



# SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

## WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT

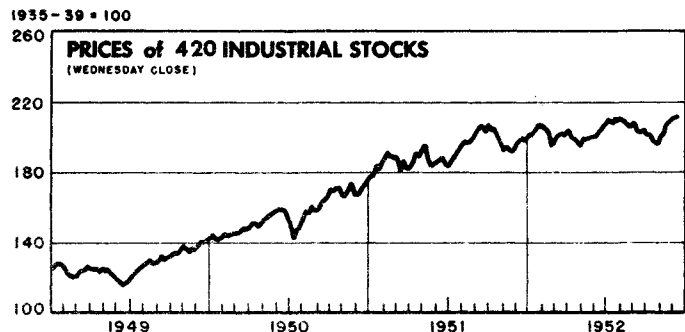
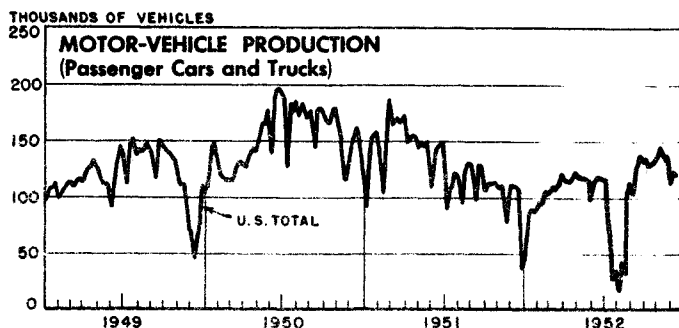
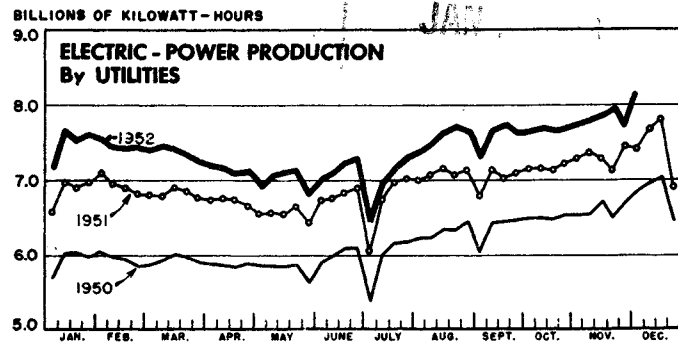
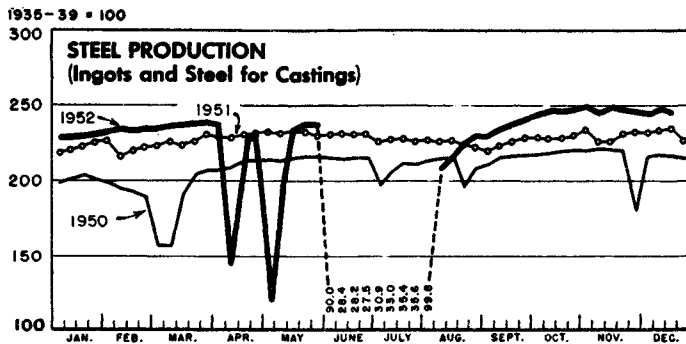


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
OFFICE OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS

Available only with subscription to the monthly magazine SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

