

## CHAPTER XIII.—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, while summarized results for later years are included in subsequent Reports.

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 methods followed for the computation of the wholesale price index-numbers are similar to those adopted in regard to retail prices. The commodities included, the units of measurement for which the prices are taken, and the mass-units indicating the relative extent to which each commodity is used or consumed, are shown in a tabular statement in Labour Report No. 20 for 1929 (page 11).

2. **Index-Numbers.**—Index-numbers have been computed for each group of commodities, as well as for all groups together. The index-numbers for the several groups, and for all groups together, are shown in the following table, and in each case were computed with the prices in the year 1911 as base. They show, for each of the years specified, the expenditure necessary—if distributed in purchasing the relative quantities (indicated by the mass-units) of the several commodities concerned—to purchase what would have cost £1,000 in 1911.

## INDEX-NUMBERS.—WHOLESALE PRICES, MELBOURNE, 1861 TO 1929.

(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 Mate- rials.	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 ..	1,096	1,257	1,236	864	1,586	..	1,044	1,409	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	1,123	995	1,086
1914 ..	1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,031	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 ..	2,208	2,624	2,439	2,200	1,918	2,270	3,226	2,825	2,480
1921 ..	2,173	1,362	1,767	2,000	1,976	2,158	2,793	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	1,773	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

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

\* 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. Fluctuations, July, 1914, to July, 1930.—Since the outbreak of war, prices of many commodities have increased considerably. This is shown in the following table, in which the index-numbers are given for each group for the months of July, 1923, to July, 1930, taking July, 1914, the last month before the outbreak of war, as base (= 1,000) for each group:—

INDEX-NUMBERS.—WHOLESALE PRICES, MELBOURNE, JULY, 1914, TO JULY, 1930.

Particulars.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Jute, Leather, Wool, etc.	III. Agri- cultural Produce, etc.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Gro- ceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Mate- rials.	VIII. Chem- icals.	All Groups.
July, 1914 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
" 1923 ..	1,658	1,876	1,691	1,688	1,698	2,229	1,780	1,923	1,799
" 1924 ..	1,666	2,119	1,525	1,431	1,677	1,281	1,666	1,743	1,626
" 1925 ..	1,663	1,744	1,643	1,404	1,667	1,492	1,605	1,716	1,618
" 1926 ..	1,741	1,456	1,860	1,514	1,686	1,248	1,557	1,798	1,615
" 1927 ..	1,789	1,503	1,674	1,606	1,677	1,390	1,518	1,826	1,607
" 1928 ..	1,738	1,656	1,618	1,477	1,654	1,217	1,593	1,862	1,578
" 1929 ..	1,741	1,381	1,755	1,559	1,634	1,346	1,698	1,894	1,590
" 1930 ..	1,669	1,031	1,408	1,415	1,625	1,367	1,722	1,920	1,441

## § 2. Retail Prices and House Rents.

1. Introduction.—(i) *General*. In Labour Report No. 1, issued in December, 1912, the results of certain investigations into the subjects of Prices, Price-Indexes and Cost of Living in past years were published, and some account was given of the methods employed for the collection of the data and of the technique adopted in the computation of the results. A detailed examination of the theory upon which the calculation of the index-numbers is based was given, but being necessarily too technical for inclusion in the general chapter, was relegated to Appendixes. The results of further investigations are included in the annual Labour Reports and Quarterly Summaries of Australian Statistics issued by this Bureau.

(ii) *Computation of Index-Numbers*. Numerical examples of the technique and methods adopted for the computation of index-numbers were given in Report No. 2 (pp. 44 and 45), and in Report No. 9 Appendixes I. to IV., pp. 174 to 229.

2. Scope of Investigation.—As noted in Report No. 1, distinction must be drawn between (a) Variations in the *purchasing-power* of money, and (b) Variations in the *standard of living*, and in Report No. 2 attention was directed to the factors which must be taken into consideration in dealing with these matters in order to arrive at a satisfactory aggregate expenditure. The various Reports deal with the list of the commodities selected and the reasons for their adoption, while § 4 of this Chapter deals with the extension of the inquiry to cover all ordinary household expenditure.

3. Variations in Index-Numbers for Retail Prices and House Rents, Capital Cities, 1907 to 1929.—(i) *General*. In Labour Reports and Bulletins, and in recent issues of the Quarterly Summaries of Statistics, index-numbers were given for each of the four groups and for all groups combined for each capital city since 1901, the expenditure in 1911 being taken in each case as base (= 1,000). In this sub-section summarized results only are given, firstly, for food and groceries; secondly, for house rent; and thirdly, for the groups combined—the weighted average expenditure for all capital cities in 1911 being taken in each case as base (= 1,000). The index-numbers in each table are fully comparable with one another, since they show not only the variations from year to year in each capital, but also the relative cost as between the cities.

(ii) *Food and Groceries.* The index-numbers thus computed for the three groups comprising groceries and food are shown in the following table for 1907, 1911, 1914, 1921, and for the last five years :—

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS, FOOD AND GROCERIES.—CAPITAL CITIES,  
1907 TO 1929.

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Sydney .. .. .	936	989	1,156	1,898	1,785	1,867	1,846	1,826	1,948
Melbourne .. .. .	925	935	1,091	1,901	1,748	1,774	1,732	1,684	1,795
Brisbane .. .. .	947	1,018	1,078	1,812	1,734	1,788	1,680	1,671	1,701
Adelaide .. .. .	951	1,020	1,215	1,906	1,840	1,869	1,841	1,775	1,887
Perth .. .. .	1,197	1,346	1,302	1,995	1,938	1,866	1,796	1,882	1,938
Hobart .. .. .	1,010	1,058	1,212	2,025	1,810	1,868	1,788	1,727	1,833
Weighted Average (a) ..	055	1,000	1,144	1,902	1,785	1,829	1,789	1,761	1,866

(a) For all capital cities.

The figures quoted are directly comparable in every respect ; thus, the same quantity of food and groceries, which cost £1,000 in the capital cities considered as a whole in 1911, would have cost £1,156 in Sydney in 1914, £1,346 in Perth in 1911, or £1,795 in Melbourne in 1929.

In 1929 increases were experienced in all the capitals. Comparing the results for 1929 with those for 1911, the extent by which prices increased varied from 97 per cent. in Sydney to 44 per cent. in Perth. Prices, however, were abnormally high in Perth in 1911. The average retail prices in the six capitals considered as a whole in 1929, compared with prices in 1911, were 86.6 per cent. higher.

(iii) *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 4 rooms to 7 rooms and over. In the following tables that basis has been altered, to accord with a resolution adopted by the Conference of Statisticians of Australia and New Zealand to the following effect : “ that for purposes of computing price levels in respect of rent, it is desirable that houses of four and five rooms only be taken into account.” This alteration will account for the difference between index-numbers given in the following tables and those given for the same tables in issues of the Official Year Book prior to the year 1926.

The following table gives index-numbers computed for the weighted average house rent of 4 and 5 roomed houses in each of the capital cities from 1907 to 1929, taking the average rent for the six capitals in 1911 as the base (= 1,000). The average rent has been obtained for each city separately by multiplying the weighted average rent for each class of house (i.e., wooden houses of 4 rooms and of 5 rooms and brick houses of 4 rooms and of 5 rooms) by a number (“weight”) representing the relative number of houses of that class in the particular city. The sum of the products thus obtained divided by the sum of the weights, gives the weighted average for 4 and 5 roomed houses combined. The number of houses in each class for each city was obtained from the results of the 1921 Census, and the index-numbers are based on the weighted average rents for 4 and 5 roomed houses combined, and do not refer to any particular class of house. The weighted average rents for each class are given in appendixes to Labour Reports, and an examination of these figures shows that for some classes of houses the increase has been greater, and in some less, than the general increase indicated in the following table.

## INDEX-NUMBERS.—HOUSING, CAPITAL CITIES, 1907 TO 1929.

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Sydney .. ..	969	1,145	1,243	1,617	1,870	1,826	1,814	1,868	1,900
Melbourne .. ..	744	931	1,027	1,340	1,604	1,695	1,710	1,778	1,789
Brisbane .. ..	463	610	762	1,030	1,165	1,333	1,361	1,372	1,375
Adelaide .. ..	835	1,155	1,071	1,322	1,576	1,516	1,540	1,672	1,611
Perth .. ..	749	857	963	1,209	1,340	1,469	1,507	1,539	1,561
Hobart .. ..	661	739	847	1,441	1,649	1,628	1,579	1,535	1,524
Weighted Average (a) ..	813	1,000	1,082	1,410	1,647	1,677	1,684	1,743	1,754

(a) For all capital cities.

NOTE.—The above figures are directly comparable in every respect.

(iv) *Food, Groceries, and Housing (4 and 5 roomed Houses) combined.* The weighted averages for all groups are of importance, as indicating the general results of this investigation so far as the purchasing-power of money is concerned. 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 1911 being taken as base (= 1,000) :—

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS(a)—FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING.—  
CAPITAL CITIES, 1907 TO 1929.

City.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Sydney .. ..	948	1,048	1,188	1,793	1,817	1,852	1,834	1,842	1,930
Melbourne .. ..	857	934	1,067	1,690	1,694	1,744	1,724	1,719	1,793
Brisbane .. ..	765	865	959	1,519	1,521	1,617	1,660	1,559	1,579
Adelaide .. ..	908	1,070	1,161	1,687	1,741	1,736	1,728	1,736	1,783
Perth .. ..	1,029	1,102	1,175	1,700	1,714	1,717	1,687	1,753	1,796
Hobart .. ..	879	938	1,075	1,806	1,750	1,778	1,710	1,655	1,717
Weighted Average (b) ..	900	1,000	1,121	1,717	1,733	1,772	1,749	1,755	1,824

(a) As the price index-number increases, the purchasing-power of money diminishes.

(b) For all capital cities.

NOTE.—The above figures are directly comparable in every respect.

The combination of housing with prices of food and groceries has had the effect of considerably modifying the index of prices, or, in other words, the purchasing-power of money, as compared with the similar index based on food and groceries only. In 1921 prices of food and groceries and housing increased considerably, the combined results for the six capital cities for 1921 being an increase of 53.2 per cent. over 1914, and 71.7 per cent. over 1911. The increase in the index-number between 1914 and 1921 varied between the capital cities from 45 per cent. in Perth to 68 per cent. in Hobart, while between 1911 and 1921 it varied between 46 per cent. in Perth and 93 per cent. in Hobart. In 1923 there was an increase in the combined cost of food, groceries, and housing in all the cities, the weighted average index-number being 1,710 as compared with 1,610 in 1922. The index-number for 1924 shows a decline of 1.3 per cent. on that for 1923, that for 1925 shows an increase of 2.6 per cent. from 1924, food and groceries having increased 3 per cent., and housing increased 2 per cent., while that for 1926 discloses a rise of 2.3 per cent. over 1925, both food and groceries and housing again showing increases. The index-numbers for 1927 disclose a decrease on 1926 prices of 1.3 per cent., the drop in prices of food and groceries of 2.2 per cent. more than outweighing the slight increase in rents. The combined index-number for 1928 shows an increase of 0.3 per cent. on 1927. Food and groceries declined 1.5 per cent., but housing increased by 3.5 per cent. During 1929 prices of food increased nearly 6 per cent. over those ruling in 1928; rents, however, only increased 0.6 per cent. The combined index-number for 1929 was 3.9 per cent. higher than that for the year 1928.

4. *Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency.*—The tables in sub-section 3 give the relative cost in the six capital cities of food, groceries, and housing from 1907 to 1929 in the form of index-numbers. The figures have been converted into a

monetary basis in the next table, and show the sums which would have to be paid in each city and in each year in order to purchase such relative quantities (indicated by the mass units) of the several commodities, and to pay such sums for housing as would in the aggregate cost £1, according to the weighted average prices and rents in the six capitals in 1911.

**RETAIL PRICES.—AMOUNTS NECESSARY ON THE AVERAGE IN EACH YEAR FROM 1907 TO 1929 TO PURCHASE IN EACH CAPITAL CITY WHAT WOULD COST ON THE AVERAGE £1 IN 1911 IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITALS REGARDED AS A WHOLE.**

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Cities.
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES (46 COMMODITIES).</b>							
	<i>s. d.</i>						
1907 .. ..	18 9	18 6	18 11	19 0	23 11	20 2	19 1
1911 .. ..	19 9	18 8	20 4	20 5	26 11	21 2	20 0
1914 .. ..	23 1	21 10	21 7	24 4	26 0	24 3	22 11
1920 .. ..	43 0	41 1	41 1	42 8	41 0	43 3	42 0
1925 .. ..	35 8	35 0	34 8	36 10	38 9	36 2	35 8
1926 .. ..	37 4	35 6	35 9	37 5	37 4	37 4	36 7
1927 .. ..	36 11	34 8	33 7	36 10	35 11	35 9	35 9
1928 .. ..	36 6	33 8	33 5	35 6	37 8	34 6	35 3
1929 .. ..	39 0	35 11	34 0	37 9	38 9	36 8	37 4
1929 { 1st Quarter	39 1	35 6	34 7	36 11	39 1	36 9	37 2
2nd " "	38 8	36 0	33 10	37 10	39 11	36 6	37 4
3rd " "	38 10	36 0	33 8	38 5	38 9	36 6	37 4
4th " "	39 4	36 2	34 0	37 10	37 4	37 0	37 6

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

1907 .. ..	19 5	14 11	9 3	16 8	15 0	13 3	16 3
1911 .. ..	22 11	18 7	12 2	23 1	17 2	14 9	20 0
1914 .. ..	24 10	20 6	15 3	21 5	19 3	16 11	20 8
1920 .. ..	30 10	25 5	20 4	24 10	22 11	28 5	26 11
1925 .. ..	37 5	32 1	23 4	31 6	26 10	33 0	32 11
1926 .. ..	36 6	33 11	26 8	30 4	29 5	32 7	33 7
1927 .. ..	36 3	34 2	27 3	30 10	30 2	31 7	33 8
1928 .. ..	37 4	35 7	27 5	33 5	30 9	30 8	34 10
1929 .. ..	38 0	35 9	27 6	32 3	31 3	30 6	35 1
1929 { 1st Quarter	37 10	35 10	27 7	33 6	31 0	30 7	35 2
2nd " "	37 11	35 9	27 8	32 7	30 10	30 6	35 1
3rd " "	38 1	35 10	27 5	31 7	31 4	30 6	35 1
4th " "	38 1	35 9	27 5	31 3	31 8	30 5	35 0

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

1907 .. ..	19 0	17 2	15 4	18 2	20 7	17 7	18 0
1911 .. ..	21 0	18 8	17 4	21 5	23 3	18 9	20 0
1914 .. ..	23 9	21 4	19 2	23 3	23 6	21 6	22 5
1920 .. ..	38 5	35 3	33 3	35 11	34 2	37 8	36 4
1925 .. ..	36 4	33 11	30 5	34 10	34 3	35 0	34 8
1926 .. ..	37 1	34 11	32 4	34 9	34 4	35 7	35 5
1927 .. ..	36 8	34 6	31 2	34 7	33 9	34 2	35 0
1928 .. ..	36 10	34 5	31 2	34 9	35 1	33 1	35 1
1929 .. ..	38 7	35 10	31 7	35 8	35 11	34 4	36 6
1929 { 1st Quarter	38 7	35 7	32 0	35 7	36 0	34 5	36 5
2nd " "	38 5	35 11	31 6	35 10	36 6	34 3	36 6
3rd " "	38 7	35 11	31 4	35 10	36 0	34 3	36 6
4th " "	38 10	36 0	31 6	35 4	35 3	34 6	36 6

5. Variations in Index-Numbers, Retail Prices and Housing, Thirty Australian Towns, 1927 to 1929.—The index-numbers given in the preceding sub-sections show changes in the cost of food, groceries, and housing separately for each capital city during the years 1907 to 1929. The figures given in the next table show the relative cost of food and groceries, and of housing for the years 1927 to 1929 in the thirty towns for which particulars are now collected. The weighted aggregate expenditure for the six capitals for the year 1911 has been taken as base and made equal to 1,000, hence the columns are comparable both horizontally and vertically. The index-numbers in the last column are the same as in previous tables where the period and town are comparable.

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 1911 = 1,000.

Town.	1927.			1928.			1929.		
	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.
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b>									
Sydney .. .. .	1,153	681	1,834	1,140	702	1,842	1,217	713	1,930
Newcastle .. .. .	1,144	652	1,796	1,136	669	1,805	1,185	664	1,849
Broken Hill .. .. .	1,345	425	1,770	1,346	431	1,777	1,436	430	1,866
Goulburn .. .. .	1,150	698	1,848	1,155	727	1,882	1,221	762	1,983
Bathurst .. .. .	1,112	582	1,644	1,104	544	1,648	1,168	540	1,708
Weighted Average ..	1,157	671	1,828	1,145	691	1,836	1,219	701	1,920
<b>VICTORIA—</b>									
Melbourne .. .. .	1,082	642	1,724	1,051	668	1,719	1,121	672	1,793
Ballarat .. .. .	1,105	387	1,492	1,078	414	1,492	1,149	432	1,581
Bendigo .. .. .	1,106	483	1,589	1,078	487	1,565	1,163	501	1,664
Geelong .. .. .	1,078	612	1,690	1,064	601	1,665	1,127	578	1,705
Warrnambool .. ..	1,060	486	1,546	1,037	510	1,547	1,106	521	1,627
Weighted Average ..	1,083	623	1,706	1,054	647	1,701	1,124	651	1,775
<b>QUEENSLAND—</b>									
Brisbane .. .. .	1,049	511	1,560	1,044	515	1,559	1,063	516	1,579
Toowoomba .. .. .	1,018	457	1,475	995	446	1,441	1,037	442	1,479
Rockhampton .. ..	1,122	428	1,550	1,083	401	1,484	1,128	389	1,517
Charters Towers ..	1,271	346	1,617	1,214	415	1,629	1,231	457	1,688
Warwick .. .. .	1,082	458	1,540	1,039	416	1,455	1,085	416	1,501
Weighted Average ..	1,062	492	1,554	1,049	494	1,543	1,073	495	1,568
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Adelaide .. .. .	1,150	578	1,728	1,109	627	1,736	1,178	605	1,783
Kadina, &c. .. .. .	1,196	312	1,508	1,183	295	1,478	1,269	272	1,541
Port Pirie .. .. .	1,196	431	1,627	1,171	429	1,600	1,240	427	1,667
Mount Gambier .. ..	1,133	314	1,447	1,114	337	1,451	1,154	345	1,499
Peterborough .. ..	1,231	491	1,722	1,240	473	1,713	1,302	500	1,802
Weighted Average ..	1,154	557	1,711	1,115	601	1,716	1,185	580	1,765
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Perth, &c. .. .. .	1,122	565	1,687	1,175	578	1,753	1,209	587	1,796
Kalgoorlie, &c. .. .	1,282	332	1,614	1,309	333	1,642	1,414	334	1,748
Northam .. .. .	1,226	549	1,775	1,233	563	1,796	1,291	563	1,854
Bunbury .. .. .	1,238	487	1,675	1,262	412	1,674	1,310	414	1,724
Geraldton .. .. .	1,229	534	1,763	1,224	587	1,811	1,282	605	1,887
Weighted Average ..	1,145	538	1,683	1,194	548	1,742	1,237	556	1,793
<b>TASMANIA—</b>									
Hobart .. .. .	1,117	593	1,710	1,078	577	1,655	1,145	572	1,717
Launceston .. .. .	1,102	483	1,585	1,059	519	1,578	1,111	510	1,621
Burnie .. .. .	1,135	473	1,608	1,124	478	1,602	1,203	480	1,683
Devonport .. .. .	1,123	457	1,580	1,086	437	1,523	1,159	450	1,609
Queenstown .. .. .	1,234	261	1,495	1,206	282	1,488	1,273	319	1,592
Weighted Average ..	1,118	539	1,657	1,080	539	1,619	1,143	536	1,679
Weighted Average for 30 Towns .. .. .	1,121	613	1,734	1,105	633	1,738	1,169	637	1,806
Weighted Average 6 Capital Cities .. .. .	1,117	632	1,749	1,100	655	1,755	1,165	659	1,824

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

1. General.—To supplement the information collected each month for the 30 towns specified in the preceding paragraph, 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, 1927 to 1929.—The results of the investigations made in November, 1927 to 1929, are set out in the following tables. The aggregate expenditure on food and groceries separately is shown in the form of index-numbers for each year in column A. In columns B and C the corresponding aggregate expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 4 rooms, and food, groceries, and rent of 5 rooms are shown for each year for each individual town. The index-number 1,773 represents the weighted average expenditure in 200 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses, and 1,634 represents the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 4-roomed houses in November, 1929. Similarly, in column A, the index-number 1,133 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on food and groceries only in November, 1929. The figures given in the table are comparable throughout. Thus, taking the weighted average expenditure for all 200 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses as equal to 1,773, the expenditure on the same items in Melbourne is 1,795, while if 4-roomed houses were substituted for 5-roomed the expenditure in Melbourne would be represented by 1,647.

In the tables on the following pages the basis taken is the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and housing accommodation in the six capital cities in 1911, made equal to 1,000.

**INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING IN 200 TOWNS IN 1927, 1928, AND 1929, 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.	1927. November.			1928. November.			1929. 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.
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b>									
Sydney .. .. .	1,129	1,673	1,790	1,072	1,630	1,776	1,186	1,751	1,897
Newcastle .. .	1,103	1,637	1,793	1,058	1,542	1,767	1,159	1,649	1,852
Broken Hill .. .	1,300	1,663	1,775	1,239	1,606	1,724	1,406	1,772	1,892
Goulburn .. .	1,111	1,650	1,827	1,082	1,648	1,778	1,200	1,801	1,939
Bathurst .. .	1,057	1,440	1,516	1,019	1,401	1,505	1,140	1,519	1,616
Albury .. .	1,087	1,804	1,975	1,063	1,754	1,914	1,161	1,822	1,982
Armidale .. .	1,058	1,522	1,624	1,031	1,513	1,590	1,127	1,603	1,701
Ballina .. .	1,118	1,604	1,699	1,113	1,607	1,733	1,191	1,684	1,809
Bega .. .	1,122	1,461	1,536	1,097	1,419	1,530	1,181	1,506	1,622
Berry .. .	1,182	1,537	1,656	1,090	1,445	1,550	1,175	1,504	1,635
Blackheath .. .	1,232	1,657	1,795	1,230	1,675	1,800	1,272	1,733	1,812
Bourke .. .	1,289	1,533	1,599	1,287	1,550	1,613	1,374	1,611	1,684
Bowral .. .	1,119	1,765	1,831	1,090	1,723	1,814	1,219	1,794	1,956
Casino .. .	1,106	1,550	1,759	1,086	1,532	1,771	1,164	1,690	1,836
Cessnock .. .	1,109	1,652	1,718	1,075	1,568	1,634	1,164	1,503	1,576
Cobar .. .	1,329	1,438	1,487	1,231	1,363	1,428	1,312	1,510	1,549
Cooma .. .	1,233	1,542	1,741	1,133	1,463	1,672	1,256	1,599	1,816
Coonamble .. .	1,214	1,558	1,682	1,121	1,485	1,611	1,250	1,614	1,753
Cootamundra .. .	1,130	1,624	1,821	1,049	1,548	1,782	1,166	1,712	1,866
Corrimal .. .	1,106	1,455	1,567	1,096	1,539	1,671	1,159	1,613	1,751
Cowra .. .	1,106	1,633	1,657	1,081	1,610	1,687	1,189	1,680	1,817
Cronulla .. .	1,144	1,675	1,844	1,128	1,644	1,817	1,275	1,827	1,998
Deniliquin .. .	1,080	1,471	1,583	1,098	1,480	1,625	1,208	1,583	1,734
Dubbo .. .	1,158	1,709	1,791	1,139	1,700	1,834	1,196	1,854	1,941
Forbes .. .	1,123	1,684	1,822	1,055	1,601	1,800	1,196	1,781	1,990

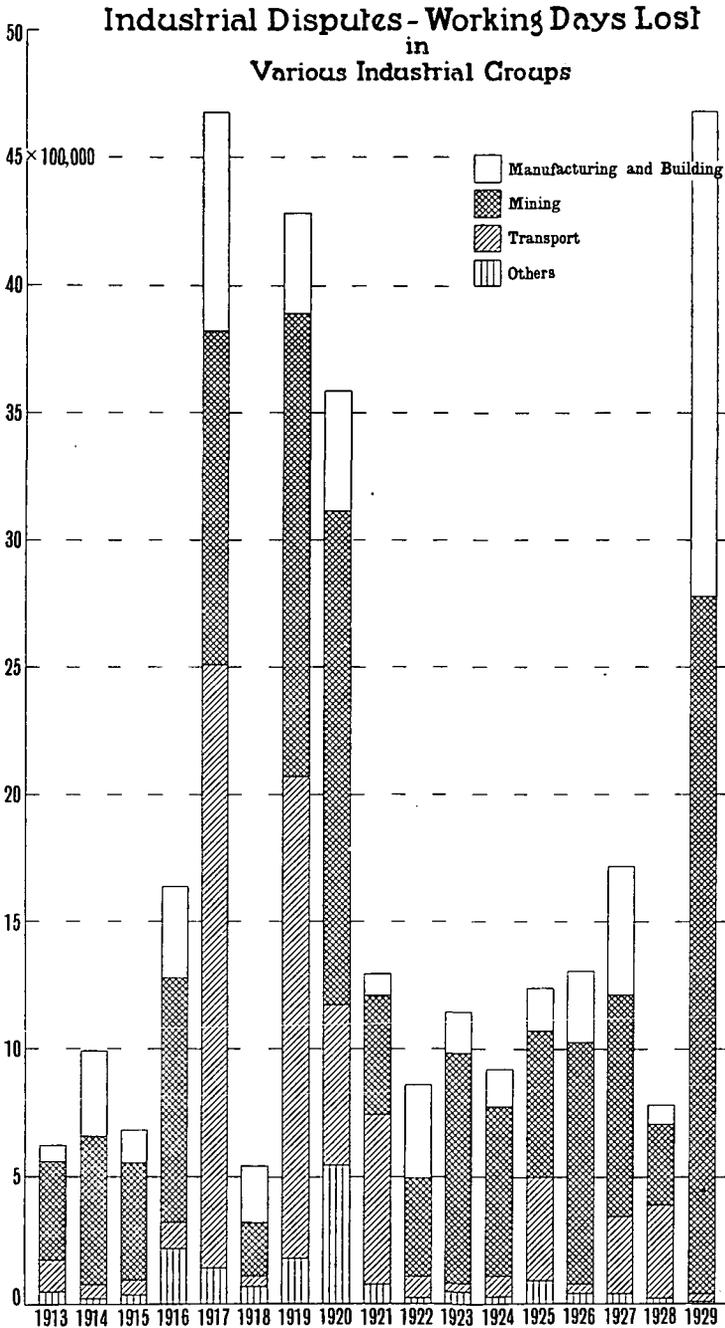
RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS, 200 TOWNS.

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

State and Town.	1927. November.			1928. November.			1929. November.		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
NEW SOUTH WALES— <i>cont.</i>									
<i>limited.</i>									
Gilgandra .. .. .	1,203	1,432	1,611	1,184	1,477	1,546	1,268	1,543	1,692
Glen Innes .. .. .	1,029	1,451	1,569	1,007	1,414	1,575	1,112	1,546	1,697
Granton .. .. .	1,076	1,501	1,718	993	1,467	1,649	1,060	1,546	1,705
Griffith .. .. .	1,078	1,499	1,668	1,065	1,473	1,674	1,178	1,568	1,705
Gulgong .. .. .	1,254	2,172	2,400	1,161	2,083	2,318	1,293	2,514	2,444
Gunnedah .. .. .	1,162	1,432	1,527	1,121	1,417	1,490	1,207	1,512	1,638
Hay .. .. .	1,137	1,514	1,704	1,046	1,445	1,593	1,273	1,567	1,684
Hwy .. .. .	1,136	1,514	1,704	1,046	1,445	1,593	1,273	1,567	1,684
Inverell .. .. .	1,122	1,561	1,639	1,108	1,569	1,645	1,155	1,632	1,737
June .. .. .	1,123	1,781	1,787	1,095	1,770	1,806	1,105	1,677	1,871
Katoomba .. .. .	1,159	1,797	1,938	1,160	1,770	1,904	1,250	1,848	1,986
Kerridge .. .. .	1,106	1,599	1,691	1,068	1,539	1,639	1,037	1,517	1,680
Kiri Kurri .. .. .	1,145	1,507	1,606	1,152	1,497	1,614	1,211	1,510	1,724
Kiama .. .. .	1,150	1,619	1,678	1,108	1,487	1,588	1,111	1,612	1,803
Leeton .. .. .	1,216	1,890	1,972	1,190	1,908	1,980	1,111	2,003	2,060
Lismore .. .. .	1,101	1,561	1,703	1,085	1,604	1,766	1,116	1,648	1,716
Lithgow .. .. .	1,093	1,543	1,627	1,094	1,531	1,610	1,196	1,643	1,809
Methland .. .. .	1,090	1,567	1,690	1,026	1,450	1,567	1,142	1,643	1,716
Moree .. .. .	1,155	1,666	1,917	1,149	1,617	1,872	1,243	1,712	1,973
Moss Vale .. .. .	1,126	1,701	1,797	1,086	1,652	1,751	1,191	1,701	1,852
Mudgee .. .. .	1,143	1,582	1,680	1,108	1,626	1,720	1,196	1,701	1,852
Narrabri .. .. .	1,123	1,557	1,712	1,122	1,619	1,720	1,205	1,730	1,961
Nowra .. .. .	1,180	1,628	1,855	1,132	1,586	1,661	1,198	1,658	1,799
Orange .. .. .	1,082	1,619	1,746	1,077	1,630	1,778	1,147	1,700	1,912
Parkes .. .. .	1,132	1,685	1,703	1,135	1,586	1,661	1,198	1,659	1,761
Port Kembla .. .. .	1,069	1,509	1,634	1,098	1,545	1,624	1,145	1,592	1,698
Penrith .. .. .	1,168	1,655	1,764	1,137	1,689	1,821	1,177	1,727	1,920
Queanbeyan .. .. .	1,151	1,602	1,714	1,112	1,550	1,658	1,133	1,641	1,763
Richmond .. .. .	1,169	1,827	1,956	1,141	1,420	1,599	1,140	1,535	1,732
Rimbod .. .. .	1,116	1,452	1,669	1,075	1,420	1,626	1,109	1,535	1,732
Singleton .. .. .	1,177	1,539	1,621	1,106	1,488	1,636	1,177	1,537	1,675
Soore .. .. .	1,054	1,464	1,574	1,050	1,458	1,611	1,148	1,484	1,604
Taree .. .. .	1,134	1,610	1,827	1,103	1,621	1,772	1,149	1,682	1,825
Temora .. .. .	1,157	1,712	1,843	1,120	1,664	1,822	1,142	1,732	1,913
Tenterfeld .. .. .	1,157	1,544	1,582	1,132	1,548	1,581	1,199	1,642	1,673
Tumut .. .. .	1,133	1,626	1,725	1,104	1,526	1,671	1,126	1,639	1,778
Umarra .. .. .	1,088	1,456	1,549	1,045	1,407	1,538	1,126	1,508	1,653
Vagga Vagga .. .. .	1,066	1,470	1,800	1,056	1,476	1,794	1,182	1,508	1,623
Walcha .. .. .	1,078	1,440	1,621	1,048	1,463	1,618	1,198	1,666	1,758
Wellington .. .. .	1,111	1,492	1,645	1,058	1,415	1,577	1,157	1,618	1,704
Wesson .. .. .	1,196	1,603	1,656	1,077	1,558	1,682	1,142	1,618	1,705
Windsor .. .. .	1,141	1,602	1,769	1,077	1,558	1,703	1,142	1,622	1,765
Wollongong .. .. .	1,147	1,708	1,762	1,117	1,605	1,698	1,173	1,724	1,897
Wyalong .. .. .	1,171	1,615	1,654	1,135	1,580	1,695	1,236	1,631	1,765
Yass .. .. .	1,149	1,593	1,724	1,127	1,595	1,749	1,247	1,765	1,896
Young .. .. .	1,057	1,582	1,643	1,056	1,632	1,701	1,204	1,769	1,862
Weighted Average for (74 Towns) .. .. .	1,129	1,656	1,776	1,078	1,613	1,757	1,187	1,727	1,871
VICTORIA—									
Melbourne .. .. .	1,036	1,573	1,728	968	1,518	1,684	1,084	1,647	1,795
Bairrat .. .. .	1,040	1,316	1,485	1,002	1,402	1,491	1,127	1,440	1,624
Bendigo .. .. .	1,049	1,426	1,574	1,002	1,375	1,507	1,130	1,503	1,651
Geelong .. .. .	1,027	1,655	1,655	984	1,405	1,610	1,099	1,572	1,691
Verriernool .. .. .	1,007	1,424	1,584	961	1,377	1,568	1,108	1,537	1,698
Ararat .. .. .	1,175	1,543	1,674	1,088	1,494	1,614	1,161	1,551	1,685
Bacchus Marsh .. .. .	1,013	1,467	1,578	1,033	1,404	1,573	1,153	1,613	1,686
Bairnsdale .. .. .	1,091	1,480	1,617	1,049	1,427	1,600	1,167	1,528	1,651
Bealmeath .. .. .	1,092	1,457	1,647	1,047	1,433	1,582	1,178	1,481	1,617
Bella .. .. .	1,072	1,427	1,488	1,057	1,433	1,504	1,151	1,546	1,592
Camperdown .. .. .	1,064	1,445	1,587	1,032	1,438	1,541	1,113	1,508	1,639
Casterton .. .. .	1,079	1,334	1,481	1,002	1,282	1,425	1,108	1,397	1,527
Castlemaine .. .. .	1,025	1,568	1,685	1,009	1,456	1,666	1,102	1,683	1,771
Colac .. .. .	1,055	1,186	1,249	1,006	1,331	1,459	1,115	1,234	1,293
Creswick .. .. .	1,040	1,369	1,435	1,034	1,363	1,459	1,076	1,372	1,438
Daylesford .. .. .	1,055	1,206	1,272	1,023	1,194	1,294	1,076	1,372	1,438
Dunolly .. .. .	1,055	1,206	1,272	1,023	1,194	1,294	1,076	1,372	1,438

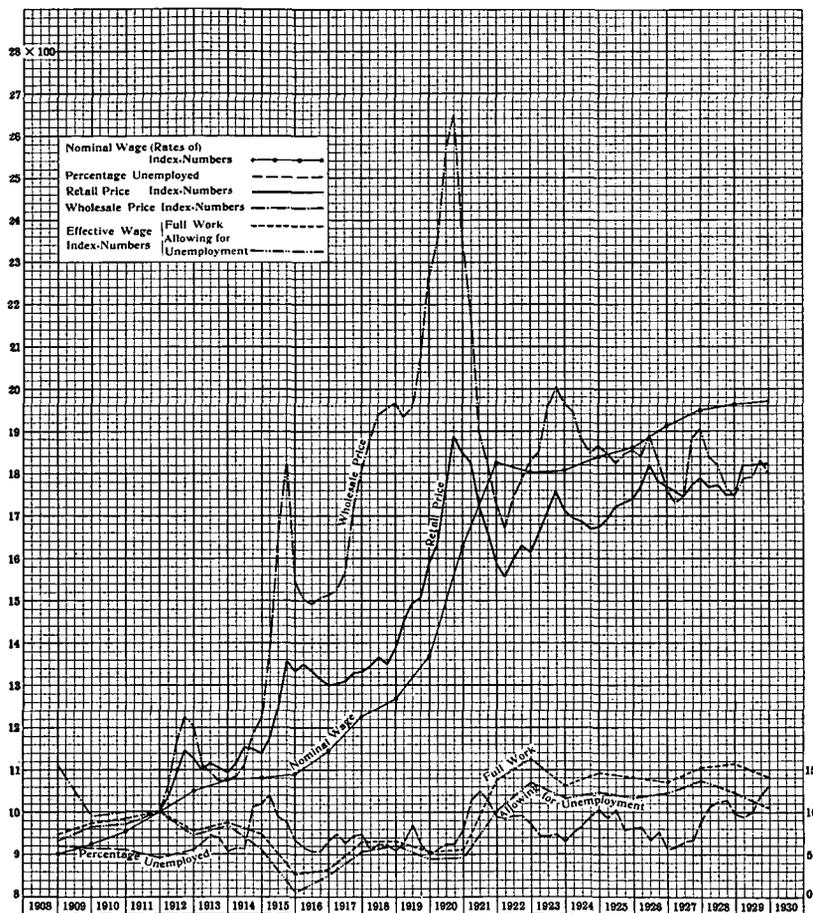
INDEX-NUMBERS.—COST OF FOOD, GROCERIES, AND HOUSING IN 200 TOWNS, ETC.—*continued.*

State and Town.	1927. November.			1928. November.			1929. 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.
<b>VICTORIA—<i>continued.</i></b>									
Echuca .. .. .	1,091	1,483	1,634	1,017	1,433	1,593	1,113	1,548	1,715
Euroa .. .. .	1,103	1,422	1,586	1,083	1,427	1,590	1,156	1,504	1,686
Hamilton .. .. .	1,082	1,523	1,630	1,033	1,455	1,646	1,162	1,633	1,774
Healesville .. .. .	1,054	1,423	1,482	1,039	1,377	1,503	1,173	1,504	1,594
Horsham .. .. .	1,139	1,687	1,846	1,117	1,644	1,832	1,218	1,731	1,885
Kerang .. .. .	1,096	1,629	1,820	1,001	1,582	1,714	1,155	1,748	1,879
Koroit .. .. .	1,038	1,321	1,377	1,008	1,298	1,368	1,102	1,382	1,448
Korumburra .. .. .	1,118	1,579	1,677	1,038	1,476	1,580	1,153	1,614	1,679
Kyneton .. .. .	1,057	1,425	1,501	1,019	1,387	1,468	1,122	1,458	1,583
Llydale .. .. .	1,088	1,450	1,648	1,025	1,404	1,563	1,179	1,567	1,732
Maffra .. .. .	1,031	1,632	1,722	981	1,559	1,639	1,106	1,671	1,763
Maldon .. .. .	1,066	1,222	1,284	1,040	1,180	1,238	1,124	1,279	1,325
Maryborough .. .. .	1,097	1,369	1,472	1,055	1,350	1,472	1,160	1,524	1,623
Mildura .. .. .	1,136	1,757	1,906	1,106	1,698	1,873	1,217	1,843	2,000
Morwell .. .. .	1,120	1,638	1,783	1,045	1,554	1,685	1,115	1,628	1,723
Nhill .. .. .	1,116	1,589	1,688	1,089	1,582	1,697	1,248	1,748	1,906
Orbost .. .. .	1,093	1,476	1,751	1,088	1,494	1,733	1,182	1,580	1,757
Portland .. .. .	1,081	1,394	1,522	1,047	1,376	1,474	1,162	1,475	1,656
Port Fairy .. .. .	1,062	1,391	1,470	1,035	1,347	1,424	1,109	1,409	1,507
St. Arnaud .. .. .	1,188	1,586	1,813	1,107	1,462	1,699	1,206	1,535	1,811
Sale .. .. .	1,021	1,409	1,588	984	1,342	1,545	1,110	1,450	1,662
Seymour .. .. .	1,135	1,497	1,543	1,105	1,433	1,632	1,186	1,581	1,673
Shepparton .. .. .	1,082	1,615	1,789	1,022	1,582	1,756	1,172	1,785	1,874
Stawell .. .. .	1,169	1,485	1,632	1,132	1,459	1,602	1,232	1,550	1,729
Swan Hill .. .. .	1,125	1,757	1,889	1,074	1,732	1,837	1,139	1,819	1,921
Terang .. .. .	1,066	1,459	1,581	1,023	1,417	1,536	1,137	1,480	1,683
Traralgon .. .. .	1,037	1,454	1,604	1,011	1,450	1,597	1,082	1,489	1,643
Wangaratta .. .. .	1,120	1,585	1,697	1,087	1,511	1,630	1,195	1,636	1,832
Warracknabeal .. .. .	1,078	1,636	1,699	1,067	1,587	1,743	1,210	1,676	1,838
Warragul .. .. .	1,062	1,608	1,743	994	1,496	1,672	1,075	1,573	1,746
Wonthaggi .. .. .	1,105	1,488	1,611	1,028	1,404	1,568	1,088	1,468	1,614
Weighted Average for State (48 Towns) .. .. .	1,043	1,550	1,700	981	1,497	1,658	1,096	1,623	1,770
<b>QUEENSLAND—</b>									
Brisbane .. .. .	1,004	1,389	1,553	997	1,392	1,528	1,010	1,409	1,542
Toowoomba .. .. .	968	1,291	1,444	948	1,252	1,419	1,010	1,310	1,475
Rockhampton .. .. .	1,052	1,362	1,482	1,046	1,331	1,449	1,074	1,355	1,474
Charters Towers .. .. .	1,200	1,481	1,542	1,163	1,510	1,598	1,122	1,521	1,561
Warwick .. .. .	1,026	1,370	1,509	998	1,344	1,409	1,042	1,392	1,452
Ayr .. .. .	1,170	1,631	1,762	1,183	1,643	1,775	1,197	1,688	1,771
Barcardine .. .. .	1,249	1,545	1,663	1,253	1,582	1,678	1,265	1,669	1,728
Bowen .. .. .	1,139	1,528	1,656	1,136	1,531	1,697	1,197	1,592	1,731
Bundaberg .. .. .	1,032	1,363	1,416	1,030	1,329	1,441	1,011	1,384	1,478
Cairns .. .. .	1,174	1,731	1,876	1,115	1,656	1,773	1,192	1,766	1,904
Charleville .. .. .	1,154	1,631	1,771	1,139	1,578	1,812	1,181	1,604	1,839
Chillagoe .. .. .	1,225	1,489	1,541	1,236	1,499	1,552	1,279	1,542	1,595
Cloncurry .. .. .	1,231	1,616	1,729	1,253	1,648	1,779	1,310	1,705	1,836
Cooktown .. .. .	1,147	1,239	1,323	1,193	1,286	1,351	1,249	1,446	1,499
Cunnamulla .. .. .	1,235	1,695	1,761	1,186	1,647	1,706	1,251	1,711	1,803
Dalby .. .. .	1,011	1,350	1,449	1,009	1,362	1,454	1,099	1,415	1,570
Gayndah .. .. .	1,059	1,323	1,454	1,142	1,438	1,537	1,161	1,477	1,556
Gladstone .. .. .	1,040	1,303	1,435	1,052	1,341	1,440	1,105	1,414	1,499
Goondiwindi .. .. .	1,092	1,473	1,566	1,094	1,501	1,574	1,187	1,608	1,648
Gympie .. .. .	1,044	1,373	1,489	1,074	1,412	1,528	1,100	1,466	1,525
Hughenden .. .. .	1,245	1,738	1,870	1,239	1,719	1,844	1,287	1,748	1,868
Innisfail .. .. .	1,266	1,885	2,046	1,255	1,848	2,054	1,328	1,940	2,118
Ipswich .. .. .	1,033	1,339	1,487	1,069	1,394	1,524	1,027	1,357	1,457
Longreach .. .. .	1,252	1,613	1,772	1,228	1,561	1,762	1,265	1,575	1,776
Mackay .. .. .	1,086	1,590	1,694	1,103	1,637	1,730	1,147	1,707	1,851
Maryborough .. .. .	1,009	1,285	1,437	1,050	1,319	1,461	1,106	1,418	1,619
Mount Morgan .. .. .	1,100	1,258	1,284	1,111	1,243	1,295	1,189	1,321	1,387
Nambour .. .. .	1,080	1,441	1,586	1,098	1,470	1,572	1,120	1,485	1,610
Roma .. .. .	1,053	1,416	1,571	1,091	1,459	1,610	1,145	1,531	1,705
Stanthorpe .. .. .	1,015	1,337	1,528	1,036	1,395	1,517	1,135	1,531	1,595
Townsville .. .. .	1,186	1,672	1,771	1,191	1,677	1,763	1,158	1,631	1,730
Winton .. .. .	1,236	1,719	1,796	1,265	1,725	1,822	1,286	1,746	1,834
Weighted Average for State (32 Towns) .. .. .	1,042	1,412	1,555	1,040	1,415	1,542	1,057	1,439	1,564



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.

RETAIL AND WHOLESALE PRICES, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE WAGE INDEX NUMBERS, AND PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED.—AUSTRALIA, 1908 TO 1929.



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.

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

State and Town.	1927. November.			1928. November.			1929. 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.
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Adelaide .. .. .	1,079	1,567	1,702	997	1,509	1,673	1,124	1,619	1,740
Kadina, etc. . . . .	1,116	1,370	1,462	1,098	1,326	1,422	1,235	1,432	1,475
Port Pirie . . . . .	1,109	1,490	1,594	1,073	1,452	1,564	1,198	1,569	1,675
Mount Gambier . . . . .	1,063	1,310	1,413	1,023	1,279	1,381	1,102	1,360	1,465
Peterborough . . . . .	1,158	1,568	1,655	1,161	1,572	1,656	1,258	1,664	1,780
Freeling . . . . .	1,063	1,424	1,490	1,063	1,392	1,507	1,112	1,441	1,556
Gawler . . . . .	1,052	1,395	1,480	1,040	1,364	1,471	1,134	1,423	1,520
Kooringa . . . . .	1,062	1,266	1,326	1,007	1,204	1,277	1,172	1,418	1,435
Kapunda . . . . .	1,090	1,419	1,485	1,060	1,389	1,455	1,164	1,493	1,569
Millicent . . . . .	961	1,317	1,402	965	1,340	1,402	1,052	1,477	1,559
Murray Bridge . . . . .	1,113	1,608	1,661	1,036	1,456	1,560	1,128	1,506	1,613
Port Augusta . . . . .	1,210	1,586	1,642	1,243	1,630	1,710	1,323	1,710	1,790
Quorn . . . . .	1,115	1,480	1,503	1,060	1,391	1,445	1,287	1,561	1,654
Victor Harbour . . . . .	1,078	1,604	1,802	1,034	1,561	1,758	1,153	1,734	1,898
Remark . . . . .	1,191	1,651	1,743	1,207	1,657	1,800	1,287	1,780	1,923
Weighted Average for State (15 Towns) .. . . .	1,083	1,545	1,673	1,011	1,492	1,645	1,136	1,601	1,717
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>									
Perth and Fremantle . . . . .	1,052	1,516	1,649	1,126	1,593	1,718	1,095	1,567	1,721
Kalgoorlie and Boulder . . . . .	1,188	1,495	1,564	1,271	1,582	1,652	1,279	1,580	1,657
Northam . . . . .	1,157	1,626	1,750	1,196	1,642	1,795	1,186	1,619	1,803
Bunbury . . . . .	1,179	1,535	1,636	1,201	1,541	1,665	1,229	1,566	1,677
Geraldton . . . . .	1,172	1,610	1,777	1,162	1,659	1,839	1,198	1,678	1,881
Albany . . . . .	1,193	1,518	1,597	1,282	1,611	1,693	1,195	1,513	1,616
Beverley . . . . .	1,174	1,453	1,536	1,199	1,489	1,548	1,187	1,483	1,549
Bridgetown . . . . .	1,220	1,592	1,647	1,272	1,622	1,667	1,266	1,649	1,693
Broome . . . . .	1,380	1,963	2,104	1,390	1,926	2,015	1,456	1,932	2,114
Carnarvon . . . . .	1,327	1,821	1,985	1,321	1,795	1,963	1,347	1,808	1,956
Collie . . . . .	1,237	1,723	1,764	1,244	1,704	1,764	1,234	1,712	1,817
Greenbushes . . . . .	1,247	1,445	1,497	1,266	1,477	1,529	1,234	1,477	1,550
Katanning . . . . .	1,088	1,444	1,548	1,154	1,502	1,614	1,173	1,565	1,645
Leonora and Gwalia . . . . .	1,336	1,546	1,577	1,369	1,566	1,632	1,412	1,609	1,745
Meekatharra . . . . .	1,385	1,648	1,714	1,367	1,630	1,715	1,378	1,642	1,734
Narrogin . . . . .	1,131	1,671	1,789	1,185	1,759	1,843	1,173	1,711	1,826
Wagin . . . . .	1,093	1,428	1,537	1,182	1,544	1,636	1,124	1,535	1,606
York . . . . .	1,061	1,427	1,529	1,124	1,460	1,562	1,130	1,466	1,563
Weighted Average for State (18 Towns) .. . . .	1,087	1,525	1,648	1,155	1,596	1,713	1,132	1,576	1,719
<b>TASMANIA—</b>									
Hobart . . . . .	1,025	1,506	1,666	1,016	1,487	1,658	1,096	1,573	1,712
Launceston . . . . .	1,011	1,417	1,574	982	1,386	1,573	1,087	1,492	1,692
Burnie . . . . .	1,052	1,473	1,600	1,047	1,496	1,596	1,163	1,586	1,731
Devonport . . . . .	1,015	1,455	1,527	1,016	1,430	1,460	1,116	1,565	1,603
Queenstown . . . . .	1,150	1,430	1,440	1,136	1,394	1,407	1,215	1,527	1,557
Beaconsfield . . . . .	1,009	1,114	1,140	989	1,094	1,120	1,052	1,144	1,183
Campbelltown . . . . .	1,045	1,236	1,281	975	1,163	1,212	1,079	1,266	1,315
Deloraine . . . . .	978	1,320	1,373	953	1,295	1,348	1,019	1,393	1,440
Franklin . . . . .	1,021	1,231	1,284	1,024	1,235	1,288	1,118	1,328	1,381
New Norfolk . . . . .	998	1,333	1,406	995	1,317	1,403	1,067	1,382	1,461
Scottsdale . . . . .	986	1,234	1,359	980	1,265	1,379	1,084	1,374	1,466
Ulverstone . . . . .	1,026	1,335	1,460	1,000	1,315	1,421	1,080	1,409	1,511
Zeehan . . . . .	1,193	1,382	1,427	1,189	1,387	1,430	1,293	1,490	1,523
Weighted Average for State (13 Towns) .. . . .	1,028	1,455	1,594	1,013	1,434	1,583	1,102	1,529	1,666
Weighted Average for Australia (200 Towns) .. . . .	1,082	1,570	1,703	1,040	1,536	1,683	1,133	1,634	1,773

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, 1929, the index-number for food and groceries in Melbourne (column A) is 1,084. Subtracting this from 1,647 (column B) gives a difference of 563, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 4 rooms, and from 1,795 (column C) gives a difference of 711, 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.

A table showing the retail price index-numbers (food and groceries) for each of the thirty towns for various months since July, 1914, appeared in previous issues, but consideration of space precludes its repetition in the present issue. This table is, however, given in the Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics issued by the Bureau.

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

1. **General.**—The index-numbers in § 3 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.

4. **Variations in Cost in the Capital Cities.\***—The index-numbers in the following table show the variations not only in each city from period to period, but also as between the various cities at any given period. Thus, the increase in cost in the six capital cities from November, 1914, was greatest in November, 1920, when it amounted to 69.7 per cent. The increase for the year 1929, compared with November, 1914, was 50.3 per cent. Further, in 1929 the cost of the commodities and services included was greatest in Sydney (1,561) and least in Brisbane (1,344).

\* In Labour Report No. 20, index-numbers are given showing the relative cost from November, 1925 to end of 1929 in 30 of the principal towns in Australia.

INDEX-NUMBERS, TOTAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE, CAPITAL CITIES.—  
1914 TO 1929.

(NOTE.—Weighted average cost in November, 1914, for all items in capital cities taken as base = 1,000).

Cities.	November.			Year.				
	1914.	1921.	1922.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Sydney ..	1,036	1,523	1,486	1,478	1,503	1,498	1,516	1,561
Melbourne ..	976	1,460	1,402	1,432	1,453	1,441	1,444	1,481
Brisbane ..	889	1,344	1,276	1,344	1,363	1,342	1,334	1,344
Adelaide ..	1,018	1,440	1,388	1,496	1,493	1,482	1,495	1,509
Perth ..	1,029	1,467	1,355	1,446	1,444	1,433	1,472	1,493
Hobart ..	999	1,556	1,450	1,496	1,506	1,453	1,425	1,456
Weighted Average	1,000	1,474	1,420	1,451	1,471	1,458	1,469	1,503

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 to the 31st December, 1913, and reviews to the end of approximately quarterly periods appear in Labour Reports and Quarterly Summaries to the 31st December, 1929.

2. *Awards, Determinations. Industrial Agreements.*—The following table gives a summary for each of the years 1925 to 1929 :—

AWARDS AND DETERMINATIONS MADE AND INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENTS FILED,  
1925 TO 1929.

State.	1925.		1926.		1927.		1928.		1929.	
	Awards or Determinations made.	Agreements Filed.								
New South Wales ..	32	35	151	51	163	33	93	36	55	27
Victoria ..	67	..	106	..	74	..	73	..	46	..
Queensland ..	105	33	90	27	56	18	34	27	21	16
South Australia ..	47	5	14	7	15	4	14	4	13	9
Western Australia ..	4	66	10	37	6	57	19	23	15	29
Tasmania ..	5	1	7	2	4	..	10	3	4	4
Commonwealth Court	56	42	50	30	34	25	40	30	29	26
Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator ..	4	..	10	..	1	..	6	..	4	..
Total ..	320	182	438	154	353	137	289	123	187	109

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, etc., and including operations under the Commonwealth and State Arbitration Acts, of the number of awards, determinations, and industrial agreements in force :—

## BOARDS AUTHORIZED, ETC., AWARDS, ETC.—AUSTRALIA, 1913 TO 1929.

Dates.	Boards Authorized.	Boards Constituted.	Boards which had made Awards or Determinations.	Awards or Determinations in Force.(a)	Industrial Agreements in Force.
31st December, 1913 .. ..	505	501	387(b)	575(c)	401
31st December, 1915 .. ..	573	554	498	663	546
31st December, 1920 .. ..	475	470	440	1,041	972
31st December, 1925 .. ..	575	541	524	1,181	607
31st December, 1929 .. ..	643	588	567	1,297	605

(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 1929, the number of awards or determinations and industrial agreements\* in force had increased by 722 and 204 respectively over the number in force at the 31st December, 1913.

(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 1929.

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
	{ 1929 .. ..	..	..	309	185	2	77	16	54	643
Boards which have made Determinations ..	{ 1913 .. ..	..	..	123	123	74	47	..	19	386
	{ 1929 .. ..	..	..	277	169	..	55	15	51	567
<i>Awards and Determinations—</i> In force ..	{ 1913 .. ..	17	..	265	127	73	54	18	21	575
	{ 1929 .. ..	166	39	458	178	247	72	86	51	1,297
<i>Industrial Agreements—</i> In force ..	{ 1913 .. ..	..	..	75	..	5	11	82	..	401
	{ 1929 .. ..	228	..	113	..	116	29	196	6	605
<i>Commonwealth Court</i> <i>Awards—</i>										
Number in force in each State ..	{ 1913 .. ..	..	..	13	17	15	16	9	13	..
.. ..	{ 1929 .. ..	..	..	92	116	25	80	32	59	..
<i>Commonwealth Agreements—</i> Number in force in each State ..	{ 1913 .. ..	..	..	132	129	68	62	57	61	..
.. ..	{ 1929 .. ..	..	..	41	59	14	24	11	35	..
<i>Commonwealth Public Service</i> <i>Arbitrator—</i> Number of Determinations in force in each State ..	1929 .. ..	..	..	36	32	28	29	28	27	..

## § 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 city,

\* 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.

*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 prices index-numbers 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 in the Appendix to Labour Report, No. 20.

2. Weekly Rates of Wage, 1925 to 1929.—(i) *General*. The arithmetical average of the rates of wage given in the Appendix referred to furnishes the basis for the computation of relative weighted wages in the different States and industrial groups.

(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, 31st DECEMBER, 1925 TO 1929.**

NOTE.—Index-numbers based on the average wage for Australia in 1911 (5s. 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.**

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>								
31st December, 1925 ..	96	0	97	2	99	11	94	4	97	0
31st December, 1926 ..	100	5	99	6	100	1	95	8	98	9
31st December, 1927 ..	101	10	100	3	100	1	96	7	98	10
31st December, 1928 ..	102	7	99	8	101	2	96	2	99	6
31st March, 1929 ..	102	7	99	6	101	2	95	11	100	1
30th June, 1929 ..	103	6	100	10	101	4	97	2	100	5
30th September, 1929 ..	103	6	101	1	101	4	97	5	100	8
31st December, 1929 ..	102	11	101	1	101	2	97	2	100	7

**INDEX-NUMBERS.**

31st December, 1925 ..	1,873	1,897	1,950	1,841	1,893	1,823	1,887
31st December, 1926 ..	1,959	1,941	1,952	1,867	1,927	1,851	1,938
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 March, 1929 ..	2,001	1,941	1,974	1,871	1,952	1,820	1,958
30th June, 1929 ..	2,020	1,968	1,976	1,895	1,959	1,845	1,977
30th September, 1929 ..	2,020	1,973	1,977	1,901	1,964	1,846	1,979
31st December, 1929 ..	2,007	1,972	1,975	1,896	1,963	1,848	1,974

(a) Weighted average.

The results show that at the 31st December, 1929, the weighted average nominal weekly rate of wage was highest in New South Wales, followed in the order named by Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, and Tasmania. Little movement in wages occurred in the first quarter of 1929 as compared with the previous quarter. The average rates of wage increased in all States during the second quarter, and further small increases in Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia during the third quarter brought the weighted average rate of wage to 101s. 5d., the highest average so far recorded. Slight decreases in the wage rates in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia during the fourth quarter caused the average nominal rate of wage for Australia to decline to 101s. 2d.

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

**WAGES.—ADULT MALES—WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK, AND WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS IN EACH INDUSTRIAL GROUP, 31st DECEMBER, 1925 TO 1929.**

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., 1925.	31st Dec., 1926.	31st Dec., 1927.	31st Dec., 1928.	31st March, 1929.	30th June, 1929.	30th Sept., 1929.	31st Dec., 1929.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	Wage .. 101.2 Index-No. 1,973	104.5 2,037	104.6 2,039	103.11 2,028	103' 11 2,028	104' 7 2,040	104' 8 2,042	104' 10 2,046
II. Engineering, etc.	Wage .. 100.4 Index-No. 1,957	102.0 1,991	102.10 2,006	102.1 1,993	102' 1 1,992	103' 9 2,024	103' 11 2,028	103' 6 2,019
III. Food, Drink, etc.	Wage .. 96.6 Index-No. 1,883	98.9 1,926	99.8 1,944	99.9 1,947	99' 9 1,946	100' 10 1,967	101' 1 1,973	100' 10 1,967
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	Wage .. 93.2 Index-No. 1,817	96.6 1,883	98.3 1,917	99.4 1,939	99' 4 1,939	99' 4 1,939	100' 0 1,950	99' 6 1,942
V. Books, Printing, etc.	Wage .. 109.6 Index-No. 2,137	111.5 2,173	113.7 2,216	117.10 2,299	117' 6 2,292	117' 6 2,292	119' 3 2,327	119' 1 2,323
VI. Other Manufacturing	Wage .. 98.2 Index-No. 1,915	100.6 1,961	101.4 1,977	100.8 1,964	100' 5 1,959	102' 2 1,993	102' 7 2,001	102' 2 1,994
VII. Building	Wage .. 108.5 Index-No. 2,115	110.9 2,160	112.10 2,202	112.4 2,191	112' 5 2,193	113' 5 2,213	113' 5 2,214	113' 0 2,205
VIII. Mining, etc.	Wage .. 108.7 Index-No. 2,119	109.6 2,137	109.9 2,142	109.10 2,143	109' 9 2,141	110' 6 2,156	110' 6 2,157	110' 7 2,157
IX. Railways, etc.	Wage .. 100.6 Index-No. 1,962	102.6 2,001	103.1 2,012	102.2 1,994	102' 4 1,997	105' 2 2,052	105' 2 2,052	105' 2 2,052
X. Other Land Transport	Wage .. 93.3 Index-No. 1,820	95.6 1,863	97.4 1,900	96.3 1,878	96' 3 1,878	97' 8 1,905	97' 8 1,905	96' 9 1,888
XI. Shipping, etc. (a)	Wage .. 104.8 Index-No. 2,043	103.7 2,020	103.7 2,021	103.3 2,014	103' 3 2,014	106' 7 2,079	106' 7 2,079	107' 0 2,087
XII. Agricultural, etc. (b)	Wage .. 87.4 Index-No. 1,704	93.5 1,823	94.3 1,839	95.9 1,869	95' 10 1,870	95' 10 1,870	95' 10 1,870	95' 6 1,863
XIII. Domestic, etc. (b)	Wage .. 89.1 Index-No. 1,738	90.10 1,772	93.3 1,820	93.3 1,820	93' 3 1,820	93' 3 1,820	93' 5 1,823	92' 6 1,804
XIV. Miscellaneous	Wage .. 93.11 Index-No. 1,833	95.6 1,863	96.0 1,872	96.1 1,874	96' 0 1,873	96' 11 1,891	97' 0 1,893	96' 8 1,886
All Industrial Groups (c)	Wage .. 96.9 Index-No. 1,887	99.4 1,938	100.2 1,955	100.5 1,959	100' 4 1,958	101' 4 1,977	101' 5 1,979	101' 2 1,974

(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 rate of increase in the weighted average weekly wage in occupations and callings classified in industrial groups during the period 31st December, 1925 to 1929, was greatest in Group XII. (Agricultural, etc.), 9.3 per cent. ; followed by Group V. (Books, Printing, etc.), 8.7 per cent. ; Group IV. (Clothing, Boots, etc.), 6.9 per cent. ; and Group IX. (Railways, etc.), 4.6 per cent.

The smallest increase occurred in Group VIII. (Mining), 1.8 per cent. Compared with the fourth quarter of 1928, increases occurred in twelve groups, while in two groups small decreases were recorded. The increase was greatest in Group XI. (Shipping, etc.), 3.6 per cent.; followed by Group IX. (Railways, etc.), 2.9 per cent.; and Group VI. (Other Manufacturing), 1.5 per cent. Small decreases were recorded in Groups XII. (Agricultural, etc.) and XIII. (Domestic, etc.). The weighted average nominal rate of wage for all Groups increased from 100s. 5d. to 101s. 2d., or 0.8 per cent. during the twelve months under review.

(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, 31st DECEMBER, 1925 TO 1929.**

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.						
31st December, 1925 ..	49 8	50 8	51 9	48 10	57 6	50 2	50 7
31st December, 1926 ..	50 8	51 11	52 10	50 0	58 6	51 8	51 8
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 March, 1929 ..	53 7	53 9	54 10	50 11	58 10	53 4	53 10
30th June, 1929 ..	53 7	53 10	54 10	50 11	58 10	53 4	53 10
30th September, 1929 ..	54 1	54 1	54 10	51 3	58 10	53 7	54 2
31st December, 1929 ..	53 11	54 1	54 10	51 4	58 10	53 9	54 1

**INDEX-NUMBERS.**

31st December, 1925 ..	1,827	1,866	1,904	1,796	2,116	1,845	1,861
31st December, 1926 ..	1,865	1,911	1,944	1,839	2,152	1,902	1,902
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 March, 1929 ..	1,972	1,978	2,017	1,875	2,164	1,964	1,980
30th June, 1929 ..	1,973	1,980	2,017	1,875	2,164	1,964	1,980
30th September, 1929 ..	1,992	1,989	2,020	1,887	2,165	1,973	1,992
31st December, 1929 ..	1,983	1,990	2,020	1,888	2,165	1,978	1,990

(a) Weighted average.

There was an 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. Wages for female employees remained stationary during the first and second quarters of 1929. Increases were recorded in four States during the third quarter, raising the average nominal wage for Australia to 54s. 2d. per week. the highest average rate recorded.

(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, 31st DECEMBER, 1925 TO 1929.**

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.					All Groups (b).
	III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Boots, etc.	I., II., V., and VI., All Other Manufacturing.	XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.(a).	XIV. Miscellaneous.	
<b>RATES OF WAGES.</b>						
	<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, 1925 ..	45 8	50 1	51 2	51 0	52 0	50 7
31st December, 1926 ..	47 8	51 7	52 10	52 0	52 0	51 8
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 March, 1929 ..	49 4	54 2	52 11	55 1	52 10	53 10
30th June, 1929 ..	49 4	54 2	53 1	55 2	52 10	53 10
30th September, 1929 ..	49 5	54 6	53 11	55 1	53 4	54 2
31st December, 1929 ..	49 4	54 4	53 11	54 9	53 10	54 1
<b>INDEX-NUMBERS.</b>						
31st December, 1925 ..	1,682	1,844	1,884	1,877	1,914	1,861
31st December, 1926 ..	1,754	1,900	1,943	1,912	1,914	1,902
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 March, 1929 ..	1,816	1,993	1,947	2,029	1,946	1,980
30th June, 1929 ..	1,817	1,993	1,954	2,030	1,946	1,980
30th September, 1929 ..	1,819	2,006	1,984	2,029	1,963	1,992
31st December, 1929 ..	1,815	1,999	1,984	2,015	1,982	1,990

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

(b) Weighted average.

During the year 1929 wages in all groups, with the exception of Group XIII. (Domestic, etc.) showed a slight upward trend as compared with 1928, the greatest increase occurring in Group XIV. (Miscellaneous), 1.9 per cent.; followed by Group VI., 1.6 per cent. The weighted average for all groups increased by 0.5 per cent.

**3. Relative Hours of Labour and Hourly Rates of Wage, 1925 to 1929.—(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 1925 to 1929. 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, 1925 TO 1929.

Date.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q.land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus.
<b>MALE WORKERS.</b>								
31st Dec., 1925	Weekly Wage (a) ..	s. d. 96 0	s. d. 97 2	s. d. 99 11	s. d. 94 4	s. d. 97 0	s. d. 93 5	s. d. 98 9
	Working Hours (b) ..	46.76	46.98	43.88	46.97	46.26	47.25	46.44
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/1½	2/1½	2/3½	2/0½	2/1½	2/-	2/1½
31st Dec., 1926	Weekly Wage (a) ..	s. d. 100 5	s. d. 99 6	s. d. 100 1	s. d. 95 8	s. d. 98 9	s. d. 94 10	s. d. 99 4
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.55	46.94	43.95	46.95	45.80	47.27	45.57
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/3½	2/2	2/4	2/0½	2/0½	2/0½	2/2½
31st Dec., 1927	Weekly Wage (a) ..	s. d. 101 10	s. d. 100 3	s. d. 100 1	s. d. 98 7	s. d. 98 10	s. d. 93 10	s. d. 100 2
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.44	46.82	43.96	46.78	45.75	47.16	45.46
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/3½	2/2½	2/4	2/1½	2/2½	2/0½	2/2½
31st Dec., 1928	Weekly Wage (a) ..	s. d. 102 7	s. d. 99 8	s. d. 101 2	s. d. 98 2	s. d. 99 6	s. d. 93 3	s. d. 100 5
	Working Hours (b) ..	44.17	46.70	43.96	46.67	45.30	46.85	45.27
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2/4	2/2	2/4	2/1	2/2½	2/0	2/3
31st Dec., 1929	Weekly Wage (a) ..	s. d. 102 11	s. d. 101 7	s. d. 101 2	s. d. 97 2	s. d. 100 7	s. d. 94 8	s. d. 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	2/1½	2/2½	2/0½	2/3
<b>FEMALE WORKERS.</b>								
31st Dec., 1925	Weekly Wage ..	s. d. 49 8	s. d. 50 8	s. d. 51 9	s. d. 48 10	s. d. 57 6	s. d. 50 2	s. d. 50 7
	Working Hours ..	46.17	45.83	44.00	46.10	45.57	47.86	45.78
	Hourly Wage ..	1/1	1/1½	1/2	1/0½	1/3½	1/0½	1/1½
31st Dec., 1926	Weekly Wage ..	s. d. 50 8	s. d. 51 11	s. d. 52 10	s. d. 50 0	s. d. 58 6	s. d. 51 8	s. d. 51 8
	Working Hours ..	44.02	45.60	44.01	46.10	45.57	47.86	44.94
	Hourly Wage ..	1/1½	1/1½	1/2½	1/1	1/3½	1/1	1/1½
31st Dec., 1927	Weekly Wage ..	s. d. 53 0	s. d. 52 7	s. d. 53 5	s. d. 49 11	s. d. 58 8	s. d. 52 7	s. d. 52 10
	Working Hours ..	44.02	45.53	44.01	46.10	45.57	47.86	44.94
	Hourly Wage ..	1/2½	1/1½	1/2½	1/1	1/3½	1/1½	1/2
31st Dec., 1928	Weekly Wage ..	s. d. 53 7	s. d. 53 9	s. d. 54 10	s. d. 50 11	s. d. 58 10	s. d. 53 4	s. d. 53 10
	Working Hours ..	43.93	45.40	44.01	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.79
	Hourly Wage ..	1/2½	1/2½	1/3	1/1½	1/3½	1/2	1/2½
31st Dec. 1929	Weekly Wage ..	s. d. 53 11	s. d. 54 1	s. d. 54 10	s. d. 51 4	s. d. 58 10	s. d. 53 9	s. d. 54 1
	Working Hours ..	43.93	45.40	44.01	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.79
	Hourly Wage ..	1/2½	1/2½	1/3	1/1½	1/3½	1/2	1/2½

(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 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, 1925 TO 1929.

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.
<b>MALE WORKERS.</b>								
31st Dec., 1925	Weekly Wage ..	1,741	1,763	1,813	1,712	1,760	1,695	1,755
	Hourly Wage (a) ..	1,808	1,823	1,988	1,761	1,827	1,723	1,829
31st Dec., 1926	Weekly Wage ..	1,821	1,805	1,815	1,735	1,791	1,721	1,802
	Hourly Wage (a) ..	1,944	1,864	1,997	1,776	1,878	1,746	1,900
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	1,923
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
<b>FEMALE WORKERS.</b>								
31st Dec., 1925	Weekly Wage ..	1,827	1,866	1,904	1,796	2,116	1,845	1,861
	Hourly Wage ..	1,944	2,000	2,125	1,913	2,280	1,893	1,995
31st Dec., 1926	Weekly Wage ..	1,865	1,911	1,944	1,839	2,152	1,902	1,902
	Hourly Wage ..	2,080	2,059	2,169	1,959	2,319	1,952	2,078
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	1,930
	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

(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, 1925 to 1929.

### HOURS OF LABOUR.—WEEKLY INDEX-NUMBERS, ADULT MALES, 1925 TO 1929.

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., 1925	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	46.76	46.98	43.88	46.97	46.26	47.25	46.44
	Index-numbers ..	956	960	897	960	945	966	949
31st Dec., 1926	Weighted average weekly hours of labour (a) ..	44.55	46.94	43.95	46.95	45.80	47.27	45.57
	Index-numbers ..	910	969	898	960	936	966	931
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

(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.

Each State, excepting New South Wales, shows a decrease for 1925, while, for 1926, four of the States show decreases, the remaining two, Queensland and Tasmania, showing minor increases on account of further industries being brought under Commonwealth Arbitration Court awards, under which the prescribed hours were greater than in the corresponding State awards. The weighted average weekly hours index-number for Australia at the 31st December, 1929, was 927, as compared with 1,000 at 30th April, 1914, a reduction of 7.3 per cent. The lowest weighted average nominal weekly hours index-number at the 31st December, 1929, was that for Queensland (898), followed in the order named by New South Wales (902), Western Australia (932), South Australia (957), Victoria (957), and Tasmania (962).

5. *Nominal and Effective Wages, 1901 to 1929.*—(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.

NOMINAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, ADULT MALES, 1901 TO 1929.

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

States.	Number of Occupations included.		1901.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	1901 to 1912.	1913 to 1929.												
New South Wales ..	158	874	858	1,003	1,096	1,869	1,785	1,844	1,824	1,873	1,959	1,988	2,001	2,007
Victoria ..	150	909	796	985	1,065	1,826	1,783	1,865	1,862	1,897	1,941	1,957	1,944	1,972
Queensland ..	87	627	901	997	1,042	1,856	1,830	1,837	1,868	1,950	1,952	1,953	1,974	1,975
South Australia ..	134	567	819	1,013	1,062	1,745	1,708	1,770	1,791	1,841	1,867	1,885	1,877	1,896
Western Australia ..	69	489	1,052	1,152	1,226	1,853	1,829	1,838	1,847	1,893	1,927	1,928	1,941	1,963
Tasmania ..	54	482	719	799	1,028	1,788	1,726	1,802	1,805	1,823	1,851	1,832	1,820	1,848
Australia (a) ..	652	3,948	848	1,000	1,085	1,844	1,785	1,840	1,839	1,887	1,938	1,955	1,959	1,974

(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 131 per cent., while the weighted average weekly rate for Australia increased 97 per cent.

(ii) *Effective 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 effective wage index-numbers so ascertained in each State for each of the years indicated from 1901 to 1929.

In computing these effective wage index-numbers for years prior to 1914, the nominal wage index-numbers given in the preceding table have been divided by the price index-numbers in Section A, §2. The resulting index-numbers show for each State and for Australia for the years specified the variations in effective wages. The nominal wage index-numbers for these earlier 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, and in this respect differ from those in the preceding sub-sections. 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, it is possible that if the wage data were available in quarters, the index-numbers used would approximate very closely to those based on averages for the year.

**EFFECTIVE WEEKLY WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS.—ADULT MALES, 1901 TO 1929.(a)**

States.	1901.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
New South Wales ..	961	973	906	1,079	1,113	1,040	1,069	1,048	1,035	1,079	1,039	1,050
Victoria ..	915	1,037	861	1,038	1,102	1,036	1,097	1,073	1,069	1,095	1,120	1,084
Queensland ..	1,172	1,090	1,038	1,244	1,273	1,214	1,232	1,241	1,183	1,222	1,236	1,220
South Australia ..	948	957	929	1,027	1,090	1,036	1,051	1,053	1,076	1,073	1,089	1,067
Western Australia ..	1,024	1,023	1,070	1,139	1,226	1,192	1,191	1,162	1,165	1,199	1,156	1,143
Tasmania ..	827	838	942	977	1,053	1,000	1,017	1,044	1,037	1,072	1,099	1,064
Australia (b) ..	964	1,000	948	1,076	1,126	1,062	1,095	1,081	1,072	1,102	1,115	1,082

(a) As to the effect in abnormal periods, see Labour Report No. 6, pp. 20-2, Section IV., par. 3.

(b) Weighted average.

In the table above the effective 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 effective wage index-number for any State over a period of years. Thus, comparing 1929 with 1901, and also with 1911, there has been an increase in the effective wage in all States.

(iii) *Effective Wages and Standard of Comfort.* In the preceding table particulars are given as to variations in effective 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 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. Applying these percentages to the numbers shown in Column I., and deducting the results from each corresponding index-number to allow for relative loss of time, the figures in Column III. are obtained. These figures are then re-computed with the year 1911 as base, and are shown in Column IV. In Column V. the retail prices index-numbers are shown, and in Columns VI. and VII. the effective 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 IV. respectively by the corresponding figure in Column V. The resulting index-numbers show for Australia for the years specified the variations in effective wages, or in what may be called the "standard of comfort."\*

\* This expression must not be confused with "standard of living." A change in the standard of living necessarily involves a change in regimen (see Labour Report No. 4), that is, a change in the nature or in the relative quantity of commodities purchased, or both. A change in the "standard of comfort" merely implies a variation in effective wages, which variation may, or may not, result in, or be accompanied by, a change in the "standard of living."

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

WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS, NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE, 1901 TO 1929.(a)

Year.	I. Nominal Wage Index-Numbers.	II. Percentage Unemployed.	Rate of Wage Index-Numbers, Allowing for Lost Time.		V. Retail Price Index-Numbers.	Effective Wage Index-Numbers.	
			III. Actual.	IV. Re-computed. (1911 =1,000).		VI. Full Work.	VII. Allowing for Unemployment.
1901 ..	848	6.6	793	832	880	964	945
1906 ..	866	6.7	808	848	902	960	940
1907 ..	893	5.7	842	884	897	996	986
1908 ..	900	6.0	846	888	951	946	934
1909 ..	923	5.8	870	913	948	974	963
1910 ..	955	5.6	901	945	970	985	974
1911 ..	1,000	4.7	953	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912 ..	1,051	5.5	993	1,042	1,101	955	946
1913 ..	1,076	5.3	1,021	1,071	1,104	975	970
1914 ..	1,081	8.3	991	1,040	1,140	948	912
1915 ..	1,092	9.3	990	1,039	1,278	854	813
1916 ..	1,144	5.8	1,078	1,131	1,324	864	854
1917 ..	1,226	7.1	1,139	1,195	1,318	930	907
1918 ..	1,270	5.8	1,196	1,255	1,362	932	921
1919 ..	1,370	6.6	1,280	1,343	1,510	907	889
1920 ..	1,627	6.5	1,521	1,596	1,785	911	894
1921 ..	1,826	11.2	1,621	1,701	1,697	1,076	1,002
1922 ..	1,801	9.3	1,634	1,715	1,600	1,126	1,072
1923 ..	1,805	7.1	1,677	1,760	1,700	1,062	1,035
1924 ..	1,840	8.9	1,676	1,759	1,681	1,095	1,046
1925 ..	1,861	8.8	1,697	1,781	1,722	1,081	1,034
1926 ..	1,914	7.1	1,778	1,866	1,786	1,072	1,045
1927 ..	1,946	7.0	1,810	1,899	1,766	1,102	1,075
1928 ..	1,963	10.8	1,751	1,837	1,760	1,115	1,044
1929 ..	1,972	11.1	1,753	1,839	1,822	1,082	1,009

(a) As to the effect in abnormal periods, see Section IV., par. 3, of Labour Report No. 6.

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.

Compared with 1911 the effective wage in 1901 was 3.6 per cent. less for full work, and 5.5 per cent. less after allowance for unemployment. In connexion with the index-numbers in Column VII., unemployment was less in 1911—the base year—than in any other year. During the period 1912 to 1920, while wages increased steadily, prices increased at a greater rate, with the result that the purchasing power of wages was less in each of these years than in 1911, the lowest point reached being in 1915, when the full time index-number was 14.6 per cent. less, or, allowing for unemployment, 18.7 per cent. less than for the base year. The first occasion on which the effective wage was higher than in 1911 was in 1921, when wages increased considerably while prices declined, the increase in effective wages being 7.6 per cent., but only 0.2 per cent. allowing for unemployment. Unemployment reached its "peak" during 1921. Effective wages for full work were highest in the year 1922. Allowing for unemployment the effective wage index-number for 1927 was 1,075, the highest recorded during the period under review.

There was a rise in the effective wage index-number for full work during the year 1928. Unemployment, however, increased, and the effective wage index-number, after allowing for unemployment, declined to 1044. The increase in prices during 1929 was greater than the increase in the nominal wages, with the result that the effective wage index-number declined from 1115 to 1082, and as unemployment increased also during the year the index-number allowing for unemployment declined sharply from 1044 to 1009, the lowest point recorded since 1921. Comparison with 1911 shows that the effective wage for full time work was 8.2 per cent., and allowing for unemployment, 0.9 per cent. higher during 1929.

### § 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. 7d. for food, 7s. for rent, and 9s. 5d. 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. The present weekly wage rates (at 1st August, 1930) for the various capital cities as so varied are as follows :—

						£	s.	d.
Sydney (a)	..	..	..	..	..	4	11	0
Melbourne	..	..	..	..	..	4	5	6
Brisbane (a)	..	..	..	..	..	3	13	0
Adelaide (a)	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	6
Perth (a)	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	0
Hobart	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	0
Six Capitals (Weighted Average)	..	..	..	..	..	4	6	0

(a) The basic rates of wage determined by State industrial tribunals for these cities are given on the next page.

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 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. The dislocation due to the war, however, placed such an inquiry out of the question. Whatever its limitations, the Harvester judgment proved a great boon during the war years by providing a basis for variation according to changes in cost of living and a foundation upon which “margins for skill” could be imposed.

(iii) *State Basic Wage Rates in Operation.* The basic wage rates fixed by State arbitration tribunals vary 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.

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

† *Ibid.*

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 declaration and reasons for the judgment of the Industrial Court in Western Australia are published in the *Western Australian Industrial Gazette*, Vol. IX., No. 2, for quarter ended 30th June, 1929. A further revision of the "basic" wage in this State was made in June, 1930. The industrial tribunals in Queensland and South Australia made no alteration during 1929 in the basic rates of wage previously declared. The Industrial Court in Queensland reviewed the basic rates of wage for that State during 1930, and reduced the rate for adult males from 85s. to 80s. per week as from 1st August, 1930.

State.	Basic Wage.		Date of Operation.	Family Unit (for Male Rate).
	Males.	Females.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
New South Wales ..	(a) 4 2 6	2 4 6	20.12.29	Man, wife and child
Victoria ..	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)
Queensland ..	4 0 0	2 1 0	1.8.30	Man, wife and three children
South Australia ..	4 5 6	1 19 6	1.7.25	(c)
Western Australia ..	(d) 4 6 0	2 6 5	1.7.30	(c)
Tasmania ..	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)

- (a) Plus child allowances.
- (b) None declared, but follow Federal rates to large extent.
- (c) Although the family unit is not specifically defined in the legislation of these States, the tribunals appointed to determine the basic wage have adopted the unit of man, wife, and two children.
- (d) Basic wage for country districts—Males, £4 5s.; females, £2 5s. 11d.

(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 ..	..	..	..
Melbourne ..	..	..	..
Brisbane ..	..	..	..
Adelaide ..	..	..	..
Perth ..	..	..	..
Hobart ..	..	..	..
Six Capitals (Weighted Average)	..	..	..

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.†

\* 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 *Ellnor Rathbone's Disinherited Family: A Plea for the Endowment of the Family.*

(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.

(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.

\* *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.

§ 4. Changes in Rates of Wage.

1. *General.*—A change in rate of wages is defined as a change in the weekly rates of remuneration of a certain class of employees, apart from any change in the nature of the work performed and apart from any revision of rates due to increased length of service or experience. It is obvious that under this definition certain classes of changes are excluded, such, for example, as (a) changes in rates of pay due to promotion, progressive increments, or, on the other hand, to reduction in pay or grade to inefficient workers, and (b) changes in average earnings in an occupation due to a change in the proportions which more highly-paid classes of workers bear to those paid at lower rates.

There is a certain amount of overstatement as regards "persons affected," since in the quarterly adjustments of wages the same persons may figure on four occasions. The difficulty of eliminating this factor, has, however, been found too great to justify the labour involved. A further complication also arises from the overlapping of Commonwealth and State awards. On account of this overlapping of awards and determinations it is difficult to ascertain definitely the number of workpeople affected by the changes in rates of wage brought about by Commonwealth and State awards, etc. In Victoria there are over 70 trades for which Wages Boards have issued determinations, such trades being wholly or partly covered by Commonwealth awards or agreements. Similar conditions prevail, to a greater or less extent, in other States. In many instances forms issued to officials of employers' associations and trade unions are returned with remarks to the effect that the desired particulars are not known so far as the number of workpeople affected are concerned. The tables contain particulars of all changes regarding which data can be ascertained by inquiry or by investigation of factory reports, trade union membership, census results, etc.

2. *Effect of Changes.*—(i) *General.* The following tables give particulars of changes which occurred in each State during the years specified. As regards the number of persons affected, the figures refer to the total number of persons ordinarily engaged in the various industries, and the results of the amount of increase in wages are computed for a full week's work for all persons ordinarily engaged in the several industries and occupations affected. In cases of changes in existing minimum rates under awards or determinations of industrial tribunals, it has been assumed (in the absence of any definite information to the contrary) that the whole of the employees in each occupation received the minimum rates of wage before and after the change.

Changes brought about by awards and agreements under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, the Arbitration (Public Service) Act, and the Industrial Peace Act 1920, are necessarily included hereunder as changes in each State to which such awards and agreements apply. The average increase per head per week is computed to the nearest penny.

(ii) *Summary—States, 1929.* The following table gives particulars of the changes in rates of wage in each State during the year 1929.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—EFFECT IN EACH STATE, 1929.

State.	INCREASES.		DECREASES.		TOTAL RESULT OF ALL CHANGES.		
	Work-people Affected.	Increase per Week.	Work-people Affected.	Decrease per Week.	Work-people Affected.	Net Increase per Week.	Average Increase per Week.
		£		£		£	s. d.
New South Wales ..	141,205	21,625	293,829	31,042	435,034	b 9,417	b 0 5
Victoria ..	168,667	10,920	48,990	2,475	217,657	17,445	1 7
Queensland ..	7,176	694	180	9	7,356	685	1 10
South Australia ..	51,562	6,243	26,108	1,444	77,670	4,799	1 3
Western Australia ..	18,104	2,093	3,155	236	21,259	1,857	1 9
Tasmania ..	14,342	1,541	3,904	174	18,246	1,367	1 6
Northern Territory ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Federal Capital Territory ..	57	14	..	..	57	14	4 11
Common to all States (a)	13,010	2,042	..	..	13,010	2,042	3 2
Total ..	414,123	54,172	376,166	35,380	790,289	18,792	0 6

(a) See footnote (a) on next page.

(b) Decrease.

The preceding figures for changes in wages include all those which have occurred either through the operations of wage tribunals or as the result of direct negotiations between employers and employees. Many workers in all States come under the jurisdiction of awards made by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court. The principle of quarterly adjustments adopted by that Court caused a large number of variations in rates of wage in all States during the year, but as the retail price index-numbers used in the quarterly and half-yearly adjustments remained fairly constant during 1929, changes in rates on account of the increase or decrease in the cost of commodities were not numerous during the second half of the year.

(iii) *Australia, 1925 to 1929.* The following tables give separate particulars of the effect of increases and decreases in rates of wage in Australia during the years 1925 to 1929 :—

#### CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—EFFECT IN AUSTRALIA, 1925 TO 1929.

Year.	INCREASES.		DECREASES.		TOTAL RESULT OF ALL CHANGES.		
	Work-people Affected.	Increase per Week.	Work-people Affected.	Decrease per Week.	Work-people Affected.	Net Increase per Week.	Average Increase per Head per Week.
		£		£		£	s. d.
1925 .. ..	1,124,095	130,220	138,114	10,793	1,262,209	119,427	1 11
1926 .. ..	951,490	117,814	270,270	30,194	1,221,760	87,620	1 4
1927 .. ..	771,939	78,721	492,053	25,723	1,263,992	52,998	0 10
1928 .. ..	305,994	28,170	529,282	36,910	834,976	68,740	60 3
1929 .. ..	414,123	54,172	376,166	35,380	790,289	18,792	0 6

#### CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—EFFECT, STATES, 1925 TO 1929.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	F.C.T.	(a) All States.	Aust.
	No. of Persons Affected	1925 514,123 1926 525,801 1927 642,347 1928 346,670 1929 435,034	1925 343,123 1926 429,605 1927 403,154 1928 301,071 1929 217,657	1925 184,595 1926 32,953 1927 9,252 1928 14,700 1929 7,356	1925 113,721 1926 103,291 1927 109,772 1928 87,502 1929 77,670	1925 40,152 1926 38,271 1927 18,678 1928 16,652 1929 21,259	1925 18,566 1926 25,378 1927 27,359 1928 22,639 1929 18,246	1925 26 1926 53 1927 448 1928 170 1929 ..	1925 243 1926 63 1927 261 1928 51 1929 57	1925 47,660 1926 66,345 1927 52,721 1928 45,521 1929 13,010
Total Net Amount of Increase per Week	1925 £ 40,780 1926 43,471 1927 38,611 1928 6,678 1929 b 9,417	1925 £ 19,968 1926 27,920 1927 8,941 1928 613,698 1929 17,445	1925 £ 43,975 1926 5,081 1927 1,070 1928 908 1929 685	1925 £ 9,693 1926 4,597 1927 4,258 1928 63,095 1929 4,799	1925 £ 3,199 1926 4,164 1927 1,188 1928 728 1929 1,857	1925 £ 293 1926 748 1927 61,026 1928 631 1929 1,367	1925 £ 69 1926 20 1927 107 1928 43 1929 ..	1925 £ 133 1926 11 1927 41 1928 5 1929 14	1925 £ 1,395 1926 1,608 1927 6192 1928 6278 1929 2,042	1925 £ 119,427 1926 87,620 1927 52,998 1928 68,740 1929 18,792
Average Increase per Head per Week	1925 s. d. 1 7 1926 1 8 1927 1 3 1928 0 5 1929 b 0 5	1925 s. d. 1 2 1926 1 4 1927 0 5 1928 60 11 1929 1 7	1925 s. d. 4 9 1926 3 1 1927 2 4 1928 1 3 1929 1 10	1925 s. d. 1 8 1926 0 11 1927 0 9 1928 b 0 8 1929 1 3	1925 s. d. 1 7 1926 2 2 1927 1 3 1928 0 10 1929 1 9	1925 s. d. 0 4 1926 0 7 1927 b 0 9 1928 0 10 1929 1 6	1925 s. d. 66 11 1926 7 7 1927 4 9 1928 5 1 1929 ..	1925 s. d. 10 11 1926 3 6 1927 3 2 1928 4 1 1929 2 0	1925 s. d. 0 7 1926 0 6 1927 2 60 1928 0 1 1929 3 2	1925 s. d. 1 11 1926 1 4 1927 0 10 1928 b 0 3 1929 0 6

(a) Changes recorded in this column are common to all States, as the particulars relating to the number of workpeople affected and the net amount of increase per week in each State were not ascertainable. (b) Decrease.

The relative positions of the States in regard to the number of workers affected in each year naturally depend largely on the magnitude of the different industries and callings in which changes took place.

(iv) *Industrial Groups—Australia.* *Workpeople affected by Changes.* In the following table particulars are given regarding the number of persons (males and females) affected, and the total amount of increase per week, classified according to Industrial Groups throughout Australia during the years 1925 to 1929 :—

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA,  
1925 TO 1929.

Particulars.	Industrial Groups.							
	I. Wood, Furniture, Timber, etc.	II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	V. Books, Printing, etc.	VI. Other Manufacturing.	VII. Building.	VIII. Mines, Quarries, etc.
1925.								
Number of Persons affected	95,720	123,669	68,596	40,202	16,224	115,692	121,549	31,373
Amount of Increase per week	£ 7,905	9,500	7,609	1,444	1,123	8,407	10,149	4,108
1926.								
Number of Persons affected	60,422	96,677	43,416	98,659	21,157	92,324	132,012	57,650
Amount of Increase per week	£ 1,669	850	4,180	5,334	2,513	4,231	14,848	8,123
1927.								
Number of Persons affected	30,217	142,440	50,680	164,207	18,800	109,938	98,307	30,440
Amount of Increase per week	£ 657	5,451	3,835	4,468	1,070	3,626	3,194	1,348
1928.								
Number of Persons affected	13,204	131,047	24,331	49,525	15,887	70,117	107,755	19,535
Amount of Increase per week	£ 253	2,352	251	4,108	622	2,369	21,684	252
1929.								
Number of Persons affected	26,252	103,124	35,609	78,466	25,383	65,407	76,838	19,920
Amount of Increase per week	£ 21,057	2,730	462	884	1,038	1,026	2,996	1,289

Particulars.	Industrial Groups—continued.						
	IX. Rail and Tram Services.	X. Other Land Transport.	XI. Shipping, etc.	XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	XIV. Miscellaneous.	ALL GROUPS.
1925.							
Number of Persons affected	188,752	27,249	77,285	55,495	37,472	262,931	1,262,209
Amount of Increase per week	£ 13,196	3,435	5,656	10,577	4,239	27,074	119,427
1926.							
Number of Persons affected	283,101	27,019	90,685	13,160	1,066	204,412	1,221,760
Amount of Increase per week	£ 20,227	2,404	2,416	552	369	19,904	87,620
1927.							
Number of Persons affected	242,994	28,945	72,502	45,985	20,101	208,136	1,263,992
Amount of Increase per week	£ 4,821	2,346	218	5,315	3,083	14,002	52,998
1928.							
Number of Persons affected	199,394	17,362	67,379	5,121	358	113,961	834,976
Amount of Increase per week	£ 23,468	21,128	263	2240	36	1,308	23,740
1929.							
Number of Persons affected	157,468	10,014	28,729	5,493	21,212	136,376	700,289
Amount of Increase per week	£ 6,883	544	4,096	536	2,274	2361	18,792

(a) Decrease.

3. Methods by which Changes were Effected, and Results, 1925 to 1929.—So far as possible, the effect of awards or agreements is recorded in the figures for the year in which such awards or agreements are made and filed. In certain cases, however, the awards or agreements are made retrospective as to the date on which the altered rate of wage has to be paid, and in others the particulars as to the number of workpeople affected and the effect of the change are not ascertainable in time for inclusion in the tabulations for the year in which the change occurred.

**CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGE.—METHODS AND RESULTS, AUSTRALIA,  
1925 TO 1929.**

Particulars.	By Direct Negotiations.	By Negotiation, Intervention or Assistance of Third Party.	By Award of Court under C'wealth Act.	By Agreement Registered under C'wealth Act.	By Award or Determination under State Act.	By Agreement Registered under State Act.	By other Means.	TOTAL.
<b>1925.</b>								
Number of Workpeople affected	15,110	23,317	581,306	64,849	547,986	29,641	..	1,262,209
Amount of Increase per week £	1,880	1,959	29,996	4,524	80,322	746	..	119,427
<b>1926.</b>								
Number of Workpeople affected	44,289	40,136	893,344	69,555	140,468	16,000	17,968	1,221,760
Amount of Increase per week £	3,460	5,084	41,598	5,785	27,976	2,521	1,196	87,620
<b>1927.</b>								
Number of Workpeople affected	15,272	12,256	803,446	53,289	369,827	9,902	..	1,263,992
Amount of Increase per week £	204	1,407	12,447	816	36,502	2,562	..	52,998
<b>1928.</b>								
Number of Workpeople affected	12,721	25,756	693,814	60,600	33,409	3,649	27	834,976
Amount of Increase per week £	a 87	2,996	a12,280	a1,436	843	1,214	10	a 8,740
<b>1929.</b>								
Number of Workpeople affected	10,111	5,466	461,848	22,644	283,578	6,642	..	790,289
Amount of Increase per week £	967	790	40,350	1,493	a 25,121	313	..	18,792

(a) Decrease.

## C.—EMPLOYMENT.

### § 1. Industrial Disputes.

1. **General.**—Information with regard to the collection of particulars and 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 Reports of the Labour and Industrial Branch 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," and "number of establishments 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, 1929.<sup>(a)</sup>**—The following tables give particulars of industrial disputes which either commenced or were current during the year 1929, classified according to industrial groups. Similar information for the years 1913 to 1928 was published in previous issues of the Year Book and in Labour Reports Nos. 5 to 19.

(a) Four disputes in New South Wales (involving 8 establishments and 672 workers); and one in Tasmania (1 establishment and 90 workers) commenced in 1928 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 1929.

\* In respect of years prior to 1922, the figures include complete particulars of industrial disputes which commenced during any calendar year; and where any such dispute extended into a subsequent year, the relative figures were also incorporated in those for the year in which the dispute commenced.

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1929.

Class.	Industrial Group.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Estab. In-volved.	No. of Workpeople Involved.			No. of Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In-directly.	Total.		
NEW SOUTH WALES.								
							£	
I.	Wood, saw-mill, timber, etc. . .	3	178	4,541	800	5,341	603,527	555,769
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc. . .	10	10	655	102	757	4,357	4,475
III.	Food, drink, etc. . .	3	17	89	210	299	628	532
IV.	Clothing, hats, boots, etc. . .	1	1	20	..	20	20	10
VI.	Other manufacturing . . .	1	1	16	5	21	978	361
VII.	Building . . .	6	10	186	468	654	2,760	3,114
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc. . .	194	277	69,727	1,835	71,562	2,713,186	3,122,977
IX.	Railway and tramway services . . .	5	11	265	701	966	28,399	31,957
X.	Other land transport . . .	2	2	190	18	208	1,600	1,735
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . .	1	1	91	..	91	91	168
XIII.	Domestic, hotels, etc. . .	1	1	6	..	6	6	17
XIV.	Miscellaneous . . .	4	4	211	13	224	1,074	897
	Total . . .	231	513	75,997	4,152	80,149	3,356,038	3,721,412
VICTORIA.								
I.	Wood, saw-mill, timber, etc. . .	2	311	5,038	12,600	17,638	1,275,512	1,109,681
III.	Food, drink, etc. . .	1	1	18	19	37	222	160
IV.	Clothing, hats, boots, etc. . .	3	3	230	100	330	1,265	643
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc. . .	4	4	3,567	..	3,567	10,657	20,070
XIII.	Domestic, hotels, etc. . .	1	1	40	..	40	20	11
	Total . . .	11	320	8,893	12,719	21,612	1,290,676	1,130,565
QUEENSLAND.								
VII.	Building . . .	1	18	70	..	70	1,680	1,932
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc. . .	3	5	1,621	8	1,629	1,763	1,447
	Total . . .	4	23	1,691	8	1,699	3,443	3,379
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.								
I.	Wood, saw-mill, timber, etc. . .	1	20	524	40	564	9,024	7,896
VII.	Building . . .	1	1	8	..	8	16	14
	Total . . .	2	21	532	40	572	9,040	7,910
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.								
I.	Wood, sawmill, timber, etc. . .	1	1	140	30	170	510	440
V.	Books, printing, binding, etc. . .	1	1	5	..	5	208	300
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc. . .	1	5	626	..	626	1,878	1,972
XIV.	Miscellaneous . . .	1	1	56	20	76	76	59
	Total . . .	4	8	827	50	877	2,672	2,771
TASMANIA.								
III.	Food, drink, etc. . .	1	35	10	..	10	10	12
IV.	Clothing, hats, boots, etc. . .	1	1	172	..	172	430	350
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc. . .	2	2	132	50	182	1,292	1,225
IX.	Railway and tramway services . . .	1	1	13	8	21	147	111
XIV.	Miscellaneous . . .	1	1	6	84	90	1,530	1,370
	Total . . .	6	40	333	142	475	3,400	3,068
FED. CAP. TERRITORY.								
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc. . .	1	1	20	..	20	200	200
	Total . . .	1	1	20	..	20	200	200
AUSTRALIA.								
I.	Wood, sawmill, timber, etc. . .	7	510	10,243	13,470	23,713	1,888,573	1,673,786
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc. . .	10	10	655	102	757	4,357	4,475
III.	Food, drink, etc., manufacturing and distribution . . .	5	53	117	229	346	860	704
IV.	Clothing, hats, boots, etc. . .	5	5	422	100	522	1,715	1,003
V.	Books, printing, binding, etc. . .	1	1	5	..	5	208	300
VI.	Other manufacturing . . .	1	1	16	5	21	378	361
VII.	Building . . .	8	20	264	468	732	4,456	5,060
VIII.	Mines, quarries, etc. . .	204	293	75,673	1,893	77,566	2,737,778	3,147,091
IX.	Railway and tramway services . . .	6	12	278	709	987	28,546	32,068
X.	Other land transport . . .	2	2	190	18	208	1,600	1,735
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. . .	1	1	91	..	91	91	168
XII.	Pastoral, agricultural, etc. . .	1	1	20	..	20	200	200
XIII.	Domestic, hotels, etc. . .	2	2	46	..	46	38	38
XIV.	Miscellaneous . . .	6	6	273	117	390	2,680	2,326
	Total—Australia . . .	259	926	88,293	17,111	105,404	4,671,478	4,869,305

3. Industrial Disputes, Australia, 1925 to 1929.—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 1925 to 1929, 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 mining, quarrying, etc. (Group VIII.). For the year 1913 the proportion of disputes in those industries 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 1929 disputes classified in the Mining Group (VIII.) represented 79 per cent. of the total during the year, as compared with 68 per cent. during 1928. During the past five years working days lost through dislocations involving workpeople engaged in mining and quarrying work numbered 5,450,702, representing 57 per cent. of the total loss of working days during the period.

#### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—AUSTRALIA, 1925 TO 1929.

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.
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.						
1925 ..	39	15	381	30	24	499
1926 ..	60	17	227	29	27	360
1927 ..	60	19	285	41	36	441
1928 ..	28	6	194	42	17	287
1929 ..	29	8	204	9	9	259
1925 to 1929 ..	216	65	1,301	151	113	1,846
NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.						
1925 ..	8,420	1,882	135,409	25,084	5,951	176,746
1926 ..	12,408	924	93,107	2,901	3,894	113,034
1927 ..	11,368	9,680	132,766	42,487	4,446	200,757
1928 ..	3,304	290	72,504	17,932	2,332	96,422
1929 ..	25,364	732	77,566	1,286	456	105,404
1925 to 1929 ..	60,864	13,518	511,352	89,750	16,879	692,363
NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST.						
1925 ..	129,808	37,615	577,132	291,415	92,600	1,128,570
1926 ..	271,049	10,015	950,770	36,693	41,734	1,310,261
1927 ..	168,432	342,649	868,779	304,586	29,135	1,713,581
1928 ..	71,803	3,419	316,245	367,271	18,540	777,278
1929 ..	1,896,091	4,456	2,737,776	30,237	2,918	4,671,478
1925 to 1929 ..	2,537,183	398,154	5,450,702	1,030,202	184,927	9,601,168
ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES.						
1925 ..	£ 124,894	£ 35,674	£ 688,755	£ 209,521	£ 48,700	£ 1,107,544
1926 ..	249,712	7,721	1,093,111	27,306	32,963	1,415,813
1927 ..	138,418	293,792	1,009,580	210,214	24,692	1,676,696
1928 ..	61,160	3,225	378,655	317,337	14,982	775,359
1929 ..	1,680,629	5,060	3,147,091	33,971	2,554	4,889,305
1925 to 1929 ..	2,254,813	345,472	6,322,192	798,349	123,891	9,844,717

4. Summary of Disputes (involving Stoppage of Work), 1925 to 1929.—The following table gives particulars of the number of industrial disputes in each State in various years from 1925 to 1929, together with the number of workpeople involved, the number of working days lost, and the total estimated loss in wages.

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—SUMMARY, 1925 TO 1929.

State or Territory.	Year.	No. of Disputes.	Establishments Involved in Disputes.	No. of Workpeople Involved.			No. of Working Days Lost.	Total Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
New South Wales ..	1925	430	458	123,292	16,937	140,229	649,840	£ 736,601
	1926	256	631	68,281	28,359	96,640	1,111,230	1,229,410
	1927	339	470	105,116	40,425	148,541	1,133,963	1,230,060
	1928	230	313	70,303	10,119	80,422	480,394	521,768
	1929	(a) 231	513	75,997	4,152	80,149	3,356,038	3,721,412
Victoria ..	1925	19	158	5,428	3,172	8,600	131,737	130,817
	1926	33	39	6,320	2,245	8,565	100,735	106,423
	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	1,130,565
Queensland ..	1925	22	64	20,432	840	21,272	219,826	164,460
	1926	29	37	2,054	391	2,445	30,118	27,412
	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	3,443	3,379
South Australia ..	1925	11	24	1,118	281	1,399	19,463	12,240
	1926	17	60	2,008	740	2,748	22,836	17,133
	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
Western Australia ..	1925	10	180	3,321	814	4,135	98,941	56,358
	1926	9	28	523	78	601	9,081	5,995
	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
Tasmania ..	1925	3	16	169	70	239	2,989	2,300
	1926	10	12	660	231	891	5,080	4,363
	1927	6	6	354	421	775	14,950	9,182
	1928	4	8	371	84	455	5,595	5,508
	1929	(a) 6	40	333	142	475	3,409	3,068
Northern Territory	1925	1	1	16	..	16	39	39
	1926	2	2	93	112	205	996	870
	1927	2	2	338	..	338	5,163	4,753
	1928	1	1	45	..	45	135	150
	1929	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fed. Cap. Territory	1925	3	5	823	33	856	5,735	4,709
	1926	4	4	829	110	939	30,185	24,204
	1927	1	5	380	..	380	1,900	2,137
	1928	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1929	1	1	20	..	20	260	260
Australia ..	1925	499	906	154,599	22,147	176,746	1,128,570	1,107,544
	1926	360	813	80,765	32,266	113,034	1,310,261	1,415,813
	1927	441	944	157,581	43,176	200,757	1,713,531	1,676,696
	1928	287	604	82,349	14,073	96,422	777,278	775,359
	1929	259	926	88,293	17,111	105,404	4,671,478	4,869,305

(a) See footnote on page 390.

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 1929 was 259, as compared with 287 during the previous year. In New South Wales 231 disputes occurred. Of this number 194 involved workpeople engaged in coal mining and quarrying. Working days lost during 1929 totalled 4,671,478 for all disputes in Australia as compared with 777,278 working days lost during 1928. The estimated loss of wages was £4,869,305 in 1929 as compared with £775,359 for the year 1928. The losses in working days and wages are the highest recorded since 1917.

5. *Particulars of Principal Disputes in 1929.*—(i.) *General.*—The preceding tables show the number and effect of all disputes for the year 1929, classified according to Industrial Groups. Details regarding the more important disputes which occurred during the year are given hereunder. The figures show large increases 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 since 1925. The tables show that of the total number of disputes (259) which occurred in 1929 no less than 204 were in connexion with the mining industry, and of these 194 occurred in New South Wales. The total loss in wages through all disputes in Australia was £4,869,305. The loss through disputes in the coal-mining industry in New South Wales was £3,087,134, or 63 per cent. of the total loss in wages for Australia.

(ii) *Details regarding Principal Disputes.*—Two outstanding industrial disputes occurred during the year 1929: one involved timber workers in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, and the other concerned employees at the principal collieries on the Northern coal-fields of New South Wales.

The dispute in the timber industry was occasioned by the refusal of the Timber Workers' Union to accept the award of the Judge of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, made on 23rd January, 1929, following on the Full Court's order of the 18th December, 1928, declaring 48 hours as the standard hours in the timber industry, such hours to operate from 1st January, 1929. The dispute in South Australia was of short duration, but in New South Wales and Victoria the members of the union refused to work 48 hours per week. In New South Wales the men absented themselves on Saturdays during January, while in Victoria the employees worked 48 hours per week up to 21st January, and then decided to revert to 44 hours. The employers notified their workpeople that on and after 31st January, the 48 hours per week would be enforced, and that those not attending for work at starting time would be considered to have abandoned their employment. Practically all employees refused to continue work on the 48 hours per week basis.

At the date of the stoppage of work it was estimated that approximately 3,000 timber workers, joiners, carters, engine-drivers and others connected with the timber industry in New South Wales were involved, and approximately 5,000 in Victoria.

These numbers were greatly increased during the currency of the dispute, especially in Victoria, where the building trades were affected. In April, a number of building jobs in Melbourne were declared "black" by the Australasian Council of Trade Unions, the body acting on behalf of the employees. In accordance with a resolution passed by the members of the Master Builders' Association, the whole of the jobs in progress and under the control of members were closed down at the end of April. Building was suspended, and thousands of workpeople, including bricklayers, plasterers, carpenters, painters, brickmakers, plumbers, iron-workers, and other employees were thrown out of employment, and remained idle until 25th June, when, after a conference, work was resumed.

Employers in Sydney and Melbourne endeavoured to continue business, and the timber yards and saw-mills were kept open, manned by the staffs and volunteer workers. Picketing was resorted to by members of the unions, and conflicts occurred between the strikers and volunteer workers.

Pursuant to applications under Section 56c of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, the Judge directed that a ballot of the members of the union be taken by an officer of the Court on the question whether members were prepared to work under the award dated 23rd January, 1929. A vote of approximately 40 per cent. of the members showed the following result:—Yes, 732; No, 5,318; and Informal, 43. Further references to the ballot and also to proceedings in the Commonwealth Court concerning the dispute are made in Labour Report, No. 20.

During May and June negotiations for settling the dispute in Victoria took place. A conference convened by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne on 1st May was unsuccessful, as agreement could not be reached on the question of hours. Negotiations continued, but settlement was not reached until 22nd June, when a conference presided over by the Chairman of the Commonwealth Bank was successful in arriving at terms for the termination of the dispute. Work was resumed in Victoria on 25th June, 1929.

The terms of the settlement of the dispute in Victoria did not apply to New South Wales. In this State the employment of volunteer labour in the timber yards was the cause of many disturbances in the vicinity of the yards during July and August, and strong measures were taken to preserve peace. The dispute continued until 2nd October, when it was declared "off" by the union officials.

The most serious dislocation of work recorded during recent years in Australia commenced on 2nd March, 1929, when the principal collieries on the Northern coalfields of New South Wales closed down owing to the refusal of the employees to accept reduced rates of wages. For some time prior to the closing down of the collieries, the coal position in Australia had become very serious, owing to depression in trade and the loss of oversea markets. Exports of Australian coal declined considerably during 1928, as compared with previous years, and oversea competition became so keen that coal was being imported into Australia at a lower price than locally produced coal could be sold. The New South Wales colliery proprietors were unable to quote at a profit against oversea coal, and attributed their inability to do so to the high cost of production locally.

The Premier of New South Wales proposed that the owners of the collieries should forgo 1s. per ton of their profits, on condition that the State Government reduced railway freights and other Government charges by the equivalent of 2s. per ton, and mineworkers undertook to accept reduced rates for hewing and in other wages, equivalent to 1s. per ton. These reductions represented 4s. per ton, and were considered to be the minimum that would be required to stimulate local consumption. In order to compete successfully with oversea coal it was estimated that a reduction of at least 5s. per ton was necessary, and the Commonwealth Government undertook to help the industry by paying a Commonwealth bounty of 1s. per ton upon all coal shipped out of New South Wales.

These proposals were submitted to the Coal and Shale Employees' Federation, and were rejected by the officials on the ground that the employees were not prepared to accept any reduction in rates of wages. The owners thereupon withdrew their offer to forgo 1s. per ton of their profits.

Trade continued to decline, and the proprietors of the principal collieries on the Northern field decided to close the pits, owing to the lack of orders and to their inability to compete at a profit against the oversea coal. The closing of the majority of the Northern collieries, numbering about 30 with 10,000 employees, occurred on 2nd March, 1929, after a fortnight's notice of the owners' intentions had been given to the employees.

On 31st May, a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into and make recommendations and report upon—(a) the present position of the coal industry, including the production, carriage, export, distribution, and sale of coal; (b) the causes which have led to the present position of the coal industry. The Commission met during June, and issued an interim report in September, but employees would not accept the finding. The final report of the Commission was not completed at the end of 1929.

During November, the State Government decided to open one of the collieries, and invited applications from men prepared to accept work at reduced rates of pay. The mine was opened in December, and serious disturbances occurred. Coal miners in Victoria ceased work for a short period in sympathy with the colliery employees in New South Wales.

Notwithstanding special efforts by the members of the Commonwealth and State Governments to effect a settlement of the dispute, the collieries remained idle during 1929. Numerous conferences were convened, including one under the provisions of the Industrial Peace Act, and two under Section 16 (a) of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act. The dispute continued until June, 1930, when work was resumed on reduced rates of pay, viz., 12½ per cent. on hewing rates and 6d. per day on daily rates. Further reference to this dispute will be found in Labour Report No. 20.

In regard to extensive dislocations of industry prior to the institution of systematic inquiries by this Bureau, efforts were made to obtain statistical data relating to the shearers' disputes in 1890, 1891, and 1894, and the maritime dispute in the early part of 1891, but precise information was not obtainable.

6. Duration of Industrial Disputes, 1929.—The following table gives particulars respecting the number of disputes, workpeople directly and indirectly involved, working days lost, and estimated amount of loss in wages respectively, consequent on the cessations of work recorded for Australia during the year 1929, classified under the adopted limits of duration :—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—DURATION, AUSTRALIA, 1929.(a)

Limits of Duration.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople Involved.			Number of Working Days Lost.	Total Estimated Loss in Wages.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
1 day and less .. .. .	127	41,299	828	42,127	47,869	£ 55,514
2 days and more than 1 day	31	7,942	528	8,470	15,697	16,631
3 days and more than 2 days	21	5,217	300	5,517	16,327	18,865
Over 3 days and less than 1 week (6 days) .. .. .	31	7,721	799	8,520	34,049	38,949
1 week and less than 2 weeks	23	5,540	201	5,741	47,784	51,893
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks	11	1,506	239	1,745	27,752	28,454
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks	5	154	37	191	5,262	5,812
8 weeks and over .. .. .	10	18,914	14,179	33,093	4,476,738	4,653,187
Total .. .. .	259	88,293	17,111	105,404	4,671,478	4,869,305

(a) See footnote (a) on page 390.

Similar figures for the years 1913 to 1928 will be found in previous issues of the Year Book and in the Labour Reports of this Bureau.

7. Causes of Industrial Disputes, 1913 to 1929.—The following table shows the number of disputes, number of workpeople involved, and the total number of working days lost in disputes during the years 1913 and 1924 to 1929, classified according to principal cause :—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—CAUSES, AUSTRALIA, 1913 TO 1929.

Causes of Dispute.	1913.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
<b>NUMBER OF DISPUTES.</b>							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase .. .. .	42	44	33	23	24	8	8
(b) Against decrease .. .. .	4	7	5	5	4	3	6
(c) Other wage questions .. .. .	31	95	99	67	66	39	45
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction .. .. .	3	2	4	13	14	2	6
(b) Other disputes re hours .. .. .	7	4	6	2	4	2	2
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists .. .. .	8	6	8	5	12	6	3
(b) Other union questions .. .. .	5	31	27	22	24	11	12
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons .. .. .	44	137	118	108	152	105	87
5. Working Conditions .. .. .	51	111	106	46	72	48	31
6. Sympathetic .. .. .	5	8	16	8	5	9	6
7. Other Causes .. .. .	8	59	77	61	64	54	53
Total .. .. .	208	504	499	360	441	287	(a)259
<b>NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.</b>							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase .. .. .	8,633	8,312	23,443	17,046	7,316	2,775	1,414
(b) Against decrease .. .. .	563	1,113	1,123	1,275	300	1,317	11,332
(c) Other wage questions .. .. .	7,160	30,585	31,387	18,883	20,297	17,057	8,742
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction .. .. .	460	1,328	462	9,730	7,813	61	21,646
(b) Other disputes re hours .. .. .	1,819	1,172	2,668	290	288	1,005	2,067
3. Trades Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists .. .. .	5,370	1,005	1,592	125	4,432	193	103
(b) Other union questions .. .. .	1,418	12,078	10,957	3,790	25,848	2,311	4,367
4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons .. .. .	11,370	39,839	36,075	25,165	55,174	35,379	22,933
5. Working Conditions .. .. .	10,785	36,630	35,034	12,889	29,766	14,169	4,672
6. Sympathetic .. .. .	947	436	5,328	3,499	1,484	6,123	11,604
7. Other Causes .. .. .	1,758	19,948	28,677	20,342	48,039	16,032	16,524
Total .. .. .	50,283	152,446	176,746	113,034	200,757	96,422	105,404

(a) See footnote (a), page 390.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES—CAUSES, AUSTRALIA, 1913 TO 1929—continued.

Causes of Dispute.	1913.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
<b>NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST.</b>							
<b>1. Wages—</b>							
(a) For increase ..	100,069	120,317	209,356	580,183	150,691	6,548	7,433
(b) Against decrease ..	9,438	13,553	24,352	2,573	2,578	3,824	2,542,157
(c) Other wage questions	78,183	111,613	154,169	82,898	83,831	80,755	47,261
<b>2. Hours of Labour—</b>							
(a) For reduction ..	2,774	130,440	12,816	280,152	305,782	725	1,887,196
(b) Other disputes re hours	15,111	42,441	16,173	290	4,487	2,667	3,183
<b>3. Trades Unionism—</b>							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	91,002	2,555	14,784	1,623	82,156	2,137	424
(b) Other union questions	32,388	40,046	105,195	15,607	204,802	8,900	49,924
<b>4. Employment of particular Classes or Persons ..</b>	191,723	253,770	214,738	114,917	310,425	423,555	78,492
<b>5. Working Conditions ..</b>	73,562	124,041	150,325	123,390	303,788	98,852	8,545
<b>6. Sympathetic ..</b>	24,066	926	41,046	33,381	3,573	106,358	23,482
<b>7. Other Causes ..</b>	5,212	78,935	185,616	70,247	261,468	42,957	23,381
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>623,528</b>	<b>918,646</b>	<b>1,128,570</b>	<b>1,310,261</b>	<b>1,713,581</b>	<b>777,278</b>	<b>4,671,478</b>

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 1929 the number of disputes concerning "Wages" represented only 23 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 and 1929. "Sympathetic" disputes have not been numerous during the past three years.

8. Results of Industrial Disputes.—The following table shows the number of disputes, number of workpeople involved, and the number of working days lost in disputes throughout Australia during the five years 1925 to 1929, classified according to results :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO RESULTS.—AUSTRALIA, 1925 TO 1929.(a)

Year.	No. of Disputes.				Number of Workpeople Involved in Disputes.				Total Number of Working Days Lost by Disputes.			
	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.
1925 ..	130	335	20	6	50,983	116,658	4,844	2,829	448,136	549,796	52,321	12,923
1926 ..	72	243	30	11	11,631	85,115	14,220	1,623	73,313	891,093	257,004	21,486
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 a b	70	134	44	5	11,200	59,659	7,150	15,304	38,943	1,995,064	43,174	26,302

(a) See footnote (a), page 390.

(b) The following particulars of disputes which were incomplete at the 31st December, 1929, should be added to the above figures to effect a balance with those published in the preceding table :—New South Wales and Australia—6 disputes; 41 establishments; 12,091 workpeople involved; and 2,567,995 working days lost.

9. Methods of Settlement.—The following tables show for Australia the number of disputes, number of workpeople involved, and number of working days lost in industrial disputes during the years 1913 and 1924 to 1929, classified according to the adopted schedule of methods of settlement :—

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.—METHODS OF SETTLEMENT, AUSTRALIA, 1913 TO 1929.(a)

Methods of Settlement.	1913.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.(b)
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.							
Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	119	264	209	166	229	138	129
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	17	20	24	16	18	8	8
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	19	11	12	8	13	10	3
By reference to Board or Court	22	7	2	10	19	8	1
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	4	12	13	13	19	6	6
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked Out	13	5	4	8	5	10	7
By Closing-down Establishment permanently	1	2	1		10	3	3
By Other Methods	13	179	226	135	122	99	96
Total	208	500	491	356	435	282	(b)253

## NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	23,357	70,895	75,961	44,995	94,070	37,708	22,193
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	3,172	4,448	12,767	17,072	5,839	1,242	19,161
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	6,505	2,519	1,781	936	3,763	2,009	487
By reference to Board or Court	12,774	2,952	208	684	4,314	2,975	56
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	659	4,262	3,251	4,332	33,517	1,497	511
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked Out	658	130	160	245	533	11,047	5,411
By Closing-down Establishment permanently	170	170	28		1,104	266	144
By Other Methods	2,988	66,370	81,158	44,325	56,860	38,916	45,350
Total	50,283	151,746	175,314	112,589	200,000	95,660	93,313

## NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST.

Negotiations—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	94,400	373,155	470,110	417,158	700,968	273,254	96,475
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	26,335	103,005	320,046	549,427	100,148	36,937	1,279,258
Under State Industrial Acts—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	187,871	41,900	17,650	11,261	80,815	38,878	5,261
By reference to Board or Court	221,769	142,939	4,338	8,744	60,236	29,533	56
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	2,105	74,376	67,272	134,841	305,303	3,962	1,882
By Filling Places of Workpeople on Strike or Locked Out	14,139	3,040	1,163	2,865	9,706	266,369	610,686
By Closing-down Establishment permanently	20,400	1,250	1,932		30,289	750	9,861
By other Methods	56,509	150,526	180,665	118,580	422,094	96,637	100,004
Total	623,528	890,191	1,063,176	1,242,896	1,709,559	746,320	2,103,483

(a) See footnote on page 390.

(b) See footnote (b) on previous page.

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 253 disputes during 1929, 129 or 51 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 1929 was 4 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 for 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.

## § 2. Fluctuations in Employment.

1. *General.*—The particulars given in the following tables are based upon information furnished by the secretaries of trade unions. The membership of the unions regularly reporting exceeds 400,000. Unemployment returns are not collected from unions the members of which are in permanent employment, such as railway and tramway employees, and public servants, or from unions whose members are casually employed (wharf labourers, etc.). Very few of the unions pay unemployment benefit, but the majority of the larger organizations have permanent secretaries and organizers who are closely in touch with the members and with the state of trade within their particular industries. In many cases unemployment registers are kept, and provision is made in the rules for payment of reduced subscriptions by members out of work. In view of these facts, and of the large membership of the unions from which quarterly returns are received, percentage unemployment results based on the information supplied may be taken to show the general trend of unemployment. Seasonal fluctuations in unemployment have been provided for by collecting returns quarterly since the 1st January, 1913, the yearly figures quoted representing the average of the four quarters.

2. *Unemployment.*—(i) *States.* In addition to the qualifications referred to above, allowance must be made for the circumstance that the industries included in the returns from trade unions are not quite identical in the various States. The results, may, however, be taken as representing fairly well labour conditions generally.

### UNEMPLOYMENT.—STATES, 1929.

State.	Unions Reporting. ✓		Unemployed.	
	Number.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
New South Wales .. .. .	107	181,478	20,846	11.5
Victoria .. .. .	76	113,740	12,740	11.1
Queensland .. .. .	47	55,284	3,917	7.1
South Australia .. .. .	60	38,100	5,979	15.7
Western Australia .. .. .	58	26,386	2,633	9.9
Tasmania .. .. .	34	9,105	1,244	13.4
<b>Australia .. .. .</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>424,093</b>	<b>47,359</b>	<b>11.1</b>

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

UNEMPLOYMENT.—AUSTRALIA, 1925 TO 1929.

Particulars.	Unions.	Membership.	Unemployed.	
			Number.	Percentage.
1925 .. .. .	380	391,380	34,620	8.8
1926 .. .. .	374	415,397	29,326	7.1
1927 .. .. .	375	445,985	31,032	7.0
1928 .. .. .	375	423,422	45,669	10.8
1929 .. .. .	382	424,093	47,359	11.1
1928 1st Quarter .. .. .	378	427,992	45,638	10.7
2nd „ .. .. .	363	416,827	46,656	11.2
3rd „ .. .. .	378	419,899	47,745	11.4
4th „ .. .. .	379	428,970	42,637	9.9
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

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; they do not include persons out of work through strikes or lock-outs.

The highest percentage of unemployed yet recorded (13.1) was reached in the fourth quarter of 1929.

(iii) *Industrial Groups.* The next table shows the percentages unemployed in industrial groups. Industries in which employment is either unusually stable or exceptionally casual, such as railways, shipping, agricultural, pastoral, etc., and domestic, hotels, etc., are insufficiently represented in the returns owing to the impossibility of securing the necessary information from the trade unions. Particulars are not, therefore, shown separately for these groups, such returns as are available being included in the last group, "Other and Miscellaneous."

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.—AUSTRALIA, 1929.

Industrial Group.	Number Reporting.		Unemployed.	
	Unions.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	15	15,059	1,949	12.4
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	63	81,560	9,999	12.3
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	51	34,266	3,541	10.3
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. ..	21	38,027	4,083	10.7
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	12	20,121	624	3.1
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	60	39,215	7,322	18.6
VII. Building .. .. .	45	51,871	6,001	11.4
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	19	22,193	2,536	11.3
X. Land Transport other than Rail- way and Tramway Services ..	12	15,754	1,348	8.6
IX., XI., XII., XIII., and XIV. Other and Miscellaneous ..	84	106,027	9,956	9.4
All Groups .. .. .	382	424,093	47,359	11.1

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.

### § 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, but further investigations are being made, and additional information will be found in the Appendix to this volume.

## 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, 156 industrial unions of employers and 153 industrial unions of employees, the membership of the latter being 322,618; Queensland, 5 industrial unions of employers with 9,505 members and 78 industrial unions of employees with approximately 149,450 members; South Australia, 24 organizations of employees with 24,652 members; Western Australia, 37 organizations of employers with 1,111 members, and 129 organizations of employees with 47,295 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, 1929, there were on the register 28 organizations of employers with 17,810 persons, firms or corporations affiliated; and 137 organizations of employees with approximately 771,000 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 1929 :—

**TRADE UNIONS, BRANCHES, AND MEMBERS, 1929.**

State or Territory.	Number of Separate Unions.	Number of Branches.	Number of Members.
New South Wales .. .. .	195(c)	598	354,430(c)
Victoria .. .. .	151	410	240,809
Queensland .. .. .	106	315	154,627
South Australia .. .. .	105	173	69,479
Western Australia .. .. .	129	189	63,619
Tasmania .. .. .	81	72	17,215
Northern Territory .. .. .	4	..	989
Total .. .. .	771	1,757	901,168
Australia (a) .. .. .	374(a)	2,154(b)	901,168

(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 7 unions with a membership of 917 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 interstate 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 374 distinct organizations and interstate groups of organizations in Australia, having 2,154 State branches and sub-branches, and a total of 901,168 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, 1925 TO 1929.

Industrial Groups.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
NUMBER OF UNIONS.					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	18 (4)	18 (4)	18 (4)	18 (4)	18 (4)
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	68 (21)	68 (22)	61 (23)	60 (23)	61 (22)
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	65 (39)	65 (35)	63 (32)	65 (33)	65 (33)
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. ..	22 (10)	22 (9)	24 (11)	25 (12)	25 (12)
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	14 (10)	14 (9)	13 (8)	14 (8)	14 (8)
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	78 (36)	77 (37)	80 (41)	78 (40)	79 (42)
VII. Building ..	51 (31)	51 (31)	49 (28)	51 (28)	50 (28)
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	15 (12)	15 (12)	15 (12)	17 (14)	18 (14)
IX. Railway and Tramway Services ..	50 (33)	51 (33)	51 (28)	51 (30)	52 (31)
X. Other Land Transport ..	13 (8)	13 (8)	13 (8)	12 (6)	11 (5)
XI. Shipping, etc. ..	56 (31)	54 (26)	54 (24)	58 (29)	59 (28)
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. ..	8 (3)	8 (3)	8 (3)	8 (3)	8 (3)
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	22 (16)	23 (16)	23 (19)	24 (20)	24 (19)
XIV. Miscellaneous ..	263 (128)	289 (127)	287 (128)	287 (130)	287 (125)
Total ..	743 (382) <sup>a</sup>	768 (372) <sup>a</sup>	759 (369) <sup>a</sup>	768 (379) <sup>a</sup>	771 (374) <sup>a</sup>
NUMBER OF MEMBERS.					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	32,279	35,815	37,110	35,740	35,898
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	72,750	79,201	82,720	87,417	85,425
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. ..	58,326	67,255	70,012	71,994	71,948
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. ..	44,632	47,932	53,641	56,874	56,300
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	16,532	18,592	19,214	19,771	19,817
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	41,689	44,605	47,671	46,779	44,633
VII. Building ..	55,314	53,881	57,234	60,416	61,191
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	44,403	46,014	49,179	43,044	43,098
IX. Railway and Tramway Services ..	108,037	114,899	121,300	116,061	113,281
X. Other Land Transport ..	18,219	20,844	22,137	20,632	18,817
XI. Shipping, etc. ..	39,309	40,594	42,702	38,361	33,308
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. ..	48,157	54,173	60,894	55,547	50,266
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	24,251	25,760	28,313	30,488	29,767
XIV. Miscellaneous ..	191,824	202,413	220,025	228,417	232,359
Total ..	795,722	851,478	911,652	911,541	901,168

(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, 1925 to 1929. 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, 1925 TO 1929.**

Particulars.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
<b>MALES.</b>					
Estimated Total No. of Employees 20 years of age and over .. .. .	1,200,592	1,240,914	1,267,636	1,288,200	1,302,400
No. of Members of Unions .. .. .	699,399	745,681	793,131	785,189	774,031
Percentage of Members on Estimated Total					
Number of Employees .. .. .	58.3	60.1	62.6	60.9	59.4
Junior Workers (under 20) .. .. .	222,530	230,003	234,994	239,050	241,000
<b>FEMALES.</b>					
Estimated Total No. of Employees 20 years of age and over .. .. .	286,053	293,594	299,205	304,000	308,200
No. of Members of Unions .. .. .	96,323	105,797	118,521	126,352	127,137
Percentage of Members on Estimated Total					
Number of Employees .. .. .	33.7	36.0	39.6	41.5	41.3
Junior Workers (under 20) .. .. .	126,212	129,540	132,015	134,200	136,000

(v) *Interstate or Federated Unions.* The following table gives particulars as to the number and membership of interstate or federated unions in 1929 :—

**INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED UNIONS.—AUSTRALIA, 1929.**

Particulars.	Unions Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States. (a)	
Number of Unions .. .. .	19	13	16	20	43	111
Number of Members .. .. .	26,055	53,967	107,030	208,721	352,765	748,538

(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 111 out of the 374 separate associations and groups of associations in Australia are organized on an interstate basis. The membership of these 111 unions reaches 748,538, or 83 per cent. of the membership (901,168) 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 1929 :—

**CENTRAL LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.—NUMBER, AND UNIONS AFFILIATED, 1929.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
Number of Councils	3	5	4	2	9	2	1	26
Number of Unions and Branch Unions affiliated ..	87	189	78	64	227	59	1	705

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. Owing to considerations of space these references have been omitted from the present issue.

## § 2. Employers' Associations.

1. **General.**—Recent investigations show that the spirit of associations 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 1925 to 1929 :—

### EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.—STATES, 1925 TO 1929.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total.
NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS.							
1925 .. ..	133	141	78	52	51	25	480
1926 .. ..	136	143	72	52	50	25	478
1927 .. ..	141	136	77	52	52	27	485
1928 .. ..	146	140	76	56	59	28	505
1929 .. ..	146	154	80	56	62	29	527
NUMBER OF BRANCHES.							
1925 .. ..	480	621	194	1	17	2	1,315
1926 .. ..	464	617	183	..	16	..	1,280
1927 .. ..	325	483	109	..	281	1	1,699
1928 .. ..	907	525	188	13	301	1	1,935
1929 .. ..	921	526	191	12	301	6	1,957
MEMBERSHIP.							
1925 .. ..	38,931	34,274	17,831	6,346	3,369	2,599	103,350
1926 .. ..	42,666	32,386	21,113	6,572	8,356	2,481	113,574
1927 .. ..	53,715	31,629	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

The large increase shown for "Number of Branches" since the year 1925 is 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 1928 and 1929.

## EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.—AUSTRALIA, 1928 AND 1929.

Class.	Number of Associations.		Number of Branches.		Membership.	
	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	20	20	3	3	1,425	1,740
II. Engineering, etc. ..	15	16	12	12	2,874	3,271
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	108	111	71	82	17,751	19,603
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc. ..	19	18	2	2	2,658	2,323
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	43	43	2	2	3,435	3,453
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	50	51	1	3	3,458	3,722
VII. Building ..	27	27	19	17	3,770	3,795
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. ..	13	13	..	..	240	245
X. Other Land Transport ..	16	18	21	21	2,525	2,836
XI. Shipping, etc. ..	15	16	6	6	232	241
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	35	44	1,772	1,785	69,782	74,592
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	19	21	..	..	1,933	1,869
XIV. Miscellaneous ..	125	129	26	24	17,098	17,652
Total ..	505	527	1,935	1,957	127,181	135,342

The female membership of these associations was 5,929 for 1928, and 5,282 for 1929.

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 1925 to 1929 :—

## INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS, 1925 TO 1929.

Particulars.	Associations Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States.	
NO. OF ASSOCIATIONS.						
1925 .. ..	3	5	4	10	8	30
1926 .. ..	4	3	5	8	8	28
1927 .. ..	4	1	4	9	14	32
1928 .. ..	3	3	3	11	16	36
1929 .. ..	3	4	4	10	16	37
NO. OF MEMBERS.						
1925 .. ..	3,899	535	634	20,549	25,778	51,395
1926 .. ..	534	432	1,861	24,118	25,950	52,895
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

The above table shows that associations having 78 per cent. of the total membership (135,342) of employers' organizations are grouped together on an interstate basis.