

January 2, 1959



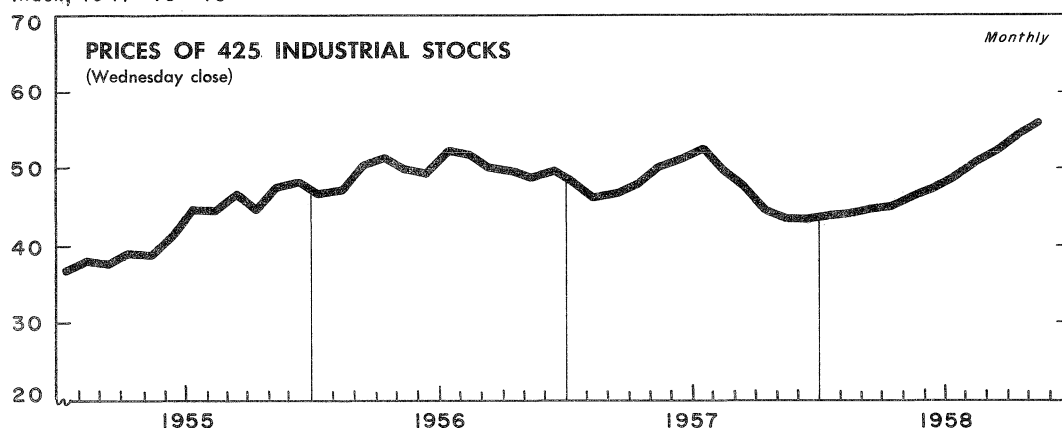
BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

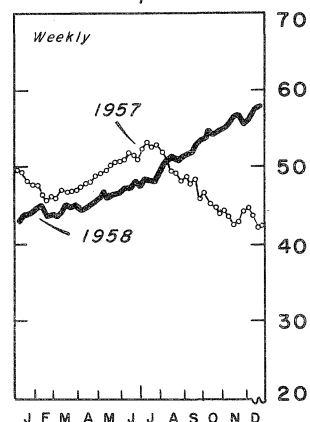
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SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

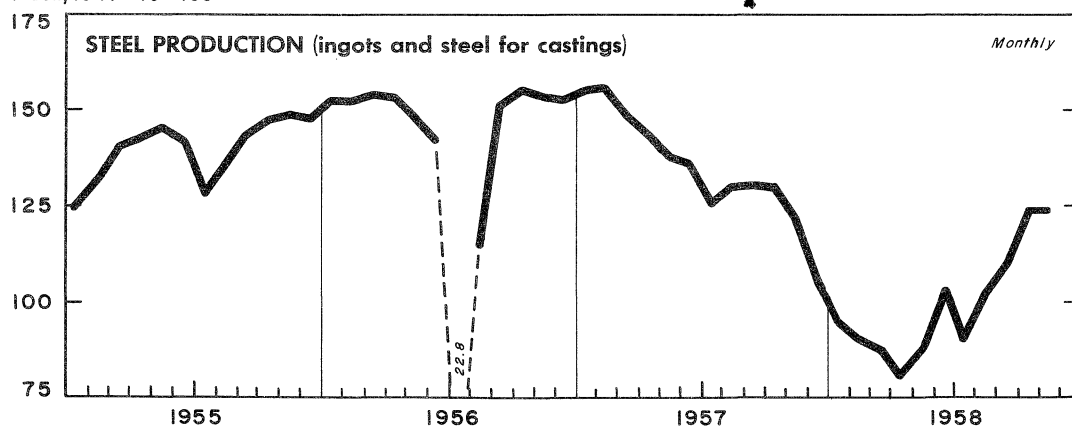
Index, 1941-43 = 10



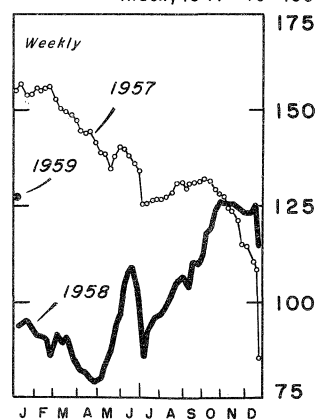
Index, 1941-43 = 10



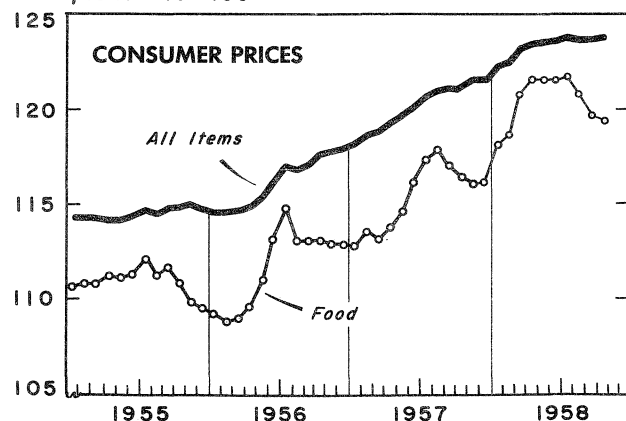
Index, 1947-49 = 100



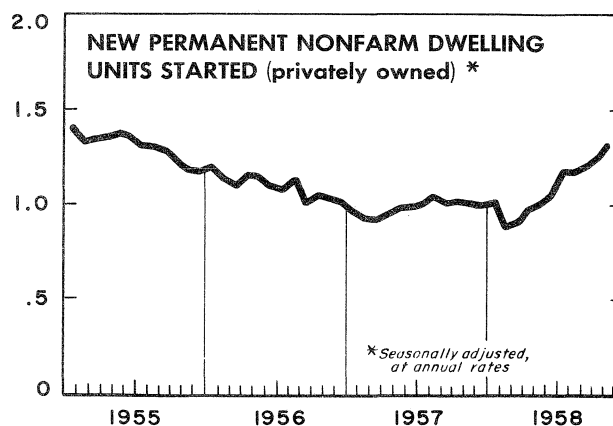
Index, 1947-49 = 100



Index, 1947-49 = 100



Millions



WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS¹

ITEM	1957		1958			
	Dec. 21	Dec. 28	Dec. 6	Dec. 13	Dec. 20	Dec. 27
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..		*118.5		119.0	119.1	
Farm products.....do....		*92.6		90.1	90.7	
Foods, processed.....do....		*107.4		108.7	108.8	
All other.....do....		*126.1		127.0	127.1	
22 commodities 2/.....do....	84.7	84.7	87.5	86.7	86.1	86.1
Department store sales.....do....	294	158	244	293	304	
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	2,086	2,521	**2,135	**2,216		
State programs.....do....	1,922	2,325	1,910	1,990		
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	276	166	294	267	251	185
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	31,973	32,089	32,057	32,218	32,394	32,522
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/.....do....	26,218	26,687	27,844	27,847	28,311	28,899
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....	19,483	19,666	18,740	18,629	18,844	19,173
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....	610	652	530	459	487	639
Resorting member banks (of F.R. System) in leading cities: 4/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	56,651	56,169	57,214	58,968	59,450	
Time deposits, except U. S. Government.....do....	23,970	24,140	27,882	27,976	28,007	
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	88,578	88,487	94,930	95,133	95,982	
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	26,010	26,087	32,149	31,877	31,901	
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross).....do....	32,305	32,288	30,675	30,793	31,181	
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	8,780	8,772	9,505	9,546	9,580	
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	4.27	4.23	4.38	4.38	4.38	4.39
Stock prices, 500 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) 4/.....1941-43=100..	39.38	39.52	52.53	53.46	53.98	54.11
Industrials, 425 stocks.....do....	42.19	42.36	56.06	57.09	57.64	57.74
Production:						
Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,602	1,169	1,461	1,504	1,483	
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	12,412	11,218	13,017	13,450	13,534	
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	163,071	92,342	169,957	160,724	159,369	120,910
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	6,915	6,940	7,067	7,097	7,097	
Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..	1,742	1,366	1,985	1,985	2,011	1,840
Percent of capacity.....do....	#68.1	#53.4	73.5	73.5	74.5	68.2
Freight carloadings, total.....thous. of cars..	590	410	594	589	571	
Miscellaneous.....do....	292	210	310	303	288	

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week beginning December 29, 1958: Production, 2,045 thous. short tons; operating rate, 75.8 percent. * Monthly index for December 1957. ** Excludes 411,000 and 401,000 insured unemployed reported under temporary programs (TUC) for December 6 and 13, respectively; includes claims under Ex-Servicemen's Unemployment Compensation Act of 1958 (UCX) effective October 27, 1958. # Based on January 1, 1957, annual capacity (133,459,150 tons); not comparable with 1958 rates which are based on January 1, 1958, annual capacity (140,742,570 tons).

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1957		1958			
	October	November	August	September	October	November
COMMODITY PRICES						
Consumer price index:						
All items.....1947-49=100..	121.1	121.6	123.7	123.7	123.7	*123.9
Apparel.....do....	107.7	107.9	106.6	107.1	107.3	107.7
Food.....do....	116.4	116.0	120.7	120.3	119.7	119.4
Dairy products.....do....	114.2	114.5	113.0	114.1	114.5	114.5
Fruits and vegetables.....do....	114.5	114.6	124.9	120.7	121.0	121.1
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do....	106.3	104.6	117.7	115.8	114.6	113.5
Housing.....do....	126.6	126.8	127.9	127.9	127.9	128.0
Gas and electricity.....do....	113.8	114.3	117.5	118.0	118.1	118.1
Housefurnishings.....do....	104.8	104.5	103.3	103.6	103.4	103.5
Rent.....do....	136.0	136.3	138.1	138.2	138.3	138.4
Medical care.....do....	139.7	140.3	145.0	146.1	146.7	147.0
Personal care.....do....	126.2	126.7	128.9	128.7	128.8	129.1
Reading and recreation.....do....	113.4	114.4	116.7	116.6	116.6	117.0
Transportation.....do....	135.8	140.0	141.0	141.3	142.7	144.5
Private.....do....	125.4	129.7	130.1	130.4	131.8	133.6
Public.....do....	181.6	182.8	189.5	189.8	190.4	191.1
Other goods and services.....do....	126.8	126.8	127.1	127.1	127.2	127.3
Purchasing power of the dollar as measured by--						
Wholesale prices.....do....	84.9	84.7	84.0	84.0	84.0	**83.9
Consumer prices.....do....	82.6	82.2	80.8	80.8	80.8	**80.7
Wholesale prices of selected commodities:						
Wheat flour, short patents (Minn.)...dol. per 100 lb. sack..	6.135	6.215	5.695	5.870	r5.830	p5.760
Calves, vealers (Chicago).....dol. per 100 lb..	26.50	27.50	31.50	32.00	32.00	p33.50
Lumber:						
Douglas fir, const., dried, 2" x 4", R.L.....dol. per M bd.ft..	78.614	77.414	80.577	83.202	r81.543	p79.064
Southern pine, boards, No. 2, 1" x 6", R.L.....do....	76.490	76.921	75.921	76.726	r77.482	p78.024
Ponderosa pine, boards, No. 3, common, 1" x 8".....do....	67.690	66.900	67.600	69.260	r70.770	p70.770
Pig iron:						
Basic (furnace).....dol. per long ton..	66.00	66.00	66.00	66.00	66.00	p66.00
Foundry, No. 2, Northern.....do....	66.50	66.50	66.50	66.50	66.50	p66.50

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. * Index based on 1935-39=100 is 207.2. ** Indexes based on 1935-39=100 are as follows: Measured by-- wholesale prices, 43.9; consumer prices, 48.3.

ITEM	1957		1958			
	October	November	August	September	October	November
COMMODITY PRICES						
Wholesale prices of selected commodities - Continued						
Steel:						
Steel billets, rerolling, carbon, f.o.b. mill						
dol. per short ton..	92.50	92.50	95.00	95.00	95.00	p95.00
Structural shapes (carbon), f.o.b. mill.....dol. per lb..	.0594	.0594	.0617	.0617	.0617	p.0617
Scrap, No. 1, heavy melting:						
Composite (5 markets).....dol. per long ton..	.....	.....	41.81	41.77	41.48	p41.68
Pittsburgh district 1/.....do....	38.50	32.50	43.50	42.50	43.00	p43.00
Coal, bituminous:						
Screenings, indust. use, f.o.b. car at mine						
dol. per short ton..	5.575	5.565	5.325	5.326	r5.329	p5.320
Large domestic sizes, f.o.b. car at mine.....do....	7.611	7.665	7.569	7.659	7.784	p7.803
DOMESTIC TRADE						
Magazine advertising:						
Cost, total.....thous. of dol..	74,298	77,104	40,625	61,224	71,529	74,915
Apparel and accessories.....do....	6,096	4,924	4,165	7,450	5,273	4,410
Automotive, including accessories.....do....	3,584	9,227	3,047	2,742	6,355	9,727
Building materials.....do....	3,230	2,397	1,417	3,478	2,684	2,534
Drugs and toiletries.....do....	8,401	7,968	4,893	5,826	7,026	7,373
Foods, soft drinks, confectionery.....do....	8,282	7,994	5,360	6,879	9,080	9,617
Beer, wine, liquors.....do....	4,057	4,555	2,143	3,166	4,071	4,506
Household equip., supplies, furnishings.....do....	8,456	7,643	2,065	4,446	7,099	6,608
Industrial materials.....do....	5,708	6,273	2,292	3,916	3,980	3,675
Soaps, cleansers, etc.....do....	1,084	719	478	972	1,652	1,016
Smoking materials.....do....	2,035	2,051	1,791	2,561	2,536	2,709
Linage, total.....thous. of lines..	5,376	4,971	4,032	4,990	4,942	4,678
FINANCE						
Life insurance written (new paid-for insurance):						
Value, estimated total.....mil. of dol..	6,126	5,221	5,086	5,056	5,504	5,221
Group and wholesale.....do....	1,538	848	869	666	759	728
Industrial.....do....	567	509	548	557	579	588
Ordinary.....do....	4,021	3,864	3,669	3,833	4,166	3,905
Turnover of demand deposits except interbank and U. S.						
Government, annual rate:						
New York City.....ratio of debits to deposits..	49.9	51.2	46.4	49.4	50.1	47.4
6 other centers.....do....	29.6	30.5	27.4	30.3	p30.0	p30.1
337 other reporting centers.....do....	22.7	23.5	21.7	23.6	p23.2	p23.9
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS						
Operations on scheduled airlines:						
Miles flown, revenue.....thousands..	61,398	57,522	64,195	61,695	59,373	.....
Express and freight ton-miles flown.....do....	24,080	20,684	28,224	28,188	29,487	.....
Mail ton-miles flown.....do....	8,214	7,761	8,099	8,190	9,124	.....
Passengers originated, revenue.....do....	3,483	3,113	3,662	3,433	3,564	.....
Passenger-miles flown, revenue.....millions..	2,015	1,790	2,381	2,100	2,101	.....
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS						
Organic chemicals, production:						
Acetic acid (synthetic and natural).....thous. of lb..	48,168	47,259	50,791	53,644	53,887	.....
Acetic anhydride.....do....	84,238	85,266	86,445	90,452	89,683	.....
Acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin).....do....	1,907	1,774	1,372	1,456	1,990	.....
Creosote oil.....thous. of gal..	10,244	9,936	9,155	8,520	11,152	.....
DDT.....thous. of lb..	8,932	9,017	11,197	12,291	12,745	.....
Ethyl acetate (85%).....do....	9,801	9,002	8,552	9,654	8,681	.....
Ethylene glycol.....do....	104,543	106,358	88,983	89,410	99,042	.....
Formaldehyde (37% HCHO).....do....	123,410	117,081	117,207	134,494	148,011	.....
Methanol:						
Natural (100%).....thous. of gal..	105	134	149	149	135	.....
Synthetic (100%).....do....	18,665	17,747	18,268	20,151	21,698	.....
Phthalic anhydride.....thous. of lb..	30,317	31,231	21,830	25,300	27,570	.....
Synthetic plastics and resin materials, production:						
Cellulose acetate and mixed ester plastics:						
Sheets, rods, and tubes.....thous. of lb..	3,813	3,653	*3,549	*3,947	*3,717	.....
Molding and extrusion materials.....do....	9,663	7,624	*8,734	*8,215	*10,035	.....
Other cellulose plastics.....do....	546	344	*	*	*	.....
Nitrocellulose sheets, rods, and tubes.....do....	330	339	229	223	271	.....
Phenolic and other tar acid resins.....do....	45,317	37,769	34,270	39,900	46,205	.....
Polystyrene.....do....	52,759	47,811	47,199	55,257	58,853	.....
Urea and melamine resins.....do....	25,933	22,926	25,128	28,302	30,095	.....
Vinyl resins.....do....	77,088	71,535	69,672	82,133	88,551	.....
Alkyd resins.....do....	32,979	24,937	28,314	30,375	32,540	.....
Rosin modifications.....do....	10,991	9,097	11,076	10,665	11,327	.....
Polyester resins.....do....	7,976	6,589	7,991	8,730	12,433	.....
Polyethylene resins.....do....	62,552	62,936	68,064	75,252	79,309	.....

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS—Continued

ITEM	1957		1958			
	October	November	August	September	October	November
FOODSTUFFS						
Meats, production, total.....mil. of lb..	2,169.5	1,919.9	1,742.0	1,914.5	2,122.7	1,831.9
Beef and veal.....do....	1,065.9	896.1	898.4	949.5	1,016.5	816.4
Lamb and mutton.....do....	54.9	44.1	43.0	47.7	51.8	41.8
Pork, including lard.....do....	1,048.6	979.8	800.6	917.4	1,054.4	973.7
Lard.....do....	189.5	182.6	139.4	160.0	190.8	177.6
LEATHER AND PRODUCTS						
Leather production:						
Calf and whole kip.....thous. of skins..	786	786	646	r600	699	.....
Cattle hide and side kip.....thous. of hides and kips..	2,307	2,059	1,979	2,020	2,321	.....
Goat and kid.....thous. of skins..	2,105	1,609	1,114	1,499	1,823	.....
Sheep and lamb.....do....	2,069	1,954	2,377	2,243	2,472	.....
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Fabricated structural steel:						
Orders, new (net).....thous. of short tons..	181	218	226	256	259	243
Shipments.....do....	385	334	298	314	307	271
Backlog, end of month.....do....	3,322	3,233	2,119	2,047	1,913	1,839
Aluminum, castings.....mil. of lb..	64.1	58.9	45.0	52.8	55.7	.....
Radiators and convectors, cast iron:						
Shipments.....thous. of sq. ft..	*2,123	**2,551	2,095	2,643	.....	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	*4,896	**4,571	4,950	4,097	.....	.....
Oil burners:						
Shipments.....number..	70,999	44,613	58,921	74,611	79,000	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	42,639	41,298	41,968	35,265	30,413	.....
Stoves and ranges, domestic cooking, excluding electrical:						
Shipments, total.....number..	188,661	146,777	148,303	170,490	198,602	.....
Coal and wood.....do....	6,227	3,328	4,489	5,659	5,616	.....
Gas (including bungalow and combination).....do....	175,627	137,166	136,936	158,146	185,604	.....
Kerosene, gasoline, and fuel oil.....do....	6,807	6,283	6,878	6,685	7,382	.....
Stoves, domestic heating, shipments, total.....do....	362,410	173,398	263,185	333,778	365,983	.....
Coal and wood.....do....	49,997	17,055	35,013	58,129	61,183	.....
Gas.....do....	251,913	127,137	175,457	218,012	241,898	.....
Kerosene, gasoline, and fuel oil.....do....	60,500	29,206	52,715	57,637	62,902	.....
Warm-air furnaces, shipments, total.....do....	133,286	96,745	124,199	153,269	143,675	.....
Gas.....do....	82,380	61,884	85,356	103,852	98,428	.....
Oil.....do....	37,628	26,524	34,911	43,818	40,100	.....
Solid fuel.....do....	5,812	2,892	3,932	5,599	5,147	.....
Water heaters, gas, shipments.....do....	230,690	169,261	211,634	224,691	254,743	.....
Furnaces, industrial, new orders, net:						
Electric processing.....thous. of dol..	1,448	749	1,177	1,119	908	777
Fuel-fired (except for hot rolling steel).....do....	1,400	1,634	2,010	771	854	3,874
Machine tools (metal-cutting and metal-forming):						
New orders (net), total.....mil. of dol..	39.70	35.15	28.30	28.10	37.00	p29.15
Domestic.....do....	32.70	30.80	23.20	24.65	r32.00	p25.25
Shipments, total.....do....	76.05	59.75	29.80	34.90	r41.40	p33.30
Domestic.....do....	66.05	51.60	24.95	29.65	r35.90	p27.20
Estimated backlog.....months..	3.2	3.1	2.8	2.9	3.0	p3.0
Electrical equipment:						
Ranges (incl. built-ins), dom. and export sales.....thousands..	120.4	116.8	81.4	121.8	r135.5	129.3
Vacuum cleaners, standard type, sales billed.....do....	328.7	251.1	280.2	299.6	339.1	293.6
Washers, sales billed (domestic and export) ..do....	377.6	267.8	326.8	423.1	404.1	333.0

□/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. * Data are for August 1958. ** Data are for September 1958. □/ Data exclude sales of combination washer-dryer units; sales of such types totaled 17,700 units in November 1958.

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UNITED STATES
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

FIRST CLASS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT

SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS