



# SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

## WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
OFFICE OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS



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\*\*\* This Supplement provides selected weekly data and monthly data subsequent to those published in the latest monthly SURVEY \*\*\*

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

| ITEM                                 | 1952    | 1953    |         |         |                                         | ITEM    | 1952    | 1953    |         |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|
|                                      | Dec. 27 | Dec. 12 | Dec. 19 | Dec. 26 | Dec. 27                                 |         | Dec. 12 | Dec. 19 | Dec. 26 |  |  |
| Commodity prices, wholesale:         |         |         |         |         | Stock prices (480), Standard            |         |         |         |         |  |  |
| All commodities...1947-49=100        | *109.6  | 110.1   | 110.1   | 110.1   | and Poor's.....1935-39=100              | 197.6   | 190.8   | 191.5   | 189.7   |  |  |
| Farm products.....do..               | *99.2   | 95.0    | 94.7    | 95.4    | Industrials (420).....do..              | 214.4   | 206.0   | 207.2   | 205.0   |  |  |
| Food, processed.....do..             | *104.3  | 104.7   | 104.9   | 104.4   | Production:                             |         |         |         |         |  |  |
| All other.....do..                   | *112.9  | 114.5   | 114.5   | 114.4   | Bitum.coal <u>3</u> /...thous.sh.tons   | **1,723 | 1,398   | 1,340   | .....   |  |  |
| 22 commodities <u>2</u> /.....do..   | 90.2    | 88.6    | 87.9    | 88.3    | Electric power,by utilities             |         |         |         |         |  |  |
| Department store sales.....do..      | **237   | 216     | 234     | .....   | mil. kw.-hr                             | **8,280 | 8,661   | 8,896   | .....   |  |  |
| Insured unemployment, total          |         |         |         |         | Motor vehicles (Ward's)....No.          | 97,690  | 105,758 | 123,241 | 86,445  |  |  |
| thous.                               | **896   | #1,510  | .....   | .....   | Petroleum,crude <u>3</u> /...thous.bbl. | **6,525 | 6,131   | 6,154   | .....   |  |  |
| State programs.....do..              | **840   | #1,402  | .....   | .....   | Steel (ingots & for castings,           |         |         |         |         |  |  |
| Failures, ind. & comm.....number     | 95      | 216     | 210     | 162     | quantity) <u>4</u> /....1947-49=100     | 132.8   | 121.7   | 118.3   | 89.9    |  |  |
| Bond yields, domestic corpo-         |         |         |         |         | Freight car loadings.thous.cars         | **710   | 652     | 618     | .....   |  |  |
| rate (Moody's) <u>3</u> /....percent | 3.19    | 3.39    | 3.38    | 3.39    | Miscellaneous.....do..                  | **364   | 351     | 325     | .....   |  |  |

<sup>1</sup>/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. <sup>2</sup>/ Tuesday prices. <sup>3</sup>/ Daily averages. <sup>4</sup>/ Week ended January 2, 1954. \* Monthly index for December 1952. \*\* For week corresponding to latest. # For preceding week: Total, 1,474,000; State programs, 1,369,000.

### MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

| ITEM                                            | 1952     | 1953      |         |                 |                                                       | ITEM                         | 1952      | 1953    |          |  |  |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|---------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|---------|----------|--|--|
|                                                 | November | September | October | November        | November                                              |                              | September | October | November |  |  |
| COMMODITY PRICES                                |          |           |         |                 |                                                       | CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE |           |         |          |  |  |
| Consumer price index, all items.....1947-49=100 | 114.3    | 115.2     | 115.4   | <u>1</u> /115.0 | Highway concrete pavement contract awards: <u>3</u> / |                              |           |         |          |  |  |
| Apparel.....do..                                | 105.2    | 105.3     | 105.5   | 105.5           | Total.....thous. sq. yd.                              | 2,571                        | 7,187     | 6,094   | 3,258    |  |  |
| Food.....do..                                   | 115.0    | 113.8     | 113.6   | 112.0           | Airports.....do..                                     | 390                          | 1,102     | 822     | 100      |  |  |
| Dairy products.....do..                         | 113.3    | 109.6     | 110.1   | 110.5           | Roads.....do..                                        | 1,193                        | 4,066     | 3,691   | 1,774    |  |  |
| Fruits & vegetables.....do..                    | 115.9    | 106.6     | 107.7   | 107.4           | Streets and alleys.....do..                           | 988                          | 2,019     | 1,582   | 1,384    |  |  |
| Meats, poultry & fish.....do..                  | 114.3    | 113.5     | 111.1   | 107.0           | Construction cost indexes:                            |                              |           |         |          |  |  |
| Housing.....do..                                | 115.7    | 118.4     | 118.7   | 118.9           | The American Appraisal Co.:                           |                              |           |         |          |  |  |
| Gas & electricity.....do..                      | 105.4    | 106.9     | 107.0   | 107.3           | Avg. 30 cities.....1913=100                           | 564                          | 583       | 584     | 585      |  |  |
| Housefurnishings.....do..                       | 108.0    | 108.1     | 108.1   | 108.3           | Atlanta.....do..                                      | 604                          | 639       | 640     | 641      |  |  |
| Rent.....do..                                   | 119.5    | 126.0     | 126.8   | 127.3           | New York.....do..                                     | 572                          | 601       | 604     | 609      |  |  |
| Medical care.....do..                           | 118.9    | 122.6     | 122.8   | 123.3           | San Francisco.....do..                                | 521                          | 521       | 524     | 525      |  |  |
| Personal care.....do..                          | 112.4    | 112.9     | 113.2   | 113.4           | St. Louis.....do..                                    | 551                          | 574       | 572     | 576      |  |  |
| Reading and recreation.....do..                 | 107.4    | 107.8     | 108.6   | 108.9           | E. H. Boeckh and Associates:                          |                              |           |         |          |  |  |
| Transportation.....do..                         | 128.9    | 130.7     | 130.7   | 130.1           | Average 20 cities:                                    |                              |           |         |          |  |  |
| Other goods & services.....do..                 | 115.8    | 118.5     | 119.7   | 120.2           | Apts.,hotels & off.bldgs.:                            |                              |           |         |          |  |  |
| Wholesale p., selected items:                   |          |           |         |                 | Brick and concrete                                    |                              |           |         |          |  |  |
| Butter, 92-score (N.Y.)                         |          |           |         |                 | U. S. avg. 1926-29=100                                | 246.4                        | 255.8     | 255.6   | 256.0    |  |  |
| dol. per lb.                                    | .699     | .670      | .682    | .676            | Brick and steel.....do..                              | 245.3                        | 253.5     | 253.2   | 253.7    |  |  |
| Eggs, extras, large (Chicago)                   |          |           |         |                 | Brick and wood.....do..                               | 253.4                        | 258.3     | 257.3   | 257.4    |  |  |
| dol. per doz.                                   | .560     | .624      | .613    | .543            | Comm. & factory bldgs.:                               |                              |           |         |          |  |  |
| Corn,av.5 markets..dol.per bu.                  | 1.569    | 1.568     | 1.443   | 1.439           | Brick and concrete.....do..                           | 249.7                        | 262.0     | 261.9   | 262.2    |  |  |
| Wheat,av. 6 markets.....do..                    | 2.567    | 2.533     | 2.562   | 2.578           | Brick and steel.....do..                              | 248.0                        | 258.7     | 258.6   | 258.9    |  |  |
| Beef steers (Chicago)                           |          |           |         |                 | Brick and wood.....do..                               | 250.0                        | 256.0     | 255.2   | 255.3    |  |  |
| dol. per 100 lb.                                | 31.37    | 25.41     | 25.35   | 24.83           | Frame.....do..                                        | 255.8                        | 259.0     | 257.6   | 257.8    |  |  |
| Hogs (Chicago).....do..                         | 16.76    | 24.18     | 21.54   | 20.80           | Steel.....do..                                        | 232.3                        | 242.3     | 242.5   | 242.8    |  |  |
| Beef,choice (N.Y.)..dol.per lb.                 | .545     | .451      | .427    | .431            | Residences:                                           |                              |           |         |          |  |  |
| Pork,loins (N.Y.).....do..                      | .449     | .543      | .516    | .452            | Brick.....do..                                        | 253.8                        | 258.8     | 257.8   | 257.9    |  |  |
| Pig iron,comp. <u>2</u> /dol.per 1,ton          | 56.31    | 56.10     | 56.03   | 56.03           | Frame.....do..                                        | 250.3                        | 254.1     | 252.9   | 253.0    |  |  |
| Steel, composite, finished                      |          |           |         |                 | DOMESTIC TRADE                                        |                              |           |         |          |  |  |
| dol. per lb.                                    | .0498    | .0524     | .0524   | .0524           | Money orders issued, domestic                         |                              |           |         |          |  |  |
| Copper,electro.(N.Y.).....do..                  | .2420    | .2962     | .2960   | .2965           | (50 cities):                                          |                              |           |         |          |  |  |
| Lead, refined, pig, desil-                      |          |           |         |                 | Number.....thousands                                  | 6,275                        | 6,281     | 6,556   | 5,995    |  |  |
| verized (N.Y.).....dol. per lb.                 | .1416    | .1374     | .1350   | .1350           | Value.....thous. dol.                                 | 114,728                      | 122,917   | 119,218 | 113,791  |  |  |
| Zinc, prime W.(St.Louis).....do..               | .1250    | .1018     | .1000   | .1000           | Mail-order & store sales,                             |                              |           |         |          |  |  |
| Cotton, middling, 15/16", av.                   |          |           |         |                 | total, 2 cos.....thous. dol.                          | 391,569                      | 351,988   | 377,007 | 369,320  |  |  |
| 10 markets.....cents per lb.                    | 34.8     | 32.8      | 32.7    | 32.7            | Montgomery Ward & Co.....do..                         | 108,525                      | 91,513    | 99,860  | 93,800   |  |  |
| Wool, raw (Boston).....dol.per lb.              | 1.725    | 1.725     | 1.725   | 1.725           | Sears, Roebuck & Co.....do..                          | 283,045                      | 260,475   | 277,147 | 275,521  |  |  |

r/ Revised. <sup>1</sup>/ Index on base previously used (1935-39=100) is 192.3. <sup>2</sup>/ See note on corresponding item in December Survey. <sup>3</sup>/ Data for September 1953 are for 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

# MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

| ITEM                             | 1952     | 1953      |          |          | ITEM                              | 1952     | 1953      |         |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------|---------|----------|
|                                  | November | September | October  | November |                                   | November | September | October | November |
| CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS    |          |           |          |          | METALS AND MANUFACTURES           |          |           |         |          |
| Paints, varnish, and lacquer:    |          |           |          |          | Iron ore (Lake Superior dis.):    |          |           |         |          |
| Factory shipments, total         |          |           |          |          | Consumption by furnaces           |          |           |         |          |
| thous. dol.                      | #119,754 | r119,213  | 116,417  | .....    | thous. l. tons                    | r7,816   | 7,699     | r8,131  | 7,522    |
| Industrial sales.....do..        | #49,002  | r45,793   | 46,714   | .....    | Stocks, end of mo., total..do..   | 51,208   | 51,767    | r55,699 | 54,990   |
| Trade sales.....do..             | #70,752  | r73,420   | 69,703   | .....    | At furnaces.....do..              | 44,318   | 44,612    | r47,419 | 46,905   |
|                                  |          |           |          |          | On Lake Erie docks.....do..       | 6,890    | 7,155     | 8,280   | 8,085    |
| FOODSTUFFS AND TOBACCO           |          |           |          |          | Steel forgings: 2/                |          |           |         |          |
| Dairy products, production:      |          |           |          |          | Orders, unf.....thous. sh. tons   | #1,393.1 | 882.0     | 797.8   | .....    |
| Butter, creamery.....thous. lb.  | 76,420   | 96,730    | 92,375   | 90,765   | Shipments, for sale.....do..      | #178.5   | 153.2     | 155.8   | .....    |
| Cheese (factory), total..do..    | 78,110   | 97,500    | 87,775   | 82,390   | Drop and upset.....do..           | #130.5   | 110.3     | 112.8   | .....    |
| Stocks, cold storage, end mo.:   |          |           |          |          | Press and open hammer.....do..    | #48.0    | 42.9      | 43.0    | .....    |
| Butter, creamery.....thous. lb.  | 83,951   | 323,077   | r311,574 | 288,527  | Lead, refined (primary ref.):     |          |           |         |          |
| Cheese, total.....do..           | 242,509  | 460,488   | r448,787 | 427,515  | Production.....sh. tons           | 49,806   | 42,154    | 44,741  | 52,562   |
| Apples, fresh.....thous. bu.     | 24,941   | 7,887     | 29,444   | 27,793   | Shipments (domestic).....do..     | 48,261   | 41,598    | 44,987  | 43,234   |
| Fruits, frozen.....thous. lb.    | 493,402  | 580,867   | r581,706 | 561,894  | Stocks, end of month.....do..     | 35,686   | 58,490    | 58,236  | 67,494   |
| Vegetables, frozen.....do..      | 569,974  | 688,353   | r737,427 | 721,120  | Machine tools:                    |          |           |         |          |
| Meats, total 1/.....mil. lb.     | 693      | 460       | 460      | 601      | New orders.....1945-47=100        | 205.4    | 223.7     | r198.7  | p148.3   |
| Beef and veal.....thous. lb.     | 252,306  | 159,376   | r183,864 | 224,865  | Shipments.....do..                | 342.5    | 328.3     | r348.4  | p322.2   |
| Lamb and mutton.....do..         | 17,580   | 10,113    | r10,762  | 12,709   | Electrical appl., sales billed:   |          |           |         |          |
| Pork, excluding lard.....do..    | 319,643  | 200,597   | r181,279 | 266,101  | Vacuum cleaners, stand..number    | 254,297  | 227,253   | 249,383 | 216,227  |
| Poultry.....do..                 | 294,424  | 176,385   | r259,085 | 285,894  | Washers.....do..                  | 298,641  | 349,342   | 319,066 | 244,144  |
| Eggs: Shell.....thous. cases     | 393      | 494       | r288     | 134      | Radio sets, production 3/         |          |           |         |          |
| Frozen.....thous. lb.            | 72,462   | 109,869   | r86,867  | 60,793   | thousands                         | 1,037.9  | 1,216.5   | 1,052.5 | 1,065.8  |
| Coffee, vis. supply, thous. bags | 529      | 812       | 628      | 778      | Television sets, prod. 3/..number | 780.5    | 770.1     | 680.4   | 560.2    |
| Sugar, U. S. (raw value):        |          |           |          |          | PETROLEUM AND PRODUCTS            |          |           |         |          |
| Production.....sh. tons          | #602,545 | 117,506   | 643,637  | .....    | Crude petroleum:                  |          |           |         |          |
| Entries from off-shore.....do..  | 226,961  | 563,878   | 461,177  | 254,321  | Production.....thous. bbl.        | #202,044 | 196,717   | 194,108 | .....    |
| Hawaii and Puerto Rico.....do..  | 108,362  | 237,561   | 238,494  | 97,620   | Consumption.....do..              | #213,358 | 210,686   | 213,017 | .....    |
| Deliveries, total.....do..       | r520,940 | 844,285   | 641,490  | 586,710  | Stocks, end of month:             |          |           |         |          |
| For domestic consump.....do..    | r519,375 | 842,829   | 639,991  | 581,366  | Gasoline-bearing in U. S.         |          |           |         |          |
| Stocks, raw and refined,         |          |           |          |          | thous. bbl.                       | #269,776 | 289,614   | 287,541 | .....    |
| end of mo.....thous. sh. tons    | 1,521    | 851       | 1,186    | 1,697    | Refined petroleum products:       |          |           |         |          |
| Tobacco, manufactured prod.:     |          |           |          |          | Fuel oil:                         |          |           |         |          |
| Production, total.....thous. lb. | #21,342  | 18,833    | 19,273   | .....    | Prod.: Distillate..thous. bbl.    | #45,183  | 43,433    | 45,331  | .....    |
| Chewing, plug & twist.....do..   | #7,936   | 7,239     | 7,473    | .....    | Residual.....do..                 | #37,321  | 36,098    | 36,716  | .....    |
| Smoking.....do..                 | #9,781   | 8,302     | 8,424    | .....    | Stocks, end of month:             |          |           |         |          |
| Snuff.....do..                   | #3,625   | 3,281     | 3,376    | .....    | Distillate.....do..               | #120,721 | 126,709   | 135,409 | .....    |
|                                  |          |           |          |          | Residual.....do..                 | #53,052  | 50,516    | 50,820  | .....    |
| LEATHER AND PRODUCTS             |          |           |          |          | Lubricating oils:                 |          |           |         |          |
| Leather production:              |          |           |          |          | Production.....do..               | #4,940   | 4,562     | 4,647   | .....    |
| Calf and kip.....thous. skins    | #1,045   | 839       | 804      | .....    | Stocks, ref., end mo.....do..     | #9,869   | 9,700     | 9,726   | .....    |
| Cattle hide.....thous. hides     | #2,224   | 1,893     | 2,065    | .....    | Motor fuel:                       |          |           |         |          |
| Goat and kid.....thous. skins    | #2,937   | r2,241    | 2,578    | .....    | Gasoline (incl. aviation):        |          |           |         |          |
| Sheep and lamb.....do..          | #2,942   | r2,433    | 2,409    | .....    | Production, total..thous. bbl.    | #105,907 | 107,729   | 109,061 | .....    |
| Shoes & slippers, production     |          |           |          |          | Gasoline and naphtha from         |          |           |         |          |
| total.....thous. pairs           | #46,341  | 39,902    | 40,121   | .....    | crude oil.....thous. bbl.         | #93,563  | 95,644    | 96,166  | .....    |
| Shoes, etc., exc. athletic,      |          |           |          |          | Natural gasoline:                 |          |           |         |          |
| total.....thous. pairs           | #39,185  | 33,376    | 33,183   | .....    | Used at refineries...do..         | #9,759   | 9,991     | 10,380  | .....    |
| Men's.....do..                   | #9,339   | 7,670     | 8,006    | .....    | Sold to jobbers.....do..          | #2,585   | 2,094     | 2,515   | .....    |
| Youths' and boys'.....do..       | #1,709   | 1,457     | 1,390    | .....    | Stocks, gasoline, end mo.:        |          |           |         |          |
| Women's.....do..                 | #19,446  | 16,602    | 15,690   | .....    | Finished.....thous. bbl.          | #111,770 | 136,192   | 136,398 | .....    |
| Misses' and children's..do..     | #5,553   | 4,883     | 5,130    | .....    | Unfinished.....do..               | #8,292   | 7,992     | 8,097   | .....    |
| Infants' and babies'.....do..    | #3,138   | 2,764     | 2,967    | .....    | Natural.....do..                  | #8,890   | 12,636    | 13,193  | .....    |
| Slippers for housewear...do..    | #6,442   | 5,981     | 6,407    | .....    | Aviation gasoline:                |          |           |         |          |
| Athletic.....do..                | #286     | 285       | 213      | .....    | Production, total.....do..        | #7,442   | 7,894     | 7,337   | .....    |
| Other footwear.....do..          | #428     | 262       | 258      | .....    | Stocks, total.....do..            | #8,558   | 10,099    | 10,678  | .....    |

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. # For October 1952. 1/ Excluding lard. 2/ See note on corresponding item in December 1953 Survey. 3/ Data for September cover 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

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