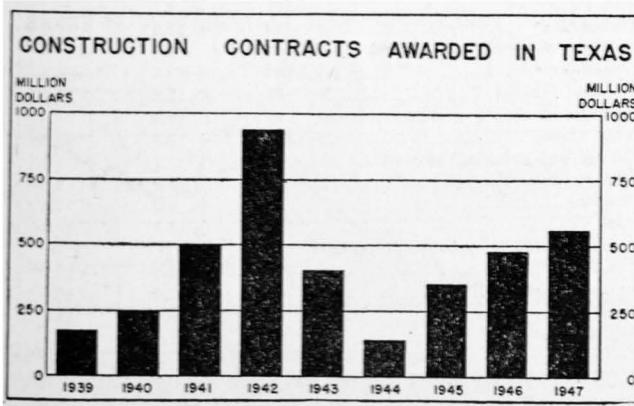
The construction industry, after a disappointing showing in 1946, began to make impressive gains in 1947. Although the volume of contracts awarded in 1946 exceeded the prewar total, it was far below the volume expected for the postwar period. On the other hand, 1947 contracts exceeded 1946 by 41.9%, and in residential building contracts were up 128.2% over 1946. Except for 1942, when the war building program dwarfed any building efforts previously made, 1947 represented an all-time peak in building construction. The chart below shows the annual volume of construction contracts since 1939. The chart of building permits on page 32 also shows the upsurge in building during 1947. Immediately following the end of the war, the volume of permits issued increased, but soon after the beginning of 1946 permits dropped sharply as build-

ing encountered numerous difficulties. Beginning with June 1947, however, another rise began which carried the index to an average level 31.2% above 1946. The highest point reached was in November, with the index 724.6% of the 1935-39 level.

Cash farm income in 1947 surpassed the record level of 1946 by 47.2%, with the value of farm products marketed totaling \$1,838 million. The prices of all farm products were approximately 20% higher at the end of 1947 than at the end of 1946, and these prices, combined with bumper crops, produced a cash income to farmers approximately 4½ times that received in 1939. The chart below shows Texas farm income from 1939 through 1947, as computed by the Bureau of Business Research from the marketings of principal farm products.



Probably more important even than the large volume of business and the high level of employment has been the rapid and persistent rise in prices that has proceeded with little interruption throughout 1947. During April and May 1947 prices showed some sign of having reached a peak, but the hesitation was brief, and for the remainder of the year the rise continued. On December 27, 1947 the weekly wholesale price index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics stood at 163.0% of the 1926 level, up 16% since December 1946. The index of consumers' prices in Houston was 169.3% of the 1935-39 level on December 15, 1947, a rise of 11.2% from a year earlier. Over the same period the price of food in Houston had risen 14.8% to a level 218.1% of the prewar base.



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. A more detailed analysis of retail sales trends is made in a Supplement to the Review on Texas Retail Trade. The fluctuations in retail credit ratios are important conditioning factors of the volume of trade. Newspaper advertising lineage and postal receipts are secondary trade indicators.)

December's estimated *retail sales* in Texas totaled \$507,917,000, an increase of 18.2% over November 1947. To this total increase, durable goods stores contributed a sales gain of 12.4% and nondurable goods stores 21.2%. Comparing retail sales of December 1947 with sales of December 1946, the total rise was 20.9%, that for durable goods stores 32.3%, and for nondurable goods stores 16.1%. For the year 1947 over the year 1946 the total increase was 13.1%, durable goods stores 32.6%, and nondurable goods stores only 5.0%.

The *index of total retail sales* (adjusted for seasonal variation) rose again to reach 325.2 in December (1935-39 = 100), from 318.2 in November, 308.5 in October, 286.9 in August, a 1947 average of 291.5, and a 1946 average of 261.8. For durable goods, the index returned to 364.8 from 349.9 in November, 369.2 in October, and a 1947 average of 320.0. The nondurable goods sales index rose to 303.4 in December from November's 300.0, October's 277.4, and a 1947 average of 275.2. Adjusted to remove the influence of price increases, the index of total retail sales rose to 175.9 in December from 172.1 in November, 166.8 in October, and 155.5 in December 1946. It was exceeded in February 1946 at 188.8.

By *kinds of business*, largest sales increases for the year 1947 over 1946 were reported for motor vehicle dealers (44.2%), lumber and building material dealers (30.4%), farm implement dealers (24.9%), and furniture and household goods stores (14.0%). Despite a strong upturn in holiday sales, jewelers slipped 10.2% below 1946 and apparel stores 2.7%.

Sales gains in percentage for December over a year ago and for the year 1947 were smallest (but at least 9.8%) in cities of 100,000 population and largest in towns under 2,500.

ESTIMATES OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES

(in thousands of dollars)

Type	Percent change					
	Dec. 1947	Jan.-Dec. 1947	Dec. 1947	Dec. 1947	Jan.-Dec. 1947	
			from Dec. 1946	from Nov. 1947	from Dec. 1946	
TOTAL	507,917	4,685,601	+20.9	+18.2	+13.1	
Durable goods stores	163,792	1,610,965	+32.3	+12.4	+32.6	
Nondurable goods stores	344,125	3,074,636	+16.1	+21.2	+ 5.0	

RETAIL SALES OF INDEPENDENT STORES BY CITY-SIZE GROUPS

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

Population	Number of reporting establishments	Percent change		
		Dec. 1947 from Dec. 1946	Dec. 1947 from Nov. 1947	Jan.-Dec. 1947 from Nov. 1947 Jan.-Dec. 1946
Over 100,000	525	+ 12.9	+ 27.8	+ 9.8
50,000-100,000	145	+ 17.0	+ 36.1	+ 11.7
2,500-50,000	587	+ 15.6	+ 22.6	+ 12.6
Under 2,500	174	+ 18.8	+ 11.0	+ 16.2

Somewhat confusing press reports indicate as probabilities for early 1948: (1) a slackening rate of dollar sales increases; (2) more noticeable slackening in unit sales; (3) vendors' prices continuing to rise or remaining firm; (4) strengthening customer resistance and insistence on quality and value; (5) increasing awareness among retailers of the need for greater operating efficiency together with improved services to customers.

The *ratio of credit sales to net sales* in 51 department and apparel stores remained relatively steady in the closing months of 1947, dropping slightly from 59.5% in November to 58.2% in December. There was a significant increase in the proportion of credit sales to the total, however, in the 12-month period from December 1946 to December 1947, for in December 1946 only 52.3% of net sales were made on credit. Among reporting cities Dallas continued to show the highest credit sales ratio (74.2%), followed by Beaumont (60.2%). Austin stores sold by far the smallest proportion (47.0%) of merchandise on credit terms. By types of stores women's specialty shops reflected the heaviest use of charge accounts, and by volume of sales the largest stores had the highest ratio of credit sales to total net sales.

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	
		Dec. 1947 from Dec. 1946	Dec. 1947 from Nov. 1947
Apparel stores	187	+ 9.1	+ 36.0
Automotive*	153	+ 21.5	+ 7.8
Building material, lumber and hardware*	204	+ 30.7	+ 2.3
Country general	64	+ 15.2	+ 11.4
Department stores	45	+ 10.8	+ 41.0
Drug stores	127	+ 0.9	+ 39.4
Eating and drinking places*	76	+ 1.7	+ 0.8
Filling stations	53	- 0.6	- 4.8
Florists	46	+ 0.3	+ 62.0
Food	189	+ 13.1	+ 12.5
Furniture and household appliance stores*	113	+ 32.4	+ 27.1
General merchandise	48	+ 16.0	+ 38.9
Jewelry stores	35	+ 16.0	+ 159.7
All other stores	91	+ 12.8	+ 29.9

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

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 outstanding†	
		Dec. 1947	Dec. 1946	Dec. 1947	Dec. 1946
ALL STORES	51	58.2	52.3	55.2	55.2
BY CITIES:					
Austin	6	47.0	42.9	64.4	71.9
Beaumont	3	60.2	56.1	59.9	63.7
Dallas	7	74.2	66.7	56.4	51.8
Fort Worth	4	56.2	50.3	51.2	50.1
Houston	5	57.5	52.3	53.3	57.9
San Antonio	4	52.3	44.0	49.4	53.4
Waco	4	50.7	45.9	60.4	60.1
Other	18	48.3	45.2	59.5	62.3
BY TYPE OF STORE:					
Department stores (annual sales over \$500,000)	12	56.2	50.2	52.7	55.7
Department stores (annual sales under \$500,000)	10	41.8	38.7	60.3	67.0
Dry goods apparel stores	4	41.6	37.8	66.2	58.2
Women's specialty shops	13	70.8	64.2	55.1	50.2
Men's clothing stores	12	52.2	46.1	65.9	68.0
BY VOLUME OF NET SALES (1946):					
Over \$2,500,000	15	62.1	55.5	53.6	53.4
\$1,000,000-\$2,500,000	11	49.0	45.4	65.0	68.7
\$500,000-\$1,000,000	14	42.1	38.2	61.9	62.5
Less than \$500,000	11	31.8	27.0	61.0	63.6

*Credit sales divided by net sales.

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

Collections ratios likewise held steady from November to December 1947 at approximately the same level as that of December 1946. In all three periods, collections during the month were 55 or 56% of outstanding accounts on the first of the month. For the various cities and types of stores, however, there were significant differences. In Austin, Beaumont, Houston, and San Antonio there was a noticeable slackening in collections, counterbalanced by improvements in collection ratios of Dallas, Fort Worth, and Waco stores. Similarly, dry goods-apparel stores and women's specialty shops reported better collections in December 1947 than a year earlier, but these increases were exactly matched by declines in collection ratios of department stores and men's clothing stores.

Sales of gasoline subject to tax totaled 160,604,980 gallons in November, exceeding sales of November 1946 by 5.5%, although 11.7% below October 1947. Sales to the federal government were 25,257,963 gallons, down 17.3% from November 1946 and 33.6% lower than for October 1947. The sales index stood at 171.3 after 187.5 in October.

In leading Texas cities, advertising lineage in 32 newspapers was 16.5% larger than for December 1946 and 3.0% more than for November 1947.

Attendance records at State parks in December registered 100,446 visitors with 37,248 cars, or 6.0% more visitors and 35.7% more cars than in December 1946. Out-of-State cars were 11.0% more numerous this year. Overnight visitors increased by 72.1% over 1946.

Postal receipts reported for December by 56 Texas cities surpassed December 1946 by 14.3% and Novem-

ber 1947 by 52.1%. Only six communities had receipts smaller than a year ago. Largest increases over 1946 were for Plainview (97.4%), Corsicana (45.0%), Del Rio (38.9%), Sherman (30.0%), Texas City (24.6%), and Graham, Amarillo, and Kenedy (each with a 23% rise). Important decreases were at Sweetwater (53.4%), Childress (48.9%), and Big Spring (14.8%).

The Bureau's index of postal receipts, seasonally-adjusted, moved to 238.9 in December, an all-time high.

POSTAL RECEIPTS

City	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946	Percent change	
				Dec. 1947 from Dec. 1946	Dec. 1947 from Nov. 1947
TOTAL	\$4,215,459	\$2,771,100	\$3,688,967	+14.3	+52.1
Abilene	51,189	30,005	42,783	+19.6	+70.6
Amarillo	96,022	58,451	78,233	+22.7	+64.3
Austin	189,990	105,916	162,177	+17.1	+79.4
Beaumont	79,685	47,271	67,697	+17.7	+68.6
Big Spring	14,959	8,028	17,549	-14.8	+86.3
Borger	18,770	7,878	11,966	+15.1	+74.8
Brownsville	20,124	11,660	17,205	+17.0	+72.6
Brownwood	18,239	9,812	15,360	+18.7	+85.9
Bryan	14,392	8,518	12,151	+18.4	+69.0
Childress	6,518	3,025	12,755	-48.9	+115.5
Cleburne	9,886	4,821	8,814	+11.6	+104.0
Coleman	5,646	4,144	5,445	+3.7	+36.2
Corpus Christi	101,215	59,496	94,273	+7.4	+70.1
Corsicana	21,659	9,264	14,942	+45.0	+133.8
Dallas	1,007,239	753,856	865,926	+16.3	+33.6
Del Rio	10,175	6,275	7,327	+38.9	+62.2
Denison	16,938	9,273	15,566	+8.8	+82.7
Edinburg	8,745	6,060	7,876	+11.0	+44.3
El Paso	145,515	87,171	128,444	+13.3	+66.9
Fort Worth	424,432	341,633	366,686	+15.7	+24.2
Gainesville	10,363	5,484	9,234	+12.2	+89.0
Galveston	75,520	48,542	76,987	-1.9	+55.6
Gladewater	6,560	3,439	5,516	+18.9	+90.8
Graham	5,586	3,646	4,526	+23.4	+53.2
Greenville	16,182	8,071	15,377	+5.2	+100.5
Harlingen	21,544	12,953	17,955	+20.0	+66.3
Houston	739,003	461,600	620,782	+19.0	+60.1
Jacksonville	8,530	5,294	7,845	+8.7	+61.1
Kenedy	3,085	1,706	2,516	+22.6	+80.8
Kerrville	9,027	4,597	8,240	+9.6	+96.4
Lamesa	9,387	5,252	9,115	+3.0	+78.7
Laredo	22,135	13,960	20,973	+5.5	+58.6
Lockhart	3,246	2,286	3,350	-3.1	+42.0
Lubbock	62,133	43,740	54,325	+14.4	+42.1
Lufkin	12,967	7,724	10,947	+18.5	+67.9
Marshall	17,525	9,678	15,346	+14.2	+81.1
Midland	23,057	12,638	19,420	+18.7	+82.4
Nacogdoches	9,842	7,034	8,161	+20.6	+39.9
Orange	17,756	8,643	18,420	-3.6	+105.4
Pampa	16,733	8,341	15,526	+7.8	+100.6
Paris	18,038	8,914	14,925	+20.9	+102.4
Plainview	13,288	7,918	6,733	+97.4	+67.8
Port Arthur	45,747	24,585	41,872	+9.3	+86.1
San Angelo	38,907	24,575	35,682	+9.0	+58.3
San Antonio	409,480	255,975	366,756	+11.6	+60.0
Seguin	6,978	4,811	6,885	+1.4	+45.0
Sherman	23,909	12,329	18,387	+30.0	+93.9
Snyder	4,083	1,857	3,536	+15.5	+119.9
Sweetwater	13,431	5,739	28,826	-53.4	+134.0
Temple	21,405	12,022	18,921	+13.1	+78.0
Texarkana	42,090	23,187	39,122	+7.6	+81.5
Texas City	13,286	7,995	10,660	+24.6	+66.2
Tyler	45,688	30,003	38,047	+20.1	+52.3
Victoria	16,210	8,274	13,894	+16.7	+95.9
Waco	92,963	59,412	86,239	+7.8	+56.5
Wichita Falls	63,487	36,319	60,746	+4.5	+74.8

TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW

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.)

Texas wholesalers reporting to the federal Bureau of the Census had sales for November 1947 that were 11% less than sales for October 1947. This was the second time in 1947 (September was the first) that wholesalers failed to show a gain over the previous month. The mixed trend in sales was somewhat similar to the inventory trend for the same wholesalers in recent months. The decline in sales occurred in all lines except machinery, equipment, and supplies (except electrical) which reported an increase of 33%. Decreases ranged from a low of 5% for automotive supplies to 18% in drugs and sundries. Although the sales for November 1947 were below those of October 1947, November 1947 sales were still 12% above those of November 1946.

The reduction in wholesale sales in Texas was in line with the movement of wholesale sales for the United States as a whole, which were off 6% from October on a seasonally-adjusted basis. At the national level, sales of durable goods declined 4%; however, increases of 3% were reported in lumber and building materials and an increase of 9% was registered for jewelry and optical goods. Nondurable goods showed a decline of 7% with beers, wines, and liquors declining 25%. Only dairy products reported an increase. Food sales as a group dropped 10%.

The mixed trend in inventories continued in November. Inventories of reporting wholesalers in November 1947 were 4% above October 1947, but 21% above November 1946. The increase in inventories was general for all groups except hardware, which indicated no increase, and the all other group, which reported a decline of 4%. Price increases need to be considered in appraising these shifts in inventories.

PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN WHOLESALERS' SALES AND INVENTORIES

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

Business	Sales		Inventories	
	Nov. 1947 from Nov. 1946	Nov. 1947 from Oct. 1947	Nov. 1947 from Nov. 1946	Nov. 1947 from Oct. 1947
TOTAL	+12	-11	+21	+ 4
Automotive supplies	- 2	- 5	+42	+ 4
Drugs and sundries*	+ 9	-18	+ 1	+ 3
Electrical group	+50	- 7	+42	+ 4
Groceries	0	-12	+17	+ 7
Hardware	+18	- 8	+88	0
Machinery, equipment, and supplies (except electrical)	+26	+33	+50	+ 9
Tobacco products	- 6	-13	+ 5	+ 5
All others	+ 4	- 6	+13	- 4

*Includes liquor departments.

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 and Houston in November dropped 6.6% below October, continuing the down-trend that began in July. November exports were slightly more than half the 827,530 tons exported in July, the peak month of 1947, and were 14.3% under exports in November 1946. In each of the first 10 months of 1947, exports ran far ahead of the corresponding 1946 figures, but an unusually heavy tonnage was moved out of these two ports in November last year because the docks had been tied up by labor troubles in October.

EXPORTS FROM GALVESTON AND HOUSTON

(in tons)

Source: Galveston and Houston Maritime Associations, Inc.

Port and product	Nov. 1947	Oct. 1947	Nov.* 1946	Percent change	
				Nov. 1947 from Nov. 1946	Nov. 1947 from Oct. 1947
TOTAL	484,792	519,157	565,573	- 14.3	- 6.6
GALVESTON TOTAL	332,654	330,396	390,301	- 14.8	+ 0.7
Cotton	18,257	15,154	30,314	- 39.8	+ 20.5
Wheat	122,787	138,303	86,610	+ 41.8	- 11.2
Other grain	38,089	21,238	31,299	+ 21.7	+ 79.3
Flour	87,125	44,466	47,634	- 22.1	- 16.5
Sulphur	101,481	98,921	159,769	- 36.5	+ 2.6
Other	14,915	12,314	34,675	- 57.0	+ 21.1
HOUSTON TOTAL	152,138	188,761	175,272	- 18.2	- 19.4
Cotton	6,661	13,274	30,027	- 77.8	- 49.8
Wheat	40,195	59,403	20,317	+ 97.8	- 32.3
Rice and rice products	11,920	4,724	7,724	+ 54.3	+ 125.3
Flour	27,388	31,776	30,340	- 9.7	- 13.8
Products of mines	3,460	2,434	31,015	- 88.8	+ 42.2
Metals	7,446	11,702	15,823	- 52.9	- 36.4
Carbon black	4,813	7,815	9,043	- 46.8	- 34.2
Other	50,260	58,133	30,988	+ 62.2	- 13.5

*Total includes October 1946.

IMPORTS OF GENERAL MERCHANDISE BY AIR

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

District and port of unloading	Oct. 1947	Sept. 1947	Percent change	
			Oct. 1947 from Oct. 1946	Oct. 1947 from Sept. 1947
TOTAL	\$ 205,280	\$ 122,774	\$ 447,326	- 54.1 + 67.2
GALVESTON	36,374	17,907	116,741	- 68.8 + 103.1
Dallas			97,799	
Houston	36,374	17,907		+ 103.1
Fort Worth			18,942	
LAREDO	159,079	89,308	260,358	- 38.9 + 78.1
Brownsville	41,307	15,681	215,872	- 80.9 + 163.4
San Antonio	117,772	73,627	41,724	+ 182.3 + 60.0
Laredo			2,762	
EL PASO	9,827	15,559	70,227	- 86.0 - 36.8
El Paso	9,827	15,559	70,227	- 86.0 - 36.8

Texas foreign trade by air picked up in October, the latest month reported. Exports were 12.6% larger than in September and imports 67.2% greater. October was the best month for exports since May and the best month for imports since June. Both exports and imports this past October were well below October 1946 totals.

EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE BY AIR

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

District and port	Oct. 1947	Sept. 1947	Oct. 1946	Percent change	
				Oct. 1947 from Oct. 1946	Oct. 1947 from Sept. 1947
TOTAL	\$2,187,694	\$1,943,751	\$2,673,265	- 18.2	+ 12.6
GALVESTON,					
TOTAL	694,363	608,024	885,292	+ 107.1	+ 14.2
Dallas	364,096	413,453	12,276	+ 2865.9	- 11.9
Fort Worth	1,200		323,016	- 99.6	
Houston	329,067	194,571			+ 69.1
LAREDO,					
TOTAL	1,436,681	1,293,558	2,192,980	- 34.5	+ 11.1
Brownsville	580,239	573,171	1,289,573	- 55.0	+ 1.2
Laredo	2,608		54,122	95.2	
San Antonio	853,834	720,887	849,285	+ 0.5	+ 18.5
EL PASO	56,650	42,169	144,993	- 60.9	+ 34.3
El Paso	56,650	42,169	144,993	- 60.9	+ 34.3

Waterborne trade in Texas slipped slightly in September. Exports were a shade higher than in August, but imports were down 6.6%. Compared with September 1946, the reverse was true, imports in September 1947 being sufficiently greater to make the total trade for the month \$1,100,000 larger. Throughout the late summer months the waterborne foreign trade of Texas was remarkably stable.

WATER-BORNE EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MERCHANTISE

(in thousands of dollars)

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

Customs district	Sept. 1947	Aug. 1947	Monthly average 1946	Percent change	
				Sept. 1947 from 1946	Sept. 1947 avg. Aug. 1947
TOTAL	67,300	67,200	70,700	- 4.8	+ 0.1
Sabine	13,800	14,400	9,200	+ 50.0	- 4.2
Galveston	52,800	52,400	60,700	- 18.0	+ 0.8
Laredo	700	400	800	- 12.5	+ 75.0

WATER-BORNE IMPORTS OF GENERAL MERCHANTISE

(in thousands of dollars)

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

Customs district	Sept. 1947	Aug. 1947	Monthly average 1946	Percent change	
				Sept. 1947 from 1946	Sept. 1947 avg. Aug. 1947
TOTAL	9,900	10,600	5,400	+ 83.3	- 6.6
Sabine	200	400	100	+100.0	- 50.0
Galveston	8,700	9,300	4,600	+ 89.1	- 6.5
Laredo	1,000	900	700	+ 42.9	+ 11.1

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.)

The opinion of most economists and business executives is that industrial production will continue to boom along at a high rate through the first quarter of 1948. The Federal Reserve Board's adjusted index of industrial production hit a new peacetime high of 192 in November. Many point out that the greatest threat to production lies not in a slackening of demand but in strikes. They agree that production strikes are more likely to develop in the second quarter than in the first. In passing it is interesting to note that the *Journal of Commerce* reports a study showing some down-drag on business in election years.

Crude oil runs to stills increased 6.5% in December as compared to November to reach 49,563,699 barrels. The index (1935-39 = 100) rose rather sharply to 174.2, after seasonal adjustment. In comparison with December 1946, activity was up 13.7%.

Texas refinery stocks of gasoline showed an appreciable increase in both the monthly and yearly comparisons. Distillate, residual, and kerosene all exhibited marked decreases from November of 1947 and the same trends were evident in both the Texas Gulf Coast and Inland Texas. The Gulf Coast changes are greater than the Inland changes, the latter pulling the over-all percentage changes down somewhat.

REFINERY STOCKS*

(in thousands of barrels)

Source: *The Oil and Gas Journal*

Section and item	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946	Percent change	
				from Dec. 1946	from Nov. 1947
TEXAS					
Gasoline	18,931	17,501	18,030	+ 5.0	+ 8.2
Distillate	8,385	11,383	11,016	- 23.9	- 26.3
Residual	7,799	8,821	7,578	+ 2.9	- 11.6
Kerosene	3,052	4,247			- 28.1
TEXAS GULF COAST					
Gasoline	15,795	14,587	14,337	+ 10.2	+ 8.3
Distillate	7,888	10,837	10,494	- 24.8	- 27.2
Residual	7,101	8,081	6,886	+ 3.9	- 12.1
Kerosene	2,558	3,529			- 27.5
INLAND TEXAS					
Gasoline	3,136	2,914	3,693	- 15.1	+ 7.6
Distillate	497	546	522	- 4.8	- 9.0
Residual	698	740	742	- 5.9	- 5.7
Kerosene	494	718			- 31.2

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

Cotton consumption in Texas increased over November 1947. While linters exhibited a decided monthly and yearly gain, cotton was down appreciably from December 1946.

TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW

CONSUMPTION OF COTTON AND COTTON LINTERS

(in running bales)

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

Item	Percent change					
	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946	from Dec. 1947		
				from Dec. 1946	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1947
Cotton	12,726	11,944	16,345	-22.1	+ 6.5	
Linters	2,498	2,025	1,854	+34.7	+28.4	

Cotton spindle activity reflected little appreciable change in the monthly comparison except for average spindle hours which were up to 371 from 347. On an annual comparison there was a noticeable decrease in spindles in place and active.

COTTON SPINNING ACTIVITY

(in running bales)

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

Item*	Percent change					
	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946	from Dec. 1947		
				from Dec. 1946	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1947
Spinning spindles in place*	233,000	232,000	248,202	- 6.1	+ 0.4	
Spindles active	226,000	225,000	245,238	- 7.8	+ 0.4	
Average spindle hours	371	347	377	- 1.6	+ 6.9	

*End of the month.

The quantity of cottonseed received at Texas mills decreased 28.1% from November, but was up 165.7% from December 1946. Cottonseed crushed showed a slight decrease from November but a gain of 65.9% over December 1946. Stocks at the end of the month were up 164.2% in the annual comparison but down 3.3% as compared with November. The Bureau's seasonally-adjusted index of cottonseed crushed stood at 98.1, an increase of 65.9% over the previous December and 11.0% over November 1947.

COTTONSEED PRODUCTION

(in tons)

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

Item	Percent change					
	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946	from Dec. 1947		
				from Dec. 1946	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1947
Received at mills	135,667	188,693	51,052	+165.7	- 28.1	
Crushed	151,542	158,970	91,367	+ 65.9	- 4.7	
Stocks at end of month	464,582	480,407	175,883	+164.2	- 3.3	

Lumber mills reporting to the Southern Pine Association showed sizable decreases from November 1947 in weekly production, weekly shipments, and unfilled orders. Average weekly shipments showed the only gain over 1946. The index of lumber production reflected the decrease and stood at 65.3 (1935-39 = 100).

LUMBER PRODUCTION IN SOUTHERN PINE MILLS

(in board feet)

Source: Southern Pine Association

Item	Percent change					
	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946	Dec. 1947 from Dec. 1946	Dec. 1947 from Nov. 1947	Dec. 1947 from Dec. 1946
Average weekly production per unit	188,486	202,486	194,405	- 3.0	- 6.9	
Average weekly shipments per unit	182,040	208,705	178,881	+ 1.8	-12.8	
Average unfilled orders per unit, end of month	747,069	908,110	807,807	- 7.5	-17.7	

Cement production showed only a slight decrease from October, but shipments declined somewhat more. Stocks increased considerably on both a monthly and annual basis. The seasonally-adjusted index of cement production stood at 231.5, up 7.6% over October and 53.3% over November 1946 (1935-39 = 100).

CEMENT PRODUCTION

(in thousands of barrels)

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

Item	Percent change					
	Nov. 1947	Oct. 1947	Nov. 1946	Nov. 1947 from Nov. 1946	Nov. 1947 from Oct. 1947	Nov. 1947 from Nov. 1946
Production	1,137	1,155	742	+53.2	- 1.6	
Shipments	1,062	1,181	757	+40.3	-10.1	
Stocks	320	245	288	+13.1	+30.6	

Grapefruit juice canning for the 1947-48 season through January 10 showed some recovery from its position the preceding month, but continued to lag behind the 1946-47 season. Production was 37.0% below the previous period (compared to 84.0% last month), shipments were off 9.2%, and stocks were up 9.5%. The late maturity of the current citrus crop was still clearly evident in these recent reports.

GRAPEFRUIT JUICE CANNING

(in cases of 24/2's)

Source: Texas Canners Association

Item	Percent change					
	1947-48 Season*	1946-47 Season*	1946-47 from 1946-47	1947-48 from 1946-47	1947-48 from 1946-47	1947-48 from 1946-47
Production	1,141,732	1,813,204	-37.0			
Shipments	800,066	881,469	-9.2			
Stocks	1,104,048	1,007,904	+ 9.5			

*As of week ending January 10.

Dairy manufacturing in December reflected another sharp decline from the previous month and was approximately one-third less than in December 1946, measured by the amount of milk consumed in factories. Principal decline from November to December of 23.7% was in creamery butter manufacturing.

MANUFACTURE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

Product	Unit	Dec.	Nov.	Percent change		
				1947	1947	Dec. 1947 from 1946
TOTAL MILK EQUIVALENT*	1,000 lbs	32,323	39,444	48,959	-34.0	-18.1
Creamery butter	1,000 lbs.	670	878	979	-31.6	-23.7
Ice cream†	1,000 gal.	831	889	1,370	-39.3	-6.5
American cheese	1,000 lbs.	411	428	563	-27.0	-4.0
All others	1,000 lbs.	1,644	1,731	2,537	-35.2	-5.0

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

†Includes sherbets and ices.

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 United States 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 28% or more above the permit valuation. Loans by savings and loan associations reflect the financing of residential housing.)

December press announcements concerning construction brought forecasts of increased building for 1948 with prices about the same as 1947. Although output of building materials was still unstable, Texas seemed to be among the leaders in construction of industrial and residential buildings, highways, schools, and irrigation projects.

Construction contracts in December 1947 reached a total of \$61,446,903, decreasing 1.9% from the preceding month, but towering 38.7% over the December 1946 total. Engineering construction awards dropped sharply (68.1%) from November 1947. Nonresidential and residential building, however, showed increases of 11.9% and 24.9%, respectively, over the previous month. In comparison with the same period last year residential construction was the only type of building showing an increase, being up 454.6% over December 1946.

Building permits for a cross-section view of Texas cities dropped in December 1947 from the month before by 16.2%, but the same total was 162.5% above December 1946.

Houston, with \$7,321,050, and Dallas, with \$5,700,914, outdistanced the November 1947 figures by 27.6% and 37.5%, in that order. The month found San An-

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

Source: *Texas Contractor*

Type of building	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946	Percent change		
				Dec. 1947 from 1946	Dec. 1947 from 1946	Dec. 1947 from Nov. 1947
TOTAL	\$61,446,903	\$62,647,927	\$44,816,802	+ 38.7	- 1.9	
Engineering	4,847,944	15,219,105	8,388,866	- 42.2	- 68.1	
Nonresidential	22,544,554	20,155,958	29,787,328	- 24.8	+11.9	
Residential	34,054,405	27,272,864	6,140,108	+454.6	+24.9	

tonio with a \$2,381,497 total, and Austin, Beaumont, Fort Worth, Lubbock, and Texas City in the over-one-million bracket.

BUILDING PERMITS

City	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946
TOTAL	\$29,437,686	\$35,128,261	\$11,212,883
Abilene	369,090	298,814	187,840
Amarillo	524,485	1,016,607	306,860
Austin	1,480,948	1,692,650	855,960
Beaumont	1,392,664	320,765	360,648
Big Spring	153,275	77,510	96,090
Borger	28,800	42,950	16,875
Brownsville	184,295	100,685	86,985
Brownwood	61,610	78,160	90,026
Bryan	152,500	111,630	70,515
Childress	4,350	22,450	19,450
Coleman	28,520	49,500	78,770
Corpus Christi	878,077	7,110,057	668,000
Corsicana	39,250	86,273	11,100
Dallas	5,700,914	4,146,875	1,861,735
Del Rio	6,600	39,115	7,885
Denison	52,490	61,947	58,910
Denton	98,000	100,850	78,100
Edinburg	55,950	70,400	45,867
El Paso	484,683	1,190,606	214,725
Fort Worth	1,984,430	3,181,932	1,078,744
Gainesville	34,550	42,580	21,850
Galveston	434,542	269,531	64,510
Gladewater	8,450	101,275	5,425
Graham	35,585	16,000	21,600
Harlingen	208,650	135,400	287,900
Houston	7,321,050	5,736,620	1,086,952
Jacksonville	43,900	88,650	23,950
Kenedy	6,700	21,100	1,000
Kerrville	44,400	65,970	42,311
Lamesa	36,870	0	23,500
Lubbock	1,172,610	574,880	336,159
McAllen	26,490	81,865	60,879
Marshall	68,995	166,478	69,126
Midland	284,750	646,200	71,000
Nacogdoches	19,000	20,800	31,850
New Braunfels	65,827	87,793	31,550
Pampa	39,750	26,650	25,550
Paris	21,850	65,110	48,875
Plainview	74,250	229,000	42,000
Port Arthur	118,599	238,692	50,516
San Antonio	2,381,497	4,122,714	1,289,104
Seguin	26,180	63,070	15,200
Sherman	93,501	127,724	46,824
Sweetwater	38,570	59,680	24,550
Temple	286,725	253,933	107,235
Texas City	1,203,483	1,085,545	107,310
Tyler	327,962	272,704	137,745
Victoria	94,700	72,910	44,700
Waco	703,234	594,633	830,787
Wichita Falls	639,185	117,028	127,895

Figures on *loan activity* did not appear in the preceding issue of the REVIEW but figures now available indicate that the 457 construction loans of December 1947 fell short of the November 1947 total of 478, but the amount of such loans in December of \$1,991,336 topped the November total of \$1,927,722 by 3.3%. An increase above 6% was noted in construction loan activity in December 1947 as compared to December 1946 both in number and amount of loans.

The revival of construction in the closing months of 1947 added an element of considerable strength to the general business situation.

LOANS MADE BY SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS*

Source: Federal Home Loan Bank of Little Rock

Type	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Percent Change		
			Dec. 1946	from Dec. 1946	Nov. 1947
NUMBER, TOTAL	1,585	1,633	1,542	+ 2.8	- 2.9
Construction	457	478	430	+ 6.3	- 4.4
Purchase	680	700	712	- 4.5	- 2.9
Refinance	104	105	80	+30.0	- 1.0
Recondition	167	153	120	+39.2	+ 9.2
Other	177	197	200	-11.5	-10.2
AMOUNT, TOTAL	\$5,840,275	\$6,090,068	\$5,750,994	+ 1.6	- 4.1
Construction	1,991,336	1,927,722	1,867,442	+ 6.6	+ 3.8
Purchase	2,821,846	2,971,354	2,933,416	- 3.8	- 5.0
Refinance	381,839	359,489	272,437	+40.2	+ 6.2
Recondition	220,306	251,630	163,937	+34.4	-12.4
Other	424,948	579,873	513,762	-17.3	-26.7

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

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.)

The year 1947 saw many acres of valuable Texas forest lands destroyed by fire, and many cubic feet of natural gas and some barrels of crude oil wasted. As a result, plans for the conservation of forests, fuel oils, and gas were drafted, and announcements were made of expenditures of millions of dollars by oil companies for new equipment to improve production methods and reduce wastage.

Daily average crude petroleum production in December was up 0.4% over November and 17.5% over December 1946. The index likewise rose 1.3% to 190.1% of the prewar total.

Total well completions fell below November 1947 by 61 wells, 711 wells being finished. This total included 429 oil wells, 51 gas, and 231 dry holes. During 1947, 9,130 wells were completed within the State as compared with 7,782 in 1946.

WELL COMPLETIONS

Source: *The Oil and Gas Journal*

District	December 1947*				Jan.-Dec. (all wells)	
	Total	Oil	Gas	Dry	1947	1946
TEXAS	711	429	51	231	9,130	7,782
North Central Texas	178	81	5	92	2,820	2,687
West Texas	185	151	2	32	2,250	1,779
Panhandle	54	37	13	4	481	310
Eastern Texas	57	27	7	23	577	688
Texas Gulf Coast	116	68	18	30	1,548	1,720
Southwest Texas	121	65	6	50	1,454	598

*For 4 weeks ending December 27, 1947.

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 show a seasonal variation due to the changing amount of lighting needed.)

From 40 Texas cities came reports which again boosted the aggregate number of *telephones in service*. Telephone companies have reported installations proceeding at an average of one instrument every several seconds, and this activity has been reflected in a steady and similar increase each month. December 1947 figures showed a gain of 1.7% over November and a 15.0% increase over the same month last year.

According to the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company there were 913,324 *telephones in service* at the end of 1947, as compared with 793,957 at the end of 1946. This substantial rise is at once a reflection of the high level of business prosperity and the great strides that have been made to meet the demands for telephone service.

In *production of electric energy* the index in November continued to decline, dropping to 8.8% below October; however, a 12.2% gain over the November 1946 figure was registered. These Texas figures may be compared with a 2.2% decline for the United States from October to November, and a gain of 9.5% over the November 1946 production.

Electric power consumption figures bear out the indication of the other utility figures discussed. The trend in power consumption is downward, December falling only 0.2% below November usage, but commercial and industrial registering drops of 4.2% and 3.1%. Conversely, residential and all other users showed increases of 8.8% and 6.3% over November. All classifications of power users showed increases in consumption over 1946, averaging 14.2%.

The indexes of *electric power consumption* changed but little, the total being down only 0.1%, the industrial, 0.2%. Both stood well above 1946 figures, industrial at 286.2 and total at 290.2 (1935-39 = 100).

The year was rounded out with the trend in both production by utilities and consumption by users up to peak levels, and with discussion of possible rate hikes to users, and programs of conservation of water supplies likely to enter the 1948 picture in Texas.

ELECTRIC POWER CONSUMPTION*

(in thousands of kilowatt hours)

Use	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946	Percent change	
				Dec. 1947 from Dec. 1946	Dec. 1946 from Nov. 1947
TOTAL	530,535	531,709	464,586	+14.2	- 0.2
Commercial	109,634	114,394	94,099	+16.5	- 4.2
Industrial	255,275	263,399	229,431	+11.3	- 3.1
Residential	89,523	82,317	78,795	+13.6	+ 8.8
Other	76,108	71,599	62,261	+22.2	+ 6.3

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

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 variations in order to show the basic changes in the situation of agriculture.)

The index of *farm cash income* was 45.2% higher in December 1947 than for December 1946—about the same lead which November 1947 held over November of a year ago. Similarly the total cash income for the year 1947 was 47.2% above that for 1946, reflecting rather definite trends for the year in factors determining farm income. Income for December was 18.9% above that for November.

The chief factor in the increase in income for December over November, and for the whole year over the preceding one was the upward trend in prices of commodities which farmers have to sell. Different products, however, hence different regions of the State have been affected in varying degrees. But for the State as a whole, farmers had nearly a fifth more cash income in December than in November. Prices of things they buy have not yet caught up (1909-14 base period) with prices received.

Districts 1-N and 1-S held especially favorable income positions in December over November, and Districts 2 and 9 were well above the average for the State in that respect. Relative prices, yields, and marketings are all significant factors in income. This is especially true for regions dependent largely upon a rather specialized system of crop production. Yields vary from region to region, and prices increase or decrease from commodity to commodity without regard to uniformity of pattern.

The year 1947 was another in a series of good years for Texas farmers from the income standpoint. It is not to be expected that every year will bring the bumper crops and record prices of 1947.

FARM CASH INCOME

District	Indexes, 1935-39 = 100, adjusted for seasonal variation		Amount, Jan.-Dec. (in thousands of dollars)		
	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946	1947	
TEXAS	488.0	410.6	336.1	1,838,387	1,248,870
1-N	595.8	643.7	347.6	267,503	123,537
1-S	1161.0	813.3	294.0	243,109	96,472
2	493.6	312.5	379.1	280,490	135,655
3	316.9	315.3	319.1	90,438	65,521
4	336.5	203.7	199.5	282,959	205,017
5	252.7	198.3	251.4	96,712	70,447
6	245.7	333.6	480.2	60,105	75,304
7	347.6	250.5	271.2	95,598	90,183
8	413.3	387.6	387.0	160,471	122,691
9	428.4	370.6	454.8	180,563	89,709
10	339.7	382.6	381.7	51,194	39,076
10-A	363.5	402.3	435.5	129,245	135,308

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.)

The total shipments of Texas *livestock* for December 1947 were only 65.1% of the total shipments in December 1946; a total of 5,487 carloads were shipped in 1947. Shipments were 42.8% less for December than for November 1947. These decreases were shared about equally among cattle, calves, and sheep for December from November 1947; but in comparison with December 1946, cattle shipments showed declines about 1½ times those prevailing for calves and sheep.

However, hogs seem to be moving at an accelerated rate of increase. Shipments for both November and December 1947 exceeded by about 25% shipments for corresponding months in 1946. Similarly shipments in December of this year overshadowed those in November by 63.2%, totaling 759 carloads as against 465 the previous month.

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	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946	Percent change	
				Dec. 1947 from Dec. 1946	Dec. 1947 from Nov. 1947
TOTAL SHIPMENTS	5,487	9,595	8,428	-34.9	-42.8
Cattle	3,353	6,448	5,905	-43.2	-48.0
Calves	1,049	2,046	1,466	-28.4	-48.7
Hogs	759	465	611	+24.2	+63.2
Sheep	326	636	446	-26.9	-48.7
INTERSTATE PLUS					
FORT WORTH	4,986	8,483	7,332	-32.0	-41.2
Cattle	3,015	5,718	5,125	-41.2	-47.2
Calves	914	1,706	1,246	-26.6	-46.4
Hogs	746	459	608	+22.7	+62.5
Sheep	311	605	353	-11.9	-48.6
INTRASTATE MINUS					
FORT WORTH†	501	1,112	1,096	-54.3	-54.9
Cattle	388	785	780	-56.7	-54.0
Calves	185	340	220	-38.6	-60.3
Hogs	18	6	3	+333.3	+116.7
Sheep	15	31	93	-83.9	-51.6

*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.

Shipments of Texas *fruits and vegetables* amounted to 8,859 carloads in December 1947, 5,485 in November 1947, and 8,151 in December 1946. The big increase for December over November was accounted for largely by the seasonal movement of spinach, mixed vegetables, and mixed citrus fruits. However, shipments of many vegetables and citrus fruits for December were below those for December 1946. Commodities in that category were spinach, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, mixed citrus, and grapefruit. Increased shipments for December 1947 over those for December 1946 were indicated

for cabbage, carrots, mixed vegetables, oranges, and peppers. The net increase in shipments for the year amounted to 8.7%, or a total of 708 carloads.

RAIL SHIPMENTS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES*

(in carloads)

Source: Compiled from reports of Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Item	Percent change					
	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946	Dec. 1947 from Dec. 1946	Dec. 1947 from Nov. 1947	
				—	—	—
TOTAL	8,859	5,485	8,151	+ 8.7	+ 61.5	
Cabbage	1,131	32	269	+320.4	†	
Carrots	306	0	107	+186.0		
Grapefruit	2,255	2,228	2,689	— 16.1	+ 1.2	
Mixed citrus	847	333	1,070	— 20.8	+154.4	
Mixed vegetables	1,760	415	1,174	+ 49.9	+324.1	
Oranges	1,283	785	1,228	+ 4.5	+ 63.4	
Peppers	161	289	139	+ 15.8	— 44.3	
Spinach	883	43	582	— 34.2	+790.7	
Sweet potatoes	72	53	159	— 54.7	+ 35.8	
Tomatoes	377	1,183	590	— 36.1	— 68.1	
All other fruits and vegetables	284	124	144	+ 97.2	+129.0	

*Figures for oranges and grapefruit include both rail and truck shipments.

†Per cent meaningless.

Poultry and egg shipments declined from November, and were considerably less than for December 1946, with the exception of shipments of turkeys. Total shipments declined about 1/3 from November, and were likewise about 1/3 below those of December a year ago, while turkey shipments increased by 27.3% in December over November, and 37.2% over December 1946. Egg shipments continued to show steep seasonal declines and to lag behind a year ago. December 1947 shipments were only 15% of shipments in December 1946. The 12-month decline was primarily a reflection of the concentration on more profitable lines of agricultural production in view of existing high levels of both prices and costs.

Interstate receipts of eggs also showed marked declines though somewhat less than shipments from Texas stations.

RAIL SHIPMENTS OF POULTRY AND EGGS FROM 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

Classification	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946
Chickens	7	11	10
Turkeys	247	194	180
Eggs—shell equivalent*	24	49	160
Shell	4	5	18
Frozen	6	14	15
Dried	1	2	14

*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.

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	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946
TOTAL RECEIPTS—SHELL EQUIVALENT*			
	46	73	113
Shell	28	55	91
Frozen	5	5	11
Dried	1	1	0

*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.

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.)

Continued price increases accounted in large part for larger incomes in most regions for December. Of the 31 commodities on which the Bureau records price

PRICES OF TEXAS FARM PRODUCTS

Source: Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Commodity	Unit	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946
Wheat	bu.	\$ 2.76	\$ 2.70	\$ 1.91
Corn	bu.	2.26	2.07	1.45
Oats	bu.	1.23	1.12	.98
Barley	bu.	1.74	1.65	1.30
Grain sorghum	cwt.	3.55	3.20	1.90
Rice	bu.	3.20	3.00	2.37
Potatoes	bu.	2.00	1.25	1.80
Sweet potatoes	bu.	2.10	2.00	2.10
Cotton lint	lb.	.380	.306	.292
Cottonseed	ton	97.00	91.00	100.00
Cowpeas	bu.	4.50	5.00	3.00
Peanuts	lb.	.099	.097	.084
Hogs	cwt.	24.70	24.00	22.80
Beef cattle	cwt.	18.10	16.80	13.90
Venl calves	cwt.	20.50	18.90	15.70
Sheep	cwt.	9.50	9.90	8.20
Lambs	cwt.	17.80	17.20	14.20
Milk cows	head	123.00	118.00	100.00
Horses	head	46.00	48.00	52.00
Mules	head	73.00	75.00	79.00
Chickens	lb.	.243	.245	.261
Turkeys	lb.	.855	.305	.820
Eggs	doz.	.640	.55	.50
Butter	lb.	.76	.71	.74
Butterfat	lb.	.77	.69	.78
Milk, wholesale	cwt.	6.40	6.80	6.00
Wool	lb.	.41	.41	.41
All hay, loose	ton	21.50	21.00	18.00
Alfalfa hay, loose	ton	31.00	31.00	28.00
Oranges	box	1.03	1.55	1.25
Grapefruit	box	.55	.99	.89

quotations, only 7 showed price declines, 2 no significant price changes, while 22 witnessed price increases. Significant rises in price were registered for potatoes, cattle, all small grains, corn, oats, poultry and dairy products. For the most part, these increases reflect a continued strong demand, coupled with a shortage of feed. Prices for horses and mules are still on the skids; those for citrus fruits seem hardly to have the cushioning advantage even of skids.

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 products 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.)

Cold storage holdings of dairy and poultry products show a definite seasonal pattern for December compared to November. There were declines all along the line, especially in the case of eggs, with an exception for poultry, holdings of which were 16.2% higher in December than November, compared to a 56.6% increase in December 1946 over November of that year. On the contrary, storage holdings of creamery butter and American cheese were far above (133.8% and 93.5%, respectively) those for December 1946. Storage holdings of cream, both fluid and plastic, showed declines from December 1946.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

Source: Production and Marketing Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Item	Unit (000's)	Percent change					
		Dec. 1 1947		Nov. 1 1947		Dec. 1 1946	Dec. 1 1947 from Dec. 1 1946
Cream:							
Fluid	lbs.	240	—	294	—	18.4	—
Plastic	lbs.	356	—	970	—	63.3	—
Creamery butter	lbs.	1,349	1,516	577	+133.8	—	11.0
American cheese	lbs.	3,559	3,879	1,839	+ 93.5	—	8.2
Shell eggs	cases	30	61	39	— 28.1	—	50.8
Frozen eggs	lbs.	7,620	8,661	6,744	+ 13.0	—	12.0
Poultry	lbs.	3,723	3,205	3,764	— 1.1	+	16.2

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.)

It appears that the basic strength of the demand and supply situation in the raw cotton market is being temporarily overshadowed by great emphasis on the importance of enacting the so-called Marshall Plan. Many spinners at least seem to be taking advantage of the bearish sentiment now going the rounds to fix prices on on-call purchases.

The cotton balance sheet as of January 1, 1948, shows only 10,224,000 bales of all kinds of cotton in the United States. This is 123,000 bales less than the supply on this date in 1947. World consumption of American cotton this cotton year is estimated by the New York Cotton Exchange at 12,400,000 bales and the world carryover of American-grown cotton next August 1 will be only about 4,100,000 bales as against 5,250,000 bales last August 1.

The Marshall Plan to aid the recovery of Europe provides for the export of about 750,000 bales of cotton, and its enactment in some form would increase cotton exports from the United States this year by several hundred thousand bales. However, it would be a big mistake to conclude that further exports will depend entirely on that, for such is not the case. The devaluation of the official franc to near its world market value will make the acquisition of dollars much easier in France and should pave the way for the importation of cotton on a commercial basis. What has happened in France is indicative of what probably will happen in a number of other European countries. When it does occur, those countries will be in a stronger position to export finished manufactures into world markets, including our own, and thus to import cotton and other raw materials so greatly needed.

Cotton prices promise to be exceedingly unstable for the next few weeks. It is customary to speak of the cotton market as a weather market in the summer and early fall when weather news dominates price changes. In line with that same principle of description, the market for the next few weeks could be properly described as a political market. It is one of the consequences of the fact that the Government is the big potential operator in the market.

COTTON BALANCE SHEET FOR THE UNITED STATES AS OF JANUARY 1, 1948

(in thousands of running bales except as noted)

Year	Carryover Aug. 1	Imports to Jan. 1	Government estimate as of Dec. 1	Total	Consump- tion to Jan. 1	Exports to Jan. 1	Total	Balance as of Jan. 1
1938-39	11,533	65	12,008	23,606	2,799	1,902	4,701	18,905
1939-40	13,033	57	11,792	24,882	3,310	3,134	6,444	18,438
1940-41	10,596	48	12,686	23,330	3,579	601	4,180	19,150
1941-42	12,367	169	10,976	23,512	4,441	644	5,085	18,427
1942-43	10,590	125	12,982	23,697	4,713	572	5,285	18,412
1943-44	10,687	80	11,478	22,245	4,324	699	5,023	17,222
1944-45	10,657	62	12,359	23,078	4,027	607	4,634	18,444
1945-46	11,164	180	9,195	20,489	3,596	1,139	4,735	15,754
1946-47	7,522	159	8,482	16,163	4,257	1,559	5,816	10,347
1947-48	2,521	214*	11,694	14,429	3,777	428*	4,205	10,224

*Four months ending November 30.

LOCAL BUSINESS COM

City and item	Year 1947	Year 1946	1947 from 1946	Percent change
Retail sales of independent stores			+ 11.3	
Department and apparel store sales			+ 2.9	
Postal receipts	\$ 395,114	\$ 354,920	+ 11.3	
Building permits	\$ 4,388,956	\$ 3,967,455	+ 10.5	
Air express shipments	2,186	1,316	+ 66.1	
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 352,182	\$ 295,486	+ 19.2	
Average end-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 38,581	\$ 40,444	- 4.6	
Placements in employment	6,471	6,908	- 6.3	
Unemployment (monthly average)	1,375	1,691	- 18.7	

AMARILLO:

Retail sales of independent stores			+ 19.1	
Department and apparel store sales			+ 6.9	
Postal receipts	\$ 748,456	\$ 687,462	+ 8.9	
Building permits	\$ 8,977,243	\$ 7,359,278	+ 22.0	
Air express shipments	6,069	4,944	+ 22.8	
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 943,700	\$ 725,424	+ 30.1	
Average end-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 78,211	\$ 72,726	+ 7.5	
Placements in employment	9,548	8,263	+ 15.6	
Unemployment (monthly average)	1,550	1,231	+ 25.9	

AUSTIN:

Retail sales of independent stores			+ 9.1	
Department and apparel store sales			- 2.3	
Postal receipts	\$ 1,506,176	\$ 1,387,324	+ 8.6	
Building permits	\$ 20,701,667	\$ 18,422,607	+ 12.4	
Air express shipments	6,398	5,552	+ 15.2	
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 1,163,280	\$ 1,097,825	+ 12.4	
Average end-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 99,332	\$ 99,181	+ 0.2	
Placements in employment	10,702	10,656	+ 0.4	
Unemployment (monthly average)	1,972	2,915	- 32.3	

BEAUMONT:

Retail sales of independent stores			+ 6.9	
Department and apparel store sales			- 0.5	
Postal receipts	\$ 602,669	\$ 579,298	+ 4.0	
Building permits	\$ 7,025,850	\$ 3,890,766	+ 80.6	
Export cars unloaded	7,379	5,385	+ 37.0	
Air express shipments	3,782	3,104	+ 21.8	
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 898,040	\$ 749,648	+ 19.8	
Average end-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 86,543	\$ 82,938	+ 4.3	

BROWNSVILLE:

Retail sales of independent stores			+ 0.3	
Postal receipts	\$ 150,231	\$ 140,392	+ 7.0	
Building permits	\$ 1,290,613	\$ 893,871	+ 44.4	
Air express shipments	24,634	34,127	- 27.8	

*Excludes deposits to the credit of banks.

City and item	Year 1947	Year 1946	1947 from 1946	Percent change
Retail sales of independent stores				+ 8.0
Department and apparel store sales				+ 1.5
Postal receipts	\$ 137,050	\$ 141,956	- 3.5	
Building permits	\$ 1,075,743	\$ 479,146	+124.5	

BROWNWOOD:

Retail sales of independent stores			+ 8.0	
Department and apparel store sales			+ 1.5	
Postal receipts	\$ 808,635	\$ 798,760	+ 1.2	
Building permits	\$ 21,234,146	\$ 10,048,914	+111.3	
Air express shipments	7,550	6,248	+ 20.8	
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 843,046	\$ 776,257	+ 8.6	
Average end-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 69,407	\$ 68,968	+ 0.6	
Placements in employment	10,131	7,368	+ 37.5	
Unemployment (monthly average)	2,619	3,000	- 12.7	

CORPUS CHRISTI:

Postal receipts	\$ 121,296	\$ 123,598	- 1.9	
Building permits	\$ 821,090	\$ 351,589	+138.5	
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 117,965	\$ 100,849	+ 17.0	
Average end-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 19,459	\$ 18,939	+ 2.7	

DALLAS:

Retail sales of independent stores			+ 5.1	
Apparel stores			- 1.4	
Automotive stores			+ 48.4	
Drug stores			+ 3.1	
Filling stations			+ 9.4	
Food stores			- 2.1	
Furniture and household stores			+ 12.9	
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores			+ 33.4	
Eating and drinking places			- 5.3	
All other stores			- 1.2	
Postal receipts	\$ 8,718,509	\$ 8,021,544	+ 8.7	
Building permits	\$ 56,808,352	\$ 45,765,497	+ 24.1	
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 10,317,634	\$ 8,625,635	+ 19.6	
Average end-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 667,459	\$ 705,381	- 5.4	
Air express shipments	94,661	81,255	+ 16.5	
Unemployment (monthly average)	9,608	14,650	- 34.4	
Placements in employment	43,749	46,732	- 6.4	

EL PASO:

Retail sales of independent stores			+ 13.5	
Department and apparel store sales			+ 0.7	
Postal receipts	\$ 1,153,525	\$ 1,148,489	+ 0.4	
Building permits	\$ 8,063,845	\$ 4,488,876	+ 79.6	
Air express shipments	16,851	14,557	+ 15.8	
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 1,222,995	\$ 1,081,920	+ 13.0	
Average end-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 107,753	\$ 110,143	- 2.2	
Placements in employment	9,433	7,912	+ 19.2	
Unemployment (monthly average)	2,692	2,760	- 2.5	

*Excludes deposits to the credit of banks.

TIONS FOR THE YEAR

City and item	Year 1947	Year 1946	Percent change
			1947 from 1946

FORT WORTH:

Retail sales of independent stores			+ 12.6
Apparel stores			- 6.5
Automotive stores			+ 50.2
Drug stores			+ 4.0
Filling stations			+ 7.7
Food stores			+ 14.0
Furniture and household stores			+ 10.5
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores			+ 29.6
Eating and drinking places			+ 2.1
All other stores			+ 1.6
Postal receipts	\$ 3,616,242	\$ 3,517,048	+ 2.8
Building permits	\$ 27,726,254	\$ 22,691,337	+ 22.2
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 3,585,711	\$ 2,965,564	+ 20.9
Average end-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 272,953	\$ 495,758	- 44.9
Air express shipments	17,264	25,257	- 31.6
Unemployment (monthly average)	8,292	10,308	- 19.6
Placements in employment	42,716	36,709	+ 16.4

GALVESTON:

Retail sales of independent stores			+ 17.8
Department and apparel store sales			- 2.0
Postal receipts	\$ 609,223	\$ 631,313	- 3.5
Building permits	\$ 2,944,923	\$ 2,396,093	+ 22.9
Export cars unloaded	121,886	81,182	+ 50.2
Air express shipments	5,159	4,027	+ 28.1
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 715,412	\$ 641,410	+ 11.5
Average end-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 88,373	\$ 84,338	+ 4.8
Placements in employment	14,309	14,299	+ 0.1
Unemployment (monthly average)	2,008	2,383	- 15.7

HARLINGEN:

Retail sales of independent stores			+ 8.6
Postal receipts	\$ 166,650	\$ 151,292	+ 10.2
Building permits	\$ 2,036,965	\$ 2,004,046	+ 1.6

HOUSTON:

Retail sales of independent stores			+ 15.7
Apparel stores			- 1.8
Automotive stores			+ 40.1
Drug stores			+ 1.7
Filling stations			- 9.7
Florists			- 5.9
Food stores			+ 5.8
Furniture and household stores			+ 14.4
Jewelry stores			+ 8.2
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores			+ 39.8
Eating and drinking places			+ 7.2
All other stores			+ 19.9
Postal receipts	\$ 5,834,874	\$ 5,277,388	+ 10.6
Building permits	\$ 72,389,219	\$ 50,630,626	+ 43.0
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 9,926,139	\$ 8,182,621	+ 21.3
Average end-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 773,587	\$ 778,238	- 0.6
Export cars unloaded	61,111	39,701	+ 58.9
Air express shipments	61,193	41,297	+ 48.2
Unemployment (monthly average)	11,108	18,607	- 40.3
Placements in employment	59,453	49,502	+ 20.1

*Excludes deposits to the credit of banks.

*Excludes deposits to the credit of banks.

City and item	Year 1947	Year 1946	Percent change
			1947 from 1946
LAMESA:			
Retail sales of independent stores			+ 21.2
Postal receipts	\$ 59,820	\$ 59,789	+ 0.1
Building permits	\$ 513,415	\$ 600,805	- 14.5
LUBBOCK:			
Retail sales of independent stores			+ 28.1
Department and apparel store sales			+ 15.8
Postal receipts	\$ 519,338	\$ 425,621	+ 22.0
Building permits	\$ 11,130,866	\$ 8,946,191	+ 24.4
Air express shipments	3,390	2,267	+ 49.5
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 696,515	\$ 503,394	+ 38.4
Average end-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 58,587	\$ 54,607	+ 7.3
Placements in employment	6,536	6,677	- 2.1
Unemployment (monthly average)	775	1,343	- 42.3
PLAINVIEW:			
Retail sales of independent stores			+ 18.2
Department and apparel store sales			+ 16.2
Postal receipts	\$ 88,895	\$ 75,717	+ 17.4
Building permits	\$ 1,962,750	\$ 1,237,725	+ 58.6
PORT ARTHUR:			
Retail sales of independent stores			+ 16.4
Postal receipts	\$ 302,363	\$ 301,056	+ 0.4
Building permits	\$ 2,259,755	\$ 2,032,688	+ 11.2
Export cars unloaded	7,555	3,599	+109.3
Coastal cars unloaded	4,454	3,325	+ 34.0
Air express shipments	2,363	1,809	+ 30.6
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 364,914	\$ 317,359	+ 15.0
Average end-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 36,104	\$ 42,525	- 8.0
SAN ANGELO:			
Retail sales of independent stores			+ 8.7
Department and apparel store sales			+ 5.8
Postal receipts	\$ 294,725	\$ 288,673	+ 2.1
Air express shipments	5,982	2,623	+128.1
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 313,325	\$ 286,692	+ 9.3
Average end-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 36,821	\$ 37,536	- 1.9
SAN ANTONIO:			
Retail sales of independent stores			+ 5.8
Apparel stores			- 12.7
Automotive stores			+ 40.6
Drug stores			- 1.6
Filling stations			+ 2.0
Food stores			+ 2.1
Furniture and household stores			+ 15.6
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores			+ 15.6
Eating and drinking places			- 8.4
All other stores			+ 1.3
Postal receipts	\$ 3,249,815	\$ 3,159,978	+ 2.8
Building permits	\$ 29,044,991	\$ 23,864,918	+ 21.7
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 2,714,749	\$ 2,485,139	+ 9.2
Average end-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 314,819	\$ 328,900	- 4.3
Air express shipments	35,704	22,642	+ 57.7
Unemployment (monthly average)	9,892	15,400	- 35.8
Placements in employment	28,554	24,496	+ 16.6

*Excludes deposits to the credit of banks.

FINANCE**Bank Credit**

(Since bank credit is essential to all business, the conditions 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.)

Pronounced fluctuations in holdings of government securities characterized changes in the condition of weekly reporting member banks in the Dallas Federal Reserve District for December. The district banks experienced a \$37 million decrease (1.6%) in the volume of earning assets, which include total loans and investments, although loans alone rose \$27 million for a 2.7% increase during the month. The net decrease in loans and investments was primarily due to the drop of 5.0% (\$59 million) in United States Government securities held, slightly bolstered by a \$6 million decline in other securities. Although Treasury bills and certificates of indebtedness dropped substantially (81.8% and 19.2%, respectively), the 0.7% decline in United States bonds was slight, and holdings of Treasury notes rose by 11.1%, or \$11 million. In rising above the \$1 billion mark, the volume of loans outstanding set an all-time record for banks in the 11th District.

CHANGES IN CONDITION OF WEEKLY REPORTING MEMBER BANKS

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Item	Percent change		
	Dec. 31 1947 from Dec. 31 1946	Dec. 31 1947 from Nov. 26 1947	Dec. 31 1946
	1946	1947	1946
ASSETS			
Loans and investments	+20.6	- 1.6	- 3.9
Loans	+30.2	+ 2.7	+ 4.2
Total U.S. Government securities	+11.6	- 5.0	-10.2
Treasury bills	-81.3	-81.8	-30.4
Treasury certificates of indebtedness	-30.0	-19.2	-15.2
Treasury notes	- 7.6	+11.1	-27.0
United States bonds	+34.7	- 0.7	- 2.5
Other securities	+39.7	- 4.4	+ 9.9
Reserve with Federal Reserve Banks	+24.0	+ 4.0	+ 3.0
Cash in vault	+26.9	0.0	- 3.7
Balances with domestic banks	+29.2	+17.9	+24.4
LIABILITIES			
Total deposits (except interbank)	+11.6	- 5.0	-10.2
Demand deposits adjusted	+25.6	- 1.5	- 1.4
Time deposits	+18.1	+ 2.7	+ 1.3
U.S. Government deposits	-38.0	- 8.8	-51.0
Interbank deposits:			
Domestic banks	+20.4	+ 8.7	+11.3
Foreign banks	+25.0	0.0	+83.3
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS			
	+22.5	0.0	- 0.7

Local Business Conditions For The Year

(Continued)

City and item	Percent change		
	Year 1947	Year 1946	1947 from 1946
TEMPLE:			
Retail sales of independent stores	-----	-----	+ 8.3
Department and apparel store sales	-----	-----	- 4.0
Postal receipts	\$ 161,126	\$ 158,455	+ 1.7
Building permits	\$ 2,836,733	\$ 1,820,406	+ 28.4

City and item	Percent change		
	Year 1947	Year 1946	1947 from 1946
TEXAS CITY:			
Retail sales of independent stores	-----	-----	+ 74.8
Postal receipts	\$ 98,543	\$ 87,862	+ 12.8
Building permits	\$ 5,292,568	\$ 1,184,277	+366.6

City and item	Percent change		
	Year 1947	Year 1946	1947 from 1946
TEXARKANA:			
Retail sales of independent stores	-----	-----	- 5.0
Air express shipments	1,153	932	+ 23.7
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 274,554	\$ 256,703	+ 7.0
Average end-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 22,176	\$ 24,578	- 9.8
Placements in employment	9,205	7,792	+ 18.1
Unemployment (monthly average)	3,355	8,068	- 58.4

City and item	Percent change		
	Year 1947	Year 1946	1947 from 1946
WACO:			
Retail sales of independent stores	-----	-----	+ 8.2
Department and apparel store sales	-----	-----	+ 0.6
Postal receipts	\$ 787,067	\$ 704,787	+ 11.7
Building permits	\$ 9,078,885	\$ 5,763,689	+ 57.5
Air express shipments	2,873	2,354	+ 0.8
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 563,333	\$ 508,705	+ 10.7
Average end-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 62,874	\$ 68,797	- 8.6
Placements in employment	7,240	8,536	- 15.2
Unemployment (monthly average)	3,367	4,300	- 21.7

City and item	Percent change		
	Year 1947	Year 1946	1947 from 1946
TYLER:			
Retail sales of independent stores	-----	-----	+ 17.0
Department and apparel store sales	-----	-----	+ 4.6
Postal receipts	\$ 328,819	\$ 316,767	+ 3.8
Building permits	\$ 4,501,236	\$ 3,700,648	+ 21.6
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 413,042	\$ 371,241	+ 11.3
Average end-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 46,805	\$ 47,493	- 1.4

City and item	Percent change		
	Year 1947	Year 1946	1947 from 1946
WICHITA FALLS:			
Retail sales of independent stores	-----	-----	+ 2.3
Department and apparel store sales	-----	-----	+ 6.6
Postal receipts	\$ 467,830	\$ 508,191	- 7.0
Building permits	\$ 2,927,929	\$ 1,983,097	+ 47.6
Air express shipments	3,338	2,802	+ 19.1
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 552,396	\$ 479,287	+ 15.3
Average end-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 70,164	\$ 71,086	- 1.2
Placements in employment	5,608	4,973	+ 12.8
Unemployment (monthly average)	1,583	2,021	- 21.7

*Excludes deposits to the credit of banks.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CONDITION OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

(in thousands of dollars)

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Classification	Dec. 30 1947	Nov. 26 1947	Dec. 31 1946	Percent change	
				Dec. 30 1947	Dec. 30 1947 from Dec. 31 1946
				Dec. 31 1946	Nov. 26 1947
ASSETS					
Gold certificate reserves	513,821	522,461	491,067	+ 4.6	- 1.7
U.S. Government securities	1,017,419	998,711	918,253	+10.8	+ 1.9
Discounts and advances	1,670	2,947	4,868	-61.8	-48.3
Other cash	11,522	18,308	12,396	- 7.1	-18.4
Other assets	112,139	125,470	108,046	+ 3.8	-10.6
TOTAL ASSETS	1,656,571	1,662,897	1,534,180	+ 8.0	- 0.4
LIABILITIES					
Federal Reserve notes	628,438	625,142	604,811	+ 4.0	+ 0.5
Deposits	910,380	903,853	819,000	+11.2	+ 0.7
Other liabilities	92,049	108,826	87,109	+ 5.7	-15.4
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	1,630,867	1,687,821	1,510,420	+ 8.0	- 0.4
Capital paid in	7,303	7,266	6,865	+ 6.4	+ 0.5
Surplus	15,084	15,084	15,084	0.0	0.0
Other capital accounts	8,317	2,726	1,761	+88.4	+21.7
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	1,656,571	1,662,897	1,534,180	+ 8.0	- 0.4

BANK DEBITS*

(in thousands of dollars)

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

City	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946	Percent change	
				Dec. 1947 from Dec. 1946	Dec. 1947 from Nov. 1947
				Dec. 1946	Nov. 1947
TOTAL	\$3,768,269	\$3,238,857	\$8,118,187	+20.9	+16.5
Abilene	87,017	88,284	29,785	+24.5	+11.4
Amarillo	89,234	86,806	69,814	+27.8	+ 3.4
Austin	101,848	96,897	100,288	+ 1.6	+ 5.7
Beaumont	84,046	84,712	76,011	+10.6	- 0.8
Corpus Christi	76,471	72,196	70,824	+ 8.0	+ 5.9
Corsicana	12,896	10,242	11,845	+18.7	+25.9
Dallas	1,180,925	924,995	923,837	+22.5	+22.8
El Paso	181,059	115,237	117,847	+11.2	+13.7
Fort Worth	366,159	308,978	314,402	+16.5	+20.5
Galveston	67,246	60,711	60,188	+11.7	+10.8
Houston	1,053,901	899,009	816,625	+29.1	+17.2
Laredo	17,277	15,812	17,094	+ 1.1	+12.8
Lubbock	85,538	87,250	58,008	+47.5	- 2.0
Port Arthur	38,817	30,905	28,880	+17.1	+ 9.4
San Angelo	32,456	29,229	25,728	+26.2	-11.0
San Antonio	269,099	221,973	239,784	+12.2	+21.2
Texarkana†	27,673	26,605	26,004	+ 6.4	+ 4.0
Tyler	40,915	36,059	34,969	+17.0	+18.5
Waco	56,666	51,253	50,558	+12.1	+10.6
Wichita Falls	54,026	48,254	46,696	+15.7	+12.0

*Debits to deposit accounts except interbank accounts.

†Includes 2 banks in Arkansas, Eighth District.

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.)

Seasonal factors contributed to a 16.5% increase in the volume of *bank debits* for 20 Texas cities during December, total debits to deposit accounts increasing by over \$500 million in the cities surveyed. Lubbock, with a 2.0% decrease, and Beaumont, with a 0.8% drop, were the only two of the cities which experienced declines. Four cities had an increase of over 20%: Corsicana, with 25.9%; Dallas, with 22.3%; San Antonio, with 21.2%; and Fort Worth, with 20.5%.

Corporation Charters

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

New domestic *corporations chartered* in Texas during December numbered 301, 13 more than in the previous month, but with a total capitalization of only \$5,838 thousand in December as compared with \$7,458 thousand in November. In addition, 21 new foreign corporations received charters. Of the new domestic corporations, 158 were capitalized for amounts between \$5,000 and \$100,000, and 70 were capitalized for less than \$5,000.

CORPORATION CHARTERS ISSUED BY CAPITALIZATION

Source: Office of the Secretary of State

Capitalization	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946
Over \$100,000	18	11	15
\$5,000-\$100,000	158	164	132
Less than \$5,000	70	63	39
Capitalization not specified	6	4	3
No capital stock	54	46	45

CORPORATION CHARTERS ISSUED BY CLASSIFICATIONS

Source: Secretary of State

Classification	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946
DOMESTIC CORPORATIONS			
Capitalization*	5,838	7,458	9,226
Number	301	288	234
Banking-finance	7	6	4
Construction	13	20	12
Manufacturing	25	32	28
Merchandising	71	59	67
Oil	10	5	8
Public service	5	—	1
Real estate	83	36	16
Transportation	13	7	7
All other	70	77	46
No capital stock	54	46	45
FOREIGN CORPORATIONS			
Number	21	45	36

*In thousands of dollars.

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.)

Texas kept step with the rest of the nation during December in sales of *ordinary life insurance*, both Texas and the nation as a whole realizing a 17.5% increase. Dollar volume of sales in Texas was \$67,189 thousand, compared with \$1,478 million for the United States. National sales, however, were 23.5% higher this December than last, compared to a 7.5% increase in Texas for the same period.

Business 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.)

The number of *business failures* in Texas reported by Dun and Bradstreet, doubled in number in December as compared with November. The 6 failures during December had total liabilities of \$64,000 compared with the 3 failures in November, with total liabilities of \$41,000. There were only 2 failures in December 1946, with total liabilities amounting to \$22,000.

BUSINESS FAILURES

Source: Dun and Bradstreet, Inc.

	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946	Nov. 1946
Number	6	3	2	1
Liabilities*	64	41	22	136
Average liabilities per failure*	11	14	11	136

*In thousands of dollars.

Sales of United States Savings Bonds

(Sales of United States savings bonds less redemptions are significant because they represent private savings siphoned off by the government to meet its fiscal needs.)

The increase of 13.9% (\$1.9 million) in sales of *United States savings bonds* for December over November indicates greater success during the month for the Treasury's bond-selling campaign. The success of this campaign is particularly significant at the present time, for not only do the sales decrease the volume of means of payment in the hands of individuals, but the proceeds can be used by the government to retire securities held by the Federal Reserve banks and the commercial banks, thereby aiding in the fight against inflation.

SALES OF UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS

Source: Treasury Department, Office of State Director for Texas

Series	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946	Percent change	
				from Dec. 1947	from Dec. 1946
TOTAL	\$15,474,476	\$13,588,221	\$18,994,619	-18.5	+13.9
Series E	10,260,882	9,305,882	13,377,553	-23.3	+10.3
Series F and G	5,213,594	4,282,839	5,617,066	-7.2	+21.7

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.)

The principal 1947 events in the world of transportation were not very spectacular, but nevertheless important. Continued freight car shortages probably created the most anguish, real or imagined, for shippers. Rate increases in every form of transportation, but particularly for railroads, are probably the chief events of the year and the ones likely to affect the state and national economy the most.

Effective January 5, 1948 the railroads were granted another 10% freight rate increase, which, added to the previous 10% and 17½%, brought the total boost in about 12 months time to approximately 37½%, or, with allowance for various exemptions, probably about 35% for the total list of commodities.

The carriers asked a 33% permanent increase over rates prevailing in early 1947, were granted 10% temporarily, with the ICC still considering the advisability of how much more will be needed. With a 15½ cents an hour wage increase already granted to most railroad unions and a called strike of several operating brotherhoods now entering the special board mediation stage, there is little doubt but that at least another 10% rate increase will be granted.

The carriers may argue that freight rates represent a relatively small proportion of total costs—an estimated 5% of wholesale value in 1941. The actual proportion varies with the commodity and the industry, but the fact remains that a 35 to 50% increase in rates in less than 15 months is decidedly inflationary. The most recent 10% is estimated to add \$1,230,000,000 to railroad freight revenue.

REVENUE FREIGHT LOADED IN SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT (in carloads)

Source: Car Service Division, Association of American Railroads

Item	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946	Percent change	
				from Dec. 1947	from Dec. 1946
TOTAL	283,672	296,308	277,421	+ 2.3	- 4.3
Grain and grain products	19,840	24,977	25,604	-22.5	-20.6
Livestock	4,504	7,600	7,193	-37.4	-40.7
Coal	29,661	28,520	24,335	+21.9	+ 4.0
Coke	857	774	800	+ 7.1	+10.7
Forest products	20,016	20,854	22,272	-10.1	- 4.0
Ore	2,899	2,418	2,299	+26.1	+19.9
Merchandise (l.c.l.)	28,354	29,696	31,827	-10.9	- 4.5
Miscellaneous	177,541	181,469	163,091	+ 8.9	- 2.2

Air

(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.)

The nation's domestic airlines in 1947 found themselves in both enviable and unenviable positions of having rendered more public service than at any time in their history, but at a greater net loss to themselves than in any previous year. More airline seats were available and an airminded public occupied more of them than at any time in the history of air carriers.

AIR EXPRESS SHIPMENTS

Source: Railway Express Agency

Cities	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946	Percent change		
				from Dec. 1947 from Dec. 1946	Dec. 1947 from Nov. 1947	Dec. 1947 from Nov. 1947
TOTAL	35,755	29,664	35,575	+ 0.5	+ 20.5	
Abilene	225	185	213	+ 5.6	+ 21.6	
Amarillo	985	577	775	+ 27.1	+ 70.7	
Austin	831	563	682	+ 21.8	+ 47.6	
Beaumont	533	358	441	+ 20.9	+ 48.9	
Big Spring	89	54	94	- 5.3	+ 64.8	
Brownsville	2,056	1,831	5,284	- 61.1	+ 12.3	
Brownwood	47	32	*	—	+ 46.9	
Bryan	49	24	*	—	+104.2	
Corpus Christi	978	588	1,024	- 4.5	+ 66.3	
Dallas	10,910	9,525	9,867	+ 10.6	+ 14.5	
El Paso	2,024	1,669	1,930	+ 4.9	+ 21.3	
Fort Worth	236	1,839	2,144	- 89.0	- 87.2	
Galveston	592	379	578	+ 2.4	+ 56.2	
Houston	6,940	5,413	5,874	+ 18.1	+ 28.2	
Laredo	467	295	541	- 13.7	+ 58.3	
Longview	243	135	*	—	+ 80.0	
Lubbock	483	359	402	+ 20.1	+ 34.5	
Midland	318	209	188	+ 69.1	+ 52.2	
Mineral Wells	31	16	*	—	+ 93.8	
Odessa	262	182	*	—	+ 44.0	
Palestine	27	19	*	—	+ 42.1	
Paris	101	47	*	—	+114.9	
Port Arthur	304	198	247	+ 23.1	+ 53.5	
San Angelo	898	678	381	+135.7	+ 32.4	
San Antonio	4,509	3,386	3,691	+ 22.2	+ 33.2	
Sweetwater	75	37	*	—	+102.7	
Temple	104	77	*	—	+ 35.1	
Texarkana	173	103	169	+ 2.4	+ 68.0	
Tyler	356	397	237	+ 50.2	- 10.3	
Victoria	24	19	*	—	+ 26.3	
Waco	384	224	414	- 7.2	+ 71.4	
Wichita Falls	501	246	399	+ 25.6	+103.7	

*Not reported during 1946.

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.)

Official figures of tonnage moving through United States ports recently released by the United States Corps of Army Engineers revealed that Texas maintains an important position in the nation's maritime enterprise. The official reports which tabulated total tonnages for 1946, the latest complete tabulations, listed six Texas ports among the top 14. Of these, three were among the top 10.

LABOR

Employment

(Employment statistics are among the most important indicators of Texas business and economic activity. The estimates of total employment in Texas include all employees, both production workers and others, but exclude proprietors, officers of corporations, and other principal executives. More detailed statistics on Texas employment, pay rolls, hours, earnings, and man-hours are analyzed in a Supplement to the Review on Texas Employment and Pay Rolls.)

Total *nonagricultural employment* in Texas increased 1.1%, or 18,000 persons, over November, continuing its upward trend of several months, according to reports compiled by the Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. There were 52,900 more persons employed in nonagricultural jobs in December 1947 than there were in December 1946.

The 0.2% decrease in manufacturing employment for December reflected the 1.7% loss in the nondurable goods group. Accounting for the drop in the nondurable goods group were the decreases of 5.9% in foods and 4.9% in "other" nondurable goods. The outstanding gain in employment in the durable goods group came with the 20.7% jump in nonferrous metals. Other changes in durable goods worker requirements were negligible.

Nonmanufacturing establishments in Texas in December 1947 furnished jobs for 1,360,700 people, an increase of 1.4% over November and 2.7% over December 1946. The increased employment for December 1947 was manifest in comparatively small gains in all types of mining, transportation and other public utilities, and all of the trade classifications with the exception of a minor loss in foods and liquors. Following the usual holiday upswing, general merchandise employment increased 16.6% followed closely by the 12.0% increase in apparel employment. Employment in finance and service establishments changed little for December as typified by a 1.2% increase for hotels and a 1.0% decrease for other personal services. The 0.5% decline in contract construction employment was an insignificant one for the winter season.

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 roll reports from 123 establishments engaged in durable goods manufacturing reveal some interesting changes for December 1947 compared with the previous month. The month saw a significant 18.7% increase in pay rolls for machinery, except electrical, and an unusual rise of 16.7% in worker payments for other durable goods industries. Changes in the five other industrial classifications for the group were small, ranging from

a 0.2% increase in furniture and finished lumber to a 1.3% decrease for lumber and timber.

The nondurable manufactured goods group presented a somewhat similar shift in the last two months of 1947. Decreases varied from 0.1% in "other" nondurable goods to a drop of 10.3% in the food industry. Sig-

ESTIMATES OF NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT IN TEXAS

(in thousands)

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

Industry	Percent change					
	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946	from Dec. 1946	Dec. 1947	from Nov. 1947
TOTAL	1,707.5	1,689.5	1,654.6	+ 3.2	+ 1.1	
Manufacturing	346.8	347.6	330.0	+ 5.1	- 0.2	
Durable goods	141.9	139.1	136.3	+ 4.1	+ 2.0	
Nondurable goods	204.9	208.5	193.7	+ 5.8	- 1.7	
Nonmanufacturing	1,360.7	1,341.9	1,324.6	+ 2.7	+ 1.4	
Iron and steel	19.3	19.3	16.6	+16.3	0.0	
Machinery, except electrical	31.1	30.6	29.7	+ 4.7	+ 1.6	
Transportation equipment,						
except automobile	24.6	24.7	26.2	- 6.1	- 0.4	
Nonferrous metals	11.1	9.2	10.1	+ 9.9	+20.7	
Lumber and timber	31.3	31.0	28.2	+11.0	+ 1.0	
Furniture	11.7	11.6	12.0	- 2.5	+ 0.9	
Stone, clay, and glass	9.6	9.5	9.9	- 3.0	+ 1.1	
Other durable goods	3.2	3.2	3.6	-11.1	0.0	
Textiles	9.8	9.6	8.9	+10.1	+ 2.1	
Apparel	28.0	27.5	24.8	+12.9	+ 1.8	
Foods	72.2	76.7	70.7	+ 2.1	- 5.9	
Paper and allied products	3.8	3.7	3.7	+ 2.7	+ 2.7	
Printing and publishing	19.8	19.7	18.5	+ 7.0	+ 0.5	
Chemicals	23.9	23.7	19.8	+20.7	+ 0.8	
Petroleum	37.7	37.4	39.4	- 4.3	+ 0.8	
Other nondurable goods	9.7	10.2	7.9	+22.8	- 4.9	
Mining	90.9	90.3	84.3	+ 7.8	+ 0.7	
Crude petroleum and natural gas production	84.5	84.0	78.2	+ 8.1	+ 0.6	
Other mining	6.4	6.3	6.1	+ 4.9	+ 1.6	
Transportation and other public utilities	220.3	217.9	208.3	+ 5.8	+ 1.1	
Interstate railroads	68.8	67.8	70.4	- 2.3	+ 1.5	
Telephone and telegraph	31.7	31.2	29.1	+ 8.9	+ 1.6	
Other transportsations and public utilities	119.8	118.9	108.8	+10.1	+ 0.8	
Trade	425.3	410.2	437.7	- 2.8	+ 3.7	
Wholesale	120.2	119.6	113.2	+ 6.2	+ 0.5	
Retail	305.1	290.6	324.5	- 6.0	+ 5.0	
General merchandise	76.6	65.7	83.2	- 7.9	+16.6	
Foods and liquors	39.9	40.2	47.5	-16.0	- 0.7	
Automobile	25.0	24.3	29.8	-16.1	+ 2.9	
Apparel	27.9	24.9	25.8	+ 8.1	+12.0	
Other retail trade	135.7	135.5	138.2	- 1.8	+ 0.1	
Finance and service	281.5	280.3	263.0	+ 7.0	+ 0.4	
Bank and trust companies	17.7	17.6	15.9	+11.3	+ 0.6	
Insurance	24.6	24.4	23.9	+ 2.9	+ 0.8	
Retal estate and other financial agencies	23.1	23.3	19.8	+16.7	- 0.9	
Hotels	24.7	24.4	24.1	+ 2.5	+ 1.2	
Other personal services	49.6	50.1	53.0	- 6.4	- 1.0	
Medical services	29.0	28.9	25.7	+12.8	+ 0.3	
Other business and professional services	112.8	111.6	100.6	+12.1	+ 1.1	
Contract construction	99.9	100.4	79.8	+25.2	- 0.5	
Government	242.8	242.8	251.5	- 3.5	0.0	

nificant increases in pay roll figures came in the paper industry (5.7%), and in the apparel industry, (4.6%).

Nonmanufacturing establishments indicated decreases in pay rolls for December 1947 in 7 of the 9 classifications. Declines ranged from 0.2% for wholesale trade to 6.5% for crude petroleum production. The 8.1% increase in retail trade pay rolls and the 1.4% increase in hotel pay rolls supported the seasonal pattern.

As compared with December 1946, reports from 1,159 establishments indicate that December 1947 brought rather significant pay rolls increases in all classifications of all groups. The two exceptions for the period were the 14.9% decrease in laundry pay rolls and the 4.3% drop in worker payments in the furniture and finished lumber industry.

CHANGES IN PRODUCTION WORKER PAY ROLLS IN SPECIFIED INDUSTRIES

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

Industry	Number of reporting establishments	Percent change	
		Dec. 1947 from Dec. 1946	Dec. 1947 from Nov. 1947
MANUFACTURING			
Durable goods:			
Iron and steel	24	+14.9	+ 0.7
Machinery, except electrical	32	+ 8.1	+18.7
Nonferrous metals	6	+11.6	+ 1.3
Lumber and timber	13	+18.4	- 1.3
Furniture and finished lumber	17	- 4.3	+ 0.2
Stone, clay, and glass	28	+ 9.1	- 0.9
Other durable goods	3	+23.9	+16.7
Nondurable goods:			
Textiles	14	+ 9.0	+ 1.4
Apparel	29	+ 8.9	+ 4.6
Food	95	+ 9.9	-10.3
Paper	6	+15.2	+ 5.7
Printing and publishing	27	+18.3	+ 0.4
Chemicals	53	+22.5	+ 1.9
Petroleum refining	28	+17.8	+ 1.5
Other nondurable goods	4	+40.9	- 0.1
NONMANUFACTURING			
Crude petroleum production	40	+15.3	- 6.5
Dyeing and cleaning	10	+ 2.1	- 2.9
Hotels*	12	+10.7†	+ 1.4†
Insurance	88	+ 5.1	- 8.9
Laundries	10	-14.9	- 0.3
Quarrying	12	+ 0.5	- 5.1
Public utilities	186	+18.6	- 1.1
Retail trade*	292	+ 3.5	+ 8.1
Wholesale trade*	130	+ 8.6	- 0.2

*Figures cover all employees except proprietors, firm members, officers of corporations, or other principal executives.

†Cash payments only: the additional value of board, room, and tips cannot be computed.

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.)

Only 4 of the 15 industries of the manufacturing group reported a work week of less than 42 hours for the month of December 1947, while 5 of the 8 industries of the nonmanufacturing group reported a work

week of less than 42 hours. The average work week for the manufacturing group was 43.7 hours, while the average work week for the nonmanufacturing group was 42.6 hours.

With only one exception *hourly earnings* were greater in December 1947 than in December 1946 in the manufacturing industries. The exception was "other" noncatagories the two exceptions to increased percentage gain was the 42.7% reported by the furniture and finished lumber industry—the second successive month for this industry to be highest. In the nonmanufacturing catagories the two exceptions to increased percentage gains by all eight industries were public utilities (20.1% less) and laundries (4.3% less).

Weekly take-home pay was considerably greater in all manufacturing industries in December 1947 than in December 1946. The only decreases reported were 11.2% for "other" nondurable goods and 2.2% for apparel. The largest gains were the 36.4% reported by paper mills and the 31.7% reported by furniture and finished lumber industries. Three decreases marred the substantial gains that most of the nonmanufacturing industries made in December 1947 over December 1946: public utilities (17.6%), wholesale trade (2.0%), quarrying (1.6%).

MAN-HOURS WORKED IN IDENTICAL MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS

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

Industry	Number of reporting establishments	Percent change	
		Dec. 1947 from Dec. 1946	Dec. 1947 from Nov. 1947
TOTAL	356	+ 0.2	+ 1.2
Durable goods:			
Iron and steel	24	+ 7.1	+ 3.3
Machinery, except electrical	32	- 4.0	+ 7.4
Nonferrous metals	5	- 7.5	- 1.3
Lumber and timber	18	+ 5.7	- 2.6
Furniture and finished lumber	17	- 6.9	- 5.7
Stone, clay, and glass	28	- 2.0	- 0.8
Other durable goods	3	+17.6	+14.2
Nondurable goods:			
Textiles	12	- 0.8	+ 0.8
Apparel	26	- 3.3	+ 3.3
Food	83	- 3.5	- 6.2
Paper and allied products	6	+ 7.8	+ 4.8
Printing and publishing	25	+ 2.6	+ 0.8
Chemicals	50	+ 7.8	+ 2.7
Petroleum refining	28	- 0.2	- 1.0
Other nondurable goods	4	+61.7	+ 3.8

HOURS AND EARNINGS*

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

Industry	Average weekly hours		Average hourly earnings (in cents)		Average weekly earnings (in dollars)		Percent change Dec. 1947 from Dec. 1946		
	Dec. 1947	Dec. 1946	Dec. 1947	Dec. 1946	Dec. 1947	Dec. 1946	Weekly hours	Hourly earnings	Weekly earnings
MANUFACTURING									
Durable goods:									
Iron and steel	44.6	45.0	116.4	106.8	51.91	48.06	- 0.9	+ 9.0	+ 8.0
Machinery (except electrical)	44.1	42.4	123.8	106.7	54.60	45.24	+ 4.0	+ 16.0	+ 20.7
Nonferrous metals	41.8	44.2	128.4	115.8	53.67	51.18	- 5.4	+ 10.9	+ 4.9
Lumber and timber	46.2	49.0	90.7	82.0	41.90	40.18	- 5.7	+ 10.6	+ 4.3
Furniture and finished lumber	41.8	45.3	109.3	76.6	45.69	34.70	- 7.7	+ 42.7	+ 31.7
Stone, clay, and glass	43.3	43.9	97.7	86.8	42.80	38.11	- 1.4	+ 12.6	+ 11.0
Other durable goods	44.9	39.7	129.7	129.3	58.24	51.33	+ 18.1	+ 0.3	+ 13.5
Nondurable goods:									
Textiles	42.0	43.8	105.3	88.9	44.23	38.94	- 4.1	+ 18.4	+ 13.6
Apparel	39.8	45.2	72.5	65.3	28.86	29.52	- 11.9	+ 11.0	- 2.2
Food	46.8	48.9	87.2	78.4	40.87	38.84	- 5.3	+ 11.2	+ 5.8
Paper	46.5	43.1	112.0	88.6	52.08	38.19	+ 7.9	+ 26.4	+ 36.4
Printing and publishing	42.0	41.2	143.2	129.2	60.14	58.23	+ 1.9	+ 10.8	+ 13.0
Chemicals	45.7	50.9	117.0	93.5	53.47	47.59	- 10.2	+ 25.1	+ 12.4
Petroleum refining	41.1	41.6	168.2	141.0	69.13	58.66	- 1.2	+ 19.3	+ 17.8
Other nondurable goods	45.3	38.7	90.3	119.1	40.91	46.09	+ 17.1	- 24.2	- 11.2
NONMANUFACTURING									
Crude petroleum production	39.5	39.5	163.1	149.4	64.42	59.01	0.0	+ 7.7	+ 9.2
Dyeing and cleaning	46.2	49.7	78.1	66.8	36.08	33.20	- 7.0	+ 16.9	+ 8.7
Hotels	41.5	46.6	46.6	37.8	19.34	17.61	- 10.9	+ 23.3	+ 9.8
Laundries	48.6	46.3	47.1	49.2	22.89	22.78	+ 5.0	- 4.3	+ 0.5
Public utilities	39.8	38.6	100.4	125.6	39.96	48.48	+ 3.1	- 20.1	- 17.6
Quarrying	40.2	44.4	129.1	118.8	51.90	52.75	- 9.5	+ 8.7	- 1.6
Retail trade	41.8	41.4	80.5	75.6	33.25	31.30	- 0.2	+ 6.5	+ 6.2
Wholesale trade	43.4	44.9	93.0	91.7	40.86	41.17	- 3.3	+ 1.4	- 2.0

*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.

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 356 manufacturing establishments increased 1.2% from November to December, maintaining a steady climb during the last six months. Increases in two industrial groups were above 5%: miscellaneous durable goods, 14.2%, and machinery, 7.4%. Compared with a year ago, man-hours this December were only 0.2% higher.

The steady advance in man-hours worked has been one of the most significant indicators of business prosperity for 1947.

Placements

(The number of placements reported by the Texas Employment Commission 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.)

Total placement activity declined 21.8% in 15 labor market areas of Texas during December 1947, although there was an average of 52.3% more placements this December than a year ago. The two exceptions to the general decline from November were the increases of 5.0% (El Paso area) and 13.2% (Galveston-Texas City area). Total placements by these Texas Employment Commission offices for December were 20,379.

Beginning on January 1 the Texas Employment Commission began handling labor for farm jobs again, thereby adding about 200,000 Texas employers to its list.

PLACEMENTS IN EMPLOYMENT

Source: Texas Employment Commission

Area	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946	Percent change		
				Dec. 1947 from Dec. 1946	Dec. 1947 from Nov. 1947	
TOTAL	20,379	26,067	13,382	+ 52.3	- 21.8	
Abilene	402	576	360	+ 11.7	- 30.2	
Amarillo	740	914	600	+ 23.3	- 19.0	
Austin	805	1,028	715	+ 12.6	- 21.7	
Corpus Christi	905	1,027	446	+102.9	- 11.9	
Dallas	3,957	4,606	2,592	+ 52.7	- 14.1	
El Paso	874	832	513	+ 70.4	+ 5.0	
Fort Worth	3,244	4,218	1,285	+152.5	- 23.1	
Galveston-Texas City	1,009	891	612	+ 64.9	+ 13.2	
Houston-Baytown	3,462	5,165	2,726	+ 27.0	- 33.0	
Longview	526	706	520	+ 1.2	- 25.5	
Lubbock	502	722	504	- 0.4	- 30.5	
San Antonio	2,231	3,807	1,385	+ 61.1	- 32.5	
Texarkana	691	855	436	+ 58.5	- 19.2	
Waco	571	704	474	+ 20.5	- 18.9	
Wichita Falls	460	516	214	+115.0	- 10.9	

Labor Force

(Estimates of the nonagricultural civilian labor force are made currently for the State's principal labor market areas by the Texas Employment Commission. 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 *labor force* in 15 principal labor market areas was estimated at 1,244,257, a moderate 0.6% increase over November, according to the Texas Employment Commission. The only change of more than 2% was Abilene, 2.6%.

NONAGRICULTURAL CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

Source: Texas Employment Commission

Area	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Percent change	
			Dec. 1947 from Nov. 1947	
TOTAL	1,244,257	1,236,278	+ 0.6	
Abilene	19,673	19,172	+ 2.6	
Amarillo	35,043	34,713	+ 1.0	
Austin	44,291	44,188	+ 0.2	
Corpus Christi	49,460	49,330	+ 0.3	
Dallas	227,225	224,965	+ 1.0	
El Paso	51,054	50,780	+ 0.5	
Fort Worth	134,710	133,372	+ 1.0	
Galveston-Texas City	57,255	57,863	- 1.1	
Houston-Baytown	311,750	308,475	+ 1.1	
Longview	22,833	22,564	+ 1.2	
Lubbock	25,033	25,293	- 1.0	
San Antonio	156,068	156,374	- 0.2	
Texarkana	32,746	32,687	+ 0.2	
Waco	47,081	46,726	+ 0.8	
Wichita Falls	30,035	29,776	+ 0.9	

Unemployment

(Estimates of unemployment in various areas of the State are currently made by the Texas Employment Commission. 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 15 labor market areas increased 0.4% from November to December, but there was 21.7% less unemployment in December 1947 than a year earlier. With the exception of Amarillo, Corpus Christi, and Waco, there were fewer persons unemployed in every area than a year ago. In December there were 47,565 persons unemployed in the 15 Texas areas.

Unemployment compensation *benefits* paid out to Texans in December 1947 totaled \$308,218 (excluding veterans claims). Total collections deposited were \$255,368, which left \$175,085,046 available for benefits at the end of the month compared to \$175,061,368 at the end of November.

There were 2,965 applications filed by *veterans* in December 1947, according to information supplied on veterans claims and disbursements. This was an increase of 22.4% over the 2,423 claims filed in November; and

brought the total to 58,648 for the year, and to 376,844 since applications were first accepted. Amount of allowances paid in December to veterans was \$1,535,937 to unemployed and \$293,403 to self-employed; totaling \$48,725,519 for the year 1947, and \$152,828,463 since the inception of the program.

A recent report of the Bureau of Census shows that an estimated 1,900,000 persons were unemployed in the United States during September 1947. Of these persons, about 1,750,000, or 91%, were seeking full-time work and the remaining 150,000, or 9%, were seeking part-time work.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Source: Texas Employment Commission

Area	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946
TOTAL	47,565	47,378	60,734
Abilene	1,140	1,000	1,144
Amarillo	1,500	1,500	1,200
Austin	1,560	1,595	2,034
Corpus Christi	2,600	2,300	2,000
Dallas	6,100	6,200	9,600
El Paso	2,300	2,200	2,300
Fort Worth	6,000	6,000	7,100
Galveston-Texas City	1,600	2,100	2,000
Houston-Baytown	7,800	8,000	13,500
Longview	1,850	1,800	2,350
Lubbock	800	700	800
San Antonio	6,800	6,800	8,900
Texarkana	3,175	2,900	3,620
Waco	3,100	3,150	2,700
Wichita Falls	1,240	1,133	1,486

Industrial Relations

(A knowledge of current developments in industrial relations is necessary to an understanding of the State's labor picture.)

The year 1947 ended with few strikes in Texas, but with indications of a restive 1948 built around problems caused by the Labor-Management Relations Act and labor's proposed "third round" of wage increases. There was cause for hope, but the future was not yet clear. Since the passage of the L.M.R.A. in June, the strike trend, both in the United States and in Texas, had been steadily downward. In November 1947 the latest month for which national figures are available, there were fewer strikes started than in any month since December 1945.

The strikes in Texas in December were all in the smaller companies. Union printers and typesetter operators struck December 9 at an Abilene newspaper and were off the job for the remainder of the year. A strike of salesmen (truck drivers) at two bakeries in Beaumont was settled December 27 after four days off the job. There was also a strike of workers at a stone quarry near Austin.

In Houston one company announced the signing of a two-year contract with the Independent Metal Workers Union, and the C.I.O. Oilworkers Union announced that it was temporarily withdrawing an N.L.R.B. bargaining rights petition at a large oil refinery whose workers are now represented by an independent union. In Waco a woman striker was indicted under the state's anti-violence-in-labor-disputes statute.

GOVERNMENT

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.)

Revenue receipts of the State Comptroller in the first four months of the current fiscal year were almost half again as large as in the comparable period a year earlier. September-December 1947 receipts totaled \$167,514,117, compared with \$112,137,795 the previous period, a gain of 49.4%.

In releasing these figures, however, the State Comptroller pointed out that nearly \$15 million of the \$55 million increase was nonspendable income from mineral leases and royalties from lands of the school and University permanent funds.

Other important sources of revenue increases were in federal aid contributions for highways (\$7 million), public welfare (\$3 million), and public education (\$2 million). The ad valorem tax brought in \$9.3 million more in the four months of 1947 than in the like 1946 period. This increase is attributable to the fact that there was no ad valorem levy for general revenue purposes in the previous fiscal year. The crude oil production tax netted the State nearly \$24 million, \$7 million more than in the four-month 1946 period, and indications are that the recent increase in the price of oil

REVENUE RECEIPTS OF STATE COMPTROLLER

Source: State Comptroller of Public Accounts

Item	September 1-December 31			
	Dec. 1947	1947-48	1946-47	Percent change
TOTAL	\$ 50,161,827	\$ 167,514,117	\$ 112,137,795	+ 49.4
Ad valorem tax	11,229,827	17,519,087	8,287,371	+ 112.7
Crude oil production tax	6,219,503	23,689,467	16,750,518	+ 41.4
Motor fuel tax (net)	5,173,308	22,504,474	20,272,304	+ 11.0
Cigarette tax and licenses	1,868,653	7,387,502	6,848,278	+ 7.9
Alcoholic beverage taxes and licenses	876,787	6,682,650	6,084,128	+ 9.8
Mineral leases, rentals and bonuses	14,414,817	14,607,712	398,403	+ 3666.6
Interest on securities owned	1,596,590	2,682,084	2,365,923	+ 13.4
Unclassified receipts from county tax collectors	7,078,608*	4,046,522	3,011,031	+ 34.4
Federal aid—highways	2,871,741	12,035,913	5,343,171	+ 125.3
Federal aid—public welfare	5,011,750	18,248,015	15,251,440	+ 19.6
Federal aid—public education	1,172,408	5,644,376	3,842,654	+ 46.9
Unemployment compensation taxes	247,809	5,886,111	4,828,984	+ 21.9
All other	6,557,549	26,580,204	18,908,595	+ 40.6

*Credit. Negative balance due to excess of clearances over receipts.

FEDERAL INTERNAL REVENUE COLLECTIONS

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

District	December		July 1-December 31			
	1947	1946	Percent change	1947-48	1946-47	Percent change
TEXAS	\$ 77,279,069	\$ 73,012,956	+ 5.8	\$457,072,062	\$411,894,806	+ 11.0
Income	58,932,011	57,538,895	+ 2.4	220,736,932	209,173,710	+ 5.5
Employment	2,139,814	1,132,949	+ 88.8	27,920,060	22,824,224	+ 22.3
Withholding	1,267,267	845,807	+ 49.8	131,433,070	109,418,498	+ 20.1
Other	14,940,477	13,495,305	+ 10.7	76,982,000	70,478,374	+ 9.2
FIRST DISTRICT	40,955,671	36,895,743	+ 11.0	246,749,538	209,422,729	+ 17.8
Income	31,662,606	28,416,636	+ 11.4	121,784,207	106,023,048	+ 14.9
Employment	70,871	69,005	+ 2.7	12,109,455	10,282,075	+ 17.8
Withholding	538,919	622,117	- 13.4	70,961,958	58,211,719	+ 21.9
Other	8,683,275	7,787,985	+ 11.5	41,893,918	34,905,887	+ 20.0
SECOND DISTRICT	36,323,390	36,117,213	+ 0.6	210,322,524	202,472,077	+ 3.9
Income	27,269,405	29,122,259	- 6.4	98,952,725	103,150,662	- 4.1
Employment	2,068,443	1,063,944	+ 94.4	15,810,605	12,542,149	+ 26.1
Withholding	728,348	223,690	+ 225.6	60,471,112	51,206,779	+ 18.1
Other	6,257,202	5,707,320	+ 9.6	35,088,082	35,572,487	- 1.4

will afford the State some \$40 million in additional revenue in the current fiscal year.

With the increase in intake, the State's operating costs have undergone similar changes.

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 during December 1947 of \$77,279,069 brought collections for the first half of the current fiscal year to \$457 million, an increase of 11.0% over July-December 1946.

Principal factor in the increase was a near \$10 million rise in corporation and individual income taxes excluding withholding taxes and a \$22 million gain in income taxes withheld from salaries. Percentagewise, these gains were 5.5% and 20.1%, respectively.

Employment (Social Security) and miscellaneous tax collections also showed sizable gains over 1946. Employment taxes reached \$27,920,060 in the first half of fiscal 1948, for a 22.3% rise, and miscellaneous taxes of \$76,982,000 were up 9.2%.

In the First (South Texas) District federal collections for fiscal 1948 through December 1947 totaled \$247 million, 17.8% more than a year earlier, while in the Second (North Texas) District collections this fiscal year amounted to \$210,322,524, a 3.9% gain. In both districts, individual and corporation income taxes, reflecting the continued high level of business activity and consumer incomes, have been the chief source of federal revenue monies.

Recent indications point to a possible \$7 billion surplus in the federal government's 1948 fiscal year. If this materializes, it would mean a substantial upward adjustment of the \$4,667 million previously estimated. Already receipts have exceeded expenditures by \$715 million, and government officials expect an additional \$6 billion to be added to that amount by June 30, when fiscal 1948 ends.

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.)

In November, for the sixth consecutive month, *wholesale prices* of commodities showed increases over the month preceding. The November index level was only slightly (0.6%) above the October level. Prices of one commodity group, farm products, actually declined by 0.9% during the eleventh month. Leather and hide prices showed the effects of the price hike announcements mentioned last month by jumping 5.6% during November, the highest percentage increase of any one component.

The index for November stood at a point 14.2% above that of the same month in 1946, and approximately

INDEXES OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES (1926 = 100)

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

Group	Nov. 1947	Oct. 1947	Nov. 1946	Percent change	
				Nov. 1947 from Nov. 1946	Nov. 1947 from Oct. 1947
ALL COMMODITIES	159.5	158.5	139.7	+14.2	+ 0.6
Farm products	187.9	189.7	169.8	+10.7	- 0.9
Foods	178.0	177.8	165.4	+ 7.6	+ 0.1
Hides and leather products	202.4	191.7*	172.5	+17.3	+ 5.6
Textile products	144.7	143.0	131.6	+10.0	+ 1.2
Building materials	187.5	185.8	145.5	+28.9	+ 0.9
Cement	120.6	120.1	107.0	+12.7	+ 0.4
Lumber	295.6	290.0	192.1	+53.9	+ 1.9
All commodities other than farm products	153.1	151.5*	132.9	+15.2	+ 1.1
All commodities other than farm products and foods	142.1	140.0*	120.7	+17.7	+ 4.2

*Revised.

double the level of prices in 1939. With the weekly index continuing to rise during the first few weeks of December, it is apparent that the average for that month will be still greater.

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 *cost of living in Houston* increased by 1.5% from October to November, according to the *consumers' price index* prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Biggest increase among component parts of the index was a 2.0% rise in prices of housefurnishings.

In November, for the first time in some months, a report on the index of rents in Houston was made. It stood at 116.7, which was 16.7% greater than the average of rents in the years 1935-39. The last time the rent index was published was for April 1947 when it stood at 110.7. The difference of 1.6% from April to November reflects the easing of rent controls during 1947, no doubt.

Consumers' prices were 10.5% higher in Houston in November 1947 than they were in the same month of 1946.

According to a late report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the cost of living in Houston climbed from 165.8 in November to 169.3 in December (1935-39 = 100) a 2.1% increase. This is an 11.2% increase over December 1946.

INDEXES OF CONSUMERS' PRICES IN HOUSTON

(1935-39 = 100)

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

Group	Nov. 1947	Oct. 1947	Nov. 1946	Percent change	
				Nov. from Nov. 1946	Nov. from Oct. 1947
ALL ITEMS	165.8	168.4	150.0	+10.5	+ 1.5
Food	210.2	208.7	190.0	+10.6	+ 0.7
Apparel	198.7	197.0	164.2	+21.0	+ 0.9
Rent	116.7	—	—	—	—
Fuel, electricity, and ice	94.3	94.3	94.1	+ 0.2	0.0
Housefurnishings	190.6	186.9	171.1	+11.4	+ 2.0
Miscellaneous	144.5	142.5	132.0	+ 9.5	+ 1.4

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LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	Percent change				City and item	Percent change				
	Dec. 1947		Dec. 1947			Dec. 1947		Dec. 1947		
	from Dec. 1946	from Nov. 1947	from Dec. 1946	from Nov. 1947		from Dec. 1946	from Nov. 1947	from Dec. 1946	from Nov. 1947	
ABILENE:										
Retail sales of independent stores.....	.....	+ 15.6	.....	+ 17.6				
Department and apparel store sales.....	.....	+ 13.5	.....	+ 40.5				
Postal receipts \$ 51,189	\$ 51,189	+ 19.6	.....	+ 70.6					
Building permits \$ 369,090	\$ 369,090	+167.8	.....	+ 25.6					
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands) \$ 37,017	\$ 37,017	+ 24.5	.....	+ 11.4					
End-of-month deposits (thousands)* \$ 42,387	\$ 42,387	+ 8.0	.....	+ 5.6					
Annual rate of deposit turnover.....	10.8	+ 18.7	.....	+ 8.0					
Air express shipments.....	225	+ 5.6	.....	+ 21.6					
Unemployment.....	1,140	- 0.3	.....	+ 14.0					
Placements in employment.....	402	+ 11.7	.....	- 30.2					
AMARILLO:										
Retail sales of independent stores.....	.....	+ 27.9	.....	+ 39.3				
Department and apparel store sales.....	.....	+ 18.3	.....	+ 33.2				
Postal receipts \$ 96,022	\$ 96,022	+ 22.7	.....	+ 64.3					
Building permits \$ 524,485	\$ 524,485	+ 70.9	.....	- 48.4					
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands) \$ 89,284	\$ 89,284	+ 27.8	.....	+ 3.4					
End-of-month deposits (thousands)* \$ 84,807	\$ 84,807	+ 14.8	.....	- 1.0					
Annual rate of deposit turnover.....	12.6	+ 11.5	.....	+ 4.1					
Air express shipments.....	985	+ 27.1	.....	+ 70.7					
Unemployment.....	1,500	+ 25.0	.....	0					
Placements in employment.....	740	+ 23.3	.....	- 19.0					
AUSTIN:										
Retail sales of independent stores.....	.....	+ 20.2	.....	+ 27.9				
Department and apparel store sales.....	.....	+ 7.7	.....	+ 47.8				
Postal receipts \$ 189,990	\$ 189,990	+ 17.1	.....	+ 79.4					
Building permits \$ 1,480,948	\$ 1,480,948	+ 73.0	.....	- 12.5					
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands) \$ 101,848	\$ 101,848	+ 1.6	.....	+ 5.7					
End-of-month deposits (thousands)* \$ 106,333	\$ 106,333	+ 11.8	.....	+ 5.7					
Annual rate of deposit turnover.....	11.8	- 7.1	.....	+ 4.4					
Air express shipments.....	831	+ 21.8	.....	+ 47.6					
Unemployment.....	1,560	- 23.3	.....	- 2.2					
Placements in employment.....	805	+ 12.6	.....	- 21.7					
BEAUMONT:										
Retail sales of independent stores.....	.....	+ 10.4	.....	+ 39.6				
Department and apparel store sales.....	.....	+ 10.7	.....	+ 41.3				
Postal receipts \$ 79,685	\$ 79,685	+ 17.7	.....	+ 68.6					
Building permits \$ 1,392,664	\$ 1,392,664	+286.2	.....	+334.2					
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands) \$ 84,046	\$ 84,046	+ 10.6	.....	- 0.8					
End-of-month deposits (thousands)* \$ 99,735	\$ 99,735	+ 14.9	.....	+ 3.2					
Annual rate of deposit turnover.....	10.3	- 2.8	.....	- 3.7					
Air express shipments.....	533	+ 20.9	.....	+ 48.9					
BROWNSVILLE:										
Retail sales of independent stores.....	.....	+ 9.5	.....	+ 33.2				
Postal receipts \$ 20,124	\$ 20,124	+ 17.0	.....	+ 72.6					
Building permits \$ 184,295	\$ 184,295	+112.0	.....	+ 83.1					
Air express shipments.....	2,056	- 61.1	.....	+ 12.3					
BROWNWOOD:										
Retail sales of independent stores.....	.....	+ 14.6	.....	+ 28.4				
Department and apparel store sales.....	.....	+ 17.5	.....	+ 42.7				
Postal receipts \$ 18,239	\$ 18,239	+ 18.7	.....	+ 85.9					
Building permits \$ 61,610	\$ 61,610	- 31.6	.....	- 21.2					
Air express shipments.....	47	—	.....	+ 46.9					
CORPUS CHRISTI:										
Retail sales of independent stores.....	.....	+ 17.0	.....	+ 20.3				
Department and apparel store sales.....	.....	+ 3.0	.....	+ 37.6				
Postal receipts \$ 101,215	\$ 101,215	+ 7.4	.....	+ 70.1					
Building permits \$ 878,077	\$ 878,077	+ 32.4	.....	- 87.7					
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands) \$ 76,471	\$ 76,471	+ 8.0	.....	+ 5.9					
End-of-month deposits (thousands)* \$ 76,547	\$ 76,547	+ 9.7	.....	+ 2.5					
Annual rate of deposit turnover.....	12.1	- 0.8	.....	+ 2.5					
Air express shipments.....	978	- 4.5	.....	+ 66.3					
Unemployment.....	2,600	+ 30.0	.....	+ 13.0					
Placements in employment.....	905	+102.9	.....	+ 11.9					
CORSICANA:										
Postal receipts \$ 21,659	\$ 21,659	+ 45.0	.....	+ 183.8					
Building permits \$ 39,250	\$ 39,250	+253.6	.....	+ 8.2					
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands) \$ 12,896	\$ 12,896	+ 13.7	.....	+ 25.9					
End-of-month deposits (thousands)* \$ 20,610	\$ 20,610	+ 6.2	.....	+ 1.2					
Annual rate of deposit turnover.....	7.6	+ 7.0	.....	+ 26.7					
DALLAS:										
Retail sales of independent stores.....	.....	+ 12.6	.....	+ 31.7				
Apparel stores.....	.....	+ 6.6	.....	+ 32.8				
Automotive stores.....	.....	+ 45.8	.....	+ 22.8				
Drug stores.....	.....	- 3.4	.....	+ 27.7				
Filling stations.....	.....	+ 10.1	.....	+ 5.7				
Food stores.....	.....	+ 18.8	.....	+ 27.6				
Furniture and household stores.....	.....	+ 20.7	.....	+ 31.1				
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores.....	.....	+ 52.2	.....	+ 5.0				
Eating and drinking places.....	.....	+ 0.6	.....	+ 0.6				
All other stores.....	.....	+ 5.0	.....	+ 65.8				
Postal receipts \$ 1,007,239	\$ 1,007,239	+ 16.3	.....	+ 33.6					
Building permits \$ 5,700,914	\$ 5,700,914	+206.2	.....	+ 87.5					
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands) \$ 1,180,925	\$ 1,180,925	+ 22.5	.....	+ 22.3					
End-of-month deposits (thousands)* \$ 709,859	\$ 709,859	+ 9.2	.....	+ 0.5					
Annual rate of deposit turnover.....	19.2	+ 13.6	.....	+ 21.5					
Air express shipments.....	10,910	+ 10.6	.....	+ 14.5					
Unemployment.....	6,100	- 36.5	.....	- 1.6					
Placements in employment.....	3,957	+ 52.7	.....	- 14.1					
EL PASO:										
Retail sales of independent stores.....	.....	+ 13.4	.....	+ 16.9				
Department and apparel store sales.....	.....	+ 14.0	.....	+ 29.8				
Postal receipts \$ 145,515	\$ 145,515	+ 13.3	.....	+ 66.9					
Building permits \$ 484,683	\$ 484,683	+125.7	.....	- 59.3					
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands) \$ 131,059	\$ 131,059	+ 11.2	.....	+ 18.7					
End-of-month deposits (thousands)* \$ 121,666	\$ 121,666	+ 10.1	.....	+ 9.8					
Annual rate of deposit turnover.....	13.4	+ 5.5	.....	+ 6.8					
Air express shipments.....	2,024	+ 4.9	.....	+ 21.3					
Unemployment.....	2,300	0.0	.....	+ 4.5					
Placements in employment.....	874	+ 70.4	.....	+ 5.0					
HARLINGEN:										
Retail sales of independent stores.....	.....	- 0.3	.....	+ 2.7				
Postal receipts \$ 21,544	\$ 21,544	+ 20.0	.....	+ 66.8					
Building permits \$ 208,650	\$ 208,650	- 27.5	.....	+ 54.1					

*Excludes deposits to the credit of banks.

*Excludes deposits to the credit of banks.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	Percent change				
	Dec. 1947	Dec. 1947 from Dec. 1946	Dec. 1947 from Nov. 1947		
Retail sales of independent stores	+	8.4	+	32.0	
Automotive stores	+	1.9	-	8.4	
Drug stores	-	17.8	+	4.1	
Filling stations	-	6.9	-	5.3	
Food stores	+	3.5	-	1.0	
Eating and drinking places	-	18.7	+	28.6	
All other stores	+	11.3	+	50.6	
Postal receipts	\$ 424,432	+	15.7	+	24.2
Building permits	\$ 1,984,430	+	84.0	-	37.6
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 366,159	+	16.5	+	20.5
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 274,561	+	2.5	-	1.5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	15.8	+	18.7	+	20.6
Air express shipments	236	-	89.0	-	87.2
Unemployment	6,000	-	15.5	-	0.0
Placements in employment	3,244	+	152.5	-	28.1

GALVESTON:

Retail sales of independent stores	+	17.1	+	32.4	
Department and apparel store sales	+	10.0	+	52.8	
Postal receipts	\$ 75,520	-	1.9	+	55.6
Building permits	\$ 434,542	+	573.6	+	61.2
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 67,246	+	11.7	+	10.8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 92,955	+	12.6	+	2.3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.8	0.0	+	10.0	
Air express shipments	592	+	2.4	+	56.2
Unemployment (area)	1,600	-	20.0	-	23.8
Placements in employment (area)	1,009	+	64.9	+	13.2

HOUSTON:

Retail sales of independent stores	+	18.2	+	31.3	
Automotive stores	+	14.5	+	19.8	
Drug stores	+	0.5	+	29.4	
Filling stations	-	18.1	+	1.2	
Florists	-	17.2	+	69.7	
Food stores	+	11.4	+	12.5	
Furniture and household stores	+	56.7	+	21.2	
Jewelry stores	+	15.5	+	155.9	
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	-	15.1	-	12.8	
Eating and drinking places	+	1.5	+	1.0	
All other stores	+	37.5	+	40.1	
Postal receipts	\$ 789,003	+	19.0	+	60.1
Building permits	\$ 7,321,050	+	573.5	+	27.6
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 1,053,901	+	29.1	+	17.2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 855,818	+	14.6	+	4.5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	15.1	+	14.4	+	18.5
Air express shipments	6,940	+	18.1	+	28.2
Unemployment (area)	7,800	-	42.2	-	2.5
Placements in employment (area)	3,462	+	27.0	-	33.0

LAMESA:

Retail sales of independent stores	+	50.5	+	9.7	
Postal receipts	\$ 9,887	+	3.0	+	78.7
Building permits	\$ 36,870	+	56.0	-	

McALLEN:

Building permits	\$ 26,490	-	56.5	-	67.7
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City and item	Percent change		
	Dec. 1947	Dec. 1947 from Dec. 1946	Dec. 1947 from Nov. 1947

LUBBOCK:

Retail sales of independent stores	+	38.4	+	28.0	
Department and apparel store sales	+	27.2	+	35.9	
Postal receipts	\$ 62,188	+	14.4	+	42.1
Building permits	\$ 1,172,610	+	248.8	+	104.0
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 85,538	+	47.5	-	2.0
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 72,868	+	26.3	+	11.3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	14.9	+	28.1	-	10.2
Air express shipments	483	+	20.1	+	34.5
Unemployment	800	0.0	+	14.3	
Placements in employment	502	-	0.4	-	30.5

PLAINVIEW:

Retail sales of independent stores	+	14.1	+	7.0	
Department and apparel store sales	+	40.1	+	18.4	
Postal receipts	\$ 18,288	+	97.4	+	67.8
Building permits	\$ 74,250	+	76.8	-	67.6

PORT ARTHUR:

Retail sales of independent stores	+	18.2	+	48.7	
Postal receipts	\$ 45,747	+	9.3	+	86.1
Building permits	\$ 118,599	+	134.8	-	50.3
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 38,817	+	17.1	+	9.4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 41,692	+	10.1	+	7.5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.1	+	12.2	+	6.3
Air express shipments	304	+	28.1	+	58.5

SAN ANGELO:

Retail sales of independent stores	+	14.7	+	45.0	
Department and apparel store sales	+	13.4	+	59.8	
Postal receipts	\$ 38,907	+	9.0	+	58.3
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 32,456	+	26.2	+	11.0
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 38,970	+	3.6	-	1.9
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.0	+	25.0	+	12.4
Air express shipments	898	+	135.7	+	32.4

SAN ANTONIO:

Retail sales of independent stores	+	6.2	+	23.3	
Apparel stores	+	4.0	+	29.4	
Automotive stores	+	10.7	+	1.1	
Drug stores	-	7.6	+	34.3	
Filling stations	-	9.3	-	23.4	
Food stores	+	14.9	+	11.7	
Furniture and household stores	+	8.4	-	15.3	
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	+	37.6	+	2.7	
Eating and drinking places	-	2.6	+	0.1	
All other stores	+	5.8	+	34.5	
Postal receipts	\$ 409,480	+	11.6	+	60.0
Building permits	\$ 381,497	+	84.7	-	42.2
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 269,099	+	12.2	+	21.2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 321,987	+	2.0	+	1.2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.1	+	12.2	+	20.2
Air express shipments	4,509	+	22.2	+	33.2
Unemployment	6,800	-	23.6	0.0	
Placements in employment	2,281	+	61.1	-	32.5

*Excludes deposits to the credit of banks.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

(Continued)

City and item	Percent change			City and item	Percent change		
	Dec. 1947	from Dec. 1946	from Nov. 1947		Dec. 1947	from Dec. 1946	from Nov. 1947
TEMPLE:							
Retail sales of independent stores.....	+	17.8	+	26.3			
Department and apparel store sales.....	+	16.5	+	27.8			
Postal receipts \$ 21,405	+	18.1	+	78.0			
Building permits \$ 236,725	+	120.8	-	6.8			
Air express shipments 104	-----	-----	+	35.1			
TEXARKANA:							
Retail sales of independent stores.....	+	10.2	+	3.5			
Postal receipts \$ 42,090	+	7.6	+	81.5			
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands) \$ 27,673	+	6.4	+	4.0			
End-of-month deposits (thousands)* \$ 23,788	-	2.5	+	5.5			
Annual rate of deposit turnover 8.5	+	7.6	+	1.2			
Air express shipments 173	+	2.4	+	68.0			
Unemployment 3,175	-	12.3	+	9.5			
Placements in employment 691	+	58.5	-	19.2			
WICHITA FALLS:							
Retail sales of independent stores.....	+	12.4	+	42.3			
Department and apparel store sales.....	+	19.2	+	46.5			
Postal receipts \$ 63,487	+	4.5	+	74.8			
Building permits \$ 639,135	+	399.7	+	446.1			
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands) \$ 54,026	+	15.7	+	12.0			
End-of-month deposits (thousands)* \$ 79,024	+	16.9	+	3.1			
Annual rate of deposit turnover 8.3	0.0	+	7.8				
Air express shipments 501	+	25.6	+	103.7			
Unemployment 1,240	-	16.6	+	9.4			
Placements in employment 460	+	115.0	-	10.9			

*Excludes deposits to the credit of banks.

City and item	Percent change			City and item	Percent change		
	Dec. 1947	from Dec. 1946	from Nov. 1947		Dec. 1947	from Dec. 1946	from Nov. 1947
TEXAS CITY:							
Retail sales of independent stores.....	+	61.3	+	35.5			
Postal receipts \$ 18,286		+	24.6	+	66.2		
Building permits \$ 1,203,483		+1021.5		+	10.9		
Unemployment (area) 1,600	-	20.0	-	23.8			
Placements in employment (area) 1,009	+	64.9	+	13.2			
TYLER:							
Retail sales of independent stores.....	+	18.5	+	31.2			
Department and apparel store sales.....	+	21.6	+	56.0			
Postal receipts \$ 45,688		+20.1		+	52.3		
Building permits \$ 327,962		+138.1		+	20.3		
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands) \$ 40,915	+	17.0	+	13.5			
End-of-month deposits (thousands)* \$ 52,774	+	18.3	+	9.1			
Annual rate of deposit turnover 9.7	+	2.1	+	9.0			
Air express shipments 356	+	50.2	-	10.3			
WACO:							
Retail sales of independent stores.....	+	14.6	+	30.5			
Department and apparel store sales.....	+	8.6	+	37.1			
Postal receipts \$ 92,963	+	7.8	+	56.5			
Building permits \$ 703,234	-	15.4	+	18.3			
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands) \$ 56,666	+	12.1	+	10.6			
End-of-month deposits (thousands)* \$ 66,750	+	6.1	-	0.5			
Annual rate of deposit turnover 10.2	+	7.4	+	12.1			
Air express shipments 384	-	7.2	+	71.4			
Unemployment 3,100	+	14.8	-	1.6			
Placements in employment 571	+	20.5	-	18.9			

*Excludes deposits to the credit of banks.

NEW BUREAU PUBLICATIONS

The Bureau of Business Research is pleased to announce the issuance of the three new publications during the month of January.

Advance orders for the *Directory of Texas Manufacturers* complete through October 1947 have now been filled, and new orders are now being taken at \$3.50 per copy for immediate delivery.

The *Chart Book of Texas Business* which presents in graphic form many of the series that regularly appear in the TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW is now available at \$2.00 a copy. A special supplemental sheet bringing the indexes up to date will be mailed each month to every purchaser of the *Chart Book*.

The first of a series of *Business Leaflets* on "Recent Trends in Farmer Marketing and Purchasing Cooperatives in the United States, the West South Central States, and Texas" by Dr. W. A. Nielander, professor of marketing in the College of Business Administration and a member of the cooperating faculty staff of the Bureau of Business Research, also appeared in January.

SMALL BUSINESS AIDS

Recent additions to the list of *Small Business Aids* reproduced by the Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Office of Small Business of the U.S. Department of Commerce are as follows:

- Steps for Reducing Your Distribution Costs
- The Meaning of Stock-Turn
- Do's and Don'ts in Food Retailing
- Seven Ways for Supervisors to Build Morale
- What Plant Foremen Should Know about Costs
- An Accident Prevention Plan for Printing Plants
- Improving Employer-Employee Relations
- The Employee Suggestion Plan
- A Public Relations Program for America's Retailers
- Wage Incentives Will Help Reduce Costs
- Causes of Customer Complaints

Copies of the above *Aids*, as well as those announced in previous issues of the REVIEW, are available without charge from the Bureau of Business Research.

FIGURES FOR THE MONTH

	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1947	Dec. 1946
INDEX OF TEXAS BUSINESS ACTIVITY (1935-39=100)*.....	209.1	208.3	188.2
Index of department and apparel store sales (10)	317.2	340.3	268.0
Index of miscellaneous freight carloadings in Southwestern District (20)	161.6	152.6	148.5
Index of crude oil runs to stills (5)	174.2	166.6	153.2
Index of electric power consumption (15)	290.2	290.6	254.6
Index of employment (25)	125.0	123.6	122.5
Index of pay rolls (25)	246.3	243.9	220.9
TRADE			
Retail sales, total	\$507,917,000	\$429,766,000	\$420,069,000
Durable goods stores	\$163,792,000	\$145,757,000	\$123,773,000
Nondurable goods stores	\$344,125,000	\$284,009,000	\$296,296,000
Ratio of credit sales to net sales in department and apparel stores	58.2%	59.5%	52.3%
Ratio of collections to outstandings in department and apparel stores	55.2%	56.1%	55.2%
Advertising lineage in 32 newspapers	31,052,759	30,153,083	26,658,190
Postal receipts in 50 cities	\$ 4,215,459	\$ 2,771,100	\$ 3,688,967
PRODUCTION			
Industrial electric power consumption for 10 companies (thousands of kilowatt hours)	255,275	263,399	229,431
Man-hours worked in 356 manufacturing establishments	2,750,979	2,717,311	2,746,147
Crude oil runs to stills (42-gallon barrels)	49,563,699	46,528,478	43,597,649
Gasoline stocks at refineries (thousands of barrels)	18,931	17,501	18,030
Fuel oil stocks at refineries (thousands of barrels)	19,236	24,451	18,594
Cotton consumption (running bales)	12,726	11,944	16,345
Cotton linters consumed (running bales)	2,498	2,025	1,854
Cottonseed crushed (tons)	151,542	158,970	91,367
Manufacture of dairy products (1,000 lbs. milk equivalent)	32,323	39,444	48,959
Lumber production in southern pine mills (weekly per unit average in board feet)	188,486	202,486	194,405
Construction contracts awarded	\$ 61,446,903	\$ 62,647,927	\$ 44,316,302
Construction contracts awarded for residential building	\$ 34,054,405	\$ 27,272,864	\$ 6,140,108
Building permits issued in 50 cities	\$ 29,437,686	\$ 35,128,261	\$ 11,212,883
Number of loans made by savings and loan associations	1,585	1,633	1,542
Amount of loans made by savings and loan associations	\$ 5,840,275	\$ 6,090,068	\$ 5,750,994
Telephones in service in 40 cities (end of month)	913,324	898,079	793,957
Crude petroleum production (daily average in barrels)	2,348,600	2,338,400	1,999,650
AGRICULTURE			
Farm cash income	\$136,340,000	\$200,783,000	\$ 93,916,000
Shipments of livestock (carloads)	5,487	9,595	8,428
Rail shipments of fruits and vegetables (carloads)	8,859	5,485	8,151
Rail shipments of poultry (carloads)	254	205	190
Rail shipments of eggs (shell equivalent in carloads)	24	49	160
Interstate receipts of eggs at Texas stations (shell equivalent in carloads)	46	73	113
FINANCE			
Loans, reporting member banks in Dallas District (thousands)	\$ 1,025,000	\$ 998,000	\$ 787,000
Loans and investments, reporting member banks in Dallas District (thousands)	\$ 2,252,000	\$ 2,289,000	\$ 1,867,000
Demand deposits adjusted, reporting member banks in Dallas District (thousands)	\$ 1,853,000	\$ 1,882,000	\$ 1,475,000
Bank debits in 20 cities (thousands)	\$ 3,768,269	\$ 3,233,857	\$ 3,118,137
Corporation charters issued (number)	301	288	234
Ordinary life insurance sales (thousands)	\$ 67,189	\$ 57,164	\$ 62,530
Sales of United States Savings Bonds	\$ 15,474,476	\$ 13,588,221	\$ 18,994,619
TRANSPORTATION			
Revenue freight loaded in Southwestern District (carloads)	283,672	296,308	277,421
Export and coastal cars unloaded at Texas ports (carloads)	15,616	16,288	16,195
Miscellaneous freight carloadings in Southwestern District (carloads)	177,541	181,469	163,091
Air express shipments (number)	35,755	29,664	35,575
LABOR			
Total nonagricultural employment	1,707,500	1,689,500	1,654,600
Manufacturing employment	346,800	347,600	330,000
Nonmanufacturing employment	1,360,700	1,341,900	1,324,600
Nonagricultural civilian labor force in 15 labor market areas	1,244,257	1,236,278	1,212,184
Unemployment in 15 labor market areas	47,565	47,378	60,734
Placements in employment in 15 labor market areas	20,379	26,067	13,382
GOVERNMENT			
Revenue receipts of State Comptroller	\$ 50,161,827	\$ 44,743,885	\$ 27,268,775
Federal internal revenue collections	\$ 77,279,069	\$ 69,478,168	\$ 73,012,956
PRICES			
Index of consumers' prices in Houston (1935-39 = 100)	169.3	165.8	152.3
Index of food prices in Houston (1935-39 = 100)	218.1	210.2	189.9

*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.

BAROMETERS OF TEXAS BUSINESS

