



SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT

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



WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY 8, 1942

SUMMARY OF BUSINESS TRENDS

The beginning of the new year finds business operating at record levels after impressive gains over the past 12 months. Income payments in November—the latest available—were at an annual rate of 96.2 billion dollars; whereas a year earlier the rate was at 78.5 billions. More than one-third of the increase was attributable to higher prices, but even so the expansion in real income was the most rapid in the Nation's history. The Federal Reserve's adjusted index of industrial production stood at 166 in November, and apparently has advanced further since then. Hence the rate of industrial output during 1941 has been raised more than a fifth. In the same period non-agricultural employment increased slightly more than 3 million to a total (again as reported in November) of 40.7 million workers. Moreover, the average weekly hours worked in factories rose above 41 in the latter part of this year from approximately 39 in the final months of 1940.

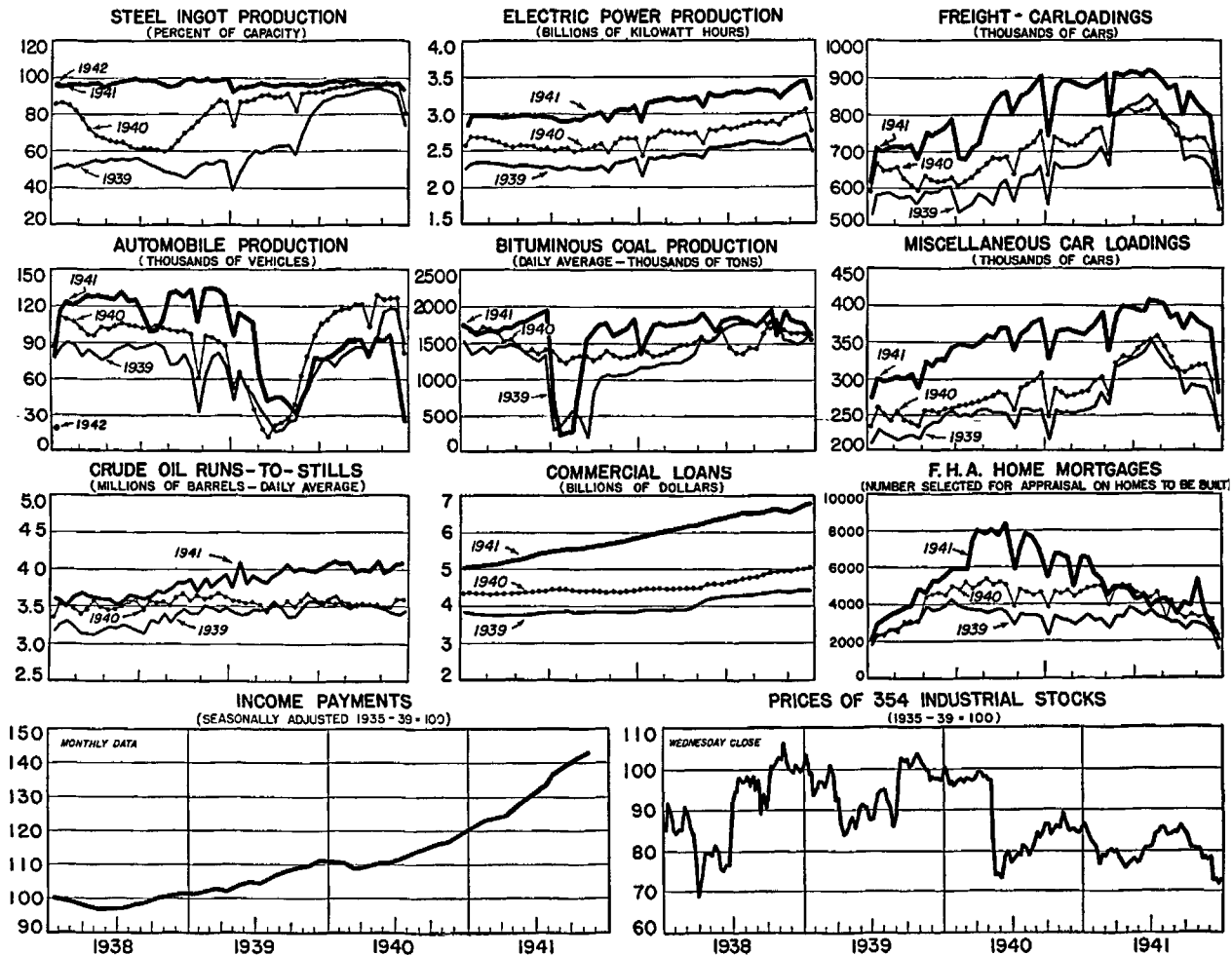
The charts shown below reveal the changes in certain important industries. Steel production with but few exceptions has fluctuated between 96 and 99 percent of capacity throughout the entire year. Capacity itself has expanded from 84 million tons to approximately 88 million tons. Electric power production has moved steadily upward, and output at the peak in

December was 13 percent above the December 1940 peak. Likewise, petroleum production has forged ahead since February, and is now one-seventh above the output at that earlier time. On the other hand, automobile production, like other consumer durables, has been increasingly restricted by action of the Government. After February 1 automobile output for civilian use will be eliminated altogether. The resulting production losses in these and other lines will of course ultimately be more than compensated by gains in military output.

Bituminous coal activity remained high after the work stoppage in April, with little of the let-down usual in the late autumn. This, as well as the upward movement of industrial output as a whole, has led to a smaller than seasonal decline in the movement of freight for the past two months. For 1941 as a whole carloadings totaled 42.3 million cars, 16 percent more than in 1940.

Over coming months concentration on the output of war material will bring many alterations in the present structure of production. Conversion of plants is being speeded. Raw material output is being slowly expanded by increased capacity. Employment, production, and income all will move higher as war output gathers momentum.

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS



MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

Earlier data are available in monthly issues of the Survey and the 1940 Supplement	1941		1940		Earlier data are available in monthly issues of the Survey and the 1940 Supplement	1941		1940			October	
	November	November	September	October		November	November	September	October			
FINANCE—Continued					LEATHER AND PRODUCTS							
Bonds:					Production, boots, shoes, and slippers:							
Prices:					Total.....thous. of pairs.....							
Standard and Poor's Corporation:					Athletic.....do.....							
High-grade bonds (15) §					All fabric (satin, canvas, etc.).....do.....							
dol. per \$100 bond.....					Part fabric and part leather.....do.....							
	119.2	118.0	118.1	118.8	High and low cut, leather, total.....do.....							
Medium and lower grade: §					Boys' and youths'.....do.....							
Composite (50 bonds).....do.....					Infants'.....do.....							
Industrial (10 bonds).....do.....					Misses' and children's.....do.....							
Public utilities (20 bonds).....do.....					Men's.....do.....							
Railroads (20 bonds).....do.....					Women's.....do.....							
Defaulted bonds (15) §.....do.....					Slippers and moccasins for housewear.....do.....							
Domestic municipals (15 bonds).....do.....					All other footwear.....do.....							
Sales (Securities and Exchange Commission):					LUMBER AND MANUFACTURES							
Total on all registered exchanges:					National Lumber Mfrs. Assn.: †							
Market value.....thous. of dol.....					Production, total.....mil. bd. ft.....							
Shares sold.....thousands.....					Hardwoods.....do.....							
On New York Stock Exchange:					Softwoods.....do.....							
Market value.....thous. of dol.....					Shipments, total.....do.....							
Shares sold.....thousands.....					Hardwoods.....do.....							
Yields:					Softwoods.....do.....							
Standard and Poor's Corporation:					Stocks, gross, end of month, total.....do.....							
Domestic municipals (15 bonds).....percent.....					Hardwoods.....do.....							
	1.90	2.18	1.99	1.91	Softwoods.....do.....							
Stocks:					Stocks:							
Prices:					Southern pine:							
Standard and Poor's Corporation: §					Orders, new.....do.....							
Combined index (420 stocks) 1935-39=100.....					Orders, unfilled, end of month.....do.....							
Industrial (350 stocks).....do.....					Production.....do.....							
Capital goods (107 stocks).....do.....					Shipments.....do.....							
Consumer's goods (194 stocks).....do.....					Stocks, end of month.....do.....							
Public utilities (40 stocks).....do.....					Western pine:							
Railroads (30 stocks).....do.....					Orders, new.....do.....							
Sales (Securities and Exchange Commission):					Orders, unfilled, end of month.....do.....							
Total on all registered exchanges:					Production.....do.....							
Market value.....thous. of dol.....					Shipments.....do.....							
Shares sold.....thousands.....					Stocks, end of month.....do.....							
On New York Stock Exchange:					West coast woods:							
Market value.....do.....					Orders, new.....do.....							
Shares sold.....do.....					Orders, unfilled, end of month.....do.....							
Yields:					Production.....do.....							
Standard and Poor's Corporation: §					Shipments.....do.....							
Preferred stocks, high-grade (15).....percent.....					Stocks, end of month.....do.....							
	4.11	4.08	4.04	4.07	METALS AND MANUFACTURES							
TRANSPORTATION					Pig iron and iron manufactures:							
Financial operations (Class I steam railways):					Castings, malleable:							
Operating revenues, total.....thous. of dol.....					Orders, new.....short tons.....							
Freight.....do.....					Production.....do.....							
Passenger.....do.....					Shipments.....do.....							
Operating expenses.....do.....					Steel, manufactured products:							
Net railway operating income.....do.....					Barrels and drums, steel, heavy types:							
Communications:					Orders, unfilled, end of month.....thousands.....							
Telephone carriers:					Production.....do.....							
Operating revenues.....thous. of dol.....					Shipments.....do.....							
Operating expenses.....do.....					Stocks, end of month.....do.....							
Net operating income.....do.....					Boilers, steel, new orders:							
Phones in service, end of month.....thousands.....					Area.....thous. of sq. ft.....							
Telegraph and cable carriers: †					Quantity.....number.....							
Operating revenues, total.....thous. of dol.....					Steel, crude and semifinished:							
Telegraph carriers, total.....do.....					Furniture, steel:							
Western Union Telegraph Co., revenues from cable operations.....thous. of dol.....					Office furniture:							
Cable carriers.....do.....					Orders, new.....thous. of dol.....							
Operating expenses.....do.....					Orders, unfilled, end of month.....do.....							
Operating income.....do.....					Shipments.....do.....							
Net income.....do.....					Shelving:							
Radiotelegraph carriers, operating revenues.....thous. of dol.....					Orders, new.....do.....							
	1.170	1.205	1.316	1.316	Orders, unfilled, end of month.....do.....							
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS					Shipments.....do.....							
Oleomargarine:					Nonferrous metals:							
Consumption (tax-pd. with'd's).....thous. of lb.....					Lead:							
Production.....do.....					Ore: Receipts, lead content of domestic ore short tons.....							
FUELS AND BYPRODUCTS					Refined:							
Coal:					Production from domestic ore.....do.....							
Anthracite stocks, end of month:					Shipments (reported).....do.....							
In producers' storage yards					Stocks, end of month.....do.....							
thous. of short tons.....					Domestic appliances, sales billed:							
In selected retail dealers' yards					Ranges.....units.....							
number of days' supply.....					Refrigerators.....do.....							
Bituminous:					Furnaces, electric, industrial, sales:							
Industrial consumption, total					Units.....kilowatts.....							
thous. of short tons.....					Value.....thous. of dol.....							
Beehive coke ovens.....do.....					TEXTILE PRODUCTS							
Byproduct coke ovens.....do.....					Hosiery:							
Cement mills.....do.....					Production.....thous. of dozen pairs.....							
Coal-gas retorts.....do.....					Stocks, end of month.....do.....							
Electric power utilities.....do.....					Wool:							
Railways (class I).....do.....					Consumption (scoured basis): ‡							
Steel and rolling mills.....do.....					Apparel class.....thous. of lb.....							
Other industrial.....do.....					Carpet class.....do.....							
Stocks, industrial and retail dealers, end of month, total.....thous. of short tons.....					Machinery activity (weekly average): ‡							
Industrial, total.....do.....					Looms:							
By-product coke ovens.....do.....					Woolen and worsted:							
Cement mills.....do.....					Broad.....thous. of active hours.....							
Coal-gas retorts.....do.....					Narrow.....do.....							
Coal-gas retorts.....do.....					Carpet and rug.....do.....							
Electric power utilities.....do.....					Spinning spindles:							
Railways (class I).....do.....					Woolen.....do.....							
Steel and rolling mills.....do.....					Worsted.....do.....							
Other industrial.....do.....					Retail dealers, total.....do.....							
Retail dealers, total.....do.....												

* Revised.
 † New series. See note on corresponding item in the December 1941 SURVEY.
 ‡ Revised series. Earlier data will be shown in the January 1942 SURVEY.
 § Revised series. See note on corresponding item in December 1941 SURVEY.
 ¶ Data for October are for 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.