



# SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

## WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT



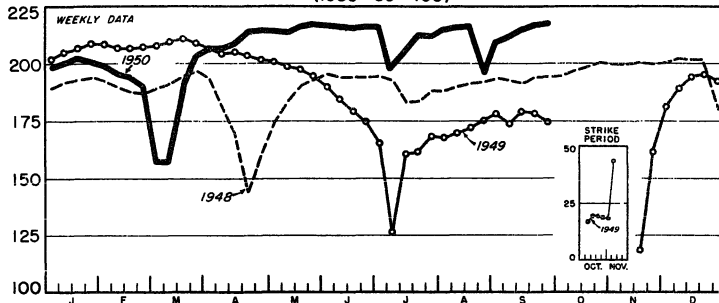
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE**

AVAILABLE ONLY WITH SUBSCRIPTION TO SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

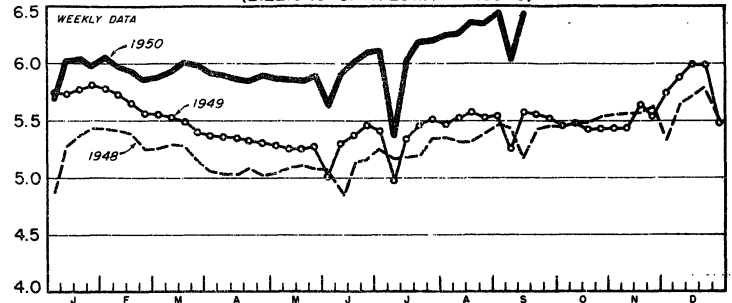
SEPTEMBER 29, 1950

### SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

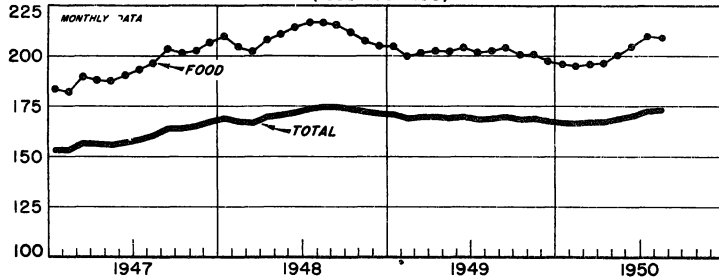
**STEEL ININGOT PRODUCTION**  
(1935-39 = 100)



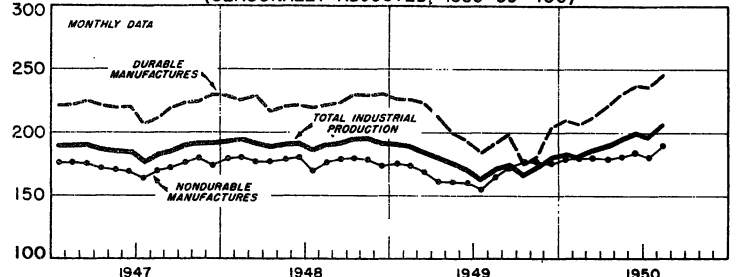
**ELECTRIC POWER PRODUCTION BY UTILITIES**  
(BILLIONS OF KILOWATT-HOURS)



**CONSUMERS' PRICES**  
(1935-39 = 100)



**INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION**  
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, 1935-39 = 100)



### WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

ITEM	1949		1950				
	Sept. 17	Sept. 24	Aug. 26	Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23
<b>Commodity prices, wholesale:</b>							
All commodities.....1926=100..	154.6	154.0	166.0	167.2	167.7	169.1	169.7
Farm products.....do.....	166.0	163.5	176.4	179.5	179.5	182.0	181.3
Food.....do.....	164.5	163.3	174.4	176.5	177.2	178.9	179.0
All other.....do.....	145.4	145.5	155.1	155.4	156.5	157.8	159.2
28 commodities <sup>2/</sup> .....August 1939=100..	252.5	247.9	316.1	319.9	326.9	332.5	330.6
Cotton, middling, 15/16", 10 markets <sup>3/</sup> .....dol. per lb..	.301	.298	.380	.391	.405	.408	.410
Wheat, No. 2, hard winter (Kansas City).....dol. per bu..	2.16	2.16	2.19	2.21	2.23	2.20	2.21
Department store sales.....1935-39=100..	315	292	288	310	295	368	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	2,119	2,051	1,062	984	.....	.....	.....
State programs.....do.....	1,909	1,845	1,010	933	.....	.....	.....
Veterans' programs.....do.....	83	72	18	17	.....	.....	.....
<b>Finance:</b>							
Currency in circulation <sup>3/</sup> .....mil. of dol..	27,468	27,376	26,978	27,089	27,235	27,175	27,094
Federal Reserve bank credit, total.....do.....	17,804	17,633	18,863	18,979	19,438	19,665	19,169
Member bank reserve balances.....do.....	16,322	15,760	16,442	16,285	16,611	16,865	16,299
Excess reserves, estimated.....do.....	1,115	516	802	540	898	991	386
<b>Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:</b>							
Bank debits, total.....mil. of dol..	20,445	23,397	25,838	27,156	21,668	25,118	.....
New York City.....do.....	8,195	9,436	11,305	13,218	9,312	10,556	12,353
Deposits, demand, adjusted.....do.....	46,930	46,436	48,561	48,995	48,581	49,269	.....
Loans and investments, total.....do.....	66,294	66,463	68,176	68,583	68,469	68,855	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do.....	37,594	37,874	34,894	35,082	34,698	34,840	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross).....do.....	13,171	13,289	14,512	14,739	14,932	15,330	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	185	169	176	143	145	165	155
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) <sup>3/</sup> .....percent..	2.90	2.90	2.84	2.84	2.85	2.85	2.87
Stock prices, 416 stocks (Standard and Poor's).....1935-39=100..	125.3	123.0	150.2	148.1	148.4	152.2	152.3
Industrials, 365 stocks.....do.....	132.1	129.4	161.5	159.0	159.3	167.8	164.1
<b>Production:</b>							
Bituminous coal <sup>3/</sup> .....thous. of short tons..	1,449	331	1,830	1,837	2,013	1,883	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw-hr..	5,579	5,556	6,346	6,499	6,029	6,449	.....
Motor vehicles (Ward's).....number..	152,228	150,815	171,867	178,385	144,271	176,296	178,346
Petroleum, crude <sup>3/</sup> .....thous. of bbl..	4,845	4,875	5,629	5,690	5,839	5,870	.....
Steel <sup>4/</sup> .....1935-39=100..	178.8	178.0	195.7	209.8	211.7	215.2	216.9
Freight carloadings, total.....thous. of cars..	743	661	837	852	751	866	.....
Miscellaneous.....do.....	352	362	391	398	344	406	.....

<sup>1/</sup> Data do not always cover calendar weeks. <sup>2/</sup> Thursday prices. <sup>3/</sup> Daily averages. <sup>4/</sup> Week ending September 30, 217.6.

## MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

Earlier data are available in monthly issues of the Survey and the 1949 Statistical Supplement	1949		1950			
	July	August	May	June	July	August
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS						
Industrial production (Federal Reserve):						
Unadjusted, combined index.....1935-39=100..	163	174	195	200	198	p210
Manufactures.....do.....	169	181	203	208	r207	p219
Durable manufactures.....do.....	186	194	232	238	237	p247
Iron and steel.....do.....	156	178	226	231	r228	234
Lumber and products.....do.....	121	134	162	166	r161	p169
Furniture.....do.....	136	148	175	177	174	p190
Lumber.....do.....	113	126	155	160	r155	p159
Machinery.....do.....	217	216	258	262	r265	p281
Nonferrous metals and products.....do.....	127	141	197	207	202	p203
Smelting and refining.....do.....	179	174	208	218	207	p210
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do.....	187	190	208	212	r213	p227
Cement.....do.....	209	207	221	229	229	.....
Clay products.....do.....	140	149	160	161	r161	p171
Transportation equipment.....do.....	249	246	262	277	r274	p282
Automobiles (including parts).....do.....	225	225	249	268	r264	p269
Nondurable manufactures.....do.....	156	170	180	184	182	p195
Chemical products.....do.....	225	226	255	258	r257	p266
Industrial chemicals.....do.....	392	388	444	451	449	p461
Leather and products.....do.....	94	110	101	r105	100	.....
Leather tanning.....do.....	80	90	94	100	87	.....
Shoes.....do.....	104	123	106	r108	108	.....
Manufactured food products.....do.....	172	189	157	164	177	p188
Meat packing.....do.....	140	134	144	146	141	p136
Processed fruits and vegetables.....do.....	181	287	98	120	r190	p249
Printing and publishing.....do.....	133	143	169	169	150	p161
Rubber products.....do.....	175	178	213	220	r221	p236
Textiles and products.....do.....	120	140	175	173	r165	p187
Cotton consumption.....do.....	87	111	140	132	123	155
Rayon deliveries.....do.....	238	259	347	348	360	363
Wool textiles.....do.....	109	134	157	161	135	.....
Minerals.....do.....	128	134	147	155	r149	163
Fuels.....do.....	126	134	148	155	r148	p162
Anthracite.....do.....	93	82	97	96	68	97
Bituminous coal.....do.....	80	108	131	136	109	p142
Crude petroleum.....do.....	147	149	160	168	r171	p177
Metals.....do.....	140	135	r140	155	158	p163
Adjusted, combined index 1/.....do.....	161	170	195	199	r196	p207
Manufactures.....do.....	168	178	204	208	r205	p216
Durable manufactures.....do.....	185	193	231	237	r236	p245
Lumber and products.....do.....	115	126	158	155	r151	p160
Lumber.....do.....	104	115	149	144	140	p145
Nonferrous metals.....do.....	127	141	197	207	203	p203
Smelting and refining.....do.....	180	174	208	219	208	p210
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do.....	185	183	203	210	r211	p218
Cement.....do.....	190	183	210	214	208	.....
Clay products.....do.....	140	145	161	162	160	p166
Nondurable manufactures.....do.....	154	165	181	184	181	p191
Chemical products.....do.....	228	229	256	261	r261	p269
Leather and products.....do.....	96	110	101	r105	102	.....
Leather tanning.....do.....	84	91	95	102	91	.....
Manufactured food products.....do.....	161	166	164	164	166	p166
Meat packing.....do.....	150	153	144	147	151	p157
Processed fruits and vegetables.....do.....	139	151	150	156	146	p131
Printing and publishing.....do.....	144	151	166	170	r162	p169
Minerals.....do.....	123	129	145	151	r144	p158
Metals.....do.....	105	102	125	130	124	p129
COMMODITY PRICES						
Consumers' price index, all items.....do.....	168.5	168.8	168.6	170.2	172.5	173.0
Apparel.....do.....	188.5	187.4	185.1	185.0	184.7	185.9
Food.....do.....	201.7	202.6	200.3	204.6	210.0	209.0
Cereals and bakery products.....do.....	169.5	169.4	169.6	169.6	171.3	175.5
Dairy products.....do.....	182.2	184.9	177.8	177.1	179.5	182.7
Fruits and vegetables.....do.....	210.2	201.9	206.5	217.2	220.8	194.7
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do.....	236.0	239.5	239.5	246.7	256.0	257.5
Fuel, electricity, and refrigeration.....do.....	135.6	135.8	138.8	138.9	139.5	140.9
Gas and electricity.....do.....	96.9	97.1	97.1	97.0	97.0	97.0
Other fuels.....do.....	183.1	183.1	189.1	189.4	190.9	194.4
Housefurnishings.....do.....	186.8	184.8	185.4	185.2	186.4	189.3
Rent.....do.....	120.7	120.8	123.5	123.9	124.4	124.8
Miscellaneous.....do.....	154.3	154.8	155.3	155.3	156.2	158.1
Wholesale prices (U. S. Department of Labor):						
Combined index.....1926=100..	153.6	152.9	155.9	157.3	162.9	166.3
Economic classes:						
Manufactured products.....do.....	149.8	149.4	152.2	153.5	158.0	161.0
Raw materials.....do.....	163.2	161.3	166.3	167.7	175.8	179.0
Semimanufactured articles.....do.....	146.0	147.9	145.6	r148.4	r152.9	158.9
Farm products.....do.....	166.2	162.3	164.7	165.9	176.0	177.5
Grains.....do.....	154.1	150.4	172.3	169.3	173.5	167.7
Livestock and poultry.....do.....	188.5	186.3	194.6	197.5	215.8	217.3
Commodities other than farm products.....do.....	150.6	150.6	153.7	155.2	159.7	163.6

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

Earlier data are available in monthly issues of the Survey and the 1949 Statistical Supplement	1949		1950			
	July	August	May	June	July	August
COMMODITY PRICES - Continued						
Wholesale prices (U. S. Department of Labor) - Continued						
Foods.....1926=100..	161.3	160.6	159.9	162.1	171.4	174.6
Cereal products.....do..	146.1	142.8	146.0	145.6	151.2	154.9
Dairy products.....do..	149.2	152.7	138.0	135.9	141.8	148.0
Fruits and vegetables.....do..	145.4	130.3	139.2	140.5	137.0	132.0
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do..	212.2	210.7	217.1	223.7	240.7	240.2
Commodities other than farm products and foods.....do..	145.1	145.0	147.6	148.8	151.5	155.3
Building materials.....do..	189.0	188.3	198.1	202.1	r207.3	213.5
Brick and tile.....do..	161.5	161.5	163.9	164.3	r167.4	167.8
Cement.....do..	133.1	133.0	134.9	134.9	135.3	135.5
Lumber.....do..	277.4	277.4	310.8	322.6	r338.0	356.6
Paint and paint materials.....do..	145.4	144.0	136.8	137.7	138.6	142.1
Chemicals and allied products.....do..	118.0	119.6	116.4	114.5	118.1	122.3
Chemicals.....do..	117.9	117.8	116.5	117.3	119.3	121.9
Drugs and pharmaceutical materials.....do..	124.7	125.0	122.3	122.7	129.1	135.0
Fertilizer materials.....do..	120.7	121.8	116.8	108.4	r110.0	112.0
Oils and fats.....do..	118.5	130.3	122.2	111.9	125.7	141.7
Fuel and lighting materials.....do..	130.1	129.6	132.1	132.7	133.4	134.4
Electricity.....do..	70.0	68.5	66.6	67.0	.....	.....
Gas.....do..	89.5	88.9	87.2	r87.3	88.3	.....
Petroleum products.....do..	110.2	109.7	112.6	113.9	115.5	116.8
Hides and leather products.....do..	177.8	178.9	181.0	182.6	r187.1	195.2
Hides and skins.....do..	184.7	194.5	184.4	202.1	219.3	237.7
Leather.....do..	175.4	173.7	179.3	180.6	185.3	192.3
Shoes.....do..	183.8	183.8	185.0	184.8	r185.8	191.3
Housefurnishing goods.....do..	143.0	142.9	146.6	146.9	r148.7	153.9
Furnishings.....do..	149.1	149.1	154.1	154.2	r156.1	163.1
Furniture.....do..	136.8	136.6	138.9	139.4	r141.0	144.3
Metal and metal products.....do..	167.9	168.2	169.7	r171.9	r172.4	173.8
Iron and steel.....do..	164.2	163.8	168.5	r169.4	r169.7	170.4
Metals, nonferrous.....do..	132.1	135.9	136.3	148.4	150.6	156.3
Plumbing and heating equipment.....do..	154.7	154.7	156.4	156.3	r156.4	163.7
Textile products.....do..	138.0	138.1	136.1	136.8	r142.6	149.4
Clothing.....do..	144.8	144.8	143.8	143.8	144.3	145.0
Cotton goods.....do..	167.3	170.2	172.0	173.8	r190.7	206.8
Hosiery and underwear.....do..	98.4	98.4	97.7	97.7	99.2	101.2
Rayon.....do..	39.6	39.6	39.9	39.9	40.7	41.3
Silk.....do..	49.2	49.2	49.3	49.3	60.3	65.6
Woolen and worsted goods.....do..	157.6	152.6	146.2	148.3	r150.7	157.5
Miscellaneous.....do..	110.3	109.8	114.7	r114.7	119.0	124.0
Automobile tires and tubes.....do..	60.6	60.6	65.8	67.0	r68.7	73.9
Paper and pulp.....do..	156.8	156.8	155.4	155.6	r159.9	163.9
Wholesale prices of selected commodities:						
Coal, bituminous, mine run, composite..dol. per short ton..	8.531	8.515	8.729	8.707	8.689	8.698
Coffee, Santos, No. 4 (New York).....dol. per lb..	.277	.284	.462	.478	.538	.553
Cotton cloth, print, 64 x 60.....dol. per yd..	.128	.144	.142	.151	.175	.198
Wheat flour, stand. patents (Minn.).....dol. per 100 lb. sack..	5.575	5.340	5.690	5.688	5.930	5.912
Hides, packer's, heavy, native steers.....dol. per lb..	.209	.238	.220	.245	.278	.309
Lumber:						
Southern pine, boards, No. 2, com., 1" x 6" or 8" x 12'.....dol. per M. bd. ft..	59.479	61.173	69.342	72.128	74.568	81.124
Ponderosa pine, No. 3, common, 1" x 8".....do..	62.540	59.210	66.220	68.530	70.840	74.690
Steel, scrap, heavy, melting (Pittsburgh).....dol. per long ton..	21.000	21.000	37.000	43.900	40.500	43.600
Gasoline, tank wagon (New York).....dol. per gal..	.196	.196	.197	.197	.200	.202
Petroleum, crude (Oklahoma-Kansas), at wells.....dol. per bbl..	2.570	2.570	2.570	2.570	2.570	2.570
Sugar, refined, granulated (New York).....dol. per lb..	.077	.077	.076	.076	.078	.080
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
Contract awards, 37 States (F. W. Dodge Corp.):						
Total projects.....number..	32,579	37,662	65,305	60,658	60,942	70,449
Total valuation.....thous. of dol..	943,560	905,748	1,347,603	1,345,463	1,420,181	1,548,876
Building, total.....do..	690,875	671,465	1,083,147	1,072,047	1,162,195	1,295,095
FINANCE						
Federal Government finance:						
Receipts, Treasury, total.....mil. of dol..	2,061	2,917	2,895	4,776	2,148	3,238
Receipts, net.....do..	1,946	2,479	2,320	4,404	1,881	2,860
Customs.....do..	25	32	38	40	39	52
Income and profits taxes.....do..	1,209	1,568	1,721	3,526	1,028	1,768
Employment taxes.....do..	65	404	295	349	204	340
Miscellaneous internal revenue.....do..	653	749	704	714	737	948
Expenditures, total.....do..	3,434	3,585	2,962	4,296	3,013	2,515
Interest on debt.....do..	322	125	136	1,611	271	174
National defense and related activities.....do..	1,033	1,165	1,007	998	r1,024	p1,160
Stocks:						
Cash dividend payments publicly reported, total.....do..	491.1	191.6	210.6	892.1	509.4	212.9
Finance.....do..	101.8	37.0	31.3	73.5	113.3	42.2
Manufacturing.....do..	225.6	94.3	120.1	549.5	224.1	106.5
Mining.....do..	5.1	1.5	3.0	64.6	5.2	3.6
Communication.....do..	58.5	.4	.6	30.5	61.1	.6
Heat, light, and power.....do..	44.0	41.2	42.0	60.5	48.9	41.1
Railroad.....do..	13.5	5.9	3.0	42.4	9.3	7.0
Trade.....do..	33.6	8.6	7.6	48.4	37.1	7.5
Miscellaneous.....do..	9.0	2.7	3.0	22.7	10.4	4.4

## MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

Earlier data are available in monthly issues of the Survey and the 1949 Statistical Supplement	1949		1950			
	July	August	May	June	July	August
<b>FOREIGN TRADE</b>						
Exports, including reexports, total.....mil. of dol..	900	r883	r828	876	774	.....
Exports of U. S. merchandise, total.....do.....	890	r876	r816	865	762	.....
By economic classes:						
Crude materials.....thous. of dol..	97,853	108,346	167,150	192,522	107,249	.....
Crude foodstuffs.....do.....	98,518	124,502	55,047	59,710	54,090	.....
Manufactured foodstuffs and beverages.....do.....	71,416	49,726	49,202	49,864	55,483	.....
Semimanufactures.....do.....	104,658	r100,614	89,691	93,452	84,002	.....
Finished manufactures.....do.....	517,504	r492,717	451,807	469,266	461,640	.....
By principal commodities:						
Agricultural products, total.....do.....	235,416	244,520	233,593	263,309	177,547	.....
Cotton, unmanufactured.....do.....	38,607	28,381	90,245	127,912	46,058	.....
Grains and preparations.....do.....	110,907	125,374	54,025	60,232	70,649	.....
Nonagricultural products, total.....do.....	654,533	r631,386	579,304	601,504	584,917	.....
Automobiles, parts, and accessories.....do.....	1/59,613	r1/53,539	1/53,903	1/68,726	1/62,483	.....
Chemicals and related products.....do.....	58,805	r58,560	60,928	65,181	53,357	.....
Iron and steel-mill products.....do.....	67,772	64,123	40,500	47,335	34,149	.....
Machinery.....do.....	1/203,413	1/181,562	1/173,933	1/176,023	1/197,796	.....
Petroleum and products.....do.....	39,965	48,708	40,968	38,920	40,050	.....
Textiles and manufactures.....do.....	45,835	44,085	40,154	44,119	32,029	.....
General imports, total.....do.....	456,451	490,787	658,942	685,624	708,754	.....
Imports for consumption, total.....do.....	458,964	513,117	653,788	679,108	705,937	.....
By economic classes:						
Crude materials.....do.....	126,154	137,886	167,766	183,771	183,620	.....
Crude foodstuffs.....do.....	92,462	91,747	117,124	119,916	154,608	.....
Manufactured foodstuffs and beverages.....do.....	65,160	69,231	75,971	75,144	86,480	.....
Semimanufactures.....do.....	85,030	114,428	169,049	180,392	162,134	.....
Finished manufactures.....do.....	90,157	99,825	123,879	119,885	119,095	.....
By principal commodities:						
Agricultural products, total.....do.....	205,068	225,304	278,788	289,174	335,205	.....
Coffee.....do.....	58,542	55,294	58,679	56,374	105,153	.....
Rubber, crude, including guayule.....do.....	16,649	17,171	23,786	33,853	29,994	.....
Sugar.....do.....	36,525	37,683	37,067	31,109	39,465	.....
Wool and mohair, unmanufactured.....do.....	11,671	20,734	31,055	31,044	39,340	.....
Nonagricultural products, total.....do.....	253,896	287,812	375,000	389,934	370,732	.....
Nonferrous ores, metals, and manufactures.....do.....	39,486	59,252	71,606	80,160	63,987	.....
Paper base stocks.....do.....	14,255	16,495	21,438	23,865	20,830	.....
Newsprint.....do.....	35,942	38,192	44,927	40,544	38,410	.....
Petroleum and products.....do.....	36,630	35,417	45,295	47,054	44,211	.....
<b>TOBACCO</b>						
Tobacco, manufactured products, consumption (withdrawals):						
Cigarettes, small, tax-free.....millions..	2,155	3,041	2,395	2,594	2,820	.....
Cigarettes, small, tax-paid.....do.....	25,806	35,347	32,674	32,815	27,374	p39,425
Cigars, tax-paid.....thousands..	422,496	516,208	424,870	471,152	400,566	587,406
Manufactured tobacco and snuff, tax-paid.....thous. of lbs..	16,625	22,869	18,998	20,095	16,204	23,531
<b>LEATHER AND PRODUCTS</b>						
Leather production:						
Calf and kip.....thous. of skins..	571	867	829	923	584	.....
Cattle hide.....thous. of hides..	1,565	1,985	1,949	2,070	1,705	.....
Goat and kid.....thous. of skins..	2,371	2,743	3,206	3,329	2,670	.....
Sheep and lamb.....do.....	1,818	2,599	2,720	2,653	1,989	.....
<b>METALS AND MANUFACTURES</b>						
Iron ore (Lake Superior district):						
Consumption by furnaces.....thous. of long tons..	5,262	5,726	7,362	r7,249	7,579	7,371
Stocks, end of month, total.....do.....	35,064	40,811	14,384	19,189	24,108	29,966
At furnaces.....do.....	31,493	36,084	11,544	15,997	20,651	26,084
On Lake Erie docks.....do.....	3,571	4,728	2,840	3,192	3,456	3,881
Lead, refined (primary refineries):						
Production.....short tons..	38,332	37,754	48,989	44,490	41,520	47,242
Shipments (domestic).....do.....	32,562	33,581	45,702	35,774	41,188	47,031
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	91,834	75,285	76,236	69,025	67,809	67,495
Machine tools, shipments.....1945-47=100..	60.7	67.3	82.5	91.9	r68.3	p93.7
Pumps, steam, power, centrifugal and rotary:						
Orders, new.....thous. of dol..	3,358	3,767	3,668	4,153	4,080	6,429
<b>PAPER AND PRINTING</b>						
Newsprint, Canada (including Newfoundland):						
Production.....short tons..	421,475	446,834	459,937	440,967	439,255	466,443
Shipments from mills.....do.....	412,127	435,007	479,560	440,777	463,339	417,589
Stocks, at mills, end of month.....do.....	173,221	185,048	159,767	159,957	135,873	184,727
Newsprint, United States:						
Consumption by publishers.....do.....	313,118	318,046	401,922	376,482	336,759	346,795
Production.....do.....	76,218	78,944	89,719	88,420	84,280	90,882
Shipments from mills.....do.....	77,133	76,941	86,257	89,928	83,586	90,955
Stocks, end of month:						
At mills.....do.....	12,176	14,179	9,582	8,074	8,768	8,695
At publishers.....do.....	416,595	446,964	288,684	303,524	339,424	376,900
In transit to publishers.....do.....	76,848	86,044	94,187	78,935	93,140	81,095