

The period 1947-56 was characterized by unprecedented industrial expansion. The end of hostilities in 1945 and the subsequent reconversion to peacetime production were attended by declines in output but the upward trend was resumed in 1947. The rate of advance slackened moderately in 1948 and 1949 but regained most of its 1947 impetus in 1950 when the outbreak of hostilities in Korea resulted in heavy anticipatory buying on the part of consumers and in growing expenditures for national defence. By 1952 the index of the volume of manufacturing production at 118.5 had surpassed the record wartime level of 106.1 established in 1944. The index continued to advance in 1953, dropped somewhat in 1954 but moved upward again to a new high of 145.1 in 1956. Then, as a result of the minor recession which began in the autumn of 1957, the index for that year slipped to 142.9 and for 1958 to 140.7. The 1959 index stood at 150.0, the highest point on record.

Durable Manufactures.—Over the decade ended in 1959, the volume index of durable manufacturing output increased to a level of 149.5. With the exception of production cut-backs in 1954 and 1957-58, the advance was steady. In 1959, total durable manufacturing output increased by 7 p.c. over 1958, all major groups recording substantial increases during the year with the exception of transportation equipment, which was off marginally.

Of the six major durable groups, the only one to register an uninterrupted, almost spectacular advance was non-metallic mineral products. By 1959, this group had attained a level of 223.2. The steady increase over the years was associated with the growth in construction activity, this group producing mainly building materials such as concrete and concrete products, glass products, etc. The electrical apparatus and supplies group reached an index level of 184.8 in 1959, largely the result of sizable production advances in telecommunication equipment and refrigerators and appliances. Each of the other durable groups increased substantially during the decade.

6.—Indexes of the Volume of Manufactured Production of the Groups Comprised within the Durable Manufactures Classification, 1935-59

(1949=100)

Year	Wood Products	Iron and Steel Products	Transportation Equipment	Non-ferrous Metal Products	Electrical Apparatus and Supplies	Non-metallic Mineral Products
1935	42.3	29.2	34.2	40.1	22.9	24.6
1936	47.5	33.8	35.5	46.7	25.0	29.8
1937	53.6	42.9	43.4	54.4	32.5	38.2
1938	50.7	36.6	38.1	55.8	28.0	34.3
1939	54.0	39.1	37.7	58.4	28.4	35.7
1940	65.5	58.9	61.1	70.5	41.9	45.0
1941	74.5	86.4	106.1	98.9	61.8	60.1
1942	77.4	114.7	157.1	130.4	74.9	68.2
1943	73.6	131.6	198.4	145.6	85.0	68.8
1944	76.1	118.4	235.7	130.9	85.5	66.8
1945	77.2	96.3	157.0	98.8	70.7	63.7
1946	86.8	80.8	80.6	81.8	67.7	72.0
1947	98.2	93.6	95.3	89.6	89.6	86.3
1948	100.6	101.5	97.2	99.2	91.5	92.2
1949	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1950	108.2	102.5	108.3	104.0	112.5	111.0
1951	114.8	117.0	131.3	114.1	120.7	119.8
1952	115.8	118.9	149.1	112.2	124.5	122.8
1953	125.4	115.3	165.2	120.1	150.9	139.2
1954	124.2	106.2	137.3	117.0	151.7	146.1
1955	136.4	123.8	145.1	127.5	176.2	171.1
1956	138.3	145.3	157.9	133.0	191.3	191.5
1957	127.3	139.6	151.2	127.6	183.6	191.3
1958	132.0	128.3	132.5	126.7	176.2	205.9
1959	136.6	147.2	131.5	134.7	184.8	223.2