

JANUARY 1956

SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

OFFICE OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS

SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

Vol. 36



No. 1

JANUARY 1956

Contents

	PAGE
THE BUSINESS SITUATION.....	1
Indebtedness of Individuals in 1955.....	2
National Income and Corporate Profits.....	4
Employment, Hours, and Earnings.....	6

★ ★ ★

SPECIAL ARTICLES

Corporate Profits Since World War II.....	8
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MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS....S-1 to S-40

Statistical IndexInside back cover

Published by the U. S. Department of Commerce, SINCLAIR WEEKS, Secretary. Office of Business Economics, M. JOSEPH MEEHAN, Director. Subscription price, including weekly statistical supplement, is \$3.25 a year; foreign mailings, \$4.25. Single copy, 30 cents. Send remittances to any Department of Commerce Field Office or to the Superintendent of Documents, United States Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Special subscription arrangements, including changes of address, should be made directly with the Superintendent of Documents. Make checks payable to Superintendent of Documents.

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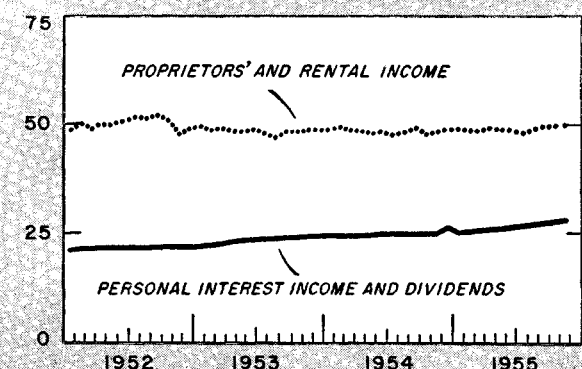
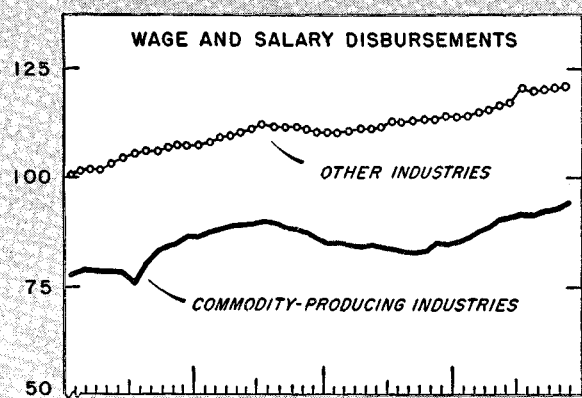
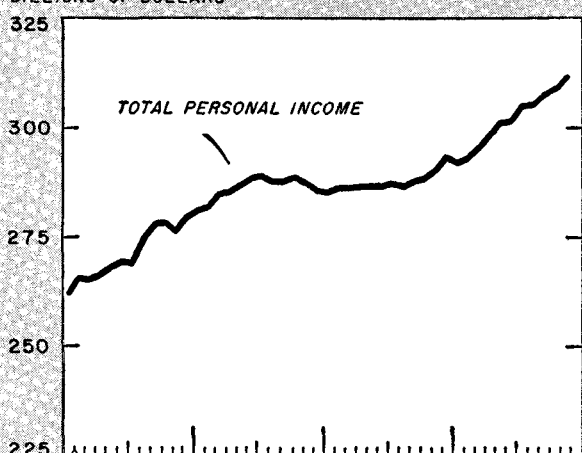
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The Business Situation

By the Office of Business Economics

Personal Income

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS



MONTHLY TOTALS, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, AT ANNUAL RATES

U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics

56-1-1

AGGREGATE demand for goods and services continued strong at the close of 1955 and was being sustained by an expanding flow of income. Investment was at a high rate as business outlays for plant and equipment increased and inventories expanded further. Retail sales were somewhat higher in December than in November, on a seasonally adjusted basis, and 5 percent above December 1954. Reduced activity in some industries in December was offset by expansion elsewhere.

Personal income in November at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$311 billion set another new high mark with a \$2 billion increase over October. Wages and salaries, as shown in the chart on the left, accounted for most of the rise; all of the payroll increase occurred in private industries with half of it ascribable to the automotive industry, one-fourth to other manufacturing and the remainder widely distributed among nonmanufacturing industries.

The advance report of December sales of retail stores recorded a sales total of \$15.9 billion after adjustment for seasonal variations and trading days. Gains relative to previous sales levels were fairly well distributed among major types of durable and nondurable goods stores.

Active demand was also reflected in the strong flow of new orders placed with manufacturers and in a high level of factory sales. Manufacturers' sales in November, seasonally adjusted, aggregated \$27.3 billion, the largest on record. Increases were broadly distributed among major lines. The November volume of seasonally adjusted new orders placed with manufacturers likewise continued large although slightly below the totals received in August and September. Since the order inflow exceeded shipments the backlog of unfilled orders registered the eleventh monthly rise since the low point was reached in November 1954. In this period unfilled orders have increased from \$46.4 billion to \$53.7 billion.

Although sales have been large, merchants' receipts of goods and manufacturers' output have been larger. Replacement costs have also been advancing and the book value of seasonally adjusted business inventories on hand at the end of November was accordingly \$650 million higher than a month earlier. Manufacturers' and trade holdings each accounted for half of the expansion; increases in automobile stocks were important at the retail level.

Industrial output large despite auto cutback

The auto industry has cut back operations in recent weeks in an effort to bring production more in line with the current rate of consumer purchases. The industry assembled a relatively high total of 206,000 passenger cars and trucks in the week ended December 10. Later in the month most Saturday overtime work, which had prevailed in most assembly plants following completion of the model change-over period, was eliminated.

Despite the cutbacks and factory shutdowns during the Christmas holidays, assemblies for December as a whole were in large volume—681,000 passenger cars and 100,000 trucks for a total count of 781,000 units—although down about 10 percent from the near record volume of November. Passenger car production schedules for January call for output moderately below December but about the same as a year ago.

While output of the motor vehicle industry, one of the largest consumers of steel, has been curtailed, demand for steel from other durable goods manufacturers and the construction industry continues strong. Steel mills stepped up operations in early January, following the usual slow-down of the Christmas season, though output was running slightly below the record pre-holiday volume.

Indebtedness of Individuals in 1955

THE EXPANDED demands for housing and new automobiles which were chief features of the past year were to an increased extent financed with the aid of borrowed funds, and individual indebtedness rose by a record amount in 1955. Total residential mortgage and consumer debt outstanding at the end of the year amounted to \$125 billion, or about \$19½ billion more than at the end of 1954. Of this increase \$13½ billion was accounted for by mortgages and \$6 billion by short- and intermediate-term credit. At the same time individuals recorded new highs in their spending for housing and for durable consumer goods which are in large part normally bought on time.

New residential nonfarm construction in 1955 approximated \$16½ billion, up \$3 billion from 1954. Consumer expenditures for durable goods totaled about \$35½ billion last year, compared with \$29.3 billion in the preceding 12 months.

Individuals also added substantially to their financial resources in 1955. For the year ended September 30, new accumulations of cash, deposits, securities and insurance totaled \$22 billion, about \$5 billion more than in the preceding 12-month period. The volume of liquid savings in forms other than U. S. securities was about the same in these 2 periods. In the case of Federal issues, individuals added about \$2 billion in the 1954-1955 period in contrast to a net liquidation of almost \$3 billion in the previous year.

Installment credit up over \$5 billion

One of the major changes in the borrowing picture in 1955 reflected the stepped up demand for consumer durable goods in general, and more especially for new automobiles. Total installment credit, used principally in the buying of consumer

durables, amounted to over \$27½ billion at the end of 1955, representing an increase of roughly \$5½ billion during the year. This is in contrast to the preceding year when new installment loans made were about matched by repayments on existing debt (chart on page 3).

The rise in automobile paper was particularly pronounced in 1955, accounting for almost \$4 billion, or nearly three-fourths, of the total increase in installment credit. The major part of the gain in automobile credit occurred in the first 9 months of the year when the expansion reached an annual rate of over \$4 billion, an all time high. In the latter part of the year the annual rate of increase in this credit was cut to \$2 billion as automobile purchases slackened somewhat and terms of credit apparently stabilized.

While the major factor in the rise in installment debt in 1955 was the increased sale of consumer durables, the liberalization of credit terms was also important. Terms of credit had eased considerably following the end of credit controls in 1952 and this trend was continued into 1955 featuring particularly a lengthening of maturities on new automobile credit. In many instances 36-month repayment schedules replaced 24-month terms, and even 42-month maturities were reported. Though nominal downpayments were generally maintained, cash payments often included substantial overallowances on trade-ins so that initial equities placed on new car purchases were lower than stated cash requirements.

A larger average loan was also more typical on new cars bought in 1955, reflecting purchase of higher priced cars, extra equipment installed and somewhat higher finance charges. In this latter connection, it may be noted, the generally tight conditions in short-term money markets

Table 1.—Disposable Personal Income and Short- and Intermediate-Term Consumer Credit Outstanding

Year	Disposable personal income	Consumer credit at year end—Billions of dollars					Consumer credit as a percentage of disposable personal income				
		Total	Installment credit			Noninstallment	Total	Installment paper			Noninstallment
			Total	Automobile	Other			Total	Automobile	Other	
1929.....	83.1	6.4	3.2	n. a.	n. a.	3.3	7.8	3.8	n. a.	n. a.	4.
1939.....	70.4	7.2	4.5	1.5	3.0	2.7	10.3	6.4	2.1	4.3	3.
1941.....	93.0	9.2	6.1	2.5	3.6	3.1	9.9	6.5	2.6	3.9	3.
1945.....	150.4	5.7	2.5	.5	2.0	3.2	3.8	1.6	.3	1.3	2.
1948.....	187.6	14.4	9.0	3.1	5.9	5.4	7.7	4.8	1.6	3.2	2.
1949.....	188.2	17.1	11.5	4.7	6.8	5.6	9.1	6.1	2.5	3.6	3.
1950.....	206.1	20.8	14.5	6.3	8.2	6.3	10.1	7.0	3.1	3.9	3.
1951.....	226.1	21.5	14.8	6.2	8.6	6.6	9.5	6.6	2.8	3.8	2.
1952.....	236.7	25.8	18.7	8.1	10.6	7.1	10.9	7.9	3.4	4.5	3.
1953.....	250.4	29.5	22.2	10.3	11.9	7.3	11.8	8.9	4.1	4.8	2.
1954.....	254.8	30.1	22.5	10.4	12.1	7.7	11.8	8.8	4.1	4.7	3.
1955 ¹	269.4	36.2	27.8	14.3	13.5	8.4	13.4	10.3	5.3	5.0	3.

n. a.—Not available.

1. Preliminary. Credit data are estimated by Council of Economic advisers.

Source Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics, except as noted.

meant that finance companies paid substantially higher interest rates in 1955 for funds borrowed to meet customers demands.

The easing of downpayments and lengthening of terms were influential in raising the proportion of new cars bought on time. Whereas in 1954 this proportion was estimated at roughly three-fifths, it is estimated at close to two-thirds for the past year.

The extent to which consumer's acquisitions of automobiles differed from their cash outlays is indicated by noting the net change in automobile credit outstanding in relation to consumer spending. These data are shown below for the postwar years.

Change in Automobile Installment Credit

Year	Bil- lions of dollars	As a percent of consump- tion expendi- tures for au- tomobiles
1946-----	.5	21.6
1947-----	.9	20.6
1948-----	1.1	20.0
1949-----	1.6	21.2
1950-----	1.6	16.3
1951-----	-.1	-1.2
1952-----	1.9	22.8
1953-----	2.2	20.8
1954-----	.1	.5
1955-----	3.9	27.5

Whereas there was practically no net change in automobile credit outstanding in 1954, the increase of \$4 billion this past year was equivalent to more than one-fourth of related consumption expenditures during the year, the highest ratio for any postwar year.

Other installment debt

Use of credit in the purchase of other consumer goods also expanded in 1955 but the changes in outstanding debt connected with such buying were not so striking as in the case of automobiles. Nonautomotive installment credit outstanding amounted to roughly \$13½ billion at the end of 1955, up about \$1½ billion from a year earlier. While the absolute and relative increase in this type of loan was far less sharp than in the case of automobile credit, it is of interest to note that the expansion has been relatively steady throughout the year, and unlike automotive credit, no signs of tapering were evident in the later months of 1955.

As may be seen in the accompanying chart the rapid expansion of consumer installment credit in 1955 was a result of a substantial rise in new borrowing, exceeding the increase in repayments on existing contracts. Total installment credit extensions in the first 11 months of 1955 were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$37 billion, \$7.3 billion or one-fifth above 1954. Over this same period, repayments also rose but by a smaller amount, from \$29 billion to \$31½ billion. In the 1953-54 period a moderate letup in borrowing combined with continued expansion of repayments had resulted in only a minor net change in outstanding credit during 1954.

The rising tendency in repayments in the recent period continues a trend that has persisted throughout the postwar period. For the most part this growth reflects, with a lag, the almost steady expansion of outstanding debt. In view of the sharp rise in extensions last year, it may be expected that repayments will continue to increase in the months immediately ahead. Thus, the trend in credit outstanding in the near-term will depend on volume of new loans made.

Credit related to income

The relationship of outstanding consumer credit to personal disposable income is placed in historical perspective in table 1 for the total of credit and its various components.

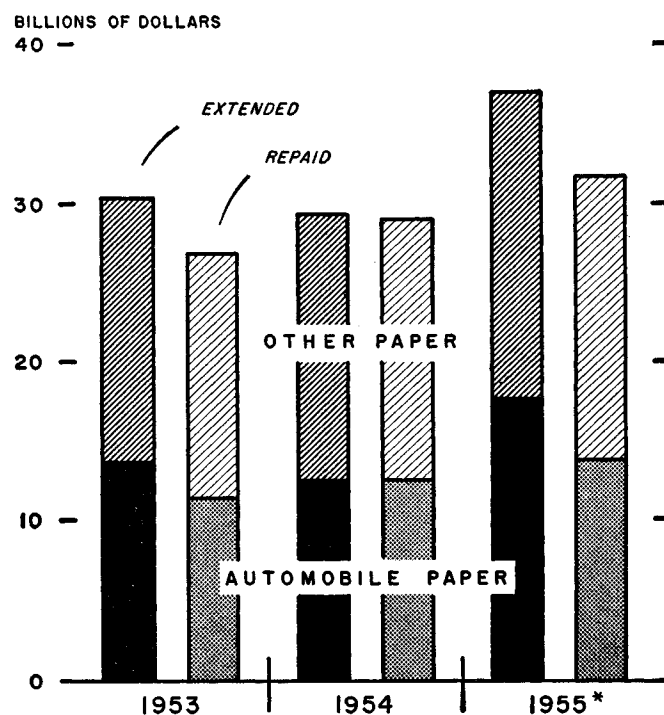
As may be seen, total outstanding credit is currently considerably higher relative to income than in any previous year. It should be noted that all of this relative gain in debt is attributable to the installment credit segment, and more particularly to automotive paper. There has been practically no change in the relation of noninstallment debt to income in recent years and the current ratio is below that of 1929. Even in the case of nonautomotive installment debt, the ratio to income is only moderately above prewar. The postwar rise in the automotive credit relative to income would appear to reflect in good part a long continuing trend toward the greater use of borrowed funds in the purchase of automobiles.

Mortgage debt up by \$13 billion

Unlike short- and intermediate-term credit, which has tended to reflect changes in the demand picture fairly quickly, mortgage debt has risen continuously and at a rapid rate throughout the postwar period. As indicated earlier the estimated volume of mortgage debt on 1- to 4-family nonfarm houses amounted to \$89 billion at the end of 1955, \$13½ billion higher than a year earlier. This compares with the average annual increase of \$7 billion in the last decade. Because of the relatively long average maturity of this debt, and the consequently lower proportion being paid off at any given time, repayments have tended to rise over time at a rather slow but steady pace. Thus, short-term changes in outstanding debt tend to reflect primarily the volume of new mortgage lending.

Nonfarm mortgage recordings in 1955 were over \$28 billion, \$5½ billion more than in 1954. The large volume of recordings in the postwar period as a whole has reflected not only the high level of new construction but also the extremely active markets for existing housing and the increased prices at which this housing has been transferred. These conditions have been fostered primarily by the favorable postwar finan-

Consumer Installment Credit



* Eleven months, seas. adj., at annual rates

DATA: FRB

U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics

56-1-2

cial position of individuals, which has been sustained by rising incomes and increased ownership of liquid resources. Other factors in the steady rise in mortgage debt have been the increasing trend to home ownership, wider acceptance of the use of mortgage financing, and the generally liberal terms on which mortgage loans could be negotiated.

These conditions apparently continued to operate in 1955, although as the year developed steps were taken to halt the trend to easier credit. The "no-no downpayment" loan (that which required no cash either for closing fees or initial equity payment) was prohibited on guaranteed loans last spring and at the end of July a cash downpayment of at least 2 percent was required on all but special cases of Veterans Administration loans. At the same time, loan durations were limited to no more than 25-year maturity, whereas prior to the new requirement loans of 30 years or more were coming into more frequent use. The Federal Home Loan Bank Board also restricted the availability of the system's credit, beginning late last summer. During the year ending last September 30 this credit had increased by \$600 million, to a total of \$1.3 billion on that date.

With demand for mortgage money extremely heavy in

1955, the general firming of long-term interest rates was reflected in somewhat higher yields demanded on mortgages. Discounts on fixed interest Federal Housing Administration mortgages, for example, were quoted at almost 2 percentage points in late 1955. This compares with discounts of less than 1 percentage point in early 1955, the low point for the recent period. The highs in such discounts were reported in late 1953 when long-term interest rates were at or close to the postwar peak.

In the past, changes in long-term money rates have been quickly reflected in requests for government underwritten mortgage financing. Requests for VA appraisals on new homes had risen sharply in 1954 when mortgage funds were freely available and this trend was maintained through the early months of 1955. Requests fell off in the third quarter, averaging about 5 percent below the comparable period in 1954, and the total for October and November was down by more than one-fifth from a year ago.

A similar pattern prevailed in applications to FHA. Applications in early 1955 remained at or close to the record number received in 1954, but thereafter there was a steady decline, and since last September the drop from a year earlier has been more than one-third.

National Income and Corporate Profits

NATIONAL INCOME in the first three-quarters of 1955 was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate just under \$320 billion, up 6½ percent from the previous year. The expansion which began in the autumn of 1954 continued in the third quarter, when the annual rate approached \$326 billion. This figure was 9 percent above that for the third quarter of 1954.

By comparison with the 1954 totals, last year's 9-month annual rates indicate expansion in nearly all industrial divisions (table 2). Manufacturing and mining recorded increases of more than one-tenth, as did the net inflow of earnings from abroad. Income in the communications and public utilities division was up about 7 percent, and the relative advances in transportation, trade, finance and services were only a little smaller. The estimated annual rate for agriculture through September, however, was somewhat below that for the year 1954.

All major types of income have participated in the recent expansion (table 3). The largest income share, compensation of employees, attained a seasonally adjusted rate of \$224 billion in the third quarter. Like national income, employee compensation recorded a new high in each successive quarter of last year through the third, and its rate for the first nine months was more than 5 percent above that for 1954.

Net income of business and professional proprietors also continued its pattern of successive quarterly advances, reaching an annual rate of \$27½ billion for the third quarter and a rate for the nine months which was 4½ percent higher than the 1954 total. Rental income of persons was also up last year. Most of these gains were offset in their effect on total proprietors' and rental income, however, by the decline in earnings of farm proprietors.

Net interest expanded further as the total of outstanding debt obligations increased.

The sharpest changes from 1954 to 1955 were those in corporate profits, which showed a vigorous recovery last year. Profits before taxes, adjusted for normal seasonal change and for inventory valuation, reached an annual rate above \$41 billion for the first nine months. This figure compares with totals of \$37 billion in 1953 and \$34 billion in 1954.

After declining from \$40½ billion in the second quarter of 1953 to around \$32 billion at the beginning of 1954 and remaining near this rate during most of the year, the total advanced progressively to over \$42 billion in the second quarter of last year, and held close to this all time high in the third quarter.

It is of interest to note that a similarly sharp advance in corporate earnings from domestic business activity, apart from the net foreign balance which is also included in the table 3 values, has almost restored the 1952 relationship of profits to employee compensation within the corporate segment of the economy. After adjustment for inventory valuation, profits amounted to about 22½ percent of total income originating in U. S. corporations in the first 9 months of 1955, the ratio having previously declined from 23 percent in 1952 to 21½ percent in 1953 and 20 percent in 1954. Variations in this ratio over the past 3 decades are analyzed elsewhere in this issue of the SURVEY.

The 1953-55 swing of before-tax profits unadjusted for inventory valuation was a little sharper than that described above for the adjusted series, since net inventory gains resulting from changing replacement costs contributed \$1 billion to the annual rate of book profits in the peak second quarter of 1953 and \$2½ billion in the third quarter of 1955 but were negligible at the interim low point. The rise in book profits, like that in earnings adjusted for inventory valuation, slowed after the first quarter of last year. The further advances made in the second and third quarters, however, were sufficient to carry book profits to a 4-year high, at an annual rate of \$44½ billion. This level had been exceeded only in late 1950 and early 1951, when the post-Korean price advances had involved inventory gains estimated at annual rates approaching \$10 billion.

The overall effective rate of taxes on income having been substantially unchanged since the excess profits tax expired at the end of 1953, the rise of one-fourth in the annual rate of profits before taxes from 1954 to the first nine months of last year was mirrored in profits after taxes. These rose from a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$17 billion in the earlier period to over \$21 billion in the later. This 1955 level compares with a total of \$22 billion reached in 1950,

Table 2.—National Income by Industrial Origin, 1952-55

[Billions of dollars]

	1952	1953	1954	1955—first 9 months seasonally adjusted at annual rates
All industries, total	289.5	303.6	299.7	319.3
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.....	18.7	16.8	16.6	15.7
Mining.....	5.4	5.6	5.2	5.8
Contract construction.....	14.6	15.3	15.7	16.2
Manufacturing.....	89.3	96.7	89.9	100.6
Wholesale and retail trade.....	50.1	51.8	52.0	54.9
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	24.4	26.3	27.9	29.3
Transportation.....	15.4	15.9	14.6	15.4
Communications and public utilities.....	9.1	10.1	10.8	11.5
Services.....	26.6	28.7	29.8	31.3
Government and government enterprises.....	34.4	35.1	35.3	36.8
Rest of the world.....	1.5	1.4	1.8	1.9

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

the best previous year, and was significantly above the annual totals attained under the Korean-war tax rates of 1951-53.

The postwar uptrend of dividends continued during 1954 while after-tax profits temporarily leveled off, so that undistributed income dipped in that year. For January-September 1955 retained profits are estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$10½ billion, more than 50 percent above the 1954 total and three-eighths higher than in 1953. Undistributed profits advanced each quarter from late 1954 through the third quarter of 1955, the sharpest rise having occurred around the turn of the year.

The industry pattern of profits before tax is shown without adjustment for seasonal variation in table 4. The January-September 1955 total was \$7½ billion higher than in 1954. Three-fifths of this expansion was in manufacturing, the remainder being widely distributed industrially. Percentage-wise, the sharpest gains were in transportation, durable-goods manufacturing, and mining. The profits effect of the 1953-54 readjustment had been largely concentrated in these groups, and most of their upswing through the third quarter of last year may be viewed as a recovery following previous declines. As the table suggests, however, there was also some net expansion beyond the 1953 peaks in manufacturing and mining. The communications and public utilities division and the "all other" group likewise showed higher 9-month

Table 4.—Corporate Profits Before Tax, by Major Industries

[Billions of dollars, unadjusted for seasonal variation]

	First 9 months		
	1953	1954	1955
All industries, total	30.5	24.9	32.3
Mining.....	1.0	.9	1.2
Manufacturing.....	17.5	13.4	18.1
Durable goods industries.....	10.6	7.5	10.8
Nondurable goods industries.....	6.9	5.9	7.3
Transportation.....	1.4	.7	1.1
Communications and public utilities.....	2.5	2.6	3.0
All other industries.....	8.1	7.2	8.9

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

profits totals last year than in 1953, after an interim dip for the latter industries and some slowing in 1954 in the growth of the former. Transportation approached its 1953 level despite a very sharp rise last year in outlays for railway maintenance.

In durable-goods manufacturing, the auto and primary metals groups together accounted for over two-thirds of the \$3 billion rise from January-September 1954 to the same period of last year. There were sharp gains also in lumber and in the stone, clay and glass group, which have benefited from the strong demand for construction materials, and moderate advances in substantially all other lines. From the second quarter of 1955 to the third, greater than seasonal strength was apparent in the machinery industries and in transportation equipment, while auto profits were markedly lower as production was curtailed for the model changeover.

The total for the nondurables was up \$1½ billion or 25 percent for the January-September period. The chemicals group recorded a one-third increase to account for nearly two-fifths of this dollar advance. There were similar percentage gains in leather and rubber; and the textile group, which had shown a particularly severe drop from 1953 to 1954, rebounded sharply last year. Other nondurables industries reported profits up by 10-25 percent for the 9 months. It appears that third-quarter profits were quite generally as high or higher than those of the preceding quarter, allowing roughly for normal seasonal variation.

Table 3.—National Income, by Type, 1952-55

[Billions of dollars]

	1952	1953	1954	Seasonally adjusted at annual rates						
				1954				1955		
				I	II	III	IV	I	II	III
National income.....	289.5	303.6	299.7	297.7	298.9	298.7	303.2	311.4	320.7	325.7
Compensation of employees.....	195.3	209.2	207.9	206.7	207.2	207.8	209.8	213.1	219.5	224.3
Wages and salaries.....	185.1	198.5	196.2	195.2	195.6	196.1	198.1	200.8	207.0	211.3
Supplements to wages and salaries.....	10.2	10.8	11.7	11.5	11.6	11.7	11.8	12.2	12.5	13.0
Proprietors' and rental income ¹	49.9	48.4	48.4	49.0	48.2	48.3	48.2	48.8	48.7	48.8
Business and professional.....	25.7	25.9	25.9	25.3	25.9	26.0	26.3	26.6	27.1	27.6
Farm.....	14.3	12.3	12.0	13.2	11.9	11.7	11.2	11.5	11.0	10.6
Rental income of persons.....	9.9	10.3	10.5	10.4	10.5	10.6	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7
Corporate profits and inventory valuation adjustment.....	36.9	37.2	33.8	32.6	34.0	33.1	35.5	39.6	42.2	41.9
Corporate profits before tax.....	35.9	38.3	34.0	32.7	33.7	33.5	36.0	40.9	43.0	44.5
Corporate profits tax liability.....	19.8	21.3	17.1	16.4	16.9	16.8	18.1	20.5	21.6	22.3
Corporate profits after tax.....	16.1	17.0	17.0	16.3	16.8	16.7	17.9	20.4	21.4	22.2
Inventory valuation adjustment.....	1.0	-1.1	-2.2	-2.2	.2	-5	-5	-1.3	-8	-2.6
Net interest.....	7.4	8.8	9.5	9.4	9.5	9.5	9.7	9.9	10.3	10.7

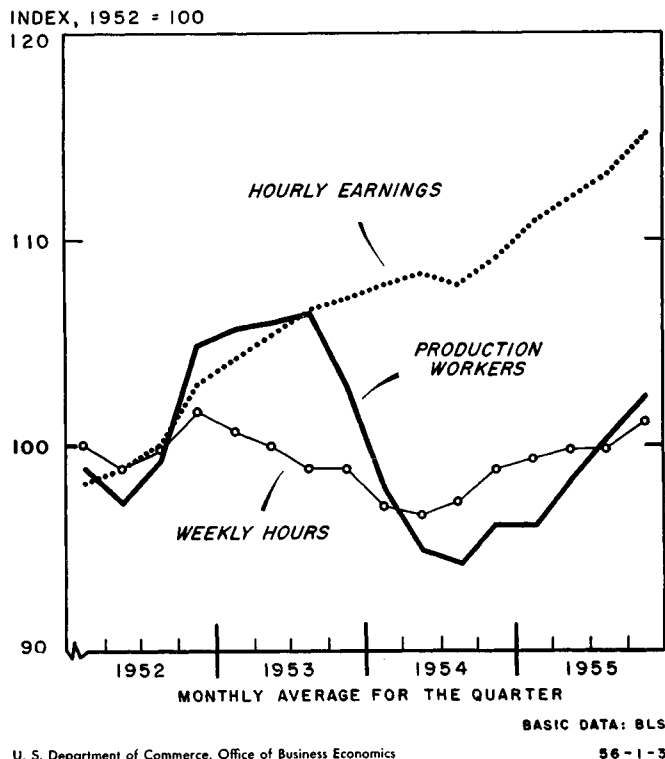
¹ Includes noncorporate inventory valuation adjustment.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

Employment, Hours, and Earnings

EMPLOYMENT at the close of 1955 was at an all time peak and involuntary part-time work and unemployment were sharply reduced. The factory workweek in the final quarter was the longest in 3 years. Increases in average hourly earnings in both manufacturing and nonmanufacturing industries reflected pervasive wage raises and substantial premium pay for overtime.

Factory Employment, Hours, and Earnings



Wage and salary disbursements in November were at the unprecedented seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$215 billion. After deductions for social insurance, payrolls accounted for three-fourths of the 7 percent increase in total personal income from November 1954. The rising flow of personal income has been a basic element in the strong demand for goods and services that has pushed national output to new highs.

Nonagricultural employment gains continue

The sustained rise of more than a year in employees of nonagricultural establishments continued in the final quarter of 1955. In December the total reached 51.2 million, 1.7 million above a year earlier. Allowing for seasonal influences, nonagricultural employment in December was 1 million higher than the previous peak in mid-1953. The increase of over 500,000 from November to December, however, fell short of the usual seasonal rise by 150,000.

More than half of the increase in nonagricultural employees from December 1954 to December 1955 occurred in manufacturing. The rise of about 900,000 brought the manufacturing total to 17 million though it was still about 500,000 below the seasonally adjusted mid-1953 peak when defense employment was substantially higher than at present.

Employment in nonmanufacturing industries, following a period of stability in 1954, rose about 750,000 during the year ending December 1955. Gains were rather general in most of the major industry groups. The number employed in trade, transportation, and public utilities, after leveling off in 1954, rose about 500,000 during the year ending December 1955. Finance, service, and State and local government employment continued the rising trend of recent years. Following some decline during 1954, little change occurred in the number of contract construction employees, and mining employment was also stable during 1955 in contrast to a persistent decline for the past several years. Federal employment was about the same in December 1954 and December 1955.

Factory employment gains widespread

Manufacturing employment by December had regained nearly three-fourths of the decline which had occurred in late 1953 and 1954. Most of the industries which had previously curtailed employment of production workers reported significant advances in 1955. Expansion which began in the automobile and supporting industries late in 1954 soon extended to all segments of consumer goods production. Employment advances in machinery and railroad equipment, and further increases in primary and fabricated metals, reflected the growing volume of orders for new plant and equipment. In December, however, employment in both durable and nondurable goods industries eased slightly on a seasonally adjusted basis, largely because of declines in food, tobacco, and stone, clay, and glass products.

Some exception to the broad pattern of decline and recovery is to be noted in employment in the industries most closely associated with defense activity. Ordnance and shipbuilding, particularly, are far below their 1953 levels. Aircraft and instruments experienced smaller reductions, followed by some recovery more recently.

Nondurable goods

Production worker total employment in nondurable goods increased about 3 percent between December 1954 and December 1955 but remained below that of most earlier postwar years. Apparel, paper, printing, chemicals, rubber and leather added 5 percent or more to their work forces during 1955. The other groups showed only minor seasonal fluctuations during the course of the year except the small tobacco group which has been losing workers. The textile industry, despite a slight advance during the year, employed considerably fewer workers in 1955 than the average of the postwar period. Employment in the printing and paper industries, on the other hand, reached new highs during the final quarter of 1955.

Average Weekly Hours in Manufacturing

	Fourth quarter			
	1952	1953	1954	1955
Manufacturing.....	41.5	40.2	40.2	41.2
Durable goods.....	42.2	40.8	40.8	41.9
Nondurable goods.....	40.3	39.2	39.5	40.4

In the final quarter of 1955 the average factory workweek exceeded 41 hours, a full hour more than in the corresponding period a year earlier. In a few industries, output for most of the period was near capacity with existing shift arrangements, so that extension of hours was an alternative to the operating problems associated with adding a new shift. In other industries, operations were below capacity, but the recent rise in backlogs at a time when some shortages were developing in key skills and supervisory staffs tended to restrict recruitment. In still others the rise in hours reflected special seasonal demands.

In the automobile industry, where substantial overtime was involved following the introduction of new models, a reduction in the workweek occurred near the year-end as manufacturers moved to hold down the number of automobiles in the hands of dealers.

Table 5.—Employees in Nonagricultural Establishments

[Seasonally adjusted]

Industry	Number of employees (thousands)				Percent change		
	July		December		July 1953- July 1954	July 1954- Dec. 1955 P	Dec. 1954- Dec. 1955 P
	1953	1954	1954	1955 P			
All Employees							
Nonagriculture, total	49,949	48,048	48,380	50,031	-3.8	4.1	3.4
Manufacturing	17,488	15,733	15,992	16,920	-10.0	7.5	5.8
Nonmanufacturing	32,461	32,315	32,388	33,111	-0.4	2.5	2.2
Mining	858	768	743	749	-10.5	-2.5	0.8
Construction	2,612	2,534	2,476	2,445	-3.0	-3.5	-1.3
Transportation and public utilities	4,249	4,000	3,986	4,130	-5.9	3.3	3.6
Trade	10,539	10,480	10,575	10,873	-0.6	3.8	2.8
Finance	2,049	2,118	2,147	2,236	3.4	5.6	4.1
Service	5,566	5,670	5,644	5,710	1.9	0.7	1.2
Government	6,588	6,745	6,817	6,968	2.4	3.3	2.2
Federal			2,155	2,161			0.3
State and local			4,662	4,807			3.1
Production Workers							
Manufacturing	14,037	12,337	12,580	13,351	-12.1	8.2	6.1
Durable goods	8,296	6,979	7,177	7,797	-15.9	11.7	8.6
Ordnance and accessories	192	104	97	84	-45.8	-19.2	-13.4
Lumber and wood products	704	572	674	688	-18.8	20.3	2.1
Furniture and fixtures	328	286	291	315	-12.8	10.1	8.2
Stone, clay, and glass products	465	430	435	464	-7.5	7.9	6.7
Primary metals	1,155	979	997	1,150	-15.2	17.5	15.3
Fabricated metals	961	834	835	898	-13.2	7.7	7.5
Machinery (except electrical)	1,310	1,122	1,095	1,216	-14.4	8.4	11.0
Electrical machinery	946	778	793	857	-17.8	10.2	8.1
Transportation equipment	1,562	1,279	1,375	1,510	-18.1	18.1	9.8
Instruments and related products	248	218	216	224	-12.1	2.8	3.7
Miscellaneous manufactures	425	377	369	391	-11.3	3.7	6.0
Nondurable goods	5,741	5,358	5,403	5,554	-6.7	3.7	2.8
Food and kindred products	1,138	1,092	1,094	1,078	-4.0	-1.3	-1.5
Tobacco manufactures	97	95	93	86	-2.1	-9.5	-7.5
Textile-mill products	1,110	970	968	984	-12.6	1.4	1.7
Apparel and allied products	1,116	1,030	1,057	1,120	-7.7	8.7	6.0
Paper and allied products	449	442	435	457	-1.6	3.4	5.1
Printing and publishing	511	513	511	527	0.4	2.7	3.1
Chemicals and allied products	558	528	531	554	-5.4	4.9	4.3
Products of petroleum and coal	188	179	173	169	-4.8	-5.6	-2.3
Rubber products	226	176	204	230	-22.1	30.7	12.7
Leather and leather products	348	333	337	349	-4.3	4.8	3.6

• Preliminary. NOTE.—Data for July 1954 reflect strikes in rubber and lumber industries.
Source of data: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Characteristically there has been less fluctuation in hours among nonmanufacturing industries than in manufacturing over the past few years and more evidence of the long-term tendency for hours to decline gradually. Thus, in retail trade, hours in 1955 were about the same as in the 2 preceding

years and moderately below earlier years. Similarly, the workweeks in contract construction, metal mining, and most service industries were significantly shorter than the highs attained 2 to 3 years earlier.

In retail trade, construction, gas and electric utilities, and the service industries, average hours worked during the first 10 months of the last 3 years have tended downward. However, in mining and on the railroads, industries closely associated with industrial output, hours moved up sharply during 1955—in bituminous coal mining by more than 5 hours. The extension of the workweek of the telephone industry stems from an accumulated backlog of installation and maintenance work and storm damage.

Average gross hourly earnings in manufacturing have been rising with little interruption throughout the postwar period. The rate of advance was slight from mid-1953 to mid-1954, but has since accelerated.

The relative increases in average hourly earnings over the past 2 to 2½ years have been about the same in durable goods manufacturing, nondurable goods manufacturing, and the nonmanufacturing groups for which data are available, but the timing has been different. Between July 1954 and December 1955, average hourly earnings advanced about 5 percent in nondurable goods manufacturing and 8 percent in durables with the rate of increase in durables accelerating in the latter part of 1955 after settlements in the automobile and steel industries. During the 12 months ending with July 1954, however, hourly earnings in nondurables had risen more than durables. Since July 1953, consequently, there has been little difference in the relative rise experienced in the 2 sectors—9½ percent in durables and nearly 9 percent in nondurables.

In manufacturing, straight-time average hourly earnings adjusted for changes in purchasing power increased by about 4 percent during 1955. This is exclusive of fringe benefits such as employer contributions for pensions and welfare funds, which are not included in wage payrolls. The measure does include pay for time not actually worked—such as for vacations, holidays, travel time, rest periods, and other compensated leave. Average weekly factory earnings in December reached \$79.90, a new high in take-home pay after adjustment for changes in living costs and Federal income and social security taxes.

Table 6.—Gross Average Hourly Earnings in Selected Industries

Industry	Average hourly earnings				Percent change		
	1953	1954	1954	1955	July 1953- July 1954	July 1953- Dec. 1955	Dec. 1954- Dec. 1955
Manufacturing	\$1.77	\$1.80	\$1.83	\$1.93	1.7	9.0	5.5
Durable goods	1.88	1.91	1.95	2.06	1.6	9.6	5.6
Nondurable goods	1.61	1.67	1.67	1.75	3.7	8.7	4.7
	July		October		July 1953- July 1954	July 1953- Oct. 1955	Oct. 1954- Oct. 1955
Contract construction	\$2.41	\$2.52	\$2.56	\$2.63	4.6	9.1	2.7
Building	2.47	2.55	2.63	2.70	4.5	9.3	2.7
Nonbuilding	2.22	2.31	2.33	2.40	4.1	8.1	3.0
Bituminous coal mining	2.47	2.48	2.48	2.67	0.4	8.1	7.7
Petroleum and natural gas production	2.24	2.28	2.26	2.36	1.8	5.4	4.4
Telephone	1.65	1.75	1.81	1.84	6.1	11.5	1.7
Gas and electric utilities	1.95	2.02	2.07	2.14	3.6	9.7	3.4
Retail trade	1.41	1.47	1.47	1.52	4.3	7.8	3.4
Wholesale trade	1.78	1.84	1.85	1.93	3.4	8.4	4.3
Hotels	.91	.96	.98	1.00	5.5	9.9	2.0
Laundries	.98	1.00	1.00	1.01	2.0	3.1	1.0
Cleaning and dyeing plants	1.14	1.18	1.19	1.20	3.5	5.3	0.8
Railway wages (Class I)	1.86	1.93	1.94	1.98	3.8	6.5	2.1

Source of data: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, except ICC for railway wages. December 1955 data are preliminary.

Corporate Profits Since World War II

CORPORATE profits have averaged around one-eighth of the national income in the postwar period, and have fluctuated much more than the total during short-term business swings. They make up one-fourth to one-fifth of total income originating in corporations, which in turn represents more than half of all productive activity in the United States.

This article reviews three aspects of postwar profits experience: the industrial pattern; the relationship of profits to aggregate income arising in corporate business; and the shifts in corporate revenue and costs.

The profits component of national income, shown in the top line of table 1, is measured before deduction of income taxes, since the total including taxes is considered to be earned in production. It is adjusted to take out gains and losses arising from changes in replacement costs of inventories, since these are not considered to result from current production. To the large extent to which profits however measured depend on the level of output, any underlying regularity in their behavior emerges most clearly in terms of this measure, unobscured by the effect of tax rate changes or by what are in effect short-term capital gains and losses on inventory account.¹ It does not, of course, represent the amount available for distribution to stockholders or reinvestment, which in recent years has been cut roughly in half by corporate income taxes.

Course of total profits

Corporate earnings before tax, adjusted to eliminate inventory profits and losses, had moved up annually from 1939 to 1943 at a gradually decelerating pace, turned downward in 1944 and dipped sharply in 1945. After some further decline in the following year a new period of expansion began. The advance was most rapid in 1947 and 1948. Following the 1949 setback, it was resumed at a somewhat slower rate and continued through 1951, when earnings were two-thirds above the wartime peak. From 1951 through late 1954, the general trend seems to have been downward—the 1952 and 1954 dips having much exceeded the minor advance of 1953 on an annual basis. A new upswing followed, and the quarterly highs of 1951 and 1953 have been surpassed in the second and third quarters of 1955, as noted elsewhere in this issue of the *SURVEY*.

Aside from the effects of variations in earnings so defined, after-tax profits as shown in table 1 have also fluctuated with inventory gains and losses and of course with changes in tax rates. Inventory gains were particularly important in 1946, 1947, and 1950, contributing between \$5 billion and \$6 billion to before-tax book profits in the first two of these years and nearly \$5 billion, or close to one-eighth of the total, in 1950. While considerably larger last year than in 1954, they remained far below the levels of these earlier years.

1. All the profits series utilized in this article exclude other capital gains and losses, are based on "book" depreciation charges, and are measured before the deduction of depletion. For other definitional aspects of the series and a detailed discussion of the inventory valuation adjustment, see the 1954 *National Income* supplement.

The average effective rate of Federal, State and local taxes on corporate net income declined sharply from 1945 to 1946, but rose again with the outbreak of war in Korea. In the 1951–53 period it varied around 55 percent, a fraction approaching the highest of World War II. With the Revenue Act of 1954, this rate was cut back to roundly 50 percent, a figure about midway between the 1950 and 1951 levels.

After-tax profits therefore rose somewhat more steeply than did profits before taxes from 1945 to 1950, reached a peak in the latter year, and declined in 1951. The total was stable on an annual basis in 1953–54, the cut in before-tax income being cushioned by the reduction in tax rates, and the net decline from 1951 to 1954 amounted to under 10 percent, less than in either adjusted or unadjusted profits before taxes. In 1955, with national income at a record high, after-tax profits rose to a level above that of any prior year except 1950.

Inventory gains and losses and corporate income taxes will receive some further consideration in the last part of this article.

POSTWAR INDUSTRY PATTERN OF PROFITS

Major postwar fluctuations in aggregate profits have been chiefly dominated by manufacturing, which alone accounts for over half the total, and to a lesser extent by transportation, mining and trade. The relatively volatile profits of these industry divisions have gone through several marked swings while the total of profits in the remaining industry divisions has moved rather consistently upward. (See table 2 and the accompanying chart.)

Manufacturing

Manufacturing profits—before taxes and inclusive of the inventory valuation adjustment—rose from \$8½ billion in 1946, their postwar low, and nearly \$13 billion in 1947 to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of close to \$23 billion in the first three quarters of 1955. An interim peak of almost \$24 billion in 1951 reflected price and production advances following the invasion of Korea in June 1950, at a time when the economy had already substantially recovered from the 1949 recession.

Considerable industrial variation in the timing and pace of change underlay these movements. Contrasts between the durable and nondurable goods industries were marked throughout, and especially in the early postwar period through 1950. Having fallen sharply during the postwar reconversion, when total earnings of nondurable goods manufacturers were rising, durables profits advanced much more than the nondurables in each year from 1947 through 1950.

NOTE.—MR. OSBORNE AND MR. EPSTEIN ARE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL INCOME DIVISION, OFFICE OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS.

The disparity in growth between these two sectors of manufacturing was the result partly of their relative positions at the end of the war and partly of differences in the character of the demand for their products during the years following.

Having been more heavily committed to war production, the durable goods industries in general were the harder hit by the sharp cuts in Government procurement programs toward the end of the war. In 1945, earnings in durable and nondurable goods industries were down 44 percent and 12 percent, respectively, from the war peaks. Reconversion depressed profits in the durables lines still further, from \$4½ billion in 1945 to just over \$2 billion in 1946. The nondurables industries were able to shift over to peacetime production much more promptly, and demand for some of their consumer products, in particular, was extremely urgent, so that their earnings rose from \$5 billion to well over \$6 billion in the same period.

From 1946 to 1950, however, the durables industries were consistently able to expand profits faster than the nondurables lines.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Profits in billions of dollars					
Durables.....	2.1	5.3	7.4	7.9	11.9
Nondurables.....	6.3	7.4	9.3	7.4	8.3
Percent change from previous year					
Durables.....	-54	159	38	7	51
Nondurables.....	25	18	25	-20	11

The basic strength in the market for durable goods during these years reflected not merely war-deferred demands and accumulated savings but also new consumption standards and investment by business to provide for levels of production well above previous peacetime achievements. Durables showed a remarkable homogeneity of behavior. From 1947 to 1950 almost every industry group reported annual advances in profits.² The sole exceptions were in 1949, when

2. The industry classification used here is that applied to corporate profits in the 1954 *National Income* supplement. Within manufacturing it distinguishes 7 broad durables groups and 10 nondurables.

declines occurred in the group comprising primary and fabricated metals and in the lumber and furniture industries. The subsequent rise to 1950 in the durables total was particularly sharp, with the effects of the recovery and the Korean invasion being superimposed on a general pattern of rapid growth.

In contrast with the consistency of profits changes among the durables industries in this period is the mixed pattern recorded for the nondurables, which seems in general to have reflected the earlier satisfaction of demand backlogs than in the case of durables, and a relatively less rapid growth in current consumption.

While the advance of total nondurables profits was uninterrupted until 1949, there were declines in food, rubber, leather and printing in 1947 and in apparel, paper, rubber and printing in 1948. Profit decreases in the following year affected every nondurables industry but chemicals and tobacco, and the total was off about one-fifth. Its renewed advance in 1950 reflected gains in chemicals, petroleum, paper, and printing, the other 6 nondurables groups distinguished showing declines for the year. Among all of the nondurables industries only chemicals were able to maintain a constant pattern of increased profits throughout the years 1946-50.

After the invasion of Korea the initial market impact of Government procurement was to increase substantially sales of such necessities of war as could be obtained in the short run. Involved also was anticipatory investment by business for producers' items, as contracts were let for the production of military hard goods. Consumers expanded their purchases of items which had been in particularly short supply in World War II. The course of production and profits after the Korean outbreak reflected the time phasing of these stimuli and the gradual accommodation of the economy to the new demands.

The consistently faster expansion of profits in durables than in nondurables ended after 1950. Durables advanced more or decreased less than nondurables in two of the succeeding four years, and also showed a sharper rise for the first 9 months of 1955. The differences in movement, however, were much less conspicuous than in the earlier years.

Table 1.—Corporate Profits and Related Totals, 1929-54

[Millions of dollars]														
	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Corporate profits and inventory valuation adjustment.....	10,100	6,582	1,634	-1,970	-1,992	1,091	2,918	5,002	6,204	4,263	5,689	9,120	14,511	19,678
Corporate profits before tax.....	9,628	3,322	-780	-3,017	151	1,716	3,145	5,740	6,235	3,300	6,403	9,320	16,982	20,882
Corporate profits tax liability.....	1,369	842	498	385	521	744	951	1,409	1,502	1,029	1,441	2,834	7,610	11,415
Corporate profits after tax.....	8,259	2,480	-1,278	-3,402	-370	972	2,194	4,331	4,733	2,271	4,962	6,486	9,372	9,467
Dividends.....	5,813	5,490	4,088	2,565	2,056	2,587	2,863	4,548	4,685	3,187	3,788	4,043	4,458	4,289
Undistributed profits.....	2,446	-3,010	-5,366	-5,967	-2,426	-1,615	-669	-217	48	-916	1,174	2,443	4,914	5,178
Inventory valuation adjustment.....	472	3,260	2,414	1,047	-2,143	-625	-227	-738	-31	963	-714	-200	-2,471	-1,204
Addendum: net inflow of profits from "rest of the world" included in lines 1, 2, 4, and 6.....	232	137	-4	-34	-2	60	159	104	122	247	184	234	231	225
	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955 (first 9 months, seasonally adjusted at annual rates)	
Corporate profits and inventory valuation adjustment.....	23,781	23,033	18,413	17,288	23,626	30,619	28,141	35,106	39,913	36,903	37,187	33,815	41,200	
Corporate profits before tax.....	24,554	23,320	18,977	22,551	29,525	32,769	26,198	39,970	41,173	35,936	38,274	34,042	42,800	
Corporate profits tax liability.....	14,074	12,949	10,689	9,111	11,283	12,510	10,411	17,829	19,788	22,476	21,266	17,082	21,500	
Corporate profits after tax.....	10,480	10,371	8,288	13,440	18,242	20,259	15,787	22,141	18,697	16,148	17,008	16,960	21,300	
Dividends.....	4,484	4,673	4,691	5,784	6,521	7,248	7,458	9,207	9,090	9,000	9,291	10,008	10,700	
Undistributed profits.....	5,996	5,698	3,597	7,656	11,721	13,011	8,329	12,934	9,607	7,148	7,717	6,952	10,600	
Inventory valuation adjustment.....	-773	-287	-564	-5,263	-5,899	-2,150	1,943	-4,864	-1,260	967	-1,087	-227	-1,600	
Addendum: net inflow of profits from "rest of the world" included in lines 1, 2, 4, and 6.....	238	293	228	425	689	836	832	1,000	1,215	1,121	1,082	1,366	1,500	

Source: Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

The respective annual changes in earnings through 1954 were as follows.

	1951	1952	1953	1954
Profits in billions of dollars				
Durables.....	13.2	11.6	11.9	9.7
Nondurables.....	10.6	9.0	8.7	7.9
Percent change from previous year				
Durables.....	11	-12	3	-17
Nondurables.....	29	-15	-3	-9

The sharp rise in the total for nondurables in 1951 reflected expansion of demand for industrial materials and consumer goods. Exceptions to the general upswing in adjusted profits were the food and tobacco groups, which felt the impact of increased raw materials costs before these were fully reflected in the prices of processed goods.

The durables total in 1951 was adversely affected by a pronounced slump in auto profits, which fell for the first time since 1946. Producers in virtually all other durables lines improved their profit positions somewhat further, though after the sharp rise in the preceding year the gains were not generally as marked as in the case of the nondurables industries.

The general sales expansion conspicuous in 1950 and 1951 slowed in 1952, and profits declined moderately as costs con-

tinued to advance. All the nondurables except food, tobacco and printing showed declines in 1952. The most severe drop was in textiles, which except for a spurt in the previous year had registered no increases in profits since 1948. The profits decline in durables was slightly smaller than that in nondurables. Earnings in the machinery and equipment industries generally held about even or recorded gains, although the steel strike was accompanied by a profits drop of one-third in the primary and fabricated metals group and the non-metallic durables also showed considerable declines.

In 1953 the durables total recovered. However, sharp declines after midyear limited the overall 1952-53 gain to 3 percent, and extended into 1954 to produce a substantial reduction in the annual totals for most industries in that year.

The total for the nondurables drifted downward slightly from 1952 to 1953 as 6 of the 10 industry groups showed reduced earnings. Half of the declines were slight but those recorded in textiles, apparel and rubber amounted to between one-sixth and one-fourth. In the following year the nondurables total contracted somewhat faster as profits were reduced in all groups except tobacco and leather. The overall decline from 1953 to 1954 in nondurables profits was not as severe as that experienced in the durables industries, however.

The substantial increases achieved in 1955 in nondurables and particularly in durables manufacturing profits have been described earlier in this issue. These advances carried the

Table 2.—Corporate Profits and Dividends, by Industry, 1945-54

[Millions of dollars]

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries ¹										
Profits before tax.....	93	135	145	138	99	157	95	38	42	41
Profits after tax.....	32	73	78	69	40	68	11	-25	-24	-27
Net dividends paid.....	14	28	52	54	53	60	70	49	29	28
Mining										
Profits and inventory valuation adjustment.....	343	363	883	1,369	956	1,325	1,409	1,238	1,299	1,260
Profits before tax.....	347	438	953	1,430	925	1,374	1,418	1,249	1,339	1,258
Profits after tax.....	239	321	684	1,031	673	961	920	807	831	819
Net dividends paid.....	138	177	260	361	338	455	503	522	498	517
Contract construction										
Profits and inventory valuation adjustment.....	86	172	268	524	538	469	521	566	626	569
Profits before tax.....	89	211	377	566	514	541	533	569	634	583
Profits after tax.....	30	125	236	345	302	287	229	244	256	268
Net dividends paid.....	18	30	36	56	62	68	61	66	76	87
Manufacturing										
Profits and inventory valuation adjustment.....	9,520	8,361	12,792	16,662	15,334	20,198	23,850	20,598	20,677	17,626
Durables.....	4,481	2,067	5,344	7,350	7,884	11,921	13,206	11,587	11,933	9,689
Nondurables.....	5,039	6,294	7,448	9,312	7,450	8,277	10,644	9,011	8,744	7,937
Profits before tax.....	9,933	11,402	16,529	18,102	14,140	23,280	24,512	19,958	21,420	17,824
Profits after tax.....	4,030	6,658	10,055	11,036	8,411	12,375	10,260	8,271	8,847	8,799
Net dividends paid.....	2,421	2,856	3,414	3,736	3,939	4,836	4,581	4,531	4,662	4,812
Wholesale and retail trade										
Profits and inventory valuation adjustment.....	3,309	3,669	4,454	5,402	4,400	4,826	4,976	4,742	4,337	4,045
Profits before tax.....	3,420	5,550	6,082	5,768	3,833	6,276	5,446	4,382	4,566	4,074
Profits after tax.....	1,460	3,429	3,780	3,524	2,241	3,578	2,564	1,999	2,052	1,938
Net dividends paid.....	499	816	867	949	853	1,002	946	883	818	867
Finance, insurance, and real estate ¹										
Profits before tax.....	1,490	1,630	1,593	2,224	2,574	2,662	2,800	3,282	3,704	3,702
Profits after tax.....	816	887	878	1,236	1,396	1,271	1,098	1,322	1,495	1,411
Net dividends paid.....	522	631	570	643	656	825	815	835	849	937
Transportation										
Profits and inventory valuation adjustment.....	1,308	382	943	1,498	1,160	1,896	1,883	1,829	1,597	1,001
Profits before tax.....	1,330	526	1,156	1,649	1,101	1,996	1,961	1,827	1,643	1,010
Profits after tax.....	518	179	630	963	623	1,100	904	807	735	470
Net dividends paid.....	292	285	246	312	271	366	393	378	445	434
Communications and public utilities										
Profits and inventory valuation adjustment.....	1,461	1,424	1,211	1,396	1,742	2,078	2,606	2,945	3,275	3,602
Profits before tax.....	1,472	1,507	1,353	1,486	1,674	2,189	2,635	2,966	3,296	3,581
Profits after tax.....	682	913	822	897	993	1,244	1,268	1,391	1,522	1,656
Net dividends paid.....	623	687	714	741	831	1,032	1,151	1,280	1,433	1,588
Services ¹										
Profits before tax.....	575	727	648	570	506	495	558	544	548	603
Profits after tax.....	253	430	390	322	276	257	228	211	212	260
Net dividends paid.....	89	145	141	142	150	137	152	154	144	160
Rest of the world ¹										
Profits before and after taxes.....	228	425	689	836	832	1,000	1,215	1,121	1,082	1,366
Net dividends paid.....	75	129	221	254	305	426	418	302	337	578

1. Inventory valuation adjustment taken as zero.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

overall seasonally adjusted annual rate for the first 9 months close to the all-time high recorded for the early post-Korean year 1951.

It should be noted that data for profits in manufacturing and other segments of the economy after 1952 are still preliminary, and these movements will be subject to final analysis only when more data become available.

Transportation

About three-fifths of the postwar profits in transportation have originated in the railroad industry, which has also accounted for the bulk of the short term fluctuation. With a few exceptions traceable to special circumstances in this industry, profits in the transportation division have tended to conform to the movements of the all-industry total, but with sharper swings.

The postwar trend of profits in transportation as a whole reflects a drop from wartime highs in the railroad group and in local transit systems, only partly offset by expansion in other branches. Before-tax earnings, adjusted for inventory gains and losses, declined from a war peak of \$3 billion in 1943 to \$½ billion in 1946, recovering to a postwar high of \$2 billion in 1950 and 1951 under the stimulus of the Korean invasion. The total drifted irregularly lower during the next three years to about \$1 billion in 1954, and showed some recovery in the first 3 quarters of 1955.

Rail profits declined steeply at the end of the war to a 1946 low of \$0.1 billion, rose to \$1.2 billion two years later as the postwar recovery gathered speed, and passed this level in 1950 after a drop of over 40 percent in 1949. The total dipped to around \$1 billion annually for 1951-53 and dropped sharply in 1954, but showed a vigorous recovery last year. Railroad profits are generally sensitive to changes in revenue; they declined in 1951, however, as the revenue increase for that year was largely absorbed by higher compensation of employees. The 1952-53 expansion of revenue was similarly offset by advances in emergency amortization charges and other costs.

Among the nonrail transportation groups profits of the airlines have risen most rapidly in the postwar period, reaching a 1954 level about triple the highest annual total recorded in World War II, after an interim of substantial losses during the reconversion years. Pipeline and motor freight carriers' profits have also expanded substantially above their war peaks. Serious declines have been recorded for local passenger transportation, as the use of private cars in lieu of public transportation has increased with the postwar population shift to the suburbs.

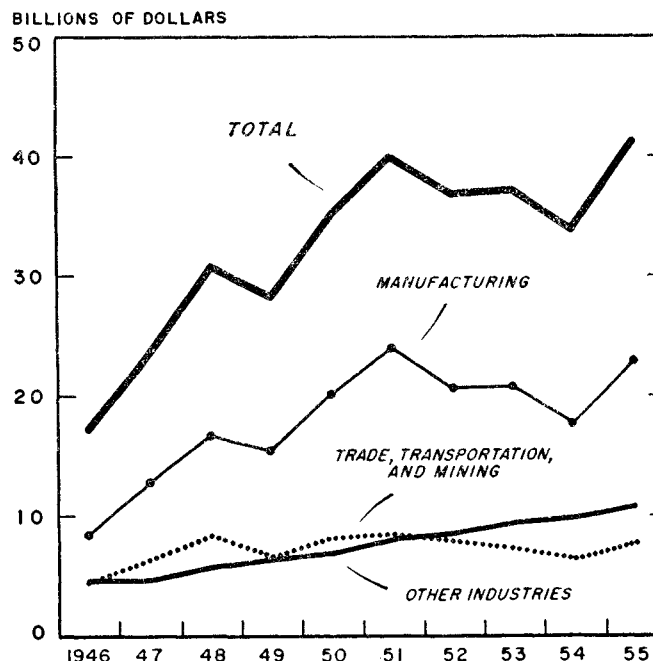
Mining

Corporate income in the mining division, adjusted to eliminate inventory gains and losses, almost quadrupled its 1945-46 average to reach an early postwar peak of close to \$1½ billion in 1948. (In conformity with the general definition of profits noted earlier, the measure used here is gross of depletion allowances.) After dropping below \$1 billion in 1949 the aggregate approached \$1½ billion again in 1951. The annual total varied narrowly in the range of \$1.2 to \$1.3 billion during 1952-54, and expanded in 1955.

There has been a major postwar change in the industry composition of this aggregate. The oil and gas component has accounted for over 60 percent of the total in the past few years, doubling its 1946 proportion. Other mining industries have declined in relative importance, although only the coal groups have shown an actual dollar decrease. Corporate income in the coal industry dropped from about one-third of

the division total in 1946 to well under 10 percent in the most recent years for which data are available. Railroads, once large users of coal, have carried out a widespread program of dieselization; and various other major consumers have also shifted from coal to alternative fuels including natural gas.³

Corporate Profits* for Broad Industrial Groups



* Before tax, and including inventory valuation adjustment, 1955 data are for 9 months, seasonally adjusted, at annual rates

U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics

56-1-4

Adjusted profits in trade have accounted for from one-eighth to one-fifth of total corporate profits in the postwar years—a larger part of the total than any other division except manufacturing. Trade profits rose consistently throughout the war and early postwar period to a peak in 1948, dropped sharply in 1949, and have since fluctuated within a comparatively narrow range.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Profits in billions of dollars									
Trade.....	3.7	4.5	5.4	4.4	4.8	5.0	4.7	4.3	4.0
Nondurables manufacturing.....	6.3	7.4	9.3	7.4	8.3	10.6	9.0	8.7	7.9
Percent change from previous year									
Trade.....	11	21	21	-19	10	3	-5	-9	-7
Nondurables manufacturing.....	25	18	25	-20	11	29	-15	-3	-9

The bulk of nondurable manufactures ordinarily passes through trade channels, and during most of the early postwar period there was a marked similarity between the movement of profits in trade and in nondurables manufacturing.

3. A substantial portion of extractive activity in this country is attributed in the corporate data to industries other than mining. For example, the activity of coal and iron mines owned by corporations in the primary iron and steel group is included in the statistics for the latter industry. It may be noted that the converse case also occurs, though on a smaller scale.

The 1951 upswing and 1952 drop in the manufacturing series, however, were accompanied by comparatively minor changes in trade profits. The hump for manufacturing seems to have been due in considerable part to expansion in Government purchases of soft goods after Korea, which involved a less-than-proportional direct stimulus to trade corporation sales. The 1952 reaction similarly was more limited in trade than in manufacturing, but the further profits decline recorded for 1953 is estimated from partial data to have been significantly sharper than that in manufacturing, as margins narrowed.

Other industries

The total of the remaining industry divisions, comprising finance, insurance and real estate, communications and public utilities, service, construction, agriculture, and "the rest of the world", showed aggregate profits rising $\frac{3}{2}$ billion to \$1 billion annually during most of the period since the end of World War II. There were exceptions in 1947, when the increase was comparatively small, and in 1948, when it amounted to a little over \$1 billion. These annual gains reflected a variety of changes among the industries cited.

Finance, insurance, and real estate, the largest of these divisions in point of profits, showed a virtually uninterrupted advance over the entire war and postwar period. At more than \$3½ billion by 1954, profits were over twice their 1946 level, which in turn was well above that of any previous year. This advance has been associated in general with the use of credit to help finance the broad economic expansion of the period.

The course of profits in the communications and public utilities division has been determined largely by the experience of the electric and gas utilities and the telephone and telegraph group. The utilities, which since the war have accounted for from two-thirds to three-fourths of the profits earned in the division, have recorded a steady expansion as industrial and residential use of power has been stimulated by technological progress and growth in the number of structures to be served. Moreover, the extensive postwar additions to both generating capacity and distribution facilities have greatly increased the average efficiency of operations in the industry. Profits, which at over \$1 billion in 1946 were already above the wartime peak, moved steadily upward to approach \$2½ billion by 1954. The record of profits in the telephone and telegraph industry shows more variation. The total dropped from $\frac{1}{2}$ billion in 1944 to between \$0.2 and \$0.3 billion in 1947 and 1948, but has since advanced rapidly, exceeding \$1 billion by 1954.

Contract construction emerged from the war in a relatively depressed state, public construction for defense having declined sharply and private construction activity being still subject to controls. Deferred demand for private and for nonwar public construction—particularly State and local types—promoted a quick recovery, however. By 1949 profits had passed the $\frac{1}{2}$ billion mark and stood 75 percent above the wartime peak. The total has since expanded somewhat further.

Corporate profits in the services division rose through the war and reached a peak at \$0.7 billion in 1946, but declined from year to year thereafter to around $\frac{1}{2}$ billion in 1950. The total recovered fractionally in 1951 and held stable until 1954, when a further advance accompanied the cut in the Federal tax on admissions in that year. The initial downdrift of the division total reflected chiefly a contraction in profits of the amusement and hotel groups. The decline in these virtually ceased after 1950, but for the period 1946–54 as a whole more than offset smaller net increases in the other service industry groups.

Profits ascribed to the "rest of the world" represent the net balance of branch profits and dividends received from abroad less payments of such income to foreign residents. This balance is included in the corporate profits share of the national income, although attributed to foreign rather than to U. S. business. It has expanded sharply since the world war, as foreign earnings have reflected the rehabilitation of the war-torn economies of Europe and Asia and the postwar upswing of business in Latin America, Canada and other areas. At about \$1½ billion in 1954, the total net inflow was more than three times as large as in 1946.

PROFIT RATIOS

Setting aside the influence of income tax rates and inventory valuation practices for separate consideration, the course of total profits depends very largely on that of production and sales. It is appropriate in this context to confine the analysis to the corporate segment of the economy.

One way of studying profits is to examine their relationship to total income originating in corporations—profits, employee compensation, and net interest—which is a measure of net production. The ratio of adjusted before-tax profits to total income originating in U. S. corporations is shown in the accompanying chart.

This percentage has varied considerably over time. It was lowest in the depression of the nineteen-thirties, and has since touched shorter-run low points in 1938, 1946, 1949 and 1954. It has averaged highest in periods of peak activity such as 1926–29, World War II, and 1950–53. The postwar movement is examined later in this report, after a review of data bearing on the longer-term trend.

Trend of profit ratio

As can be seen, the charted variations have brought the percentage back repeatedly to an almost horizontal trendline. Long-term differences between cyclically more or less comparable dates are not large. For example, the average for 1926–29, representing the four years of largest incomes in the early part of the period spanned by the chart, was about 21 percent. The average for the years 1950–53, also a time of prosperity, was about 24 percent.

The rise of three percentage points suggested by this comparison seems to have stemmed primarily if not exclusively from a shift in the form in which property income is distributed. With the rise in the profits fraction of corporate income originating has come a very nearly equal decline in the interest share, so that profits and net interest combined made up substantially the same proportion—around 24½ percent—of the total in 1950–53 as in 1926–29.

The shift in the composition of property income has reflected in part a decline in interest-bearing debt relative to corporate assets as reliance upon internal sources of funds has increased. Even more important, however, is the fact that since the late nineteen-twenties market forces operating within the changing institutional framework of the period have brought about a considerable fall in the level of interest rates relative to the rate of return on corporate assets.

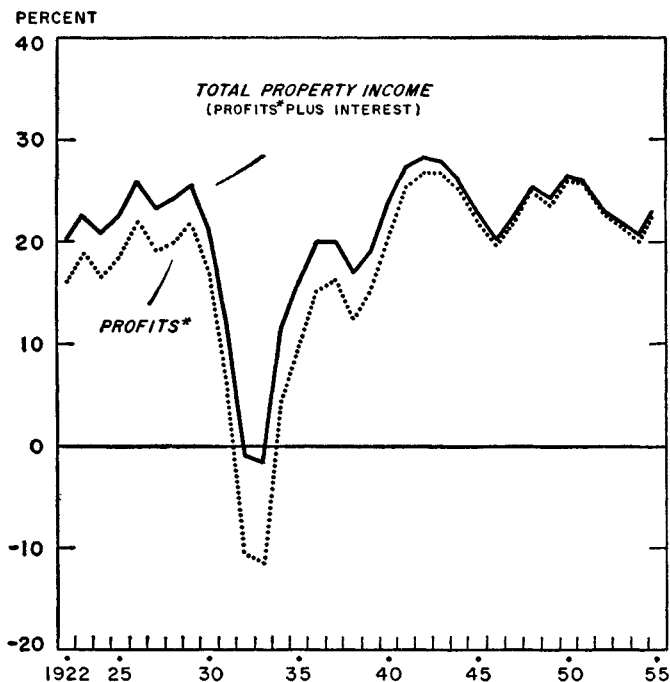
In order to set aside the effect of this shift in form of payment, the influence of other factors affecting the trend of the profits share may be examined in terms of the combined fraction of profits and interest in corporate income originating, which is also shown in the chart.

The size of this fraction reflects the many forces bearing on the cost-price structure. The roles of these are difficult to measure, but two sorts of effects which are of some general interest may be distinguished in the data.

On the one hand, the balance between labor services and property services required to turn out a particular set of products may change, or one of these types of service may become cheaper relative to the other. If such changes occur and are not mutually offsetting in their effects, the ratio of property income to total income originating will shift for the industries affected and perhaps for corporate business as a whole.

On the other hand, changing market conditions lead to shifts in the product composition of output. The proportions in which labor and property services are employed differ according to the product being made, and such market shifts may happen to favor relative expansion in those types of output using a higher (or lower) than average proportion of labor to capital. The overall corporate ratio of property income to total income will then tend to change accordingly, even if the normal proportions for every individual product remain the same as before.

Profits and Total Property Income as Percent of Income Originating in U. S. Corporations



* Before tax, and including inventory valuation adjustment; 1955 data are for 9 months, seasonally adjusted, at annual rates

U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics

56-1-5

It is of interest to test whether the long-term stability in the property income share of total corporate income was due to the offsetting of shifts in income distribution within industries by shifts in relative size of industries, or whether it was due to the absence of important shifts in either. Such a test involves technical problems considered in the appendix. Here only two points need be noted. The finer the industrial detail provided in the data, the more accurately the first type of effect will be distinguished from the second. Again, care must be taken to select periods as alike as possible in all respects other than those reflecting trends, since the evidences of the latter are likely otherwise to be swamped by the effects of short-term differences. Because of data limitations, these requirements called for the making of two separate comparisons here.

First, property income percentages for 1929 and 1951 were analyzed in the finest industrial detail practicable, distinguishing 51 industry groups. The results suggest that there was no general tendency to secular change in the property income fraction, apart from the effect of shifts in the product mix, and that shifts of the latter type had also offset one another so closely as to produce a net change on the order of only $\frac{1}{2}$ percentage point.

As a limited check on the possibility that actual trend changes were masked in this comparison by special and transitory conditions which existed in one year but not in the other, a corresponding analysis was made in terms of industry averages for the four prosperous years 1950-53 as against the years 1926-29. A major reduction in the degree of industry detail, and to some extent also in the accuracy of the data, was necessary in this case.

Over the quarter-century period, changes in the property income ratios within various individual industries balanced out to exert a net positive effect amounting to $\frac{3}{4}$ percentage point on the all-corporation ratio. Changes in the industrial distribution made for a decline of 1 percentage point, a little more than offsetting this effect.

Thus, both studies suggest that the overall secular stability of the property income ratio was not due to the offsetting of important changes within industries by the effects of changes in the relative weights of the various industries. Rather, the stability seems to have resulted from the fact that neither type of change had any significant effect on the all-corporation ratio.

Not only are the net effects small, but the nature of the industry variations underlying them indicates the absence of any definite tendency common among industries. In the comparison of 1950-53 with 1926-29 there was an approximately even division between lines with shrinking property income ratios and lines with higher ratios, and changes in relative importance of the various industries were likewise about evenly divided between shifts tending to raise the overall ratio and shifts tending to lower it. The same lack of uniformity appeared in the 1929-51 comparison.

In the latter comparison, the contrast between the changes in the finance, insurance and real estate division and those in nonfinancial corporations is of some interest. Declines both in the relative importance of the finance division and in its ratio of property income to total income combined to contribute a negative $1\frac{1}{2}$ percentage points to the all-industry ratio; while changes in the nonfinancial groups more than offset this effect to produce the small overall rise actually recorded for the all-industry ratio.

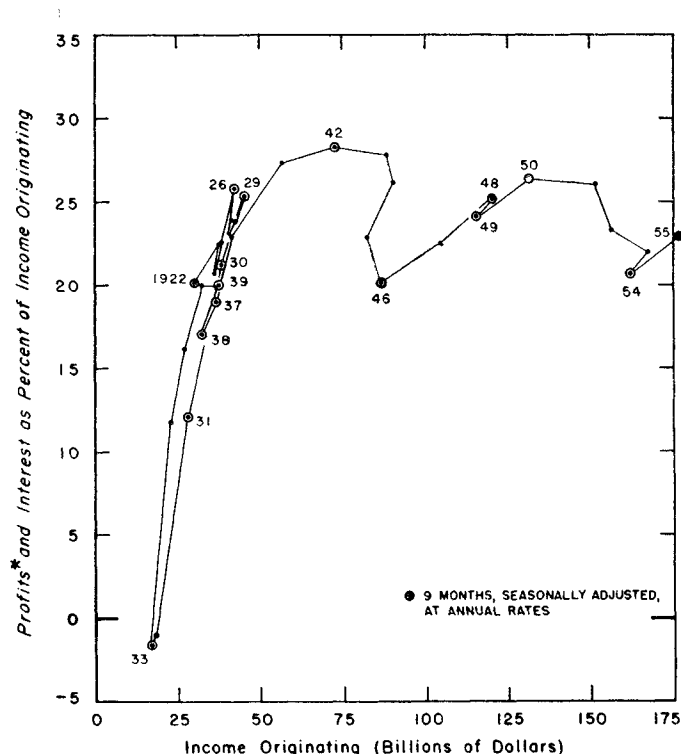
This general type of analysis, it should be noted in conclusion, does not go very far in distinguishing the conditions ultimately responsible for determining the property income fraction. The varied and possibly offsetting economic forces which have led to shifts of each type are not distinguished. To do so would require data not at present available and also a further elaboration of theories which can be tested statistically.

Swings in the profit margin

The tendency of the profits percentage of corporate income to rise and fall with the level of general business activity has already been noted. An exception has been indicated, however, for the years 1950-53, when the percentage declined in the face of a continued expansion of sales and income originating. The postwar swing of the profit and property income ratios will be examined in historical perspective here, preliminary to a review of its mechanics in terms of revenue and cost changes in the next section.

The relation of the property income percentage to total income originating is examined in the adjacent scatter diagram. Because the time sequence of changes is very important for the interpretation of this chart, the plotted points have been connected in chronological order.⁴

Income Originating in U. S. Corporations, and Associated Property Income Ratios



* Before tax, and including inventory valuation adjustment

U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics

56-1-6

Consistently with the horizontal time trend noted above, the ratio is seen to be approximately the same for widely different amounts of total income, if the years compared are cyclically alike. However, certain portions of the line show fairly constant positive slopes. These reflect temporarily stable relationships which, in contrast to the long-term norm, involved a sharp response of the property income fraction to changes in total income. One such relationship spans the early postwar period from 1946 through 1950; another ended early in World War II; and a slightly different one is perceptible for the period 1922-26. After a few years, it will be noted, each of these relationships began to break up. As the expansion in total income continued, the property income fraction became less responsive, leveled off, and turned downward.

Following such a readjustment in 1926-29, and again after the shift of 1942-46, there emerged a new relationship; this appears in the chart as another portion of the line somewhat further to the right—i. e., at a higher income level—which also shows a positive slope. Under the new relationship, the fraction is seen to have averaged about the same as before for cyclically similar years despite the higher level of total income.

In view of the basic long-term stability in the property income ratio, these readjustments may plausibly be inter-

preted as reactions from short-run relationships inconsistent with the underlying trend; and the decline in the ratio after 1950 may be viewed as the latest in the series of such adjustments.

Applicability of past experience

The postwar period from 1946 to 1954 showed important similarities as well as differences by comparison with the earlier periods. It resembled 1938-46, for instance, in witnessing a great expansion in market demand and production capacity, with capacity tending to catch up as the demand expansion slowed. The various economic conditions associated with a defense effort, including major Government procurement programs, controls and excess profits taxes were also common to both periods; most of them were far more marked in the earlier, however, and private market demand was a much more important factor in the later. The two periods differed also in the cyclical position of their starting points, business activity in 1938 having been relatively much more depressed than in 1946. These differences largely account for the comparative irregularity and more restricted overall movement of profit ratios in the later period.

The twenties also witnessed an expansion in output and in production capacity. However, this period was conspicuously different in being one of world peace and one in which the market role of Government was relatively quite limited. As in the postwar period, the fluctuations of private demand led to considerable irregularity in the course of business activity, which was reflected in profit ratios. This irregularity was the more conspicuous because, due chiefly to the relative stability of prices and wages, the uptrend in dollar values was less marked in these years than in the later periods.

The observed downswings of overall profit ratios in the face of continuing general economic expansion in 1926-29, 1942-44, and 1950-53 form a clear-cut pattern; the interpretation of this, however, is open to question. On the one hand, it may be taken as likely to prove generally characteristic of periods of rapid but decelerating rise to high levels of business activity. On the other hand, it may be thought to have been largely a reflection of circumstances associated with the defense effort in each of the two later periods. The evidence provided by the 1922-29 record, while suggestive, is not sufficiently clear to settle this question.

From data now available, the profit ratio seems to have recovered last year to a point somewhere near the 1952 level. It is still too early, of course, to determine how this recovery fits into the pattern of past experience recorded in the chart.

Industry variations

With differences generally in line with the variations in industry profits experience described above, the swing in profit ratios during the postwar expansion of total income originating was duplicated in most of the principal industry divisions. The record for manufacturing and transportation shows peak ratios reached in 1950-51, while income originating in these lines attained its pre-1955 highs 2 or 3 years later. The top ratios for trade, mining and contract construction (up to last year, for which data are not yet available) were all recorded prior to 1951. Total income in these three industries continued expanding into 1953 and, in the cases of trade and construction, through 1954.

The only major exceptions to the general pattern were the finance and public utilities divisions. In finance the pre-1955 highs came later—that for the profit ratio being reached in 1953 and that for total income in 1954. In communications and public utilities, both the total and the profit percentage continued rising through 1954.

4. It may be noted that the analysis which follows could equally well have been developed from a scatter diagram showing dollar values for both variables. The alternative chart used here, however, is simpler to interpret in the present context.

The swing in profit ratios during the World War II expansion was similarly rather general among the industries which contribute most to corporate profits. The 1922-29 experience was less uniform in this respect. In only two of the principal divisions, manufacturing and trade—which happened to be the two largest—was there a clear pattern of downturn in ratios preceding contraction in total income. It is perhaps significant that in this period fluctuations in income originating were more marked from year to year than in terms of an overall cycle, and that the peak profit ratios coincided for several divisions with sharp but isolated peaks in income recorded for various industries in different years—1926, 1928, or 1929. This suggests that any influence which economy-wide cost trends may have had on profit ratios in general was at least partly obscured by the effect of the short-term variations in sales of specific divisions.

COST STRUCTURE OF CORPORATE BUSINESS

The preceding analysis has been cast in the frame of reference of income originating, which measures the net value added to production in corporate business as the sum of profits, employee compensation, and interest. Because labor cost is such a large element in the cost structure, changes in the compensation of employees are likely to prove a major determinant of the profit ratio. Other factors also play a significant part in the determination of profits, however, and justify broadening the analysis of the postwar period by a consideration of the shifts occurring in sales, corporate gross product, and the general cost structure of corporate business. This part of the analysis cannot in general be carried beyond 1954 at present.

The frame of reference used is illustrated in the text table opposite. For the present purpose, the change in corporate inventories is treated as an adjustment to sales, and all costs incurred are entered as charges to the combined total.

Cost purchases (materials, etc., bought from other business enterprises and charged to current account or accumulated in inventory) and sales here include intercorporate transactions. These cannot be estimated separately but are known to constitute a substantial and sometimes significantly shifting fraction of each of the two totals. Although the proportions shown typify the experience of the average corporation, for analysis of corporate business as a whole it would be prefer-

able to deal with consolidated totals, since changes in the profit margin on intercorporate transactions shift profits between buyer and seller companies without affecting the all-corporation aggregate of earnings. Discussion of cost purchases and sales will therefore stress particularly the factors which would affect a consolidated account.

Annual values for the unconsolidated credits and charges to corporate account are shown, together with profit ratios, in table 3. While some of these values are taken from the regular statistics of the national income and product, others are comparatively crude approximations developed only for this study. The special estimates used are described in the technical note at the end of the report. The cost purchases series is derived as a residual.

Credits and Charges to Corporate Account (unconsolidated), 1954

[Billions of dollars]

Cost purchases.....	337	Corporate sales.....	535
Charges to corporate gross product.....	195	Inventory accumulation....	-3
Indirect taxes.....	18		
Capital consumption allowances.....	15		
Income originating.....	162		
Compensation of employees.....	129		
Net interest.....	1		
Profits, including IVA.....	32		
Total charges.....	532	Total credits.....	532

The postwar course of adjusted sales has been broadly similar to that of income originating, a rapid expansion in the early part of the period having been followed by a slower growth after 1950-51. Both price movements and changes in real output contributed to this pattern, sharp advances in each during the early years giving place to more gradual uptrends thereafter.

Correspondingly, the course of the profit ratio on sales has resembled that of the profits percentage of income originating in corporate business. Profits having advanced relatively more from 1946 to 1950-51 than did adjusted sales, the percentage margin increased. However, sales, like income

Table 3.—Credits and Charges to Account of Corporate Business (unconsolidated), 1938-54

[Billions of dollars]

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Total credits to corporate account.....	115.3	128.8	145.4	189.4	214.4	244.6	257.9	252.5	292.5	367.2	411.2	389.3	459.7	520.7	527.4	555.1	531.6
Sales.....	116.2	128.6	143.8	186.1	214.0	245.1	259.0	253.5	286.5	365.9	409.1	390.9	454.7	512.6	525.5	553.6	534.6
Change in inventories.....	-0.9	.3	1.6	3.3	.5	-1.5	-1.1	-1.0	6.0	1.2	2.1	-1.6	4.9	8.1	1.8	1.5	-3.0
Total charges to corporate account.....	115.3	128.8	145.4	189.4	214.4	244.6	257.9	252.5	292.5	367.2	411.2	389.3	459.7	520.7	527.4	555.1	531.6
Cost purchases.....	74.0	83.4	93.2	121.8	129.3	143.5	153.2	154.4	190.6	244.3	270.5	252.0	304.0	342.7	341.1	355.2	336.6
Charges to corporate gross product.....	41.3	45.4	52.2	67.6	85.2	101.1	104.7	98.1	101.9	122.9	140.7	137.2	155.6	178.0	186.3	199.9	195.1
Indirect taxes ¹	5.2	5.3	5.7	6.7	7.1	7.5	8.2	9.0	10.3	11.8	12.8	13.3	14.6	15.6	17.1	18.1	17.5
Capital consumption allowances.....	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.5	5.2	5.6	6.4	6.8	5.2	6.4	7.7	8.5	9.5	11.0	12.3	13.8	15.3
Income originating in corporate business.....	32.3	36.2	42.4	56.4	72.9	88.1	90.1	82.4	86.3	104.7	120.3	115.4	131.6	151.4	156.9	168.0	162.2
Compensation of employees.....	26.8	29.3	32.3	41.1	52.3	63.6	66.5	63.5	69.0	81.2	89.9	87.4	96.9	111.9	120.5	131.0	128.8
Net interest.....	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.2	.9	.8	.7	.5	.6	.6	.7	.6	.7	.6	.8	.9
Profits before tax, including inventory valuation adjustment.....	4.0	5.5	8.9	14.3	10.5	23.5	22.7	18.2	16.9	22.9	29.8	27.3	34.1	38.7	35.8	36.1	32.4
Addendum: Profits before tax and inventory valuation adjustment as percent of—																	
Sales and inventory change.....	3.5	4.3	6.1	7.5	9.1	9.6	8.8	7.2	5.8	6.2	7.2	7.0	7.4	7.4	6.8	6.5	6.1
Income originating in corporate business.....	12.5	15.2	20.9	25.3	26.7	26.7	25.2	22.1	19.5	21.9	24.8	23.7	25.9	25.6	22.8	21.5	20.0

1. A small allowance for corporate transfer payments is included here, and major cash subsidies are netted out.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

originating, continued to rise after profits passed their 1951 peak. A slight advance accompanied the 1951-52 decline of 7½ percent in earnings. A 5 percent sales expansion in 1953 left profits virtually unchanged. With sales off 4 percent in the following year, the profits measure was down 10 percent.

Postwar cost trends

The overall postwar pattern of sharp initial rise, early leveling off, and ultimate downturn of profit percentages reflected the combination of this rapid but decelerating advance in sales with a more gradual but more strongly sustained rise in costs. Labor cost, depreciation, and indirect taxes all contributed in one way or another to the latter effect.

The adjacent chart, based on table 3, shows the broad pattern of postwar change in corporate cost structure from 1945-46 to the peak of the profit-sales ratio in 1950-51, and thereafter. As noted above, cost purchases are unconsolidated.

The early changes shown in the second bar of the chart tended to raise the cost purchases percentage as well as the profits percentage of total charges, while lowering the labor cost and depreciation fractions. After 1950-51, all these tendencies were reversed as indicated in the third bar, and the average distribution of charges shown for 1952-54 is not much different from the average for 1945-46. The shifts between 1951 and 1954 were generally consistent in direction from year to year, as table 3 suggests; the changes would appear somewhat larger if 1952 were omitted from the terminal-period average and somewhat smaller if 1954 were omitted. In any case, it appears that the decline in profit ratios since 1951 has been associated with expansion in the labor cost ratio and in the (much smaller) fraction of revenue absorbed by capital consumption allowances and taxes. Cost purchases seem to have fallen off in relative importance during this period.

Cost purchases rose from a ratio of under 64 percent of adjusted sales in 1945-46 to 66 percent in 1950-51, substantially all of the advance coming in the years immediately after the war. The ratio declined year by year thereafter to 63 percent in 1954.

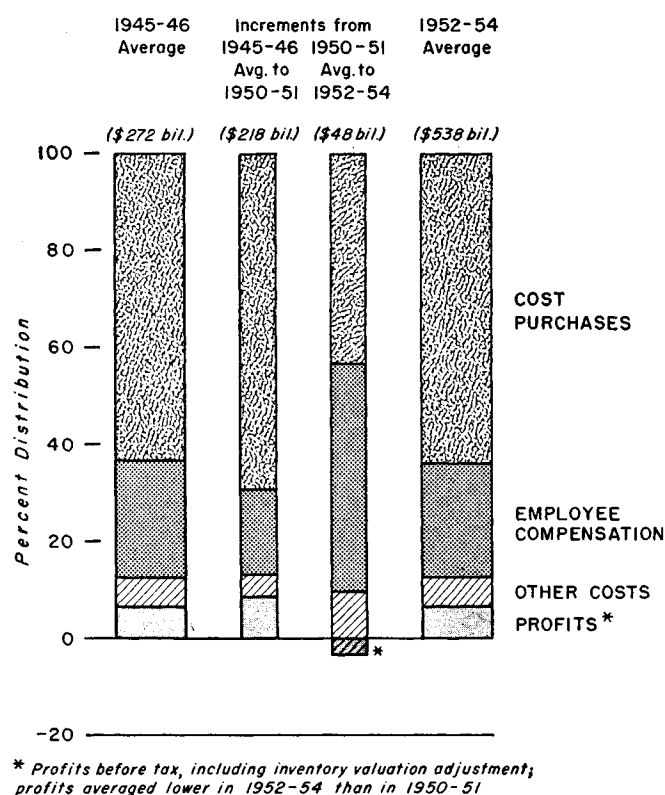
The percentage of cost purchases to sales differs considerably from industry to industry. Like the property income fraction discussed above, therefore, the all-industry percentage fluctuates with changes in the industrial composition of output, as well as with changes in the ratios for individual industries such as may accompany shifts in technology, in the extent of vertical integration, or in buying prices relative to selling prices. Its swing over the postwar period appears to have reflected chiefly the price trends, though changes in the relative importance of the different industries have also played a recognizable role in the broad movement charted.

While indexes of the relevant prices as such are not available, their broad movements can be inferred from the series used in table 4. Cost purchases from abroad and from agriculture are represented in the table by the price series on imports and farm products respectively; the movements in the wholesale price index for nonfarm commodities may be attributed in a general way to the prices of goods bought from and sold to nonfarm noncorporate business (as well as to intercorporate transactions); and the deflator for private gross product—based on prices of consumer goods and services, producers' goods, purchases by government, and net exports—serves broadly as an indicator of the prices of other corporate products. Using apparently reasonable weights for these various series, it appears that, relatively to cor-

porations' selling prices, their buying prices rose in the early postwar period and declined after 1951.⁵

The net prices received for the specifically corporate contribution to gross national product—corporate gross product, or adjusted sales less cost purchases—accordingly seem to have advanced more slowly than selling prices in the early years and showed slightly less flattening in the later period. These relative movements in prices are consistent with the swing in the ratio of cost purchases to adjusted sales, and probably largely explain the course of the latter as outlined above.

Percentage Distribution of Corporate Sales



* Profits before tax, including inventory valuation adjustment; profits averaged lower in 1952-54 than in 1950-51

U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics

56-1-8

The "other costs" shown in the chart are capital consumption allowances and taxes, a small allowance for business transfer payments being included with the latter and cash subsidies being netted out. The balance of corporate interest payments over interest receipts is also included.

The total amounted to a little over 6 percent of revenue in 1945, when it included a substantial amount of emergency amortization, and to somewhat less for 1945 and 1946 together. The fraction reached a postwar low point at 5 percent in the two following years and stood close to the same figure in 1951. By 1954 it again slightly exceeded 6 percent, the effect of Federal excise tax cuts in that year being offset by the combination of a rise in capital consumption (including emergency amortization) and a dip in corporate revenues.

⁵ This pattern emerges whether the weights assigned to the index of nonfarm commodities allow for intercorporate transactions or not.

It may be noted that divergence of the price indexes applicable to consolidated totals from those applicable to unconsolidated totals would tend to cause divergence of the profit ratio based on sales as denominator from that based on income originating. Such a tendency has not been of major practical significance in this period, however.

Throughout the period after 1946, the major factor in the advance of the percentage was the expansion of capital consumption allowances.

The general rise in the indirect business tax base and depreciation base with the growth of the economy played a large part in the postwar dollar increase of these costs. Heavy outlays year after year for plant and equipment expansion have been a trend factor in both the property tax and depreciation bases, and the excise tax base has of course been affected by higher sales. Tending to raise these costs in relation to sales have been the advances in rates. Tax rates have shown the influence of the fiscal needs of State and local governments to finance current services and capital expansion, and of the Federal Government for defense purposes.

Depreciation rates have reflected the faster write-offs as equipment, which is shorter-lived on the average than is plant, increased in percentage of the combined stock; the rise in emergency amortization allowances after 1950 has also had a perceptible effect. A variety of transitory conditions not lending themselves to general analysis has led to fluctuations in the annual rate of growth of capital consumption allowances, but the underlying trend has been strongly upward throughout.

The growth of corporate employee compensation lagged behind that of revenue in the late nineteen-forties, but surpassed it after 1950. The total includes not only wages and salaries but also an increasing proportion of supplements such as employer contributions to private pension plans. Labor cost absorbed about one-fourth of the revenues of the average corporation in 1945 and 1946, and not much more than one-fifth in 1950-51. Successive annual increases thereafter carried the ratio up to around one-fourth again in 1954.

The role of employee compensation in the postwar swing of profit ratios may be clarified by placing the analysis in the framework of corporate gross product, which equals the balance of adjusted sales over cost purchases and is distributed among income originating, indirect taxes, and capital consumption allowances as shown in table 3.

The percentage rise in gross product, like that in revenue, exceeded the gain in employee compensation during the early postwar period but fell short of it after 1951. A similar pattern of contrast between the subperiods before and after the turning point of the profits percentage is indicated for World War II.

These differences can conveniently be thought of as price phenomena. The physical volume of output may serve as a common denominator for current-dollar gross product and

for employee compensation, the quotients representing an index of gross product prices in the case of the former and labor cost per unit of output in that of the latter. The course of the totals as outlined above may be described in these terms as implying that gross product prices rose faster than unit labor costs in 1946-50, as in 1938-42, but advanced more slowly than unit labor cost in the periods immediately afterward.

If it may be assumed (on the grounds noted in the technical appendix) that the price index for private nonfarm gross product as a whole is reasonably applicable to corporate gross product separately, then this analysis may be illustrated as shown in the text table. Base and terminal values are here represented by 2- or 3-year averages, in order to bring out the broad trends. In the upper panel, gross product and employee compensation are analyzed into volume and unit price or cost factors. The volume series treated as common to both appears in line 3. The index of price per unit of real product is shown in line 2, and the course of unit labor cost in line 5. In the lower panel, the average growth rates of these price and volume factors are compared for each of the four broad time periods.

	1938-39	1942-43	1944-45	1945-46	1950-51	1952-54
Averages						
1. Gross product (billion dollars).....	43.3	93.1	101.4	100.0	166.8	193.7
2. Gross product price index (1947=1.00)....	.62	.78	.82	.86	1.13	1.21
3. Real gross product (1+2).....	69.8	119.4	123.3	116.1	147.6	160.6
4. Employee compensation (billion dollars)....	28.0	57.9	65.0	66.2	104.4	126.8
5. Employee compensation per dollar of real gross product (4+3).....	.40	.48	.53	.57	.71	.79
Average annual rate of rise (percent) from preceding period						
6. Gross product (value).....		21	4		11	6
7. Price index.....		6	3		6	3
8. Real gross product.....		14	2		5	3
9. Employee compensation.....		20	6		10	8
10. Unit labor cost (line 5).....		5	4		4	4

Relatively large increases both in volume of output and in prices characterized the early part of each period; these advances slowed in the later part. The differential movements in gross product prices and in unit labor cost which underlie the observed changes in the ratio of employee compensation to gross product (and to sales) are also clearly apparent. While the average annual increase in unit labor cost was about as great percentagewise after 1950-51 as before, the average price advance was halved. Such short-term disparities of movement between gross product prices and unit labor costs, it should be noted, are in contrast to the long-term parallelism of the two which is suggested by the secular stability of property income—and hence of labor income—in percentage of total income originating.

Unit labor costs can be analyzed further by considering them as the product of hourly compensation rates times labor hours required per unit of output. Underlying the comparatively steady rise of unit labor cost shown in the table were pay rate increases which were larger percentagewise in the earlier years of the postwar period than afterwards, and reductions in unit labor requirements which were similarly greater in the earlier years. In terms of effect on unit labor cost, such reductions offset a higher proportion of the large wage increases prior to 1950-51 than of the further pay advances which followed. (See technical appendix.)

Table 4.—Data Relevant to Corporations' Buying, Selling and Gross Product Prices

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
<i>(Percent change from preceding year)</i>									
Import prices.....	11	23	10	-5	8	26	-5	-4	3
Wholesale prices: farm products.....	16	20	7	-14	5	16	-6	-9	-1
Wholesale prices: other commodities.....	14	23	8	-3	4	10	-2	(^c)	(^c)
Final-product prices ¹	9	12	6	1	1	8	1	1	1
Deflator for private nonfarm ² gross product.....	9	11	7	1	1	7	2	2	2
Private nonfarm ² employee compensa- tion per hour.....	8	11	9	4	5	9	6	6	4

¹ Deflator for gross national product other than that of general government.

² Data for the U. S. nonfarm economy excluding general government.

^c Change less than one-half of one percent.

Sources: U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics and Bureau of Foreign Commerce; Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The broad shifts just summarized involved shorter-term variations which are reflected in tables 3, 4 and 5. The more important of these will be examined below.

Early postwar experience

The initial postwar decline in the ratio of profits to sales (table 3) is largely traceable—aside from the loss of production in some industries during reconversion—to the shift from war to peacetime sales patterns, and to the continued upward pressure of labor costs, much of which had remained latent under wartime controls. There was a sharp increase in the relative contribution of trade to total corporate sales. This in itself involved a decline in the all-industry average profit ratio on sales, since the cost purchase ratio for this industry division is considerably higher and its earnings ratio lower than the average. With this shift and the greater advance in corporate buying prices than in corporate selling prices, the rise in total cost purchases absorbed all but about \$4 billion of the 1945–46 expansion in adjusted sales. At the same time there was an advance of \$5½ billion in the total compensation of corporate employees, reflecting the first round of wage increases and some rise in labor requirements.

The sales and cost changes which produced the broad upswing of profit margins in the years which followed did not, of course, all occur simultaneously.

There was a sharp rise in adjusted sales through 1948. The further gain to 1950, when the profit ratios reached their peak, was considerably smaller. It was interrupted by the 1949 recession, and on balance both price and volume increases tended to slow. The changes in final demand which underlay these developments are suggested by table 5.

Cost purchases absorbed a little more than a pro rata share of the initial sales expansion, corporate buying prices advancing more rapidly than selling prices. The margin available for other costs and profits—i. e., corporate gross product—nevertheless increased by almost \$40 billion in this period, as against an expansion of only \$15 billion from 1948 to 1950.

Table 5.—Annual Changes in Expenditures for Business Gross Product

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	(change from previous year, in billions of dollars)								
Business gross product.....	9.5	25.8	23.4	-2.5	25.2	35.6	12.7	17.5	-4.8
Consolidated sales.....	3.5	34.0	19.9	3.7	17.4	35.0	20.1	19.2	-1.5
To consumers.....	25.0	17.3	11.6	2.3	12.4	13.4	9.0	10.9	5.6
Durables.....	7.8	4.7	1.6	1.4	5.0	-1.5	-5	3.2	-5
Nondurables.....	12.3	8.5	5.7	-1.9	3.6	10.4	4.7	2.7	2.0
Services.....	4.9	4.1	4.3	2.8	3.8	4.4	4.8	5.0	4.1
To government.....	-35.8	1.0	5.0	3.4	-2.6	14.5	11.1	5.9	-7.6
To business on capital account.....	9.5	9.7	6.3	-1.7	8.6	2.6	.3	3.4	-1
Construction.....	6.5	3.7	3.9	-5	5.3	.6	.4	2.1	2.0
Producers' durable equipment.....	3.1	5.9	2.4	-1.3	3.3	2.0	-1	1.3	-2.1
To abroad.....	4.7	6.0	-3.1	-2	-1.0	4.4	-3	-9	.7
Change in inventories.....	7.2	-7.1	5.2	-6.9	10.1	3.0	-7.6	-1.6	-4.0
Less: Purchases from abroad.....	1.2	1.1	1.6	-6	2.4	2.3	-2	.1	-7

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

Indirect taxes and capital consumption allowances absorbed about \$4 billion of each of these advances. Employee compensation, rising comparatively slowly, took about half the increase in gross product in each period, leaving profits \$13 billion higher in 1948 and up another \$4 billion in 1950.

The early rise in profits was relatively much sharper than those in sales and gross product, while the 1948–50 advance was only a little more than proportional.

There was an interesting contrast between these two periods in the factors underlying the slower growth of employee compensation than of gross product. While the higher pay rates associated with the second and third rounds of wage increases were accompanied by significant declines in labor requirements per unit of output, on balance there was a considerable rise from 1946 to 1948 in unit labor cost. In the sellers' market of the time, however, advancing product prices more than offset the effect of this cost increase. The favorable relative price movements of 1949 and the general price advance from 1949 to 1950 involved some further increases in prices attributable to corporate gross product unit labor cost seems to have been approximately stable in this period, as the uptrend in hourly rates of employee compensation slowed to a rate comparable with that of the advance in industrial efficiency.

Shifts since 1950

The 1951–54 period, during which overall profit ratios declined, witnessed notable year-to-year fluctuations in sales but was more homogeneous with respect to shifts in cost structure than the earlier postwar period.

The rise in sales at the beginning of this period reflected growth in the physical volume of output as well as sharp price advances. While the basic trend of sales continued upward in subsequent years, the expansion slowed in 1952 and was temporarily checked in 1954, so that the overall average rate of increase was considerably smaller than in the half-decade after World War II.

The uptrend of gross product was somewhat better sustained, as cost purchases absorbed a declining fraction of sales revenue. As noted earlier, for the period as a whole this tendency was apparently the result of differential movements in corporate buying and selling prices. As compared with its \$15 billion advance from 1948 to 1950, gross product showed a gain of over \$30 billion in the next two years. There was a further increase of \$14 billion in 1953, followed by a \$5 billion dip in 1954.

To minimize the effect of the 1953–54 business readjustment, it is convenient to outline the changes in cost structure in terms of the allocation of the \$44 billion rise from 1950 to 1953. With the growth in emergency amortization allowances, and reflecting the general postwar base and rate trends noted earlier, capital consumption allowances continued to rise year by year in relation to gross product. This item together with indirect taxes took nearly \$8 billion of the gross product expansion. Employee compensation rose to absorb almost all the remainder, leaving only \$2 billion for the increase in profits.

Employee compensation rose relatively more than gross product in each of these years. Annual data suggest that the pattern underlying this trend was similarly consistent from year to year. The increases in prices attributable to corporate gross product fell short of the successive annual advances which occurred in unit labor cost as average pay rates tended to rise somewhat more rapidly than unit labor requirements could be reduced.

This pattern continued in 1954. Data on employee compensation and corporate profits for the first three quarters of 1955 reveal a significant change, however. For the first time since 1950, according to the available evidence, profits seem to have shown a larger annual percentage increase than employee compensation, implying a slower rise in unit labor cost than in gross product prices.

BOOK PROFITS AND TAXES

Book profits before taxes, unadjusted for inventory valuation and including the net foreign balance, rose from a reconversion low of \$19 billion in 1945 to a peak of over \$41 billion in 1951. The total dipped sharply in 1952, recorded a partial recovery in the following year, and receded to \$34 billion in 1954. The strong upswing which developed late in that year and continued into 1955 carried the seasonally adjusted annual rate for the first nine months of last year to about \$43 billion.

The industry pattern of postwar growth in profits before taxes resembled that described above for adjusted before-tax earnings. The chief differences stemmed from the concentration of inventory gains and losses in trade and manufacturing. Large gains in 1946-48 and 1950 and inventory losses in 1949 and 1952 affected book profits in these industries rather substantially (table 2).

Short-term swings in profits are generally more marked in this measure than in the series adjusted for inventory valuation (see chart), because of the tendency for expansion of business activity to be accompanied by rising prices and associated inventory gains and for contraction to coincide with price declines and inventory losses. This pattern was distorted somewhat in the early postwar period—inventory gains following price decontrol carried book profits upward on an annual basis from 1945 to 1946 in the face of a decline in national income—but was clearly apparent in later years. The comparative movements of profits with and without the inventory valuation adjustment from 1945 to the first 9 months of 1955 were very similar, each measure advancing by about 125 percent.

In long-run comparisons significant differences may arise, e. g., from a secular change in inventory-sales ratios, from a curvilinear price trend, or from changes in accounting methodology. The effects of long-run changes are difficult to measure empirically, however, because short-term price movements complicate the trend analysis. Thus the considerably sharper rise in unadjusted than in adjusted profits from the 1926-29 period average to that of 1950-53 seems to have been due in large part to the post-Korean price advances, which had no analogue in the earlier period.

Taxes on profits

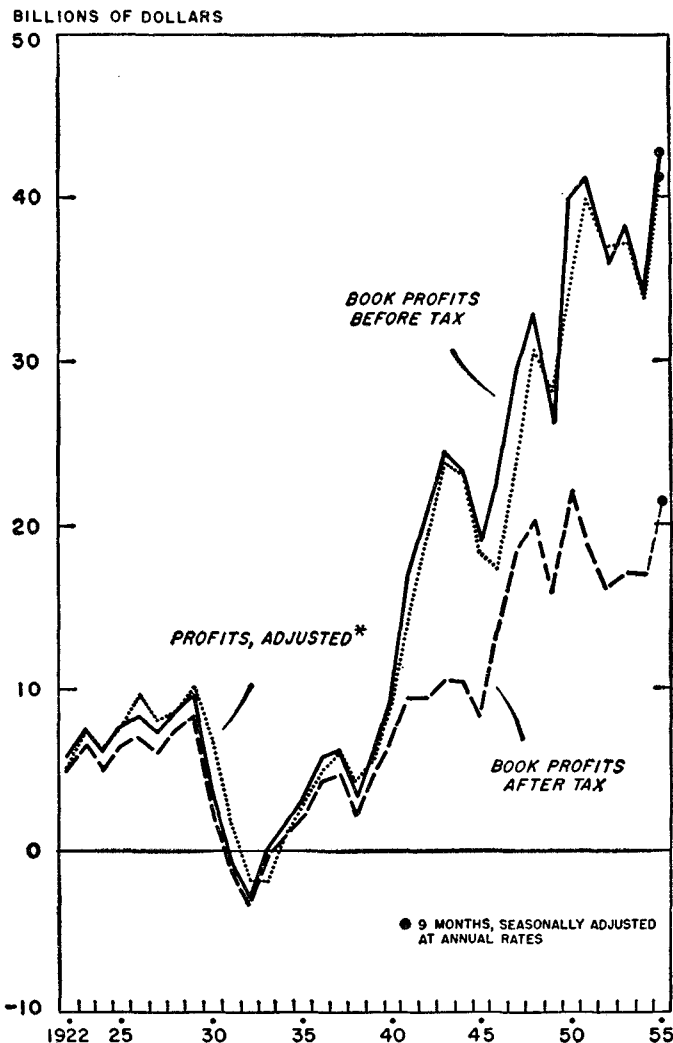
The level of corporate profits taxes is determined chiefly by the volume of before-tax profits and the statutory rates of Federal taxes. In all but two of the years between 1922 and 1954, the total of corporate profits tax liabilities moved in the same direction as before-tax book profits. In the two years when the direction of movement differed, 1928 and 1946, substantial rate reductions offset expansion in the tax base.

Corporate profits tax liability dropped nearly \$4 billion between 1944 and 1946 with the end of the Federal excess profits tax and a cut in the income tax rate. Thereafter the annual liability fluctuated about in proportion to before-tax net income until 1950, when a new excess profits tax and an increase in income tax rates went into effect. From \$10½ billion in 1949, total taxes on income rose with gains in taxable income and advancing tax rates to \$18 billion in 1950 and \$22½ billion in 1951. The aggregate fell back to \$20 billion in the following year, as the effect of the decline in profits more than offset the small increase in tax rates and recovered only partially in 1953. With the business readjustment after mid-1953 and the termination of the excess profits tax at year-end, tax liability dropped to \$17 billion for 1954, from which it advanced to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of around \$21 billion in the first three quarters of 1955.

Taxes on corporation profits are presented for broad industry divisions in table 2. In comparing these figures with those shown for before-tax profits, it should be noted again that the definition of the latter departs in several important respects from that of taxable income. (See first footnote to this article.)

During the period from 1950 to 1953, tax liabilities averaged 52 percent of before-tax net income. This rate compared with an average of 15 percent in 1926-29, when the regular income tax rate was much lower and there was no excess profits tax. In the later period tax liabilities were more than 15 times as large as in the earlier, while before-tax profits were 4½ times and profits after tax were 2½ times those of 1926-29. Roughly similar differences appear if the levels of 1954-55, when effective tax rates averaged around 50 percent, are compared with the late twenties.

Corporate Profits—Principal Measures



* Book profits before tax, plus inventory valuation adjustment

U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics

56-1-10

After-tax profits increased from a little over \$8 billion in 1945 to a peak \$22 billion in 1950. A dip to \$18½ billion followed in 1951 as taxes rose, and the total declined further to \$16 billion in 1952. It held level at roundly \$17 billion in 1953 and 1954 and rose to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$21 billion for January-September 1955.

The long-term uptrend in after-tax profits of course reflects the participation of profits in the general growth of the

economy and the accompanying rise of corporate business over the decades spanned in the comparison. If the expansion in total income originating in corporations is taken as a measure of the growth factor, after-tax profits appear not to have kept pace. Such profits, excluding the net foreign balance, averaged 16½ percent of corporate income originating in 1926–29, but only 11½ percent in 1950–53. As noted above, before-tax earnings adjusted for inventory valuation rose slightly in relation to income originating, and the decline in after-tax profits mirrors the increase in taxes over this period.

TECHNICAL APPENDIX

Sources of tables and charts

Tables 1 and 2 show totals and breakdowns of corporate profits which have been published for 1952–54 in the July 1955 *SURVEY*, and for 1929–51 in the 1954 *National Income* supplement to the *SURVEY* (Part V), tables 1, 18, 20, 21, and 23. Nos. 18 and 23 of these tables together provide the basis for the statistics of profits plus inventory valuation adjustment by industry division, and the further break between durables and nondurables manufacturing is derived from the underlying worksheets.

Table 3 comprises the detailed estimates of income originating in corporate business and of net change in corporate inventories which are shown in tables 12 and 33 of the regular national income series; and special estimates of other charges to corporate revenue and of corporate sales.

Corporate sales, as defined here, include (1) sales and operating receipts as summarized in No. 29 of the regular national income tables, (2) rents, royalties and miscellaneous receipts shown for the same industries in the tax return statistics (U. S. Internal Revenue Service, *Statistics of Income*, annual), (3) all of these income items for the finance, insurance and real estate industry division, from the same source, less estimates for mutual companies, (4) the portion of total indirect corporate taxes not reported as such among the deductions on Federal income tax returns, sales being assumed to have been reported net of such taxes, and (5) an allowance, based on data in *Statistics of Income* for 1934, for intra-system sales of companies segregated in the tax data as reporting on a consolidated basis. The latter allowance is a constant 6 percent of the sales of these companies, its dollar amount varying from year to year with that of sales reported on this net basis. Finally, cash subsidies paid by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and its affiliates and by the Maritime Administration have been deducted. The net sales total for 1952 has been extrapolated forward through 1954 by component (1), which of course accounts for the vast bulk of it.

Corporate cost purchases are estimated as sales plus inventory accumulation less the sum of other charges: indirect taxes (less subsidies) and business transfer payments, capital consumption allowances, and (from No. 12 of the regular national income tables) corporate employee compensation, net interest, and profits including inventory valuation adjustment.

Indirect taxes (and nontaxes) are estimated as sums of components derived by percentage allocation of the indirect business tax and nontax series shown in No. 8 of the national income tables. As noted in the text, the resulting estimates are not at all precise, though the margin of error is believed insufficient to affect the conclusions drawn in this article.

To derive the tax estimate, an industrial distribution of indirect taxes was first prepared. Eight types of excises and other taxes imposed on sales as a base were assigned to the specific industries known to be legally responsible for their payment or distributed industrially by the available data on relevant sales of the various industries in 1947. Property taxes (net of those charged to persons in the derivation of the net rent component of national income) were distributed in general by industry capital assets, figures for which had been derived by raising the asset values for corporations filing balance sheets with the Treasury Department by ratios of total corporate and noncorporate sales in each industry to sales of such corporations in that industry. A major exception to this procedure was made for agriculture, a figure based on estimates by the Department of Agriculture being used in this case. Finally, a residual group of items which included customs duties and nontaxes and accounted for 13 percent of the final corporate indirect tax figure for 1947 was distributed by industry sales.

Estimated 1947 ratios of corporate to total sales were applied to the resulting industry tax totals for each of the categories separately distributed by industry. The resulting corporate tax figures for 1947 were summed for each of the ten categories and divided by the corresponding all-enterprise totals to obtain all-industry corporate percentages. Annual corporate taxes were then calculated by applying these percentages to the annual values for the various types of taxes in national income table 8 (or, in the case of property taxes, to these values less the amounts charged to persons).

The annual movement of the sum of these corporate taxes required correction to reflect shifts in the distribution of producers by legal form of organization. A correction for the war and early postwar years when such shifts were most important was made by reference to the estimated effects of the shifts on the corporate percentage of income originating plus capital consumption allowances (see below).

Included with the indirect taxes and nontaxes in table 3 is an allowance for corporate business transfer payments which represents about 5 percent of the combined total. The bulk of this allowance consists of corporate gifts to nonprofit institutions and consumer bad debts. The cash subsidies mentioned above have been deducted from the sum of taxes and transfers, reducing it around 10 percent in 1943–45 and much less in other years.

Capital consumption allowances consist chiefly of depreciation and amortization reported in the corporate tax returns, adjusted as shown in No. 35 of the national income tables for the reallocation of emergency amortization allowances at the end of World War II. Also included are judgmental percentage allocations of the various components of business charges for accidental damage and capital outlays charged to current expense; these allocations account for one-sixth to one-ninth of the estimated total of corporate capital consumption allowances.

The price series represented in table 4 cover noncorporate as well as corporate transactions, and are therefore only broadly applicable to corporate business as such.

The implicit price deflator for nonfarm private gross product, taken to indicate the course of prices attributable to corporate gross product, was based on the current- and 1947-dollar figures for gross product other than that of general government, less the corresponding totals for gross farm product. The estimates of farm product correspond to those published in the *SURVEY* for August 1954, but the deflated values are in terms of 1947 prices. The nonfarm private product price deflator was tested for applicability to corporate business by eliminating rough estimates for various components representing noncorporate product; no differences which would affect the conclusions drawn in the present report were made by eliminating these. It may be noted that the gross product price deflator implied by the current-dollar and crudely deflated estimates of adjusted sales less those of cost purchases was quite consistent in movement with this nonfarm private product deflator.

Private nonfarm employee compensation per hour was estimated by reference to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The applicability of this series to corporate business was tested by making rough allowances for the proportion of corporate to total employment in each of the industries distinguished in the calculation; these allowances made no significant difference in the results.

The gross product price deflator and hourly compensation series just mentioned provided the basis for the estimates which underlie the text comments as to changes in unit labor requirements. Corporate employee compensation was divided by the hourly compensation series to yield an indicator of total man-hours worked in corporate business. Corporate gross product was divided by the price deflator to yield estimates of the real volume of corporate output. Finally, the latter series was divided into that on total man-hours to obtain the indicator of unit labor requirements. The results were closely consistent with previous

estimates of unit labor requirements, which, it may be noted, are based on essentially similar methodologies and data sources.

The values shown in table 5 are derived from those in national income tables 7 and 11. The first chart presented in the report is based on the adjusted profits totals in table 2. The second and third charts employ data published in No. 12 of the regular national income series for 1929 and later years. The special extension of these estimates from 1929 back to 1922 utilized industry data from corporation tax returns. Conceptual adjustments required by the reported profits figures were made on the basis chiefly of data from the same source, supplemented by estimates from Simon Kuznets, *National Income and Its Composition, 1919–38* (New York, National Bureau of Economic Research, 1945). Material from the latter report was also used in the extrapolation of corporate employee compensation; and both sources were employed together with compilations by the Federal Reserve Board in extrapolating net monetary and imputed interest, the remaining component of total income originating in corporate business. The 1922–28 estimates charted are as follows.

Year	Income originating in U. S. corporations (Billions of dollars)	Percentages of income originating	
		Profits	Total property income
1922	20.4	16	20
1923	37.7	19	22
1924	36.1	17	21
1925	38.3	19	23
1926	42.3	22	26
1927	40.7	19	23
1928	41.8	20	24

The percentages shown in the fourth chart are calculated from table 3. The values shown in the last chart are taken for 1929 and later years from national income table 1. For 1922–28, they are derived as indicated above in connection with the second and third charts, with the addition of an allowance based on the balance of payments statistics for net inflows of property income from abroad. The totals for these years are shown in the following table in billions of dollars.

Year	Adjusted profits	Book profits	
		Before tax	After tax
1922	5.1	5.8	4.9
1923	7.4	7.6	6.6
1924	6.3	6.1	5.1
1925	7.4	7.6	6.4
1926	9.6	8.4	7.0
1927	8.0	7.4	6.1
1928	8.6	8.6	7.4

Share ratio analysis

The analysis of shifts between 1929 and 1951 and between 1926–29 and 1950–53 in the property income fraction of income originating attempted to distinguish the effects of two sources of change in this fraction: shifts in the fractions for individual products; and shifts in the product mix.

There are serious practical difficulties in the way of measuring the respective effects of these two sorts of change on the trend of the property income fraction. Perhaps the most obvious is that the available statistical data apply to industries producing large groups of products, rather than to individual products, and market shifts affecting the relative composition of any group will affect the estimates as though they were due to changes in conditions of production rather than in the type of output. However, their effect on the measure of the latter may be in either direction, and therefore cannot be assumed to bias the result.

Secondly, short-run swings in the property income fraction are so large that even a moderate difference in cyclical position between the earlier and later periods compared may affect the validity of possible conclusions as to secular trends unless these trends are unusually pronounced. For example, the rapid decline in profits with the onset of the business readjustment in the latter part of 1953 is estimated to have contributed 1½ percentage points to the overall difference of 3½ points shown in chart 2 between the fraction for the full year 1953 and that for 1929.

Finally, the conventional procedure for separating the effects of the two factors on the property income ratio involves holding each in turn constant while the direct effect of the other is measured. The sum of the two direct effects so measured will not in general be equal to the total amount of the observed change in the ratio. Moreover, the coefficients representing the two effects will differ according to whether the factors are held constant at their initial or at their terminal values. The usual method of eliminating these ambiguities is to use cross-weights, a procedure which is tantamount to averaging the alternative measures obtained by use of initial- and terminal-period values as bases. The sum of the resulting coefficients is equal to the total amount of the change, the original discrepancy in effect being distributed equally between the two.

The values obtained in the present study are shown below before and after the application of this averaging procedure.

Comparisons	Change in property income percentage of total corporate income originating			
	Total	Due to—		
		Intra-industry changes	Shifts in industry percent of corporate income	“Interaction”
[Percentage points]				
1929 vs. 1951 (51 industries)				
1929 base weights	0.7	-0.9	-0.4	1.9
1951 base weights	.7	1.1	1.5	-1.9
Average	.7	.1	.6	.....
1926-21 vs. 1950-53 (21 industries)				
1926-29 base weights	-4	-6	-2.2	2.4
1950-53 base weights	-4	1.8	.2	-2.4
Average	-4	.6	-1.0	.....

Monthly BUSINESS STATISTICS



THE STATISTICS here are a continuation of the data published in BUSINESS STATISTICS, the 1955 Statistical Supplement to the SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS. That volume (price \$2.00) contains monthly data for the years 1951 through 1954 and monthly averages for earlier years back to 1929 insofar as available; it also provides a description of each series and references to sources of monthly figures prior to 1951. Series added or revised since publication of the 1955 Supplement are indicated by an asterisk (*) and a dagger (†), respectively, the accompanying footnote indicating where historical data and a descriptive note may be found. In most instances, the terms "unadjusted" and "adjusted" used to designate index numbers and dollar values refer to adjustment of monthly figures for seasonal variation.

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Unless otherwise stated, statistics through 1954 and descriptive notes are shown in the 1955 edition of BUSINESS STATISTICS	1954		1955											
	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS														
NATIONAL INCOME AND PRODUCT														
Seasonally adjusted quarterly totals at annual rates:														
National income, total..... bil. of dol.	303.2				311.4			320.7				325.7		
Compensation of employees, total..... do	209.8				213.1			219.5				224.3		
Wages and salaries, total..... do	198.1				200.8			207.0				211.3		
Private..... do	163.8				166.5			171.7				175.6		
Military..... do	9.3				9.1			9.3				9.1		
Government civilian..... do	25.0				25.3			25.9				26.6		
Supplements to wages and salaries..... do	11.8				12.2			12.5				13.0		
Proprietors' and rental income, totals ¹ do	48.2				48.8			48.7				48.8		
Business and professional ² do	23.3				23.6			27.1				27.6		
Farm..... do	11.2				11.5			11.0				10.6		
Rental income of persons..... do	10.7				10.7			10.7				10.7		
Corporate profits and inventory valuation adjustment, total..... bil. of dol.	35.5				39.6			42.2				41.9		
Corporate profits before tax, total..... do	36.0				40.9			43.0				44.5		
Corporate profits tax liability..... do	18.1				20.5			21.6				22.3		
Corporate profits after tax..... do	17.9				20.4			21.4				22.2		
Inventory valuation adjustment..... do	-1.5				-1.3			-1.8				-2.6		
Net interest..... do	9.7				9.9			10.3				10.7		
Gross national product, total..... do	367.1				375.3			384.8				392.0		
Personal consumption expenditures, total..... do	241.0				245.8			250.5				255.7		
Durable goods..... do	30.4				34.4			35.1				36.9		
Nondurable goods..... do	122.5				122.4			125.3				127.0		
Services..... do	88.1				89.0			90.2				91.8		
Gross private domestic investment, total..... do	50.7				54.1			60.1				60.5		
New construction..... do	29.4				31.2			32.6				33.2		
Producers' durable equipment..... do	21.9				21.5			23.2				24.9		
Change in business inventories..... do	-6				1.5			4.3				2.4		
Net foreign investment..... do	.9				-4			-7				.0		
Government purchases of goods and services, total..... bil. of dol.	74.5				75.8			74.9				75.8		
Federal (less Government sales)..... do	45.7				46.4			45.2				45.5		
National security ³ do	40.5				41.2			40.4				40.6		
State and local..... do	28.7				29.4			29.7				30.2		
Personal income, total..... do	290.8				293.6			300.5				306.1		
Less: Personal tax and nontax payments..... do	33.1				32.6			33.4				34.4		
Equals: Disposable personal income..... do	257.8				261.0			267.1				271.7		
Personal savings..... do	16.8				15.3			16.6				16.0		
PERSONAL INCOME, BY SOURCE														
Seasonally adjusted, at annual rates:														
Total personal income..... bil. of dol.	290.8	293.4	292.2	293.2	295.7	298.9	301.4	301.6	305.3	305.3	307.9	309.2	311.4	
Wage and salary disbursements, total..... do	198.6	198.8	199.3	200.3	202.6	204.6	207.3	208.0	212.4	211.2	212.4	213.3	215.0	
Commodity-producing industries..... do	85.2	84.8	85.4	86.3	87.8	88.9	90.6	90.9	91.7	91.5	92.2	92.8	94.1	
Distributive industries..... do	52.5	53.1	52.9	53.0	53.6	53.6	54.5	54.9	55.7	56.1	56.4	56.4	56.6	
Service industries..... do	26.6	26.6	26.8	26.7	27.0	27.2	27.4	27.4	27.8	27.9	28.0	28.2	28.4	
Government..... do	34.3	34.3	34.2	34.3	34.2	34.9	34.8	34.8	37.2	35.7	35.8	35.9	35.9	
Other labor income..... do	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.1	
Proprietors' and rental income..... do	48.3	48.9	49.1	48.8	48.5	49.0	48.8	48.5	47.9	48.8	49.7	49.8	49.9	
Personal interest income and dividends..... do	24.9	26.5	25.0	25.3	25.5	25.9	26.1	26.3	26.4	26.7	27.1	27.4	27.6	
Transfer payments..... do	16.8	17.1	17.0	17.0	17.4	17.6	17.5	17.1	16.9	16.9	16.9	16.9	17.1	
Less personal contributions for social insurance..... bil. of dol.	4.5	4.6	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	
Total nonagricultural income..... do	275.9	278.1	276.5	277.7	280.9	283.7	286.6	287.2	291.7	290.8	293.0	294.4	296.4	

¹ Revised.

² Includes inventory valuation adjustment. ³ Government sales are not deducted.

⁴ Personal saving is excess of disposable income over personal consumption expenditures shown as a component of gross national product above.

Unless otherwise stated, statistics through 1954 and descriptive notes are shown in the 1955 edition of BUSINESS STATISTICS	1954		1955											
	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS—Continued														
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION—Continued														
<i>Federal Reserve Index of Physical Volume—Con.</i>														
Unadjusted index—Continued														
Minerals..... 1947-49=100.....	114	114	117	119	118	119	122	121	119	124	126	126	126	p 125
Coal.....do.....	75	75	77	79	71	72	77	74	77	82	83	88	87	p 91
Crude oil and natural gas.....do.....	136	138	142	144	145	143	139	139	139	141	142	143	144	p 147
Metal mining.....do.....	79	76	79	85	86	101	131	141	104	126	141	136	117	
Stone and earth minerals.....do.....	126	122	115	113	122	128	133	134	135	139	141	139	135	
Adjusted, combined index.....do.....	128	130	132	133	135	136	138	139	139	140	142	143	144	p 144
Manufactures.....do.....	130	131	133	134	136	138	140	141	141	142	144	145	146	p 145
Durable manufactures.....do.....	142	143	145	147	148	151	153	155	155	158	160	162	160	p 160
Primary metals.....do.....	118	121	127	131	136	138	140	143	134	139	146	148	149	p 151
Metal fabricating (incl. ordnance).....do.....	152	154	155	157	157	160	162	163	167	169	171	173	172	p 170
Fabricated metal products.....do.....	125	125	125	126	129	130	134	135	135	137	141	142	139	p 139
Machinery.....do.....	148	145	146	146	149	151	155	158	160	163	163	164	162	p 160
Nonelectrical machinery.....do.....	122	120	124	125	126	131	134	136	138	140	141	143	143	p 142
Electrical machinery.....do.....	198	193	187	187	184	185	183	193	197	200	205	205	198	p 196
Transportation equipment.....do.....	175	187	191	193	195	197	199	194	203	206	205	208	212	p 207
Instruments and related products.....do.....	138	140	140	142	143	143	142	149	151	153	155	156	159	p 161
Furniture and fixtures.....do.....	108	108	109	109	112	113	117	121	122	124	125	124	123	p 123
Lumber and products.....do.....	124	131	129	127	127	127	128	133	125	127	127	130	123	p 124
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do.....	136	135	136	138	143	146	149	153	152	155	155	153	153	p 155
Miscellaneous manufactures.....do.....	132	131	132	133	136	136	142	145	143	145	145	145	145	p 146
Nondurable manufactures.....do.....	118	119	121	121	124	126	127	128	126	125	127	128	130	p 130
Food and beverage manufactures.....do.....	106	106	107	106	109	110	110	110	107	107	107	111	112	
Tobacco manufactures.....do.....	100	101	107	106	107	103	109	109	101	100	100	100	100	
Textile-mill products.....do.....	101	101	103	103	104	109	109	106	106	105	107	109	110	
Apparel and allied products.....do.....	105	107	108	106	115	114	115	116	113	111	111	116	121	
Leather and products.....do.....	96	100	105	104	105	105	105	107	106	102	104	105	102	
Paper and allied products.....do.....	137	136	140	143	147	151	156	156	155	153	157	158	157	
Printing and publishing.....do.....	120	121	123	123	125	125	128	128	128	128	130	131	130	p 131
Chemicals and allied products.....do.....	152	155	155	158	161	163	168	170	170	168	173	171	173	
Petroleum and coal products.....do.....	127	129	131	134	134	136	134	136	134	135	135	137	139	p 142
Rubber products.....do.....	122	133	143	138	140	144	147	149	137	138	143	147	147	
Minerals.....do.....	113	116	120	123	121	119	121	122	120	121	122	122	125	p 127
Coal.....do.....	69	73	74	79	72	81	86	87	87	82	80	80	80	p 87
Crude oil and natural gas.....do.....	136	138	142	144	145	143	139	139	139	141	142	143	144	p 147
Metal mining.....do.....	86	103	110	114	113	100	111	117	88	105	119	121	121	
Stone and earth minerals.....do.....	125	127	126	124	132	129	129	129	130	130	133	131	131	
CONSUMER DURABLES OUTPUT														
Unadjusted, total output..... 1947-49=100.....														
Major consumer durables.....do.....	142	149	163	174	179	180	167	160	152	152	145	159	178	p 162
Autos.....do.....	144	174	195	210	215	223	205	184	195	166	130	153	212	p 193
Major household goods.....do.....	142	130	137	146	151	145	136	141	115	141	159	166	150	p 137
Furniture and floor coverings.....do.....	108	109	108	111	114	111	109	113	105	117	124	127	124	
Appliances and heaters.....do.....	116	108	124	138	151	150	145	152	116	127	151	145	132	
Radio and television sets.....do.....	324	258	260	272	260	228	189	192	143	254	289	315	279	
Other consumer durables.....do.....	100	94	95	97	99	99	102	106	103	110	115	118	117	p 111
Adjusted, total output.....do.....	119	125	131	135	139	144	145	147	153	152	154	152	151	p 147
Major consumer durables.....do.....	128	137	145	151	156	163	164	161	173	172	172	170	167	p 161
Autos.....do.....	127	149	160	172	179	190	189	180	195	194	194	196	196	p 187
Major household goods.....do.....	130	129	133	135	138	142	143	153	156	155	157	149	143	p 141
Furniture and floor coverings.....do.....	103	105	107	107	109	110	113	117	117	121	123	121	121	
Appliances and heaters.....do.....	114	115	128	131	137	145	146	150	150	143	147	137	134	
Radio and television sets.....do.....	259	242	225	226	222	226	222	269	290	294	279	259	235	
Other consumer durables.....do.....	97	96	98	99	100	100	103	106	106	107	111	112	114	p 114
BUSINESS SALES AND INVENTORIES \$														
Manufacturing and trade sales (adj.), total.....bil. of dol.....	47.6	48.7	48.7	48.9	50.7	50.9	51.7	52.3	51.9	52.8	53.1	52.5	53.3	
Manufacturing, total.....do.....	24.0	24.1	24.3	24.6	26.0	26.0	26.6	27.1	26.7	27.2	27.2	26.7	27.3	
Durable-goods industries.....do.....	11.3	11.6	11.8	12.0	12.9	12.8	13.3	13.5	13.5	13.7	13.7	13.3	13.7	
Nondurable-goods industries.....do.....	12.6	12.5	12.4	12.6	13.1	13.2	13.3	13.6	13.2	13.5	13.5	13.4	13.6	
Wholesale trade, total.....do.....	9.3	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.7	9.6	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.9	10.0	10.1	10.2	
Durable-goods establishments.....do.....	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	
Nondurable-goods establishments.....do.....	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.4	6.6	6.7	6.8	
Retail trade, total.....do.....	14.4	15.1	14.9	14.8	15.1	15.3	15.4	15.4	15.5	15.7	15.8	15.8	15.8	
Durable-goods stores.....do.....	4.9	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7	
Nondurable-goods stores.....do.....	9.4	9.8	9.7	9.6	9.6	9.7	9.9	9.8	9.8	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.1	
Manufacturing and trade inventories, book value, end of month (adjusted), total.....bil. of dol.....	77.1	76.9	76.9	77.3	77.5	77.7	78.3	78.8	79.2	79.6	80.0	80.8	81.4	
Manufacturing, total.....do.....	43.3	43.3	43.2	43.3	43.3	43.3	43.5	43.8	43.9	44.3	44.7	45.3	45.6	
Durable-goods industries.....do.....	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.1	24.2	24.3	24.5	24.6	24.8	25.2	25.6	25.9	
Nondurable-goods industries.....do.....	19.3	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.1	19.2	19.3	19.4	19.5	19.5	19.7	19.7	
Wholesale trade, total.....do.....	11.7	11.5	11.5	11.7	11.6	11.7	11.8	11.8	11.9	11.9	12.0	12.2	12.3	
Durable-goods establishments.....do.....	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.3	
Nondurable-goods establishments.....do.....	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.0	
Retail trade, total.....do.....	22.1	22.1	22.2	22.4	22.6	22.8	23.0	23.2	23.4	23.3	23.2	23.3	23.5	
Durable-goods stores.....do.....	10.0	10.1	10.2	10.3	10.5	10.5	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.7	10.7	11.0	
Nondurable-goods stores.....do.....	12.1	12.0	12.1	12.0	12.1	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.6	12.5	

*Revised. *Preliminary.

†The term "business" here includes only manufacturing and trade. Business inventories as shown on p. S-1 cover data for all types of producers, both farm and nonfarm. Unadjusted data for manufacturing are shown on p. S-4; those for retail and wholesale trade on pp. S-9, S-10, and S-11.

Unless otherwise stated, statistics through 1954 and descriptive notes are shown in the 1955 edition of BUSINESS STATISTICS

	1954		1955											
	Novem-ber	Decem-ber	Janu-ary	Febru-ary	March	April	May	June	July	August	Septem-ber	October	Novem-ber	Decem-ber

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS—Continued

MANUFACTURERS' SALES, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS—Continued														
New orders, net (unadjusted), total..... mil. of dol.	22,635	24,309	24,324	24,268	28,310	26,043	26,708	28,314	26,100	28,443	28,744	* 28,251	27,613	.....
Durable-goods industries, total..... do.....	9,919	11,788	11,940	12,023	14,596	13,132	13,713	14,571	13,347	14,580	14,766	* 14,099	13,969	.....
Primary metal..... do.....	1,846	2,151	2,222	2,397	2,896	2,504	2,513	2,328	2,316	2,559	2,406	* 2,302	2,553	.....
Fabricated metal..... do.....	1,140	1,159	1,135	1,064	1,463	1,218	1,298	1,640	1,445	1,686	1,617	* 1,540	1,480	.....
Machinery (including electrical)..... do.....	2,702	3,029	2,983	3,191	3,656	3,345	3,321	3,929	3,639	3,698	4,029	* 3,882	3,698	.....
Transportation equipment (including motor vehicles)..... mil. of dol.	1,824	3,173	3,015	2,871	3,658	3,337	3,768	3,548	3,234	3,191	3,733	* 3,472	3,624	.....
Other durable-goods industries..... do.....	2,407	2,276	2,585	2,500	2,923	2,728	2,813	3,126	2,713	3,446	2,981	* 2,903	2,614	.....
Nondurable-goods industries, total..... do.....	12,716	12,521	12,384	12,245	13,714	12,911	12,995	13,743	12,753	13,863	13,978	* 14,152	13,644	.....
Industries with unfilled orders ♀..... do.....	3,053	2,901	2,893	2,870	3,253	2,888	2,957	3,403	3,010	3,159	3,195	* 3,309	3,300	.....
Industries without unfilled orders ¶..... do.....	9,663	9,620	9,491	9,375	10,461	10,023	10,038	10,340	9,743	10,704	10,783	* 10,843	10,344	.....
New orders, net (adjusted), total..... do.....	23,142	24,760	24,641	24,845	26,482	26,116	27,720	27,795	27,044	28,718	28,301	* 27,504	28,203	.....
Durable-goods industries, total..... do.....	10,491	11,963	12,142	12,170	13,353	12,879	14,331	14,033	13,571	15,145	14,936	* 14,132	14,631	.....
Primary metal..... do.....	1,943	2,068	2,136	2,446	2,586	2,385	2,538	2,477	2,339	2,611	2,532	* 2,373	2,687	.....
Fabricated metal..... do.....	1,267	1,288	1,135	1,120	1,306	1,194	1,366	1,562	1,445	1,606	1,525	* 1,540	1,644	.....
Machinery (including electrical)..... do.....	2,950	2,933	2,936	3,233	3,404	3,179	3,531	3,734	3,656	3,833	4,165	* 3,929	4,024	.....
Transportation equipment (including motor vehicles)..... mil. of dol.	1,824	3,173	3,350	2,871	3,325	3,337	3,966	3,225	3,334	3,844	3,733	* 3,472	3,553	.....
Other durable-goods industries..... do.....	2,507	2,501	2,585	2,500	2,732	2,784	2,930	3,035	2,797	3,251	2,981	* 2,818	2,723	.....
Nondurable-goods industries, total..... do.....	12,651	12,797	12,499	12,675	13,129	13,237	13,389	13,762	13,473	13,573	13,365	* 13,372	13,572	.....
Industries with unfilled orders ♀..... do.....	2,907	3,119	2,922	2,899	3,404	3,008	3,146	3,336	3,382	3,191	2,958	* 3,036	3,143	.....
Industries without unfilled orders ¶..... do.....	9,744	9,678	9,577	9,776	10,089	10,229	10,243	10,426	10,091	10,382	10,407	* 10,336	10,429	.....
Unfilled orders, end of month (unadj.), total..... do.....	46,384	46,529	47,174	47,471	48,231	47,978	48,361	49,321	50,777	51,809	52,957	* 53,340	53,684	.....
Durable-goods industries, total..... do.....	43,739	43,790	44,350	44,577	45,274	45,106	45,429	46,066	47,299	48,385	49,649	* 50,054	50,306	.....
Primary metal..... do.....	3,402	3,760	4,109	4,608	5,279	5,605	5,877	5,856	6,297	6,633	6,686	* 6,619	6,758	.....
Fabricated metal..... do.....	3,068	3,184	3,241	3,215	3,387	3,327	3,366	3,609	3,760	3,861	3,942	* 3,934	3,994	.....
Machinery (including electrical)..... do.....	13,621	13,363	13,446	13,503	13,531	13,550	13,489	13,736	14,339	14,705	15,199	* 15,504	15,761	.....
Transportation equipment (including motor vehicles)..... mil. of dol.	19,545	19,505	19,354	18,986	18,792	18,324	18,360	18,419	18,511	18,360	19,137	* 19,484	19,542	.....
Other industries, including ordnance..... do.....	4,103	3,978	4,200	4,265	4,285	4,300	4,337	4,446	4,592	4,826	4,685	* 4,513	4,251	.....
Nondurable-goods industries, total ♀..... do.....	2,645	2,739	2,824	2,894	2,957	2,872	2,932	3,255	3,478	3,424	3,308	* 3,286	3,378	.....
BUSINESS INCORPORATIONS♂														
New incorporations (48 States)..... number.....	9,735	11,981	13,181	11,369	13,417	11,756	12,029	12,605	10,893	10,983	11,024	10,698	10,157	.....
INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL FAILURES♂														
Failures, total..... number.....	933	917	939	877	1,038	903	955	914	861	888	822	919	945	.....
Commercial service..... do.....	68	72	87	60	66	66	80	75	68	59	75	81	70	.....
Construction..... do.....	110	130	87	113	108	106	121	114	102	134	114	136	133	.....
Manufacturing and mining..... do.....	179	204	195	188	225	154	168	200	179	158	168	180	196	.....
Retail trade..... do.....	490	413	456	412	520	484	499	446	423	430	366	437	462	.....
Wholesale trade..... do.....	86	98	114	104	119	93	87	79	89	107	99	85	84	.....
Liabilities (current), total..... thous. of dol.	35,067	40,103	37,872	42,056	41,209	35,968	34,714	36,667	32,543	36,028	33,120	34,777	42,783	.....
Commercial service..... do.....	4,065	1,857	3,154	2,244	2,916	2,229	1,998	5,259	1,502	1,987	2,666	3,655	1,239	.....
Construction..... do.....	6,859	5,926	9,044	7,624	4,468	6,450	4,885	4,702	6,289	9,663	4,256	8,713	9,744	.....
Manufacturing and mining..... do.....	8,099	17,526	11,636	18,922	16,921	12,653	14,093	13,888	11,865	10,102	10,798	10,407	14,106	.....
Retail trade..... do.....	10,466	8,509	9,647	8,928	11,972	10,765	10,874	9,564	8,605	10,024	8,253	9,586	12,626	.....
Wholesale trade..... do.....	5,578	6,285	4,391	4,338	4,932	3,871	2,864	3,254	4,282	4,252	7,147	2,416	5,068	.....

COMMODITY PRICES

PRICES RECEIVED AND PAID BY FARMERS														
Prices received, all farm products..... 1910-14=100.....	242	239	243	244	243	247	244	243	237	233	235	230	225	223
Crops..... do.....	243	243	247	244	243	252	255	244	238	228	229	224	224	227
Commercial vegetables, fresh market..... do.....	226	221	257	258	262	270	308	230	223	211	230	223	231	231
Cotton..... do.....	281	276	275	288	269	266	266	266	271	277	285	278	274	264
Feed grains and hay..... do.....	199	202	204	203	198	197	200	196	190	178	174	167	164	170
Food grains..... do.....	239	239	241	240	239	236	240	232	222	214	217	220	220	221
Fruit..... do.....	210	218	216	203	204	216	209	239	235	213	210	188	193	207
Oil-bearing crops..... do.....	277	279	274	270	264	261	259	256	257	246	225	227	228	232
Potatoes§..... do.....	184	182	192	198	200	297	305	213	170	141	129	130	143	144
Tobacco..... do.....	438	430	425	436	437	437	436	435	435	437	427	443	438	455
Livestock and products..... do.....	241	236	240	245	243	242	234	242	237	237	240	236	225	219
Dairy products..... do.....	266	264	258	255	248	241	236	235	242	249	257	264	267	265
Meat animals..... do.....	261	253	263	264	260	269	260	276	261	251	250	240	216	201
Poultry and eggs..... do.....	159	155	163	190	199	185	175	176	178	191	202	195	195	204
Wool..... do.....	287	284	284	285	281	274	263	251	247	240	226	222	219	220
Prices paid:														
All commodities and services..... do.....	262	261	264	264	265	265	263	263	262	260	259	261	259	259
Family living items..... do.....	272	272	273	271	273	274	274	274	274	273	272	274	273	274
Production items..... do.....	251	250	254	256	256	254	251	250	248	247	246	246	244	243
All commodities and services, interest, taxes, and wage rates..... 1910-14=100.....	279	279	283	283	284	284	282	282	281	279	279	280	279	279
Parity ratio⊕..... do.....	87	86	86	86	86	87	87	86	84	84	84	82	81	80

♂ Revised.

♀ Includes textiles, leather, paper, and printing and publishing industries; unfilled orders for other nondurable-goods industries are zero.

¶ For these industries (food, beverages, tobacco, apparel, petroleum, chemicals, and rubber), sales are considered equal to new orders.

♂ Data are from Dun and Bradstreet, Inc.

§ Includes sweetpotatoes and dry edible beans.

⊕ Ratio of prices received to prices paid (including interest, taxes, and wage rates).

371064°—56—4

Unless otherwise stated, statistics through 1954 and descriptive notes are shown in the 1955 edition of BUSINESS STATISTICS	1954		1955											
	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
DOMESTIC TRADE—Continued														
RETAIL TRADE—Continued														
All retail stores—Continued														
Estimated inventories:														
Unadjusted, total.....mil. of dol.	23,270	20,670	20,970	22,010	23,520	23,570	23,390	22,840	22,730	23,080	23,300	* 23,890	24,760	
Durable-goods stores.....do.	9,840	9,240	9,700	10,270	10,950	11,280	11,240	10,920	10,850	10,760	10,390	10,390	10,930	
Nondurable-goods stores.....do.	13,430	11,430	11,270	11,740	12,570	12,290	12,150	11,920	11,880	12,320	12,910	* 13,500	13,830	
Adjusted, total.....do.	22,080	22,090	22,210	22,360	22,590	22,760	23,000	23,190	23,370	23,350	23,230	* 23,290	23,530	
Durable-goods stores.....do.	10,030	10,060	10,160	10,330	10,450	10,540	10,750	10,780	10,840	10,850	10,720	* 10,720	10,990	
Automotive group.....do.	3,390	3,430	3,650	3,770	3,900	3,960	4,130	4,100	4,160	4,150	3,970	3,990	4,240	
Furniture and appliance group.....do.	1,930	1,900	1,850	1,890	1,890	1,910	1,920	1,950	1,960	1,960	1,970	1,960	1,980	
Lumber, building, hardware group.....do.	2,340	2,410	2,330	2,310	2,290	2,290	2,310	2,330	2,350	2,350	2,380	2,380	2,360	
Nondurable-goods stores.....do.	12,050	12,030	12,050	12,030	12,140	12,220	12,250	12,410	12,530	12,500	12,510	* 12,570	12,540	
Apparel group.....do.	2,700	2,570	2,650	2,710	2,770	2,800	2,740	2,770	2,770	2,730	2,760	* 2,780	2,760	
Food group.....do.	2,300	2,310	2,380	2,350	2,310	2,380	2,420	2,450	2,500	2,510	2,480	* 2,540	2,570	
General-merchandise group.....do.	3,810	3,920	3,830	3,820	3,870	3,830	3,860	3,990	4,020	4,040	4,050	* 4,050	4,040	
Firms with 11 or more stores:														
Estimated sales (unadjusted), total \$.....do.	2,743	3,718	2,316	2,255	2,632	2,906	2,721	2,778	2,729	2,713	2,896	2,949	2,994	
Apparel group \$.....do.	186	296	126	113	174	212	178	176	146	143	185	196	201	
Men's and boys' wear stores.....do.	20	32	12	10	14	17	15	16	11	9	12	17	20	
Women's apparel, accessory stores.....do.	71	119	48	44	67	81	72	66	60	61	69	76	78	
Shoe stores.....do.	54	86	41	37	56	79	62	64	54	50	68	62	59	
Drug and proprietary stores.....do.	61	92	60	57	60	64	62	62	65	62	63	65	63	
Eating and drinking places.....do.	54	58	53	50	56	56	58	60	62	63	62	63	60	
Furniture, home furnishings stores.....do.	32	32	23	24	32	26	31	28	27	30	27	33	35	
General-merchandise group \$.....do.	848	1,360	565	536	687	807	760	774	706	781	827	874	938	
Department stores.....do.	385	570	267	240	327	389	377	378	346	369	404	425	428	
Dry-goods, other general-merchandise stores.....do.	125	203	80	73	93	116	105	110	103	117	120	130	141	
Variety stores.....mil. of dol.	210	425	140	144	170	215	186	190	181	192	200	212	224	
Grocery stores.....do.	1,081	1,288	1,083	1,071	1,166	1,253	1,135	1,164	1,212	1,121	1,225	1,200	1,175	
Lumber, building-materials dealers.....do.	68	58	50	54	61	68	75	80	77	84	81	78	70	
Tire, battery, accessory stores.....do.	49	74	42	42	49	57	56	63	69	64	57	59	58	
Estimated sales (adjusted), total \$.....do.	2,660	2,798	2,754	2,717	2,778	2,774	2,825	2,784	2,809	2,836	2,875	2,820	2,901	
Apparel group \$.....do.	177	188	181	169	178	175	181	172	179	177	181	182	189	
Men's and boys' wear stores.....do.	17	18	15	15	15	15	16	15	15	15	15	16	16	
Women's apparel, accessory stores.....do.	67	73	69	66	68	70	71	67	72	70	70	72	73	
Shoe stores.....do.	59	62	62	56	61	60	61	57	60	59	61	60	64	
Drug and proprietary stores.....do.	63	66	63	63	63	66	64	64	66	64	66	65	66	
Eating and drinking places.....do.	57	57	56	57	57	57	57	59	59	60	60	60	62	
Furniture, home furnishings stores.....do.	27	27	31	30	30	28	28	28	30	29	28	30	29	
General-merchandise group \$.....do.	745	820	812	758	802	795	800	780	814	819	839	800	836	
Department stores.....do.	345	385	393	357	380	379	369	359	383	386	397	376	391	
Dry-goods, other general-merchandise stores.....do.	107	120	114	107	115	112	117	113	121	119	126	120	121	
Variety stores.....mil. of dol.	200	216	206	197	205	205	211	206	205	210	215	205	216	
Grocery stores.....do.	1,116	1,154	1,127	1,164	1,168	1,170	1,193	1,184	1,161	1,191	1,203	1,185	1,208	
Lumber, building-materials dealers.....do.	67	70	66	70	70	69	73	70	71	71	69	68	69	
Tire, battery, accessory stores.....do.	50	52	55	55	55	58	55	60	58	60	59	59	59	
Department stores:														
Accounts receivable, end of month:														
Charge accounts.....1947-49=100.....do.	150	200	163	140	132	137	139	135	125	125	137	148	163	
Installment accounts.....do.	249	277	276	268	266	267	267	266	266	268	274	282	296	
Ratio of collections to accounts receivable:														
Charge accounts.....percent.....do.	48	46	44	43	48	44	45	46	43	46	45	47	47	
Installment accounts.....do.	13	14	14	14	15	15	15	15	14	14	15	15	15	
Sales by type of payment:														
Cash sales.....percent of total sales.....do.	45	47	45	45	44	45	45	46	45	45	44	44	44	
Charge account sales.....do.	44	43	43	43	44	44	44	42	42	42	44	43	44	
Installment sales.....do.	11	10	12	12	12	11	11	11	13	13	12	13	12	
Sales, unadjusted, total U. S. \$.....1947-49=100.....do.	137	201	91	88	100	114	116	110	98	105	123	128	* 148	* 209
Atlanta.....do.	* 155	234	106	107	129	141	134	121	122	129	136	154	* 165	
Boston.....do.	133	200	90	82	90	108	111	107	82	86	120	115	* 141	
Chicago.....do.	* 132	188	88	84	98	114	116	112	96	103	123	* 126	* 146	
Cleveland.....do.	133	191	87	83	93	112	110	104	96	104	116	125	* 147	
Dallas.....do.	149	228	110	103	120	136	133	120	123	129	131	* 146	* 155	
Kansas City.....do.	* 134	205	94	89	104	123	119	113	111	117	127	* 131	* 142	
Minneapolis.....do.	120	180	80	81	88	108	108	95	89	102	119	126	* 125	
New York.....do.	* 135	186	85	82	93	99	101	100	77	82	111	116	* 139	
Philadelphia.....do.	146	197	85	83	101	109	114	107	90	92	124	125	* 159	
Richmond.....do.	153	231	91	91	111	125	129	118	107	112	138	140	* 164	
St. Louis.....do.	137	194	92	89	101	118	120	106	102	109	122	135	* 149	
San Francisco.....do.	134	209	97	93	97	112	116	113	107	118	123	126	* 145	
Sales, adjusted, total U. S. \$.....do.	113	116	119	112	115	119	117	114	124	118	121	122	* 122	* 121
Atlanta.....do.	133	135	137	134	133	142	137	136	152	143	140	148	* 142	
Boston.....do.	110	110	114	109	107	108	111	107	114	107	112	114	* 116	
Chicago.....do.	* 108	112	116	109	114	119	117	114	122	115	118	* 120	* 124	
Cleveland.....do.	107	110	111	108	107	116	113	108	124	114	116	* 120	* 118	
Dallas.....do.	131	136	140	129	134	142	134	132	145	139	131	138	* 136	
Kansas City.....do.	116	120	124	114	120	126	120	118	136	124	127	125	* 124	
Minneapolis.....do.	104	111	112	103	108	107	107	103	111	107	112	109	* 109	
New York.....do.	* 107	106	108	101	105	102	103	104	108	106	108	* 109	* 110	
Philadelphia.....do.	* 112	113	113	108	111	115	114	114	121	114	120	120	* 121	
Richmond.....do.	* 125	128	133	122	129	126	128	123	136	134	134	132	* 134	
St. Louis.....do.	114	117	123	114	116	122	120	108	132	120	119	122	* 124	
San Francisco.....do.	115	118	125	118	118	120	118	118	123	122	126	126	* 125	

* Revised. * Preliminary. ? Includes data not shown separately.

† Data for 1946-55 have been revised to reflect current seasonal patterns and to allow for changes in the samples used in computing the unadjusted indexes. Revisions beginning with 1946 for total United States appear on p. 24 of the October 1955 Survey; unpublished revisions for the districts are available upon request.

Unless otherwise stated, statistics through 1954 and descriptive notes are shown in the 1955 edition of BUSINESS STATISTICS	1954		1955											
	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
FINANCE—Continued														
PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS—Continued														
Manufacturing corporations—Continued														
Net profit after taxes—Continued														
Chemicals and allied products.....mil. of dol.		327			364			413						
Petroleum refining.....do.		662			575			566						
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do.		116			111			192						
Primary nonferrous metal.....do.		134			159			182						
Primary iron and steel.....do.		230			262			345						
Fabricated metal products (except ordnance, machinery, and transport, equip.).....mil. of dol.		81			111			132						
Machinery (except electrical).....do.		175			224			298						
Electrical machinery.....do.		203			167			173						
Transportation equipment (except motor vehicles, etc.).....mil. of dol.		105			102			115						
Motor vehicles and parts.....do.		275			501			578						
All other manufacturing industries.....do.		305			278			316						
Dividends paid (cash), all industries.....do.		2,002			1,422			1,436						
Electric utilities, net profit after taxes (Fed. Res.).....mil. of dol.		288			341			296			284			
Railways and telephone cos. (see pp. S-23 and S-24).														
SECURITIES ISSUED														
Commercial and Financial Chronicle:														
Securities issued, by type of security, total (new capital and refunding).....mil. of dol.	1,051	2,043	1,446	864	2,003	1,244	1,324							
New capital, total.....do.	687	1,569	1,114	729	1,663	975	1,123							
Domestic, total.....do.	667	1,522	1,015	726	1,632	959	1,121							
Corporate.....do.	223	654	431	382	1,067	509	749							
Federal agencies.....do.	0	0	52	32	49	31	36							
Municipal, State, etc.....do.	444	868	533	313	517	419	336							
Foreign.....do.	20	47	98	3	31	16	2							
Refunding, total ?.....do.	364	475	332	135	340	269	201							
Domestic, total.....do.	364	450	332	135	340	269	201							
Corporate.....do.	267	368	134	45	137	173	84							
Federal agencies.....do.	91	63	192	80	194	91	115							
Municipal, State, etc.....do.	6	19	6	11	9	6	3							
Securities and Exchange Commission:														
Estimated gross proceeds, total.....do.	1,350	2,552	2,706	1,431	2,583	1,654	4,399	1,947	2,487	1,656	1,640	* 2,614	1,764	
By type of security:														
Bonds and notes, total.....do.	1,250	2,387	2,518	1,294	2,033	1,453	4,095	1,684	2,333	1,440	1,466	* 2,422	1,490	
Corporate.....do.	321	854	484	364	871	475	694	533	583	672	574	1,034	413	
Common stock.....do.	64	103	135	113	512	146	209	206	101	200	93	153	192	
Preferred stock.....do.	37	62	53	25	37	54	95	57	53	16	82	39	83	
By type of issuer:														
Corporate, total ?.....do.	422	1,019	672	501	1,420	675	998	796	737	887	749	1,225	687	
Manufacturing.....do.	110	189	190	86	644	172	435	180	358	173	190	154	184	
Mining.....do.	60	75	20	13	49	31	15	82	32	29	52	29	14	
Public utility.....do.	62	463	242	111	226	218	249	280	105	91	224	149	266	
Railroad.....do.	51	62	64	1	25	93	13	18	4	187	31	66	12	
Communication.....do.	75	44	7	45	27	19	25	71	46	92	29	696	41	
Real estate and financial.....do.	28	110	98	149	386	116	185	82	129	281	166	87	97	
Noncorporate, total ?.....do.	929	1,534	2,034	930	1,163	979	3,401	1,151	1,750	768	892	* 1,389	1,077	
U. S. Government.....do.	466	557	742	602	614	535	3,020	496	1,265	509	481	401	438	
State and municipal.....do.	459	906	541	328	540	429	350	651	470	259	407	* 926	606	
New corporate security issues:														
Estimated net proceeds, total.....do.	413	1,004	660	492	1,396	659	977	778	723	870	735	1,208	674	
Proposed uses of proceeds:														
New money, total.....do.	244	515	465	362	1,190	444	791	635	514	623	562	1,058	562	
Plant and equipment.....do.	145	367	325	177	759	260	567	440	247	287	368	952	437	
Working capital.....do.	99	147	140	185	431	185	224	194	267	335	194	106	126	
Retirement of securities.....do.	123	400	114	56	135	165	74	81	140	216	55	70	73	
Other purposes.....do.	46	89	81	74	71	50	112	62	69	32	118	79	38	
State and municipal issues (Bond Buyer):														
Long-term.....thous. of dol.	458,795	906,056	541,449	327,527	539,767	429,030	349,648	650,780	470,161	258,707	407,314	925,818	606,274	
Short-term.....do.	133,922	327,572	191,319	262,627	209,769	200,591	149,768	218,322	301,267	330,455	200,458	136,646	242,810	
SECURITY MARKETS														
Brokers' Balances (N. Y. S. E. Members Carrying Margin Accounts)														
Cash on hand and in banks.....mil. of dol.		348						337						
Customers' debit balances (net).....do.	2,242	2,443	2,558	2,653	2,701	2,752	2,731	2,757	2,780	2,752	2,848	2,789	2,796	
Customers' free credit balances.....do.	972	1,023	1,069	1,063	1,022	973	928	917	918	887	977	920	876	
Money borrowed.....do.	1,416	1,616	1,696	1,779	1,939	2,062	2,119	2,093	2,080	2,064	2,124	2,159	2,260	
Bonds														
Prices:														
Average price of all listed bonds (N. Y. S. E.), totals.....dollars	100.13	100.07	99.05	98.41	98.62	98.27	98.36	97.91	96.98	96.95	97.44	98.07	97.65	
Domestic.....do.	100.47	100.43	99.39	98.76	98.97	98.59	98.67	98.19	97.24	97.19	97.71	98.35	97.96	
Foreign.....do.	79.85	78.92	79.06	78.05	78.55	79.06	80.36	80.28	80.92	82.10	81.82	81.27	79.06	
Standard and Poor's Corporation:														
Industrial, utility, and railroad (A1+ issues):														
Composite (17 bonds).....dol. per \$100 bond	117.4	117.0	116.7	115.7	115.4	115.2	114.7	114.5	114.3	113.3	113.1	113.5	113.7	
Domestic municipal (15 bonds).....do.	127.4	126.6	125.4	124.9	124.4	123.9	125.1	123.9	121.4	120.5	121.3	122.5	122.7	119.8
U. S. Treasury bonds, taxable.....do.	99.27	98.97	97.88	96.97	97.08	96.31	96.53	96.37	94.96	94.51	94.87	95.83	95.46	95.07
Sales:														
Total, excluding U. S. Government bonds:														
All registered exchanges:														
Market value.....thous. of dol.	98,178	150,401	115,121	86,843	93,992	80,463	82,141	108,696	93,547	82,604	106,046	195,875	90,762	
Face value.....do.	99,831	155,797	129,547	90,703	100,868	89,342	90,512	111,629	96,276	83,401	108,464	177,186	87,870	
New York Stock Exchange:														
Market value.....do.	96,042	147,784	111,885	84,516	92,031	78,899	80,249	106,849	91,216	80,549	104,134	194,268	88,662	
Face value.....do.	96,368	152,634	126,209	88,119	97,287	87,152	86,856	108,668	90,405	80,933	106,239	175,133	85,283	

* Revised. * Preliminary.

? Includes data not shown separately.

§ Data for bonds of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, not shown separately, are included in computing average price of all listed bonds.

Unless otherwise stated, statistics through 1954 and descriptive notes are shown in the 1955 edition of BUSINESS STATISTICS

1954		1955											
November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December

CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS—Continued

FATS, OILS, ETC.—Continued													
Vegetable oils, oilseeds, and byproducts—Con.													
Flaxseed:													
Production (crop estimate).....thous. of bu.		140,808											240,638
Oil mills:†													
Consumption.....do.	2,988	2,752	2,341	1,884	3,138	1,861	2,014	1,552	2,023	2,635	3,064	4,275	3,132
Stocks, end of month.....do.	6,085	5,292	4,550	4,276	2,559	1,654	1,006	1,807	3,034	4,797	7,166	7,542	
Price, wholesale, No. 1 (Minneapolis).....dol. per bu.	3.37	3.38	3.35	3.36	3.25	3.24	3.34	3.35	3.29	3.15	3.08	3.10	3.17
Linseed oil, raw:													3.21
Production.....thous. of lb.	58,487	54,165	46,204	37,058	59,703	36,801	40,707	30,891	41,248	52,553	61,403	84,708	62,493
Consumption, factory.....do.	44,324	39,961	34,933	40,974	43,533	45,085	43,619	50,888	45,901	46,629	46,724	56,220	41,236
Stocks at factory, end of month.....do.	214,023	186,697	181,927	164,731	171,597	161,853	139,750	110,324	62,259	63,138	68,623	80,294	108,296
Price, wholesale (Minneapolis).....dol. per lb.	.135	.126	.123	.125	.123	.125	.131	.131	.132	.135	.136	.130	.127
Soybeans:													
Production (crop estimate).....thous. of bu.		1341,565											2371,276
Consumption.....do.	22,197	21,181	21,483	19,777	19,525	20,031	21,012	22,119	21,347	19,891	18,712	25,388	25,394
Stocks, end of month.....do.	50,740	44,613	33,243	24,355	17,549	12,912	10,200	10,775	10,541	7,201	20,117	74,133	88,365
Soybean oil:													
Production:													
Crude.....thous. of lb.	239,625	227,765	230,957	214,068	210,643	218,083	229,163	243,635	235,756	219,494	206,411	279,908	277,042
Refined.....do.	210,262	204,180	205,325	187,174	219,803	199,755	217,411	224,826	182,704	213,451	202,904	240,688	232,664
Consumption, factory, refined.....do.	204,723	197,029	192,795	185,616	219,097	194,676	211,230	216,075	166,083	190,072	210,645	200,896	200,226
Stocks, end of month:													
Crude.....do.	96,887	109,116	118,602	128,114	107,732	104,438	94,695	83,164	119,559	113,578	109,178	109,695	135,084
Refined.....do.	59,988	66,755	80,090	73,078	68,183	66,197	64,702	67,247	67,063	78,623	70,699	77,514	99,725
Price, wholesale, refined (N. Y.).....dol. per lb.	.192	.195	.194	.194	.187	.186	.188	.191	.185	.181	.171	.174	.175
Margarine:													
Production.....thous. of lb.	134,717	116,346	124,476	119,803	125,781	104,407	112,569	105,024	79,699	91,592	113,923	124,428	117,090
Stocks (factory and warehouse), end of mo.....do.	19,952	27,279	23,763	25,467	28,390	26,428	23,484	25,580	24,252	20,632	22,206	25,881	22,879
Price, wholesale, colored, delivered (eastern U. S.).....dol. per lb.	.267	.273	.273	.273	.273	.273	.273	.273	.273	.273	.273	.273	.273
Shortening:													
Production.....thous. of lb.	186,148	178,888	172,515	168,263	187,778	159,921	182,210	188,782	121,993	151,447	158,370	180,783	161,917
Stocks, end of month.....do.	106,657	122,760	119,826	128,537	150,179	158,191	145,034	154,234	138,949	149,813	140,726	136,658	137,012
PAINTS, VARNISH, AND LACQUER													
Factory shipments, total.....thous. of dol.	103,132	93,633	109,796	104,023	133,311	135,089	143,397	149,721	124,563	137,609	133,267	125,214	118,993
Industrial sales.....do.	43,448	41,811	45,017	44,363	54,072	53,096	54,443	56,336	47,208	55,309	52,198	54,792	53,223
Trade sales.....do.	59,684	51,822	64,779	59,660	79,239	81,993	88,954	93,385	77,355	82,300	81,069	70,422	65,770
SYNTHETIC PLASTICS AND RESIN MATERIALS													
Production:													
Cellulose acetate and mixed ester plastics:													
Sheets, rods, and tubes.....thous. of lb.	3,096	3,662	3,290	3,215	4,281	3,265	3,247	3,903	2,283	3,390	4,012	3,880	
Molding and extrusion materials.....do.	7,350	6,470	6,968	7,177	7,422	7,574	7,758	7,723	6,271	7,681	8,728	8,374	
Nitrocellulose sheets, rods, and tubes.....do.	316	329	414	364	483	427	403	415	260	413	396	415	
Other cellulose plastics.....do.	508	452	553	559	744	584	561	333	313	332	430	385	
Phenolic and other tar acid resins.....do.	32,893	33,010	34,394	37,195	41,459	39,448	39,876	41,994	30,288	39,087	42,221	44,619	
Polystyrene.....do.	36,495	35,205	36,860	36,360	44,185	41,824	42,550	42,273	35,749	41,144	50,304	57,157	
Urea and melamine resins.....do.	21,281	20,344	20,698	20,676	24,956	23,711	22,636	21,231	17,110	22,416	24,280	26,426	
Vinyl resins.....do.	46,532	49,773	53,782	51,650	59,767	56,773	61,731	56,118	54,628	57,022	60,968	62,159	
Alkyd resins.....do.	28,487	30,285	31,441	31,909	38,899	38,835	38,444	39,136	31,979	35,886	36,700	35,480	
Rosin modifications.....do.	10,259	9,209	11,353	10,478	12,126	12,096	11,820	11,665	12,303	10,767	12,148	12,628	
Miscellaneous.....do.	33,204	36,105	35,806	37,041	42,259	47,846	48,750	47,143	41,744	48,151	53,104	56,304	

ELECTRIC POWER AND GAS

ELECTRIC POWER													
Production (utility and industrial), total.....mil. of kw.-hr.													
Electric utilities, total.....do.	46,440	49,890	50,404	46,269	51,153	48,376	49,939	50,725	52,924	55,917	52,907	54,206	54,513
By fuels.....do.	40,209	43,449	43,955	40,230	44,449	42,035	43,354	44,234	46,625	49,353	46,335	47,367	47,751
By water power.....do.	32,093	34,402	34,526	31,659	34,051	31,567	33,539	34,525	37,275	39,821	38,168	38,601	38,543
Privately and municipally owned utilities.....do.	8,116	9,047	9,429	8,571	10,399	10,468	9,815	9,709	9,350	9,532	8,167	8,766	9,208
Other producers (publicly owned).....do.	33,881	36,308	36,294	33,230	36,248	34,257	35,326	36,012	37,848	40,179	37,595	38,759	39,100
Industrial establishments, total.....do.	6,329	7,140	7,661	7,000	8,201	7,778	8,028	8,222	8,777	9,175	8,740	8,608	8,651
By fuels.....do.	6,231	6,441	6,448	6,039	6,703	6,341	6,585	6,490	6,299	6,563	6,572	6,839	6,762
By water power.....do.	5,861	6,020	6,139	5,742	6,375	6,017	6,277	6,204	6,052	6,309	6,365	6,608	6,524
Sales to ultimate customers, total (Edison Electric Institute).....mil. of kw.-hr.	370	421	309	296	329	324	308	286	247	254	207	231	237
Commercial and industrial:													
Small light and power.....do.	35,392	37,092	38,198	37,654	38,283	38,140	38,127	38,850	39,557	41,957	42,122	41,829	
Large light and power.....do.	6,141	6,279	6,384	6,311	6,269	6,225	6,240	6,586	7,601	7,497	7,476	7,026	
Railways and railroads.....do.	17,694	18,250	18,414	18,133	19,253	19,496	20,248	20,778	20,551	21,895	21,982	22,512	
Residential or domestic.....do.	391	440	437	399	416	374	365	370	335	352	354	356	
Rural (distinct rural rates).....do.	9,200	10,203	11,071	10,958	10,375	9,917	9,208	8,975	9,262	9,706	9,812	9,672	
Street and highway lighting.....do.	720	637	601	605	719	928	879	958	1,160	1,266	1,213	954	
Other public authorities.....do.	389	417	421	379	371	334	314	296	305	330	356	396	
Interdepartmental.....do.	813	820	829	822	830	817	822	837	833	860	862	862	
Revenue from sales to ultimate customers (Edison Electric Institute).....thous. of dol.	44	46	40	48	51	50	49	52	49	52	54	51	

† Revised. * Preliminary.

¹ Revised estimate of 1954 crop. ² December 1 estimate of 1955 crop. ³ Beginning January 1955 excludes quantities held by consuming factories. Comparable data for December 1955 (units as above): Margarine, 26,960; shortening, 119,597.

† Revisions for January–July 1954 will be shown later.

Unless otherwise stated, statistics through 1954 and descriptive notes are shown in the 1955 edition of BUSINESS STATISTICS	1954		1955											
	Novem-ber	Decem-ber	Janu-ary	Febru-ary	March	April	May	June	July	August	Septem-ber	October	Novem-ber	Decem-ber
LUMBER AND MANUFACTURES—Continued														
PLYWOOD														
Hardwood (except container and packaging):														
Shipments (market), quarterly total														
M sq. ft., surface measure.....		203,556			211,577			220,908			215,326			
Inventories (for sale), end of quarter.....do.....		29,096			31,157			33,847			32,858			
Softwood (Douglas fir only), production														
M sq. ft., 3/4" equivalent.....	394,659	392,810	393,101	389,408	444,081	412,756	418,950	416,207	321,111	414,569	422,532	427,948	423,235	413,501

METALS AND MANUFACTURES

IRON AND STEEL														
Foreign trade:														
Iron and steel products (excl. advanced mfrs.):														
Exports, total.....short tons.....	453,038	667,541	631,371	660,518	778,290	801,766	815,901	844,999	827,315	672,163	767,919	837,373		
Scrap.....do.....	223,398	400,797	368,280	359,187	421,004	413,481	450,418	512,579	448,402	328,060	414,678	442,674		
Imports, total.....do.....	153,275	128,106	104,291	112,934	109,723	116,948	139,166	132,644	103,978	184,286	169,872	172,396		
Scrap.....do.....	41,256	27,695	11,124	24,923	11,524	13,302	9,836	13,041	11,777	27,120	25,887	17,083		
Iron and Steel Scrap														
Production and receipts, total.....thous. of short tons.....	5,866	6,185	6,004	5,874	7,072	7,068	7,199	6,773	6,048	6,850	6,786	* 7,248	* 7,335	
Home scrap produced.....do.....	3,066	3,290	3,384	3,294	3,909	3,905	3,947	3,844	3,457	3,829	3,921	4,002	* 3,882	
Purchased scrap received (net).....do.....	2,800	2,896	2,619	2,580	3,162	3,163	3,252	2,929	2,591	3,021	2,865	* 3,245	* 3,453	
Consumption, total.....do.....	5,520	5,685	5,993	5,993	7,071	6,988	7,186	6,852	6,101	6,623	6,788	* 7,217	* 7,065	
Stocks, consumers', end of month.....do.....	6,852	7,349	7,284	7,156	7,158	7,243	7,259	7,184	7,132	7,357	7,355	7,385	* 7,242	
Ore														
Iron ore:														
All districts:														
Mine production.....thous. of long tons.....	3,272	2,907	2,787	2,741	3,227	6,056	11,820	13,704	13,034	14,160	13,830	12,846		
Shipments.....do.....	4,101	1,896	1,587	1,531	1,835	5,312	12,621	14,835	14,633	15,117	14,544	13,696		
Stocks, at mines, end of month.....do.....	5,726	6,737	8,023	9,227	10,109	11,366	10,532	9,402	7,803	6,846	6,130	5,279		
Lake Superior district:														
Shipments from upper lake ports.....do.....	2,918	18	0	0	0	3,758	11,606	12,595	13,334	13,572	12,757	12,244	7,410	184
Consumption by furnaces.....do.....	5,845	6,341	6,620	6,447	7,481	7,290	7,798	7,473	7,273	7,485	7,539	7,850	7,488	
Stocks, end of month, total.....do.....	49,975	44,018	37,470	31,108	23,711	18,907	21,901	27,361	33,424	39,506	45,406	49,523	51,040	
At furnaces.....do.....	43,065	37,427	31,360	25,222	18,616	14,545	17,465	22,455	27,940	33,100	38,459	42,167	43,718	
On Lake Erie docks.....do.....	6,911	6,591	6,110	5,886	5,095	4,362	4,436	4,906	5,485	6,405	6,948	7,356	7,323	
Imports.....do.....	1,720	1,178	1,081	931	1,248	1,220	2,045	2,490	2,498	2,871	2,518	2,857		
Manganese ore, imports (manganese content).....do.....	93	59	66	67	87	81	86	72	60	98	90	75		
Pig Iron and Iron Manufactures														
Castings, gray iron:														
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....thous. of short tons.....	760	745	783	852	934	966	938	982	1,050	1,160	1,151	1,113		
Shipments, total.....do.....	997	1,074	1,092	1,106	1,315	1,294	1,310	1,296	1,070	1,226	* 1,253	* 1,310	* 1,305	
For sale.....do.....	547	564	563	578	689	680	707	716	579	688	713	714		
Castings, malleable iron:														
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....short tons.....	80,686	85,064	99,817	101,766	99,730	104,091	106,446	107,559	115,420	123,473	116,636	121,261		
Shipments, total.....do.....	70,030	80,599	82,028	85,979	102,364	101,226	98,397	99,456	75,570	82,448	87,215	90,866	* 98,725	
For sale.....do.....	41,609	49,005	48,000	48,721	60,063	57,397	57,317	60,261	44,914	48,126	55,471	53,804		
Pig iron:														
Production.....thous. of short tons.....	5,257	5,587	5,785	5,443	6,464	6,385	6,805	6,544	6,391	6,601	6,703	6,965	6,699	
Consumption.....do.....	5,336	5,576	5,827	5,560	6,531	6,412	6,770	6,468	6,082	6,462	6,612	* 6,937	* 6,536	
Stocks (consumers' and suppliers'), end of month.....thous. of short tons.....	2,533	2,536	2,447	2,384	2,213	2,097	2,084	2,116	2,332	2,471	2,483	* 2,421	* 2,355	
Prices, wholesale:														
Composite.....dol. per long ton.....	56.03	56.03	56.03	56.03	56.03	56.03	56.03	56.03	57.88	58.45	58.45	58.45	58.45	58.45
Basic (furnace).....do.....	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	58.50	58.50	58.50	58.50	* 58.50	
Foundry, No. 2, Northern.....do.....	56.50	56.50	56.50	56.50	56.50	56.50	56.50	56.50	59.00	59.00	59.00	59.00	* 59.00	
Steel, Crude and Semimanufactures														
Steel castings:														
Shipments, total.....short tons.....	87,659	93,547	98,238	106,430	127,460	120,053	122,465	133,887	97,875	126,406	140,843	* 145,674	* 152,905	
For sale, total.....do.....	64,812	69,843	75,044	80,729	98,926	92,237	92,713	102,457	71,170	96,290	107,622	110,409		
Railway specialties.....do.....	7,742	11,489	13,809	16,501	19,339	16,646	16,810	19,591	11,631	20,576	23,594	23,745		
Steel forgings (for sale):														
Orders, unfilled.....thous. of short tons.....	461.2	472.7	487.8	491.9	507.1	499.4	509.4	519.6	513.3	547.0	552.4	559.7		
Shipments, total.....do.....	119.7	128.5	135.9	135.4	154.4	149.6	147.0	155.5	115.0	134.8	148.8	158.0	* 158.1	
Drop and upset.....do.....	89.3	96.4	103.0	102.1	119.2	113.5	109.4	117.0	82.7	99.9	110.1	120.0		
Press and open hammer.....do.....	30.4	32.0	33.0	33.3	35.2	36.2	37.7	38.4	32.3	34.9	38.6	38.0		
Steel ingots and steel for castings:														
Production.....do.....	8,089	8,287	8,838	8,497	9,982	9,815	10,328	9,746	9,101	9,595	9,882	10,501	* 10,247	10,468
Percent of capacity.....do.....	79	79	83	88	93	95	97	94	85	90	96	98	99	98
Prices, wholesale:														
Composite, finished steel.....dol. per lb.....	.0542	.0542	.0542	.0542	.0542	.0542	.0542	.0542	.0576	.0580	.0580	.0582	.0582	.0581
Steel billets, rerolling, carbon, f. o. b. mill.....dol. per short ton.....	74.00	74.00	74.00	74.00	74.00	74.00	74.00	74.00	78.50	78.50	78.50	78.50	* 78.50	
Structural shapes (carbon), f. o. b. mill.....dol. per lb.....	.0452	.0452	.0452	.0452	.0452	.0452	.0452	.0452	.0487	.0487	.0487	.0487	* .0487	
Steel scrap, No. 1, heavy melting (Pittsburgh).....dol. per long ton.....	34.50	32.50	36.50	36.50	38.50	38.50	34.50	34.50	39.50	44.50	43.50	44.50	* 45.50	
Steel, Manufactured Products														
Barrels and drums, steel, heavy types (for sale):														
Orders, unfilled, end of month.....thousands.....	2,256	2,217	2,198	2,145	2,303	2,342	2,123	2,377	2,317	1,953	1,871	1,910	1,741	
Shipments.....do.....	1,782	1,797	1,742	1,747	2,125	1,990	2,062	2,514	2,078	2,230	2,032	2,075	2,042	
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	103	90	77	89	104	106	107	125	116	109	114	124	138	
Cans, metal, shipments (in terms of steel consumed), total for sale and own use.....short tons.....	273,616	283,386	279,642	259,585	307,939	321,281	379,767	397,799	427,434	565,220	511,429	501,455	254,808	
Food.....do.....	166,975	170,125	170,068	154,507	171,568	178,528	222,797	230,016	266,148	392,145	355,914	343,966	152,659	
Nonfood.....do.....	106,641	113,261	109,574	105,078	136,371	142,753	156,970	167,783	161,286	173,075	155,515	157,489	102,149	
Shipments for sale.....do.....	239,881	247,688	240,159	224,128	265,592	273,649	330,050	347,471	386,053	511,684	443,363	445,349	215,063	

* Revised. * Preliminary.

† For 1955, percent of capacity is calculated on annual capacity as of January 1, 1955, of 125,823,310 tons of steel; for 1954, data are based on capacity as of January 1, 1954 (124,330,410 tons).

Unless otherwise stated, statistics through 1954 and descriptive notes are shown in the 1955 edition of BUSINESS STATISTICS	1954		1955											
	Novem-ber	Decem-ber	Janu-ary	Febru-ary	March	April	May	June	July	August	Septem-ber	October	Novem-ber	Decem-ber
METALS AND MANUFACTURES—Continued														
HEATING APPARATUS, EXCEPT ELECTRIC														
Radiators and convectors, cast iron:														
Shipments.....thous. of sq. ft. of radiation.....	2,700	1,956	1,675	1,970	2,419	2,035	1,732	2,208	1,865	3,615	3,326	-----	-----	-----
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	5,400	5,434	5,876	6,106	6,416	6,991	7,898	7,903	7,520	6,378	5,845	-----	-----	-----
Oil burners:														
Shipments.....number.....	67,660	46,882	57,282	58,041	59,218	60,155	65,407	68,600	70,945	100,826	107,972	94,689	-----	-----
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	53,978	57,125	50,686	51,163	62,655	71,864	69,732	68,141	65,462	59,572	50,174	49,268	-----	-----
Stoves and ranges, domestic cooking, excl. electric:														
Shipments, total.....number.....	190,328	160,494	167,752	200,306	232,431	196,705	199,682	216,879	156,745	238,014	238,214	227,306	-----	-----
Coal and wood.....do.....	6,652	5,586	5,564	5,527	6,063	4,283	4,107	4,817	5,367	6,460	7,752	6,838	-----	-----
Gas (incl. bungalow and combination).....do.....	174,549	146,135	153,065	186,436	217,466	182,502	187,735	204,170	145,951	219,083	218,280	208,429	-----	-----
Kerosene, gasoline, and fuel oil.....do.....	9,127	8,773	9,123	8,343	8,902	9,920	7,840	7,892	5,427	12,471	12,182	12,039	-----	-----
Stoves, domestic heating, shipments, total.....do.....	284,688	110,245	75,004	90,897	105,357	98,307	122,722	186,201	233,198	311,164	353,820	396,349	-----	-----
Coal and wood.....do.....	37,823	9,094	4,824	4,422	7,710	8,624	10,624	15,589	26,304	45,107	56,196	62,745	-----	-----
Gas.....do.....	195,337	74,513	41,646	38,228	50,350	50,311	74,605	116,854	142,723	185,481	214,388	251,726	-----	-----
Kerosene, gasoline, and fuel oil.....do.....	51,528	26,638	28,534	48,247	47,297	39,372	37,493	53,758	64,171	80,576	83,236	81,878	-----	-----
Warm-air furnaces (forced-air and gravity air-flow), shipments, total.....number.....	107,615	81,130	85,476	79,537	87,121	91,908	99,937	117,376	107,905	163,741	164,154	150,331	-----	-----
Gas.....do.....	64,312	50,341	50,923	47,740	53,673	58,012	62,696	74,125	64,563	99,558	101,828	94,368	-----	-----
Oil.....do.....	38,594	28,055	31,899	28,917	30,510	31,484	34,284	39,657	38,902	57,792	54,105	47,660	-----	-----
Solid fuel.....do.....	4,709	2,734	2,654	2,880	2,938	2,412	2,957	3,594	4,440	6,391	8,221	8,303	-----	-----
Water heaters, gas, shipments.....do.....	175,550	163,458	200,001	214,703	248,754	231,694	216,731	214,607	207,226	260,438	224,027	218,521	-----	-----
MACHINERY AND APPARATUS														
Blowers, fans, and unit heaters, quarterly totals:														
Blowers and fans, new orders.....thous. of dol.....	-----	39,739	-----	-----	55,813	-----	-----	53,013	-----	-----	58,170	-----	-----	-----
Unit heater group, new orders.....do.....	-----	16,087	-----	-----	14,648	-----	-----	16,497	-----	-----	18,228	-----	-----	-----
Foundry equipment (new), new orders, net mo. avg. shipments, 1947-49=100.....	61.4	113.9	81.0	90.4	163.6	178.6	145.7	186.8	213.4	134.0	156.7	108.6	-----	-----
Furnaces, industrial, new orders, net:														
Electric processing.....thous. of dol.....	1,190	1,246	1,148	976	1,342	2,234	1,813	2,635	786	1,348	964	1,532	1,543	-----
Fuel-fired (except for hot rolling steel).....do.....	1,534	4,100	3,543	4,390	5,609	5,032	3,801	2,836	2,981	4,101	6,579	7,061	4,131	-----
Machine tools (metal-cutting types):														
New orders.....mo. avg. shipments, 1945-47=100.....	119.5	202.9	203.0	209.4	214.6	178.1	243.7	263.2	217.8	221.3	207.3	347.1	432.7	-----
Shipments.....do.....	179.5	203.4	167.3	168.2	202.5	180.1	180.9	198.8	152.9	164.6	195.4	204.2	214.6	-----
Pumps (steam, power, centrifugal and rotary), new orders.....thous. of dol.....	5,224	4,787	5,220	6,709	6,161	5,447	6,411	7,419	5,834	7,022	5,664	-----	-----	-----
Tractors (except contractors' off-highway and garden):														
Shipments, total.....thous. of dol.....	-----	*157,655	66,178	71,786	79,302	94,718	82,289	79,179	63,360	52,359	59,140	81,728	67,355	-----
Wheel-type.....do.....	-----	*87,716	41,431	45,807	54,025	64,847	51,016	47,911	38,613	29,308	29,736	42,589	33,288	-----
Tracklaying.....do.....	-----	*69,939	24,747	25,979	25,277	29,871	31,273	31,268	24,747	23,051	29,404	39,139	34,067	-----
ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT														
Batteries (automotive replacement only), ship-ments.....thousands.....	2,410	1,796	1,478	1,647	1,321	1,281	1,572	1,794	2,024	2,777	3,039	3,036	2,622	-----
Household electrical appliances, sales billed:														
Refrigerators, index.....1947-49=100.....	47.2	61.7	96.0	94.0	106.0	96.0	104.0	105.0	89.0	86.0	85.0	64.0	65.0	-----
Vacuum cleaners, standard type.....thousands.....	237.9	217.0	250.1	262.7	358.2	244.1	261.2	207.8	255.5	308.3	350.7	307.5	-----	-----
Washers, domestic sales.....do.....	308.4	264.8	357.4	353.2	370.6	313.5	341.8	354.5	245.9	403.8	414.9	362.3	361.3	-----
Radio sets, production.....do.....	1,098.7	1,261.6	1,068.1	1,089.7	1,482.3	1,099.8	1,114.0	1,204.9	718.5	947.6	1,302.4	1,500.2	1,580.8	1,833.5
Television sets (incl. combination), production\$ thousands.....	858.5	1,833.4	654.6	702.5	1,831.2	583.2	467.4	1,590.0	344.3	647.9	1,939.5	759.7	631.7	1,604.8
Insulating materials and related products:														
Insulating materials, sales billed, index.....1947-49=100.....	123.9	138.3	132.0	137.0	160.0	160.0	154.0	158.0	117.0	147.0	156.0	156.0	-----	-----
Fiber products:														
Laminated fiber products, shipments\$ thousands.....	9,596	10,535	9,426	10,076	12,211	11,106	10,909	11,522	9,856	11,057	12,827	12,399	11,668	-----
Vulcanized fiber:														
Consumption of fiber paper.....thous. of lb.....	2,964	3,794	4,037	3,918	4,876	4,591	4,778	4,679	3,136	4,505	3,818	4,607	4,409	-----
Shipments of vulcanized products.....thous. of dol.....	1,350	1,540	1,571	1,565	1,803	1,815	1,799	1,750	1,367	1,817	1,639	1,914	1,776	-----
Steel conduit (rigid), shipments.....thous. of ft.....	29,645	25,911	24,049	25,898	29,762	30,521	32,504	35,310	53,017	31,611	29,682	32,216	29,522	-----
Motors and generators, quarterly:														
New orders, index.....1947-49=100.....	-----	156.7	-----	-----	155.0	-----	-----	186.0	-----	-----	208.0	-----	-----	-----
Polyphase induction motors, 1-200 hp:†														
New orders.....thous. of dol.....	-----	34,476	-----	-----	38,649	-----	-----	44,407	-----	-----	49,969	-----	-----	-----
Billings.....do.....	-----	36,184	-----	-----	34,638	-----	-----	41,298	-----	-----	40,573	-----	-----	-----
Direct current motors and generators, 1-200 hp:†														
New orders.....thous. of dol.....	-----	8,130	-----	-----	6,729	-----	-----	10,545	-----	-----	9,950	-----	-----	-----
Billings.....do.....	-----	9,942	-----	-----	9,052	-----	-----	8,179	-----	-----	7,220	-----	-----	-----

PETROLEUM, COAL, AND PRODUCTS

COAL														
Anthracite:														
Production.....thous. of short tons.....	2,500	2,816	2,333	2,442	1,910	1,640	1,888	2,024	1,755	1,812	2,333	2,127	2,268	2,383
Stocks in producers' storage yards, end of month.....thous. of short tons.....	1,293	1,293	1,267	1,164	1,132	1,145	1,081	1,000	1,008	1,048	942	966	886	-----
Exports.....do.....	359	348	311	253	175	148	176	226	207	242	302	418	-----	-----
Prices:														
Retail, composite.....dol. per short ton.....	25.19	25.40	25.52	25.67	25.67	25.64	24.08	24.18	24.50	24.48	24.63	25.18	25.51	-----
Wholesale, chestnut, f. o. b. car at mine.....do.....	13.507	13.657	13.721	13.721	13.721	13.721	11.829	11.829	12.257	12.257	12.524	13.261	13.318	-----

* Revised. † Preliminary. ‡ Represents 5 weeks' production. § Quarterly total.

§ Radio production comprises home, portable battery, automobile, and clock models; television sets include combination models. Data for December 1954 and March, June, September, and December 1955 cover 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

⊕ Data beginning August 1955 cover 20 companies; earlier data, 19 companies.

† Data for polyphase induction motors cover 34 companies; for direct current motors and generators, 27 companies.

Unless otherwise stated, statistics through 1954 and descriptive notes are shown in the 1955 edition of BUSINESS STATISTICS	1954		1955											
	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
RUBBER AND RUBBER PRODUCTS—Continued														
TIRES AND TUBES														
Pneumatic casings: ♂														
Production.....thousands..	7,624	8,442	9,040	8,745	10,083	9,153	9,949	10,703	9,027	8,717	9,125	9,555	-----	9,603
Shipments, total.....do.....	6,840	7,344	8,911	8,272	9,907	9,937	9,865	10,234	9,729	9,462	8,453	8,117	-----	8,045
Original equipment.....do.....	3,124	3,707	3,785	3,833	4,780	4,457	4,352	3,931	3,890	3,362	3,142	3,495	-----	4,303
Replacement equipment.....do.....	3,558	3,468	4,967	4,281	4,926	5,315	5,361	6,129	5,711	5,980	5,170	4,490	-----	3,592
Export.....do.....	158	169	159	157	201	165	152	174	128	119	140	161	-----	150
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	13,676	14,762	14,949	15,368	15,609	14,890	14,936	15,460	14,684	13,908	14,674	16,163	-----	17,727
Exports.....do.....	147	141	134	155	180	155	154	155	125	111	137	147	-----	-----
Inner tubes: ♂														
Production.....do.....	3,242	3,200	3,089	2,850	3,234	2,836	3,005	3,136	2,768	2,923	3,169	3,119	-----	3,052
Shipments.....do.....	2,691	2,569	4,116	2,862	3,327	3,250	3,233	3,565	3,450	3,733	3,261	3,004	-----	2,875
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	8,706	9,519	8,252	8,244	8,217	7,963	7,735	7,326	6,664	5,917	5,966	6,286	-----	6,734
Exports.....do.....	69	70	58	81	96	87	62	78	67	48	78	67	-----	-----
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODUCTS														
PORTLAND CEMENT														
Production.....thous. of bbl..	23,826	22,290	20,223	17,611	22,340	24,818	27,031	26,762	27,332	27,861	*26,958	27,924	-----	-----
Percent of capacity.....do.....	98	89	81	78	89	103	108	111	107	109	109	110	-----	-----
Shipments.....thous. of bbl..	22,766	16,347	13,520	14,031	22,941	25,295	29,527	31,606	29,467	31,883	*29,887	28,950	-----	-----
Stocks, end of month:														
Finished.....do.....	10,732	16,731	23,437	27,087	26,516	26,106	23,672	18,855	16,727	12,731	* 9,779	8,753	-----	-----
Clinker.....do.....	3,634	5,274	7,888	10,812	12,571	12,044	10,439	8,624	7,192	5,373	* 4,413	3,349	-----	-----
CLAY PRODUCTS														
Brick, unglazed:														
Production.....thous. of standard brick..	557,097	519,144	468,522	445,775	562,507	569,355	613,871	653,910	623,164	677,449	675,876	656,868	632,714	-----
Shipments.....do.....	548,588	464,080	412,028	405,001	568,469	605,391	652,091	684,429	627,200	680,758	677,850	637,593	581,028	-----
Price, wholesale, common, composite, f. o. b. plant dol. per thous.....	28.430	28.430	28.642	28.559	28.559	28.654	28.750	28.846	28.952	29.308	29.451	* 29.736	* 29.829	-----
Clay sewer pipe, vitrified:														
Production.....short tons.....	148,573	151,619	132,268	133,933	163,417	142,879	156,551	179,359	151,504	173,326	182,797	171,814	174,343	-----
Shipments.....do.....	140,320	121,607	100,512	108,975	148,750	147,018	173,337	197,360	170,587	193,115	187,947	171,749	157,170	-----
Structural tile, unglazed:														
Production.....do.....	79,699	68,621	65,827	65,438	72,470	65,146	67,600	77,358	72,615	73,376	69,241	72,165	69,631	-----
Shipments.....do.....	71,874	64,351	63,716	59,583	69,059	70,105	72,353	77,109	69,870	80,651	74,339	73,672	64,489	-----
GLASS PRODUCTS														
Glass containers:														
Production.....thous. of gross.....	9,305	8,538	10,449	10,211	11,293	11,045	11,758	12,219	11,858	13,109	11,234	12,173	10,557	-----
Shipments, domestic, total.....do.....	9,255	8,891	9,593	9,177	10,930	10,422	11,635	12,063	10,996	14,361	11,194	11,147	9,845	-----
General-use food:														
Narrow-neck food.....do.....	830	767	833	846	1,038	1,052	1,114	1,176	1,217	1,852	1,746	1,348	931	-----
Wide-mouth food (incl. packers' tumblers, jelly glasses, and fruit jars).....thous. of gross.....	2,670	2,514	3,016	2,719	2,836	2,699	3,277	3,226	3,093	4,749	3,013	3,271	2,955	-----
Beverage.....do.....	310	506	392	455	853	980	1,311	1,510	1,230	931	480	411	471	-----
Beer bottles.....do.....	561	677	596	536	854	1,070	1,156	1,282	1,161	1,145	739	597	589	-----
Liquor and wine.....do.....	1,304	1,012	847	976	1,257	1,097	1,060	1,167	972	1,144	1,203	1,486	1,346	-----
Medicinal and toilet.....do.....	2,409	2,369	2,772	2,564	2,894	2,399	2,555	2,491	2,196	3,027	2,669	2,791	2,477	-----
Chemical, household and industrial.....do.....	926	757	923	903	997	930	959	908	915	1,184	1,015	1,003	839	-----
Dairy products.....do.....	245	289	214	178	201	195	203	213	212	329	329	240	237	-----
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	13,461	12,892	13,301	14,058	14,247	14,521	14,331	14,327	14,805	13,263	13,040	13,719	14,123	-----
GYPSUM AND PRODUCTS														
Crude gypsum, quarterly total:														
Imports.....thous. of short tons.....	-----	838	-----	-----	653	-----	-----	877	-----	-----	1,327	-----	-----	-----
Production.....do.....	-----	2,550	-----	-----	2,333	-----	-----	2,589	-----	-----	* 2,871	-----	-----	-----
Calcined, production, quarterly total.....do.....	-----	2,026	-----	-----	2,025	-----	-----	2,148	-----	-----	* 2,402	-----	-----	-----
Gypsum products sold or used, quarterly total:														
Uncalcined uses.....short tons.....	-----	814,663	-----	-----	650,083	-----	-----	753,092	-----	-----	*761,999	-----	-----	-----
Industrial uses.....do.....	-----	66,327	-----	-----	73,624	-----	-----	72,338	-----	-----	* 72,174	-----	-----	-----
Building uses:														
Plasters:														
Base-coat.....do.....	-----	400,172	-----	-----	395,234	-----	-----	476,667	-----	-----	511,104	-----	-----	-----
All other (incl. Keene's cement).....do.....	-----	266,754	-----	-----	255,906	-----	-----	312,123	-----	-----	357,985	-----	-----	-----
Lath.....mil. of sq. ft.....	-----	641.8	-----	-----	683.3	-----	-----	724.4	-----	-----	* 771.3	-----	-----	-----
Wallboard.....do.....	-----	1,091.4	-----	-----	1,137.4	-----	-----	1,157.4	-----	-----	*1,175.1	-----	-----	-----
All other ○.....do.....	-----	53.8	-----	-----	44.3	-----	-----	55.8	-----	-----	* 56.9	-----	-----	-----

*Revised. *Preliminary. 1 Includes data for laminated board.

♂ Data for 1954 for production, shipments, and stocks have been revised. Unpublished revisions (for January-May) are available upon request.

○ Comprises sheathing, formboard, tile, and for 1955 also laminated board.

* Revisions for gypsum and products for 3rd quarter 1954 (units as above): Crude production, 2,398; calcined production, 2,072; gypsum products sold or used—uncalcined uses, 754,005; industrial uses, 60,188; lath, 695.7; wallboard (excluding laminated board), 1,022.6; all other (including laminated board), 58.8.

INDEX TO MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS, Pages S1-S40

Pages marked S

Acids	24
Advertising	8, 9
Agricultural employment	11
Agricultural loans and foreign trade	16, 17, 21, 22
Aircraft and parts	2, 12, 13, 14, 15, 40
Airline operations	23
Alcohol, denatured and ethyl	24
Alcoholic beverages	2, 6, 8, 27
Aluminum	33
Animal fats, greases, and oils	25
Anthracite	11, 13, 14, 15, 34
Apparel	2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 39
Asphalt and asphalt products	36
Automobiles	2, 3, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 22, 40
Bakery products	2, 12, 13, 14, 15
Balance of payments	21
Banking	14, 16
Barley	28
Barrels and drums	32
Battery shipments	34
Beef and veal	29
Beverages	2, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 27
Bituminous coal	11, 13, 14, 15, 35
Blast furnaces, steel works, etc.	12, 14, 15
Blowers and fans	34
Bonds, issues, prices, sales, yields	17, 19, 20
Book publication	37
Brass and bronze	33
Brick	38
Brokers' loans and balances	16, 19
Building and construction materials	8, 9, 10
Building costs	7, 8
Business incorporations, new	5
Business sales and inventories	3
Butter	27
Cans (metal), closures, crowns	32, 33
Carloadings	23
Cattle and calves	29
Cement and concrete products	6, 38
Cereals and bakery products	6, 12, 13, 14, 15
Chain-store sales (11 stores and over only)	10
Cheese	27
Chemicals	2, 3, 4, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 22, 24
Cigarettes and cigars	6, 30
Civilian employees, Federal	12
Clay products (see also Stone, clay, etc.)	6, 38
Coal	3, 6, 11, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 34, 35
Cocoa	22, 29
Coffee	22, 30
Coke	23, 35
Commercial and industrial failures	5
Communications	11, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 24
Confectionery, sales	29
Construction:	
Contracts awarded	7
Costs	7, 8
Dwelling units	7
Employment, earnings, hours, wage rates	11, 13, 14, 15
Highways and roads	7, 8, 15
New construction, dollar value	1, 7
Consumer credit	16, 17
Consumer durables output, index	3
Consumer expenditures	1, 9
Consumer price index	6
Copper	22, 33
Copra and coconut oil	25
Corn	28
Cost-of-living index (see Consumer price index)	6
Cotton, raw and manufactures	2, 5, 6, 22, 39
Cottonseed, cake and meal, oil	25
Credit, short- and intermediate-term	16, 17
Crops	2, 5, 26, 28, 30, 39
Crude oil and natural gas	3
Currency in circulation	18
Dairy products	2, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 27
Debts, bank	16
Debt, United States Government	17
Department stores	9, 10, 11, 17
Deposits, bank	16, 18
Disputes, industrial	13
Distilled spirits	27
Dividend payments, rates, and yields	1, 18, 19, 20
Drug-store sales	9, 10
Dwelling units, new	7
Earnings, weekly and hourly	14, 15
Eating and drinking places	9, 10
Eggs and poultry	2, 5, 29
Electric power	6, 26
Electrical machinery and equipment	2, 3, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 22, 34
Employment estimates and indexes	11, 12
Employment Service activities	13
Engineering construction	7, 8
Expenditures, United States Government	17
Explosives	25
Exports (see also individual commodities)	21, 22
Express operations	23
Failures, industrial and commercial	5
Farm income, marketings, and prices	1, 2, 5, 6
Farm wages	15
Fats and oils, greases	6, 25, 26
Federal Government finance	17
Federal Reserve banks, condition of	16
Federal Reserve reporting member banks	16
Fertilizers	6, 25
Fiber products	34
Fire losses	8
Fish oils and fish	25, 30
Flaxseed	26
Flooring	31
Flour, wheat	29
Food products	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30

Pages marked S

Foreclosures, real estate	8
Foreign trade indexes, shipping weight, value by regions, countries, economic classes, and commodity groups	21, 22
Foundry equipment	34
Freight carloadings	23
Freight cars (equipment)	40
Freight-car surplus and shortage	8, 23
Fruits and vegetables	5, 6, 22, 28
Fuel oil	35
Fuels	6, 34, 35
Furnaces	15, 34
Furniture	2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17
Furs	22
Gas, prices, customers, sales, revenues	6, 27
Gasoline	9, 36
Glass products	38
Generators and motors	34
Glycerin	24
Gold	18
Grains and products	5, 6, 22, 23, 28, 29
Grocery stores	9, 10
Gross national product	1
Gross private domestic investment	1
Gypsum and products	6, 38
Hardware stores	6, 9
Heating apparatus	34
Hides and skins	6, 22, 30
Highways and roads	7, 8, 15
Hogs	29
Home Loan banks, loans outstanding	8
Home mortgages	8
Hosiery	39
Hotels	11, 13, 14, 15, 24
Hours of work per week	12, 13
Housefurnishings	6, 8, 9, 10
Household appliances and radios	3, 6, 9, 34
Imports (see also individual commodities)	21, 22
Income, personal	1
Income and employment tax receipts	17
Industrial production indexes	2, 3
Installment credit	16, 17
Installment sales, department stores	10
Instruments and related products	2, 3, 12, 13, 14, 15
Insulating materials	34
Insurance, life	18
Interest and money rates	16
International transactions of the U. S.	21, 22
Inventories, manufacturers' and trade	3, 4, 10
Iron and steel, crude and manufactures	2, 6, 8, 12, 14, 15, 19, 22, 32, 33
Kerosene	35
Labor disputes, turnover	13
Labor force	11
Lamb and mutton	29
Lard	29
Lead	33
Leather and products	3, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 30, 31
Linseed oil	26
Livestock	2, 5, 6, 23, 29
Loans, real estate, agricultural, bank, brokers' (see also Consumer credit)	8, 16, 17, 19
Locomotives	40
Lubricants	36
Lumber and products	2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 18, 31, 32
Machine activity, cotton	39
Machine tools	34
Machinery	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 14, 15, 19, 22, 34
Magazine advertising	8
Mail-order houses, sales	11
Manufacturers' sales, inventories, orders	3, 4, 5
Manufacturing production indexes	2, 3
Manufacturing production workers, employment, payrolls, hours, wages	11, 12, 13, 14, 15
Margarine	26
Meats and meat packing	2, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 29
Medical and personal care	6
Metals	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 32, 33
Methanol	24
Milk	27
Minerals and mining	2, 3, 11, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20
Monetary statistics	18
Money supply	18
Mortgage loans	8, 16, 18
Motor carriers	23
Motor fuel	36
Motor vehicles	6, 9, 19, 40
Motors, electrical	34
National income and product	1
National parks, visitors	24
National security	1, 17
Newspaper advertising	8, 9
Newsprint	22, 37
New York Stock Exchange, selected data	19, 20
Nonferrous metals	2, 6, 12, 14, 15, 19, 22, 33
Noninstallment credit	17
Oats	28
Oil burners	34
Oils and fats, greases	6, 25, 26
Orders, new and unfilled, manufacturers'	5
Ordinance	11, 12, 14, 15
Paint and paint materials	6, 26
Panama Canal traffic	23
Paper and products and pulp	2, 3, 4, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 36, 37
Passports issued	24
Payrolls, indexes	12
Personal consumption expenditures	1, 9
Personal income	1
Personal saving and disposable income	1

Pages marked S

Petroleum and products	2, 3, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 22, 35, 36
Pig iron	32
Plant and equipment expenditures	2, 19
Plastics and resin materials	26
Plywood	32
Population	11
Pork	29
Postal savings	16
Poultry and eggs	2, 5, 29
Prices (see also individual commodities):	
Consumer price index	6
Received and paid by farmers	5
Retail price indexes	6
Wholesale price indexes	6
Printing and publishing	2, 3, 12, 13, 14, 15, 37
Profits, corporation	1, 18, 19
Public utilities	2, 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 26, 27
Pullman Company	24
Pulp and pulpwood	36
Pumps	34
Purchasing power of the dollar	6
Radiators and convectors	34
Radio and television	3, 6, 8, 34
Railroads	2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 23, 40
Railways (local) and bus lines	11, 13, 14, 15, 23
Rayon and rayon manufactures	39
Real estate	8, 16, 18, 19
Receipts, United States Government	17
Recreation	6
Refrigerators, electrical	34
Rents (housing), index	6
Retail trade, all retail stores, chain stores (11 stores and over only), general merchandise, department stores	3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17
Rice	28
Roofing and siding, asphalt	36
Rubber (natural, synthetic, and reclaimed), tires and tubes	6, 22, 37, 38
Rubber products industry, production index, sales, inventories, prices, employment, payrolls, hours, earnings	2, 3, 4, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15
Rye	28
Saving, personal	1
Savings deposits	16
Securities issued	19
Services	1, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15
Sewer pipe, clay	38
Sheep and lambs	29
Ship and boat building	12, 13, 14, 15
Shoes and other footwear	6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 31
Shortening	26
Silk, prices, imports	6, 39
Silver	18
Soybeans and soybean oil	26
Spindle activity, cotton	39
Steel ingots and steel manufactures (see also Iron and steel)	2, 32, 33
Steel scrap	32
Stocks, department stores (see also Inventories)	11
Stocks, dividends, prices, sales, yields, listings	20
Stone and earth minerals	3
Stone, clay, and glass products	2, 3, 4, 12, 14, 15, 19, 38
Stoves	34
Sugar	22, 30
Sulfur	25
Sulfuric acid	24
Superphosphate	25
Tea	30
Telephone, telegraph, cable, and radio-telegraph carriers	11, 13, 14, 15, 20, 24
Television and radio	3, 6, 8, 34
Textiles	2, 3, 4, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 22, 39, 40
Tile	38
Tin	22, 33
Tires and inner tubes	6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 38
Tobacco	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 30
Tools, machine	34
Tractors	34
Trade, retail and wholesale	3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17
Transit lines, local	23
Transportation and transportation equipment	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 23, 40
Travel	24
Truck trailers	40
Trucks	2, 40
Unemployment and compensation	11, 13
United States Government bonds	16, 18, 19, 20
United States Government finance	17
Utilities	2, 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 26, 27
Vacuum cleaners	34
Variety stores	9, 10
Vegetable oils	25, 26
Vegetables and fruits	5, 6, 22, 28
Vessels cleared in foreign trade	23
Veterans' benefits	13, 17
Wages and salaries	1, 14, 15
Washers	34
Water heaters	34
Wax	36
Wheat and wheat flour	28, 29
Wholesale price indexes	6
Wholesale trade	3, 5, 11, 13, 14, 15
Wood pulp	36
Wool and wool manufactures	2, 5, 6, 22, 39, 40
Zinc	33

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