



COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,  
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA.

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# LABOUR REPORT, 1930.

No. 21.

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Prepared under Instructions from the  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME AFFAIRS

by

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## SECTION VIII.—WAGES AND PRICES

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### *Errata:*

Para. 1, line 6, for "*recorded*", read "*received*".

Para. 15, line 4, for "*It*", read "*which*", with a comma before instead of full-stop.

Para. 61, line 3, for "*62*", read "*65*".

NOTE.—The index numbers of real wages given on p. 179 are not strictly correct for the quarters of 1930 and 1931, because the wage-index is calculated for the end of the quarter and the price-index for the middle. If allowance is made for this difference, both series of index-numbers would come out a little higher than shown for all the quarters—by from one to three units.

## PREFACE.

The twenty-first Labour Report resembles its immediate predecessors in scope and arrangement, but is considerably curtailed for reasons of economy. It contains all the new information relative to 1930, but a good deal of descriptive matter and commentary has been left out. The descriptive matter may be found in previous Reports and the commentary must be left to the reader to make for himself.

A short statement is given of the position in regard to wholesale prices, which are now the subject of special inquiry with a view to a revision and amplification of the wholesale price index-numbers.

A short general description of the retail price index-numbers, with some discussion of their accuracy both in themselves and as a measure of all retail prices, is given in Appendix VIII., which is printed also as a separate pamphlet entitled "Wages and Prices."

The attempt to assess the number and amount of individual changes in wages has been discontinued on account of the unsatisfactory nature of some of the data. The total change, however, is obtained by comparison of the weighted average wage which is calculated for each quarter.

The retail price index-numbers (Food, Groceries and Rent—all houses) used by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court which are not given in the body of the Report, will be found in Appendix VII. along with the corresponding rent (all houses) index-numbers.

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

### Classification of Industries and Occupations.

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

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

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

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

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

L. F. GIBLIN,  
*Acting Commonwealth Statistician.*

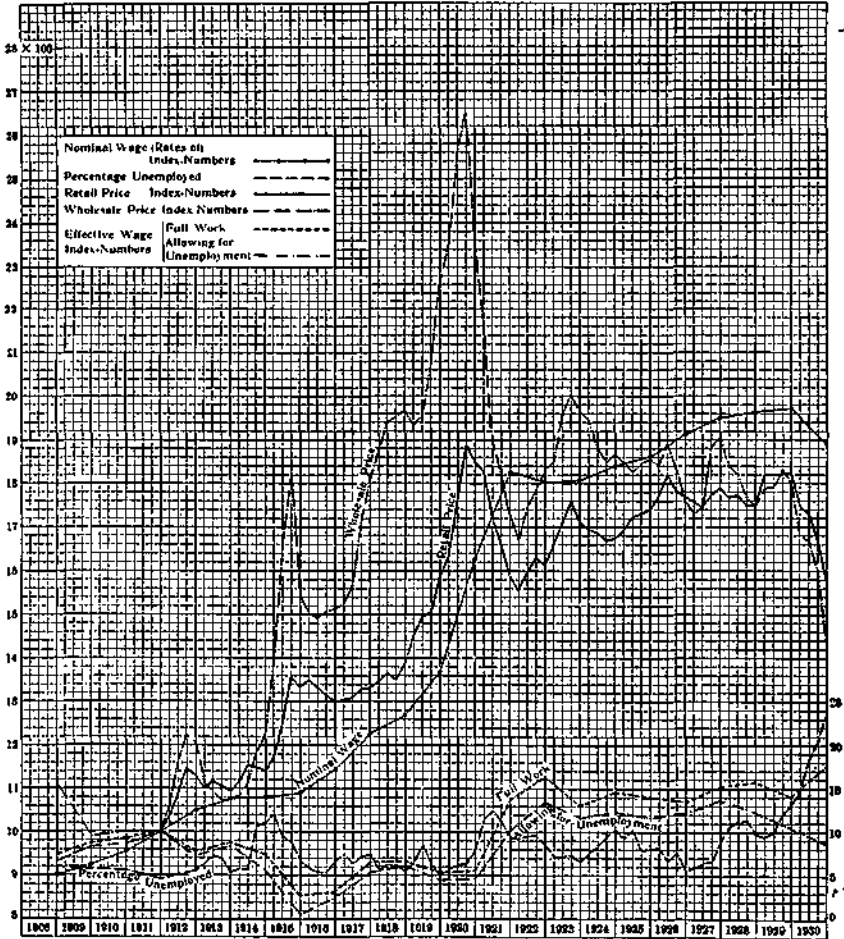
Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,  
*Canberra, F.C.T., 16th December, 1931.*

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RETAIL AND WHOLESALE PRICES, NOMINAL, AND EFFECTIVE WAGE INDEX NUMBERS, AND PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED.—AUSTRALIA, 1908 TO 1930.



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 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.