

# TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW

*A Monthly Summary of Business and Economic Conditions in Texas*

BUREAU OF BUSINESS RESEARCH

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION : THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

VOL. XXVII, No. 5

JUNE 1953

## *Texas polyethylene*

Industry now squeezes gas into a solid plastic, useful for wrapping everything from tomatoes to telephone calls.

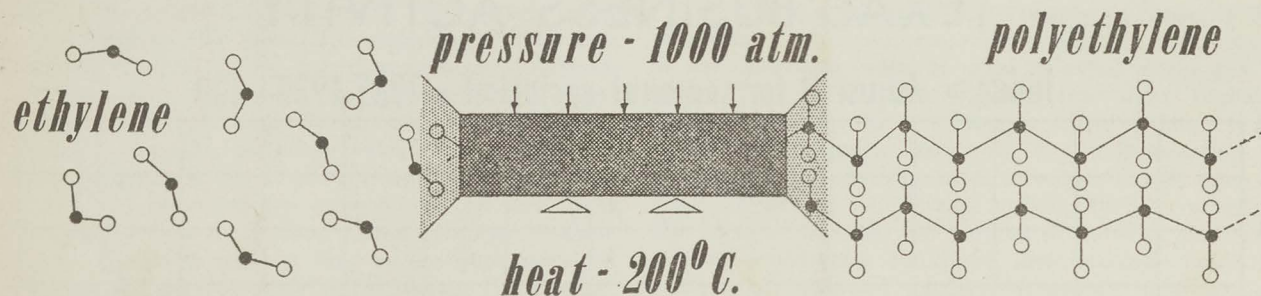
In 1953, turkeys and television programs alike are shuttled about the nation sheathed in polyethylene, the little-known and most prodigiously booming of Texas' industrial products. This new and versatile plastic is so flexible and tough it can be bent to almost any use that demands a light, waterproof plastic, resistant to chemical corrosion and endowed with excellent electric insulation properties.

Polyethylene, actually a solidified gas, is made by advanced technological methods that were still in the pilot plant stage until shortly before World War II. The white, waxlike plastic was first commercially made around 1939 by Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. in England. Fourteen years later, ICI still holds the high hand in polyethylene production through its control of the basic process patents; and so far, all American

producers are using essentially the same processes under license from ICI.

Scientists have known for years that certain substances—rubber is an ideal example—owe their special characteristics to the linked structure of their giant molecules, *polymers*. Molecules are the smallest particles of any substance that have all the properties of the substance in larger quantity. It is not surprising that these tiny particles of a gas are commonly lighter and farther apart than molecules of a solid. The crucial discovery was that the very light molecules of certain gases, ethylene for instance, could be heated and subjected to such intense pressure that they would literally stick together to form long chains or lattice structures. Each

*(Please turn to page 15)*



The sketch above outlines the essential process by which the translucent, white plastic, polyethylene, is made. Each ethylene molecule (left) is composed of a single carbon atom, represented by a black dot, double-bonded to each of two atoms of hydrogen by the electronic attraction that holds all matter together. These infinitesimal units of ethylene gas, mixed with other substances, are subjected to a pressure of some 1,000 atmospheres, the equivalent of 14,700 pounds per square inch and one of the highest pressures used in any industrial process. This pressure, together with a heat of around 200° centigrade and the action of various catalysts and promoters, forces some of the ethylene molecules to shift two of their bonds outward to join them with other molecules. The product (right) is polyethylene, a mass of chains and crystalline structures, each containing hundreds of the original ethylene molecules.

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TWO DOLLARS A YEAR

# The Business Situation in Texas

The level of business activity in Texas during May continued at an extremely high rate, but more signs are appearing to suggest that the peak is past and that a downturn is now definitely a possibility. The composite index of business activity compiled by the Bureau of Business Research dropped from 294 in April to 291 in May, and all of the component series declined. The table below gives the values of the seven components of the index of business activity, as well as the composite, and the chart at the bottom of the page shows the composite index graphically. The index of bank debits on page 3 shows essentially the same picture, with May registering a 2% decline.

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

Indexes	Weight	May 1953	Apr 1953	Percent change
<b>INDEX OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY</b>				
(COMPOSITE) .....	100.0	291*	294	— 1
Retail sales, adjusted for price changes.....	47.7	246*	248	— 1
Industrial power consumption .....	14.8	625	627	x
Crude oil runs to stills .....	4.5	222	229	— 3
Electric power consumption .....	3.0	678	686	— 1
Miscellaneous freight carloadings .....	17.6	143	145	— 1
Urban building permits, adjusted for price changes .....	3.8	200*	211	— 5
Crude petroleum production .....	8.6	211	216	— 2

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

\*Preliminary.

The fluctuations in business activity in Texas during the first five months of 1953 have been relatively slight. The index for January reached 300% of the 1935-39 base, a level that has not been reached since. The average of the index for the first five months of 1953 was

295, higher than any individual month in 1952. The low for 1953, the 291 registered for May, was 3% below the postwar high of 300 reached in January. The chart below emphasizes the high degree of stability shown by the index; it will be noted that the line has been practically straight during 1953.

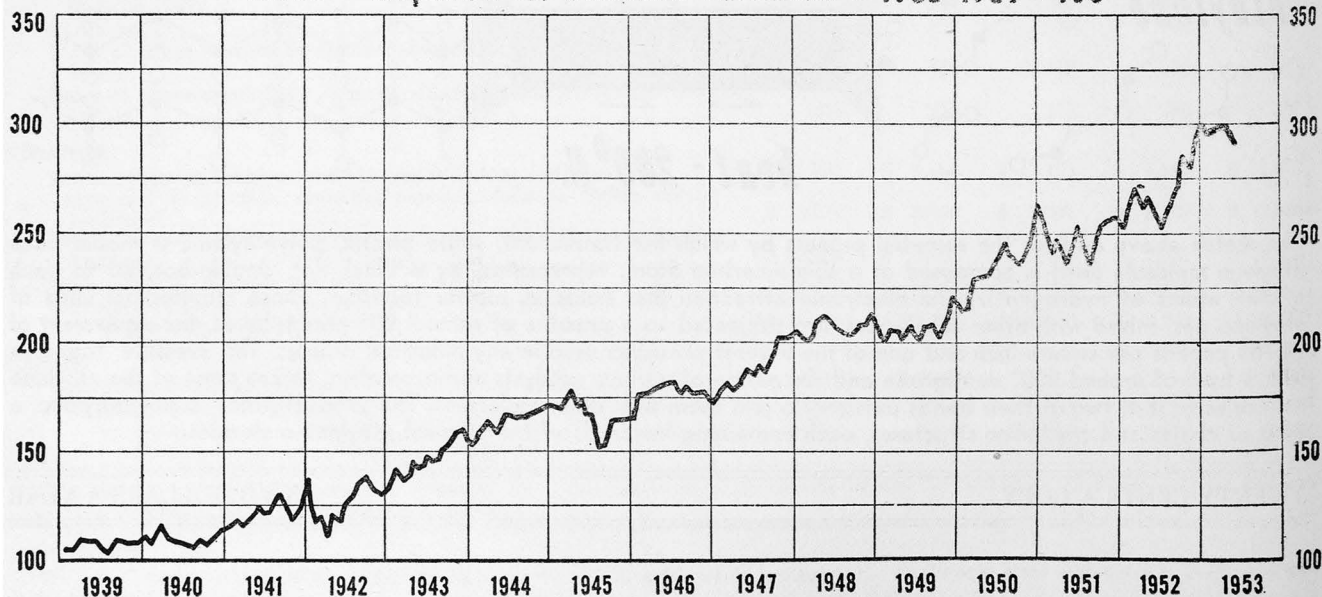
The history of the fluctuations in business activity supports the generalization that business rarely remains at the same level for long. Periods of increasing activity are followed by declining volume; and when the decline is arrested, the level of business normally turns up rather than remaining at the low level. On the basis of the past record there is reason to believe that the present stability of the index will not continue, and that it may be expected either to resume its climb or turn down.

Most of the evidence indicates that when a change in Texas business comes it will be a decline rather than a further rise. This conclusion makes no forecast of any new development in the foreign situation but assumes a continuation of the present state of affairs. In the absence of any new outside force operating to change the level of activity, the self-generating forces of the business cycle that carry the level of business up seem to be losing most of their strength, while the forces that tend to slow down the expansion are becoming stronger.

The strong consumer demand that has held rather consistently since the end of World War II has encouraged businessmen to expand the capacity of business to produce goods. When the increased demands of the Korean War were added, business responded with an even greater rise in capacity. Texas industry received

## TEXAS BUSINESS ACTIVITY

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





an unusually large share of this expansion in capacity for the production of munitions and also consumer goods, with the result that income to consumers in this area increased strongly. The rise in consumer demand resulting from this increased income has maintained business activity at the highest level ever reached. The level of the index of Texas business activity during 1953 has been nearly three times the prewar level, and a considerable part of this increase has been since 1949. The average for the first five months of 1953 is nearly 50% above the average for 1949.

There are an increasing number of signs that indicate that the expansion of Texas industry is slowing down. This slowing down is not present in all phases of business, which suggests that any downturn may be limited, but it is definitely present in a number of lines. Construction is one of the most dynamic elements of the economic system and has contributed a very important portion of the stimulus to expansion in Texas business since the war. The data on building activity in the state give a strong indication that further contraction is coming. This is particularly true in residential building, which represents one of the major components of this industry. There is, however, still a large backlog of needed construction in roads and certain types of public building.

The gas industry plans a continuation of its post-war expansion program, although the estimates of construction expenditures for the next four years, made by the American Gas Association, show some decline from the record of the past four years. From 1949 through 1952, construction expenditures totalled \$4.7 billion, and from 1953 through 1956 it is expected that the industry will spend an additional \$4 billion. This expansion is particularly important to Texas, with the major portion of the nation's gas reserves. It is predicted that expenditures during 1953 will amount to nearly \$1.4 billion, making it the second largest year. In 1951 slightly more than \$1.4 billion was spent. The estimate for 1953 was approximately \$.25 billion less than previous estimates, due to the delay in approval for construction of pipeline facilities to the Pacific Northwest.

Capital expansion in Texas outside the natural-gas industry appears to be slowing down, in spite of the fact that business plans for expenditures on new plant and equipment for the United States continue to show increases. A survey made in May by the Department of Commerce and the Securities and Exchange Commission shows that business plans to spend at an annual rate of nearly \$29 billion for new plant and equipment in the third quarter of 1953. This is an all-time high, and is nearly 13% above the rate for the third quarter of 1952. The compilation made by the Bureau of Business Research of new and expanded industrial plants in Texas indicates that the rate of expansion in the state is not being maintained at the pace set during the past three years. The data available for Texas are not nearly so complete as those for the United States, but they are enough to suggest that the peak of industrial expansion may already have been passed in the state.

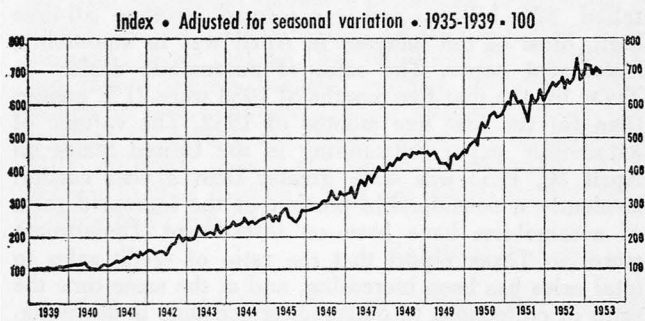
One series of data available promptly on the rate of capital expansion by business is sale of trucks. The majority of passenger cars sold are consumer goods, but

trucks are capital goods and their purchase by business represents capital expansion. Truck production for 1953 has been ahead of 1952, but the present rate of production is approximately 45% below the level of the peak reached last spring.

If it is correct that construction and industrial expansion have both passed their peaks, there is strong reason for believing that a further gain in Texas business is not to be expected. These two phases of business have contributed substantially to the post-war boom, and a decline in either will almost inevitably be felt immediately in business activity.

Total business inventories rose approximately 1% in April to register the highest level on record. However, the rate of increase in inventories has slowed down considerably. More and more businessmen are beginning to worry about the size of their stocks, and there is reason to believe that a further rise in inventories may not be forthcoming. If the building up of inventories comes to an end, still another stimulus to business activity will be removed. This fact gives another reason for believing that the peak has been passed.

### Bank Debits in Texas



The largest segment of the economy of Texas is the expenditure of consumers; this element is represented in the composite index of sales by retail stores and is given 47.7% of the total weight in the index. Changes in consumer buying are brought about primarily by changes in consumer income or in the expectation of income. Liquid savings and consumer credit are on occasion used to supplement income. Factors, affecting the level of income, the volume of savings, and consumers' willingness to spend these savings, and the amount of consumer credit outstanding have an important effect on consumer buying. The fact that the rate of industrial expansion in Texas and the rate of building activity are both slowing down would lead one to expect a slowing down in consumer spending. Farm income is also an important factor in the incomes of Texas consumers. The substantial reduction in farm income still further weakens the position of Texas consumers.

The volume of retail sales has failed to advance during the first five months of 1953. The peak was reached in January and sales in May were 4% below this level. Both durable- and nondurable-goods stores have declined during the period, although nondurable-goods stores reversed the decline with a rise of 3% in May. Sales of durable-goods stores fell 6% in May, with the

# INDEXES OF CONSUMERS' PRICES IN HOUSTON (1947-49=100)

Index	May 1953	Feb 1953	May 1952	Percent change	
				May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Feb 1953
ALL ITEMS .....	116.8	116.1	114.8	+ 2	+ 1
Food .....	111.9	111.6	111.9	0	x
Apparel .....	107.0	107.4	109.4	- 2	x
Housing .....	123.2	122.0	119.1	+ 3	+ 1
Transportation .....	126.7	126.7	123.8	+ 2	0
Medical care .....	118.4	117.2	112.7	+ 5	+ 1
Personal care .....	119.5	119.4	118.8	+ 1	x
Reading and recreation .....	114.5	112.0	107.7	+ 6	+ 2
Other goods and services .....	119.4	116.9	117.8	+ 1	+ 2

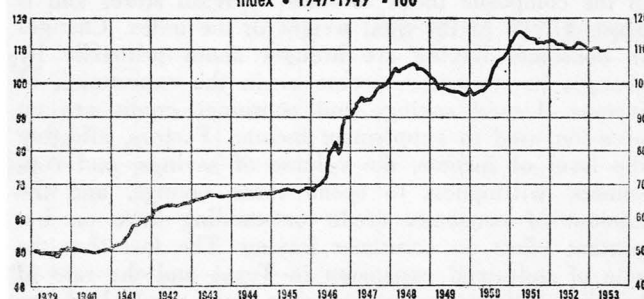
xChange is less than one half of one percent.

total of retail declining 1%. It is significant that sales of stores in towns under 2,500 population for the first five months of 1953 were 11% below the same period last year, while for all other city size groups sales for 1953 are up from 1952. The fact that the income of farmers has suffered more severely than any other group suggests the reason for the decline in sales in small towns.

Consumer credit outstanding at the end of April totaled \$26 billion and represented another all-time high. Most of the increase in April was in automobile installment paper. The sales of automobile dealers in Texas for the first five months of 1953 were 21% greater than for the first five months of 1952. The volume of automobile paper outstanding in the United States on April 30, 1953 was 47% greater than a year earlier. Evidently a considerable portion of the increased sales of automobiles have been on installment. Department stores in Texas report that the ratio of credit sales to total sales has been increasing, and at the same time the ratio of collections to outstanding accounts is declining.

## Wholesale Prices in the U.S.

Index • 1947-1949 • 100



The level of wholesale prices was, on the average, stable during May. Prices of farm products declined throughout the month while processed foods increased at the end of the month. Industrial prices remained practically unchanged during May. The index of consumers' prices for all cities rose from 113.7 in April to 114.0 in May. Every group increased except transportation costs, which remained unchanged. The consumers' price index for Houston is available only quarterly; between February and May it registered an increase of .7 points.

JOHN R. STOCKTON



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## FINANCE

**Dip in Texas banking activity.** Most major categories of bank assets and liabilities changed little during May in reporting member banks of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District. Total deposits made a negligible decrease from \$3,049 million to \$3,038 million. United States Government deposits, however, dropped sharply (—38%) from \$58 million to \$36 million; most of this decrease, however, was offset by a \$17 million (+3%) gain in time deposits (from \$543 million to \$560 million). The volume of demand deposits at the end of May was only \$6 million below the \$2,448 million April level, although the volume had sagged to points considerably lower during the month. Interbank deposits were cut rather sharply (—6%) from \$756 million in April to \$711 million at May's end.

The slight over-all deposit withdrawals were met principally by a minor (—1%) reduction in loans (from \$1,781 million to \$1,761 million) and a similar (—1%) decrease in investments (from \$1,101 million to \$1,085 million). Declines in holdings of Treasury certificates (—15%) and Treasury notes (—5%) accounted for most of the change. Offsetting a part of this decrease was the 15% increase in Treasury bills.

**High level of revenue collections.** State revenue receipts for the September-May period, as reported by the State Comptroller of Public Accounts, are running 6%

REVENUE RECEIPTS OF STATE COMPTROLLER  
Source: State Comptroller of Public Accounts

Source	September 1-May 31		
	1952-53	1951-52	Percent change
TOTAL	\$547,325,042	\$514,431,346	+ 6
AD VALOREM TAX	25,956,116	24,038,409	+ 8
INHERITANCE TAX	5,224,244	4,723,290	+ 11
POLL TAX	1,559,020	2,651,113	— 41
GROSS RECEIPTS—UTILITIES AND TELEPHONE	6,182,470	5,461,513	+ 13
GROSS PRODUCTION			
Natural and casinghead gas	15,873,664	13,397,291	+ 18
Gas gathering tax	975,858	3,330,694	— 71
Crude oil	93,125,116	92,557,162	+ 1
Other	8,030,361	8,315,155	— 4
LICENSES AND FEES			
Occupation tax	19,313,739	15,961,884	+ 21
Net motor fuel tax	81,650,852	76,956,400	+ 6
Cigarette tax and licenses	26,303,576	25,640,077	+ 3
Alcoholic beverage tax and licenses	14,627,478	14,316,786	+ 2
Sales taxes	14,476,994	13,596,906	+ 6
Other licenses and fees	14,147,955	13,035,325	+ 9
FRANCHISE TAXES	13,756,565	13,438,180	+ 2
UNCLASSIFIED RECEIPTS			
Mineral leases, rentals, and bonuses	11,918,934	11,906,892	x
Oil and gas royalties	14,056,785	13,581,654	+ 3
Interest on securities owned	10,875,100	9,221,607	+ 18
Motor vehicle licenses, permits, and fees	35,210,027	30,230,796	+ 16
Other	6,415,685	6,387,776	x
Other miscellaneous revenue	8,349,569	4,706,097	+ 77
FEDERAL AID			
Highways	12,583,384	17,774,993	— 29
Public health	8,385,790	7,449,107	+ 13
Public welfare	74,485,424	53,581,576	+ 39
Public education	7,097,729	14,840,799	— 52
Other	1,453,348	1,016,790	+ 43
DONATIONS	50,514	62,550	— 19
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION TAXES	15,238,745	16,300,524	— 7

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

LOANS BY SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS  
Source: Federal Home Loan Bank of Little Rock

Type	May 1953	Apr 1953	Mar 1953	Feb 1953
Number				
ALL LOANS	3,436	3,574	3,200	2,961
Construction	628	662	638	613
Purchase	1,132	1,238	1,164	1,079
Refinancing	313	321	318	302
Reconditioning	426	417	315	293
Other	937	936	765	674
Value (thousands of dollars)				
ALL LOANS	18,304	17,663	17,031	15,517
Construction	5,320	4,651	4,860	4,426
Purchase	6,813	7,400	6,696	6,348
Refinancing	1,661	1,705	2,003	1,413
Reconditioning	1,203	997	770	772
Other	3,307	2,910	2,702	2,558

above the volume collected during the same period of fiscal year 1951-52. So far, over \$547 million have been collected; last year the comparable total stood at \$514 million.

Gains were recorded for nearly all income categories, the most significant increases dollarwise being made in federal aid for public welfare (\$53.5 million to \$74.5 million); motor fuel tax (\$77 million to \$81.7 million); and motor vehicle licenses, permits, and fees (\$30.2 million to \$35.2 million). Major offsetting losses were reported for federal aid for highways (\$17.8 million to \$12.6 million), federal aid for public education (\$14.8 million to \$7.1 million), and gas gathering tax (\$3.3 million to \$1 million).

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*		
	May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Apr 1953	Jan-May 1953 from Jan-May 1952
ASSETS			
Loans and investments	+ 6	— 1	x
Loans	+ 15	— 1	— 1
Total U.S. Government securities	— 6	— 1	+ 1
Treasury bills	— 57	+ 15	+ 1
Treasury certificates of indebtedness	— 35	— 15	+ 3
Treasury notes	+ 3	— 5	0
Bonds	+ 15	x	+ 1
Other securities	+ 12	+ 2	+ 3
Reserve with Federal Reserve			
Banks	+ 4	+ 1	— 1
Cash in vaults	— 9	— 11	+ 15
Balances with domestic banks	+ 3	+ 1	+ 2
LIABILITIES			
Total deposits (except interbank)	+ 5	x	x
Demand deposits (adjusted)	+ 3	x	+ 1
Time deposits	+ 21	+ 3	x
United States Government deposits	— 56	— 38	— 19
Interbank deposits	+ 3	— 6	— 1
Domestic banks	+ 3	— 6	— 1
Foreign banks	0	— 11	0
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	+ 10	+ 3	+ 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

For months now business has been operating at such high levels that any slip from the peak looks like a slowing down. Yet, sales volume in the Southwest and in some parts of Texas continues to hold above the national average. Individual merchants in various lines make it plain that the boom rush has tended to subside and that business is stabilizing, but still at comparatively high levels. Retail trade is spotty from area to area. Relaxed credit terms and reduced-price promotions are still effective volume builders. Total retail sales for May in Texas merely equalled those of May 1952. But May 1952 had gained 10% over May 1951, setting a stiff hurdle for this year's selling. Sales figures computed by the Bureau of Business Research indicate that sales have definitely been trimmed in some localities by the increasing squeeze of farmers' income between steadily rising costs and falling prices for farm products.

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 establishments	Percent change		
		May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Apr 1953	Jan-May 1953 from Jan-May 1952
KIND OF BUSINESS				
DURABLE GOODS				
Automotive stores .....	244	+ 2	- 1	+ 21
Furniture and household-appliance stores .....	138	- 9	+ 10	+ 6
Jewelry stores .....	30	- 3	+ 34	- 2
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores .....	306	- 12	- 12	- 8
NONDURABLE GOODS				
Apparel stores .....	233	- 1	+ 2	+ 3
Country general stores .....	46	- 4	+ 5	- 2
Department stores .....	87	- 3	+ 5	x
Drug stores .....	161	+ 2	+ 3	+ 3
Eating and drinking places .....	101	+ 2	+ 4	- 2
Filling stations .....	1,021	+ 2	- 1	+ 3
Florists .....	30	+ 8	+ 15	+ 1
Food stores .....	251	+ 4	+ 6	+ 5
General merchandise stores .....	65	+ 5	- 1	+ 8
Liquor stores .....	6	x	- 14	+ 12
Office, stores, and school supply dealers .....	76	- 15	- 4	- 6
CITY-SIZE CLASS (1952)				
Over 250,000 .....	1,324	+ 1	+ 4	+ 6
100,000 to 250,000 .....	303	x	- 2	+ 10
50,000 to 100,000 .....	222	- 6	- 2	+ 7
2,500 to 50,000 .....	870	- 4	- 1	+ 6
Under 2,500 .....	119	- 20	- 2	- 11

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

the wholesale markets, early orders in apparel lines have been more numerous than last year, especially for men's suits and children's wear. Long-term orders have been more freely placed. Buyers expect heavy sales in the fall season. However, price resistance is evident in men's clothing. Food wholesaling continues at high levels, somewhat above the volume of a year ago.

Early May showed a decline of about 1% from a year ago in retail prices of soft-goods lines included in the Fairchild Publications Retail Trade Index. Prices in general were 2.5% below the high point for 1951. All major groups of apparel, piece goods, and house furnishings had slipped from last year, especially women's apparel and infants' wear. Only hosiery and floor coverings reported price increases in April. Over-all prices in these lines are likely to be stable for some months ahead. Fluctuations can be expected in individual product lines. Meanwhile, the Bureau of Labor Statistics food price index showed foods to be at their lowest levels since January 1951.

**Credit and collections.** Collections are slower in most areas and credit delinquencies growing. Many consumers continue to save an abnormally large proportion (8.5%) of their incomes after taxes. Yet, it is claimed that families in the annual income group of \$3,000-\$7,500 are heavily encumbered by obligations as large as 20% of their incomes before taxes. Mortgage obligations at the close of 1952 equalled 25% of consumers' incomes. In early 1953, consumer debt totalled 230% over pre-war obligations. Yet the installment burden is not cur-

### Retail Sales in Texas

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



**Durable goods.** Production and sales continue high in most lines of durables. New cars have moved steadily in most areas of the nation despite limitations recently placed on financing. The used-car market, although weakened, is better than has recently been expected. Demand has weakened for tractors and motor trucks. An overstocked condition is being reached for electric refrigerators and some other household appliances, so production of these is being adjusted. Sales have slowed

### ESTIMATES OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Type of store	Sales (mills of dols)		Percent change		
	May 1953	Jan-May 1953	May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Apr 1953	Jan-May 1953 from Jan-May 1952
TOTAL .....	691.9	3,328.9	x	+ 1	+ 8
Durable goods .....	301.2	1,474.5	- 5	- 2	+ 10
Nondurable goods .....	390.7	1,854.4	+ 5	+ 4	+ 7

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

for television sets, home freezers, floor coverings and heavy furniture. Demand for other consumer durables will probably remain high for some months ahead until the market may become saturated. Many dealers are buying more cautiously in anticipation of this turn of events.

**Soft lines.** Inventories of nondurables appear adequate but not excessive in ratio to present sales levels. Stock sales ratios are lower than a year ago, in general. In



rently considered serious unless some developments should sharply reduce current incomes.

Despite some adverse economic trends, business is expected to continue good into the latter half of 1953 and perhaps into next year. No serious recession is expected but rather downward readjustments of not too serious character, industry by industry. Sellers will need to build up unit sales volume to offset price shrinkage. The struggle for margins and profits will continue. The National Retail Dry Goods Association report for 1952 showed net profits of the nation's department stores—those with over \$1,000,000 in volume—as the lowest in 19 years, excepting only 1938.

Other noteworthy developments in retailing include the current struggle between frozen food locker plants and retail grocers and also the proposed marketing of frozen bread to reduce losses through stale returns. Meanwhile, retailing facilities continue to expand: \$5.5 billion is earmarked for new shopping centers and retail store modernization in 1953.

Reporting by cities, 320 Texas department and apparel stores averaged a 4% rise from April but a 3% drop from last May and only 1% ahead of January-May 1952. Among the 37 cities included, 21 topped April but only four were above May 1952: Denton (+1%), Dallas (+4%), McAllen (+5%) and Brownwood (+7%). Fourteen stood above January-May of last year. The leaders among these were Corpus Christi (+13%), Brownwood (+11%), McAllen and Texas City (each +9%), and Bryan, Houston and Marshall (each +8%).

Of 36 cities reporting enough retailers of various types to be listed individually, 17 bettered April, 15 topped last May, and 29 were ahead of January-May 1952. Best showings in the May-to-May comparison were

#### CREDIT RATIOS IN DEPARTMENT AND APPAREL STORES

Classification	Number of reporting stores	Credit ratios*		Collection ratios†	
		May 1953	May 1952	May 1953	May 1952
ALL STORES	75	65.6	65.6	39.0	43.3
BY CITIES					
Austin	3	59.0	58.5	54.5	57.3
Cleburne	3	36.5	40.0	44.2	46.8
Corpus Christi	3	59.8	61.2	37.7	44.5
Dallas	10	74.5	73.4	40.3	46.8
Denison	3	59.1	57.2	35.2	38.5
El Paso	3	58.9	59.8	34.1	39.5
Fort Worth	4	63.6	64.5	39.4	43.5
Galveston	5	59.1	57.6	49.0	54.8
Houston	7	63.1	63.0	34.5	36.1
San Antonio	6	62.4	66.3	44.7	44.1
Waco	5	59.4	58.1	44.8	57.1
BY TYPE OF STORE					
Department stores (over \$1 million)	25	67.2	67.4	37.6	41.8
Department stores (under \$1 million)	20	43.4	44.7	45.8	52.7
Dry goods and apparel stores	6	70.3	70.0	54.3	65.0
Women's specialty shops	15	59.7	57.0	43.7	47.7
Men's clothing stores	9	64.2	64.6	54.4	53.8
BY VOLUME OF NET SALES (1952)					
Over \$3,000,000	23	67.2	67.4	37.9	42.1
\$1,500,000 to \$3,000,000	7	60.6	61.0	48.4	55.9
\$500,000 to \$1,500,000	21	57.6	54.1	50.3	54.8
\$250,000 to \$500,000	10	36.5	35.7	44.3	46.1
Less than \$250,000	14	46.5	45.7	45.0	53.7

\*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	May 1953	Apr 1953	May 1952	Percent change	
				May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Apr 1953
TOTAL*	\$5,547,450	\$5,613,628	\$5,152,118	+ 8	- 1
Arlington	9,618	10,356	7,598	+ 27	- 7
Bastrop	1,792	1,665	1,384	+ 29	+ 8
Bay City	6,932	8,055	7,273	- 5	- 14
Belton	3,818	5,222	4,249	- 10	- 27
Borger	11,130	12,710	12,767	- 13	- 12
Brownfield	4,711	6,088	6,386	- 26	- 23
Cameron	6,682	8,360	5,904	+ 13	- 20
Childress	4,498	4,687	5,023	- 10	- 4
Cisco	3,856	3,953	3,326	+ 16	- 2
Cleburne	9,861	10,161	9,613	+ 3	- 3
Coleman	4,745	5,218	4,978	- 5	- 9
Crystal City	2,169	2,795	2,518	- 14	- 22
Cuero	3,607	4,445	4,591	- 21	- 19
El Campo	6,738	6,540	6,158	+ 9	+ 3
Gainesville	8,999	10,017	8,324	+ 8	- 10
Gatesville	2,828	3,426	3,436	- 18	- 17
Giddings	2,756	2,509	1,856	+ 48	+ 10
Goldthwaite	1,228	1,818	1,317	- 7	- 32
Graham	4,233	4,943	4,731	- 9	- 13
Granbury	1,451	1,261	1,095	+ 33	+ 15
Grand Prairie	12,181	10,466	9,287	+ 31	+ 16
Hillsboro	4,387	4,819	4,547	- 4	- 9
Huntsville	7,309	6,474	7,514	- 3	+ 13
Jacksonville	10,507	9,717	11,463	- 8	+ 8
Kenedy	2,983	3,252	3,072	- 3	- 8
Kerrville	7,000	8,218	7,469	- 6	- 15
Kingsville	9,524	10,392	7,409	- 29	- 8
La Grange	4,638	4,193	3,951	+ 17	+ 11
Luling	2,431	3,164	2,344	+ 4	- 23
McCamey	2,588	3,303	2,681	- 3	- 22
Marlin	5,051	5,818	5,675	- 11	- 13
Mercedes	4,412	5,222	3,852	+ 15	- 16
Mission	4,844	6,434	4,816	+ 1	- 25
Navasota	4,078	4,327	3,389	+ 20	- 6
Pampa	13,340	13,512	13,415	- 1	- 1
Pasadena	13,565	12,463	11,002	+ 23	+ 9
Pecos	7,159	8,030	7,312	- 2	- 11
Pharr	3,502	4,249	4,430	- 21	- 18
Pittsburg	2,688	2,726	2,051	+ 31	- 1
Raymondville	4,537	4,227	4,709	- 4	+ 7
Sherman	20,697	21,659	21,899	- 5	- 4
Terrell	4,664	4,711	4,819	- 3	- 1
Uvalde	5,077	6,948	6,012	- 16	- 27
Vernon	8,182	11,243	8,967	- 9	- 27
Victoria	19,338	20,710	15,807	+ 22	- 7
Weatherford	6,724	6,379	5,874	+ 14	+ 5
Yoakum	8,500	9,796	7,514	+ 13	- 13

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

at Big Spring (+28%), Orange (+27%), Port Arthur (+11%), Austin (+8%) and Plainview (+7%). Comparing the January-May periods, leading increases were at Orange (+23%), Texas City (+21%), Corpus Christi and Tyler (each +18%), Mineral Wells (+16%), and Austin and Denison (each +15%).

**Survey of Texas trade.** In Texas, with 2,838 stores reporting, total retail sales this May topped April by 1% but merely equalled May 1952. Because of the stronger gains in earlier months, the five months, January-May, were still ahead of those months of last year by 8%. Motor vehicle dealers (+4%) offered the only exception to the downturn of durables in May. For soft goods other than florists (+8%), gains over May 1952 ranged only from +1 to +5%.

A. HAMILTON CHUTE

## CONSTRUCTION

### Nonresidential building permits down sharply.

Value of permits issued for urban nonresidential building in Texas dropped by a significant 21% from April to May. Residential permits issued exhibited stability from April to May, the 7% decrease being only slightly more than the normal seasonal decline for this time of year. The total value of building permits issued in Texas from April to May declined by 11%, somewhat more than the expected seasonal decline of 6%. A 2% decrease occurred in additions, alterations, and repairs. A total of 4,285 new permanent nonfarm dwelling units were authorized by building permits in May, compared with 4,737 in April and 5,021 in May 1952.

Value of Urban Building Authorized in Texas

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



During the first five months of 1953, building permits issued in Texas totaled 10% more in value than for the comparable 1952 period. Total value of nonresidential building permits issued during the first five months was 46% above January-May 1952, in spite of the sharp drop this May. Residential showed a negligible 1% decline in the January-May year-to-year comparison.

Sales of lumber, building material, and hardware dealers decreased by 12% from April to May, a particularly significant drop in light of the fact that a 4% seasonal rise was to be anticipated. Sales in May this year were at a level 12% below the same month in 1952.

Production of finished portland cement in Texas increased by a negligible 0.4% from March to April. Production during April was 1,748,000 bbls., which was 4% above the same month last year.

Shipments of finished portland cement from mills in Texas decreased from 1,966,000 bbls. in March to 1,788,000 bbls. in April, a drop of 9%. Shipments in April this year were at a level 6% above April 1952.

Employment on contract construction in Texas increased by 3% from March to April. The total, 172,100 workers, was 4% above the April 1952 level.

**National construction up 10% in May.** New construction expenditures in May totaled \$2.9 billion, 10% above April and 6% above May 1952. Although most of the April-May increase occurred in private residential building and highways, the May rise in these types of work was not as great as usual at this time, largely because of high activity during the mild winter, and rainy weather this spring. Total private outlays (almost \$2 billion) were 9% above May 1952; public expendi-

tures were about the same in both periods. Expenditures during the first five months of 1953 totaled a record \$12.5 billion, almost 6% above the 1952 figure for the same months.

Production of finished portland cement in the U.S. increased by 9% from March to April. Production during April was 21,802,000 bbls., which was 10% above the same month last year. Shipments of finished portland cement from U.S. mills increased by a negligible 0.4% from March to April, from 20,813,000 bbls. to 20,891,000 bbls. Shipments in April this year were at a level 4% below April of 1952.

After eight months of relative stability, the longest such period since 1949, construction costs began to move slowly upward in May. General wage increases, which more than offset declines in lumber prices, were the cause of the increases.

The wholesale price index (1947-49 = 100) for building materials increased 0.6% to 119.8 for April, largely because of advances of 14% for lighting fixtures, 5% for cement, and 3% for oak flooring and for gypsum products. These price rises were partially offset by decreases for soil pipe and copper water tubing (6 and 2%, respectively). Slight declines also developed for Southern pine and Douglas fir lumber.

The U.S. index of residential rents rose on the average 0.3% from March to April to 122.1 (1947-49 = 100). This was 4.4% above April a year ago and 33.6% above the average for 1946, before wartime rent controls were first relaxed.

**Contracts awarded in Texas.** The value of construction contracts awarded in Texas decreased by 19% from April to May. This decline was a result of decreases of 24 and 6% in privately and publicly financed construction, respectively.

### VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED

Source: Dodge Statistical Research Service

Type of construction	May 1953	January-May		Percent change
		1953	1952	
Value (thousands of dollars)				
ALL CONSTRUCTION	90,920	473,157	587,413	— 19
NEW BUILDING .....	73,180	380,157	444,212	— 14
Residential .....	40,305	230,157	247,127	— 7
Nonresidential .....	32,875	150,000	197,085	— 24
PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES .....	17,740	93,000	143,201	— 35

The over-all 19% decline from April to May can also be explained by decreases of 20% and 10% in residential and nonresidential awards respectively and by a 29% decline in awards for public works and utilities.

Apartment buildings were the only type of residential construction showing an increase (+21%). The only nonresidential buildings showing an increase were manufacturing plants (+155%), educational and science buildings (+15%), and hospital and institutional buildings (+350%).



The value of construction contracts awarded in Texas during the first five months of 1953 was 19% below the same period last year. All major types of construction showed declines: public works and utilities (—35%), nonresidential building (—24%), and residential (—7%). Total publicly financed building is down 29% for the first five months of this year compared to the same period of 1952 while private building is down 15% in the same comparison.

Total number of dwelling units for which contracts were awarded in Texas during the first five months of 1953 was 21,372, down 19% below the comparable 1952 period. Changes by types bringing about the over-all decline cited above were as follows: apartments (—76%), two-family (—19%), one-family (sale or rent) (+1%), combination (+4%), and one-family (owner occupy) (+8%).

**Building permits in Texas.** The 7% decline in value of residential building permits issued in Texas from April to May was a result of changes in the following types of construction: one-family houses (—8%), two-family houses (—8%), three- or four-family houses (—64%), and apartment buildings (—32%). Permits issued for hotels, tourist cabins, and other nonhousekeeping residential construction partially offset the above decreases with a substantial 89% rise.

The 21% drop in value of nonresidential building permits issued in Texas from April to May was primarily a result of changes in the following important types of construction: amusement buildings (—91%), churches (—36%), factories and workshops (—17%), institutional buildings (+229%), office and bank buildings (—17%), public buildings (—74%), education buildings (—19%), stores and other mercantile buildings (—40%).

Additions, alterations, and repairs declined 2%. This can be explained by a 9% increase in nonresidential which was more than offset by a 9% decrease in the larger residential category.

Value of building permits issued for residential construction in Texas during the first five months of 1953 was a negligible 1% below the same period last year, a result of a 3% decline in the very large category of housekeeping construction which was not completely offset by a very large increase (+346%) in the relatively small component part of nonhousekeeping construction (hotels, tourist cabins, etc.).

The 46% increase in value of building permits issued for nonresidential building in the first five months of 1953 compared to a like period in 1952 is primarily a result of changes in the following important categories of construction: amusement buildings (+152%), churches (+36%), factories and workshops (—33%), institutional buildings (+48%), office and bank buildings (+269%), public buildings (+248%), public works and utilities (+58%), educational buildings (+39%), stores and other mercantile buildings (+15%).

The 2% decrease in the five month year-to-year comparison for additions, alterations, and repairs can be

explained by the 5% drop in the residential category and a 3% rise in nonresidential.

Value of permits issued in cities over 100,000 population dropped by 7% from April to May, slightly more than seasonal. Changes in the other city-size groups were as follows: 50,000 to 100,000 (—12%), 25,000 to 50,000 (—1%), and under 25,000 (—23%).

#### 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	May 1953*	January-May		Percent change
		1953	1952	
KIND OF CONSTRUCTION				
	Value (thousands of dollars)			
ALL BUILDING PERMITS .....	57,512	301,759	273,997	+ 10
New construction .....	50,422	267,861	239,550	+ 12
Residential .....	32,366	175,406	176,435	— 1
Housekeeping .....	30,622	169,954	175,212	— 3
One family .....	29,387	161,935	156,086	+ 4
Multiple family .....	1,235	8,019	19,126	— 58
Nonhousekeeping .....	1,744	5,452	1,223	+846
Nonresidential .....	18,056	92,455	63,115	+ 46
Additions, alterations, and repairs .....	7,090	33,898	34,447	— 2
CITY-SIZE GROUP (1940)				
ALL BUILDING PERMITS .....	57,512	301,759	273,997	+ 10
Over 100,000 .....	28,259	136,512	119,108	+ 15
50,000 to 100,000 .....	10,620	61,361	49,640	+ 24
25,000 to 50,000 .....	5,394	25,645	29,466	— 13
Under 25,000 .....	13,239	78,241	75,783	+ 3

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

\*Preliminary.

Permits have been issued in cities over 100,000 at a rate 15% above last year during the first five months of this year. Only cities in the population class 25,000 to 50,000 have experienced a decline (—13%) during the first five months of 1953 compared to a like period last year. Changes in the other two groups were as follows: 50,000 to 100,000 (+24%), and under 25,000 (+3%).

Taylor had the biggest relative increase from April to May in value of building permits issued (+531%), followed by Eagle Pass (+402%), Laredo (+337%), Raymondville (+233%), and San Marcos (+207%). Changes in value of building permits issued in the five largest cities in the state from April to May: Houston (—6%), Dallas (—11%), San Antonio (+21%), Fort Worth (—26%), and Austin (+29%).

The city leading the state in per capita value of building permits issued during May was Irving with \$173.60 per person. Other top cities: Arlington (\$130.14), Pasadena (\$52.71), Garland (\$50.70), and Mission (\$49.70). Average per capita municipal building in the state for May was \$13.52.

RICHARD C. HENSHAW, JR.

## AGRICULTURE

**Drouth returns to Texas.** Throughout June a blazing sun, cloudless skies, and withering winds teamed to reduce vital moisture reserves in most parts of Texas. Even in the eastern counties where spring rains had broken 1952's record drouth, the effects of a moisture deficiency were felt by the end of the month.

Hardest hit of the state's agricultural groups, the cattle industry was already staggering from the effects of four years of drouth and recent price declines. On western, northwestern, and southern ranges, continued heat and drouth ended all hope for summer grass. Lush grazing conditions on eastern ranges ended abruptly during the month as grass growth stopped from lack of moisture. In most areas, cattle movements to central markets and auctions were stepped up in an attempt to avoid the shrinkage in weight that drouth always brings. Some movement of stock out of dry areas occurred and supplemental feeding increased.

**Government aid sought.** As drouth strengthened its grip on southwestern ranges, many desperate livestock owners rapidly exhausted supplies of local credit in their efforts to maintain their herds. Movements to secure government relief gained in momentum as high government officials were flooded with petitions. Yet, the area's leading livestock associations maintained their stand against government aid. By late June it appeared that relief from Washington might be forthcoming, although plans remained indefinite.

Immediate tapping of the President's Disaster Relief Fund, CCC distribution of feed (as was done with hay in 1952), and loans by the Farmers Home Administration appeared to be likely relief sources. FHA credit,

### INDEXES OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS (1909-14=100)

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

Product	May 1953	Apr 1953	May 1952	Percent change	
				May 1953 from Apr 1953	May 1953 from May 1952
ALL FARM PRODUCTS.....	280	279	340	x	- 18
ALL CROPS .....	257	255	296	+ 1	- 13
Food grains .....	266	267	246	x	+ 8
Feed grains and hay .....	206	211	233	- 2	- 12
Potatoes and sweet potatoes.....	356	359	341	- 1	+ 4
Fruit .....	147	147	240	0	- 39
Truck crops .....	295	266	403	+ 11	- 27
Cotton .....	252	248	294	+ 2	- 14
Oil-bearing crops .....	307	324	320	- 5	- 4
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS .....	309	311	398	- 1	- 22
Meat animals .....	334	340	512	- 2	- 35
Dairy products .....	254	262	275	- 3	- 8
Poultry and eggs .....	258	250	207	+ 3	+ 25
Wool .....	391	373	366	+ 5	+ 7

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

however, would be difficult to extend in many cases. Such loans are made against marketable production, and many livestock men hold herds on which current loans and dropping prices have eaten up all of the equity.

**Crop conditions deteriorate.** With the advancing drouth, crop prospects faded over most of the Southwest. Wheat production for Texas was the first to suffer as the hot dry weather of late May and early June further reduced yields. Only in North Texas counties was the output favorable. The year's harvest, largely completed in June, was estimated to be about 19.2 million bushels, 4 million below the forecast made a month earlier. Production in a good year exceeds 60 million bushels.

Early cotton made fair progress in central, northern, and eastern counties during June, although rain was needed badly. Nonirrigated fields in the Northwest Texas region deteriorated rapidly. There plants remained small; some died. Considerable dry-planted acreage failed to come up. Some fields were not planted because of drouthy conditions. Throughout the state late cotton remained small, suffering severely from the moisture deficiency. Cotton fields in irrigated portions of the Rio Grande Valley were in fruit, and picking was well under way. A crop of from 300,000 to 350,000 bales was expected from the area. Insect infestation was generally mild in most cotton areas. Although the first U. S. Department of Agriculture crop estimate for Texas cotton production has not been made, talk in the trade points to a harvest somewhere near the 3,808,000 bales produced last year. This compares with the 6 million bales the state is capable of producing in a good year.

Dry land feed crops barely held on in the West and Northwest as crop prospects faded daily. Some farmers, waiting for the return of ground moisture sufficient to germinate seeds, ended the month with unseeded acreage as planting time ran out. In Central, North, and East Texas, early corn withered in the intense heat, while some fields were cut for fodder or silage in an attempt to salvage as much feed as possible. Late corn suffered even more from lack of moisture.

### FARM CASH INCOME

Commodity	January-May		
	Value (thousands of dollars)		Percent change
	1953	1952	
TEXAS .....	546,355	666,736	- 18
Cotton .....	114,823	173,323	- 34
Cottonseed .....	1,934	6,267	- 69
Wheat .....	13,319	5,251	+154
Oats .....	1,237	630	+ 96
Corn .....	3,801	5,520	- 31
Grain sorghum .....	9,262	16,513	- 44
Flaxseed .....	3,748	.....	.....
Peanuts .....	1,294	1,469	- 12
Cattle .....	110,979	162,576	- 32
Calves .....	35,741	40,824	- 12
Hogs .....	35,388	39,143	- 10
Sheep and lambs .....	10,789	6,329	+ 70
Wool .....	7,005	13,383	- 48
Mohair .....	5,315	7,302	- 27
Poultry .....	24,677	24,553	+ 1
Eggs .....	38,383	32,561	+ 18
Milk and milk products .....	88,876	91,900	- 3
Fruits and vegetables .....	39,784	36,194	+ 10

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.



**Vegetable production increased.** Texas' vegetable-producing acres supply the brightest news in the June agricultural report, although the favorable picture here is a result of past months' happenings rather than current or future production. The USDA estimate of 1953 spring and summer vegetable production is 47% above the 1952 level and 30% higher than the 1949-52 average. The gain was due largely to increases in acreages, principally for cantaloupes, early spring onions, summer potatoes, and watermelons. Yields, too, have been increased, particularly in the irrigated fields of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Authenticated gross returns run as high as \$1,000 an acre from tomatoes and \$1,500 an acre for cantaloupes.

In the Panhandle, the summer potato crop more than doubled last year's production and was 50% above average. Yields would have been even larger but for late frosts, strong winds, and the intense heat. In the irrigated lands of the Panhandle late spring onions made good gains early in June. Estimates of tomato production in East Texas counties dropped somewhat from the preceding month, a result of heavy rains in early May. By June, however, prospects for the summer crop had become unfavorable. Most producing areas were badly in need of moisture as the land was swept by scorching winds.

Developments in Valley citrus groves have been unfavorable for the coming winter crop. Shedding of fruit has been heavy where irrigation water was scarce. Areas using water from private wells fared better, but even here the supply was limited because of the demands of field crops.

Peach prospects are good in most areas, particularly in East Texas where a record crop is being picked. In Upshur County alone, a yield of 100,000 bushels is expected. USDA estimates for Texas place the 1953 crop

## CARLOAD SHIPMENTS OF LIVESTOCK\*

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

Classification	May 1953	Apr 1953	May 1952	Percent change	
				May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Apr 1953
<b>TOTAL SHIPMENTS</b>	4,418	6,378	4,107	+ 8	- 31
Cattle	3,092	5,691	3,143	- 2	- 46
Calves	433	365	397	+ 9	+ 19
Hogs	5	2	48	- 90	+150
Sheep	888	320	519	+ 71	+178
<b>INTERSTATE</b>	4,230	6,003	3,619	+ 17	- 30
Cattle	2,948	5,885	2,770	+ 6	- 45
Calves	408	308	355	+ 15	+ 32
Hogs	2	0	2	0	—
Sheep	872	310	492	+ 77	+181
<b>INTRASTATE</b>	188	375	488	- 61	- 50
Cattle	144	306	373	- 61	- 53
Calves	25	57	42	- 40	- 56
Hogs	3	2	46	- 93	+ 50
Sheep	16	10	27	- 41	+ 60

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

at 1,102,000 bushels as compared with 1952 production of 346,000 bushels.

**Fewer farms, older farmers.** The number of Texas farms declined from 418,002 to 331,416 during the 1940-50 decade, according to a report released by the Census Bureau. Apparently, this 20% drop is a result of the failure of young men to choose agriculture as a career.

Farm operators 25 years of age or under fell from 4.3% of the state total to 2.6% in 1950. The percentage was much lower (1.7%) in 1945, but most young men were in the armed services then. An even greater decrease was reported for the 25-34 age group. In 1940 this age bracket made up 17.9% of the farm operator total; in 1950 it comprised only 13.1% of the total. Percentagewise the 35-44 and 45-54 age groups changed little during the decade, having around 23% and 24%, respectively. The older groups, 55-64 and 65 and over, registered sizeable percentage increases. In 1940 the 55-64 bracket made up 18.5% of the total; in 1950 the figure was up to 21.2%. The biggest jump was in farm operators 65 and over—from 12.4% to 15.7% during the ten-year period.

**Product prices change little.** The over-all average of prices received by Texas farmers during May changed little from those prevailing a month earlier. May's average, however, was down 18% from the comparable value of a year ago.

As a whole, crops advanced about 1% during the month, with gains by truck crops (+11%) and cotton (+5%) being partially offset by minor declines in the values of feed grains and hay (-2%), oil-bearing crops (-5%), and potatoes (-1%). The over-all crop value stood about 13% below the comparable 1952 value. Livestock and products dropped 1% to a level 22% below May, 1952. Meat animals (-2%) and dairy products (-3%) accounted for the loss, although off-setting gains were made in prices paid for poultry and eggs (+3%) and wool (+5%).

RAYMOND V. LESIKAR

## FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

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

Item	January-May		
	Rail shipments (carloads)		Percent change
	1953	1952	
<b>TOTAL</b>	23,536	22,115	+ 6
<b>FRUIT</b>	1,114	243	+358
Cantaloupe	916	235	+290
Grapefruit	43	—	—
Lemons	23	—	—
Oranges	83	—	—
Plums and prunes	33	8	+313
Tangerines	1	—	—
Watermelons	4	—	—
Mixed citrus	5	—	—
Mixed melons	6	—	—
<b>VEGETABLES</b>	22,422	21,872	+ 3
Beets	139	205	- 32
Broccoli	22	58	- 62
Cabbage	1,390	2,195	- 37
Carrots	4,307	3,640	+ 18
Cauliflower	115	162	- 29
Corn	395	193	+105
Lettuce	1,311	1,156	+ 13
Onions	5,966	5,916	+ 1
Potatoes	43	27	+ 59
Spinach	1,009	1,074	- 6
Tomatoes	2,725	1,922	+ 42
Greens	13	8	+ 63
Mixed vegetables	4,987	5,316	- 7

## LABOR

Texas nonagricultural employment held relatively steady in the 17 key labor markets during May, with 11 showing slight increases in employment, five recording offsetting decreases, and one, Abilene, reporting no change. A significant monthly employment increase of 4% (950 additional workers) was experienced in the Longview labor market area, where the upward climb has been continuous, except for a minor March decline, since January.

However, Texas unemployment increased by 1,405 (+2%) over April owing to a rise in the nonfarm civilian labor force, which has been countered by a slight drop in over-all employment. In Texarkana, a rise of 510 in the labor force was split between increases in employment (310) and unemployment (200).

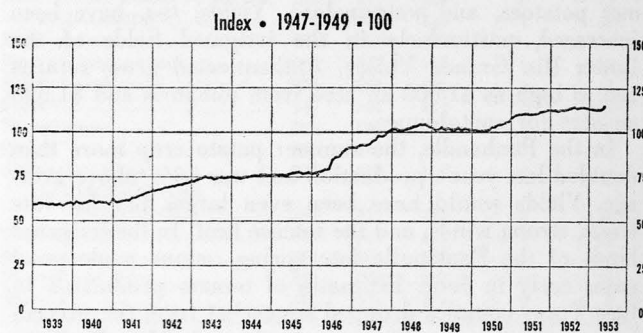
**Dallas unemployment swells.** Meanwhile, unemployment rose to 6,500 in Dallas, contrary to the optimistic view held by most observers in late spring. Unemployment, increase by 550, but the drop in employment was slight, for new job-seekers swelled the labor force by 515. The Dallas office of the Texas Employment Commission predicts that the downward pattern in employment will continue into July. Dallas manufacturing employment, which stood at 73,275 in December 1952 and showed steady gains through April, fell by 425 to 75,625 during May.

With an estimated 3,500 high school and college graduates from Dallas and surrounding towns entering the labor force in June, it is expected that the unemploy-

ment total will continue to climb. Nevertheless, employment continues at a high level as shown in the relatively low percentage of the labor force unemployed (2.2%).

Highlighting the June wage picture were union agreements affecting hourly workers at plants in Dallas and Houston. Dallas' Temco Aircraft Corporation signed a

### Consumers' Prices in the U.S.



union agreement gearing wages to the new Consumer Price Index, thus saving 6,500 workers from a 2 cent-an-hour cut threatened under the old index. The Sheffield Steel Corporation in Houston signed a union agreement raising hourly employees' wages 8.5 cents an hour and adding \$1,000,000 yearly to the pay envelopes of 3,500 Houston workers.

FRANK T. CADENA

### 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		
	May 1953*	Apr 1953	May 1952	May 1953*	Apr 1953	May 1952	May 1953*	Apr 1953	May 1952
ALL MANUFACTURING.....	\$68.39	\$69.39	\$62.73	41.2	41.8	41.0	\$1.66	\$1.66	\$1.53
Durable goods.....	69.37	69.60	64.95	42.3	42.7	43.3	1.64	1.63	1.50
Primary metals.....	75.92	75.92	64.01	40.6	40.6	38.1	1.87	1.87	1.68
Machinery—except electrical.....	73.78	73.68	74.00	43.4	43.6	45.4	1.70	1.69	1.63
Oil field machinery.....	79.97	76.86	79.69	43.7	42.7	45.8	1.83	1.80	1.74
Transportation equipment.....	80.56	80.54	75.25	41.1	41.3	43.0	1.96	1.95	1.75
Fabricated metal products.....	72.13	70.47	63.66	44.8	44.6	43.6	1.61	1.58	1.46
Lumber and wood products.....	47.91	50.06	48.62	42.4	44.3	43.8	1.13	1.13	1.11
Furniture and fixtures.....	49.62	51.41	56.33	41.7	41.8	45.8	1.19	1.23	1.23
Stone, clay, and glass.....	61.34	63.66	56.72	42.6	43.9	43.3	1.44	1.45	1.31
Non-durable goods.....	67.54	68.54	60.22	40.2	40.8	38.6	1.68	1.68	1.56
Textile mill products.....	44.33	47.46	44.97	40.3	42.0	39.8	1.10	1.13	1.13
Broad woven goods.....	47.04	47.71	43.71	42.0	42.6	40.1	1.12	1.12	1.09
Apparel and fabric products.....	33.56	37.72	38.51	34.6	38.1	38.9	0.97	0.99	0.99
Food.....	60.48	60.59	56.17	42.0	41.5	41.3	1.44	1.46	1.36
Meat packing.....	71.68	69.30	61.66	40.5	39.6	38.3	1.77	1.75	1.61
Paper and allied products.....	77.52	76.04	73.10	44.3	43.7	44.3	1.75	1.74	1.65
Printing.....	85.28	86.32	81.80	41.6	41.5	40.1	2.05	2.08	2.04
Chemicals and allied products.....	82.22	81.02	79.29	42.6	42.2	42.4	1.93	1.92	1.87
Vegetable oil mills.....	50.49	48.70	47.60	49.5	48.7	47.6	1.02	1.00	1.00
Petroleum and coal products.....	90.57	90.52	61.34	39.9	39.7	28.8	2.27	2.28	2.18
Leather products.....	39.68	39.50	37.34	38.9	39.9	39.3	1.02	0.99	0.95
NONMANUFACTURING.....									
Mining.....	92.59	94.29	86.19	44.3	44.9	44.2	2.09	2.10	1.95
Crude petroleum products.....	94.36	96.09	87.96	44.3	44.9	44.2	2.13	2.14	1.99
Sulfur.....	79.00	77.38	72.07	39.9	40.3	39.6	1.98	1.92	1.82
Public utilities.....	63.83	62.17	59.02	40.4	39.6	40.7	1.58	1.57	1.45
Retail trade.....	54.38	54.88	52.03	43.5	43.9	43.0	1.25	1.25	1.21
Wholesale trade.....	67.55	67.61	64.82	43.3	43.9	43.8	1.56	1.54	1.48

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

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

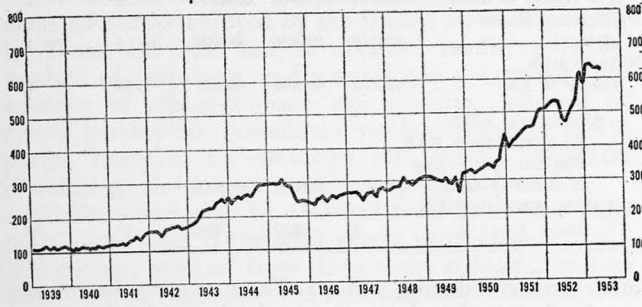


## INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

**Long-term boom in Texas power.** Although the indexes that meter Texas consumption of electric power barely held their own in May, as compared with their April levels, both total and industrial power were up impressively from the May before (27 and 29%, respectively). And the long-term trend line of Texas electric power use still crackles upward with chain-lightning vigor.

### 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	
	May 1953	Apr 1953	May 1952	May 1953 from May 1952	May 1952 from Apr 1953
TOTAL	1,191,490	1,167,788	950,283	+ 25	+ 2
Commercial	207,285	199,899	189,360	+ 9	+ 4
Industrial	577,189	563,342	447,993	+ 29	+ 2
Residential	173,520	165,315	149,387	+ 16	+ 5
Other	233,496	241,232	163,543	+ 43	- 3

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

Fastest growing electric power network in the nation is Texas Utilities, Inc., which has projected a 330,000-kilowatt expansion of its capacity from 1952 levels. The \$70 million program will mean 30% more TU power for Texas consumers, more than their immediate needs require, but enough to give the utility company a reasonable cushion of extra capacity (15% is considered desirable) to meet emergency loads. At the end of last year, the nation as a whole had only 11.7% of extra capacity, far from enough to discourage further construction of new electric power generating facilities and transmission lines.

### MANUFACTURE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

Product	January-May			Percent change
	May 1953	1953	1952	
TOTAL PRODUCTION OF MILK EQUIVALENT (thous of lbs)	75,142	270,796	212,875	+ 27
Creamery butter (thous of lbs)	992	4,263	2,580	+ 65
Ice cream (thous of gals)	2,175	8,373	9,755	- 14
American cheese (thous of lbs)	790	2,402	1,815	+ 32
Cottage cheese (thous of lbs)	827	2,540	2,591	- 2
Concentrated milk products (thous of lbs)	9,247	26,406	10,482	+152

Milk equivalent of dairy products is calculated from production data.

### WELL COMPLETIONS

Source: The Oil and Gas Journal

Region	May 1953*				January-May	
	Oil	Gas	Dry	Total	1953	1952
TEXAS	795	83	548	1,426	7,452	7,608
North Central	288	3	225	516	2,646	2,377
West	247	0	81	328	1,755	2,357
Panhandle	21	22	6	49	350	290
Eastern	28	5	35	68	358	401
Gulf Coast	92	25	99	216	1,142	1,140
Southwest	119	28	102	249	1,201	1,043

\*For four weeks ending May 30, 1953.

Continuing electrification of the American home and farm have given enormous impetus to utility development. Since the end of World War II, Americans have bought 89 million radios, 30 million washing machines, 26 million television sets, and 23 million vacuum cleaners; and sales of air-conditioners, the latest electric appliance boom, were up 180% from April 1952 to this April in the Dallas Federal Reserve District. Furthermore, 90% of all U.S. farms are now electrified, as against just 50% in 1945.

Higher interest rates on borrowed money are not visibly discouraging electric utility expansion. But power companies are faced with other, baffling problems. In many cases, higher rates are needed to finance the extension of power facilities; yet, last year's continued increase in power consumption was accompanied by further decline in rates. Some companies are giving more thought to their sales effort, for by selling more power they will be able to

### Crude Oil Runs to Stills in Texas

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



### REPORTED PETROLEUM PRODUCTION

Source: Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas

Oil and gas district	Production (barrels)			Percent change	
	Feb 1953	Jan 1953	Feb 1952	Feb 1953 from Feb 1952	Feb 1953 from Jan 1953
TEXAS	80,632,803	88,734,073	82,698,738	- 2	- 9
District 1	1,025,624	1,128,756	981,540	+ 4	- 9
District 2	4,472,628	4,936,140	4,793,581	- 7	- 9
District 3	13,068,789	14,414,540	13,721,465	- 5	- 9
District 4	7,428,339	8,144,985	7,610,466	- 2	- 9
District 5	1,438,705	1,562,792	1,764,151	- 18	- 8
District 6	10,714,491	11,886,486	11,420,852	- 6	- 10
District 7b	2,161,381	3,415,758	2,619,738	- 17	- 37
District 7c	4,769,802	5,259,030	3,692,263	+ 29	- 9
District 8	27,173,980	29,909,368	29,020,207	- 6	- 9
District 9	5,236,037	5,732,336	4,681,087	+ 12	- 9
District 10	2,143,027	2,343,882	2,393,388	- 10	- 9

## REFINERY STOCKS

Source: *The Oil and Gas Journal*

Area and product	Stocks (thousands of barrels)			Percent change	
	May 1953	Apr 1953	May 1952	May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Apr 1953
<b>UNITED STATES</b>					
Gasoline .....	152,435	157,599	121,894	+ 25	- 3
Distillate .....	70,842	61,314	50,966	+ 39	+ 16
Residual .....	41,425	38,989	38,523	+ 8	+ 6
Kerosene .....	23,527	20,040	19,050	+ 24	+ 17
<b>TEXAS</b>					
Gasoline .....	27,304	27,243	21,803	+ 25	x
Distillate .....	11,020	10,092	7,017	+ 57	+ 9
Residual .....	7,252	7,490	6,409	+ 13	- 3
Kerosene .....	3,752	3,535	2,976	+ 26	+ 6

Figures shown for week ending nearest last day of the month.

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

install larger, more economical equipment. On an average, utility companies must spend \$160 to increase their capacity by one kilowatt; new larger-size units cost only \$130 per kilowatt of capacity. But to justify the purchase of such equipment, more power must be sold. So industries across the nation will be encouraged to power more of their operations with electricity and commercial users will be urged to use a 300-watt bulb where they have burned the 100-watt size.

ROBERT H. RYAN

## COTTON

The current U. S. cotton situation is characterized by uncertainties. In contrast, one certainty stands out: Cotton acreage has been reduced, and much land that has been planted is off to a very late start, a fact that indicates exceptionally large abandonment this summer and fall. Acreage planted to cotton outside the United States also seems to have turned down; most important reductions are in Egypt, Pakistan, India, and Brazil.

Prospects for cotton consumption are about normal, both here and abroad. The forecast for U. S. exports supports the hope for a better year than the current one. But only some extraordinary action by the federal government can bring the export market up to its normal level. The basic trouble: U. S. cotton is priced out of the market. In addition, exports continue to be blocked by tariffs and

## PETROLEUM AND GAS ACTIVITY

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

Product	May 1953	Apr 1953	May 1952	Percent change	
				May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Apr 1953
CARBON BLACK					
PRODUCED (value in thous of dols) ..	2,920	2,000	4,935	— 41	+ 46
CRUDE OIL					
Value (thous of dols) ...	213,907	210,879	224,884	— 5	+ 1
Production (thous of bbls) .....	82,745	81,886	86,998	— 5	+ 1
Runs to stills (thous of bbls) .....	62,291	60,500	40,201	— 55	+ 3
NATURAL AND CASINGHEAD GAS PRODUCED (value in thous of dols) ..					
	32,923	29,452	30,415	+ 8	+ 12
SULFUR PRODUCTION (long tons) .....					
	2	937	194	— 99	— 99

other import-reducing policies. These two conditions are too fundamental to be overcome by loans, lend-lease, or other temporary forms of relief.

A. B. Cox

## TEXAS COTTON ACTIVITY

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

Item	Apr 1953	Mar 1953	Apr 1952	Percent change	
				Apr 1953 from Apr 1952	Apr 1953 from Mar 1953
COTTONSEED (thous of tons)					
Received at mills .....	3,347	4,763	5,484	— 37	— 28
Crushed .....	84,804	116,103	85,385	— 1	— 27
Stocks, end-of-month .....	135,312	216,679	114,259	+ 18	— 38
CONSUMPTION (running bales)					
Cotton .....	13,517	11,402	14,375	— 6	+ 19
Linters .....	2,203	2,941	2,025	+ 9	— 25
SPINDLES (thousands)					
Spindles in place .....	229	226	223	+ 3	+ 1
Spindles active .....	222	208	209	+ 6	+ 7
Total spindle hours .....	102,000†	88,000	98,000	+ 4	+ 16
Average spindle hours .....	445	389	439	+ 1	+ 14

†For five weeks ending May 2, 1953.

## COTTON BALANCE SHEET FOR THE UNITED STATES AS OF JUNE 1, 1953

Year	Carryover Aug 1	Imports to June 1*	Final ginnings*	Total	Consumption to June 1	Exports to June 1	Total	Balance as of June 1
1943-44 .....	10,687	131	11,129	21,947	8,412	1,002	9,414	12,533
1944-45 .....	10,727	170	11,839	22,736	8,109	1,319	9,428	13,308
1945-46 .....	11,164	305	8,813	20,282	7,641	2,776	10,417	9,865
1946-47 .....	7,522	214	8,513	16,249	8,630	3,155	11,785	4,504
1947-48 .....	2,521	233	11,552	14,306	7,914	1,681	9,595	4,711
1948-49 .....	2,823	154†	14,540	17,517	6,742	3,550†	10,292	7,225
1949-50 .....	5,283	249†	15,908	21,440	7,418	4,226†	11,644	9,796
1950-51 .....	6,846	164†	9,899	16,909	9,065	3,412†	12,477	4,432
1951-52 .....	2,179	68†	15,050	17,297	7,747	4,890†	12,637	4,660
1952-53 .....	2,745	165†	14,951	17,861	7,939	2,452†	10,391	7,470

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

\*In 478 pound bales.

†To May 1 only.

(Continued from front cover)

of these chains is, in effect, a giant molecule, so much heavier than the original gas molecule that it condenses into a solid, a polymer, which may have no apparent resemblance to its constituent gas, or *monomer*.

In Europe, ethylene, the essential raw material for polyethylene production, is made by hydrogenating acetylene, that is, by combining each acetylene molecule ( $\text{HC}:\text{CH}$ ) with enough additional hydrogen to break it into two ethylene molecules ( $\text{H}:\text{C}:\text{H}$  and  $\text{H}:\text{C}:\text{H}$ ). The process is relatively expensive, but in Europe so are petroleum and natural gas. And therein lies the enormous advantage enjoyed by the United States, especially by Texas. Ethylene can be obtained readily as a by-product of petroleum and natural gas processing. The cracking of ethane-propane gas mixtures, followed by special purification procedures, yields ethylene of 99.9% purity, ready to be converted into several important chemical products, one of which is polyethylene.

Ethylene may also be obtained from fermented vegetable matter. But if the total yearly production, 1.5 billion pounds, were all from that source, at least 2 million acres of rich farmland would be needed. Some 3.5 billion pounds of petroleum is used annually by the synthetic chemicals industry; but half that much oil is produced daily in the nation.

Du Pont and the Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Corporation made the first American polyethylene during World War II, but at that time the plastic held such a high priority in defense materiel and was made in such small quantities that it was all but unknown to the civilian population.

Since the wartime years, when scarce polyethylene was used in vitally important radar components for the air defense of Britain, production has increased about fifty times; but it is still far short of demand. Texas' output of polyethylene promises to play a dominant part in supplying the growing civilian and military markets for the waxy petrochemical. After World War II, consumption of polyethylene increased more than ten times. But although production doubled in 1952, to reach 125 million pounds a year, present market demand is estimated at three times that figure.

The Texas Polyethylene Belt stretches along the Gulf Coast and up into East Texas, where other petrochemical industries are already well established. There, both of the two present producers of polyethylene are expanding their capacities. Carbide and Carbon, world's largest maker of the plastic, is adding a \$17 million unit to its Texas City plant, capable of turning out 50 million additional pounds a year; and the new Carbide plant at Seadrift is also to include a polyethylene unit. This company is now blueprinting further plans for augmented capacity at Charlestown, West Virginia, and is building a new 50- to 60-million-pound plant that will be the first on the Pacific Coast.

The other established polyethylene producer, Du Pont, is doubling the capacity of its Orange plant at a cost of more than \$10 million, in order to hold its place in the market for this synthetic which is rapidly becoming the world's most important plastic in volume produced.

Carbide and Du Pont, however, are no longer alone in the business, for four other large chemical companies

are currently climbing aboard the Texas polyethylene bandwagon. Spencer Chemical Company, second largest U.S. maker of synthetic nitrogen products, is moving into the petrochemical field for the first time. On a 400-acre site near Orange, Spencer is constructing a \$25 million plant that will convert ethylene, made at the Port Arthur refinery of Gulf Oil, into 45 million pounds of polyethylene a year, beginning probably in 1955. The Gulf ethylene will be piped direct to the Spencer installation, where it will be converted by the ICI process. Spencer's contract with ICI also provides that the British company will give technical advice on the design and operation of the unit. The venture is being financed by present holders of long-term notes who are increasing outstanding indebtedness of the Spencer firm from \$15 million to \$25 million.

Another ICI-licensed polyethylene unit is projected by Dow Chemical at Freeport. A squad of Dow engineers are now in England being briefed on the ICI techniques. By January 1955 Dow hopes to have its 25-million-pound Freeport plant in operation; meanwhile the company will have invested \$10 million to \$12 million in the unit itself and an additional \$15 million in power, raw material supplies, and other service facilities.

Folding cameras of the future may be equipped with polyethylene bellows; and if such a product appears on the market, it will likely be made by the Eastman Kodak Company, the photographic equipment firm that has long since branched out into chemical and plastics manufacturing. The subsidiary Texas Eastman Company is expanding its petrochemical plant near Longview to include a polyethylene unit with expected 20-million-pound capacity. The plant is already making ethylene by cracking natural-gas propane from the Humble natural-gasoline plant at London in the East Texas Field. Until the polyethylene unit goes on stream, Eastman is converting its ethylene into ethanol, an industrial alcohol used by the subsidiary Tennessee Eastman Company in making acetic acid, esters, and other chemicals. The shift in products will serve as palpable evidence of the technological flexibility that enables chemical manufacturers to switch their raw and intermediate products from one process to another as the economics of production and marketing may dictate. And this flexibility sometimes means the difference between profitable operation and red ink, for no major industry is as vulnerable as chemical production to obsolescence of equipment and processes.

The Eastman plant might not have been planned at present but for the gap left in the potential polyethylene market by withdrawal of American Petrochemical, a jointly-owned property of Firestone and Cities Service. This firm planned construction of a polyethylene plant at Lake Charles, Louisiana, near a large Cities Service refinery there. It was inferred that Firestone would market certain polyethylene products, while Cities Service would handle ethylene glycol antifreeze, a coproduct. But with the entry of other major producers into the field, with a possible national polyethylene capacity of 350-600 million pounds by 1955, and in view of the slipping price level of ethylene glycol, American Petrochemical announced indefinite postponement of its project.



Eastman officials said late in May that the company had already received certification for rapid tax amortization covering the proposed \$7 million facilities and that construction would probably begin early this summer. Since the first accelerated tax write-off permit was disclosed, a new \$3.8 million certificate has been issued to cover the cost of a proposed synthetic hard wax plant to be operated in connection with the polyethylene unit.

Still another nationally important chemical manufacturer, Monsanto, is entering the polyethylene race with a plant that may likely be located in Texas, although the location is still unannounced. Wherever it may be, the Monsanto project cannot be far in the future, for the company has declared its intention of turning out 66 million pounds a year by 1955 and 50% more than that by 1957. Choice of a site for the Monsanto plant will depend upon location of ethylene sources as well as an analysis of future markets for polyethylene. But where Monsanto goes, others may follow, for the company has pioneered in plastics and will be the first to make all six of the most important industrial plastics: styrene, phenolics, cellulose, vinyls, aminoplasts, and polyethylenes. At its Dayton, Ohio, laboratories, Monsanto has been engaged in process research on high-pressure polymerization for 14 years, and techniques developed there have already been put to use in Monsanto operations in Canada, Japan, and Italy, as well as at Texas City and elsewhere in the United States. Now, Monsanto is opening a special polyethylene process laboratory, a step that leads some observers to believe that the firm may plan to turn its back on ICI, at least in certain phases of production.

A significant barometer of growth in polyethylene output is the expansion of capacity for intermediates and coproducts of the polymer. In spite of the recent weakness in the market for ethylene glycol, the common "permanent" antifreeze, ethylene oxide, most of which is used in antifreeze production, is slated for enormous increase. Ethylene, however, may be consumed in the making of other products also. The new \$8 million ethylene unit built by Gulf Oil at Port Arthur will divide its 180-million-pound yearly output between the nearby Koppers ethyl benzene plant and other installations operated by Du Pont, Monsanto, and the Ethyl Corporation, for use in a wide range of products.

Engineering details of ethylene polymerization have for the most part been closely guarded information; but Du Pont patent examples have given a glimpse of what goes on inside a polyethylene plant. At least two types of unit have been referred to: tubular reactors and high-pressure chambers or towers. One Du Pont process reportedly uses a stainless steel tube 3/16 inch in diameter and 40 feet long. At one end, ethylene mixed with a small amount of oxygen is shot into the tube at 1,000 atmospheres pressure together with a solution of sodium hydroxide. The mixture is heated to 160°–225° C., and gas and liquid are continuously withdrawn, from which the polymer is separated. Other, variant methods use hydrogen peroxide, benzene, and other chemicals as promoters and catalysts, and one example describes the use of a silver-lined reaction chamber.

By no means all of the ethylene introduced into the reactor is polymerized; from 18 to 25% is considered

a successful proportion. The remaining three-fourths of unconverted ethylene may be piped off for use in other products or recycled to make another quarter of it into more polyethylene.

Nor is the polyethylene itself a standard product with definite characteristics. The number of ethylene molecules linked together in each chain is the index to the physical qualities of the product. Gas molecules themselves are far too small to be seen under the keenest microscope (one cubic centimeter of gas contains about 27 million million molecules), but special X-ray diffraction instruments show that the chains, like those pictured on the front cover, are about one 60-millionth of an inch apart and that the molecules within the chain are hardly more than half that distance apart. Relatively short chains yield viscous, waxy fluids. The chains must be long to give the fairly rigid solids required for most commercial purposes; and ethylene of very high purity is needed for polymerization into these solid plastics.

Considering the complexity of the processes and the rigid specifications for the raw materials, the wonder is that polyethylenes are not prohibitively expensive laboratory curiosities. On the contrary, the price of polyethylene has dropped from about one dollar a pound in 1943 to 44 cents this year. With further expansion, prices as low as 30 or even 20 cents are predicted.

The substance for sale at this nominal price is not, like many chemicals, to be seen only in roaring industrial plants. It has already entered most homes in some form or other and promises to become a common household material, on a par with cellophane and far more versatile. Films of tough, pliable polyethylene are already in widespread use in shower curtains and fresh or frozen food wrappings; in both cases, its high water-proof factor gives it the edge over competitive materials. Millions have already enjoyed the convenience of unbreakable polyethylene bottles and jars for medicines and cosmetics, or disposable squeeze-bottles with the atomizer built in. Cooks are already becoming accustomed to the morning ritual of mixing frozen orange juice concentrate in polyethylene shakers, now for sale in most groceries. And they also mix their cakes in polyethylene bowls that may be bent to form a pouring spout, flip their ice cubes from flexible polyethylene trays, wrap food for refrigeration or freezing in polyethylene bags and cartons.

Stratosphere balloons up to 70 feet in diameter have been constructed of polyethylene. At the other extreme, it has been used to replace sections of arteries and of delicate brain membranes in a new approach to plastic surgery. In one case, two-thirds of a femur bone was replaced with a polyethylene shaft, and polyethylene splints are also being developed.

Unlike many plastics, polyethylene possesses most of the properties required of a packaging material—lightness, flexibility and resilience, resistance to moisture and chemicals, and high tear strength with little tendency for cuts or nicks to run—and possesses these qualities in the pure state without the addition of plasticizers. Its light weight (one pound of standard 2-mil film will cover about 15,000 inches) together with its toughness and other characteristics reduce shipping costs and also breakage and contamination losses. Such films are sold

as liners for metal or fiber drums used in the shipment of liquid, moist, dusty, corrosive, or adhesive products. Some shipping containers are flame-sprayed with melted polyethylene, and similar methods are used in coating paper and fiber materials with an impermeable coat of polymers.

For years, electrical engineers have sought an insulating material that would approach the loss characteristics of air. Polyethylene is not the perfect answer, but is so much better than anything else that has come along that it is rapidly becoming a standard electrical insulation. Almost all coaxial cable is now shielded with ethylene polymers, and their use has allowed development of a two-cable system capable of transmitting 1,800 two-way long distance telephone calls or 600 telephone circuits and two 4-million-cycle band television channels. Polyethylene may be applied as cable insulation in the form of tape, cord, or disks, or as a continuous extruded sheath. The Bell Telephone System, which controls most of these communication lines, has also developed a cable known as "alpeth," which is sheathed with corrugated aluminum with an outer, corrosion-proof coating of polyethylene. For outdoor use, polyethylene is mixed with fine carbon black, primarily to protect it from the oxidative breakdown caused by long exposure to intense light.

Polyethylene bottles are as inert as glass to most chemicals, much more so to some. Hydrofluoric acid, the archcorrosive industrial chemical used to etch glass, has presented storage and transportation problems since the beginning of the chemical age. This powerful reagent eats its way right out of glass bottles but is entirely safe in containers of polyethylene, which weigh only a third as much as their glass equivalents. In other applications, polyethylene has replaced lead, tin, copper, and stainless steel. And its special characteristics have suggested some totally new uses, such as soundproofing bands of the plastic between automobile springs, and boxes molded with flexible hinge sections built in.

Metal-plating and textile industries have welcomed polyethylene as a corrosion-proof lining for use in acid and bleaching processes. In breweries and food manufactures, the tasteless and odorless surface of poly-

ethylene, easily cleaned and maintained, recommends it for ductwork and vessel lining.

Plumbers are getting used to the sight of polyethylene house-building pipe. An extruded product, this pipe is available in sizes ranging from one-half inch to six inches in diameter and weighs so little that a man can carry 100 feet of two-inch pipe in one hand. The maximum lengths of polyethylene pipe are shipped in easily unrolled coils, greatly simplifying transportation procedures.

The limitations of polyethylene are not necessarily handicaps, with the single exception of its ready flammability. The plastic is not transparent and does not easily take a high surface gloss, but few uses require an absolutely clear, glossy material. In the past, the low melting point of polyethylene, only a few notches above the boiling point of water, has prohibited its use for products that must be sterilized or exposed to high temperatures. But General Electric researchers have found that exposure to the electron beam of a million-volt X-ray machine changes the molecular structure in such a manner that the irradiated polyethylene can withstand steam sterilization without melting. Thus the field of sterile packaging of pharmaceuticals, blood plasma, and so forth is now apparently open to polyethylene. Further progress along these lines may also result in the making of polyethylene filaments and yarns; they are now too low in softening temperature to be used in most textiles.

Probably every reader of this article can think of some other, untried use for the wonder-child of plastics that science has compounded of research, imagination, and Texas gas. By 1955, your potential share—and that of every man, woman, and child in the nation—will be about three pounds. For later years, no rational forecast can be made. But with a lion's share of the bulk polyethylene to be made in Texas and with an increasingly large and prosperous market growing up in the South and Southwest, the integrated manufacture of polyethylene, from wellhead to consumer product, may find its most favorable location in Texas.

ROBERT H. RYAN

Bureau of Business Research Publications

### Industrial Expansion in Texas 2nd Quarter, 1953

Stanley A. Arbingast, Assistant Director  
and Jo Anne Horne, Library Assistant

A new listing of industrial plant projects announced during April-June 1953, together with cost figures, products, and number of employees. Single copies available without charge.

Bureau of Business Research Publications

### Job Evaluation in Automobile and Automotive Parts Industries

William R. Spiegel, Dean and Distinguished Professor of Management, and E. Lanham, Assistant Professor of Management, College of Business Administration, have written this fifth in their series of "Personnel Studies" from information gathered from throughout the automotive field. Price, one dollar.

# Local Business

City and item	Percent change		
	May 1953	May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Apr 1953
<b>ABILENE: (pop. 45,570)</b>			
Retail sales .....	.....	- 10	+ 5
Department and apparel stores .....	.....	- 7	+ 6
Postal receipts .....	\$ 56,307	+ 8	- 9
Value of building permits .....	\$ 603,418	- 63	+ 81
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 50,200	- 5	- 5
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 49,193	- 10	- 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	12.1	- 2	- 3
Employment .....	25,500	.....	0
Manufacturing employment .....	3,295	.....	x
Air express shipments .....	283	+ 39	+ 10

<b>ALICE: (pop. 16,449)</b>			
Postal receipts .....	\$ 9,324	+ 9	- 22
Value of building permits .....	\$ 133,125	+138	+188
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 10,890	.....	- 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 14,204	.....	+ 18
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	10.0	.....	- 5
Air express shipments .....	14	+ 17	- 33

<b>ALPINE: (pop. 5,261)</b>			
Postal receipts .....	\$ 3,257	- 5	- 10
Value of building permits .....	\$ 12,000	- 42	+ 41
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 2,110	- 15	- 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 3,987	- 7	- 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	6.3	- 9	- 5
Air express shipments .....	13	+160	+225

<b>AMARILLO: (pop. 74,246)</b>			
Retail sales* .....	.....	- 9	- 4
Department and apparel stores .....	.....	- 26	- 10
Drug stores* .....	.....	- 7	+ 5
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores* .....	.....	- 12	- 5
Postal receipts .....	\$ 117,549	+ 1	- 2
Value of building permits .....	\$ 1,433,287	- 22	- 48
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 127,362	- 5	- 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 101,543	- 11	- 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	14.8	- 6	- 4
Employment .....	43,750	+ 6	x
Manufacturing employment .....	5,100	+ 9	x
Air express shipments .....	730	+ 73	+ 15

<b>AUSTIN: (pop. 132,459)</b>			
Retail sales .....	.....	+ 8	+ 5
Automotive stores .....	.....	+ 20	+ 12
Department and apparel stores .....	.....	- 3	+ 14
Eating and drinking places .....	.....	+ 12	+ 4
Filling stations .....	.....	- 10	+ 5
Food stores .....	.....	+ 3	+ 16
Furniture and household appliance stores .....	.....	+ 35	+ 30
General merchandise stores .....	.....	x	+ 4
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores .....	.....	+ 3	- 10
Postal receipts .....	\$ 198,295	+ 5	- 5
Value of building permits .....	\$ 3,451,046	+105	+ 29
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 104,536	+ 1	- 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 101,482	- 17	- 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	12.1	- 14	- 7
Employment .....	60,100	.....	x
Manufacturing employment .....	4,085	.....	+ 1
Air express shipments .....	630	+ 20	0

City and item	Percent change		
	May 1953	May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Apr 1953
<b>BAYTOWN: (pop. 22,983)</b>			
Postal receipts .....	\$ 13,943	+ 4	- 7
Value of building permits .....	\$ 186,570	- 44	- 39
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 17,142	+ 7	- 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 19,165	+ 5	- 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	10.7	+ 1	- 6
Employment (area) .....	356,600	+ 5	x
Manufacturing employment (area) .....	85,050	+ 10	x

<b>BEAUMONT: (pop. 94,014)</b>			
Retail sales* .....	.....	- 1	+ 2
Automotive stores* .....	.....	- 2	- 1
Department and apparel stores .....	.....	- 3	+ 3
Eating and drinking places* .....	.....	+ 9	+ 12
Furniture and household appliance stores* .....	.....	+ 44	+ 46
General merchandise stores* .....	.....	- 5	+ 5
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores* .....	.....	+ 19	+ 1
Postal receipts .....	\$ 78,440	+ 10	x
Value of building permits .....	\$ 547,164	+ 47	- 20
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 125,176	+ 3	- 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 95,850	- 1	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	15.8	- 2	- 4
Employment (area) .....	73,375	+ 23	+ 1
Manufacturing employment (area) .....	27,175	+109	+ 1
Air express shipments .....	275	- 2	- 5
Waterborne commerce (tons) .....	32,619	- 18	x

<b>BEEVILLE: (pop. 9,348)</b>			
Postal receipts .....	\$ 5,031	- 7	- 24
Value of building permits .....	\$ 9,000	+ 40	- 75
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 6,039	+ 1	- 10
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 11,518	- 2	- 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	6.2	+ 2	- 9
Air express shipments .....	8	+ 60	- 58

<b>BIG SPRING: (pop. 17,286)</b>			
Retail sales .....	.....	+ 28	+ 3
Department and apparel stores .....	.....	- 8	+ 8
Postal receipts .....	\$ 13,956	- 18	- 26
Value of building permits .....	\$ 329,315	- 13	+147
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 19,561	- 11	- 10
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 23,146	- 12	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	10.1	0	- 7
Air express shipments .....	52	0	- 10

<b>BRADY: (pop. 5,944)</b>			
Postal receipts .....	\$ 3,973	+ 12	- 10
Value of building permits .....	\$ 56,900	+ 79	- 30
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 5,485	+ 22	+ 20
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 7,183	+ 4	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	9.3	+ 18	+ 18

<b>BRENHAM: (pop. 6,941)</b>			
Postal receipts .....	\$ 5,000	+ 3	- 30
Value of building permits .....	\$ 85,500	+ 80	- 71
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 5,451	- 6	- 5
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 9,922	+ 3	- 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	6.5	- 8	- 4

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.



# Conditions

City and item	May 1953	Percent change	
		May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Apr 1953
<b>BROWNSVILLE: (pop. 36,066)</b>			
Retail sales* .....		+ 1	+ 4
Postal receipts ..... \$	18,992	— 9	— 5
Value of building permits ..... \$	531,110	+607	— 41
Air express shipments ..... 352		— 18	— 14
Waterborne commerce (tons) .....	76,970	— 9	— 7

<b>BROWNWOOD: (pop. 20,181)</b>			
Retail sales		- 5	- 1
Department and apparel stores		+ 7	- 4
Postal receipts	\$ 14,697	+ 4	+ 5
Value of building permits	\$ 26,000	- 64	- 21
Bank debits (thousands)	\$ 8,687	- 12	- 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands)†	\$ 12,779	+ 2	- 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.1	- 13	- 2
Air express shipments	19	- 34	- 27

<b>BRYAN: (pop. 18,102)</b>			
Department and apparel store sales		- 8	+ 24
Postal receipts	\$ 14,782	+ 1	- 18
Value of building permits	\$ 51,010	- 82	- 80
Air express shipments	20	- 13	- 20

<b>CORPUS CHRISTI: (pop. 108,287)</b>			
Retail sales		+ 2	- 10
Apparel stores		- 7	- 20
Automotive stores		+ 7	+ 10
Country general stores		- 15	+ 2
Department stores†		+ 4	+ 3
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores		- 5	- 7
Postal receipts	\$ 109,463	+ 6	- 4
Value of building permits	\$ 1,711,261	+ 32	- 35
Bank debits (thousands)	\$ 141,311	+ 4	- 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)†	\$ 108,990	+ 3	- 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	15.4	- 9	- 2
Employment	60,800	x	x
Manufacturing employment	7,405		+ 2
Air express shipments	473	+ 17	+ 1
Waterborne commerce (tons)	2,291,069	+ 12	+ 14

<b>CORSICANA: (pop. 19,211)</b>			
Department and apparel store sales		- 4	+ 8
Postal receipts	\$ 11,800	+ 5	- 9
Value of building permits	\$ 64,275		+183
Bank debits (thousands)	\$ 10,771	- 9	- 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)†	\$ 19,358	- 16	- 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	6.6	- 6	- 8

<b>DEL RIO: (pop. 14,211)</b>			
Postal receipts	\$ 8,787	+ 39	- 11
Value of building permits	\$ 35,425	+ 1	+ 4
Bank debits (thousands)	\$ 8,504	+ 17	- 11
End-of-month deposits (thousands)†	\$ 10,313	+ 2	+ 24
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.9	+ 24	- 11
Air express shipments	15	- 40	- 53
Tourists entering Mexico	26,134		+ 84
Tourist cars entering Mexico	7,312		+ 63

<b>DENISON: (pop. 17,504)</b>			
Retail sales		- 1	- 3
Department and apparel stores		- 5	- 4
Postal receipts	\$ 11,679	+ 2	- 6
Value of building permits	\$ 89,871	+124	+ 85
Bank debits (thousands)	\$ 13,110	+ 26	+ 10
End-of-month deposits (thousands)†	\$ 15,119	+ 18	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.4	+ 6	+ 13

City and item	May 1953	Percent change	
		May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Apr 1953
<b>DALLAS: (pop. 434,462)</b>			
Retail sales* .....	-----	+ 3	+ 11
Apparel stores* .....	-----	+ 5	+ 9
Automotive stores* .....	-----	+ 9	+ 14
Department stores† .....	-----	+ 3	+ 16
Drug stores* .....	-----	x	+ 1
Eating and drinking places* .....	-----	x	+ 5
Filling stations* .....	-----	+ 5	+ 1
Food stores* .....	-----	+ 2	+ 4
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores* .....	-----	— 1	— 8
Office, store, and school supply dealers* .....	-----	+ 45	x
Postal receipts .....	\$ 1,446,886	+ 10	— 2
Value of building permits .....	\$ 8,666,555	+ 39	— 11
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 1,662,883	+ 15	+ 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....	\$ 866,029	— 13	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	22.7	+ 11	+ 2
Employment .....	292,265	+ 4	x
Manufacturing employment .....	75,625	+ 10	— 1
Air express shipments .....	8,905	+ 2	+ 5

<b>DENTON: (pop. 21,372)</b>			
Retail sales		+ 3	+ 6
Department and apparel stores		+ 1	+ 25
Postal receipts	\$ 19,052	+ 3	+ 3
Value of building permits	\$ 121,550	+ 35	- 22
Bank debits (thousands)	\$ 9,964	+ 1	- 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands)†	\$ 13,031	+ 3	- 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.1	- 4	0

<b>EL PASO: (pop. 130,485)</b>			
Retail sales*		- 5	- 1
Apparel stores*		- 6	+ 11
Automotive stores*		- 27	- 2
Department stores†		+ 2	+ 3
Drug stores*		+ 9	+ 8
Furniture and household appliance stores*		+ 15	+ 20
General merchandise stores*		- 4	- 5
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*		+ 14	- 10
Piano stores*		+ 46	+ 53
Office, store, and school supply dealers*		+ 33	- 14
Postal receipts	\$ 169,417	+ 3	- 6
Value of building permits	\$ 2,396,502	+177	+ 78
Bank debits (thousands)	\$ 180,374	+ 13	- 13
End-of-month deposits (thousands)†	\$ 115,360	- 21	- 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	18.4	+ 6	- 10
Employment	66,700	+ 5	x
Manufacturing employment	10,340	+ 7	+ 1
Air express shipments	1,434	+ 15	- 8
Tourists entering Mexico	3,070	- 16	+ 3
Tourists cars entering Mexico	1,080	- 11	- 6

<b>EAGLE PASS: (pop. 7,276)</b>			
Postal receipts	\$ 4,520	+ 6	- 7
Value of building permits	\$ 209,000	+8310	+402
Bank debits (thousands)	\$ 3,601		- 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)†	\$ 3,257		- 18
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.0		- 6
Air express shipments	17	+ 21	+ 42

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

## LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	May 1953	Percent change	
		May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Apr 1953
<b>EDINBURG: (pop. 12,383)</b>			
Postal receipts .....	\$ 6,993	— 11	— 3
Value of building permits .....	\$ 56,518	+137	+ 29
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 8,511	— 7	x
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....	\$ 9,263	+ 3	— 8
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	10.6	— 12	+ 6
Air express shipments .....	12	+ 20	+ 33

**FORT WORTH: (pop. 278,778)**

Retail sales*	.....	- 4	+ 5
Apparel stores*	.....	+ 8	+ 4
Automotive stores*	.....	- 3	- 13
Department stores†	.....	- 7	+ 7
Drug stores*	.....	+ 12	+ 3
Eating and drinking places*	.....	x	+ 4
Filling stations*	.....	- 10	- 3
Food stores*	.....	+ 4	+ 18
Furniture and household appliance stores*	.....	- 10	+ 28
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*	.....	- 15	- 17
Postal receipts .....	\$ 463,180	+ 3	- 1
Value of building permits .....	\$ 2,967,950	- 47	- 26
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 492,568	- 3	- 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 324,689	- 21	- 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	18.1	- 6	- 2
Employment .....	162,300	x	x
Manufacturing employment .....	52,500	- 6	- 2
Air express shipments .....	2,047	- 5	+ 9

**GALVESTON: (pop. 66,568)**

Retail sales .....	.....	- 22	+ 3
Automotive stores .....	.....	- 7	x
Department and apparel stores .....	.....	- 9	x
Eating and drinking places .....	.....	- 8	+ 4
Food stores .....	.....	- 3	+ 6
Furniture and household appliance stores .....	.....	- 5	+ 32
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores .....	.....	- 39	- 27
Postal receipts .....	\$ 66,477	+ 4	+ 4
Value of building permits .....	\$ 206,615	+ 40	- 72
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 73,743	- 6	- 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 77,987	- 23	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	11.4	- 21	- 7
Employment (area) .....	50,600	+ 4	x
Manufacturing employment (area) .....	11,665	+ 10	x
Air express shipments .....	488	+ 49	- 18

**GARLAND: (pop. 10,571)**

Postal receipts .....	\$ 9,427	- 14	- 9
Value of building permits .....	\$ 535,825	+ 78	- 46
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 8,306	+ 5	- 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 8,566	+ 21	- 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	11.5	- 17	- 12

**GLADEWATER: (pop. 5,305)**

Postal receipts .....	\$ 4,730	+ 2	- 8
Value of building permits .....	\$ 50,000	+178	+108
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 4,519	+ 13	+ 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 4,721	+ 20	+ 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	11.8	- 2	+ 2
Employment (area) .....	23,900	+ 3	+ 4
Manufacturing employment (area) .....	3,820	- 8	+ 6
Air express shipments .....	8	- 27	+167

City and item	May 1953	Percent change	
		May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Apr 1953
<b>GILMER: (pop. 4,096)</b>			
Retail sales*		- 10	+ 8
Postal receipts	\$ 3,512	+ 14	+ 70
Value of building permits	\$ 10,200	—	+ 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡	\$ 6,395	—	- 2

**GONZALES: (pop. 5,659)**

Postal receipts .....	\$ 4,773	+ 44	+ 20
Value of building permits .....	\$ 15,213	+238	- 5
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 4,352	- 9	- 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 6,183	+ 4	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	8.4	- 12	- 1

**GREENVILLE: (pop. 14,727)**

Department and apparel store sales .....	.....	- 8	+ 31
Postal receipts .....	\$ 15,030	- 12	- 15
Value of building permits .....	\$ 75,050	x	+ 34
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 10,598	- 4	- 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 12,585	- 1	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	10.2	- 3	- 1

**HARLINGEN: (pop. 23,229)**

Postal receipts .....	\$ 21,826	+ 9	- 5
Value of building permits .....	\$ 150,400	+ 80	+ 63
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 22,116	- 3	- 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 18,145	- 2	- 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	14.5	- 1	- 6
Air express shipments .....	56	+ 6	- 13

**HENDERSON: (pop. 6,833)**

Postal receipts .....	\$ 7,134	+ 7	- 6
Value of building permits .....	\$ 33,000	- 4	- 82
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 6,078	- 9	- 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 13,582	- 1	- 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	5.3	- 10	0

**HEREFORD: (pop. 5,207)**

Postal receipts .....	\$ 4,395	x	- 24
Value of building permits .....	\$ 61,600	- 17	+120
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 6,722	- 6	- 16
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 9,111	+ 13	- 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	8.6	- 17	- 15

**HOUSTON: (pop. 596,163)**

Retail sales*	.....	+ 1	+ 3
Apparel stores*	.....	- 7	- 12
Automotive stores*	.....	+ 10	+ 13
Department stores†	.....	- 1	+ 5
Drug stores*	.....	x	+ 3
Eating and drinking places*	.....	+ 15	+ 6
Filling stations*	.....	+ 14	- 1
Food stores*	.....	+ 7	+ 10
Furniture and household appliance stores*	.....	- 1	+ 19
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*	.....	- 25	- 24
Postal receipts .....	\$ 921,557	+ 11	+ 6
Value of building permits .....	\$ 11,149,325	+ 23	- 6
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 1,619,426	+ 4	- 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 1,040,627	- 9	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	18.7	- 3	- 7
Employment (area) .....	356,600	+ 5	x
Manufacturing employment (area) .....	85,050	+ 10	x
Air express shipments .....	4,580	- 5	- 3

For explanation of symbols, see page 23.

## LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	May 1953	Percent change	
		May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Apr 1953
<b>KERMIT: (pop. 6,912)</b>			
Postal receipts.....	\$ 4,298	— 5	— 18
Value of building permits.....	\$ 9,300	— 23	.....
Bank debits (thousands).....	\$ 3,060	— 18	— 5
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....	\$ 2,530	— 45	— 10
Annual rate of deposit turnover.....	13.8	+ 41	+ 14

**KILGORE: (pop. 9,638)**

Postal receipts .....	\$ 9,318	- 6	- 20
Value of building permits .....	\$ 12,000	- 74	- 52
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 12,259	+ 2	- 5
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 14,073	- 3	- 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	10.3	.....	- 3
Employment (area) .....	23,900	+ 3	+ 4
Manufacturing employment (area) .....	3,820	- 8	+ 6
Air express shipments .....	19	- 17	+ 19

**KILLEEN: (pop. 7,045)**

Postal receipts .....	\$ 14,265	- 28	- 13
Value of building permits .....	\$ 14,650	.....	- 91
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 4,110	- 42	- 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 9,952	- 3	- 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	4.9	- 40	- 2

**LAMESA: (pop. 10,704)**

Postal receipts .....	\$ 5,725	- 27	- 24
Value of building permits .....	\$ 2,000	- 98	- 99
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 6,606	- 36	- 13
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 12,555	- 15	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	6.3	- 24	- 11

**LAMPASAS: (pop. 4,869)**

Postal receipts .....	\$ 2,786	x	- 27
Value of building permits .....	\$ 600	- 98	- 98
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 4,180	- 6	- 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 6,729	+ 6	+ 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	7.6	- 11	- 6

**LAREDO: (pop. 51,910)**

Department and apparel store sales .....	.....	- 18	- 7
Postal receipts .....	\$ 25,486	+ 7	+ 2
Value of building permits .....	\$ 105,900	+126	+337
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 20,302	- 26	- 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 18,859	- 28	- 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	12.7	- 27	- 5
Air express shipments .....	167	- 24	+ 8
Tourists entering Mexico .....	9,037	- 19	+ 22
Tourist cars entering Mexico .....	2,900	- 19	+ 12

**LEVELLAND: (pop. 8,264)**

Postal receipts .....	\$ 5,191	+ 9	- 27
Value of building permits .....	\$ 51,110	+284	- 5
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 5,970	.....	- 19
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 8,538	.....	+ 11
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	8.8	.....	- 21

**LITTLEFIELD: (pop. 6,540)**

Postal receipts .....	\$ 3,792	- 6	- 26
Value of building permits .....	\$ 21,950	.....	- 49
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 5,206	x	- 14
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 4,283	- 2	- 20
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	13.0	+ 4	+ 1

City and item	May 1953	Percent change	
		May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Apr 1953
<b>LLANO: (pop. 2,954)</b>			
Postal receipts .....	\$ 1,566	— 14	— 6
Value of building permits .....	\$ 13,000	.....	— 46
Bank debits (thousands) .....	2,347	— 23	+ 10
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 3,492	— 5	+ 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	8.3	— 21	+ 9

**LOCKHART: (pop. 5,573)**

Department and apparel store sales .....	.....	- 7	+ 10
Postal receipts .....	\$ 2,519	- 3	- 18
Value of building permits .....	\$ 8,400	- 76	- 74
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 3,038	- 10	- 17
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 4,496	+ 2	- 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	7.9	- 13	- 9

**LONGVIEW: (pop. 24,502)**

Postal receipts .....	\$ 23,945	+ 4	- 16
Value of building permits .....	\$ 347,800	- 2	- 9
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 32,515	- 4	- 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 35,650	+ 1	- 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	10.8	+ 1	+ 1
Employment (area) .....	23,900	+ 3	+ 4
Manufacturing employment (area) .....	3,820	- 8	+ 6
Air express shipments .....	184	+ 27	+ 8

**LUBBOCK: (pop. 71,747)**

Retail sales .....	.....	+ 4	- 7
Automotive stores .....	.....	+ 1	- 4
Department and apparel stores .....	.....	- 1	- 7
Furniture and household appliance stores .....	.....	+104	+ 14
General merchandise stores .....	.....	x	- 1
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores .....	.....	+ 50	- 21
Postal receipts .....	\$ 74,110	- 2	- 13
Value of building permits .....	\$ 1,187,313	- 24	- 29
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 95,215	- 5	- 11
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 80,687	- 19	- 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	13.9	- 2	- 6
Employment .....	32,950	+ 9	x
Manufacturing employment .....	3,450	+ 5	0
Air express shipments .....	763	+176	- 6

**LUFKIN: (pop. 15,135)**

Postal receipts .....	\$ 14,003	+ 7	+ 1
Value of building permits .....	\$ 64,600	- 66	- 69
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 16,376	- 4	- 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 20,855	+ 8	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	9.5	- 10	+ 1
Air express shipments .....	39	- 19	- 28

**McALLEN: (pop. 20,067)**

Retail sales .....	.....	+ 3	- 1
Department and apparel stores .....	.....	+ 5	+ 12
Postal receipts .....	\$ 15,099	+ 8	- 2
Value of building permits .....	\$ 63,195	+ 2	+ 13
Air express shipments .....	35	0	- 48

**McKINNEY: (pop. 10,560)**

Postal receipts .....	\$ 6,622	- 7	+ 3
Value of building permits .....	\$ 36,500	- 61	- 53
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 4,768	.....	- 13
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 10,366	.....	- 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	5.5	.....	- 6

For explanation of symbols, see page 23.



## LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	May 1953	Percent change	
		May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Apr 1953
<b>MARSHALL: (pop. 22,327)</b>			
Retail sales .....	.....	- 1	- 2
Department and apparel stores.....	.....	- 1	- 3
Postal receipts .....	\$ 18,276	+ 16	+ 10
Value of building permits .....	\$ 103,675	- 56	- 57
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 13,549	+ 9	- 12
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....	\$ 20,116	+ 5	- 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover.....	8.0	+ 3	- 11

<b>MIDLAND: (pop. 21,713)</b>			
Postal receipts .....	\$ 38,331	- 2	- 10
Value of building permits .....	\$ 351,675	.....	- 72
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 51,246	- 7	- 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....	\$ 60,812	+ 4	- 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	10.0	- 13	0
Air express shipments .....	188	- 8	+ 4

<b>MONAHANS: (pop. 6,311)</b>			
Postal receipts .....	\$ 4,193	- 20	- 13
Value of building permits .....	\$ 41,670	.....	- 68
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 5,961	+ 1	- 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....	\$ 5,751	- 7	- 9
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	11.8	+ 3	0

<b>NACOGDOCHES: (pop. 12,327)</b>			
Postal receipts .....	\$ 8,002	+ 12	- 21
Value of building permits .....	\$ 8,850	- 89	- 99
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 8,917	- 15	- 14
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....	\$ 14,941	- 7	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	7.1	- 12	- 13
Air express shipments .....	10	- 23	- 55

<b>NEW BRAUNFELS: (pop. 12,210)</b>			
Department and apparel store sales.....	.....	- 15	- 4
Postal receipts .....	\$ 9,927	+ 6	- 10
Value of building permits .....	\$ 79,871	- 53	- 15
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 8,215	+ 2	+ 23
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....	\$ 8,218	- 6	- 18
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	10.8	+ 1	+ 42

<b>ODESSA: (pop. 29,495)</b>			
Retail sales .....	.....	- 22	- 19
Postal receipts .....	\$ 32,419	- 7	- 15
Value of building permits .....	\$ 886,385	- 29	- 29
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 35,372	- 18	- 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....	\$ 33,025	- 20	- 7
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	12.4	- 1	- 1
Air express shipments .....	134	- 41	- 11

<b>ORANGE: (pop. 21,174)</b>			
Retail sales* .....	.....	+ 27	- 4
Postal receipts .....	\$ 12,471	- 7	- 14
Value of building permits .....	\$ 179,801	+ 8	+ 72
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 16,791	+ 5	- 10
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....	\$ 23,739	.....	+ 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	8.6	.....	- 9

<b>PALESTINE: (pop. 12,503)</b>			
Postal receipts .....	\$ 10,023	+ 19	+ 9
Value of building permits .....	\$ 51,570	- 19	+ 5
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 4,977	- 15	- 13
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....	\$ 12,686	+ 3	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	4.7	- 18	- 13

City and item	May 1953	Percent change	
		May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Apr 1953
<b>PARIS: (pop. 21,643)</b>			
Retail sales .....	.....	+ 1	+ 3
Department and apparel stores .....	.....	- 5	+ 14
Postal receipts .....	\$ 13,465	+ 12	x
Value of building permits .....	\$ 27,650	- 35	- 71
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 10,718	- 11	- 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....	\$ 13,812	- 11	- 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	9.2	- 1	- 6
Air express shipments .....	69	+109	+ 30

<b>PLAINVIEW: (pop. 14,044)</b>			
Retail sales .....	.....	+ 7	- 8
Department and apparel stores.....	.....	- 5	+ 21
Postal receipts .....	\$ 11,459	+ 9	- 2
Value of building permits .....	\$ 165,200	+ 17	- 42
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 13,884	- 6	- 13
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....	\$ 20,947	+ 5	- 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	7.7	- 11	- 8
Air express shipments .....	36	+ 80	+ 16

<b>PORT ARTHUR: (pop. 57,530)</b>			
Retail sales* .....	.....	+ 11	+ 6
Department and apparel stores.....	.....	- 9	+ 8
Filling stations* .....	.....	- 13	+ 10
Food stores* .....	.....	+ 11	+ 7
Furniture and household appliance stores* .....	.....	- 11	- 8
Postal receipts .....	\$ 34,446	+ 24	- 3
Value of building permits .....	\$ 214,680	- 29	- 12
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 45,935	+ 28	+ 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....	\$ 37,574	- 13	- 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	14.5	+ 27	+ 4
Employment (area) .....	73,375	+ 28	+ 1
Manufacturing employment (area).....	27,175	+109	+ 1
Air express shipments .....	110	+ 38	- 23

<b>ROCKDALE: (pop. 2,321)</b>			
Retail sales .....	.....	- 13	- 10
Postal receipts .....	\$ 2,957	- 7	- 26
Value of building permits .....	\$ 87,235	.....	- 21
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 3,096	+ 19	- 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....	\$ 3,260	+ 16	+ 7
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	11.8	+ 4	- 6

<b>SEGUIN: (pop. 9,733)</b>			
Postal receipts .....	\$ 7,540	+ 2	+ 4
Value of building permits .....	\$ 16,045	- 71	- 74
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 6,144	- 13	+ 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....	\$ 15,118	+ 2	- 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	4.8	- 19	+ 4

<b>SAN ANGELO: (pop. 52,093)</b>			
Retail sales .....	.....	- 15	+ 4
Department and apparel stores.....	.....	- 12	x
Postal receipts .....	\$ 48,299	+ 1	+ 2
Value of building permits .....	\$ 614,772	+ 79	+ 76
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 36,579	- 7	- 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡.....	\$ 45,403	- 10	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	9.7	- 6	- 1
Employment .....	21,300	- 7	+ 1
Manufacturing employment .....	2,165	.....	+ 1
Air express shipments .....	247	+ 2	+ 6

For explanation of symbols, see page 23.

## LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	May 1953	Percent change	
		May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Apr 1953
<b>SAN ANTONIO: (pop. 408,442)</b>			
Retail sales* .....	.....	+ 5	- 1
Apparel stores* .....	.....	+ 31	- 10
Automotive stores* .....	.....	+ 35	- 7
Department stores† .....	.....	- 10	+ 5
Drug stores* .....	.....	+ 6	x
Eating and drinking places* .....	.....	- 9	+ 3
Filling stations* .....	.....	- 5	- 2
Food stores* .....	.....	x	+ 4
Furniture and household appliance stores* .....	.....	- 11	- 16
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores* .....	.....	- 8	- 1
Postal receipts .....	\$ 460,386	+ 1	- 10
Value of building permits .....	\$ 5,475,387	+ 59	+ 21
Bank debits (thousands) .....	\$ 391,929	+ 6	+ 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡ .....	\$ 314,321	- 18	- 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	14.8	- 2	+ 3
Employment .....	194,330	+ 1	x
Manufacturing employment .....	21,885	x	x
Air express shipments .....	2,342	- 8	+ 10

**SNYDER: (pop. 12,010)**

Postal receipts	\$ 7,980	- 11	- 7
Value of building permits	\$ 69,700	- 63	- 66
Bank debits (thousands)	\$ 9,848	-	- 18
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	\$ 9,061	-	- 20
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.6	-	- 3

**SULPHUR SPRINGS: (pop. 8,991)**

Postal receipts	\$ 5,234	+ 2	- 11
Value of building permits	\$ 27,330	- 57	- 21
Bank debits (thousands)	\$ 5,448	- 18	- 14
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	\$ 9,760	- 3	- 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	6.5	- 18	- 12

**SWEETWATER: (pop. 13,619)**

Postal receipts	\$ 14,371	+ 8	+ 26
Value of building permits	\$ 47,725	- 78	+ 95
Bank debits (thousands)	\$ 7,528	+ 6	- 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	\$ 10,021	+ 6	- 2
Air express shipments	18	- 33	- 28

**TAYLOR: (pop. 9,071)**

Postal receipts	\$ 6,227	- 12	- 23
Value of building permits	\$ 215,765	+411	+531
Bank debits (thousands)	\$ 9,400	- 10	- 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	\$ 13,834	+ 6	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.1	- 16	- 1

**TEXARKANA: (pop. 40, 628)§**

Retail sales§		- 5	+ 6
Department and apparel stores§		- 4	+ 7
Postal receipts§	\$ 47,003	+ 15	+ 20
Value of building permits§	\$ 107,131	+ 19	+ 10
Bank debits (thousands)§	\$ 39,287	+ 2	- 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	\$ 19,192	- 25	- 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.8	- 16	- 6
Employment§	47,810	+ 13	+ 7
Manufacturing employment§	13,075	+ 17	+ 2
Air express shipments§	82	- 18	- 20

**WAXAHACHIE: (pop. 11,204)**

Postal receipts	\$ 9,467	- 6	- 35
Value of building permits	\$ 57,060	+ 32	+ 40
Bank debits (thousands)	\$ 3,213	- 10	- 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	\$ 3,008	- 15	- 13
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.9	- 4	+ 4

City and item	May 1953	Percent change	
		May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Apr 1953
<b>TEMPLE: (pop. 25,467)</b>			
Retail sales .....	-----	- 16	+ 4
Department and apparel stores .....	-----	- 27	- 7
Postal receipts ..... \$	23,899	+ 3	- 7
Value of building permits ..... \$	56,615	- 66	- 68
Bank debits (thousands) ..... \$	15,379	- 11	- 11
End-of-month deposits (thousands) ‡. \$	21,319	- 2	- 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover .....	8.5	- 9	- 8
Air express shipments .....	43	- 26	- 26

**TEXAS CITY: (pop. 16,620)**

Retail sales		- 1	+ 13
Department and apparel stores		- 6	- 6
Postal receipts	\$ 13,416	+ 1	- 8
Value of building permits	\$ 271,570	- 67	+ 26
Bank debits (thousands)	\$ 27,124	+ 22	+ 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	\$ 26,948	+ 24	- 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.2	0	+ 5
Employment (area)	50,600	+ 4	x
Manufacturing employment (area)	11,665	+ 10	x

**TYLER: (pop. 38,968)**

Retail sales		- 9	- 6
Department and apparel stores		x	+ 7
Postal receipts	\$ 61,322	+ 20	- 4
Value of building permits	\$ 1,838,899	+277	- 22
Bank debits (thousands)	\$ 54,429	- 2	- 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	\$ 53,202	- 3	- 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.1	- 11	- 5
Air express shipments	230	+ 48	- 14

**WACO: (pop. 84,706)**

Retail sales		- 12	- 3
Apparel stores		- 14	+ 4
Automotive stores		- 5	- 3
Department stores†		- 31	- 11
Florists		+ 29	+ 24
Furniture and household appliance stores		- 55	- 34
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores		+ 34	+ 5
Office, store, and school supply dealers		- 17	- 12
Postal receipts	\$ 99,601	- 3	- 10
Value of building permits	\$ 874,089	- 6	- 31
Bank debits (thousands)	\$ 65,402	- 5	- 13
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	\$ 59,249	- 30	- 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	13.2	- 1	- 13
Employment	41,600	- 18	- 6
Manufacturing employment	6,380	-	- 15
Air express shipments	165	- 11	- 10

**WICHITA FALLS: (pop. 68,042)**

Retail sales		- 6	x
Department and apparel stores		- 8	+ 7
Postal receipts	\$ 77,219	- 4	- 6
Value of building permits	\$ 828,480	+ 43	+ 85
Bank debits (thousands)	\$ 79,313	- 3	- 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	\$ 94,661	- 10	- 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.0	- 7	- 7
Employment	39,650	- 22	x
Manufacturing employment	3,960	+ 14	x
Air express shipments	392	+125	- 1

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

\*Preliminary.

†Reported by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

‡Excludes deposits to credit of banks.

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

# BAROMETERS OF TEXAS BUSINESS

	May 1953	Apr 1953	Mar 1953	Year-to-date average 1953	Average month 1952
<b>GENERAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY</b>					
†Index of Texas Business Activity (100.0).....	291*	294	295	295	268
Index of bank debits.....	695	706	688	694	666
Income payments to individuals in the U. S. (billions—seasonally adjusted at annual rate).....		\$ 283.1*	\$ 282.8	\$ 281.9	\$ 268.4
Index of wholesale prices in the U.S. (1947-49=100, unadjusted).....	109.8	109.4	110.1	109.8	111.6
¶Index of consumers' prices in Houston (1947-49=100, unadjusted).....	116.8			116.5	115.4
Index of consumers' prices in the U.S. (1947-49=100, unadjusted).....	114.0	113.7	113.6	113.7	113.5
Index of postal receipts.....	404	401	400	394	382
†Index of miscellaneous freight carloadings in the Southwestern Dis- trict (17.6).....	143	145	143	144	144
Business corporation charters issued (number).....	304*	357	311	332	278
Business failures (number).....	12	13	19	13	8
<b>TRADE</b>					
†Index of total retail sales (adjusted for price changes, 47.7).....	246*	248	246	248	229
Index of total retail sales.....	510	514	513	516	481
Durable-goods stores.....	696	739	721	723	653
Nondurable-goods stores.....	419	406	412	416	398
†Index of total retail sales in the U.S.....		445	448	446	424
Durable-goods stores.....		648	658	652	582
Nondurable-goods stores.....		379	380	379	372
Ratio of credit sales to net sales in department and apparel stores.....	65.6	63.6	66.0	64.1	63.6
Ratio of collections to outstandings in department and apparel stores.....	39.0	40.0	43.7	42.0	44.8
Index of gasoline sales.....		276	272	280	260
<b>PRODUCTION</b>					
†Index of industrial electric power consumption (14.8).....	625	627	634	635	536
†Index of crude runs to stills (4.5).....	222	229	229	225	209
Index of wheat grindings.....		110	99	102	99
Index of cottonseed crushed.....		183	129	142	126
Index of southern pine production (unadjusted).....		139	129	129	123
Index of dairy product manufacturing.....	70	77	79	73	49
†Index of urban building permits (adjusted for price changes, 3.8).....	200*	211	209	201	188
Index of urban building permits.....	433*	458*	451*	443	397
†Index of crude petroleum production (8.6).....	211	216	234	225	232
†Index of total electric power consumption (3.0).....	678	686	680	666	594
Index of industrial production in the U.S.....	242*	242*	243	241	219
Index of cement production.....		332	330	329	325
Construction contracts awarded (thousands).....	\$130,338	\$112,277	\$ 80,977	\$102,515	\$111,344
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>					
Index of farm cash income (unadjusted).....	312	298	269	312	506
Index of prices received by farmers (unadjusted).....	280	279	286	285	332
Index of prices paid by farmers in the U.S. (parity index—unadjusted, 1910-14=100).....	279	279	281	280	288
Parity ratio.....	100	100	102	102	116
Index of prices received by farmers—livestock (unadjusted, 1910-14= 100).....	309	311	314	320	371
Index of prices received by farmers—all crops (unadjusted, 1910-14= 100).....	257	255	265	258	303
<b>FINANCE</b>					
Loans, reporting member banks in Dallas district (millions).....	\$ 1,761	\$ 1,781	\$ 1,764	\$ 1,763	\$ 1,609
Loans and investments, reporting member banks in Dallas district (millions).....	\$ 3,039	\$ 3,071	\$ 3,108	\$ 3,093	\$ 2,999
Demand deposits adjusted, reporting member banks in Dallas district (millions).....	\$ 2,442	\$ 2,448	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,454	\$ 2,385
Bank debits in 20 cities (millions).....	\$ 5,377	\$ 5,511	\$ 5,636	\$ 5,502	\$ 5,425
Revenue receipts of the State Comptroller (thousands).....	\$ 68,027	\$ 84,614	\$ 57,713	\$ 63,855	\$ 58,076
Federal Internal Revenue collections (thousands).....		\$153,695	\$292,178	\$242,939	\$188,187
<b>LABOR</b>					
Total nonagricultural employment (thousands).....	2,267.4	2,268.2	2,250.9	2,254.4	2,215.2
Total manufacturing employment (thousands).....	437.9	437.1	437.9	437.3	425.9
Durable-goods employment (thousands).....	207.5	207.9	207.6	206.8	203.3
Nondurable-goods employment (thousands).....	230.4	229.2	230.3	230.5	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.

‡Index computed for February, May, August, and November only.