DECEMBER 19, 1952

### SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS



### WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

ITEM	1951		1952				
	Dec. 8	Dec. 15	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	Nov. 29	Dec. 6	Dec. 13
<b>Commodity prices, wholesale:</b>							
All commodities.....1947-49=100..		*113.5	**110.7			110.0	109.6
Farm products.....do.....		*111.3	**103.8			102.4	99.8
Foods, processed.....do.....		*110.7	**107.7			104.3	104.2
All other.....do.....		*114.6	**112.8			112.8	112.8
22 commodities (revised series) 2/.....	109.6		#91.7	91.5	91.3	91.3	90.6
Cotton, middling, 15/16", 10 markets 3/.....dol. per lb..	.431	.420	.350	.342	.344	.339	.331
Wheat, No. 2, hard winter (Kansas City) 3/.....dol. per bu..	2.55	2.55	2.47	2.48	2.42	2.46	2.48
Department store sales.....1947-49=100..	191	213	130	134	138	194	
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	1,036	1,057	723	713	795		
State programs.....do.....	1,003	1,021	681	668	747		
<b>Finance:</b>							
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	28,932	29,069	29,897	29,880	30,141	30,302	30,395
Federal Reserve bank credit, total.....do.....	25,081	24,980	25,696	26,193	26,301	26,751	26,860
Member bank reserve balances.....do.....	19,919	19,964	20,447	20,738	20,917	20,939	20,868
Excess reserves, estimated.....do.....	725	647	608	752	603	660	642
<b>Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:</b>							
Bank debits, total.....mil. of dol..	28,964	27,096	25,574	33,625	29,513	28,426	
New York City.....do.....	11,624	11,238	9,794	12,786	11,925	11,933	11,918
Deposits, demand, adjusted.....do.....	53,204	54,243	53,312	53,219	53,960	54,392	
Loans and investments, total.....do.....	73,072	73,771	76,997	77,110	78,458	78,266	
U. S. Government obligations.....do.....	31,856	32,115	32,015	31,859	33,039	32,947	
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross).....do.....	21,006	21,219	22,727	22,862	22,876	22,949	
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	136	143	148	167	127	120	157
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	3.24	3.25	3.21	3.20	3.19	3.18	3.19
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Standard and Poor's).....1935-39=100..	181.0	182.8	187.1	191.7	193.7	195.0	196.1
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do.....	197.3	199.2	202.4	207.6	209.8	211.2	212.6
<b>Production:</b>							
Situminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,880	1,919	1,803	1,738	1,800	1,673	
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	7,444	7,667	7,884	7,971	7,701	8,165	
Motor vehicles (Ward's).....number..	112,465	111,410	137,903	123,531	113,250	120,666	123,312
Petroleum, crude 3/.....thous. of bbl..	6,134	6,136	6,543	6,582	6,587	6,394	
Steel 4/.....1935-39=100..	232.0	233.1	248.0	247.8	246.9	244.3	247.3
Freight car loadings, total.....thous. of cars..	774	753	829	811	670	719	
Miscellaneous.....do.....	388	376	394	389	336	365	

<sup>1</sup>/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. <sup>2</sup>/ Tuesday prices. <sup>3</sup>/ Daily averages. <sup>4</sup>/ Week ending December 20, 245.9. \* Monthly index for December 1951. \*\* Monthly index for November 1952. # Wednesday price.

## MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

Earlier data are available in monthly issues of the Survey and the 1951 Statistical Supplement	1951		1952			
	October	November	August	September	October	November
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS						
Manufacturers' sales and inventories - value (adjusted):						
Sales, total.....mil. of dol..	22,726	22,373	r21,898	r23,663	24,632	.....
Durable-goods industries.....do...	10,770	10,710	r10,437	r11,510	11,974	.....
Nondurable-goods industries.....do...	11,956	11,663	11,460	r12,154	12,659	.....
Inventories, book value, end of month, total.....do...	42,437	42,692	43,107	r43,224	43,310	.....
Durable-goods industries.....do...	21,968	22,337	23,000	r23,292	23,597	.....
Nondurable-goods industries.....do...	20,469	20,355	19,908	r19,932	19,713	.....
Manufacturers' new orders, net - value (adj.), total.....do...	24,297	23,406	r21,792	r24,386	24,596	.....
Durable-goods industries.....do...	12,567	11,820	r9,938	r12,198	11,994	.....
Nondurable-goods industries.....do...	11,730	11,586	11,854	r12,187	12,602	.....
Manufacturers' unfilled orders (unadjusted), total.....do...	65,352	65,717	r75,220	r75,662	74,691	.....
Durable-goods industries.....do...	61,665	62,076	r71,882	r72,305	71,471	.....
Nondurable-goods industries.....do...	3,688	3,641	3,338	r3,357	3,220	.....
COMMODITY PRICES						
Wholesale prices (U. S. Department of Labor), indexes:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	113.7	113.6	112.2	111.8	111.1	110.7
Farm products.....do...	111.5	112.0	109.9	108.6	104.9	103.8
Fruits and vegetables, fresh and dried.....do...	96.1	106.9	124.3	115.6	111.7	113.2
Grains.....do...	101.1	103.9	96.9	96.9	95.0	96.5
Livestock and live poultry.....do...	114.5	108.5	106.4	99.3	94.8	93.0
Foods, processed.....do...	111.6	111.0	110.5	110.3	108.5	107.7
Cereals and bakery products.....do...	106.8	107.8	106.4	106.5	106.4	107.1
Dairy products and ice cream.....do...	108.5	111.1	114.3	116.4	115.9	115.5
Fruits and vegetables, canned and frozen.....do...	105.6	106.1	105.1	105.9	105.9	105.9
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do...	119.3	115.8	112.3	109.4	104.1	101.9
Commodities other than farm products and foods.....do...	114.6	114.5	113.0	113.2	113.0	112.8
Chemicals and allied products.....do...	108.8	108.6	104.0	104.0	103.9	103.5
Chemicals, industrial.....do...	120.9	120.9	114.6	114.3	113.9	112.7
Drugs, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics.....do...	95.6	95.0	92.1	92.1	92.0	91.9
Fats and oils, inedible.....do...	71.8	65.2	47.5	48.9	51.0	53.2
Fertilizer materials.....do...	107.5	108.1	110.9	111.0	111.0	111.1
Paint and paint materials.....do...	108.7	109.8	106.9	107.0	106.5	106.3
Fuel, power, and lighting materials.....do...	106.8	106.9	105.8	106.2	106.6	106.4
Coal.....do...	108.7	108.8	106.5	107.6	113.3	113.4
Electricity.....do...	98.0	98.0	100.7	101.3	98.5	98.5
Gas.....do...	99.2	99.2	100.4	100.3	100.4	100.4
Petroleum and products.....do...	110.9	110.9	108.3	108.5	108.5	108.1
Furniture and other household durables.....do...	112.8	112.7	111.5	112.0	112.0	112.1
Appliances, household.....do...	107.9	107.9	106.8	107.3	107.2	107.2
Furniture, household.....do...	115.4	115.5	112.5	112.6	112.6	112.8
Radios, television, and phonographs.....do...	93.0	93.0	93.7	93.7	93.7	93.8
Hides, skins, and leather products.....do...	113.6	107.0	96.5	96.5	96.7	97.8
Footwear.....do...	119.4	118.0	110.6	110.6	110.6	111.0
Hides and skins.....do...	109.5	87.6	64.4	64.4	65.4	69.9
Leather.....do...	110.1	100.3	89.3	89.3	90.1	90.5
Lumber and wood products.....do...	121.7	121.1	120.5	120.4	120.2	119.7
Lumber.....do...	121.1	120.8	120.6	120.6	120.2	120.0
Machinery and motive products.....do...	120.2	120.5	121.4	121.5	121.3	121.3
Agricultural machinery and equipment.....do...	120.2	120.2	121.5	121.5	121.5	121.6
Construction machinery and equipment.....do...	123.6	123.8	123.3	123.8	123.8	126.2
Electrical machinery and equipment.....do...	121.8	122.1	119.8	119.7	119.0	119.0
Motor vehicles.....do...	116.0	116.3	119.7	119.7	119.7	119.7
Metals and metal products.....do...	122.4	122.5	124.1	124.6	124.1	123.9
Heating equipment.....do...	114.6	114.4	113.7	113.7	113.7	113.7
Iron and steel.....do...	123.1	123.1	127.2	127.5	127.3	127.0
Nonferrous metals.....do...	124.0	124.1	124.4	124.7	122.9	122.5
Nonmetallic minerals, structural.....do...	113.6	113.6	113.8	113.8	114.4	114.5
Clay products.....do...	121.4	121.4	121.3	121.3	124.0	124.0
Concrete products.....do...	112.4	112.4	112.4	112.7	112.7	112.7
Gypsum products.....do...	117.4	117.7	117.7	117.7	117.7	117.7
Pulp, paper, and allied products.....do...	118.8	118.4	115.6	115.6	115.5	115.5
Paper.....do...	122.1	122.4	124.0	124.0	124.9	124.9
Rubber and products.....do...	144.7	144.6	127.8	126.3	126.0	126.5
Tires and tubes.....do...	133.9	133.9	126.3	126.3	126.3	126.3
Textile products and apparel.....do...	103.9	103.9	99.1	99.5	99.2	98.6
Apparel.....do...	103.3	102.3	99.1	99.3	98.4	98.3
Cotton products.....do...	100.8	102.3	97.6	98.9	99.2	98.4
Silk products.....do...	122.5	123.2	139.3	139.3	140.0	130.3
Synthetic textiles.....do...	91.5	91.5	90.5	89.9	89.5	89.1
Wool products.....do...	120.8	122.0	113.3	112.4	113.2	112.6
Tobacco manufactures and bottled beverages.....do...	107.5	107.5	110.8	110.8	110.8	110.8
Beverages, alcoholic.....do...	105.8	105.9	111.2	111.2	111.2	111.2
Cigarettes.....do...	105.7	105.0	105.7	105.7	105.7	105.7
Wholesale prices of selected commodities:						
Butter, 92-score (N.Y.).....dol. per lb..	0.707	0.740	0.737	0.732	0.716	0.699
Eggs, extras, large (Chicago).....dol. per doz..	.669	.664	.553	.553	.631	.560
Corn, weighted average, 5 markets.....dol. per bu..	1.709	1.680	1.764	1.716	1.571	1.569
Wheat, weighted average, 6 markets.....do...	2.404	2.472	2.413	2.474	2.519	2.567
Beef steers (Chicago).....dol. per 100 lb..	36.75	36.29	32.52	32.19	32.09	31.37
Hogs, all grades (Chicago).....do...	20.09	18.30	19.98	19.11	18.55	16.76
Beef, fresh, steer carcasses, good (N. Y.).....dol. per lb..	.601	.599	.559	.562	.556	.545
Pork, fresh, loins, 8-12 lb. (N. Y.).....do...	.557	.460	.612	.569	.515	.449

\_/ Revised.

Earlier data are available in monthly issues of the Survey and the 1951 Statistical Supplement	1951		1952			
	October	November	August	September	October	November
<b>COMMODITY PRICES - Continued</b>						
Wholesale prices of selected commodities - Continued						
Pig iron, composite.....dol. per long ton	55.67	55.67	56.31	56.31	56.31	56.31
Steel, composite, finished.....dol. per ton	.0471	.0471	.0498	.0498	.0498	.0498
Copper, electrolytic (N. Y.).....dol. per lb.	.2420	.2420	.2420	.2420	.2420	.2420
Lead, refined, pig, desilverized (N. Y.).....dol. per lb.	.1600	.1900	.1600	.1600	.1440	.1416
Zinc, prime, Western (St. Louis).....dol. per lb.	.1950	.1950	.1406	.1398	.1330	.1250
Wool, raw, territory, fine, scoured (Boston).....dol. per lb.	1/1.980	1/1.962	1/1.650	1/1.596	1.665	1.725
<b>CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE</b>						
Contract awards (Engineering News-Record):						
Engineering construction, value 2/.....thous. of dol.	1,026,973	1,024,775	2,210,572	952,218	1,446,381	1,079,900
Construction cost indexes:						
American Appraisal Co.: Average 30 cities.....1913=100..	538	538	558	561	562	564
Atlanta.....do.....	562	562	602	604	604	604
New York.....do.....	548	548	555	556	557	572
San Francisco.....do.....	495	494	513	514	521	521
St. Louis.....do.....	532	532	549	551	551	551
Associated General Contractors (all types).....do.....	379	378	393	394	397	398
Engineering News-Record: Building 3/.....1947-49=100..	119.6	120.0	125.6	125.6	126.0	125.8
Construction 3/.....do.....	120.8	120.9	129.5	129.9	129.9	129.7
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>						
Labor turn-over in manufacturing establishments:						
Accession rate.....monthly rate per 100 employees..	4.4	3.9	5.9	r5.6	p5.3	.....
Separation rate, total.....do.....	4.7	4.3	4.6	4.9	p4.2	.....
Discharges.....do.....	.4	.3	.3	.4	p.4	.....
Lay-offs.....do.....	1.4	1.7	1.0	.7	p.7	.....
Quits.....do.....	2.5	1.9	3.0	3.5	p2.8	.....
Military and miscellaneous.....do.....	.4	.4	.3	.3	p.3	.....
<b>FINANCE</b>						
Bank debts, total (141 centers).....mil. of dol..						
New York City.....do.....	123,770	117,231	110,578	123,886	137,731	115,497
Outside New York City.....do.....	47,971	44,802	43,166	49,278	55,560	44,746
.....do.....	75,799	72,428	67,412	74,608	82,171	70,751
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>						
Freight car loadings:						
Cars, total (A.A.R.) 4/.....thousands..	3,479	r3,977	3,882	3,363	3,294	4,001
Coal.....do.....	653	r818	613	636	439	713
Coke.....do.....	64	r83	58	57	58	74
Forest products.....do.....	190	r222	243	179	178	225
Grain and grain products.....do.....	219	r269	263	187	221	253
Livestock.....do.....	73	r62	42	49	66	67
Ore.....do.....	312	r245	447	387	357	371
Merchandise, l.c.l.....do.....	304	r359	364	289	302	360
Miscellaneous.....do.....	1,665	r1,921	1,852	1,579	1,673	1,938
<b>FOODSTUFFS</b>						
Fermented malt liquors:						
Production.....thous. of bbl..	6,841	6,137	8,634	7,132	6,844	.....
Tax-paid withdrawals.....do.....	6,732	6,411	8,159	7,182	6,852	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	10,212	9,505	11,126	10,597	10,132	.....
Distilled spirits:						
Production.....thous. of tax gal..	34,751	28,420	6,453	9,837	20,691	.....
Tax-paid withdrawals.....do.....	15,673	11,053	8,006	11,509	15,909	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	912,263	917,205	929,033	921,480	909,081	.....
Whisky:						
Production.....do.....	10,322	10,961	2,677	3,208	3,859	.....
Tax-paid withdrawals.....do.....	9,129	6,674	3,980	6,204	9,053	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	754,147	756,521	760,079	754,200	745,181	.....
Rectified distilled spirits, production.thous. of proof gal..						
Whisky.....do.....	12,645	9,550	5,936	8,585	11,446	.....
.....do.....	11,271	8,521	4,785	7,504	10,116	.....
Livestock slaughter (Federally inspected):						
Calves.....thous. of animals..	500	457	426	496	602	510
Cattle.....do.....	1,140	1,122	1,135	1,215	1,390	1,151
Hogs.....do.....	5,651	6,531	3,592	4,290	5,492	5,772
Sheep and lambs.....do.....	1,084	922	1,020	1,243	1,427	1,069
<b>METALS AND MANUFACTURES</b>						
Steel ingots and steel for castings:						
Production.....thous. of short tons..	9,122	8,799	8,499	9,062	r9,807	9,446
Percent of capacity.....do.....	103	103	92	102	r107	106
Zinc, slab:						
Production.....short tons..	79,432	79,376	78,167	76,019	80,588	78,563
Shipments, total.....do.....	73,583	77,419	78,435	78,129	79,787	90,756
Domestic.....do.....	68,365	70,084	72,963	69,343	71,659	81,439
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	23,084	25,041	96,651	94,541	95,342	83,149
<b>PETROLEUM, COAL, AND PRODUCTS</b>						
Coal, production:						
Anthracite.....thous. of short tons..	4,675	4,129	2,663	3,705	r4,150	3,354
Bituminous.....do.....	51,675	49,207	34,320	46,890	32,480	40,850

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Nominal price. 2/ Data for November 1951 and October 1952 are for 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.  
 3/ Data reported at the beginning of each month are shown here for the previous month. 4/ Data for November 1951 and August and November 1952 are for 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

## MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

Earlier data are available in monthly issues of the Survey and the 1951 Statistical Supplement	1951		1952			
	September	October	July	August	September	October
<b>PAPER AND PRINTING</b>						
All paper and paperboard mills (Bureau of the Census):						
Paper and paperboard production, total, thous. of short tons..	2,018	r2,219	1,762	2,059	r2,027	2,279
Paper.....do.....	1,043	1,166	869	990	969	1,080
Paperboard.....do.....	874	r941	783	942	r941	1,075
Building board.....do.....	102	r112	110	126	118	124
Paper, excluding building paper, newsprint, and paperboard (American Paper and Pulp Association):						
Orders, new.....short tons..	835,693	942,156	715,288	r752,557	r809,151	870,000
Production.....do.....	851,819	946,158	674,759	r775,723	r756,475	837,000
Shipments.....do.....	837,409	947,030	671,174	r768,208	r750,838	841,000
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	325,907	325,035	384,550	r422,465	r426,675	422,985
Fine paper:						
Orders, new.....do.....	109,384	121,329	83,848	r82,938	r94,582	109,000
Production.....do.....	110,546	123,623	84,195	r100,213	r100,268	113,000
Shipments.....do.....	110,422	121,489	81,323	r98,080	r94,158	110,000
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	63,325	65,959	84,750	r93,850	r99,960	102,195
Printing paper:						
Orders, new.....do.....	278,225	320,338	262,177	r258,666	r298,032	305,000
Production.....do.....	286,834	313,161	238,014	r267,433	r256,921	292,000
Shipments.....do.....	280,135	317,865	232,209	r264,517	r255,785	290,000
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	119,619	114,915	145,300	r140,775	r141,915	143,910
Coarse paper:						
Orders, new.....do.....	294,386	321,515	221,930	r257,062	r259,555	287,000
Production.....do.....	296,567	324,031	216,743	r256,307	r245,086	268,000
Shipments.....do.....	292,133	325,340	212,740	r251,791	r244,732	273,000
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	88,720	87,411	99,000	r130,250	r129,500	124,500
<b>RUBBER AND RUBBER PRODUCTS</b>						
Natural rubber:						
Consumption.....long tons..	36,887	37,407	32,760	32,941	r39,274	45,058
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	56,941	63,501	84,839	84,657	r84,190	82,120
Synthetic rubber:						
Production.....do.....	70,870	79,285	58,992	59,214	58,352	62,553
Consumption.....do.....	68,460	68,923	58,642	61,214	r66,668	73,534
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	99,889	109,407	152,373	150,254	r141,837	132,998
Tires and tubes:						
Pneumatic casings:						
Production.....thousands..	7,414	7,771	7,097	6,933	7,391	8,663
Shipments.....do.....	6,640	7,050	7,148	7,989	8,049	7,846
Original equipment.....do.....	2,519	2,553	1,186	1,632	2,826	3,200
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	4,740	5,514	11,647	10,637	9,960	10,821
Inner tubes:						
Production.....do.....	5,695	6,270	4,790	4,867	5,397	6,220
Shipments.....do.....	5,042	5,603	4,507	5,431	5,984	5,859
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	6,831	7,471	11,223	10,627	10,086	10,386
<b>TEXTILE PRODUCTS</b>						
Hosiery:						
Production.....thous. of dozen pairs..	11,862	13,617	11,768	13,892	14,076	15,627
Shipments.....do.....	12,605	14,374	11,637	14,447	15,155	16,757
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	29,330	28,573	29,905	29,350	28,200	27,068

r/ Revised.

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

FIRST CLASS

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
Permit No. 1009

WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT  
SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS