

# Economic Indicators

**MAY 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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### *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. Houser* *Chairman.*

*Leont Kleyserling* *Vice Chairman.*

*John D. Clark*

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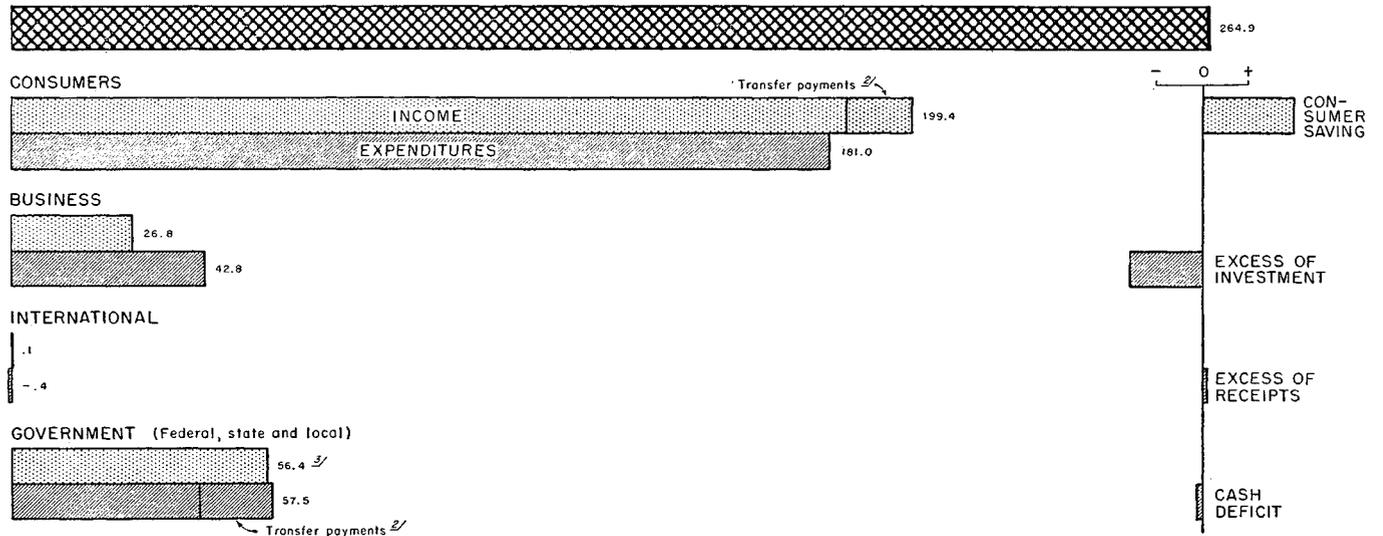
# THE NATION'S ECONOMIC BUDGET

## THE NATION'S ECONOMIC BUDGET

A general decline in economic activity during the 1st quarter resulted in about \$6 billion (annual rate) decline in gross national product from the level of the 4th quarter. Consumer expenditures and business investment shared in the decline.

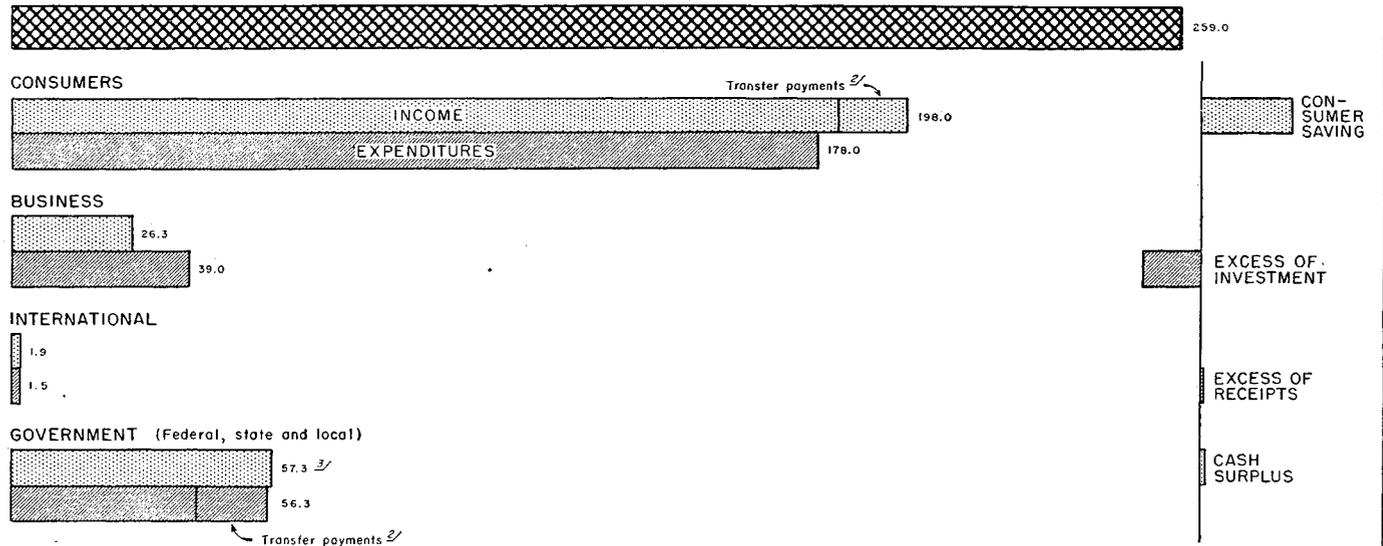
1948, 4th Quarter (BILLIONS OF DOLLARS) <sup>1/</sup>

TOTAL (Gross National Product)



1949, 1st Quarter (BILLIONS OF DOLLARS) <sup>1/</sup>

TOTAL (Gross National Product)



<sup>1/</sup> ANNUAL RATES, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED. ESTIMATES FOR FIRST QUARTER BY COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS; BASED ON PRELIMINARY DATA.

<sup>2/</sup> TRANSFER PAYMENTS ARE INCLUDED IN RECEIPTS OR EXPENDITURES OF THE SEPARATE ACCOUNTS BUT NOT IN THE TOTAL GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT.

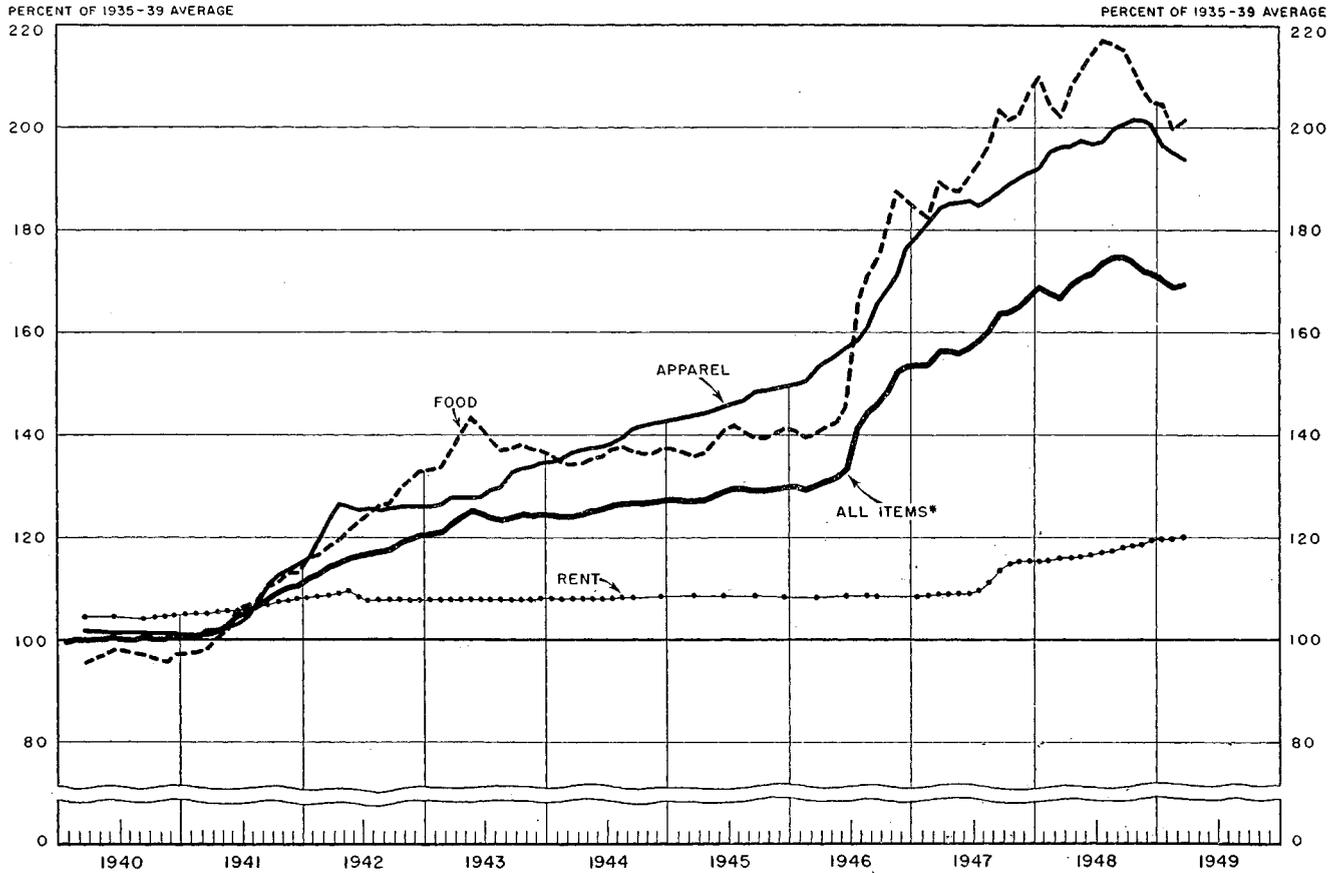
<sup>3/</sup> INCLUDES AN ADJUSTMENT OF -\$1.8 BILLION IN THE FOURTH QUARTER AND +\$1.5 BILLION IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1949.

SOURCE: SEE ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT, JANUARY 1949, APPENDIX A, AND <sup>1/</sup> ABOVE.

# PRICES

## CONSUMERS' PRICES

Consumers' prices rose slightly in March, thus reversing the trend of the previous 5 months. The rise in food prices accounted for most of the increase.



\*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: 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
March.....	169.5	201.6	193.9	120.1	138.9	193.8	154.4

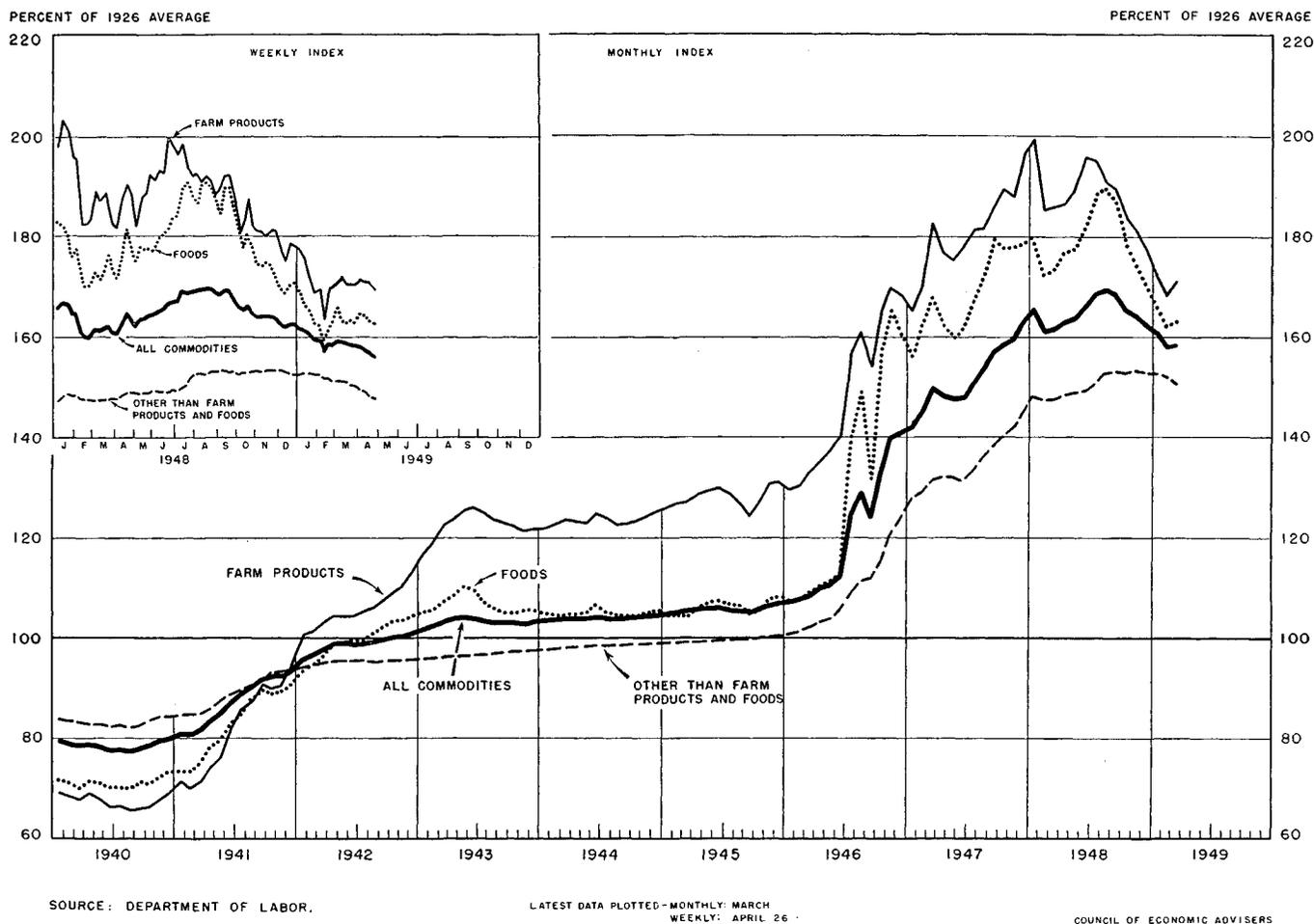
NOTE.—Prices are for moderate-income families in large cities.

Source: Department of Labor.

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# WHOLESALE PRICES

Wholesale prices declined during April, primarily because of the fall in industrial prices. Farm and food prices showed little change during the month.



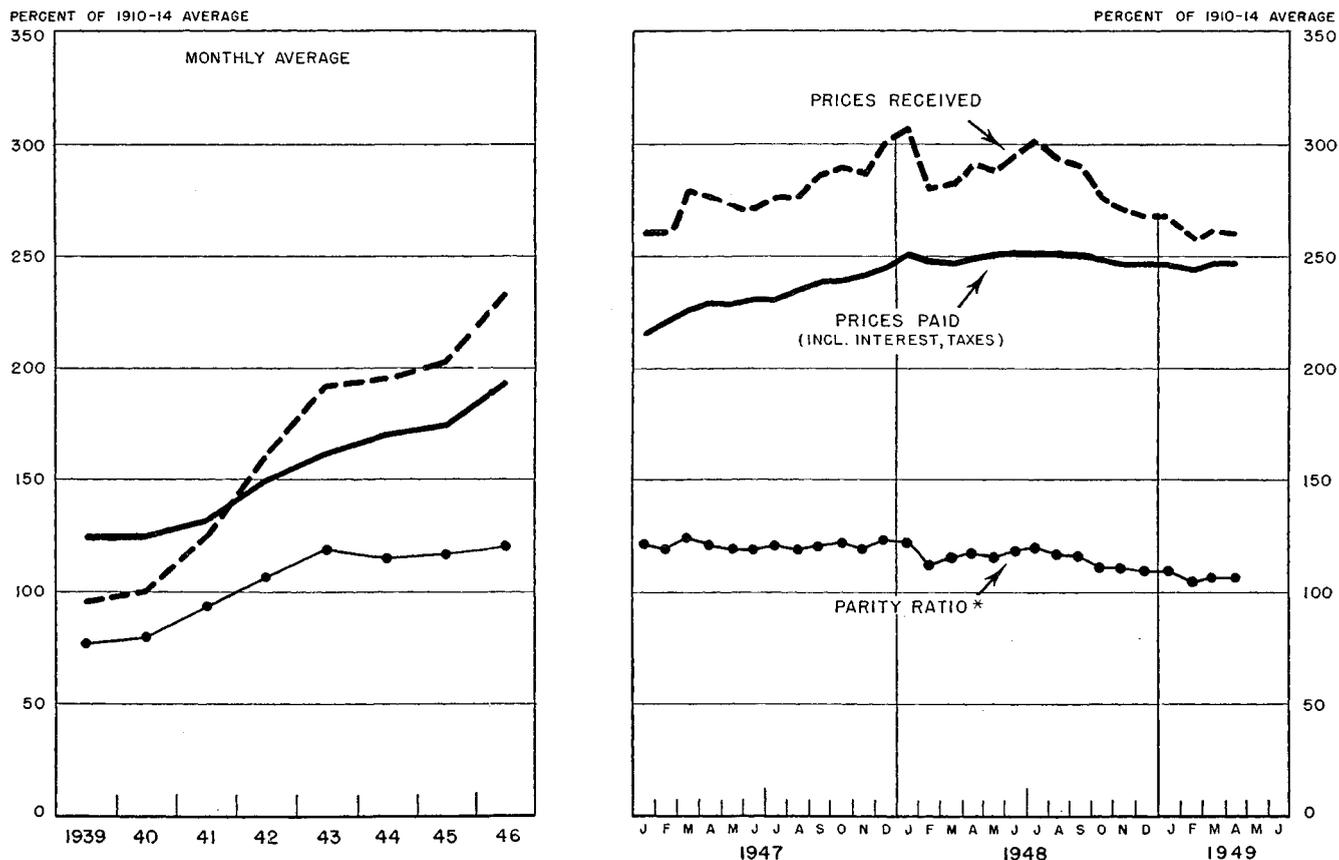
[1926=100]

Period	All commodities	Farm products	Foods	Other than farm products 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: 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
March	158.4	171.3	162.9	150.8
Week ended:				
Apr. 5	158.0	171.5	164.7	149.7
12	157.6	171.1	164.2	149.4
19	156.9	171.1	163.4	148.4
26	156.1	169.4	162.4	147.9
May 3	155.2	168.3	161.8	147.1

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.  
Source: Department of Labor.

# PRICES RECEIVED AND PAID BY FARMERS

Neither prices received nor prices paid by farmers showed much change from March 15 to April 15.



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

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

Period	Prices received by farmers <sup>1</sup>	Prices paid by farmers (including interest and taxes) <sup>2</sup>	Parity ratio <sup>3</sup>
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	117
1946 monthly average.....	233	193	121
1947 monthly average.....	278	231	120
1948 monthly average.....	287	249	115
1948: 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
April.....	260	246	106

<sup>1</sup> August 1909-July 1914=100.

<sup>2</sup> 1910-14=100.

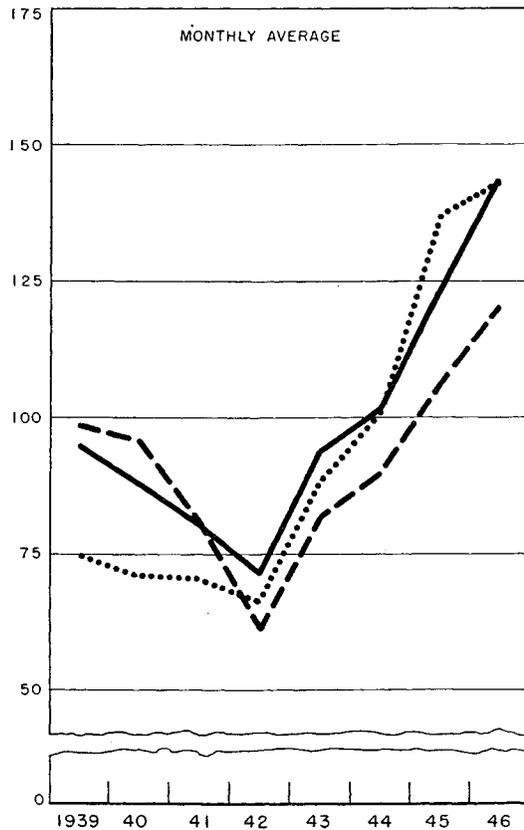
<sup>3</sup> Ratio of prices received to prices paid, interest, and taxes.

Source: Department of Agriculture.

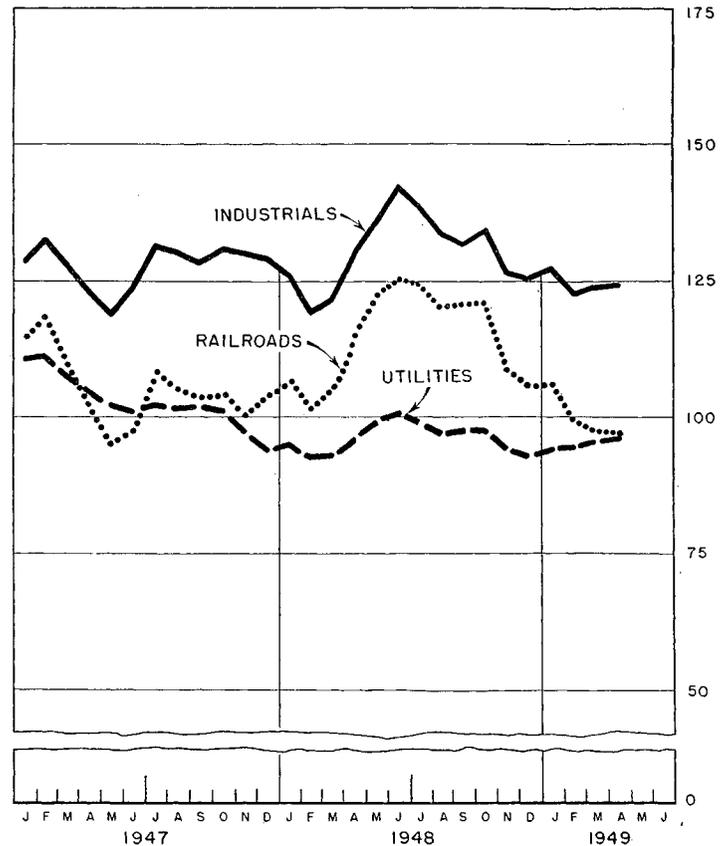
# STOCK PRICES

During April, industrial and utilities' stock prices registered further slight gains.

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 <sup>1</sup>	Industrials	Railroads	Utilities
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: 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
April.....	118.5	124.2	97.1	96.1

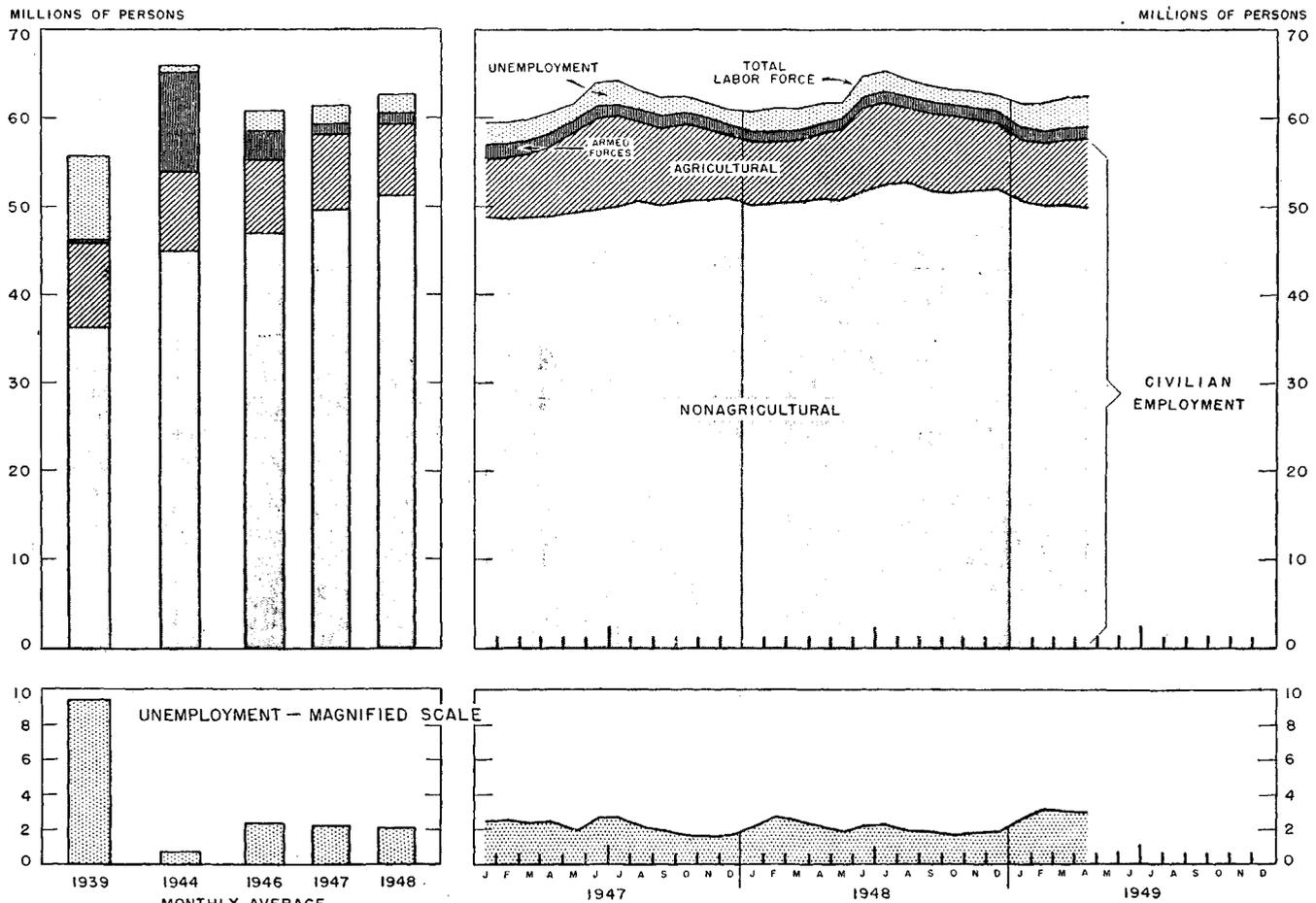
<sup>1</sup> Combined index prior to June 23, 1948, was based on 402 common stocks, and included 354 industrials, 20 railroads, and 28 utilities; thereafter, 416 common stocks are represented, with 365 industrials, 20 railroads, and 31 utilities.

Source: Standard & Poor's Corporation.

# EMPLOYMENT

## LABOR FORCE

Unemployment dropped slightly in April for the second straight month. Nonagricultural employment declined and agricultural employment increased less than seasonally.



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Thousands of persons 14 years of age and over]

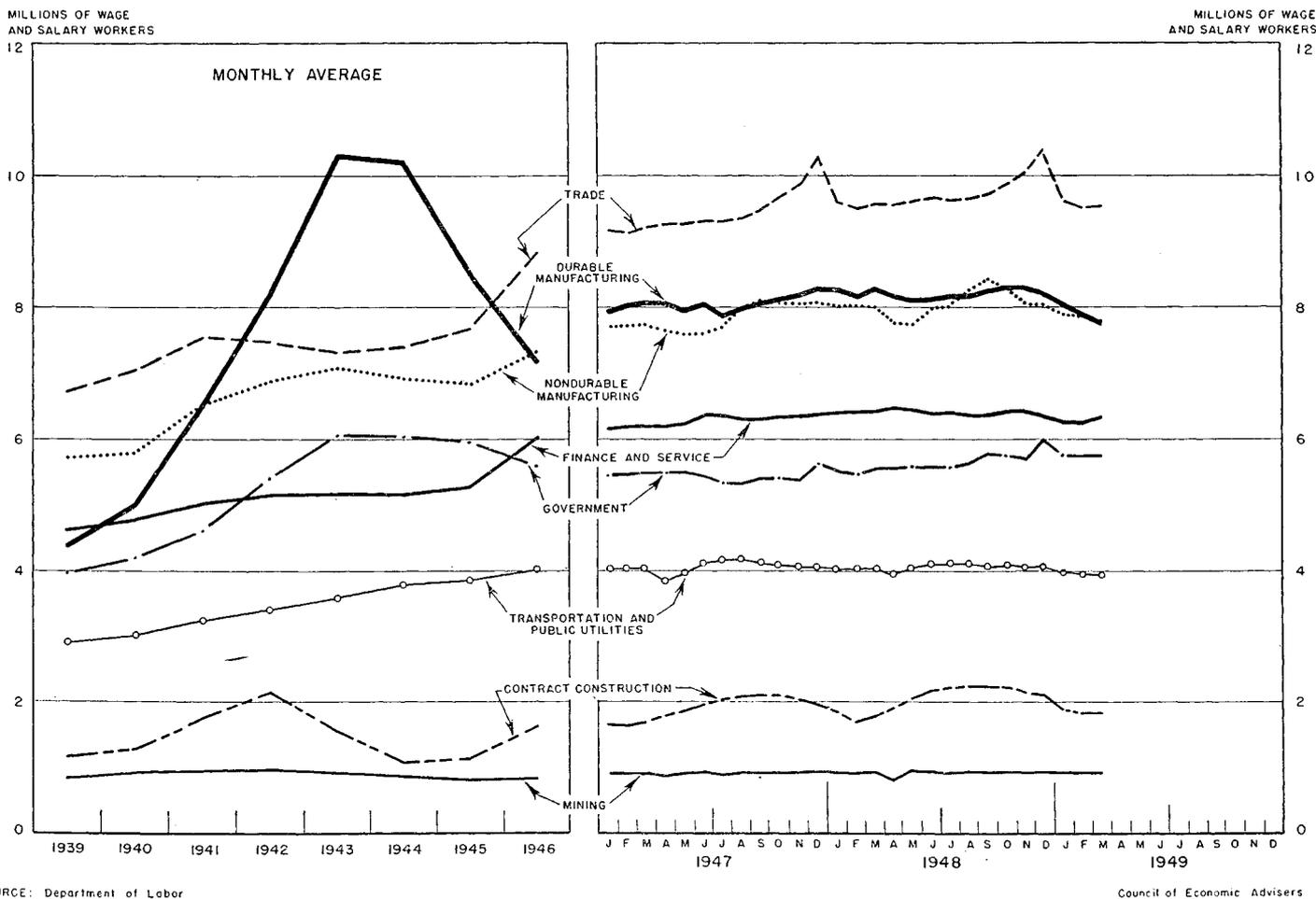
Period	Total labor force, including armed forces	Civilian employment			Armed forces	Unemployment
		Total	In non-agricultural industries	In agriculture		
1941 monthly average...	57,380	50,350	41,250	9,100	1,470	5,560
1944 monthly average...	65,890	53,960	45,010	8,950	11,260	2,193
1945 monthly average...	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: 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
April.....	62,337	57,819	49,999	7,820	1,492	3,016

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

Source: Department of Commerce.

# EMPLOYMENT IN BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT

Manufacturing employment, particularly in durable goods industries, declined again in March. Employment in other major industry groups changed slightly.



SOURCE: Department of Labor

Council of Economic Advisers

[Thousands of wage and salary workers <sup>1</sup>]

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: 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.....	8,222	8,061	10,381	6,346	5,994	4,066	2,079	939
1949: January <sup>2</sup> .....	8,005	7,885	9,625	6,257	5,761	3,977	1,906	924
February <sup>2</sup> .....	7,891	7,865	9,513	6,266	5,759	3,957	1,824	922
March <sup>2</sup> .....	7,762	7,787	9,529	6,331	5,762	3,938	1,824	915

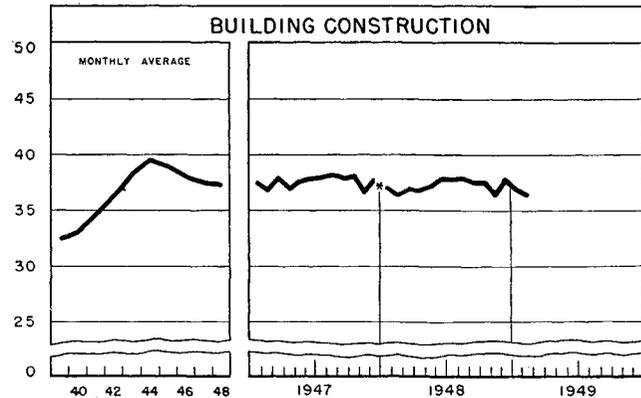
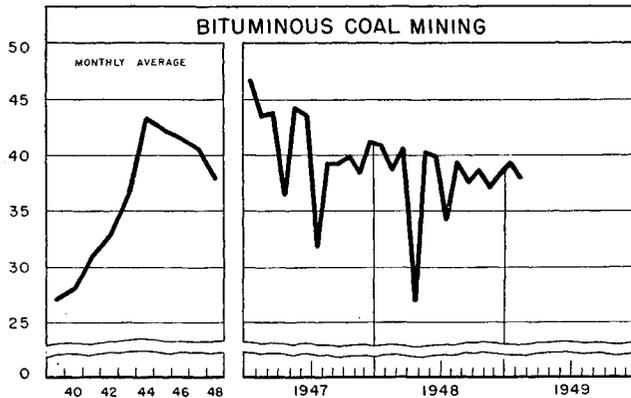
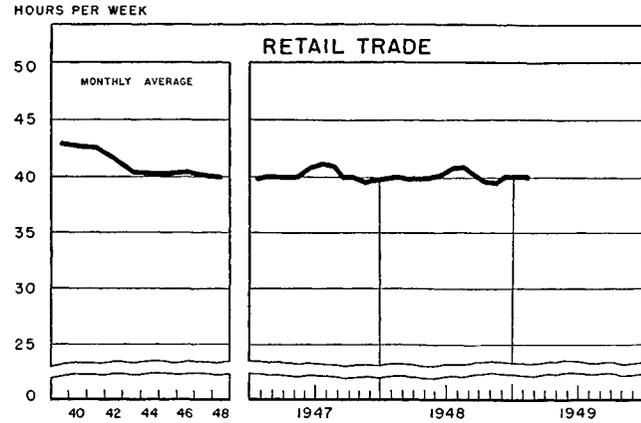
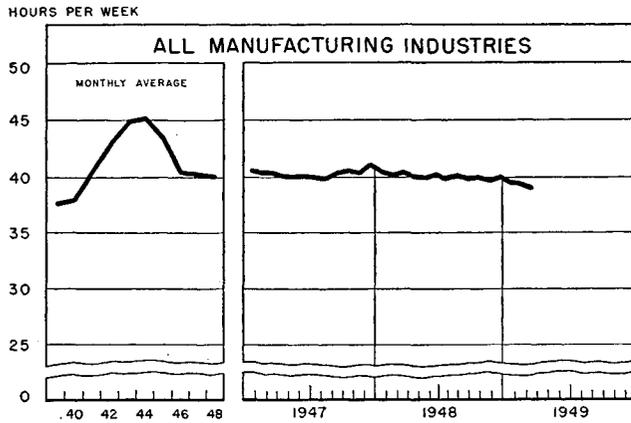
<sup>1</sup> Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in nonagricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Excludes proprietors, self-employed persons, domestic servants, and personnel of the armed forces. Total derived 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.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary estimate.

Source: Department of Labor.

# AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS

The average workweek in manufacturing industries fell to a postwar low of 38.9 hours in March, as further cutbacks were made in overtime.



\* SEE NOTE ON TABLE  
SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Hours per week, selected industries]

Period	All manufacturing industries	Retail trade	Bituminous coal mining	Building construction <sup>1</sup>
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 <sup>2</sup> .....	40.1	40.1	37.7	37.3
1948: February.....	40.2	40.0	38.7	36.4
March.....	40.4	39.8	40.6	36.9
April.....	40.1	39.8	<sup>3</sup> 27.0	36.7
May.....	39.9	39.9	40.3	37.0
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	37.6
October.....	40.0	39.7	38.6	37.3
November.....	39.8	39.5	37.1	36.4
December <sup>2</sup> .....	40.0	40.2	38.5	37.8
1949: January <sup>2</sup> .....	39.4	40.0	39.3	37.0
February <sup>2</sup> .....	39.4	40.0	38.0	36.4
March <sup>2</sup> .....	38.9			

<sup>1</sup> Data prior to 1948 not exactly comparable with later data.

