

Non-durable Manufactures.—The trend of output in the non-durable sector of manufacturing from 1944 to 1953 was visibly smoother than in the durable sector. Except for 1945 there has been no interruption in the upward movement of production during the period under review. Production continued to expand after the War although at a slower rate. Unlike durable goods, non-durable commodities are mostly consumer goods and are less influenced by sudden changes in the international situation or the capital investment programs of producers and governments. By 1953 the non-durables index of output had reached 224, the highest on record.

7.—Indexes of the Volume of Manufactured Production of the Groups Comprised within the Non-durable Manufactures Classification 1944-53

(1935-39=100)

NOTE.—Indexes for the years 1935-43 are given in the 1954 Year Book, p. 629.

Year	Food	Beverages	Tobacco and Tobacco Products	Rubber Products	Leather Products	Textile Products (except Clothing)
1944.....	171.1	190.5	200.6	149.0	149.6	162.0
1945.....	170.0	205.1	230.2	180.2	155.0	160.5
1946.....	177.2	234.4	204.4	158.0	167.9	161.7
1947.....	181.5	249.4	211.9	230.7	148.7	172.9
1948.....	183.0	270.9	215.8	227.6	129.6	180.2
1949.....	180.3	285.7	224.4	208.5	133.5	186.0
1950.....	183.6	282.9	227.5	251.9	126.8	212.4
1951.....	188.7	297.7	212.2	264.3	117.0	208.6
1952.....	195.5	323.6	242.3	246.4	128.0	184.1
1953.....	194.0	336.6	269.6	264.2	136.7	187.6

	Clothing (Textile and Fur)	Paper Products	Printing, Publishing and Allied Trades	Products of Petroleum and Coal	Chemicals and Allied Products
1944.....	147.1	149.1	114.9	171.8	390.4
1945.....	146.6	161.2	125.8	167.5	292.8
1946.....	152.9	188.9	143.8	167.4	237.7
1947.....	147.7	207.4	163.3	181.2	245.5
1948.....	156.0	217.7	177.2	199.0	243.2
1949.....	159.4	213.7	183.8	218.0	239.5
1950.....	155.7	230.4	195.3	243.5	253.7
1951.....	149.7	247.8	194.7	274.9	267.8
1952.....	154.4	235.5	192.4	295.1	272.4
1953.....	167.3	244.7	204.8	324.3	284.4

Durable Manufactures.—On the base of 1935-39 the new volume index of durable manufactures reached a peak of 340 in 1944. In the following two years it declined sharply and stood at 205 in 1946. Since then it has regained almost half the lost ground and reached 324 in 1953.

The largest gain occurred in the output of transportation equipment. Owing principally to the tremendous increases in production of ships and aircraft, the index for this group of industries rose to the record level of 694 in 1944. After reaching a postwar low of 222 in 1946 the index rose moderately during the next three years but, spurred by the great demand for passenger cars and by the renewal of defence production, marked gains were made since 1950, the index climbing to 436 in 1953.