

TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW

A Monthly Summary of Business and Economic Conditions in Texas

BUREAU OF BUSINESS RESEARCH : THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

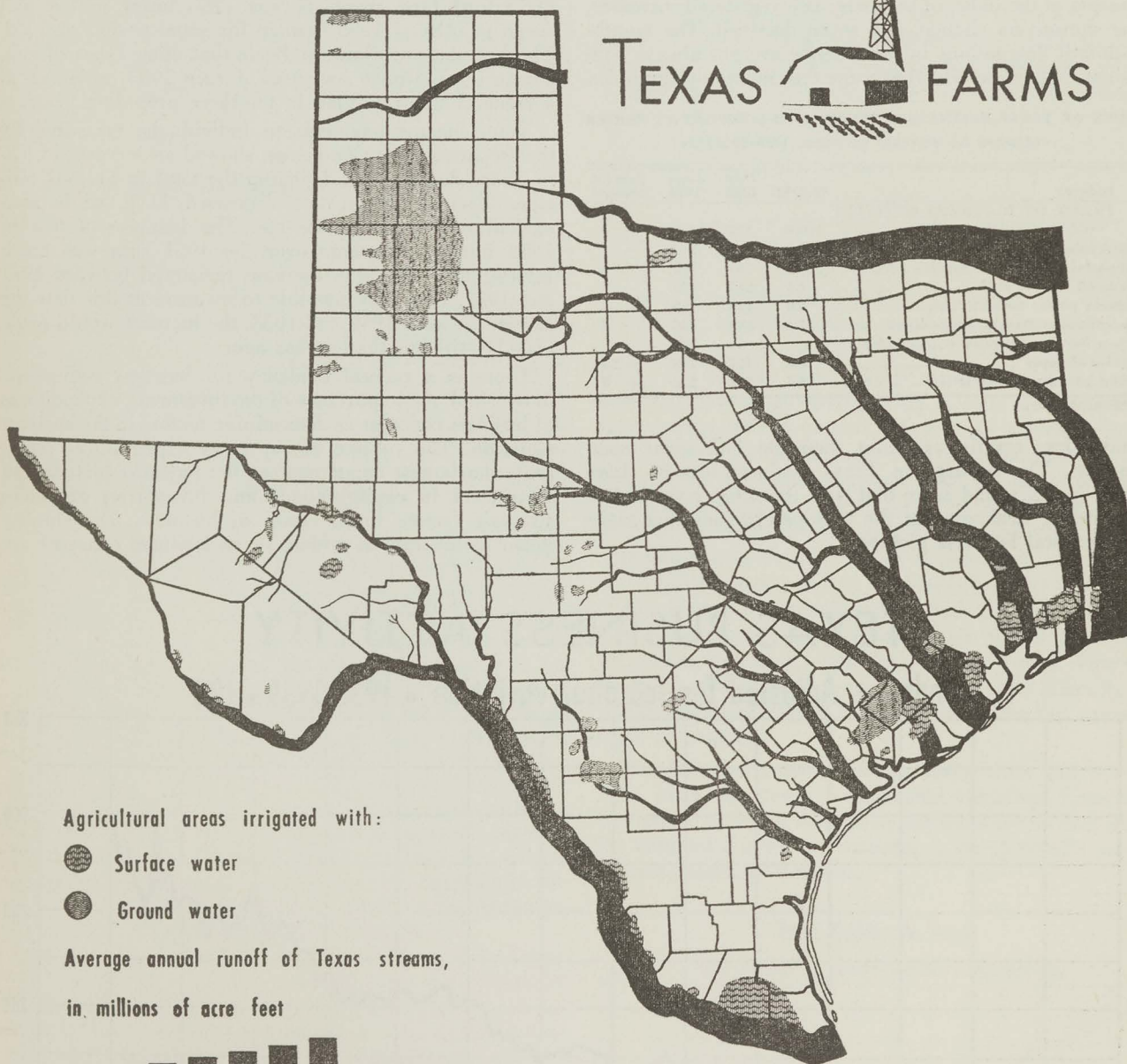
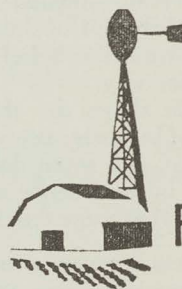
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AUGUST 1953

IRRIGATION for

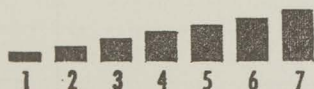
TEXAS FARMS



Agricultural areas irrigated with:

- Surface water
- Ground water

Average annual runoff of Texas streams,
in millions of acre feet



The Business Situation in Texas

The index of business activity compiled by the Bureau of Business Research declined 4% between June and July to register the greatest change for any month in 1953. The July value of 287 for the index represented the lowest point reached this year, although this level was 12% above July 1952. The behavior of the composite index of business activity confirms the belief that a decline in Texas business is under way.

The following table shows the changes in the components of the index of business; two registered increases, one showed no change, and seven declined. The month-to-month fluctuations in these series are not always consistent, but the weighted average that makes up the index

INDEX OF TEXAS BUSINESS ACTIVITY AND COMPONENT SERIES
(adjusted for seasonal variation, 1935-39=100)

| Indexes | Weight | July 1953 | June 1953 | Percent change |
|--|--------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| INDEX OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY | | | | |
| (COMPOSITE) | 100.0 | 287* | 298 | - 4 |
| Retail sales, adjusted for price changes | 47.7 | 242* | 252 | - 4 |
| Industrial power consumption | 14.8 | 595 | 625 | - 5 |
| Crude oil runs to stills | 4.5 | 205 | 220 | - 7 |
| Electric power consumption | 3.0 | 776 | 749 | + 4 |
| Miscellaneous freight carloadings | 17.6 | 145 | 145 | 0 |
| Urban building permits, adjusted for price changes | 3.8 | 157* | 208 | - 25 |
| Crude petroleum production | 8.6 | 232 | 222 | + 5 |

*Preliminary.

shows less erratic variation than the individual components. The upsurge in Texas business lost its drive early in 1953, and since that time there has been a slow but steady weakening in the various elements that make up the total business picture.

The factors responsible for the leveling off and decline in business volume have not been those most closely related to the expenditures of consumers. Income received by individuals in Texas cities has continued at a high level, and although farm income has declined somewhat, it is still high in comparison with any previous period of the state's history. Farm income is the only statistical series available monthly to show changes in consumer income, and this series indicates that revenue from marketings of farm products was 17% lower in the first seven months of 1953 than in the same period of 1952. The best data available indicate that other types of consumer income have increased during 1953, although at a much slower rate than in the three preceding years.

Total income payments to individuals, measured by the Department of Commerce, showed an increase of 6% in Texas during 1952, bringing the total to \$11,887 million. Agricultural income decreased 11%, while non-agricultural income rose 9%. The increase of 6% in 1952 income payments over the 1951 sum was much smaller than the 14% increase registered between 1951 and 1952. If it were possible to measure at this date the change between 1952 and 1953, the increase would probably be still less than a year ago.

There is a general tendency for business economists to overlook the importance of the investment expenditures of business concerns as determining factors in the business situation. The volume of consumer expenditures represents the largest component of the business picture, but investment in capital goods and inventories are more strategic factors in the level of business. The slowing down of the rate at which Texas business concerns are

TEXAS BUSINESS ACTIVITY

Index • Adjusted for seasonal variation • 1935-1939 = 100

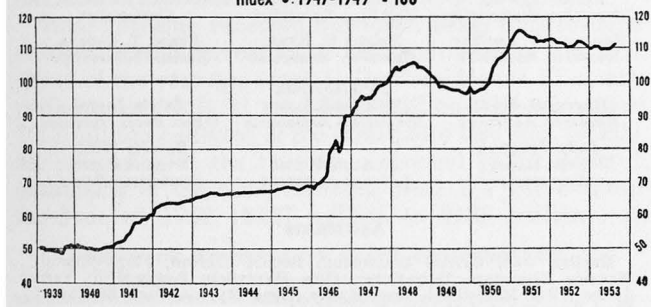


spending for expansion of facilities has undoubtedly been the greatest single force in the current business deceleration. Up to the present, the volume of spending on new plant and equipment has remained high, because of the great number of new projects started in preceding months. The fact that Texas industry has shown a slowing down in starts of new plants and in the expansion of existing installations can be expected to be felt during the coming months.

The decline in this type of expenditure will be felt in consumer incomes and will follow on through to sales at wholesale and retail. It is generally true that consumer expenditures are relatively passive as determining factors in the business situation under anything like normal conditions. In other words, consumers tend to spend most of the income they receive, and the amount spent depends in the long run on the amount of income paid out to the group.

Wholesale Prices in the U.S.

Index • 1947-1949 • 100



The reduction in farm income in Texas has brought about a considerable curtailment in the purchase of machinery by farmers. The trend of farm income has been very much the same all over the country, with the result that the manufacture of farm machinery has shown considerable decline. Predictions are that it has not yet reached bottom. However, the long-term outlook for investment in equipment by farmers is favorable. The large amount of equipment now in use on Texas farms makes a good replacement market, in addition to the market represented by farms that are still without many major items of equipment. But as long as farm incomes continue to decline, there is little likelihood that improvement will be shown in the sale of farm equipment. There has always been a close correlation between farmers' expenditure for machinery and farm income, and there is no reason to believe that this relationship has changed.

Equally as important as the expenditures of businessmen and farmers for equipment has been the volume of construction in Texas. The growth in population and the shift into the metropolitan areas, as well as the industrial expansion, have resulted in a tremendous volume of building during the past eight years. Residential construction in Texas has declined, but the value of all building permits for the first seven months of 1953 averaged 7% more than for the year 1952. There is no agreement among builders as to the relative importance of slackening demand and the tightening money market, but it is agreed that houses are harder to sell and also

that credit is becoming more expensive. However, the total volume of construction continues to be supported by a large backlog of projects such as public buildings, utilities, and various types of commercial structures. Even though building is at a somewhat slower rate than previously, it still gives indications of continuing to lend strong support to business activity in the state. It is likely that in the immediate future this phase of economic activity will show more sustaining force for the level of business than business expenditures for industrial expansion.

Inventories continue to represent a vulnerable phase of business. No data are available for Texas concerns alone, but it seems safe to assume that there is no significant difference in the position of businesses in different parts of the country. During June the total value of business inventories rose from \$76,836 million to \$77,550 million; most of the increase was in manufacturers' inventories, \$526 million compared to \$212 million for retailers. Both manufacturers' sales and new orders decreased during May and June, after adjustment for seasonal variation. As long as sales were rising, the growth in inventories offered no serious problem. As soon as sales begin to decline, however, businessmen find it important to reduce inventories. The reduction of inventories can only be accomplished by selling more than is manufactured or purchased. That is, even a small reduction in sales will inevitably bring about a much greater reduction in manufacturing. This type of business decline appeared in 1949 and continued until the stocks of goods on hand had been worked down to acceptable levels. During the inventory decline of that period, there was no substantial reduction in capital expenditures of business or in construction activity, so these elements of the national income were well maintained. But now there is uncertainty that capital expenditures would resist the depressing effects of a reduction in inventories. This uncertainty gives rise to a major part of the difficulty in forecasting the nature of the business decline that appears to be in progress.

The index of bank debits in Texas cities fell 3% in July, after adjustment for seasonal variation. Since this barometer measures essentially the same forces that affect the composite index of business, it has generally paralleled the index of business.

Bank Debits in Texas

Index • Adjusted for seasonal variation • 1935-1939 • 100



The trend of prices during July represented the strongest reversal of the downward movement in more than a year. The net change in the wholesale price index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics since December 1952 has been very slight, but during July the weekly index rose.

INDEXES OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES
(1947-49=100)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

| Index | 1953* | | July | Aug |
|-----------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Aug 11 | Aug 4 | 1953 | 1952 |
| ALL COMMODITIES | 110.6 | 110.7 | 110.9 | 112.2 |
| Farm products | 96.6 | 97.0 | 97.9 | 109.9 |
| Food | 104.7 | 105.2 | 105.5 | 110.5 |
| All others | 114.8 | 94.6 | 114.8 | 113.0 |

*Estimates of the index for the week ending on date given.

Most of the rise was accounted for by rising prices of farm products, although industrial prices were slightly higher than in June. Processed foods followed the upward movement of farm prices. The index of prices received by Texas farmers rose from 264 to 272, bringing the parity ratio for Texas farm prices from 96 to 98. The BLS national consumers' price index for all cities rose from 114.5 to 114.7 (1947-49=100), with increases registered in food, housing, transportation, medical care, and miscellaneous items. If the sharp decline in farm prices is a reversal of the trend rather than an erratic movement, the total index may be expected to move up, since industrial prices have been rising steadily, although very slowly, since last winter. This steadiness in industrial prices has been one of the factors cited to justify the high level of inventories. As long as prices remain firm, there is little tendency for the businessmen to worry about large inventories. A weakening in demand will usually be reflected in lower prices.

JOHN R. STOCKTON

Bureau of Business Research Publications

Economic Statistics of Texas:
1900-1952

Business Leaflet No. 6

Alfred G. Dale and Frank T. Cadena,

Research Associates in the Bureau of Business Research have collaborated in the collection of statistical data outlining the development of mineral and agricultural production, industry, commerce, and other phases of Texas business for the first half of the century. The bulletin will be published September 15. Price, twenty-five cents.



TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW

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FINANCE

Bank investments gain. A 6% increase in bank investment in U. S. Government securities (from \$1,154 million to \$1,226 million) is indicated by data released in late July by reporting member banks of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District. Reflecting heavy purchases of the 2½% tax anticipation certificates of indebtedness issued July 15, the expansion is wholly in holdings of Treasury certificates (up 64% from \$120 million to \$197 million). Investments in both Treasury bills and Treasury notes declined slightly. U. S. bond investments remained unchanged. Neither was there significant change in total bank loans.

Deposit increase reported. Deposits (except interbank) increased 3% during July. Demand deposits, up 3% from \$2,410 million to \$2,486 million, account for most of the rise. Contributing to the gain is a 33% increase in U. S. Government deposits (from \$92 million to \$122 million), reflecting in part bank purchases of Treasury certificates. Time deposits fell slightly from \$570 million to \$567 million. Total interbank deposits decreased 18% (from \$858 million to \$707 million).

State revenue receipts increase. Texas state revenue receipts for the current fiscal year continued to run well ahead of the year-ago level. Collections for the 11-month period ending July 31 total \$679 million—8% above the \$631 million collected at the same point last year. Nearly all categories of tax receipts registered gains. Federal collections in the state, however, were 2% below those for June of 1952 (\$127 million to \$125 million). A

REVENUE RECEIPTS OF STATE COMPTROLLER

Source: State Comptroller of Public Accounts

September 1-July 31

| Source | 1952-53 | 1951-52 | Percent change |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| TOTAL | \$679,328,312 | \$631,465,102 | + 8 |
| AD VALOREM TAX | 26,254,980 | 24,221,959 | + 8 |
| INHERITANCE TAX | 6,040,143 | 5,662,612 | + 7 |
| POLL TAX | 1,559,607 | 2,651,709 | - 41 |
| GROSS RECEIPTS—UTILITIES AND TELEPHONE | 6,463,757 | 6,003,810 | + 8 |
| GROSS PRODUCTION | | | |
| Natural and casinghead gas | 19,496,296 | 16,442,748 | + 19 |
| Gas gathering tax | 1,214,978 | 4,067,843 | - 70 |
| Crude oil | 113,952,400 | 110,094,523 | + 4 |
| Other | 10,252,553 | 10,579,129 | - 3 |
| LICENSES AND FEES | | | |
| Occupation tax | 18,762,207 | 15,311,110 | + 23 |
| Net motor fuel tax | 100,996,517 | 95,487,432 | + 6 |
| Cigarette tax and licenses | 32,635,015 | 32,127,570 | + 2 |
| Alcoholic beverage tax and licenses | 17,380,159 | 17,019,431 | + 2 |
| Sales taxes | 18,178,033 | 16,820,940 | + 8 |
| Other licenses and fees | 17,356,753 | 16,598,541 | + 5 |
| FRANCHISE TAXES | 14,044,318 | 13,940,949 | + 7 |
| UNCLASSIFIED RECEIPTS | | | |
| Mineral leases, rentals, and bonuses | 29,057,744 | 22,642,442 | + 28 |
| Oil and gas royalties | 17,850,169 | 16,409,929 | + 9 |
| Interest on securities owned | 13,564,868 | 11,706,283 | + 16 |
| Motor vehicle licenses, permits, and fees | 38,319,237 | 35,190,506 | + 9 |
| Sale of commodities | 8,563,963 | 4,285,764 | +100 |
| Other | 9,865,790 | 14,715,680 | - 33 |
| FEDERAL AID | | | |
| Highways | 28,215,882 | 28,020,225 | + 1 |
| Public welfare | 92,691,723 | 67,557,055 | + 37 |
| Other | 19,138,351 | 25,478,857 | - 25 |
| DONATIONS | 56,699 | 69,633 | - 19 |
| UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION TAXES | 17,415,670 | 18,568,422 | - 5 |

FEDERAL INTERNAL REVENUE COLLECTIONS

Source: Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Treasury Department

July 1-July 31

| Source | 1953 | 1952 | Percent change |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| TEXAS | \$124,821,377 | \$127,257,400 | - 2 |
| Income | 40,713,659 | 45,118,740 | - 10 |
| Employment | 179,166 | 229,344 | - 22 |
| Withholding | 69,467,980 | 67,841,552 | + 2 |
| Other | 14,460,572 | 14,067,764 | + 3 |
| FIRST DISTRICT | 64,562,296 | 69,525,611 | - 7 |
| Income | 13,766,258 | 26,702,643 | - 48 |
| Employment | 32,919 | 82,913 | - 60 |
| Withholding | 43,604,848 | 35,137,653 | + 24 |
| Other | 7,158,271 | 7,602,402 | - 6 |
| SECOND DISTRICT | 60,259,081 | 57,731,789 | + 5 |
| Income | 26,947,401 | 18,416,097 | + 46 |
| Employment | 146,247 | 146,431 | x |
| Withholding | 25,863,132 | 32,703,899 | - 21 |
| Other | 7,302,301 | 6,465,362 | + 13 |

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

10% (\$4.4 million) drop in income taxes was more than enough to offset a 2% (\$1.6 million) gain in withholdings.

