



SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE



WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY 30, 1941

SUMMARY OF BUSINESS TRENDS

LITTLE change has taken place in business volumes since their rapid recovery from holiday declines in the early part of the month. Automobile assemblies and freight carloadings are holding close to previously established totals, while small advances and declines have been scattered throughout other industries. Based on the new capacity figure of 84.1 million ingot tons, steel production is scheduled at 97.1 percent of capacity for the current week.

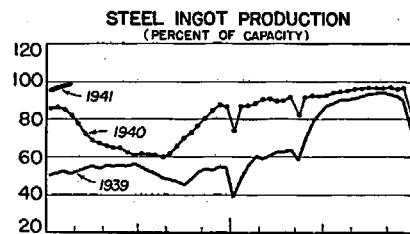
Increased employment in wholesale and retail trade establishments in December was the main factor in raising total non-agricultural employment to more than 37,000,000 workers in the month. This represents a gain of more than one and one-half million for 1940, the major increases being concentrated in manufacturing and construction which exceeded December 1939 by 640,000 and 450,000 workers, respectively. The large volume of construction employment, now 40 percent above last year, is the result of increased defense activity which has prevented the usual seasonal curtailment in construction activity. Moving forward with industrial production, factory employment registered another contraseasonal gain from November to December and now stands at the highest total ever recorded.

Income payments, reflecting year-end dividend and interest payments in addition to the unusually high volume of general

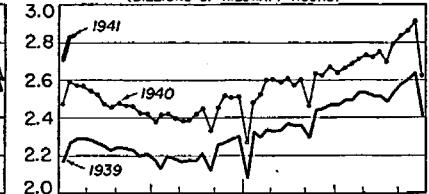
business activity, increased in December to the highest dollar total recorded since October 1929. Most components participated in the upward movement which raised the adjusted index of total income payments 1.7 points during the month to 95.2.

December exports of United States merchandise totaled \$315,000,000 as against \$321,000,000 in November, the small decline resulting from small losses over a wide range of commodities. Gains were recorded, however, in materials associated with the conduct of war, particularly aircraft, metal-working machinery, firearms and ammunition, and iron and steel mill products. The increased exports of aircraft and iron and steel mill products reversed November declines, with aircraft shipments in December being valued at \$32,100,000—the largest monthly total since August. Imports for consumption increased \$21,000,000 in December to a total value of \$238,000,000. This largest monthly total since 1937 was mainly the result of increased imports of strategic and critical materials under various purchase and storage plans. Unusually large imports of tin (15,000 gross tons) and crude rubber (98,000 gross tons) were recorded, together with a sizable increase in imports of raw wool.

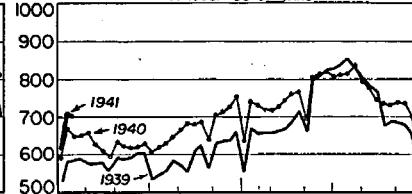
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS



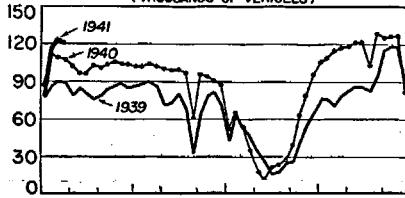
ELECTRIC POWER PRODUCTION
(BILLIONS OF KILOWATT HOURS)



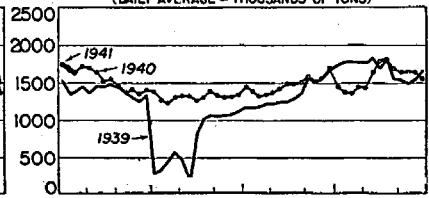
FREIGHT CAR LOADINGS
(THOUSANDS OF CARS)



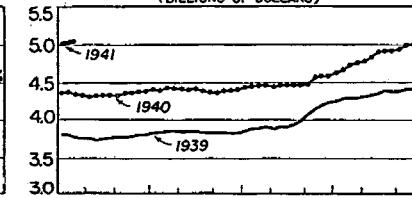
AUTOMOBILE PRODUCTION
(THOUSANDS OF VEHICLES)



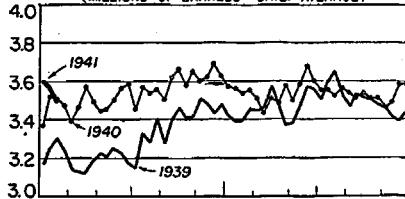
BITUMINOUS COAL PRODUCTION
(DAILY AVERAGE - THOUSANDS OF TONS)



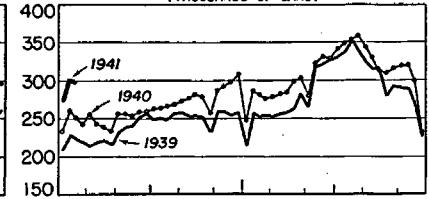
COMMERCIAL LOANS
(BILLIONS OF DOLLARS)



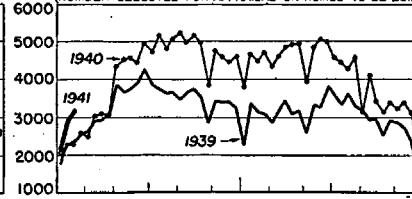
CRUDE OIL RUNS - TO - STILLS
(MILLIONS OF BARRELS - DAILY AVERAGE)



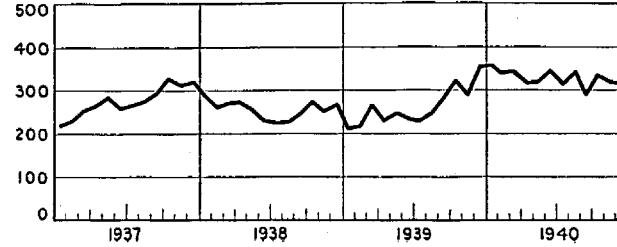
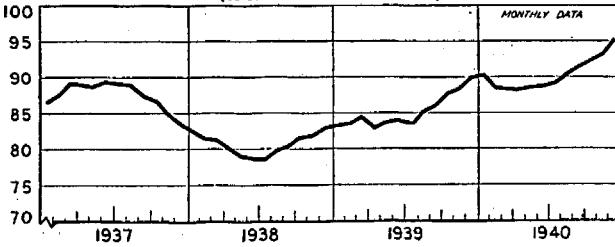
MISCELLANEOUS CAR LOADINGS
(THOUSANDS OF CARS)



F. H. A. HOME MORTGAGES
(NUMBER SELECTED FOR APPRAISAL ON HOMES TO BE BUILT)



INCOME PAYMENTS
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED 1929 = 100)



WEEKLY BUSINESS INDICATORS •

[Weekly average, 1923-25 = 100]

• Data do not cover calendar weeks in all cases

^a Seasonally adjusted.

[†]Daily average.
and in the issue for

[†]Weekly average, 1928-30 = 100.

~~§Computed normal=100. Index revised beginning Jan. 8, 1938; revised data not given above and in the issue for Jan. 23, 1941, will be shown later.~~

WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS •

^④Date for week ended Feb. 1 is 97.1.
[§]Date for 1938 not strictly comparable.

Daily average.
Data for later years.

•Data do not cover calendar weeks in all cases.
We note on corresponding data shown on P. 51 of the

Source: Ward's Automotive Reports.
240 Supplement. Free rate.

^a Data for 1938 not strictly comparable with data for later years; see note on corresponding data shown on p. 51 of the 1940 Supplement. ^b Free rate.
^b Revised. Based on estimated capacity, Dec. 31, 1940, including open-hearth, bessemer, and electric furnace ingots, and steel for castings produced by any process.

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MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

Monthly statistics through December 1939, together with explanatory notes and references to the sources of the data, may be found in the 1940 Supplement to the Survey	1940		1939		1940									
	December	December	January	Februa-	March	April	May	June	July	August	Septem-	Octo-	Novem-	
BUSINESS INDEXES														
Pages 6, 10														
Income payments: [†]														
Index adjusted:														
Total income payments..... 1929=100	95.2	90.0	90.3	89.7	88.4	88.2	88.6	88.7	89.3	90.5	91.7	92.5	93.5	
Salaries and wages..... do	96.0	88.9	88.2	87.5	87.0	86.2	87.3	87.9	88.8	90.4	91.5	92.2	93.7	
Total nonagricultural income..... do	96.2	90.4	90.2	89.6	89.3	88.7	89.8	90.7	91.1	92.3	93.0	93.4	94.6	
Total..... mil. of dol. 7,367	6,904	6,093	5,604	5,987	5,965	5,689	6,288	6,103	5,790	6,467	6,681	6,237		
Salaries and wages:														
Total..... do	4,268	3,908	3,767	3,742	3,784	3,784	3,838	3,671	3,766	3,841	4,030	4,178	4,166	
Commodity-producing industries														
mil. of dol.														
Distributive industries..... do	1,618	1,420	1,349	1,339	1,352	1,356	1,391	1,419	1,423	1,403	1,562	1,604	1,592	
Service industries..... do	1,005	945	902	882	900	908	915	923	917	940	963	960		
Government..... do	900	862	847	845	845	845	854	860	854	859	867	882	888	
Work-relief wages..... do	622	547	535	536	539	540	548	557	452	455	550	602	609	
Direct and other relief..... do	123	134	140	148	143	137	120	114	117	111	127	117		
Social security benefits and other labor income..... mil. of dol.	87	89	95	95	94	92	89	86	87	87	84	86	86	
Dividends and interest..... do	145	137	148	151	155	152	166	166	167	164	150	145	144	
Entrepreneurial income and net rents and royalties..... mil. of dol.	1,573	1,517	840	447	820	799	472	1,050	901	485	897	845	494	
Total nonagricultural income..... do	1,294	1,253	1,243	1,169	1,134	1,138	1,124	1,115	1,182	1,214	1,306	1,427	1,347	
Agricultural marketings:														
Cash income from farm marketings:														
Crops and livestock, combined index:														
Unadjusted..... 1924-29=100	85.5	79.0	69.0	60.5	69.0	62.5	66.0	62.5	75.0	79.0	95.0	117.0	96.5	
Adjusted..... do	84.0	79.0	79.0	84.0	76.0	81.5	80.0	70.0	71.0	71.0	75.5	79.5		
Crops..... do	71.5	74.0	72.5	81.0	77.0	73.5	61.5	57.5	69.0	64.5	69.0	66.5		
Livestock and products..... do	96.0	84.0	85.0	86.5	79.0	85.5	85.5	78.0	83.0	81.5	85.5	90.5	91.5	
Dairy products..... do	104.5	91.5	95.0	94.0	89.5	89.5	84.5	82.0	84.0	90.0	92.0	93.5	99.5	
Meat animals..... do	92.5	82.0	84.5	82.0	75.0	88.0	90.5	79.0	88.0	82.0	88.0	94.5	91.0	
Poultry and eggs..... do	89.5	70.5	65.5	80.0	70.0	70.5	64.0	65.0	65.0	67.0	70.5	74.5		
COMMODITY PRICES														
Pages 12, 13, 15, 130, 132														
Wholesale prices (U. S. Department of Labor):														
Combined index..... 1926=100	80.0	79.2	79.4	78.7	78.4	78.6	78.4	77.5	77.7	77.4	78.0	78.7	79.6	
Economic classes:														
Finished products..... do	82.8	81.7	81.4	81.1	81.2	81.3	80.5	80.9	81.0	81.5	82.1	82.6		
Raw materials..... do	73.6	73.3	73.8	72.7	72.0	72.0	70.7	70.7	69.8	70.5	71.4	72.6		
Semimanufactures..... do	80.7	82.0	81.7	79.9	79.7	78.2	78.3	77.9	77.8	77.0	77.6	79.4	80.7	
Farm products..... do	69.7	67.6	69.1	68.7	67.9	69.4	67.9	66.2	66.5	66.6	66.2	66.4	68.2	
Commodities other than farm products*..... 1926=100	82.1	81.6	81.5	80.8	80.5	80.5	80.5	79.8	80.0	79.9	80.4	81.3	81.9	
Foods..... do	73.5	71.9	71.7	71.1	70.2	71.6	71.4	70.3	70.3	70.1	71.5	71.1	72.5	
Commodities other than farm products and foods..... 1926=100	84.1	83.9	83.9	83.2	82.9	82.5	82.5	82.2	82.3	82.0	82.3	83.5	84.1	
Pig iron:														
Basic (valley furnace)..... dol. per long ton	22.90	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	
Composite..... do	23.15	23.15	23.15	23.15	23.15	23.15	23.15	23.15	23.15	23.15	23.15	23.15	23.15	
Foundry, No. 2, northern (Pittsburgh)..... dol. per long ton	25.29	24.89	24.89	24.89	24.89	24.89	24.89	24.89	24.89	24.89	24.89	24.89	24.89	
Steel:														
Composite, finished steel..... dol. per lb.	.0265	.0265	.0265	.0265	.0265	.0265	.0265	.0265	.0265	.0265	.0265	.0265	.0265	
Steel billets, rerolling (Pittsburgh)..... dol. per long ton	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	
Structural steel (Pittsburgh)..... dol. per lb.	.0210	.0210	.0210	.0210	.0210	.0210	.0210	.0210	.0210	.0210	.0210	.0210	.0210	
Steel scrap (Chicago)..... dol. per gross ton	20.60	16.58	16.38	15.75	15.69	15.33	16.88	18.19	17.35	18.03	19.22	19.75	20.06	
EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS AND WAGES														
Pages 31, 32, 33, 34, 37, 40, 41, 43, 44														
Employment:														
Factory, unadjusted (U. S. Department of Labor)..... 1923-25=100	116.2	107.8	105.0	105.0	104.4	103.2	102.5	103.1	103.2	107.4	111.4	113.8	114.0	
Durable goods..... do	117.5	102.8	100.1	99.2	99.1	98.7	99.2	98.4	98.4	102.4	108.2	112.8	115.5	
Nondurable goods..... do	114.9	112.6	109.7	110.5	109.5	107.5	105.6	106.2	107.8	112.2	114.4	113.7		
Factory, adjusted (Federal Reserve)..... do	116.6	108.2	107.6	105.8	104.0	102.8	102.8	103.8	105.1	107.4	108.9	111.4		
Durable goods..... do	117.4	102.7	102.4	100.2	98.6	97.7	97.9	99.0	100.4	104.3	107.4	111.2	114.6	
Nondurable goods..... do	115.8	113.4	112.4	111.1	109.3	107.6	107.4	108.4	109.6	110.2	110.3	111.6	113.8	
Nonmfg., unadjusted (U. S. Dept. of Labor):														
Mining:														
Anthracite..... 1929=100	50.8	51.0	51.5	51.6	52.2	51.2	51.8	49.7	50.5	49.9	49.8	49.4	50.4	
Bituminous coal..... do	90.0	92.6	91.8	91.7	89.7	86.2	85.1	83.8	84.9	86.6	87.7	89.2	90.0	
Metalliferous..... do	72.2	67.3	66.4	65.3	66.2	67.7	69.2	70.3	71.0	72.5	72.6	72.9		
Petroleum, crude, producing..... do	60.9	63.8	63.2	63.0	63.2	63.1	63.3	63.8	63.7	63.8	63.0	62.4	61.4	
Quarrying and nonmetallic..... do	45.5	44.0	37.8	38.3	41.0	44.5	46.9	47.9	48.1	48.5	48.9	48.8	47.4	
Public utilities:														
Electric light and power..... do	91.3	90.1	89.1	89.2	89.3	90.3	90.6	91.2	92.2	93.0	92.7	92.3	91.6	
Street railways and busses..... do	68.4	69.0	68.8	68.7	68.2	68.3	68.4	68.5	68.4	68.4	68.5	68.7	68.6	
Telephone and telegraph..... do	79.6	75.8	76.1	75.9	76.0	76.7	77.3	77.8	78.8	79.0	78.9	79.1	79.1	
Trade:														
Retail, total..... do	107.5	104.2	87.7	97.0	91.1	89.8	91.2	91.9	89.1	88.7	92.8	94.3	96.0	
Wholesale..... do	92.7	92.2	90.6	90.2	90.5	89.3	88.9	89.6	89.2	90.1	90.9	91.0	91.9	
Pay rolls (U. S. Dept. of Labor):														
Factory, unadjusted..... 1923-25=100	122.8	105.4	99.8	99.3	98.8	97.9	97.8	99.5	98.2	105.5	111.6	116.2	116.5	
Durable goods..... do	132.2	105.8	99.3	97.8	98.7	98.4	98.7	101.4	97.4	106.5	115.1	123.4	125.2	
Nondurable goods..... do	112.2	105.0	100.4	101.0	101.0	97.3	96.8	97.4	99.1	104.4	107.7	108.1	106.8	
Nonmfg., unadjusted (U. S. Dept. of Labor):														
Mining:														
Anthracite..... 1929=100	42.7	26.6	52.5	32.9	38.4	36.3	40.0	40.6	36.5	33.1	39.3	32.3	37.6	
Bituminous coal..... do	91.3	84.3	87.0	87.0	78.3	72.2	75.3	73.9	75.2	82.5	83.2	83.6	84.6	
Metalliferous..... do	73.3	65.0	63.6	64.2	63.2	63.5	65.7	64.5	63.7	68.5	69.5	71.4	70.8	
Petroleum, crude, producing..... do	55.8	59.2	58.4	59.0	55.4	59.0	58.7	58.8	59.1	59.0	58.2	57.6	56.5	
Quarrying and nonmetallic..... do	42.8	39.2	29.6	30.8	34.1	42.7	43.9	43.5	45.2	46.2	46.7	42.6		
Public utilities:														
Electric light and power..... do	106.4	102.4	101.6	102.2	102.3	103.3	104.2	104.8	105.8	108.1	105.8	107.0	106.0	
Street railways and busses..... do	73.2	69.8	69.0	71.5	69.5	69.2	69.2	70.5	70.0	70.4	71.5	70.7	70.2	
Telephone and telegraph..... do	104.9</td													

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

Monthly statistics through December 1939, together with explanatory notes and references to the sources of the data, may be found in the 1940 Supplement to the Survey.

	1940		1939		1940									
	December	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	
FINANCE Pages 53, 64, 56, 57														
Commercial failures: Grand total..... number	1,086	1,153	1,237	1,042	1,197	1,291	1,238	1,114	1,175	1,128	976	1,111	1,024	
Liabilities, grand total..... thous. of dol.	13,309	13,243	15,279	13,472	11,681	16,247	13,068	13,734	16,213	12,997	11,397	12,715	16,572	
Life insurance written: ^②														
Policies and certificates, total number thousands..	800	728	659	697	770	766	793	714	697	683	691	798	721	
Group..... do.....	67	59	32	25	26	30	42	35	33	32	28	35	28	
Industrial..... do.....	494	443	400	439	483	472	494	446	428	426	443	506	468	
Ordinary..... do.....	238	225	226	232	262	263	256	233	235	225	220	256	226	
Value, total..... thous. of dol.	694,740	646,550	653,156	561,638	616,085	624,770	626,357	597,450	605,326	579,283	550,442	648,903	560,912	
Group..... do.....	108,003	105,030	134,507	38,120	37,556	39,800	44,869	48,946	43,520	53,757	40,720	55,244	34,256	
Industrial..... do.....	142,371	124,682	113,111	125,226	138,545	135,852	141,921	128,232	124,192	123,111	127,974	146,465	134,839	
Ordinary..... do.....	444,366	410,858	405,538	398,292	439,984	449,118	439,567	420,272	437,614	402,415	381,748	447,194	391,797	
Life Insurance (<i>Life Ins., Sales Res. Lur.</i>):														
Insurance written, ordinary, total thous. of dol.	596,534	567,212	517,622	506,212	567,872	574,453	571,625	553,086	566,061	523,330	503,427	573,504	505,474	
New England..... do.....	40,072	39,378	41,323	39,633	43,149	43,976	42,416	41,727	40,743	39,632	38,056	44,112	38,381	
Middle Atlantic..... do.....	159,554	148,888	151,309	144,717	150,172	158,574	157,222	146,613	151,409	133,296	129,066	158,097	139,103	
East North Central..... do.....	137,459	126,840	121,339	120,473	132,728	132,454	131,230	123,270	129,284	119,572	113,821	130,687	115,940	
West North Central..... do.....	58,527	59,048	47,580	46,661	53,070	54,293	58,884	54,290	58,097	54,877	50,238	56,173	47,328	
South Atlantic..... do.....	61,072	56,672	48,294	47,164	53,054	57,794	55,897	58,094	57,633	52,751	51,608	56,987	50,654	
East South Central..... do.....	25,230	24,223	17,829	17,657	21,969	20,752	21,857	24,711	22,218	20,882	20,913	21,624	19,440	
West South Central..... do.....	46,644	45,996	35,470	36,141	42,665	42,825	41,550	44,595	45,349	42,674	42,647	41,778	37,908	
Mountain..... do.....	16,370	17,347	12,496	12,761	14,730	15,754	15,184	14,956	14,893	15,994	12,758	14,747	12,924	
Pacific..... do.....	51,576	48,825	39,002	41,005	47,335	47,741	47,435	44,830	46,435	48,652	44,260	49,309	43,796	
FOREIGN TRADE Pages 77, 78, 79, 80, 81														
Exports:														
Total: Value, unadjusted..... 1923-25=100	85	97	97	91	93	85	86	92	83	92	78	90	86	
Value, adjusted..... do.....	80	91	95	100	92	90	91	104	95	100	74	74	75	
Imports:														
Total: Value, unadjusted..... do.....	78	76	75	62	67	66	65	65	72	68	60	64	69	
Value, adjusted..... do.....	79	77	74	62	60	61	64	69	78	71	63	63	69	
Value:														
Exports, including reexports..... thous. of dol.	322,257	367,819	368,584	346,779	352,272	324,008	325,306	350,458	317,015	349,928	295,245	343,485	327,685	
General imports, total..... do.....	253,099	246,903	241,897	199,775	216,732	212,240	211,382	211,390	232,258	220,217	194,928	207,141	223,430	
Imports for consumption, total..... do.....	238,275	232,738	234,634	189,824	206,719	202,974	203,702	205,397	217,828	214,106	196,312	213,133	217,175	
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS Page 88														
Chemicals:														
Alcohol, denatured:														
Consumption..... thous. of wine gal.	12,441	11,450	10,146	8,505	9,494	9,791	10,037	9,626	9,497	11,195	14,157	15,566	13,544	
Production..... do.....	12,215	11,145	10,398	8,460	9,524	9,994	10,037	9,707	10,443	11,510	13,694	16,098	13,158	
Stocks, end of month..... do.....	1,360	1,170	1,417	1,366	1,392	1,591	1,586	1,662	2,605	2,919	2,445	1,975	1,586	
Alcohol, ethyl:														
Production..... thous. of proof gal.	23,762	22,080	20,652	20,381	20,983	20,218	20,948	21,423	22,457	24,094	21,559	23,350	22,354	
Stocks, warehouses, end of month..... do.....	9,503	14,614	15,279	18,773	20,677	20,057	21,921	21,799	22,393	23,645	18,480	13,471	10,027	
Withdrawn for denaturing..... do.....	22,056	19,525	18,386	14,697	16,730	17,610	17,752	17,490	19,621	20,918	24,218	25,552	23,110	
Withdrawn, tax-paid..... do.....	2,128	1,729	1,504	1,640	2,012	2,035	1,782	3,380	2,020	1,424	2,045	2,357	2,959	
FOODSTUFFS Page 100														
Alcoholic beverages:														
Distilled spirits:														
Production..... thous. of tax gal.	15,712	11,586	12,055	12,125	13,232	13,949	13,926	10,658	7,581	6,742	16,701	21,487	17,567	
Tax-paid withdrawals..... do.....	8,958	9,380	6,541	7,928	8,398	7,793	7,522	10,862	7,634	4,850	8,176	11,494	13,173	
Stocks..... do.....	522,699	507,263	512,398	514,490	517,589	522,515	520,441	525,395	523,596	521,601	518,017	518,638	518,358	
Whisky:														
Production..... do.....	12,265	8,060	10,435	9,878	10,588	11,233	11,492	8,187	5,200	3,252	6,762	10,303	11,761	
Tax-paid withdrawals..... do.....	7,331	7,683	5,487	6,616	6,461	5,773	5,827	8,341	5,475	3,617	6,354	8,982	10,529	
Stocks..... do.....	479,102	465,025	469,017	470,514	473,278	477,873	480,599	480,938	479,189	477,484	476,980	476,298	475,611	
METALS AND MANUFACTURES Page 133														
Foundry equipment: New orders, total..... 1937-39=100	257.8	124.5	149.0	135.7	183.2	145.2	129.1	164.9	194.4	165.4	161.2	264.0	254.2	
New equipment..... do.....	276.1	—	—	—	—	—	127.5	174.2	209.8	167.2	162.0	284.8	278.8	
Ripars..... do.....	203.2	—	—	—	—	—	133.9	138.3	147.8	160.0	158.6	201.8	183.7	
RUBBER PRODUCTS Page 149														
Pneumatic casings:														
Production..... thousands.....	4,999	4,460	4,954	4,888	5,007	5,106	5,415	5,148	4,676	4,704	4,495	5,082	4,838	
Shipments, total..... do.....	4,972	4,727	4,112	4,346	5,010	5,720	6,927	4,284	4,245	4,572	5,561	5,137		
Original equipment..... do.....	2,626	2,613	1,805	1,974	2,050	2,095	1,999	585	705	1,465	2,322	2,433		
Replacement equipment..... do.....	2,227	1,979	2,360	2,037	2,203	2,827	3,626	4,905	3,316	3,425	3,001	2,589		
Exports..... do.....	118	135	105	101	93	87	96	90	110	115	106	158	130	
Stocks, end of month..... do.....	9,179	8,665	9,348	10,124	10,747	10,881	10,576	8,831	9,299	9,732	9,890	9,448	9,118	
Inner tubes:														
Production..... do.....	4,665	3,784	4,287	4,211	4,400	4,618	4,739	4,359	4,028	4,327	4,115	4,557	4,111	
Shipments, total..... do.....	4,646	4,394	3,827	3,810	4,114	4,543	4,739	5,721	3,797	3,615	3,991	4,878	4,692	
Exports..... do.....	87	92	76	71	60	57	78	74	89	96	84	124	106	
Stocks, end of month..... do.....	7,014	7,036	7,634	7,897	8,183	8,253	8,243	6,841	7,094	7,802	7,950	7,647	7,055	
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT Page 159														
Automobiles:														
Production:														
Canada, total..... number.....	23,364	16,976	17,213	18,193	16,612	19,687	21,277	17,930	14,468	13,993	15,475	21,151	23,621	
Passenger cars..... do.....	11,653	11,054	12,579	12,779	12,025	13,487	12,677	8,739	3,397	1,510	3,410	7,056	10,814	
United States (factory sales), total..... do.....	483,567	452,142	432,279	404,032	423,620	432,746	391,215	344,636	231,703	75,873	269,108	493,223	487,352	
Passenger cars..... do.....	396,531	373,804	362,897	337,756	352,922	362,139	325,676	236,040	168,769	46,823	224,470	421,214	407,091	
Com'l cars, trucks, road tractors..... do.....	87,036	78,338	69,382	66,276	70,607	65,539	58,596	62,934						