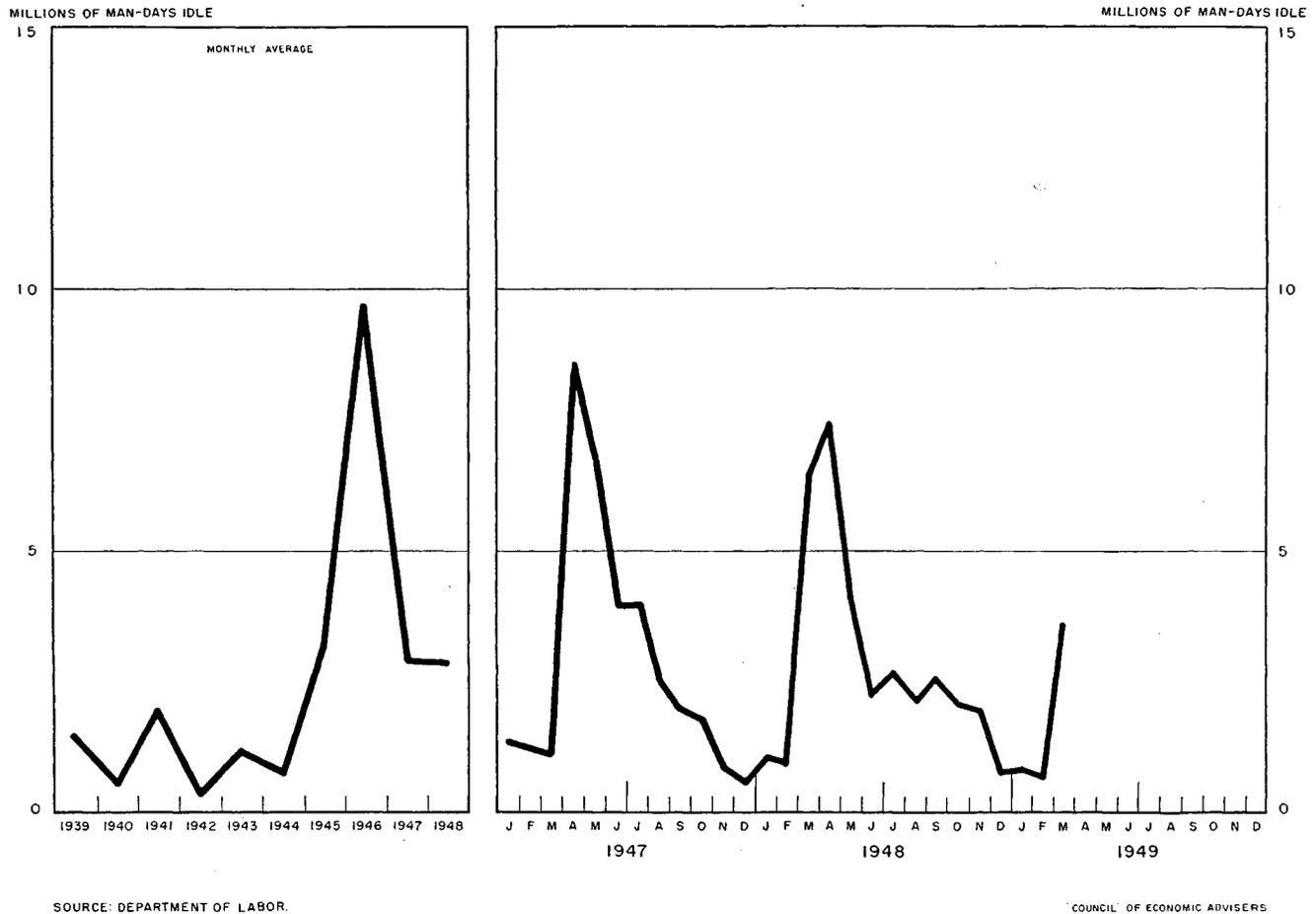
<sup>2</sup> Preliminary estimate.

<sup>3</sup> Based on pay period during coal stoppage.

Source: Department of Labor.

# WORK STOPPAGES

The rise in man-days lost in March was caused chiefly by the coal miners' "two-week holiday". Other minor disputes also contributed to the increase.



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

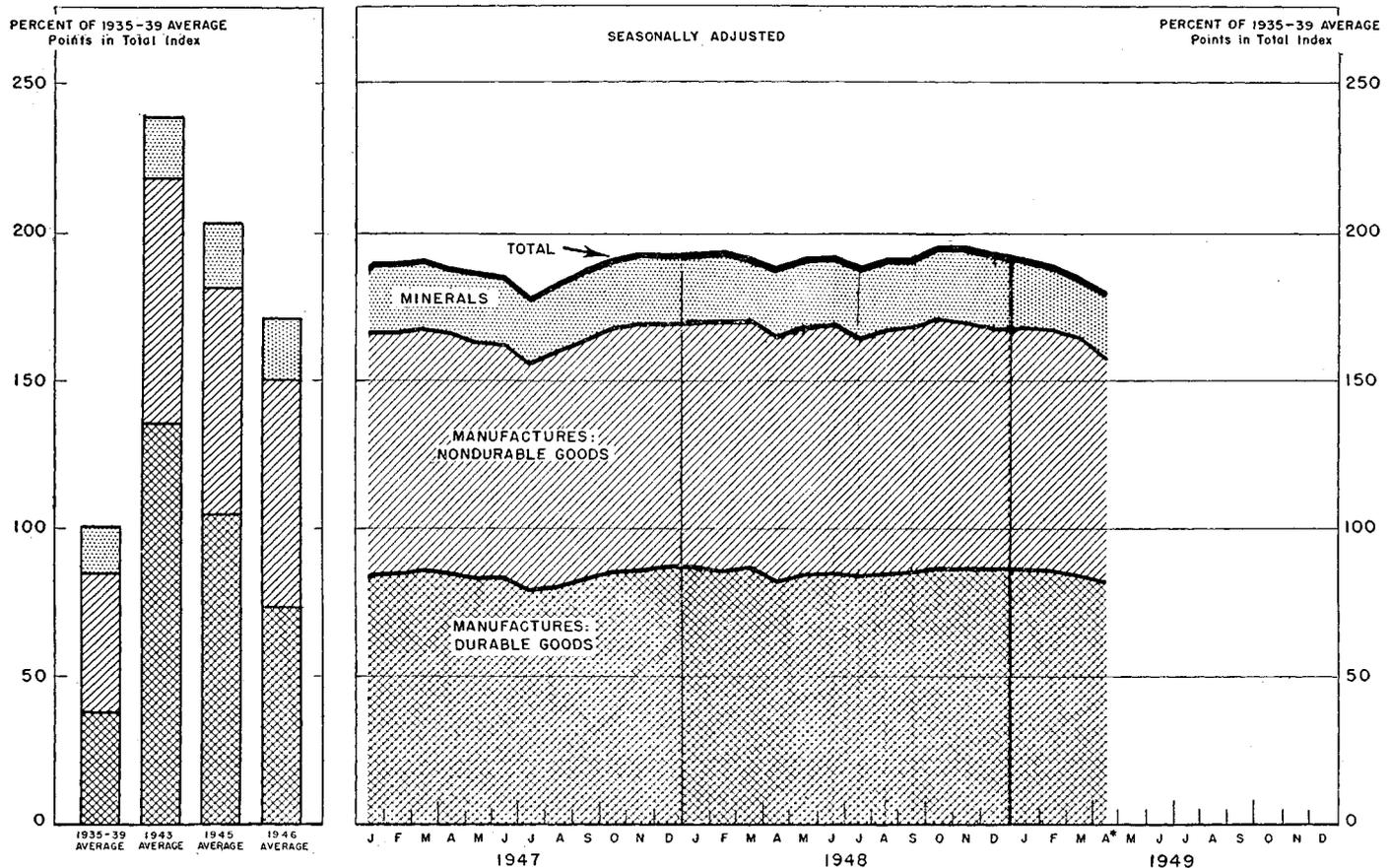
Period	Man-days idle (thousands)	Man-days idle as percent of estimated available working time
1939 monthly average	1,484	0.3
1941 monthly average	1,921	.3
1942 monthly average	349	.1
1943 monthly average	1,125	.2
1944 monthly average	727	.1
1945 monthly average	3,169	.5
1946 monthly average	9,667	1.4
1947 monthly average	2,883	.4
1948 monthly average <sup>1</sup>	2,842	.4
1948: February	913	.1
March	6,440	.8
April	7,410	1.0
May	4,080	.6
June	2,220	.3
July	2,670	.4
August	2,100	.3
September	2,540	.3
October	2,060	.3
November	1,910	.3
December	713	.1
1949: January <sup>1</sup>	800	.1
February <sup>1</sup>	650	.1
March <sup>1</sup>	3,600	.5

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary estimate.  
Source: Department of Labor.

# PRODUCTION AND BUSINESS ACTIVITY

## INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Industrial production was down about 3% in March as a result of lower output of nondurable manufactures and curtailed mining activities. Preliminary April data indicate declines in both durables and nondurables and some recovery in mining.



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			Minerals	Manufactures		Minerals
		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: 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	175	149	86	82	23
February.....	189	196	226	173	148	86	81	22
March <sup>1</sup> .....	184	193	223	168	133	84	80	20
April <sup>1</sup> .....	179	186	216	161	143	82	75	22

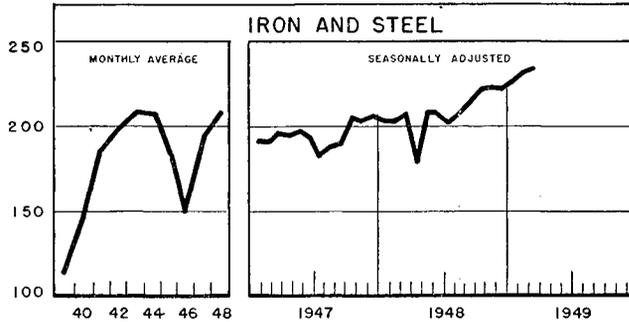
<sup>1</sup> Preliminary estimate.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

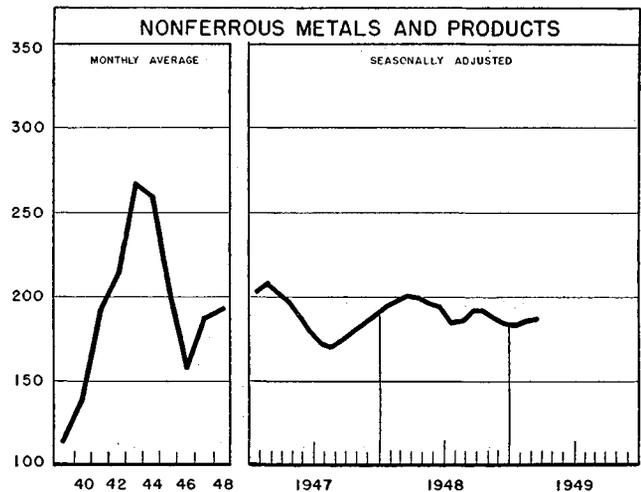
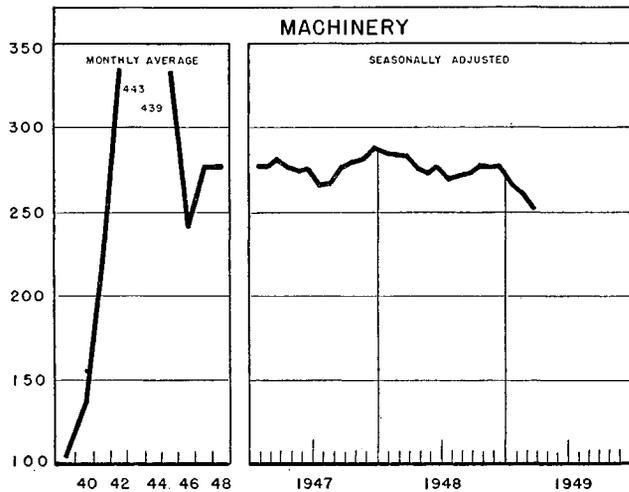
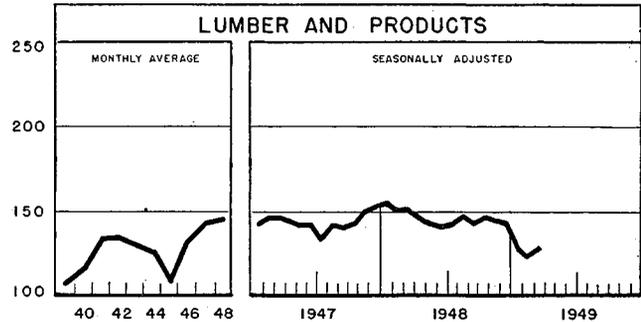
# PRODUCTION OF SELECTED DURABLE MANUFACTURES

Iron and steel output reached a new all-time high in March. Lumber production also increased but machinery production dropped sharply.

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: 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	183
February <sup>1</sup>	232	123	262	186
March <sup>1</sup>	234	128	251	187

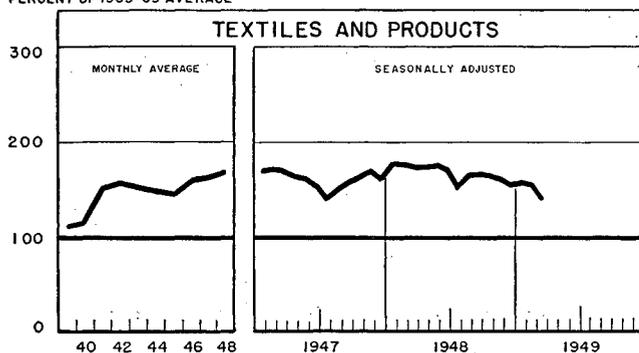
<sup>1</sup> Preliminary estimate.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

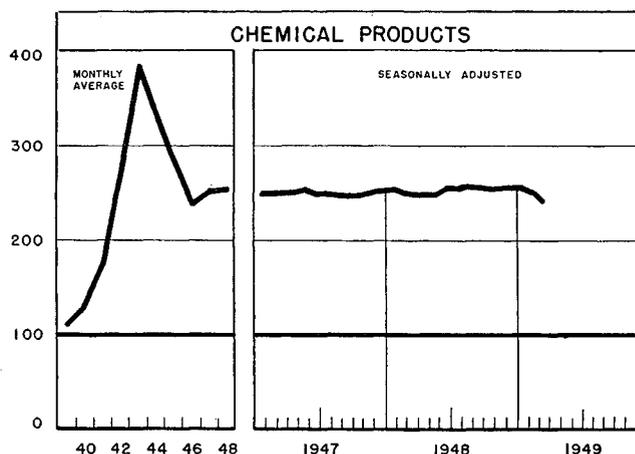
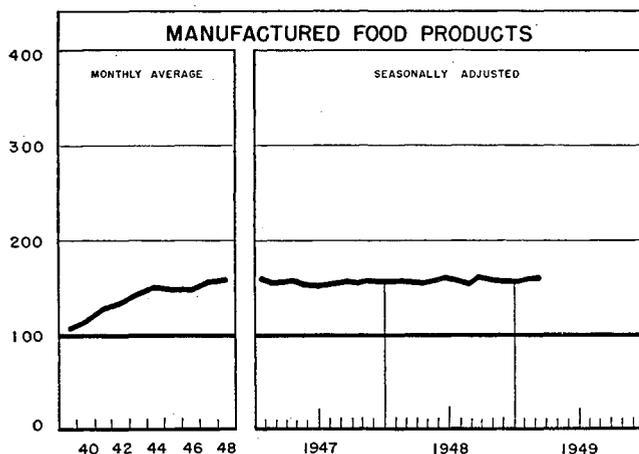
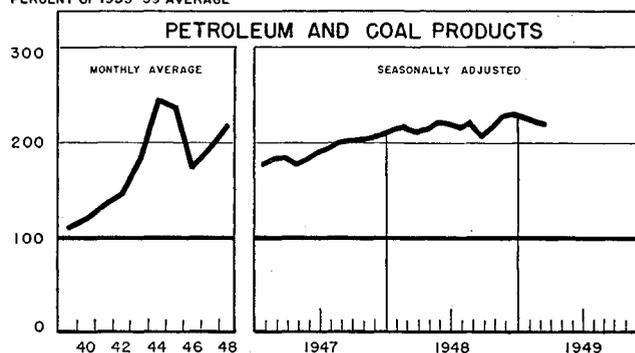
# PRODUCTION OF SELECTED NONDURABLE MANUFACTURES

Production of textiles and products, chiefly wool and rayon, decreased about 10% in March; industrial chemicals also declined.

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]

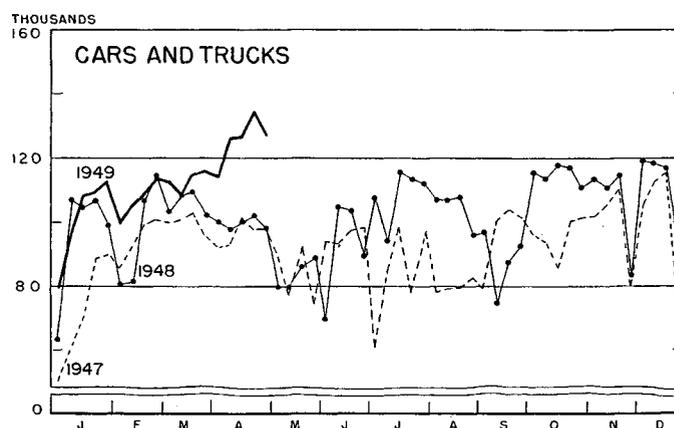
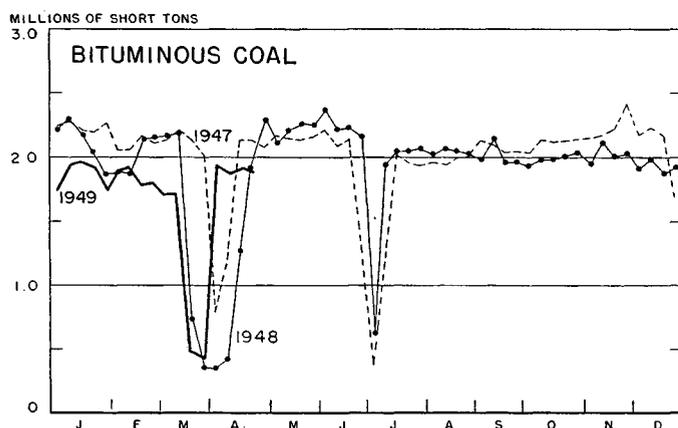
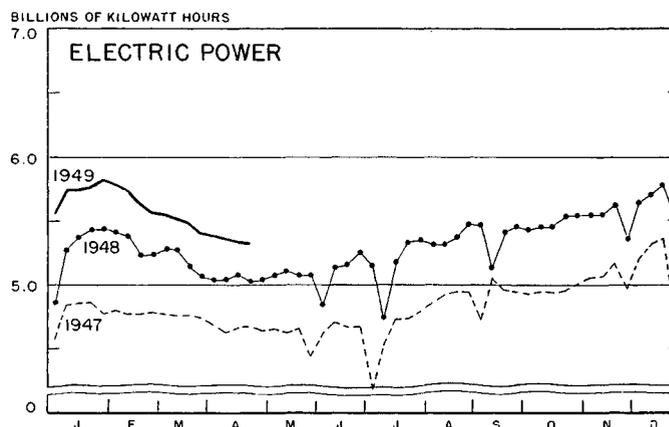
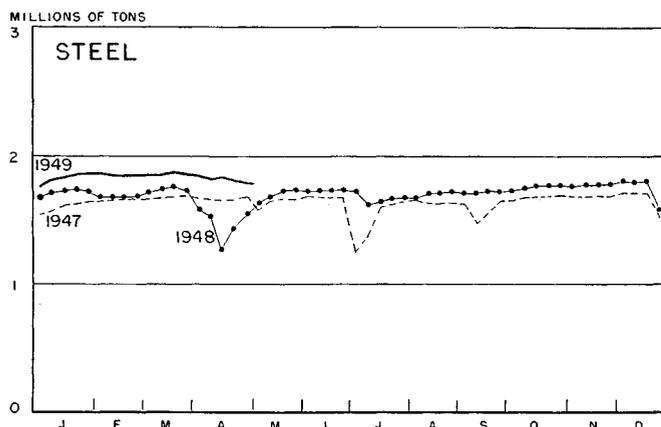
Period	Textiles and products	Petroleum and coal products	Manufactured food products	Chemical products
1935-39 monthly average.....	100	100	100	100
1943 monthly average.....	153	185	145	384
1945 monthly average.....	146	235	151	284
1946 monthly average.....	162	173	150	236
1947 monthly average.....	163	193	157	251
1948 monthly average.....	169	218	159	254
1948: 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	228	159	257
February <sup>1</sup> .....	157	222	161	250
March <sup>1</sup> .....	142	220	162	242

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary estimate.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System,

# WEEKLY PRODUCTION - SELECTED INDICATORS

Steel production in April dropped just below the all-time peak rate reached in March while motor vehicles reached the highest rate since 1937.



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

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

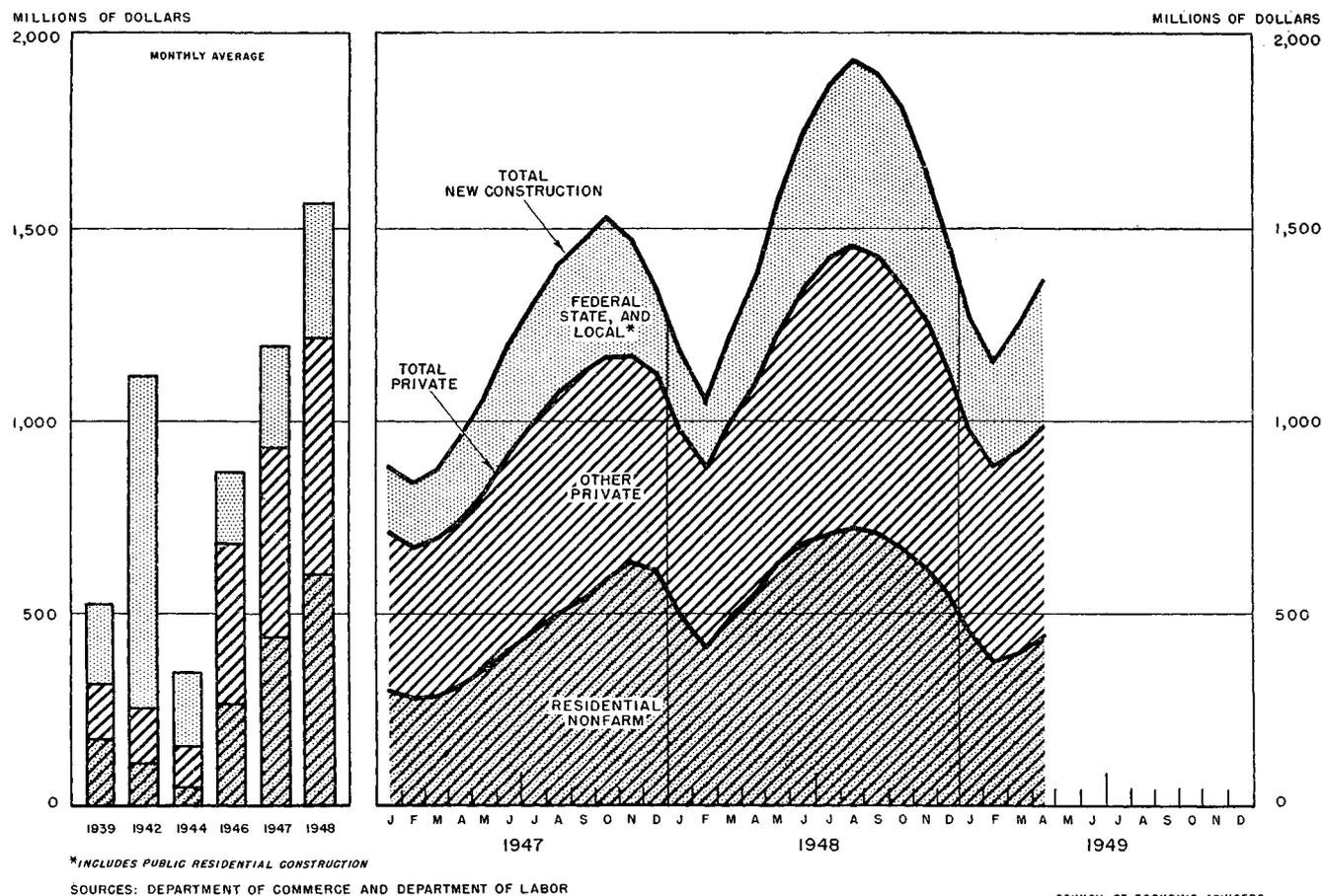
Period	Steel (thousands of net tons)	Electric power, by utilities (millions of kilowatt-hours)	Bituminous coal (thousands of short tons) <sup>1</sup>	Cars and trucks (number)
Weekly average:				
1947	1,637	4,821	2,008	90,860
1948	1,700	5,300	1,906	100,670
Week ended:				
1948: Apr. 3	1,592	5,037	355	99,901
10	1,521	5,033	413	97,311
17	1,285	5,087	1,306	97,567
24	1,442	5,027	1,952	101,661
May 1	1,561	5,042	2,335	97,409
8	1,640	5,087	2,122	79,785
1949: Apr. 2	1,840	5,378	1,932	113,784
9	1,821	5,360	1,880	126,165
16	1,829	5,343	1,908	126,521
23	1,814	5,326	1,893	134,706
30	1,797	5,304	1,922	129,457
May 7	1,794			121,845

<sup>1</sup> Daily average for week.

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

# NEW CONSTRUCTION

Construction activity continued its seasonal increase in April, reaching a total of \$1.4 billion. Public construction increased more than private, bringing the two categories back into more normal relationship.



[Millions of dollars]

Period	Total new construction	Private construction			Federal, State, and local <sup>1</sup>
		Total private	Residential (nonfarm)	Other	
1939 monthly average.....	526	317	176	141	208
1942 monthly average.....	1,118	251	110	141	867
1944 monthly average.....	345	152	45	107	193
1946 monthly average.....	871	688	265	422	184
1947 monthly average.....	1,194	932	438	493	262
1948 monthly average.....	1,565	1,214	602	612	351
1948: February.....	1,049	875	410	465	174
March.....	1,226	1,001	490	511	225
April.....	1,378	1,099	550	549	279
May.....	1,572	1,222	625	597	350
June.....	1,754	1,348	682	666	406
July.....	1,874	1,423	707	716	451
August.....	1,934	1,454	720	734	480
September.....	1,901	1,427	707	720	474
October.....	1,814	1,355	670	685	459
November.....	1,646	1,256	615	641	390
December.....	1,447	1,129	547	582	318
1949: January.....	1,269	977	450	527	292
February.....	1,148	880	375	505	268
March <sup>2</sup> .....	1,248	928	400	528	320
April <sup>2</sup> .....	1,368	987	440	547	381

<sup>1</sup> Includes public residential construction.

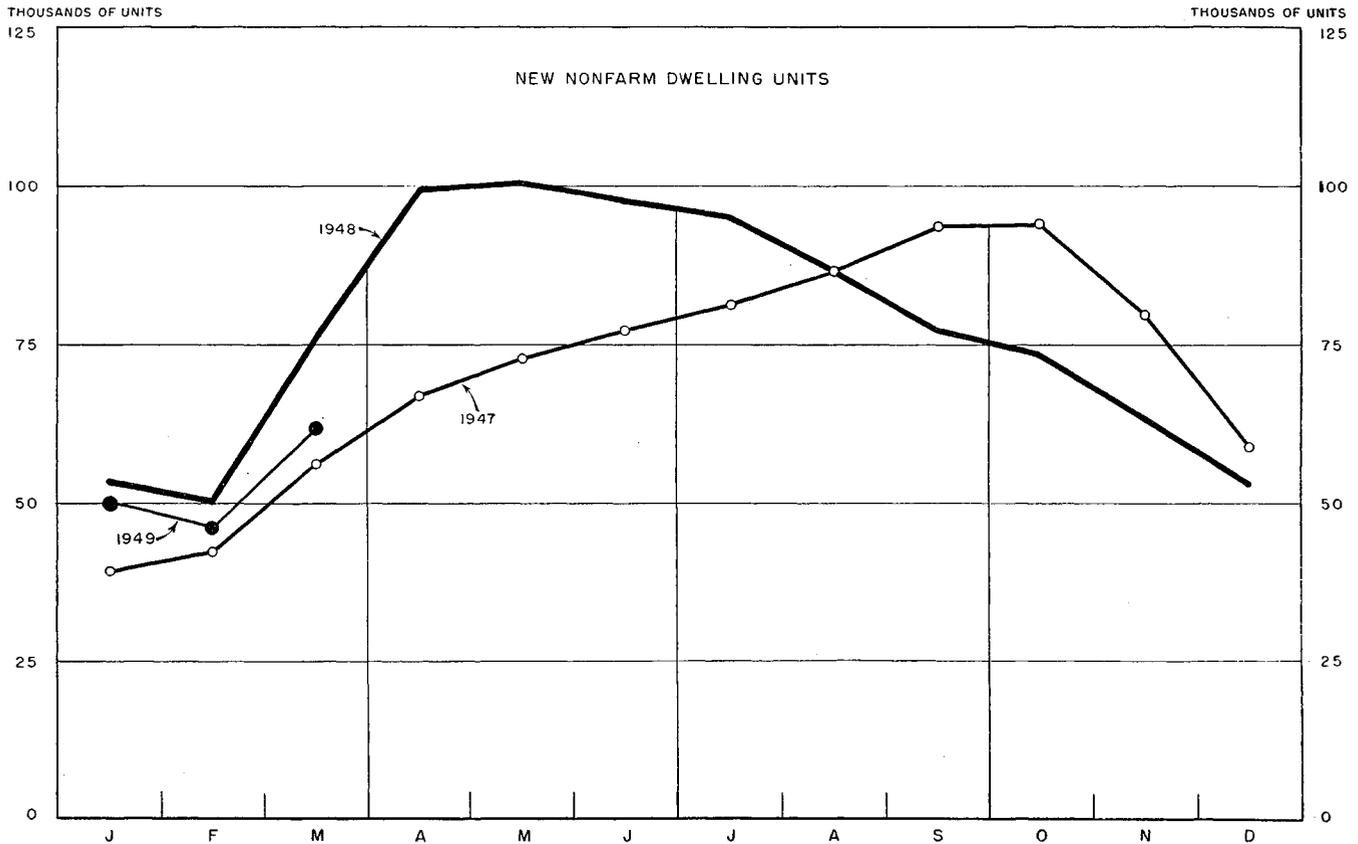
<sup>2</sup> Preliminary estimate.

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

Sources: Department of Commerce and Department of Labor.

# NEW HOUSING STARTS

About 62,000 new permanent dwelling units were started in March. While this is 12,000 less than March 1948, it represents a normal seasonal increase from the lower level at which the year started.



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

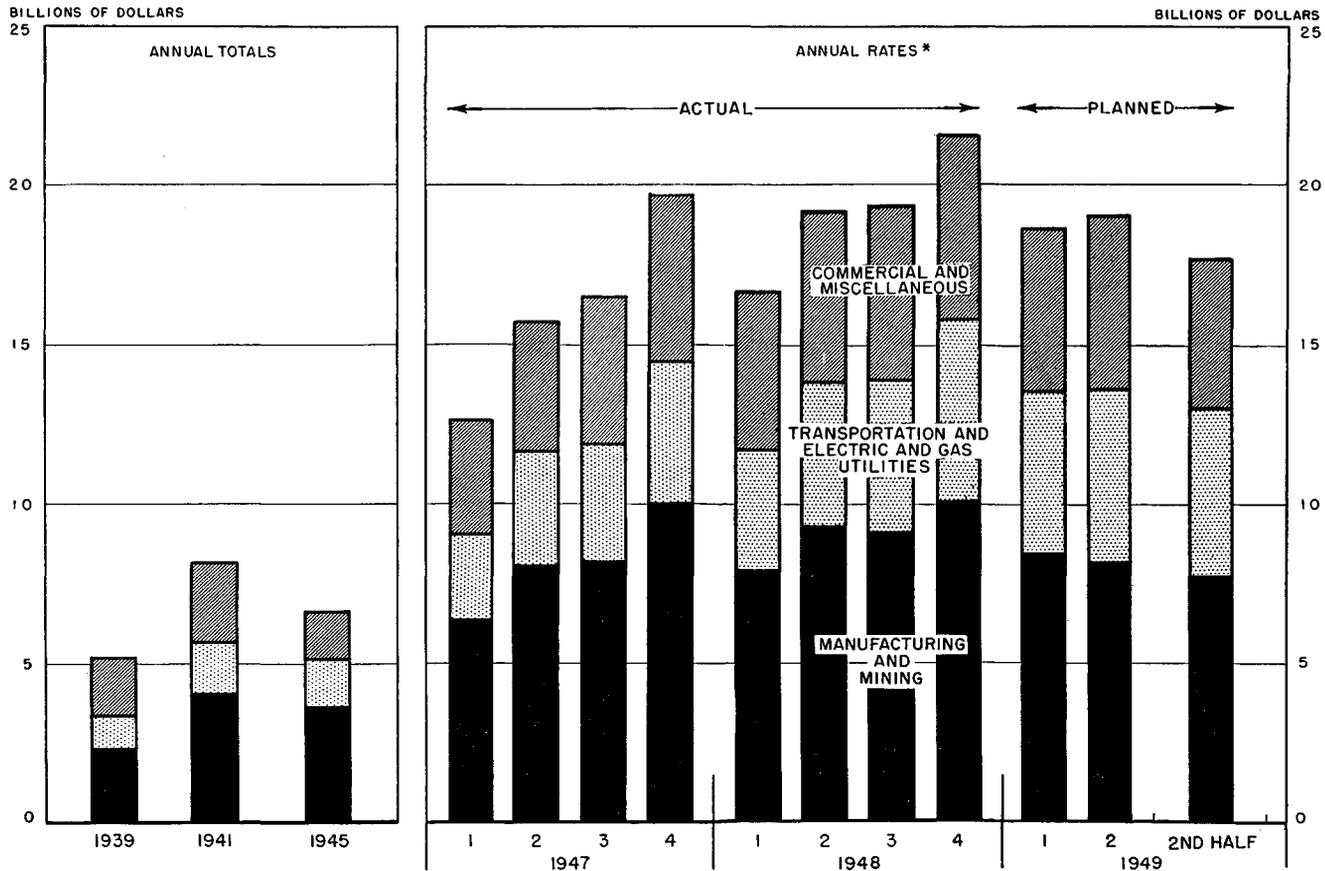
Month	New nonfarm units started		
	1947	1948	1949
January	39,300	53,500	<sup>1</sup> 50,000
February	42,800	50,100	<sup>1</sup> 46,000
March	56,000	76,400	<sup>1</sup> 62,000
April	67,100	99,500	-----
May	72,900	100,300	-----
June	77,200	97,800	-----
July	81,100	95,000	-----
August	86,300	86,600	-----
September	93,800	82,200	-----
October	94,000	73,400	-----
November	79,700	63,600	-----
December	58,800	52,900	-----
Total	849,000	931,300	-----
Monthly average	70,750	77,600	-----

<sup>1</sup> 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.



\* NOT ADJUSTED FOR SEASONAL VARIATION.

SOURCES: SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

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

Period	Total <sup>1</sup>	Manufacturing	Mining	Transportation		Electric and gas utilities	Commercial and miscellaneous <sup>2</sup>
				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 <sup>3</sup>	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	880	1,640	680	3,400	5,760
1949: First quarter <sup>3</sup>	18,720	7,760	720	1,560	640	2,880	5,160
Second quarter <sup>3</sup>	19,120	7,440	760	1,640	720	3,160	5,440
Second half <sup>3</sup>	17,700	6,880	900	1,300	620	3,240	4,720

<sup>1</sup> Excludes agriculture.

<sup>2</sup> Includes trade, service, finance, and communication.

<sup>3</sup> Estimates based on anticipated capital expenditures of business.

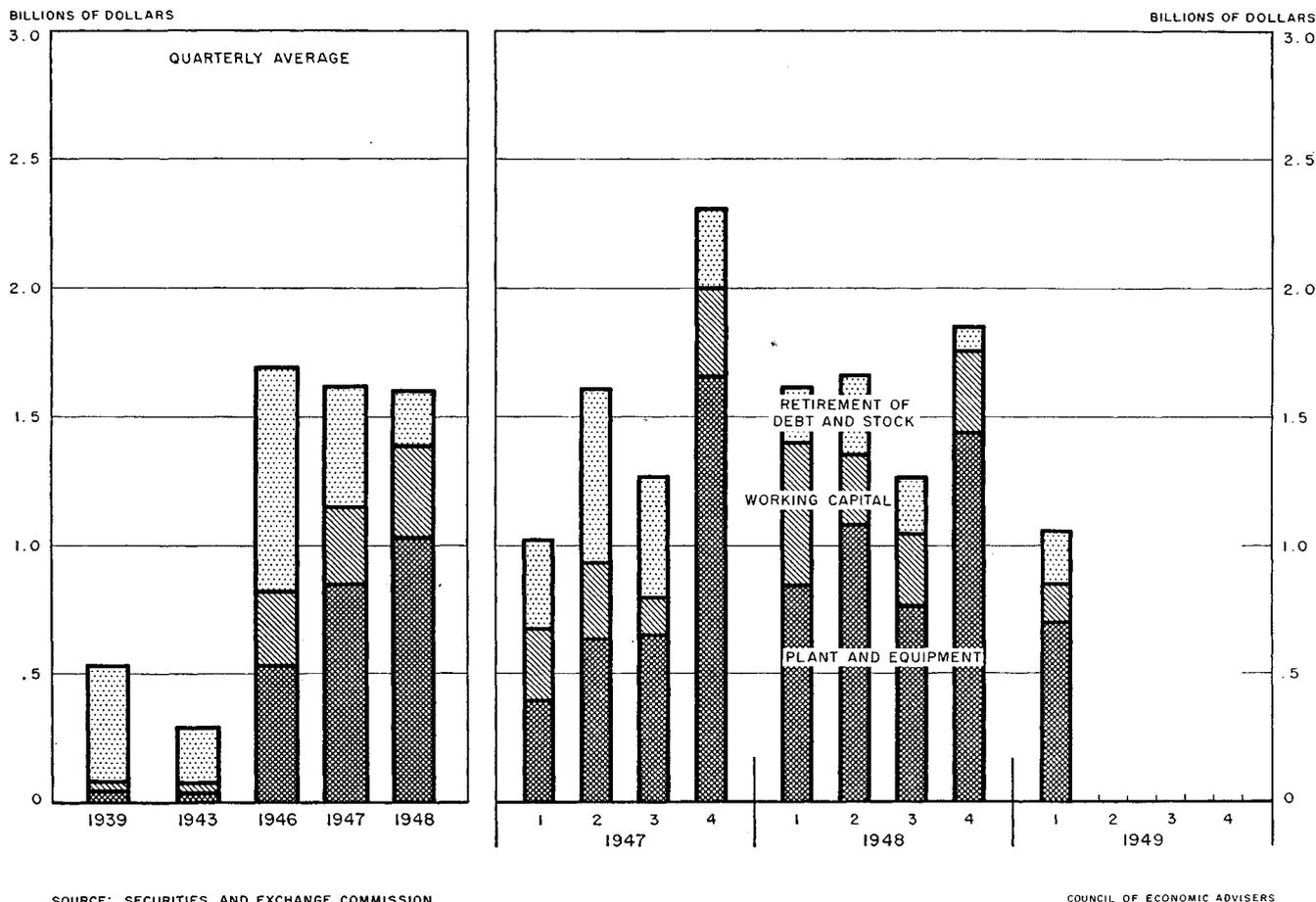
NOTE.—These figures do not agree with the totals included in the gross national product estimates of the Department of Commerce, principally because the latter cover agricultural investment and also certain equipment and construction outlays charged to current expense. Figures for 1939-44 are Federal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

Total proceeds from new corporate security issues fell heavily in the 1st quarter reflecting a decline in both fixed and working capital financing.



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 <sup>1</sup>
		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 <sup>2</sup> .....	1,604	1,392	1,035	357	212
1947: Third quarter.....	1,374	884	692	192	490
1947: Fourth quarter.....	2,311	2,000	1,654	347	310
1948: First quarter.....	1,614	1,400	845	555	214
1948: Second quarter.....	1,663	1,353	1,080	274	309
1948: Third quarter.....	1,267	1,045	764	281	221
1948: Fourth quarter.....	1,873	1,767	1,451	316	105
1949: First quarter <sup>2</sup> .....	1,057	851	699	152	206

<sup>1</sup> Includes small amount for other purposes.

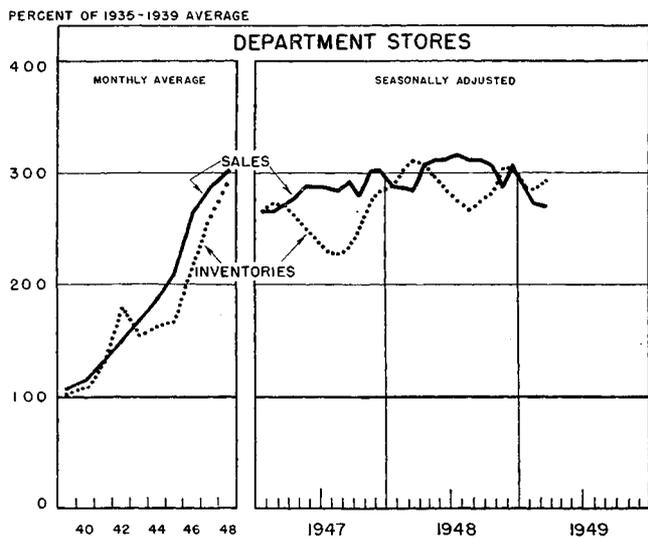
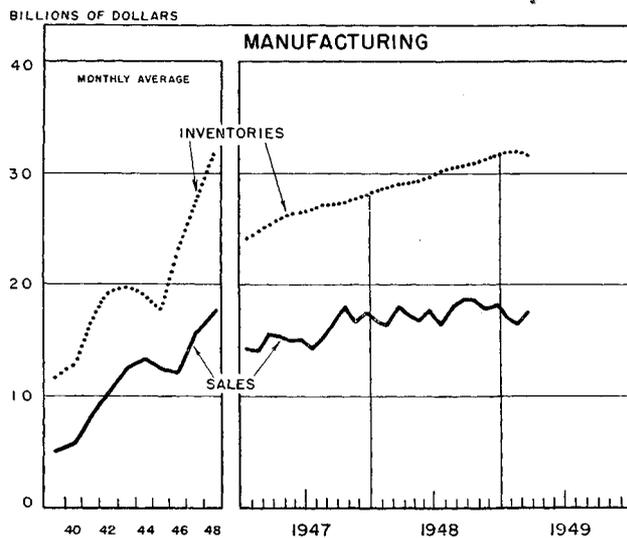
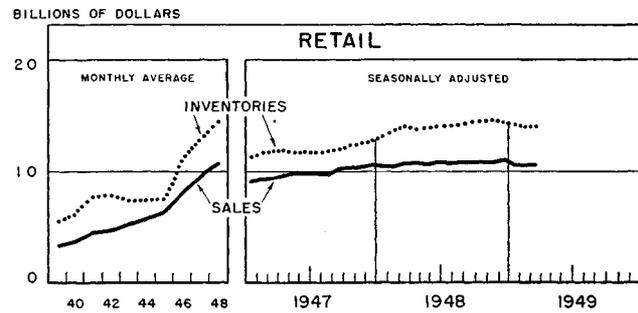
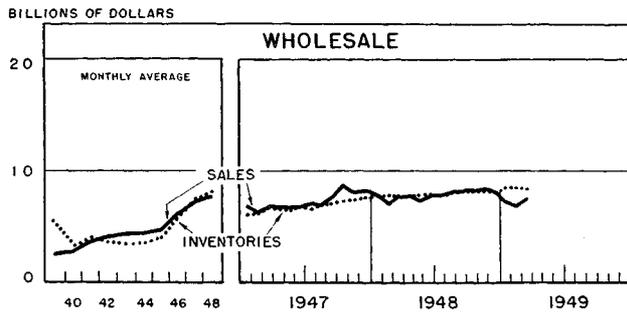
<sup>2</sup> Preliminary estimate.

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

Source: Securities and Exchange Commission.

# INVENTORIES AND SALES

The book value of manufacturers' inventories showed the first sizeable decrease since the war, as sales rose seasonally. Department store sales on a seasonally adjusted basis declined again, though less rapidly than in January or February.



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

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

Period	Wholesale <sup>1</sup>		Retail <sup>2</sup>		Manufacturing <sup>1</sup>		Department stores	
	Inventories <sup>3</sup>	Sales <sup>4</sup>	Inventories <sup>3</sup>	Sales <sup>4</sup>	Inventories <sup>3</sup>	Sales <sup>4</sup>	Inventories	Sales
Millions of dollars								
1935-39=100, seasonally adjusted <sup>5</sup>								
1939.....	3,200	2,505	5,502	3,504	11,516	5,112	102	106
1941.....	4,151	3,650	7,620	4,624	17,024	8,172	131	133
1943.....	3,577	4,330	7,350	5,310	19,897	12,603	155	168
1945.....	4,216	4,777	7,502	6,387	17,924	12,371	166	207
1946.....	5,823	6,138	11,049	8,399	23,435	12,020	213	264
1947.....	7,545	7,304	12,953	9,860	28,020	15,671	255	286
1948.....	8,315	7,867	14,556	10,784	31,766	17,593	292	302
1948: March.....	7,869	7,726	14,040	10,658	29,064	18,117	312	284
April.....	7,777	7,652	13,907	10,891	29,161	17,229	308	306
May.....	7,801	7,389	13,951	10,620	29,437	16,777	297	311
June.....	7,953	7,766	14,065	10,862	29,727	17,871	285	312
July.....	7,930	7,796	14,080	10,857	30,236	16,403	275	316
August.....	8,100	8,161	14,145	10,893	30,429	18,169	268	312
September.....	8,243	8,286	14,531	10,968	30,710	18,781	275	312
October.....	8,400	8,376	14,576	10,894	30,848	18,807	283	306
November <sup>6</sup> .....	8,507	8,242	14,779	10,771	31,225	17,987	303	287
December <sup>6</sup> .....	8,315	8,196	14,556	11,062	31,766	18,195	305	310
1949: January <sup>6</sup> .....	8,527	7,163	14,085	10,615	31,998	16,859	285	287
February <sup>6</sup> .....	8,567	6,802	13,934	10,588	32,065	16,427	286	274
March <sup>6</sup> .....	8,453	7,483	14,049	10,608	31,700	17,700	293	270

<sup>1</sup> Not adjusted for seasonal variation.

<sup>2</sup> Book value, end of period.

<sup>3</sup> Adjusted for seasonal variation.

<sup>4</sup> Monthly average for year and total for month.

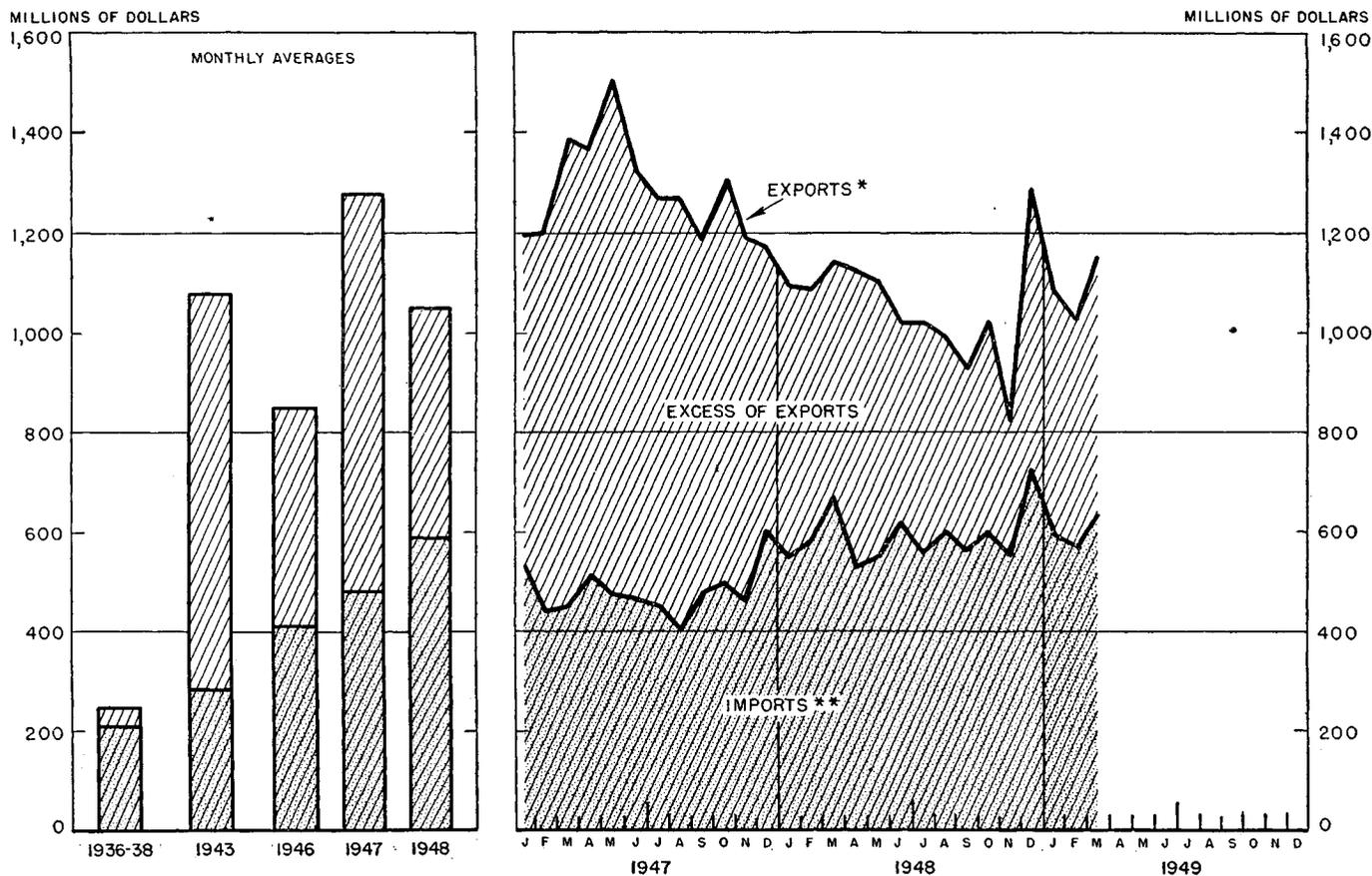
<sup>5</sup> Indexes computed from data on retail value of sales for month and retail book value of inventories, end of period.

<sup>6</sup> Preliminary estimate.

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

# MERCHANDISE EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

Both exports and imports increased about 12 percent in March, exceeding average 1948 levels.



\* 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 <sup>1</sup>	Imports <sup>2</sup>	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.....	1,029	568	461
March.....	1,152	632	520

<sup>1</sup> Recorded merchandise exports, including reexports, and civilian supplies for occupied areas.

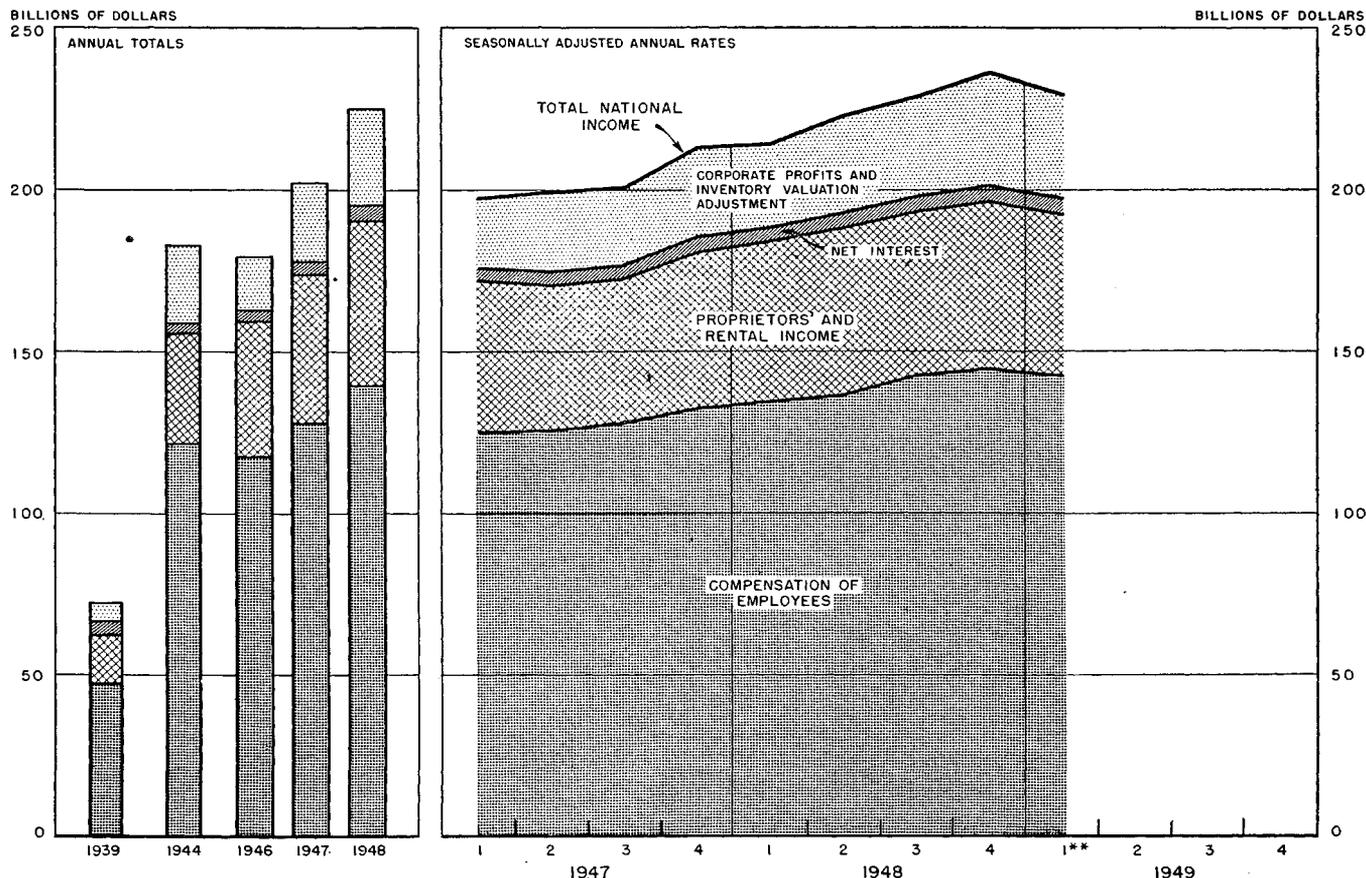
<sup>2</sup> Recorded general merchandise imports.

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

# PURCHASING POWER

## NATIONAL INCOME

National income declined in the 1st quarter of 1949 but was still above the rates for the first three quarters of 1948.



\*\* PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES BY COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS.  
SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (except as noted).

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 <sup>1</sup> .....	224.9	139.4	50.9	4.9	29.8	32.8	-3.0
Annual rates, seasonally adjusted							
1947: 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 <sup>1</sup> .....	( <sup>2</sup> ) 235.3	144.7	51.4	5.2	( <sup>2</sup> ) 34.0	( <sup>2</sup> ) 34.4	-0.4
1949: First quarter <sup>2</sup> .....	229.0	142.5	49.6	5.3	31.6	29.6	+2.0

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary estimates.

