



# SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

## WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
OFFICE OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS



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August 27, 1954

\*\*\* 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	1953	1954			ITEM	1953	1954		
	Aug. 22	Aug. 7	Aug. 14	Aug. 21		Aug. 22	Aug. 7	Aug. 14	Aug. 21
Commodity prices, wholesale:					Stock prices (480), Standard and Poor's.....1935-39=100	186.7	237.0	235.8	238.0
All commodities...1947-49=100	*110.6	110.1	110.2	110.3	Industrials (420).....do..	201.5	261.3	259.8	262.6
Farm products.....do..	*96.4	95.3	95.6	95.4	Production:				
Foods, processed.....do..	*104.8	104.8	105.2	106.1	Bitum. coal <u>3</u> /..thous.sh.tons	**1,589	1,233	1,293	.....
All other.....do..	*114.9	114.4	114.3	114.3	Electric power, by utilities				
22 commodities <u>2</u> /.....do..	89.0	90.7	90.8	91.2	mil. kw.-hr.	**8,514	9,059	8,996	.....
Department store sales.....do..	**95	92	96	.....	Motor vehicles (Ward's)....No.	155,722	120,937	116,193	116,508
Insured unemployment, total					Petroleum,crude <u>3</u> /..thous.bb1.	**6,507	6,057	6,062	.....
thous.	**911	#1,929	.....	.....	Steel (ingots & for castings,				
State programs.....do..	**859	#1,750	.....	.....	quantity) <u>4</u> /.....1947-49=100	134.6	95.1	95.1	91.7
Failures, ind. & comm....number	122	207	233	246	Freight car loadings.thous.cars	**808	668	685	.....
Bond yields, domestic corpo-					Miscellaneous.....do..	**390	331	337	.....
rate (Moody's) <u>3</u> /.....percent	3.51	3.14	3.14	3.13					

<sup>1</sup>/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Week ended August 28, 1954. \* Monthly index for August 1953. \*\* For week corresponding to latest for which data are shown. # Data for preceding week: Total, 1,968,000; State programs, 1,789,000.

### MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1953	1954			ITEM	1953	1954		
	July	May	June	July		July	May	June	July
<b>BUSINESS POPULATION</b>					<b>COMMODITY PRICES - Con.</b>				
Industrial & comm. failures:					Wholesale prices - Con.				
Failures, total.....number	724	943	965	856	Beef steers (Chicago)				
Commercial service.....do..	43	81	81	80	dol. per 100 lb.	24.26	23.54	23.49	23.47
Construction.....do..	64	111	132	95	Hogs (Chicago).....do..	23.29	24.79	21.43	19.75
Manufacturing & mining...do..	164	200	208	165	Beef,choice (N.Y.)...dol.per lb.	.426	.408	.405	.417
Retail trade.....do..	380	460	455	417	Pork, loins (N.Y.).....do..	.597	.626	.587	.598
Wholesale trade.....do..	73	91	89	99	Pig iron, comp.dol.per 1 ton	56.22	56.03	56.03	56.03
Liabilities,total..thous. dol.	39,830	38,494	41,613	32,230	Steel,comp.,fin...dol. per lb.	.0524	.0524	.0524	.0539
Commercial service.....do..	1,210	2,961	2,045	2,524	Aluminum, scrap castings				
Construction.....do..	2,789	3,674	4,514	4,958	(N.Y.).....dol. per lb.	.1000	.1092	.1000	.1000
Manufacturing & mining...do..	17,139	15,621	18,454	9,986	Copper,electro. (N.Y.)...do..	.2969	.2970	.2970	.2970
Retail trade.....do..	11,282	11,739	11,722	9,622	Lead, refined, pig, desil-				
Wholesale trade.....do..	7,410	4,499	4,878	5,140	verized (N.Y.)...dol. per lb.	.1368	.1400	.1411	.1400
<b>COMMODITY PRICES</b>					Zinc, prime W.(St.Louis)...do..	.1100	.1029	.1096	.1100
Consumer price index, all					Cotton, middling 15/16", av.				
items.....1947-49=100	114.7	115.0	115.1	<sup>1</sup> / 115.2	10 markets....cents per lb.	33.36	34.42	34.23	34.42
Apparel.....do..	104.4	104.2	104.2	104.0	Wool, raw (Boston)...dol.per lb.	1.725	1.731	1.767	1.756
Food.....do..	113.8	113.3	113.8	114.6	<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; REAL ESTATE</b>				
Dairy products.....do..	108.3	103.5	102.9	104.3	Construction cont. awarded, 37				
Fruits & vegetables.....do..	118.2	114.6	117.1	120.1	States (F. W. Dodge Corp.):				
Meats, poultry & fish...do..	112.0	111.0	111.1	109.7	Total projects.....number	53,304	65,641	59,741	60,996
Housing.....do..	117.8	118.9	118.9	119.0	Total valuation.....mil. dol.	1,793.3	1,925.3	1,733.3	1,836.9
Gas & electricity.....do..	106.4	107.7	107.6	107.8	Building, total.....do..	1,417.8	1,497.6	1,376.7	1,387.0
Housefurnishings.....do..	108.1	105.9	105.8	105.7	<b>DOMESTIC TRADE</b>				
Rent.....do..	123.8	128.3	128.3	128.5	Mail-order & store sales,				
Medical care.....do..	121.5	125.1	125.1	125.2	total, 2 Cos.....thous. dol.	316,298	335,726	352,655	313,704
Personal care.....do..	112.6	113.0	112.7	113.3	Montgomery Ward & Co.....do..	78,977	78,109	81,318	69,881
Reading and recreation...do..	107.4	106.4	106.4	107.0	Sears, Roebuck & Co.....do..	237,320	257,617	271,337	243,822
Transportation.....do..	129.7	129.1	128.9	126.7	<b>FINANCE</b>				
Other goods & services...do..	118.3	120.1	120.1	120.3	Bank debits, total (345 cen-				
Wholesale p., selected items:					ters).....mil. dol.	147,957	149,616	163,407	154,859
Butter, 92-score (N.Y.)					New York City.....do..	51,799	59,535	64,965	61,155
dol. per lb.	.656	.577	.575	.578	6 other centers.....do..	32,683	31,159	33,785	31,556
Eggs, extras, large (Chicago)									
dol. per doz.	.531	.355	.351	.397					
Corn,av.5 markets..dol.per bu.	1.511	1.532	1.577	1.581					
Wheat,av. 6 markets.....do..	2.202	2.544	2.293	2.358					

