



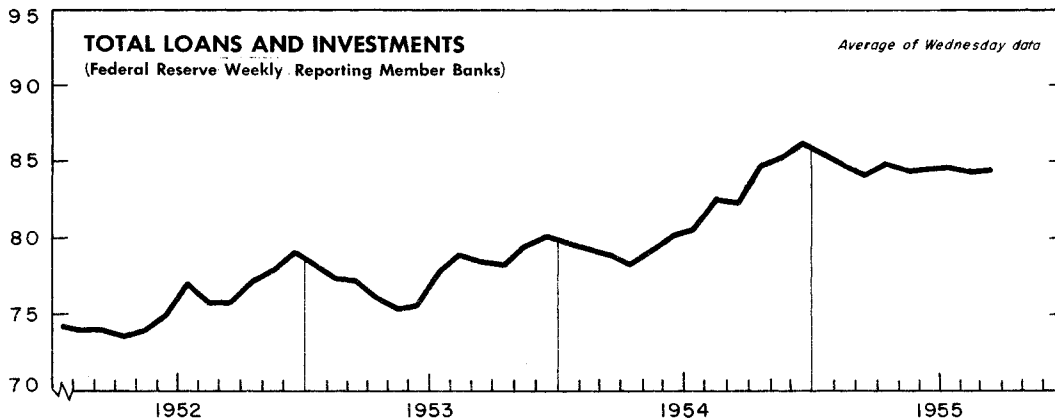
# BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

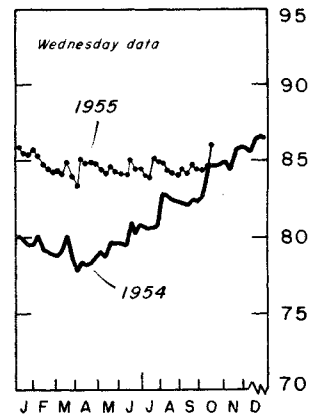
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## SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

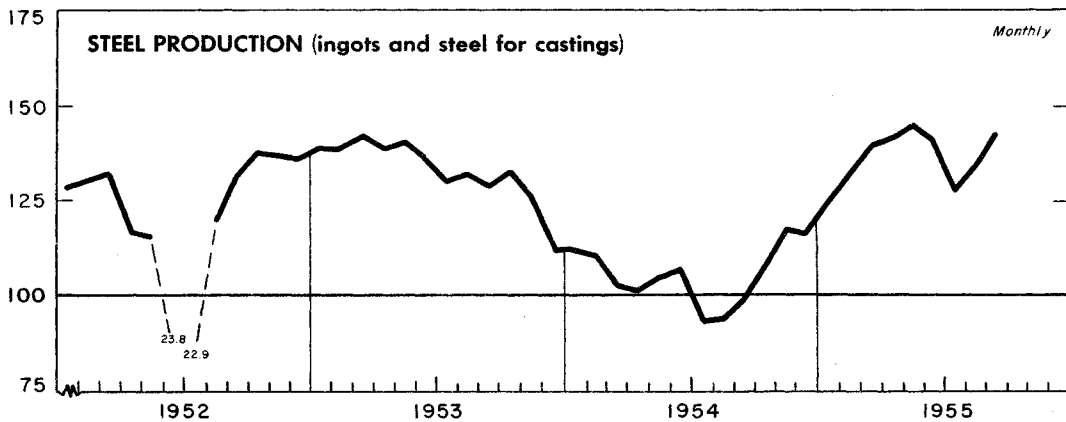
BILLION DOLLARS



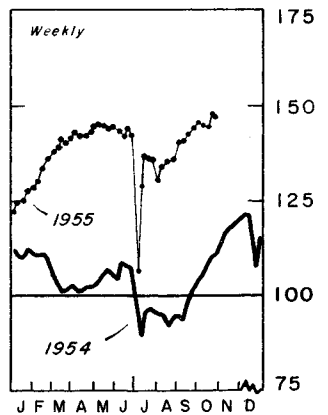
BILLION DOLLARS



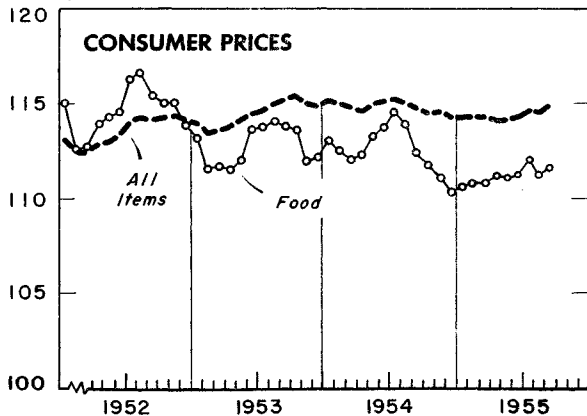
INDEX, 1947 - 49 = 100



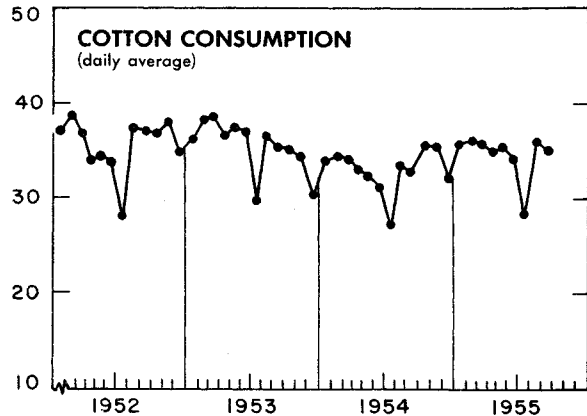
INDEX, 1947 - 49 = 100



INDEX, 1947 - 49 = 100



THOUSAND BALES



WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

ITEM	1954		1955			
	Oct. 16	Oct. 23	Oct. 1	Oct. 8	Oct. 15	Oct. 22
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..		*109.7		111.4	111.2	111.2
Farm products.....do.....		*93.1		87.5	86.7	87.1
Foods, processed.....do.....		*103.7		100.1	99.8	99.8
All other.....do.....		*114.5		118.6	118.7	118.6
22 commodities 2/.....do.....	90.3	90.4	90.4	89.7	89.5	89.5
Department store sales.....do.....	119	123	126	125	128	
Insured unemployment, total 3/.....thous..	1,646	1,634	895	863		
State programs.....do.....	1,480	1,469	813	784		
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 4/.....mil. of dol..	30,154	30,070	30,382	30,479	30,628	30,547
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 4/.....do...	25,465	25,699	25,478	25,525	25,714	26,169
Member bank reserve balances 4/.....do.....	18,832	19,136	18,618	18,700	18,728	19,119
Excess reserves, estimated 4/.....do.....	631	867	522	523	557	635
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:5/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	54,672	55,470	56,306	55,860	55,618	
Time deposits, except Government.....do.....	21,330	21,346	21,631	21,672	21,710	
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do.....	84,722	84,675	84,493	84,616	86,102	
U. S. Government obligations.....do.....	37,364	37,403	30,347	30,282	31,419	
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross).....do...	21,195	21,126	24,940	25,010	25,114	
Real-estate loans (gross).....do.....	6,924	6,955	7,977	7,972	8,001	
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	152	229	186	207	203	239
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 4/.....percent..	3.13	3.13	3.31	3.30	3.30	3.30
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Standard and Poor's), 1935-39=100..	243.2	242.6	319.1	311.1	301.2	305.5
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do.....	270.8	270.2	366.4	356.2	343.8	349.4
Production:						
Bituminous coal 4/.....thous. of short tons..	1,404	1,506	1,603	1,639	1,627	
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	9,117	9,033	10,627	10,639	10,599	
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	57,424	59,302	138,781	95,776	126,166	164,940
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 4/.....thous. of bbl..	6,196	6,174	6,661	6,690	6,714	
Steel 6/.....thous. of short tons..	1,735	1,769	2,341	2,334	2,330	2,386
Percent of capacity 6/.....do.....	#72.8	#74.2	97.0	96.7	96.5	98.9
Freight car loadings, total.....thous. of cars..	721	746	820	807	827	
Miscellaneous.....do.....	361	370	400	392	409	

<sup>1</sup>/Data do not always cover calendar weeks. <sup>2</sup>/ Tuesday prices. <sup>3</sup>/ Includes UCFE program beginning January 8, 1955. <sup>4</sup>/ Daily average. <sup>5</sup>/ Wednesday data. <sup>6</sup>/ Week ended October 29: Production, 2,370 thous. short tons; operating rate, 98.2 percent. \* Monthly index for October 1954. # Not comparable with 1955 rates which are based on higher capacity as reported January 1, 1955.

## MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1954		1955			
	August	September	June	July	August	September
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS						
Industrial and commercial failures:						
Failures, total.....number..	912	819	914	861	888	822
Commercial service.....do.....	80	59	75	68	59	75
Construction.....do.....	100	88	114	102	134	114
Manufacturing and mining.....do.....	187	153	200	179	158	168
Retail trade.....do.....	451	406	446	423	430	366
Wholesale trade.....do.....	94	113	79	89	107	99
Liabilities (current), total.....thous. of dol..						
Commercial service.....do.....	32,582	36,381	36,667	32,543	36,028	33,120
Construction.....do.....	2,381	2,290	5,259	1,502	1,987	2,666
Manufacturing and mining.....do.....	2,386	5,584	4,702	6,289	9,663	4,256
Retail trade.....do.....	12,388	11,262	13,888	11,865	10,102	10,798
Wholesale trade.....do.....	11,225	11,879	9,564	8,605	10,024	8,253
Other.....do.....	4,202	5,366	3,254	4,282	4,252	7,147
COMMODITY PRICES						
Consumer price index, all items.....1947-49=100..	115.0	114.7	114.4	114.7	114.5	<sup>1</sup> / 114.9
Apparel.....do.....	103.7	104.3	103.2	103.2	103.4	104.6
Food.....do.....	113.9	112.4	111.3	112.1	111.2	111.6
Dairy products.....do.....	105.1	105.8	104.1	104.7	105.7	106.5
Fruits and vegetables.....do.....	114.7	110.5	119.5	121.9	111.3	110.2
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do.....	107.6	106.7	103.8	103.7	102.9	103.5
Housing.....do.....	119.2	119.5	119.7	119.9	120.0	120.4
Gas and electricity.....do.....	107.8	107.9	110.7	110.8	110.8	111.2
Housefurnishings.....do.....	105.4	106.0	103.8	103.6	103.2	103.6
Rent.....do.....	128.6	128.8	130.4	130.4	130.5	130.5
Medical care.....do.....	125.5	125.7	127.6	127.9	128.0	128.2
Personal care.....do.....	113.4	113.5	114.7	115.5	115.8	116.6
Reading and recreation.....do.....	106.6	106.5	106.2	106.3	106.3	106.7
Transportation.....do.....	126.6	126.4	125.8	125.4	125.4	125.3
Other goods and services.....do.....	120.2	120.1	119.9	120.3	120.4	120.6

<sup>1</sup>/ Index based on 1935-39=100 is 192.1.

ITEM	1954		1955			
	August	September	June	July	August	September
<b>COMMODITY PRICES - Continued</b>						
Purchasing power of the dollar as measured by—						
Wholesale prices.....1947-49=100..	90.5	90.9	90.7	90.5	90.2	1/ 89.6
Consumer prices.....do....	87.0	87.2	87.4	87.2	87.3	1/ 87.0
Retail food prices.....do....	87.8	89.0	89.8	89.2	89.9	1/ 89.6
Wholesale prices of selected commodities:						
Coal, bituminous:						
Screenings, indust. use, f.o.b. car at mine						
dol. per short ton..	4.498	4.493	4.390	4.395	r4.430	p4.738
Large domestic sizes, f.o.b. car at mine.....do....	6.711	6.875	6.423	6.588	r6.738	p7.109
Cotton cloth:						
Print, 39-inch, 68 x 72.....cents per yd..	16.3	16.5	16.0	16.3	16.3	p16.4
Sheeting, class B, 40-inch, 48 x 44-48.....do....	16.4	16.4	16.1	16.1	16.9	p17.3
Wheat flour, short patents (Minn.)...dol. per 100 lb. sack..	6.685	6.830	6.800	6.755	6.150	p6.225
Lumber:						
Douglas fir, dim., No. 1, 2" x 4", R. L...dol. per M bd. ft..	81.779	84.482	87.535	88.074	r89.173	p89.369
Southern pine, boards, No. 2, com., 1" x 6", R. L...do....	74.327	75.218	77.174	77.434	r78.922	p79.877
Ponderosa pine, boards, No. 3, common, 1" x 8".....do....	71.51	71.62	80.05	80.41	r80.76	p80.76
Pig iron, basic (furnace).....dol. per long ton..	56.00	56.00	56.00	58.50	58.50	p58.50
Steel:						
Structural shapes (carbon), f.o.b. mill.....dol. per lb..	.0452	.0452	.0452	.0487	.0487	p.0487
Scrap, heavy melting (Pittsburgh).....dol. per long ton..	29.50	30.50	34.50	39.50	r44.50	p43.50
Gasoline, regular grade (New York).....dol. per gal..	.125	.125	.125	.125	.125	p.125
Petroleum, crude (Oklahoma-Kansas), at wells...dol. per bbl..	2.82	2.82	2.82	2.82	2.82	p.282
Sugar, refined, granulated (New York).....dol. per lb..	.086	.085	.084	.084	.084	p.084
<b>CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE</b>						
Construction contracts awarded, 37 States (F.W. Dodge Corp.):						
Total projects.....number..	61,612	65,832	75,141	73,130	64,144	57,673
Total valuation.....mil. of dol..	1,573	1,816	2,255	2,272	1,895	2,035
Building, total.....do....	1,243	1,424	1,794	1,852	1,517	1,442
Construction cost indexes (E. H. Boeckh and Associates):						
Average, 20 cities:						
Apartment, hotels, and office buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....U. S. avg. 1926-29=100..	257.9	258.3	263.8	266.1	266.7	267.8
Brick and steel.....do....	253.3	253.7	259.5	262.0	262.6	263.6
Brick and wood.....do....	256.3	256.5	263.1	264.3	264.9	265.7
Commercial and factory buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....do....	265.8	266.1	271.5	274.0	274.6	275.7
Brick and steel.....do....	261.7	262.1	267.3	271.9	272.4	273.3
Brick and wood.....do....	255.3	255.4	261.3	262.3	263.2	264.0
Frame.....do....	255.5	255.7	263.8	264.5	264.8	265.4
Steel.....do....	245.5	245.9	249.8	257.5	257.8	258.5
Residences:						
Brick.....do....	257.0	257.2	263.9	264.9	265.6	266.3
Frame.....do....	250.8	251.1	258.3	259.1	259.6	260.3
<b>FINANCE</b>						
Federal Government finance:						
Receipts, total.....mil. of dol..	4,801	5,280	p11,193	3,089	5,848	6,180
Receipts, net.....do....	3,911	4,951	p10,038	2,765	4,734	5,498
Customs.....do....	48	48	p57	54	55	57
Income and employment taxes.....do....	3,806	4,277	p9,920	1,924	4,459	4,968
Miscellaneous internal revenue.....do....	828	r839	p972	877	945	947
All other receipts.....do....	119	117	p243	234	390	208
Expenditures, total.....do....	6,731	5,019	p6,677	5,382	6,225	5,340
Interest on public debt.....do....	332	541	p1,495	592	522	529
Veterans' services and benefits.....do....	330	r317	p398	364	434	363
National security.....do....	3,370	3,261	p3,939	2,863	3,420	p3,611
All other expenditures.....do....	2,699	r900	p845	1,564	1,850	p837
<b>FOODSTUFFS</b>						
Distilled spirits, consumption for beverage purposes						
thous. of wine gal..	13,753	15,803	16,915	14,217	15,673	.....
Livestock, receipts, principal markets:						
Cattle and calves.....thous. of animals..	2,736	2,878	2,122	1,956	2,596	2,533
Hogs.....do....	2,251	2,496	2,140	1,929	2,519	2,682
Sheep and lambs.....do....	1,391	1,806	1,110	1,043	1,288	1,625
<b>LEATHER AND PRODUCTS</b>						
Leather production:						
Calf and kip.....thous. of skins..	782	730	891	606	871	.....
Cattle hide.....thous. of hides..	2,012	1,963	2,219	r1,664	2,212	.....
Goat and kid.....thous. of skins..	2,128	1,928	2,394	1,823	1,982	.....
Sheep and lamb.....do....	2,320	2,036	2,243	r1,574	2,498	.....
<b>METALS AND MANUFACTURES</b>						
Iron ore (Lake Superior district):						
Consumption by furnaces.....thous. of long tons..	4,895	4,620	7,473	7,273	7,485	7,539
Stocks, end of month, total.....do....	45,733	49,753	27,361	33,424	39,506	45,406
At furnaces.....do....	39,199	43,083	22,455	27,940	33,100	38,459
On Lake Erie docks.....do....	6,534	6,670	4,906	5,485	6,405	6,948
Castings, gray iron:						
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....thous. of short tons..	830	811	982	1,050	1,160	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	935	921	1,296	1,070	r1,226	.....
For sale.....do....	542	534	716	579	688	.....

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Indexes based on 1935-39=100 are as follows: Measured by—wholesale prices, 46.9; consumer prices, 52.1; retail food, 44.3.

ITEM	1954		1955			
	August	September	June	July	August	September
<b>METALS AND MANUFACTURES - Con.</b>						
Castings, malleable iron:						
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....short tons..	62,494	66,742	107,559	115,420	123,473	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	59,259	58,015	99,456	75,570	r82,448	.....
For sale.....do....	34,528	33,929	60,261	44,914	48,126	.....
Pig iron, production.....thous. of short tons..	4,567	4,462	6,544	6,391	6,601	6,703
Castings, steel:						
Shipments, total.....short tons..	89,590	88,359	133,887	97,875	r126,406	.....
For sale, total.....do....	66,792	64,722	102,457	71,170	96,290	.....
Railway specialties.....do....	9,344	8,668	19,591	11,631	20,576	.....
Steel forgings:						
Orders, unfilled, total.....thous. of short tons..	410.1	409.0	519.6	r513.3	543.2	.....
Shipments, for sale, total.....do....	102.2	109.4	155.5	115.0	134.8	.....
Drop and upset.....do....	77.2	81.7	117.0	82.7	99.9	.....
<b>TEXTILE PRODUCTS</b>						
Men's apparel, cuttings: <u>1/</u>						
Tailored garments:						
Suits.....thous. of units..	1,660	1,655	1,945	1,004	1,856	1,915
Overcoats and topcoats.....do....	480	440	550	292	564	615
Trousers (separate), dress and sport.....do....	4,032	4,620	5,520	3,696	5,088	5,580
Shirts (woven fabrics), dress and sport.....thous. of doz..	1,556	1,795	1,865	1,356	1,756	1,950
Work clothing:						
Dungarees and waistband overalls.....do....	392	435	425	304	452	348
Shirts.....do....	396	430	410	324	396	400
Cotton:						
Consumption.....bales..	667,762	r817,459	849,116	566,640	717,227	874,837
Manufactures:						
Spindle activity (cotton system spindles): <u>1/</u>						
Active spindles, last working day, total.....thousands..	20,633	20,634	19,840	20,708	20,735	20,799
Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do....	19,306	19,276	18,335	19,147	19,136	19,243
Spindle hours operated, all fibers, total..mil. of hr..	9,171	11,222	11,789	8,234	10,088	12,287
Average per working day.....do....	459	458	481	433	504	455
Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do....	8,583	10,455	10,867	7,546	9,293	11,363
Operations as percent of capacity.....do....	126.2	123.5	132.3	115.7	141.4	138.0
Rayon and acetate:						
Shipments, domestic, producers':						
Filament yarn.....mil. of lb..	53.2	62.1	68.8	65.4	r72.7	70.4
Staple (incl. tow).....do....	35.8	32.4	30.2	27.5	33.2	29.5
Stocks, producers', end of month:						
Filament yarn.....do....	73.2	64.8	43.6	46.3	r44.9	47.7
Staple (incl. tow).....do....	30.1	30.3	20.5	24.8	r22.8	23.2
<b>TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT</b>						
Railway equipment, American Railway Car Institute:						
Freight cars:						
Shipments, total.....number..	2,450	2,958	3,057	2,862	4,732	3,802
Equipment manufacturers, total.....do....	990	1,600	1,732	1,954	3,187	2,392
Domestic.....do....	837	1,208	1,690	1,284	1,935	1,708
Railroad shops, domestic.....do....	1,460	1,358	1,325	908	1,545	1,410
Passenger cars, equipment manufacturers:						
Orders unfilled, end of month, total.....do....	450	587	1,001	993	952	594
Domestic.....do....	291	448	982	977	937	583
Shipments, total.....do....	52	42	55	39	45	355
Domestic.....do....	25	22	48	33	42	350

r/ Revised. 1/ Data for September 1954 and June and September 1955 cover 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

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WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT  
SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS