NEW ORLEANS — Farmers in the South last year sold their products in the cash market valued at over $11.3 billion, nearly a third of the nation's total. This amounted to 4 per cent more than the total received in 1962, and an increase of 26.2 per cent in the past 10 years, the New Orleans field office of the U.S. Department of Commerce reports.

In an analysis of figures compiled by the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Edwin A. Leland Jr., commerce department field director in New Orleans, noted Louisiana led all states of the nation in percentage rate of increase in cash receipts between 1962 and 1963. Mississippi was second in this category.

Returns to farmers in Louisiana for the year 1963 amounted to $493.7 million, for an increase of 14.2 per cent over 1962.

In Mississippi, receipts totaled $768.2 million, representing a gain of 13.1 per cent.

The South's total cash farm income was the nation's second largest regional return, being topped only by the North Central section. Nearly all southern states shared in the gains in the two-year period. Also, between 1953 and 1963—reflecting a 10-year change in farming in all areas—the South led all regions in advance in cash receipts, despite a sharp "disappearance" of many small farms. The South's 26.2 per cent advance during the period compared with 23.5 per cent in the West, 9.5 per cent in the North Central States, and a decline of 7 per cent in the Northeast.