



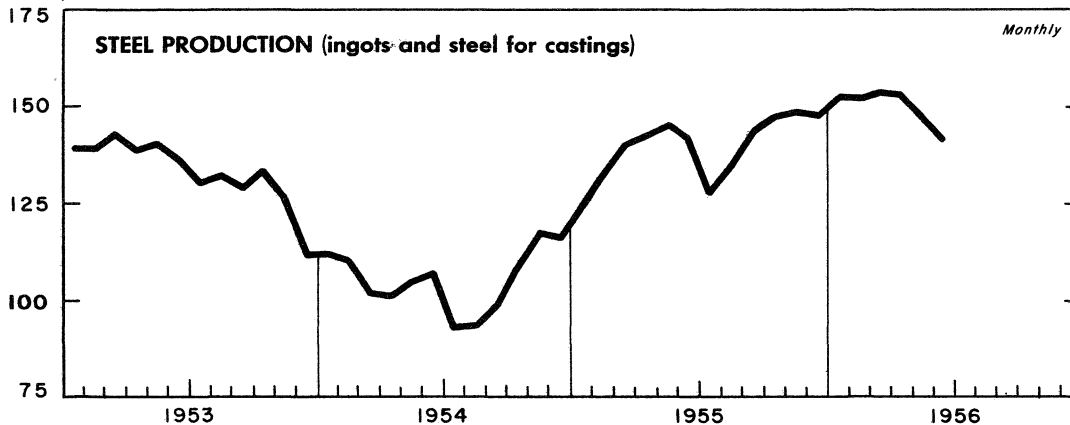
# BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

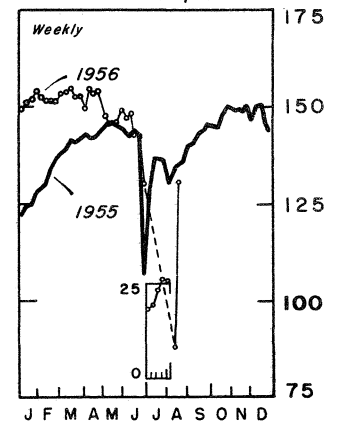
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## SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

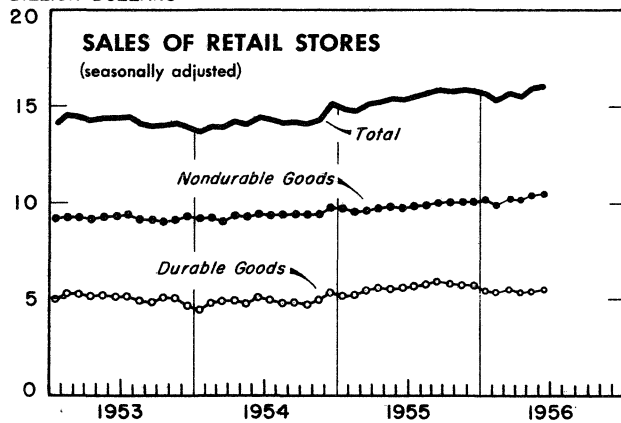
INDEX, 1947-49 = 100



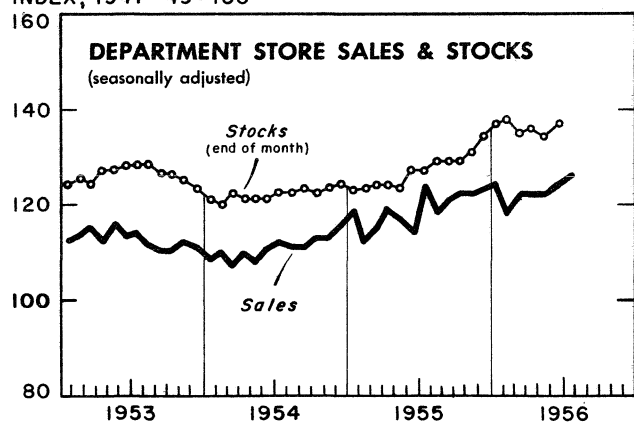
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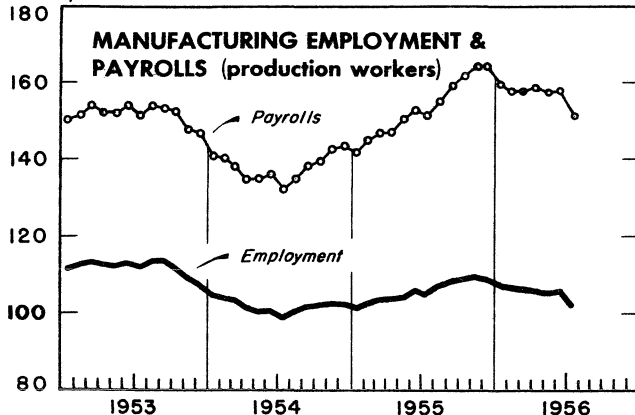
BILLION DOLLARS



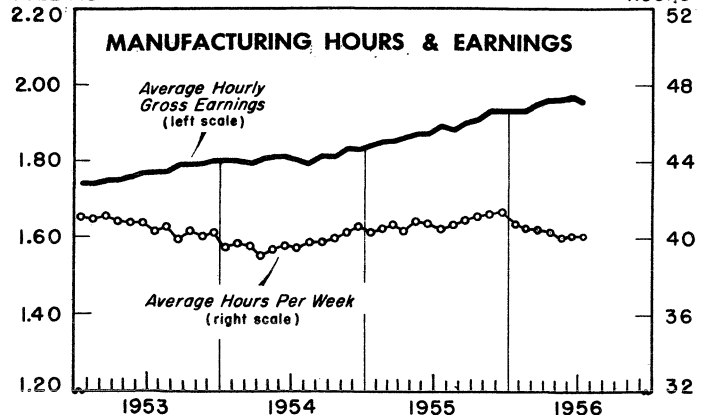
INDEX, 1947-49 = 100



INDEX, 1947-49 = 100



DOLLARS



WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

ITEM	1955		1956			
	Aug. 6	Aug. 13	July 21	July 28	Aug. 4	Aug. 11
<b>Commodity prices, wholesale:</b>						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..		*110.5	114.0	114.1	114.2	114.2
Farm products.....do.....		*89.5	90.3	90.8	90.5	89.4
Foods, processed.....do.....		*103.1	102.4	102.4	102.9	102.6
All other.....do.....		*116.5	121.3	121.4	121.5	121.8
22 commodities 2/.....do.....	90.1	89.9	88.8	88.6	89.4	90.7
Department store sales.....do.....	97	100	96	97	104	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	1,129	1,079	**1,331	1,281	.....	.....
State programs.....do.....	1,020	971	**1,203	1,154	.....	.....
<b>Finance:</b>						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	30,237	30,285	30,808	30,632	30,575	30,633
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/.....do....	25,638	25,584	25,769	25,393	25,172	25,182
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....	18,910	18,824	18,869	18,744	18,591	18,588
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....	590	661	622	544	485	570
<b>Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:4/</b>						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	55,865	55,645	55,774	56,114	55,556	.....
Time deposits, except U. S. Government.....do....	21,552	21,570	21,870	21,893	21,904	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	84,878	84,416	84,905	84,515	84,609	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	31,975	31,634	26,264	26,050	25,978	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross).....do....	23,550	23,754	28,657	28,623	28,734	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	7,993	8,028	8,627	8,651	8,671	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	213	169	223	274	282	229
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	3.27	3.28	3.49	3.52	3.55	3.59
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) 4/.....1935-39=100..	313.7	306.4	360.3	361.8	362.9	363.7
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do....	357.1	348.1	422.5	423.5	424.9	426.2
<b>Production:</b>						
Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,517	1,539	1,500	1,505	1,540	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	10,925	10,729	11,125	11,295	11,190	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	163,105	172,690	139,122	132,673	131,916	.....
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	6,640	6,635	7,111	7,086	7,065	.....
Steel 3/.....thous. of short tons..	2,098	2,157	377	419	415	1,415
Percent of capacity 5/.....	#86.9	#89.4	15.3	17.0	16.9	57.5
Freight carloadings, total 6/.....thous. of cars..	760	775	648	650	660	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	366	374	319	321	320	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week beginning August 13, 1956: Production, 2,106 thous. short tons; operating rate, 85.5 percent. 6/ Data for 1956 adjusted to revised classification of class 1 railroads. \* Monthly index for July 1955. \*\* Revised data for preceding week: Total, 1,358; State programs, 1,237. # Not comparable with 1956 rates which are based on higher capacity.

## MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1955		1956			
	June	July	April	May	June	July
<b>COMMODITY PRICES</b>						
<b>Prices received and paid by farmers:</b>						
Prices received, all farm products.....1910-14=100..	241	236	235	242	247	244
Crops.....do.....	243	236	245	252	263	258
Commercial vegetables, fresh market.....do....	220	206	260	272	310	286
Cotton.....do.....	266	271	275	270	273	274
Feed grains and hay.....do....	196	190	185	192	192	194
Food grains.....do....	232	222	229	226	218	216
Fruit.....do....	240	236	218	233	266	225
Oil-bearing crops.....do....	256	257	253	265	259	250
Potatoes 1/.....do....	212	171	234	283	338	387
Tobacco.....do....	435	435	453	454	453	453
Livestock and products.....do....	240	236	227	233	232	232
Dairy products.....do....	236	242	246	247	247	253
Meat animals.....do....	271	259	237	251	252	246
Poultry and eggs.....do....	177	179	180	178	171	174
Wool.....do....	253	249	226	231	231	233
<b>Prices paid:</b>						
All commodities and services.....do....	263	262	261	264	264	266
Family living items.....do....	274	274	274	278	r280	282
Production items.....do....	250	248	248	250	248	248
All commod., services, int., taxes, and wage rates, do....	282	281	284	286	286	287
Parity ratio.....do....	85	84	83	85	86	85
Retail price:						
All commodities (U.S.Dept.of Commerce Index).....1935-39=100..	207.8	208.6	208.8	209.8	211.7	.....
<b>CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE</b>						
New construction (unadjusted), total.....mil. of dol..	3,936	4,085	3,389	r3,714	r4,008	4,207
Private, total.....do....	2,766	2,862	2,403	r2,550	r2,730	2,815
Residential (nonfarm).....do....	1,545	1,590	1,212	r1,270	r1,362	1,396
New dwelling units.....do....	1,380	1,430	1,070	1,105	r1,180	1,210
Additions and alterations.....do....	133	127	109	128	r142	142
Nonresidential building, total 2/.....do....	633	668	664	r704	r759	786
Industrial.....do....	190	199	237	r251	r261	268
Commercial.....do....	259	277	253	r266	r290	301
Farm construction.....do....	160	169	121	139	150	159
Public utility.....do....	412	419	398	427	448	462

ITEM	1955		1956			
	June	July	April	May	June	July
<b>CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE - Continued</b>						
<b>New construction (unadjusted) - Continued</b>						
Public, total.....mil. of dol..	1,170	1,223	986	1,164	1,278	1,392
Nonresidential building.....do....	383	384	318	357	r357	380
Military facilities.....do....	119	123	98	113	r127	137
Highway.....do....	449	491	350	470	r535	600
<b>New construction (seasonally adjusted), total.....do....</b>						
Private, total.....do....	3,608	3,598	3,658	r3,686	r3,678	3,699
Residential (nonfarm).....do....	2,578	2,607	2,563	r2,559	r2,555	2,575
Nonresidential building, total <u>1/</u> .....do....	1,420	1,435	1,276	r1,257	r1,250	1,258
Farm construction.....do....	622	641	733	r744	r748	758
Public utility.....do....	133	133	127	126	125	125
Public, total.....do....	390	385	419	423	423	424
Nonresidential building.....do....	1,030	991	1,095	1,127	r1,123	1,124
Highway.....do....	364	342	318	327	r340	339
New permanent nonfarm dwelling units started:	350	343	438	443	r425	426
Unadjusted: Total, privately and publicly owned, thousands..	134.5	122.7	r111.3	108.0	104.0	101.0
Privately owned, total.....do....	131.4	121.9	r109.9	107.0	102.3	99.1
In metropolitan areas.....do....	96.2	87.7	r75.3	75.8	73.6	70.0
Publicly owned.....do....	3.1	.8	r1.4	1.0	1.7	1.9
Seasonally adjusted at annual rate:						
Privately owned, total.....do....	1,371.0	1,318.0	r1,157.0	1,110.0	1,070.0	1,070.0
<b>Construction cost indexes:</b>						
Department of Commerce composite.....1947-49=100..	124.4	125.6	129.3	130.2	130.7	.....
<b>DOMESTIC TRADE</b>						
<b>All retail stores:</b>						
Estimated sales (unadjusted), total <u>2/</u> .....mil. of dol..	15,734	15,398	15,029	16,257	r16,724	15,467
Durable-goods stores:						
Automotive group.....do....	3,536	3,271	3,058	3,238	r3,363	3,064
Furniture and appliance group.....do....	847	825	787	874	r921	857
Nondurable-goods stores:						
Apparel group.....do....	868	756	833	963	r989	785
Drug and proprietary stores.....do....	425	434	446	477	r477	467
Eating and drinking places.....do....	1,168	1,274	1,134	1,209	r1,270	1,329
Food group.....do....	3,591	3,761	3,532	3,786	r3,980	3,662
Gasoline service stations.....do....	1,066	1,117	1,090	1,154	r1,201	1,249
General-merchandise group.....do....	1,565	1,412	1,514	1,703	r1,700	1,396
Estimated inventories:						
Unadjusted, total.....do....	22,840	22,730	24,880	24,450	23,520	.....
Durable-goods stores.....do....	10,920	10,850	11,830	11,490	10,870	.....
Nondurable-goods stores.....do....	11,920	11,880	13,050	12,960	12,650	.....
Adjusted, total.....do....	23,190	23,370	23,880	23,900	23,840	.....
Durable-goods stores.....do....	10,780	10,840	11,100	11,030	10,760	.....
Nondurable-goods stores.....do....	12,410	12,530	12,780	12,870	13,080	.....
Firms with 11 or more stores, estimated sales:						
Unadjusted.....do....	2,778	2,729	2,722	3,014	3,167	.....
Adjusted.....do....	2,784	2,809	2,914	3,000	2,999	.....
Department store sales, United States total:						
Unadjusted index.....1947-49=100..	110	98	113	121	118	p99
Adjusted index.....do....	115	124	122	122	r124	p126
<b>Wholesale trade:</b>						
Sales, estimated (unadjusted), total.....mil. of dol..	10,110	9,660	9,900	10,650	10,510	.....
Durable-goods establishments.....do....	3,450	3,190	3,530	3,790	3,790	.....
Nondurable-goods establishments.....do....	6,660	6,470	6,370	6,860	6,710	.....
Inventories, estimated (unadjusted), total.....do....	11,520	11,660	12,620	12,500	12,370	.....
Durable-goods establishments.....do....	6,040	5,950	6,780	6,760	6,710	.....
Nondurable-goods establishments.....do....	5,480	5,710	5,840	5,740	5,660	.....
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES</b>						
<b>Labor force (Bureau of the Census):</b>						
Civilian labor force.....thousands..	66,696	67,465	66,555	<u>3/</u> 67,846	<u>3/</u> 69,430	<u>3/</u> 69,489
Employed.....do....	64,016	64,994	63,990	<u>3/</u> 65,238	<u>3/</u> 66,503	<u>3/</u> 66,655
Agricultural employment.....do....	7,681	7,704	6,387	<u>3/</u> 7,146	<u>3/</u> 7,876	<u>3/</u> 7,700
Nonagricultural employment.....do....	56,335	57,291	57,603	<u>3/</u> 58,092	<u>3/</u> 58,627	<u>3/</u> 58,955
Unemployed.....do....	2,679	2,471	2,564	<u>3/</u> 2,608	<u>3/</u> 2,927	<u>3/</u> 2,833
<b>Employees in nonagricultural establishments: <u>4/</u></b>						
Total, unadjusted (U. S. Department of Labor).....do....	50,165	50,074	50,848	r51,202	r51,730	p51,017
Manufacturing.....do....	16,577	16,477	16,769	r16,715	r16,791	p16,319
Mining.....do....	783	772	790	791	r812	p736
Contract construction.....do....	2,928	3,032	2,853	3,040	r3,260	p3,296
Transportation and public utilities.....do....	4,083	4,113	4,121	r4,138	r4,182	p4,127
Wholesale and retail trade.....do....	10,715	10,707	10,928	r10,985	r11,106	p11,062
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....do....	2,231	2,263	2,278	r2,289	r2,321	p2,349
Service and miscellaneous.....do....	5,937	5,988	5,979	r6,041	r6,086	p6,140
Government.....do....	6,911	6,722	7,130	r7,203	r7,172	p6,988
<b>Production workers in manufacturing industries: <u>4/</u></b>						
Total.....do....	13,078	12,942	13,114	r13,036	r13,077	p12,574
Durable-goods industries.....do....	7,622	7,491	7,674	r7,613	r7,601	p7,117
Ordnance and accessories.....do....	94	94	84	r83	84	p84
Lumber and wood products (except furniture).....do....	717	710	642	r667	r690	p675
Furniture and fixtures.....do....	303	301	315	311	r312	p312
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....	469	463	478	r480	r483	p469
Primary metal industries.....do....	1,101	1,084	1,136	r1,117	r1,122	p721

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Except farm and public utility. 2/ July 1956 figures are advance estimates. 3/ Based on expanded sample. May 1956 figures based on former sample, in same order as above (thous.): 67,739; 65,159; 7,160; 57,999; 2,580. 4/ Revised to the first quarter 1955 benchmark; comparable data for July-December 1955 will be found in the July 1956 monthly SURVEY.

ITEM	1955		1956			
	June	July	April	May	June	July
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES - Continued						
Production workers in manufacturing industries <u>1/</u> - Continued						
Durable-goods industries - Continued						
Fabricated metal products <u>2/</u> .....thousands..	899	879	895	r881	r872	p859
Machinery (except electrical).....do....	1,193	1,171	1,292	r1,281	r1,278	p1,263
Electrical machinery.....do....	811	798	874	r872	r867	p865
Transportation equipment.....do....	1,416	1,388	1,332	r1,295	r1,268	p1,251
Instruments and related products.....do....	225	223	231	231	r231	p233
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....						
Food and kindred products.....do....	5,456	5,451	5,440	5,423	r5,476	p5,457
Tobacco manufactures.....do....	1,095	1,158	1,023	1,051	r1,098	p1,171
Textile-mill products.....do....	82	80	79	80	r80	p79
Apparel and other finished textile products.....do....	975	954	971	963	959	p928
Paper and allied products.....do....	1,047	1,013	1,068	r1,049	r1,050	p1,014
Printing, publishing, and allied products.....do....	452	450	460	462	r467	p457
Chemicals and allied products.....do....	527	524	547	r547	r549	p545
Products of petroleum and coal.....do....	543	541	569	r559	554	p547
Rubber products.....do....	177	178	171	172	r174	176
Leather and leather products.....do....	217	214	219	216	r209	p207
Manufacturing production-worker indexes: <u>1/</u>	341	340	332	325	r335	p332
Employment: Unadjusted.....1947-49=100..	105.7	104.6	106.0	r105.4	r105.7	p101.7
Adjusted.....do....	106.3	106.1	107.1	r106.9	r106.3	p103.1
Payrolls, unadjusted.....do....	152.0	150.9	158.2	r157.3	r157.8	p150.9
Hours and earnings: <u>1/</u>						
Average weekly hours per worker, all manufacturing..hours..	40.7	40.4	40.3	40.0	40.1	p40.1
Durable-goods industries.....do....	41.2	40.9	41.1	40.7	r40.8	p40.8
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	39.9	39.8	39.2	39.1	r39.2	p39.3
Average weekly earnings, all manufacturing.....dollars..	76.11	76.36	78.99	78.40	r79.00	p78.60
Durable-goods industries.....do....	81.58	82.21	85.49	84.66	r85.27	p84.46
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	67.83	68.06	70.17	70.38	r70.95	p71.13
Average hourly earnings, all manufacturing.....do....						
Durable-goods industries.....do....	1.87	1.89	1.96	1.96	r1.97	p1.96
Ordnance and accessories.....do....	1.98	2.01	2.08	2.08	2.09	p2.07
Lumber and wood products (except furniture).....do....	2.04	2.05	2.16	2.17	2.20	p2.21
Furniture and fixtures.....do....	1.72	1.72	1.76	1.79	r1.82	p1.81
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....	1.61	1.60	1.67	1.67	1.68	p1.68
Primary metal industries.....do....	1.85	1.87	1.93	1.93	r1.95	p1.96
Fabricated metal products <u>2/</u> .....do....	2.20	2.29	2.33	2.33	2.34	.....
Machinery (except electrical).....do....	1.96	1.99	2.04	2.04	r2.06	p2.05
Electrical machinery.....do....	2.08	2.08	2.18	2.18	2.19	p2.20
Transportation equipment.....do....	1.87	1.88	1.96	1.96	1.97	p1.98
Instruments and related products.....do....	2.19	2.23	2.26	2.26	r2.28	p2.29
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	1.91	1.90	1.98	1.98	1.99	p1.99
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....						
Food and kindred products.....do....	1.70	1.71	1.79	1.80	1.81	p1.81
Tobacco manufactures.....do....	1.72	1.72	1.85	1.85	r1.85	p1.85
Textile-mill products.....do....	1.40	1.40	1.49	1.50	1.51	p1.52
Apparel and other finished textile products.....do....	1.38	1.37	1.43	1.44	1.43	p1.43
Paper and allied products.....do....	1.33	1.34	1.43	1.42	1.43	p1.44
Printing, publishing, and allied industries.....do....	1.83	1.85	1.90	1.91	r1.93	p1.95
Chemicals and allied products.....do....	2.35	2.35	2.41	2.42	r2.42	p2.42
Products of petroleum and coal.....do....	2.00	2.02	2.07	2.09	r2.11	p2.12
Rubber products.....do....	2.36	2.41	2.54	2.53	r2.55	p2.53
Leather and leather products.....do....	2.10	2.09	2.15	2.16	r2.15	p2.15
Instruments and related products.....do....	1.41	1.39	1.50	1.50	1.50	p1.49

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ See note 4/ on p. 3. 2/ Except ordnance, machinery, and transportation equipment.

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SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS