



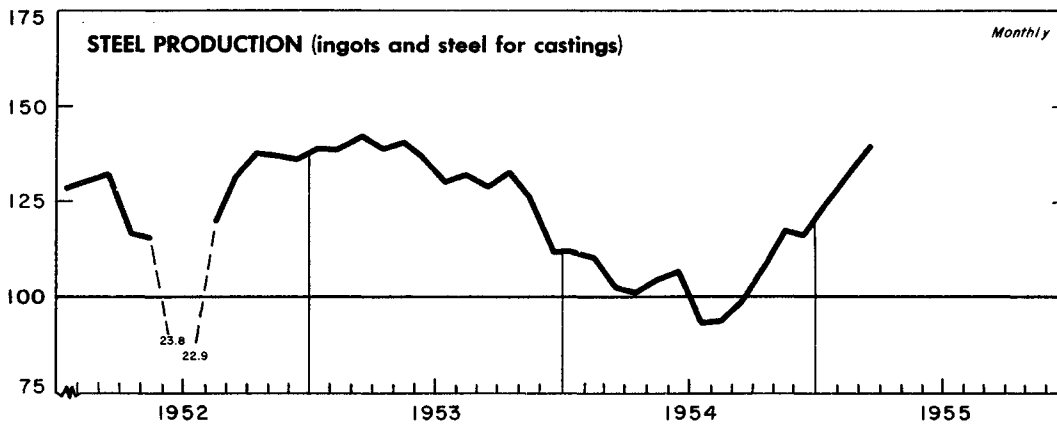
BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

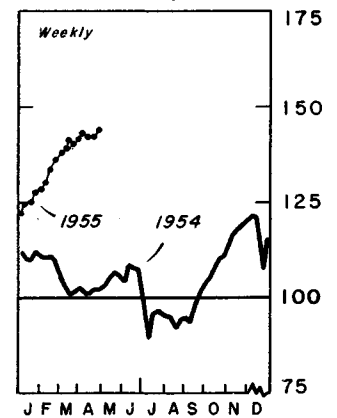
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SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

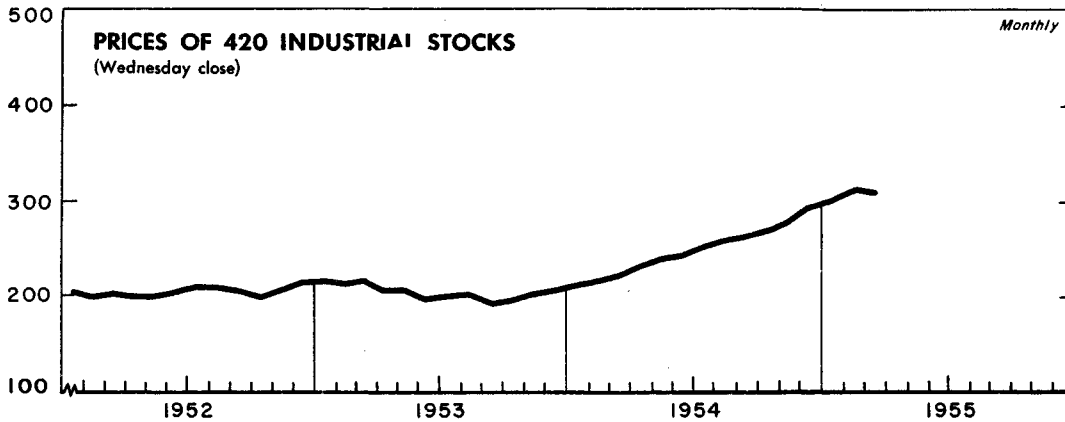
INDEX, 1947-49 = 100



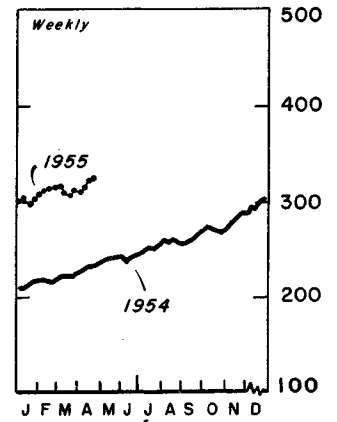
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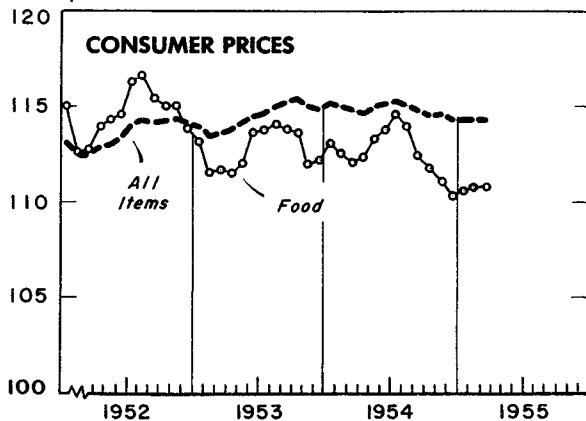
INDEX, 1935-39 = 100



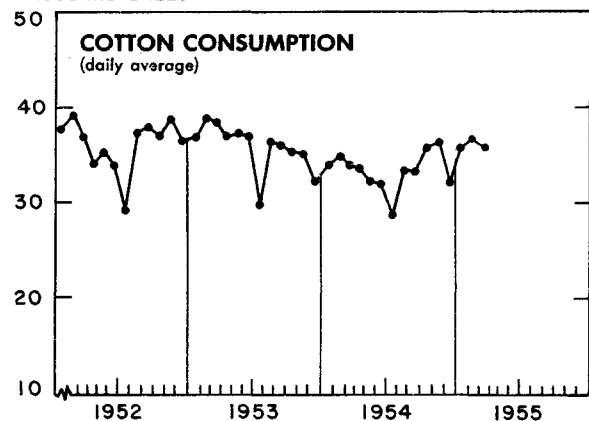
INDEX, 1935-39 = 100



INDEX, 1947-49 = 100



THOUSAND BALES



WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS¹

ITEM	1954		1955			
	Apr. 17	Apr. 24	Apr. 2	Apr. 9	Apr. 16	Apr. 23
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities..... 1947-49=100..		*111.0		110.4	110.5	110.3
Farm products..... do.....		*99.4		92.5	94.3	92.2
Foods, processed..... do.....		*105.9		103.0	102.6	102.4
All other..... do.....		*114.5		115.7	115.7	115.8
22 commodities <u>2/</u> do.....	92.6	93.1	89.8	89.8	90.3	90.4
Department store sales..... do.....	118	101	114	122	103	
Insured unemployment, total <u>3/</u> thous..	2,410	2,399	1,727	1,706		
State programs..... do.....	2,206	2,202	1,519	1,503		
Finance:						
Currency in circulation <u>4/</u> mil. of dol..	29,810	29,692	29,770	29,925	29,854	29,724
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total..... do.....	25,404	25,493	24,848	25,011	24,977	24,986
Member bank reserve balances..... do.....	19,293	19,566	18,388	18,791	18,841	18,810
Excess reserves, estimated..... do.....	708	918	460	547	638	609
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:						
Demand deposits, adjusted..... mil. of dol..	52,933	53,736	55,590	55,086	55,849	
Time deposits, except Government..... do.....	20,254	20,263	21,546	21,581	21,544	
Loans and investments (adjusted), total..... do.....	78,175	78,261	83,455	85,085	84,898	
U. S. Government obligations..... do.....	31,298	31,452	32,885	34,425	34,096	
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)..... do.....	22,558	22,348	22,707	22,556	22,654	
Real-estate loans (gross)..... do.....	6,542	6,544	7,474	7,482	7,517	
Failures, industrial and commercial..... number..	198	229	237	211	204	204
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) <u>4/</u> percent..	3.11	3.12	3.20	3.20	3.20	3.20
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Standard and Poor's), 1935-39=100..	213.7	213.1	277.7	281.8	285.7	289.1
Industrials, 420 stocks..... do.....	234.3	233.8	311.5	316.4	320.8	324.7
Production:						
Bituminous coal <u>4/</u> thous. of short tons..	1,123	1,141	1,361	1,371	1,413	
Electric power, by utilities..... mil. of kw.-hr..	8,345	8,257	9,804	9,633	9,602	
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's)..... number..	139,624	147,152	206,262	196,411	205,324	215,265
Petroleum (crude) and condensate <u>4/</u> thous. of bbl..	6,590	6,586	6,807	6,811	6,828	
Steel <u>5/</u> thous. of short tons..	1,622	1,636	2,278	2,300	2,284	2,284
Percent of capacity <u>5/</u>	#68.0	#68.6	94.4	95.3	94.6	94.6
Freight carloadings, total..... thous. of cars..	613	626	659	663	674	
Miscellaneous..... do.....	342	337	374	369	366	

^{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 30; Production, 2,316 thous. short tons; operating rate, 96.0 percent. * Monthly index for April 1954. # Not comparable with 1955 rates which are based on higher capacity as reported January 1, 1955.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1954			1955		
	February	March	December	January	February	March
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS						
Industrial and commercial failures:						
Failures, total..... number..	926	1,102	917	939	877	1,038
Commercial service..... do.....	74	87	72	87	60	66
Construction..... do.....	109	143	130	87	113	108
Manufacturing and mining..... do.....	207	198	204	195	188	225
Retail trade..... do.....	449	551	413	456	412	520
Wholesale trade..... do.....	87	123	98	114	104	119
Liabilities, total..... thous. of dol..	47,774	57,280	40,103	37,872	42,056	41,209
Commercial service..... do.....	4,341	3,506	1,857	3,154	2,244	2,916
Construction..... do.....	4,082	7,255	5,926	9,044	7,624	4,468
Manufacturing and mining..... do.....	23,043	15,359	17,526	11,636	18,922	16,921
Retail trade..... do.....	11,770	26,043	8,509	9,647	8,928	11,972
Wholesale trade..... do.....	4,538	5,117	6,285	4,391	4,338	4,932
COMMODITY PRICES						
Consumer price index, all items..... 1947-49=100..	115.0	114.8	114.3	114.3	114.3	^{1/} 114.3
Apparel..... do.....	104.7	104.3	104.3	103.3	103.4	103.2
Food..... do.....	112.6	112.1	110.4	110.6	110.8	110.8
Dairy products..... do.....	109.0	108.0	106.8	106.4	106.1	105.4
Fruits and vegetables..... do.....	108.0	107.8	108.4	110.6	110.7	112.0
Meats, poultry, and fish..... do.....	109.7	109.5	102.2	102.4	102.5	102.3
Housing..... do.....	118.9	119.0	119.7	119.6	119.6	119.6
Gas and electricity..... do.....	107.5	107.6	109.1	109.4	109.9	110.3
Housefurnishings..... do.....	107.2	107.2	105.4	104.6	104.8	104.6
Rent..... do.....	127.9	128.0	129.4	129.5	129.7	130.0
Medical care..... do.....	124.1	124.4	126.3	126.5	126.8	127.0
Personal care..... do.....	113.9	114.1	113.6	113.7	113.5	113.5
Reading and recreation..... do.....	108.0	108.2	106.6	106.9	106.4	106.6
Transportation..... do.....	129.4	129.0	127.3	127.6	127.4	127.3
Other goods and services..... do.....	120.2	120.1	119.9	119.9	119.8	119.8
Purchasing power of the dollar as measured by—						
Wholesale prices..... do.....	90.5	90.5	91.3	90.8	90.6	^{2/} 90.9
Consumer prices..... do.....	87.0	87.1	87.5	87.5	87.5	^{2/} 87.5
Retail food prices..... do.....	88.8	89.2	90.6	90.4	90.3	^{2/} 90.3

^{r/} Revised. ^{1/} Index on base previously used (1935-39) is 191.1. ^{2/} Indexes on base formerly used (1935-39=100) are as follows: Measured by — wholesale prices, 47.6; consumer prices, 52.3; retail food, 44.7.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

ITEM	1954			1955		
	February	March	December	January	February	March
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
Construction contracts awarded, 37 States (F. W. Dodge Corp.):						
Total projects.....number..	40,787	55,659	62,394	56,285	58,456	75,553
Total valuation.....mil. of dol..	1,221	1,528	1,829	1,504	1,581	2,135
Building, total.....do....	977	1,200	1,463	1,255	1,279	1,749
Value of contract awards (F. R. indexes):						
Total, unadjusted.....1947-49=100..	171	194	211	215	228	p262
Residential, unadjusted.....do....	180	216	237	241	266	p308
Total, adjusted.....do....	196	191	259	261	261	p257
Residential, adjusted.....do....	201	205	277	288	297	p292
Highway concrete pavement contract awards: <u>1/</u>						
Total.....thous. of sq. yd..	4,036	6,075	2/8,691	r7,134	7,289	9,504
Airports.....do....	1,299	1,078	2,698	r2,600	2,134	2,021
Roads.....do....	1,007	2,649	2/3,639	2,769	3,635	3,988
Streets and alleys.....do....	1,729	2,347	2/2,354	1,765	1,520	3,495
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..	254.3	254.0	258.5	258.8	258.8	259.0
Brick and steel.....do....	250.9	250.7	253.8	254.6	254.7	254.9
Brick and wood.....do....	253.7	253.7	257.1	257.7	257.9	258.6
Commercial and factory buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....do....	260.4	260.2	266.2	266.4	266.5	266.7
Brick and steel.....do....	257.3	257.2	262.2	262.5	262.6	262.9
Brick and wood.....do....	252.5	252.5	255.7	256.2	256.3	256.8
Frame.....do....	252.5	252.7	256.4	257.4	257.7	258.8
Steel.....do....	241.3	241.2	245.9	246.0	246.1	246.3
Residences:						
Brick.....do....	254.2	254.2	257.7	258.4	258.6	259.3
Frame.....do....	248.3	248.9	251.7	252.4	252.6	253.5
FINANCE						
Federal Government finance:						
Receipts, total.....mil. of dol..	6,425	13,013	4,217	4,833	5,954	11,089
Receipts, net.....do....	5,444	11,434	3,742	4,655	5,477	9,741
Customs.....do....	41	44	47	48	47	60
Income and employment taxes.....do....	5,366	11,866	3,204	3,638	4,857	9,906
Miscellaneous internal revenue.....do....	859	954	801	716	774	995
All other receipts.....do....	159	149	165	430	276	127
Expenditures, total.....do....	4,707	5,555	6,288	4,942	4,831	5,894
Interest on public debt.....do....	372	588	1,200	222	396	478
Veterans' services and benefits.....do....	345	340	401	379	365	386
National security.....do....	3,568	3,830	3,739	3,176	p3,048	p3,520
All other expenditures.....do....	423	797	947	1,166	p1,022	p1,511
Stocks, cash dividend payments publicly reported:						
Total dividend payments.....do....	244.1	1,274.5	1,941.0	721.3	261.0	1,353.2
Finance.....do....	68.9	78.7	233.5	148.2	76.5	93.8
Manufacturing.....do....	84.2	833.1	1,237.8	236.8	89.8	881.7
Mining.....do....	1.9	93.9	140.1	6.1	2.2	101.4
Public utilities:						
Communications.....do....	1.1	39.4	42.1	120.8	1.3	39.0
Heat, light, and power.....do....	56.9	102.3	113.9	73.9	59.6	106.6
Railroad.....do....	10.1	60.0	87.0	32.4	10.1	64.6
Trade.....do....	17.0	43.8	47.4	94.0	16.8	41.0
Miscellaneous.....do....	4.0	23.2	39.2	9.1	4.7	25.1
FOODSTUFFS						
Distilled spirits:						
Production.....thous. of tax gal..	r14,420	16,387	16,024	13,267	13,753	.....
Consumption for beverage purposes.....thous. of wine gal..	12,671	15,736	23,008	12,333	*12,949	.....
Tax-paid withdrawals.....thous. of tax gal..	10,156	12,718	10,667	8,654	10,007	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	862,917	864,231	r840,716	842,588	843,285	.....
Whisky:						
Production.....do....	r9,038	10,029	10,286	8,239	9,470	.....
Tax-paid withdrawals.....do....	r5,314	6,272	6,022	4,742	5,609	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	r718,415	718,516	r707,355	708,242	709,665	.....
Rectified spirits and wines, prod.....thous. of proof gal..	5,764	7,400	6,224	4,701	5,485	.....
Wines and distilling materials:						
Sparkling wines:						
Production.....thous. of wine gal..	233	147	105	143	227	.....
Tax-paid withdrawals.....do....	69	81	229	107	83	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	1,109	1,272	1,036	r1,072	1,049	.....
Still wines:						
Production.....do....	1,289	1,477	3,628	1,926	1,620	.....
Tax-paid withdrawals.....do....	10,269	12,353	12,698	9,999	10,123	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	180,995	170,754	192,400	182,237	172,024	.....
Distilling materials produced at wineries.....do....	1,556	2,128	6,212	1,938	1,737	.....
Rice, Southern States (Ark., La., Tenn., Tex.):						
Receipts, rough, at mills.....thous. of lb..	133,848	84,161	62,941	50,954	61,315	58,409
Shipments from mills, milled rice.....do....	169,918	161,955	98,056	113,344	112,015	133,727
Stocks, rough and cleaned (cleaned basis).....mil. of lb..	770.2	654.6	987.9	916.5	784.8	653.8
Meats, production, total.....do....	1,517	1,772	2,120	1,993	1,665	1,962
Beef and veal.....thous. of lb..	761,153	886,182	912,239	883,371	760,473	890,867
Lamb and mutton.....do....	53,274	55,672	54,704	58,810	53,174	61,429
Pork, including lard.....do....	702,169	830,303	1,153,238	1,050,606	851,694	1,009,567
Lard.....do....	128,867	147,106	225,859	203,886	163,743	189,884

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Data for March and December 1954 and March 1955 are for 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks. 2/ Data include some contracts awarded in prior months but not reported.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

ITEM	1954			1955		
	February	March	December	January	February	March
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Iron ore (Lake Superior district):						
Consumption by furnaces.....thous. of long tons..	5,787	5,932	6,341	6,620	6,447	7,510
Stocks, end of month, total.....do....	36,386	30,587	44,018	37,470	31,108	23,711
At furnaces.....do....	29,661	24,553	37,427	31,360	25,222	18,616
On Lake Erie docks.....do....	6,725	6,035	6,591	6,110	5,886	5,095
Castings, gray iron:						
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....thous. of short tons..	865	842	745	783	852	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	936	1,047	1,074	1,092	1,106	.....
For sale.....do....	492	553	564	563	578	.....
Castings, malleable iron:						
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....short tons..	81,579	74,219	85,064	99,817	101,766	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	69,078	84,342	80,599	82,028	85,979	.....
For sale.....do....	37,792	47,125	49,005	48,000	48,721	.....
Pig iron, production.....thous. of short tons..	4,811	4,959	5,587	5,785	5,443	6,464
Castings, steel:						
Shipments, total.....short tons..	116,520	122,310	93,547	98,238	106,430	.....
For sale, total.....do....	r88,871	92,271	69,843	75,044	80,729	.....
Railway specialties.....do....	r17,928	15,502	11,489	13,809	16,501	.....
Machine tools (metal-cutting types):						
New orders.....mo. avg. shipments, 1945-47=100..	159.8	169.6	202.9	203.0	r209.4	p214.3
Shipments.....do....	323.1	327.2	203.4	167.3	168.2	p202.4
TEXTILE PRODUCTS						
Cotton:						
Consumption <u>l</u> /.....bales..	685,546	844,092	801,748	711,286	720,815	892,892
Manufactures:						
Spindle activity (cotton system spindles): <u>l</u> /						
Active spindles, last working day, total...thousands..	20,888	20,872	20,626	20,782	20,954	20,892
Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do....	19,656	19,626	19,136	19,282	19,429	19,365
Spindle hours operated, all fibers, total...mil. of hr..	9,231	11,454	11,059	9,934	10,046	12,400
Average per working day.....do....	469	458	442	497	511	496
Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do....	8,697	10,799	10,239	9,184	9,299	11,485
Operations as percent of capacity.....do....	128.1	125.3	122.5	138.0	142.5	138.5
Rayon and acetate:						
Shipments, domestic, producers':						
Filament yarn.....mil. of lb..	55.6	60.8	70.4	65.8	r67.9	83.9
Staple (incl. tow).....do....	24.1	29.2	34.9	35.4	33.0	39.0
Stocks, producers', end of month:						
Filament yarn.....do....	75.9	75.4	55.6	55.5	50.4	44.6
Staple (incl. tow).....do....	30.9	28.3	32.0	28.6	25.8	22.2
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT						
Railway equipment, American Railway Car Institute:						
Freight cars:						
Shipments, total.....number..	4,041	4,826	2,232	2,008	2,572	3,133
Equipment manufacturers, total.....do....	3,014	3,796	1,428	1,599	2,032	2,368
Domestic.....do....	2,947	3,793	1,369	1,599	1,882	2,068
Railroad shops, domestic.....do....	1,027	1,030	804	409	540	765
Passenger cars, equipment manufacturers:						
Orders unfilled, end of month, total.....do....	690	636	757	761	725	953
Domestic.....do....	405	374	671	693	672	918
Shipments, total.....do....	40	59	57	40	36	45
Domestic.....do....	22	36	34	18	21	27

l/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. l/ Data for March and December 1954 and March 1955 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