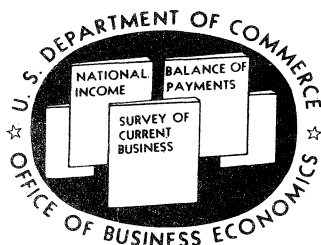


November 30, 1956

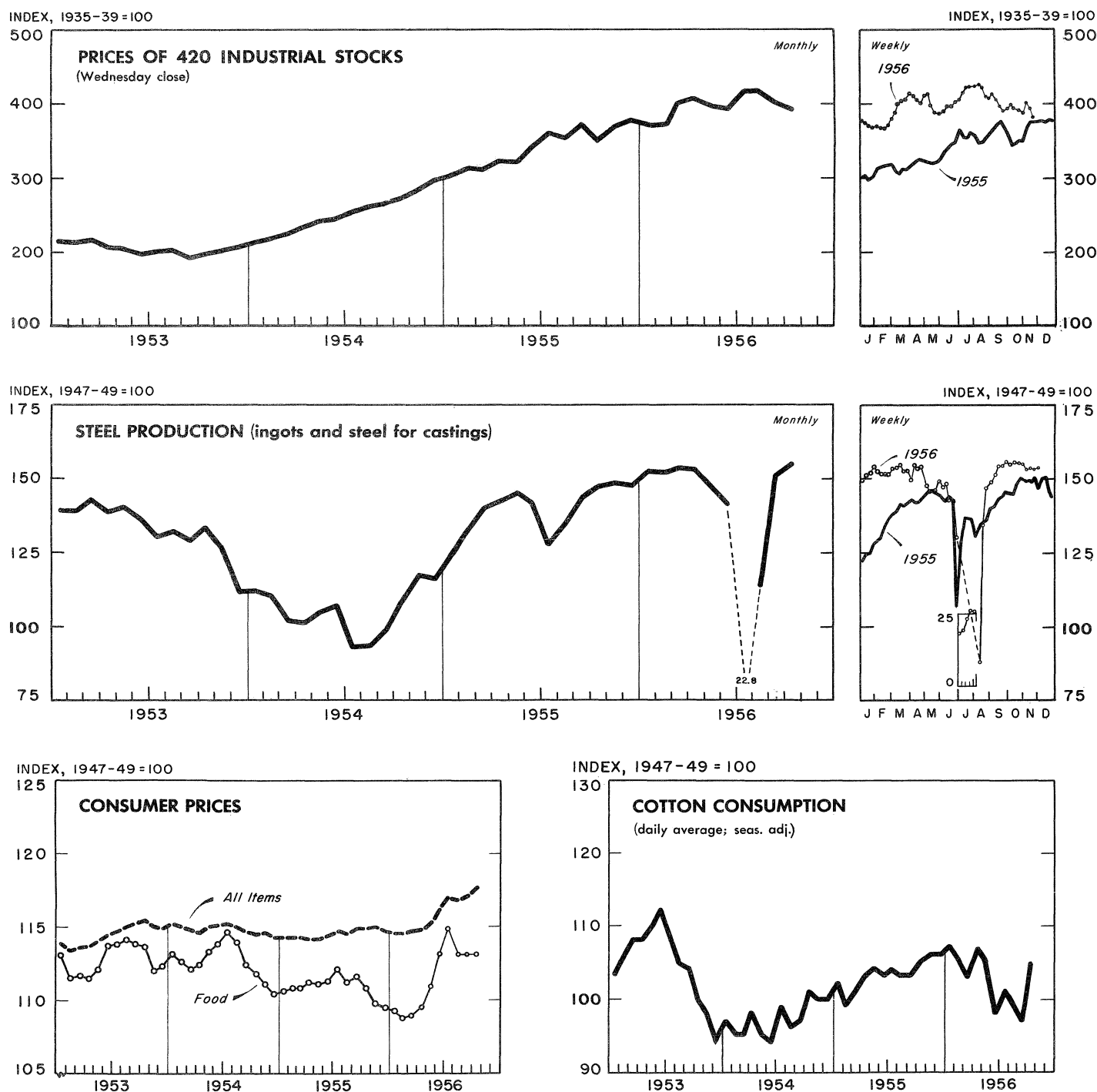


BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

Available only with subscription to the SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS, at \$4.00 annually, this Supplement provides selected weekly and monthly data subsequent to those published in the latest monthly SURVEY

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS



WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS¹

ITEM	1955		1956			
	Nov. 19	Nov. 26	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*111.2	.....	115.4	115.7	115.7
Farm products.....do....	.....	*84.1	.....	87.9	87.8	87.6
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*98.8	.....	102.6	103.3	103.1
All other.....do....	.....	*119.4	.....	123.6	124.0	124.0
22 commodities <u>2</u> /.....do....	88.6	88.8	90.6	**91.2	92.0	93.0
Department store sales.....do....	142	146	124	137	152	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	917	1,032	952	999	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	826	932	878	923	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation <u>3</u> /.....mil. of dol..	30,794	30,824	30,793	30,963	31,141	31,269
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total <u>3</u> /.....do....	26,272	26,208	25,466	25,762	25,954	26,266
Member bank reserve balances <u>3</u> /.....do....	18,883	19,036	18,810	19,004	18,996	19,311
Excess reserves, estimated <u>3</u> /.....do....	581	568	390	575	609	691
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities: ⁴						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	56,047	56,386	56,069	55,588	55,782	.....
Time deposits, except U. S. Government.....do....	21,628	21,616	22,053	21,999	21,872	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	85,781	85,369	85,660	85,602	85,567	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	30,377	29,961	25,961	25,752	25,600	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross).....do....	25,783	25,833	29,931	30,121	30,386	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	8,143	8,181	8,857	8,857	8,868	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	214	205	271	219	240	207
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) <u>3</u> /.....percent..	3.28	3.30	3.86	3.87	3.88	3.92
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) <u>4</u> /.....1935-39=100..	327.4	326.1	333.1	343.9	337.8	328.5
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do....	376.8	375.1	388.9	402.3	394.2	382.5
Production:						
Bituminous coal <u>3</u> /.....thous. of short tons..	1,748	1,813	1,765	1,713	1,797	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	11,149	10,727	11,487	11,522	11,589	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	206,536	173,943	136,420	153,277	157,151	140,869
Petroleum (crude) and condensate <u>3</u> /.....thous. of bbls..	6,851	6,859	6,981	7,050	7,159	.....
Steel <u>5</u> /.....thous. of short tons..	2,394	2,416	2,493	2,463	2,466	2,463
Percent of capacity <u>5</u> /.....do....	#99.2	#100.1	101.3	100.1	100.2	100.1
Freight carloadings, total <u>6</u> /.....thous. of cars..	766	677	800	773	764	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	378	341	388	377	375	.....

¹ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week beginning November 26, 1956: Production, 2,469 thous. short tons; operating rate, 100.3 percent. 6/ Data for 1956 adjusted to revised classification of class I railroads. * Monthly index for November 1955. ** Wednesday price. # Not comparable with 1956 rates which are based on higher capacity.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1955		1956			
	September	October	July	August	September	October
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS						
Industrial and commercial failures:						
Failures, total.....number..	822	919	1,018	1,101	932	1,158
Commercial service.....do....	75	81	87	95	72	82
Construction.....do....	114	136	141	146	146	182
Manufacturing and mining.....do....	168	180	165	195	140	198
Retail trade.....do....	366	437	540	567	489	584
Wholesale trade.....do....	99	85	85	98	85	112
Liabilities (current), total.....thous. of dol..	33,120	34,777	48,689	55,040	39,313	50,004
Commercial service.....do....	2,666	3,655	7,442	4,127	2,058	3,629
Construction.....do....	4,256	8,713	7,488	7,507	7,840	11,145
Manufacturing and mining.....do....	10,798	10,407	9,005	17,828	9,539	17,345
Retail trade.....do....	8,253	9,586	11,945	14,772	15,656	12,368
Wholesale trade.....do....	7,147	2,416	12,809	10,806	4,220	5,517
COMMODITY PRICES						
Consumer price index, all items.....1947-49=100..	114.9	114.9	117.0	116.8	117.1	<u>1</u> /117.7
Apparel.....do....	104.6	104.6	105.3	105.5	106.5	106.8
Food.....do....	111.6	110.8	114.8	113.1	113.1	113.1
Dairy products.....do....	106.5	107.5	108.7	109.2	109.8	110.7
Fruits and vegetables.....do....	110.2	108.5	135.2	120.7	114.8	113.9
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do....	103.5	100.9	99.3	99.9	101.3	100.8
Housing.....do....	120.4	120.8	121.8	122.2	122.5	122.8
Gas and electricity.....do....	111.2	111.2	111.7	112.1	112.2	112.0
Housefurnishings.....do....	103.6	104.4	102.8	102.6	103.3	103.6
Rent.....do....	130.5	130.8	133.2	133.2	133.4	133.4
Medical care.....do....	128.2	128.7	132.7	133.3	134.0	134.1
Personal care.....do....	116.6	117.0	120.1	120.3	120.5	120.8
Reading and recreation.....do....	106.7	106.7	107.7	107.9	108.4	108.5
Transportation.....do....	125.3	126.6	127.7	128.5	128.6	132.6
Private.....do....	115.8	117.1	117.6	118.6	118.7	122.9
Public.....do....	166.9	167.1	172.7	172.9	173.0	173.0
Other goods and services.....do....	120.6	120.6	122.2	122.1	122.7	123.0

ITEM	1955		1956			
	September	October	July	August	September	October
COMMODITY PRICES - Continued						
Purchasing power of the dollar as measured by--						
Wholesale prices.....1947-49=100..	89.5	89.6	87.7	87.2	86.6	<u>1</u> /86.6
Consumer prices.....do....	87.0	87.0	85.5	85.6	85.4	<u>1</u> /85.0
Retail food prices.....do....	89.6	90.3	87.1	88.4	88.4	<u>1</u> /88.4
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
Construction contracts awarded, 37 States (F.W.Dodge Corp.):						
Total projects.....number..	57,673	61,135	56,713	61,271	53,757	48,669
Total valuation.....mil. of dol..	2,035	1,863	2,149	2,069	2,025	1,706
Building, total.....do....	1,442	1,475	1,605	1,621	1,540	1,332
Construction cost index:						
E. H. Boeckh and Associates:						
Apartments, hotels, and office buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....U. S. avg. 1926-29=100..	267.8	268.5	279.6	280.2	280.8	281.0
Brick and steel.....do....	263.6	264.4	275.3	275.9	276.7	276.9
Brick and wood.....do....	265.7	266.2	276.7	277.2	277.0	277.0
Commercial and factory buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....do....	275.7	276.3	287.8	288.2	288.9	289.2
Brick and steel.....do....	273.3	273.8	286.7	287.3	288.6	288.8
Brick and wood.....do....	264.0	264.6	275.2	275.9	275.9	276.0
Frame.....do....	265.4	266.4	276.0	276.2	275.4	275.3
Steel.....do....	258.5	259.0	272.8	273.2	274.9	275.1
Residences:						
Brick.....do....	266.3	266.8	277.2	277.8	277.4	277.4
Frame.....do....	260.3	260.8	270.6	271.0	270.5	270.3
DOMESTIC TRADE						
Television advertising:						
Cost of facilities, total.....thous. of dol..	33,045	38,086	37,748	r42,597	39,107	.....
Automotive, including accessories.....do....	3,620	4,936	3,766	r4,594	3,450	.....
Drugs and toiletries.....do....	8,043	9,363	10,870	9,105	10,021	.....
Foods, soft drinks, confectionery.....do....	6,922	7,836	7,706	6,849	8,038	.....
Soaps, cleansers, etc.....do....	4,134	4,326	5,507	4,701	5,249	.....
Smoking materials.....do....	3,499	3,652	3,118	2,833	3,517	.....
Magazine advertising:						
Cost, total.....do....	58,673	71,084	42,386	42,024	63,735	.....
Apparel and accessories.....do....	7,515	6,193	904	4,601	7,945	.....
Automotive, including accessories.....do....	3,661	5,926	4,226	2,736	2,478	.....
Building materials.....do....	3,848	3,610	1,935	1,740	3,945	.....
Drugs and toiletries.....do....	4,845	6,241	4,868	4,288	5,967	.....
Foods, soft drinks, confectionery.....do....	7,347	9,223	6,893	6,077	7,256	.....
Beer, wine, liquors.....do....	2,354	3,555	2,568	1,971	2,611	.....
Household equipment and supplies.....do....	3,674	4,901	2,794	1,522	3,349	.....
Household furnishings.....do....	2,493	4,309	1,030	1,646	2,830	.....
Industrial materials.....do....	4,469	5,680	3,665	3,742	5,792	.....
Soaps, cleansers, etc.....do....	836	946	775	641	976	.....
Smoking materials.....do....	1,524	1,548	1,149	1,178	1,275	.....
FINANCE						
Bank debits, total (344 centers).....mil. of dol..	168,967	175,779	181,284	183,819	167,154	193,140
New York City.....do....	62,550	67,568	65,873	67,279	61,223	70,794
6 other centers.....do....	35,126	35,803	38,653	38,206	34,057	40,148
Federal Government finance:						
Receipts, total.....do....	6,180	2,998	3,927	5,959	6,897	3,660
Receipts, net.....do....	5,496	2,692	3,485	4,954	6,218	3,184
Customs.....do....	57	62	63	64	60	75
Income and employment taxes.....do....	4,968	1,873	2,601	4,772	5,846	2,185
Miscellaneous internal revenue.....do....	947	890	970	1,030	869	1,149
All other receipts.....do....	208	173	292	93	122	250
Expenditures, total.....do....	5,340	5,355	5,542	5,902	4,918	5,995
Interest on public debt.....do....	529	542	627	567	570	582
Veterans' services and benefits.....do....	353	359	p368	p383	p345	p401
Major national security.....do....	3,512	3,293	p2,951	p3,580	p3,153	p3,778
All other expenditures.....do....	946	1,161	p1,595	p1,371	p850	p1,234
Life Insurance (Institute of Life Insurance):						
Assets, total, all U.S. life insurance companies.....do....	88,529	89,016	93,580	93,992	94,411	.....
Bonds (book value), domestic and foreign, total.....do....	47,578	47,742	48,594	48,665	48,799	.....
U. S. Government.....do....	9,129	9,027	7,886	7,778	7,805	.....
State, county, municipal (U. S.).....do....	1,983	1,990	2,191	2,206	2,213	.....
Public utility (U. S.).....do....	13,366	13,400	13,835	13,903	13,905	.....
Railroad (U. S.).....do....	3,786	3,877	3,853	3,853	3,850	.....
Industrial and miscellaneous (U. S.).....do....	16,858	16,985	18,256	18,340	18,426	.....
Stocks (book value), domestic and foreign, total.....do....	2,870	2,879	2,995	2,998	2,968	.....
Preferred (U. S.).....do....	1,720	1,719	1,727	1,724	1,700	.....
Common (U. S.).....do....	1,142	1,152	1,254	1,260	1,253	.....
Mortgage loans, total.....do....	28,250	28,563	31,612	31,897	32,111	.....
Nonfarm.....do....	26,025	26,320	29,188	29,454	29,656	.....
Real estate.....do....	2,492	2,506	2,711	2,727	2,748	.....
Policy loans and premium notes.....do....	3,260	3,271	3,400	3,420	3,440	.....
Cash.....do....	1,142	1,133	1,093	1,064	1,077	.....
Other assets.....do....	2,937	2,922	3,175	3,221	3,268	.....

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Indexes based on 1935-39=100 are as follows: Measured by--wholesale prices, 45.3; consumer prices, 50.8; retail food, 43.8.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

ITEM	1955		1956			
	September	October	July	August	September	October
FINANCE - Continued						
Life Insurance Agency Management Association:						
Insurance written (new paid-for insurance):						
Value, estimated total.....mil. of dol..	3,718	3,679	4,251	4,544	4,140	4,792
Group and wholesale.....do....	836	581	931	1,160	981	963
Industrial.....do....	537	546	503	526	525	549
Ordinary.....do....	2,345	2,552	2,817	2,858	2,634	3,280
Institute of Life Insurance:						
Payments to policyholders and beneficiaries, estimated						
total.....mil. of dol..	421.2	425.4	469.6	478.3	425.0	.....
Death benefits.....do....	180.1	182.0	204.7	203.9	171.8	.....
Matured endowments.....do....	44.4	51.6	51.0	49.5	45.9	.....
Disability payments.....do....	8.7	8.8	9.3	9.3	8.8	.....
Annuity payments.....do....	38.3	39.5	43.8	41.9	38.8	.....
Surrender values.....do....	67.7	73.9	79.1	84.1	73.1	.....
Policy dividends.....do....	81.9	69.6	81.7	89.6	86.6	.....
Turnover of demand deposits except interbank and						
U. S. Government, annual rate:						
New York City.....ratio of debits to deposits..	43.5	44.7	45.9	44.4	44.8	45.2
6 other centers.....do....	27.4	26.5	29.6	27.4	p27.5	p28.4
337 other reporting centers.....do....	21.1	20.3	22.4	21.3	p22.0	p22.1
FOODSTUFFS						
Wines and distilling materials:						
Effervescent wines:						
Production.....thous. of wine gal..	102	106	125	220	168	.....
Tax-paid withdrawals.....do....	r136	191	93	137	200	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	r1,566	1,458	1,738	1,801	1,751	.....
Still wines:						
Production.....do....	r19,898	72,474	1,237	2,531	30,528	.....
Tax-paid withdrawals.....do....	r11,433	13,347	9,283	10,290	12,688	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	r120,877	184,011	134,294	125,296	144,102	.....
Distilling materials produced at wineries.....do....	r52,800	145,546	1,163	8,067	76,378	.....
LEATHER AND PRODUCTS						
Leather production:						
Calf and whole kip.....thous. of skins..	827	890	496	668	586	.....
Cattle hide and side kip.....thous. of hides and kips..	2,158	2,203	1,731	r2,224	1,970	.....
Goat and kid.....thous. of skins..	2,001	2,187	1,797	r2,033	1,701	.....
Sheep and lamb.....do....	2,130	2,222	1,777	2,578	2,140	.....
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Aluminum shipments:						
Mill products and pig and ingot (net).....mil. of lb..	344.5	343.1	354.7	r319.2	311.7	.....
Mill products, total.....do....	241.8	248.8	247.9	r217.8	217.4	.....
Plate and sheet.....do....	134.5	138.3	139.6	104.3	117.1	.....
Castings.....do....	66.7	71.7	53.0	r61.4	62.5	.....
Furnaces, industrial, new orders, net:						
Electric processing.....thous. of dol..	964	1,532	1,089	3,263	1,410	2,131
Fuel-fired (except for hot rolling steel).....do....	6,579	7,061	2,726	2,988	1,007	5,447
Machine tools (metal-cutting types):						
New orders (net), total.....mil. of dol..	58.35	99.15	61.90	87.50	r78.45	p66.00
Domestic.....do....	53.40	92.70	55.25	78.25	r68.80	p57.40
Shipments, total.....do....	57.80	60.40	65.15	75.10	r71.10	p89.65
Domestic.....do....	51.10	53.60	60.70	69.00	65.40	p79.80
Estimated backlog.....months..	5.6	6.1	7.8	7.7	7.7	p7.2

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary.
38,134

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
DIVISION OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
FIRST CLASS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT
SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS