

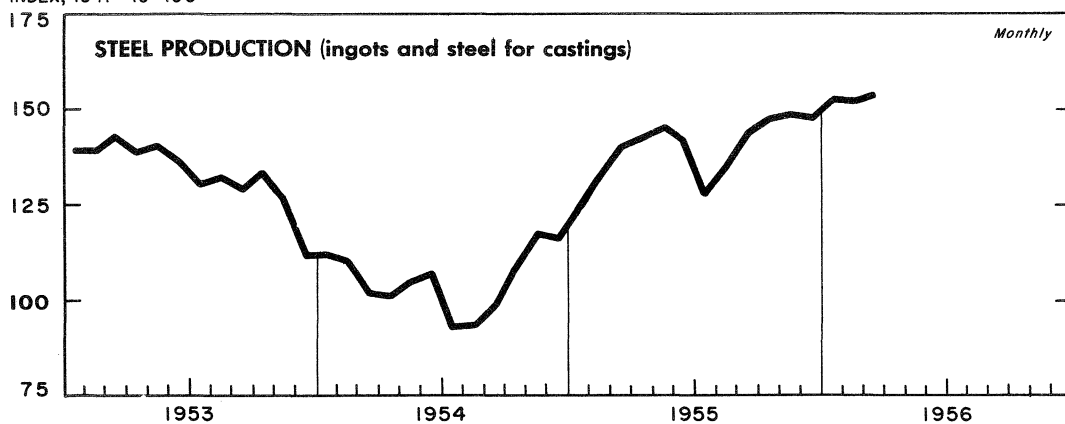
BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

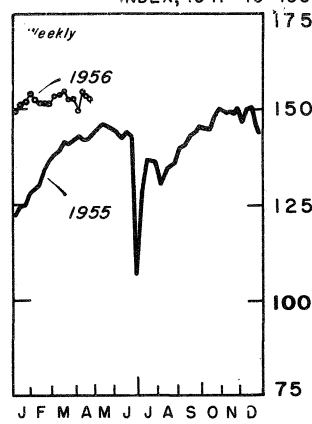
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SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

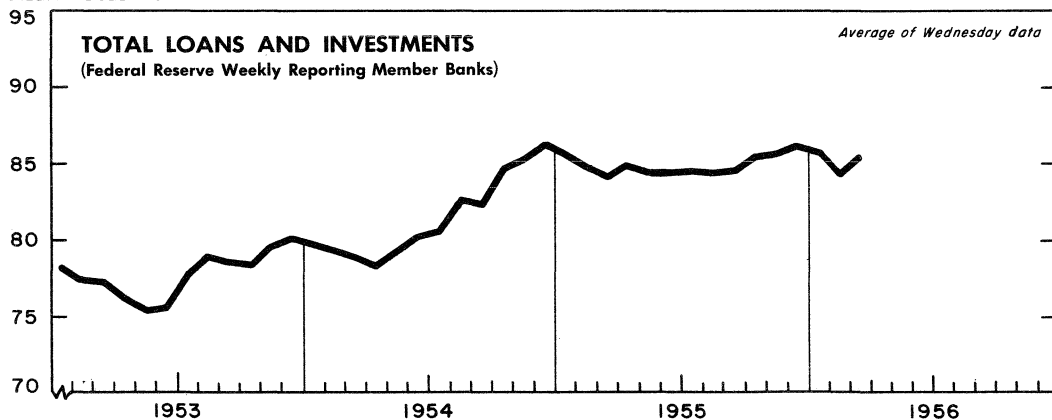
INDEX, 1947-49=100



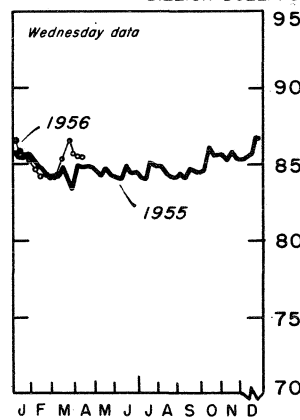
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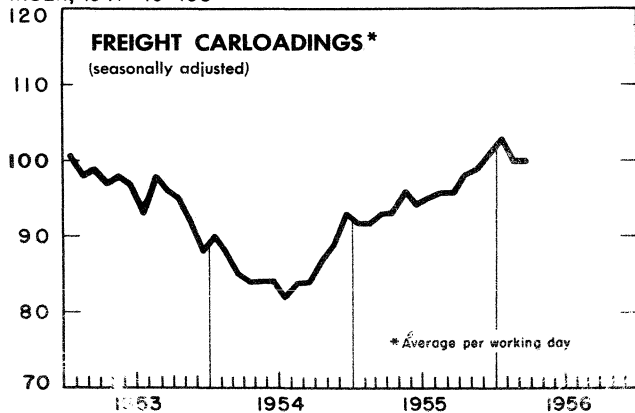
BILLION DOLLARS



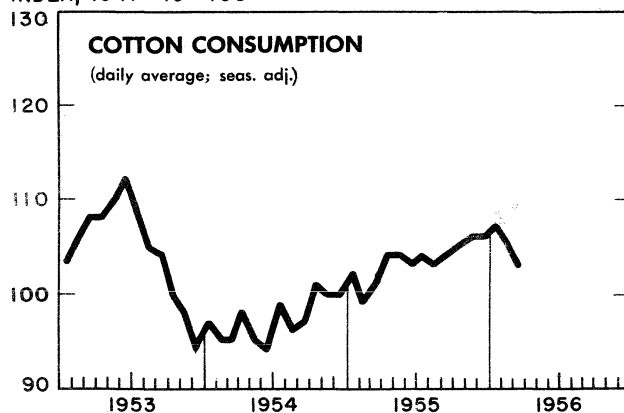
BILLION DOLLARS



INDEX, 1947-49=100



INDEX, 1947-49 = 100



WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS¹

ITEM	1955			1956		
	Apr. 16	Apr. 23	Mar. 31	Apr. 7	Apr. 14	Apr. 21
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*110.5	.....	113.5	113.4	113.5
Farm products.....do....	.....	*94.2	.....	88.4	88.0	88.0
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*102.5	.....	100.8	100.8	100.7
All other.....do....	.....	*115.7	.....	121.2	121.3	121.4
22 commodities <u>2/</u>.....do....	90.3	90.4	90.2	90.9	91.9	91.9
Department store sales.....do....	103	112	121	104	114	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	1,683	1,645	1,493	1,496	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	1,499	1,474	1,370	1,377	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation <u>3/</u>.....mil. of dol..	29,854	29,724	30,288	30,306	30,305	30,215
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total <u>3/</u>....do....	25,159	25,175	25,661	25,658	25,481	25,497
Member bank reserve balances <u>3/</u>.....do....	18,868	18,895	19,028	18,860	18,917	18,909
Excess reserves, estimated <u>3/</u>.....do....	654	642	553	535	650	642
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities: <u>4/</u>						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	55,849	56,613	55,733	55,392	56,211	.....
Time deposits, except Government.....do....	21,544	21,495	21,618	21,640	21,607	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	84,823	84,864	85,631	85,454	85,447	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	34,096	34,063	27,995	27,852	27,696	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross).....do....	22,543	22,530	27,781	27,578	27,677	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	7,517	7,542	8,341	8,344	8,378	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	204	204	263	217	255	252
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) <u>3/</u>.....percent..	3.20	3.20	3.33	3.35	3.39	3.43
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) <u>4/</u> ..1935-39=100..	285.7	289.1	352.6	356.2	352.8	349.5
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do....	320.8	324.7	409.2	414.5	410.2	406.0
Production:						
Bituminous coal <u>3/</u>.....thous. of short tons..	1,402	1,424	1,713	1,653	1,675	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	9,602	9,697	10,992	10,846	10,918	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	205,324	211,998	149,932	157,662	160,280	155,280
Petroleum (crude) and condensate <u>3/</u>.....thous. of bbl..	6,828	6,832	7,149	7,171	7,156	.....
Steel <u>5/</u>.....thous. of short tons..	2,284	2,284	2,452	2,406	2,483	2,466
Percent of capacity <u>5/</u>	#94.6	#94.6	99.6	97.7	100.9	100.2
Freight car loadings, total <u>6/</u>.....thous. of cars..	670	706	725	685	742	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	366	371	382	371	380	.....

^{1/} Data do not always cover calendar weeks. ^{2/} Tuesday prices. ^{3/} Daily average. ^{4/} Wednesday data. ^{5/} Week ended April 28, 1956; Production, 2,454 thous. short tons; operating rate, 99.7 percent. ^{6/} Data for 1956 adjusted to revised classification of class I railroads. * Monthly index for April 1955. # Not comparable with 1956 rates which are based on higher capacity.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1955			1956		
	February	March	December	January	February	March
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS						
Industrial and commercial failures:						
Failures, total.....number..	877	1,038	908	1,048	1,024	1,170
Commercial service.....do....	60	66	73	72	62	102
Construction.....do....	113	108	136	126	141	150
Manufacturing and mining.....do....	188	225	191	209	202	224
Retail trade.....do....	412	520	404	535	511	572
Wholesale trade.....do....	104	119	104	106	108	122
Liabilities, (current), total.....thous. of dol..						
Commercial service.....do....	42,056	41,209	41,643	42,890	49,189	42,622
Construction.....do....	2,244	2,916	1,106	2,974	1,920	2,015
Manufacturing and mining.....do....	7,624	4,468	7,341	6,163	9,881	7,089
Retail trade.....do....	18,922	16,921	11,554	14,442	17,647	15,649
Wholesale trade.....do....	8,928	11,972	10,775	14,936	14,693	12,430
Wholesale trade.....do....	4,338	4,932	10,867	4,375	5,048	5,439
COMMODITY PRICES						
Wholesale prices of selected commodities:						
Wheat flour, short patents (Minn.)..dol. per 100 lb. sack..	6.650	6.805	6.075	6.180	r6.220	p6.110
Calves, vealers (Chicago).....dol. per 100 lb..	29.00	25.00	24.00	28.00	28.00	p24.50
Lumber:						
Douglas fir, dim., No. 1, 2" x 4", R.L....dol. per M bd. ft..	85.534	85.071	88.102	89.180	89.180	p89.314
Southern pine, boards, No. 2, com., 1" x 6", R.L....do....	78.471	77.527	80.679	80.588	r81.294	p84.099
Ponderosa pine, boards, No. 3, common, 1" x 8".....do....	74.18	75.17	78.83	79.43	81.30	p81.30
Pig iron, basic (furnace).....dol. per long ton..	56.00	56.00	58.50	58.50	58.50	p58.50
Steel:						
Structural shapes (carbon), f.o.b. mill....dol. per lb..	.0452	.0452	.0487	.0487	.0487	p.0487
Scrap, No. 1, heavy melting (Pittsburgh).....dol. per long ton..	36.50	38.50	50.00	54.50	49.00	p48.50
Coal, bituminous:						
Screenings, indust. use, f.o.b. car at mine						
dol. per short ton..	4.481	4.480	4.727	4.732	r4.731	p4.786
Large domestic sizes, f.o.b. car at mine.....do....	6.949	6.920	7.204	7.233	r7.229	p7.062
Gasoline, regular grade (New York).....dol. per gal..	.125	.125	.130	.130	.130	p.125
Petroleum, crude (Oklahoma-Kansas), at wells.....dol. per bbl..	2.820	2.820	2.820	2.820	2.820	p2.820
Cotton cloth:						
Print, 39-inch, 68 x 72.....cents per yd..	16.5	16.3	18.0	18.0	18.0	p17.0
Sheeting, class B, 40-inch, 48 x 44-48.....do....	16.6	16.6	18.1	18.3	18.3	p18.3

^r Revised. ^p Preliminary.

ITEM	1955			1956		
	February	March	December	January	February	March
FINANCE						
Federal Government finance:						
Receipts, total.....mil. of dol..	5,954	11,089	5,337	4,915	7,158	12,499
Receipts, net.....do....	5,427	9,741	4,889	4,684	6,195	11,313
Customs.....do....	47	60	56	59	57	59
Income and employment taxes.....do....	4,857	9,906	3,962	3,727	5,959	11,344
Miscellaneous internal revenue.....do....	774	995	879	853	944	963
All other receipts.....do....	276	127	440	275	198	133
Expenditures, total.....do....	4,831	5,894	5,651	5,274	4,950	5,399
Interest on public debt.....do....	396	478	595	625	553	559
Veterans' services and benefits.....do....	365	386	406	401	p398	p400
National security.....do....	3,048	3,759	1/ 3,451	1/ 3,005	1/ p3,214	1/ p3,284
All other expenditures.....do....	1,022	1,271	1,199	1,243	p786	p1,156
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS						
Hotels:						
Average sale per occupied room.....dollars..	7.25	7.02	7.10	7.53	7.47	7.30
Rooms occupied.....percent of total..	74	75	58	71	75	72
Restaurant sales index.....same month 1929=100..	252	241	236	257	257	239
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS						
Organic chemicals, production:						
Acetic acid (synthetic and natural).....thous. of lb..	36,944	48,100	47,771	49,619	42,662	.....
Acetic anhydride.....do....	60,353	78,590	80,027	77,404	73,385	.....
Acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin).....do....	1,202	1,509	1,606	1,225	1,931	.....
Creosote oil.....thous. of gal..	8,934	11,064	9,710	r9,572	8,924	.....
DDT.....thous. of lb..	9,319	10,456	10,991	11,592	10,742	.....
Ethyl acetate (85%).....do....	8,395	4,571	7,636	9,360	7,702	.....
Ethylene glycol.....do....	55,206	60,605	82,575	90,684	81,911	.....
Formaldehyde (37% HCHO).....do....	95,422	111,366	107,479	111,691	110,519	.....
Methanol:						
Natural (100%).....thous. of gal..	157	167	196	206	178	.....
Synthetic (100%).....do....	13,825	15,531	19,675	r19,020	17,078	.....
Phthalic anhydride.....thous. of lb..	24,976	30,450	29,749	30,522	28,714	.....
FOODSTUFFS						
Distilled spirits:						
Production.....thous. of tax gal..	13,753	15,622	23,033	17,458	16,888	.....
Consumption for beverage purposes.....thous. of wine gal..	12,959	15,768	23,847	13,371	14,616	.....
Tax-paid withdrawals.....thous. of tax gal..	10,007	13,407	10,486	9,279	11,523	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	843,285	842,566	840,638	846,286	847,965	.....
Whisky:						
Production.....do....	9,470	10,725	12,716	10,682	10,614	.....
Tax-paid withdrawals.....do....	5,609	7,027	5,671	4,899	6,130	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	709,665	710,970	724,706	728,418	729,962	.....
Rectified spirits and wines, prod.....thous. of proof gal..						
Whisky.....do....	5,489	7,171	5,800	4,799	6,223	.....
Whisky.....do....	4,907	6,445	4,906	3,918	5,476	.....
Corn, grindings, wet process.....thous. of bu..	10,836	11,949	11,188	11,686	12,036	11,963
Rice, Southern States (Ark., La., Tenn., Tex.):						
Receipts, rough, at mills.....thous. of lb..	61,315	58,409	61,953	29,721	40,692	33,313
Shipments from mills, milled rice.....do....	112,015	133,727	112,522	108,851	103,244	114,555
Stocks, rough and cleaned (cleaned basis).....mil. of lb..	784.8	653.8	1,054.0	956.6	875.5	708.9
Livestock:						
Shipments, feeder, to 9 corn-belt States:						
Cattle and calves.....thous. of animals..	171	212	420	249	183	196
Sheep and lambs.....do....	135	120	161	160	121	139
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Pig iron, production.....thous. of short tons..	5,443	6,464	6,954	7,050	6,603	7,149
Steel forgings (for sale):						
Orders, unfilled, total.....do....	459.7	478.8	592.4	588.6	599.2	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	135.4	154.4	158.1	160.1	151.7	.....
Drop and upset.....do....	102.1	119.2	120.1	124.7	118.1	.....
Press and open hammer.....do....	33.3	35.2	38.0	35.5	33.6	.....
Furnaces, industrial, new orders, net:						
Electric processing.....thous. of dol..	976	1,342	2,188	2,102	1,768	2,221
Fuel-fired (except for hot rolling steel).....do....	4,390	5,609	8,191	6,189	9,770	3,526
Machine tools (metal-cutting types):						
New orders.....mo. avg. shipments, 1945-47=100..	209.4	214.6	534.1	389.6	r291.2	p322.7
Shipments.....do....	168.2	202.5	237.8	184.7	218.4	p250.8
PAPER AND PRINTING						
Paper, excluding building paper, newsprint, and paperboard (American Paper and Pulp Association):						
Orders, new.....thous. of short tons..	919.5	1,049.2	987.0	r908.9	p888.0	.....
Orders, unfilled, end of month.....do....	701.8	756.8	892.0	r885.2	p908.0	.....
Production.....do....	879.7	999.6	r949.5	r1,034.1	p1,020.0	.....
Shipments.....do....	878.5	1,007.3	939.0	r860.8	p861.0	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	420.6	413.5	442.0	r391.8	p387.0	.....

Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Major national security expenditures; not entirely comparable with data for February and March 1955.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

ITEM	1955			1956		
	February	March	December	January	February	March
PAPER AND PRINTING - Continued.						
Paper, excluding building paper, newsprint, and paperboard - Continued						
Fine paper:						
Orders, new.....thous. of short tons..	124.3	133.4	r128.2	r132.6	p131.0	.....
Orders, unfilled, end of month.....do....	72.5	75.6	r113.2	r123.0	p125.0	.....
Production.....do.....	116.7	127.7	r122.7	r131.6	p131.0	.....
Shipments.....do.....	121.5	134.1	r123.9	r133.0	p129.0	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	107.5	101.5	r93.0	r95.3	p85.0	.....
Printing paper:						
Orders, new.....do.....	313.5	362.4	r361.7	r391.4	p368.0	.....
Orders, unfilled, end of month.....do....	359.2	382.4	r465.3	r504.1	p514.0	.....
Production.....do.....	295.4	343.9	r330.2	r349.8	p360.0	.....
Shipments.....do.....	292.1	344.1	r329.5	r346.9	p355.0	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	153.8	153.6	r152.3	r155.2	p160.0	.....
Coarse paper:						
Orders, new.....do.....	304.2	354.2	r316.9	r326.8	p329.0	.....
Orders, unfilled, end of month.....do....	149.6	176.4	r214.4	r210.8	p220.0	.....
Production.....do.....	293.1	331.6	r309.4	r333.6	p322.0	.....
Shipments.....do.....	287.8	332.8	r316.1	r323.6	p319.0	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do.....	89.0	90.4	r88.5	r94.0	p94.0	.....
Newsprint, United States:						
Consumption by publishers.....short tons..	365,221	438,895	419,218	402,259	397,757	446,125
Stocks, end of month:						
At publishers.....do.....	412,197	383,069	360,974	359,955	366,076	366,282
In transit to publishers.....do.....	87,686	82,644	97,378	111,973	107,170	103,927
TEXTILE PRODUCTS						
Men's apparel, cuttings: <u>1/</u>						
Tailored garments:						
Suits.....thous. of units..	1,816	2,065	1,945	1,876	1,860	2,275
Overcoats and topcoats.....do.....	288	335	335	272	288	425
Trousers (separate), dress and sport.....do...	4,944	5,940	5,160	5,280	r5,664	6,000
Shirts (woven fabrics), dress and sport.....thous. of doz..	1,876	2,225	1,890	1,924	r2,060	.....
Work clothing:						
Dungarees and waistband overalls.....do....	388	435	335	328	380	350
Shirts.....do.....	300	415	390	408	416	450
Cotton: <u>1/</u>						
Consumption.....bales..	720,591	893,238	855,447	746,996	760,590	916,396
Spindle activity (cotton system spindles):						
Active spindles, last working day, total.....thousands..	20,954	r20,901	20,988	20,990	20,983	20,888
Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do.....	19,429	19,365	19,440	19,399	19,428	19,350
Spindle hours operated, all fibers, total....mil. of hr..	10,046	r12,404	11,848	10,315	10,347	12,562
Average per working day.....do.....	511	496	474	516	517	503
Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do.....	9,299	11,485	10,992	9,577	9,633	11,740
Operations as percent of capacity.....do.....	140.1	138.5	133.3	146.6	147.2	142.8
Rayon and acetate (filament yarn and staple):						
Shipments, domestic, producers':						
Filament yarn.....mil. of lb..	67.9	83.9	70.8	78.0	r70.4	66.3
Staple (incl. tow).....do.....	33.0	39.1	31.2	35.9	r33.6	33.8
Stocks, producers', end of month:						
Filament yarn.....do.....	50.4	44.3	52.2	49.0	46.1	49.5
Staple (incl. tow).....do.....	25.8	22.2	34.2	34.2	r36.2	40.1

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Data for March and December 1955 and March 1956 cover 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

14, 298

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PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
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WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT

SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS