



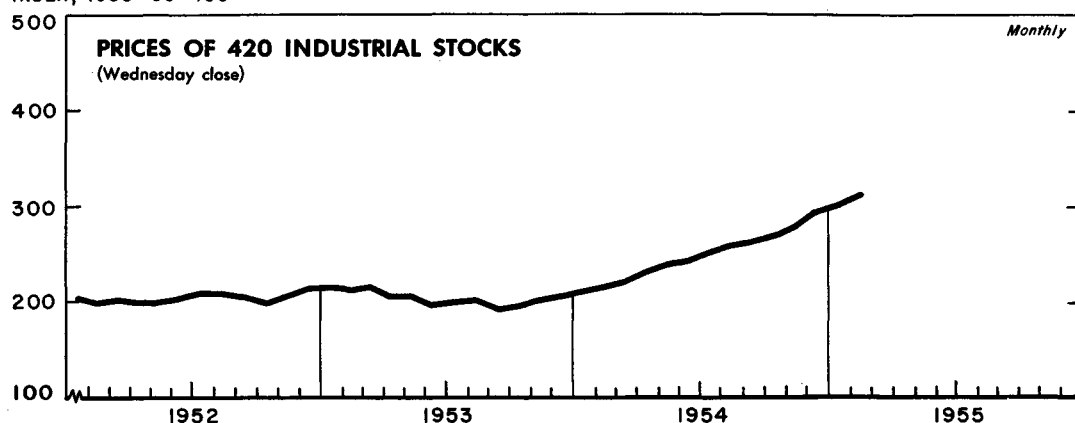
BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

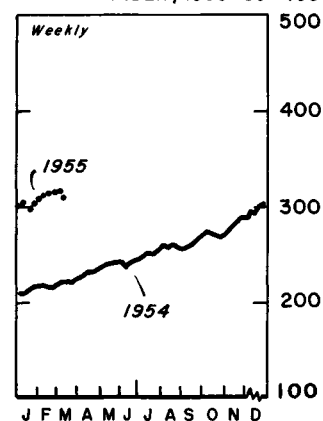
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SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

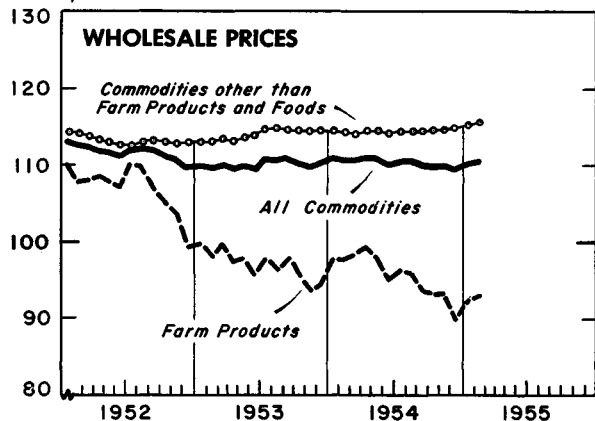
INDEX, 1935-39 = 100



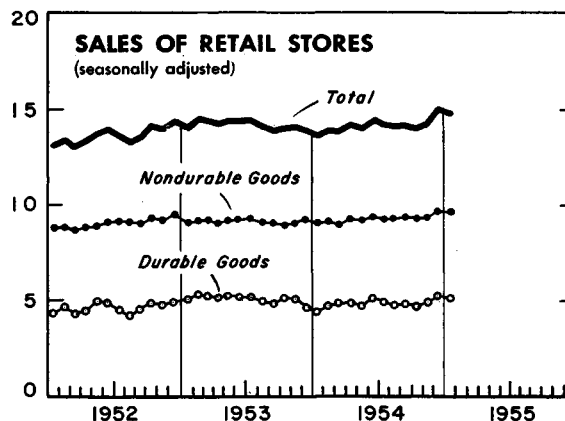
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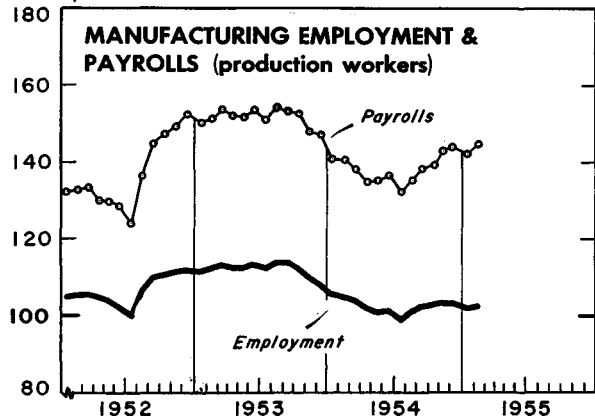
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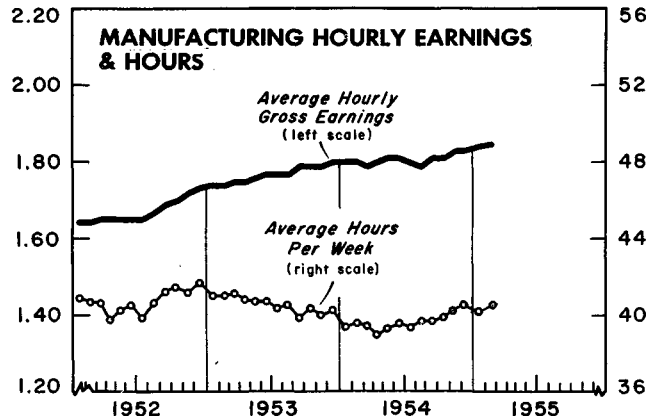
BILLION DOLLARS



INDEX, 1947-49 = 100



DOLLARS



WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS¹

ITEM	1954		1955			
	Mar. 6	Mar. 13	Feb. 19	Feb. 26	Mar. 5	Mar. 12
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..		*110.5	110.3	110.3	110.1	110.0
Farm products.....do.....		*98.4	93.4	93.7	92.8	92.6
Foods, processed.....do.....		*105.3	103.2	103.2	102.7	102.2
All other.....do.....		*114.2	115.4	115.4	115.3	115.3
22 commodities 2/.....do.....	87.8	88.8	91.5	90.9	89.9	88.6
Department store sales.....do.....	85	92	90	93	98	.....
Insured unemployment, total 3/.....thous..	2,409	2,399	2,075	2,074	.....	.....
State programs.....do.....	2,201	2,187	1,849	1,844	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 4/.....mil. of dol..	29,912	29,891	29,764	29,796	29,804	29,832
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total.....do....	25,689	25,638	25,071	24,668	24,813	24,714
Member bank reserve balances.....do.....	19,540	19,640	18,903	18,479	18,555	18,521
Excess reserves, estimated.....do.....	713	848	648	371	362	455
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	53,913	54,753	56,598	56,744	56,270	.....
Time deposits, except Government.....do.....	19,894	19,961	21,465	21,470	21,493	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do.....	78,855	79,150	84,673	84,334	84,416	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do.....	32,292	32,848	35,057	34,750	34,599	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross).....do....	22,407	22,481	22,251	22,236	22,351	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do.....	6,478	6,489	7,326	7,342	7,359	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	223	229	205	178	222	257
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 4/.....percent..	3.18	3.15	3.19	3.20	3.21	3.21
Stock prices, 480 stocks(Standard and Poor's).1935-39=100..	203.0	204.7	279.3	280.4	283.0	275.2
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do.....	220.5	222.5	313.9	314.4	316.6	307.8
Production:						
Bituminous coal 4/.....thous. of short tons..	1,070	1,157	1,489	1,467	1,290	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	8,586	8,519	9,912	9,725	9,727	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	129,609	132,673	188,435	186,241	183,748	193,254
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 4/.....thous. of bbl..	6,433	6,458	6,767	6,789	6,806	.....
Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..	1,686	1,652	2,150	2,191	2,218	2,241
Percent of capacity 5/.....	#70.7	#69.3	89.1	90.8	91.9	92.9
Freight car loadings, total.....thous. of cars..	591	610	655	635	659	.....
Miscellaneous.....do.....	326	322	343	338	363	.....

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 19: Production, 2,232 thous. short tons; operating rate, 92.5 percent. * Monthly index for March 1954. # Not comparable with 1955 rates which are based on higher capacity as reported January 1, 1955.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1954				1955	
	January	February	November	December	January	February
COMMODITY PRICES						
Retail price:						
All commodities (U.S. Dept. of Commerce Index). 1935-39=100..	209.5	208.9	207.6	207.6	207.3	.....
Wholesale price index, all commodities.....1947-49=100..	110.9	110.5	110.0	109.5	110.1	110.4
Farm products.....do.....	97.8	97.7	93.2	89.9	92.5	93.1
Fruits and vegetables, fresh and dried.....do.....	91.2	89.7	103.2	96.9	105.2	103.8
Grains.....do.....	91.3	91.6	93.5	92.5	93.5	93.1
Livestock and live poultry.....do.....	91.8	91.3	76.4	74.0	79.4	80.7
Foods, processed.....do.....	106.2	104.8	103.8	103.5	103.8	103.1
Cereal and bakery products.....do.....	112.4	112.7	116.5	116.8	116.9	116.3
Dairy products and ice cream.....do.....	109.4	107.4	108.8	108.2	107.0	107.2
Fruits and vegetables, canned and frozen.....do.....	103.8	103.0	105.5	106.0	104.6	104.1
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do.....	96.4	92.9	86.3	85.2	87.6	86.9
Commodities other than farm products and foods.....do....	114.6	114.4	114.8	114.9	115.2	115.6
Chemicals and allied products.....do.....	107.2	107.5	107.0	107.0	107.1	107.2
Chemicals, industrial.....do.....	118.4	118.4	117.7	117.4	117.3	117.4
Drugs, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics.....do.....	93.9	93.9	93.6	93.6	93.6	93.5
Fats and oils, inedible.....do.....	61.2	63.5	57.8	59.3	61.8	61.0
Fertilizer materials.....do.....	114.0	114.0	112.2	113.3	113.6	113.5
Prepared paint.....do.....	112.8	112.8	112.8	112.8	112.8	113.1
Fuel, power, and lighting materials.....do.....	110.8	110.5	107.4	107.5	108.5	108.5
Coal.....do.....	111.9	110.9	105.1	105.2	105.2	105.1
Electricity.....do.....	100.7	101.3	103.0	100.7	100.7	100.7
Gas.....do.....	111.8	113.5	107.3	110.2	113.0	113.0
Petroleum and products.....do.....	114.2	113.5	109.5	110.4	111.7	111.7
Furniture, other household durables.....do.....	115.2	115.1	115.6	115.7	115.5	115.4
Appliances, household.....do.....	109.6	109.7	109.1	109.4	108.7	108.5
Furniture, household.....do.....	114.2	113.9	112.9	112.9	112.5	112.4
Radios.....do.....	96.1	96.1	95.4	95.4	95.4	95.4
Television sets.....do.....	73.5	73.8	69.2	69.2	69.0	68.8
Hides, skins, and leather products.....do.....	95.3	94.9	92.8	91.8	91.9	92.3
Footwear.....do.....	111.9	111.9	111.7	111.6	111.6	111.5
Hides and skins.....do.....	56.8	55.4	52.7	47.4	49.5	51.6
Leather.....do.....	88.1	87.4	82.0	81.5	81.2	82.2
Lumber and wood products.....do.....	117.0	116.8	119.9	120.0	120.3	121.3
Lumber.....do.....	115.9	115.5	119.6	119.8	120.0	121.5

✓ Revised.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

ITEM	1954				1955	
	January	February	November	December	January	February
COMMODITY PRICES - Continued						
Wholesale price index - Continued						
Machinery and motive products.....1947-49=100..	124.4	124.5	125.3	125.7	r125.8	126.0
Agricultural machinery and equipment.....do....	122.7	123.0	121.3	121.2	r121.5	121.4
Construction machinery and equipment.....do....	131.2	131.5	131.8	132.6	r133.2	133.4
Electrical machinery and equipment.....do....	126.8	126.8	126.7	126.8	126.8	126.8
Motor vehicles.....do....	118.9	118.9	121.0	121.7	121.7	121.4
Metals and metal products.....do....	127.2	126.2	129.9	129.8	r130.1	131.5
Heating equipment.....do....	115.3	114.8	114.3	114.3	r113.9	113.7
Iron and steel.....do....	132.0	131.0	135.5	135.0	r135.8	135.8
Nonferrous metals.....do....	121.5	119.8	127.2	127.6	r127.9	133.7
Nonmetallic minerals, structural.....do....	120.9	121.0	121.8	121.8	r122.0	121.7
Clay products.....do....	131.9	131.9	135.4	135.4	135.8	136.1
Concrete products.....do....	117.2	117.6	117.4	117.4	r116.7	116.9
Gypsum products.....do....	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1
Pulp, paper, and allied products.....do....	117.0	117.1	116.0	115.9	116.3	116.6
Paper.....do....	126.8	126.8	126.5	126.9	127.5	128.0
Rubber and products.....do....	124.8	124.6	131.4	132.0	r136.8	139.4
Tires and tubes.....do....	130.3	130.3	134.9	134.9	r139.9	140.5
Textile products and apparel.....do....	96.1	95.3	95.2	95.2	95.2	95.1
Apparel.....do....	99.1	98.8	98.4	98.4	98.2	98.1
Cotton products.....do....	90.4	88.8	89.9	89.9	90.2	90.5
Silk products.....do....	142.1	135.8	127.4	123.9	r124.1	122.4
Synthetic textiles.....do....	85.4	85.4	86.9	87.2	r87.3	86.7
Wool products.....do....	111.0	109.0	106.6	106.7	r106.6	106.4
Tobacco manufactures and bottled beverages.....do....	118.2	118.0	121.4	121.4	121.4	121.6
Beverages, alcoholic.....do....	115.0	114.6	114.3	114.3	114.3	114.6
Cigarettes.....do....	124.0	124.0	124.0	124.0	124.0	124.0
Miscellaneous.....do....	101.1	102.8	97.0	98.0	r97.0	97.5
Toys, sporting goods.....do....	113.1	113.0	112.8	112.9	r113.2	113.3
DOMESTIC TRADE						
All retail stores:						
Estimated sales (unadjusted), total <u>l</u> /.....mil. of dol..	12,339	12,065	14,531	17,872	r13,279	12,845
Durable-goods stores:						
Automotive group.....do....	2,124	2,254	2,478	2,824	r2,645	2,679
Furniture and appliance group.....do....	670	652	836	1,025	r698	653
Nondurable-goods stores:						
Apparel group.....do....	678	604	920	1,448	r693	582
Drug and proprietary stores.....do....	407	394	398	530	r420	402
Eating and drinking places.....do....	988	962	1,067	1,113	r1,013	957
Food group.....do....	3,357	3,112	3,452	3,920	r3,398	3,263
Gasoline service stations.....do....	855	800	994	1,008	r949	899
General-merchandise group.....do....	1,167	1,142	1,821	2,850	r1,244	1,185
Estimated inventories (adjusted), total.....do....	22,520	22,420	r22,080	r22,090	22,210	.....