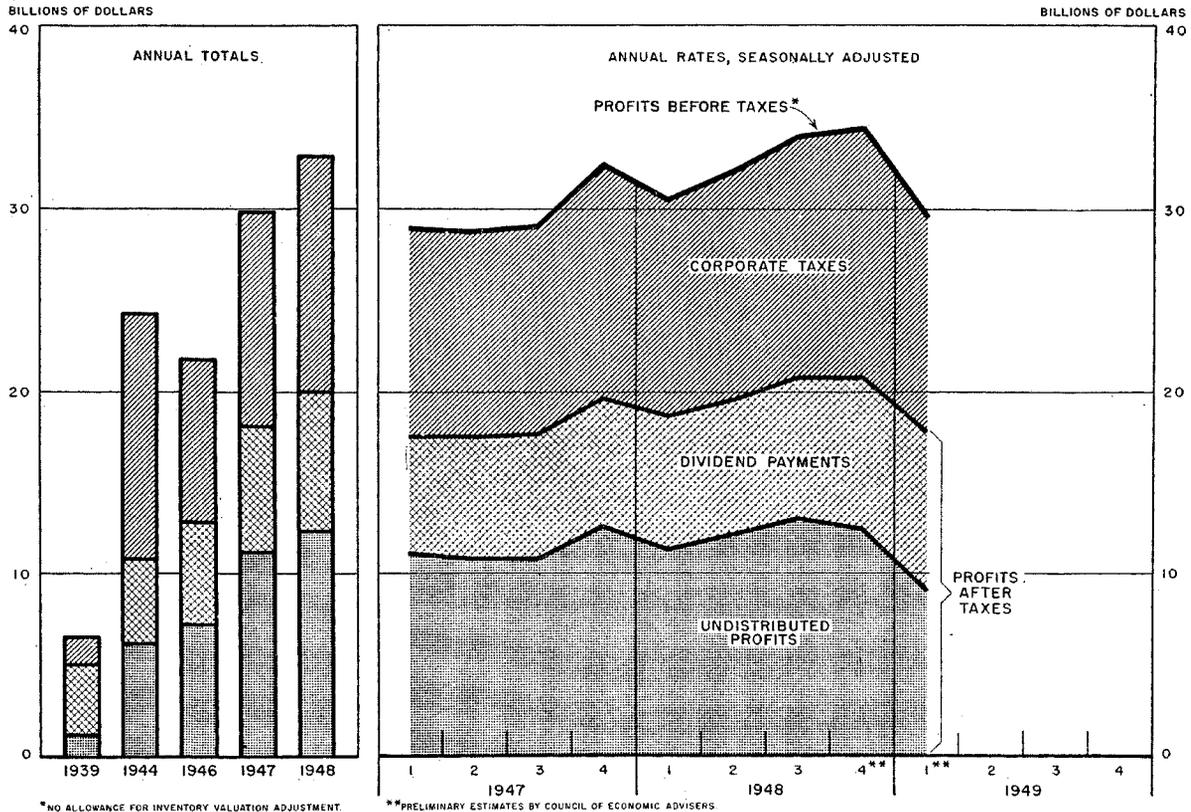
<sup>2</sup> Estimates by Council of Economic Advisers; based on preliminary data.

Digitized for FRASER. Note.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.  
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org Source: Department of Commerce (except as noted).

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

# CORPORATE PROFITS

Corporate profits dropped in the 1st quarter of 1949, reflecting a decline in sales and prices.



\*NO ALLOWANCE FOR INVENTORY VALUATION ADJUSTMENT.

\*\*PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES BY COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS.

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (EXCEPT AS NOTED).

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: Third quarter	29.1	11.4	17.7	6.9	10.8
1947: 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
1948: Second quarter	32.1	12.5	19.6	7.4	12.2
1948: Third quarter	34.0	13.3	20.8	7.7	13.1
1948: Fourth quarter <sup>1</sup>	34.4	13.6	20.8	8.3	12.5
1949: First quarter <sup>1</sup>	29.6	11.8	17.8	8.7	9.1

<sup>1</sup> Estimates by Council of Economic Advisers; based on preliminary data.

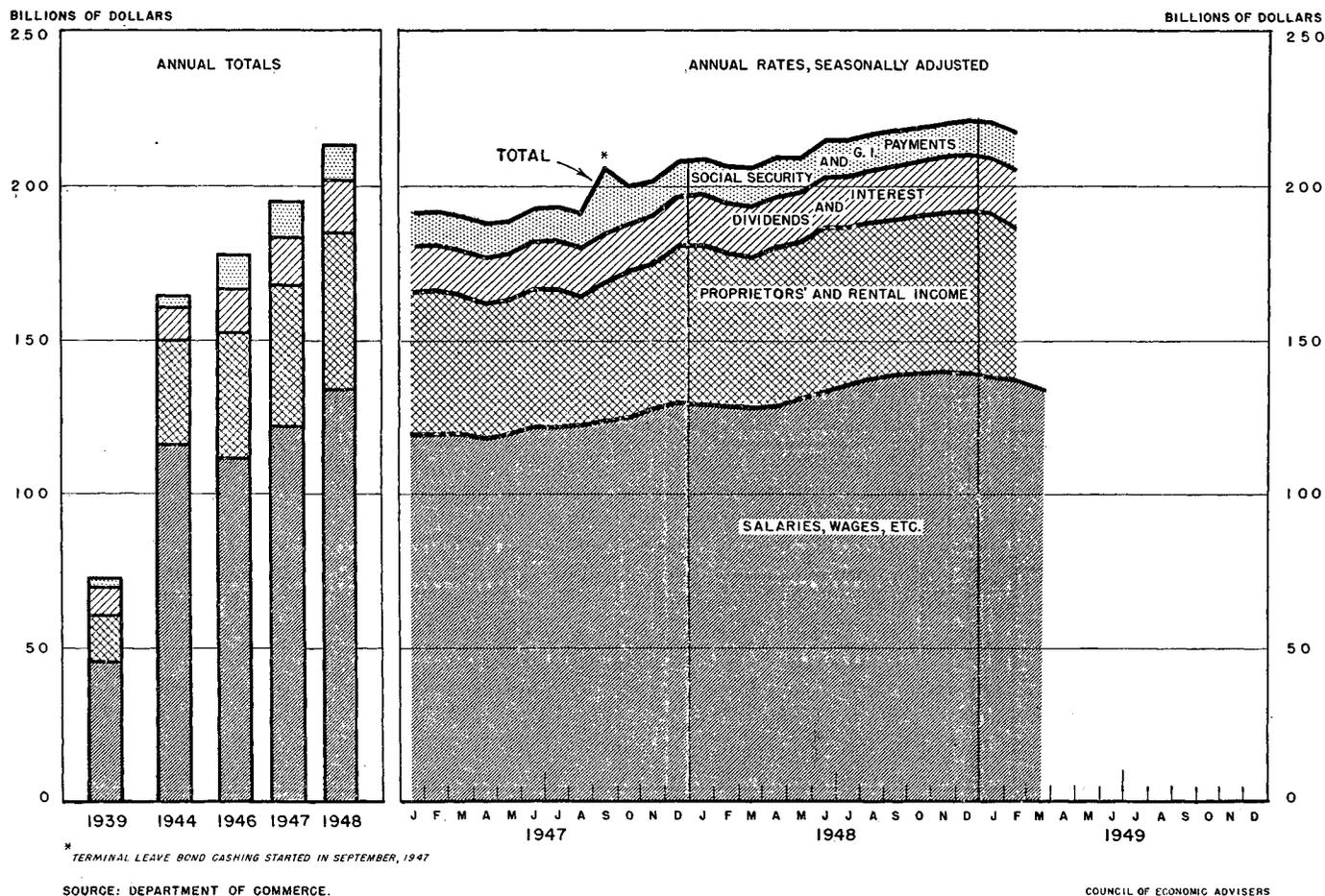
NOTE.—No allowance has been made for inventory valuation adjustment. See p. 20 for profits before taxes and inventory valuation adjustment.

Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

Source: Department of Commerce (except as noted).

# PERSONAL INCOME

Personal income dropped in February as a result of decreased employment and lower farm income. Preliminary March data indicate that income from salaries and wages dropped again.



[Billions of dollars]

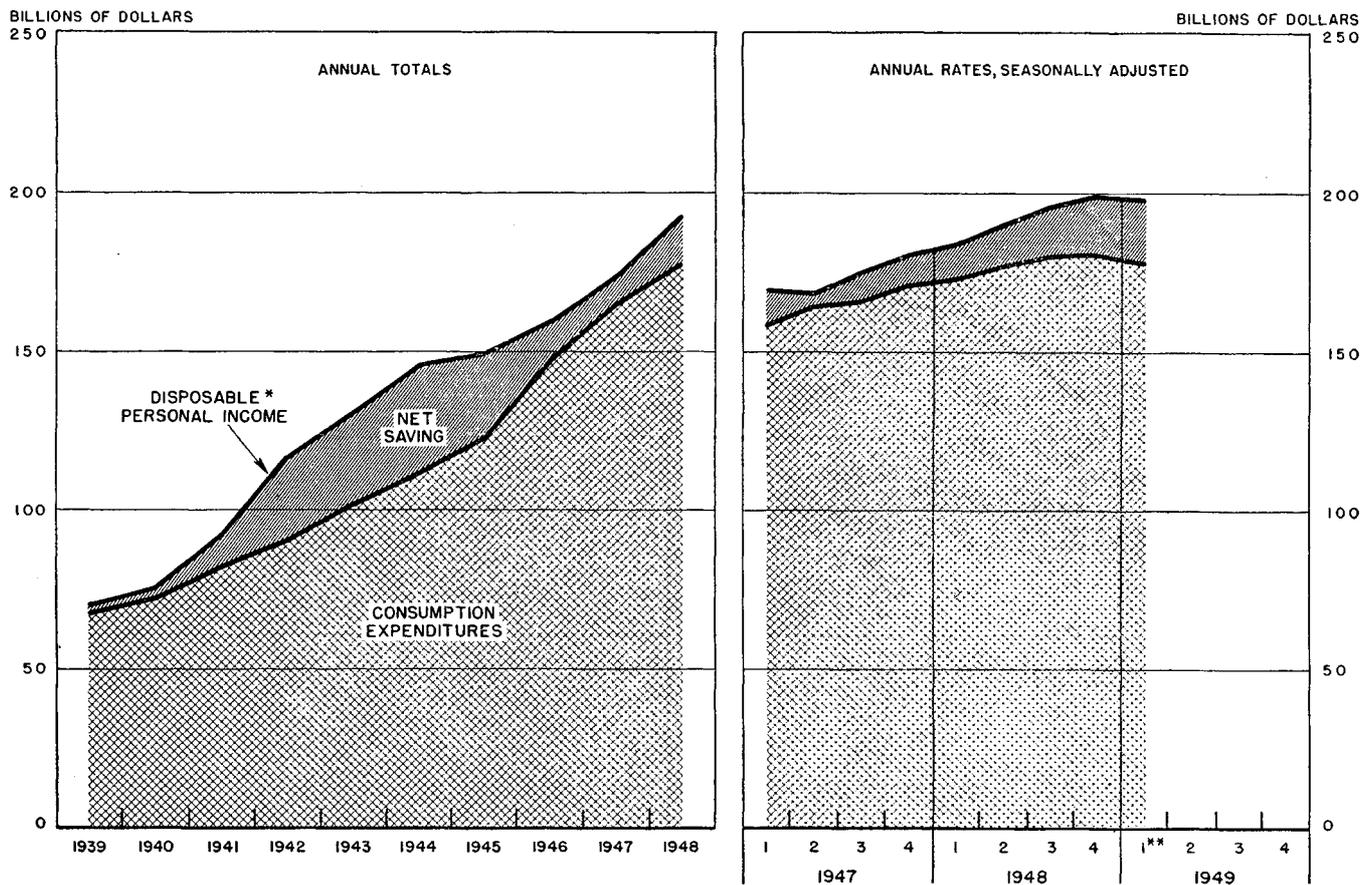
Period	Total personal income	Salaries, wages, and other labor income	Proprietors' and rental income	Dividends and interest	Social security and GI payments
1939.....	72.6	45.7	14.7	9.2	3.0
1944.....	164.5	116.1	34.1	10.6	3.6
1945.....	170.3	116.8	36.0	11.4	6.2
1946.....	178.1	111.4	41.8	13.5	11.4
1947.....	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					
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.....	219.2	138.4	51.4	18.3	11.1
February.....	216.3	136.8	49.7	18.3	11.5
March <sup>1</sup> .....	214.3	134.5	49.0	18.3	12.5

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary estimates. 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

In the 1st quarter of 1949, consumer spending declined for the first time since the war period.



\* PERSONAL INCOME LESS TAXES  
 \*\* PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES BY COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS  
 SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Billions of dollars]

Period	Disposable personal income <sup>1</sup>	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: Third quarter	175.0	165.6	9.4
1947: Fourth quarter	180.9	171.1	9.7
1948: First quarter	183.9	172.5	11.4
1948: Second quarter	190.2	177.3	12.9
1948: Third quarter	196.2	180.1	16.1
1948: Fourth quarter	199.4	181.0	18.4
1949: First quarter <sup>2</sup>	198.0	178.0	20.0

<sup>1</sup> Income less taxes.

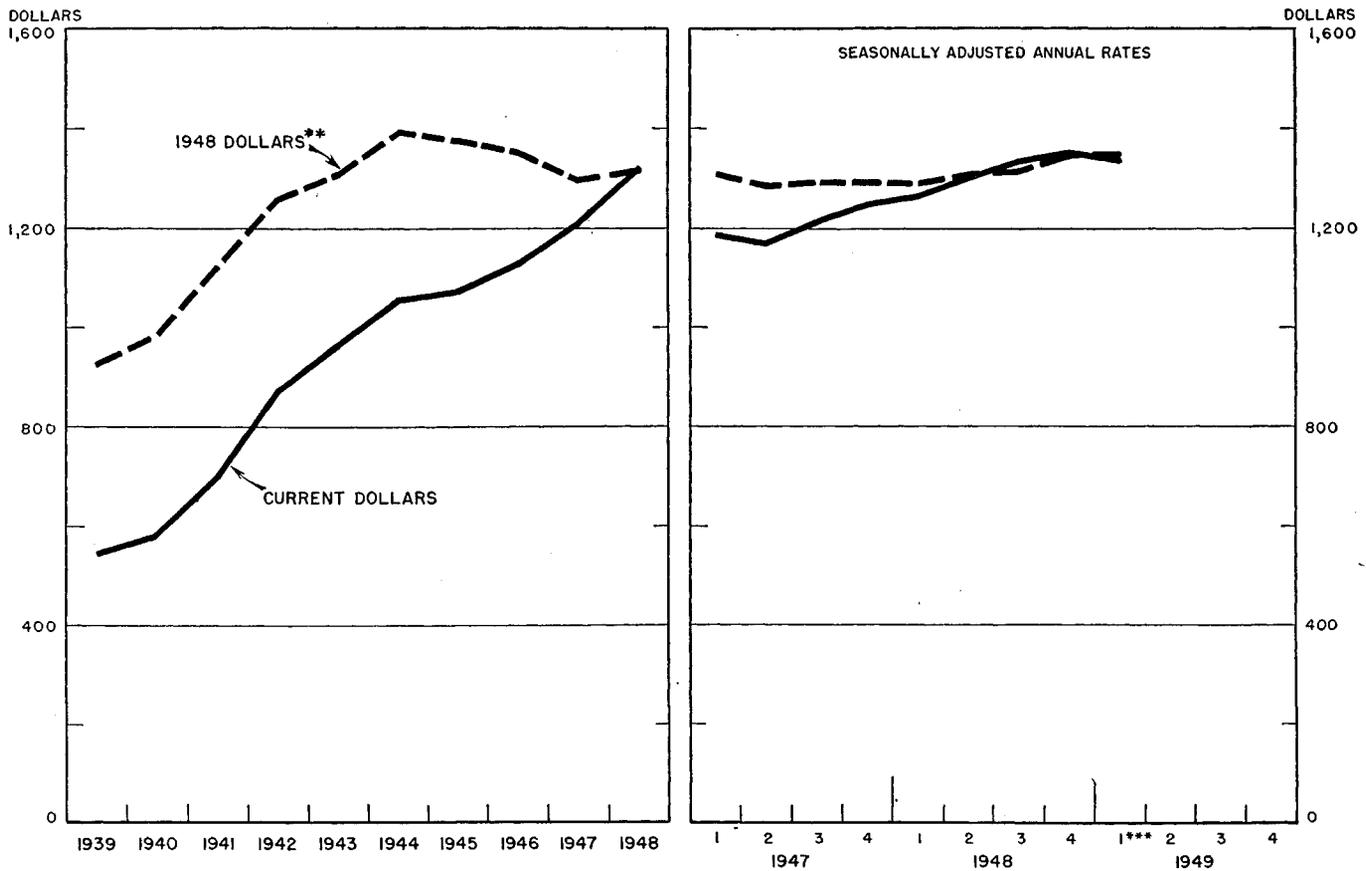
<sup>2</sup> Estimates by Council of Economic Advisers; based on preliminary data.

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

Source: Department of Commerce (except as noted).

# PER CAPITA INCOME\*

A decrease in prices during the 1st quarter of 1949 more than offset the decrease in per capita income. This resulted in a small increase in the real purchasing power of consumers.



\* PERSONAL INCOME LESS TAXES. \*\*\* PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES BY COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

\*\* CURRENT DOLLARS DIVIDED BY THE CONSUMERS PRICE INDEX ON THE BASE 1948=100.

SOURCES: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (EXCEPT AS NOTED).

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

Period	Per capita disposable personal income <sup>1</sup>		Consumers' price index <sup>2</sup> 1948=100
	Current dollars	1948 dollars <sup>3</sup>	
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: 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
1949: First quarter <sup>4</sup>	1,336	1,347	99.2

<sup>1</sup> Income less taxes.

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

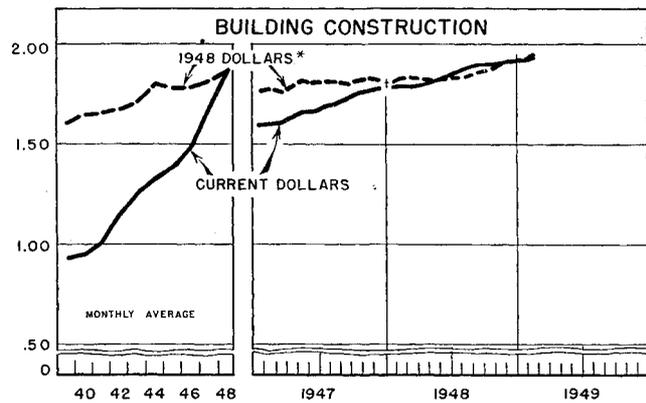
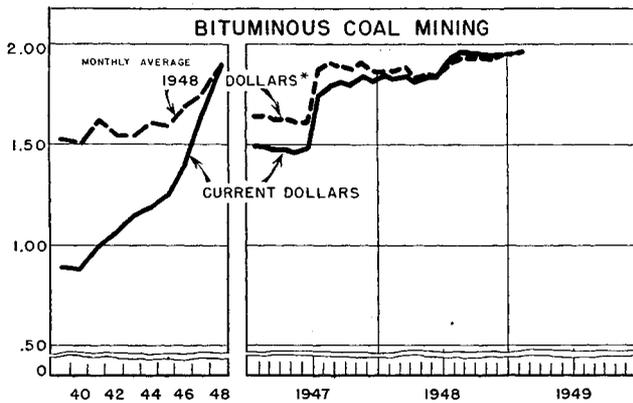
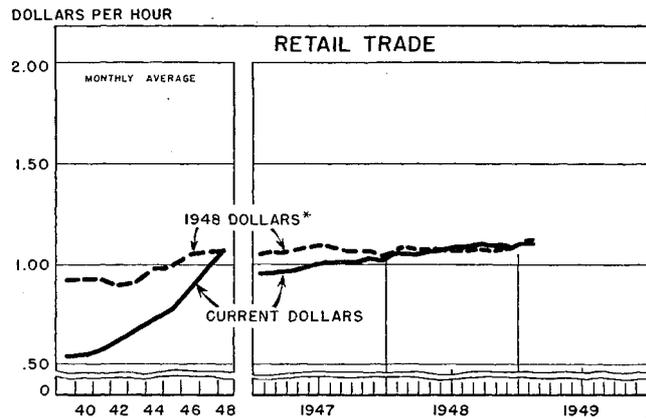
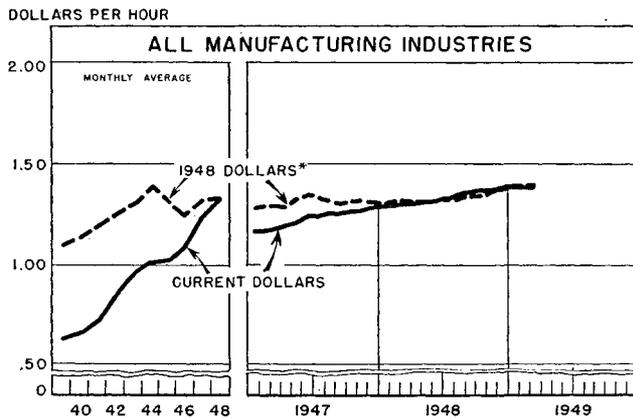
<sup>3</sup> The consumers' price index has been roughly adjusted to take account of the understatement from December 1941-February 1947. This adjustment is in line with the report of the Mitchell Committee. The unadjusted index will be found on page 2.

<sup>4</sup> Estimates by Council of Economic Advisers; based on preliminary data.

Sources: Department of Commerce and Department of Labor (except as noted).

# AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS

Average hourly earnings in manufacturing industries continued to drop in March, and were about 1 cent below the postwar peak reached in January.



\* CURRENT DOLLARS DIVIDED BY CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX ON THE BASE 1948=100. † SEE NOTE ON TABLE.  
SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Selected industries]

Period	Manufacturing		Retail trade		Bituminous coal mining		Building construction <sup>1</sup>	
	Current dollars	1948 dollars <sup>2</sup>	Current dollars	1948 dollars <sup>2</sup>	Current dollars	1948 dollars <sup>2</sup>	Current dollars	1948 dollars <sup>2</sup>
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 <sup>2</sup> .....	1. 327	1. 327	1. 067	1. 067	1. 897	1. 897	1. 848	1. 848
1948: February.....	1. 287	1. 316	1. 050	1. 074	1. 826	1. 867	1. 791	1. 831
March.....	1. 289	1. 322	1. 044	1. 071	1. 842	1. 889	1. 786	1. 832
April.....	1. 292	1. 306	1. 055	1. 067	1. 821	1. 841	1. 804	1. 824
May.....	1. 301	1. 306	1. 064	1. 068	1. 841	1. 848	1. 815	1. 822
June.....	1. 316	1. 312	1. 070	1. 067	1. 850	1. 844	1. 836	1. 830
July.....	1. 332	1. 312	1. 077	1. 061	1. 936	1. 907	1. 862	1. 834
August.....	1. 349	1. 324	1. 080	1. 060	1. 967	1. 930	1. 874	1. 839
September.....	1. 362	1. 337	1. 086	1. 066	1. 970	1. 933	1. 895	1. 860
October.....	1. 366	1. 347	1. 080	1. 065	1. 959	1. 932	1. 892	1. 866
November.....	1. 372	1. 364	1. 084	1. 078	1. 951	1. 939	1. 906	1. 895
December <sup>3</sup> .....	1. 376	1. 375	1. 072	1. 071	1. 960	1. 958	1. 915	1. 913
1949: January <sup>3</sup> .....	1. 381	1. 384	1. 110	1. 112	1. 949	1. 953	1. 920	1. 924
February <sup>3</sup> .....	1. 377	1. 395	1. 104	1. 119	1. 964	1. 990	1. 934	1. 959
March <sup>3</sup> .....	1. 372	1. 386						

<sup>1</sup> Data prior to 1948 not exactly comparable with later data.

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

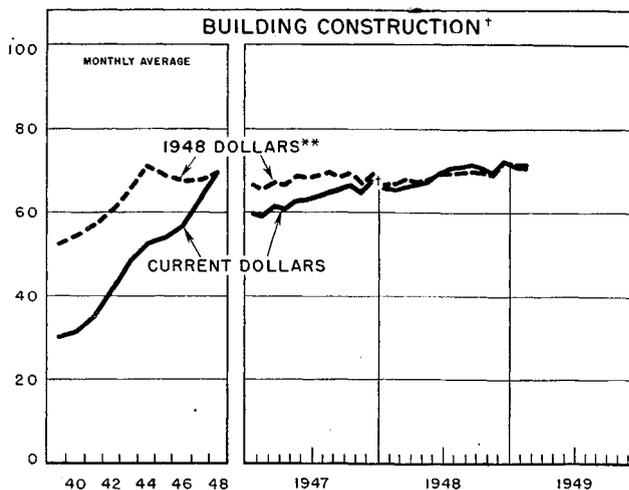
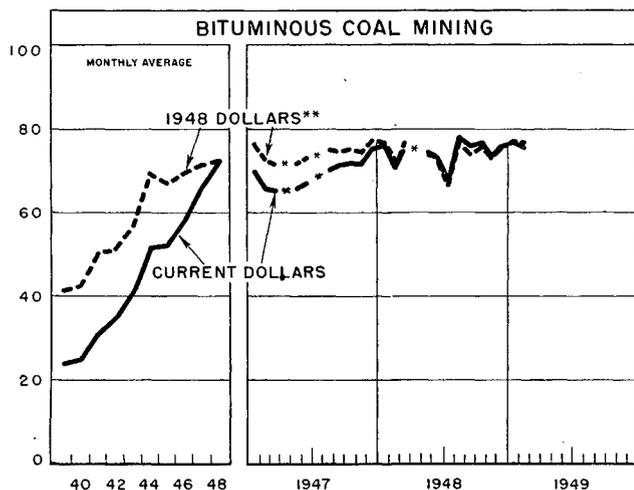
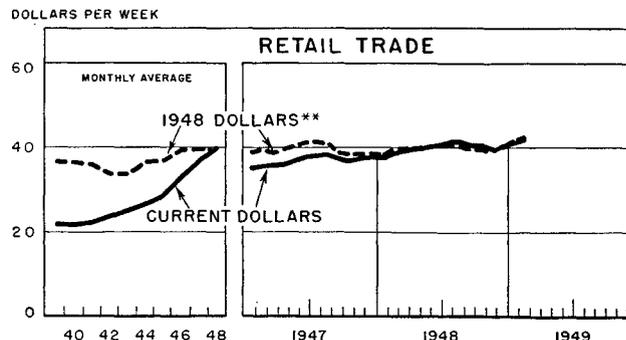
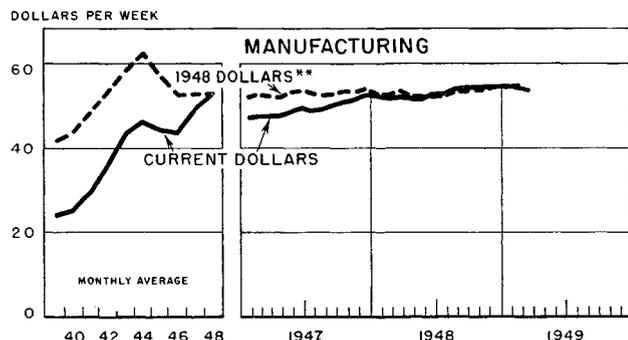
<sup>3</sup> Preliminary estimate.

<sup>4</sup> Based on pay period during coal stoppage.

Source: Department of Labor.

# AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

The combination of shorter hours and lower hourly earnings reduced average weekly earnings in manufacturing industries in March to \$53.37 — \$1.64 below the all-time peak of last December.



\* EARNINGS DATA DISTORTED DURING THESE MONTHS BECAUSE OF WORK STOPPAGES OR VACATIONS.  
SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

\*\* CURRENT DOLLARS DIVIDED BY CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX ON BASE OF 1948=100.  
† SEE NOTE ON TABLE.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Selected industries]

Period	Manufacturing		Retail trade		Bituminous coal mining		Building construction <sup>1</sup>	
	Current dollars	1948 dollars <sup>2</sup>	Current dollars	1948 dollars <sup>2</sup>	Current dollars	1948 dollars <sup>2</sup>	Current dollars	1948 dollars <sup>2</sup>
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 <sup>3</sup> .....	53.15	53.15	39.83	39.83	72.06	72.06	68.85	68.85
1948: February.....	51.75	52.91	38.33	39.19	70.54	72.13	65.16	66.63
March.....	52.07	53.41	38.89	39.89	74.84	76.76	65.87	67.56
April.....	51.79	52.37	39.27	39.71	<sup>4</sup> 49.53	<sup>4</sup> 50.08	66.45	67.19
May.....	51.86	52.07	39.84	40.00	74.08	74.38	67.22	67.49
June.....	52.85	52.69	40.52	40.40	73.87	73.65	69.53	69.32
July.....	52.95	52.17	41.19	40.58	67.62	66.62	70.47	69.43
August.....	54.05	53.04	41.19	40.42	78.10	76.64	70.91	69.59
September.....	54.18	53.17	40.48	39.73	75.52	74.11	71.29	69.96
October.....	54.65	53.90	40.32	39.76	76.40	75.34	70.59	69.62
November.....	54.56	54.23	39.67	39.43	73.52	73.08	69.39	68.98
December <sup>3</sup> .....	55.03	54.96	40.62	40.58	75.79	75.71	72.33	72.26
1949: January <sup>3</sup> .....	54.41	54.52	41.79	41.87	76.84	76.99	70.96	71.10
February <sup>3</sup> .....	54.25	54.96	41.56	42.11	75.65	76.65	70.38	71.31
March <sup>3</sup> .....	53.37	53.91						

<sup>1</sup> Data prior to 1948 not exactly comparable with later data.

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

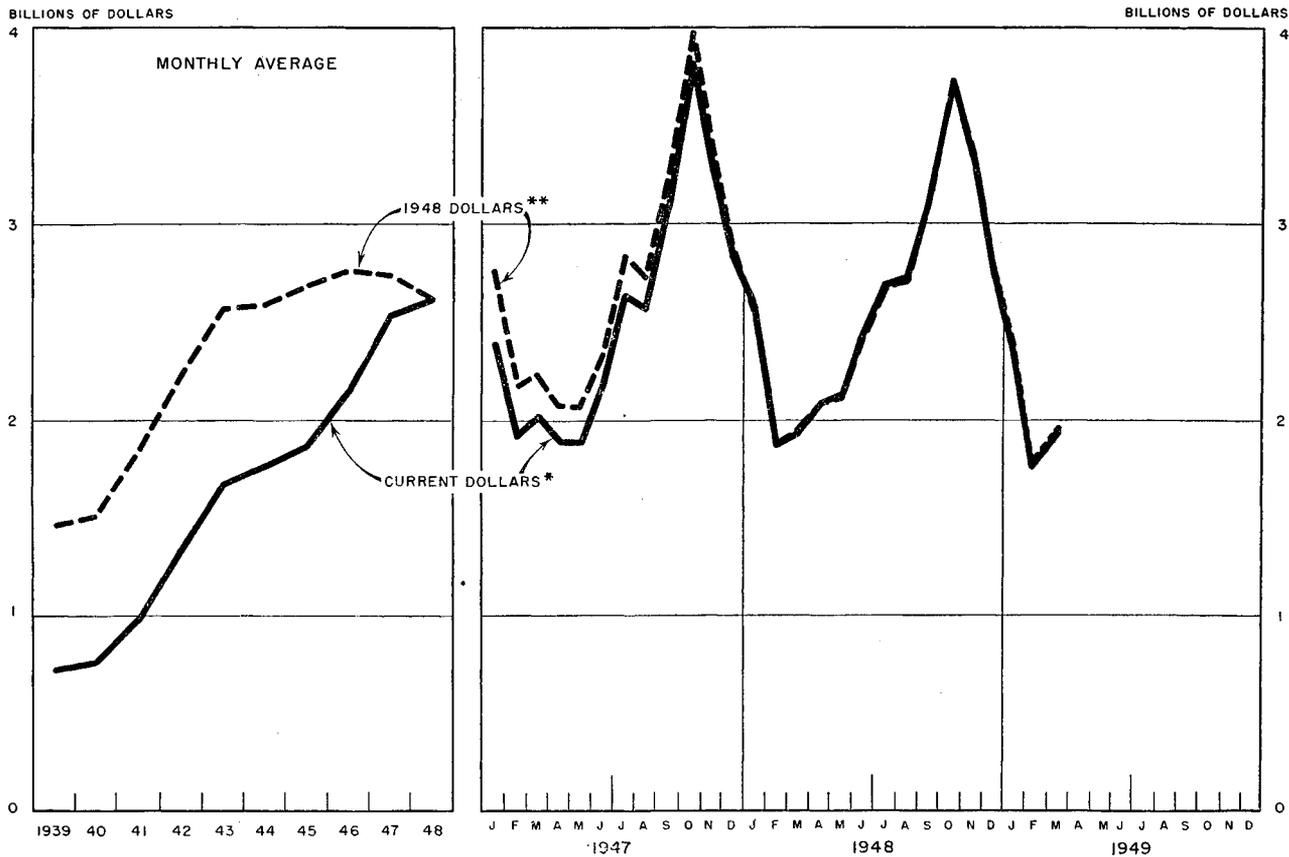
<sup>3</sup> Preliminary estimate.

<sup>4</sup> Based on pay period during coal stoppage.

Source: Department of Labor.

# FARM INCOME

Cash farm income increased seasonally in March, and was about equal to that in March 1948.



\* 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) <sup>1</sup>	Prices paid by farmers (incl. interest and taxes) 1948=100 <sup>2</sup>	Farm income (millions of 1948 dollars) <sup>3</sup>
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 <sup>4</sup> .....	2,383	99.6	2,393
February <sup>4</sup> .....	1,783	98.4	1,812
March <sup>4</sup> .....	1,940	98.8	1,964

<sup>1</sup> Includes cash farm income from marketings and Government payments.

<sup>2</sup> Converted from the reported base, 1910-14=100, to the base 1948=100.

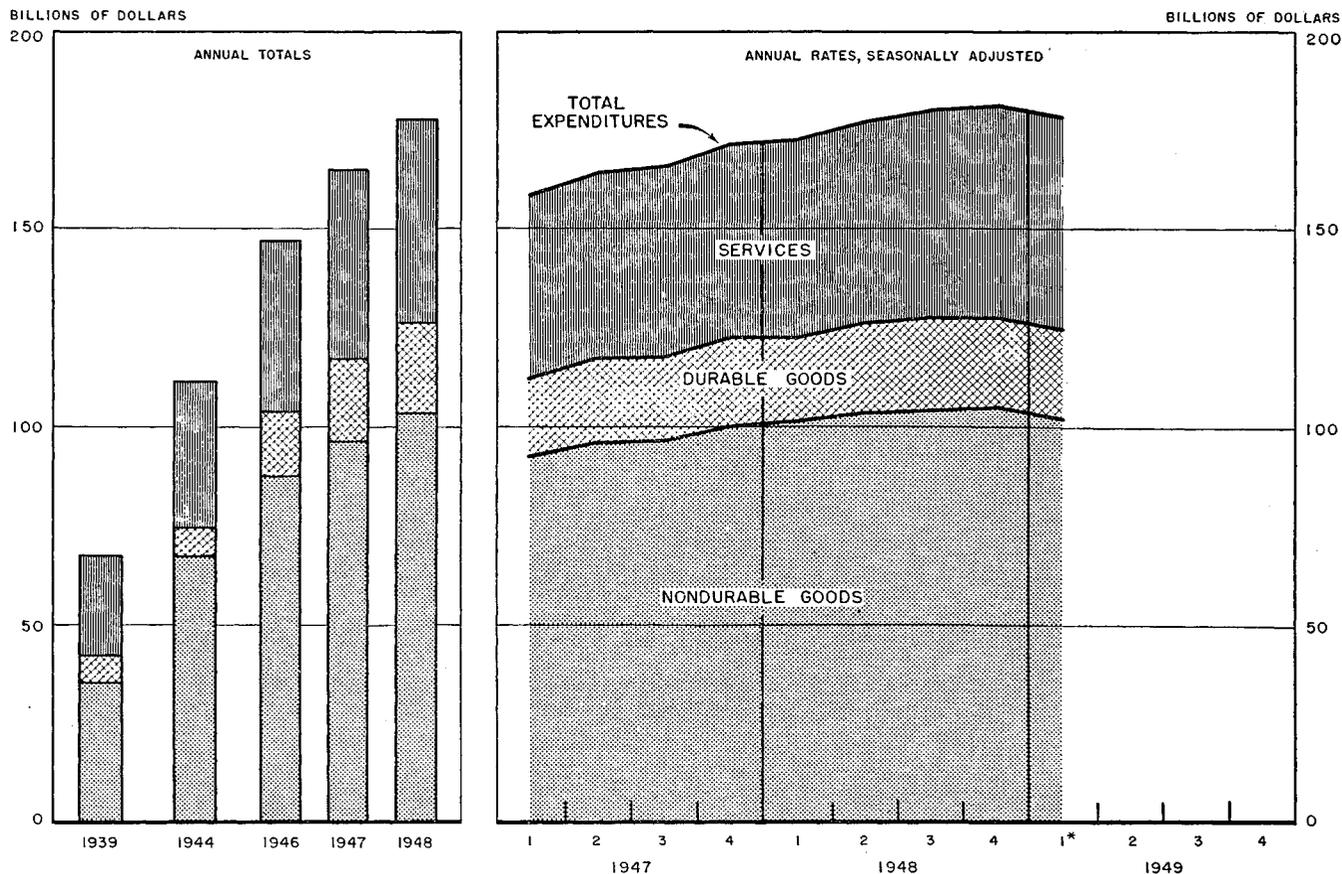
<sup>3</sup> Farm income in current dollars divided by prices paid by farmers, interest, and taxes, 1948=100.

<sup>4</sup> Preliminary.

Source: Department of Agriculture.

# PERSONAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURES

The decrease in expenditures for nondurable goods more than accounted for the drop in total consumption expenditures in the 1st quarter of 1949.



\*ESTIMATES BY COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS, BASED ON PRELIMINARY DATA.  
SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (EXCEPT AS NOTED).

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

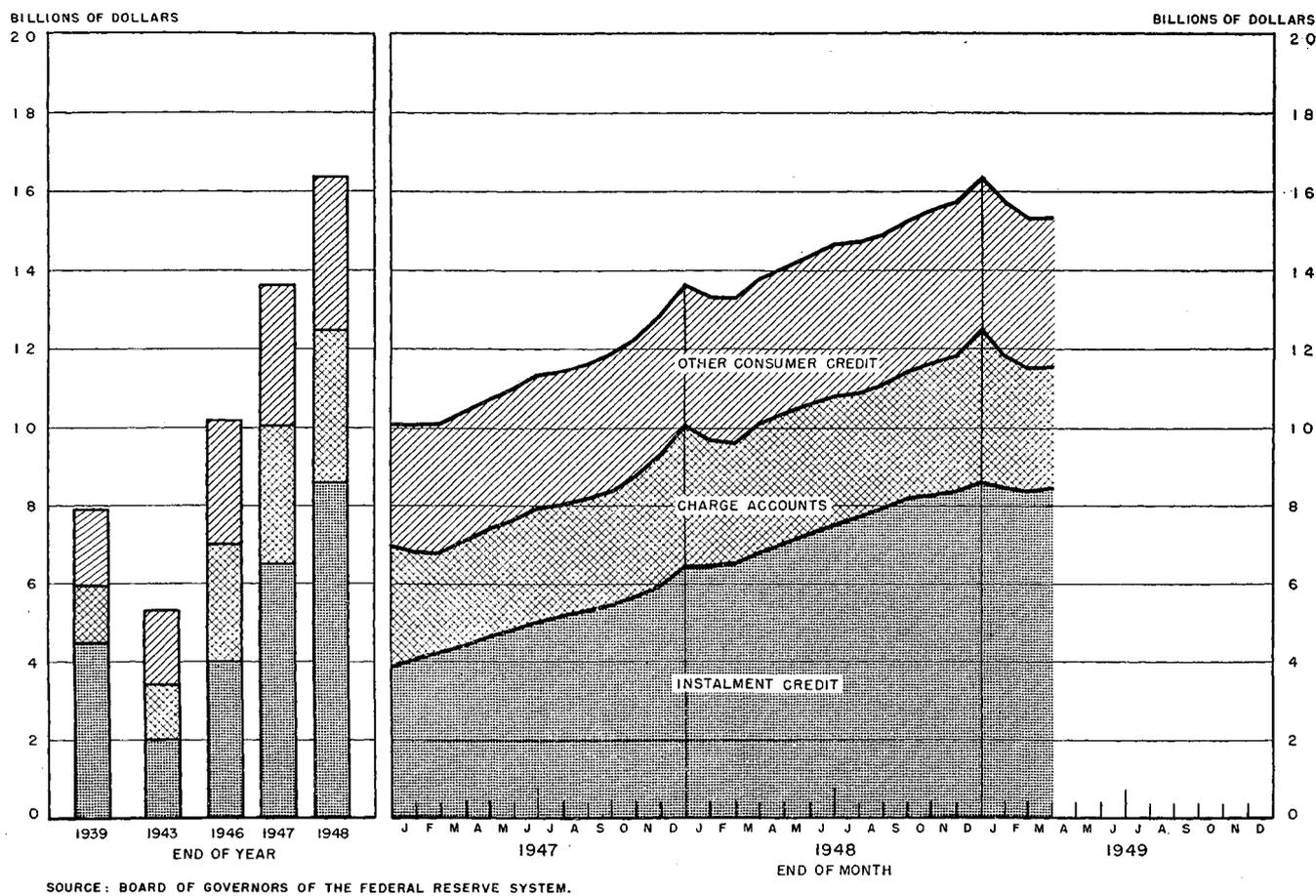
[Billions of dollars]

Period	Personal consumption expenditures			
	Total	Nondurable goods	Durable goods	Services
1939.....	67.5	35.3	6.7	25.5
1944.....	111.4	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: 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
1949: First quarter <sup>1</sup> .....	178.0	102.0	22.5	53.5

<sup>1</sup> Estimates by Council of Economic Advisers; based on preliminary data.  
NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.  
Source: Department of Commerce (except as noted).

# CONSUMER CREDIT

Consumer credit increased \$43 million in March. Some expansion in instalment credit (loan and automobile sale) was offset in part by small declines in charge accounts and other consumer credit.



SOURCE: BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Millions of dollars]

End of period	Total consumer credit outstanding	Instalment credit			Charge accounts	Other consumer credit <sup>1</sup>
		Total	Automobile sale credit	Other sale credit and loans		
1939.....	7,969	4,424	1,267	3,157	1,544	2,001
1943.....	5,378	2,001	175	1,826	1,498	1,879
1946.....	10,191	4,000	544	3,456	3,054	3,137
1947.....	13,673	6,434	1,151	5,283	3,612	3,627
1948.....	16,319	8,600	1,961	6,639	3,854	3,865
1948: February.....	13,302	6,548	1,254	5,294	3,061	3,693
March.....	13,805	6,821	1,367	5,454	3,275	3,709
April.....	14,059	7,094	1,468	5,626	3,236	3,729
May.....	14,311	7,318	1,536	5,782	3,245	3,748
June.....	14,669	7,533	1,602	5,931	3,352	3,784
July.....	14,723	7,738	1,689	6,049	3,185	3,800
August.....	14,916	7,972	1,781	6,191	3,130	3,814
September.....	15,231	8,190	1,858	6,332	3,227	3,814
October.....	15,518	8,233	1,889	6,344	3,457	3,828
November.....	15,739	8,322	1,922	6,400	3,557	3,860
December.....	16,319	8,600	1,961	6,639	3,854	3,865
1949: January.....	15,749	8,425	1,965	6,460	3,457	3,867
February <sup>2</sup> .....	15,336	8,340	1,996	6,344	3,176	3,820
March <sup>2</sup> .....	15,379	8,447	2,113	6,334	3,141	3,791

<sup>1</sup> Includes single-payment loans of commercial banks and pawnbrokers and service credit.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary estimates.

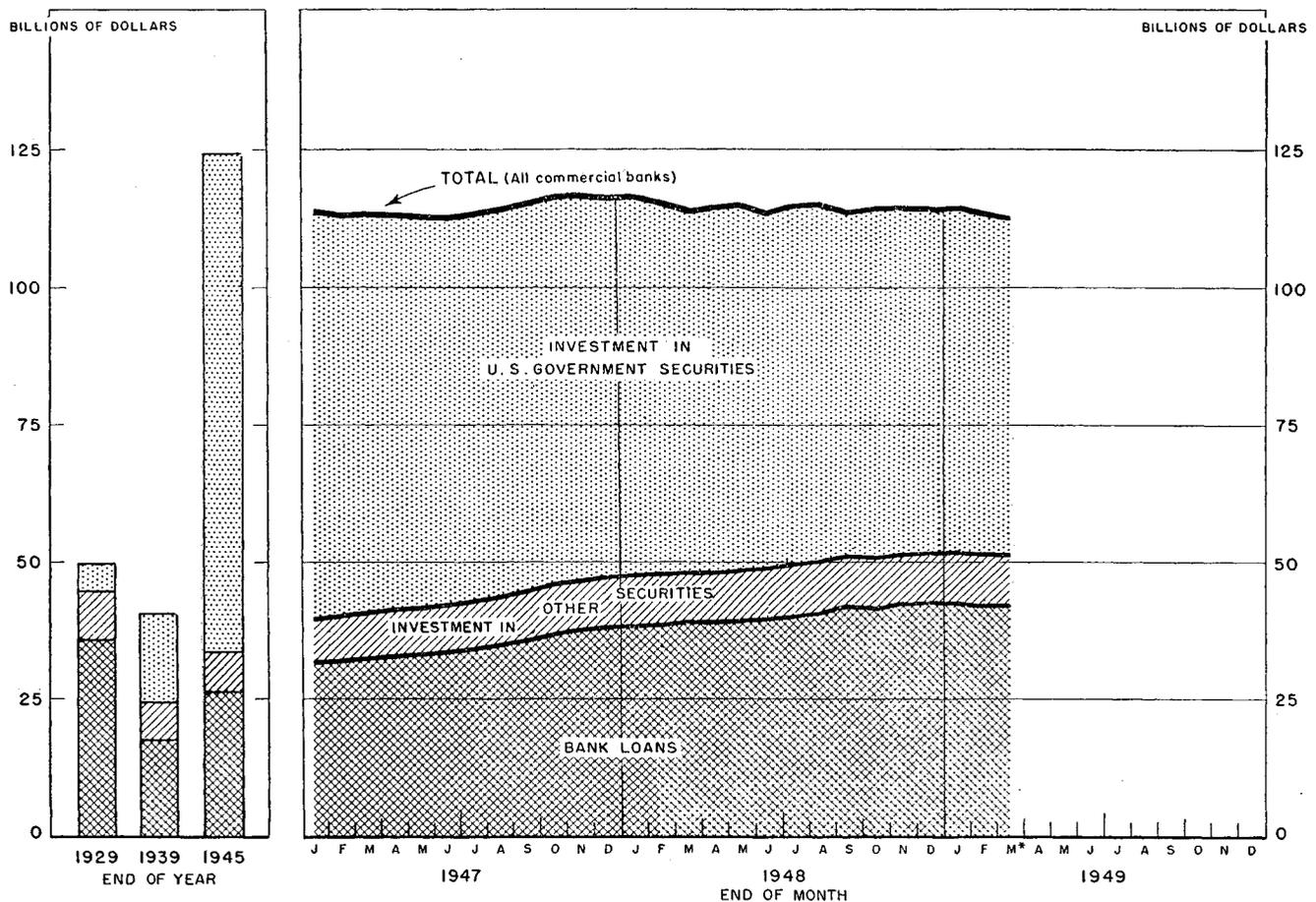
NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

# MONEY, BANKING, AND FEDERAL FINANCE

## BANK LOANS AND INVESTMENTS

After a contraction in January and February, bank loans increased in March.



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.....	113.4	42.0	71.4	62.2	9.1
March <sup>1</sup> .....	112.4	42.3	70.1	60.9	9.2

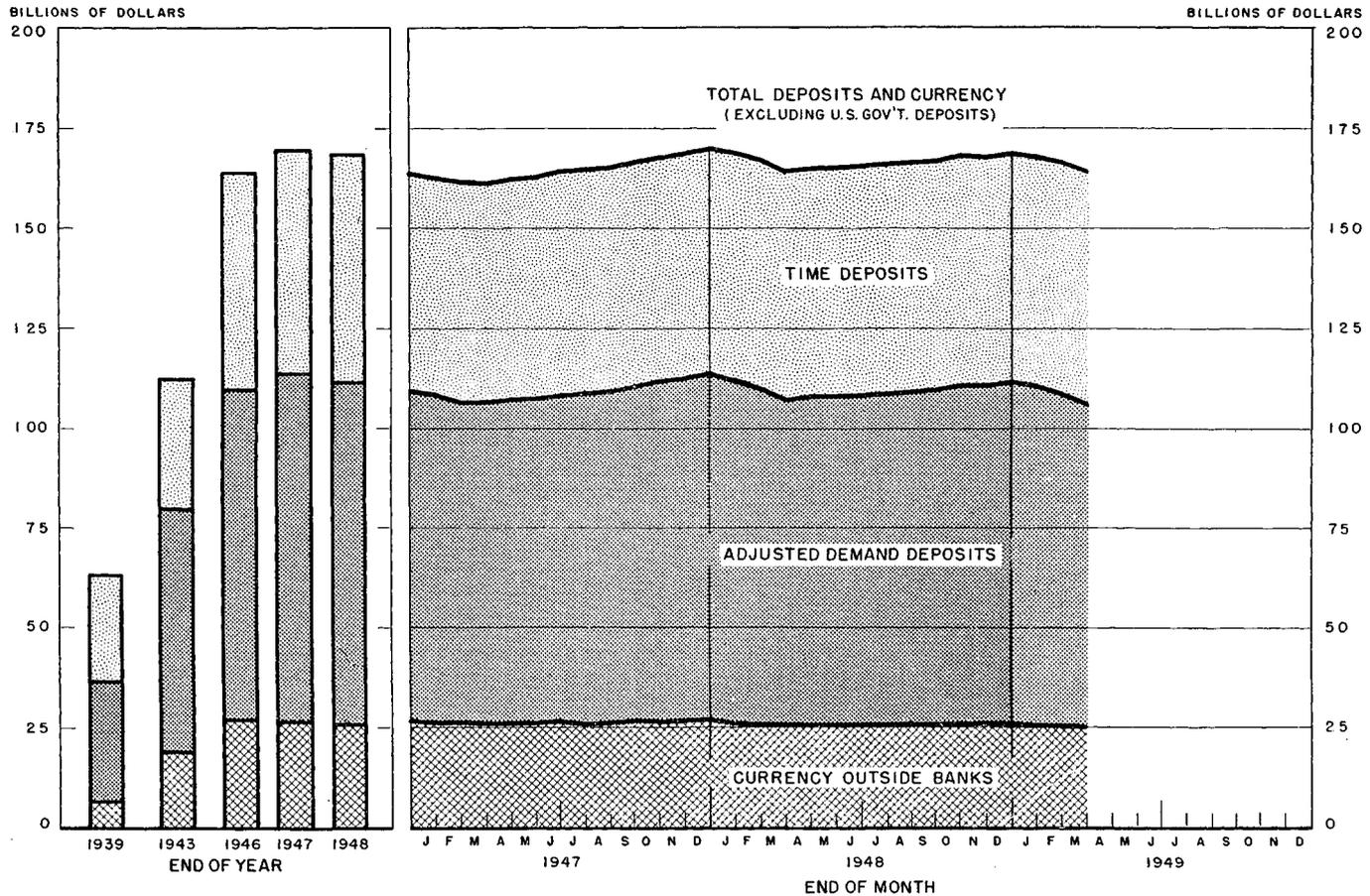
<sup>1</sup> Preliminary estimate.

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

# MONEY SUPPLY

Money supply declined again in March by about \$2 billion, chiefly as a result of reduced demand deposits.

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SOURCE: BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Billions of dollars]

End of period	Total money supply	Currency outside banks	Adjusted demand deposits <sup>1</sup>	Time deposits <sup>2</sup>
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.....	166.1	25.1	83.3	57.7
March <sup>3</sup> .....	164.0	25.0	81.0	58.0

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

<sup>2</sup> Includes deposits in commercial banks, mutual savings banks, and Postal Savings System.

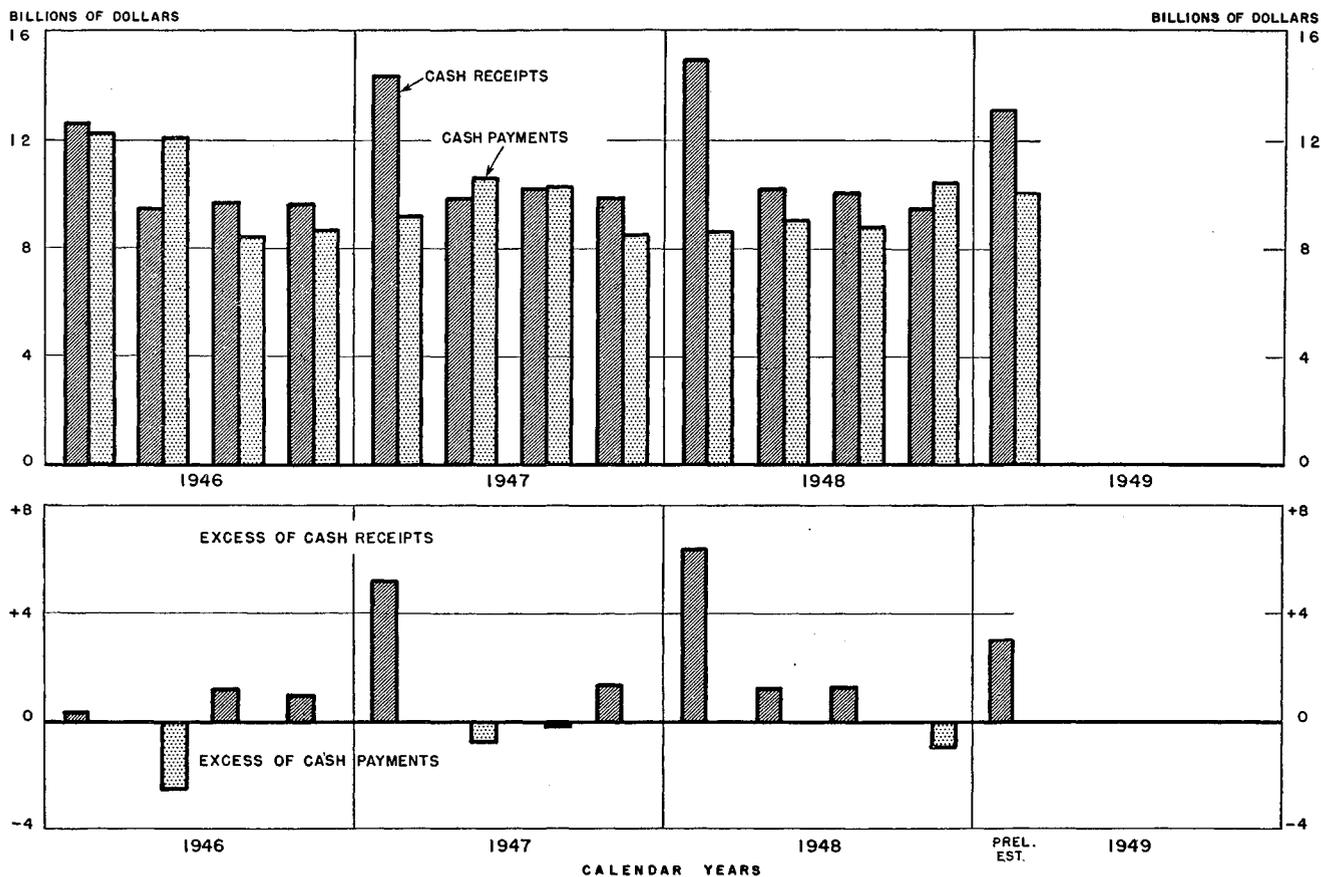
<sup>3</sup> Preliminary estimate.

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.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

[Millions of dollars]

Calendar years	Federal cash receipts from the public <sup>1</sup>	Federal cash payments to the public <sup>1</sup>	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	-925
1949: First quarter <sup>2</sup> .....	13,122	9,931	+3,191

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

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary estimate.

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

Source: Treasury Department and Bureau of the Budget.