

CHAPTER XXVI.—LABOUR, WAGES, AND PRICES.

A.—PRICES.

§ 1. Wholesale Prices.

1. General.—The results of an investigation into wholesale prices in Melbourne from 1871 to the end of September, 1912, were given in some detail in Report No. 1 of the Labour and Industrial Branch. Since 1912, a monthly index-number has been published. Details of monthly figures are to be found in the Labour Reports and in the Quarterly Summaries of Australian Statistics issued by this Bureau.

2. Index-Numbers.—The index-numbers for eight groups of commodities and for all groups together are shown in the following table, with the prices in the year 1911 as base. The index-numbers are not comparable horizontally.

INDEX-NUMBERS.—WHOLESALE PRICES, MELBOURNE.

(Base 1911 = 1,000.)

Year.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Jute, Leather, Wool, etc.	III. Agri- cultural Produce, etc.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Gro- ceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials.	VIII. Chem- icals.	All Com- modities together.
1861	.. 1,438	1,381	1,583	1,008	1,963	..	1,070	2,030	1,538
1871	.. 1,996	1,257	1,236	864	1,586	..	1,044	1,499	1,229
1881	.. 1,178	1,115	1,012	935	1,421	..	1,091	1,587	1,121
1891	.. 895	847	1,024	995	1,032	888	780	1,194	945
1901	.. 1,061	774	928	1,029	1,048	1,345	841	917	974
1902	.. 1,007	756	1,193	1,215	945	1,447	837	881	1,051
1903	.. 923	834	1,209	1,059	936	1,443	875	921	1,049
1904	.. 821	885	754	876	916	1,427	845	875	890
1905	.. 772	850	894	980	942	1,209	801	859	910
1906	.. 882	978	916	972	923	1,110	896	864	948
1907	.. 1,037	1,017	973	1,020	948	1,294	968	961	1,021
1908	.. 1,033	901	1,312	1,198	968	1,335	935	891	1,115
1909	.. 1,014	907	1,000	1,119	978	1,088	911	815	993
1910	.. 1,004	1,052	969	1,100	999	1,008	996	898	1,003
1911	.. 1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912	.. 1,021	991	1,370	1,206	1,052	1,357	1,057	978	1,172
1913	.. 1,046	1,070	1,097	1,054	1,024	1,252	1,128	995	1,086
1914	.. 1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,081	1,253	1,149
1915	.. 1,284	1,017	2,162	1,530	1,133	2,435	1,275	1,528	1,604
1916	.. 1,695	1,423	1,208	1,485	1,322	2,515	1,491	1,760	1,504
1917	.. 2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,884	2,171	1,662
1918	.. 2,416	2,360	1,444	1,454	1,422	2,385	2,686	3,225	1,934
1919	.. 2,125	2,363	1,985	1,651	1,516	2,348	2,851	2,898	2,055
1920	.. 2,298	2,624	2,439	2,209	1,918	3,279	3,226	2,825	2,480
1921	.. 2,173	1,362	1,767	2,000	1,976	2,158	2,733	2,303	1,903
1922	.. 1,942	1,681	1,628	1,648	1,869	1,787	2,005	1,965	1,758
1923	.. 1,826	2,148	1,778	1,837	1,746	2,579	2,025	1,933	1,944
1924	.. 1,835	2,418	1,647	1,655	1,721	2,223	1,815	1,806	1,885
1925	.. 1,852	1,967	1,797	1,636	1,723	2,212	1,711	1,790	1,844
1926	.. 1,938	1,582	2,001	1,784	1,731	1,931	1,665	1,816	1,832
1927	.. 1,962	1,650	1,826	1,823	1,724	2,111	1,624	1,866	1,817
1928	.. 1,912	1,781	1,726	1,751	1,707	2,015	1,744	1,923	1,792
1929	.. 1,912	1,556	1,792	1,853	1,690	2,246	1,754	1,942	1,803
1930	.. 1,866	1,127	1,484	1,627	1,666	2,025	1,875	1,982	1,596
1931	.. 1,826	1,039	1,121	1,399	1,794	1,508	2,025	2,166	1,428

NOTE.—The figures given in this table are comparable in the vertical columns, but are not directly comparable horizontally. The index-numbers are reversible.

The index-numbers up to the year 1911 are based on the prices of eighty commodities, but since that year the number has been increased to ninety-two.* The commodities taken into account are given in detail in each annual Labour Report, with the average prices for the year. The commodities included are chiefly basic foods and raw materials, so that the index is more akin to the "Economist" or "Statist" index-numbers in England than to the official index-numbers of the United States or of Canada. The prices are weighted according to the estimates of Australian consumption per head in the years 1901 to 1911. For this purpose data were incomplete, and consumption in the State of Victoria was the basis for a number of commodities. The prices for farm and station products have been taken from market reports, and those of other commodities from trade journals or from information supplied by representative firms.

3. Revision of the Index.—Changes that have taken place since 1912 have altered considerably the relative consumption of different commodities. New commodities which should be taken into account have come into use, and in a number of other respects, the index-number requires revision. It is, moreover, desirable, to give index-numbers for different classes of commodities, for farm products and for manufactured goods, and again for imported commodities and for those produced in Australia. Revision on these lines is now proceeding, and it is hoped that results will be ready for publication in the course of the year 1933.

§ 2. Retail Prices and House Rents.

1. Introduction.—Reference must be made generally to the annual Labour Reports for explanations and full tables of retail price index-numbers. In Report No. 1 (1912) will be found a general description of method, which is summarized in succeeding issues. Report No. 9, Appendix I. (1919) contains an extensive memorandum on price indexes by the late Sir George Knibbs.

2. Index-Numbers.—There are several index-numbers of retail prices, covering different ranges of commodities. They may be grouped as follows:—

(a) *Food and Groceries*, subdivided into groceries, dairy produce and meat.

Index-numbers are computed monthly for five representative towns in each State (the "30 towns"), for Canberra, and for a few other special towns (see para. 5). Index-numbers are computed annually in November for 200 towns, including those referred to above (see § 4, following).

(b) *Food and Housing*. Figures for rents are collected as at the middle of each quarter and combined with food prices to give a quarterly index of food and rent. For the 30 towns, there are two index-numbers, one taking into account the rents of houses of four and five rooms only, and the other rents of all houses, commonly called the Arbitration Court index. The first is usually given with the period 1923-1927 as base, and the second with 1911 as base. For the 200 towns, four-roomed and five-roomed houses are used separately, but the base is 1911.

(c) *All Household Expenditure*. Since 1919, prices have been collected quarterly in the "30 towns" for other household expenditure in two groups, "Clothing" and "Miscellaneous", the latter including household gear, fuel, light, tobacco and a number of other items. These prices are combined with food prices and rents (four and five-roomed houses) to give the "all-items" index of retail prices. The base is the period 1923 to 1927 (see § 3 following).

For all these index-numbers full information is given in the annual Labour Reports. The latest available information is to be found in the Quarterly Summaries of Australian Statistics.

* In the computation of the index-numbers for years prior to 1911, the aggregate expenditure on 80 commodities in 1911 is taken as base (= 1,000), while for later years the aggregate expenditure on 92 commodities is taken.

3. Food and Housing : Six Capital Cities.—(i) *Food and Groceries.* The index-numbers for the three groups comprising groceries and food are shown in the following table.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS, FOOD AND GROCERIES.—CAPITAL CITIES.

(Base : 1923-27 (= 1,000).)

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
Sydney	523	533	646	1,062	1,032	1,021	1,090	984	876
Melbourne	517	523	610	1,063	969	942	1,004	913	791
Brisbane	530	569	603	1,014	940	935	951	844	778
Adelaide	532	570	679	1,066	1,030	993	1,055	937	789
Perth	670	753	728	1,116	1,004	1,053	1,084	961	836
Hobart	565	592	678	1,133	1,000	966	1,025	952	816
Weighted Average (a) ..	533	559	640	1,064	1,000	985	1,044	941	826

(a) For all capital cities.

(ii) *Housing.* In issues of the Official Year Book prior to No. 19, the computations of index-numbers of housing accommodation were based upon the rentals of all houses from under four rooms to seven rooms and over. Since 1920, houses of four and five rooms only have been taken into account, in accordance with a resolution of the Conference of Statisticians at Adelaide in 1924. The following table is on this basis, but the old index is still computed for the use of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court (*see Appendix*).

INDEX-NUMBERS.—HOUSING,(a) CAPITAL CITIES.

(Base : 1923-27 (= 1,000).)

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
Sydney	593	701	760	989	1,109	1,143	1,162	1,197	1,026
Melbourne	455	569	628	820	1,046	1,087	1,094	1,011	867
Brisbane	283	373	466	630	832	839	841	775	680
Adelaide	510	706	655	809	942	1,022	986	916	755
Perth	458	524	589	739	922	941	955	979	881
Hobart	405	452	518	881	966	939	932	914	901
Weighted Average (b) ..	497	612	662	862	1,030	1,066	1,073	1,047	901

(a) 4 and 5 roomed houses. (b) For all capital cities.

(iii) *Food, Groceries, and Housing (4 and 5-roomed Houses) combined.* The following table shows the index-numbers for groceries, food, and house rent (4 and 5-roomed houses) for each capital city, the weighted average cost for the six capitals in the five-yearly period 1923-1927 being taken as base (= 1,000) :—

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.(a)—CAPITAL CITIES.

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
Sydney	548	606	687	1,036	1,060	1,064	1,115	1,059	929
Melbourne	495	539	616	977	995	993	1,036	948	818
Brisbane	442	500	554	877	902	901	912	819	743
Adelaide	524	618	671	975	999	1,003	1,030	929	777
Perth	594	672	679	982	975	1,013	1,038	968	852
Hobart	508	542	621	1,044	988	956	992	939	846
Weighted Average (b) ..	520	578	648	992	1,011	1,014	1,054	978	852

(a) 4 and 5 roomed houses. (b) For all capital cities.

4. Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency.—The tables previously given are now converted into money units by substituting 20s. od. for the base of 1,000. The figures for the last six quarters are added to the yearly figures. The figures show the sums which would have to be paid in each city and in each year in order to purchase such quantities of the several commodities, and such housing as would in the aggregate cost £1, according to the weighted average prices and rents in the six capitals in the five-yearly base period—1923-1927.

RETAIL PRICES.—AMOUNTS NECESSARY ON THE AVERAGE IN EACH YEAR FROM 1907 TO 1932 TO PURCHASE IN EACH CAPITAL CITY WHAT WOULD COST ON THE AVERAGE £1 IN THE FIVE-YEARLY BASE PERIOD—1923-1927 IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITALS REGARDED AS A WHOLE.

Year.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).							
1907	s. d. 10 6	s. d. 10 4	s. d. 10 7	s. d. 10 8	s. d. 13 5	s. d. 11 4	s. d. 10 8
1911	11 1	10 6	11 5	11 5	15 1	11 10	11 2
1914	12 11	12 2	12 1	13 7	14 7	13 7	12 10
1921	21 3	21 3	20 3	21 4	22 4	22 8	21 3
1927	20 8	19 5	18 10	20 7	20 1	20 0	20 0
1928	20 5	18 10	18 8	19 10	21 1	19 4	19 8
1929	21 10	20 1	19 0	21 1	21 8	20 6	20 11
1930	19 8	18 3	16 11	18 9	16 3	19 1	18 10
1931	17 6	15 10	15 7	15 9	16 9	16 4	16 6
1931 { 1st Quarter ..	18 0	16 8	16 0	16 8	17 7	17 3	17 2
2nd " ..	17 9	15 10	15 9	16 2	17 4	16 6	16 9
3rd " ..	17 2	15 4	15 2	15 1	16 1	15 8	16 1
4th " ..	17 3	15 4	15 2	15 2	15 10	15 10	16 1
1932 { 1st Quarter ..	17 5	15 9	15 3	15 9	16 6	16 3	16 5
2nd " ..	17 3	15 5	14 11	15 7	16 8	16 3	16 2

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION (WEIGHTED AVERAGE—4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES).

1907	11 10	9 1	5 8	10 2	9 2	8 1	9 11
1911	14 0	11 5	7 6	14 1	10 6	9 0	12 3
1914	15 2	12 7	9 4	13 1	11 9	10 4	13 3
1921	19 9	16 5	12 7	16 2	14 9	17 7	17 3
1927	22 2	20 11	16 8	18 10	18 5	19 4	20 7
1928	22 10	21 9	16 9	20 5	18 10	18 9	21 4
1929	23 3	21 11	16 10	19 9	19 1	18 8	21 6
1930	23 11	20 3	15 6	18 4	19 7	18 3	20 11
1931	20 6	17 4	13 7	15 1	17 7	18 0	18 0
1931 { 1st Quarter ..	22 2	18 1	13 10	16 2	18 6	18 4	19 1
2nd " ..	21 2	17 6	13 9	15 2	18 0	18 6	18 4
3rd " ..	20 3	16 11	13 7	14 8	17 4	17 9	17 8
4th " ..	18 7	16 10	13 2	14 5	16 8	17 7	16 11
1932 { 1st Quarter ..	18 3	16 7	13 0	13 11	16 4	17 3	16 7
2nd " ..	18 1	16 5	12 11	13 11	16 3	17 7	16 5

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS ONLY) COMBINED.

1907	11 0	9 11	8 10	10 6	11 11	10 2	10 5
1911	12 1	10 9	10 0	12 4	13 5	10 10	11 7
1914	13 9	12 4	11 1	13 5	13 7	12 5	13 0
1921	20 9	19 6	17 6	19 6	19 8	20 11	19 10
1927	21 2	19 11	18 0	20 0	19 6	19 9	20 3
1928	21 3	19 10	18 0	20 1	20 3	19 1	20 3
1929	22 4	20 9	18 3	20 7	20 9	19 10	21 1
1930	21 2	18 11	16 5	18 7	19 4	18 9	19 7
1931	18 7	16 4	14 10	15 7	17 1	16 11	17 1
1931 { 1st Quarter ..	19 6	17 2	15 2	16 6	17 11	17 8	17 10
2nd " ..	19 0	16 5	15 1	15 10	17 7	17 2	17 4
3rd " ..	18 3	15 11	14 7	14 11	16 7	16 5	16 8
4th " ..	17 8	15 11	14 7	14 11	16 2	16 5	16 5
1932 { 1st Quarter ..	17 8	16 0	14 5	15 1	16 6	16 7	16 6
2nd " ..	17 6	15 9	14 2	15 1	16 6	16 8	16 3

5. Food and Housing, Thirty Towns.—The following table shows the food and housing index-numbers for five representative towns (not necessarily the largest) in each State for the years 1929 to 1931. It shows also the amount of each index-number which is due to food and the amount due to housing.

INDEX-NUMBERS, THIRTY TOWNS, SHOWING RELATIVE EXPENDITURE ON FOOD AND GROCERIES AND ON HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMS) SEPARATELY, AND ON THESE ITEMS COMBINED.

(Basis of Table—Weighted Average Expenditure on Food, Groceries, and Housing (4 and 5 Rooms) in the Six Capital Cities in the Five-yearly Base Period—1923-1927 = 1,000.)

Town.	1929.			1930.			1931.		
	Food and Groceries.	Housing, 4 and 5-roomed houses.	Food, Groceries and Housing.	Food and Groceries.	Housing, 4 and 5-roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Housing.	Food and Groceries.	Housing, 4 and 5-roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Housing.
NEW SOUTH WALES—									
Sydney	703	112	1,115	635	424	1,050	565	364	929
Newcastle	684	384	1,068	628	370	998	560	317	877
Broken Hill	830	248	1,073	763	258	1,021	652	249	901
Goulburn	706	440	1,146	631	419	1,050	544	338	882
Bathurst	675	312	987	622	347	969	553	316	869
Weighted Average ..	705	405	1,110	637	415	1,052	567	350	923
VICTORIA—									
Melbourne	648	388	1,036	589	359	948	510	308	818
Ballarat	664	250	914	614	247	861	526	220	746
Bendigo	672	290	962	618	266	884	532	232	764
Geelong	651	334	985	586	314	900	504	280	793
Warrnambool	639	301	940	602	307	909	523	292	815
Weighted Average ..	649	377	1,026	591	349	940	512	300	812
QUEENSLAND—									
Brisbane	614	298	912	544	275	819	502	241	743
Toowoomba	600	255	855	546	258	804	493	223	716
Rockhampton	652	225	877	589	243	832	544	221	765
Charters Towers	711	264	975	624	255	879	582	223	805
Warwick	627	240	867	566	237	803	515	230	745
Weighted Average ..	620	286	906	552	269	821	508	237	745
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—									
Adelaide	681	349	1,030	604	325	929	509	268	777
Kadina, &c.	734	157	891	669	141	810	561	142	793
Port Pirle	717	246	963	658	253	911	551	239	790
Mount Gambier	667	199	860	596	208	804	500	207	707
Peterborough	752	290	1,042	674	287	961	557	254	811
Weighted Average ..	685	335	1,020	609	313	922	513	261	774
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—									
Perth, &c.	699	339	1,038	620	348	968	539	313	852
Kalgoorlie, &c.	817	193	1,010	734	207	941	641	233	874
Northam	746	326	1,072	672	320	992	570	302	872
Bunbury	757	239	996	690	278	968	572	274	846
Geraldton	741	349	1,090	681	377	1,058	593	367	960
Weighted Average ..	715	321	1,036	636	331	967	552	305	857
TASMANIA—									
Hobart	662	330	992	614	325	939	526	320	846
Launceston	642	295	937	605	286	891	524	276	800
Burnie	695	277	972	646	258	904	545	252	797
Devonport	670	260	930	605	275	880	533	258	791
Queenstown	735	185	920	689	201	890	603	212	815
Weighted Average ..	660	310	970	615	304	919	529	299	828
Weighted Average for 30 Towns	676	368	1,044	610	360	970	536	311	847
Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities ..	673	381	1,054	607	371	978	533	319	852

§ 3. Variations in the Cost of Food, Groceries, Rent, Clothing, and Miscellaneous Expenditure.

1. **General.**—The index-numbers in § 2 show the variations in the cost of food, groceries and house rent. The expenditure on these items covers approximately 60 per cent. of the total expenditure of the ordinary household. The balance is expended on clothing, boots, fuel, light, and such miscellaneous items as renewals of furniture, furnishings, drapery, crockery, lodge dues, trade union dues, recreation, newspapers, etc. The Royal Commission on the Basic Wage in 1920 recommended in its report that a method should be adopted of ascertaining from time to time the rise and fall in the purchasing-power of money in its relation to the total household expenditure. The Government adopted the recommendation, and the duty of carrying out the necessary investigations was entrusted to the Bureau of Census and Statistics, which adopted the methods hereunder described.

2. **Methods Adopted.**—After careful investigation it was decided to adopt for food, groceries, and house rent, the commodities, method, and weighting used by this Bureau. The commodities and quantities adopted for food and groceries conform very closely to those given in the Indicator Lists of the Commission. With regard to rent, the Commission adopted a certain type of five-roomed house as its standard for determining the amount allowed for housing. The investigations made by this Bureau are not confined to a particular type of house, but the average rentals paid for houses of four and five rooms are taken. The results can be used with safety to show the variations in the type of house described by the Commission.

The investigations of this Bureau advisedly had been confined to food, groceries, and house rent, and it was necessary, therefore, to make investigations into the cost of clothing and miscellaneous expenditure. With regard to clothing, the Basic Wage Commission collected a large amount of information as to prices and life of articles, and this has been utilized in computing the index-numbers given in the following tables.

With regard to Miscellaneous Expenditure, which covers a very wide field, inquiries were made as to variations in cost of fuel and light, household utensils, drapery, crockery, etc., also with regard to other items included in the Indicator Lists for Miscellaneous Expenditure, and the aggregate expenditure on these items has been computed in the same manner as that for clothing.

3. **Period Selected as Base.**—For the new series of index-numbers November, 1914, was adopted as base, owing to the difficulty of securing information with regard to prices of clothing and miscellaneous items for earlier years. Prior to and including the 4th Quarter, 1929, the index-numbers were computed to this base, but in accordance with the decision of the Conference of Statisticians to adopt a post-war period as base, the index-numbers since 1st Quarter, 1930, have been computed to the five-yearly period—1923–1927—as base (= 1,000), and the figures for past years have been re-computed to the same base.

4. **Variations in Cost in the Capital Cities.**—The following table gives the combined index (sometimes called the "all-items" index) for all household expenditure, for the capital cities of the States.

INDEX-NUMBERS, TOTAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE, CAPITAL CITIES.

(NOTE.—Weighted average cost in the five-yearly period—1923–1927—for all items in the six capital cities taken as base = 1,000.)

Cities.	November.		Year.						1st Quarter 1932.
	1914.	1921.	1923–27. Base.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	
Sydney	712	1,046	1,020	1,029	1,012	1,073	1,026	922	883
Melbourne	671	1,003	990	990	992	1,017	956	846	829
Brisbane	611	923	927	922	917	923	859	798	777
Adelaide	699	989	1,019	1,018	1,027	1,037	952	837	816
Perth	707	1,008	986	984	1,012	1,026	977	885	853
Hobart	687	1,070	1,031	998	980	1,000	956	875	852
Weighted Average	687	1,013	1,000	1,002	1,009	1,033	975	873	846

§ 4. Retail Price Index-Numbers, 200 Towns.

1. General.—To supplement the information collected each month for the 30 towns specified in § 2.5 *ante*, a special investigation was initiated in November, 1913, into retail price index-numbers in 70 additional towns. This investigation was repeated in November, 1914, and again in November, 1915, when the number of additional towns was increased to 120. In November, 1923, the number of additional towns was further increased to 170, and it is intended to institute inquiries in November in each year, thus making information available annually for 200 towns. The results of the first investigation were published in Labour Bulletin No. 5 (Section IV., pages 26 to 33), where a description was given of the methods adopted in making the investigation and in computing the index-numbers. The results of the succeeding yearly investigations have appeared in the Labour Bulletins and Reports of this Bureau.

2. Detailed Results, 1929 to 1931.—The results of the investigations made in November, 1929, to 1931, are set out in the following table. Column B gives the food-and-rent index for a four-roomed house; column C the food-and-rent index for a five-roomed house. Column A gives the part in these two index-numbers which is due to food (and groceries) alone. The base is the weighted average for the six capitals, in 1911, of food-and-rent (all houses), so that the index-numbers cannot be compared with those given elsewhere for the same towns.

INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD AND GROCERIES, AND OF FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING IN 200 TOWNS, COMPARED WITH THE WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT FOR ALL HOUSES IN THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES IN 1911 AS BASE (= 1,000).

State and Town.	1929. November.			1930. November.			1931. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
New SOUTH WALES—									
Sydney	1,186	1,751	1,897	980	1,537	1,682	913	1,375	1,471
Newcastle	1,159	1,649	1,852	956	1,453	1,602	889	1,277	1,388
Broken Hill	1,406	1,772	1,892	1,169	1,551	1,671	1,031	1,339	1,459
Goulburn	1,200	1,801	1,939	944	1,491	1,582	852	1,288	1,355
Bathurst	1,140	1,519	1,616	930	1,339	1,446	879	1,213	1,300
Albury	1,161	1,822	1,962	930	1,536	1,653	873	1,343	1,461
Armidale	1,127	1,603	1,701	937	1,375	1,463	885	1,290	1,363
Ballina	1,191	1,684	1,809	1,000	1,395	1,527	880	1,226	1,364
Bega	1,181	1,506	1,622	957	1,313	1,431	954	1,322	1,427
Berry	1,175	1,504	1,635	973	1,302	1,394	899	1,215	1,288
Blackheath	1,272	1,733	1,812	1,036	1,463	1,582	943	1,321	1,425
Bourke	1,374	1,611	1,684	1,089	1,418	1,484	1,018	1,380	1,478
Bowral	1,219	1,794	1,956	991	1,478	1,636	938	1,320	1,431
Casino	1,164	1,690	1,836	916	1,443	1,574	888	1,327	1,414
Cessnock	1,164	1,503	1,576	935	1,307	1,420	874	1,179	1,254
Colar	1,312	1,510	1,519	1,119	1,333	1,386	1,008	1,224	1,293
Cooma	1,256	1,599	1,816	1,053	1,382	1,571	1,026	1,335	1,473
Coomamble	1,250	1,614	1,753	1,033	1,388	1,523	984	1,302	1,408
Cootamundra	1,166	1,712	1,866	942	1,446	1,615	900	1,383	1,510
Corrimal	1,159	1,613	1,751	974	1,459	1,510	929	1,350	1,447
Cowra	1,189	1,680	1,817	899	1,347	1,504	887	1,262	1,362
Cronulla	1,275	1,827	1,998	1,060	1,601	1,710	934	1,390	1,480
Deniliquin	1,208	1,583	1,734	1,053	1,516	1,667	893	1,274	1,380
Dulibo	1,196	1,854	1,941	913	1,604	1,673	858	1,441	1,549
Forbes	1,196	1,781	1,990	918	1,512	1,632	879	1,391	1,459
Gilgandra	1,268	1,643	1,692	979	1,321	1,436	912	1,223	1,295
Glen Innes	1,112	1,546	1,697	881	1,302	1,427	877	1,243	1,366
Grafton	1,060	1,516	1,705	876	1,404	1,574	873	1,291	1,461
Grenfell	1,173	1,568	1,766	961	1,395	1,553	918	1,327	1,428
Griffith	1,293	2,214	2,441	1,083	2,021	2,251	1,011	1,807	1,998

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NEW SOUTH WALES—<i>continued.</i>									
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Gulgong	1,207	1,512	1,622	982	1,344	1,431	893	1,169	1,241
Gunnedah	1,131	1,567	1,684	897	1,349	1,401	861	1,246	1,336
Hay	1,273	1,677	1,871	1,026	1,420	1,618	966	1,297	1,439
Inverell	1,255	1,682	1,737	930	1,445	1,522	943	1,351	1,463
Junee	1,205	1,869	1,896	963	1,587	1,687	943	1,495	1,584
Katoomba	1,250	1,848	1,980	1,048	1,691	1,778	984	1,537	1,641
Kempsey	1,037	1,517	1,607	837	1,226	1,403	866	1,227	1,361
Kiama	1,211	1,612	1,724	1,027	1,373	1,601	983	1,279	1,509
Kurri Kurri	1,163	1,510	1,603	978	1,372	1,442	884	1,176	1,273
Leeton	1,284	2,003	2,060	1,018	1,724	1,788	965	1,571	1,656
Lismore	1,111	1,676	1,837	950	1,485	1,691	877	1,282	1,483
Lithgow	1,196	1,643	1,716	981	1,412	1,506	898	1,237	1,289
Maitland	1,142	1,504	1,609	919	1,311	1,441	870	1,201	1,315
Moree	1,243	1,712	1,973	1,004	1,596	1,793	977	1,515	1,573
Moss Vale	1,191	1,787	1,868	959	1,439	1,584	894	1,250	1,399
Mudgee	1,196	1,701	1,802	898	1,424	1,490	888	1,305	1,415
Narrabri	1,205	1,658	1,799	1,009	1,486	1,607	920	1,309	1,395
Narrandera	1,205	1,730	1,961	1,053	1,580	1,744	1,010	1,486	1,598
Nowra	1,198	1,659	1,761	1,019	1,446	1,571	972	1,323	1,410
Orange	1,147	1,700	1,873	960	1,503	1,656	892	1,303	1,407
Parkes	1,213	1,761	1,912	916	1,436	1,549	903	1,284	1,386
Penrith	1,145	1,592	1,698	926	1,334	1,456	851	1,179	1,269
Port Kembla	1,216	1,777	1,920	1,023	1,549	1,689	952	1,355	1,478
Portland	1,234	1,641	1,763	1,024	1,418	1,484	941	1,204	1,276
Queanbeyan	1,235	1,690	1,781	986	1,432	1,525	950	1,363	1,460
Quirindi	1,169	1,493	1,686	1,046	1,352	1,596	984	1,258	1,450
Richmond	1,140	1,535	1,732	944	1,372	1,519	847	1,233	1,329
Scone	1,077	1,537	1,675	941	1,415	1,533	943	1,371	1,466
Singleton	1,148	1,543	1,684	976	1,419	1,568	913	1,282	1,370
Tamworth	1,109	1,537	1,725	889	1,336	1,474	848	1,231	1,337
Taree	1,149	1,682	1,833	960	1,509	1,625	924	1,393	1,475
Temora	1,222	1,782	1,913	1,005	1,565	1,663	932	1,458	1,599
Tenterfield	1,199	1,642	1,673	954	1,408	1,494	858	1,222	1,313
Tumut	1,136	1,639	1,778	938	1,465	1,629	926	1,420	1,552
Umarra	1,126	1,508	1,653	973	1,427	1,565	939	1,378	1,465
Wagga Wagga	1,182	1,911	1,923	937	1,627	1,792	898	1,424	1,560
Walcha	1,198	1,666	1,758	962	1,302	1,488	921	1,250	1,379
Wellington	1,237	1,598	1,704	945	1,274	1,379	900	1,229	1,368
Weston	1,157	1,618	1,684	957	1,333	1,425	868	1,159	1,257
Windsor	1,142	1,622	1,767	941	1,501	1,583	881	1,341	1,440
Wollongong	1,173	1,724	1,785	985	1,508	1,640	928	1,376	1,457
Wyalong	1,236	1,631	1,697	997	1,359	1,425	892	1,205	1,260
Yass	1,247	1,765	1,896	1,032	1,593	1,602	912	1,306	1,394
Young	1,204	1,769	1,862	1,008	1,556	1,666	908	1,350	1,457
Weighted Average for State (74 Towns)	1,187	1,727	1,871	978	1,513	1,652	912	1,354	1,453
VICTORIA—									
Melbourne	1,084	1,647	1,795	895	1,380	1,518	812	1,246	1,360
Ballarat	1,127	1,440	1,624	923	1,213	1,407	834	1,095	1,279
Bendigo	1,130	1,503	1,651	908	1,241	1,383	853	1,149	1,268
Geelong	1,099	1,572	1,691	903	1,305	1,448	813	1,181	1,368
Warrnambool	1,103	1,537	1,698	928	1,363	1,526	850	1,259	1,429
Ararat	1,161	1,551	1,695	969	1,360	1,535	871	1,216	1,378
Bacchus Marsh	1,153	1,613	1,686	980	1,421	1,559	887	1,316	1,423
Bairnsdale	1,167	1,528	1,732	984	1,350	1,544	912	1,209	1,401
Beechworth	1,178	1,481	1,517	990	1,287	1,352	923	1,219	1,285
Benalla	1,151	1,546	1,592	935	1,305	1,385	859	1,242	1,306

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	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
VICTORIA—<i>continued.</i>									
Camperdown	1,135	1,549	1,705	1,017	1,435	1,593	891	1,286	1,424
Casterton	1,113	1,508	1,639	936	1,265	1,462	880	1,235	1,340
Castlemaine	1,108	1,397	1,527	941	1,170	1,342	867	1,120	1,228
Colac	1,102	1,683	1,771	912	1,481	1,576	851	1,318	1,453
Creswick	1,115	1,234	1,293	930	1,128	1,141	842	974	1,000
Daylesford	1,076	1,372	1,438	938	1,218	1,279	831	1,087	1,175
Dunolly	1,118	1,272	1,361	920	1,081	1,150	854	1,002	1,058
Echuca	1,113	1,548	1,715	934	1,294	1,460	843	1,189	1,294
Euroa	1,156	1,504	1,666	1,023	1,354	1,508	850	1,416	1,238
Hamilton	1,162	1,633	1,774	1,038	1,511	1,596	864	1,287	1,410
Healesville	1,173	1,504	1,594	942	1,245	1,327	822	1,105	1,194
Horsham	1,218	1,731	1,885	948	1,395	1,611	875	1,265	1,401
Kerang	1,155	1,748	1,870	969	1,495	1,627	842	1,306	1,434
Koroit	1,102	1,362	1,448	937	1,213	1,279	880	1,143	1,209
Korumburra	1,153	1,614	1,679	899	1,376	1,508	855	1,223	1,364
Kyneton	1,122	1,458	1,583	947	1,341	1,447	847	1,163	1,294
Lilydale	1,179	1,567	1,732	970	1,383	1,484	874	1,240	1,361
Maffra	1,106	1,561	1,763	959	1,520	1,670	851	1,240	1,371
Maldon	1,124	1,279	1,325	961	1,093	1,145	888	1,019	1,072
Maryborough	1,160	1,524	1,623	921	1,264	1,359	847	1,223	1,222
Mildura	1,217	1,843	2,000	1,000	1,584	1,804	915	1,458	1,652
Morwell	1,115	1,628	1,723	964	1,455	1,567	858	1,279	1,371
Nhill	1,248	1,748	1,906	971	1,366	1,557	884	1,213	1,345
Orbost	1,182	1,560	1,757	989	1,371	1,575	917	1,272	1,373
Portland	1,162	1,475	1,656	967	1,305	1,434	886	1,217	1,325
Port Fairy	1,109	1,409	1,507	948	1,211	1,333	895	1,154	1,270
St. Arnaud	1,206	1,535	1,812	1,038	1,357	1,538	896	1,225	1,357
Sale	1,110	1,450	1,661	960	1,266	1,507	867	1,217	1,355
Seymour	1,186	1,581	1,673	969	1,371	1,479	915	1,247	1,375
Shepparton	1,172	1,785	1,874	960	1,502	1,659	856	1,266	1,432
Stawell	1,232	1,550	1,721	993	1,305	1,414	900	1,199	1,314
Swan Hill	1,139	1,819	1,929	937	1,521	1,792	845	1,371	1,592
Terang	1,137	1,480	1,683	984	1,340	1,537	937	1,304	1,459
Traralgon	1,082	1,489	1,643	931	1,322	1,483	842	1,197	1,267
Wangaratta	1,195	1,636	1,832	967	1,461	1,592	854	1,316	1,418
Warracknabeal	1,210	1,676	1,838	947	1,332	1,495	875	1,220	1,362
Warragul	1,075	1,573	1,746	922	1,428	1,633	830	1,344	1,513
Wonthaggi	1,088	1,468	1,614	922	1,323	1,442	842	1,232	1,359
Weighted Average for State (48 Towns)	1,096	1,623	1,770	905	1,366	1,507	822	1,235	1,356
QUEENSLAND—									
Brisbane	1,010	1,409	1,542	818	1,164	1,281	815	1,125	1,235
Toowoomba	1,010	1,310	1,475	835	1,112	1,297	791	1,102	1,173
Rockhampton	1,074	1,355	1,474	886	1,195	1,310	892	1,178	1,261
Charters Towers	1,122	1,521	1,561	945	1,311	1,360	937	1,222	1,286
Warwick	1,042	1,392	1,452	856	1,185	1,262	827	1,156	1,222
AYR	1,197	1,688	1,771	996	1,404	1,522	967	1,423	1,481
Barcoladine	1,265	1,669	1,728	1,062	1,447	1,569	1,078	1,447	1,543
Bowen	1,197	1,592	1,731	1,002	1,355	1,490	982	1,344	1,447
Bundaberg	1,011	1,384	1,478	877	1,203	1,298	875	1,167	1,212
Cairns	1,192	1,766	1,904	947	1,483	1,698	937	1,421	1,574
Charleville	1,181	1,604	1,839	1,005	1,487	1,742	968	1,435	1,626
Chillagoe	1,279	1,542	1,595	1,168	1,379	1,431	1,194	1,392	1,451
Cloncurry	1,310	1,705	1,836	1,141	1,540	1,658	1,059	1,409	1,591
Cooktown	1,249	1,440	1,499	1,169	1,367	1,452	1,050	1,247	1,313
Cunnamulla	1,251	1,711	1,803	1,054	1,501	1,580	982	1,399	1,464

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	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
QUEENSLAND—<i>continued.</i>									
Dalby	1,099	1,415	1,570	872	1,227	1,464	872	1,240	1,370
Gayndah	1,161	1,477	1,556	960	1,262	1,361	971	1,287	1,373
Gladstone	1,105	1,414	1,499	948	1,245	1,369	878	1,192	1,289
Goondiwindi	1,187	1,603	1,648	990	1,385	1,425	938	1,333	1,373
Gympie	1,100	1,464	1,525	886	1,234	1,362	878	1,185	1,269
Hughenden	1,287	1,748	1,868	1,082	1,516	1,595	1,060	1,494	1,595
Innisfail	1,328	1,940	2,118	1,017	1,544	1,708	999	1,576	1,681
Ipswich	1,027	1,357	1,457	855	1,159	1,246	838	1,004	1,183
Longreach	1,266	1,575	1,776	1,066	1,371	1,607	1,092	1,408	1,566
Mackay	1,147	1,707	1,851	956	1,412	1,547	951	1,368	1,478
Maryborough	1,106	1,418	1,619	876	1,238	1,428	887	1,216	1,347
Mount Morgan	1,189	1,321	1,387	970	1,102	1,168	963	1,128	1,161
Nambour	1,120	1,485	1,610	923	1,289	1,406	911	1,240	1,319
Roma	1,145	1,531	1,705	941	1,321	1,461	922	1,253	1,373
Stanthorpe	1,135	1,531	1,595	935	1,369	1,461	901	1,335	1,454
Townsville	1,158	1,631	1,730	917	1,372	1,456	984	1,399	1,460
Winton	1,286	1,746	1,834	1,064	1,380	1,498	1,063	1,374	1,503
Weighted Average for State (32 Towns)	1,057	1,439	1,564	863	1,211	1,330	859	1,178	1,276
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—									
Adelaide	1,124	1,619	1,740	894	1,323	1,443	793	1,152	1,274
Kadina, etc.	1,235	1,432	1,475	998	1,186	1,226	879	1,068	1,112
Port Pirie	1,198	1,569	1,675	986	1,361	1,490	862	1,207	1,310
Mount Gambier	1,102	1,360	1,465	902	1,160	1,281	802	1,047	1,192
Peterborough	1,258	1,664	1,780	977	1,389	1,461	872	1,188	1,329
Freeling	1,112	1,441	1,556	892	1,207	1,319	832	1,095	1,161
Gawler	1,134	1,428	1,520	882	1,177	1,264	831	1,114	1,182
Kapunda	1,172	1,418	1,435	937	1,147	1,182	813	1,008	1,080
Kooringa	1,164	1,493	1,559	959	1,275	1,354	891	1,094	1,251
Millicent	1,052	1,477	1,559	875	1,279	1,358	842	1,207	1,280
Murray Bridge	1,128	1,506	1,613	899	1,250	1,340	791	1,054	1,153
Port Augusta	1,323	1,710	1,790	1,086	1,503	1,583	941	1,278	1,298
Quorn	1,287	1,561	1,654	1,005	1,294	1,378	871	1,156	1,210
Victor Harbour	1,153	1,734	1,898	925	1,479	1,626	869	1,329	1,467
Renmark	1,287	1,780	1,923	1,116	1,577	1,752	951	1,345	1,477
Weighted Average for State (15 Towns)	1,136	1,601	1,717	907	1,317	1,431	805	1,150	1,266
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—									
Perth and Fremantle	1,095	1,567	1,721	902	1,363	1,502	839	1,259	1,358
Kalgoorlie and Boulder	1,279	1,580	1,657	1,080	1,398	1,493	1,038	1,475	1,509
Northam	1,186	1,619	1,803	987	1,434	1,571	907	1,341	1,453
Bunbury	1,229	1,566	1,677	995	1,416	1,502	881	1,300	1,341
Geraldton	1,198	1,678	1,881	969	1,541	1,700	951	1,462	1,629
Albany	1,195	1,513	1,616	983	1,337	1,409	961	1,289	1,349
Beverley	1,187	1,493	1,549	987	1,307	1,382	921	1,250	1,342
Bridgetown	1,266	1,649	1,693	1,072	1,427	1,516	1,042	1,359	1,437
Broome	1,456	1,932	2,114	1,325	1,801	1,983	1,276	1,752	1,934
Carnarvon	1,347	1,808	1,956	1,188	1,683	1,774	1,117	1,606	1,670
Collie	1,234	1,712	1,817	999	1,462	1,568	906	1,277	1,375
Greenbushes	1,234	1,477	1,550	1,046	1,250	1,342	1,020	1,197	1,243
Katanning	1,173	1,565	1,745	929	1,323	1,494	891	1,252	1,391
Leonora and Gwalia	1,412	1,609	1,675	1,247	1,444	1,510	1,135	1,397	1,464
Meekatharra	1,378	1,642	1,734	1,229	1,466	1,624	1,098	1,467	1,592
Narrogin	1,173	1,711	1,826	943	1,491	1,601	884	1,315	1,421
Wagin	1,124	1,535	1,606	1,007	1,434	1,464	970	1,282	1,367
York	1,130	1,466	1,568	940	1,275	1,377	864	1,193	1,272
Weighted Average for State (18 Towns)	1,132	1,576	1,719	937	1,378	1,508	875	1,292	1,384

INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING IN 200 TOWNS, ETC.—*continued.*

State and Town.	1929. November.			1930. November.			1931. November.		
	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.	Food and Groceries only.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4-Roomed Houses.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5-Roomed Houses.
TASMANIA—									
Hobart	1,096	1,573	1,712	932	1,390	1,557	834	1,281	1,419
Launceston .. .	1,087	1,492	1,692	911	1,308	1,474	826	1,212	1,359
Burnie	1,163	1,586	1,731	994	1,355	1,489	881	1,267	1,348
Devonport .. .	1,116	1,565	1,603	935	1,379	1,402	844	1,265	1,329
Queenstown .. .	1,215	1,527	1,557	1,068	1,387	1,444	961	1,288	1,369
Beaconsfield ..	1,052	1,144	1,183	919	997	1,050	871	977	1,003
Campbelltown ..	1,079	1,266	1,315	971	1,183	1,238	884	1,116	1,151
Deloraine .. .	1,019	1,393	1,440	881	1,213	1,276	823	1,113	1,218
Franklin	1,118	1,328	1,381	950	1,187	1,239	952	1,162	1,215
New Norfolk .. .	1,067	1,382	1,461	923	1,292	1,318	832	1,148	1,214
Scottsdale .. .	1,084	1,374	1,466	913	1,209	1,286	787	1,090	1,151
Ulverstone .. .	1,080	1,409	1,511	883	1,217	1,348	841	1,150	1,269
Zeehan	1,293	1,490	1,523	1,103	1,301	1,334	1,002	1,200	1,233
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns) .. .	1,102	1,529	1,666	935	1,349	1,492	843	1,246	1,371
Weighted Average for Australia (200 Towns) .. .	1,133	1,634	1,773	932	1,400	1,535	864	1,271	1,378

By deducting the index-number in column A from those in column B or C, the relative aggregate expenditure on housing accommodation can be ascertained. Thus for November, 1931, the index-number for food and groceries in Melbourne (column A) is 812. Subtracting this from 1,246 (column B) gives a difference of 434, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 4 rooms, and from 1,360 (column C) gives a difference of 548, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 5 rooms. Similarly the relative cost of housing accommodation can be ascertained for each of the towns included.

B.—WAGES.

§ 1. Operations under Wages Board and Industrial Arbitration Acts.

1. *General.*—Particulars of the operations of Wages Boards and Industrial and Arbitration Courts under the Commonwealth and State Acts for the regulation of wages, hours, and conditions of labour were first compiled for the year 1913, and reviews to the end of each annual period appear in Labour Reports and Quarterly Summaries to the 31st December, 1931.

2. Awards, Determinations, Industrial Agreements.—The following table gives a summary for each of the years 1927 to 1931 :—

AWARDS AND DETERMINATIONS MADE AND INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENTS FILED.

State.	1927.		1928.		1929.		1930.		1931.	
	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.								
New South Wales	163	33	93	36	55	27	31	16	46	40
Victoria	74	..	73	..	46	..	83	..	204	..
Queensland	56	18	34	27	21	16	14	44	48	28
South Australia	15	4	14	4	13	9	17	1	64	15
Western Australia	6	57	19	28	15	29	8	38	7	10
Tasmania	4	..	10	3	4	2	10	1	31	3
Commonwealth Court Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator	34	25	40	30	29	26	17	10	11	16
	1	..	6	..	4	..	5	..	1	..
Total	353	137	289	128	187	109	185	110	412	112

3. Boards Authorized, Awards, etc., in Force.—(i) *Totals for Australia.* The following table gives particulars at the dates specified for all States of Boards authorized, and including operations under the Commonwealth and State Arbitration Acts, of the number of awards, determinations, and industrial agreements in force :—

BOARDS AUTHORIZED, AWARDS, ETC.—AUSTRALIA.

Dates.	Boards Authorized.	Boards which had made Awards or Determinations.	Awards or Determinations in Force.(a)	Industrial Agreements in Force.
31st December, 1913	505	387(b)	575(c)	401
31st December, 1915	573	498	663	546
31st December, 1920	475	440	1,041	972
31st December, 1925	575	524	1,181	607
31st December, 1930	644	582	1,285	601
31st December, 1931	651	583	1,317	614

(a) Including awards made by Arbitration Courts and the Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator. (b) Owing to the fact that a number of awards under the New South Wales Industrial Disputes Act (1908) were still in force, the Boards constituted for such industries under the Industrial Arbitration Act (1912) had not made any awards. (c) Excluding awards or determinations which expired in New South Wales (under the Act of 1908) on 31st December, 1913.

Considerable expansion of the principle of the fixation of a legal minimum rate of wage and of working conditions took place during the period under review. At the end of 1931, the number of awards or determinations and industrial agreements* in force had increased by 742 and 213 respectively over the number in force at the 31st December, 1913.

* The registration of industrial agreements is not provided for under the Victorian Act, but such agreements may be registered and filed under the provisions of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, and are operative within the State.

(ii) *Summary for States.* The following table gives particulars for each State and the Commonwealth of the number of Boards authorized, etc., for the years specified :—

BOARDS AUTHORIZED, AWARDS, ETC.—SUMMARY, 1913, AND 1931.

Particulars.	At 31st Dec.	Commonwealth.		N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total.
		Court.	Pub. Ser. Arb.							
<i>Industrial and Wages—</i>										
Boards authorized ..	{ 1913 ..	..	..	216	135	75	56	..	23	505
	{ 1931 ..	..	..	(a) 316	186	2	76	17	54	651
Boards which have made Determinations ..	{ 1913 ..	..	..	123	123	74	47	..	19	386
	{ 1931 ..	..	..	277	175	2	66	12	51	583
<i>Awards and Determinations—</i>										
In force ..	{ 1913 ..	17	..	265	127	73	54	18	21	575
	{ 1931 ..	152	43	477	177	267	71	79	51	1,317
<i>Industrial Agreements—</i>										
In force ..	{ 1913 ..	228	..	75	..	5	11	82	..	401
	{ 1931 ..	140	..	134	..	130	30	175	5	614
<i>Commonwealth Court Awards—</i>										
Number in force in each State ..	{ 1913 ..	..	..	13	17	15	16	9	13	..
	{ 1931 ..	..	..	98	109	30	77	32	63	..
<i>Commonwealth Agreements—</i>										
Number in force in each State ..	{ 1913 ..	..	..	132	129	68	62	57	61	..
	{ 1931 ..	..	..	37	62	12	23	12	35	..
<i>Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator—</i>										
Number of Determinations in force in each State ..	1931 ..	..	..	38	35	30	32	29	29	..

(a) Under Industrial Arbitration Act, (1926), Conciliation Committees have been appointed, and at the end of 1931, 184 Committees were in force.

§ 2. Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour.

1. *General.*—The collection of information respecting the current rates of wage payable in different callings and in occupations in various industries was first undertaken by the Bureau in the early part of the year 1913. The particulars are obtained primarily from awards, determinations and agreements, under Commonwealth and State Industrial Acts, and therefore are the minimum rates prescribed. They refer generally to the capital city in each State, but in industries which obviously are not carried on in the capital cities, e.g., mining, agriculture, etc., the rates in the more important centres are taken. In cases where no award, determination, or agreement is in force, particulars are taken of the ruling union or predominant rate. During recent years the number of predominant rates of wage included in the tabulations has been reduced considerably, since most of the industries and occupations are now covered by awards, determinations, or industrial agreements.

The index-numbers for male adult workers are computed with the weighted average wage in 1911 as base (= 1,000) in order that comparisons might more readily be made between these index-numbers and the retail price index-numbers (food, groceries and rent—all houses) which are also computed to the year 1911 as base. In the case of females, however, it has not been possible to secure information for years prior to 1914, and the index-numbers are therefore computed with the weighted average rate of wage payable to adult female workers in Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

An extensive tabular presentation of the minimum rates of wage for adult male and female workers in the main occupations in the capital city of each State is given each year in the Appendix to the Annual Labour Report.

2. **Weekly Rates of Wage, 1927 to 1931.**—(i) *General.* The arithmetical average of the rates of wage given in the Appendix referred to is taken for each industrial group. These averages are weighted in accordance with census results to give the average of all occupations for the States and for Australia.

(ii) *Adult Males—States.* The following table gives the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable to adult male workers at the dates specified.

WAGES.—ADULT MALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATE PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.

NOTE.—Index-numbers based on the average wage for Australia in 1911 (51s. 3d.) as base (= 1,000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia. (a)
No. of Occupations included ..	874	909	627	567	489	482	3,948

RATES OF WAGE.

	s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.		s. d.			
31st December, 1927 ..	101	10	100	3	100	1	96	7	98	10	93	10	100	2
31st December, 1928 ..	102	7	99	8	101	2	96	2	99	6	93	3	100	5
31st December, 1929 ..	102	11	101	1	101	2	97	2	100	7	94	8	101	2
31st December, 1930 ..	99	1	96	11	92	5	92	8	99	7	92	1	96	9
31st March, 1931 ..	96	6	92	2	92	1	85	6	91	9	87	6	93	0
30th June, 1931 ..	95	1	86	7	92	0	82	4	91	2	84	0	90	5
30th September, 1931 ..	94	6	84	1	89	6	81	0	90	4	81	10	88	11
31st December, 1931 ..	93	5	82	2	89	0	75	0	84	1	79	9	86	10

INDEX-NUMBERS.

31st December, 1927 ..	1,988	1,957	1,953	1,885	1,928	1,832	1,955
31st December, 1928 ..	2,001	1,944	1,974	1,877	1,941	1,820	1,959
31st December, 1929 ..	2,007	1,972	1,975	1,896	1,963	1,848	1,974
31st December, 1930 ..	1,933	1,891	1,803	1,807	1,943	1,797	1,887
31st March, 1931 ..	1,882	1,798	1,797	1,668	1,789	1,708	1,814
30th June, 1931 ..	1,855	1,689	1,795	1,607	1,779	1,640	1,764
30th September, 1931 ..	1,843	1,641	1,746	1,580	1,769	1,597	1,735
31st December, 1931 ..	1,823	1,603	1,737	1,463	1,641	1,556	1,694

(a) Weighted average.

The results show that at the 31st December, 1931, the weighted average nominal weekly rate of wage was highest in New South Wales, followed in the order named by Queensland, Western Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia. The average rates of wage declined rapidly during 1931, the results at the end of each quarter in all States showing lower average rates than those for the previous quarter. The weighted average nominal rate of wage for Australia at the end of the year was 86s. 10d., as compared with 96s. 9d. at 31st December, 1930, a reduction of 9s. 11d. per week. The greatest fall occurred in South Australia where the average wage declined 17s. 8d. per week. The highest weighted average rate for Australia was recorded during the third quarter of 1929 when the average wage was 101s. 5d. per week.

(iii) *Adult Males—Industrial Groups.* The following table shows the average weekly rates of wage and index-numbers in each industrial group, and for all groups at the periods specified.

WAGES.—ADULT MALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATES FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS IN EACH INDUSTRIAL GROUP.

NOTE.—Index-numbers for each industrial group and all industrial groups, based on the average wage for all groups in 1911 (51s. 3d.) as base (= 1,000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout.

Industrial Group.		Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage, and Index-Number at—							
		31st Dec., 1927.	31st Dec., 1928.	31st Dec., 1929.	31st Dec., 1930.	31st March, 1931.	30th June, 1931.	30th Sept., 1931.	31st Dec., 1931.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	Wage	s. d. 104/6	s. d. 103/11	s. d. 104/10	s. d. 100/3	s. d. 94/4	s. d. 90/4	s. d. 87/11	s. d. 85/7
	Index-No.	2,039	2,028	2,046	1,956	1,841	1,763	1,716	1,669
II. Engineering, etc.	Wage	102/10	102/1	103/6	99/1	92/10	90/3	88/8	86/3
	Index-No.	2,006	1,993	2,019	1,933	1,811	1,762	1,730	1,683
III. Food, Drink, etc.	Wage	99/8	99/9	100/10	97/1	95/2	91/9	90/2	88/6
	Index-No.	1,944	1,947	1,967	1,894	1,853	1,790	1,759	1,727
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	Wage	98/3	99/4	99/6	99/5	89/7	88/10	84/6	83/11
	Index-No.	1,917	1,939	1,942	1,940	1,748	1,732	1,648	1,638
V. Books, Printing, etc.	Wage	113/7	117/10	119/1	116/5	113/4	108/10	105/7	102/0
	Index-No.	2,216	2,299	2,323	2,271	2,212	2,124	2,061	1,991
VI. Other Manufacturing	Wage	101/4	100/8	102/2	97/10	93/4	89/6	87/7	85/4
	Index-No.	1,977	1,964	1,994	1,909	1,821	1,746	1,709	1,664
VII. Building	Wage	112/10	112/4	113/0	109/8	106/10	102/8	101/2	98/9
	Index-No.	2,202	2,191	2,205	2,139	2,085	2,001	1,974	1,926
VIII. Mining, etc.	Wage	109/9	109/10	110/7	107/10	105/8	104/1	103/6	102/5
	Index-No.	2,142	2,143	2,157	2,104	2,061	2,031	2,019	1,999
IX. Railways, etc.	Wage	103/1	102/2	105/2	100/2	92/1	91/2	87/6	86/7
	Index-No.	2,012	1,994	2,052	1,955	1,797	1,780	1,707	1,690
X. Other Land Transport	Wage	97/4	96/3	96/9	92/10	90/11	87/0	85/7	83/11
	Index-No.	1,900	1,878	1,888	1,812	1,774	1,697	1,670	1,638
XI. Shipping, etc.(a)	Wage	103/7	103/3	107/0	99/6	89/4	86/0	84/1	81/10
	Index-No.	2,021	2,014	2,087	1,941	1,743	1,678	1,641	1,596
XII. Agricultural, etc.(b)	Wage	94/3	95/9	95/6	87/5	83/9	83/5	83/0	80/6
	Index-No.	1,839	1,869	1,863	1,706	1,634	1,627	1,619	1,563
XIII. Domestic, etc.(b)	Wage	93/3	93/3	92/6	91/3	89, 8	87/2	86/8	85/3
	Index-No.	1,820	1,820	1,804	1,780	1,750	1,701	1,691	1,663
XIV. Miscellaneous	Wage	96/0	96/1	96/8	93/7	91/7	87/11	86/2	83/11
	Index-No.	1,872	1,874	1,886	1,826	1,788	1,716	1,681	1,637
All Industrial Groups (c)	Wage	100/2	100/5	101/2	96/9	93/0	90/5	88/11	86/10
	Index-No.	1,955	1,959	1,974	1,887	1,814	1,764	1,735	1,694

(a) Including the value of victualling and accommodation where supplied. (b) Including the value of board and lodging where supplied. (c) Weighted average.

The foregoing table shows that the highest average weekly wage at 31st December, 1931, was recorded in Group VIII. (Mining), 102s. 5d. per week, followed by Group V. (Books, Printing, etc.), 102s. per week, Group VII. (Building), 98s. 9d. per week, and Group III. (Food, Drink, etc.), 88s. 6d. per week. The lowest average rate was recorded in Group XII. (Agricultural, etc.), 80s. 3d. per week. During the year rates of wage declined in all groups, the greatest decreases occurring in the following groups:—Shipping, etc., 17s. 8d. per week; Clothing, Boots, etc., 15s. 6d. per week; Wood, Furniture, etc., 14s. 8d. per week; and Books, Printing, etc., 14s. 5d. per week. The decrease during the year in the weighted average rate for all groups was 9s. 11d. per week. Compared with the average rates at 31st December, 1927, wages at the end of the year 1931 were lower in all industrial groups. The weighted average rate for all groups showed a decrease of 13s. 4d. per week.

(iv) *Adult Females—States.* The following table shows the weighted average weekly rate of wage payable to adult female workers for a full week's work in each State and Australia at the dates specified.

WAGES.—ADULT FEMALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATE PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.

NOTE.—Index-numbers based on the average wage for Australia at the 30th April, 1914 (27s. 2d.) as base (= 1,000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.(a)
No. of Occupations Included ..	85	87	37	47	24	28	308

RATES OF WAGE.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
31st December, 1927 ..	53 0	52 7	53 5	49 11	58 8	52 7	52 10
31st December, 1928 ..	53 7	53 9	54 10	50 11	58 10	53 4	53 10
31st December, 1929 ..	53 11	54 1	54 10	51 4	58 10	53 9	54 1
31st December, 1930 ..	53 8	53 6	52 11	51 2	60 1	53 8	53 7
31st March, 1931 ..	51 3	50 2	49 7	46 1	55 10	50 6	50 5
30th June, 1931 ..	51 0	48 10	49 7	45 9	55 10	49 1	49 8
30th September, 1931 ..	49 11	46 9	47 11	43 11	55 10	45 11	48 1
31st December, 1931 ..	49 8	45 10	47 11	43 11	51 7	45 8	47 5

INDEX-NUMBERS.

31st December, 1927 ..	1,950	1,934	1,966	1,838	2,160	1,935	1,945
31st December, 1928 ..	1,973	1,979	2,017	1,875	2,164	1,964	1,980
31st December, 1929 ..	1,983	1,990	2,020	1,888	2,165	1,978	1,990
31st December, 1930 ..	1,974	1,968	1,947	1,884	2,211	1,976	1,971
31st March, 1931 ..	1,886	1,847	1,826	1,695	2,055	1,859	1,854
30th June, 1931 ..	1,876	1,796	1,825	1,685	2,055	1,808	1,828
30th September, 1931 ..	1,838	1,720	1,765	1,616	2,055	1,690	1,771
31st December, 1931 ..	1,828	1,688	1,765	1,584	1,900	1,681	1,746

(a) Weighted average.

During 1927 rates of wage for female employees increased in all States, with the exception of South Australia, and the average rate for Australia rose from 51s. 8d. to 52s. 10d. per week.

There was a further increase in the nominal rates of wage in all States during 1928, with the result that the average wage for females for Australia increased from 52s. 10d. at 31st December, 1927, to 53s. 10d. by the end of 1928. Increases were recorded in four States during the third quarter of 1929, raising the average nominal wage for Australia to 54s. 2d. per week, the highest average rate recorded. There was very little movement in the average rates of wage for female employees during 1930, the average nominal rate at the end of the year being 53s. 7d. as compared with 54s. 1d. per week at the end of the year 1929. Wages for female employees showed a steady decline during 1931, and at the end of the year the weighted average for Australia was 47s. 5d., as compared with 53s. 7d. per week at the end of 1930, a decrease of 6s. 2d. per week.

(v) *Adult Females—Industrial Groups.* The following table gives particulars of the weighted average weekly rate of wage payable to adult female workers in the industrial groups in which they are mainly employed, and in all groups combined.

WAGES.—ADULT FEMALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATE PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS IN EACH INDUSTRIAL GROUP.

NOTE.—Index-numbers for each Industrial Group and all Industrial Groups, based on the average wage for all groups at 30th April, 1914 (27s. 2d.) as base (= 1,000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout.

Date.	Industrial Group.					
	III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	I., II., V., and VI., All Other Manufacturing.	XIII. Domestic, etc.(a)	XIV. Miscel- laneous.	All Groups. (b)
RATES OF WAGE.						
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
31st December, 1927	48 9	52 7	53 2	54 5	52 8	52 10
31st December, 1928	49 3	54 2	53 1	55 1	52 10	53 10
31st December, 1929	49 4	54 4	53 11	54 9	53 10	54 1
31st December, 1930	48 4	54 2	52 7	54 2	52 10	53 7
31st March, 1931 ..	48 0	48 9	51 1	52 8	52 3	50 5
30th June, 1931 ..	45 8	48 5	48 0	52 6	51 6	49 8
30th September, 1931	45 3	45 11	47 3	52 1	50 6	48 1
31st December, 1931	44 4	45 5	46 11	50 9	49 10	47 5

INDEX-NUMBERS.

31st December, 1927	1,793	1,936	1,958	2,001	1,937	1,945
31st December, 1928	1,813	1,993	1,954	2,029	1,946	1,980
31st December, 1929	1,815	1,999	1,984	2,015	1,982	1,990
31st December, 1930	1,777	1,994	1,934	1,994	1,945	1,971
31st March, 1931 ..	1,768	1,795	1,879	1,940	1,923	1,854
30th June, 1931 ..	1,679	1,781	1,768	1,932	1,897	1,828
30th September, 1931	1,666	1,690	1,739	1,917	1,858	1,771
31st December, 1931	1,630	1,672	1,728	1,869	1,834	1,746

(a) Including the value of board and lodging, where supplied. (b) Weighted average.

During the year 1931 rates of wage for female employees in all industrial groups showed a decline as compared with those for the previous year. The decrease in the rates in Group IV. (Clothing, Boots, etc.) was 8s. 9d. per week, followed by the Group covering All Other Manufacturing, 5s. 8d. per week and Group III. (Food, Drink, etc.) 4s. per week. The smallest decrease was in Group XIV. (Miscellaneous), 3s. per week. The weighted average for all groups decreased by 6s. 2d. per week.

3. **Relative Hours of Labour and Hourly Rates of Wage, 1927 to 1931.**—(i) *General.* The rates of wage referred to in preceding paragraphs relate to the minimum payable for a full week's work. The number of hours constituting a full week's work differs, however, in many instances between various trades and occupations in each State, and between the same trades and occupations in the several States. In order to secure what may be for some purposes a more adequate standard of comparison, it is desirable to reduce the comparison to a common basis, viz., the rate of wage per hour. Particulars are given in the following table classified according to States, for male and female occupations separately, at the end of the years 1927 to 1931. These particulars relate to (a) the weighted average nominal weekly wage, (b) the weighted average number of working hours constituting a full week's work, and (c) the weighted average hourly wage. The weighted average weekly wage relates to all industrial groups combined, and includes the value of

board and lodging where supplied in land occupations, and the value of victualling in marine occupations, whereas the number of working hours and the hourly wage relate to all industrial groups other than Groups XI. (Shipping), and XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.). Many of the occupations included in these two groups are of a casual or seasonal nature, and the hours of labour in the agricultural and dairying industry are not generally regulated either by awards or determinations of industrial tribunals or otherwise, hence the necessary data for the computation of the average number of working hours are not available.

The general effect of reducing the rates of wage to a common basis (i.e., per hour) is to eliminate on comparison any apparent difference between the several States which may be due to unequal working time.

(ii) *Adult Males and Females.* Particulars of the weekly and hourly wages and hours of labour for adult males and females for the last five years are given in the table hereunder:—

WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.—ADULT WORKERS.

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus.
MALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec., 1927	Weekly Wage (a) ..	101/10	100/3	100/1	96/7	98/10	93/10	100/2
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.44	46.82	43.96	46.78	45.75	47.16	45.46
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/3¼	2/2¼	2/4	2/1¼	2/2¼	2/0¼	2/2¼
31st Dec., 1928	Weekly Wage (a) ..	102/7	99/8	101/2	96/2	99/6	93/3	100/5
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.17	46.70	43.96	46.67	45.39	46.85	45.27
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/4	2/2	2/4	2/1	2/2¼	2/0	2/3
31st Dec., 1929	Weekly Wage (a) ..	102/11	101/7	101/2	97/2	100/7	94/8	101/2
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.14	46.83	43.96	46.83	45.58	47.09	45.34
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/4	2/2½	2/4	2/1¼	2/2¼	2/0½	2/3
31st Dec., 1930	Weekly Wage (a) ..	99/1	96/11	92/5	92/8	99/7	92/1	96/9
	Working Hours (b) ..	45.64	46.85	44.43	46.83	45.55	47.09	45.98
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/2¼	2/1¼	2/1¼	2/0	2/2¼	1/11¼	2/1¼
31st Dec., 1931	Weekly Wage (a) ..	93/5	82/2	89/0	75/0	84/1	79/9	86/10
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.22	46.88	44.98	46.83	45.55	46.76	45.51
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/2¼	1/9¼	2/0¼	1/7¼	1/10¼	1/8¼	1/11¼
FEMALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec., 1927	Weekly Wage ..	53/0	52/7	53/5	49/11	58/8	52/7	52/10
	Working Hours ..	44.02	45.58	44.01	46.10	45.57	47.36	44.94
	Hourly Wage ..	1/2¼	1/1¼	1/2¼	1/1	1/3½	1/1¼	1/2
31st Dec., 1928	Weekly Wage ..	53/7	53/9	54/10	50/11	58/10	53/4	53/10
	Working Hours ..	43.93	45.40	44.01	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.79
	Hourly Wage ..	1/2¼	1/2¼	1/3	1/1¼	1/3½	1/2	1/2½
31st Dec., 1929	Weekly Wage ..	53/11	54/1	54/10	51/4	58/10	53/9	54/1
	Working Hours ..	43.93	45.40	44.01	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.79
	Hourly Wage ..	1/2¼	1/2¼	1/3	1/1¼	1/3½	1/2	1/2½
31st Dec., 1930	Weekly Wage ..	53/8	53/6	52/11	51/2	60/1	53/8	53/7
	Working Hours ..	45.85	45.44	44.01	46.03	45.57	46.07	45.48
	Hourly Wage ..	1/2	1/2	1/2½	1/1¼	1/3½	1/2	1/2¼
31st Dec., 1931	Weekly Wage ..	49/8	45/10	47/11	43/11	51/7	45/8	47/5
	Working Hours ..	43.93	45.44	44.56	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.88
	Hourly Wage ..	1/1¼	1/0	1/1	0/11¼	1/1¼	1/0	1/0¼

(a) Weighted average weekly rate in all industrial groups combined. (b) Weighted average working hours per week, and computed hourly rates of wage for all industrial groups excepting Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.), and XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.). Working hours have not been generally regulated by industrial tribunals for occupations classified in industrial groups XI. and XII.

(iii) *Index-Numbers.* The tendency in a majority of the States during the years 1924 to 1928 has been towards a slight reduction in hours of labour, particularly in Queensland and New South Wales, where a 44-hour week became operative on 1st July, 1925, and on 4th January, 1926, respectively. Further decreases were recorded in the hours of work per week for male employees during 1927 in all States excepting Queensland, where hours remained stationary. The decline in the other States was due mainly to the reduction of the standard hours of labour in Group II. (Engineering, etc.) from 48 to 44 hours per week, as awarded by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. The decline in the weekly hours in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania in 1928 was due mainly to the reduction of the standard hours of labour in Group V (Books, Printing, etc.). During 1929 the hours of work per week for timber workers in certain States were increased by the Commonwealth Court, with the result that the weighted average hours for Australia were slightly increased. The repeal of the Acts in New South Wales and Queensland providing for a 44-hour week tended to increase the average number of hours of labour per week in those States during the year 1930. The reduction in the average number of hours of work per week in New South Wales in 1931 was due to the restoration of the 44 hours per week by an Act which came into operation on 5th January, 1931. The effect of these changes on the hourly rate of wage as compared with the general increase in the weekly wage is readily seen from the comparative index-numbers given in the following table:—

WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.—ADULT WORKERS.

NOTE.—Weighted average for Australia at 30th April, 1914 as base (= 1,000).

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus-tralia.
MALE WORKERS.								
31st Dec., 1927	{ Weekly Wage	1,848	1,819	1,816	1,753	1,792	1,703	1,817
	{ Hourly Wage (a)	1,980	1,880	1,998	1,800	1,882	1,731	1,920
31st Dec., 1928	{ Weekly Wage	1,860	1,808	1,835	1,745	1,805	1,692	1,821
	{ Hourly Wage (a)	2,004	1,867	2,001	1,788	1,916	1,728	1,928
31st Dec., 1929	{ Weekly Wage	1,866	1,834	1,836	1,763	1,825	1,718	1,835
	{ Hourly Wage (a)	2,011	1,895	2,001	1,808	1,923	1,751	1,940
31st Dec., 1930	{ Weekly Wage	1,797	1,758	1,677	1,681	1,807	1,671	1,755
	{ Hourly Wage (a)	1,912	1,813	1,846	1,724	1,922	1,708	1,851
31st Dec., 1931	{ Weekly Wage	1,695	1,490	1,615	1,360	1,526	1,447	1,575
	{ Hourly Wage (a)	1,873	1,527	1,749	1,383	1,617	1,480	1,676

FEMALE WORKERS.

31st Dec., 1927	{ Weekly Wage	1,950	1,934	1,966	1,838	2,160	1,935	1,945
	{ Hourly Wage	2,175	2,084	2,193	1,958	2,327	1,985	2,125
31st Dec., 1928	{ Weekly Wage	1,973	1,979	2,017	1,875	2,164	1,964	1,980
	{ Hourly Wage	2,205	2,140	2,250	2,003	2,333	2,092	2,172
31st Dec., 1929	{ Weekly Wage	1,983	1,990	2,020	1,888	2,165	1,978	1,990
	{ Hourly Wage	2,218	2,154	2,252	2,015	2,333	2,108	2,182
31st Dec., 1930	{ Weekly Wage	1,974	1,968	1,947	1,884	2,211	1,976	1,971
	{ Hourly Wage	2,113	2,127	2,172	2,011	2,383	2,105	2,128
31st Dec., 1931	{ Weekly Wage	1,828	1,688	1,765	1,584	1,900	1,681	1,746
	{ Hourly Wage	2,044	1,822	1,943	1,685	2,045	1,791	1,910

(a) See footnote to following table.

4. **Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Hours of Labour, Adult Males.**—The following table shows the weighted average nominal hours of labour (exclusive of overtime) in a full working week for male workers in each State and Australia at the 31st December, 1927 to 1931.

HOURS OF LABOUR.—WEEKLY INDEX-NUMBERS, ADULT MALES.

NOTE.—Index-numbers based on the average hours of labour for Australia at the 30th April, 1914 (48.93) as base (= 1,000). The index-numbers in this table are comparable throughout. Overtime is excluded.

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.
31st Dec., 1927	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.44	46.82	43.96	46.78	45.75	47.16	45.46
	Index-numbers	908	957	898	956	935	964	929
31st Dec. 1928	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.17	46.70	43.96	46.67	45.30	46.85	45.27
	Index-numbers	903	954	898	954	926	957	925
31st Dec., 1929	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.14	46.83	43.96	46.83	45.58	47.09	45.34
	Index-numbers	902	957	898	957	932	962	927
31st Dec., 1930	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	45.64	46.85	44.43	46.83	45.55	47.09	45.98
	Index-numbers	933	958	908	957	931	962	940
31st Dec., 1931	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.22	46.88	44.98	46.83	45.55	46.76	45.51
	Index-numbers	904	958	919	957	931	956	930

(a) Weighted average working hours per week for all industrial groups excepting Groups XI. (Shipping), and XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.), in which working hours have not been generally regulated by industrial tribunals.

During the four years, 1926 to 1929, the average number of hours of labour per week showed little variation, the figure at the end of the year 1926 being 45.57 as compared with 45.34 at 31st December, 1929. In 1930, however, increases were recorded in New South Wales and Queensland, but in the other States the hours remained practically constant, the result of the changes being that the weighted average hours of labour for all States increased to 45.98 per week. At the end of 1931 the weighted average for Australia had declined to 45.51 per week, due to the reduction in hours in New South Wales caused by the restoration of the 44 hours of work per week. In Queensland, average hours increased slightly owing to revision by the Industrial Court of the standard hours in some industries and callings.

5. Nominal and Real Wages, 1901 to 1931.—(i) *Nominal Weekly Wage Index-numbers—States.* The following table shows the progress in nominal weekly rates of wage for all industries in each State, the weighted average rate for Australia in 1911 being taken as the base (= 1,000). These results are based generally upon rates of wage prevailing in the capital city of each State, but in certain industries, such as mining, rates necessarily are taken for places other than the capital cities. For the year 1914 and subsequent years the index-numbers in the following table are based on the average wage for the four quarters of each year.

NOMINAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, ADULT MALES.

(WEIGHTED AVERAGE WAGE FOR AUSTRALIA IN 1911 = 1,000.)

States.	Number of Occupations included.		1901.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	1901 to 1912.	1913 to 1930.												
New South Wales	158	874	858	1,003	1,093	1,862	1,832	1,846	1,909	1,974	2,003	2,012	1,983	1,851
Victoria	150	909	796	985	1,002	1,803	1,868	1,873	1,926	1,951	1,956	1,964	1,937	1,683
Queensland	87	627	901	997	1,035	1,879	1,856	1,905	1,955	1,953	1,971	1,976	1,898	1,769
South Australia	134	567	819	1,013	1,061	1,697	1,779	1,819	1,871	1,869	1,884	1,891	1,857	1,580
Western Australia	69	489	1,052	1,152	1,223	1,832	1,834	1,878	1,910	1,925	1,938	1,960	1,955	1,745
Tasmania	54	482	719	799	1,027	1,745	1,805	1,815	1,844	1,835	1,825	1,840	1,829	1,625
Australia (a)	652	3,948	848	1,000	1,081	1,827	1,840	1,861	1,914	1,946	1,963	1,972	1,939	1,752

(a) Weighted average.

NOTE.—The figures in the above table are comparable both horizontally and vertically.

During the period 1911 to the end of the year 1929 the average weekly rate of wage increased in New South Wales and Victoria, 100 per cent., in Queensland, 98 per cent., in South Australia, 87 per cent., in Western Australia, 70 per cent., and in Tasmania, 130 per cent., while the weighted average weekly rate for Australia increased 97 per cent. Comparing the yearly average rates for 1929 and 1931 nominal wages declined in all States during the period, South Australia showing the greatest fall with 16.4 per cent., followed by Victoria, 14.3 per cent., and Tasmania, 11.7 per cent. The smallest decline was recorded in New South Wales, 8 per cent. The weighted average weekly rate for Australia declined 11.2 per cent. Compared with 1911 the average weekly nominal wage for Australia was 75 per cent. higher in 1931.

(ii) *Real Weekly Wage Index-numbers—States.* In comparing wages, two elements are of obvious importance, viz., (i) hours worked per day or week, and (ii) the cost of commodities and housing. Thus, 60s. per week of 60 hours represents the same hourly rate as 48s. per week for 48 hours. Similarly, if the cost of commodities and housing increases 25 per cent., e.g., if the prices index-number rises from 1,000 to 1,250, then 60s. per week (the index-number being 1,250) is effectively equal only to 48s. (when the index-number was 1,000). Or, again, if the prices index-number falls from 1,000 to 750, then 60s. per week when the index-number is 750, would have the same purchasing power as 80s. when the index-number was 1,000. Ignoring for the present the number of hours worked, and assuming that the real value of the average wages is to be measured by their purchasing power, the actual average wages paid may be reduced to their effective value by applying the prices index-numbers to the nominal wages index-numbers. The following table shows the "real" wage index-numbers so ascertained in each State for each of the years indicated from 1901 to 1931.

In computing these real wage index-numbers for the respective years, the nominal wage index-numbers given in the preceding table have been divided by the retail price index-numbers, food, groceries and rent (all houses) for the capital cities. The resulting index-numbers show for each State and for Australia for the years specified the variations in real wages. The nominal wage index-numbers for the early years are based on rates of wage current at the end of December, the only data available. For the years 1914 onward, however, the nominal wage index-numbers used are based on the average wage for the four quarters in each year, while those in the preceding sub-sections relate to the December quarter. However, so far as the years 1901 and 1911 are concerned, as the movement in wages during any one year prior to 1914 was very slight, the December figures may stand for the yearly average without appreciable error.

REAL WEEKLY WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.—ADULT MALES.

States.	1901.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
New South Wales	961	973	906	1,079	1,069	1,048	1,035	1,079	1,089	1,050	1,107	1,160
Victoria	915	1,037	961	1,038	1,097	1,073	1,069	1,095	1,120	1,084	1,158	1,162
Queensland	1,172	1,090	1,038	1,244	1,232	1,241	1,183	1,222	1,236	1,220	1,317	1,345
South Australia	948	957	929	1,027	1,051	1,053	1,076	1,073	1,089	1,067	1,166	1,178
Western Australia	1,024	1,023	1,070	1,139	1,161	1,162	1,165	1,199	1,156	1,143	1,229	1,232
Tasmania	827	838	942	977	1,017	1,044	1,037	1,072	1,099	1,064	1,111	1,104
Australia (a)	964	1,000	948	1,076	1,095	1,081	1,072	1,102	1,115	1,082	1,152	1,185

(a) Weighted average.

In the table above, the real wage index-numbers are computed to the one base, that of Australia for 1911. Subject to the qualification already referred to, which, as has been pointed out, does not materially affect the figures, the index-numbers are comparable in all respects, and comparisons may be made as to the increase or decrease in the real wage index-number for any State over a period of years. Thus, comparing 1931 with 1901, and also with 1911, there has been an increase in the real wage in all States.

(iii) *Real Wages, allowing for Unemployment.* In the preceding table particulars are given as to variations in real wages in each State, due allowance having been made for variations in retail prices of commodities, though not for unemployment.

For years prior to 1913 the data available as to unemployment (*vide* C. Employment—sub-section 2, following) are so meagre that comparative results allowing for variations both in prices of commodities and in unemployment cannot be accurately computed for the several States. In the next table, for these earlier years the percentage of unemployment in Australia and the nominal wage index-numbers relate to the end of the year. For 1914 and subsequent years the wages index-numbers, percentages of unemployment, and retail prices index-numbers are the average for the year. Column I. shows the nominal wage index-numbers, and Column II. the relative percentages unemployed. These percentages of unemployment are applied to the index numbers in Column I. to obtain rate of wage index-numbers allowing for unemployment, which are shown in Column III., computed with the year 1911 as base = 1,000. In Column IV. the retail prices index-numbers are shown, and in Columns V. and VI. the real wage index-numbers are given, firstly, for full work, and secondly, allowing for lost time. These are obtained by dividing the figures in Columns I. and III. respectively by the corresponding figure in Column IV.

A comparison between the figures in Columns I. and V. gives the relation between the nominal rates of wage and the purchasing efficiency of these rates. The figures in Column VI. show variations in real wages after allowing not only for variations in purchasing power of money, but for the relative extent of unemployment also.

NOMINAL AND REAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.

Year.	I.	II.	Rate of Wage Index-Numbers. Allowing for Lost Time.	IV.	Real Wage Index-Numbers.	
	Nominal Wage-Index-Numbers.	Percentage Unemployed.	III. Re-computed. (1911 = 1,000).	Retail Price Index-Numbers. (Food, Groceries, Rent—all houses.)	V. Full Work.	VI. Allowing for Unemployment.
1901 ..	848	6.6	832	880	964	945
1906 ..	866	6.7	848	902	960	940
1907 ..	893	5.7	884	897	996	986
1908 ..	900	6.0	888	951	946	934
1909 ..	923	5.8	913	948	974	963
1910 ..	955	5.6	945	970	985	974
1911 ..	1,000	4.7	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912 ..	1,051	5.5	1,042	1,101	955	946
1913 ..	1,076	5.3	1,071	1,104	975	970
1914 ..	1,081	8.3	1,040	1,140	948	912
1915 ..	1,092	9.3	1,039	1,278	854	813
1916 ..	1,144	5.8	1,131	1,324	864	854
1917 ..	1,226	7.1	1,195	1,318	930	907
1918 ..	1,270	5.8	1,255	1,362	932	921
1919 ..	1,370	6.6	1,343	1,510	907	889
1920 ..	1,627	6.5	1,596	1,785	911	894
1921 ..	1,826	11.2	1,701	1,697	1,076	1,002
1922 ..	1,801	9.3	1,715	1,600	1,126	1,072
1923 ..	1,805	7.1	1,760	1,700	1,062	1,035
1924 ..	1,840	8.9	1,759	1,681	1,095	1,046
1925 ..	1,861	8.8	1,781	1,722	1,081	1,034
1926 ..	1,914	7.1	1,866	1,786	1,072	1,045
1927 ..	1,946	7.0	1,899	1,766	1,102	1,075
1928 ..	1,963	10.8	1,837	1,760	1,115	1,044
1929 ..	1,972	11.1	1,839	1,822	1,082	1,009
1930 ..	1,939	19.3	1,642	1,683	1,152	976
1931 ..	1,752	27.4	1,335	1,479	1,185	903

NOTE.—For years prior to 1914, the nominal wage index-numbers and the percentage unemployed relate to the end of the year only, but from 1914 onward these figures, in addition to those for retail prices, are averages for the whole year.

Nominal wages and retail prices fell rapidly during 1931, but as prices declined to the greatest extent, the real wage index for full work increased from 1152 to 1185, the highest point recorded in the investigation. Unemployment was worse in 1931 than during the previous year, with the result that the index allowing for unemployment declined sharply from 976 to 903, the lowest point recorded since 1921. Comparison with 1911 shows that the real wage for full time work was 18.5 per cent. higher, but allowing for unemployment was 9.7 lower during 1931.

§ 3. The Basic Wage and Child Endowment in Australia.

1. **The Basic Wage.**—(i) *General.* The “basic wage” in Australia is understood to mean the lowest wage which can be paid to an unskilled labourer on the basis of “the normal needs of an average employee regarded as a human being living in a civilized community.”* This wage is fixed by various industrial tribunals in Australia operating under Federal and State Arbitration Acts, and is varied from time to time according to changes in cost of living, constitution of the family unit, etc. In addition to the “basic” wage, these tribunals also determine what is known as the “secondary” wage—“the extra payment to be made for trained skill or other exceptional qualities necessary for an employee exercising the functions required.”†

(ii) *History in Australia.* The doctrine of a basic wage was propounded as far back as 1890 by Sir Samuel Griffith, Premier of Queensland, and the same principle was enunciated in the New South Wales Arbitration Court in somewhat similar terms by Mr. Justice Heydon in 1905. In spite, however, of these pronouncements and the fact that wage-fixing tribunals had been in operation as early as 1896 (in the State of Victoria) it was not until the year 1907 that the first basic wage, as such, was declared by a Court in Australia. This declaration was made by Mr. Justice Higgins, President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, and is popularly known as the “Harvester Judgment” on account of its having been determined in connexion with H. V. McKay’s Sunshine Harvester Works. The rate of wage declared in this case was 7s. per diem or £2 2s. per week for Melbourne, the amount considered reasonable for “a family of about five.” The constituent parts of this amount were £1 5s. 5d. for food, 7s. for rent, and 9s. 7d. for all other expenditure.

The above rate has been varied from time to time in accordance with the retail price index-numbers (food, groceries and rent (all houses)) prepared by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics for the city or town in which the persons affected are employed, and the rate so obtained has been taken by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration as the minimum rate of wage for an unskilled male worker. The weekly wage rates (at 1st May, 1932) for the various capital cities as so varied are as follows:—

					£	s.	d.
Sydney	..	..	..	*..	..	3	16 6
Melbourne	..	..	..	..	..	3	11 0
Brisbane	..	..	..	..	..	3	5 0
Adelaide	..	..	..	..	..	3	5 6
Perth	..	..	..	..	..	3	8 6
Hobart	..	..	..	..	..	3	12 6
Six Capitals (Weighted Average)	..	..	..	..	..	3	12 0

The above amounts include the sum of 3s. per week known as the “Powers’ three shillings”, which was added in 1921 for the purpose of securing to the worker during a period of rising prices the full equivalent of the “Harvester” standard. The weekly rates given in the above table are the “Harvester” equivalents plus the “Powers’ 3s.” per week, but in accordance with the judgment of the Full Arbitration Court on 22nd January, 1931, such rates are subject to the ten per cent. reduction referred to in the following paragraphs.

* Mr. Justice Higgins—*A New Province of Law and Order.*

† *Ibid.*

The adequacy or otherwise of the amount allotted under the "Harvester" judgment has been the subject of much discussion, the author of the judgment himself urging on several subsequent occasions the need for its review. Frequent references as to the desirability of an investigation have been made by Judges of the Court, but it was not decided to hold an inquiry into the method of determining the basic wage until the latter portion of the year 1930.

On 15th August, 1930, application was made by the Victorian and New South Wales Railways Commissioners for variation of current awards in the railway industry. The application sought variations in the basic wage as follows:—the abolition of the "Powers' 3s", the adoption of the Statistician's "all items" purchasing power of money figures in lieu of the figures now in use (food, groceries and rent—all houses) for determining the basic wage and adjustments thereof. On 5th November, by direction of the Court, all organizations bound by awards of the Court were notified that the matters in issue affected the basic wage, and were advised that they could intervene in the hearing. Employers and employees selected representatives and the Full Arbitration Court held a Basic Wage Inquiry. The hearing commenced in November, 1930, and concluded on 19th January, 1931. Judgment was delivered on 22nd January. The Court refused to make any variations in the basic wage or in the present method of calculation thereof without further inquiry, but was forced to the conclusion, after considering the evidence relating to the decline in the national income, the reduction in spending power due to the cessation of loans, and the general depressed state of industry, that for a period of twelve months and thereafter until further order a general reduction of wages was necessary. With a few exceptions, orders were made for variations of the awards covered by the applications before the Court by the reduction of all wage rates therein prescribed by ten per cent. for a period of twelve months, and thereafter until further order, such variations to operate from 1st February, 1931. Additional applications for variation of awards and industrial agreements were largely successful, and rates of wage in practically all awards of the Court and agreements filed under the provisions of the Commonwealth Act are subject to the ten per cent. reduction.

Application for cancellation of these Orders of the Court were lodged by organizations of employees, and the case came on for hearing before the Full Arbitration Court on 7th March, 1932, and subsequent dates. A mass of evidence was submitted to the Court by economic and financial experts and by the union advocates, relating to the method of calculating and adjusting the basic wage; the wage paying capacity of Australia; monetary reform; the national income; the high wage rate and increased purchasing power theory; equality of sacrifice; production, and unemployment. After an exhaustive inquiry which occupied the Court for some weeks judgment was delivered on 17th June. After a close review of the evidence submitted and arguments advanced by the parties the judgment concludes as follows:—"The Court, after giving close attention to the material and arguments submitted by the parties to these applications, has, in view of the foregoing considerations, arrived at the conclusion that the general abrogation at present of the Orders in question would be detrimental, and it is therefore refused. After the expiration of the present year circumstances may justify further consideration, particularly as to those who have no margins above the basic wage."

(iii) *State Basic Wage Rates in Operation.* The basic wage rates fixed by State arbitration tribunals differ from those obtaining in the Federal sphere not only as regards amount, but also in respect of constitution of family unit whose needs it purports to supply.

The awards of various State tribunals in operation at the present moment are shown in the following statement. The Industrial Commission in New South Wales and the Industrial Court in Western Australia revised the living or basic rates of wage to be paid in the respective States during 1929. Particulars of these judgments are given in Labour Report, No. 20. The pronouncements of the Industrial Commission in New South Wales are published in the *New South Wales Industrial Gazette*, Vol. XXXVI., No. 6, and deal exhaustively with matters relating to basic wages. The living wage of £4 2s. 6d. per week for adult males determined in 1929 by the Industrial Commission in New South Wales was not altered during the years 1930 and 1931. On 26th August, 1932, the Commission declared the following rates—£3 10s. per week for adult males, and £1 13s. per week for

adult females. The declarations and reasons for the judgments of the Industrial Court in Western Australia are published in the *Western Australian Industrial Gazette*. A revision of the basic wage in this State was made in June, 1930, when the rate for adult male employees in the metropolitan area was determined at £4 6s., and for adult female employees at £2 6s. 5d. per week. These rates were reduced in March, 1931, to £3 18s. and £2 2s. 2d. respectively. On 5th November, 1931, the rates for the metropolitan area were declared at £3 13s. 6d. for adult male employees, and at £1 19s. 8d. for adult female employees. These rates remained in force until 1st March, 1932, when the basic rates for the metropolitan area were declared at £3 12s. per week for adult male employees, and at £1 18s. 11d. per week for adult female employees. The rates were not altered by the declaration of 10th June, 1932. The Court of Arbitration declares also basic rates of wage for areas outside the metropolitan area. The rates declared for these areas on 10th June were—Agricultural areas, adult male employees, £3 13s. 6d. per week; adult female employees, £1 19s. 8d. per week; Gold-fields area, etc., adult male employees, £3 18s. per week; adult female employees, £2 2s. 2d. per week.

The Industrial Court in Queensland reviewed the basic rates of wage for that State during 1930, and reduced the rate for adult male employees from £4 5s. to £4 per week as from 1st August, 1930. A further revision during the year reduced the rate for adult males to £3 17s. per week as from 1st December, 1930. The Industrial Court fixed the basic rates as from 1st July, 1931, at £3 14s. per week for adult male employees, and at £1 19s. per week for adult female employees. These rates were in operation at the end of June, 1932. The declarations of the Court are published in the *Queensland Industrial Gazette*.

In 1925 the Board of Industry in South Australia determined the living wage for adult male employees in the metropolitan area at £4 5s. 6d. per week; and at £1 19s. 6d. per week for adult female employees. These rates were in operation for more than five years. On 11th October, 1930, after a public inquiry, the Board of Industry determined the living wage to be paid to adult male employees in the metropolitan area at 12s. 6d. per day or £3 15s. per week; and on 22nd December, 1930, the living wage for adult female employees in the metropolitan area was declared at £1 15s. per week. These rates were reduced by the Board of Industry on 17th August, 1931, after a public inquiry, to 10s. 6d. per day or £3 3s. per week for adult male employees; and on 4th December, 1931, to £1 11s. 6d. per week for adult female employees. These declarations are published in Bulletin No. 9 of Reports of the Board of Industry, South Australia.

A State basic rate of wage is not declared in Victoria and Tasmania. In these States the Wages Board system of wage fixation is in operation, and each Board determines the minimum rate of wage to be paid in the industry or calling under review.

BASIC WEEKLY WAGE RATES FIXED BY STATE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNALS.

State.	Basic Wage.		Date of Operation.	Family Unit (for Male Rate).
	Males.	Females.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
New South Wales ..	(a) 3 10 0	1 18 0	26.8.32	Man, wife and child
Victoria ..	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)
Queensland ..	3 14 0	1 19 0	1.7.31	Man, wife and three children
South Australia ..	(d) 3 3 0	(e) 1 11 6	..	" "
Western Australia ..	(f) 3 12 0	1 18 11	10.6.32	(c)
Tasmania ..	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)

(a) Plus child allowances. (b) None declared, but follow Federal rates to a large extent. (c) Although the family unit is not specifically defined in the legislation of this State, the tribunal appointed to determine the basic wage has adopted the unit of man wife and two children. (d) Judgment dated 17th August, 1931. (e) Judgment dated 4th December, 1931. (f) Metropolitan Area. Basic wage for Goldfields Areas and other portions of State exclusive of the S.W. Land Division—males, £3 18s.; females, £2 2s. 2d.; S.W. Land Division—males, £3 13s. 6d.; females, £1 19s. 8d. Under the provisions of the "Financial Emergency Act," the Court of Arbitration has made orders, on the application of employers in a number of industries and callings, reducing the basic wage rate to 71s. 4d. per week (82 per cent. of 87s. per week, the basic wage rate in 1929-30).

(iv) *Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, 1920.* The Federal basic wage referred to in (ii) *ante* was made operative in other parts of Australia on the basis of the relative retail price index-numbers applicable to the locality, but only one comprehensive attempt has been made by the Federal authorities to ascertain specifically what the actual requirements were in the various States according to reasonable standards of comfort, including all matters comprised in the ordinary expenditure of a household in respect of a family consisting of a man, wife and three children under fourteen years of age.

The attempt referred to was made by a Royal Commission, and its report, issued in 1920, recommended the following amounts for the various capital cities, viz. :—

						£	s.	d.
Sydney	..	..	..	..	..	5	17	1
Melbourne	..	..	..	..	..	5	16	6
Brisbane	..	..	..	..	..	5	6	2
Adelaide	..	..	..	..	..	5	16	1
Perth	..	..	..	..	..	5	13	11
Hobart	..	..	..	..	..	5	16	11
Six Capitals (Weighted Average)	..	..	..	..	..	5	15	8

The recommendations of this Commission were not given effect to owing to the marked advance of the amounts suggested over ruling rates* and the grave doubts expressed as to the ability of industry to pay such rates.

2. *Child Endowment.*—(i) *General.* The principle of supplementing wages by a payment in respect of dependent children under fourteen years of age has become very prominent in Australia in recent years, and is actually in operation in certain instances. The system has been in force in various forms in England and on the Continent as far back as 1795, the first instance occurring in England in that year.†

(ii) *The New South Wales Scheme.* The earliest attempt made in Australia to institute the system was in New South Wales in 1919, when a Bill was introduced into the State Parliament to provide a flat basic wage for a man and wife, and an allowance of 5s. per week for each child, the latter rate to be reduced on a sliding scale and to cease automatically when the income reached an amount of £3 per week above the basic wage. The Bill was rejected, and the matter dropped until the session of 1926-27, when measures providing for the payment of child allowances became law.‡ These measures provided for (a) the declaration of a basic wage for a man and wife,|| and (b) the payment of an allowance of 5s. per week in respect of each dependent child, subject to the provision that child allowances would be paid only to the extent by which the total earnings of the worker and his family fall short of the sum represented by the *basic wage* plus child allowance at the rate of 5s. per week for each child under the age of fourteen years. Thus, a worker with three dependent children receiving £5 by way of wages would not be entitled to the allowance, but would receive it in respect of a fourth child. These payments in New South Wales commenced to operate from 1st September, 1927. An amending Act, assented to on the 23rd December, 1929, provides that child endowment shall be 5s. per week for each child under the age of fourteen years except one in the family. The basic or living wage for adult male workers was determined by the Industrial Commission on the 20th December, 1929, at £4 2s. 6d. per week for a family unit consisting of a man, wife and one child. The fund from which child endowment payments are made is created by a levy on the wages bill of employers. The rate of tax to be collected by the Government from employers during the year 1930, was fixed at 1 per cent. This rate was in operation to 30th June, 1931. From 1st July, 1931, the rate was fixed at 2 per cent.

* The "Harvester" equivalent for Melbourne at the time (September quarter, 1920) was £4 13s. per week, but only £3 18s. to £4 2s. was being paid on the basis of an annual index-number.

† A complete survey of the systems in force in various countries is contained in Elinor Rathbone's *Disinherited Family: A plea for the Endowment of the Family.*

‡ *Family Endowment Act 1927; Finance (Family Endowment Tax) Act 1927; Industrial Arbitration (Living Wage Declaration) Act 1927* and subsequent amendments.

|| This was subsequently declared at £4 5s. per week for adult males and £2 6s. per week for adult females. A separate rate for rural employees was declared later at £4 4s. per week.

(iii) *Commonwealth Public Service.* The first payment of child endowment allowances in Australia was in connexion with the Commonwealth Public Service. From 1st November, 1920, child endowment at the rate of 5s. per week for each dependent child under fourteen years of age was paid to officers, with a limitation of salary plus allowance. Details regarding the introduction and method of calculating the payments under this scheme have been published in previous issues of the *Official Year-Book* and will be found also in the Labour Reports issued by this Bureau.

(iv) *National Scheme.* The Federal Government, in June, 1927, called a conference at Melbourne of the Premiers of the several States to consider the question from a national standpoint. The Prime Minister submitted various estimates of cost of endowing dependent children under fourteen years of age in Australia at 5s. per week. After discussion, it was decided to refer the matter to a Royal Commission, to be appointed by the Commonwealth Government.

The Commission was not unanimous in its findings, and the opinions and recommendations of the members were embodied in two separate reports, which dealt exhaustively with the constitutional aspects, existing systems, industrial legislation, the basic wage, standard of living, regulation of wages, working conditions and cognate matters.

At the conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers held at Canberra during May, 1929, the Prime Minister stated that the Commission had submitted its report. The minority report recommended a scheme of child endowment financed entirely from the proceeds of taxation. For reasons stated to the Conference, the Government was not prepared to adopt this scheme. The Commonwealth Government agreed with the majority of the Commission that child endowment could not be separated from the control of the basic wage—a power which the Commonwealth did not possess and which the States were not prepared to relinquish to the Commonwealth. The Government, therefore, did not propose to establish any system of child endowment. It was generally agreed that any scheme which would increase the charges upon industry would be unwise at the present time. The result of the discussion was that it was agreed that the matter of child endowment was one to be dealt with as the State Governments should think proper.

The findings and recommendations in the *majority* and *minority* reports are given in Labour Report, No. 19.

§ 4. Changes in Rates of Wage.

The collection of detailed information relating to changes in rates of wage was discontinued at the end of the year 1929, owing to the difficulty of securing reliable data. Officials of employers' organizations and trade unions reported that they were unable to supply definite particulars as to the number of workpeople affected by Commonwealth and State awards and determinations. In order to secure comprehensive and reliable data it would have been necessary to extend considerably the field of collection, and after serious consideration, and in view of the fact that the demand for the figures had been limited, it was decided that the additional expense and work involved were too heavy to justify the continuance of the tabulation.

C.—EMPLOYMENT.

§ 1. Industrial Disputes.

1. *General.*—Information with regard to the collection of particulars and the methods of tabulation of industrial disputes involving stoppage of work has appeared in previous issues of the *Year Book*, and is also given in the annual Labour Reports of this Bureau.

In *annual* tabulations, particulars are included of all disputes which either *commenced* or were *current* during the year under review. As regards "number of disputes", "establishments involved", and "workpeople involved", therefore, duplication will take place in respect of those disputes which started in and were unsettled at the end of a preceding year: the number involved will, however, be indicated in a footnote, to permit of due allowance being made in any calculations made from the tables.

2. *Industrial Disputes Involving Stoppage of Work, Classified in Industrial Groups, 1931.**—The following tables give particulars of industrial disputes which either commenced or were current during the year 1931, classified according to industrial groups. Similar information for the years 1914 to 1930 was published in previous issues of the Year Book and in Labour Reports Nos. 6 to 21.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1931.

Class.	Industrial Group.	Number.	Establishments Involved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
NEW SOUTH WALES.								
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	1	1	68	..	68	68	£ 70
III.	Food, drink, etc.	2	2	206	..	206	334	286
VII.	Building	2	2	71	..	71	96	74
VIII.	{ (a) Coal-mining	69	69	19,229	1,348	20,577	106,368	111,378
	{ (b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	1	1	421	151	572	18,304	14,640
X.	Other land transport	1	1	11	..	11	44	50
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	3	8	351	302	653	8,387	4,753
XIII.	Domestic, hotels, etc.	1	40	93	..	93	930	698
XIV.	Miscellaneous	7	7	552	..	552	1,506	1,119
	Total	87	131	21,002	1,801	22,803	136,037	133,068
VICTORIA.								
I.	Wood, saw-mill, timber, etc.	1	2	50	..	50	150	144
III.	Food, drink, etc.	4	83	1,802	460	2,262	19,032	18,807
VII.	Building	1	1	21	7	28	70	71
VIII.	{ (a) Coal-mining	1	1	1,700	..	1,700	1,700	1,500
	{ (b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	2	4	101	50	151	1,486	837
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	2	4	101	50	151	1,486	837
XIV.	Miscellaneous	1	1	348	104	452	5,424	3,525
	Total	10	92	4,022	621	4,643	27,862	24,884
QUEENSLAND.								
III.	Food, drink, etc.	4	10	1,901	261	2,162	8,046	7,653
VIII.	{ (a) Coal-mining	4	4	545	8	553	8,532	6,715
	{ (b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	3	3	433	43	476	8,292	7,374
IX.	Railway and tramway services	1	1	1,616	..	1,616	9,696	7,760
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc.	3	340	584	330	914	16,530	17,913
	Total	15	338	5,079	642	5,721	51,096	47,415
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.								
I.	Wood, saw-mill, timber, etc.	1	1	11	6	17	442	426
III.	Food, drink, etc.	1	1	60	..	60	60	48
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	2	2	64	..	64	128	87
XIV.	Miscellaneous	1	1	25	..	25	25	21
	Total	5	5	160	6	166	655	582

* Five disputes in Australia (involving 24 establishments and 1,022 workers) commenced in 1930 and were uncompleted at the end of that year, and in respect of number of disputes, number of establishments and workpeople involved, are duplicated in the figures for 1931.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1931—*continued.*

Class.	Industrial Group.	Number.	Establishments Involved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.								
V.	Books, printing, binding, etc. . .	1	3	180	..	180	900	£ 1,260
VII.	Building	1	6	60	..	60	840	756
VIII.	{ (a) Coal-mining	3	3	360	..	360	2,080	1,664
	{ (b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	4	5	967	..	967	9,416	7,235
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . .	1	1	20	..	20	120	66
XIV.	Miscellaneous	3	8	2,291	50	2,341	10,666	4,848
	Total	13	26	3,878	50	3,928	24,022	15,829
TASMANIA.								
VIII.	(a) Coal-mining	2	2	155	6	161	5,409	5,278
NORTHERN TERRITORY.								
XIV.	Miscellaneous	2	2	245	..	245	910	675
AUSTRALIA.								
I.	Wood, saw-mill, timber, etc. . .	2	3	61	6	67	592	570
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc. .	1	1	68	..	68	68	70
III.	Food, drink, etc., manufacturing and distribution	11	96	3,969	721	4,690	27,472	26,794
V.	Books, printing, binding, etc. . .	1	3	180	..	180	900	1,260
VII.	Building	4	9	152	7	159	1,006	901
VIII.	{ (a) Coal-mining	79	79	21,989	1,362	23,351	124,089	126,535
	{ (b) Other mining, quarries, etc.	8	9	1,821	194	2,015	36,012	29,249
IX.	Railway and tramway services . .	1	1	1,616	..	1,616	9,606	7,760
X.	Other land transport	1	1	11	..	11	44	50
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . .	8	15	536	352	888	10,121	5,743
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc. . . .	3	340	584	330	914	16,530	17,913
XIII.	Domestic, hotels, etc.	1	40	93	..	93	930	608
XIV.	Miscellaneous	14	19	3,461	154	3,615	18,531	10,188
	Total—Australia	134	616	34,541	3,126	37,667	245,991	227,731

3. Industrial Disputes, Australia, 1927 to 1931.—The following table gives particulars of the number of industrial disputes, the number of workpeople involved, and the losses in working days and wages caused by disputes which either commenced or were current during each of the years 1927 to 1931, classified according to industrial groups.

Satisfactory comparisons of the frequency of industrial disputes in classified industries can be made only after omitting those which are recorded for coal-mining (Group VIII.). For the year 1913 the proportion of disputes in the mining industry represented practically 50 per cent. of the total number recorded. In subsequent years the proportion remained high, ranging from 45 per cent. in 1917 and 1918 to as much as 81 per cent. in 1921 and 1924. During the year 1931 disputes in the coal-mining industry represented 59 per cent. of the total, as compared with 69 per cent. during 1930. During the past five years working days lost through dislocations involving work-people engaged in coal-mining numbered 5,112,203, representing 59 per cent. of the total loss of working days during the period.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Manu- facturing. (Groups I. to VI.)	Building. (Group VII.)	Mining (Group VIII.)		Transport, Land and Sea. (Groups IX. to XI.)	Miscel- laneous. (Groups XII. to XIV.)	ALL GROUPS.
			Coal Mining.	Other Mining, etc.			
1927 ..	60	19	271	14	41	36	441
1928 ..	28	6	190	4	42	17	287
1929 ..	29	8	193	11	9	9	239
1930 ..	27	..	126	4	5	21	183
1931 ..	15	4	79	8	10	18	134
1927 to 1931 ..	159	37	859	41	107	101	1,304

NUMBER.

1927 ..	60	19	271	14	41	36	441
1928 ..	28	6	190	4	42	17	287
1929 ..	29	8	193	11	9	9	239
1930 ..	27	..	126	4	5	21	183
1931 ..	15	4	79	8	10	18	134
1927 to 1931 ..	159	37	859	41	107	101	1,304

WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

1927 ..	11,368	9,690	130,911	1,855	42,487	4,446	200,757
1928 ..	3,304	290	72,267	237	17,992	2,332	96,422
1929 ..	25,364	732	63,751	8,015	1,286	456	104,604
1930 ..	6,034	..	49,336	851	2,610	4,391	54,222
1931 ..	5,005	159	23,351	2,015	2,515	4,622	37,667
1927 to 1931 ..	51,075	10,871	335,616	12,973	66,890	16,247	493,672

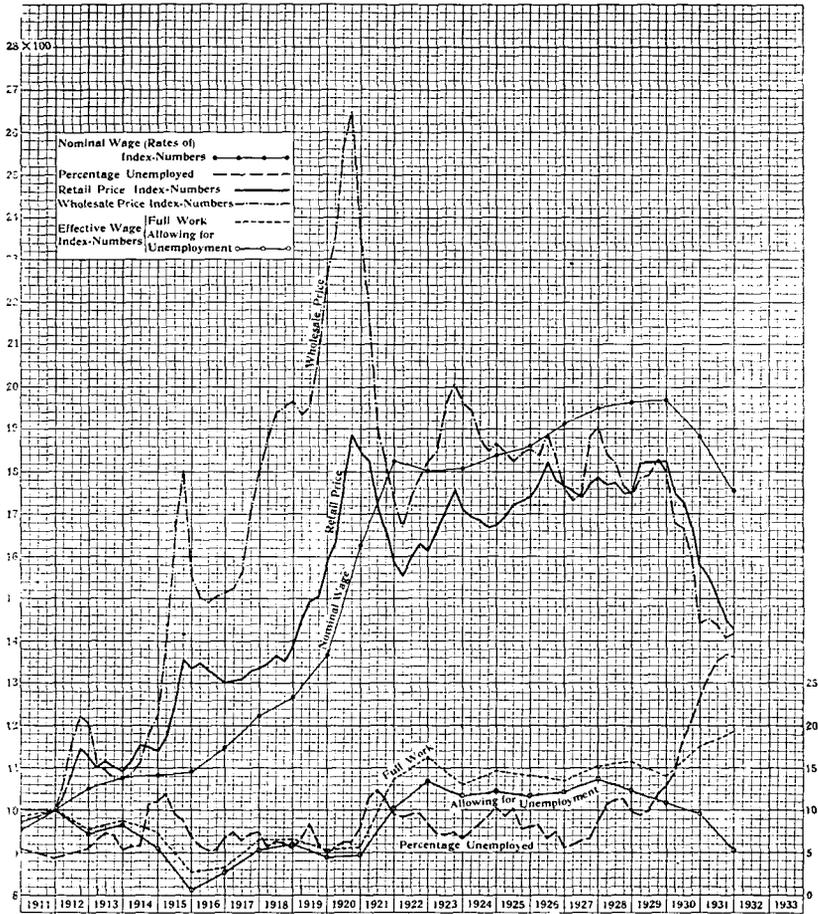
WORKING DAYS LOST.

1927 ..	168,432	342,649	848,823	19,956	304,586	29,135	1,713,581
1928 ..	71,803	3,419	315,121	1,124	367,271	18,540	777,278
1929 ..	1,896,091	4,456	2,496,028	31,748	39,237	2,918	4,461,478
1930 ..	77,232	..	1,328,142	3,798	46,427	55,642	1,511,241
1931 ..	29,032	1,006	124,089	36,012	19,861	35,991	245,991
1927 to 1931 ..	2,242,590	351,530	5,112,203	92,638	768,382	142,226	8,709,569

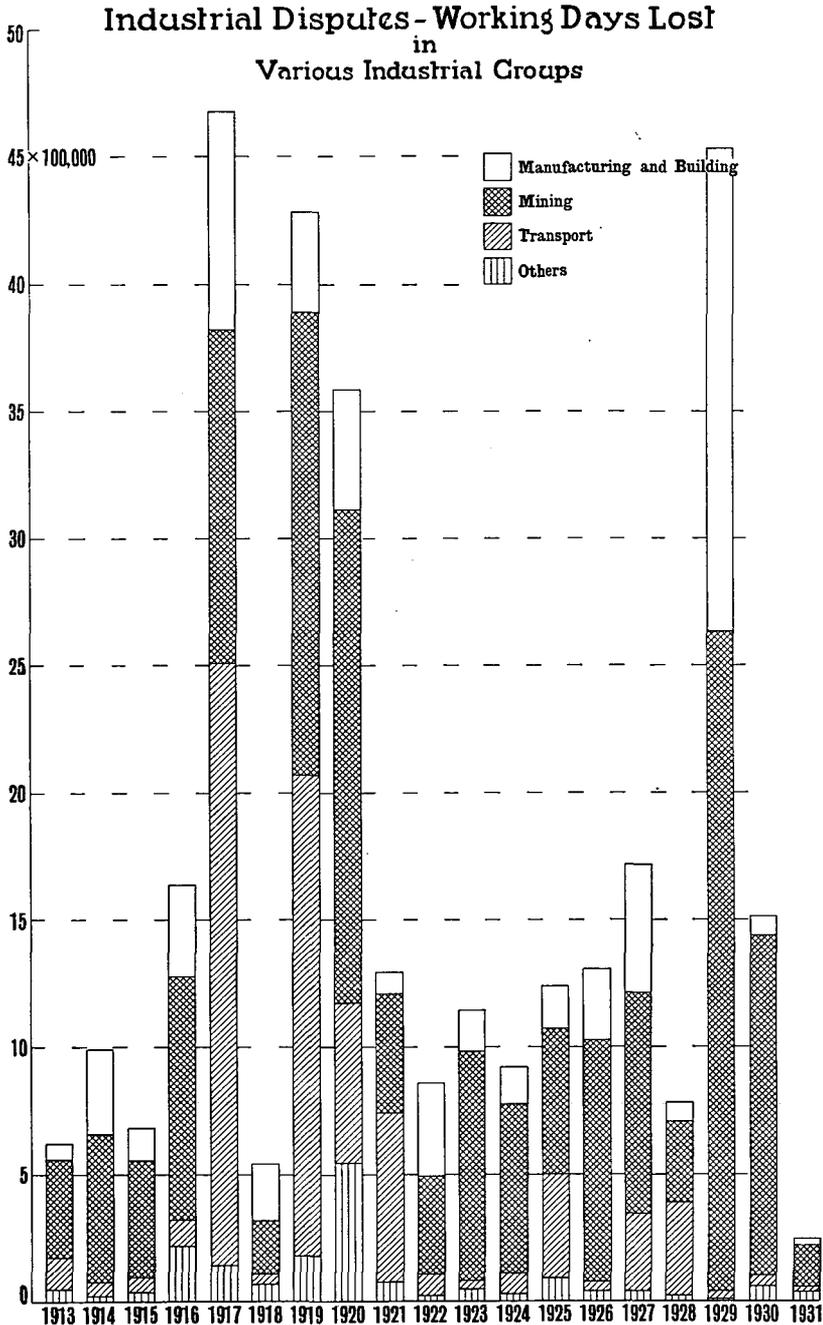
ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES.

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1927 ..	138,418	293,792	995,891	13,689	210,214	24,692	1,676,696
1928 ..	61,160	3,225	377,586	1,069	317,337	14,982	775,359
1929 ..	1,680,629	5,060	2,810,623	36,468	33,971	2,554	4,569,305
1930 ..	73,126	..	1,398,706	5,111	48,304	67,095	1,592,342
1931 ..	28,694	901	126,535	29,249	13,553	28,799	227,731
1927 to 1931 ..	1,982,027	302,978	5,709,341	85,586	623,379	138,122	8,841,433

RETAIL AND WHOLESALE PRICES, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX NUMBERS, AND PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED.—AUSTRALIA 1911 TO 1931.



NOTE.—The figures on the right represent the scale for the percentage unemployed according to trade-union returns. The figures on the left represent the scale for the several index-numbers, the year 1911 being taken in each case as base (= 1000). Since the end of the year 1911, the Retail Price Index-numbers (weighted average cost of food, groceries, and house rent (all houses) for the six capital cities), and the Wholesale Price Index-number (Melbourne) are shown in each quarter, while unemployment percentages are shown quarterly since the end of the year 1912 only. The other index-numbers since 1913 refer to the average for the whole year, but for purposes of convenience are plotted on the graph as at the end, not the middle, of the year. Retail Price and Wholesale Price Index-numbers show the average level during the whole of each quarter, and they also for convenience are plotted at the end, and not the middle, of each quarter. Average nominal wage for adult males, and real wage (full work) and (allowing for unemployment) for adult males.



EXPLANATION.—The scale refers to working days lost in hundred thousands. Thus taking the year 1917, and comparing the shaded and blank sections with the scale, it will be observed that about 870,000 working days were lost in Manufacturing and Building, over 1,300,000 in Mining, over 2,300,000 in Transport, and about 150,000 in other industries.

4. Summary of Disputes (involving Stoppage of Work), 1927 to 1931.—The following table gives particulars of the number of industrial disputes in each State in various years from 1927 to 1931, together with the workpeople involved, the working days lost, and the estimated loss in wages.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—SUMMARY.

State or Territory.	Year.	Number.	Establishments Involved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In-directly.	Total.		
							£	
New South Wales	1927	339	470	108,116	40,425	148,541	1,133,963	1,230,060
	1928	230	313	70,303	10,119	80,422	480,394	521,768
	1929	231	513	75,197	4,152	79,349	3,146,038	3,421,412
	1930	156	381	46,418	2,151	48,569	1,443,366	1,516,266
	1931	87	131	21,002	1,801	22,803	136,037	133,068
Victoria	1927	24	36	8,937	284	9,221	54,367	44,470
	1928	21	51	4,309	1,567	5,876	110,659	96,454
	1929	11	320	8,893	12,719	21,612	1,296,676	1,130,505
	1930	5	5	385	23	408	7,744	7,228
	1931	10	92	4,022	621	4,643	27,862	24,884
Queensland	1927	30	376	29,594	640	30,234	428,135	325,884
	1928	12	329	2,958	670	3,628	70,764	62,008
	1929	4	23	1,691	8	1,699	3,143	3,379
	1930	10	31	1,561	70	1,631	9,881	11,059
	1931	15	358	5,079	642	5,721	51,096	47,415
South Australia	1927	19	24	6,517	1,359	7,876	51,284	40,266
	1928	8	40	2,257	1,211	3,468	54,835	45,999
	1929	2	21	532	40	572	9,040	7,910
	1930	7	246	2,870	6	2,876	22,778	22,987
	1931	5	5	160	6	166	655	582
Western Australia	1927	20	25	3,345	47	3,392	23,819	19,944
	1928	11	62	2,106	422	2,528	54,896	43,472
	1929	4	8	827	50	877	2,672	2,771
	1930	2	26	468	..	468	27,072	34,378
	1931	13	26	3,878	50	3,928	24,022	15,829
Tasmania	1927	6	6	354	421	775	14,950	9,182
	1928	4	8	371	84	455	5,595	5,508
	1929	6	40	333	142	475	3,409	3,068
	1930	3	3	270	..	270	400	394
	1931	2	2	155	6	161	5,409	5,278
Northern Territory	1927	2	2	338	..	338	5,163	4,753
	1928	1	1	45	..	45	135	150
	1929	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1930	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1931	2	2	245	..	245	910	675
Fed. Cap. Territory	1927	1	5	380	..	380	1,900	2,137
	1928	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1929	1	1	20	..	20	200	200
	1930	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Australia	1927	441	944	157,581	43,176	200,757	1,713,581	1,676,696
	1928	287	804	82,349	14,073	96,422	777,278	775,359
	1929	259	926	87,493	17,111	104,604	4,401,478	4,599,395
	1930	183	695	51,972	2,250	54,222	1,511,241	1,592,342
	1931	(a) 134	616	34,541	3,126	37,667	245,991	227,731

(a) See footnote on page 792.

Detailed information in regard to the disputes during these and previous years is given in the Labour Reports issued by this Bureau.

The number of industrial disputes recorded during 1931 was 134, as compared with 183 during the previous year. In New South Wales 87 disputes occurred. Of this number 70 involved workpeople engaged in mining and quarrying. Working days lost during 1931 totalled 245,991 for all disputes in Australia, as compared with 1,511,241 working days lost during 1930. The estimated loss of wages was £227,731 in 1931 as compared with £1,592,342 for the year 1930.

5. *Particulars of Principal Disputes in 1931.*—(i) *General.* The preceding tables show the number and effect of all disputes for the year 1931 classified according to Industrial Groups. The figures show large decreases compared with those of the previous year as regards number of working days and amount of wages lost. The number of disputes is the lowest recorded for any year during the period covered by the investigations. The tables show that of the total number of disputes (134) which occurred in 1931 no less than 79 were in connexion with the coal-mining industry, and of these 69 occurred in New South Wales. The total loss in wages through all disputes in Australia was £227,731, the lowest annual loss yet recorded. The loss through disputes in the coal-mining industry in New South Wales was £111,378 or 49 per cent. of the total loss in wages for Australia.

(ii) *Details regarding Principal Disputes.*—(a) *New South Wales.* A dispute at the Coalcliffs colliery, which commenced in June, 1930, was not settled until March, 1931. The dispute arose over filling rates for machine-cut coal, and the refusal of claims for the re-employment of men who had been given notice of dismissal. Despite negotiations between the parties, the dispute remained unsettled at the end of the year 1930. A compulsory conference under the Commonwealth Act was held in February, but was adjourned on the understanding that the parties would consider a proposal of the Judge to submit the matters in dispute for arbitration to the Commonwealth Conciliation Commissioner. The proposal was accepted, but at the request of the parties, the Commissioner sat as a private arbitrator. As a result of the arbitration, the parties agreed to a compromise on the matters in dispute, and work was resumed after a stoppage of nine months.

A stoppage of work occurred in August at the State Coal Mine, Lithgow, because of the proposal of the Railway Commissioners to reduce wages under the provisions of the Salaries Reduction Act, as they considered that production costs at the mine should be reduced. The dispute was taken up by the Premier, who succeeded in arranging a settlement on the basis that each miner would increase his daily output by one skip per day. In consideration of the increased output, the provision of the Salaries Reduction Act would not operate. The colliery was idle for about three weeks.

At the Zinc Corporation South Blocks Mine, Broken Hill, in July, a proposal for the reduction of contract rates to a party of miners caused a stoppage of work for ten weeks. The Company agreed to provide work elsewhere for the party concerned in the dispute, but refused to pay the previous rate.

In October, a serious dislocation of Interstate shipping arose out of a dispute concerning the dismissal of a relief fireman on S.S. Canberra. Vessels were held up in Sydney and Newcastle, and the trouble extended to Melbourne, Adelaide and Fremantle, where other vessels were laid up. The strike lasted for approximately three weeks—a settlement being effected at a compulsory conference under the Commonwealth Arbitration and Conciliation Act, presided over by the Chief Judge.

(b) *Victoria.* Two disputes involving employees in the meat industry occurred in this State during the year. The first arose about the end of April, owing to the refusal of slaughtermen at about 70 establishments to accept a reduction in wages as provided by a determination of the Wages Board. Early in May, the Assistant Minister for Labour proposed terms of settlement. These were not accepted by the employees, but, after further negotiations, the original terms were accepted, i.e., the rates under the determination to apply, but the quarterly reduction of 2s. owing to the fall in the cost of living figures would not operate from 1st May, and would be restored to those automatically reduced under the Commonwealth Arbitration Court Award.

The other dispute occurred in October, concerning a "go slow" policy as a protest against the existing rates of wages provided in an agreement. A rank and file committee took control of the dispute. At a conference, the meat exporters suggested terms of settlement, a compromise being effected, and the existing agreement being extended to the end of 1932.

(c) *Queensland.* A serious dispute occurred in November, involving railway employees at Townsville, owing to the dismissal of some shunters who refused to handle a truck of ore from one of the mines, the ore having been declared "black". Altogether 1,600 men ceased work as a protest against the dismissals. The Government passed the Railway Strike and Public Preservation Act, dismissing all strikers, and the dispute, after six days, was declared "off" by the men. Re-employment was left to the discretion of the Railways Commissioner.

A dispute involving employees in the principal meat works in the State occurred in July. After stop-work meetings held on the 8th July as a protest against a reduction in wages by the State Industrial Court affecting employees in the export section of the industry, work ceased at a number of establishments, and was not resumed for about a week. At an informal conference of employers and employees, held at the invitation of the Premier, a proposal for re-opening the works to treat stock on hand was made. It was agreed that the proposal should be considered at a mass meeting of the employees, who decided to resume work.

A dispute as to tonnage rates of machine-mined coal occurred at the State Coal Mine, Collinsville, in September—the dispute did not terminate for about three weeks—the men ultimately accepting the Mines Department's rates and conditions.

(d) *Western Australia.* A stoppage of work occurred among employees in the Fremantle Wool Stores in November, consequent on a reduction of wages by an order by the State Arbitration Court under the provisions of the Financial Emergency Act, in addition to the basic wage reduction. Stop-work meetings were held, the matter eventually being left to the Disputes Committee for negotiation with the Employers' Federation. Numerous conferences called by the President of the Arbitration Court were fruitless, and the Secretary and members of the union were prosecuted and fined. The men resumed under terms suggested by the President of the Arbitration Court as follows:—

"That, pending the Arbitration Court's decision, the employers pay the difference between the rates specified in the Industrial agreement as varied by the Court's orders under the Financial Emergency Act and the rates now payable under the said agreement as modified by the current basic wage declaration, provided—

- (a) the men return to work forthwith;
- (b) that the union immediately lodges appeals against the said orders, and undertakes to abide by the Court's decision thereon, without any further cessation of work;
- (c) the Court to proceed to hear the said appeals immediately."

On the 24th December, the President of the State Arbitration Court cancelled the orders previously made in favour of the wool firms.

A reduction of 8s. per week in the State basic wage which the Kurrawang Woodline Company proposed to introduce in July caused a stoppage of work involving wood-cutters supplying the Company. The matter was referred to the State Arbitration Court, resulting in the piece-workers losing their annual holiday pay per fortnight, but not suffering any reduction in pay for day work. The hours of work were increased from 44 to 48 per week.

In September, owing to the "seniority" question, employees of the same Company refused to work, alleging victimization of old employees in the previous dispute. The Company stated that men were dismissed as they finished cutting their block, as had been the practice. After meeting the Union, the Company decided to recognize right of service and, so far as possible, to re-engage the dismissed men.

(e) *Tasmania*. The only serious dispute occurred at the Seymour Colliery, where a question of regular payment of wages and arrears arose. After many conferences, most of the amount due was paid, but, owing to shortage of orders, the mine closed down permanently.

6. **Duration of Industrial Disputes, 1931.**—The following table gives particulars respecting the number of disputes, workpeople directly and indirectly involved, working days lost, and estimated loss in wages, consequent on the cessations of work recorded for Australia during the year 1931, classified under the adopted limits of duration :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—DURATION, AUSTRALIA, 1931.(a)

Limits of Duration.	Number.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
1 day and less	45	12,776	1,234	14,010	13,810	£ 14,791
2 days and more than 1 day	16	3,940	102	4,042	8,054	7,363
3 days and more than 2 days	13	4,122	7	4,129	12,373	7,295
Over 3 days and less than 1 week (6 days)	18	4,615	233	4,848	22,786	22,173
1 week and less than 2 weeks	19	4,552	683	5,235	40,782	37,469
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks	11	2,997	509	3,506	48,940	42,522
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks	8	907	233	1,140	38,323	34,840
8 weeks and over	4	632	125	757	60,923	61,278
Total	134	34,541	3,126	37,667	245,991	227,731

(a) See footnote on page 792

Similar figures for the years 1913 to 1930 will be found in previous issues of the Year Book and in the Labour Reports issued by this Bureau.

7. **Causes of Industrial Disputes, 1913 to 1931.**—The following table shows the number of disputes, workpeople involved, and the working days lost in disputes during the years 1913 and 1926 to 1931, classified according to principal cause :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—CAUSES, AUSTRALIA.

Causes of Dispute.	1913.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
NUMBER.							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase	42	23	24	8	8	..	4
(b) Against decrease	4	5	4	3	6	9	17
(c) Other wage questions	31	67	66	39	45	44	16
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction	3	13	14	2	6	4	2
(b) Other disputes re hours	7	2	4	2	2	..	..
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists	8	5	12	6	3	..	1
(b) Other union questions	5	22	24	11	12	20	4
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons	44	108	152	105	87	48	50
5. Working Conditions	51	46	72	48	31	27	22
6. Sympathetic	5	8	5	9	6	11	5
7. Other Causes	8	61	64	54	53	20	13
Total	208	360	441	287	259	183	(d) 134

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—CAUSES, AUSTRALIA—*continued.*

Causes of Dispute.	1913.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	8 633	17,046	7,316	2,775	1,414	..	2,053
(b) Against decrease ..	563	1,275	300	1,317	10,532	12,824	7,108
(c) Other wage questions	7,160	18,883	20,297	17,057	8,742	12,686	3,999
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	460	9,730	7,813	61	21,646	4,334	192
(b) Other disputes re hours	1,819	290	288	1,005	2,067	..	..
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	5,370	125	4,432	193	103	..	9
(b) Other union questions	1,418	3,790	25,848	2,311	4,367	4,160	2,240
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	11,370	25,165	55,174	35,379	22,933	7,751	12,023
5. Working Conditions ..	10,785	12,889	29,766	14,169	4,672	4,276	6,659
6. Sympathetic ..	947	3,499	1,484	6,123	11,604	4,010	1,053
7. Other Causes ..	1,758	20,342	48,039	16,032	16,524	4,181	2,331
Total	50,283	113,034	200,757	96,422	104,604	54,222	37,667

WORKING DAYS LOST.

1. Wages—							
(a) For increase ..	100,069	580,183	150,601	6,548	7,433	..	15,425
(b) Against decrease ..	9,438	2,573	2,578	3,824	2,332,157	1,227,808	111,258
(c) Other wage questions	78,183	82,898	83,831	80,755	47,261	113,102	43,746
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction ..	2,774	280,152	305,782	725	1,887,196	63,583	152
(b) Other disputes re hours	15,111	290	4,487	2,667	3,183	..	..
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	91,002	1,623	82,156	2,137	424	..	99
(b) Other union questions	32,388	15,607	204,802	8,900	49,924	50,225	11,752
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..	191,723	114,917	310,425	423,555	78,492	24,683	38,567
5. Working Conditions ..	73,562	123,390	303,788	98,852	8,545	8,551	17,106
6. Sympathetic ..	24,066	38,381	3,573	106,358	23,482	17,648	4,070
7. Other Causes ..	5,212	70,247	261,468	42,957	23,381	5,641	3,816
Total	623,528	1,310,261	1,713,581	777,278	4,461,478	1,511,241	245,991

(d) See footnote, page 792.

The main causes of industrial disputes are "Wage" questions, "Working Conditions," and "Employment of Particular Classes or Persons." In each of the years 1913 to 1925, with the exception of 1922, the number of dislocations concerning wages exceeded those caused by any other question, and varied between a minimum proportion of 26 per cent. in 1922 and a maximum of 45 per cent. in 1916. During 1931 the number of disputes concerning "Wages" represented 28 per cent. of the total number for the year. The majority of the dislocations of work classified under the heading, "Employment of Particular Classes or Persons," are stoppages for the purpose of protesting against the dismissal of certain employees, who, in the opinion of their fellow-workers, have been unfairly treated or victimized. This class of dispute occurs very frequently in the coal-mining industry. The number of disputes over "Trade Union" questions has represented a fairly uniform proportion of the total number of disputes during the years under review, while stoppages of work concerning "Hours of Labour" increased during 1926 and 1927, but decreased during 1928 to 1931. "Sympathetic" disputes have not been numerous during the past five years.

8. Results of Industrial Disputes.—The following table shows the number of disputes, workpeople involved, and the working days lost in disputes throughout Australia during the five years 1927 to 1931, classified according to results :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO RESULTS.—AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Number.				Workpeople Involved.				Working Days Lost.			
	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.
1927 ..	88	307	35	5	28,005	152,429	18,571	995	207,009	1,198,163	294,102	10,285
1928 ..	39	228	14	1	7,362	85,306	2,814	178	55,757	674,076	16,309	178
1929 ..	70	135	44	5	11,200	69,859	7,150	15,304	38,943	4,315,760	43,174	26,302
1930 ..	36	117	24	1	4,133	45,204	3,343	520	13,497	1,358,044	25,177	13,000
1931 a b	27	80	25	..	5,917	26,182	5,406	..	47,191	142,006	49,222	..

(a) See footnote, page 792.

(b) The following particulars of disputes which were incomplete at the 31st December, 1931, should be added to the above figures to effect a balance with those published in the preceding table :—2 disputes ; 162 workpeople involved ; and 7,572 working days lost.

The figures for the year 1929 in the above, and also in the following table, include the number of workpeople involved and the working days lost in 1929 in the dispute on the Northern Coalfield of New South Wales which commenced in March, 1929, and terminated in June, 1930.

9. Methods of Settlement.—The following tables show for Australia the number of disputes, workpeople involved, and working days lost in industrial disputes during the years 1913 and 1926 to 1931, classified according to the adopted schedule of methods of settlement :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—METHODS OF SETTLEMENT, AUSTRALIA.

Methods of Settlement.	1913.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	(a) 1931.(b)
NUMBER.							
Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	119	166	229	138	130	134	38
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act ..	17	16	18	8	8	3	3
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference ..	19	8	13	10	3	6	11
By reference to Board or Court ..	22	10	19	8	1	2	1
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference ..	4	13	19	6	6	..	4
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked out ..	13	8	5	10	7	9	2
By Closing-down Establishment permanently ..	1	..	10	3	3	1	2
By Other Methods ..	13	135	122	99	96	23	21
Total ..	208	356	435	282	254	178	(b)132

(a) See footnote on page 792.

(b) See footnote (b) to previous table.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—METHODS OF SETTLEMENT. AUSTRALIA—*continued.*

Methods of Settlement.	1913.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	(a)
							1031.(b)
WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.							
Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	23,357	44,995	94,070	37,708	32,393	40,804	22,292
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	3,172	17,072	5,839	1,242	19,161	196	1,885
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	6,505	936	3,763	2,009	487	3,476	3,871
By reference to Board or Court	12,774	684	4,314	2,975	56	184	42
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	659	4,332	33,517	1,497	511	..	1,083
By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out	658	245	533	11,047	5,411	2,940	222
By closing-down establishment permanently	170	..	1,104	266	144	40	52
By other methods	2,988	44,325	56,860	38,916	45,350	5,560	8,058
Total	50,283	112,589	200,000	95,660	103,513	53,200	37,505

WORKING DAYS LOST.

Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	94,400	417,158	700,968	273,254	2,417,171	1,289,487	109,601
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	26,335	549,427	100,148	36,937	1,279,258	2,893	2,625
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	187,871	11,281	80,815	38,878	5,261	56,648	25,257
By reference to Board or Court	221,769	8,744	60,236	29,533	56	1,272	252
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	2,105	134,841	305,303	3,962	1,882	..	30,317
By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out	14,139	2,865	9,706	266,369	610,686	34,612	27,042
By closing-down establishment permanently	20,400	..	30,289	750	9,861	80	5,355
By other methods	56,509	118,580	422,094	96,637	100,004	24,726	37,970
Total	623,528	1,242,896	1,709,559	746,320	4,424,179	1,409,718	238,419

(a) See footnote on page 792.

(b) See footnote (b) to previous table.

The majority of the disputes were settled by direct negotiations between employers and employees, the proportion so settled ranging between 47 per cent. in 1924 and 76 per cent. in 1921. Of the 132 disputes during 1931, 88 or 67 per cent. were settled by this method. The proportion of dislocations settled by compulsory conferences or the intervention and assistance of officials under State or Commonwealth Arbitration Acts has varied considerably during the period under review, ranging from 2 per cent. in 1923 to 15 per cent. in 1920. The proportion in 1931 was 12 per cent. In connexion with the comparatively large number of disputes which are classified as having been settled "By other methods," many stoppages of work occur each year, principally at collieries, but the cause of such stoppages is not officially known to the employers or their representatives. Such stoppages usually last for one day, and work is resumed without negotiations for a settlement of the trouble.

(iii) *Summary for Australia.* The appended table gives a summary for Australia for the last five years :—

UNEMPLOYMENT.—AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.	Unions.	Membership.	Unemployed.	
			Number.	Percentage.
1927	375	445,985	31,032	7.0
1928	375	423,422	45,669	10.8
1929	382	424,093	47,359	11.1
1930	395	438,874	84,767	19.3
1931	397	430,004	117,866	27.4
1929 1st Quarter	375	420,756	39,159	9.3
2nd „	376	409,503	40,996	10.0
3rd „	388	433,388	52,480	12.1
4th „	390	432,727	56,801	13.1
1930 1st Quarter	392	432,464	63,144	14.6
2nd „	394	435,239	80,595	18.5
3rd „	396	439,971	90,379	20.5
4th „	399	447,822	104,951	23.4
1931 1st Quarter	397	440,234	113,614	25.8
2nd „	397	429,687	118,424	27.6
3rd „	396	426,603	120,694	28.3
4th „	396	423,493	118,732	28.0

NOTE.—Similar figures for each of the four quarters of the years since 1912 will be found in the Labour Reports. The quarterly figures show the number of persons who were out of work for three days or more during a specified week in each quarter, and the annual figures, the average of the four quarters; the returns do not include persons out of work through strikes or lock-outs.

The highest percentage of unemployed yet recorded (28.3) was reached in the third quarter of 1931.

(iv) *Industrial Groups.* The next table shows the percentages unemployed in industrial groups. Industries or occupations in which employment is stable, such as railways, and those which are subject to exceptional fluctuations, such as wharf labour, agricultural, pastoral, etc., are not included. Other occupations—domestic, hotel employees, etc., are included in the “Other and Miscellaneous” group, as their returns are not sufficiently representative.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.—AUSTRALIA, 1931.

Industrial Group.	Number Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Unions.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
Manufacturing :—				
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	17	19,461	6,477	33.3
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	63	76,018	22,853	30.1
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	51	36,143	7,165	19.8
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. ..	23	35,645	9,224	25.9
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	13	19,383	2,758	14.2
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	66	40,235	17,515	43.5
VII. Building	47	53,126	17,588	33.1
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	21	27,477	9,087	33.1
X. Land Transport other than Railway and Tramway Services ..	12	17,843	4,302	24.1
IX., XI., XII., XIII., and XIV. Other and Miscellaneous ..	84	104,673	20,897	20.0
All Groups	397	430,004	117,866	27.4

3. **Seasonal Employment in Australia.**—An investigation concerning the extent of seasonal employment in Australia was made during 1929. The State Statisticians were requested to furnish brief reports regarding the industries and callings in their respective States subject to seasonal fluctuations. From the reports received from these officials, supplemented by information from other sources, particulars were compiled and published in Official Year Book, No. 22, and in Labour Report, No. 19.

4. **Special Legislation for the Relief of Unemployment.**—The position in regard to unemployment in Australia became so serious during 1930, that the usual methods of providing funds for relief works and sustenance were found to be inadequate. The cessation of loans, and the general depression in industry and business, due mainly to the decline in the prices of primary products, brought about an economic crisis in all States. The number of persons thrown out of work increased rapidly, with little prospect of conditions improving during the immediate future. The Commonwealth and State Governments realized that special action was necessary to provide additional funds to relieve the distress caused by continued unemployment, as the available money was not sufficient to meet the abnormal conditions.

Special grants to the States were made by the Commonwealth Government, while special legislation relating to the relief of unemployment was enacted in all States with the exception of Western Australia. In New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland the Acts provided for special taxation for the purpose of creating funds for relief works and sustenance for the unemployed. In South Australia and Western Australia special taxation was not imposed, the moneys for relief of unemployed being voted by Parliament. In Tasmania special legislation was enacted authorizing the raising of certain sums of money for purposes of affording relief to unemployed persons.

Further references to the special legislation relating to unemployment, rates of tax and sustenance payments will be found in Labour Report, No. 22.

§ 3. Apprenticeship.

In Year Book No. 16, pp. 602-3, information was given with regard to legislation relating to the question of apprenticeship. Tables were included showing the periods of apprenticeship fixed in the awards of the various industrial tribunals of the States and Commonwealth, also the proportion of apprentices to journeymen and journeywomen. This information has been omitted from the present issue. Reference to legislation covering apprenticeship will be found in the Appendix to Official Year Book, No. 23.

D.—ASSOCIATIONS.

§ 1. Labour Organizations.

1. **Registration.**—(i) *Under Trade Union Acts.* The benefits obtained by registering trade unions under the Trade Union Acts in force in the various States are not considered of much value; consequently the statistics of registered trade unions of employees do not accurately represent the position of unionism. Further, the returns for past years are so defective as to be practically valueless, inasmuch as no reliable indication is afforded of the numerical and financial position of the unions. Some of the registered unions fail to supply returns; this non-supply may lead to cancellation of the registration. Others have obtained the cancellation of their certificates of registration, the apparent reason being that they proposed to register under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act or a State Arbitration Act. In Queensland, some of the largest labour unions withdrew from registration during 1911, mainly on account of the necessity for closer restriction of their objects as set forth in their rules, consequent on legal decisions affecting trade unions. In Victoria and in South Australia very few of the existing unions are registered under the Trade Union Acts. It will be seen, therefore, that the available information under this heading is too meagre for statistical purposes.

(ii) *Under Industrial Arbitration Acts.* Information with regard to registrations of employers' associations and trade unions under the various State Industrial Arbitration Acts will be found in previous issues of the Year Book. The latest information available as to registrations is as follows:—New South Wales, 162 industrial unions of employers and 154 industrial unions of employees, the membership of the latter being 284,149;

Queensland, 10 industrial unions of employers with 10,606 members, and 77 industrial unions of employees with approximately 110,421 members; South Australia, 25 organizations of employees with 19,284 members; Western Australia, 35 organizations of employers with 968 members, and 120 organizations of employees with 33,555 members. There is no provision in the South Australian Industrial Acts for the registration of organizations of employers, and in Victoria and Tasmania, where Wages Board systems of wage fixation are in operation, organizations of employers and employees are not required to register. Registration under Commonwealth legislation began in 1906. In that and the four following years, there was but one union of employers: another was registered in 1911. The unions of employees registered were 20 in 1906, with 41,413 members. In December, 1931, there were on the register 28 organizations of employers with 20,000 persons, firms or corporations affiliated: and 133 organizations of employees with approximately 670,000 members.

2. **Particulars regarding Trade Unions.**—(i) *Types.* The trade unions in Australia are very diverse in character, and range from the small independent association to the large interstate organization, which, in its turn, may be merely a branch of a British or International union. Broadly speaking, there are four distinct classes of labour organizations, viz. :—(i) the local independent, (ii) the State, (iii) the interstate, and (iv) the Australasian or International, but a number of variations occur from each of these classes. The leading characteristics of each of these types were briefly outlined in Labour Report No. 2 (pp. 7 to 9) issued by this Bureau.

(ii) *Number and Membership.* As already stated, the figures for trade unions registered under the Acts do not represent the position of unionism in Australia. In 1912, the Labour and Industrial Branch of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics was established, and with the cordial co-operation of the officials of the labour organizations, comprehensive figures relating to the development of organized labour are now available. The following table shows the position at the end of 1931 :—

TRADE UNIONS, BRANCHES, AND MEMBERS, 1931.

State or Territory.	Number of Separate Unions.	Number of Branches.	Number of Members.
New South Wales	202(c)	585	315,732(c)
Victoria	150	408	203,956
Queensland	107	318	123,050
South Australia	110	171	57,082
Western Australia	129	183	52,234
Tasmania	78	70	16,150
Northern Territory	4	..	802
Total	780	1,735	769,006
Australia (a)	362(a)	2,153(b)	769,006

(a) Allowing for interstate duplication. The figures represent the number of distinct organizations and interstate groups of organizations in Australia—not the total number of organizations, which are practically independent and self-governing. (b) See remarks below. (c) Includes 13 unions with a membership of 905 in the Federal Capital Territory.

In the preceding table, the number of separate unions in each State refers to the number of unions which are represented in each State, exclusive of branches therein, and each union is counted once only. Except in the last line, the number of branches indicates the number of branches of State head offices, which may, of course, themselves be branches of an interstate or larger organization. In taking the total number of separate unions in Australia (see last line but one), it is obvious that, in the case of inter-state and similar unions, there will be duplication, since each such union is counted once in each State in which it has any branches. In the figures given in the last line, allowance has been made for this duplication. State branches of interstate or federated unions, as

well as sub-branches within a State, are included under the heading "Branches" in the third column—last line. The scheme of organization of these interstate or federated unions varies greatly in character, and the number of separate Commonwealth unions does not, therefore, fairly represent the number of practically independent organizations in Australia. In some of these unions the State organizations are bound together under a system of unification and centralized control, while in others the State units are practically independent and self-governing, the federal bond being loose and existing only for one or two specified purposes. There are, therefore, 362 distinct organizations and interstate groups of organizations in Australia, having 2,153 State branches and sub-branches, and a total of 769,006 members.

(iii) *Classification in Industrial Groups.* The following table shows the number of unions and members thereof in Australia at the end of each of the last five years. The number of unions specified refers to the number of different unions represented in each State; and, while interstate or federated unions are counted once in each State in which they are represented, sub-branches within a State are not counted.

TRADE UNIONS.—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Groups.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
NUMBER OF UNIONS.					
Manufacturing :—					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. . .	18 (4)	18 (4)	18 (4)	18 (4)	18 (4)
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . .	61 (23)	60 (23)	61 (22)	63 (22)	63 (22)
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. . .	63 (32)	65 (33)	65 (33)	65 (32)	63 (34)
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots., etc. . .	24 (11)	25 (12)	25 (12)	24 (12)	24 (12)
V. Books, Printing, etc. . .	13 (8)	14 (8)	14 (8)	15 (9)	15 (10)
VI. Other Manufacturing . . .	80 (41)	78 (40)	79 (42)	79 (41)	76 (38)
VII. Building . . .	49 (28)	51 (28)	50 (28)	51 (28)	51 (28)
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. . .	15 (12)	17 (14)	18 (14)	18 (14)	16 (13)
IX. Railway and Tramway Services . .	51 (28)	51 (30)	52 (31)	52 (30)	51 (29)
X. Other Land Transport . . .	13 (8)	12 (5)	11 (5)	12 (5)	11 (4)
XI. Shipping, etc. . .	54 (24)	58 (29)	59 (28)	59 (26)	57 (24)
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. . .	8 (3)	8 (3)	8 (3)	8 (3)	9 (4)
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. . .	23 (19)	24 (20)	24 (19)	20 (15)	20 (15)
XIV. Miscellaneous :—					
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical . . .	29 (19)	29 (19)	30 (20)	30 (20)	31 (19)
(ii) Public Service . . .	143 (53)	144 (54)	143 (50)	143 (45)	145 (46)
(iii) Retail and Wholesale . . .	9 (7)	9 (7)	9 (7)	9 (7)	8 (7)
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring . . .	14 (13)	14 (13)	14 (13)	14 (13)	14 (13)
(v) Other Miscellaneous . . .	92 (36)	91 (37)	91 (35)	100 (36)	108 (40)
Total . . .	759 (369) <i>a</i>	768 (379) <i>a</i>	771 (374) <i>a</i>	780 (362) <i>a</i>	780 (362) <i>a</i>
NUMBER OF MEMBERS.					
Manufacturing :—					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. . .	37,110	35,740	35,898	30,944	26,700
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . .	82,720	87,417	85,425	79,081	74,316
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. . .	70,012	71,994	71,948	71,437	63,582
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots., etc. . .	53,641	56,874	56,300	50,625	47,707
V. Books, Printing, etc. . .	19,214	19,771	19,817	19,822	18,703
VI. Other Manufacturing . . .	47,671	46,779	44,693	44,742	42,553
VII. Building . . .	57,234	60,416	61,191	59,629	52,041
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. . .	49,179	43,044	43,098	42,405	36,037
IX. Railway and Tramway Services . .	121,300	116,061	113,281	106,968	92,202
X. Other Land Transport . . .	22,137	20,632	18,817	18,211	17,595
XI. Shipping, etc. . .	42,702	38,361	38,308	38,050	36,039
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. . .	60,394	55,547	50,266	43,639	28,668
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. . .	28,313	30,488	29,767	25,504	23,611
XIV. Miscellaneous :—					
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical . . .	31,343	28,371	30,440	31,140	30,222
(ii) Public Service . . .	76,225	79,175	79,773	81,275	81,395
(iii) Retail and Wholesale . . .	30,685	31,034	31,887	28,859	26,630
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring . . .	42,811	48,691	46,577	41,027	32,541
(v) Other Miscellaneous . . .	38,961	41,146	43,682	42,399	38,374
Total . . .	911,652	911,541	901,168	855,757	769,006

(a) Allowing for interstate duplication.

(iv) *Trade Unions—Numbers and Percentages of Male and Female Members.—Australia.* The Census of 1921 gives the percentage of male and female employees (i.e., persons in "receipt of wages or salary," and persons "unemployed"), 20 years of age and over, on the total male and female population, and by applying these percentages to the estimated total male and female population at the end of each year, an estimate of the number of adult employees of each sex in the year is obtained.

The following table shows separately for males and females (a) the number of members of trade unions, (b) the estimated number of employees of each sex 20 years of age and over in all professions, trades, and occupations, and (c) the percentage of the former (a) on the latter (b) at the end of each year, 1927 to 1931. The estimated number of employees includes all persons (over the age specified) in receipt of wages or salary, as well as those unemployed, and therefore embraces a large number of adults who are not eligible for membership of any trade union, such as certain persons employed in professional occupations, as well as others who, while eligible for membership so far as the nature of their trade or occupation is concerned, do not reside in a locality which is covered by any union devoted to their particular trade or occupation. Moreover the age at which persons are eligible for membership varies in different unions. The Census results are classified in quinquennial age groups, and age 20 years is taken as approximating to the age of admission to membership. A line has also been added showing the estimated numbers of "junior" workers under 20 years of age.

TRADE UNIONS—NUMBER AND PERCENTAGES OF MALE AND FEMALE MEMBERS.—AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
MALES.					
Estimated Total No. of Employees 20 years of age and over	1,267,636	1,288,200	1,302,400	1,313,000	1,321,000
No. of Members of Unions	793,131	785,189	774,031	735,767	656,105
Percentage of Members on Estimated Total					
Number of Employees	62.6	60.9	59.4	56.0	49.7
Junior Workers (under 20)	234,994	239,050	241,000	243,400	244,850
FEMALES.					
Estimated Total No. of Employees 20 years of age and over	299,205	304,000	308,200	311,600	314,600
No. of Members of Unions	118,521	126,352	127,137	119,990	112,901
Percentage of Members on Estimated Total					
Number of Employees	39.6	41.5	41.3	38.5	35.9
Junior Workers (under 20)	132,015	134,200	136,000	137,500	138,870

(v) *Interstate or Federated Unions.* The following table gives particulars as to the number and membership of interstate or federated unions in 1931.—

INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED UNIONS.—AUSTRALIA, 1931.

Particulars.	Unions Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States. (a)	
Number of Unions	19	14	18	23	41	115
Number of Members	23,992	59,110	93,736	178,712	290,457	646,007

(a) Certain unions in this group have, in addition to branches in each of the six States, branches in the Northern Territory and the Federal Capital Territory.

It appears, therefore, that 115 out of the 362 separate associations and groups of associations in Australia are organized on an interstate basis. The membership of these 115 unions reaches 646,007 or 84 per cent. of the membership (769,006) of all unions.

3. **Central Labour Organizations.**—In each of the capital cities and in a number of industrial centres elsewhere, delegate organizations consisting of representatives from a group of trade unions have been established. Their revenue is raised by means of a per capita tax on the members of each affiliated union. In most of the towns where such central organizations exist, the majority of the local unions are affiliated with the central organization, which is usually known as the Labour or the Trades Hall Council, or the Labour Federation. In Western Australia a unified system of organization extends over the industrial centres throughout the State. In this State there is a provincial branch of the Australian Labour Party, having a central council and executive, and metropolitan and branch district councils, to which the local bodies are affiliated. The central council, on which all district councils are represented, meets periodically. In the other five States, however, the organization is not so close, and, while provision usually exists in the rules of the central council at the capital city of each State for the organization of district councils or for the representation of the central council on the local councils in the smaller industrial centres of the State, the councils in each State are, as a matter of fact, independent bodies.

A new Central Labour Organization, called the Australasian Council of Trade Unions, came into being during 1927. The Council was created to function on behalf of the Trade Unions of the Commonwealth, and was founded at an All-Australian Trade Union Congress held in Melbourne in May, 1927. The Australasian Council is based on the Metropolitan Trades and Labour Councils in each State, such bodies having the right to appoint two representatives to act on the Executive of the Council. The Metropolitan Trades and Labour Councils are the branches of the Australasian Council. In addition to the representatives from the Metropolitan Councils, the Executive consists of four officers, viz., the President, two Vice-Presidents, and a Secretary, who are elected by and from the All-Australian Trade Union Congress.

The objective of the Council is the socialization of industry, i.e., production, distribution, and exchange. The methods to be adopted are:—(a) The closer organization of the workers by the transformation of the Australasian Trade Union Movement from the Craft to an Industrial basis by the establishment of one Union in each industry; (b) the consolidation of the Australasian Labour Movement with the object of unified control, administration, and action; (c) the centralized control of industrial disputes.

The table below shows the number of metropolitan and district or local labour councils, together with the number of unions and branches of unions affiliated thereto in each State at the end of the year 1931:—

CENTRAL LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.—NUMBER, AND UNIONS AFFILIATED, 1931.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	F.C.Ter.	Total.
Number of Councils	3	5	6	2	9	3	1	29
Number of Unions and Branch Unions affiliated	94	175	61	60	208	64	9	671

The figures given in the preceding table as to number of unions do not necessarily represent separate unions, since the branches of a large union may be affiliated to the local trades councils in the several towns in which they are represented.

Between the trade union and the central organization of unions may be classed certain State or district councils organized on trade lines, and composed of delegates from separate unions the interests of the members of which are closely connected by reason of the occupation of their members. Delegate councils of bakers, bread carters, and mill employees, or of unions connected directly or indirectly with the iron, steel, or brass trades, or with the building trades, may be so classed.

4. **Laws relating to Conditions of Labour.**—In Official Year Book No. 16, pp. 538 to 566, a conspectus was given of Labour Laws in force in Australia at the end of the year 1922, and of Acts and Regulations relating to Factories and Shops.

Information was contained in the same issue with regard to employment under Mining Acts, followed by a brief reference to Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation Acts and miscellaneous legislation relating to conditions of labour enacted by the States. A conspectus of the Tribunals for the Regulation of Wages and Conditions of Labour was also included.

§ 2. Employers' Associations.

1. **General.**—Recent investigations show that the spirit of association is no less manifest in the case of employers than in the case of workers. Associations for trade purposes merely are not included in the present chapter, which deals with those associations only whose members are united for their own protection, and for representation in cases before Arbitration Courts, Wages Boards and other wage-fixing tribunals. Associations of employers and employees are recognized under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act as well as under several State Acts, and organizations of these bodies may be registered.

The year 1922 was the first for which information was collected, and detailed particulars for that and subsequent years will be found in previous issues of the Official Year Book and in the Labour Reports.

2. **Employers' Associations in each State.**—The following table gives particulars of the number of employers' associations in each State at the end of the years 1927 to 1931 :—

EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.—STATES.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total.
NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS.							
1927	141	136	77	52	52	27	485
1928	146	140	76	56	59	28	505
1929	146	154	80	56	62	29	527
1930	146	152	83	58	66	29	534
1931	148	157	85	60	67	30	547

NUMBER OF BRANCHES.

1927	825	483	109	..	281	1	1,699
1928	907	525	188	13	301	1	1,935
1929	921	526	191	12	301	6	1,957
1930	930	495	197	12	297	7	1,938
1931	906	465	197	18	306	7	1,899

MEMBERSHIP.

1927	53,715	31,029	18,381	6,361	10,190	2,464	122,740
1928	55,353	33,626	18,393	6,751	10,390	2,668	127,181
1929	57,839	36,357	20,113	6,871	11,410	2,752	135,342
1930	56,430	37,790	18,791	7,218	11,723	2,717	134,009
1931	55,417	37,389	18,807	7,311	10,969	2,535	132,428

There has been a large increase in the number of branches since the year 1926, due to the inclusion of associations representing agricultural interests, while the increase in total membership is partly attributable to a more complete collection of statistics relating to these organizations.

3. **Employers' Associations in Industrial Groups.**—The figures in the following table refer to Australia at the end of the years 1930 and 1931.

EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

Class.	Number of Associations.		Number of Branches.		Membership.	
	1930.	1931.	1930.	1931.	1930.	1931.
Manufacturing :—						
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	19	20	3	3	1,607	1,311
II. Engineering, etc. ..	16	16	12	12	3,352	3,028
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	113	117	91	91	20,585	20,070
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc. ..	20	21	2	2	2,147	1,916
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	45	45	2	2	2,970	2,876
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	51	51	3	3	3,847	3,529
VII. Building ..	27	30	17	13	3,311	2,665
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	12	12	..	..	247	241
X. Other Land Transport ..	19	19	21	21	2,798	2,472
XI. Shipping, etc. ..	16	16	6	7	240	275
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. ..	45	47	1,750	1,714	74,400	76,328
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	20	17	..	..	1,756	1,541
XIV. Miscellaneous ..	131	136	31	31	17,400	16,176
Total ..	534	547	1,938	1,899	134,669	132,428

The female membership of these associations was 5,072 for 1930, and 5,153 for 1931.

The organization of employers is relatively strongest in the pastoral and agricultural industries and in the manufacture and distribution of articles of food and drink. In the former case there has been considerable growth in organization among small farmers, and in the latter, the number of small shops purveying foodstuffs of which the proprietors are members of grocers', butchers', and other similar associations accounts for the large membership.

4. **Federations of Employers' Associations.**—In addition to the associations in various industries, there are central associations in each State, to which many of these separate organizations are affiliated. Examples of this kind of association are provided in the Chamber of Manufactures, Chamber of Commerce, and Employers' Federation in each State. Further, these State associations are, in some cases, organized on a federal basis, e.g., there is an Associated Chamber of Manufactures, an Associated Chamber of Commerce, or a Central Council of Employers, to which State branches are affiliated.

The affiliation of these associations is, however, of a very loose nature when compared with that of the Federated Trade Unions. Whereas in the latter case the central body has complete control of its State branches, in the case of the Employers' Associations each State body enjoys complete independence, the central body acting in a more or less advisory capacity only.

The following table gives particulars, so far as can be ascertained, of interstate or federated associations having branches in two or more States from 1927 to 1931 :—

INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Particulars.	Associations Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States.	
NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS.						
1927	4	1	4	9	14	32
1928	3	3	3	11	16	36
1929	3	4	4	10	16	37
1930	4	3	4	12	16	39
1931	5	4	4	13	19	45
NUMBER OF MEMBERS.						
1927	352	315	1,655	40,548	37,654	80,524
1928	205	1,126	208	59,175	41,511	102,225
1929	201	1,066	594	60,729	43,166	105,756
1930	1,169	339	975	61,327	43,303	107,113
1931	1,190	359	741	61,813	42,871	106,974

The above table shows that associations having 81 per cent. of the total membership (132,428) of employers' organizations are grouped together on an interstate basis.