Durable-goods stores.....do....	10,690	10,580	r10,030	r10,060	10,160	.....
Nondurable-goods stores.....do....	11,830	11,840	12,050	r12,030	12,050	.....
Firms with 11 or more stores, estimated sales:						
Unadjusted.....do....	2,240	2,150	2,743	3,718	2,316	.....
Adjusted.....do....	2,543	2,585	2,660	r2,798	2,754	.....
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES						
Labor force (Bureau of the Census):						
Civilian labor force.....thousands..	62,840	63,725	64,624	63,526	63,497	63,321
Employed.....do....	59,753	60,055	61,732	60,688	60,150	59,938
Agricultural employment.....do....	5,284	5,704	6,154	5,325	5,297	5,084
Nonagricultural employment.....do....	54,469	54,351	55,577	55,363	54,853	54,854
Unemployed.....do....	3,087	3,670	2,893	2,838	3,347	3,383
Employees in nonagricultural establishments:						
Total, unadjusted (U. S. Dept. of Labor).....do....	48,147	47,880	48,827	r49,505	r47,804	p47,801
Manufacturing.....do....	16,434	16,322	16,107	r16,097	r15,965	p16,082
Mining.....do....	805	790	721	720	712	p711
Contract construction.....do....	2,349	2,356	2,724	r2,549	r2,358	p2,269
Transportation and public utilities.....do....	4,069	4,039	3,992	r3,999	r3,933	p3,938
Wholesale and retail trade.....do....	10,421	10,310	10,782	11,400	r10,483	p10,397
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....do....	2,033	2,044	2,108	r2,109	r2,096	p2,105
Service and miscellaneous.....do....	5,377	5,380	5,511	r5,479	r5,423	p5,427
Government.....do....	6,659	6,639	6,882	r7,152	r6,834	p6,872
Production workers in manufacturing industries:						
Total.....do....	13,002	12,906	12,697	r12,682	r12,553	p12,653
Durable-goods industries.....do....	7,616	7,520	7,247	r7,263	r7,221	p7,314
Ordnance and accessories.....do....	177	165	110	109	r108	p106
Lumber and wood products (except furniture).....do....	617	627	713	r687	r658	p655
Furniture and fixtures.....do....	293	292	299	294	r289	p293
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....	428	427	439	437	r429	p434
Primary metal industries.....do....	1,049	1,027	988	r1,002	r1,011	p1,032
Fabricated metal products <u>2</u> /.....do....	874	864	845	r844	r834	p845
Machinery (except electrical).....do....	1,230	1,220	1,091	r1,106	r1,112	p1,137
Electrical machinery.....do....	855	839	828	827	r815	p818
Transportation equipment.....do....	1,470	1,435	1,326	r1,365	r1,389	p1,409
Instruments and related products.....do....	237	233	213	213	r212	p212
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries.....do....	386	393	395	379	r365	p372
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	5,386	5,386	5,450	r5,419	r5,332	p5,359
Food and kindred products.....do....	1,024	1,009	1,102	r1,054	r997	p980
Tobacco manufactures.....do....	97	90	103	r100	r91	p87
Textile-mill products.....do....	997	995	992	r993	r987	p991
Apparel and other finished textile products.....do....	1,062	1,088	1,053	1,065	r1,061	p1,078

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. l/ February 1955 figures are advance estimates. 2/ Except ordnance, machinery, and transportation equipment.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

ITEM	1954				1955	
	January	February	November	December	January	February
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES - Continued						
Production workers in manufacturing industries - Continued						
Nondurable-goods industries - Continued						
Paper and allied products.....thousands..	438	437	440	438	r434	p433
Printing, publishing, and allied industries.....do....	514	514	524	525	r518	p516
Chemicals and allied products.....do....	540	536	528	r529	r529	p528
Products of petroleum and coal.....do....	178	178	173	172	r170	p170
Rubber products.....do....	206	203	205	r209	211	p210
Leather and leather products.....do....	332	339	331	r334	r337	p346
Manufacturing production-worker indexes:						
Employment:						
Unadjusted.....1947-49=100..	105.1	104.3	102.7	r102.5	r101.5	p102.3
Adjusted.....do....	105.6	104.6	101.9	102.0	r102.0	p102.5
Payrolls, unadjusted.....do....	140.8	140.5	142.7	r143.6	r141.8	p144.8
Hours and earnings:						
Average weekly hours per worker, all manufacturing..hours..	39.4	39.6	40.2	r40.5	40.2	p40.5
Durable-goods industries.....do....	40.1	40.2	40.8	41.1	40.9	p41.2
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	38.5	38.8	39.5	39.7	r39.3	p39.5
Average weekly earnings, all manufacturing.....dollars..	70.92	71.28	73.57	r74.12	73.97	p74.93
Durable-goods industries.....do....	76.59	76.38	79.15	80.15	80.16	p80.75
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	63.53	64.02	65.97	66.30	r66.02	p66.36
Average hourly earnings, all manufacturing.....do....	1.80	1.80	1.83	1.83	1.84	p1.85
Durable-goods industries.....do....	1.91	1.90	1.94	1.95	1.96	p1.96
Ordnance and accessories.....do....	1.94	1.96	2.01	2.02	2.03	p2.04
Lumber and wood products (except furniture).....do....	1.59	1.59	1.67	r1.64	r1.63	ol.64
Furniture and fixtures.....do....	1.56	1.55	1.58	r1.59	1.58	p1.60
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....	1.75	1.75	1.81	1.80	r1.81	p1.80
Primary metal industries.....do....	2.08	2.06	2.14	2.14	2.15	p2.15
Fabricated metal products 1/.....do....	1.89	1.88	1.93	1.94	1.95	p1.95
Machinery (except electrical).....do....	2.00	2.00	2.03	2.04	2.04	p2.05
Electrical machinery.....do....	1.80	1.81	1.84	1.84	r1.85	p1.85
Transportation equipment.....do....	2.12	2.11	2.18	2.19	r2.19	p2.20
Instruments and related products.....do....	1.81	1.81	1.85	1.86	1.86	p1.86
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries.....do....	1.61	1.60	1.61	r1.63	r1.64	p1.64
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	1.65	1.65	1.67	1.67	1.68	p1.68
Food and kindred products.....do....	1.68	1.67	1.71	1.71	1.73	p1.73
Tobacco manufactures.....do....	1.27	1.29	1.29	1.30	r1.34	p1.34
Textile-mill products.....do....	1.36	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	p1.37
Apparel and other finished textile-products.....do....	1.37	1.37	1.34	1.35	1.35	p1.35
Paper and allied products.....do....	1.72	1.72	1.78	1.78	r1.79	p1.79
Printing, publishing, and allied industries.....do....	2.24	2.25	2.30	r2.31	r2.31	p2.32
Chemicals and allied products.....do....	1.87	1.87	1.93	1.93	r1.93	p1.95
Products of petroleum and coal.....do....	2.26	2.25	2.29	2.28	r2.29	p2.28
Rubber products.....do....	1.94	1.94	2.02	r2.04	r2.04	p2.02
Leather and leather products.....do....	1.38	1.38	1.38	r1.38	1.38	p1.38
FINANCE						
Consumer credit (short- and intermediate-term):						
Total outstanding, end of month.....mil. of dol..	28,724	28,140	29,209	30,125	29,684	.....
Installment credit, total.....do....	21,836	21,582	22,014	22,467	22,436	.....
Installment credit extended and repaid:						
Unadjusted:						
Extended, total.....do....	1,947	1,956	2,554	3,046	2,389	.....
Repaid, total.....do....	2,298	2,210	2,492	2,593	2,420	.....
Adjusted:						
Extended, total.....do....	2,306	r2,357	2,612	2,762	2,823	.....
Repaid, total.....do....	2,368	2,377	2,500	2,488	2,496	.....

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Except ordnance, machinery, and transportation equipment.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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

WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT
SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS