



SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE**

WASHINGTON, D. C., AUGUST 14, 1941

SUMMARY OF BUSINESS TRENDS

THOUGH output fell slightly in the latter part of July and early August in some industries, there has been no slackening in the general level of industrial activity which continues to make contraseasonal gains. Freight carloadings declined to 883,000 for the week ending August 2. The movement of coal and miscellaneous freight decreased slightly, but the chief reduction appeared in grain shipments. Electric power output, a general indicator of industrial activity, rose above 3.2 billion kilowatt-hours, a new high for this series.

Auto production for the first week in August dropped to a 1941 low of 41,795 units as changeovers to new models began. The transition period is expected to be of short duration, and the industry hopes this month to produce well in advance of the output realized during the similar period of other years. As yet, no reduction in activity for the early months of the model year has been ordered by the Government.

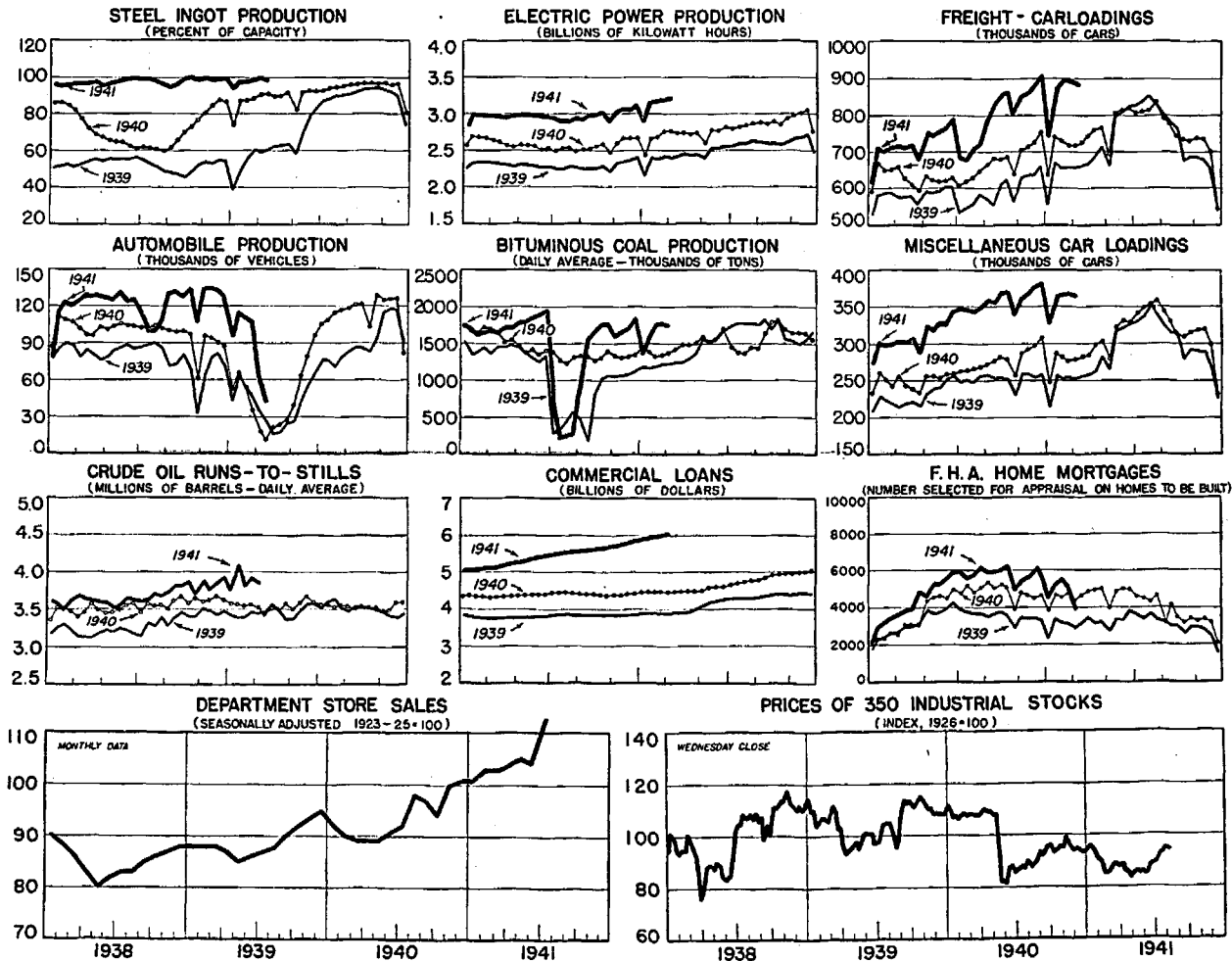
However, the raw material problem eventually facing the automobile and other consumer durable lines has again been emphasized by the establishing of complete priority control over the allocation of steel—a most important primary industry. Steel production this year is expected to reach 84 million tons,

according to the Office of Production Management (January-July output has been 47,730,000 tons, the equivalent of an annual rate of 81,800,000 tons). But the Office of Production Management estimates this will be 11,000,000 tons short of complete requirements for military and civilian use at the income level which would prevail providing steel were plentiful.

Retail trade reports for July show an unusually heavy sales volume for that time of year. The adjusted index of department store sales advanced to 113 from 104 in June, an unprecedented increase for this index. Mail-order houses and chain stores also experienced a much smaller decline in business than had occurred in most past seasons. Sellers of durable goods found demand well sustained but immediate delivery was becoming increasingly difficult for a number of commodities.

Financial developments in July included a further expansion in loans to business by Reserve member banks of about \$150 million, a smaller rise than that of June. These banks also increased their United States Government Security holdings some \$295 million. For the year ending July 31, member banks have added \$2,713 million of such Government obligations to their portfolios and expanded loans to business \$1,606 million.

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS



WEEKLY BUSINESS INDICATORS*

[Weekly average, 1923-25=100, except as indicated]

ITEM	1941					1940		1939		ITEM	1941					1940		1939	
	Aug. 9	Aug. 2	July 26	July 19	July 12	Aug. 10	Aug. 3	Aug. 12	Aug. 5		Aug. 9	Aug. 2	July 26	July 19	July 12	Aug. 10	Aug. 3	Aug. 12	Aug. 5
Business activity: †										Finance—Continued.									
New York Times‡	132.1	133.3	131.5	128.6	107.3	106.8	96.5	96.1		Stock prices§	95.6	96.4	96.0	95.3	94.8	94.9	95.2	103.3	105.5
Barrons	140.2	141.0	139.3	139.2	109.0	109.6	94.2	95.6		Banking:									
Business Week	160.4	160.8	160.4	158.6	126.7	128.1	105.8	104.6		Debits, outside N. Y. C.†	118.9	116.2	122.9	125.9	117.5	95.1	87.6	79.4	95.1
Commodity prices, wholesale:									Federal Reserve reporting member banks:										
Dept. of Labor:									Loans, total	84.8	84.6	84.0	84.2	83.6	67.9	68.1	65.3	65.3	
Combined index, 1926=100	89.2	88.8	88.3	88.1	76.9	77.0	74.8	75.1	Interest rates:										
Farm products	87.2	86.7	85.4	85.0	65.2	65.2	61.4	62.5	Call loans‡	24.2	24.2	24.2	24.2	24.2	24.2	24.2	24.2	24.2	
Food	85.5	84.6	83.8	84.1	69.3	69.1	66.7	67.2	Time loans‡	28.6	28.6	28.6	28.6	28.6	28.6	28.6	28.6	28.6	
All other	90.2	90.0	89.7	89.5	82.2	82.3	80.5	80.5	Currency in circulation†	201.7	200.1	198.5	198.6	199.4	163.4	162.7	145.8	145.6	
28 basic commodities⊙	151.8	151.3	149.9	147.9	147.7	106.2	106.9		Production:										
Fisher's index, 1926=100:									Automobiles	53.2	79.0	134.4	139.8	145.4	14.8	22.1	33.2	42.7	
Combined index	96.2	96.5	95.9	95.4	95.1	81.0	81.2	78.1	Bituminous coal	102.8	105.3	104.0	93.5	83.6	80.4	73.7	72.2		
Copper, electrolytic	85.5	85.5	85.5	85.5	78.3	76.8	74.6	73.2	Cotton consumption†			204.4	201.2	189.2	134.1	128.6	127.3	124.5	
Cotton, middling, spot	62.5	62.1	65.1	60.7	58.8	37.1	38.2	34.6	Electric power⊙	151.5	149.5	148.5	147.5	128.8	129.7	113.3	112.7		
Construction contracts‡									Lumber	69.5	72.2	65.0	55.0	57.5	59.9	51.8	55.2		
Distribution:									Petroleum‡	183.2	191.9	182.3	192.0	172.3	173.2	176.0	163.8		
Carloadings	92.7	94.2	94.4	92.0	76.3	75.4	69.4	68.9	Steel ingots⊙	172.9	175.2	172.2	171.0	170.3	155.2	103.2	101.9		
Department store salesΔ	103	87	89	93	79	81	73	77	Receipts, primary markets:										
Employment, Detroit, factory									Cotton	53.1	35.0	62.7	66.2	46.2	36.5	26.2	54.2	58.8	
Finance:									Wheat	144.5	207.5	200.2	219.3	401.6	67.4	130.8	104.0	110.3	
Bond yields‡	56.8	57.0	57.0	57.2	57.2	61.4	61.5	62.9											

* Data do not cover calendar weeks in all cases. †Seasonally adjusted. ‡Daily average. §Weekly average, 1935-39=100.
 ‡Computed normal=100. Index revised beginning Jan. 8, 1938; revised data not given in the issue of Jan. 23, 1941, and subsequent issues will be shown later.
 ⊙Index for week ended Aug. 16 is 171.5. Data for 1941 are based on production of steel ingots and steel castings. ⊙Thursday prices: August 1939=100.
 ΔWeekly average 1935-39=100. The index is compiled by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; it is not adjusted for seasonal variations.

WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS*

ITEM	1941					1940		1939		1938	
	Aug. 9	Aug. 2	July 26	July 19	July 12	Aug. 10	Aug. 3	Aug. 12	Aug. 5	Aug. 13	Aug. 6
COMMODITY PRICES, WHOLESALE											
Copper, electrolytic, New York†	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.108	0.106	0.103	0.101	0.099	0.099
Cotton, middling, spot, New York	1.170	1.169	1.177	1.165	1.160	1.101	1.101	0.994	0.996	0.983	0.985
Food index (Dun & Bradstreet)	3.19	3.16	3.16	3.09	3.09	2.23	2.22	2.15	2.17	2.44	2.46
Iron and steel, composite	38.15	38.15	38.15	38.15	38.15	37.66	37.60	35.93	35.90	36.51	36.49
Wheat, No. 2, Hard Winter (Kansas City)	1.06	1.01	0.98	0.97	0.99	0.70	0.71	0.63	0.67	0.64	0.67
FINANCE											
Banking:											
Debits, New York City	3,804	3,390	3,600	3,863	3,166	3,190	2,763	2,538	3,630	2,428	3,018
Debits, outside New York City (140 cities)	5,816	5,385	5,697	5,835	4,539	4,410	4,060	3,684	4,412	3,347	3,965
Federal Reserve banks:											
Federal Reserve bank credit, total	2,231	2,245	2,248	2,294	2,240	2,471	2,454	2,462	2,476	2,582	2,574
U. S. Government securities	2,184	2,184	2,184	2,184	2,184	2,448	2,448	2,443	2,453	2,564	2,564
Member bank reserve balances	12,951	13,097	13,117	13,223	12,971	13,286	13,498	10,509	10,413	8,046	8,074
Excess reserves, estimated	5,018	5,155	5,181	5,336	5,124	6,325	6,514	4,533	4,462	2,920	2,924
Federal Reserve reporting member banks:											
Deposits, demand, adjusted	24,217	24,544	24,381	24,260	23,920	20,712	20,984	17,551	17,462	15,009	14,951
Deposits, time	5,431	5,420	5,414	5,416	5,425	5,335	5,320	5,251	5,243	5,193	5,193
Investments, total §	18,164	18,199	18,142	18,054	18,028	15,609	15,461	14,118	14,078	12,412	12,395
U. S. Government direct obligations	11,248	11,279	11,291	11,285	11,269	9,436	9,457	8,530	8,515	7,609	7,655
Obligations fully guaranteed by U. S. Government	3,305	3,309	3,302	3,221	3,212	2,569	2,418	2,259	2,241	1,650	1,646
Loans, total §	10,597	10,572	10,504	10,523	10,453	8,492	8,517	8,156	8,166	8,199	8,105
Commercial, industrial, and agricultural loans ‡	6,087	6,047	6,011	5,988	5,933	4,446	4,441	3,917	3,887	3,889	3,865
Interest rates, call loans ‡	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Interest rates, time loans ‡	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
Exchange rates: Pound sterling ‡	4.033	4.033	4.036	4.032	4.030	3.920	3.856	4.681	4.681	4.878	4.899
Failures, commercial	220	190	253	193	184	252	271	252	277	277	277
Currency in circulation ‡	9,756	9,719	9,638	9,646	9,683	7,937	7,901	7,079	7,068	6,479	6,475
Security markets:											
Bond sales (N. Y. S. E.)	35,320	49,300	42,880	41,830	51,030	17,660	22,210	22,060	27,120	28,610	28,650
Bond yields (Moody's) (120 bonds) ‡	3.28	3.29	3.29	3.30	3.30	3.64	3.55	3.63	3.62	4.09	4.09
Stock sales (N. Y. S. E.)	3,228	4,544	4,677	3,014	5,294	1,509	2,231	3,093	4,267	5,524	4,830
Stock prices (N. Y. Times) ‡	92.89	93.64	93.21	92.57	92.04	92.15	92.49	100.30	102.46	98.96	100.19
Stock prices (Standard and Poor's) (420) 1926=100	70.7	80.1	80.1	70.0	78.9	77.6	78.3	87.4	90.9	90.3	89.2
Industrials (350)	94.6	94.0	95.0	93.4	93.9	89.2	90.1	101.8	104.9	108.9	107.7
Public utilities (40)	60.9	70.1	70.5	70.3	70.1	81.4	81.4	88.0	89.9	75.4	74.9
Railroads (30)	28.3	28.5	28.4	27.8	27.8	24.8	25.2	25.9	27.1	28.6	27.3
PRODUCTION, CONSTRUCTION, AND DISTRIBUTION											
Production:											
Automobiles ‡	41,795	62,146	105,635	109,912	114,318	11,635	17,373	26,125	33,550	13,790	14,771
Bituminous coal ‡	1,750	1,793	1,771	1,771	1,593	1,424	1,370	1,255	1,230	1,020	999
Electric power Δ	3,226	3,184	3,163	3,141	3,141	2,743	2,762	2,414	2,400	2,198	2,194
Petroleum ‡	3,695	3,870	3,676	3,871	3,871	3,475	3,494	3,550	3,909	3,360	3,318
Steel ingots ⊙	98.3	99.6	97.9	97.2	96.8	90.5	90.4	60.1	59.3	39.4	39.8
Construction contract awards ‡			25,032	18,650				10,859		8,104	
Distribution:											
Freight-carloadings, total	883,065	897,399	899,370	876,165	726,976	717,927	661,023	656,553	589,568	584,062	
Coal and coke	179,276	182,146	181,251	161,068	133,373	120,795	117,931	117,931	95,745	95,414	
Forest products	50,644	47,441	44,774	44,252	36,370	36,610	31,222	31,933	29,722	28,892	
Grains and grain products	46,142	55,277	61,396	62,697	41,386	40,690	40,103	42,270	47,890	51,514	
Livestock	9,759	10,034	9,414	10,177	10,748	9,116	11,234	11,158	11,945	11,276	
Merchandise, i. c. l.	155,724	155,996	154,680	154,133	149,635	150,286	153,117	154,657	148,537	149,245	
Ore	77,228	78,533	81,289	81,104	70,175	68,547	49,077	44,800	24,798	22,998	
Miscellaneous	364,292	367,972	366,566	362,734	282,482	279,305	255,475	253,714	230,931	224,723	
Receipts:											
Cattle and calves ‡	196	213	194	187	180	161					
Hogs ‡	223	230	228	289	251	244					
Cotton into sight	138	91	215	172	120	95					
Wheat, at primary markets	11,497	16,510	20,696	25,397	31,947	6,956	10,403	8,343	8,773	12,551	13,873

†Daily average. *Data do not cover calendar weeks in all cases. ‡Source: Ward's Automotive Reports. *Free rate.
 §Data for 1938 not strictly comparable with data for later years; see note on corresponding data shown on p. 51 of the 1940 Supplement.
 ‡Rate per week ended Aug. 16 is 97.5; data for 1941 are based on capacity Dec. 31, 1940, of open-hearth, Bessemer, and electric ingots and steel for castings.
 ‡Receipts at Buffalo and Cincinnati are now included and receipts at Oklahoma City and Wichita, formerly included, are omitted.
 ΔData revised beginning in the June 19, 1941, issue to include certain additional governmental and industrial power generation not previously reported.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

Earlier data are available in monthly issues of the Survey and the 1940 Supplement	1941	1940	1941		Earlier data are available in monthly issues of the Survey and the 1940 Supplement	1941	1940	1941	
	July	July	May	June		July	July	May	June
COMMODITY PRICES					FINANCE—Continued				
Cost of living:					Capital flotations:				
National Industrial Conference Board:					Securities issued, by type of security, total				
Combined index† 1923=100	88.9	85.7	87.4	88.5	thous. of dol.	612,092	* 711,447	405,839	881,131
Clothing.....do	73.8	73.1	73.6	73.6	New capital, total.....do	296,024	* 399,940	106,750	519,255
Food.....do	86.2	78.4	82.2	85.2	Domestic, total.....do	295,624	* 399,940	106,750	519,005
Fuel and light.....do	87.8	84.5	86.4	86.7	Corporate, total.....do	43,569	* 49,833	63,874	90,467
Housing.....do	88.4	86.8	88.0	88.2	Bonds and notes:				
Sundries.....do	98.7	98.2	98.5	98.6	Long term.....do	30,377	* 47,387	60,945	74,636
					Short term.....do	0	0	55	2,010
DOMESTIC TRADE					Preferred stocks.....do	9,825	1,096	0	10,387
Postal business:					Common stocks.....do	3,367	1,350	2,875	3,434
Receipts, postal:					Farm loan and other Government agencies.....thous. of dol.	212,212	289,458	5,440	369,741
50 selected cities.....thous. of dol.	30,637	27,625	33,722	31,202	Municipal, State, etc.....do	39,843	60,648	37,436	58,797
50 industrial cities.....do	3,887	3,565	3,961	3,824	Foreign, total.....do	400	0	0	250
Retail trade:					Refunding, total.....do	316,008	* 311,508	299,089	361,876
Department stores:					Domestic, total.....do	316,008	* 311,508	299,089	361,876
Sales, total U. S., unadj.† 1923=100	* 78	64	105	* 100	Corporate, total.....do	86,468	* 242,448	197,102	113,390
Boston.....do	* 62	51	89	* 62	Bonds and notes:				
Chicago† 1935=39=100	* 90	74	125	* 119	Long term.....do	75,793	* 224,216	161,757	108,087
Cleveland.....do	* 86	76	114	* 105	Short term.....do	0	* 15,725	0	0
Dallas.....do	* 95	76	* 124	* 110	Preferred stocks.....do	10,525	* 257	35,345	5,303
Kansas City.....do	* 81	66	* 100	* 85	Common stocks.....do	150	2,250	0	0
Minneapolis† 1935=39=100	* 93	80	122	* 114	Farm loan and other Government agencies.....thous. of dol.	215,553	48,400	28,300	222,860
New York.....do	* 81	67	95	* 98	Municipal, State, etc.....do	14,047	20,660	73,687	25,626
Philadelphia.....do	* 62	50	87	* 81	Foreign, total.....thous. of dol.	0	0	0	0
Richmond.....do	* 107	83	146	* 129	Corporate securities issued by type of borrower, total.....thous. of dol.	130,038	* 292,281	260,976	203,857
St. Louis.....do	* 85	66	105	* 92	New capital, total.....do	43,569	* 49,833	63,784	90,467
Sales, total U. S., adjusted†	* 113	92	105	* 104	Industrial.....do	4,068	4,772	19,459	29,454
Chicago† 1935=39=100	* 128	105	124	* 123	Public utilities.....do	10,559	* 11,366	3,775	7,584
Cleveland.....do	* 118	92	103	* 107	Railroads.....do	22,852	15,205	36,715	51,235
Dallas.....do	* 135	108	* 124	* 123	Shipping and miscellaneous.....do	6,000	* 18,500	3,925	1,808
Minneapolis† 1935=39=100	* 131	113	124	* 115	Refunding, total.....do	86,468	* 242,448	197,102	113,390
New York.....do	* 114	94	99	* 102	Industrial.....do	34,875	* 109,353	51,170	21,886
Philadelphia.....do	* 90	73	87	* 83	Public utilities.....do	45,593	* 118,666	138,882	83,317
St. Louis.....do	* 123	95	105	* 100	Railroads.....do	0	0	0	6,800
Mail-order and store sales:‡					Shipping and miscellaneous.....do	6,000	13,700	4,175	1,000
Total sales, 2 companies.....thous. of dol.	121,175	88,565	145,359	131,439					
Montgomery Ward & Co.....do	48,305	37,213	60,520	52,872	TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION				
Sears, Roebuck & Co.....do	72,870	51,352	84,839	78,568	Class I steam railways:				
					Freight carloadings (Fed. Res. indexes):†				
FINANCE					Combined index, unadj.† 1935=39=100				
Banking:						138	110	131	136
Fed. Reserve banks, condition, end of mo.:					Coal.....do	127	102	117	131
Assets, total.....mil. of dol.	23,828	21,801	23,859	23,704	Coke.....do	172	136	167	170
Reserve bank credit outstanding, total					Forest products.....do	149	108	135	141
mil. of dol.	2,293	2,484	2,280	2,266	Grains and grain products.....do	163	145	107	123
Bills bought.....do	0	0	0	0	Livestock.....do	70	74	82	69
Bills discounted.....do	5	4	4	2	Merchandise, l. c. l.....do	99	94	102	101
United States securities.....do	2,184	2,448	2,184	2,184	Ore.....do	283	250	276	265
Reserves, total.....do	20,603	18,579	20,615	20,883	Miscellaneous.....do	139	107	138	141
Gold certificates.....do	20,317	18,202	20,325	20,322	Combined index, adjusted.....do	138	110	135	139
Liabilities, total.....do	23,828	21,801	23,859	23,704	Coal.....do	150	120	138	156
Deposits, total.....do	15,781	15,575	16,132	15,863	Coke.....do	200	158	182	189
Member bank reserve balances do.	13,151	13,498	13,724	13,051	Forest products.....do	149	108	130	136
Excess reserves (estimated) do.	5,215	6,514	5,801	5,210	Grains and grain products.....do	112	100	124	126
Fed. Reserve notes in circulation do.	6,857	5,248	6,503	6,723	Livestock.....do	83	88	91	88
Reserve ratio.....percent	91.0	89.2	91.1	91.1	Merchandise, l. c. l.....do	100	95	102	102
Savings deposits:					Ore.....do	156	138	266	152
Savings banks in New York State:					Miscellaneous.....do	140	108	136	139
Amount due depositors.....mil. of dol.	5,575	5,631	5,604	5,628	Freight-car surplus, total§.....thousands	67	133	72	71
Monetary statistics:					Box cars§.....do	27	57	34	34
Foreign exchange rates:†					Coal cars§.....do	20	47	17	17
Argentina.....dol. per paper peso	.298	.298	.298	.298	FOODSTUFFS				
Brazil, official.....dol. per milreis	.061	.061	.061	.061	Grains and grain products (principal markets):				
British India.....dol. per rupee	.301	.301	.301	.301	Corn:				
Canada.....dol. per Canadian dol.	.883	.869	.874	.882	Receipts, principal markets.....thous. of bu.				
Colombia.....dol. per peso	.570	.571	.570	.570	Shipments, principal markets.....do				
Japan.....dol. per yen	.234	.234	.234	.234	Stocks, commercial, end of month.....do				
Mexico.....dol. per peso	.205	.199	.205	.205	Oats:				
United Kingdom.....dol. per £	4.032	4.805	4.031	4.032	Receipts, principal markets.....do				
Gold:					Stocks, commercial, end of month.....do				
Monetary stock, U. S.....mil. of dol.	* 22,674	20,463	22,575	22,624	Wheat:				
Currency in circulation, total.....do	* 9,732	7,883	9,357	9,612	Shipments, principal markets.....do				
Public finance (Federal):					Stocks, commercial, end of month.....do				
Debt, gross, end of month.....do	49,513	43,774	47,721	48,961	FUELS AND BYPRODUCTS				
Public issues:					Coal, production: ¶				
Interest bearing.....do	42,641	38,337	41,326	42,267	Anthracite.....thous. of short tons				
Noninterest bearing.....do	548	584	561	574	Bituminous.....do				
Special issues to government agencies and trust funds.....mil. of dol.	6,324	4,853	5,834	6,120	Metallic.....do				
Obligations fully guaranteed by U. S. Gov't:					Pig iron:				
Total amount outstanding.....mil. of dol.	6,370	5,526	6,504	6,371	Furnaces in blast, end of month:				
Expenditures, total.....thous. of dol.	1,600,253	830,569	1,142,207	1,545,692	Capacity†.....short tons per day				
National defense.....do	930,612	177,325	856,607	807,508	Number.....do				
Agricultural adjustment program*.....do	50,642	53,573	38,875	31,560	Production‡.....thous. of short tons				
Unemployment relief.....do	132,075	150,865	145,432	134,776	Steel ingots and steel for casting:‡				
Transfers to trust accounts.....do	153,144	113,520	0	0	Production.....thous. of short tons				
Interest on debt*.....do	24,828	20,353	11,503	339,431	Percent of capacity.....do				
Debt retirements.....do	2,654	12,212	1,335	17,128	Furnaces in blast, end of month:				
Receipts, total.....do	455,556	367,064	541,159	1,277,092	Capacity†.....short tons per day				
Receipts, net*.....do	412,942	331,221	393,683	1,276,090	Number.....do				
Customs.....do	36,743	25,225	41,060	38,217	Production‡.....thous. of short tons				
Internal revenue, total.....do	399,783	326,141	482,858	1,211,087	Steel ingots and steel for casting:‡				
Income taxes.....do	83,668	49,655	63,271	916,170	Production.....thous. of short tons				
Social security taxes.....do	47,926	39,098	165,204	31,817	Percent of capacity.....do				

* Revised.

† No July 1941 data for Chile, Germany, Italy, and Sweden.

‡ See note on corresponding item in the July 1941 SURVEY.

§ Data for May 1941, represent daily average for 9-day period ending May 31, for June 1941, daily average for week ending June 28 and for July 1941, daily average for week ending July 26.

¶ For coal stocks see p. 4.

* Preliminary

† See note on corresponding item in the July 1941 SURVEY.

