

American Business: Mercantile Newspapers

*An America's Historical Newspapers
Collection*



Quick Facts

A wide spectrum of important titles with data-rich coverage of business and economic history

Nearly 500 papers from more than 40 states, published between 1783 and 1900

More independent general news coverage than politically partisan papers of the era

***“America’s Historical Newspapers is a fabulous tool for research...
and it will also be rewarding for...teachers and students who want to
use old newspapers as part of their study of the American story.”***

— Bruce Chadwick, Professor of History, Rutgers University, in *Journal of American History*

Overview

The only collection of its kind, *American Business: Mercantile Newspapers* provides statistics-laden content from nearly 500 papers in a genre spawned by the rapid growth of shipping and international trade. Targeting wealthy merchants, professionals, and the educated elite, mercantile papers often were voluminous with a very large format, making production and subscription expensive. Much of the included information is unavailable elsewhere.

Goldmine of business data and non-partisan reporting

Most papers in this collection, published between 1783 and 1900, covered business and general news in great detail. Large amounts of numerical and statistical data are found within, including commodities prices, retail prices, stock market quotes, labor rates, insurance rates, shipping tonnage and costs, railroad schedules and rates, industrial output figures, demographic data and immigration statistics. In addition, the general news coverage found in mercantile papers tended to be colored by its editors’ broad support of capitalism and not by allegiance to particular political parties or leaders.

Broad coverage from across the U.S.

Papers in this collection span more than 40 states. Key titles include *Chicago Railway Review* (Chicago, IL), *Nome Gold Digger* (Nome, Alaska), *San Francisco Prices Current* (San Francisco, CA), *St. Louis Weekly Market Reporter* (St. Louis, MO), *New Orleans Commercial Bulletin* (New Orleans, LA), *Cincinnati Price Current* (Cincinnati, OH), *Miner’s Journal & Pottsville General Advertiser* (Pottsville, PA), *United States Economist, & Dry Goods Reporter* (New York, NY), *Tacoma Commerce* (Tacoma, WA), *Galveston News Price Current* (Galveston, TX) and others.

Global trade boom brings international news

Because of the large and growing role that shipping and foreign trade played in the 19th-century U.S. economy, the titles in *Mercantile Newspapers* provide far broader international coverage than most general-interest newspapers of the time. Beyond American shores, a large number of accounts from South America, the Caribbean, Europe and Asia (especially India and China) are found within these papers.

Other subject-specific newspaper collections

American Business: Mercantile Newspapers ideally complements *American Business Agricultural Newspapers*—part of a new group of subject-specific collections designed to meet targeted teaching and research needs.



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