

BUSINESS STATISTICS

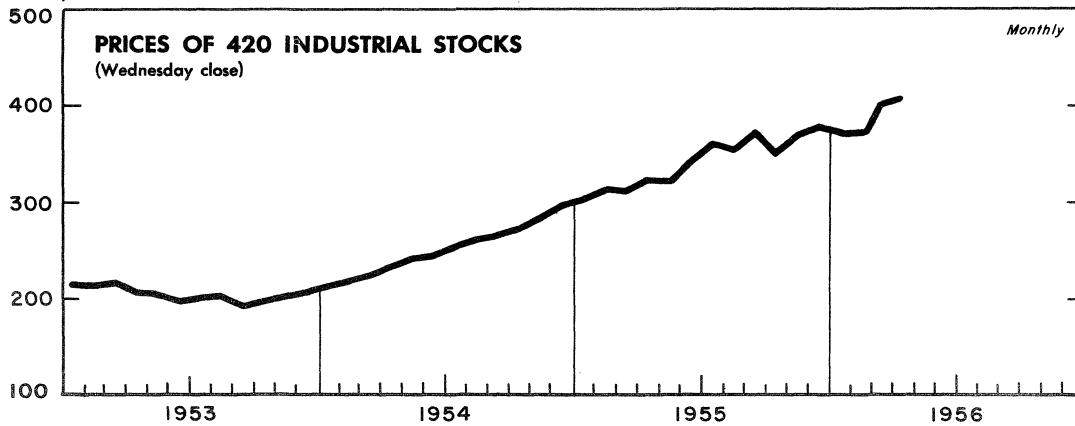


A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

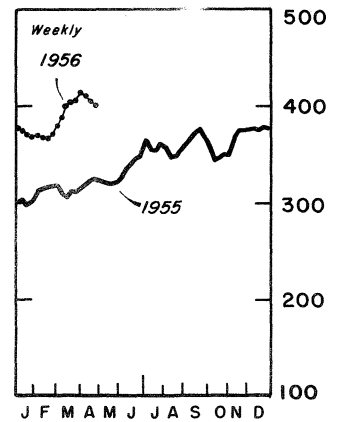
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SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

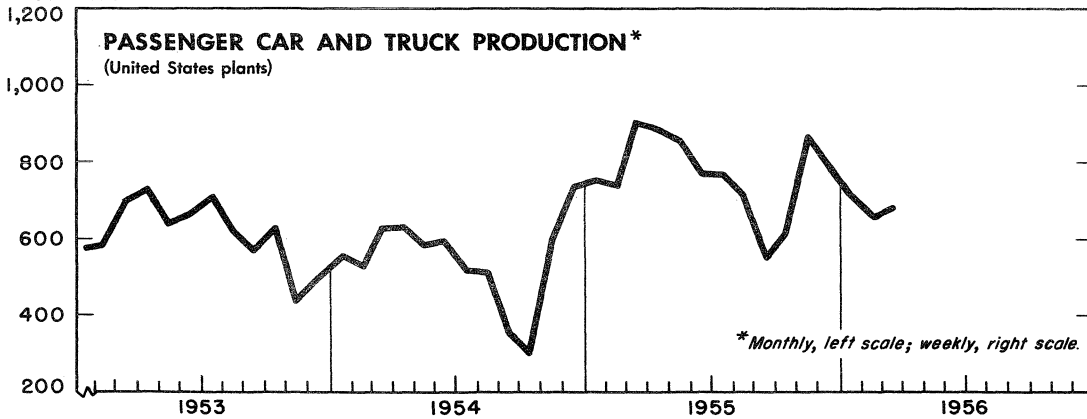
INDEX, 1935-39=100



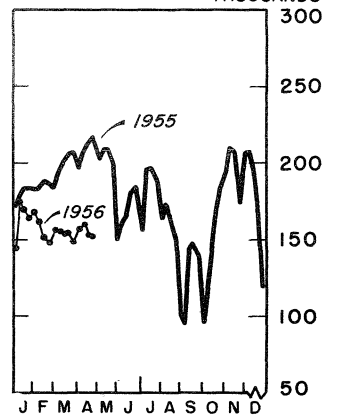
INDEX, 1935-39=100



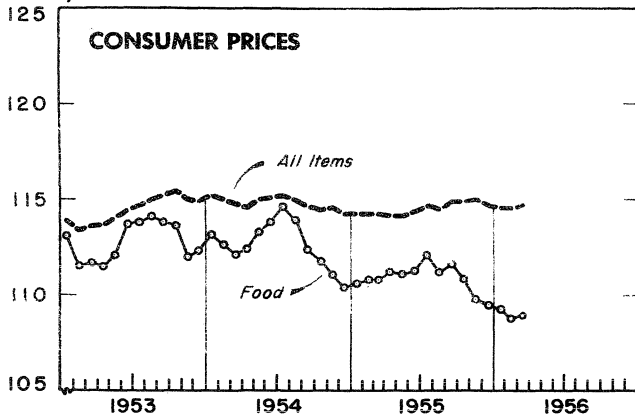
THOUSANDS



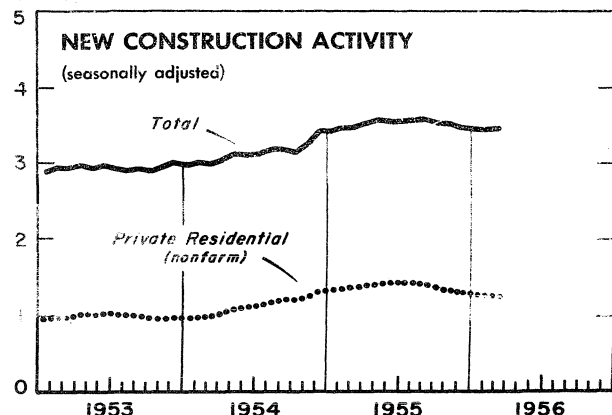
THOUSANDS



INDEX, 1947-49=100



BILLION DOLLARS



WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS¹

ITEM	1955		1956			
	Apr. 23	Apr. 30	Apr. 7	Apr. 14	Apr. 21	Apr. 28
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*110.5	113.5	113.4	113.5	113.7
Farm products.....do....	.....	*94.2	88.4	88.0	88.0	88.6
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*102.5	100.8	100.8	100.7	101.2
All other.....do....	.....	*115.7	121.2	121.3	121.3	121.4
22 commodities 2/.....do....	90.4	89.8	90.9	91.9	91.9	92.1
Department store sales.....do....	112	120	104	114	113	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	1,645	1,563	1,493	1,492	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	1,474	1,400	1,377	1,381	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	29,724	29,718	30,306	30,305	30,215	30,146
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/.....do....	25,175	25,031	25,658	25,481	25,497	25,374
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....	18,895	18,877	18,860	18,917	18,909	18,884
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....	642	617	535	650	642	598
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:4/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	56,613	56,969	55,392	56,211	56,713	.....
Time deposits, except Government.....do....	21,495	21,489	21,640	21,607	21,596	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	84,864	84,778	85,454	85,447	85,487	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	34,063	33,983	27,852	27,696	27,695	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross).....do....	22,530	22,545	27,578	27,683	27,770	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	7,542	7,570	8,344	8,377	8,412	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	204	212	217	255	252	236
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	3.20	3.21	3.35	3.39	3.43	3.46
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) 4/.....1935-39=100..	289.1	288.1	356.2	352.8	349.5	345.8
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do....	324.7	324.0	414.5	410.2	406.0	401.1
Production:						
Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,424	1,427	1,653	1,675	1,650	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	9,697	9,699	10,846	10,918	10,894	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	211,998	216,629	157,662	160,280	153,267	152,432
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	6,832	6,836	7,171	7,156	7,130	.....
Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..	2,284	2,307	2,406	2,483	2,466	2,473
Percent of capacity 5/.....	#94.6	#95.6	97.7	100.9	100.2	100.5
Freight car loadings, total 6/.....thous. of cars..	701	730	685	742	763	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	370	379	371	380	389	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week ended May 5, 1956; Production, 2,473 thous. short tons; operating rate, 99.5 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
DOMESTIC TRADE						
Television advertising:						
Cost of facilities, total.....thous. of dol..	31,279	34,574	39,399	r38,898	37,192	.....
Automotive, including accessories.....do....	3,239	3,725	5,399	5,475	4,831	.....
Drugs and toiletries.....do....	6,835	7,657	8,782	r9,653	9,117	.....
Foods, soft drinks, confectionery.....do....	7,339	7,991	8,427	8,181	8,116	.....
Soaps, cleansers, etc.....do....	3,333	3,728	4,432	4,569	4,570	.....
Smoking materials.....do....	3,262	3,601	3,869	3,557	3,571	.....
EMPLOYMENT						
Labor turnover in manufacturing establishments:						
Accession rate.....monthly rate per 100 employees..	3.2	3.6	2.5	3.3	r3.1	p3.1
Separation rate, total.....do....	2.5	3.0	3.0	3.6	r3.6	p3.6
Discharge.....do....	.2	.2	.2	.3	.3	p.3
Lay-off.....do....	1.1	1.5	1.4	1.7	r1.8	p1.6
Quit.....do....	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.3	p1.4
Military and miscellaneous.....do....	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	p.2
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS						
Operations on scheduled airlines:						
Miles flown, revenue.....thousands..	40,790	45,696	48,500	47,988	44,500	.....
Express and freight ton-miles flown.....do....	14,753	18,174	21,510	16,756	16,108	.....
Mail, ton-miles flown.....do....	6,694	7,597	10,077	7,145	7,181	.....
Passengers carried, revenue.....do....	2,367	2,732	2,724	2,810	2,645	.....
Passenger-miles flown, revenue.....millions..	1,320	1,521	1,578	1,653	1,507	.....
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS						
Synthetic plastics and resin materials, production:						
Cellulose acetate and mixed ester plastics:						
Sheets, rods, and tubes.....thous. of lb..	3,215	4,281	4,041	3,508	3,445	.....
Molding and extrusion materials.....do....	7,177	7,422	7,705	6,492	7,178	.....
Nitrocellulose sheets, rods, and tubes.....do....	364	483	428	519	497	.....
Other cellulose plastics.....do....	559	744	433	450	501	.....
Phenolic and other tar acid resins.....do....	37,195	41,459	43,044	43,407	42,799	.....

ITEM	1955			1956		
	February	March	December	January	February	March
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS - Continued						
Synthetic plastics and resin materials, production - Con.						
Polystyrene.....thous. of lb..	36,360	44,185	47,434	47,002	40,401	.....
Urea and melamine resins.....do....	20,676	24,956	24,206	26,411	26,507	.....
Vinyl resins.....do....	51,650	59,767	61,285	r66,890	61,607	.....
Alkyd resins.....do....	31,909	38,899	35,689	r32,409	32,392	.....
Rosin modifications.....do....	10,478	12,126	10,617	10,823	12,055	.....
ELECTRIC POWER						
Electric power:						
Production, total.....mil. of kw.-hr..	46,269	51,153	57,571	58,092	54,630	57,404
Electric utilities.....do....	40,230	44,449	50,715	51,120	47,988	50,344
Industrial establishments.....do....	6,039	6,703	6,856	6,972	6,642	7,060
Sales to ultimate customers, total (Edison Electric Institute).....mil. of kw.-hr..	*37,092	**r38,256	43,654	44,752	.....	.....
Commercial and industrial:						
Small light and power.....do....	*6,279	**6,384	6,945	7,054	.....	.....
Large light and power.....do....	*18,250	**r18,472	22,702	22,680	.....	.....
Railways and railroads.....do....	*440	**437	433	427	.....	.....
Residential or domestic.....do....	*10,203	**11,071	11,495	12,529	.....	.....
Rural (distinct rural rates).....do....						
Street and highway lighting.....do....	*637	**601	699	683	.....	.....
Other public authorities.....do....	*417	**r420	452	455	.....	.....
Interdepartmental.....do....	*820	**829	876	877	.....	.....
Revenue from sales to ultimate customers (Edison Electric Institute).....thous. of dol..	*46	**r41	50	48	.....	.....
.....thous. of dol..	*644,528	**r659,163	712,806	734,354	.....	.....
FOODSTUFFS						
Dairy products, production:						
Butter, creamery (factory).....thous. of lb..	103,835	120,775	104,555	113,260	111,600	127,430
Cheese (factory), total.....do....	90,245	110,480	93,190	97,030	97,485	116,685
Condensed milk (sweetened), case goods.....do....	2,110	2,950	4,025	3,150	4,285	3,410
Evaporated milk (unsweetened), case goods.....do....	174,800	230,100	152,800	164,200	171,500	209,900
Dry milk:						
Dry whole milk.....do....	6,650	8,650	8,750	7,150	8,700	9,700
Nonfat dry milk solids (human food).....do....	105,600	132,000	113,700	124,900	127,050	152,000
Meats, production, total.....mil. of lb..						
Beef and veal.....thous. of lb..	1,665	1,962	2,340	2,312	2,018	2,128
Lamb and mutton.....do....	760,473	890,867	961,519	1,034,824	909,851	958,896
Pork, including lard.....do....	53,174	61,429	53,849	64,032	56,948	59,290
Lard.....do....	851,694	1,009,567	1,324,890	1,212,803	1,051,573	1,109,446
Coffee, visible supply.....thous. of baqs..	163,743	189,884	261,249	240,907	203,189	224,101
.....	776	517	831	704	793	770
LEATHER AND PRODUCTS						
Leather production:						
Calf and whole kip.....thous. of skins..	945	1,019	807	r824	752	.....
Cattle hide and side kip.....thous. of hides and kips..	2,085	2,325	2,254	r2,181	2,283	.....
Goat and kid.....thous. of skins..	2,171	2,433	2,208	r2,251	2,386	.....
Sheep and lamb.....do....	2,117	2,144	2,288	2,212	2,535	.....
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Iron ore (Lake Superior district):						
Consumption by furnaces.....thous. of long tons..	6,447	7,481	7,663	7,953	7,440	8,008
Stocks, end of month, total.....do....	31,108	23,711	44,359	36,702	29,173	21,283
At furnaces.....do....	25,222	18,616	37,539	30,283	23,677	17,084
On Lake Erie docks.....do....	5,886	5,095	6,820	6,419	5,495	4,200
Castings, gray iron:						
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....thous. of short tons..	852.2	934.2	1,075.5	1,157.8	1,140.8	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	1,106.2	1,314.9	1,259.7	1,249.5	1,214.8	.....
For sale.....do....	578.2	688.7	664.0	677.0	680.5	.....
Castings, malleable iron:						
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....short tons..	101,766	99,730	123,107	116,520	113,616	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	85,979	102,364	99,946	93,562	93,533	.....
For sale.....do....	48,721	60,063	60,409	54,618	54,466	.....
Castings, steel:						
Shipments, total.....do....	106,430	127,460	158,982	158,618	165,398	.....
For sale, total.....do....	80,729	98,926	122,201	123,343	128,598	.....
Railway specialities.....do....	16,501	19,339	29,003	27,954	30,833	.....
Vacuum cleaners, standard type, sales billed.....thousands..	261.2	356.4	243.5	302.2	286.4	395.7
Washers, domestic, sales billed.....do....	353.2	370.6	357.5	393.7	405.6	405.7
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODUCTS						
Glass containers:						
Production.....thous. of gross..	r10,495	r11,537	r10,430	11,097	11,128	11,865
Shipments.....do....	r9,411	r11,058	r11,651	9,578	9,952	11,956
Stocks, end of month.....do....	r14,172	r14,361	r12,814	13,995	14,882	14,516
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT						
Motor vehicles, factory sales, total.....number..						
Coaches, total.....do....	744,942	894,597	799,092	690,253	663,586	689,984
Domestic.....do....	176	325	410	253	278	434
Foreign.....do....	148	267	406	242	274	405
Passenger cars, total.....do....	677,705	791,280	695,096	591,032	560,924	583,169
Domestic.....do....	648,616	765,663	667,974	569,846	536,680	554,761
Trucks, total.....do....	67,061	102,992	103,586	98,968	102,384	106,381
Domestic.....do....	55,253	86,060	86,921	83,752	83,752	86,998

Revised. * Data are for December 1954. ** Data are for January 1955.

ITEM	1955		1956			
	March	April	January	February	March	April
COMMODITY PRICES						
Prices received and paid by farmers:						
Prices received, all farm products.....1910-14=100..	243	247	226	226	230	233
Crops.....do.....	243	252	231	231	239	240
Commercial vegetables, fresh market.....do.....	262	270	244	244	290	208
Cotton.....do.....	269	270	259	262	267	275
Feed grains and hay.....do.....	198	197	171	173	174	185
Food grains.....do.....	239	236	220	220	223	229
Fruit.....do.....	204	216	225	212	211	218
Oil-bearing crops.....do.....	264	261	236	239	245	253
Potatoes <u>1/</u>.....do.....	200	297	161	175	196	234
Tobacco.....do.....	437	437	452	452	453	453
Livestock and products.....do.....	243	242	221	220	221	227
Dairy products.....do.....	248	241	260	256	250	246
Meat animals.....do.....	260	269	207	215	221	237
Poultry and eggs.....do.....	199	185	205	188	187	180
Wool.....do.....	281	274	222	226	224	226
Prices paid:						
All commodities and services.....do.....	265	265	259	259	261	261
Family living items.....do.....	273	274	272	272	274	274
Production items.....do.....	256	254	246	245	246	248
All commod., services, int., taxes, and wage rates, do....	284	284	281	280	282	284
Parity ratio.....do.....	86	87	80	81	82	82
Consumer price index, all items.....1947-49=100..	114.3	114.2	114.6	114.6	<u>2/</u> 114.7	.....
Apparel.....do.....	103.2	103.1	104.1	104.6	104.8	.....
Food.....do.....	110.8	111.2	109.2	108.8	109.0	.....
Dairy products.....do.....	105.4	104.6	107.3	107.3	106.9	.....
Fruits and vegetables.....do.....	112.0	117.5	112.6	113.3	114.8	.....
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do.....	102.3	103.0	93.3	93.6	92.8	.....
Housing.....do.....	119.6	119.5	120.6	120.7	120.7	.....
Gas and electricity.....do.....	110.3	110.3	111.7	111.7	111.7	.....
Housefurnishings.....do.....	104.6	104.5	102.0	102.5	103.1	.....
Rent.....do.....	130.0	129.9	131.4	131.5	131.6	.....
Medical care.....do.....	127.0	127.3	130.7	130.9	131.4	.....
Personal care.....do.....	113.5	113.7	118.5	118.9	119.2	.....
Reading and recreation.....do.....	106.6	106.6	107.3	107.5	107.7	.....
Transportation.....do.....	127.3	125.3	126.8	126.9	126.7	.....
Other goods and services.....do.....	119.8	119.8	120.8	120.9	121.2	.....
Purchasing power of the dollar as measured by—						
Wholesale prices.....1947-49=100..	90.9	90.5	89.4	89.0	<u>3/</u> 88.7	.....
Consumer prices.....do.....	87.5	87.6	87.3	87.3	<u>3/</u> 87.2	.....
Retail food prices.....do.....	90.3	89.9	91.6	91.9	<u>3/</u> 91.7	.....
FINANCE						
Bonds, domestic municipal (15 bonds), Stand. and Poor's Corp.:						
Price.....dol. per \$100 bond..	124.4	124.9	121.3	122.4	120.3	116.9
Yield.....percent.....	2.45	2.43	2.64	2.58	2.69	2.88
Stocks, Standard and Poor's Corp.:						
Dividend yields, pref. stocks, 14 high-grade.....do.....	4.01	3.98	4.03	3.99	4.01	4.15
Prices: Combined index (480 stocks).....1935-39=100..	277.5	286.2	322.9	324.4	346.7	351.1
Industrial (420 stocks).....do.....	310.8	321.5	371.7	372.8	401.3	408.0
Capital goods (129 stocks).....do.....	315.3	330.2	375.0	372.7	403.8	406.2
Consumers' goods (195 stocks).....do.....	233.8	241.0	275.8	272.6	286.5	280.9
Public utility (40 stocks).....do.....	150.4	151.8	152.9	155.4	158.6	156.2
Railroad (20 stocks).....do.....	237.9	252.1	249.4	249.6	264.9	270.5

1/ Includes sweetpotatoes and dry edible beans. 2/ Index based on 1935-39=100 is 191.8. 3/ Indexes based on 1935-39=100 are as follows: Measured by—wholesale prices, 46.4; consumer prices, 52.1; retail food prices, 45.4.

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WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT

SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS