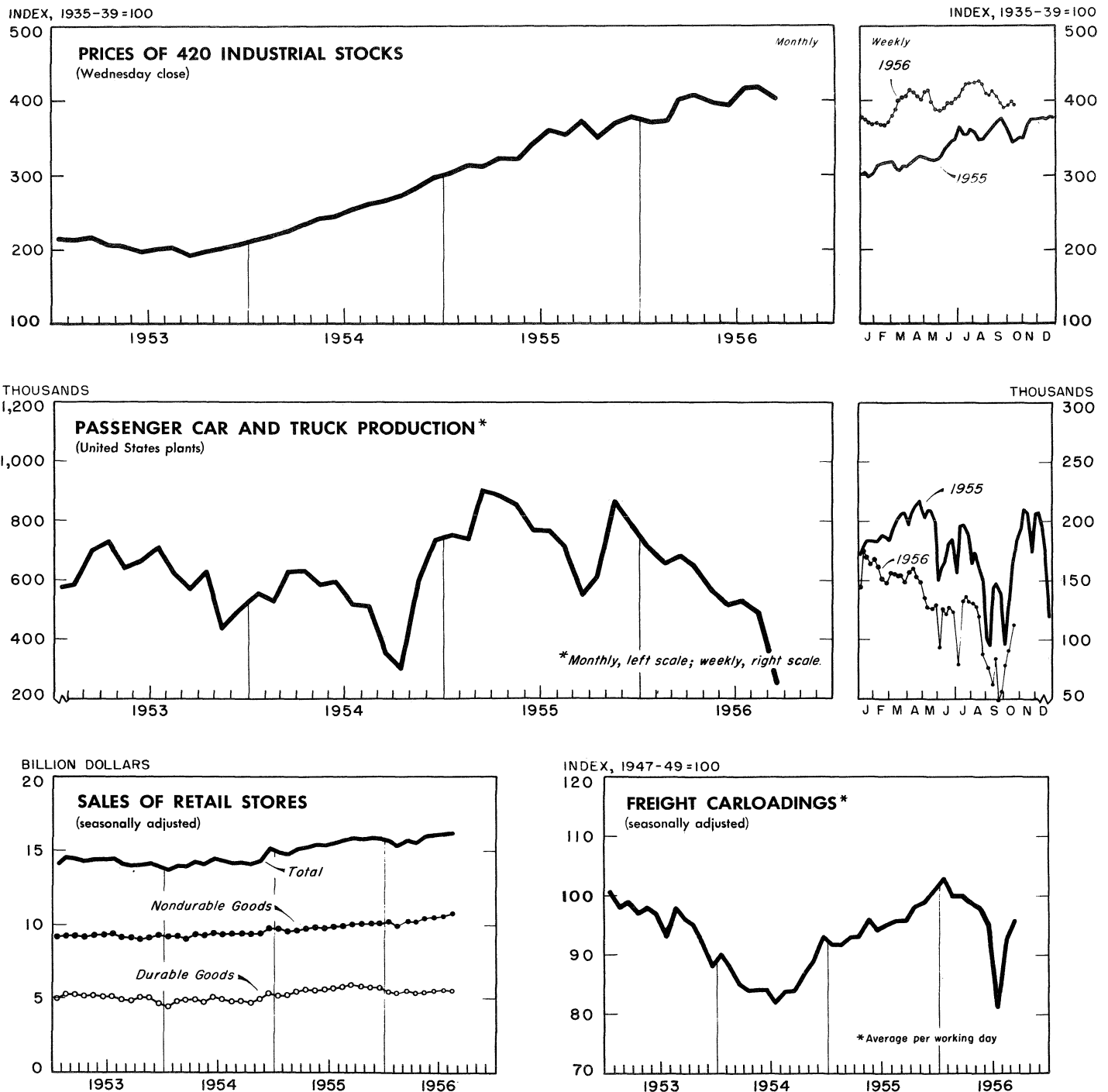


BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

Available only with subscription to the SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS, at \$4.00 annually, this Supplement provides selected weekly and monthly data subsequent to those published in the latest monthly SURVEY

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS



WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS¹

ITEM	1955		1956			
	Oct. 15	Oct. 22	Sept. 29	Oct. 6	Oct. 13	Oct. 20
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*111.6	.....	115.2	115.0	115.1
Farm products.....do....	.....	*86.8	.....	88.9	88.1	88.4
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*100.2	.....	104.1	103.3	103.4
All other.....do....	.....	*119.0	.....	122.9	123.0	123.0
22 commodities <u>2/</u>.....do....	89.5	89.5	91.8	91.1	90.6	90.7
Department store sales.....do....	128	133	130	127	134	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	870	861	969	940	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	789	781	901	874	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation <u>3/</u>.....mil. of dol..	30,552	30,621	30,714	30,767	30,880	30,953
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total <u>3/</u>....do....	25,714	26,169	25,694	25,593	25,707	25,810
Member bank reserve balances <u>3/</u>.....do....	18,728	19,119	18,981	18,935	18,929	18,890
Excess reserves, estimated <u>3/</u>.....do....	553	625	542	517	597	571
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:^{4/}						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	55,618	56,293	55,374	54,915	55,289	.....
Time deposits, except U. S. Government.....do....	21,710	21,676	22,026	22,040	22,043	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	86,102	85,542	85,677	85,655	85,338	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	30,282	31,419	26,096	25,979	25,732	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)....do....	25,114	25,082	29,724	29,849	29,833	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	7,972	8,001	8,810	8,794	8,815	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	203	239	251	253	259	254
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) <u>3/</u>.....percent..	3.30	3.30	3.78	3.79	3.80	3.81
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) <u>4/</u> ..1935-39=100..	301.2	305.5	335.0	337.1	340.2	337.9
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do....	343.8	349.4	390.9	393.9	398.3	394.6
Production:						
Bituminous coal <u>3/</u>.....thous. of short tons..	1,635	1,629	1,752	1,735	1,705	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	10,599	10,644	11,365	11,342	11,300	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	126,166	163,816	56,685	79,277	91,203	113,430
Petroleum (crude) and condensate <u>3/</u>.....thous. of bbl..	6,714	6,753	7,044	7,022	6,990	.....
Steel <u>5/</u>.....thous. of short tons..	2,330	2,386	2,502	2,506	2,483	2,495
Percent of capacity <u>5/</u>.....do....	#96.5	#98.9	101.6	101.8	100.9	101.4
Freight carloadings, total <u>6/</u>.....thous. of cars..	822	834	831	815	823	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	408	418	403	391	399	.....

^{1/} Data do not always cover calendar weeks. ^{2/} Tuesday prices. ^{3/} Daily average. ^{4/} Wednesday data. ^{5/} Week beginning October 22, 1956: Production, 2,489 thous. short tons; operating rate, 101.1 percent. ^{6/} Data for 1956 adjusted to revised classification of class 1 railroads.
* Monthly index for October 1955. # Not comparable with 1956 rates which are based on higher capacity.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1955		1956			
	August	September	June	July	August	September
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS						
Business incorporations:						
New incorporations (48 States).....number..	10,983	11,024	11,952	11,513	11,339	9,583
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
Construction contracts awarded, 37 States (F.W.Dodge Corp.):						
Total projects.....number..	64,144	57,673	62,249	56,713	61,271	53,757
Total valuation.....mil. of dol..	1,895	2,035	2,198	2,149	2,069	2,025
Building, total.....do....	1,517	1,442	1,620	1,605	1,621	1,540
Highway concrete pavement contract awards: ^{1/}						
Total.....thous. of sq. yd..	9,346	5,798	7,679	4,795	8,398	5,267
Airports.....do....	288	490	720	408	1,486	695
Roads.....do....	5,321	2,246	4,149	1,893	3,219	1,911
Streets and alleys.....do....	3,737	3,062	2,810	2,494	3,693	2,661
Construction cost index:						
E. H. Boeckh and Associates:						
Apartments, hotels, and office buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....U. S. avg. 1926-29=100..	266.7	267.8	278.0	279.6	280.2	280.8
Brick and steel.....do....	262.6	263.6	273.7	275.3	275.9	276.7
Brick and wood.....do....	264.9	265.7	276.1	276.7	277.2	277.0
Commercial and factory buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....do....	274.6	275.7	286.6	287.8	288.2	288.9
Brick and steel.....do....	272.4	273.3	283.5	286.7	287.3	288.6
Brick and wood.....do....	263.2	264.0	274.6	275.2	275.9	275.9
Frame.....do....	264.8	265.4	275.9	276.0	276.2	275.4
Steel.....do....	257.8	258.5	267.5	272.8	273.2	274.9
Residences:						
Brick.....do....	265.6	266.3	276.8	277.2	277.8	277.4
Frame.....do....	259.6	260.3	270.4	270.6	271.0	270.5
FINANCE						
Federal Government finance:						
Receipts, total.....mil. of dol..	5,848	6,180	p12,574	3,927	5,959	6,897
Receipts, net.....do....	4,734	5,498	p11,576	3,485	4,954	6,218
Customs.....do....	55	57	p57	63	64	60
Income and employment taxes.....do....	4,459	4,968	p11,256	2,601	4,772	5,846
Miscellaneous internal revenue.....do....	945	947	p966	970	1,030	869
All other receipts.....do....	390	208	p294	292	93	122

ITEM	1955		1956			
	August	September	June	July	August	September
FINANCE - Continued						
Federal Government finance - Continued						
Expenditures, total.....mil. of dol..	6,225	5,340	p6,783	5,542	5,902	4,918
Interest on public debt.....do....	522	529	p608	627	567	570
Veterans' services and benefits.....do....	428	353	p405	p368	p383	p345
Major national security.....do....	3,583	3,512	p4,316	p2,951	p3,580	p3,153
All other expenditures.....do....	1,692	946	p1,455	p1,595	p1,371	p850
Life insurance (Institute of Life Insurance):						
Assets, total, all U.S. life insurance companies.....do....	88,087	88,529	92,876	93,580	93,992	.....
Bonds (book value), domestic and foreign, total.....do....	47,414	47,578	48,279	48,594	48,665	.....
U. S. Government.....do....	9,179	9,129	7,921	7,886	7,778	.....
State, county, municipal (U. S.).....do....	1,979	1,983	2,148	2,191	2,206	.....
Public utility (U. S.).....do....	13,319	13,366	13,762	13,835	13,903	.....
Railroad (U. S.).....do....	3,776	3,786	3,854	3,853	3,853	.....
Industrial and miscellaneous (U. S.).....do....	16,704	16,858	18,059	18,256	18,340	.....
Stocks (book value), domestic and foreign, total.....do....	2,875	2,870	2,964	2,995	2,998	.....
Preferred (U. S.).....do....	1,728	1,720	1,726	1,727	1,724	.....
Common (U. S.).....do....	1,139	1,142	1,226	1,254	1,260	.....
Mortgage loans, total.....do....	28,001	28,250	31,284	31,612	31,897	.....
Nonfarm.....do....	25,787	26,025	28,884	29,188	29,454	.....
Real estate.....do....	2,471	2,492	2,673	2,711	2,727	.....
Policy loans and premium notes.....do....	3,245	3,260	3,409	3,400	3,420	.....
Cash.....do....	1,169	1,142	1,078	1,093	1,064	.....
Other assets.....do....	2,912	2,937	3,189	3,175	3,221	.....
Payments to policyholders and beneficiaries, estimated total.....mil. of dol..						
Death benefits.....do....	442.1	421.2	466.0	469.6	478.3	.....
Matured endowments.....do....	199.7	180.1	185.8	204.7	203.9	.....
Disability payments.....do....	48.5	44.4	52.6	51.0	49.5	.....
Annuity payments.....do....	9.1	8.7	8.9	9.3	9.3	.....
Surrender values.....do....	37.0	38.3	41.5	43.8	41.9	.....
Policy dividends.....do....	76.3	67.7	81.0	79.1	84.1	.....
Bonds, price (Standard and Poor's Corporation):						
Industrial, utility, and railroad (A+ issues):						
Composite (17 bonds).....dol. per \$100 bond..	113.3	113.1	110.5	110.2	108.4	105.8
FOODSTUFFS						
Distilled spirits, consumption for beverage purposes						
thous. of wine gal..	15,673	16,906	16,403	14,893	16,784	.....
Grains, receipts, principal markets:						
Corn.....thous. of bu..	30,689	28,185	16,899	17,556	17,663	16,527
Oats.....do....	22,109	8,727	10,757	21,062	22,108	8,508
Rye.....do....	1,638	902	5,428	4,038	2,780	1,074
Wheat.....do....	57,958	36,015	54,981	106,118	64,697	39,257
Livestock:						
Cattle and calves:						
Receipts, principal markets.....thous. of animals..	2,596	2,533	2,146	2,543	2,686	2,721
Shipments, feeder, to 9 corn-belt States.....do....	264	537	201	226	580	734
Hogs:						
Receipts, principal markets.....do....	2,519	2,682	2,480	2,485	2,499	2,676
Sheep and lambs:						
Receipts, principal markets.....do....	1,288	1,625	1,047	1,184	1,403	1,770
Shipments, feeder, to 9 corn-belt States.....do....	259	564	113	151	361	677
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Iron ore (Lake Superior district):						
Consumption by furnaces.....thous. of long tons..	7,485	7,539	7,194	.....	1/6,858	.....
Stocks, end of month, total.....do....	39,506	45,406	30,835	.....	40,328	.....
At furnaces.....do....	33,100	38,459	27,468	.....	33,473	.....
On Lake Erie docks.....do....	6,405	6,948	3,367	.....	6,856	.....
Pig iron, production.....thous. of short tons..	6,601	6,703	6,435	1,107	5,142	6,933
Steel forgings (for sale):						
Orders, unfilled, total.....do....	547.0	552.4	539.6	546.9	562.4	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	134.8	148.8	143.4	98.5	123.2	.....
Drop and upset.....do....	99.9	110.1	103.4	76.2	89.1	.....
Barrels and drums, steel, heavy types:						
Orders, unfilled, end of month.....thousands..	1,953	1,871	2,502	2,536	2,266	.....
Shipments.....do....	2,230	2,032	2,659	2,379	2,035	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	65	68	65	57	65	.....
Aluminum shipments:						
Mill products and pig and ingot (net).....mil. of lb..	352.9	344.5	332.2	r354.7	319.0	.....
Mill products, total.....do....	248.5	241.8	240.4	r247.9	217.9	.....
Plate and sheet.....do....	141.4	134.5	132.5	139.6	104.3	.....
Castings.....do....	64.9	67.1	58.2	53.0	61.5	.....
Tin:						
Production, pig, total.....long tons..	1,986	2,003	1,211	2/207	1,694	.....
Imports for consumption:						
Ore.....do....	2,180	834	679	1,182	918	.....
Bars, pigs, etc.....do....	5,520	5,974	4,482	4,577	5,367	.....
Consumption, pig, total.....do....	7,985	7,960	7,415	4,415	7,390	.....
Primary.....do....	5,310	5,330	5,045	2,455	4,915	.....
Exports, incl. reexports (metal).....do....	91	20	97	20	18	.....
Stocks, pig, end of month, total.....do....	16,348	16,509	15,222	16,787	19,050
Industry.....do....	15,685	16,115	15,195	16,760	17,570

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Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Total for July and August 1956. 2/ Secondary plants only.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

ITEM	1955		1956			
	August	September	June	July	August	September
METALS AND MANUFACTURES - Continued						
Furnaces, industrial, new orders, net:						
Electric processing.....thous. of dol..	1,348	964	2,555	1,089	3,263	1,410
Fuel-fired (except for hot rolling steel).....do....	4,101	6,579	1,432	2,726	2,988	1,007
Foundry equipment (new), new orders, net mo. avg. shipments, 1947-49=100..	134.0	156.7	156.7	110.3	188.3	.....
PULP, PAPER, AND PRINTING						
Wood pulp:						
Production:						
Total, all grades.....thous. of short tons..	1,810.7	1,710.9	1,863.9	r1,723.4	1,908.0	.....
Dissolving and special alpha.....do....	99.4	61.6	79.5	58.3	78.0	.....
Sulfate.....do....	976.8	943.6	1,026.8	950.2	1,056.9	.....
Sulfite.....do....	210.9	204.8	219.1	218.0	223.9	.....
Groundwood.....do....	230.7	222.1	256.4	244.7	264.3	.....
Defibrated or exploded.....do....	115.9	110.8	102.1	94.7	106.6	.....
Soda, semichem, screenings, damaged, etc.....do....	176.9	168.0	180.2	r157.5	178.3	.....
Stocks, end of month:						
Total, all mills.....do....	759.4	764.5	813.2	r849.0	872.9	.....
Pulp mills.....do....	164.8	152.1	200.4	r200.3	200.5	.....
Paper and board mills.....do....	506.5	520.2	518.2	r548.6	570.4	.....
Nonpaper mills.....do....	88.1	92.3	100.6	100.0	102.1	.....
All paper and board mills, production:						
Paper and board, total.....do....	r2,607	2,518	r2,655	r2,371	2,720	.....
Paper.....do....	1,078	1,065	1,165	1,068	1,202	.....
Paperboard.....do....	r1,219	1,164	1,210	r1,043	1,232	.....
Wet-machine board.....do....	14	13	13	10	13	.....
Construction paper and board.....do....	296	275	267	250	273	.....
TEXTILE PRODUCTS						
Men's apparel, cuttings: <u>1</u> /						
Tailored garments:						
Suits.....thous. of units..	1,856	1,900	1,925	984	1,860	1,945
Overcoats and topcoats.....do....	564	605	570	308	540	555
Trousers (separate), dress and sport.....do....	5,088	5,640	5,760	3,792	4,992	5,160
Work clothing:						
Dungarees and waistband overalls.....thous. of doz..	452	455	290	208	292	260
Shirts.....do....	360	400	405	280	388	345
Cotton: <u>1</u> /						
Consumption.....bales..	717,115	r873,738	812,330	549,520	686,275	822,180
Manufactures:						
Spindle activity (cotton system spindles):						
Active spindles, last working day, total.....thousands..	20,738	r20,804	20,492	20,552	20,465	20,308
Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do....	19,136	19,243	18,954	19,022	18,912	18,780
Spindle hours operated, all fibers, total.....mil. of hr..	10,064	r12,295	11,459	7,713	9,544	11,436
Average per working day.....do....	503	r492	458	386	477	457
Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do....	9,293	11,363	10,664	7,128	8,849	10,678
Operations as percent of capacity.....do....	141.4	r138.1	130.6	110.1	137.4	131.8
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT						
Motor vehicles, registrations:						
New passenger cars.....number..	658,964	654,532	539,777	534,997	568,320	.....
New commercial cars.....do....	92,079	89,924	78,501	78,404	79,831	.....

1/ Revised. 1/ Data for September 1955 and June and September 1956 cover 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

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