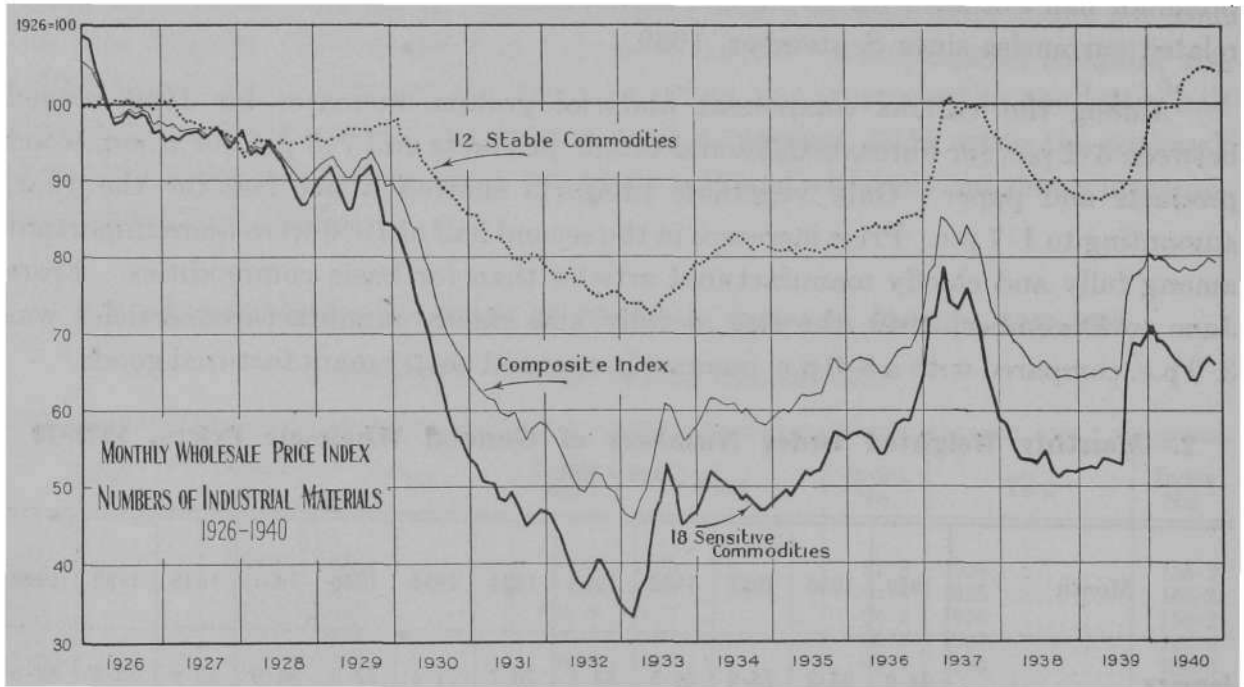


**Industrial Materials Prices.**—The major trends outlined by the index of industrial materials prices since 1926 can be summarized briefly as follows: from 1926 to 1929 underlying instability was apparent and the general index moved lower at a gradual pace throughout the period. Then followed a severe decline, which depressed industrial materials prices along with other principal commodity groups until the beginning of 1933. A gradual rise punctuated by intermittent



short-period declines followed throughout the next four years. In March, 1937, industrial materials prices attained their highest point since 1929 and a slightly lower peak was shown in July, after a minor reaction. From this period to November, 1938, the index of industrial materials prices receded to levels on a par with those of 1936 and the latter part of 1935. The effects of the outbreak of war are noticeable for the last four months of 1939 and throughout 1940.

### 3.—Monthly Price Index Numbers of Industrial Materials Prices, 1926-40

(1926=100)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1926.....	104.7	102.6	100.7	99.4	98.3	98.4	99.5	98.9	99.2	99.1	97.4	98.0
1927.....	97.2	97.5	96.4	96.7	96.8	96.9	96.0	96.6	96.7	96.0	94.8	96.1
1928.....	95.4	93.7	94.5	94.1	95.2	93.8	93.4	92.1	90.9	89.9	90.2	91.1
1929.....	92.2	92.7	93.2	91.8	90.3	90.4	92.9	93.0	93.7	92.4	89.4	89.5
1930.....	88.3	86.8	84.0	83.4	79.8	77.4	74.0	71.9	69.3	67.7	66.6	64.9
1931.....	63.9	62.1	61.5	61.2	59.5	59.3	59.6	57.9	56.1	57.7	58.1	57.7
1932.....	56.8	55.2	53.4	51.5	49.7	49.2	50.3	51.6	51.5	49.9	49.1	47.4
1933.....	46.0	45.8	48.4	49.3	54.0	56.7	60.8	59.4	58.6	55.7	57.0	57.6
1934.....	59.4	61.7	61.5	60.9	60.7	60.9	59.8	60.1	59.1	58.4	58.3	58.9
1935.....	59.8	60.0	59.7	61.1	62.0	61.7	62.0	62.1	64.1	65.9	65.5	65.3
1936.....	66.1	66.5	66.3	66.0	64.6	64.6	66.4	67.7	68.2	68.0	69.9	73.1
1937.....	78.1	79.3	85.2	84.7	83.4	82.3	84.5	82.9	81.2	76.8	73.4	71.5
1938.....	70.6	69.2	68.8	67.4	65.9	65.5	66.3	65.1	64.1	64.2	64.2	64.0
1939.....	64.3	64.3	64.7	64.6	65.2	65.3	64.9	65.3	75.0	77.4	77.9	78.8 <sup>1</sup>
1940.....	80.2	79.5	79.7	79.4	78.6	77.9	78.7	78.1	78.2	78.8	79.8	79.1

<sup>1</sup> Revised since the publication of the 1940 Year Book.