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

 BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE}

WASHINGTON, D. C., JUNE 11, 1942

## SUMMARY OF BUSINESS TRENDS

THE tremendous strides which the Nation is making in its war effort are indicated by the rate of war expenditures. Total war expenditures, including disbursements by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation amounted to $\$ 3.9$ billion in May, up 9.5 percent from April and 23 percent from March.
The bulk of the Treasury outlays for war activities-nearly $\$ 3.6$ billion in May-is accounted for, of course, by the War and Navy Departments. Nevertheless, a substantial sum$\$ 626$ million-went to fulfill the lend-lease commitments. This sum measures to some extent the Nation's direct material aid to the Allies. In the single month of May, lend-lease expenditures amounted to almost three-fourths as much as expenditures for this-purpose during the entire year 1941.

Commercial, industrial; and agricultural loans as reported by member banks in 101 leading cities have been falling steadily during the past two and one-half months, thus reversing the almost continuous rise which began in the autumn of 1940. In the last week in May, these loans amounted to $\$ 6.6$ billion, off 7 percent from the mid-March peak. They are now at lowest level since early November of last year. Several reasons may be advanced to explain at least a part of this decrease. In general, curtailment in the sales of such products as automobile
and durable electrical equipment has diminished the need for credit. Furthermore, finance company loans are being liquidated as a result of restrictions placed upon consumer credit. In addition, corporations recently have been floating rather large loans upon the market, and a part of the proceeds are used to reduce their obligations to commercial banks. Finally, the Commodity Credit Corporation has been taking over agricultural loans reducing the volume of agricultural paper held by banks.

Data now available for April indicate that manufacturers' inventories increased by a substantial amount. A broad rise extending throughout the entire durable goods group lifted the Department of Commerce index of the value of all manufacturers' inventories to $168(1939=100)$-from 166 at the end of the previous month. Total nondurable goods inventories were up only slightly, with food products showing the largest increase. In dollar terms the rise added about $\$ 200$ million to the value of stocks compared with a rise of $\$ 260$ million in March. Retail inventories have likewise increased. As a result of hear aprosing

 year.

## SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS


[Weekly average, 1935-39=100, except as indicated; data beginning January 1939 for most of the series on a $1035-30$ base and 1939 and 1940 data for the New York Times index
of business activity, also data beginning September 1939 for the price index of 28 basic commodities, are shown in table 32, pp. $24-26$. of the November 1941 Surver]


- Data do not cover calendar weeks in all cases. TSeasonally adjusted. $\ddagger$ Daily average. ©Index for week ended June 13 is 189.0 .

For New York Times index, computed normal=1c0; this index Las keen revised back to January 1941; 1941 and ig42 data are showin on the revised basis beginging with the Jan. 15, 1942, ard Feb. 26, 1942, iseucs, reffetively. Th.e Business Week index has also been revised for 1941 and 1942 ; 1941 data are correct as published only beginning with the issue of Feb. 5,$1942 ; 1842$ revisions were first show
OThursday prices; Angust $1989=100$. Preliminary.

WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS*

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \multirow{2}{*}{ITEM} \& \multicolumn{5}{|c|}{1942} \& \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{1941} \& \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{1940} \& \multicolumn{2}{|c|}{1939} \\
\hline \& June 6 \& May 30 \& May 23 \& May 16 \& May 9 \& Junc 7 \& May 31 \& June 8 \& June 1 \& June 10 \& June 3 \\
\hline \multicolumn{12}{|l|}{MODITY PRICES, WHOLESA} \\
\hline Copper, electrolytic, New Yorkt . .-...-.-dnl. per 1b. \& 0.118 \& 0. 118 \& 0.118 \& 0.118 \& 0.118 \& 0.118 \& 0.118 \& 0.113 \& 0.111 \& 0.008 \& 0.098 \\
\hline Cotton, middling, \(191 \mathrm{~s}^{\prime \prime}\), average 10 markets \(\uparrow\) - .--do...- \& .\(^{191}\) \& \({ }^{197}\) \& . 199 \& .\(^{202}\) \& \(\mathrm{C}^{202}\) \& \({ }_{5}^{130}\) \& . 129 \& .\(^{101}\) \& .\(^{102}\) \& \(\cdots\) \& \\
\hline  \& S6.73 \& 56.73 \& 56.73 \& 56.73 \& 56.73 \& 50.73 \& 56.73 \& 56.60 \& 56. 60 \& 55.70 \& 5.25 \\
\hline Wheat, No. 2, Hard Winter (Kansas City) diol. per bua \& 1.10 \& 1. 13 \& 1.13 \& 1. 16 \& 1. 17 \& . 93 \& . 88 \& . 80 \& . 82 \& . 75 \& . 79 \\
\hline \multicolumn{12}{|l|}{} \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{l}
Banking: \\
Debits, weekly reporting member banks
\end{tabular} \& \& \& \& \& \& \& \& \& \& \& \\
\hline In 101 citins, totalo \(\qquad\) mill. of dol. \& 9,066 \& \& 10, 161 \& 8,587 \& 10,640 \& 9,711 \& 8,765 \& \& \& \& \\
\hline Nim York Cityo \(\qquad\) do.-- \& 3,442 \& 3,740 \& 4, 108 \& 3,239 \& 4,507 \& 4, 440 \& 3,835 \& 2,612 \& 7,530. \& 7, 789 \& 2, 086 \\
\hline \multicolumn{12}{|l|}{} \\
\hline U.S. Government securities.-.--.-.-..........do \& 2. 532 \& 2,489 \& 2,445 \& 2,484 \& 2,436 \& 2,184 \& 2,184 \& 2,477 \& 2,477 \& 2,564 \& 2,564 \\
\hline Member bank reserve balances...-.-.-.........-do. \& 12.653 \& 12,467 \& 12,486 \& 12,667 \& 12,444 \& 13,201 \& 13,749 \& 13,387 \& 13,215 \& 10,053 \& 10,029 \\
\hline Excess reserves, estimated............-....do, \& 2,783 \& 2,535 \& 2,565 \& 2,925 \& 2,691 \& 6,407 \& 5,824 \& 6, 533 \& 6,362 \& 4,279 \& 4,218 \\
\hline Federal Reserve reporting member banks: \& 25,483 \& 25, 511 \& 25, 395 \& 25, 241 \& 24,854 \& 23,888 \& 24,311 \& 20,306 \& 20,287 \& \& \\
\hline  \& 5,092 \& 5,095 \& 5,113 \& 5,116 \& 5,127 \& 5,416 \& 5,425 \& 5,318 \& 5,312 \& 5,229 \& 5,235 \\
\hline Investments, total \& 20, 974 \& 20, 764 \& 20, 876 \& 20, 221 \& 20, 127 \& 17,878 \& 17,689 \& 15, 092 \& 15,049 \& 13,679 \& 13, 554 \\
\hline U. S, Government direct obligations....-.-.do \& 14,559 \& 14,510 \& 14, 549 \& 13,910 \& 13,792 \& 11,156 \& 10,974 \& 9, 163 \& 9,081 \& 8,318 \& 8,237 \\
\hline Obligations guaranteed by U. S. Govt-...--do \& 2,667 \& 2, 670 \& 2, 661 \& 2,666 \& 2,679 \& 3.030 \& 3,022 \& \({ }^{2}, 401\) \& 2,399 \& 2,092 \& 2,055 \\
\hline Loans, total Commerc', indust'], and agricuit' loans. do \& 10,005
6,542 \& 10,962
6,557 \& 11,012 \& 11,001 \& 11,008 \& 10.183 \& 10,220 \& 8,435
4 \& 8,475 \& 8,116 \& 8 8, 126 \\
\hline Interest rates, call loanst ......--............percen \& 1.00 \& 1.00 \& 1.00 \& 1. 1.00 \& 6,649
1.00 \& 5,706
1.00 \& \({ }_{1.00}\) \& 4.00 \& 1, 1.00 \& 1, 180 \& 3,822 \\
\hline Interest rates, time loans \(\ddagger\)-.....-....................do \& 1.25 \& 1. 25 \& 1. 25 \& 1.25 \& 1.25 \& 1.25 \& 1.25 \& 1.25 \& 1.25 \& 1.25 \& 1.25 \\
\hline Currency in circulationt.-.-........-.-.-...mil. of dol.- \& 12,155 \& 12,014 \& 11,443 \& 11,864 \& 11,853 \& 9,394 \& 9,302 \& 7,726 \& 7,687 \& 6,983 \& 6,972 \\
\hline Exchange rates: Pound sterling \(\ddagger\)...........-...-dollars.- \& -4, 035 \& -4.035 \& -4.035 \& -4.035 \& -4.035 \& - 4.032 \& -4.033 \& - 3.342 \& - 3.183 \& 4.684 \& 4.683 \\
\hline Failures, commercial.----------------------number.- \& 191 \& 210 \& 230 \& 215 \& 216 \& 218 \& 221 \& 249 \& 239 \& 279 \& 249 \\
\hline \multicolumn{12}{|l|}{Security markets:} \\
\hline Bond yields (Moody's) \(\ddagger\)-----.............-percent.- \& \({ }_{3.38}\) \& 28, 3.37 \& 3.36 \& \(\begin{array}{r}34,060 \\ 3.36 \\ \hline\end{array}\) \& \({ }^{4.35}\) \& 27, 3.36 \& 21,920 \& \(\begin{array}{r}14.80 \\ \hline\end{array}\) \& 20,870
3.80 \& 31,880
3.71 \& 23,690
3.73 \\
\hline  \& 2,162 \& 1,554 \& 2,018 \& 1,535 \& 1,665 \& 2,215 \& 1,481 \& 2,620 \& 3,512 \& 2,933 \& 2,438 \\
\hline  \& 70.12 \& 68.57 \& 67.64 \& 67.74 \& 67.51 \& 85.77 \& 84.28 \& 85.44 \& 86.22 \& 98.54 \& 97.31 \\
\hline Stock prices (Stand. and Poor's) (402)T. \(1935-39=100\). \& 65.3 \& 64.8 \& \({ }^{63.0}\) \& 62.5 \& 62.5 \& 77.4 \& 76.6 \& 73.8 \& 75.1 \& 91.4 \& 90.8 \\
\hline Industrials (354) \& 67.2
58.4 \& 66.4
68.5 \& 64.4
67.6 \& 64.0
56.2 \& 63.8
66.4 \& \begin{tabular}{l}
77.2 \\
81.0 \\
\hline
\end{tabular} \& 76.7
78.3 \& 73.1
84.0 \& 74.3
84.7 \& 91.3
100.1 \& 90.7
89.1 \\
\hline Railroads (20) \& 59.6 \& 60.6 \& 59.4 \& 60.0 \& 61.1 \& 81.0
70.3 \& 78.3
69.5 \& 84.0
56.5 \& 84.7
67.8 \& 100.1
69.8 \& 69.1
69.8 \\
\hline \multicolumn{12}{|l|}{PRODUCTION, CONSTRUCTION, AND DISTRIBUTION} \\
\hline Production: \& \& \& \& \& \& \& \& \& \& \& \\
\hline Bitumitous coalt...-.........-.-.thous. of short tons.- \& \& 2,092 \& 1,881 \& 1,913 \& 1,903 \& 1,597 \& 1,755 \& 1,327 \& 1,381 \& 1,053 \& 1,077 \\
\hline Electric power \(\triangle\).----------.-------.-.mil. of kw.-hr- \& \& 3,323 \& 3,380 \& 3,357 \& 3, 365 \& 3,076 \& 2,955 \& 2,599 \& 2,478 \& 2,329 \& 2,186 \\
\hline  \& \& 3,877 \& 3,599 \& 3,484 \& 3,544 \& 3,817 \& 3,786 \& 3,817 \& 3,651 \& 3,377 \& 3,559 \\
\hline  \& 90.3 \& 99.6 \& 19,185 \& 22, 93.6 \& 98.6 \& 99.2 \& 98.6
25.927 \& 80.3 \& 76.9
416 \& 54.2 \& \\
\hline \multicolumn{12}{|l|}{Distribution:} \\
\hline Freight carloadings, total.............-..........cars.- \& \& 795, 756 \& 837,748 \& 839,052 \& 839, 253 \& 852,940 \& 801,783 \& 702,892 \& 639, 120 \& 630,060 \& 563,309 \\
\hline  \& \& 157, 852 \& 165,983 \& 169.007 \& 167, 809 \& 151.478 \& 144, 507 \& 118.558 \& 113,221 \& 95, 691 \& 88, 184 \\
\hline  \& \& \begin{tabular}{l}
13,840 \\
45.689 \\
\hline
\end{tabular} \& 14, 181 \& 14,046 \& 14,316 \& 12,922 \& 13, 718 \& 9,760 \& 8.821 \& 5,384 \& 5, 258 \\
\hline  \& \& \begin{tabular}{l} 
45, 689 \\
32,897 \\
\hline
\end{tabular} \& 48,410
34,412 \& - 39,854 \& 50,618 \& 42, 168 \& 39,196 \& 34,326

28 \& 32, 363 \& 29,949 \& <br>
\hline  \& \& 11,782 \& 12,853 \& 11,994 \& 1i, 698 \& 10, 264 \& 8,973 \& 10.658 \& 10, 533 \& 9,760 \& 9,770 <br>
\hline  \& \& 87,000 \& 96, 365 \& 97, 219 \& 98. 433 \& 159,712 \& 143,327 \& 148,259 \& 130,439 \& 153, 089 \& 133,320 <br>
\hline  \& \& 82,886 \& 87, 205 \& 83,793 \& 86,800 \& 78, 522 \& 76, 145 \& 66,099 \& 59.663 \& 43. 504 \& 38,987 <br>
\hline  \& \& 363,810 \& 378,339 \& 378, 175 \& 374, 434 \& 362, 312 \& 339,774 \& 287, 071 \& 256,937 \& 258, 397 \& 230, 143 <br>
\hline \multicolumn{4}{|l|}{Receipts:} \& \& \& \& \& \& \& \& <br>
\hline  \& \& 297 \& 312 \& 307 \& 303 \& 300 \& 231 \& 379 \& 285 \& \& <br>
\hline Wheat at primary markets............thous. of bu.- \& \& \& 4,854 \& 4,018 \& 3,329 \& 8,756 \& 8,331 \& 2,835 \& 3,589 \& 6,123 \& 5,407 <br>
\hline
\end{tabular}

©Debits to demand deposit accounts except interbank and U. S. Government accounts in 101 cities; the former series for 141 cities is no longer avallable weekly.
fDaily average. Data do not cover calendar weeks in all cases. - Free rate.
TRevised series. See table 32, pp. $24-26$ of the November 1941 Surver for stock prices beginning January 1939 and cottoo prices beginning August 1038.
${ }^{*}$ New series. This series replaces the iron and steel composite price, which has heen discontinued by the compiling source.
$\oplus$ Rate for week ended June 13 is 99.3 ; data for 1942 are based on estimated capacity as of Dec. 31,1911, of $83,570,000$ tons of steel ingots and steel for castings.
$\Delta 1941$ data are shown on a revised basis beginning with the Jan. 15, 1942 issue; 1941 and earlier revisions not published are available on request.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS


[^0]
$r$ Revised.

- Less than \$500,000.
†Revised series. See note on corresponding item in the May 1942 Survey.
\$March 1942 and April 1941 are for 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.


[^0]:    rathe

