

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

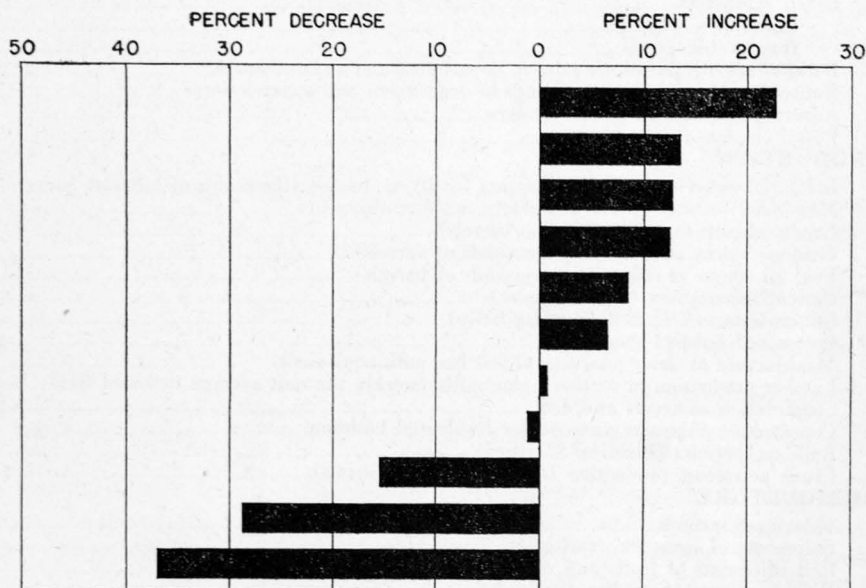
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SEPTEMBER 1947

HIGHLIGHTS OF TEXAS BUSINESS

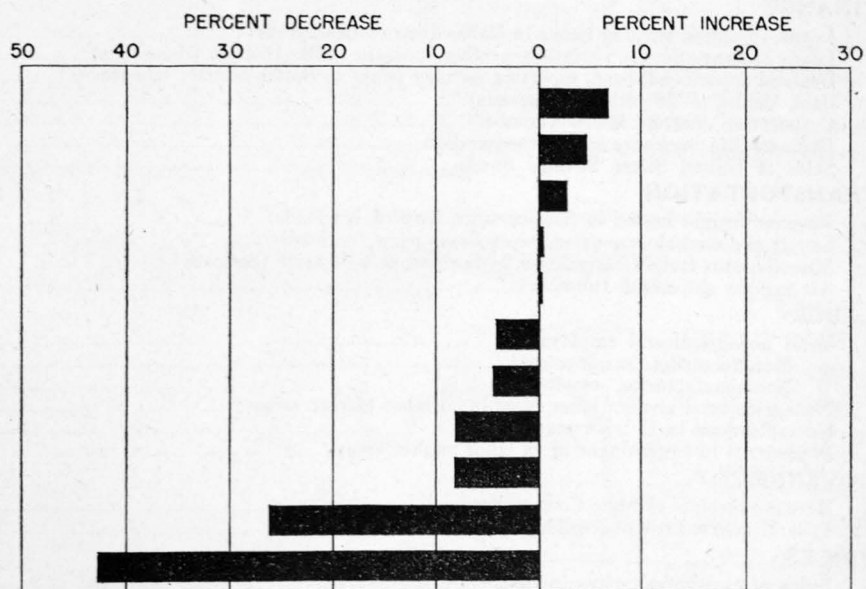
AUGUST 1947 COMPARED
WITH AUGUST 1946

Farm cash income.....
Pay rolls.....
Bank debits.....
Electric power consumption.....
Crude petroleum production.....
Employment.....
Postal receipts.....
Retail sales.....
Life insurance sales.....
Construction contracts.....
Cotton consumption.....



AUGUST 1947 COMPARED
WITH JULY 1947

Electric power consumption.....
Retail sales.....
Crude petroleum production.....
Employment.....
Pay rolls.....
Bank debits.....
Postal receipts.....
Life insurance sales.....
Cotton consumption.....
Construction contracts.....
Farm cash income.....



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REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK OF DALLAS
Dallas, Texas

FIGURES FOR THE MONTH

	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946
INDEX OF TEXAS BUSINESS ACTIVITY (1935-39=100)*	204.2	199.8	189.7
Index of department and apparel store sales (10)	354.6	338.4	383.5
Index of miscellaneous freight carloadings in Southwestern District (20)	153.1	148.5	135.2
Index of crude oil runs to stills (5)	160.4	163.1	153.4
Index of electric power consumption (15)	280.4	269.4	249.0
Index of employment (25)	121.4	120.9	113.9
Index of pay rolls (25)	230.6	229.9	203.4
TRADE			
Retail sales, total	\$378,511,000	\$371,029,000	\$366,609,000
Durable goods	\$133,129,000	\$138,145,000	\$111,237,000
Nondurable goods	\$245,382,000	\$232,884,000	\$255,372,000
Ratio of credit sales to net sales in department and apparel stores	58.9%	56.5%	51.6%
Ratio of collections to outstandings in department and apparel stores	54.6%	59.5%	63.8%
Advertising linage in 30 newspapers	27,024,224	25,173,492	23,596,342
Postal receipts in 61 cities	\$ 2,609,740	\$ 2,736,535	\$ 2,589,185
PRODUCTION			
Industrial electric power consumption for 10 companies (thousands of kilowatt hours)	283,981	271,411	260,389
Man-hours worked in 391 manufacturing establishments	2,405,301	2,375,589	2,170,800
Crude oil runs to stills (42-gallon barrels)	46,711,078	47,082,358	44,678,625
Gasoline stocks at refineries (thousands of barrels)	16,517	16,418	15,219
Fuel oil stocks at refineries (thousands of barrels)	21,206	19,074	14,756
Cotton consumption (running bales)	11,887	12,985	18,899
Cotton linters consumed (running bales)	1,885	2,383	1,340
Cottonseed crushed (tons)	61,311	22,465	30,242
Manufacture of dairy products (1,000 lbs. milk equivalent)	62,878	94,479	75,739
Lumber production in southern pine mills (weekly per unit average in board feet)	220,535	216,427	194,212
Construction contracts awarded	\$ 46,854,097	\$ 63,587,522	\$ 65,913,262
Construction contracts awarded for residential building	\$ 17,971,985	\$ 28,983,338	\$ 10,353,070
Building permits issued in 52 cities	\$ 28,902,397	\$ 32,775,211	\$ 18,701,293
Crude petroleum production (daily average in barrels)	2,300,400	2,238,800	2,119,700
AGRICULTURE			
Farm cash income	\$135,562,000	\$239,307,000	\$111,413,000
Shipments of livestock (carloads)	6,639	8,707	9,844
Rail shipments of fruits and vegetables (carloads)	2,279	5,805	1,268
Rail shipments of poultry (carloads)	18.0	21.0	28.5
Rail shipments of eggs (shell equivalent in carloads)	160.0	235.0	308.5
Interstate receipts of eggs at Texas stations (shell equivalent in carloads)	58.0	10.0	54.0
FINANCE			
Loans, reporting member banks in Dallas District (thousands)	\$ 843,000	\$ 836,000	\$ 695,000
Loans and investments, reporting member banks in Dallas District (thousands)	\$ 2,142,000	\$ 2,122,000	\$ 2,007,000
Demand deposits adjusted, reporting member banks in Dallas District (thousands)	\$ 1,807,000	\$ 1,782,000	\$ 1,473,000
Bank debits in 20 cities (thousands)	\$ 2,901,789	\$ 3,027,712	\$ 2,574,335
Corporation charters issued (number)	389	390	331
Ordinary life insurance sales (thousands)	\$ 61,703	\$ 67,333	\$ 73,147
Sales of United States Savings Bonds	\$ 14,158,985	\$ 17,505,670	\$ 18,366,360
TRANSPORTATION			
Revenue freight loaded in Southwestern District (carloads)	305,293	311,388	283,667
Export and coastal cars unloaded at Texas ports (carloads)	20,103	21,428	14,698
Miscellaneous freight carloadings in Southwestern District (carloads)	183,407	174,808	161,936
Air express shipments (number)	26,279	24,520	22,065
LABOR			
Total nonagricultural employment	1,659,000	1,653,100	1,607,100
Manufacturing employment	341,500	335,200	315,500
Nonmanufacturing employment	1,317,500	1,317,900	1,291,600
Nonagricultural civilian labor force in 15 labor market areas	1,213,683	1,213,927	1,218,936
Unemployment in 15 labor market areas	65,235	69,312	85,452
Placements in employment in 15 labor market areas	23,456	23,172	21,635
GOVERNMENT			
Revenue receipts of State Comptroller	\$ 32,856,765	\$ 32,718,898	\$ 27,731,904
Federal internal revenue collections	\$ 72,555,406	\$ 59,656,063	\$ 66,341,245
PRICES			
Index of consumers' prices in Houston (1935-39=100)†	158.4	157.6	136.6
Index of food prices in Houston (1935-39=100)†	198.7	196.2	160.4

*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.

†Figures for July 1947, June 1947, and July 1946.

The Business Situation in Texas

Business activity in Texas continued to advance in August according to the *index of Texas business activity* prepared by the Bureau of Business Research, and for the second consecutive month set a record for peacetime business activity. August was also the third successive month in which business moved upward in Texas, although the August rise was less than half the June-to-July increase this year and the July-to-August increase last year. Furthermore, business at the end of the summer was well above the previous peacetime peak reached in February 1947 and 7.6% higher than the level of August 1946.

The rise in the index this past month pushed business more than 100% above the prewar average and placed activity close to where it stood when the Japanese surrendered in August two years ago. At that time war production had slackened somewhat, but it was felt by some that reconversion would be a long, slow process and by others that the American economy could never operate in peace as it had in war. While no one would maintain that the present level of business in Texas is stable, the current huge volume of production and trade is a fact that cannot be denied.

There was nothing uncertain about the increase in Texas business activity during the past two months. Of the 6 major indexes combined in the State index, 5 rose and 1 fell in August. The seasonally-adjusted indexes of *department and apparel store sales*, *electric power consumption*, and *miscellaneous freight carloadings* went up 4.8%, 4.0%, and 3.1% for the month. *Employment* and *pay rolls* recorded fractional gains. Only the index of *crude oil runs to stills* turned down (0.1%), but the decrease did not offset the previous month's gain. Five of the 6 indexes were also substantially higher in August this year than a year ago. The exception was the index of department and apparel store sales which failed to match last year's late summer boom in sales.

Measured against the prewar period all 6 series showed remarkable advances. Employment was up

21.4%, miscellaneous freight carloadings 53.1%, crude oil runs 60.4%, pay rolls 130.6%, electric power consumption 180.2%, and department and apparel store sales 154.6%.

There was likewise nothing mysterious or uncertain about the factors back of the steady rise in Texas business activity since October 1945 or the sudden spurt forward this summer. The market for durable goods of all types has been large and firm, industrial production and employment to meet this demand have been high and have moved higher, agricultural production has increased at high prices to meet the foreign demand for foodstuffs, incomes of farmers and factory workers have steadily risen, new enterprises have sprung up, and credit has been gradually expanding with the relaxation of credit controls in the face of boom conditions. The present prosperity of Texas business is in large measure genuine.

The most disturbing factor in the current business outlook is the price situation. Wholesale prices resumed their upward spiral in mid-July and have advanced for

THIS MONTH

The Bureau of Business Research is pleased to announce the addition to its staff of Dr. A. H. Chute, professor of retailing in the College of Business Administration. Dr. Chute comes to the University with a long record of experience in teaching and research in the field of retailing at Ohio State University, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Toledo. As a member of the Bureau staff, he will be in charge of research in retailing, will analyze retail trade trends each month in the trade section of the TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW, and will assume responsibility for a new monthly *Retail Trade Supplement*.



12 consecutive weeks. Although the increases did not match the jumps of last summer when price controls were removed, they lifted the over-all rise since May 1946 to 39.5%, and the gain in wholesale food prices to 56.1%. The advances in *consumer prices* have been smaller but no less disturbing. Consumers in Houston paid 23.9% more for their food and 15.9% more for all items at retail in July 1947 when wholesale prices began to rise once again than they did in July 1946 after OPA controls were lifted.

To date no effective action has been taken in any quarter against inflation perhaps because of the many elements that lie behind it. Name calling has been freely indulged in, but the resolution of the problem of inflation seems most likely to occur in the market place.

It is significant that the total *retail sales* of independent stores in Texas rose only 2.0% in August over July, an increase that matched the price advance but did not keep pace with the rise of physical volume of production or transportation. Furthermore, August 1947 sales at retail were only 3.2% above sales in August 1946 despite a 16.9% rise in prices. August also saw a 3.6% decline in the sale of durable goods, whereas a year ago sales in August were 7.0% above those in July. Nondurable goods sales (of which food sales are the most important) were actually 3.9% less in August this year than in August 1946, although food prices were up 32.0% at wholesale and 23.9% at retail.

Construction in Texas also showed signs of weakness during August. The value of building permits, a rough indicator of intentions to build, was off 11.8% for the month; last year building permits rose 13.8% between July and August. For the first 8 months of 1947 building permits were valued at only 4.0% more than in the same period of 1946 with the cost of lumber and building materials up one-third over a year ago. *Construction contract awards* in August fell 26.3% below their July total, while last year they increased 18.8% at this season.

The decline in savings during August was also indicative of the pinch of higher prices. *Ordinary life insurance* sales decreased 8.4% from the previous month, and the *sales of United States Savings bonds* were down 19.1%. Compared with August of last year, insurance sales were off 15.6% and bond sales 22.9%. These decreases were not alarming, but they undoubtedly were in part the effect of spiraling prices. Other financial indicators appeared neutral in the current business picture.

For many months the lifting influence of *foreign trade* on Texas business has been traced in foreign trade section of the REVIEW, but the successive decreases in the nation's exports during June and July indicate that some downward readjustments of foreign trade must take place at some future time. Implementation of the Marshall plan with further credits may only postpone the realignment of the nation's exports and imports. In this process Texas business has a very large stake.

TRADE

Retail Trade

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

Retail sales in Texas were estimated by the Bureau of Business Research to be \$379,000,000 in August, an increase of 2.0% over July. However, since the normal seasonal movement shows a slight rise in August, the index of retail sales adjusted for seasonal variation dropped 0.1%. After adjustment for seasonal variation, sales of durable goods stores declined 2.6%, while sales of nondurable goods stores rose 1.2%.

The comparison of August 1947 sales with last August reveals a significant trend in the retail trade situation. The total sales were 3.2% above a year ago, but sales of nondurable goods stores were down 3.9%.

RETAIL SALES OF INDEPENDENT STORES BY KINDS OF BUSINESS

Business	Number of reporting establishments	Percent change	
		Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
TOTAL*	1,785	+ 3.2	- 2.0
Total, durable goods stores*	640	+ 19.7	- 3.6
Automotive†	211	+ 11.7	- 5.7
Motor vehicle dealers	160	+ 12.6	- 6.4
Building material, lumber, and hardware†	217	+ 23.0	- 2.6
Farm implement dealers	22	+ 14.5	+ 0.5
Hardware stores	67	+ 9.7	- 0.4
Lumber and building material dealers	110	+ 27.7	- 2.9
Furniture and household†	163	+ 4.7	- 1.4
Furniture stores	112	+ 1.9	- 0.1
Jewelry	49	- 14.3	+ 9.2
Total, nondurable goods stores*	1,145	- 3.9	+ 5.4
Apparel stores	222	- 14.8	+ 18.6
Family clothing stores	41	- 11.9	+ 17.4
Men's and boys' clothing stores	78	- 16.7	+ 4.9
Shoe stores	35	- 15.7	+ 19.9
Women's specialty shops	2	- 18.1	+ 3.4
Other apparel stores	66	- 15.0	+ 27.3
Country general	72	+ 6.4	+ 3.7
Department stores	55	- 8.8	+ 13.6
Drug stores	145	- 5.2	+ 1.0
Eating and drinking places†	119	- 3.7	+ 4.2
Restaurants	95	- 0.9	+ 4.0
Filling stations	73	+ 4.4	- 2.2
Florists	47	- 6.2	- 0.3
Food*	239	- 2.2	+ 1.4
Grocery stores (without meats)	47	- 9.4	+ 4.6
Combination stores (groceries and meats)	165	- 2.7	+ 0.5
Other grocery and combination stores	27	- 0.5	- 1.8
General merchandise	55	- 8.2	+ 15.1
All other stores	118	+ 5.4	+ 3.7

*Weighted.

†Total includes kinds of business other than classifications listed.

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

City-size group	Number of reporting establishments	Percent change	
		Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
TOTAL*	1,785	+ 3.2	+ 2.0
Over 100,000 population	667	- 3.5	+ 5.7
50,000-100,000 population	238	+ 1.2	+ 7.2
2,500-50,000 population	672	+ 1.9	+ 1.9
Under 2,500 population	208	+ 12.3	- 3.5

*Weighted.

The increase in total sales over a year ago is accounted for by a rise of 19.7% in sales of nondurable goods stores.

Since retail sales reflect changes in prices as well as the unit volume of goods sold, it is important to relate the increase in sales to the change in retail prices. Prices of goods sold in retail stores have increased approximately 12% since last summer, which means that the physical volume of goods sold in August 1947 was approximately 8% lower than a year ago. Increased prices more than offset the decline in volume with the result that dollar volume of sales showed a small rise over the same month a year ago.

All types of durable goods stores except jewelry stores continued to report an increase in sales over

last August, but every type of nondurable goods store except country general stores and filling stations reported sales below a year ago.

The ratio of credit sales to net sales in department and apparel stores continued substantially higher than a year ago. The 61 stores reporting to the Bureau sold 58.9% of the month's business on credit, compared with 51.6% in August 1946.

The sales of gasoline on which tax was paid increased 4.3% in July over the preceding month, and stood 10.1% above July 1946. Taxable sales in July were 192,657,968 gallons, while sales to the federal government amounted to 29,391,118 gallons. The July rise in taxable sales was greater than the normal seasonal upturn, with the result that the Bureau's adjusted index of gasoline sales rose 4.0%.

State parks were visited by 341,780 persons in 96,706 cars in August, according to reports of the Texas Board of State Parks. This represented a decrease of 30.5% in number of visitors, and 22.2% in the number of cars in comparison with July.

The total advertising linage in 30 newspapers in leading Texas cities was 7.4% greater in August than in July, and 14.5% above August 1946.

Postal receipts in August 1947 were 4.6% lower than in July, according to reports received by the Bureau from 61 Texas cities. After adjustment for seasonal variation, the Bureau's index of postal receipts declined

RETAIL SALES OF INDEPENDENT STORES BY CITIES

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

City	Number of reporting establishments	Percent change	
		Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
TOTAL*	1,785	+ 3.2	+ 2.0
Abilene	26	- 0.5	+ 16.9
Amarillo	52	+ 15.2	+ 14.2
Austin	64	- 1.3	+ 2.6
Beaumont	46	- 3.3	+ 10.9
Brownsville	16	- 8.7	+ 1.5
Brownwood	26	+ 5.3	+ 10.5
Corpus Christi	54	- 6.0	- 1.8
Dallas	98	- 5.7	+ 10.3
El Paso	41	+ 2.9	+ 4.5
Fort Worth	111	+ 0.01	+ 6.0
Galveston	30	+ 1.1	- 2.5
Harlingen	10	- 10.0	+ 4.5
Houston	159	+ 3.0	+ 6.0
Lamesa	21	+ 14.6	- 2.7
Lockhart	18	+ 62.7	+ 13.2
Lubbock	33	+ 9.0	+ 2.4
McAllen	18	+ 20.2	+ 2.0
Nacogdoches	17	- 13.7	- 1.8
Plainview	24	+ 4.9	+ 4.6
Port Arthur	58	+ 2.0	+ 4.3
San Antonio	137	- 11.2	+ 3.8
Temple	36	- 2.5	+ 2.0
Texarkana	22	+ 0.3	+ 17.0
Tyler	27	+ 7.1	+ 0.3
Waco	36	- 6.1	+ 5.6
Wichita Falls	22	- 8.6	- 9.4
Other	583	+ 1.4	- 3.6

*Weighted.

CREDIT RATIOS IN DEPARTMENT AND APPAREL STORES

(in percent)

Classification	Number of reporting stores	Ratio of credit sales to net sales*		Ratio of collections to outstandings†	
		Aug. 1947	Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947	Aug. 1946
ALL STORES	61	58.9	51.6	54.6	68.8
BY CITIES:					
Austin	7	49.1	41.0	61.0	73.1
Beaumont	3	63.6	56.3	52.6	61.4
Corpus Christi	4	52.1	44.5	67.1	81.4
Dallas	9	70.1	59.3	54.3	61.6
El Paso	3	47.3	43.2	44.9	56.1
Fort Worth	5	58.3	54.0	56.7	64.7
Houston	6	57.3	50.5	51.8	65.7
San Antonio	4	47.8	40.8	51.0	66.6
Waco	5	59.0	54.6	66.3	61.9
Other	15	45.9	40.3	63.2	69.3
BY TYPE OF STORE:					
Department stores (annual sales over \$500,000)	19	57.6	49.1	54.3	64.8
Department stores (annual sales under \$500,000)	9	49.2	44.4	69.3	64.6
Dry goods-apparel stores	4	41.2	34.6	62.5	69.8
Women's specialty shops	15	67.2	62.6	52.0	59.0
Men's clothing stores	14	51.5	45.7	58.8	70.9
BY VOLUME OF NET SALES (1946):					
Over \$2,500,000	22	62.5	54.0	53.3	63.0
\$1,000,000-\$2,500,000	14	46.8	41.1	60.6	70.3
\$500,000-\$1,000,000	15	43.0	37.7	71.5	69.1
Less than \$500,000	10	38.1	32.8	55.5	57.8

*Credit sales divided by net sales.

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

3.7% from the high of 217.1 set in July. Since the index uses the 5-year average 1935-39 as equal to 100, the index of postal receipts was more than double the prewar level.

POSTAL RECEIPTS

City	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946	Percent change	
				Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
TOTAL	\$2,609,740	\$2,736,535	\$2,589,185	+ 0.8	- 4.6
Abilene	29,326	30,639	26,750	+ 9.6	- 4.3
Amarillo	60,254	61,220	57,160	+ 5.4	- 1.6
Austin	119,579	120,497	119,443	+ 0.1	- 0.8
Beaumont	45,718	44,399	45,630	+ 0.2	+ 3.0
Big Spring	10,077	10,077	9,772	+ 3.1	0.0
Borger	6,346	8,088	8,122	-21.9	-21.5
Brownsville	9,863	11,357	9,550	+ 3.3	-13.2
Brownwood	9,920	10,216	10,505	- 5.6	- 2.9
Bryan	7,064	8,443	7,276	- 2.9	-16.3
Childress	3,125	3,608	3,001	+ 4.1	-13.4
Cleburne	4,379	5,408	4,503	- 2.8	-19.0
Coleman	3,179	3,684	2,848	+11.6	-13.7
Corpus Christi	62,713	64,928	63,618	- 1.4	- 3.4
Corsicana	7,193	8,943	11,941	-39.8	-19.6
Dallas	680,482	674,541	658,658	+ 3.3	+ 0.9
Del Rio	4,917	5,782	4,460	+10.2	-15.0
Denison	8,806	9,237	8,799	+ 0.1	- 4.7
Denton	9,323	11,434	10,671	-12.6	-18.5
Edinburg	4,832	5,893	4,766	+ 1.4	-18.0
El Paso	87,450	89,312	91,249	- 4.2	- 2.1
Fort Worth	242,485	274,806	257,080	- 5.7	-11.8
Gainesville	5,040	6,336	5,324	- 5.3	-20.5
Galveston	44,204	46,610	47,326	- 6.6	- 5.2
Gladewater	2,985	3,977	3,628	-17.7	-24.9
Graham	3,472	3,646	3,023	+14.9	- 4.8
Greenville	11,390	9,270	8,992	+26.7	+22.9
Harlingen	11,762	13,437	10,691	+10.0	-12.5
Houston	447,155	475,517	434,362	+ 2.9	- 6.0
Jacksonville	4,708	6,150	4,496	+ 4.7	-23.4
Kenedy	1,982	2,188	1,852	+ 7.0	- 9.4
Kerrville	4,886	5,469	5,015	- 2.6	-10.7
Lamesa	4,473	3,893	3,807	+17.5	+14.9
Laredo	13,743	16,289	14,944	- 8.0	-15.6
Lockhart	1,903	2,220	2,091	- 9.0	-14.3
Longview	13,714	17,830	13,022	+ 5.3	-23.1
Lubbock	37,167	41,065	32,419	+14.6	- 9.5
Lufkin	8,093	8,390	6,980	+15.9	- 3.5
McAllen	8,263	9,717	8,242	+ 0.3	-15.0
Marshall	9,733	10,926	9,838	- 1.1	-10.9
Midland	12,193	14,017	10,692	+14.0	-13.0
Nacogdoches	4,884	6,183	5,585	-12.6	-21.0
Orange	8,345	9,659	11,574	-27.9	-13.6
Palestine	5,499	9,364	7,360	-25.3	-41.3
Pampa	7,497	11,127	8,452	-11.3	-32.6
Paris	8,496	10,477	9,191	- 7.6	-18.9
Plainview	6,965	7,849	6,241	+11.6	-11.3
Port Arthur	23,266	21,629	26,508	-12.2	+ 7.6
San Angelo	21,221	26,703	23,085	- 8.1	-20.5
San Antonio	255,634	259,074	248,810	+ 2.7	- 1.3
Seguin	4,906	4,737	3,559	+37.8	+ 3.6
Sherman	12,299	13,597	11,065	+11.2	- 9.5
Snyder	1,870	2,044	1,808	+ 3.4	- 8.5
Sweetwater	5,882	7,591	5,930	- 0.8	-22.5
Temple	12,319	12,186	11,138	+10.6	+ 1.1
Texarkana	30,868	27,078	31,593	- 2.3	+14.0
Texas City	7,521	7,743	7,564	- 0.6	- 2.9
Tyler	20,151	25,878	24,059	-16.2	-22.1
Vernon	5,091	7,168	5,877	-13.4	-29.0
Victoria	9,040	9,894	8,754	+ 3.3	- 8.6
Waco	59,391	61,224	54,058	+ 9.9	- 3.0
Wichita Falls	34,698	35,871	34,428	+ 0.8	- 3.3

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.)

Sales of Texas wholesalers picked up slightly (2%) in July following the 4% May-to-June decline to bring the 12-month gain to 12%. There was considerable variation in the behavior of sales in the several lines of business reporting to the federal Bureau of the Census. The sales of some types of durable goods, such as jewelry, were up sharply for the month. The sales of other durable goods, such as machinery and hardware, were down.

WHOLESALESALES

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

Business	Number of reporting firms	Percent change	
		July 1947 from July 1946	July 1947 from June 1947
TOTAL	133	+12	+ 2
Automotive supplies	11	+ 1	+ 5
Drugs and sundries*	15	-25	+ 7
Electrical goods	26	+65	- 3
Groceries	43	+16	+ 7
Hardware	14	+17	- 2
Jewelry	4	-41	+25
Machinery, equipment, and supplies (except electrical)	4	-24	-32
Tobacco products	9	- 9	+21
All other	7	+19	+11

*Includes liquor departments.

Inventories of wholesalers in Texas edged up another 2% in July over June to keep the month-to-month gains in the same modest range shown in the last several months. It is significant that stocks have risen much more (49%) in the past 12 months than sales (12%) at wholesale. This difference cannot be explained by the rapid rise in prices, since wholesalers have not been slow to pass on price increases in the present market.

WHOLESALESALES INVENTORIES

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

Business	Percent change	
	July 1947 from July 1946	July 1947 from June 1947
TOTAL	+ 49	+ 2
Automotive supplies	+ 88	- 7
Drugs and sundries*	+ 25	0
Electrical goods	+111	+31
Groceries	+ 38	+ 5
Hardware	+ 67	+ 1
Jewelry	- 39	-14
Machinery, equipment, and supplies (except electrical)	+ 62	- 3
Tobacco	- 31	-40
All other	+ 69	+ 1

*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.)

Despite the declines in United States exports in June and July, Texas ports continued to handle record-breaking tonnages. Exports from Galveston and Houston shot up 5.6% in June over May and 23.3% in July over June due to the enormous out-movement of wheat and other grains to Europe. Both *water-borne imports* and *exports* decreased in May as compared with April, however June *exports* of merchandise by air were up 3.8% over the previous month, and *imports* were down 40.6% for the same period.

Factors in the foreign trade of Texas this summer were the Mexican embargo on the importation of luxury items from the States in July, a strike of freight loaders in Laredo early in September, and the purchase by the United States Government of one million pounds of Mexican meat for export to Europe through the United States.

EXPORTS FROM GALVESTON AND HOUSTON

(in tons)

Source: Galveston and Houston Maritime Associations, Inc.

Port and product	Percent change				
	July 1947	June 1947	July 1946	July 1947 from July 1946	July 1947 from June 1947
TOTAL	827,530	671,263	547,679	+ 51.1	+ 23.3
GALVESTON, TOTAL	535,891	458,122	334,903	+ 60.0	+ 17.0
Cotton	5,077	14,629	18,568	- 72.7	- 65.3
Wheat	300,968	122,141	131,109	+129.6	+146.4
Corn	10,423	48,048	4,987	+109.0	- 78.3
Other grain	69,066	40,975	128	—	+ 68.6
Flour	38,722	44,826	19,783	+ 95.7	- 13.6
Sulphur	91,379	143,715	117,030	- 21.9	- 36.4
Rice	365	7,949	2,359	- 84.5	- 95.4
Other	19,891	35,841	40,939	- 51.4	- 44.5
HOUSTON, TOTAL	291,639	213,141	212,776	+ 37.1	+ 36.8
Cotton	6,358	16,876	30,509	- 79.2	- 62.3
Wheat	109,310	10,083	45,559	+139.9	—
Other grain	10,813	9,342	120	—	+ 15.7
Flour	63,247	68,156	10,030	+530.6	- 7.2
Rice	3,649	1,975	4,266	- 14.5	+ 84.8
Sulphur	5,658	7,387	599	—	- 23.4
Carbon black	11,057	8,210	8,426	+ 31.2	+ 34.7
Other	81,547	91,112	113,267	- 28.0	- 10.5

WATER-BORNE IMPORTS OF GENERAL MERCHANDISE

(in thousands of dollars)

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

Customs district	Percent change				
	May 1947	April 1947	Monthly average 1946	May 1947 from 1946 avg.	May 1947 from Apr. 1947
TOTAL	8,200	11,200	5,400	+51.9	-26.8
Sabine	*	300	100	—	—
Galveston	7,400	10,400	4,600	+60.9	-28.8
Laredo	800	500	700	+14.3	+60.0

*Less than \$50,000.

WATER-BORNE EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MERCHANDISE

(in thousands of dollars)

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

Customs district	Percent change				
	May 1947	Apr. 1947	Monthly average 1946	May 1947 from 1946 avg.	May 1947 from Apr. 1947
TOTAL	87,600	94,600	70,700	+23.9	- 7.4
Sabine	15,200	16,700	9,200	+65.2	- 9.0
Galveston	71,900	77,200	60,700	+18.5	- 6.9
Laredo	500	700	800	-37.5	-28.6

IMPORTS OF GENERAL MERCHANDISE BY AIR

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

District and port of unloading	Percent change				
	June 1947	May 1947	June 1946	June 1947 from June 1946	June 1947 from May 1947
TOTAL	\$ 210,917	\$ 354,971	\$ 360,697	- 41.5	- 40.6
GALVESTON	96,383	18,028	163,362	- 41.0	+434.6
Dallas	—	—	46,731	—	—
Fort Worth	—	—	116,631	—	—
Houston	96,383	18,028	—	—	+434.6
LAREDO	76,618	311,391	137,886	- 44.4	- 75.4
Brownsville	15,072	15,919	83,803	- 82.0	- 5.3
Laredo	—	1,691	1,526	—	—
San Antonio	61,546	293,781	52,557	+ 17.1	- 79.1
EL PASO	37,916	25,552	59,449	- 36.2	+ 48.4
El Paso	37,916	25,552	59,449	- 36.2	+ 48.4

However, the principal factors back of foreign trade developments in Texas this summer were international, not local. Attention of the entire country was focussed upon the problem of feeding and reconstructing Europe in the face of the threat of Russian expansion into Western Europe. While the Geneva Conference called to draft a charter for an International Trade Organization was still in session, the Marshall Plan was announced and steps taken to implement it. These actions will all have a profound bearing on the future foreign trade of Texas.

EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE BY AIR

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

District and port	Percent change				
	June 1947	May 1947	June 1946	June 1947 from June 1946	June 1947 from May 1947
TOTAL	\$2,092,837	\$2,016,631	\$2,803,677	- 25.4	+ 3.8
GALVESTON	487,930	436,498	683,044	- 28.6	+ 11.8
Dallas	156,892	167,414	—	—	- 6.3
Fort Worth	1,250	—	683,044	- 99.8	—
Houston	329,788	269,084	—	—	+ 22.6
LAREDO	1,562,721	1,424,790	2,020,080	- 22.6	+ 9.7
Brownsville	579,436	576,422	1,603,585	- 63.9	+ 0.5
Laredo	3,488	7,780	45,713	- 92.4	- 55.2
San Antonio	979,797	840,588	370,782	+164.3	+ 16.6
EL PASO	42,186	155,343	100,553	- 58.0	- 72.8
El Paso	42,186	155,343	100,553	- 58.0	- 72.8

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.)

Manufacturing activity in Texas, measured by *man-hours* worked in industrial establishments, continued to advance for the fourth straight month. The July-to-August gain was 1.1%, which put August 1947 activity 4.3% above that for August 1946.

Crude oil runs to stills in Texas totaled 46,711,078 barrels in August, declining 0.8%. Compared with the August 1946 figure of 44,678,625 barrels, runs were up 4.5% this August. After adjustment for seasonal variation, the Bureau's *index of crude oil runs to stills* dropped 1.7% from July to 160.4% of the prewar (1935-39) average.

Refinery stocks of all items showed moderate to substantial gains from the end of July to the end of August and also showed gains over year-ago stocks. From July to August gasoline stocks were up 0.6%; distillate 15.0%; residual 3.2%; and kerosene 18.9%. In comparison with August 1946 figures gasoline inventories were up 8.5%, distillate 19.4%, and residual 3.2%.

In the Texas Gulf coast area gasoline stocks increased 4.2%, distillate stocks rose 14.5%, residual gained 2.3%, and kerosene 18.2%. Inland Texas showed gains in all stocks except gasoline, which registered a 14.1% decrease. Inland Texas distillate stocks were up 23.6%. Residual fuel inventories increased 10.5% and kerosene 24.0%.

Cotton consumption in Texas for August 1947 was down 8.5% from the preceding month and 37.1%

below the figure for August 1946. Cotton consumption in Texas during August 1947 totaled 11,887 running bales. Consumption of linters was also down. The monthly figure for August was 20.9% below that for July, but the annual comparison revealed a 40.7% gain.

CONSUMPTION OF COTTON AND COTTON LINTERS (in running bales)

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

Item	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946	Percent change	
				Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
Cotton	11,887	12,985	18,899	-37.1	- 8.5
Linters	1,885	2,383	1,340	+40.7	-20.9

Cotton spinning activity in Texas for August 1947, as measured by spinning spindles in place at the end of the month, spindles active, and average spindle hours, showed an over-all increase. Spinning spindles in place registered a 0.8% decline from July to August 1947, while spindles active and average spindle hours showed respective gains of 0.7% and 4.8% during the same period. All items revealed declines from August 1946 to August 1947.

COTTON SPINNING ACTIVITY

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

Item	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946	Percent change	
				Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
Spinning spindles in place*	228,000	229,928	242,792	- 6.1	- 0.8
Spindles active	214,000	212,414	240,038	-10.8	+ 0.7
Average spindle hours	349	333	368	- 5.2	+ 4.8

*End of the month.

Cottonseed received at mills in Texas during August 1947 was 105.3% greater than in the previous month and was 64.7% larger than receipts in August a year ago. Cottonseed crushed in August 1947 was 172.9% above the figure for July 1947. The Bureau's seasonally-adjusted *index of cottonseed crushed* was up 3.2% over the July total and stood 128.1% above its 1935-39 base. Cottonseed stocks awaiting processing at mills at the end of the month were 113.8% above those of the preceding month and 12.6% above the figure for a year ago.

COTTONSEED PRODUCTION

(in tons)

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

Item	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946	Percent change	
				Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
Received at mills	121,868	59,370	74,003	+ 64.7	+105.3
Crushed	61,311	22,465	30,242	+102.7	+172.9
Stocks at end of month	113,790	53,233	101,015	+ 12.6	+113.8

REFINERY STOCKS*

(in thousands of barrels)

Source: The Oil and Gas Journal

Section and item	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946	Percent change	
				Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
TEXAS					
Gasoline	16,517	16,418	15,219	+ 8.5	+ 0.6
Distillate	9,810	8,533	8,214	+19.4	+15.0
Residual	7,477	7,245	6,542	+14.3	+ 3.2
Kerosene	3,919	3,296	-----	-----	+18.9
TEXAS GULF COAST					
Gasoline	13,755	13,202	12,648	+ 8.8	+ 4.2
Distillate	9,275	8,100	7,606	+21.9	+14.5
Residual	6,570	6,424	5,784	+13.6	+ 2.3
Kerosene	3,407	2,883	-----	-----	+18.2
INLAND TEXAS					
Gasoline	2,762	3,216	2,571	+ 7.4	-14.1
Distillate	535	433	608	-12.0	+23.6
Residual	907	821	758	+19.7	+10.5
Kerosene	512	413	-----	-----	+24.0

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

Wheat grindings and flour production for July 1947 increased both in the monthly and yearly comparisons. Wheat ground in July 1947 was 3.2% above the June 1947 figure and 25.7% above the July 1946 figure. Wheat flour followed a similar pattern by registering a 4.6% increase over June 1947 and a 17.6% gain over July 1946. The *index of wheat ground* rose to 199.2 (1935-39=100), a 0.9% increase after seasonal adjustment.

WHEAT GRINDINGS AND FLOUR PRODUCTION

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

Item	Unit	July 1947	June 1947	July 1946	Percent change	
					July 1947 from July 1946	July 1947 from June 1947
Wheat ground	1,000 bu.	4,733	4,585	3,764	+25.7	+ 3.2
Wheat flour	1,000 sks.	2,053	1,962	1,746	+17.6	+ 4.6

Cement production in Texas rose 4.4% from June to July 1947. The July figure also registered an increase of 11.5% over July 1946. After seasonal factors were eliminated, the Bureau's *index of cement production* in Texas increased only 0.2% from June 1947 to July 1947. The seasonally-adjusted index of cement production in Texas for the month of July stood at 198.9%. Shipments from Texas plants increased 6.7% in the monthly comparison and gained 16.5% in the yearly comparison. Stocks were down 16.2% from June to July 1947 and 16.6% from July 1946 to July 1947.

CEMENT PRODUCTION

(in thousands of barrels)

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

Item	July 1947	June 1947	July 1946	Percent change	
				July 1947 from July 1946	July 1947 from June 1947
TEXAS					
Production	1,089	1,043	977	+11.5	+ 4.4
Shipments	1,157	1,084	993	+16.5	+ 6.7
Stocks	352	420	422	-16.6	-16.2

Average weekly lumber production per unit in southern pine mills for August 1947 was up 1.9% over July 1947 and 13.6% above the August 1946 figure. Compared to the average prewar (1935-39) month,

LUMBER PRODUCTION IN SOUTHERN PINE MILLS

(in board feet)

Source: Southern Pine Association

Item	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946	Percent change	
				Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
Average weekly production per unit...	220,535	216,427	194,212	+13.6	+ 1.9
Average weekly shipments per unit	238,430	208,397	191,154	+24.7	+14.4
Average unfilled orders per unit, end of month	1,128,904	957,301	846,077	+33.4	+17.9

production per unit was up 2.4% in August this year. Average weekly shipments per unit were 14.4% above the preceding month and 24.7% above a year ago. Average unfilled orders per unit at the end of the month increased 17.9% above those for July 1947 and 33.4% above the figure for August 1946. Production for August 1947 came to 76.8% of the 1935-39 average.

All *dairy products manufactured* in Texas continued to dip in August 1947. All items were also below the totals for August 1946. In the monthly comparison, total milk equivalent used in the manufacture of dairy products in Texas for August 1947 dropped 33.4%, and in the yearly comparison it dropped 17.0%. Creamery butter production was 32.1% under the preceding month and 12.2% under the figure a year ago. Ice cream production declined 28.7% from July to August 1947 and 32.7% from August 1946 to August 1947. American cheese production dropped 45.5% in the monthly comparison, but declined only 0.7% in the yearly comparison.

MANUFACTURE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

Product	Unit	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946	Percent change	
					Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
TOTAL MILK EQUIVALENT*	1,000 lbs.	62,878	94,479	75,739	-17.0	-33.4
Creamery butter	1,000 lbs.	1,263	1,859	1,439	-12.2	-32.1
Ice cream†	1,000 gal.	1,614	2,265	2,398	-32.7	-28.7
American cheese ..	1,000 lbs.	751	1,379	756	- 0.7	-45.5
All other	1,000 lbs.	3,736	5,603	3,829	- 2.4	-33.3

*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 25% or more above the permit valuation. Loans by savings and loan associations reflect the financing of residential housing.)

Total construction contracts for August 1947 registered a sharp decline compared with both last month and year-ago figures. A 26.3% drop was recorded in the July-to-August 1947 period and a 28.9% decline was shown between August 1946 and August 1947.

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

Source: Texas Contractor

Type of building	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946	Percent change	
				Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
TOTAL	\$46,854,097	\$63,587,522	\$65,913,262	-28.9	-26.3
Engineering	11,960,600	8,599,563	33,292,156	-64.1	+39.1
Nonresidential ..	16,921,512	26,004,621	22,268,036	-24.0	-34.9
Residential	17,971,985	28,983,338	10,353,070	+73.6	-38.0

Engineering contracts showed the only monthly gain (39.1%). Nonresidential and residential contracts dropped 34.9% and 38.0%, respectively, in the monthly comparison. Compared with August 1946, engineering and nonresidential contracts registered losses, while residential contracts showed a gain.

The slump in residential building during August 1947 held down total construction controls to a great extent, especially since residential building has been the chief item in this year's staggering total spent for construction. It has been estimated by reliable sources that over \$625,000,000 of all type contracts will be awarded in 1948 to establish a peak in building for Texas.

BUILDING PERMITS

City	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946
TOTAL	\$28,902,397	\$32,775,211	\$18,701,293
Abilene	261,704	290,700	186,840
Amarillo	1,034,930	678,493	471,185
Austin	1,857,659	4,366,820	1,302,940
Beaumont	491,726	1,495,788	404,284
Big Spring	78,480	79,700	45,475
Borger	994,075	32,300	53,000
Brownsville	100,015	66,180	112,079
Brownwood	69,237	90,472	72,265
Bryan	117,590	176,523	198,846
Childress	31,750	21,700	15,400
Cleburne	272,555	235,930	29,775
Coleman	6,950	43,000	26,050
Corpus Christi	1,411,874	1,338,349	1,280,621
Corsicana	40,520	36,970	18,650
Dallas	5,086,499	5,238,508	5,927,191
Denison	26,184	101,574	56,448
Denton	324,150	258,525	153,050
Edinburg	103,570	104,425	16,191
El Paso	755,507	399,450	336,335
Fort Worth	2,568,704	1,773,231	1,577,662
Galveston	208,205	180,379	166,633
Gladewater	38,250	20,470	5,815
Graham	30,200	14,250	5,200
Harlingen	99,240	225,715	81,700
Houston	5,636,552	6,119,057	1,640,159
Jacksonville	69,600	29,800	41,400
Kenedy	1,100	1,100	600
Kerrville	40,697	78,317	70,950
Lamesa	41,150	108,250	42,150
Lockhart	3,700	10,400	9,700
Longview	187,850	193,800	119,550
Lubbock	758,562	1,169,669	436,402
McAllen	127,383	407,186	77,510
Marshall	138,135	237,170	88,650
Midland	275,600	266,275	127,750
Nacogdoches	31,700	30,000	16,750
New Braunfels	67,962	34,592	78,390
Palestine	67,725	17,937	110,970
Pampa	33,325	73,830	87,300
Paris	51,735	35,200	35,761
Plainview	209,350	334,000	66,000
Port Arthur	176,492	195,172	195,644
San Antonio	2,491,323	2,514,232	1,586,090
Seguin	49,500	36,405	30,900
Sherman	65,302	82,368	72,576
Temple	77,255	100,484	138,610
Texarkana	84,676	182,248	75,655
Texas City	563,483	533,755	20,345
Tyler	264,559	1,339,107	298,847
Victoria	85,900	33,590	178,012
Waco	921,974	1,064,575	348,083
Wichita Falls	370,233	277,290	162,904

The program to provide houses for veterans at all costs has succeeded in the respect that more money was put into dwellings than any other type of building for the first 8 months of this year.

Building permits issued in 52 Texas cities for August 1947 recorded a loss of 13.8% under the July 1947 figure, but still showed a 54.5% gain over the August 1946 figure. Houston, with permits totaling \$5,636,552, again led the field with Dallas closely following with a total of \$5,086,499. Fort Worth followed with \$2,568,704; San Antonio with \$2,491,323; Austin with \$1,857,659; Corpus Christi with \$1,411,874; Amarillo with \$1,034,930; and Borger with \$994,075. In the July-to-August comparison 28 of the 52 reporting cities showed losses which added to the over-all monthly decline in building permits. In the 12-month comparison 35 cities added to the over-all increase for the yearly comparison. Largest monthly increase was shown in Borger, which registered a 1775.6% increase.

The *index of building permits* dropped 25.1% to 473.2% of the 1935-39 base, after adjustment for seasonal variation.

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.)

Total *electric power consumption* for Texas in August 1947 rose 6.6% from the preceding month and 12.5% over August a year ago. The reports of the 10 electric power companies to the Bureau showed that all types of electric power consumption increased with the total. Commercial power consumption registered a 7.0% gain over July 1947 and a 18.4% increase in the yearly comparison. Likewise, industrial power consumption showed respective monthly and yearly gains of 4.6% and 9.1%. Residential power consumption increased 11.1% over July 1947 and 20.7% over August 1946. With adjustment for seasonal variation, the Bureau's *index of total electric power consumption* rose 2.3% from July to August to stand at 271.7% of its 1935-39 average.

ELECTRIC POWER CONSUMPTION*

(in thousands of kilowatt hours)

Use	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946	Percent change	
				Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
TOTAL	593,858	556,938	527,983	+12.5	+ 6.6
Commercial	129,515	121,024	109,358	+18.4	+ 7.0
Industrial	283,981	271,411	260,389	+ 9.1	+ 4.6
Residential	95,259	85,770	78,951	+20.7	+11.1
Other	85,103	78,733	79,285	+ 7.3	+ 8.1

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

Electric energy production for public use in Texas for August 1947 was up 9.5% from the preceding month and 15.3% from August 1946. United States electric energy production increased from 20,243,817 kilowatt hours in July 1947 to 20,781,955 kilowatt hours in August 1947 to give a 2.7% increase.

The *number of telephones in service* in 41 Texas cities served by the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company on August 31, 1947 totaled 856,082, an increase of 1.3% over the July 1947 figure and 13.6% over the figure for August 1946.

Natural Resources

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

Daily average *production of crude petroleum* in Texas for August 1947 was 2.8% above that of the previous month. Production for August 1947 averaged 2,300,400 barrels per day. The seasonally-adjusted *index of crude petroleum production* gained 1.4% from July to August, to stand 83.0% above the average pre-war (1935-39) month.

Texas oil producers will probably be called upon to increase production which is already at record levels. Although producers are increasing production of petroleum, a shortage of fuel still exists. Experts blame this shortage on the lack of piping facilities to transport the oil to oil-thirsty sections of the United States.

Total *well completions* in Texas for January-August 1947 were substantially above the figure for the same period in 1946. The largest number of completions was in North Central Texas followed by West Texas, Texas Gulf Coast, Southwest Texas, and Eastern Texas.

For August 1947, North Central Texas led in total well completions and was followed by West Texas and Texas Gulf Coast. West Texas led in total oil wells completed followed by North Central Texas and Texas Gulf Coast. The Panhandle section led in the number of gas wells completed with Texas Gulf Coast and Southwest Texas following closely. North Central Texas registered the most dry wells, with Southwest Texas and Texas Gulf Coast following.

WELL COMPLETIONS

Source: *The Oil and Gas Journal*

District	August 1947*				Jan.-Aug. (all wells)	
	Total	Oil	Gas	Dry	1947	1946
TEXAS	986	594	60	332	5,956	5,305
North Central Texas	315	151	6	158	1,927	1,897
West Texas	265	229	1	35	1,436	1,136
Panhandle	52	29	15	8	287	217
Eastern Texas	60	25	11	24	342	494
Texas Gulf Coast	155	89	14	52	1,035	1,163
Southwest Texas	139	71	13	55	929	398

*For 5 weeks ending Aug. 30, 1947.

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.)

Cash income of Texas farmers during August dropped off 42.9% from the all-time high mark reached in July. Amounting to \$136,562,000, August receipts from farm marketings still were up 22.6% over August 1946, however. Practically all of the gross gain was due to price increases in the past 12 months. Actually farmers realized little or no improvement in their buying position over last August since operating costs in terms of prices paid for off-the-farm goods matched or exceeded the 22.6% dollar gain in gross income.

Seasonal reductions in income were uniform throughout the State except in 3 districts where cotton marketing was in full swing. August income reflected the last of income from this year's wheat crop, the majority of which was marketed during July. Lowered income from cotton in the Lower Rio Grande Valley during August as well as seasonal lulls in the production of fresh vegetables also abetted the July-to-August decline in income. Three districts in which August income exceeded that for July were the Southern Texas Prairies (District 8), Coastal Prairies (District 9), and the South Texas Plains (District 10), all important cotton districts.

Farm cash income in Texas exclusive of government payments, amounted to \$935,861,000 in the first 8 months of 1947, a 41.2% increase over the same period of 1946. The wheat-growing districts were the greatest benefactors in the State gain, although all districts except the Trans-Pecos (District 6) registered some increase. Evidence that Texas farmers have fared exceedingly well is borne out by the showing made for the nation's farmers as a whole, who have received only 26% more from farm marketings in 1947 to date than last year.

FARM CASH INCOME

District	Indexes, 1935-39=100, adjusted for seasonal variation			Amount, Jan.-Aug. (in thousands of dollars)	
	Aug. 1947	July* 1947	Aug. 1946	1947	1946
TEXAS	358.7	825.3	291.3	935,861	662,709
1-N	830.3	1290.7	460.2	192,920	84,043
1-S	350.0	493.9	375.0	47,162	38,757
2	261.9	1036.5	319.5	108,680	58,414
3	265.2	605.4	271.4	59,776	37,504
4	138.8	287.0	163.3	90,225	71,032
5	220.8	179.7	148.1	43,142	30,537
6	387.1	455.9	362.1	19,296	27,575
7	328.6	261.8	331.1	62,661	61,033
8	516.2	314.0	353.3	102,488	78,130
9	711.1	470.9	378.4	47,486	32,908
10	394.7	652.9	355.9	37,377	27,149
10-A	682.5	2756.9	817.9	124,648	115,627

*Revised.

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.)

Shipments of *livestock* from Texas stations took a more-than-seasonal drop from July to August, marking the third consecutive month in which a decline has occurred. In the aggregate August 1947 loadings were also sharply (32.6%) below those of 1946. The 23.8% drop under July shipments was due to reductions in shipments of all types of animals except calves, with cattle loadings off 31.1%; hogs down 5.2%; and sheep 27.1%. The increase in shipments of calves of 15.3% was substantial, and represented 153 more carloads shipped in August than in the previous month.

Compared with August 1946, cattle and sheep shipments were around 38% lower this year, calf shipments were 12.7% lower, but 32.2% more hogs were shipped. High prices of pork, plus the expectation of a short corn crop for feeding purposes were undoubtedly factors supporting the high level of hog marketings during August this year.

Shipments of *chickens* and *shell eggs* during August were above July levels, but other poultry products showed declines.

In comparison with August 1946 chicken and egg movements were considerably lighter in August 1947, but there were 8 cars of *turkeys* shipped this year compared to none in August a year ago. The country over, government estimates indicate a prospective 16% drop in marketings of the 1947 turkey crop under last

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	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946	Percent change	
				Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
TOTAL SHIPMENTS	6,639	8,707	9,844	- 32.6	- 23.8
Cattle	3,935	5,712	6,362	- 38.1	- 31.1
Calves	1,153	1,000	1,320	- 12.7	+ 15.3
Hogs	419	442	317	+ 32.2	- 5.2
Sheep	1,132	1,553	1,845	- 38.6	- 27.1
INTERSTATE PLUS					
FORT WORTH	5,885	7,992	9,008	- 34.7	- 26.4
Cattle	3,442	5,187	5,816	- 40.8	- 33.6
Calves	1,072	908	1,255	- 14.6	+ 18.1
Hogs	409	440	312	+ 31.1	- 7.0
Sheep	962	1,457	1,625	- 40.8	- 39.7
INTRASTATE MINUS					
FORT WORTH†	754	715	836	- 9.8	+ 5.5
Cattle	493	525	546	- 9.7	- 6.1
Calves	81	92	65	+ 24.6	- 12.0
Hogs	10	2	5	+100.0	+400.0
Sheep	170	96	220	- 22.7	+ 77.1

*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.

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	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946
Chickens	10	8.5	28.5
Turkeys	8	12.5	0
Eggs-shell equivalent*	160	235	308.5
Shell	6	1	10.5
Frozen	25	25	9
Dried	13	23	35

*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	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946
TOTAL RECEIPTS-SHELL EQUIVALENT*	58	10	54
Shell	44	10	32
Frozen	7	0	11
Dried	0	0	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.

year's figures. Texas holds approximately 3,681,000 of the nation's total, compared with 4,231,000 a year ago, a 13% reduction.

During August, Texas railroad agents reported the receipt of 58 carloads of *eggs* from out-of-state points, a figure comparable to year-ago receipts but substantially in excess of July 1947 receipts.

Marketings of *fruits and vegetables* reached a seasonal low in August, declining 60.7% from July. Potatoes, watermelons, cantaloupes, onions, and tomatoes from the summer crop either disappeared or were shipped

RAIL SHIPMENTS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

(in carloads)

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

Item	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946	Percent change	
				Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
TOTAL	2,279	5,805	1,268	+ 79.7	- 60.7
Cantaloupes	24	76	20	+ 20.0	- 68.4
Lemons	17	0	2	+750.0	.....
Onions	2	44	40	- 95.0	- 95.5
Potatoes	396	465	515	- 23.1	- 14.8
Watermelons	1,839	3,722	689	+166.9	- 50.6
All other	1	1,498	2	- 50.0	- 99.9

in smaller volume than during July. However, 17 carloads of lemons from the early Valley crop were sent to market in August, despite the fact that this year's citrus season is somewhat behind schedule. Indications early in September were that the citrus crop was about 30 days short of harvest stage, although some oranges were expected to be ready by the middle of September.

A reduction of 1/4 to 1/3 in the normal fall acreage of vegetables planted in the Valley has been forecast by seed firms and growers in that area. This decline is traceable to several causes, including the unusually large acreage tied up in a cotton crop, the rain-delayed harvest of the cotton, and the damaging of summer seedbeds by extended drouth during late July and early August.

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.)

Farm prices in Texas continued to rise during August, with few exceptions, according to the August 15 price report of the United States Department of Agriculture. Prices for hogs, at \$24.60 a hundredweight, and corn, at \$1.97 a bushel, both reached new records. Potatoes, cotton, cottonseed, beef cattle, sheep, horses, and mules

showed price declines, 17 other products advanced in price, and 5 showed no change.

The government index of prices received by farmers nationally remained unchanged between mid-July and mid-August, but prices paid for off-the-farm goods rose from 231 to 235 (1910-14 = 100), pushing the parity ratio back to its June level of 117, down 2 points from July. Farm parity prices hit a new peak during the month ended August 15, increasing 2% above the previous peak reached a month before.

During August the Agriculture Department also announced an immediate increase of 1 to 2 cents a pound in the selling price of the finer grades of wool, and resumed its wool price support program, in accordance with legislation passed in the closing days of the last session of Congress. Support prices for cotton were likewise raised about 7 cents a pound above last year. Current high feed prices caused the Agriculture Department to set ahead by a month the effective date of price support on turkeys, making it effective September 1.

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.)

Occupancy of space in public cold storage warehouses declined slightly from July 1 to August 1, with cooler space filled to 72% of capacity and freezer space at 75%. Private and semiprivate warehouses were filled to capacity on both July 1 and August 1. In meat packing plants stocks increased sharply during the month for both cooler and freezer space.

Holdings of all dairy products in cold storage places in Texas increased substantially from July to August, but poultry and egg stocks declined. There was a net increase of 32.8% in creamery butter inventories, which may be indicative of buyer resistance to the high level of prices which prevailed throughout the month.

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 will be noted from the cotton balance sheet that the supply of cotton in the United States is about 3,600,000 bales less than last year at this time. In spite of this, the price is about five cents a pound lower. Moreover, the dollar is substantially cheaper. The Bureau of Labor Statistics wholesale price index for all commodities is now about 160, compared with 127 in late September last year. The question, then, is why are cotton prices lower? The following outstanding facts in the demand-supply situation should aid in answering the question.

The cotton supply situation in the United States is fairly stabilized. Some differences of opinion still exist as to the final outturn of this crop, but they are not significant.

PRICES OF TEXAS FARM PRODUCTS

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

Commodity	Unit	Aug. 15 1947	July 15 1947	Aug. 15 1946
Wheat	bu.	\$ 2.04	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.80
Corn	bu.	1.97	1.92	1.58
Oats	bu.	.94	.84	.90
Barley	bu.	1.38	1.24	1.32
Grain sorghum	cwt.	2.75	2.65	2.70
Rice	bu.	2.70	2.50	1.90
Potatoes	bu.	1.25	1.80	1.20
Sweet potatoes	bu.	3.10	2.90	3.00
Cotton lint	lb.	.328	.360	.336
Cottonseed	ton	76.00	79.00	63.00
Cowpeas	bu.	5.15	5.15	3.55
Peanuts	lb.	.091	.090	.086
Hogs	cwt.	24.60	23.20	20.30
Beef cattle	cwt.	17.00	17.20	12.60
Veal calves	cwt.	19.50	19.50	15.10
Sheep	cwt.	9.90	10.00	7.60
Lambs	cwt.	17.20	17.20	12.90
Milk cows	head	113.00	112.00	94.00
Horses	head	51.00	52.00	52.00
Mules	head	80.00	81.00	74.00
Chickens	lb.	.247	.247	.249
Turkeys	lb.	.229	.225	.270
Eggs	doz.	.413	.388	.352
Butter	lb.	.640	.630	.650
Butterfat	lb.	.630	.590	.640
Milk, wholesale	cwt.	5.15	5.05	4.80
Wool	lb.	.410	.410	.420
All hay, loose	ton	16.00	14.20	16.90
Alfalfa hay, loose	ton	21.50	20.00	26.50

LOCAL BUSIN

City and item	Percent change		
	Aug. 1947	Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
ABILENE:			
Retail sales of independent stores	—	0.5	+ 16.9
Department and apparel store sales	—	7.9	+ 35.3
Postal receipts	\$ 29,326	+ 9.6	— 4.3
Building permits	\$ 261,704	+ 40.1	— 10.0
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 27,237	+ 13.7	— 0.9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 37,697	— 6.0	— 2.4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.5	+ 19.7	0.0
Air express shipments	212	+ 69.6	+ 17.1
Unemployment	1,622	+ 6.7	+ 21.2
Placements in employment	512	— 12.9	— 13.7

AMARILLO:

Retail sales of independent stores	—	+ 15.2	+ 14.2
Department and apparel store sales	—	4.5	+ 26.2
Postal receipts	\$ 60,254	+ 5.4	— 1.6
Building permits	\$1,034,930	+119.6	+ 52.5
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 82,160	+ 29.6	— 15.1
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 78,891	+ 8.5	+ 0.1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.5	+ 20.2	— 16.1
Air express shipments	502	+ 37.9	+ 25.5
Unemployment	1,400	0.0	— 3.4
Placements in employment	948	+ 48.1	— 6.4

AUSTIN:

Retail sales of independent stores	—	1.3	+ 2.6
Department and apparel store sales	—	21.4	+ 9.0
Postal receipts	\$ 119,579	+ 0.1	— 0.8
Building permits	\$1,857,659	+ 42.6	— 57.5
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 89,907	+ 5.9	+ 6.3
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 97,043	+ 1.9	+ 1.5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.2	+ 8.7	+ 5.7
Air express shipments	513	+ 27.3	+ 10.3
Unemployment	2,036	— 27.6	+ 0.6
Placements in employment	880	— 3.6	+ 3.8

BEAUMONT:

Retail sales of independent stores	—	3.3	+ 10.9
Department and apparel store sales	—	7.1	+ 23.0
Postal receipts	\$ 45,718	+ 0.2	+ 3.0
Building permits	\$ 491,726	+ 21.6	— 67.1
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 70,532	+ 15.6	+ 0.6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 86,875	+ 8.7	+ 6.6
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.1	+ 9.8	— 1.9
Export cars unloaded	655	+259.9	+ 3.5
Air express shipments	339	+ 33.5	0.0

BROWNSVILLE:

Retail sales of independent stores	—	8.7	+ 1.5
Postal receipts	\$ 9,863	+ 3.3	— 13.2
Building permits	\$ 100,015	— 10.8	+ 51.2
Air express shipments	2,156	— 30.3	— 5.0

BROWNWOOD:

Retail sales of independent stores	—	5.3	+ 10.5
Department and apparel store sales	—	23.9	— 3.5
Postal receipts	\$ 9,920	— 5.6	— 2.9
Building permits	\$ 69,237	— 4.2	— 23.5

*Excludes deposits to the credit of banks.

City and item	Percent change		
	Aug. 1947	Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
CORPUS CHRISTI:			
Retail sales of independent stores	—	6.0	— 1.8
Department and apparel store sales	—	8.9	+ 11.2
Postal receipts	\$ 62,713	— 1.4	— 3.4
Building permits	\$1,411,874	+ 10.2	+ 5.5
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 82,045	+ 18.8	+ 15.0
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 70,031	— 0.8	+ 3.2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	14.3	+ 21.2	+ 9.2
Air express shipments	611	+ 23.4	+ 11.3
Unemployment	2,650	— 14.5	0.0
Placements in employment	1,042	+ 42.9	+ 19.4

CORSICANA:

Postal receipts	\$ 7,193	— 39.8	— 19.6
Building permits	\$ 40,520	+117.3	+ 9.6
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 8,225	+ 13.6	— 3.1
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 18,751	+ 1.9	— 0.2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	5.3	+ 12.8	— 1.9

DALLAS:

Retail sales of independent stores	—	5.7	+ 10.3
Apparel stores	—	13.8	+ 25.9
Automotive stores	—	9.7	— 5.6
Department stores	—	4.8	+ 13.0
Drug stores	—	7.1	— 5.0
Filling stations	—	0.9	+ 1.7
Florists	—	25.4	— 8.4
Food stores	—	0.2	— 1.2
Furniture and household stores	—	3.1	+ 2.2
Jewelry stores	—	30.1	— 12.2
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	—	25.3	— 7.4
Eating and drinking places	—	3.1	— 3.5
All other stores	—	4.6	— 0.8
Postal receipts	\$ 680,482	+ 3.3	+ 0.9
Building permits	\$5,086,499	— 14.2	— 2.9
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 811,486	+ 11.8	— 4.7
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 659,991	— 2.0	— 1.3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	14.6	+ 14.1	— 5.2
Air express shipments	7,223	+ 8.7	+ 7.5
Unemployment	10,000	— 13.0	— 9.1
Placements in employment	3,650	— 15.7	+ 1.0

EL PASO:

Retail sales of independent stores	—	2.9	+ 4.5
Department and apparel store sales	—	5.6	+ 15.3
Postal receipts	\$ 87,450	— 4.2	— 2.1
Building permits	\$ 755,507	+124.6	+ 89.1
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 88,668	+ 8.3	— 0.5
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 104,360	— 1.2	+ 0.3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.2	+ 12.1	— 1.0
Air express shipments	1,385	+ 13.8	+ 1.3
Unemployment	2,600	— 3.7	— 7.1
Placements in employment	943	+ 18.3	— 7.5

HARLINGEN:

Retail sales of independent stores	—	10.0	+ 4.5
Department and apparel store sales	—	4.1	+ 16.7
Postal receipts	\$ 11,762	+ 10.0	— 12.5
Building permits	\$ 99,240	+ 21.5	— 56.0

*Excludes deposits to the credit of banks.

CONDITIONS

City and item	Percent change		
	Aug. 1947	Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
FORT WORTH:			
Retail sales of independent stores		+ 0.01	+ 6.0
Apparel stores		- 16.2	+ 13.5
Automotive stores		+ 27.2	- 5.4
Department stores		- 8.2	+ 19.7
Drug stores		- 8.6	+ 1.0
Filling stations		+ 8.9	+ 0.4
Florists		- 6.4	+ 2.5
Food stores		- 1.2	+ 3.0
Furniture and household stores		- 19.4	- 2.0
Jewelry stores		+ 13.8	- 1.6
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores		+ 41.1	- 10.4
Eating and drinking places		- 8.0	+ 4.4
All other stores		- 4.1	- 5.5
Postal receipts	\$ 242,485	- 5.7	- 11.8
Building permits	\$2,568,704	+ 62.8	+ 44.9
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 292,697	+ 12.7	- 14.0
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 271,911	- 3.4	+ 0.03
Annual rate of deposit turnover	13.0	+ 18.2	- 13.3
Air express shipments	1,563	- 24.1	+ 7.1
Unemployment	8,100	- 15.6	- 17.3
Placements in employment	3,648	+ 14.9	+ 1.2

GALVESTON:

Retail sales of independent stores		+ 1.1	- 2.5
Department and apparel store sales		- 17.5	+ 2.8
Postal receipts	\$ 44,204	- 6.6	- 5.2
Building permits	\$ 208,205	+ 24.9	+ 15.4
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 58,047	+ 5.5	- 2.4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 89,239	+ 5.5	- 0.2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.8	0.0	- 2.5
Export cars unloaded	11,571	+ 27.8	- 2.1
Air express shipments	423	+ 27.0	+ 3.4
Unemployment (area)	2,500	+ 4.2	0.0
Placements in employment (area)	952	- 25.2	- 11.9

HOUSTON:

Retail sales of independent stores		+ 3.0	+ 6.0
Apparel stores		- 11.0	+ 14.0
Automotive stores		+ 20.5	- 1.1
Department stores		+ 2.6	+ 14.3
Drug stores		- 0.3	+ 2.3
Filling stations		- 10.4	+ 5.1
Florists		- 24.4	+ 4.9
Food stores		- 2.9	+ 0.8
Furniture and household stores		+ 5.0	- 1.7
Jewelry stores		+ 1.6	+ 39.3
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores		+ 84.1	- 2.5
Eating and drinking places		+ 3.0	+ 2.3
All other stores		- 1.3	+ 11.7
Postal receipts	\$ 447,155	+ 2.9	- 6.0
Building permits	\$5,636,552	+243.7	- 7.9
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 819,364	+ 17.8	- 2.2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 774,960	+ 1.3	+ 0.1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.7	+ 16.5	- 3.1
Export cars unloaded	6,489	+ 69.5	- 18.3
Air express shipments	5,112	+ 48.9	+ 10.9
Unemployment (area)	11,500	- 37.2	- 4.2
Placements in employment (area)	4,834	+ 32.9	- 3.6

*Excludes deposits to the credit of banks.

City and item	Percent change		
	Aug. 1947	Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
LAMESA:			
Retail sales of independent stores		+ 14.6	- 2.7
Postal receipts	\$ 4,473	+ 17.5	+ 14.9
Building permits	\$ 41,150	- 2.4	- 62.0
Air express shipments	17	0.0	- 10.5

LUBBOCK:

Retail sales of independent stores		+ 9.0	+ 2.4
Department and apparel store sales		+ 1.9	+ 17.9
Postal receipts	\$ 37,167	+ 14.6	- 9.5
Building permits	\$ 758,562	+ 73.8	- 35.1
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 49,729	+ 30.3	- 5.4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 54,781	- 1.4	+ 0.2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.9	+ 29.8	- 4.4
Air express shipments	319	+ 67.0	+ 65.3
Unemployment	800	- 42.9	+ 14.3
Placements in employment	679	+ 34.5	+ 36.9

McALLEN:

Retail sales of independent stores		+ 20.2	+ 2.0
Department and apparel store sales		- 18.8	- 0.3
Postal receipts	\$ 8,263	+ 0.3	- 15.0
Building permits	\$ 127,383	+ 64.3	- 68.7

PLAINVIEW:

Retail sales of independent stores		+ 4.9	+ 4.6
Department and apparel store sales		+ 1.3	+ 7.0
Postal receipts	\$ 6,965	+ 11.6	- 11.3
Building permits	\$ 209,350	+217.2	- 37.3

PORT ARTHUR:

Retail sales of independent stores		+ 2.0	+ 4.3
Department and apparel store sales		- 4.9	+ 11.3
Postal receipts	\$ 23,266	- 12.2	+ 7.6
Building permits	\$ 176,492	- 9.8	- 9.6
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 31,063	+ 6.1	+ 4.3
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 38,484	- 7.2	- 1.9
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.6	+ 12.9	+ 4.3
Export and coastal cars unloaded	1,388	+ 62.0	+ 35.2
Air express shipments	192	+ 20.0	+ 2.1

SAN ANGELO:

Department and apparel store sales		- 5.2	+ 3.3
Postal receipts	\$ 21,221	- 8.1	- 20.5
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 25,738	+ 5.3	+ 1.2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 36,566	- 7.0	- 1.4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.4	+ 13.5	0.0
Air express shipments	570	+152.2	+ 3.3

TEMPLE:

Retail sales of independent stores		- 2.5	+ 2.0
Department and apparel store sales		- 21.9	- 1.4
Postal receipts	\$ 12,319	+ 10.6	+ 1.1
Building permits	\$ 77,255	- 44.3	- 23.1
Air express shipments	53	0.0	+ 35.9

*Excludes deposits to the credit of banks.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

(continued)

City and item	Percent change		
	Aug. 1947	Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
SAN ANTONIO:			
Retail sales of independent stores		- 11.2	+ 3.8
Apparel stores		- 30.9	+ 25.4
Automotive stores		- 0.8	- 11.8
Department stores		- 10.8	+ 7.7
Drug stores		- 7.4	+ 0.1
Filling stations		+ 19.5	+ 7.8
Florists		- 26.5	+ 2.5
Food stores		- 6.9	+ 3.0
Furniture and household stores		- 3.3	- 8.5
Jewelry stores		- 35.0	+ 21.5
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores		+ 14.1	+ 2.5
Eating and drinking places		- 15.5	+ 5.8
All other stores		- 9.7	+ 21.5
Postal receipts	\$ 255,634	+ 2.7	- 1.3
Building permits	\$2,491,323	+ 57.1	- 0.9
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 207,861	+ 0.3	- 5.7
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 314,091	- 4.1	+ 4.1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.9	+ 3.9	- 6.0
Air express shipments	2,948	+ 98.8	+ 5.9
Unemployment	12,000	- 23.8	- 4.0
Placements in employment	2,704	+ 18.2	+ 14.1

TEXARKANA:

Retail sales of independent stores		+ 0.3	+ 17.0
Postal receipts	\$ 30,868	- 2.3	+ 14.0
Building permits	\$ 84,676	+ 11.9	- 53.5
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 21,556	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 21,918	- 8.3	- 0.5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.2	+ 12.5	+ 2.9
Air express shipments	108	+ 74.2	+ 11.3
Unemployment	3,800	- 51.5	- 4.3
Placements in employment	846	- 7.0	+ 2.5

TEXAS CITY:

Postal receipts	\$ 7,521	- 0.6	- 2.9
Building permits	\$ 563,483	+2669.6	+ 5.6
Employment (area)	2,500	+ 4.2	0.0
Placements in employment (area)	952	- 25.2	- 11.9

*Excludes deposits to the credit of banks.

City and item	Percent change		
	Aug. 1947	Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
TYLER:			
Retail sales of independent stores		+ 7.1	+ 0.3
Department and apparel store sales		- 7.1	+ 29.0
Postal receipts	\$ 20,151	- 16.2	- 22.1
Building permits	\$ 264,559	- 11.5	- 80.2
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 33,765	+ 5.7	+ 0.1
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 48,116	+ 5.8	+ 0.6
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.4	+ 1.2	- 1.2
Air express shipments	432	- 3.4	- 24.6

WACO:

Retail sales of independent stores		- 6.1	+ 5.6
Department and apparel store sales		- 14.8	+ 20.5
Postal receipts	\$ 59,391	+ 9.9	- 3.0
Building permits	\$ 921,974	+164.9	- 13.4
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 44,848	+ 9.1	+ 1.4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 61,922	- 9.9	+ 1.1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.8	+ 22.2	0.0
Air express shipments	180	+ 6.5	+ 19.2
Unemployment	3,400	- 2.9	- 2.9
Placements in employment	629	- 18.1	+ 16.3

WICHITA FALLS:

Retail sales of independent stores		- 8.6	- 9.4
Department and apparel store sales		- 20.3	+ 23.6
Postal receipts	\$ 34,698	+ 0.8	- 3.3
Building permits	\$ 370,233	+127.3	+ 33.5
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	\$ 42,440	+ 12.9	- 11.0
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	\$ 72,760	+ 4.3	+ 1.8
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.1	+ 10.9	- 14.5
Air express shipments	282	+ 7.2	- 5.7
Unemployment	1,552	- 33.1	- 16.2
Placements in employment	482	+ 15.6	- 1.4

*Excludes deposits to the credit of banks.

COTTON BALANCE SHEET FOR THE UNITED STATES AS OF SEPTEMBER 1
(in thousands of bales except as noted)

Year	Carryover Aug. 1*	Imports to Sept. 1*	Government estimate as of Sept. 1†	Total	Consumption to Sept. 1*	Exports to Sept. 1*	Total	Balance Sept. 1
1937-38	4,498	8	16,098	20,604	604	220	824	19,780
1938-39	11,533	18	11,825	23,376	201	561	762	22,614
1939-40	13,033	13	12,380	25,426	631	215	846	24,580
1940-41	10,596	10	12,772	23,378	655	65	720	22,658
1941-42	12,376	45	10,710	23,131	874	79	953	22,178
1942-43	10,590	11	14,028	24,629	925	71	996	23,633
1943-44	10,687	8	11,679	22,374	842	310	1,152	21,222
1944-45	10,727	2	11,483	22,212	841	33	874	21,338
1945-46	11,160	15	10,026	21,201	740	188	928	20,273
1946-47	9,290	18	9,171	18,479	856	413	1,269	17,210
1947-48	2,521	20‡	11,849	14,390	711	49‡	760	13,630

*Department of Commerce.

†Department of Agriculture.

‡New York Cotton Exchange estimate.

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.)

Changes in the condition of weekly reporting member banks in the Dallas District were slight during August, after a series of more pronounced fluctuations in July. Loans at the end of August were up \$7 million, or less than 1% from July 30, and total U.S. Government securities increased by \$10 million, also a fraction of 1%. In the several types of government securities, however, there were counterbalancing gains and losses, with Treasury bills down \$3 million (12.5%), Treasury certificates of indebtedness down \$7 million (3.1%), Treasury notes rising \$1 million (0.8%), and U.S. Government bonds increasing \$19 million (2.3%). On the liabilities side, the most significant change was the \$25-million increase in demand deposits adjusted, although even there the proportionate increase (1.4%) over July was small. U.S. Government deposits rose 50.0% to total \$30 million, and total deposits (except interbank) rose 1.6%.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas also increased its holdings of U.S. Government securities by over \$14 million, or 1.5% from July 30 to August 27. Discounts and advances rose sharply (82.8%) to more than \$6 million, back up to their year-ago level after falling short of it in past months. Other cash holdings

were down 9.8% from the end of July, and 8.6% under their August 1946 level. Total deposits increased 2.1% to \$846 million, and Federal Reserve notes of that Bank in circulation rose 1.2% to \$593 million.

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	Aug. 27 1947	July 30 1947	Aug. 28 1946	Percent change	
				Aug. 27 1947 from Aug. 28 1946	Aug. 27 1947 from July 30 1947
ASSETS					
Gold certificate reserve	494,125	488,580	487,471	+ 1.4	+ 1.1
U.S. Government securities	935,988	921,778	900,704	+ 3.9	+ 1.5
Discounts and advances	6,349	3,474	6,340	+ 0.1	+82.8
Other cash	10,101	11,203	11,055	- 8.6	- 9.8
Other assets	123,877	102,989	101,882	+21.6	+20.3
TOTAL ASSETS	1,570,440	1,528,024	1,507,452	+ 4.2	+ 2.8
LIABILITIES					
Federal Reserve notes	593,399	586,592	602,773	- 1.6	+ 1.2
Deposits	846,436	829,278	797,734	+ 6.1	+ 2.1
Other liabilities	105,977	87,355	84,893	+25.6	+21.3
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,545,812	1,503,225	1,484,900	+ 4.1	+ 2.8
Capital paid in	7,202	7,135	6,705	+ 7.4	+ 0.9
Surplus	15,084	15,084	11,977	+25.9	0.0
Other capital accounts	2,342	2,580	3,870	-39.5	- 9.2
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	1,570,440	1,528,024	1,507,452	+ 4.2	+ 2.8

CHANGES IN CONDITION OF WEEKLY REPORTING MEMBER BANKS

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Item	Percent change		
	Aug. 27 1947 from Aug. 28 1946	Aug. 27 1947 from July 30 1947	Aug. 28 1946 from July 31 1946
ASSETS			
Loans and investments	+ 6.7	+ 0.9	- 0.6
Loans	+21.3	+ 0.8	+ 1.6
Total U.S. Government securities	- 3.6	+ 0.8	- 1.8
Treasury bills	-58.8	-12.5	+ 2.0
Treasury certificates of indebtedness	-39.2	- 3.1	- 6.2
Treasury notes	-30.8	+ 0.8	0
United States bonds	+28.6	+ 2.3	0
Other securities	+45.7	+ 3.0	- 1.4
Reserve with Federal Reserve Bank	+19.7	+ 1.9	+ 1.8
Cash in vault	+26.9	+ 6.5	+ 8.3
Balances with domestic banks	+36.9	+ 5.7	- 6.5
LIABILITIES			
Total deposits (except interbank)	+11.7	+ 1.6	- 0.7
Demand deposits adjusted	+22.7	+ 1.4	+ 0.3
Time deposits	+19.2	- 0.3	+ 0.3
United States Government deposits	-84.5	+50.0	- 9.0
Interbank deposits:			
Domestic banks	+ 6.3	+ 1.2	- 1.6
Foreign banks	+50.0	+50.0	+33.3
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	+23.0	+ 0.6	+ 0.7

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.)

Bank debits in 20 Texas cities took a seasonal downturn of 4.2%, although activity in various areas of the State was by no means uniformly down. Eight of the 20 cities reported heavier debits in August than July, and increases ran up to 15.0% in Corpus Christi. Furthermore, the July-to-August drop was not quite as great as the normal seasonal reduction at this time, and as a result the index, seasonally-adjusted, moved up slightly to establish a new all-time high at 383.4% of the 1935-39 average.

July-to-August declines were greatest percentagewise in Amarillo, Fort Worth, and Wichita Falls.

Compared to August 1946, debits were 12.7% greater this August, with all cities except Laredo contributing to the over-all gain. With a 30.3% rise, Lubbock led the percentage advances, followed closely by Amarillo and its 29.6% gain.

BANK DEBITS*

(in thousands of dollars)

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

City	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946	Percent change	
				Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
TOTAL	\$2,901,789	\$3,027,712	\$2,574,335	+12.7	- 4.2
Abilene	27,237	27,480	23,958	+13.7	- 0.9
Amarillo	82,160	96,805	63,406	+29.6	-15.1
Austin	89,907	84,544	84,916	+ 5.9	+ 6.3
Beaumont	70,532	70,111	61,029	+15.6	+ 0.6
Corpus Christi	82,045	71,351	69,084	+18.8	+15.0
Corsicana	8,225	8,488	7,242	+13.6	- 3.1
Dallas	811,486	851,215	725,951	+11.8	- 4.7
El Paso	88,668	89,121	81,878	+ 8.3	- 0.5
Fort Worth	292,697	340,468	259,708	+12.7	-14.0
Galveston	58,047	59,461	55,030	+ 5.5	- 2.4
Houston	819,364	838,117	695,593	+17.8	- 2.2
Laredo	14,421	15,357	15,175	- 5.0	- 6.1
Lubbock	49,729	52,570	38,157	+30.3	- 5.4
Port Arthur	31,063	29,775	29,276	+ 6.1	+ 4.3
San Angelo	25,738	25,437	24,454	+ 5.3	+ 1.2
San Antonio	207,831	220,312	207,301	+ 0.3	- 5.7
Texarkana†	21,556	21,453	21,509	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
Tyler	33,765	33,715	31,959	+ 5.7	+ 0.1
Waco	44,848	44,245	41,119	+ 9.1	+ 1.4
Wichita Falls	42,440	47,687	37,590	+12.9	-11.0

*Debits to deposit accounts except interbank accounts.

†Includes two banks in Arkansas, Eighth District.

Corporation Charters

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

Activity with respect to the formation of new corporations remained fairly constant in August as compared to July. There were 389 new corporations chartered in August, and 390 in July. Capitalization of the new firms, however, was greater in August by several million dollars, totaling \$14,614,000 for the 389 firms. Increases over July were shown in the number of new real estate, construction, and banking-finance businesses, but merchandising establishments were most numerous in both months.

CORPORATION CHARTERS ISSUED BY CLASSIFICATION

Source: Office of the Secretary of State

Classification	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946
DOMESTIC CORPORATIONS			
Capitalization*	14,614	11,502	11,109
Number	389	390	331
Banking-finance	13	11	4
Construction	21	19	13
Manufacturing	36	53	54
Merchandising	93	105	107
Oil	16	18	7
Public service	0	3	29
Real estate	57	49	29
Transportation	5	6	13
All other	72	79	40
No capital stock	40	47	35
FOREIGN CORPORATIONS			
Number	36	35	43

*Not tabulated separately.

August incorporations included more big businesses than July. There were 32 corporations in the "over \$100,000" class last month, whereas there were just 20 in July 1947, as well as in August 1946.

Life Insurance Sales

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

Sales of ordinary life insurance in Texas declined nearly \$6 million or 8% from July to August, totaling \$61,703,000 in the latter month. The August 1947 figure was also 15% below year-ago August sales in Texas. The changes in Texas closely paralleled those for the nation as a whole; nationally August sales were down 8% from July 1947 and 13% from August 1946.

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.)

In August, 7 more businesses were added to the list reported as failures in Texas, bringing the total for the first 8 months of 1947 to 32. A year ago only 1 business failed during August and the total for the first 8 months was 6. Liabilities of the 7 firms which failed last month aggregated \$202,000, an average of \$29,000 per firm, compared to liabilities of \$390,000 for 4 failures during July which averaged considerably more (\$98,000).

BUSINESS FAILURES

Source: Dun and Bradstreet, Inc.

	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946	July 1946
Number	7	4	1	2
Liabilities*	202	390	89	148
Average liabilities per failure*	29	98	89	74

*In thousands of dollars.

United States Savings Bonds

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

Sales of United States Savings Bonds in Texas dropped 19.1% from July to August 1947 and 22.9% from August 1946 to August 1947, according to Treasury Department statistics.

SALES OF UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS

Source: Treasury Department, Office of State Director for Texas

Series	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946	Percent change	
				Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
TOTAL	\$14,158,985	\$17,505,670	\$18,366,360	-22.9	-19.1
Series E	9,830,050	11,343,250	11,910,676	-17.5	-13.3
Series F and G	4,328,935	6,162,420	6,455,684	-32.9	-29.8

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.I. shipments include the same type of goods shipped in smaller lots. Cars unloaded for export reflect the changes in the volume of exports.)

Revenue freight loaded in the Southwestern District decreased slightly (2.0%) in August from July loadings, but was still 7.6% greater than the total freight loaded in August 1946. Last year there was a 3.1% decline in revenue freight loadings between July and August. Significant in the August 1947 movement of revenue freight was the sharp (44.4%) seasonal drop in the loadings of grain and grain products and the increases in the loadings of coal (35.9%) and miscellaneous merchandise (6.8%). The August 1946 grain movement by rail was 38.8% heavier than the August 1946 movement, and miscellaneous loadings went up 13.3% for the 12-month period.

REVENUE FREIGHT LOADED IN SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT (in carloads)

Source: Car Service Division, Association of American Railroads

Item	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946	Percent change	
				Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
TOTAL	305,293	311,388	283,667	+ 7.6	- 2.0
Grain and grain products	29,407	52,882	21,186	+38.8	-44.4
Livestock	8,416	8,725	11,267	-25.3	- 3.5
Coal	24,329	17,898	26,825	- 9.3	+35.9
Coke	758	675	745	+ 1.7	+12.3
Forest products	25,180	23,774	25,322	- 0.6	+ 1.6
Ore	3,086	2,858	2,572	+20.0	+ 8.0
Merchandise (L.C.I.)	30,710	28,768	33,814	- 9.2	+ 6.8
Miscellaneous	183,407	174,808	161,936	+13.3	+ 4.9

The bureau's seasonally adjusted index of miscellaneous freight carloadings advanced 3.1% in August to complete a 13.2% rise since August a year ago and a 53.1% gain over the prewar (1935-39) period. Last month's advance lifted carloadings of miscellaneous freight to the highest peacetime level in the history of the Southwestern District.

EXPORT AND COASTAL CARS UNLOADED*

Source: Car Service Division, Association of American Railroads

Port	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946	Percent change	
				Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
TOTAL	20,103	21,428	14,698	+ 36.8	- 6.2
Beaumont	655	633	182	+259.9	+ 3.5
Galveston	11,571	11,825	9,056	+ 27.8	- 2.1
Houston	6,489	7,943	3,828	+ 69.5	- 18.3
Port Arthur	1,388	1,027	857	+ 62.0	+ 35.2
Texas City	0	0	775	-100.0	0.0

*Excluding coal.

The unloadings of export and coastal cars decreased 6.2% in August from July of this year, but remained above the June level and 36.8% higher than in August 1946. All ports reported substantial increases for the 12-month period. The congestion of grain cars at the Houston elevators was cleared up early in August to make possible another record month.

Interest in rail transportation in Texas swung to the problems of rates in September when a joint committee for the study of commodity rates was announced by the West Texas Chamber of Commerce in Abilene and the Interstate Commerce Commission in Washington opened hearings on the railroads' request for a rate increase. The equalization of class rates previously ordered by the Commission went into effect late in August and an advance in sleeping car rates was approved by the Commission in early September.

Air Express

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

Air express shipments in Texas reversed their downward movement in August to increase 7.2% over July

AIR EXPRESS SHIPMENTS

(in number of shipments)

Source: Railway Express Agency

City	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946	Percent change	
				Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
TOTAL	26,279	24,520	22,065	+ 19.1	+ 7.2
Abilene	212	181	125	+ 69.6	+ 17.1
Amarillo	502	400	364	+ 37.9	+ 25.5
Austin	513	465	408	+ 27.3	+ 10.3
Beaumont	339	339	254	+ 33.5	0.0
Big Spring	65	63	58	+ 12.1	+ 3.2
Brownsville	2,156	2,270	3,095	- 30.3	- 5.0
Bryan	31	27	*	.....	+ 14.8
Corpus Christi	611	549	495	+ 23.4	+ 11.3
Dallas	7,223	6,722	6,643	+ 8.7	+ 7.5
El Paso	1,385	1,367	1,217	+ 13.8	+ 1.3
Fort Worth	1,563	1,460	2,059	- 24.1	+ 7.1
Galveston	423	409	333	+ 27.0	+ 3.4
Houston	5,112	4,608	3,433	+ 48.9	+ 10.9
Lamesa	17	19	*	.....	- 10.5
Laredo	288	269	466	- 38.2	+ 7.1
Longview	219	81	†	.....	+170.4
Lubbock	319	193	191	+ 67.0	+ 65.3
Midland	185	166	119	+ 55.5	+ 11.4
Mineral Wells	38	24	*	.....	+ 58.3
Odessa	167	178	*	.....	- 6.2
Paris	70	†	†	.....	.....
Port Arthur	192	188	160	+ 20.0	+ 2.1
San Angelo	570	552	226	+152.2	+ 3.3
San Antonio	2,948	2,784	1,483	+ 98.8	+ 5.9
Sweetwater	76	47	*	.....	+ 61.7
Texarkana	108	97	62	+ 74.2	+ 11.3
Temple	53	39	*	.....	+ 35.9
Tyler	432	573	447	- 3.4	- 24.6
Waco	180	151	169	+ 6.5	+ 19.2
Wichita Falls	282	299	263	+ 7.2	- 5.7

*First reported in February 1947.

†First reported in July 1947.

‡First reported in August 1947.

and to stand 19.1% above the August 1946 total. The principal city decrease for the month was in shipments at Brownsville, which fell 5.0%. Fort Worth shipments dropped 24.1% between August 1946 and August 1947 and Brownsville shipments 30.3%.

Several airlines serving Texas announced new flights to points within and without the State during August, and additional airmail service was inaugurated for several Texas cities. One interstate line suspended schedules pending certification by the Civil Aeronautics Board. The southern leg of Skyway 1, a coast-to-coast air route marking system for personal plane operations, was projected across Texas from El Paso to Texarkana. Further development of airports was reported at McAllen, Junction, Houston, and Brownsville.

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.)

At the *Port of Beaumont* total tonnage moved by water dropped from 29,475 tons in July to 26,915 tons in August, a continuation of the decline which began several months early. Some delay appeared likely in the \$1,000,000 program to widen and deepen the channel, unless a local organization would assume liability for any resulting damage. The *Port of Brownsville* handled 75,976 tons of cargo freight in August compared with 65,733 tons in July, a gain of 15.6%. Both imports and exports showed gains for the month. For the *Ports of Corpus Christi, Harbor Island, and Ingleside* the total movement by water in August was 1,718,201 tons, mainly in petroleum products.

Detailed figures for the water-borne commerce of Brownsville are shown in the accompanying table. Data were not received from other ports in time for inclusion in this month's issue of the REVIEW.

CARGO FREIGHT HANDLED AT PORT OF BROWNSVILLE

(in tons)

Source: Port of Brownsville

Commodity	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Percent change
			Aug. 1947 from July 1947
TOTAL	75,976	65,733	+ 15.6
IMPORTS, TOTAL	25,348	22,940	+ 10.5
Bananas	11,730	13,971	- 16.1
Gasoline	11,295	5,853	+ 93.0
Other	2,323	3,116	- 25.5
EXPORTS, TOTAL	50,628	42,793	+ 18.3
Crude oil	32,057	32,585	- 1.6
Sesame cake	1,341	3,004	- 55.4
Lead	12,037	2,186	+450.6
Cotton	1,867	1,275	+ 46.4
Canned goods	1,336	1,089	+ 22.7
Other	1,990	2,654	- 25.0

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.)

Employment in all nonagricultural establishments in Texas totaled 1,659,000 at mid-August, according to estimates prepared by the Bureau of Business Research in co-operation with the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. The increase of 5,900 persons or 0.4% for August over July was the same relative increase as July over June. Employment for August 1947 showed an increase of 51,900, or 3.2% over August 1946.

In the durable goods manufacturing group iron and steel and transportation equipment registered respective gains of 2.2% and 2.0% from July to August, but these gains did not offset the losses of 2.8% in other durable goods, 2.0% in stone, clay, and glass, and 1.3% in machinery, except electrical. The increase of 1.9% in manufacturing employment for August was brought about by the industries producing nondurable goods. With the exception of the 1.0% decline in printing and publishing, all nondurable goods groups remained steady or showed increases in the number of workers employed. The greatest additions in employment for this group came in chemicals (10.9%), apparel (7.1%), and paper (5.9%). Employment in all manufacturing establishments was up 8.2% for August 1947 over August 1946.

The 1,317,500 persons employed in nonmanufacturing establishments in Texas in August 1947 showed no relative change from the previous month, but this estimate does indicate a gain in employment of 25,900 persons, or 2.0% over August 1946. Mining firms reported a 1.1% decrease in the number of workers employed in July, while transportation and public utilities increased employment by 2.2% for the same period. In August wholesale trade dropped 1.5%. All groups in retail trade revealed declines in employment except apparel, with an increase of 3.8%, and other retail trade with a rise of 0.7%. Finance and service establishments increased their employees by 0.3% over July; other personal services dropped 2.3% from the July level. Contract construction declined again in August with a 0.5% loss. Reports indicate a shift from residential construction to other types of building. Compared with August 1946, the largest relative increase in employment for 1947 came in contract construction with 18.6%; the largest percentage decrease for the same period was 16.5% in the automotive trades.

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.)

Texas employers in August 1947 reported *pay roll* increases for all durable goods manufacturing with

ESTIMATES OF NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT (in thousands)

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

Industry	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946	Percent change	
				Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
TOTAL	1,659.0	1,653.1	1,607.1	+ 3.2	+ 0.4
Manufacturing	341.5	335.2	315.5	+ 8.2	+ 1.9
Durable goods	139.6	139.4	131.8	+ 5.9	+ 0.1
Nondurable goods	201.9	195.8	183.7	+ 9.9	+ 3.1
Nonmanufacturing	1,317.5	1,317.9	1,291.6	+ 2.0	0.0
Iron and steel	18.7	18.3	17.2	+ 8.7	+ 2.2
Machinery, except electrical	30.0	30.4	29.7	+ 1.0	- 1.3
Transportation equipment	26.0	25.5	22.7	+14.5	+ 2.0
Nonferrous metals	9.4	9.4	9.7	- 3.1	0.0
Lumber and timber	30.5	30.5	27.7	+10.1	0.0
Furniture and finished lumber	11.8	11.8	11.1	+ 6.3	0.0
Stone, clay, and glass	9.7	9.9	10.1	- 4.0	- 2.0
Other durable goods	3.5	3.6	3.6	- 2.8	- 2.8
Textiles	9.3	9.3	8.4	+10.7	0.0
Apparel	27.0	25.2	23.2	+16.4	+ 7.1
Food	74.5	72.2	64.7	+15.1	+ 3.2
Paper and allied products	3.6	3.4	3.8	- 5.3	+ 5.9
Printing and publishing	19.9	20.1	17.6	+13.1	- 1.0
Chemicals	20.4	18.4	18.7	+ 9.1	+10.9
Petroleum	38.9	38.9	39.6	- 1.8	0.0
Other nondurable goods	8.3	8.3	7.7	+ 7.8	0.0
Mining	93.1	94.1	84.5	+10.2	- 1.1
Crude and natural gas production	86.6	87.7	78.0	+11.0	- 1.3
Other mining	6.5	6.4	6.5	0.0	+ 1.6
Transportation and public utilities	217.2	212.5	204.2	+ 6.4	+ 2.2
Interstate railroads	66.9	66.5	69.7	- 4.0	+ 0.6
Telephone and telegraph	30.3	29.9	28.6	+ 5.9	+ 1.3
Other transportation and public utilities	120.0	116.1	105.9	+13.3	+ 3.4
Trade	391.7	396.0	410.6	- 4.6	- 1.1
Wholesale	111.4	113.1	110.4	+ 0.9	- 1.5
Retail	280.3	282.9	300.2	- 6.6	- 0.9
General merchandise	57.5	58.4	64.0	-10.2	- 1.5
Food and liquor	38.2	41.0	44.3	-13.8	- 6.8
Automobile	24.3	25.0	29.1	-16.5	- 2.8
Apparel	21.7	20.9	21.2	+ 2.4	+ 3.8
Other retail trade	138.6	137.6	141.6	- 2.1	+ 0.7
Finance and service	278.0	277.3	261.4	+ 6.4	+ 0.3
Bank and trust companies	17.6	17.5	15.8	+11.4	+ 0.6
Insurance	24.7	24.5	23.4	+ 5.6	+ 0.8
Real estate and other finance agencies	23.6	23.4	20.2	+16.8	+ 0.9
Hotels	24.2	24.2	26.1	- 7.3	0.0
Other personal services	50.5	51.7	53.0	- 4.7	- 2.3
Medical services	29.5	29.6	26.1	+13.0	- 0.3
Other business and professional services	107.9	106.4	96.8	+11.5	+ 1.4
Contract construction	96.1	96.6	81.0	+18.6	- 0.5
Government	241.4	241.4	249.9	- 3.4	0.0

the exception of nonferrous metals which declined 5.8% from July. Increases in pay rolls for this group ranged from 12.7% for iron and steel to 1.2% for machinery, except electrical. Of the 8 nondurable goods manufacturing goods industries, 6 showed increased pay rolls for August 1947 over July. Major upswings of 15.5% came in apparel and chemicals. Petroleum refining dropped sharply (18.7%) under July as did other nondurable goods, with a 9.0% loss.

In comparison with manufacturing establishments, pay rolls for most nonmanufacturing industries witnessed rather moderate changes for August 1947. Four industries registered increases led by the 2.3% gain for public utilities. Greatest pay roll decline for August was 6.2% in quarrying. Compared with August 1946, August 1947 pay roll reports reveal increases in all classifications except laundries with a 10.0% drop and petroleum refining with a 2.0% loss. The 38.6% in food and 33.0% in lumber and timber were the greatest gains in pay rolls for the year.

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	
		Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
MANUFACTURING			
Durable goods:			
Iron and steel	29	+27.6	+12.7
Machinery, except electrical	35	+ 5.4	+ 1.2
Nonferrous metals	3	+25.2	- 5.8
Lumber and timber	16	+33.0	+ 6.8
Furniture and finished lumber	19	+14.6	+ 8.8
Stone, clay, and glass	31	+15.7	+ 5.4
Nondurable goods:			
Textiles	13	+10.5	+ 1.3
Apparel	26	+ 8.9	+15.5
Food	110	+38.6	+ 5.6
Paper	7	+14.7	+ 4.0
Printing and publishing	33	+24.6	+ 4.4
Chemicals	64	+12.5	+15.5
Petroleum refining	22	- 2.0	-18.7
Other nondurable goods	3	+11.4	- 9.0
NONMANUFACTURING			
Crude petroleum production	37	+ 9.6	0.0
Dyeing and cleaning	7	+ 8.6	+ 2.2
Hotels*	14	+ 3.2	- 1.4
Insurance	95	+ 7.6	+ 1.1
Laundries	9	-10.0	- 3.7
Quarrying	11	+ 7.7	- 6.2
Public utilities	132	+28.0	+ 2.3
Retail trade*	266	+ 5.7	- 1.5
Wholesale trade*	115	+ 1.7	+ 1.2

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

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.)

For the month of August 1947, 6 of the 15 industries reporting had a work week of less than 42 hours, while the other 9 groups had an average work week of 42 hours or more.

Of the 15 industrial groups in the manufacturing series, 8 reported increases in average weekly hours in August 1947 as compared to August 1946. These increases ranged from 0.2% in the iron and steel industry to 19.7% in the "other" nondurable goods industries.

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 Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946		
	Aug. 1947	Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947	Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947	Aug. 1946	Weekly hours	Hourly earnings	Weekly earnings
MANUFACTURING									
Durable goods:									
Iron and steel	43.4	43.2	116.7	102.9	50.53	44.45	+ 0.2	+ 13.4	+ 13.7
Machinery (except electrical)	45.0	44.3	109.7	109.4	49.37	48.46	+ 1.6	+ 0.3	+ 1.9
Nonferrous metals	40.9	40.7	145.7	122.3	59.59	49.78	+ 0.5	+ 19.1	+ 19.7
Lumber and timber	45.6	46.5	88.6	74.4	40.40	34.60	- 1.9	+ 19.1	+ 16.8
Furniture and finished lumber	44.0	44.2	87.8	76.1	38.63	33.64	- 0.5	+ 15.4	+ 14.8
Stone, clay, and glass	45.7	41.9	94.2	85.1	43.05	35.66	+ 9.1	+ 10.7	+ 20.7
Other durable goods	40.0	39.3	123.3	127.1	49.32	49.95	+ 1.8	- 2.0	- 1.3
Nondurable goods:									
Textiles	39.7	41.1	97.8	81.9	38.83	33.66	- 3.4	+ 19.4	+ 15.4
Apparel	36.4	39.7	72.9	65.5	26.54	26.00	- 8.3	+ 11.3	+ 2.1
Food	47.2	48.6	81.5	75.4	38.47	36.64	- 2.9	+ 8.1	+ 5.0
Paper	43.1	45.4	106.4	95.1	45.86	43.18	- 5.1	+ 11.9	+ 6.2
Printing and publishing	41.4	40.9	137.1	119.6	56.76	48.92	+ 1.2	+ 14.6	+ 16.0
Chemicals	45.6	44.3	116.2	106.7	52.99	47.27	+ 2.9	+ 8.9	+ 12.1
Petroleum refining	39.2	40.4	149.9	139.6	58.76	56.40	- 3.0	+ 7.4	+ 4.2
Other nondurable goods	46.7	39.0	91.0	119.6	42.50	46.64	+ 19.7	- 23.9	- 8.9
NONMANUFACTURING									
Crude petroleum production	41.5	42.2	154.6	139.6	64.16	58.91	- 1.7	+ 10.7	+ 8.9
Dyeing and cleaning	48.5	48.5	66.5	73.3	32.25	35.55	0.0	- 9.3	- 9.3
Hotels	45.7	43.8	34.4	38.6	15.72	16.91	+ 4.3	- 10.9	- 7.0
Laundries	49.1	46.0	45.7	47.0	22.44	21.62	+ 6.7	- 2.8	+ 3.8
Quarrying	40.5	43.7	130.5	110.5	52.85	48.29	- 7.3	+ 18.1	+ 9.4
Retail trade	42.5	41.9	79.2	71.7	33.66	30.04	+ 1.4	+ 10.5	+ 12.1
Wholesale trade	43.0	44.7	93.8	89.7	40.33	40.10	- 3.8	+ 4.6	+ 0.6
Public utilities	44.6	41.8	99.0	109.1	44.15	45.60	+ 6.7	- 9.2	- 3.2

*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.

Hourly earnings were greater in every manufacturing industry in August 1947 than in August 1946, with only 2 exceptions—"other" durable goods (3.0% less) and "other" nondurable goods (23.9% less). Four of the 8 nonmanufacturing industries reported increased hourly earnings for this same 12-month period, ranging from 10.5% (retail trade) to 18.1% (quarrying).

Weekly take-home pay for most industries, both manufacturing and nonmanufacturing, continued to be somewhat higher in August 1947 than a year earlier. The 2 exceptions in the manufacturing group which reported decreases were the "other" durable goods and the "other" nondurable goods industries. In the non-manufacturing group the 3 industries reporting decreases were dyeing and cleaning, hotels, and public utilities.

For the month of August 1947, 4 industries reported weekly take-home pay averaging over \$55.00. These were crude petroleum production (\$64.16), nonferrous metals (\$59.59), petroleum refining (\$58.76), and printing and publishing (\$56.76). Hotels (\$15.72) and laundries (\$22.44) were the only 2 industries reporting average weekly take-home pay of less than \$25.00.

Percentage gains in weekly earnings ranged from 0.6% in wholesale trade to 20.7% in the stone, clay, and glass industries, with most of the groups showing in-

creases of more than 10%. Decreases ranged from 1.3% in other durable goods to 8.9% for other nondurable goods.

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	
		Aug. 1947 from Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947 from July 1947
TOTAL	389	+ 4.3	+ 1.1
Durable goods:			
Iron and steel	29	+12.9	+10.2
Machinery, except electrical	35	+ 2.1	+ 1.9
Nonferrous metals	3	+ 8.8	- 3.7
Lumber and timber	15	+17.8	+ 3.1
Furniture and finished lumber	19	+ 5.3	+ 5.6
Stone, clay, and glass	29	- 0.7	+ 2.9
Nondurable goods:			
Textiles	10	- 0.3	+ 1.9
Apparel	24	+ 4.7	+14.1
Food	100	+15.6	+ 1.8
Paper	7	+ 0.4	+ 4.8
Printing and publishing	31	+ 5.6	+ 6.0
Chemicals	62	+ 7.6	+21.6
Petroleum refining	22	- 3.8	-10.0
Other nondurable goods	3	-11.7	- 6.2

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 389 establishments were 1.1% above those of the previous month, July. All industrial groups showed increases except petroleum refining (10.0%), miscellaneous nondurable goods (6.2%), and nonferrous metals (3.7%). The largest increases in man-hours were in nondurable goods, specifically chemicals (21.6%) and apparel (14.1%).

Compared with a year ago, man-hours worked in August 1947 were 4.3% higher. Man-hours worked were considerably higher this year in lumber and timber (17.8%), food (15.6%), and iron and steel (12.9%). Durable goods showed slightly larger increases than nondurable goods.

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 *nonagricultural civilian labor force* for the 15 labor market areas of Texas changed little during August, according to estimates made by the Texas Employment Commission; however, there were moderate fluctuations in some of the reporting areas. The principal decreases were in Texarkana (2.3%) and San Antonio (1.7%). Moderate increases were recorded in the Galveston-Texas City area (3.7%) and in Amarillo (1.9%). The total labor force for the 15 areas in August was 1,213,683, a decrease of 0.02% compared with July.

NONAGRICULTURAL CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

Source: Texas Employment Commission

Area	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Percent change
			Aug. 1947 from July 1947
TOTAL	1,213,683	1,213,927	- 0.02
Abilene	15,214	15,218	- 0.03
Amarillo	30,274	29,705	+ 1.9
Austin	44,286	44,189	+ 0.2
Corpus Christi	49,800	50,160	- 0.7
Dallas	222,295	221,140	+ 0.5
El Paso	50,305	50,151	+ 0.3
Fort Worth	130,120	130,886	- 0.6
Galveston-Texas City	57,000	54,948	+ 3.7
Houston-Baytown	300,530	300,179	+ 0.1
Longview	22,570	22,659	- 0.4
Lubbock	25,833	25,922	- 0.3
San Antonio	157,356	160,010	- 1.7
Texarkana	32,107	32,864	- 2.3
Waco	46,206	46,018	+ 0.4
Wichita Falls	29,787	29,878	- 0.3

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 in Texas was estimated at 65,235 for August 1947, representing a decrease of 5.9% from the 69,312 reported for July 1947, and a substantial decrease of 23.7% from the 85,452 reported for August 1946.

During August 1947 net *unemployment compensation benefit* payments totaled \$561,062, as compared to \$640,696 paid to Texas unemployed in July. Contributions deposited during the month were \$2,800,820, which left \$169,879,101 in the Unemployment Trust Fund Account at the end of the month, as compared to the \$167,631,706 at the end of July.

Unemployment among *veterans* was down in August from July, according to comparisons of veterans claim actions and disbursements. During August 3,069 applications were filed as compared to 4,062 filed in July. The August figure brought the total applications for the year to 49,292 and the accumulative total to date to 367,488. Allowances paid during August to veterans amounted to \$2,369,435 as compared to the \$2,743,451 paid out in July.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Source: Texas Employment Commission

Area	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946
TOTAL	65,235	69,312	85,452
Abilene	1,622	1,338	1,520
Amarillo	1,400	1,450	1,400
Austin	2,036	2,023	2,813
Corpus Christi	2,650	2,650	3,100
Dallas	10,000	11,000	11,500
El Paso	2,600	2,800	2,700
Fort Worth	8,100	9,800	9,600
Galveston-Texas City	2,500	2,500	2,400
Houston-Baytown	11,500	12,000	18,300
Longview	1,775	1,750	2,350
Lubbock	800	700	1,400
San Antonio	12,000	12,500	15,750
Texarkana	3,300	3,450	6,800
Waco	3,400	3,500	3,500
Wichita Falls	1,552	1,851	2,319

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.)

Placements in employment in 15 labor market areas of Texas totaled 23,456 for August 1947, an increase of 1.2% from July 1947, and an increase of 8.4% from August 1946.

PLACEMENTS IN EMPLOYMENT

Source: Texas Employment Commission

Area	Percent change				
	Aug. 1947	July 1947	Aug. 1946	Aug. 1947	Aug. 1947
				from Aug. 1946	from July 1947
TOTAL	23,456	23,172	21,635	+ 8.4	+ 1.2
Abilene	512	593	588	-12.9	-13.7
Amarillo	948	1,013	640	+48.1	- 6.4
Austin	880	848	913	- 3.6	+ 3.8
Corpus Christi	1,042	873	729	+42.9	+19.4
Dallas	3,650	3,615	4,330	-15.7	+ 1.0
El Paso	943	1,020	797	+18.3	- 7.5
Fort Worth	3,648	3,604	3,174	+14.9	+ 1.2
Galveston-Texas City	952	1,080	1,273	-25.2	-11.9
Houston-Baytown	4,834	5,014	3,637	+32.9	- 3.6
Longview	707	792	666	+ 6.2	-10.7
Lubbock	679	496	505	+34.5	+36.9
San Antonio	2,704	2,369	2,288	+18.2	+14.1
Texarkana	846	825	910	- 7.0	+ 2.5
Waco	629	541	768	-18.1	+16.3
Wichita Falls	482	489	417	-15.6	- 1.4

Industrial Relations

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

There were very few new strikes in Texas in August, and all of them involved small groups of employees. Only 5 new labor disputes involving work stoppages were reported to the Texas Employment Commission in August; these strikes involved only 172 workers. This was the lowest number of strikes and strikers reported for any month of 1947. A total of 12 strikes, 7 of which started in previous months, existed in August. Only 2 strikes were settled, leaving at the end of the month 10 existing strikes involving 618 workers.

In North Texas 320 workers at a gypsum company continued their strike begun July 24. This strike was particularly felt because it prevented the daily manufacture and shipment of 16 to 20 carloads of building materials badly needed by Southwest builders. There were minor strikes at the ports of Houston and Texas City; in oil drilling in Corpus Christi, San Antonio, and Refugio; in manufacturing in Port Arthur; and in transportation in Texarkana.

In Dallas the United Steel workers of America invoked the Texas O'Daniel Act to secure an injunction restraining a company's officers and employees from acts of violence against workers now picketing the company. This was one of the first cases of union use of this so-called "anti-union" law. In Houston another union invoked the Federal Wage-Hour Act to open company pay roll records to employee representatives in a \$2,500,000 back-pay suit against a shipbuilding company. Also in Houston 1,206 bus drivers voted in an N.L.R.B. election against affiliation with a union.

A strike of 86 workers, which began May 1 at a coffin manufacturing company in North Texas, continued into its fifth month unsettled.

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.)

As a new fiscal year began in Texas, the State Government reported a cash balance of \$139,467,786, a figure hitherto unparalleled in the State's 101 years' history, with a \$49,832,827 balance in the General Revenue Fund.

August collections of \$32,856,765 brought the total revenue receipts for the fiscal year to \$377,549,123, or 23.8% more than the \$304,994,126 collected in the 1945-46 fiscal year.

Among the broad categories of taxes shown in the accompanying table, largest receipts during the 1946-47 fiscal year just closed were in contributions and aid. Collections from this source totaled \$112,409,081, compared to \$64,406,352 last year, a 74.5% hike. Use and sales taxes, which aggregated \$107,110,362, compared to \$96,137,552 a year ago, were second in the running, up 11.4% from last year.

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 climbed to \$72,555,406 during August 1947, exceeding July collections by nearly \$13 million and August 1946 collections by nearly \$4 million. There were increases over a year ago in every major category of taxes: income taxes rose 14.3% to \$15,396,529 in August 1947; Social Security tax collections 15.5% to \$8,067,927; Withholding taxes 3.5% to \$34,273,086; and other tax collections rose 16.0% to a total of \$14,818,864 last month.

REVENUE RECEIPTS OF STATE COMPTROLLER

Source: State Comptroller of Public Accounts

Item	Aug. 1947	Sept. 1-Aug. 31		
		1946-47	1945-46	Percent change
TOTAL REVENUE RECEIPTS	\$32,856,765	\$377,549,123	\$304,994,126	+23.8
Ad valorem, inheritance and poll taxes	170,935	19,029,109	31,077,216	-38.8
Occupation, gross receipts, and production taxes	7,067,670	80,641,186	59,577,618	+35.4
Use and sales tax	9,574,444	107,110,362	96,137,552	+11.4
License fees and maintenance taxes	715,401	11,711,523	10,209,120	+14.7
Income from public lands and buildings	1,133,198	15,578,074	16,807,521	- 7.3
Interest	109,385	9,398,458	10,910,953	-13.9
Miscellaneous revenues	884,857	21,671,330	15,867,794	+36.6
Contributions and aid	13,200,875	112,409,081	64,406,352	+74.5

PRICES

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 0.5% increase in consumers' prices in Houston from mid-June to mid-July marked the resumption of the postwar rise in the cost of living which had halted in May. Chiefly responsible for the new upturn were food prices which rose 1.3% for the month. At these levels Houston consumers were paying 15.9% more for food in July 1947 than in July 1946, and their overall living cost climbed 15.9% in 12 months. Compared with the prewar period, the cost of food in Houston was up 98.7% and all consumers' prices were up 58.4%.

From mid-August to late September further increases were reported for Houston in many popular food items such as bacon, eggs, coffee, and butter. Prices for these items reached all-time highs in September. Against these advances were the price declines in some foods in less demand, but the general movement was upward. An in-

crease of 1 to 2 cents a quart for milk before October 1 was also predicted. Milk and bread were almost the only food items that failed to go up in Dallas during late summer, although higher grain prices threatened an increase in bread prices. The situation in Beaumont was much the same. Nevertheless Texas consumers generally were much better off than consumers in the North, East, and far West, where butter rose to \$1.00 a pound and it was expected that eggs would sell for \$1.00 a dozen this fall.

Although food prices were most sensitive to inflation, the prices of many other consumer goods were caught in the inflationary spiral. Shoe prices for fall will reflect the higher prices of hides and leather. Virtually all of the automobile manufacturers gave up "holding the line" in August. Clothing prices were up; the price of electric refrigerators advanced; and the railroads, bus companies, and telephone companies were seeking higher rates. No end to the advance in consumers' prices is yet in sight.

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.)

Wholesale prices took another step upward in July of 1.9%, led by increases of 3.3% and 3.0% in foods, and hides and leather products, respectively. While this gain could not be compared with last year's 10.5% rise in wholesale prices between June and July when price controls were largely removed, it was another link in the postwar inflationary spiral which boded no good for business. Between July 1946 and July 1947 wholesale prices in the United States rose 20.9%. The 33.6% advance in building material prices, the biggest jump, was largely due to the 51.7% increase in lumber prices. Hides and leather products also went up 26.3% in the same 12-month period.

The general rise in wholesale prices which began in mid-July carried through August and the first 2 weeks

INDEXES OF CONSUMERS' PRICES IN HOUSTON
(1935-39=100)

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

Group	July 1947	June 1947	July 1946	Percent change	
				July 1947 from July 1946	July 1947 from June 1947
HOUSTON, ALL ITEMS	158.4	157.6	136.6	+16.0	+ 0.5
Food	198.7	196.2	160.4	+23.9	+ 1.3
Apparel	190.4	188.5	152.3	+25.0	+ 1.0
Rent	*	*	*	—	—
Fuel, electricity, and ice	94.3	94.4	88.8	+ 6.2	— 0.1
Housefurnishings	184.0	184.2	154.9	+18.8	— 0.1
Miscellaneous	139.2	139.8	128.1	+ 8.7	— 0.4

*Not surveyed.

FEDERAL INTERNAL REVENUE COLLECTIONS

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

District	August		Percent change	July 1-August 31		Percent change
	1947	1946		1947-48	1946-47	
TEXAS	\$72,555,406	\$66,341,245	+ 9.4	\$182,211,469	\$118,979,263	+11.1
Income	15,396,529	13,475,549	+14.3	29,828,452	30,961,971	— 3.7
Employment	8,067,927	6,987,438	+15.5	12,280,523	10,804,923	+13.7
Withholding	34,272,086	33,108,731	+ 3.5	63,606,664	53,176,129	+19.6
Other	14,818,864	12,769,527	+16.0	26,495,830	24,036,240	+10.2
FIRST DISTRICT	38,521,980	34,798,275	+10.7	70,570,830	58,148,105	+21.4
Income	8,136,406	7,680,058	+ 5.9	15,547,967	13,745,126	+13.1
Employment	3,799,960	2,590,755	+46.7	6,070,055	5,118,613	+18.6
Withholding	18,422,908	18,687,303	— 1.4	34,360,901	28,060,548	+22.5
Other	8,162,706	5,840,159	+39.8	14,591,907	11,223,818	+30.0
SECOND DISTRICT	34,033,426	31,542,970	+ 7.9	61,640,639	60,831,158	+ 1.3
Income	7,260,123	5,795,491	+25.3	14,280,485	17,216,845	—17.1
Employment	4,267,967	4,396,683	— 2.9	6,210,468	5,686,310	+ 9.2
Withholding	15,849,178	14,421,428	+ 9.9	29,245,763	25,115,581	+16.4
Other	6,656,158	6,929,368	— 3.9	11,903,923	12,812,422	— 7.1

in September when the Bureau of Labor Statistics index hit the highest level on record—more than 20% over September 1946, 40% over May 1946, and 55% over the 1926 base.

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

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

Group	July 1947	June 1947	July 1946	Percent change	
				July 1947 from July 1946	July 1947 from June 1947
ALL COMMODITIES	150.8	148.0*	124.7	+20.9	+ 1.9
Farm products	181.4	177.9	157.0	+15.5	+ 2.0
Foods	167.1	161.8	140.2	+19.2	+ 3.3
Hides and leather products	178.4	173.2*	141.2	+26.3	+ 3.0
Textile products	139.5	138.9	118.1	+18.1	+ 0.4
Building materials	176.5	175.2	132.1	+33.6	+ 0.7
Cement	114.9	114.3	104.0	+10.5	+ 0.5
Lumber	269.0	266.1	177.3	+51.7	+ 1.1
All commodities other than farm products	143.9	141.2*	117.5	+22.5	+ 1.9
All commodities other than farm products and foods	133.8	132.0*	109.5	+22.2	+ 1.4

*Revised.

SMALL BUSINESS AIDS

Recent additions to the list of Small Business Aids reproduced by the Bureau of Business Research in co-operation with the Office of Small Business of the United States Department of Commerce are as follows:

Benefits of a Good Grievance System
The Retail Jeweler Gauges the Market
The Reduction of Distribution Costs
Increasing Cosmetic Sales
Developing Prospect Lists
Ways and Costs of Financing Retail Installment Accounts
Case Study: Retail Florist Builds Up Business by Participation in Local Affairs
A Merchandising Program for the Smaller Store
Retail Grocery Delivery
Take the Trade-in—But Don't Take a Shellacking

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.

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FIGURES FOR THE YEAR TO DATE

	January-August		Percent
	1947	1946	change
TRADE			
Estimated retail sales, total	\$2,916,598,000	\$2,584,927,000	+ 12.8
Durable goods, total	\$1,004,480,000	\$ 733,089,000	+ 47.0
Automotive stores	473,077,000	295,522,000	+ 60.1
Lumber, building materials, and hardware stores	404,339,000	305,706,000	+ 32.3
Furniture—household appliance stores	101,383,000	104,429,000	— 2.9
Jewelry stores	25,681,000	27,432,000	— 6.4
Nondurable goods, total	\$1,912,118,000	\$1,851,838,000	+ 3.3
Apparel	198,225,000	186,695,000	+ 6.2
Country general	48,524,000	43,822,000	+ 10.7
Department stores	214,689,000	218,337,000	— 1.7
Eating and drinking places	203,619,000	187,348,000	+ 8.7
Filling stations	205,555,000	230,222,000	— 10.7
Food	613,322,000	555,535,000	+ 10.4
General merchandise	122,152,000	129,831,000	— 5.9
Drug stores	151,215,000	150,112,000	+ 0.7
Other	154,817,000	149,936,000	+ 3.3
Ratio of credit sales to net sales in department and apparel stores	56.0%	50.6%	+ 10.7
Ratio of collections to outstandings in department and apparel stores	57.8%	64.4%	— 10.2
Postal receipts in reporting cities	\$ 21,056,176	\$ 20,343,704	+ 3.5
PRODUCTION			
Industrial electric power consumption for 10 companies (thousands of kilowatt hours)	1,957,171	1,776,999	+ 10.1
Man-hours worked in reporting manufacturing establishments	22,338,587	19,315,444	+ 15.7
Crude oil runs to stills (thousands of 42-gallon barrels)	336,547	341,422	— 1.4
Cotton consumption (running bales)	118,731	141,975	— 16.4
Cotton linters consumed (running bales)	12,711	18,086	— 29.7
Cottonseed crushed (tons)	292,471	283,991	+ 3.0
Manufacture of dairy products (1,000 lbs. milk equivalent)	606,258	589,444	+ 2.9
Lumber production in southern pine mills (weekly per unit average in board feet)	216,507	189,704	+ 14.1
Construction contracts awarded	\$ 412,610,127	\$ 320,328,916	+ 28.8
Construction contracts awarded for residential building	\$ 170,348,599	\$ 89,481,750	+ 90.4
Building permits issued in reporting cities	\$ 194,608,094	\$ 187,118,253	+ 4.0
Crude petroleum production (daily average in barrels)	2,166,907	2,083,288	+ 4.0
AGRICULTURE			
Farm cash income	\$ 935,861,000	\$ 662,709,000	+ 41.2
Shipments of livestock (carloads)	73,909	75,734	— 2.4
Rail shipments of eggs (shell equivalent)	2,337.0	4,369.5	— 46.5
Interstate receipts of eggs at Texas stations (shell equivalent)	157.0	226.0	— 30.5
Rail shipments of poultry (carloads)	137.5	371.5	— 63.0
FINANCE			
Bank debits in 20 cities (thousands of dollars)	\$ 22,758,248	\$ 19,516,396	+ 16.6
Corporation charters issued (number)	1,929	2,248	— 14.2
Ordinary life insurance sales	\$ 491,163,000	\$ 529,318,000	— 7.2
Business failures (number)	32	5	+540.0
Sales of United States Savings Bonds	\$ 144,245,465	\$ 150,765,906	— 4.3
TRANSPORTATION			
Revenue freight loaded in Southwestern District (carloads)	2,284,574	2,155,249	+ 6.0
Export and coastal cars unloaded at Texas ports	148,912	100,331	+ 48.4
Miscellaneous freight carloadings in Southwestern District	1,337,902	1,266,811	+ 5.6
Air express shipments (number)	193,941	157,838	+ 22.9
LABOR			
Total nonagricultural employment (monthly average)	1,624,213	1,555,800	+ 4.4
Manufacturing employment	330,288	302,463	+ 9.2
Nonmanufacturing employment	1,293,925	1,253,337	+ 3.2
GOVERNMENT			
Revenue receipts of State Comptroller*	\$ 377,549,123	\$ 304,994,126	+ 23.8
Federal internal revenue collections†	\$ 132,211,469	\$ 118,979,263	+ 11.1
PRICES			
Index of consumers' prices in Houston (monthly average 1935-39=100)‡	156.7	129.2	+ 21.3
Index of food prices in Houston (monthly average 1935-39=100)‡	195.9	143.4	+ 36.6

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

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

‡January-July average.

BAROMETERS OF TEXAS BUSINESS

