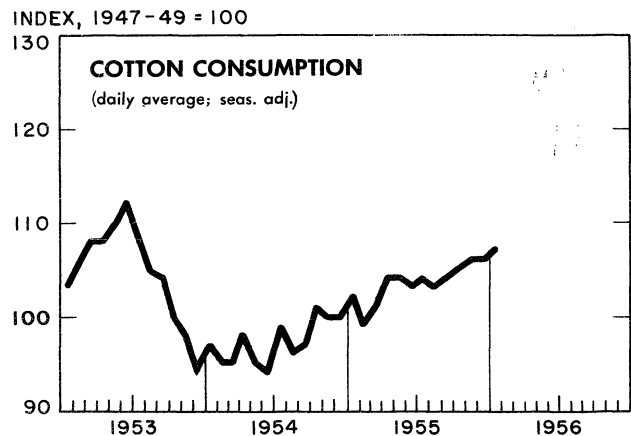
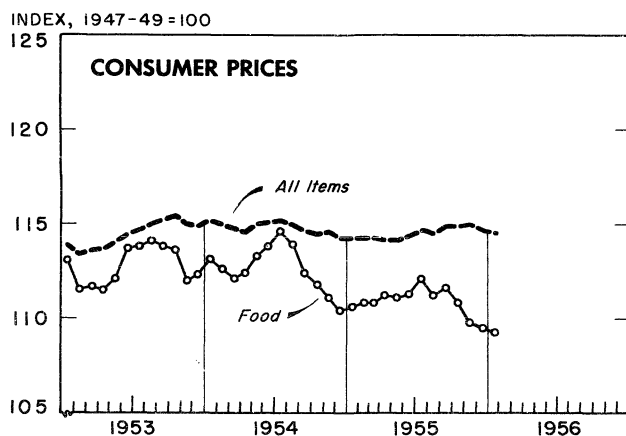
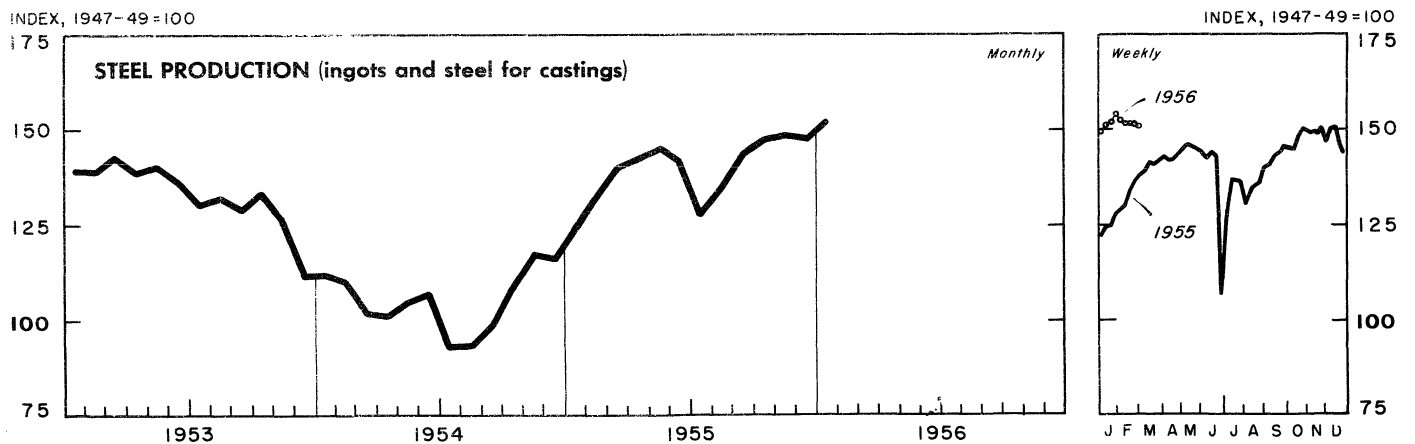
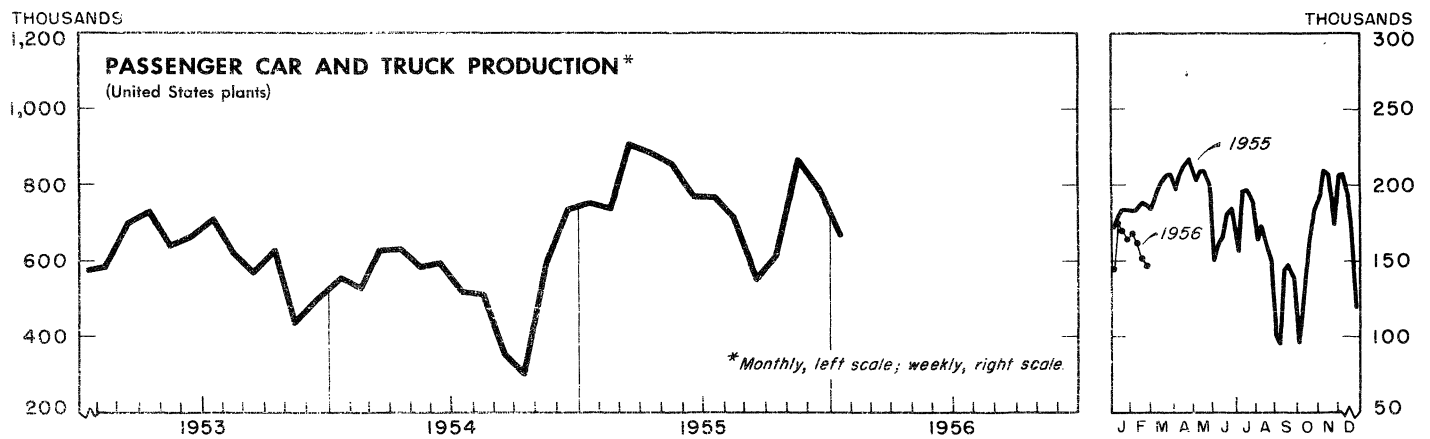


BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

Available only with subscription to the SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS, at \$3.25 annually, this Supplement provides selected weekly and monthly data subsequent to those published in the latest monthly SURVEY

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS



WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS¹

ITEM	1955		1956			
	Feb. 19	Feb. 26	Feb. 4	Feb. 11	Feb. 18	Feb. 25
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..		*110.4		111.9	112.1	112.0
Farm products.....do.....		*93.1		84.7	86.0	85.7
Foods, processed.....do.....		*103.2		98.7	98.7	98.4
All other.....do.....		*115.7		120.2	120.2	120.2
22 commodities 2/.....do.....	91.5	90.9	89.5	88.9	88.6	88.5
Department store sales.....do.....	90	93	90	97	95	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	2,075	2,074	1,658	1,642	.....	.....
State programs.....do.....	1,849	1,846	1,513	1,497	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	29,764	29,796	30,224	30,230	30,225	30,196
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/.....do....	24,964	24,932	25,248	25,104	25,174	25,360
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do.....	18,806	18,716	18,834	18,773	18,693	18,749
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do.....	570	608	444	473	523	535
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:4/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	56,598	56,744	57,607	57,048	56,391	.....
Time deposits, except Government.....do.....	21,465	21,470	21,446	21,460	21,428	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do.....	84,580	84,241	84,694	84,143	84,310	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do.....	35,057	34,750	28,822	28,499	28,542	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross).....do....	22,123	22,108	26,260	26,181	26,271	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do.....	7,326	7,342	8,154	8,162	8,197	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	205	178	273	236	252	230
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	3.19	3.20	3.28	3.28	3.27	3.27
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) 4/.....1935-39=100..	279.3	280.4	322.0	321.6	321.0	325.7
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do.....	313.9	314.4	369.5	369.3	368.5	374.5
Production:						
Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,489	1,467	1,626	1,692	1,682	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	9,912	9,725	11,540	11,343	11,321	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	188,435	186,241	167,272	160,967	151,551	147,380
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	6,767	6,789	7,081	7,046	7,116	.....
Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..	2,150	2,191	2,444	2,439	2,433	2,433
Percent of capacity 5/.....do.....	#89.1	#90.8	99.3	99.1	98.8	98.8
Freight carloadings, total.....thous. of cars..	650	635	681	684	698	.....
Miscellaneous.....do.....	343	338	352	354	363	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week ended March 3, 1956; Production, 2,422 thous. short tons; operating rate, 98.4 percent. * Monthly index for February 1955. # Not comparable with 1956 rates which are based on higher capacity.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1954	1955				1956
	December	January	October	November	December	January
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS						
Industrial and commercial failures:						
Failures, total.....number..	917	939	919	945	908	1,048
Commercial service.....do.....	72	87	81	70	73	72
Construction.....do.....	130	87	136	133	136	126
Manufacturing and mining.....do.....	204	195	180	196	191	209
Retail trade.....do.....	413	456	437	462	404	535
Wholesale trade.....do.....	98	114	85	84	104	106
Liabilities (current), total.....thous. of dol..	40,103	37,872	34,777	42,783	41,643	42,890
Commercial service.....do.....	1,857	3,154	3,655	1,239	1,106	2,974
Construction.....do.....	5,926	9,044	8,713	9,744	7,341	6,163
Manufacturing and mining.....do.....	17,526	11,636	10,407	14,106	11,554	14,442
Retail trade.....do.....	8,509	9,647	9,586	12,626	10,775	14,936
Wholesale trade.....do.....	6,285	4,391	2,416	5,068	10,867	4,375
COMMODITY PRICES						
Consumer price index, all items.....1947-49=100..	114.3	114.3	114.9	115.0	114.7	1/ 114.6
Apparel.....do.....	104.3	103.5	104.6	104.7	104.7	104.1
Food.....do.....	110.4	110.6	110.8	109.8	109.5	109.2
Dairy products.....do.....	106.8	106.4	107.5	107.8	107.7	107.3
Fruits and vegetables.....do.....	108.4	110.6	108.5	109.0	110.7	112.6
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do.....	102.2	102.4	100.9	97.1	94.6	93.3
Housing.....do.....	119.7	119.6	120.8	120.9	120.8	120.6
Gas and electricity.....do.....	109.1	109.4	111.2	111.5	111.5	111.7
Housefurnishings.....do.....	105.4	104.6	104.4	104.5	103.4	102.0
Rent.....do.....	129.4	129.5	130.8	130.9	131.1	131.4
Medical care.....do.....	126.3	126.5	128.7	129.8	130.2	130.7
Personal care.....do.....	113.6	113.7	117.0	117.5	117.9	118.5
Reading and recreation.....do.....	106.6	106.9	106.7	106.8	106.8	107.3
Transportation.....do.....	127.3	127.6	126.6	128.5	127.3	126.8
Other goods and services.....do.....	119.9	119.9	120.6	120.6	120.6	120.8
Purchasing power of the dollar as measured by—						
Wholesale prices.....do.....	91.3	90.8	89.6	89.9	89.8	2/ 89.4
Consumer prices.....do.....	87.5	87.5	87.0	87.0	87.2	2/ 87.3
Retail food prices.....do.....	90.6	90.4	90.3	91.1	91.3	2/ 91.6

1/ index based on 1935-39=100 is 191.6. 2/ indexes based on 1935-39=100 are as follows: Measured by—wholesale prices, 46.8; consumer prices, 52.2; retail food, 45.3.

ITEM	1954	1955				1956
	December	January	October	November	December	January
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
Construction contracts awarded, 37 States (F.W. Dodge Corp.):						
Total projects.....number..	62,394	r54,385	61,135	54,856	50,551	51,949
Total valuation.....mil. of dol..	1,829	r1,485	1,863	1,797	1,921	1,858
Building, total.....do....	1,463	r1,236	1,475	1,388	1,438	1,356
Construction cost index:						
E. H. Boeckh and Associates, average, 20 cities:						
Apartments, hotels, and office buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....U. S. avg. 1926-29=100..	258.5	258.8	268.5	269.1	270.1	271.2
Brick and steel.....do....	253.8	254.6	264.4	265.1	266.1	267.1
Brick and wood.....do....	257.1	257.7	266.2	266.7	267.3	268.4
Commercial and factory buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....do....	266.2	266.4	276.3	276.8	278.1	279.4
Brick and steel.....do....	262.2	262.5	273.8	274.4	275.3	276.3
Brick and wood.....do....	255.7	256.2	264.6	265.2	265.7	267.2
Frame.....do....	256.4	257.4	266.4	266.9	267.3	268.1
Steel.....do....	245.9	246.0	259.0	259.4	260.8	261.3
Residences:						
Brick.....do....	257.7	258.4	266.8	267.4	268.0	269.1
Frame.....do....	251.7	252.4	260.8	261.3	261.9	262.7
FINANCE						
Federal Government finance:						
Receipts, total.....mil. of dol..	4,217	4,833	2,998	5,527	5,337	4,915
Receipts, net.....do....	3,742	4,655	2,692	4,662	4,889	4,684
Customs.....do....	47	48	62	65	56	59
Income and employment taxes.....do....	3,204	3,638	1,873	4,215	3,962	3,727
Miscellaneous internal revenue.....do....	801	716	890	1,008	879	853
All other receipts.....do....	165	430	173	240	440	275
Expenditures, total.....do....	6,288	4,942	5,355	5,172	5,651	5,274
Interest on public debt.....do....	1,200	222	542	542	595	625
Veterans' services and benefits.....do....	401	379	364	p426	p408	p402
National security.....do....	3,739	3,176	3,161	p3,116	p3,477	p3,028
All other expenditures.....do....	947	1,166	1,288	p1,089	p1,170	p1,219
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS						
Organic chemicals, production:						
Acetic acid (synthetic and natural).....thous. of lb..	41,069	43,071	47,014	47,263	47,771	.....
Acetic anhydride.....do....	63,578	67,886	70,722	73,491	80,027	.....
Acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin).....do....	1,142	1,194	1,705	1,385	1,606	.....
Creosote oil.....thous. of gal..	10,088	9,565	10,340	10,723	9,710	.....
DDT.....thous. of lb..	6,036	9,359	10,273	10,310	10,991	.....
Ethyl acetate (85%).....do....	5,105	7,336	7,809	6,124	7,636	.....
Ethylene glycol.....do....	54,032	51,599	84,693	75,535	82,575	.....
Formaldehyde (37% HCHO).....do....	84,910	77,226	107,005	111,181	107,479	.....
Methanol:						
Natural (100%).....thous. of gal..	176	170	197	186	196	.....
Synthetic (100%).....do....	16,974	15,393	17,698	17,206	19,675	.....
Phthalic anhydride.....thous. of lb..	28,376	25,798	31,174	29,980	29,749	.....
Synthetic plastics and resin materials, production:						
Cellulose acetate and mixed ester plastics:						
Sheets, rods, and tubes.....thous. of lb..	3,662	3,290	3,880	3,495	4,041	.....
Molding and extrusion materials.....do....	6,470	6,908	8,374	8,394	7,705	.....
Nitrocellulose sheets, rods, and tubes.....do....	329	414	415	451	428	.....
Other cellulose plastics.....do....	452	553	385	643	433	.....
Phenolic and other tar acid resins.....do....	33,010	34,394	44,619	r44,665	43,044	.....
Polystyrene.....do....	35,205	36,860	48,460	48,272	47,434	.....
Urea and melamine resins.....do....	20,344	20,698	26,498	25,197	24,206	.....
Vinyl resins.....do....	49,773	53,782	62,159	62,200	61,285	.....
Alkyd resins.....do....	30,285	31,441	35,480	34,464	35,689	.....
Rosin modifications.....do....	9,209	11,553	12,628	r11,083	10,617	.....
FOODSTUFFS						
Livestock slaughter (Federally inspected):						
Calves.....thous. of animals..	639	563	728	700	633	602
Cattle.....do....	1,583	1,521	1,693	1,662	1,617	1,697
Hogs.....do....	6,119	5,519	6,144	6,857	7,324	6,705
Sheep and lambs.....do....	1,167	1,223	1,248	1,162	1,155	1,329
Meats, production, total.....mil. of lb..	2,120	1,993	2,121	2,254	2,340	2,312
Beef and veal.....thous. of lb..	912,239	883,371	999,507	970,324	961,519	1,034,824
Lamb and mutton.....do....	54,704	58,810	55,245	52,853	53,849	64,032
Pork, including lard.....do....	1,153,238	1,050,606	1,065,839	1,230,521	1,324,890	1,212,803
Lard.....do....	225,859	203,886	190,120	235,332	261,249	240,907
Tobacco, manufactured products:						
Production, total.....thous. of lb..	14,556	16,251	17,395	16,179	13,194	.....
Chewing, plug, and twist.....do....	5,689	6,536	6,880	6,627	5,347	.....
Smoking.....do....	5,764	6,516	7,256	6,304	4,747	.....
Snuff.....do....	3,104	3,199	3,260	3,249	3,100	.....
Consumption (withdrawals):						
Cigarettes, small:						
Tax-free.....millions..	2,805	2,644	2,449	2,416	2,570	.....
Tax-paid.....do....	26,651	30,438	32,937	32,644	27,357	.....
Cigars, tax-paid.....thousands..	r426,019	408,334	551,082	613,199	432,028	.....
Manufactured tobacco and snuff, tax-paid.....thous. of lb..	14,842	15,924	16,807	16,909	13,115	.....

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary.

ITEM	1954	1955				1956
	December	January	October	November	December	January
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Iron ore (Lake Superior district):						
Consumption by furnaces.....thous. of long tons..	6,341	6,620	7,850	7,488	7,663	7,953
Stocks, end of month, total.....do.....	44,018	37,470	49,523	51,040	44,359	36,702
At furnaces.....do.....	37,427	31,360	42,167	43,718	37,539	30,283
On Lake Erie docks.....do.....	6,591	6,110	7,356	7,323	6,820	6,419
Castings, gray iron:						
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....thous. of short tons..	745	783	1,113	1,062	1,075	.....
Shipments, total.....do.....	1,074	1,092	1,310	1,306	r1,260	.....
For sale.....do.....	564	563	714	697	664	.....
Castings, malleable iron:						
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....short tons..	85,064	99,817	121,261	116,981	123,107	.....
Shipments, total.....do.....	r87,934	82,028	90,866	99,280	r99,946	.....
For sale.....do.....	49,005	48,000	53,804	58,069	60,409	.....
Pig iron, production.....thous. of short tons..	5,587	5,785	6,965	6,699	6,954	7,050
Castings, steel:						
Shipments, total.....short tons..	93,547	98,238	145,674	152,381	r158,982	.....
For sale, total.....do.....	69,843	75,044	110,409	116,908	122,201	.....
Railway specialties.....do.....	11,489	13,809	23,745	25,635	29,003	.....
Steel forgings (for sale):						
Orders, unfilled, total.....thous. of short tons..	472.7	487.8	559.7	584.7	592.4	.....
Shipments, total.....do.....	128.5	135.9	158.0	158.1	158.1	.....
Drop and upset.....do.....	96.4	103.0	120.0	119.7	120.1	.....
Machine tools (metal-cutting types):						
New orders.....mo. avg. shipments, 1945-47=100..	202.9	203.0	347.1	433.3	r534.1	p399.2
Shipments.....do.....	203.4	167.3	204.2	214.2	r237.8	p191.9
TEXTILE PRODUCTS						
Cotton: <u>l</u> /						
Consumption.....bales..	801,596	716,045	737,056	741,447	855,447	746,996
Manufactures:						
Spindle activity (cotton system spindles):						
Active spindles, last working day, total.....thousands..	20,626	20,782	20,883	20,902	20,988	20,990
Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do.....	19,136	19,282	19,302	19,352	19,440	19,399
Spindle hours operated, all fibers, total.....mil. of hr..	11,059	9,934	10,290	10,150	11,848	10,315
Average per working day.....do.....	442	497	515	508	474	516
Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do.....	10,239	9,184	9,512	9,393	10,992	9,577
Operations as percent of capacity.....do.....	122.5	138.0	144.9	143.0	133.3	146.6
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT						
Motor vehicles, registrations:						
New passenger cars.....number..	656,611	440,024	576,045	509,155	630,488	.....
New commercial cars.....do.....	69,830	62,231	87,262	75,756	93,733	.....
Railway equipment, American Railway Car Institute:						
Freight cars:						
Shipments, total.....number..	2,240	2,014	4,233	3,845	3,814	4,199
Equipment manufacturers, total.....do.....	1,436	1,605	2,856	2,749	2,714	2,981
Domestic.....do.....	1,377	1,605	2,455	2,331	2,696	2,981
Railroad shops, domestic.....do.....	804	409	1,377	1,096	1,100	1,218
Passenger cars, equipment manufacturers:						
Orders unfilled, end of month, total.....do.....	757	761	433	395	860	903
Domestic.....do.....	671	693	424	390	851	884
Shipments, total.....do.....	57	40	206	38	39	42
Domestic.....do.....	34	18	204	38	39	42

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. l/ Data for December 1954 and December 1955 cover 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

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UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
DIVISION OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT

SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS