

MAY 1957

SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

OFFICE OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS

SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

Vol. 37



No. 5

MAY 1957

Contents

	PAGE
THE BUSINESS SITUATION	1

The Economy in the First Quarter—

A Review of National Income and Product..	4
---	---

★ ★ ★

SPECIAL ARTICLES

Pattern of Buying of Consumer Goods.....	9
Debt Changes in 1956.....	15
Saving and Investment.....	16
Government Debt.....	17
Corporate Finance.....	18
Individuals' and Noncorporate Debt.....	19

★ ★ ★

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS.....S-1 to S-40

Statistical Index.....Inside back cover

Published by the U. S. Department of Commerce, SINCLAIR WEEKS, Secretary. Office of Business Economics, M. JOSEPH MEEHAN, Director. Subscription price, including weekly statistical supplement, is \$4.00 a year; foreign mailings \$5.75. Single copy, 30 cents. Send remittances to any Department of Commerce Field Office or to the Superintendent of Documents, United States Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Special subscription arrangements, including changes of address, should be made directly with the Superintendent of Documents. Make checks payable to Superintendent of Documents.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FIELD SERVICE

Albuquerque, N. Mex. 321 Post Office Bldg.	Memphis 3, Tenn. 22 North Front St.
Atlanta 3, Ga. 66 Luckie St. NW.	Miami 32, Fla. 300 NE. First Ave.
Boston 9, Mass. U. S. Post Office and Courthouse Bldg.	Minneapolis 2, Minn. 2d Ave. South and 3d St.
Buffalo 3, N. Y. 117 Ellicott St.	New Orleans 12, La. 333 St. Charles Ave.
Charleston 4, S. C. Area 2, Sergeant Jasper Bldg.	New York 17, N. Y. 110 E. 45th St.
Cheyenne, Wyo. 307 Federal Office Bldg.	Philadelphia 7, Pa. 1015 Chestnut St.
Chicago 6, Ill. 226 W. Jackson Blvd.	Phoenix, Ariz. 137 N. Second Ave.
Cincinnati 2, Ohio 442 U. S. Post Office and Courthouse	Pittsburgh 22, Pa. 107 Sixth St.
Cleveland 14, Ohio 1100 Chester Ave.	Portland 4, Oreg. 520 SW. Morrison St.
Dallas 1, Tex. 3-104 Merchandise Mart 500 South Ervay St.	Reno, Nev. 1479 Wells Ave.
Denver 2, Colo. 142 New Customhouse	Richmond 19, Va. 1103 East Main St.
Detroit 26, Mich. 438 Federal Bldg.	St. Louis 1, Mo. 1114 Market St.
Greensboro, N. C. 407 U. S. Post Office Bldg.	Salt Lake City 1, Utah 222 SW. Temple St.
Houston 2, Tex. Franklin and Main St.	San Francisco 11, Calif. 555 Battery St.
Jacksonville 1, Fla. 311 W. Monroe St.	Savannah, Ga. 125-29 Bull St.
Kansas City 6, Mo. 911 Walnut St.	Seattle 4, Wash. 909 First Ave.
Los Angeles 15, Calif. 1031 S. Broadway	

For local telephone listing, consult section
devoted to U. S. Government

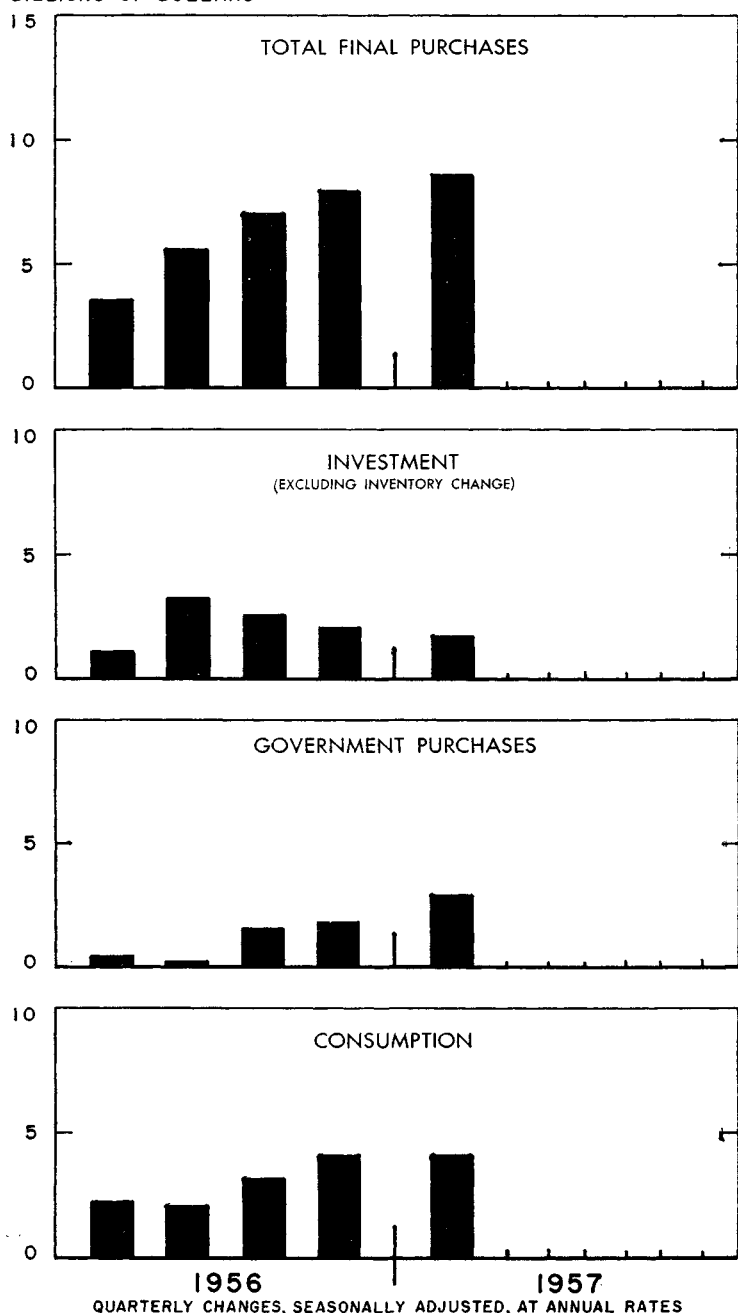
The Business Situation



By the Office of Business Economics

Increases in GNP Final Purchases

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS



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

57-13-1

THE GENERAL business situation has continued strong so far in 1957. This central fact is evidenced by the national income and product figures for the first quarter, as reviewed in detail in this issue. An extension through April of the firm tone in the overall economy is indicated by the latest date for personal income and related monthly series.

The outstanding developments in the economy's recent performance, as shown by the income and product measures, are as follows:

1. *Continued growth of final demand.*—During the first quarter of 1957 consumer, foreign, and government demand expanded further, and fixed domestic investment was maintained at a peak rate. In total, the flow of goods and services into these large segments of the national market increased \$8 billion (at annual rates) over the final quarter of last year, thereby exceeding the average quarterly advance realized in 1956. These movements are recorded in the broad measure of "final purchases"—which differs from the gross national product in one respect, that it does not allow for the change in the volume of inventories held by business.

More than half of the dollar increase in final demand during the first quarter represented a further growth in real volume, the remainder being accounted for by a continued rise in the general price averages.

2. *Swing in inventory investment.*—Business firms during the first quarter purchased fewer goods in relation to their volume of sales, with the result that inventories did not increase—as they had throughout 1955 and 1956. This shift in business inventory policy reduced some of the price pressures in wholesale markets, where there was a tendency for prices to level off during the quarter.

3. *GNP up in value, stable in volume.*—With the curtailment in inventory demand partly offsetting the expansion in final purchases, gross national product increased \$3 billion in the first quarter, to an annual rate of \$427 billion. This rise, considerably below the average for the quarters of 1956, was attributable to higher prices; real GNP in the first 3 months of 1957 was approximately unchanged from the preceding quarter, although higher than a year ago.

The comparative changes in current-dollar GNP and final purchases over the past year are summarized in terms of seasonally adjusted annual rates in billions of dollars:

Quarters	GNP	Change in inventories	Final purchases	Increase from preceding quarter	
				GNP	Final purchases
1956-I	403	4	399	2	4
II	408	3	405	5	6
III	414	2	412	6	7
IV	424	4	420	10	8
1957-I	427	-1	428	3	8

Two facts will be readily apparent: (a) Whereas the rise in GNP has been somewhat irregular, final demand has expanded at a fairly steady pace; and (b) the drawing down of business inventories in the first quarter of this year—though slight—was a major development contrasting with the sizable buildup of stocks during 1956.

4. *Income rise extended.*—Income, both national and personal, also continued to rise in the first quarter. As compared with the initial quarter of 1956, personal income was up by 6 percent. Consumer incomes also show a gain in real purchasing power—2 percent from a year ago—when allowance is made for the increases in consumer prices and personal tax payments.

5. *GNP currently higher than at beginning of year.*—The rate of GNP in current dollars at the opening of the second quarter of 1957 was higher than at the turn of the year. This is clear from the steady upward movement of the comprehensive monthly personal income series. At annual rates, personal income increased \$4 billion from December to March, and moved up another \$1 billion in April. This latest advance, carrying personal income to a record annual rate of \$339 billion, continued an almost unbroken succession of increases since the fall of 1954.

6. *General business activity little changed in April.*—Maintenance of a record flow of personal income is indicative of the fact that the economy in April continued along the general course established in the first quarter of the year. Reflected in the April personal income data was an extension of moderate uptrends in wages and salaries, dividends, and interest. As in other recent months, the payroll rise—though limited—stemmed largely from rising wage rates; seasonally adjusted employment again showed essentially no change.

With personal income registering a further small rise and the employment situation remaining stable, other significant developments during April related to retail trade and industrial production. Here, too, the pattern evidenced is one of little change. Retail sales in April, after seasonal adjustment, differed only fractionally from the March rate. Industrial production, as measured by the Federal Reserve Board seasonally adjusted index, dipped slightly during April but remained at a near-record level.

Divergent movements in the economy

The national income accounts thus picture the economy in the first part of 1957 as having maintained a record volume of total output which has been moving at moderately higher prices. Currently, most of the broad industrial divisions are showing only small changes after allowance for seasonal influences.

Within this overall framework, however, divergent movements have occurred. This feature of the current business scene is revealed by production and sales data, as well as by the available earnings reports of corporations for the first quarter—though profits as a whole are evidently higher than a year ago. The unevenness of the business pace among specific lines of activity shows up, for example, in the statistics on construction activity and industrial production.

Whereas total new construction activity (seasonally adjusted) has been quite stable since last summer, public construction has risen substantially and residential building has continued to decline. In the first quarter of this year, the value of housing construction declined to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$14 billion, as compared with the peak rate of \$17 billion in the third quarter of 1955 and the \$15-billion total for the year 1956. Housing starts, despite some pickup in April, have tended lower in the past few months

and presage a further fall in the volume of activity in the field.

Housing starts in the first 4 months of 1957 were one-fifth below the year-ago total. The decline in value of residential construction was less—11 percent—largely because of rising construction costs, a trend toward larger and more expensive type houses, and an increase in additions and alterations.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

The small degree of change in the total volume of national product in the past 6 months is also apparent in the large industrial production segment. The reduction in business inventory buying so far this year has brought curtailments in operations in some industries which have been largely counterbalanced by expansion elsewhere.

Industrial production has shown little change since last October. The Federal Reserve seasonally adjusted index averaged 146 (1947-49=100) in the January-April 1957 period, approximately the same as in the high closing month of 1956 and moderately above the year-ago volume.

In recent months production increases have occurred mainly in transportation equipment (other than autos), and chemical and petroleum products. On the other hand, there have been reductions in the output of certain durable-good industries such as autos, primary metals, lumber products and certain lines of household durables.

The pattern of overall stability accompanied by mixed trends among the major product groups is apparent from the chart. The index of machinery and instruments in the bottom panel represents a combination of the Federal Reserve Board seasonally adjusted indexes of machinery and instruments and related products, with rough adjustments to exclude the output of major appliances and radio and television receivers which is included in major household goods, as shown separately in the center panel.

Expansion in transportation equipment

Output of nonautomotive transportation equipment—largely aircraft and related products, ships, and railroad rolling stock—has continued the strong advance in progress since the last half of 1955. Backlogs in these industries are large and provide a strong support for continuing high operations.

Higher activity in plants producing military and civilian aircraft and more recently guided missile systems, as reflected by man-hours worked, has accounted for much of the rise in the nonautomotive transportation equipment index. The number of production workers in the aircraft industry has been increasing steadily since the spring months of 1956, with the rise averaging nearly 8,000 per month. The aggregate working force of nearly 600 thousand is now higher than during the peak months of 1953.

Operations in the Nation's shipyards have been stepped up sharply since the Suez developments. The number of new ocean-going merchant-type vessels, mostly oil tankers, under contract for construction is now close to 100, whereas as recently as July 1956 only 27 vessels were on order.

With the flow of steel now moving in adequate volume, a strong pickup in activity has occurred in shops producing railroad rolling stock, particularly freight cars. Deliveries of freight cars in the first quarter, about one-third higher than in the October-December 1956 period, were the highest in 5 years. The current high rate of shipments has been at the partial expense of backlogs, which were trimmed down to 109,000 units. This is still a high figure, however, representing about 11 months' work at the present rate of deliveries.

Machinery and instruments output stable

Production of machinery and instruments and related products tapered off at a peak rate in the final months of last year and has since shown relatively little change. In

the machine tool industry, a key segment in the machinery group, both shipments and new orders in the first quarter of 1957 were slightly below the high preceding quarter. Placement of new orders has been below shipments for the past 6 months, and current backlogs have been reduced to 5½ months' work as compared with nearly 9 months' work at the end of March 1956. For the machinery industry as a whole, however, the backlog of orders continues high as the flow of new business in the January-March period approximately matched the increased volume of shipments.

Automobile output reduced

Among the declining group of industries, auto manufacturing is particularly important because of its wide impact on suppliers. This industry has been operating, as in 1956, well below the 1955 record performance. The best production month last year was December, when producers pushed output to build up stocks of the new 1957 model cars. Since that time, output (adjusted for seasonal influences) has been declining gradually, with April production of cars, trucks, and parts 10 percent below December though still somewhat above the same month a year ago.

Despite the reduced rate of passenger car assemblies, factory output has been running ahead of consumer purchases. While dealers' stocks have risen substantially, they are still below the year-ago exceptionally high level.

For the January-April period as a whole, auto assemblies totaled 2.7 million units—of which 2.3 million were passenger cars—or little changed from the comparable months of 1956. Dollar sales, however, are up somewhat from a year ago in line with the currently prevailing higher prices.

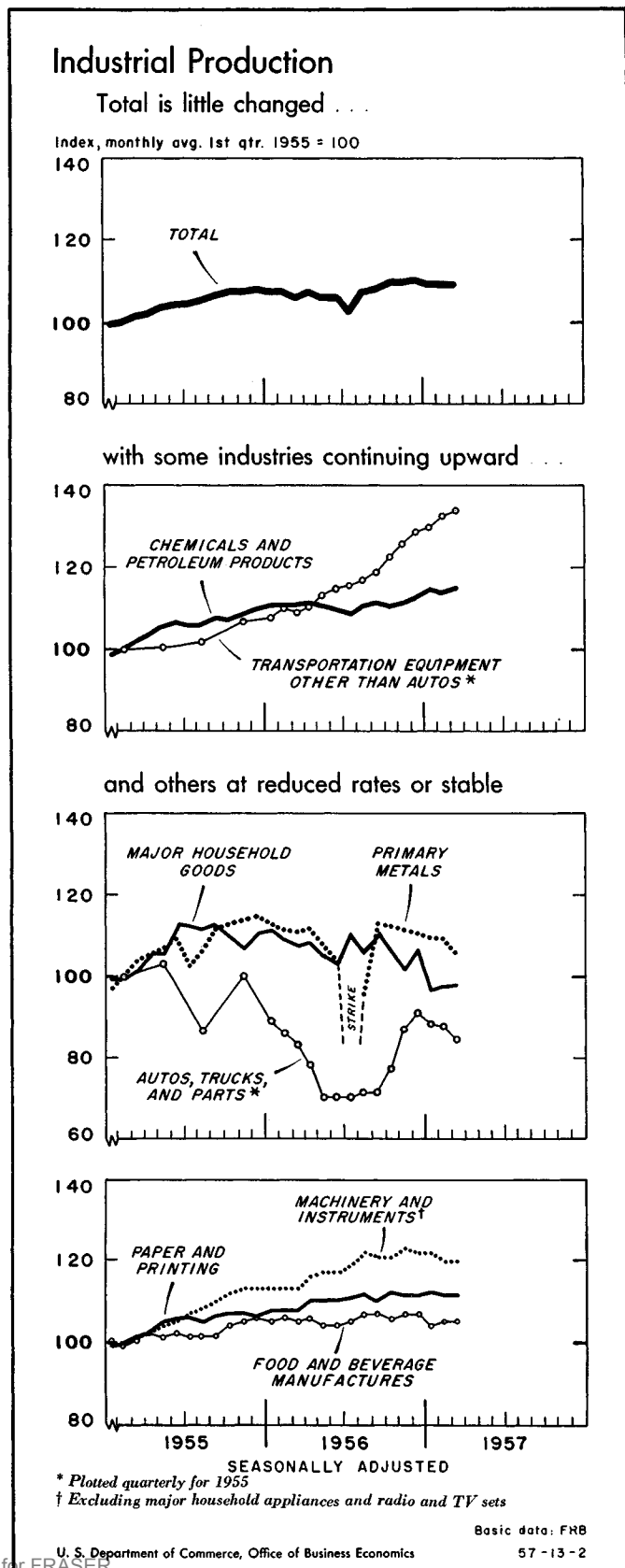
Steel output also lower

The reduction in output of primary metals has been due in large part to lower steel operations and, in lesser degree, to cutbacks in output of the major nonferrous metals. The steel industry has been operating at a reduced rate since the end of February, following virtual capacity operations for the previous 6 months. With all but a few types of steel in adequate supply coupled with reduced forward commitments of finished steel by some important consumers—chiefly auto and appliance manufacturers—mill operations in April were down to an average of 90 percent of rated capacity and have declined further to 87 percent in the first 3 weeks of May. The current operating rate compares with 93 percent in March and 97 percent in the first 2 months of the year.

In response to lower business demand, producers of the major nonferrous metals have generally cut back mine operations in order to reduce inventories. The production decline, however, has been moderate because substantial quantities of these metals are being purchased or set aside for Government account.

Readjustment in household durables

Production adjustments in household durables, reflecting in part reduced consumer demand but primarily efforts to reduce stocks, began in the fall months of 1956 and continued into the first quarter of 1957, though output has shown little change since the sharp drop from December to January. The curtailment followed a period of sustained high operations extending well over a year. The enlarged output



(Continued on page 23)

The Economy in the First Quarter

A Review of National Income and Product

THE TOTAL production of goods and services in the first quarter reached a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$427 billion, up \$3½ billion from the record fourth-quarter total.

Output has expanded somewhat irregularly in recent quarters, showing a particularly large rise toward the end of last year as auto and steel production moved up sharply from the summer lows. In contrast, final demand (output exclusive of inventory change) has exhibited a relatively steady growth, which amounted at seasonally adjusted annual rates to \$8½ billion in the first quarter as compared to \$8 billion in the fourth quarter of 1956 and \$7 billion in the third quarter (see chart).

Prices continued to rise, though somewhat more slowly than last year as advances tapered in many durable-goods lines. The expansion in economic activity since the turn of the year has reflected significant increases in the real volume of final purchases, with total real output little changed from the high fourth-quarter rate.

There has been a corresponding growth in payrolls and other incomes. The total of personal income, which had expanded \$6 billion at an annual rate in the fourth quarter with the sharp rise in gross national product, showed a further advance of nearly \$3½ billion for the first quarter. With these increases, the total went up to \$336½ billion and disposable personal income reached an annual rate above \$295 billion.

was also a significant gain in the real volume of goods and services.

Pattern of demand and income

Reflecting the high and rising flow of consumer income, personal consumption continued its expansionary trend with a \$4 billion advance, and reached a rate of \$275 billion for the quarter (see text table). The increase, amounting to 1½ percent, equaled that registered in the preceding quarter. The advance was associated in part with price increases, which continued at about the previous overall rate. A gain in real volume seems, however, to have contributed more to the dollar rise in the first quarter than did the higher prices.

Government purchases were at an annual rate of \$85 billion, up \$3 billion from the final quarter of last year. The rise centered in defense outlays and in State and local government expenditures.

The marked uptrend in U. S. exports continued, with a further substantial increase in shipments of oil and other merchandise indicated by the seasonally adjusted preliminary figures for the first quarter. Imports appear to have been relatively stable, and the net export balance moved up.

In contrast to the movement of consumer, government, and foreign demand, domestic fixed investment leveled off at a high rate after the turn of the year, the rise in plant and equipment outlays tapering and being offset in this quarter by a further decline in residential construction activity.

The buildup in business inventories which characterized both 1955 and 1956 was not continued in the first quarter of 1957. After adjustment for changing valuation, there seems to have been some reduction in stocks during this quarter.

With these changes in the pattern of demand, the growth of income was more pronounced in the distributive and service industries than elsewhere in the economy. The rate of expansion in wages and salaries slowed in most of the commodity-producing industry divisions; manufacturing, in particular, showed little further advance from the fourth quarter high as wage payments were off somewhat in most of the durable-goods groups.

A continued and widespread uptrend in average hourly earnings was the chief positive factor in the movement of payrolls. The length of the workweek tended downward in a majority of the industries for which such data are available and the employment gains which occurred, principally in industries other than manufacturing, were relatively moderate.

Consumer spending up

The first-quarter rise in personal consumption expenditures reflected increases of around \$1½ billion each in outlays for

[Seasonally adjusted annual rates in billions of dollars]

	1956		1957	Change to first quarter of 1957 from—	
	First quarter	Fourth quarter	First quarter	First quarter 1956	Fourth quarter 1956
Gross national product.....	403. 4	423. 8	427. 1	23. 7	3. 3
Inventory change.....	4. 1	4. 1	—1. 2	—5. 3	—5. 3
Final demand.....	399. 3	419. 7	428. 3	29. 0	8. 6
Personal consumption...	261. 7	270. 9	275. 0	13. 3	4. 1
Domestic investment...	59. 0	64. 4	64. 5	5. 5	. 1
Foreign investment (net).....	. 1	2. 4	4. 0	3. 9	1. 6
Government purchases...	78. 5	82. 0	84. 9	6. 4	2. 9
Personal income.....	317. 5	333. 2	336. 5	19. 0	3. 3
Wages and salaries.....	219. 4	231. 1	233. 6	14. 2	2. 5
Disposable personal income...	280. 2	293. 3	295. 4	15. 2	2. 1

The substantial increase over a year ago—7½ percent—in final demand stands out in this tabulation. While a considerable part of the rise stemmed from the advance in prices, there

nondurables and for services, and a \$1 billion advance for durables. The sharpest relative expansion was in the durables category, where spending was up with higher expenditures for autos.

Expenditures for consumer services continued their steady rise to approach an annual rate of \$103 billion for the first quarter. As in other recent periods, advances were recorded in housing and in a wide variety of other items.

Spending for nondurables was at an annual rate above \$136 billion, after a rise of close to 1½ percent in the first quarter. This advance compares with an increase of about one-half of 1 percent in the final quarter of 1956. The rise in nondurables expenditures centered largely in purchases of food, but extended also to a wide variety of other items including gasoline and oil. Outlays for clothing were down slightly from the fourth quarter, after allowance for seasonal variation.

Purchases of durable goods, which had expanded sharply in the fourth quarter, continued to rise in the first, though at a somewhat slower pace. These variations stemmed from the automotive component.

Among the nonauto durables groups, changes were slight. Outlays for furniture and household goods continued to maintain a seasonally adjusted annual rate of around \$15 billion, as they did throughout 1956.

Expenditures for autos and parts currently account for nearly half of all consumer spending for durable goods. Automotive purchases in the first quarter are estimated at a \$16½ billion annual rate, as compared with \$15½ billion in the fourth quarter and a little more than \$13½ billion in

the third quarter of last year. Taking the 1956 model year as the basis of comparison, the dollar aggregate of sales to date has been larger this year. The improvement, however, is due entirely to higher average prices, unit sales at retail having been lower so far. Retailers' unit inventories have been running somewhat under the high levels of 1956.

Government buying more

The first-quarter rise of \$3 billion in the annual rate of governmental outlays for goods and services came in Federal purchases for defense and in State and local government outlays for construction and operating payrolls.

Defense spending, at \$43 billion, was up \$1½ billion from the fourth quarter. The rise appears to have centered largely in procurement, though information is far from complete. Defense outlays have been rising since early 1956, and in the first quarter of 1957 were more than 10 percent above the same period a year earlier.

Reflecting this uptrend, the average annual rate of total Federal spending for goods and services in the first three-quarters of the fiscal year 1957 was somewhat above the rate indicated by Budget estimates for this fiscal year.

The composition of the first-quarter rise in State and local spending was in line with recent trends. Construction outlays for roads, schools, and various other types of facilities continued to expand, as did both school and non-school payrolls.

Foreign demand rises

The export demand for U. S. goods and services continued to increase in the first quarter, according to the incomplete data now available. In addition to the higher exports of oil associated with the interruption of traffic through the Suez Canal, the first-quarter results reflect increased shipments of a wide range of commodities, including machinery and farm products.

Fixed investment high

Private outlays for fixed investment leveled off at an annual rate of \$64½ billion, a figure about equal to the fourth-quarter rate. A tapering in such outlays as time passes is of course to be expected, in view of the fact that fixed investment has been proceeding at extremely high rates for more than a decade. Temporary circumstances such as the continuation of relatively tight credit conditions have probably played some part in the decline in residential construction, in particular, though more basic demand factors have likewise contributed.

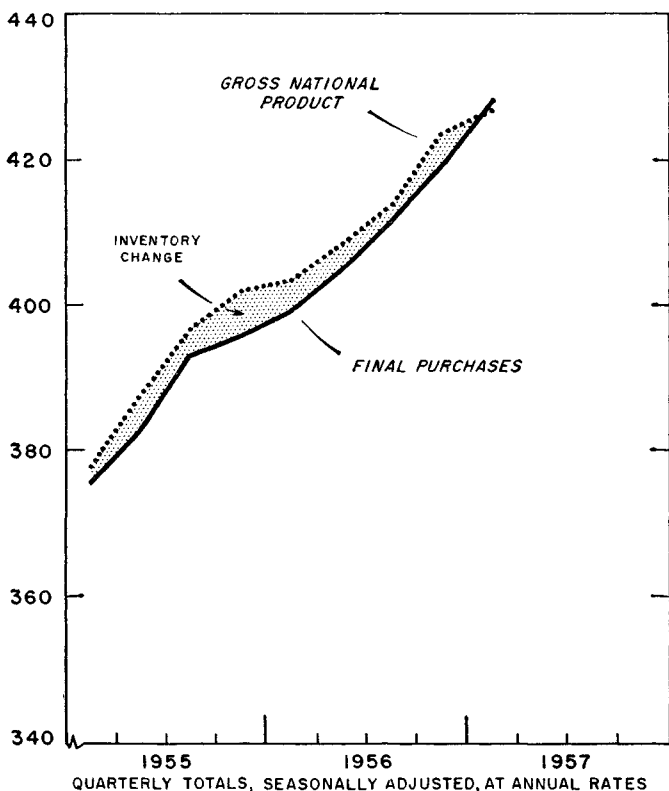
Underlying the stability in total fixed investment from the fourth quarter to the first was a continuation of the recent shift in its composition. Business outlays for producers' durable equipment and nonresidential construction were at a seasonally adjusted rate about \$½ billion higher in the first quarter, while residential construction activity showed a decline of similar magnitude.

The rise in business fixed investment was somewhat less than the quarterly increases recorded during 1955-56. According to anticipatory data reported to the Department of Commerce and the Securities and Exchange Commission, a rise may be expected in the spring quarter, and, on the whole, 1957 will mark another high for investment outlays. Plant and equipment spending will thus provide a strong support to the underlying business situation.

The further rise in the first quarter reflected increased investment by manufacturers, public utilities, and railroads, while construction of new commercial facilities declined

Gross National Product and Final Purchases

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS



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

57-13-3

and somewhat lower outlays were indicated for mining. This first-quarter pattern is broadly consistent with that of investment plans for the full year 1957.

Residential construction activity, which has declined rather steadily from quarter to quarter since late 1955, showed a contraction about equal to that indicated for the final quarter of last year. Housing starts, seasonally adjusted, showed a continued downtrend through March, and for the quarter as a whole were about one-fifth below the year-ago total. Some pickup was reported for April.

Inventory-sales ratio improved

The most pronounced change in the composition of the gross national product in the first quarter was the check to inventory-building. New investment in inventories had absorbed \$3½ billion of the total national output in 1956, having been a positive market factor in every quarter. In the final quarter of last year it amounted to over \$4 billion at annual rates. In the first quarter of 1957, by contrast, the entire rise in the book value of manufacturing and trade inventories reflected increases in replacement cost; and after adjustment to eliminate the price factor a slight liquidation of business stocks is suggested.

The tendency to restrict the growth of inventories after the turn of the year reflected a variety of changes in underlying circumstances. A special factor accounting for part of the difference between the record for the fourth quarter and that for the first was the need in late 1956 to rebuild stocks depleted as a direct or indirect result of last summer's steel strike; this rebuilding was largely completed by the end of the year.

Of major importance also was the widespread trend toward a more conservative inventory policy suggested by the conditions prevailing in early 1957. These conditions included the improved assurance of a continued flow of supplies and materials, in view of the enlarged productive capacity of suppliers and the relatively small number of major labor agreements scheduled to expire this year. In addition, there were signs of tapering in sales expansion in some durable-goods lines in particular. Among other factors, the easing of price uptrends in wholesale markets and the continuation of considerable credit stringency may also have played a part. The limited overall reduction of inventories in the first quarter of 1957 indicates that, in a setting of expansion in final demand, a successful adjustment was made in the direction of a more conservative policy.

It is noteworthy that the ratio of sales to inventories improved during the quarter, as indicated by the fact that final demand was up \$8½ billion with inventories down \$1 billion, in terms of the usual annual-rate comparisons. The overall improvement did not extend to all lines of business; the inventory developments of this quarter differed widely from industry to industry.

Broadly speaking, these developments represented a substantial slowing of accumulation in durables manufacturing and a liquidation in trade stocks. The principal exception to this pattern was in auto dealers' inventories.

The greater-than-seasonal buildup in stocks of auto retailers continued in the first quarter, while auto manufacturers reduced their holdings—consisting largely of purchased materials and goods in process—after a substantial accumulation late last year.

The further increase in stocks of other durable-goods manufacturers amounted even at book values to only a little over half as much as in the fourth quarter. The first-quarter rise was largest in the finished-goods category; in

terms of industrial distribution, much of it was in lines in which demand remained notably strong.

Inventories of nondurables manufacturers advanced somewhat in the first quarter, after having been approximately stable overall in the fourth. As in the case of durables, the expansion was chiefly in finished goods.

Dealers' stocks both of nondurable goods and of durables other than autos, which had shown little change in the preceding quarter, were drawn down considerably after the turn of the year as consumer demand was relatively well maintained or increased.

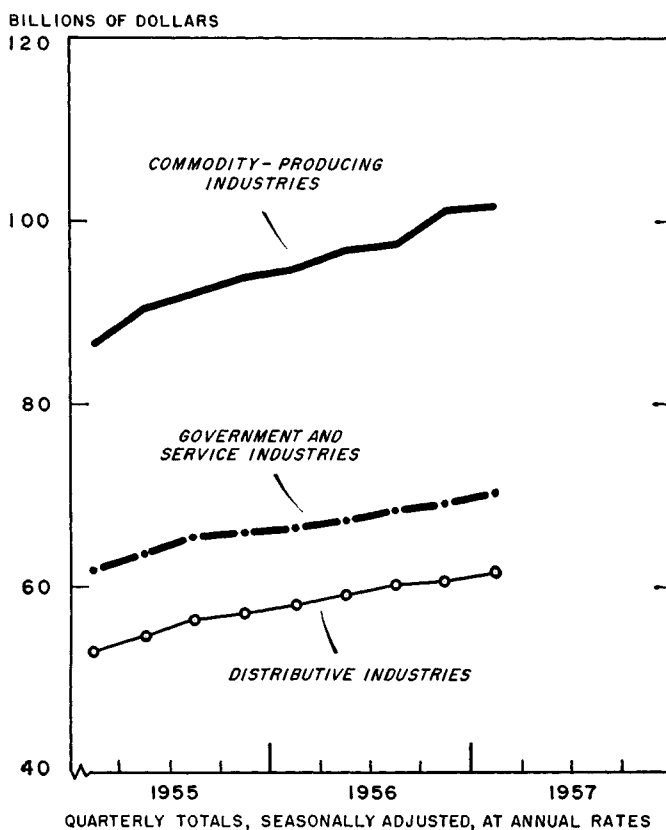
National income: earnings from production

Total national income, which had advanced nearly \$10 billion in the final quarter of last year with the rise in production, increased further in the first quarter. Data now available cover all types of earnings other than corporate profits, and show employee compensation up \$3 billion at annual rates while changes in proprietors', rental, and interest income were small and mutually offsetting in the aggregate.

Total compensation of public and private employees approached an annual rate of \$249 billion in the first quarter, 1½ percent above the fourth quarter and 3½ percent higher than in the third quarter of 1956. Contributing to the latest rise was an increase of more than a half-billion dollars in supplemental labor income; this advance reflected chiefly the expansion in employers' contributions for social security under the new legislation effective January 1. The bulk of the increase in employee compensation, however, consisted

Payrolls

By Major Industry Groups



of a rise in wages and salaries. Private payrolls were nearly \$2 billion above the preceding quarter, at annual rates; State and local payrolls were up a half-billion dollars, and some advance was recorded in the Federal Government component also.

Private wages and salaries

More than half the first-quarter rise in private wages and salaries occurred in the distributive industries, which together registered an increase on the order of \$1 billion (see chart). This expansion was somewhat larger than that shown for the fourth quarter of 1956, and was marked in transportation as well as in wholesale and retail trade. In trade, it appears to have been associated with the continued rise in consumer spending for commodities. In transportation, higher payrolls were in part a reflection of the rail wage rate increases which went into effect last November.

The service industries, with a total payroll about half as large as that of the distributive group, continued the previous rate of growth and contributed one-fifth of the overall increase in private wages and salaries recorded for the first quarter.

In contrast to the distributive and service groups, manufacturing industry reported a general slowing of expansion following the sharp gains of late 1956, and some tapering was apparent also in contract construction and in mining.

Wages in manufacturing

The course of manufacturing payrolls from the fourth quarter to the first reflected somewhat lower total wages in autos and the majority of other durable-goods industries, as well as in textiles and apparel; these declines largely offset increases in production worker earnings elsewhere and a continued moderate expansion in the pay of salaried employees.

The contraction in durables manufacturing wages affected both metal and nonmetal lines. Among the former, it appeared not only in autos but in nearly all other major industries, including primary and fabricated metals and machinery. This tendency is apparently traceable to the developments indicated above in the market for durables—including the swing in inventory investment and the slowdown in the growth of consumers' and fixed investment demand.

Among the industries producing nonmetallic durable goods, a contraction in lumber and furniture payrolls continued. These groups have been affected to some extent by the downtrend in the number of dwelling units being built.

The major exception to this pattern in durable-goods manufacturing was in the nonauto transportation equipment groups, where activity rose with the continued uptrends in shipbuilding and in production of aircraft and railroad equipment.

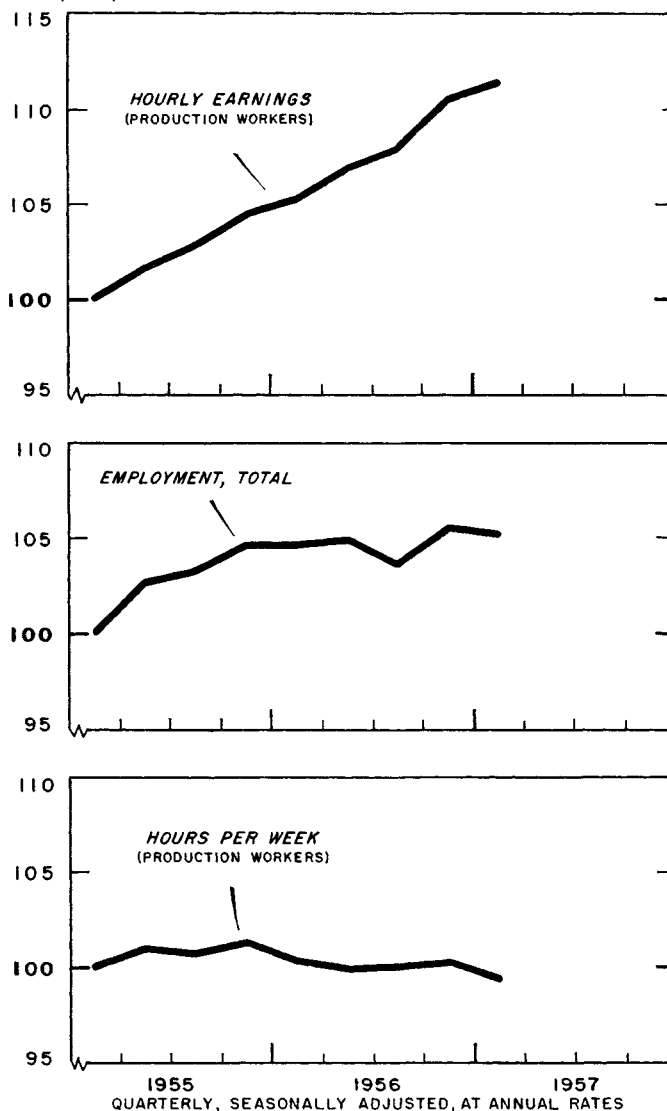
Among the nondurables groups, wage payments were generally maintained or increased. The exceptions were in the textiles and apparel industries; as noted above, consumer outlays for clothing were slightly lower in this quarter and there appears to have been some inventory liquidation as well.

Uptrend in hourly earnings

As can be seen from the accompanying chart, further increases in average hourly earnings were the major supporting factor in the movement of manufacturing payrolls. Wages per hour have shown a comparatively steady uptrend in

Earnings, Employment, and Hours in Manufacturing

Index, 1st quarter 1955 = 100



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

57-13-5

recent years. The first-quarter rise was less than that of the preceding quarter, when the average had been raised by a substantial amount of work at overtime rates in the automotive and related industries. Advances continued widespread after the turn of the year, however, as higher average rates were reported for the great majority of manufacturing groups.

Total employment in manufacturing was down fractionally from the fourth quarter, after seasonal adjustment, and about the same as at the previous peak reached in late 1955 and early 1956 after the rapid recovery from the 1954 recession. The industrial pattern of recent changes in employment has conformed roughly to that outlined above for production worker payrolls.

The length of the average workweek was down somewhat in the first quarter, after having registered successive slight increases in the latter part of last year. Apart from these limited advances, the general trend of weekly hours has been

(Continued on page 23)

Pattern of Buying of Consumer Goods

CONSUMER buying of goods of all kinds accounts for about half of the total national output of goods and services. In the first quarter of 1957, such purchases reached a record seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$172 billion, 4 percent higher than in the first quarter of last year. Except for a very slight decline in 1949, goods purchased increased in value every year since 1938. In real terms, the only exceptions were 1942 and 1951.

Expenditures for consumer goods have been less volatile than those for investment goods, though the pattern of consumer buying reflects sizable short-run fluctuations among the various types of commodities. Variations in the purchases of the bulk of consumer goods are dependent to an important degree on the flow of income. However, as buying of many types of goods, particularly durables, is postponable, the expenditures for such goods have shown wide variations often only partially related to changes in the income flows.

Use of the consumer dollar

The most prominent factor related to the postwar increase in consumption was the rising flow of income to consumers, and for a part of this period the effects of the war on the demand and spending pattern. Over the past decade disposable personal income (i. e., personal income after taxes) rose at a fairly steady rate averaging 6 percent a year. Short-run differential rates of change in consumption and income occurred, with goods expenditures increasing faster than income in the early postwar years, when the war-induced demand backlogs were sizable, and then more slowly in the years following.

The pattern of distribution of consumer spending, whether among the different categories of consumer goods or as between goods and services, has not been constant even in the more recent years. The varying rates of spending may be noted in table 1 giving expenditures as a percent of disposable personal income. In the past five years the proportion of income spent for all consumer goods has declined about 2 percent, and is currently a little lower than the share maintained immediately prior to the war, but higher than in the prosperous year of 1929.

Among the major categories of goods expenditures, food, automobiles, and gasoline took a larger share of income in 1956 than in 1929. These three groups together account for about one-third of disposable personal income. The share of a fourth group—alcoholic beverages—was, of course, also larger. The ratio for clothing, on the other hand, is now the lowest on record.

