

85th Congress, 1st Session

ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
REFERENCE DEPT.

ST. LOUIS  
MAR 25 1957  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

# Economic Indicators

**MARCH 1957**

*Prepared for the Joint Economic Committee by the  
Council of Economic Advisers*

UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON : 1957

## JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

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

WRIGHT PATMAN, Texas, *Chairman*

JOHN SPARKMAN, Alabama, *Vice Chairman*

RICHARD BOLLING (Missouri)

WILBUR D. MILLS (Arkansas)

AUGUSTINE B. KELLEY (Pennsylvania)

HENRY O. TALLE (Iowa)

THOMAS B. CURTIS (Missouri)

CLARENCE E. KILBURN (New York)

PAUL H. DOUGLAS (Illinois)

J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT (Arkansas)

JOSEPH C. O'MAHONEY (Wyoming)

RALPH E. FLANDERS (Vermont)

ARTHUR V. WATKINS (Utah)

BARRY GOLDWATER (Arizona)

GROVER W. ENSLEY, *Executive Director*

JOHN W. LEHMAN, *Clerk*

## COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

RAYMOND J. SAULNIER, *Chairman*

JOSEPH S. DAVIS

PAUL W. McCracken

[PUBLIC LAW 120—81ST CONGRESS; CHAPTER 237—1ST SESSION]

JOINT RESOLUTION [S. J. Res. 55]

To print the monthly publication entitled "Economic Indicators"

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Joint Economic Committee be authorized to issue a monthly publication entitled "Economic Indicators," and that a sufficient quantity be printed to furnish one copy to each Member of Congress; the Secretary and the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate; the Clerk, Sergeant at Arms, and Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives; two copies to the libraries of the Senate and House, and the Congressional Library; seven hundred copies to the Joint Economic Committee; and the required number of copies to the Superintendent of Documents for distribution to depository libraries; and that the Superintendent of Documents be authorized to have copies printed for sale to the public.

Approved June 23, 1949.

*Charts drawn by Graphics Unit, Office of the Secretary, Department of Commerce*

# Contents

## TOTAL OUTPUT, INCOME, AND SPENDING

	Page
The Nation's Income, Expenditure, and Saving.....	1
Gross National Product or Expenditure.....	2
National Income.....	3
Sources of Personal Income.....	4
Disposition of Personal Income.....	5
Per Capita Disposable Income.....	6
Farm Income.....	7
Corporate Profits.....	8
Gross Private Domestic Investment.....	9
Expenditures for New Plant and Equipment.....	10

## EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND WAGES

Status of the Labor Force.....	11
Nonagricultural Employment.....	12
Average Weekly Hours—Selected Industries.....	13
Average Hourly Earnings—Selected Industries.....	14
Average Weekly Earnings—Selected Industries.....	15

## PRODUCTION AND BUSINESS ACTIVITY

Industrial Production.....	16
Production of Selected Manufactures.....	17
Weekly Indicators of Production.....	18
New Construction.....	19
Housing Starts and Applications for Financing.....	20
Sales and Inventories—Manufacturing and Trade.....	21
Merchandise Exports and Imports.....	22

## PRICES

Consumer Prices.....	23
Wholesale Prices.....	24
Prices Received and Paid by Farmers.....	25

## CURRENCY, CREDIT, AND SECURITY MARKETS

Currency and Deposits.....	26
Bank Loans, Investments, and Reserves.....	27
Consumer Credit.....	28
Bond Yields and Interest Rates.....	29
Stock Prices.....	30

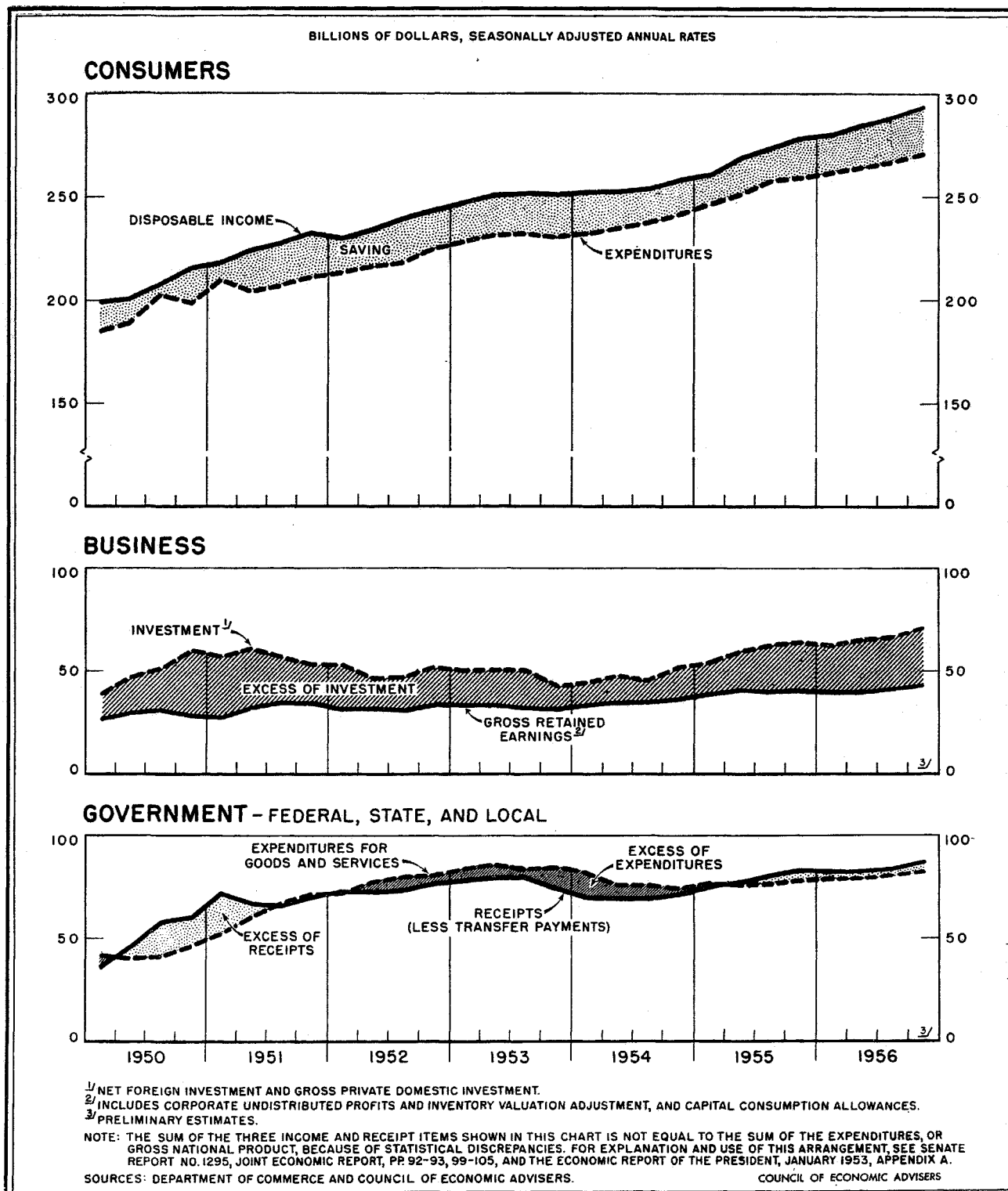
## FEDERAL FINANCE

Budget Receipts and Expenditures.....	31
Cash Receipts from and Payments to the Public.....	32

# TOTAL OUTPUT, INCOME, AND SPENDING

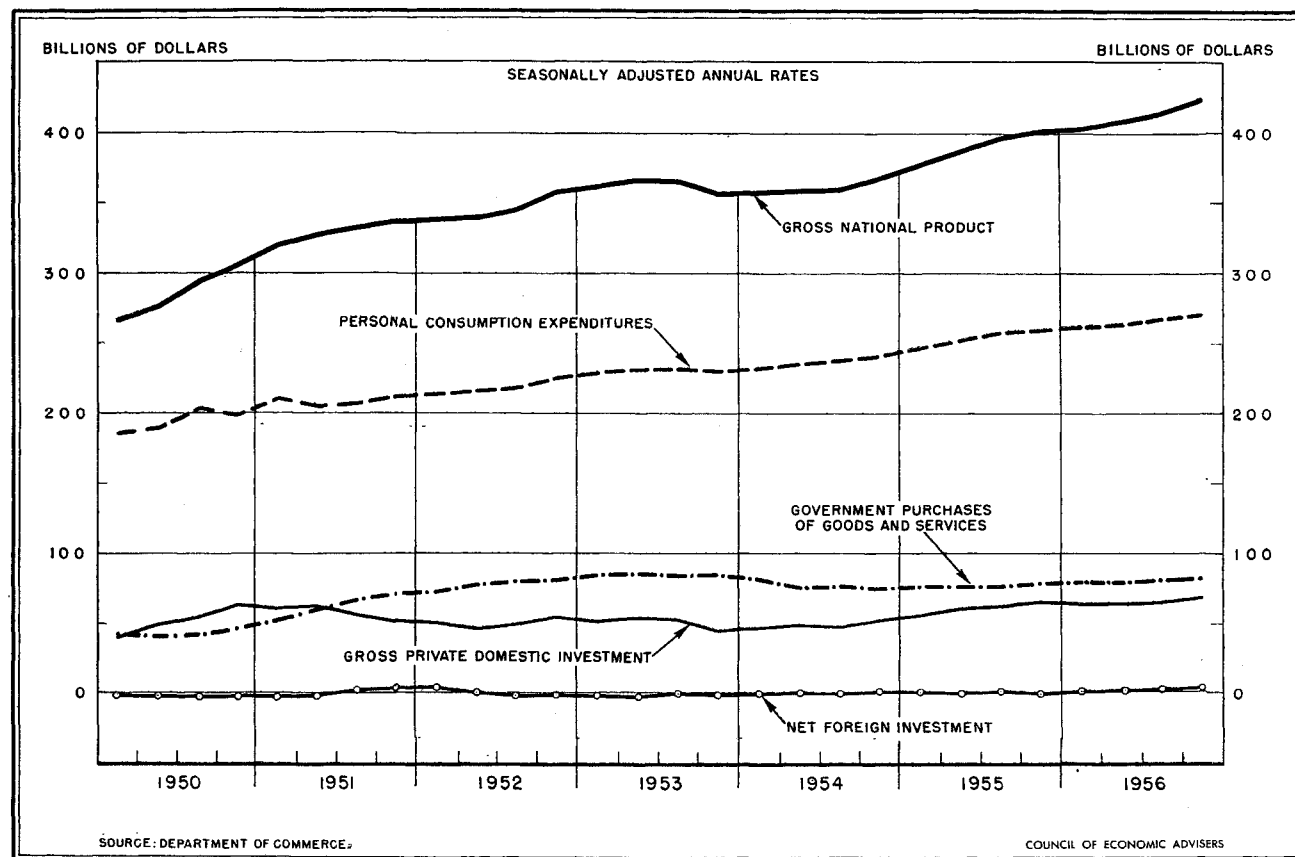
## THE NATION'S INCOME, EXPENDITURE, AND SAVING

Total income and expenditures showed a more marked rise in over-all economic activity between the third and fourth quarters of 1956 than in the earlier quarters of the year.



## GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT OR EXPENDITURE

The gross national product rose \$10.0 billion (seasonally adjusted annual rate) between the third and fourth quarters of 1956. Increases occurred in every major sector.



[Billions of dollars]

Period	Total gross national product in 1956 prices	Total gross national product	Personal con- sump- tion expen- ditures	Gross private domestic invest- ment	Net foreign invest- ment	Government purchases of goods and services				
						Total <sup>1</sup>	Federal			State and local
							Total <sup>1</sup>	National security <sup>2</sup>	Other	
1939	196.2	91.1	67.6	9.3	0.9	13.3	5.2	1.3	3.9	8.2
1948	302.7	257.3	177.6	41.2	2.0	36.6	21.0	16.0	5.6	15.6
1949	301.8	257.3	180.6	32.5	.5	43.6	25.4	19.3	6.6	18.2
1950	329.9	285.1	194.0	51.2	-2.2	42.0	22.1	18.5	3.9	19.9
1951	354.2	328.2	208.3	56.9	.2	62.8	41.0	37.3	4.2	21.8
1952	366.6	345.4	218.3	49.8	-.2	77.5	54.3	48.8	5.8	23.2
1953	381.6	363.2	230.5	50.3	-2.0	84.4	59.5	51.5	8.4	24.9
1954	374.6	360.7	236.5	48.0	-.4	76.5	48.9	43.0	6.3	27.6
1955	401.7	390.9	254.0	60.6	-.5	76.8	46.7	41.2	5.9	30.1
1956	412.4	412.4	265.7	65.4	1.4	79.8	47.0	41.6	5.8	32.8
Seasonally adjusted annual rates										
1955: First quarter		377.3	246.7	54.7	-.4	76.3	46.8	41.8	5.4	29.5
Second quarter		387.4	251.8	60.2	-.9	76.2	46.3	41.3	5.5	29.9
Third quarter		396.8	257.8	62.3	.2	76.5	46.6	41.3	5.8	29.9
Fourth quarter		401.9	259.5	65.1	-.8	78.1	47.2	40.6	7.1	30.9
1956: First quarter		403.4	261.7	63.1	.1	78.5	46.4	40.5	6.3	32.1
Second quarter		408.3	263.7	64.7	1.2	78.7	46.1	40.7	5.8	32.6
Third quarter		413.8	266.8	65.1	1.7	80.2	47.2	41.9	5.7	33.0
Fourth quarter		423.8	270.9	68.5	2.4	82.0	48.3	43.2	5.5	33.7

<sup>1</sup> Less Government sales.

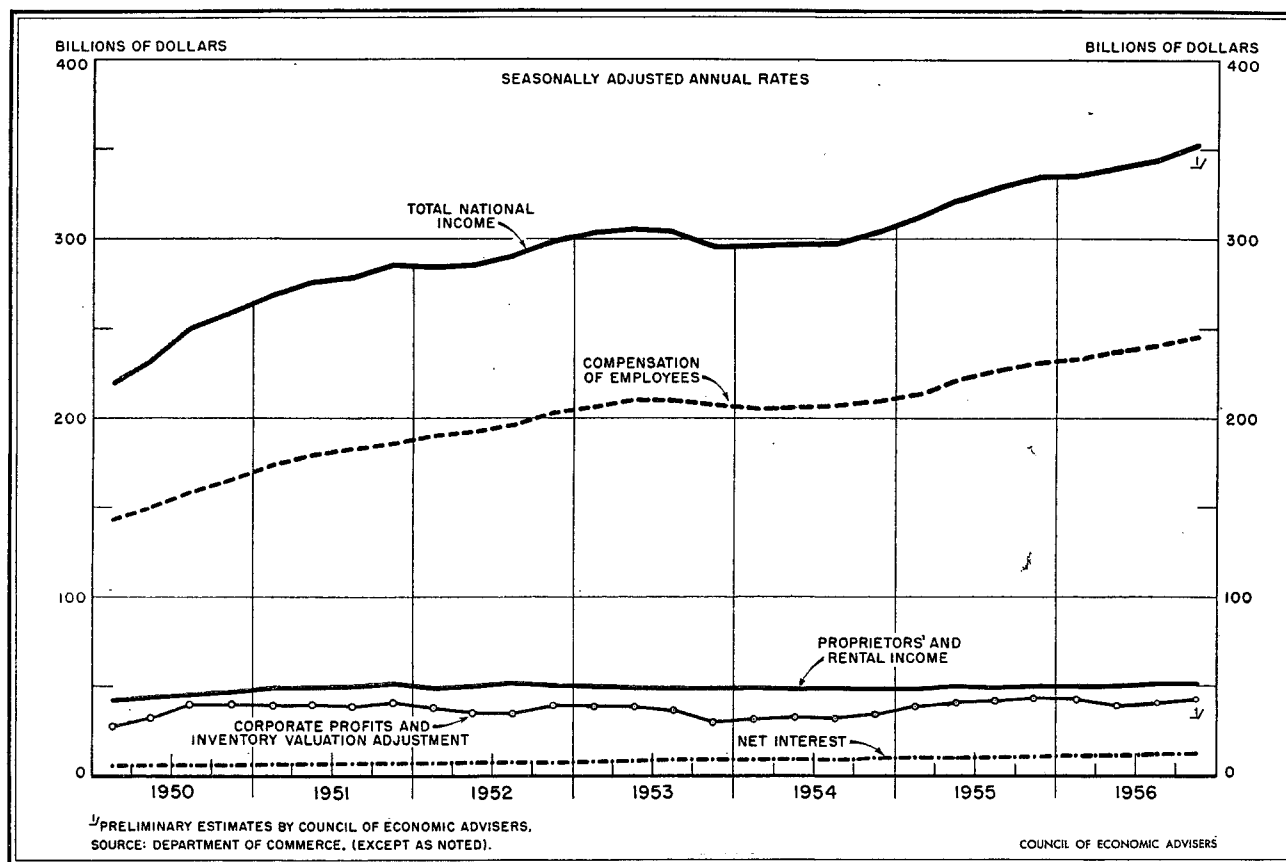
<sup>2</sup> Includes expenditures for military services, international security and foreign relations (except foreign loans), development and control of atomic energy, promotion of the merchant marine, promotion of defense production and economic stabilization, and civil defense. For further details, see *Economic Report of the President*, January 1955 (p. 137), and *National Income, 1954 Edition* (p. 148). These expenditures are not comparable with the "major national security" category in *The Budget of the U. S. Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1957*, and shown on p. 31 of *Economic Indicators*.

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

2 Source: Department of Commerce.

## NATIONAL INCOME

National income rose \$8.8 billion (seasonally adjusted annual rate) between the third and fourth quarters of 1956. Compensation of employees accounted for more than half of the increase. Corporate profits showed a notable rise.



[Billions of dollars]

Period	Total national income	Compensation of employees <sup>1</sup>	Proprietors' income		Rental income of persons	Net interest	Corporate profits and inventory valuation adjustment		
			Farm	Business and professional			Total	Profits before taxes	Inventory valuation adjustment
1939.....	72.8	48.1	4.3	7.3	2.7	4.6	5.7	6.4	-0.7
1948.....	221.6	140.9	16.7	21.6	7.2	4.5	30.6	32.8	-2.2
1949.....	216.2	140.9	12.7	21.4	7.9	5.2	28.1	26.2	1.9
1950.....	240.0	154.3	13.3	22.9	8.5	5.9	35.1	40.0	-4.9
1951.....	277.0	180.4	16.0	24.8	9.1	6.8	39.9	41.2	-1.3
1952.....	290.2	195.1	15.1	25.7	9.9	7.4	36.9	35.9	1.0
1953.....	302.1	208.1	13.3	25.9	10.2	8.7	36.0	37.0	-1.0
1954.....	298.3	206.9	12.5	25.9	10.5	9.7	32.9	33.2	-.3
1955.....	324.0	223.2	11.7	27.3	10.1	10.8	40.9	42.7	-1.7
1956.....	342.4	239.1	11.6	29.1	9.7	11.9	40.9	43.4	-2.5
Seasonally adjusted annual rates									
1955: First quarter.....	311.3	213.9	11.8	26.5	10.3	10.4	38.5	39.7	-1.2
Second quarter.....	321.9	221.6	12.2	27.1	10.2	10.6	40.2	41.1	-.9
Third quarter.....	328.3	226.8	11.3	27.7	10.0	11.0	41.6	43.5	-1.9
Fourth quarter.....	334.4	230.3	11.4	28.0	9.8	11.3	43.4	46.4	-3.0
1956: First quarter.....	334.9	233.0	11.5	28.2	9.8	11.5	40.9	43.7	-2.8
Second quarter.....	338.7	237.2	11.3	28.9	9.7	11.7	39.8	42.9	-3.1
Third quarter.....	343.5	240.4	11.6	29.5	9.7	12.0	40.4	41.2	-.8
Fourth quarter.....	<sup>2</sup> 352.3	245.5	12.1	29.9	9.7	12.4	<sup>2</sup> 42.7	<sup>2</sup> 46.0	-3.3

<sup>1</sup> Includes employer contributions for social insurance. (See also p. 4.)

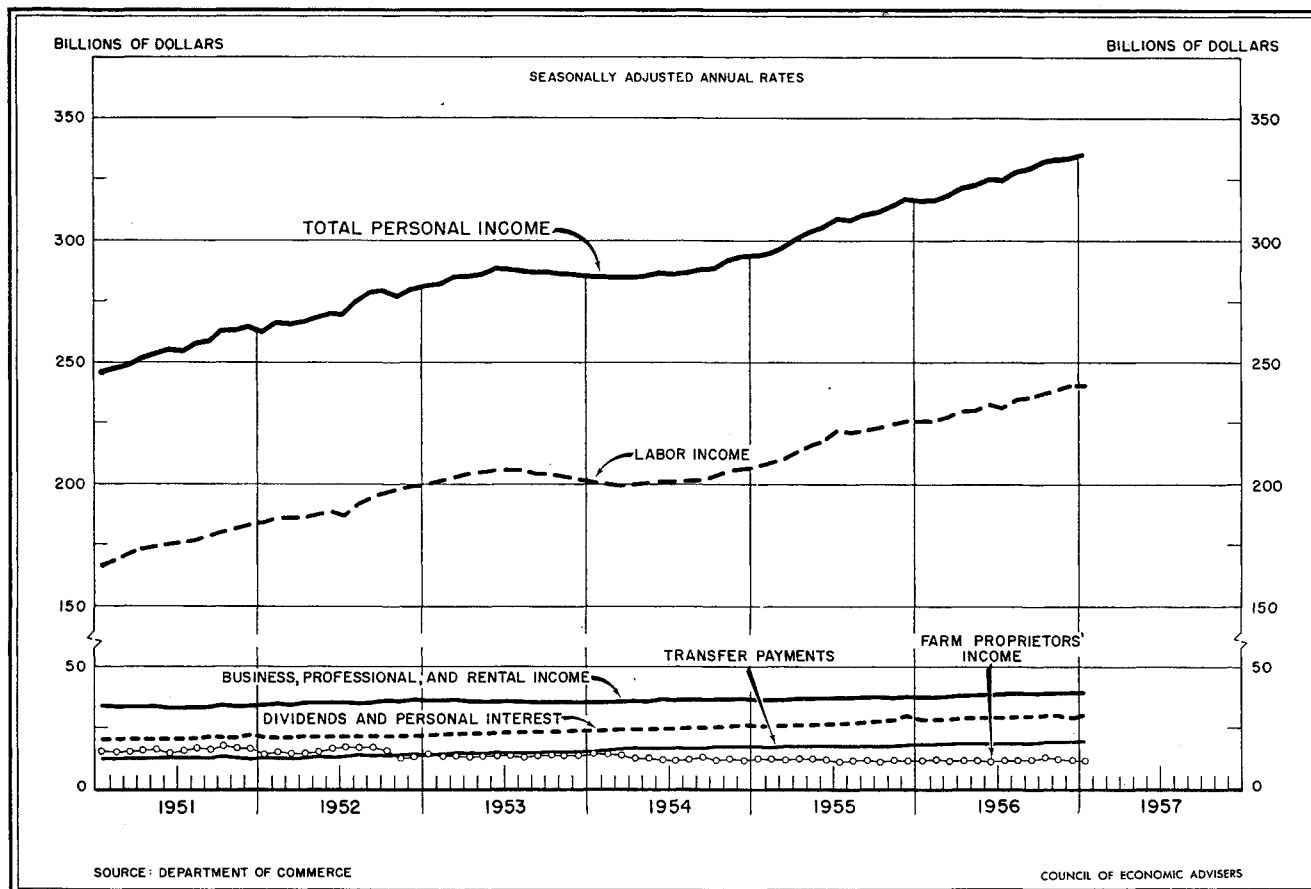
Preliminary estimates by Council of Economic Advisers.

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

Source: Department of Commerce (except as noted.)

## SOURCES OF PERSONAL INCOME

Personal income rose between December and January. The rise was due mainly to a higher volume of dividends, but was held down by a sharp increase in contributions for social insurance.



[Billions of dollars]

Period	Total personal income	Labor income (wage and salary disbursements and other labor income) <sup>1</sup>	Proprietors' income		Rental income of persons	Dividends	Personal interest income	Transfer payments	Less: Personal contributions for social insurance	Nonagricultural personal income <sup>2</sup>
			Farm	Business and professional						
1939.....	72.9	46.6	4.3	7.3	2.7	3.8	5.8	3.0	0.6	67.1
1949.....	206.8	137.4	12.7	21.4	7.9	7.5	9.8	12.4	2.2	190.8
1950.....	227.0	150.3	13.3	22.9	8.5	9.2	10.6	15.1	2.9	210.5
1951.....	255.3	175.6	16.0	24.8	9.1	9.1	11.6	12.6	3.4	235.7
1952.....	271.8	190.3	15.1	25.7	9.9	9.0	12.3	13.2	3.8	253.1
1953.....	286.0	203.4	13.3	25.9	10.2	9.3	13.7	14.3	3.9	269.2
1954.....	287.3	201.8	12.5	25.9	10.5	10.0	14.9	16.4	4.6	271.4
1955.....	306.1	217.4	11.7	27.3	10.1	11.2	16.1	17.6	5.2	290.9
1956.....	325.2	232.4	11.6	29.1	9.7	12.0	17.4	18.7	5.8	310.0
Seasonally adjusted annual rates										
1956: January.....	316.7	226.3	11.4	28.1	9.8	11.7	16.8	18.2	5.7	301.6
February.....	317.1	226.1	12.0	27.9	9.8	11.8	16.9	18.3	5.7	301.5
March.....	318.6	227.5	11.2	28.5	9.8	11.9	16.9	18.5	5.7	304.0
April.....	321.7	230.1	11.3	28.6	9.8	12.0	17.0	18.6	5.8	306.8
May.....	322.8	230.4	11.5	28.9	9.7	12.2	17.2	18.7	5.8	307.6
June.....	324.9	232.5	11.1	29.2	9.7	12.3	17.3	18.6	5.8	310.3
July.....	324.3	231.3	11.5	29.4	9.7	12.3	17.4	18.6	5.8	309.4
August.....	328.1	234.4	11.7	29.6	9.7	12.2	17.6	18.8	5.9	312.8
September.....	329.5	235.8	11.6	29.6	9.7	12.2	17.7	18.7	5.9	314.4
October.....	332.5	237.1	12.8	29.9	9.7	12.3	17.9	18.9	6.0	316.3
November.....	333.5	238.4	12.0	29.9	9.7	12.3	18.0	19.1	6.0	317.9
December.....	334.0	240.3	11.6	29.9	9.7	11.0	18.2	19.3	6.0	318.8
1957: January <sup>4</sup> .....	335.2	240.5	11.6	30.0	9.7	12.3	18.3	19.6	6.7	320.0

<sup>1</sup> Compensation of employees (see p. 3) excluding employer contributions for social insurance and the excess of wage accruals over disbursements.

<sup>2</sup> Personal income exclusive of net income of unincorporated farm enterprises, farm wages, agricultural net interest, and net dividends paid to agricultural corporations.

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

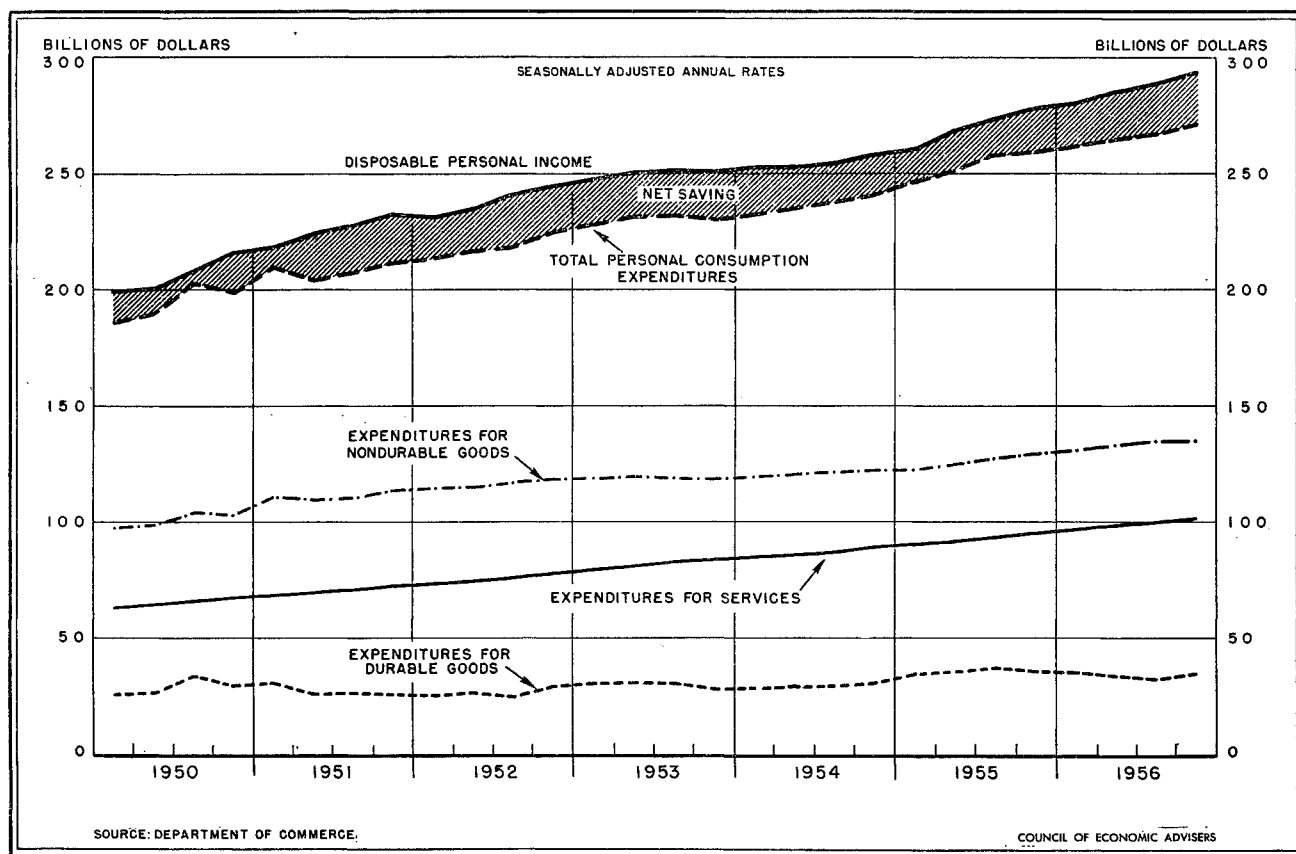
4 Source: Department of Commerce.

<sup>3</sup> Includes \$2.7 billion National Service Life Insurance dividend, most of which was paid in the first half of the year.

<sup>4</sup> Preliminary estimates.

## DISPOSITION OF PERSONAL INCOME

Disposable personal income increased \$5.1 billion (seasonally adjusted annual rate) between the third and fourth quarters of 1956. Consumer expenditures rose somewhat less than disposable income, and the rate of consumer saving was slightly higher.



Period	Personal income	Less: Personal taxes <sup>1</sup>	Equals: Disposable personal income	Less: Personal consumption expenditures				Equals: Personal saving	Saving as percent of disposable income
				Total	Durable goods	Non-durable goods	Services		
Billions of dollars									
1939.....	72.9	2.4	70.4	67.6	6.7	35.1	25.8	2.9	4.1
1948.....	208.7	21.1	187.6	177.6	22.2	98.7	56.7	10.0	5.3
1949.....	206.8	18.7	188.2	180.6	23.6	96.9	60.1	7.6	4.0
1950.....	227.0	20.9	206.1	194.0	28.6	100.4	65.0	12.1	5.9
1951.....	255.3	29.3	226.1	208.3	27.1	111.1	70.1	17.7	7.8
1952.....	271.8	34.4	237.4	218.3	26.6	116.1	75.6	19.0	8.0
1953.....	286.0	35.8	250.2	230.5	29.8	119.1	81.7	19.7	7.9
1954.....	287.3	32.9	254.4	236.5	29.4	120.9	86.3	17.9	7.0
1955.....	306.1	35.5	270.6	254.0	35.7	126.2	92.1	16.6	6.1
1956.....	325.2	38.5	286.7	265.7	34.0	132.9	98.9	20.9	7.3
Billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted annual rates									
1955: First quarter.....	295.1	34.5	260.6	246.7	34.7	122.5	89.5	13.9	5.3
Second quarter.....	303.8	35.3	268.5	251.8	35.3	125.3	91.2	16.7	6.2
Third quarter.....	309.6	35.9	273.8	257.8	37.2	127.6	92.9	15.9	5.8
Fourth quarter.....	314.6	36.3	278.4	259.5	35.4	129.2	94.9	18.8	6.8
1956: First quarter.....	317.5	37.3	280.2	261.7	34.8	130.5	96.4	18.6	6.6
Second quarter.....	322.9	38.1	284.9	263.7	33.4	132.3	98.0	21.2	7.4
Third quarter.....	327.0	38.8	288.2	266.8	33.0	134.0	99.7	21.4	7.4
Fourth quarter.....	333.2	39.9	293.3	270.9	34.8	134.7	101.4	22.4	7.6

<sup>1</sup> Includes such items as fines, penalties, and donations.

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

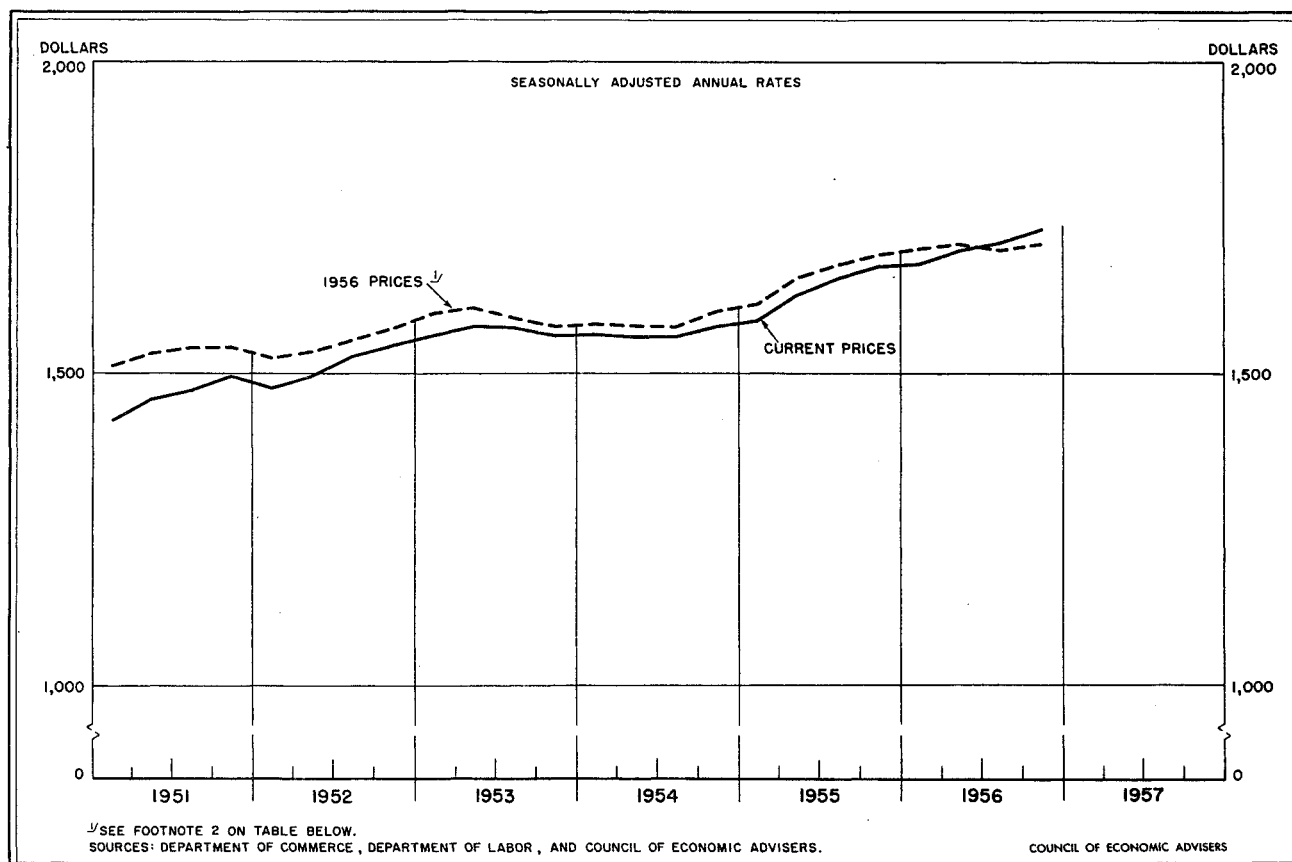
Source: Department of Commerce.

89401—57—2



## PER CAPITA DISPOSABLE INCOME

Per capita disposable income (seasonally adjusted), expressed in both current and constant prices, rose moderately between the third and fourth quarters of 1956.



Period	Total disposable personal income (billions of dollars) <sup>1</sup>		Per capita disposable personal income (dollars) <sup>1</sup>		Population (thousands) <sup>2</sup>
	Current prices	1956 prices <sup>3</sup>	Current prices	1956 prices <sup>3</sup>	
1939.....	70.4	137.9	538	1,053	131,028
1948.....	187.6	212.0	1,279	1,445	146,631
1949.....	188.2	214.8	1,261	1,439	149,188
1950.....	206.1	232.9	1,359	1,536	151,683
1951.....	226.1	236.7	1,465	1,534	154,360
1952.....	237.4	243.0	1,512	1,548	157,028
1953.....	250.2	254.0	1,568	1,592	159,636
1954.....	254.4	257.5	1,566	1,585	162,417
1955.....	270.6	274.7	1,637	1,662	165,271
1956.....	286.7	286.7	1,706	1,706	168,091
Seasonally adjusted annual rates					
1955: First quarter.....	260.6	264.8	1,586	1,612	164,287
Second quarter.....	268.5	272.9	1,628	1,654	164,934
Third quarter.....	273.8	277.4	1,653	1,675	165,653
Fourth quarter.....	278.4	281.5	1,673	1,692	166,424
1956: First quarter.....	280.2	284.2	1,677	1,701	167,103
Second quarter.....	284.9	286.6	1,698	1,708	167,754
Third quarter.....	288.2	286.2	1,710	1,698	168,499
Fourth quarter.....	293.3	289.3	1,732	1,708	169,298

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

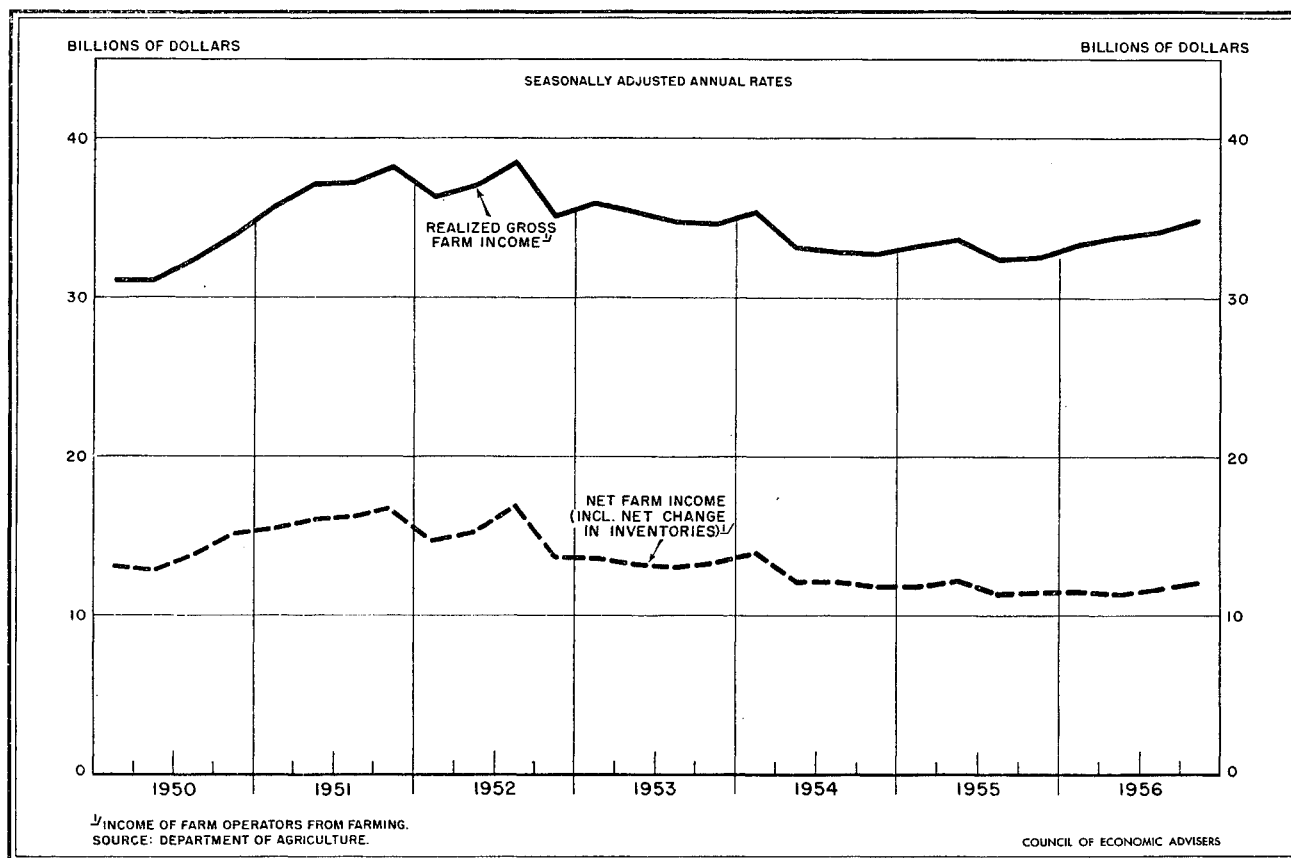
<sup>2</sup> Dollar estimates in current prices divided by consumer price index on a 1956 base.

<sup>3</sup> Includes armed forces overseas. Annual data as of July 1; quarterly data centered in the middle of the period, interpolated from monthly figures.

Sources: Department of Commerce, Department of Labor, and Council of Economic Advisers.

## FARM INCOME

Gross farm income (seasonally adjusted) rose at the close of 1956 for the fifth successive quarter. Despite an increase in farm production expenses, net farm income was up \$0.5 billion (annual rate) in the fourth quarter of 1956.



Period	Farm operators' income						Number of farms (millions) <sup>5</sup>
	Realized gross farm income <sup>1</sup>	Farm pro- duction expenses	Net income <sup>2</sup>		Net income per farm including net change in inventories)		
			Excluding net change in inven- tories	Including net change in inven- tories <sup>3</sup>	Current prices	1956 prices <sup>4</sup>	
	Billions of dollars				Dollars		
1939.....	10. 6	6. 2	4. 4	4. 5	697	1, 621	6. 4
1948.....	34. 6	18. 6	15. 9	17. 7	3, 049	3, 388	5. 8
1949.....	31. 6	17. 9	13. 7	12. 9	2, 248	2, 584	5. 7
1950.....	32. 1	19. 2	12. 9	13. 7	2, 428	2, 759	5. 6
1951.....	37. 1	22. 3	14. 8	16. 1	2, 919	3, 041	5. 5
1952.....	36. 7	22. 5	14. 3	15. 1	2, 821	2, 908	5. 4
1953.....	35. 1	21. 2	13. 9	13. 3	2, 531	2, 609	5. 2
1954.....	33. 5	21. 4	12. 0	12. 5	2, 449	2, 474	5. 1
1955.....	32. 9	21. 6	11. 3	11. 7	2, 336	2, 384	5. 0
1956.....	34. 0	22. 2	11. 8	11. 6	2, 364	2, 364	6 4. 9
	Seasonally adjusted annual rates						
1955: First quarter.....	33. 2	21. 9	11. 3	11. 8	2, 360	2, 410	5. 0
Second quarter.....	33. 6	21. 8	11. 8	12. 2	2, 440	2, 460	5. 0
Third quarter.....	32. 4	21. 4	11. 0	11. 3	2, 260	2, 310	5. 0
Fourth quarter.....	32. 5	21. 3	11. 2	11. 4	2, 280	2, 330	5. 0
1956: First quarter.....	33. 3	21. 7	11. 6	11. 5	2, 350	2, 400	6 4. 9
Second quarter.....	33. 8	22. 2	11. 6	11. 3	2, 310	2, 310	6 4. 9
Third quarter.....	34. 1	22. 2	11. 9	11. 6	2, 370	2, 350	6 4. 9
Fourth quarter.....	34. 9	22. 5	12. 4	12. 1	2, 470	2, 450	6 4. 9

<sup>1</sup> Cash receipts from farm marketings, value of farm products consumed in farm households, gross rental value of farm dwellings, and Government payments to farmers.

<sup>2</sup> Realized gross farm income less farm production expenses. Excludes farm wages paid to workers living on farms and any income to farm people from non-farm sources, which in 1955 amounted to 1.7 billion dollars and 6.1 billion dollars, respectively.

Source: Department of Agriculture (except as noted).

<sup>3</sup> Data prior to 1952 differ from farm proprietors' income on pages 3 and 4 because of revisions by the Department of Agriculture not yet incorporated into the national income accounts of the Department of Commerce.

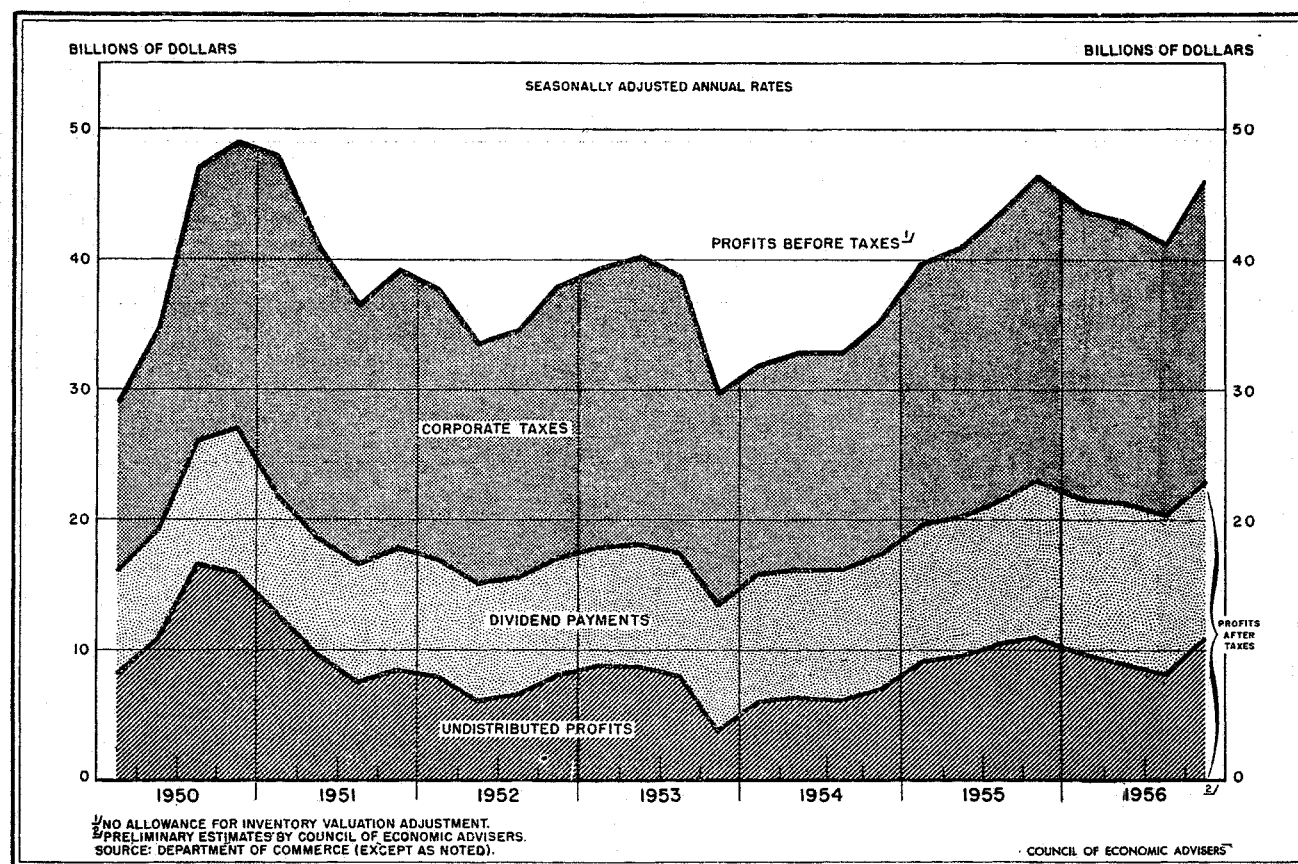
<sup>4</sup> Dollar estimates in current prices divided by the index of prices paid by farmers for items used in family living, on a 1956 base.

The number of farms is held constant within a given year.

<sup>5</sup> Estimate by Council of Economic Advisors.

# CORPORATE PROFITS

Corporate profits (seasonally adjusted) rose in the fourth quarter of 1956, reversing the downward movement during the three preceding quarters.



[Billions of dollars]

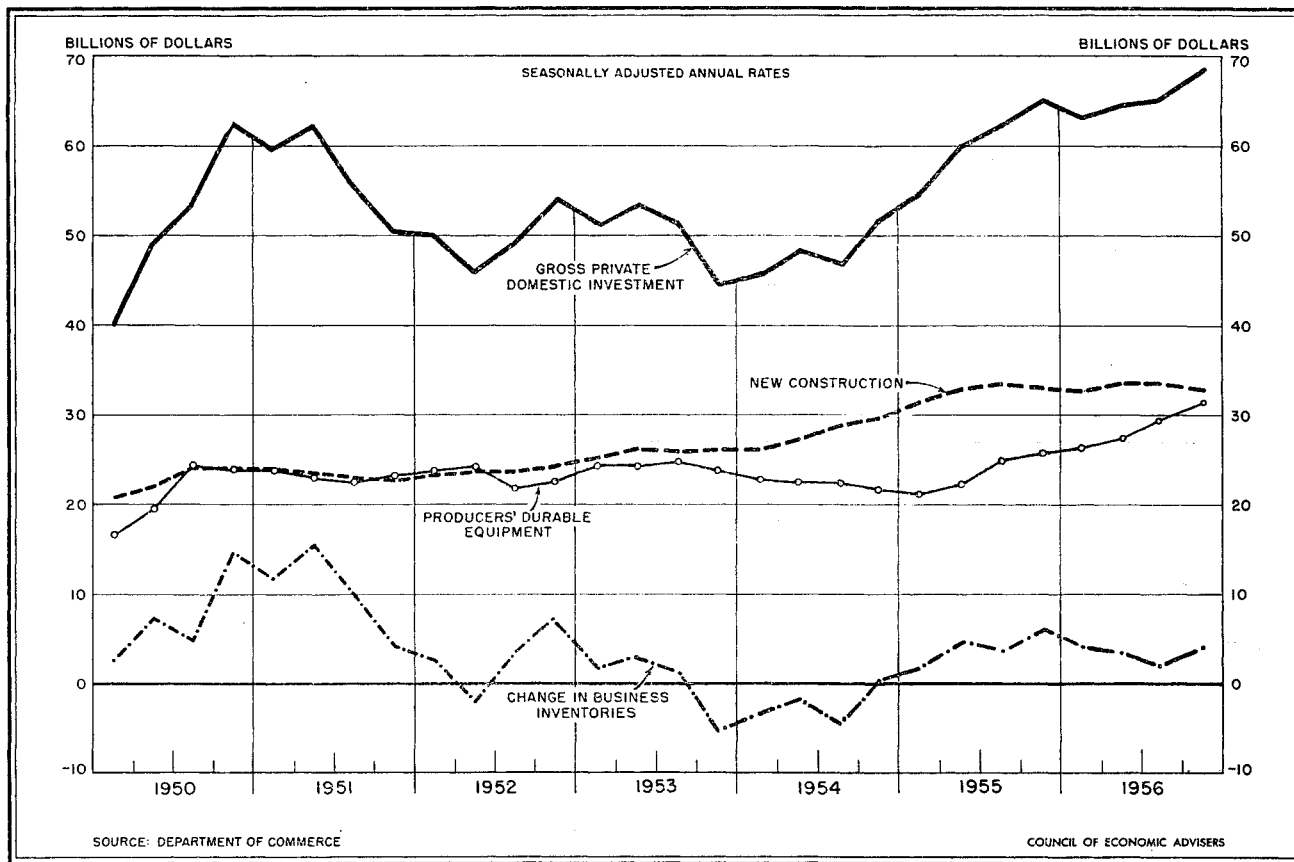
Period	Corporate profits before taxes	Corporate tax liability	Corporate profits after taxes		
			Total	Dividend payments	Undistributed profits
1939.....	6.4	1.4	5.0	3.8	1.2
1948.....	32.8	12.5	20.3	7.2	13.0
1949.....	26.2	10.4	15.8	7.5	8.3
1950.....	40.0	17.8	22.1	9.2	12.9
1951.....	41.2	22.5	18.7	9.1	9.6
1952.....	35.9	19.8	16.1	9.0	7.1
1953.....	37.0	20.3	16.7	9.3	7.4
1954.....	33.2	16.8	16.4	10.0	6.4
1955.....	42.7	21.5	21.1	11.2	9.9
1956.....	43.4	21.9	21.5	12.0	9.5
Seasonally adjusted annual rates					
1955: First quarter.....	39.7	20.0	19.7	10.4	9.3
Second quarter.....	41.1	20.7	20.3	10.7	9.6
Third quarter.....	43.5	22.0	21.5	11.0	10.5
Fourth quarter.....	46.4	23.4	23.0	12.1	10.9
1956: First quarter.....	43.7	22.1	21.6	11.8	9.8
Second quarter.....	42.9	21.7	21.3	12.2	9.1
Third quarter.....	41.2	20.8	20.4	12.3	8.1
Fourth quarter.....	<sup>1</sup> 46.0	<sup>1</sup> 23.2	<sup>1</sup> 22.8	11.9	<sup>1</sup> 10.9

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary estimates by Council of Economic Advisers.  
NOTE.—See p. 3 for profits before taxes and after inventory valuation adjustment.  
Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

Source: Department of Commerce (except as noted).

# GROSS PRIVATE DOMESTIC INVESTMENT

Gross private domestic investment (seasonally adjusted) increased in the fourth quarter of 1956. Investment in producers' durable equipment rose at an annual rate of \$2 billion and additions to inventories by about \$2 billion, while new construction declined \$0.7 billion.



(Billions of dollars)

Period	Total gross private domestic investment	Fixed investment						Change in business inventories	
		Total	New construction				Producers' durable equipment	Total	Non-farm
			Total	Residential nonfarm	Commercial and industrial <sup>1</sup>	All other <sup>2</sup>			
1939.....	9.3	8.9	4.8	2.7	1.2	0.8	4.2	0.4	0.3
1948.....	41.2	37.0	17.9	8.6	5.7	3.6	19.1	4.2	3.0
1949.....	32.5	35.3	17.5	8.3	5.3	3.9	17.8	-2.7	-1.9
1950.....	51.2	43.9	22.7	12.6	5.7	4.5	21.1	7.4	6.4
1951.....	56.9	46.5	23.3	11.0	7.2	5.1	23.2	10.4	9.0
1952.....	49.8	46.8	23.7	11.1	7.5	5.2	23.1	3.0	2.1
1953.....	50.3	50.1	25.8	11.9	8.4	5.4	24.3	.3	.9
1954.....	48.0	50.3	27.9	13.5	8.6	5.8	22.4	-2.3	-2.7
1955.....	60.6	56.4	32.7	16.6	10.0	6.1	23.7	4.2	3.8
1956.....	65.4	61.9	33.2	15.3	11.4	6.5	28.7	3.5	3.8
Seasonally adjusted annual rates									
1955: First quarter.....	54.7	52.8	31.5	16.1	9.3	6.1	21.3	1.9	1.4
Second quarter.....	60.2	55.3	32.9	16.9	9.9	6.1	22.4	4.9	4.5
Third quarter.....	62.3	58.5	33.5	17.2	10.4	5.9	25.0	3.7	3.4
Fourth quarter.....	65.1	58.9	33.0	16.2	10.6	6.2	25.9	6.1	5.9
1956: First quarter.....	63.1	59.0	32.6	15.3	11.0	6.3	26.4	4.1	4.2
Second quarter.....	64.7	61.1	33.6	15.6	11.6	6.4	27.5	3.5	3.9
Third quarter.....	65.1	63.1	33.6	15.5	11.7	6.4	29.5	2.0	2.4
Fourth quarter.....	68.5	64.4	32.9	14.9	11.4	6.6	31.5	4.1	4.4

<sup>1</sup> Includes public utility.

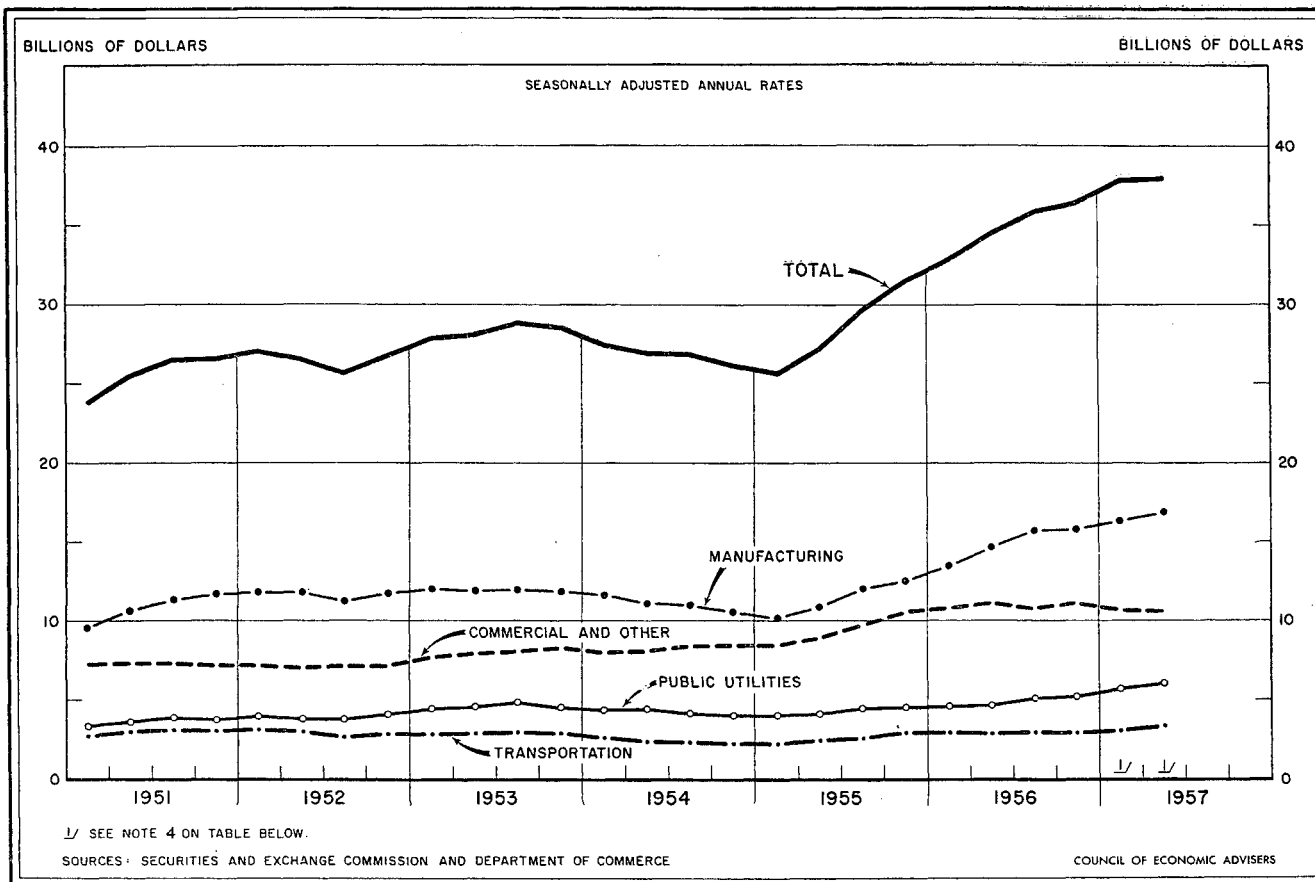
<sup>2</sup> Includes petroleum and natural gas well drilling.

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

Source: Department of Commerce

# EXPENDITURES FOR NEW PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

The February-March survey of business expenditures on plant and equipment indicates a continuing rise in outlays during the first half of the year. Anticipated outlays for the full year 1957 are 6.5 percent above outlays in 1956.



(Billions of dollars)

Period	Total <sup>1</sup>	Manufacturing			Mining	Transportation		Public utilities	Commercial and other <sup>2</sup>
		Total	Durable goods	Nondurable goods		Railroads	Other		
1939	5.51	1.94	0.76	1.19	0.33	0.28	0.36	0.52	2.08
1947	20.61	8.70	3.41	5.30	.69	.89	1.30	1.54	7.49
1948	22.06	9.13	3.48	5.65	.88	1.32	1.28	2.54	6.90
1949	19.28	7.15	2.59	4.56	.79	1.35	.89	3.12	5.98
1950	20.60	7.49	3.14	4.36	.71	1.11	1.21	3.31	6.78
1951	25.64	10.85	5.17	5.68	.93	1.47	1.49	3.66	7.24
1952	26.49	11.63	5.61	6.02	.98	1.40	1.50	3.89	7.09
1953	28.32	11.91	5.65	6.26	.99	1.31	1.56	4.55	8.00
1954	26.83	11.04	5.09	5.95	.98	.85	1.51	4.22	8.23
1955	28.70	11.44	5.44	6.00	.96	.92	1.60	4.31	9.47
1956 <sup>3</sup>	35.08	14.95	7.62	7.33	1.24	1.23	1.71	4.90	11.05
1957 <sup>4</sup>	37.36	16.41	8.50	7.92	1.22	1.47	1.83	6.06	10.37
Seasonally adjusted annual rates									
1956: First quarter	32.82	13.45	6.57	6.88	1.13	1.25	1.65	4.56	10.78
Second quarter	34.49	14.65	7.38	7.27	1.28	1.22	1.63	4.61	11.10
Third quarter	35.87	15.78	8.20	7.58	1.26	1.20	1.79	5.08	10.76
Fourth quarter	36.46	15.81	8.21	7.60	1.28	1.23	1.76	5.27	11.11
1957: First quarter <sup>4</sup>	36.89	16.34	8.48	7.86	1.23	1.34	1.76	5.65	10.57
Second quarter <sup>4</sup>	38.00	16.88	8.85	8.03	1.22	1.48	1.84	6.03	10.55

<sup>1</sup> Excludes agriculture.

<sup>2</sup> Commercial and other includes trade, service, finance, communications, and construction.

<sup>3</sup> Annual total is the sum of seasonally unadjusted expenditures; it does not necessarily coincide with the average of seasonally adjusted figures, which include adjustments, when necessary, for systematic tendencies in anticipatory data.

<sup>4</sup> Estimates based on anticipated capital expenditures as reported by business from late January to early March 1957.

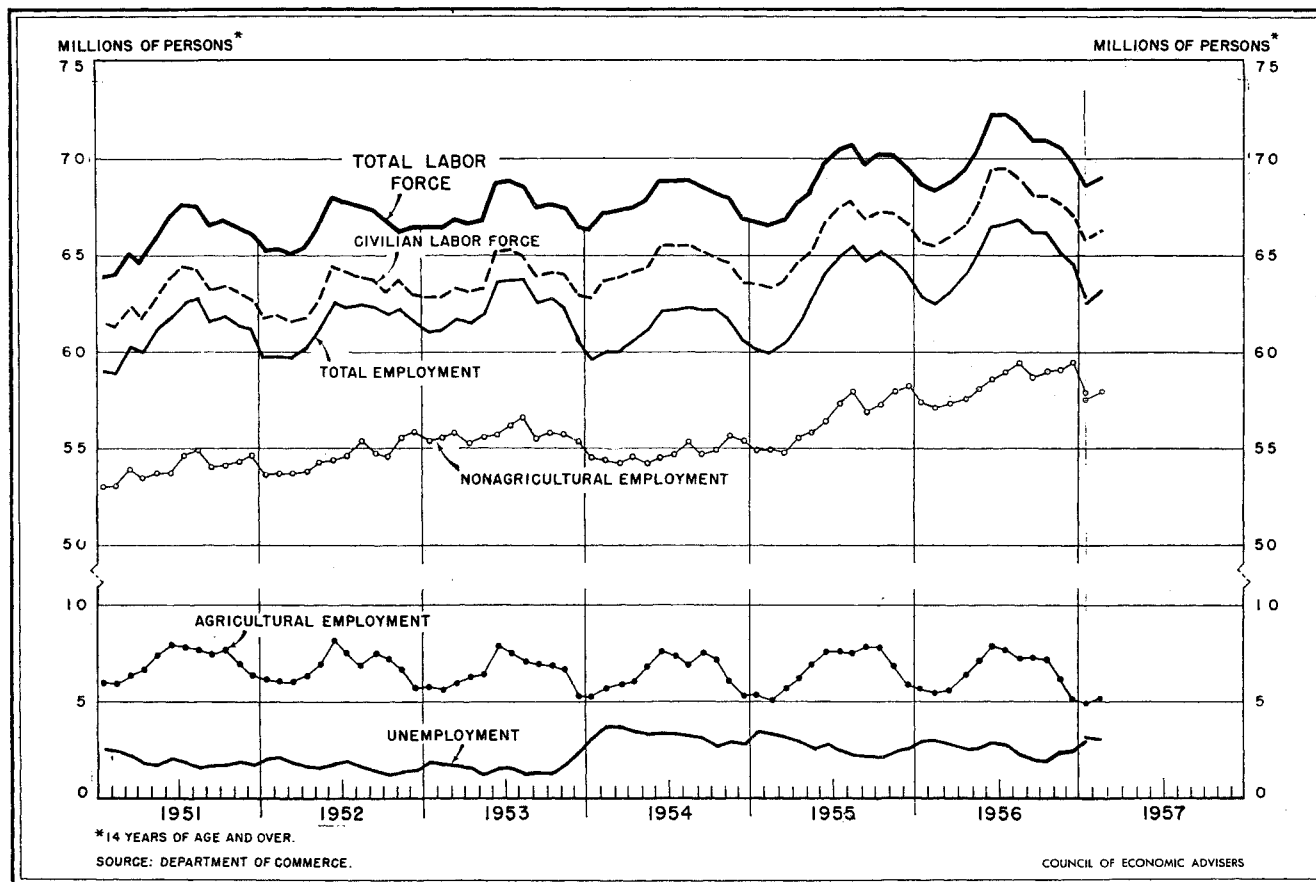
NOTE.—These figures do not agree with the totals included in the gross national product estimates of the Department of Commerce, principally because the latter cover agricultural investment and also certain equipment and construction outlays charged to current expense. Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

Sources: Securities and Exchange Commission and Department of Commerce.

# EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND WAGES

## STATUS OF THE LABOR FORCE

Total civilian employment increased somewhat more than seasonally between January and February and unemployment changed only slightly. As a result of a change in definition, some 200,000 to 300,000 persons temporarily laid off or waiting to start new jobs, formerly classed as employed, are now classed as unemployed.



Period	Total labor force (including armed forces)	Civilian labor force	Employment <sup>1</sup>			Unemployment		Insured unemployment <sup>2</sup>	
			Total	Agricultural	Nonagricultural	Number	% of civilian labor force	Thousands of persons (all programs)	% of covered employment (State programs)
	Thousands of persons 14 years of age and over <sup>3</sup>								
1939.....	55,600	55,230	45,750	9,610	36,140	9,480	17.2	-----	5.1
1954.....	67,818	64,468	61,238	6,504	54,734	3,230	5.0	2,039	5.2
1955.....	68,896	65,847	63,193	6,730	56,464	2,654	4.0	1,388	3.4
1956.....	70,387	67,530	64,979	6,585	58,394	2,551	3.8	1,310	3.2
1956: January.....	68,691	65,775	62,891	5,635	57,256	2,885	4.4	1,606	4.0
February.....	68,396	65,490	62,576	5,469	57,107	2,914	4.4	1,651	4.1
March.....	68,806	65,913	63,078	5,678	57,400	2,834	4.3	1,578	4.0
April.....	69,434	66,555	63,990	6,387	57,603	2,564	3.9	1,439	3.6
May.....	70,711	67,846	65,238	7,146	58,092	2,608	3.8	1,316	3.3
June.....	72,274	69,430	66,503	7,876	58,627	2,927	4.2	1,234	3.1
July.....	72,325	69,489	66,655	7,700	58,955	2,833	4.1	1,316	3.1
August.....	71,787	68,947	66,752	7,265	59,487	2,195	3.2	1,158	2.7
September.....	70,896	68,069	66,071	7,388	58,683	1,998	2.9	1,060	2.6
October.....	70,905	68,082	66,174	7,173	59,000	1,909	2.8	939	2.3
November.....	70,560	67,732	65,269	6,192	59,076	2,463	3.6	1,090	2.6
December.....	69,855	67,029	64,550	5,110	59,440	2,479	3.7	1,377	3.2
1957: January.....	68,647	65,830	62,890	4,943	57,947	2,940	4.5	1,851	4.4
February.....	69,130	66,313	63,434	5,199	58,235	2,881	4.3	<sup>4</sup> 1,848	4.4
New definition:									
1957: January.....	68,638	65,821	62,578	4,935	57,643	3,244	4.9	-----	-----
February.....	69,128	66,311	63,190	5,195	57,996	3,121	4.7	-----	-----

<sup>1</sup> Includes part-time workers and those with jobs but not at work for such reasons as vacations, illness, bad weather, and industrial disputes; excludes armed forces.

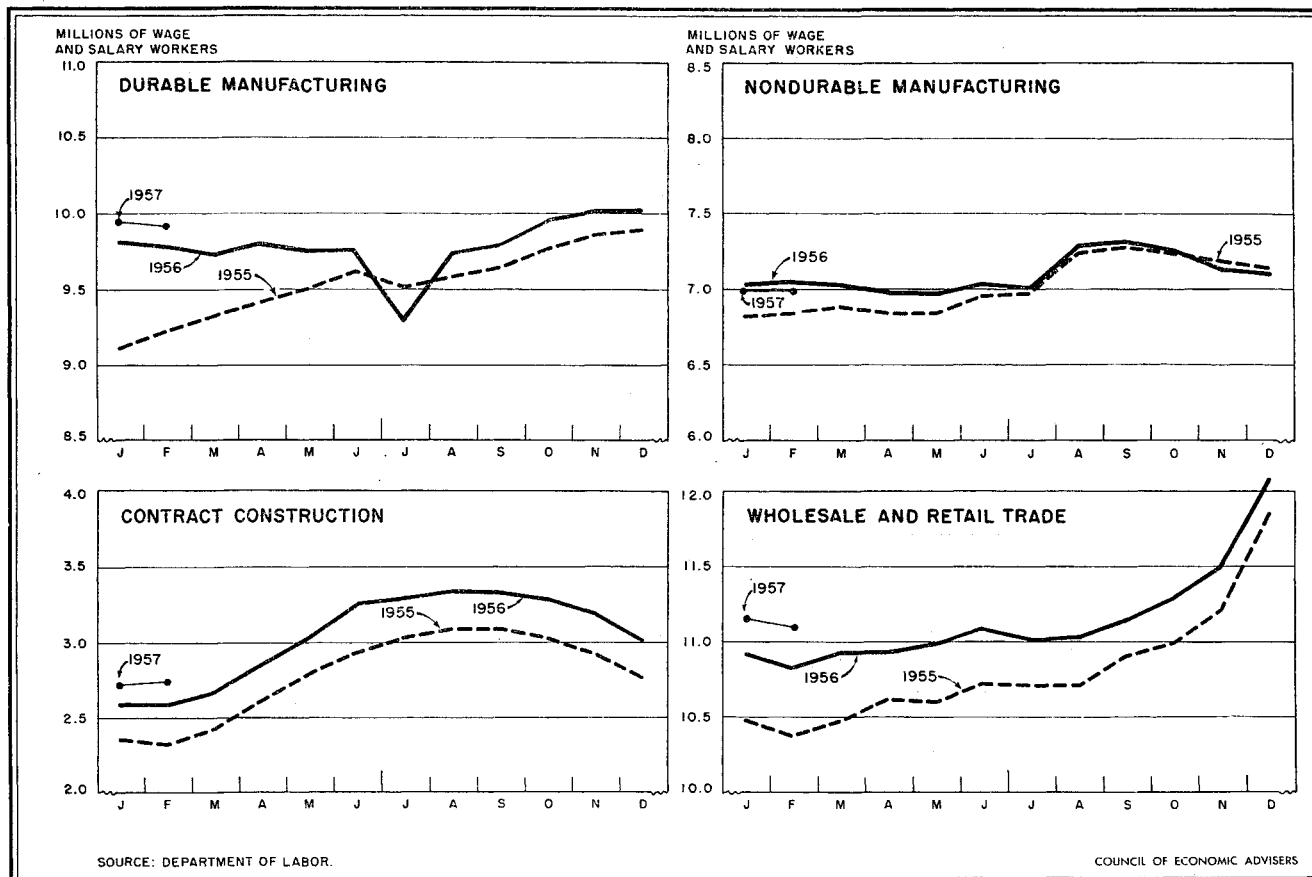
<sup>2</sup> Weekly average.

<sup>3</sup> Data for 1953 (revised series) based on 68-area sample; beginning 1954, on 230-area sample; beginning May 1956, on 330-area sample. Starting July 1955, data are for week containing 12th of month; previously, for week containing 8th of month.

<sup>4</sup> Preliminary estimate.  
Sources: Department of Commerce (labor force) and Department of Labor (insured unemployment).

# NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

Between January and February manufacturing employment declined slightly instead of rising seasonally. Employment in most nonmanufacturing industries was at record levels for the month.



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

Period	Total adjusted for seasonal variation	Total	Manufacturing			Mining	Contract construc- tion	Wholesale and retail trade	Govern- ment (Federal, State, local)	Other
			Total	Durable goods	Nondur- able goods					
Not adjusted for seasonal variation										
1939		30,311	10,078	4,683	5,394	845	1,150	6,612	3,995	7,632
1950		44,738	14,967	8,085	6,882	889	2,333	9,645	6,026	10,878
1952		48,303	16,334	9,340	6,994	885	2,634	10,281	6,609	11,563
1953		49,681	17,238	10,105	7,133	852	2,622	10,527	6,645	11,797
1954		48,431	15,995	9,122	6,873	777	2,593	10,520	6,751	11,795
1955		49,950	16,557	9,536	7,021	770	2,780	10,803	6,915	12,125
1956		51,490	16,893	9,791	7,102	795	3,037	11,144	7,176	12,445
1956: January	51,080	50,284	16,842	9,811	7,031	777	2,588	10,920	7,033	12,124
February	51,127	50,246	16,824	9,776	7,048	780	2,588	10,819	7,084	12,151
March	51,057	50,499	16,764	9,730	7,034	783	2,669	10,931	7,122	12,230
April	51,327	50,848	16,769	9,795	6,974	790	2,853	10,928	7,130	12,378
May	51,454	51,197	16,715	9,747	6,968	786	3,040	10,985	7,203	12,468
June	51,600	51,709	16,809	9,764	7,045	812	3,257	11,091	7,150	12,590
July	51,003	50,896	16,291	9,277	7,014	746	3,270	11,015	6,947	12,627
August	51,702	51,881	17,034	9,743	7,291	817	3,353	11,047	6,960	12,670
September	51,676	52,261	17,121	9,788	7,333	818	3,340	11,164	7,213	12,605
October	51,902	52,455	17,222	9,958	7,264	812	3,301	11,288	7,298	12,534
November	51,950	52,484	17,151	10,024	7,127	811	3,191	11,496	7,342	12,493
December	52,072	53,131	17,133	10,029	7,104	811	3,029	12,092	7,602	12,464
1957: January <sup>2</sup>	52,063	51,253	16,934	9,948	6,986	803	2,723	11,158	7,312	12,323
February <sup>2</sup>	52,151	51,245	16,908	9,922	6,986	801	2,741	11,100	7,352	12,343

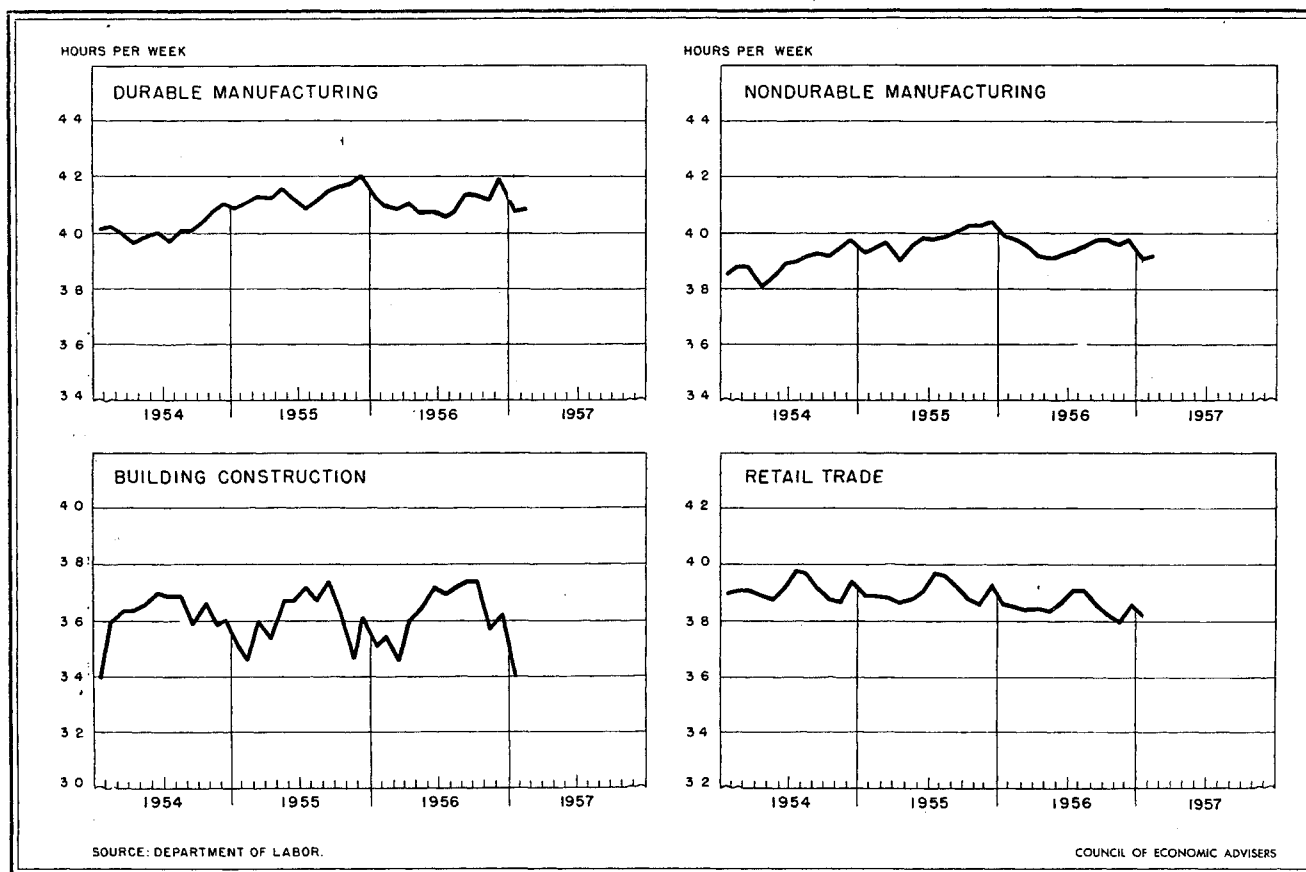
<sup>1</sup> Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in nonagricultural establishments who worked during or received pay for any part of the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Excludes proprietors, self-employed persons, domestic servants, and personnel of the armed forces. Total derived from this table not comparable with estimates of nonagricultural employment of the civilian labor force reported by the Department of Commerce (p. 11) 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 estimates.

12 Note—Beginning with 1954, data are based on first quarter 1955 benchmark levels. Source: Department of Labor.

# AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS - SELECTED INDUSTRIES

The average workweek of manufacturing production workers rose slightly between January and February, in accordance with the usual seasonal pattern.



[Hours per week, for production workers or nonsupervisory employees]

Period	Manufacturing			Building construction	Retail trade
	Total	Durable goods	Nondurable goods		
1939.....	37.7	38.0	37.4	32.6	42.7
1948.....	40.1	40.5	39.6	37.3	40.3
1949.....	39.2	39.5	38.8	36.7	40.4
1950.....	40.5	41.2	39.7	36.3	40.5
1951.....	40.7	41.6	39.5	37.2	40.2
1952.....	40.7	41.5	39.6	38.1	39.9
1953.....	40.5	41.3	39.5	37.0	39.2
1954.....	39.7	40.2	39.0	36.2	39.1
1955.....	40.7	41.4	39.8	36.1	39.0
1956.....	40.5	41.1	39.6	36.4	38.5
1956: January.....	40.7	41.2	39.9	35.1	38.6
February.....	40.5	41.0	39.8	35.5	38.5
March.....	40.4	40.9	39.6	34.6	38.4
April.....	40.3	41.1	39.2	36.0	38.4
May.....	40.1	40.8	39.1	36.5	38.3
June.....	40.2	40.8	39.2	37.2	38.7
July.....	40.1	40.7	39.4	37.0	39.1
August.....	40.3	40.8	39.6	37.2	39.1
September.....	40.7	41.4	39.8	37.4	38.5
October.....	40.7	41.4	39.8	37.4	38.2
November.....	40.5	41.2	39.6	35.7	38.0
December.....	41.0	41.9	39.8	36.2	38.6
1957: January <sup>2</sup> .....	40.1	40.8	39.1	34.0	38.2
February <sup>2</sup> .....	40.2	40.9	39.2	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )

<sup>1</sup> Data beginning with January 1948 are not strictly comparable with those for earlier periods.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary estimates.

<sup>3</sup> Not available.

NOTE.—Beginning with 1954, data are based on first quarter 1955 benchmark levels of employment.

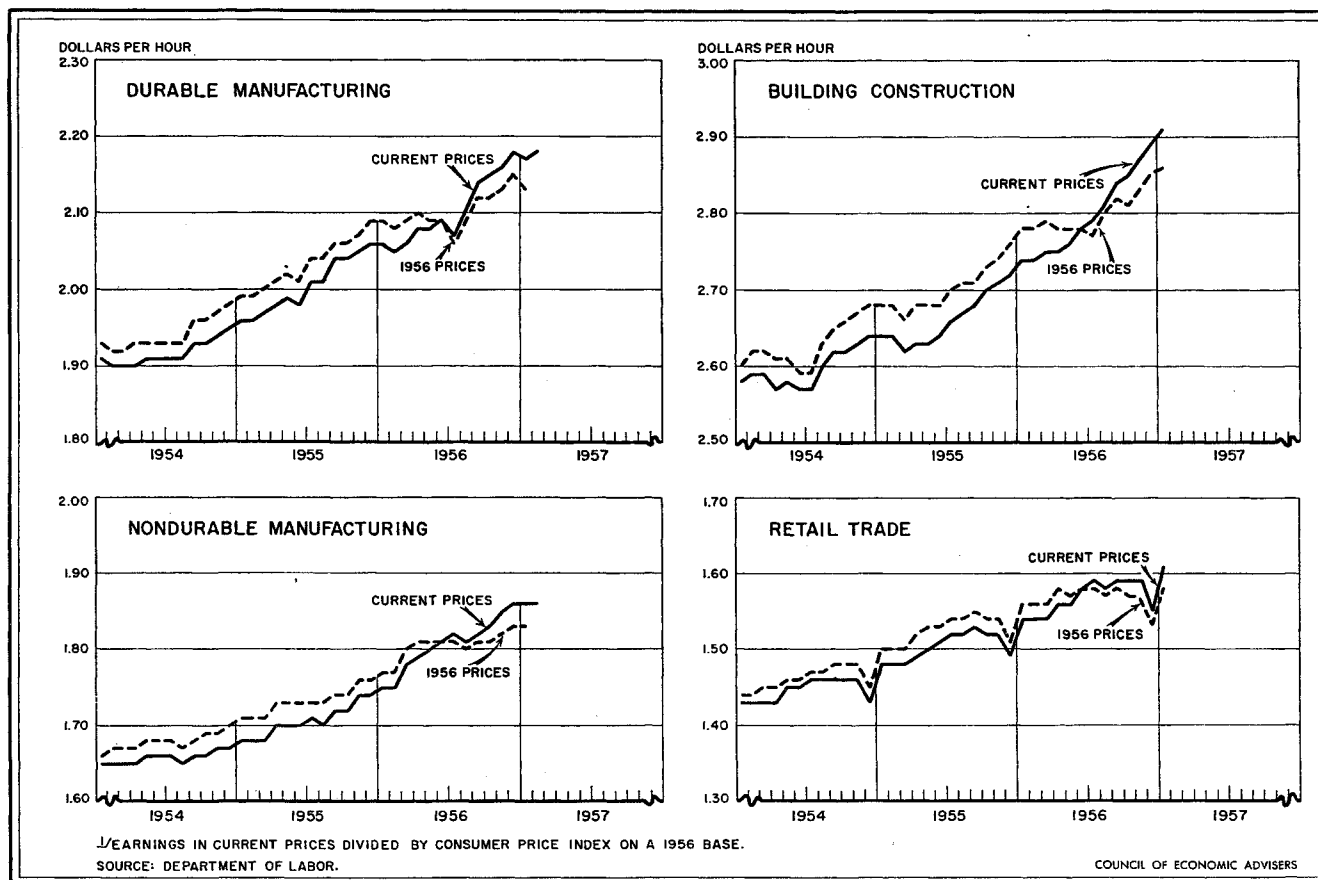
Source: Department of Labor.

S9401—57—3



## AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS - SELECTED INDUSTRIES

In February, average hourly earnings of production workers in manufacturing were \$2.05, the same as in the previous 2 months and 12 cents above February 1956. In 1956 prices, the increase will probably be about half as large.



[For production workers or nonsupervisory employees]

Period	All manufacturing		Durable goods manufacturing		Nondurable goods manufacturing		Building construction		Retail trade	
	Current prices	1956 prices <sup>1</sup>	Current prices	1956 prices <sup>1</sup>	Current prices	1956 prices <sup>1</sup>	Current prices	1956 prices <sup>1</sup>	Current prices	1956 prices <sup>1</sup>
1939	\$0.633	\$1.239	\$0.698	\$1.366	\$0.582	\$1.139	\$0.932	\$1.824	\$0.542	\$1.061
1948	1.350	1.525	1.410	1.593	1.278	1.444	<sup>2</sup> 1.848	<sup>2</sup> 2.088	1.088	1.229
1949	1.401	1.599	1.469	1.677	1.325	1.513	1.935	2.209	1.137	1.298
1950	1.465	1.655	1.537	1.737	1.378	1.557	2.031	2.295	1.176	1.329
1951	1.59	1.66	1.67	1.75	1.48	1.55	2.19	2.29	1.26	1.32
1952	1.67	1.71	1.77	1.81	1.54	1.58	2.31	2.36	1.32	1.35
1953	1.77	1.80	1.87	1.90	1.61	1.63	2.48	2.52	1.40	1.42
1954	1.81	1.83	1.92	1.94	1.66	1.68	2.60	2.63	1.45	1.47
1955	1.88	1.91	2.01	2.04	1.71	1.74	2.66	2.70	1.50	1.52
1956	1.98	1.98	2.10	2.10	1.81	1.81	2.80	2.80	1.57	1.57
1956: January	1.93	1.96	2.06	2.09	1.75	1.77	2.74	2.78	1.54	1.56
February	1.93	1.96	2.05	2.08	1.75	1.77	2.74	2.78	1.54	1.56
March	1.95	1.98	2.06	2.09	1.78	1.80	2.75	2.79	1.54	1.56
April	1.96	1.98	2.08	2.10	1.79	1.81	2.75	2.78	1.56	1.58
May	1.97	1.98	2.08	2.09	1.80	1.81	2.76	2.78	1.56	1.57
June	1.97	1.97	2.09	2.09	1.81	1.81	2.78	2.78	1.58	1.58
July	1.97	1.96	2.07	2.06	1.82	1.81	2.79	2.77	1.59	1.58
August	1.98	1.97	2.10	2.09	1.81	1.80	2.81	2.80	1.58	1.57
September	2.00	1.98	2.14	2.12	1.82	1.81	2.84	2.82	1.59	1.58
October	2.02	1.99	2.15	2.12	1.83	1.81	2.85	2.81	1.59	1.57
November	2.03	2.00	2.16	2.13	1.85	1.82	2.87	2.83	1.59	1.57
December	2.05	2.02	2.18	2.15	1.86	1.83	2.89	2.85	1.55	1.53
1957: January <sup>3</sup>	2.05	2.02	2.17	2.13	1.86	1.83	2.91	2.86	1.61	1.58
February <sup>3</sup>	2.05	(4)	2.18	(4)	1.86	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)

<sup>1</sup> Earnings in current prices divided by consumer price index on a 1956 base.

<sup>2</sup> Data beginning with January 1948 are not strictly comparable with those for earlier periods.

NOTE.—Beginning with 1954, data are based on first quarter 1955 benchmark levels of employment.

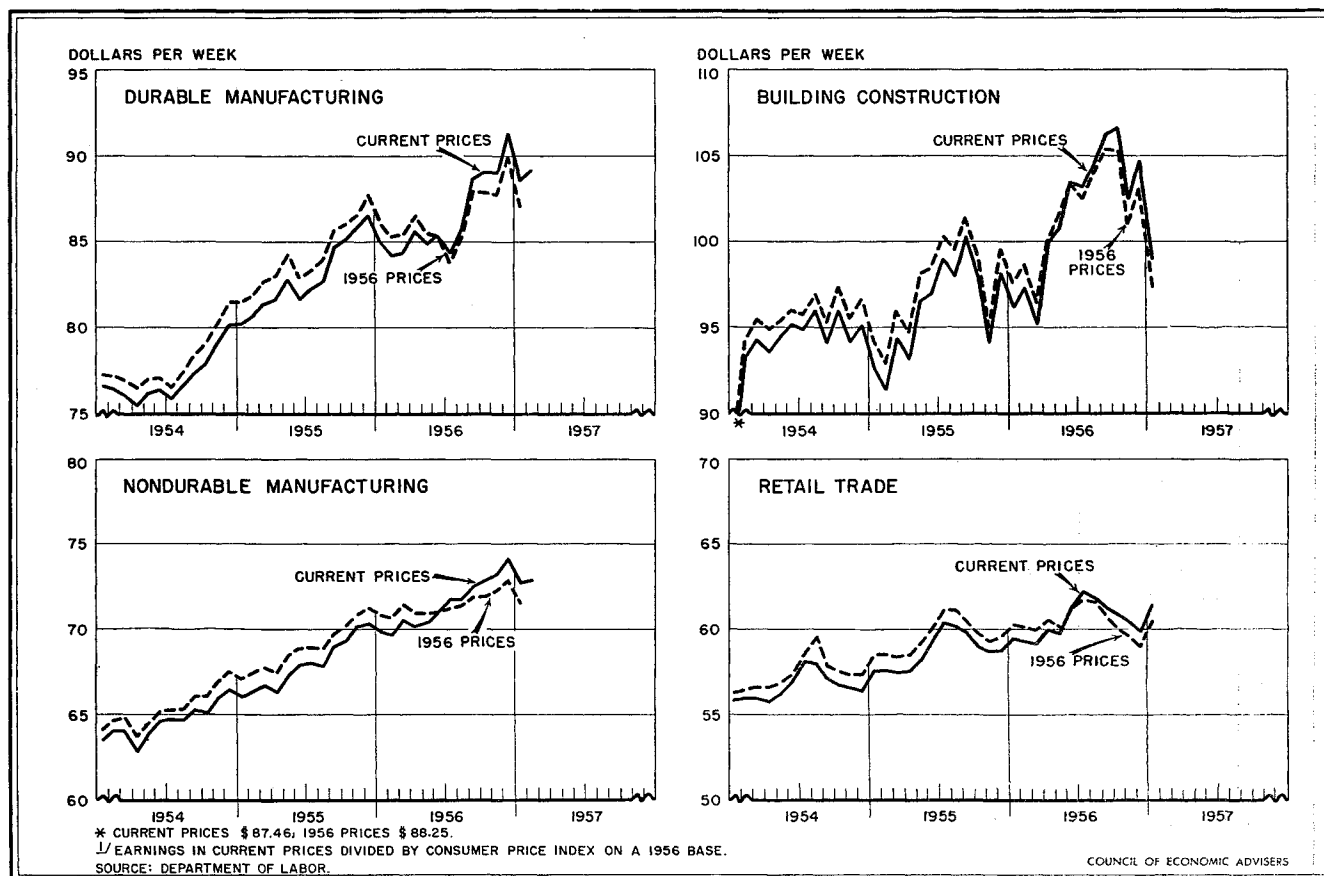
SOURCE: Department of Labor.

<sup>3</sup> Preliminary estimates.

<sup>4</sup> Not available.

## AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS - SELECTED INDUSTRIES

In February, average weekly earnings of manufacturing workers were \$82.41, slightly higher than in January and \$4.24 above February 1956.



[For production workers or nonsupervisory employees]

Period	All manufacturing		Durable goods manufacturing		Nondurable goods manufacturing		Building construction		Retail trade	
	Current prices	1956 prices <sup>1</sup>	Current prices	1956 prices <sup>1</sup>	Current prices	1956 prices <sup>1</sup>	Current prices	1956 prices <sup>1</sup>	Current prices	1956 prices <sup>1</sup>
1939.....	\$23.86	\$46.69	\$26.50	\$51.86	\$21.78	\$42.62	\$30.39	\$59.47	\$23.14	\$45.28
1948.....	54.14	61.18	57.11	64.53	50.61	57.19	<sup>2</sup> 68.85	<sup>2</sup> 77.80	43.85	49.55
1949.....	54.92	62.69	58.03	66.24	51.41	58.69	70.95	80.99	45.93	52.43
1950.....	59.33	67.04	63.32	71.55	54.71	61.82	73.73	83.31	47.63	53.82
1951.....	64.71	67.76	69.47	72.74	58.46	61.21	81.47	85.31	50.65	53.04
1952.....	67.97	69.57	73.46	75.19	60.98	62.42	88.01	90.08	52.67	53.91
1953.....	71.69	72.78	77.23	78.41	62.60	64.57	91.76	93.16	54.88	55.72
1954.....	71.86	72.73	77.18	78.12	64.74	65.53	94.12	95.26	56.70	57.39
1955.....	76.52	77.69	83.21	84.48	68.06	69.10	96.03	97.49	58.50	59.39
1956.....	80.19	80.19	86.31	86.31	71.68	71.68	101.92	101.92	60.45	60.45
1956: January.....	78.55	79.67	84.87	86.08	69.83	70.82	96.17	97.54	59.44	60.28
February.....	78.17	79.28	84.05	85.24	69.65	70.64	97.27	98.65	59.29	60.13
March.....	78.78	79.82	84.25	85.36	70.49	71.42	95.15	96.40	59.14	59.92
April.....	78.99	79.87	85.49	86.44	70.17	70.95	99.00	100.10	59.90	60.57
May.....	79.00	79.56	84.86	85.46	70.38	70.88	100.74	101.45	59.75	60.17
June.....	79.19	79.19	85.27	85.27	70.95	70.95	103.42	103.42	61.15	61.15
July.....	79.00	78.45	84.25	83.66	71.71	71.21	103.23	102.51	62.17	61.74
August.....	79.79	79.39	85.68	85.25	71.68	71.32	104.53	104.01	61.78	61.47
September.....	81.40	80.75	88.60	87.90	72.44	71.87	106.22	105.38	61.22	60.73
October.....	82.21	81.15	89.01	87.87	72.83	71.90	106.59	105.22	60.74	59.96
November.....	82.22	81.08	88.99	87.76	73.26	72.25	102.46	101.05	60.42	59.59
December.....	84.05	82.81	91.34	89.99	74.03	72.94	104.62	103.07	59.83	58.95
1957: January <sup>3</sup> .....	82.21	80.84	88.54	87.06	72.73	71.51	98.94	97.29	61.50	60.47
February <sup>3</sup> .....	82.41	(4)	89.16	(4)	72.91	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)

<sup>1</sup> Earnings in current prices divided by consumer price index on a 1956 base.

<sup>2</sup> Data beginning with January 1948 are not strictly comparable with those for earlier periods.

NOTE.—Beginning with 1954, data are based on first quarter 1955 benchmark levels of employment.

Source: Department of Labor.

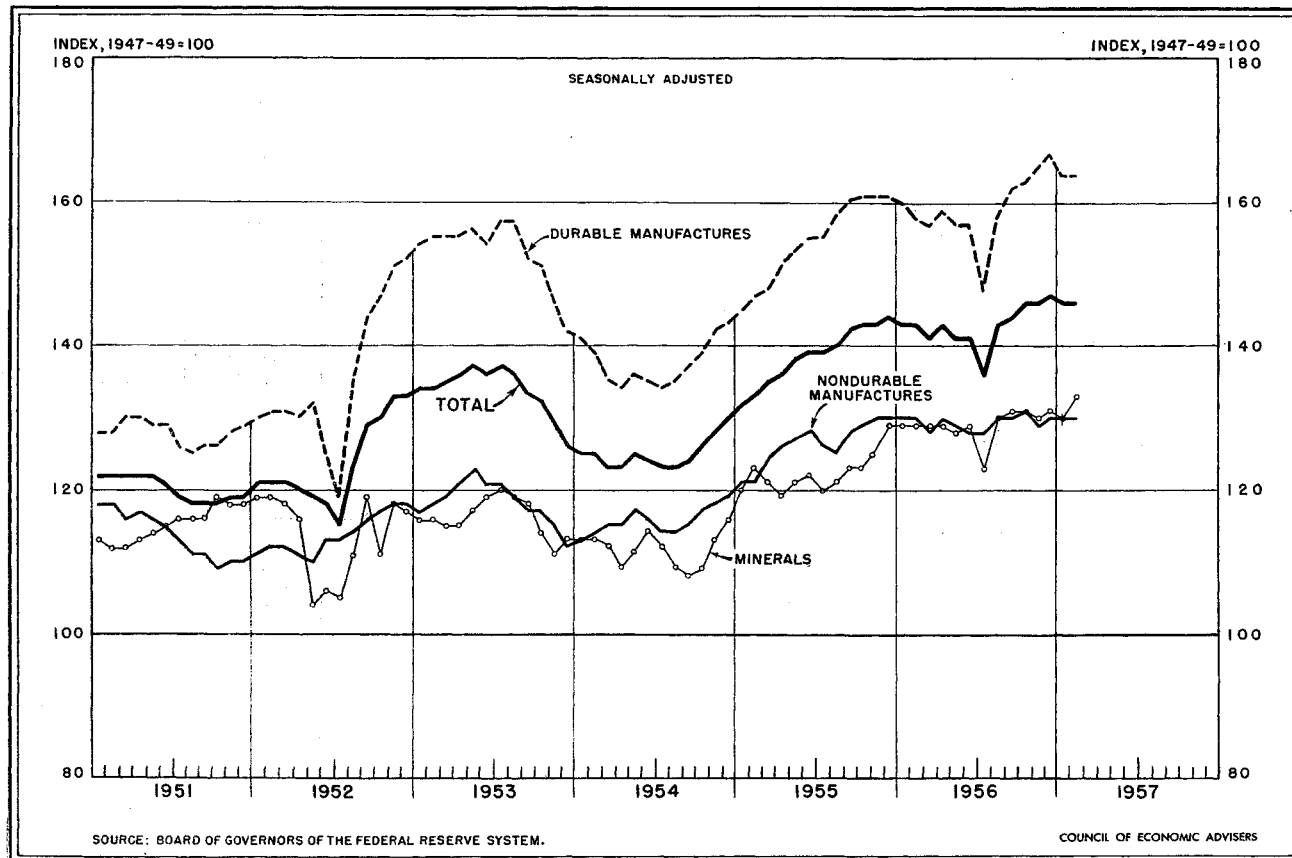
<sup>3</sup> Preliminary estimates.

<sup>4</sup> Not available.

# PRODUCTION AND BUSINESS ACTIVITY

## INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

The index of industrial production (seasonally adjusted) is estimated at 146 (1947-49=100) for February, the same as the January index and one point below the peak in December 1956.