State financial condition is sound. Texas' financial status is sound, according to reports of the State Comptroller and the Treasurer. Advance estimates of the September 1 amount of the general fund are around \$25 million. On July 31 about \$200 million in cash in the almost 300 treasury accounts was allocated by the legislature in its \$1,200 million of planned expenditures for the coming two years.

RAYMOND V. LESIKAR

CHANGES IN CONDITION OF WEEKLY-REPORTING MEMBER BANKS IN THE DALLAS DISTRICT

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

| Item | Percent change* | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 | July 1952 from June 1952 |
| ASSETS | | | |
| Loans and investments | + 6 | + 3 | + 2 |
| Loans | + 12 | x | x |
| Total U.S. Government securities | - 4 | + 6 | + 4 |
| Treasury bills | - 35 | - 2 | + 17 |
| Treasury certificates of indebtedness | + 16 | + 64 | - 1 |
| Treasury notes | - 1 | - 2 | + 1 |
| Bonds | x | x | + 2 |
| Other securities | + 11 | - 2 | - 2 |
| Reserve with Federal Reserve | | | |
| Banks | - 4 | - 1 | - 3 |
| Cash in vaults | + 19 | + 19 | + 5 |
| Balances with domestic banks | + 2 | - 23 | - 14 |
| LIABILITIES | | | |
| Total deposits (except interbank) | + 4 | + 3 | + 1 |
| Demand deposits (adjusted) | + 3 | + 3 | + 4 |
| Time deposits | + 20 | - 1 | + 3 |
| U. S. Government deposits | - 23 | + 33 | - 31 |
| Interbank deposits | - 1 | - 18 | - 10 |
| Domestic banks | - 1 | - 18 | - 10 |
| Foreign banks | - 10 | 0 | + 11 |
| CAPITAL ACCOUNTS | + 11 | + 1 | + 1 |

*Percentage changes are based on the day nearest the end of the month.

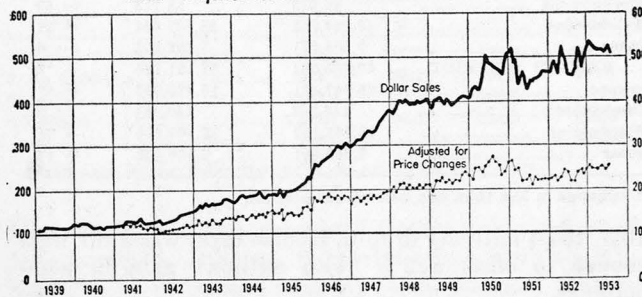
xChange is less than one half of one percent.

RETAIL TRADE

Optimistic merchants in majority. Merchants are still cautiously optimistic and carefully alert to national developments. Production, employment and incomes are at historically high peaks. Although orders are slowing, a gradual downtrend would still maintain business at high levels for many months to come. The seasonal upturn for fall is already apparent in some lines. Despite

Retail Sales in Texas

Index • Adjusted for seasonal variation • 1935-1939 = 100



some alarming forecasts and financial pressures, retailers in general expect business in the second half of 1953 to top latter 1952 by 3 to 10%, although downward adjustments are expected from the sales peaks registered earlier this year. Of course sales possibilities will differ by lines of goods and type and size of community and will be influenced by impact of drought or crop surpluses, labor dissension, governmental defense spending, subsidies and price support programs, stockpiling, and manipulation of

ESTIMATES OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES

| Type of store | Sales (mils of dols) | | Percent change | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | July 1953 | Jan-July 1953 | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 | Jan-July 1953 from Jan-July 1952 |
| TOTAL | 661.0 | 4,692.6 | + 7 | - 2 | + 8 |
| Durable goods | 296.6 | 2,108.2 | + 9 | - 2 | + 9 |
| Nondurable goods | 264.4 | 2,584.4 | + 5 | - 1 | + 7 |

finance, taxes and credit. Competition is expected to become continually more searching and vigorous. Customers' intentions to continue spending at high levels are indicated by various surveys. Still price conscious, consumers are strongly interested in quality in the merchandise they examine.

Inventories and prices reach peak levels. In obvious campaigns to increase their dominance of the markets, automobile producers and also manufacturers of large household appliances built up inventories and heavily stocked their dealers. Except in the used-car and trade-in markets, sales have held up surprisingly well at this season. Inventories of finished goods in nondurable lines rose in the second quarter of this year at manufacturing, wholesale and retail levels. Increases in the first quarter had been largely in producers' stocks of goods-in-process. However buyers in the wholesale markets seem little perturbed by large stocks on hand, apparently

RETAIL SALES TRENDS

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce

| Group | Number of reporting establish- ments | Percent change | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| | | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 | Jan-July 1953 from Jan-July 1952 |
| KIND OF BUSINESS | | | | |
| DURABLE GOODS | | | | |
| Automotive stores | 236 | + 28 | + 3 | + 18 |
| Furniture and household- appliance stores | 149 | - 13 | - 15 | + 1 |
| Jewelry stores | 35 | - 8 | - 21 | - 2 |
| Lumber, building material, and hardware stores | 286 | - 12 | - 11 | - 7 |
| NONDURABLE GOODS | | | | |
| Apparel stores | 222 | + 3 | - 7 | + 3 |
| Country general stores | 43 | - 4 | - 1 | - 2 |
| Department stores | 79 | - 3 | - 7 | - 1 |
| Drug stores | 179 | - 1 | - 5 | + 2 |
| Eating and drinking places | 110 | + 1 | + 2 | - 1 |
| Filling stations | 1,004 | + 3 | - 3 | + 3 |
| Florists | 37 | - 8 | - 18 | x |
| Food stores | 256 | + 2 | + 2 | + 4 |
| General merchandise stores | 188 | - 1 | - 8 | x |
| Liquor stores | 11 | + 4 | + 1 | + 11 |
| Office, store, and school supply dealers | 40 | x | + 1 | + 2 |
| CITY-SIZE CLASS (1950) | | | | |
| Over 250,000 | 1,422 | + 6 | - 4 | + 5 |
| 100,000 to 250,000 | 215 | + 9 | - 5 | + 9 |
| 50,000 to 100,000 | 203 | - 2 | - 7 | + 6 |
| 25,000 to 50,000 | 873 | + 4 | - 2 | + 5 |
| Under 2,500 | 110 | - 3 | - 5 | - 9 |

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

being convinced that these are necessary to support expected sales volumes this autumn.

Buying in the markets fell off seasonally during July although consistently maintaining a moderate lead over last year. In early August, ordering for fall delivery of apparel became brisk. Commitments for fall have been noticeably higher than a year ago. Demand in food lines has remained consistently ahead of last year, although now weakening. Demand sharpened in mid-August for floor-coverings, bedding, and incidental furniture, although customary August furniture sales drew varying responses. Cooling appliances, musical instruments, and decorating materials had been under strong demand; yet markets remained sluggish for television, most household electrical appliances and used cars.

An increasing number of retailers, although still definitely a minority, have reported unfavorable sales comparisons with last year. Clearance sales of seasonable merchandise have been heavy. Buying response has been good on apparel but apathetic on promotions of household goods. Banks and sales finance companies have continued to be selective in their acceptance of loans and financing of installment contracts, especially for used cars. It is generally conceded that the Korean truce had little immediate effect on manufacturing and wholesale markets for consumers' goods. But some merchants and economic observers currently question whether perplexities or confusion among customers is not slowing down their expenditures.

According to the Consumers' Price Index for Moderate-Income Families, over-all retail prices rose 1.1% during the second quarter; food, 2.0%; apparel, 0.2%; rent, 1.2%. At mid-June, retail prices were 0.2% over the earlier high levels of August and November 1952, also 1.0% above June 1952 and 12.5% over June 1950.

Texas retailing in July. Reporting by cities, 301 Texas department and apparel stores averaged a 7% decrease from June and -1% from last July but a nominal increase (+1%) for January-July over the same months of 1952. Among the 39 cities included, 10 topped June, nine bettered last July and 16 were ahead of 1952 for the first seven months. In the July-to-July comparison, leaders were Texas City (+47%), McAllen (+8%), Sherman (+7%), and Brownwood, Dallas, and Houston (+6% each). Best showings for the seven months were in Texas City (+16%), Corpus Christi, Houston and Marshall (+8% each), McAllen and Sherman (+7% each), and Brownwood (+6%).

Of 46 cities reporting enough retailers of various types to be listed individually, 11 topped June, 22 bettered last July, and 26 were ahead of January-July 1952. Best showings in the July-to-July comparison were at Big Spring (+41%), Austin (+21%), Paris (+16%), Houston (+15%), Pittsburg (+14%) and Corpus Christi (+12%). Comparing the January-July periods, leading increases were at Pittsburg (+23%), Austin, Corpus Christi and Denison (+14% each), Big Spring and Paris (+12% each), Denton and Port Arthur (+11% each), Beaumont (+10%), Houston and McAllen (+9% each).

CREDIT RATIOS IN DEPARTMENT AND APPAREL STORES

| Classification | Number of reporting stores | Credit ratios* | | Collection ratios† | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| | | July 1953 | July 1952 | July 1953 | July 1952 |
| ALL STORES | 68 | 59.9 | 62.5 | 40.2 | 41.3 |
| BY CITIES | | | | | |
| Austin | 4 | 57.8 | 58.7 | 54.3 | 53.6 |
| Cleburne | 3 | 35.8 | 34.9 | 40.8 | 41.0 |
| Corpus Christi | 3 | 57.2 | 60.3 | 36.9 | 41.9 |
| Dallas | 7 | 56.6 | 70.7 | 54.5 | 52.5 |
| El Paso | 3 | 53.8 | 53.9 | 33.4 | 36.1 |
| Fort Worth | 4 | 64.7 | 63.0 | 37.6 | 40.7 |
| Galveston | 5 | 55.2 | 57.2 | 47.8 | 49.5 |
| Houston | 8 | 62.0 | 61.6 | 33.6 | 33.7 |
| San Antonio | 6 | 62.1 | 63.7 | 43.7 | 44.7 |
| Waco | 5 | 56.9 | 57.6 | 51.6 | 52.2 |
| Others | 20 | 58.9 | 57.0 | 43.3 | 45.8 |
| BY TYPE OF STORE | | | | | |
| Department stores (over \$1 million) | 21 | 60.5 | 63.9 | 38.8 | 39.7 |
| Department stores (under \$1 million) | 18 | 42.2 | 42.7 | 43.3 | 45.9 |
| Dry goods and apparel stores | 6 | 70.0 | 69.4 | 54.8 | 53.2 |
| Women's specialty shops | 14 | 57.2 | 56.9 | 41.8 | 45.6 |
| Men's clothing stores | 9 | 62.8 | 62.2 | 55.0 | 55.1 |
| BY VOLUME OF NET SALES (1952) | | | | | |
| Over \$3,000,000 | 20 | 60.7 | 63.9 | 38.8 | 39.9 |
| \$1,500,000 to \$3,000,000 | 7 | 61.5 | 61.3 | 54.0 | 54.7 |
| \$500,000 to \$1,500,000 | 18 | 54.6 | 53.7 | 50.8 | 51.2 |
| \$250,000 to \$500,000 | 10 | 38.1 | 38.8 | 40.6 | 44.2 |
| Less than \$250,000 | 13 | 43.0 | 43.6 | 44.2 | 42.9 |

*Credit sales as a percent of net sales.

†Collections during the month as a percent of accounts unpaid on the first of the month.

POSTAL RECEIPTS

| City | July 1953 | June 1953 | July 1952 | Percent change | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 |
| TOTAL | \$5,273,543 | \$5,195,386 | \$5,162,681 | + 2 | + 2 |
| Alpine | 4,291 | 3,492 | 3,825 | + 12 | + 23 |
| Bastrop | 2,087 | 1,339 | 1,574 | + 33 | + 56 |
| Bay City | 8,611 | 7,396 | 8,454 | + 2 | + 16 |
| Belton | 4,086 | 5,238 | 5,544 | - 26 | - 22 |
| Borger | 14,576 | 12,162 | 12,884 | + 13 | + 20 |
| Brady | 4,520 | 3,586 | 3,885 | + 16 | + 26 |
| Brownfield | 6,273 | 5,616 | 7,596 | - 17 | + 12 |
| Cameron | 3,779 | 6,189 | 3,743 | + 1 | - 39 |
| Childress | 5,212 | 4,126 | 4,822 | + 8 | + 26 |
| Cisco | 4,167 | 3,621 | 3,551 | + 16 | + 15 |
| Cleburne | 9,243 | 9,574 | 8,931 | + 3 | - 3 |
| Coleman | 5,235 | 4,818 | 5,268 | - 1 | + 9 |
| Crystal City | 2,534 | 2,120 | 2,606 | - 3 | + 20 |
| Cuero | 4,106 | 4,475 | 3,398 | + 21 | - 8 |
| El Campo | 7,556 | 6,317 | 6,442 | + 17 | + 20 |
| Gainesville | 9,886 | 8,425 | 8,837 | + 12 | + 17 |
| Gatesville | 3,483 | 3,194 | 3,226 | + 8 | + 9 |
| Giddings | 2,540 | 2,374 | 2,501 | + 2 | + 7 |
| Gilmer | 4,372 | 3,753 | 3,407 | + 28 | + 16 |
| Graham | 6,235 | 4,317 | 5,320 | + 17 | + 44 |
| Granbury | 1,742 | 1,341 | 1,560 | + 12 | + 30 |
| Grand Prairie | 10,670 | 11,200 | 8,576 | + 24 | - 5 |
| Hillsboro | 4,823 | 4,925 | 6,670 | - 28 | - 2 |
| Huntsville | 7,295 | 5,357 | 6,295 | + 16 | + 36 |
| Jasper | 4,679 | 3,522 | 4,763 | - 2 | + 33 |
| Jacksonville | 10,189 | 9,524 | 11,209 | - 9 | + 7 |
| Kenedy | 3,477 | 3,413 | 3,444 | + 1 | + 2 |
| Kerrville | 8,723 | 7,811 | 8,245 | + 6 | + 12 |
| Kingsville | 10,048 | 10,737 | 9,210 | + 9 | - 6 |
| La Grange | 3,128 | 4,346 | 4,390 | - 29 | - 28 |
| Littlefield | 5,024 | 5,096 | 3,869 | + 30 | - 1 |
| Llano | 2,319 | 1,682 | 2,113 | + 10 | + 38 |
| Luling | 3,806 | 2,801 | 2,519 | + 31 | + 18 |
| McCamey | 3,333 | 2,325 | 3,235 | + 3 | + 43 |
| Marlin | 5,826 | 5,684 | 4,984 | + 17 | + 2 |
| Mission | 5,820 | 5,217 | 6,313 | - 8 | + 12 |
| Monahans | 5,600 | 4,654 | 5,573 | x | + 20 |
| Navasota | 3,961 | 3,238 | 3,423 | + 16 | + 22 |
| Pampa | 15,770 | 15,417 | 14,345 | + 10 | + 2 |
| Pasadena | 13,314 | 14,274 | 12,453 | + 7 | - 7 |
| Pittsburg | 2,397 | 2,369 | 2,282 | + 5 | + 1 |
| Snyder | 9,750 | 7,892 | 9,956 | - 2 | + 24 |
| Terrell | 5,502 | 4,573 | 4,867 | + 13 | + 20 |
| Uvalde | 5,612 | 6,315 | 5,866 | - 4 | - 11 |
| Vernon | 9,749 | 7,109 | 9,893 | - 1 | + 37 |
| Victoria | 21,530 | 19,463 | 15,803 | + 36 | + 11 |
| Weatherford | 6,489 | 7,616 | 6,041 | + 7 | - 15 |
| Yoakum | 9,085 | 8,182 | 9,332 | - 3 | + 11 |

*The total includes receipts for cities which are listed individually under "Local Business Conditions."

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

Advertising linage in 30 Texas newspapers as a group fell 5% from June but remained 5% above July 1952, with 23 papers topping last year.

Eighty of 123 Texas cities bettered their postal receipts of July 1952, to an average increase of 2%.

Sales of gasoline subject to tax totaled 280,993,000 gallons in June, 8% above May, also 8% over a year earlier. Gasoline sold to the federal government amounted to 109,270,000 gallons, 19% down from May but 109% higher than in June 1952.

A. HAMILTON CHUTE

CONSTRUCTION

Building permits fall substantially. The value of building permits issued in Texas during July dipped 26% below the June total, far more than the normal seasonal decline of 2%. Much of the overall drop can be attributed to a 46% slackening in nonresidential permits issued. This occurrence is somewhat less disheartening when viewed in the light of the abnormally high value of nonresidential building permits issued during June. Strikes in the building trades in certain parts of the state during July, which have continued well into August, may also have caused some slowing down in the rate of permits issued, especially in the nonresidential sector. By the latter part of August it was estimated that work had been halted on Gulf Coast construction projects valued at well over \$200,000,000.

Cement Production in Texas

Index • Adjusted for seasonal variation • 1935-1939 = 100



The value of residential building permits issued in July dropped 15% from the June level. Although the magnitude of this decline is not particularly alarming, it should be realized that this is the fourth consecutive monthly decrease and the value of residential permits issued for July was 45% below that of last March. The number of dwelling units authorized by building permits in Texas clearly shows this pattern. After reaching the highest point for a year in March 1953 with permits issued for 5,493 dwelling units, the level ebbed to 4,737 in April, 4,285 in May, 3,857 in June, and finally to 3,390 in July.

Additions, alterations, and repairs were up 7% in July over June. Factors in the shift were a 28% increase in the nonresidential category and a 10% decrease in the residential component.

Considering the large proportion of projected Texas military installations that have been completed since 1950, construction activity has held up remarkably well. According to the Texas Employment Commission, nearly every month since the Korean outbreak more Texans have been working than were during the same month a year earlier. The dip in building still left the June total of construction workers only 1.4% below the corresponding month of last year.

Sales of Texas lumber, building material, and hardware dealers declined by 11% from June to July, a substantial drop since normally there is no significant seasonal change between these months. Sales in July this year were at a rate 12% below those of the same month in 1952. The level of sales for the first seven

ESTIMATED VALUE OF BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

| Classification | July 1953* | January-July | | Percent change |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|---------|-------------------|
| | | 1953 | 1952 | |
| CONSTRUCTION CLASS | Value (thousands of dollars) | | | |
| ALL PERMITS | 49,288 | 418,076 | 379,907 | + 10 |
| New construction | 40,041 | 366,285 | 330,969 | + 11 |
| Residential | 24,472 | 231,419 | 234,808 | - 1 |
| Housekeeping | 24,225 | 225,484 | 233,349 | - 3 |
| One family | 22,682 | 214,890 | 214,536 | x |
| Multiple family | 1,543 | 10,594 | 18,813 | - 44 |
| Nonhousekeeping | 247 | 5,935 | 1,459 | +307 |
| Nonresidential | 15,569 | 134,866 | 96,161 | + 40 |
| Additions, alterations, and repairs | 9,247 | 51,791 | 48,938 | + 6 |
| CITY-SIZE GROUP (1940) | | | | |
| ALL PERMITS | 49,288 | 418,076 | 379,907 | + 10 |
| Over 100,000 | 26,490 | 203,005 | 162,316 | + 25 |
| 50,000 to 100,000 | 8,574 | 78,334 | 69,579 | + 13 |
| 25,000 to 50,000 | 3,247 | 33,885 | 39,259 | - 14 |
| Under 25,000 | 10,977 | 102,852 | 108,753 | - 5 |

Only building for which permits were issued within the incorporated area of selected cities is included. Federal contracts are excluded.

*Preliminary.

months of 1953 was 7% below the comparable period last year.

Residential contracts turn down. Although contracts awarded are not always reported in the same period as the building permits for identical projects and the coverage is considerably different, the 30% dip in residential contracts in Texas awarded from June to July can be considered as confirmation of the diminishing rate of residential construction shown both by the building permit figures and by the construction employment figures.

The value of contracts awarded during the first seven months of 1953 is 19% below the same period last year. This decline can be explained by decreases of 8% in value of contracts awarded for residential building, of 24% for nonresidential building, and of 32% for public works and utilities.

Another explanation for the overall 19% decrease in the value of contracts awarded during the first seven months of 1953 is the 32% decline in publicly financed construction and the 12% decline in private building.

National expenditures to reach new peak. Total expenditures for new construction in the nation during 1953 are expected to exceed last year's record of \$32.6 billion by 6% according to joint estimates prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Department of Commerce. This year's dollar volume of new construction will also represent a new peak in work actually put in place, after adjustment for price changes.

Continuation of the steady postwar climb in construction activity into 1953 will result primarily from a sharp rise in commercial building and substantial increases in privately owned public utility construction, private housing, and schools and highway work. The only major

types of construction for which spending is expected to decline are private industrial construction and farm and hospital building.

The only major types of nonresidential building in Texas which showed an increase in value of permits issued in July over June were public works and utilities (+211%) and stores and other mercantile buildings (+16%). Decreases in other major categories of nonresidential building ranged from -93% for office and bank buildings to -30% for church buildings.

Despite the sharp drop in July, nonresidential building totals for the first seven months of 1953 exceeded those for the same period of 1952 by 40%. This increase was brought about primarily by changes in the following important types of construction: office and bank buildings (+265%), educational buildings (+56%), amusement buildings (+188%), stores and other mercantile buildings (+9%), other nonresidential buildings (+119%), and factories and workshops (-9%).

The dominating class of residential construction, one-family houses, dropped in value some 17% from June to July. In spite of increases of 106% for two-family houses, 3% for apartment buildings, and 2% for three- and four-family houses, total housekeeping residential construction declined by 15% because of the decrease in one-family houses. Nonhousekeeping residential, on the other hand, increased in total by 5% from June to July, but the magnitude of construction in this classification during both months was negligible.

VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED

Source: Dodge Statistical Research Service

| Type of construction | July 1953 | January-July | | Percent change |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|---------|----------------|
| | | 1953 | 1952 | |
| | Value (thousands of dollars) | | | |
| ALL CONSTRUCTION | 84,000 | 647,114 | 799,798 | - 19 |
| NEW BUILDINGS | 69,246 | 519,443 | 612,847 | - 15 |
| Residential | 29,840 | 302,500 | 329,088 | - 8 |
| Nonresidential | 39,406 | 216,943 | 283,759 | - 24 |
| PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES | 14,754 | 127,671 | 186,946 | - 32 |

Housekeeping residential construction for the first seven months of this year was only 3% below the total for the same period of 1952. Particularly significant in this connection, however, is the diminishing rate of residential housekeeping construction since last March. The value of one-family houses and apartment buildings authorized during the first seven months is not significantly different from totals for the same period of 1952. Two-family houses and three- and four-family houses were down substantially during this period by 63% and 14%, respectively. Nonhousekeeping residential building shows significant increases for all major types this year, partly because of rather low activity experienced in the first seven months of 1952.

RICHARD C. HENSHAW, JR.

FOREIGN TRADE

U. S. merchandise trade. For the first five months of 1953 U. S. exports of domestic and foreign merchandise totaled \$6,708 million, \$160 million less than the comparable 1952 sum. Imports for the same period reached \$4,696 million, up \$150 million from 1952. Included in the cumulative 1953 export total was \$1,589 million in Mutual Security Program shipments, \$920 million more than the comparable 1952 figure.

Import balance with Latin America. U. S. merchandise exports to the Latin American republics in the first five months of 1953 fell to \$1,232.4 million, about 75% of the sum for the corresponding period last year. On the other hand, imports from these republics increased to a total of \$1,561.2 million, representing a gain of \$138.2 million over the first five months of 1952.

The drop in exports to Latin America concomitant with a rise in imports from our southern neighbors resulted in an import balance of \$328.8 million—the largest for any five-month period on record. The merchandise trade balance with Latin America had been decisively reversed. Current U.S. sales of commodities to Latin America, averaging \$246.5 million per month for the first five months of 1953, have slumped from the high levels of early 1952, while purchases of coffee, sugar, and other commodities from the southern neighbors have pushed up imports to a monthly average of \$312.2 million. The concurrence of increased sales to the United States and lowered purchases from this country has enabled the Latin American republics, as a group, to increase their gold and dollar reserves.

Almost every country south of the Rio Grande showed an improvement in its dollar position. Individually, Mexico's merchandise trade position with the United States has meliorated. Although Mexico's purchases from the United States are in excess of her sales to this country, the balance for the current five months is a moderate \$62.2 million as compared with \$116.0 million during the same span last year.

Tourism build-up in Mexico. In an attempt to bridge her dollar gap, Mexico has stepped up efforts to attract foreign visitors, especially Americans. A new National Tourist Council was established to promote one of her most lucrative industries—tourism. Among other proposals, plans to conduct a more effective campaign in this country were formulated as a means of increasing tourism in Mexico and obtaining greater dollar holdings. Regulations governing the issuance of tourist cards have been revised with such cards now available at \$5 and with multiple entries permitted during the 6 months period of validity. Airline coach service as practiced in the United States is expected to be introduced as another stimulus to tourism. Americans poured \$180 million into Mexico's coffers during 1952, thus enabling that country to continue its third-ranking position behind Canada and Europe, respectively, as an attraction for U. S. tourist dollars. Mexico's 1953 tourism receipts should show a signal increase over those for the previous year if their campaign proves effective.

HARVEY B. SMITH

AGRICULTURE

Agricultural conditions vary sharply. The late August picture of Texas agricultural conditions presents sharply contrasting scenes by geographic area. Much of the western half of the state remains in the grip of disastrous drouth, although rains ranging from light showers to "gully washers" brought welcome relief to scattered areas, particularly in the High Plains, Rio Grande Valley, and South Texas. In the wake of the long-awaited moisture, hundreds of thousands of High Plains and South Plains acres were sowed with cover crops. In the northwest, dryland sorghums planted after the July rains are making good early growth, but additional timely rains will be needed. Crop lands and ranges in less fortunate areas of the western portion of the state remain critically dry.

In the eastern, "wet" half of the state, agricultural conditions are good, particularly in Northeast Texas, where one of the most productive harvests in history is in prospect. Crop and pasture conditions in North and Central Texas are fair to excellent, but an invasion of insects and army worms has plagued some counties.

Federal drouth aid begun. Federal aid in the state's 164 counties classified as drouth-disaster areas got under way during July. By mid-August over \$5 million in new loans to Texas farmers had been granted since July 1. Applications to the Commodity Credit Corporation for subsidized feed totaled 1,118 cars of oats, 811 cars of corn, 45 cars of wheat, and 126,954 tons of cotton pellets and cake. Unfortunately, delivery of the vital feed was slowed considerably by a shortage of box cars, and the program's over-all benefits were dampened by grave charges of abuse.

FARM CASH INCOME

| Commodity | January-July | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| | Value (thousands of dollars) | | Percent change |
| | 1953 | 1952 | |
| TEXAS | 766,911 | 922,911 | - 17 |
| Cotton | 142,856 | 193,287 | - 26 |
| Cottonseed | 9,162 | 9,756 | - 6 |
| Wheat | 34,516 | 50,286 | - 31 |
| Oats | 8,611 | 5,833 | + 48 |
| Corn | 5,149 | 6,054 | - 15 |
| Grain sorghum | 14,969 | 28,119 | - 47 |
| Flaxseed | 3,911 | 3,155 | + 24 |
| Peanuts | 1,309 | 1,584 | - 17 |
| Cattle | 154,137 | 215,211 | - 28 |
| Calves | 52,273 | 60,731 | - 14 |
| Hogs | 46,049 | 50,195 | - 8 |
| Sheep and lambs | 15,381 | 10,076 | + 53 |
| Wool | 13,008 | 20,382 | - 36 |
| Mohair | 5,539 | 8,292 | - 33 |
| Poultry | 36,465 | 36,107 | + 1 |
| Eggs | 50,760 | 43,083 | + 18 |
| Milk and milk products | 120,156 | 127,877 | - 6 |
| Fruit and vegetables | 52,660 | 52,905 | x |

Farm cash income as computed by the Bureau understates actual farm cash income by from 6 to 10%. This situation results from the fact that means of securing complete local marketings, especially by truck, have not yet been fully developed. In addition, means have not yet been developed for computing cash income from all agricultural specialties of local importance in scattered areas. This situation does not impair the accuracy of the index shown on page 24.

INDEXES OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

(1909-14=100)

Source: Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture

| Index | July 1953 | June 1953 | July 1952 | Percent change | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 |
| ALL FARM PRODUCTS | 272 | 264 | 333 | - 18 | + 3 |
| ALL CROPS | 260 | 260 | 302 | - 14 | 0 |
| Food grains | 232 | 246 | 235 | - 1 | - 6 |
| Feed grains and hay | 196 | 193 | 224 | - 13 | + 2 |
| Potatoes and sweet potatoes | 290 | 310 | 329 | - 12 | - 6 |
| Fruit | 147 | 147 | 240 | - 39 | 0 |
| Truck crop | 384 | 388 | 472 | - 19 | - 1 |
| Cotton | 256 | 252 | 297 | - 14 | + 2 |
| Oil-bearing crops | 282 | 290 | 325 | - 13 | - 3 |
| LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS | 288 | 269 | 373 | - 23 | + 7 |
| Meat animals | 294 | 264 | 457 | - 36 | + 11 |
| Dairy products | 253 | 242 | 276 | - 8 | + 5 |
| Poultry and eggs | 261 | 251 | 233 | + 12 | + 4 |
| Wool | 385 | 404 | 366 | + 5 | - 5 |

Cotton harvest gains momentum. Cotton harvest, aided by intense August heat, gained momentum during the month. The Rio Grande Valley season faded rapidly as farmers rushed to complete harvest of the 270,000-bale crop in order to beat the August 31 plow-up deadline. Harvest of the short South Texas crop, less than 100,000 bales, was practically completed during the month. In the southern Blacklands and in the upper coastal counties harvest moved into full swing, and general prospects are good. According to the U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates, 3,525,000 bales will be gathered in Texas this year, as compared with 3,808,000 for 1952. The expected decrease, however, is a result of

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Source: Compiled from reports of Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture

| Item | January-July | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| | Rail shipments (carloads) | | Percent change |
| | 1953 | 1952 | |
| TOTAL | 30,087 | 30,239 | - 1 |
| FRUIT | 4,274 | 3,816 | + 12 |
| Cantaloupe | 1,143 | 345 | +231 |
| Grapefruit | 43 | — | — |
| Lemons | 23 | — | — |
| Oranges | 83 | — | — |
| Peaches | 41 | — | — |
| Plums and prunes | 35 | 10 | +250 |
| Nectarines | 10 | — | — |
| Watermelons | 2,877 | 3,461 | - 17 |
| Mixed fruit | 19 | — | — |
| VEGETABLES | 25,813 | 26,423 | - 2 |
| Beets | 139 | 208 | - 33 |
| Cabbage | 1,390 | 2,196 | - 37 |
| Carrots | 4,542 | 3,714 | + 22 |
| Cauliflower | 115 | 162 | - 29 |
| Corn | 513 | 432 | + 19 |
| Lettuce | 1,311 | 1,156 | + 13 |
| Onions | 6,647 | 6,624 | x |
| Potatoes | 865 | 1,057 | - 18 |
| Spinach | 1,009 | 1,074 | - 6 |
| Tomatoes | 4,255 | 4,412 | - 4 |
| Mixed vegetables | 5,027 | 5,388 | - 7 |

a reduction in acreage. Yield estimates for the year are 182 pounds per acre, an increase over last year's 171 pounds per acre.

Wheat farmers vote controls for 1954. By a four-to-one vote, Texas wheat farmers elected to continue acreage restrictions and price supports for 1954. This means that Texas wheat growers will be allotted 4,800,863 acres for the 1954 crop and that a price support of 90% of parity will be available for cooperating farmers. This year's short crop (21,681,000 bushels) came from a planting of 5,423,000 acres.

Farm prices gain slightly. Prices received by Texas farmers turned up in July, registering an overall gain of 3% over the preceding month. But this same figure was 18% below the July 1952 level. Virtually all of the month's gain resulted from general increases in livestock and product categories, up an average 7% over June but 23% under last year's level. July crop prices registered no general change from those of the preceding month, but compared with a year ago the month's overall crop average showed a 14% decline.

RAYMOND V. LESIKAR

CARLOAD SHIPMENTS OF LIVESTOCK*

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture

| Classification | July 1953 | June 1953 | July 1952 | Percent change | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 |
| TOTAL SHIPMENTS | 3,705 | 5,072 | 5,637 | - 34 | - 27 |
| Cattle | 2,850 | 3,983 | 2,428 | + 17 | - 28 |
| Calves | 449 | 564 | 405 | + 11 | - 20 |
| Hogs | 3 | 2 | 79 | - 96 | + 50 |
| Sheep | 403 | 523 | 672 | - 40 | - 23 |
| INTERSTATE | 3,475 | 4,771 | 4,425 | - 21 | - 27 |
| Cattle | 2,667 | 3,721 | 2,276 | + 17 | - 23 |
| Calves | 422 | 540 | 393 | + 7 | - 22 |
| Hogs | 0 | 0 | 41 | -100 | 0 |
| Sheep | 386 | 519 | 643 | - 40 | - 26 |
| INTRASTATE | 230 | 301 | 1,212 | - 81 | - 24 |
| Cattle | 183 | 271 | 152 | + 20 | - 32 |
| Calves | 27 | 24 | 12 | +125 | + 13 |
| Hogs | 3 | 2 | 38 | - 92 | + 50 |
| Sheep | 17 | 4 | 29 | - 41 | +325 |

*Rail-car basis: cattle, 30 head per car; calves, 60; hogs, 80; and sheep, 250.

COTTON

A 20.1-million-bale supply of cotton in the United States is indicated for the 1953-54 crop year, according to latest government estimates. Besides the 14.605 million bales expected by the Department of Agriculture to be produced this year, the total supply includes a carry-over of 5.502 million bales. As shown by the balance sheet below, this is the largest indicated domestic supply since August 1945.

The most significant fact about this situation is that the Secretary of Agriculture will now be compelled to declare quotas and to make acreage allotments for 1954 by October 15, 1953. This deadline is effective when the prospective cotton supply (estimated consumption + estimated exports) for the coming crop year is 30% or more above the legally defined "normal." Thus, the present indicated supply is some 2 million bales greater than the sum of estimated consumption (9.5 million),

exports (4.5 million), and carryover (4.2 million). The first two of these figures are entirely adequate in view of the present outlook.

The price of cotton is now dominated by the loan rate, 90% of parity, which amounts to 34.22 cents for M 7/8. On M 7/8 the base loan rate is thus 30.80 cents. The premium for 15/16 is about 32.70 cents. The average cash cost to the farmer for putting his cotton in the loan is \$1.20 per bale if he uses Smith-Loxey class. The base rate is calculated in Carolina mill points, and the freight to a distant point in the belt is deducted. The loan rate to farmers at Dallas, for example, on M 15/16 is about 32.57 cents. The farmer pays 4% interest on his loan. The lending agency will receive 2.5% of this, and the Commodity Credit Corporation, 1.5%.

A. B. Cox

TEXAS COTTON ACTIVITY

Source: Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce

| Item | June 1953 | May 1953 | June 1952 | Percent change | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | | June 1953 from June 1952 | June 1953 from May 1953 |
| COTTONSEED (thous of tons) | | | | | |
| Received at mills | 1,121 | 2,556 | 5,859 | — 81 | — 56 |
| Crushed | 60,330 | 71,386 | 39,172 | + 54 | — 15 |
| Stocks, end-of-month..... | 48,100 | 77,309 | 30,433 | + 58 | — 38 |
| CONSUMPTION (running bales) | | | | | |
| Cotton | 10,423 | 10,840 | 10,292 | + 1 | — 4 |
| Linters | 2,236 | 2,388 | 2,041 | + 10 | — 6 |
| SPINDLES (thousands) | | | | | |
| Spindles in place | 229 | 229 | 225 | + 2 | 0 |
| Spindles active | 218 | 220 | 205 | + 6 | — 1 |
| Total spindle hours | 84,000† | 86,000 | 98,000 | + 8 | — 2 |
| Average spindle hours... | 367 | 376 | 347 | + 6 | — 2 |

†For four weeks ending June 27, 1953.

COTTON BALANCE SHEET FOR THE UNITED STATES

| Year | Carryover Aug 1 | Government estimate Aug 1 | Balance Aug 1 |
|---------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1944-45 | 10,727 | 11,022 | 21,749 |
| 1945-46 | 11,160 | 10,134 | 20,469 |
| 1946-47 | 7,522 | 9,290 | 16,812 |
| 1947-48 | 2,521 | 11,844 | 14,365 |
| 1948-49 | 2,823 | 15,169 | 17,992 |
| 1949-50 | 5,283 | 14,805 | 20,083 |
| 1950-51 | 6,700 | 10,308 | 17,308 |
| 1951-52 | 2,179 | 17,266 | 19,445 |
| 1952-53 | 2,745 | 14,735 | 17,480 |
| 1953-54 | 5,502 | 14,605 | 20,107 |

The cotton year begins August 1, and figures are in thousands of running bales.

LABOR

Labor forces and employment steady. The overall July labor picture in Texas was one of little change. Reports from the 17 key Texas labor markets show the non-agricultural labor force to have decreased only fractionally from the year's record high total, set in June. Waco, with its post-tornado reconstruction work, recorded an addition of 1,000 workers to the labor force.

Employment totals for the 17 labor markets show employment to be relatively firm, with Waco, again, showing the only decided fluctuation. This city recorded a 4% employment increase over June totals, as it completed a back-to-work movement of employees idled by the May tornado devastation. Workers in manufacturing, a total of 1,600, made up the bulk of these returnees, retail trade added 165 workers as sales picked up, and construction with its related industries enjoyed a minor boom which required additional help.

Total unemployment increased by fewer than 1,000 persons (1%) during July. The major portion of this increase was due to layoffs in the Houston-Baytown and El Paso labor market areas. Waco recorded a 21% decrease in unemployment as 600 workers were placed during July. Other changes in unemployment were minor, with increases balancing the decreases. The percentage unemployed of the total nonagricultural labor force stood at 4.2% for July, up 0.6% from the beginning of the year. For the nation as a whole, the unemployed constituted 2.4% of the total labor force (including agri-

cultural workers) during the first seven months of 1953.

The consensus of opinion, as reported in southwestern newsletters on labor, is for a continuing monthly increase in employment for at least into late fall. The additional employees are expected to be placed in jobs ranging from manufacturing and construction work to retail sales and school employment.

Strikes spread. Additional labor disputes contributed new walkouts to the total reported last month. Southwestern Bell workers' general strike, which began August 20, was preceded by a number of isolated "protest" strikes, including those allegedly due to lack of air-conditioning in Bell offices at Waco, Austin, and San Antonio. Another strike, at Beaumont, was brought on by the company's hiring of an employee for a position which, the union contended, could have been filled from existing employees' ranks. The general telephone workers' strike over wages and fringe benefits, following on the heels of the protest strikes, at first seemed destined to be of long duration. Recent concessions made by the company, however, raised hopes for an early settlement.

Striking construction workers, including carpenters, operating engineers, and iron workers, starting their second month of idleness, have tied up well over \$200 million in construction around the state and particularly in the Houston-Galveston-Orange section. The work tie-up has been markedly effective since striking employees are primarily key personnel, without whom the work cannot proceed.

HARVEY B. SMITH

HOURS AND EARNINGS

Source: Texas Employment Commission in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics,
U. S. Department of Labor

| Classification | Average weekly earnings | | | Average weekly hours | | | Average hourly earnings | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | July 1953* | June 1953 | July 1952 | July 1953* | June 1953 | July 1952 | July 1953* | June 1953 | July 1952 |
| ALL MANUFACTURING..... | \$70.64 | \$69.30 | \$66.20 | 41.8 | 41.5 | 41.9 | \$1.69 | \$1.67 | \$1.58 |
| Durable goods..... | 70.88 | 69.37 | 65.79 | 42.7 | 42.3 | 43.0 | 1.66 | 1.64 | 1.53 |
| Primary metals..... | 80.59 | 76.33 | 66.90 | 40.7 | 40.6 | 40.3 | 1.98 | 1.88 | 1.66 |
| Machinery—except electrical..... | 75.26 | 74.82 | 72.65 | 43.5 | 43.0 | 44.3 | 1.73 | 1.74 | 1.64 |
| Oil field machinery..... | 83.35 | 81.08 | 76.30 | 44.1 | 42.9 | 43.6 | 1.89 | 1.89 | 1.75 |
| Transportation equipment..... | 88.84 | 79.19 | 75.66 | 44.2 | 40.2 | 40.9 | 1.15 | 1.15 | 1.14 |
| Fabricated metal products..... | 75.33 | 74.22 | 67.80 | 46.5 | 46.1 | 45.5 | 1.62 | 1.61 | 1.49 |
| Lumber and wood products..... | 51.18 | 50.72 | 49.48 | 44.5 | 44.1 | 43.4 | 2.01 | 1.97 | 1.85 |
| Furniture and fixtures..... | 52.09 | 49.85 | 53.84 | 42.7 | 40.2 | 44.5 | 1.22 | 1.24 | 1.21 |
| Stone, clay, and glass..... | 60.18 | 61.63 | 57.35 | 41.5 | 43.1 | 42.8 | 1.45 | 1.43 | 1.34 |
| Nondurable goods..... | 70.76 | 69.02 | 66.26 | 40.9 | 40.6 | 40.9 | 1.73 | 1.70 | 1.62 |
| Textile mill products..... | 46.03 | 47.80 | 46.31 | 41.1 | 42.3 | 42.1 | 1.12 | 1.13 | 1.10 |
| Broad woven goods..... | 46.59 | 48.82 | 44.73 | 41.6 | 43.2 | 41.8 | 1.12 | 1.13 | 1.07 |
| Apparel and fabric products..... | 36.93 | 35.04 | 36.00 | 37.3 | 36.5 | 37.5 | 0.99 | 0.96 | 0.96 |
| Food..... | 64.87 | 64.33 | 59.36 | 42.4 | 42.6 | 42.4 | 1.53 | 1.51 | 1.40 |
| Meat packing..... | 76.74 | 78.44 | 65.93 | 42.4 | 43.1 | 40.2 | 1.81 | 1.82 | 1.64 |
| Paper and allied products..... | 75.34 | 72.25 | 67.26 | 43.8 | 42.5 | 42.3 | 1.72 | 1.70 | 1.59 |
| Printing..... | 82.56 | 81.76 | 82.40 | 39.5 | 39.5 | 40.0 | 2.09 | 2.07 | 2.06 |
| Chemicals and allied products..... | 82.74 | 82.91 | 79.26 | 42.0 | 42.3 | 41.5 | 1.97 | 1.96 | 1.91 |
| Vegetable oil mills..... | 47.63 | 50.80 | 46.33 | 43.6 | 49.8 | 46.8 | 0.98 | 1.02 | 0.99 |
| Petroleum and coal products..... | 95.53 | 90.63 | 89.98 | 41.0 | 40.1 | 40.9 | 2.33 | 2.26 | 2.20 |
| Leather products..... | 37.20 | 38.21 | 37.92 | 37.2 | 38.6 | 39.5 | 1.00 | 0.99 | 0.96 |
| NONMANUFACTURING..... | | | | | | | | | |
| Mining..... | 95.44 | 91.05 | 92.20 | 44.6 | 44.2 | 46.8 | 2.14 | 2.06 | 1.97 |
| Crude petroleum products..... | 97.45 | 92.82 | 94.27 | 44.7 | 44.2 | 46.9 | 2.18 | 2.10 | 2.01 |
| Sulfur..... | 81.40 | 77.22 | 72.28 | 40.1 | 39.0 | 39.5 | 2.03 | 1.98 | 1.83 |
| Public utilities..... | 62.53 | 63.36 | 60.40 | 40.2 | 40.1 | 40.0 | 1.58 | 1.58 | 1.51 |
| Retail trade..... | 55.82 | 55.43 | 52.44 | 44.3 | 44.7 | 43.7 | 1.26 | 1.24 | 1.20 |
| Wholesale trade..... | 67.98 | 68.57 | 65.27 | 43.3 | 43.4 | 44.1 | 1.57 | 1.58 | 1.48 |

Figures do not cover proprietors, firm members, or other principal executives.

*Preliminary—subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Industrial power index sags. Texas homes, stores, and industries used 26% more electric power this July than last; industries alone, 21% more. Yet, for the first time in many months, industrial power consumption was down substantially in July. The drop, 5% after adjustment to the normal seasonal pattern, served to confirm the widespread belief that business, particularly manufacturing, has reached a plateau for the moment and is probably susceptible to mildly depressing influences. Gains from June to July in household and commercial power use bear evidence of the continued trend toward air-conditioning and electrification of homes and public buildings.

Industrial Electric Power Use in Texas

Index • Adjusted for seasonal variation • 1935-1939 = 100



ELECTRIC POWER CONSUMPTION

| Use | Consumption (thous of kw-hrs) | | | Percent change | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | July 1953 | June 1953 | July 1952 | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 |
| TOTAL | 1,534,742 | 1,387,137 | 1,214,024 | + 26 | + 11 |
| Commercial | 300,547 | 261,428 | 256,944 | + 17 | + 15 |
| Industrial | 603,272 | 616,679 | 500,424 | + 21 | - 2 |
| Residential | 311,380 | 222,695 | 221,340 | + 41 | + 40 |
| Other | 319,543 | 286,335 | 235,316 | + 36 | + 12 |

Prepared from reports of 10 electric power companies to the Bureau of Business Research.

Much of the increase in the ratio of industrial output to the number of production workers can be traced to adoption of more efficient and economical methods based upon electrification of the factory. During one week last month, the nation's industry used electricity equal in work power to a 125-million-man labor force employed for an entire year. And the nation's electric generating capacity will be more than 10% greater within six more months.

It has been suggested in some quarters that the slight decline indicated for Texas industrial activity during July may be partly due to the growing practice of granting production employees a two-week summer vacation and, in some plants, of shutting down production entirely for a two-week summer recess.

The high level of inventories and currently slackening demand for war materiel will make it increasingly difficult, however, for industries to rebound to peak levels once they have slipped from them. With investment in new plant and equipment considerably lower, industrial

PETROLEUM AND GAS ACTIVITY

Source: State Comptroller of Public Accounts and Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas

| Product | July 1953 | June 1953 | July 1952 | Percent change | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | | July 1958 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 |
| CARBON BLACK | | | | | |
| PRODUCED (value in thous of dols) .. | 3,142 | 1,855 | 3,696 | - 15 | + 69 |
| CRUDE OIL | | | | | |
| Value (thous of dols) .. | 236,036 | 209,879 | 218,138 | + 8 | + 12 |
| Production (thous of bbls) | 87,371 | 80,732 | 84,774 | + 3 | + 8 |
| Runs to stills (thous of bbls) | 59,453 | 61,109 | 59,015 | + 1 | - 3 |
| NATURAL AND CASINGHEAD GAS PRODUCED (Value in thous of dols) .. | | | | | |
| | 29,403 | 32,271 | 27,430 | + 7 | - 9 |

output will lack one major stimulus during coming months, and the private consumer will probably regain much of his lost prestige as the ultimate dynamic factor behind industrial production. For the moment, the accumulation of heavy inventories is more apparent at the wholesale-retail level than in factory stocks. Since Texas industries concentrate more heavily upon the making of intermediate materials than end products, they may not feel inventory pressure as soon as businesses in other sections of the country.

Shifting pattern of Texas business. Bureau of Business Research studies, undertaken to determine the overall pattern of Texas business as a guide to the revision of statistical indexes, have revealed striking changes in the proportions of Texas income from major sources. Department of Commerce surveys show that trade and services now account for more than 26% of all Texas income, and government payments for over 17%. But the greatest increase in personal income has been in that from manufacturing, 1.4% of the state total in 1929 and now 13% or more.

Agriculture and oil and gas production, once the mainstays of the Texas economy, are now outranked by industrial payrolls, which totaled \$1.54 billion last year, over 500% more than in 1940. The types of manufacturing that dominate the Texas industrial scene are characteristically carried on in semiautomatic plants with high product value per production worker, and the proportion of value added by manufacture in Texas industry is the second highest in the nation. This is not to say that Texas

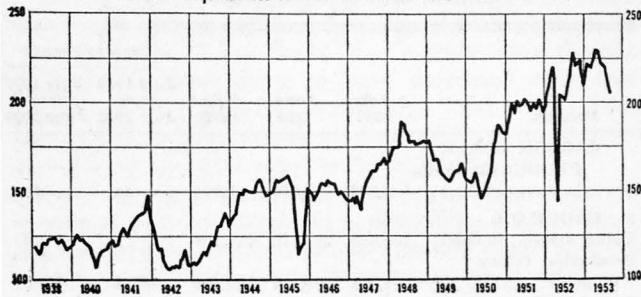
Crude Petroleum Production

Index • Adjusted for seasonal variation • 1935-1939 = 100



Crude Oil Runs to Stills in Texas

Index • Adjusted for seasonal variation • 1935-1939 = 100



REFINERY STOCKS

Source: The Oil and Gas Journal

| Area and product | Stocks (thousands of barrels) | | | Percent change | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | July 1953 | June 1953 | July 1952 | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 |
| UNITED STATES | | | | | |
| Gasoline | 143,423 | 146,965 | 116,243 | + 23 | - 2 |
| Distillate | 102,651 | 82,985 | 86,128 | + 19 | + 24 |
| Residual | 49,547 | 43,771 | 51,414 | - 4 | + 13 |
| Kerosene | 30,732 | 26,956 | 27,638 | + 11 | + 14 |
| TEXAS | | | | | |
| Gasoline | 25,058 | 26,858 | 20,195 | + 24 | - 7 |
| Distillate | 15,879 | 13,645 | 10,886 | + 46 | + 16 |
| Residual | 8,837 | 7,973 | 8,874 | x | + 11 |
| Kerosene | 4,250 | 4,217 | 3,974 | + 7 | + 1 |

Figures shown for week ending nearest last day of the month.
xChange is less than one half of one percent.

farming and petroleum production are slipping. On the contrary, income from both these sources increased in Texas by more than 200% between 1940 and 1952.

Total income payments in Texas have risen to 448% of their 1940 level, yet the state is still among the lowest two dozen in per capita income. It was thirty-third from the top state (New York) in 1929. In 1952 it was twenty-eighth from top-ranking Delaware. So it must be recognized that in spite of high wages and salaries paid in some Texas industries and businesses, a majority of Texans still have incomes far below the soaring national average.

Contraction and expansion in industry. The newest deal from federal agencies has been a round of budget-cutting decisions to trim Strategic Air Command projects and to cut back ammunition production in Texas. Communities, especially smaller towns, that have profited

WELL COMPLETIONS

Source: The Oil and Gas Journal

| Region | July 1953* | | | | January-July | |
|---------------------|------------|-----|-----|-------|--------------|--------|
| | Oil | Gas | Dry | Total | 1953 | 1952 |
| TEXAS | 921 | 107 | 653 | 1,681 | 10,483 | 10,707 |
| North Central | 395 | 6 | 300 | 701 | 3,875 | 3,377 |
| West | 230 | 6 | 85 | 321 | 2,350 | 3,347 |
| Panhandle | 32 | 30 | 7 | 69 | 477 | 403 |
| Eastern | 19 | 12 | 39 | 70 | 497 | 570 |
| Gulf Coast | 120 | 33 | 108 | 261 | 1,591 | 1,560 |
| Southwest | 125 | 20 | 114 | 259 | 1,693 | 1,450 |

*For five weeks ending August 1, 1953.

PRODUCTION OF HYDROCARBON LIQUIDS BY TEXAS GASOLINE AND RECYCLING PLANTS

Source: Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas

| Product | Jan 1953 | Feb 1953 | Mar 1953 | Apr 1953 |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Production (millions of barrels) | | | | |
| TOTAL PRODUCTION | 11,461 | 10,441 | 11,558 | 11,133 |
| Condensate-crude | 733 | 678 | 739 | 734 |
| Gasoline | 6,145 | 5,616 | 6,279 | 5,982 |
| Butane-propane | 4,269 | 3,862 | 4,205 | 4,147 |
| Other products | 314 | 285 | 335 | 320 |
| TOTAL GAS | | | | |
| PROCESSED* | 378,270 | 341,422 | 370,453 | 354,038 |
| Yield per Mcf in gallons | 1.54 | 1.54 | 1.45 | 1.44 |

*In millions of cubic feet.

from the presence of some of these defense installations may not feel that the prospect of lower taxes fully compensates them for the loss of heavy military expenditures. This is particularly evident in those areas where the dry scourge of agricultural depression has already dumped a considerable load of unemployment on the local labor market.

The Dallas-Fort Worth area has registered the addition of several new cells to its industrial hive. The Foxboro Company, manufacturer of industrial instruments, has announced immediate construction of a new southwestern headquarters at Garland. In Plano, future terminus of the Dallas Central Expressway, five new plants are in the planning stage, one of them a production unit of the newly formed Texas Wire and Cable Company, expected to be in operation before 1954. At Irving, the Palmer-Stendel Company, a New York gasoline by-products maker, has reportedly completed preliminary negotiations for the construction of a \$1-million plant.

An increasing number of persons are watching the growth of Texas industry through windows framed with Texas aluminum. And at Rockwall, the Texas Aluminum Company plans to add two units to its extrusion plant where pig aluminum is made into window-framing materials and other extruded shapes. Out of the six-unit plant planned by the company, only one unit is now in operation. The second and third will be built after October 1.

ROBERT H. RYAN

MANUFACTURE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

| Product | July 1953 | June 1953 | July 1952 | Percent change | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 |
| TOTAL PRODUCTION IN MILK EQUIVALENT (thous of lbs) | | | | | |
| | 54,058 | 66,019 | 48,921 | + 11 | - 18 |
| Creamery butter (thous of lbs) | 664 | 683 | 540 | + 23 | - 3 |
| Ice cream (thous of gals).... | 2,241 | 2,561 | 2,410 | - 7 | - 12 |
| American cheese (thous of lbs) | 470 | 419 | 385 | + 22 | + 12 |
| Cottage cheese (thous of lbs) | 929 | 840 | 502 | + 85 | + 11 |
| Concentrated milk products (thous of lbs) | 3,686 | 7,483 | 2,168 | + 70 | - 50 |

Milk equivalent of dairy products is calculated from production data.

Texas Water Resources II:

Irrigation for Texas Farmers

Although irrigation has been practiced in Texas for at least four hundred years, only in the past decade has it become a vitally important activity in Texas agriculture. Irrigated acreage has spread from barely more than one million acres in 1940 to some 3.5 million acres today. Over the same period, capital investment in irrigation works and water rights has soared from \$66 million to at least \$150 million. Most recent figures indicate that the average irrigated farm is valued at more than \$40,000, as compared to \$18,000 for nonirrigated farms.

By the late forties, 10% of the principal crops harvested in Texas were from irrigated fields, and they accounted for nearly 30% of the value of all crops produced in the state. Today the proportion may be even higher, for well over 30,000 farms are equipped for irrigation.

Some irrigation has been carried on in all but 59 of the counties of Texas; however a majority of the counties have only a dozen or fewer farms equipped for artificial watering and many of them only on a small acreage.

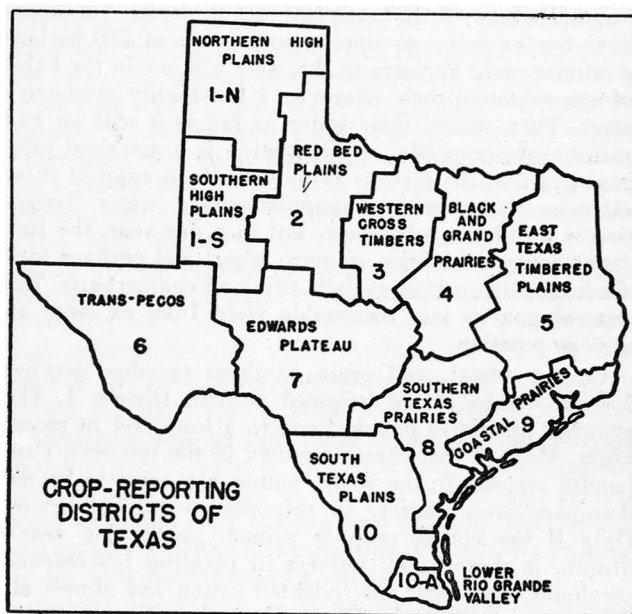
Almost every Texas crop is grown under irrigation in some part of the state, and usually with improved yields. Irrigated cotton, for example, averages .79 bales per acre, as compared with .37 bales per nonirrigated acre. The yield of grain sorghum is doubled by irrigation: 42 bushels per acre when irrigated, 16.5 bushels on dry land. Wheat harvests are increased, on an average, from 10.5 bushels an acre to 17.5, and corn yields are boosted from 16.5 bushels to 49.6, when the fields are irrigated.

Cotton, however, remains the top irrigated crop. It occupies around one million acres of water-fed Texas fields, far more than any other planting.

Water is brought to thirsty Texas croplands from two primary sources: streams or lakes and wells or underground reservoirs. In 1948, almost 57% of the irrigated area in the state was watered from wells, usually by pumping. Surface water was used exclusively on 42% of the area, all but 14% of this water being pump-diverted. A combination of ground and surface water was used on about 1% of the irrigated land, mostly along the Pecos River. While practically all of the underground water brought up for field use comes from privately owned wells, 10% of the acreage using surface water was supplied by independent enterprises. On the other hand, about 37% of the irrigated acreage and 60% of the irrigated farms use the services of organized enterprises. From year to year, this type of enterprise has served increasingly greater areas, but the proportion to total irrigated acreage has greatly declined in the past 15 years, due mainly to the rapid expansion of irrigation from privately owned wells in the High Plains region.

Public corporations are those organized irrigation enterprises owned by the landowners for whom the water is distributed. The private corporations, however, operate as public utilities, selling irrigation services for a profit and subject to state utility laws and regulations.

To backtrack to the beginnings of Texas irrigation, Coronado reported that Indians were irrigating crops near the present city of El Paso when he arrived there in 1541, and evidence that irrigation existed long before this has been found in the Trans-Pecos area. The San Antonio River supplied water for fields along its course as early as 1716, and the San Saba River by 1756. It was not until 1853 that Anglo-Americans first developed agricultural irrigation, and their first attempts were near the present town of Balmorhea, still a center of irrigation. From there, irrigation spread to the Rio Grande Valley, and, slowly, to other parts of the state.



The map above shows the Crop-Reporting Districts that are the basic divisions in the geography of Texas agriculture. Although they inevitably shade into one another, each district has some identity, defined by its climate, vegetation, and soil types; thus, certain crops and farming practices are typical of each district.

The High Plains area of the Panhandle constitutes Crop-Reporting District 1 (1-N and 1-S on the map). This is the largest ground-water irrigated area of Texas, as the cover chart indicates. The climate, optimistically called subhumid, is more often semiparched. And in the burning drouth years (1910, 1934, and 1953) there is no term for this district but arid. Out of 37 years, the region was largely semiarid for 25. Average precipitation ranges from 15 inches to about 22, but in this area the average is a fictitious statistic. Actually, the pattern changes enormously from year to year, depending upon the burden of moisture carried into the region by warm southerly winds and precipitated by cold air masses from the north. Rainfall surpasses that of semiarid climates often enough to encourage agricultural

extension, but not regularly enough to justify the optimism of farmers who pull their plows too far to the west. One redeeming feature of the climatic makeup of the High Plains is the fact that nearly all of the precipitation falls as warm-weather rain during the 200-day growing season. In Amarillo, an entire month of winter drouth may be expected almost every year, and once in six years, two winter months pass without precipitation.

Farming developed in District 1 largely between the two World Wars. In 1914 there were only 140 wells in the area, and inefficient ones at that. By 1934 the number had doubled. Today more than half the irrigated acreage of Texas lies in District 1, more than 7,500 farms, ranging from suburban "ranches" of 10 or 20 acres on the outskirts of Lubbock, Amarillo, or Plainview, to northern Panhandle wheat farms of 20,000 acres or more.

The average farm in District 1 today probably has two wells between 150 and 600 feet in depth. Yet, many have five or more, producing an average of 750 gallons a minute each. Farmers in this area are not in the habit of concentrating their efforts on a few highly productive acres. They spread their water as far as it will go and still sustain crop life, and irrigation is a marginal safeguard at that. In seasons rainy enough to support these extensive crops without supplementary water, irrigation is a dubious advantage. But in a dry year, the irrigated fields yield twice as much wheat and perhaps four times as much cotton as their dry-land counterparts. The general goal is any reasonable yield from as large an area as possible.

Cotton, wheat, and grain sorghum together account for nine-tenths of the irrigated crop in District 1. The growing of alfalfa has declined to a low level in recent years. Most of the wheat is grown in the northern Panhandle region. To the south, cotton has come to be the dominant crop, largely in response to soaring prices. Only if the cotton crop is ruined, as by this year's drouth, is there much interest in planting low-revenue sorghums. Over half the irrigated cotton and almost all the irrigated wheat in Texas comes from the typically large, mechanized farms of District 1.

In District 2, the Wichita Falls area, the irrigated acreage has declined from more than 30,000 in 1933 to as little as 10,000 acres in more recent years. With as much as 29 inches of rainfall annually, irrigation is not so badly needed there, nor are the soils well suited to the practice of irrigation. Moreover, the water from underground tends to be salty, and much of the land is more valuable for the oil that underlies it than for the crops it can raise.

Far to the west lies District 6, the Pecos and Upper Rio Grande region. This dry wedge of ranchland between Mexico and New Mexico receives an average of about a foot of rain annually. For this reason, the long growing season, considerably more than 200 days, is little advantage, except in the centers of irrigated farming around El Paso and Pecos and near Fort Stockton and Balmorhea. The Rio Grande and Pecos rivers provide almost all the irrigation water for more than 120,000 acres of cropland. Farming on these tracts is an act of faith in continuing stream flow, and the hopes

of farmers here are not always realized in years of decreased surface water supply. Around Pecos and Imperial, and elsewhere, underground water helps sustain crops on more than 80,000 acres, generally on larger farms than those that depend on surface water.

Cotton fields occupy over 70% of the total irrigated area in District 6, and alfalfa, 20%. In the El Paso Valley some of the highest cotton yields in Texas, well over one bale per acre, have been reported. And the farms there produce an average of five tons of alfalfa per acre, as against only two tons in the Pecos Valley. The Pecos region, better suited to cotton farming, produces an average of .7 bales per acre.

Most of the land of District 7 lies in the ranches of the Edwards Plateau. Only in narrow strips along the Concho, San Saba, and Llano rivers and along Pecan Bayou is there much irrigated crop-farming, but the total irrigated area, about 25,000 acres, has increased little since 1900. In fact, development along the Rio Grande near Del Rio and on the Colorado River north of Austin has declined in recent years. For the most part (75%) the crops grown in District 7 are feed products—grain sorghum, oats, and alfalfa—intended for supplementary feeding of livestock.

The only important irrigation in District 8 is carried on west of San Antonio, where truck crops are the most important irrigated product. A smaller concentration of irrigated truck farming is in Nueces County.

On the Coastal Prairies that rise in a shallow arc from the Gulf shore, irrigation is mainly a facility for the production of rice. Since 1895, the Texas rice harvest has grown from its beginnings in Jefferson County to become the one dominant agricultural activity in District 9 requiring irrigation. The 1948 rice acreage in the district totaled 525,300, all of it under irrigation and three-quarters of it irrigated with surface water. Out of 1,942 farms irrigated that year, 1,940 were rice farms, with an average of 270 acres of rice per farm.

In spite of the technical difficulties that discourage the rice farmer, his crop characteristically yields such a rich harvest that his effort and expense are justified. A gross of \$100 an acre is typical. But the expense is considerable, also; water is usually delivered to the farmer for ten dollars or more per acre, or one-fifth of the crop. Some enterprises supply the farmer with land, seed, and water in return for half his harvest.

Texas is now the nation's top rice state. (Louisiana, California, and Mississippi are other major producers.) More rice is grown in Texas than the entire nation consumes, for Americans eat less rice per capita than the people of most nations, and they leave the larger share of domestic production for export. Texas' 1,200-million-pound crop, however, seems negligible in comparison with the 100 billion pounds grown annually in China.

Maverick, Zavala, and Dimmitt counties are the centers of irrigation in District 10, although other counties along the Rio Grande have a scattering of irrigated farms. The development of this district began early. By the late 1890's, artesian wells were in rather widespread use. Since World War II, around 175,000 acres in the area have used irrigation facilities, fairly equally divided between underground and surface water.

Commercial truck crops dominate the agricultural scene here, for a long growing season and mild winters allow nearly year-around production. Almost a quarter of the irrigated acreage has been given over to pastures, and some grain sorghum and cotton have been raised.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley, Crop-Reporting District 10-A, constitutes the largest single concentration of irrigated land in Texas and the state's most densely settled and intensively cultivated farm belt. The mild climate, long growing season, and ease of irrigation have given incentive to the planting of a wide range of crops: cotton, citrus fruit, and winter vegetables. The most recent figures indicate that these crops occupy about 94% of the irrigated land, which totals 592,000 acres, a fifth of all Texas' water-fed farmland. All but about 5,000 acres of the irrigated area has been supplied from the Rio Grande.

The average size of District 10-A farms is so small (40 acres) that the number of irrigated farms there amounts to half the Texas total. Yet the yields are often disproportionately large. At least half the land is given over to a summer crop of cotton; but with the mild winters that prevail, much of this land is planted to a second crop, usually vegetables. The remaining half of the irrigated cropland in the Lower Valley is divided almost equally between full-time vegetable farms and citrus groves.

Water for irrigation is more costly in District 10-A than in any other part of the state. Raisers pay their high water bills through three procedures: flat rates, toll charges, and bond taxes. The flat rate is a charge per irrigable acre, payable whether the water is used or not. Such charges average somewhat more than three dollars an acre. On the other hand, growers can pay a toll charge in advance for each delivery of water. The charge, commonly less than two dollars an acre, is deceptively small, for as many as six deliveries of water may be needed in a single year. The bond tax, an *ad valorem* levy, averages about three dollars an acre. Revenue from these taxes is used to amortize bonded indebtedness.

A major problem in the use of Rio Grande water for irrigation has been the great fluctuation in the amount of water available from the river. In the absence of storage facilities, much of the water, especially in time of flood, escapes unused to the Gulf of Mexico, leaving the area short of water at the times when it is most needed. The Lower Valley gravity project plans, prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation, are designed to alleviate this irregularity in flow and also to aid in planned drainage of the area.

The technology of irrigation is a major field in agricultural research and education. It involves knowledge of the varying amounts of water required by different crops, the permeability and water-retaining characteristics of soils, the mechanics of water flow, and the methods of making the water available to plant roots with minimum loss from evaporation and random absorption. In this last consideration alone, efficiency of irrigation varies widely. Studies made in the Pecos Valley showed effective water losses ranging from 24 to 78%.

The opportunity for development of new irrigation practices has already been demonstrated in East Texas, where farm managers have increased their yields markedly through supplementary sprinkler-watering of fields that receive from 40 to 50 inches of water yearly from natural rainfall. In Arkansas, some farmers are now alternating rice and fish-farming in their paddies. An estimated 6,000 acres of Arkansas rice land is kept under one to six feet of water, thus eliminating weeds and enriching the soil with a valuable increment of fish wastes and organic matter. After two years of use as fish ponds, some fields reportedly raise twice their former harvest of rice, and meanwhile the fish can be sold at a good profit.

If future events are to be predicted upon the basis of past experiences, the prospect for irrigation is hardly encouraging. There is every reason to believe that our water resources cannot indefinitely sustain the present rate of use without the development of new sources of water and techniques of use. The outlook is blackest in the areas that depend upon underground water. Notably in the Panhandle, ground-water is probably overexploited already. In the region south of the Canadian River, the water-table sank from five to more than 45 feet during the years 1938-48; throughout the most heavily pumped sections, the drop was more than 10 feet. Although the levels have fluctuated in response to rainfall, rising during the wet seasons of 1941 and 1942, the gain was only temporary. A slight increase was recorded again in 1945. But today the downward trend is still dishearteningly evident. Whether the levels have reached a critical point is uncertain, but as foundation for heavy farm irrigation, the High Plains water table is none too firm.

Irrigation with surface water is equally unpromising in many places. Some of the major areas have expanded their irrigated acreage to such an extent that drastic water shortages have already been suffered. Only a limited number of these shortages could be entirely relieved by the construction of new reservoirs.

Several possibilities exist for developing the unused water resources of Texas, but where they have been investigated, the cost of bringing the water to the point of use has proven to be prohibitively expensive.

Some observers have suggested that a cheap process for taking the salt out of sea water would give Texas a firm and unlimited supply of water. By present methods, it costs nearly twenty cents per thousands gallons to remove the salinity of ocean water, far too much to allow the use of Gulf waters for irrigation. Even if the costs of processing the water were within reason, the tremendous expense of building a net work of pipelines to distribute the desalted water would be a discouraging factor.

Texans, then, cannot safely rely on the prospect of irrigating with sea water or with water from any other completely undeveloped source. Instead, they must base their plans upon the reality that Texas water resources are limited and subject to deterioration or depletion. Only if they recognize the dismal possibilities will they be likely to take action to prevent the prospects from being realized.

Local Business

| City and item | July 1953 | Percent change | |
|---|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 |
| ABILENE: (pop. 45,570) | | | |
| Retail sales | ----- | + 5 | + 4 |
| Department and apparel stores | ----- | - 8 | + 3 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 59,420 | + 7 | + 11 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 323,667 | - 23 | - 78 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 51,674 | x | - 1 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 50,207 | - 13 | - 2 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 12.2 | + 3 | 0 |
| Employment | 25,550 | - 8 | x |
| Manufacturing employment | 3,400 | + 4 | + 2 |
| Percent of labor force unemployed | 4.8 | + 20 | - 14 |
| Air express shipments | 209 | + 70 | - 19 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| ALICE: (pop. 16,449) | | | |
| Postal receipts | \$ 11,355 | - 4 | + 18 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 45,500 | - 16 | - 45 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 12,567 | - 5 | + 7 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 13,598 | - 12 | - 4 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 10.9 | ----- | + 9 |
| Air express shipments | 12 | - 33 | 0 |

| | | | |
|---|--------------|-------|------|
| AMARILLO: (pop. 74,246) | | | |
| Retail sales* | ----- | - 17 | x |
| Department and apparel stores | ----- | - 22 | - 4 |
| Drug stores* | ----- | - 13 | - 7 |
| Office, store, and school supply dealers* | ----- | + 1 | + 8 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 123,555 | + 11 | + 7 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 1,628,734 | - 31 | + 57 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 130,569 | - 7 | - 1 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 103,585 | - 9 | - 2 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 15.0 | - 8 | - 3 |
| Employment* | 43,050 | + 1 | x |
| Manufacturing employment* | 4,975 | x | - 2 |
| Percent of labor force unemployed* | 5.9 | + 74 | - 5 |
| Air express shipments | 694 | + 110 | + 3 |

| | | | |
|--|--------------|------|------|
| AUSTIN: (pop. 132,459) | | | |
| Retail sales | ----- | + 21 | - 4 |
| Automotive stores | ----- | + 64 | + 10 |
| Department and apparel stores | ----- | x | - 13 |
| Eating and drinking places | ----- | x | + 3 |
| Filling stations | ----- | - 12 | - 7 |
| Food stores | ----- | x | + 1 |
| Furniture and household appliance stores | ----- | + 7 | - 18 |
| Lumber, building material, and hardware stores | ----- | + 8 | - 13 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 198,951 | - 4 | - 2 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 1,970,500 | - 18 | - 12 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 110,295 | + 12 | - 5 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 97,900 | - 22 | - 3 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 13.3 | + 4 | - 4 |
| Employment | 60,200 | + 6 | x |
| Manufacturing employment | 4,175 | - 2 | x |
| Percent of labor force unemployed | 3.6 | + 13 | + 9 |
| Air express shipments | 612 | + 16 | + 1 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-------|------|
| ARLINGTON: (pop. 7,692) | | | |
| Postal receipts | \$ 9,254 | + 16 | + 4 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 248,300 | ----- | - 72 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 8,662 | + 47 | + 5 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 9,325 | + 20 | - 7 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 10.8 | + 6 | + 5 |

| City and item | July 1953 | Percent change | |
|---|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 |
| BAYTOWN: (pop. 22,983) | | | |
| Postal receipts | \$ 15,647 | + 6 | + 4 |
| Value of building permits | 137,400 | - 45 | + 15 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 18,598 | + 20 | + 1 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡..... | \$ 20,484 | + 17 | + 8 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover..... | 11.3 | + 8 | - 3 |
| Employment (area) * | 354,450 | + 3 | x |
| Manufacturing employment (area) * .. | 85,275 | + 5 | + 1 |
| Percent of labor force unemployed (area) * | 3.7 | + 28 | + 19 |

| | | | |
|---|------------|------|------|
| BEAUMONT: (pop. 94,014) | | | |
| Retail sales* | ----- | + 3 | - 12 |
| Automotive stores* | ----- | + 28 | + 3 |
| Department and apparel stores | ----- | - 2 | - 6 |
| Eating and drinking places* | ----- | + 6 | + 5 |
| Furniture and household appliance stores* | ----- | + 3 | + 8 |
| General merchandise stores* | ----- | - 2 | - 6 |
| Lumber, building material, and hardware stores* | ----- | - 32 | - 57 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 74,365 | - 6 | - 2 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 209,449 | - 50 | - 59 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 131,308 | + 7 | + 1 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 92,185 | - 6 | - 2 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 16.9 | + 1 | + 4 |
| Employment (area) | 79,375 | - 2 | 0 |
| Manufacturing employment (area) | 26,990 | + 2 | + 1 |
| Percent of labor force unemployed (area) | 5.7 | 0 | - 2 |
| Air express shipments | 227 | - 5 | - 21 |
| Waterborne commerce (tons) | 29,901 | x | - 29 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------|-------|
| BEEVILLE: (pop. 9,348) | | | |
| Postal receipts | \$ 7,185 | + 12 | + 1 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 88,622 | + 707 | + 719 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 5,975 | - 10 | + 4 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 12,111 | - 3 | + 2 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 6.0 | - 9 | + 2 |
| Air express shipments | 5 | - 44 | 0 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------|-------|
| BIG SPRING: (pop. 17,286) | | | |
| Retail sales | ----- | + 41 | + 7 |
| Department and apparel stores | ----- | + 2 | + 17 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 17,182 | + 2 | - 4 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 210,150 | - 78 | + 412 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 20,519 | - 5 | + 1 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 21,639 | - 13 | - 8 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 10.9 | + 5 | + 5 |
| Air express shipments | 78 | + 47 | + 4 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| BRENNHAM: (pop. 6,941) | | | |
| Postal receipts | \$ 5,842 | + 16 | x |
| Value of building permits | \$ 67,000 | + 258 | + 73 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 5,545 | + 9 | - 2 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 9,992 | + 7 | + 1 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 6.7 | + 3 | - 3 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------|-------|
| BROWNSVILLE: (pop. 36,066) | | | |
| Retail sales* | ----- | - 2 | + 13 |
| Department and apparel stores | ----- | - 8 | + 24 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 20,673 | - 1 | + 9 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 460,981 | + 41 | + 168 |
| Air express shipments | 423 | + 6 | + 15 |
| Waterborne commerce (tons) | 86,618 | - 4 | + 12 |

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

Conditions

| City and item | July 1953 | Percent change | |
|---|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 |
| BROWNWOOD: (pop. 20,181) | | | |
| Retail sales ..... | ..... | + 9 | + 7 |
| Department and apparel stores..... | ..... | + 6 | x |
| Postal receipts\$ | 15,167 | + 1 | + 4 |
| Value of building permits\$ | 17,078 | - 65 | - 56 |
| Bank debits (thousands)\$ | 8,814 | - 12 | - 2 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands)†.....\$ | 13,183 | + 5 | + 2 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover..... | 8.1 | - 15 | - 4 |
| Air express shipments | 15 | - 29 | + 15 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|------|------|
| BRYAN: (pop. 18,102) | | | |
| Retail sales* | | | + 6 |
| Department and apparel stores | | - 13 | - 3 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 15,226 | + 5 | - 11 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 158,885 | - 47 | - 75 |
| Air express shipments | 17 | - 23 | + 6 |

| | | | |
|--|--------------|------|------|
| CORPUS CHRISTI: (pop. 108,287) | | | |
| Retail sales | | + 12 | - 3 |
| Apparel stores | | - 6 | - 10 |
| Automotive stores | | + 47 | + 9 |
| Country general stores | | - 11 | + 9 |
| Department stores† | | + 4 | - 15 |
| Lumber, building material, and hardware stores | | - 22 | - 16 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 115,546 | + 2 | - 1 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 2,428,697 | +118 | + 48 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 157,515 | + 12 | + 3 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 106,765 | - 2 | - 3 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 17.4 | + 1 | + 4 |
| Employment | 61,100 | - 1 | x |
| Manufacturing employment | 7,550 | + 9 | + 1 |
| Percent of labor force unemployed | 4.7 | + 38 | - 19 |
| Air express shipments | 398 | + 8 | + 7 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| CORSICANA: (pop. 19,211) | | | |
| Department and apparel store sales | | - 9 | - 16 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 18,373 | + 8 | - 39 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 12,573 | + 8 | + 1 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 19,716 | - 9 | x |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 7.7 | + 10 | 0 |

| | | | |
|---|--------------|------|------|
| DALLAS: (pop. 434,462) | | | |
| Retail sales* | | + 8 | - 2 |
| Apparel stores* | | + 6 | - 14 |
| Automotive stores* | | + 59 | + 15 |
| Department stores† | | + 4 | - 7 |
| Drug stores* | | - 10 | - 4 |
| Eating and drinking places* | | + 4 | + 6 |
| Filling stations* | | + 5 | - 3 |
| Florists* | | - 1 | - 19 |
| Food stores* | | + 1 | + 2 |
| Furniture and household appliance stores* | | - 34 | - 37 |
| General merchandise stores* | | - 5 | - 1 |
| Lumber, building material, and hardware stores* | | - 4 | - 5 |
| Office, store, and school supply dealers* | | + 8 | + 7 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 1,415,746 | + 2 | - 1 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 8,728,611 | + 42 | + 7 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 1,656,056 | + 15 | + 2 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 867,139 | - 20 | - 3 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 22.9 | + 13 | + 4 |
| Employment* | 292,265 | + 4 | x |
| Manufacturing employment* | 74,550 | + 6 | - 2 |
| Percent of labor force unemployed* | 2.7 | + 13 | + 4 |
| Air express shipments | 7,889 | + 13 | + 1 |

| City and item | July 1953 | Percent change | |
|---|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 |
| DEL RIO: (pop. 14,211) | | | |
| Postal receipts | \$ 8,823 | + 13 | + 4 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 41,825 | + 5 | + 28 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 6,851 | - 1 | - 8 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) † | \$ 10,097 | - 2 | x |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 8.1 | 0 | - 7 |
| Air express shipments | 18 | - 25 | + 29 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| DENISON: (pop. 17,504) | | | |
| Retail sales | | + 6 | - 13 |
| Department and apparel stores | | - 15 | - 33 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 13,617 | + 18 | + 18 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 79,611 | +162 | + 87 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 11,579 | + 10 | - 3 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 19,947 | + 49 | + 25 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 7.7 | - 20 | - 16 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| DENTON: (pop. 21,372) | | | |
| Retail sales | | + 4 | - 15 |
| Department and apparel stores | | - 4 | - 12 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 18,610 | + 3 | - 1 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 94,375 | + 71 | - 60 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 10,643 | + 1 | + 2 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 13,139 | + 2 | - 4 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 9.5 | - 4 | + 1 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| EAGLE PASS: (pop. 7,276) | | | |
| Postal receipts | \$ 5,147 | - 1 | - 7 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 12,617 | + 25 | - 60 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 3,417 | | + 6 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 3,393 | | + 11 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 12.7 | | + 3 |
| Air express shipments | 17 | +113 | 0 |

| | | | |
|--|--------------|------|------|
| EL PASO: (pop. 130,485) | | | |
| Retail sales* | | - 4 | - 4 |
| Apparel stores* | | - 4 | + 6 |
| Department stores† | | - 3 | - 19 |
| Drug stores* | | + 13 | x |
| Furniture and household appliance stores* | | - 19 | - 13 |
| General merchandise stores* | | - 3 | - 19 |
| Lumber, building material, and hardware stores | | + 17 | - 21 |
| Office, store, and school supply dealers | | + 34 | + 2 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 178,702 | + 11 | x |
| Value of building permits | \$ 1,041,528 | + 7 | - 33 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 199,013 | + 15 | + 3 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 115,318 | - 23 | - 4 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 20.3 | + 12 | + 3 |
| Employment* | 67,300 | + 3 | + 1 |
| Manufacturing employment* | 10,725 | + 8 | + 1 |
| Percent of labor force unemployed* | 4.4 | + 2 | + 22 |
| Air express shipments | 1,444 | + 29 | + 2 |
| Tourists entering Mexico | 4,040 | + 2 | + 3 |
| Tourist cars entering Mexico | 1,595 | + 2 | + 10 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| EDINBURG (pop. 12,383) | | | |
| Postal receipts | \$ 6,526 | - 18 | - 20 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 30,300 | - 43 | +296 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 9,710 | + 3 | + 12 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 9,518 | + 5 | + 7 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 12.6 | - 4 | + 10 |
| Air express shipments | 3 | - 70 | - 50 |

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

| City and item | July 1953 | Percent change | |
|--|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 |
| | | | |
| FORT WORTH: (pop. 278,778) | | | |
| Retail sales* | _____ | + 1 | - 4 |
| Apparel stores* _____ | _____ | + 6 | - 16 |
| Automotive stores* _____ | _____ | + 26 | + 1 |
| Department stores† _____ | _____ | - 7 | - 14 |
| Drug stores* _____ | _____ | + 16 | - 3 |
| Eating and drinking places* _____ | _____ | + 7 | + 1 |
| Filling stations* _____ | _____ | - 6 | - 5 |
| Florists* _____ | _____ | - 5 | - 16 |
| Food stores* _____ | _____ | + 5 | + 9 |
| Furniture and household appliance stores* _____ | _____ | - 21 | - 19 |
| General merchandise stores* _____ | _____ | - 6 | - 10 |
| Hay, grain and feed stores* _____ | _____ | - 30 | + 11 |
| Lumber, building material, and hardware stores* _____ | _____ | - 17 | - 7 |
| Postal receipts _____ \$ | 440,970 | x | - 2 |
| Value of building permits _____ \$ | 3,807,108 | + 7 | - 30 |
| Bank debits (thousands) _____ \$ | 512,608 | x | - 21 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ _____ \$ | 331,739 | - 19 | - 3 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover _____ | 18.4 | - 5 | - 21 |
| Employment* _____ | 163,200 | + 1 | + 1 |
| Manufacturing employment* _____ | 53,150 | - 3 | + 1 |
| Percent of labor force unemployed* _____ | 4.8 | + 12 | - 9 |
| Air express shipments _____ | 1,808 | + 5 | + 7 |

GALVESTON: (pop. 66,568)

| | | | |
|--|---------|------|------|
| Retail sales | | - 4 | - 3 |
| Automotive stores | | + 4 | - 8 |
| Department and apparel stores | | + 1 | - 5 |
| Eating and drinking places | | - 10 | - 6 |
| Food stores | | - 2 | x |
| Furniture and household appliance stores | | - 32 | + 30 |
| Lumber, building material, and hardware stores | | - 33 | + 4 |
| Postal receipts \$ | 69,936 | + 11 | + 11 |
| Value of building permits \$ | 117,985 | - 55 | - 31 |
| Bank debits (thousands) \$ | 76,350 | + 1 | - 3 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | 82,885 | - 21 | + 2 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 11.2 | - 19 | - 6 |
| Employment (area) | 48,600 | - 1 | x |
| Manufacturing employment (area) | 12,040 | + 5 | + 2 |
| Percent of labor force unemployed (area) | 3.9 | + 5 | + 5 |
| Air express shipments | 477 | + 85 | + 2 |

GARLAND: (pop. 10,571)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|------|------|
| Postal receipts \$ | 10,340 | + 24 | + 13 |
| Value of building permits \$ | 631,846 | - 18 | - 16 |
| Bank debits (thousands) \$ | 10,890 | + 34 | + 9 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | 10,262 | + 47 | + 21 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 13.9 | + 1 | - 1 |

GLADEWATER: (pop. 5,305)

| | | | |
|--|--------|------|------|
| Postal receipts \$ | 5,344 | + 5 | + 29 |
| Bank debits (thousands) \$ | 4,191 | + 5 | + 2 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | 4,101 | + 1 | - 10 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 11.6 | - 2 | + 9 |
| Employment (area) | 23,950 | | x |
| Manufacturing employment (area) | 3,775 | | 0 |
| Percent of labor force unemployed (area) | 4.8 | | + 2 |
| Air express shipments | 3 | - 25 | +200 |

GOLDTHWAITE: (pop. 1,566)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|------|------|
| Retail sales* | | | + 7 |
| Postal receipts \$ | 1,700 | - 3 | + 7 |
| Bank debits (thousands) \$ | 2,655 | + 20 | + 7 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | 2,747 | + 8 | - 17 |

| City and item | July 1953 | Percent change | |
|--|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 |
| | | | |
| GONZALES: (pop. 5,659) | | | |
| Postal receipts | \$ 4,080 | — 8 | — 13 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 43,923 | +1317 | +137 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 4,984 | + 13 | + 5 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡..... | \$ 5,970 | x | — 1 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover..... | 10.0 | + 12 | + 6 |

GREENVILLE: (pop. 14,727)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|------|------|
| Retail sales* | | | - 17 |
| Department and apparel stores sales | | - 24 | - 32 |
| Postal receipts \$ | 14,397 | - 24 | - 10 |
| Value of building permits | 66,318 | - 37 | - 40 |
| Bank debits (thousands) \$ | 10,922 | + 2 | - 9 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | 12,234 | - 14 | - 2 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 10.6 | + 12 | - 8 |

HARLINGEN: (pop. 23,229)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|------|------|
| Retail sales* | | | + 4 |
| Postal receipts \$ | 24,721 | + 16 | + 5 |
| Value of building permits | 31,240 | - 77 | - 64 |
| Bank debits (thousands) \$ | 48,137 | + 13 | + 80 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | 22,448 | - 4 | + 13 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 27.3 | + 13 | + 62 |
| Air express shipments | 72 | - 47 | - 6 |

HENDERSON: (pop. 6,833)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|------|------|
| Retail sales* | | | - 1 |
| Postal receipts \$ | 8,142 | + 4 | + 7 |
| Value of building permits | 38,018 | - 3 | - 26 |
| Bank debits (thousands) \$ | 4,912 | - 9 | - 19 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | 13,628 | - 2 | + 1 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 4.3 | - 16 | - 20 |

HEREFORD: (pop. 5,207)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|------|------|
| Postal receipts \$ | 5,727 | + 8 | + 5 |
| Value of building permits | 20,450 | - 71 | - 55 |
| Bank debits (thousands) \$ | 8,587 | - 3 | + 20 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | 8,870 | - 13 | + 8 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 12.1 | + 3 | + 22 |

HOUSTON: (pop. 596,163)

| | | | |
|---|-----------|------|------|
| Retail sales† | | + 15 | - 1 |
| Apparel stores† | | + 8 | - 2 |
| Automotive stores† | | + 56 | - 5 |
| Department stores† | | + 3 | - 8 |
| Drug stores† | | + 4 | + 1 |
| Eating and drinking places† | | + 5 | x |
| Filling stations† | | + 16 | - 4 |
| Food stores† | | + 5 | + 2 |
| Furniture and household appliance stores† | | + 2 | - 4 |
| General merchandise stores† | | + 10 | - 5 |
| Liquor stores† | | + 7 | + 8 |
| Lumber, building material, and hardware stores† | | + 3 | + 10 |
| Postal receipts \$ | 861,383 | - 3 | x |
| Value of building permits | 9,649,120 | - 7 | - 55 |
| Bank debits (thousands) \$ | 1,662,377 | + 6 | - 3 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | 1,044,750 | - 12 | - 2 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 19.0 | - 1 | - 3 |
| Employment (area)* | 354,450 | + 3 | x |
| Manufacturing employment (area)* | 85,275 | + 5 | + 1 |
| Percent of labor force unemployed (area)* | 3.7 | + 28 | + 19 |
| Air express shipments | 4,119 | - 3 | - 2 |

For explanation of symbols, see page 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

| City and item | July 1953 | Percent change | |
|---|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 |
| KERMIT: (pop. 6,912) | | | |
| Postal receipts | \$ 5,537 | + 3 | + 26 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 56,600 | - 60 | ---- |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 3,521 | + 1 | + 19 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 3,346 | - 23 | + 8 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 13.1 | + 38 | + 4 |
| KILGORE: (pop. 9,638) | | | |
| Postal receipts | \$ 11,803 | + 1 | + 22 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 15,000 | - 75 | ---- |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 13,517 | + 1 | + 4 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 14,571 | + 1 | - 1 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 11.1 | 0 | + 2 |
| Employment (area) | 23,950 | ---- | x |
| Manufacturing employment (area) | 3,775 | ---- | 0 |
| Percent of labor force unemployed (area) | 4.8 | ---- | + 2 |
| Air express shipments | 19 | 0 | + 36 |
| KILLEEN: (pop. 7,045) | | | |
| Postal receipts | \$ 14,113 | - 30 | - 14 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 15,900 | ---- | - 68 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 4,221 | - 36 | x |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 9,736 | + 4 | - 3 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 5.1 | - 35 | 0 |
| LAMESA: (pop. 10,704) | | | |
| Postal receipts | \$ 7,416 | - 8 | + 15 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 1,000 | - 98 | - 92 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 7,025 | - 19 | + 15 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 11,850 | - 15 | - 3 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 7.0 | - 4 | + 19 |
| LAMPASAS: (pop. 4,869) | | | |
| Retail sales* | ----- | ---- | - 15 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 3,869 | + 16 | + 31 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 22,275 | - 50 | - 15 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 3,537 | - 13 | - 14 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 6,575 | x | - 3 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 6.4 | - 15 | - 12 |
| LAREDO: (pop. 51,910) | | | |
| Department and apparel store sales | ----- | - 15 | + 3 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 25,727 | + 1 | + 17 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 111,475 | - 85 | +326 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 19,014 | - 7 | - 5 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 18,278 | - 27 | - 4 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 12.2 | - 2 | - 4 |
| Air express shipments | 135 | - 39 | - 6 |
| Tourists entering Mexico | 16,262 | - 10 | + 45 |
| Tourist cars entering Mexico | 4,900 | - 12 | + 18 |
| LEVELLAND: (pop. 8,264) | | | |
| Postal receipts | \$ 6,585 | + 4 | + 34 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 28,300 | - 75 | + 26 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 5,425 | ---- | - 8 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 7,781 | ---- | - 3 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 8.2 | ---- | - 5 |
| LONGVIEW: (pop. 24,502) | | | |
| Postal receipts | \$ 27,314 | + 1 | - 1 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 333,685 | - 57 | - 1 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 34,081 | + 11 | + 4 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 36,455 | + 4 | - 1 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 11.2 | + 6 | + 3 |
| Employment (area) | 23,950 | ---- | x |
| Manufacturing employment (area) | 3,775 | ---- | 0 |
| Percent of labor force unemployed (area) | 4.8 | ---- | + 2 |
| Air express shipments | 195 | + 82 | + 11 |

| City and item | July 1953 | Percent change | |
|--|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 |
| LOCKHART: (pop. 5,573) | | | |
| Department and apparel store sales..... | ..... | - 2 | - 17 |
| Postal receipts.....\$ | 2,815 | - 6 | - 2 |
| Value of building permits.....\$ | 42,450 | + 68 | +168 |
| Bank debits (thousands).....\$ | 3,340 | + 10 | + 26 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....\$ | 4,531 | + 8 | + 2 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover..... | 8.9 | + 3 | + 25 |
| LUBBOCK: (pop. 71,747) | | | |
| Retail sales..... | ..... | + 1 | + 2 |
| Automotive stores..... | ..... | + 7 | - 3 |
| Department and apparel stores..... | ..... | - 3 | + 18 |
| Furniture and household appliance stores..... | ..... | + 22 | - 9 |
| General merchandise stores..... | ..... | - 3 | + 20 |
| Lumber, building material, and hardware stores..... | ..... | - 40 | - 23 |
| Postal receipts.....\$ | 81,426 | x | + 3 |
| Value of building permits.....\$ | 952,114 | - 63 | - 28 |
| Bank debits (thousands).....\$ | 92,086 | - 12 | - 4 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....\$ | 75,458 | - 25 | - 9 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover..... | 14.0 | - 7 | - 1 |
| Employment*..... | 32,750 | + 8 | - 1 |
| Manufacturing employment*..... | 3,350 | + 5 | - 2 |
| Percent of labor force unemployed*..... | 6.3 | + 97 | 0 |
| Air express shipments..... | 673 | +213 | - 7 |
| LUFKIN: (pop. 15,135) | | | |
| Postal receipts.....\$ | 14,225 | + 6 | + 9 |
| Value of building permits.....\$ | 154,875 | +177 | +449 |
| Bank debits (thousands).....\$ | 15,855 | - 5 | - 17 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....\$ | 19,248 | + 1 | - 10 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover..... | 9.4 | - 9 | - 13 |
| Air express shipments..... | 33 | + 10 | + 6 |
| McALLEN: (pop. 20,067) | | | |
| Retail sales..... | ..... | + 6 | - 4 |
| Department and apparel stores..... | ..... | + 8 | + 5 |
| Postal receipts.....\$ | 13,984 | + 1 | - 3 |
| Value of building permits.....\$ | 41,525 | - 43 | - 61 |
| Air express shipments..... | 40 | + 90 | - 33 |
| McKINNEY: (pop. 10,560) | | | |
| Postal receipts.....\$ | 6,848 | + 2 | + 1 |
| Value of building permits.....\$ | 36,800 | - 13 | +601 |
| Bank debits (thousands).....\$ | 5,634 | + 10 | - 7 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....\$ | 10,597 | + 7 | - 2 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover..... | 6.3 | + 2 | - 9 |
| MARSHALL: (pop. 22,327) | | | |
| Department and apparel store sales..... | ..... | - 2 | - 22 |
| Postal receipts.....\$ | 17,827 | + 11 | + 14 |
| Value of building permits.....\$ | 128,575 | - 19 | - 17 |
| Bank debits (thousands).....\$ | 13,534 | + 8 | - 8 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....\$ | 20,077 | + 5 | x |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover..... | 8.1 | + 4 | - 8 |
| MERCEDES: (pop. 10,081) | | | |
| Postal receipts.....\$ | 4,175 | - 3 | - 4 |
| Value of building permits.....\$ | 1,385 | ..... | - 48 |
| Bank debits (thousands).....\$ | 7,887 | - 9 | + 21 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....\$ | 6,573 | - 8 | + 15 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover..... | 15.4 | 0 | + 15 |
| MIDLAND: (pop. 21,713) | | | |
| Postal receipts.....\$ | 44,540 | + 3 | + 8 |
| Value of building permits.....\$ | 561,710 | - 82 | - 1 |
| Bank debits (thousands).....\$ | 47,218 | - 4 | - 4 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....\$ | 60,417 | + 14 | - 4 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover..... | 9.2 | - 15 | - 3 |
| Air express shipments..... | 178 | - 14 | + 12 |

For explanation of symbols, see page 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

| City and item | July 1953 | Percent change | | City and item | July 1953 | Percent change | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 | | | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 |
| NACOGDOCHES: (pop. 12,327) | | | | PORT ARTHUR: (pop. 57,530) | | | |
| Postal receipts | \$ 8,135 | - 18 | - 8 | Retail sales* | | - 9 | - 11 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 19,425 | - 27 | - 53 | Department and apparel stores | | - 11 | - 15 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 9,324 | - 3 | - 1 | Drug stores* | | + 3 | + 1 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 15,142 | x | + 4 | Filling stations* | | - 34 | - 1 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 7.6 | + 3 | - 1 | Food stores* | | + 4 | + 7 |
| Air express shipments | 11 | 0 | - 21 | Furniture and household appliance stores* | | - 29 | - 19 |
| NEW BRAUNFELS: (pop. 12,210) | | | | Lumber, building material, and hardware stores* | | - 34 | - 34 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 9,817 | - 14 | - 9 | Postal receipts | \$ 35,471 | - 1 | + 5 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 73,845 | - 31 | - 29 | Value of building permits | \$ 157,943 | - 64 | - 58 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 9,270 | | + 30 | Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 46,960 | + 9 | - 8 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 7,473 | | - 26 | End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 36,988 | - 11 | x |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 12.7 | | + 35 | Annual rate of deposit turnover | 15.2 | + 10 | - 7 |
| ODESSA: (pop. 29,495) | | | | Employment (area) | 79,375 | - 2 | 0 |
| Retail sales | | - 14 | - 10 | Manufacturing employment (area) | 26,990 | + 2 | + 1 |
| Department and apparel stores | | - 4 | + 19 | Percent of labor force unemployed (area) | 5.7 | 0 | - 2 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 39,592 | + 5 | + 30 | Air express shipments | 115 | + 20 | - 7 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 539,441 | - 52 | - 60 | RAYMONDVILLE: (pop. 9,136) | | | |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 33,060 | - 7 | - 5 | Postal receipts | \$ 4,825 | - 24 | + 10 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 30,370 | - 10 | - 7 | Value of building permits | \$ 1,700 | - 79 | - 26 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 12.6 | + 9 | - 1 | Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 13,243 | + 42 | +126 |
| Air express shipments | 118 | - 45 | - 14 | End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 10,380 | - 22 | + 21 |
| ORANGE: (pop. 21,174) | | | | Annual rate of deposit turnover | 16.7 | + 55 | + 92 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 14,554 | - 3 | + 7 | ROCKDALE: (pop. 2,321) | | | |
| Value of building permits | \$ 233,996 | +406 | - 54 | Postal receipts | \$ 4,384 | + 15 | + 52 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 17,832 | + 19 | - 13 | Value of building permits | \$ 427,000 | | +981 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 24,470 | + 5 | + 1 | Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 3,432 | + 14 | - 7 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 8.8 | + 26 | - 14 | End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 3,531 | + 15 | - 4 |
| PALESTINE: (pop. 12,503) | | | | Annual rate of deposit turnover | 11.4 | - 3 | - 11 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 10,073 | - 4 | + 15 | SAN ANGELO: (pop. 52,093) | | | |
| Value of building permits | \$ 52,543 | - 10 | + 56 | Retail sales | | - 20 | - 15 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 5,879 | + 3 | - 8 | Department and apparel stores | | - 10 | + 8 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 11,590 | - 6 | - 7 | Postal receipts | \$ 46,261 | + 10 | + 8 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 5.9 | + 5 | - 3 | Value of building permits | \$ 547,124 | + 21 | + 9 |
| PARIS: (pop. 21,643) | | | | Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 37,456 | + 4 | - 6 |
| Retail sales | | + 16 | + 11 | End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 44,886 | - 11 | - 1 |
| Department and apparel stores | | - 6 | - 13 | Annual rate of deposit turnover | 10.0 | + 5 | - 6 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 13,258 | - 5 | + 8 | Employment | 21,400 | - 7 | x |
| Value of building permits | \$ 29,006 | - 36 | - 53 | Manufacturing employment | 2,250 | + 6 | + 1 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 11,920 | + 1 | + 5 | Percent of labor force unemployed | 4.7 | + 18 | - 4 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 13,891 | - 7 | - 2 | Air express shipments | 317 | + 84 | + 32 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 10.2 | + 15 | + 5 | SAN MARCOS: (pop. 9,980) | | | |
| Air express shipments | 43 | + 39 | + 30 | Postal receipts | \$ 9,563 | + 11 | - 5 |
| PECOS: (pop. 8,054) | | | | Value of building permits | \$ 20,145 | - 50 | - 97 |
| Department and apparel store sales | | - 18 | + 3 | Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 4,660 | - 6 | - 5 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 7,873 | x | - 4 | End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 7,959 | + 8 | + 3 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 91,302 | - 66 | + 69 | Annual rate of deposit turnover | 7.1 | - 10 | - 7 |
| Air express shipments | 26 | - 7 | + 8 | SEGUIN: (pop. 9,733) | | | |
| PHARR: (pop. 8,690) | | | | Postal receipts | \$ 8,313 | + 2 | - 6 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 3,830 | - 4 | - 5 | Value of building permits | \$ 70,587 | +132 | - 38 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 39,327 | - 14 | 0 | Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 6,744 | + 8 | + 6 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 2,708 | - 10 | + 10 | End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 15,550 | + 7 | + 1 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 3,515 | + 9 | + 4 | Annual rate of deposit turnover | 5.2 | 0 | + 4 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 9.4 | - 28 | + 2 | SHERMAN: (pop. 20,150) | | | |
| PLAINVIEW: (pop. 14,044) | | | | Retail sales | | - 4 | - 15 |
| Retail sales | | - 7 | x | Department and apparel stores sales | | + 7 | - 13 |
| Department and apparel stores | | - 17 | x | Postal receipts | \$ 21,410 | - 7 | - 1 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 11,294 | - 1 | - 24 | Value of building permits | \$ 124,086 | - 72 | - 24 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 165,500 | - 56 | +107 | | | | |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 13,764 | - 12 | + 8 | | | | |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands)† | \$ 19,451 | - 1 | - 4 | | | | |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 8.3 | - 14 | + 12 | | | | |
| Air express shipments | 53 | +112 | + 33 | | | | |

For explanation of symbols, see page 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

| City and item | July 1953 | Percent change | |
|--|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 |
| SAN ANTONIO: (pop. 408,442) | | | |
| Retail sales* | ----- | + 6 | - 3 |
| Apparel stores* ----- | ----- | + 2 | - 2 |
| Automotive stores* ----- | ----- | + 40 | - 1 |
| Department stores† ----- | ----- | - 2 | - 12 |
| Drug stores* ----- | ----- | x | + 1 |
| Eating and drinking places* ----- | ----- | - 9 | + 4 |
| Filling stations* ----- | ----- | - 5 | - 2 |
| Food stores* ----- | ----- | + 2 | + 5 |
| Furniture and household appliance stores* ----- | ----- | + 1 | - 2 |
| General merchandise stores* ----- | ----- | + 1 | - 12 |
| Lumber, building material, and hardware stores* ----- | ----- | + 14 | + 4 |
| Office, store, and school supply dealers* ----- | ----- | - 1 | + 2 |
| Postal receipts ----- \$ | 453,911 | x | + 3 |
| Value of building permits ----- \$ | 4,305,388 | + 73 | - 2 |
| Bank debits (thousands) ----- \$ | 395,475 | + 10 | - 3 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ ----- \$ | 310,981 | - 22 | - 5 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover ----- | 14.9 | + 3 | - 2 |
| Employment* ----- | 198,100 | - 1 | x |
| Manufacturing employment* ----- | 21,975 | - 1 | x |
| Percent of labor force unemployed* ----- | 5.3 | + 47 | + 2 |
| Air express shipments ----- | 1,981 | - 8 | + 1 |

SULPHUR SPRINGS: (pop. 8,991)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-----|-------|
| Postal receipts | \$ 5,816 | + 4 | + 16 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 245,735 | | +1790 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 5,918 | - 2 | x |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 10,503 | + 5 | + 1 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 6.8 | - 6 | - 3 |

SWEETWATER: (pop. 13,619)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| Retail sales | | - 8 | - 6 |
| Department and apparel stores | | - 10 | - 16 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 9,886 | - 3 | + 2 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 62,200 | + 4 | + 75 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 7,749 | | + 2 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 9,907 | | - 3 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 9.3 | | + 8 |
| Air express shipments | 11 | - 50 | - 15 |

TAYLOR: (pop. 9,071)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| Postal receipts | \$ 7,411 | + 12 | + 19 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 33,379 | + 21 | - 29 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 10,857 | + 5 | + 9 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 13,594 | + 2 | x |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 9.6 | 0 | + 10 |

TEMPLE: (pop. 25,467)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| Retail sales | | - 6 | - 4 |
| Department and apparel stores | | - 10 | - 16 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 25,048 | - 1 | + 12 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 84,705 | - 59 | - 52 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 16,091 | - 3 | + 2 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 22,202 | + 3 | - 2 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 8.6 | - 1 | 0 |
| Air express shipments | 39 | + 34 | - 7 |

TYLER: (pop. 38,968)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------|------|
| Retail sales | | + 9 | - 9 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 44,043 | + 5 | - 7 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 463,086 | - 12 | - 38 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 58,233 | + 9 | + 3 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 52,714 | - 11 | - 1 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 13.2 | + 5 | + 3 |
| Air express shipments | 229 | + 60 | - 2 |

| City and item | July 1953 | Percent change | |
|--|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | July 1953 from July 1952 | July 1953 from June 1953 |
| TEXARKANA: (pop. 40, 628) § | | | |
| Retail sales\$ _____ | _____ | + 5 | — 2 |
| Department and apparel stores\$ _____ | _____ | — 1 | — 8 |
| Postal receipts\$ _____ \$ | 46,361 | + 2 | + 11 |
| Value of building permits\$ _____ | 132,672 | + 61 | — 8 |
| Bank debits (thousands)\$ _____ \$ | 44,486 | + 14 | + 7 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ _____ \$ | 18,862 | — 33 | — 2 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover _____ | 12.2 | — 2 | + 3 |
| Employment\$ _____ | 43,000 | — 10 | + 1 |
| Manufacturing employment\$ _____ | 11,175 | + 20 | + 3 |
| Percent of labor force unemployed\$ _____ | 6.1 | + 36 | 0 |
| Air express shipments\$ _____ | 82 | — 12 | — 14 |

TEXAS CITY: (pop. 16,620)

| | | | |
|--|------------|------|------|
| Retail sales | | + 18 | - 12 |
| Department and apparel stores | | + 47 | + 12 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 15,588 | + 11 | + 12 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 298,875 | - 33 | - 46 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 26,145 | + 3 | - 6 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 26,056 | + 1 | - 3 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 11.8 | - 9 | - 5 |
| Employment (area) | 48,600 | - 1 | x |
| Manufacturing employment (area) | 12,040 | + 5 | + 2 |
| Percent of labor force unemployed (area) | 3.9 | + 5 | + 5 |

WACO: (pop. 84,706)

| | | | |
|--|--------------|------|------|
| Retail sales | | + 1 | - 11 |
| Apparel stores | | - 22 | - 11 |
| Automotive stores | | + 13 | - 7 |
| Department stores† | | - 11 | - 33 |
| Furniture and household appliance stores | | - 11 | - 52 |
| Lumber, building material, and hardware stores | | - 7 | - 30 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 109,130 | + 10 | + 13 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 1,176,755 | + 50 | - 4 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 74,930 | + 11 | - 5 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 62,475 | - 29 | + 1 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 14.5 | + 9 | - 7 |
| Employment | 44,300 | - 10 | + 4 |
| Manufacturing employment | 8,675 | + 4 | + 18 |
| Percent of labor force unemployed | 4.9 | + 23 | - 23 |
| Air express shipments | 138 | + 1 | + 5 |

WAXAHACHIE: (pop. 11,204)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| Postal receipts | \$ 8,694 | + 12 | + 65 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 42,800 | + 97 | - 39 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 3,340 | - 1 | - 11 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 3,281 | + 3 | - 11 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 11.5 | - 6 | - 15 |

WICHITA FALLS: (pop. 68,042)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------|------|
| Retail sales | | + 18 | + 2 |
| Department and apparel stores | | - 6 | - 2 |
| Postal receipts | \$ 85,574 | + 7 | - 2 |
| Value of building permits | \$ 691,535 | + 14 | + 22 |
| Bank debits (thousands) | \$ 82,134 | - 10 | - 1 |
| End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ | \$ 97,305 | - 8 | - 1 |
| Annual rate of deposit turnover | 10.1 | - 14 | - 2 |
| Air express shipments | 448 | +168 | + 15 |

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

*Preliminary.

†Reported by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

‡Excludes deposits to credit of banks.

§Reported by the Bureau of Business Research, University of Houston.

§Figures include Texarkana, Arkansas (pop. 15,875) and Texarkana, Texas (pop. 24,753).

BAROMETERS OF TEXAS BUSINESS

| | July 1953 | June 1953 | May 1953 | Year-to-date average 1953 | Average month 1952 |
|--|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| GENERAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY | | | | | |
| †Index of Texas Business Activity (100.0)..... | 287* | 298 | 291 | 294 | 269 |
| Index of bank debits..... | 690 | 708 | 695 | 696 | 661 |
| Income payments to individuals in the U.S. (billions—seasonally adjusted at annual rate)..... | ----- | \$ 285.9* | \$ 284.7 | \$ 283.1 | \$ 269.7 |
| Index of wholesale prices in the U.S. (1947-49=100, unadjusted)..... | 110.9 | 109.4 | 109.8 | 109.9 | 111.6 |
| Index of consumers' prices in the U.S. (1947-49=100, unadjusted)..... | 114.7 | 114.5 | 114.0 | 114.0 | 113.5 |
| Index of postal receipts..... | 424 | 415 | 404 | 401 | 382 |
| †Index of miscellaneous freight carloadings in the Southwestern Dis- trict (17.6)..... | 145 | 145 | 143 | 144 | 144 |
| Business corporation charters issued (number)..... | 294* | 317 | 345 | 330 | 278 |
| Business failures (number)..... | 17 | 13 | 12 | 14 | 8 |
| TRADE | | | | | |
| †Index of total retail sales (adjusted for price changes, 47.7)..... | 242* | 252 | 247 | 249 | 231 |
| Index of total retail sales..... | 504 | 525 | 514 | 519 | 486 |
| Durable-goods stores..... | 683 | 734 | 711 | 731 | 672 |
| Nondurable-goods stores..... | 417 | 424 | 419 | 417 | 397 |
| Ratio of credit sales to net sales in department and apparel stores..... | 59.9 | 63.9 | 65.6 | 64.1 | 63.7 |
| Ratio of collections to outstandings in department and apparel stores..... | 40.2 | 38.1 | 39.0 | 41.3 | 44.4 |
| Index of gasoline sales..... | ----- | 275 | 257 | 276 | 260 |
| PRODUCTION | | | | | |
| †Index of industrial electric power consumption (14.8)..... | 595 | 625 | 625 | 628 | 536 |
| †Index of crude runs to stills (4.5)..... | 205 | 220 | 222 | 221 | 209 |
| Index of wheat grindings..... | ----- | 92 | 99 | 100 | 99 |
| Index of cottonseed crushed..... | ----- | 327 | 259 | 192 | 126 |
| Index of southern pine production (unadjusted)..... | ----- | 129 | 127 | 128 | 123 |
| Index of dairy product manufacturing..... | 51 | 63 | 70 | 69 | 49 |
| †Index of urban building permits (adjusted for price changes, 3.8)..... | 157 | 208 | 191 | 196 | 190 |
| Index of urban building permits..... | 350 | 463 | 417 | 428 | 399 |
| †Index of crude petroleum production (8.6)..... | 232 | 222 | 211 | 226 | 232 |
| †Index of total electric power consumption (3.0)..... | 776 | 749 | 678 | 693 | 594 |
| Index of industrial production in the U.S..... | 232* | 241* | 240 | 239 | 219 |
| Index of cement production..... | ----- | 317 | 330 | 327 | 325 |
| Construction contracts awarded (thousands)..... | \$ 84,000 | \$ 89,957 | \$130,338 | \$ 98,076 | \$111,344 |
| AGRICULTURE | | | | | |
| Index of farm cash income (unadjusted)..... | 337 | 291 | 312 | 313 | 506 |
| Index of prices received by farmers (unadjusted)..... | 272 | 264 | 280 | 280 | 332 |
| Index of prices paid by farmers in the U.S. (parity index—unadjusted, 1910-14=100)..... | 278 | 276 | 279 | 279 | 288 |
| Parity ratio..... | 98 | 96 | 100 | 100 | 116 |
| Index of prices received by farmers—livestock (unadjusted, 1910-14= 100)..... | 288 | 269 | 309 | 308 | 371 |
| Index of prices received by farmers—all crops (unadjusted, 1910-14= 100)..... | 260 | 260 | 257 | 258 | 303 |
| FINANCE | | | | | |
| Loans, reporting member banks in Dallas district (millions)..... | \$ 1,776 | \$ 1,759 | \$ 1,761 | \$ 1,765 | \$ 1,609 |
| Loans and investments, reporting member banks in Dallas district (millions)..... | \$ 3,188 | \$ 3,103 | \$ 3,039 | \$ 3,108 | \$ 2,999 |
| Demand deposits adjusted, reporting member banks in Dallas district (millions)..... | \$ 2,486 | \$ 2,410 | \$ 2,442 | \$ 2,452 | \$ 2,385 |
| Bank debits in 20 cities (millions)..... | \$ 5,551 | \$ 5,718 | \$ 5,377 | \$ 5,540 | \$ 5,382 |
| Revenue receipts of the State Comptroller (thousands)..... | \$ 62,935 | \$ 69,068 | \$ 68,027 | \$ 64,469 | \$ 58,076 |
| Federal Internal Revenue collections (thousands)..... | \$124,821 | \$249,509 | \$171,596 | \$216,812 | \$188,187 |
| LABOR | | | | | |
| Total nonagricultural employment (thousands)..... | 2,275.9* | 2,280.8 | 2,267.9 | 2,261.3 | 2,215.2 |
| Total manufacturing employment (thousands)..... | 438.8* | 437.6 | 437.5 | 437.5 | 425.9 |
| Durable-goods employment (thousands)..... | 209.8* | 208.5 | 207.0 | 207.4 | 203.3 |
| Nondurable-goods employment (thousands)..... | 229.0* | 229.1 | 230.5 | 230.1 | 222.6 |

All figures are for Texas unless otherwise indicated. All indexes are based on the average months for 1935-39 except where indicated and are adjusted for seasonal variation (except annual indexes).

Manufacturing employment estimates have been adjusted to first quarter 1952 benchmarks.

*Preliminary.

†The index of business activity is a weighted average of the indexes indicated by a dagger (†). The weight given each index in computing the composite is given in parentheses.

‡New series. Index computed from estimates of retail sales published by Bureau of the Census.