SCB 100 bea 1921 2021

Survey of Current Business

The 1920s

Business Conditions After the Great War

Consumables

Oleomargarine, coffee, cigars, leather shoes, rubber tires, and automobile sales accelerate. Ten-cent store F.W. Woolworth Co. reports monthly sales of $11.6 million in August 1921.

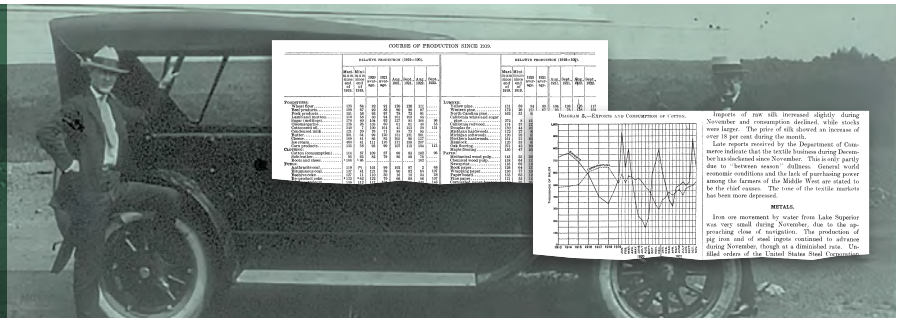

Photo. A King car, parked in Washington, DC. National Photo Company Collection, Library of Congress (LOC), 1920.

Factory Wages

Pittsburgh steelworkers earn 36 cents an hour in September 1922. Such factory employment data are collected from 1,428 firms in 1923, then consolidated into 50 manufacturing industries in 1929.

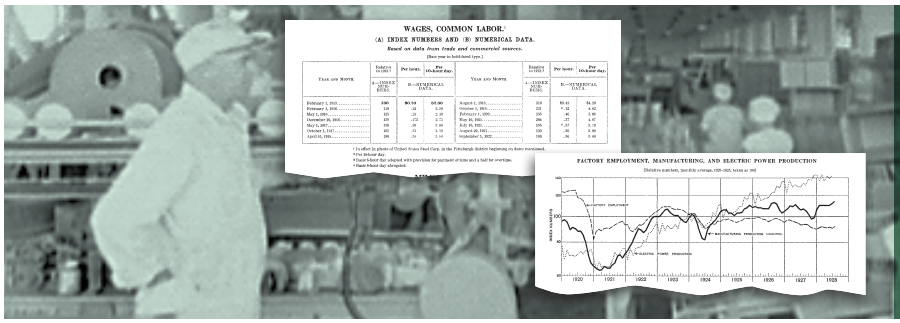

Photo. A factory label and inspection unit. Theodor Horydczak Collection, LOC, 1920.

Stock Market

New York Stock Exchange monthly reports range from an "abundance of money to be had at comparatively low rates" in 1922 to "a substantial decline" in brokers' loans in 1929.

Photo. The New York Stock Exchange crash draws a crowd. New York World-Telegraph and the Sun Newspaper Photograph Collection, LOC, 1929.

Farm Prices

Twelve crops are featured in 1921. Crops are reorganized into categories as the list expands. In 1929, farmers earn $31.03 per ton of cottonseed and $1.35 per bushel of potatoes.

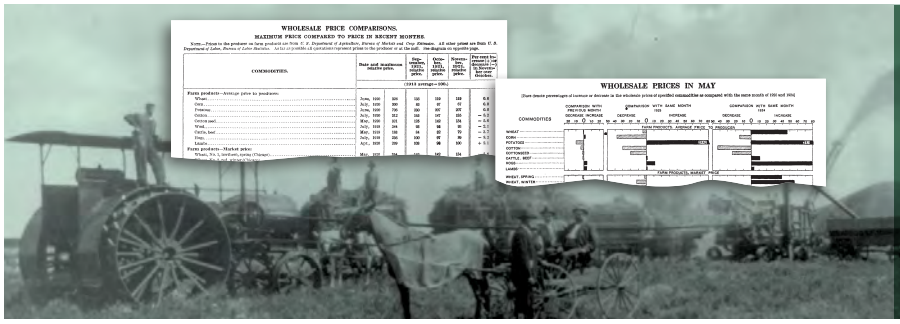

Photo. Threshing and harvesting crops. L.A. Taubert, Deutsche Apotheke, LOC Prints and Photographs Division, between 1920 and 1930.

Find more *Survey* history at www.bea.gov/scb/centennial/decades/1920s.htm