

The Great Depression: A Graph Study

With the coming of the Great Depression and the decline of the stock market, business leaders hesitated to build new plants and factories or expand production. It became increasingly difficult to borrow money. This forced businesses to close down in record numbers.

When investors lost their money on the stock market, they did not purchase as many goods as before. With money "tight," workers were laid off and factories closed. The Hoover Administration

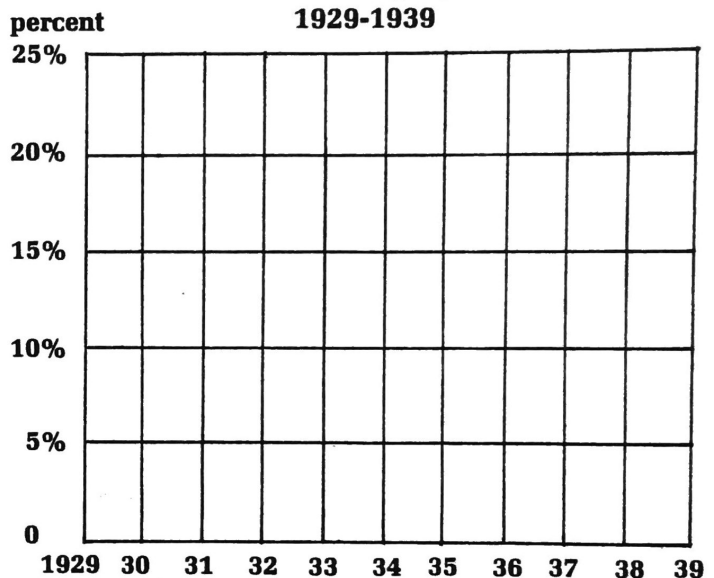
struggled to bring back hope and confidence to the country as the ranks of the unemployed grew to nearly 13 million. Almost 25 percent of the work force was now jobless. Cities opened soup kitchens and breadlines. People sold apples on street corners for five cents. The down-and-out, unable to pay their rent, turned to migrating around the country looking for jobs. Shanty towns called "Hoovervilles" sprang up. The dark days of the Depression seemed immovable.

Use the Graph

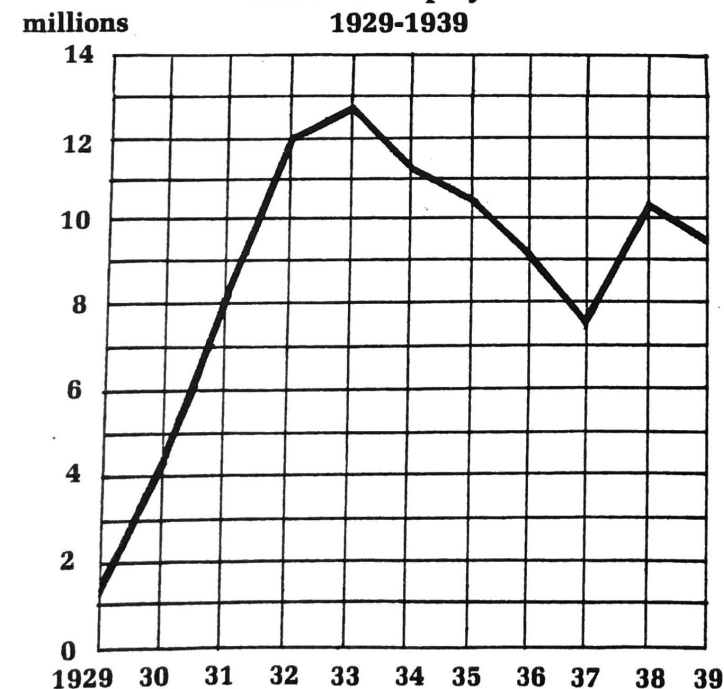
- Aside from the decline of the stock market, the rise of unemployment further mirrored the tragedy of the Depression. Use the graph to chart the unemployment rate from 1929-1939.

1929: 3.2%	1935: 20.1%
1930: 8.7%	1936: 16.9%
1931: 15.9%	1937: 14.3%
1932: 23.6%	1938: 19.0%
1933: 24.9%	1939: 17.2%
1934: 21.7%	

Rate of Unemployment
1929-1939



Actual Unemployment
1929-1939



Using both graphs, answer the following questions.

- In what year did the unemployment rate reach its highest level? _____
What was the percentage of unemployment? ____
How many people did that percentage represent? _____
- What was the unemployment rate in 1929? ____
Approximately how many were unemployed? _____
- In what year were approximately 9 million unemployed? _____
- What effect did the New Deal programs of 1933 have on unemployment? _____

- Find out what the current rate of unemployment is and then match it with the closest year on the chart. How does that rate compare with the rates during the Depression? _____