

March 4, 1955

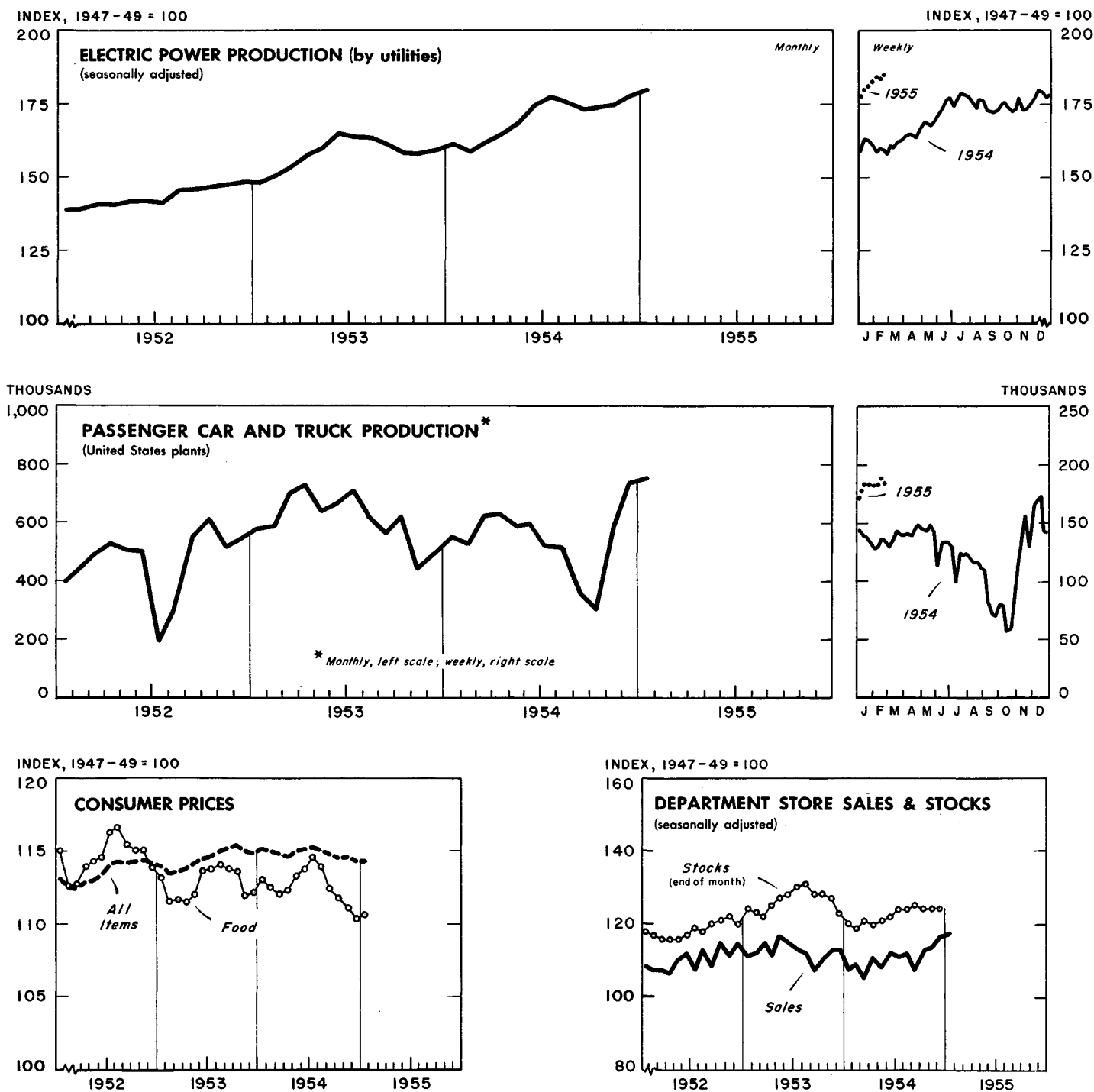


# BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

Available only with subscription to the SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS, at \$3.25 annually, this Supplement provides selected weekly and monthly data subsequent to those published in the latest monthly SURVEY

## SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS



WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

ITEM	1954		1955			
	Feb. 20	Feb. 27	Feb. 5	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 26
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..		*110.5	110.4	110.3	110.3	110.3
Farm products.....do.....		*97.7	93.8	93.4	93.4	93.7
Foods, processed.....do.....		*104.8	103.2	103.2	103.2	103.2
All other.....do.....		*114.4	115.4	115.5	115.4	115.4
22 commodities 2/.....do.....	87.8	87.9	91.8	92.0	91.5	90.9
Department store sales.....do.....	86	90	86	92	90	.....
Insured unemployment, total 3/.....thous..	2,362	2,413	2,174	2,152	.....	.....
State programs.....do.....	2,168	2,213	1,937	1,913	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 4/.....mil. of dol..	29,851	29,869	29,782	29,790	29,764	29,796
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total.....do....	25,897	25,312	25,262	24,893	25,071	24,668
Member bank reserve balances.....do.....	19,845	19,273	19,099	18,838	18,903	18,479
Excess reserves, estimated.....do.....	924	420	690	542	648	372
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	54,143	54,038	57,639	57,394	56,665	.....
Time deposits, except Government.....do.....	19,717	19,767	21,471	21,464	21,464	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do.....	79,083	78,883	85,359	84,859	84,703	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do.....	32,346	32,476	35,799	35,280	35,076	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross).....do....	22,555	22,446	22,054	22,096	22,223	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do.....	6,500	6,501	7,279	7,294	7,325	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	215	204	264	238	205	178
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 4/.....percent..	3.23	3.21	3.17	3.17	3.19	3.20
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Standard and Poor's).....1935-39=100..	199.2	198.9	274.7	277.9	270.3	280.4
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do.....	215.8	215.5	309.0	312.2	313.9	314.4
Production:						
Bituminous coal 4/.....thous. of short tons..	1,208	1,129	1,450	1,448	1,481	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	8,551	8,396	10,047	9,922	9,912	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	136,682	134,615	182,690	182,833	188,435	184,418
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 4/.....thous. of bbl..	6,320	6,303	6,721	6,719	6,767	.....
Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..	1,779	1,756	2,070	2,095	2,150	2,191
Percent of capacity 5/.....do.....	#74.6	#73.6	85.8	86.8	89.1	90.8
Freight carloadings, total.....thous. of cars..	619	595	641	644	655	.....
Miscellaneous.....do.....	337	331	333	336	343	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Includes UCFE program beginning January 8, 1955. 4/ Daily average. 5/ Week ended March 5: Production, 2,172 thous. short tons; operating rate, 90.0 percent. \* Monthly index for February 1954. # Not comparable with 1955 rates which are based on higher capacity as reported January 1, 1955.

## MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1953	1954				1955
	December	January	October	November	December	January
COMMODITY PRICES						
Consumer price index, all items.....1947-49=100..	114.9	115.2	114.5	114.6	114.3	1/ 114.3
Apparel.....do.....	105.3	104.9	104.6	104.6	104.3	103.3
Food.....do.....	112.3	113.1	111.8	111.1	110.4	110.6
Dairy products.....do.....	110.3	109.7	106.7	106.6	106.8	106.4
Fruits and vegetables.....do.....	109.2	110.8	111.1	109.6	108.4	110.6
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do.....	107.8	110.2	103.9	103.5	102.2	102.4
Housing.....do.....	118.9	118.8	119.5	119.5	119.7	119.6
Gas and electricity.....do.....	107.2	107.1	108.5	108.7	109.1	109.4
Housefurnishings.....do.....	108.1	107.2	105.6	105.4	105.4	104.6
Rent.....do.....	127.6	127.8	129.0	129.2	129.4	129.5
Medical care.....do.....	123.6	123.7	125.9	126.1	126.3	126.5
Personal care.....do.....	113.6	113.7	113.4	113.8	113.6	113.7
Reading and recreation.....do.....	108.9	108.7	106.9	106.8	106.6	106.9
Transportation.....do.....	128.9	130.5	125.0	127.6	127.3	127.6
Other goods and services.....do.....	120.3	120.3	120.1	120.0	119.9	119.9
Purchasing power of the dollar as measured by—						
Wholesale prices.....1947-49=100..	90.8	90.2	91.2	90.9	91.3	2/ 90.7
Consumer prices.....do.....	87.0	86.8	87.3	87.3	87.5	2/ 87.5
Retail food prices.....do.....	89.0	88.4	89.4	90.0	90.6	2/ 90.4
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
Construction contracts awarded, 37 States (F. W. Dodge Corp.):						
Total projects.....number..	35,777	38,361	67,701	54,671	62,394	56,285
Total valuation.....mil. of dol..	1,300	1,152	1,965	1,499	1,829	1,504
Building, total.....do.....	974	936	1,523	1,200	1,463	1,255
Construction contract awards, value (F. R. indexes):						
Total, unadjusted.....1947-49=100..	168	161	231	232	211	p212
Residential, unadjusted.....do.....	151	154	256	254	237	p239
Total, adjusted.....do.....	208	195	241	255	259	p258
Residential, adjusted.....do.....	177	185	263	264	277	p287
Construction cost indexes (E. H. Boeckh and Associates):						
Average, 20 cities:						
Apartment, hotels, and office buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....U. S. avg. 1926-29=100..	256.3	254.9	258.5	258.2	258.5	258.8
Brick and steel.....do.....	253.8	251.9	253.9	253.4	253.8	254.6
Brick and wood.....do.....	257.1	255.2	256.8	256.8	257.1	257.7

p/ Preliminary. 1/ Index on base previously used (1935-39=100) is 191.1. 2/ Indexes on base previously used (1935-39=100) are as follows: Measured by—wholesale prices, 47.5; consumer prices, 52.3; retail food, 44.8.

## MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

ITEM	1953	1954				1955
	December	January	October	November	December	January
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE - Continued						
Construction cost indexes (E.H.Boeckh and Assoc.) - continued						
Commercial and factory buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....U. S. avg. 1926-29=100..	262.5	261.4	266.3	266.0	266.2	266.4
Brick and steel.....do....	259.1	257.9	262.2	262.0	262.2	262.5
Brick and wood.....do....	255.1	253.5	255.6	255.5	255.7	256.2
Frame.....do....	257.2	254.7	256.1	256.1	256.4	257.4
Steel.....do....	243.0	241.9	245.9	245.6	245.9	246.0
Residences:						
Brick.....do....	257.7	255.7	257.5	257.4	257.7	258.4
Frame.....do....	252.6	250.5	251.4	251.4	251.7	252.4
EMPLOYMENT						
Labor turnover in manufacturing establishments:						
Accession rate.....monthly rate per 100 employees..	2.1	2.8	3.6	3.3	r2.5	p3.5
Separation rate, total.....do....	4.0	4.3	3.3	3.0	3.0	p3.0
Discharge.....do....	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	p.2
Lay-off.....do....	2.5	2.8	1.6	1.6	1.7	p1.6
Quit.....do....	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.0	.9	p1.0
Military and miscellaneous.....do....	.2	.3	.2	.1	.2	p.3
FINANCE						
Federal Government finance:						
Receipts, total.....mil. of dol..	4,845	5,200	2,887	4,905	4,217	4,833
Receipts, net.....do....	4,588	5,033	2,639	4,201	3,742	4,655
Customs.....do....	44	40	47	52	47	48
Income and employment taxes.....do....	3,913	4,036	1,850	3,791	3,204	3,638
Miscellaneous internal revenue.....do....	691	771	850	839	801	716
All other receipts.....do....	196	352	140	224	165	430
Expenditures, total.....do....	6,437	5,218	4,857	3,842	6,288	4,942
Interest on public debt.....do....	1,294	245	346	368	1,200	222
Veterans' services and benefits.....do....	376	343	349	373	401	379
National security.....do....	4,228	3,648	3,300	p3,316	p3,739	p3,176
All other expenditures.....do....	539	981	863	p-215	p947	p1,166
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS						
Organic chemicals, production:						
Acetic acid (synthetic and natural).....thous. of lb..	40,132	38,979	42,002	41,502	41,069	.....
Acetic anhydride.....do....	51,786	51,863	69,104	66,302	63,578	.....
Acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin).....do....	987	1,105	1,250	r932	1,142	.....
Creosote oil.....thous. of gal..	11,206	10,329	9,240	8,992	10,682	.....
Ethyl acetate (85%).....thous. of lb..	5,859	5,909	6,960	r7,125	5,105	.....
Methanol:						
Natural (100%).....thous. of gal..	165	164	177	163	176	.....
Synthetic (100%).....do....	14,151	12,459	15,319	16,464	16,974	.....
Phthalic anhydride.....thous. of lb..	19,133	21,409	24,647	r24,072	28,376	.....
Synthetic plastics and resin materials:						
Production:						
Cellulose acetate and mixed ester plastics:						
Sheets, rods, and tubes.....thous. of lb..	3,483	2,747	3,074	3,096	3,662	.....
Molding and extrusion materials.....do....	6,226	5,367	7,520	7,350	6,470	.....
Nitrocellulose, sheets, rods, and tubes.....do....	631	563	332	r316	329	.....
Other cellulose plastics.....do....	486	412	416	508	452	.....
Phenolic and other tar acid resins.....do....	30,265	30,842	33,057	32,893	33,010	.....
Polystyrene.....do....	25,908	30,941	39,196	36,495	35,205	.....
Urea and melamine resins.....do....	16,955	17,646	21,132	21,281	20,344	.....
Vinyl resins.....do....	37,357	40,636	48,970	46,532	49,773	.....
Alkyd resins.....do....	30,673	28,475	27,943	r28,487	30,285	.....
Rosin modifications.....do....	9,543	9,661	9,702	r10,259	9,209	.....
Miscellaneous resins.....do....	26,099	24,535	32,671	33,204	36,105	.....
FOODSTUFFS						
Distilled spirits, consumption for beverage purposes						
thous. of wine gal..	22,805	12,528	17,792	19,530	23,008	.....
Wines and distilling materials:						
Sparkling wines:						
Production.....thous. of wine gal..	81	99	85	118	105	.....
Tax-paid withdrawals.....do....	198	84	158	192	229	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	1,052	1,060	1,259	1,175	1,036	.....
Still wines:						
Production.....do....	4,148	1,398	65,505	20,795	3,628	.....
Tax-paid withdrawals.....do....	12,966	9,120	12,299	12,726	12,282	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	202,631	193,413	195,813	202,620	191,318	.....
Distilling materials produced at wineries.....do....	4,971	1,670	119,756	40,197	6,212	.....
Dairy products, production:						
Butter, creamery (factory).....thous. of lb..	109,028	118,730	87,825	86,835	96,975	106,900
Cheese (factory), total.....do....	95,291	101,320	85,690	82,530	89,370	94,450
Meats, production, total.....mil. of lb..	1,952	1,836	1,897	2,026	2,120	1,993
Beef and veal.....thous. of lb..	939,793	895,446	924,790	901,498	912,239	883,371
Lamb and mutton.....do....	57,079	59,601	56,119	52,466	54,704	58,810
Pork, including lard.....do....	954,712	881,313	915,733	1,071,719	1,153,238	1,050,606
Lard.....do....	178,155	162,245	171,156	198,822	225,859	203,886
Coffee, visible supply, United States.....thous. of bags..	723	1,009	695	793	799	729

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary.

ITEM	1953	1954				1955
	December	January	October	November	December	January
<b>METALS AND MANUFACTURES</b>						
Castings, gray iron:						
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....thous. of short tons..	940	872	789	760	745	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	1,037	932	943	997	1,074	.....
For sale.....do....	558	488	552	547	564	.....
Castings, malleable iron:						
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....short tons..	98,158	85,565	71,090	80,686	85,064	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	72,399	70,288	64,321	70,030	87,934	.....
For sale.....do....	39,721	38,266	36,956	41,609	49,005	.....
Castings, steel:						
Shipments, total.....do....	123,295	122,758	87,085	87,659	93,547	.....
For sale, total.....do....	92,299	93,577	64,004	64,812	69,843	.....
Railway specialties.....do....	18,665	20,058	8,580	7,742	11,714	.....
Copper:						
Production:						
Crude (mine or smelter, incl. custom intake).....do....	88,732	84,546	79,231	r97,619	r97,733	96,113
Refined.....do....	123,296	111,869	92,918	r115,917	133,523	123,840
Deliveries, refined, domestic.....do....	112,244	77,091	105,293	r118,707	119,626	113,949
Stocks, refined, end of month.....do....	89,193	108,187	33,290	37,094	47,108	45,982
Lead, refined (primary refineries):						
Production.....do....	48,687	48,518	51,276	46,711	46,506	44,780
Shipments (domestic).....do....	35,007	37,108	36,507	34,913	37,017	40,451
Stocks, end of month.....do....	61,132	92,496	95,496	94,387	92,719	84,862
Machine tools (metal-cutting types):						
New orders.....mo. avg. shipments, 1945-47=100..	149.8	173.5	148.9	119.5	r202.9	p203.6
Shipments.....do....	301.4	319.4	191.0	179.5	r203.4	p167.8
Vacuum cleaners, standard type, sales billed.....thousands..	190.8	221.2	263.2	237.9	217.0	250.1
<b>TEXTILE PRODUCTS</b>						
Men's apparel, cuttings: <u>1</u> /						
Tailored garments:						
Suits.....thous. of units..	1,825	1,840	1,456	1,576	r2,050	1,848
Overcoats and topcoats.....do....	287	256	352	324	320	296
Trousers (separate), dress and sport.....do....	4,114	4,512	4,224	4,272	4,980	5,904
Shirts (woven fabrics), dress and sport.....thous. of doz..	1,639	1,520	1,552	1,728	1,715	1,840
Work clothing:						
Dungarees and waistband overalls.....do....	240	256	408	360	340	332
Shirts.....do....	365	372	352	364	265	300
Cotton manufactures:						
Spindle activity (cotton system spindles): <u>1</u> /						
Active spindles, last working day, total.....thousands..	20,933	20,897	20,696	20,782	20,626	20,782
Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do....	19,695	19,652	19,295	19,348	19,136	19,282
Spindle hours operated, all fibers, total....mil. of hr..	10,246	9,145	9,735	9,464	11,059	9,934
Average per working day.....do....	436	457	493	485	442	497
Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do....	9,683	8,631	9,042	8,768	10,239	9,184
Operations as percent of capacity.....do....	118.8	124.7	136.3	134.6	122.5	138.0
<b>TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT</b>						
Motor vehicles, factory sales, total.....number..	484,707	551,134	287,730	587,785	766,012	726,108
Coaches, total.....do....	424	405	397	305	422	190
Domestic.....do....	393	365	385	251	332	185
Passenger cars, total.....do....	389,628	454,562	221,195	498,248	669,778	636,242
Domestic.....do....	373,666	435,139	214,913	477,927	643,605	611,734
Trucks, total.....do....	94,655	96,167	66,138	89,232	95,812	89,676
Domestic.....do....	80,227	83,563	48,966	72,862	79,768	73,949

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Data for December 1953 and December 1954 cover 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
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WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT  
SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS