TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW

A Monthly Summary of Business and Economic Conditions in Texas and the Southwest

Bureau of Business Research

The University of Texas

Volume VIII, Number 2

Entered as second-class matter on May 7, 1928, at the post office at Austin, Texas, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

March 28, 1934

Business Review and Prospect

UNCERTAINTY regarding the immediate future trend of business and industrial activity has been gradually developing during the past three weeks as a result of impending reform legislation in Washington. During the past week this situation has been intensified and has reached an acute stage because of the labor crisis which threatens to disturb industrial relations at a time when outputs in the important automobile and steel centers are approaching their seasonal peak. Although the Government spending program may offset the prospective decline in private initiative, a pause, at least, is likely in the general upward trend of business.

The attitude assumed by the Administration in settling the threatened automobile strike has extraordinary significance at this time. Any evidence that the Administration distinctly favors union domination would stimulate strikes throughout the country and greatly prolong the duration of those now in progress. Significant also is the fact that hours of labor and rates of pay are not at issue in the present crisis, for the automobile industry apparently has met the demands of labor and of the N. R. A. in these respects. Only certain features involving the principle of open vs. closed shop are still in dispute. Under these circumstances, it seems hardly probable that the A. F. of L. will press their demands for the recognition of an abstract principle at this time to the point of seriously endangering industrial recovery or of jeopardizing their present favorable standing with the Administration. The real test of the Administration's policy toward labor-management relations may be expected to develop during coming months as specific cases for adjustment arise.

Industries connected with the production of consumer's goods already have travelled a long way on the road to recovery. The heavy industries, however, and especially those engaged in the production of capital goods continue to lag far behind. Employment conditions in private industry from now on may be expected to improve largely in proportion to the extent that the capital goods industries get under way.

Users of capital goods in private enterprise will remain cautious in making investments, however, until the outlook for profits becomes more clear. Certain legislation now before Congress as well as the Securities Act passed some months ago must be further clarified before much progress can be expected in the capital goods industries. Contributing further to the uncertainty of the future profits outlook are reports that a group of advisers close to the president entertain a philosophy which definitely opposes the private profits motive in industry. Since such philosophy strikes at the very core of private property in production goods, any concrete evidence tending to substantiate these reports may be expected to have a further dampening effect on the capital goods industries and thereby of further retarding reëmployment of labor in this field. Moreover, much of the benefit of the Public Works program would be lost if the public funds should become exhausted before private enterprise had gained sufficient momentum to absorb labor as it is released from government projects.

Close observers of pending legislation predict that the Wagner labor bill will not be enacted in this session of Congress; that the bill for regulating stock exchanges will be adopted in modified form; that the soldiers' bonus bill if passed will be vetoed by the president; and that a radical silver bill will not be adopted. Modification of the Securities Act appears to be in doubt; coördinator Eastman's proposals to regulate truck and waterway competition appears too controversial to be acted upon before the next session without a special message from the President; and President Roosevelt's request for powers to negotiate reciprocal tariff agreements will meet strong opposition but may yet be acted upon.

If these forecasts prove to be correct, important issues will remain undecided for many months, giving rise to hopes and fears as to the final disposition of the problems involved.

Texas business and industry continue to reflect the sharp price increase which has occurred in the basic commodities of the State: cotton, oil, wool, and mohair. More recently prices of livestock and the products of livestock have joined the upward trend. The increased income from these sources is being further supplemented by the bonuses resulting from the program of the A.A.A.

Sales of new passenger cars in sixteen Texas counties during February were 75 per cent above those of January and 81 per cent above those of February last year;

sales in 88 retail stores of the State were up 32 per cent from February a year ago and the ratio of collections to outstanding accounts was nearly 6 per cent higher. Texas cotton mills consumed 52 per cent more cotton, increased production 37 per cent, and sold 65 per cent more cloth, leaving a backlog of unfilled orders 89 per cent above that at the end of February 1933. Cement production gained 42 per cent over February last year, shipments were 35 per cent larger, while stocks on hand at the end of February were 23 per cent below those of the corresponding date last year.

Debits to individual accounts of reporting member banks of the Dallas Federal Reserve bank were up 28 per cent from last February; demand deposits, 27 per cent; and government securities owned increased 114 per cent. Loans both on securities and commercial paper declined 12 per cent.

Commercial failures totalled only 32 in February against 71 a year ago, a drop of 55 per cent. Employment conditions in Texas show a marked improvement over a year ago. For the week ended March 17 the total number of employees in 2,723 establishments was 20 per cent greater than during the corresponding week last year. Moreover, the number of employees in these firms during the March period was 1 per cent greater than in the comparable week in February.

Total payrolls in these firms were 17 per cent above those of the same firms in March a year ago and 1.4 per cent above those of February in the current year.

F. A. BUECHEL.

For complete data, see statistical tables at the end of this publication.

Financial

Developments at Washington continue to dominate the financial news. Important financial measures now being considered by Congress include (1) a bill providing for drastic regulation of the security exchanges, (2) a bill creating a new system of federal capital loan banks, (3) various measures designed to raise the market price of silver, and (4) the perennial proposal to pay the soldiers' bonus.

The avowed purpose of the stock exchange bill is to provide regulation of security trading such as will tend to protect the trading public from unfair practices employed by professional speculators. However, the underlying motive apparently is to give to some government bureau, probably the Federal Trade Commission, sweeping powers designed to enable that bureau to direct the flow of capital funds into and out of selected industries. The bill, now in its second edition, will probably be further revised before final enactment.

The measure creating a new system of federal capital loan banks represents a direct attempt on the part of the federal government to expand bank credit. The new banks would extend loans direct to industrial borrowers and indirectly through other lending agencies for periods ranging up to five years. Most of these loans clearly would be capital loans and high risk loans.

Silver purchase proposals range all the way from the mild and comparatively harmless Dies Bill to the absurd Feisinger Bill, which would require the Treasury to buy 1,500,000,000 ounces of silver at prices ranging up to $2.18 an ounce. The Administration apparently frowns upon the latter measure but may find its hand forced by a rebellious Congress.

The proposal to pay the soldiers' bonus seems doomed to certain defeat either by the Senate or by presidential veto. The passage of the measure by the House is significant chiefly as indicating growing congressional independence, a tendency which has been apparent ever since the spectacular cancellation of the airmail contracts by the President.

Despite Administration pressure favoring a looser credit policy on the part of commercial banks, the loan and discount portfolio of the banking system continues to contract. Yet the volume of new bank credit which could be called into being reaches almost unbelievable figures. Indeed, were bank credit to be rapidly expanded to the full limit of the existing reserves, a sensational price rise of from 100 per cent to 200 per cent would almost certainly result.

Under existing bank statutes, it is possible for a given deposit in a commercial bank to expand to many times its original amount via a continuous process of lending, checking out the borrowed credit, redepositing the checks thus drawn, and relending the new deposits. This process, once started, tends to be automatic and to proceed to the full limit of the existing gold reserves.

Bank credit expansion develops through what might be termed two waves of expansion. The first wave or primary expansion can proceed to a maximum of about ten times the surplus cash and excess reserve balances of the banks through the following continuous process. The banks lend their excess reserves to commercial borrowers who promptly check out the resulting loan credits and mail the checks to their various creditors. The creditors in turn deposit these checks in their respective banks, which banks, after setting up the required legal reserves against these new deposits, loan out the balance to their commercial borrowers. These borrowers check out their loan credits which are redeposited in other banks, reloaned, and so on.

Assuming that there is an effective demand for loans and that all loans take the form of book credit rather than cash, this deposit expansion could proceed to the limit of ten times the existing excess reserve balances, the average legal reserve required against demand being about 10 per cent. Inasmuch as these assumptions will never be fully realized in practice, the practical limit of primary credit expansion is perhaps five times the excess reserves rather than ten times.

On March 20, the excess reserves of the member banks were estimated at the record total of $1,500,000,000. For the entire banking system, excess reserves probably were considerably above this figure, as the estimate does not include the 8,000 odd non-member state banks. However, the $1,500,000,000 idle reserves of the member banks would permit an immediate primary credit expansion of about $7,500,000,000. Further, these reserves will continue to be augmented during the next few months via gold imports and perhaps some further return of currency from circulation. Since February 1, gold imports have aggregated more than $600,000,000 and, although the flow is not tapering off, an additional $200,000,000 can reasonably be expected to be imported during the next three months. This sum would permit a further primary credit expansion of approximately $1,000,000,000.

The total practical volume of primary credit expansion in immediate prospect therefore is in the neighborhood of $8,500,000,000. Since this expansion involves no borrowing from the reserve banks, it is not subject to the direct control of the central banks except as these banks mop up excess revenues through open market selling, a policy which is most improbable just now.

Secondary credit expansion, however, is based upon member bank borrowing from the reserve banks and thus is directly controllable by that system. At present, the reserve banks are required to keep a gold reserve of 35 per cent against their demand deposits, that is, against the reserve balances carried with them by the member banks. Excess gold holdings above this 35 per cent reserve and the 40 per cent reserve held behind federal reserve notes, therefore, constitute the base upon which the secondary bank credit expansion can be raised. In general, the reserve banks can lend to their member banks 100/35 of their free gold holdings, or about $2.85 for each dollar of free gold. The member banks, having borrowed this credit, can in turn lend it out, whence it can expand via primary credit expansion to a practical limit of five times the credit borrowed.

On March 14, the potential free gold holdings of the reserve banks were approximately $1,850,000,000. This free gold would permit a practical secondary credit expansion of $1,850,000,000 × 100/35 × 5, or, in round numbers, of $26,400,000,000. This sum, huge as it is, is dwarfed by the possible credit structure which could be reared on the basis of possible increases in the free gold holdings of the reserve banks. Such increases could come from gold imports or from sales of gold by the Treasury to the reserve banks. It was estimated above that gold imports during the next three months might be expected to total at least $200,000,000. Of this sum, the reserve banks would be required to hold $70,000,000 as the 35 per cent legal reserve against that amount of member bank deposits, leaving $130,000,000 as free gold, which could support a credit expansion of $130,000,000 × 100/35 × 5, or some $1,850,000,000.

The greatest credit expansion, however, could result from Treasury sales of gold to the reserve system. On March 14, the monetary gold stock of the country amounted to $7,605,000,000, of which $4,252,000,000 was owned by the reserve banks in the form of new gold certificates, and another $200,000,000 represented required treasury reserves behind national bank notes and United States notes. The free gold held by the Treasury, therefore, amounted to some $3,150,000,000, all of which could be sold to the reserve banks in order to meet government expenses. Indeed, the Treasury has thus sold considerable sums of gold during the past month. Were all the free gold held by the Treasury to be sold to the reserve banks, it would make possible an additional credit expansion amounting to $3,150,000,000 × 100/35 × 5, or approximately $45,000,000,000.

The total practical credit expansion possible in the near future reaches the immense aggregate of almost $82,000,000,000. This figure compares with total deposits of $38,011,000,000 carried in all licensed commercial and mutual savings banks on October 25, 1933. Were all of this new credit expansion to get into circulation quickly, the effect on commodity prices can be easily imagined. However, the new credit will come into being only when the business world begins to borrow freely from the banks; and this borrowing will develop only upon a reasonable prospect for business profits, which prospect is greatly dimmed by the Administration reform program. Thus far, the government is the only effective demander of bank credit, and its borrowing has been the most important factor in the recent growth of bank deposits.

J. C. DOLLEY.

Petroleum

Certain recent developments in the oil industry in this country, and therefore of major interest and concern to Texas, can be better understood if seen in the perspective of the major trends and movements in the oil industry as a whole.

RAPID MARKET EXPANSION

Prior to 1900 the petroleum industry was dominantly a kerosene industry with lubricants as important associated products. At the close of the World War the petroleum industry had become a gasoline industry, but with kerosene and lubricants as very important products. Since 1920 the gasoline industry has grown greatly and the fuel oil market has developed to one of importance. The advances made by oil products and natural gas are reflected, of course, in the reactions of the coal industry to these newcomers in the power and fuel industry.

RAPID GROWTH OF SUPPLY

While these developments have been occurring, rather sharp shifts have been taking place in the larger outlines of the production of crude oil. Up until around 1925 production of crude oil, in the main, was only keeping up with the rapidly increasing markets for oil

derivatives. In the meantime, however, wider geographical exploration was being carried on, and particularly there came to the forefront in oil exploration the successful use of refined technical and scientific applications. In conjunction with these movements there came in rather quick succession the discovery of a number of major oil fields. And in regard to the share contributed by major fields, it is worth while to emphasize that in 1933 fifteen major fields produced at least 54 per cent of the total oil for the United States. At the same time, epoch-making improvements were being made in refining technique whereby a barrel of crude was made to yield a larger quantity of gasoline.

Thus were dispelled the fears of rapid exhaustion of the oil resources of the United States. At the same time there began to arise the actualities of large production from the new countries, and of a return to large production in Russia.

BEGINNINGS OF RESTRICTION OF OUTPUT

Almost overnight the oil industry was changed from one of scarcity of crude oil to one of abundance—and then came a whole series of attempts to limit and to restrict production. Since the war oil has become a commodity of vital economic and political importance. World conferences have attempted to deal particularly with the problem of its over-production. Conservation policies at last began to get a hearing. Then more recently the possibilities of synthetic products (by hydrogeneration, low-temperature carbonization, etc.) have appeared on the scene. Coal, with the aid of these new processes, can be used as a raw material for the manufacture of petroleum products, and thus our supply of these essential commodities is extended far into the future.

Since the discovery of the gigantic East Texas fields in 1930, attention very generally has been monopolized by the various major problems that came to the oil industry with East Texas.

WORLD-WIDE READJUSTMENTS IN OIL INDUSTRY

Many months ago the area limits of the great East Texas field were fairly definitely marked out, and that section ceased to be a great hunting ground. Oil exploration did not cease elsewhere, however, even in spite of the depression. For more than a year a rather intensive exploratory program has been carried out—and, due to the great reserves concerned, a large share of these operations have been made in the various Texas regions. It may also be noted that oil exploration has been proceeding rather intensively in other parts of the world, and particularly in Russia. It may be said that the search for crude oil supplies has been going on almost as intensively as has been the search for markets for its products. In addition, as a part of the world-wide movement making for greater decentralization of industry, refining centers are being built to serve markets in various parts of the world outside the United States. This latter development has not only tended to decrease exports of oil products from the United States; it has also been a factor in accentuating various competitive forces in the oil industry.

More recently still, there has been a veritable scramble of the major integrated companies for oil producing lands. Within the past few weeks the Pew estate has bought the Cranfill-Reynold holdings; more recently the Carter Oil Company (Standard subsidiary) has bought the Slick-Urschel properties. It is reported that other negotiations are in the air. Some of the reasons advanced for this scramble for oil properties include:

a. The fact that no major field, except Conroe, has been found in the United States since East Texas was discovered during 1930;
b. The efforts that are being made to stabilize the industry, and thus to reduce waste, and to control over-production; and,
c. The potential market factor. As industrial recovery gets under way, an increased demand for petroleum products is to be hoped for.

ELMER H. JOHNSON.

Cotton

THE COTTON SITUATION

For the time being, usual supply and demand figures are overshadowed in importance in the cotton market by the uncertainties surrounding the adoption of a permanent cotton policy in the United States. It is generally recognized that cotton dominates the agriculture of the South, but its predominance in the commercial and industrial life of the region is not generally appreciated. Drastic curtailment of cotton acreage as a permanent policy must inevitably cause far-reaching changes in sources of employment in the cotton region. Thousands of agricultural laborers, especially Negro and Mexican cotton choppers and pickers, will be forced immediately on relief rolls and will stay there until a comprehensive plan of rehabilitation can be worked out. It will likewise throw out of employment thousands of unskilled and skilled workers at gins, cottonseed oil mills, cotton compresses, and many other industries and trades dealing directly or indirectly with cotton. If restriction of cotton acreage is to be a permanent policy, then the Government must be prepared to set up thousands of subsistence farms throughout the Cotton Belt.

Acreage released from cotton will, in the main, be planted to food and feed crops which in the long run will tend to cut off one of the Middle West's best markets for these things and create a labor condition which will attract manufacturing enterprises from the north and east. The ultimate influence of drastic cotton acreage reduction program will transfer its influences throughout the country, especially to the Corn Belt and the manufacturing East.

A. B. COX.

COTTON BALANCE SHEET Total supplies of cotton in the United States March 1 were 11,969,000 bales compared with 13,634,000 bales a year ago, 14,337,000 bales two years ago, and 8,345,000 bales four years ago. The decrease in the supply of cotton in the United States and of American cotton in European ports and afloat to Europe was 1,603,000 bales.

Calculated changes in the index price of cotton based on these changes in supply indicate an advance of 221 points in the price of New Orleans spot cotton over this time last year. When changes in the index number and the spinners margin are put into the price calculation, the calculated cents price of New Orleans, M. 7/8 inch spot cotton is 9.65 cents. Measured in gold content, the dollar has declined 40 per cent, whereas the price level has advanced only 23 per cent. Cotton, because it is an important export commodity, should rise faster than the general price level where the advance is due to depreciating value of currency. However, if it should advance to the full limit of the depreciated dollar, the price would be only 11.62 cents. The Bureau supply-price chart indicates a price between 9.50 and 10 cents. Forces outside ordinary statistical calculations of supply and demand such as the Bankhead Bill are influencing cotton prices.

SPINNERS MARGIN Spinners ratio margin declined during February due to a tendency for cotton to rise and 32's twist yarn to decline. The average for February was 162 compared with 169 in January and 176 in February last year. The average pence margin during February was 4.09 d, the same as for January, compared with 3.80 d for February last year.

Livestock and Poultry

TEXAS LIVESTOCK SHIPMENTS Combined truck and rail shipments of Texas livestock to Fort Worth and interstate points totalled 3,496 cars in February against 2,537 cars in the same month last year, a gain of 38 per cent. Shipments of all classes of livestock showed an advance. Cattle at 2,189 cars represents a rise of 42 per cent over February last year; calves at 541 and 326, respectively, a gain of 40 per cent; hogs, 352 and 343, up 2 per cent; and sheep, 414 and 322, a rise of 29 per cent.

For January and February combined, shipments compared with the corresponding period last year were: all classes combined, 7,117 and 5,650, a rise of 20 per cent; cattle, 4,286 and 3,252, up 24 per cent; calves, 1,282 and 944, a gain of 37 per cent; hogs, 588 and 633, a decline of 8 per cent; and sheep, 961 and 821, up 17 per cent.

Shipments of Texas cattle and calves to Fort Worth showed a marked increase in comparison with February last year, but there was a smaller number of hogs sent to this market and a marked slump in the number of sheep. The percentage shipped by truck to this market is still increasing.

Los Angeles received marked increases of cattle, calves, and hogs compared with February last year.

Increases over last February in the number of Texas cattle, calves, and sheep destined to points other than the large markets were especially marked for California, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. Colorado had a large increase in receipts of Texas sheep.

The northern half of the Texas Panhandle showed a marked increase in shipments of cattle, calves, and sheep, but a decline in hogs; while in the southern half shipments of cattle, calves, and hogs increased substantially, but shipments of sheep declined.

Shipments of cattle, calves, and sheep from the Edwards Plateau and Trans-Pecos country exceeded those of last February by a wide margin.

Cattle prices continued to advance during February on all the leading markets despite the largest slaughter of cattle in sixteen years for the month and the largest February slaughter of calves on record. Lamb prices also continued to advance through February and late in the month a top of $10.15 was reached on the Chicago market, the first time since June 1931 that lambs sold above the $10.00 mark.

POULTRY AND EGGS Interstate rail shipments of poultry and eggs totalled 169 cars in February against 167 cars during the same month a year ago. Of these shipments 23 cars were live chickens and 74 dressed, a total of 97; while in February 1933 there were 110 cars of chickens, 31 cars live, and 79 cars dressed. Only 3 cars of turkeys were shipped out of the State against 14 cars in February last year.

As usual, practically all of the live poultry was shipped to New York City, where the large Jewish population constitutes the great market for live poultry. More than half of the dressed poultry also was shipped to this market, while the remainder was distributed among nine states, the bulk going to Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

Interstate egg shipments from Texas during February amounted to 69 cars compared with 43 cars a year ago, an increase of 64 per cent. Only 3 cars of eggs were brought into Texas from other states against 7 cars last year.

TEXAS COTTON COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS NO. 7 NOW AVAILABLE

This report of the proceedings of the Texas Cotton Committee in Dallas, April 13, 1933, is one of the

most significant in the history of the organization. The excellent papers presented, and included in the report, elicited very pointed and lively discussions which were participated in by those interested in different phases of the cotton industry. A limited number of copies is available at 50 cents each.

TEXAS COMMERCIAL FAILURES

	Feb. 1934	Jan.* 1934	Feb. 1933
Number	32	26	71
Liabilities	$ 468,000	$ 303,000	$1,421,000
Assets	$ 265,000	$ 96,000	$ 561,000
Average Liabilities per Failure	$ 14,625	$ 11,654	$ 20,014
Average Weekly Number	8	7	18

*Revised.
NOTE: From Dun & Bradstreet, Inc.

STOCK PRICES

	Feb. 1934	Jan. 1934	Feb. 1933
Standard Indexes of the Securities Markets:			
421 Stocks Combined	80.5	75.6	44.9
351 Industrials	88.4	84.0	42.5
33 Rails	50.0	45.5	26.7
37 Utilities	80.6	73.2	73.1

NOTE: From Standard Statistics Co., Inc.

PETROLEUM

Daily Average Production

(In Barrels)

	Feb. 1934	Jan. 1934	Feb. 1933
Panhandle	49,350	42,260	43,050
North Texas	54,500	55,990	46,238
West Central Texas	26,150	24,500	24,837
West Texas	128,950	124,050	157,738
East Central Texas	43,150	43,210	58,037
East Texas	413,900	393,540	299,513
Southwest Texas	43,350	44,470	49,575
Coastal Texas	160,000	159,850	133,462
STATE	919,350	887,870	812,450
UNITED STATES	2,245,700	2,223,240	2,082,125
Imports	127,607	117,114	139,393

NOTE: From American Petroleum Institute.

New Development in Texas

	Feb. 1934	Jan.* 1934	Feb. 1933
Permits for new wells	783	817	542
Wells completed	627	706	443
Oil wells	442	442	291
Gas wells	30	19	12
Initial Production (In thousands of barrels)	1,795	2,542	1,328

*Five weeks.
NOTE: From *The Oil Weekly*.

Gasoline sales as indicated by taxes collected by the State Comptroller: January, 1934, 65,584,000 gallons; December, 1933, 69,232,000 gallons; January, 1933, 56,254,000 gallons.

COTTON MANUFACTURING IN TEXAS

	Feb. 1934	Jan. 1934	Feb. 1933
Bales of cotton used	6,043	5,860	3,990
Yards of cloth:			
Produced	5,899,000	5,945,000	4,299,000
Sold	6,515,000	9,476,000	3,931,000
Unfilled orders	16,653,000	17,503,000	8,812,000
Active spindles	175,683	177,753	144,824
Spindle hours	48,855,000	51,051,000	35,437,000

NOTE: Reported to the Bureau of Business Research by Texas Cotton Mills.

LUMBER

(In Board Feet)

	Feb. 1934	Jan. 1934	Feb. 1933
Southern Pine Mills:			
Average Weekly Production per Unit	204,190	181,717	160,981
Average Weekly Shipments per Unit	180,228	154,714	167,316
Average Unfilled Orders per Unit, End of Month	660,036	580,718	450,561

NOTE: From Southern Pine Association.

FEBRUARY CARLOAD MOVEMENT OF POULTRY & EGGS

Shipments from Texas Stations

	Cars of Poultry								Cars of Eggs	
	Live				Dressed					
	Chickens		Turkeys		Chickens		Turkeys			
	1934	1933	1934	1933	1934	1933	1934	1933	1934	1933
TOTAL	24	31	1	2	74	79	2	12	72	45
Intrastate	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2
Interstate	23	31	1	2	74	79	2	12	69	43
Interstate Shipments Classified										
New York	21	30	—	1	39	43	—	4	25	7
Illinois	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	2	1	13
Massachusetts	—	—	—	—	5	4	—	2	4	—
New Jersey	—	—	—	—	7	6	—	1	3	1
Pennsylvania	—	—	—	—	10	10	—	—	3	1
Louisiana	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	7	4
Connecticut	—	—	—	—	6	5	—	—	—	2
Missouri	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—	1
Georgia	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	13	7
Michigan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
California	1	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	3
Alabama	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2
Florida	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	2
Rhode Island	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
North Carolina	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
South Carolina	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Receipts at Texas Stations										
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	7
Intrastate	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1
Interstate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6
Interstate Receipts Classified										
Kansas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Missouri	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Illinois	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

NOTE: These data are furnished the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates, by railway officials through agents at all stations which originate and receive carload shipments of poultry and eggs. The data are compiled by the Bureau of Business Research.

MARCH EMPLOYMENT IN TEXAS CLASSIFIED BY CITIES*

(Payrolls ending nearest 15th of month)

	No. of Establishments	Workers Mar. 1934	Workers Feb. 1934	Workers Mar. 1933	Percentage Change from Feb. 1934	Percentage Change from Mar. 1933
Amarillo	60	1,484	1,490	1,233	− 0.4	+20.4
Austin	29	787	832	735	− 5.4	+ 7.1
Beaumont	109	4,830	4,942	3,998	− 2.3	+20.8
Dallas	525	20,087	20,004	17,209	+ 0.4	+16.7
El Paso	105	3,432	3,417	2,923	+ 0.4	+17.4
Fort Worth	185	9,682	9,473	7,975	+ 2.2	+21.4
Galveston	24	1,244	1,274	1,307	− 2.4	− 4.8
Houston	385	25,078	25,123	22,114	− 0.2	+13.4
Port Arthur	10	7,398	7,724	4,442	− 4.2	+66.5
San Angelo	23	588	514	523	+14.4	+12.4
San Antonio	422	9,302	8,932	7,438	+ 4.1	+25.1
Waco	96	2,533	2,439	2,153	+ 3.9	+17.6
Wichita Falls	73	1,389	1,345	1,254	+ 3.3	+10.8
Miscellaneous	677	27,222	26,489	22,643	+ 2.8	+20.2
STATE	2,723	115,056	113,998	95,947	+ 0.9	+19.9
Auto and Body Works	5	94	93	43	+ 1.1	+118.6
Bakeries	15	825	852	742	− 3.2	+11.2
Confectioneries	11	409	437	278	− 6.4	+47.1
Pure Food Products	4	131	171	94	−23.4	+39.4
Ice Cream Fac.	8	407	390	399	+ 4.4	+ 2.0
Beverages	14	194	188	152	+ 3.2	+27.6
Flour Mills	12	630	645	507	− 2.3	+24.3
Ice Factories	56	787	796	568	− 1.1	+38.6
Laundries, Dry Cleaning	20	1,013	998	909	+ 1.5	+11.4
Meat Packing, Slaughtering	8	2,569	2,558	2,452	+ 0.4	+ 4.8
Cotton Oil Mills	16	835	937	739	−10.9	+13.0
Cot. Compresses	4	626	655	877	− 4.4	−28.6
Men's Clothing Manufacturing	10	1,326	1,333	1,125	− 0.5	+17.9
Women's Clothing Mfg.	6	633	552	783	+14.7	−19.2
Brick, Tile, Terra Cotta	11	294	218	208	+34.9	+41.3
Foundries, Machine Shops	34	3,899	3,823	2,039	+ 2.0	+91.2
Structural Iron Works	9	500	451	267	+10.9	+87.3
Railroad Car Shops	21	2,800	2,690	2,405	+ 4.1	+16.4
Electric Ry. Car Shops	10	290	291	298	− 0.3	− 2.7
Petroleum Refin.	24	15,614	16,003	12,165	− 2.4	+28.4
Saw Mills	21	3,338	3,392	2,469	− 1.6	+35.2
Lumber Mills	13	253	248	266	+ 2.0	− 4.9
Furniture Mfg.	6	595	560	422	+ 6.3	+41.0
Paper Box Mfg.	8	263	285	284	− 7.7	− 7.4
Cotton Textiles	12	2,817	2,625	1,590	+ 7.3	+77.2
Cement Plants	7	723	585	499	+23.6	+44.9
Comm. Printing	32	656	644	618	+ 1.9	+ 6.1
Newspapers	19	2,141	2,134	1,950	+ 0.3	+ 9.8
Quarrying	21	1,426	1,109	526	+28.6	+171.1
Public Utilities	110	8,896	8,741	7,965	+ 1.8	+11.7
Retail Stores	80	7,770	7,583	6,068	+ 2.5	+28.0
Wholesale Stores	132	3,442	3,418	2,775	+ 0.7	+24.0
Hotels	46	4,024	3,885	3,591	+ 3.6	+12.1
Miscellaneous	1,918	44,836	44,708	39,874	+ 0.3	+12.4
STATE	2,723	115,056	113,998	95,947	+ 0.9	+19.9
Payroll		$2,367,438	$2,335,217	$2,025,258	+ 1.4	+16.9

*These figures do not include workers on the Federal Emergency Program.

TEXAS RETAIL DEPARTMENT STORE SALES*

	Number of Stores Reporting	Percentage Change in Dollar Sales Feb. 1934 from Jan. 1934	Percentage Change in Dollar Sales Feb. 1934 from Feb. 1933
Abilene	3	+ 0.3	+26.8
Austin	5	+10.7	+16.1
Beaumont	5	−10.2	+16.1
Corsicana	3	+14.6	+29.7
Dallas	8	+10.4	+29.3
El Paso	3	− 9.2	+28.1
Fort Worth	6	− 0.1	+25.8
Galveston	5	− 9.1	+13.8
Houston	9	+ 0.5	+41.3
Port Arthur	4	−27.5	+33.3
San Angelo	3	− 4.0	+25.3
San Antonio	5	+ 4.4	+30.4
Temple	3	+19.9	+25.2
Tyler	3	+30.9	+96.9
Waco	4	− 2.2	+29.1
Wichita Falls	3	−24.4	+24.1
All Others	16	+ 3.2	+57.4
STATE	88	+ 1.7	+31.7
Department Stores (Annual volume over $500,000)	16	+ 2.2	+32.2
Department Stores (Annual volume under $500,000)	31	− 1.2	+41.7
Dry Goods and Apparel Stores	13	+ 2.0	+12.9
Women's Specialty Shops	13	+14.4	+27.0
Men's Clothing Stores	15	−14.7	+29.2

*The classification by towns includes all of the stores reporting as indicated in the classification by types of stores.

NOTE: Reported to the Bureau of Business Research by Texas Department Stores.

BUILDING PERMITS

	Feb. 1934	Jan. 1934	Feb. 1933
Abilene	$ 5,280	$ 35,795	$ 1,500
Amarillo	5,083	62,854	740
Austin	29,300	30,788	385,490
Beaumont	10,335	10,550	17,905
Brownsville	3,021	24,707	1,150
Brownwood	30	1,300	515
Cleburne	4,025	425	700
Corpus Christi	13,335	62,924	9,963
Corsicana	600	16,750	7,500
Dallas	257,211	251,880	278,304
Del Rio	1,181	1,542	2,744
Denison	.....	2,200	1,350
Eastland	.....	.....	1,500
El Paso	38,905	23,136	47,380
Fort Worth	40,000	52,420	67,100
Galveston	36,278	20,872	28,955
Harlingen	12,700	3,830	475
Houston	252,495	160,425	111,375
Jacksonville	10,375	2,000	.....
Laredo	700	.....	100
Longview	25,520	30,800	56,000
Lubbock	5,379	6,709	1,390
McAllen	735	1,590	500
Marshall	1,345	2,080	1,324
Paris	1,600	2,700	1,255
Plainview	.....	13,200	.....
Port Arthur	12,989	9,814	3,300
San Angelo	1,886	4,075	3,540
San Antonio	68,990	69,447	26,317
Sherman	15,038	1,475	1,825
Snyder	.....	1,900	.....
Sweetwater	500	3,170	700
Tyler	26,645	41,689	30,946
Waco	8,907	26,147	23,453
Wichita Falls	2,160	23,325	4,662
TOTAL	$ 892,548	$1,002,519	$1,119,958

NOTE: Reported by Texas Chambers of Commerce.

COMMODITY PRICES

	Feb. 1934	Jan. 1934	Feb. 1933
Wholesale Prices:			
U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (1926 = 100)	73.6	72.2	59.8
The Annalist (1913 = 100)	108.1 65.4*	105.2† 66.1*†	80.4 80.1*
Dun's	$165.03	$164.53	$127.61
Bradstreet's	$ 9.26	$ 9.01	$ 6.35
Farm Prices:			
U. S. Department of Agriculture (1910–1914 = 100)	76.0	70.0	49.0
U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (1926 = 100)	61.3	58.7	40.9
Retail Prices:			
Food (U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics) (1913 = 100)	108.3	105.2	90.9
Department Stores (Fairchild's Publications) (Jan. 1931 = 100)	89.5	88.5	69.9

*On gold basis based on exchange quotations for France, Switzerland, Holland, and Belgium.
†Revised.

TEXAS CHARTERS

	Feb. 1934	Jan. 1934	Feb. 1933
Capitalization	$1,290,000	$2,581,000	$2,727,000
Number	130	146	140
Classification of New Corporations:			
Oil	38	27	27
Public Service	2	3	0
Manufacturing	20	16	20
Banking-Finance	6	8	9
Real Estate-Building	6	19	16
Transportation	4	1	—
Merchandising	34	34	37
General	20	38	31
Foreign Permits	36	31	25
Number capitalized at less than $5,000	61	55	57
Number capitalized at $100,000 or more	1	6	7

NOTE: Compiled from records of the Secretary of State.

CEMENT

(In Barrels)

	Feb. 1934	Jan. 1934	Feb. 1933
Texas Mills			
Production	280,000	195,000	197,000
Shipments	273,000	264,000	203,000
Stocks	492,000	484,000	639,000
United States			
Production	4,168,000	3,779,000	2,777,000
Shipments	2,952,000	3,778,000	2,278,000
Stocks	20,763,000	19,541,000	21,125,000
Capacity Operated	20.2%	16.6%	13.4%

NOTE: From U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Mines.

BANKING STATISTICS DALLAS RESERVE DISTRICT

(In Millions of Dollars)

	Feb. 1934	Jan. 1934	Feb. 1933
Debits to individual accounts	$512	$499	$399
Condition of reporting member banks on	Feb. 28, 1934	Jan. 31, 1934	Mar. 1, 1933
Deposits (total)	402	401	349
Time	121	124	128
Demand	281	277	221
Borrowings from Federal Reserve	—	—	1
Loans (total)	189	197	214
On securities	60	58	68
All other	129	139	146
Government securities owned	190	165	89

NOTE: From Federal Reserve Board.

COTTON BALANCE SHEET FOR THE UNITED STATES

AS OF MARCH 1

(In Thousands of Running Bales Except as Noted)

	Carryover Aug. 1	Imports to Mar. 1*	Final Ginnings Report Mar. 20†	Total	Consumption to Mar. 1	Exports to Mar. 1	Total	Balance Mar. 1
1926–1927	3,543	232	18,618	22,393	4,019	7,565	11,584	10,809
1927–1928	3,762	226	12,789	16,777	4,201	5,122	9,323	7,454
1928–1929	2,536	246	14,373	17,155	4,042	6,190	10,232	6,923
1929–1930	2,313	215	14,919	17,447	3,809	5,293	9,102	8,345
1930–1931	4,530	41	14,243	18,814	2,900	4,904	7,804	11,010
1931–1932	6,369	56	16,918	23,343	3,081	5,925	9,006	14,337
1932–1933	9,682	75	12,727	22,484	3,253	5,597	8,850	13,634
1933–1934	8,176	83	12,660	20,919	3,402	5,548	8,950	11,969

The cotton year begins August 1. *In 500-pound bales. †Gin run bales, counting round bales as half bales.

FEBRUARY SHIPMENTS OF LIVESTOCK CONVERTED TO A RAIL-CAR BASIS‡

	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep		Total	
	1934	1933	1934	1933	1934	1933	1934	1933	1934	1933
Total Interstate Plus Fort Worth†	2,189	1,546	541	326	352	343	414	322	3,496	2,537
Total Intrastate Omitting Fort Worth	336	281	170	157	7	29	34	59	547	526
TOTAL SHIPMENTS	2,525	1,827	711	483	359	372	448	381	4,043	3,063

TEXAS CAR-LOT‡ SHIPMENTS OF LIVESTOCK JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 1

	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep		Total	
	1934	1933	1934	1933	1934	1933	1934	1933	1934	1933
Total Interstate Plus Fort Worth†	4,286	3,252	1,282	944	588	633	961	821	7,117	5,650
Total Intrastate Omitting Fort Worth	651	600	389	340	19	94	202	174	1,261	1,208
TOTAL SHIPMENTS	4,937	3,852	1,671	1,284	607	727	1,163	995	8,378	6,858

†Fort Worth shipments are combined with interstate forwardings in order that the bulk of market disappearance for the month may be shown.
‡Rail-Car Basis: Cattle, 30 head per car; calves, 60; hogs, 80; and sheep, 250.
NOTE: These data are furnished the United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics by railway officials through more than 1,500 station agents, representing every livestock shipping point in the State. The data are compiled by the Bureau of Business Research.