

APRIL 1938

SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS



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Incomes of Independent Professional Practitioners

According to questionnaire surveys conducted by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, average incomes of medical practitioners in 1936 were \$4,143 as compared with \$2,909 in 1933 and \$5,298 in 1929. For the same years the incomes of lawyers averaged \$4,320, \$3,786, and \$6,601, respectively; and incomes of certified public accountants averaged \$4,626, \$4,012 (1934), and \$5,749. These and other results of the sample surveys are analyzed in the special article on page 12.

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Fats and Oils

Their Adaptability and Uses

Factory consumption of fats and oils in 1937 increased approximately 5 percent to 4,994 million pounds. Sizable gains were recorded in the output of all leading products utilizing a wide variety of fats and oils. Imports of these items increased more than 20 percent to 2,337 million pounds during the year. Current data relating to the fats and oils industry as well as a discussion of trends in the industry over the past several years are presented in an article on page 17.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DANIEL C. ROPER, *Secretary*

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

ALEXANDER V. DYE, *Director*

SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

APRIL 1938

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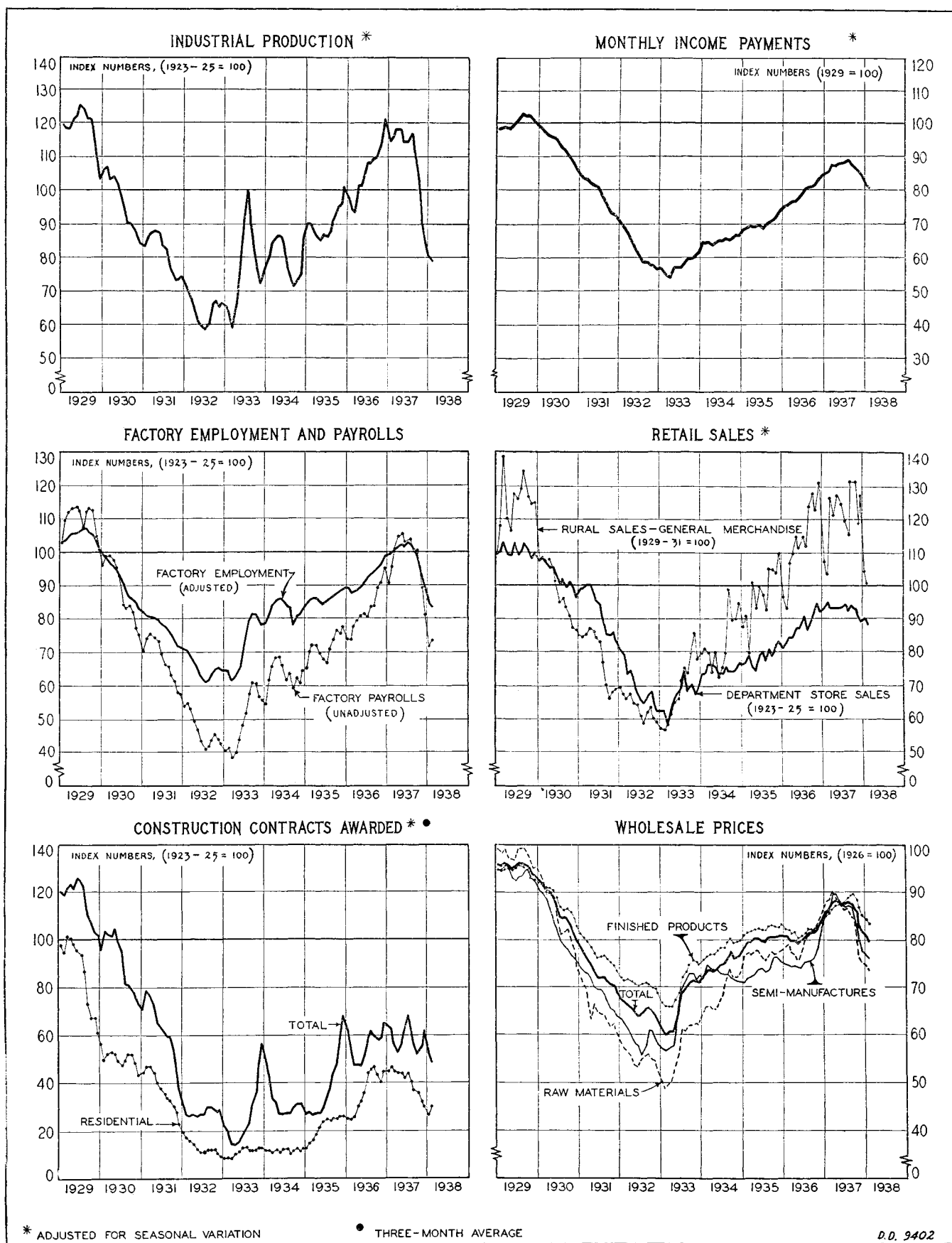
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Business Indicators



Business Situation Summarized

THE volume of industrial production in March was maintained at about the February level according to the available weekly statistics—a slight seasonal upturn is usual. In contrast with the very rapid decrease in the adjusted index of industrial production in the last 4 months of 1937, definite signs of slackening in the rate of decline were evident. Total production during January, February, and March, however, was one-third below that in the corresponding period of 1937.

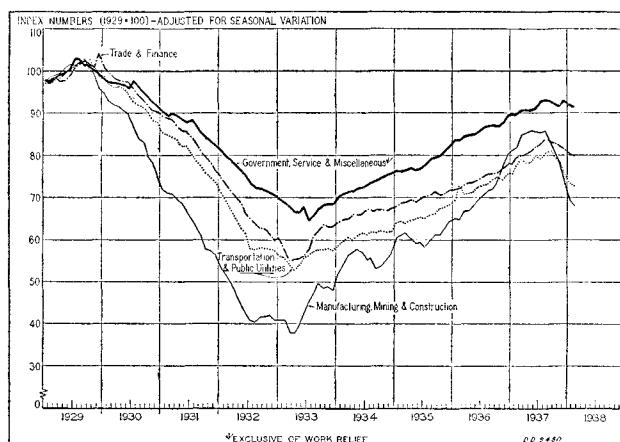
Steel-mill operations, which were 29.1 percent of ingot capacity in January and 31.7 percent in February, averaged 33.8 during March. The rapid decline in the final months of 1937 has apparently been checked, but purchases remain on a hand-to-mouth basis. Automobile assemblies during the month were practically unchanged from February, whereas a sizable increase usually occurs. Early reports indicate a curtailment in cotton-mill activity in March, as orders have failed to appear in any substantial volume. Bituminous coal production declined slightly more than seasonally during the month, while output of crude petroleum increased at about the seasonal rate and electric power production experienced the usual seasonal contraction.

Factory employment and pay rolls increased slightly in February after having declined each month since August 1937. Although the increase in employment was not so large as the usual seasonal gain from January, the checking of the rapid decline of the preceding 6 months was a significant development. Between August and February, total factory employment declined 19 percent, and pay rolls were cut 29 percent. Employment in the durable-goods industries fell 25 percent, with the most pronounced contraction in the automobile and iron and steel industries, while employment in the nondurable-goods industries declined 14 percent.

The dollar value of construction contracts awarded advanced more than seasonally during the first half of March and afforded one of the more favorable elements in the domestic business outlook. It is the opinion of most analysts of the current economic situation that a revival of activity in the construction industry is essential to any strong and sustained upward movement of general business. Awards during the first half of the month were about 45 percent above the daily average awards in February and were only slightly below those in the corresponding period of last year. Residential construction awards contributed heavily to the total advance. Publicly and privately financed projects of all classes showed almost equal gains.

Primary distribution in March, as indicated by the freight-car loadings of railroads, failed to show the usual seasonal advance. The volume of freight traffic during the month was lower than that in the corresponding

month of 1932 and was only moderately above the post-war low in 1933. Reflecting the contraction in freight movement that has been in progress for the past 8 months and higher costs of operation, net operating revenues of railroads have been the smallest on record, and after payment of fixed charges the largest net deficit since compilation of the data began was reported for January. Information is not available for a later date, but the continued downward trend of traffic movement would indicate a persistence of this unfavorable situation. In keeping with these developments and the general weakness of security markets in March, second-grade railroad bonds fell below their 1932 lows, and the average price of railroad shares was only slightly above the depression lows. The recent increase in



Trend of Employees' Compensation, by Major Industrial Groups, 1929-38.

rates granted the carriers was insufficient to offset the growing weight of the adverse factors.

Industrial and utility share prices, as well as the rail issues, declined almost without interruption throughout March. The Dow-Jones averages of industrials declined almost one-fourth from February 23 to March 31. Utility share prices during this same period showed an equal loss from a very low base. On March 31 the industrial average was at the lowest point since 1935, and the composite price of utility shares broke through the 1932 lows. Industrial and utility bond prices declined only moderately in March. The prices of United States Government issues have moved narrowly. The dollar bonds of Central European countries, however, declined sharply during the month reflecting the uncertainties arising from the tense political situation. The volume of brokers' loans showed little change over the month interval. Commercial loans of reporting member banks continued to decline at a slow rate. Since the recovery peak of last October these loans have declined more than \$565,000,000 to \$4,306,000,000 by March 23.

Retail sales of general merchandise in March showed a further widening of the percentage decline from sales in the corresponding period of 1937. A portion of this decline may be accounted for, however, by the fact that Easter came earlier in 1937. In February (the latest month for which complete data are available), department-store sales were 88 (1923-25=100) after allowing for seasonal influence, as compared with 90 in January and 95 in February of last year. The greatest contraction in retail sales was noted in the industrial areas, while sales in the South and Southwest were at a higher level than in 1937.

Retail trade in general merchandise items (excluding automobile sales) has declined about 6 percent since last August, after allowance for seasonal influences. Purchases of passenger automobiles, however, dropped off about 40 percent during this 6-month period and, because of their heavy weight in the aggregate, brought the contraction in adjusted total sales to about 15 percent. During the same period, industrial production and factory pay rolls declined about one-third. In the first 6 months of contracting industrial activity after July 1929, retail trade (including sales of passenger automobiles) declined 5 percent while industrial production dropped 18 percent.

The index of monthly income payments recently released by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce sheds light on the course and movement of

consumer purchasing power during the various phases of the business cycle. It is now possible to trace the movement of income from month to month as well as the flow of purchasing power to various groups of buyers. The changes in the total income payments may be followed by referring to the chart on page 2, while the various effects of the recession on the compensation of employee groups are indicated in the figure on page 3.

Total income payments to individuals in February were 5.3 percent below those in February 1937 and, in terms of the Bureau's seasonally adjusted index, declined about a point from January to 80.8 (1929=100). On this same basis income payments were more than 9 percent below those in August 1937—the high month of the recovery period.

Approximately two-thirds of the total payments are received by employees. Payments to this group in the form of wages and salaries have declined about 10 percent since last August, on a seasonally adjusted basis. The extent of the decline recorded by the four industrial groups into which employees' compensation has been divided is shown graphically in the accompanying chart. Dividend and interest payments plus entrepreneurial withdrawals, net rents, and royalties, which together make up the remaining one-third of total payments, declined a little more than 8 percent in this same 6-month period.

MONTHLY BUSINESS INDEXES

Year and month	Industrial production						Factory employment and pay rolls		Freight-car loadings		Retail sales, value, adjusted ¹		Foreign trade, value, adjusted ¹		New York City	Construction contracts, all types, value, adjusted ²	Income payments ³		Wholesale price index, 813 commodities		
	Unadjusted ¹			Adjusted ¹			Number of employees, adjusted ¹	Amount of pay rolls, unadjusted	Total	Merchandise, l. c. l.	Department stores	Rural, general merchandise	Exports	Imports			Bank debits, outside			Unadjusted	Adjusted
	Total	Manufactures	Minerals	Total	Manufactures	Minerals															
Monthly average, 1923-25=100												1929-31=100	Monthly average, 1923-25=100				Monthly average, 1929=100	Monthly average, 1926=100			
1929: February	121	122	116	118	118	119	103.6	109.3	109	104	110	117.8	128	116	124.1	118	92.3	98.2	95.4		
1932: February	71	70	75	69	68	78	70.6	54.8	60	78	79	67.2	45	41	65.2	27	63.8	68.7	66.3		
1933: February	64	62	77	63	61	80	64.1	41.0	52	66	62	56.1	29	26	52.7	19	51.8	55.5	59.8		
1934: February	83	82	89	81	80	92	81.4	61.3	65	67	73	80.7	47	42	59.7	44	61.0	64.4	73.6		
1935: February	91	91	93	90	88	97	85.3	70.0	66	65	77	90.6	47	48	66.5	14	65.1	68.9	79.5		
1936: February	95	93	107	94	92	111	87.4	73.7	71	62	83	93.0	53	60	80.0	25	71.6	75.4	80.6		
1937:																					
January	112	113	106	114	115	110	98.8	90.7	80	67	93	106.7	57	74	103.3	63	83.4	85.0	85.9		
February	117	118	111	116	116	115	99.7	95.8	82	68	95	103.7	67	87	89.3	62	78.7	85.5	86.3		
March	122	122	118	118	117	128	100.9	101.1	83	69	93	126.2	67	86	109.5	56	85.9	87.6	87.8		
April	122	125	105	118	118	115	101.6	104.9	84	69	93	121.2	75	82	101.6	53	87.5	87.1	88.0		
May	122	123	117	118	118	116	102.2	105.2	80	69	93	127.1	81	86	97.8	56	82.9	87.6	87.4		
June	115	114	117	114	114	114	101.4	102.9	78	67	93	124.4	79	93	101.5	61	91.3	87.8	87.2		
July	111	110	115	114	114	112	103.0	100.4	80	68	94	119.1	80	89	102.2	67	88.5	88.1	87.9		
August	115	114	120	117	118	112	102.4	103.8	79	68	92	115.1	79	79	93.3	62	82.7	88.6	87.5		
September	109	106	125	111	110	115	100.7	100.1	78	67	94	131.7	74	76	94.5	56	90.6	87.2	87.4		
October	102	99	122	102	101	113	98.4	100.1	76	66	93	131.3	72	68	101.0	52	90.8	86.4	85.4		
November	90	86	112	88	85	109	94.1	89.5	71	64	91	118.6	72	69	92.1	56	81.3	85.0	83.3		
December	79	75	107	84	79	114	89.0	80.9	67	62	89	127.4	79	65	105.6	62	96.9	83.8	81.7		
1938:																					
January	79	75	103	80	76	108	84.2	71.6	65	61	90	104.3	75	52	89.2	52	81.1	81.5	80.9		
February	79	76	97	79	75	101	83.1	73.5	62	62	88	100.4	76	51	74.1	48	74.5	80.8	79.8		

¹ Adjusted for number of working days.

² Adjusted for seasonal variations.

³ See note marked with an asterisk "*" on p. 22.

Commodity Prices

PRICES of widely traded raw commodities declined in the final weeks of March, after having moved within a fairly narrow range since the first of the year. Moody's spot commodity-price index (which includes prices of 15 important commodities) fell below 142 (December 31, 1931=100), after moving around 151 since late in February. During the latter part of March, most of the important primary commodities were quoted at about the November 1937 lows. Rubber quotations declined 4 cents during March to 11 cents per pound for the New York delivery. Spot cotton prices declined about ½ cent per pound from the first of March but continued moderately above the 1937 low point. Sugar and coffee prices also declined during March, with the spot quotations for Santos No. 4 falling to 7¼ cents, the lowest for this grade of Brazilian coffee since the World War.

The general average of wholesale commodities turned downward to 79.5 (1926=100) in the week ended March 19, after having held at the February level of 79.8 in the 2 preceding weeks. The decline in the "all commodities" index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics was substantially checked toward the end of February, although there was a reduction of 1.1 points from January. In the 12 weeks from the first of the year to March 19 the "all commodities" index fell from 81.0 to 79.5—a reduction of 1.5 points, whereas in the last 3 months of 1937 there was a reduction of over 6 points.

Wholesale prices of foods showed substantial reductions in the first 2 months of 1938, continuing the downward movement of the last 3 months of the preceding year. From September to February, the index for these commodities fell 14.5 points to 73.5 (1926=100), the lowest point since the middle of 1934. Meat prices at wholesale have experienced sharp reductions since September when the index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics was 113.4. For February the index was 78.4, the lowest in over 3 years. Wholesale prices of farm products generally have declined so far this year but at much less rapid rate than in the last quarter of 1937.

Prices received by farmers at local markets declined further in the first 3 months of 1938. By the middle of March the index of the Department of Agriculture was 96 (1909-14=100), the lowest since the summer of 1934, and was 32 points below March of last year.

The cost of living has moved downward since last October and by February was slightly lower than a year earlier, according to the index of the National Industrial Conference Board. For February the index was 86.7 (1923=100), a reduction of 1.9 points from December and of 2.8 points from October. Retail food prices have declined substantially, and at 78.4 (1923-25=100) for February were the lowest since January 1935. From last September the index has dropped 7.4 points, or 8.6 percent.

INDEXES OF COMMODITY PRICES

Year and month	Wholesale Prices (U. S. Department of Labor)																Cost of living (National Industrial Conference Board)	Farm prices, combined index (U. S. Department of Agriculture)	Retail prices		
	Combined index, 813 commodities	Economic classes			Groups and subgroups														Foods (U. S. Department of Labor) ¹	Department-store articles (Fairchild's) ¹	
		Finished products	Raw materials	Semi-manufactures	Farm products	Grains	Foods	Meats	Other than farm products and foods	Building materials	Chemicals and drugs	Fuel and lighting	Hides and leather	House-furnishing goods	Metals and metal products	Textile products					Miscellaneous
Monthly average, 1926=100																		Mo. average, 1923=100	Mo. average, 1909-14=100	Mo. average, 1923-25=100	Dec. 1930 (Jan. 1, 1931)=100
1929: February	95.4	94.3	98.1	94.6	105.4	102.0	98.1	102.3	91.9	95.9	95.7	82.9	108.9	93.8	100.6	92.3	82.7	99.7	145	102.3	80.1
1932: February	66.3	71.4	56.9	61.9	50.6	46.1	62.5	59.5	71.3	73.4	75.5	68.3	78.3	77.5	80.9	59.5	64.7	80.3	68	70.5	69.9
1933: February	59.8	65.7	48.4	56.3	40.9	32.7	53.7	50.2	66.0	69.8	71.3	63.6	68.0	72.3	77.4	51.2	59.2	72.2	55	60.1	69.9
1934: February	73.6	77.0	66.0	74.8	61.3	63.2	66.7	53.3	78.7	86.6	75.5	72.4	89.6	81.0	87.0	76.9	68.5	78.5	83	72.5	89.5
1935: February	79.5	81.5	77.4	71.7	79.1	87.4	82.7	87.5	77.4	85.0	80.4	72.5	86.0	80.7	85.8	70.1	70.1	82.0	111	79.7	86.6
1936: February	80.6	82.2	79.1	74.6	79.5	83.2	92.1	79.0	85.5	80.1	76.1	96.1	81.5	86.7	71.0	68.1	83.5	109	80.6	88.3	
1937:																					
January	85.9	84.9	88.1	85.4	91.3	113.0	87.1	90.6	83.4	91.3	87.7	76.6	101.7	86.5	90.9	77.5	76.2	86.9	131	84.6	93.0
February	86.3	85.4	88.3	85.5	91.4	111.5	87.0	90.3	84.1	93.3	87.8	76.8	102.7	87.9	91.7	77.5	77.3	87.2	127	84.5	93.7
March	87.8	86.4	90.1	89.6	94.1	113.2	87.5	92.0	85.5	95.9	87.5	76.2	104.2	88.4	96.0	78.3	79.5	87.9	128	85.4	94.5
April	88.0	87.4	88.7	89.5	92.2	119.2	85.5	94.9	86.5	96.7	86.9	76.8	106.3	89.0	96.5	79.5	81.1	88.3	130	85.6	95.2
May	87.4	87.5	87.1	87.5	89.8	113.9	84.2	95.9	86.3	97.2	84.5	77.2	106.7	89.3	95.8	78.7	80.5	88.8	128	86.5	95.6
June	87.2	87.7	86.1	86.8	88.5	105.7	84.7	98.0	86.1	96.9	83.6	77.5	106.4	89.5	95.9	78.2	79.4	88.9	124	86.3	96.0
July	87.9	88.8	86.5	87.0	89.3	105.2	86.2	106.0	86.3	96.7	83.9	78.1	106.7	89.7	96.1	78.3	79.0	88.9	125	85.9	96.3
August	87.5	89.0	84.8	86.6	86.4	92.0	86.7	112.1	86.1	96.3	82.2	78.4	108.1	91.1	97.0	77.1	77.3	89.0	123	85.5	96.6
September	87.4	89.1	84.4	85.3	85.9	91.9	88.0	113.4	85.9	96.2	81.4	78.7	107.6	91.1	97.1	75.3	77.0	89.4	118	85.8	96.3
October	85.4	88.1	80.7	82.5	80.4	77.0	85.5	107.4	85.1	95.4	81.2	78.5	106.7	91.0	96.4	73.5	76.2	89.5	112	84.9	95.7
November	83.3	86.7	77.2	79.8	75.7	69.2	83.1	98.3	84.3	93.7	80.2	78.2	101.4	90.4	96.8	71.2	75.4	89.0	107	83.6	94.5
December	81.7	85.3	75.4	77.7	72.8	71.5	79.8	88.8	83.6	92.5	79.5	74.4	97.7	89.7	96.3	70.1	75.0	88.6	104	82.6	93.2
1938:																					
January	80.9	84.3	74.9	76.9	71.6	75.0	76.3	82.6	83.5	91.8	79.6	78.3	96.7	88.3	96.6	69.7	75.2	87.5	102	80.3	92.4
February	79.8	83.3	73.6	76.1	69.8	73.0	73.5	75.4	83.0	91.1	79.1	78.5	94.7	88.0	96.0	68.6	74.8	86.7	97	78.4	91.2

Middle of month.

¹ Index is as of the 1st of the following month.

Domestic Trade

CONSUMER purchases during the first 3 months of 1938 were considerably below those of the like period of 1937. In addition to the sharp contraction of trade in industrial areas, other factors were operative which tended to accentuate the decline. Retail trade for the first quarter of 1938 was compared with the record months of sales activity in 1937; also, the major portion of Easter buying, which appreciably affects some lines of trade, took place in March last year, whereas this year most of the stimulus occurs in April. Available figures indicate that sales were even further below the level of a year ago than they were in the closing months of 1937.

Total income payments in January and February continued the monthly declines which have been in progress since last August, and averaged about 5 percent below those for the corresponding months of 1937.

Department-store sales in February were 8 percent below February 1937, and purchasing of rural general merchandise was about 4 percent below a year ago; these changes compare with January decreases of 3 percent for department-store sales and 2 percent for rural sales. Chain-grocery-store sales were down about 4 percent from February 1937, a decrease twice as large as that shown for January. The marked decline in food prices, as shown by the retail food index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, indicates, however, that the physical volume of food sold in the 2-month period was perhaps larger than that sold during January and February of 1937. Sales of general merchandise items in the first 2

months of 1938 were only moderately lower than those in the corresponding period of 1937, whereas sales of new passenger automobiles were more than 40 percent below those of 1937, a decline that more nearly approximated the sharp drop in employment and production.

February sales of about 13,760 independent merchants reporting from 25 States of the Midwestern, Southwestern, Mountain, and Pacific regions were about 12 percent below those of February 1937—a somewhat larger decrease than that recorded for January as compared with January of 1937. Sales declined in all States represented, the decreases ranging from about 2 percent for Texas to 26 percent for Ohio. As compared with January of this year, a decline of about 6 percent was recorded in February sales for the total of all States reporting.

Wholesale sales reported to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce by a sample group of more than 1,530 firms were 15 percent lower in February 1938 than those in the corresponding month of 1937, and January 1938 sales were 12 percent below those of January 1937. Wholesalers' stocks in February 1938 were about 3.5 percent lower than in February 1937, and the cost value of stocks at the end of February was 2.66 times the dollar sales for the month, whereas stocks in February 1937 were 2.33 times sales. Total dollar sales of approximately 820 reporting manufacturers in February were down 22 percent from a year ago, and January sales were 29 percent below those of January 1937.

DOMESTIC TRADE STATISTICS

Year and month	Retail trade												Wholesale trade		Commercial failures		
	Department stores				Chain-store sales				Rural sales of general merchandise		New passenger-car sales		Employment	Pay rolls	Failures	Liabilities	
	Sales		Stocks ¹		Combined index (Chain-Store Age)	Grocery stores		Variety stores		Unad-just- ¹		Ad-just- ²					
	Unad-just- ¹	Ad-just- ²	Unad-just- ¹	Ad-just- ²		Unad-just- ¹	Ad-just- ²	Unad-just- ¹	Ad-just- ²	Unad-just- ¹	Ad-just- ²	Unad-just- ¹	Ad-just- ²				
	Monthly average, 1923-25=100				Avg. same mo. 1929-31=100	Monthly average, 1929-31=100								Monthly average, 1929=100		Number	Thousands of dollars
1929: February	91	110	95	100		197.5	107.0	86.2	103.2	103.6	117.8	111.4	136.5	96.9	96.4		
1932: February	64	79	69	73	89.8	87.9	87.4	72.6	86.9	60.8	67.2	36.8	44.0	79.7	70.1		
1933: February	49	62	54	56	79.4	77.8	77.4	65.6	78.5	50.8	56.1	27.8	33.0	72.4	55.1	2,367	63,694
1934: February	59	73	63	66	90.7	84.4	83.9	73.0	87.5	73.1	80.7	45.7	54.5	81.2	61.0	1,017	16,772
1935: February	61	77	61	64	95.8	89.8	89.3	75.8	90.8	82.0	90.6	72.7	86.5	84.6	64.6	956	15,217
1936: February	66	83	62	65	99.4	95.6	95.1	73.5	88.0	84.2	93.0	65.5	89.5	85.0	66.6	836	14,089
1937:																	
January	72	93	66	74	105.3	95.0	97.9	70.3	94.4	88.6	106.7	90.1	129.5	90.7	72.6	811	8,661
February	76	95	72	76	110.0	97.8	97.4	81.3	97.4	93.8	103.7	85.5	139.5	92.0	74.1	721	9,771
March	90	93	78	76	108.6	100.1	99.1	97.1	103.3	117.4	126.2	146.5	123.5	92.1	75.0	820	10,922
April	89	93	79	76	110.0	99.7	96.8	89.0	96.2	116.4	121.2	141.3	102.5	91.9	75.4	786	8,906
May	95	93	78	76	112.0	98.3	96.9	98.3	98.3	119.4	127.1	144.6	104.0	90.8	76.1	834	8,394
June	90	93	73	76	114.0	95.3	93.9	100.7	105.9	117.5	124.4	134.3	99.0	90.3	76.3	670	8,191
July	65	94	69	77	114.5	91.1	93.0	97.0	109.0	91.7	119.1	122.9	104.5	90.6	76.9	618	7,766
August	72	92	74	78	113.2	89.6	93.3	90.6	102.4	99.0	115.1	112.6	120.5	91.8	79.0	707	11,916
September	100	94	80	77	117.0	94.7	96.6	99.8	104.5	130.4	131.7	73.2	105.0	93.0	78.3	564	8,393
October	103	93	85	76	114.8	94.9	94.4	101.5	100.0	160.2	131.3	82.6	127.0	94.0	79.3	768	9,335
November	101	91	86	75	109.0	94.9	94.9	102.7	101.2	145.8	118.6	90.8	89.0	93.5	78.3	786	10,678
December	156	89	68	72	111.5	97.0	94.2	203.5	110.3	180.9	127.4	70.1	78.0	93.3	77.8	932	13,291
1938:																	
January	70	90	63	71	106.7	93.3	96.2	71.6	96.1	86.6	104.3	50.8	65.0	91.0	75.6	1,320	15,035
February	70	88	67	70	106.6	93.9	93.4	78.8	94.4	90.9	100.4	53.6	74.0	90.3	75.3	1,071	13,358

¹ Adjusted for number of working days.

² Adjusted for seasonal variations.

³ End of month.

Employment

EMPLOYMENT continued to decline in February, but the reduction in working forces was much less severe than in any of the 3 preceding months. According to the estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number at work in nonagricultural pursuits was about 100,000 less in mid-February than in mid-January and about 3,000,000 less than in September 1937, when employment was at its recovery peak. (These figures do not include employment on W. P. A. or other emergency projects.)

Factory employment in February did not record the usual seasonal gain over January, and, as a result, the adjusted index shown in the following table recorded a decline of about 1 point to 83.1 (1923-25=100). This was the seventh consecutive monthly decline in the seasonally adjusted index of employment, and it indicated a reduction of nearly one-fifth in the number at work in factories since last July.

Employment in February increased in over half of the 89 manufacturing industries reporting. These gains, which were about of seasonal proportions, were made by clothing and textile mills, fertilizer plants, lumber mills, stove factories, marble-granite-slate and products, shoe factories, and rayon mills. The heavy industries, especially steel, machinery, and foundries, continued to lay off employees, but the declines were much smaller than in earlier months.

Although the actual number at work in manufacturing establishments was about the same in February as in January, there was a rise of 2.7 percent in weekly

pay rolls, indicating an increase in working time for factory employees. In January, the latest month for which complete data are available, average weekly earnings amounted to \$21.88 as compared with \$26.39 in May 1937, the high month of the recovery. The average workweek, curtailed beginning last April, was, by January, reduced about 8 hours, to 33.2 hours per week. Average hourly earnings, which continued to increase for several months after weekly wages and hours worked per week started to recede, have shown practically no change in recent months. Weekly earnings in January were about 40 percent larger than in March 1933, the low month of the depression. This has resulted from the record-high hourly wages, since the workweek in January 1938 was lower than in March 1933.

Employment decreased between January and February in all of the nonmanufacturing industries surveyed, with the exception of anthracite mining and year-round hotels. For the most part, reductions in employment were small, not exceeding 3 percent except in metal mining where 6 percent of the employees were laid off, and in building construction where the decline of 4.8 percent was smaller than is usual for February. Pay rolls were better maintained than employment, and in some industries, including bituminous coal mining, crude petroleum producing, and quarrying and non-metallic mining, they were higher than in January. In comparison with a year ago, employment was lower in all but 5 of the nonmanufacturing industries surveyed.

STATISTICS OF EMPLOYMENT, PAY ROLLS, AND WAGES

Year and month	Factory employment and pay rolls			Nonmanufacturing employment and pay rolls, unadjusted (U. S. Department of Labor)										Trade-union members employed	Wages		
	Employment		Pay rolls	Anthracite mining ¹		Bituminous coal mining ¹		Electric light and power and manu- factured gas		Telephone and tele- graph		Retail trade			Factory (National Indus- trial Conference Board)		Com- mon labor rates (road build- ing)
	Unad- justed	Ad- justed ²	Unad- justed	Em- ploy- ment	Pay rolls	Em- ploy- ment	Pay rolls	Em- ploy- ment	Pay rolls	Em- ploy- ment	Pay rolls	Em- ploy- ment	Pay rolls		Average weekly earnings	Average hourly earnings	Cents per hour
	Monthly average, 1923-25=100			Monthly average, 1929=100											Percent of total members	Dollars	
1929: February	102.9	103.6	109.3	195.7	122.0	107.1	116.2	92.6	91.8	95.3	93.0	95.4	95.1	85	28.84	0.587	37
1932: February	70.3	70.6	54.8	76.2	59.3	85.1	51.9	87.2	86.0	82.0	89.6	78.3	69.1	69	19.63	.527	33
1933: February	63.7	64.1	41.0	65.7	59.7	80.1	44.1	77.4	71.6	73.9	71.9	70.4	51.8	66	16.23	.462	33
1934: February	81.1	81.4	61.3	72.2	69.5	90.0	63.7	81.2	74.4	69.8	67.9	79.6	58.8	74	19.86	.558	42
1935: February	85.1	85.3	70.0	75.5	68.8	98.9	77.8	82.2	78.3	70.0	72.9	79.2	59.3	76	22.14	.595	39
1936: February	86.9	87.4	73.7	73.8	83.3	99.1	92.1	86.1	84.7	69.9	76.2	79.7	61.6	78	23.14	.608	36
1937:																	
January	96.5	98.8	90.7	65.2	46.4	104.5	93.6	92.1	92.3	74.4	83.6	85.4	68.0	85	26.11	.638	37
February	99.0	99.7	95.8	63.6	44.6	104.7	96.4	92.2	93.6	74.8	82.2	85.2	67.9	86	26.68	.642	35
March	101.1	100.9	101.1	59.0	41.1	106.1	103.5	92.4	94.8	75.4	87.2	88.5	70.5	87	27.50	.659	36
April	102.1	101.6	104.9	65.1	69.4	89.7	63.6	93.1	95.5	76.6	86.3	88.8	71.9	88	28.03	.685	37
May	102.3	102.2	105.2	61.5	48.2	96.1	79.4	94.6	97.9	77.7	89.5	89.9	73.5	89	28.36	.698	39
June	101.1	101.4	102.9	61.6	55.3	96.2	83.3	96.3	100.4	78.5	88.6	90.5	74.4	89	28.39	.707	41
July	101.4	103.0	100.4	54.3	38.2	93.7	77.7	97.5	102.2	79.7	92.1	87.6	72.8	89	27.83	.711	41
August	102.3	102.4	103.8	49.7	29.6	97.4	86.3	98.3	102.6	79.8	92.1	86.2	72.3	88	27.76	.713	42
September	102.1	100.7	100.1	58.1	34.2	93.4	90.9	98.6	104.0	79.8	92.3	90.7	74.4	88	27.39	.716	43
October	100.5	98.4	100.1	61.5	55.4	102.4	100.7	98.5	105.3	79.6	94.9	92.1	75.9	88	27.12	.716	43
November	94.7	94.1	89.5	60.9	49.0	101.4	91.1	97.3	103.8	78.9	91.4	91.7	75.3	86	25.59	.717	41
December	88.6	89.0	80.9	61.4	51.3	99.4	95.1	96.1	102.4	78.0	94.7	100.1	80.6	83	24.36	.715	38
1938:																	
January	82.2	84.2	71.6	59.6	46.5	96.8	70.2	94.0	98.4	77.8	93.5	84.1	70.5	80	22.98	.710	34
February	82.5	83.1	73.5	60.0	46.1	95.3	74.4	92.8	95.9	75.8	89.1	82.9	68.6	79	23.53	.709	34

¹ See footnote marked "f" on p. 29.

² Adjusted for seasonal variations.

Finance

THE repercussions of political developments in Central Europe dominated financial markets at home and abroad during March. Quotations for European currencies in New York touched new lows for the year or longer, following the union of Austria with Germany, and the Far Eastern and British Dominion exchanges attached to sterling were also affected. Trading in Austrian schillings was suspended on March 18. The pressure upon the French franc, growing out of prolongation of the domestic financial difficulties, was accentuated by the strained international situation. On March 15 the French unit fell to the lowest dollar quotation since October 22, 1926, and, in terms of gold, to a record low. Forward francs continued to be quoted at substantial discounts.

The heavy demand for dollar exchange in foreign countries was met by increased supplies of dollars made available through purchases of gold for American account. As a consequence, the decline in foreign currencies, except in the case of the franc, was kept within fairly narrow limits. Gold engagements in London and in Brussels were the first reported acquisitions in Europe since September 1937. A shipment from Japan was also received during March, after a lapse of several months. Both the strength of the dollar and the movement of gold signified at least a temporary resumption of the flow of capital funds from European centers to the United States.

Led by the fall of Austrian 7's from 74 on March 12 to 32½ (the approximate contemporary value of comparable German issues) on March 15, and by marked weakness in other Central European obligations, foreign-bond prices broke sharply in New York. Domestic

security values drifted generally lower during the month, with continued light trading. The prices of railroad securities showed especially heavy losses, with representative averages below the 1932 lows.

In the 4 weeks ended March 16, member-bank reserve balances rose from \$7,216,000,000 to \$7,328,000,000 and excess reserves from an estimated \$1,364,000,000 to \$1,460,000,000. These changes brought the total increases in these items so far in 1938 to \$345,000,000 and \$303,000,000, respectively. The month's rise in total reserves was accompanied by a decrease in nonmember bank deposits of similar magnitude, but the principal factor at work during the first quarter was the seasonal return of money from circulation. In pursuance of its new policy, announced on February 14, of placing gold acquisitions in the inactive gold account only to the extent that they exceed \$100,000,000 in any quarter, the Treasury had deposited with Federal Reserve banks up to March 15 approximately \$72,000,000 in gold certificates. The excess reserves of member banks at the middle of March were higher than at any time since the increase in reserve requirements effected May 1, 1937, and more than double the estimated volume in early August 1937.

Changes in the condition of weekly reporting member banks during the 4 weeks ended March 16 reflected the usual adjustments incident to quarterly tax settlements, as well as a continuation of the trends of recent months. Commercial, industrial, and agricultural loans continued to decrease, as did total loans. Total investments were also reduced, reflecting a decrease in holdings of Government obligations. Demand deposits declined sharply with the approach of the tax date.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

Year and month	Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, end of month	Monetary gold stocks	Money in circulation	Excess reserves of member banks, end of month	Reporting Member Banks, Wednesday closest to end of month					Bank debits, outside New York City	Stock prices (Standard Statistics)	All listed bonds, domestic, average price (N. Y. S. E.)	Security issues (new capital)	Dividend rate, average per share (600 companies)	Interest rates, commercial paper (4-6 months)
					Loans		Investments	Deposits							
					Total	Com'l, industrial, and agricultural ¹		Demand, adjusted	Time						
Millions of dollars											1926=100	Dollars	Thous. of dollars	Dollars	Percent
1929: February	1,510	3,856	4,399	—	16,366	—	5,972	—	6,879	24,489	186.5	97.02	934,343	—	5 1/2
1932: February	1,709	4,097	5,340	— 3	12,588	—	6,935	—	5,700	12,870	56.5	82.02	73,932	1.76	3 3/4-4
1933: February	2,794	4,204	5,605	317	9,627	—	8,196	—	5,288	10,400	44.9	79.09	19,656	1.16	1 1/4-1 1/2
1934: February	2,567	7,138	5,339	1,146	8,697	—	9,785	—	4,843	11,784	80.9	90.12	81,060	1.15	1 1/4-1 1/2
1935: February	2,465	8,465	5,439	2,199	8,061	—	11,520	11,793	4,878	13,111	68.0	93.35	50,118	1.29	3 1/2
1936: February	2,482	10,163	5,779	2,986	7,959	—	13,047	14,090	4,966	15,766	106.1	97.22	107,030	1.45	3 1/2
1937:															
January	2,497	11,310	6,400	2,152	8,941	—	13,638	15,493	5,077	20,383	126.0	100.05	243,568	2.04	3 1/2
February	2,465	11,399	6,369	2,078	9,121	—	13,597	15,501	5,167	17,620	129.5	99.83	189,771	2.04	3 1/2
March	2,458	11,502	6,391	1,398	9,366	—	12,907	15,126	5,144	21,605	129.9	96.86	186,740	2.04	3 1/2
April	2,565	11,686	6,397	1,594	9,428	—	12,774	15,388	5,158	20,051	124.5	96.27	158,580	2.05	1
May	2,585	11,901	6,426	918	9,571	4,270	12,587	15,274	5,231	19,292	116.3	96.79	149,136	2.09	1
June	2,562	12,189	6,435	865	9,760	4,331	12,530	15,187	5,235	20,019	113.6	95.84	359,887	2.09	1
July	2,574	12,404	6,475	791	9,784	4,425	12,499	15,033	5,268	20,152	117.8	96.82	247,636	2.12	1
August	2,577	12,512	6,500	773	10,027	4,638	12,292	14,924	5,268	18,409	120.5	95.64	78,740	2.13	1
September	2,579	12,653	6,558	1,038	10,004	4,807	12,022	14,864	5,290	18,642	106.4	94.54	157,058	2.13	1
October	2,580	12,782	6,566	1,055	9,625	4,761	12,029	14,610	5,278	19,923	91.4	93.17	96,492	2.13	1
November	2,606	12,788	6,558	1,169	9,441	4,637	11,940	14,612	5,234	18,160	82.9	92.36	95,027	2.19	1
December	2,612	12,765	6,618	1,212	9,387	4,601	12,015	14,431	5,205	20,825	82.2	92.75	122,364	2.18	1
1938:															
January	2,593	12,756	6,397	1,383	8,981	4,394	12,253	14,464	5,225	17,597	81.6	91.64	92,387	1.93	1
February	2,590	12,768	6,319	1,415	8,933	4,357	12,298	14,381	5,260	14,623	80.7	92.44	82,072	1.63	1

¹ This item was first reported by the Federal Reserve in May 1937; see footnote marked "⊗" on p. 32 of this issue.

² Deficiency in reserves indicated by (-)

Foreign Trade

THE value of foreign trade in February registered a decline of 7 percent from the total in the preceding month; the decrease, however, was not so severe as that in January when the reduction amounted to 13 percent. A sharp curtailment in imports was primarily responsible for the decrease in total trade between December and January, whereas most of the drop in February resulted from a contraction in exports. Export trade, which increased rather steadily from month to month during 1937, declined 9 percent in both January and February. Imports have shown a downward tendency since last July. The decline in both exports and imports in January was greater than seasonal, but the decrease in February was of approximately seasonal magnitude.

Exports of the five broad economic classes of merchandise were larger in value in the first 2 months of 1938 than in the corresponding period of 1937. Outward shipments of crude foodstuffs (mainly grains) have shown a much larger expansion than the other classes; they were 9.3 percent of the total exports of United States merchandise as compared with only 1.6 percent in the first 2 months of 1937. Among the exports of food products, the value of grains and preparations increased from \$5,404,000 in January-February 1937 to \$48,510,000 in the same period of 1938. Exports of raw cotton were larger in quantity than in the first 2 months of 1937, but due to lower cotton prices the value declined from \$71,527,000 to \$55,769,000. The value of leaf tobacco exports increased from \$16,257,000 in

January-February 1937 to \$28,531,000 in January-February 1938.

The percentage increase in nonagricultural products, as a group, was not so large as that for agricultural products, but exports of those commodities which had shown marked increases during 1937 continued above those in the first 2 months of last year. Wood pulp, mineral oils, heavy iron and steel, industrial machinery, agricultural implements, automobiles, and aircraft were exported in larger value in January-February 1938 than a year before.

Imports of practically all leading commodities were considerably lower in both quantity and value in January-February 1938 than during the corresponding period of 1937. Over four-fifths of the decline resulted from smaller purchases of crude foodstuffs, crude materials, and semimanufactured products. These 3 classes registered decreases of 46, 41, and 37 percent, respectively, as contrasted with reductions of 26 percent and 14 percent in the value of manufactured foodstuffs and finished manufactures.

Among the food imports, the value of grains and feeds declined from \$22,543,000 in the first 2 months of 1937 to \$1,819,000 in January-February 1938, while purchases of cocoa fell from \$10,735,000 to \$3,391,000 and those of coffee from \$33,576,000 to \$24,612,000. Imports of such crude materials and semimanufactures as unmanufactured wool, raw silk, hides and skins, undressed furs, nickel, and tin were sharply lower in January-February 1938 as compared with the corresponding period in 1937.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

Year and month	Indexes		Ex-ports, in-clud-ing reex-ports	Exports of United States merchandise								Imports ¹				
	Value of total ex-ports, ad-justed ¹	Value of total im-ports, ad-justed ¹		Total	Crude materials		Food-stuffs, total	Semi-man-u-fac-tures	Finished manufactures			Total	Crude ma-terials	Food-stuffs	Semi-man-u-fac-tures	Fin-ished man-u-fac-tures
					Total	Un-man-u-fac-tured cot-ton			Total	Ma-chin-ery	Auto-mo-biles, parts, and ac-ces-sories					
Monthly aver-age, 1923-25=100		Millions of dollars														
1929: February.....	128	116	441.8	434.5	92.3	64.1	63.7	61.0	217.5	46.0	59.8	369.4	137.8	86.9	69.9	74.8
1932: February.....	45	41	154.0	151.0	52.6	37.3	22.8	18.3	57.3	13.7	7.4	131.0	37.3	37.8	24.1	31.8
1933: February.....	29	26	101.5	99.4	31.8	20.6	12.8	13.2	41.5	8.5	6.3	83.7	21.1	30.0	13.6	19.1
1934: February.....	47	42	162.8	159.6	54.1	37.6	19.6	24.5	61.4	14.6	13.2	125.0	37.0	38.3	22.2	27.5
1935: February.....	47	48	163.0	160.3	45.0	27.1	16.3	25.5	73.6	18.7	20.5	152.2	45.1	51.8	29.1	26.3
1936: February.....	53	60	182.0	179.4	50.1	25.9	14.8	28.5	86.0	24.6	22.1	189.6	58.5	60.3	40.2	30.6
1937:																
January.....	57	74	221.6	217.9	60.6	37.5	13.1	31.2	110.1	31.5	27.6	228.7	77.0	68.4	46.5	36.7
February.....	67	87	232.5	229.1	54.4	34.1	22.5	37.9	114.2	31.5	26.0	260.3	90.9	76.3	52.2	40.9
March.....	67	86	256.4	252.3	52.2	34.3	17.5	53.0	129.6	37.0	28.8	295.9	91.6	97.4	57.9	49.0
April.....	75	82	269.2	264.9	50.4	28.6	16.5	56.1	141.9	43.5	30.8	281.7	88.7	91.0	54.5	47.6
May.....	81	86	289.9	285.1	52.0	24.6	16.3	71.8	145.0	42.3	33.2	278.8	91.8	84.5	55.8	46.7
June.....	79	93	265.4	256.5	42.0	16.8	16.0	63.3	135.2	40.8	29.7	278.7	92.5	80.1	58.9	47.2
July.....	80	89	268.2	264.6	34.4	9.4	17.4	68.9	144.0	46.1	29.4	263.4	77.6	77.5	59.6	48.8
August.....	79	79	277.7	274.2	46.0	15.9	27.4	67.2	133.6	40.8	23.1	249.0	79.6	66.9	54.8	47.7
September.....	74	76	296.7	293.5	80.9	39.0	26.8	55.4	130.4	39.0	23.3	234.1	76.0	56.9	52.6	48.6
October.....	72	68	333.1	329.8	88.3	45.0	38.8	59.0	143.7	44.6	25.4	226.5	71.7	53.0	51.9	50.0
November.....	72	69	314.7	311.2	84.9	43.7	32.9	57.0	136.4	37.7	29.8	212.4	67.5	51.5	46.4	47.0
December.....	79	65	319.3	315.3	75.9	39.9	34.0	53.5	151.9	44.7	39.7	203.7	68.5	50.4	43.6	41.3
1938:																
January.....	75	52	289.4	286.1	67.9	34.6	40.3	44.1	133.9	39.7	34.4	163.5	51.8	44.1	32.9	34.6
February.....	76	51	262.7	260.0	48.2	21.2	39.4	41.7	130.6	41.4	28.1	155.9	46.7	47.1	29.7	32.5

¹ Adjusted for seasonal variations.² General imports through December 1933; imports for consumption thereafter.

Construction and Real Estate

THE dollar value of construction contracts awarded, as reported by the F. W. Dodge Corporation for 37 States, advanced more than seasonally during the first half of March. Total awards on a daily average basis increased about 45 percent over the preceding month, and were only slightly below the figure for the corresponding period of last year. Residential construction recorded the largest gain, but the daily average rate was 14 percent below that for the first half of March 1937.

Construction contracts awarded in January and February of 1938 were considerably below the total awards of the corresponding 2 months of 1937. Awards for residential and nonresidential building for the 2-month period were 46 and 34 percent, respectively, below those in the comparable period of 1937. Public works and public utility construction registered gains over last year, but the increase in both cases was less than 5 percent.

Industrial construction in January and February of 1938 continued the decline of recent months. Awards were only 23 percent of the total for the similar period in 1937, when construction in these lines was at a relatively high level. The drop in industrial building activity and the curtailment of plant expansion programs may be attributed to the sharp contraction in business which began last fall. Until industrial pro-

duction shows signs of revival, industrial construction activity will undoubtedly continue at depressed levels.

Residential building advanced more than seasonally from January to February of this year, but, as compared with the corresponding month of 1937, the value of residential building contracts awarded in February was more than 35 percent lower. The possible revival of residential construction this spring is indicated by the weekly reports of the Federal Housing Administration on new mortgages accepted for appraisal. Although it is still too early to note the effects of the expanding program of this agency on new-home construction, it is significant that in the week ended March 19, the value of mortgages selected for appraisal by the Federal Housing Administration has reached a new peak. This was the third successive week in which the volume set a new high.

The index of the cost of construction of small houses, compiled by the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, showed a definite downward trend from November to February of this year for most of the cities for which reports were available. The wholesale price of building materials, as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, showed signs of leveling off in the first 3 weeks of March, after declining almost uninterruptedly since August 1937.

CONSTRUCTION, BUILDING MATERIALS, AND REAL ESTATE

Year and month	Construction contracts awarded						Building-material shipments				Construction costs, (Eng. News-Record) ³	Loans outstanding		Real-estate foreclosures (non-farm)
	Federal Reserve index adjusted ¹	All types of construction ²		Residential building	Nonresidential building	Public utilities	Public works	Common brick	Lumber	Oak flooring	Cement	Home Loan Bank	Home Owners' Loan Corp. ⁴	
		Monthly average, 1923-25=100	Number of projects	Millions of dollars	Millions of square feet	Millions of dollars		Thousands	Millions of ft. b. m.	Thousands of ft. b. m.	Thousands of barrels	Monthly average, 1913=100	Thousands of dollars	Monthly average, 1934=100
1929: February.....	118	9,749	361.3	27.3	129.5	164.5	37.6	29.7			5,448	210.4		
1932: February.....	27	5,208	89.0	6.1	24.4	36.3	12.6	15.6			3,118	161.8		
1933: February.....	19	3,884	62.7	3.1	11.8	23.7	4.7	12.5			2,278	159.3		
1934: February.....	44	5,507	96.7	3.6	14.5	29.0	6.4	46.7	32,469	1,129	8,235	194.1	9,184	
1935: February.....	23	6,135	75.0	4.6	16.6	30.6	3.9	23.9	1,847	9,066	2,951	196.0	90,531	359,685
1936: February.....	52	6,441	140.4	9.1	31.2	62.6	11.9	34.7	1,847	9,066	2,951	201.2	76,535	2,544,075
1937:									1,646	23,081	3,177		102,887	2,942,931
1937: January.....	63	8,731	242.7	18.4	78.4	96.3	21.2	46.8	108,169	1,854	38,847	4,689	143,738	2,729,274
February.....	62	11,839	188.3	17.7	63.0	65.2	31.2	28.8	113,598	2,068	34,391	5,163	141,198	2,698,611
March.....	56	16,085	231.2	24.2	90.2	89.2	19.3	32.6	163,801	2,314	36,427	7,879	142,716	2,661,542
April.....	53	16,162	269.9	29.5	108.0	96.2	21.0	44.8	191,040	2,247	35,253	10,272	146,146	2,625,493
May.....	56	13,756	244.1	23.0	83.9	93.4	10.8	56.0	191,275	2,177	30,455	11,590	153,488	2,591,115
June.....	61	13,884	317.8	23.8	93.1	124.8	29.9	70.1	184,625	2,168	25,489	12,645	167,054	2,556,401
July.....	67	13,239	321.6	20.6	81.0	138.1	50.0	52.5	167,085	2,114	28,208	12,237	169,568	2,524,129
August.....	62	12,990	285.1	18.9	73.4	117.2	31.3	63.1	157,839	2,076	33,166	12,291	175,604	2,497,224
September.....	56	12,649	207.1	17.0	65.6	75.7	12.9	52.9	154,424	2,061	30,101	12,773	179,508	2,472,421
October.....	52	12,132	202.1	16.3	65.5	75.0	15.6	46.0	149,672	1,818	24,608	11,190	184,038	2,446,002
November.....	56	9,912	198.4	15.2	59.9	77.1	17.4	44.0	128,118	1,443	19,310	8,188	187,333	2,422,149
December.....	62	7,925	209.5	10.9	43.5	101.2	17.7	47.1	95,882	1,301	19,442	4,793	200,092	2,397,647
1938:														
January.....	52	8,504	195.5	9.4	36.2	57.4	48.5	53.4	68,567	1,385	22,159	4,390	190,535	2,370,984
February.....	46	9,261	119.0	10.4	40.0	48.5	5.1	25.3		1,386	24,490	4,575	187,498	2,348,025

¹ Based on 3-month moving average of values and adjusted for seasonal variations.

² Index is as of 1st of month; index for Mar. 1, 1938, is 243.4.

³ See note marked "†" on p. 24.

⁴ See footnote marked "****" on p. 25.

Transportation

FREIGHT-CAR loadings during the first 3 weeks of March did not show the usual seasonal expansion from February. As a result, the adjusted index of loadings was reduced for the eighth consecutive month. Loadings are still above those of the lowest months of 1932-33, but net operating revenues, reflecting higher costs, have recently been the smallest ever recorded. Net revenue available for charges in January amounted to only \$7,000,000, or about one-fifth the net reported a year earlier. After payment of charges, a deficit of more than \$33,000,000 was reported. This loss, the largest ever reported for a single month's operations, was slightly larger than the figure for February 1933, which had been the nadir of railway operations. The size of the deficit for February is not yet known. Net revenues, however, recorded another sizable drop.

In February, a contraseasonal decline in traffic reduced the adjusted index of loadings for the month to 62 (1923-25 = 100), the lowest point since the middle of 1935. Since the peak of the recovery which was reached last April, the decline in monthly loadings, after adjustment for seasonal change, has amounted to more than one-fourth. Among the major classifications, the sharpest drop—38 percent between March 1937 and February 1938—was in loadings of coal. For the other seven freight classifications, the declines from their 1937 peaks have been as follows: Ore, 69 percent; coke, 66 percent; forest products, 33 percent; miscellaneous freight, consisting largely of manufactured products, 27 percent;

grain and products, 17 percent; merchandise l. c. l., 10 percent; and livestock, 9 percent.

Under the revised schedule of freight rates which the Interstate Commerce Commission granted in its recent decision, it is estimated by the Association of American Railroads that the addition to revenue would amount to approximately 4.5 percent, or \$175,000,000, on the basis of 1936 traffic volume. In its original petition, the carriers asked for a 15 percent horizontal increase in rates which, on the same basis, would have yielded an estimated \$437,000,000 in added revenue.

Advances of 10 percent were allowed on many commodities, but for agricultural products and a few other items the increases were restricted to 5 percent. For anthracite, the increase was limited to 10 cents a ton, and no advances were allowed on bituminous coal, lignite, coke, and iron ore. Higher rates on these latter commodities and on numerous other products had already been granted during 1937.

The effect of the advance in freight rates on purchases of railroad equipment is uncertain. However, there is little ground for expecting any sharp revival in equipment purchasing, which is at present almost negligible. The much-discussed shortage of rolling stock is not a pressing problem at the present level of traffic movement. Although much of the rolling stock is obsolete by present standards, the high initial cost, the uncertain outlook for freight volumes, and the financial straits of the carriers are serious deterrents to any extensive program of equipment replacement.

RAIL AND WATER TRAFFIC

Year and month	Freight-car loadings									Freight car surplus	Pull-man pas-sen-gers carried	Financial statistics, class I railways			Canal traffic					
	F. R. index		Total	Coal and coke	For-est products	Grain and grain products	Live-stock	Mer-chan-dise l.c.l.	Ore			Misc-ellane-ous	Operating reve-nues	Net rail-way op-erating income	Net in-come	Sault Ste. Marie	Pana-ma ¹			
	Unad-justed ¹	Ad-justed ²																		
	Monthly average, 1923-25=100																			
Thousands of cars ³																Thou-sands	Thousands of dollars		Thous. of short tons	Thous. of long tons
1929: February.....	101	109	949.3	220.2	61.4	46.4	25.9	245.0	9.7	340.8	217	2,555	470,419	83,287	0	1,138				
1932: February.....	55	60	557.2	112.4	19.6	34.2	18.3	184.0	2.7	185.8	722	1,424	264,224	21,614	0	628				
1933: February.....	58	52	491.4	127.4	14.0	26.0	14.9	154.7	1.9	152.6	650	952	212,154	10,134	0	623				
1934: February.....	62	65	588.7	161.6	22.2	29.5	14.9	156.9	3.2	200.5	375	1,132	248,457	29,421	0	979				
1935: February.....	64	66	582.6	147.3	25.5	26.4	12.0	153.1	3.8	214.5	320	1,204	254,928	26,296	0	708				
1936: February.....	75	71	628.0	193.6	26.4	30.1	10.3	145.1	5.7	216.8	171	1,359	300,430	33,562	0	813				
1937:																				
January.....	73	80	660.5	163.1	29.6	29.2	13.6	152.9	10.1	262.0	131	1,605	331,707	38,437	0	281				
February.....	76	82	690.9	168.8	34.8	28.7	11.2	160.2	10.6	276.6	113	1,385	321,927	38,359	0	467				
March.....	80	83	750.9	179.2	37.7	28.8	11.4	170.5	10.9	312.3	113	1,475	377,813	69,379	0	1,255				
April.....	79	84	738.8	128.9	37.0	29.9	12.6	172.6	30.2	327.5	134	1,419	351,573	47,807	4,620	1,005				
May.....	80	80	779.5	129.0	39.7	27.3	13.5	171.2	72.5	326.3	147	1,364	352,614	43,663	14,110	1,077				
June.....	79	78	744.1	120.6	39.1	30.7	11.0	163.3	73.2	306.3	137	1,478	351,704	58,940	14,161	1,018				
July.....	82	80	762.4	119.8	40.3	50.3	10.5	161.0	76.8	303.6	137	1,550	355,148	60,558	19,007	956				
August.....	81	79	778.9	127.7	40.5	43.7	14.3	167.8	74.4	310.5	127	1,636	359,612	50,308	6,347	1,041				
September.....	87	78	795.7	149.0	37.5	35.6	17.3	166.4	69.7	320.3	104	1,552	363,071	59,305	16,210	865				
October.....	84	76	803.5	166.5	35.4	38.0	21.2	171.5	47.9	322.9	123	1,494	372,926	60,747	17,195	980				
November.....	72	71	656.9	140.6	28.0	38.8	16.5	155.9	15.6	261.6	219	1,342	318,180	32,441	3,939	844				
December.....	62	67	577.3	139.6	25.2	34.1	13.5	142.6	8.6	213.7	283	1,445	300,321	25,972	303	760				
1938:																				
January.....	59	65	542.8	126.3	23.8	35.8	13.7	137.3	6.7	199.1	299	1,526	279,259	6,920	0	752				
February.....	57	62	538.9	116.0	26.3	31.6	11.3	144.2	7.1	202.3	299	1,526	251,089	2,122	0	629				

¹ Adjusted for number of working days.² Adjusted for seasonal variations.³ American vessels, both directions.⁴ Average weekly basis.⁵ Deficit.

Income of Independent Professional Practitioners

By Walter L. Slifer, formerly of the National Income Section, Division of Economic Research

ABOUT one-third of a million independent practitioners were engaged in the medical, dental, legal, and accounting professions in 1936. This number represented approximately 0.8 percent of the 41 million gainfully employed persons, and their total net income was approximately 1.5 billion dollars, or 2.4 percent of the total national income paid out.¹ The average net income of these independent professional practitioners in 1936 is estimated at \$4,468, as compared with a per capita income of \$1,244 for employees in all industries and an average income of \$2,333 for salaried employees in manufacturing, mining, construction, and selected transportation industries. These variations correspond with the reports on family income published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, which indicate that median incomes of urban families in the independent professional class are higher than those for urban families of wage earners and of those engaged in independent business, clerical, salaried professional or salaried business occupations.²

TREND OF AVERAGE NET INCOMES IN THE PROFESSIONS

The average net incomes of independent professional practitioners as revealed by recent surveys³ conducted by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce are shown in table 1. In many instances different averages are shown for the same profession in the same year because of the fact that various surveys covered overlapping years. Probably each sample has a bias, the nature and extent of which cannot be accurately determined; and for this reason the actual averages of net income for any one year cannot be stated precisely as representative of the entire profession.

A steady and sharp decline in the average net income from 1929 to 1932, with a further decline, but less sharp, from 1932 to 1933, is apparent in each sample of all the professions covered. A rise in the average net income each year from 1933 to 1936 occurred in each sample with the exception of one survey of the legal profession which shows a lower average in 1934 than in 1933. In the samples covering both 1929 and 1933 the averages for 1933 ranged from 52.9 percent of 1929 for specialists in the medical profession to 58.9 for the legal profession. Similar figures for 1936 ranged from 65.4 of the 1929

average for the legal profession to 88.1 for accountants not certified but engaged in public practice.

Table 1.—Net Incomes of Independent Professional Practitioners, 1929-36

Year survey made	Profession	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
Average net income									
1933	Medical (all prac.).....	\$5,602	\$5,307	\$4,544	\$3,442	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1935	Medical (all prac.).....	(1)	(1)	(1)	3,197	\$2,974	\$3,438	(1)	(1)
1937	Medical (all prac.).....	5,298	4,687	4,065	3,148	2,909	3,310	\$3,629	\$4,143
1937	Medical (gen'l prac.)...	4,701	4,084	3,603	2,790	2,615	2,954	3,231	3,673
1937	Medical (specialists)...	8,314	7,734	6,402	4,964	4,397	5,112	5,636	6,321
1935	Legal.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	4,156	3,868	4,218	(1)	(1)
1937 ²	Legal.....	6,601	(1)	(1)	4,088	3,786	3,692	3,885	4,320
1937 ³	Legal.....	5,561	(1)	(1)	(1)	3,273	(1)	(1)	3,725
1933	Accounting (C. P. A.)...	7,776	7,325	5,891	4,749	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1935	Accounting (C. P. A.)...	(1)	(1)	(1)	4,464	4,230	4,611	(1)	(1)
1937	Accounting (C. P. A.)...	5,749	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	4,012	4,291	4,626
1935	Accounting (non-C. P. A.).....	(1)	(1)	(1)	2,206	1,856	2,183	(1)	(1)
1937	Accounting (non-C. P. A.).....	3,303	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	2,226	2,463	2,910
1933	Dentistry.....	5,020	4,807	4,163	3,063	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1935	Dentistry.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	2,778	2,495	2,780	(1)	(1)
Percentages of 1929									
1933	Medical (all prac.).....	100	94.7	81.1	61.4	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1935	Medical (all prac.).....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1937	Medical (all prac.).....	100	88.5	76.7	59.4	54.9	62.5	68.5	78.2
1937	Medical (gen'l prac.)...	100	86.9	76.6	59.3	55.6	62.8	68.7	78.1
1937	Medical (specialists)...	100	93.0	77.0	59.7	52.9	61.5	67.8	78.4
1935	Legal.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1937 ²	Legal.....	100	(1)	(1)	61.9	57.4	55.9	58.9	65.4
1937 ³	Legal.....	100	(1)	(1)	(1)	58.9	(1)	(1)	67.0
1933	Accounting (C. P. A.)...	100	94.2	75.8	61.1	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1935	Accounting (C. P. A.)...	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1937	Accounting (C. P. A.)...	100	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	69.8	74.6	80.5
1935	Accounting (non-C. P. A.).....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1937	Accounting (non-C. P. A.).....	100	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	67.4	74.6	88.1
1933	Dentistry.....	100	95.8	82.9	61.0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1935	Dentistry.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Number of practitioners in sample									
1933	Medical (all prac.).....	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1935	Medical (all prac.).....	(1)	(1)	(1)	1,361	1,361	1,361	(1)	(1)
1937	Medical (all prac.).....	753	752	791	850	912	1,053	1,048	1,057
1937	Medical (gen'l prac.)...	593	592	622	609	724	835	828	834
1937	Medical (specialists)...	160	160	169	181	188	218	220	223
1935	Legal.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	1,235	1,230	1,235	(1)	(1)
1937 ²	Legal.....	557	(1)	(1)	685.8	734	777	787	784.5
1937 ³	Legal.....	706	(1)	(1)	(1)	944	(1)	(1)	1,157
1933	Accounting (C. P. A.)...	1,021	1,015	1,021	1,031	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1935	Accounting (C. P. A.)...	(1)	(1)	(1)	1,271	1,268	1,262	(1)	(1)
1937	Accounting (C. P. A.)...	695	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	896	916	961
1935	Accounting (non-C. P. A.).....	(1)	(1)	(1)	99	98	98	(1)	(1)
1937	Accounting (non-C. P. A.).....	45	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	57	57	61
1933	Dentistry.....	1,333	1,333	1,333	1,333	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1935	Dentistry.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	1,007	1,007	1,007	(1)	(1)

¹ From extensions and revisions of the estimates presented in chapter XV, "National Income in the United States 1929-35," published in 1936.

² "Survey of Family Income," Oswald Nielsen, Survey of Current Business, December 1937.

³ A description of the surveys and of the methods used may be found at the end of the article.

⁴ Information not obtained for these years.

⁵ Averages based on the questions asked by the Department of Commerce.

⁶ Averages obtained from supplementary questions included for the American Bar Association.

⁷ Fractions indicate part-of-year participation in legal firms.

Medical Profession.

The sample of all independent medical practitioners obtained from the survey made in 1937 gives an average net income of \$5,298 in 1929, \$2,909 in 1933, and \$4,143 in 1936. Averages obtained from this survey for the years 1929 to 1932 are somewhat lower than those given by the survey conducted in 1933; for the years 1932 to 1934, inclusive, the averages derived from the 1937 survey are only slightly lower than those of the 1935 survey. Trends of the average net income as expressed in percentages of 1929 are similar for the surveys of 1933 and 1937. In the study made in 1937 the practitioners were requested to designate their type of practice as between general practice and practice of a specialized nature. The average net income of specialists in the sample was \$6,521 in 1936, which was 77.5 percent higher than the average of \$3,673 for general practitioners in the same year. The average net income of specialists declined from 1929 to 1933 at a more rapid rate than did the average of the general practitioner, and rose more rapidly from 1933 to 1936. The average net incomes of both specialists and general practitioners in 1936 were more than 78 percent of the 1929 level.

Legal Profession.

In the survey of the legal profession made in 1937 a questionnaire was sent to firms and individuals engaged in independent practice. The average net income of firm members and individual practitioners in the sample was \$6,601 in 1929, \$3,786 in 1933, \$3,692 in 1934, and \$4,320 in 1936. Results of the 1935 survey covering the years 1932 to 1934 indicate an average net income for firm members and individual practitioners of \$3,868 in 1933 and \$4,218 for 1934, thus showing a measurable increase in 1934 whereas the 1937 survey indicated a slight decline in 1934. The 1937 survey was made in cooperation with the Committee on Economics of the American Bar Association, and a series of questions to be answered by individuals, whether practicing independently or as firm members, were attached to the questionnaire of the Department of Commerce. One of these questions related to the net income of the practitioner for 1929, 1933, and 1936, and the average net income obtained from this sample was \$5,561, \$3,273, and \$3,725 for the respective years.

With the exception of the year 1934, the trend from year to year in the averages in each sample is similar. The downward trend from 1929 to 1933 in the samples of the legal profession is not so great as that for the samples of the medical profession, and the upward trend from 1933 to 1936 is smaller than that in the medical profession. The average net incomes of lawyers in the two samples in 1936 were 65.4 and 67 percent of the 1929 levels; while, as shown above, the medical profession had attained a greater degree of recovery by 1936.

Accounting.

Certified public accountants were surveyed in 1933, covering the years 1929 to 1932, and the figures revealed

an average net income of \$7,776 in 1929 and \$4,749 in 1932 for firm members and individual practitioners engaged in independent practice. In 1935 another survey was made covering the years 1932-34, giving an average net income of \$4,464 for 1932 and \$4,611 for 1934. A third survey in 1937, covering the years 1929 and 1934 to 1936, resulted in an average net income of \$5,749 for 1929, \$4,012 in 1934, and \$4,626 in 1936. Each succeeding survey showed lower averages of net income for identical years. The average net income in 1932 (1933 survey) was only 61.1 percent as large as the average in 1929, indicating the same decline as shown in the sample of the legal profession. From 1933 to 1936 the trend of income among accountants was more sharply upward than the trends in either the medical or legal profession, with the 1936 average net income approximating 80.5 percent of the 1929 average. According to the 1935 and 1937 surveys, the average net income of accountants not certified but engaged in independent public practice was much lower than the averages for certified accountants in each year. The average net income of the accountants not certified was \$2,910 in 1936 (1937 survey), or 88.1 percent of the average of \$3,303 in 1929.

Dental Profession.

According to a survey made in the dental profession in 1933, covering the years 1929 to 1932, the average net income of dentists dropped from \$5,020 in 1929 to \$3,063 in 1932, thus declining 39 percent during the period. According to the survey made in 1935, averages of \$2,778 in 1932 and \$2,780 in 1934 were shown.

PERCENTAGE OF NET INCOME TO GROSS INCOME

Ratios of net income to gross income for independent practitioners of medicine, law, and accounting are presented in table 2. Net incomes of all independent medical practitioners in the sample were 61.4 percent

Table 2.—Percentage of Net Income to Gross Income, 1937 Surveys.

Profession	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
Medical (all prac.).....	61.4	60.0	58.5	55.4	55.3	58.0	59.1	60.3
Medical (general prac.).....	61.0	59.3	58.1	54.8	55.0	57.7	58.8	60.0
Medical (specialists).....	63.6	63.5	60.4	57.9	56.7	59.0	60.3	61.6
Legal.....	71.7	(¹)	(¹)	64.3	65.1	65.0	66.2	67.6
Accounting.....	48.5	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	51.0	51.7	51.8

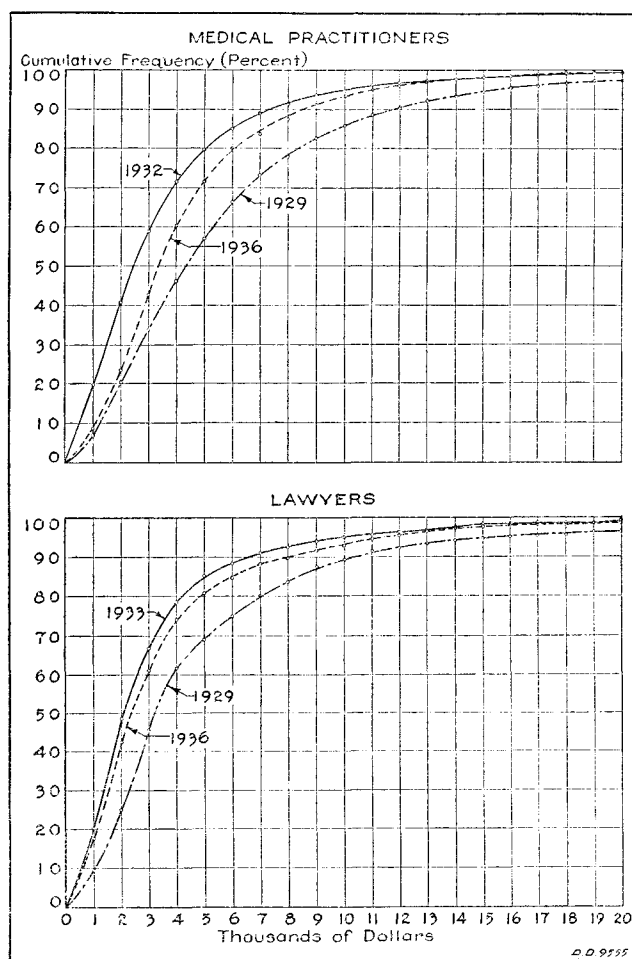
¹ Data not obtained in questionnaires for these years.

of gross incomes in 1929. Between 1929 and 1933 gross income decreased more rapidly than expenses; thus, net income represented only 55.3 percent of gross income in the latter year. After 1933 the trend was reversed, with gross income increasing more rapidly than expenses until net income was 60.3 percent of gross income in 1936. In the medical profession net income was a larger percentage of the gross income of specialists than of the gross income of general practitioners each year from 1929 to 1936. In the sample of the legal profession the ratio varied from 71.7 in 1929 to 64.3 in 1932,

and 67.6 in 1936. In the sample of accountants, net income represented 48.5 percent of gross income in 1929, 51 percent in 1934, and 51.8 percent in 1936. Thus, the ratio of expenses to gross income was highest among accountants and lowest in the legal profession.

CUMULATIVE FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF NET INCOME BY SIZE

A cumulative frequency distribution of net income by size derived from the surveys of the medical and legal professions for various years are presented in the accompanying figure. In 1936, 8.8 percent of the independent medical practitioners submitting returns received less than \$1,000 net income, 42.9 percent less than \$3,000,



Cumulative Frequency Distribution of Net Income by Size, Legal and Medical Professions.

and 71.5 percent less than \$5,000. On the other hand, 6.8 percent received incomes of \$10,000 or more. In 1934 and 1932 the percentages of those sampled who received net incomes of less than \$1,000 was greater than in 1936. The percentage receiving incomes below \$1,000 was less in 1929 than in 1936. Comparing the samples of independent legal practitioners with those of independent medical practitioners, a greater proportion of the sample of independent legal practitioners for 1929 and 1936 received less than \$1,000 than of the

medical profession, and a larger percentage of the legal practitioners received incomes in the higher income groups than the medical practitioners.

In the sample of independent medical practitioners in 1936, the lowest 10 percent received incomes of less than \$1,090, the lowest 25 percent received incomes under \$2,070, the lowest 50 percent received incomes less than \$3,400. Three-fourths received incomes under \$5,430, and 90 percent had net incomes below \$8,700. The highest 5 percent reported incomes in excess of \$11,500, while 0.7 percent received \$20,000 or more.

In 1936, 10 percent of the sample of independent legal practitioners received a net income less than \$550, 25 percent less than \$1,280, 50 percent less than \$2,400, 75 percent less than \$4,060, 90 percent less than \$7,840, 95 percent less than \$11,000, while 1.5 percent received \$20,000 or more. Comparing the distributions of income in 1936 for the medical and legal professions, the upper limit of net income of the lowest 10 percent of independent legal practitioners is 50.5 percent of that for the medical profession, and the upper limit of the lowest 25 percent of independent legal practitioners is 61.8 percent of that for the medical profession. This ratio increases until the upper income limit of the lowest 95 percent of independent legal practitioners is 95.7 percent of that for the medical profession. Also, in 1936, 1.5 percent of independent legal practitioners in the sample received a net income of \$20,000 or more, while 0.7 percent of the medical profession received a net income of \$20,000 or more. The highest income in the sample of independent legal practitioners for 1929 and 1936 was above the highest reported in the medical profession for the same years.

The wide variation of net income from the average in 1936 is more pronounced in the legal profession than in the medical profession. An examination of the distribution of income in the legal profession reveals that the variation of net income was more pronounced in 1936 than in 1929. It should be noted, however, that the sample of independent legal practitioners included a larger percentage of practitioners with only a few years of experience than the sample of independent medical practitioners. This distinguishing characteristic, however, may be true of the entire professions as well as the samples.

THE SHIFT OF PRACTITIONERS FROM ONE INCOME GROUP TO OTHERS FROM 1929 TO 1933 AND 1936

The movement of independent medical and legal practitioners from the various net income groups in 1929 to other income classes in 1933 and 1936 is presented in table 3. In both of these professions a greater percentage of those in the higher income brackets in 1929 moved into lower income brackets in 1933 and 1936 than was the case in the middle income groups. Conversely, in both professions a greater percentage of

practitioners in the lower income groups in 1929 had moved into the higher groups in 1933 and 1936 than was the case in the middle income brackets. Noticing the extreme cases, one finds that some independent medical practitioners who received from \$6,000 to \$10,999 in 1929 were found in the group receiving less than \$1,000 in 1933 and in 1936. All independent medical practitioners receiving \$20,000 or more in 1929 were found in the lower income groups in 1933, but by 1936 some of these had moved back into the group above \$20,000. Some lawyers in independent practice in the group receiving from \$11,000 to \$19,999 in 1929 were found in the group receiving less than \$1,000 in 1933 and in 1936.

VARIATION OF INCOME WITH YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

The relation between net income of independent medical and legal practitioners with years of experience as of 1936 is presented in table 4. The percentage distribution of the number of practitioners in the samples arranged in groups by years of experience is

also given in table 4. It will be observed that in 1936 a larger proportion of all the lawyers in the sample of independent practitioners were generally in the groups with 17 years or less of experience than was the case with the sample of independent medical practitioners. Also, the percentage of independent medical and legal practitioners in the groups with 18 to 22 years of experience was smaller than the percentage in the groups immediately older and younger, indicating that relatively fewer persons entered the professions during and immediately after the war.

The average net income of reporting independent medical practitioners in 1936 with 1 year of experience was \$925, with 2 years \$1,839, with 3 years \$2,747, and the income increased with each year of experience until it averaged \$3,693 with 7 years of practice. The average net income of reporting lawyers engaged in independent practice in 1936 with 1 year of experience was \$1,059, with 2 years \$1,121, with 3 years \$1,630, and the income increased with each year of experience until it was \$2,375 with 7 years of practice. With the

Table 3.—Change of the Medical and Legal Independent Practitioners in the Various Net Income Groups of 1929 to Other Income Groups in 1933 and 1936

Income groups	Income groups, 1929								
	Less than \$1,000	\$1,000- \$1,999	\$2,000- \$2,999	\$3,000- \$3,999	\$4,000- \$4,999	\$5,000- \$5,999	\$6,000- \$10,999	\$11,000- \$19,999	\$20,000 and over
MEDICAL, 1933									
Less than \$1,000.....	73.7	32.9	21.1	10.8	6.9	6.7	3.2	0.0	0.0
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	14.0	53.7	40.4	28.4	18.8	15.7	6.0	2.2	0.0
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	10.5	6.1	30.7	35.3	35.6	28.1	19.8	6.7	7.7
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	0.0	2.4	7.0	19.6	24.8	32.6	19.8	2.2	7.7
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	0.0	2.4	.9	5.0	7.9	7.9	16.1	17.8	0.0
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	4.0	5.6	15.2	17.8	0.0
\$6,000-\$10,999.....	1.8	1.2	0.0	1.0	2.0	2.2	18.9	46.7	38.5
\$11,000-\$19,999.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	.9	6.7	46.2
\$20,000 and over.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number of returns.....	57	82	114	102	101	89	217	45	13
MEDICAL, 1936									
Less than \$1,000.....	70.3	28.7	11.4	3.4	4.1	2.0	.4	0.0	0.0
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	10.9	47.1	33.6	17.2	7.1	10.9	3.9	0.0	0.0
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	7.8	11.5	30.7	31.0	25.5	24.8	9.2	3.8	0.0
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	3.1	5.7	12.1	27.6	26.5	18.8	14.0	3.8	0.0
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	0.0	3.4	5.7	8.6	15.3	14.9	17.5	3.8	6.7
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	0.0	1.1	2.1	5.2	9.2	11.9	14.0	3.8	0.0
\$6,000-\$10,999.....	7.8	1.1	3.6	6.0	10.2	15.3	33.3	44.2	20.0
\$11,000-\$19,999.....	0.0	1.1	.7	.9	2.0	1.0	7.5	32.7	53.3
\$20,000 and over.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	20.0
Number of returns.....	64	87	149	116	98	101	228	52	15
LEGAL, 1933									
Less than \$1,000.....	67.1	25.5	12.7	6.6	4.0	4.4	2.4	2.6	0.0
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	25.7	52.0	39.4	23.8	20.0	8.9	6.5	5.3	4.0
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	5.7	13.7	33.8	28.7	30.0	11.1	10.5	0.0	0.0
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	0.0	4.9	9.2	23.0	14.0	28.9	16.9	13.2	0.0
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	0.0	2.0	2.8	9.0	16.0	13.3	21.0	2.6	4.0
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	1.4	1.0	.7	3.3	4.0	11.1	8.1	10.5	8.0
\$6,000-\$10,999.....	0.0	0.0	1.4	4.9	10.0	20.0	28.6	39.5	20.0
\$11,000-\$19,999.....	0.0	1.0	0.0	.8	2.0	2.2	7.3	23.7	36.0
\$20,000 and over.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	.8	2.6	28.0
Number of returns.....	70	102	142	122	50	45	124	38	25
LEGAL, 1936									
Less than \$1,000.....	54.4	22.3	9.1	3.3	18.4	2.2	3.3	2.6	0.0
\$1,000-\$1,999.....	25.0	43.7	31.2	17.4	18.4	4.3	5.0	0.0	4.0
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	11.8	20.4	31.2	24.0	18.4	10.9	9.1	0.0	8.0
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	5.9	4.9	13.2	28.9	20.4	25.1	10.7	10.3	0.0
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	1.5	3.9	5.6	12.4	4.1	6.5	12.4	5.1	4.0
\$5,000-\$5,999.....	1.5	2.9	3.5	2.5	10.2	13.0	10.7	7.7	0.0
\$6,000-\$10,999.....	0.0	0.0	5.6	9.1	4.1	32.6	30.6	30.8	12.0
\$11,000-\$19,999.....	0.0	1.9	0.0	2.5	6.1	4.3	16.5	28.2	28.0
\$20,000 and over.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	15.4	44.0
Number of returns.....	68	103	144	121	49	46	121	30	25

exception of the first year of experience the medical practitioners in the sample received higher average net incomes during each of the first 7 years of practice than lawyers. When the medical practitioners are classified by years of experience into 10-year groups, the net incomes are highest for the 8-17 and 18-27 year periods, being slightly less than \$5,000 for each of the two periods. For the legal profession the highest averages occurred for the 18-27 and 28-37 year periods, with net incomes for each of the two periods being close to \$5,000.

Table 4.—Net Income and Percentage Distribution of Medical and Legal Independent Practitioners by Years of Experience, 1936

Years of experience	Medical			Legal		
	Number in sample	Percentage distribution of number in sample	Average net income	Number in sample	Percentage distribution of number in sample	Average net income
1.....	16	1.1	\$925	30	2.7	\$1,059
2.....	49	3.6	1,839	53	4.9	1,121
3.....	79	5.7	2,747	48	4.4	1,630
4.....	50	3.6	3,060	59	5.4	1,779
5.....	45	3.3	3,558	60	5.5	2,047
6.....	45	3.3	3,622	54	4.9	2,176
7.....	30	2.2	3,693	42	3.9	2,375
1-2.....	65	4.7	1,614	83	7.6	1,099
3-7.....	249	18.1	3,229	263	24.1	1,990
8-17.....	302	21.9	4,930	326	29.9	3,629
18-27.....	278	20.2	4,983	207	19.0	4,893
28-37.....	323	23.4	3,717	139	12.7	4,964
38-47.....	142	10.3	2,525	53	4.9	4,016
48-52.....	17	1.2	1,600	13	1.2	2,591
Over 52.....	2	.2	678	6	.6	1,248
Total.....	1,378	100.0	-----	1,090	100.0	-----

On the average, lawyers engaged in independent practice required 10 more years of experience to arrive at the time when they received their greatest annual net income than the average independent medical practitioner. The average net income of lawyers in independent practice found in each of the groups with less than 27 years of experience was lower than that of independent medical practitioners in similar groups; and lawyers in each of the groups with more than 27 years of experience received a higher average net income than independent medical practitioners in the same groups. The average net income of the lawyers in the sample with the greatest number of years of experience was at a considerably higher level than that of the medical practitioners in the same experience groups, but the average net income of lawyers and doctors declined rapidly as the years of experience were extended beyond the period of maximum earnings.

NATURE OF SURVEYS AND DESCRIPTION OF METHOD

In connection with the preparation of annual estimates of the national income, the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has obtained information through the circulation of questionnaires among those engaged in various fields of economic activity for whom necessary data have not been otherwise available. It was necessary to conduct these surveys of the professions because data for all income classes could not be obtained otherwise. For example, the data from income-tax returns published by the Bureau of Internal Revenue on professional incomes do not include the lower income brackets and are not regularly broken down into the various professions. Most of the large independent professions have been covered by these surveys. Because of limited funds, the coverage of the surveys has generally been limited to only a portion of each profession. The number of returns has been small in comparison to the total number of practitioners in the various professions, varying around 1 percent of each group. The ratio of returns to questionnaires mailed varied between 10 and 20 percent for the different surveys. Data have been gathered for the years 1929 to 1936, inclusive, during which period marked fluctuations in economic activity have been experienced. From a geographical point of view the questionnaires have been sent at random to urban as well as rural practitioners in every State in an attempt to get a sample of all income brackets in all regions.

An independent professional practitioner may be defined for the purposes of this study as an individual or firm member who establishes a practice to render professional service to patients or clients in return for compensation by those served. Professional practitioners working at fixed salaries, either in professional offices or with nonprofessional concerns or in public service, have not been included in this survey of independent practitioners.

Gross income, reported by independent practitioners in the various professions, generally consists of cash receipts for the calendar year in payment for professional services rendered. If the practitioner kept books for his business on the accrual basis, his return was probably made on that basis; but most of the practitioners covered by the survey kept books on a cash basis. The practitioner was instructed not to include as part of his gross income any return on investments such as rent, interest, and dividends, nor compensation for work done outside of his professional practice.

Net income from professional practice equals gross income less expenses incidental to independent professional practice, such as salaries, office rent, general office expenses, cost of operating a car used in such practice, and depreciation of the value of all capital equipment used in the office or otherwise. Where the independent practitioner has his office located in his residence, his expenses include a portion of rent and a proper share of wages of employees serving the residence and the office. Expenses do not include payments for State or Federal income taxes, nor are total outlays for capital equipment included, such as the purchase price of a car to be used in the business, office equipment, and libraries. Only the annual depreciation in the value of capital assets is considered as an expense of the business. Expenses of professional occupation do not include expenditures for the practitioner's personal needs nor those for his dependents.

Fats and Oils: Their Adaptability and Uses

By Charles E. Lund, Fats and Oils Specialist, Foodstuffs Division

A tropical palm tree, an Antarctic whale, and a Texas steer appear quite unrelated, yet, in the soap kettle, palm oil, whale oil, and inedible tallow make up the principal ingredients of the slow-lathering group. Philippine coconut oil, African palm-kernel oil, and Brazilian babassu oil also appear to be equally dissociated, but these oils are important quick-lathering oils in the soap industry.

Other fats and oils from all parts of the world find their way into myriad uses and into hundreds of products. Cottonseed oil, palm oil, peanut oil, and tallow are the leading elements in the preparation of compounds and shortenings, yet they come from diverse regions. Chinese tung oil, which has a peculiar advantage as a fast-drying, water-resistant element in the production of paint, has as its nearest counterpart oiticica oil, which is obtained from the nuts of small trees growing in profusion along the northeastern coast of Brazil. In this brief analysis, the sources of fats and oils and some of their domestic uses in the preparation of edible products, soap, and drying oils will be discussed.

Table 1.—Imports of Fats and Oils Including the Oil Equivalent of Oilseeds¹
[Thousands of pounds]

Fats and oils	1937	1936	Average five years, 1930-34
Sunflower seed oil.....	475	25,255	11,286
Corn oil.....	32,926	28,672	(²)
Cottonseed oil.....	194,008	127,787	(²)
Olive oil.....	75,314	90,418	128,427
Palm kernel oil.....	179,087	35,491	27,335
Tung oil.....	174,885	134,830	102,065
Peanut oil.....	57,999	49,006	2,261
Coconut oil.....	676,158	551,061	628,184
Palm oil.....	411,112	338,789	241,164
Rapeseed oil.....	8,017	72,944	17,130
Sesame oil.....	44,239	58,730	28,142
Perilla oil.....	43,591	117,903	17,318
Soybean oil.....	29,752	7,187	3,952
Linseed oil.....	534,117	293,290	242,694
Castor oil.....	66,654	73,835	44,292
Poppyseed.....	3,424	3,105	3,107
Hempseed oil.....	115	15,075	(²)
Babassu oil.....	34,519	37,184	(²)
Vegetable tallow and waxes.....	29,625	21,540	11,887
Glycerines.....	20,976	14,596	12,055
Other vegetable oils.....	58,953	47,260	19,385
Animal oils, fats, and greases.....	30,120	99,430	20,697
Whale and fish oils.....	122,849	93,818	104,830
Total.....	2,828,325	2,337,206	1,666,211

¹ Assuming that all oilseeds are crushed for oil. Some imports are used for planting, some as birdseed, some as decorations on bakery products.

² Included in other vegetable oils.

³ No imports shown.

Source: Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

In the United States, the leading sources of fats and oils are cottonseed, butter, and lard. From two-thirds to three-quarters of our fats-and-oils needs are supplied from domestic sources. The United States traditionally has been an importer of fats, oils, and oil-bearing materials from all over the world, receiving them either from the country of origin, or through the operations of the large oil-crushing centers abroad. Imports of

fats and oils averaged 1,825 million pounds per year in the period 1931-35, increased to 2,337 million pounds in 1936, and reached the record of 2,828 million pounds in 1937. The heavy imports in 1937 were due in considerable measure to the drought in 1936 and to the constantly mounting domestic consumption which rose to over 9 billion pounds in 1936, and reached 9,300 million pounds in 1937. Imports have been substantially reduced in recent months, following the record production of cottonseed in 1937 (nearly 18 billion pounds), and the second heaviest soybean crop on record (approximately 2½ billion pounds).

The demand for fats and oils was reduced in the latter part of 1937, because of a slackening in business activity. Inventory stocks of fats and oils on December 31, 1937, were 2,958 million pounds—an increase of 19 percent as compared with the previous year.

For each of the last several years the domestic consumption of fats and oils has risen to a level of 2 to 3 billion pounds in excess of the amount produced in the United States. This deficiency must be made up by imports, by increasing domestic production, or by limiting the use of special oils. If a policy of self-sufficiency on these products is adopted, more cotton, corn, flax, soybeans, peanuts, tung trees, sunflowers, rape, perilla, and other vegetable oil-bearing crops suitable to this climate and soil must be grown; livestock increased; and domestic fisheries expanded, particularly the catch of menhaden, sardine, and pilchard. Doubtless there is also opportunity to increase the recovery of waste fat and grease material not now reaching commercial channels.¹

Most of the oils have intrinsic values in specific uses. Limited amounts of certain oils may be used in conjunction with other oils without affecting the final prod-

¹ The German experience with a self-sufficiency program is of immediate interest to the United States. Our lard exports to Germany averaged 300 million pounds yearly in 1921-24, decreased to 200 million pounds yearly in the succeeding 5 years, and to a 134-million-pound average in the 4 years 1930-33. In more recent years Germany has practically disappeared as a market for American lard, dropping to only 2 million pounds in 1937, principally because of their exchange and barter requirements, a greatly increased importation of vegetable oils and oilseeds, and the increasing use of whale oil in Germany in the manufacture of margarine.

The consumption of fats in Germany was placed on a ration system in January 1937, with the aim of reducing consumption of these items to the level of 1913, as the high post-war consumption of fats was considered unnecessary. An expansion in the domestic production of oilseeds could not supply sufficient fats and oils to satisfy consumption. Furthermore, domestic production of animal fats could not be substantially increased, since it had already been forced up by the Third Reich's production campaign since 1933 and additional stimulation of production would necessitate importation of feedstuffs.

In attempts to increase supplies of fats and oils, German school children were delegated to gather beechnuts from the forests for the oil mills. Grease "traps" were installed in drain pipes, where fats and greases are separated by settling, and this material was conveyed to central plants for sufficient refining to be of value in the manufacture of soaps. The fat and grease content was found particularly high in waste water from restaurants, slaughter houses, and in butcher and sausage-making shops. Drying oils for paints and varnishes, fats and greases for soap, and edible fats for margarine have all been subjected to more or less domestic restrictions of use, and the national supply of these materials is under the strict supervision of the various control boards.

uct, but to substitute such oils largely or entirely would be undesirable, if not impossible, from the standpoint of satisfactory results in the finished article.

Clothing is made from both wool and cotton, but obviously cotton clothing is more suitable for use in the tropics than wool, and woollen clothing is more suitable for use in the cold climates. Their uses vary because of climate, custom, price, and various other factors. So it is with the oils—when the supply-and-demand situation makes it desirable, or perhaps necessary, most of them are adaptable for other uses and they are, within these limits, interchangeable.

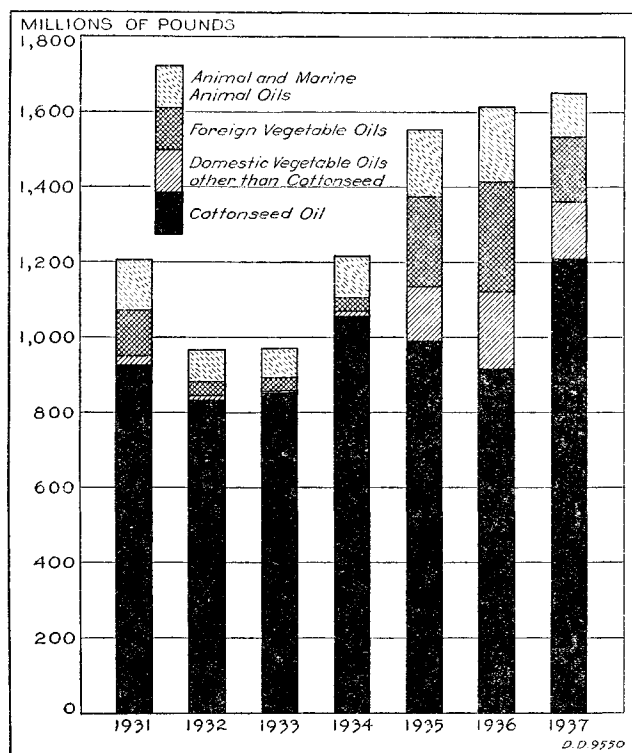


Figure 1.—Factory Consumption of Fats and Oils.

EDIBLE FATS AND OILS

The United States has traditionally been, by far, the principal lard producer of the world, and export markets are depended upon to dispose of a large yearly surplus. Production and exports of lard have decreased considerably in the past several years of lowered hog production, but even during this time domestic lard production has been greater than that of all other countries combined, and the same is true regarding the production of compound and vegetable shortening.

The annual production of vegetable shortening and compounds has amounted to over a billion and a half pounds since 1935, a figure double the yearly production of 25 years ago. During almost this entire period lard production was materially higher than that of other shortenings, but, in 1935, vegetable shortenings and compounds took the lead and maintained it in 1936 and 1937. In 1937 the use of cottonseed oil in shortenings increased nearly 300 million pounds over the previous year.

Table 2.—Domestic Production of Lard and Vegetable Shortenings
[Millions of pounds]

Year	Lard, ¹ including neutral lard	Vegetable shortenings and compounds
Average, 1922-29	1,772	1,013
1933	1,776	953
1934	1,427	1,204
1935	781	1,347
1936	1,063	1,587
1937	894	1,568

¹ Excluding farm and local slaughter.
Source: Bureau of the Census.

Creamery-butter production in 1937 is estimated by the Department of Agriculture at 1,611 million pounds, in addition to which farm butter production is estimated at 500 to 525 million pounds annually. The amount of butter production in the United States is twice that of the next nearest competitor among the countries of the world, but the annual per capita consumption of 17 pounds is considerably below that of a number of other countries. Canada's yearly butter consumption per capita is over 31 pounds; in the United Kingdom it is 25 pounds, most of which is imported; and in New Zealand, which leads the world in this respect, it is from 41 to 44 pounds.

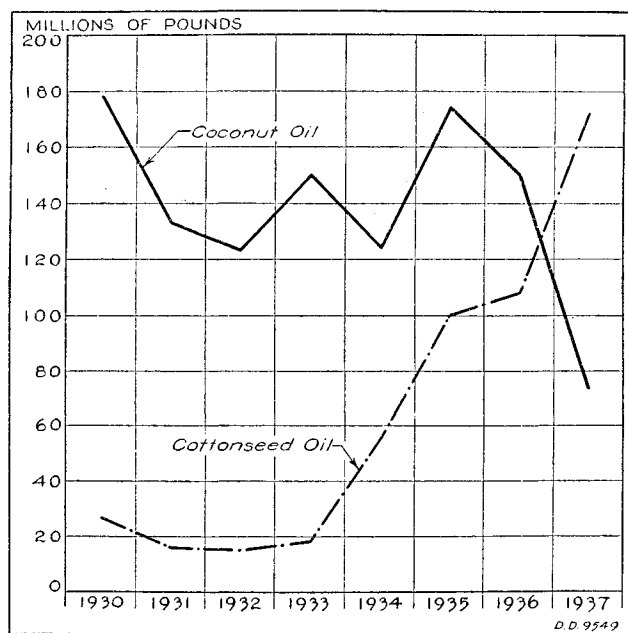


Figure 2.—Use of Cottonseed Oil and Coconut Oil in Margarine

The yearly margarine production in the United States, of nearly 400 million pounds, is about the same as in the United Kingdom, but the annual per capita consumption is only 3 pounds, whereas annual per capita consumption in the United Kingdom is 9 pounds and in Germany 20 pounds.

In the past 25 years domestic production of margarine has increased threefold. Animal oils and fats prior to this time considerably exceeded the amount of vegetable oils used in this product, and coconut oil contributed less than a million pounds yearly. Com-

mencing with the war period, coconut oil rapidly assumed a major role in margarine production. It took the leading position of all oils and fats in 1920, and steadily maintained this place until recent years. Since 1934 cottonseed oil has closely rivaled coconut oil in margarine production, and, in 1937, consumption of cottonseed oil was more than twice that of coconut oil. Vegetable oils have largely displaced animal fats in margarine—the latter representing less than 10 percent of all fats and oils used in that product in recent years.

SOURCES OF EDIBLE OILS

Imports of edible oils have been unusually heavy in the past several years, largely because there was not sufficient domestic cottonseed oil and because the hog and lard supplies were short, following 2 years of severe drought. In years of bumper crops of cotton and corn, as in 1937, the United States not only produces enough cottonseed oil and lard to reduce edible oil imports to a minimum, but it produces a surplus for export.

Cottonseed, which is the leading oilseed, was a worthless byproduct 80 years ago, since cotton was grown only for its lint value, but last year the United States produced 1,626 million pounds of crude cottonseed oil. Domestic consumption of cottonseed oil in 1937 increased 400 million pounds over the previous year to 1,752 million pounds.

The United States produced 1½ billion pounds of peanuts in 1937. The annual world production is estimated at 15 to 20 billion pounds, practically all of which, except in the United States, is crushed for oil, cake, and meal. There has been an unusual demand in the past several years for peanut oil to be used largely in the manufacture of shortening. Payments by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration for the diversion of surplus peanuts from other channels to crushing for oil have stimulated domestic peanut-oil production in the past few years, from a 26-million-pound average in 1931–35 to 70 million pounds in 1936 and 51 million pounds in 1937. However, from 50 to 80 million pounds of peanut oil were imported in each of the last 5 years.

Approximately 457 million pounds of corn germs were crushed in 1937 to produce 126 million pounds of crude corn oil. In recent years the United States has imported about 30 million pounds of corn oil, which is used mostly as a refined table and cooking oil. The Netherlands is the principal supplier of this corn oil.

Over 120 million pounds of edible and inedible olive oil were imported yearly in the 5 years, 1931–35. Imports dropped to 90 million pounds in 1936 and to 75 million pounds in 1937, because of low European crops and military operations in Spain. About 65 percent of last year's imports of olive oil were of the edible grades, supplying a definite demand as a table oil and salad dressing.

Tea-seed oil is also a desirable salad oil, and is so similar to olive oil that it was only recently that de-

velopment of some new tests made it possible to prove adulteration. Imports of Chinese tea-seed oil amounted to 27 million pounds in 1937, showing an increase of 19 million pounds over 1936, more than offsetting a 13-million-pound decrease in edible olive oil imports. A new edible oil, similar in appearance, taste, and nutritive qualities to Mediterranean olive oil, is said to have been recently developed in Uruguay as the result of successful experiments in the extraction of oil from the seeds of wild thistles.

Sesame seed and oil imports, reduced to an oil basis, declined from 58 million pounds in 1936 to 44 million pounds in 1937, when higher excise taxes² were effective on the seed and on the denatured oil. The edible oil is used in shortening in the preparation of prepared flours and is desirable as a salad and table oil, because of its resistance to rancidity. Relatively small amounts go into the manufacture of soap.

SOAP OILS

The soap industry is the largest industrial consumer of fats and oils in the United States, using about 1½ billion pounds of animal, vegetable, and fish oils, annually. These fats and oils find their ways into many types of soap and products in varying proportions, in accordance with their availability and price; their effect on solubility, lathering, and detergent qualities of the finished product; and the important factor of consumer preference. Domestic soap manufacturers have for many years depended upon substantial imports of fats and oils.

Inedible tallow, coconut oil, palm oil, fish oil, and grease are leading components in the production of soap. Production of tallow in 1937 was 507 million pounds (of which 77 million pounds were the edible grade), a decrease of 12 percent from the 1936 production. Inedible tallow, a slow latherer, is by far the leading saponifying material, with a yearly volume twice as large as the quick-lathering coconut oil. Both of these products are adaptable for soap manufacture, but they are not completely interchangeable. Most soaps are made of a combination of coconut oil and tallow, because this combination possesses the advantages of rapid solubility and lasting lather.³

Many different soft oils are added to these hard oils in varying proportions. Olive oil, used for pure olive-

² From the Revenue Act of 1936, effective August 21, 1936. Title V.—Amendments to Taxes on Certain Oils. SEC. 701. Tax on Certain Oils.

The first sentence of section 601 (c) (8) of the Revenue Act of 1932, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

“(8) Whale oil (except sperm oil), fish oil (except cod oil, cod-liver oil, and halibut-liver oil), marine-animal oil, tallow, inedible animal oils, inedible animal fats, inedible animal greases, fatty acids derived from any of the foregoing, and salts of any of the foregoing; all the foregoing, whether or not refined, sulphonated, sulphated, hydrogenated, or otherwise processed, 3 cents per pound; sesame oil provided for in paragraph 1732 of the Tariff Act of 1930, sunflower oil, rapeseed oil, kapok oil, hempseed oil, perilla oil * * * 4½ cents per pound * * * hempseed, perilla seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, and kapok seed, 2 cents per pound.”

³ Coconut oil more than other oils yields a high percentage of glycerin from the spent lyes of the soap-making process. This glycerin is extremely important in the manufacture of explosives, propellants for projectiles, and for use in shock absorbers for artillery pieces, as well as for commercial uses.

oil castile soap, is one of the few oils that makes a satisfactory soap without admixture of other oils. In addition to inedible olive oil and "olive foots" (principally the solvent extracted oil from the pulp after pressing), "cottonseed foots" (settlings from refining of crude cottonseed oil) are an important supplement to the soft-oil group. Some other vegetable oils, including cottonseed oil and soybean oil, also contribute smaller quantities to the soft oils used in the soap industry. The demand for cottonseed oil in the higher-priced edible field has been a determining factor in diverting this product from use in the soap industry during the past 20 years.

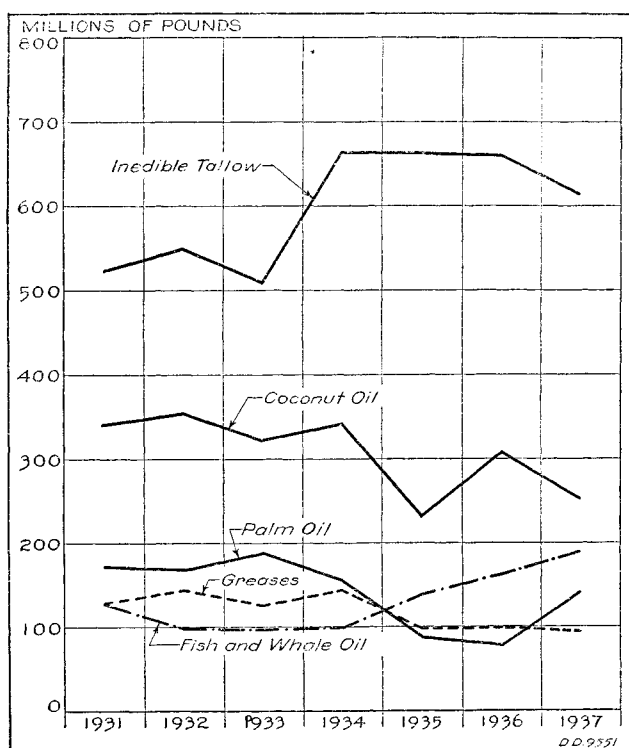


Figure 3.—Utilization of Principal Fats and Oils in Soap.

Because of the lauric-acid content, coconut oil, palm-kernel oil, and babassu oil make a quick-lathering soap for use in the extensive hard-water regions, and they are almost a necessity for use in salt water. None of the domestic oils contain this lauric acid. The accompanying chart illustrates the shifts in the use of the principal soap oils and fats since 1931.

Palm and palm-kernel oil imports, including the raw material in terms of oil, amounted to 590 million pounds in 1937. Imports were chiefly from the Netherlands, Indies and Africa; some of the oil came from European crushing mills, and a small but increased amount of palm nuts and kernels came from Brazil. The fleshy portion of the fruit of the palm tree yields the palm oil of commerce, and palm-kernel oil is obtained from the kernels of this fruit. Palm oil has for many years been used in our textile soap industry, and is the chief supplement to the supply of inedible tallow in the slow-

lathering group of soap oils and fats. A demand in the higher-priced edible field during the drought period diverted increased quantities of palm oil to the domestic manufacture of shortening and compounds, where, in the past 3 years, it ranked second to cottonseed oil among the vegetable oils used in this product. Because of its quick-lathering properties, palm-kernel oil finds its chief use in soap making, in which use it increased fourfold in 1937 over 1936. It is also used in considerable quantities in the preparation of certain confections.

DRYING OILS

The expanding needs for oils in the domestic paint and varnish industry have been met in the past several years by increasing imports. Certain oils, or limited groups of oils, possess basic qualities that make them valuable in this field, but among these oils substitution is possible. Excise taxes on perilla and hemp seed and their oils have reduced their importation, but there has been an increased use of linseed and tung oils, most of which are also imported. Reduced to an oil basis, imports of hempseed and perilla oil dropped from 135 million pounds in 1936 to 44 million pounds in 1937, whereas imports of linseed and tung oils increased from 428 million pounds to 709 million pounds in the same year.

Linseed oil is by far the most important oil for general painting use, supplying in the 5 years 1932-36 a yearly average of 257 million pounds, or 60 percent of all oils used in the paint, varnish, and allied industries. In 1937, domestic consumption in the drying industries increased to 356 million pounds. Expanding building activities and a favorable price position increased the production of linseed oil (from both domestic and imported flaxseed) to 665 million pounds in 1937, a 46-percent increase over the 1936 figure. Of this total, 534 million pounds were imported.

Practically the entire demand for tung oil in the United States is met by imports from China. The volume of imports reached the record of 175 million pounds in 1937, despite hostilities in China—a 40-million-pound increase over the amount imported the previous year. Tung-tree developments in the United States have expanded in recent years, but the domestic oil output in 1937 was only about 2 million pounds.

Soybean oil, the most versatile of all vegetable oils, enters every industry shown as a consumer of fats and oils by the Bureau of the Census. It is a semidrying oil, and it is generally used in paints in conjunction with oils that dry more rapidly, such as perilla. Extremely high prices or short supplies of the latter, however, inhibit the use of soybean oil in the drying industries, since its use is complementary with that of perilla.

As the result of an excise tax, imports of perilla oil in 1937 totaled only 44 million pounds as compared with 118 million pounds in the preceding year. Al-

though there is no commercial production of perilla seed in the United States, experimental plantings indicate that it could be grown in the South, especially in sandy loam soils.

Changes in the supply and in the demand for the various fats and oils cause them to be used in varying amounts and for different purposes from year to year. Typhoons in the Philippines may decrease coconut-oil imports in the United States and make a more favorable market for African and East Indian palm-kernel oil and for South American babassu and cohune oils; tax legislation that increases the cost of drying oils from the Orient enlarges the use of Argentine oilseed; and whaling ventures, in boats flying the American flag, that bring

in duty-free and tax-free cargoes of whale oil to compete with domestic inedible tallow, all tend to change and modify the demand and supply of the various oils and fats.

The producers of the myriad products of fats and oils look to all markets of the world for their essential needs. Interruptions in trade, resulting from increased tariff barriers, war, droughts, shipping strikes, or self-sufficiency programs, usually result in changes in the direction of the movements of goods from one country to another and from one industry to another. But the basic need for these products is great, and the search continues.

NEW OR REVISED SERIES

Table 56. CAPITAL FLOTATIONS ¹

[Thousands of dollars]

Year and month	Total (new capital and re- funding)	New capital					Refunding						
		Total	Domestic				Total	Domestic				Foreign	
			Total	Corporate				Total	Total	Corporate		Total	Gov- ern- ment
				Total	Long term bonds and notes	Com- mon stocks				Total	Long term bonds and notes		
1919: February.....	279,478	183,374	178,366	149,773	44,609								
May.....	231,335	212,869	190,189	144,580	56,625								
July.....	491,305	385,889	325,576	242,440	72,899								
October.....	663,133	486,000	361,150	299,341	28,370								
1921: September.....	397,094					39,991	39,991	39,108					
November.....	365,183					46,548	46,548	46,208					
1922: January.....	467,210	409,327	315,091	195,739	134,954								
June.....	555,446	487,318	375,483	253,365	191,980								
Total.....	5,239,516	4,314,122	3,635,888	2,214,813	1,540,361								
Monthly average.....	436,626	359,510	302,991	184,568	128,363								
1923: August.....	232,105												
1927: July.....						30,740	24,463	23,160					
1928: July.....													
December.....				888,902		94,661							
1930: January.....	826,821	749,644	719,002	611,083									
February.....	625,768	595,995	469,880	387,459									
1933: April.....	46,441												
June.....	223,928												
September.....	95,005												
November.....													
December.....	75,717					2,322							
Total.....	1,053,712					344,197						61,600	60,000
Monthly average.....	87,809					28,683						5,133	5,000
1936: March.....	766,921					639,377							
Total.....	6,254,335					4,281,001							
Monthly average.....	521,195					356,750							
1937: February.....	559,475					369,704	270,704	240,021	155,021				
March.....	383,712	186,740	186,740	139,243		22,589							
April.....	316,885												
May.....	265,441	149,136	149,136	77,111	46,326	23,583	158,305	123,305	86,628		13,044		
July.....	341,045	247,636	247,636	81,745	39,990								
November.....	136,559	95,027	95,027	26,942		3,842							
Total.....	3,960,484	2,085,001	2,077,951	1,193,719	743,515	201,058	1,875,482	1,654,907	1,193,320	801,589	86,837		
Monthly average.....	330,040	173,750	173,163	99,477	61,960	16,755	156,290	137,909	99,943	66,799	7,236		

¹ These data represent revisions in certain of the items on capital flotations as presented in table 55, pp. 14-21 of the February 1938 Survey. To a large extent, the revisions result from adjustment of the figures on corporate issues to the details by type of borrower, which will be presented in the May issue of the Survey. Also included in the above tabulation are a few revisions due to typographical errors and transpositions. Other revisions: Foreign government, new capital, September 1936, "0;" municipal, State, etc., August 1922, \$63,233,000.

Monthly Business Statistics

The following table represents a continuation of the statistical series published in the 1936 Supplement to the Survey of Current Business. That volume contains monthly data for the years 1932 to 1935, inclusive, and monthly averages for earlier years back to 1913 insofar as available; it also provides a description of each series, and references to sources of monthly figures prior to 1932. The 1936 supplement may be secured from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for 35 cents per copy.

A few series have been added or revised since the 1936 Supplement went to press. These are indicated by an asterisk (*) for the added series and by a dagger (†) for the revised series. A brief footnote accompanying each of these series provides a reference to the source where the descriptive note may be found.

The terms "unadjusted" and "adjusted" used to designate index numbers refer to the adjustment for seasonal variation. Data subsequent to February will be found in the Weekly Supplement to the SURVEY.

Monthly statistics through December 1935, together with explanatory notes and references to the sources of the data may be found in the 1936 Supplement to the Survey.	1938	1937											1938
	Febru- ary	Febru- ary	March	April	May	June	July	August	Septem- ber	October	Novem- ber	Decem- ber	Janu- ary
BUSINESS INDEXES													
INCOME PAYMENTS*													
Adjusted index.....1929=100	80.8	85.5	87.6	87.1	87.6	87.8	88.1	88.6	87.2	86.4	85.0	83.8	81.6
Unadjusted index.....do	74.5	78.7	85.9	87.5	82.9	91.3	88.5	82.7	90.6	90.8	81.3	86.9	81.1
Total.....mills. of dol.	4,857	5,131	5,600	5,707	5,407	5,951	5,766	5,391	5,909	5,917	5,299	6,315	5,284
Compensation of employees:													
Adjusted index.....1929=100	81.6	87.6	89.2	89.0	90.1	89.9	89.7	90.1	88.8	87.8	86.2	84.6	82.2
Total.....mills. of dol.	3,417	3,675	3,781	3,835	3,890	3,895	3,763	3,789	3,843	3,887	3,726	3,650	3,426
Mfg., mining, and construction.....do	1,063	1,282	1,337	1,365	1,377	1,366	1,348	1,354	1,356	1,358	1,247	1,171	1,055
Transportation and utilities.....do	360	379	405	401	409	412	416	423	419	422	399	388	371
Trade and finance.....do	641	639	648	655	665	669	664	666	672	680	676	695	647
Government service and other.....do	1,209	1,196	1,212	1,237	1,261	1,281	1,191	1,183	1,268	1,296	1,271	1,262	1,212
Work relief.....do	144	179	179	177	178	167	144	133	128	131	133	134	141
Dividends and interest.....do	437	454	748	817	467	991	876	459	898	819	444	1,546	788
Entrepreneurial withdrawals and net rents and royalties.....mills. of dol.	1,003	1,002	1,071	1,055	1,050	1,065	1,127	1,143	1,168	1,211	1,129	1,119	1,070
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION (Federal Reserve)													
Combined index, unadjusted.....1923-25=100	79	117	122	122	122	115	111	115	109	102	90	79	79
Manufactures, unadjusted.....do	76	118	122	125	123	114	110	114	106	99	86	75	75
Automobiles.....do	62	120	140	158	163	147	132	116	53	100	111	94	65
Cement.....do	34	51	67	85	92	91	92	94	92	90	76	56	36
Glass, plate.....do	35	244	241	265	234	234	185	216	199	179	151	108	62
Iron and steel.....do	53	135	142	144	146	119	130	139	123	98	63	43	50
Leather and products†.....do	102	137	136	129	122	114	114	121	113	97	78	73	87
Petroleum refining.....do	194	190	195	200	201	206	207	216	218	212	202	202	200
Rubber tires and tubes.....do	56	133	132	133	132	123	102	95	108	94	75	66	66
Slaughtering and meat packing*.....do	85	85	84	83	74	76	67	70	83	89	95	101	107
Textiles.....do	84	134	132	127	123	119	103	108	107	93	83	72	78
Tobacco manufactures.....do	143	153	146	145	157	164	178	170	179	167	158	138	150
Minerals, unadjusted†.....do	97	111	118	105	117	117	115	120	125	122	112	107	103
Anthracite†.....do	56	54	67	101	63	65	38	37	53	70	67	68	72
Bituminous coal.....do	67	103	112	61	70	72	72	92	92	87	87	82	72
Iron-ore shipments.....do	238	240	245	257	218	156	34	88	70	88	70	88	70
Lead.....do	69	72	77	84	75	72	79	73	73	84	82	88	70
Petroleum, crude.....do	163	165	171	174	177	175	177	184	182	177	172	171	170
Silver.....do	102	102	104	104	105	126	138	111	90	128	105	97	97
Zinc.....do	97	89	113	114	117	111	104	103	110	112	108	110	103
Combined index, adjusted.....do	79	116	118	118	118	114	114	117	111	102	88	84	80
Manufactures, adjusted.....do	75	116	117	118	118	114	114	118	110	101	85	79	76
Automobiles.....do	62	120	121	130	135	130	129	157	135	142	92	78	65
Cement.....do	37	55	93	87	78	74	75	73	73	79	76	71	59
Glass, plate.....do	35	244	229	241	223	260	206	216	199	179	151	108	62
Iron and steel.....do	50	129	126	130	134	119	140	142	125	100	68	49	52
Leather and products†.....do	100	134	132	131	133	119	115	109	98	89	81	86	94
Petroleum refining.....do	194	190	195	200	202	206	207	216	217	211	201	200	200
Rubber tires and tubes.....do	56	133	132	133	132	123	102	95	108	94	75	66	66
Slaughtering and meat packing*.....do	86	86	89	93	76	77	70	78	87	89	86	86	92
Textiles.....do	79	126	128	124	123	126	111	115	108	91	80	77	75
Tobacco manufactures.....do	157	168	153	158	155	150	164	159	162	155	155	170	157
Minerals, adjusted†.....do	101	115	128	115	116	114	112	112	115	113	109	114	108
Anthracite†.....do	53	50	81	97	63	74	47	37	52	55	65	69	66
Bituminous coal.....do	63	98	112	72	80	80	79	78	86	83	78	77	65
Iron-ore shipments.....do	159	122	121	126	113	91	40	87	79	87	69	69	69
Lead.....do	67	70	75	85	76	70	82	82	77	81	79	87	69
Petroleum, crude.....do	168	168	173	174	176	172	174	181	177	176	174	176	177
Silver.....do	94	93	103	103	101	107	148	139	116	91	119	104	96
Zinc.....do	90	83	107	110	116	115	112	110	116	115	108	108	98
MARKETINGS													
Agricultural products (quantity):													
Combined index.....1923-25=100	64	56	66	64	66	72	86	90	123	129	115	89	79
Animal products.....do	63	62	79	81	87	92	77	79	77	79	85	78	76
Dairy products.....do	86	75	87	90	113	149	125	102	89	84	78	82	89
Livestock.....do	57	59	69	65	63	65	56	72	78	81	79	71	76
Poultry and eggs.....do	66	67	106	123	131	112	84	72	67	73	113	102	69
Wool.....do	42	18	68	81	176	311	273	194	64	43	52	32	43
Crops.....do	65	51	54	47	45	51	95	101	169	180	145	100	83
Cotton.....do	69	54	58	43	28	25	15	95	288	317	234	142	95
Fruits.....do	79	68	74	67	79	59	65	74	88	114	73	77	74
Grains.....do	48	31	30	31	32	50	200	136	96	83	99	74	73
Vegetables.....do	86	80	89	85	103	129	69	47	103	110	76	71	86

* Preliminary. † Revised.

† New series. For data on slaughtering and meat packing for period 1919-37, see table 42, p. 20, of the October 1937 issue. Data on income payments for period 1929-37 and a description of the series appeared on pp. 7-13 of the February 1938 Survey.

† Revised series. Data revised for 1936; see p. 22 of the March 1937 issue.

Monthly statistics through December 1935, together with explanatory notes and references to the sources of the data may be found in the 1936 Supplement to the Survey.	1938	1937											1938
	February	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January

FINANCE—Continued

MONETARY STATISTICS—Continued													
Silver:													
Exports.....thous. of dol.	233	611	346	468	341	244	214	278	285	380	527	236	355
Imports.....do.	15,488	14,080	5,589	2,821	3,165	6,025	4,476	4,964	8,427	5,701	10,633	23,151	28,708
Price at New York.....dol. per fine oz.	.448	.448	.451	.455	.450	.448	.448	.448	.448	.448	.448	.448	.448
Production, world.....thous. of fine oz.	20,849	22,612	20,505	21,536	24,845	23,427	26,216	22,487	21,345	22,927	21,870	21,870	1,622
Canada.....do.	1,539	1,661	1,346	1,467	1,228	2,317	2,367	2,271	2,536	2,176	1,635	1,635	1,635
Mexico.....do.	6,684	7,509	5,731	6,543	10,140	6,274	8,428	6,460	6,112	6,272	6,309	6,309	6,309
United States.....do.	4,965	5,488	5,431	5,280	5,487	6,805	7,441	5,779	4,855	6,682	5,693	5,693	5,693
Stocks refinery, end of month:													
United States.....do.	970	821	766	1,303	862	1,127	1,296	1,363	1,064	1,287	1,523	2,606	2,606
Canada.....do.	754	507	929	808	735	537	439	817	852	617	496	521	521
CORPORATION PROFITS													
(Quarterly)													
Federal Reserve Bank of New York:													
Industrial corporations, total (168 cos.)													
Autos, parts, and accessories (28 cos.).....do.			250.6			310.6			264.0				
Chemicals (13 cos.).....do.			69.1			98.4			60.6				
Food and food products (19 cos.).....do.			37.0			46.9			44.1				
Machinery and tools (17 cos.).....do.			16.5			21.1			19.7				
Metals and mining (12 cos.).....do.			14.2			16.2			14.3				
Petroleum (13 cos.).....do.			7.2			6.3			5.7				
Steel (11 cos.).....do.			14.5			17.7			24.4				
Miscellaneous (55 cos.).....do.			51.6			58.4			52.5				
Telephones (net op. income).....do.			40.5			45.7			42.7				
Other public utilities (net income) (53 cos.)			59.9			58.2			52.1				
Railways, Class I (net income).....do.			53.6			53.6			46.9				
Standard Statistics Co., Inc.†			14.1			21.2			41.6			16.6	
Combined index, unadjusted (161 cos.)													
1926=100			90.9			104.4			93.5			74.5	
Industrials (120 cos.).....do.			104.3			128.6			112.1			81.0	
Railroads (26 cos.).....do.			15.7			8.7			17.8			2.7	
Utilities (15 cos.).....do.			131.2			124.4			110.6			127.0	
Combined index, adjusted (161 cos.).....do.			98.0			99.3			88.1			77.9	
Industrials (120 cos.).....do.			109.8			117.4			105.9			95.9	
Railroads (26 cos.).....do.			42.0			17.3			4.9			10.5	
Utilities (15 cos.).....do.			123.4			126.7			124.5			118.6	
PUBLIC FINANCE (FEDERAL)													
Debt, gross, end of month.....mills. of dol.	37,633	34,601	34,732	34,944	35,216	36,425	36,716	37,045	36,875	36,956	37,094	37,279	37,452
Obligations fully guaranteed by the U. S. Government:⊗													
Amount outstanding by agencies, total													
Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation.....do.	4,646	4,662	4,662	4,660	4,660	4,665	4,703	4,633	4,633	4,634	4,644	4,645	4,646
Home Owners' Loan Corporation.....do.	1,410	1,422	1,422	1,422	1,422	1,422	1,420	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,410	1,410	1,410
Reconstruction Finance Corporation.....do.	2,937	2,988	2,988	2,987	2,987	2,987	2,987	2,937	2,937	2,937	2,937	2,937	2,937
Expenditures, total (incl. emergency)	299	252	251	250	250	255	295	296	296	297	297	297	298
Revenues, total.....thous. of dol.	639,519	645,053	971,663	784,813	624,015	1,386,931	675,811	617,578	765,251	671,409	649,877	771,244	623,361
Customs.....do.	467,211	330,310	1,120,513	423,886	392,509	966,905	464,057	547,570	858,585	394,403	439,548	943,531	390,709
Internal revenue, total.....do.	24,203	41,726	52,503	46,252	46,252	41,716	40,649	38,790	36,173	36,515	31,513	30,129	26,193
Income tax.....do.	280,601	237,826	934,555	300,390	281,058	827,483	376,074	336,125	738,564	284,250	325,736	767,545	305,388
Taxes from:	67,586	64,035	689,003	55,444	42,949	556,946	42,464	34,831	494,405	41,671	35,287	482,697	52,036
Admissions to theaters, etc.....do.	1,660	1,473	1,539	1,590	1,537	1,875	1,633	1,599	1,722	1,967	2,243	2,290	1,353
Capital stock transfers, etc.....do.	1,514	3,743	3,045	3,226	2,169	1,556	1,232	1,492	1,235	2,045	2,898	1,092	1,803
Sales of produce (future delivery).....do.	191	506	392	528	639	454	571	589	416	338	325	296	210
Sales of radio sets, etc.....do.	261	465	361	332	329	395	433	762	636	886	711	670	368
Reconstruction Finance Corporation loans outstanding end of month:													
Grand total.....thous. of dol.	2,079,859	2,129,186	2,064,942	2,045,756	2,028,897	2,033,375	2,048,344	1,981,146	1,992,975	1,999,722	2,017,674	2,060,397	2,073,603
Section 5 as amended, total.....do.	657,170	689,403	668,585	664,670	656,445	662,594	662,165	658,876	662,493	660,496	654,917	657,348	656,072
Banks and trust companies including receivers.....thous. of dol.	146,924	183,400	178,316	173,063	167,388	163,800	166,015	164,545	159,754	158,065	152,920	153,704	150,616
Building and loan associations.....do.	2,391	2,197	2,096	2,248	2,072	2,076	1,653	1,872	1,821	1,725	1,652	2,121	2,061
Insurance companies.....do.	2,892	3,925	3,863	3,844	3,820	3,703	3,681	3,626	3,382	3,362	2,955	2,791	2,757
Mortgage loan companies.....do.	131,002	129,532	126,330	122,057	120,467	121,177	120,422	120,142	124,540	125,159	126,104	128,465	128,735
Railroads, incl. receivers.....do.	361,951	345,373	340,367	345,084	344,823	354,320	351,939	351,555	356,279	355,932	355,923	355,894	358,216
All other under section 5.....do.	12,310	24,976	17,613	18,344	17,875	17,518	17,258	16,836	16,717	16,253	15,273	14,373	14,237
Total Emergency Relief Construction Act, as amended.....thous. of dol.	603,587	624,158	576,984	559,248	551,431	551,725	568,928	511,100	516,343	524,471	542,940	582,587	597,240
Self-liquidating projects.....do.	231,762	204,835	206,607	213,067	216,576	219,903	223,374	225,071	229,105	230,371	227,714	235,578	233,223
Financing of exports of agricultural surpluses.....thous. of dol.	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47
Financing of agricultural commodities and livestock.....thous. of dol.	88,952	123,922	81,101	56,906	51,726	48,695	62,427	2,902	4,287	11,153	32,279	64,064	81,144
Amounts made available for relief and work relief.....thous. of dol.	282,826	295,354	289,228	289,228	283,082	283,080	283,080	283,080	282,904	282,900	282,900	282,898	282,826
Total, Bank Conservation Act, as amended.....thous. of dol.	567,459	632,179	629,522	624,077	619,840	613,943	608,468	599,104	597,076	594,275	590,284	585,839	551,740
Other loans and authorizations.....do.	251,643	183,446	189,852	197,761	201,181	205,113	208,783	212,066	217,063	220,480	229,533	234,623	237,951

* Preliminary.

⊗ Number of companies included varies.

† As reported by the Interstate Commerce Commission. Figures shown on p. 54 of the 1936 Supplement are in thousands of dollars instead of in millions as the box head indicates.

‡ Revised series. Revisions in the Standard Statistics index of corporation profits for 1935 and 1936 not shown on p. 34 of the May 1937 Survey will appear in a subsequent issue.

⊗ Total includes a small amount of guaranteed debentures of the Federal Housing Administrator.

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STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE UNITED STATES 1937

59th ANNUAL EDITION

861 pages 857 tables

• Telling a statistical story of our economic growth in population and wealth, our cultural development, the expansion of our commerce, and the rise in our various industries, the 59th annual edition of the Statistical Abstract of the United States results in being an encyclopaedia of statistical data peculiarly valuable to businessmen, bankers, editors, economists, and students; conveniently arranged, comprehensive, and authoritative.

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SURVEY

OF

CURRENT BUSINESS



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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
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Business Activity

experienced one of the sharpest declines on record during the last 4 months of 1937, but for the full year, practically all measures of economic activity averaged higher than in 1936. Outstanding changes reflected by some of the more important business indicators included:

National Income Paid Out

9 percent larger in 1937 than in 1936

Industrial Production

5 percent larger in 1937 than in 1936

Retail Sales

5 percent larger in 1937 than in 1936

Factory Employment

8 percent higher in 1937 than in 1936

Construction Contract Awards

9 percent larger in 1937 than in 1936

Freight-Car Loadings

4 percent larger in 1937 than in 1936

Value of Exports

36 percent larger in 1937 than in 1936

This issue of the **SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS** is devoted to an analysis of economic trends in 1937. The interrelationships between the various elements in the economic system are discussed and special emphasis is given to the maladjustments which developed late in 1936 and early in 1937. The various sections of the review are amply supported by charts and tables dealing with the more important business indicators.

The regular presentation of monthly business statistics, in this issue covering the period January 1937 through January 1938, appears on pages 62 to 96.