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Economic Indicators

APRIL 1949

Prepared for the Joint Committee on the Economic Report

by the Council of Economic Advisers

and printed for the use of

the Joint Committee on the Economic Report



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JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMIC REPORT

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

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To the Members of Congress:

As has been stated in previous issues of *Economic Indicators*, from the time the Joint Committee on the Economic Report was established its members realized that one of its basic needs was a concise and meaningful picture of current economic trends and developments.

Fortunately, the Joint Committee finds that *Economic Indicators*, a set of basic charts and tables compiled monthly by the Council of Economic Advisers, admirably fills this need. While this material was prepared primarily for the use of the President, the Council and other officials in the executive offices, the Council has made it available to the Joint Committee.

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

desire for this information. Since nothing contained in these charts and tables is of a confidential nature they have urged that the material be made available to the general public.

Accordingly, the Joint Committee has, since last July, provided the Congress and the public with a limited number of copies of *Economic Indicators* as a Committee print pending final action on authorizing the publication on a more permanent basis. Since such legislation is still under consideration, the Committee is continuing to issue the report on a monthly basis.

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



U.S.S.

Chairman, Joint Committee on the Economic Report.

Letter of Transmittal

HON. JOSEPH C. O'MAHONEY, *Chairman,*
Joint Committee on the Economic Report,
United States Congress, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR: The Council of Economic Advisers is happy to cooperate with the Joint Committee on the Economic Report in your plans to make Economic Indicators available to the Congress as a whole and to the general public.

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

We have realized, of course, that this material has a potential usefulness not only to the President, the Council and the executive departments, but also to the Congress. Furthermore, its usefulness to the general public has been impressed upon us, particularly by the representatives of business, labor, agriculture, and consumer organizations with whom we regularly consult.

We believe the Joint Committee will perform a service of real value by giving wide circulation to this material.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin G. Hoover *Chairman.*

Leontine Heyserling *Vice Chairman.*

John D. Clark

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THE NATION'S ECONOMIC BUDGET

THE NATION'S ECONOMIC BUDGET

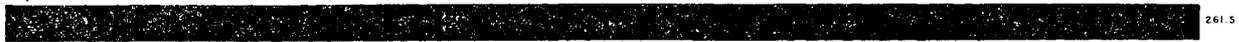
Consumers' expenditures lagged behind the rise in income from the 1st half to the 2nd half of 1948
The Government surplus declined sharply as receipts fell and payments rose.

TOTAL (GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT)^{1/}
1948, FIRST HALF

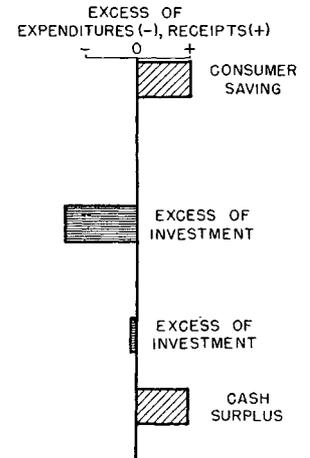
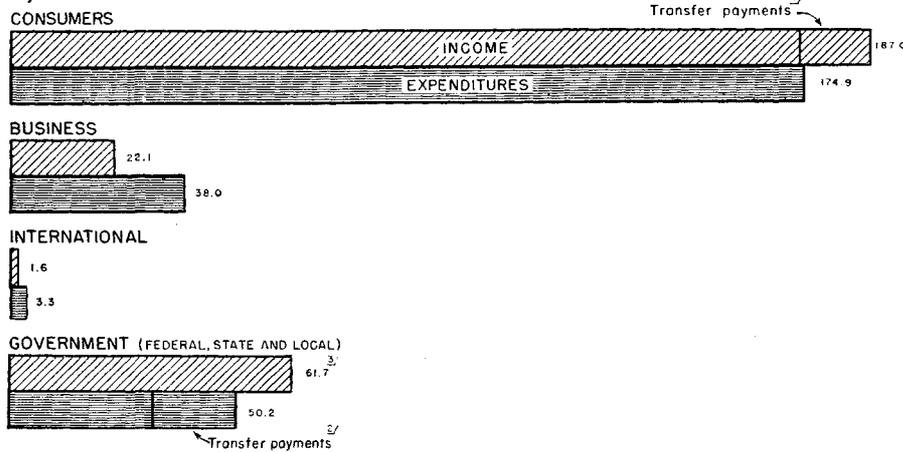
BILLIONS OF DOLLARS
ANNUAL RATES, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED



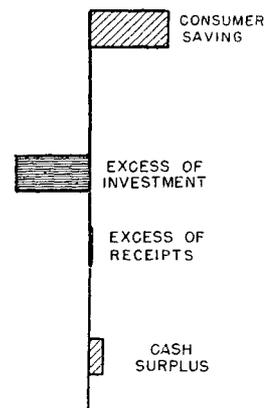
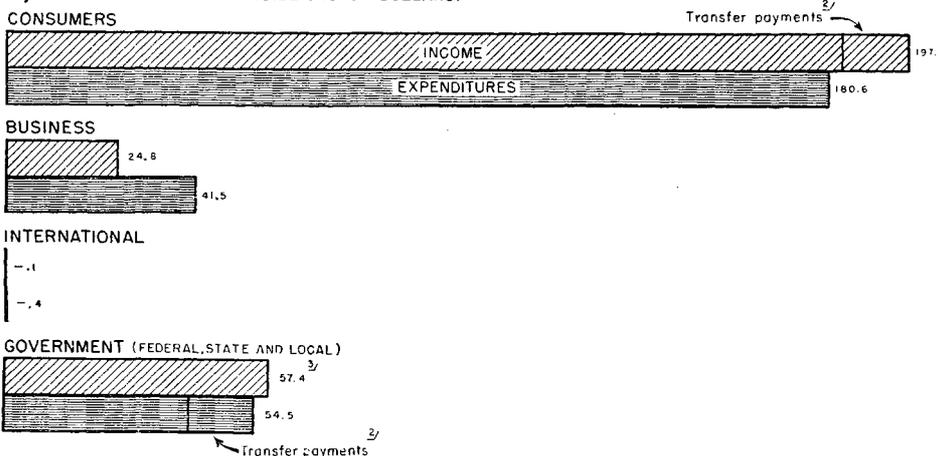
1948, SECOND HALF



1948, FIRST HALF (BILLIONS OF DOLLARS)^{1/}



1948, SECOND HALF (BILLIONS OF DOLLARS)^{2/}



^{1/} ANNUAL RATES, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED.

^{2/} TRANSFER PAYMENTS ARE INCLUDED IN RECEIPTS OR EXPENDITURES OF THE SEPARATE ACCOUNTS BUT NOT IN THE TOTAL GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT.

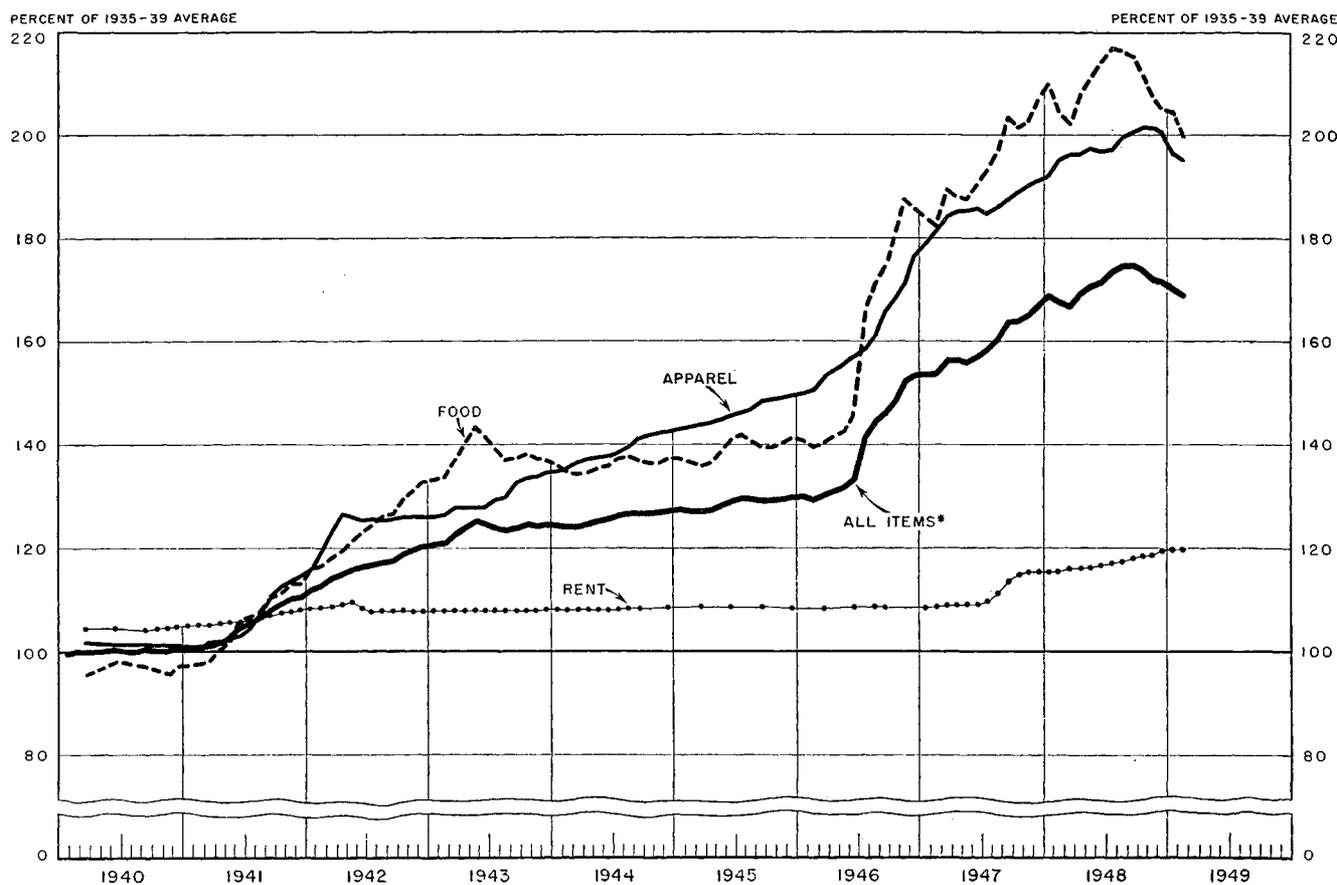
^{3/} INCLUDES AN ADJUSTMENT OF +\$2.8 BILLION IN FIRST HALF AND -\$2.3 BILLION IN SECOND HALF.

SOURCE: SEE ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT, JANUARY 1949, APPENDIX A.

PRICES

CONSUMERS' PRICES

Consumers' prices declined in February, primarily because of a drop in food prices. Rents continued slowly upward. The index for all items, after falling for 5 consecutive months, was 3.2 percent below the August-September peak.



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

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[1935-39=100]

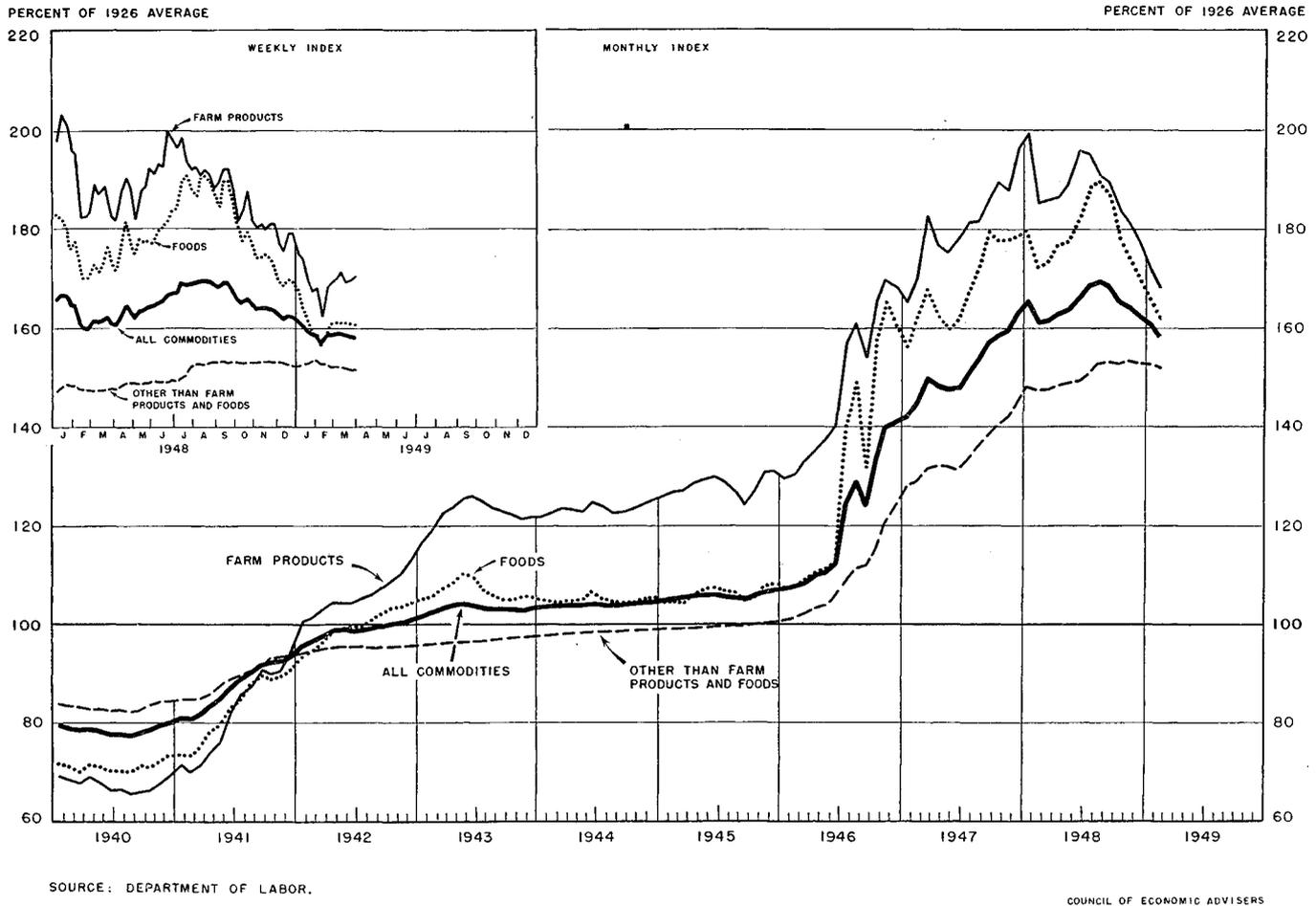
Period	All items	Food	Apparel	Rent	Fuel, electricity, and refrigeration	House furnishings	Miscellaneous
1939 monthly average.....	99.4	95.2	100.5	104.3	99.0	101.3	100.7
1940 monthly average.....	100.2	96.6	101.7	104.6	99.7	100.5	101.1
1941 monthly average.....	105.2	105.5	106.3	106.2	102.2	107.3	104.0
1942 monthly average.....	116.5	123.9	124.2	108.5	105.4	122.2	110.9
1943 monthly average.....	123.6	138.0	129.7	108.0	107.7	125.6	115.8
1944 monthly average.....	125.5	136.1	138.8	108.2	109.8	136.4	121.3
1945 monthly average.....	128.4	139.1	145.9	108.3	110.3	145.8	124.1
1946 monthly average.....	139.3	159.6	160.2	108.6	112.4	159.2	128.8
1947 monthly average.....	159.2	193.8	185.8	111.2	121.1	184.4	139.9
1948 monthly average.....	171.2	210.2	198.0	117.4	133.9	195.8	149.9
1948: February.....	167.5	204.7	195.1	116.0	130.0	193.0	146.4
March.....	166.9	202.3	196.3	116.3	130.3	194.9	146.2
April.....	169.3	207.9	196.4	116.3	130.7	194.7	147.8
May.....	170.5	210.9	197.5	116.7	131.8	193.6	147.5
June.....	171.7	214.1	196.9	117.0	132.6	194.8	147.5
July.....	173.7	216.8	197.1	117.3	134.8	195.9	150.8
August.....	174.5	216.6	199.7	117.7	136.8	196.3	152.4
September.....	174.5	215.2	201.0	118.5	137.3	198.1	152.7
October.....	173.6	211.5	201.6	118.7	137.8	198.8	153.7
November.....	172.2	207.5	201.4	118.8	137.9	198.7	153.9
December.....	171.4	205.0	200.4	119.5	137.8	198.6	154.0
1949: January.....	170.9	204.8	196.5	119.7	138.2	196.5	154.1
February.....	169.0	199.7	195.1	119.9	138.8	195.6	154.1

NOTE.—Prices are for moderate-income families in large cities.

Source: Department of Labor.

WHOLESALE PRICES

Wholesale prices on the average during March moved within a narrow range. Industrial prices drifted downward. Farm and food prices declined moderately after recovering the early February drop.



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

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[1926=100]

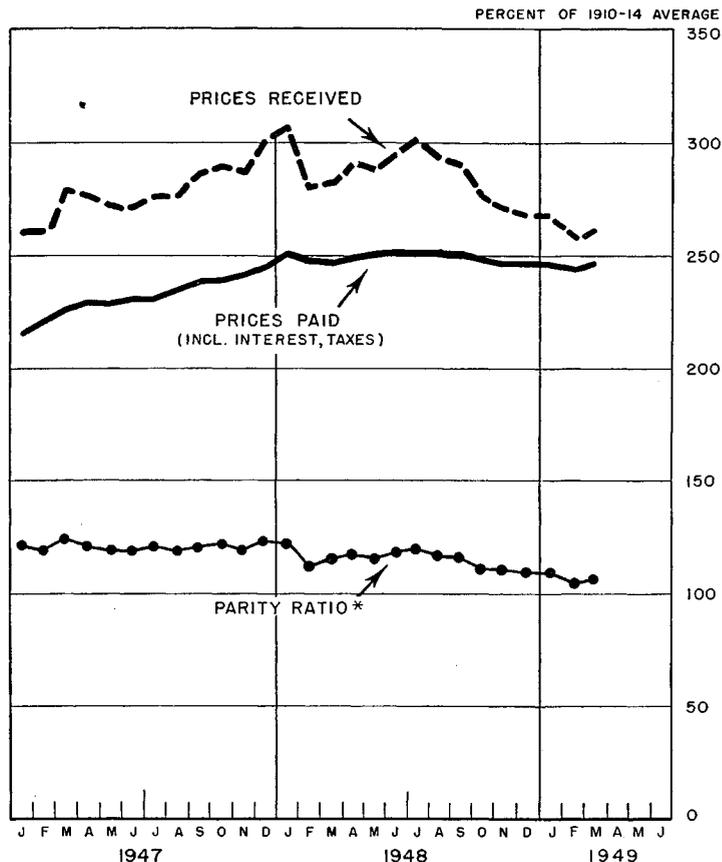
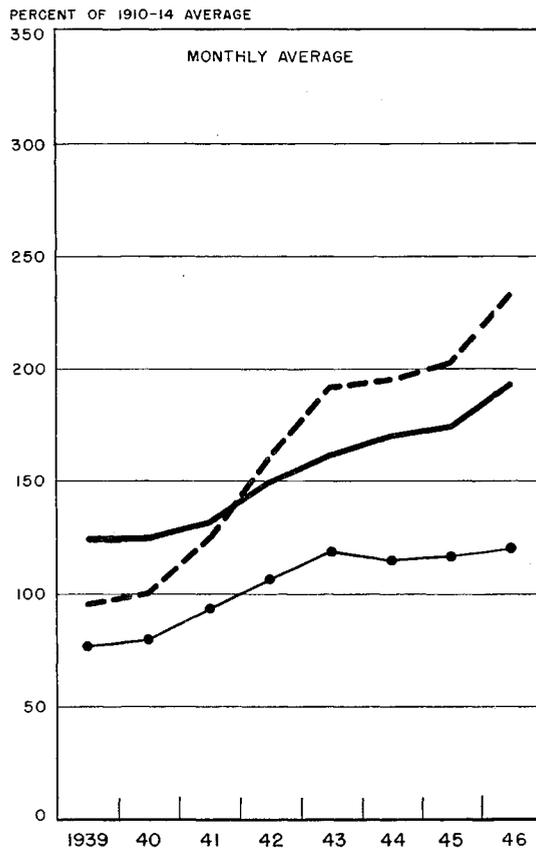
Period	All commodities	Farm products	Foods	Other than farm and foods
1941 monthly average.....	87.3	82.4	82.7	89.0
1942 monthly average.....	98.8	105.9	99.6	95.5
1946 monthly average.....	121.1	148.9	130.7	109.5
June.....	112.9	140.1	112.9	105.6
1947 monthly average.....	152.1	181.2	168.7	135.2
1948 monthly average.....	165.0	188.3	179.1	150.7
1948: February.....	160.9	185.3	172.4	147.6
March.....	161.4	186.0	173.8	147.7
April.....	162.8	186.7	176.7	148.7
May.....	163.9	189.1	177.4	149.1
June.....	166.2	196.0	181.4	149.5
July.....	168.7	195.2	188.3	151.1
August.....	169.5	191.0	189.5	153.1
September.....	168.7	189.9	186.9	153.3
October.....	165.2	183.5	178.2	153.1
November.....	164.0	180.8	174.3	153.5
December.....	162.3	177.3	170.2	153.0
1949: January.....	160.6	172.5	165.8	152.9
February.....	158.1	168.3	161.5	151.4
Week ended:				
Mar. 1.....	159.0	171.0	165.8	151.4
8.....	158.9	172.3	163.4	151.4
15.....	158.4	170.6	162.9	151.2
22.....	158.2	170.8	163.2	150.8
29.....	158.1	170.8	162.9	150.7
Apr. 5.....	158.0	171.5	164.7	149.7

NOTE.—The weekly index presented here is a revised index which permits direct comparison with the monthly index. It is not comparable with the old weekly index which does not permit such a comparison. Since chart was prepared, March data have been revised and April 5 data became available.

Source: Department of Labor.

PRICES RECEIVED AND PAID BY FARMERS

Farm prices rose 1 percent (3 index points) from February 15 to March 15, reversing 7 months of continuous decline. The rise reflected higher prices of meat animals and some recovery of grains toward support levels.



* RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PRICES PAID, INTEREST, AND TAXES.
SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

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Period	Prices received by farmers ¹	Prices paid by farmers (including interest and taxes) ²	Parity ratio ³
1939 monthly average.....	95	124	77
1941 monthly average.....	124	132	94
1942 monthly average.....	159	150	106
1943 monthly average.....	192	162	119
1944 monthly average.....	195	169	115
1945 monthly average.....	202	172	116
1946 monthly average.....	233	193	120
1947 monthly average.....	278	231	120
1948 monthly average.....	287	249	115
1948: February.....	279	248	112
March.....	283	247	115
April.....	291	249	117
May.....	289	250	116
June.....	295	251	118
July.....	301	251	120
August.....	293	251	117
September.....	290	250	116
October.....	277	249	111
November.....	271	247	110
December.....	268	248	108
1949: January.....	268	248	108
February.....	258	245	105
March.....	261	246	106

¹ August 1909-July 1914=100.

² 1910-14=100.

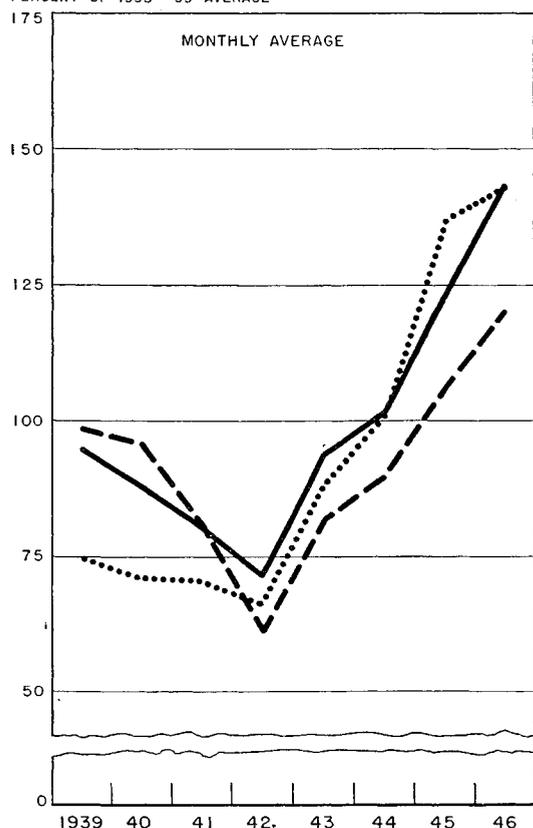
³ Ratio of prices received to prices paid, interest, and taxes.

Source: Department of Agriculture.

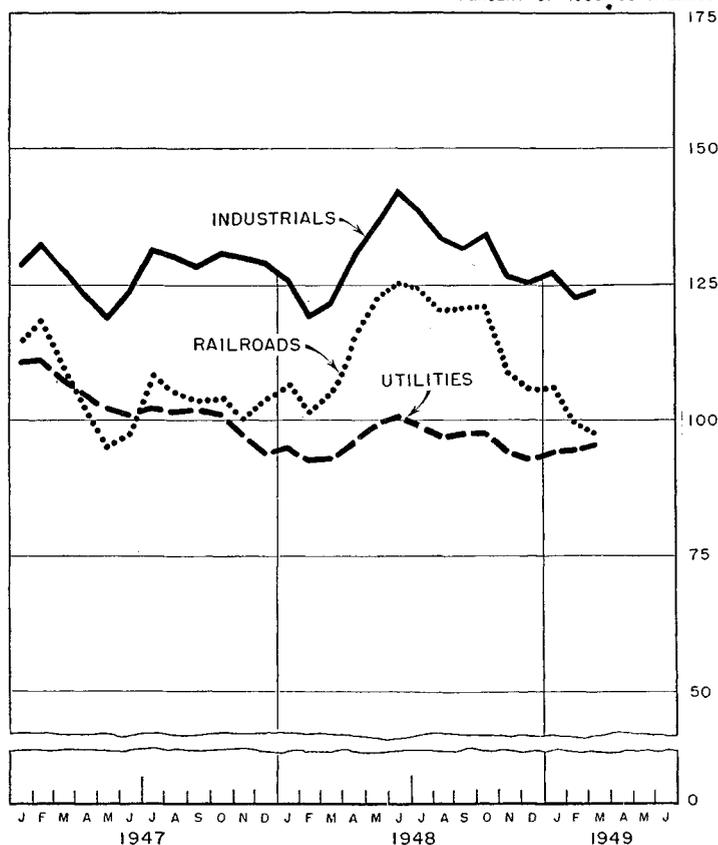
STOCK PRICES

During March, stock prices showed a slightly rising trend ending the month above February level. Stock margins were cut from 75 to 50 percent in the last week in March.

PERCENT OF 1935-39 AVERAGE



PERCENT OF 1935-39 AVERAGE



SOURCE: STANDARD AND POOR'S CORPORATION.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[1935-39=100]

Period	Combined index ¹	Industrials ¹	Railroads ¹	Utilities ¹
1939 monthly average	94.2	94.8	74.7	98.6
1941 monthly average	80.0	80.4	70.6	81.0
1942 monthly average	69.4	71.3	66.1	61.3
1943 monthly average	91.9	94.1	88.7	82.1
1944 monthly average	99.8	101.7	101.0	89.9
1945 monthly average	121.5	123.3	136.9	106.1
1946 monthly average	139.9	143.4	143.0	120.2
1947 monthly average	123.0	128.0	105.3	102.9
1948 monthly average	124.4	130.6	114.8	96.3
1948: February	114.2	119.2	101.9	92.6
March	116.4	121.8	105.2	93.0
April	124.6	130.8	115.2	96.2
May	130.2	136.9	122.6	99.2
June	135.1	142.7	125.6	100.6
July	131.9	138.9	124.7	99.5
August	127.1	133.5	119.7	97.3
September	125.7	131.7	120.4	97.3
October	127.8	134.3	120.9	97.4
November	120.4	126.4	108.8	94.2
December	119.4	125.5	105.8	92.9
1949: January	121.0	127.3	105.9	94.2
February	117.2	122.7	99.6	94.4
March	118.0	123.7	97.4	95.3

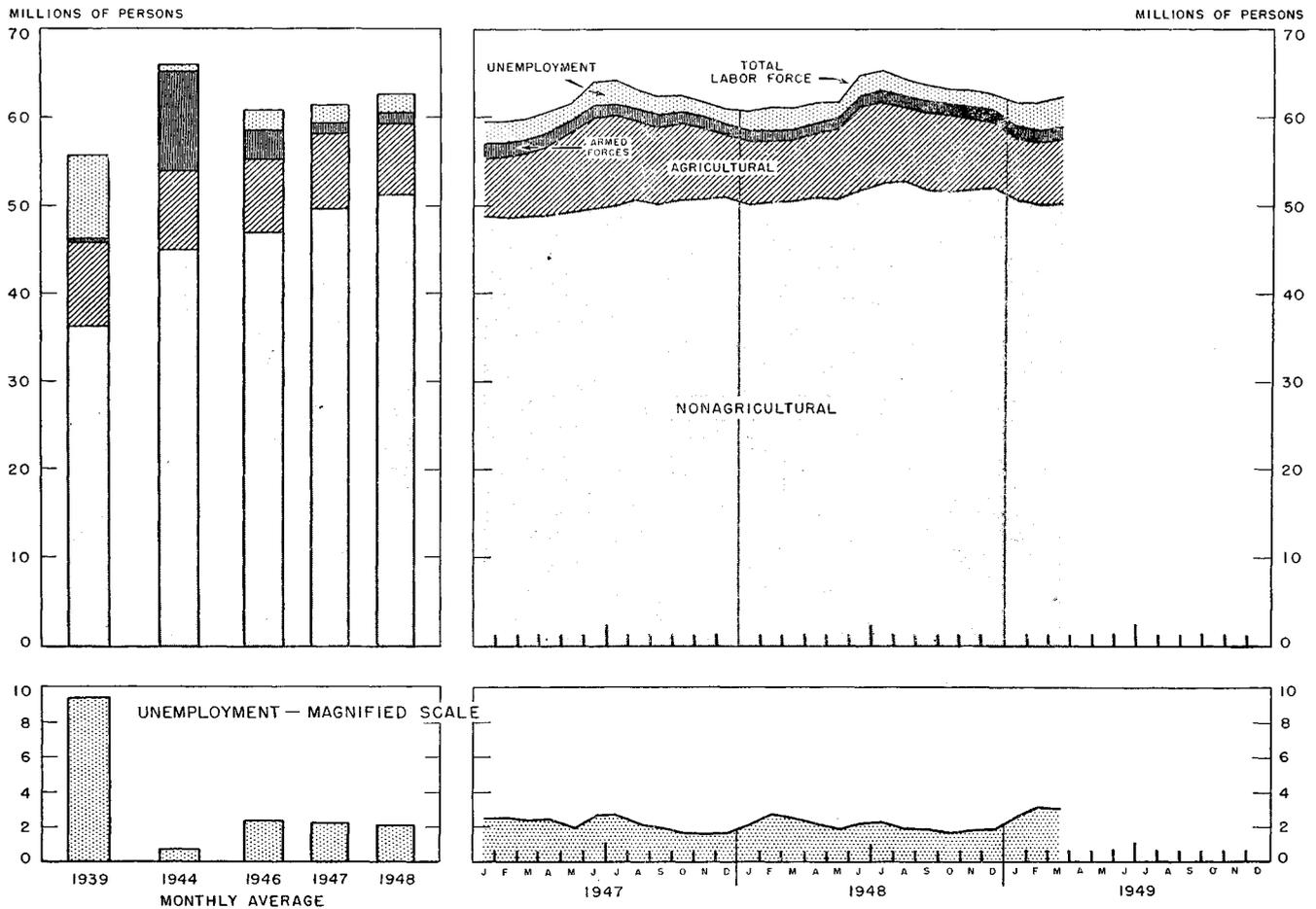
¹ Combined index prior to June 23, 1948, was based on 402 common stocks, and included 354 industrials, 20 railroads, and 28 utilities; thereafter, 416 common stocks are represented, with 365 industrials, 20 railroads, and 31 utilities.

Source: Standard & Poor's Corporation.

EMPLOYMENT

LABOR FORCE

Unemployment leveled off in March after increasing since October 1948. The labor force was 1 million above a year ago with civilian employment up $\frac{1}{2}$ million, due to an increase in agricultural employment.



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Thousands of persons 14 years of age and over]

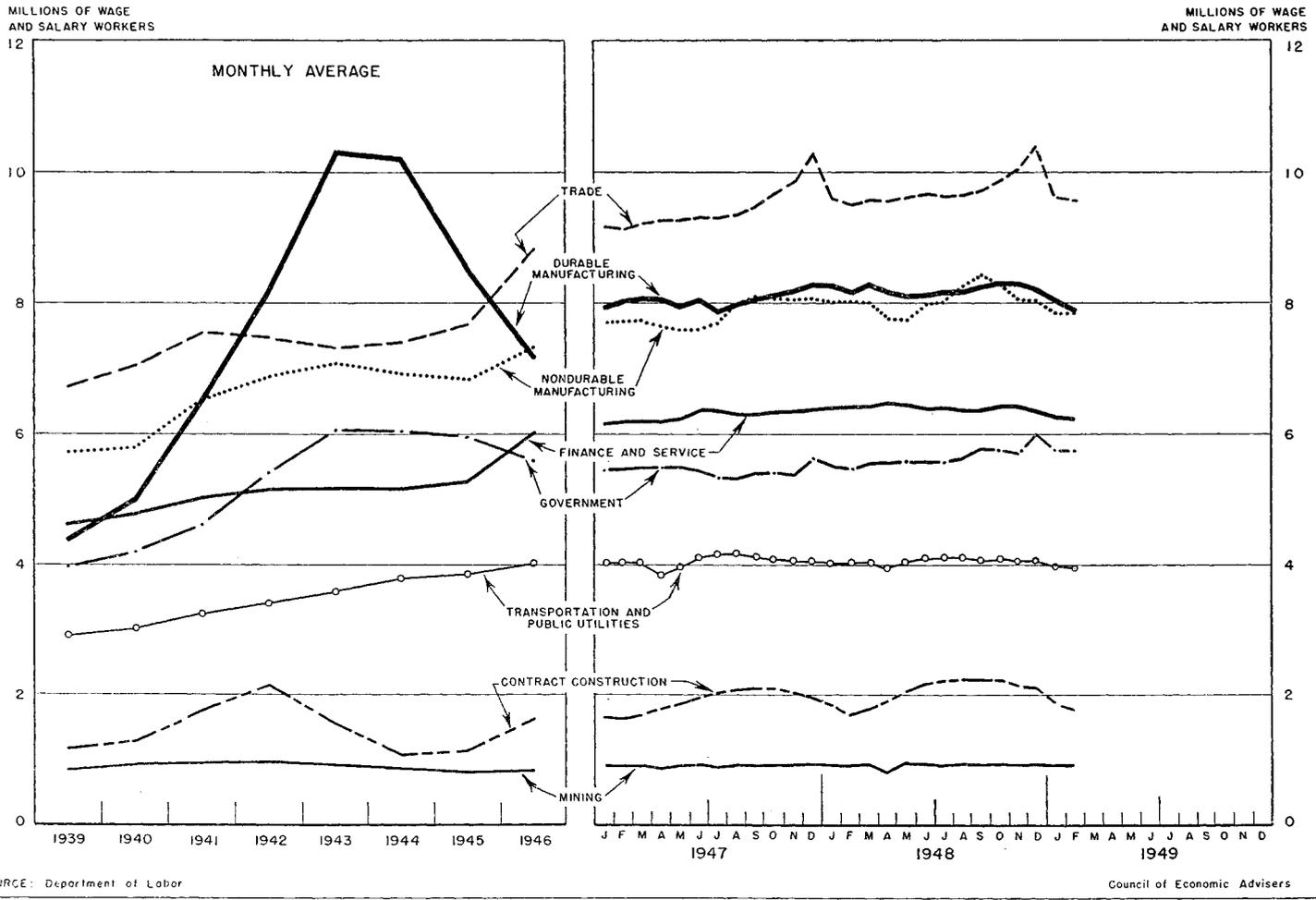
Period	Total labor force, including armed forces	Civilians employed			Armed forces	Unemployed
		Total	In non-agricultural industries	In agriculture		
1941 monthly average...	57,380	50,350	41,250	9,100	1,470	5,560
1944 monthly average...	63,890	53,960	45,010	8,950	11,260	670
1945 monthly average...	65,140	52,820	44,240	8,580	11,280	1,040
1946 monthly average...	60,820	55,250	46,930	8,320	3,300	2,270
1947 monthly average...	61,608	58,027	49,761	8,266	1,440	2,141
1948 monthly average...	62,748	59,378	51,405	7,973	1,307	2,064
1948: February.....	61,004	57,139	50,368	6,771	1,226	2,639
March.....	61,005	57,329	50,482	6,847	1,236	2,440
April.....	61,760	58,330	50,883	7,448	1,236	2,193
May.....	61,660	58,660	50,800	7,861	1,238	1,761
June.....	64,740	61,296	51,899	9,396	1,261	2,184
July.....	65,135	61,615	52,452	9,163	1,293	2,227
August.....	64,511	61,245	52,801	8,444	1,325	1,941
September.....	63,578	60,312	51,590	8,723	1,366	1,899
October.....	63,166	60,134	51,506	8,627	1,391	1,642
November.....	63,138	59,893	51,932	7,961	1,414	1,831
December.....	62,828	59,434	52,059	7,375	1,453	1,941
1949: January.....	61,546	57,414	50,651	6,763	1,468	2,664
February.....	61,896	57,168	50,174	6,993	1,508	3,221
March.....	62,305	57,647	50,254	7,393	1,491	3,167

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

Source: Department of Commerce.

EMPLOYMENT IN BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT

Employment in manufacturing, construction, and trade industries continued to decline in February; employment in most other industry groups showed little change. The drops resulted from seasonal factors as well as a continuation of nonseasonal declines in a number of industries.



SOURCE: Department of Labor

Council of Economic Advisers

[Thousands of wage and salary workers¹]

Period	Durable manufacturing	Nondurable manufacturing	Trade	Finance and service	Government (Federal, State, local)	Transportation and public utilities	Contract construction	Mining
1939 monthly average.....	4,357	5,720	6,705	4,610	3,987	2,912	1,150	845
1943 monthly average.....	10,297	7,084	7,322	5,187	6,049	3,619	1,567	917
1946 monthly average.....	7,180	7,335	8,820	6,016	5,607	4,023	1,661	852
1947 monthly average.....	8,055	7,846	9,450	6,278	5,450	4,059	1,921	911
1948 monthly average.....	8,214	8,063	9,746	6,400	5,658	4,065	2,063	925
1948: January.....	8,256	8,011	9,622	6,403	5,498	4,020	1,871	922
February.....	8,167	8,016	9,520	6,420	5,492	4,019	1,731	914
March.....	8,258	8,011	9,598	6,426	5,546	4,032	1,805	924
April.....	8,164	7,786	9,576	6,472	5,577	3,974	1,933	817
May.....	8,114	7,778	9,617	6,454	5,624	4,042	2,052	935
June.....	8,122	7,993	9,670	6,389	5,607	4,105	2,173	950
July.....	8,165	8,007	9,646	6,399	5,604	4,136	2,219	922
August.....	8,188	8,253	9,660	6,383	5,650	4,139	2,253	952
September.....	8,294	8,403	9,733	6,379	5,801	4,092	2,239	948
October.....	8,318	8,279	9,889	6,364	5,789	4,091	2,206	941
November.....	8,303	8,158	10,034	6,364	5,714	4,066	2,162	938
December.....	8,226	8,058	10,381	6,347	5,994	4,066	2,079	939
1949: January ²	8,006	7,874	9,625	6,255	5,761	3,978	1,906	924
February ²	7,889	7,858	9,550	6,235	5,759	3,948	1,793	925

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

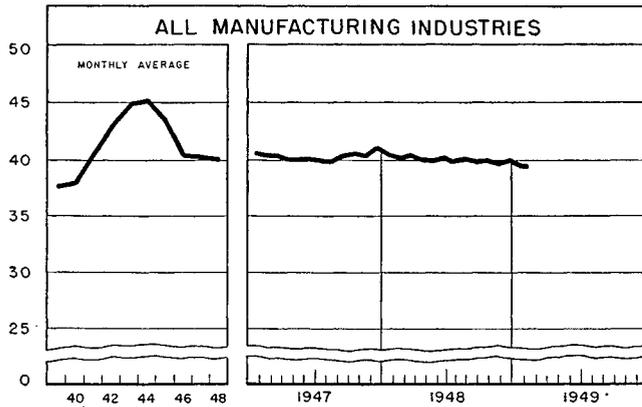
² Preliminary estimate.

Source: Department of Labor.

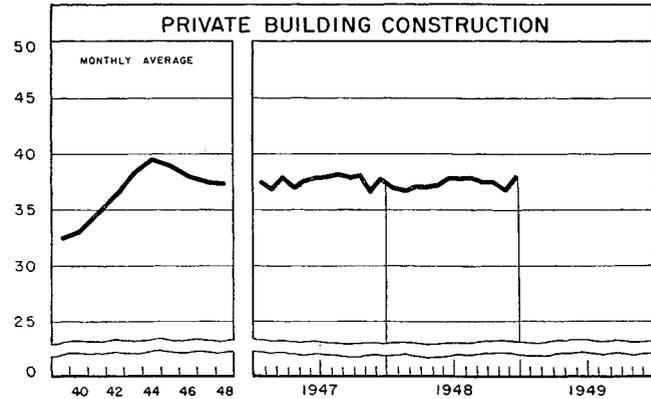
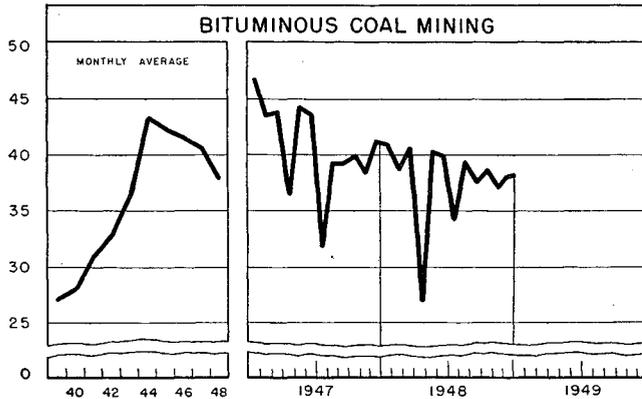
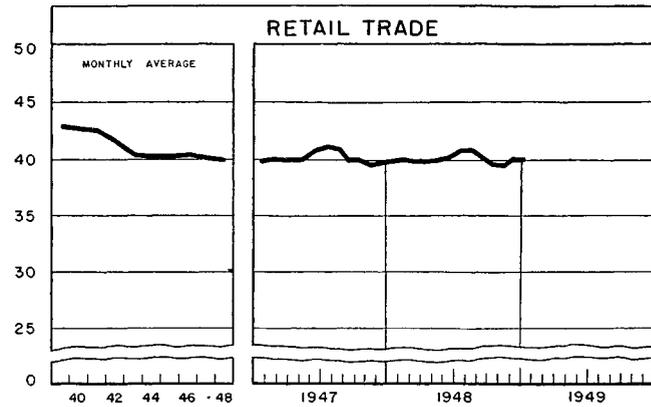
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS

The average work week in manufacturing showed no change in February, according to preliminary data. While the average of 39.4 hours included significant amounts of overtime, it was one hour under last year's level.

HOURS PER WEEK



HOURS PER WEEK



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Hours per week, selected industries]

Period	All manufacturing industries	Retail trade	Bituminous coal mining	Private building construction ¹
1939 monthly average.....	37.7	43.0	27.1	32.6
1941 monthly average.....	40.6	42.5	31.1	34.8
1944 monthly average.....	45.2	40.3	43.4	39.6
1945 monthly average.....	43.4	40.3	42.3	39.0
1946 monthly average.....	40.4	40.5	41.6	38.1
1947 monthly average.....	40.3	40.2	40.6	37.6
1948 monthly average ³	40.1	40.1	37.7	37.4
1948: January.....	40.5	39.8	40.9	37.2
February.....	40.2	40.0	38.7	36.7
March.....	40.4	39.8	40.6	37.1
April.....	40.1	39.8	² 27.0	37.0
May.....	39.9	39.9	40.3	37.1
June.....	40.2	40.3	39.9	37.9
July.....	39.8	40.8	34.2	37.8
August.....	40.1	41.0	39.4	37.8
September.....	39.8	40.2	37.9	37.5
October.....	40.0	39.7	38.6	37.4
November.....	39.8	39.5	37.1	37.0
December ³	40.0	40.2	38.0	38.0
1949: January ³	39.4	40.0	38.4	(⁴)
February ³	39.4			

¹ Covers only employees at the site of privately financed building projects.

² Based on pay period during coal stoppage.

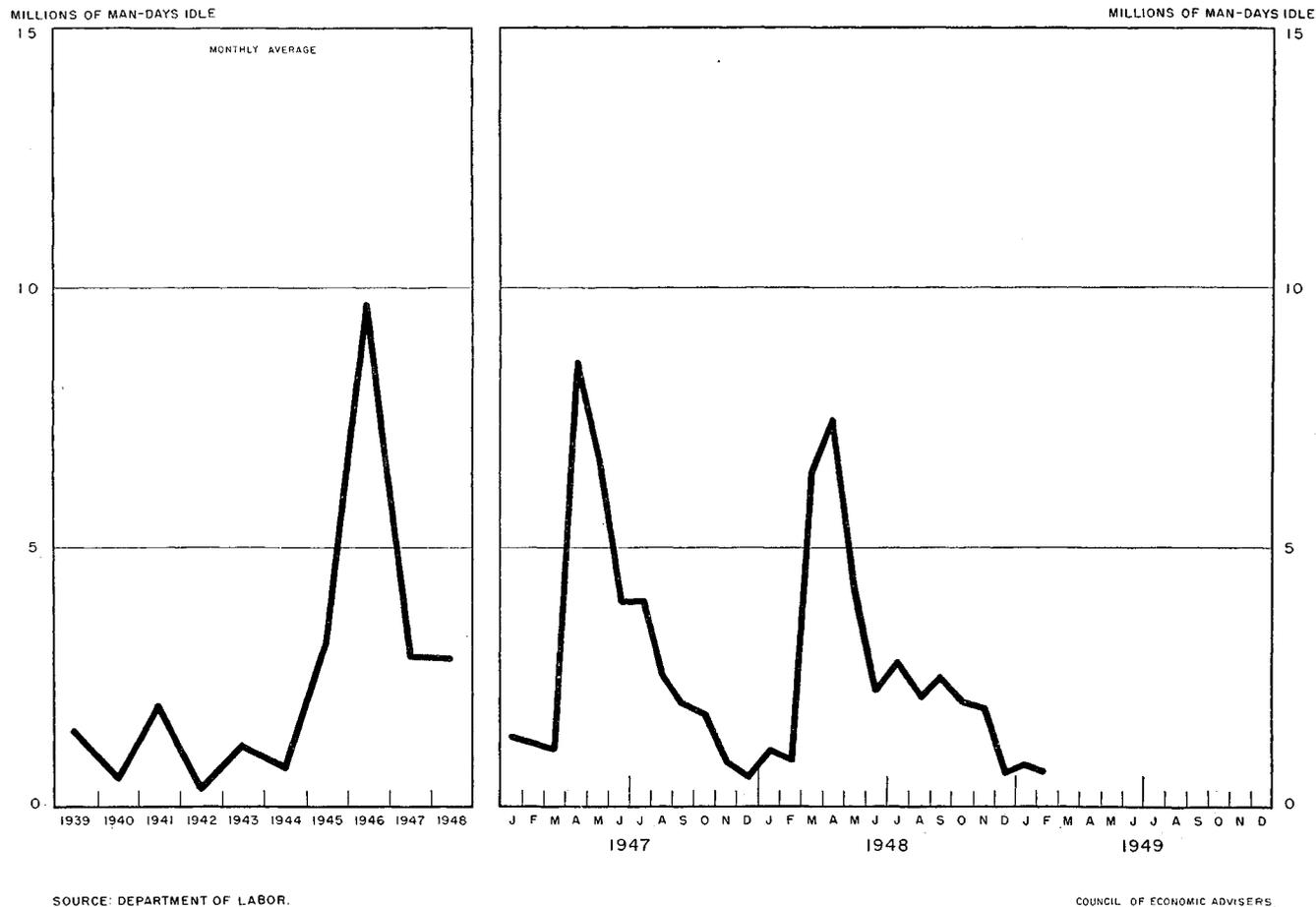
³ Preliminary estimate.

⁴ Not available. This series is in process of revision.

Source: Department of Labor.

WORK STOPPAGES

Man-days lost because of work stoppages continued at a low level in February.



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS.

Period	Man-days idle (thousands)	Man-days idle as percent of estimated available working time
1939: Monthly average.....	1,483	.3
April—peak month.....	4,902	1.0
1941: Monthly average.....	1,917	.3
April—peak month.....	7,113	1.1
1942: Monthly average.....	348	.1
1943: Monthly average.....	1,125	.2
June—peak month.....	4,699	.6
1944: Monthly average.....	727	.1
1945: Monthly average.....	3,167	.5
October—peak month.....	8,610	1.4
1946: Monthly average.....	9,667	1.4
February—peak month.....	22,900	4.2
1947: Monthly average.....	2,883	.4
April—peak month.....	8,540	1.2
1948: Monthly average ¹	2,833	.4
1948: August ¹	2,100	.3
September ¹	2,500	.3
October ¹	2,000	.3
November ¹	1,900	.3
December ¹	600	.1
1949: January ¹	800	.1
February ¹	650	.1

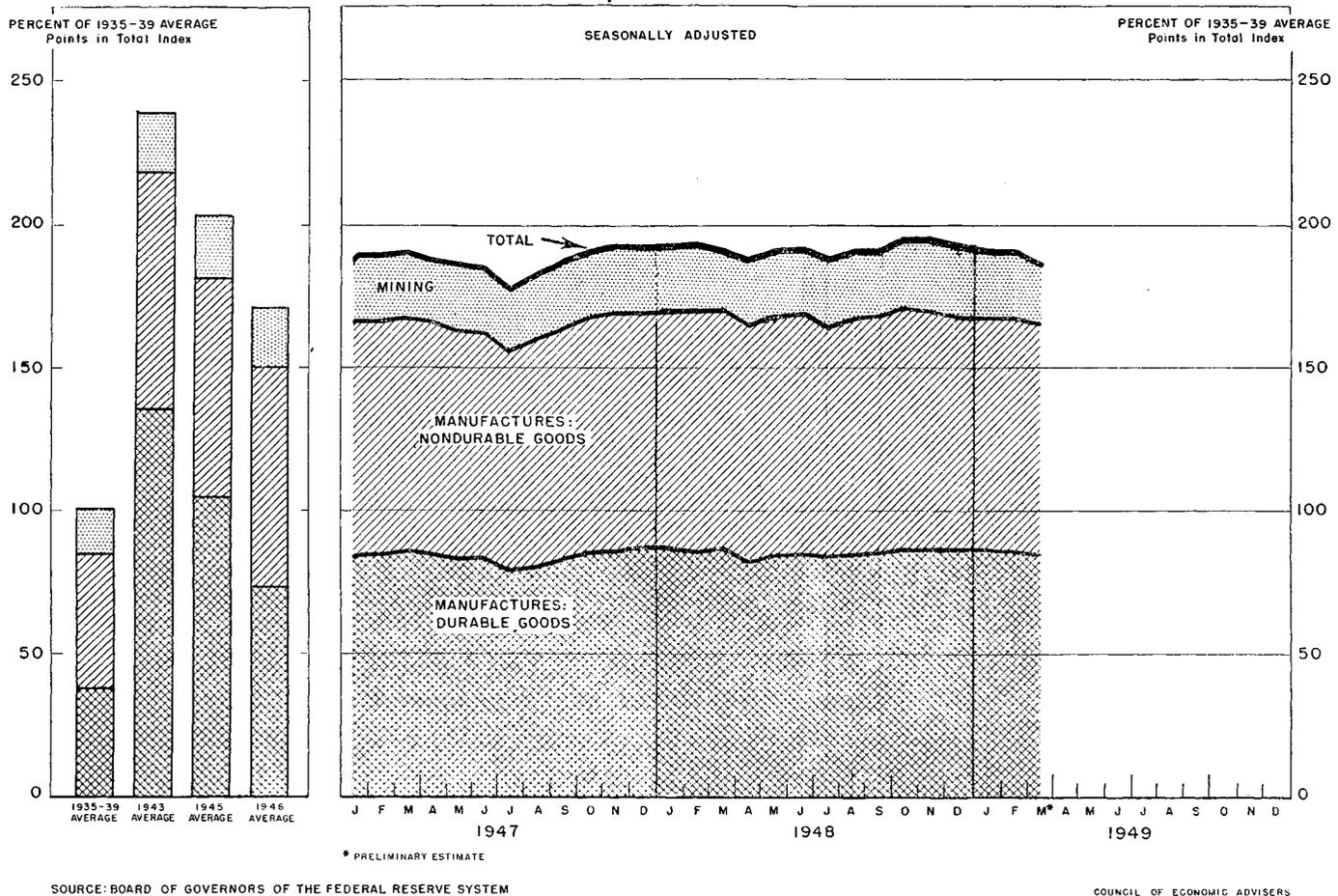
¹ Preliminary estimate.

Source: Department of Labor.

PRODUCTION AND BUSINESS ACTIVITY

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Industrial production in February was about 3 percent below the October–November peak, with the largest decrease occurring in mining. Preliminary March estimates indicate a further decline as the output of nondurable goods dropped and mining activities were curtailed by the "two-weeks holiday."



SOURCE: BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[1935-39=100, seasonally adjusted]

Period	Indexes, 1935-39=100					Points in total index, 1935-39 average for total=100		
	Total industrial production	Manufactures			Mining	Manufactures		Mining
		Total	Durable goods	Nondurable goods		Durable goods	Nondurable goods	
1935-39 monthly average.....	100	100	100	100	100	38	47	15
1943 monthly average.....	239	258	360	176	132	136	83	20
1945 monthly average.....	203	214	274	166	137	104	78	21
1946 monthly average.....	170	177	192	165	134	73	77	21
1947 monthly average.....	187	194	220	172	149	83	81	23
1948 monthly average.....	192	198	225	177	155	85	83	24
1948: February.....	194	201	226	180	155	86	84	24
March.....	191	200	229	177	142	87	83	22
April.....	188	195	217	177	147	82	83	22
May.....	192	197	221	178	162	84	83	25
June.....	192	198	222	179	159	84	84	24
July.....	186	192	219	169	153	83	79	23
August.....	191	197	223	177	159	84	82	24
September.....	192	199	225	178	156	85	83	24
October.....	195	202	231	179	158	87	84	24
November.....	195	201	229	178	161	87	83	25
December.....	192	199	231	173	156	87	81	24
1949: January.....	191	198	227	174	151	86	82	23
February ¹	189	196	226	173	149	86	81	23
March ¹	185	191	225	170	131	85	80	20

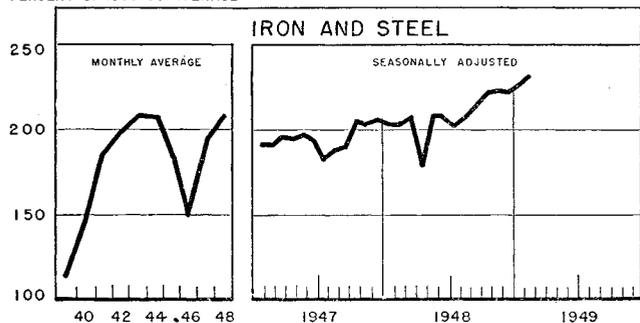
¹ Preliminary estimate.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

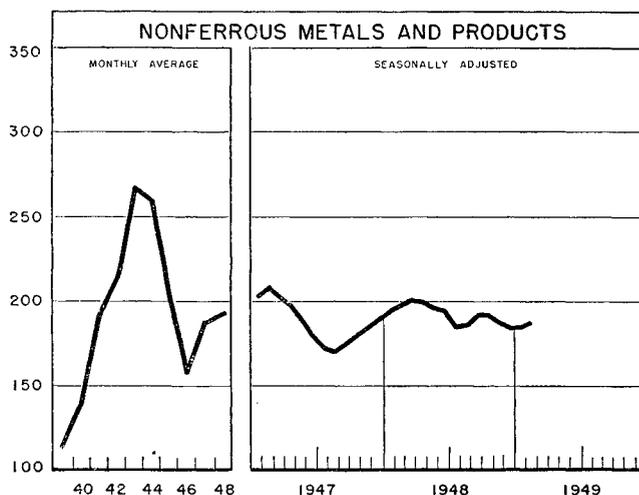
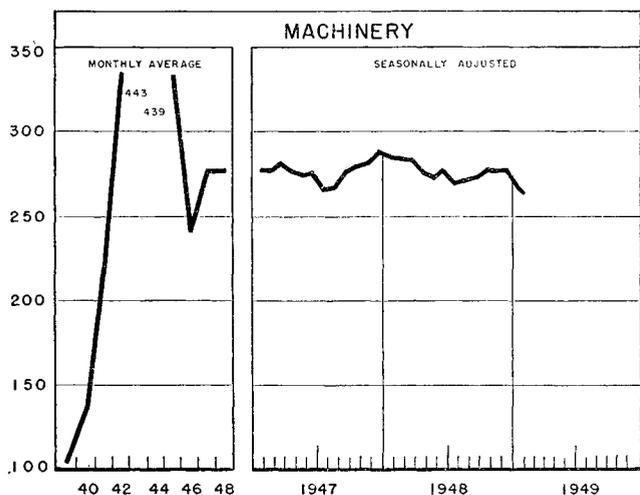
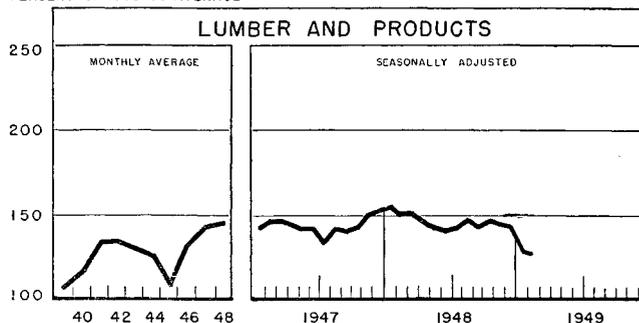
PRODUCTION OF SELECTED DURABLE MANUFACTURES

Iron and steel output continued to increase in February; nonferrous metals also rose; but decreases were registered for machinery and for lumber.

PERCENT OF 1935-39 AVERAGE



PERCENT OF 1935-39 AVERAGE



SOURCE: BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[1935-39=100, seasonally adjusted]

Period	Iron and steel	Lumber and products	Machinery	Nonferrous metals and products
1939 monthly average	114	106	104	113
1940 monthly average	147	116	136	139
1941 monthly average	186	134	221	191
1942 monthly average	199	134	340	214
1943 monthly average	208	129	443	267
1944 monthly average	206	125	439	259
1945 monthly average	183	109	343	204
1946 monthly average	150	131	240	157
1947 monthly average	195	143	276	187
1948 monthly average	208	145	277	193
1948: January	203	155	285	195
February	203	150	284	199
March	207	151	283	201
April	177	145	275	200
May	208	142	273	196
June	208	140	277	194
July	201	142	269	185
August	207	148	271	186
September	214	143	273	192
October	221	147	277	192
November	223	145	277	187
December	222	143	275	184
1949: January	228	129	268	184
February ¹	231	127	261	188

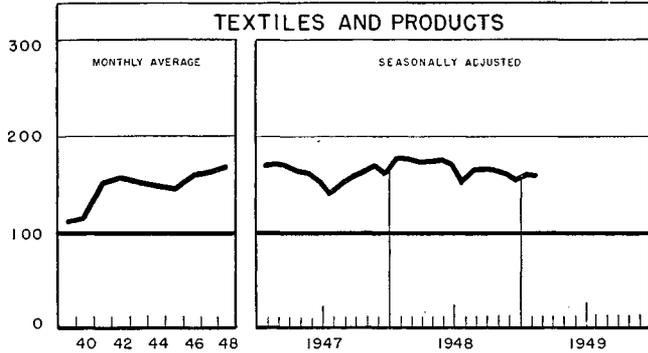
¹ Preliminary estimate.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

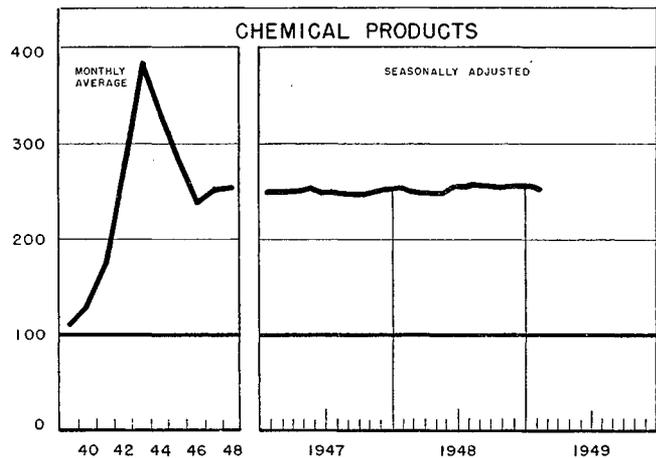
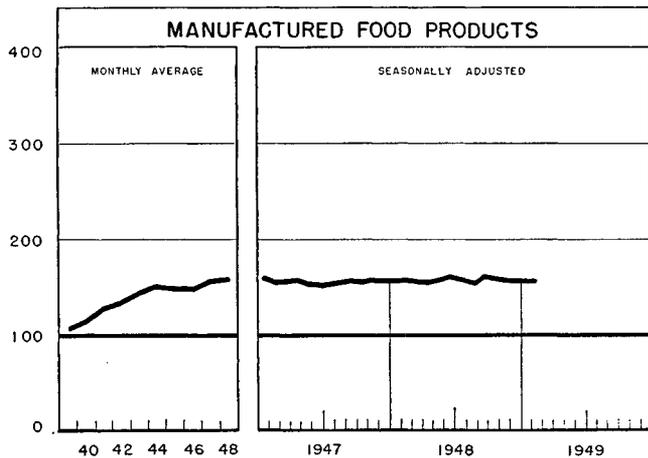
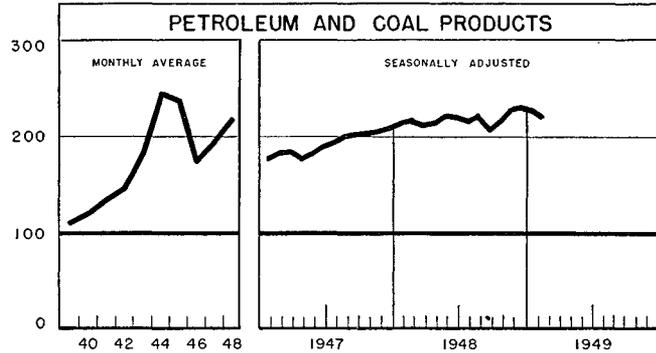
PRODUCTION OF SELECTED NONDURABLE MANUFACTURES

Reduction of operations in the oil and gas industries in February cut the output of petroleum and coal products by 4 percent. Small declines occurred in textiles (rayon only) and in chemicals.

PERCENT OF 1935-39 AVERAGE



PERCENT OF 1935-39 AVERAGE



SOURCE: BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[1935-39=100, seasonally adjusted]

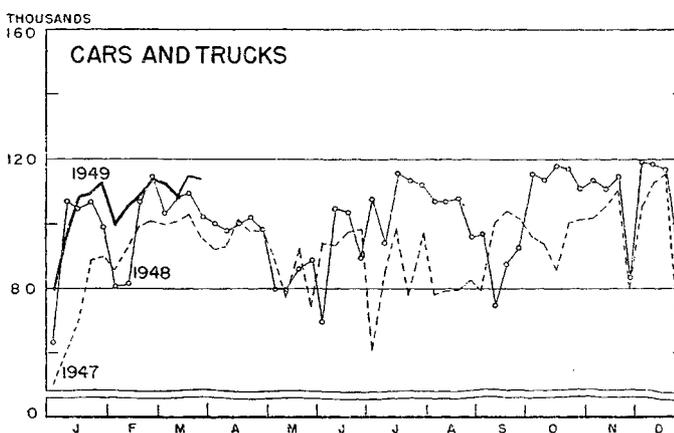
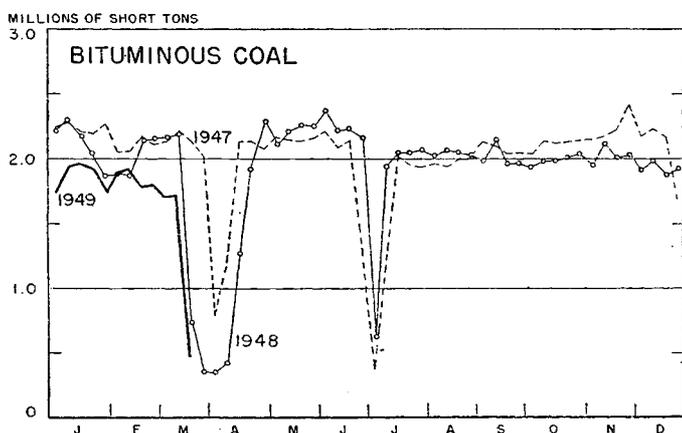
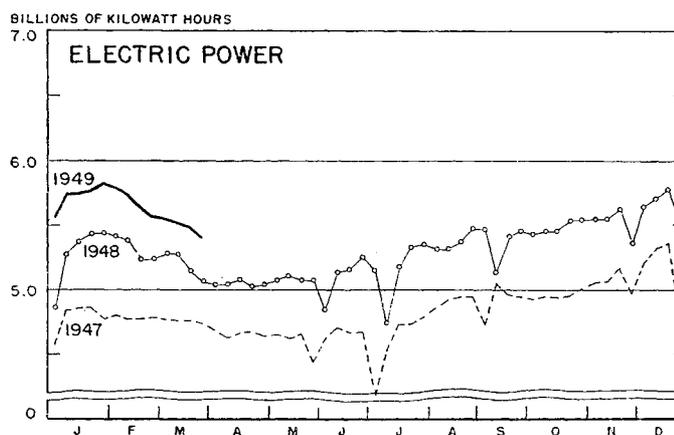
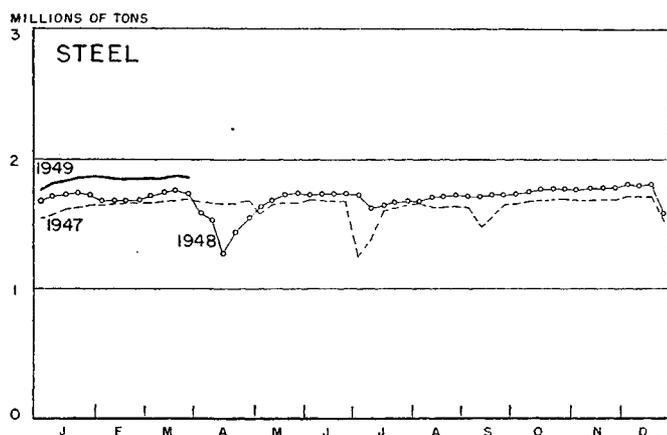
Period	Textiles and products	Petroleum and coal products	Manufactured food products	Chemical products
1935-39 monthly average.....	100	100	100	100
1943 monthly average.....	153	185	145	384
1945 monthly average.....	146	235	151	284
1946 monthly average.....	162	173	150	236
1947 monthly average.....	163	193	157	251
1948 monthly average.....	169	218	159	254
1948: January.....	179	214	158	255
February.....	179	215	160	252
March.....	175	211	158	250
April.....	174	213	157	249
May.....	176	220	159	249
June.....	174	221	163	256
July.....	154	217	160	251
August.....	166	222	154	259
September.....	168	207	163	257
October.....	167	217	161	255
November.....	164	227	159	257
December.....	156	230	158	257
1949: January.....	160	227	159	257
February ¹	159	217	159	252

¹ Preliminary estimate.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

WEEKLY PRODUCTION - SELECTED INDICATORS

Production of steel, continuing in March at peak levels reached in January, was above that for March 1948. Electric power was well above a year ago, cars and trucks just above, while bituminous coal was below.



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

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

Period	Steel (thousands of net tons)	Electric power, by utilities (millions of kilowatt-hours)	Bituminous coal (thousands of short tons) ¹	Motor vehicles (Ward's number)
1947: High.....	1,711.4	5,368	2,410	115,353
Low.....	1,259.9	4,190	393	49,503
Weekly average.....	1,637.4	4,821	2,008	90,860
March: First week.....	1,651.9	4,787	2,130	99,081
Second week.....	1,676.4	4,764	2,228	100,432
Third week.....	1,686.9	4,759	2,148	102,632
Fourth week.....	1,697.4	4,729	2,025	95,289
1948: High.....	1,804.3	5,790	2,371	119,037
Low.....	1,285.2	4,760	348	63,173
Weekly average.....	1,700.2	5,300	1,906	100,670
March: First week.....	1,705.1	5,293	2,173	102,841
Second week.....	1,741.2	5,285	2,219	108,438
Third week.....	1,757.4	5,145	727	109,475
Fourth week.....	1,725.0	5,065	353	101,940
1949: High.....	1,880.4	5,810	1,963	115,671
Low.....	1,753.8	5,404	478	79,377
Weekly average ²	1,843.1	5,639	1,718	106,573
March: First week.....	1,852.7	5,552	1,710	113,317
Second week.....	1,869.3	5,531	1,725	109,101
Third week.....	1,880.4	5,496	478	115,671
Fourth week ³	1,863.8	5,404	-----	114,110

¹ Daily average for the week.

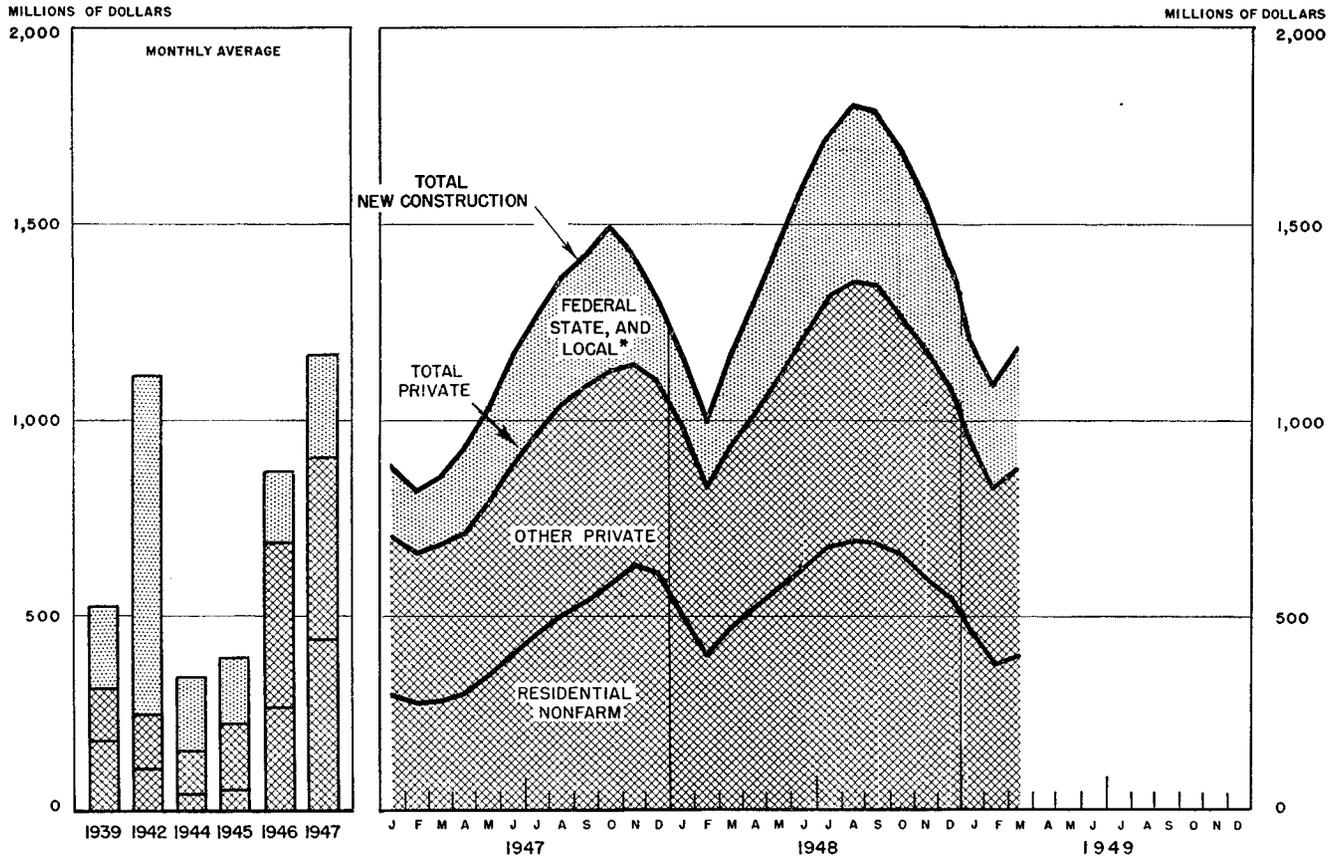
² Weekly average for the first 13 weeks of the year with the exception of bituminous coal production which is the daily average for the first 12 weeks of 1949.

³ Preliminary estimate.

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

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Construction activity increased seasonally in March to a total dollar volume of \$1.2 billion, 18 percent above February and 2 percent above March 1948. Privately financed construction, which accounted for almost 3/4 of the total dollar volume, was 6 percent below a year ago and publicly financed construction was 39 percent higher.



* INCLUDES PUBLIC RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Millions of dollars]

Period	Total new construction	Private construction			Federal, State, and local ¹
		Total private	Residential (nonfarm)	Other	
1939 monthly average	526	317	176	141	208
1942 monthly average	1,118	251	110	141	867
1944 monthly average	345	152	45	107	193
1945 monthly average	401	226	57	169	174
1946 monthly average	871	688	265	422	184
1947 monthly average	1,165	908	438	469	257
1948 monthly average	1,472	1,136	582	554	336
1948: February	1,009	837	400	437	172
March	1,166	940	475	466	226
April	1,311	1,024	525	499	287
May	1,461	1,120	585	535	341
June	1,616	1,235	635	600	381
July	1,715	1,318	680	638	397
August	1,799	1,354	695	659	445
September	1,782	1,332	685	647	450
October	1,707	1,265	650	615	442
November	1,552	1,178	600	578	374
December	1,391	1,080	550	530	311
1949: January	1,221	973	450	484	287
February ²	1,092	838	375	463	254
March ²	1,195	881	400	481	314

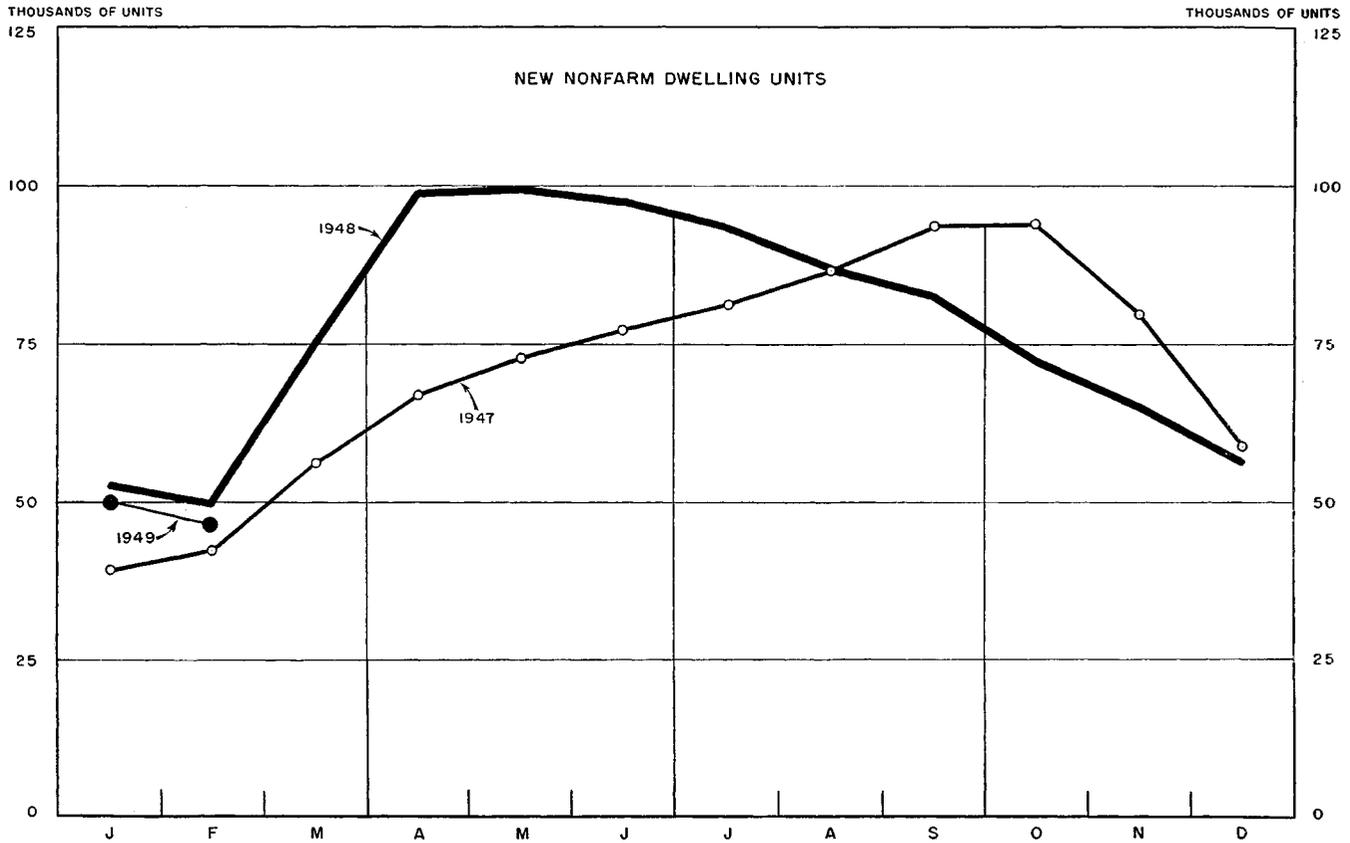
¹ Includes public residential construction.

² Preliminary estimate.

NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.
Sources: Department of Commerce and Department of Labor.

NEW HOUSING STARTS

About 46,000 new permanent dwelling units were started in February—4,000 less than in February a year ago. Starts for the first two months of this year were 6 percent below those for the same period last year.



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

Month	New nonfarm units started ¹		
	1947	1948	1949
January	39,300	52,600	² 50,000
February	42,800	49,600	² 46,000
March	56,000	75,100	-----
April	67,100	98,800	-----
May	72,900	99,400	-----
June	77,200	97,500	-----
July	81,100	93,500	-----
August	86,300	86,300	-----
September	93,800	82,200	-----
October	94,000	72,900	-----
November	79,700	² 65,000	-----
December	58,800	² 56,000	-----
Monthly average	71,125	² 77,408	-----

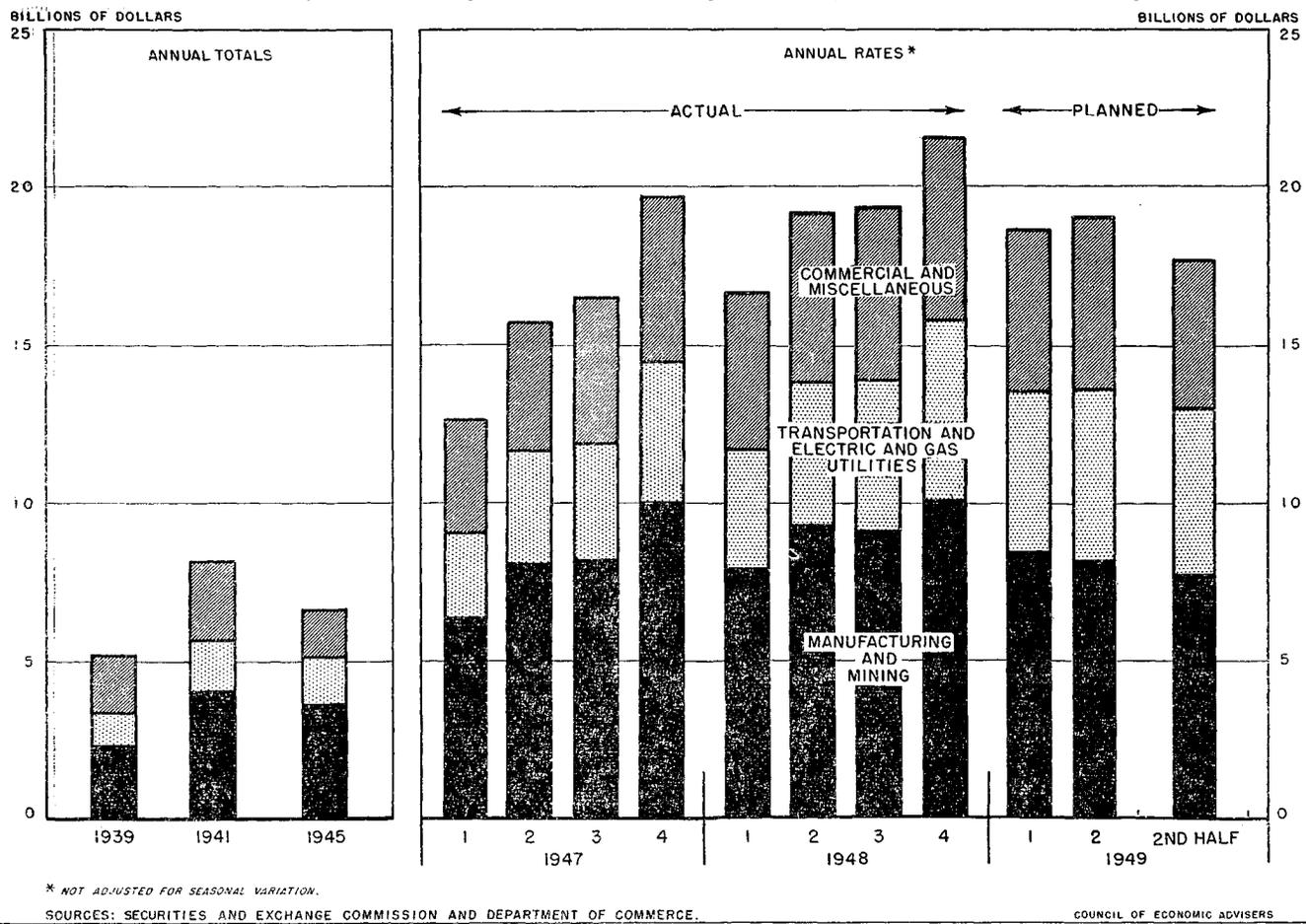
¹ Conventional and prefabricated units. Excludes temporary units after 1947 when program ended.

² Preliminary.

Source: Department of Labor.

EXPENDITURES FOR NEW PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

SEC-Commerce survey made in January shows that nonagricultural business expenditures for plant and equipment in 2nd quarter of 1949 are expected to be slightly lower than in same quarter of 1948. It also shows that substantial declines in all fields except electric and gas utilities and mining are anticipated in 2nd half of this year.



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

Period	Total ¹	Manufacturing	Mining	Transportation		Electric and gas utilities	Commercial and miscellaneous ²
				Railroad	Other		
1939	5,200	1,930	380	280	280	480	1,850
1941	8,190	3,400	680	560	340	710	2,490
1945	6,630	3,210	440	550	320	630	1,480
1946	12,040	5,910	560	570	660	1,040	3,300
1947	16,180	7,460	690	910	800	1,900	4,430
1948	19,230	8,340	800	1,320	700	2,680	5,390
1949 ³	18,310	7,240	820	1,450	650	3,130	5,010
1947: First quarter	12,640	5,800	600	640	720	1,320	3,600
Second quarter	15,760	7,400	640	880	920	1,800	4,120
Third quarter	16,560	7,480	720	920	800	2,000	4,640
Fourth quarter	19,760	9,160	840	1,200	760	2,480	5,360
1948: First quarter	16,680	7,200	720	1,080	720	2,000	4,960
Second quarter	19,280	8,560	800	1,240	760	2,560	5,360
Third quarter	19,320	8,360	800	1,320	680	2,760	5,440
Fourth quarter	21,640	9,280	800	1,640	680	3,400	5,760
1949: First quarter ³	18,720	7,760	720	1,560	640	2,880	5,160
Second quarter ³	19,120	7,440	760	1,640	720	3,160	5,440
Second half ³	17,700	6,880	900	1,300	620	3,240	4,720

¹ Excludes agriculture.

² Includes trade, service, finance, and communication.

³ Estimates based on anticipated capital expenditures of business.

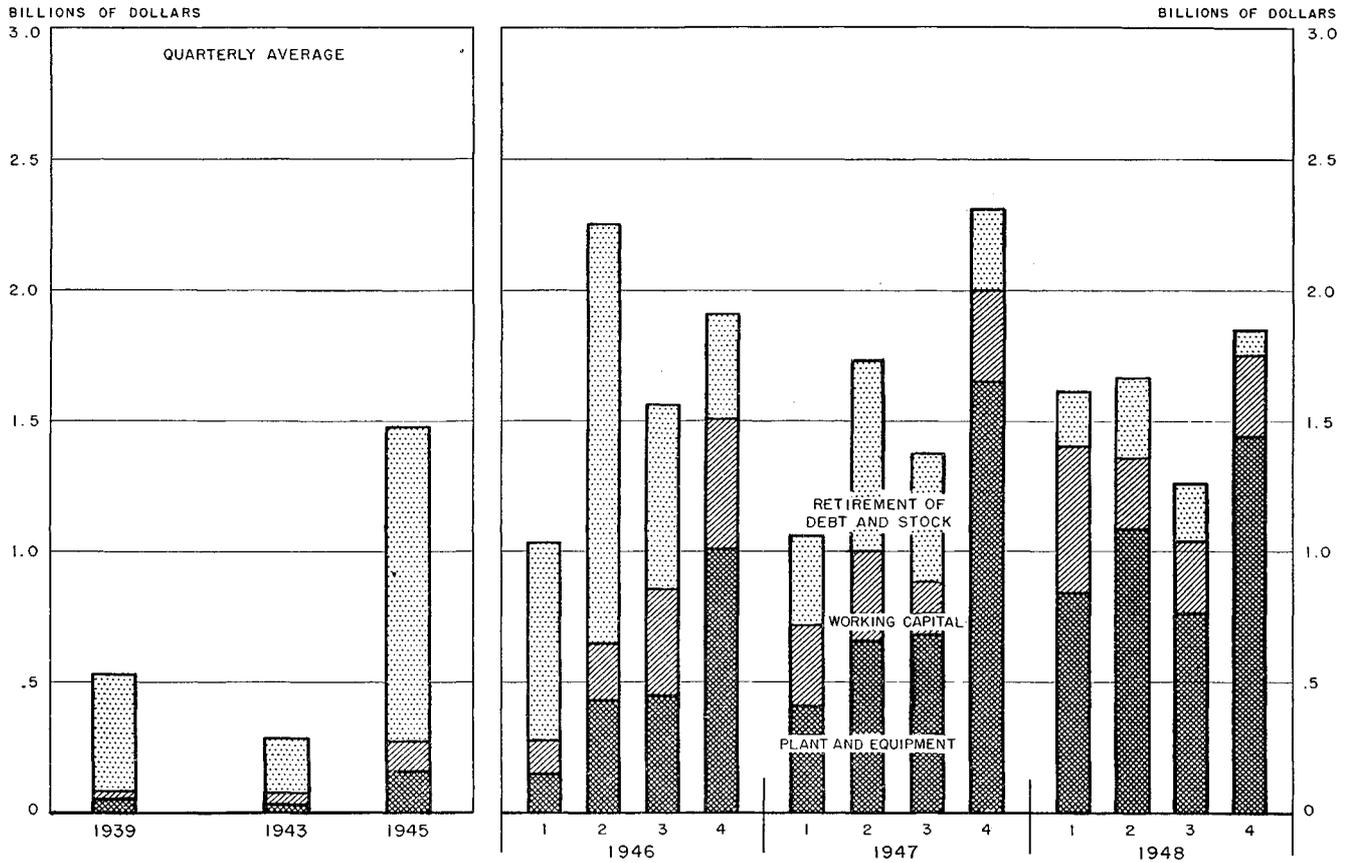
NOTE.—These figures do not agree with the totals included in the gross national product estimates of the Department of Commerce, principally because the latter cover agricultural investment and also certain equipment and construction outlays charged to current expense. Figures for 1939-44 are Federal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

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

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

NEW CORPORATE SECURITY ISSUES

The seasonal increase in the 4th quarter, while less than in the preceding year, brought the yearly total of corporate security issues close to that of 1947.



SOURCE: SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Millions of dollars]

Period	Estimated net proceeds	Proposed uses of net proceeds			
		New money			Retirement of debt and stock ¹
		Total	Plant and equipment	Working capital	
1939 quarterly average.....	529	81	43	39	448
1943 quarterly average.....	287	77	35	42	210
1945 quarterly average.....	1,475	270	159	111	1,206
1946 quarterly average.....	1,689	820	529	291	869
1947 quarterly average.....	1,617	1,148	852	296	469
1948 quarterly average ²	1,599	1,388	1,032	356	210
1947: First quarter.....	1,054	706	402	305	348
Second quarter.....	1,727	1,000	661	338	727
Third quarter.....	1,374	884	692	192	490
Fourth quarter.....	2,311	2,000	1,654	347	310
1948: First quarter.....	1,614	1,400	845	555	214
Second quarter.....	1,663	1,353	1,080	274	309
Third quarter.....	1,266	1,046	765	280	221
Fourth quarter ²	1,852	1,754	1,438	316	97

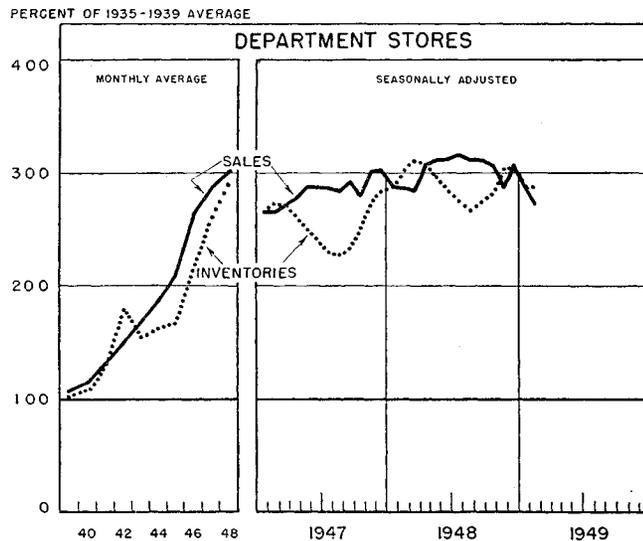
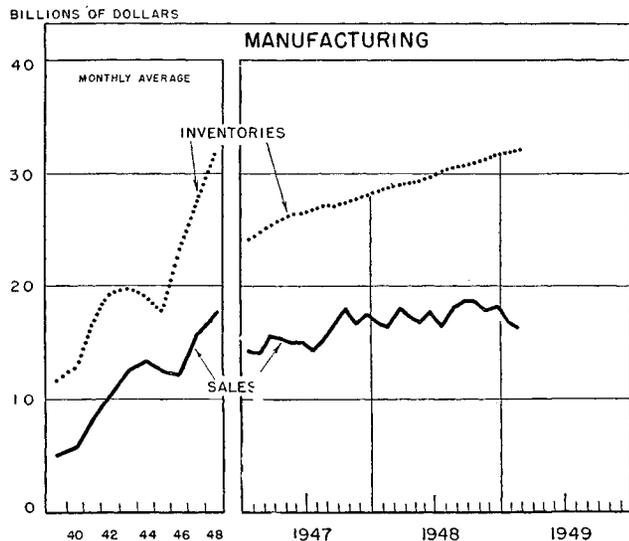
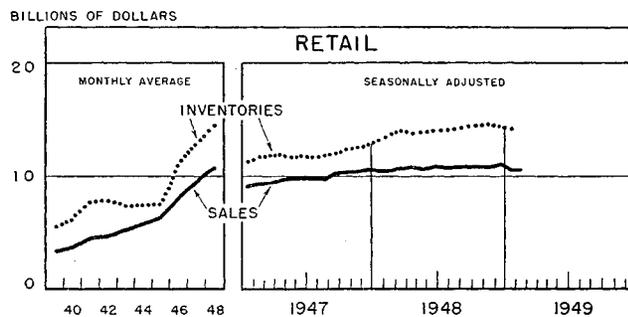
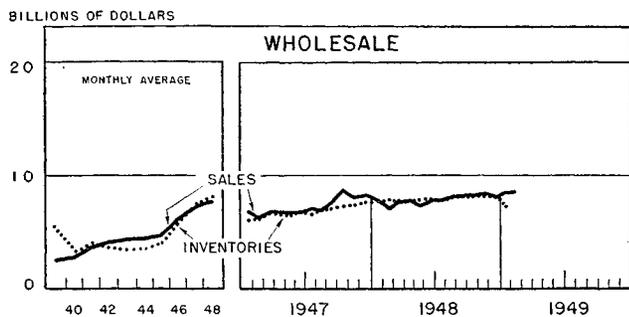
¹ Includes small amount for other purposes.

² Preliminary estimate.

NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.
Source: Securities and Exchange Commission.

INVENTORIES AND SALES

After an almost uninterrupted increase since 1945, manufacturers' inventories leveled off in February. Sales by manufacturers and department stores, in February, dipped below last years levels.



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

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

Period	Manufacturing ¹		Wholesale ¹		Retail ²		Department stores	
	Inventories ³	Sales ⁴	Inventories ³	Sales ⁴	Inventories ³	Sales ⁴	Inventories	Sales
	Millions of dollars						1935-39=100, seasonally adjusted ⁵	
1939.....	11,516	5,112	3,200	2,505	5,502	3,504	102	106
1941.....	17,024	8,172	4,151	3,650	7,620	4,624	131	133
1943.....	19,897	12,603	3,577	4,330	7,350	5,310	155	168
1945.....	17,924	12,371	4,216	4,777	7,502	6,387	166	207
1946.....	23,435	12,020	5,823	6,138	11,049	8,399	213	264
1947.....	28,020	15,671	7,545	7,304	12,953	9,860	255	286
1948.....	31,766	17,593	8,315	7,867	14,556	10,784	292	302
1948: February.....	28,768	16,225	7,885	7,121	13,751	10,463	303	286
March.....	29,064	18,117	7,869	7,726	14,040	10,658	312	284
April.....	29,161	17,229	7,777	7,652	13,907	10,891	308	306
May.....	29,437	16,777	7,801	7,389	13,951	10,620	297	311
June.....	29,727	17,871	7,953	7,766	14,065	10,862	285	312
July.....	30,236	16,403	7,930	7,796	14,080	10,857	275	316
August.....	30,429	18,169	8,100	8,161	14,145	10,893	268	312
September.....	30,710	18,781	8,243	8,286	14,531	10,968	275	312
October.....	30,848	18,807	8,400	8,376	14,576	10,894	283	306
November ⁶	31,225	17,987	8,507	8,242	14,779	10,771	303	287
December ⁶	31,766	18,195	8,315	8,196	14,556	11,062	305	310
1949: January ⁶	31,998	16,859	8,542	7,192	14,085	10,615	285	288
February ⁶	32,000	16,200	8,602	6,805	14,084	10,615	287	274

¹ Not adjusted for seasonal variation.
² Adjusted for seasonal variation.

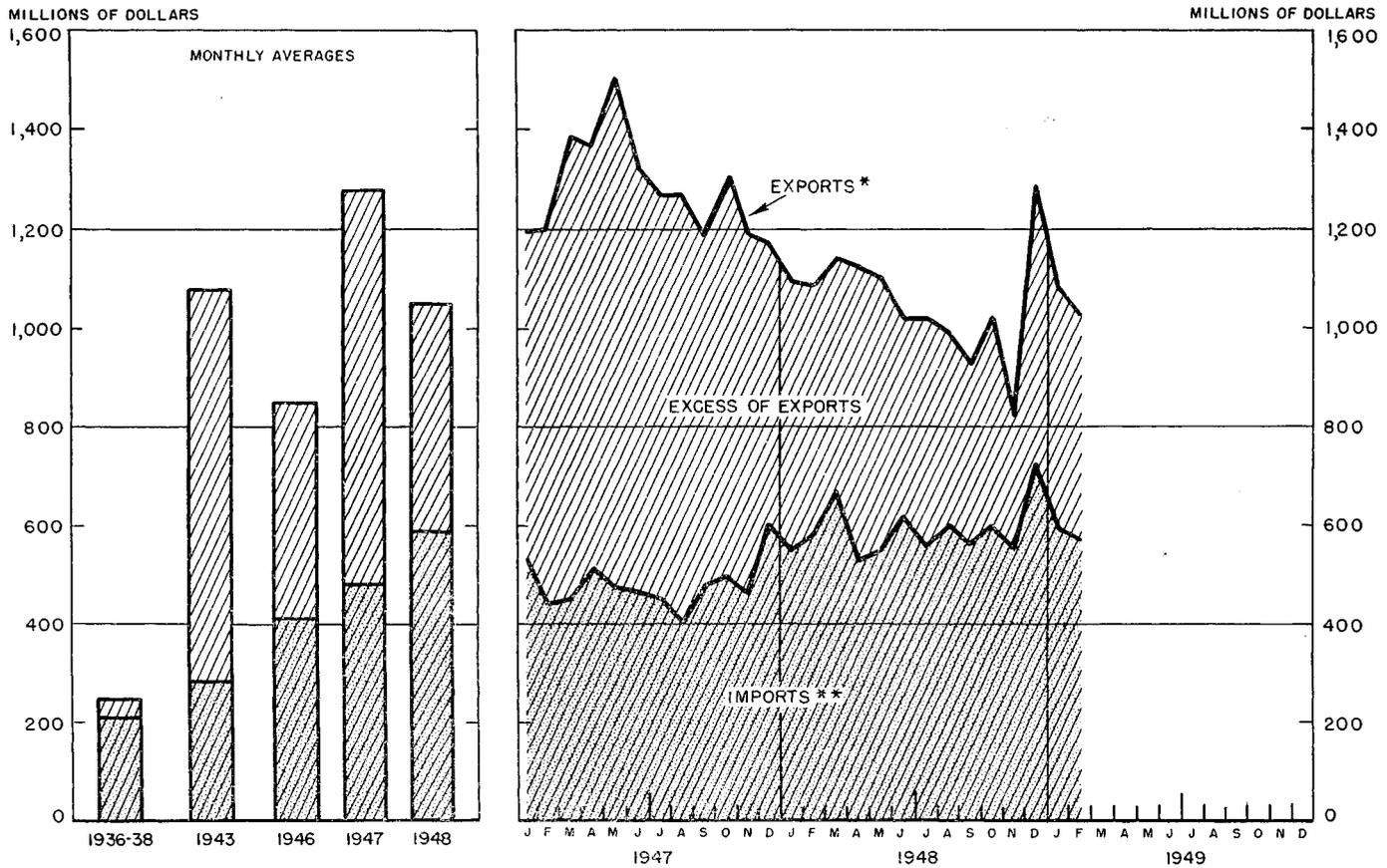
³ Book value, end of month.
⁴ Total for month.

⁵ Indexes computed from data on retail value of sales for month and retail book value of inventories, end of month.
⁶ Preliminary estimate.

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

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

Exports and imports changed little in February from the January levels. The averages for the first two months are about the same as for the last six months of 1948.



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

** RECORDED GENERAL MERCHANDISE IMPORTS.

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

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Millions of dollars]

Period	Exports ¹	Imports ²	Excess of exports
1936-38 monthly average.....	247	207	40
1943 monthly average.....	1,080	282	798
1945 monthly average.....	877	346	531
1946 monthly average.....	849	410	439
1947 monthly average.....	1,278	478	801
1948 monthly average.....	1,051	589	461
1948: January.....	1,092	545	546
February.....	1,086	582	504
March.....	1,138	666	473
April.....	1,120	528	592
May.....	1,102	549	553
June.....	1,014	616	398
July.....	1,020	558	461
August.....	986	598	387
September.....	926	558	368
October.....	1,020	597	423
November.....	819	550	269
December.....	1,284	721	563
1949: January.....	1,086	589	497
February.....	1,028	568	460

¹ Recorded merchandise exports, including reexports, and civilian supplies for occupied areas.

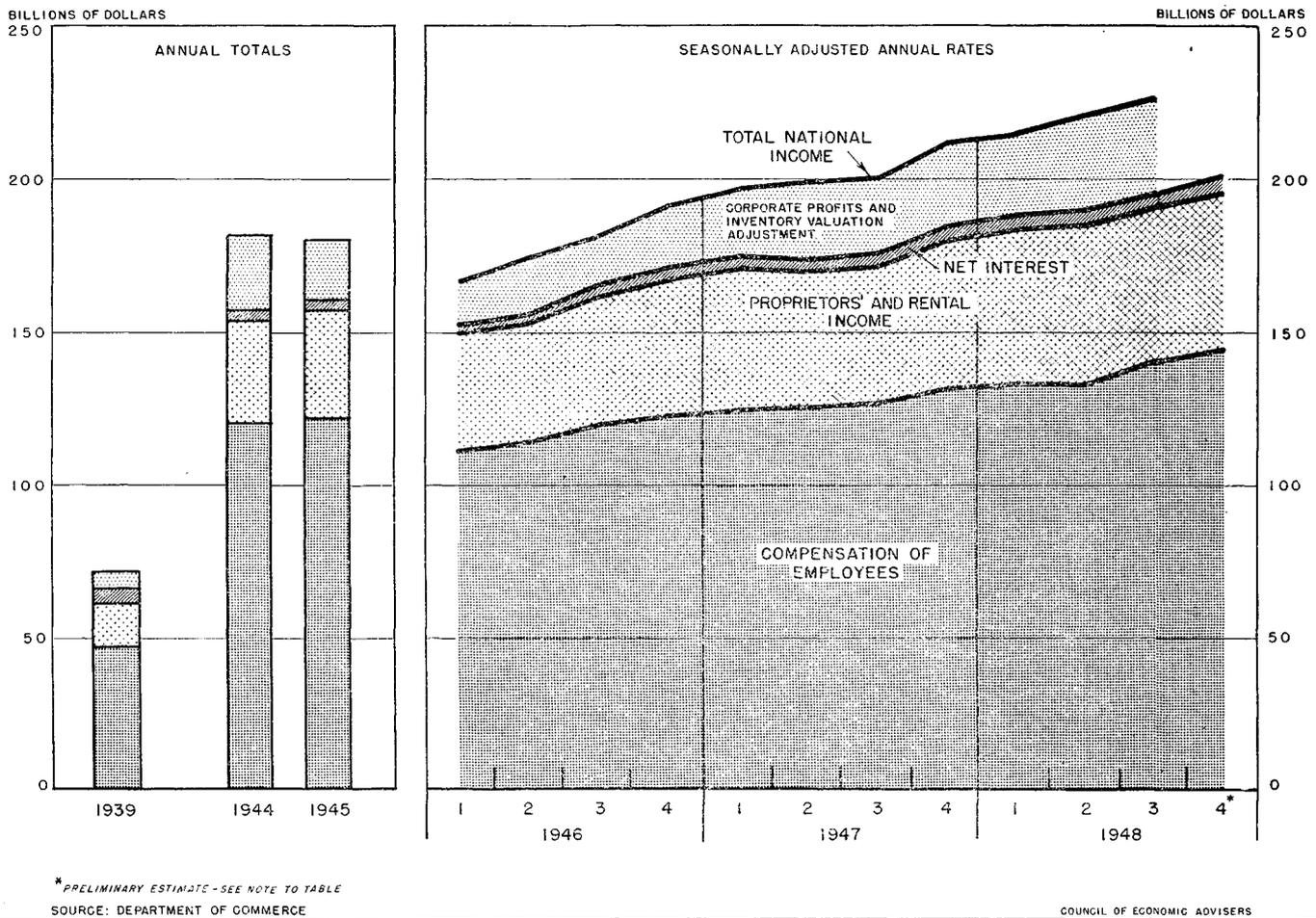
² Recorded general merchandise imports.

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

PURCHASING POWER

NATIONAL INCOME

A steady rise throughout 1948 brought total national income for the year to 224 billion dollars, about 10 percent higher than for 1947.



* PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE - SEE NOTE TO TABLE
SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Billions of dollars]

Period	Total national income	Compensation of employees	Proprietors' and rental income	Net interest	Corporate profits and inventory valuation adjustment		
					Total	Profits before taxes	Inventory valuation adjustment
1939.....	72.5	47.8	14.7	4.2	5.8	6.5	-0.7
1944.....	182.4	121.1	34.1	3.1	24.0	24.3	-0.3
1945.....	181.7	122.9	36.0	3.0	19.8	20.4	-0.6
1946.....	179.3	117.3	41.8	3.4	16.8	21.8	-5.0
1947.....	202.5	127.5	46.0	4.3	24.7	29.8	-5.1
1948 ¹	224.4	139.4	50.9	4.9	29.2	32.2	-3.0
Annual rates, seasonally adjusted							
1947: First quarter.....	197.3	125.0	46.4	4.1	21.8	28.9	-7.1
Second quarter.....	199.3	125.3	44.6	4.2	25.2	28.8	-3.6
Third quarter.....	200.6	127.6	44.4	4.4	24.3	29.1	-4.8
Fourth quarter.....	212.8	132.2	48.6	4.5	27.5	32.4	-4.9
1948: First quarter.....	213.9	134.0	49.9	4.7	25.3	30.5	-5.3
Second quarter.....	222.3	136.3	51.6	4.8	29.6	32.1	-2.5
Third quarter.....	228.2	142.4	50.6	5.0	30.2	34.0	-3.9
Fourth quarter ¹	(?)	144.7	51.4	5.2	(?)	(?)	-4

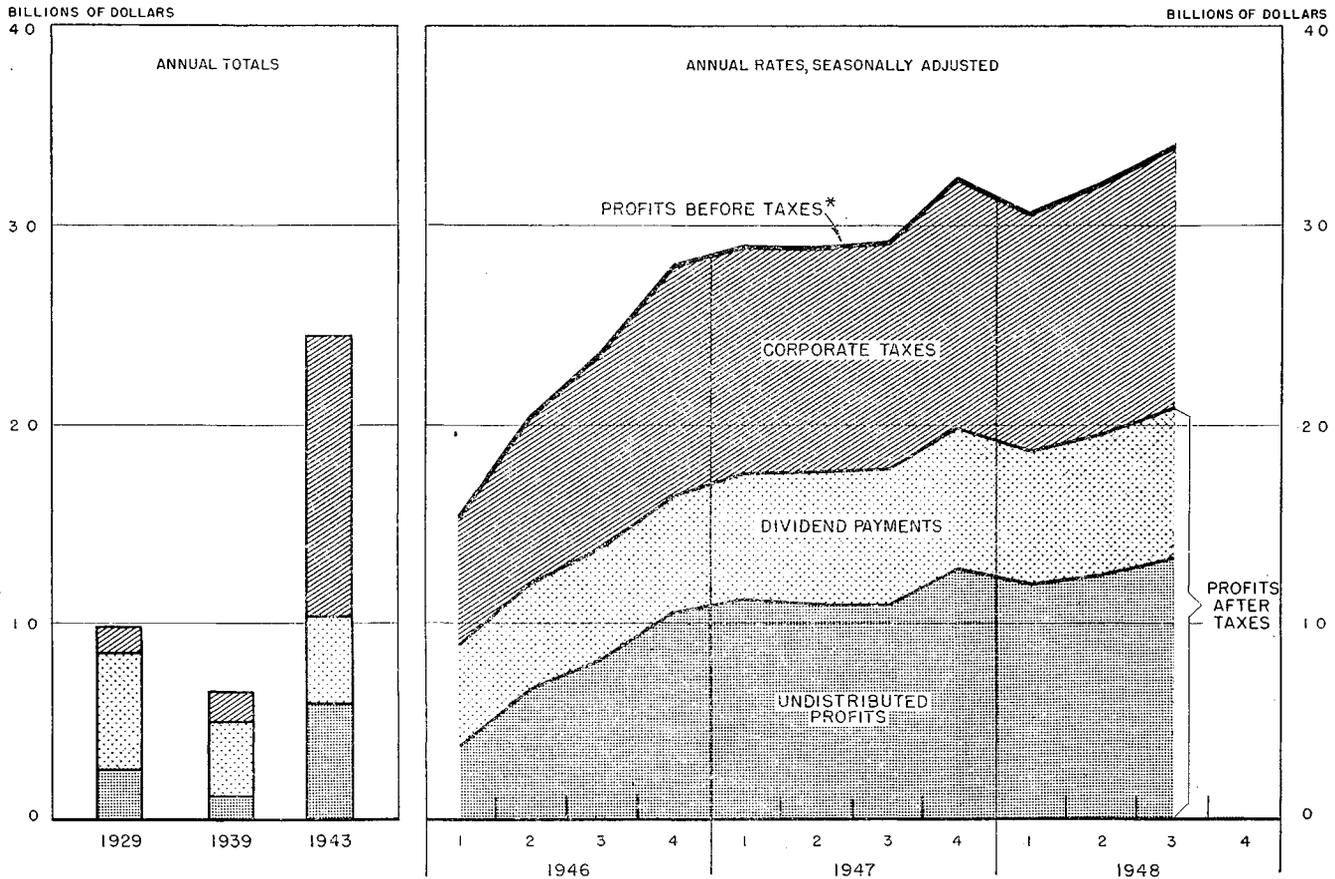
¹ Preliminary estimate; includes estimate of corporate profits and inventory valuation adjustment for fourth quarter.

² Not available.

NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.
Source: Department of Commerce (except fourth quarter, 1948).

CORPORATE PROFITS

Corporate profits in the first 3 quarters of 1948 ran above the 1947 levels.



* NO ALLOWANCE FOR INVENTORY VALUATION ADJUSTMENT.

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Billions of dollars]

Period	Corporate profits before taxes	Corporate tax liability	Corporate profits after taxes		
			Total	Dividend payments	Undistributed profits
1929.....	9.8	1.4	8.4	5.8	2.6
1939.....	6.5	1.5	5.0	3.8	1.2
1943.....	24.5	14.2	10.4	4.5	5.9
1946.....	21.8	9.0	12.8	5.6	7.2
1947.....	29.8	11.7	18.1	6.9	11.2
1948.....	32.2	12.5	19.7	7.8	11.9
Annual rates, seasonally adjusted					
1947: First quarter.....	28.9	11.4	17.5	6.4	11.1
Second quarter.....	28.8	11.3	17.5	6.7	10.8
Third quarter.....	29.1	11.4	17.7	6.9	10.8
Fourth quarter.....	32.4	12.7	19.7	7.1	12.6
1948: First quarter.....	30.5	11.8	18.7	7.4	11.3
Second quarter.....	32.1	12.5	19.6	7.4	12.2
Third quarter.....	34.0	13.3	20.8	7.7	13.1

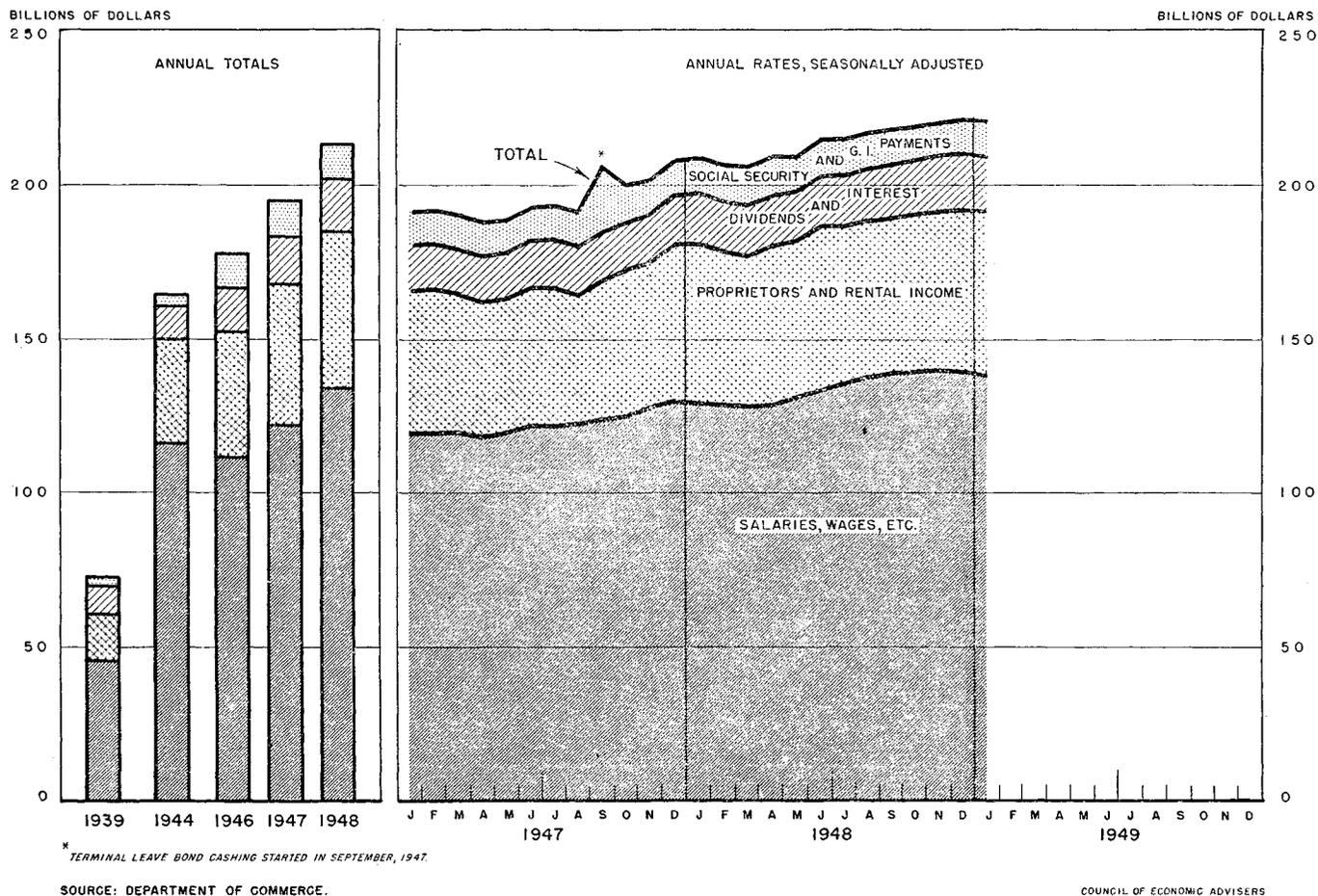
NOTE.—No allowance has been made for inventory valuation adjustment. See p. 19 for profits before taxes and inventory valuation adjustment.

Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

Source: Department of Commerce.

PERSONAL INCOME

Personal income dropped \$2½ billion (annual rate) in February as a result of decreased employment and lower farm income.



[Billions of dollars]

Period	Total personal income	Salaries, wages, and other labor income	Proprietors' and rental income	Dividends and interest	Social security and GI payments
1939.....	72.6	45.7	14.7	9.2	3.0
1944.....	164.5	116.1	34.1	10.6	3.6
1945.....	170.3	116.8	36.0	11.4	6.2
1946.....	178.1	111.4	41.8	13.5	11.4
1947.....	195.2	121.9	46.0	15.6	11.7
1948.....	213.6	134.3	50.9	17.2	11.1
Annual rates, seasonally adjusted					
1947: December.....	207.7	129.3	51.3	16.2	10.9
1948: January.....	208.8	129.3	51.8	16.5	11.2
February.....	206.4	128.8	49.6	16.6	11.4
March.....	205.7	128.5	48.4	16.6	12.2
April.....	208.6	128.8	51.2	16.7	11.9
May.....	209.2	131.0	50.4	16.8	11.0
June.....	214.4	133.4	53.0	16.9	11.1
July.....	214.8	135.5	51.2	17.0	11.1
August.....	216.7	138.0	50.3	17.3	11.1
September.....	217.3	138.8	50.4	17.5	10.6
October.....	218.5	139.6	50.7	17.8	10.4
November.....	219.9	140.1	51.4	18.1	10.3
December.....	221.0	139.8	52.1	18.4	10.7
1949: January.....	219.5	138.4	51.4	18.6	11.1
February ¹	217.0	137.2	49.6	18.7	11.5

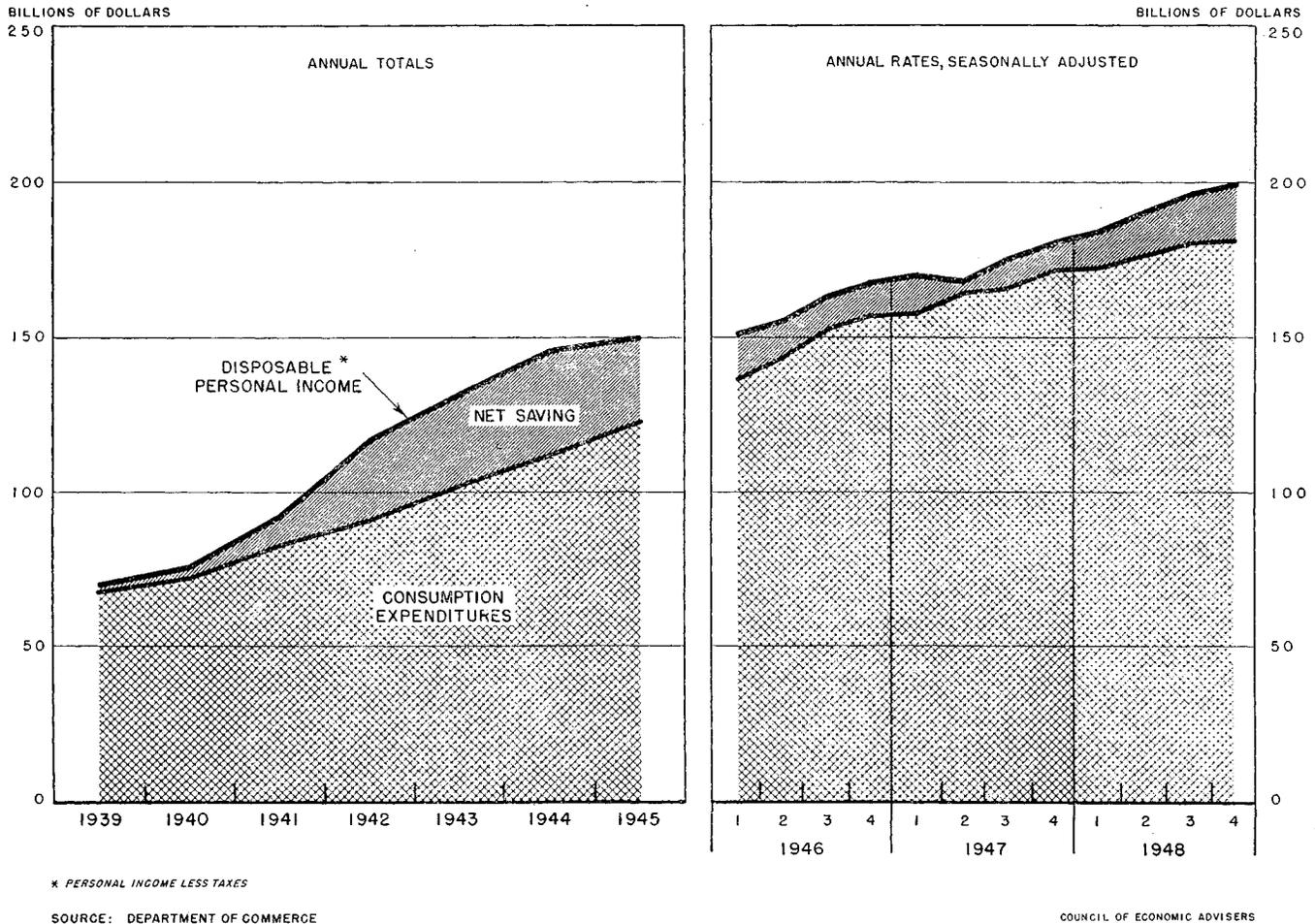
¹ Preliminary estimate. Data became available after chart was prepared.

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

Source: Department of Commerce.

CONSUMER INCOME, SPENDING, AND SAVING

At the end of the year consumers' saving was apparently running at an annual rate of about 18 billion dollars--considerably more than the estimates for 1946 and 1947.



[Billions of dollars]

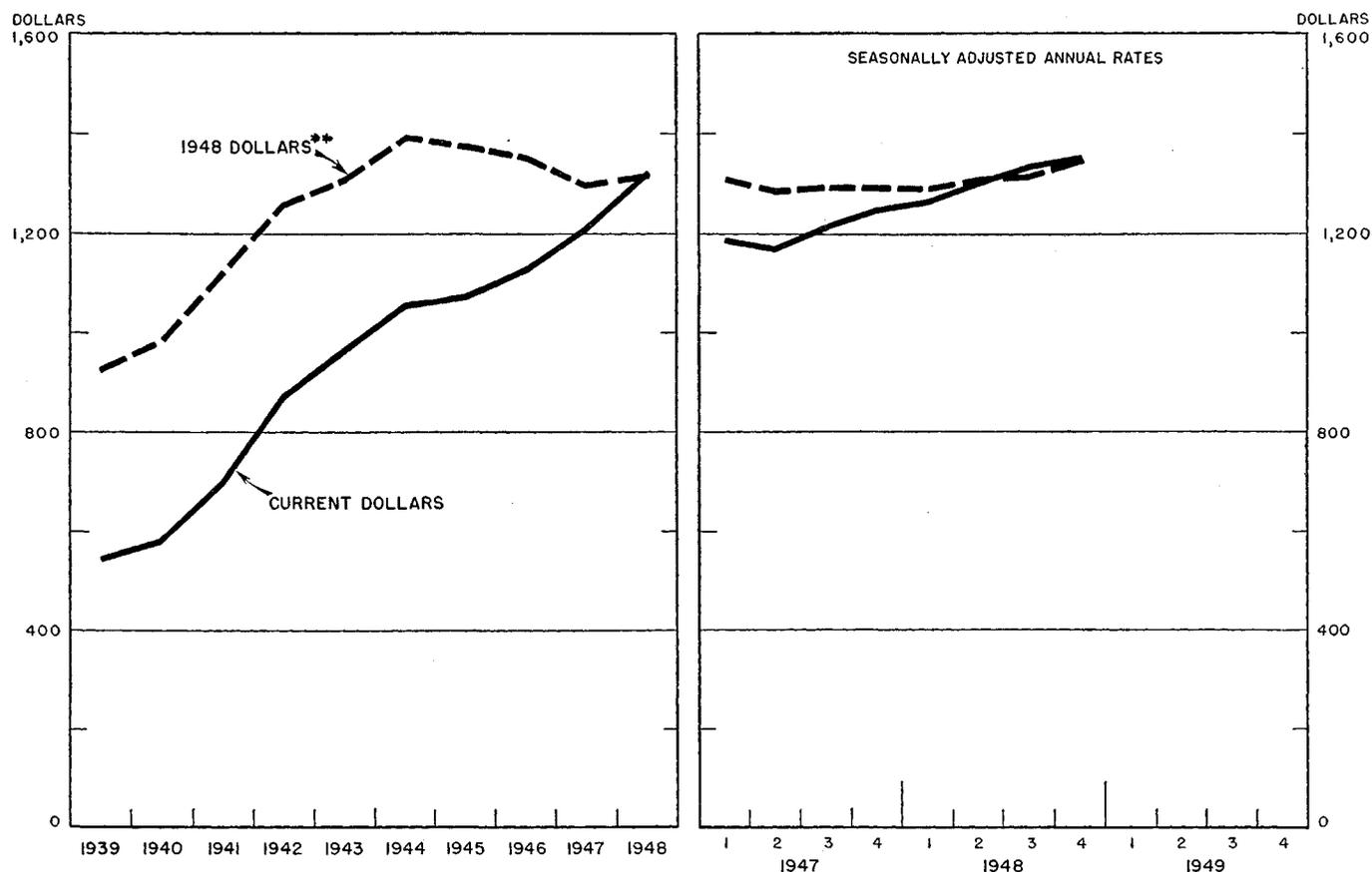
Period	Disposable personal income ¹	Less: Personal consumption expenditures	Equals: Personal saving
1939.....	70.2	67.5	2.7
1940.....	75.7	72.1	3.7
1941.....	92.0	82.3	9.8
1942.....	116.2	90.8	25.4
1943.....	131.6	101.6	30.0
1944.....	145.6	111.4	34.2
1945.....	149.4	122.8	26.6
1946.....	159.2	147.4	11.8
1947.....	173.6	164.8	8.8
1948.....	192.6	177.7	14.9
Annual rates, seasonally adjusted			
1947: First quarter.....	169.7	158.1	11.6
Second quarter.....	168.2	164.2	4.1
Third quarter.....	175.0	165.6	9.4
Fourth quarter.....	180.9	171.1	9.7
1948: First quarter.....	183.9	172.5	11.4
Second quarter.....	179.2	177.3	12.9
Third quarter.....	196.2	180.1	16.1
Fourth quarter.....	199.4	181.0	18.4

¹ Income less taxes.

NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.
Source: Department of Commerce (except fourth quarter, 1948).

PER CAPITA INCOME*

The last quarter of 1948 registered a moderate gain in the real purchasing power of consumers, reflecting a continued rise in incomes and a drop in prices.



* PERSONAL INCOME LESS TAXES.
 ** CURRENT DOLLARS DIVIDED BY THE CONSUMERS PRICE INDEX ON THE BASE 1948=100.
 SOURCES: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

Period	Per capita disposable personal income ¹		Consumers' price index ² 1948=100
	Current dollars	1948 dollars ³	
1939.....	\$536	\$923	58.1
1940.....	574	981	58.5
1941.....	691	1,125	61.4
1942.....	863	1,256	68.7
1943.....	964	1,306	73.8
1944.....	1,054	1,391	75.8
1945.....	1,070	1,374	77.9
1946.....	1,127	1,351	83.4
1947.....	1,205	1,294	93.1
1948.....	1,313	1,313	100.0
	Annual rates, seasonally adjusted		Not adjusted for seasonal variation
1947: First quarter.....	\$1,186	\$1,308	90.7
Second quarter.....	1,170	1,280	91.4
Third quarter.....	1,212	1,291	93.9
Fourth quarter.....	1,246	1,291	96.5
1948: First quarter.....	1,263	1,289	98.0
Second quarter.....	1,286	1,291	99.6
Third quarter.....	1,318	1,295	101.8
Fourth quarter.....	1,351	1,342	100.7

¹ Income less taxes.

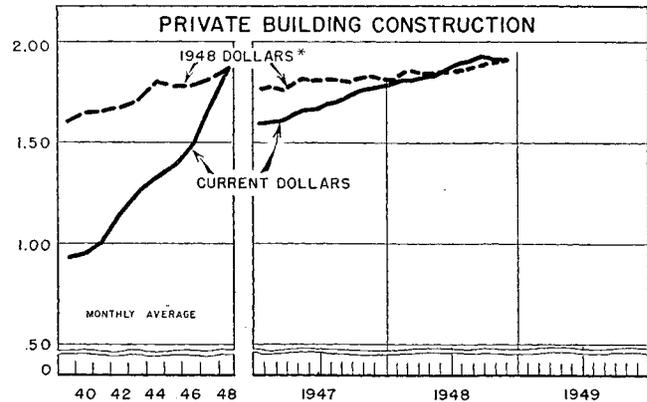
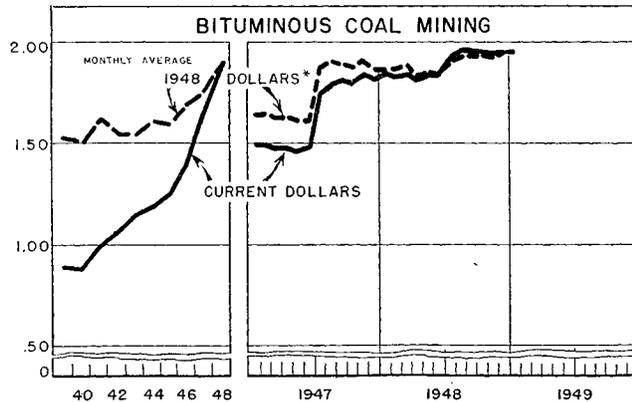
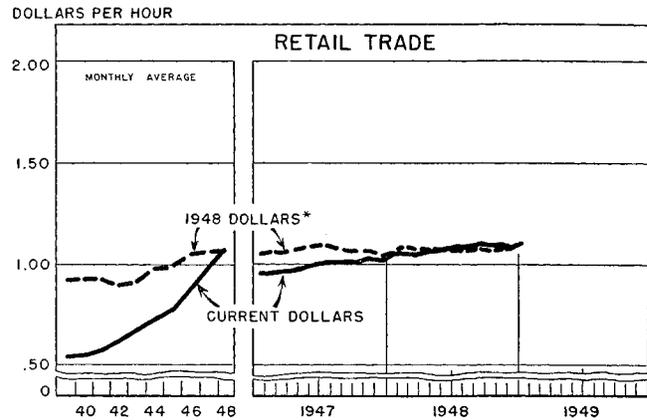
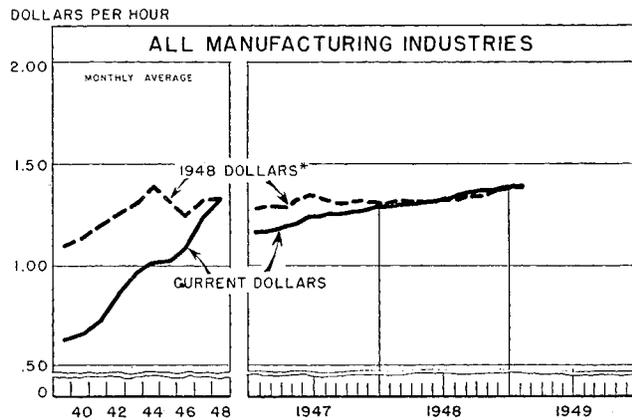
² Current dollars divided by the consumers' price index on the base 1948=100.

³ The consumers' price index has been roughly adjusted to take account of the understatement from December 1941-February 1947. This adjustment is in line with the report of the Mitchell Committee. The unadjusted index will be found on page 2.

Sources: Department of Commerce and Department of Labor.

AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS

Average hourly earnings continued to rise slightly in most industries in January. Preliminary February data for manufacturing industries show a small drop in actual hourly rates but some increase when adjusted for price changes.



* CURRENT DOLLARS DIVIDED BY CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX ON THE BASE 1948=100
SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Selected industries]

Period	Manufacturing		Retail trade		Bituminous coal mining		Private building construction ¹	
	Current dollars	1948 dollars ²	Current dollars	1948 dollars ²	Current dollars	1948 dollars ²	Current dollars	1948 dollars ²
1939 monthly average.....	0. 633	1. 090	0. 536	0. 923	0. 886	1. 525	0. 932	1. 604
1941 monthly average.....	. 729	1. 187	. 568	. 925	. 993	1. 617	1. 010	1. 645
1944 monthly average.....	1. 019	1. 381	. 724	. 981	1. 186	1. 607	1. 319	1. 787
1945 monthly average.....	1. 023	1. 313	. 773	. 992	1. 240	1. 592	1. 379	1. 770
1946 monthly average.....	1. 084	1. 230	. 878	1. 053	1. 401	1. 680	1. 478	1. 772
1947 monthly average.....	1. 221	1. 311	. 991	1. 064	1. 633	1. 754	1. 681	1. 806
1948 monthly average ³	1. 327	1. 327	1. 067	1. 067	1. 897	1. 897	1. 863	1. 863
1948: February.....	1. 287	1. 316	1. 050	1. 074	1. 826	1. 867	1. 806	1. 847
March.....	1. 289	1. 322	1. 044	1. 071	1. 842	1. 889	1. 805	1. 851
April.....	1. 292	1. 306	1. 055	1. 067	1. 821	1. 841	1. 818	1. 838
May.....	1. 301	1. 306	1. 064	1. 068	1. 841	1. 848	1. 835	1. 842
June.....	1. 316	1. 312	1. 070	1. 067	1. 850	1. 844	1. 858	1. 852
July.....	1. 332	1. 312	1. 077	1. 061	1. 936	1. 907	1. 890	1. 862
August.....	1. 349	1. 324	1. 080	1. 060	1. 967	1. 930	1. 901	1. 866
September.....	1. 362	1. 337	1. 086	1. 066	1. 970	1. 933	1. 919	1. 883
October.....	1. 366	1. 347	1. 080	1. 065	1. 959	1. 932	1. 919	1. 892
November.....	1. 372	1. 364	1. 084	1. 078	1. 951	1. 939	1. 906	1. 895
December ⁴	1. 376	1. 375	1. 072	1. 071	1. 955	1. 953	1. 918	1. 916
1949: January ⁵	1. 381	1. 384	1. 110	1. 112	1. 959	1. 963	(⁵)	(⁵)
February ⁵	1. 377	1. 395						

¹ Covers only employees at the site of privately financed building projects.

² Current dollars divided by consumers' price index on the base 1948=100. See note 3 to table on page 24.

³ Preliminary estimate.

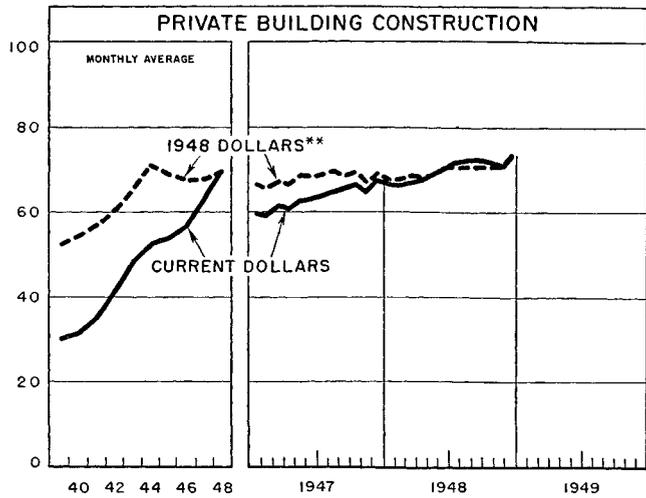
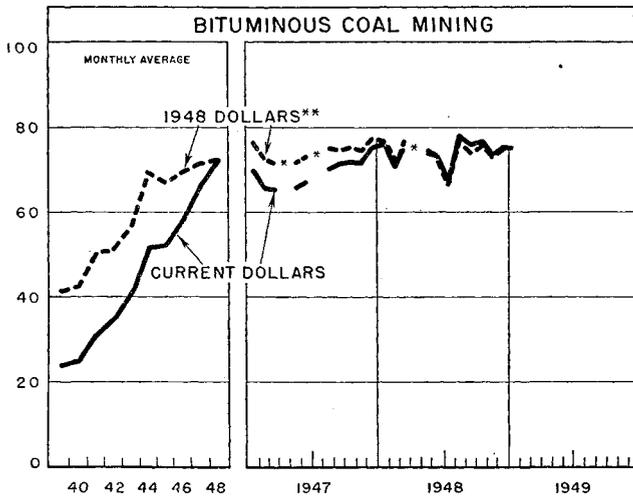
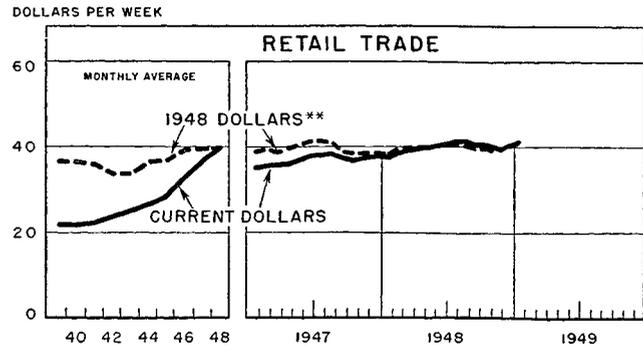
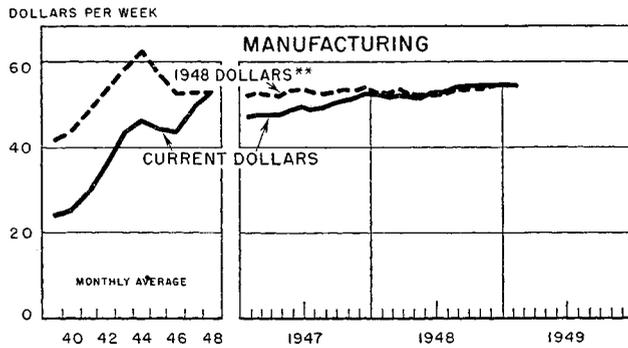
⁴ Based on pay period during coal stoppage.

⁵ Not available. This series is in process of revision.

Source: Department of Labor.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

Weekly earnings in manufacturing industries continued in January and February near the levels reached last fall.



* EARNINGS DATA DISTORTED DURING THESE MONTHS BECAUSE OF WORK STOPPAGES OR VACATIONS. ** CURRENT DOLLARS DIVIDED BY CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX ON BASE OF 1948=100.
SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Selected industries]

Period	Manufacturing		Retail trade		Bituminous coal mining		Private building construction	
	Current dollars	1948 dollars	Current dollars	1948 dollars	Current dollars	1948 dollars	Current dollars	1948 dollars
1939 monthly average	23.86	41.07	21.17	36.44	23.88	41.10	30.39	52.31
1941 monthly average	29.58	48.18	21.94	35.73	30.86	50.26	35.14	57.23
1944 monthly average	46.08	62.44	26.58	36.02	51.27	69.47	52.18	70.70
1945 monthly average	44.39	56.98	28.31	36.34	52.25	67.07	53.73	68.97
1946 monthly average	43.74	52.45	32.55	39.03	58.03	69.58	56.24	67.43
1947 monthly average	49.25	52.90	36.67	39.39	66.86	71.81	63.30	67.99
1948 monthly average ³	53.15	53.15	39.83	39.83	72.06	72.06	69.71	69.71
1948: February	51.75	52.91	38.33	39.19	70.54	72.13	66.31	67.80
March	52.07	53.41	38.89	39.89	74.84	76.76	66.89	68.61
April	51.79	52.37	39.27	39.71	49.53 ⁴	50.08 ⁴	67.31	68.06
May	51.86	52.07	39.84	40.00	74.08	74.38	68.13	68.40
June	52.85	52.69	40.52	40.40	73.87	73.65	70.49	70.28
July	52.95	52.17	41.19	40.58	67.62	66.62	71.38	70.53
August	54.05	53.04	41.19	40.42	78.10	76.64	71.89	70.35
September	54.18	53.17	40.48	39.73	75.52	74.11	72.06	70.72
October	54.65	53.90	40.32	39.76	76.40	75.34	71.69	70.70
November	54.56	54.23	39.67	39.43	73.52	73.08	70.73	70.31
December ³	55.03	54.98	40.62	40.58	74.87	74.80	73.32	73.25
1949: January ³	54.41	54.52	41.79		75.61	75.76	(⁵)	(⁵)
February ³	54.25	54.96		41.87				

¹ Covers only employees at the site of privately financed building projects.

² Current dollars divided by consumers' price index on the base 1948=100. See note 3 to table on page 24.

³ Preliminary estimate.

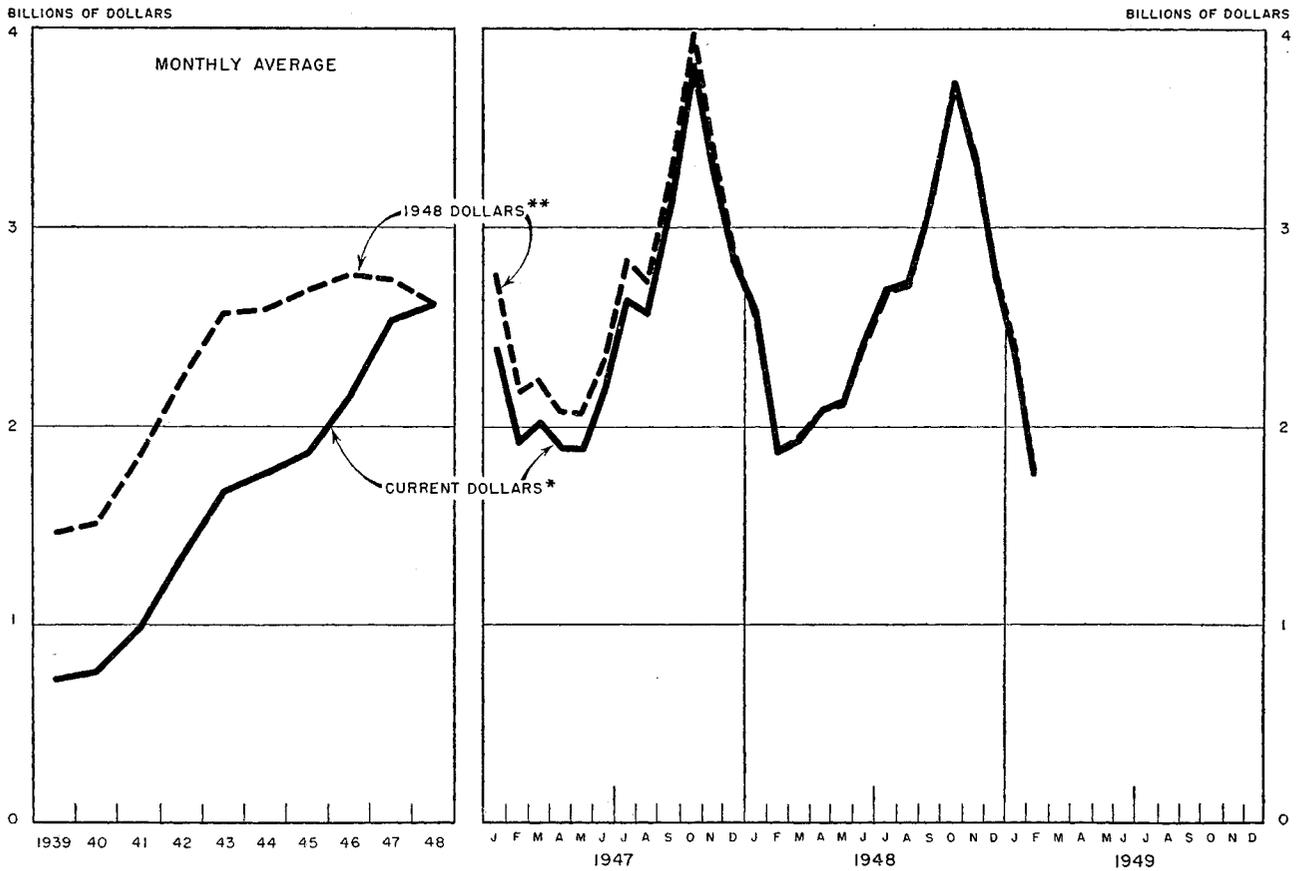
⁴ Based on pay period during coal stoppage.

⁵ Not available. This series is in process of revision.

Source: Department of Labor.

FARM INCOME

Cash farm income in February fell below that of the corresponding period a year ago for the third successive month.



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

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

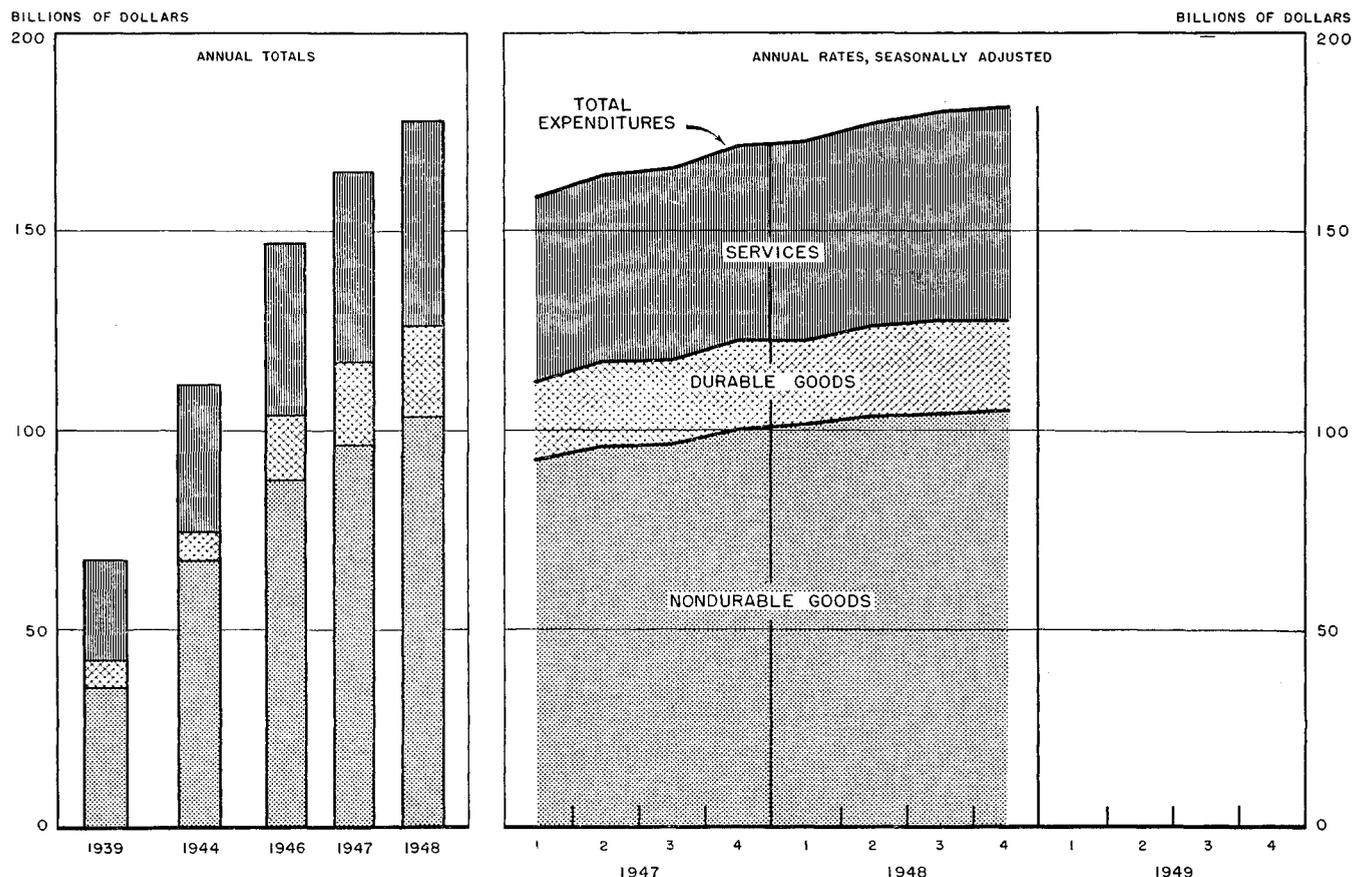
Period	Farm income (millions of current dollars) ¹	Prices paid by farmers (incl. interest and taxes) 1948=100 ²	Farm income (millions of 1948 dollars) ³
1939 monthly average	723	49.8	1,452
1941 monthly average	981	53.0	1,851
1942 monthly average	1,340	60.2	2,226
1943 monthly average	1,678	65.1	2,578
1944 monthly average	1,753	67.9	2,582
1945 monthly average	1,857	69.1	2,687
1946 monthly average	2,136	77.5	2,756
1947 monthly average	2,542	92.8	2,739
1948 monthly average	2,609	100.0	2,609
1948: February	1,862	99.6	1,869
March	1,932	99.2	1,948
April	2,075	100.0	2,075
May	2,119	100.4	2,111
June	2,437	100.8	2,418
July	2,693	100.8	2,672
August	2,722	100.8	2,700
September	3,132	100.4	3,120
October	3,714	100.0	3,714
November	3,314	99.2	3,341
December	2,740	99.6	2,751
1949: January ⁴	2,383	99.6	2,393
February ⁴	1,783	98.4	1,812

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

Source: Department of Agriculture.

PERSONAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURES

Expenditures for both durable and nondurable goods increased less in 1948 than in 1947. Expenditures for services, however, increased more than in the preceding year.



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

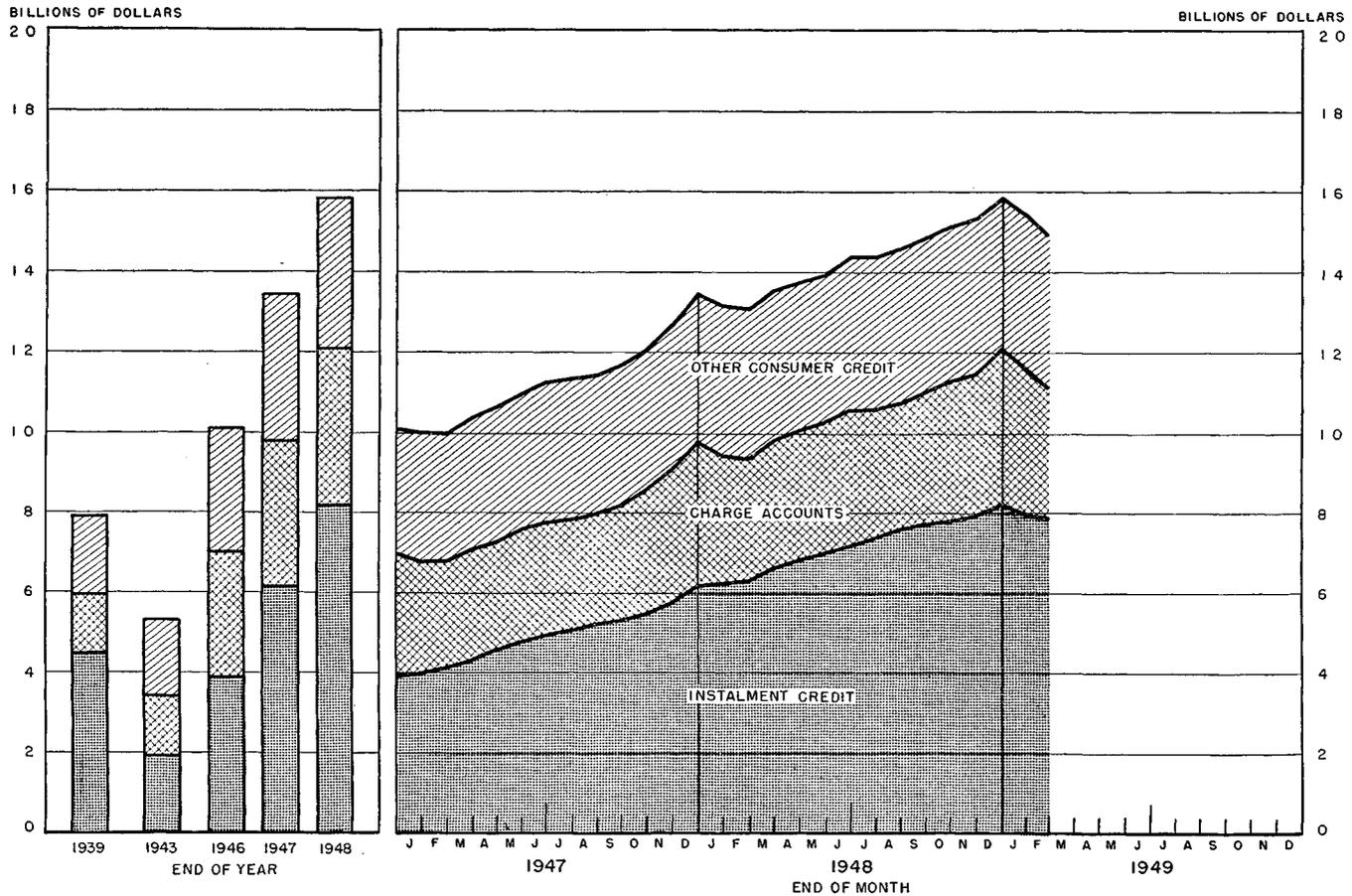
[Billions of dollars]

Period	Personal consumption expenditures			
	Total	Nondurable goods	Durable goods	Services
1939.....	67.5	35.3	6.7	25.5
1944.....	111.4	67.5	6.9	37.0
1945.....	122.8	75.4	8.3	39.2
1946.....	147.4	87.5	16.2	43.6
1947.....	164.8	96.5	21.0	47.3
1948.....	177.7	103.6	22.7	51.4
Annual rates, seasonally adjusted				
1947: First quarter.....	158.1	92.5	19.6	46.0
Second quarter.....	164.2	96.3	21.1	46.7
Third quarter.....	165.6	96.8	21.1	47.7
Fourth quarter.....	171.1	100.2	22.1	48.8
1948: First quarter.....	172.5	101.4	21.3	49.8
Second quarter.....	177.3	103.7	22.8	50.8
Third quarter.....	180.1	104.3	23.7	52.1
Fourth quarter.....	181.0	105.1	22.9	53.0

NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.
Source: Department of Commerce, (except fourth quarter, 1948).

CONSUMER CREDIT

From December to February there was a billion dollar contraction in total outstanding consumer credit.



SOURCE: BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Billions of dollars]

End of period	Total consumer credit outstanding	Instalment credit ¹	Charge accounts	Other consumer credit ²
1929.....	7.6	3.2	1.7	2.7
1939.....	8.0	4.4	1.5	2.0
1941.....	9.9	5.9	1.8	2.2
1943.....	5.3	1.9	1.5	1.9
1945.....	6.6	2.3	2.0	2.3
1946.....	10.1	3.9	3.1	3.1
1947.....	13.4	6.2	3.6	3.6
1948.....	15.9	8.2	3.9	3.9
1948: February.....	13.1	6.3	3.1	3.7
March.....	13.5	6.6	3.3	3.7
April.....	13.8	6.8	3.2	3.7
May.....	14.0	7.0	3.2	3.7
June.....	14.3	7.2	3.4	3.8
July.....	14.4	7.4	3.2	3.8
August.....	14.5	7.6	3.1	3.8
September.....	14.8	7.8	3.2	3.8
October.....	15.1	7.8	3.5	3.8
November.....	15.3	7.9	3.6	3.9
December.....	15.9	8.2	3.9	3.9
1949: January.....	15.3	8.0	3.5	3.9
February ³	14.9	7.9	3.2	3.8

¹ Includes automobile and other sale credit and repair and modernization loans insured by Federal Housing Administration.

² Includes single-payment loans of commercial banks and pawnbrokers and service credit.

³ Preliminary estimate.

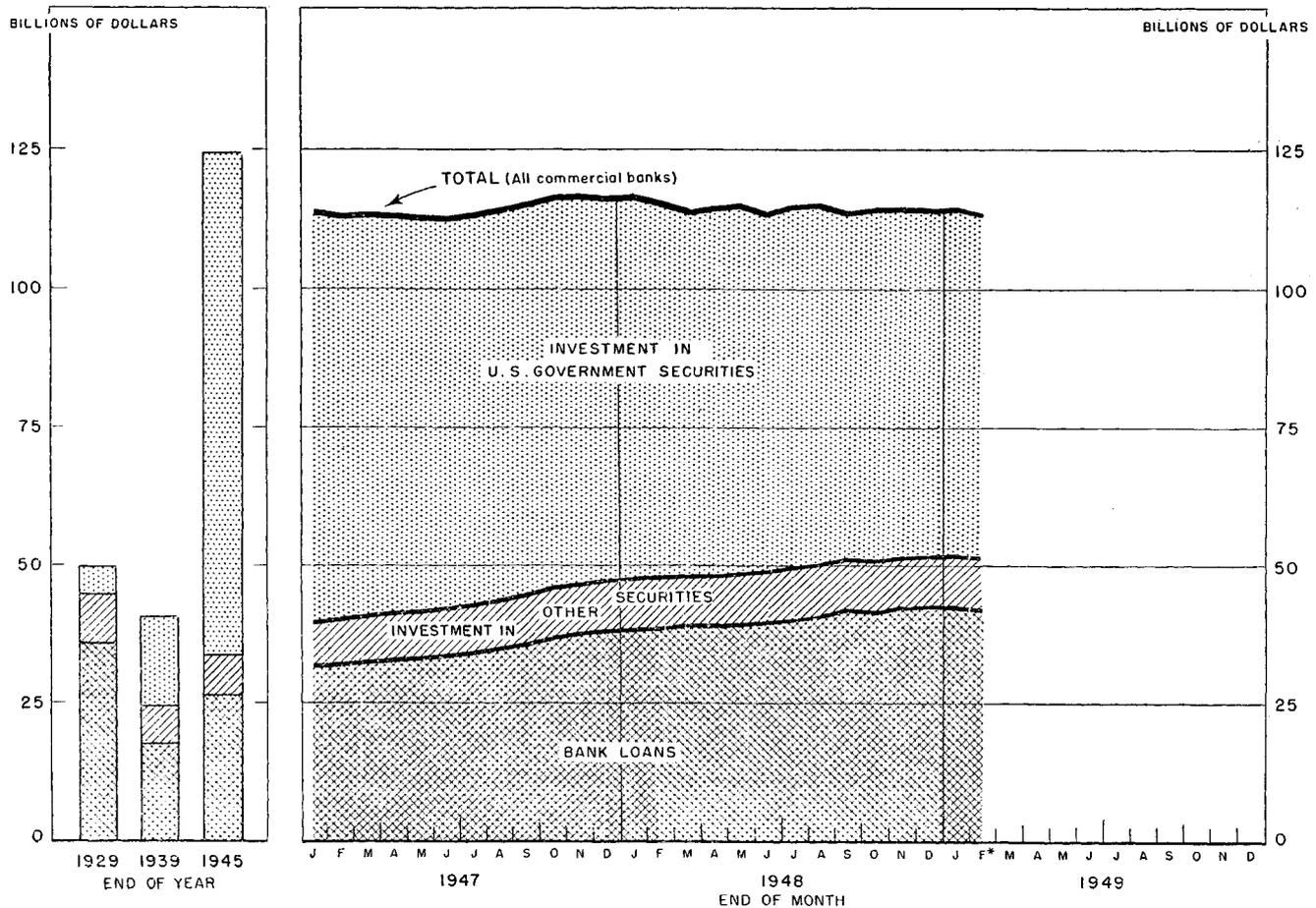
NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

MONEY, BANKING, AND FEDERAL FINANCE

BANK LOANS AND INVESTMENTS

In February, banks decreased their total volume of outstanding loans as well as their holdings of Government securities.



SOURCE: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

* PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE

Council of Economic Advisers

[Billions of dollars]

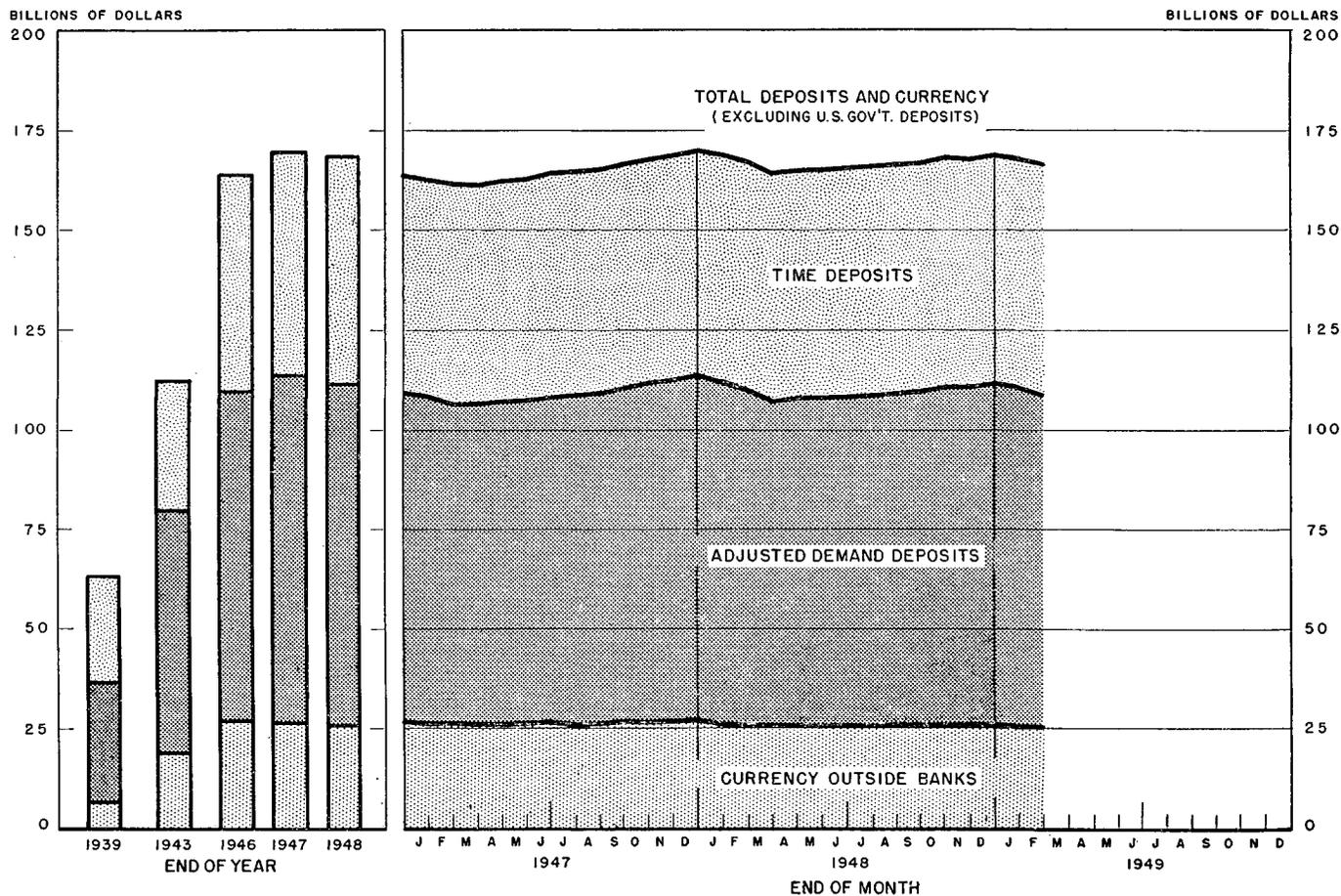
End of period	Total loans and investments	Bank loans	Investments		
			Total	U. S. Government securities	Other securities
1929.....	49.5	36.0	13.5	4.8	8.7
1939.....	40.7	17.2	23.4	16.3	7.1
1945.....	124.0	26.1	97.9	90.6	7.3
1946.....	114.0	31.1	82.9	74.8	8.1
1947.....	116.4	38.1	78.3	69.3	9.0
1948.....	114.3	42.7	71.6	62.5	9.1
1948: February.....	115.5	38.7	76.9	67.9	9.0
March.....	113.6	38.9	74.7	65.5	9.3
April.....	114.3	38.8	75.5	66.3	9.2
May.....	114.5	39.4	75.1	65.9	9.2
June.....	113.9	39.9	74.0	64.8	9.2
July.....	114.8	40.1	74.6	65.3	9.3
August.....	115.1	40.6	74.5	65.1	9.4
September.....	113.6	41.7	71.9	62.5	9.4
October.....	114.1	41.6	72.5	63.3	9.2
November.....	114.2	42.3	71.9	62.8	9.1
December.....	114.3	42.7	71.6	62.5	9.1
1949: January.....	114.4	42.4	72.0	63.0	9.1
February ¹	113.4	42.0	71.4	62.2	9.1

¹ Preliminary estimate.

NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.
SOURCE: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

MONEY SUPPLY

The total money supply declined nearly \$ 2 billion in February, chiefly as a result of reduced demand deposits.



SOURCE: BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.

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[Billions of dollars]

End of period	Total money supply	Currency outside banks	Adjusted demand deposits ¹	Time deposits ²
1929.....	54.6	3.6	22.8	28.2
1939.....	63.3	6.4	29.8	27.1
1941.....	76.3	9.6	39.0	27.7
1943.....	112.3	18.8	60.8	32.7
1945.....	150.9	26.5	75.9	48.5
1946.....	164.0	26.7	83.3	54.0
1947.....	170.0	26.5	87.1	56.4
1948.....	168.7	25.7	85.8	57.3
1948: February.....	167.1	25.7	84.6	56.8
March.....	164.0	25.6	81.5	56.9
April.....	165.0	25.4	82.7	56.9
May.....	165.2	25.4	82.8	57.0
June.....	165.7	25.6	82.7	57.4
July.....	166.2	25.5	83.4	57.3
August.....	166.7	25.6	83.8	57.3
September.....	166.9	25.7	83.9	57.3
October.....	168.0	25.7	85.0	57.3
November.....	167.9	25.9	85.0	57.0
December.....	168.7	25.7	85.8	57.3
1949: January.....	168.0	25.2	85.3	57.6
February ³	166.1	25.1	83.3	57.7

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

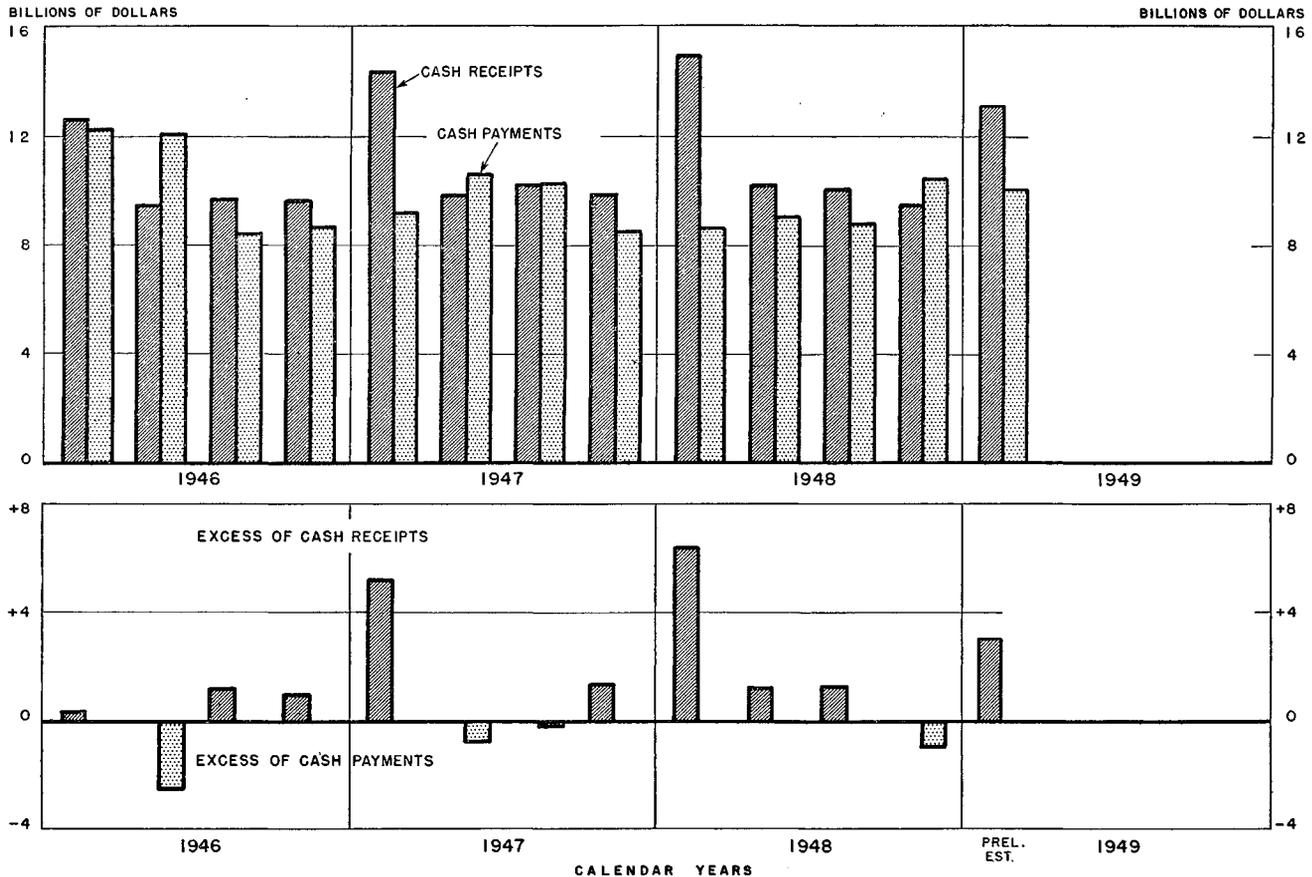
² Includes deposits in commercial banks, mutual savings banks, and Postal Savings System.

³ Preliminary estimate.

NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.
Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

FEDERAL CASH RECEIPTS FROM AND PAYMENTS TO THE PUBLIC

The cash surplus of about \$3 billion during the first quarter, which includes the seasonally high March tax receipts, was less than half as great as during the same quarter of 1948.



SOURCE: BUREAU OF THE BUDGET AND TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

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[Millions of dollars]

Calendar years	Federal cash receipts from the public ¹	Federal cash payments to the public ¹	Excess of receipts (+) or payments (-)
Calendar year total:			
1946.....	41,426	41,372	+54
1947.....	44,279	38,584	+5,695
1948.....	44,920	36,954	+7,967
Quarterly total, not adjusted for seasonal:			
1946: First quarter.....	12,632	12,244	+388
Second quarter.....	9,462	12,008	-2,547
Third quarter.....	9,702	8,449	+1,252
Fourth quarter.....	9,630	8,671	+959
1947: First quarter.....	14,345	9,163	+5,182
Second quarter.....	9,847	10,628	-781
Third quarter.....	10,220	10,257	-37
Fourth quarter.....	9,869	8,536	+1,331
1948: First quarter.....	15,037	8,637	+6,400
Second quarter.....	10,238	9,033	+1,205
Third quarter.....	10,085	8,798	+1,287
Fourth quarter.....	9,560	10,486	-926
1949: First quarter ²	13,125	10,075	+3,050

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

² Preliminary estimate.

NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.
Source: Treasury Department and Bureau of the Budget.