



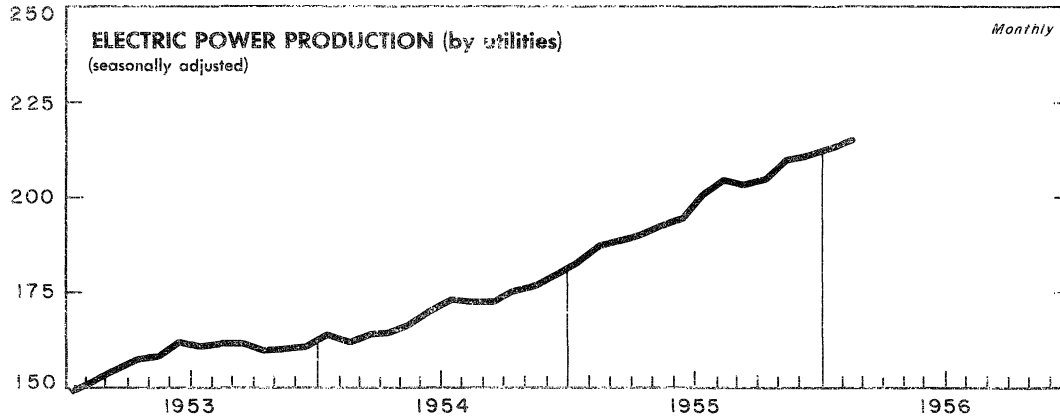
# BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

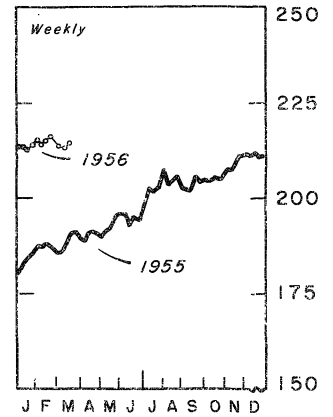
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## SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

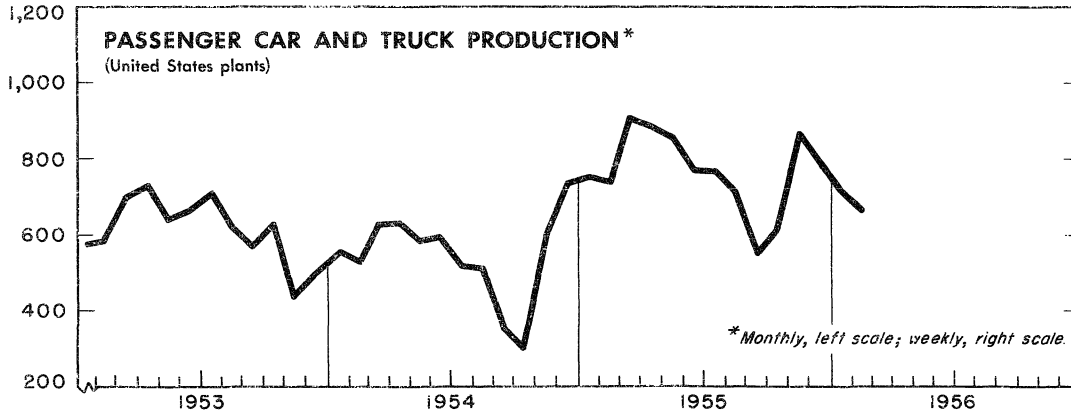
INDEX, 1947-49 = 100



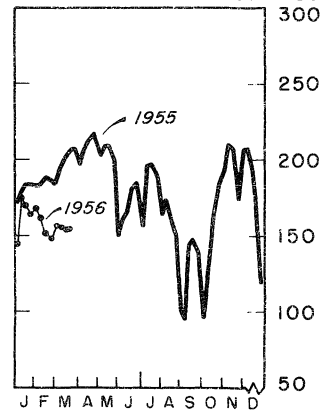
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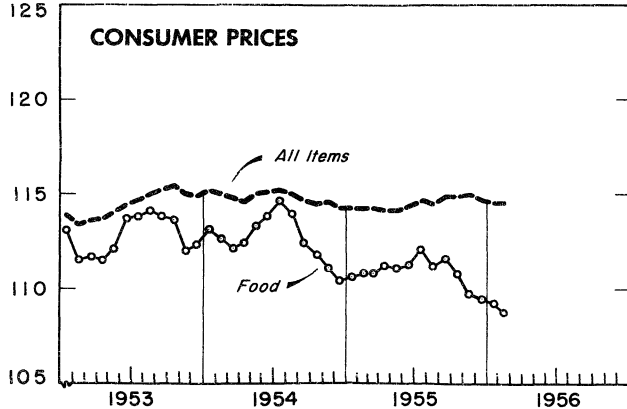
THOUSANDS



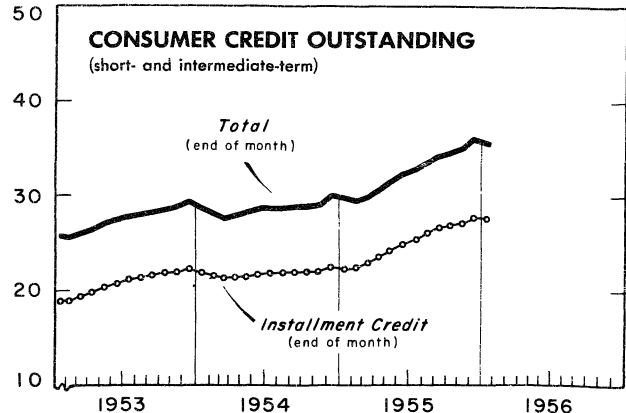
THOUSANDS



INDEX, 1947-49 = 100



BILLION DOLLARS



WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

ITEM	1955		1956			
	Mar. 19	Mar. 26	Mar. 3	Mar. 10	Mar. 17	Mar. 24
<b>Commodity prices, wholesale:</b>						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*110.0	.....	112.4	112.5	112.8
Farm products.....do....	.....	*92.1	.....	85.7	86.6	87.8
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*101.6	.....	98.9	99.2	99.8
All other.....do....	.....	*115.6	.....	120.7	120.6	120.7
22 commodities <u>2/</u> .....do....	88.9	89.0	89.0	89.3	89.4	90.1
Department store sales.....do....	108	103	104	109	106	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	1,881	1,816	1,661	1,644	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	1,655	1,594	1,520	1,505	.....	.....
<b>Finance:</b>						
Currency in circulation <u>3/</u> .....mil. of dol..	29,819	29,732	30,188	30,253	30,266	30,260
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total <u>3/</u> .....do....	24,809	25,327	25,089	25,118	25,308	25,754
Member bank reserve balances <u>3/</u> .....do....	18,779	18,804	18,596	18,670	18,691	19,204
Excess reserves, estimated <u>3/</u> .....do....	630	681	437	487	481	622
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities: <u>4/</u>						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	57,861	56,282	56,230	56,417	57,603	.....
Time deposits, except Government.....do....	21,528	21,556	21,493	21,510	21,597	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	84,843	83,921	84,190	84,338	85,349	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	34,374	33,509	28,272	28,157	28,431	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross).....do....	22,584	22,637	26,316	26,454	27,047	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	7,402	7,432	8,224	8,254	8,287	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	226	232	293	268	300	208
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) <u>3/</u> .....percent..	3.21	3.20	3.27	3.27	3.29	3.31
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) <u>4/</u> ..1935-39=100..	273.3	278.1	331.5	337.3	347.1	348.2
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do....	306.1	312.2	382.3	389.2	401.6	403.3
<b>Production:</b>						
Bituminous coal <u>3/</u> .....thous. of short tons..	1,343	1,318	1,647	1,588	1,538	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	9,814	9,907	11,199	11,133	11,202	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	201,503	205,459	157,532	157,005	154,946	154,961
Petroleum (crude) and condensate <u>3/</u> .....thous. of bbl..	6,858	6,863	7,156	7,162	7,153	.....
Steel <u>5/</u> .....thous. of short tons..	2,273	2,262	2,459	2,462	2,477	2,449
Percent of capacity <u>5/</u> .....do....	#94.2	#93.7	99.9	100.0	100.6	99.5
Freight car loadings, total.....thous. of cars..	651	639	711	698	686	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	363	352	378	373	367	.....

<sup>1/</sup> Data do not always cover calendar weeks. <sup>2/</sup> Tuesday prices. <sup>3/</sup> Daily average. <sup>4/</sup> Wednesday data. <sup>5/</sup> Week ended March 31, 1956: Production, 2,400 thous. short tons; operating rate, 97.5 percent. \* Monthly index for March 1955. # Not comparable with 1956 rates which are based on higher capacity.

## MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1955				1956	
	January	February	November	December	January	February
<b>GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS</b>						
<b>Industrial and commercial failures:</b>						
Failures, total.....number..	939	877	945	908	1,048	1,024
Commercial service.....do....	87	60	70	73	72	62
Construction.....do....	87	113	133	136	126	141
Manufacturing and mining.....do....	195	188	196	191	209	202
Retail trade.....do....	456	412	462	404	535	511
Wholesale trade.....do....	114	104	84	104	106	108
Liabilities (current), total.....thous. of dol..	37,872	42,056	42,783	41,643	42,890	49,189
Commercial service.....do....	3,154	2,244	1,239	1,106	2,974	1,920
Construction.....do....	9,044	7,624	9,744	7,341	6,163	9,881
Manufacturing and mining.....do....	11,636	18,922	14,106	11,554	14,442	17,647
Retail trade.....do....	9,647	8,928	12,626	10,775	14,936	14,693
Wholesale trade.....do....	4,391	4,338	5,068	10,867	4,375	5,048
<b>COMMODITY PRICES</b>						
Consumer price index, all items.....1947-49=100..	114.3	114.3	115.0	114.7	114.6	<sup>1/</sup> 114.6
Apparel.....do....	103.3	103.4	104.7	104.7	104.1	104.6
Food.....do....	110.6	110.8	109.8	109.5	109.2	108.8
Dairy products.....do....	106.4	106.1	107.8	107.7	107.3	107.3
Fruits and vegetables.....do....	110.6	110.7	109.0	110.7	112.6	113.3
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do....	102.4	102.5	97.1	94.6	93.3	93.6
Housing.....do....	119.6	119.6	120.9	120.8	120.6	120.7
Gas and electricity.....do....	109.4	109.9	111.5	111.5	111.7	111.7
Housefurnishings.....do....	104.6	104.8	104.5	103.4	102.0	102.5
Rent.....do....	129.5	129.7	130.9	131.1	131.4	131.5
Medical care.....do....	126.5	126.8	129.8	130.2	130.7	130.9
Personal care.....do....	113.7	113.5	117.5	117.9	118.5	118.9
Reading and recreation.....do....	106.9	106.4	106.8	106.8	107.3	107.5
Transportation.....do....	127.6	127.4	128.5	127.3	126.8	126.9
Other goods and services.....do....	119.9	119.8	120.6	120.6	120.8	120.9

<sup>1/</sup> Index based on 1935-39=100 is 191.6.

ITEM	1955				1956	
	January	February	November	December	January	February
<b>COMMODITY PRICES - Continued</b>						
Purchasing power of the dollar as measured by—						
Wholesale prices.....1947-49=100..	90.8	90.6	89.9	89.8	89.4	1/ 89.0
Consumer prices.....do....	87.5	87.5	87.0	87.2	87.3	1/ 87.3
Retail food prices.....do....	90.4	90.3	91.1	91.3	91.6	1/ 91.9
<b>CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE</b>						
Construction contracts awarded, 37 States (F.W. Dodge Corp.):						
Total projects.....number..	54,385	58,456	54,856	50,551	51,949	58,056
Total valuation.....mil. of dol..	1,485	1,581	1,797	1,921	1,858	1,860
Building, total.....do....	1,236	1,279	1,388	1,438	1,356	1,429
Construction contract awards, (F. R. indexes):						
Total, unadjusted.....1947-49=100..	214	227	244	244	247	p271
Residential, unadjusted.....do....	239	263	243	233	242	p292
Total, adjusted.....do....	260	260	270	301	300	p311
Residential, adjusted.....do....	286	295	252	273	290	p326
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..	258.8	258.8	269.1	270.1	271.2	271.6
Brick and steel.....do....	254.6	254.7	265.1	266.1	267.1	267.7
Brick and wood.....do....	257.7	257.9	266.7	267.3	268.4	270.5
Commercial and factory buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....do....	266.4	266.5	276.8	278.1	279.4	279.4
Brick and steel.....do....	262.5	262.6	274.4	275.3	276.3	277.1
Brick and wood.....do....	256.2	256.3	265.2	265.7	267.2	269.0
Frame.....do....	257.4	257.7	266.9	267.3	268.1	270.5
Steel.....do....	246.0	246.1	259.4	260.8	261.3	261.8
Residences:						
Brick.....do....	258.4	258.6	267.4	268.0	269.1	271.2
Frame.....do....	252.4	252.6	261.3	261.9	262.7	265.2
<b>FINANCE</b>						
Federal Government finance:						
Receipts, total.....mil. of dol..						
Receipts, net.....do....	4,833	5,954	5,527	5,337	4,915	7,158
Customs.....do....	4,655	5,427	4,662	4,889	4,684	6,195
Income and employment taxes.....do....	48	47	65	56	59	57
Miscellaneous internal revenue.....do....	3,638	4,857	4,215	3,962	3,727	5,959
All other receipts.....do....	716	774	1,008	879	853	944
Expenditures, total.....do....	430	276	240	440	275	198
Interest on public debt.....do....	4,942	4,831	5,172	5,651	5,274	4,950
Veterans' services and benefits.....do....	222	396	542	595	625	553
National security.....do....	379	365	426	p408	p402	p403
All other expenditures.....do....	3,176	3,048	3,116	p3,477	p3,028	p3,170
	1,166	1,022	1,089	p1,170	p1,219	p824
<b>CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS</b>						
Organic chemicals, production:						
Acetic acid (synthetic and natural).....thous. of lb..	43,071	36,944	47,263	47,771	49,619	.....
Acetic anhydride.....do....	67,886	60,353	73,491	80,027	77,404	.....
Acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin).....do....	1,194	1,202	1,385	1,606	1,225	.....
Creosote oil.....thous. of gal..	9,565	8,934	10,723	9,710	9,746	.....
DDT.....thous. of lb..	9,359	9,319	10,310	10,991	11,592	.....
Ethyl acetate (85%).....do....	7,336	8,395	6,124	7,636	9,360	.....
Ethylene glycol.....do....	51,599	55,206	75,535	82,575	90,684	.....
Formaldehyde (37% HCHO).....do....	77,226	95,422	111,181	107,479	111,691	.....
Methanol:						
Natural (100%).....thous. of gal..	170	157	186	196	206	.....
Synthetic (100%).....do....	15,593	13,825	17,206	19,675	10,524	.....
Phthalic anhydride.....thous. of lb..	25,798	24,976	29,980	29,749	30,522	.....
Synthetic plastics and resin materials, production:						
Cellulose acetate and mixed ester plastics:						
Sheets, rods, and tubes.....thous. of lb..	3,290	3,215	3,495	4,041	3,508	.....
Molding and extrusion materials.....do....	6,908	7,177	8,394	7,705	6,492	.....
Nitrocellulose sheets, rods, and tubes.....do....	414	364	451	428	519	.....
Other cellulose plastics.....do....	553	559	643	433	450	.....
Phenolic and other tar acid resins.....do....	34,394	37,195	44,665	43,044	43,407	.....
Polystyrene.....do....	36,860	36,360	48,272	47,434	47,002	.....
Urea and melamine resins.....do....	20,698	20,676	25,197	24,206	26,411	.....
Vinyl resins.....do....	53,782	51,650	62,200	61,285	67,500	.....
Alkyd resins.....do....	31,441	31,909	34,464	35,689	32,682	.....
Rosin modifications.....do....	11,353	10,478	11,083	10,617	10,823	.....
<b>FOODSTUFFS AND TOBACCO</b>						
Livestock:						
Cattle and calves:						
Receipts, principal markets.....thous. of animals..	2,322	1,767	2,674	2,091	2,354	1,870
Shipments, feeder, to 9 corn-belt States.....do....	294	171	734	420	249	183
Hogs:						
Receipts, principal markets.....do....	3,183	2,587	4,099	4,056	3,908	3,262
Sheep and lambs:						
Receipts, principal markets.....do....	1,334	1,029	1,273	1,091	1,248	994
Shipments, feeder, to 9 corn-belt States.....do....	226	135	247	161	160	121

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Indexes based on 1935-39=100 are as follows: Measured by—wholesale prices, 46.6; consumer prices, 52.2; retail food, 45.5.

## MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

ITEM	1955				1956	
	January	February	November	December	January	February
<b>FOODSTUFFS AND TOBACCO - Continued</b>						
Coffee, visible supply.....thous. of bags..	729	776	564	831	704	793
Tobacco, manufactured products:						
Production, total.....thous. of lb..	16,251	15,698	16,179	13,194	15,567	.....
Chewing, plug, and twist.....do....	6,536	6,012	6,627	5,347	6,509	.....
Smoking.....do....	6,516	6,377	6,304	4,747	5,704	.....
Snuff.....do....	3,199	3,309	3,249	3,100	3,354	.....
Consumption (withdrawals):						
Cigarettes, small:						
Tax-free.....millions..	2,644	2,516	2,416	2,570	2,091	.....
Tax-paid.....do....	30,438	28,655	32,644	27,357	32,871	.....
Cigars, tax-paid.....thousands..	408,334	399,885	613,199	432,028	453,272	.....
Manufactured tobacco and snuff, tax-paid...thous. of lb..	15,924	14,968	16,909	13,115	15,298	.....
<b>METALS AND MANUFACTURES</b>						
Iron ore (Lake Superior district):						
Consumption by furnaces.....thous. of long tons..	6,620	6,447	7,486	7,663	7,953	7,440
Stocks, end of month, total.....do....	37,470	31,108	51,040	44,359	36,702	29,173
At furnaces.....do....	31,360	25,222	43,718	37,539	30,283	23,677
On Lake Erie docks.....do....	6,110	5,886	7,323	6,820	6,419	5,495
Pig iron, production.....thous. of short tons..	5,785	5,443	6,699	6,954	7,050	6,603
Furnaces, industrial, new orders, net:						
Electric processing.....thous. of do....	1,148	976	1,543	2,188	2,102	1,768
Fuel-fired (except for hot rolling steel).....do....	3,543	4,390	4,131	6,191	6,189	9,770
Machine tools (metal-cutting types):						
New orders.....mo. avg. shipments, 1945-47=100..	203.0	209.4	433.3	534.1	r 389.6	p 290.8
Shipments.....do....	167.3	168.2	214.2	237.8	r 184.7	p 218.4
<b>STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODUCTS</b>						
Glass containers:						
Production.....thous. of gross..	10,449	10,211	10,557	10,166	r 11,097	11,128
Shipments.....do....	9,593	9,177	9,845	11,332	r 9,578	9,952
Stocks, end of month.....do....	13,301	14,058	14,123	12,700	13,995	14,882
<b>TEXTILE PRODUCTS</b>						
Men's apparel, cuttings: <u>1/</u>						
Tailored garments:						
Suits.....thous. of units..	1,848	1,816	1,716	1,945	1,876	1,860
Overcoats and topcoats.....do....	296	288	340	335	272	304
Trousers (separate), dress and sport.....do....	5,712	4,944	5,424	5,160	5,280	5,616
Shirts (woven fabrics), dress and sport.....thous. of doz..	1,840	1,876	1,864	1,890	1,924	2,000
Work clothing:						
Dungarees and waistband overalls.....do....	352	388	372	335	328	376
Shirts.....do....	300	300	376	390	408	420
Cotton, manufactures: <u>1/</u>						
Spindle activity (cotton system spindles):						
Active spindles, last working day, total.....thousands..	20,782	20,954	20,902	20,988	20,990	20,983
Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do....	19,282	19,429	19,352	19,440	19,399	19,428
Spindle hours operated, all fibers, total...mil. of hr..	9,934	10,046	10,150	11,848	10,315	10,347
Average per working day.....do....	497	511	508	474	516	517
Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do....	9,184	9,299	9,393	10,992	9,577	9,633
Operations as percent of capacity.....	138.0	140.1	143.0	133.3	146.6	147.2

r/ Revised. 1/ Data for December 1955 cover 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

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WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT

**SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS**