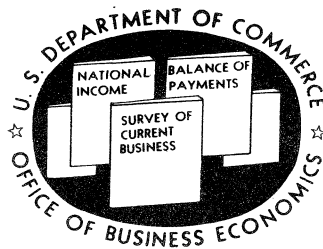


September 21, 1956

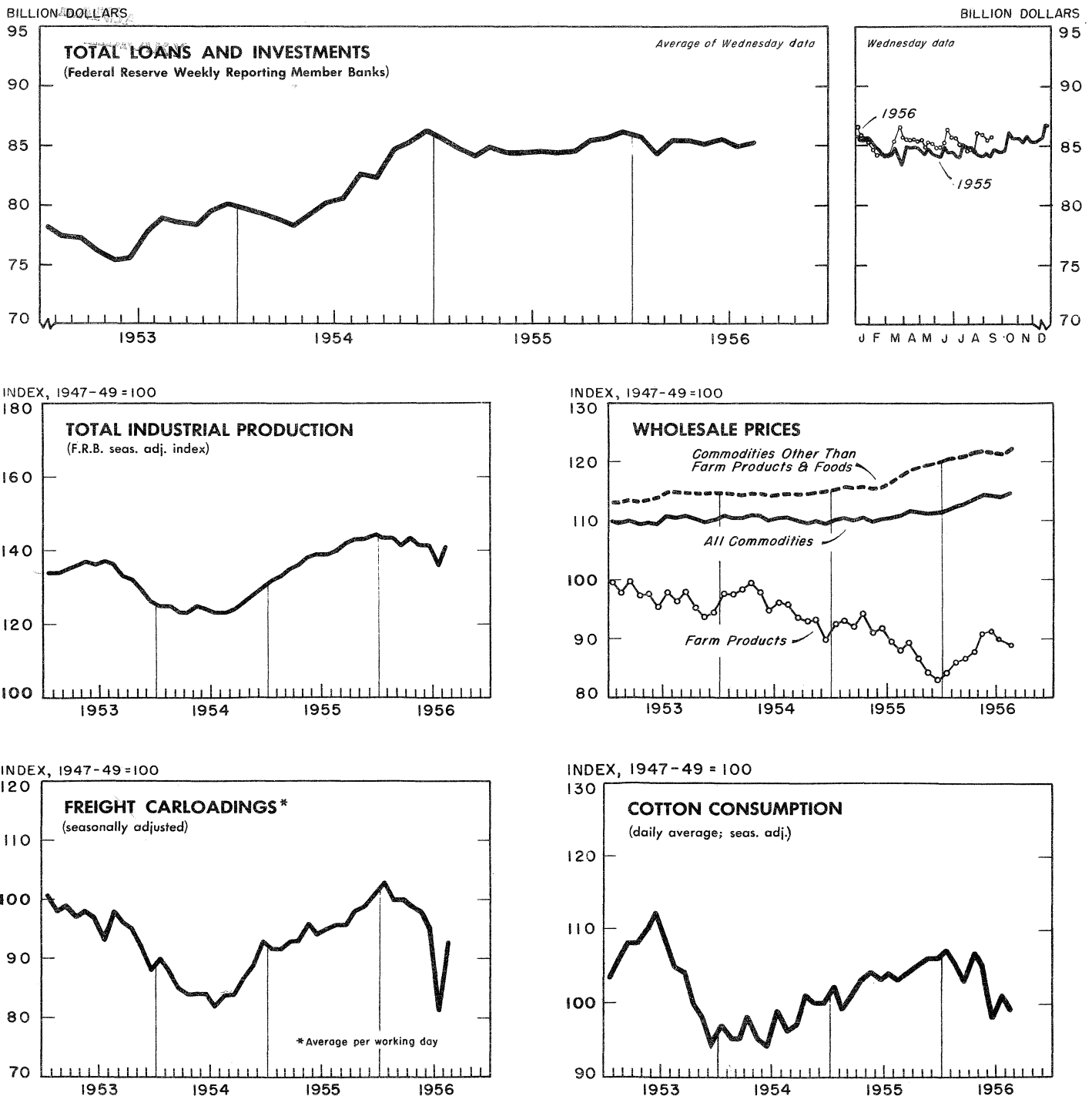


# BUSINESS STATISTICS

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 STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

| ITEM                                                         | 1955     |          | 1956    |         |         |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
|                                                              | Sept. 10 | Sept. 17 | Aug. 25 | Sept. 1 | Sept. 8 | Sept. 15 |
| Commodity prices, wholesale:                                 |          |          |         |         |         |          |
| All commodities.....1947-49=100..                            | .....    | *111.7   | .....   | .....   | 114.8   | 115.1    |
| Farm products.....do.....                                    | .....    | *89.3    | .....   | .....   | 89.2    | 90.1     |
| Foods, processed.....do.....                                 | .....    | *101.5   | .....   | .....   | 103.6   | 103.9    |
| All other.....do.....                                        | .....    | *118.5   | .....   | .....   | 122.4   | 122.6    |
| 22 commodities 2/.....do.....                                | 89.8     | 89.8     | 90.9    | 90.4    | 90.5    | 91.2     |
| Department store sales.....do.....                           | 108      | 125      | 120     | 128     | 112     | .....    |
| Insured unemployment, total.....thous..                      | 1,006    | 965      | 1,137   | 1,083   | .....   | .....    |
| State programs.....do.....                                   | 904      | 870      | 1,030   | 980     | .....   | .....    |
| Finance:                                                     |          |          |         |         |         |          |
| Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..                 | 30,436   | 30,520   | 30,654  | 30,618  | 30,787  | 30,910   |
| Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/.....do.... | 25,401   | 25,577   | 25,642  | 25,404  | 25,454  | 25,934   |
| Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....                   | 18,685   | 18,750   | 19,117  | 18,883  | 18,800  | 19,088   |
| Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....                     | 574      | 608      | 655     | 499     | 449     | 712      |
| Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:4/  |          |          |         |         |         |          |
| Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..                  | 55,555   | 56,110   | 55,007  | 55,381  | 54,882  | .....    |
| Time deposits, except U. S. Government.....do....            | 21,564   | 21,606   | 21,939  | 21,974  | 21,946  | .....    |
| Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....           | 84,150   | 84,735   | 85,857  | 85,541  | 85,660  | .....    |
| U. S. Government obligations.....do....                      | 30,791   | 30,940   | 26,859  | 26,576  | 26,499  | .....    |
| Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross).....do....    | 24,080   | 24,400   | 29,182  | 29,168  | 29,342  | .....    |
| Real-estate loans (gross).....do....                         | 8,135    | 8,188    | 8,737   | 8,738   | 8,746   | .....    |
| Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..             | 205      | 191      | 215     | 237     | 196     | 203      |
| Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..   | 3.32     | 3.31     | 3.65    | 3.68    | 3.71    | 3.74     |
| Stock prices, 480 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) 4/..1935-39=100.. | 319.9    | 325.8    | 350.6   | 348.9   | 353.3   | 346.4    |
| Industrials, 420 stocks.....do....                           | 366.7    | 374.0    | 409.6   | 407.6   | 413.6   | 405.3    |
| Production:                                                  |          |          |         |         |         |          |
| Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short ton..                 | 1,704    | 1,653    | 1,658   | 1,665   | 1,746   | .....    |
| Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..            | 10,155   | 10,623   | 11,340  | 11,565  | 10,955  | .....    |
| Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..              | 94,978   | 143,611  | 88,621  | 76,938  | 62,426  | 83,112   |
| Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..      | 6,655    | 6,684    | 7,127   | 7,108   | 7,037   | .....    |
| Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..                          | 2,264    | 2,309    | 2,359   | 2,389   | 2,429   | 2,477    |
| Percent of capacity 5/.....do....                            | #93.8    | #95.7    | 95.8    | 97.0    | 98.7    | 100.6    |
| Freight car loadings, total 6/.....thous. of cars..          | 707      | 702      | 770     | 784     | 680     | .....    |
| Miscellaneous.....do....                                     | 338      | 337      | 371     | 386     | 330     | .....    |

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week beginning September 17, 1956: Production, 2,452 thous. short tons; operating rate, 99.6 percent. 6/ Data for 1956 adjusted to revised classification of class I railroads. \* Monthly index for September 1955. # Not comparable with 1956 rates which are based on higher capacity.

## MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

| ITEM                                              | 1955 |        | 1956 |      |      |        |
|---------------------------------------------------|------|--------|------|------|------|--------|
|                                                   | July | August | May  | June | July | August |
| GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS                       |      |        |      |      |      |        |
| Industrial production (FRB):                      |      |        |      |      |      |        |
| Unadjusted, combined index.....1947-49=100..      | 130  | 139    | 141  | 141  | r128 | p141   |
| Manufactures.....do.....                          | 132  | 140    | 142  | 142  | r129 | p142   |
| Durable manufactures.....do....                   | 146  | 153    | 157  | 156  | r140 | p155   |
| Primary metals.....do....                         | 122  | 132    | 144  | r140 | r61  | p120   |
| Metal fabricating (including ordnance).....do.... | 157  | 162    | 167  | r166 | r161 | p168   |
| Fabricated metal products.....do....              | 130  | 139    | 130  | 132  | r126 | p136   |
| Machinery.....do....                              | 142  | 153    | 167  | 165  | r158 | p169   |
| Transportation equipment.....do....               | r198 | 192    | 190  | r189 | r187 | p186   |
| Instruments and related products.....do....       | 147  | 150    | 164  | 164  | r162 | p169   |
| Furniture and fixtures.....do....                 | 113  | 123    | 116  | 118  | r115 | p120   |
| Lumber and products.....do....                    | 118  | 133    | 125  | 129  | r116 | p128   |
| Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....        | 149  | 158    | 162  | r163 | r156 | p160   |
| Miscellaneous manufactures.....do....             | 133  | 142    | 140  | 141  | r135 | p142   |
| Nondurable manufactures.....do....                | 117  | 128    | 127  | 127  | 118  | p129   |
| Printing and publishing.....do....                | 121  | 123    | 133  | 130  | 125  | .....  |
| Petroleum and coal products.....do....            | 134  | 138    | 137  | r142 | r130 | p141   |
| Minerals.....do....                               | 119  | 124    | 130  | r131 | 119  | p130   |
| Coal.....do....                                   | 77   | 82     | 85   | 84   | 62   | p87    |
| Crude oil and natural gas.....do....              | 139  | 141    | 149  | 148  | 148  | p149   |
| Adjusted, combined index.....do....               | 139  | 140    | 141  | 141  | 136  | p141   |
| Manufactures.....do....                           | 141  | 142    | 143  | r143 | r137 | p143   |
| Durable manufactures.....do....                   | 155  | 158    | 157  | 157  | r148 | p159   |
| Primary metals.....do....                         | 134  | 139    | 141  | r139 | r67  | p127   |
| Metal fabricating (including ordnance).....do.... | 166  | 168    | 167  | 168  | r170 | p174   |
| Fabricated metal products.....do....              | 135  | 137    | 130  | 132  | r131 | p134   |
| Machinery.....do....                              | 158  | 159    | 168  | 168  | 172  | p176   |
| Transportation equipment.....do....               | 202  | 203    | 187  | r190 | r190 | p194   |
| Instruments and related products.....do....       | 151  | 153    | 164  | 164  | r167 | p173   |
| Furniture and fixtures.....do....                 | 122  | 124    | 121  | 123  | r123 | p121   |
| Lumber and products.....do....                    | r126 | 127    | 121  | 123  | 123  | p122   |
| Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....        | 152  | 155    | 162  | r161 | r160 | p157   |
| Miscellaneous manufactures.....do....             | 143  | 145    | 145  | r145 | r145 | p145   |

| ITEM                                                         | 1955    |         | 1956     |         |         |         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                                              | July    | August  | May      | June    | July    | August  |
| GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS - Continued                      |         |         |          |         |         |         |
| Industrial production, adjusted index (FRB) - Continued      |         |         |          |         |         |         |
| Manufactures - Continued                                     |         |         |          |         |         |         |
| Nondurable manufactures.....1947-49=100..                    | 126     | 125     | 128      | 128     | 127     | p127    |
| Printing and publishing.....do....                           | 128     | 128     | 132      | r132    | 133     | .....   |
| Petroleum and coal products.....do....                       | 134     | 135     | 140      | r142    | r130    | p138    |
| Minerals.....do....                                          | 120     | 121     | 129      | r130    | 122     | p128    |
| Coal.....do....                                              | 87      | 82      | 89       | 90      | 77      | p87     |
| Crude oil and natural gas.....do....                         | 139     | 141     | 149      | 148     | 148     | p149    |
| Consumer durables output (FRB):                              |         |         |          |         |         |         |
| Unadjusted index, total.....do....                           | 137     | 139     | 124      | 124     | r116    | p122    |
| Major consumer durables.....do....                           | 152     | 152     | 131      | 130     | r121    | p126    |
| Autos.....do....                                             | 195     | 166     | 127      | 127     | 127     | p109    |
| Major household goods.....do....                             | 115     | 141     | 136      | 134     | 117     | .....   |
| Other consumer durables.....do....                           | 103     | 110     | 109      | 109     | r106    | p112    |
| Adjusted index, total.....do....                             | 150     | 151     | 124      | 124     | r129    | p129    |
| Major consumer durables.....do....                           | 169     | 169     | 130      | 130     | r137    | p137    |
| Autos.....do....                                             | 188     | 189     | 119      | 120     | 122     | p125    |
| Major household goods.....do....                             | r150    | 155     | 142      | r141    | 152     | .....   |
| Other consumer durables.....do....                           | 106     | 107     | 110      | 110     | r110    | p109    |
| COMMODITY PRICES                                             |         |         |          |         |         |         |
| Retail price:                                                |         |         |          |         |         |         |
| All commodities (U.S.Dept.of Commerce index)..1935-39=100..  | 208.6   | 208.1   | 209.8    | 211.7   | 213.1   | .....   |
| Wholesale price index, all commodities.....1947-49=100..     | 110.5   | 110.9   | 114.4    | 114.2   | 114.0   | 114.6   |
| Economic sector:                                             |         |         |          |         |         |         |
| Crude materials for further processing.....do....            | 95.1    | 93.8    | 96.6     | 95.7    | 95.0    | 96.4    |
| Intermediate materials, supplies, and components.....do....  | 116.8   | 117.6   | 122.2    | 121.7   | 121.3   | 122.5   |
| Finished goods 1/.....do....                                 | 110.5   | 110.9   | 113.6    | 114.0   | r114.0  | 114.1   |
| Farm products.....do....                                     | 89.5    | 88.1    | 90.9     | 91.2    | r90.0   | 89.1    |
| Fruits and vegetables, fresh and dried.....do....            | 98.7    | 99.5    | 111.8    | 120.2   | 111.8   | 94.8    |
| Grains.....do....                                            | 86.7    | 78.6    | 90.5     | 86.9    | 88.4    | 88.8    |
| Livestock and live poultry.....do....                        | 79.4    | 75.5    | 74.4     | 74.8    | 72.9    | 76.1    |
| Foods, processed.....do....                                  | 103.1   | 101.9   | 102.4    | 102.3   | 102.2   | 102.6   |
| Cereal and bakery products.....do....                        | 117.6   | 115.1   | 115.5    | 115.3   | r114.8  | 114.1   |
| Dairy products and ice cream.....do....                      | 106.0   | 107.8   | 107.9    | 108.0   | 107.9   | 109.2   |
| Fruits and vegetables, canned and frozen.....do....          | 104.6   | 105.0   | 109.3    | 109.7   | 109.3   | 107.4   |
| Meats, poultry, and fish.....do....                          | 88.5    | 86.3    | 82.1     | 83.1    | 83.7    | 85.1    |
| Commodities other than farm products and foods.....do....    | 116.5   | 117.5   | 121.7    | 121.5   | r121.4  | 122.4   |
| Chemicals and allied products.....do....                     | 106.0   | 105.9   | 106.9    | 107.1   | 107.3   | 107.3   |
| Chemicals, industrial.....do....                             | 118.2   | 118.1   | 120.8    | 121.1   | r122.1  | 122.1   |
| Fuel, power, and lighting materials.....do....               | 106.4   | 107.2   | 110.8    | 110.5   | r110.7  | 110.6   |
| Petroleum and products.....do....                            | 111.6   | 113.0   | 118.3    | 118.3   | 118.8   | 118.3   |
| Furniture, other household durables.....do....               | 115.5   | 116.0   | 118.0    | 118.1   | r118.3  | 119.1   |
| Appliances, household.....do....                             | 106.5   | 106.6   | 105.0    | 105.1   | r104.4  | 105.0   |
| Hides, skins, and leather products.....do....                | 93.7    | 93.8    | 100.0    | 100.2   | r100.1  | 100.0   |
| Lumber and wood products.....do....                          | 124.1   | 125.1   | 128.0    | 127.3   | r126.6  | 125.4   |
| Lumber.....do....                                            | 125.1   | 126.4   | 130.4    | 129.6   | r128.5  | 127.5   |
| Machinery and motive products.....do....                     | 127.5   | 128.5   | 136.5    | 136.8   | 136.9   | 137.7   |
| Electrical machinery and equipment.....do....                | 126.7   | 127.7   | 137.0    | 137.6   | r137.4  | 138.1   |
| Motor vehicles.....do....                                    | 122.0   | 122.0   | 129.1    | 129.1   | r129.2  | 129.1   |
| Metals and metal products.....do....                         | 136.7   | 139.5   | 146.8    | 145.8   | r144.9  | 150.1   |
| Iron and steel.....do....                                    | 143.1   | 144.9   | 150.8    | 149.5   | r149.9  | 159.1   |
| Nonmetallic minerals, structural.....do....                  | 125.3   | 126.1   | 128.6    | 128.9   | 130.6   | 130.8   |
| Pulp, paper, and allied products.....do....                  | 119.0   | 119.7   | 127.3    | 127.4   | 127.7   | 127.9   |
| Paper.....do....                                             | 130.7   | 130.5   | 136.2    | r137.0  | r138.2  | 138.2   |
| Rubber and products.....do....                               | 143.4   | 148.7   | 143.5    | 142.8   | 143.3   | 146.5   |
| Textile products and apparel.....do....                      | 95.3    | 95.3    | 94.9     | 94.9    | 94.9    | 94.8    |
| Apparel.....do....                                           | 98.6    | 98.6    | 99.4     | 99.7    | r99.8   | 99.7    |
| Tobacco manufactures and bottled beverages.....do....        | 121.6   | 121.7   | 121.6    | 121.6   | 121.7   | 122.7   |
| CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE                                 |         |         |          |         |         |         |
| Contract awards (Engineering News-Record):                   |         |         |          |         |         |         |
| Engineering construction 2/.....mil. of dol..                | 1,684   | 1,240   | 2,120    | 1,622   | 1,835   | 1,828   |
| New permanent nonfarm dwelling units started:                |         |         |          |         |         |         |
| Unadjusted: Total, privately and publicly owned..thousands.. | 122.7   | 124.7   | r113.7   | 104.0   | 101.0   | 101.0   |
| Privately owned, total.....do....                            | 121.9   | 122.3   | r110.8   | 102.3   | 99.1    | 100.5   |
| In metropolitan areas.....do....                             | 87.7    | 89.2    | r76.3    | 73.6    | 70.0    | 69.0    |
| Publicly owned.....do....                                    | .8      | 2.4     | r2.9     | 1.7     | 1.9     | .5      |
| Seasonally adjusted at annual rate:                          |         |         |          |         |         |         |
| Privately owned, total.....do....                            | 1,318.0 | 1,346.0 | r1,146.0 | 1,070.0 | 1,070.0 | 1,110.0 |
| Construction cost indexes:                                   |         |         |          |         |         |         |
| The American Appraisal Co., average, 30 cities...1913=100..  | 611     | 613     | 631      | 634     | 638     | 641     |
| Atlanta.....do....                                           | 664     | 664     | 676      | 679     | 692     | 695     |
| New York.....do....                                          | 629     | 641     | 655      | 660     | 667     | 681     |
| San Francisco.....do....                                     | 568     | 573     | 596      | 596     | 596     | 597     |
| St. Louis.....do....                                         | 604     | 605     | 633      | 635     | 635     | 637     |
| Associated General Contractors (all types).....do....        | 443     | 443     | 456      | 461     | 467     | 467     |
| Engineering News-Record: Building 3/.....1947-49=100..       | 141.4   | 141.7   | 144.5    | 144.7   | 145.3   | 147.9   |
| Construction 3/.....do....                                   | 148.4   | 148.5   | 152.8    | 153.4   | 153.7   | 155.6   |
| METALS AND MANUFACTURES                                      |         |         |          |         |         |         |
| Steel ingots and steel for castings:                         |         |         |          |         |         |         |
| Production.....thous. of short tons..                        | 9,101   | 9,595   | 10,490   | r9,721  | r1,622  | p8,148  |
| Percent of capacity.....                                     | 85      | 90      | 96       | 92      | r15     | p75     |

| ITEM                                                        | 1955    |          | 1956     |          |         |         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|
|                                                             | July    | August   | May      | June     | July    | August  |
| METALS AND MANUFACTURES - Continued                         |         |          |          |          |         |         |
| Steel products, net shipments:                              |         |          |          |          |         |         |
| Total (all grades).....thous. of short tons..               | 6,251   | 7,054    | 7,765    | 8,078    | .....   | .....   |
| Semifinished products.....do....                            | 358     | 399      | 393      | 417      | .....   | .....   |
| Structural shapes (heavy), steel piling.....do....          | 388     | 411      | 516      | 538      | .....   | .....   |
| Plates.....do....                                           | 506     | 543      | 695      | 754      | .....   | .....   |
| Rails and accessories.....do....                            | 180     | 155      | 206      | 203      | .....   | .....   |
| Bars and tool steel, total.....do....                       | 933     | 1,081    | 1,267    | 1,288    | .....   | .....   |
| Bars: Hot rolled (incl. light shapes).....do....            | 627     | 717      | 853      | 826      | .....   | .....   |
| Reinforcing.....do....                                      | 177     | 197      | 230      | 275      | .....   | .....   |
| Cold finished.....do....                                    | 122     | 158      | 171      | 174      | .....   | .....   |
| Pipe and tubing.....do....                                  | 824     | 885      | 1,055    | 1,000    | .....   | .....   |
| Wire and wire products.....do....                           | 283     | 355      | 408      | 457      | .....   | .....   |
| Tin mill products (incl. black plate).....do....            | 417     | 618      | 485      | 625      | .....   | .....   |
| Sheets and strip (incl. electrical), total.....do....       | 2,362   | 2,606    | 2,739    | 2,796    | .....   | .....   |
| Sheets: Hot rolled.....do....                               | 703     | 777      | 794      | 816      | .....   | .....   |
| Cold rolled (incl. enameling).....do....                    | 1,120   | 1,198    | 1,268    | 1,277    | .....   | .....   |
| PAPER AND PRINTING                                          |         |          |          |          |         |         |
| Paper, excluding building paper, newsprint, and paperboard: |         |          |          |          |         |         |
| Orders, new <u>1</u> /.....thous. of short tons..           | 894.2   | 949.4    | r910.1   | r849.1   | 829.0   | .....   |
| Orders, unfilled, end of month <u>1</u> /.....do....        | 838.6   | 860.8    | r957.7   | r898.2   | 929.0   | .....   |
| Production.....do....                                       | 850.7   | 950.5    | r1,057.5 | r1,024.8 | 949.0   | .....   |
| Shipments <u>1</u> /.....do....                             | 834.8   | 941.6    | r908.8   | r886.1   | 799.0   | .....   |
| Stocks, end of month <u>1</u> /.....do....                  | 436.9   | 446.9    | r401.6   | r398.4   | 391.0   | .....   |
| Fine paper:                                                 |         |          |          |          |         |         |
| Orders, new.....do....                                      | 109.4   | 113.5    | r144.8   | r129.9   | 121.0   | .....   |
| Orders, unfilled, end of month.....do....                   | 103.4   | 96.2     | r143.7   | r143.1   | 151.0   | .....   |
| Production.....do....                                       | 98.6    | 116.7    | r141.3   | r136.4   | 119.0   | .....   |
| Shipments.....do....                                        | 98.9    | 118.6    | r142.2   | r141.4   | 117.0   | .....   |
| Stocks, end of month.....do....                             | 99.6    | 94.7     | r100.2   | r98.8    | 89.0    | .....   |
| Printing paper:                                             |         |          |          |          |         |         |
| Orders, new.....do....                                      | 317.0   | 337.1    | r372.7   | r359.4   | 343.0   | .....   |
| Orders, unfilled, end of month.....do....                   | 433.3   | 451.5    | r545.5   | r526.7   | 541.0   | .....   |
| Production.....do....                                       | 285.8   | 329.7    | r368.0   | r354.2   | 328.0   | .....   |
| Shipments.....do....                                        | 280.7   | 330.7    | r368.2   | r354.7   | 326.0   | .....   |
| Stocks, end of month.....do....                             | 156.2   | 155.2    | r159.8   | r159.2   | 161.0   | .....   |
| Coarse paper:                                               |         |          |          |          |         |         |
| Orders, new.....do....                                      | 296.9   | 313.9    | r338.0   | r307.7   | 310.0   | .....   |
| Orders, unfilled, end of month.....do....                   | 181.0   | 188.9    | r213.3   | r180.7   | 187.0   | .....   |
| Production.....do....                                       | 284.0   | 311.0    | r343.6   | r333.7   | 304.0   | .....   |
| Shipments.....do....                                        | 282.2   | 308.2    | r342.4   | r330.5   | 303.0   | .....   |
| Stocks, end of month.....do....                             | 87.6    | 93.4     | r89.2    | r90.3    | 91.0    | .....   |
| TEXTILE PRODUCTS                                            |         |          |          |          |         |         |
| Cotton: <u>2</u> /                                          |         |          |          |          |         |         |
| Consumption.....bales..                                     | 565,834 | r717,115 | 713,940  | 812,330  | 549,520 | 686,275 |
| Manufactures:                                               |         |          |          |          |         |         |
| Spindle activity (cotton system spindles):                  |         |          |          |          |         |         |
| Active spindles, last working day, total....thousands..     | 20,716  | r20,738  | 20,796   | 20,492   | 20,552  | 20,465  |
| Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do....                     | 19,132  | 19,136   | 19,276   | 18,954   | 19,022  | 18,912  |
| Spindle hours operated, all fibers, total..mil. of hr..     | 8,216   | r10,064  | 9,793    | 11,459   | 7,713   | 9,544   |
| Average per working day.....do....                          | 411     | r503     | 490      | 458      | 386     | 477     |
| Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do....                     | 7,527   | 9,293    | 9,128    | 10,664   | 7,128   | 8,849   |
| Operations as percent of capacity.....do....                | 115.3   | 141.4    | 139.6    | 130.6    | 110.1   | 137.4   |

1/ Revised. 2/ Beginning 1956, excludes estimates for "tissue paper." 2/ Data for June 1956 cover 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.  
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