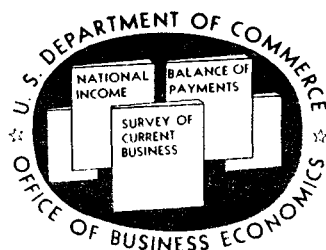


May 27, 1955



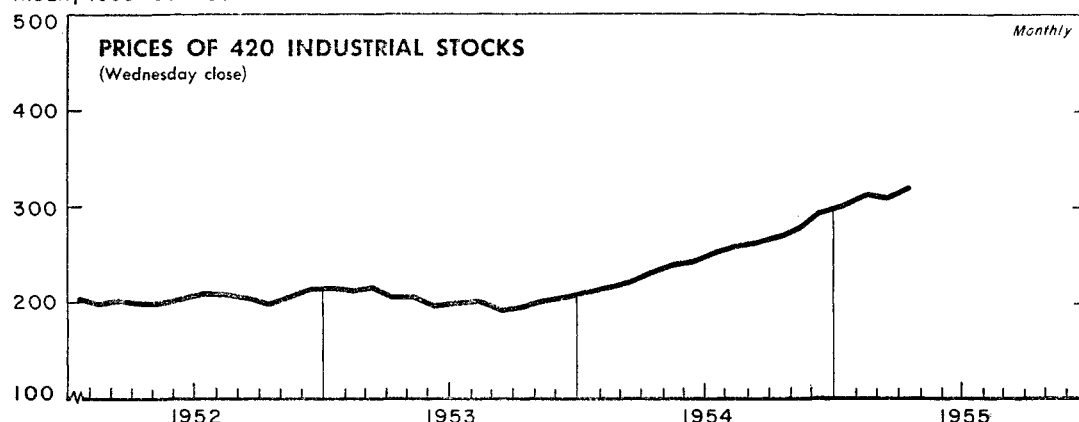
BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

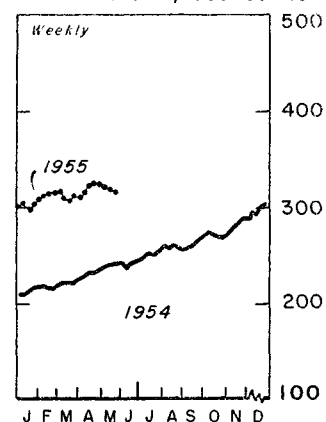
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SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

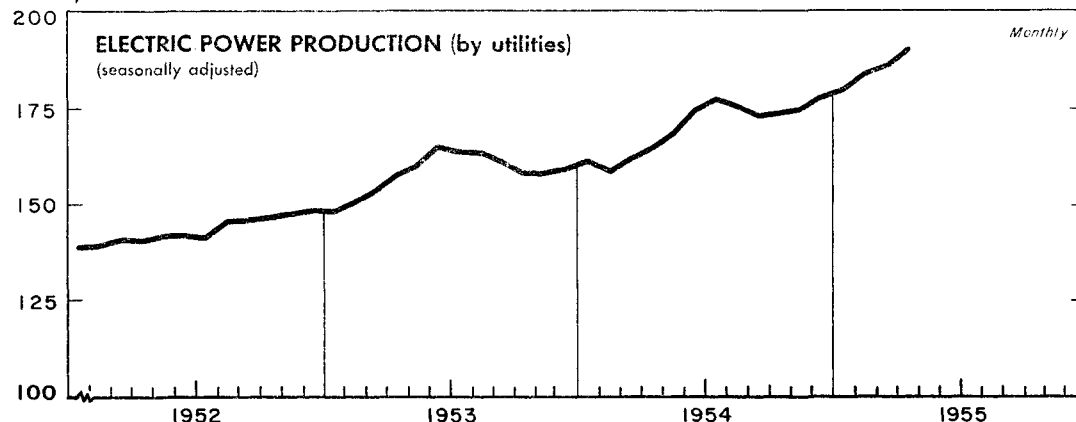
INDEX, 1935-39 = 100



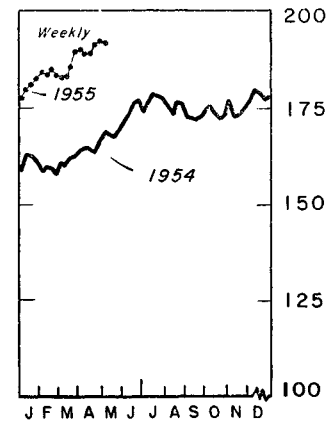
INDEX, 1935-39 = 100



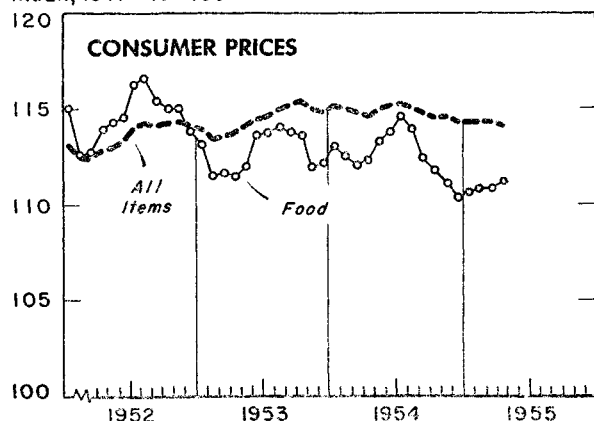
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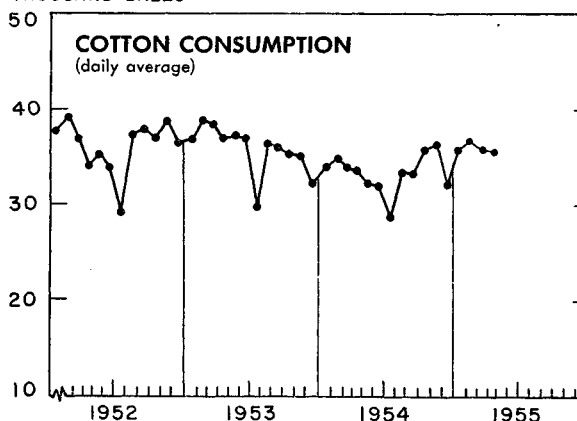
INDEX, 1947-49 = 100



INDEX, 1947-49 = 100



THOUSAND BALES



WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1954		1955			
	May 15	May 22	April 30	May 7	May 14	May 21
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..		*110.9		110.4	110.4	110.3
Farm products.....do.....		*97.9		92.5	92.3	91.7
Foods, processed.....do.....		*106.6		103.3	103.3	103.0
All other.....do.....		*114.5		115.7	115.7	115.7
22 commodities 2/.....do.....	92.2	93.2	89.8	89.2	89.3	89.3
Department store sales.....do.....	97	106	120	134	108	.....
Insured unemployment, total 3/.....thous..	2,298	2,250	1,563	1,507	.....	.....
State programs.....do.....	2,120	2,079	1,400	1,347	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 4/.....mil. of dol..	29,791	29,726	29,718	29,823	29,877	29,847
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total.....do....	25,484	25,528	24,857	25,225	24,779	24,902
Member bank reserve balances.....do.....	19,481	19,686	18,654	19,123	18,677	18,879
Excess reserves, estimated.....do.....	745	749	412	900	491	592
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	54,153	53,715	56,969	55,981	56,234	.....
Time deposits, except Government.....do.....	20,406	20,500	21,489	21,476	21,462	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do.....	78,794	79,764	84,778	84,464	84,214	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do.....	31,994	32,958	33,983	33,571	33,395	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross).....do....	22,045	21,975	22,545	22,607	22,721	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do.....	6,559	6,582	7,570	7,590	7,633	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	248	248	212	237	233	226
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 4/.....percent..	3.12	3.13	3.21	3.21	3.23	3.23
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Standard and Poor's): 1935-39=100..	219.5	220.1	288.1	285.4	284.5	283.3
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do.....	241.2	222.6	324.0	320.3	319.2	317.6
Production:						
Bituminous coal 4/.....thous. of short tons..	1,192	1,200	1,433	1,448	1,487	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	8,380	8,373	9,699	9,586	9,673	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	143,629	148,675	216,629	202,112	208,268	206,027
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 4/.....thous. of bbl..	6,428	6,435	6,836	6,688	6,681	.....
Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..	1,690	1,712	2,307	2,331	2,345	2,338
Percent of capacity 5/.....do.....	#70.9	#71.8	95.6	96.6	97.2	96.9
Freight carloadings, total.....thous. of cars..	678	682	730	741	757	.....
Miscellaneous.....do.....	345	346	379	382	383	.....

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 May 28: Production, 2,324 thous. short tons; operating rate, 96.3 percent. * Monthly index for May 1954. # Not comparable with 1955 rates which are based on higher capacity as reported January 1, 1955.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1954		1955			
	March	April	January	February	March	April
COMMODITY PRICES						
Consumer price index, all items.....1947-49=100..	114.8	114.6	114.3	114.3	114.3	1/ 114.2
Apparel.....do.....	104.3	104.1	103.3	103.4	103.2	103.1
Food.....do.....	112.1	112.4	110.6	110.8	110.8	111.2
Dairy products.....do.....	108.0	104.6	106.4	106.1	105.4	104.6
Fruits and vegetables.....do.....	107.8	110.0	110.6	110.7	112.0	117.5
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do.....	109.5	110.5	102.4	102.5	102.3	103.0
Housing.....do.....	119.0	118.5	119.6	119.6	119.6	119.5
Gas and electricity.....do.....	107.6	107.6	109.4	109.9	110.3	110.3
Housefurnishings.....do.....	107.2	106.1	104.6	104.8	104.6	104.5
Rent.....do.....	128.0	128.2	129.5	129.7	130.0	129.9
Medical care.....do.....	124.4	124.9	126.5	126.8	127.0	127.3
Personal care.....do.....	114.1	112.9	113.7	113.5	113.5	113.7
Reading and recreation.....do.....	108.2	106.5	106.9	106.4	106.6	106.6
Transportation.....do.....	129.0	129.1	127.6	127.4	127.3	125.3
Other goods and services.....do.....	120.1	120.2	119.9	119.8	119.8	119.8
Purchasing power of the dollar as measured by--						
Wholesale prices.....do.....	90.5	90.1	90.8	90.6	90.9	2/ 90.5
Consumer prices.....do.....	87.1	87.3	87.5	87.5	87.5	2/ 87.6
Retail food prices.....do.....	89.2	89.0	90.4	90.3	90.3	2/ 90.0
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
Construction contracts awarded, 37 States (F.W. Dodge Corp.):						
Total projects.....number..	55,659	65,521	56,285	58,456	75,533	79,184
Total valuation.....mil. of dol..	1,528	1,692	1,504	1,581	2,135	2,322
Building, total.....do.....	1,200	1,402	1,255	1,279	1,749	1,776
Value of contract awards (F. R. indexes):						
Total, unadjusted.....1947-49=100..	194	225	215	228	264	p297
Residential, unadjusted.....do.....	216	251	241	266	307	p349
Total, adjusted.....do.....	191	196	261	261	260	p258
Residential, adjusted.....do.....	205	213	288	297	291	p297
Highway concrete pavement contract awards: 3/						
Total.....thous. of sq. yd..	6,075	7,791	7,134	7,289	9,504	8,470
Airports.....do.....	1,078	1,211	2,600	2,134	2,021	2,855
Roads.....do.....	2,649	4,005	2,769	3,635	3,988	2,279
Streets and alleys.....do.....	2,347	2,575	1,765	1,520	3,495	3,336

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Index based on 1935-39=100 is 190.9. 2/ Indexes based on 1935-39=100 are as follows: Measured by-- wholesale prices, 47.4; consumer prices, 52.4; retail food, 44.5. 3/ Data for March 1954 and 1955 are for 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

ITEM	1954		1955			
	March	April	January	February	March	April
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..	254.0	254.2	258.8	258.8	259.0	260.7
Brick and steel.....do....	250.7	250.2	254.6	254.7	254.9	256.2
Brick and wood.....do....	253.7	252.8	257.7	257.9	258.6	260.0
Commercial and factory buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....do....	260.2	261.0	266.4	266.5	266.7	268.5
Brick and steel.....do....	257.2	257.4	262.5	262.6	262.9	264.5
Brick and wood.....do....	252.5	251.9	256.2	256.3	256.8	258.1
Frame.....do....	252.7	251.5	257.4	257.7	258.8	260.3
Steel.....do....	241.2	241.2	246.0	246.1	246.3	247.4
Residences:						
Brick.....do....	254.2	253.4	258.4	258.6	259.3	260.7
Frame.....do....	248.9	247.4	252.4	252.6	253.5	254.9
FINANCE						
Federal Government finance:						
Receipts, total.....mil. of dol..	13,013	3,956	4,833	5,954	11,089	4,941
Receipts, net.....do....	11,434	2,751	4,655	5,427	9,741	3,732
Customs.....do....	44	52	48	47	60	51
Income and employment taxes.....do....	11,866	2,865	3,638	4,857	9,906	3,976
Miscellaneous internal revenue.....do....	954	860	716	774	995	795
All other receipts.....do....	149	179	430	276	127	119
Expenditures, total.....do....	5,555	5,296	4,942	4,831	5,894	5,228
Interest on public debt.....do....	588	350	222	396	478	355
Veterans' services and benefits.....do....	340	383	379	365	386	383
National security.....do....	3,830	3,691	3,176	3,048	p3,520	p3,334
All other expenditures.....do....	797	872	1,166	1,022	p1,511	p1,155
Life insurance (Institute of Life Insurance):						
Assets, total, all U. S. life insurance companies.....do....	79,637	80,095	84,912	85,324	85,627	.....
Bonds (book value), domestic and foreign, total.....do....	45,051	45,183	46,653	46,690	46,764	.....
U. S. Government.....do....	9,661	9,635	9,233	9,242	9,091	.....
State, county, municipal (U. S.).....do....	1,446	1,481	1,940	1,977	1,964	.....
Public utility (U. S.).....do....	12,643	12,701	13,140	13,154	13,191	.....
Railroad (U. S.).....do....	3,601	3,624	3,705	3,719	3,716	.....
Industrial and miscellaneous (U. S.).....do....	15,077	15,076	16,063	16,092	16,293	.....
Stocks (book value), domestic and foreign, total.....do....	2,418	2,457	2,756	2,763	2,773	.....
Preferred (U. S.).....do....	1,565	1,592	1,715	1,714	1,707	.....
Common (U. S.).....do....	849	861	1,036	1,044	1,059	.....
Mortgage loans, total.....do....	23,769	24,004	26,223	26,474	26,727	.....
Nonfarm.....do....	21,845	22,059	24,171	24,405	24,629	.....
Real estate.....do....	2,065	2,085	2,310	2,344	2,367	.....
Policy loans and premium notes.....do....	2,947	2,966	3,127	3,144	3,159	.....
Cash.....do....	1,035	1,051	1,140	1,111	1,029	.....
Other assets.....do....	2,352	2,349	2,703	2,798	2,808	.....
Gold, monetary stock, United States.....do....	21,965	21,969	21,714	21,716	21,719	p21,671
Currency in circulation.....do....	29,707	29,735	29,789	29,817	29,800	p29,762
FOODSTUFFS						
Grains, receipts, principal markets:						
Barley.....thous. of bu..	8,566	7,594	16,321	8,975	10,311	7,140
Corn.....do....	24,741	22,798	27,831	19,423	15,530	13,028
Oats.....do....	4,886	4,602	12,704	8,193	7,159	5,392
Rye.....do....	231	667	1,296	419	206	282
Wheat.....do....	22,028	19,660	28,032	19,823	27,482	24,105
Livestock:						
Cattle and calves:						
Receipts, principal markets.....thous. of animals..	2,337	2,048	2,322	1,767	2,086	2,040
Shipments, feeder, to 9 corn-belt States.....do....	220	217	294	171	212	272
Hogs:						
Receipts, principal markets.....do....	2,450	2,073	3,183	2,587	2,924	2,473
Sheep and lambs:						
Receipts, principal markets.....do....	1,128	1,203	1,334	1,029	1,166	1,302
Shipments, feeder, to 9 corn-belt States.....do....	188	202	226	135	120	156
LEATHER AND PRODUCTS						
Leather production:						
Calf and kip.....thous. of skins..	762	712	956	r945	1,024	.....
Cattle hide.....thous. of hides..	2,117	2,039	2,109	2,085	2,332	.....
Goat and kid.....thous. of skins..	2,732	2,149	2,197	2,171	2,433	.....
Sheep and lamb.....do....	2,219	2,001	1,923	2,117	2,144	.....
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Iron ore (Lake Superior district):						
Consumption by furnaces.....thous. of long tons..	5,932	5,287	6,620	6,447	r7,481	7,290
Stocks, end of month, total.....do....	30,587	26,142	37,470	31,108	23,711	18,907
At furnaces.....do....	24,553	20,690	31,360	25,222	18,616	14,545
On Lake Erie docks.....do....	6,035	5,452	6,110	5,886	5,095	4,362
Steel forgings:						
Orders, unfilled, total.....thous. of short tons..	486.5	459.6	487.8	491.9	507.1	.....
Shipments, for sale, total.....do....	130.2	115.8	135.9	135.4	154.4	.....
Drop and upset.....do....	95.5	86.4	103.0	102.1	119.2	.....
Press and open hammer.....do....	34.7	29.3	33.0	33.3	35.2	.....

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

ITEM	1954		1955			
	March	April	January	February	March	April
METALS AND MANUFACTURES - Continued						
Aluminum fabricated products, shipments, total...mil. of lb..	226.2	227.2	270.6	r272.1	313.9	.....
Castings.....do....	56.2	53.0	64.4	66.9	79.0	.....
Lead, refined (primary refineries):						
Production.....short tons..	50,808	46,730	44,780	40,173	50,308	50,274
Shipments (domestic).....do....	47,837	47,161	40,451	46,645	42,381	44,878
Stocks, end of month.....do....	100,927	100,441	84,882	64,938	59,881	54,956
Oil burners:						
Shipments.....number..	48,983	50,350	57,282	58,041	59,218	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	77,203	84,276	50,686	51,163	62,655	.....
Stoves and ranges, domestic cooking, excluding electric:						
Shipments, total.....number..	203,584	186,951	167,752	200,306	232,431	.....
Coal and wood.....do....	5,643	5,876	5,564	5,527	6,063	.....
Gas (including bungalow and combination).....do....	188,519	172,762	153,065	186,436	217,466	.....
Kerosene, gasoline, and fuel oil.....do....	9,422	8,313	9,123	8,343	8,902	.....
Stoves, domestic heating, shipments, total.....do....	94,395	126,819	75,004	90,897	106,650	.....
Coal and wood.....do....	7,242	6,804	4,824	4,422	7,710	.....
Gas.....do....	44,691	77,109	41,646	38,228	51,643	.....
Kerosene, gasoline, and fuel oil.....do....	42,462	42,906	28,534	48,247	47,297	.....
Warm-air furnaces (forced-air and gravity air-flow),						
shipments, total.....do....	69,280	72,488	85,476	79,537	87,454	.....
Gas.....do....	39,870	43,566	50,923	47,740	53,673	.....
Oil.....do....	26,827	26,882	31,899	28,917	30,843	.....
Solid fuel.....do....	2,583	2,040	2,654	2,880	2,938	.....
Water heaters, gas, shipments.....do....	184,043	196,767	200,001	214,703	248,754	.....
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODUCTS						
Glass containers:						
Production.....thous. of gross..	11,554	10,824	10,449	10,211	11,293	10,045
Shipments, domestic, total.....do....	12,315	9,339	9,593	9,177	10,930	10,422
General-use food:						
Narrow-neck food.....do....	1,366	1,144	833	846	1,038	1,052
Wide-mouth food (incl. packers' tumblers, jelly						
glasses, and fruit jars).....do....	3,393	2,519	3,016	2,719	2,836	2,699
Beverage (returnable and nonreturnable).....do....	601	776	392	455	853	980
Beer bottles.....do....	960	818	596	536	854	1,070
Liquor and wine.....do....	1,377	923	847	976	1,257	1,097
Medicinal and toilet.....do....	3,363	2,060	2,772	2,564	2,894	2,399
Chemical, household and industrial.....do....	1,071	906	923	903	997	930
Dairy products.....do....	184	193	214	178	201	195
Stocks, end of month.....do....	12,270	13,395	13,301	14,058	14,247	14,521
TEXTILE PRODUCTS						
Cotton:						
Consumption 1/.....bales..	844,092	659,300	711,286	720,815	892,892	696,354
Manufactures:						
Spindle activity (cotton system spindles): 1/						
Active spindles, last working day, total...thousands..	20,872	20,715	20,782	20,954	20,892	20,674
Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do....	19,626	19,457	19,282	19,429	19,365	19,160
Spindle hours operated, all fibers, total...mil. of hr..	11,454	8,991	9,934	10,046	12,400	9,594
Average per working day.....do....	458	457	497	511	496	488
Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do....	10,799	8,475	9,184	9,299	11,485	8,854
Operations as percent of capacity.....do....	125.3	125.3	138.0	142.5	138.5	136.8

r/ Revised. 1/ Data for March 1954 and March 1955 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