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CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA.

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by

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## PREFACE.

The first Labour Report issued by this Bureau was published in 1912. This Report is the twenty-seventh of the series and deals chiefly with the year 1936. The tabulations, however, include particulars relating to the first half of 1937 as well as for earlier years, in most cases back to 1931.

The synopsis immediately following shows the general arrangement of the work, while an index has been inserted at the end of the volume to facilitate reference.

The subject-matter in the Report has been divided into four main Chapters, covering information in regard to Prices (Wholesale, Retail and International Comparisons); Wages; Employment (Unemployment and Industrial Disputes); Associations (Trade Unions and Employers' Associations). The Report follows the lines of its immediate predecessors in scope and arrangement.

In Chapter II., Section 3, a comprehensive review is given of the judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration of the 23rd June, 1937, by which "prosperity loadings" were added to the basic wage of all workers whose wages and working conditions are controlled by that Court. A table of the "Court" Series of Index Numbers created by the Court for the adjustment of its basic wage appears in Appendix IX.

A brief review has been included in Chapter III. "Employment", of the special legislation for the relief of unemployment enacted during 1931 to 1937. Tables are also published herein for the first time embodying data on "Direct Measures of Employment" by way of supplementing the information in regard to unemployment provided by the percentages reported by trade unions. The field of inquiry covered by this investigation has been limited for the time being to employment in factories and retail stores.

In view of the importance and extent of the revision in 1936 and 1937 of the retail price indexes compiled by the Bureau, the whole of the Resolutions of the 1936 Conference of Statisticians upon which the revisions are based are published in Appendix XI.

For the purpose of tabulating the results of the investigations which have been made in regard to rates of wage, labour organizations, employers' associations, unemployment, industrial disputes, &c., the following classification of trades and occupations has been adopted:—

### Classification of Industries and Occupations.

I.	Wood, Furniture, Sawmill, Timber-works, &c.	VIII.	Mining, Quarries, &c.
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, &c.	IX.	Railway and Tramways Services.
III.	Food, Drink, and Tobacco—Manufacture and Distribution.	X.	Other Land Transport.
IV.	Clothing, Textiles, &c.	XI.	Shipping, Wharf Labour, &c.
V.	Books, Printing, Bookbinding, &c.	XII.	Pastoral, Agricultural, Rural, Horticultural, &c.
VI.	Other Manufacturing.	XIII.	Domestic, Hotels, &c.
VII.	Building.	XIV.	Miscellaneous.

PREFACE.

It is gratifying to record that secretaries of trade unions and of employers' associations, officials of Commonwealth and State Departments, private employers, retail dealers, house agents, and others have readily responded to the somewhat heavy demands made upon them.

Without the help so rendered, the investigations contained herein would have been impossible, and I take this opportunity of expressing my cordial thanks to all who have thus assisted.

The valuable assistance rendered to the Bureau by the Statistical Offices in the various States, especially in regard to the collection of retail prices, is acknowledged, and to the officers concerned I desire to express my sincere thanks.

I am specially indebted to Mr. H. G. Downing, the officer in charge of Labour Statistics in this Bureau, for the care and attention which he has bestowed on the compilation of this Report and for seeing the matter through the press. My thanks are also due to the staff under his control for their cordial co-operation and valuable services.

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Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,  
*Canberra, F.C.T., December, 1937.*

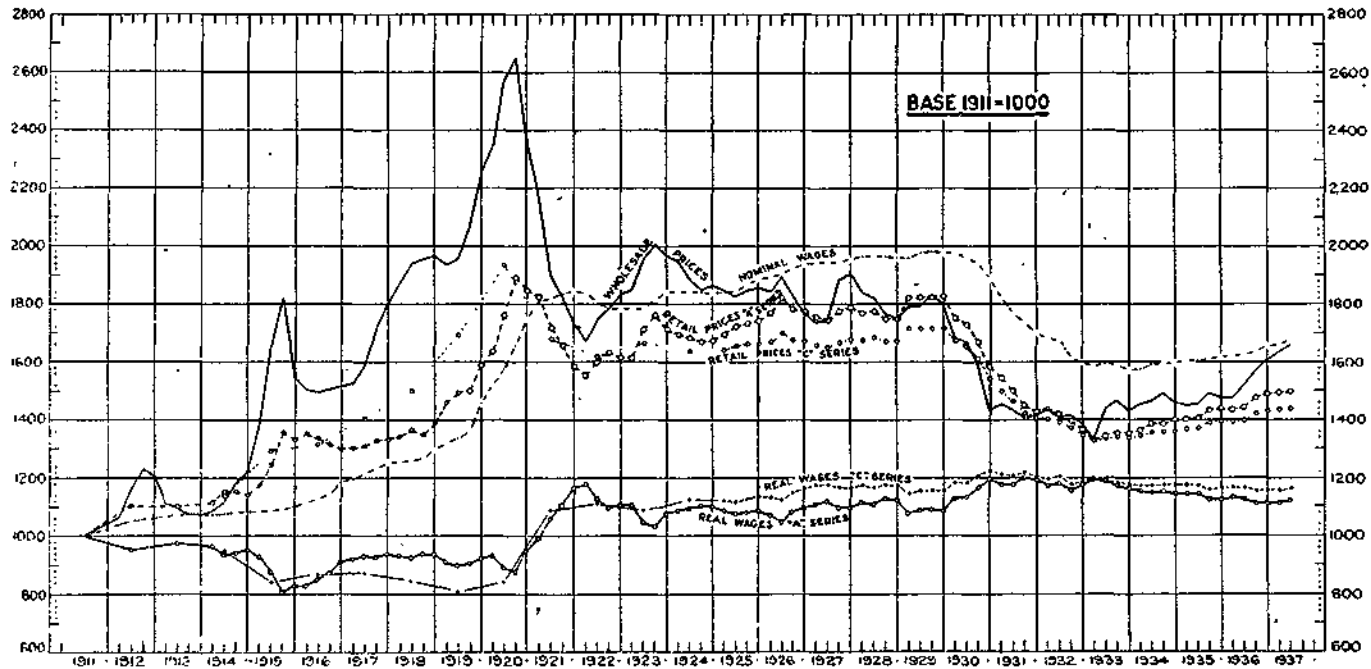
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WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS—AUSTRALIA, 1911 TO 1937.



NOTE—The index-numbers in the above graph are for the Six Capital Cities as a whole, with the exception of those for Wholesale Prices which are for Melbourne. They are all calculated to the common base 1911 = 1,000, the scale for which appears on the left of the graph. They are shown *quarterly* from the year 1912 in the case of the "A" Series Retail Prices (food, groceries and rent of all houses) and Wholesale Prices (Melbourne). The "C" Series Retail Prices (food, groceries, rent of 4 and 5 rooms, clothing and miscellaneous household expenditure) are shown *quarterly* from the year 1925. Nominal Wages are shown *quarterly* from 1914, and Real Wages *quarterly* from 1914 for the "A" Series, and from 1925 for the "C" Series.