

JUNE 1952

SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

OFFICE OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS

SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

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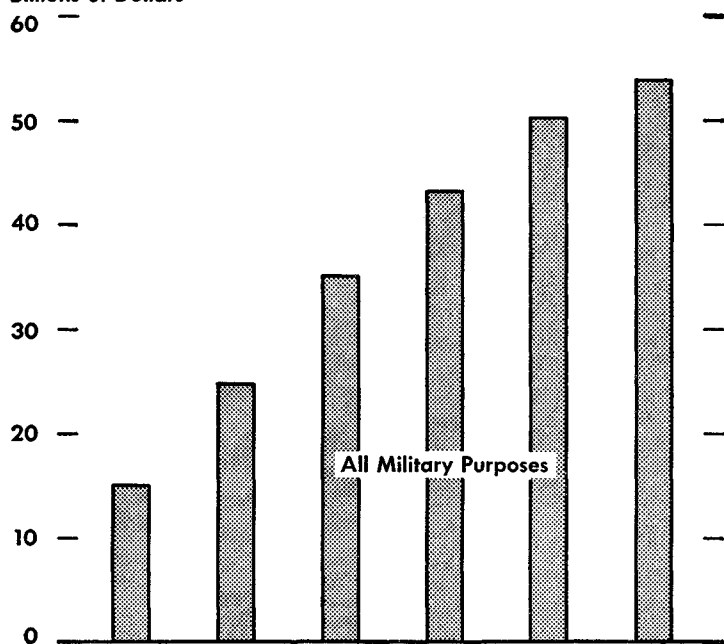
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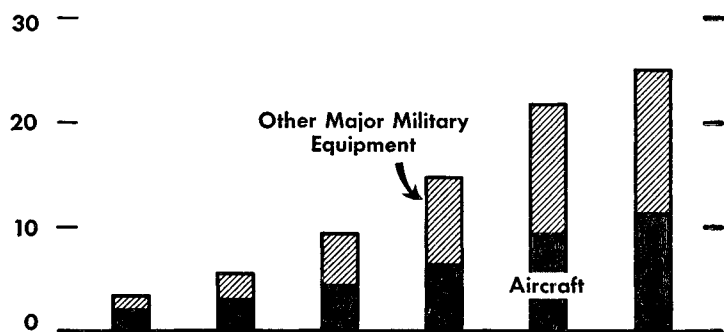
Defense Department Expenditures

Spending scheduled to rise by one-fifth during fiscal 1953

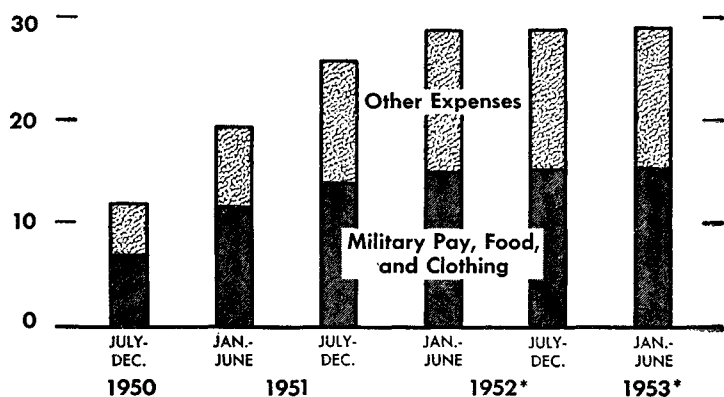
Billions of Dollars



Aircraft and other major hard goods to account for the rise



with other items remaining stable



HALF-YEARLY TOTALS, AT ANNUAL RATES

* BASED UPON BUDGET REQUESTS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
OFFICE OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS

THE

Business SITUATION



By the Office of Business Economics

NATIONAL output has continued its moderate expansion in the second quarter of the year, with the defense program accounting for most of the rise. Private fixed capital investment remains strong. Consumer expenditures have risen slightly, with current dollar totals approximating the postwar high, but volume is still under the top reached in early 1951.

The major reductions in retail sales volume from early 1951 continue to be in the consumer durable goods, and recent changes in sales of these products reveal the absence of any marked shift. Consumer purchases of durable goods have been very stable at a \$25 billion annual rate for over a year—down one-fifth from the peak reached in the buying wave of the first quarter of 1951.

Defense and investment pace rise

Defense expenditures in April and May were at an annual rate \$4 billion above that of the opening quarter of the year. The latest survey of plant and equipment outlays summarized in this issue reveals that business expects the strong trend in fixed investment to continue through the third quarter. The volume of residential construction continues high, and the easing of purchase terms under Regulation X is another of a series of Government steps designed to ease or eliminate restrictions where that is possible.

Manufacturers' orders backlogs continue on a high plateau, notwithstanding the gradual rise in output of producers' durables and military goods, the major source of backlog orders. The recent stability in this important business indicator is pictured in the new series of data plotted on the chart on page 4.

With consumer purchases of goods and services relatively stable and the flow of personal income little changed, personal saving remains above the postwar average.

Employment high and rising seasonally

Total civilian employment in May rose to 61.2 million and unemployment remained at the postwar low of 1.6 million. The expansion of 1 million in employment over April conformed to the pattern characteristic of this season of the year. The additional workers were added in roughly equal amounts to farm and nonfarm employment. In manufacturing, employment declined some as it normally

does in May, but the decline in the durable goods industries was somewhat smaller than usual because of rising defense output.

Deliveries of munitions expand

Production of military hard goods has expanded greatly since the late months of 1950, and the first half of 1952 marks an acceleration period in volume deliveries of aircraft, tanks, and other long-lead-time items. Hard goods procurement by the Defense Department in the first quarter of 1952 amounted to almost \$20 billion at annual rates (inclusive of major hard goods, spare parts, and other small items), one-third above the rate of the previous quarter. A further sharp increase has occurred more recently.

On the basis of budget requests submitted to Congress last January, Defense Department outlays for major hard goods procurement and production are scheduled to rise by more than two-thirds from the first half of 1952 to the first half of 1953, as illustrated in the chart on page 1. This scheduled rise is, of course, subject to Congressional action providing the necessary funds in the budget which is under consideration at this time. It also assumes the meeting of schedules, but these have recently undergone adjustment on the basis of the status of production.

Notwithstanding these provisos, the rise indicates the general trend of deliveries over the course of the next year, based on current military production plans. It shows the pattern ahead which will continue to exercise a major influence on business trends.

The hard goods expenditures shown in this chart (it excludes military construction, spare parts, and foreign military aid), reflect both value put in place on undelivered goods and purchases of completed equipment.

The progress in military hard goods procurement scheduled for the next 12 months is based upon Defense Department estimates of spending, exclusive of foreign military aid, during fiscal year 1953 of \$52 billion. Of this total, \$23 billion represents expenditures for major hard goods procurement and production, about double the total for such purposes in fiscal year 1952, and more than five times the fiscal year 1951 outlay.

This \$11 billion rise in expenditures for hard goods accounts for almost nine-tenths of the estimated increase in total Defense Department spending between fiscal years 1952 and 1953. Aircraft outlays, rising from \$3 billion for the period January-June 1952 to about \$6 billion during the comparable period 1953, account for almost half of the rise in hard goods purchases.

Military pay and subsistence change moderate

The recent armed forces pay increase will raise this item, but the aggregate of the pay, food, and clothing expenditures of the uniformed personnel are expected to rise only moderately during fiscal year 1953. With the size of the armed forces now relatively stable, after increasing from 1.5 million to over 3.5 million during the past two years, some reduction in purchases of clothing and certain other soft goods is possible. Other expenses of the Defense Department (including military construction, spare parts, fuel, civilian pay rolls, and purchases of travel, medical, and other services) are expected to remain relatively stable during fiscal year 1953.

Inventory trends in 1952

Total business inventories showed their first appreciable increase of the year in April, on a seasonally adjusted basis, following the slight increase in March. This one month's

movement is not sufficient to indicate a trend, and, while there is some slight evidence of a spring pick-up in business orders, on the whole the conservative attitude toward inventories and forward buying which has characterized business over the past year continued through May.

The steady decline in the rate of nonfarm inventory accumulation during most of 1951, from the peak annual rate of \$14 billion in the second quarter of last year to a moderate liquidation early this year, was important in the lessening of inflationary pressures. In March continued increases in inventories held by durable goods producers were about offset by declines in retail trade stocks, particularly in the durable goods groups. In April, however, total inventories declined by less than the amount that is usual in this month.

The prolonged decline in trade inventories, while those of manufacturers were rising, emphasizes the fact that the adjustments have largely taken place in industries making goods destined primarily for consumers. Further evidence of this is that the decline in trade inventories in the last nine months of 1951 had been quite pervasive with stocks shrinking in most major groups. Since the end of 1951, the decline has been virtually halted.

During the first 4 months of the year, manufacturers added still further to their inventories although at a much slower rate than during 1951. Most of the addition occurred in the durable goods industries, especially those closely identified with the production of defense goods. Producers of non-durable goods effected some liquidation of stocks in terms of book value but after allowing for the greater weakness of the prices of their products than of the durables, the change in real stocks was small.

In the first 4 months of this year, manufacturers of products destined primarily for producers and for defense uses added almost \$800 million to their stocks in terms of book values. The bulk of these added stocks occurred in the metals, machinery, and transportation equipment other than motor-vehicles industries.

During this same period, stocks of goods held by manufacturers, wholesale and retail merchants destined primarily for personal consumption fell about \$700 million in book value. Most of this drop was accounted for by liquidation of textiles, apparel, leather products, and homefurnishings.

Manufacturers' and merchants' stocks of a third group of products going in substantial quantities both to producer and defense uses and to personal consumption rose by \$200 million in book value at annual rate; this group includes such items as motor vehicles and equipment, rubber, paper, chemical, petroleum, and coal products.

Changes in manufacturers' unadjusted stocks by stages of fabrication between the end of December and April 30, in terms of book values were as follows:

[Millions of dollars]

	Total	Purchased materials	Goods-in-process	Finished goods
All manufacturers, total.....	696	-767	1,034	429
Durable goods industries.....	1,204	-358	1,009	554
Nondurable goods industries..	-509	-409	25	-125

The accumulation of finished goods inventories was particularly marked in manufacturers of durable goods and was concentrated chiefly in the industries closely allied to defense production.

The largest change occurred in goods-in-process as producers stepped up activity for the new selling season. Since, however, the increase was particularly marked in industries closely associated with defense work, it indicates a rise in the scale of productive operations.

Trends in

Manufacturers' Orders

SPRING ordering of manufactured goods—especially producers' and defense materials—has held backlogs on the high plateau maintained since last fall. Expansion of durable-goods backlogs has offset a contraction in unfilled orders for nondurables. At the end of April unfilled orders for durables—which account for the great bulk of such orders—represented about 6 months of sales or about three times the pre-World War II and the pre-Korean averages.

New data 1939–45

As another step in its program for investigating the interrelations of orders and production, the Office of Business Economics has compiled monthly estimates of manufacturers' new and unfilled orders for the period 1939–45 comparable to the series starting with 1946.¹

Unadjusted aggregates for all manufacturing and for durable-goods and nondurable-goods industries based upon the same definitions, concepts, and estimating techniques as current data are presented in table 1. Work is continuing on the derivation of industry detail and on the adjustment of the data for seasonal factors and for the effects of fluctuations in prices. This material will permit analyses of the interrelations between movements in orders, production, and sales over the 13-year period.

New orders in the Office of Business Economics series are defined as commitments to buy received and accepted by a company involving either the immediate or future delivery of goods. The reported orders are net of cancellations and are stated in dollars. They are distinguished from sales which involve the transfer of title to the goods from the company to the purchaser at the time of billing or of shipment. Orders which are not filled or canceled during a month are added to unfilled orders or backlogs.

Backlogs of outstanding orders are usually characteristic of durable-goods industries. Among nondurable-goods industries the bulk of new orders are customarily filled from stock immediately upon receipt. In four nondurable-goods industries—textiles, leather, paper, and printing and publishing—forward commitments, however, form an important part of total commitments. Estimates of backlogs for the non-durable goods group cover only these industries.

The current high volume of orders on producers' books is the result of a substantial build up which has occurred since June 1950. This is the third such accumulation since 1939. Placed in historical perspective in the chart, the advance after the outbreak in Korea in unfilled orders is seen to bear a striking resemblance to the 1941–43 experience. The chart describes the trends for the durable-goods industries since the pattern of backlog movements is dominated by the durables.

¹ For a description of the series and a discussion of the theoretical implications and problems in using orders data as indicators of shifts in industrial activity see "An Approach to Orders Analysis" in the December 1949 issue of the *SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS*.

Developments since mid-1950

The world events of June 1950 led to a sharply accelerated flow of new business to producers. Superimposed on expanding consumer and producer civilian demand were the requirements of the defense program. The value of unfilled orders rose rapidly until the summer of 1951. Since then backlogs have remained very high, fluctuating from month to month around a total of \$63 billion. Some tendency to edge upward has been shown in the 1952 spring quarter.

During the initial phases of both defense periods, i. e., 1942 and 1951, the same phenomenon emerged—the continued advance in unfilled orders in the face of declining new orders. The explanation lies, of course, in the magnitude and nature of the orders being received.

The considerable and persistent decline in new orders from early in 1951 to late summer—a period of expanding backlogs—produced only a moderate reaction in sales and an even gentler easing in the rate of production. The downturn in new orders for manufacturing as a whole led the shift in factory production by about two months and sales (when allowance is made for seasonal factors) by four months. With the pick-up in fall ordering production stabilized and sales moved up as inventory accumulation eased in many areas.²

Consumer demand eased in 1951

That the decline in new orders last spring was followed by even a moderate drop in sales, whereas a similar movement in 1942 was not, reflects differences in the areas in which there was a lessening of orders. Last year the decline in demand from trade sources centered in consumer goods—both durable and nondurable—where the lead time of orders over production and sales, especially for nondurables, is relatively short. Inasmuch as the flow of deliveries on defense contracts had not reached a volume sufficient to offset the decrease in consumer shipments, a dip in sales occurred.

Weakness in the consumer soft goods markets resulted in a decline of backlogs in these lines from March 1951 forward. New orders and production both for the industries for which unfilled orders estimates are compiled and for all nondurables had reached peak rates 6 to 8 weeks earlier. Deliveries have continued to exceed new orders for nondurables until the present time, though the rate of decline in unfilled orders has slowed in recent months.

Backlogs held by durable-goods producers have expanded each month since the Korean fighting began. Orders for durables were affected by the easing in demand for certain types of consumer goods and also by curtailments of scarce materials for "nonessential" products. More important in

² The dips in reported new orders figures in September and December reflect the sizable cancellations on order books stemming from Controlled Materials Plan requirements rather than from a basic decline in demand.

recent months in the flattening out of backlogs in the heavy industries is that producers' orders for equipment and for plant as well as for inventory building appear to have passed peak phases.

Defense contracts currently half of backlogs

Business from the third major source of durable-goods demand—the defense program—also eased during the second half of 1951. The value of contracts let in the last six months was only about two-thirds as large as in the first half. For the first quarter of 1952 defense contracts equaled or exceeded the first quarter of last year. The backbone of manufacturers' unfilled orders is now made up by defense contracts and goods needed for the capital formation boom which is at a peak. At the end of the first quarter of 1952 defense commitments accounted for nearly half of the value of backlogs in contrast to one-fourth a year ago. These estimates are based upon prime contracts only with no allowance for subcontracts which are included in the overall backlog figures.

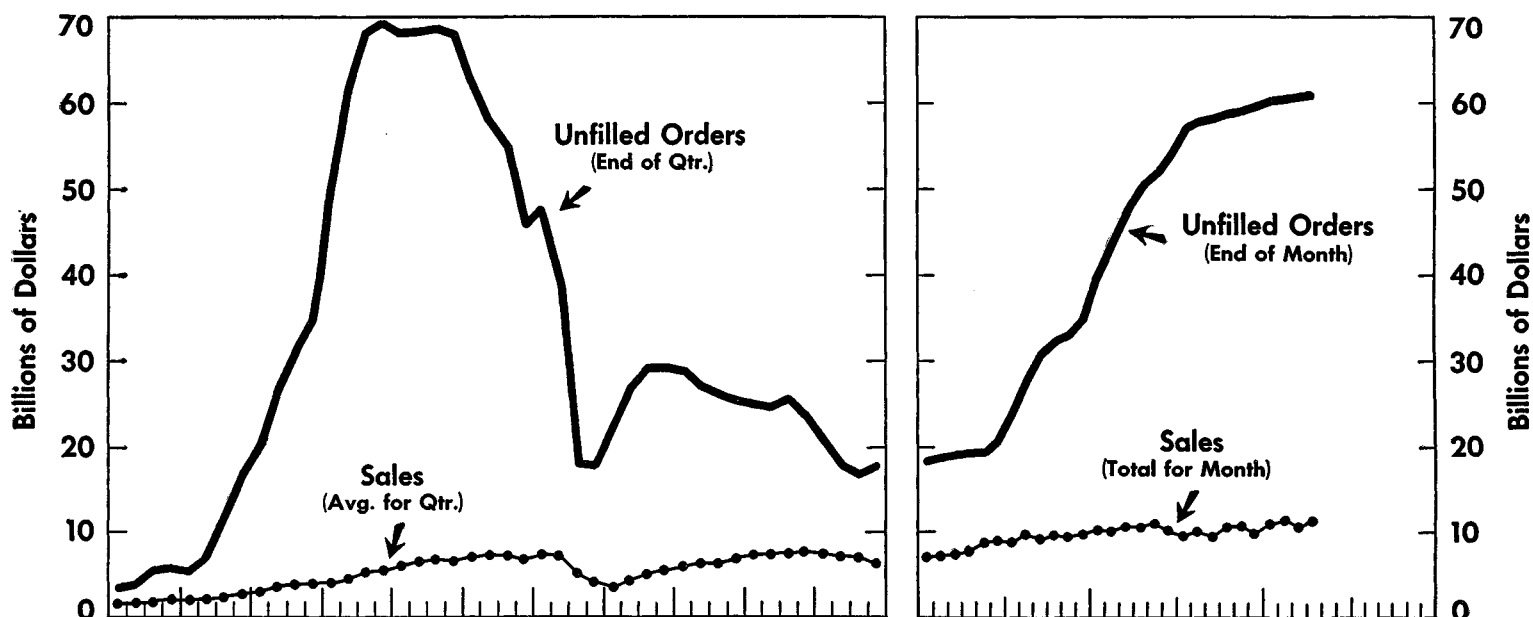
Recent changes

In April backlogs of durable-goods producers advanced \$250 million. Changes for major industries during the month continued trends which have emerged since the winter. For some major durable-goods industries unfilled orders remain high but they are leveling off as the crest of the pressure of demand on available supplies appears to have passed. For others, backlogs are still accumulating. Within each group, of course, there are companies or groups of companies with a market position very much stronger or weaker than the average of the industry group.

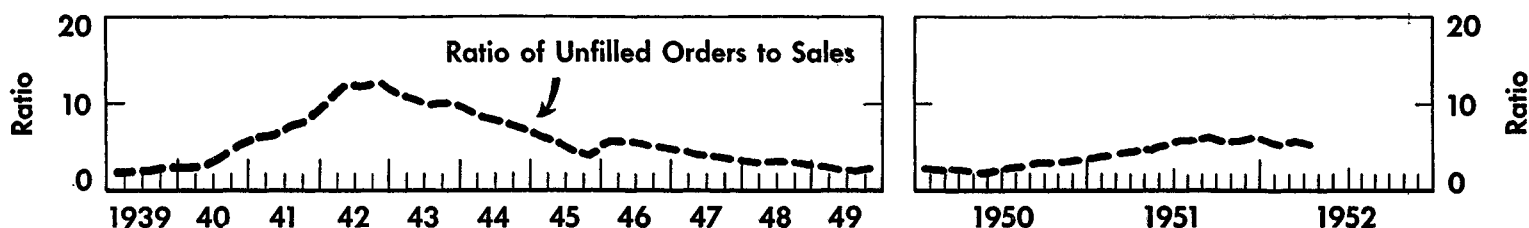
The primary and fabricated metal and nonelectrical machinery industries are illustrative of those areas where backlogs are no longer accumulating appreciably. For the two metals industries, backlogs are at year-ago levels with recent movements showing a downward drift from summer highs. For nonelectrical machinery producers unfilled orders are currently well above year-ago totals, but spring deliveries have more than kept pace with the flow of new orders.

Order Backlogs for Durable Goods Continue at Postwar Peak

Unfilled orders and sales in recent months have shown only small changes . . .



with the result that ratio of backlogs to sales has held steady at a peacetime high of 6 months



Plant and Equipment

Demand at Record Rate in Third Quarter

EXPENDITURES on new plant and equipment are expected to continue upward through the third quarter of this year, according to the latest Office of Business Economics-Securities and Exchange Commission survey conducted in May. Reports submitted during May indicate that nonagricultural business has scheduled additions to productive capacity at a record \$25 billion (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) in the third quarter—as against somewhat under \$24.5 billion in each of the first two quarters of 1952.

The current survey shows actual first quarter outlays appreciably lower—and preliminary second quarter expenditures higher—than anticipated by businessmen three months earlier. The downward adjustment in the first quarter reflects a systematic tendency for anticipatory data to be overstated in this period, partly due to inadequate allowance for the seasonal influences which usually slow work in the winter.

Changing industrial pattern

As can be seen in the chart, the current rise in capital outlays is attributable primarily to electric power, petroleum, chemicals and rubber, with programs of most other major industrial groups showing relative stability during the first three quarters of this year. This is a significant shift from the earlier post-Korean period when substantial expansion occurred over a broad industrial front.

Most striking is the slackened pace in the metals manufacturing group—the sector expanding the most in late 1950 and 1951—and the sizable cutback in investment in nondefense manufacturing areas. In this comparison, it should be noted, capital goods prices have been relatively stable since the end of 1951, but rose about one-sixth during the earlier post-Korean period.

After allowance for seasonal factors, scheduled third quarter capital outlays by electric power companies are more than one-fourth higher than in the final quarter of 1951. This is obscured in the chart by the inclusion of gas utilities with outlays currently somewhat below end of 1951 rates. The applications for certificates of necessity by electric companies have been receiving special emphasis—and approvals in the seven weeks ending April 15 have amounted to \$1.2 billions, or over 30 percent of all grants in this period.

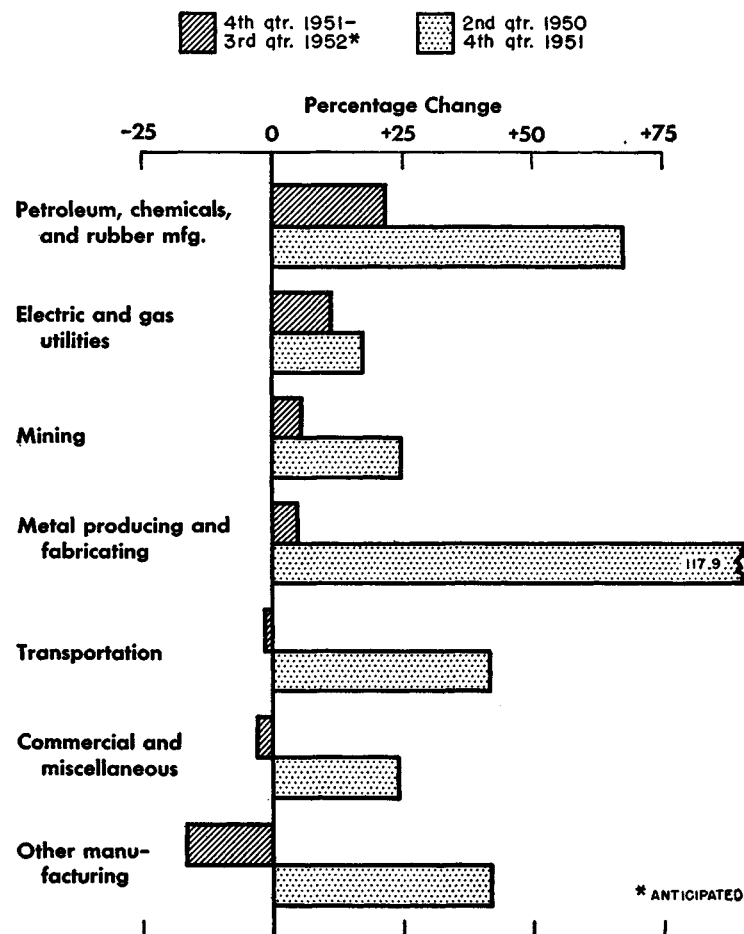
An additional one-fifth of these approved certificates were almost equally divided between oil and chemical companies. In the former industry, the major part of the new certificates was for pipeline expansion—although increases in refining capacity account for the bulk of all certificates held by oil companies.

The leveling out in capital goods demand by the metals producing and fabricating industries as a group—and by the railroads—in good part reflects the advanced stage of the

defense facilities expansion programs in these sectors. Third quarter spending programs of the nonrail transport group are essentially at year end 1951 seasonally adjusted rates, with higher expected outlays by the airlines offset by lower anticipated expenditures by water transportation and transit companies.

Plant and Equipment Programs

Expansion during 1952 strongest in electric power, petroleum, and chemicals



Nondefense related industries firmer

Although third quarter capital outlays by the nondefense manufacturing group is expected to be considerably lower than in the latter part of last year, the decline is not so sharp as that indicated by these industries 3 months ago. This firming of demand in nondefense areas is even more noticeable among the commercial and miscellaneous industries where planned plant and equipment outlays in the second and third quarters show maintenance of first quarter rates. It should also be noted that first quarter capital programs were fully realized only by the commercial and miscellaneous and nondefense related manufacturing groups.

Manufacturers expect record outlays

Manufacturers anticipate purchasing new plant and equipment at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of almost \$12.5 billion in the third quarter—continuing the moderate increases noted since mid-1951. Investments by both durable and nondurable producers are expected to reach record rates in the second quarter. In the third quarter, however, a further planned increase in expenditures by soft goods producers is in large part offset by a scheduled reduction by the durable goods group.

Among durable goods producers, the third quarter programs of nonferrous metals and automobile companies are the only ones showing substantial increases over current rates.

Examination of the survey results by size of firm within

manufacturing shows that the larger firms account for the expected increases in capital goods expenditures. This is generally found to be true within industries, with the larger companies in expanding industries expecting relatively greater increases in investment—and, in declining investment industries, relatively less cutback—than do the smaller firms. However, reflecting the greater incidence of smaller companies in nondefense industries and the firming tendencies in this sector (noted above), only the small-size groups of firms fully realized their first quarter programs. These groups also increased their second quarter plans, as compared to the survey conducted 3 months earlier, relatively more than did the larger companies.

Railroad investment strong

Capital outlays by the railroads reached a seasonally adjusted annual rate of about \$1.6 billion in the second quarter of 1951. This record rate of fixed investment is expected to be maintained through the third quarter of this year.

Within this total, however, construction outlays are expected to rise fairly steadily, while equipment outlays in the second and third quarters of this year are scheduled at slightly below corresponding 1951 quarters. Unfilled orders for freight cars and diesel-electric locomotives are now well below the record of a year ago, while backlogs of steam locomotives and passenger cars are above the very low rates of last year.

Table 2.—Expenditures on New Plant and Equipment by U. S. Business, 1950-52 ¹

[Millions of dollars]

Industry	1950	1951	1951				1952		
			January-March	April-June	July-September	October-December	January-March	April-June ²	July-September ²
Manufacturing.....	7,491	11,130	2,154	2,802	2,841	3,335	2,742	3,251	3,087
Durable goods industries.....	3,135	5,168	923	1,231	1,363	1,652	1,326	1,578	1,438
Primary iron and steel.....	599	1,304	190	283	352	479	356	439	397
Primary nonferrous metals.....	134	277	45	62	70	100	109	139	129
Fabricated metal products.....	350	421	97	104	100	119	87	100	73
Electrical machinery & equipment.....	245	359	62	87	90	130	80	102	115
Machinery except electrical.....	411	675	121	149	181	224	176	192	161
Motor vehicles & equipment.....	510	736	136	193	207	202	171	235	(³)
Transportation equipment excluding motor vehicles.....	82	182	25	42	54	62	65	78	60
Stone, clay & glass products.....	280	388	75	98	100	114	83	84	(³)
Other durable goods ³	524	826	172	213	209	232	199	209	186
Nondurable goods industries.....	4,356	5,962	1,230	1,571	1,476	1,683	1,416	1,673	1,649
Food and kindred products.....	523	657	157	194	153	162	156	174	135
Beverages.....	237	311	78	82	79	72	67	78	60
Textile mill products.....	450	695	158	216	167	153	136	136	108
Paper & allied products.....	327	489	106	122	126	134	99	109	106
Chemicals & allied products.....	771	1,283	254	339	319	372	325	378	406
Petroleum & coal products.....	1,587	2,014	356	490	511	657	492	659	691
Rubber products.....	102	187	40	43	42	61	55	59	63
Other nondurable goods ⁴	359	327	81	95	79	71	86	80	80
Mining.....	684	796	183	203	199	211	188	217	217
Railroad.....	1,136	1,541	303	412	377	449	376	406	309
Other transportation.....	437	511	125	136	120	130	134	161	120
Electric and gas utilities.....	3,167	3,577	753	893	933	998	761	934	1,036
Commercial and miscellaneous ⁵.....	4,917	5,735	1,345	1,467	1,374	1,549	1,351	1,387	1,318
Total.....	17,832	23,290	4,863	5,913	5,844	6,672	5,552	6,356	6,168

¹ Excludes agriculture. These figures do not agree precisely with the totals included in the gross national product estimates of the Department of Commerce. The main difference lies in the inclusion in the latter figures of certain outlays charged to current account.

² Estimate based on anticipated capital expenditures of business as reported in May.

³ Includes lumber products, furniture and fixtures, instruments, ordnance and miscellaneous manufactures.

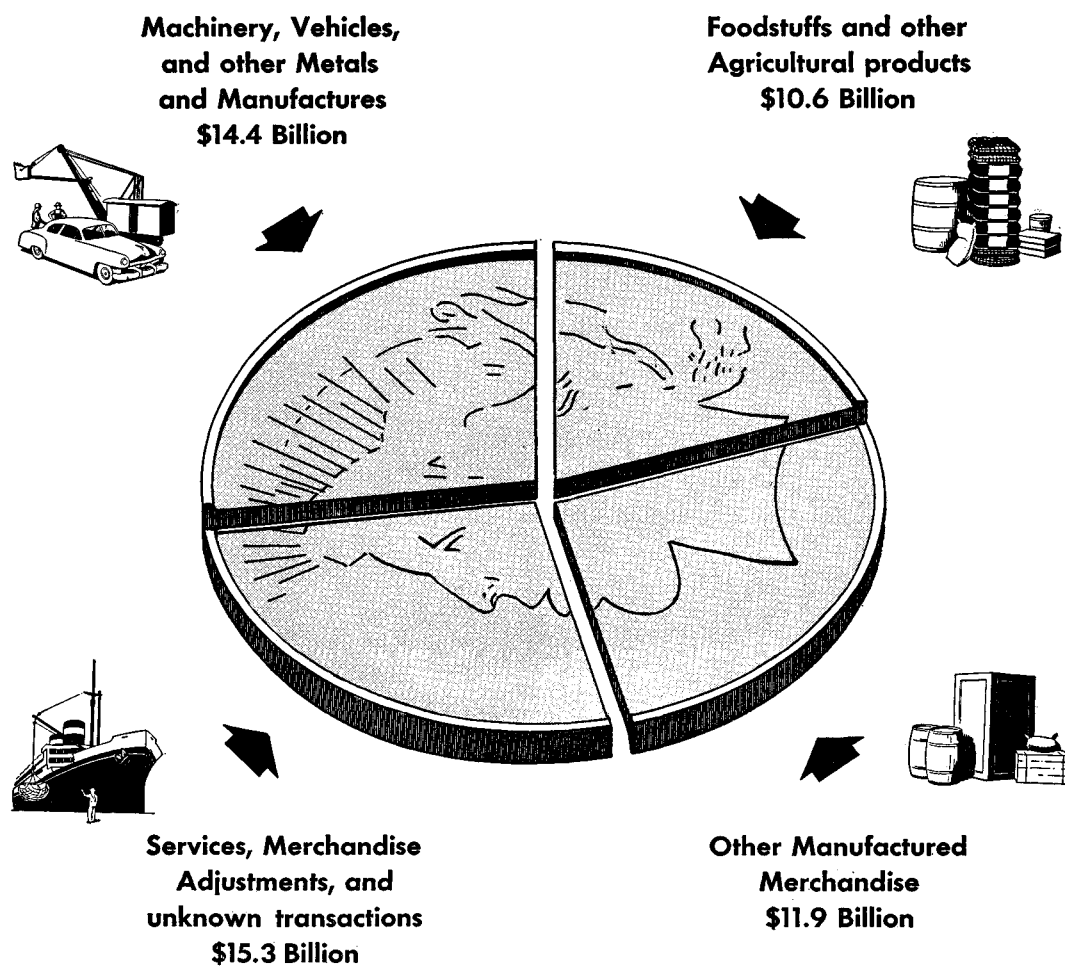
⁴ Includes apparel and related products, tobacco, leather and leather products and printing and publishing.

⁵ Includes trade, service, finance, communication, etc.

⁶ Data not available separately but are included in totals.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Office Business Economics.

Fifty-two Billion Dollar Exports 1949-51



BALANCE OF PAYMENTS TRENDS

. . . in the First Quarter of 1952

THE short run disturbance of international economic relationships resulting from the invasion of South Korea, as reflected in the United States balance of payments, appears to have passed its peak by the end of last year. With the marked increase in United States imports during the first quarter of the present year the export surplus of the United States was reduced. The large foreign losses of gold and dollars which characterized the period from July 1951 to February 1952 seems to have been stopped since March, reflecting basic trade trends as well as action by foreign governments to make necessary adjustments.

United States export surplus reduced

World trade during the first quarter of 1952 reflects the coincidence of the upward adjustment of imports in the United States and in countries (e. g. Canada, Sweden and Japan) where economic movements paralleled those of the United States, and some indications of downward adjustments of imports by the sterling area and those countries which kept their imports high during the last half of 1951.

Exports from the United States during the first quarter of 1952 did not, however, fully reflect these developments. Shipments, excluding those under military aid programs, were only slightly less than during the preceding quarter.

The improvement in the financial position of foreign countries resulting from the decline in the export surplus of goods and services from \$1.9 billion in the last quarter of 1951 to \$1.4 billion was largely offset by a reduction in foreign aid from \$1,050 million to \$930 million and by a decline in private capital outflow from \$510 million (including purchases of \$100 million of bonds issued by the International Bank) to about \$230 million.

Because of the decline in the outflow of funds for Government aid and private investment, the improvement in the foreign balance on goods and services was not reflected in an equivalent improvement in the movement of foreign reserves. During the fourth quarter, foreign countries and international institutions liquidated about \$300 million of their gold and dollar assets, while in the first quarter such liquidations rose to about \$370 million. Most of these liquidations, however, took place during the first 2 months of the year and an improvement in international economic relationships became evident toward the end of the first quarter.

Imports turn upward again

The most significant change in the balance of payments from the last 3 months in 1951 to the first three months in 1952 was the \$300 million rise in imports of merchandise. Since average unit values remained virtually unchanged the rise represents an increase in volume. Compared to the corresponding period a year ago, when imports were at the postwar peak, import volume was about 7 percent smaller, whereas during the last quarter of 1951 imports had been about 14 percent smaller than a year earlier.

Generally, the changes in imports appear to reflect developments in the domestic economy. The exceptionally high output of durable goods, mainly for defense purposes and for the expansion of productive facilities, accounts for the high imports of nonferrous metals and ferro-alloys. The relatively large imports of industrial and agricultural machinery may still reflect stringencies in that field. On the other hand, lagging imports of wool, hides, wool and cotton manufactures and automobiles have their parallel in the reduced sales of consumer goods in the domestic market. The improved domestic supply situation accounts for the decline in imports of steel mill products.

Imports of services were also rising. Freight payments to foreign ship operators follow approximately changes in imports. Tourist expenditures during the first quarter were about 10 percent higher than during the same season last year. Indications are that a new record for foreign travel will be set in 1952.

Merchandise exports still high

Merchandise exports, as indicated above, do not give so clear an indication of economic developments as do imports. Among the major declining exports were cotton, tobacco, and coal; among those rising were grains, machinery, civilian type vehicles and military goods.

The declines do not seem to reflect any general changes in business activity here or abroad. Although output of cotton textiles in some of the major producing countries, particularly in Europe, started to decline toward the end of last year, exports of cotton from the United States were considerably higher than last year or even the year before. They were smaller only by comparison with exports in the fourth quarter of 1951. The latter were unusually high because of the need to replenish foreign stocks, which had been reduced as a result of export restrictions during the 1950-51 season following the low crops here and in order to take advantage of the low prices existing in the early fall of 1951.

The rise in exports of industrial machinery, and iron and steel mill products has been continuous since the middle of 1950. Nearly two-thirds of these exports in 1951 and the first three months of 1952 went to Canada and Latin America where investments, both local and American, in mining, petroleum and manufacturing were proceeding at relatively high rates. From the last quarter of 1951 to the first of 1952 the rise was even sharper than during the preceding 18 months. This may reflect the better supply situation in the United States which permitted orders already on hand to be filled faster.

Exports of consumer goods changed relatively little from the preceding quarter, thus interrupting a downward trend which had started about the middle of 1951.

Effect of exchange restrictions

The tightening of exchange restrictions in the sterling area and in France, Brazil, Argentina and several other countries

Table 3.—Balance of Payments of the United States, First Quarter of 1952^a
[Millions of dollars]

Item	All areas	OEEC countries	OEEC dependencies	Other Europe	Canada	Latin American republics	All other countries	International institutions	Sterling area				
									Total	United Kingdom	Other OEEC countries	OEEC dependencies	All other countries
Exports of goods and services:													
Merchandise, adjusted.....	4,155	1,359	148	69	670	1,010	899		1,736	1,242	120	153	1,379
Transportation.....	401	198	16	5	17	82	80	3	84	35	4	8	37
Travel.....	102	8	2	(*)	57	30	5		5	2	(*)	1	2
Miscellaneous service:													
Private.....	157	66	3	2	22	34	18	12	49	40	(*)	2	7
Government.....	61	41	(*)	(*)	1	7	12		5	4	(*)	(*)	1
Income on investments:													
Private.....	389	33	21	(*)	69	167	94	5	49	19	(*)	19	11
Government.....	29	21		3		3	2						
Total.....	5,294	1,726	190	79	836	1,333	1,110	20	928	342	24	83	437
Imports of goods and services:													
Merchandise, adjusted.....	2,965	497	323	44	572	908	618	3	536	136	9	207	184
Transportation.....	255	117	7	2	25	79	25		51	40	(*)	4	7
Travel.....	130	22	13	1	24	67	3		17	4	(*)	12	1
Miscellaneous services:													
Private.....	65	54	(*)	(*)	5	5	1		48	47		(*)	1
Government.....	400	126	57	4	13	18	181	1	29	21	1	3	4
Income on investments:													
Private.....	83	64	1	(*)	13	3	2		36	35	(*)	1	(*)
Government.....	11	4	(*)		3	1	1	2	1	1			
Total.....	3,909	884	401	51	655	1,081	831	6	718	284	10	227	197
Balance on goods and services.....	1,385	842	-211	28	181	252	279	14	210	58	14	-144	240
Unilateral transfers (net):													
Private.....	-95	-42	-4	-5	-1	-12	-31		-16	-7	-2	-3	-4
Government:													
Economic aid.....	-379	-259		-24		-6	-69	-21	-21	-17	-1	(*)	-3
Military aid.....	-410	-328				-30	-52		(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Other.....	-33	-7	(*)	(*)	-2	-1	-23		-1	-1	(*)	(*)	(*)
Total.....	-917	-636	-4	-29	-3	-49	-175	-21	-38	-25	-3	-3	-7
Balance on goods and services and unilateral transfers (Balance for "all areas" equals net foreign investment).....	468	206	-215	-1	178	203	104	-7	172	33	11	-147	233
United States capital (net):													
Private:													
Direct investments.....	-184	-7	4	(*)	-35	-101	-45		-26	-1	(*)	1	-26
Other long-term.....	-33	26	1	-18	-31	10	-20	-1	-8	-4			-4
Short-term.....	-16	-14	0	9	19	-61	31		-2	(*)		1	-3
Government:													
Long-term.....	-140	-61	-3	-3	(*)	-9	-62	-2	-50	-2	(*)	-1	-47
Short-term.....	7	1	(*)				6		2	(*)			2
Total.....	-366	-55	2	-12	-47	-161	-90	-3	-84	-7	(*)	1	-78
Foreign capital (net):													
Long-term.....	3	8	-1	-3	2	1	-2	-2	2	2		-1	1
Short-term.....	180	51	3	(*)	15	16	126	-31	135	143	(*)	6	-14
Gold sales (purchases [-]).....	-555	-549	2	(*)	-3	-5	0	(*)	-521	-520		2	-3
Transfer of funds between foreign areas (receipts from other areas [-]), and errors and omissions.....	270	339	209	16	-145	-54	-138	43	296	349	-11	139	-139

^a Merchandise has been adjusted to exclude exports of military-end-use items financed through grants under the military aid programs and to include for the total sterling area—but not for the United Kingdom and other component areas—"special category" exports sold for cash. For the definition of "special category" goods, see Foreign Trade Statistics Notes for September 1950, published by the Bureau of the Census.

^b Military aid to the sterling area countries is not shown separately.
^c Preliminary. ^d Less than \$500,000.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

toward the end of last year and early in this year does not seem to have had its full effect upon our exports during the first quarter. The slow response to the more stringent exchange restrictions reflects partly the normal time lag between the decline in orders and the decline in shipments, but partly it also reflects the essential character of the purchases here and the lack of alternative sources of supply.

The independent sterling area countries and some of the South American countries have yet to adjust their dollar expenditures to the available dollar supplies. The expected decline in exports to these countries would overbalance any further rise in exports of consumer goods to those countries which increased their purchases here during the first quarter.

The net effect upon total United States exports is likely to be relatively small, however, as exports to these sterling area and Latin American countries amounted to less than 20 percent of all civilian exports from the United States. The decline in exports may be accentuated, however, if production of foodstuffs and fuels abroad increases, although some of the saved dollars are likely to be spent upon other commodities here.

Exports of services changed relatively little from the preceding quarter.

Military aid rising

Military aid rose to an annual rate of \$1.6 billion during the first quarter and even larger exports during April indicate that a rapid upward movement in shipments under these programs can be anticipated.

Economic aid, as in the previous quarter, was less than the appropriation for the current fiscal year would have permitted, probably due to the temporary decline in new allotments last fall pending passage of the appropriation by Congress and the distribution of the new funds. As allotments and procurement authorizations have increased since the beginning of the year, disbursements can also be expected to rise again.

The first-quarter gross disbursements under economic aid programs were at a slightly smaller rate than the foreign aid authorization for fiscal 1953 passed by Congress on June 3. This new authorization included \$1,849 million

for economic aid and \$4,598 million for military assistance, and included the provision that 10 percent of either amount can be transferred to the other program.

Investment change not significant

The decline in the outflow of private capital appears to be due to a fortuitous coincidence of several major security issues during the fourth quarter of 1951 which was not repeated during the first quarter of 1952.

First, there were issues of \$150 million of new securities by (mostly Canadian) subsidiaries of American companies, and second, \$100 million of bonds were sold by the International Bank. The next flotation of securities by the International Bank occurred in May, when a \$50-million issue was offered.

Other purchases of Canadian bonds were smaller. In this case the decline may reflect a change in the basic situation prevailing since the fall of 1950 which had favored

the issue of Canadian securities in the United States. The rise of the Canadian dollar to a premium rate over the United States dollar makes borrowing in the United States less attractive because the proceeds in Canadian currency for every United States dollar borrowed have declined, and—if the premium is considered temporary—the effective interest rate is increased. The relaxation of Canadian credit restrictions can also be expected to reduce Canadian borrowing in the United States.

The net outflow of private short-term capital declined to \$16 million from \$92 million in the fourth quarter of last year. To a large extent the decline was due to repayment by foreign official institutions and foreign banks of loans extended by United States banks. Unpaid drafts increased in both periods, principally those involving credit to Brazil, indicating that a very substantial part of the exports to that country during the six months from September to March had been financed by credits.

Table 4.—Balance of Payments of the United States, 1951: Annual and Fourth Quarter ¹

[Millions of dollars]

Item	All areas		OEEC countries		OEEC dependencies		Other Europe		Canada		Latin American republics		All other countries		International institutions	
	IV	Year	IV	Year	IV	Year	IV	Year	IV	Year	IV	Year	IV	Year	IV	Year
Exports of goods and services:																
Merchandise, adjusted.....	4,130	15,486	1,329	5,045	133	499	73	290	642	2,682	995	3,802	956	3,166	2	2
Transportation.....	417	1,487	212	736	16	61	6	20	18	71	81	328	83	270	1	1
Travel.....	91	420	7	36	2	7	(*)	1	49	236	27	113	6	27		
Miscellaneous services:																
Private.....	158	623	65	267	3	8	2	10	22	82	34	124	18	77	14	55
Government.....	54	211	32	132	(*)	(*)	1	1	1	4	6	21	14	53		
Income on investments:																
Private.....	570	1,800	45	149	37	102	1	2	129	401	259	748	99	392		6
Government.....	100	192	92	158	(*)	(*)	1	10	(*)	(*)	6	16	1	8		
Total.....	5,520	20,219	1,782	6,523	191	677	84	334	861	3,476	1,408	5,152	1,177	3,993	17	64
Imports of goods and services:																
Merchandise, adjusted.....	2,645	11,668	478	2,031	214	1,055	60	220	617	2,296	812	3,533	464	2,516		17
Transportation.....	228	933	103	457	5	19	1	6	25	107	69	269	25	75		
Travel.....	137	722	35	184	10	45	1	4	39	255	48	216	4	18		
Miscellaneous services:																
Private.....	61	249	50	206	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	4	18	5	19	2	6		
Government.....	411	1,143	121	364	54	79	4	10	17	33	19	65	188	560	8	32
Income on investment:																
Private.....	100	351	72	263	1	2	(*)	(*)	20	63	4	13	3	10		
Government.....	11	47	4	14	(*)	(*)			3	15	1	4	1	6	2	8
Total.....	3,593	15,113	863	3,519	284	1,200	66	240	725	2,787	958	4,119	687	3,191	10	57
Balance on goods and services.....	1,927	5,106	919	3,004	-93	-523	18	94	136	689	450	1,033	490	802	7	7
Unilateral transfers (net):																
Private:																
Government:																
Economic aid.....	-740	-2,969	-406	-2,113		(*)	-12	-79			-5	-17	-131	-520	-186	-240
Military aid.....	-320	-1,462	-182	-1,098							-34	-63	-104	-301		
Other.....	-30	-70	-5	11	-1	-1	(*)	(*)	-2	-6	-1	-5	-21	-69		
Total.....	-1,204	-4,913	-650	-3,384	-4	-16	-19	-105	-4	-16	-53	-126	-288	-1,025	-186	-241
Balance on goods and services and unilateral transfers (Balance for "all areas" equals net foreign investment).....	723	193	269	-380	-97	-539	-1	-11	132	673	397	907	202	-223	-179	-234
United States capital (net):																
Private:																
Direct investments.....	-240	-604	-15	-77	-33	-5	(*)	-1	-119	-271	-61	-187	-13	-63		
Other long-term.....	-182	-359	-12	25	-3	9	-1	7	-74	-220	17	29	-16	-56	-99	-153
Short-term.....	-92	-103	-19	85	2	-4	-9	-25	35	53	-68	-139	-33	-73		
Government:																
Long-term.....	10	-140	93	146	-4	-18	-3	-28	(*)	-1	-1	-85	-73	-142	-2	-12
Short-term.....	2	-23	1	-7	-1	-2	(*)	-1	(*)	-5	-1	-1	3	-7		
Total.....	-502	-1,229	48	172	-32	-20	-13	-48	-158	-444	-114	-383	-132	-341	-101	-165
Foreign capital (net):																
Long-term.....	-210	-543	41	20	2	9	-1	-3	-240	-562	6	9	-5	0	-13	-16
Short-term.....	614	1,038	146	177	28	-5	14	-10	322	535	-100	-99	133	454	71	-14
Gold sales (purchases [-]).....	-709	-53	-696	-300	2	12	8	5	-1	2	-27	124	7	80	-2	24
Transfer of funds between foreign areas (receipts from other areas [-]), and errors and omissions.....	84	594	192	311	97	543	-7	67	-55	-204	-162	-558	-205	30	224	405

¹ Revised. * Less than \$500,000.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

Sterling area deficit reduced

The balance on goods, services, unilateral transfers and movements of United States capital with each area provides a measure of the deficit of that area with the United States which has to be met by drawing upon foreign gold and dollar assets, or of a surplus which was added to the dollar resources at their disposal. Gold and dollar assets used for payments to the United States may have been accumulated during previous periods or currently obtained through transactions with other foreign areas. Vice versa, an increase in dollar resources may be added to reserves or spent in other foreign areas.

The major change from the fourth quarter of 1951 to

Table 5.—Balance of Payments of the United States with the Sterling Area, 1951: Annual and Fourth Quarter ¹

(Million of dollars)

Item	Total		United Kingdom		Other OEEC countries		Depend-encies		All other countries	
	IV	Year	IV	Year	IV	Year	IV	Year	IV	Year
Exports of goods and services;										
Merchandise, adjusted ¹	773	2,331	303	911	19	61	55	205	363	1,041
Transportation.....	86	286	34	143	3	7	8	30	41	106
Travel.....	5	27	2	11	(*)	1	1	5	2	10
Miscellaneous services:										
Private.....	46	193	37	160	(*)	1	2	6	7	26
Government.....	5	17	4	15	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	1	2
Income on investments:										
Private.....	66	225	30	89	(*)	(*)	25	79	11	57
Government.....	87	88	87	88	---	---	---	(*)	---	(*)
Total.....	1,068	3,167	497	1,417	22	70	91	325	425	1,242
Imports of goods and services:										
Merchandise, adjusted.....	409	2,226	117	483	7	17	132	738	153	988
Transportation.....	45	184	34	148	1	3	3	11	7	22
Travel.....	17	90	7	37	(*)	4	9	42	1	7
Miscellaneous services:										
Private.....	45	180	44	178	---	(*)	(*)	(*)	1	2
Government.....	31	98	20	68	2	4	4	13	5	13
Income on investments:										
Private.....	36	137	35	134	(*)	(*)	1	2	(*)	1
Government.....	1	2	1	2	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total.....	584	2,917	258	1,050	10	28	149	806	167	1,033
Balance on goods and services.....	484	250	239	367	12	42	-58	-481	258	209
Unilateral transfers (net);										
Private.....	-20	-67	-11	-32	-3	-9	-3	-13	-3	-13
Government:										
Economic aid.....	-57	-253	-47	-218	-5	-22	---	---	-5	-13
Military aid ²	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Other.....	-1	-6	-1	-4	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	-2
Total.....	-78	-326	-59	-254	-8	-31	-3	-13	-8	-28
Balance on goods and services and unilateral transfers.....	406	-76	180	113	4	11	-61	-494	250	181
United States capital (net):										
Private:										
Direct investments.....	-30	-62	-2	-26	(*)	(*)	-12	-7	-16	-43
Other long-term.....	-4	-15	-3	-6	---	---	2	21	-3	-16
Short-term.....	20	87	19	80	---	---	(*)	-1	1	8
Government:										
Long-term.....	-15	-36	52	89	---	-11	-3	-11	-64	-103
Short-term.....	3	8	(*)	0	(*)	-1	-1	-1	4	10
Total.....	-26	-18	66	137	(*)	-12	-14	1	-78	-144
Foreign capital (net);										
Long-term.....	32	57	30	50	---	---	2	6	(*)	1
Short-term.....	215	68	145	-5	8	9	9	-19	53	83
Gold sales (purchases [-]).....	-647	-514	-630	-464	---	---	2	4	-19	-54
Transfers of funds between foreign areas (receipts from other areas [-]) and errors and omissions.....	20	483	209	169	-12	-8	62	502	-206	-67

¹ Revised. ² Less than \$500,000.

³Merchandise has been adjusted to exclude exports of military end-use items financed through grants under the military aid programs and to include for the total sterling area—but not for the United Kingdom and other component areas—special category exports sold for cash. For the definition of "special category" goods see Foreign Trade Statistics notes for September 1950, published by the Bureau of the Census.

⁴ Military aid to the sterling area countries is not shown in this table but included in table 4.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

the first of 1952, as measured by that balance, took place in the case of the United Kingdom and the British dependencies. The deficit of \$170 million in the fourth quarter changed to a surplus of \$120 million in the first.

Of the fourth quarter deficit, \$140 million was due to the service on the British loan, but the remaining improvement of \$150 million was the result of higher imports by the United States, as well as lower imports by the United Kingdom from this country. The deficit of the rest of the sterling area declined only from \$176 million to \$166 million.

These data suggest two conclusions. First, any contribution by the independent members of the sterling area toward alleviating the foreign exchange crises of the area was not sufficient to create a major change in their net transactions with the United States; second, the transactions of the entire sterling area with the United States, to the extent that they are statistically accounted for, comprised only a very small part of the total sterling area loss in gold and dollar assets of \$635 million during the first quarter.

Further adjustments in the balance of payments of independent sterling area countries with the United States may, therefore, be expected. However, some adjustments in the transactions of the sterling area with countries other than the United States, can also be anticipated, either by selling more to them, or buying less from them. Continental European countries in particular may be affected by such adjustments.

Position of other countries

The deficit of the continental OEEC countries with the United States increased considerably as compared to the previous quarter, and although they still had a surplus with the sterling area, their gold and short-term dollar assets declined by about \$10 million.

The surplus with Latin America declined sharply so that the accounts with that area were again nearly in balance.

With the independent nonsterling area countries of Africa and Asia, the United States had a larger deficit, primarily, as a result of the annual imports of Egyptian cotton which occurred during the first quarter. Most of the rise in dollar assets, however, accrued to Japan and was due mainly to the agreement by the United States to pay, beginning with July 1, 1951, approximately half of the expenditures of the United States Army in Japan in dollars, and to the continued large purchases of goods and services by the armed forces for use in the Korean operations. Although aid to Japan declined rapidly during 1951 upon termination of the program at the end of June, Japanese dollar assets increased by nearly \$400 million from the end of June 1951 to the end of March 1952.

Inflationary pressures decline abroad

The balance of payments during the first quarter still reflects a relatively tight demand-supply situation abroad, while in the United States the supplies of many commodities have become increasingly plentiful in relation to current demand. There are various indications in production and employment data, however, that the supply situation abroad is also improving.

Inflationary pressures have subsided in France. Prices of certain raw materials, such as wool, some nonferrous metals, copra, jute and rubber started to decline again during recent months, after they had remained more or less stable during the last half of last year.

Continued high expenditures for armaments, and a continued backlog of investments, however, are—just as in the United States—likely to prevent the weaknesses from spreading very far. The relaxed supply situation in European countries may, however, improve their balances of payments by lowering import demand and raising supplies available for export.

The Business Population

THE business population currently consists of slightly more than 4-million firms, quite close to the post-war peak reached in June 1948. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the number of firms in operation which declined from mid-1948 to mid-1949 has consistently edged up since that time, but the total increase since mid-1949, amounting to less than 2 percent, has simply offset the earlier loss. At the end of March of this year, the business population was less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent higher than one year ago.

As may be seen from table 6, the business population currently exceeds the pre-war level by nearly 20 percent and exceeds the World War II low reached at the end of 1943 by one-third. From 1948 to date, the overall business population has been extremely stable, a development which is remarkable in view of the diversity of conditions which characterized this period.

Construction and transportation continue up

Only two major industry divisions—contract construction and transportation, communication, and other public utilities—have shown significant increases over the past year. The continued strength in the contract construction division is a reflection of the pervasiveness of the demand for new construction. There are now more than two and one-half times as many construction firms in operation as there were at the end of 1943; this division alone accounts for 23 percent of the increase which has occurred in the total business population since that date. However, recent trends

to the residential construction boom but more importantly is a result of the defense program reflecting the movement of both supplies and families.

During the past year the number of retail trade firms continued the decline which, except for an interruption during 1950, has been in progress since the 1948 peak. Declines in the number of firms dealing in food have brought about this movement in the division as a whole. Wholesale trade and finance, insurance and real estate experienced modest gains in the past year, while the remaining major industry divisions remained unchanged.

In manufacturing, the number of durable goods producers continued to increase during this period in response to the demands of the defense program, but these gains were offset by continued declines among producers of soft goods. This is in contrast to the 12-month period ending in March 1951 during which the strength of the durable goods sector brought about a moderate increase in the total number of manufacturers. Manufacturing as a whole reached a post-war peak in 1947, about one year earlier than the other major industry divisions. However, most of the decline which followed was concentrated among nondurable goods manufacturers.

Recent trends among minor industries

Table 7 presents estimates of the number of firms in operation 1947–51, by the widest available industry detail; this table revises and extends the information shown in table 2 of the business population article published in the June 1949 issue of the SURVEY.

In December 1947 the number of manufacturing firms was close to the postwar high which had been reached in June of that year. In September 1951 most of the manufacturing groups were below December 1947 with the larger relative declines occurring in food; apparel; leather; chemicals; stone, clay and glass products; transportation equipment; and miscellaneous manufacturers. However, a few manufacturing groups—particularly the machinery categories and petroleum and coal products—were appreciably higher in 1951 than at the end of 1947.

In the case of retail trade, nearly all of the recent declines of the division as a whole are attributable to decreases among food stores of all types and among eating and drinking places. The number of drug stores and jewelry stores has also fallen off slightly since June 1948, but all other categories of retail trade have remained unchanged or shown increases. The number of home furnishing firms, partly as a reflection of the residential construction boom, has increased nearly 8 percent over the past three years.

Within the service industries, decreases during the past three years in the number of barber and beauty shops and firms engaged in automobile repair have been largely offset by increases among firms engaged in business services and miscellaneous repairs.

Table 6.—Number of Firms in Operation Mar. 31, 1952 and Percent Change From Selected Dates, by Major Industry Divisions

Industry	Number of firms in operation March 31, 1952 ¹ (thousands)	Percent change to Mar. 31, 1952 from:				
		June 1940	Dec. 1943	June 1948	June 1950	Mar. 1951
All industries.....	4,018.7	19.0	34.6	0.2	0.8	0.3
Mining and quarrying.....	34.1	-8.3	9.3	-4.0	0	-3
Contract construction.....	384.2	92.6	161.0	18.3	6.0	3.2
Manufacturing.....	306.6	35.4	28.9	-7.5	1.0	0
Durable.....	155.4	82.2	60.5	-1.8	8.8	4.1
Nondurable.....	151.1	7.0	7.2	-12.8	-5.9	-4.1
Transportation, communication and other public utilities.....	212.1	43.7	82.1	12.2	9.2	4.8
Wholesale trade.....	207.7	41.8	48.1	2.2	1.9	.5
Retail trade.....	1,662.4	4.3	21.3	-3.2	-1.4	-9
Finance, insurance and real estate.....	354.0	14.9	15.6	1.8	1.9	.7
Service industries.....	857.6	19.4	34.8	-5	.4	0

¹ Preliminary

in the number of new and discontinued businesses suggest that the contract construction division is now leveling off.

Comparatively small trucking and warehousing firms comprise at least three-fourths of the transportation, communication, and other public utilities division. The continued growth in the number of such firms is also related

Distribution of National Income

Pattern of Income Shares Since 1929

THIS review of income shifts since 1929 is devoted chiefly to the distribution of the national income, which measures the form in which earnings from current production are distributed before they are reduced by direct taxes or supplemented by transfer incomes. Some consideration is given towards the end of the article, however, to modifications brought about by direct taxes and transfer payments.

With total national income of record size, it is not surprising that, in dollar terms, all major income shares currently are high by historical standards. The compensation of employees, the income of business and professional proprietors, corporate earnings, and rental income reached peak levels in 1951. The income of farm proprietors had been exceeded only in 1948, and net interest, though below previous maxima, was at the highest point in 20 years.

Summary of changes

The relative positions of the different income shares have, however, changed markedly from those of 1929. In 1951 compensation of employees was 65 percent of the national income, a share larger by one-ninth than in 1929. The position of corporate earnings before tax, at more than 15 percent of the total, had increased, proportionately, even more—by three-tenths. Earnings of farm and nonfarm proprietors each comprised somewhat smaller percentages of national income in 1951 than in 1929, but they had exceeded 1929 as recently as 1948 and 1949, respectively. The major long-term losses in position occurred in rental income and net interest. Rental income had dropped in relative size from 6½ percent of the national income in 1929 to 3 percent in 1951, and net interest from 7½ to 2 percent.

These measurements, as already emphasized, are on a before-tax basis. Deduction of taxes, which will be considered later, makes a considerable difference in this pattern, especially with respect to the movement of corporate earnings which have been subjected to sharply increased tax rates.

Cyclically, the two shares representing business costs—compensation of employees and interest—have fluctuated less widely than total income so their percentages of the total have behaved counter-cyclically. The offset has been mainly in the violently fluctuating percentages for corporate earnings. However, the remaining three shares have shown moderately wider cyclical fluctuations than aggregate income.

In addition to such longer-term and cyclical movements, the percentages reflect strongly distortions caused by the war and such special occurrences as crop failures at home and abroad.

Distributional and structural changes

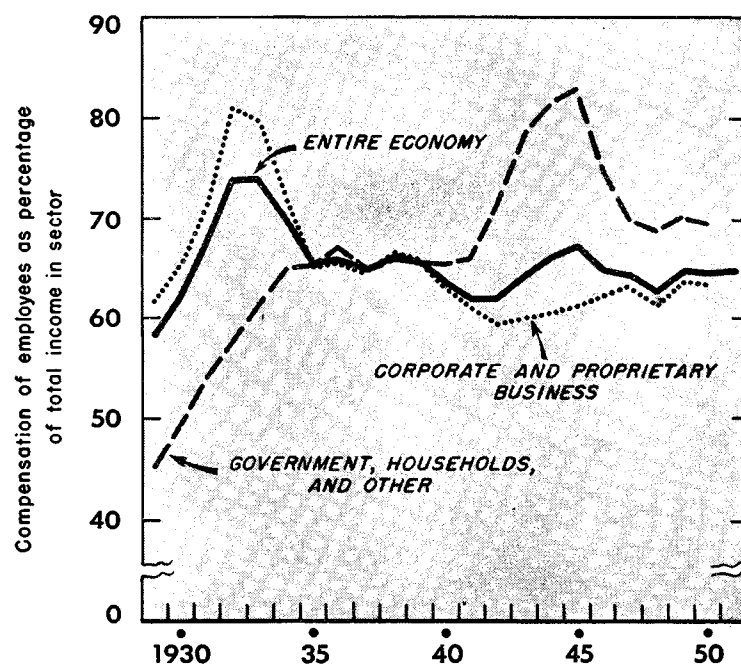
A major purpose of this article is to distinguish between two fundamentally different causes of shifting in the size of

the income shares. First, the relative size of the shares may change because of changes in the distribution of income within a homogeneous group of enterprises of the same legal form of organization, size-class, and industry. This type of change has real meaning only for ordinary business enterprises, defined here as proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations organized for profit. They have dominated cyclical swings in the distribution of national income.

Second, the over-all income distribution is greatly influenced by structural changes in the economy. Far the most important of these are shifts in the relative size of different industries or activities in which income is normally distributed differently.

Labor Share of Income

Ordinary business dominates cyclical movements but long-term trend is raised by government activity



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Such structural changes outside and, to a lesser extent, within the ordinary business system largely, though not entirely, account for the shifts in income distribution, other than those of a cyclical nature, which have taken place since 1929.

NOTE: MR. DENISON IS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF BUSINESS ECONOMICS.

Compensation of employees

In which areas of the economy have the major changes in the ratio of the compensation of employees to national income occurred? Are they the result of real changes in the income distribution within homogeneous branches of the economy, or merely of shifts in the weights by which the various branches are combined?

To answer these questions ordinary business enterprises, within which originated 78 percent of the national income in 1929 and 80 percent in 1950, must first be distinguished from the heterogeneous activities making up the rest of the economy.

Long-time shift outside business sector

In 1950, the employee percentage of income originating within the ordinary business sector was 62.9 as against 61.7 in 1929. Outside the ordinary business sector, employee compensation comprised 70 percent of all income originating as contrasted with 45 percent in 1929. It is in the latter area, therefore, that an explanation must be sought for most of the $6\frac{1}{2}$ percentage-point rise in the share of employees in the total national income.

This explanation lies in the enormous shift in importance among the various separate activities making up this heterogeneous fifth of the economy. There were sharp drops in the importance as income-creating sources (relative to total national income) of (1) individually-owned real property; (2) investments abroad; and (3) brokers' loans to individuals. Income flows deriving from these sources consist predominantly or entirely of rental income, interest, or profits. In contrast, compensation of Government and Government-enterprise employees, to which there is no property income counterpart, moved up from 5.9 percent of the national income to 9.8 percent.

The high labor proportion of national income during the war reflects entirely developments outside the ordinary business sector—chiefly the swelling of Government military and civilian payrolls.

Business dominates cyclical movements

Within the ordinary business system, the share of income accruing to labor has varied chiefly in response to cyclical influences, with no clear evidence of a long-term trend. It advanced sharply from 62 percent in 1929 to 81 percent in 1932, then fell back to 65 percent by 1935. At this point it was lower than in the period of corresponding activity in the preceding downswing. It did not recede further with continued business recovery in 1936 and 1937, but followed the business cycle thereafter until the outbreak of war.

Throughout the war period the percentage was slightly below the most prosperous peacetime years, but it had exceeded 1929 slightly by 1946, and thereafter stabilized except for a small dip in 1948. The extreme range of the percentage in highly prosperous years—1929, and all the years from 1941 through 1950—was from 59.5 in 1942 to 63.2 in 1947 and 1949. Excluding the war period, it was from 61.4 (in 1948) to 63.2—a variation of less than 2 percentage points or 3 percent.

Broad breakdown of ordinary business

These movements can be analyzed in more detail by subdividing the ordinary business economy. Data plotted in an accompanying chart permit the following observations:

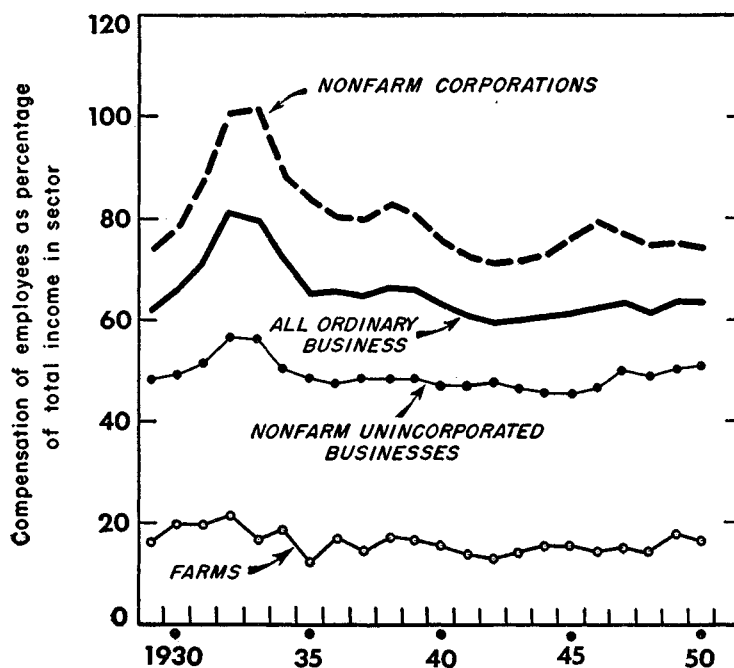
(1) In corporations and farms the employee share of income originating was the same in 1950 as in 1929. The slight increase in the labor share within ordinary business as a whole derived from a small advance within nonfarm pro-

prietorships and partnerships. So far as this breakdown is relevant, therefore, the conclusion drawn for ordinary business as a whole that 1929 and 1950 differed but little is based on a general situation rather than offsetting behavior among components or a change in the weights of the broad branches of the economy.

(2) In the prewar period, the employee percentages for nonfarm corporations follow a clearly defined cyclical pattern. Cyclical irregularities in this period derive from the other two components.

Importance of Labor Income by Sectors

Labor share varies widely among sectors of ordinary business



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(3) After 1941, the comparative stability of the employee percentage for all ordinary business is the result of offsetting movements for corporate and noncorporate firms and of shifts in their weights. From 1945 to 1947, when profits in some industries were depressed by reconversion, the labor percentage in the corporate sphere stood significantly above 1942-44 and 1948-50. In the nonfarm unincorporated sector, by contrast, the employee percentages were low in 1944 and 1945 and thereafter moved up as the corporate percentages receded. Noncorporate firms were of negligible importance in the industries affected by reconversion problems.

Industry shifts

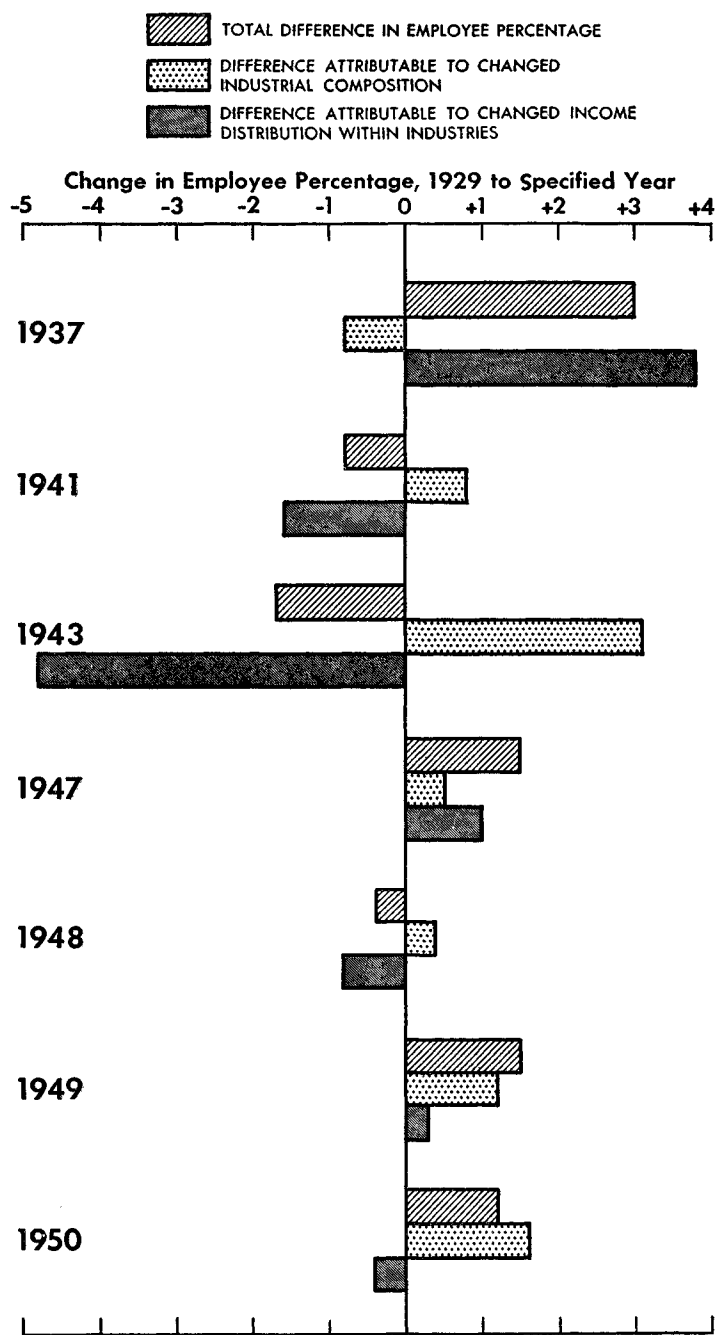
Employee percentages may also be calculated for individual industries within the ordinary business sector. They can then be utilized to segregate the effects upon the all-ordinary-business employee percentage of changes in the distribution of income within individual industries from the effects of shifts in the relative size of the industries. The results of such an investigation are summarized in the following

chart. Data plotted are averages of the results obtained by use of 1929 and of given-year weights.

This analysis leads to the following conclusions as to the causes of variation in the income share of employees within the ordinary business system:

(1) During the depression, the industrial distribution was less favorable to employees than in 1929 or other good years.

Factors Affecting Changes in Employee Share of Income in Ordinary Business



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That the employee share of the sharply reduced national income was high reflected entirely the reduction or disappearance of profits in almost every industry. Indeed, had it not been for the unfavorable industry distribution, the over-all labor proportion would have been even larger.

This can be seen to some extent from the 1937 data, but was far more pronounced in 1932, which is not shown on the chart.

(2) During the war, the industrial distribution was especially favorable to labor, while the income distribution within industries was even less favorable than the percentages based on combined data would suggest. To some extent this was already true by 1941. Analysis of individual-industry data shows the wartime shift toward a larger profits share to have occurred primarily in the nonwar rather than in the war-related industries.

(3) The small differences between the 1929 aggregate labor percentage and the percentages in the postwar years are largely attributable to industrial composition changes. In none of the 4 years from 1947 to 1950 can a difference from 1929 of as much as 1 percentage point be ascribed to income distribution changes within industries.

Employee share unchanged on comparable basis

Taken together, the foregoing analyses show rather conclusively that the marked increase from 1929 to 1950 in the employee share of total national income is entirely due to structural changes in the economy. The distribution of income within comparable parts of the economy was, on balance, about equally favorable to labor in 1929 and 1950.

There is a strong presumption from the preceding findings, taken together with the fact that in individual industries the proportion of total income which originated in corporations was apparently similar in 1929 and 1950, that this latter statement is also applicable to the corporate sector of the economy considered alone. This is confirmed more directly by a calculation for 1929 and 1950 similar to that shown in the chart but excluding farming and the professional service industries, which are dominated by noncorporate firms.¹

Net Interest

From \$6.5 billion in 1929, the interest component of national income dropped in every year but one until it reached a low of \$2.9 billion in 1946. It then recovered to \$5.4 billion in 1950 and \$5.7 billion in 1951.

From 1929 until 1932 the decline in interest payments, consisting mostly of fixed charges which could not readily be reduced, was less precipitate than that in other types of income; interest moved from 7.5 percent to 13.0 percent of aggregate income. Thereafter it dropped steadily to a low of 1.6 percent in 1946. The subsequent increase in payments brought this percentage back to 2.3 percent in 1949 and 1950, from which it receded a little in 1951.

Meaning of net interest

Net interest is intended, subject to a qualification in the next paragraph, to represent the monetary and imputed interest accruing to persons from private (nongovernmental) sources. It may also be viewed as approximately the sum of (1) monetary interest received by persons from private payors other than financial intermediaries; and (2) total monetary interest received by financial intermediaries in behalf of persons. This is true because interest receipts of financial intermediaries in excess of their monetary interest payments are offset in national income measurement by outpayments of imputed interest. The phrase "in behalf of persons" is

¹ Definitions adopted in measuring the national income affect the size of each share. This is notably true in regard to the line drawn between direct taxes, which are included in the national income, and indirect taxes, which are excluded. Exclusion of capital gains and losses and inventory profits and losses is also important. Such definitional matters have been fully discussed in the 1951 *National Income* supplement to the SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS. Income data utilized here are those published in that source and the May 1952 SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS, together with underlying worksheet material, except for a preliminary adjustment of the 1949-51 corporate profits data to levels indicated by Bureau of Internal Revenue tabulations for 1949. Lack of detailed data for 1951 has necessitated ending some of the charts and analyses with 1950.

necessary because part of the interest received by financial intermediaries is balanced by monetary and, in the case of banks, imputed interest payments not to individuals but to other businesses.

An understatement of net interest in terms of this description results from the treatment of Government interest flows. To the extent that Government interest is received by corporations other than financial intermediaries, or is received by banks and balanced in national income accounting by imputed interest payments to businesses, it results in an understatement of net interest and a corresponding overstatement of business earnings from operations.

An estimate of the understatement resulting from this source, together with the net interest share after adjustment to include it, is presented for 3 years in the addendum to table 1. The share of interest in the national income would drop slightly more, in percentage points, from 1929 to 1950 if the adjusted figures were substituted for the unadjusted.

Decline in interest share general

The major sources of private interest are shown in table 1. Financial intermediaries are omitted because they do not originate interest. These data represent gross monetary interest payments and thus (even though some small flows have been omitted) exceed the adjusted net interest aggregate because some interest is paid to businesses other than financial intermediaries.²

These seven types of interest flows account for the major changes in adjusted net interest. They can be analyzed to discover the sources of the sharp relative decline in the interest share.

The total national income in 1946 (when interest was at its lowest point) was 2.1 times, and in 1950, 2.7 times, as large as in 1929. No major type of interest came close to keeping pace except, in the 1929-50 comparison, interest on consumer

accounted for more than two-thirds of the total dollar increase. All other major private interest flows in 1950 remained below 1929 levels even in dollar terms.

Interest decline due mainly to debt

For interest to have maintained its former percentage of the national income it would have been necessary for both interest rates and the ratio of debt to national income to remain unchanged—unless changes in the two determinants were offsetting. In table 2 the changes in these two factors are isolated for each of the major types of private interest flows.

Table 2.—Analysis of Shifts in the Importance of Interest in the National Income, Major Private Interest Flows

[Indexes: 1929=100]

Type of debt	Interest rates			Ratio of debt to national income			Ratio of interest payments to national income		
	1929	1946	1950	1929	1946	1950	1929	1946	1950
Mortgages on nonfarm dwellings.....	100	78	75	100	47	64	100	37	48
Farm mortgages.....	100	76	78	100	24	22	100	18	17
Debt of transportation and utility corporations.....	100	75	67	100	38	35	100	28	24
Debt of other nonbanking corporations.....	100	53	55	100	44	51	100	24	28
Consumer credit ¹	100	104	112	100	52	107	100	54	121
Loans from brokers.....	100	33	38	100	4	5	100	1	2
Weighted (1929 weights) indexes, 6 debt components.....	100	66	65	100	38	46	100	26	33

¹ See footnote 3 to the text.

² Index of the actual ratio of interest payments to national income, based on combined debt and interest data for the 6 series. Computed as the product of the indexes for (1) the ratio of debt to national income and (2) interest rates, the weighted indexes would be 25 in 1946 and 30 in 1950.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

Had the ratio of debt of each type to national income been the same in 1946 as in 1929, interest rate changes would have reduced by 34 percent the ratio of these types of interest to the national income. Had interest rates of each type remained unchanged, the behavior of debt alone would have reduced by 62 percent the ratio of these types of interest to the national income.

This ratio actually fell by almost three-fourths from 1929 to 1946 under the combined influence of the two factors. The analysis suggests that about two-thirds of this decline should be ascribed to the fact that debt did not increase so much as national income and about one-third to lowered interest rates.

Interest rates, properly weighted for this purpose, showed little change from 1946 to 1950; the rise in the interest share of the national income was entirely due to the advance in debt—particularly urban mortgages and consumer credit.³

Interest from abroad smaller

The foreign balance adjustment was omitted from table 2 in order to confine it to interest paid in the United States. The return on private portfolio investments by Americans was about 6 percent in 1929 and 3 percent in 1950. This reduction in rate of return was less important than the behavior of the amount of such investments in causing the proportion of national income represented by interest from abroad to dwindle.

³ In table 2 the effort was made in each case to confine the debt data utilized to interest-bearing types. In the case of corporations, however, it was necessary to include accounts payable. Changes in the composition of interest-bearing consumer debt cause the interest rate index in both 1946 and 1950 to exceed 1929, although rates on individual types of debt had declined somewhat. Compositional shifts may also affect the corporate indexes, although on an over-all basis the percentage breakdown between long-term and short-term debt was similar in the 3 years shown.

Table 1.—Selected Types of Monetary Interest Payments

[Billions of dollars]

	1929	1946	1950
Monetary interest payments by type of debt:			
Mortgages on nonfarm dwellings.....	1.85	1.40	2.44
Farm mortgages.....	.58	.22	.26
Debt of transportation and utility corporations.....	1.45	.84	.93
Debt of other nonbanking corporations.....	2.29	1.12	1.74
Consumer credit.....	.44	.49	1.44
Loans from brokers.....	.95	.02	.05
Net inflow of interest from abroad.....	.58	.14	.21
Sum of selected types.....	8.14	4.23	7.07
Addendum:			
Net interest, as published.....	6.54	2.92	5.39
Adjustment for Government interest flows.....	.38	.84	.71
Net interest, adjusted.....	6.92	3.76	6.10
Index of adjusted net interest (1929=100).....	100	54	88
Index of sum of selected types of payments (1929=100).....	100	52	87

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

credit. Special attention is drawn to the depressing effect of interest paid on brokers' loans, which amounted to nearly \$1 billion in 1929 and has been almost negligible thereafter. However, it is evident that the decline since 1929 in the importance of interest, relative to the national income, has been general throughout the economy.

The table also highlights the importance of interest payments on urban residential mortgages, and consumer credit in the partial recovery of interest after 1946. Each type had advanced approximately \$1 billion by 1950; together they

² Interest on brokers' loans is entirely paid by individuals to brokers. In the period when it was important, however, it was mostly passed on by the brokers to the banks, as the brokers were extending credit with borrowed funds. To avoid double-counting in the analysis, interest paid by noncorporate security and commodity brokers, although large, is omitted from table 1.

Business Earnings

All business earnings arise in the ordinary business sector except the net inflow of dividends and branch profits from abroad, and the refunds and dividends of farmers' cooperatives.⁴ With these exceptions, the percentage of the total national income comprised by each type of business income—the income of farm proprietors, the income of business and professional proprietorships and partnerships, and corporate profits before tax, each measured so as to exclude inventory profits and losses—depends in the first instance upon (1) the importance of the sector in which it originates and (2) the ratio of business income to total income within the relevant sector. The two influences are isolated for 1929 and 1950 in table 3.

Changes in the importance of the sectors reflect almost entirely the shifting industrial composition of the national income. They tended to boost the shares of corporate earnings and nonfarm proprietors in the total national income, while lowering the share of farm proprietors.

Table 3.—Analysis of the Ratio of Business Earnings to National Income, by Types

	1929	1950
Ratio of business earnings to total national income:		
Farms.....	0.065	0.058
Nonfarm proprietorships and partnerships ¹	.094	.093
Nonfarm corporations ²	.115	.140
Ratio of income originating in sector to total national income:		
Farms.....	.089	.072
Nonfarm proprietorships and partnerships.....	.178	.190
Nonfarm corporations.....	.515	.548
Ratio of business earnings to total income originating in sector:		
Farms.....	.729	.808
Nonfarm proprietorships and partnerships.....	.527	.489
Nonfarm corporations.....	.223	.256

¹ Excludes income of cooperatives.

² Excludes the net inflow of dividends and branch profits from abroad.

Source: Office of Business Economics, U. S. Department of Commerce.

Particular interest centers in the second factor, the ratio of business income to total income in each sector. For each of the three business sectors, the ratio of business earnings, and of business earnings plus net interest, to total income is shown in the accompanying chart. The latter percentage falls short of 100 by the share of employees, the only other type of income which originates in ordinary business.

Farms

The most striking development in the distribution of income within the farm sector is the long-term shift from interest to proprietors' income. In 1929 interest accounted for 11 percent and farm operators' net income for 73 percent of income originating in agriculture; in 1950 these proportions were 3 and 81. This shift, which had been largely completed by 1942, was partly due to a reduction of more than one-fifth in mortgage interest rates, but primarily to the drop in the ratio of debt to income.

There is no ascertainable trend in the proportion of farm national income going to interest recipients and proprietors combined. However, this proportion tends to be high when income is rising and low when it is falling because of the greater short-run stability of farm wages.

Aided by this tendency, the long-term shift from interest to proprietors' income permitted a percentage share of total national income for farm proprietors in 1951 only one-twentieth under 1929, despite the fact that the proportion

⁴ The net inflow from abroad amounted to 0.1 percent of the national income in 1929 and 0.3 percent in 1950; to this extent it contributed to the rise in the ratio of total corporate profits to national income. Refunds and dividends of farmers' cooperatives equaled less than 0.1 percent of national income in both years.

of national income which originated in agriculture was smaller by one-seventh. This 1951 distribution was somewhat more favorable to farmers than that for 1950, which is shown in table 3. It should be noted that it is only in the past 3 years that farm earnings have fallen short of their 1929 percentage of the total national income. With farm prices especially favorable, they were above their 1929 proportion in all but one year from 1941 through 1948.

Nonfarm proprietors' income

The ratio of proprietors' earnings to income originating in nonfarm proprietorships and partnerships was almost 4 points lower in 1950 than in 1929. Most of this difference can be traced to the professional services. In this area there was a marked increase in the number of employees per proprietor (partly due to compositional changes, though the tendency was general) and a corresponding rise in the ratio of pay rolls to proprietors' income. In addition, a decline in the relative importance of the professions within the nonfarm proprietorship and partnership total contributed to the over-all decline, since in both years proprietors' income was a much higher percentage of total income originating in the professions than in the remainder of the noncorporate economy.

Another industry in which change away from proprietors' earnings was marked is security and commodity brokerage. Here, the switch was between proprietors' income and net interest—which was substantially negative in 1929.

In the remainder of the noncorporate economy there was, in the aggregate, no difference between the proprietors' share of total income in 1929 and 1950. This does not, of course, preclude offsetting changes among individual industries, nor does it take account of an apparent reduction in the proprietors' share in 1951.

Particularly noteworthy is the bulge which appeared in the proprietors' share of noncorporate business income during and just after World War II. Small firms, particularly unincorporated manufacturing and trade establishments, enjoyed exceptionally favorable profits during the period of shortages and controls.

Corporate earnings

The principal change in the distribution of income within nonfarm corporations has been the same as that in agriculture: an increase in corporate earnings at the expense of interest.⁵ In the 1948–51 period corporate earnings, computed in the national income on a before-tax basis, averaged about 25½ percent of income originating in corporate business, as compared with 22.3 percent in 1929. Net interest dropped from 3.6 percent in 1929 to about 0.5 percent in the postwar period, while the compensation of employees' percentage remained about the same.

Factors in higher profit proportion

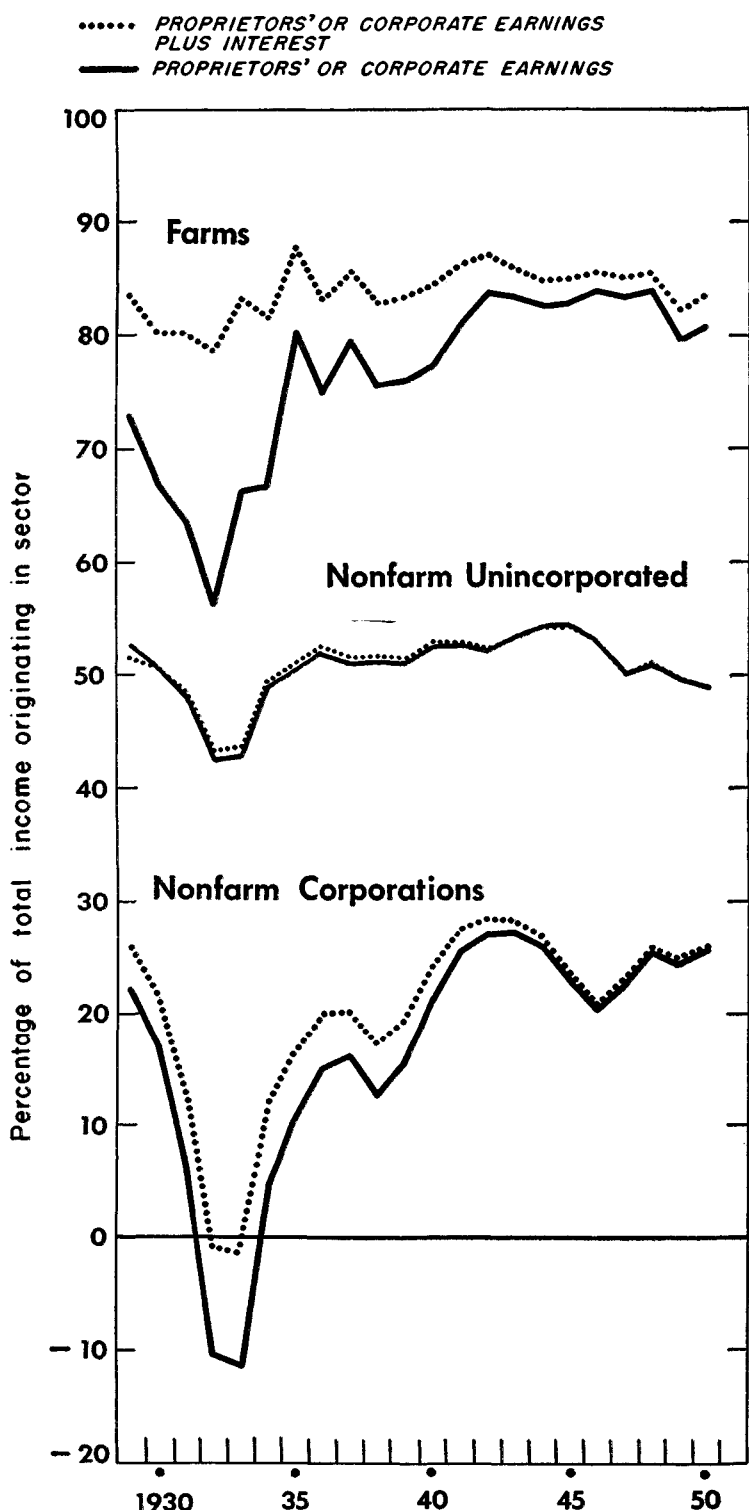
Previous analysis indicates that the rise in the profits share was not the result of a different industrial distribution. Two of the major developments which may have contributed to the higher profit proportion may be mentioned, however.

One is the advance in price levels which has raised replacement costs of capital goods above their average original cost. Adjustment of both 1929 and 1950 capital consumption charges to a replacement-cost basis would cut the increase in the profits proportion of income originating in corporate

⁵ It has been correctly pointed out that in national income accounting the existence of intercorporate dividend and interest flows introduces an essentially arbitrary element into the breakdown between the interest and profit shares within the corporate sector. However, in the period under consideration there was no great change in the relationship between interest receipts and interest payments of nonbanking corporations. The drop in the interest share was due to the decline in interest payments, so that the distinction emphasized in the text appears warranted.

business by an estimated 1 to 1½ percentage points. However, it is sometimes contended that improvements in the efficiency of plant and equipment and their utilization have largely or entirely offset the nominal price advances, and that such an adjustment is not a proper one.

Business Earnings and Net Interest as percentage of total income by sectors



The second major development is the growth of corporate income and excess profits taxes. Over a period of more than two decades some shifting of this tax may have occurred and contributed to the advance in the profits share on a before-tax basis. The results on an after-tax basis are discussed in the final portion of this analysis.

Profits movement within the period

In the prewar period the ratio of corporate earnings to income originating in nonfarm corporations followed the business cycle closely and regularly. The variation was extreme, from 22.3 percent in 1929 down to *minus* 11.4 percent in 1933—a swing of 33 percentage points—and back to 16.2 percent with the partial business recovery achieved by 1937. By 1941 it had reached 25.5 percent—equal to its 1948–51 level—and moved a little higher in the early war years.

The reconversion process from 1945 to 1947 had a much more pronounced effect upon profits than on most economic indexes, as the earnings percentage dipped to a low of 20.4 in 1946. The decline in earnings was confined to the metal-manufacturing industries, transportation, and some types of mining.

From 1948 through 1951, despite the sharp changes which occurred in prices, wage rates, tax rates, and the composition of demand for business products, there was little variation in the corporate earnings percentage. Certainly, changes were no greater than could be explained by fluctuations in the rate of economic activity.

Rental Income of Person

Rental income, which amounted to more than 6 percent of the national income in 1929, fell somewhat more than the total in the downswing of the great depression. It failed to exhibit a proportional recovery in the upward phase of the cycle, however, and by 1942 was below 4 percent of total income. In 1950 this percentage was down to 3.4 and in 1951, to 3.0.

Character of rental income

Rental income of persons measures the net earnings of persons from their holdings of real property, including the imputed net rent credited to owner-occupants of nonfarm homes. It also includes a relatively small amount of royalties received by persons from patents, copyrights, and rights to natural resources.

Rental income resembles proprietors' income in that it is a residual share computed by deducting costs from value of product and also in that it represents a composite of what are analytically labor, interest, and profit components. The labor-return ingredient in rent, however, may be presumed to be relatively small, since by definition only incidental labor services are involved; the interest component is probably predominant.

Lag in rental rates and gross rents

As a proportion of the national income, monetary rental income (as distinguished from imputed rent on owner-occupied homes) declined a little less than one-fourth from 1929 to 1950, about equal to the reduction in interest rates on urban mortgages. The movements of monetary rental income from each of the major types of property holdings have been quite similar.

Whether or not it was as the consequence of lower interest rates, rent control, or other causes, the principal immediate reason for the long-term relative decline of rental income was apparently the fall in rental rates relative to general prices. While rental-rate data for nonresidential properties

are extremely sparse, such information is available for rented residential property, which alone is responsible for two-fifths or more of monetary rental income. They show that the ratio of the Bureau of Labor Statistics' urban residential rent index to its general consumers' price index dropped by one-third from 1929 to 1950 or to early 1952.

Primarily as a result of such differential price movements, the ratio of gross monetary rents received by persons to national income fell by more than two-fifths. Persons received about the same proportion of total rent payments in the 2 years, so a change of this kind was not a factor in the relative decline. The shift from tenant to owner-occupancy of homes which occurred contributed to a fairly small extent.

Table 4.—Derivation of Private Income Before and After Liability for Allocable Taxes on Income, 1929 and 1948

[Billions of dollars]						
Year and type of income	National income	Add: transfer incomes	Equals: private income before tax	Less: corporate profits taxes and social insurance contributions	Less: personal income taxes	Equals: private income after allocable taxes on income
1929						
Compensation of employees.....	50.8	0.1	50.9	0.2	0.1	50.6
Income of unincorporated enterprises and inventory valuation adjustment:						
Business and professional.....	8.3		8.3		.1	8.1
Farm.....	5.7		5.7		.0	5.7
Rental income of persons.....	5.8		5.8		.0	5.8
Corporate profits and inventory valuation adjustment.....	10.3		10.3	1.4	.3	8.6
Interest.....	6.5	1.0	7.5		.1	7.4
Total excluding unallocated transfer incomes.....	87.4	1.1	88.4	1.6	.7	86.2
Unallocated transfer incomes.....		1.4	1.4	.1		1.3
Total including unallocated transfer incomes.....		2.5	89.8	1.6	1.7	87.5
1948						
Compensation of employees.....	140.2	2.2	142.4	4.7	10.1	127.6
Income of unincorporated enterprises and inventory valuation adjustment:						
Business and professional.....	22.1		22.1		2.8	19.3
Farm.....	17.7		17.7		.5	17.1
Rental income of persons.....	7.5		7.5		.4	7.1
Corporate profits and inventory valuation adjustment.....	31.7		31.7	13.0	1.6	17.1
Interest.....	4.3	4.5	8.8		.3	8.5
Total excluding unallocated transfer incomes.....	223.5	6.7	230.1	17.7	15.7	196.7
Unallocated transfer incomes.....		9.1	9.1	.5		8.6
Total including unallocated transfer incomes.....		15.7	239.2	18.2	15.7	205.3

¹ Excludes taxes assigned to capital gains and losses, transfers among individuals, etc.

NOTE.—Detail will not necessarily add to total because of rounding.
Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

The influence of lagging gross rental receipts upon rental income was partially offset by an increased ratio of net rent to gross rent, so that rental income from rented property more nearly kept pace with the advance in total income. This pattern of lagging gross rental receipts and higher net-gross ratios applied to farm property, tenant-occupied residential property, and commercial and industrial property alike.

Imputed rent

Imputed rent made a poorer showing than monetary rental income from 1929 to 1950. It increased dollarwise by less than one-fourth and, as a proportion of the national income,

fell by more than one-half. The pattern of change, moreover, was quite different from that of monetary rents. Aided by the substantial shift from tenant to owner-occupancy, the 1929–50 percentage increase in actual expenses (including depreciation) of owner-occupants was quite as large as that in the national income, but the increase in gross rents, which are valued by reference to rental rates on rented dwellings, was much smaller. In consequence, the ratio of net rental income to gross rental values fell by two-fifths.

It should not be overlooked that the rental data are much influenced by the method of calculating depreciation and also by the existence of residential rent controls.

Transfer Incomes and After-Tax Distribution

The distribution of earned income which has been discussed thus far is altered significantly when account is taken of the receipt of transfer incomes and the payment of taxes on income. The effects of these transactions upon longer-run changes in the share distribution of income are examined in this section.

The emphasis here is upon types of income flows rather than upon changes in the welfare of particular groups in the community. There is no appraisal of the total burden of taxes as indirect taxes and even direct taxes not levied upon earned or transfer incomes are outside the scope of the present analysis. Moreover, consideration is not given to the benefits derived from Government expenditures other than money transfer payments.

Private income before and after tax

In table 4, transfer incomes are added to 1929 and 1948 national income to secure total private incomes before taxes. Taxes allocable to particular types of income (including social insurance contributions) are then deducted from this aggregate to secure private income after such taxes. The tax

Table 5.—Distribution of Income by Three Income Concepts, 1929 and 1948

Type of income	National income			Private income before taxes			Private income after allocable taxes on income		
	1929	1948	Index of percent	1929	1948	Index of percent	1929	1948	Index of percent
	Percent			Percent			Percent		
Compensation of employees	58.1	62.7	108	57.5	61.9	108	58.7	64.8	111
Income of unincorporated enterprises and inventory valuation adjustment:									
Business and professional	9.5	9.9	104	9.3	9.6	103	9.4	9.8	104
Farm	6.5	7.9	122	6.4	7.7	120	6.6	8.7	133
Rental income of persons	6.7	3.4	51	6.6	3.3	50	6.7	3.6	54
Corporate profits and inventory valuation adjustment	11.8	14.2	121	11.6	13.8	118	10.0	8.7	87
Interest	7.5	1.9	26	8.5	3.8	45	8.6	4.3	50
Total excluding unallocated transfer incomes	100.0	100.0	100	100.0	100.0	100	100.0	100.0	100

NOTE.—Percentages and indexes calculated from unrounded data. Detail will not necessarily add to total because of rounding.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics.

data represent tax liability on income earned or received during the period, rather than actual payments.

Some transfers and taxes can be related in total to a particular income share. With one exception, social insur-

ance contributions and benefit payments are assigned to labor income, since in the years concerned the plans were related to wage and salary earnings. Left unallocated are contributions to and benefit payments from Government life insurance, as well as all transfer payments other than social insurance benefits, which consist largely of payments to veterans and their dependents and to persons without other sources of income. Net Government interest payments are combined with private interest. Corporate profits tax is assigned to corporate earnings.

Because of exemptions and progressive rates, allocation of personal income taxes is possible only if one basic condition is accepted: that for each taxpayer it is permissible to allocate his income tax liability among various types of income in proportion to his reported receipts of taxable income. Tabulations of the Bureau of Internal Revenue published in *Statistics of Income* furnish tax and income data classified by highly detailed income-size classes, so that a procedure can be followed which allocates personal income taxes in close correspondence to this condition. The most recent year for which such data are available, however, is 1948.⁶

Differential impact of taxes

The ratio of personal income tax to income varies widely among the different income shares for three major reasons. First, definitions of taxable income differ from the definitions followed in national income estimation; the inclusion in the latter of imputed incomes and differences in accounting for business inventories, in particular, should be recalled. Second, the importance of tax evasion and avoidance varies as among different types of income. Third, the distribution of income among income-size classes, which are subject to different tax rates, varies.

These differences, together with the imposition of corporate income taxes and collection of social insurance contributions resulted in 1948 in a ratio of allocable taxes to private income before taxes of 3 to 5 percent each for farm proprietors'

income, interest, and rental income; 10½ percent for labor income; 12½ percent for the income of business and professional proprietors; and 46 percent for corporate earnings. The rate for labor income, it should be noted, includes social insurance contributions with which are associated present and future benefit payments. In 1929, of course, tax rates were much lower on all types of income.

Percentage distributions of national income and of private income before and after allocable taxes (exclusive of unallocated transfer payments) are presented in table 5 for 1929 and 1948. Since substantial shifts both in the distribution of national income and in tax rates have taken place since 1948, the emphasis here is less upon the changes in the distributions as such than upon the way in which high postwar transfers and taxes have caused the long-term shifts on the three bases to differ.

These differences may be presumed to have persisted to the present, although in even more pronounced form since current tax rates are higher than those prevailing in 1948. In 1951, it may be noted, the ratio of corporate profits tax liability to corporate earnings was 0.58 as against 0.41 in 1948; the ratio of declared Federal personal income tax liability to personal income was up from 0.075 to 0.096; and pay-roll tax rates were also higher.

Taxes heaviest on corporate earnings

The most striking point shown by table 5 is not a surprising one: that corporate earnings have increased at a larger rate than total income on a before-tax basis, but at a smaller rate when both are measured after taxes. While the share of corporate earnings in the national income increased by 21 percent, on a private income-after-tax basis it declined by 13 percent.

Inclusion of Government interest, which advanced sharply in this period, together with the low effective tax rate against interest, limited the decline in the interest share of private income after tax to one-half, as against a decline of three-fourths in the interest share of national income.

The performance of business and professional proprietors' income was the same on either basis, while all other shares did better on the basis of private income after taxes.

A comparison of the distributions of private income before and after allocable taxes, to narrow the difference to tax effects, shows the after-tax distribution to be the more favorable to all shares except corporate earnings, with respect both to level and 1929-48 movement. In the case of the income of business and professional proprietors, however, the difference was slight.

⁶ Several comments about the distribution of personal income taxes are required: (1) Some estimation is required to bring *Statistics of Income* categories of income into accordance with those used here, but the possible error is not such as appreciably to affect the after-tax data. (2) The amount of tax allocable to net capital gains is omitted from the table; in 1929 this was a very high proportion of all personal income taxes. (A similar deduction from corporate profits tax liability was not made. If made, it would reduce this tax by about \$0.1 billion in 1929 and \$0.4 billion in 1948, amounts insufficient to alter the analysis appreciably.) Also excluded are minor amounts of tax on transfers of income among individuals (e. g., alimony payments) and on transfer payments. The totals shown in table 5 therefore fall short of total personal income tax liability. (3) Taxes on taxable fiduciaries, and the personal income tax initially allocable to income from fiduciaries, are assigned to shares in accordance with the (partially estimated) income of the fiduciary. (4) Additional Federal tax liability arising through audit or amendment of returns is omitted. (5) In 1929, normal tax and surtax were separately distributed; the separate tax on long-term capital gains was omitted. (6) State personal income taxes, which are relatively small, were distributed like Federal taxes.

National Income

A Supplement to the Survey of Current Business

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This 1951 edition, like the original, is not included in the *Survey of Current Business* subscription, but is sold as a separate publication by the Superintendent of Documents and affiliated sales agencies. A list of Department of Commerce field offices where it may be procured appears on the inside front cover of this magazine. Price \$1.00.

Monthly BUSINESS STATISTICS



THE STATISTICS here are a continuation of the data published in BUSINESS STATISTICS, the 1951 Statistical Supplement to the SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS. That volume (price \$1.50) contains monthly data for the years 1947 to 1950, and monthly averages for earlier years back to 1935 insofar as available; it also provides a description of each series and references to sources of monthly figures prior to 1947. Series added or revised since publication of the 1951 Supplement are indicated by an asterisk (*) and a dagger (†), respectively, the accompanying footnote indicating where historical data and a descriptive note may be found. The terms "unadjusted" and "adjusted" used to designate index numbers and dollar values refer to adjustment of monthly figures for seasonal variation.

Monthly averages for 1951 are shown in the March 1952 Survey of Current Business. Data subsequent to April 1952 for selected series will be found in the Weekly Supplement to the Survey.

Unless otherwise stated, statistics through 1950 and descriptive notes are shown in the 1951 Statistical Supplement to the Survey	1951										1952			
	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December		January	February	March	April
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS														
NATIONAL INCOME AND PRODUCT														
Seasonally adjusted quarterly totals at annual rates:														
National income, total..... bil. of dol.			274.3			278.0			280.1					
Compensation of employees, total..... do.			177.5			180.6			182.0				185.8	
Wages and salaries, total..... do.			168.9			171.7			173.1				176.8	
Private..... do.			140.6			141.3			142.0				144.9	
Military..... do.			8.9			9.6								
Government civilian..... do.			19.4			20.9								
Supplements to wages and salaries..... do.			8.7			8.9			8.9				9.0	
Proprietors' and rental income, total ² do.			48.1			49.1			49.8				48.6	
Business and professional ³ do.			23.6			23.4			23.6				24.2	
Farm..... do.			16.3			17.3			17.6				15.9	
Rental income of persons..... do.			8.2			8.4			8.5				8.5	
Corporate profits and inventory valuation adjustment, total..... bil. of dol.			43.0			42.6			42.5					
Corporate profits before tax, total..... do.			45.4			39.8			40.0					
Corporate profits tax liability..... do.			25.9			22.8			22.9					
Corporate profits after tax..... do.			19.4			17.0			17.1					
Inventory valuation adjustment..... do.			-2.3			2.8			2.5				-1.1	
Net interest..... do.			5.7			5.8			5.8				5.9	
Gross national product, total..... do.			328.2			329.5			334.6				339.7	
Personal consumption expenditures, total..... do.			202.4			204.0			206.7				209.6	
Durable goods..... do.			25.9			25.2			25.0				25.0	
Nondurable goods..... do.			110.1			111.5			113.6				115.6	
Services..... do.			66.5			67.3			68.1				69.0	
Gross private domestic investment..... do.			65.6			56.6			54.6				53.4	
New construction..... do.			22.7			21.6			20.7				22.7	
Producers' durable equipment..... do.			27.2			27.0			29.0				30.4	
Change in business inventories..... do.			15.8			8.0			4.9				2.2	
Net foreign investment..... do.			-1.1			1.2			2.5				2.0	
Government purchases of goods and services, total..... bil. of dol.			60.3			67.7			70.7				74.7	
Federal (less Government sales)..... do.			38.9			46.2			49.0				52.3	
State and local..... do.			21.3			21.4			21.7				22.4	
Personal income, total..... do.			249.9			253.2			257.0				257.9	
Less: Personal tax and nontax payments..... do.			28.1			28.4			29.7				31.6	
Equals: Disposable personal income..... do.			221.8			224.9			227.2				226.3	
Personal savings..... do.			19.4			20.8			20.5				16.7	
PERSONAL INCOME, BY SOURCE														
Seasonally adjusted, at annual rates:														
Total personal income..... bil. of dol.	249.0	249.8	251.0	252.4	253.7	253.6	257.5	256.5	258.6	257.7	258.3	† 258.2	258.9	
Wage and salary disbursements, total..... do.	168.2	168.8	169.9	170.6	170.8	171.7	173.1	174.3	175.4	175.8	177.3	† 177.6	177.5	
Commodity-producing industries..... do.	75.0	74.6	75.2	74.8	74.5	75.0	75.1	75.1	76.8	76.7	77.4	† 77.1	77.0	
Distributive industries..... do.	45.3	45.6	45.6	46.0	46.2	46.4	46.1	46.1	46.5	46.8	47.0	† 47.5	47.2	
Service industries..... do.	20.1	20.2	20.3	20.3	20.3	20.3	20.4	20.5	20.7	20.7	20.9	† 20.8	21.0	
Government..... do.	27.8	28.4	28.8	29.5	29.8	30.0	31.5	32.6	31.4	31.6	32.0	† 32.2	32.3	
Wage and salary receipts, total ² do.	164.8	165.1	166.4	167.1	167.4	168.3	169.5	170.7	171.9	172.1	173.7	† 174.0	174.0	
Other labor income..... do.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	† 4.0	4.0	
Proprietors' and rental income..... do.	48.1	48.0	48.0	49.2	49.7	48.3	50.5	49.1	49.8	49.9	48.6	† 47.5	47.8	
Personal interest income and dividends..... do.	20.2	20.2	20.0	19.7	20.1	20.7	20.8	20.2	20.7	19.3	19.9	† 20.5	21.1	
Transfer payments..... do.	12.1	12.7	12.8	12.6	12.7	12.5	12.9	12.6	12.3	12.9	12.6	† 12.6	12.4	
Less personal contributions for social insurance ³ bil. of dol.	3.4	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.5	4.1	4.0	† 4.0	3.9	
Total nonagricultural income..... do.	227.8	229.0	230.1	230.1	231.3	232.1	234.5	234.8	235.9	235.8	238.0	† 238.4	238.8	
NEW PLANT AND EQUIPMENT EXPENDITURES														
All industries, quarterly total ¹ mil. of dol.			5,913			5,844			6,672			† 5,552		
Manufacturing ¹ do.			2,802			2,841			3,335			† 2,742		
Mining..... do.			203			199			211			† 188		
Railroad..... do.			412			377			449			† 376		
Other transportation..... do.			136			120			130			† 134		
Electric and gas utilities..... do.			893			933			998			† 761		
Commercial and miscellaneous..... do.			1,467			1,374			1,549			† 1,351		

¹ Revised. ² Estimates based on anticipated capital expenditures of business for subsequent periods of 1952 are shown on p. 7 of this issue of the SURVEY.

³ Includes inventory valuation adjustment. ⁴ Personal saving is excess of disposable income over personal consumption expenditures shown as a component of gross national product above. ⁵ Derived by deducting employee contributions for social insurance from total wage and salary disbursements. ⁶ Data through 1951 represent employee contributions only; thereafter, personal contributions of self-employed persons are also included. ⁷ Revised beginning 1945. For revised annual data for 1945-51, see p. 5 of the January 1952 SURVEY; and for quarterly data beginning 1947 for manufacturing, p. 20 of the December 1951 issue.

Mobilizing Production for Defense

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