TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW

A MONTHLY SUMMARY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN TEXAS

BUREAU OF BUSINESS RESEARCH
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
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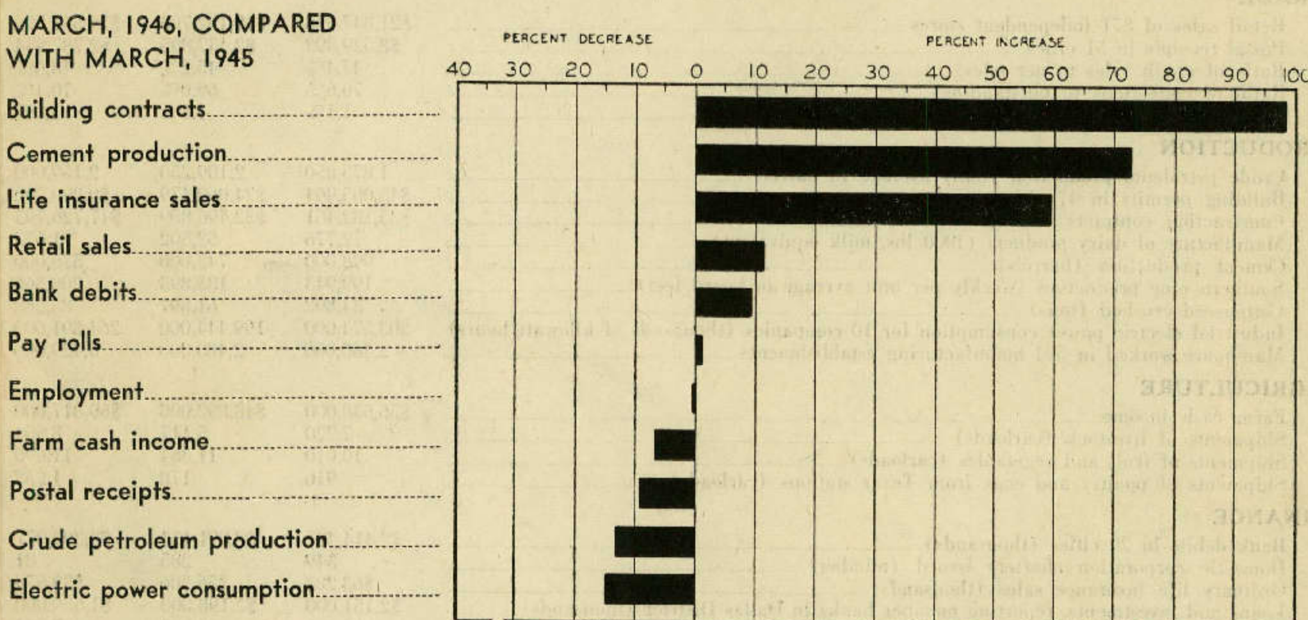
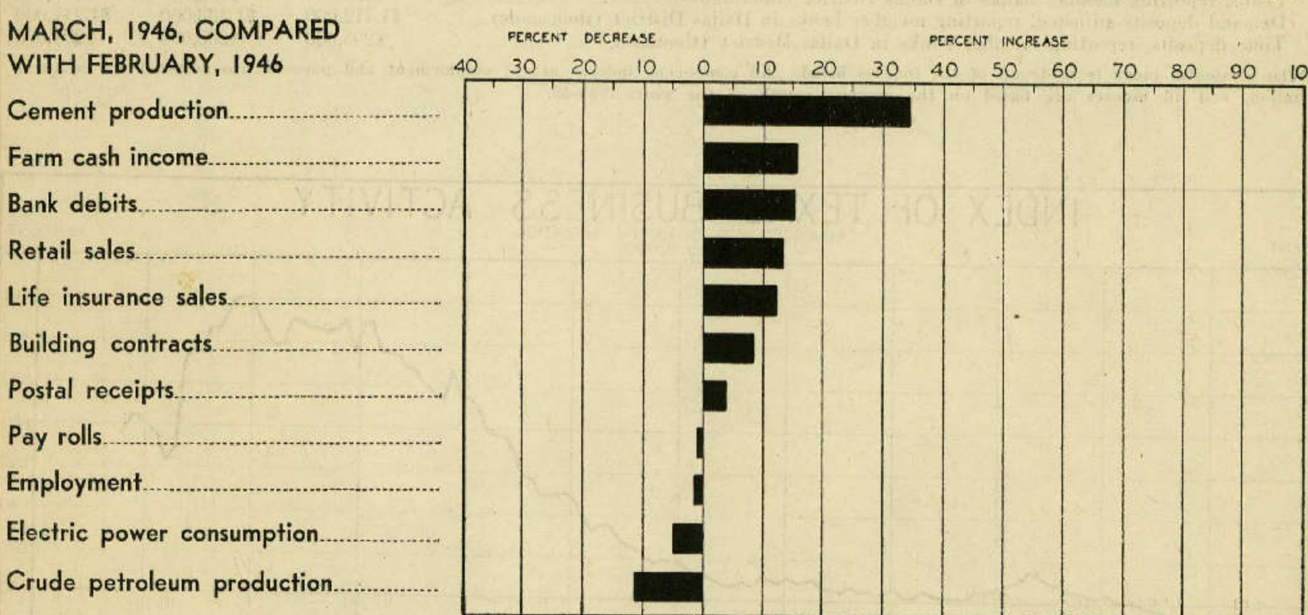
HIGHLIGHTS OF TEXAS BUSINESS





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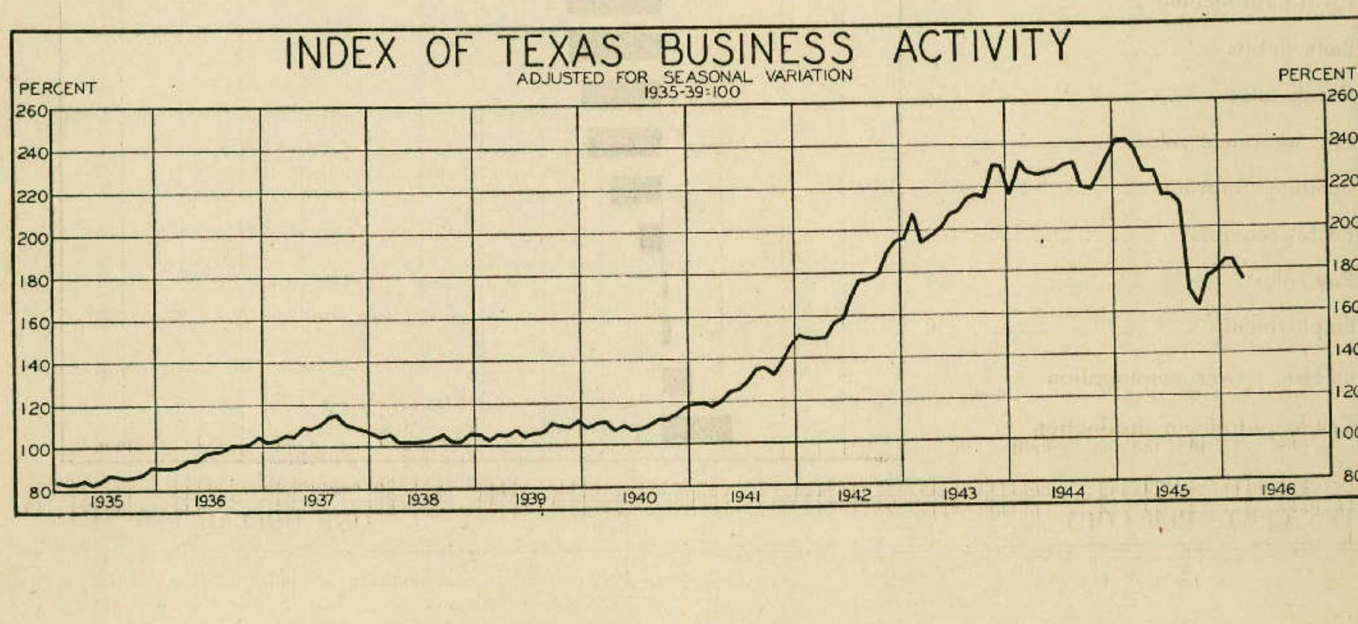
FIGURES FOR THE MONTH

	March 1946	February 1946	March 1945
COMPOSITE INDEX OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY (1935–39=100)*	**175.3**	**183.0**	**237.5**
Index of employment	105.2	106.4	166.0
Index of pay rolls	178.3	179.5	327.4
Index of miscellaneous freight carloadings in Southwestern District	145.4	145.4	192.7
Index of electric power consumption	233.4	258.8	274.2
Index of department and apparel store sales	261.9	288.8	242.6
Index of crude oil runs to stills	184.3	180.2	188.1
TRADE			
Retail sales of 871 independent stores	$21,847,978	$19,192,703	$19,567,596
Postal receipts in 51 cities	$2,529,392	$2,437,895	$2,787,934
Ratio of credit sales to net sales	47.4%	45.2%	43.6%
Ratio of collections to outstandings	70.6%	69.0%	70.4%
Ratio of credit salaries to credit sales	1.1%	1.3%	1.0%
PRODUCTION			
Crude petroleum production (daily average in barrels)	1,875,850	2,109,250	2,159,000
Building permits in 47 cities	$43,065,964	$24,069,479	$9,890,702
Construction contracts	$35,182,401	$32,496,859	$17,726,793
Manufacture of dairy products (1000 lbs. milk equivalent)	72,776	52,502	91,673
Cement production (barrels)	998,000	742,000	576,000
Southern pine production (weekly per unit average in board feet)	199,943	185,893	200,366
Cottonseed crushed (tons)	34,802	61,897	85,268
Industrial electric power consumption for 10 companies (thousands of kilowatt hours)	203,574,000	199,444,000	264,891,000
Man-hours worked in 534 manufacturing establishments	2,458,000	2,483,000	3,429,000
AGRICULTURE			
Farm cash income	$56,630,000	$48,892,000	$60,817,000
Shipments of livestock (carloads)	7,220	5,117	8,904
Shipments of fruit and vegetables (carloads)	10,010	11,364	11,090
Shipments of poultry and eggs from Texas stations (carloads)	916	178	1,252
FINANCE			
Bank debits in 20 cities (thousands)	$2,414,427	$2,091,434	$2,200,077
Domestic corporation charters issued (number)	349	285	81
Ordinary life insurance sales (thousands)	$63,283	$56,306	$39,679
Loans and investments, reporting member banks in Dallas District (thousands)	$2,151,000	$2,198,000	$1,659,000
Loans, reporting member banks in Dallas District (thousands)	$682,000	$668,000	$407,000
Demand deposits adjusted, reporting member banks in Dallas District (thousands)	$1,412,000	$1,388,000	$1,217,000
Time deposits, reporting member banks in Dallas District (thousands)	$295,000	$288,000	$209,000

*The composite index is made up of the indexes listed. All component indexes except employment and payrolls are adjusted for seasonal variation, and all indexes are based on the average month of the years 1935–39.



The Business Situation in Texas

Business activity in Texas dropped still further from its wartime peaks during the month of March. According to the *composite index of business activity* prepared by the Bureau of Business Research, there was a decrease of 4.2% in activity between February and March. Furthermore, business this past month was 26.2% under the level of March, 1945. Last year between February and March, business activity declined only 1.7%. In terms of the 1935–39 average, however, Texas business was still up 75.3%.

Of the six *component indexes* going into the general index of business activity for the State, four fell, one rose, and one was unchanged in March as compared with February. The largest decreases for the month were registered in the seasonally-adjusted indexes of department and apparel store sales and electric power consumption, which were off 9.3% and 9.8%, respectively. Considerably lower were the respective monthly declines of 0.7% and 1.1% in the pay rolls and employment indexes. The index of crude oil runs to stills in this State rose 2.3% between February and March after seasonal adjustment, while the adjusted index of miscellaneous freight carloadings in the Southwestern District was unchanged.

A year ago the Texas business situation as reflected by these leading indexes of activity was quite different. Declines in electric power consumption and the sales of department and apparel stores were only 6.3% and 1.7%, respectively, between February and March. Employment moved off 0.8%, but pay rolls went up 0.5%. Freight carloadings decreased fractionally (0.6%). In general the tempo of business this year in Texas is somewhat less than it was at this time a year ago, when the final military drive was being staged in Europe.

The level of business activity has also fallen when the indexes for March of this year are compared with those for the same month of 1945. In these comparisons four of the six indexes were considerably lower, one was down slightly, and only one was up substantially. Biggest decreases were registered in pay rolls (45.5%) and employment (36.6%), which show the effect of the curtailment of shipbuilding and other war production in this State. Electric power production and miscellaneous freight carloadings were also down 14.9% and 24.5%, respectively. Crude oil runs to stills were 2.0% lower in March of this year than in March, 1945, but department and apparel store sales were up a solid 8.0%. The impact of inflation is reflected more directly in dollar indexes, such as the index of retail sales, than it is in the other physical indexes of Texas business.

Compared with prewar (1935–39) levels, business activity in most lines during March was considerably higher. Miscellaneous freight carloadings were up 45.4%, pay rolls 78.3%, runs of crude oil to stills 84.3%, electric power consumption 133.4%, and the sales of department and apparel stores 161.9%. It is significant, however, that all of this activity was supported by a rise of only 5.2% in the employment of establishments currently reporting to the Bureau. Nevertheless it is true that both the State and national economies (including agricultural as well as nonagricultural types of activity) have been operating well above the level of any previous peacetime period and substantially above the average for the years 1935 to 1939.

One of the most striking features of the present business situation is the tremendous shortage of goods in the face of this generally high and well maintained level of business activity. Explanations of this situation from the national viewpoint differ in emphasis, but certain factors are clear. Business in Texas and the United States is still in the change-over period from war to peace. Facilities are being constructed and equipment is being purchased which have not yet been put into full operation. Some stocking-up of merchandise is also taking place in the channels of distribution. Labor troubles, material bottlenecks, and cost-price

THIS MONTH

The Bureau of Business Research presents a number of new features to the readers of the TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW. First, the cover chart has been redesigned to show the highlights of Texas business from month to month. Percentage changes in the principal lines of Texas business will henceforth be carried regularly in bar-chart form on the cover of the REVIEW. Second, "Figures for the Month," a regular feature on page 2, has been extended this month to include several new series and a chart for the composite index of Texas business activity. All of the indexes shown on this page have also been shifted from a 1930 to a 1935–39 base to facilitate comparisons with prewar levels. Third, explanatory notes have been placed at the head of each division of the REVIEW to assist the readers in interpreting the statistics presented in the text and accompanying tables. Fourth, new series on the loans of savings and loan associations, the condition of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, and the condition of reporting member banks in the Dallas District have been added to the finance section and a series on refinery stocks to the production section. Finally, a new section on government has been introduced containing divisions on State finance and federal internal revenue collections. The impact of government upon the State's economy from month to month is too important a determinant of business and economic conditions in Texas to be ignored.

uncertainties have likewise restricted the immediate flow of goods to consumers. Business, in other words, is not yet out of the woods of national reconversion.

The brightest spots in the State and national business pictures are the substantial gains registered in the distribution, service, and construction industries.

Retail trade, as measured by the sales of independent stores, was up 13.8% in March over February and was 11.7% ahead of March, 1945. Gains were spread over all lines with the exception of florists who suffered a sales decline of 7.4% for the month and 17.6% for the 12-month interval. Principal increases were made in lines that one year ago were under wartime restrictions, for example, automobiles, lumber, building materials, hardware, furniture, and household appliances. Stores in all sections of the State participated in the general increase in sales with the most outstanding gains registered in San Antonio, Jacksonville, Temple, Amarillo, and Austin. The *ratios* of credit sales to net sales in department and apparel stores continued to rise, both when compared with the first two months of 1946 and the corresponding months of 1945. There was little change, however, in the ratio of collections to outstandings among the same group of stores, the ratio remaining close to 70%. *Postal receipts* for post offices located in 51 Texas cities were 3.8% higher in March than in February, but were 9.3% lower in March, 1946, than in March, 1945.

Production in Texas during March was spotty. *Crude petroleum production* was down 11.1% from February on a daily average basis and 13.1% below production in March a year ago. The manufacture of *dairy products* was up 38.6% for March over February of this year, but was down 20.6% compared with last year's March figure. On the other hand, the value of *building contracts* went up 8.3% in March over February and was almost twice as large last month as in the same month of 1945. The value of *building permits* rose still more, advancing 78.9% between February and March to a total more than four times as great as in March of last year. *Cement production* was likewise caught up in the current wave of construction activity and increased 34.5% for the month and 73.3% for the 12-month period.

The prospects for Texas *agriculture* appear good this year, but March indications were not particularly favorable. *Cash income,* as estimated by the Bureau, was $56,630,000 for the month, an increase of 15.8% over February, but 6.9% less than the cash income received by Texas farmers in March, 1945. The gain for March over February was not unusual, since last year between the same two months cash income went up 10.8%. *Shipments of livestock* shot up 41.1% for the month, but were 18.9% below total shipments in March of last year. Shipments of *fruits and vegetables* showed decreases for both comparisons. March shipments were 11.9% below February shipments and 9.7% less than shipments during March a year ago.

Indicators in the field of *finance* generally moved upward in March. *Bank debits* in 20 cities rose 15.4% over the previous month and were 9.7% larger than in March of 1945. A mild boom in *incorporations* was also revealed in the number of domestic corporation charters issued by the office of the Secretary of State. Last year in March, 81 charters were granted as against 349 in the same month this year. Charters in February, 1946, numbered 285. *Sales of ordinary life insurance* totaled $63,283,000 during the month of March, 1946, as compared with $39,679,000 in March, 1945, an increase of 59.5%. Between February and March of this year there was an increase of 12.4% in the amount of ordinary life insurance written in Texas. Dun and Bradstreet recorded no *business failures* in Texas during March, 1946.

Significant developments in the *labor* field were the 1.1% decrease in *employment* for March compared with February and the 0.7% decline in *pay rolls.* When comparisons are made between figures for employment and pay rolls this year and last, note must be taken of what has happened to the State's wartime shipbuilding industry. Exclusive of establishments in this industry, employment was only 0.5% less in March this year than in March a year ago. Pay rolls, on the other hand, were up 1.2% on the same basis. Inclusive of these establishments, employment was down 36.6% and pay rolls 45.5%. The crux of the present situation is the capacity of the State's economy to absorb the slack created by the cessation of war production and the demobilization of the Nation's armed forces. The foregoing facts suggest the size of the problem at hand. *Hours* worked have generally decreased since last March among the manufacturing industries of the State and have increased somewhat among the nonmanufacturing industries. Hourly and weekly *earnings* have gone up in both industrial categories. *Unemployment benefit payments* continued to rise in March over February to a total six times as large as payments in September, 1945, the first month after V-J Day. Disbursements to unemployed and self-employed veterans this past month were close to three times as big as payments under the regular unemployment compensation system. To date over $22,000,000 has been disbursed to veterans through the Texas Unemployment Compensation Commission.

The costs of *government* as reflected in the cash receipts of the State government and the internal revenue collections of the Federal Government remain close to their wartime peak. *Cash receipts* reported by the State Comptroller of Public Accounts since the start of the fiscal year in September, 1945, through March, 1946, were 18.2% greater than receipts for the same seven months of 1944–45 period. *Federal internal revenue collections* for the first nine months of the current fiscal period (July 1, 1945, through March 31, 1946) were down only 4.9% from the corresponding 1944–45 period. Together the State and Federal Governments took in just short of $180,000,000 in Texas during March of this year.

TRADE

Retail Trade

(The record of the movement of goods into the hands of the ultimate 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. It must be remembered, particularly in a period of rising prices, that an increase in sales may result from a rise in prices as well as from an increase in the amount of business.)

Independent stores in Texas continued to show strong sales gains during March over March a year ago. Sales reported to the Bureau for March, 1946, by 871 establishments were 11.7% larger than sales for the same establishments in March, 1945. March sales this year were also 13.8% greater than sales in the previous month. Last year between February and March retail sales went up 24.5%.

Only two *kinds of business* failed to show increases in sales for March, 1946, as compared with March, 1945. Sales of stores dealing in dry goods and general merchandise declined 2.6%, while the sales of florists were off 17.6%. Again in March the principal increases in retail sales occurred in businesses held down by the war, namely, automotive dealers (24.0%), filling stations (24.8%), lumber, building, and hardware dealers (26.7%), jewelry stores (36.4%), and furniture and household appliance dealers (44.8%).

RETAIL SALES OF INDEPENDENT STORES BY KINDS OF BUSINESS

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

Business	Number of establishments	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Feb. 1946
ALL ESTABLISHMENTS	871	+11.7	+13.8
APPAREL	102	+ 4.7	+17.7
Family clothing stores	23	+ 4.0	+24.1
Men's and boys' clothing stores	35	+11.2	+21.8
Shoe stores	17	+ 3.3	+33.7
Women's specialty shops	27	+ 1.9	+11.0
AUTOMOTIVE*	75	+24.0	+ 9.6
Motor vehicle dealers	68	+21.8	+ 9.4
COUNTRY GENERAL	80	+ 5.8	+17.3
DEPARTMENT STORES	47	+ 5.1	+14.4
DRUG STORES	96	+15.7	+ 7.4
DRY GOODS AND GENERAL MERCHANDISE	27	— 2.6	+21.7
FILLING STATIONS	19	+24.8	+16.6
FLORISTS	24	—17.6	— 7.4
FOOD*	113	+12.1	+12.4
Grocery stores	34	+11.7	+15.8
Grocery and meat stores	74	+13.3	+11.4
FURNITURE AND HOUSEHOLD*	70	+44.8	+14.3
Furniture stores	63	+44.1	+15.5
JEWELRY	23	+36.4	+15.3
LUMBER, BUILDING, AND HARDWARE*	148	+26.7	+11.8
Farm implement dealers	17	+11.1	+ 3.1
Hardware stores	46	+25.1	+11.9
Lumber and building material dealers	83	+30.4	+13.3
RESTAURANTS	29	+14.4	+ 9.9
ALL OTHER STORES	18	+ 9.9	+ 9.2

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

Florists were the only group to report lower sales (7.4%) in March than in February of this year. Increases in most lines ran from 10 to 15%. Exceptional advances for the month were reported by country general stores (17.3%), apparel stores (17.7%), and dry goods and general merchandise establishments (21.7%).

The seasonally-adjusted *sales index of department and apparel stores*, however, declined 9.3% in March, 1946, which meant that the 14.4% and 17.7% increases from February to March in the sales of department stores and apparel stores, respectively, did not come up to seasonal expectations. This situation was undoubtedly due in part to the lateness of Easter this year. Last year between February and March the seasonally-adjusted index of department and apparel store sales dropped only 1.7%.

All *districts* of the State showed good sales increases in March as compared with March a year ago. Gains ranged from 6.1% in the Northern High Plains to 24.7% in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, with 4 of the 12 districts claiming advances of 14 to 15%. Retail business in all districts was up over February totals. At the top of the list in monthly gains were the East Texas Timbered Plains (15.1%), Coastal Prairies (16.7%), Southern Texas Prairies (16.8%), the Edwards Plateau (17.2%), and the Northern High Plains (18.3%).

Increases in sales during March this year as against sales in March last year were slightly larger in the *cities* of from 50,000 to 100,000 population (14.4%) than in the smaller (11.6%) and larger cities (10.5%). Dallas stores reported a nice gain of 15.7% for the 12-month period and San Antonio stores a gain of 14.9%. Austin and Jacksonville stores also showed unusually large increases in sales from March, 1945, to March, 1946. Establishments in middle-sized cities likewise fared better in the February-to-March advances (20.1%) than the smaller (13.9%) and larger places (11.8%). Sales for the month were up 15.3% in San Antonio, 19.0% in

RETAIL SALES OF INDEPENDENT STORES BY DISTRICTS

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

District	Number of establishments	Percent change: March 1946 from March 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Feb. 1946
ALL ESTABLISHMENTS	871	+11.7	+13.8
Northern High Plains (District 1-N)	58	+ 6.1	+13.8
Southern High Plains (District 1-S)	24	+ 4.4	+ 8.6
Red Bed Plains (District 2)	75	+15.9	+ 9.7
Western Cross Timbers (District 3)	38	+ 9.7	+ 3.7
Black and Grand Prairies (District 4)	201	+ 6.5	+12.1
East Texas Timbered Plains (District 5)	99	+14.1	+15.1
Trans-Pecos (District 6)	24	+11.5	+12.8
Edwards Plateau (District 7)	49	+15.2	+17.2
Southern Texas Prairies (District 8)	137	+15.7	+16.8
Coastal Prairies (District 9)	98	+11.7	+16.7
Southern Texas Plains (District 10)	26	+12.4	+10.1
Lower Rio Grande Valley (District 10-A)	42	+24.7	+ 7.6

Jacksonville, 23.8% in Temple, 27.1% in Amarillo, and 34.2% in Austin. These were the largest city gains reported for the period.

An examination of the March, 1946, *credit ratios* reported by a selected group of department and apparel stores doing business in various parts of the State shows (1) a slight rise in the ratio of credit sales to net sales over the ratios in February, 1946, and in March, 1945; (2) an even smaller increase in the ratio of collections to outstandings, and (3) a noticeable decline in the ratio of credit salaries to credit sales. These tendencies in Texas parallel similar tendencies currently reported for the nation as a whole. The spread of labor unrest and unemployment have been factors in the State and national situation. As in March, 1945, Dallas and Waco stores had the highest ratios of credit sales to net sales. Ratios of collections to outstandings were highest among the Fort Worth and Corpus Christi stores this year as last. In 1945 and 1946 the ratio of credit salaries to credit sales was lowest among Dallas apparel and department stores.

Retail stores in Texas added 1.4% to their *employment* in March over February and 4.7% to their *pay rolls.* These increases raised March, 1946, employment in retail stores to a point 5.4% above March, 1945, but pay rolls this March were 24.8% higher than in the same month a year ago. Changes in retail employment and pay rolls during the past 12 months are significant not only to the retail merchant but also to the consuming public.

Hours worked per week in retail trade in Texas rose from 39.9 hours in March, 1945, to 42.6 hours in March, 1946. Hourly *earnings* during the same period increased from 60.9 cents to 69.8 cents and weekly earnings from $24.30 to $29.73.

Gasoline sales during February, 1946, as indicated by tax collections of the State Comptroller, totaled 129,617,198 gallons, 34.3% more than the February, 1945, sales. There was little change (0.9%) between January and February, 1946, in gasoline sales, whereas at the same time last year there was a 9.8% decrease. In addition February gasoline sales to the United States Government as recorded by motor fuel distributors in Texas amounted to 25,424,496 gallons, representing a reduction of 89.5% under the comparable February, 1945, sales of 242,917,753 gallons, and a decrease of 46.4% from January sales this year.

Total *postal receipts* for 51 Texas cities were 9.3% less in March this year than in the same month of 1945. Only five of the 51 cities had larger receipts this March than a year ago, namely, McAllen (0.8%), Kerrville (3.2%), Fort Worth (3.2%), Austin (4.7%), and Dallas (7.0%). Local factors, such as the jump in college

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

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

City-size group and city	Number of establishments	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Feb. 1946
ALL ESTABLISHMENTS	871	+11.7	+13.8
OVER 100,000 POPULATION	119	+10.5	+11.8
Dallas	21	+15.7	+ 9.6
Fort Worth	24	+ 0.8	+ 7.9
Houston	34	+ 9.2	+10.9
San Antonio	40	+14.9	+15.3
50,000–100,000 POPULATION	104	+14.4	+20.1
Amarillo	21	+ 8.8	+27.1
Austin	11	+60.9	+34.2
Beaumont	11	+ 3.0	+19.4
Corpus Christi	18	+10.6	+19.8
El Paso	10	+ 7.8	+12.6
Waco	24	+ 7.6	+14.0
Other	9	+37.3	+32.6
2,500–50,000 POPULATION	453	+11.6	+13.9
Abilene	16	+ 4.6	+ 9.7
Jacksonville	11	+20.7	+19.0
Lubbock	15	+ 4.5	+12.3
Plainview	12	+ 8.5	+ 7.6
Temple	16	+ 8.4	+23.8
Tyler	12	+10.3	+10.0
Other	371	+12.1	+13.9
UNDER 2,500 POPULATION	195	+12.6	+11.1

CREDIT RATIOS IN DEPARTMENT AND APPAREL STORES

(in percent)

Classification	Number of stores	Ratio of credit sales to net sales*: Mar. 1946	Mar. 1945	Ratio of collections to outstandings†: Mar. 1946	Mar. 1945	Ratio of credit salaries to credit sales‡: Mar. 1946	Mar. 1945
ALL STORES	61	47.4	43.6	70.6	70.4	1.1	1.0
STORES GROUPED BY CITIES							
Austin	7	40.8	40.4	72.0	72.3	1.3	1.2
Corpus Christi	4	43.3	39.7	80.3	78.0	1.6	1.6
Dallas	8	54.2	49.4	70.9	72.7	0.8	0.8
Fort Worth	4	46.9	41.3	82.9	72.4	1.1	1.1
Houston	8	45.4	43.2	65.6	66.9	1.3	1.3
San Antonio	4	41.8	37.6	64.6	65.7	1.8	2.8
Waco	5	50.3	46.4	68.0	68.9	1.1	1.0
Other	21	43.3	41.0	67.3	69.9	1.3	1.1
STORES GROUPED BY TYPE OF STORE							
Department stores (annual sales over $500,000)	18	49.6	45.5	70.7	70.8	1.0	1.0
Department stores (annual sales under $500,000)	10	42.5	39.6	67.1	69.1	1.2	1.2
Dry goods–apparel stores	4	37.9	36.6	67.4	72.2	2.1	1.6
Women's specialty shops	16	43.6	38.8	70.3	70.1	1.1	1.1
Men's clothing stores	13	40.8	40.2	72.4	67.8	1.1	1.3
STORES GROUPED BY VOLUME OF NET SALES (1945)							
Over $2,500,000	19	49.8	45.4	70.3	70.3	1.0	0.9
$1,000,000–$2,500,000	12	39.8	38.4	76.7	72.6	1.0	1.0
$500,000–$1,000,000	14	39.8	37.2	69.5	69.6	0.9	0.8
Less than $500,000	16	32.4	31.6	58.4	67.2	2.1	2.1

*Credit sales divided by net sales.

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

‡Salaries of the credit department divided by credit sales.

enrollments, the filling-up of cities with newcomers, and the heavier mailings of business concerns, are accountable for these increases. Compared with February, March receipts for the 51 cities were up 3.8% with 24 cities showing declines. Last year receipts for the same cities shot up 11.3% between February and March with all but four cities sharing in the advance.

The seasonally-adjusted index of *miscellaneous freight carloadings* showed no change from February to March, 1946, but was 24.5% lower than in March a year ago. Last year March carloadings were 0.6% lower than February carloadings according to the index. At the present time (March, 1946) freight carloadings stand about 45.4% above the 1935–39 average.

POSTAL RECEIPTS

City	Mar. 1946	Feb. 1946	Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Feb. 1946
TOTAL	$2,529,392	$2,437,895	$2,787,934	— 9.3	+ 3.8
Abilene	26,419	27,537	40,850	—35.3	— 4.1
Amarillo	52,075	51,598	66,107	—21.2	+ 0.9
Austin	105,514	96,852	100,750	+ 4.7	+ 8.9
Beaumont	42,804	40,474	53,353	—19.8	+ 5.8
Big Spring	8,146	9,329	13,503	—39.7	—12.7
Brownsville	11,289	11,121	14,932	—24.4	+ 1.5
Brownwood	12,492	12,063	23,590	—47.0	+ 3.6
Bryan	7,703	8,033	11,579	—33.5	— 4.1
Childress	3,362	3,267	7,521	—55.3	+ 2.9
Cleburne	4,885	5,315	6,628	—26.2	— 8.1
Coleman	4,025	3,712	4,646	—13.4	+ 8.4
Corpus Christi	63,381	62,323	79,067	—19.8	+ 1.7
Corsicana	7,632	8,250	11,796	—35.3	— 7.5
Dallas	657,006	599,948	613,885	+ 7.0	+ 9.5
Del Rio	4,220	4,568	7,610	—44.5	— 7.6
Denison	8,163	9,448	12,774	—36.1	—13.6
Denton	10,809	12,102	13,332	—18.9	—10.7
Edinburg	4,829	4,869	4,982	— 3.1	— 0.8
El Paso	90,963	86,630	105,218	—13.5	+ 5.0
Fort Worth	305,855	262,883	296,492	+ 3.2	+16.3
Galveston	53,519	50,177	57,885	— 7.5	+ 6.7
Gladewater	4,299	3,216	4,348	— 1.1	+33.7
Harlingen	11,464	11,480	16,037	—28.5	— 0.1
Houston	426,364	402,339	453,952	— 6.1	+ 6.0
Jacksonville	5,489	5,701	5,681	— 3.4	— 3.7
Kenedy	1,683	1,611	1,941	—13.3	+ 4.5
Kerrville	4,444	4,002	4,305	+ 3.2	+11.0
Longview	12,613	11,520	16,414	—23.2	+ 9.5
Lubbock	29,660	32,353	37,392	—20.7	— 8.3
Lufkin	5,983	6,998	8,720	—31.4	—14.5
McAllen	9,162	8,280	9,088	+ 0.8	+10.7
Marshall	9,697	10,649	13,387	—27.6	— 8.9
Midland	11,016	13,948	15,180	—27.4	—21.0
Palestine	7,155	8,375	9,524	—24.9	—14.6
Pampa	8,842	9,459	12,586	—29.7	— 6.5
Paris	9,821	9,584	23,223	—57.7	+ 2.5
Plainview	6,673	5,672	7,510	—11.1	+17.6
Port Arthur	24,325	22,630	29,835	—18.5	+ 7.5
San Angelo	22,662	22,584	27,688	—18.2	+ 0.3
San Antonio	234,125	277,624	297,624	—21.3	—15.7
Seguin	3,820	4,057	5,147	—25.8	— 5.8
Sherman	11,774	11,992	14,679	—19.8	— 1.8
Snyder	1,897	1,934	2,929	—35.2	— 1.9
Sweetwater	8,557	6,197	10,190	—16.0	+38.1
Temple	12,488	13,629	18,455	—32.3	— 8.4
Texarkana	22,862	26,935	32,351	—29.3	—15.1
Texas City	7,530	6,442	8,157	— 7.7	+16.9
Tyler	26,711	23,802	33,296	—19.8	+12.2
Victoria	8,637	7,751	15,103	—42.8	+11.4
Waco	52,401	54,524	59,956	—12.6	— 3.9
Wichita Falls	42,147	42,108	46,796	— 9.9	+ 0.1

Wholesale Trade

(Wholesale sales represent 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. In the absence of data on wholesale sales, data on employment and pay rolls may be used to indicate changes in the level of the business, since it may be generally assumed that they will change with the volume of business.)

Changes in wholesale *employment* and *pay rolls* have risen along with retail employment and pay rolls. March employment in 140 Texas wholesale firms was 4.9% larger than February employment and 9.8% larger than employment in March, 1945. Pay rolls were up 3.4% for the month, however, and were 21.7% bigger in March this year than in the corresponding month one year earlier.

Hours worked in Texas wholesale establishments rose fractionally (1.1%) between March, 1945, and March, 1946, but hourly earnings jumped 14.8% and weekly "take-home" pay 16.1% for reporting establishments. Differences in the number of firms reporting hours and earnings on the one hand and employment and pay rolls on the other, explain the slight difference between the pay roll and earnings series.

Strange as it may seem, *unemployment benefit payments* chargeable to retail and wholesale trade increased from $115,238 in February to $158,959 in March of this year. March payments were eight times as large as those in September, 1945, the first month after V–J Day.

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 nondurable goods such as foods, and may serve to indicate at an early date changes in the business situation. Since many manufacturing industries vary regularly with the seasons, this factor must be known and taken into consideration in interpreting the changes from month to month.)

The average weekly production of *lumber* per unit for mills reporting to the Southern Pine Association for March, 1946, rose 7.6% over February, 1946, but was slightly (0.2%) under the production for March, 1945. Production for March, 1945, was 3.3% above the February, 1945, figure. Average weekly shipments of lumber per unit for March, 1946, were 10.5% greater than the corresponding figure for February, 1946, but were 1.1% below the figure for March, 1945. Weekly shipments for March, 1945, were 1.4% above the February, 1945, figure. Average unfilled orders per unit at the end of March, 1946, were 5.1% above the corresponding figure for February, 1946, but were 31.6% below that for March, 1945. Average unfilled orders per unit at the end of March, 1945, were 3.4% above the corresponding figure for February, 1945.

Cottonseed received at mills in Texas during March, 1946, showed a decrease of 61.6% from the February, 1946, figure and was 77.2% below the March, 1945,

DIRECTORY OF TEXAS MANUFACTURERS—1946 EDITION

The *Directory of Texas Manufacturers* is now being printed and it is expected that the new edition will be off the press by the end of May. Unexpected delays in connection with the printing made it impossible to complete the *Directory* in April as was first announced. Orders are being received to be invoiced and shipped at the earliest possible date. The price is $2.50 per copy, postpaid. We again call attention to the fact that as only a limited number of copies of this edition will be printed, it is suggested that orders should be sent to the Bureau without delay.

LUMBER PRODUCTION IN SOUTHERN PINE MILLS

(in board feet)

Source: Southern Pine Association

Item	Mar. 1946	Feb. 1946	Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Feb. 1946
Average weekly production per unit	199,943	185,893	200,366	— 0.2	+ 7.6
Average weekly shipments per unit	203,700	184,327	206,012	— 1.1	+10.5
Average unfilled orders per unit, end of month	1,053,560	1,002,792	1,540,805	—31.6	+ 5.1

amount. The latter figure was 46.6% below that for February, 1945. Cottonseed crushed in Texas during March, 1946, was 43.8% below the February, 1946, figure and 59.2% below that for March, 1945. The latter figure was 7.9% below the amount for February, 1945. Stocks of cottonseed in Texas at the end of March, 1946, showed a decrease of 43.5% from the February, 1946, figure and a decrease of 79.0% from the March, 1945, figure. The latter amount was 26.0% below the February, 1945, figure.

COTTONSEED PRODUCTION

(in tons)

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

Item	Mar. 1946	Feb. 1946	Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Feb. 1946
TEXAS					
Received at mills	4,272	11,134	18,772	—77.2	—61.6
Crushed	34,802	61,897	85,268	—59.2	—43.8
Stocks at end of month	39,582	70,112	188,869	—79.0	—43.5
UNITED STATES					
Received at mills	115,714	133,289	104,342	+10.9	—13.2
Crushed	227,999	285,886	374,779	—39.2	—20.1
Stocks at end of month	369,721	482,006	795,977	—53.6	—23.3

According to data from the Bureau of Mines, Texas *cement* production for February, 1946, was 5.7% below that for January, 1946, but was 59.6% above the figure for February, 1945. Cement production for February, 1945, was 15.9% below that for January, 1945. Texas cement shipments for February, 1946, were 14.2% above those for January, 1946, and 63.9% above the February, 1945, figure; the latter was 2.9% below the January, 1945, figure. Stocks of cement in Texas for February, 1946, were 9.1% below those recorded for January, 1946, and 34.3% below the February, 1945, figure; the latter was 3.0% less than the quantity for January, 1945.

CEMENT PRODUCTION

(in thousands of barrels)

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

Item	Feb. 1946	Jan. 1946	Feb. 1945	Percent change: Feb. 1946 from Feb. 1945	Percent change: Feb. 1946 from Jan. 1946
TEXAS					
Production	742	787	465	+59.6	— 5.7
Shipments	810	709	497	+63.0	+14.2
Stocks	669	736	1,018	—34.3	— 9.1
UNITED STATES					
Production	9,250	9,633	5,371	+72.2	— 4.0
Shipments	7,853	7,391	4,574	+71.7	+ 6.3
Stocks	20,050	18,668	22,164	— 9.5	+ 7.4
Capacity operated	50.0%	47.0%	29.0%	——	——

Refinery stocks for Texas as reported by *The Oil and Gas Journal* at the end of March, 1946, were generally down from the comparable figures a month earlier. Similarly, decreases occurred between the figures for March, 1945, and March, 1946. Refinery stocks of gasoline in Texas, for instance, were 4.5% lower in March than in February, and 4.3% below those for the end of March, 1945.

REFINERY STOCKS*

(in thousands of barrels)

Source: *The Oil and Gas Journal*

Section and item	Mar. 1946	Feb. 1946	Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Feb. 1946
TEXAS					
Gasoline	75,036	78,549	78,416	— 4.3	— 4.5
Distillate	18,844	20,808	21,301	—11.5	— 9.4
Residual	19,428	19,770	28,158	—31.0	— 1.7
Crude oil	5,398	5,331	5,453	— 1.0	+ 1.3
TEXAS GULF COAST					
Gasoline	62,504	66,125	65,996	— 5.3	— 5.5
Distillate	17,638	19,679	20,081	—11.9	—10.4
Residual	16,917	17,193	25,646	—34.0	— 1.6
Crude oil	4,546	4,502	4,545	0	+ 1.0
INLAND TEXAS					
Gasoline	12,532	12,424	12,420	+ 0.9	+ 0.9
Distillate	1,206	1,124	1,270	— 5.0	+ 7.3
Residual	2,511	2,577	2,512	0	— 2.6
Crude oil	852	829	908	— 6.2	+ 2.8

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

The total milk equivalent of dairy products manufactured in Texas during March, 1946, was 72,776,000 pounds. This amount was 38.6% over the February, 1946, figure, but was 20.6% less than the production for March, 1945. Creamery butter production for March, 1946, was 24.1% above the February, 1946, amount, but was 34.1% below that for March, 1945. Ice cream production for March, 1946, was 46.1% above that for February, 1946, and 41.1% above that for March, 1945. Production of American cheese in March, 1946, was 36.9% above that for February, 1946, but was 56.6% below the March, 1945, figure.

MANUFACTURE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

Product	Unit	Mar. 1946	Feb. 1946	Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Feb. 1945
TOTAL MILK EQUIVALENT*	1,000 lbs.	72,776	52,502	91,673	—20.6	+38.6
Creamery butter	1,000 lbs.	1,666	1,343	2,528	—34.1	+24.1
Ice cream†	1,000 gal.	2,057	1,408	1,458	+41.1	+46.1
American cheese	1,000 lbs.	568	415	1,309	—56.6	+36.9

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

†Includes sherbets and ices.

According to the Texas Canners Association the production of *canned grapefruit juice* for the 1945–46 season to date equaled that for the 1944–45 season. Shipments of this item for the 1945–46 season were 29.7% above the figure for the 1944–45 season. Stocks of canned grapefruit juice as of March 30, 1946, were 36.2% under the comparable figure of March 30, 1945.

GRAPEFRUIT JUICE CANNING

(in cases of 24/2's)

Source: Texas Canners Association

Item	1945–46 Season*	1944–45 Season*	Percent change
Production	8,357,433	8,354,911	†
Shipments	5,996,884	4,623,521	+29.7
Stocks (March 30)	2,382,135	3,735,048	—36.2

*November 1–March 30.

†Less than 0.1%.

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 it must be kept in mind that data on both permits and contracts reflect the value of new work begun, rather than the volume of actual construction activity in a particular month.)

Building permits during March, 1946, for the 47 Texas cities listed in the accompanying table totaled $43,065,964, in contrast to the total of $24,069,479 for February, 1946, and to $9,890,702 for March, 1945.

Houston led by far in value of building permits for March, 1946, with $15,358,661; Dallas was second, with $6,452,619; and San Antonio was third, with $4,645,557.

BUILDING PERMITS

City	Mar. 1946	Feb. 1946	Mar. 1945
TOTAL	$43,065,964	$24,069,479	$9,890,702
Abilene	677,111	619,545	4,065
Amarillo	1,106,507	874,246	221,130
Austin	1,917,725	1,575,342	187,538
Beaumont	566,418	277,423	157,391
Big Spring	184,225	165,145	86,810
Brownsville	154,440	71,485	8,938
Bryan	225,595	446,170	40,115
Childress	34,050	26,075	11,850
Cleburne	44,500	23,955	15,950
Coleman	21,550	52,100	0
Corpus Christi	1,747,857	523,179	1,505,528
Corsicana	32,027	51,950	2,080
Dallas	6,452,619	5,064,247	623,383
Denison	106,009	64,275	30,074
Denton	496,025	73,875	5,404
Edinburg	97,390	44,050	26,125
El Paso	350,590	270,407	26,640
Fort Worth	3,238,105	3,033,501	567,896
Galveston	344,650	107,650	45,962
Gladewater	8,150	15,410	5,750
Harlingen	418,668	207,800	26,150
Houston	15,358,661	5,462,813	5,076,803
Jacksonville	105,850	132,451	1,000
Kenedy	51,200	9,000	0
Kerrville	88,000	136,708	28,130
Longview	133,407	110,805	15,320
Lubbock	752,725	561,620	113,019
McAllen	430,985	108,095	34,856
Marshall	158,678	71,229	18,978
Midland	443,650	313,250	71,575
New Braunfels	99,120	23,043	12,570
Palestine	34,010	67,450	1,085
Pampa	96,700	74,950	4,850
Paris	56,595	45,400	34,150
Plainview	244,000	60,000	25,910
Port Arthur	299,689	221,080	33,035
San Antonio	4,645,577	1,947,962	470,787
Seguin	58,500	24,575	4,244
Sherman	202,336	69,745	14,949
Snyder	36,600	4,550	4,300
Sweetwater	64,585	59,755	11,075
Texarkana	155,830	108,024	83,020
Texas City	145,100	69,935	12,815
Tyler	356,690	400,180	98,675
Victoria	93,475	46,675	2,070
Waco	519,978	245,569	68,483
Wichita Falls	209,817	112,885	48,599

Other cities with building permits for March, 1946, in excess of a million dollars included Fort Worth ($3,238,105), Austin ($1,917,725), Corpus Christi ($1,747,857), and Amarillo ($1,106,507).

BUILDING CONTRACTS

Source: *Texas Contractor*

Type of building	Mar. 1946	Feb. 1946	Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Feb. 1946
TOTAL	$35,182,401	$32,496,859	$17,726,793	+ 98.5	+ 8.3
Engineering	3,748,369	4,716,556	1,678,110	+123.4	—20.5
Nonresidential	22,324,332	18,476,568	11,846,552	+ 88.4	+20.8
Residential	9,109,700	9,303,735	2,453,559	+271.3	— 2.1
War construction	0	0	1,748,572	——	——

Construction contracts in Texas for March, 1946, according to the *Texas Contractor* totaled $35,182,401—a rise of 8.3% over the February, 1946, figure of $32,496,859. The March, 1946, figure was 98.5% above the comparable figure for March, 1945, and the latter was 3.3% below the figure for February, 1945.

According to data from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Little Rock, the number of *loans by savings and loan associations* in Texas for February, 1946, was 1.4% higher than for January, 1946, but was 67.7% higher than for February, 1945. The number for February, 1945, was 9.8% less than for January, 1945.

LOANS BY SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS

Source: Federal Home Loan Bank of Little Rock

Type	Feb. 1946	Jan. 1946	Feb. 1945	Percent change: Feb. 1946 from Feb. 1945	Percent change: Feb. 1946 from Jan. 1946
Number					
ALL LOANS	2,070	2,041	1,234	+ 67.7	+ 1.4
Construction	314	300	78	+ 302.6	+ 4.7
Purchase	1,317	1,350	874	+ 50.7	— 2.4
Refinance	142	154	72	+ 97.2	— 7.8
Recondition	170	130	136	+ 25.0	+ 30.8
Other	127	107	74	+ 71.6	+ 18.7
Amount					
ALL LOANS	$8,410,519	$6,661,539	$3,162,629	+ 165.9	+ 26.3
Construction	1,114,721	1,136,941	174,362	+ 539.3	— 2.0
Purchase	4,697,143	4,583,396	2,515,043	+ 86.8	+ 2.5
Refinance	438,519	415,908	161,889	+ 170.9	+ 5.4
Recondition	318,158	279,014	150,396	+ 111.5	+ 14.0
Other	1,841,978	246,280	160,939	+1044.5	+647.9

Public Utilities

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

Electric power consumption, as reported by 10 electric power companies of Texas to the Bureau of Business Research for March, 1946, was 4.7% below the February, 1946, figure, and was 14.9% below the comparable figure for March, 1945; the latter month in turn was 1.0% below the February, 1945, figure.

Reports from 224 public utility establishments reporting *employment* and *pay rolls* to the Bureau of Business Research showed an increase of 3.4% in number of wage earners from February to March, 1946, and an increase of 25.4% from March, 1945, to March, 1946. Pay rolls for these establishments in March, 1946, registered a decrease of 1.2% from February, but showed a 60.3% gain from March, 1945.

According to data from the Federal Power Commission, *electric energy production* for public use in February, 1946, was 7.7% below that for January, 1946, whereas the production for the United States during these months was down by 11.9%. The percentage decrease in electric energy production in Texas for February, 1946, from the preceding month was 10.5, and the comparable percentage decline for the United States was 10.0.

ELECTRIC POWER CONSUMPTION*

(in millions of kilowatt hours)

Use	Mar. 1946	Feb. 1946	Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Feb. 1946
TOTAL	404,144	423,929	475,024	—14.9	— 4.7
Commercial	78,184	84,902	79,753	— 2.0	— 7.9
Industrial	203,574	199,444	264,891	—23.1	— 2.1
Residential	64,290	71,241	58,542	+ 9.8	— 9.1
Other	58,096	68,342	71,838	—19.1	—15.0

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

ELECTRIC ENERGY PRODUCTION

(in thousands of kilowatt hours)

Source: Federal Power Commission

Place	Feb. 1946	Jan. 1946	Feb. 1945	Percent change: Feb. 1946 from Feb. 1945	Percent change: Feb. 1946 from Jan. 1946
Texas	513,940	557,049	574,285	—10.5	— 7.7
United States	16,217,049	18,402,684	18,025,919	—10.0	—11.9

Natural Resources

The daily average production of *crude petroleum* in Texas for March, 1946, was 11.1% below the February, 1946, figure, and was 13.1% below that for March, 1945, according to data from the American Petroleum Institute.

All oil-producing districts of Texas registered decreases in March, 1946, from February, 1946, as well as from March, 1945. However, there was considerable variation in the size of the declines for the several individual districts.

DAILY AVERAGE PRODUCTION OF CRUDE PETROLEUM

(in barrels)

Source: American Petroleum Institute

District	Mar. 1946	Feb. 1946	Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Feb. 1946
TEXAS	1,875,850	2,109,250	2,159,000	—13.1	—11.1
Coastal Texas*	443,840	544,000	564,450	—21.4	—18.4
East Central Texas	131,240	146,200	146,700	—10.5	—10.2
East Texas	318,120	321,000	381,000	—16.5	— 0.9
North Texas	148,360	157,600	149,300	— 0.6	— 5.9
Panhandle	81,000	81,000	88,000	— 8.0	.....
Southwest Texas	303,390	356,150	352,150	—13.8	—14.8
West Texas	449,900	503,300	477,400	— 5.8	—10.6
UNITED STATES	4,479,850	4,710,100	4,776,400	— 6.2	— 4.9

*Includes Conroe.

The 48 establishments engaged in crude oil production reporting *employment and pay rolls* to the Bureau of Business Research showed an increase in number of wage earners for March, 1946, of only 0.4% over the February, 1946, figure, but a gain of 15.9% over the March, 1945, figure. Pay rolls of these establishments showed increases in March of 1.7% from February, 1946, and 9.5% from March, 1945.

According to *The Oil and Gas Journal,* the total number of *well completions* in Texas for the four weeks ending March 30, 1946, was 611; of these, 366 were oil wells, 35 were gas wells, and 210 were dry holes. From January 1, 1946, through March 30, 1946, the total number of well completions in Texas was 1,908, as compared to 1,704 for the comparable period of 1945.

WELL COMPLETIONS

Source: *The Oil and Gas Journal*

District	March*				Jan.–Mar. (all wells)	
	Total	Oil	Gas	Dry	1946	1945
TEXAS	611	366	35	210	1,908	1,704
North Central	209	107	2	100	648	473
West	129	103	0	26	410	457
Panhandle	23	6	9	8	92	135
Eastern	68	42	12	14	186	73
Gulf Coast	184	88	11	35	441	406
Southwest	48	20	1	27	181	160

*For four weeks ending March 30.

AGRICULTURE

Income

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

Cash *income* from agricultural marketings in Texas, as estimated by the Bureau of Business Research, rose 15.2% in March over February, thereby registering an increase considerably greater than the seasonally expected 0.5% gain at this time. Based on the average month of the 1935–39 period, the index, adjusted for seasonal variation, stood at 250.4. It was 9.2% less than the comparable figure for March, 1945.

In comparison with March, 1945, most of the principal income-producing farm products exhibited declines. Wheat, cattle, hogs, poultry, wool, mohair, eggs, and milk products—all yielded less this March than in the same month a year ago. On the other hand, income from fruit and vegetables marketings this March was up somewhat, as was the income from grain sorghums, sheep, and calves. The increases in the latter items were, however, not sufficient to counterbalance the gains previously mentioned, and the total cash income from all products combined was off 9.2%.

Cash income from farm marketings for the first three months of 1946 was estimated at $163,147,000, compared with $213,348,000 during the same period of 1945, a decline of 23.5%. All crop-reporting districts except District 10–A (the Lower Rio Grande Valley) registered declines. In District 10–A income received in 1946 has been 15.4% higher than the amount received in the first three months of 1945.

Despite the decline in farm income from last year and from last month, the indexes in the accompanying table show that income for all districts in March, 1946, was still substantially above the 1935–39 averages of the respective districts.

FARM CASH INCOME*

District	Indexes, 1935–39=100, adjusted for seasonal variation			Amount, Jan.–March (in thousands of dollars)	
	Mar. 1946	Feb. 1946	Mar. 1945	1946	1945
TEXAS	250.4	217.3	276.9	163,147	213,348
1–N	253.4	306.1	420.0	19,935	25,620
1–S	293.8	174.8	322.1	12,398	23,633
2	171.4	172.4	170.3	11,031	26,787
3	152.4	164.3	198.2	5,594	9,365
4	187.8	155.4	229.9	19,614	29,469
5	188.1	165.8	187.9	6,434	9,223
6	224.5	219.7	217.7	9,474	9,962
7	277.7	330.5	245.7	8,185	8,664
8	230.1	190.8	213.3	12,593	14,798
9	149.9	154.3	158.5	9,940	11,620
10	278.6	304.8	286.5	6,771	8,572
10–A	545.1	403.5	496.7	41,178	35,685

*Farm cash income as computed by the Bureau understates actual farm cash income by from 6 to 10%. This situation results from the fact that means of securing complete local marketings, especially by truck, have not yet been fully developed. In addition, means have not yet been developed for computing cash income from all agricultural specialties of local importance in scattered areas. This situation does not impair the accuracy of the indexes.

Prices

(One of the elements that brings about changes in the level of farm income is the price received for products; so changes in prices are of primary concern to the farmer and all businesses relying on the farm market.)

The *prices* of most Texas farm products continued to rise in March over their February levels, and with few exceptions were above their year-ago levels. In the past month the only principal commodities registering declines in price were spinach, down to 71 cents from 96 cents, and eggs, which fell to 30.4 cents from 31.3 cents in February. Cotton, oats, and hogs showed no change in price. Among the products which increased, cabbage again this month recorded the greatest jump—from $32.80 a ton in February to $55.06 a ton in March. Other important price gains were in cattle, from $11.90 to $12.20 a hundred-weight; grapefruit, from $0.93 to $1.14 a box; oranges, from $2.12 to $2.50 a box; and potatoes, from $1.80 to $2.22 per 50 pounds.

In the year-to-year comparisons, there were greater price fluctuations than in the monthly comparisons. Both increases and decreases were noted in the individual items, but the gains were sharper and more numerous. Price reductions showed up for cattle, wool, eggs, grapefruit, potatoes, and spinach in March, 1946, in contrast to March, 1945.

PRICES OF TEXAS FARM PRODUCTS

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

Commodity	Unit	Mar. 1946	Feb. 1946	Mar. 1945
Cotton	lb.	$ 0.22	$ 0.22	$ 0.19
Cottonseed	ton	54.00	53.00	54.00
Corn	bu.	1.35	1.30	1.23
Grain sorghums	cwt.	2.35	2.15	1.70
Oats	bu.	0.81	0.81	0.80
Rice	bu.	1.92	1.83	1.92
Cattle	cwt.	12.20	11.90	12.50
Calves	cwt.	13.50	13.10	12.80
Hogs	cwt.	14.00	14.00	13.60
Sheep	cwt.	7.70	7.60	7.60
Wool	lb.	0.40	0.39	0.42
Eggs	doz.	0.30	0.31	0.31
Butterfat	lb.	0.49	0.48	0.49
Grapefruit*	box	1.14	0.93	1.30
Oranges*	box	2.50	2.12	2.17
Beets	crate	2.73	2.24	2.37
Cabbage	ton	55.06	32.80	12.39
Potatoes	50 lb. sack	2.22	1.80	2.60
Carrots	crate	2.43	2.25	1.78
Spinach	bu.	0.71	0.96	0.90

*Equivalent on-tree returns for all methods of sale.

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.)

Rail shipments of fruits and vegetables in March were off 9.7% from March, 1945, and with the exception of spinach, all of the major products in this category were lower than in March a year ago. Spinach shipments, however, were up 12.5%. Potato shipments (off 62.6%), and beets, cabbage, and carrots showed substantial declines, whereas shipments of oranges and grapefruit, by rail and truck, were down only slightly.

In comparison with February, total shipments of fruits and vegetables this March were lower by 11.9%. Although a greater volume of beets, carrots, and potatoes was shipped, the higher shipments were not enough to offset the declines of 20.8% in cabbage, 4.8% in grapefruit, 28.5% in oranges, and 36.4% in potatoes. Although indexes of seasonal variation are not available, seasonal factors are important in comparing month-to-

RAIL SHIPMENTS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES*

(in carloads)

Item	Mar. 1946	Feb. 1946	Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Feb. 1946
TOTAL	10,010	11,364	11,090	— 9.7	— 11.9
Beets	443	353	576	—23.1	+ 25.5
Cabbage	1,858	2,346	2,244	—17.2	— 20.8
Carrots	1,537	1,500	1,805	—14.8	+ 2.5
Grapefruit	4,021	4,222	4,030	— 0.2	— 4.8
Oranges	1,174	1,642	1,189	— 1.3	— 28.5
Potatoes	212	101	566	—62.6	+109.9
Spinach	765	1,203	680	+12.5	— 36.4

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

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	Mar. 1946	Feb. 1946	Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Feb. 1946
TOTAL SHIPMENTS	7,220	5,117	8,904	—18.9	+41.4
Cattle	4,935	3,467	6,887	—28.3	+42.3
Calves	713	474	684	+ 4.2	+50.4
Hogs	804	666	680	+18.2	+20.7
Sheep	768	510	653	+17.6	+50.6
INTERSTATE PLUS FORT WORTH	6,238	4,332	7,483	—16.6	+44.0
Cattle	4,157	2,857	5,630	—26.2	+45.5
Calves	552	374	578	— 4.3	+47.6
Hogs	787	645	655	+20.2	+22.0
Sheep	742	456	620	+19.7	+62.7
INTRASTATE MINUS FORT WORTH†	982	785	1,421	—30.9	+25.1
Cattle	778	610	1,257	—38.1	+27.5
Calves	161	100	106	+51.9	+61.0
Hogs	17	21	25	—32.0	—19.0
Sheep	26	54	33	—21.2	—51.9

*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 cooperation with the Division of Agricultural Statistics, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Classification	Mar. 1946	Feb. 1946	Mar. 1945
TOTAL SHIPMENTS			
Chickens	20	28	7
Turkeys	14	27	2
Eggs–shell equivalent*	882	123	1243
Shell	21	4	45
Frozen	114	36	111
Dried	79	6	122
INTRASTATE SHIPMENTS			
Chickens	2	5	0
Turkeys	4	3	0
Eggs–shell equivalent*	82	12	177
Shell	6	0	1
Frozen	34	6	56
Dried	1	0	8
INTERSTATE SHIPMENTS†			
Chickens	18	23	7
Turkeys	10	24	2
Eggs–shell equivalent*	799	111	1066
Shell	15	4	44
Frozen	80	30	55
Dried	78	6	114

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

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

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

(in thousands of running bales except as noted)

Year	Carryover August 1	Imports to April 1*	Final Ginnings	Total	Consumption to April 1	Exports to April 1	Total	Balance as of April 1
1936–37	5,397	139	12,130	17,666	5,298	4,389	9,687	7,979
1937–38	4,498	80	18,242	22,820	4,017	4,657	8,674	14,146
1938–39	11,533	95	11,621	23,249	4,609	2,786	7,359	15,854
1939–40	13,033	112	11,481	24,626	5,331	5,350	10,681	13,945
1940–41	10,596	100	12,298	22,994	6,071	811	6,882	16,112
1941–42	12,367	†	10,489	22,856	7,502	†	7,502	15,355
1942–43	10,590	†	12,437	23,027	7,250	†	7,250	15,777
1943–44	10,687	†	11,121	21,808	6,804	775	7,579	15,293
1944–45	10,727	103	12,195	23,025	6,516	1,050	7,566	15,459
1945–46	11,164	161‡	8,781§	20,106	5,958	1,682‡	7,640	12,466

*Figures are in 500-pound bales.
†Figures not available.
‡Figures to March 1, 1946—Source: Bureau of Census.
§Includes 132,737 bales of the crop of 1945 ginned prior to August 1.

month shipments. Data for February and March of 1945 indicate that the changes in shipments at that time were in the same direction as they were between February and March of this year. Grapefruit was the single exception, for shipments rose last year instead of declining as they did in 1946.

Total *shipments of livestock* were up 41.4% from February, and increases occurred in all types of shipments—cattle, calves, hogs, and sheep. Sheep and calf shipments were up more than 50%; cattle shipments were up 42.3%, and hog shipments were up somewhat less—only 20.7%.

Compared to March, 1945, however, total livestock shipments were off 18.9% in March this year. The decline was due to a decreased volume of cattle shipments, since shipments of calves, hogs, and sheep were all higher than in March, 1945.

Shipments of poultry by rail were higher in March than in March a year ago. The 20 carloads of chickens and 14 carloads of turkeys shipped this year may be compared with only 7 carloads of chickens in March, 1945, and 2 carloads of turkeys. Shell, frozen, and dried eggs, on the other hand, showed decreases from March, 1945, and the shell-egg equivalent fell from 1,243 cars last March to 882 in March this year.

Between February and March, 1946, poultry shipments were lowered, whereas egg shipments were increased.

Interstate receipts of eggs by rail at Texas stations showed a seasonal increase from February, but amounted to less than half the volume of receipts in March, 1945.

INTERSTATE RECEIPTS OF EGGS BY RAIL AT TEXAS STATIONS

(in carloads)

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

Type	Mar. 1946	Feb. 1946	Mar. 1945
TOTAL RECEIPTS–SHELL EQUIVALENT*	67	16	176
Shell	3	6	2
Frozen	28	5	71
Dried	1	0	4

*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.

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.)

The cotton balance sheet for the United States as of April 1, the large unfilled demand for cotton and cotton goods throughout the world, the prices well above parity being paid now in the market for cotton to be delivered out of the new crop, and the increasing labor supply need to be taken into account by farmers in determining the amount of cotton to be planted this year.

Last year the total acreage planted to cotton was 18,157,000 and the total crop amounted to only 8,777,000 bales. Indications are now that consumption in the United States and exports from the United States will together total about 12,000,000 bales. This will leave a total of about 8,000,000 bales in the country on next August 1 as carryover.

The United States Department of Agriculture has set a cotton acreage goal of 20,200,000 acres. Private estimates now indicate that less than 19,000,000 acres will be planted. Last year Texas planted 6,237,000 acres to cotton and actually harvested about 6,000,000. The highest acreage ever planted in Texas was 17,578,000 in 1929.

(The foregoing table and analysis of the cotton balance sheet were prepared by Dr. A. B. Cox, professor of cotton marketing in the College of Business Administration at The University of Texas.)

FINANCE

Bank Credit

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

The total volume of loans of the nine weekly reporting member banks in the Dallas Federal Reserve District increased 67.6% in March, 1946, in comparison with March, 1945. During the same period, total loans and investments increased only 29.3%. During the last year, demand deposits of the reporting banks increased 14.7% and time deposits increased 27.2%. United States Government deposits during this same period increased 110.1%. In comparison with last month, March showed very little change in most of the items, Treasury bills showing the greatest change with a decrease of 31.0%.

The Dallas Federal Reserve Bank increased its holdings of United States Government securities by 29.8% in comparison with the same date last year, while discounts and advances were $1,380,000 on March 27 compared with none a year ago. The volume of Federal Reserve notes outstanding increased 7.1% over the same date a year ago, while deposits increased 21.1%.

CONDITION OF WEEKLY REPORTING MEMBER BANKS*

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

	Percent change		
	Mar. 1946 from Mar. 1945	Mar. 1946 from Feb. 1946	Mar. 1945 from Feb. 1945
ASSETS			
Loans and investments	+ 29.3	− 2.1	+ 0.3
Loans	+ 67.6	+ 2.1	——
Treasury bills	− 24.6	−31.0	0
Treasury certificates of indebtedness	+ 25.7	− 7.9	+21.7
Treasury notes	− 5.9	− 4.1	−18.7
United States bonds	+ 25.2	+ 1.5	− 1.5
Other securities	+ 41.3	+ 1.6	0
Reserve with Federal Reserve Banks	+ 15.7	− 1.8	− 3.3
Cash in vault	− 7.4	− 3.8	+12.5
Balances with domestic banks	+ 8.3	− 5.8	+ 0.9
LIABILITIES			
Demand deposits adjusted	+ 14.7	+ 1.7	+ 1.2
Time deposits	+ 27.2	+ 2.4	+ 5.5
United States Government deposits	+110.1	−12.1	−11.5
Interbank deposits:			
Domestic banks	+ 14.4	− 7.2	− 0.8
Foreign banks	− 33.3	−33.3	0
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	+ 13.9	+ 1.5	+ 1.7

*Percentage comparisons based on week ending nearest the close of calendar month.

STATEMENT OF CONDITION OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

(in thousands of dollars)

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

				Percent change	
Classification	Mar. 27 1946	Feb. 27 1946	Mar. 28 1945	Mar. 1946 from Mar. 1945	Mar. 1946 from Feb. 1946
ASSETS					
Gold certificate reserves	477,743	486,168	508,119	− 6.0	− 1.7
U.S. Government securities	904,421	894,054	696,909	+29.8	+ 1.2
Discounts and advances	1,380	1,280	———	——	+ 7.8
Other cash	13,443	11,208	9,803	+37.1	+19.9
Other assets	93,307	100,572	81,402	+14.6	− 7.2
TOTAL ASSETS	1,490,294	1,493,282	1,296,233	+15.0	− 0.2
LIABILITIES					
Federal Reserve notes	590,223	600,045	550,991	+ 7.1	− 1.6
Deposits	802,922	792,045	663,187	+21.1	+ 1.4
Other liabilities	76,191	80,562	65,291	+16.7	− 5.4
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,469,336	1,472,652	1,279,469	+14.8	− 0.2
Capital paid in	6,306	6,259	5,623	+12.1	+ 0.8
Surplus	11,977	11,977	7,332	+63.4	——
Other capital accounts	2,675	2,394	3,809	−29.8	+11.7
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	1,490,294	1,493,282	1,296,233	+15.0	− 0.2

BANK DEBITS*

(in thousands of dollars)

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

				Percent change	
City	Mar. 1946	Feb. 1946	Mar. 1945	Mar. 1946 from Mar. 1945	Mar. 1946 from Feb. 1946
TOTAL	2,414,427	2,091,434	2,200,077	+ 9.7	+15.4
Abilene	23,477	20,590	19,740	+18.9	+14.0
Amarillo	54,100	49,196	51,084	+ 5.9	+10.0
Austin	105,825	80,486	97,966	+ 8.0	+31.5
Beaumont	58,774	58,232	61,893	− 5.0	+ 0.9
Corpus Christi	70,547	51,345	57,713	+22.2	+37.4
Corsicana	7,573	7,138	6,746	+12.3	+ 6.1
Dallas	634,528	571,593	583,680	+ 8.7	+11.0
El Paso	81,172	74,549	66,170	+22.7	+ 8.9
Fort Worth	218,050	195,677	223,497	− 2.4	+11.4
Galveston	58,571	43,246	50,266	+16.5	+35.4
Houston	666,873	566,838	634,398	+ 5.1	+17.6
Laredo	14,858	13,748	12,604	+17.9	+ 8.1
Lubbock	39,310	36,148	33,339	+17.9	+ 8.7
Port Arthur	25,899	24,285	26,410	− 1.9	+ 6.6
San Angelo	21,026	19,021	16,008	+31.3	+10.5
San Antonio	205,436	172,328	164,177	+25.1	+19.2
Texarkana†	21,185	16,319	23,260	− 8.9	+29.8
Tyler	29,853	26,792	24,207	+23.3	+11.4
Waco	43,472	35,171	29,419	+47.8	+23.6
Wichita Falls	43,440	35,483	30,262	+43.5	+22.4

*Debits to deposit accounts except interbank accounts.
†Includes two banks in Arkansas, Eighth District.

Bank Debits

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

Approximately the normal seasonal rise in *bank debits* to individual accounts in 20 Texas cities occurred between February and March, with an increase of 15.4%. A year ago the increase from February to March was 17.7%. Compared with March, 1945, debits increased 9.7%, but since prices have increased during this period, part of the increase is due to this factor and only part to an increase in the volume of business. The seasonal rise was consistent in all cities, since all 20 showed an increase over last month. In comparison with March, 1945, all but four of the cities increased. Two cities showed increases of more than 40%, and seven cities showed increases of more than 20%.

Charters

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

The number of new corporation charters issued in March again increased, although the amount of capitalization decreased. Charters issued in March, 1946, totaled 349, compared with 81 in March, 1945. As in February, the charters of merchandising corporations exceeded any other classification, approximately one-third of the new corporations being in this group. The number of charters issued for manufacturing corporations more than doubled the number last month, while the number of real estate corporations declined.

A considerably larger number of small corporations, with capitalization of less than $5,000, were chartered this month than last, with only a slight increase in the number in the group $5,000 to $100,000. The number of larger corporations declined from 66 in February to 17 in March.

CORPORATION CHARTERS ISSUED BY CAPITALIZATION

Source: Secretary of State

Capitalization	Mar. 1946	Feb. 1946	Mar. 1945
Over $100,000	17	66	4
$5,000–$100,000	203	193	69
Less than $5,000	131	26	32
Capitalization not specified	19	*	*

*Not tabulated.

CORPORATION CHARTERS ISSUED BY CLASSIFICATIONS

Source: Secretary of State

Classification	Mar. 1946	Feb. 1946	Mar. 1945
DOMESTIC CORPORATIONS			
Capitalization—(1,000 dollars)*	7,981	10,197	1,296
Number	349	285	81
Banking-finance	5	3	6
Manufacturing	56	24	5
Merchandising	106	91	28
Oil	25	15	8
Public service	0	5	12
Real estate-building	53	57	9
Transportation	7	9	2
All others	97	81	11
FOREIGN CORPORATIONS			
Number	21	0	24

*Does not include corporations with no par value capital stock.

Failures

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

No *business failures* were reported by Dun and Bradstreet in Texas for the month of March. This is the second consecutive month that no failures were reported, and for the year to date only one failure has been reported, with total liabilities of $5,800 and total assets of $4,800.

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 increased 59.5% in March, 1946, over March, 1945, while for the United States as a whole the increase was 55.6%. This information is compiled by the Life Insurance Agency Management Association. Texas sales for March, 1946, increased 12.4% over February, which had previously showed a very substantial increase over January. Sales for March, 1946, totaled $63,283,000 in comparison with $39,679,000 in March, 1945.

ORDINARY LIFE INSURANCE SALES

(in thousands of dollars)

Source: Life Insurance Agency Management Association

Place	Mar. 1946	Feb. 1946	Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Mar. 1945	Percent change: Mar. 1946 from Feb. 1946
Texas	63,283	56,306	39,679	+59.5	+12.4
United States	1,356,821	1,121,348	872,164	+55.6	+21.0

Credits and Collections

(Expansion of retail sales depends to a considerable degree upon the expansion of credit, but the soundness of the expansion is related to the soundness of the extension of credit. Changes in the ratios of credit sales to total sales and collections to outstanding accounts indicate what is happening to this phase of business activity.)

The *ratio of credit sales to net sales* in March, 1946, for 61 department and apparel stores in Texas was 47.4%, compared to 45.2% in February and 39.7% in January. This steady increase in credit sales, however, was accompanied by an increase in the ratio of collections to outstanding accounts from 69.0% in February to 70.6% in March. The ratio of credit salaries to credit sales dropped from 1.3% in February to 1.1% in March, and 1.7% in January. Dallas showed the highest ratio of credit sales to net sales with 54.2%, and Austin showed the lowest with 40.8%. Fort Worth, however, showed the highest ratio of collections to outstanding accounts with 82.9%, while the Dallas ratio was only 70.9%.

LABOR

Employment

(Employment statistics are among the most important indicators of Texas business and economic activity. The Bureau's statistics of manufacturing employment comprise production and related workers, whereas all employees are included in nonmanufacturing employment. Proprietors, officers of corporations, and other principal executives are excluded from both series.)

Employment in Texas for the month of March decreased 1.1% in comparison with February for 1,693 establishments reporting to the Bureau of Business Research. These reports were collected in co-operation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor, and the percentage changes were computed for identical establishments reporting for the two months.

March was the third successive month to show a decline in employment for the State, but it is significant that the decrease from February to March (1.1%) was the smallest month-to-month decrease recorded thus far this year. January employment was off 4% from the total for the preceding month, while employment in February was 4.9% less than employment in January. It is too early to state that Texas employment is on the upgrade, but there is no doubt that employment in many lines picked up in March. A turn for the better in employment over the entire nation has been freely predicted in many quarters with the settlement of the strikes among the automotive and electrical workers. What will be the effects of the soft coal strike upon employment in Texas during the coming months remains to be seen.

Employment in Texas during March was only 0.5% less than employment in March, 1945, if seven shipbuilding establishments engaged in war work are excluded from the comparison. With the cutbacks in war contracts these seven establishments suffered a 74.0% drop in employment for the 12-month interval. On the same basis February employment this year was 2.9% less than a year ago and January employment was off 0.9%. These comparisons emphasize the fact that excluding shipbuilding, which was only one of the State's war industries, Texas has not been greatly troubled by reconversion unemployment. Further analysis will show that decreases in employment in other manufacturing industries were approximately balanced by increases in employment provided by nonmanufacturing industries.

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.)

The slight decrease (1.1%) in Texas employment during March in comparison with February was paralleled by a 0.7% decline in weekly *pay rolls* reported to the Bureau of Business Research by 1,693 establishments over the State. Excluding the seven shipbuilding establishments which experienced an 84.1% drop in pay rolls, Texas pay rolls were approximately 1.2% larger in March, 1946, than they were in the same month a year ago. Considerable stability in the over-all picture is thus apparent, if the shipbuilding portion of the State's war industry is not considered in the 12-month comparison. Analysis shows that the further contraction in manufacturing pay rolls was overbalanced by the expansion of nonmanufacturing pay rolls.

PRELIMINARY COMPARISON OF EMPLOYMENT AND PAY ROLLS IN IDENTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS

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

Industrial group	Number of establishments	EMPLOYMENT: Number of wage earners* Mar. 1946	EMPLOYMENT: Number of wage earners* Feb. 1946	EMPLOYMENT: Percent change Mar. 1946 from Mar. 1945	EMPLOYMENT: Percent change Mar. 1946 from Feb. 1946	PAY ROLLS: Amount (weekly) Mar. 1946	PAY ROLLS: Amount (weekly) Feb. 1946	PAY ROLLS: Percent change Mar. 1946 from Mar. 1945	PAY ROLLS: Percent change Mar. 1946 from Feb. 1946
ALL ESTABLISHMENTS	1,693	131,173	132,600	— 0.5†	— 1.1	$5,138,440	$5,175,097	+ 1.2†	— 0.7
MANUFACTURING									
Food products	181	9,596	9,804	— 34.2	+ 2.9	342,725	338,196	+ 34.2	+ 15.2
Textiles	18	4,746	4,709	— 1.7	— 1.8	154,747	147,797	+ 19.2	+ 1.5
Apparel	37	3,761	3,510	— 11.2	+ 16.2	85,486	81,187	— 23.7	+ 16.1
Finished lumber products	30	2,265	2,247	+ 5.5	+ 1.7	75,744	74,251	+ 22.1	+ 4.6
Forest products	20	2,536	2,497	+ 45.0	+ 1.5	77,033	72,335	+ 60.3	+ 13.1
Paper products	11	1,642	1,606	+ 19.4	+ 5.1	64,846	64,698	+ 48.3	+ 0.7
Printing and publishing	37	1,276	1,270	+ 43.7	+ 5.6	62,514	60,370	+139.5	— 20.4
Commercial products	132	24,203	24,338	— 28.6	— 13.9	1,311,925	1,327,961	— 37.6	— 2.4
Stone and clay products	34	3,135	2,945	+159.5	+ 16.6	107,507	95,186	+187.6	+ 33.2
Iron and steel products	37	3,795	3,074	— 81.1	+ 54.9	159,142	124,144	— 80.0	+ 64.1
Nonferrous metal products	12	2,018	2,051	— 0.5	— 1.6	93,715	88,979	— 2.6	+ 5.3
Machinery (except electrical)	48	6,156	6,035	—114.5	+ 11.1	240,440	182,093	—116.9	+ 94.4
Other manufacturing	20	11,451	14,924	— 71.1	— 23.3	469,698	640,382	— 83.9	— 26.6
NONMANUFACTURING									
Crude petroleum production	48	3,491	3,477	+ 15.9	— 0.4	183,197	180,066	+ 9.5	+ 1.7
Dyeing and cleaning	9	137	134	+ 3.2	+ 2.2	4,535	4,490	+ 8.5	+ 1.0
Hotels	17	1,911	1,928	+ 1.7	— 0.9	42,555	42,197	+ 9.2	+ 0.8
Insurance	121	2,253	2,183	+ 13.6	+ 3.2	96,534	92,760	+ 18.6	+ 4.1
Laundries	16	798	806	— 8.2	— 1.0	17,406	17,442	— 6.2	— 0.2
Public utilities	224	22,416	21,671	+ 25.4	— 3.4	780,746	790,120	+ 60.3	— 1.2
Quarrying	25	1,678	1,713	+ 4.4	— 2.0	76,090	76,693	+ 3.2	— 0.8
Retail trade	452	16,066	15,843	+ 5.4	+ 1.4	479,581	457,958	+ 24.8	+ 4.7
Wholesale trade	140	3,906	3,723	+ 9.8	+ 4.9	154,268	149,186	+ 21.7	+ 3.4
Other nonmanufacturing	24	1,955	2,114	+ 59.4	— 7.5	58,006	66,686	+ 51.9	— 13.0

*Does not include proprietors, firm members, officers of corporations, or other principal executives. Manufacturing employment comprises production and related workers; nonmanufacturing employment comprises all employees.

†Excluding seven shipbuilding establishments that declined 74.0% in employment and 84.1% in pay rolls from March, 1945.

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.)

Texas manufacturing, like manufacturing all over the country, has experienced a sizable decline in the average number of *hours* worked per week this March as compared with the same month a year ago. Of the 37 manufacturing industries separately classified, 29 reported

HOURS AND EARNINGS

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

Industrial group	Average weekly hours		Average hourly earnings (in cents)		Average weekly earnings (in dollars)		Percent change March 1946 from March 1945		
	Mar. 1946	Mar. 1945	Mar. 1946	Mar. 1945	Mar. 1946	Mar. 1945	Weekly hours	Hourly earnings	Weekly earnings
MANUFACTURING									
Food products									
Baking	50.1	49.7	82.3	70.6	41.23	35.09	+ 0.8	+ 16.6	+ 17.5
Carbonated beverages	46.4	46.1	63.6	56.4	29.51	26.00	+ 0.7	+ 12.8	+ 13.5
Confectionery	45.9	41.7	43.9	46.3	20.15	19.31	+ 10.1	— 5.2	+ 4.4
Flour milling	48.0	54.3	85.0	78.8	40.80	42.79	— 11.6	+ 7.9	— 4.7
Ice	52.8	50.9	58.2	55.5	30.73	28.25	+ 3.7	+ 4.9	+ 8.8
Ice cream	51.8	53.5	61.7	56.0	31.96	29.96	— 3.2	+ 10.2	+ 6.7
Meat packing	40.5	47.2	89.4	80.6	36.21	38.04	— 14.2	+ 10.9	— 4.8
Other	47.3	45.3	74.5	76.4	35.24	34.61	+ 4.4	— 2.5	+ 1.8
Cotton textile mills	45.3	46.6	72.4	62.0	32.80	28.89	— 2.8	+ 16.8	+ 13.5
Apparel									
Men's work clothing	39.5	39.4	56.6	56.3	22.36	22.18	+ 0.3	+ 0.5	+ 0.8
Women's clothing	37.4	39.4	62.7	57.2	23.45	22.54	— 5.1	+ 9.6	+ 4.0
Other	30.4	42.3	71.8	67.9	21.83	28.72	— 28.1	+ 5.7	— 24.0
Finished lumber products									
Furniture	44.8	46.5	81.6	68.8	36.56	31.99	— 3.7	+ 18.6	+ 14.3
Other	44.1	48.0	70.9	61.5	31.27	29.52	— 8.1	+ 15.3	+ 5.9
Forest products									
Planing mills	47.8	48.5	83.6	69.7	39.96	33.80	— 1.4	+ 19.9	+ 18.2
Saw mills	42.6	48.7	67.1	50.6	28.58	24.64	— 12.5	+ 32.6	+ 16.2
Paper products									
Paper boxes and containers	44.0	44.0	80.1	66.1	35.24	29.08	0.0	+ 21.2	+ 21.2
Other	44.5	45.6	96.3	83.6	42.85	38.12	— 2.4	+ 15.2	+ 12.4
Printing and publishing									
Commercial printing	43.2	42.7	101.6	92.2	43.89	39.37	+ 1.2	+ 10.2	+ 11.5
Newspaper publishing	36.3	38.5	136.2	126.1	49.44	48.55	— 5.7	+ 8.0	+ 1.8
Other	48.9	47.5	110.1	97.6	53.84	46.36	— 2.9	+ 12.8	+ 16.1
Commercial products									
Cotton oil mills	51.0	58.4	58.2	55.5	29.68	32.41	— 12.7	+ 4.9	— 8.4
Petroleum refining	42.8	45.4	128.8	122.5	55.13	55.62	— 5.7	+ 5.1	— 0.9
Synthetic rubber	45.7	48.3	130.0	121.3	59.41	58.59	— 5.4	+ 7.2	+ 1.4
Industrial chemicals	43.9	44.9	81.6	99.5	35.82	44.68	— 2.2	— 18.0	— 19.8
Other	44.2	48.6	100.5	92.7	44.42	45.05	— 9.1	+ 8.4	— 1.4
Stone and clay products									
Brick and tile	44.3	44.3	63.3	52.1	28.04	23.08	0.0	+ 21.5	+ 21.5
Cement	44.9	43.9	83.7	84.1	37.58	36.92	+ 2.3	— 0.5	+ 1.8
Other	41.9	49.7	82.1	75.5	34.40	37.52	— 15.7	+ 8.7	— 8.3
Iron and steel products									
Structural and ornamental iron	45.7	51.8	93.1	86.8	42.55	44.96	— 11.8	+ 7.3	— 5.4
Gray iron and semi-steel castings	41.7	49.6	91.7	80.5	38.24	39.93	— 15.9	+ 13.9	— 4.2
Other	43.2	44.5	103.7	95.6	44.80	42.54	— 2.9	+ 8.5	+ 5.3
Nonferrous metal products	41.1	46.9	112.7	102.0	46.32	47.84	— 12.4	+ 10.5	— 3.2
Machinery (except electrical)									
Oil field equipment	30.3	49.6	114.6	106.8	34.72	52.97	— 38.9	+ 7.3	— 34.5
Industrial equipment	42.2	48.8	101.6	97.1	42.88	47.38	— 13.5	+ 4.6	— 9.5
Other	46.8	47.4	117.3	97.1	54.90	46.03	— 1.3	+ 20.8	+ 19.3
Other manufacturing	38.0	50.4	108.0	121.6	41.04	61.29	— 24.6	— 11.2	— 33.0
NONMANUFACTURING									
Crude petroleum production	41.8	46.5	125.9	113.9	52.63	52.96	— 10.1	+ 10.5	— 0.6
Dyeing and cleaning	48.3	48.7	74.8	56.8	36.13	27.66	— 0.8	+ 31.7	+ 30.6
Hotels	44.7	43.9	38.3	32.8	17.12	14.40	+ 1.8	+ 16.8	+ 18.9
Laundries	46.5	45.7	44.1	45.0	20.51	20.57	+ 1.8	— 2.0	— 0.3
Public utilities	39.0	43.5	88.7	81.8	34.59	35.58	— 10.3	+ 8.4	— 2.8
Quarrying	43.0	46.5	105.5	98.8	45.37	45.94	— 7.5	+ 6.8	— 1.2
Retail trade	42.6	39.9	69.8	60.9	29.73	24.30	+ 6.8	+ 14.6	+ 22.3
Wholesale trade	45.8	45.3	85.2	74.2	39.02	33.61	+ 1.1	+ 14.8	+ 16.1
Other nonmanufacturing	42.0	40.3	68.5	68.6	28.77	27.65	+ 4.2	— 0.1	+ 4.1

shorter work weeks this past month than a year earlier. Other miscellaneous manufacturing industries also had a shorter week. Most of the industries working longer hours were in the food products group, namely bakeries, bottlers, confectioners, and ice manufacturers. Establishments turning out men's apparel and commercial printing also worked more hours per week.

Longer hours were more prevalent in the nonmanufacturing category. Hotels, laundries, retail stores, and wholesale houses averaged more hours per week in March this year than a year ago. Further detail is given in the accompanying table.

Only five out of the 37 industries listed in the manufacturing category and only one out of the eight nonmanufacturing industries reported lower hourly *earnings* on the average in March, 1946, than in March, 1945. Increases in hourly earnings ranged up to 21.5% for manufacturing industries in Texas and up to 31.7% for nonmanufacturing industries. Weekly earnings followed much the same pattern.

Additional detail by specific industries will be found in the accompanying table.

Unemployment Compensation

(Data compiled on the payment of unemployment benefits provide a rough measure of unemployment in Texas. Only establishments employing 8 or more workers for 20 or more weeks per year are covered in the series. There is a time lag in the measurement of unemployment since payments are not made until all legal requirements, including a prescribed waiting period, have been met.)

Unemployment benefit payments in Texas continued their steady increase this past month, rising from $1,628,817 in February to $1,931,968 in March. The latter total is well over six times as large as the total ($320,880) for September, 1945, the first full month after V–J Day. Every type of industry covered by the law showed bigger payments in March than in February, 1946, or September, 1945. At the present time approximately three-fourths of the unemployment benefits being paid by the Texas Unemployment Compensation Commission go to former employees in the manufacturing industries of the State.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT PAYMENTS

Source: Texas Unemployment Compensation Commission

Industry	Mar. 1946	Feb. 1946	Sept. 1945
TOTAL*	$1,931,968	$1,628,817	$320,880
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries	1,718	501	191
Mining	71,373	37,926	2,261
Construction	140,071	98,753	8,396
Manufacturing	1,415,968	1,281,429	281,584
Transportation, communication, and utilities	64,005	39,061	2,954
Wholesale and retail trade	158,959	115,238	19,021
Finance, insurance, and real estate	6,997	4,737	800
Service	59,239	42,889	5,260
Establishments n.e.c.	180	108	64
Industry unknown	13,463	8,176	348

*Differences between totals reported and exact totals of rounded amounts due to rounding all entries to nearest dollar.

Disbursements to veterans handled by the Commission during March of this year totaled $5,377,748, or about 17% more than the total of $4,496,484 disbursed in February. During the first quarter of 1946 close to $14,000,000 has gone to unemployed veterans and to self-employed veterans who have not yet come up to the earnings level specified in the law. Through March, 1946, the Texas Unemployment Compensation Commission paid out well over $22,251,636 to returning veterans.

These sums completely dwarf what might be considered the "normal" payments of unemployment compensation in the State, but the Texas Unemployment Trust Fund at the end of March still had $153,059,681 to meet future drains. At the present rate the withdrawals are not alarming despite the facts that employers' contributions to the Fund do not come up to disbursements and unemployment compensation tax rates have recently been reduced for firms with a good employment experience rating. The Texas Unemployment Compensation Commission reported that 68% of the 20,634 covered employers in the Texas compensation system this year were awarded the minimum tax rate (0.5%) on pay rolls.

In the first quarter of 1946, 6,214 former employees were disqualified as claimants of unemployment benefits. This total is exclusive of disqualifications for engaging in a labor dispute, receiving other remuneration, or being able to work and available for work. Approximately 90% of the disqualifications during the first three months of this year were chargeable to voluntary quits.

GOVERNMENT

Federal Finance

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

Federal internal revenue collections in Texas during March totaled $147,293,768, a drop of 19.4% from the $182,645,651 collected in March, 1945. Collections in the First (or South Texas) District were off 24.7%, while collections in the Second (or North Texas) District were off 11.9%. According to the Collector's office,

FEDERAL INTERNAL REVENUE COLLECTIONS

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

District	March			July 1–March 31		
	1946	1945	Percent change	1945–46	1944–45	Percent change
TEXAS	$147,293,768	$182,645,651	—19.4	$840,280,688	$883,300,282	— 4.9
First District	79,613,081	105,786,534	—24.7	443,935,431	500,073,979	—11.2
Second District	67,680,687	76,859,117	—11.9	396,345,257	383,226,303	+ 3.4

the decrease in collections in the First District can be attributed to a shift in the payments of one large oil corporation from Austin to New York and the cessation of war activity in the oil and gas industry.

For the first nine months of the current fiscal year (July 1, 1945, through March 31, 1946) Texas collections aggregated $840,280,688, or only 4.9% less than in the same months of the previous fiscal year. First District collections dropped 11.2%, but Second District collections were up 3.4%. The same factors cited by the Collector's office in connection with the March, 1946, figures explain these movements.

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.)

According to reports recently prepared by the State Comptroller of Public Accounts, *cash receipts* for March, 1946, totaled $31,740,557. Approximately nine-tenths of this total ($27,376,081) were revenue receipts. The principal sources of State revenue during March were occupation, gross receipts, and production taxes ($8,767,969) and use and sales taxes $7,608,885), which together constituted about half of the total monthly receipts.

Since the beginning of the fiscal year in September down to the end of March, the Comptroller's office has taken in $192,647,227, or 18.2% more than in the corresponding seven-month period of 1944–45. Revenue receipts, which provided almost nine-tenths of the total, were up 14.2% and nonrevenue receipts 59.0%

The total *cash balance* of all state funds as of March 31, was $98,396,734, an all-time record. The balance in the general fund alone on that date was approximately $29,500,000. It has been estimated that about $40,000,000 will be available in the general fund at the close of the current fiscal year.

CASH RECEIPTS OF STATE COMPTROLLER

Source: State Comptroller of Public Accounts

Item	Mar. 1946	September 1–March 31		
		1945–46	1944–45	Percent change
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS	$31,740,557	$192,647,227	$163,013,580	+18.2
TOTAL REVENUE RECEIPTS	27,376,081	169,465,642	148,480,867	+14.2
Ad valorem, inheritance, and poll taxes	3,059,622	27,038,694	19,636,982	+37.7
Occupation, gross receipts, and production taxes	8,767,969	32,778,020	34,396,371	— 4.7
Use and sales tax	7,608,885	51,645,586	39,533,376	+30.6
License fees and maintenance taxes	1,604,317	4,939,488	4,569,851	+ 8.1
Income from public lands and buildings	1,651,694	9,348,829	7,184,589	+31.0
Interest	802,715	5,604,345	5,536,079	+ 1.2
Miscellaneous revenues	98,065	4,945,532	2,909,935	+70.0
Contributions and aid	3,782,814	33,165,148	34,713,684	— 4.5
NONREVENUE RECEIPTS	4,364,476	23,181,585	14,532,713	+59.0

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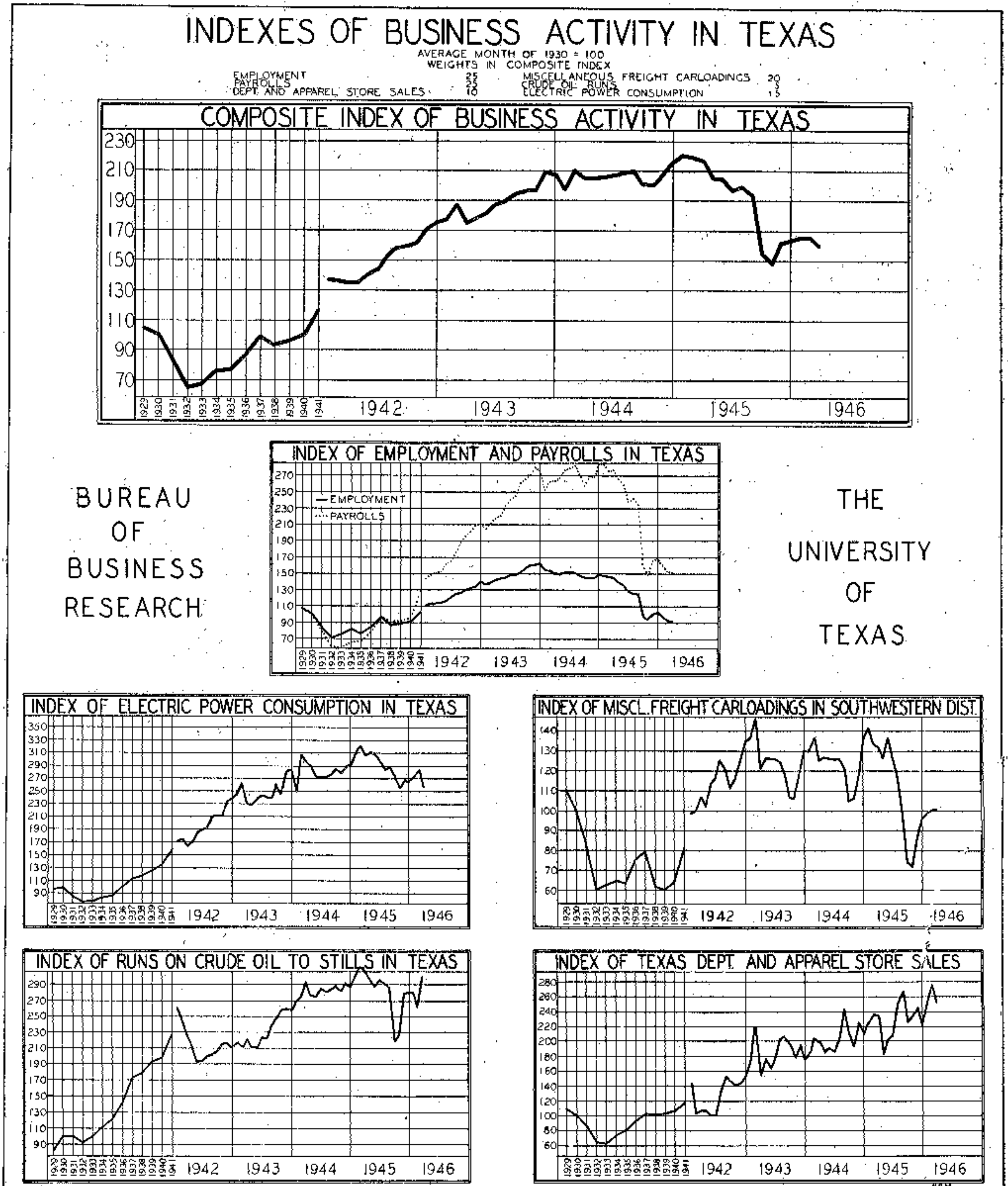
CONTENTS


INDEXES OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN TEXAS
AVERAGE MONTH OF 1930 = 100
WEIGHTS IN COMPOSITE INDEX
EMPLOYMENT 25
PAYROLLS 25
DEPT. AND APPAREL STORE SALES 10
MISCELLANEOUS FREIGHT CARLOADINGS 20
CRUDE OIL RUNS 5
ELECTRIC POWER CONSUMPTION 15
COMPOSITE INDEX OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN TEXAS
1942 1943 1944 1945 1946
BUREAU OF BUSINESS RESEARCH
INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLLS IN TEXAS
EMPLOYMENT
PAYROLLS
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
INDEX OF ELECTRIC POWER CONSUMPTION IN TEXAS
INDEX OF MISCL. FREIGHT CARLOADINGS IN SOUTHWESTERN DIST.
INDEX OF RUNS ON CRUDE OIL TO STILLS IN TEXAS
INDEX OF TEXAS DEPT. AND APPAREL STORE SALES