<sup>1</sup>/ Index on base previously used (1935-39=100) is 192.6.

**MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued**

ITEM	1953	1954			ITEM	1953	1954		
	July	May	June	July		July	May	June	July
<b>FINANCE - Con.</b>					<b>METALS AND MANUFACTURES</b>				
Federal Government finance: <u>1/</u>					Iron ore (Lake Superior dis.):				
Receipts, Treasury...mil. dol.	3,619	5,037	11,241	3,148	Consumption by furnaces				
Receipts, net.....do..	3,293	3,592	10,539	2,827	thous. l. tons	8,239	5,376	r5,396	5,155
Customs.....do..	52	44	49	45	Stocks, end of mo., total.do..	38,829	29,563	r34,996	40,723
Income & empl. taxes....do..	2,395	3,946	10,135	2,059	At furnaces.....do..	34,443	24,147	r29,187	34,557
Miscel. internal rev....do..	937	877	852	790	On Lake Erie docks.....do..	4,386	5,416	5,809	6,186
Expenditures, total.....do..	6,052	5,203	7,115	4,827	Pig iron, production				
Interest on debt.....do..	237	249	1,752	213	thous. sh. tons	6,516	4,624	4,724	4,626
National defense, etc...do..	3,890	<u>2/</u> 3,374	<u>2/p</u> 4,059	<u>2/p</u> 3,048	Steel ingots and steel for				
					castings:				
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>					Production....thous. sh. tons	9,276	7,473	7,364	6,628
Freight carloadings, indexes:					Percent of capacity.....	93	71	72	63
Total, adjusted...1935-39=100	123	112	111	109	Copper:				
Coal.....do..	94	84	85	80	Production:				
Coke.....do..	167	94	95	94	Mine or smelter.....sh. tons	88,063	78,231	r85,329	73,755
Forest products.....do..	146	128	127	119	Refinery.....do..	122,036	108,403	112,121	107,095
Grain & grain prod.....do..	138	144	155	151	Deliveries, ref., dom.....do..	104,481	111,005	106,252	97,436
Livestock.....do..	60	58	r54	54	Stocks, ref., end of mo....do..	77,100	82,111	69,181	68,921
Ore.....do..	213	136	164	159	Lead, refined (primary ref.):				
Merchandise, l.c.l.....do..	42	39	38	38	Production.....sh. tons	40,210	49,139	42,317	35,716
Miscellaneous.....do..	139	128	125	125	Shipments (domestic).....do..	35,652	40,183	46,987	37,195
					Stocks, end of month.....do..	61,017	109,302	104,626	93,030
<b>FOODSTUFFS</b>					Zinc, slab:				
Grains:					Production.....do..	80,825	73,654	71,540	70,647
Receipts, principal markets:					Shipments, total.....do..	74,204	64,566	80,244	73,886
Barley.....thous. bu.	8,037	6,531	7,685	8,238	Domestic.....do..	69,498	61,859	72,262	59,197
Corn.....do..	24,231	25,835	25,151	24,105	Stocks, end of month.....do..	103,906	209,828	201,124	197,885
Oats.....do..	17,033	5,818	7,241	16,842	Vacuum cleaners, standard type,				
Rye.....do..	1,136	921	1,684	1,006	sales billed.....number	159,446	209,434	195,781	193,607
Wheat.....do..	103,118	26,953	60,332	105,576					
Livestock slaughter:					<b>PETROLEUM, COAL, AND PRODUCTS</b>				
Calves.....thous. animals	616	561	622	640	Coal, production:				
Cattle.....do..	1,498	1,439	1,570	1,622	Anthracite....thous. sh. tons	2,475	1,877	p2,226	p1,939
Hogs.....do..	3,276	3,380	3,453	3,325	Bituminous.....do..	34,954	29,050	30,620	p27,650
Sheep and lambs.....do..	1,108	1,045	1,200	1,209					
Stocks, cold storage, end mo.:					<b>TEXTILE PRODUCTS</b>				
Butter, creamery....thous. lb.	309,894	421,997	r468,453	505,041	Cotton: <u>3/</u>				
Cheese, total.....do..	420,280	521,763	r567,541	602,654	Consumption.....bales	742,064	645,875	781,767	542,577
Apples, fresh.....thous. bu.	128	1,302	r440	174	Mfs., spindle activity:				
Fruits, frozen.....thous. lb.	568,132	702,561	r722,477	797,992	Active spindles, last work-				
Vegetables, frozen.....do..	468,377	444,834	r443,724	482,863	ing day, total.....thous.	21,344	20,627	20,646	20,606
Meats, total.....mil. lb.	638	653	r605	525	Consum. 100% cotton....do..	20,007	19,325	19,332	19,286
Beef and veal.....thous. lb.	163,626	138,622	r127,141	123,126	Spindle hours operated, all				
Lamb and mutton.....do..	10,410	8,135	r9,450	8,344	fibers, total <u>3/</u> ...mil. hr.	10,126	8,932	10,939	7,066
Pork, excluding lard.....do..	350,825	384,643	r346,024	278,555	Av. per working day....do..	405	447	447	372
Poultry.....do..	112,460	167,499	r151,147	141,138	Consum. 100% cotton <u>3/</u> do..	9,484	8,366	10,216	6,578
Eggs: Shell.....thous. cases	1,199	1,348	r1,639	1,432	Operations as % of capacity.	110.9	122.6	122.8	102.4
Frozen.....thous. lb.	152,835	166,983	r186,189	184,567	Rayon and acetate:				
					Shipments, dom., producers':				
<b>LEATHER AND PRODUCTS</b>					Filament yarn.....mil. lb.	78.8	58.4	r57.8	53.1
Leather production:					Staple (incl. tow).....do..	27.0	32.1	35.7	32.1
Calf and kip.....thous. skins	*827	706	748	.....	Stocks, producers', end mo.:				
Cattle hide.....thous. hides	*1,999	r2,016	2,027	.....	Filament yarn.....mil. lb.	59.6	68.5	r67.0	70.3
Goat and kid.....thous. skins	*3,122	2,124	2,477	.....	Staple (incl. tow).....do..	32.9	27.9	r28.0	28.9
Sheep and lamb.....do..	*2,563	2,172	2,141	.....					

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. \* June 1953 data. 1/ Effective with February 1954, data are reported on a budgetary basis; they are not entirely comparable with earlier data which are as originally shown in the daily Treasury Statement. 2/ Represents expenditures for National security; not strictly comparable with earlier figures. 3/ Data for July 1953 and June 1954 cover 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

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