



SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS



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March 19, 1954

*** This Supplement provides selected weekly data and monthly data subsequent to those published in the latest monthly SURVEY ***

WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS¹

ITEM	1953	1954				ITEM	1953	1954			
	Mar. 14	Feb. 27	Mar. 6	Mar. 13	Mar. 14		Feb. 27	Mar. 6	Mar. 13		
Commodity prices, wholesale:					Stock prices (480), Standard						
All commodities..1947-49=100	*110.0	.....	110.7	110.6	and Poor's.....1935-39=100	198.2	198.9	203.0	204.7		
Farm products.....do..	*99.8	.....	99.0	99.1	Industrials (420).....do..	214.8	215.5	220.5	222.5		
Foods, processed.....do..	*104.1	.....	105.2	104.9	Production:						
All other.....do..	*113.4	.....	114.3	114.3	Bitum.coal 3/...thous.sh.tons	**1,370	1,129	1,050	.....		
22 commodities 2/.....do..	90.3	87.9	87.8	87.8	Electric power,by utilities						
Department store sales.....do..	**96	90	85	.....	mil. kw.-hr.	**8,173	8,396	8,586	.....		
Insured unemployment, total					Motor vehicles (Ward's)....No.	155,608	134,615	129,609	131,952		
thous.	**1,163	#2,409	.....	.....	Petroleum,crude 3/...thous.bbl.	**6,343	6,199	6,327	.....		
State programs.....do..	**1,071	#2,211	.....	.....	Steel (ingots & for castings,						
Failures, ind. & comm.number	165	204	223	229	quantity) 4/.....1947-49=100	142.2	109.3	105.0	102.8		
Bond yields, domestic corpo-					Freight car loadings.thous.cars	**685	595	591	.....		
rate (Moody's) 3/....percent	3.29	3.21	3.18	3.15	Miscellaneous.....do..	**374	331	326	.....		

¹/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. ²/ Tuesday prices. ³/ Daily averages. ⁴/ Week ended March 20, 1954. * Monthly index for March 1953. ** For week corresponding to latest. # Data for preceding week follow: Total, 2,362,000; State programs, 2,168,000.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1953		1954		ITEM	1953		1954	
	February	December	January	February		February	December	January	February
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS					GEN. BUS. INDICATORS - Con.				
Industrial prod. (FRB):					Industrial prod. - Con.				
Unadj., combined index					Adjusted index - Con.				
1947-49=100	136	r124	124	p125	Manufactures - Con.				
Manufactures.....do..	139	r125	125	p126	Durable manufactures - Con.				
Durable manufactures.....do..	158	r140	140	p139	Furniture & fixtures				
Primary metals.....do..	142	r110	112	p112	1947-49=100	#120	108	105	.....
Steel.....do..	#146	114	115	.....	Lumber & products.....do..	#122	r108	115	.....
Metal fabricating.....do..	172	r155	155	p153	Stone, clay & glass.....do..	#129	r129	126	.....
Fab. metal prod.....do..	136	r126	122	p121	Nondurable mfs.....do..	118	r112	112	p112
Machinery.....do..	170	149	146	p146	Food & beverage mfs.....do..	#106	r103	104	.....
Transportation equip.....do..	195	174	183	p181	Tobacco manufactures.....do..	#106	r112	107	.....
Autos.....do..	#132	107	135	.....	Textile-mill prod.....do..	#103	r90	90	.....
Instruments, etc.....do..	153	r155	149	p149	Apparel & allied prod.....do..	#112	102	100	.....
Furniture & fixtures.....do..	#121	r112	106	.....	Leather & products.....do..	#104	r93	91	.....
Lumber & products.....do..	#110	r99	104	.....	Paper & allied prod.....do..	#125	125	125	.....
Stone, clay & glass.....do..	#125	r128	122	.....	Printing & publishing.....do..	#119	r120	120	.....
Nondurable mfs.....do..	119	r110	111	p113	Chemicals, etc.....do..	#142	r145	144	.....
Food & beverage mfs.....do..	#98	r99	95	.....	Petroleum & coal prod.....do..	#128	128	126	.....
Tobacco manufactures.....do..	#104	r92	105	.....	Rubber products.....do..	#131	r116	115	.....
Textile-mill prod.....do..	#104	r87	91	.....	Minerals.....do..	116	r112	114	p114
Apparel & allied prod.....do..	#113	r98	102	.....	Coal.....do..	#77	69	70	.....
Leather & products.....do..	#104	r87	91	.....	Crude oil & nat. gas.....do..	#134	r133	135	.....
Paper & allied prod.....do..	#125	119	125	.....	COMMODITY PRICES				
Printing & publishing.....do..	#116	r122	117	.....	Retail price (Dept. Comm.):				
Chemicals, etc.....do..	#144	r146	147	.....	All commodities...1935-39=100	#209.0	209.1	209.5	.....
Petroleum & coal prod.....do..	#129	128	127	.....	CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE				
Rubber products.....do..	#132	r111	117	.....	Contract awards (ENR):				
Minerals.....do..	113	r111	111	p111	Engineering construction,				
Coal.....do..	#81	71	74	.....	value 1/.....mil. dol.	1,023	1,511	766	767
Crude oil & nat. gas.....do..	#134	r133	135	.....	Construction cost indexes:				
Adj., combined index.....do..	134	r126	125	p123	Associated General Contrac-				
Manufactures.....do..	136	r127	126	p125	tors (all types)....1913=100	398	418	422	420
Durable manufactures.....do..	155	r142	140	p137	Engineering News-Record: 2/				
Primary metals.....do..	137	r113	110	p107	Building.....1947-49=100	125.7	129.2	129.4	129.3
Metal fabricating.....do..	168	r156	154	p149	Construction.....do..	129.8	135.5	135.7	135.5
Fab. metal products.....do..	136	r126	124	p121					
Machinery.....do..	163	r146	143	p140					
Transportation equip.....do..	191	r182	184	p178					
Instruments, etc.....do..	153	r154	149	p149					

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. # January 1954 data. 1/ Data for December 1953 are for 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks. 2/ Data reported at the beginning of each month are shown here for the previous month.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

ITEM	1953		1954		ITEM	1953		1954	
	February	December	January	February		February	December	January	February
DOMESTIC TRADE					FINANCE - Con.				
All retail stores, sales: 1/					Bonds:				
Unadjusted, total...mil. dol.	12,329	r16,444	12,386	11,949	Price, U. S. Treasury				
Durable goods:					dol. per \$100 bond	95.28	95.85	97.42	98.62
Automotive group.....do..	2,501	r2,279	2,205	2,278	Yields:				
Furniture & appliances.do..	656	r1,000	663	646	Dom.corp.(Moody's)...percent	3.26	3.39	3.34	3.23
Nondurable goods:					By ratings: Aaa.....do..	3.07	3.13	3.06	2.95
Apparel group.....do..	616	r1,364	665	573	Aa.....do..	3.14	3.28	3.22	3.12
Drug & prop. stores....do..	387	r516	400	390	A.....do..	3.30	3.40	3.35	3.25
Eating & drinking					Baa.....do..	3.53	3.74	3.71	3.61
places.....do..	940	r1,096	994	951	By groups: Industrial.do..	3.11	3.28	3.23	3.12
Food group.....do..	3,095	r3,618	3,346	3,078	Pub. util..do..	3.29	3.37	3.31	3.23
Gasoline serv.stations.do..	752	r914	847	764	Railroad...do..	3.39	3.52	3.47	3.35
General-merch. group...do..	1,171	r2,748	1,192	1,192	U. S. Treasury.....do..	2.83	2.79	2.68	2.60
Adjusted, total.....do..	14,514	r13,932	13,674	13,820	Stocks:				
Durable goods.....do..	5,304	r4,626	4,492	4,715	Dividend rate per share:				
Automotive group.....do..	2,951	r2,509	2,372	2,520	Common (200),Moody's.dollars	3.95	4.08	4.11	4.14
Furniture & appliances.do..	811	r738	774	770	Industrial (125).....do..	4.16	4.27	4.30	4.34
Nondurable goods.....do..	9,211	r9,306	9,182	9,105	Public utility (24).....do..	1.94	2.09	2.09	2.11
Apparel group.....do..	883	r868	829	835	Railroad (25).....do..	2.91	3.21	3.25	3.24
Drug & prop. stores....do..	412	r408	422	410	Banks (15).....do..	2.80	2.97	3.01	3.01
Eating & drinking					Insurance (10).....do..	3.01	3.26	3.26	3.28
places.....do..	1,075	r1,064	1,072	1,085	Dividend yields:				
Food group.....do..	3,393	r3,432	3,367	3,360	Common (200),Moody's.percent	5.22	5.55	5.33	5.32
Gasoline serv.stations.do..	869	r933	927	875	Industrial (125).....do..	5.26	5.54	5.28	5.29
General-merch. group...do..	1,560	r1,629	1,535	1,585	Public utility (24).....do..	5.08	5.28	5.11	5.09
Dept.store sales, U.S. total:					Railroad (25).....do..	5.69	7.43	6.98	6.92
Unadjusted index..1947-49=100	88	192	83	e87	Banks (15).....do..	4.23	4.61	4.72	4.77
Adjusted index.....do..	112	112	108	e110	Insurance (10).....do..	3.17	3.26	3.20	3.08
FINANCE					TRANSPORTATION				
Federal Reserve banks, condi-					Freight car loadings, indexes:				
tion, end of month:					Total, adjusted...1935-39=100	130	117	120	117
Assets, total.....mil. dol.	31,493	52,315	50,509	50,692	Coal.....do..	97	97	100	87
Reserve bank credit out-					Coke.....do..	181	135	120	109
standing, total...mil. dol.	26,194	26,880	25,437	25,688	Forest products.....do..	146	135	136	133
U. S. securities.....do..	23,875	25,916	24,639	24,509	Grain & grain prod.....do..	114	119	124	124
Gold certif. reserves...do..	21,480	21,354	21,274	21,270	Livestock.....do..	57	58	58	54
Liabilities, total.....do..	51,493	52,315	50,509	50,692	Ore.....do..	275	201	231	222
Deposits.....do..	21,770	21,422	20,688	20,934	Merchandise, l.c.l.....do..	45	40	39	41
Member bank res. bal...do..	20,511	20,160	19,384	19,412	Miscellaneous.....do..	149	132	133	134
Excess reserves, est...do..	715	763	r368	p471	METALS AND MANUFACTURES				
FR notes in circulat...do..	25,681	26,558	25,885	25,757	Steel forgings: 2/				
Reserve ratio.....percent	45.3	44.5	45.7	45.6	Orders, unf...thous. sh. tons	#1,206.6	r650.5	637.9	.....
Federal Government finance:					Shipments, for sale.....do..	#183.5	r142.6	138.9	.....
Gross debt (direct), end of					Drop and upset.....do..	#137.2	r98.9	101.5	.....
month.....mil. dol.	267,584	275,168	274,849	274,782	Press and open hammer...do..	#46.3	r43.7	37.4	.....
Interest-bearing,total..do..	265,489	272,881	272,632	272,536	Barrels & drums, steel, heavy:				
Public issues.....do..	226,187	231,684	231,623	231,466	Orders, unf., end mo....thous.	#5,174	3,231	3,538	.....
Special issues.....do..	39,302	41,197	41,009	41,070	Shipments.....do..	#1,798	2,003	1,600	.....
Noninterest bearing.....do..	2,094	2,287	2,216	2,246	Stocks, end of month.....do..	#62	78	71	.....
Obligations guaranteed by					Foundry equipment (new), new				
U. S. Government.....do..	50	76	75	77	orders 3/.....1947-49=100	#99.6	160.8	173.8	.....
Gold, monetary stock,U.S..do..	22,662	22,030	21,956	21,957	Zinc, slab:				
Currency in circulation...do..	29,793	30,781	29,981	p29,903	Production.....short tons	76,899	79,116	78,561	68,020
					Shipments, total.....do..	71,710	63,896	60,692	66,738
					Domestic.....do..	67,729	55,487	54,865	57,781
					Stocks, end of month.....do..	93,664	180,843	198,712	199,994

1/ Revised. e/ Estimated. p/ Preliminary. # January 1953 data. 1/ February 1954 figures are advance estimates. 2/ See note on corresponding item in February SURVEY. 3/ Revised to reflect new base period.

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