

In analysing the changes in the volume of production, on a purpose classification basis, some interesting facts are revealed. In comparing 1933 with 1929 it is found that the food group reported a decrease of 10.6 p.c., while that of clothing decreased 14.7 p.c. The output of vehicles and vessels, which is largely made up of the automobile and rubber-tire industries, recorded a decrease of 59.5 p.c.—this is the greatest decrease of any group. Producers materials and industrial equipment declined 37.5 p.c. and 45.8 p.c., respectively, due to the general decline in industrial activity. House furnishings dropped 36.6 p.c., personal utilities 30.3 p.c., drink and tobacco 31.5 p.c., and books and stationery 7.2 p.c. The decrease in the personal utilities group needs some explanation. The production of musical instruments, which is included in this group, has been decreasing steadily during the past few years, the output of pianos, phonographs and phonograph records becoming smaller and smaller. The main product of the musical instruments industry, namely, the radio, is now produced in the electrical apparatus industry. This industry, however, is credited to the industrial equipment group, as by far the largest part of its output consists of industrial equipment.

All groups have shared in the improvement since 1933. Food and clothing were major groups in which volume was greater in 1936 than in 1929, while the minor groups, "books and stationery" and "miscellaneous" were considerably above 1929.

The index of the physical volume of production dropped from 122.9 in 1929 to 82.0 in 1933 and has risen to 116.6 in 1936, making a net decrease of 5.1 p.c. since 1929. This decrease is significant when compared with a decrease of 26.5 p.c. in the net value of production and 15.2 p.c. in the number of wage-earners employed.

The construction of this new index of the volume of manufacturing production has superseded, for 1923 and later years, the index published in 1931 and previous years. The former index, which made no pretence to the reliability of the new one, was made by dividing the gross value of manufactures by the index number of the prices of manufactured goods. The central electric stations were included in the former index, but are excluded from the new one. However, the former index covered the period 1917 to 1923 not covered in the new one and, since this earlier period was one of wide fluctuations in money values, the following index numbers are given for the whole period since 1917, using the earlier method, but excluding central electric stations, for the years 1917 to 1922, and the new index, transposed to the 1917 base, from 1923 to 1936.

INDEXES OF THE VOLUME OF MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION, 1917-36.  
(1917=100.)

1917	100.0	1922	96.0	1927	136.5	1932	105.0
1918	102.0	1923	104.8	1928	148.8	1933	105.1
1919	98.1	1924	102.9	1929	157.5	1934	123.7
1920	95.0	1925	112.7	1930	142.8	1935	136.4
1921	86.1	1926	128.1	1931	124.1	1936	149.4

## Section 2.—Production of Industrial Groups and Individual Industries.

For the purposes of the Census of Manufactures, the main detailed analysis is made under a classification in which industries are grouped according to the chief component material of the goods manufactured. This is, therefore, the grouping used in Table 9, where the statistics of individual industries are presented in detail and in the historical series already shown in Table 3. However, there are also less detailed analyses under purpose groupings appearing in Table 10 and under origin groupings in Table 11.