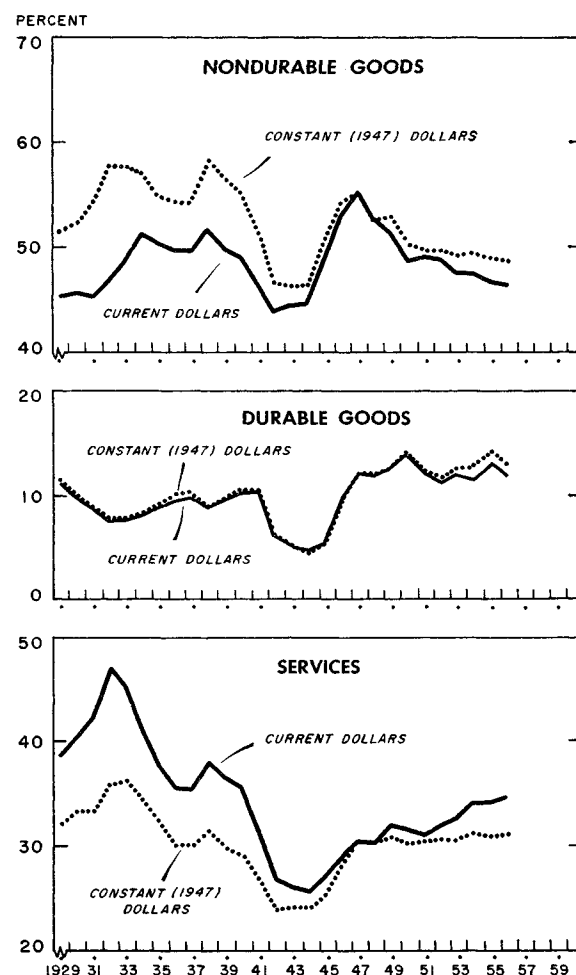
In evaluating the changes in the disposition of consumers' income that have developed over the past decade, distortions from wartime must be kept in mind. Such major factors as

production limitations—especially in consumer durable goods—and price and rent controls had far-reaching and long-lingering effects on consumer spending.

Influence of temporary factors

It has been pointed out that despite the steady postwar uptrend in the proportion of service outlays to disposable

Personal Consumption. Expenditures for Goods and Services as Percent of Disposable Personal Income



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

57-13-6

NOTE.—MR. WINSTON AND MISS SMITH ARE MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS STRUCTURE DIVISION, OFFICE OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS.

425052°—57—2

personal income, the current percentage of 34½ is still lower than in any year in the 1929-40 period. (The 1929 proportion was 38½.)¹ This is also true of services as a percent of total consumption expenditures. Spending for commodities in the last decade, on the other hand, has generally taken a larger proportion of income than in the depression years of the thirties. And, as the obverse of service outlays, the ratio of goods expenditures in the more recent period has been tending downward. Goods expenditures accounted for 58 percent of disposable income in 1956 as compared to 56 percent in 1929. The comparable percentages relative to total consumption expenditures are 63 and 59.

Over the whole period since 1929, implicit prices for all services have risen 51 percent and those of commodities 72 percent. Thus, to a large extent the shifting patterns of consumer spending during the depression, war and subsequent readjustment period reflect price differentials. In recent years with these special influences generally eliminated, real spending for both goods and services as a percent of disposable income has been relatively stable—and at rates little different from 1929.

Except for the 63 percent figure in 1955—equivalent to the 1929 proportion—real outlays for commodities as a percent of real disposable income has varied only between 61.4 and 61.9 in the 1951-56 period. Similarly, the proportion for services has ranged between 30.3 and 31.2 percent in the same period. The comparable 1929 figure is 32.0 (see table 2).

1. "Growth of the Consumer Service Market," *Survey*, May 1956.

The percentage of the 1956 consumer income dollar allocated to commodities and services (in real terms) is in each case only one percentage point below 1929. These differences are, of course, reflected in the savings rate which in 1956 was somewhat over 7 percent as compared to 5 percent in 1929. Here, too, no trend has been recently apparent, although the 6 to 8 percent rate in the past 6 years is higher than in the years of subnormal activity in the immediate prewar decade.

To sum up, the relative distribution of real income between spending and saving in recent years has been quite stable, with the saving rate above that prevailing in 1929 and the spending ratios for both goods and services moderately lower. This is not true, however, of dollar spending which reflects some continuing readjustment of prices toward earlier relationships. As a result, the recent current dollar ratios have been rising steadily for services and declining for goods. In both cases, the movements are back toward ratios prevailing in 1929.

The year 1929 has been used as a convenient basis of comparison since this is a year of relatively full employment for which reliable data are available on a comparable basis. It is of interest to measure the present position against the one of that year.

Changes in past five years

In the past five years the share of income taken by durable-goods expenditures has fluctuated within a range of 11

Table 1.—Personal Consumption Expenditures as a Percentage of Disposable Personal Income

[Percent]

Year	Total goods and services	Total goods	Durable goods				Nondurable goods							Total services
			Total	Automobiles and parts	Furniture and house furnishings	Other	Total	Clothing and shoes	Food	Alcoholic beverages	Gasoline and oil	Tobacco	Other	
1929	95.0	56.4	11.1	3.9	5.7	1.5	45.3	11.3	23.5	-----	2.2	2.0	6.3	38.6
1930	95.4	55.3	9.6	2.9	5.3	1.5	45.7	10.8	24.2	-----	2.4	1.9	6.5	40.1
1931	96.1	53.9	8.6	2.5	4.8	1.3	45.3	10.9	23.1	-----	2.4	2.3	6.7	42.1
1932	101.3	54.3	7.5	2.0	4.3	1.2	46.8	10.4	23.4	-----	3.0	2.7	7.2	47.1
1933	101.4	56.2	7.6	2.3	4.2	1.1	48.6	10.1	23.7	1.5	3.2	2.7	7.4	45.2
1934	99.8	59.4	8.1	2.6	4.3	1.2	51.3	10.9	23.4	3.8	3.2	2.6	7.3	40.4
1935	96.5	59.0	8.8	3.2	4.4	1.2	50.3	10.3	23.4	4.4	3.0	2.5	6.7	37.5
1936	94.6	59.1	9.5	3.5	4.8	1.2	49.6	9.9	23.0	4.8	2.9	2.3	6.6	35.5
1937	94.7	59.3	9.8	3.4	5.0	1.3	49.6	9.6	23.1	4.9	3.0	2.4	6.6	35.4
1938	98.4	60.4	8.7	2.5	4.8	1.4	51.7	10.3	23.8	5.0	3.3	2.6	6.8	38.0
1939	95.9	59.3	9.5	3.1	5.0	1.4	49.9	10.1	22.3	4.9	3.1	2.5	6.9	36.6
1940	94.5	59.1	10.2	3.6	5.2	1.4	48.9	9.8	22.0	4.7	3.0	2.5	6.9	35.4
1941	88.1	56.9	10.4	3.6	5.3	1.5	46.5	9.5	20.9	4.5	2.8	2.3	6.5	31.2
1942	76.4	49.6	5.9	.6	4.0	1.4	43.7	9.3	20.2	4.3	1.8	2.0	6.0	26.8
1943	75.3	49.3	4.9	.6	2.9	1.4	44.4	10.0	20.8	4.4	1.0	2.0	6.1	26.0
1944	74.8	49.1	4.6	.5	2.6	1.5	44.5	10.0	20.9	4.6	.9	1.9	6.3	25.7
1945	80.9	54.1	5.4	.7	3.0	1.7	48.7	10.9	22.7	5.0	1.2	2.0	6.9	26.9
1946	92.1	63.1	10.0	2.5	5.4	2.1	53.1	11.5	25.4	5.3	1.9	2.2	6.9	29.0
1947	97.6	67.3	12.2	3.7	6.5	2.0	55.1	11.1	27.0	5.1	2.1	2.3	7.5	30.4
1948	94.7	64.5	11.8	3.9	6.1	1.8	52.6	10.5	26.3	4.2	2.3	2.2	7.1	30.2
1949	96.0	64.0	12.5	5.0	5.8	1.7	51.5	9.8	25.9	4.1	2.5	2.3	6.9	32.0
1950	94.1	62.6	13.9	6.0	6.3	1.6	48.7	9.0	24.7	3.8	2.4	2.1	6.6	31.5
1951	92.2	61.1	12.0	4.8	5.6	1.6	49.1	8.7	25.8	3.6	2.5	2.1	6.4	31.0
1952	92.0	60.1	11.2	4.4	5.3	1.6	48.9	8.5	25.8	3.7	2.5	2.2	6.2	31.8
1953	92.0	59.5	11.9	5.3	5.1	1.5	47.6	7.9	25.2	3.6	2.6	2.1	6.2	32.6
1954	93.0	59.0	11.5	4.9	5.1	1.6	47.5	7.7	25.3	3.5	2.8	2.1	6.1	33.9
1955	93.9	59.8	13.2	6.3	5.3	1.6	46.6	7.6	24.8	3.3	2.8	2.0	6.1	34.1
1956	92.7	58.2	11.9	5.1	5.2	1.5	46.4	7.5	24.6	3.3	2.9	2.0	6.0	34.5

Detail will not necessarily add to totals due to rounding.

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

to 12 percent, except for the year 1955. In that year automobile buying increased sharply with the widespread acceptance of the new models then introduced, and the expenditure-income ratio for durables exceeded 13 percent. The proportion of income spent for durables in the fifties has equalled or exceeded the 11 percent in 1929 and the average of 10 percent in the years of lowered business activity immediately preceding World War II.

In the case of nondurables the proportion of income spent has been declining slowly in the past 5 years, from 49 percent in 1952 to 46½ percent in 1956. This latter figure is about one percentage point above that for the year 1929.

These changes in the pattern of expenditures in part reflect the differential movement of prices. Prices of non-durable goods have risen most, relatively, since 1929, and service prices, although advancing faster in the more recent years, are still relatively low. In the period 1929 to 1956, the composite price of all goods and services rose 63 percent, with the average prices of the durables up 57 percent; non-durables, 76 percent; and services, 51 percent.

As a result of these varying price movements over the period, the relationship between expenditures and income on a constant dollar basis is substantially different from that shown on a current dollar basis. (Chart p. 9.)

The share of disposable personal income taken by non-durable goods in 1956 (46½ percent) is one percentage point higher than in 1929 on a current dollar basis, but 3 percentage points lower than in the earlier year after adjustment to 1947 prices. The 1956 proportion of durable-goods outlays is above 1929 on either basis, but somewhat more so in real terms.

Relationship between expenditures and income

The second chart shows real expenditures for goods plotted against real disposable personal income for the period 1929 to 1956. The generally close overall relationship between expenditures for goods and income, in both the prewar and postwar years, is apparent. For the postwar period the points plotted are seen to cluster more closely than in the prewar years.

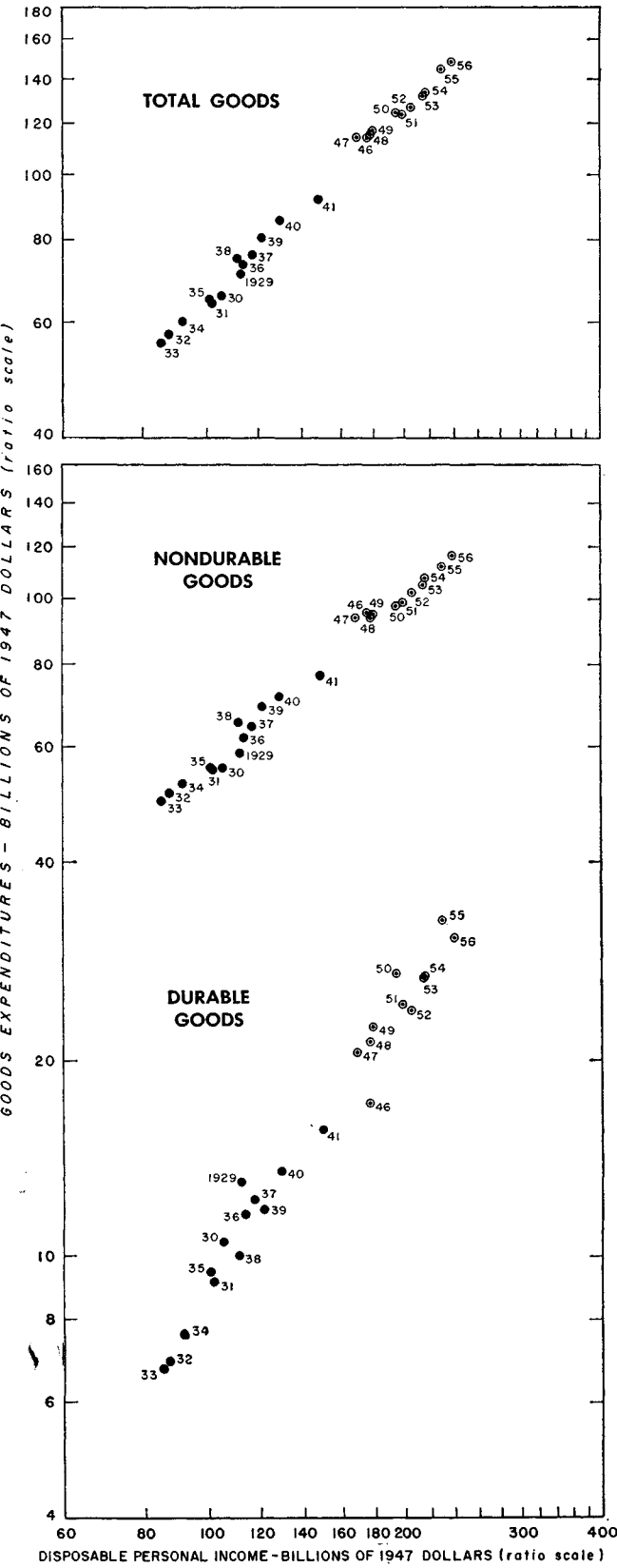
The variation in the patterns shown is a reflection not of shifting spending between distant years of high level business activity, but is in the main a reflection of cyclical movements in the thirties and of war influences in the forties. Production, employment and income changed sharply with a resulting strong impact on consumer budgets, particularly on the purchase of durable goods.

In recent years the economy has been operating at rising levels of activity—at close to capacity utilization—with only short and moderate periods of adjustment in employment and income but with relatively high military budgets.

Durable and nondurable goods buying show differing patterns on the chart. The scatter of the expenditure-income points form a steeper slope for the durables than for the nondurables or, in other words, the former have fluctuated more with business swings. In the postwar period durable-goods expenditures have moved fairly closely with income with the exception of two years. Both 1950 and 1955 are above the general relationship between expenditures and income, reflecting the effect of Korea in the earlier period, and the unusual spurt in car buying in 1955.

In nondurables, after some variation in the early postwar years, expenditures moved closely with income in the fifties with a lesser slope than for durables. As was indicated in an analysis previously presented² demand for certain basic

Real Goods Expenditures Related to Real Disposable Personal Income



2. "Consumer Expenditure-Income Patterns," *Survey*, September 1955.

necessities such as food, clothing and drugs, which form an important segment of the total goods bill, is less sensitive to income changes than demand for most durables.

Table 2.—Personal Consumption Expenditures as a Percentage of Disposable Personal Income, Based Upon Constant (1947) Dollars
[Percent]

Year	Total goods and services	Total goods	Durable goods	Nondurable goods	Services
1929	95.0	63.0	11.5	51.5	32.0
1930	95.4	62.2	10.0	52.2	33.3
1931	96.1	62.8	8.9	53.9	33.3
1932	101.3	65.5	7.8	57.7	35.8
1933	101.5	65.4	7.8	57.6	36.1
1934	99.8	65.5	8.3	57.2	34.3
1935	96.5	64.2	9.3	54.9	32.3
1936	94.6	64.5	10.2	54.3	30.2
1937	94.7	64.5	10.3	54.2	30.2
1938	98.5	67.2	8.9	58.2	31.3
1939	95.9	66.2	9.7	56.5	29.7
1940	94.6	65.7	10.5	55.2	28.9
1941	88.1	61.9	10.5	51.4	26.2
1942	76.3	52.5	6.0	46.5	23.9
1943	75.3	51.2	5.0	46.3	24.1
1944	74.8	50.7	4.3	46.4	24.1
1945	81.0	55.5	5.0	50.5	25.5
1946	92.2	63.9	9.8	54.1	28.3
1947	97.6	67.3	12.2	55.1	30.4
1948	94.7	64.5	12.0	52.5	30.2
1949	96.0	65.3	12.5	52.8	30.8
1950	94.3	64.2	14.0	50.1	30.1
1951	92.2	61.9	12.2	49.7	30.3
1952	92.0	61.4	11.6	49.7	30.6
1953	92.2	61.7	12.5	49.2	30.5
1954	93.0	61.8	12.5	49.4	31.2
1955	93.9	63.0	14.2	48.9	30.8
1956	92.7	61.6	12.9	48.7	31.0

Detail will not necessarily add to totals due to rounding.
Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

Distribution of goods expenditures

The shifts in expenditures by types of goods over the period 1929–56 may be observed in table 3 giving the percent distribution of personal consumption expenditures for goods, in current dollars. Outstanding is the decrease in the proportion of the total going to clothing. This decline has been going on for a long period of time, interrupted only by the war. Since the war's end the ratio has continued steadily downward.

On the other hand, the ratios for automobiles and parts and for gasoline and oil which had declined very sharply under war restrictions have since 1950 exceeded 1929 rates. Food expenditures in 1956 accounted for 42 percent of total goods spending. This was about equal to that in 1929 and somewhat higher than the proportions in years of low business activity prior to 1941.

Thus, patterns of purchasing exhibited in the two broad groups of commodities—durable and nondurable—are not reproduced by the components within the groups. In what follows, some of the major groups of durable- and non-durable-goods expenditures will be discussed to bring out the irregularities as well as the regularities of movement in individual series and their effect upon overall demand.

Food buying

In 1956, outlays for food amounted to \$70 billion, accounting for about two-fifths of total expenditures for goods and for one-fourth of disposable personal income. Like total goods expenditures, they have risen each year since 1938 with the lone exception of 1949.

In the depression of the thirties, from 22 to 24 percent of disposable income went for food. After the war, with the lifting of price controls and rationing, the proportion of income spent for food rose rapidly to an abnormal 27 percent in 1947. The percentage then fell back to 25 in 1953, and has since held at this rate.

Food buying in recent years has in part reflected some change in eating habits of consumers under conditions of full employment and high income. Consumers to an increasing degree have been purchasing a larger proportion of higher-priced foods such as eggs, meats, fruits and vegetables, and less of potatoes and grain cereals. Shifts for the most part appear to be in the direction of improved nutritional standards.

Another factor tending to increase food outlays is the expansion in the use by consumers of partially or wholly processed foods, especially in the frozen food lines. These foods involve higher charges because of the extra services provided by manufacturer and distributor.

Food purchased for home consumption has accounted for about three-fourths of total food and beverage expenditures except during the war and early postwar years. Outlays for restaurant meals have increased relative to total food purchases, while the relative value of food consumed by farm families out of their own production has declined. Purchased meals and beverages accounted for 24 percent of total food and alcoholic beverage expenditures in 1945–46. The ratio declined to 20 percent in 1950 and has since remained at this level.

Clothing takes lesser proportion

Expenditures for clothing and shoes in 1956 amounted to \$21½ billion, or about 7½ percent of disposable personal income. Spending for apparel has shown a generally declining tendency relative to income. In the prewar years the proportion declined somewhat erratically from 11.3 percent in 1929 to 9.8 percent in 1940.

The pattern changed under the impact of wartime factors. The rapid rise in income, increased employment of women in all types of work, migration from small communities and rural areas to large urban centers, and curtailment of production of automobiles and other durable goods which followed the outbreak of World War II—all were factors that operated to increase the amount of money spent for clothing. Despite some restrictions on production, the ratio moved upward to reach 11½ percent in 1946, slightly in excess of the 1929 figure.

The wartime restrictions created a small backlog of demand for clothing on the part of the civilian population. To this was added the need for reoutfitting demobilized military personnel. The deferred demand was much less than in the case of durable goods, since, although limited in certain respects, large supplies of clothing continued to be produced during the war years. Clothing production for the civilian market was quickly increased following the end of the war, and by 1947 the major part of deferred demand appeared to have been met.

In the early postwar years deferred expenditures for automobiles, new housing and household equipment which had not been available during the war, claimed increasing proportions of the consumer dollar. Despite continued in-

creases in income and the high employment in the postwar years, the share of income going for clothing and shoes has been falling steadily. The decline in the share of the consumer's dollar to 7½ percent in 1956 is the most significant recorded shift in consumers' buying patterns.

Dispersion in other nondurable goods

Alcoholic beverage expenditures rose from \$2 billion in 1934, the first year after the repeal of Prohibition, to \$8½ billion in 1947. In the next 2 years, outlays dropped almost \$1 billion. The movement since 1949 has again been upward, except for a fractional decline in 1954 due to curtailed beer consumption. Consumer expenditures for alcoholic beverages in the last 2 years have been about \$9 billion. It may be noted that this figure includes more than \$3 billion of taxes. Also included is part of the expense of entertainment and other services in eating and drinking establishments where separate charge is not made for such items.

Relative to disposable personal income, alcoholic beverages accounted for 4 percent in 1934, varied between 4½ and 5 percent in most later prewar years and then rose to somewhat more than 5 percent in the early postwar years. The proportion has subsequently fallen, and was less than 3½ percent in 1955 and 1956.

Tobacco products have exhibited an almost continuous upward climb. Tobacco expenditures in 1956 at about \$5¼ billion were somewhat more than 2½ times the 1941 total and almost 3½ times that in 1929.

Tobacco expenditures are generally insensitive to income variations. In the fifties the ratio of tobacco expenditures to income has ranged between 2.0 and 2.2 percent. This compares with 2.0 percent in 1929 and a high of 2.7 percent in the depression years.

Cigarettes which accounted for 85 percent of total tobacco expenditures in 1956 have accounted for all the increased use of tobacco in the past decade. Cigar consumption has generally leveled off, while the use of tobacco in other forms has shown a general downtrend.

Along with the growth in the number of cars on the road and the increased use of automobiles under all weather conditions, spending for gasoline and oil has increased greatly. Even in the prewar years of cyclically depressed business, a strong upward time trend in expenditures relative to income was shown, and this has continued in the postwar period. From 1929 to 1956 expenditures for gasoline and oil have increased from \$1.8 billion to \$8.4 billion—more than 3½ times—while disposable personal income has risen about 2½ times. On a relative basis, gasoline and oil expenditures account for 2.9 percent of income in 1956 as compared to 2.2 percent in 1929.

Automobiles have big role

Automobile demand has played a basic role in the pattern of consumption. Registrations of privately-owned passenger cars increased from 23 million in 1929 to 54 million in 1956 and have been rising by about 3 million a year in the last

Table 3.—Distribution of Personal Consumption Expenditures for Goods, by Major Commodities

[Percent]

Year	Total goods	Durable goods				Nondurable goods						
		Total	Automobiles and parts	Furniture and house furnishings	Other	Total	Clothing and shoes	Food	Alcoholic beverages	Gasoline and oil	Tobacco	Other
1929.....	100.0	19.6	6.9	10.1	2.6	80.4	20.0	41.7	-----	3.9	3.6	11.2
1930.....	100.0	17.4	5.3	9.5	2.6	82.6	19.5	43.6	-----	4.2	3.5	11.7
1931.....	100.0	15.9	4.6	8.9	2.5	84.1	20.1	42.8	-----	4.5	4.3	12.4
1932.....	100.0	13.8	3.6	7.9	2.3	86.2	19.1	43.1	-----	5.6	5.0	13.3
1933.....	100.0	13.5	4.1	7.4	2.0	86.5	18.0	42.2	2.6	5.7	4.8	13.2
1934.....	100.0	13.6	4.4	7.2	2.0	86.4	18.3	39.5	6.5	5.3	4.4	12.3
1935.....	100.0	14.8	5.4	7.4	2.0	85.2	17.5	39.6	7.4	5.1	4.2	11.4
1936.....	100.0	16.1	5.9	8.2	2.0	83.9	16.8	38.9	8.1	5.0	3.9	11.2
1937.....	100.0	16.4	5.7	8.4	2.3	83.6	16.2	39.0	8.2	5.1	4.0	11.0
1938.....	100.0	14.3	4.1	7.9	2.3	85.7	17.1	39.4	8.2	5.4	4.3	11.3
1939.....	100.0	16.0	5.2	8.4	2.3	84.0	17.1	37.7	8.2	5.2	4.2	11.7
1940.....	100.0	17.3	6.1	8.7	2.4	82.7	16.6	37.2	8.0	5.1	4.2	11.7
1941.....	100.0	18.3	6.4	9.3	2.6	81.7	16.6	36.8	7.9	5.0	4.0	11.4
1942.....	100.0	12.0	1.2	8.0	2.7	88.0	18.8	40.7	8.7	3.6	4.1	12.1
1943.....	100.0	10.0	1.2	5.9	2.9	90.0	20.3	42.3	8.9	2.0	4.1	12.4
1944.....	100.0	9.4	1.1	5.3	3.0	90.6	20.3	42.5	9.4	1.9	3.8	12.8
1945.....	100.0	10.0	1.2	5.6	3.1	90.0	20.2	41.9	9.2	2.2	3.7	12.8
1946.....	100.0	15.8	3.9	8.6	3.3	84.2	18.2	40.3	8.3	3.0	3.5	10.9
1947.....	100.0	18.1	5.5	9.6	3.0	81.9	16.5	40.1	7.6	3.2	3.4	11.1
1948.....	100.0	18.4	6.0	9.5	2.8	81.6	16.2	40.8	6.6	3.6	3.4	11.1
1949.....	100.0	19.6	7.9	9.0	2.7	80.4	15.4	40.5	6.4	3.9	3.5	10.7
1950.....	100.0	22.2	9.6	10.0	2.6	77.8	14.3	39.5	6.1	3.9	3.4	10.6
1951.....	100.0	19.6	7.9	9.2	2.6	80.4	14.3	42.2	5.9	4.0	3.4	10.5
1952.....	100.0	18.7	7.3	8.8	2.6	81.3	14.1	43.0	6.1	4.2	3.6	10.4
1953.....	100.0	20.0	8.8	8.6	2.6	80.0	13.4	42.3	6.0	4.4	3.6	10.4
1954.....	100.0	19.5	8.4	8.6	2.6	80.5	13.1	42.8	5.9	4.8	3.5	10.4
1955.....	100.0	22.0	10.6	8.8	2.6	78.0	12.8	41.4	5.6	4.8	3.3	10.1
1956.....	100.0	20.4	8.7	9.0	2.6	79.6	12.9	42.2	5.7	5.0	3.4	10.4

Detail will not necessarily add to totals due to rounding.

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

three years. There were 24 million, or about 80 percent, more cars on the road in 1956 than in the highest prewar year 1941, despite the fact that there were practically no new cars for civilians produced in four of the intervening years.

Many factors have helped to account for the great expansion in automobile ownership in the postwar years. The rise in disposable personal income and in installment credit, together with a large volume of accumulated assets, have enabled desire to be translated into possession. In this setting such factors as the high rate of family formation, the outmigration to suburban areas, and the increase in leisure time and longer vacations have had a strong influence on automobile demand. Consumer surveys show that about three-fourths of all family units owned cars in 1956 compared to about one-half immediately prior to the war.

In considering the relationship to disposable income of expenditures for automobiles and parts in the postwar period, it may be observed that, while income and expenditures moved on the average fairly closely together beginning with the year 1949, there has been a certain amount of erratic fluctuation. In 5 of the last 8 years, the ratio of expenditures to income varied between 4.8 and 5.3 percent. In three of the years the ratio was significantly different from 5 percent, the years being 1950, 1952 and 1955 when the ratios were respectively, 6.0, 4.4, and 6.3 percent. The Korean hostilities stimulated demand in 1950 and, together with the steel strike, limited supply in 1952. The year 1955 represented a special situation when there was a very unusual spurt in demand.

Furniture and household equipment

For the equipment and furnishing of their homes, consumers spent about \$15 billion in 1956. This includes furniture, floor coverings, radio and television sets, appliances, and various other durable housewares.

Demand for household goods, while generally rising, has followed a varied course. There was a small decline in 1949 followed by a sharp spurt in 1950. For four years thereafter purchases changed very little but were slightly below 1950. Only in 1955 and 1956 were sizable advances evident, with renewed vigor shown in all the segments comprising this broad and heterogeneous group.

Relative to income, total home furnishing expenditures declined from 5.7 percent in 1929 to a depression low of 4.2 percent in 1933, then climbed back, with recovery, to 5.2 percent in 1940. Of course, during wartime the ratio dropped again, but after the war, restrictions were removed and spending for these items rose rapidly to satisfy both backlog demand and growing requirements. The special circumstances existing in 1947 lifted the ratio to 6.5 percent. It declined thereafter but has varied little from an average of 5.2 percent in the 1952-56 period.

An important factor influencing sales of home goods is sales of new housing, and the changing rate of family formation is an important factor in the basic demand. In the past 5 years family formation has increased at a steady rate of about 2 percent per year. While not so high as the 3½ percent shown for the demobilization affected years 1946-50, it is above the 1½ percent rate in the prewar depression years.

Other factors having an effect on home furnishing expenditures are the increased proportion of households occupying individual houses rather than apartments, the shift from urban to rural areas, the growth of consumer credit, and the degree of saturation of the market for appliances.

Growth of appliance market

Expenditures for household appliances, the largest component of the furniture and household equipment group, amounted to \$4.4 billion in 1956, or about 1.5 percent of disposable personal income. This compares with less than 1 percent in 1929 and about 1.2 percent in 1940.

During 1956, some 3.7 million refrigerators and nearly 1 million home freezers were sold. Data for the past several years indicate that the refrigerator industry has fairly well settled down to an annual volume of between 3½ and 4 million units. The one exception is 1950 when sales spurted to 6.2 million units. Home freezer sales, on the other hand, seem to have stabilized at around the million unit mark for the past six years. In the case of refrigerators, about three-fourths are replacement sales, with new home construction accounting for the remainder. Owners of old refrigerators have been induced to replace them by new models containing freezer units, even if the old equipment

(Continued on page 24)

Table 4.—Personal Consumption Expenditures for Goods, by Major Expenditure Categories, for Selected Years

[Billions of dollars]

	1929	1933	1937	1941	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Percent increase	
																	1929 to 1956	1946 to 1956
Total goods	46.9	25.7	42.1	52.9	81.3	100.4	113.7	121.0	120.5	129.0	138.2	142.8	148.9	150.2	161.8	166.9	256	66
Durable goods.....	9.2	3.5	6.9	9.7	8.1	15.9	20.6	22.2	23.6	28.6	27.1	26.6	29.8	29.4	35.7	34.0	269	114
Automobiles and parts.....	3.2	1.1	2.4	3.4	1.0	3.9	6.3	7.3	9.5	12.4	10.9	10.4	13.2	12.6	17.2	14.6	350	270
Furniture and household equipment.....	4.8	1.9	3.6	4.9	4.6	8.7	11.0	11.5	10.9	12.9	12.7	12.5	12.8	12.9	14.3	15.0	216	74
Other.....	1.2	.5	1.0	1.4	2.5	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.7	3.9	3.9	4.2	4.4	261	33
Nondurable goods.....	37.7	22.3	35.2	43.2	73.2	84.5	93.1	98.7	96.9	100.4	111.1	116.1	119.1	120.9	126.2	132.9	253	57
Clothing and shoes.....	9.4	4.6	6.8	8.8	16.5	18.2	18.8	19.6	18.5	18.5	19.8	20.1	19.9	19.7	20.6	21.6	130	18
Food.....	19.5	10.9	16.4	19.4	34.1	40.4	45.6	49.4	48.8	51.0	58.3	61.4	63.0	64.3	67.0	80.0	309	64
Alcoholic beverages.....	—	.7	3.5	4.2	7.5	8.4	8.6	7.9	7.7	7.9	8.2	8.7	8.9	8.8	9.0	—	—	—
Gasoline and oil.....	1.8	1.5	2.1	2.6	1.8	3.0	3.6	4.3	4.7	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.6	7.2	7.7	8.4	361	176
Tobacco.....	1.7	1.2	1.7	2.1	3.0	3.5	3.9	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.7	5.1	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.7	235	63
Other.....	5.3	3.4	4.7	6.0	10.4	11.0	12.6	13.4	12.9	13.6	14.5	14.8	15.4	15.6	16.4	17.3	228	58
Addendum:																		
Total personal consumption expenditures.....	79.0	46.4	67.3	81.9	121.7	146.6	165.0	177.6	180.6	194.0	208.3	218.3	230.5	236.5	254.0	265.7	237	81
Disposable personal income.....	83.1	45.7	71.0	93.0	150.4	159.2	169.0	187.6	188.2	206.1	226.1	237.4	250.2	254.4	270.6	286.7	245	80

Detail will not necessarily add to totals due to rounding.

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

Debt Changes in 1956

In Relation to Saving and Investment

THE MAJOR developments in the field of public and private debt formation last year were a hardening in money and credit conditions, on the one hand, and a marked slowing in the overall rate of debt growth on the other. Investment demand was particularly strong in 1956, and economic activity moved forward on a broad front.

Expansion in bank credit through loans and security purchases continued, though limited by pressure on reserves, and expanding activity was based on a more efficient use of the available money supply as evidenced by the increase in the velocity of circulation. The investment-saving pattern for the year required some shifts in the direction of the flow of capital funds; these were facilitated by the spending-savings decisions of the various economic groups, and partly induced by a rise in interest rates.

Corporate real investment in productive facilities was up sharply in 1956, both in dollar amount and in proportion to total private investment. Most of the matching rise in national saving, however, took place in other segments of the economy, the bulk of it going to individuals. The market-mechanism shifted these funds in the direction of most insistent demands.

Rise in debt slackened

Net public and private debt rose from \$656 billion at the beginning of 1956 to a total of \$684 billion at year end. The increase of \$28 billion compared with the high of \$49½ billion recorded for 1955, and was somewhat below the average increases of 1950-53.

Outstanding among the year's changes was the \$6 billion reduction in the net Federal debt—the first substantial cut since 1948. This reduction had an important influence upon money markets and the general saving-investment pattern which characterized the year. It released funds which could be utilized by private enterprises to facilitate the large expansion in business investment.

Gross Federal debt, including obligations held by Federal agencies and trust funds as well as by the public, also was down last year for the first time in nearly a decade.

The net increase in debt of borrowers other than the Federal Government amounted to \$34 billion in 1956, as compared with \$48½ billion in the previous year. The change was practically all in the private category since the increase in State and local government indebtedness—the bulk of which is long term—slowed only from \$5 billion in 1955 to \$4½ billion last year.

The sharpest changes centered as usual in short- and medium-term credit instruments, of which the total outstanding rose \$8 billion last year as against \$21½ billion the year before (see chart). Net new long-term borrowing, at \$26 billion, was only slightly lower than in 1955.

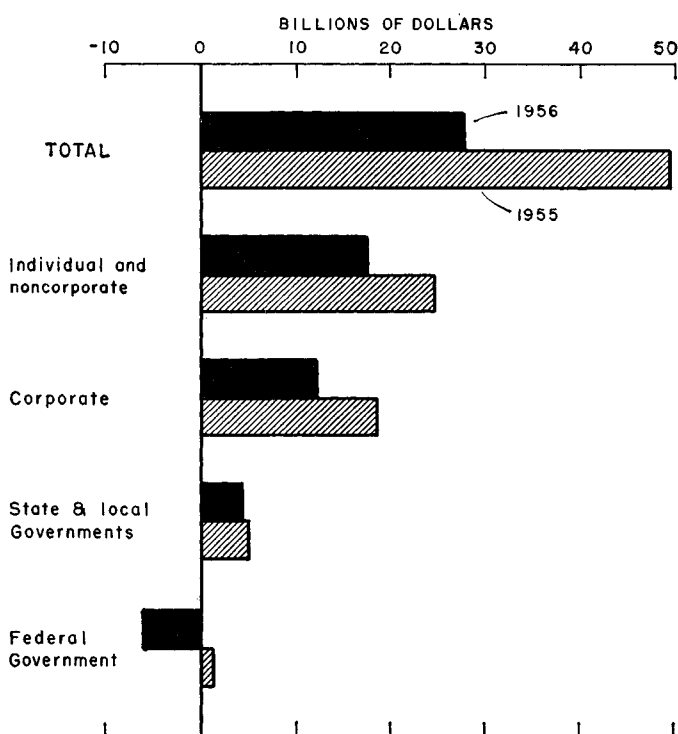
NOTE.—MR. GORMAN IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL INCOME DIVISION, OFFICE OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS.

Among the various borrower groups, individuals (including those operating unincorporated enterprises) incurred \$17½ billion in net new obligations. The chief single element in a \$7 billion slowdown from the 1955 pace of such borrowing was a drop in the rate of consumer credit expansion, which had reached an extremely high figure in 1955. Changes in this item were strongly influenced by nonfinancial factors—particularly the autonomous decisions of consumers as to the size of their automotive purchases. The remainder of the slowdown occurred primarily in security loans and other short-term credit.

Mortgage indebtedness on 1-4 family residential real estate, the chief type of long-term debt owed by individuals, advanced \$10½ billion. The increase was the second largest ever registered in this category, being exceeded only in 1955.

Corporate borrowing presented a similar but even more marked pattern of contrast between long- and short-term components. The net increase in long-term corporate debt was the largest on record, amounting to \$8 billion, or 19

Annual Changes in Total Debt



Data: U.S. Treasury Dept., Census Bur., & OBE

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

57-13-8

percent more than the 1955 rise. Short-term corporate debt, however, rose only \$4½ billion last year, or only three-eighths as much as the year before. The extreme sharpness of this decline in net new short-term borrowing reflects in part a reduction in accrued income tax liability outstanding; even if this item is excluded, however, net short-term borrowing in 1956 was only about two-thirds of the 1955 figure.

Interest burden

The growth of public and private debt over the past decade has been accompanied by a rise in the volume of interest charges. At the same time, however, the earnings and other current receipts of the major borrower groups have expanded sufficiently so that the fractions going for

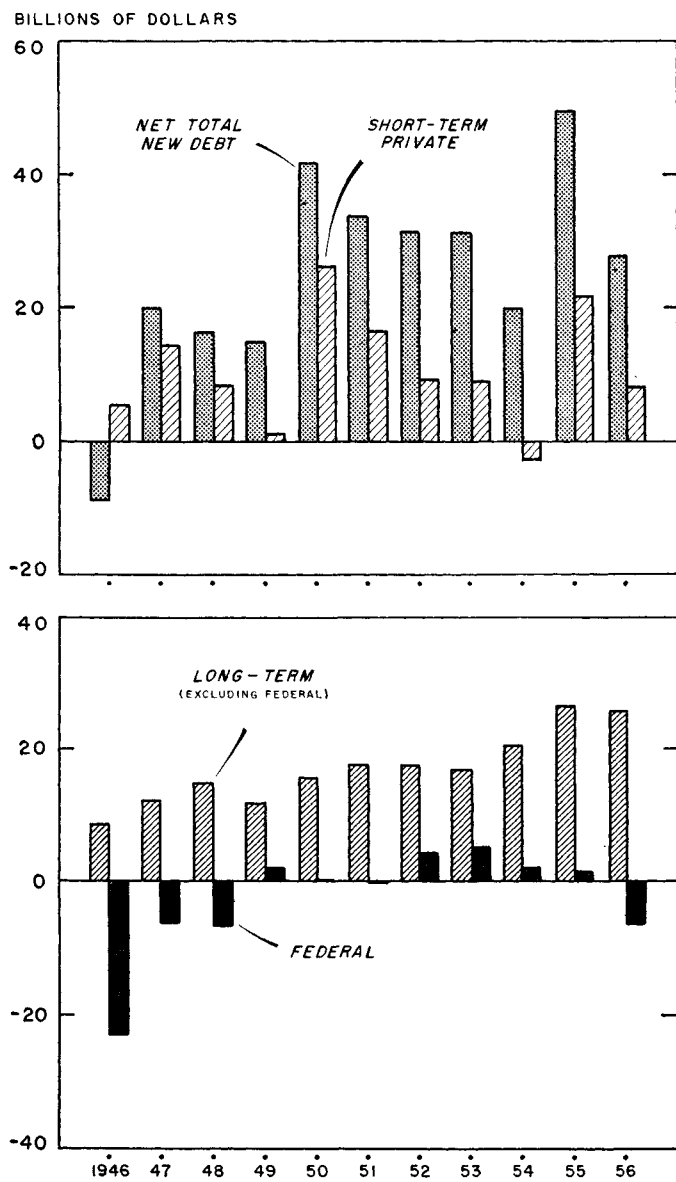
interest payments have generally remained close to lows recorded at the start of the postwar period; and in the case of the Federal Government the percentage has shown a significant decline. For all borrower groups, moreover, the ratios are lower than in 1929 or at the close of the prewar period.

The general picture may be seen in the two charts on page 20, which show, respectively, the changes in interest cost relative to income for selected years over the period 1929-56 on private and government debt.

SAVING AND INVESTMENT

Of the \$28 billion of net new lending to public and private borrowers last year, \$4½ billion consisted of bank credit extended through loans and security purchases. Commercial banks thus accounted for about one-sixth of the total. This fraction compares with one-tenth in 1955, when the banks had supplied \$5 billion of the \$49½ billion total lent.

Annual Changes in Net Public and Private Debt



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

57-13-9

Restraint of bank credit expansion

The expansion of bank credit was restrained last year by the continued tight reserve position of the commercial banking system. Member banks in major cities, which play a key part in the national money market, held excess reserves averaging less than \$0.1 billion during the year, while their average liabilities to the Federal Reserve amounted to nearly \$0.7 billion, and recourse to further borrowing from the Reserve Banks was discouraged by increases in rediscount rates from 2½ percent at the turn of the year to 2¾ percent by mid-April and to 3 percent before the end of August.

Open market operations served chiefly to meet seasonal fluctuations in the demand for means of payment. Reserves required against demand deposits remained unchanged at 20 percent for central reserve city banks, 18 percent for reserve city banks and 12 percent for others.

Corporations require more external capital

Pressure on the money and capital markets last year was associated with an expansion of corporate investment which required more outside capital (noncorporate saving) to finance the rise in the rate of real investment. Corporations invested \$37 billion in plant, equipment, and expansion of inventories, or \$8 billion more than in 1955. Gross saving by these corporations during the year is placed at about \$25 billion, or about the same as in 1955, as the growth in depreciation allowances was largely offset by a dip in retained earnings.

In financing its investment programs (and a limited increase in cash holdings) under these circumstances, corporate business obtained a net total of more than \$12 billion from the money and capital markets, an amount several times that taken in 1955. (These operations are discussed in more detail in a later section of this report.) The bulk of the expansion was supplied out of consumers' saving.

Individuals reverse role in money market

Gross personal saving, before deduction of depreciation charges, approached \$35 billion last year. This was several billion more than in 1955, consumer spending for durable goods in particular having taken a smaller fraction of disposable personal income. The rise in saving together with the change in investment by individuals on their own

account made a larger volume of personal funds available for corporate use in 1956 than the year before. The increase in funds so made available was limited, however, by existing plans and institutional arrangements which tended to channel such saving partly into other uses.

During 1955, consumers had withdrawn several billion more from the money and capital markets through new borrowing than they had supplied through savings deposits, security purchases and debt retirement. In 1956, this pattern was reversed, as individuals made a net contribution to the market supply of investment funds on the order of \$5-\$6 billion. Expressed as a percentage of personal saving, this input was well above the average for recent years, while both the percentage of saving devoted to financing new direct investment in physical assets and that used to build up personal cash balances seem to have been considerably lower than average.

Outlay for new housing and consumer durable goods had been very high in 1955, and some easing in basic demand for such goods noted in 1956 apparently tended to increase the amount of personal saving available for corporate use even without a rise in interest rates. Despite this favorable circumstance, however, it seems likely that the tighter credit conditions of 1956 reflected in part the difficulty of financing a greater share of corporate investment externally. In 1955, the rise of corporate investment could be financed to a much greater extent from internal sources of funds.

Changes from 1955 to 1956 in the money and capital market positions of other segments of the economy seem to

have been largely offsetting in the aggregate. Federal, State, and local governments combined released over \$2 billion more of investment funds last year than the year before—the net Federal debt having been reduced; and net foreign investment absorbed a total which was higher by about the same amount.

GOVERNMENT DEBT

Total net debt of all levels of government combined was reduced last year. The decline in the Federal component was partly offset by the further rise in State and local debt.

Reduction in federal debt aids private expansion

Net Federal debt, comprising publicly held obligations of the Treasury and other U. S. agencies, was reduced \$6 billion in the calendar year 1956 to a year-end figure of \$225½ billion. After having declined in 1947 and in 1948, such debt had shown relatively little further change until the Korean war period, when moderate advances occurred. These tapered off after 1953. (See chart.)

The rise in Federal Government expenditures was held below the advance in tax collections last year, and the \$3 billion deficit in the administrative Budget reported for the calendar year 1955 was replaced in calendar 1956 by a \$4 billion surplus. With Treasury cash balances virtually unchanged, the entire surplus was applied to the reduction of debt. (See text table.)

Tables 1 and 2.—Public and Private Debt (Net and Gross), End of Calendar Year, 1945-56¹

[Billions of dollars]

End of year	Public and private, total	Public			Private								
		Total	Federal ²	State and local	Total	Corporate			Individual and noncorporate				
						Total	Long-term	Short-term	Total	Mortgage		Nonmortgage	
										Farm	Nonfarm ³	Farm ⁴	Nonfarm ⁵
Table 1.—Net Public and Private Debt ⁶													
1945.....	406.3	266.4	252.7	13.7	139.9	85.3	38.3	47.0	54.6	4.8	27.0	2.5	20.4
1946.....	397.4	243.3	229.7	13.6	154.1	93.5	41.3	52.2	60.6	4.9	32.5	2.7	20.5
1947.....	417.4	237.7	223.3	14.4	179.7	108.9	46.1	62.8	70.8	5.1	38.7	3.5	23.5
1948.....	433.6	232.7	216.5	16.2	200.9	117.8	52.5	65.3	83.1	5.3	45.1	5.5	27.3
1949.....	448.4	236.7	218.6	18.1	211.7	118.0	56.5	61.5	93.7	5.6	50.6	6.4	31.2
1950.....	490.3	239.4	218.7	20.7	250.9	142.1	60.1	81.9	108.8	6.1	59.4	6.2	37.2
1951.....	524.0	241.8	218.5	23.3	282.2	162.5	66.6	95.9	119.7	6.6	67.4	7.0	38.8
1952.....	555.2	248.7	222.9	25.8	306.5	171.0	73.3	97.7	135.5	7.2	75.2	8.0	45.2
1953.....	586.3	256.7	228.1	28.6	329.6	179.5	78.3	101.2	150.1	7.7	83.8	9.1	49.6
1954.....	606.2	263.6	230.2	33.4	342.6	177.3	82.6	94.8	165.3	8.2	94.7	9.3	53.1
1955.....	655.8	269.9	231.5	38.4	385.9	195.9	89.3	106.5	190.0	9.0	108.8	9.7	62.6
1956.....	683.8	268.1	225.4	42.7	415.7	208.2	97.3	110.9	207.5	9.8	121.7	9.6	66.4

Table 1.—Net Public and Private Debt⁶

1945.....	463.3	309.2	292.6	16.6	154.1	99.5	45.3	54.2	54.6	4.8	27.0	2.5	20.4
1946.....	457.9	288.0	272.1	15.9	169.9	109.3	48.4	60.9	60.6	4.9	32.5	2.7	20.5
1947.....	485.6	286.6	269.8	16.8	199.0	128.2	55.0	73.2	70.8	5.1	38.7	3.5	23.5
1948.....	498.6	276.7	258.0	18.7	221.9	138.8	62.8	76.0	83.1	5.3	45.1	5.5	27.3
1949.....	520.3	287.0	266.1	20.9	233.3	139.6	67.7	71.8	93.7	5.6	50.6	6.4	31.2
1950.....	566.4	290.6	266.4	24.2	275.8	167.0	72.2	94.9	108.8	6.1	59.4	6.2	37.2
1951.....	607.5	297.2	270.2	27.0	310.3	190.6	79.9	110.8	119.7	6.6	67.4	7.0	38.8
1952.....	646.0	308.9	279.3	29.6	337.1	201.6	88.0	113.5	135.5	7.2	75.2	8.0	45.2
1953.....	683.6	322.0	289.3	32.7	361.6	211.5	93.9	117.6	150.1	7.7	83.8	9.1	49.6
1954.....	707.3	332.3	294.4	37.9	375.0	209.7	99.1	110.6	165.3	8.2	94.7	9.3	53.1
1955.....	766.5	345.0	301.8	43.2	421.5	231.5	107.3	124.2	190.0	9.0	108.8	9.7	62.6
1956.....	802.7	348.5	300.5	48.0	454.2	246.7	117.0	129.7	207.5	9.8	121.7	9.6	66.4

Table 2.—Gross Public and Private Debt

1. Data for State and local governments are for June 30 of each year.
2. Includes categories of debt not subject to the statutory debt limit.
3. Data are for noncorporate borrowers only. (See table 6.)
4. Comprises non-real-estate debt of farmers and farm cooperatives owed to institutional lenders (includes CCC loans).
5. Comprises debt incurred for commercial (nonfarm), financial and consumer purposes, including debt owed by farmers for financial and consumer purposes.

6. The concepts used in this report are described in the October 1950 *Survey*. Prior-year data for tables 1-7 appear in the September 1953 *Survey*.

Sources: U. S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service; U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics and Bureau of the Census.

A further \$2½ billion of Treasury debt which had been held by the public was retired by use, in effect, of the proceeds of new issues placed with federally administered trust funds and other government investment accounts. Total acquisitions of Treasury securities for the trust and investment accounts were about the same last year as during 1955. The proportion taken by the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund declined somewhat, however, while other trust funds took a larger fraction of the total. These shifts reflected variations in the annual operating surpluses of the respective accounts.

[Billions of dollars]

	Calendar year			
	1953	1954	1955	1956
Budgetary deficit (+) or surplus (-)	9.2	3.7	2.8	-3.8
Plus: Increase (+) or decrease (-)				
in cash balance.....	-1.5	.6	-.6	-.1
Clearing account, etc.....	.1	-.7	-.1	-.2
Equals: Total borrowed (+) or retired (-)	7.8	3.6	2.0	-4.1
From Federal agencies and accounts.....	2.4	1.3	2.1	2.3
UC trust fund.....	.5	-.8	.0	.3
OASI trust fund.....	1.3	1.6	1.2	.7
Civil-service trust fund.....	.3	.3	.6	.8
Other.....	.3	.3	.3	.5
From outside sources.....	5.4	2.3	-.1	-6.4

Treasury obligations to the amount of \$67 billion were refinanced during the year. In the face of rising interest rates, the bulk of this refinancing was done by the issue of securities scheduled to mature in 1957. The amount of marketable debt due within one year rose \$8 billion to reach \$68½ billion, or nearly 43 percent of the year-end total outstanding.

Obligations of Federal business-type agencies held outside the Government, which had risen in 1955 as housing finance agencies borrowed from the public, increased another \$½ billion. The Federal agencies' debt to the Treasury, however, increased \$2½ billion last year. This rise reflected chiefly the borrowings of the Commodity Credit Corporation to finance the various agricultural price support programs.

The gross measures of Federal debt included in tables 2 and 3 reflect both the Treasury lending to other Federal agencies and its issue of securities to the trust and investment accounts, so that the reduction shown by these measures is smaller than that in net debt.

Borrowing required for State and local government capital outlays

Net debt of State and local governments amounted to nearly \$43 billion on June 30, 1956, having increased about \$4½ billion in the fiscal year 1956 and \$5 billion in the previous fiscal year. (Comprehensive statistics of State and local government debt, unlike other statistics presented in this report, are not prepared on a calendar year-end basis.)

Both State and local governments have been heavy borrowers throughout the postwar period, the funds so raised serving chiefly to supplement operating surpluses in the financing of new schools, streets and highways, and other fixed facilities. The reduced pace of debt expansion last year was associated with the postponement or cancellation of a number of proposed new issues awaiting more favorable bond markets.

Borrowing by local governments nevertheless continued at about the 1955 rate, though the rise in debt of State governments slackened. The latter accounted for one fourth of total net new borrowing of all non-Federal Governments last year. A downtrend in this fraction, which amounted to two-fifths as recently as 1954, has reflected in major part a decline in borrowing for toll roads. Under the Federal Aid Highway Program enacted last year, an increasing proportion of new highway construction is expected to be financed with Federal funds, out of current tax revenues set aside for this purpose. (See article in December 1956 *Survey*.)

CORPORATE FINANCE

As noted above, in order to carry out the huge investment programs of 1956 corporations supplemented their own saving by drafts to a net total of over \$12 billion on the money and capital markets.

Aside from borrowing operations, corporate transactions in these markets included the sale of equity securities in the

Table 3.—Gross and Net Federal Government Debt, End of Calendar Years, 1945–56

[Millions of dollars]

End of year	Gross debt							Duplicating debt					Net debt		
	Federal Government and Federal agency, total ¹	Federal Government					Federal agency ³	Federal Government and Federal agency, total	Federal Government securities held by Federal agencies and trust funds	Federal agency securities ^{4 5}			Federal Government and Federal agency, total	Federal Government	Federal agency
		Total	Interest bearing			Non-interest bearing ²				Total	Held by U. S. Treasury	Held by other Federal agencies			
			Total	Public issues	Special issues										
1945.....	292,599	278,114	275,693	255,693	20,000	2,421	14,485	39,857	27,041	12,816	11,775	1,041	252,742	251,073	1,669
1946.....	272,147	259,149	257,649	233,064	24,585	1,500	12,998	42,398	30,913	11,485	10,693	792	229,749	228,236	1,513
1947.....	269,753	256,900	254,205	225,250	28,955	2,695	12,853	46,435	34,352	12,083	11,840	243	223,318	222,548	770
1948.....	257,994	252,800	250,580	218,866	31,714	2,220	5,194	41,510	37,317	4,193	3,953	240	216,484	215,483	1,001
1949.....	266,067	257,130	255,019	221,123	33,896	2,111	8,937	47,483	39,346	8,137	7,304	833	218,584	217,784	800
1950.....	266,415	256,708	254,283	220,576	33,707	2,425	9,707	47,713	39,197	8,516	8,470	46	218,702	217,511	1,191
1951.....	270,188	259,419	257,070	221,168	35,902	2,349	10,769	51,639	42,281	9,358	9,292	66	218,549	217,138	1,411
1952.....	279,317	267,391	265,293	226,143	39,150	2,098	11,926	56,436	45,893	10,543	10,496	47	222,881	221,498	1,383
1953.....	289,307	275,168	272,881	231,684	41,197	2,287	14,139	61,195	48,313	12,882	12,857	25	228,112	226,855	1,257
1954.....	294,386	278,750	275,731	233,165	42,566	3,019	15,636	64,144	49,609	14,535	14,508	27	230,242	229,141	1,101
1955.....	301,845	280,769	277,799	233,873	43,926	2,970	21,076	70,377	51,723	18,654	18,642	12	231,469	229,046	2,423
1956.....	300,483	276,628	274,219	228,581	45,639	2,409	23,855	75,087	54,001	21,086	21,027	59	225,395	222,627	2,768

1. Includes categories of debt not subject to the statutory debt limit.

2. Includes matured debt on which interest has ceased.

3. Bonds, debentures, and notes payable, including securities held by U. S. Treasury.

4. Bonds, debentures, and notes payable.

5. Federal agency securities held in Federal Trust funds were less than \$500,000 in all year^s shown.

Source: U. S. Treasury Department.

net amount of \$3 billion, the liquidation of \$5 billion in Federal securities held, and, on the other side of the account, the provision of \$8 billion in trade credit to customers and suppliers. Net new corporate debt formation is shown in the perspective of these other transactions in the following summary. (For purposes of the debt study, corporate statistics are shown on a somewhat more fully consolidated basis than in the regular OBE analyses of the sources and uses of corporate funds.)

	1956 (billions of dollars)
Borrowing.....	12½
Short-term.....	4½
Long-term.....	8
Plus: Stock issues.....	3
Plus: Liquidation of Federal securities.....	5
Less: Credit extended to others.....	8
Equals: Net draft on money and capital markets.....	12½

A substantial portion of the slowdown in short-term corporate borrowing centered in amounts owed to the Federal Government in the form of outstanding corporate income tax liabilities, which were reduced last year after having risen during 1955. Declines in the rate of new borrowing were marked in other categories as well, however, the 1955 pace of short-term debt formation in these having slowed by one-third.

Details on the industrial distribution of short-term corporate borrowing are unavailable. Some indication of changes may be derived, however, from the reported distribution of bank lending for commercial and industrial purposes. These data indicate a substantial shift last year. Net new lending to manufacturers was more than double that of 1955, while sales finance companies reduced their indebtedness to commercial banks in 1956 after a \$1½ billion expansion in the previous year. Net new borrowing by other industrial divisions showed smaller and generally offsetting changes.

The \$1 billion rise in net new long-term borrowing last year took the form of a \$½ billion rise in new issues and a slowdown of comparable magnitude in retirements. The tight money market was reflected in deferral or cancellation of a number of proposed issues.

Like the increase in bank credit, the rise in long-term borrowing centered in manufacturing, where the acceleration in the rate of plant, equipment and inventory investment was most marked. Net long-term debt formation by nonmanufacturing corporations continued at about the 1955 rate.

Corporate liquidity position

Corporate business as a whole was in a somewhat less liquid position at the end of 1956 than a year earlier. Corporate holdings of Federal securities being down and the increase in cash items limited, the overall ratio of cash and U. S. securities to current liabilities declined from 54 percent at the beginning of the year to 47½ percent at the end. The year-end ratio of total current assets including trade receivables and inventories to current liabilities, however, was substantially the same as at the close of 1955.

INDIVIDUALS' AND NONCORPORATE DEBT

In combination, the various financial transactions carried on by individuals had resulted in 1955 in a net withdrawal of funds from the money and capital markets. As has been noted above, their financial transactions in 1956 had the

opposite effect: persons entered the markets, on balance, as net suppliers of funds.

Although the data now available do not permit a precise or detailed analysis of the shifts through which this change occurred, the broad outlines seem clear. In 1955, individuals' borrowing for consumption and business purposes and on residential mortgages had drawn more funds from the markets than their security purchases, savings deposits, and saving through insurance programs during the year had supplied. By comparison, their total borrowings last year were substantially lower than the year before, while the security purchases and savings deposits made in 1956 were larger than in 1955.

Among these changes, the drop in net new consumer borrowing seems to have been quantitatively the most important single factor, about matching in size the estimated increase over 1955 in the combined total of security purchases and sums entrusted to banks and other financial intermediaries during the year. Also important was the drop in individuals' borrowing through the mortgage market.

These and other debt changes will be discussed in succeeding sections of this report.

Consumer credit

Short- and intermediate-term consumer credit rose \$3½ billion during 1956, a total of \$42 billion being outstanding at the end of the year. In 1955, such debt had expanded by a record \$6½ billion.

Table 4.—Gross and Net State and Local Government Debt, June 30, 1945–56

[Millions of dollars]

End of fiscal year	Gross debt			Duplicating debt ²			Net debt		
	Total ¹	State	Local	Total	State	Local	Total	State	Local
1945.....	16,589	2,425	14,164	2,864	1,046	1,818	13,725	1,379	12,346
1946.....	15,922	2,358	13,564	2,349	754	1,595	13,573	1,604	11,969
1947.....	16,825	2,978	13,847	2,428	804	1,624	14,397	2,174	12,223
1948.....	18,702	3,722	14,980	2,476	851	1,625	16,226	2,871	13,355
1949.....	20,875	4,024	16,851	2,726	970	1,756	18,149	3,054	15,095
1950 ³	24,191	5,361	18,830	3,468	1,398	2,070	20,723	3,963	16,760
1951 ³	27,040	6,373	20,667	3,693	1,482	2,211	23,347	4,891	18,456
1952 ³	29,624	7,040	22,584	3,852	1,465	2,387	25,771	5,575	20,196
1953 ³	32,735	8,001	24,734	4,176	1,628	2,548	28,559	6,373	22,186
1954 ³	37,904	10,204	27,700	4,523	1,953	2,570	33,381	8,251	25,130
1955 ³	43,200	11,800	31,400	4,850	1,990	2,860	38,350	9,810	28,540
1956 ³	48,000	13,100	34,900	5,300	2,300	3,000	42,700	10,800	31,900

1. Includes State loans to local units.

2. Comprises State and local government securities held by State and local governments.

3. Data for 1950 through 1956 are not strictly comparable with 1949 and earlier years. (See "Governmental Debt in 1951," Bureau of the Census, December 1951.)

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census and Office of Business Economics.

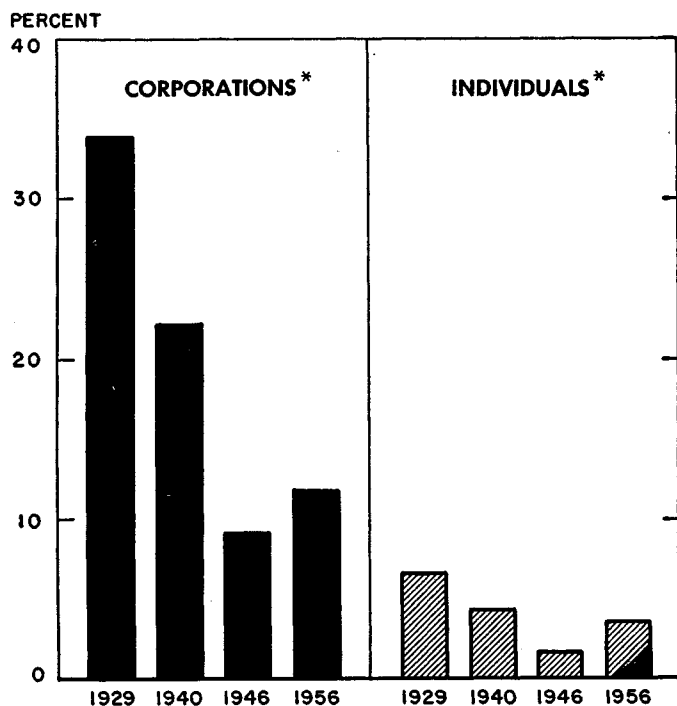
The slowdown in consumer borrowing centered in the automobile category, in which gross extensions on installment paper were over \$1 billion lower and total repayments \$1½ billion higher than in 1955. The 7-percent drop in extensions reflected the slackening in automobile purchases last year, auto retailers' sales being off by a roughly comparable percentage.

Installment credit for the purchase of consumer durable goods other than automobiles likewise expanded at a substantially slower rate during 1956, although the tapering reported was much smaller than that in auto credit in relative as well as in absolute terms. Net installment credit on such consumer goods rose \$½ billion last year, reaching a total of over \$8 billion at year-end. Gross extensions

were up 4 percent from 1955—about in line with the rise in consumer purchases of nonauto durables—while repayments rose 8½ percent, reflecting the 1954-55 rise in borrowing.

It should be noted that not all borrowing for the purchase of consumer durable goods is in the form of installment credit reported as being extended for this purpose. An uncertain and probably varying fraction of the borrowing done to buy durables is reported under the headings of personal installment credit, single payment loans, or charge accounts.

Interest Paid in Relation to Income



* Corporations: Interest payments as percent of profits before tax plus interest.
Individuals: Interest payments as percent of personal income

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

57-13-10

Installment loans for repair and modernization of dwellings maintained their 1955 rates of advance last year, as did personal installment loans.

Noninstallment consumer credit rose to a total of \$10.3 billion at year end, recording a somewhat smaller advance last year than during 1955. The decline in net new lending reflected a tapering of the rise in single-payment loans; despite this slowdown, the 1956 growth in such debt was still larger than in any year prior to 1955. The expansion of charge accounts and service credit was about the same last year as the year before.

Direct consumer lending by commercial banks in 1956 accounted for close to half the increase in total consumer credit, a substantially higher proportion than in 1955. In that year, however, the banks had extended a substantial volume of commercial loans to sales finance companies besides lending directly to consumers (see text table). Last year, sales finance companies reduced their debt to the banks. If changes in such indirect lending to consumers are taken into account, banks are seen to have supported a considerably smaller fraction of all consumer borrowing last year than in 1955.

Sales finance companies increased their holdings of consumer credit by only about one-third as much last year as the year before. Apart from credit extensions financed indirectly by bank loans, however, such companies lent about the same amount in 1956 as in 1955.

Consumer debt to—	Change in billions of dollars	
	1955	1956
All lenders	6.4	3.2
Commercial banks	2.3	1.4
Sales finance companies	2.3	.7
Retail outlets	.7	.1
Other lenders	1.0	1.0
Addendum: Weekly reporting member bank loans to sales finance companies	1.3	-.2

Source: Based on Federal Reserve Board data.

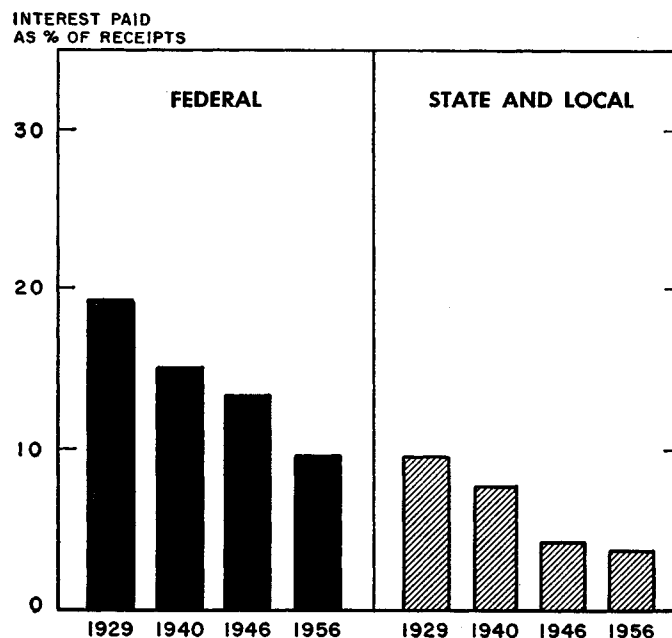
Other lender groups generally reported fractional declines in the rate of consumer credit expansion; and net extensions by retail stores, which had been large in 1955, dropped to a negligible figure last year.

Mortgage debt

Mortgage debt owed by individuals and unincorporated enterprises (excluding farm debt) amounted to \$121½ billion at the end of 1956. The total was up \$13 billion, or 12 percent, from the previous year. The lesser rate of rise than shown in 1955 (when mortgage debt had increased 15 percent) reflects a decline of \$1½ billion in net new lending on 1- to 4-family residential properties, which account for the bulk of real estate loans.

Details by type of loan are not available for individuals separately from corporate debtors. For both groups combined, net new borrowing on "conventional" mortgages on 1- to 4-family properties amounted to \$6 billion in 1956, \$½ billion more than in 1955. The relative strength of the market for conventional mortgages was associated with the

Government Interest Payments in Relation to Receipts



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

57-13-11

flexibility of interest rate provisions on such instruments, which permitted borrowers on residential property to match the higher rates being offered by other competitors for long-term loan funds.

The supply of funds available for government-underwritten mortgages contracted sharply. This contraction was especially marked in the case of loans guaranteed in part by the Veterans Administration. Net new lending under VA guarantee amounted to \$3.7 billion last year, as compared with \$5.3 billion in 1955. The slowdown centered in loans carrying little or no down payment and maturities of more than twenty-five years.

The number of VA loans closed with no down payment had expanded sharply after mid-1953, and two years later was accounting for just under half of all VA loans closed. Since the latter part of 1955, no new applications for guarantee of such loans have been accepted by the VA. Lending under guarantee on mortgages with maturities over 25 years showed a similar pattern of increase into 1955, and declined relatively a little more last year than did the total.

The growth in mortgage debt insured by the Federal Housing Administration also slowed last year, totaling \$1.2 billion compared to \$1.5 billion for 1955. In December 1956 the FHA raised the interest rate ceiling for insured loans to 5 percent to make such loans more attractive to investors.

Nearly all major sources reported net new mortgage lending on 1- to 4-family properties down last year. The largest decline was registered by savings and loan associations, which acquired a net total of \$4¼ billion in mortgages in 1956 as compared with \$5 billion in the previous year. The inflow of personal savings to the associations was about the same in both years, but their lending capacity was affected last year by a net reduction in Federal Home Loan Bank advances outstanding; in 1955 the associations' resources had been supplemented by a considerable expansion in such advances. Net extensions of mortgage loans by commercial banks, at a little over \$1 billion, were one-third below the 1955 level. Lending on 1- to 4-family properties by mutual savings banks also declined, though not so sharply;

Table 5.—Gross and Net Corporate Debt, End of Calendar Year, 1945–56

[Millions of dollars]

End of year	All Corporations					Railway corporations					Nonrailway corporations				
	Total	Long-term ¹	Short-term ¹			Total	Long-term ¹	Short-term ¹			Total	Long-term ¹	Short-term ¹		
			Total	Notes and accounts payable	Other			Total	Notes and accounts payable	Other			Total	Notes and accounts payable	Other
Gross Corporate Debt															
1945.....	99,523	45,321	54,202	25,718	28,484	15,411	11,874	3,537	881	2,656	84,112	33,447	50,665	24,837	25,828
1946.....	109,292	48,435	60,857	31,667	29,190	13,714	10,877	2,837	799	2,038	95,578	37,558	58,020	30,868	27,152
1947.....	128,157	54,988	73,169	37,676	35,493	14,173	11,169	3,004	904	2,100	113,984	43,819	70,165	36,772	33,393
1948.....	138,799	62,808	75,991	39,248	36,743	13,995	11,124	2,871	872	1,999	124,804	51,684	73,120	38,376	34,744
1949.....	139,554	67,720	71,834	37,338	34,496	13,710	11,244	2,466	769	1,697	125,844	56,476	69,368	36,569	32,799
1950.....	167,036	72,153	94,883	48,096	46,787	14,280	11,264	3,016	915	2,101	152,756	60,889	91,867	47,181	44,686
1951.....	190,637	79,855	110,782	54,700	56,082	14,463	11,377	3,086	903	2,183	176,174	68,478	107,696	53,797	53,899
1952.....	201,559	88,016	113,543	59,055	54,488	14,587	11,498	3,089	906	2,183	186,972	76,518	110,454	58,149	52,305
1953.....	211,488	93,874	117,614	59,387	58,227	14,123	11,236	2,887	882	2,005	197,365	82,638	114,727	58,505	56,222
1954.....	209,713	99,100	110,613	57,193	53,420	13,522	11,119	2,403	775	1,628	196,191	87,981	108,210	56,418	51,792
1955.....	231,471	107,285	124,186	64,613	59,573	13,838	11,082	2,756	891	1,865	217,633	96,203	121,430	63,722	57,706
1956.....	246,685	117,000	129,685	69,432	60,253	13,941	11,145	2,796	900	1,896	232,744	105,855	126,889	68,522	58,357
Duplicating Corporate Debt															
1945.....	14,231	6,999	7,232	4,264	2,968	1,485	1,099	386	124	262	12,746	5,900	6,846	4,140	2,706
1946.....	15,754	7,092	8,662	5,256	3,406	807	467	340	111	229	14,947	6,625	8,322	5,145	3,177
1947.....	19,275	8,902	10,373	6,247	4,126	1,499	1,172	327	126	201	17,776	7,730	10,046	6,121	3,925
1948.....	21,018	10,322	10,696	6,518	4,178	1,496	1,205	291	121	170	19,522	9,117	10,405	6,397	4,008
1949.....	21,561	11,186	10,375	6,203	4,172	1,486	1,224	262	107	155	20,075	9,962	10,113	6,096	4,017
1950.....	24,978	12,007	12,971	7,991	4,980	1,557	1,266	291	127	164	23,421	10,741	12,680	7,864	4,816
1951.....	28,121	13,266	14,855	9,093	5,762	1,489	1,186	303	126	177	26,632	12,080	14,552	8,967	5,585
1952.....	30,529	14,682	15,847	9,819	6,028	1,482	1,184	298	126	172	29,047	13,498	15,549	9,693	5,856
1953.....	32,027	15,599	16,428	9,875	6,553	1,302	1,022	280	122	158	30,725	14,577	16,148	9,753	6,395
1954.....	32,386	16,542	15,844	9,513	6,331	1,277	1,022	255	108	147	31,109	15,520	15,589	9,405	6,184
1955.....	35,619	17,979	17,640	10,744	6,896	1,295	1,009	286	122	164	34,324	16,970	17,354	10,622	6,732
1956.....	38,494	19,690	18,804	11,550	7,254	1,316	1,017	299	125	174	37,178	18,673	18,505	11,425	7,080
Net Corporate Debt															
1945.....	85,292	38,322	46,970	21,454	25,516	13,926	10,775	3,151	757	2,394	71,366	27,547	43,819	20,697	23,122
1946.....	93,538	41,343	52,195	26,411	25,784	12,907	10,410	2,497	658	1,809	80,631	30,933	49,698	25,723	23,975
1947.....	108,882	46,086	62,796	31,429	31,367	12,674	9,997	2,677	778	1,839	96,208	36,089	60,119	30,651	29,468
1948.....	117,781	52,486	65,295	32,730	32,565	12,499	9,919	2,580	751	1,829	105,282	42,567	62,715	31,979	30,736
1949.....	117,993	56,534	61,459	31,135	30,324	12,224	10,020	2,204	662	1,542	105,769	46,514	59,255	30,473	28,782
1950.....	142,058	60,146	81,912	40,105	41,807	12,723	9,998	2,725	788	1,937	129,335	50,148	79,187	39,317	39,870
1951.....	162,516	66,589	95,927	45,607	50,320	12,974	10,191	2,783	777	2,006	149,542	56,398	93,144	44,830	48,314
1952.....	171,030	73,334	97,696	49,236	48,460	13,105	10,314	2,791	780	2,011	157,925	63,020	94,905	48,456	46,449
1953.....	179,461	78,275	101,186	49,512	51,674	12,821	10,214	2,607	760	1,847	166,640	68,061	98,579	48,752	49,827
1954.....	177,327	82,558	94,769	47,680	47,089	12,245	10,097	2,148	667	1,481	165,082	72,461	92,621	47,013	45,608
1955.....	195,852	89,306	106,546	53,869	52,677	12,543	10,073	2,470	769	1,701	183,309	79,233	104,076	53,100	50,976
1956.....	208,191	97,310	110,881	57,882	52,999	12,625	10,128	2,497	775	1,722	195,566	87,182	108,384	57,107	51,277

1. Long-term debt is defined as having an original maturity of 1 year or more from date of issue; short-term debt as having an original maturity of less than 1 year.

Sources: U. S. Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service; Interstate Commerce Commission; U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

and life insurance companies maintained their 1955 rate of mortgage credit expansion.

Net acquisitions by the Federal National Mortgage Association through its secondary mortgage market program expanded sharply to approach \$½ billion in 1956.

Farm debt rise slackens

The total of production and mortgage debt owed by farmers and farm cooperatives amounted to \$19½ billion at the end of last year, \$0.7 billion more than at the end of 1955. This rise in farm debt accompanied a \$6 billion advance in the estimated market value of agricultural assets. Net new borrowings in 1956 fell somewhat short of those recorded the year before. The slackening centered in production debt, which declined fractionally in 1956 after having registered a

\$½ billion increase in the previous year. The increase in farm mortgage debt amounted to \$0.8 billion, about the same as in 1955.

A substantial part of the asset growth noted above reflected a higher valuation of land. The reported nationwide average of farm land prices has moved up in the past 3 years despite the downturn in farm commodity prices and incomes. An increasingly important factor in the strength of the farm real estate market seems to have been a demand for additional acreage to expand existing farms: about one-third of last year's farm real estate transfers were of this character, a proportion somewhat above that reported for other recent years. Survey data suggest that a common reason for enlarging individual holdings is the greater efficiency with which labor and machinery can be utilized on larger farms.

Table 6.—Nonfarm Debt by Borrowing and Lending Groups, by Type of Property, End of Calendar Year, 1945-56¹

[Millions of dollars]

End of year	Residential and commercial			1-4 family residential								Multifamily residential and commercial							
	Total	Corporate borrowers ²	Non-corporate borrowers	Total	Savings and loan associations	Life insurance carriers	Mutual savings banks	Commercial banks	FIOLC	FNMA	Individuals and others ³	Total	Savings and loan associations	Life insurance carriers	Mutual savings banks	Commercial banks	FNMA	Individuals and others	
1945	30,776	3,813	26,963	18,591	5,156	2,306	1,894	2,875	852	7	5,501	12,185	220	3,554	2,290	1,376	-----	4,745	
1946	36,879	4,428	32,451	23,034	6,840	2,545	2,033	4,576	636	6	6,398	13,845	301	3,815	2,399	1,957	-----	5,373	
1947	43,853	5,114	38,739	28,199	8,475	3,497	2,283	6,303	486	4	7,151	15,654	381	4,283	2,545	2,320	-----	6,125	
1948	50,908	5,835	45,073	33,279	9,841	4,943	2,835	7,396	369	198	7,697	17,629	464	4,900	2,937	2,627	1	6,700	
1949	57,098	6,490	50,608	37,619	11,117	6,093	3,364	7,956	231	806	8,052	19,479	499	5,675	3,304	2,779	22	7,200	
1950	66,747	7,363	59,384	45,170	13,116	8,478	4,312	9,481	10	1,328	8,445	21,577	541	6,297	3,965	3,215	19	7,600	
1951	75,631	8,245	67,386	51,711	14,844	10,610	5,331	10,275	-----	1,818	8,833	23,920	720	7,177	4,538	3,453	32	8,000	
1952	84,163	8,997	75,166	58,500	17,645	11,757	6,194	11,250	-----	2,210	9,444	25,663	751	7,789	5,132	3,559	32	8,400	
1953	93,562	9,804	83,758	66,094	20,999	13,195	7,373	12,025	-----	2,358	10,144	27,468	963	8,241	5,517	3,743	104	8,900	
1954	105,510	10,842	94,668	75,677	25,004	15,153	9,002	13,300	-----	2,328	10,890	29,833	1,189	8,775	5,949	4,114	106	9,700	
1955	120,923	12,142	108,781	88,250	30,001	17,661	11,100	15,075	-----	2,444	11,969	32,673	1,460	9,511	6,299	4,632	171	10,600	
1956	135,162	13,475	121,687	99,163	34,163	20,345	12,851	16,255	-----	2,866	12,633	35,999	1,707	10,201	7,062	5,148	191	11,700	

1. The data represent mortgage loans on commercial and residential property, excluding multifamily residential and commercial property mortgage debt owed by corporations to other nonfinancial corporations.

2. The corporate mortgage debt total is included in the total corporate long-term debt outstanding, table 5.

3. Includes portfolio loans of the Veterans Administration.

Sources: Federal Home Loan Bank Board; Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

Table 7.—Individual and Noncorporate Debt, End of Calendar Year, 1945-56

[Millions of dollars]

End of year	Farm and nonfarm total	Farm			Total nonfarm	Nonfarm						
		Total farm	Farm mortgage ¹	Farm production loans ²		Nonfarm mortgage			Other			
						Total	1-4 family	Multifamily and commercial	Total	Commercial	Financial ³	Consumer
1945-----	54,630	7,250	4,760	2,490	47,380	26,963	17,661	9,302	20,417	4,432	10,320	5,665
1946-----	60,579	7,617	4,897	2,720	52,962	32,451	21,882	10,569	20,511	6,238	5,889	8,384
1947-----	70,814	8,607	5,064	3,543	62,207	38,739	26,789	11,950	23,468	7,085	4,813	11,570
1948-----	83,135	10,790	5,288	5,502	72,345	45,073	31,615	13,458	27,272	7,754	5,120	14,398
1949-----	93,740	11,930	5,579	6,351	81,810	50,608	35,738	14,870	31,202	7,927	5,970	17,205
1950-----	108,797	12,227	6,071	6,156	96,570	59,384	42,912	16,472	37,186	8,928	6,863	21,395
1951-----	119,706	13,559	6,588	6,971	106,147	67,386	49,125	18,261	38,761	9,492	6,652	22,617
1952-----	135,472	15,137	7,154	7,983	120,335	75,166	55,575	19,591	45,169	10,290	7,478	27,401
1953-----	150,118	16,789	7,656	9,133	133,329	83,758	62,789	20,969	49,571	9,860	8,468	31,243
1954-----	165,329	17,523	8,176	9,347	147,806	94,668	71,893	22,775	53,138	10,430	10,416	32,292
1955-----	190,066	18,663	8,962	9,701	171,343	108,781	83,838	24,943	62,562	12,365	11,549	38,648
1956-----	207,473	19,433	9,800	9,633	188,040	121,687	94,205	27,482	66,353	13,416	11,074	41,863

1. Includes regular mortgages, purchase-money mortgages, and sales contracts.

2. Includes agricultural loans to farmers and farmers' cooperatives by institutional lenders; farmers' financial and consumer debt is included under the "nonfarm" categories.

3. Comprises debt owed to banks for purchasing or carrying securities, customers' debt to brokers, and debt owed to life insurance companies by policyholders.

Sources: U. S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service; Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

Farm production debt outstanding at the end of last year mounted to about \$9½ billion. The small net reduction during the year involved a divergence in movement between the two broad components of the total. Price support loans made or guaranteed by the Commodity Credit Corporation fell \$0.3 billion, while regular production credit rose by almost the same amount.

The contraction in price support loans stemmed principally from declines in the volume of crops under loan. The reduction in volume was associated with the expansion of CCC sales abroad; initiation of the Soil Bank program, which tends to reduce the need for loans by taking land out of cultivation, may also have played a part.

These developments in the Corporation's price support activities are reflected in shifts in its balance sheet during 1956. While loans and inventories together declined ½ billion, accounts and notes receivable from the Treasury and other Federal agencies in connection with the foreign aid and Soil Bank programs rose from less than \$1 billion at the turn of the year to more than \$2 billion at year end. (See text table.)

The 1956 advance in regular farm production credit was only about a third of the previous year's rise, and was the smallest increase registered in the postwar period. The sharp slowing in expansion of such credit reflected net reduction of debt in areas affected by drought conditions

last year, which partly offset the continued debt growth in other sections of the country.

The total of financial debt shown in table 7, including security loans by banks and customers' debit balances with

Major Assets of the CCC, Dec. 31

[Billions of dollars]

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Loans.....	1. 4	3. 0	2. 9	2. 6	2. 3
Commodity inventories.....	1. 1	2. 7	4. 3	6. 1	5. 9
Accounts and notes receivable....	. 3	. 3	. 3	. 8	2. 1
Total.....	2. 8	6. 0	7. 5	9. 5	10. 3

brokers, was down \$½ billion. This reduction was associated with a decline in stock market volume and a 20 percent rise during the year in call loan rates. Life insurance policy loans, which are also included here, continued their postwar uptrend.

The Business Situation

(Continued from page 3)

of 1956 was accompanied by a marked increase in stocks, particularly in the hands of manufacturers and wholesale distributors, of nearly all types of household durables.

For the first quarter as a whole, output of such goods as measured by the Federal Reserve seasonally adjusted index averaged 131 (1947-49=100), a drop of 6 percent from the fourth quarter and 10 percent from the opening quarter of 1956. Production decreases over these periods were registered by most of the major household product groups.

In the radio-television group, output of television receivers showed an exceptionally large decline from the fourth quarter of last year to the first 3 months of 1957. In contrast, radio output advanced, in continuation of the strong uptrend which began with the introduction of the transistor-type model in the latter half of 1955. Total stocks of television receivers have shown a reduction of about 10 percent since the end of 1956, while those of radios have increased more than 10 percent.

The Economy in the First Quarter

(Continued from page 8)

down for manufacturing as a whole since late 1955. The first-quarter reduction was widespread industrially, and was especially marked among durable-goods lines.

Data on hours and hourly earnings in nonmanufacturing employment are incomplete. Information available for various commodity-producing and distributive industries indicates, however, that the first-quarter pattern of changes in hours and pay rates outside manufacturing was consistent with that described above, earnings per hour being generally up and hours down by comparison with the preceding quarter. In the nonmanufacturing lines where the bulk of the rise in employment since the turn of the year has taken place, advances in hourly earnings were generally sharper and declines in hours more limited than in the case of manufacturing.

Profits up at year end

Comprehensive profits data for the fourth quarter of 1956 have now become available. They show a marked rise from

the third quarter, which about canceled the series of declines recorded earlier last year and left fourth-quarter profits substantially the same as in the final quarter of 1955.

Book profits before taxes are placed at an annual rate of \$46½ billion, as compared with a little over \$41 billion in the third quarter. After-tax net income expanded proportionately, rising to \$23 billion.

In terms of industrial origin, the increase was widely distributed among manufacturing and nonmanufacturing lines. Changes in the latter were relatively small in dollar amount, however; and the net expansion of profits was nearly as large for manufacturing alone as for all industries combined.

The bulk of the increase in manufacturing occurred in durable-goods industries. Auto profits recovered sharply from the 1956 low point reached in the previous quarter, though remaining considerably under 1955 levels. Reflecting the improved automotive demand on the one hand, and the upswing of steel production from the strike-affected rates of the third quarter on the other, metals manufacturing also showed substantially increased earnings. Higher profits

in nonauto transportation equipment accompanied the expansion in volume in this industry. The machinery groups, in contrast, seem to have shown no significant change from third-quarter rates overall, and a decline was indicated for lumber.

Among the nondurables, net income moved up in chemicals and rubber and apparently also in printing, if rough allowance is made for seasonal variation. Most other lines showed changes about in accordance with the usual third- to fourth-quarter movements.

Preliminary returns for profits in the first quarter of 1957,

while showing a mixed trend by lines of business and company results within the same industries, indicate a gain in the aggregate over the first quarter of 1956. With costs continuing to rise many companies have not been able to maintain profit margins, despite the higher prices at which sales have been made. Corporations continued to pay out higher aggregate dividends than a year ago; a tapering of the uptrend in recent quarters, however, has reflected the fact that the course of profits since 1955 has been only moderately upward notwithstanding the continued expansion in sales.

Pattern of Buying of Consumer Goods

(Continued from page 14)

still had additional years of useful life. The saturation point for freezers is still far ahead and only one out of seven freezer sales is a replacement.

Sales of washing machines reached 4.4 million in 1955, and 4.7 million in 1956, exceeding even the early postwar peak of 1948 and the war scare buying of 1950. Clothes dryers have shown a phenomenal increase in the past ten years. From 58 thousand in 1947, unit sales shot up to 1.7 million in 1956, almost 20 percent more than in the preceding year. Combination washer-dryer models are becoming increasingly popular. Almost three-fourths of washing machine sales are replacements; in the case of dryers, one out of eight is a replacement.

Following a lull from 1951 to 1954, vacuum cleaner sales rose to 3.8 million in 1956. This volume was slightly higher than in 1948 and 1950 but below the 4.0 million of 1947. Replacements account for most vacuum cleaner sales—60 percent in 1956. Sales of floor polishers have shown an unbroken rise, from 185 thousand in 1947 to 415 thousand in 1956.

Radio-television

Expenditures for radio, television, records and musical instruments, amounted to \$2.6 billion in 1956, exceeding the former high in 1950. The sale of radios which had been increasing sharply prior to World War II took another upturn in the postwar years. The 1956 output of 9.2 million radios was the highest figure since 1950, and almost 20 percent above 1955. Portables achieved the sharpest gain, production of 2.5 million units setting a new record. A trend which developed several years ago continued to be apparent in 1956. The share of the market accounted for by home sets continued to decline, while portable and clock radios took bigger shares of the market.

Television production on a large scale had to wait until the end of the war. Sales increased from 6.5 thousand in 1946 to 7.8 million in 1955. In 1956, however, production dropped well below 1955. In terms of output, 1956 was only the fifth best year in television history, recording 7.2 million sets. Of this total, over 1.5 million were portable

sets. This compares with only 250 thousand portables in 1955. More than half of these TV sales were replacements. However, reports indicate no sharp growth in the second set market in 1956 despite the popularity of portables which were designed primarily for this market. Ownership of color TV is still well below the quarter million mark.

Reports by *Electrical Merchandising* indicate that about 48 million, or 96 percent of all homes, had radios in January 1957. At the same time 81 percent of all homes had television. Four years earlier this proportion was less than half. These figures do not take into account multiple ownership.

Furniture

About a fourth of the amount spent for furniture and household equipment is devoted to the purchase of furniture. In 1956 expenditures for furniture amounted to \$3.9 billion. These outlays exceeded those for appliances prior to the war but are now below the appliance figure.

Here again, the products are long lasting and, for most purchasers, are not changed until worn out almost completely. The furniture expenditure-income ratio has shown a movement since 1929 roughly parallel to that of the furniture and household equipment group as a whole. In 1955 and 1956 the ratio for furniture of a little over 1.3 percent was only slightly under the 1929 figure.

There has also been some tendency in most recent years toward simpler and less costly furnishings. Although wool carpets and rugs continue to lead in the floor covering field, production data reflect greater use of coverings sold for prices below the high quality product.

An important factor in the soft floor covering field since World War II has been the rapid increase in output of tufted carpets and rugs made possible by the development of the tufting machine in the late 1940's. Pre-war tufted carpet production was limited almost entirely to bath mats and sets. By 1955, however, these floor coverings were manufactured in room-size rugs and wall-to-wall carpeting. Little or no growth has taken place in the production of woven carpets.

Monthly BUSINESS STATISTICS



THE STATISTICS here are a continuation of the data published in BUSINESS STATISTICS, the 1955 Statistical Supplement to the SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS. That volume (price \$2.00) contains monthly data for the years 1951 through 1954 and monthly averages for earlier years back to 1929 insofar as available; it also provides a description of each series and references to sources of monthly figures prior to 1951. Series added or significantly revised since publication of the 1955 Supplement are indicated by an asterisk (*) and a dagger (†), respectively. Except as otherwise stated, the terms "unadjusted" and "adjusted" refer to adjustment for seasonal variation.

Statistics originating in Government agencies are not copyrighted and may be reprinted freely. Data from private sources are provided through the courtesy of the compilers, and are subject to their copyrights.

••

[Averages for the year 1955 are provided in the July 1956 issue of the SURVEY]

Unless otherwise stated, statistics through 1954 and descriptive notes are shown in the 1955 edition of BUSINESS STATISTICS	1956										1957			
	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS														
NATIONAL INCOME AND PRODUCT														
Seasonally adjusted quarterly totals at annual rates:†														
National income, total.....bil. of dol.	334.9			338.7			343.5			353.0				
Compensation of employees, total.....do.	233.0			237.2			240.4			245.5			248.7	
Wages and salaries, total.....do.	219.4			223.5			226.2			231.1			233.6	
Private.....do.	182.5			186.2			188.3			192.9			194.7	
Military.....do.	9.6			9.5			9.5			9.5			9.4	
Government civilian.....do.	27.3			27.8			28.5			28.7			29.4	
Supplements to wages and salaries.....do.	13.6			13.8			14.2			14.4			15.1	
Proprietors' and rental income, total ^o.....do.	49.5			49.9			50.7			51.7			51.5	
Business and professional ^o.....do.	28.2			28.9			29.5			29.9			30.1	
Farm.....do.	11.5			11.3			11.6			12.1			11.7	
Rental income of persons.....do.	9.8			9.7			9.7			9.7			9.7	
Corporate profits and inventory valuation adjustment, total.....bil. of dol.	40.9			39.8			40.4			43.4				
Corporate profits before tax, total.....do.	43.7			42.9			41.2			46.7				
Corporate profits tax liability.....do.	22.1			21.7			20.8			23.6				
Corporate profits after tax.....do.	21.6			21.3			20.4			23.1				
Inventory valuation adjustment.....do.	-2.8			-3.1			-8			-3.3			-2.6	
Net interest.....do.	11.5			11.7			12.0			12.4			12.6	
Gross national product, total.....do.	403.4			408.3			413.8			423.8			427.1	
Personal consumption expenditures, total.....do.	261.7			263.7			266.8			270.9			275.0	
Durable goods.....do.	34.8			33.4			33.0			34.8			35.9	
Nondurable goods.....do.	130.5			132.3			134.0			134.7			136.4	
Services.....do.	96.4			98.0			99.7			101.4			102.7	
Gross private domestic investment, total.....do.	63.1			64.7			65.1			68.5			63.3	
New construction.....do.	32.6			33.6			33.6			32.9			32.5	
Producers' durable equipment.....do.	26.4			27.5			29.5			31.5			32.0	
Change in business inventories.....do.	4.1			3.5			2.0			4.1			-1.2	
Net foreign investment.....do.	.1			1.2			1.7			2.4			4.0	
Government purchases of goods and services, total.....bil. of dol.	78.5			78.7			80.2			82.0			84.9	
Federal (less Government sales).....do.	46.4			46.1			47.2			48.3			49.8	
National security ^o.....do.	40.5			40.7			41.9			43.2			45.0	
State and local.....do.	32.1			32.6			33.0			33.7			35.0	
Personal income, total.....do.	317.5			322.9			327.0			333.2			336.5	
Less: Personal tax and nontax payments.....do.	37.3			38.1			38.8			39.9			41.0	
Equals: Disposable personal income.....do.	280.2			284.9			288.2			293.3			295.4	
Personal saving\$.....do.	18.6			21.2			21.4			22.4			20.4	
PERSONAL INCOME, BY SOURCE														
Seasonally adjusted, at annual rates:†														
Total personal income.....bil. of dol.	318.6	321.7	322.8	324.9	324.3	328.1	329.5	332.5	333.5	334.0	335.0	336.6	* 338.1	339.3
Wage and salary disbursements, total.....do.	220.3	222.9	223.2	225.2	224.0	227.1	228.5	229.7	231.0	232.9	232.7	233.7	* 234.5	235.0
Commodity-producing industries.....do.	95.1	96.8	96.8	97.5	95.9	98.3	99.1	100.6	101.1	102.3	101.2	101.9	* 102.0	102.3
Distributive industries.....do.	58.4	59.1	59.1	59.9	59.9	60.3	60.5	60.2	60.6	60.9	61.5	61.5	* 62.0	61.9
Service industries.....do.	29.6	29.8	30.0	30.2	30.4	30.6	30.8	30.9	31.1	31.3	31.3	31.4	31.5	31.7
Government.....do.	37.2	37.2	37.3	37.6	37.8	37.9	38.1	38.0	38.2	38.4	38.7	38.9	39.0	39.1
Other labor income.....do.	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
Proprietors' and rental income.....do.	49.5	49.7	50.1	50.0	50.5	51.0	50.9	52.3	51.7	51.2	51.6	51.5	* 51.6	51.5
Personal interest income and dividends.....do.	28.8	29.1	29.4	29.6	29.7	29.8	30.0	30.2	30.3	29.2	30.6	30.7	30.9	31.1
Transfer payments.....do.	18.5	18.6	18.7	18.6	18.6	18.8	18.7	18.9	19.1	19.3	19.6	19.9	* 20.3	20.9
Less personal contributions for social insurance.....do.														
.....bil. of dol.	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7
Total nonagricultural income.....do.	304.0	306.8	307.6	310.3	309.4	312.8	314.4	316.3	317.9	318.8	319.7	321.3	* 322.7	324.0

†Revised.

†Revised series. Estimates of national income and product and personal income have been revised back to 1952 (see pp. 7 ff. of the July 1956 SURVEY); for data prior to 1952, see the 1954 NATIONAL INCOME SUPPLEMENT or the 1955 edition of BUSINESS STATISTICS.

^oIncludes inventory valuation adjustment. ^oGovernment sales are not deducted.

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

Unless otherwise stated, statistics through 1954 and descriptive notes are shown in the 1955 edition of BUSINESS STATISTICS	1956										1957			
	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS—Continued

NEW PLANT AND EQUIPMENT EXPENDITURES														
Unadjusted quarterly totals: ^a														
All industries..... mil. of dol.	7,462			8,880			8,901			9,838			8,830	
Manufacturing..... do.	2,958			3,734			3,834			4,428			3,908	
Durable-goods industries..... do.	1,462			1,802			1,960			2,339			2,028	
Nondurable-goods industries..... do.	1,496			1,872			1,874			2,089			1,880	
Mining..... do.	262			319			314			346			304	
Railroads..... do.	297			325			277			332			358	
Transportation, other than rail..... do.	396			423			443			450			414	
Public utilities..... do.	936			1,199			1,308			1,452			1,322	
Commercial and other..... do.	2,613			2,880			2,725			2,830			2,524	
Seasonally adjusted quarterly totals at annual rates: ^a														
All industries..... bil. of dol.	32.82			34.49			35.87			36.46			36.89	
Manufacturing..... do.	13.45			14.65			15.78			15.81			16.34	
Durable-goods industries..... do.	6.57			7.38			8.20			8.21			8.48	
Nondurable-goods industries..... do.	6.88			7.27			7.58			7.60			7.86	
Mining..... do.	1.13			1.28			1.29			1.28			1.23	
Railroads..... do.	1.25			1.22			1.29			1.23			1.34	
Transportation, other than rail..... do.	1.65			1.63			1.79			1.76			1.76	
Public utilities..... do.	4.56			4.61			5.08			5.27			5.65	
Commercial and other..... do.	10.78			11.10			10.76			11.11			10.57	
FARM INCOME AND MARKETINGS :														
Cash receipts from farming, including Government payments, total..... mil. of dol.	1,837	1,883	2,038	2,091	2,336	2,715	3,148	3,927	3,306	2,768	2,574	2,032	1,926	
Farm marketings and CCC loans, total..... do.	1,816	1,866	2,022	2,077	2,298	2,672	3,111	3,755	3,216	2,728	2,530	2,001	1,897	
Crops..... do.	564	578	627	779	1,008	1,247	1,726	2,131	1,749	1,406	1,146	775	593	
Livestock and products, total ?..... do.	1,252	1,288	1,395	1,298	1,290	1,425	1,385	1,624	1,467	1,322	1,384	1,226	1,304	
Dairy products..... do.	376	381	420	411	388	372	355	363	342	371	384	361	398	
Meat animals..... do.	591	622	676	617	632	785	746	945	806	615	756	633	649	
Poultry and eggs..... do.	267	258	268	241	249	253	268	296	301	321	220	209	229	
Indexes of cash receipts from marketings and CCC loans, unadjusted:														
All commodities..... 1947-49=100.....	74	77	83	85	94	110	128	154	132	112	104	82	78	
Crops..... do.	52	54	58	72	94	116	160	198	163	131	107	72	55	
Livestock and products..... do.	92	95	102	95	95	105	102	119	108	97	102	90	96	
Indexes of volume of farm marketings, unadjusted:														
All commodities..... 1947-49=100.....	89	88	93	96	112	124	144	177	157	128	119	95	91	
Crops..... do.	46	44	45	64	101	117	168	208	176	131	108	72	54	
Livestock and products..... do.	122	122	129	121	120	129	126	153	142	125	126	113	119	
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION														
<i>Federal Reserve Index of Physical Volume</i>														
Unadjusted, combined index..... 1947-49=100.....	143	144	141	141	128	142	146	151	147	144	145	147	148	p 146
Manufactures..... do.	145	146	142	142	129	143	148	153	149	146	146	149	150	p 147
Durable manufactures..... do.	161	162	157	156	139	155	161	168	166	166	164	167	p 166	p 163
Primary metals ?..... do.	152	152	144	140	62	118	145	149	146	142	146	149	p 144	p 136
Steel..... do.	160	159	154	146	24	119	158	162	159	158	160	160	154	
Primary nonferrous metals..... do.	182	185	181	179	172	143	168	181	180	180	180	176	175	
Metal fabricating (incl. ordnance)..... do.	171	174	167	166	160	167	172	180	181	183	181	184	183	p 179
Fabricated metal products..... do.	134	136	130	132	124	135	144	145	138	139	136	p 139	p 139	p 139
Machinery..... do.	168	172	167	165	157	167	176	181	177	177	175	p 176	p 176	p 170
Nonelectrical machinery..... do.	154	154	151	150	146	146	153	152	151	157	157	159	160	p 158
Electrical machinery..... do.	196	206	198	195	178	209	220	237	227	216	208	p 210	p 208	p 194
Transportation equipment ?..... do.	202	201	189	188	136	186	180	202	218	225	224	p 231	227	p 223
Autos..... do.	163	162	127	127	127	109	59	105	164	177	171	178	171	p 155
Trucks..... do.	130	133	117	123	99	101	98	103	102	101	98	113	109	
Aircraft and parts..... do.	513	516	520	531	536	555	569	582	601	619	624	p 630	628	
Instruments and related products..... do.	161	164	164	163	162	167	171	173	174	175	173	174	p 174	p 174
Furniture and fixtures..... do.	122	119	117	118	115	123	125	127	122	125	118	119	p 120	p 116
Lumber and products..... do.	119	126	125	129	116	135	133	130	117	104	104	p 112	p 111	p 116
Stone, clay, and glass products..... do.	153	158	162	163	156	164	157	165	161	156	148	151	p 154	p 155
Miscellaneous manufactures..... do.	142	141	140	141	135	145	150	154	150	145	136	137	p 139	p 139
Nondurable manufactures..... do.	130	129	127	127	119	131	134	137	132	125	128	131	133	p 132
Food and beverage manufactures..... do.	104	106	108	114	114	122	130	127	117	106	101	p 102	105	
Food manufactures ?..... do.	102	103	105	110	111	123	134	129	119	108	104	104	103	
Meat products..... do.	136	131	121	122	118	116	129	142	148	138	139	132	129	
Bakery products..... do.	95	95	97	100	100	99	100	101	100	99	95	96	96	
Beverages..... do.	108	117	119	128	123	118	116	120	110	98	90	97		
Alcoholic beverages..... do.	105	111	108	119	107	101	106	118	109	93	86	93		
Tobacco manufactures..... do.	105	103	110	115	96	115	111	115	111	87	110	114		
Textile-mill products ?..... do.	110	108	105	100	86	102	103	109	105	99	101	105	106	
Cotton and synthetic fabrics..... do.	115	112	109	99	87	104	101	113	109	104	108	111	111	
Wool textiles..... do.	85	89	90	90	76	92	87	94	86	78	74	p 81	79	
Apparel and allied products..... do.	120	114	109	108	95	116	108	118	108	101	113	119	126	
Leather and products..... do.	112	106	99	100	90	108	104	104	100	95	102	115	115	
Paper and allied products..... do.	163	165	160	163	143	163	160	169	162	145	157	161	162	
Pulp and paper..... do.	161	163	162	161	143	160	152	162	159	142	158	160	158	
Printing and publishing..... do.	135	137	138	134	129	133	139	145	144	142	136	139	p 144	p 145
Chemicals and allied products..... do.	179	180	176	173	166	172	177	182	181	181	184	186	186	
Industrial chemicals..... do.	201	200	197	192	182	188	192	198	199	199	205	207	206	
Petroleum and coal products..... do.	142	135	137	142	132	142	145	140	143	145	148	p 145	p 141	p 140
Petroleum refining..... do.	148	142	141	149	148	151	151	146	152	158	160	p 154	149	
Rubber products..... do.	140	140	129	123	105	127	135	144	128	132	147	150	148	

^a Revised. ^b Preliminary. ^c Estimates based on anticipated capital expenditures of business; those for the 2d quarter of 1957 appear on p. 10 of the March 1957 SURVEY.

^d Historical data (annual totals, 1939 and 1945-55; quarterly, unadj., and seasonally adj., at annual rates, 1947-55) appear on pp. 6 and 7 of the June 1956 SURVEY.

^e Includes data not shown separately.

^f Revised series. Annual estimates beginning 1910 and monthly data for the period January 1952-December 1955 for cash receipts have been revised to take into account recent information on production, disposition, and price revisions are shown on p. 19 of the March 1957 SURVEY. Indexes of cash receipts and volume of marketings (annuals, 1910-55; monthly, beginning January 1947) have been revised to reflect adoption of the 1947-49=100 base period; for the volume index, also wider coverage and use of new price weights. The revised indexes of volume of marketings appear on p. 29 of the April 1957 SURVEY. Unpublished indexes of cash receipts (prior to May 1955) will be shown later.

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

1956										1957			
March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April

COMMODITY PRICES—Continued

PURCHASING POWER OF THE DOLLAR													
As measured by—													
Wholesale prices.....	1947-49=100..	88.7	88.0	87.4	87.6	87.7	87.2	86.6	86.5	86.3	86.0	85.5	85.5
Consumer prices.....	do.....	87.2	87.0	86.7	86.1	85.5	85.6	85.4	85.0	84.9	84.7	84.2	84.1
Retail food prices.....	do.....	91.7	91.2	90.1	88.3	87.1	88.4	88.4	88.4	88.6	88.7	88.0	88.3

CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY ^q													
New construction (unadjusted), total..... mil. of dol..	3,071	3,421	3,780	4,105	4,242	4,304	4,264	4,133	3,800	3,370	* 3,053	* 2,888	* 3,136
Private, total..... do.....	2,260	2,424	2,600	2,786	2,862	2,882	2,843	2,766	2,666	2,472	* 2,190	* 2,088	* 2,228
Residential (nonfarm)..... do.....	1,116	1,232	1,319	1,417	1,442	1,440	1,415	1,365	1,313	1,202	1,017	926	* 1,015
New dwelling units..... do.....	1,000	1,090	1,150	1,235	1,260	1,260	1,240	1,195	1,145	1,060	900	810	890
Additions and alterations..... do.....	86	109	132	142	139	139	135	129	126	102	79	80	* 94
Nonresidential building, except farm and public utility, total..... mil. of dol..	655	665	705	760	787	788	788	793	794	768	721	705	709
Industrial..... do.....	226	239	252	263	270	276	276	274	271	270	269	270	269
Commercial..... do.....	257	262	266	290	300	293	288	287	288	272	246	240	249
Farm construction..... do.....	109	121	139	150	159	161	148	122	103	90	91	96	105
Public utility..... do.....	373	398	427	448	462	481	480	474	445	402	* 350	* 349	* 383
Public, total..... do.....	811	997	1,180	1,319	1,380	1,422	1,421	1,367	1,134	898	863	800	* 908
Nonresidential building..... do.....	301	314	335	359	379	392	382	373	338	311	331	304	345
Military facilities..... do.....	89	104	115	134	135	142	144	140	118	108	93	86	* 90
Highway..... do.....	225	355	485	565	590	605	615	575	420	250	220	205	240
Other types..... do.....	196	224	245	261	276	283	280	279	258	229	119	205	233
New construction (seasonally adjusted), total..... do.....	3,570	3,683	3,744	3,754	3,727	3,725	3,701	3,665	3,699	3,729	* 3,742	* 3,712	* 3,654
Private, total..... do.....	2,528	2,582	2,608	2,605	2,618	2,617	2,596	2,551	2,551	2,542	* 2,502	2,501	* 2,487
Residential (nonfarm)..... do.....	1,268	1,297	1,306	1,300	1,299	1,297	1,286	1,241	1,239	1,239	1,211	1,187	* 1,157
Nonresidential building, except farm and public utility..... mil. of dol..	705	731	745	749	759	758	750	752	755	748	730	741	761
Farm construction..... do.....	128	127	126	125	125	124	123	122	121	120	121	123	124
Public utility..... do.....	419	419	423	423	425	427	425	423	424	423	* 427	* 436	* 430
Public, total..... do.....	1,042	1,101	1,136	1,149	1,109	1,108	1,105	1,114	1,148	1,187	1,240	1,211	* 1,167
Nonresidential building..... do.....	320	314	325	340	338	347	348	350	357	350	376	362	367
Highway..... do.....	395	436	450	440	411	399	390	390	417	455	489	466	429
CONTRACT AWARDS													
Construction contracts in 48 States (F. W. Dodge Corp.): ^f													
Total valuation..... mil. of dol..	2,770										2,300	2,161	3,078
Public ownership..... do.....	810										892	838	1,018
Private ownership..... do.....	1,959										1,407	1,323	2,060
Nonresidential buildings:													
Floor area..... thous. of sq. ft..	* 78,463										* 63,288	* 60,836	76,773
Valuation..... mil. of dol..	1,064										914	820	1,092
Residential buildings:													
Floor area..... thous. of sq. ft..	* 111,970										* 73,260	* 82,109	99,442
Valuation..... mil. of dol..	1,186										817	875	1,107
Public works:													
Valuation..... mil. of dol..	405										400	278	535
Utilities:													
Valuation..... mil. of dol..	114										169	188	343
Value of contract awards, 37 States (F. R. indexes):													
Total, unadjusted..... 1947-49=100..	291	319	310	298	281	273	254	237	217				
Residential, unadjusted..... do.....	334	370	340	297	269	262	251	224	190				
Total, seasonally adjusted..... do.....	287	277	257	256	255	260	251	248	242				
Residential, seasonally adjusted..... do.....	317	315	286	269	265	264	250	230	197				
Engineering construction:													
Contract awards (ENR)\$. mil. of dol..	2,379	1,869	2,120	1,622	1,835	1,828	1,480	1,878	1,736	1,590	1,664	1,436	1,468
Highway concrete pavement contract awards: ^g													
Total..... thous. of sq. yd..	8,362	7,578	8,513	7,876	4,795	8,398	5,267	7,302	5,159	* 6,501	7,163	7,229	9,582
Airports..... do.....	798	337	1,084	720	408	1,486	695	953	1,212	405	1,499	1,489	3,023
Roads..... do.....	4,647	3,764	3,873	4,346	1,893	3,219	1,911	3,524	2,211	* 3,955	3,990	4,425	4,660
Streets and alleys..... do.....	3,017	3,477	3,557	2,810	2,494	3,693	2,661	2,825	1,737	* 2,141	1,674	1,316	1,899
NEW DWELLING UNITS													
(U. S. Department of Labor)													
New permanent nonfarm dwelling units started:													
Unadjusted:													
Total, privately and publicly owned..... thousands..	98.6	111.4	113.7	107.4	101.1	103.9	93.9	93.6	77.4	63.6	* 63.0	65.0	83.0
Privately owned, total..... do.....	93.9	109.9	110.8	104.6	99.0	103.2	90.7	91.2	77.0	62.9	* 60.1	62.5	75.5
In metropolitan areas..... do.....	69.6	75.3	76.3	72.8	68.1	70.5	60.8	63.4	54.6	44.6	* 42.5	45.0	54.2
Publicly owned..... do.....	4.7	1.5	2.9	2.8	2.1	.7	3.2	2.4	.4	.7	* 2.9	2.5	7.5
Seasonally adjusted at annual rate:													
Privately owned, total..... do.....	1,094.0	1,157.0	1,146.0	1,091.0	1,070.0	1,136.0	1,008.0	1,052.0	1,027.0	1,020.0	* 975.0	910.0	880.0
Building construction authorized, all permit-issuing places:													
New dwelling units, total..... thousands..	* 95.2	98.1	96.1	88.3	81.3	86.0	70.4	79.3	61.7	48.1	51.4	55.7	
Privately financed, total..... do.....	* 92.3	97.1	94.7	85.8	80.5	85.4	68.6	76.8	61.1	47.5	50.8	54.4	
Units in 1 family structures..... do.....	* 81.3	86.5	84.5	76.6	71.9	75.1	59.8	67.0	52.2	39.1	41.0	43.8	
Units in 2 family structures..... do.....	3.2	2.9	3.1	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.6	2.4	1.7	1.9	2.5	
Units in multifamily structures..... do.....	* 7.8	7.8	7.1	6.4	6.1	7.8	6.6	7.3	6.4	6.7	7.9	8.1	
Publicly financed, total..... do.....	* 2.9	1.0	1.4	2.5	.8	.6	1.8	2.5	.6	.6	1.3		

* Revised. ^q Preliminary. ^o Revisions for February 1956 for floor area (thous. sq. ft.): Nonresidential, 55,888; residential, 88,561. ^e Revisions for February 1956 for new dwelling units (thous.): Privately financed—total, 70.1; multifamily structures, 5.9; publicly financed, 1.0.

¹ Indexes based on 1935-39=100 are as follows: Measured by—wholesale prices, 44.6 (April); consumer prices, 50.3 (March); retail food, 43.7 (March).

² Data include some contracts awarded in prior months but not reported.

³ Revisions for January 1954-March 1955 will be shown later.

⁴ Revised series, reflecting nationwide coverage and new techniques for compiling data on residential buildings. Figures for April-December 1956 will be available later.

⁵ Data for March, May, August, and November 1956, and January 1957 are for 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

⁶ Data for May, August, and October 1956 and January 1957 are for 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

⁷ Revised back to 1946 to incorporate new seasonal factors, revisions for 1946-56 are shown on p. 20 of the March 1957 SURVEY. For seasonal factors used, see the June 1956 issue of *Construction Review*.

Unless otherwise stated, statistics through 1954 and descriptive notes are shown in the 1955 edition of BUSINESS STATISTICS	1956										1957			
	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April
RUBBER AND RUBBER PRODUCTS—Continued														
TIRES AND TUBES														
Pneumatic casings: ♂														
Production..... thousands.....	9,193	8,834	8,986	7,930	6,741	8,050	7,800	8,799	7,641	8,556	9,504	9,169	9,766	.....
Shipments, total..... do.....	8,627	9,119	8,880	9,289	9,298	8,644	6,952	7,776	7,518	7,548	8,874	8,539	9,114	.....
Original equipment..... do.....	3,466	3,217	2,770	2,533	2,833	2,302	1,553	2,908	3,516	3,579	3,496	3,361	3,381	.....
Replacement equipment..... do.....	5,034	5,761	5,980	6,627	6,319	6,178	5,238	4,703	3,881	3,803	5,195	5,051	5,579	.....
Export..... do.....	127	141	130	129	145	163	162	165	121	166	183	127	154	.....
Stocks, end of month..... do.....	21,562	21,132	21,296	19,947	17,394	16,794	17,648	18,775	18,803	19,872	20,490	21,008	21,743	.....
Exports..... do.....	106	165	141	154	137	207	161	169	148	163	144	144	171	.....
Inner tubes: ♂														
Production..... do.....	3,347	3,094	3,093	2,837	2,300	2,795	2,773	3,025	2,585	2,670	3,364	3,362	3,822	.....
Shipments..... do.....	2,902	2,797	2,878	3,370	3,384	3,295	2,777	2,877	2,792	2,837	3,829	3,291	3,397	.....
Stocks, end of month..... do.....	6,848	7,312	7,657	7,349	6,418	5,962	6,056	6,469	6,250	6,109	5,789	5,960	6,540	.....
Exports..... do.....	139	147	138	141	84	76	96	73	53	76	32	78	76	.....

STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODUCTS

PORTLAND CEMENT														
Production..... thous. of bbl.....	23,386	26,134	29,606	28,771	29,498	30,055	28,643	29,051	25,869	24,429	19,308	17,827	22,642	.....
Percent of capacity..... do.....	87	100	110	110	109	111	109	107	98	90	71	66	76	.....
Shipments..... thous. of bbl.....	22,471	27,324	32,087	32,296	31,598	33,607	30,173	31,585	22,906	17,990	11,930	15,274	20,757	.....
Stocks, end of month:														
Finished..... do.....	29,868	28,679	26,204	22,685	20,598	17,068	15,532	13,007	15,973	22,441	29,814	32,382	34,267	.....
Clinker..... do.....	16,151	15,951	14,222	12,537	11,059	9,264	7,969	6,874	7,476	9,443	14,337	18,625	21,431	.....
CLAY PRODUCTS														
Brick, unglazed:														
Production..... thous. of standard brick.....	611,058	627,494	671,629	646,423	648,127	685,128	603,572	646,609	586,713	491,766	437,692	400,758	467,798	.....
Shipments..... do.....	541,423	624,747	661,456	632,217	618,630	641,400	571,237	600,790	516,852	397,230	314,030	370,935	454,575	.....
Price, wholesale, common, composite, f. o. b. plant dol. per thous.....	30.398	30.470	30.565	30.946	30.946	30.668	30.668	30.718	30.718	30.863	30.863	30.814	30.814	.....
Clay sewer pipe, vitrified:														
Production..... short tons.....	173,193	117,225	126,753	164,378	168,228	190,528	173,770	192,139	180,184	163,739	166,580	148,236	154,151	.....
Shipments..... do.....	159,463	127,755	137,290	183,461	178,007	187,421	169,118	186,756	143,149	109,313	107,907	111,676	133,298	.....
Structural tile, unglazed:														
Production..... do.....	68,058	65,901	64,762	60,162	65,113	69,260	64,598	64,079	63,917	55,497	54,447	49,962	57,747	.....
Shipments..... do.....	54,655	58,666	61,273	59,471	56,753	63,405	55,507	60,910	52,006	46,069	46,451	44,170	51,984	.....
GLASS PRODUCTS														
Glass containers:														
Production..... thous. of gross.....	11,790	11,938	12,376	12,567	12,158	13,237	9,878	13,377	11,895	10,323	11,657	11,057	12,596	.....
Shipments, domestic, total..... do.....	12,010	10,642	11,962	11,988	11,192	15,859	10,222	14,688	10,038	9,426	10,022	9,710	11,109	.....
General-use food:														
Narrow-neck food..... do.....	1,020	1,014	1,149	1,247	1,239	2,227	1,881	1,701	848	765	948	892	1,100	.....
Wide-mouth food (incl. packers' tumblers, jelly glasses, and fruit jars)..... thous. of gross.....	2,826	2,781	3,477	3,321	3,218	5,109	2,874	4,134	3,065	2,723	2,997	2,843	3,049	.....
Beverage..... do.....	1,656	808	936	1,274	1,001	683	395	993	509	721	484	515	799	.....
Beer bottles..... do.....	940	984	1,183	1,279	1,171	1,262	604	847	528	667	577	508	889	.....
Liquor and wine..... do.....	1,340	1,216	1,157	1,134	920	1,337	1,166	1,868	1,524	1,088	963	1,061	1,190	.....
Medicinal and toilet..... do.....	2,997	2,673	2,878	2,566	2,446	3,602	2,230	3,657	2,512	2,459	2,902	2,791	2,899	.....
Chemical, household and industrial..... do.....	1,028	978	1,000	965	999	1,336	839	1,182	841	302	967	942	1,024	.....
Dairy products..... do.....	203	188	182	202	198	303	233	306	211	201	184	158	159	.....
Stocks, end of month..... do.....	14,673	15,705	15,825	16,130	16,810	13,940	13,371	11,721	13,296	13,897	14,976	16,107	17,318	.....
GYPSUM AND PRODUCTS														
Crude gypsum, quarterly total:														
Imports..... thous. of short tons.....	804			1,305			1,224			1,013				.....
Production..... do.....	2,591			2,846			2,569			2,307				.....
Calcined, production, quarterly total..... do.....	2,208			2,367			2,110			1,861				.....
Gypsum products sold or used, quarterly total:														
Unallocated uses..... short tons.....	700,029			819,437			911,118			926,693				.....
Industrial uses..... do.....	84,574			88,369			77,685			83,481				.....
Building uses:														
Plasters:														
Base-coat..... do.....	354,421			428,129			433,807			350,230				.....
All other (incl. Keene's cement)..... do.....	271,691			356,196			381,095			319,816				.....
Lath..... mil. of sq. ft.....	719.2			796.5			601.6			530.0				.....
Wallboard..... do.....	1,286.0			1,227.0			1,068.1			1,007.8				.....
All other ♂..... do.....	53.5			69.4			55.8			47.2				.....

♂ Revised. ♀ Preliminary. ¹ Data for January-June 1956 exclude exports of passenger-car inner tubes; such exports averaged 27,000 per month in 1955.

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

⊙ Comprises sheathing, formboard, tile, and laminated board.

♂ Revisions for January and February 1956 for glass containers (thous. of gross): Production, 11,016; 11,076; shipments—total, 9,542; 9,984; narrow-neck food, 847; 989; wide-mouth food, 2,699; 2,647; beverage, 613 (January); beer bottles, 585 (January); liquor and wine, 959; 1,079; medicinal and toilet, 2,666; 2,685; chemical, etc., 975; 899; stocks, 14,269; 15,130.

NOTE FOR MANMADE FIBERS AND MANUFACTURES, p. S-39.—Fiber production (representing complete industry coverage) is according to data compiled by *Textile Economics Bureau, Inc.*; the total includes production of textile glass fiber, not shown separately. Noncellulosic fibers cover types other than textile glass; they include acrylic, nylon (polyamide), polyester, saran, protein, and others.

Data for imports, exports, and for production of broad woven fabrics (industry totals) are compiled by *U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census*. Manmade fabric production comprises, in addition to items shown separately, broad woven fabrics of 100-percent glass, of saran monofilament, acrylic, and polyester fibers, and of paper, etc. Silk fabric production comprises broad woven fabrics of 100-percent silk and of silk mixtures.

Statistics for 1955 are shown in the October 1956 SURVEY, p. S-38.

INDEX TO MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS, Pages S1-S40

Pages marked S

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

Pages marked S

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

Pages marked S

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

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

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
First-Class Mail

Business Programs and Economic Research

BUSINESS STATISTICS 1955 Biennial Edition. Over 2,500 series of commercial and official business indicators most useful in measuring economic changes. 339 pp., \$2.

NATIONAL INCOME Supplement to the Survey of Current Business. The authoritative explanation of methods and fundamental concepts underlying the national income and product accounts, with full statistical coverage back to 1929. 249 pp., illustrated, \$1.50.

PERSONAL INCOME BY STATES since 1929. The record of each State's progress as measured by income, with exhaustive statistical and explanatory data. (1957) 229 pp., illustrated, \$1.50.

REGIONAL TRENDS in the United States Economy. A detailed record of State and regional economic progress in the decades after 1929. 121 pp., illustrated, \$1.00.

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS of the United States. Complete results of the fifth periodic census of American direct investments abroad, presenting information basic to the making of intelligent decisions regarding the investment of private capital abroad. 61 pp., illustrated, 50 cents.

The BALANCE OF PAYMENTS of the United States, 1919-1953. 26 pp., illustrated, 25 cents. *The methods and sources employed in establishing these national accounts have been fully described in the detailed 165-page 1949-51 BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, still available at \$1.25 a copy.*

➔ **ORDERS** may be placed with the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., or the nearest Department of Commerce Field Office. Check or money order should be sent with orders.