[1947-49 = 100, seasonally adjusted]

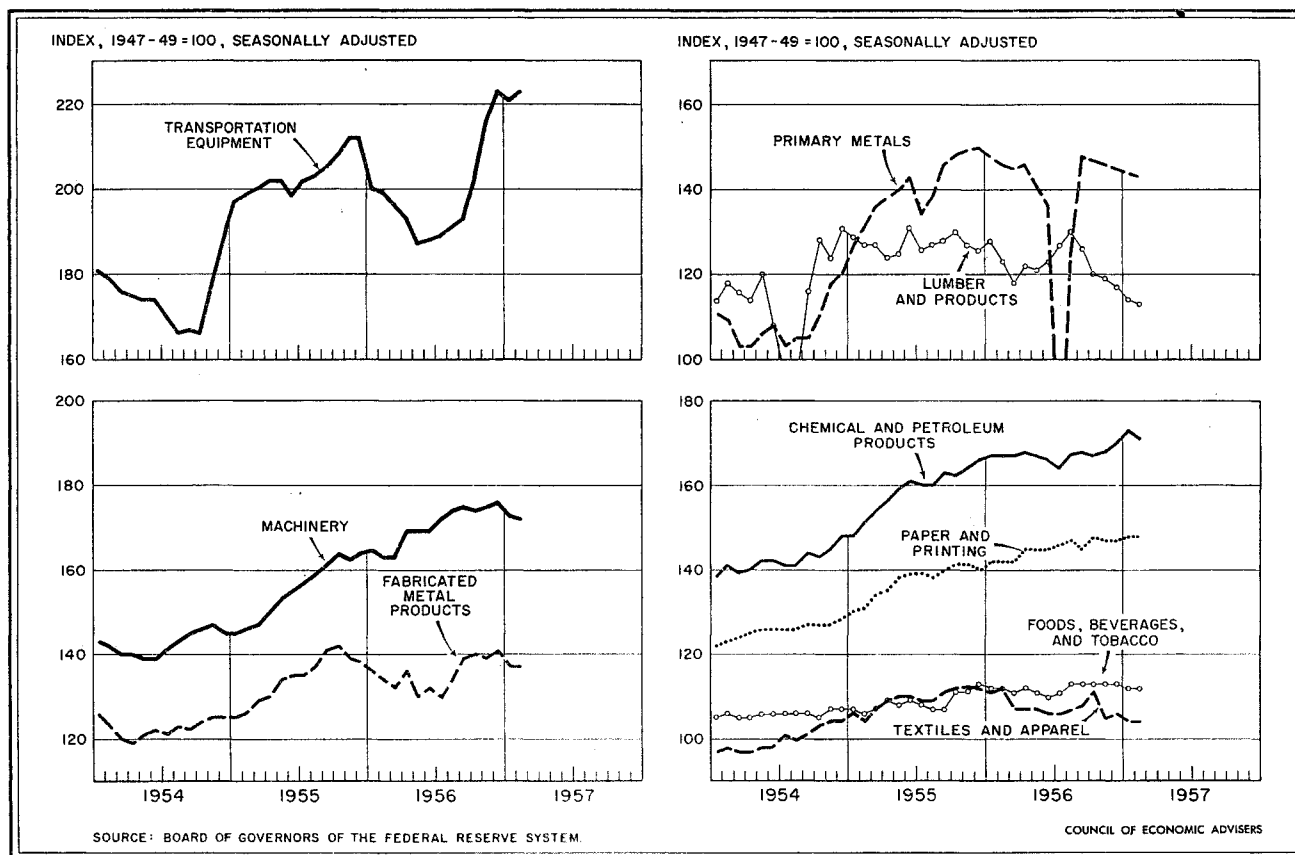
Period	Total industrial production	Manufactures			Minerals
		Total	Durable	Nondurable	
1939.....	58	57	49	66	68
1948.....	104	103	104	102	106
1949.....	97	97	95	99	94
1950.....	112	113	116	111	105
1951.....	120	121	128	114	115
1952.....	124	125	136	114	114
1953.....	134	136	153	118	116
1954.....	125	127	137	116	111
1955.....	139	140	155	126	122
1956 <sup>1</sup> .....	143	144	159	129	129
1956: <sup>1</sup> January.....	143	145	160	130	129
February.....	143	144	158	130	129
March.....	141	143	157	128	129
April.....	143	144	159	130	129
May.....	141	143	157	129	128
June.....	141	142	157	128	129
July.....	136	138	148	128	123
August.....	143	144	158	130	130
September.....	144	146	162	130	131
October.....	146	147	163	131	131
November.....	146	147	165	129	130
December.....	147	149	167	130	131
1957: <sup>1</sup> January.....	146	147	164	130	130
February.....	146	147	164	130	133

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary estimates.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

# PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MANUFACTURES

In February, production of most manufactures changed very little from January levels.



[1947-49 = 100, seasonally adjusted]

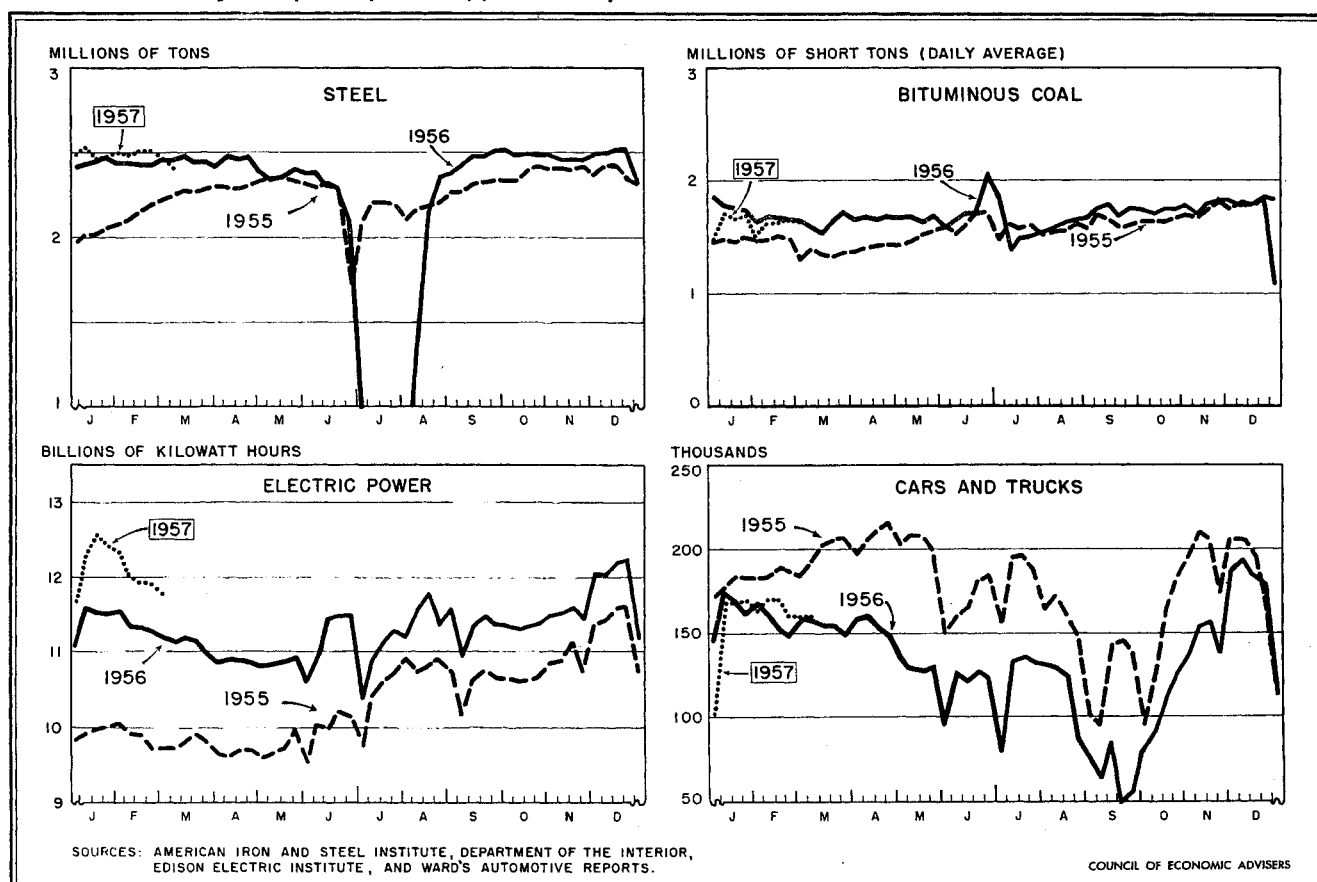
Period	Durable manufactures					Nondurable manufactures				Consumer durable goods
	Primary metals	Fabricated metal products	Machinery	Transportation equipment	Lumber and products	Textiles and apparel	Paper and printing	Chemical and petroleum products	Foods, beverages, and tobacco	
1939.....	54	52	38	47	80	80	66	49	65	-----
1948.....	107	104	104	102	106	103	103	103	100	102
1949.....	90	93	93	102	93	97	101	100	100	101
1950.....	115	115	114	120	113	110	114	118	103	133
1951.....	126	122	130	135	113	106	118	132	105	114
1952.....	116	121	147	154	111	105	118	133	106	105
1953.....	132	136	160	189	118	107	125	142	107	127
1954.....	108	123	142	175	115	100	125	142	106	116
1955.....	140	134	155	203	127	109	137	159	109	147
1956 <sup>1</sup> .....	137	135	170	198	123	108	145	167	112	131
1956: <sup>1</sup> January.....	148	136	165	200	128	111	142	167	112	144
February.....	146	134	163	199	123	112	142	167	112	137
March.....	145	132	163	196	118	107	142	167	111	133
April.....	146	136	169	193	122	107	145	168	112	132
May.....	141	130	169	187	121	107	145	167	111	125
June.....	136	132	169	188	123	106	145	166	110	123
July.....	69	130	172	189	127	106	146	164	111	127
August.....	125	134	174	191	130	107	147	167	113	127
September.....	148	139	175	193	126	108	145	168	113	123
October.....	147	140	174	203	120	111	148	167	113	123
November.....	146	139	175	216	119	105	147	168	113	132
December.....	145	141	176	223	117	106	147	170	113	141
1957: <sup>1</sup> January.....	144	137	173	221	114	104	148	173	112	138
February.....	143	137	172	223	113	104	148	171	112	137

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary estimates.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

## WEEKLY INDICATORS OF PRODUCTION

Several weekly indicators of production increased during most of February. During February, output of steel was maintained at the January level, but dropped in early March.



Period	Steel produced		Electric power distributed (millions of kilowatt-hours)	Bituminous coal mined (thousands of short tons) <sup>2</sup>	Freight loaded (thousands of cars)	Paperboard produced (thousands of tons)	Cars and trucks assembled (thousands)		
	Thousands of net tons	Percent of theoretical capacity <sup>1</sup>					Total	Cars	Trucks
Weekly average:									
1953.....	2, 141	94. 9	8, 246	1, 521	735	241	141. 1	118. 0	23. 2
1954.....	1, 694	71. 0	8, 883	1, 303	652	236	125. 6	106. 0	19. 7
1955.....	2, 245	93. 0	10, 318	1, 560	724	269	176. 7	152. 7	24. 0
1956.....	2, 204	89. 5	11, 292	1, 690	728	274	132. 8	111. 6	21. 2
1956: February.....	2, 444	99. 3	11, 336	1, 703	692	291	157. 1	132. 7	24. 4
March.....	2, 466	100. 2	11, 115	1, 598	701	286	154. 2	130. 3	23. 9
April.....	2, 453	99. 6	10, 881	1, 655	742	284	155. 1	131. 6	23. 5
May.....	2, 368	96. 2	10, 810	1, 661	767	286	123. 0	102. 0	21. 0
June.....	2, 266	92. 0	11, 338	1, 678	786	286	124. 6	103. 5	21. 0
July.....	367	14. 9	10, 922	1, 526	599	225	120. 3	101. 3	19. 0
August.....	1, 834	74. 5	11, 484	1, 631	740	274	109. 0	89. 2	19. 9
September.....	2, 435	98. 9	11, 285	1, 676	788	257	63. 3	47. 8	15. 6
October.....	2, 494	101. 3	11, 371	1, 773	817	280	108. 6	88. 0	20. 6
November.....	2, 460	99. 9	11, 656	1, 792	735	269	157. 9	136. 7	21. 3
December.....	2, 452	99. 6	11, 922	1, 766	660	265	166. 0	145. 1	20. 9
1957: January.....	2, 485	97. 1	12, 257	1, 681	643	244	153. 9	133. 9	20. 0
February <sup>3</sup> .....	2, 497	97. 5	11, 919	1, 510	668	273	166. 1	143. 1	23. 0
Week ended:									
1957: February 9.....	2, 485	97. 1	12, 019	1, 621	665	283	170. 1	147. 2	23. 0
16.....	2, 501	97. 7	11, 946	1, 625	676	280	170. 0	145. 8	24. 1
23.....	2, 504	97. 8	11, 920	1, 642	627	262	162. 3	138. 9	23. 3
March 2.....	2, 456	96. 0	11, 791	1, 633	704	266	162. 1	140. 4	21. 7
9 <sup>3</sup> .....	2, 411	94. 2	11, 867	-----	-----	280	161. 2	141. 3	19. 9

<sup>1</sup> Percent of capacity based on weekly net ton capacity of 2,254,459 beginning January 1, 1953; 2,384,549 beginning January 1, 1954; 2,413,278 beginning January 1, 1955; 2,461,893 beginning January 1, 1956; and 2,559,490 beginning January 1, 1957.

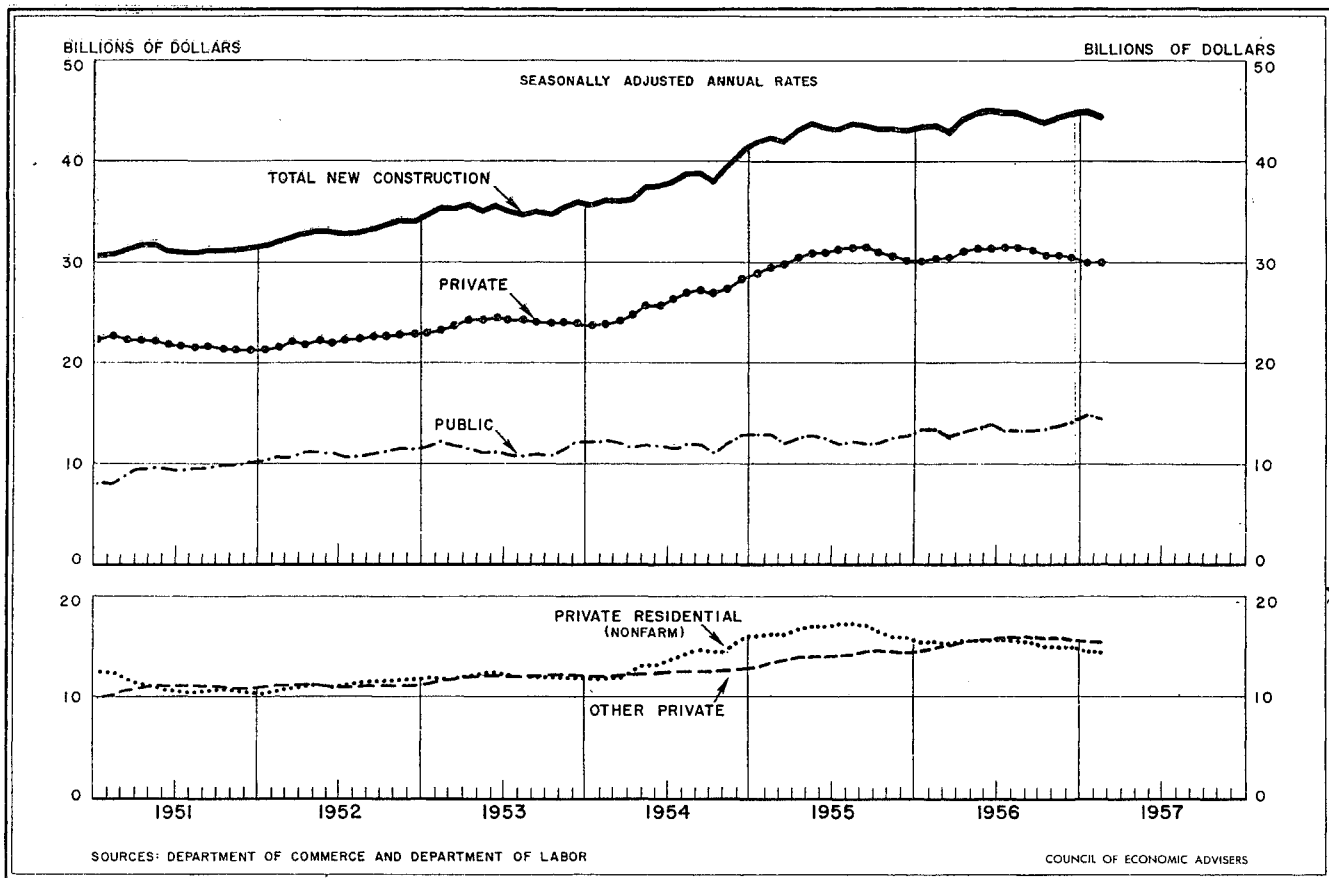
<sup>2</sup> Daily average for week.

<sup>3</sup> Preliminary estimates.

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

## NEW CONSTRUCTION

Total construction expenditures (seasonally adjusted) declined slightly in February. Contract awards for 48 States in January were somewhat higher than in the same month of 1956.



[Billions of dollars]								
Period	Total new construction	Private			Federal, State, and local	Construction contracts awarded <sup>1</sup>		
		Total private	Residential (nonfarm)	Other		48 States	37 Eastern States	
1939.....	8.2	4.4	2.7	1.7	3.8		3.6	
1950.....	28.5	21.5	12.6	8.9	7.0		14.5	
1951.....	31.2	21.8	11.0	10.8	9.4		15.8	
1952.....	33.0	22.1	11.1	11.0	10.9		16.8	
1953.....	35.3	23.9	11.9	11.9	11.4		17.4	
1954.....	37.8	25.9	13.5	12.4	11.9		19.8	
1955.....	43.0	30.6	16.6	14.0	12.4		23.7	
1956.....	44.3	30.8	15.3	15.5	13.4		24.4	
	Seasonally adjusted annual rates					Annual rates		
						Unadjusted		Seasonally adjusted
1956: January.....	43.5	30.1	15.4	14.6	13.4	<sup>2</sup> 26.7	22.3	30.1
February.....	43.6	30.3	15.4	14.9	13.4		22.3	30.2
March.....	42.8	30.3	15.2	15.1	12.5		28.6	29.2
April.....	44.2	31.0	15.6	15.4	13.2		29.1	25.5
May.....	44.9	31.3	15.7	15.6	13.6		29.8	25.9
June.....	45.0	31.3	15.6	15.7	13.8		26.4	24.4
July.....	44.7	31.4	15.6	15.8	13.3		25.8	22.6
August.....	44.7	31.4	15.6	15.8	13.3		24.8	24.1
September.....	44.4	31.2	15.4	15.7	13.3		24.3	21.1
October.....	44.0	30.6	14.9	15.7	13.4		20.5	20.3
November.....	44.4	30.6	14.9	15.7	13.8		20.3	23.6
December.....	44.7	30.5	14.9	15.6	14.2		18.9	19.7
1957: January.....	44.9	30.0	14.5	15.5	14.9	<sup>2</sup> 27.6	<sup>3</sup> 21.3	<sup>3</sup> 28.8
February <sup>4</sup> .....	44.5	30.0	14.4	15.6	14.5			

<sup>1</sup> Compiled by F. W. Dodge Corporation; seasonally adjusted by the National Bureau of Economic Research. Omits small contracts, and covers rural areas less fully than urban.

<sup>2</sup> Data for 48 States are available only for January 1956 and January 1957. The 37 Eastern States data are probably indicative of the 48 States trend for the period shown.

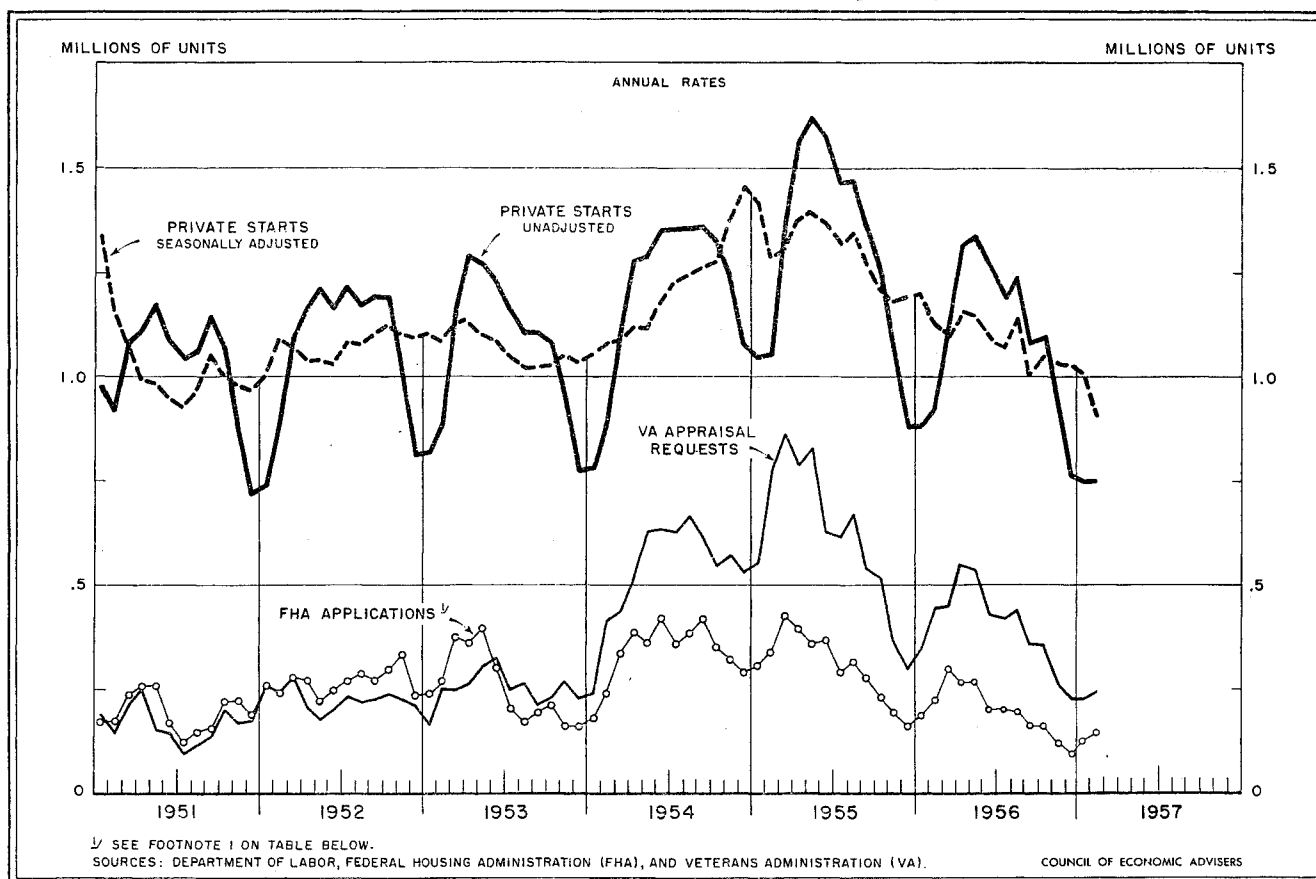
<sup>3</sup> Revised series; not comparable with prior data. Comparable data for January 1956 are \$21.1 and \$28.6 billion, respectively.

<sup>4</sup> Preliminary estimates.

Sources: Department of Commerce, Department of Labor, and F. W. Dodge Corporation (except as noted).

# HOUSING STARTS AND APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCING

The annual rate of private nonfarm housing starts (seasonally adjusted) declined to 910,000 in February. Applications for FHA commitments and VA appraisal requests increased from January to February.



[Thousands of units]

Period	New nonfarm housing starts							Proposed home construction	
	Total	Publicly financed	Privately financed				Private, seasonally adjusted annual rates	Applications for FHA commitments <sup>1</sup>	Requests for VA appraisals
			Total	Government programs		VA			
				Total	FHA				
Annual total: 1950	1,396.0	43.8	1,352.2	686.7	486.7	<sup>2</sup> 200.0	397.7	( <sup>3</sup> )	
1952	1,127.0	58.5	1,068.5	421.2	279.9	141.3	267.9	226.3	
1953	1,103.8	35.5	1,068.3	408.6	252.0	156.6	253.7	251.4	
1954	1,220.4	18.7	1,201.7	583.3	276.3	307.0	338.6	535.4	
1955	1,328.9	19.4	1,309.5	669.6	276.7	392.9	306.2	620.8	
1956	<sup>4</sup> 1,118.2	<sup>4</sup> 23.6	<sup>4</sup> 1,094.6	462.6	191.9	270.7	197.7	401.5	
Monthly average: 1950	116.3	3.6	112.7	57.2	40.6	16.7	33.1	( <sup>3</sup> )	
1953	92.0	3.0	89.0	34.0	21.0	13.1	21.1	21.0	
1954	101.7	1.6	100.1	48.6	23.0	25.6	28.2	44.6	
1955	110.7	1.6	109.1	55.8	23.1	32.7	25.5	51.7	
1956	<sup>4</sup> 93.2	<sup>4</sup> 2.0	<sup>4</sup> 91.2	38.5	16.0	22.6	16.5	33.5	
1956: January	75.0	1.3	73.7	36.0	13.0	23.0	1,195	15.6	29.3
February	78.3	1.3	77.0	30.5	13.1	17.4	1,127	18.5	37.1
March	98.6	4.7	93.9	37.6	17.0	20.6	1,094	24.9	37.5
April	111.3	1.4	109.9	46.3	19.9	26.4	1,157	22.3	45.8
May	113.7	2.9	110.8	46.3	19.7	26.6	1,146	22.1	44.4
June	107.4	2.8	104.6	44.9	18.5	26.4	1,091	16.8	35.6
July	101.1	2.1	99.0	42.8	17.6	25.2	1,070	16.9	34.6
August	103.9	.7	103.2	43.2	18.7	24.4	1,136	16.2	36.5
September	93.9	3.2	90.7	39.2	15.2	24.0	1,008	13.4	30.0
October	93.6	2.4	91.2	39.5	15.6	24.0	1,052	13.3	29.7
November	77.4	.4	77.0	30.0	12.2	17.8	1,027	10.0	21.9
December	<sup>4</sup> 64.0	<sup>4</sup> .4	<sup>4</sup> 63.6	26.3	<sup>5</sup> 11.3	15.0	<sup>4</sup> 1,030	7.7	19.0
1957: January	<sup>4</sup> 65.0	<sup>4</sup> 2.8	<sup>4</sup> 62.2	19.9	8.0	12.0	<sup>4</sup> 1,010	10.5	18.9
February	65.0	2.5	62.5	19.4	9.5	9.9	910	12.1	20.2

<sup>1</sup> Units represented by mortgage applications for new home construction.

<sup>2</sup> Partly estimated.

<sup>3</sup> Not available.

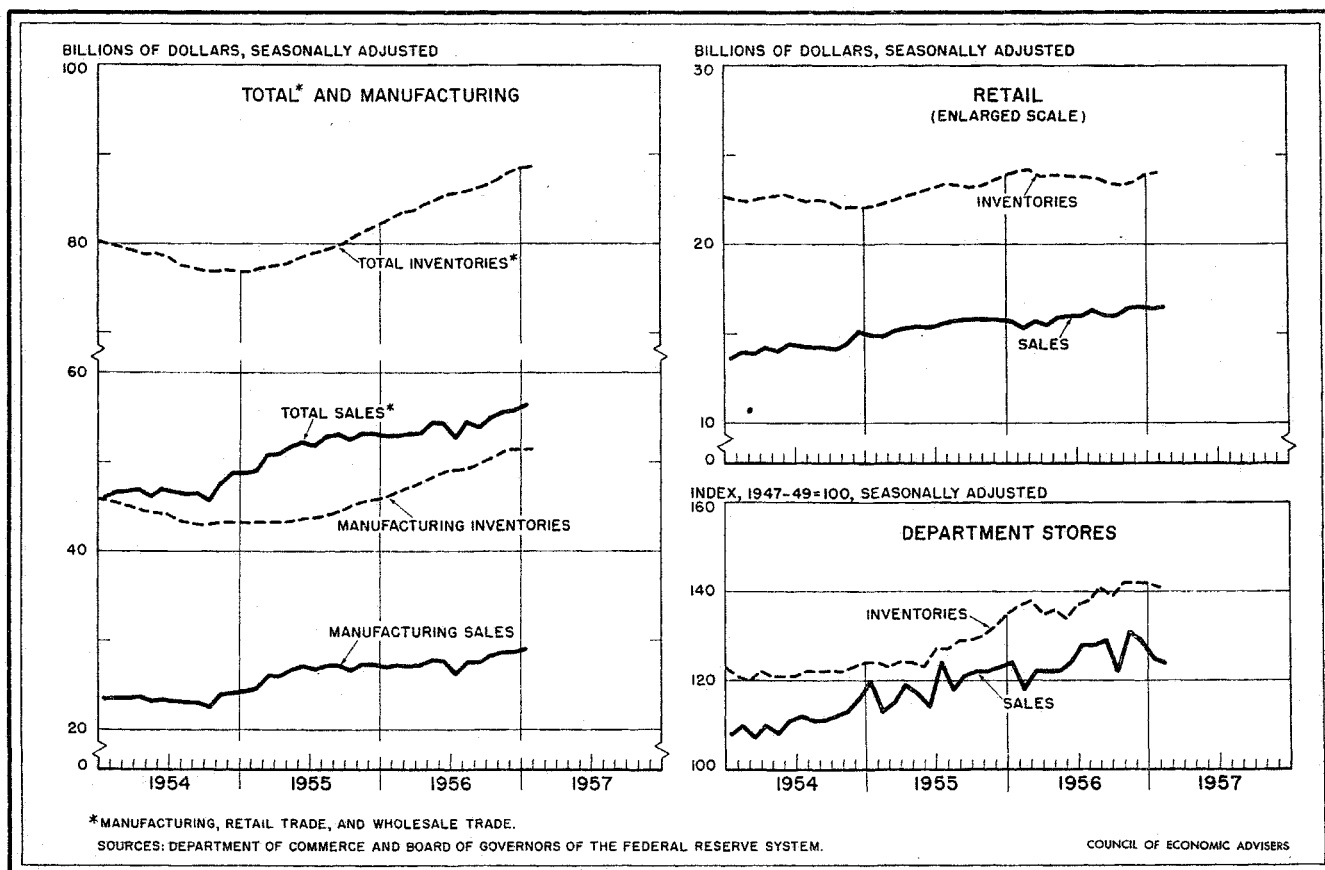
<sup>4</sup> Preliminary estimates.

<sup>5</sup> Includes 1,686 units started some time in 1956 and not reported until December.

Sources: Department of Labor, Federal Housing Administration (FHA), and Veterans Administration (VA).

# SALES AND INVENTORIES - MANUFACTURING AND TRADE

Manufacturing and trade inventories (seasonally adjusted) in January rose at a much slower rate than during the last quarter of 1956. Sales increased 1.3 percent in January. Manufacturers' new orders remained unchanged from the December level. According to preliminary estimates, retail sales in February continued at a record high level.



Period	Manufacturing and trade		Manufacturing			Wholesale		Retail		Department stores	
	Sales <sup>1</sup>	Inven- tories <sup>2</sup>	Sales <sup>1</sup>	Inven- tories <sup>2</sup>	New orders <sup>3</sup>	Sales <sup>1</sup>	Inven- tories <sup>2</sup>	Sales <sup>1</sup>	Inven- tories <sup>2</sup>	Sales <sup>1</sup>	Inven- tories <sup>2</sup>
Billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted										Index 1947-49=100, seasonally adjusted	
1949.....	34.7	52.1	16.4	28.9	15.9	7.4	7.9	10.9	15.3	98	99
1950.....	39.9	64.1	19.3	34.3	21.0	8.7	10.5	12.0	19.3	105	109
1951.....	44.9	75.2	22.3	42.8	24.5	9.4	11.1	13.2	21.2	109	128
1952.....	45.9	76.7	22.8	43.8	23.6	9.4	11.3	13.7	21.6	110	118
1953.....	48.4	80.3	24.9	45.9	23.4	9.3	11.7	14.2	22.7	112	126
1954.....	46.7	76.9	23.4	43.3	22.4	9.1	11.5	14.2	22.1	111	122
1955.....	51.7	82.2	26.4	45.9	27.2	9.8	12.3	15.5	23.9	120	128
1956.....	54.0	88.5	27.6	51.4	28.1	10.4	13.3	16.0	23.9	125	139
1955: December.....	53.2	82.2	27.3	45.9	29.3	10.1	12.3	15.8	23.9	123	135
1956: January.....	52.9	82.8	27.0	46.3	28.1	10.3	12.4	15.7	24.1	124	137
February.....	52.9	83.6	27.2	46.9	27.6	10.4	12.5	15.3	24.2	118	138
March.....	53.1	83.8	27.1	47.4	26.9	10.3	12.6	15.7	23.8	122	135
April.....	53.2	84.5	27.2	48.0	27.8	10.4	12.6	15.5	23.9	122	136
May.....	54.4	85.1	27.8	48.6	28.8	10.7	12.7	15.9	23.9	122	134
June.....	54.3	85.6	27.7	49.1	27.9	10.6	12.7	16.0	23.8	124	137
July.....	52.7	85.8	26.2	49.2	27.0	10.5	12.8	16.0	23.8	128	138
August.....	54.5	86.1	27.6	49.5	29.1	10.6	12.8	16.3	23.7	128	141
September.....	53.9	86.5	27.6	50.1	28.1	10.3	13.0	16.0	23.4	129	139
October.....	55.0	87.2	28.3	50.8	28.9	10.6	13.1	16.0	23.3	122	142
November.....	55.6	88.0	28.7	51.4	29.4	10.6	13.2	16.4	23.5	131	142
December.....	55.8	88.5	28.7	51.4	28.8	10.6	13.3	16.5	23.9	129	142
1957: January <sup>5</sup> .....	56.5	88.7	29.1	51.5	28.8	10.9	13.2	16.4	24.0	125	141
February <sup>5</sup> .....								16.5		124	

<sup>1</sup> Monthly average for year and total for month.

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

<sup>3</sup> Book value, end of period except annual data, which are monthly averages.

<sup>4</sup> Revised series on retail trade beginning with 1951; not comparable with previous data.

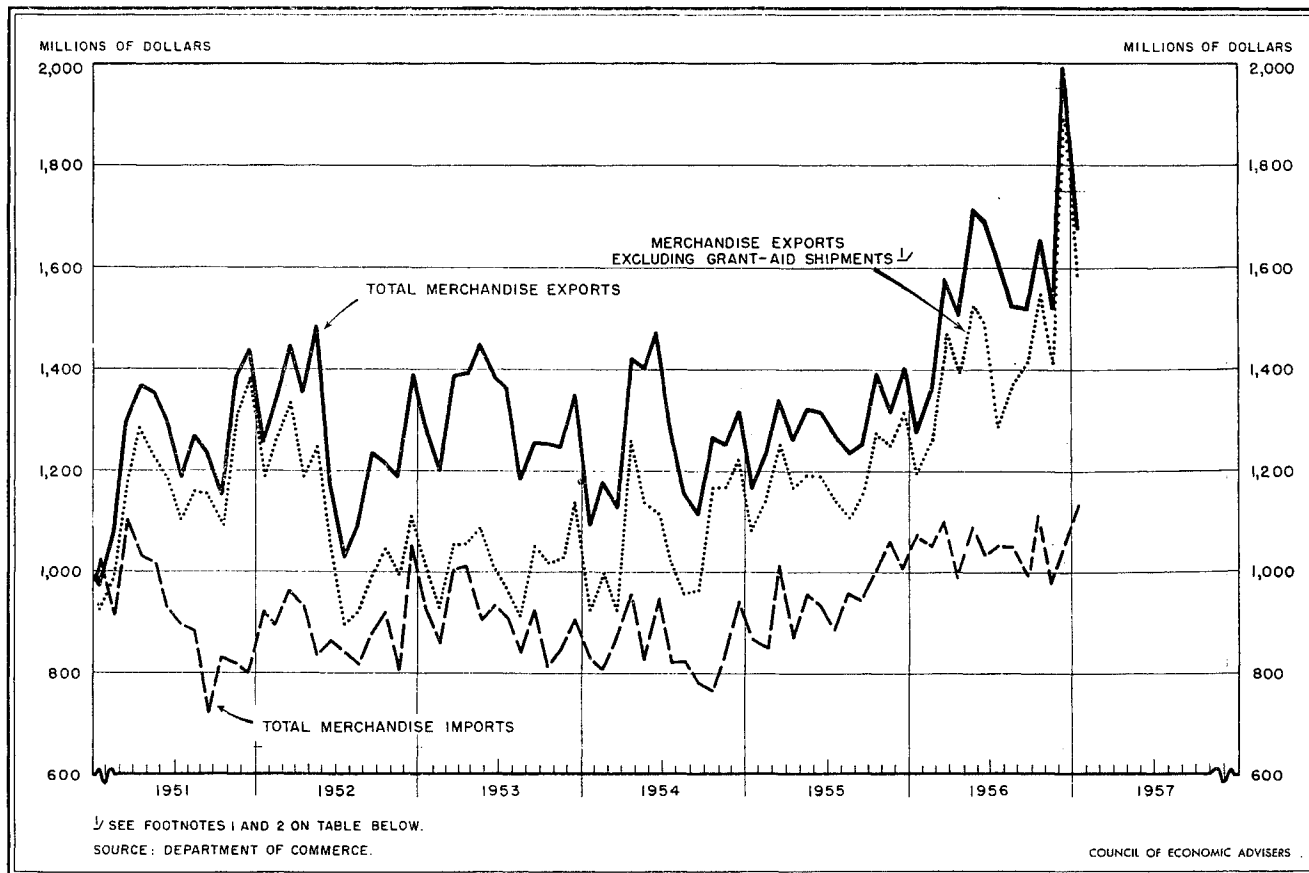
<sup>5</sup> Preliminary estimates.

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



# MERCHANDISE EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

In January, commercial exports were 32 percent higher and imports 6 percent higher than in January 1956.



Period	[Millions of dollars]			Merchandise imports	Excess of exports over imports	
	Total	Grant-aid shipments <sup>1</sup>	Excluding grant-aid shipments		Total	Excluding grant-aid shipments
1936-38 monthly average.....	247	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	207	40	( <sup>2</sup> )
1949 monthly average.....	1,004	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	552	452	( <sup>2</sup> )
1950 monthly average.....	856	24	833	738	118	95
1951 monthly average.....	1,253	89	1,164	914	339	250
1952 monthly average.....	1,267	166	1,100	893	374	207
1953 monthly average.....	1,314	293	1,022	906	408	116
1954 monthly average.....	1,259	188	1,071	851	408	220
1955 monthly average.....	1,296	105	1,191	949	347	242
1956 monthly average.....	1,582	140	1,443	1,049	533	393
1955: December.....	1,407	84	1,323	1,008	399	315
1956: January.....	1,284	82	1,202	1,073	210	128
February.....	1,362	90	1,272	1,051	310	220
March.....	1,582	104	1,478	1,102	480	376
April.....	1,512	112	1,400	991	521	409
May.....	1,714	195	1,520	1,094	621	426
June.....	1,690	198	1,492	1,033	657	459
July.....	1,620	331	1,289	1,051	569	238
August.....	1,529	152	1,377	1,051	478	326
September.....	1,523	100	1,423	993	530	430
October.....	1,659	101	1,558	1,116	544	442
November.....	1,520	108	1,412	984	535	427
December.....	1,993	103	1,890	1,052	941	838
1957: January.....	1,675	87	1,588	<sup>3</sup> 1,135	<sup>3</sup> 540	<sup>3</sup> 453

<sup>1</sup> Beginning with 1950, figures include only Department of Defense shipments of grant-aid military supplies and equipment under the Mutual Security Program. Shipments for the first 6 months of the program (July-December 1950) amounted to 282 million dollars.

<sup>2</sup> Not available.

<sup>3</sup> Preliminary estimates.

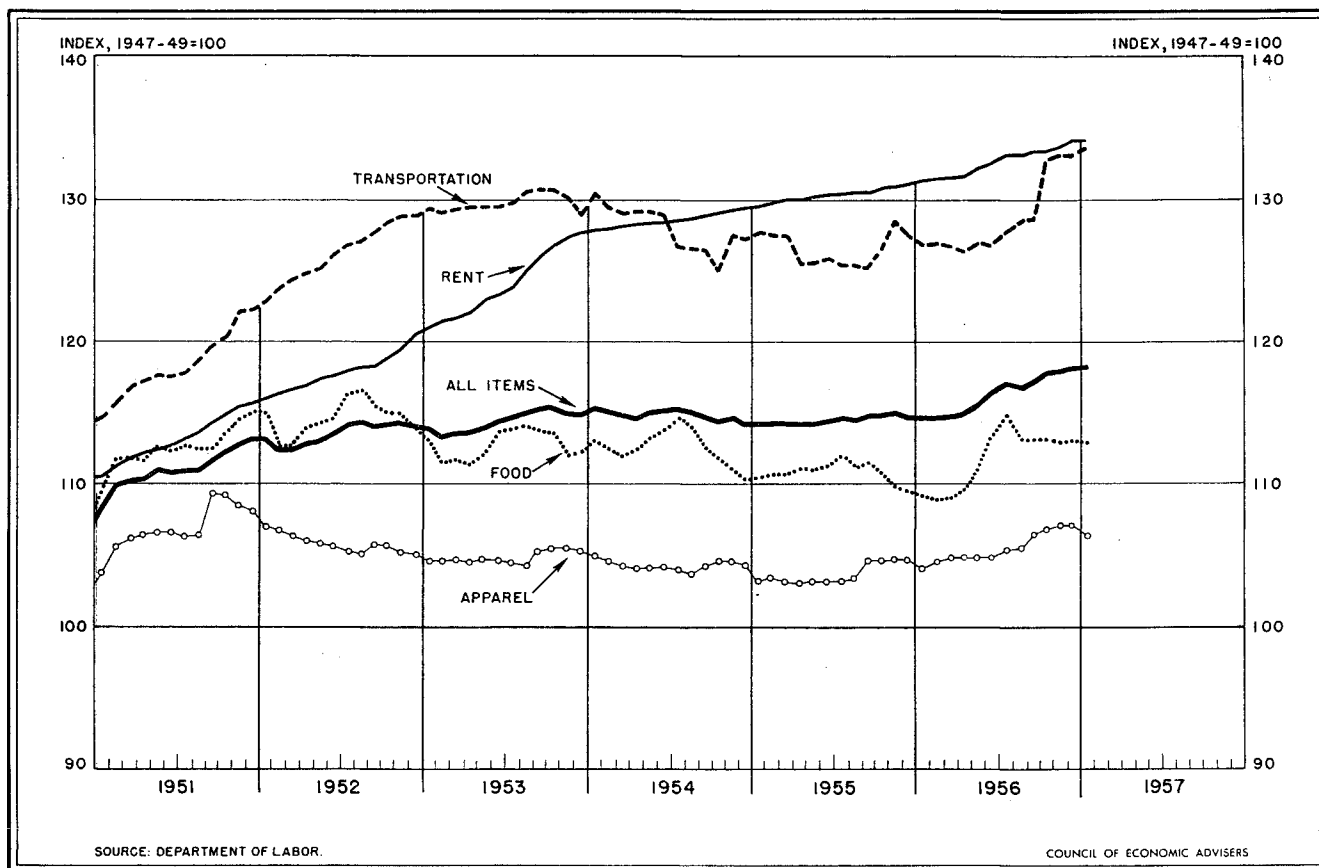
Note: Detail will not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

Sources: Department of Commerce and Department of Defense

# PRICES

## CONSUMER PRICES

The average of consumer prices rose slightly in January. The fractional decline in food prices and lower prices of apparel during the usual post-Christmas sales were more than offset by increases in the price indexes of other major components.



[1947-49=100]

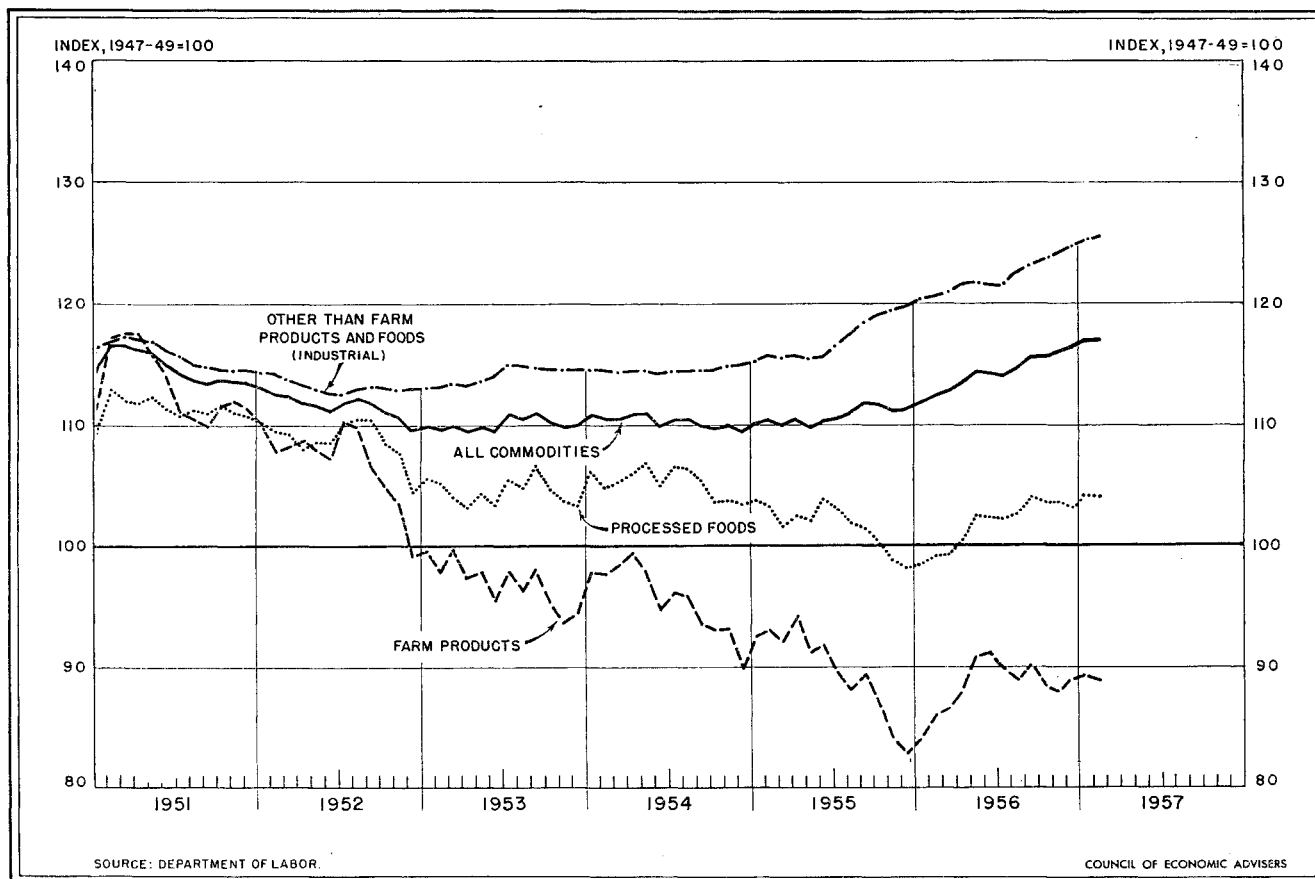
Period	All items	Food	Housing		Apparel	Transportation	Medical care	Personal care	Reading and recreation	Other goods and services
			Total <sup>1</sup>	Rent						
1939.....	59.4	47.1	76.1	86.6	52.5	70.2	72.6	59.6	63.0	70.6
1948.....	102.8	104.1	101.7	100.7	103.5	100.9	100.9	101.3	100.4	100.5
1949.....	101.8	100.0	103.3	105.0	99.4	108.5	104.1	101.1	104.1	103.4
1950.....	102.8	101.2	106.1	108.8	98.1	111.3	106.0	101.1	103.4	105.2
1951.....	111.0	112.6	112.4	113.1	106.9	118.4	111.1	110.5	106.5	109.7
1952.....	113.5	114.6	114.6	117.9	105.8	126.2	117.2	111.8	107.0	115.4
1953.....	114.4	112.8	117.7	124.1	104.8	129.7	121.3	112.8	108.0	118.2
1954.....	114.8	112.6	119.1	128.5	104.3	128.0	125.2	113.4	107.0	120.1
1955.....	114.5	110.9	120.0	130.3	103.7	126.4	128.0	115.3	106.6	120.2
1956.....	116.2	111.7	121.7	132.7	105.5	128.7	132.6	120.0	108.1	122.0
1955: December.....	114.7	109.5	120.8	131.1	104.7	127.3	130.2	117.9	106.8	120.6
1956: January.....	114.6	109.2	120.6	131.4	104.1	126.8	130.7	118.5	107.3	120.8
February.....	114.6	108.8	120.7	131.5	104.6	126.9	130.9	118.9	107.5	120.9
March.....	114.7	109.0	120.7	131.6	104.8	126.7	131.4	119.2	107.7	121.2
April.....	114.9	109.6	120.8	131.7	104.8	126.4	131.6	119.5	108.2	121.4
May.....	115.4	111.0	120.9	132.2	104.8	127.1	131.9	119.6	108.2	121.5
June.....	116.2	113.2	121.4	132.5	104.8	126.8	132.0	119.9	107.6	121.8
July.....	117.0	114.8	121.8	133.2	105.3	127.7	132.7	120.1	107.7	122.2
August.....	116.8	113.1	122.2	133.2	105.5	128.5	133.3	120.3	107.9	122.1
September.....	117.1	113.1	122.5	133.4	106.5	128.6	134.0	120.5	108.4	122.7
October.....	117.7	113.1	122.8	133.4	106.8	132.6	134.1	120.8	108.5	123.0
November.....	117.8	112.9	123.0	133.8	107.0	133.2	134.5	121.4	109.0	123.2
December.....	118.0	112.9	123.5	134.2	107.0	133.1	134.7	121.8	109.3	123.3
1957: January.....	118.2	112.8	123.8	134.2	106.4	133.6	135.3	122.1	109.9	123.8

<sup>1</sup> Includes, in addition to rent, homeowner costs, utilities, housefurnishings, etc.

Source: Department of Labor.

## WHOLESALE PRICES

The average of prices in wholesale markets rose slightly in February. Prices of farm products and processed foods declined, while industrial prices increased 0.2 percent compared with an average monthly increase of 0.5 percent for the previous 6 months.

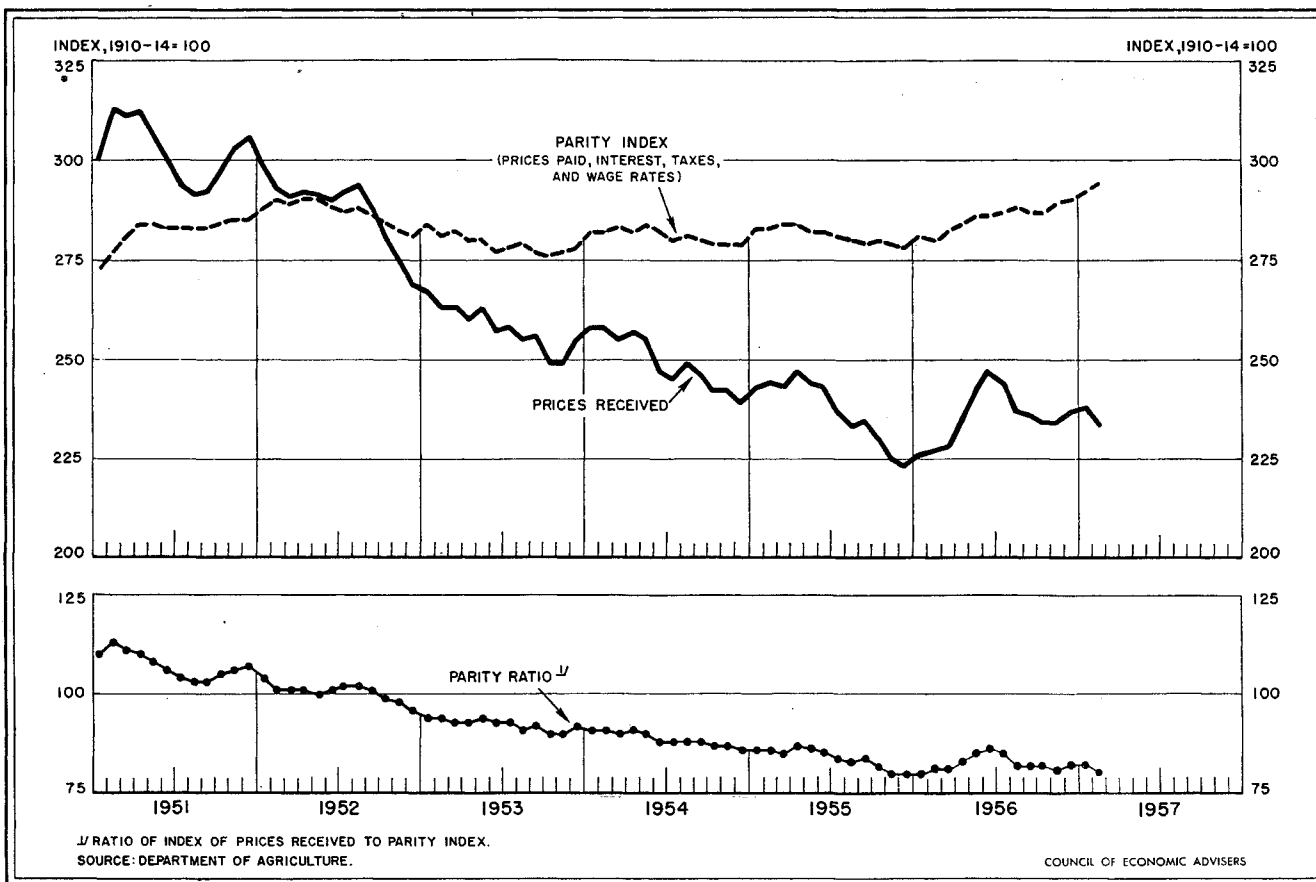


[1947-49 = 100]

Period	All commodities	Farm products	Processed foods	Other than farm products and foods (industrial)
1939.....	50.1	36.5	43.3	58.1
1948.....	104.4	107.3	106.1	103.4
1949.....	99.2	92.8	95.7	101.3
1950.....	103.1	97.5	99.8	105.0
1951.....	114.8	113.4	111.4	115.9
1952.....	111.6	107.0	108.8	113.2
1953.....	110.1	97.0	104.6	114.0
1954.....	110.3	95.6	105.3	114.5
1955.....	110.7	89.6	101.7	117.0
1956.....	114.3	88.4	101.7	122.2
1956: February.....	112.4	86.0	99.0	120.6
March.....	112.8	86.6	99.2	121.0
April.....	113.6	88.0	100.4	121.6
May.....	114.4	90.9	102.4	121.7
June.....	114.2	91.2	102.3	121.5
July.....	114.0	90.0	102.2	121.4
August.....	114.7	89.1	102.6	122.5
September.....	115.5	90.1	104.0	123.1
October.....	115.6	88.4	103.6	123.6
November.....	115.9	87.9	103.6	124.2
December.....	116.3	88.9	103.1	124.7
1957: January.....	116.9	89.3	104.3	125.2
February.....	117.0	88.8	104.0	125.5
Week ended: <sup>1</sup>				
1957: March 5.....	116.8	88.5	103.5	125.3
12.....	116.9	88.9	103.9	125.3

## PRICES RECEIVED AND PAID BY FARMERS

In the month ended February 15 the index of prices received by farmers declined 2 percent, the parity index rose 2 points, and the parity ratio declined 2 points.



Period	Prices paid by farmers for items used in		Parity index (prices paid, interest, taxes, and wage rates)	Prices re- ceived by farmers	Parity ratio <sup>1</sup>
	Family living	Produc- tion			
	Index, 1910-14=100				
1939.....	120	121	123	95	77
1948.....	251	250	260	287	110
1949.....	243	238	251	250	100
1950.....	246	246	256	258	101
1951.....	268	273	282	302	107
1952.....	271	274	287	288	100
1953.....	270	253	279	258	92
1954.....	274	252	281	249	89
1955.....	273	249	281	236	84
1956.....	278	249	286	236	83
1956: January 15.....	272	246	281	226	80
February 15.....	272	245	280	227	81
March 15.....	274	246	282	228	81
April 15.....	274	248	284	235	83
May 15.....	278	250	286	242	85
June 15.....	280	248	286	247	86
July 15.....	282	248	287	244	85
August 15.....	281	250	288	237	82
September 15.....	279	252	287	236	82
October 15.....	279	250	287	234	82
November 15.....	281	252	289	234	81
December 15.....	283	252	290	237	82
1957: January 15.....	283	255	292	238	82
February 15.....	284	256	294	234	80

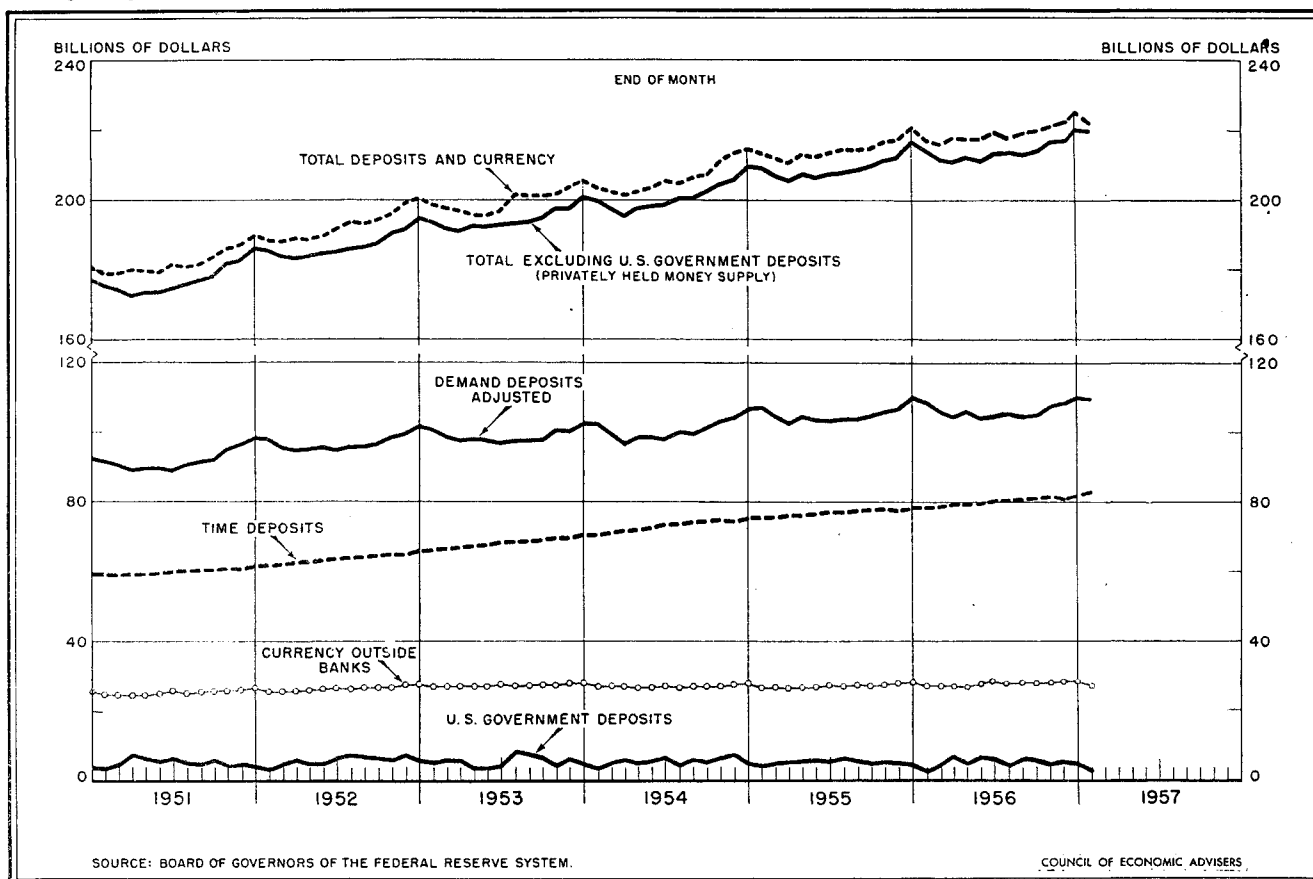
<sup>1</sup> Percentage ratio of index of prices received by farmers to parity index.

Source: Department of Agriculture.

# CURRENCY, CREDIT, AND SECURITY MARKETS

## CURRENCY AND DEPOSITS

Demand deposits and currency declined seasonally in January. Time deposits rose in January, compared to no change in January 1956.



[Billions of dollars]

End of period	Total deposits and currency	U. S. Government deposits <sup>1</sup>	Total excluding U. S. Government deposits (privately held money supply) <sup>2</sup>			
			Total	Currency outside banks	Demand deposits adjusted <sup>3</sup>	Time deposits <sup>4</sup>
1949.....	173.9	4.1	169.8	25.4	85.8	58.6
1950.....	180.6	3.7	176.9	25.4	92.3	59.2
1951.....	189.9	3.9	186.0	26.3	98.2	61.5
1952.....	200.4	5.6	194.8	27.5	101.5	65.8
1953.....	205.7	4.8	200.9	28.1	102.5	70.4
1954.....	214.8	5.1	209.7	27.9	106.6	75.3
1955.....	221.0	4.4	216.6	28.3	109.9	78.4
1956 <sup>5</sup> .....	225.7	4.7	220.9	28.4	110.6	81.9
1955: December.....	221.0	4.4	216.6	28.3	109.9	78.4
1956: January.....	217.2	2.8	214.4	27.1	108.9	78.4
February.....	216.1	4.5	211.6	27.2	105.6	78.8
March.....	217.8	7.0	210.8	27.2	104.4	79.3
April.....	217.4	5.0	212.4	27.0	106.1	79.3
May.....	217.4	6.2	211.2	27.4	104.2	79.6
June.....	219.7	6.1	213.6	28.3	104.7	80.6
July <sup>5</sup> .....	217.5	4.2	213.3	27.4	105.2	80.7
August <sup>5</sup> .....	219.1	6.2	212.8	27.5	104.4	80.9
September <sup>5</sup> .....	220.1	6.0	214.1	27.4	105.4	81.3
October <sup>5</sup> .....	220.9	4.3	216.6	27.7	107.4	81.5
November <sup>5</sup> .....	222.8	5.7	217.1	28.0	108.2	80.9
December <sup>5</sup> .....	225.7	4.7	220.9	28.4	110.6	81.9
1957: January <sup>6</sup> .....	222.0	2.5	219.5	27.3	109.2	82.9

<sup>1</sup> Includes U. S. Government deposits at Federal Reserve banks and commercial and savings banks, and U. S. Treasurer's time deposits, open account.

<sup>2</sup> Includes deposits and currency held by State and local governments.

<sup>3</sup> Includes demand deposits, other than interbank and U. S. Government, less cash items in process of collection.

<sup>4</sup> Includes deposits in commercial banks, mutual savings banks, and Postal Savings System, but excludes interbank deposits.

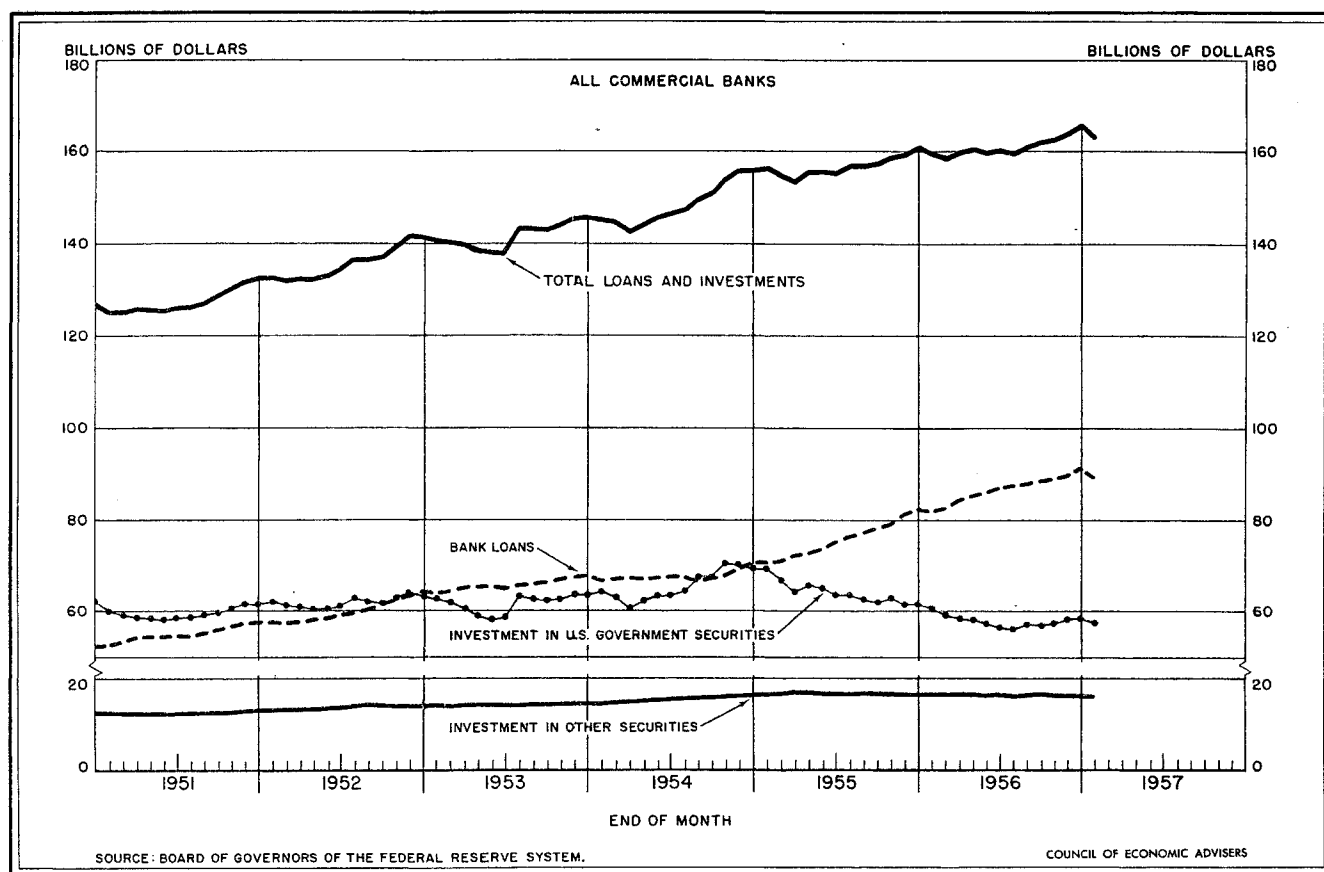
<sup>5</sup> Preliminary estimates.

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

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

## BANK LOANS, INVESTMENTS, AND RESERVES

Commercial bank loans declined \$2.2 billion in January, compared with a decrease of \$0.6 billion in January 1956. Free reserves (excess reserves less borrowings at the Federal Reserve), which had been positive in January, became negative in February.



[Billions of dollars]

End of period	All commercial banks					Weekly reporting member banks <sup>1,2</sup>	All member banks <sup>1,3</sup>		
	Total loans and investments	Loans	Investments				Reserve balances	Borrowings at Federal Reserve Banks	
			Total	U. S. Government securities	Other securities	Required			Excess
1949	120.2	43.0	77.2	67.0	10.2	13.9	17.0	.8	.1
1950	126.7	52.2	74.4	62.0	12.4	17.8	15.6	.8	.1
1951	132.6	57.7	74.9	61.5	13.3	21.6	18.5	.8	.3
1952	141.6	64.2	77.5	63.3	14.1	23.4	19.6	.7	.8
1953	145.7	67.6	78.1	63.4	14.7	23.4	19.3	.7	.8
1954	155.9	70.6	85.3	69.0	16.3	22.4	18.5	.8	.1
1955	160.9	82.6	78.3	61.6	16.7	26.7	18.3	.6	.6
1956 <sup>4</sup>	165.7	91.2	74.4	58.3	16.2	31.3	18.4	.6	.8
1956: January	159.4	82.0	77.4	60.9	16.5	26.2	18.6	.6	.8
February	158.4	82.5	75.8	59.2	16.6	26.3	18.2	.5	.8
March	159.9	84.7	75.2	58.6	16.6	27.8	18.3	.6	1.0
April	160.1	85.3	74.8	58.2	16.6	27.8	18.3	.5	1.1
May	159.7	86.0	73.7	57.3	16.4	27.8	18.3	.5	1.0
June	160.0	86.9	73.1	56.6	16.5	28.8	18.4	.6	.8
July <sup>4</sup>	159.6	87.1	72.4	56.2	16.2	28.6	18.2	.6	.7
August <sup>4</sup>	161.0	87.5	73.6	57.2	16.4	29.2	18.2	.6	.9
September <sup>4</sup>	162.0	88.5	73.6	57.0	16.6	29.7	18.4	.6	.8
October <sup>4</sup>	162.5	88.8	73.7	57.4	16.3	29.9	18.4	.5	.7
November <sup>4</sup>	163.9	89.6	74.4	58.1	16.3	30.4	18.6	.6	.7
December <sup>4</sup>	165.7	91.2	74.4	58.3	16.2	31.3	18.9	.7	.7
1957: January <sup>4</sup>	162.7	89.0	73.7	57.5	16.2	30.3	18.8	.5	.4
February <sup>4</sup>						30.3	18.3	.5	.6

<sup>1</sup> Member banks include, besides all national banks, those State banks that have taken membership in the Federal Reserve System.

<sup>2</sup> Commercial, industrial, and agricultural loans; revised series beginning January 1952 and again October 1955. Such loans by weekly reporting member banks represent approximately 70 percent of business loans by all commercial banks.

<sup>3</sup> Data are averages of daily figures on balances and borrowings during the period.

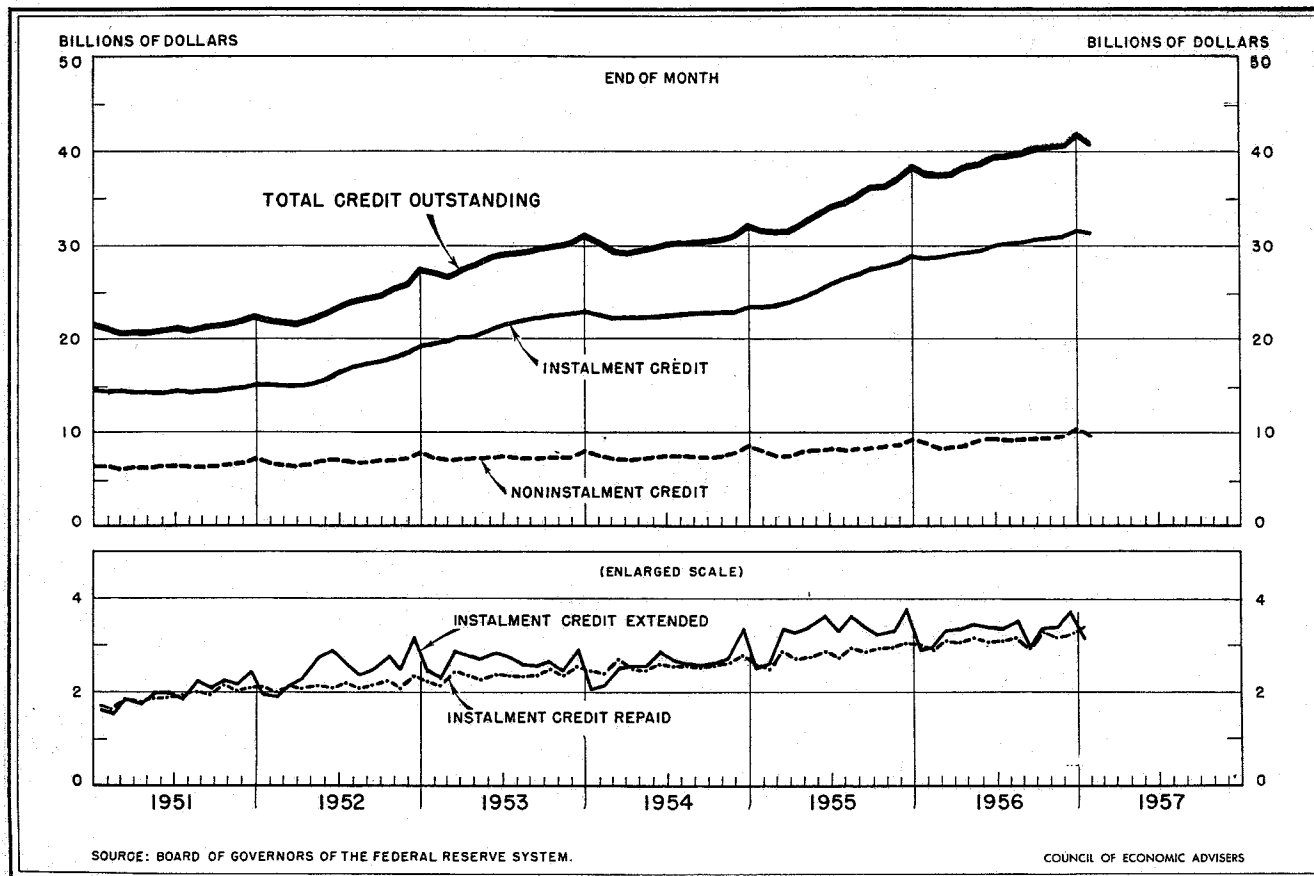
<sup>4</sup> Preliminary estimates.

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

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

# CONSUMER CREDIT

In January, total consumer credit outstanding declined \$950 million, compared with a decline of \$800 million in January 1956.



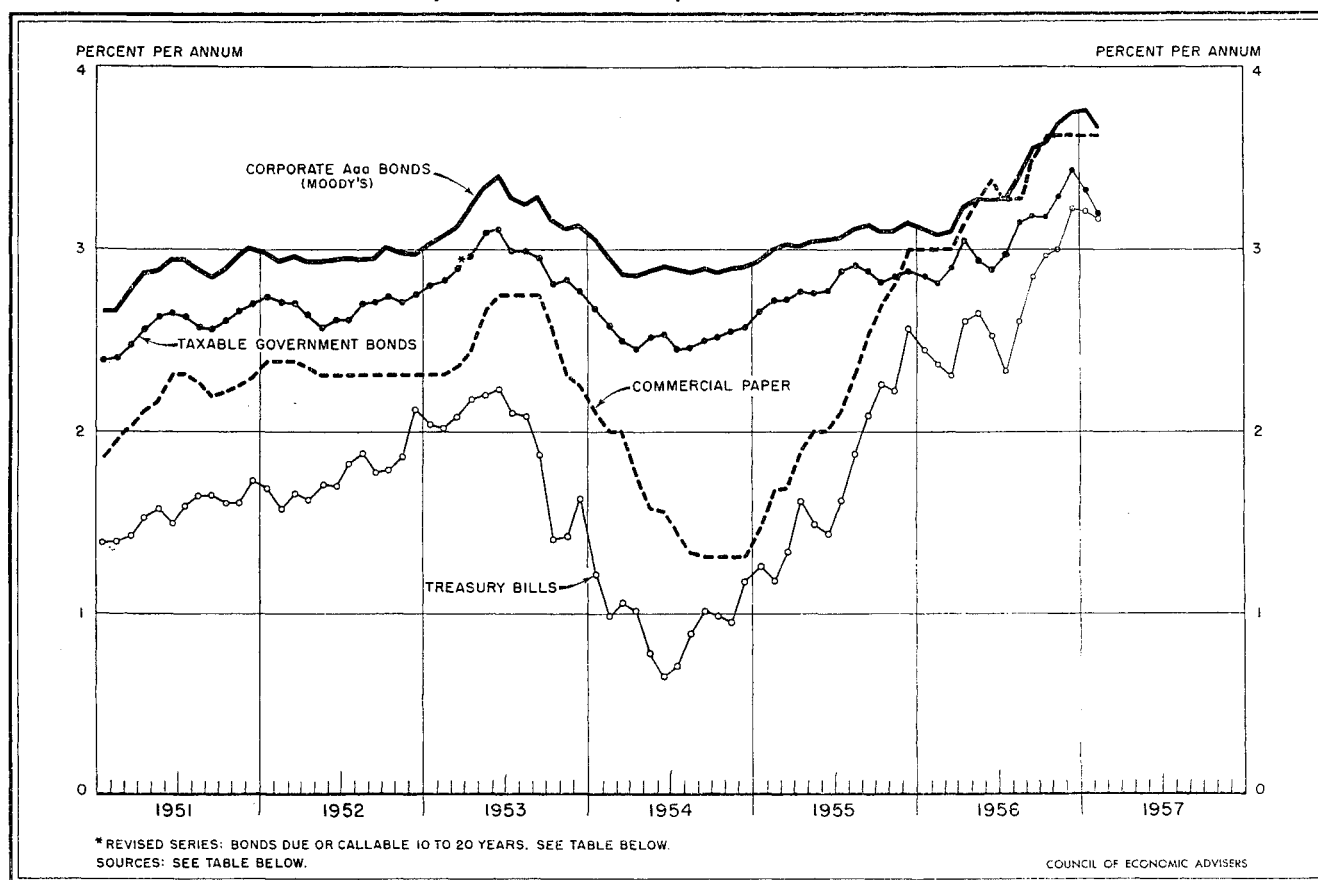
End of period	Total consumer credit outstanding	Instalment credit outstanding					Noninstalment credit outstanding		Instalment credit extended <sup>1</sup>	Instalment credit repaid <sup>2</sup>
		Total	Auto-moblie paper <sup>1</sup>	Other consumer goods paper <sup>1</sup>	Repair and modernization loans <sup>2</sup>	Personal loans	Total	Charge accounts		
1939-----	7, 222	4, 503	1, 497	1, 620	298	1, 088	2, 719	1, 414	6, 872	6, 060
1948-----	14, 398	8, 996	3, 018	2, 901	853	2, 224	5, 402	2, 673	15, 585	13, 284
1949-----	17, 305	11, 590	4, 555	3, 706	898	2, 431	5, 715	2, 795	18, 108	15, 514
1950-----	21, 395	14, 703	6, 074	4, 799	1, 016	2, 814	6, 692	3, 291	21, 558	18, 445
1951-----	22, 617	15, 294	5, 972	4, 880	1, 085	3, 357	7, 323	3, 605	23, 576	22, 985
1952-----	27, 401	19, 403	7, 733	6, 174	1, 385	4, 111	7, 998	4, 011	29, 514	25, 405
1953-----	31, 243	23, 005	9, 835	6, 779	1, 610	4, 781	8, 238	4, 124	31, 558	27, 956
1954-----	32, 292	23, 568	9, 809	6, 751	1, 616	5, 392	8, 724	4, 308	31, 051	30, 488
1955-----	38, 648	29, 020	13, 468	7, 626	1, 670	6, 256	9, 628	4, 544	39, 128	33, 676
1956-----	41, 863	31, 552	14, 436	8, 139	1, 793	7, 184	10, 311	4, 702	39, 602	37, 070
1955: December--	38, 648	29, 020	13, 468	7, 626	1, 670	6, 256	9, 628	4, 544	3, 785	3, 034
1956: January---	37, 848	28, 886	13, 481	7, 487	1, 638	6, 280	8, 962	3, 961	2, 885	3, 019
February---	37, 474	28, 915	13, 574	7, 371	1, 628	6, 342	8, 559	3, 530	2, 918	2, 889
March-----	37, 761	29, 112	13, 743	7, 300	1, 631	6, 438	8, 649	3, 469	3, 305	3, 108
April-----	38, 222	29, 419	13, 892	7, 337	1, 643	6, 547	8, 803	3, 531	3, 329	3, 022
May-----	38, 919	29, 763	14, 059	7, 401	1, 677	6, 626	9, 156	3, 701	3, 470	3, 126
June-----	39, 454	30, 084	14, 255	7, 417	1, 700	6, 712	9, 370	3, 804	3, 390	3, 069
July-----	39, 478	30, 297	14, 381	7, 421	1, 710	6, 785	9, 181	3, 674	3, 316	3, 103
August-----	39, 878	30, 644	14, 530	7, 493	1, 734	6, 887	9, 234	3, 696	3, 504	3, 157
September---	40, 074	30, 707	14, 533	7, 497	1, 758	6, 919	9, 367	3, 780	2, 981	2, 918
October-----	40, 196	30, 811	14, 478	7, 601	1, 781	6, 951	9, 385	3, 875	3, 382	3, 278
November---	40, 631	31, 024	14, 449	7, 752	1, 797	7, 026	9, 607	4, 029	3, 387	3, 174
December---	41, 863	31, 552	14, 436	8, 139	1, 793	7, 184	10, 311	4, 702	3, 735	3, 207
1957: January---	40, 916	31, 298	14, 389	7, 938	1, 772	7, 199	9, 618	4, 085	3, 154	3, 408

<sup>1</sup> Includes all consumer credit extended for the purpose of purchasing automobiles and other consumer goods and secured by the items purchased.  
<sup>2</sup> Includes only such loans held by financial institutions; those held by retail outlets are included in "other consumer goods paper."  
<sup>3</sup> Credit extended or repaid during the period.

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

## BOND YIELDS AND INTEREST RATES

Yields on new Treasury bills remained above 3 percent during February, with an average close to that for January. The average yields on high-grade municipal, corporate, and Federal bonds for February were below those for January. There was some rise in Federal bond yields in late February.



[Percent per annum]

Period	U. S. Government security yields			High-grade municipal bonds (Standard & Poor's) <sup>3</sup>	Corporate bonds (Moody's)		Prime commercial paper, 4-6 months
	3-month Treasury bills <sup>1</sup>	Taxable bonds <sup>2</sup>			Aaa	Baa	
1950.....	1. 218	2. 32		1. 98	2. 62	3. 24	1. 45
1951.....	1. 552	2. 57		2. 00	2. 86	3. 41	2. 16
1952.....	1. 766	2. 68		2. 19	2. 96	3. 52	2. 33
1953.....	1. 931	<sup>4</sup> 2. 92	<sup>5</sup> 3. 16	2. 72	3. 20	3. 74	2. 52
1954.....	. 953	2. 52	2. 71	2. 37	2. 90	3. 51	1. 58
1955.....	1. 753	2. 80	2. 94	2. 53	3. 06	3. 53	2. 18
1956.....	2. 658	3. 06	3. 11	2. 93	3. 36	3. 88	3. 31
1956: March.....	2. 310	2. 90	2. 98	2. 69	3. 10	3. 60	3. 00
April.....	2. 613	3. 05	3. 10	2. 88	3. 24	3. 68	3. 14
May.....	2. 650	2. 94	3. 03	2. 86	3. 28	3. 73	3. 27
June.....	2. 527	2. 89	2. 98	2. 75	3. 27	3. 75	3. 38
July.....	2. 334	2. 97	3. 05	2. 78	3. 28	3. 80	3. 27
August.....	2. 606	3. 15	3. 19	2. 94	3. 43	3. 93	3. 28
September.....	2. 850	3. 19	3. 25	3. 07	3. 56	4. 07	3. 50
October.....	2. 961	3. 18	3. 24	3. 14	3. 59	4. 17	3. 63
November.....	3. 000	3. 30	3. 31	3. 38	3. 69	4. 24	3. 63
December.....	3. 230	3. 43	3. 37	3. 44	3. 75	4. 37	3. 63
1957: January.....	3. 210	3. 33	3. 37	3. 40	3. 77	4. 49	3. 63
February.....	3. 165	3. 20	3. 26	3. 26	3. 67	4. 47	3. 63
Week ended:							
1957: February 9.....	3. 132	3. 15	3. 22	3. 30	3. 69	4. 48	3. 63
16.....	3. 057	3. 15	3. 26	3. 24	3. 67	4. 47	3. 63
23.....	3. 182	3. 24	3. 29	3. 22	3. 66	4. 46	3. 63
March 2.....	3. 288	3. 27	3. 28	3. 26	3. 66	4. 47	3. 63
9.....	3. 246	3. 30	3. 26	3. 31	3. 66	4. 45	3. 63

<sup>1</sup> Rate on new issues within period.

<sup>2</sup> First issued in 1941. The single series on these bonds (which continued through March 1953) included: October 1941-March 1952, bonds due or callable after 15 years; April 1952-March 1953, bonds due or callable after 12 years.

<sup>3</sup> Weekly data are Wednesday figures.

<sup>4</sup> Bonds due or callable from 10 to 20 years.

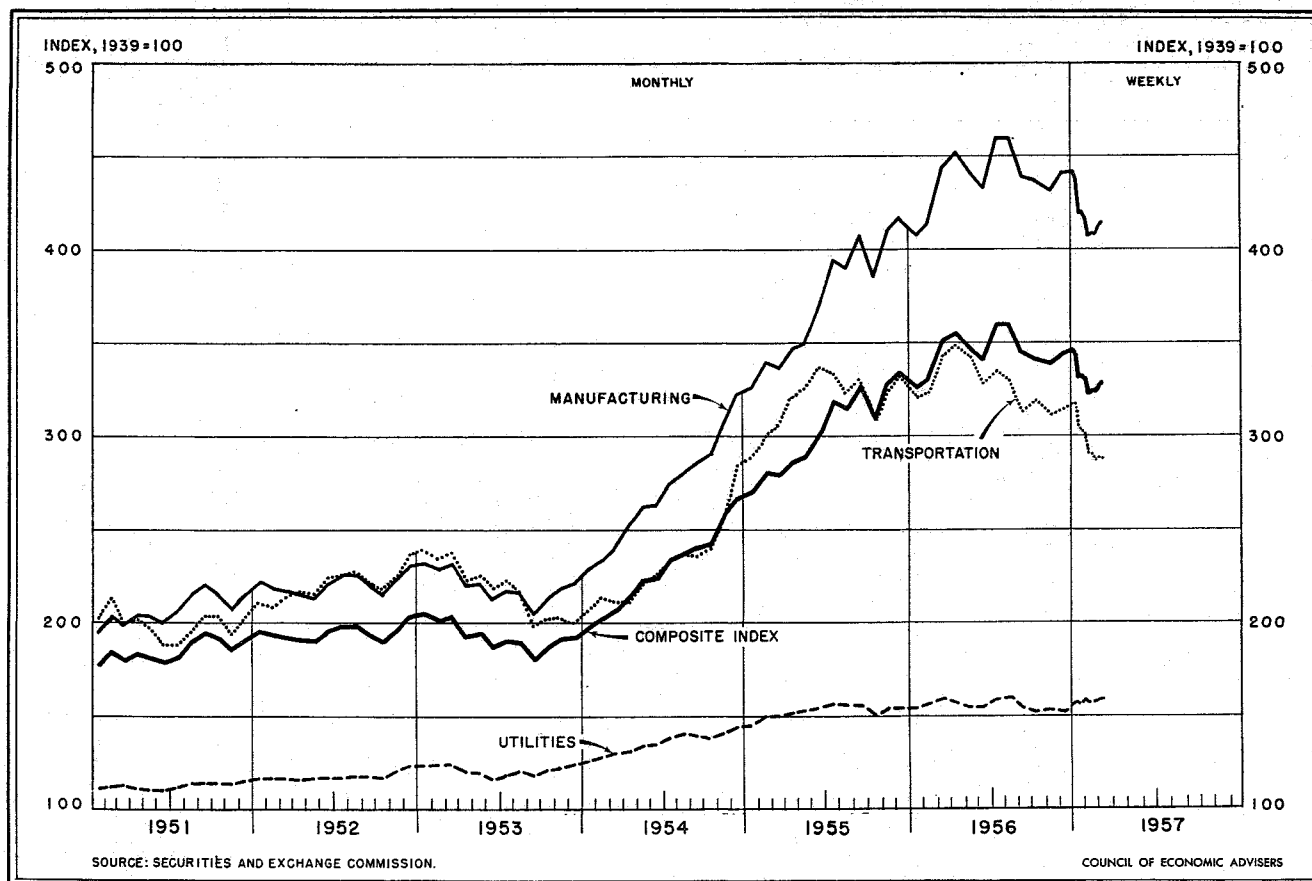
<sup>5</sup> Bonds due or callable 20 years and after.

Sources: Treasury Department and Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (except as noted).



# STOCK PRICES

Stock prices declined in early February but remained substantially unchanged during the remainder of the month.



[1939=100]

Period	Com- posite index <sup>1</sup>	Manufacturing			Trans- portation	Utilities	Trade, finance, and service	Mining
		Total	Durable goods	Nondura- ble goods				
Weekly average:								
1948	132.7	136.8	124.3	148.6	158.1	99.3	156.9	133.0
1949	127.7	132.1	116.0	147.2	136.0	98.1	160.7	129.4
1950	154.1	165.7	150.2	180.2	160.0	108.9	183.8	143.5
1951	184.9	206.8	178.5	233.1	199.0	112.6	207.9	204.9
1952	195.0	220.2	188.8	249.3	220.6	117.9	206.0	275.7
1953	193.3	220.1	192.6	245.2	218.7	121.5	207.1	240.5
1954	229.8	271.3	245.2	295.2	232.6	135.8	235.6	267.0
1955	304.6	374.4	352.4	394.4	320.0	152.9	296.9	312.9
1956	345.0	438.6	409.8	465.1	327.1	155.8	306.3	357.5
1956: March	350.9	443.4	412.0	472.0	343.6	159.7	321.9	372.9
April	355.4	452.4	410.5	490.6	347.9	157.3	316.7	369.4
May	347.0	440.9	397.6	480.4	342.0	155.6	305.8	364.1
June	341.4	433.5	392.8	470.7	328.0	154.9	299.5	352.1
July	359.4	459.6	420.7	495.4	334.8	158.7	314.6	368.6
August	359.4	459.5	432.5	484.3	329.1	159.9	312.7	373.1
September	344.8	440.2	422.0	457.3	312.9	155.3	301.5	349.3
October	341.6	436.7	421.6	451.0	317.8	152.3	298.9	337.3
November	338.5	431.4	417.3	444.8	310.8	152.8	296.0	355.2
December	344.0	441.4	424.9	457.0	315.0	152.2	287.1	362.0
1957: January	338.2	429.4	406.3	451.0	310.3	156.8	285.0	371.2
February	325.1	409.4	386.1	431.1	292.0	157.3	278.0	345.8
Week ended:								
1957: February 8	322.5	405.7	382.7	427.1	290.7	157.0	274.8	340.6
15	324.0	408.0	386.9	427.7	290.0	157.0	277.9	344.1
21	323.8	407.6	383.1	430.4	287.0	157.2	278.4	344.5
March 1	326.3	411.3	385.8	434.9	288.7	158.4	276.1	347.0
8	328.5	414.5	386.6	440.3	287.9	158.7	281.4	345.6

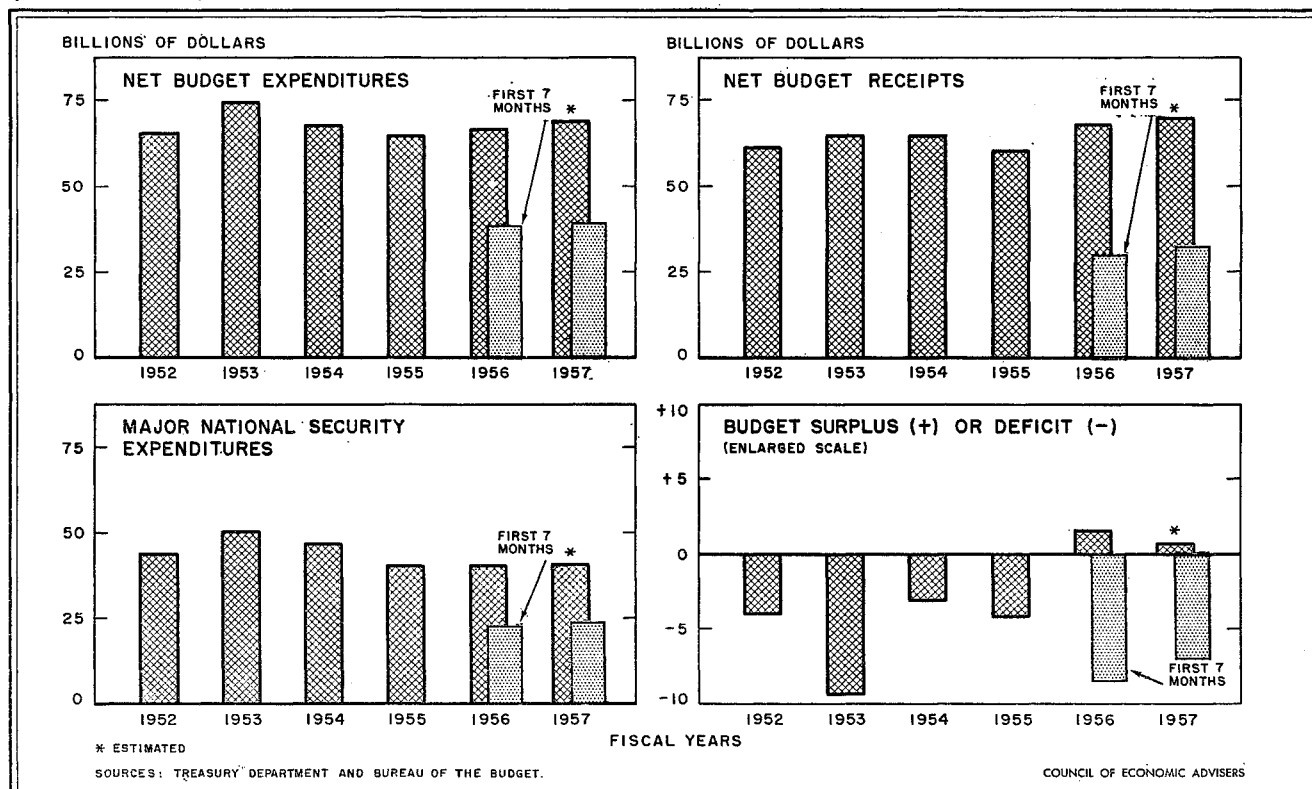
<sup>1</sup> Includes 265 common stocks: 98 for durable goods manufacturing, 72 for nondurable goods manufacturing, 21 for transportation, 29 for utilities, 31 for trade, finance, and service, and 14 for mining. Indexes are for weekly closing prices.

Source: Securities and Exchange Commission.

# FEDERAL FINANCE

## BUDGET RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

The cumulative budget deficit for the first 7 months of the current fiscal year was \$7.0 billion, compared to \$8.5 billion for the same period in fiscal 1956. Part of the difference was due to the fact that a greater proportion of the fiscal-year total of corporate taxes was collected in the first half of 1957 than in the first half of 1956.



[Billions of dollars]

Period	Net budget receipts	Net budget expenditures		Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-)	Public debt (end of period) <sup>2</sup>
		Total	Major national security <sup>1</sup>		
Fiscal year 1944	43.6	95.1	76.8	-51.4	202.6
Fiscal year 1949	37.7	39.5	12.9	-1.8	252.8
Fiscal year 1950	36.5	39.6	13.0	-3.1	257.4
Fiscal year 1951	47.6	44.1	22.4	+3.5	255.3
Fiscal year 1952	61.4	65.4	44.0	-4.0	259.2
Fiscal year 1953	64.8	74.3	50.4	-9.4	266.1
Fiscal year 1954	64.7	67.8	46.9	-3.1	271.3
Fiscal year 1955	60.4	64.6	40.6	-4.2	274.4
Fiscal year 1956	68.2	66.5	40.6	+1.6	272.8
Fiscal year 1957 (estimated)	70.6	68.9	41.0	+1.7	270.7
1955: December	4.9	5.7	3.5	-.8	280.8
1956: January	4.7	5.3	3.0	-.6	280.1
February	6.2	5.0	3.2	+1.2	280.2
March	11.3	5.4	3.3	+5.9	276.4
April	4.1	5.4	3.2	-1.3	275.8
May	5.0	5.5	3.4	-.4	276.8
June	11.6	6.9	4.5	+4.7	272.8
July <sup>3</sup>	3.5	5.5	3.0	-2.1	272.7
August <sup>3</sup>	5.0	5.9	3.6	-.9	275.6
September <sup>3</sup>	6.2	4.9	3.2	+1.3	274.3
October <sup>3</sup>	3.2	6.0	3.8	-2.8	275.4
November <sup>3</sup>	4.8	5.7	3.5	-.9	277.1
December <sup>3</sup>	5.4	5.7	3.6	-.3	276.7
1957: January <sup>3</sup>	4.8	6.1	3.8	-1.3	276.3
Cumulative totals for first 7 months:					
Fiscal year 1956	29.9	38.4	23.0	-8.5	280.1
Fiscal year 1957 <sup>3</sup>	32.9	39.9	24.3	-7.0	276.3

<sup>1</sup> Revised to include the items classified as "major national security" in *The Budget of the United States Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1957*. These expenditure items are: Military functions of Defense Department, mutual military program, development and control of atomic energy, stockpiling of strategic and critical materials, and defense production expansion.

<sup>2</sup> Includes guaranteed securities, except those held by the Treasury. Not all of total shown is subject to statutory debt limitation.

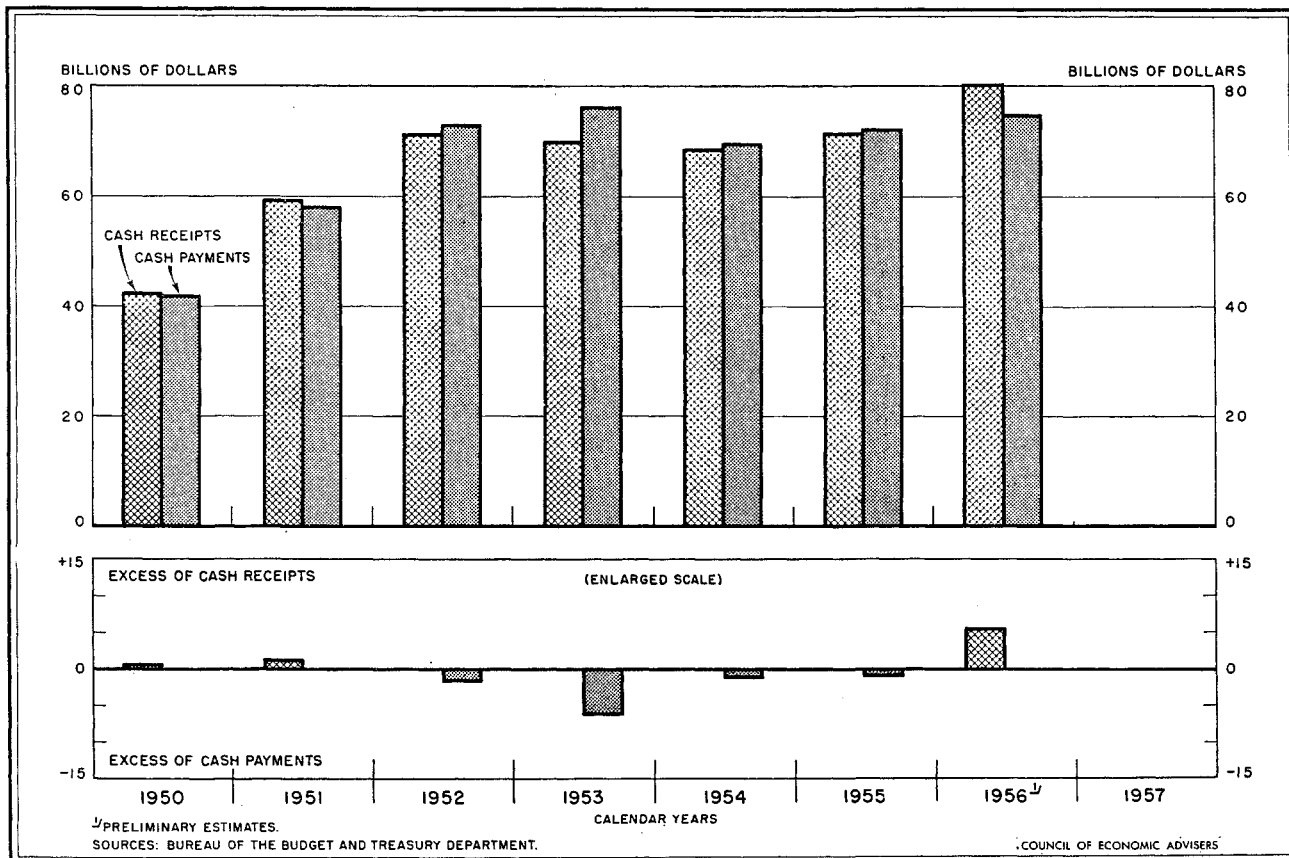
<sup>3</sup> Preliminary.

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

Sources: Treasury Department and Bureau of the Budget.

## CASH RECEIPTS FROM AND PAYMENTS TO THE PUBLIC

Federal cash receipts exceeded cash payments by \$5.5 billion in calendar year 1956, compared with a cash deficit of \$740 million in the prior year. In the fourth quarter of 1956 there was a cash deficit of \$4.8 billion, due primarily to seasonally low tax receipts.



[Millions of dollars]

Calendar year	Cash receipts from the public	Cash payments to the public	Excess of receipts (+) or payments (-)
<b>Fiscal year total:</b>			
1955	67,836	70,538	-2,702
1956	77,084	72,613	+4,471
<b>Calendar year total:</b>			
1952	71,889	72,980	-1,641
1953	70,041	76,194	-6,153
1954	68,562	69,643	-1,082
1955	71,448	72,188	-740
1956 <sup>1</sup>	80,215	74,692	+5,524
<b>Quarterly total, not adjusted for seasonal variation:</b>			
1955: First quarter	21,302	17,175	+4,126
Second quarter	20,749	18,587	+2,162
Third quarter	15,330	18,589	-3,258
Fourth quarter	14,067	17,837	-3,770
1956: First quarter	24,085	17,113	+6,972
Second quarter	23,602	19,076	+4,526
Third quarter <sup>1</sup>	17,139	18,280	-1,140
Fourth quarter <sup>1</sup>	15,389	20,223	-4,834

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary estimates.

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

Sources: Bureau of the Budget and Treasury Department.