



SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT

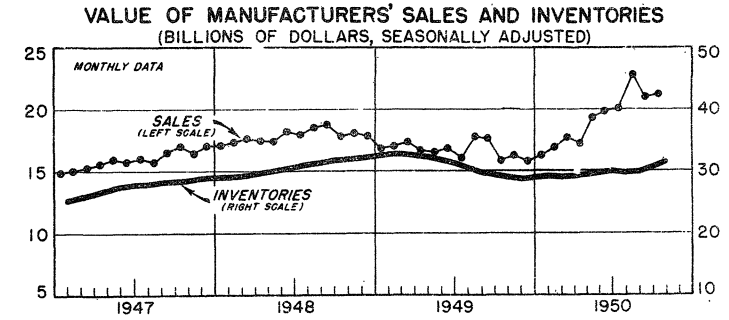
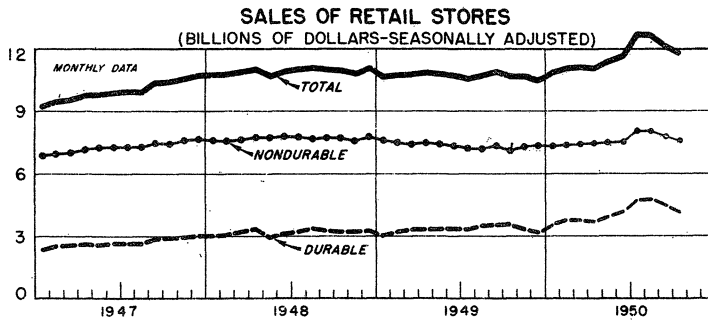
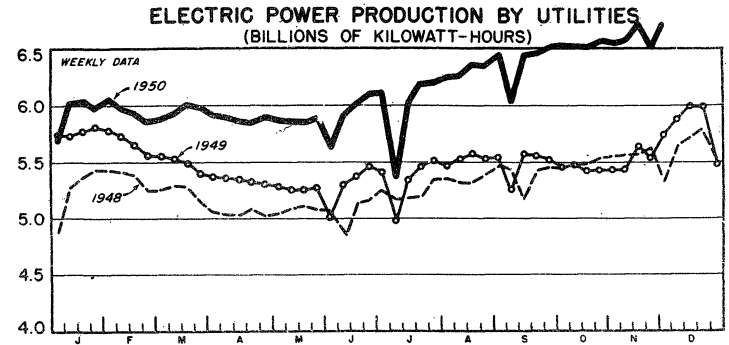
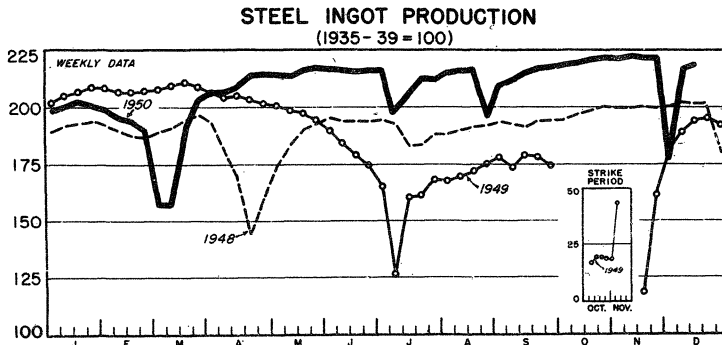


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

AVAILABLE ONLY WITH SUBSCRIPTION TO SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

DECEMBER 15, 1950

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS



WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS¹

ITEM	1949		1950				
	Dec. 3	Dec. 10	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25	Dec. 2	Dec. 9
Commodity prices, wholesale:							
All commodities.....1926=100..	151.5	151.2	170.0	171.0	171.2	171.7	172.6
Farm products.....do.....	156.0	154.3	181.3	183.1	184.9	185.7	187.5
Food.....do.....	157.9	156.4	173.6	176.5	177.5	178.2	180.0
All other.....do.....	145.2	145.2	162.2	162.6	162.8	162.8	163.4
28 commodities ^{2/}.....August 1939=100..	249.9	247.9	342.5	346.6	*343.1	346.8	354.7
Cotton, middling, 15/16", 10 markets ^{3/}.....dol. per lb..	.299	.301	.412	.429	.435	.428	.420
Wheat, No. 2, hard winter (Kansas City).....dol. per bu..	2.25	2.23	2.22	2.21	2.24	2.25	2.28
Department store sales.....1935-39=100..	449	542	342	368	319	444	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	2,516	2,425	889	884	.....	.....	.....
State programs.....do.....	2,288	2,211	855	850	.....	.....	.....
Veterans' programs.....do.....	65	63	5	5	.....	.....	.....
Finance:							
Currency in circulation ^{3/}.....mil. of dol..	27,587	27,707	27,370	27,322	27,435	27,563	27,722
Federal Reserve bank credit, total.....do.....	18,267	18,628	19,853	20,171	20,162	20,501	20,922
Member bank reserve balances.....do.....	16,038	16,291	16,625	17,054	16,622	16,799	17,049
Excess reserves, estimated.....do.....	671	896	767	1,087	613	721	957
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:							
Bank debits, total.....mil. of dol..	18,459	22,167	21,295	26,450	26,834	21,877	.....
New York City.....do.....	7,284	9,452	7,895	10,619	9,908	8,706	13,123
Deposits, demand, adjusted.....do.....	47,648	47,724	49,230	49,257	49,850	50,546	.....
Loans and investments, total.....do.....	66,839	66,938	69,373	69,414	69,668	69,923	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do.....	37,248	37,153	33,392	33,349	33,306	32,984	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross).....do.....	13,775	13,807	16,710	16,919	16,988	17,097	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	221	191	135	170	146	160	.....
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) ^{3/}.....percent..	2.89	2.88	2.88	2.87	2.88	2.88	2.89
Stock prices, 416 stocks (Standard and Poor's).....1935-39=100..	128.6	131.5	154.1	157.1	160.0	154.5	155.0
Industrials, 365 stocks.....do.....	135.7	138.9	166.6	169.9	173.5	167.1	167.5
Production:							
Bituminous coal ^{3/}.....thous. of short tons..	1,591	1,601	1,831	1,974	1,810	1,567	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw-hr..	5,743	5,881	6,574	6,728	6,508	6,716	.....
Motor vehicles (Ward's).....number..	68,385	46,667	153,695	118,404	116,059	147,300	152,196
Petroleum, crude ^{3/}.....thous. of bbl..	5,045	4,919	5,837	5,809	5,813	5,749	.....
Steel ^{4/}.....1935-39=100..	181.1	189.4	222.5	221.9	221.9	176.5	217.1
Freight carloadings, total.....thous. of cars..	694	669	840	837	701	740	.....
Miscellaneous.....do.....	337	327	404	402	346	368	.....

^{1/} Data do not always cover calendar weeks. ^{2/} Thursday prices. ^{3/} Daily averages. ^{4/} Week ending December 16, 1950. * / Friday price.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

Earlier data are available in monthly issues of the Survey and the 1949 Statistical Supplement	1949		1950			
	September	October	July	August	September	October
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS						
Manufacturers' sales and inventories - value (adjusted):						
Sales, total.....mil. of dol.	17,621	15,798	20,092	22,766	r20,965	21,167
Durable-goods industries, total.....do....	7,335	6,167	8,670	10,060	r9,392	9,705
Iron, steel, and products.....do....	1,796	1,123	2,178	2,471	r2,345	2,464
Nonferrous metals and products.....do....	440	380	558	606	r591	602
Electrical machinery and equipment.....do....	759	721	924	1,129	r1,116	1,122
Machinery, except electrical.....do....	1,130	1,051	1,374	1,554	r1,458	1,594
Motor vehicles and equipment.....do....	1,406	1,195	1,459	1,716	r1,449	1,474
Transportation equipment, except motor vehicles..do....	267	279	315	410	r379	392
Lumber and timber basic products.....do....	454	429	603	695	r656	656
Furniture and finished lumber products.....do....	348	328	409	485	r433	447
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....	397	364	469	540	r513	539
Other durable-goods industries.....do....	338	296	382	454	r451	414
Nondurable-goods industries, total.....do....	10,286	9,631	11,422	12,706	r11,573	11,462
Food and kindred products.....do....	2,790	2,685	3,245	3,257	r3,038	3,032
Beverages.....do....	459	415	573	649	r448	448
Tobacco manufactures.....do....	271	250	287	299	r261	267
Textile-mill products.....do....	1,069	994	1,206	1,544	1,354	1,278
Apparel and related products.....do....	985	830	962	1,256	r955	985
Leather and products.....do....	285	261	349	381	r335	328
Paper and allied products.....do....	520	507	528	633	r620	659
Printing and publishing.....do....	585	512	596	615	r633	563
Chemicals and allied products.....do....	1,237	1,163	1,442	1,667	r1,583	1,552
Petroleum and coal products.....do....	1,561	1,528	1,561	1,669	r1,664	1,665
Rubber products.....do....	272	255	454	457	404	.....
Other nondurable-goods industries.....do....	252	232	221	280	r280	290
Inventories, book value, end of month, total.....do....	29,320	28,923	29,706	29,736	r30,594	31,495
Durable-goods industries, total.....do....	13,716	13,373	13,764	13,736	r13,934	14,291
Iron, steel, and products.....do....	3,051	2,916	3,147	3,191	r3,228	3,306
Nonferrous metals and products.....do....	968	956	973	965	r959	937
Electrical machinery and equipment.....do....	1,550	1,509	1,633	1,630	r1,632	1,660
Machinery, except electrical.....do....	3,261	3,194	3,208	3,228	r3,283	3,350
Motor vehicles and equipment.....do....	1,781	1,711	1,678	1,651	r1,700	1,794
Transportation equipment, except motor vehicles..do....	838	809	660	663	r672	718
Lumber and timber basic products.....do....	510	546	576	550	r560	593
Furniture and finished lumber products.....do....	591	576	675	664	r677	685
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....	544	529	542	534	r530	543
Other durable-goods industries.....do....	624	626	671	661	r692	707
Nondurable-goods industries, total.....do....	15,604	15,550	15,942	16,000	r16,660	17,204
Food and kindred products.....do....	2,750	2,799	2,831	2,820	r2,928	3,028
Beverages.....do....	1,062	1,027	1,037	1,048	r1,118	1,102
Tobacco manufactures.....do....	1,553	1,541	1,467	1,562	r1,680	1,683
Textile-mill products.....do....	1,939	1,950	2,274	2,285	r2,372	2,603
Apparel and related products.....do....	1,228	1,223	1,448	1,455	1,520	1,567
Leather and products.....do....	516	511	568	573	r589	588
Paper and allied products.....do....	681	669	695	671	r678	688
Printing and publishing.....do....	525	525	601	593	r625	633
Chemicals and allied products.....do....	2,093	2,084	2,041	2,043	r2,108	2,169
Petroleum and coal products.....do....	2,281	2,282	2,046	2,050	r2,108	2,196
Rubber products.....do....	538	517	501	483	502	.....
Other nondurable-goods industries.....do....	436	422	433	416	r432	427
Manufacturers' new orders, net - value (unadj.), total.....do....	18,172	17,151	22,046	27,174	r23,581	24,459
Durable-goods industries, total.....do....	7,099	6,892	10,553	13,863	r11,500	11,994
Iron, steel, and products.....do....	1,396	1,708	2,724	3,277	r2,989	2,883
Nonferrous metals and products.....do....	449	442	637	814	r683	716
Electrical machinery and equipment.....do....	768	803	934	1,572	r1,423	1,342
Machinery, except electrical.....do....	990	962	1,764	2,197	r1,948	2,090
Transportation equipment, except motor vehicles..do....	318	194	1,102	1,600	r692	831
Other durable-goods industries.....do....	3,178	2,782	3,992	4,404	r3,765	4,132
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	11,074	10,259	11,493	13,271	r12,081	12,465
Manufacturers' unfilled orders (unadj.), total.....do....	19,318	19,450	26,998	31,519	r33,764	35,466
Durable-goods industries, total.....do....	15,855	16,152	22,171	26,105	r28,070	29,692
Iron, steel, and products.....do....	3,954	4,460	6,593	7,348	r7,923	8,166
Nonferrous metals and products.....do....	403	435	679	914	r1,006	1,075
Electrical machinery and equipment.....do....	2,129	2,158	2,434	2,940	r3,250	3,390
Machinery, except electrical.....do....	2,936	2,812	3,758	4,433	r4,909	5,352
Transportation equipment, except motor vehicles..do....	3,108	3,027	4,030	5,255	r5,566	6,012
Other durable-goods industries.....do....	3,326	3,260	4,678	5,214	r5,414	5,698
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	3,463	3,298	4,827	5,414	r5,694	5,775
COMMODITY PRICES						
Retail prices, U. S. Department of Commerce:						
All commodities, index.....1935-39=100..	187.2	185.6	190.0	190.8	r192.6	193.9
DOMESTIC TRADE						
Retail trade, all types of retail stores:						
Estimated sales (adjusted), total.....mil. of dol..	10,856	10,678	12,700	12,682	r12,133	11,759
Durable-goods stores.....do....	3,504	3,551	4,679	4,694	r4,417	4,184
Nondurable-goods stores.....do....	7,352	7,127	8,021	7,987	r7,716	7,575
Estimated inventories (adjusted), total.....do....	14,355	14,475	14,125	r15,076	r15,793	16,548
Durable-goods stores.....do....	5,580	5,725	5,135	5,484	r5,807	6,327
Nondurable-goods stores.....do....	8,775	8,750	8,990	r9,592	r9,986	10,221

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

Earlier data are available in monthly issues of the Survey and the 1949 Statistical Supplement	1949		1950			
	September	October	July	August	September	October
FINANCE						
Life insurance, all companies (Institute of Life Insurance):						
Assets, admitted, total.....mil. of dol..	58,082	58,407	61,679	61,988	62,370	62,706
Securities and mortgages.....do.....	52,640	52,903	55,675	55,909	56,224	56,334
Bonds:						
Sales (Securities and Exchange Commission):						
Total on all registered exchanges:						
Market value.....thous. of dol..	47,468	51,480	106,848	82,962	68,654	77,833
Face value.....do.....	59,560	68,959	132,672	100,627	84,250	93,748
On New York Stock Exchange:						
Market value.....do.....	44,469	47,938	103,389	80,536	65,795	74,681
Face value.....do.....	55,721	64,706	128,381	97,044	80,272	90,132
Stocks:						
Cash dividend payments publicly reported.....mil. of dol..	721.1	465.8	509.4	212.9	1,152.2	489.4
Finance.....do.....	43.7	71.7	113.3	42.2	73.4	86.0
Manufacturing.....do.....	448.6	207.4	224.1	106.5	800.7	221.2
Mining.....do.....	61.3	6.4	5.2	3.6	80.1	6.0
Communications.....do.....	25.5	58.4	61.1	.6	30.3	59.9
Heat, light, and power.....do.....	47.7	57.7	48.9	41.1	58.6	49.3
Railroad.....do.....	27.5	15.5	9.3	7.0	30.7	13.4
Trade.....do.....	46.7	40.5	37.1	7.5	54.1	44.5
Miscellaneous.....do.....	20.1	8.2	10.4	4.4	24.3	9.1
Sales (Securities and Exchange Commission):						
Total on all registered exchanges:						
Market value.....do.....	871	1,083	1,930	1,700	1,608	2,090
Shares sold.....thousands..	40,457	51,455	72,026	65,977	63,712	84,451
On New York Stock Exchange:						
Market value.....mil. of dol..	729	906	1,692	1,456	1,380	1,796
Shares sold.....thousands..	29,937	38,474	57,074	50,038	48,009	64,422
FOODSTUFFS						
Distilled spirits:						
Production.....thous. of tax gal..	17,074	26,091	21,695	33,042	41,863	47,852
Tax-paid withdrawals.....do.....	9,472	11,440	10,537	16,142	11,348	10,128
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	673,695	670,398	712,863	720,296	734,968	760,806
Whisky:						
Production.....do.....	8,703	9,246	10,339	15,072	17,758	20,536
Tax-paid withdrawals.....do.....	5,311	6,103	6,575	9,869	6,455	5,939
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	604,762	605,298	645,268	647,062	656,999	670,213
Rectified distilled spirits, prod., total.....thous. of proof gal..	10,252	12,418	10,233	16,230	11,081	10,233
Whisky.....do.....	9,254	11,246	8,749	14,029	9,741	9,037
Wheat flour:						
Production:						
Flour.....thous. of sacks (100 lb.)..	20,248	20,787	18,970	21,079	18,869	18,811
Operations, percent of capacity.....	82.4	84.3	81.6	79.6	82.3	74.5
Offal.....short tons..	413,156	424,411	382,753	422,168	374,335	374,874
Grindings of wheat.....thous. of bu..	47,337	48,532	44,175	49,099	43,807	43,719
LEATHER AND PRODUCTS						
Shoes and slippers, production, total.....thous. of pairs..	43,007	39,677	35,465	r48,770	43,691	.....
Shoes, sandals, and play shoes, exc. athletic, total.....do.....	35,896	32,258	30,354	r41,824	37,189	.....
Men's.....do.....	8,460	8,300	6,897	r9,519	9,104	.....
Youths' and boys'.....do.....	1,725	1,627	1,334	1,777	1,686	.....
Women's.....do.....	18,728	15,495	16,595	r22,300	18,731	.....
Misses' and children's.....do.....	4,377	4,163	3,959	r5,267	4,777	.....
Infants' and babies'.....do.....	2,606	2,673	2,169	2,961	2,891	.....
Slippers for housewear.....do.....	6,484	6,805	4,026	r6,199	5,781	.....
Athletic.....do.....	314	318	263	r355	330	.....
Other footwear.....do.....	313	296	222	r392	391	.....
LUMBER AND MANUFACTURES						
Lumber (National Lumber Manufacturers Association):						
Production, total.....mil. of bd. ft..	3,140	3,063	3,338	3,950	3,717	3,687
Hardwoods.....do.....	564	604	761	829	848	829
Softwoods.....do.....	2,576	2,459	2,577	3,121	2,869	2,858
Shipments, total.....do.....	3,203	3,218	3,265	3,758	3,637	3,553
Hardwoods.....do.....	578	606	703	780	778	791
Softwoods.....do.....	2,625	2,612	2,562	2,978	2,859	2,762
Stocks, gross, end of month, total.....do.....	7,481	7,385	6,170	6,361	6,441	6,555
Hardwoods.....do.....	2,272	2,270	2,050	2,099	2,168	2,203
Softwoods.....do.....	5,209	5,115	4,120	4,262	4,273	4,352
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Castings, gray iron:						
Shipments, total.....thous. of short tons..	881	716	961	1,202	1,159	.....
For sale.....do.....	r459	398	508	677	649	.....
Orders, unfilled, for sale, end of month.....do.....	980	955	1,287	1,670	1,794	.....
Mechanical stokers, sales:						
Classes 1, 2, and 3.....number..	6,681	4,319	2,208	4,405	3,521	2,920
Classes 4 and 5:						
Number.....do.....	268	242	244	352	360	259
Horsepower.....do.....	50,693	41,318	64,102	87,404	66,267	66,472
Electrical appliances, domestic, shipments:						
Washers.....number..	357,300	333,700	282,300	381,500	424,000	439,900
Vacuum cleaners, floor type.....do.....	250,036	272,520	279,967	341,232	327,524	331,445

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

Earlier data are available in monthly issues of the Survey and the 1949 Statistical Supplement	1949		1950			
	September	October	July	August	September	October
PETROLEUM, COAL, AND PRODUCTS						
Bituminous coal:						
Industrial consumption and retail deliveries, total thous. of short tons..						
Industrial consumption, total.....do....	36,537	28,068	33,819	37,954	r36,957	38,875
Beehive coke ovens.....do....	27,292	21,569	28,581	30,836	r30,202	32,890
Byproduct coke ovens.....do....	47	16	795	1,006	r903	984
Cement mills.....do....	7,161	2,466	8,340	8,183	r8,057	8,484
Electric-power utilities.....do....	625	654	625	670	652	705
Railways (class I).....do....	6,341	6,279	6,797	7,782	7,456	8,186
Steel and rolling mills.....do....	4,709	4,584	4,750	4,988	4,972	5,360
Other industrial.....do....	527	192	539	583	553	611
Other industrial.....do....	7,882	7,378	6,735	7,624	7,609	8,560
Retail deliveries.....do....	9,245	6,499	5,238	7,118	6,755	5,985
Stocks, ind. and retail dealers, end of month, total...do....						
Industrial, total.....do....	62,064	47,165	51,979	58,964	r64,293	70,449
Byproduct coke ovens.....do....	59,990	45,755	49,751	56,620	r61,836	67,685
Cement mills.....do....	11,903	9,946	10,395	12,353	r13,964	15,637
Electric-power utilities.....do....	1,422	1,018	944	1,089	1,181	1,283
Railways (class I).....do....	24,142	19,706	20,581	22,925	24,940	26,668
Steel and rolling mills.....do....	6,680	4,170	3,238	3,746	3,646	4,172
Other industrial.....do....	1,029	916	891	928	968	989
Other industrial.....do....	14,814	9,999	13,702	15,579	17,137	18,936
Retail dealers, total.....do....	2,074	1,410	2,228	2,344	2,457	2,764
PULP, PAPER, AND PRINTING						
Wood pulp:						
Production, total, all grades.....short tons..						
Bleached sulphate.....do....	1,031,160	r1,144,215	1,163,715	1,314,276	1,226,240	1,363,469
Unbleached sulphate.....do....	112,819	128,507	144,132	148,996	144,773	171,513
Bleached sulphite.....do....	400,941	r445,495	453,963	512,519	468,025	529,945
Unbleached sulphite.....do....	149,726	r165,157	160,826	187,933	171,788	192,824
Soda.....do....	55,417	r61,012	53,735	63,566	63,712	67,324
Groundwood.....do....	38,632	42,506	41,723	47,382	43,949	43,550
Defibrated, exploded, etc.....do....	155,798	r167,422	174,729	193,498	186,878	204,512
Defibrated, exploded, etc.....do....	52,441	76,925	76,945	81,804	82,153	84,124
Stocks, end of month, total, all grades.....do....						
Bleached sulphate.....do....	121,090	r114,912	103,364	105,487	93,120	90,331
Unbleached sulphate.....do....	15,442	12,047	13,526	13,696	13,595	14,299
Bleached sulphite.....do....	9,650	r8,506	8,782	9,512	9,415	9,620
Unbleached sulphite.....do....	33,351	33,351	21,701	24,558	18,215	19,446
Soda.....do....	17,612	r19,711	13,313	12,282	14,290	13,787
Groundwood.....do....	3,883	3,364	1,314	1,830	750	734
Groundwood.....do....	30,863	27,492	35,614	33,580	31,077	29,309
Paper, excluding building paper, newsprint, and paperboard (American Pulp and Paper Association):						
Orders, new.....short tons..						
Production.....do....	764,640	803,535	918,164	r973,952	r849,137	836,000
Shipments.....do....	699,796	765,612	716,545	r836,936	r802,701	841,000
Stocks, end of month.....do....	706,642	768,592	723,630	r845,246	r812,285	850,000
Stocks, end of month.....do....	324,990	321,449	330,944	r322,990	r310,750	301,470
Fine paper:						
Orders, new.....do....	87,252	100,173	135,210	r149,100	r113,900	115,000
Production.....do....	86,983	93,235	83,785	r111,513	r106,677	111,000
Shipments.....do....	87,870	96,342	86,350	r116,050	r111,287	112,000
Stocks, end of month.....do....	85,805	82,864	76,910	r74,115	r69,500	68,500
Printing paper:						
Orders, new.....do....	268,975	274,594	311,075	r353,957	r308,107	278,000
Production.....do....	251,456	266,393	238,605	r286,343	r280,596	291,000
Shipments.....do....	251,878	263,717	239,675	r286,188	r281,510	295,000
Stocks, end of month.....do....	98,000	100,500	115,140	r116,335	r115,310	111,310
Coarse paper:						
Orders, new.....do....	280,775	288,365	312,314	r300,665	r276,025	295,000
Production.....do....	236,977	267,024	258,564	r286,377	r272,806	290,000
Shipments.....do....	242,747	268,577	260,790	r289,407	r275,875	293,000
Stocks, end of month.....do....	87,210	85,650	86,139	r81,352	r72,280	75,000
RUBBER AND RUBBER PRODUCTS						
Natural rubber:						
Consumption.....long tons..						
Stocks, end of month.....do....	43,978	51,243	61,402	64,297	r61,281	67,868
Stocks, end of month.....do....	100,618	90,733	93,653	87,146	r87,409	82,036
Synthetic rubber:						
Production.....do....						
Consumption.....do....	30,878	28,015	43,820	43,950	r44,460	44,690
Stocks, end of month.....do....	32,443	33,687	43,687	50,379	r49,550	51,049
Stocks, end of month.....do....	110,848	103,955	67,085	63,654	r59,059	51,767
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODUCTS						
Glass containers:						
Production.....thous. of gross..						
Shipments.....do....	7,550	8,283	8,870	9,133	8,673	10,612
Stocks, end of month.....do....	7,981	7,737	9,141	11,132	10,437	8,967
Stocks, end of month.....do....	8,318	8,602	8,931	6,743	4,865	6,123
TEXTILE PRODUCTS						
Hosiery:						
Production.....thous. of dozen pairs..						
Shipments.....do....	13,028	13,607	10,090	15,592	13,779	14,748
Shipments.....do....	13,950	14,580	11,121	16,449	15,566	15,794
Stocks, end of month.....do....	24,644	23,671	27,582	26,725	24,937	23,892