#  <br> <br> SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS <br> <br> SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT UNITED STȦTES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE UNITED STȦTES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE 

 BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE}

## WASHINGTON, D. C., JUNE 8, 1939

## SUMMARY OF BUSINESS TRENDS

AFTER adjustment for holiday influences, industrial activity A last week continued at the higher levels established subsequent to the middle of May. Automobile production, however, was an exception; the labor dispute at the plants of a body manufacturer and shut-downs incident to the Memorial Day holiday cut assemblies to 32,000 units as compared with 68,000 and 80,000 units for the two preceding weekly periods. Preliminary estimates indicate that output for May approached 300,000 cars and trucks as compared with 354,000 units from the United States and Canadian plants during April. Sales reports of partial coverage reveal that deliveries of new passenger cars were sustained at a relatively high rate during May and that dealers' stocks were reduced somewhat.

Steel-mill operations have been advanced for three successive weeks and ingot production this week is scheduled at 54.2 percent of capacity. Bituminous coal production increased to 6 million tons in the week ended May 27, a rise that was reflected in the expansion of freight loadings to a 1939 high of 627,700 cars. In the 4 weeks ended May 27, loadings of freight other than coal were 13 percent higher than a year ago with loadings
of miscellaneous freight up 15 percent. Ore shipments rose to 43,700 cars in the week ended May 27 as Great Lakes traffic expanded and were the largest for any week since October 16, 1937. Traffic in forest products increased more than seasonally during May.

Commodity price movements in recent weeks have been marked by advances in quotations of wheat and cotton. The average spot price of raw cotton was 9.42 cents per pound Saturday, a gain of 1 cent since mid-April. Wheat of a standard grade at Kansas City averaged 79 cents per bushel last week, a gain of 10 cents since mid-April. Despite these advance, average wholesale prices of farm products were at a 1939 low in the week ended May 27. Reduced quotations for hogs and beef steers offset the advances in cotton and grains. Wholesale prices of meats have recently been the lowest since 1934 and almost 10 percent below the average quotations at this time last year. Prices of finished products have generally been unchanged for some time, though the lower prices for meats, which are classified as finished products, have reduced this index slightly.

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS


WEEKLY BUSINESS INDICATORS*
[Weekly average, 1923-25=100]

| ITEM | 1939 |  |  |  |  | 1938 |  | 1937 |  | ITEM | 1939 |  |  |  |  | 1938 |  | 1937 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | June | $\underset{27}{\operatorname{May}}$ | $\left\|\begin{array}{c} \text { May } \\ 20 \end{array}\right\|$ | $\left\lvert\, \begin{gathered} \text { May } \\ 13 \end{gathered}\right.$ | $\mid \underset{6}{\mathrm{May}}$ | June | $\mathrm{May}_{28}$ | June | $\underset{29}{\text { May }}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{June} \\ \mathbf{3} \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{27}{\mathrm{May}}$ | $\left\|\begin{array}{c} \text { May } \end{array}\right\|$ | $\underset{13}{\text { May }}$ | $\underset{6}{\operatorname{May}}$ | $\int_{4}^{J u n e}$ | $\underset{28}{\mathrm{May}}$ | June | ${\underset{29}{M a y}}^{\text {May }}$ |
| Business activity: 9 |  | 876 | 86. | 85.3 | 86.3 | 75.0 | 75.6 | 107.8 |  | Finance-Continued. Banking: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Barron's ${ }^{\text {P }}$ |  | 88.7 | 86.0 | 70.4 | 79.0 | 64.4 | 67.5 | 107.4 | 110.6 | Debits, outside N. Y . C. $\ddagger$ | 97.3 | 81.5 | 89.8 | 82.5 | 96.2 | 93.7 | 76.2 | 110.1 | 96.0 |
| Business Week. |  | 94.9 | 93.3 | 90.6 | 91.8 | 75.1 | 75.6 | 121.0 | 123.5 | Federal Reserve reporting member banks: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Commodity prices, wholesale: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Loans, total.. | 65.0 | 65.0 | 64.4 | 64.7 | 64.6 | 66.7 | 66.8 | 76.6 | 78.2 |
| Dept. of Labor, $1826=100$ : |  |  |  |  | 76.1 |  | 78.1 |  | 87.4 | Interest rates: | 24.2 | 24.2 | 24.2 | 24.2 | 24.2 |  | 24.2 | 24.2 | 24.2 |
| Farm products (67) |  | 63.5 | 64.1 | 64. 4 | 63.6 | 67. 2 | 68.8 | 89.3 | 81.0 | Time loans $\ddagger$ | 28.6 | 28.6 | 28.6 | 28.6 | 28.6 | 28.6 | 28.6 | 28.6 | 28.6 |
| Food (122) |  | 67.6 | 67.4 | 68.5 | 68.3 | 72.3 | 73.0 | 84.8 | 84.9 | Currency in circulation $\ddagger$ | 143.6 | 142.3 | 142.4 | 142.4 | 142.6 | 133.2 | 132.1 | 133.4 | 132.4 |
| All other (624) |  | 80.7 | 80.7 | 81.0 | 80.9 | 81.4 | 81.5 | 86.2 | 86.3 | Production: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fisher's index, 1926 $=100$ : |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Automohiles. | 42.5 | 88.8 | 105.0 | 94.9 | 93.6 | 43.2 | 60.4 | 136.5 | 157.8 |
| Combined index (120). | 79.2 | 79.7 | 79.7 | 79.8 | 79.9 | 80.5 | 80.8 | 82.6 | 83.3 |  |  | 60.2 | 50.1 | 10.5 | 27.0 | 53.8 | 52.1 | 73.1 | 74.2 |
| Copper, electrolytic ${ }^{\text {¢ }}$. | 71.0 | 71.0 | 71.0 | 71.7 | 72.5 | 63.8 | 63.8 | 100.0 | 100.0 | Cotton consumptionఫ--..-...... |  |  | 109. 1 | 112.0 | 115.3 | 90.9 | 75.8 | 146.0 | 136.4 |
| Cotton, middling, spot-- | 36.0 | 36.0 | 36.0 | 34.6 | 34.2 | 29.4 | 20.4 | 48.5 | 48.9 |  |  | 132. 4 | 130.3 | 130.3 | 129.9 | 112.8 | 118.4 | 127.9 | 132.5 |
| onstruction con |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Lumber-..- |  | 52. 5 | 50.6 | 48. 1 | 49.2 | 33.1 | 41.8 | 52.6 | 69.7 |
| Distribution: Carloading |  | 65.5 | 64.2 | 57.9 | 59.7 | 52.4 | 117.4 <br> 58.6 | 71.9 | 88.4 | Pteel ingots $\dagger$ | 89.7 | 172.1 | 165.1 78.0 | 163.4 80.7 | 171.9 82.1 | 149.2 | 148.8 49.0 | 169.9 | 149.6 |
| Employment: Detroit, factory |  |  |  | 89.8 |  |  | 58.5 |  | 129.1 | Receipts, primary markets: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| F'inapee: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Cattle and calves. |  | 64.6 | 69.2 | 62.7 | 61.4 | 68.0 | 71.3 | 71.7 | 81.1 |
| Failures, commercial. | 51.6 | 61.9 | 68.2 | 67.8 | 59.2 | 58.2 | 63.1 | 37.1 | 48.6 | Hogs... |  | 41.0 | 39.4 | 37.2 | 38.5 | 35.2 | 41.4 | 30.0 | 29.4 |
| Bond yields $\dagger$ | 64, 6 | 65.5 | 65.7 | 65.5 | 66.2 | 75.6 | 74.9 | 67.6 | 67.6 | Cotton. | 38.5 | 34.2 | 27.7 | 26.5 | 17.7 | 18.2 | 21.2 | 23.1 | 26.5 |
|  | 100.2 | 98.0 | 94. 9 | 96.6 | 96.0] | 79.7 | 80.2 | 131.8 | 133.2 |  | 68.0 | 79.1 | 80.01 | 68.0 | 59.8 | 27.2 | 38.4 | 14.1 | 19.2 |

- Data do not cover calendar weeks in all cases. in all cases.
$\oplus$ Index for
§eek ended June 10 is 93.1 .
$\ddagger$ Daily average.
$\dagger$ Weekly average, $1928-30=100$.
ISeasonally adjusted.


## WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS•

| ITEM | 1939 |  |  |  |  |  | 1938 |  | 1937 |  | $\frac{1936}{\text { June } 6}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | June 3 | May 27 | May 20 | May 13 | May 6 | Apr. 29 | June 4 | May 28 | June 5 | May 29 |  |
| COMMODITY PRICES, WHOLESALE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Copper, electrolytic, New York $\ddagger$.--------.dol. per lb.. | 0.098 | 0.098 | 0.098 | 0.099 | 0.100 | 0.099 | 0.088 | 0.088 | 0.138 | 0. 138 | 0. 093 |
|  | . 098 | . 098 | . 088 | . 094 | . 083 | . 092 | . 080 | . 080 | 132 | . 133 | . 118 |
|  | 2.25 35.69 | 2.25 $\mathbf{3 5 .} 63$ | 2.27 35.63 | 2.28 35.72 | 2.27 36.21 | 2.27 36.26 | 2.34 38.38 | 2.35 | 2.85 39.86 | 2.85 39.89 | 2. 54 |
| Wheat, No. 2 hard winter (Kansas City) - dol. per bu.- | . 79 | . 78 | - 76 | 35. .75 | 36. 21 | 36. 26 | 38.38 .70 | 38.44 .77 | 1.27 | 1. 30 | . 81 |
| Banking: <br> FINANOE <br> Debits, New York Gity $\qquad$ mil. of dol.. <br> Debits, outside New York City $\qquad$ do..-- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 2,766 | 3,071 | 3,340 | 2,930 | 4,136 | 2,831 | 2,681 | 2,782 | 3,474 | 3,220 | 4,376 |
|  | 3,761 | 3,779 | 4,161 | 3,830 | 4,465 | 3,832 | 3,619 | 3,532 | 4,254 | 4,452 | 4,163 |
| Federal Reserve banks: | 2,573 | 2,576 | 2,576 | 2,575 | 2,572 | 2,580 | 2,593 | 2,583 | 2,573 | 2, 5.57 | 2,489 |
| U. S. Government socurities..-----.........-.-. do....- | 2,564 | 2,504 | 2,564 | 2,564 | 2,564 | 2,564 | 2,564 | 2,564 | 2,526 | 2,526 | 2,430 |
|  | 10,029 | 10,097 | 10,005 | 9,967 | 9,872 | 9,903 | 7,745 | 7,716 | 6,854 | 6,944 | 5, 713 |
|  | 4,218 | 4,304 | 4,244 | 4,186 | 4,084 | 4,124 | 2,640 | 2,632 | 860 | 938 | 2,844 |
| Federal Reserve reporting member banks: | 16,965 | 16,955 | 16,681 | 16, 719 | 16,660 | 16,742 | 14, 589 | 14,697 | 15, 274 |  |  |
| Deposits, demand, adjusted....---...........-do...- | 16,235 | 15,247 | 10,681 | 10,249 | 16,060 5,248 | 16,235 | 14,689 5,216 | 14,667 5,212 | 15,274 5,231 | 15,528 5,222 | 14,500 5,035 |
| Investments, total\$ $\mathrm{U} . \mathrm{S}$. Government direct obilgations | 13,554 | 13, 548 | 13,563 | 13,634 | 13, 714 | 13,675 | 12,202 | 12, 252 | 12,587 | 12, 653 | 13,522 |
|  | 8,237 | 8,264 | 8,304 | 8,334 | 8,341 | 8,270 | 7,844 | 7,922 | 8,287 | 8,308 | 8,009 |
| Obligations fully guaranteed by U. 8. Government. $\qquad$ mil. of dol. | 2,055 | 2,046 | 2,031 | 2,010 | 2,026 | 2,030 | 1,411 | 1,385 | 1,156 | 1,150 | 1,305 |
| Commercial, industrial, and agricultural ioans ${ }^{-1}$ | 8,126 | 8,125 | 8,046 | 8,085 | 8,071 | 8,100 | 8,334 | 8,345 | 9,571 | 9, 529 | 8,626 |
|  | 3, 822 | 3,837 | 3,845 | 3.852 | 841 | 3,844 | 982 | 4,031 |  |  |  |
| Interest rates, call Ioans $\ddagger$-....-......-.-......-- percent.- | 1. 00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 4, 1.00 | 1. 00 |
|  | 1. 25 | 1. 25 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1. 25 |
| Exchange rates: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| French franc $\ddagger$ | 2.649 4.683 | 2. 649 4.681 | 2.649 4.681 | 2.649 4.681 | 2.649 4.681 | 2.648 4.681 | 2.774 4.947 | 2.770 4.946 | 4.454 4.928 | 4.467 4.941 | 6.583 5.012 |
|  | 4.683 $+\quad 210$ | 4.681 | 4.681 $\mathbf{2 3 7}$ | 4.681 | 4.681 | 4.681 | 4.947 | $\begin{array}{r}4.946 \\ \hline 257\end{array}$ | 4.928 151 | 4.941 198 | 5.012 203 |
|  | 6,872 | 6,908 | 6,916 | 6,916 | 6,923 | 6,885 | 6,468 | 6,417 | 6,478 | 6,430 | 5,963 |
| Socurity markets: | 23. | 33, 290 | 25,080 | 28, 290 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bond yields (Moody's) (120 bonds) $\ddagger$ - | 23,400 | 33,280 3.78 | 25,00 3.79 | 28,290 3.78 | 26,340 3.82 | 24,190 3.84 | 20,350 4.36 | 24,520 4.32 | 36,200 3.90 | 38,230 3.90 | 51,150 3.94 |
|  | 2,438 | 3, 871 | 2,501 | 2,655 | 2,639 | 2,858 | 2,009 | 3,059 | 2,955 | 3,268 | 3,833 |
|  | 97.31 | 95.18 | 92.16 | 93.79 | 83.23 | 91.57 | 77.42 | 77.91 | 128. 10 | 129.38 | 120.68 |
| 8tock prices (Standard Statistics) $(420) . . . . .1926=100$. | 86.0 | 84.6 | 81.1 | 83.6 | 83.1 | 81.0 | 70.4 | 70.8 | 115.6 | 116.8 | 103.3 |
|  | 100.4 | 98.7 | 94.5 | 97.6 | 97.2 | 94.6 | 829 | 83.5 | 136.3 | 137.6 | 118.2 |
|  | 84.8 | 83.9 | 81.2 | 82.8 | 81.6 | 80.5 | 67.9 | 67.9 | 92.8 | 98.8 | 98.9 |
|  | 26.3 | 25.6 | 24.0 | 25.4 | 24, 9 | 24.1 | 20.0 | 20.5 | 55.7 | 56.3 | 46.8 |
| PRODUCTION, CONSTEUCTION, ANDProduction: DISTRIBUTION |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 32,445 | 67,740 | 80,145 | 72,375 | 71,420 | 86,640 | 32,080 | 46,120 | 104, 136 | 120, 425 | 98, 106 |
| Bituminous coalf.--...-.-.-.-...-thous. of short tons.. |  | 1,025 | 854 | 179 | 459 | 605 | 916 | 887 | 1,245 | 1,263 | 1,088 |
|  |  | 2,205 | 2,170 | 2,171 | 2,164 | 2, 183 | 1,879 | 1,973 | 2, 131 | 2,207 | 1, 945 |
|  |  | 3,585 | 3,438 | 3,403 | 3, 581 | 3,568 | 3,108 | 3,099 | 3, 538 | 3,574 | 2,935 |
|  | 52.2 | 48.5 | 45.4 | 47.0 | 47.8 | 48.6 | 26.1 | 29.0 | 77.4 | 91.0 | 68.2 |
| Distribution: |  |  | 12,019 | 11,275 |  | 14,147 |  | 18,842 |  | 10,348 |  |
| Freight-car loadings, total. |  | 627,674 | 615,966 | 555,396 | 572,857 | 586,015 |  | 562,076 | 688, 087 | 700,503 | 695, 844 |
| Coal and coke.-....... |  | 105, 191 | 97, 183 | 47,677 | 66, 104 | 80,998 | 90, 803 | 102,453 | 114,058 | 133, 621 | 110,858 |
|  |  | 29, 763 | 30, 088 | 30,573 | 30, 127 | 29, 231 | 24,503 | 26,841 | 37, 448 | 42,478 | 34,762 |
|  |  | 33, 904 | 34,284 | 34, 370 | 34, 019 | 35,231 | 26, 332 | 33,344 | 22, 124 | 27, 262 | 31, 672 |
|  |  | 10, 706 | 11, 811 | 12,783 | 13,875 | 14,106 | 11,366 | 12,048 | 10,423 | 12,578 | 11,802 |
|  |  | 152, 855 | 152,781 | 152, 161 | 153,803 | 153, 424 | 130,036 | 148, 528 | 149,334 | 171,311 | 165,058 |
| Ore |  | 43, 670 | 36,232 | 24,928 | 16, 612 | 15,890 | 21,381 | 20,431 | 73,415 | 77, 175 | 52, 137 |
| Receipts: |  | 251, 585 | 253, 587 | 252, 804 | 258,317 | 257, 135 | 198,203 | 218, 433 | 282, 185 | 326,078 | 289,555 |
|  |  | 204 | 187 | 198 | 194 | 200 | 215 | 225 | 226 | 256 | 220 |
|  |  | 266 | 256 | 242 | 250 | 258 | 229 | 269 | 195 | 191 | 269 |
|  | 100 | 89 | 72 | 69 | 46 | 70 | 42 | 55 | 60 | 69 | 94 |
|  | 5,407 | 6,291 | 6,362 | 5,411 | 4,758 | 4,461 | 2,166 | 3,058 | 1,124 | 1,524 | 2,225 |

§No longer strictly comparable; for June 10 is 54.2 .
\$Dally average.
Data do not cover calendar weeks in all cases.
$\$$ No longer strictly comparable; for an explanation, see the corresponding data on page 30 of the April 1939 issue of the Survey.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

§Data for June, October, and December, 1938 and April 1939 are for 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS-Continued


## Preliminary

$\dagger$ Revised series. Data for pneumatic casings and inner tubes revised for years 1936, 1037, and 1938; see tables 27 and 28 , pp, 16-18 of the May 1939 Survey.
Note.-The data in the above tables present, in advance of the monthly Survey of Current Business, such items as were received during the week ended Baturday, Jone 3. These fgures, like similat information in the table entitled "Monthly business statistics" in each monthly Issue, should always be read in connection with tbe detailed tables covering the respective items in the 1938 Supplement to the Surrey of Curreni Business, which contains a description of each series and a reference to the source of the data. numbers indicated by the lootnotes. Changes in the series are also indicated in the footnotes. The Survey of Current Business, Including 12 monthly Surveys of 56 pages each and the 52 Weekly Supplements, may be obtained from the Guperintendent of Documents, Washington, D. O., for $\$ 2.00$ per Year. The 1938 Supplement may be obtained from the same source upon receipt of $\$ 0.40$.

