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BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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CENSUS OF MANUFACTURES: 1939

INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATIONS

Census

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1941

PREPARED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF  
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BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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## INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATIONS

### FOR THE

### CENSUS OF MANUFACTURES, 1939

The industry classification, together with the description of industries, for the Census of Manufactures, 1939, has been developed by the Division of Manufactures and the Central Statistical Board's Committee on the Standard Industrial Classification. The Census of Manufactures classification and the Standard Classification agree closely. In some cases, the Census of Manufactures classification subdivides standard classification industries and sometimes the standard industries are combined for the Census of Manufactures classification. However, comparability with the Standard Classification on a three-digit or "industry group" basis is maintained.

The classification of reports for manufacturing establishments consists in the assignment of each to the particular industry to which it belongs, based on the chief product or products manufactured in the particular establishment. Establishments primarily engaged in the production of the same product or closely related products are in this way classified in the same industry or in closely related industries.

The specific industry to which a report is assigned is usually determined by the value of the principal products manufactured. However, in a few industries, such as wholesale meat packing, blast furnaces, and newspaper printing, establishments are classified in the particular industry if they are engaged at all in the processes classified in that industry.

The general rule of classifying on the basis of value of principal product is occasionally disregarded, however, in order to avoid classifying an individual establishment in one industry at one census and in another at the next. To illustrate: In 1937 a certain establishment may have manufactured two general classes of products, one of which contributed 55 percent and the other 45 percent of its total value of products; but for 1939 these percentages might be reversed, the predominant class of products for 1937 becoming the secondary class for 1939. In order to make the statistics for 1939 as nearly comparable as possible with those for preceding censuses, the establishment

is classified in the same industry for 1939 as for 1937, unless it appears probable that the change is permanent in character.

The manufactures classification as constituted at the beginning of the census for 1935 embraced 310 industries. Revisions and reclassifications made between the publication of "Industry Classifications for the Census of Manufactures, 1935" and the publication of the 1935 reports changed the number of industries for 1935 to 340. In the 1937 Census, other changes were made so that the industry classification booklet for that year contained 341 industries. Other changes took place before the release of the final volume so that there were finally 351 industries for the 1937 Census.

There are 453 manufacturing industries and one special inquiry on motion picture production listed and described in this classification booklet for the 1939 Census of Manufactures.

The industries are divided into 20 major groups. The industries within these major groups are listed numerically, closely related industries being grouped together under a common heading. Thus, the first digit of a 3-digit number and the first two digits of a 4-digit number indicate the major group to which the industry belongs, while the last two numbers of both 3- and 4-digit numbers indicate the physical position occupied by the industry within the group.

A list of the major industry groups and the page number where each begins is given on page ii. These major industry groups have been arranged into more or less related industrial fields, six in all, as they are handled within the Census of Manufactures. This grouping appears below.

The industries have been arranged alphabetically, with the industry number and the schedule form number of each indicated, beginning on page 4.

The 1939 Census of Manufactures schedule titles have been listed alphabetically together with the titles and numbers of the industries to be reported on each schedule. This listing begins on page 88.

An asterisk in front of the 1937 industry number indicates that the 1939 industry is not coextensive with the 1937 industry but is only a part of the 1937 industry.

#### **Office Group 1:**

Industry Group 1.—Food and kindred products.

Industry Group 2.—Tobacco manufactures.

**Office Group 2:**

Industry Group 3.—Textile-mill products and other fiber manufactures.

Industry Group 4.—Apparel and other finished products made from fabrics and similar materials.

**Office Group 3:**

Industry Group 14.—Iron and steel and their products, except machinery.

Industry Group 15.—Nonferrous metals and their products.

Industry Group 16.—Electrical machinery.

Industry Group 17.—Machinery (except electrical).

Industry Group 18.—Automobiles and automobile equipment.

Industry Group 19.—Transportation equipment except automobiles.

**Office Group 4:**

Industry Group 5.—Lumber and timber basic products.

Industry Group 6.—Furniture and finished lumber products.

Industry Group 7.—Paper and allied products.

**Office Group 5:**

Industry Group 9.—Chemicals and allied products.

Industry Group 10.—Products of petroleum and coal.

Industry Group 11.—Rubber products.

Industry Group 13.—Stone, clay, and glass products.

**Office Group 6:**

Industry Group 8.—Printing, publishing, and allied industries.

Industry Group 12.—Leather and leather products.

Industry Group 20.—Miscellaneous industries.