ST. LOUIS PUB
FEB
20
LIBRARY

# Economic Indicators

## FEBRUARY 1950

*Prepared for the Joint Committee on the Economic Report*

*by the Council of Economic Advisers*

St. Louis Public Library
REFERENCE DEPT.

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1950

Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMIC REPORT

(Created pursuant to Sec. 5 (a) of Public Law 304, 79th Cong.)

JOSEPH C. O'MAHONEY, Wyoming, *Chairman*

EDWARD J. HART, New Jersey, *Vice Chairman*

FRANCIS J. MYERS, Pennsylvania
JOHN J. SPARKMAN, Alabama
PAUL H. DOUGLAS, Illinois
ROBERT A. TAFT, Ohio
RALPH E. FLANDERS, Vermont
ARTHUR V. WATKINS, Utah
WRIGHT PATMAN, Texas
WALTER B. HUBER, Ohio
FRANK BUCHANAN, Pennsylvania
JESSE P. WOLCOTT, Michigan
ROBERT F. RICH, Pennsylvania
CHRISTIAN A. HERTER, Massachusetts

THEODORE J. KREPS, *Staff Director*
GROVER W. ENSLEY, *Associate Staff Director*
JOHN W. LEHMAN, *Clerk*

[PUBLIC LAW 120—81ST CONGRESS; CHAPTER 237—1ST SESSION]

JOINT RESOLUTION [S. J. Res. 55]

To print the monthly publication entitled "Economic Indicators"

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the Joint Committee on the Economic port be authorized to issue a monthly publication entitled "Economic Indicators," and that a sufficient quantity be printed to furnish one py to each Member of Congress; the Secretary and the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate; the Clerk, Sergeant at Arms, and Doorkeeper of the ›use of Representatives; two copies to the libraries of the Senate and House, and the Congressional Library; seven hundred copies to the Joint ›mmittee on the Economic Report; and the required number of copies to the Superintendent of Documents for distribution to depository ›raries; and that the Superintendent of Documents be authorized to have copies printed for sale to the public.

Approved June 23, 1949.

› *the Members of Congress:*

From the time the Joint Committee on the Economic Report was established its members realized that one of its ısic needs was a concise and meaningful picture of current economic trends and developments.

Fortunately, the joint committee found that *Economic Indicators*, a set of basic charts and tables compiled monthly ŕ the Council of Economic Advisers, admirably filled this need. While this material was prepared originally for the ›e of the President, the Council, and other officials in the executive offices, the Council made it available to the joint ›mmittee.

Other Members of Congress also expressed an interest in being able to obtain a quick picture of current economic .cts without having to go through voluminous and specialized documents. In addition businessmen, farm leaders, .bor organizations, and representatives of the press and radio indicated their desire for this information.

Accordingly, the joint committee provided the Congress and the public with a limited number of copies of *conomic Indicators* as a committee print pending final action on authorizing the publication on a more permanent basis. .s is indicated above such legislation has now been passed and the committee will issue the report on a regular monthly ısis.

Comments or suggestions with respect to possible improvements in this presentation will always be welcome.

*Chairman, Joint Committee on the Economic Report.*

Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# Letter of Transmittal

Hon. Joseph C. O'Mahoney, *Chairman,*
*Joint Committee on the Economic Report,*
*United States Congress, Washington, D. C.*

Dear Senator: The Council of Economic Advisers is happy to cooperate with the Joint Committee on the Economic Report in making *Economic Indicators* available to the Congress as a whole and to the general public, in accordance with Public Law 120, Eighty-first Congress.

In carrying out its mandate under the Employment Act of 1946, the Council has found it desirable to bring together in concise and graphic form the most important facts showing current trends in the Nation's economy. Thus the Executive Office is in a better position to point up the key problems of national economic policy and to promote the improvement and coordination of the Federal Government's widespread statistical services.

In this undertaking the Council has the full cooperation of the several agencies of the Federal Government that collect statistical material. In many cases these agencies supply advance estimates for use in *Economic Indicators*. While the charts are drawn through the courtesy of the Graphics Unit in the Office of the Secretary of Commerce, the Council takes complete responsibility for the graphic presentation.

This material has proven useful to the President, the Council, the executive departments, and the Congress. Furthermore, its usefulness to the general public has been impressed upon us, particularly by the representatives of business, labor, agriculture, and consumer organizations with whom we regularly consult.

We believe that the Congress is performing a service of real value by making this material available.

Sincerely yours,

Leon H. Keyserling *Acting Chairman.*
John D. Clark



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# Contents


THE NATION'S ECONOMIC BUDGET

Page

The Nation's Economic Budget ..... 1

PRICES

Consumers' Prices ..... 2
Wholesale Prices ..... 3
Prices Received and Paid by Farmers ..... 4
Stock Prices ..... 5

EMPLOYMENT

Labor Force ..... 6
Nonagricultural Employment—Selected Industries ..... 7
Average Weekly Hours—Selected Industries ..... 8
Work Stoppages ..... 9

PRODUCTION AND BUSINESS ACTIVITY

Industrial Production ..... 10
Weekly Production—Selected Indicators ..... 11
Production of Selected Durable Manufactures ..... 12
Production of Selected Nondurable Manufactures ..... 13
New Construction ..... 14
New Housing Starts ..... 15
Expenditures for New Plant and Equipment ..... 16
New Corporate Security Issues ..... 17
Inventories and Sales ..... 18
Merchandise Exports and Imports ..... 19

PURCHASING POWER

National Income ..... 20
Corporate Profits ..... 21
Personal Income ..... 22
Consumer Income, Spending, and Saving ..... 23
Per Capita Income ..... 24
Average Hourly Earnings—Selected Industries ..... 25
Average Weekly Earnings—Selected Industries ..... 26
Farm Income ..... 27
Personal Consumption Expenditures ..... 28
Consumer Credit ..... 29

MONEY, BANKING, AND FEDERAL FINANCE

Bank Loans and Investments ..... 30
Money Supply ..... 31
Federal Cash Receipts From and Payments to the Public ..... 32

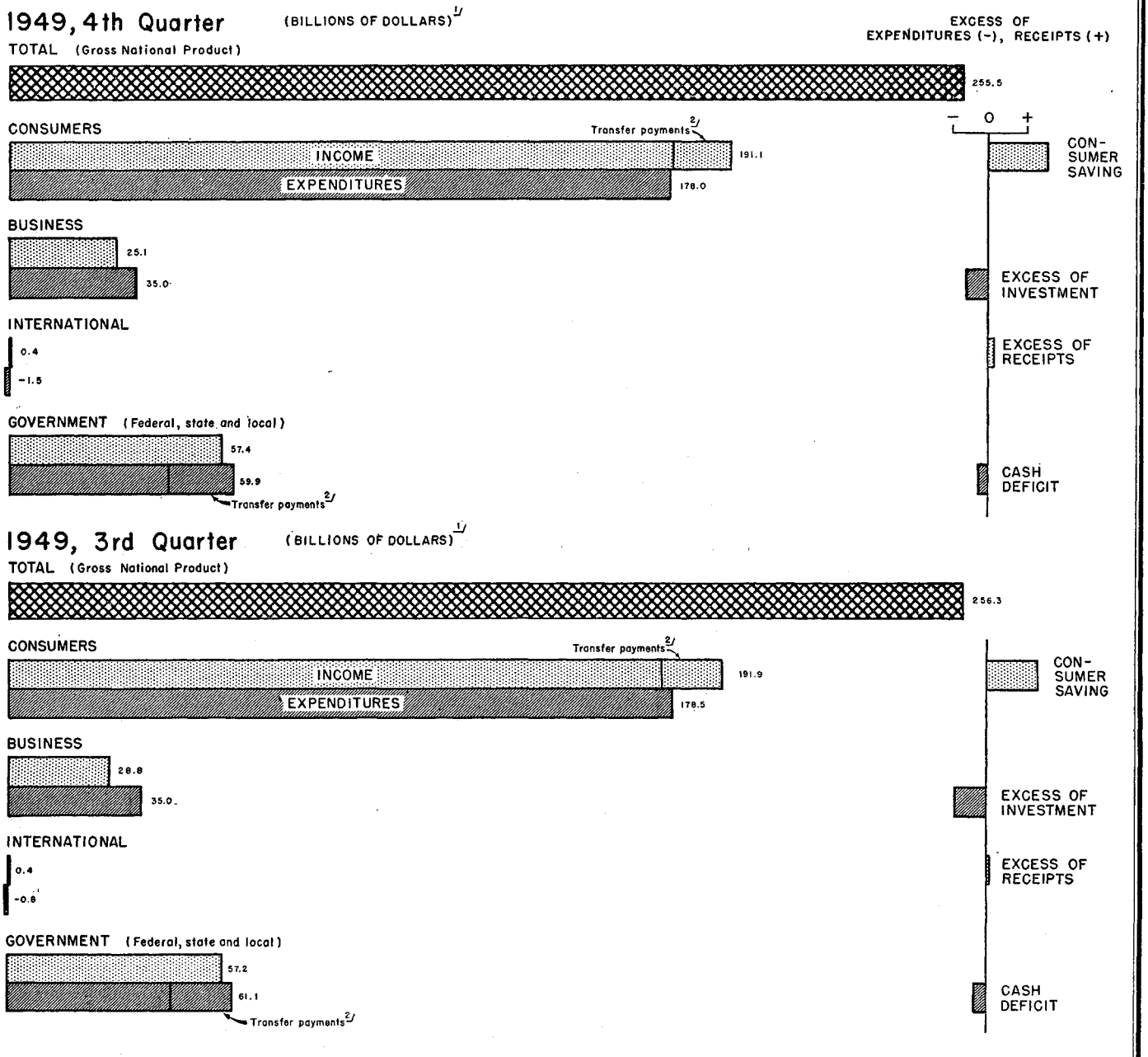



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# THE NATION'S ECONOMIC BUDGET

## THE NATION'S ECONOMIC BUDGET

The economic decline leveled off in 4th quarter 1949, the total output of goods and services being less than $1 billion (annual rate) below 3rd quarter, according to preliminary estimates. Allowing for the effects of industrial disputes, the year's end found the economy moving upward.




1/ ANNUAL RATES, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED.
2/ TRANSFER PAYMENTS ARE INCLUDED IN RECEIPTS OR EXPENDITURES OF THE SEPARATE ACCOUNTS BUT NOT IN THE TOTAL GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT.

SOURCE: SEE ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT, JANUARY 1950, APPENDIX A.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

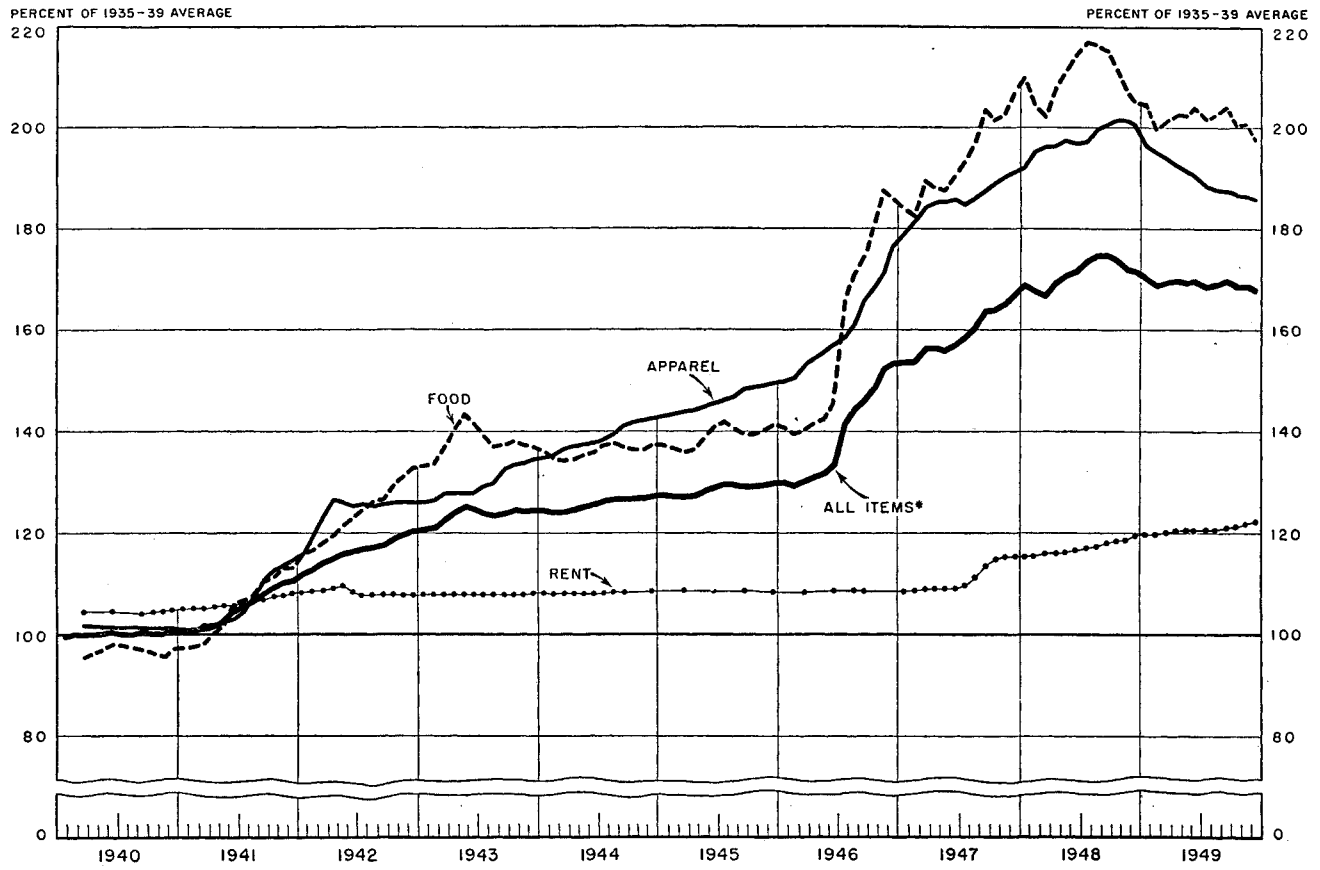


Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# PRICES

## CONSUMERS' PRICES

Consumers' prices decreased 0.7 percent from November to December, reaching the lowest level since March 1948. Food prices declined significantly; apparel prices continued to drop. Most other components advanced.




*ALSO INCLUDES HOUSEFURNISHINGS, FUEL, ELECTRICITY, REFRIGERATION, AND MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES, NOT SHOWN ON CHART.
SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[1935–39=100]

| Period | All items | Food | Apparel | Rent | Fuel, electricity, and refrigeration | House furnishings | Miscellaneous |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1940 monthly average | 100. 2 | 96. 6 | 101. 7 | 104. 6 | 99. 7 | 100. 5 | 101. 1 |
| 1941 monthly average | 105. 2 | 105. 5 | 106. 3 | 106. 2 | 102. 2 | 107. 3 | 104. 0 |
| 1942 monthly average | 116. 5 | 123. 9 | 124. 2 | 108. 5 | 105. 4 | 122. 2 | 110. 9 |
| 1943 monthly average | 123. 6 | 138. 0 | 129. 7 | 108. 0 | 107. 7 | 125. 6 | 115. 8 |
| 1944 monthly average | 125. 5 | 136. 1 | 138. 8 | 108. 2 | 109. 8 | 136. 4 | 121. 3 |
| 1945 monthly average | 128. 4 | 139. 1 | 145. 9 | 108. 3 | 110. 3 | 145. 8 | 124. 1 |
| 1946 monthly average | 139. 3 | 159. 6 | 160. 2 | 108. 6 | 112. 4 | 159. 2 | 128. 8 |
| 1947 monthly average | 159. 2 | 193. 8 | 185. 8 | 111. 2 | 121. 1 | 184. 4 | 139. 9 |
| 1948 monthly average | 171. 2 | 210. 2 | 198. 0 | 117. 4 | 133. 9 | 195. 8 | 149. 9 |
| 1949 monthly average | 169. 1 | 201. 9 | 190. 1 | 120. 8 | 137. 5 | 189. 0 | 154. 6 |
| 1948: November 15 | 172. 2 | 207. 5 | 201. 4 | 118. 8 | 137. 9 | 198. 7 | 153. 9 |
| December 15 | 171. 4 | 205. 0 | 200. 4 | 119. 5 | 137. 8 | 198. 6 | 154. 0 |
| 1949: January 15 | 170. 9 | 204. 8 | 196. 5 | 119. 7 | 138. 2 | 196. 5 | 154. 1 |
| February 15 | 169. 0 | 199. 7 | 195. 1 | 119. 9 | 138. 8 | 195. 6 | 154. 1 |
| March 15 | 169. 5 | 201. 6 | 193. 9 | 120. 1 | 138. 9 | 193. 8 | 154. 4 |
| April 15 | 169. 7 | 202. 8 | 192. 5 | 120. 3 | 137. 4 | 191. 9 | 154. 6 |
| May 15 | 169. 2 | 202. 4 | 191. 3 | 120. 4 | 135. 4 | 189. 5 | 154. 5 |
| June 15 | 169. 6 | 204. 3 | 190. 3 | 120. 6 | 135. 6 | 187. 3 | 154. 2 |
| July 15 | 168. 5 | 201. 7 | 188. 5 | 120. 7 | 135. 6 | 186. 8 | 154. 3 |
| August 15 | 168. 8 | 202. 6 | 187. 4 | 120. 8 | 135. 8 | 184. 8 | 154. 8 |
| September 15 | 169. 6 | 204. 2 | 187. 2 | 121. 2 | 137. 0 | 185. 6 | 155. 2 |
| October 15 | 168. 5 | 200. 6 | 186. 8 | 121. 5 | 138. 4 | 185. 2 | 155. 2 |
| November 15 | 168. 6 | 200. 8 | 186. 3 | 122. 0 | 139. 1 | 185. 4 | 154. 9 |
| December 15 | 167. 5 | 197. 3 | 185. 8 | 122. 2 | 139. 7 | 185. 4 | 155. 5 |

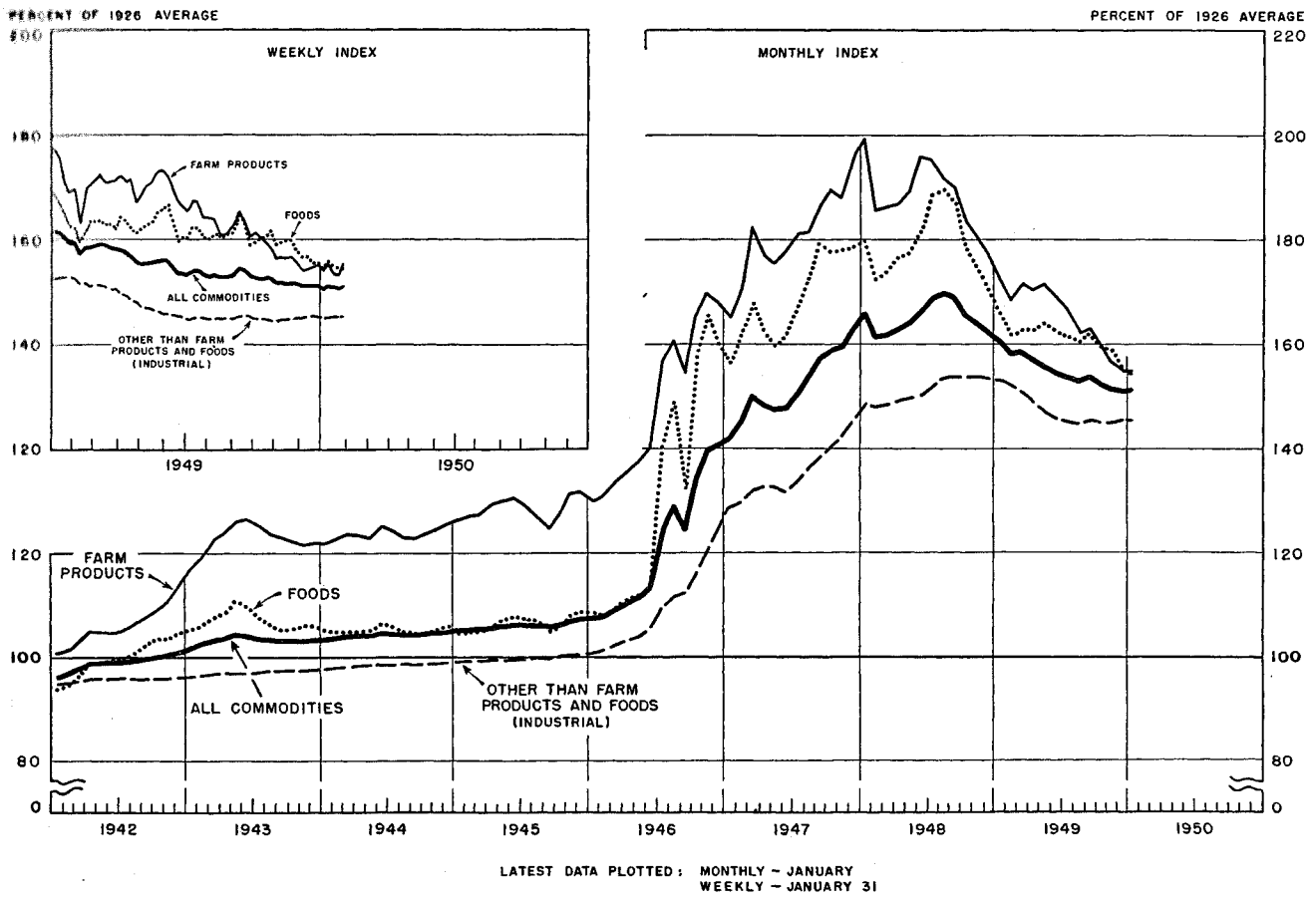
NOTE.—Prices are for moderate-income families in large cities.
Source: Department of Labor.



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# WHOLESALE PRICES

Farm and food prices were lower in January. Industrial prices showed little change.




[1926=100]

| Period | All commodities | Farm products | Foods | Other than farm products and foods |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1942 monthly average | 98.8 | 105.9 | 99.6 | 95.5 |
| 1946 monthly average | 121.1 | 148.9 | 130.7 | 109.5 |
| June | 112.9 | 140.1 | 112.9 | 105.6 |
| 1947 monthly average | 152.1 | 181.2 | 168.7 | 135.2 |
| 1948 monthly average | 165.1 | 188.3 | 179.1 | 151.0 |
| 1949 monthly average [1] | 154.9 | 165.5 | 161.4 | 147.3 |
| 1949: January | 160.6 | 172.5 | 165.8 | 152.9 |
| February | 158.1 | 168.3 | 161.5 | 151.8 |
| March | 158.4 | 171.5 | 162.9 | 150.7 |
| April | 156.9 | 170.5 | 162.9 | 148.9 |
| May | 155.7 | 171.2 | 163.8 | 146.8 |
| June | 154.5 | 168.8 | 162.4 | 145.6 |
| July | 153.5 | 166.2 | 161.3 | 145.0 |
| August | 152.9 | 162.3 | 160.6 | 145.0 |
| September | 153.6 | 163.1 | 162.0 | 145.3 |
| October | 152.2 | 159.6 | 159.6 | 145.0 |
| November | 151.6 | 156.8 | 158.9 | 145.0 |
| December | 151.3 | 155.3 | 155.7 | 145.4 |
| 1950: January [1] | 151.1 | 155.0 | 154.5 | 145.3 |
| Week ended: | | | | |
| 1949: December 27 | 151.1 | 155.1 | 155.6 | 145.4 |
| 1950: January 3 | 150.6 | 153.9 | 154.5 | 145.1 |
| 10 | 151.4 | 155.3 | 155.9 | 145.2 |
| 17 | 150.9 | 153.4 | 155.0 | 145.2 |
| 24 | 150.7 | 153.2 | 154.5 | 145.1 |
| 31 | 151.1 | 155.5 | 154.7 | 145.1 |

[1] Estimate based on change in weekly data.

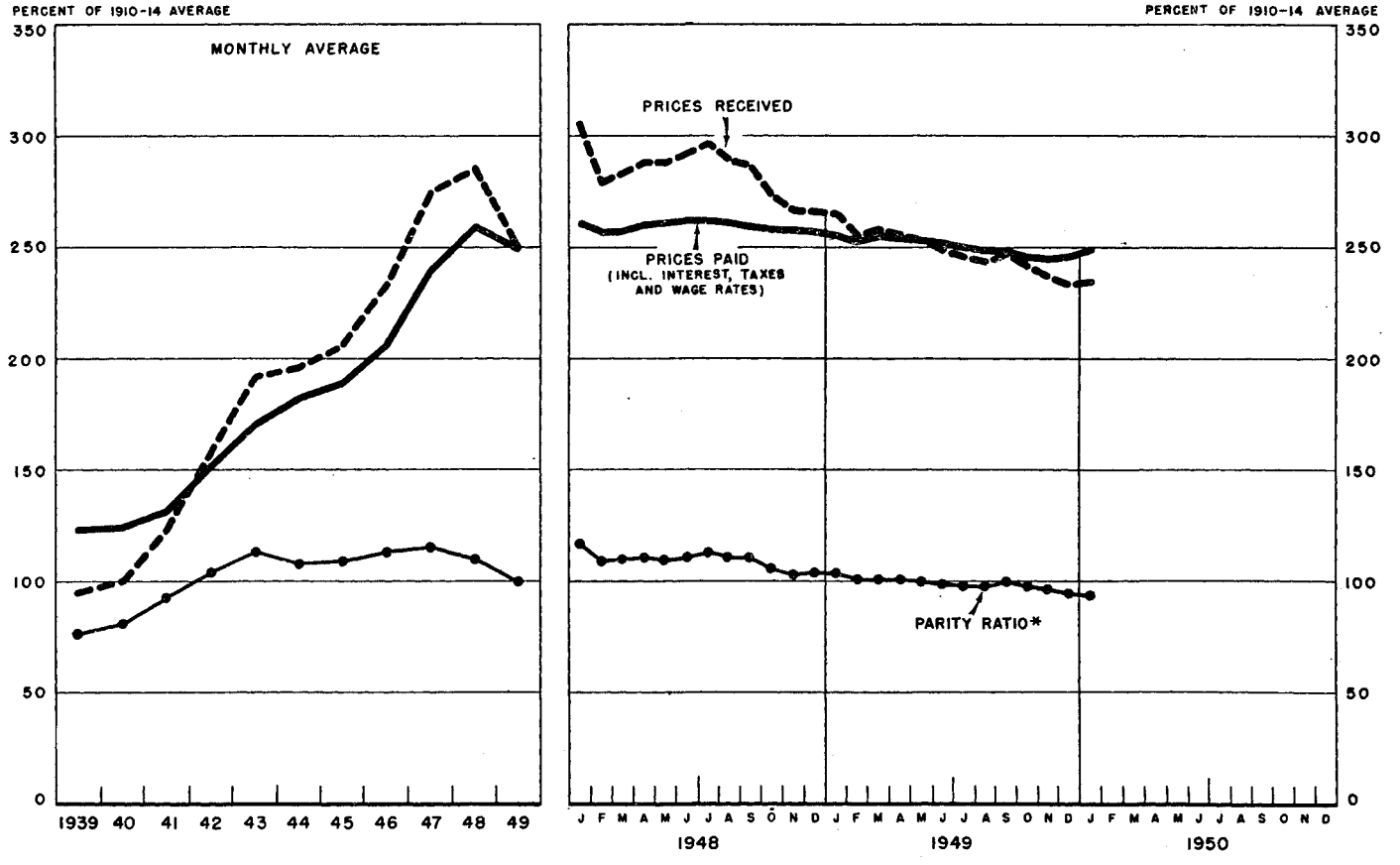
Source: Department of Labor.



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# PRICES RECEIVED AND PAID BY FARMERS

Both prices received and prices paid by farmers increased from December to January. The parity ratio, revised in accordance with the Agricultural Act of 1949, stood at 94.




* RATIO OF INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED TO INDEX OF PRICES PAID, INTEREST, TAXES AND WAGE RATES.

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

COUNCIL ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[1910–14=100]

| Period | Prices received by farmers | Prices paid by farmers (including interest, taxes, and wage rates) | Parity ratio[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1939 monthly average | 95 | 123 | 77 |
| 1942 monthly average | 158 | 152 | 104 |
| 1944 monthly average | [2] 196 | 182 | 108 |
| 1945 monthly average | [2] 206 | 189 | 109 |
| 1946 monthly average | [2] 234 | 207 | 113 |
| 1947 monthly average | 275 | 240 | 115 |
| 1948 monthly average | 285 | 259 | 110 |
| 1949 monthly average | 249 | 250 | 100 |
| 1948: December 15 | 266 | 257 | 104 |
| 1949: January 15 | 265 | 256 | 104 |
| February 15 | 255 | 252 | 101 |
| March 15 | 258 | 255 | 101 |
| April 15 | 256 | 254 | 101 |
| May 15 | 253 | 253 | 100 |
| June 15 | 249 | 252 | 99 |
| July 15 | 246 | 250 | 98 |
| August 15 | 244 | 249 | 98 |
| September 15 | 247 | 248 | 100 |
| October 15 | 242 | 246 | 98 |
| November 15 | 237 | 245 | 97 |
| December 15 | 233 | 246 | 95 |
| 1950: January 15 | 235 | 249 | 94 |

[1] Ratio of index of prices received to index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and wage rates.
[2] Includes wartime subsidy payments paid on beef cattle, sheep, lambs, milk, and butterfat between October 1943 and June 1946.

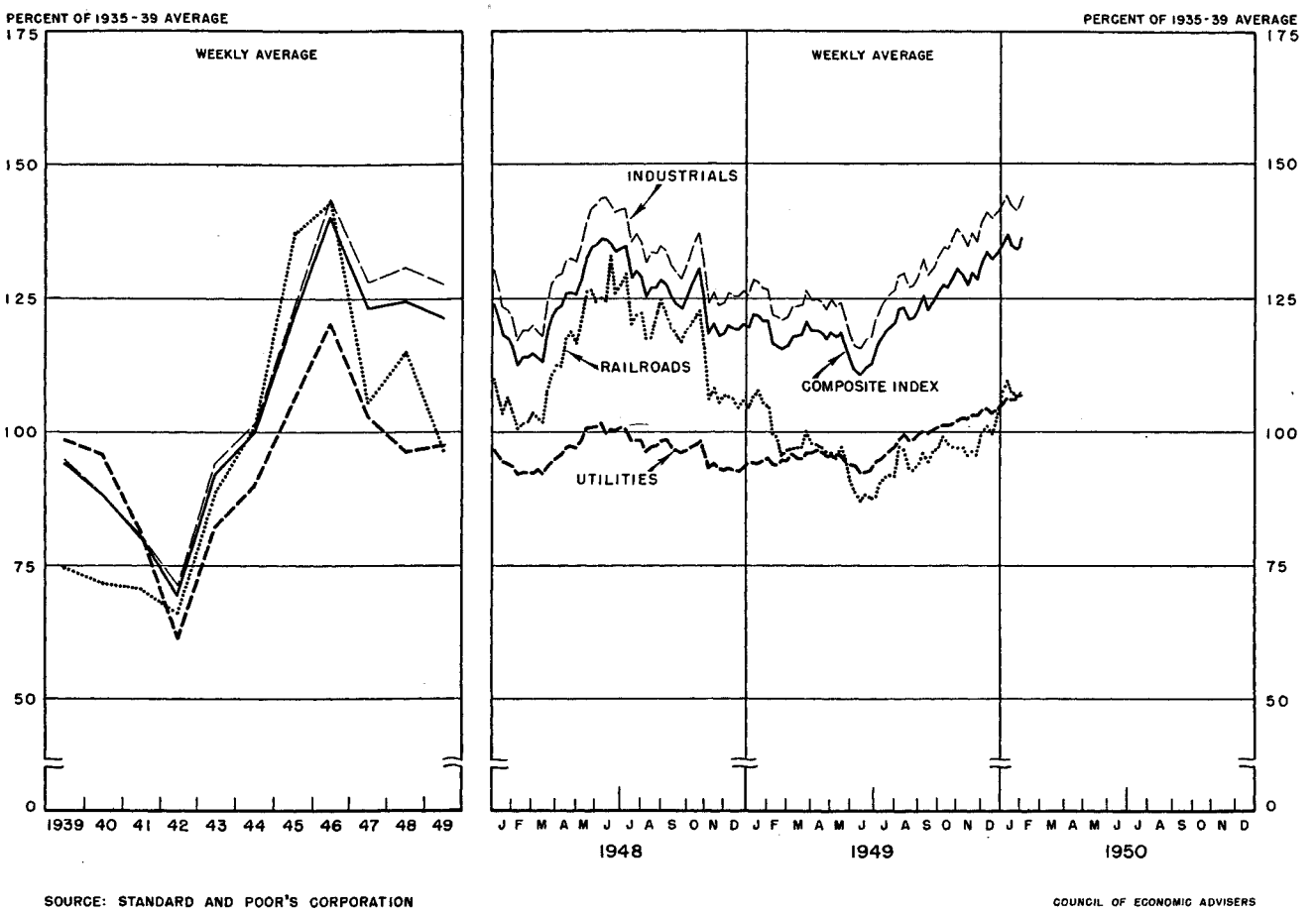
Source: Department of Agriculture.



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# STOCK PRICES

Stock price fluctuations during January were within a range well above the December level.




SOURCE: STANDARD AND POOR'S CORPORATION

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[1935–39=100]

| Period | Combined index [1] | Industrials | Railroads | Utilities |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Weekly average: | | | | |
| 1939 | 94. 2 | 94. 8 | 74. 7 | 98. 6 |
| 1942 | 69. 4 | 71. 3 | 66. 1 | 61. 3 |
| 1946 | 139. 9 | 143. 4 | 143. 0 | 120. 2 |
| 1948 | 124. 4 | 130. 6 | 114. 7 | 96. 2 |
| 1949 | 121. 3 | 127. 5 | 96. 4 | 97. 5 |
| 1949: January | 121. 0 | 127. 3 | 105. 9 | 94. 2 |
| February | 117. 2 | 122. 7 | 99. 6 | 94. 4 |
| March | 118. 0 | 123. 7 | 97. 4 | 95. 3 |
| April | 118. 5 | 124. 2 | 97. 1 | 96. 1 |
| May | 117. 7 | 123. 4 | 95. 8 | 95. 3 |
| June | 112. 0 | 117. 0 | 88. 4 | 93. 0 |
| July | 117. 8 | 123. 4 | 90. 6 | 95. 4 |
| August | 121. 9 | 128. 2 | 94. 6 | 98. 5 |
| September | 123. 8 | 130. 3 | 95. 1 | 100. 0 |
| October | 127. 3 | 134. 4 | 97. 6 | 101. 2 |
| November | 129. 1 | 136. 5 | 96. 2 | 102. 6 |
| December | 132. 6 | 140. 3 | 101. 0 | 104. 1 |
| 1950: January | 135. 1 | 142. 6 | 107. 8 | 105. 8 |
| Week ended: | | | | |
| 1950: January 4 | 135. 0 | 142. 7 | 107. 5 | 105. 0 |
| 11 | 136. 5 | 144. 2 | 109. 5 | 106. 1 |
| 18 | 134. 9 | 142. 3 | 107. 4 | 105. 9 |
| 25 | 134. 1 | 141. 3 | 106. 6 | 106. 2 |
| February 1 | 136. 1 | 143. 7 | 106. 8 | 107. 2 |

[1] Combined index prior to June 23, 1948, was based on 402 common stocks, and included 354 industrials, 20 railroads, and 28 utilities; thereafter, 416 common stocks are represented, with 365 industrials, 20 railroads, and 31 utilities.

Source: Standard & Poor's Corporation.

61683—50——1

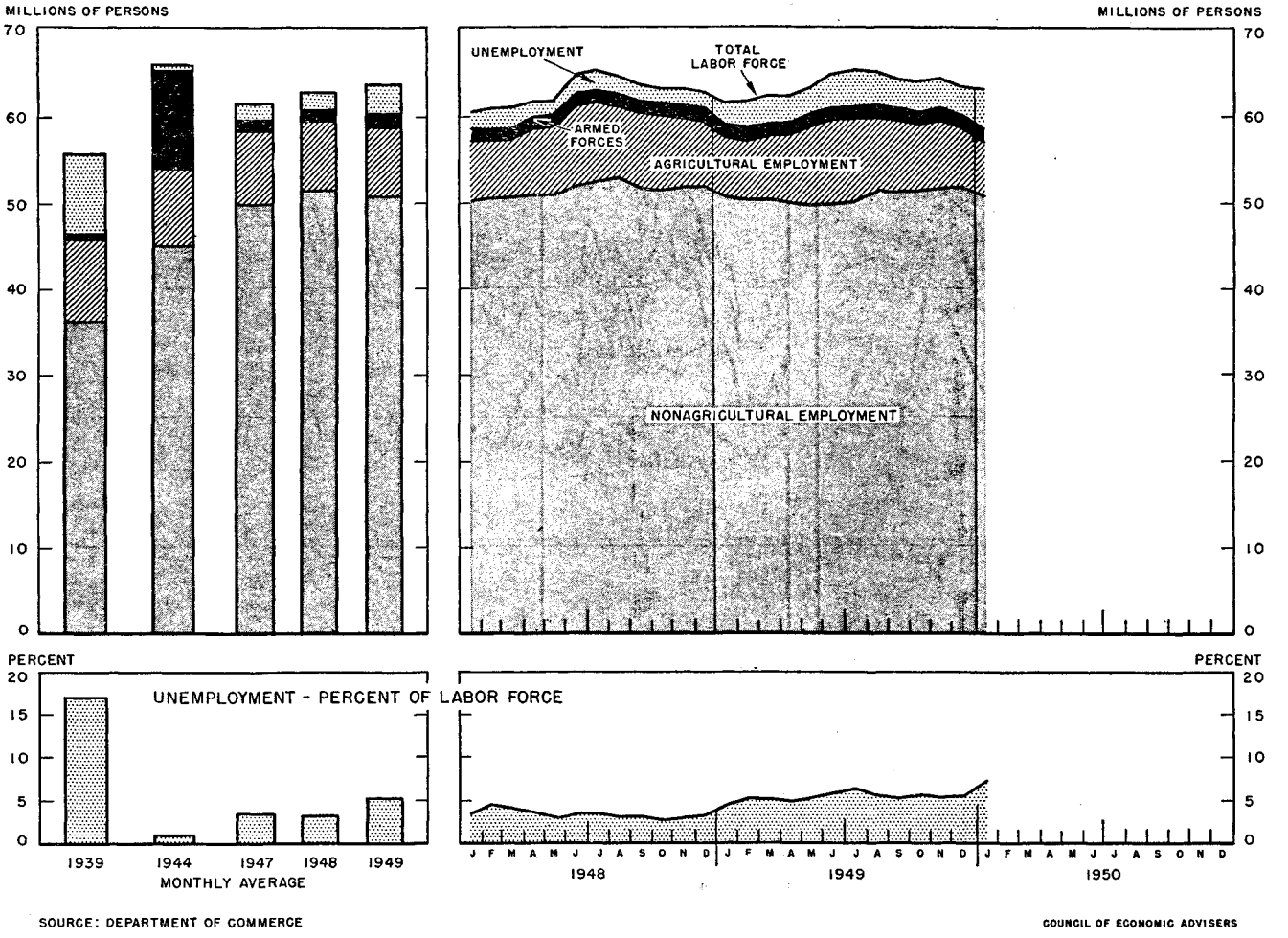


Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# EMPLOYMENT

## LABOR FORCE

Unemployment, due largely to seasonal employment declines in trade, construction, and agriculture jumped sharply to 4.5 million in January. Total nonagricultural employment was slightly above that for January 1949.




| Period | Total labor force, including armed forces | Civilian employment [1] | | | Armed forces | Unemployment | Unemployment as percent of labor force |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | In nonagricultural industries | In agriculture | | | |
| | Thousands of persons 14 years of age and over | | | | | | |
| 1939 monthly average | 55,600 | 45,750 | 36,140 | 9,610 | 370 | 9,480 | 17.1 |
| 1944 monthly average | 65,890 | 53,960 | 45,010 | 8,950 | 11,260 | 670 | 1.0 |
| 1947 monthly average | 61,608 | 58,027 | 49,761 | 8,266 | 1,440 | 2,142 | 3.5 |
| 1948 monthly average | 62,748 | 59,378 | 51,405 | 7,973 | 1,307 | 2,064 | 3.3 |
| 1949 monthly average | 63,571 | 58,710 | 50,684 | 8,026 | 1,466 | 3,395 | 5.3 |
| 1948: December | 62,828 | 59,434 | 52,059 | 7,375 | 1,453 | 1,941 | 3.1 |
| 1949: January | 61,546 | 57,414 | 50,651 | 6,763 | 1,468 | 2,664 | 4.3 |
| February | 61,896 | 57,168 | 50,174 | 6,993 | 1,508 | 3,221 | 5.2 |
| March | 62,305 | 57,647 | 50,254 | 7,393 | 1,491 | 3,167 | 5.1 |
| April | 62,327 | 57,819 | 49,999 | 7,820 | 1,492 | 3,016 | 4.8 |
| May | 63,452 | 58,694 | 49,720 | 8,974 | 1,469 | 3,289 | 5.2 |
| June | 64,866 | 59,619 | 49,924 | 9,696 | 1,468 | 3,778 | 5.8 |
| July | 65,278 | 59,720 | 50,073 | 9,647 | 1,463 | 4,095 | 6.3 |
| August | 65,105 | 59,947 | 51,441 | 8,507 | 1,468 | 3,689 | 5.7 |
| September | 64,222 | 59,411 | 51,254 | 8,158 | 1,459 | 3,351 | 5.2 |
| October | 64,021 | 59,001 | 51,290 | 7,710 | 1,445 | 3,576 | 5.6 |
| November | 64,363 | 59,518 | 51,640 | 7,878 | 1,436 | 3,409 | 5.3 |
| December | 63,475 | 58,556 | 51,783 | 6,773 | 1,430 | 3,489 | 5.5 |
| 1950: January | 62,835 | 56,947 | 50,749 | 6,198 | 1,408 | 4,480 | 7.1 |

[1] Includes part-time workers and those who had jobs but were not at work for such reasons as vacation, illness, bad weather, temporary lay-off, and industrial disputes.

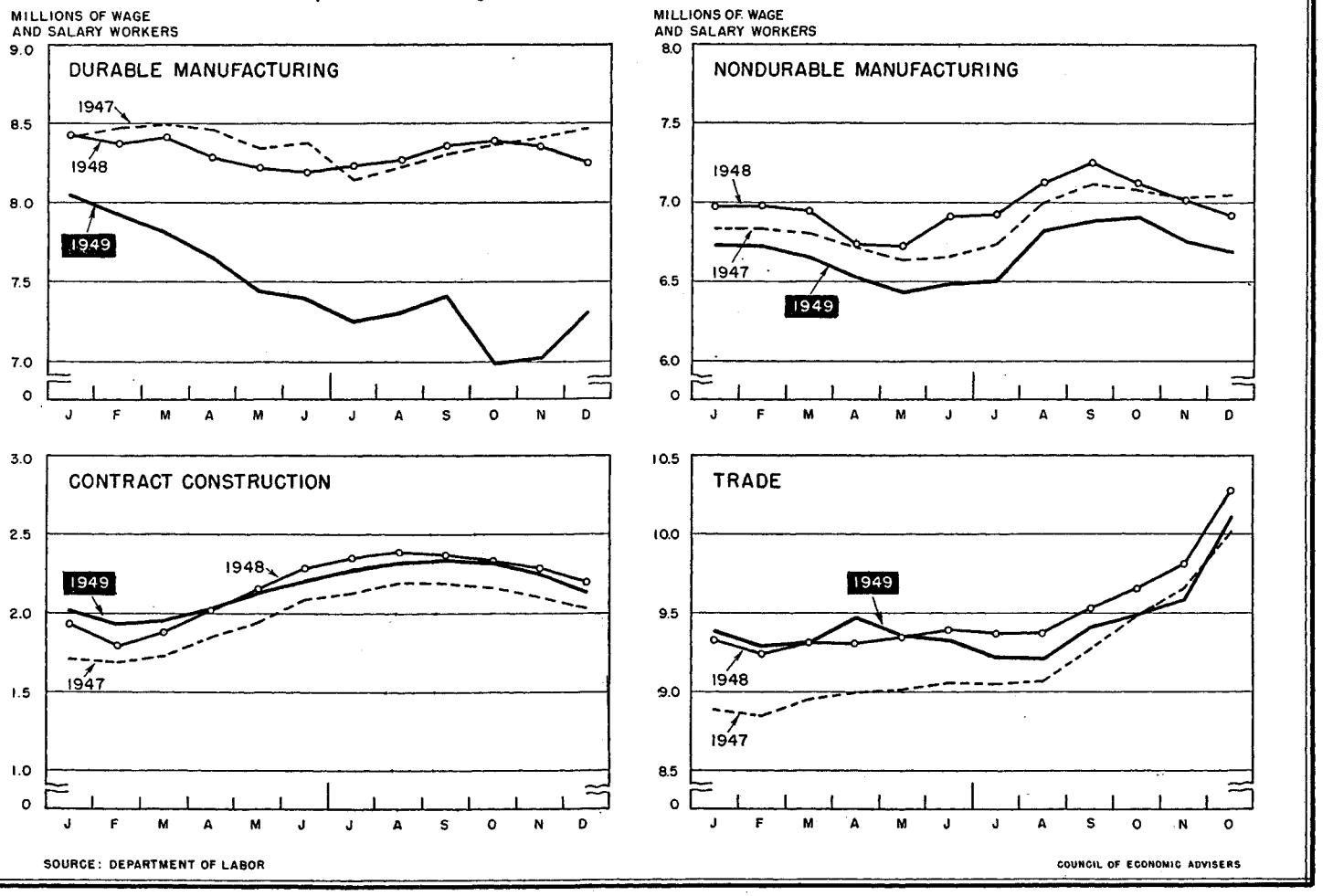
NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

Source: Department of Commerce.

Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT - SELECTED INDUSTRIES

Pre-holiday seasonal activity increased the December employment in trade and post-offices (part of Government). The rise of 290,000 in employment in durable goods industries reflected the settlement of labor disputes affecting steel and auto workers.




SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Thousands of wage and salary workers [1]]

| Period | Manufacturing | | | Contract construction | Trade | Finance and service | Government (Federal, State, local) | Transportation and public utilities | Mining |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Durable goods | Nondurable goods | | | | | | |
| 1939 monthly average | 10,078 | (2) | (2) | 1,150 | 6,705 | 4,610 | 3,987 | 2,912 | 845 |
| 1943 monthly average | 17,381 | (2) | (2) | 1,567 | 7,322 | 5,187 | 6,049 | 3,619 | 917 |
| 1946 monthly average | 14,461 | (2) | (2) | 1,661 | 8,815 | 5,994 | 5,607 | 4,023 | 852 |
| 1947 monthly average | 15,247 | 8,373 | 6,874 | 1,982 | 9,196 | 6,427 | 5,454 | 4,122 | 943 |
| 1948 monthly average | 15,286 | 8,315 | 6,970 | 2,165 | 9,491 | 6,515 | 5,613 | 4,151 | 981 |
| 1949 monthly average [3] | 14,142 | 7,464 | 6,678 | 2,160 | 9,432 | 6,544 | 5,813 | 3,977 | 930 |
| 1948: December | 15,174 | 8,258 | 6,916 | 2,200 | 10,273 | 6,481 | 5,994 | 4,158 | 1,002 |
| 1949: January | 14,782 | 8,044 | 6,738 | 2,016 | 9,388 | 6,454 | 5,764 | 4,054 | 991 |
| February | 14,649 | 7,923 | 6,726 | 1,926 | 9,292 | 6,447 | 5,737 | 4,024 | 986 |
| March | 14,475 | 7,819 | 6,656 | 1,947 | 9,310 | 6,469 | 5,761 | 3,975 | 981 |
| April | 14,177 | 7,656 | 6,521 | 2,036 | 9,478 | 6,525 | 5,775 | 3,991 | 984 |
| May | 13,877 | 7,441 | 6,436 | 2,137 | 9,342 | 6,567 | 5,813 | 4,021 | 974 |
| June | 13,884 | 7,392 | 6,492 | 2,205 | 9,336 | 6,608 | 5,803 | 4,031 | 968 |
| July | 13,757 | 7,255 | 6,502 | 2,277 | 9,220 | 6,631 | 5,738 | 4,007 | 943 |
| August | 14,114 | 7,302 | 6,812 | 2,340 | 9,213 | 6,616 | 5,763 | 3,992 | 956 |
| September | 14,312 | 7,409 | 6,903 | 2,341 | 9,409 | 6,604 | 5,893 | 3,959 | 948 |
| October [3] | 13,888 | 6,984 | 6,904 | 2,313 | 9,496 | 6,562 | 5,866 | 3,872 | 593 |
| November [3] | 13,776 | 7,023 | 6,753 | 2,246 | 9,579 | 6,534 | 5,783 | 3,893 | 914 |
| December [3] | 14,007 | 7,314 | 6,693 | 2,135 | 10,118 | 6,512 | 6,061 | 3,907 | 927 |

[1] Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in nonagricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Excludes proprietors, self-employed persons, domestic servants, and personnel of the armed forces. Total derived from this table not comparable with estimates of nonagricultural employment of the civilian labor force reported by the Department of Commerce (p. 6) which include proprietors, self-employed persons, and domestic servants; which count persons as employed when they are not at work because of industrial disputes; and which are based on an enumeration of population, whereas the estimates in this table are based on reports from employing establishments.

[2] Not available.

[3] Preliminary estimate.

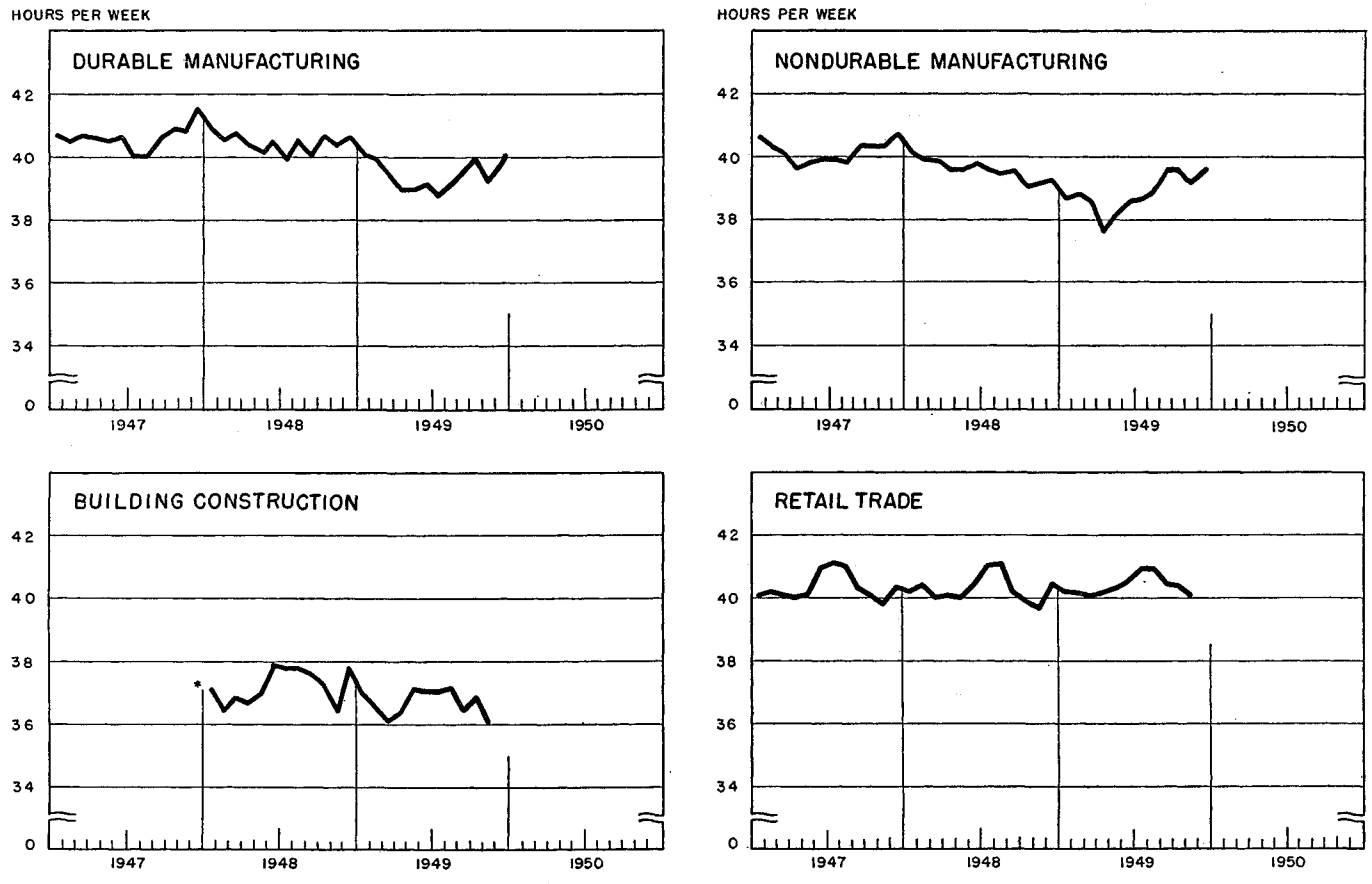
Source: Department of Labor.



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS - SELECTED INDUSTRIES

The workweek in both durable and nondurable manufacturing in December equaled the peaks for the year with durable goods increasing almost a full hour over the November level.




[Hours per week, selected industries [1]]

| Period | Manufacturing | | | Building construction | Retail trade |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Durable goods | Nondurable goods | | |
| 1939 monthly average | 37.7 | (2) | (2) | (2) | (2) |
| 1943 monthly average | 44.9 | (2) | (2) | (2) | (2) |
| 1946 monthly average | 40.4 | (2) | (2) | (2) | (2) |
| 1947 monthly average | 40.4 | 40.6 | 40.1 | (2) | 40.3 |
| 1948 monthly average | 40.1 | 40.5 | 39.6 | 37.3 | 40.3 |
| 1949 monthly average [3] | 39.2 | 39.5 | 38.8 | (2) | (2) |
| 1948: December | 40.1 | 40.7 | 39.3 | 37.8 | 40.4 |
| 1949: January | 39.5 | 40.1 | 38.7 | 37.0 | 40.2 |
| February | 39.4 | 39.9 | 38.8 | 36.5 | 40.2 |
| March | 39.1 | 39.5 | 38.6 | 36.1 | 40.1 |
| April | 38.4 | 39.0 | 37.6 | 36.4 | 40.2 |
| May | 38.6 | 39.0 | 38.1 | 37.2 | 40.3 |
| June | 38.8 | 39.2 | 38.5 | 37.1 | 40.5 |
| July | 38.8 | 38.8 | 38.7 | 37.1 | 40.9 |
| August | 39.1 | 39.3 | 38.9 | 37.2 | 40.9 |
| September | 39.6 | 39.6 | 39.6 | 36.5 | 40.5 |
| October [3] | 39.7 | 39.9 | 39.6 | 36.9 | 40.4 |
| November [3] | 39.2 | 39.2 | 39.2 | 36.1 | 40.1 |
| December [3] | 39.8 | 40.1 | 39.6 | (2) | (2) |

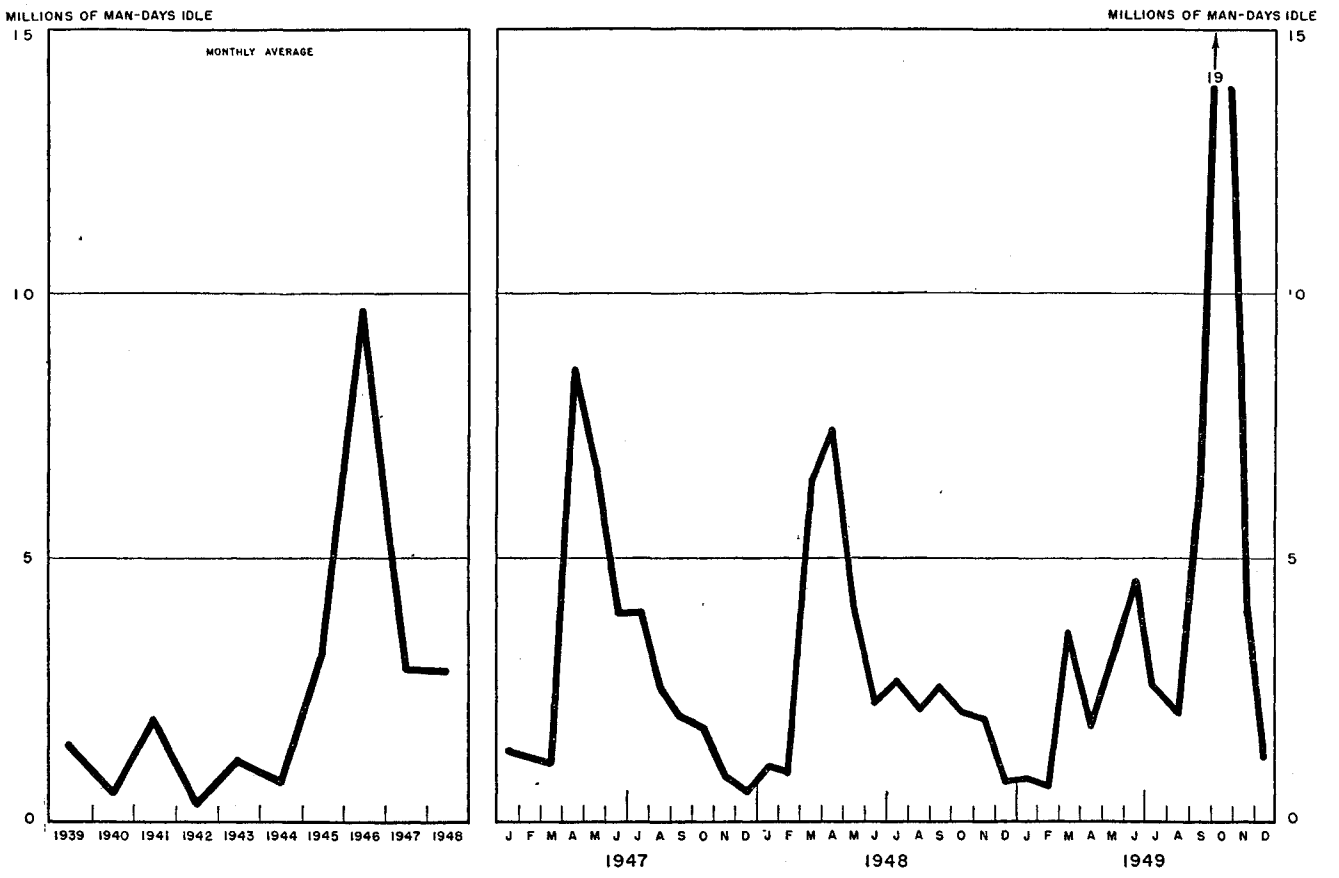
[1] For production and related workers.
[2] Not available.
[3] Preliminary estimate.

Source: Department of Labor.

Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# WORK STOPPAGES

With the ending of the coal and steel stoppages, man-days of idleness dropped sharply in November and December from the high level in October




SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

| Period | Man-days idle during period | | Workers involved in stoppages | | Number of stoppages | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Monthly average (thousands) | Percent of estimated working time | Beginning in period (thousands) | In effect during month (thousands) | Beginning in period | In effect during month |
| 1939 | 1,484 | 0.28 | 1,171 | ---------- | 2,613 | ---------- |
| 1941 | 1,921 | .32 | 2,363 | ---------- | 4,288 | ---------- |
| 1942 | 349 | .05 | 840 | ---------- | 2,968 | ---------- |
| 1943 | 1,125 | .15 | 1,981 | ---------- | 3,752 | ---------- |
| 1944 | 727 | .09 | 2,116 | ---------- | 4,956 | ---------- |
| 1945 | 3,169 | .47 | 3,467 | ---------- | 4,750 | ---------- |
| 1946 | 9,667 | 1.43 | 4,600 | ---------- | 4,985 | ---------- |
| 1947 | 2,883 | .41 | 2,170 | ---------- | 3,693 | ---------- |
| 1948 | 2,842 | .37 | 1,960 | ---------- | 3,419 | ---------- |
| 1949 [1] | 4,417 | .60 | 3,100 | ---------- | 3,600 | ---------- |
| 1948: November | 1,910 | .26 | 111 | 189 | 216 | 388 |
| December | 713 | .09 | 41 | 93 | 144 | 283 |
| 1949: January [1] | 725 | .10 | 77 | 100 | 275 | 385 |
| February [1] | 675 | .10 | 77 | 105 | 240 | 370 |
| March [1] | 3,500 | .46 | 500 | 530 | 290 | 440 |
| April [1] | 1,900 | .27 | 160 | 210 | 365 | 535 |
| May [1] | 3,450 | .49 | 235 | 310 | 455 | 680 |
| June [1] | 4,500 | .61 | 575 | 675 | 385 | 635 |
| July [1] | 2,400 | .36 | 110 | 250 | 350 | 600 |
| August [1] | 2,100 | .27 | 140 | 240 | 380 | 625 |
| September [1] | 6,550 | .91 | 475 | 565 | 290 | 525 |
| October [1] | 19,000 | 2.70 | 600 | 1,000 | 250 | 425 |
| November [1] | 7,500 | 1.00 | 70 | 875 | 200 | 360 |
| December [1] | 1,200 | .15 | 40 | 400 | 120 | 225 |

[1] Preliminary estimate.

Source: Department of Labor.

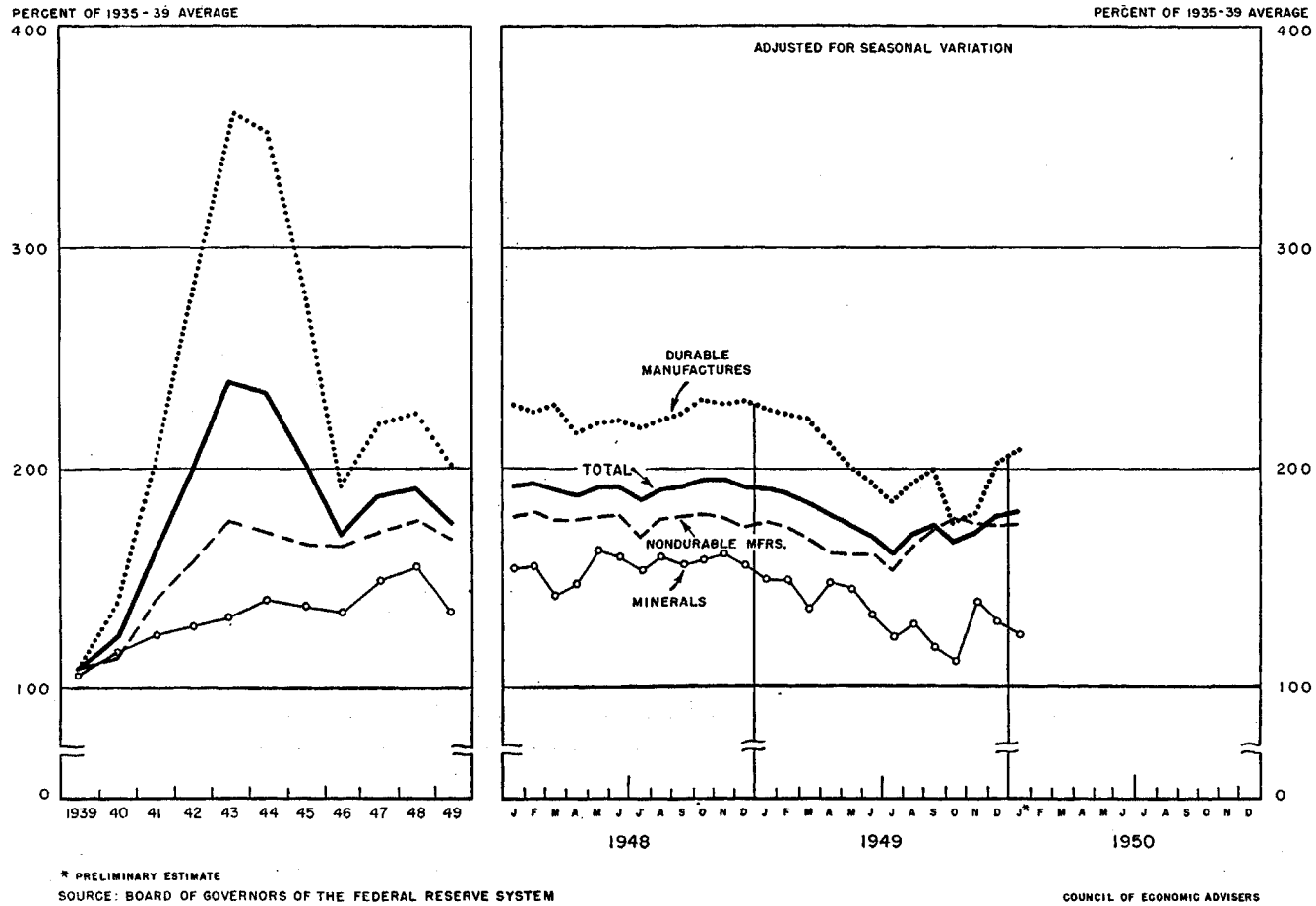


Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# PRODUCTION AND BUSINESS ACTIVITY

## INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Industrial production continued its sharp increase in December, rising to its highest point since April 1949. The increase in output of durable goods accounted for the December rise. Preliminary data for January indicate a continuation of this trend.




[1935–39=100, seasonally adjusted]

| Period | Total industrial production | Manufactures | | | Minerals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | Durable goods | Nondurable goods | |
| 1943 monthly average | 239 | 258 | 360 | 176 | 132 |
| 1946 monthly average | 170 | 177 | 192 | 165 | 134 |
| 1947 monthly average | 187 | 194 | 220 | 172 | 149 |
| 1948 monthly average | 192 | 198 | 225 | 177 | 155 |
| 1949 monthly average [1] | 176 | 183 | 201 | 168 | 135 |
| 1948: December | 192 | 199 | 231 | 173 | 156 |
| 1949: January | 191 | 198 | 227 | 175 | 149 |
| February | 189 | 196 | 225 | 173 | 149 |
| March | 184 | 193 | 223 | 168 | 136 |
| April | 179 | 184 | 212 | 162 | 148 |
| May | 174 | 179 | 201 | 161 | 145 |
| June | 169 | 176 | 194 | 161 | 133 |
| July | 161 | 168 | 185 | 154 | 123 |
| August | 170 | 177 | 193 | 165 | 129 |
| September | 174 | 184 | 199 | 172 | 119 |
| October | 166 | 176 | 175 | 177 | 112 |
| November | 173 | 178 | 180 | 177 | 141 |
| December [1] | 179 | 187 | 202 | 175 | 131 |
| 1950: January [1] | 182 | 192 | 210 | 177 | 127 |

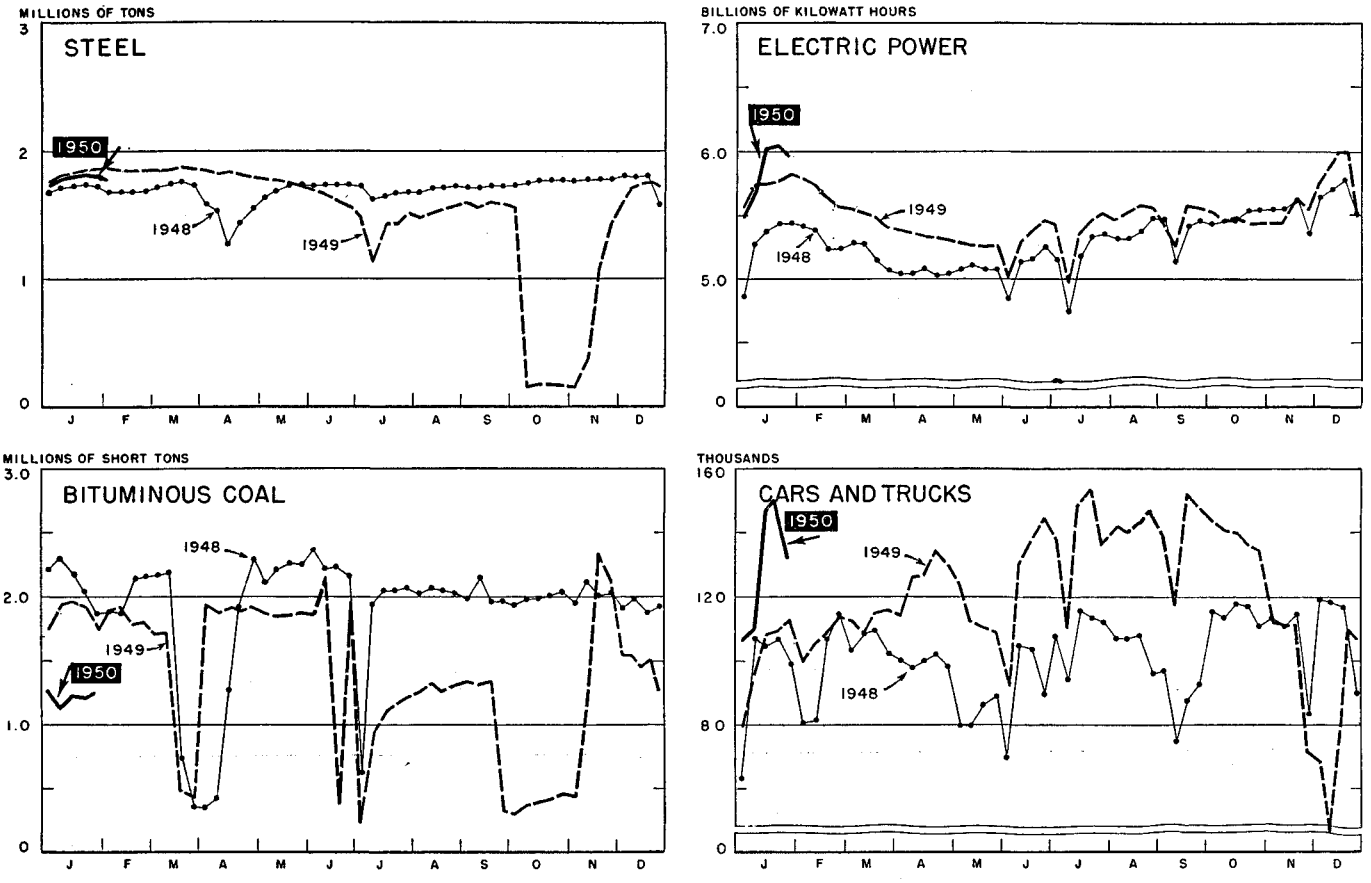
[1] Preliminary estimate.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# WEEKLY PRODUCTION - SELECTED INDICATORS

Steel ingot production was scheduled at 94 percent of the new rated capacity during January. Electric power production continued to exceed levels of a year ago. Output of coal declined with decreased activity in the mines. Assembly of automobiles proceeded at peak rates until interrupted at the end of the month by a labor dispute.




SOURCES: AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE, EDISON ELECTRIC INSTITUTE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WARD'S AUTOMOTIVE REPORTS. COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

| Period | Steel | | Electric power, by utilities (millions of kilowatt-hours) | Bituminous coal (thousands of short tons) [2] | Cars and trucks (number) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Thousands of net tons | Percent of capacity [1] | | | |
| Weekly average: | | | | | |
| 1947 | 1,628 | 93.0 | 4,821 | 2,058 | 90,860 |
| 1948 | 1,695 | 94.1 | 5,300 | 1,948 | 100,670 |
| 1949 | 1,493 | 81.0 | 5,500 | 1,206 | 120,800 |
| Week ended: | | | | | |
| 1949: January 1 | 1,754 | 97.3 | 5,562 | 1,770 | 79,377 |
| 8 | 1,803 | 97.8 | 5,742 | 1,931 | 96,101 |
| 15 | 1,831 | 99.3 | 5,729 | 1,963 | 108,281 |
| 22 | 1,845 | 100.1 | 5,769 | 1,910 | 108,941 |
| 29 | 1,864 | 101.1 | 5,810 | 1,747 | 113,042 |
| February 5 | 1,860 | 100.9 | 5,778 | 1.898 | 98,972 |
| 1950: January 7 | 1,772 | 92.9 | 5,695 | 1,130 | 110,326 |
| 14 | 1,792 | 94.0 | 6,029 | 1,237 | 146,956 |
| 21 | 1,810 | 95.0 | 6,041 | 1,210 | 150,800 |
| 28 | 1,790 | 93.9 | 5,972 | 1,250 | 133,466 |
| February 4 | 1,775 | 93.1 | ---------- | ---------- | [3] 120,223 |

[1] Based on weekly net ton capacity of 1,749,928 for 1947, 1,802,476 for 1948, 1,843,516 for 1949,and 1, 906,268 for 1950.
[2] Daily average for week.
[3] Data became available after chart was prepared.

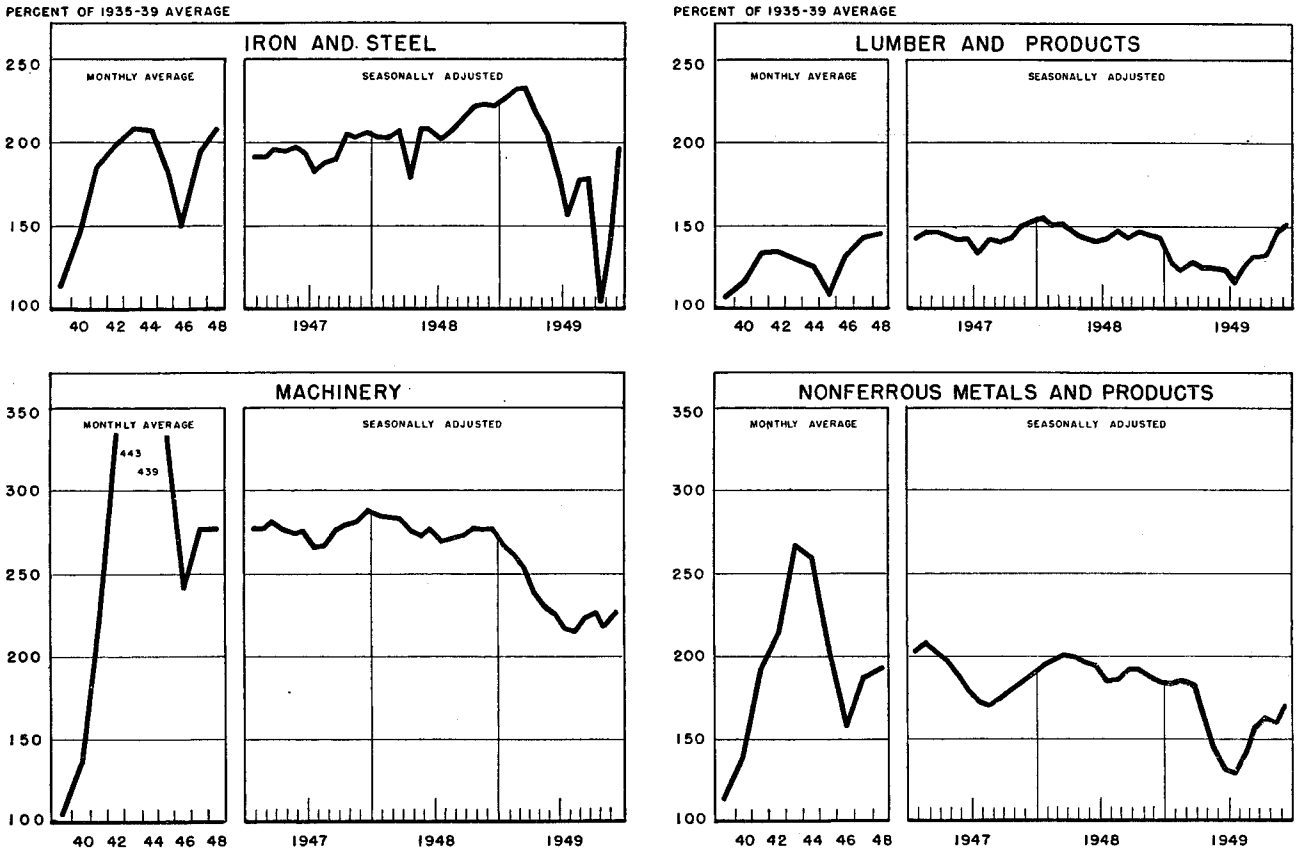
Sources: American Iron and Steel Institute, Edison Electric Institute, Department of the Interior, and Ward's Automotive Reports.



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# PRODUCTION OF SELECTED DURABLE MANUFACTURES

Output of iron and steel rebounded again in December. Heavy demand for lumber increased the production to record levels for winter output. The index for machinery recovered to the October rate; nonferrous metals also advanced.




SOURCE: BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[1935–39=100, seasonally adjusted]

| Period | Iron and steel | Lumber and products | Machinery | Nonferrous metals and products |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1943 monthly average | 208 | 129 | 443 | 267 |
| 1946 monthly average | 150 | 131 | 240 | 157 |
| 1947 monthly average | 195 | 143 | 276 | 187 |
| 1948 monthly average | 208 | 145 | 277 | 193 |
| 1949 monthly average [1] | 187 | 130 | 234 | 160 |
| 1948: November | 224 | 145 | 276 | 187 |
| December | 223 | 143 | 277 | 184 |
| 1949: January | 228 | 129 | 268 | 183 |
| February | 232 | 123 | 262 | 185 |
| March | 233 | 129 | 252 | 183 |
| April | 219 | 126 | 240 | 167 |
| May | 204 | 126 | 232 | 145 |
| June | 177 | 123 | 225 | 133 |
| July | 156 | 115 | 217 | 127 |
| August | 178 | 126 | 215 | 141 |
| September | 179 | 133 | 224 | 157 |
| October | 102 | 133 | 226 | 164 |
| November | 144 | 147 | 217 | 163 |
| December [1] | 198 | 152 | 226 | 171 |

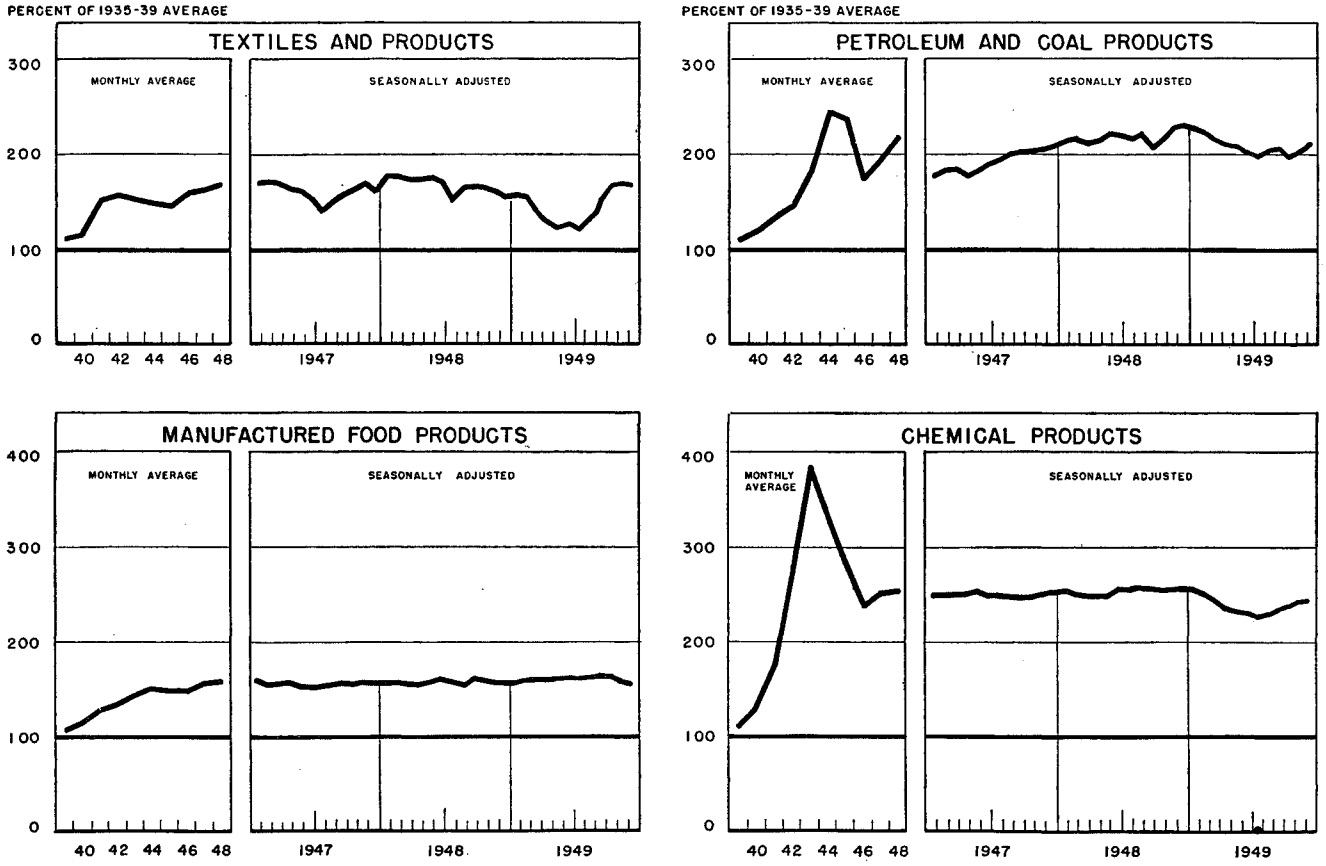
[1] Preliminary estimate.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# PRODUCTION OF SELECTED NONDURABLE MANUFACTURES

In December the manufacture of textiles and products declined somewhat from the high November rate. Output of petroleum and coal products increased sharply; chemicals slightly. Production of manufactured foods continued to decline.




SOURCE: BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[1935–39=100, seasonally adjusted]

| Period | Textiles and products | Petroleum and coal products | Manufactured food products | Chemical products |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1943 monthly average | 153 | 185 | 145 | 384 |
| 1946 monthly average | 162 | 173 | 150 | 236 |
| 1947 monthly average | 163 | 193 | 157 | 251 |
| 1948 monthly average | 169 | 218 | 159 | 254 |
| 1949 monthly average [1] | 147 | 209 | 162 | 240 |
| 1948: November | 164 | 227 | 159 | 257 |
| December | 156 | 231 | 158 | 257 |
| 1949: January | 160 | 228 | 160 | 257 |
| February | 157 | 221 | 162 | 250 |
| March | 142 | 213 | 162 | 245 |
| April | 129 | 209 | 162 | 237 |
| May | 123 | 207 | 162 | 234 |
| June | 126 | 202 | 165 | 231 |
| July | 120 | 198 | 161 | 226 |
| August | 140 | 203 | 166 | 230 |
| September | 155 | 208 | 167 | 236 |
| October | 169 | 198 | 165 | 240 |
| November | 174 | 204 | 159 | 243 |
| December [1] | 171 | 213 | 156 | 245 |

[1] Preliminary estimate.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

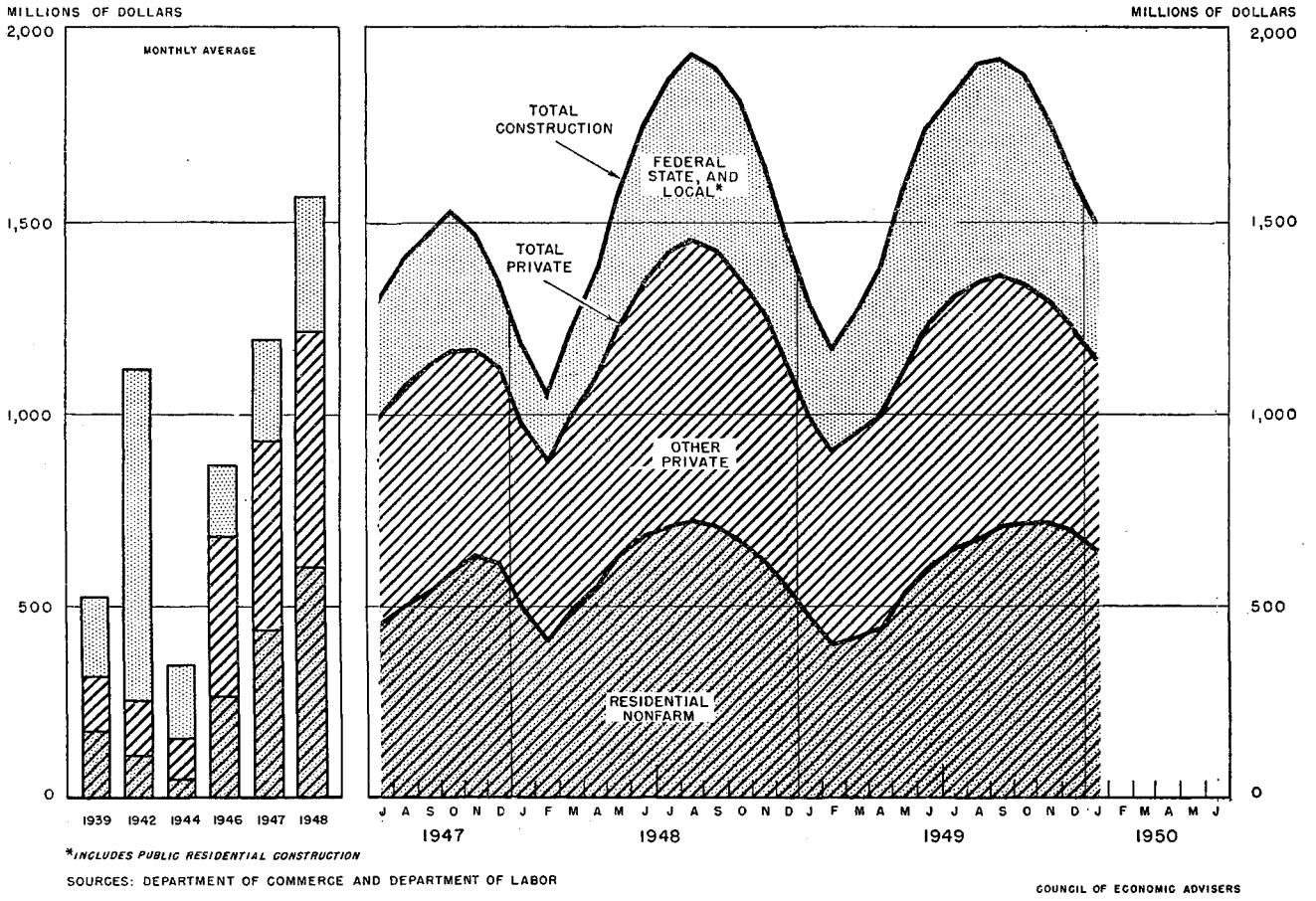
61683—50——3



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# NEW CONSTRUCTION

Total new construction in January was 16 percent higher than a year ago.




*INCLUDES PUBLIC RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

SOURCES: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Millions of dollars]

| Period | Total new construction | Private construction | | | Federal, State, and local [1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total private | Residential (nonfarm) | Other | |
| 1939 monthly average | 526 | 317 | 176 | 141 | 208 |
| 1942 monthly average | 1,118 | 251 | 110 | 141 | 867 |
| 1944 monthly average | 345 | 152 | 45 | 107 | 193 |
| 1946 monthly average | 871 | 688 | 265 | 422 | 184 |
| 1947 monthly average | 1,194 | 932 | 438 | 493 | 262 |
| 1948 monthly average | 1,565 | 1,214 | 602 | 612 | 351 |
| 1949 monthly average | 1,611 | 1,172 | 585 | 586 | 439 |
| 1948: December | 1,447 | 1,129 | 547 | 582 | 318 |
| 1949: January | 1,293 | 1,002 | 475 | 527 | 291 |
| February | 1,172 | 905 | 400 | 505 | 267 |
| March | 1,267 | 951 | 420 | 531 | 316 |
| April | 1,370 | 989 | 445 | 544 | 381 |
| May | 1,576 | 1,108 | 530 | 578 | 468 |
| June | 1,735 | 1,229 | 600 | 629 | 506 |
| July | 1,833 | 1,301 | 650 | 651 | 532 |
| August | 1,903 | 1,343 | 675 | 668 | 560 |
| September | 1,922 | 1,368 | 710 | 658 | 554 |
| October | 1,879 | 1,343 | 715 | 628 | 536 |
| November | 1,767 | 1,295 | 715 | 580 | 472 |
| December | 1,612 | 1,225 | 690 | 535 | 387 |
| 1950: January [2] | 1,500 | 1,140 | 650 | 490 | 360 |

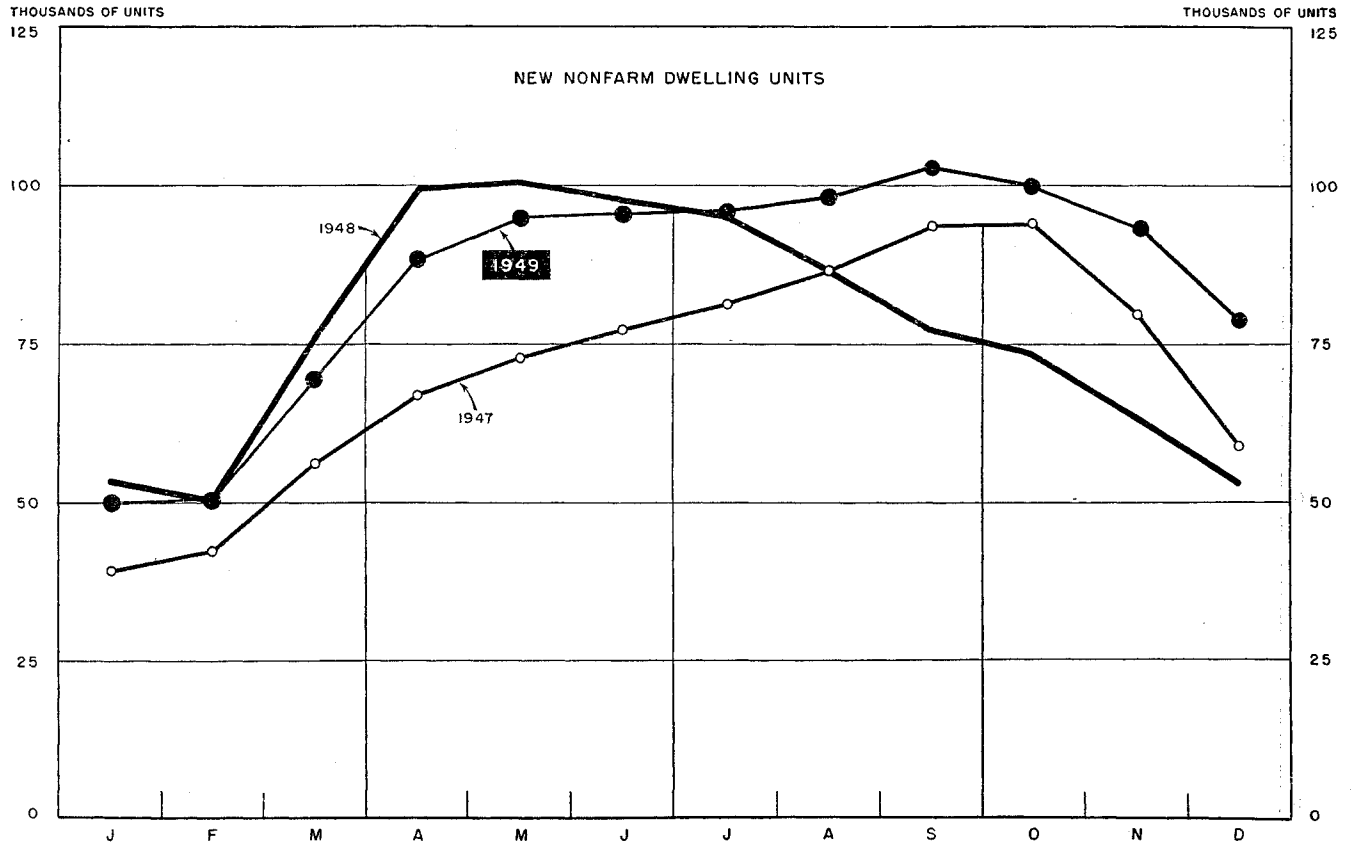
[1] Includes public residential construction.
[2] Preliminary estimate.

Sources: Department of Commerce and Department of Labor.

Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# NEW HOUSING STARTS

Housing starts maintained their high levels to the end of 1949. The total for the year was 1,019,000 compared with 931,300 in 1948.




SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

| Month | New nonfarm units started | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 |
| January | 39,300 | 53,500 | 50,000 |
| February | 42,800 | 50,100 | 50,400 |
| March | 56,000 | 76,400 | 69,400 |
| April | 67,100 | 99,500 | 88,300 |
| May | 72,900 | 100,300 | 95,400 |
| June | 77,200 | 97,800 | 95,500 |
| July | 81,100 | 95,000 | 96,100 |
| August | 86,300 | 86,600 | 99,000 |
| September | 93,800 | 82,200 | [1] 102,900 |
| October | 94,000 | 73,400 | [1] 100,000 |
| November | 79,700 | 63,600 | [1] 93,000 |
| December | 58,800 | 52,900 | [1] 79,000 |
| Total | 849,000 | 931,300 | [1] 1,019,000 |
| Monthly average | 70,750 | 77,600 | [1] 84,900 |

[1] Preliminary estimate.

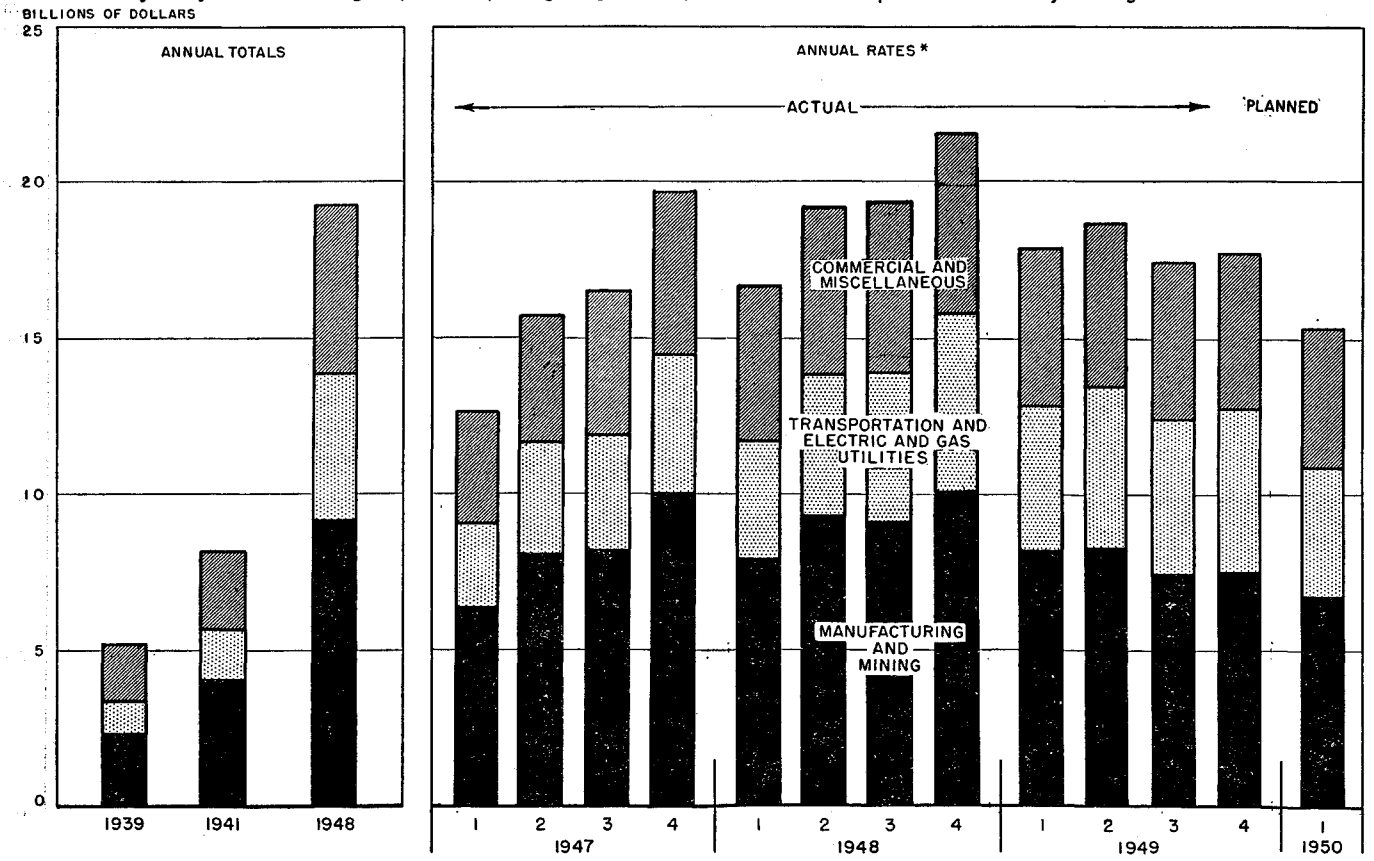
Source: Department of Labor.



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# EXPENDITURES FOR NEW PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Plant and equipment expenditures by nonagricultural business firms in 2nd half of 1949 were estimated at 14 percent less than those of 2nd half of 1948. Anticipated expenditures for 1st quarter of 1950 are likewise reported as 14 percent below those of 1st quarter 1949. Electric and gas utilities are the only major business group anticipating higher expenditures this quarter than a year ago.




* NOT ADJUSTED FOR SEASONAL VARIATION.

SOURCES: SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Millions of dollars, annual rates, not adjusted for seasonal]

| Period | Total [1] | Manufacturing | Mining | Transportation | | Electric and gas utilities | Commercial and miscellaneous [2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Railroad | Other | | |
| 1939 | 5,200 | 1,930 | 380 | 280 | 280 | 480 | 1,850 |
| 1941 | 8,190 | 3,400 | 680 | 560 | 340 | 710 | 2,490 |
| 1945 | 6,630 | 3,210 | 440 | 550 | 320 | 630 | 1,480 |
| 1947 | 16,180 | 7,460 | 690 | 910 | 800 | 1,900 | 4,430 |
| 1948 | 19,230 | 8,340 | 800 | 1,320 | 700 | 2,680 | 5,390 |
| 1949 [3] | 17,910 | 7,130 | 730 | 1,340 | 510 | 3,160 | 5,040 |
| 1948: First quarter | 16,680 | 7,200 | 720 | 1,080 | 720 | 2,000 | 4,960 |
| Second quarter | 19,280 | 8,560 | 800 | 1,240 | 760 | 2,560 | 5,360 |
| Third quarter | 19,320 | 8,360 | 800 | 1,320 | 680 | 2,760 | 5,440 |
| Fourth quarter | 21,640 | 9,280 | 880 | 1,640 | 680 | 3,400 | 5,760 |
| 1949: First quarter | 17,840 | 7,400 | 760 | 1,440 | 520 | 2,720 | 5,040 |
| Second quarter | 18,640 | 7,520 | 760 | 1,520 | 560 | 3,120 | 5,160 |
| Third quarter | 17,440 | 6,760 | 720 | 1,240 | 520 | 3,160 | 5,040 |
| Fourth quarter [3] | 17,720 | 6,840 | 680 | 1,160 | 440 | 3,600 | 5,000 |
| 1950: First quarter [3] | 15,280 | 6,080 | 640 | 880 | 320 | 2,960 | 4,440 |

[1] Excludes agriculture.
[2] Commercial and miscellaneous composed of trade, service, finance, and communication.
[3] Figures for fourth quarter of 1949 and first quarter of 1950 are based on anticipated capital expenditures.

NOTE.—These figures do not agree with the totals included in the gross national product estimates of the Department of Commerce, principally because the latter cover agricultural investment and also certain equipment and construction outlays charged to current expense. Figures for 1939–44 are Federal Reserve Board estimates based on Securities and Exchange Commission and other data.

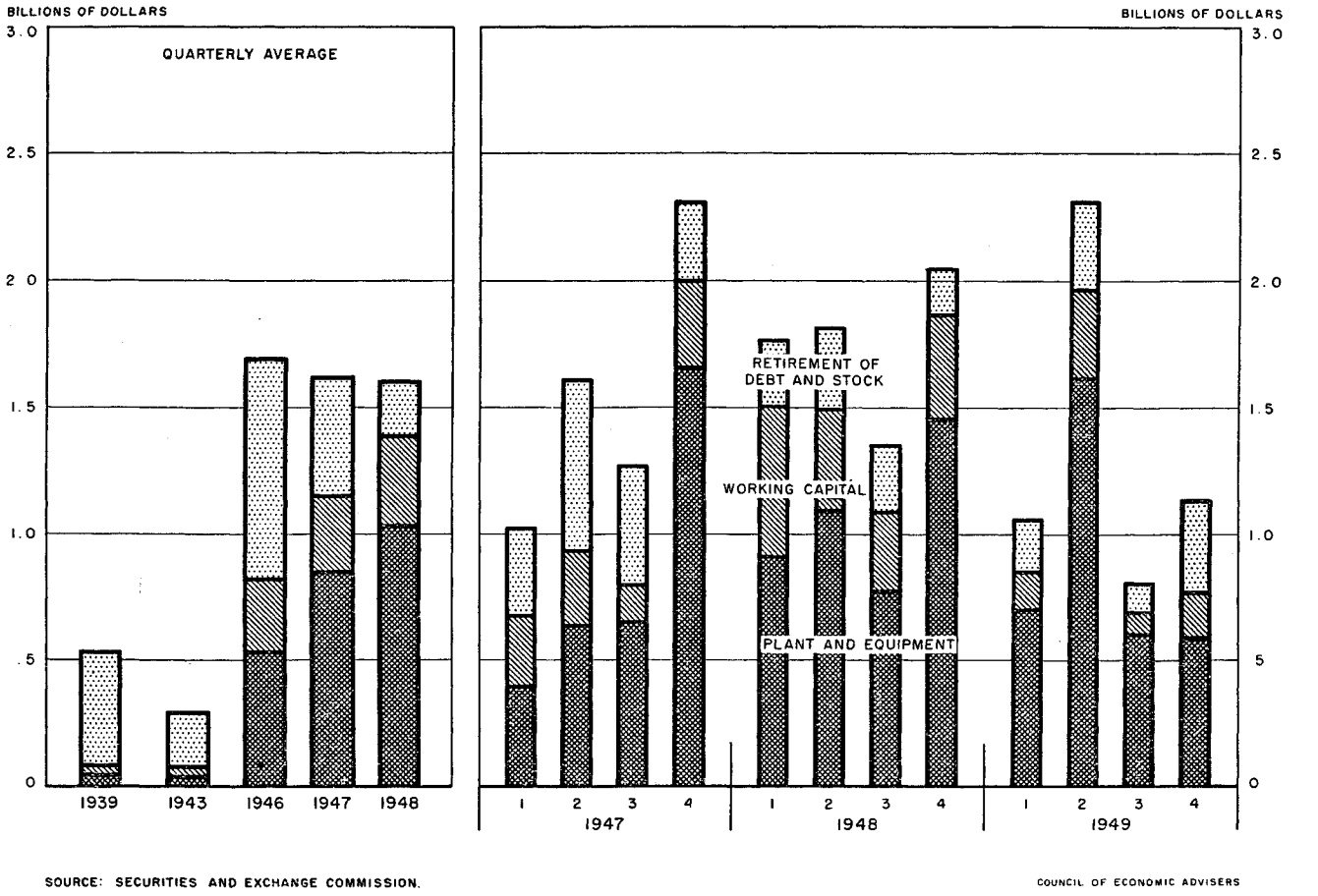
Detail will not necessarily add to totals because annual rates are based on quarterly figures rounded to the nearest 10,000,000.

Sources: Securities and Exchange Commission and Department of Commerce (except as noted).

Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# NEW CORPORATE SECURITY ISSUES

New corporate issues showed a seasonal rise in the 4th quarter of the year but were far below the total for the 4th quarter of 1948.




SOURCE: SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Millions of dollars]

| Period | Estimated net proceeds | Proposed uses of net proceeds | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | New money | | | Retirement of debt and stock [1] |
| | | Total | Plant and equipment | Working capital | |
| 1939 quarterly average | 529 | 81 | 43 | 39 | 448 |
| 1943 quarterly average | 287 | 77 | 35 | 42 | 210 |
| 1946 quarterly average | 1,689 | 820 | 529 | 291 | 869 |
| 1947 quarterly average | 1,617 | 1,148 | 852 | 296 | 469 |
| 1948 quarterly average | 1,748 | 1,491 | 1,060 | 431 | 257 |
| 1949 quarterly average [2] | 1,330 | 1,069 | 875 | 194 | 261 |
| 1947: Third quarter | 1,374 | 884 | 692 | 192 | 490 |
| Fourth quarter | 2,311 | 2,000 | 1,654 | 347 | 310 |
| 1948: First quarter | 1,769 | 1,511 | 918 | 593 | 260 |
| Second quarter | 1,817 | 1,493 | 1,091 | 402 | 325 |
| Third quarter | 1,352 | 1,087 | 774 | 314 | 265 |
| Fourth quarter | 2,054 | 1,874 | 1,459 | 415 | 180 |
| 1949: First quarter | 1,056 | 850 | 699 | 152 | 206 |
| Second quarter | 2,311 | 1,968 | 1,615 | 353 | 343 |
| Third quarter | 807 | 688 | 599 | 89 | 119 |
| Fourth quarter [2] | 1,148 | 771 | 588 | 183 | 377 |

[1] Includes small amount for other purposes.
[2] Preliminary estimate.

NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

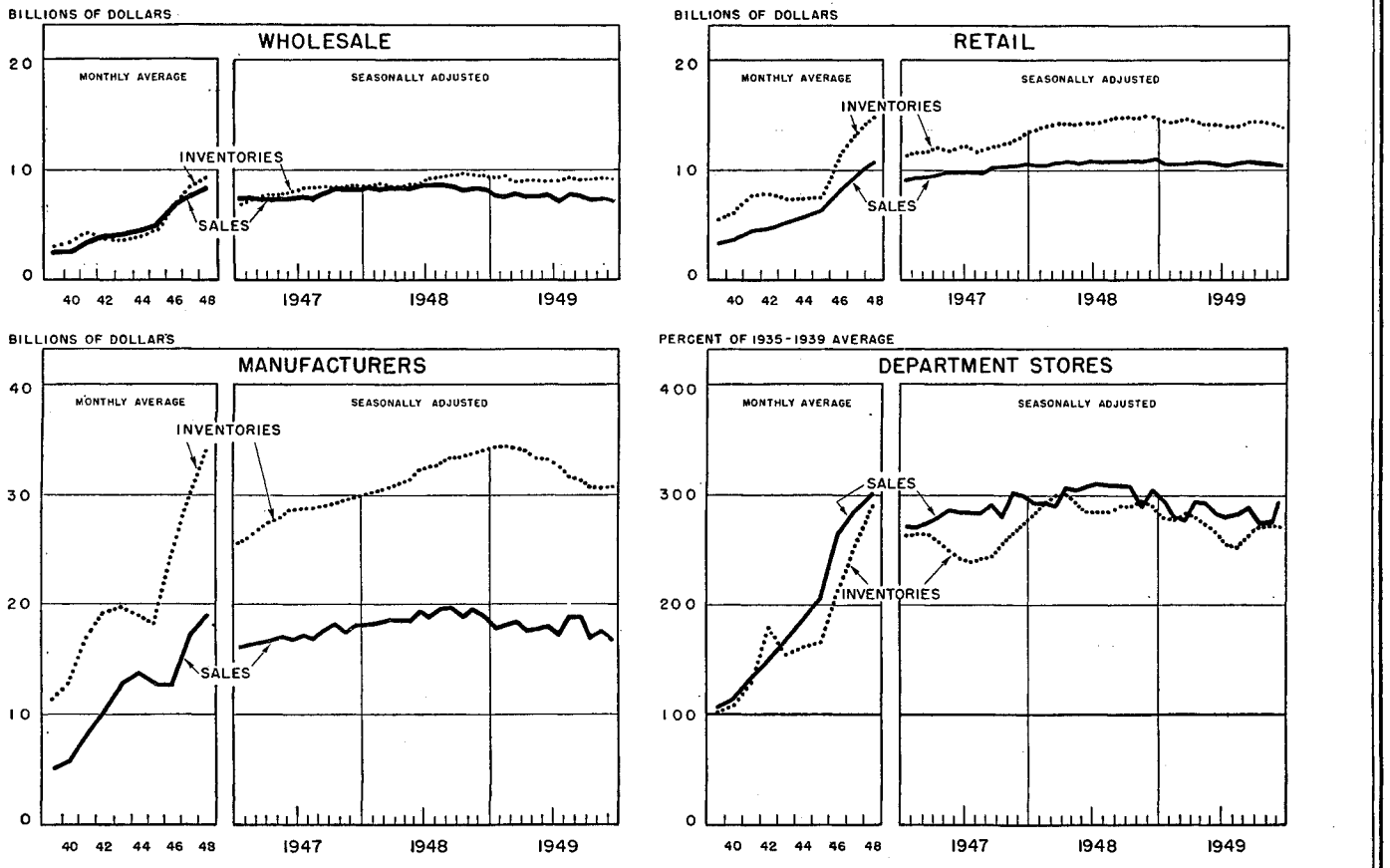
Source: Securities and Exchange Commission.



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# INVENTORIES AND SALES

Department store sales showed substantially more than the usual seasonal rise in December. Manufacturers' inventories, after allowance for seasonal variation, rose slightly after 10 successive months of decline.




SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

| Period | Wholesale | | Retail | | Manufacturers | | Department stores | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Inventories [1] | Sales [2] | Inventories [1] | Sales [2] | Inventories [1] | Sales [2] | Inventories [3] | Sales [3] |
| | Millions of dollars, seasonally adjusted [4] | | | | | | 1935–39=100, seasonally adjusted | |
| )_____ | 3, 175 | 2, 505 | 5, 532 | 3, 504 | 11, 465 | 5, 100 | 102 | 106 |
| 3_____ | 3, 684 | 4, 273 | 7, 361 | 5, 277 | 20, 098 | 12, 822 | 155 | 168 |
| 5_____ | 4, 638 | 4, 983 | 7, 543 | 6, 315 | 18, 390 | 12, 883 | 166 | 207 |
| 6_____ | 6, 665 | 6, 601 | 11, 226 | 8, 358 | 24, 818 | 12, 841 | 213 | 264 |
| 7_____ | 8, 653 | 7, 754 | 13, 221 | 9, 909 | 29, 818 | 17, 076 | 255 | 286 |
| 8_____ | 9, 511 | 8, 355 | 14, 969 | 10, 837 | 34, 066 | 18, 998 | 291 | 302 |
| 9 [5]_____ | 9, 205 | 7, 502 | 14, 285 | 10, 682 | 32, 574 | 17, 792 | 270 | 285 |
| 3: November_____ | 9, 714 | 8, 236 | 15, 027 | 10, 763 | 33, 810 | 19, 288 | 295 | 290 |
| December_____ | 9, 511 | 8, 158 | 14, 969 | 10, 987 | 34, 066 | 19, 065 | 288 | 303 |
| 9: January_____ | 9, 464 | 7, 723 | 14, 659 | 10, 611 | 34, 409 | 17, 880 | 278 | 295 |
| February_____ | 9, 479 | 7, 680 | 14, 479 | 10, 706 | 34, 408 | 18, 175 | 276 | 281 |
| March_____ | 9, 293 | 7, 890 | 14, 700 | 10, 724 | 34, 223 | 18, 451 | 283 | 277 |
| April_____ | 9, 330 | 7, 422 | 14, 458 | 10, 814 | 34, 018 | 17, 643 | 280 | 294 |
| May_____ | 9, 153 | 7, 539 | 14, 139 | 10, 759 | 33, 565 | 17, 741 | 273 | 292 |
| June_____ | 9, 002 | 7, 718 | 14, 182 | 10, 684 | 33, 250 | 17, 990 | 265 | 285 |
| July_____ | 9, 091 | 7, 158 | 13, 862 | 10, 549 | 32, 367 | 17, 114 | 256 | 280 |
| August_____ | 9, 061 | 7, 522 | 13, 932 | 10, 669 | 31, 638 | 18, 945 | 253 | 283 |
| September_____ | 9, 186 | 7, 518 | 14, 355 | 10, 856 | 31, 060 | 18, 866 | 264 | 289 |
| October_____ | 9, 137 | 7, 120 | 14, 475 | 10, 678 | 30, 754 | 16, 805 | 270 | 276 |
| November [5]_____ | 9, 113 | 7, 515 | 14, 339 | 10, 630 | 30, 500 | 17, 300 | 273 | 276 |
| December [5]_____ | 9, 149 | 7, 216 | 13, 839 | 10, 503 | 30, 700 | 16, 600 | 271 | 294 |

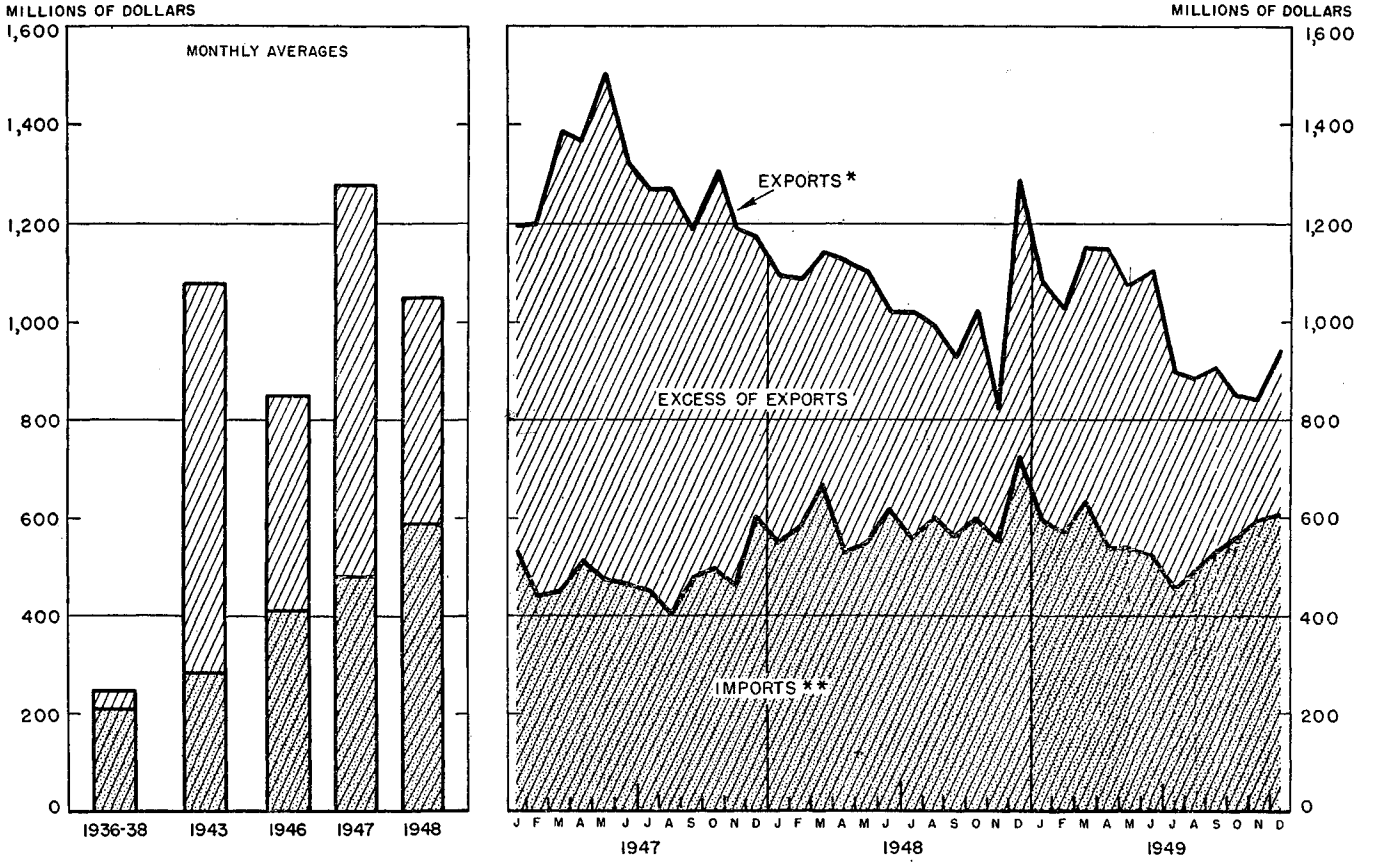
[1] Book value, end of period.
[2] Monthly average for year and total for month.
[3] Indexes computed from data on retail value of sales for month and retail book value of inventories, end of period.
[4] All dollar figures, except for retail sales, have been revised and do not agree with data published prior to October 1949.
[5] Preliminary estimates.

Sources: Department of Commerce and Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# MERCHANDISE EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

Exports rose sharply in December, breaking the almost continuous decline of previous months, but remained lower than in any month during the first half of the year. Imports continued to rise, but at a slower rate than any of the preceding four months.




* RECORDED MERCHANDISE EXPORTS, INCLUDING REEXPORTS, AND CIVILIAN SUPPLIES FOR OCCUPIED AREAS.
** RECORDED GENERAL MERCHANDISE IMPORTS.

SOURCES: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, AND DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Millions of dollars]

| Period | Exports [1] | Imports [2] | Excess of exports |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1936–38 monthly average | 247 | 207 | 40 |
| 1943 monthly average | 1,080 | 282 | 798 |
| 1946 monthly average | 849 | 410 | 439 |
| 1947 monthly average | 1,278 | 478 | 801 |
| 1948 monthly average | 1,051 | 594 | 457 |
| 1949 monthly average | 994 | 552 | 442 |
| 1948: November | 820 | 554 | 266 |
| December | 1,285 | 720 | 565 |
| 1949: January | 1,094 | 590 | 504 |
| February | 1,032 | 568 | 464 |
| March | 1,159 | 632 | 527 |
| April | 1,148 | 534 | 614 |
| May | 1,077 | 539 | 538 |
| June | 1,104 | 527 | 578 |
| July | 897 | 456 | 441 |
| August | 881 | 491 | 390 |
| September | 904 | 530 | 374 |
| October | 849 | 559 | 290 |
| November | 836 | 593 | 243 |
| December | 943 | 605 | 338 |

[1] Recorded merchandise exports, including reexports, and civilian supplies for occupied areas.
[2] Recorded general merchandise imports.

Sources: Department of Commerce, Department of the Army, and Department of the Navy.

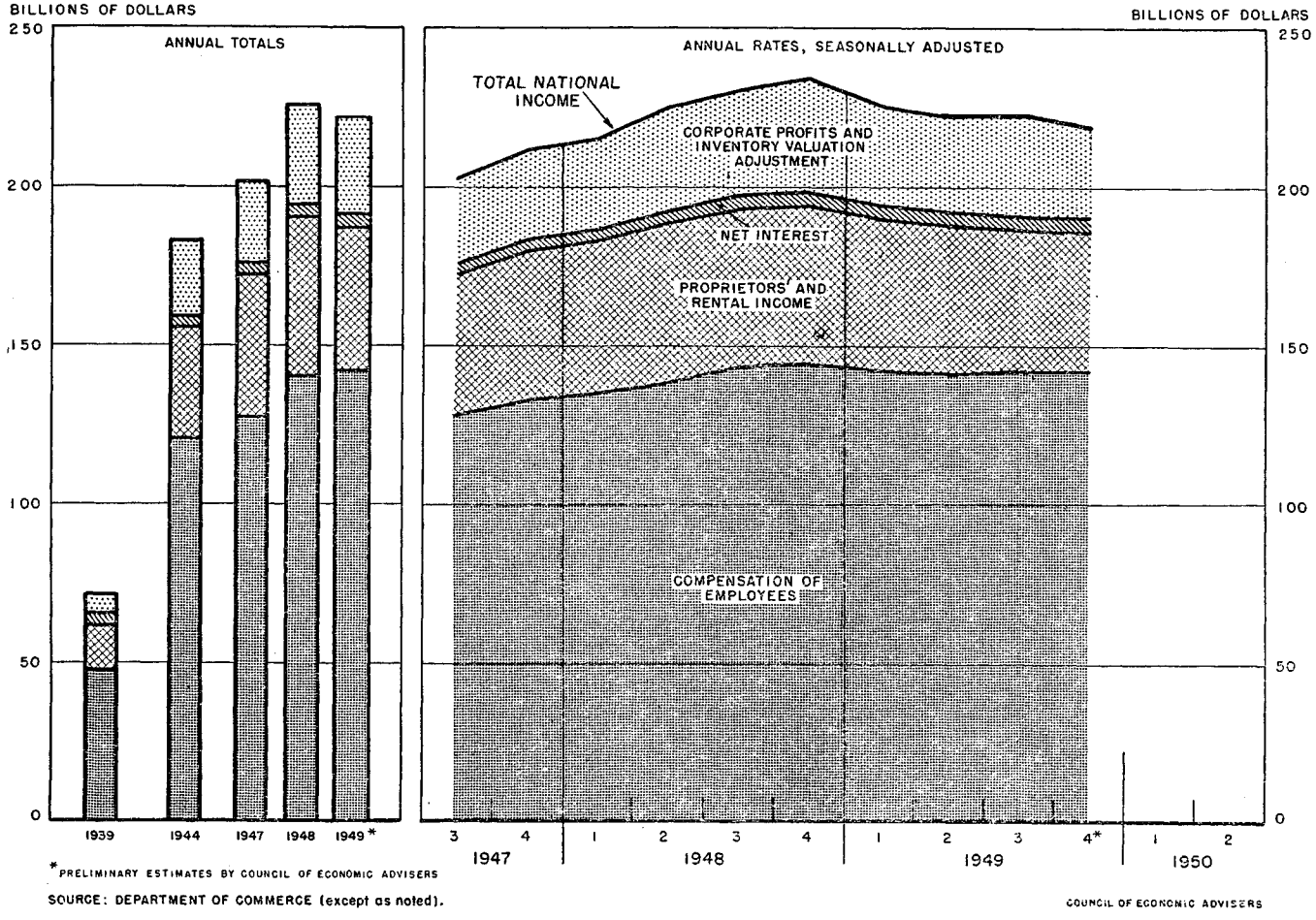


Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# PURCHASING POWER

## NATIONAL INCOME

The drop in national income from 3rd to 4th quarter of 1949 was due largely to a fall in corporate profits plus inventory valuation adjustment, although proprietors' income also fell somewhat.




[Billions of dollars]

| Period | Total national income | Compensation of employees | Proprietors' and rental income | Net interest | Corporate profits and inventory valuation adjustment | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Total | Profits before taxes | Inventory valuation adjustment |
| 1939 | 72.5 | 47.8 | 14.7 | 4.2 | 5.8 | 6.5 | −0.7 |
| 1944 | 183.8 | 121.2 | 35.5 | 3.1 | 24.0 | 24.3 | −.3 |
| 1946 | 179.6 | 117.0 | 41.3 | 3.0 | 18.3 | 23.6 | −5.3 |
| 1947 | 201.7 | 127.6 | 45.1 | 3.4 | 25.6 | 31.6 | −6.0 |
| 1948 | 226.2 | 140.3 | 49.5 | 3.8 | 32.6 | 34.8 | −2.2 |
| 1949 [1] | 223.2 | 142.2 | 45.7 | 4.3 | 30.9 | 28.2 | −2.7 |
| | Annual rates, seasonally adjusted | | | | | | |
| 1948: First quarter | 215.1 | 135.1 | 48.0 | 3.6 | 28.5 | 33.0 | −4.5 |
| Second quarter | 224.9 | 137.7 | 50.4 | 3.7 | 33.0 | 35.0 | −2.0 |
| Third quarter | 230.4 | 143.3 | 49.9 | 3.9 | 33.3 | 36.6 | −3.3 |
| Fourth quarter | 234.3 | 144.9 | 49.7 | 4.1 | 35.7 | 34.5 | +1.2 |
| 1949: First quarter | 226.3 | 142.5 | 47.8 | 4.2 | 31.8 | 29.4 | +2.3 |
| Second quarter | 223.5 | 141.8 | 46.5 | 4.3 | 30.9 | 26.4 | +4.5 |
| Third quarter | 223.5 | 142.2 | 44.5 | 4.3 | 32.4 | 28.9 | +3.5 |
| Fourth quarter [1] | 219.3 | 142.3 | 44.0 | 4.4 | 28.6 | 28.0 | +.6 |

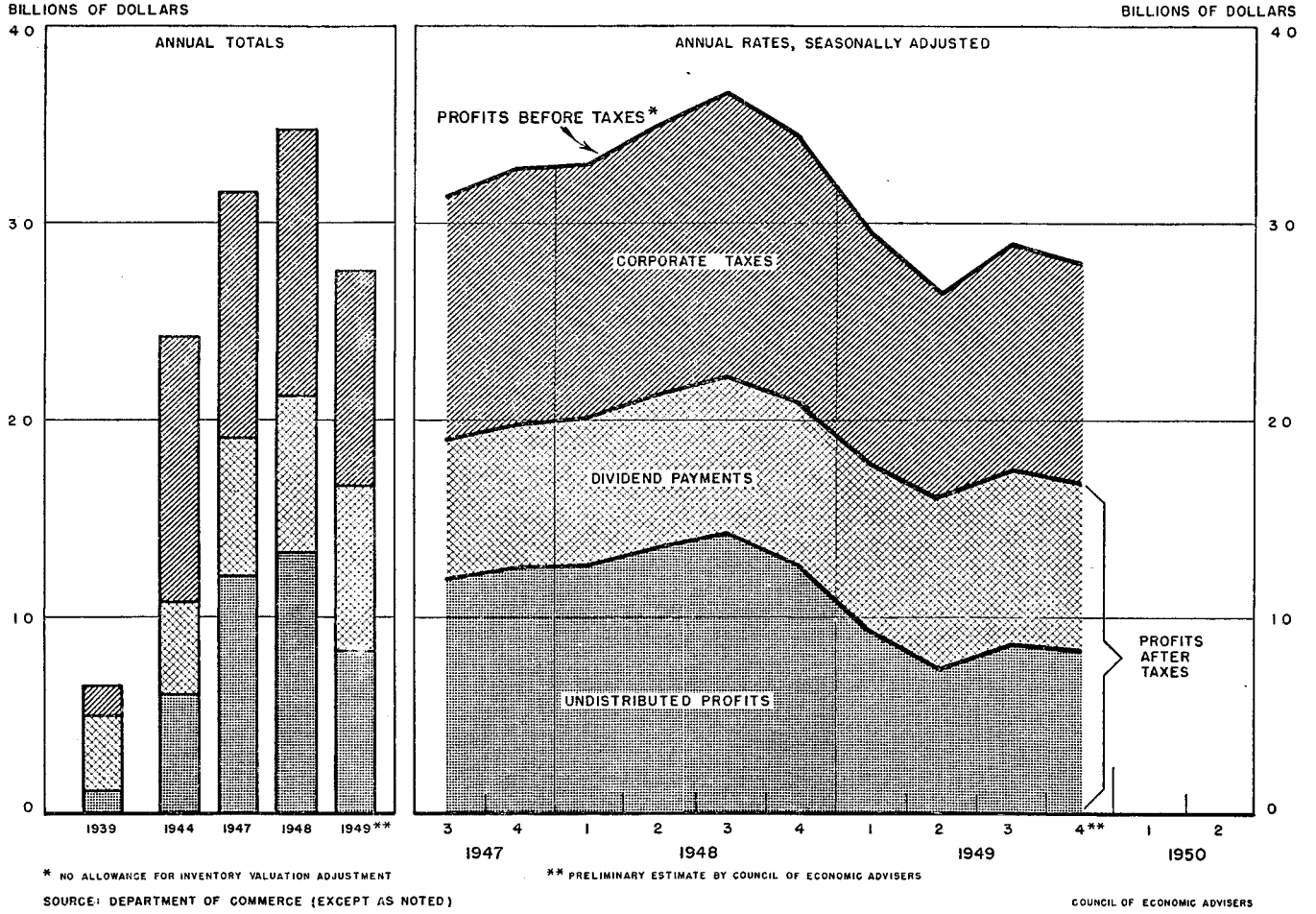
[1] Estimates by Council of Economic Advisers; based on incomplete data. Source: Department of Commerce (except as noted).

NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# CORPORATE PROFITS

Corporate profits during 3rd quarter of 1949 rose substantially from 2nd quarter levels. The rebound in manufacturing activity and the peak output of automobiles were largely responsible. The 4th quarter level was affected by the work stoppages in steel and coal.




[Billions of dollars]

| Period | Corporate profits before taxes | Corporate tax liability | Corporate profits after taxes | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Total | Dividend payments | Undistributed profits |
| 1929 | 9.8 | 1.4 | 8.4 | 5.8 | 2.6 |
| 1939 | 6.5 | 1.5 | 5.0 | 3.8 | 1.2 |
| 1944 | 24.3 | 13.5 | 10.8 | 4.7 | 6.1 |
| 1946 | 23.6 | 9.6 | 13.9 | 5.8 | 8.1 |
| 1947 | 31.6 | 12.5 | 19.1 | 7.0 | 12.1 |
| 1948 | 34.8 | 13.6 | 21.2 | 7.9 | 13.2 |
| 1949 [1] | 28.2 | 11.2 | 17.0 | 8.4 | 8.6 |
| | Annual rates, seasonally adjusted | | | | |
| 1948: First quarter | 33.0 | 12.8 | 20.2 | 7.6 | 12.6 |
| Second quarter | 35.0 | 13.7 | 21.3 | 7.7 | 13.6 |
| Third quarter | 36.6 | 14.4 | 22.2 | 7.9 | 14.3 |
| Fourth quarter | 34.5 | 13.6 | 20.9 | 8.3 | 12.6 |
| 1949: First quarter | 29.4 | 11.5 | 17.9 | 8.4 | 9.5 |
| Second quarter | 26.4 | 10.6 | 15.8 | 8.4 | 7.4 |
| Third quarter | 28.9 | 11.4 | 17.5 | 8.4 | 9.1 |
| Fourth quarter [1] | 28.0 | 11.2 | 16.8 | 8.5 | 8.3 |

[1] Estimates by Council of Economic Advisers; based on incomplete data.

NOTE.—No allowance has been made for inventory valuation adjustment. See p. 20 for profits before taxes and inventory valuation adjustment.

Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

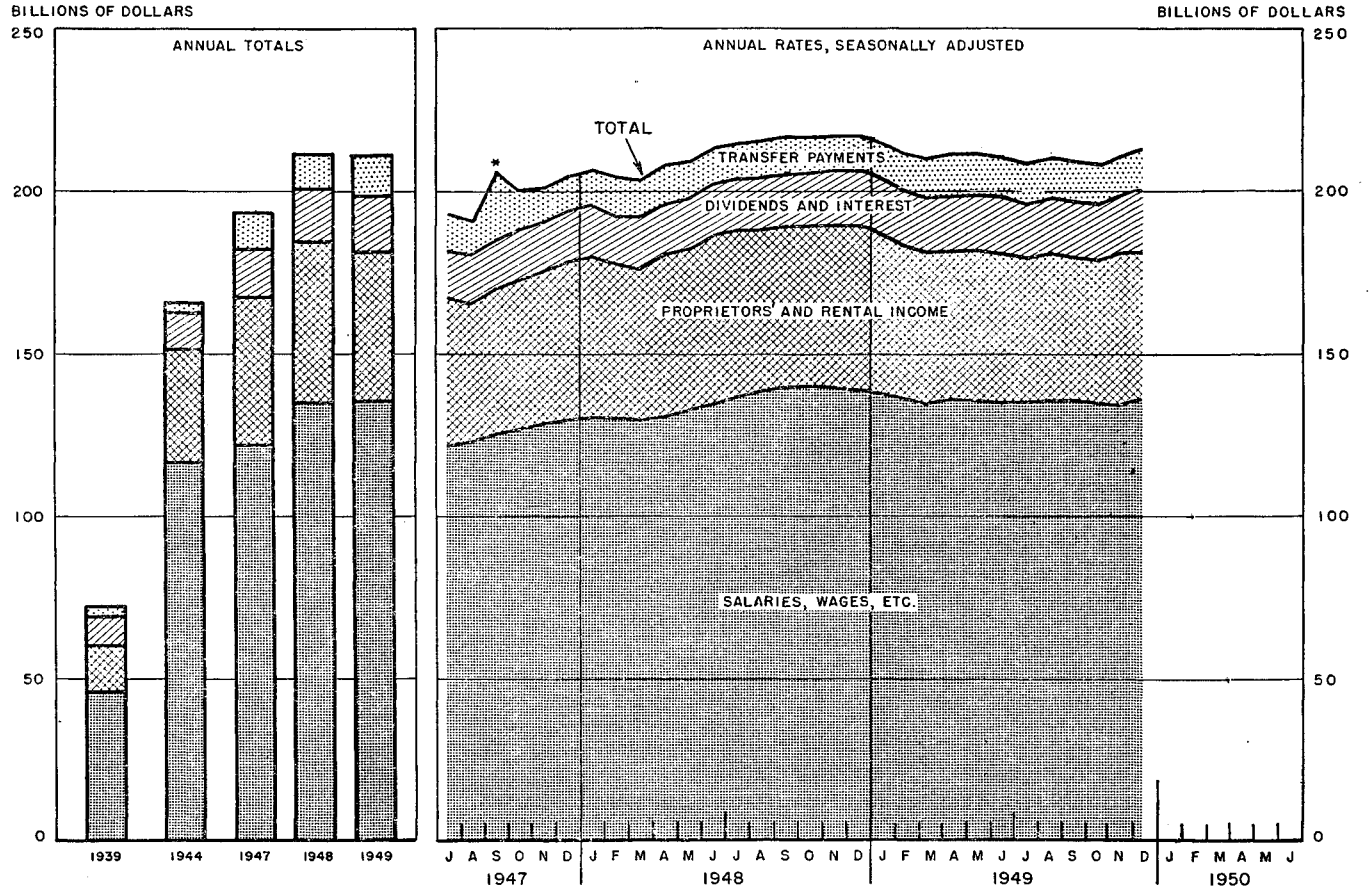
Source: Department of Commerce (except as noted).



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# PERSONAL INCOME

According to revised estimates for the entire year 1949, personal income was higher in December than any other month except January. Salaries and wages and dividends increased from November to December so that there was a net increase of $2 billion (annual rate) in total personal income.




*TERMINAL LEAVE BOND CASHING STARTED IN SEPTEMBER, 1947.

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Billions of dollars]

| Period | Total personal income | Salaries, wages, and other labor income | Proprietors' and rental income | Dividends and personal interest | Transfer payments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1939 | 72.6 | 45.7 | 14.7 | 9.2 | 3.0 |
| 1944 | 165.9 | 116.2 | 35.5 | 10.6 | 3.6 |
| 1947 | 193.5 | 122.0 | 45.1 | 14.8 | 11.7 |
| 1948 | 211.9 | 135.1 | 49.5 | 16.2 | 11.1 |
| 1949 [1] | 209.8 | 135.6 | 44.8 | 17.4 | 12.2 |
| | Annual rates, seasonally adjusted | | | | |
| 1948: November | 216.6 | 139.5 | 49.8 | 16.9 | 10.4 |
| December | 217.0 | 139.1 | 50.3 | 16.9 | 10.7 |
| 1949: January | 214.6 | 137.9 | 48.5 | 17.0 | 11.2 |
| February | 211.3 | 136.1 | 46.6 | 17.0 | 11.6 |
| March | 210.2 | 134.4 | 46.2 | 17.0 | 12.6 |
| April | 210.5 | 136.0 | 45.0 | 17.1 | 12.4 |
| May | 210.2 | 135.8 | 45.2 | 17.0 | 12.2 |
| June | 209.4 | 135.0 | 45.1 | 17.0 | 12.3 |
| July | 207.2 | 135.1 | 42.8 | 16.9 | 12.4 |
| August | 209.1 | 135.5 | 43.9 | 17.1 | 12.6 |
| September | 208.3 | 135.8 | 42.7 | 17.2 | 12.6 |
| October | 207.0 | 134.8 | 42.9 | 17.3 | 12.0 |
| November | 209.4 | 134.7 | 44.9 | 17.4 | 12.4 |
| December [1] | 211.5 | 136.3 | 43.4 | 19.1 | 12.7 |

[1] Preliminary estimate.

NOTE.—Data for all of 1949 have been revised in this issue of the Economic Indicators and do not agree with present estimates included in national income. Revised estimates of national income and all of its components will appear in the March issue of the Indicators. Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

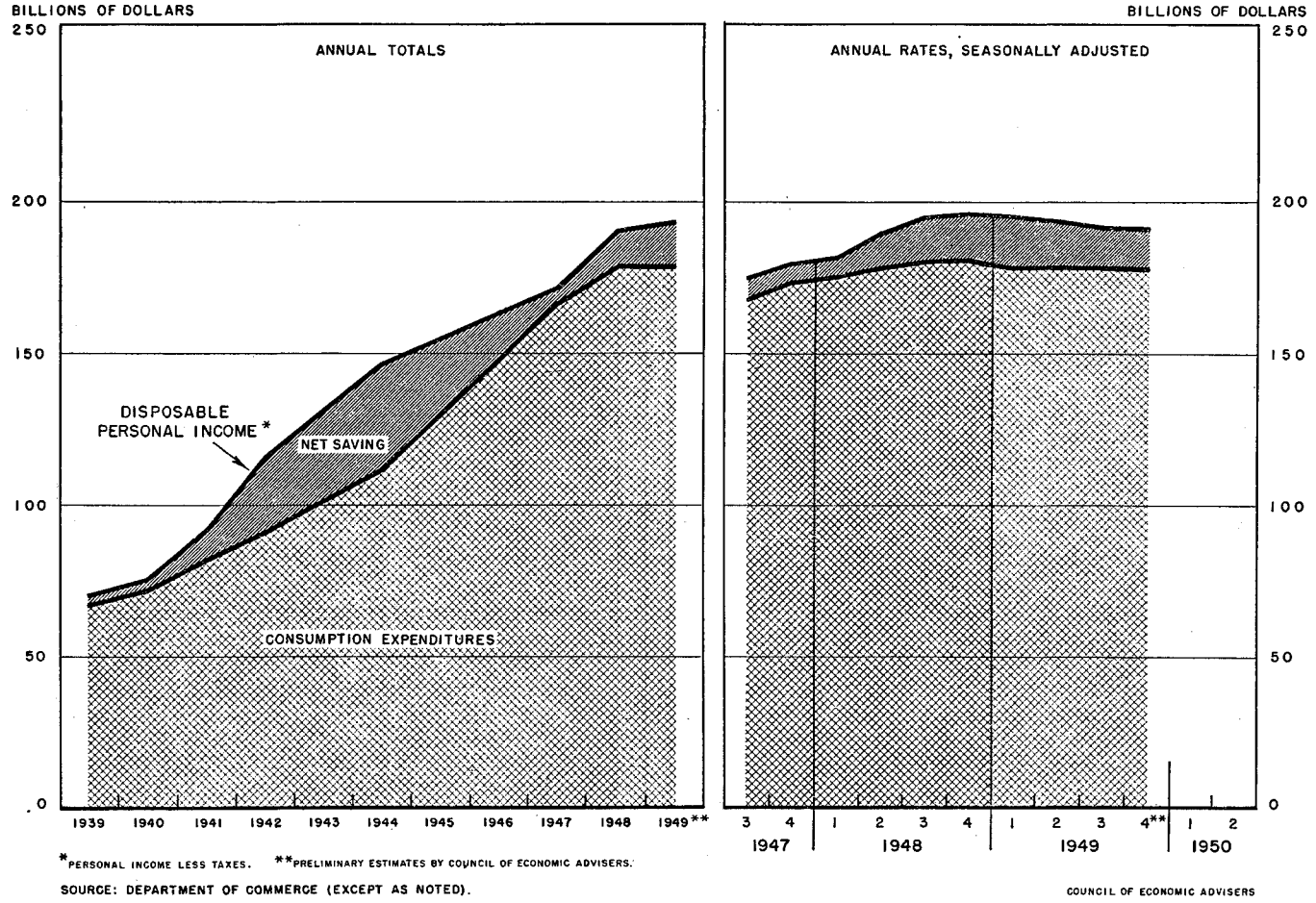
Source: Department of Commerce.



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# CONSUMER INCOME, SPENDING, AND SAVING

Consumer expenditures in 4th quarter of 1949 were $178 billion (annual rate), a drop of only $3 billion from the 4th quarter of 1948. During the same period, personal disposable income dropped $5 billion and saving $2 billion.




[Billions of dollars]

| Period | Disposable personal income [1] | Less: Personal consumption expenditures | Equals: Personal saving |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1939 | 70.2 | 67.5 | 2.7 |
| 1940 | 75.7 | 72.1 | 3.7 |
| 1941 | 92.0 | 82.3 | 9.8 |
| 1942 | 116.2 | 90.8 | 25.4 |
| 1943 | 131.6 | 101.6 | 30.0 |
| 1944 | 147.0 | 111.6 | 35.4 |
| 1945 | 151.1 | 123.1 | 28.0 |
| 1946 | 158.1 | 147.8 | 10.3 |
| 1947 | 172.0 | 166.9 | 5.1 |
| 1948 | 190.8 | 178.8 | 12.0 |
| 1949 [2] | 192.9 | 178.5 | 14.4 |
| | Annual rates, seasonally adjusted | | |
| 1948: First quarter | 181.9 | 175.2 | 6.7 |
| Second quarter | 189.6 | 178.7 | 10.8 |
| Third quarter | 195.2 | 180.3 | 15.0 |
| Fourth quarter | 196.2 | 180.9 | 15.3 |
| 1949: First quarter | 194.9 | 178.6 | 16.3 |
| Second quarter | 193.8 | 178.9 | 14.8 |
| Third quarter | 191.9 | 178.5 | 13.3 |
| Fourth quarter [2] | 191.1 | 178.0 | 13.1 |

[1] Income less taxes.
[2] Preliminary estimates by Council of Economic Advisers.

NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

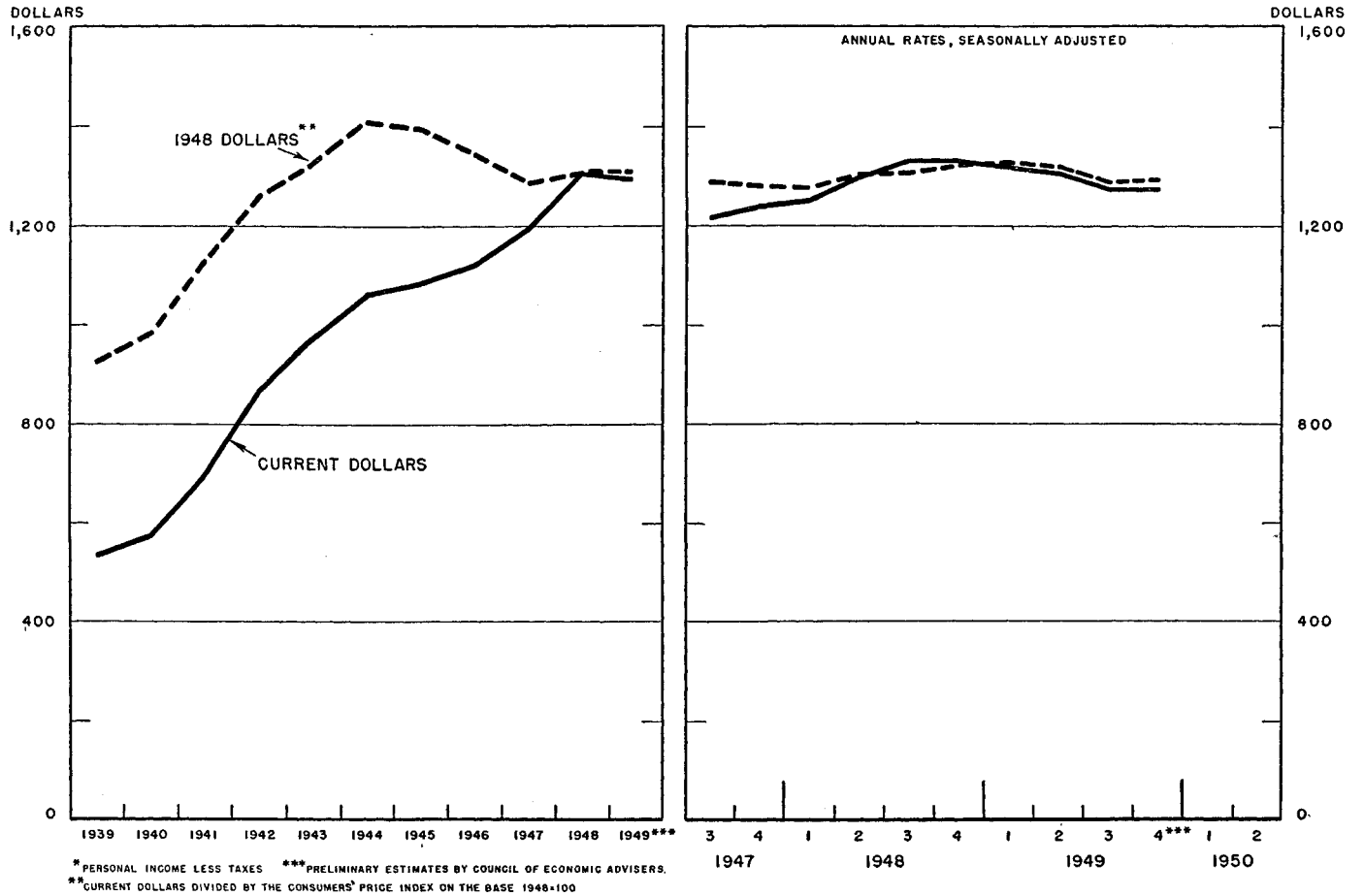
Source: Department of Commerce.



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# PER CAPITA INCOME*

Per capita disposable income, in terms of real purchasing power, has declined very slowly but steadily since the first quarter of 1949.




*PERSONAL INCOME LESS TAXES ***PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES BY COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS.
**CURRENT DOLLARS DIVIDED BY THE CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX ON THE BASE 1948=100
SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (EXCEPT AS NOTED).
COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

| Period | Per capita disposable personal income [1] | | Consumers' price index [2] 1948=100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Current dollars | 1948 dollars [3] | |
| 1939 | $536 | $923 | 58.1 |
| 1940 | 574 | 981 | 58.5 |
| 1941 | 691 | 1,125 | 61.4 |
| 1942 | 867 | 1,262 | 68.7 |
| 1943 | 970 | 1,314 | 73.8 |
| 1944 | 1,065 | 1,405 | 75.8 |
| 1945 | 1,082 | 1,389 | 77.9 |
| 1946 | 1,119 | 1,342 | 83.4 |
| 1947 | 1,194 | 1,282 | 93.1 |
| 1948 | 1,302 | 1,302 | 100.0 |
| 1949 [4] | 1,293 | 1,309 | 98.8 |
| | Annual rates, seasonally adjusted | | Not adjusted for seasonal variation |
| 1948: First quarter | 1,248 | 1,273 | 98.0 |
| Second quarter | 1,296 | 1,301 | 99.6 |
| Third quarter | 1,328 | 1,305 | 101.8 |
| Fourth quarter | 1,328 | 1,319 | 100.7 |
| 1949: First quarter | 1,314 | 1,325 | 99.2 |
| Second quarter | 1,301 | 1,314 | 99.0 |
| Third quarter | 1,283 | 1,300 | 98.7 |
| Fourth quarter [4] | 1,271 | 1,294 | 98.2 |

[1] Income less taxes. [2] Current dollars divided by the consumers' price index on the base 1948=100.
[3] The consumers' price index has been roughly adjusted to take account of the understatement from December 1941–February 1947. This adjustment is in line with the report of the Mitchell Committee. The unadjusted index will be found on page 2. [4] Preliminary estimates by Council of Economic Advisers.

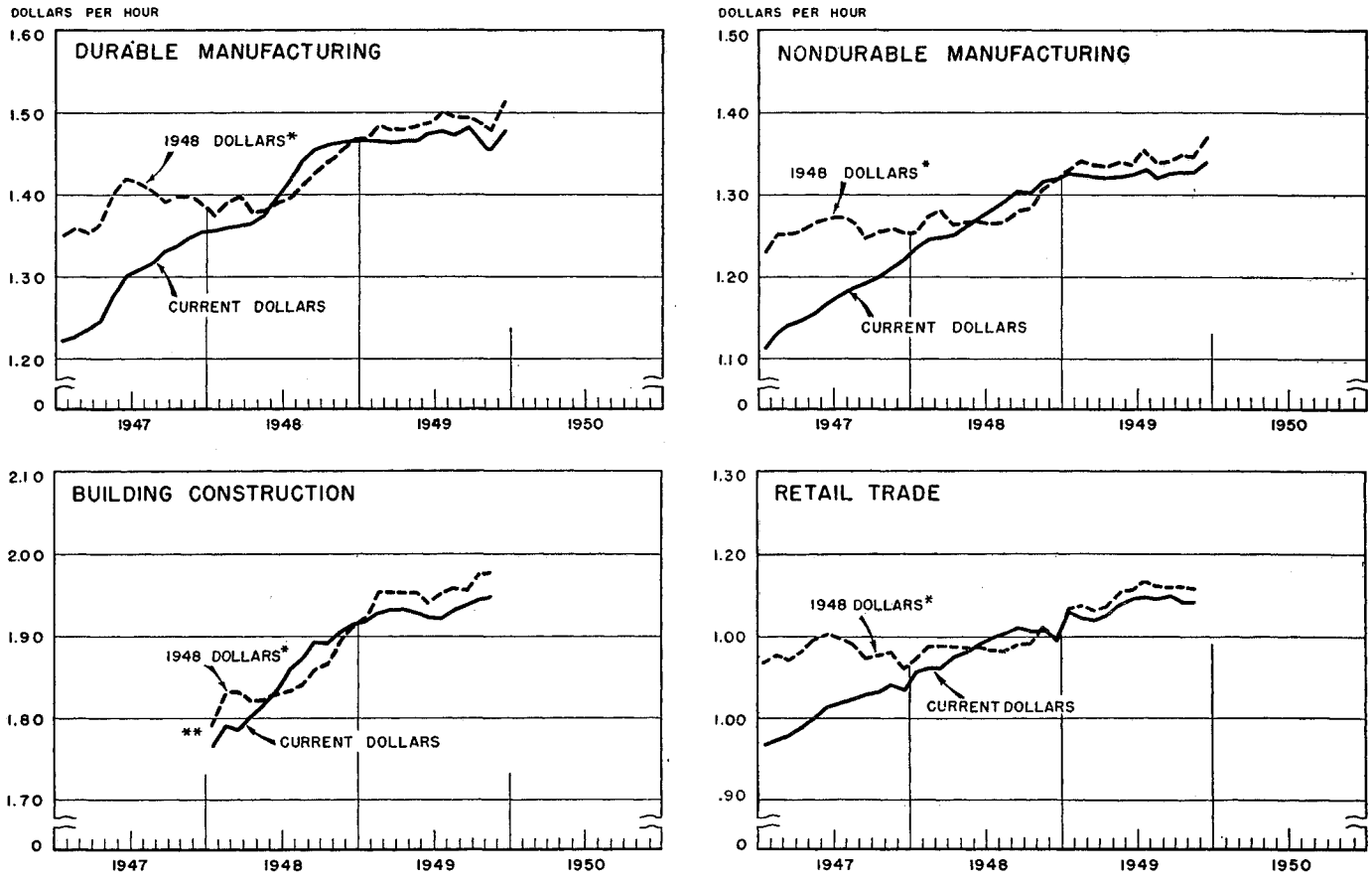
Sources: Department of Commerce and Department of Labor.



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS - SELECTED INDUSTRIES

Gross hourly earnings increased significantly in both durable and nondurable manufacturing in December. Nondurable manufacturing at $1.34 set a new peak.




[Selected industries [1]]

| Period | All manufacturing | | Durable goods manufacturing | | Nondurable goods manufacturing | | Building construction | | Retail trade | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Current dollars | 1948 dollars [2] | Current dollars | 1948 dollars [2] | Current dollars | 1948 dollars [2] | Current dollars | 1948 dollars [2] | Current dollars | 1948 dollars [2] |
| 1939 monthly average | $0.633 | $1.090 | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) |
| 1943 monthly average | .961 | 1.302 | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) |
| 1946 monthly average | 1.084 | 1.300 | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) |
| 1947 monthly average | 1.237 | 1.329 | $1.292 | $1.388 | $1.171 | $1.258 | ([3]) | ([3]) | $1.009 | $1.084 |
| 1948 monthly average | 1.350 | 1.350 | 1.410 | 1.410 | 1.278 | 1.278 | $1.848 | $1.848 | 1.088 | 1.088 |
| 1949 monthly average [4] | 1.402 | 1.419 | 1.469 | 1.487 | 1.326 | 1.343 | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) |
| 1948: November | 1.397 | 1.389 | 1.463 | 1.454 | 1.317 | 1.309 | 1.906 | 1.895 | 1.108 | 1.101 |
| December | 1.400 | 1.399 | 1.466 | 1.465 | 1.319 | 1.318 | 1.915 | 1.913 | 1.098 | 1.097 |
| 1949: January | 1.405 | 1.408 | 1.467 | 1.470 | 1.327 | 1.330 | 1.918 | 1.922 | 1.132 | 1.134 |
| February | 1.401 | 1.419 | 1.466 | 1.485 | 1.323 | 1.340 | 1.930 | 1.955 | 1.123 | 1.138 |
| March | 1.400 | 1.414 | 1.464 | 1.480 | 1.323 | 1.336 | 1.933 | 1.953 | 1.121 | 1.132 |
| April | 1.401 | 1.414 | 1.467 | 1.480 | 1.321 | 1.333 | 1.934 | 1.952 | 1.127 | 1.137 |
| May | 1.401 | 1.418 | 1.467 | 1.485 | 1.323 | 1.339 | 1.930 | 1.953 | 1.141 | 1.155 |
| June | 1.405 | 1.418 | 1.475 | 1.488 | 1.324 | 1.336 | 1.924 | 1.941 | 1.147 | 1.157 |
| July | 1.408 | 1.431 | 1.477 | 1.501 | 1.332 | 1.354 | 1.922 | 1.953 | 1.148 | 1.169 |
| August | 1.399 | 1.419 | 1.473 | 1.494 | 1.319 | 1.338 | 1.932 | 1.959 | 1.146 | 1.162 |
| September | 1.407 | 1.420 | 1.482 | 1.495 | 1.328 | 1.340 | 1.938 | 1.956 | 1.150 | 1.160 |
| October [4] | 1.392 | 1.415 | 1.458 | 1.482 | 1.327 | 1.349 | 1.944 | 1.976 | 1.142 | 1.161 |
| November [4] | 1.391 | 1.412 | 1.454 | 1.476 | 1.327 | 1.347 | 1.948 | 1.978 | 1.140 | 1.157 |
| December [4] | 1.412 | 1.444 | 1.479 | 1.512 | 1.339 | 1.369 | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) | ([3]) |

[1] Production and related workers.
[2] Current dollars divided by consumers' price index on base 1948=100. See note 3 to table on page 24.
[3] Not available.
[4] Preliminary estimates.

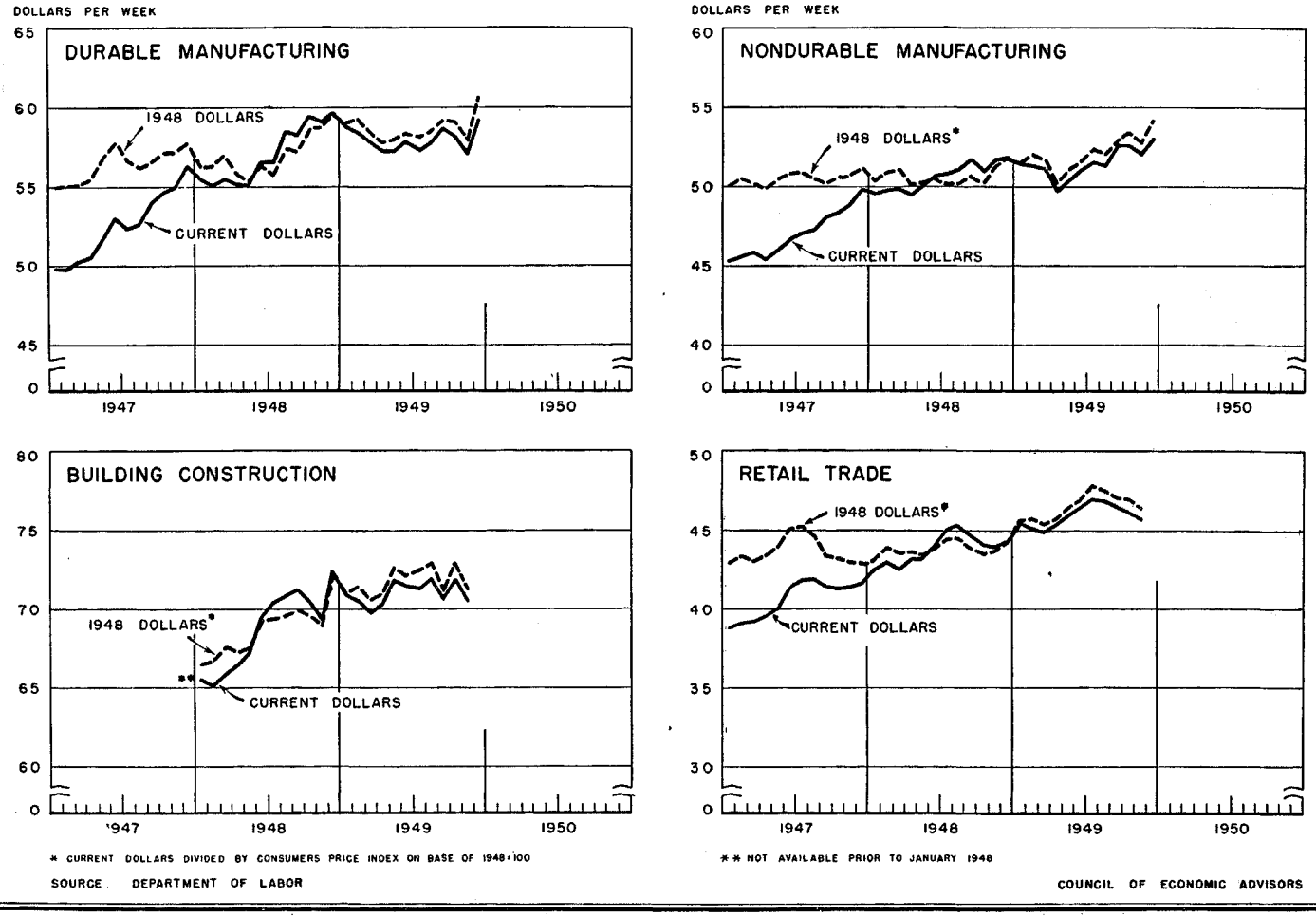
Source: Department of Labor.



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS - SELECTED INDUSTRIES

Average weekly earnings in December reached an all time high for manufacturing as a whole. Durable manufacturing earnings of $59.31 showed the greatest increase.




[Selected industries [1]]

| Period | All manufacturing | | Durable goods manufacturing | | Nondurable goods manufacturing | | Building construction | | Retail trade | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Current dollars | 1948 dollars [2] | Current dollars | 1948 dollars [2] | Current dollars | 1948 dollars [2] | Current dollars | 1948 dollars [2] | Current dollars | 1948 dollars [2] |
| 1939 monthly average | $23.86 | $41.07 | (3) | (3) | (3) | (3) | (3) | (3) | (3) | (3) |
| 1943 monthly average | 43.14 | 58.46 | (3) | (3) | (3) | (3) | (3) | (3) | (3) | (3) |
| 1946 monthly average | 43.74 | 52.45 | (3) | (3) | (3) | (3) | (3) | (3) | (3) | (3) |
| 1947 monthly average | 49.97 | 53.67 | $52.46 | $56.35 | $46.96 | $50.44 | (3) | (3) | $40.66 | $43.67 |
| 1948 monthly average | 54.14 | 54.14 | 57.11 | 57.11 | 50.61 | 50.61 | $68.85 | $68.85 | 43.85 | 43.85 |
| 1949 monthly average [4] | 54.91 | 55.59 | 57.98 | 58.70 | 51.49 | 52.13 | (3) | (3) | (3) | (3) |
| 1948: November | 55.60 | 55.27 | 59.11 | 58.76 | 51.63 | 51.32 | 69.39 | 68.98 | 43.99 | 43.73 |
| December | 56.14 | 56.08 | 59.67 | 59.61 | 51.84 | 51.79 | 72.33 | 72.26 | 44.36 | 44.32 |
| 1949: January | 55.50 | 55.61 | 58.83 | 58.95 | 51.35 | 51.45 | 70.88 | 71.02 | 45.51 | 45.60 |
| February | 55.20 | 55.93 | 58.49 | 59.26 | 51.33 | 52.01 | 70.53 | 71.46 | 45.14 | 45.73 |
| March | 54.74 | 55.29 | 57.83 | 58.41 | 51.07 | 51.59 | 69.83 | 70.54 | 44.95 | 45.40 |
| April | 53.80 | 54.29 | 57.21 | 57.73 | 49.67 | 50.12 | 70.33 | 70.97 | 45.31 | 45.72 |
| May | 54.08 | 54.74 | 57.21 | 57.90 | 50.41 | 51.02 | 71.81 | 72.68 | 45.98 | 46.54 |
| June | 54.51 | 55.00 | 57.82 | 58.35 | 50.97 | 51.43 | 71.44 | 72.09 | 46.45 | 46.87 |
| July | 54.63 | 55.52 | 57.31 | 58.24 | 51.55 | 52.39 | 71.28 | 72.44 | 46.95 | 47.81 |
| August | 54.70 | 55.48 | 57.89 | 58.71 | 51.31 | 52.04 | 71.95 | 72.97 | 46.87 | 47.54 |
| September | 55.72 | 56.23 | 58.69 | 59.22 | 52.59 | 53.07 | 70.69 | 71.33 | 46.58 | 47.00 |
| October [4] | 55.26 | 56.16 | 58.17 | 59.12 | 52.55 | 53.40 | 71.80 | 72.97 | 46.14 | 46.89 |
| November [4] | 54.53 | 55.36 | 57.00 | 57.87 | 52.02 | 52.81 | 70.27 | 71.34 | 45.71 | 46.41 |
| December [4] | 56.20 | 57.46 | 59.31 | 60.64 | 53.02 | 54.21 | (3) | (3) | (3) | (3) |

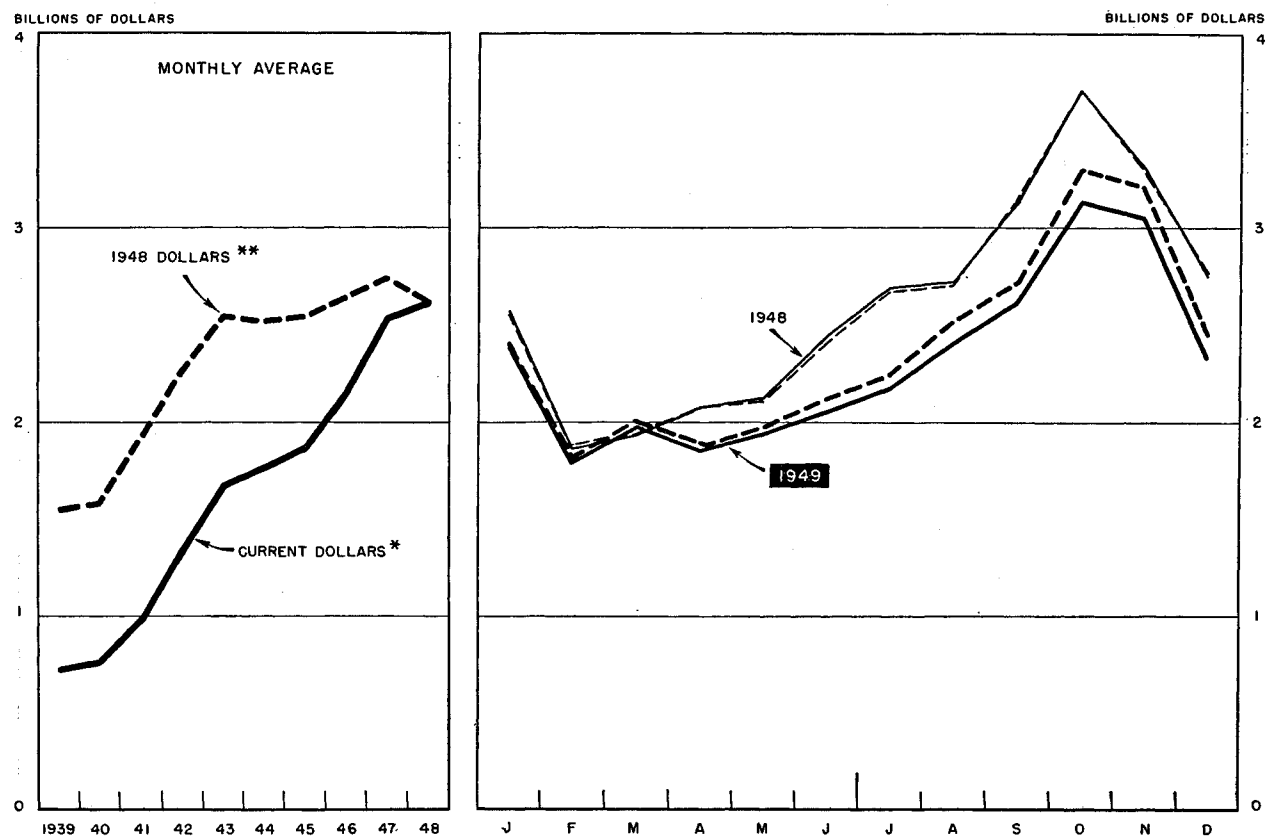
[1] For production and related workers.
[2] Current dollars divided by consumers' price index on the base 1948=100. See note 3 to table on page 24.
[3] Not available.
[4] Preliminary estimates.
Source: Department of Labor.



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# FARM INCOME

Farmers' cash receipts decreased from November to December reflecting some reduction in prices received as well as the seasonal decrease in volume of marketings.




*INCLUDES CASH FARM INCOME FROM MARKETING AND GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS.
**FARM INCOME IN CURRENT DOLLARS DIVIDED BY PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, INTEREST, TAXES, AND WAGE RATES, 1948=100.
SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

| Period | Farm income (millions of current dollars) [1] | Prices paid by farmers (incl. interest, taxes, and wage rates) 1948=100 [2] | Farm income (millions of 1948 dollars) [3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1939 monthly average | 724 | 47 | 1,540 |
| 1941 monthly average | 981 | 51 | 1,924 |
| 1942 monthly average | 1,340 | 59 | 2,271 |
| 1944 monthly average | 1,765 | 70 | 2,521 |
| 1945 monthly average | 1,857 | 73 | 2,544 |
| 1946 monthly average | 2,110 | 80 | 2,638 |
| 1947 monthly average | 2,542 | 93 | 2,733 |
| 1948 monthly average | 2,609 | 100 | 2,609 |
| 1949 monthly average [4] | 2,309 | 97 | 2,380 |
| 1948: November | 3,314 | 100 | 3,314 |
| December | 2,740 | 99 | 2,768 |
| 1949: January | 2,383 | 99 | 2,407 |
| February | 1,783 | 97 | 1,838 |
| March | 1,973 | 98 | 2,013 |
| April | 1,850 | 98 | 1,888 |
| May | 1,944 | 98 | 1,984 |
| June | 2,053 | 97 | 2,116 |
| July | 2,177 | 97 | 2,244 |
| August | 2,417 | 96 | 2,518 |
| September | 2,608 | 96 | 2,717 |
| October | 3,139 | 95 | 3,304 |
| November [4] | 3,050 | 95 | 3,211 |
| December [4] | 2,326 | 95 | 2,448 |

[1] Includes cash farm income from marketings and Government payments.
[2] Converted from the reported base, 1910-14=100, to the base 1948=100.
[3] Farm income in current dollars divided by prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes, and wage rates, 1948=100.
[4] Preliminary estimates.

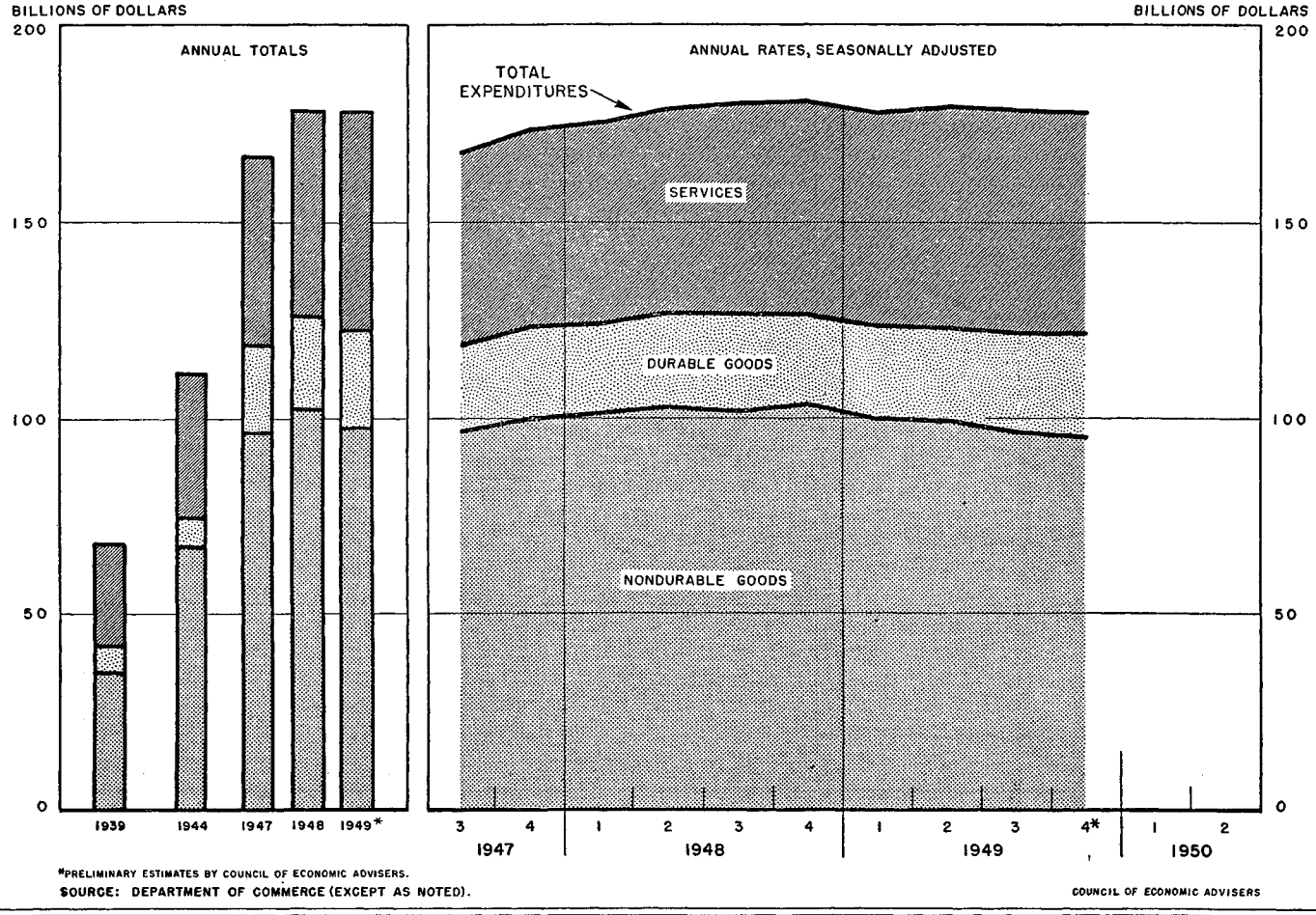
Source: Department of Agriculture.



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# PERSONAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURES

According to preliminary estimates, purchases of durable goods and services reached a new high in 4th quarter of 1949. Nondurable goods continued the decline started the first part of this year, and were 8 percent below 4th quarter of 1948.




*PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES BY COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS.

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (EXCEPT AS NOTED).

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Billions of dollars]

| Period | Personal consumption expenditures | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Nondurable goods | Durable goods | Services |
| 1939 | 67.5 | 35.3 | 6.7 | 25.5 |
| 1944 | 111.6 | 67.1 | 7.1 | 37.4 |
| 1946 | 147.8 | 86.8 | 16.5 | 44.5 |
| 1947 | 166.9 | 96.2 | 22.0 | 48.8 |
| 1948 | 178.8 | 102.2 | 23.5 | 53.1 |
| 1949 [1] | 178.5 | 97.7 | 24.8 | 56.0 |
| | Annual rates, seasonally adjusted | | | |
| 1948: First quarter | 175.2 | 101.2 | 22.7 | 51.3 |
| Second quarter | 178.7 | 102.4 | 23.8 | 52.5 |
| Third quarter | 180.3 | 101.8 | 24.8 | 53.7 |
| Fourth quarter | 180.9 | 103.3 | 22.9 | 54.8 |
| 1949: First quarter | 178.6 | 100.1 | 23.1 | 55.4 |
| Second quarter | 178.9 | 99.3 | 23.8 | 55.9 |
| Third quarter | 178.5 | 96.5 | 25.8 | 56.2 |
| Fourth quarter [1] | 178.0 | 95.0 | 26.5 | 56.5 |

[1] Preliminary estimates by Council of Economic Advisers.

NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

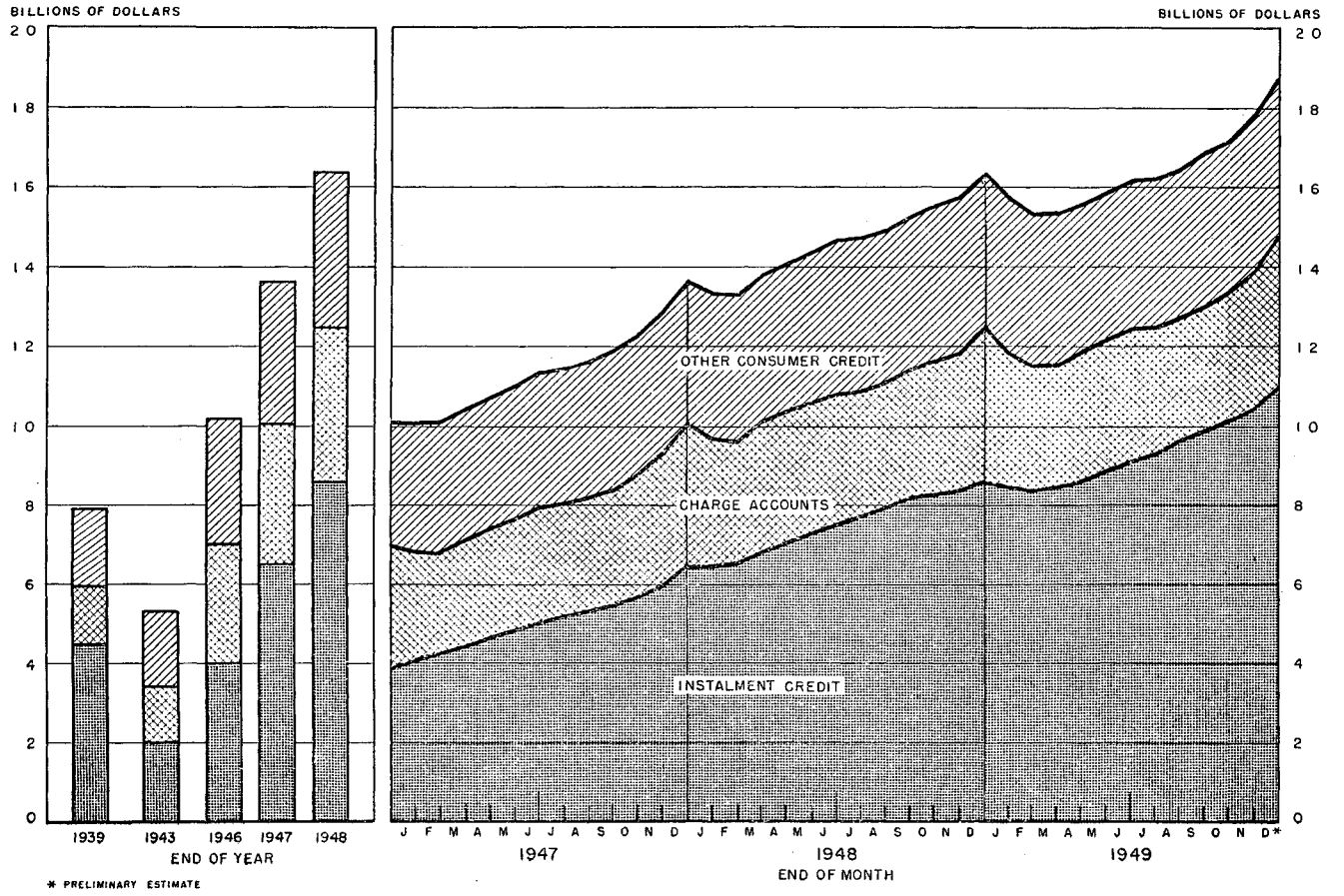
Source: Department of Commerce.



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# CONSUMER CREDIT

With a large seasonal rise in instalment credit, chiefly other than automobile, and in charge accounts, total consumer credit in December increased more than during the corresponding period of 1948.




[Millions of dollars]

| End of period | Total consumer credit outstanding | Instalment credit | | | Charge accounts | Other consumer credit [1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | Automobile sale credit | Other sale credit and loans | | |
| 1939 | 7, 969 | 4, 424 | 1, 267 | 3, 157 | 1, 544 | 2, 001 |
| 1943 | 5, 378 | 2, 001 | 175 | 1, 826 | 1, 498 | 1, 879 |
| 1946 | 10, 191 | 4, 000 | 544 | 3, 456 | 3, 054 | 3, 137 |
| 1947 | 13, 673 | 6, 434 | 1, 151 | 5, 283 | 3, 612 | 3, 627 |
| 1948 | 16, 319 | 8, 600 | 1, 961 | 6, 639 | 3, 854 | 3, 865 |
| 1949 [2] | 18, 788 | 10, 912 | 3, 149 | 7, 763 | 3, 909 | 3, 967 |
| 1948: November | 15, 739 | 8, 322 | 1, 922 | 6, 400 | 3, 557 | 3, 860 |
| December | 16, 319 | 8, 600 | 1, 961 | 6, 639 | 3, 854 | 3, 865 |
| 1949: January | 15, 748 | 8, 424 | 1, 965 | 6, 459 | 3, 457 | 3, 867 |
| February | 15, 325 | 8, 339 | 1, 996 | 6, 343 | 3, 169 | 3, 817 |
| March | 15, 335 | 8, 429 | 2, 105 | 6, 324 | 3, 121 | 3, 785 |
| April | 15, 595 | 8, 630 | 2, 241 | 6, 389 | 3, 232 | 3, 733 |
| May | 15, 843 | 8, 888 | 2, 386 | 6, 502 | 3, 235 | 3, 720 |
| June | 16, 124 | 9, 123 | 2, 499 | 6, 624 | 3, 274 | 3, 727 |
| July | 16, 198 | 9, 335 | 2, 610 | 6, 725 | 3, 123 | 3, 740 |
| August | 16, 453 | 9, 622 | 2, 761 | 6, 861 | 3, 064 | 3, 767 |
| September | 16, 801 | 9, 897 | 2, 876 | 7, 021 | 3, 123 | 3, 781 |
| October | 17, 221 | 10, 164 | 2, 986 | 7, 178 | 3, 197 | 3, 860 |
| November | 17, 810 | 10, 439 | 3, 085 | 7, 354 | 3, 454 | 3, 917 |
| December [2] | 18, 788 | 10, 912 | 3, 149 | 7, 763 | 3, 909 | 3, 967 |

[1] Includes single-payment loans of commercial banks and pawnbrokers and service credit.
[2] Preliminary estimates.

NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

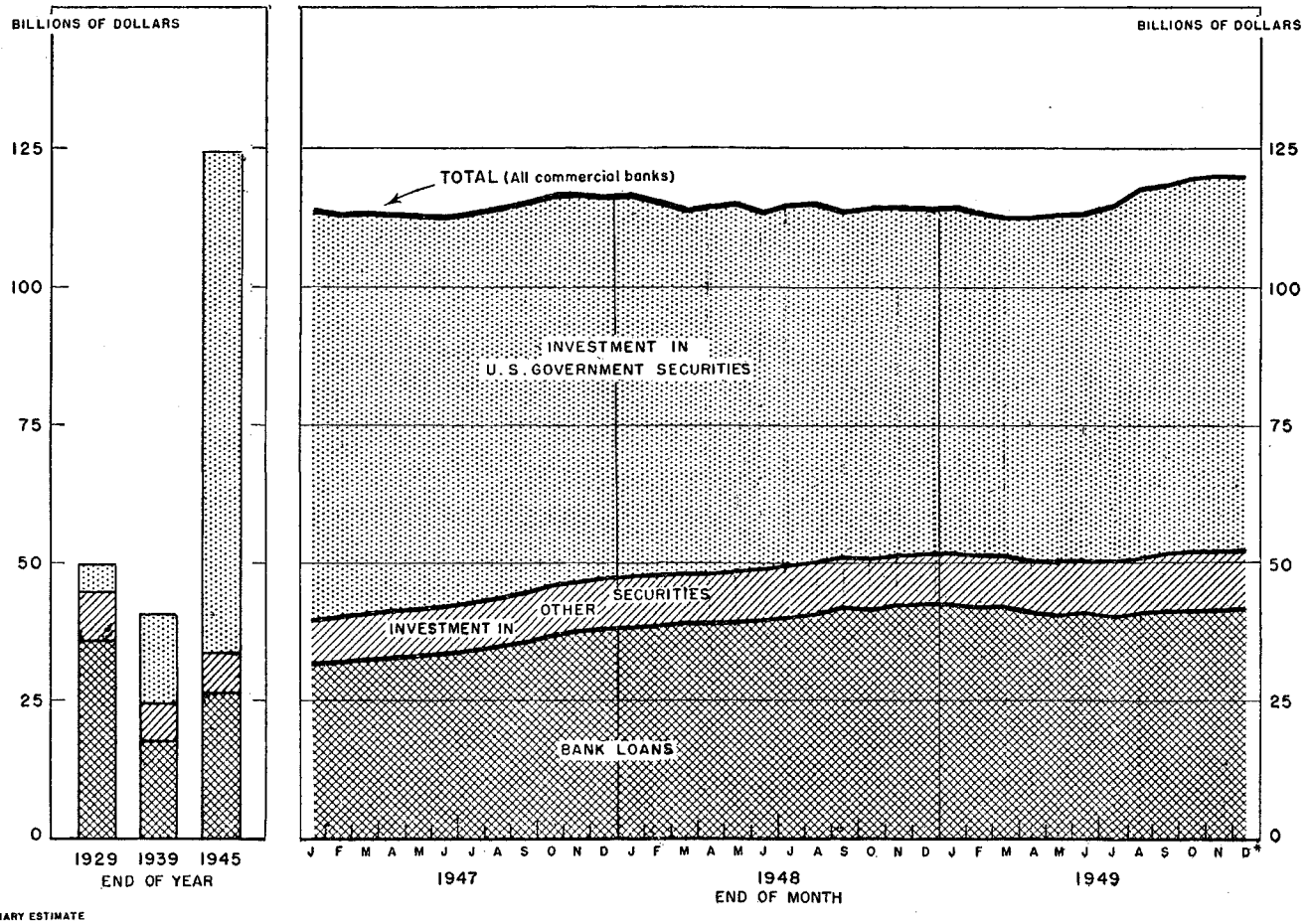
Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

## BANK LOANS AND INVESTMENTS

Since July commercial bank loans have risen steadily, reaching at the end of December a figure about $800 million larger than at the end of 1948.




*PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE

SOURCE: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Council of Economic Advisers

[Billions of dollars, all commercial banks]

| End of period | Total loans and investments | Bank loans | Investments | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Total | U. S. Government securities | Other securities |
| 1929 | 49.5 | 36.0 | 13.5 | 4.8 | 8.7 |
| 1939 | 40.7 | 17.2 | 23.4 | 16.3 | 7.1 |
| 1945 | 124.0 | 26.1 | 97.9 | 90.6 | 7.3 |
| 1947 | 116.3 | 38.1 | 78.2 | 69.2 | 9.0 |
| 1948 | 114.3 | 42.5 | 71.8 | 62.6 | 9.2 |
| 1949 [1] | 120.8 | 43.3 | 77.5 | 67.3 | 10.2 |
| 1948: November | 114.2 | 42.3 | 71.9 | 62.8 | 9.1 |
| December | 114.3 | 42.5 | 71.8 | 62.6 | 9.2 |
| 1949: January | 114.5 | 42.4 | 72.0 | 63.0 | 9.1 |
| February | 113.4 | 42.0 | 71.4 | 62.2 | 9.1 |
| March | 112.5 | 42.4 | 70.1 | 60.9 | 9.2 |
| April | 112.5 | 41.3 | 71.2 | 62.0 | 9.2 |
| May | 113.4 | 40.9 | 72.6 | 63.2 | 9.3 |
| June | 113.7 | 41.2 | 72.5 | 63.0 | 9.5 |
| July | 114.7 | 40.5 | 74.2 | 64.4 | 9.8 |
| August | 117.9 | 41.2 | 76.7 | 66.7 | 10.0 |
| September | 118.8 | 41.8 | 77.0 | 66.8 | 10.2 |
| October | 119.8 | 41.9 | 77.9 | 67.7 | 10.2 |
| November | 120.2 | 42.9 | 77.3 | 67.1 | 10.2 |
| December [1] | 120.8 | 43.3 | 77.5 | 67.3 | 10.2 |

[1] Preliminary estimates.

NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

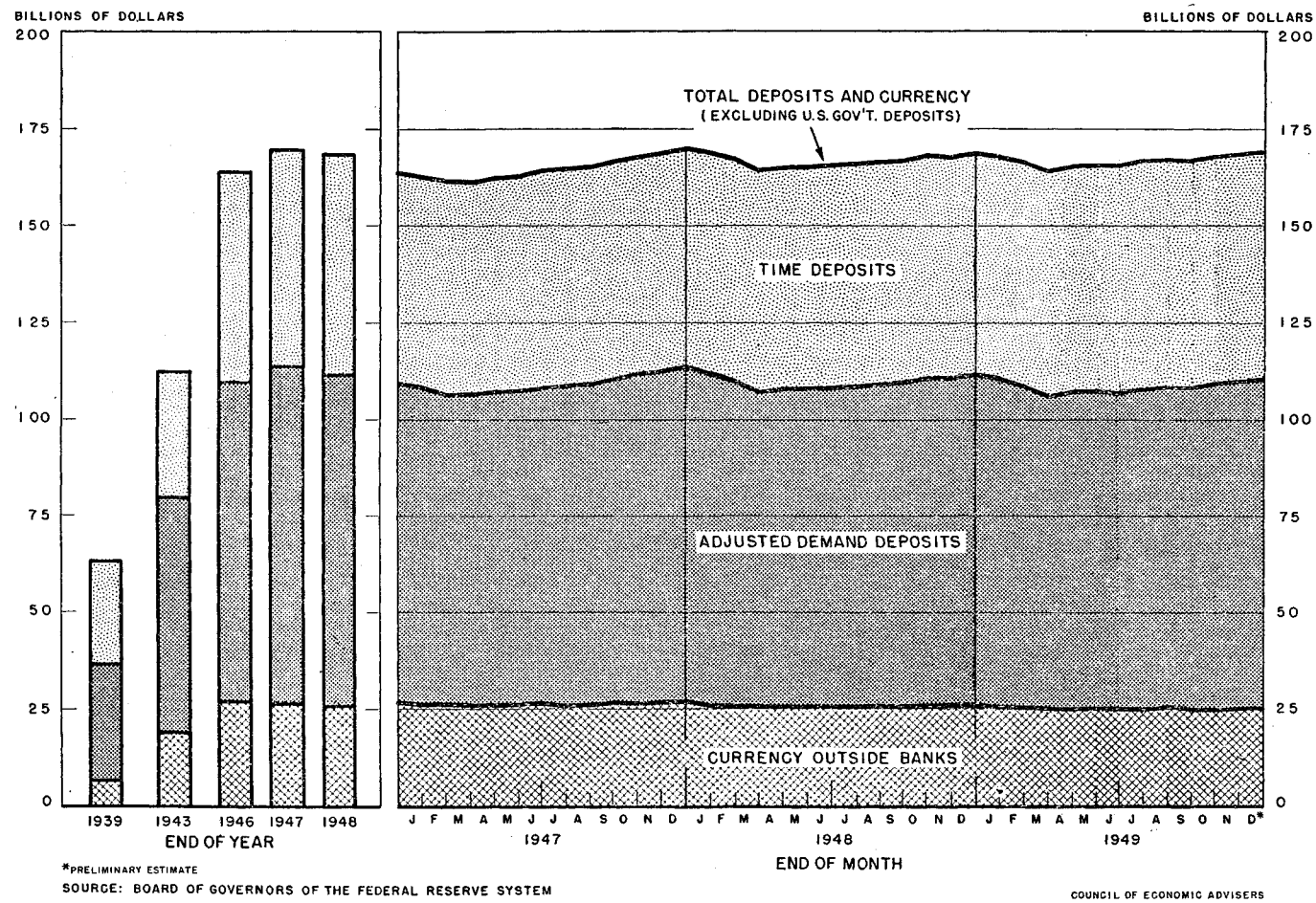
Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# MONEY SUPPLY

The money supply increased $1.5 billion in December, exceeding the 1948 year-end total by $1 billion.




[Billions of dollars]

| End of period | Total money supply | Currency outside banks | Adjusted demand deposits [1] | Time deposits [2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1939 | 63.3 | 6.4 | 29.8 | 27.1 |
| 1943 | 112.4 | 18.8 | 60.8 | 32.7 |
| 1946 | 164.0 | 26.7 | 83.3 | 54.0 |
| 1947 | 170.0 | 26.5 | 87.1 | 56.4 |
| 1948 | 169.1 | 26.1 | 85.5 | 57.5 |
| 1949 [3] | 170.1 | 25.0 | 86.7 | 58.4 |
| 1948: November | 168.1 | 25.9 | 85.2 | 57.0 |
| December | 169.1 | 26.1 | 85.5 | 57.5 |
| 1949: January | 168.2 | 25.2 | 85.4 | 57.6 |
| February | 166.3 | 25.1 | 83.4 | 57.8 |
| March | 164.2 | 25.1 | 81.1 | 58.0 |
| April | 165.5 | 24.9 | 82.4 | 58.1 |
| May | 165.7 | 25.0 | 82.6 | 58.2 |
| June | 165.6 | 25.0 | 82.2 | 58.4 |
| July | 166.3 | 24.9 | 83.1 | 58.4 |
| August | 166.9 | 25.1 | 83.4 | 58.3 |
| September | 166.6 | 24.9 | 83.3 | 58.4 |
| October | 168.0 | 24.9 | 84.6 | 58.4 |
| November | 168.6 | 25.1 | 85.5 | 58.0 |
| December [3] | 170.1 | 25.0 | 86.7 | 58.4 |

[1] Includes demand deposits, other than interbank and U. S. Government, less cash items in process of collection.

[2] Includes deposits in commercial banks, mutual savings banks, and Postal Savings System.

[3] Preliminary estimates.

NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

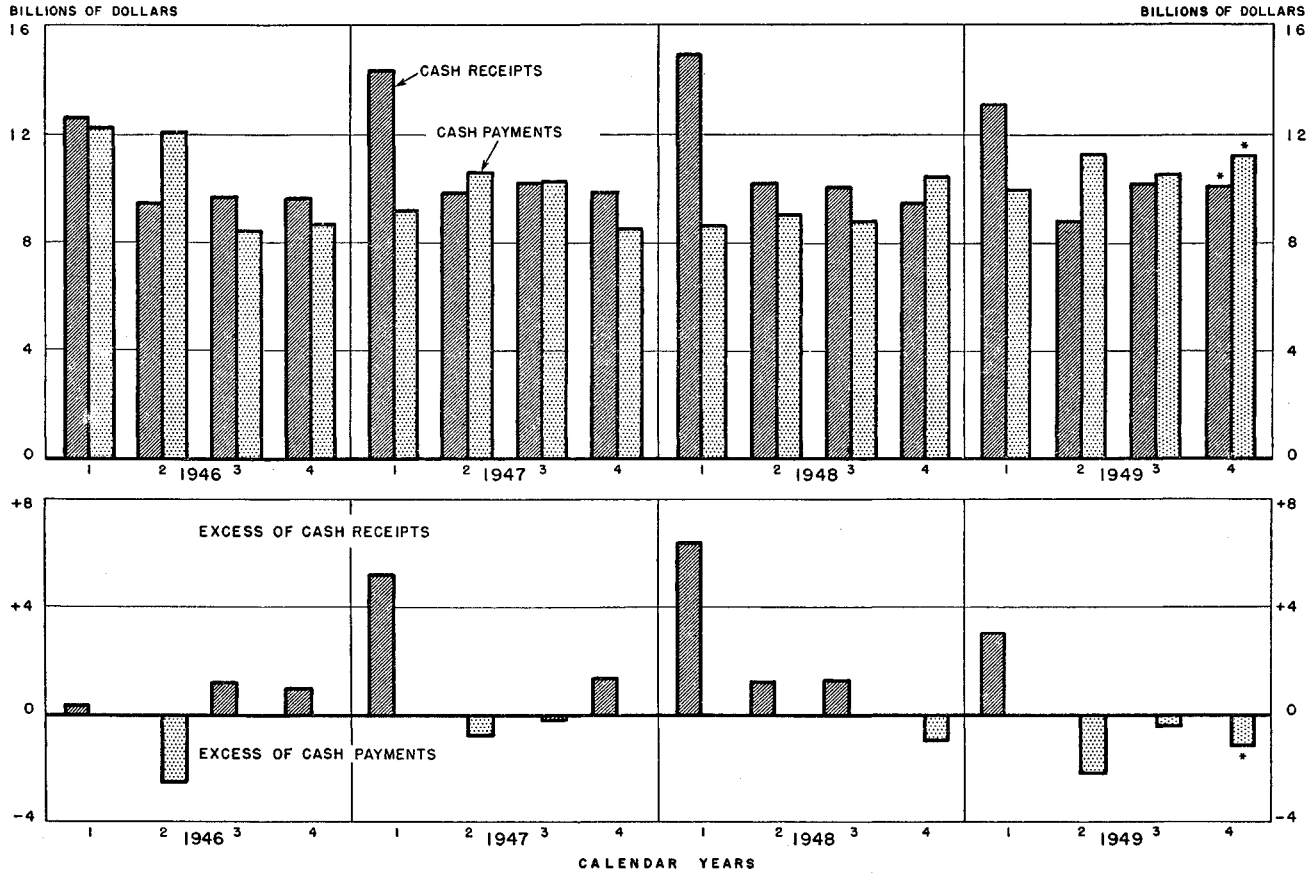
Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.



Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# FEDERAL CASH RECEIPTS FROM AND PAYMENTS TO THE PUBLIC

The cash deficit of about $1.5 billion for the 4th quarter compares with a deficit of about $0.9 billion for the same quarter of 1948.




* PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES

SOURCE: BUREAU OF THE BUDGET AND TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Millions of dollars]

| Calendar years | Federal cash receipts from the public [1] | Federal cash payments to the public [1] | Excess of receipts (+) or payments (−) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Calendar year total: | | | |
| 1946 | 41, 426 | 41, 372 | +54 |
| 1947 | 44, 279 | 38, 584 | +5, 695 |
| 1948 | 44, 920 | 36, 954 | +7, 967 |
| 1949 [2] | 41, 346 | 42, 636 | −1, 290 |
| Quarterly total, not adjusted for seasonal: | | | |
| 1947: First quarter | 14, 345 | 9, 163 | +5, 182 |
| Second quarter | 9, 847 | 10, 628 | −781 |
| Third quarter | 10, 220 | 10, 257 | −37 |
| Fourth quarter | 9, 869 | 8, 536 | +1, 331 |
| 1948: First quarter | 15, 037 | 8, 637 | +6, 400 |
| Second quarter | 10, 238 | 9, 033 | +1, 205 |
| Third quarter | 10, 085 | 8, 798 | +1, 287 |
| Fourth quarter | 9, 560 | 10, 486 | −925 |
| 1949: First quarter | 13, 122 | 9, 964 | +3, 158 |
| Second quarter | 8, 814 | 11, 389 | −2, 575 |
| Third quarter | 10, 143 | [2] 10, 527 | −384 |
| Fourth quarter | 9, 267 | [2] 10, 756 | −1, 489 |

[1] Payments of refunds of Government receipts are now reported as deductions from total receipts; previously, they were reported as expenditures.

[2] Preliminary estimates based on incomplete data.

NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

Sources: Treasury Department and Bureau of the Budget.



For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.
Price 15 cents per copy; $1.75 per year; $2.25 foreign

Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis