



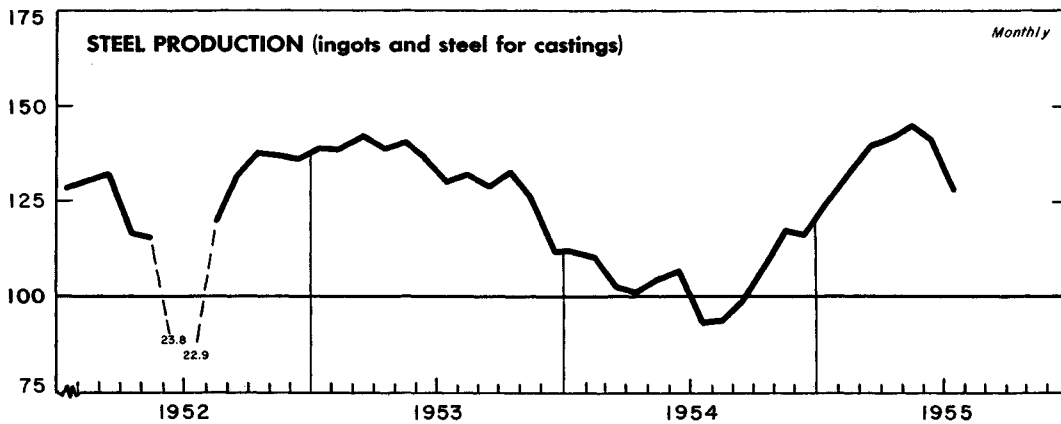
BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

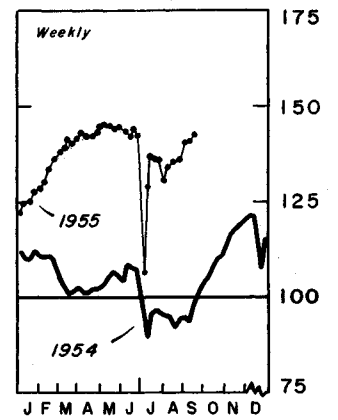
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SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

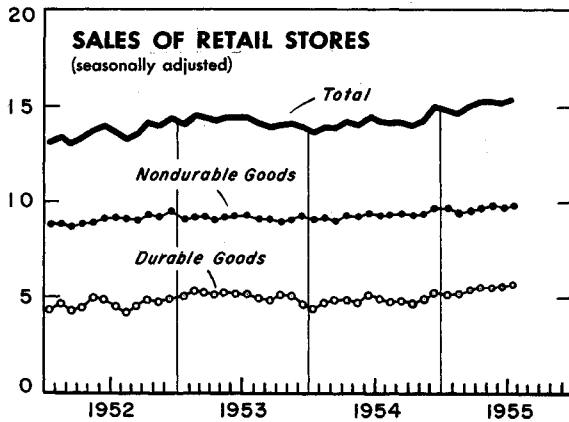
INDEX, 1947-49 = 100



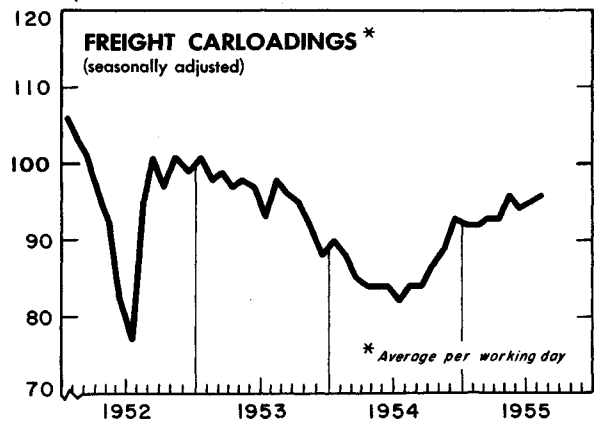
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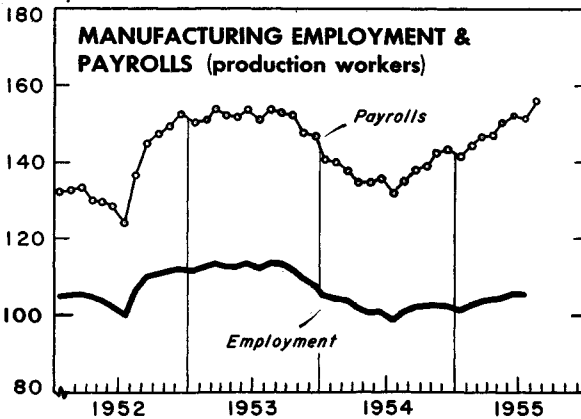
BILLION DOLLARS



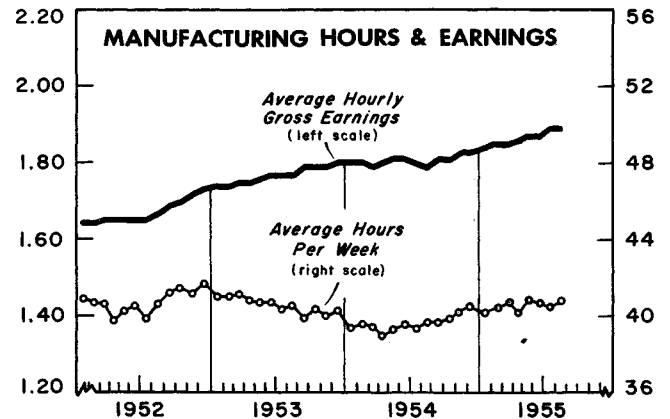
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INDEX, 1947-49 = 100



DOLLARS



WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS¹

ITEM	1954		1955			
	Sept. 4	Sept. 11	Aug. 20	Aug. 27	Sept. 3	Sept. 10
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	*110.5	.....	110.3	110.5	110.5	110.6
Farm products.....do.....	*95.8	.....	87.9	88.3	87.9	88.1
Foods, processed.....do.....	*106.4	.....	101.5	101.4	101.0	101.4
All other.....do.....	*114.4	.....	116.8	117.0	117.1	117.2
22 commodities <u>2</u> /.....do.....	90.7	91.1	89.0	89.2	89.2	89.8
Department store sales.....do.....	113	97	106	111	125	.....
Insured unemployment, total <u>3</u> /.....thous..	1,784	1,816	1,045	1,051	.....	.....
State programs.....do.....	1,606	1,639	939	944	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation <u>4</u> /.....mil. of dol..	29,982	30,099	30,315	30,251	30,362	30,515
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total <u>4</u> /.....do....	24,699	24,759	25,495	25,425	25,217	25,401
Member bank reserve balances <u>4</u> /.....do.....	18,346	18,336	18,757	18,673	18,614	18,685
Excess reserves, estimated <u>4</u> /.....do.....	743	780	592	570	498	599
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities: <u>5</u> / Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	54,066	54,013	55,360	55,669	55,880	.....
Time deposits, except Government.....do.....	21,253	21,309	21,567	21,532	21,579	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do.....	82,204	82,020	84,210	84,098	84,390	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do.....	35,862	35,526	31,261	30,972	30,952	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross).....do....	20,798	20,829	23,940	24,050	24,159	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do.....	7,866	6,838	8,069	9,428	9,487	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	193	168	216	180	215	205
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) <u>4</u> /.....percent..	3.13	3.13	3.29	3.30	3.31	3.32
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Standard and Poor's), 1935-39=100..	232.7	234.7	307.4	311.9	315.7	319.9
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do.....	257.0	259.3	349.5	355.5	360.7	366.7
Production:						
Bituminous coal <u>4</u> /.....thous. of short tons..	1,304	1,350	1,579	1,622	.....	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	9,087	8,808	10,812	10,906	10,706	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	108,834	82,747	159,528	149,774	100,663	95,562
Petroleum (crude) and condensate <u>4</u> /.....thous. of bbl..	6,111	6,178	6,701	6,685	6,662	.....
Steel <u>6</u> /.....thous. of short tons..	1,525	1,502	2,176	2,186	2,255	2,264
Percent of capacity <u>6</u> /.....	#64.0	#63.0	90.2	90.6	93.4	93.8
Freight carloadings, total.....thous. of cars..	688	602	781	792	794	.....
Miscellaneous.....do.....	344	300	375	382	384	.....

¹/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. ²/ Tuesday prices. ³/ Includes UCFE program beginning January 8, 1955. ⁴/ Daily average. ⁵/ Wednesday data. ⁶/ Week ended September 17: Production, 2,295 thous. short tons; operating rate, 95.1 percent. * Monthly index for August 1954. # Not comparable with 1955 rates which are based on higher capacity as reported January 1, 1955.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1954		1955			
	July	August	May	June	July	August
COMMODITY PRICES						
Prices received and paid by farmers:						
Prices received, all farm products.....1910-14=100..	245	249	244	243	237	233
Crops.....do.....	247	248	255	244	238	228
Food grains.....do.....	225	228	240	232	222	214
Feed grains and hay.....do.....	202	207	200	196	190	178
Tobacco.....do.....	446	430	436	435	435	437
Cotton.....do.....	272	288	266	266	271	277
Fruit.....do.....	228	234	209	239	235	213
Commercial vegetables, fresh market.....do.....	228	199	308	230	223	211
Oil-bearing crops.....do.....	286	294	259	256	257	246
Livestock and products.....do.....	244	249	234	242	237	237
Meat animals.....do.....	278	282	260	276	261	251
Dairy products.....do.....	238	245	236	235	242	249
Poultry and eggs.....do.....	172	179	175	176	178	191
Prices paid:						
All commodities and services.....do.....	263	264	263	263	262	260
Family living items.....do.....	277	277	274	274	274	273
Production items.....do.....	247	250	251	250	248	247
All commodities and services, interest, taxes, and wage rates.....do.....	280	r281	282	282	281	279
Parity ratio.....do.....	88	89	87	86	84	84
Retail price:						
All commodities (U.S.Dept. of Commerce index), 1935-39=100..	209.7	209.0	207.7	207.8	208.6	.....
DOMESTIC TRADE						
All retail stores:						
Estimated sales (unadjusted), total <u>1</u> /.....mil. of dol..	14,390	13,896	15,468	15,734	r15,398	15,368
Durable-goods stores:						
Automotive group.....do.....	2,747	2,672	3,409	3,536	r3,271	3,295
Furniture and appliance group.....do.....	733	730	809	847	r825	875
Nondurable-goods stores:						
Apparel group.....do.....	722	681	878	868	r756	745
Drug and proprietary stores.....do.....	407	396	419	425	r434	440
Eating and drinking places.....do.....	1,221	1,207	1,136	1,168	r1,274	1,232

r/ Revised. 1/ August 1955 figures are advance estimates.

ITEM	1954		1955			
	July	August	May	June	July	August
DOMESTIC TRADE - Continued						
All retail stores - Continued						
Estimated sales (unadjusted) <u>1/</u> - Continued						
Nondurable-goods stores - Continued						
Food group.....mil. of dol..	3,689	3,374	3,514	3,591	r3,761	3,577
Gasoline service stations.....do...	1,052	1,026	1,046	1,066	r1,117	1,099
General-merchandise group.....do...	1,334	1,424	1,584	1,565	r1,412	1,578
Estimated inventories (adjusted), total.....do...	22,400	22,450	r23,000	r23,190	23,350	.....
Durable-goods stores.....do...	10,190	10,290	10,750	10,780	10,850	.....
Nondurable-goods stores.....do...	12,210	12,160	r12,250	r12,410	12,500	.....
Firms with 11 or more stores, estimated sales:						
Unadjusted.....do....	2,643	2,470	2,721	2,778	2,729	.....
Adjusted.....do....	2,652	2,655	2,825	2,784	2,809	.....
Department store sales, United States total:						
Unadjusted index.....1947-49=100..	88	98	r116	109	r98	p104
Adjusted index.....do....	r112	r111	117	r114	r124	p118
Wholesale trade:						
Sales, estimated (unadjusted), total.....mil. of dol..	9,510	9,460	9,320	r10,110	9,650	.....
Durable-goods establishments.....do...	2,870	2,980	3,270	3,450	3,190	.....
Nondurable-goods establishments.....do...	6,640	6,480	6,050	r6,660	6,460	.....
Inventories, estimated (unadjusted), total.....do...	11,500	11,630	11,550	r11,520	11,640	.....
Durable-goods establishments.....do...	5,720	5,710	6,060	6,040	5,950	.....
Nondurable-goods establishments.....do...	5,780	5,920	5,490	r5,480	5,690	.....
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES						
Labor force (Bureau of the Census):						
Civilian labor force.....thousands..						
Employed.....do....	65,494	65,522	65,192	66,696	67,465	67,726
Agricultural employment.....do....	7,486	6,928	6,963	7,681	7,704	7,536
Nonagricultural employment.....do....	54,661	55,349	55,740	56,335	57,291	57,952
Unemployed.....do....	3,347	3,245	2,489	2,679	2,471	2,237
Employees in nonagricultural establishments:						
Total, unadjusted (U. S. Dept. of Labor).....do....	47,866	48,123	48,918	r49,508	r49,433	p49,789
Manufacturing.....do....	15,584	15,822	16,334	r16,577	r16,491	p16,772
Mining.....do....	760	763	742	760	r747	p753
Contract construction.....do....	2,686	2,735	2,526	2,615	r2,701	p2,729
Transportation and public utilities.....do....	4,029	4,018	3,997	r4,081	r4,101	p4,122
Wholesale and retail trade.....do....	10,351	10,321	10,534	r10,643	r10,642	p10,641
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....do....	2,150	2,151	2,171	r2,206	r2,236	p2,233
Service and miscellaneous.....do....	5,755	5,750	5,733	r5,775	r5,819	p5,821
Government.....do....	6,551	6,563	6,881	6,851	r6,696	p6,718
Production workers in manufacturing industries:						
Total.....do....	12,179	12,418	12,882	r13,086	r12,988	p13,249
Durable-goods industries.....do....	6,876	6,890	7,530	r7,630	r7,523	p7,556
Ordnance and accessories.....do....	104	101	90	r89	r89	p88
Lumber and wood products (except furniture).....do....	583	592	683	r727	r725	p733
Furniture and fixtures.....do....	275	290	298	r300	298	p311
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....	424	434	456	r466	r460	p466
Primary metal industries.....do....	969	967	1,096	r1,115	r1,102	p1,112
Fabricated metal products <u>2/</u>.....do....	809	820	877	r884	r865	p881
Machinery (except electrical).....do....	1,111	1,095	1,174	r1,182	r1,164	p1,155
Electrical machinery.....do....	751	766	809	r816	r807	p824
Transportation equipment.....do....	1,279	1,238	1,456	r1,447	r1,425	p1,376
Instruments and related products.....do....	214	214	211	r220	r218	p221
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries.....do....	358	373	379	r385	r372	p390
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	5,303	5,528	5,352	r5,456	r5,465	p5,693
Food and kindred products.....do....	1,152	1,238	1,035	r1,089	r1,156	p1,253
Tobacco manufactures.....do....	83	102	80	82	79	p108
Textile-mill products.....do....	946	974	965	974	r956	p978
Apparel and other finished textile products.....do....	984	1,054	1,041	r1,058	r1,024	p1,082
Paper and allied products.....do....	433	439	444	451	r449	p456
Printing, publishing, and allied industries.....do....	508	509	516	r521	519	p519
Chemicals and allied products.....do....	517	520	550	545	r543	p547
Products of petroleum and coal.....do....	181	179	175	r176	179	p179
Rubber products.....do....	171	175	216	219	r217	p219
Leather and leather products.....do....	328	338	331	r342	343	p354
Manufacturing production-worker indexes:						
Employment:						
Unadjusted.....1947-49=100..	98.5	100.4	104.1	105.8	r105.0	p107.1
Adjusted.....do....	99.7	99.4	105.8	106.7	r106.4	p106.1
Payrolls, unadjusted.....do....	131.9	134.8	150.1	152.1	r151.5	p156.0
Hours and earnings:						
Average weekly hours per worker, all manufacturing...hours..	39.4	39.7	40.8	40.7	r40.4	p40.8
Durable-goods industries.....do....	39.7	40.1	41.6	41.3	r40.9	p41.5
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	39.0	39.2	39.6	39.9	39.7	p39.9
Average weekly earnings, all manufacturing.....dollars..	70.92	71.06	76.30	76.11	r76.36	p77.11
Durable-goods industries.....do....	75.83	76.59	82.78	82.19	r82.21	p83.83
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	64.74	64.68	67.32	67.83	67.89	p67.83
Average hourly earnings, all manufacturing.....do....	1.80	1.79	1.87	1.87	r1.89	p1.89
Durable-goods industries.....do....	1.91	1.91	1.99	1.99	r2.01	p2.02
Ordnance and accessories.....do....	1.99	2.00	2.03	2.04	r2.04	p2.05
Lumber and wood products (except furniture).....do....	1.54	1.58	1.66	1.72	1.72	p1.74
Furniture and fixtures.....do....	1.57	1.57	1.59	1.61	1.61	p1.63
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....	1.77	1.77	1.84	1.86	r1.87	p1.85
Primary metal industries.....do....	2.11	2.10	2.18	2.21	r2.27	p2.29

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ August 1955 figures are advance estimates. 2/ Except ordnance, machinery, and transportation equipment.

ITEM	1954		1955			
	July	August	May	June	July	August
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES - Continued						
Hours and earnings - Continued						
Average hourly earnings, all manufacturing - Continued						
Durable-goods industries - Continued						
Fabricated metal products <u>1</u>.....dollars..	1.89	1.90	1.96	1.95	r1.99	p1.99
Machinery (except electrical).....do....	2.01	2.01	2.07	2.08	2.08	p2.09
Electrical machinery.....do....	1.82	1.81	1.87	1.86	r1.87	p1.87
Transportation equipment.....do....	2.12	2.13	2.22	2.18	r2.24	p2.26
Instruments and related products.....do....	1.84	1.83	1.87	1.91	r1.90	p1.91
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries.....do....	1.60	1.59	1.65	1.64	r1.66	p1.65
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....						
Food and kindred products.....do....	1.66	1.65	1.70	1.70	1.71	p1.70
Tobacco manufactures.....do....	1.67	1.64	1.74	1.72	r1.72	p1.72
Textile-mill products.....do....	1.36	1.29	1.41	1.41	r1.41	p1.31
Apparel and other finished textile products.....do....	1.36	1.36	1.38	1.37	1.37	p1.37
Paper and allied products.....do....	1.34	1.35	1.32	1.33	r1.33	p1.34
Printing, publishing, and allied industries.....do....	1.76	1.76	1.81	1.83	1.84	p1.84
Chemicals and allied products.....do....	2.27	2.27	r2.35	2.35	r2.35	p2.35
Products of petroleum and coal.....do....	1.94	1.93	r1.98	2.00	r2.03	p2.03
Rubber products.....do....	2.30	2.27	r2.36	2.37	r2.41	p2.40
Leather and leather products.....do....	1.94	1.94	2.08	2.11	2.10	p2.10
	1.37	1.37	1.41	1.40	r1.38	p1.39
FINANCE						
Federal Government finance:						
Gross debt (direct), end of month, total.....mil. of dol..	270,984	274,955	277,472	274,374	277,584	278,309
Interest bearing, total.....do....	268,681	272,693	274,804	271,741	274,955	275,711
Public issues.....do....	226,528	230,214	232,563	228,491	231,615	231,472
Special issues.....do....	42,152	42,479	42,240	43,250	43,340	44,238
Noninterest bearing.....do....	2,303	2,262	2,668	2,633	2,629	2,598
Obligations guaranteed by U.S. Government, end of mo., do....	21	27	43	44	42	43
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Iron ore (Lake Superior district):						
Shipments from upper lake ports.....thous. of long tons..	11,016	9,555	11,606	12,595	13,334	13,572
Barrels and drums, steel, heavy types:						
Orders, unfilled, end of month.....thousands..	3,160	2,939	2,123	2,377	2,317	.....
Shipments.....do....	1,848	1,785	2,062	2,514	2,078	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	72	109	107	125	116	.....
Steel products, net shipments, total.....thous. of short tons..						
Bars: Hot rolled, all grades.....do....	4,490	4,681	7,541	7,770	6,251	.....
Reinforcing.....do....	444	446	774	770	627	.....
	168	152	215	209	177	.....
Semimanufactures.....do....						
Pipes and tubes.....do....	116	142	290	325	264	.....
Plates.....do....	674	715	872	967	824	.....
Rails.....do....	376	365	571	600	506	.....
Sheets.....do....	80	71	121	127	104	.....
	1,347	1,331	2,439	2,428	2,108	.....
Strip: Cold rolled.....do....						
Hot rolled.....do....	74	95	148	152	109	.....
	95	109	193	198	145	.....
Structural shapes.....do....	350	326	414	378	357	.....
Tin plate and terneplate.....do....	242	342	607	651	368	.....
Wire and wire products.....do....	322	351	515	542	363	.....

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

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WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT
SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS