



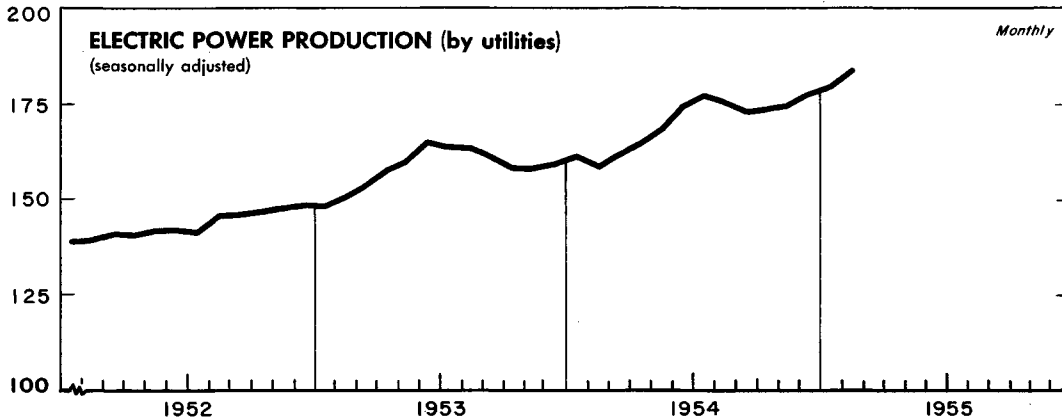
BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

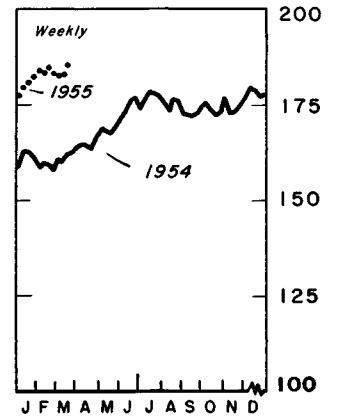
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SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

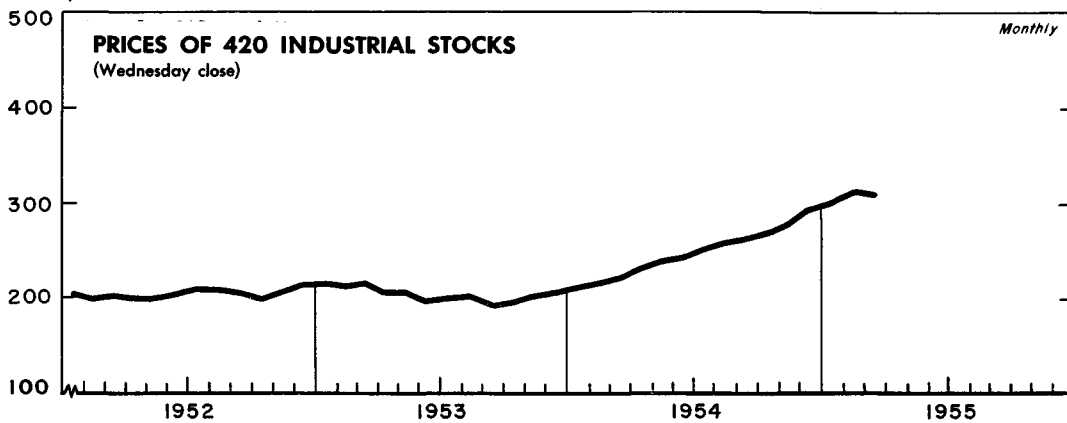
INDEX, 1947-49 = 100



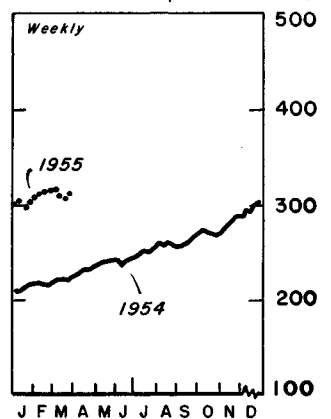
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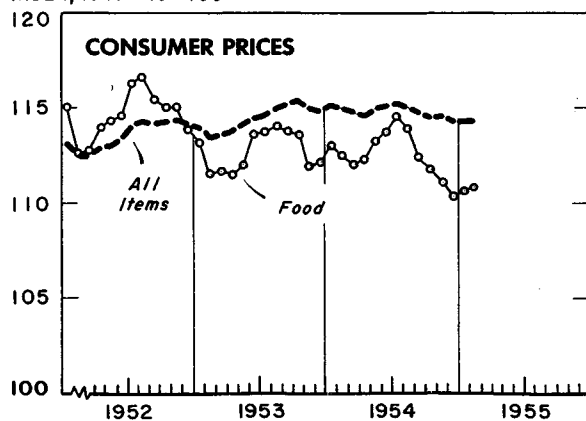
INDEX, 1935-39 = 100



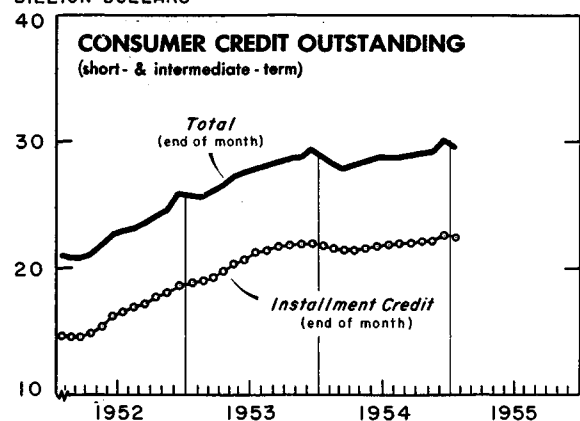
INDEX, 1935-39 = 100



INDEX, 1947-49 = 100



BILLION DOLLARS



WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS¹

ITEM	1954		1955			
	Mar. 20	Mar. 27	Mar. 5	Mar. 12	Mar. 19	Mar. 26
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	*110.5	.....	.....	110.1	110.0	110.1
Farm products.....do.....	*98.4	.....	.....	92.6	92.3	93.0
Foods, processed.....do.....	*105.3	.....	.....	102.0	101.8	102.3
All other.....do.....	*114.2	.....	.....	115.5	115.5	115.5
22 commodities <u>2/</u>.....do.....	89.7	90.3	89.9	88.6	88.9	89.0
Department store sales.....do.....	95	100	98	102	108	.....
Insured unemployment, total <u>3/</u>.....thous..	2,391	2,372	2,017	1,940	.....	.....
State programs.....do.....	2,176	2,152	1,797	1,721	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation <u>4/</u>.....mil. of dol..	29,782	29,655	29,804	29,832	29,819	29,732
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total.....do.....	25,704	25,625	24,813	24,714	25,002	24,904
Member bank reserve balances.....do.....	20,307	19,739	18,555	18,521	19,360	18,588
Excess reserves, estimated.....do.....	1,083	870	362	471	1,022	483
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	54,897	53,325	56,270	56,769	57,861	.....
Time deposits, except Government.....do.....	19,984	20,114	21,493	21,540	21,528	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do.....	80,064	78,634	84,416	84,242	84,919	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do.....	32,848	31,609	34,599	34,177	34,374	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross).....do.....	22,939	22,821	22,351	22,375	22,694	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do.....	6,509	6,517	7,359	7,373	7,402	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	243	277	222	257	226	232
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) <u>4/</u>.....percent..	3.13	3.13	3.21	3.21	3.21	3.20
Stock prices, 480 stocks(Standard and Poor's).1935-39=100..	204.7	203.9	283.0	275.2	273.3	278.1
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do.....	222.6	221.7	316.6	307.8	306.1	312.2
Production:						
Bituminous coal <u>4/</u>.....thous. of short tons..	1,151	1,137	1,297	1,397	1,342	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	8,572	8,491	9,727	9,726	9,814	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	144,698	139,209	183,748	193,475	201,503	204,692
Petroleum (crude) and condensate <u>4/</u>.....thous. of bbl..	6,461	6,452	6,806	6,845	6,858	.....
Steel <u>5/</u>.....thous. of short tons..	1,613	1,624	2,218	2,241	2,273	2,262
Percent of capacity <u>5/</u>.....do.....	#67.6	#68.1	91.9	92.9	94.2	93.7
Freight car loadings, total.....thous. of cars..	610	601	659	667	656	.....
Miscellaneous.....do.....	334	332	363	365	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 April 2: Production, 2,258 thous. short tons; operating rate, 93.6 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						
Consumer price index, all items.....1947-49=100..	115.2	115.0	114.6	114.3	114.3	^{1/} 114.3
Apparel.....do.....	104.9	104.7	104.6	104.3	103.3	103.4
Food.....do.....	113.1	112.6	111.1	110.4	110.6	110.8
Dairy products.....do.....	109.7	109.0	106.6	106.8	106.4	106.1
Fruits and vegetables.....do.....	110.8	108.0	109.6	108.4	110.6	110.7
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do.....	110.2	109.7	103.5	102.2	102.4	102.5
Housing.....do.....	118.8	118.9	119.5	119.7	119.6	119.6
Gas and electricity.....do.....	107.1	107.5	108.7	109.1	109.4	109.9
Housefurnishings.....do.....	107.2	107.2	105.4	105.4	104.6	104.8
Rent.....do.....	127.8	127.9	129.2	129.4	129.5	129.7
Medical care.....do.....	123.7	124.1	126.1	126.3	126.5	126.8
Personal care.....do.....	113.7	113.9	113.8	113.6	113.7	113.5
Reading and recreation.....do.....	108.7	108.0	106.8	106.6	106.9	106.4
Transportation.....do.....	130.5	129.4	127.6	127.3	127.6	127.4
Other goods and services.....do.....	120.3	120.2	120.0	119.9	119.9	119.8
Purchasing power of the dollar as measured by—						
Wholesale prices.....do.....	90.2	90.5	90.9	91.3	90.8	^{2/} 90.6
Consumer prices.....do.....	86.8	87.0	87.3	87.5	87.5	^{2/} 87.5
Retail food prices.....do.....	88.4	88.8	90.0	90.6	90.4	^{2/} 90.3
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
Construction contracts awarded, 37 States (F.W. Dodge Corp.):						
Total projects.....number..	38,361	40,787	54,671	62,394	56,285	58,456
Total valuation.....mil. of dol..	1,152	1,221	1,499	1,829	1,504	1,581
Building, total.....do.....	936	977	1,200	1,463	1,255	1,279
Construction contract awards, value (F. R. indexes):						
Total, unadjusted.....1947-49=100..	161	171	232	211	215	p220
Residential, unadjusted.....do.....	154	180	254	237	241	p256
Total, adjusted.....do.....	195	196	255	259	261	p252
Residential, adjusted.....do.....	185	201	264	277	288	p286
Highway concrete pavement contract awards: <u>3/</u>						
Total.....thous. of sq. yd..	4,726	4,036	5,076	^{4/} 8,691	r7,234	7,289
Airports.....do.....	1,748	1,299	1,500	2,698	r2,700	2,134
Roads.....do.....	1,852	1,007	1,919	^{4/} 3,639	2,769	3,635
Streets and alleys.....do.....	1,125	1,729	1,657	^{4/} 2,354	1,765	1,520

^{r/} Revised. ^{p/} Preliminary. ^{1/} Index on base previously used (1935-39=100) is 191.1. ^{2/} Indexes on base formerly used (1935-39=100) are as follows: Measured by—wholesale prices, 47.4; consumer prices, 52.3; retail food, 44.7. ^{3/} Data for December 1954 are for 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks. ^{4/} Data include some contracts awarded in prior months but not reported.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

ITEM	1954				1955	
	January	February	November	December	January	February
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE - Continued						
Construction cost indexes (E. H. Boeckh and Associates):						
Average, 20 cities:						
Apartments, hotels, and office buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....U. S. avg. 1926-29=100..	254.9	254.3	258.2	258.5	258.8	258.8
Brick and steel.....do.....	251.9	250.9	253.4	253.8	254.6	254.7
Brick and wood.....do.....	255.2	253.7	256.8	257.1	257.7	257.9
Commercial and factory buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....do.....	261.4	260.4	266.0	266.2	266.4	266.5
Brick and steel.....do.....	257.9	257.3	262.0	262.2	262.5	262.6
Brick and wood.....do.....	253.5	252.5	255.5	255.7	256.2	256.3
Frame.....do.....	254.7	252.5	256.1	256.4	257.4	257.7
Steel.....do.....	241.9	241.3	245.6	245.9	246.0	246.1
Residences:						
Brick.....do.....	255.7	254.2	257.4	257.7	258.4	258.6
Frame.....do.....	250.5	248.3	251.4	251.7	252.4	252.6
EMPLOYMENT						
Labor turnover in manufacturing establishments:						
Accession rate.....monthly rate per 100 employees..	2.8	2.5	3.3	2.5	r3.3	p3.3
Separation rate, total.....do.....	4.3	3.5	3.0	3.0	r2.9	p2.5
Discharge.....do.....	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	p.2
Lay-off.....do.....	2.8	2.2	1.6	1.7	r1.5	p1.1
Quit.....do.....	1.1	1.0	1.0	.9	1.0	p1.0
Military and miscellaneous.....do.....	.3	.2	.1	.2	.3	p.2
FINANCE						
Federal Government finance:						
Receipts, total.....mil. of dol..	5,200	6,425	4,905	4,217	4,833	5,954
Receipts, net.....do.....	5,033	5,444	4,201	3,742	4,655	5,427
Customs.....do.....	40	41	52	47	48	47
Income and employment taxes.....do.....	4,036	5,366	3,791	3,204	3,638	4,857
Miscellaneous internal revenue.....do.....	771	859	839	801	716	774
All other receipts.....do.....	352	159	224	165	430	276
Expenditures, total.....do.....	5,218	4,707	3,842	6,288	4,942	4,831
Interest on public debt.....do.....	245	372	368	1,200	222	396
Veterans' services and benefits.....do.....	343	345	373	401	379	365
National security.....do.....	3,648	3,568	3,316	3,739	p3,176	p3,048
All other expenditures.....do.....	981	423	-215	947	p1,166	p1,022
FOODSTUFFS AND TOBACCO						
Dairy products, production:						
Butter, creamery (factory).....thous. of lb..	118,730	116,570	86,835	96,975	r107,240	101,750
Cheese (factory), total.....do.....	101,320	100,400	82,530	89,370	r93,295	90,400
Rice, Southern States (Ark., La., Tenn., Tex.):						
Receipts, rough, at mills.....do.....	171,225	133,848	173,728	62,941	50,954	61,315
Shipments from mills, milled rice.....do.....	243,252	169,918	121,645	98,056	113,344	112,015
Stocks, domestic, rough and cleaned (cleaned basis), mil. of lb..	859.7	770.2	1,049.6	987.9	916.5	784.8
Meats, production, total.....do.....						
Beef and veal.....thous. of lb..	1,836	1,517	2,026	2,120	1,993	1,665
Lamb and mutton.....do.....	895,446	761,153	901,498	912,239	883,371	760,473
Pork, including lard.....do.....	59,601	53,274	52,466	54,704	58,810	53,174
Lard.....do.....	881,313	702,169	1,071,719	1,153,238	1,050,606	851,694
Coffee, visible supply, United States.....thous. of bags..	162,245	128,867	198,822	225,859	203,886	163,743
Tobacco, manufactured products:	1,009	829	793	799	729	776
Production, total.....thous. of lb..	15,502	15,561	16,983	14,556	16,251	.....
Chewing, plug, and twist.....do.....	6,796	6,389	6,857	5,689	6,535	.....
Smoking.....do.....	5,549	6,078	6,933	5,764	6,516	.....
Snuff.....do.....	3,157	3,093	3,193	3,104	3,199	.....
Consumption (withdrawals):						
Cigarettes, small:						
Tax-free.....millions..	2,700	2,638	3,298	2,805	2,644	.....
Tax-paid.....do.....	28,858	26,676	29,699	26,651	30,438	.....
Cigars, tax-paid.....thousands..	401,693	406,560	573,184	425,958	408,334	.....
Manufactured tobacco and snuff, tax-paid.....thous. of lb..	14,997	14,688	16,790	14,842	15,924	.....
LEATHER AND PRODUCTS						
Leather production:						
Calf and kip.....thous. of skins..	801	791	945	986	945	.....
Cattle hide.....thous. of hides..	1,953	2,015	2,071	r2,189	2,094	.....
Goat and kid.....thous. of skins..	2,262	2,330	2,078	2,186	2,179	.....
Sheep and lamb.....do.....	1,669	1,870	1,959	1,923	1,923	.....
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Iron ore (Lake Superior district):						
Consumption by furnaces.....thous. of long tons..	6,996	5,787	5,845	6,341	6,620	6,447
Stocks, end of month, total.....do.....	41,974	36,386	49,975	44,018	37,470	31,108
At furnaces.....do.....	34,797	29,661	43,065	37,427	31,360	25,222
On Lake Erie docks.....do.....	7,178	6,725	6,911	6,591	6,110	5,886
Castings, gray iron:						
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....thous. of short tons..	872	865	760	745	783	.....
Shipments, total.....do.....	932	936	997	1,074	1,092	.....
For sale.....do.....	488	492	547	564	563	.....

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

ITEM	1954				1955	
	January	February	November	December	January	February
METALS AND MANUFACTURES - Continued						
Castings, malleable iron:						
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....short tons..	85,565	81,579	80,686	85,064	99,817	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	70,288	69,078	70,030	r80,599	82,028	.....
For sale.....do....	r38,209	37,792	41,609	49,005	48,000	.....
Pig iron, production.....thous. of short tons..	5,580	4,811	5,257	5,587	5,785	5,443
Castings, steel:						
Shipments, total.....short tons..	122,758	116,520	87,659	93,547	98,238	.....
For sale, total.....do....	r93,716	88,699	64,812	69,843	75,044	.....
Railway specialties.....do....	r20,197	17,756	7,742	r11,489	13,809	.....
Steel forgings:						
Orders, unfilled, total.....thous. of short tons..	638	539	461	473	488	.....
Shipments, for sale, total.....do....	139	127	120	128	136	.....
Drop and upset.....do....	102	94	89	96	103	.....
Press and open hammer.....do....	37	33	30	32	33	.....
Oil burners:						
Shipments.....number..	46,181	44,175	67,660	46,882	57,332	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	75,110	71,251	53,978	57,125	50,686	.....
Machine tools (metal-cutting types):						
New orders.....mo. avg. shipments, 1945-47=100..	173.5	159.8	119.5	202.9	r203.0	p209.7
Shipments.....do....	319.4	323.1	179.5	203.4	r167.3	p168.2
Vacuum cleaners, standard type, sales billed.....thousands..	221.2	199.0	237.9	217.0	250.1	262.7
Washers, domestic, sales billed.....do....	250.0	295.2	308.4	264.8	357.4	353.2
TEXTILE PRODUCTS						
Men's apparel, cuttings: <u>1</u> /						
Tailored garments:						
Suits.....thous. of units..	1,840	1,732	1,576	2,050	1,848	1,816
Overcoats and topcoats.....do....	256	276	324	320	296	288
Trousers (separate), dress and sport.....do....	4,512	4,848	4,272	4,980	r5,712	4,944
Shirts (woven fabrics), dress and sport.....thous. of doz..	1,520	1,668	1,728	1,715	1,840	1,876
Work clothing:						
Dungarees and waistband overalls.....do....	256	348	360	340	r352	388
Shirts.....do....	372	392	364	265	300	300
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT						
Motor vehicles, factory sales, total.....number..	551,134	534,145	587,785	766,169	r726,108	745,491
Coaches, total.....do....	405	328	305	422	190	176
Domestic.....do....	365	322	251	332	185	148
Passenger cars, total.....do....	454,562	446,676	498,248	669,936	636,242	678,254
Domestic.....do....	435,139	425,392	477,927	643,763	611,734	649,055
Trucks, total.....do....	96,167	87,141	89,232	95,811	89,676	67,061
Domestic.....do....	83,563	72,468	72,862	79,767	73,949	55,253
Railway equipment, American Railway Car Institute:						
Freight cars:						
Shipments, total.....number..	5,101	4,041	1,770	2,232	2,008	2,572
Equipment manufacturers, total.....do....	3,815	3,014	1,085	1,428	1,599	2,032
Domestic.....do....	3,658	2,947	617	1,369	1,599	1,882
Railroad shops, domestic.....do....	1,286	1,027	685	804	409	540
Passenger cars, equipment manufacturers:						
Orders unfilled, end of month, total.....do....	686	690	514	757	761	725
Domestic.....do....	384	405	405	671	693	672
Shipments, total.....do....	29	40	54	57	40	36
Domestic.....do....	17	22	34	34	18	21

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

UNITED STATES
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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

WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT
SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS