

CHAPTER XI.

LABOUR, WAGES AND PRICES.

A. RETAIL PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.

§ 1. Collection of Information as to Retail Prices.

The retail prices of the extensive range of commodities and services in common demand (generally referred to as the "regimen") used in compiling the All Items ("C" Series) Retail Price Index have been ascertained at frequent and regular intervals since 1923 for each of the six capital cities and for 27 of the more important towns of Australia. Comparable information is available for the month of November in each year 1914 to 1922 for each of the six capital cities. The complete list of items covered by the retail price regimen is published in the annual *Labour Report*, and a summary of the main groups and sections of the regimen is given in § 6 of this chapter.

The retail prices of food and groceries in approximately 200 towns throughout Australia were collected as at November of each year from 1913 to 1942, when collection was discontinued.

Retail prices of food and groceries and average rentals of houses for earlier years extending back to 1901 were collected by this Bureau, and in some cases have been recorded by the Statisticians of various States as far back as 1864.

The methods by which prices used in the "C" Series Index are ascertained and the measures adopted to ensure their accuracy and comparability are briefly as follows :—

- (i) Representative and reputable retailers are selected for each city and town covered by the Index and each is required to furnish information as to prices monthly in respect of food and groceries and quarterly in respect of other items. Prices for each item are obtained where practicable from ten or more retailers in each of the capital cities, and from five or more retailers in each of the provincial towns. To cover all commodities in the regimen, collection is made from approximately sixty retailers in each capital city and thirty in each provincial town.
- (ii) Information is collected under authority of the Census and Statistics Act 1905-1949, which requires that information be supplied accurately and promptly and ensures that particulars supplied by individual retailers will not be divulged to any other person or Government authority. Penalties are provided against failure to supply information, against supplying false information and against failure to answer truthfully any question asked by an authorized officer in respect of the contents of any return.
- (iii) The actual collection of returns is carried out by qualified Field Officers of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics working under the supervision of the Statisticians of the respective States. These Field Officers have very wide powers of investigation, including entry of premises and inspection of goods, records, etc.

- (iv) The Field Officers not only receive and check returns but visit the retail shops concerned, whenever necessary, to obtain requisite information. In respect of articles of clothing and the like, where variation of quality may be considerable, Field Officers are equipped with samples of the goods used for price comparisons. In such cases the Field Officers visit every retail informant at each quarterly collection and personally inspect the relevant goods and prices thereof.
- (v) Before each quarterly collection Supervising Field Officers review the standards of the whole of the items for which prices are collected after making extensive inquiries among manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers. These Supervising Field Officers periodically accompany Field Officers at their price collections and check their work. This not only ensures accuracy and assiduity but also that all Field Officers work on uniform lines and that, as far as care and effort can make it possible, prices for identical goods and quality will be recorded at all times and for all places.
- (vi) The list of items in the regimen and the standards thereof are revised from time to time to keep them in harmony with changing conditions. Where such changes become necessary suitable adjustment is made in computing the retail price index to ensure that it reflects changes in price with due precision and that it is not vitiated by the influence of other changes. (See also § 8 of this chapter.) Because of rapidly changing conditions since 1948, prices have been ascertained for a large number of items not embraced in the index, and for an increasing number of types of "regimen" items. The purpose of this is to ensure that the index is kept representative and reliable within its definition.
- (vii) Returns of rents for unfurnished houses of four and five rooms are made at the middle of each quarter by a representative number (ranging up to 30) of house agents in each city and town covered by the Index, for brick and wooden houses respectively, classified according to number of rooms. These returns show the weekly rental of a substantial number of individual houses, each of which is selected by the Field Officer as suitable for inclusion in a sample designed to measure the quarterly ratio of change in weekly rentals. The aim is to measure variations equivalent to change in price for a constant standard. The ratio of change is used to vary basic average rentals derived from the Census of 1933 and other records and was checked with the results of the Census of 1947. Although expressed in money terms, the average rentals as published are essentially indexes. As such they do not necessarily indicate the average amount of rental actually paid for all rented houses, and still less do they indicate the rental at which vacant or new houses can be rented.

§ 2. Retail Price Indexes.

1. *General.*—The basic principle of a retail price index is relatively simple. It is to select commodities representative of the field to be covered and to combine their prices at regular intervals in accordance with their relative importance in that field. The aim is to measure the degree of change in prices for the selected field taken as a whole.

In practice the application of this principle over a term of years presents great difficulty by reason of the numerous changes which occur in the type, grade and relative quantities of many of the items commonly used.

A full explanation of the methods adopted and an analysis of problems involved is contained in the Appendix to *Labour Report* No. 9.

For convenience the group of selected items is called a "regimen", and the quantities consumed per annum of each item used in the index are called "mass units" or "weights". These terms are used herein. In compiling the index the price of each item is multiplied by its quantity "weight", and then by its appropriate population or household "weight". The sum of these products for all items at any given date represents an "aggregate expenditure". The "aggregate expenditures" for successive periods are converted into an index by denoting the aggregate of a selected or "base" period as 1,000, and calculating all index-numbers to such base by the proportions which their aggregates bear to that of the base period. (*See also* § 6 (2) of this chapter.)

2. **Essential Features.**—Apart from clear thinking, common sense and sound arithmetic, the prime essentials in compiling a retail price index are—

- (a) that prices be accurately ascertained at regular intervals for goods of constant grade and quality;
- (b) that the regimen be as representative as possible of the field to be covered;
- (c) that the weights be in approximate proportion to quantities actually used in the selected field.

3. **The Regimen.**—The regimen must be a selected regimen because it is impossible in practice to ascertain at regular intervals prices of every item of goods and services entering into household expenditure. Even in normal times there is considerable difficulty in ensuring that the selected items are always a true sample. Some items which it would be desirable to include must be excluded because comparative prices cannot be accurately ascertained for them at different times and different places. It is deemed better to limit the regimen of the index to items for which price variations can be ascertained with reasonable accuracy than to distend the regimen by including items for which price comparisons are necessarily inaccurate. Similarly, many items of small aggregate or individual importance are excluded. The regimen of the index therefore is not (as is sometimes erroneously supposed) a basic wage regimen nor yet is it a full list of component items in a standard of living. It does not imply that any particular goods or any selected grades or quantities of these goods should enter into determination of a basic or living wage. In fact the regimen used for the "C" Series Index is simply a selected list of items combined in certain proportions for the purpose of measuring price variations. The items are representative of the fields covered, and the proportions approximate to those in average consumption so far as can be ascertained.

The regimen and "weights" used in the "C" Series Index are published in full in the annual *Labour Report*. The regimen comprises 160 commodities and services, consisting of 20 items of Groceries; 6 of Dairy Produce; 15 of Meat; 1 of Rent; 77 of Clothing and Footwear; and 41 of Miscellaneous Household Expenditure comprising Household Drapery (9), Household Utensils (20), Fuel and Light (4), Union and Lodge Dues, Medicine, Newspapers, Recreation, Smoking, Fares and School Requisites (8).

4. **Purpose of Retail Price Indexes.**—Retail price indexes are designed to measure the extent of changes in price levels only. While they may be used as indicating proportionate variations in cost of a *constant* standard of living, they do not measure the absolute cost of any standard of living, nor the cost of changes in the standard of living. In other words, they measure, as nearly as may be, the proportionate change in aggregate cost of specified quantities and qualities of the selected regimen of items included in the index. The regimen is representative of a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households (*see* the fourth paragraph on page 393).

5. **Effects of Abnormal Conditions on Indexes.**—Under abnormal conditions since 1940 scarcity of certain types of goods, erratic supply and changes of grades in common use have created unusual difficulty in obtaining the data necessary for measuring variations in prices. In some instances, this has rendered it necessary to substitute new grades,

qualities or types of articles for those formerly used as indicators of changes in price. This has been the case more particularly in the clothing, household drapery and household utensils sections of the regimen. Substitutions of similar kind were necessary at times under normal conditions in order to meet changes of fashion and usage. Such substitutions are not injurious to the index provided the transitional difficulties can be solved as they arise. No change in principle is involved. The index continues to measure as accurately as may be, price variations, and price variations only. Just as in the pre-war period, those differences in prices which are solely due to substitution of a new item for one which has ceased to be available or in common use are neutralized by taking the price of the old item as typical of price variation in its class up to the time of substitution, and the prices of the new item as typical of such changes in price thereafter.

In normal times, popular usage of items in general consumption changes slowly, and the weight of items and groups in the regimen is changed only at long intervals. In abnormal times, scarcity of supplies of some goods, rationing and kindred factors actually produce short term changes in usage. The weights applicable to the items in the regimen cannot, however, be changed frequently and at short intervals. (See § 8 (3) of this chapter.)

§ 3. Various Series of Retail Price Index-Numbers.

Two main series of retail price index-numbers are compiled and shown in some detail in the following pages, namely :—

- (i) the " B " Series Index relating only to food, groceries and housing, continuously available since 1907 ;
- (ii) the " C " Series Index relating to food, groceries, housing, clothing, household drapery and utensils, fuel and light, and other miscellaneous items of household expenditure, continuously available from 1914.

The " B " Series Index comprises only the food, groceries and housing sections of the " C " Series Index.

The " C " Series Index in total provides a reliable measure of aggregate variations in retail prices (as well as of group indexes for component sections) of a high percentage of goods and services used in wage-earner households. This index is compiled for—

- (a) the capital city of each of the six States,
- (b) four other principal towns in each of the six States,
- (c) weighted average of five towns (including capital city) in each of the six States,
- (d) weighted average for the six capital cities combined,
- (e) weighted average for the thirty towns (including capital cities),
- (f) separate indexes for Warwick, Port Augusta, Whyalla and Canberra.

The " C " Series Index forms the basis of the " Court " Series Index used by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for the " cost of living " adjustments of wages prescribed by awards made by the Court. (See § 9 of this chapter.)

§ 4. Retail Price Levels ("C" Series Index) 1914-1951.

The aggregate indexes for November, 1914, 1921 and the years 1929, 1939 and 1946 to 1951 for the Thirty Towns are published in summary form on page 389 of this chapter, while the following table furnishes the relevant index-numbers for the Six Capital Cities as a whole for certain significant dates since November, 1914—the earliest date for which this index is available.

ALL ITEMS ("C" SERIES) RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX CAPITAL CITIES.

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

1914, November	..	..	..	687 (Beginning of War I.)
1918, November	..	..	..	905 (End of War I.)
1920, November	..	..	..	1,166 (Post-War peak)
1922, November	..	..	..	975 (Post-War trough)
1929, Year	..	..	..	1,033 (Pre-Depression peak)
1933, Year	..	..	..	804 (Depression trough)
1939, September Quarter	..	..	..	916 (Pre-War II.)
1943, March Quarter	..	..	..	1,123 (Pre-Price Stabilization)
1943, June Quarter	..	..	..	1,143 (War II. peak)
1945, September Quarter	..	..	..	1,126 (End of War II.)
1951, December Quarter	..	..	..	2,042

The index reveals a rise of approximately 32 per cent. during the first world war, followed by a further rise of 29 per cent. in the two post-war years (November, 1918, to November, 1920). From November, 1920 to November, 1922, there was a fall of 16 per cent. and the index remained relatively stable until the onset of the depression in 1929. During the four years of the depression 1929 to 1933 the index fell by 22 per cent., rising thereafter steadily until 1939 when it was nearly 14 per cent. above the level of 1933, and approximately at the level it had occupied at the date of the Armistice of 1918. Between the outbreak of war (September, 1939) and March, 1943 (pre-price stabilization) the index rose by approximately 23 per cent. to a level slightly below that reached at the height of the post-war boom in 1920. Compared with the March Quarter, 1943, the index-number at the close of the war was practically unchanged. At December Quarter, 1951, the level was approximately 75 per cent. above that of the 1920 peak period.

Immediately after the outbreak of the war price control was established by the Government under Regulations dated 28th September, 1939, and a national policy of price stabilization was applied as from 12th April, 1943, backed by more stringent price control and price subsidies. The retail price level, as measured by the index, remained relatively steady throughout 1944 and 1945 at the level of March, 1943. This stabilized level was approximately 23 per cent. above that of 1939 and 63 per cent. above the level prevailing at the beginning of the first world war in 1914. Since June Quarter, 1946, war-time controls, subsidies, etc., have been progressively modified and inflationary influences have supervened. The retail price index for December Quarter, 1951, was 123 per cent. above that of September Quarter, 1939, and 81 per cent. above the level of September Quarter, 1945.

A reference to price control measures and to price stabilization in Australia is given on page 398.

The movement in the various groups of the index and in the index as a whole for each year for which it has been compiled is shown in the following table for the six capital cities as a whole.

ALL ITEMS (" C " SERIES) RETAIL PRICE INDEX AND ITS " GROUP " INDEX-NUMBERS(a) FOR THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED, 1914 TO 1951.

(Base of Each Group : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000)

Period.	Food and Groceries.	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms). (b)	Food, Groceries and Rent (4 and 5 Rooms) (" B " Series).	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	All Items (" C " Series) Index.
1914 (c)	641	649	644	754	749	687
1915 (c)	842	659	777	792	786	782
1916 (c)	812	665	760	881	802	795
1917 (c)	836	685	782	994	882	847
1918 (c)	861	722	812	1,097	972	905
1919 (c)	1,026	768	934	1,238	1,036	1,022
1920 (c)	1,209	851	1,082	1,365	1,194	1,166
1921 (c)	950	877	924	1,246	1,010	1,013
1922 (c)	945	929	939	1,052	999	975
1923.. ..	1,009	950	988	1,045	999	1,003
1924.. ..	969	988	975	1,003	1,004	987
1925.. ..	998	1,008	1,002	991	992	997
1926.. ..	1,023	1,026	1,024	986	998	1,011
1927.. ..	1,000	1,030	1,011	975	1,008	1,002
1928.. ..	985	1,066	1,014	997	1,010	1,009
1929.. ..	1,044	1,073	1,054	996	1,007	1,033
1930.. ..	941	1,047	978	951	999	975
1931.. ..	826	901	852	853	973	873
1932.. ..	796	817	803	804	958	830
1933.. ..	751	804	768	787	950	804
1934.. ..	783	810	792	785	944	817
1935.. ..	806	839	818	783	946	832
1936.. ..	825	879	844	792	947	850
1937.. ..	851	912	872	811	960	873
1938.. ..	886	942	906	829	961	897
1939.. ..	927	965	939	841	962	920
1940.. ..	939	973	950	956	998	957
1941.. ..	947	976	956	1,118	1,060	1,008
1942.. ..	1,031	976	1,007	1,308	1,112	1,091
1943.. ..	1,037	975	1,011	1,440	1,160	1,131
1944.. ..	1,026	976	1,004	1,435	1,165	1,126
1945.. ..	1,034	975	1,009	1,425	1,161	1,126
1946.. ..	1,036	976	1,010	1,505	1,167	1,145
1947.. ..	1,100	977	1,050	1,566	1,199	1,188
1948.. ..	1,256	979	1,145	1,744	1,257	1,295
1949.. ..	1,394	982	1,230	1,997	1,338	1,415
1950.. ..	1,566	987	1,336	2,286	1,435	1,560
1951.. ..	2,041	1,009	1,634	2,749	1,679	1,883
Quarter—						
1939—March	935	959	942	832	960	919
June	925	963	938	836	961	917
September	920	967	936	836	961	916
December	927	969	941	858	967	926
1947—March	1,071	976	1,032	1,525	1,181	1,165
June	1,088	976	1,042	1,534	1,184	1,174
September	1,104	977	1,052	1,566	1,213	1,192
December	1,138	977	1,073	1,639	1,217	1,221
1948—March	1,190	978	1,105	1,661	1,231	1,248
June	1,229	979	1,129	1,720	1,248	1,278
September	1,274	979	1,156	1,778	1,271	1,311
December	1,330	980	1,190	1,818	1,277	1,341
1949—March	1,361	981	1,209	1,849	1,304	1,364
June	1,388	981	1,226	1,963	1,325	1,403
September	1,396	982	1,232	2,043	1,345	1,428
December	1,429	983	1,252	2,132	1,378	1,466
1950—March	1,473	984	1,279	2,156	1,402	1,491
June	1,520	986	1,308	2,261	1,413	1,534
September	1,582	987	1,346	2,316	1,432	1,572
December	1,689	989	1,412	2,410	1,492	1,643
1951—March	1,790	1,004	1,480	2,487	1,564	1,713
June	1,925	1,007	1,563	2,746	1,641	1,833
September	2,136	1,010	1,692	2,833	1,715	1,943
December	2,311	1,013	1,800	2,930	1,794	2,042

(a) See footnote (a) on page 383.

(b) See footnote (b) on page 383.

(c) November.

§ 5. Increases in Retail Prices since Outbreak of War in 1939.

1. Australia.—The following statement shows for the Six State Capitals and Canberra separately and for the Six State Capitals as a whole, the percentage increases which have taken place in retail prices of items included in the "C" Series Index from September Quarter, 1939 to December Quarter, 1951, inclusive. The proportionate increase in the total index for each capital city is shown in the line marked "Total". In the column headed "C" Series Index the total percentage rise is dissected to show what part of it was due to the rise in prices in each of the four main groups of items. Thus, of the 125.1 per cent. increase for Sydney 56.8 was due to food and groceries, 0.4 to house rent, 50.1 to clothing and 17.8 to miscellaneous items. The column headed "Group Index" shows the percentage increase in prices of items in each group considered as a group. Thus for Sydney, prices in the food and groceries group increased by 158.2 per cent., house rents by 1.6 per cent., prices of clothing by 252.4 per cent. and prices of miscellaneous items by 95.5 per cent. These when weighted and combined in the proportions of the "C" Series Index showed a rise of 125.1 per cent. For the Six Capital Cities as a whole the increase over the period shown was 122.9 per cent.

ALL ITEMS ("C" SERIES) RETAIL PRICE INDEX.

PERCENTAGE INCREASES SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1939 TO DECEMBER QUARTER, 1951.

Group.	Sydney.		Melbourne.		Brisbane.		Adelaide.	
	"C" Series Index.	Group Index.	"C" Series Index.	Group Index.	"C" Series Index.	Group Index.	"C" Series Index.	Group Index.
Food and Groceries	(a) 56.8	158.2	(a) 55.1	150.4	(a) 53.6	150.9	(a) 51.4	144.9
House Rent ..	(a) 0.4	1.6	(a) 0.6	2.4	(a) 2.4	10.8	(a) 1.8	7.9
Clothing ..	(a) 50.1	252.4	(a) 49.4	250.7	(a) 51.5	243.4	(a) 51.2	244.0
Miscellaneous ..	(a) 17.8	95.5	(a) 16.4	83.7	(a) 15.8	77.4	(a) 16.0	76.7
Total ..	125.1	125.1	121.5	121.5	123.3	123.3	120.4	120.4

Group.	Perth.		Hobart.		Six State Capitals.(b)		Canberra.	
	"C" Series Index.	Group Index.	"C" Series Index.	Group Index.	"C" Series Index.	Group Index.	"C" Series Index.	Group Index.
Food and Groceries	(a) 47.4	126.0	(a) 53.1	145.9	(a) 54.7	151.2	(a) 54.4	137.5
House Rent ..	(a) 4.9	21.8	(a) 3.3	14.0	(a) 1.2	4.8	(a) 0.5	2.0
Clothing ..	(a) 52.0	256.1	(a) 50.7	245.3	(a) 50.2	250.5	(a) 50.7	258.2
Miscellaneous ..	(a) 15.7	80.5	(a) 16.5	85.5	(a) 16.8	86.7	(a) 15.5	91.9
Total ..	120.0	120.0	123.6	123.6	122.9	122.9	121.1	121.1

(a) Dissection of percentage rise in total index to show amount due to rise in each group. (b) Weighted average Six State Capitals.

The foregoing comparisons refer to two points of time (i.e., the months immediately preceding the war and the closing months of 1951, at each of which special temporary factors may have influenced relative price levels. For instance, prices of certain foods (e.g., meat) fluctuate with seasonal conditions. The percentage increases shown do not, therefore, necessarily indicate the degree of increase due solely to causes peculiar to the war and post-war period.

2. *International Comparisons.*—The following table shows the increase during this period in Australia and certain other countries. The increases during the first world war have also been included.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS.

(FOOD, RENT, CLOTHING, MISCELLANEOUS HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE.)

Date.	Australia.	United Kingdom.	Canada.	New Zealand.	Union of South Africa.	United States of America
(A) : 1914-1919.						
1914 July	(a) 100	100	100	100	100(c)	100
1915 Year	114	125	97	108	103	102
1916 "	116	148	102	115	106	109
1917 "	123	180	130	125	114	128
1918 "	132	203	146	135	118	156
1919 "	149	208	155	145	126	175

(a) November.

(b) Food, Fuel, Light and Rent.

(c) Average for year 1914.

(B) : 1939-1951.

1939—					(a)	
September Quarter ..	100	100	100	100	100	100
1944—Year (b) ..	123	129	118	116	130	125
1945— " (b) ..	123	131	119	118	133	127
1946— " (b) ..	125	131	123	118	135	138
1947— " (b) ..	130	(c) 102	134	122	141	158
1948— " (b) ..	141	108	154	132	149	170
1949— " ..	154	111	160	(d) 134	154	168
1950— " ..	170	114	165	142	160	171
1951— " ..	206	124	183	157	172	185
1949—March Quarter..	149	100	158	133	153	160
June " ..	153	110	159	133	155	169
Sept. " ..	156	111	161	135	154	168
Dec. " ..	160	112	161	135	154	167
1950—March Quarter..	163	113	161	136	157	166
June " ..	167	114	163	140	160	168
Sept. " ..	172	114	167	145	160	172
Dec. " ..	179	116	169	147	164	176
1951—March Quarter..	187	118	174	149	168	182
June " ..	200	123	181	155	171	184
Sept. " ..	212	127	187	161	173	185
Dec. " ..	223	129	189	164	176	187

(a) Food, Rent and Miscellaneous Expenditure.

(b) Quarterly indexes appear in preceding issues.

(c) New series (Base : 17th June, 1947 = 100), commencing from September Quarter, 1947. (d) Consumers' Price Index from March Quarter, 1949, onwards. Index-numbers for earlier periods (shown for purposes of comparison) are obtained by linking the movement in the Retail Price Index (base 1926-30) with the new index.

At various stages during the first world war most of these countries introduced some measures of price control. But in the second world war they introduced price control measures at an early stage and these became more stringent as the war progressed, culminating in a policy of price stabilization.

Immediately after the outbreak of war in September, 1939, the Commonwealth Government took steps to control prices, and, by proclamations issued from day to day, pegged prices of various commodities at those ruling on 31st August, 1939. The National Security (Prices) Regulations, proclaimed on 28th September, 1939, under the authority of the National Security Act, established the basic principles of war-time price control, provided for the appointment of a Commonwealth Prices Commissioner and conferred upon him extensive powers to control the price of goods declared for that purpose by the Minister for Trade and Customs. Further reference to this control appears on page 398.

§ 6. Construction of All Items ("C" Series) Retail Price Index.

1. The Regimen.—The regimen from which the "C" Series Index is compiled consists of a list of commodities and services which commonly enter into the consumption of the average household, and in respect of which comparative prices can be ascertained with due precision from time to time and from place to place. (See § 2 (3 and 4) above). The regimen is divided into the following Groups and Sections:—

Group.	Section.
I. Food and Groceries	A.—Groceries. B.—Dairy Produce. C.—Meat.
II. Housing	D.—House Rent. E.—Clothing—Man. F.—Clothing—Woman.
III. Clothing	G.—Clothing—Boy (10½ years). H.—Clothing—Girl (7 years). J.—Clothing—Boy (3½ years).
IV. Miscellaneous	K.—Household Drapery. L.—Household Utensils. M.—Fuel and Light. N.—Other Miscellaneous.

The "C" Series Index includes the whole of the foregoing Groups, but for many purposes indexes are required for individual Groups or Sections. For this reason the following indexes are regularly compiled at the intervals shown, and published in various publications issued by the Bureau:—

Group.(a)	Content.	Frequency.
I.	Food and Groceries	Monthly
II.	Housing (4 and 5 roomed houses) (b)	Quarterly
I. and II.	Food, Groceries and Housing (4 and 5 rooms) ("B" Series)	Quarterly
III.	Clothing	Quarterly
IV.	Miscellaneous Household Requirements	Quarterly
I., II., III. and IV.	Food, Groceries, Housing (4 and 5 rooms), Clothing and Miscellaneous ("C" Series)	Quarterly

(a) "Group" or "Sectional" index-numbers in the various tables throughout this publication cannot be compared with each other in order to show the relative cost of Food and Groceries, Housing, Clothing or Miscellaneous requirements, since each "Group" or "Section" (or combination thereof) has its own Base = 1,000, viz., the weighted average cost for the Six Capital Cities as a whole during the five-yearly period 1923-27 for that "Group" or "Section". (b) Rent.—The rent index-numbers shown in the tables in this publication measure the proportionate rise and fall in the average weekly rentals paid for houses of four and five rooms taking corresponding houses throughout. They are "price" indexes in the strict sense, i.e., they are designed to measure only the "price" element in rent fluctuations. Similarly, "average rents" where shown are indexes of "price" changes in rentals expressed in terms of pence. They are not the average of rents actually paid by all tenants of 4 and 5-roomed houses. It would be inappropriate to include the average of rents actually paid in an index designed to measure price changes only. The average of rents actually paid is ascertained periodically by Census methods—see also pages 32 and 33 of Labour Report, No. 39.

For convenience of reference two of the indexes mentioned above have been given the "series" designation shown against them. These indexes are dealt with in turn in the following pages.

2. The Mass Units (or "Weights").—The "mass units" (or "weights") are multipliers representing the approximate average annual consumption *per head or per household* under normal conditions. The index-numbers are computed on a "total annual aggregative expenditure" basis, i.e., the total annual expenditure from time to time by a *standard population* in respect of the selected regimen of commodities and services commonly entering into household consumption, and of a constant *standard quality*. As a first step, therefore, it is necessary to multiply the price of each item by its "weight" per head or per household as the case may be. Thus, the "weight" of bread is 100 2-lb. loaves per head; of sugar 100 lb. per head; of towels 3 per household; and of housing 52 rent-weeks per household. The result of this initial calculation is designated the "P.MU" aggregate (i.e., Price \times Mass Unit).

The sum of these "P.MU" results for each Section or Group is then multiplied by its appropriate population or household "weight" to produce their respective annual aggregate expenditures. Thus Sections A to C (Food and Groceries) are multiplied by the total population; Section D (Housing) by the total number of households; Sections E to J (Clothing) by the proportion of the total population applicable to each; and Sections K to N (Miscellaneous) by the total number of households.

The combination of the aggregates from the last paragraph gives the "total annual aggregate expenditure" for the whole regimen, from which the "C" Series index-number is derived by applying to 1,000 the ratio which the aggregate for any period bears to the aggregate for the base period of the Index. In the process of tabulation all prices are converted to pence for these final aggregates.

For tabulating purposes some of these "mass units" are varied when necessary to make up a deficiency or cancel out an excess in the aggregate resulting from a *change in the standard* of any item upon which prices are collected, to ensure that such changes shall not be wrongly recorded by the index as *variations* in prices. The published "mass units", however, still continue to show the correct *relative* consumption "weights" actually applicable to the commodities and services in the regimen for the *constant standards* used in the index. (See also § 2 (3) and 6 (3) of this chapter.)

In the case of Food and Groceries (Group I.) the "weights" adopted are approximately the annual average consumption per head for household purposes of the various articles during the years 1927 to 1929. The "weights" allotted to items in Clothing (Group III.) and Household Drapery (Section K of Group IV.) are based largely on the results of the inquiries of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, which reported in 1920 and 1921. After exhaustive inquiries the Commission published a "regimen" for an average working family of five persons, and set out the constituent items in its "Indicator List". This list, so far as it related to the articles in question was followed substantially in the original compilation of the "C" Series Index, and has been adjusted by subsequent investigations of the Bureau to accord with changes in popular usage. The "weights" allotted to the items were not adjusted to take account of war-time shortages or rationing, and the index therefore measured war-time price changes in relation to a normal (or pre-war) apportionment of household expenditure. (See § 2 (5) and § 8 (3) of this chapter.)

CONSTRUCTION OF ALL ITEMS ("C" SERIES) RETAIL PRICE INDEX. 385

3. Relative "Aggregate Expenditure" of Items and Groups.—In the *base period* of the index (the years 1923 to 1927) the relative importance of each of the four main groups expressed as a percentage of the weighted average "aggregate expenditure" in the Six Capital Cities (from which all relative index-numbers are derived) was as shown in the third column of the following table. Although the "weights" of each item in the regimen are kept virtually constant, the relative "aggregate expenditure" of the various items and groups varies from time to time as relative prices change.

The percentage distribution for Melbourne in the *base period* was practically identical with that of the Six Capital Cities as a whole, and has continued to be representative of the relative movement of prices in the capital cities up to the present time. For this and other reasons, therefore, the percentage distribution of the Melbourne "aggregate expenditure" has been published in previous issues of this publication, and the figures for December Quarter, 1951, are shown in the fourth column of the table for comparison with those of the *base period*.

Group.	Section.	Proportion of Aggregate Expenditure.			
		1923-27 (Base). Six Capital Cities.		Dec. Qtr., 1951. Melbourne.	
		%		%	
I. Food and Groceries	{ A Groceries	17.44	} 38.66	13.82	} 41.36
	{ B Dairy Produce	10.28		10.66	
	{ C Meat	10.94		16.88	
II. Housing	D House Rent— (4 and 5 roomed houses)	21.26	21.26	11.14	11.14
III. Clothing	{ E Man	8.69	} 23.04	12.29	} 31.20
	{ F Woman	9.12		14.00	
	{ G Boy, 10½ years	2.89		2.35	
	{ H Girl, 7 years	1.36		1.71	
	{ J Boy, 3½ years	0.98		0.85	
IV. Miscellaneous	{ K Household Drapery	1.09	} 17.04	2.31	} 16.30
	{ L Household Utensils	0.49		0.68	
	{ M Fuel and Light	4.92		4.57	
	{ N Other Miscellaneous	10.54		8.74	
		100.00		100.00	

4. Base Periods of the Indexes.—The base period originally adopted by the Bureau for its retail price indexes was the year 1911. When the collection of the prices of clothing and miscellaneous items was undertaken for the purposes of the "C" Series Index, the month of November, 1914, was adopted as the base period for this series. The desirability of computing retail price indexes to a new base was considered by a Conference of Statisticians in 1929, and it was resolved that from 1st January, 1930, the five years 1923-27 should be adopted as the base period, and since this date the retail price indexes

have been published on this base. The aggregate to which all index-numbers are related is the weighted "aggregate expenditure" of the regimen in the six capital cities during the period taken as base, expressed as an index-number of 1,000. Conferences of Statisticians in 1949 and 1950 left consideration of the adoption of a new base period to be made in conjunction with the next general review of the index. In the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* the index is recomputed with the three years ended June, 1939 as base.

§ 7. Tabular Statements of Retail Price Index-Numbers.

1. **General.**—The results of inquiries into price movements are available as follows :—

(i) *Monthly.* The *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* contains annual, quarterly and monthly index-numbers to the latest available date.

(ii) *Quarterly.* A statement is issued about three weeks after the end of each quarter giving the "C" Series index-numbers for that quarter and immediately preceding quarters in respect of each of the 30 cities and towns originally adopted and for certain other towns, e.g., Canberra, for which the "C" Series index-numbers are now compiled. The *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics* contains annual, quarterly and monthly index-numbers to the latest available date. This publication also contains the average prices of the items of food and groceries for each month of the last available quarter, in the 30 towns covered by the investigation. Particulars of movements in certain average rents of 4 and 5-roomed houses in these towns are also shown therein.

(iii) *Annual.* The *Labour Report* contains index-numbers for past years, and the monthly and quarterly results for recent years. The average prices for the last year of the items of food and groceries and house rents are also published in this report. This publication contains information similar to, but in less detail than, that published in the *Labour Report*.

2. **All Items ("C" Series) Retail Price Index.**—On page 380 published a table of weighted averages for the six capital cities combined of "C" Series index-numbers, together with index-numbers for each of the four main groups of items in the "C" Series Index for each year 1914 to 1951 and quarterly for the years 1939 and 1947 to 1951.

In the pages immediately following are published :—

- (i) the "C" Series index-number for the last quarter of each year 1939 and 1946 to 1951 (page 387) and for the month of November of each of the years 1914 to 1920 (page 388), for each capital city and for the six capital cities combined, and showing also separate indexes for each of the four main groups of items; and
- (ii) the "C" Series index-number for November, 1914, 1921 and the years 1929, 1939 and 1946 to 1951 (page 389) for each of the 30 towns with the weighted averages for each State, the six capital cities and 30 towns, together with index-numbers for the same periods for four additional towns for which this index is tabulated.

ALL ITEMS ("C" SERIES) RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS(a) : CAPITAL CITIES.

(Base of each Group : Weighted average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals. (b)
GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.							
Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	940	942	859	888	926	941	927
" " 1946 ..	1,047	1,044	996	996	1,052	1,084	1,037
" " 1947 ..	1,138	1,160	1,092	1,112	1,132	1,180	1,138
" " 1948 ..	1,326	1,355	1,280	1,305	1,324	1,416	1,330
" " 1949 ..	1,421	1,451	1,367	1,398	1,488	1,514	1,429
" " 1950 ..	1,713	1,724	1,551	1,606	1,707	1,665	1,689
" " 1951 ..	2,401	2,334	2,145	2,175	2,133	2,252	2,311

GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES).(c)							
Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	1,040	960	855	891	882	930	969
" " 1946 ..	1,043	973	863	895	886	936	976
" " 1947 ..	1,045	974	864	899	887	936	977
" " 1948 ..	1,047	974	866	905	890	938	980
" " 1949 ..	1,049	977	873	914	897	941	983
" " 1950 ..	1,050	979	898	937	904	941	989
" " 1951 ..	1,056	980	947	960	1,073	1,057	1,013

GROUPS I. AND II.—FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING ("B" SERIES) INDEX.							
Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	977	947	855	887	907	935	941
" " 1946 ..	1,043	1,014	942	955	985	1,024	1,011
" " 1947 ..	1,099	1,084	1,001	1,026	1,034	1,082	1,073
" " 1948 ..	1,214	1,203	1,116	1,146	1,152	1,226	1,190
" " 1949 ..	1,273	1,263	1,171	1,206	1,254	1,287	1,252
" " 1950 ..	1,451	1,429	1,293	1,341	1,390	1,379	1,412
" " 1951 ..	1,871	1,801	1,673	1,696	1,715	1,781	1,800

GROUP III.—CLOTHING.							
Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	854	862	865	869	840	867	858
" " 1946 ..	1,555	1,551	1,552	1,529	1,548	1,558	1,550
" " 1947 ..	1,639	1,649	1,619	1,618	1,647	1,653	1,639
" " 1948 ..	1,831	1,801	1,817	1,809	1,835	1,807	1,818
" " 1949 ..	2,161	2,117	2,072	2,113	2,155	2,129	2,132
" " 1950 ..	2,447	2,389	2,355	2,390	2,408	2,401	2,410
" " 1951 ..	2,964	2,886	2,864	2,962	2,977	2,942	2,930

GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.							
Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	943	983	960	1,027	957	945	967
" " 1946 ..	1,175	1,165	1,141	1,222	1,147	1,110	1,170
" " 1947 ..	1,245	1,201	1,157	1,266	1,160	1,140	1,217
" " 1948 ..	1,279	1,273	1,249	1,350	1,242	1,191	1,277
" " 1949 ..	1,389	1,307	1,316	1,410	1,305	1,234	1,378
" " 1950 ..	1,527	1,482	1,418	1,555	1,374	1,383	1,492
" " 1951 ..	1,836	1,789	1,604	1,802	1,720	1,744	1,794

GROUPS I. TO IV.—ALL ITEMS ("C" SERIES) INDEX.							
Dec. Qtr. 1939 ..	943	932	874	906	899	919	926
" " 1946 ..	1,177	1,157	1,110	1,128	1,136	1,155	1,156
" " 1947 ..	1,242	1,227	1,163	1,198	1,189	1,216	1,221
" " 1948 ..	1,359	1,345	1,291	1,327	1,316	1,344	1,341
" " 1949 ..	1,486	1,472	1,393	1,440	1,459	1,459	1,466
" " 1950 ..	1,680	1,646	1,546	1,608	1,607	1,601	1,643
" " 1951 ..	2,100	2,033	1,934	1,990	1,989	2,024	2,042

(a) See footnote (a) on page 383.

(b) Weighted average.

(c) See footnote (b) on page 383.

ALL ITEMS ("C" SERIES) RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS(a) : CAPITAL CITIES.

(Base of each Group : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals. (b)
GROUP I.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.							
Nov. 1914 ..	638	616	614	683	746	687	641
" 1915 ..	844	835	860	858	819	858	842
" 1916 ..	833	791	748	835	854	807	812
" 1917 ..	877	798	825	805	828	949	836
" 1918 ..	877	843	882	862	816	918	861
" 1919 ..	1,073	975	1,069	1,012	987	1,041	1,026
" 1920 ..	1,225	1,220	1,117	1,225	1,113	1,293	1,209
GROUP II.—HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES). (c)							
Nov. 1914 ..	758	608	463	611	586	525	649
" 1915 ..	780	611	472	574	581	571	659
" 1916 ..	791	625	467	573	592	574	665
" 1917 ..	797	657	492	606	602	586	685
" 1918 ..	832	699	526	656	619	614	722
" 1919 ..	866	744	604	707	650	746	768
" 1920 ..	980	807	634	783	718	904	851
GROUPS I. AND II.—FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING ("B" SERIES) INDEX.							
Nov. 1914 ..	680	613	560	658	689	630	644
" 1915 ..	825	756	722	758	734	756	777
" 1916 ..	818	732	648	742	761	724	760
" 1917 ..	848	748	707	734	748	820	782
" 1918 ..	861	792	756	789	746	810	812
" 1919 ..	1,000	893	904	904	867	936	934
" 1920 ..	1,138	1,074	945	1,068	973	1,155	1,082
GROUP III.—CLOTHING.							
Nov. 1914 ..	755	780	657	756	698	825	754
" 1915 ..	805	797	690	821	760	833	792
" 1916 ..	903	870	779	919	849	940	881
" 1917 ..	1,009	976	899	1,049	980	1,041	992
" 1918 ..	1,102	1,103	1,025	1,066	1,135	1,200	1,097
" 1919 ..	1,237	1,213	1,192	1,303	1,277	1,344	1,238
" 1920 ..	1,323	1,422	1,274	1,384	1,359	1,430	1,365
GROUP IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.							
Nov. 1914 ..	766	728	728	770	780	699	749
" 1915 ..	798	770	756	803	822	770	786
" 1916 ..	808	784	766	832	869	780	802
" 1917 ..	889	879	836	883	926	865	882
" 1918 ..	988	950	931	988	1,035	945	972
" 1919 ..	1,059	1,016	968	1,035	1,120	1,006	1,036
" 1920 ..	1,209	1,181	1,139	1,200	1,262	1,124	1,194
GROUPS I. TO IV.—ALL ITEMS ("C" SERIES) INDEX.							
Nov. 1914 ..	712	671	611	699	707	687	687
" 1915 ..	816	768	721	780	755	776	782
" 1916 ..	836	773	698	798	800	783	795
" 1917 ..	892	823	773	832	832	879	847
" 1918 ..	938	890	848	887	885	923	905
" 1919 ..	1,065	988	981	1,018	1,005	1,042	1,022
" 1920 ..	1,193	1,172	1,054	1,164	1,111	1,213	1,166

(a) See footnote (a) on page 383. (b) Weighted average. See page 380 for corresponding figures for years 1921 to 1951.

(c) See footnote (b) on page 383.

ALL ITEMS ("C" SERIES) RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS: THIRTY TOWNS.

(Base: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

State and Town.	Nov. 1914.	Nov. 1921.	Year 1929.	Year 1939.	Year 1946.	Year 1947.	Year 1948.	Year 1949.	Year 1950.	Year 1951.
NEW SOUTH WALES—										
Sydney	712	1,046	1,073	936	1,165	1,212	1,318	1,439	1,593	1,933
Newcastle	1,041	1,028	901	1,119	1,167	1,279	1,402	1,543	1,901
Broken Hill	975	1,018	955	1,216	1,257	1,376	1,528	1,692	1,997
Goulburn	1,033	1,108	916	1,134	1,177	1,291	1,426	1,578	1,921
Bathurst	947	979	883	1,116	1,162	1,277	1,403	1,552	1,882
FIVE TOWNS (a)	1,042	1,067	933	1,162	1,208	1,315	1,437	1,591	1,931
VICTORIA—										
Melbourne	671	1,003	1,017	924	1,149	1,188	1,294	1,415	1,565	1,880
Ballarat	992	957	874	1,094	1,132	1,243	1,365	1,509	1,857
Bendigo	1,002	969	875	1,107	1,141	1,244	1,365	1,520	1,826
Geelong	1,019	980	911	1,124	1,170	1,278	1,397	1,549	1,871
Warrnambool	1,034	960	918	1,153	1,186	1,283	1,398	1,558	1,886
FIVE TOWNS (a)	1,003	1,011	920	1,145	1,184	1,290	1,411	1,561	1,877
QUEENSLAND—										
Brisbane	611	923	923	870	1,093	1,137	1,241	1,348	1,472	1,760
Toowoomba	949	916	858	1,107	1,152	1,246	1,360	1,486	1,773
Rockhampton	972	904	867	1,096	1,140	1,241	1,357	1,491	1,785
Townsville	1,025 ^b	939 ^b	918	1,136	1,181	1,282	1,404	1,525	1,818
Bundaberg	994 ^c	931 ^c	847	1,074	1,115	1,221	1,335	1,464	1,754
FIVE TOWNS (a)	941	922	871	1,097	1,140	1,244	1,352	1,478	1,767
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—										
Adelaide	699	989	1,037	906	1,120	1,165	1,277	1,393	1,521	1,833
Kadina, etc.	998	943	810	1,020	1,067	1,166	1,295	1,423	1,742
Port Pirie	1,025	980	896	1,106	1,152	1,260	1,369	1,500	1,811
Mount Gambier	1,029	963	872	1,093	1,134	1,235	1,340	1,499	1,863
Peterborough	948	1,043	897	1,108	1,152	1,253	1,368	1,496	1,803
FIVE TOWNS (a)	992	1,030	902	1,116	1,160	1,272	1,388	1,516	1,829
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—										
Perth, etc.	707	1,008	1,026	901	1,127	1,161	1,264	1,410	1,538	1,860
Kalgoorlie, etc.	1,048	1,032	1,066	1,223	1,265	1,368	1,502	1,636	1,940
Northam	1,030 ^d	1,022	915	1,133	1,171	1,272	1,420	1,550	1,870
Nunbury	1,045	978	936	1,136	1,173	1,277	1,424	1,559	1,870
Geraldton	1,056	1,051	965	1,187	1,221	1,327	1,475	1,611	1,956
FIVE TOWNS (a)	1,020	1,026	915	1,136	1,170	1,273	1,418	1,547	1,868
TASMANIA—										
Hobart	687	1,070	1,000	908	1,138	1,178	1,292	1,419	1,526	1,861
Launceston	1,067	967	888	1,099	1,147	1,254	1,389	1,493	1,857
Burnie	1,003 ^e	966	879	1,093	1,132	1,232	1,367	1,484	1,810
Devonport	904 ^f	948	861	1,079	1,119	1,220	1,351	1,481	1,793
Queenstown	1,031	972	903	1,139	1,179	1,280	1,400	1,494	1,808
FIVE TOWNS (a)	1,057	986	898	1,121	1,164	1,274	1,404	1,511	1,852
THIRTY TOWNS (a)	1,013	1,026	917	1,142	1,185	1,292	1,413	1,556	1,880
SIX CAPITALS (a)	687	1,013	1,033	920	1,145	1,188	1,295	1,415	1,560	1,883
Warwick (Q.) (g)	994	931	834	1,087	1,138	1,234	1,349	1,461	1,751
Port Augusta (S.A.) (g)	1,035	1,061	883	1,105	1,157	1,267	1,373	1,512	1,823
Whyalla (S.A.) (g)	1,175	1,277	1,379	1,515	1,848
Canberra (A.C.T.) (g)	956	1,170	1,210	1,327	1,456	1,600	1,931

(a) Weighted average. (b) Charters Towers. (c) Warwick. (d) Midland Junction.
 (e) Zeehan. (f) Beaconsfield. (g) Not included in weighted averages above.

3. "B" Series Retail Price Index: Food, Groceries and Rent.—This index measures the prices of food and groceries and the rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses. It was first compiled for the year 1925, and retrospectively for several earlier years. It was designed to replace the "A" Series Index (food, groceries and rent of all houses), which was the original index compiled in 1912. The first of the two tables following is split up into the various sections of the regimen, and covers only the six capital cities,

while the second represents the whole regimen and covers the 30 Towns included in the tabulation of the "B" Series Index, with the weighted averages for the 5 towns in each State, the Six Capital Cities and the 30 Towns.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS(a) : CAPITAL CITIES—"B" SERIES.

(Base of each Section : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Town.	1907.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1939.	1947.	1948	1949.	1950.	1951.
SECTION A.—GROCERIES.										
Sydney	510	574	627	1,115	994	1,026	1,167	1,298	1,411	1,806
Melbourne	461	521	562	1,070	957	991	1,153	1,296	1,416	1,739
Brisbane	547	614	607	1,105	944	994	1,165	1,305	1,387	1,722
Adelaide	510	541	598	1,076	939	995	1,144	1,263	1,374	1,724
Perth	572	720	628	1,103	966	1,032	1,183	1,268	1,380	1,650
Hobart	501	566	604	1,087	947	991	1,143	1,272	1,390	1,749
Six Capitals (b)	499	564	599	1,093	969	1,008	1,161	1,292	1,404	1,757

SECTION B.—DAIRY PRODUCE.										
Sydney	551	574	656	1,080	851	977	1,165	1,306	1,439	1,723
Melbourne	571	567	635	1,087	885	998	1,189	1,330	1,441	1,715
Brisbane	495	581	588	983	793	955	1,115	1,233	1,312	1,530
Adelaide	548	651	705	1,018	800	928	1,136	1,258	1,353	1,611
Perth	709	733	735	1,152	870	1,000	1,166	1,292	1,436	1,705
Hobart	564	587	695	1,091	844	989	1,181	1,319	1,410	1,658
Six Capitals (b)	563	591	654	1,072	853	978	1,165	1,301	1,418	1,688

SECTION C.—MEAT.										
Sydney	519	501	668	960	935	1,343	1,456	1,571	1,899	2,836
Melbourne	557	485	663	1,030	968	1,365	1,502	1,649	2,000	2,866
Brisbane	535	488	610	897	822	1,223	1,343	1,453	1,695	2,231
Adelaide	553	541	784	1,095	929	1,288	1,423	1,543	1,776	2,503
Perth	789	824	881	1,103	958	1,290	1,411	1,785	2,025	2,608
Hobart	668	638	780	1,244	961	1,446	1,662	1,945	1,962	2,624
Six Capitals (b)	558	522	691	1,010	936	1,332	1,458	1,603	1,909	2,744

SECTIONS A, B AND C COMBINED.—FOOD AND GROCERIES.										
Sydney	523	553	646	1,062	936	1,110	1,258	1,388	1,572	2,099
Melbourne	517	523	610	1,063	942	1,110	1,274	1,418	1,605	2,088
Brisbane	530	569	603	1,014	864	1,055	1,208	1,332	1,462	1,823
Adelaide	532	570	679	1,066	897	1,067	1,230	1,351	1,494	1,931
Perth	670	753	728	1,166	938	1,104	1,251	1,437	1,597	1,963
Hobart	565	592	678	1,133	923	1,132	1,316	1,495	1,574	1,992
Six Capitals (b)	533	559	640	1,064	927	1,100	1,256	1,394	1,566	2,041

SECTION D.—HOUSING (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES).(c)										
Sydney	593	701	760	989	1,035	1,044	1,047	1,049	1,050	1,053
Melbourne	455	569	628	820	955	974	974	976	979	980
Brisbane	283	373	466	630	854	864	866	869	883	934
Adelaide	510	706	655	809	888	897	903	912	929	949
Perth	458	524	580	739	881	887	880	895	901	1,065
Hobart	405	452	518	881	925	936	937	940	941	1,048
Six Capitals (b)	497	612	662	862	965	977	979	982	987	1,009

ALL SECTIONS COMBINED.—FOOD, GROCERIES AND HOUSING ("B" SERIES INDEX).										
Sydney	548	606	687	1,036	972	1,082	1,173	1,252	1,365	1,686
Melbourne	495	539	616	977	945	1,054	1,154	1,243	1,357	1,652
Brisbane	442	500	554	877	858	978	1,072	1,149	1,233	1,472
Adelaide	524	618	671	975	891	998	1,100	1,177	1,270	1,544
Perth	594	672	679	982	914	1,017	1,107	1,222	1,322	1,608
Hobart	508	542	621	1,044	922	1,053	1,165	1,275	1,324	1,620
Six Capitals (b)	520	578	648	992	939	1,050	1,145	1,230	1,336	1,634

(a) See footnote (a) on page 383.

(b) Weighted average.

(c) See footnote (b) on page 383.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS: THIRTY TOWNS—"B" SERIES.

FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT.

(Base: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

State and Town.	Nov. 1914.	Nov. 1921.	1929.	1939.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.
NEW SOUTH WALES—										
Sydney	680	977	1,115	972	1,038	1,082	1,173	1,252	1,365	1,686
Newcastle	944	1,068	934	990	1,035	1,129	1,205	1,309	1,672
Broken Hill	825	1,078	970	1,073	1,110	1,206	1,333	1,459	1,715
Goulburn	926	1,146	942	996	1,030	1,130	1,225	1,341	1,682
Bathurst	815	987	900	966	1,006	1,102	1,190	1,313	1,619
FIVE TOWNS (a)	965	1,110	969	1,034	1,078	1,169	1,249	1,362	1,685
VICTORIA—										
Melbourne	613	895	1,036	945	1,019	1,054	1,154	1,243	1,357	1,652
Ballarat	769	914	849	917	950	1,052	1,141	1,254	1,593
Bendigo	780	962	851	928	952	1,048	1,140	1,267	1,543
Geelong	844	985	917	961	1,012	1,116	1,204	1,318	1,633
Warrnambool	855	940	940	1,020	1,042	1,134	1,212	1,342	1,657
FIVE TOWNS (a)	876	1,026	938	1,011	1,046	1,146	1,235	1,350	1,646
QUEENSLAND—										
Brisbane	560	840	912	858	932	978	1,072	1,149	1,233	1,472
Toowoomba	771	855	830	955	1,001	1,087	1,170	1,252	1,498
Rockhampton	779	877	843	919	971	1,063	1,145	1,247	1,493
Townsville	820b	975b	920	989	1,036	1,125	1,214	1,286	1,525
Bundaberg	794c	867c	804	897	942	1,030	1,110	1,195	1,427
FIVE TOWNS (a)	824	906	858	936	982	1,074	1,153	1,238	1,478
SOUTH AUSTRALIA—										
Adelaide	658	898	1,030	891	960	998	1,100	1,177	1,270	1,544
Kadina, etc.	811	891	743	790	825	907	1,001	1,089	1,390
Port Pirie	839	963	862	933	971	1,063	1,141	1,241	1,522
Mount Gambier	770	866	838	903	931	1,022	1,091	1,232	1,576
Peterborough	844	1,042	890	936	973	1,067	1,144	1,224	1,504
FIVE TOWNS (a)	885	1,020	885	952	990	1,091	1,168	1,262	1,538
WESTERN AUSTRALIA—										
Perth, etc.	689	916	1,038	914	989	1,017	1,107	1,222	1,322	1,608
Kalgoorlie, etc.	928	1,010	1,178	1,136	1,174	1,266	1,352	1,449	1,739
Northam	898d	1,072	936	1,003	1,034	1,131	1,237	1,338	1,673
Bunbury	907	996	979	1,024	1,056	1,148	1,269	1,380	1,679
Geraldton	942	1,090	990	1,073	1,103	1,193	1,315	1,421	1,746
FIVE TOWNS (a)	918	1,036	936	1,003	1,031	1,122	1,237	1,338	1,623
TASMANIA—										
Hobart	630	971	992	922	1,014	1,053	1,165	1,275	1,324	1,620
Launceston	858	937	887	956	1,001	1,113	1,227	1,274	1,634
Burnie	810e	972	895	959	1,006	1,108	1,225	1,295	1,600
Devonport	666f	930	865	939	976	1,078	1,197	1,283	1,571
Queenstown	871	920	933	1,028	1,067	1,173	1,267	1,299	1,586
FIVE TOWNS (a)	911	970	908	992	1,032	1,143	1,254	1,304	1,620
THIRTY TOWNS (a)	907	1,044	935	1,005	1,045	1,140	1,226	1,332	1,630
SIX CAPITALS (a)	644	924	1,054	939	1,010	1,050	1,145	1,230	1,336
Warwick (Q.) (g)	794	867	783	904	956	1,039	1,124	1,203	1,448
Port Augusta (S.A.) (g)	861	1,047	864	929	968	1,063	1,144	1,260	1,541
Whyalla (S.A.) (g)	1,013	1,103	1,176	1,284	1,596
Canberra (A.C.T.) (g)	1,026	1,062	1,096	1,191	1,280	1,381	1,701

(a) Weighted average. (b) Charters Towers. (c) Warwick. (d) Midland Junction.
 (e) Zeehan. (f) Beaconsfield. (g) Not included in weighted averages above.

§ 8. Changes in the Regimen.

1. General.—Since the original compilation of retail price indexes by the Bureau in 1912, the regimens of the several groups and sections have undergone some modifications. These are fully described in *Labour Report* No. 39 for 1950, pp. 32-35. These changes are made from time to time with a view to improving the index-numbers as measures of price variations. They comprise chiefly the elimination or replacement of articles no longer in demand, or which experience had shown to be unsuitable media for the measurement of price variations; the alteration of units of quantity in certain cases to conform with those most in general use; the adjustment of the mass unit allotted to certain articles to bring them into accord with present-day consumption habits; the

re-adjustment of the population and household weights applicable to the several groups and sections of the regimen in accordance with general Census results ; and improved methods of collecting and weighting average house rentals.

2. **Method of Effecting Changes.**—Changes of the nature mentioned are commonly made in price indexes without seriously impairing their continuity. In accordance with established principles of procedure in changing the regimen (see *Labour Report* No. 9, Appendix I., Part II., paragraphs 14 and 18), the general level of the index is taken as determined by the old regimen for the quarter in which the change is made, and the new regimen is used to measure variations in the price-level after that date. The linking up of the index-numbers on the old and the new basis is effected by the usual method of equating the respective weighted aggregate costs of the old and the new regimens in the six capital cities.

There are two methods of effecting this, as follows :—Up to June Quarter, 1942, all such changes were made by equating the new aggregate of the section embodying the changes to the former aggregate. This course was adopted when items were added to or omitted from the regimen, and when a change was made in the standard of any item. From September Quarter, 1942, however, all changes of standard were effected mainly by an appropriate adjustment of the “mass unit” or “weight” so as to preserve the percentage weight which the item carried in the aggregate from time to time and, wherever possible, the “weight” of any item dropped from the regimen was transferred to an article of a similar nature which would serve as a more appropriate medium for the measurement of the variations in the price of the article dropped than the remaining items of the section. The “mass units” of the remaining items under the former procedure were in effect proportionately increased to carry the aggregate of the item dropped, or reduced to admit a new item added. (See also par. 2 on page 384.)

While the foregoing involves no break of continuity in the index-numbers for the six capital cities as a whole, upon the basis of which all such changes are effected, slight alterations of the relative positions of individual towns are inevitable on account of the alteration of former standards. The effect, however, is more noticeable in the group index-numbers than in those covering a combination of groups, wherein the losses and gains tend to balance out.

3. **The Regimen under War Conditions.**—Although war conditions produced some variations from normal consumption in 1940 and 1941 it was not until 1942 (see also § 2 (5) of this chapter) that fundamental changes began to occur. As there explained, the years 1942, 1943 and 1944 produced temporary changes of a far-reaching character which, if permanent and stable, must have necessitated fundamental re-adjustments in the regimen and mass units of the index. But the resultant changes in the index would have been so extensive as virtually to create a new index which would not have been continuously comparable with the “C” Series Index as compiled either pre-war or post-war. Consideration of the matter led to the conclusions—

- (i) that it was desirable to continue the “C” Series Index substantially on its pre-war regimen in order to ensure continuity of comparison of price movements on a clearly defined basis ;
- (ii) that it was impossible to reconstruct the “C” Series Index to take account of recurrent temporary departures from normal consumption.

4. **The Regimen since 1945.**—The “C” Series Index was reviewed at the Conferences of Commonwealth and State Statisticians in 1949 and 1950. The resolutions of the 1949 Conference were reprinted on page 157 of *Labour Report* No. 38, while those of the 1950 Conference were reprinted on page 161 of *Labour Report* No. 39.

§ 9. Retail Price Indexes and Basic Wage Variations.

Two distinct procedures are adopted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in fixing and varying basic or living wages as follows :—

- (i) The Court periodically *fixes* the amount of wage in the light of evidence submitted by parties appearing before it. Such evidence usually covers a wide range of facts as to economic conditions.

- (ii) Having determined the amount of basic wage the Court further determines whether or not it shall be subject to automatic adjustment for changes in price level and, if so, by what method such *variation* shall be made. This again is decided in the light of evidence and of representations by the parties concerned

The "C" Series Index is used by the Court to derive the "Court" series of retail price index-numbers upon which the basic* portion of the wages prescribed in awards is varied automatically for changes in price levels quarterly, half-yearly or yearly. These are commonly referred to as "cost of living adjustments" although in fact they relate only to that part of the *change in cost of living* which is due to variations in prices. The Court itself determines from time to time at public sittings the amount of the basic wage, having regard to evidence submitted in relation to other aspects of "cost of living" and other relevant considerations. In fixing the amount of the basic wage the Court does not have regard to either the regimen used in compiling the retail price index or the cost of such regimen. The regimen of the index would not be suited to such a purpose.

The considerations upon which the basic wage is fixed are set out in successive judgments of the Court and briefly summarized in Chapter III. (§ 4) of the *Labour Report*. On this matter, reference should be made to the Basic Wage Judgments of the Court, particularly those of 1934, 1937, 1941 and 1950, and to the general statement of principles set out in the judgment on the "Munition Workers' Case" of 1943. Certain State industrial tribunals use the index-numbers directly for automatic or quasi-automatic adjustments of the rates of wages determined by them as tribunals, while some State tribunals have regard to the index-numbers and other factors in considering what "cost of living" variations they should make in rates of wages.

The use of indexes by industrial authorities for purposes of adjusting rates of wages for changes in price level is a practice of long standing, dating in the case of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, for example, back to the year 1913. The tribunals form their own judgment as to relevance of the indexes to their purposes, and periodically hear the representatives of employers and employees on the issues involved, including questions as to whether the index is satisfactory for the purposes to which it is applied by the tribunal. In such proceedings the Statistician or his officers are called at times as witnesses on questions of fact and technical matters relating to the indexes.

The automatic adjustments in wages prescribed in awards of the Court on the basis of retail price index-numbers are sometimes referred to as "cost of living" adjustments and the index is popularly referred to as a "cost of living index". This at times creates misconceptions as to the nature of the retail price index since the term "cost of living" connotes not only change in cost of living due to changes in prices, but also changes in cost of living due to changes in standard of living. Beyond that, use of the term "cost of living" index sometimes creates the erroneous impression that the retail price index purports to embrace all that should be included in a desirable standard of living. As pointed out in paragraph 4, page 377, of this chapter, the "C" Series Index is a retail price index of specific meaning. As there indicated the regimen or list of items, on which the index is based, is representative of a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households. While this statement remains broadly true, it relates (in the circumstances of 1951) more specifically to what may be termed the basic wage portion of wage-earner expenditures. The index has hitherto been used by industrial tribunals to provide automatic adjustments in the basic wage itself and, until December, 1950, to a basic wage which did not vary very much in real terms of purchasing power in relation to "C" Series units. In 1950 and especially in 1951 various factors produced both a steep rise in prices and an increasingly wide dispersion of price movements as affecting consumer expenditures on items within and without the index. There has been arising concurrently a tendency to assume, without inquiry, that the index (constructed primarily to measure the incidence of price changes on expenditures from incomes at or about basic wage level) is equally applicable to such diverse matters as measuring the changing incidence of price variations on secondary or marginal portions of wages, on total wages or on total incomes in groups considerably higher than the basic wage, and even on money settlements

* The "needs" portion only was adjustable from July, 1937, to December, 1950.

in some business transactions. While such assumptions may be reasonably reliable during periods in which all prices tend to move together, they should not be made at any time without due inquiry and particularly not in periods (such as the present) when price movements are very marked and are subject to wide dispersion.

Reference should be made to *Labour Report* No. 39 for the actual Automatic Adjustment Scales used for the adjustment of the Commonwealth basic wage.*

B. WHOLESALE PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.

§ 1. General.

Two indexes of wholesale prices have been compiled by the Bureau. These are:—

- (i) The Melbourne Wholesale Price Index ;
- (ii) The Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index.

Particulars of the Melbourne Wholesale Price Index, which is now obsolescent, are given in § 3 commencing on page 397 of this chapter.

After reviewing the regimen and weighting of this index the 1930 Conference of Statisticians resolved that a new index of wholesale prices of basic materials and foodstuffs should be compiled. This index—the Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index—which extends back to the year 1928 and is compiled monthly, is a special purpose index and one of a series of Wholesale Price Indexes designed for special purposes.

§ 2. Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index.

1. *Price Quotations.*—The prices used in the index have in the main been obtained directly from manufacturers and merchants, and, with a few important exceptions, from Melbourne sources. Apart from locally produced building materials and one or two minor commodities, however, the price movements may be taken as representative of variations in wholesale prices of basic materials in most Australian markets.

Commodities in the index are priced in their primary or basic form wherever possible and in respect of imported materials as nearly as may be at the point where they first make effective impact on the local price structure. Thus the price of imported goods is not taken at the time of import, but rather on an ex-bond (or into factory) basis.

Broadly, where home-consumption prices exist for local products, they have been used in this index. During the year 1950–51 wool for local manufacture was subsidized. Whilst the home-consumption price for wool was used to calculate the index-numbers shown in the body of the table (see paragraph 4), footnotes to the table show the index calculated on the basis of open market prices for wool (see paragraph 5).

2. *Commodities and Grouping.*—For purposes of this index “basic” materials (as opposed to certain of the Foodstuffs) are commodities in the primary or basic forms in which they first enter into productive processes carried out in Australia. The regimen comprises 80 commodities, divided into seven main groups. Each group is sub-divided into goods which are mainly imported, and goods which are mainly home-produced. A full list of these commodities is set out below, showing the quantity-multipliers (weights) for each commodity, and the percentage of the total aggregate value in 1950 contributed by each commodity and group.

3. *Method of Construction.*—The index is constructed on the simple aggregative fixed-weights formula. The weights (quantity-multipliers) are based on estimates of the average annual consumption of the commodities in Australia during the period 1928–29 to 1934–35 inclusive. Changes in usage, changes of category as between “imported” and “home-produced” as affecting some commodities, and changes in the industrial structure have affected the validity of some of the weights in the index. These and other problems (e.g. dual prices for some commodities) are being examined with a view to revision of the regimen, its grouping and weighting, when conditions are more stable.

* See footnote on p. 393.

WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX.

Commodities in Regimen, Units of Measurement, Quantity-multipliers, and Percentage Value-weight in 1950.

Commodity.	Unit.	Quantity-multiplier (Weight).	Percentage Value-weight 1950.	Commodity.	Unit.	Quantity-multiplier (Weight).	Percentage Value-weight 1950.
METALS AND COAL.				RUBBER AND HIDES.			
Principally Imported—				Principally Imported—			
Aluminium ..	ton	985	0.05	Rubber, crude	lb.	24,274,400	1.17
Principally Home-produced—				Principally Home-produced—			
Iron and Steel ..	ton	637,000	3.19	Calf Skins ..	lb.	4,455,000	0.06
Briquettes ..	ton	243,000	0.14	Cattle Hides ..	lb.	57,240,000	0.43
Copper, wire bars	ton	7,000	0.38	Tanning Bark ..	ton	23,000	0.14
Coal ..	ton	9,300,000	11.21	Total ..	..	..	1.85
Lead, soft, pig	ton	10,400	0.13				
Tin, ingots ..	ton	1,250	0.26				
Zinc, ingots ..	ton	14,800	0.20				
Total ..	..	..	15.56				
OILS, FATS AND WAXES.				BUILDING MATERIALS.			
Principally Imported—				Principally Imported—			
Cocunut Oil ..	ton	6,500	0.22	Timber, soft-woods ..	1,000 sup. ft.	346,500	5.00
Fuel Oil ..	ton	170,000	0.70	Turpentine ..	gal.	458,000	0.07
Linseed Oil ..	gal.	2,250,000	0.68	Principally Home-produced—			
Lubricating Oil	gal.	3,960,000	0.35	Bricks ..	1,000	372,000	0.82
Kerosene, power	gal.	21,000,000	0.50	Cement ..	ton	479,000	0.80
Petrol—				Drain-pipes ..	ft.	7,270,000	0.28
1st grade ..	gal.	78,000,000	3.02	100			
2nd grade ..	gal.	140,000,000	5.43	Glass, window ..	sq. ft.	82,370	0.06
Principally Home-produced—				Lime ..	ton	51,144	0.07
Beeswax ..	lb.	169,112	0.01	Plaster ..	ton	53,000	0.18
Tallow ..	ton	26,000	0.23	Timber, hard-woods ..	sup. ft.	2,575,000	1.93
Total ..	..	..	11.14	White Lead ..	cwt.	60,000	0.09
				Whiting ..	cwt.	274,000	0.08
				Total ..	..	..	9.38
TEXTILES.				FOODSTUFFS AND TOBACCO.			
Principally Imported—				Principally Imported—			
Hemp ..	ton	5,575	0.45	Tapioca ..	cwt.	719,000	0.59
Kapok ..	lb.	6,160,000	0.39	Cocoa, raw ..	cwt.	99,500	0.47
Jute Fibre ..	ton	874	0.04	Coffee ..	lb.	3,469,000	0.23
Phormium Tenax	ton	2,275	0.02	Tea ..	lb.	46,629,000	2.84
Silk, raw ..	lb.	455,900	0.20	Mustard ..	doz. lb.	47,000	0.02
Principally Home-produced—				Herrings ..	doz. lb.	276,000	0.08
Cotton, raw ..	lb.	15,900,000	0.61	Salmon ..	doz. lb.	1,048,000	0.71
Wool, greasy ..	lb.	50,200,000	4.50	Sild, 4-oz. tins	doz.	807,300	0.16
Total ..	..	..	6.21	Tobacco, leaf ..	lb.	17,451,000	7.21
				Principally Home-produced—			
				Barley ..	bus.	4,940,000	0.50
				Maize ..	bus.	315,000	0.05
				Oats ..	bus.	14,970,000	1.43
				Rice ..	cwt.	323,200	0.19
				Wheat ..	bus.	39,900,000	3.75
				Onions ..	ton	41,000	0.25
				Peas ..	bus.	644,000	0.18
				Potatoes ..	ton	348,000	2.28
				Sugar ..	ton	336,000	3.87
				Beef ..	100 lb.	7,004,750	8.88
				Lamb ..	lb.	83,119,000	1.54
				Mutton ..	lb.	436,414,000	4.65
				Pork ..	lb.	47,562,000	1.24
				Butter fat ..	lb.	194,500,000	5.28
				Lard ..	lb.	1,427,000	0.02
				Milk ..	gal.	159,900,000	4.70
				Currants ..	lb.	9,900,000	0.14
				Sultanas ..	lb.	18,000,000	0.25
				Grapes ..	ton	94,000	0.37
				Total ..	..	..	51.91
CHEMICALS.				ALL GROUPS.			
Principally Imported—				Principally Imported	..	..	31.75
Ammonium Sulphate ..	ton	23,830	0.16	Principally Home-produced	..	..	68.22
Potash—							
Muriate ..	ton	4,055	0.04				
Sulphate ..	ton	2,025	0.02				
Soda—							
Ash ..	ton	21,400	0.13				
Nitrate ..	ton	1,100	0.01				
Nitrate-chilean	ton	3,600	0.03				
Sulphur ..	ton	95,500	0.79				
Principally Home-produced—							
Arsenic ..	ton	1,531	0.03				
Blood and Bone	ton	34,431	0.11				
Methylated Spirits	gal.	2,374,000	0.09				
Soda Crystals ..	ton	4,986	0.02				
Superphosphate	ton	704,144	1.65				
Sulphuric Acid ..	ton	226,450	0.87				
Total ..	..	..	3.95				

4. Index-numbers.—Index-numbers for each group of commodities and for all groups combined for the index of wholesale prices of basic materials and foodstuffs are given in the following table. Current index-numbers, on the base: Average of three years ended June, 1939 = 100, are published in the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics*, and a table showing index-numbers computed to the base 1928 = 100 is published on page 47 of *Labour Report No. 39, 1950*.

WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX-NUMBERS.

(Base of each Group: Average 3 years ended June, 1939 = 100.)

Period.	Basic Materials.							Food-stuffs and Tobacco.	Basic Materials and Foodstuffs.		
	Metals and Coal.	Oils, Fats and Waxes.	Textiles.	Chemicals.	Rubber and Hides.	Building Materials.	Total.		Goods principally Imported. (a)	Goods principally Home Produced.	Total All Groups.
1928-29	127	106	129	121	115	95	114	107	91	118	110
1929-30	126	111	99	116	87	94	107	110	94	118	111
1930-31	116	117	80	117	73	96	105	91	100	99	99
1931-32	108	113	77	119	74	95	101	86	100	92	95
1932-33	104	109	75	119	69	95	98	80	97	87	90
1933-34	103	84	102	111	80	94	92	84	89	89	90
1934-35	97	90	78	102	77	93	89	87	92	89	90
1935-36	92	95	100	99	88	93	90	92	95	92	93
1936-37	96	99	118	99	111	99	99	97	99	98	98
1937-38	101	101	100	100	97	104	102	100	102	100	101
1938-39	103	100	82	101	92	97	99	103	99	102	101
1939-40	105	115	104	107	116	108	109	101	111	103	105
1940-41	107	137	111	124	126	128	122	107	133	106	114
1941-42	117	151	118	137	135	135	133	117	153	112	124
1942-43	129	167	147	142	138	163	149	128	176	121	137
1943-44	131	170	150	143	140	174	153	129	182	122	140
1944-45	131	168	152	143	140	175	152	131	182	123	141
1945-46	130	156	152	142	140	177	149	135	178	126	141
1946-47	132	145	191	140	131	180	149	138	177	129	143
1947-48	146	161	283	148	126	190	166	153	192	145	159
1948-49	185	173	342	159	130	198	188	175	201	173	181
1949-50	214	184	434	187	143	225	214	198	223	198	205
1950-51	256	196	641	242	292	268	264	232	256	242	246
1949-50—											
July ..	209	174	331	162	119	202	197	187	206	185	191
Aug. ..	209	174	339	163	121	205	198	186	207	185	191
Sept. ..	209	173	333	162	123	208	197	185	204	185	191
Oct. ..	209	173	367	180	125	208	201	188	209	188	194
Nov. ..	209	189	386	180	134	208	207	192	217	191	199
Dec. ..	214	189	424	194	142	208	213	197	221	198	204
Jan. ..	218	189	494	199	145	241	225	193	232	197	207
Feb. ..	218	190	490	199	146	241	225	199	237	200	211
Mar. ..	218	190	480	200	151	243	225	199	236	201	211
Apr. ..	219	190	498	200	154	244	227	218	236	216	222
May ..	219	190	535	200	169	244	229	214	235	215	221
June ..	219	190	525	201	183	245	230	217	238	217	223
1950-51—											
July ..	222	190	530 (b)	230	177	245	234 (b)	214	236	218 (b)	223 (b)
Aug. ..	224	190	558	232	191	245	237	220	240	222	227
Sept. ..	227	190	543	236	220	245	239	220	242	222	228
Oct. ..	238	190	544	236	275	246	245	221	247	225	232
Nov. ..	246	190	588	236	305	254	253	225	250	232	237
Dec. ..	256	190	596	239	338	255	258	220	255	230	237
Jan. ..	258	190	772	240	338	262	271	220	256	238	243
Feb. ..	266	195	836	251	347	279	283	228	264	249	253
Mar. ..	280	202	907	252	362	280	294	246	269	268	268
Apr. ..	280	208	703	252	329	296	286	240	268	258	261
May ..	289	208	634	252	322	296	285	251	268	266	266
June ..	289	208	479	254	304	279	278	276	272	279	277

(a) Represents only such imported commodities as are included in the wholesale price index. This index does not measure changes in price of imports generally. (b) These index-numbers are computed using the price of raw wool for local manufacture. For computation using the auction room price of wool see paragraph 5.

NOTE.—The figures given in this table are comparable in the vertical columns but are not directly comparable horizontally.

5. **Effect of Wool Bounty.**—Legislation which became effective on 14th December, 1950, had the effect of reducing (by bounty) the price paid for raw wool for local manufacture in Australia below the open market (auction room) price. Such reductions were virtually retrospective to August, 1950, and continued until 30th June, 1951. The effective prices paid for raw wool for local manufacture (i.e. auction room price less bounty) have been used in calculating the index-numbers shown in the table above. The following table shows these same indexes calculated on the auction room prices for wool. Only the four columns marked (b) in the table above are affected, and only these are shown below.

Period.	Textiles.	Total Basic Materials.	Goods Principally Home-Produced.	Total All Groups.
1950-51—				
August	737	247	229	232
September	752	250	230	234
October	753	257	233	237
November	797	265	240	243
December	805	270	238	243
January	996	283	246	249
February	1,060	296	257	259
March	1,131	307	276	274
April	927	299	267	267
May	848	297	273	272
June	688	290	287	282

§ 3. Melbourne Wholesale Price Index.

1. **General.**—An index of Melbourne wholesale prices was first computed in 1912. It relates chiefly to basic materials and foods weighted in accordance with consumption in the years immediately preceding that date. Neither the component items of the regimen, nor the weighting have been varied: Consequently, the index is outmoded for current use and is a measure of variations in wholesale prices based on the weighting originally determined. It has some historic significance as a measure of changes in the prices of its component items combined in the proportions in which they were in common use about the year 1910. It is now published only on an annual basis and is mainly used as an approximate indication of long term trends since the year 1861, for which it was first compiled. A description of the index and a list of the commodities included in it were published on pages 43 to 45 of *Labour Report* No. 38 for 1949.

2. Index-numbers.—Index-numbers for each group of commodities as well as for all groups combined are shown in the following table :—

MELBOURNE WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS.

(Base of each Group : Year 1911 = 1,000.)

Year.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Wool, Cotton, Leather, etc.	III. Agri- cultural Produce, etc.	IV. Dairy Produce.	V. Gro- ceries.	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Ma- terials.	VIII. Chem- icals.	All Groups.
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
1911..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1921..	2,173	1,361	1,767	2,000	1,977	2,158	2,733	2,303	1,903
1922..	1,941	1,681	1,628	1,648	1,869	1,787	2,005	1,965	1,758
1923..	1,826	2,148	1,778	1,840	1,746	2,579	2,024	1,933	1,944
1924..	1,835	2,418	1,647	1,655	1,721	2,223	1,814	1,806	1,885
1925..	1,851	1,966	1,796	1,636	1,723	2,212	1,711	1,790	1,844
1926..	1,938	1,582	2,001	1,784	1,730	1,931	1,664	1,816	1,832
1927..	1,962	1,650	1,826	1,823	1,724	2,111	1,623	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	1,555	1,793	1,854	1,689	2,245	1,755	1,943	1,803
1930..	1,867	1,127	1,484	1,627	1,666	2,024	1,875	1,982	1,596
1931..	1,826	1,040	1,121	1,398	1,794	1,512	2,025	2,166	1,429
1932..	1,736	998	1,230	1,304	1,766	1,351	2,043	2,127	1,411
1933..	1,713	1,118	1,175	1,194	1,714	1,485	2,061	2,105	1,409
1934..	1,660	1,261	1,288	1,274	1,735	1,540	2,015	2,017	1,471
1935..	1,602	1,217	1,344	1,325	1,729	1,508	1,964	1,996	1,469
1936..	1,566	1,330	1,480	1,351	1,731	1,684	1,969	1,997	1,543
1937..	1,772	1,406	1,604	1,451	1,750	1,678	2,430	2,006	1,656
1938..	1,746	1,051	1,789	1,549	1,747	1,871	2,238	2,059	1,662
1939..	1,758	1,101	1,820	1,557	1,752	1,710	2,220	2,075	1,665
1940..	1,854	1,361	1,567	1,567	1,784	1,882	2,890	2,298	1,713
1941..	1,960	1,402	1,721	1,554	1,883	1,776	3,138	2,527	1,796
1942..	2,146	1,507	1,900	1,665	1,938	2,312	3,409	2,437	1,977
1943..	2,272	1,945	1,964	1,716	1,939	2,366	3,764	2,442	2,117
1944..	2,278	1,967	2,052	1,721	1,949	2,470	3,768	2,442	2,159
1945..	2,270	1,960	2,259	1,726	1,967	2,560	3,770	2,422	2,226
1946..	2,262	2,062	1,951	1,722	1,977	2,589	3,772	2,614	2,162
1947..	2,390	2,690	2,019	1,763	2,174	2,748	3,800	2,843	2,160
1948..	2,829	3,619	2,383	2,104	2,435	2,976	4,631	3,180	2,824
1949..	3,502	3,966	2,876	2,309	2,558	3,356	4,611	3,221	3,191
1950..	3,902	(a)5,464	3,155	2,459	2,829	4,616	(b)5,567	3,263	(c)3,816

NOTE.—The figures given in this table are comparable in the vertical columns but are not directly comparable horizontally.

(a) Computed using, for wool, the effective home-consumption price. This group index-number computed using the auction room price for wool is 6,079 (see paragraph 5 on page 397). (b) The regimen and weighting of the original Building Materials group of this index has become unreal. The movement shown here for this group between 1949 and 1950 has been calculated in accordance with the movement occurring in the Building Materials group of the Basic Materials and Foodstuffs Index. (c) Computed using, for wool, the effective home-consumption price. The all groups index-number computed using the auction room price for wool is 3,921.

C. CONTROL OF PRICES DURING AND SINCE THE 1939-45 WAR.

1. **General.**—An account of the measures taken by the Commonwealth Government to control prices from September, 1939 (immediately after the outbreak of war), until 29th May, 1948 (the date of the Prices Referendum), is given in Official Year Book No. 37, pp. 458-464.

2. **Transfer of Price Control to the States.**—Consequent upon the rejection of the proposal embodied in the Prices Referendum held on 29th May, 1948, that permanent power to control rents and prices (including charges) be conferred on the Commonwealth Government, responsibility for price fixation was assumed by the State Governments and steps were taken to pass State Prices Acts. These acts were proclaimed to operate simultaneously on 20th September, 1948. Except in the case of Queensland, each Act was to remain in force for a specific period, but the period varied from State to State.

An amendment of the National Security (Prices) Regulations on 15th September, 1948, provided that the Minister may, by declaration published in the *Gazette*, declare that from and including a date specified prices for the sale of goods and rates for the supply of services in a State or Territory of the Commonwealth specified in the declaration would cease to be controlled under the Regulations. In pursuance of this power, the Minister for Trade and Customs issued declarations on 17th September, 1948, providing for the relinquishment of price control by the Commonwealth in the States as from 20th September, 1948.

On 20th September, 1948, each State Government issued declarations covering uniform lists of goods and services, which were brought under price control. Existing Commonwealth Prices Regulation Orders continued to apply to these goods and services until specially varied in accordance with the terms of the State legislation. At the same time, the Commonwealth Government issued an identical list of declared items to operate in the Australian Capital Territory and other Territories of the Commonwealth.

In the operation of State price control, the State Prices Commissioners closely collaborate. Conferences of Commissioners are held at intervals of approximately two months. The Commissioners are vested with certain powers of price control under the Prices Acts, and it is the usual procedure after the administrative conference for State Prices Ministers to meet to discuss matters of policy and any specific questions referred to them for determination. Thus a large degree of uniformity is attained in controlling and decontrolling items and in the fixation of margins and prices of major items.

3. **Price Stabilization.**—Expenditure by the Commonwealth Government on Price Stabilization Subsidies reached a peak in 1947-48 and since then the Commonwealth Government has progressively reduced the range of commodities eligible for subsidy.

In addition to those subsidies which had been an integral part of the Price Stabilization Plan, the Commonwealth Government paid bounties and subsidies for assistance to primary production, and these payments also had a stabilizing influence on prices.

For details of expenditure by the Commonwealth Government on Price Stabilization and other Subsidies and Bounties, see Chapter XVII.—Public Finance.

D. WAGES.

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

Particulars regarding operations under the Commonwealth and State Acts for the regulation of wages, hours and conditions of labour were first compiled for the year 1913, and reviews to the end of each annual period appear in the *Labour Reports* up to and including No. 36, in the *Quarterly Summaries of Australian Statistics* up to and including No. 190 and in previous issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 37, p. 465). Owing to the lack of comparability between States, which rendered the figures of doubtful value and to difficulties encountered in the collection of these statistics they have been discontinued.

§ 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 this Bureau in the early part of 1913. The particulars are obtained primarily from awards, determinations and agreements under Commonwealth and State Industrial Acts, and are therefore the minimum rates prescribed. They refer generally to the capital city in each State, but in industries which are not carried on in the capital cities, e.g., mining, agriculture, etc., the rates in the more important centres are taken. In cases where no award, determination, or agreement is in force, particulars are taken of the ruling union or predominant rate. During recent years the number of predominant rates of wage included in the tabulations has been reduced considerably, as most of the industries and occupations are now covered by awards, determinations, or industrial agreements. The figures of nominal wages and hours are in course of revision to meet changes in industrial structure. The amounts should not be regarded as actual current averages, but as an index of changes expressed in money and hour terms.

The index-numbers for male adult workers are computed with the weighted average wage in 1911 as base (= 1,000). In the case of females, however, it has not been possible

to secure information for the years prior to 1914, and the index-numbers are therefore computed with the weighted average rate of wage payable to adult female workers in Australia at 30th April, 1914 as base (= 1,000).

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

2. *Weekly Rates of Wage, 1939, 1946 to 1950.*—(i) *General.* The average rate of wage for each industrial group is computed by taking the arithmetic average of the rates of wage payable for all classified occupations within that group. These averages are weighted to give the average for the States and for Australia.

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

WAGE RATES OF ADULT MALES.
WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL RATES PAYABLE FOR A FULL
WEEK'S WORK AND INDEX-NUMBERS OF WAGE RATES.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
No. of Occupations included(b) ..	870	894	615	562	477	466	3,884

RATES OF WAGE.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
31st December, 1939 ..	96 7	93 6	97 5	88 11	100 6	89 5	95 3
" " 1946 ..	130 11	128 11	128 0	121 4	125 7	125 2	128 6
" " 1947 ..	141 3	136 10	134 9	133 10	137 8	133 0	137 11
" " 1948 ..	159 9	155 5	151 4	153 7	156 6	153 2	156 4
31st March, 1949 ..	161 8	158 6	154 6	155 4	159 6	156 4	158 10
30th June, 1949 ..	165 4	162 7	159 8	161 11	162 5	160 5	163 1
30th September, 1949 ..	169 1	165 11	162 10	163 3	167 11	163 5	166 6
31st December, 1949 ..	171 11	168 11	167 10	165 3	171 6	165 4	169 8
31st March, 1950 ..	174 9	172 9	170 3	168 8	175 6	167 11	172 10
30th June, 1950 ..	179 4	176 10	176 11	172 3	178 8	169 7	177 3
30th September, 1950 ..	184 6	180 8	180 2	176 11	183 4	174 7	181 8
31st December, 1950 ..	209 6	204 5	199 10	200 6	208 3	199 7	205 6

INDEX-NUMBERS.

(Base : *Weighted Average Wage for Australia (51s. 3d.), 1911 = 1,000.*)

31st December, 1939 ..	1,885	1,825	1,900	1,735	1,962	1,745	1,858
" " 1946 ..	2,554	2,515	2,498	2,368	2,450	2,442	2,507
" " 1947 ..	2,757	2,670	2,630	2,612	2,686	2,595	2,690
" " 1948 ..	3,117	3,032	2,953	2,997	3,054	2,988	3,050
31st March, 1949 ..	3,154	3,092	3,014	3,031	3,111	3,051	3,099
30th June, 1949 ..	3,227	3,172	3,116	3,159	3,169	3,130	3,182
30th September, 1949 ..	3,299	3,238	3,177	3,185	3,276	3,189	3,249
31st December, 1949 ..	3,355	3,296	3,275	3,225	3,346	3,227	3,310
31st March, 1950 ..	3,410	3,371	3,322	3,290	3,425	3,276	3,372
30th June, 1950 ..	3,499	3,450	3,452	3,360	3,486	3,309	3,458
30th September, 1950 ..	3,600	3,526	3,516	3,452	3,577	3,406	3,545
31st December, 1950 ..	4,088	3,989	3,900	3,911	4,064	3,895	4,009

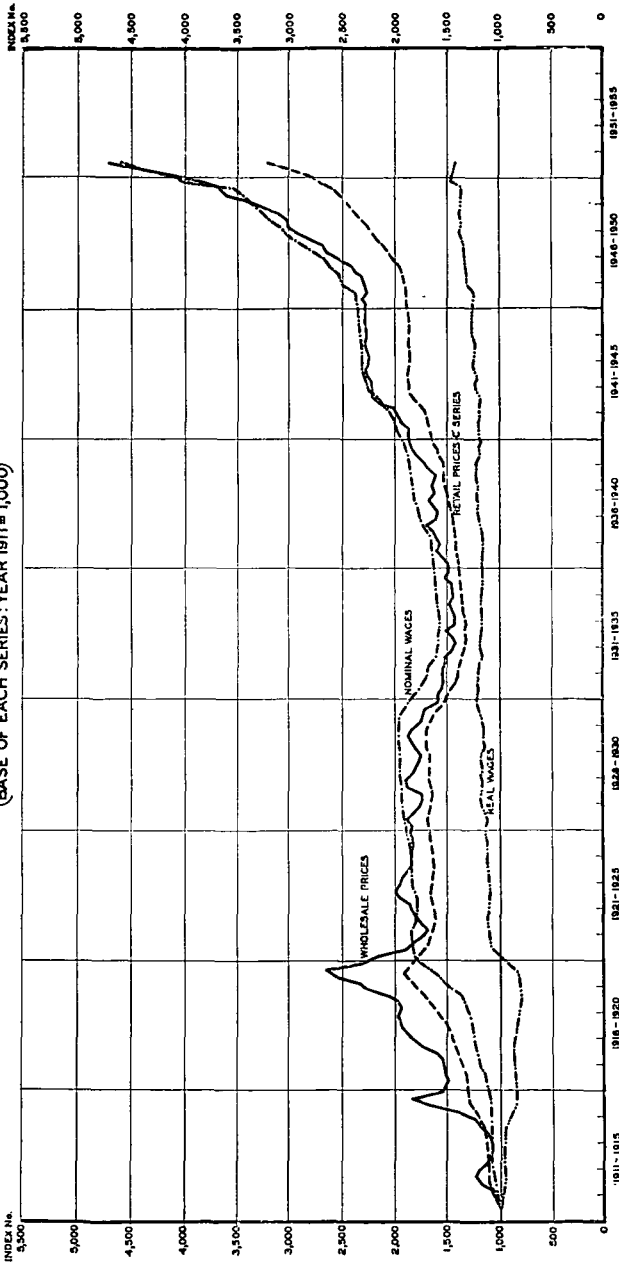
(a) The figures of nominal wages and hours of labour are in course of revision to meet changes in industrial structure. The amounts shown should not be regarded as actual current averages but as an index of changes expressed in money and hour terms.

(b) As at 31st December, 1950.

During the early war years nominal weekly wages advanced annually in each State, the greatest increase occurring in 1942 (11 per cent. for Australia), followed by an increase of 3 per cent. in the following year, after which they remained comparatively stable until the fourth quarter of 1946 when they advanced 5.4 per cent. due mainly to the increase in the "needs" wage granted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in its judgment of 13th December, 1946. With the relaxation of the Wage Pegging Regulations and the end of Price Stabilization wages rose rapidly during 1947 and subsequent years. At the end of 1950 the upward movement was accelerated as a result of the Basic Wage increases which followed the 1949-50 Basic Wage Inquiry (see page 415).

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES, NOMINAL, AND EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGES - INDEX-NUMBERS AUSTRALIA, 1911 to 1951

(BASE OF EACH SERIES: YEAR 1911 = 1,000)



EXPLANATION.—The index-numbers in the graph above are for the Six Capital Cities as a whole, with the exception of those for Wholesale Prices up to the fourth quarter of 1927, which are for Melbourne. They are all calculated to the common base 1911 = 1,000, the scale for which appears on the left of the graph. The wholesale prices graph shows the trend of prices according to the "old" Melbourne Index up to the fourth quarter of 1927, but thereafter, this index having been "spliced" with the Basic Materials and Foodstuffs Index, the curve line moves in accordance with the variations of the latter. The price quotations for this index are, in the main, obtained from Melbourne sources, but their movements may be taken as representative of fluctuations in most Australian markets. Points in this graph are plotted quarterly from 1912 onward. The "C" Series Retail Price index-numbers (food, groceries, rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses, clothing and miscellaneous household expenditure) are shown quarterly from 1925. For the period 1911-1914 the "C" Series index-numbers are taken back from the true base (November, 1914 = 1,000) by means of the "A" Series Index (food and Rent of All Houses). Nominal Wages are shown quarterly from 1914, and Real Wages quarterly from 1925. Real wages are computed on the basis of the "C" Series Retail Price Index.

Male wages at 31st December, 1950, were 115.7 per cent. higher than in December, 1939, and 68.7 per cent. higher than in September, 1946.

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

WAGE RATES OF ADULT MALES.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATES FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK AND INDEX-NUMBERS OF WAGE RATES IN EACH INDUSTRIAL GROUP(a).

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

Industrial Group.	Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rate of Wage (shillings and pence) and Index-number at—							
	31st Dec., 1939.	31st Dec., 1947.	31st Dec., 1948.	31st Dec., 1949.	31st Mar., 1950.	30th June, 1950.	30th Sept., 1950.	31st Dec., 1950.
I. Wood, Furni- ture, etc. {								
Wage ..	100/1	140/2	155/6	166/7	169/6	171/11	177/6	199/8
Index-No.	1,953	2,735	3,034	3,250	3,307	3,355	3,404	3,896
II. Engineering, etc. {								
Wage ..	99/3	144/0	155/10	166/1	169/4	172/0	175/6	198/2
Index-No.	1,936	2,811	3,041	3,241	3,304	3,356	3,424	3,867
III. Food, Drink, etc. {								
Wage ..	96/9	134/8	151/6	166/2	170/0	173/8	177/8	199/11
Index-No.	1,888	2,628	2,956	3,243	3,317	3,389	3,467	3,901
IV. Clothing, Tex- tiles, etc. {								
Wage ..	93/2	132/8	153/7	164/2	165/4	176/6	177/7	202/10
Index-No.	1,817	2,589	2,997	3,204	3,226	3,443	3,466	3,957
V. Books, Printing, etc. {								
Wage ..	114/3	158/7	177/2	194/7	198/1	201/10	204/9	228/9
Index-No.	2,229	3,094	3,457	3,796	3,865	3,939	3,994	4,463
VI. Other Manu- facturing {								
Wage ..	95/8	136/8	153/11	165/1	169/8	172/7	176/5	199/0
Index-No.	1,867	2,667	3,003	3,221	3,310	3,367	3,442	3,883
VII. Building .. {								
Wage ..	106/5	154/0	171/9	183/0	186/4	189/1	193/1	215/11
Index-No.	2,076	3,005	3,352	3,570	3,636	3,690	3,767	4,212
VIII. Mining, etc. .. {								
Wage ..	109/1	148/4	163/5	175/7	179/11	183/10	188/2	211/0
Index-No.	2,142	2,895	3,189	3,426	3,511	3,588	3,672	4,118
IX. Railways, etc. . . {								
Wage ..	96/6	142/3	156/1	167/3	170/7	173/6	177/2	199/2
Index-No.	1,884	2,775	3,045	3,263	3,328	3,385	3,456	3,887
X. Other Land Transport {								
Wage ..	92/10	128/6	145/8	160/0	163/6	166/1	169/9	192/7
Index-No.	1,812	2,507	2,843	3,123	3,190	3,241	3,312	3,757
XI. Shipping, etc.(b) {								
Wage ..	98/6	136/4	182/0	192/4	196/5	198/6	201/9	230/2
Index-No.	1,922	2,661	3,551	3,753	3,833	3,874	3,937	4,491
XII. Agricultural, etc.(c) {								
Wage ..	84/0	136/5	158/1	174/7	176/8	186/1	193/4	222/2
Index-No.	1,639	2,662	3,085	3,107	3,447	3,631	3,737	4,335
XIII. Domestic, etc.(c) {								
Wage ..	89/11	126/11	141/5	154/9	157/11	160/10	164/5	186/8
Index-No.	1,755	2,476	2,759	3,020	3,032	3,138	3,208	3,643
XIV. Miscellaneous {								
Wage ..	92/10	130/10	148/3	162/0	165/3	167/11	171/6	192/9
Index-No.	1,811	2,553	2,893	3,161	3,225	3,276	3,346	3,761
All Industrial Groups {								
Wage ..	95/3	137/11	156/4	169/8	172/10	177/3	181/8	205/6
Index-No.	1,858	2,690	3,050	3,310	3,372	3,458	3,545	4,009

(a) See note (a) on page 400. (b) Includes the value of victualling and accommodation where supplied. (c) Includes the value of board and lodging where supplied.

The foregoing table shows that the highest average weekly wage at 31st December, 1950, was recorded in Group XI. (Shipping, etc.), 230s. 2d. per week, followed by Groups V. (Books, Printing, etc.), 228s. 9d., XII. (Agricultural, etc.), 222s. 2d., VII. (Building), 215s. 11d., VIII. (Mining, etc.), 211s., IV. (Clothing, Textiles, etc.), 202s. 10d. and III. (Food, drink, etc.), 199s. 11d. The lowest average rate was recorded in Group XIII., (Domestic, etc.), 186s. 8d. Compared with those prevailing at 31st December, 1949, rates of wage increased in all industrial groups during 1950.

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

WAGE RATES OF ADULT FEMALES.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATES PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK AND INDEX-NUMBERS OF WAGE RATES(a).

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
No. of Occupations included(b) ..	84	87	38	47	24	32	312

RATES OF WAGE.

	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.		
31st December, 1939 ..	53	3	51	9	55	2	49	7	55	8	50	8	52	8
" " 1946 ..	80	4	82	6	82	4	76	0	73	10	77	8	80	9
" " 1947 ..	84	3	88	6	85	10	80	10	80	1	81	11	85	8
" " 1948 ..	100	0	103	1	98	4	95	1	93	5	96	8	100	4
31st March, 1949 ..	101	2	104	7	99	8	96	1	98	1	97	5	101	9
30th June, 1949 ..	103	6	107	9	101	9	98	10	100	9	100	2	104	5
30th September, 1949 ..	105	10	109	5	103	2	99	3	102	10	104	0	106	3
31st December, 1949 ..	108	1	112	4	108	5	101	0	105	5	106	4	109	1
31st March, 1950 ..	109	5	114	3	109	8	102	4	106	2	107	5	110	9
30th June, 1950 ..	114	3	120	7	115	7	108	3	112	9	114	5	116	5
30th September, 1950 ..	115	10	122	1	116	11	109	4	114	0	116	0	117	10
31st December, 1950 ..	139	11	142	11	135	11	142	1	132	3	137	2	140	5

INDEX-NUMBERS.

(Base: Weighted Average for Australia (27s. 2d.), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

31st December, 1939 ..	1,960	1,906	2,031	1,826	2,049	1,866	1,938
" " 1946 ..	2,956	3,035	3,031	2,797	2,718	2,860	2,972
" " 1947 ..	3,102	3,256	3,160	2,976	2,947	3,014	3,152
" " 1948 ..	3,681	3,795	3,618	3,499	3,438	3,559	3,694
31st March, 1949 ..	3,724	3,848	3,668	3,538	3,611	3,584	3,745
30th June, 1949 ..	3,811	3,967	3,745	3,637	3,710	3,686	3,844
30th September, 1949 ..	3,896	4,026	3,798	3,653	3,784	3,826	3,911
31st December, 1949 ..	3,979	4,134	3,990	3,716	3,880	3,915	4,015
31st March, 1950 ..	4,028	4,205	4,038	3,767	3,906	3,955	4,072
30th June, 1950 ..	4,206	4,438	4,255	3,984	4,151	4,211	4,284
30th September, 1950 ..	4,264	4,493	4,303	4,023	4,194	4,269	4,338
31st December, 1950 ..	5,510	5,259	5,003	5,229	4,866	5,050	5,169

(a) See note (a) to table on page 400.

(b) As at 31st December, 1950.

It should be noted that the base of these index-numbers is 1914 and not 1911 as in the foregoing tables for adult males. This is because there is no tabulation for adult female rates prior to 1914.

As with the rates for males, increases were recorded in all States during the war years and after, especially after September, 1946 when female rates were increased under the National Security (Female Minimum Wage) Regulations. The weighted average rate for Australia at 31st December, 1946, had advanced by 37s. 4d. per week over that ruling on 31st December, 1933. Female rates have risen rapidly since December, 1946, partly because of the increase in marginal rates but mainly because of the increase in the female basic wage rates. The weighted average rate for Australia at 31st December, 1950 (140s. 5d.) was the highest recorded to that date and was 166.6 per cent. above the average at 31st December, 1939.

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

WAGE RATES OF ADULT FEMALES.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE NOMINAL WEEKLY RATES PAYABLE FOR A FULL WEEK'S WORK AND INDEX-NUMBERS OF WAGE RATES IN EACH INDUSTRIAL GROUP(a).

Date.	Industrial Group.					All Groups.
	III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	I, II., V., and VI. All Other Manufacturing.	XIII. Domestic, etc.(b)	XIV. Miscel- laneous.	

RATES OF WAGE.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
31st December, 1939..	48 9	50 9	51 11	54 5	56 8	52 8
" " 1946..	74 9	84 7	79 5	72 9	81 0	80 9
" " 1947..	83 3	87 7	90 2	76 7	88 5	85 8
" " 1948..	95 10	101 7	103 3	89 3	107 9	100 4
31st March, 1949 ..	98 6	102 3	105 7	91 0	109 9	101 9
30th June, 1949 ..	100 0	105 6	107 2	92 7	112 11	104 5
30th September, 1949	103 2	106 3	110 3	95 2	115 10	106 3
31st December, 1949..	105 5	109 5	111 11	97 5	119 1	109 1
31st March, 1950 ..	108 0	110 0	115 0	99 5	121 7	110 9
30th June, 1950 ..	111 4	119 7	117 3	101 6	123 8	116 5
30th September, 1950	113 10	120 1	119 6	103 6	126 1	117 10
31st December, 1950..	135 9	139 2	147 1	132 1	149 9	140 5

INDEX-NUMBERS.

(Base: Weighted Average for Australia (27s. 2d.), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

31st December, 1939..	1,795	1,869	1,910	2,003	2,085	1,938
" " 1946..	2,751	3,113	2,922	2,678	2,980	2,972
" " 1947..	3,064	3,222	3,317	2,820	3,253	3,152
" " 1948..	3,526	3,739	3,802	3,284	3,967	3,694
31st March, 1949 ..	3,625	3,764	3,886	3,350	4,041	3,745
30th June, 1949 ..	3,681	3,883	3,944	3,408	4,157	3,844
30th September, 1949	3,796	3,911	4,059	3,501	4,262	3,911
31st December, 1949..	3,879	4,026	4,118	3,586	4,384	4,015
31st March, 1950 ..	3,975	4,049	4,232	3,660	4,476	4,072
30th June, 1950 ..	4,098	4,400	4,315	3,735	4,552	4,284
30th September, 1950	4,190	4,421	4,399	3,811	4,642	4,338
31st December, 1950..	4,996	5,121	5,412	4,861	5,512	5,169

(a) See note (a) to table on page 400.

(b) Includes the value of board and lodging, where supplied.

During 1950 the rate of wage for female employees in each industrial group increased as follows :—III. (Food, etc.), 30s. 4d. per week ; IV. (Clothing, etc.), 29s. 9d. per week ; I. II., V. and VI. (all other manufacturing), 35s. 2d. ; XIII. (Domestic, etc.), 34s. 8d. and XIV. (Miscellaneous), 30s. 8d. The weighted average for all groups increased by 31s. 4d. per week.

3. *Relative Hours of Labour and Hourly Rates of Wage, 1939 to 1950.*—(i) *General.* The rates of wage referred to in preceding paragraphs are the minima payable for a full week's work. The number of hours constituting a full week's work differs, however, in some instances between various trades and occupations in each State, and between the same trades and occupations in the several States. To secure what may be for some purposes a better comparison, the results in the preceding paragraphs are reduced to a common basis, namely, the rate of wage per hour. Particulars as at the end of the years 1946 to 1950 compared with 1939 are given in the following table, for males and females separately in each State. 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 and accommodation where supplied 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.). Some of the occupations included in these groups are of a casual or seasonal nature, and the hours of labour are not generally regulated either by awards or determinations of industrial tribunals or otherwise, hence the necessary definite particulars for the computation of the average number of working hours are not available.

The downward tendency in hours of labour for Australia commenced in the December quarter of 1924, when the weighted averages were 46.66 for males and 46.02 for females, and, excepting for slight increases in 1929 and 1930, the reduction has continued. During the second half of 1947 hours for males and females in New South Wales were reduced owing to the introduction of the forty-hour week in occupations under the jurisdiction of State arbitration. In Australia generally, the forty-hour week operated from 1st January, 1948 and was responsible for substantial reductions in hours in that year. The weighted averages for Australia at 31st December, 1950 were 39.96 hours for males and 40.00 hours for females.

The general effect of reducing the rates of wages to a common basis (i.e., per hour) is to eliminate any 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 at the close of the years 1946 to 1950 compared with 1939 are given in the table hereunder.

WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGES AND WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR: ADULT WORKERS.(a)

31st December—	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
1939..	Weekly Wage (b) ..	96/7	93/6	97/5	88/11	100/6	89/5	95/3
	Weekly Hours of Labour ..	43.92	44.61	43.46	45.83	44.33	45.33	44.29
	Hourly Wage (c) ..	2/3½	2/1½	2/3½	1/11½	2/4	2/0	2/2½
1946..	Weekly Wage (b) ..	130/11	128/11	128/0	121/4	125/7	125/2	128/6
	Weekly Hours of Labour ..	43.50	43.82	43.18	44.07	43.15	43.38	43.57
	Hourly Wage (c) ..	3/0½	2/11½	2/11	2/8½	2/10½	2/9½	2/11½
1947..	Weekly Wage (b) ..	141.3	136/10	134/9	133/10	137/8	133/0	137/11
	Weekly Hours of Labour ..	41.11	43.68	43.18	44.07	43.15	43.27	42.51
	Hourly Wage (c) ..	3/5½	3/1½	3/0½	3/1½	3/2½	3/1	3/3
1948..	Weekly Wage (b) ..	159/9	155/5	151/4	153/7	156/6	153/2	156/4
	Weekly Hours of Labour ..	40.00	39.99	40.00	40.00	39.57	40.00	39.96
	Hourly Wage (c) ..	3/11½	3/10½	3/8½	3/9½	3/11	3/9½	3/10½
1949..	Weekly Wage (b) ..	171/11	168/11	167/10	165/3	171/6	165/4	169/8
	Weekly Hours of Labour ..	39.99	39.99	40.00	40.00	39.54	40.00	39.96
	Hourly Wage (c) ..	4/3	4/2½	4/0½	4/0½	4/3½	4/1	4/2½
1950..	Weekly Wage (b) ..	209/6	204/5	199/10	200/6	208/3	199/7	205/6
	Weekly Hours of Labour ..	39.99	39.99	40.00	40.00	39.54	40.00	39.96
	Hourly Wage (c) ..	5/1½	5/0½	4/8½	4/9½	5/1½	4/11	5/0

FEMALE WORKERS.

1939..	Weekly Wage (b) ..	53/3	51/9	55/2	49/7	55/8	50/8	52/8
	Weekly Hours of Labour ..	43.88	44.42	44.01	45.96	45.38	45.10	44.38
	Hourly Wage ..	1/2½	1/2	1/3	1/1	1/2½	1/1½	1/2½
1946..	Weekly Wage (b) ..	80/4	82/6	82/4	76/0	73/10	77/8	80/9
	Weekly Hours of Labour ..	43.88	44.19	44.00	43.99	44.00	44.00	44.03
	Hourly Wage ..	1/10	1/10½	1/10½	1/8½	1/8½	1/9½	1/10
1947..	Weekly Wage (b) ..	84/3	88/6	85/10	80/10	80/1	81/11	85/8
	Weekly Hours of Labour ..	41.78	43.99	44.00	42.19	44.00	44.00	43.08
	Hourly Wage ..	2/0½	2/0½	1/11½	1/11	1/9½	1/10½	1/11½
1948..	Weekly Wage (b) ..	100/0	103/1	98/4	95/1	93/5	96/8	100/4
	Weekly Hours of Labour ..	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage ..	2/6	2/7	2/5½	2/4½	2/4	2/5	2/6
1949..	Weekly Wage (b) ..	108/1	112/4	108/5	101/0	105/5	106/4	109/1
	Weekly Hours of Labour ..	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage ..	2/8½	2/9½	2/8½	2/6½	2/7½	2/8	2/8½
1950..	Weekly Wage (b) ..	139/11	142/11	135/11	142/1	132/3	137/2	140/5
	Weekly Hours of Labour ..	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage ..	3/6	3/6½	3/4½	3/6½	3/3½	3/5½	3/6½

(a) See note (a) to table on page 400. (b) Weighted average weekly rate for all industrial groups combined. (c) Weighted average working hours per week (excluding overtime), 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 some of the occupations classified in industrial groups XI. and XII.

(iii) Index-numbers. The effect of changes in hours of labour on the hourly rate of wage as compared with the general increase in the weekly wage is readily seen from the comparative index-numbers for all classes combined given in the following table. It

should be noted that these comparative index-numbers for males and females are on the 1914 base as against the 1911 base of the earlier tables for adult males. This is because there is no tabulation for adult female rates prior to 1914 :—

INDEX-NUMBERS OF WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES AND WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR : ADULT WORKERS.(a)

(Base : Weighted Average for Australia, 30th April, 1914* = 1,000.)

31st December—	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
MALE WORKERS.								
1939..	Weekly Wage ..	1,753	1,697	1,767	1,613	1,824	1,623	1,728
	Weekly Hours of Labour(b)	898	912	888	937	906	926	905
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	1,963	1,834	1,979	1,692	2,001	1,717	1,903
1946..	Weekly Wage ..	2,374	2,338	2,323	2,202	2,278	2,271	2,331
	Weekly Hours of Labour(b)	889	896	882	901	882	887	890
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2,593	2,533	2,509	2,339	2,491	2,423	2,529
1947..	Weekly Wage ..	2,563	2,483	2,445	2,428	2,497	2,413	2,501
	Weekly Hours of Labour(b)	840	893	882	876	882	884	860
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	2,974	2,709	2,638	2,692	2,754	2,648	2,797
1948..	Weekly Wage ..	2,899	2,819	2,746	2,787	2,840	2,779	2,836
	Weekly Hours of Labour(b)	817	817	817	817	809	817	817
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	3,399	3,322	3,180	3,246	3,364	3,254	3,327
1949..	Weekly Wage ..	3,119	3,064	3,045	2,998	3,111	3,000	3,077
	Weekly Hours of Labour(b)	817	817	817	817	808	817	817
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	3,654	3,607	3,403	3,484	3,691	3,515	3,599
1950..	Weekly Wage ..	3,801	3,709	3,626	3,637	3,778	3,622	3,727
	Weekly Hours of Labour(b)	817	817	817	817	808	817	817
	Hourly Wage (b) ..	4,393	4,318	4,047	4,142	4,430	4,230	4,301
FEMALE WORKERS.								
1939..	Weekly Wage ..	1,960	1,906	2,031	1,826	2,049	1,866	1,938
	Weekly Hours of Labour	894	905	897	936	925	919	904
	Hourly Wage ..	2,193	2,107	2,267	1,952	2,217	2,032	2,145
1946..	Weekly Wage ..	2,956	3,305	3,031	2,797	2,718	2,860	2,972
	Weekly Hours of Labour	894	900	896	896	896	896	897
	Hourly Wage ..	3,307	3,373	3,383	3,122	3,033	3,191	3,315
1947..	Weekly Wage ..	3,102	3,256	3,160	2,976	2,947	3,014	3,152
	Weekly Hours of Labour	851	896	896	860	896	896	878
	Hourly Wage ..	3,646	3,634	3,527	3,464	3,289	3,393	3,593
1948..	Weekly Wage ..	3,681	3,795	3,618	3,499	3,438	3,559	3,694
	Weekly Hours of Labour	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
	Hourly Wage ..	4,518	4,658	4,441	4,295	4,220	4,369	4,535
1949..	Weekly Wage ..	3,979	4,134	3,990	3,716	3,880	3,915	4,015
	Weekly Hours of Labour	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
	Hourly Wage ..	4,884	5,074	4,898	4,562	4,762	4,806	4,929
1950..	Weekly Wage ..	5,150	5,259	5,003	5,229	4,866	5,050	5,169
	Weekly Hours of Labour	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
	Hourly Wage ..	6,322	6,455	6,142	6,419	5,973	6,199	6,345

(a) See note (a) to table on page 400.

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

* Approximate Weekly Rates—M = 55/1; F = 27/2. Hourly Rates—M = 1/2; F = 0/6½.
Weekly Hours of Labour—M = 48.93; F = 49.08.

4. Nominal and Effective Wages.—(i) *General.* Index numbers of wage rates are said to be *nominal* when they represent changes in the wage rates themselves but are described as *effective* or *real* when they represent changes in equivalent purchasing power, that is, the purchasing power of the corresponding wages in terms of some definite composite unit or regimen the cost of which can be ascertained at different times. The relation between *nominal* and *effective* or *real* wages was discussed at some length in *Labour Report* No. 6, and was also referred to in *Labour Report* No. 11.

Since it is possible to measure purchasing power over more than one composite unit or regimen it is equally possible to convert any given nominal wage series into more than one series of effective or real wages. Prior to 1936 it was the practice of this Bureau to compute effective wage index-numbers by dividing the nominal wage index-numbers by the corresponding retail price index-numbers for food, groceries and rent of all houses ("A" series). While wage rates were generally varied on the basis of the "A" series index-numbers there was a good deal to be said for this procedure. When the Commonwealth Court abandoned the "A" series, the merits of the "C" series for "deflating" nominal wage rates were strengthened and real wages to the end of 1937 were measured in terms of their purchasing power over both regimens. Since 1938 when computations of the "A" series was discontinued, real wages have been measured in terms of their purchasing power over the "C" series only. The "C" series covers food, groceries, rent of four and five-roomed houses, clothing and miscellaneous household requirements.

(ii) *Nominal Weekly Wage Index-numbers, Adult Males, 1911 to 1950—States.* The following table shows for the period 1911 to 1950 the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable for adult males 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 are necessarily taken for places other than the capital cities. The index-numbers for 1911 are based on rates current at the end of December, annual averages not being available. For 1914 and subsequent years, however, the index-numbers are based on the average rates current at the end of the four quarters of each year:—

NOMINAL WEEKLY WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS: ADULT MALES.

(Base: Weighted Average Wage for Australia, 1911 = 1,000.)

State.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1929.	1931.	1939.	1941.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.
N.S. Wales ..	1,003	1,093	1,862	2,012	1,851	1,874	2,024	2,431	2,647	2,973	3,259	3,649
Victoria ..	985	1,062	1,803	1,964	1,683	1,808	1,984	2,403	2,585	2,909	3,200	3,584
Queensland ..	997	1,035	1,879	1,976	1,769	1,885	1,981	2,384	2,580	2,840	3,164	3,548
South Australia ..	1,013	1,061	1,697	1,891	1,580	1,725	1,897	2,285	2,496	2,841	3,150	3,593
W. Australia ..	1,152	1,223	1,832	1,960	1,745	1,956	2,106	2,424	2,597	2,888	3,226	3,638
Tasmania ..	799	1,027	1,745	1,840	1,625	1,738	1,895	2,336	2,512	2,861	3,149	3,472
Australia ..	1,000	1,081	1,826	1,972	1,752	1,846	1,997	2,400	2,598	2,914	3,210	3,596

(iii) *Effective or Real Wage Index-numbers, Adult Males, 1911 to 1950—States.* In obtaining the effective wage index-numbers in the following table, the nominal wage index-numbers shown above have been divided by the corresponding retail price index-numbers for the capital city and multiplied by 1,000. Since the "C" series index-numbers were not compiled for periods prior to November, 1914, it has been assumed that fluctuations between 1911 (the base of the table) and 1914 in the "C" series would have been similar to the fluctuations observed in the "A" series. A table showing effective or real wage index-numbers from 1901 to 1937 measured in terms of purchasing power over the "A" series regimen appeared in earlier issues of the Official Year Book, see No. 37, page 473.

EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS: ADULT MALES (FULL WORK).

Measured in terms of purchasing power over the "C" series regimen.

(Base: Weighted Average Real Wage in Australia in 1911 = 1,000.)

State.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1929.	1931.	1939.	1941.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.
N.S. Wales	925	1,073	1,130	1,210	1,207	1,187	1,258	1,316	1,359	1,365	1,380
Victoria	954	1,084	1,164	1,200	1,180	1,187	1,260	1,312	1,355	1,363	1,381
Queensland	1,022	1,227	1,290	1,336	1,306	1,240	1,314	1,367	1,379	1,407	1,433
South Australia	914	1,034	1,099	1,137	1,147	1,158	1,229	1,291	1,341	1,362	1,388
W. Australia	1,043	1,096	1,152	1,189	1,308	1,279	1,296	1,348	1,377	1,379	1,426
Tasmania	902	984	1,103	1,120	1,153	1,142	1,237	1,285	1,334	1,338	1,371
Australia ..	1,000	948	1,087	1,151	1,210	1,211	1,194	1,263	1,318	1,357	1,367	1,389

In the table above, the effective wage index-numbers are computed to the one base, that of Australia for 1911. As the index-numbers are comparable in all respects, comparisons may be made as to the increase or decrease in the effective wage index-number for any State over any period of years.

(iv) *Effective or Real Wage Index-numbers, 1901 to 1950—Australia.* In the following table similar index-numbers are given for Australia as a whole under both the "A" and "C" series. These are obtained by dividing the nominal wage index-numbers for Australia for the year concerned by the corresponding retail price index-numbers for the six capital cities and multiplying by 1,000.

NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS (FULL WORK).
(Base : *Weighted Average Real Wage in Australia in 1911 = 1,000.*)

Year.	Nominal Weekly Wage Index-numbers.	Retail Price Index-numbers.		Effective or Real Wage Index-numbers, i.e., Relative Purchasing Power over Regimen of—	
		"A" Series (Food, Groceries and Rent of all Houses)	"C" Series (All Items).	"A" Series.	"C" Series.
1901	848	880	..	964	..
1911	1,000	1,000	(1,000)	1,000	(1,000)
1916	1,144	1,324	1,319	864	867
1921	1,826	1,697	1,680	1,076	1,087
1926	1,914	1,786	1,677	1,072	1,141
1931	1,752	1,479	1,448	1,185	1,210
1932	1,639	1,403	1,377	1,168	1,190
1933	1,584	1,345	1,335	1,178	1,187
1934	1,590	1,385	1,355	1,148	1,173
1935	1,612	1,420	1,380	1,135	1,169
1936	1,638	1,461	1,409	1,121	1,162
1937	1,707	1,507	1,448	1,133	1,178
1938	1,799	(a)	1,488	(a)	1,209
1939	1,846	(a)	1,526	(a)	1,210
1940	1,889	(a)	1,588	(a)	1,190
1941	1,997	(a)	1,673	(a)	1,194
1942	2,164	(a)	1,809	(a)	1,196
1943	2,309	(a)	1,876	(a)	1,231
1944	2,326	(a)	1,867	(a)	1,246
1945	2,339	(a)	1,868	(a)	1,252
1946	2,400	(a)	1,900	(a)	1,263
1947	2,598	(a)	1,971	(a)	1,318
1948	2,914	(a)	2,148	(a)	1,357
1949	3,210	(a)	2,349	(a)	1,367
1950	3,596	(a)	2,589	(a)	1,389

(a) Not available.

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

§ 3. Basic Wages in Australia.

1. *General.*—Basic wages in Australia are fixed by various industrial tribunals operating under Commonwealth and State Arbitration Acts, and are varied from time to time according to changes in cost of living, constitution of the family unit, etc. In the industrial legislation of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia, provision is made for the tribunals appointed under the Acts to determine the basic rates of wage to be paid to adult unskilled workers. In Tasmania provision for the

declaration of a basic rate of wage is not included in the industrial Acts in force. The Wages Board system operates in this State, and each Wages Board determines the rate of wage to be paid to the unskilled worker when the determination for an industry or calling is under review. In Victoria, however, while the same Wages Board system exists, the Factories Act obliges Wages Boards to adopt Commonwealth Award rates and conditions "which such Boards are under the Factories and Shops Acts empowered to include in their determinations." As the power of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court is limited by the Constitution to the settlement, by conciliation and arbitration, of industrial disputes extending beyond the limits of any one State, no similar provision respecting the determination of a basic wage is to be found in the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act. In practice, the Court does declare a Commonwealth basic wage, and uses the wage so declared as a basis for all awards made by it in the exercise of its jurisdiction, except in the case of awards made for Whyalla and Iron Knob where the basis of awards has, since 1947, been the South Australian "living" wage plus 5s. That is, upon a new basic wage being declared, the awards made in the settlement of all interstate industrial disputes are re-opened and amended accordingly. 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."* The term "minimum" wage, as distinct from the "basic" wage is used to express the lowest rate payable in a particular industry, and is either equal to, or greater than, the "basic" wage.

2. *The Commonwealth Basic Wage.*—(i) *Early Judgments.* 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 1907 that the first basic wage, as such, was declared by a Court in Australia. This was made by Mr. Justice Higgins, President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, and it was defined as 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 declaration was made by way of an order in terms of Section 2 (d) of the Excise Tariff 1906 in the matter of an application by H. V. McKay, of the Sunshine Harvester Works, Victoria, from which was derived the title of the "Harvester Wage" by which it is popularly known. The rate of wage declared in this case was 7s. per day or £2 2s. per week for Melbourne, the amount considered reasonable for "a family of about five."‡ The constituent parts of this amount were £1 5s. 5d. for food, 7s. for rent, and 9s. 7d. for all other expenditure.

The "Harvester" basic rate was adopted by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court for incorporation in its awards, and practically the same rates continued until 1913, when the Court took cognizance of the retail price index-numbers, covering food and groceries and rent of all houses ("A" series), for the 30 more important towns of Australia, which had been published by the Commonwealth Statistician for the first time in the preceding year. These index-numbers had been taken back to 1901, with the year 1911 as base, and disclosed not only considerable percentage increases since 1907, but also large disparities in the relative purchasing power of money in the various towns. The basic rates for towns were thereafter fixed largely on their respective index-numbers, taking the index-number 875 for Melbourne for the year 1907 as being equivalent to the "Harvester" rate of 42s. per week, or the base of the index (1,000) as being equivalent to 48s. per week. Exceptions were made in the case of many country towns, where certain "loadings" were applied to counterbalance their lower index-numbers due to cheaper rentals.§

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

† *Ibid.*

‡ See page 414 for Court's interpretation in 1940 Basic Wage Inquiry of the "family unit".

§ As these indexes covered only about 60 per cent. of household expenditure, a low index due to low rentals would wrongly presume low costs in the remaining uninvestigated 40 per cent. of household expenditure and *vice versa*.

In 1922 an amount known as the "Powers' 3s."* was added as a general "loading" to the weekly wage for the purpose of securing to the worker during a period of rising prices the full equivalent of the "Harvester" standard. In the same year the system was instituted of making regular quarterly adjustments of the basic wage to accord with variations in purchasing power as disclosed by the "A" Series retail price index-numbers, and of basing the adjustments on the index-number for the quarter in place of that for the previous calendar year or the year ended the preceding quarter.

The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act provides that the "basic" wage, or any alteration thereof including the principles on which it is computed, together with any variation or interpretation of any award involving any such alteration, shall be considered by a Court constituted by the Chief Judge and not less than two other Judges, and must be approved by a majority of the members of that Court. By a judgment of the High Court on 21st April, 1933, the "basic" wage is taken to mean, for the foregoing purpose, not only the "Harvester" wage but any "loadings" forming part of the primary wage of an unskilled labourer. A "loading" is defined as an addition to the "basic" wage as compensation for some peculiar condition of labour or environment, and not by way of "margin for skill". The wage payable for skilled labour is assessed on the basis of the "basic" wage, including "loadings".

The adequacy or otherwise of the "Harvester" standard has been the subject of much discussion, the author of the judgment himself urging on several occasions the need for its review. The abnormal conditions during and for some time after the 1914-18 War hindered such a review which was regarded as less urgent by reason of the fact that wages throughout Australia were being automatically adjusted to changes in retail prices. A Royal Commission (referred to later) was appointed in 1919 to assess a basic wage, but its recommendations were not carried out.

No change was made in the method of fixation and adjustment of the basic wage until the onset of the depression which began to be felt severely during 1930. Applications were then made to the Court by employers for some greater measure of reduction of wages than that afforded by the automatic adjustments to falling retail prices. An account of the proceedings which resulted in the Court reducing all wages under its jurisdiction by 10 per cent. from 1st February, 1931, is given in *Labour Report* No. 23, page 74. Reference is also made to the Court's refusal in June, 1932, and May, 1933, to remove this special reduction.

(ii) *Basic Wage Inquiry, 1934.* The "Harvester" standard, adjusted to retail price variations, continued as the theoretical basis of the wage of the Commonwealth Court until 30th April, 1934, when it was superseded by a judgment delivered on 17th April, 1934, full particulars of which appear in *Official Year Book* No. 29, 1936, page 545. The basic wage declared on this occasion (subsequently referred to as the "Needs" Basic Wage 1934) was as follows for the six capital cities:—

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Sydney	67	0	Adelaide	64	0
Melbourne	64	0	Perth	66	0
Brisbane	61	0	Hobart	67	0
Six Capital Cities, 65s. 0d.					

A comparison for the capital cities of the basic rates granted by the judgment and those ruling under previous practices of the Court is given in *Official Year Book* No. 38, p. 426.

The 10 per cent. special reduction in wages referred to above ceased to operate upon the introduction of the new rates, and the basis of the periodical adjustments to retail price variations was transferred from the "A" and the "D" Series to the "C" Series of index-numbers which covers Food and Groceries, Rent of 4-roomed and 5-roomed

* Awarded by Mr. Justice Powers in the Gas Workers' Case.

Houses, Clothing, Fuel, Light, Household Utensils, Household Drapery, Fares, and other Miscellaneous household requirements. The base of the index (1,000) was taken by the Court as equal to 81s. per week. This gave the above rates for the capital cities on the basis of their respective index-numbers. In effect, the new rate for the six capital cities was the same as that previously paid under the "A" Series, without the "Powers' 3s." and without the 10 per cent. reduction. Certain towns gained and others lost in comparison with rates under the "A" Series, owing to the different relationship of towns under the "A" and the "C" Series.

(iii) *Basic Wage Inquiry, 1937.* In May, 1937, the Commonwealth Court heard an application by the combined unions for an increase in the basic wage. The unions asked that the equivalent of the base (1,000) of the "C" Series Index be increased from 81s. to 93s. which on current index-numbers would have represented an average increase of about 10s. per week. The hearing extended from 10th May to 4th June, 1937, and the Court delivered judgment on 23rd June. The chief features of the judgment were:—

(a) Various amounts were added to the basic wage not as an integral, and therefore adjustable, part of that wage, but as "loadings" on the rates payable under the "shilling table" as determined by the 1934 judgment. The latter was referred to in the judgment as the "needs" portion of the total resultant basic wages. The "loadings" and resultant "total basic wages" for the six capital cities were as follows:—

City.	"Needs" Basic Wage.		"Loading."	Total Basic Wage.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Sydney	72 0	6 0	6 0	78 0
Melbourne	69 0	6 0	6 0	75 0
Brisbane	68 0	6 0	6 0	74 0
Adelaide	68 0(a)	4 0	4 0	72 0
Perth	70 0(a)	4 0	4 0	74 0
Hobart	70 0(b)	4 0	4 0	74 0
Six Capitals	70 0	5 0	5 0	75 0

(a) An additional 1s. was actually being paid under the "2s. minimum adjustment" provision.
 (b) One shilling less was being paid under the "2s. minimum adjustment" provision.

(b) The basis of the adjustment of wages in accordance with the variations shown by retail price index-numbers was transferred from the "C" series to a special "Court" series based upon the "C" series (*see page 393*).

(c) Female and junior rates were left for adjustment by individual Judges when dealing with specific awards.

The main parts of the judgment are reprinted in Official Year Book No. 30, and in *Labour Report* No. 28, p. 77.

(iv) "*Lag*" in Adjustments. The Commonwealth Court on 19th December, 1939 heard an application by the unions that the date of adjustment of the basic wage in accordance with the variations in the "Court" Series of index-numbers be brought nearer to the period upon which the variation was based. In a judgment delivered on the same day the Court directed that such adjustments be made one month earlier. The effect, therefore, was to make future adjustments operative from the beginning of the first pay-period to commence in a February, a May, an August or a November.

(v) *Basic Wage Inquiry, 1940.* On 5th August, 1940 the Full Court commenced the hearing of an application by the combined unions for an increase in the existing basic wage by raising the value of 1,000 (the base of the "C" Series Index upon which

the "Court" Series are based) from 81s. to 100s. per week, and the abolition of the existing "Prosperity Loadings", which would be regarded as incorporated in the new rate mentioned. Judgment was delivered on 7th February, 1941, the Court unanimously refusing to grant any increase, and deciding that the application should not be dismissed but stood over for further consideration after 30th June, 1941. The application was refused mainly owing to the uncertainty of the economic outlook under existing war conditions (*see* (vi) following). Extracts from the judgment were published in earlier issues of the Official Year Book (*see* No. 38, p. 428) and the *Labour Report*.

In regard to the popular idea that the basic wage of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration was identified with a specific family unit, the Chief Judge made the following statements to clarify the position: "The Court has always conceded the 'needs' of an average family should be kept in mind in fixing a basic wage. But it has never as the result of its own inquiry specifically declared what is an average family or what is the cost of a regimen of food, clothing, shelter and miscellaneous items necessary to maintain it in frugal comfort, or that a basic wage should give effect to any such finding. In the end economic possibilities have always been the determining factor What should be sought is the independent ascertainment and prescription of the highest basic wage that can be sustained by the total of industry in all its primary, secondary and ancillary forms More than ever before wage fixation is controlled by the economic outlook".

The Chief Judge also suggested that the more logical system would be to grade the basic wage according to family responsibilities by means of a comprehensive system of child endowment, and that if a scheme of this nature were established, as recently announced by the Commonwealth Government,* future fixations of the basic wage would be greatly simplified.

(vi) "*Interim*" *Basic Wage Inquiry*, 1946. As the result of (a) an application made on 30th October, 1946 (during the course of the Standard Hours Case) by the Attorney-General for the Commonwealth for the restoration to the Full Court List of certain adjourned 1940 basic wage applications (*see* (v) above), (b) a number of fresh cases which had come to the Court since 1941, and (c) an application by the Australasian Council of Trade Unions on behalf of the unions for an "interim" basic wage declaration, the Court, on 25th November, 1946, commenced the hearing of this case. The case ended on 10th December, 1946 and judgment was delivered on 13th December, 1946 whereby an increase of 7s. per week was granted in the "needs" portion of the basic wage then current and based on the weighted average "Court" index-number for the Six Capital Cities (as a whole) for the September quarter, 1946. This had the effect of raising the base (1923-27) index-number of the "Court" Series Index from 81.0 to 87.0, the corresponding "needs" basic wage from 81s. to 87s. per week, and the current rate for the Six Capital Cities as a whole from 93s. to 100s. per week. All "loadings" on the basic wage were retained at their existing amounts until otherwise ordered by the Court.

The immediate monetary effect was to increase by 7s. per week the basic wage in each of the capital cities (with the exception of Hobart, where the increase was 6s.), and in most of the other towns or combinations of towns—the position of the index-number for a town in the new Automatic Adjustment Scale (on the new base rate of 87s.) determining whether the increase was 7s. or 6s. The date of operation for the majority of workers affected was the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in the month of December, 1946, in certain industries as from 1st December, 1946 and for certain other groups of workers from dates fixed by Judges dealing with individual applications for the increase.

Further details of this judgment may be obtained from *Labour Report* No. 38, page 79.

* Legislation covering a scheme to become operative on 1st July, 1941, was actually passed by the Commonwealth Parliament on 3rd April, 1941—*see* page 425 for details.

(vii) *Basic Wage Inquiry 1949-50*. This case really finalized the case begun in 1940 and continued in 1946 (*see above*). After certain procedural matters had been disposed of in February, 1949, and later dates, the general hearing of the Unions' claims was commenced on 17th May, 1949. Evidence was completed on 22nd August, 1950, and the three judges (Kelly, *C.J.*, Foster and Dunphy, *J.J.*) delivered separate judgments on 12th October, 1950.

In 1946 the Chief Judge ruled that the claim for an increase in the basic wage should be heard concurrently with the "40-Hour Week" claims then before the Court. The Unions, however, objected to this course being followed, and, on appeal to the High Court, that Court in March, 1947, gave a decision which obliged the Arbitration Court to proceed with the "Hours" case to its conclusion without the interpolation of the contemporaneous hearing of the Basic Wage case.*

In the judgments of 12th October, 1950, which were in the nature of general declarations, a majority of the Court (Foster and Dunphy, *J.J.*) was of the opinion that the basic wage for adult males should be increased by £1 per week, and that for adult females should be 75 per cent. of the adult male rate. Kelly, *C.J.*, dissenting, considered that no increase either in the male or female wage was justified.

On 24th October, 1950, and 23rd November, 1950, the Court made further declarations regarding the "Prosperity Loading" of 1937 (*see page 413*) which was being paid at rates between 3s. and 6s. per week according to localities, etc., and the future basis of quarterly adjustments. The "Prosperity Loading" was standardized at a uniform rate of 5s. per week for all towns and was declared to be an adjustable part of the basic wage. The Court also declared that the "War Loading" was not part of the basic wage.

With regard to other "loadings" the Court on 17th November, 1950 proceeded to examine the individual awards in the claims before it, for the purpose of determining to what extent such "loadings" formed part of the basic wage. The members of the Court, earlier in the hearing, had given interim opinions for the guidance of the parties as to the meaning of the definition of "basic wage" in section 25 of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act, the majority view being that it would be necessary to examine each award and to ascertain either from the award itself or other sources whether "loading" additions were part of the basic wage or not. It should be noted that any "loading" declared to be part of the basic wage ceased to be paid as a separate entity, but apart from the special case of the Australian Capital Territory there were very few "loadings" which fell within this category.

The first payment of the new rates was expressed to operate from the beginning of the first pay period in December, 1950, by way of a flat-rate addition of £1 5s. in all cases to the "needs" rate (2nd series) on the indexes of September quarter, 1950. This £1 5s. comprised the £1 addition announced on 12th October, 1950, and the "Prosperity Loading" (first instituted in 1937) now standardized at 5s. in all relevant cases.

The Court decided to create a new Court Series Index for automatic variation of the new basic wage in accordance with future variations in retail prices. The first automatic quarterly adjustment of the new basic wage on this basis became operative from the beginning of the first pay period commencing in February, 1951, on the basis of the index numbers for the December quarter, 1950.

The basic wage rate for the Six Capital Cities (Weighted Average) arrived at by the Court after applying the foregoing declarations was £8 2s., comprising £6 17s. "needs" (2nd Series) plus 5s. uniform "Prosperity Loading" plus the £1 addition. For the purpose of determining the corresponding rates to be paid in respect of individual cities and towns, and combinations thereof, and their future automatic adjustment, this new rate of £8 2s. was equated to the "C" Series retail price index-number 1572 for the Six Capital Cities (Weighted Average) for September quarter, 1950. From this was derived the new "Court" Index—in future to be known as the "Court" Index (Third Series)—with 103.0 equated to 1000 in the "C" Series Index.

* Printing Industry Employees Union of Australia v. Victorian Chamber of Manufactures. 73 C.L.B. 259.

The basic wage rates operative in November, 1950, are shown below in comparison with those operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in December, 1950:—

Capital City.	Rates Operative in November, 1950.			Total Rate Operative in December, 1950.(a)	Increase (Column 5 less Column 4).
	"Needs" Rate.	"Prosperity" Loading.	Total.		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Sydney	140 0	6 0	146 0	165 0	19 0
Melbourne	137 0	6 0	143 0	162 0	19 0
Brisbane	129 0	6 0	135 0	154 0	19 0
Adelaide	133 0	4 0	137 0	158 0	21 0
Perth	135 0	4 0	139 0	160 0	21 0
Hobart	135 0	4 0	139 0	160 0	21 0
Six Capitals	137 0	5 0	142 0	162 0	20 0

(a) Comprising "Needs" rate shown in column (2) plus 20s. addition of 12th October, 1950 and uniform Prosperity Loading" of 5s.

(viii) *Commonwealth Basic Wage Rates.* The basic wage rates of the Commonwealth Court for adult males and females operative as from the beginning of the first pay period commencing in November, 1951, were as shown in the following table:—

COMMONWEALTH BASIC WAGE—WEEKLY RATES. (a).

City or Town.	Rate of Wage.		City or Town.	Rate of Wage.	
	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.
	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
New South Wales—			South Australia—		
Sydney	207 0	155 0	Adelaide	195 0	146 0
Newcastle (b)	207 0	155 0	Whyalla and Iron Knob	200 0	150 0
Port Kembla—Wollongong (b)	207 0	155 0	Five Towns (d)	195 0	146 0
Broken Hill	209 0	156 6	Western Australia—		
Five Towns (d)	206 0	154 6	Perth	197 0	147 6
Victoria—			Kalgoorlie	205 0	153 6
Melbourne	199 0	149 0	Geraldton	206 0	154 6
Geelong (c)	199 0	149 0	Five Towns (d)	198 0	148 6
Warrnambool (c)	199 0	149 0	Tasmania—		
Mildura (c)	199 0	149 0	Hobart	199 0	149 0
Yallourn (c)	205 6	154 0	Launceston	201 0	150 6
Five Towns (d)	199 0	149 0	Queenstown	195 0	146 0
Queensland—			Five Towns (d)	199 0	149 0
Brisbane	185 0	138 6	Thirty Towns (d)	200 0	150 0
Five Towns (d)	186 0	139 6	Six Capital Cities (d)	200 0	150 0

(a) Operative from the beginning of the first pay period commencing in November, 1951. (b) Based on Sydney. (c) Based on Melbourne. (d) Weighted average.

The rate for provincial towns, other than those mentioned above, is 3s. less than that of their respective capital cities.

The following table shows the movements of this wage in all capital cities and the six capital cities as a whole during the years 1939 to 1951.

BASIC WEEKLY WAGE RATES (a), CAPITAL CITIES, PRESCRIBED BY COMMON-WEALTH COURT OF CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION FOR ADULT MALES.

Date Operative.(b)	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
	<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>
1939—							
September ..	81 0	81 0	76 0	78 0	77 0	77 0	79 0
1940—							
November ..	85 0	84 0	79 0	80 0	80 0	81 0	83 0
1941—							
November ..	89 0	88 0	84 0	84 0	85 0	85 0	87 0
1942—							
November ..	97 0	97 0	91 0	93 0	91 0	92 0	95 0
1943—							
November ..	99 0	98 0	93 0	94 0	94 0	95 0	97 0
1944—							
November ..	99 0	98 0	93 0	93 0	94 0	94 0	96 0
1945—							
November ..	99 0	98 0	93 0	93 0	94 0	94 0	96 0
1946—							
November ..	101 0	99 0	94 0	95 0	95 0	97 0	98 0
December ..	108 0	106 0	101 0	102 0	102 0	103 0	105 0
1947—							
November ..	112 0	109 0	105 0	106 0	106 0	107 0	109 0
1948—							
November ..	122 0	120 0	115 0	116 0	116 0	118 0	119 0
1949—							
February ..	124 0	123 0	118 0	119 0	118 0	121 0	122 0
May ..	127 0	125 0	119 0	121 0	120 0	124 0	124 0
August ..	130 0	128 0	122 0	124 0	126 0	127 0	127 0
November ..	132 0	130 0	125 0	126 0	129 0	128 0	129 0
1950—							
February ..	135 0	134 0	127 0	129 0	131 0	131 0	133 0
May ..	138 0	137 0	129 0	131 0	133 0	131 0	135 0
August ..	142 0	140 0	132 0	134 0	136 0	135 0	138 0
November ..	146 0	143 0	135 0	137 0	139 0	139 0	142 0
December ..	165 0	162 0	154 0	158 0	160 0	160 0	162 0
1951—							
February ..	173 0	170 0	159 0	166 0	166 0	165 0	169 0
May ..	180 0	177 0	166 0	171 0	176 0	173 0	176 0
August ..	193 0	189 0	175 0	184 0	188 0	187 0	189 0
November ..	207 0	199 0	185 0	195 0	197 0	199 0	200 0

(a) Rates include "prosperity loadings" where applicable.
of the first pay period commencing in the month indicated.

(b) Generally from the beginning

3. **Australian Territories.**—A full account of the bases upon which the basic wages are determined in the Australian Capital Territory and in the Northern Territory (both north and south of the 20th parallel of South Latitude) may be found on pages 89 to 96 of *Labour Report No. 39* for 1950.

In the Australian Capital Territory the rates payable as from the beginning of the first pay period in November, 1951, were £10 6s. for adult males and £7 14s. 6d. for adult females.

In the Northern Territory there are two basic wages operating, one in respect of areas north of the 20th parallel of South Latitude, generally referred to as the "Darwin" rate and the other in respect of areas south of that parallel and extending down to the 26th parallel (the "Port Augusta" rate).

The basic wage rates payable as from the beginning of the first pay period in November, 1951, were:—"Darwin" rate, adult males, £10 10s., adult females, £7 17s. 6d.; "Port Augusta" rate, adult males, £10 10s., and adult females, £7 17s. 6d.

In addition to the above rates special loadings were prescribed in Northern Territory awards following the fixation of the new basic wage rates operative from November, 1951.

4. **Basic Wage Rates for Females.**—Reference should be made to *Labour Report* No. 39, 1950 (page 86) for a statement of the general principles followed by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in fixing basic wage rates for females in relation to those of males.

5. **State Basic Wages.**—(i) *New South Wales.* The first determination under the New South Wales Industrial Arbitration Act of a standard "living" wage for adult male employees was made on 16th February, 1914, by the Court of Industrial Arbitration. The Board of Trade was established in 1918 with power to determine the "living" wage for adult male and female employees in the State. The Board made numerous declarations from 1918 to 1925, but ceased to function after the Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act 1926 established the Industrial Commission of New South Wales, which exercised the powers of the Board of Trade as from 15th April, 1926.

The adult male rate was determined on the family unit of a man, wife and two children from 1914 to 1925; a man and wife only in 1927, with family allowances for dependent children; and a man, wife and one child in 1929, with family allowances for other dependent children. With the adoption in 1937 of the Commonwealth basic wage referred to below, however, the identification of a specified family unit with the basic wage disappeared.

Employees in rural industries are not covered by the rates in the table referred to below; a wage for rural workers of £3 6s. per week was in force for twelve months from October, 1921, and a rate of £4 4s. operated from June, 1927, to December, 1929, when the power of industrial tribunals to fix a living wage for rural workers was withdrawn.

A table showing the variations in the living wages determined by the industrial tribunals of New South Wales up to 27th April, 1937 was published in previous issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 37, page 481). Since 27th April, 1937, changes have been made automatically in accordance with the procedure outlined in the next paragraph, and the latest current rate payable will be found in the table in sub-par. vi., page 424.

Following on the judgment of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court referred to on page 413, the Government of New South Wales decided to make the State Basic Wage accord with the Commonwealth rates ruling in the State, and secured an amendment of the Industrial Arbitration Act to give effect thereto. The Act (No. 9 of 1937) was passed on 7th October, 1937, and came into operation from the commencement of the first pay period in October, practically from 1st October, 1937. The general principles laid down by the Commonwealth Court were followed as closely as practicable, and provision was made for the automatic adjustment of wages in conformity with variations in retail prices as shown by the Commonwealth Court's "All Items" Retail Price Index-numbers, shortly known as the "Court" Series of Index-numbers. The Commonwealth Court's principle of treating the "prosperity loadings" as a separate and non-adjustable part of the total basic wage was adopted. The basic rate for adult females was fixed at 54 per cent. of the adult male rate to the nearest sixpence. The provisions of the main Acts for the periodic declaration of the living wage by the Industrial Commission were repealed, but the amending Act placed on the Commission the responsibility of altering all awards and agreements in conformity with the intentions of the new Act; to define boundaries within which the various rates are to operate; and to specify the appropriate "Court" Series retail price index-numbers to which they are to be related.

The judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration on 12th October, 1950 necessitated attention by the legislature to the clauses of the Industrial Arbitration Act providing for the automatic adjustment of rates of pay based on the Commonwealth Basic Wage Judgment of 23rd June, 1937.

An amendment to the Industrial Arbitration Act was assented to on 23rd November, 1950 which empowered the Industrial Commission to vary the terms of awards and industrial agreements affecting male rates of pay, to the extent to which the Commission thought fit, to give effect to the alteration in the basic wage for adult males made by the Commonwealth judgment. In the case of female rates of pay the Commission was empowered to review the terms of awards and industrial agreements and to vary such terms as in the circumstances the Commission decided proper, but no variation was to fix rates of pay for female employees lower than the Commonwealth basic wage for adult females.

To facilitate the work of the Commission, awards were divided into separate classes, and orders issued regarding the variations to be made to those in each class. The rates for adult males were increased by the same amounts as the corresponding Commonwealth rates, with special provision to cover the cases of apprentices, casual workers and employees on piecework. In deciding the variation for female employees the Commission prescribed an increase in the total wage rate (i.e. basic wage plus marginal rate) of £1 4s. 6d. per week subject to the statutory provision (incorporated in the amendment of 23rd November) that the minimum total rate was to be not less than the basic wage for adult females prescribed in Commonwealth awards, that is, at least 75 per cent. of the corresponding male basic wage rate.

In the judgment delivered on 9th March, 1951, giving reasons for its decision on female rates, the Commission decided that the basic wage for adult females prescribed by the Commonwealth Court in reality included a portion "due to secondary considerations," and could not be considered a "reasonable and proper basic wage for the assessment of rates of female employees under the Industrial Arbitration Act".

In discussing the composition of the amount of £6 3s. 6d., which the Commonwealth Court in its judgment of October, 1950 had prescribed as the basic wage for adult females in New South Wales, the Commission stated "After giving the matter fullest consideration, we think in the circumstances it is reasonable to allocate £1 of the said sum of £6 3s. 6d. to secondary considerations and to regard the amount of £1 4s. 6d. as an addition proper to be made to the pre-existing basic wages in New South Wales of £5 19s. The total, £5 3s. 6d., becomes therefore the true female basic wage in New South Wales. To state the decision the Commission has reached in other words, the commission assesses the true basic wage or foundational wage which it is proper to apply when adjusting, or in the course of making future awards assessing rates of female employees under the Industrial Arbitration Act, as £5 3s. 6d. per week."

As a consequence of the overriding statutory requirement that no rate for adult females in State awards shall fall below the Federal basic wage for adult females, the amount of the quarterly adjustments to the female basic wage for changes in the "Court" series index numbers is the same in Federal and State awards.

By an amendment of the Industrial Arbitration Act in June, 1951, the differentiation in rates for the basic wage in different districts and for employees under Crown awards was eliminated as a general rule, making the basic wage throughout the State equal to that paid in Sydney, with the main exception of the Broken Hill district where a different basic rate still prevails.

The basic wage rates applicable in the metropolitan area from the beginning of the first pay period commencing in November, 1951, were £10 7s. per week for adult males and £7 15s. for adult females.

The principle of supplementing wages by a payment in respect of dependent children under fourteen years of age was operative in New South Wales from July, 1927 until superseded by the Commonwealth Government Scheme operative from 1st July, 1941, and a brief account of the main features of the system appears in Official Year Book No. 37, pp. 485-6.

(ii) *Victoria and Tasmania.* A State basic rate of wage is not declared in Victoria and Tasmania. In these States the Wages Board system of wage fixation is in operation, and each Board determines the minimum rate of wage to be paid in the industry or calling under review. In the majority of cases the practice of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court of adjusting wages in accordance with variations in retail prices has been followed

in the past by these bodies. In the case of Victoria, by amendments of the Factories and Shops Act No. 4275 of 1934 and No. 4461 of 1936, it is obligatory on all Wages Boards to adopt provisions of Commonwealth Awards "which such Boards are empowered under the Factory and Shops Acts to include in their determinations". The Secretary of Labour is also empowered under this Act to make adjustments of wages according to variations in retail price index-numbers without calling the Board together.

In accordance with the decisions of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to increase the male and female basic wages from December, 1950 (*see* page 415) the Wages Boards in both States met and incorporated the new Commonwealth rates in their determinations. The Commonwealth weekly adult male rate operative from the beginning of the first pay period commencing in November, 1951, was £9 19s. for Melbourne and £9 19s. for Hobart. Female basic wages are 75 per cent. of these rates.

(iii) *Queensland.* The first formal declaration by the Industrial Arbitration Court in this State of a basic wage was gazetted on 24th February, 1921. Prior to this declaration the rate of £3 17s. per week for adult males had been generally recognized by the Court in its awards as the basic or living wage. The basic wage is nominally intended to provide for the needs of a man, his wife and three children. The variations in the adult basic wages determined by the Industrial Arbitration Court up to 1st April, 1937, were published in previous issues of the Official Year Book (*see* No. 37, page 482). Variations since that date are shown below:—

BASIC WAGE VARIATIONS IN QUEENSLAND. (*State Jurisdiction.*)

Date of Operation.	Adult Basic Wage.			
	Male.		Female.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1st April, 1938	4	1 0	2	3 0
7th August, 1939	4	4 0	2	5 0
31st March, 1941	4	9 0	2	8 0
4th May, 1942 (a)	4	11 0	2	9 6
23rd December, 1946 (b)	5	5 0	3	0 6
7th December, 1950 (b)	7	14 0	5	2 6

(a) Quarterly adjustments provided by judgment of 21st April, 1942—*see* below. (b) Consequent upon basic wage increases granted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

The rates shown above are applicable throughout the Southern Division (Eastern District), which includes the metropolitan area; allowances are added for the following divisions—Northern (Eastern District), 10s.; Northern (Western District), 17s. 4d.; Mackay, 5s. 6d.; and Southern (Western District), 7s. 4d. Half of these allowances are granted to females.

On 15th April, 1942, the Court declared the rates operative from 31st March, 1941 as adequately meeting the requirements of Section 9 of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1932, having regard to the level of the "C" Series (All Items) Retail Price Index for Brisbane for the December quarter, 1941. In order to ensure, however, that it would continue to do so under present exceptional conditions, the Court decided to make a quarterly declaration of the basic wage on the basis of the variations in the "cost of living" as disclosed by the "C" Series Index for Brisbane, commencing with the figures for the March quarter, 1942. This declaration was duly made by the Court on 21st April, 1942, at the rates of £4 11s. for adult males, and £2 9s. 6d. for adult females. Since then, quarterly adjustments have been made to the basic wage in accordance with changes in the "C" Series (All Items) Index.

In view of the "interim" basic wage judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in December, 1946 (*see* page 414), the Queensland Industrial Court granted increases of 7s. and 5s. in the basic wages for adult males and adult females respectively to operate from 23rd December, 1946.

Following the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to increase the male and female basic wages from December, 1950 (*see* page 415) the Industrial Arbitration Court of Queensland conducted an inquiry as to what change

should be made to the State basic wage for Queensland. By a majority decision on 30th November, 1950, the Industrial Court granted an increase of 15s. weekly to both adult males and adult females thus increasing the metropolitan rates to £7 14s. per week and £5 2s. 6d. per week respectively operative from 7th December, 1950. The new male rate of £7 14s. corresponded to the Federal basic wage for the Brisbane metropolitan area and this parity has since been maintained although the dates on which the quarterly changes become operative do not necessarily correspond with those prescribed for Commonwealth awards. The new female rate of £5 2s. 6d. represents 66 per cent. of the male rate instead of 63 per cent. (approximately) as previously, and this 66 per cent. determines the basic wage payable to adult females. The judgment of the Queensland Industrial Court may be found in the supplement to the Queensland Industrial Gazette, Vol. 35, No. 4, page 1253.

The rates payable in accordance with regular quarterly variations from 29th October, 1951, were £9 5s. for adult males and £6 3s. for adult females.

(iv) *South Australia.* The Industrial Code 1920-1950 provides that the Board of Industry shall after public inquiry declare the living wages to be paid to adult male and female employees. The Board has power also to fix different rates to be paid in different defined areas.

The family unit is not specifically defined in the Code, but the South Australian Industrial Court in 1920 decided that the average employee in respect of whom the living wage is to be declared is a man with a wife and three children.

The first declaration by the Board of Industry was made on 15th July, 1921, when the living wage for adult male employees in the metropolitan area was determined at £3 19s. 6d. per week.

Following on the declaration of an "interim" increase in its "needs" basic wage by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration on 13th December, 1946 (see p. 414) the South Australian Parliament, by virtue of the Economic Stability Act No. 52 of 1946, and other enabling powers, provided for the Governor, by proclamation, to declare the "daily living wage" for adult males in the metropolitan area to be one-sixth of the Commonwealth weekly basic wage for this area (102s. per week, inclusive of the "prosperity loading" of 4s.) and to be operative from 7th January, 1947. The Act mentioned also provided for similar proclamations in respect of any adjustment of such wage, but the powers of the Board of Industry to declare a "living wage" were retained, and any such wage so declared will supersede that declared by proclamation.

The variations in the living wages determined by the Board of Industry up to 25th November, 1937, were published in previous issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 37, page 483). Variations since that date are shown below:—

LIVING WAGE VARIATIONS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA. (*State Jurisdiction.*)

Date of Operation.	Living Wage per Week.			
	Male.		Female.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
5th January, 1939	3	18 0	1	18 0
28th November, 1940	4	4 0	2	1 0
26th November, 1941	4	7 0	2	3 6
15th October, 1942	4	14 0	2	6 2
26th September, 1946	4	18 6	2	15 0
7th January, 1947 (a)	5	2 0	2	17 0
21st August, 1947	5	4 0	2	18 0
13th November, 1947	5	6 0	2	19 0
7th July, 1948	5	17 0	3	6 6
19th May, 1949	6	5 0	3	8 6

(a) Commonwealth rate for metropolitan area adopted.

The Industrial Code Amendment Act No. 65 of 1949 made provision for the quarterly adjustment of the "living wage" in accordance with the variations in the Commonwealth basic wage consequent on the changes in the Court Series index of retail prices for Adelaide. In effect this resulted in parity between the State living wage and the Commonwealth basic wage from the beginning of the first pay period commencing in February, 1950.

The prescribed adjustment to the female "living wage" was seven-twelfths of the same adjustment to the Commonwealth male basic wage.

The Board of Industry retained power to amend the "living wage" but any new "living wage" was to be adjusted quarterly as above.

Following the decisions of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949-50 Basic Wage Inquiry (see page 415), the South Australian legislation was amended to enable, *inter alia*, the "living wage" to be altered by proclamation "in order to avoid unjustifiable differences between rates of wage fixed under Commonwealth and State laws respectively".

By proclamation dated 30th November, 1950, the South Australian Living Wage in the metropolitan area was increased from £6 17s. to £7 18s. for adult males and from £3 14s. 11d. to £5 18s. 6d. for adult females, operative from 4th December, 1950. These new rates were identical with the December rates fixed by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for the metropolitan area of South Australia.

There was thus an increase of £1 1s. per week for adult males and £2 3s. 7d. for adult females. The larger increase for females was attributable to the change in the percentage of the male rate upon which the female rate was based. Previously the female rate had been approximately 54 per cent. of the male basic wage but by the proclamation the female basic wage was increased to 75 per cent. of the corresponding male rate.

The rates payable in accordance with the quarterly adjustments notified by the President of the Board of Industry operating from the beginning of the first pay period commencing in November, 1951, were £9 15s. per week for adult males, and £7 6s. for adult females.

(v) *Western Australia.* The Industrial Arbitration Act 1912-1950 provides that the Court of Arbitration may determine and declare a basic wage at any time on its own motion and must do so when requested by a majority of industrial unions or by the Western Australian Employers' Federation, with the limitation that no new determination shall be made within twelve months of the last preceding inquiry.

The term "basic" wage is defined in the Act as "a wage which the Court considers to be just and reasonable for the average worker to whom it applies". In determining what is just and reasonable the Court must take into account not only the "needs of an average worker" but also the "economic capacity of industry" and any other matters the Court deems relevant.

Provision is also made in the Act for quarterly adjustments of the "basic" wage by the Court of Arbitration when an official statement supplied to the Court by the State Government Statistician relating to the cost of living shows that a variation of 1s. or more per week has occurred, compared with the preceding quarter. These adjustments apply from the dates of declaration by the Court.

The first declaration of the basic wage by the Court of Arbitration, since the authority to fix one was vested in the Court in 1925, was made on 11th June, 1926. The family unit is not specifically defined in the Act, but it has been the practice of the Court to take as a basis for its calculations a man, his wife and two dependent children. The variations

in the annual declarations of the Court of Arbitration up to 1937 were published in previous issues of the Official Year Book (*see* No. 37, page 484). Annual and special declarations since 1937 are shown in the following table:—

BASIC WAGE VARIATIONS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA. (State Jurisdiction.)

Date of Operation.	Metropolitan Area.		South-West Land Division (excluding Metropolitan Area).		Other Parts of State.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1st July, 1938 ..	£ 4 0 0	£ 2 3 2	£ 4 1 0	£ 2 3 9	£ 4 13 3	£ 2 10 4
" " 1939 ..	a4 2 2	a2 4 4	4 3 1	2 14 10	a4 16 4	a2 12 0
" " 1940 ..	4 2 8	2 4 8	4 3 3	2 4 11	4 16 3	2 12 0
" " 1941 (b) ..	4 8 0	2 7 6	4 9 3	2 8 2	5 3 6	2 15 11
" " 1942 ..	4 10 5	2 8 10	4 10 10	2 9 1	5 5 7	2 17 0
" " 1943 ..	4 19 1	2 13 6	4 18 1	2 13 0	5 5 9	2 17 1
" " 1944 ..	4 19 11	2 13 11	4 19 8	2 13 10	5 7 1	2 17 10
" " 1945 ..	5 0 1	2 14 1	4 19 7	2 13 9	5 7 5	2 18 0
" " 1946 ..	5 1 1	2 14 7	5 0 6	2 14 3	5 9 0	2 18 10
26th Feb., 1947 (c) ..	5 7 1	2 17 10	5 6 6	2 17 6	5 15 4	3 2 3
1st July, 1947 ..	5 7 10	2 18 3	5 7 3	2 17 11	5 16 0	3 2 8
" " 1948 ..	5 15 9	3 2 6	5 15 2	3 2 2	6 4 9	3 7 4
" " 1949 ..	6 7 1	3 8 8	6 6 9	3 8 5	6 15 1	3 12 11
" " 1950 ..	7 0 0	3 15 7	6 19 9	3 15 6	7 7 3	3 19 6
18th Dec., 1950(c) ..	8 6 6	4 14 1	8 6 7	4 14 2	8 14 8	4 18 6

(a) Applicable from 24th April, 1939. (b) Applicable from 28th April, 1941. (c) Special declarations following basic wage increases granted by the Commonwealth Court.

The increased basic wage of 26th February, 1947 was granted after an inquiry by the Western Australian Court of Arbitration consequent upon the "interim" basic wage judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in December, 1946 (*see* page 414).

Following the judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949-50 Basic Wage Inquiry (*see* page 415) the Western Australian Court of Arbitration resumed an inquiry which had been adjourned, to ascertain what change should be made in the State basic wage rates. In its judgment of 7th December, 1950 the Court decided that the basic wage should be increased by £1 per week for adult males and by 15s. per week for adult females. The rates in the metropolitan area then became £8 6s. 6d. for adult males and £4 14s. 1d. for adult females operative from 18th December, 1950.

In relation to the female rate the Unions' claim had been for a basic wage equal to 75 per cent. of the male rate instead of the existing 54 per cent. basis. Although this claim was not granted it was intimated that the increase of 15s. should not necessarily be regarded as the Court's final word on the subject.

The judgment of the Court may be found on page 336 of the Western Australian Industrial Gazette, Volume 30, No. 3-4.

As the result of a subsequent inquiry the basic wage for adult females was increased to 65 per cent. of the corresponding male rate, operative from 1st December, 1951. This was subject to the condition that the increase should be offset by the reduction in or deletion of existing margins between the basic wage and the total wage as specified by the appropriate award or determination.

The rates payable in the metropolitan area in accordance with the quarterly adjustments declared by the Court, operative from 22nd October, 1951 are £10 5s. 8d. for adult males and £5 16s. 3d. for adult females.

(vi) *State Basic Wage Rates.* The "basic" wage rates of State industrial tribunals operative in November, 1951 are summarized in the following table:—

STATE BASIC WAGE—WEEKLY RATES.

State.	February, 1951.			November, 1951.		
	Date of Operation.	Males.	Females.	Date of Operation.	Males.	Females.
New South Wales—		<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Metropolitan and Country, excluding Broken Hill ..	(a)	173 0	129 6	(a)	207 0	155 0
Broken Hill	(a)	184 0	138 0	(a)	209 0	156 6
Victoria (b)	(a)	170 0	127 6	(a)	199 0	149 0
Queensland—						
Southern Division (Eastern District)—including Brisbane (c)	5.2.51	159 0	105 6	29.10.51	185 0	123 0
South Australia	(a)	166 0	124 6	(a)	195 0	146 0
Western Australia—						
Metropolitan Area	29.1.51	172 11	97 9	22.10.51	205 8	(d) 116 3
South-West Land Division ..	29.1.51	172 11	97 9	22.10.51	204 7	(d) 115 8
Gold-fields and other areas ..	29.1.51	180 5	101 9	22.10.51	210 11	(d) 118 11
Tasmania (b)	(a)	165 0	123 6	(a)	199 0	149 0

(a) Operative from beginning of first pay period commencing in month shown. (b) None declared but rates (capital city) shown are those of Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration which are followed to a large extent. (c) Allowances added for other areas:—Males—Southern Division (Western District), 7s. 4d.; Mackay Division, 5s. 6d.; Northern Division (Eastern District) 10s.; Northern Division (Western District), 17s. 4d.; Females—half of these allowances. (d) Increased female rates operative from 1st December, 1951 as follows:—Metropolitan area, 133s. 8d.; South-West Land Division, 133s.; Gold-fields and other areas, 137s. 1d. The increase in the basic wage element for females in December, 1951 was partly offset by a decrease in the margin between the basic wage and total wage.

6. *Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, 1920.*—Only one comprehensive attempt has been made by the Commonwealth 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 which in its report, issued in 1920, recommended the following amounts for the various capital cities:—

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

The recommendations of this Commission were not carried out owing largely 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.

* 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.

§ 4. Child Endowment in Australia.

1. **General.**—The principle of supplementing wages by a payment in respect of dependent children under sixteen years of age became prominent in Australia following the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage of 1920, and was implemented in Australia as described in the following paragraphs. 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.

2. **National Scheme.**—The Commonwealth Government, in June, 1927, called a conference in Melbourne of the Premiers of the several States to consider the question from a national standpoint. The Prime Minister submitted various estimates of the 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 submitted its report on 15th December, 1928. It 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 in Canberra in May, 1929, the Prime Minister stated that the Commonwealth Government was not prepared to adopt the scheme financed entirely from the proceeds of taxation, as had been recommended in the minority report. 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. 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 that particular time. The matter of child endowment was accordingly left 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.

In 1941, the Commonwealth Government introduced a scheme of child endowment throughout Australia. The necessary legislation* was introduced into Parliament on 27th March, and finally passed on 3rd April, and came into operation from 1st July, 1941. As amended to date (November, 1951) its main features are as follows :—

- (a) Any person who is a resident of Australia and has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of 16 years, or an approved institution of which children are inmates shall be qualified to receive an endowment in respect of each child.

From the 20th June, 1950, the rates of endowment have been :—

- (i) where the endowee has one child only, 5s. per week ;
 - (ii) where the endowee has two or more children—in respect of the elder or eldest child, 5s. per week and in respect of each other child, 10s. per week ;
 - (iii) in the case of the endowee being an approved institution the rate is 10s. per week for each child inmate.
- (b) There are provisions to cover cases of families divided by reason of divorce, separation, death of a parent or other circumstances. In such cases payment may be made to the father, mother, or other person.

* Act No. 8, 1941 (Child Endowment Act) as amended by No. 5, 1942, and Nos. 10 and 41, 1945 (now incorporated in Part VI. of the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947-1950); Act No. 2, 1941 (Pay-roll Tax Assessment Act); and Act No. 3, 1941 (Pay-roll Tax Act).

A child born during the mother's temporary absence from Australia is deemed to have been born here.

There is a twelve months' residential requirement for claimants and children who were not born in Australia, but this is waived if the claimant and the child are likely to remain permanently in Australia.

- (c) Endowment will be paid for the children of members of the Naval, Military or Air Forces of the United Kingdom who are serving with the Australian Forces from the time of their arrival in Australia.
- (d) From 1st July, 1941, when the scheme was introduced the rate of endowment was 5s. per week for each child in excess of one in a family and, for each child under 16 years in an approved institution, the rate being increased to 7s. 6d. a week from 25th June, 1945, and to 10s. per week from 9th November, 1948. There is no means test.
- (e) Endowment in respect of the first child under 16 years in a family was first provided for by an amendment of the legislation in June, 1950.
- (f) The scheme, which formerly was financed partly from Consolidated Revenue, partly from the abolition of the exemptions from taxation in respect of children after the first, and the major part from a tax of 2½ per cent. of all pay-rolls in excess of £20 per week, is now a charge on the National Welfare Fund.

A summary of the operations under the Child Endowment Scheme from 1st July, 1946 to 30th June, 1951, is given on pp. 314-5 of Chapter IX. "Welfare Services".

3. **Earlier Schemes.**—Consequent upon the operation of the Commonwealth Child Endowment Scheme, appropriate steps were taken for the termination of the schemes operating in the Commonwealth Public Service and in New South Wales. The Commonwealth Public Service Scheme was the first system instituted in Australia and came into operation on 1st November, 1920. In New South Wales an abortive attempt to institute the system was made in 1919 and a scheme was adopted under the Family Endowment Act 1927 which operated from 23rd July, 1927. For further details of these schemes reference may be made to the Official Year Book No. 37, pages 485 and 486.

E. EMPLOYMENT.

§ 1. Employment.

1. **Total Occupied Persons.**—(i) *General.* The following estimates of the total numbers of occupied males and females are based principally on data from the 1933 Census (June), the National Register (July, 1939), The Civilian Register (June, 1943), the Occupation Survey (June, 1945) and the 1947 Census (June). These sources of information have been supplemented by Pay-roll Tax returns, which commenced in July, 1941. Owing to some difference in coverage, 1947 figures in the following tables differ slightly from Census figures as shown in Chapter XIII. The 1947 figures are subject to revision.

(ii) *Australia.* The estimates in the table below are divided into three categories (a) Defence Forces; (b) all persons fully occupied as employers, or as self-employed in businesses or on farms; and (c) wage or salary earners fully employed, or occupied as casual, part-time, intermittent or seasonal workers. Wage earners unemployed, in the sense that they are incapacitated or have no work to go to, are excluded, as also are persons engaged on Government relief works.

All unpaid helpers in non-rural industry have been included with wage and salary earners. Male unpaid helpers in rural industry have been included with employers and self-employed persons, as it is considered that the majority of these are sons or other close relatives of farmers working in an unofficial partnership, or as learners with the farm owner. Unpaid female helpers on farms are very numerous, but their exact number is not known. Generally, they combine part-time dairy or other farm work with part-time duties in the home. Together with women occupied in unpaid home duties they have been excluded from the category of occupied persons.

Statistics of net enlistments in the Defence Forces shown in the table below represent total enlistments for full-time duty less deaths and discharges. Prior to December, 1941, men in certain age-groups were called-up for short training courses but these men are excluded from the figures. In July, 1941, the number of such men was approximately 50,000.

TOTAL OCCUPIED PERSONS : AUSTRALIA.

('000.)

Year and Month.	De- fence Forces (Net Enlist- ments). (a)	Employers and Self- employed.			Wage and Salary Earners.			Total Occupied Civilians.	Total Occupied Persons including Forces. (a)
		Rural Indus- try.	Other Indus- tries.	Total.	Rural Indus- try.	Other Indus- tries.	Total.		

MALES.

1933—June ..	5.8	292.4	248.3	540.7	200.0	992.0	1,192.0	1,732.7	1,738.5
1939—July ..	12.9	300.0	299.0	599.0	202.0	1,293.1	1,495.1	2,094.1	2,107.0
1941—July ..	282.8 ^b	284.0	208.0	492.0	188.0	1,363.4	1,551.4	2,043.4	2,326.2
1943—June ..	685.0	262.0	150.0	412.0	120.9	1,273.2	1,394.1	1,806.1	2,491.1
1945—June(c) ..	603.5	287.5	187.1	474.6	130.2	1,294.2	1,424.4	1,899.0	2,502.5
1947—June ..	53.2	278.9	286.8	565.7	148.2	1,649.4 ^d	1,797.6 ^d	2,363.3 ^d	2,416.5 ^d

FEMALES.

Year and Month.					(e)				
1933—June ..	..	15.1	56.2	71.3	4.4	447.5	451.9	523.2	523.2
1939—July ..	..	16.0	62.0	78.0	4.0	561.6	565.6	643.6	643.6
1941—July ..	1.8	14.0	56.8	70.8	6.0	656.2	662.2	733.0	734.8
1943—June ..	44.0	11.7	34.4	46.1	28.1	682.1	710.2	756.3	800.3
1945—June(c) ..	45.4	17.0	43.1	60.1	23.0	667.1	690.1	750.2	795.6
1947—June ..	0.8	13.8	55.8	69.6	8.1	659.9 ^d	668.0 ^d	737.6 ^d	738.4 ^d

PERSONS.

1933—June ..	5.8	307.5	304.5	612.0	204.4	1,439.5	1,643.9	2,255.9	2,261.7
1939—July ..	12.9	316.0	351.0	677.0	206.0	1,854.7	2,060.7	2,737.7	2,750.6
1941—July ..	284.6 ^b	298.0	264.8	562.8	194.0	2,019.6	2,213.6	2,776.4	3,061.0
1943—June ..	729.0	273.7	184.4	458.1	149.0	1,955.3	2,104.3	2,562.4	3,291.4
1945—June(c) ..	648.9	304.5	230.2	534.7	153.2	1,961.3	2,114.5	2,649.2	3,298.1
1947—June ..	54.0	292.7	342.6	635.3	156.3	2,309.3 ^d	2,465.6 ^d	3,100.9 ^d	3,154.9 ^d

(a) Includes those serving outside Australia. (b) Excludes approximately 50,000 men called up for short training courses. (c) Occupation Survey, 1st June, 1945. (d) Subject to revision. (e) Includes females, in thousands, in private domestic service as follows:—106.7 in June, 1933; 124.3 in July, 1939; 100.0 in July, 1941; 41.5 in June, 1943; 47.6 in June, 1945; and 40.3 in June, 1947.

From June, 1933 to July, 1939, the number of occupied persons of both sexes increased by 488,900, due to the increase of 223,700 in the number of available bread-winners and to the decrease of 265,200 in the number unemployed from 563,200 to 298,000.

During the war years from July, 1939 to June, 1943, the number of males occupied as civilians decreased by 288,000, while females occupied as civilians increased by nearly 113,000, representing a net decrease of 175,000 persons. This decrease, together with decrease of unemployment (272,000), normal increase of breadwinners (91,000) and an abnormal war-time increase of 178,000 bread-winners (persons who would not otherwise have been working), balanced the net intake into the Defence Forces at June, 1943 (716,000). The estimate of 659,000 female wage and salary earners employed in non-rural industries as at June, 1947, includes 40,300 private domestics (the Census figure). The remaining 619,600 females in the estimate include females working part-time. The 1947 Census figure for the same industries (i.e. excluding rural and private domestic) was 579,200. Persons working regularly but for considerably less than normal working hours were instructed on the Census Schedule to exclude themselves from the work force, unless their earnings from such work formed their principal means of livelihood.

(iii) *States.* The following table shows total occupied males and females in each State in July, 1939, and June, 1947, divided into Defence Forces, Employers and Self-employed, and Wage and Salary Earners.

TOTAL OCCUPIED PERSONS: STATES.

('000.)

State.	Defence Forces (Net Enlistments). (a)		Employers and Self-employed.		Wage and Salary Earners.		Total Occupied Persons, including Forces. (a)	
	July, 1939.	June, 1947.	July, 1939.	June, 1947.	July, 1939.	June, 1947. (b)	July, 1939.	June, 1947. (b)
MALES.								
New South Wales	4.9	23.1	216.2	197.5	596.2	723.6	817.3	944.2
Victoria	4.4	15.9	162.9	158.1	399.5	480.9	566.8	654.9
Queensland	1.0	5.9	95.1	96.9	218.6	255.4	314.7	358.2
South Australia	1.1	2.6	54.6	51.8	127.7	154.4	183.4	208.8
Western Australia	1.0	3.4	47.4	39.8	99.7	115.6	148.1	158.8
Tasmania	0.5	0.8	21.5	20.1	46.9	58.1	68.9	79.0
Australia (c)	12.9	53.2	599.0	565.7	1,495.1	1,797.6	2,107.0	2,416.5
FEMALES.								
New South Wales .. .. .	..	0.3	28.4	25.4	220.8	268.8	249.2	294.5
Victoria .. .. .	..	0.4	25.5	22.4	175.3	203.4	200.8	226.2
Queensland .. .. .	..	0.1	11.1	10.2	71.2	83.2	82.3	93.5
South Australia .. .. .	..	..	6.0	5.2	47.4	52.9	53.4	58.1
Western Australia .. .. .	..	..	4.8	4.3	33.2	38.4	38.0	42.7
Tasmania .. .. .	..	..	2.2	1.9	16.3	19.0	18.5	20.9
Australia (c) .. .. .	..	0.8	78.0	69.6	565.6	668.0	643.6	738.4
PERSONS.								
New South Wales	4.9	23.4	244.6	222.9	817.0	992.4	1,066.5	1,238.7
Victoria	4.4	16.3	188.4	180.5	574.8	684.3	767.6	881.1
Queensland	1.0	6.0	106.2	107.1	289.8	338.6	397.0	451.7
South Australia	1.1	2.6	60.6	57.0	175.1	207.3	236.8	266.9
Western Australia	1.0	3.4	52.2	44.1	132.9	154.0	186.1	201.5
Tasmania	0.5	0.8	23.7	22.0	63.2	77.1	87.4	99.9
Australia (c)	12.9	54.0	677.0	635.3	2,060.7	2,465.6	2,750.6	3,154.9

(a) Includes those serving outside Australia.
Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory.

(b) Subject to revision.

(c) Includes Aus-

Between July, 1939 and June, 1947, the occupied population of Australia (including Defence Forces but excluding unemployed, pensioners, retired persons of independent means and dependants) increased by approximately 14.7 per cent. The proportionate increase in each State was as follows: New South Wales, 16.1; Victoria, 14.8; Queensland, 13.8; South Australia, 12.7; Western Australia, 8.3; Tasmania, 14.3.

2. **Wage and Salary Earners in Employment.**—(i) *Australia and States.* Estimates are made monthly of wage and salary earners in employment (excluding employees in rural industry and female domestics in private homes), based on Pay-roll Tax returns and statistics of Commonwealth Government employment. Pay-roll Tax returns cover only a small proportion of wage earners on rural holdings, and practically no private domestic servants. It is not possible to obtain actual numbers of farm employees and private domestic servants except when a Census or quasi-Census such as Occupation Survey (1st June, 1945) is taken, but estimates have been made from time to time using available data. The next table shows for each State and for Australia as a whole the trend in that section of wage and salary earning employment which it is possible to estimate monthly. Figures are shown as at June, 1933 (Census) and July, 1939 (based on National Register). From July, 1941 (commencement of Pay-roll Tax returns) the estimates are available for each month, and the table shows the level in June of the years 1945, 1947 and 1948, in May, 1949, and in June, 1950 and 1951.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT.

(Excluding Rural Wage Earners, Female Domestics in Private Homes, and Persons on Paid Strength of Defence Forces.)
(‘000.)

Year and Month.	New South Wales.	Vic-toria.	Queens-land.	South Aus-tralia.	Western Aus-tralia.	Tas-mania.	Aus-tralia. (a)
MALES.							
1933—June	380.6	288.6	139.8	80.5	70.1	29.0	992.0
1939—July	529.9	357.5	172.8	106.7	82.9	37.4	1,293.1
1945—June(b)	534.1	359.1	168.7	109.8	75.6	39.5	1,294.2
1947—June(c)	671.8	452.6	220.2	140.9	103.9	51.1	1,649.4
1948—June(c)	702.3	473.3	232.6	149.0	109.2	54.5	1,730.9
1949—May(c) (d)	721.4	489.3	239.8	155.0	112.8	57.4	1,787.1
1950—June(c)	740.8	510.7	250.4	165.7	120.5	58.4	1,858.7
1951—June(c)	758.2	525.8	259.3	170.0	125.3	60.2	1,911.5
FEMALES.							
1933—June	125.8	118.2	40.5	26.0	20.6	9.1	340.8
1939—July	168.0	142.9	53.2	34.0	26.2	11.6	437.1
1945—June(b)	247.7	193.8	74.9	48.8	35.6	16.7	619.5
1947—June(c)	252.1	190.5	74.5	48.0	35.6	16.9	619.6
1948—June(c)	261.9	196.7	77.9	50.1	37.0	18.0	644.0
1949—May(c) (d)	269.9	202.5	80.1	52.2	37.8	18.8	604.1
1950—June(c)	278.5	210.0	83.1	54.3	39.9	19.4	688.2
1951—June(c)	290.9	219.6	86.1	57.0	41.6	20.3	718.8
PERSONS.							
1933—June	506.4	406.8	180.3	106.5	90.7	38.1	1,332.8
1939—July	697.9	500.4	226.0	140.7	109.1	49.0	1,730.2
1945—June(b)	781.8	552.9	243.6	158.6	111.2	56.2	1,913.7
1947—June(c)	923.9	643.1	294.7	188.9	139.5	68.0	2,269.0
1948—June(c)	964.2	670.0	310.5	199.1	146.2	72.5	2,374.9
1949—May(c) (d)	991.3	691.8	319.9	207.2	150.6	76.2	2,451.2
1950—June(c)	1,019.3	720.7	333.5	220.0	160.4	77.8	2,546.9
1951—June(c)	1,049.1	745.4	345.4	227.0	166.9	80.5	2,630.3

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory. (b) 1st June, 1945 (Occupation Survey). (c) Subject to revision. (d) Figures for May, 1949 have been used for purposes of annual comparison because of the effects of the coal dispute in June, 1949.

Estimates for recent months for Australia, corresponding to the foregoing, together with details for certain industrial groups, are published regularly in the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* and the *Monthly Bulletin of Employment Statistics*.

(ii) *Industrial Groups.* The following table shows the total male and female wage and salary earners in employment (excluding employees in rural industry, female private domestics and persons on the paid strength of the Defence Forces) subdivided to show the extent of employment provided by Governmental authorities and by private employers respectively. Some principal industrial groups included in the total are shown separately and include both Governmental and private employees, except in the case of retail trade, where there are no Governmental employees.

**WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT, INDUSTRIAL GROUPS :
AUSTRALIA.**

(Excluding Rural Wage Earners, Female Domestics in Private Homes, and Persons on Paid Strength of Defence Forces.)

('000.)

Year and Month.	Total Employment.			Employment in Certain Industrial Groups.				
	Governmental. (a)	Private Em- ployers.	Total.	Mining and Quarry- ing.	Fac- tories.	Trans- port and Com- muni- cation.	Retail Trade.	Other Com- merce and Finance.
MALES.								
1933—June ..	262.2	729.8	992.0	36.3	251.7	164.4	212.2	
1939—July ..	349.8	943.3	1,293.1	52.2	391.5	185.9	259.7	
1945—June(b)	399.9	894.3	1,294.2	43.4	514.5	209.6	76.3	96.5
1947—June(c)	472.0	1,177.4	1,649.4	51.0	593.2	256.4	116.0	151.9
1948—June(c)	494.0	1,236.9	1,730.9	52.7	625.0	269.9	123.3	161.7
1949—May(c) (d)	518.9	1,268.2	1,787.1	52.3	635.9	281.7	125.6	169.9
1950—June(c)	553.5	1,305.2	1,858.7	53.9	659.0	292.8	127.1	178.0
1951—June(c)	570.4	1,341.1	1,911.5	55.8	674.7	294.7	129.7	188.4
FEMALES.								
1933—June ..	46.5	294.3	340.8	0.2	103.1	11.1	87.3	
1939—July ..	55.2	381.9	437.1	0.3	148.2	12.6	114.9	
1945—June(b)	125.4	494.1	619.5	0.4	206.3	36.5	95.9	52.5
1947—June(c)	92.1	527.5	619.6	0.5	199.9	32.4	104.0	53.0
1948—June(c)	94.9	549.1	644.0	0.6	208.0	35.0	109.3	56.9
1949—May(c) (d)	99.2	564.9	664.1	0.7	215.6	37.0	111.1	59.8
1950—June(c)	107.6	580.6	688.2	0.7	223.8	38.8	113.3	64.8
1951—June(c)	113.8	605.0	718.8	0.8	234.4	40.1	119.1	71.3
PERSONS.								
1933—June ..	308.7	1,024.1	1,332.8	36.5	354.8	175.5	299.5	
1939—July ..	405.0	1,325.2	1,730.2	52.5	539.7	198.5	374.6	
1945—June(b)	525.3	1,388.4	1,913.7	43.8	720.8	246.1	172.2	149.0
1947—June(c)	564.1	1,704.9	2,269.0	51.5	793.1	288.8	220.0	204.9
1948—June(c)	588.9	1,786.0	2,374.9	53.3	833.0	304.9	232.6	218.6
1949—May(c) (d)	618.1	1,833.1	2,451.2	53.0	851.5	318.7	236.7	229.7
1950—June(c)	661.1	1,885.8	2,546.9	54.6	882.8	331.6	240.4	242.8
1951—June(c)	684.2	1,946.1	2,630.3	56.6	909.1	334.8	248.8	259.7

(a) Includes employees of Australian Government Authorities (Commonwealth, State and Local) and of Allied Governments. (b) 1st June, 1945 (Occupation Survey). (c) Subject to revision. (d) See note (d) to table on page 429.

(iii) *Factories.* Actual mid-monthly factory employment derived from the results of annual factory censuses is published in the *Production Bulletin* issued by this Bureau.

Additional tables regarding employment in factories may be found in Chapter XXIV. "Manufacturing Industry".

An index of factory employment in Australia, published in the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics*, shows that in 1950-51 factory employment was 70 per cent. higher than the average employment for the three years ended June, 1939.

3. **Employment in Retail Trade.**—Estimates of the numbers of persons employed in retail trade in Australia and each State are published in the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics*. They are based on Pay-roll Tax returns, which commenced in July, 1941.

§ 2. Unemployment.

1. **Total Persons Unemployed.**—The total number of persons unemployed has been recorded only at the dates of the various censuses. The Census records include all persons who state that they are unemployed, and distinguish between unemployment on account of sickness, accident, scarcity of work, industrial dispute, and all other causes combined. The following table sets out the number of unemployed at the Censuses of 1911, 1921, 1933 and 1947, the National Register, 1939, and the Occupation Survey, 1945. The percentage which the unemployed bore at each date to all wage and salary earners of the same sex, comprising those estimated to be in employment and those unemployed, is also shown.

UNEMPLOYMENT (ALL CAUSES) : AUSTRALIA.

Year and Month.	Wage and Salary Earners Unemployed.			Proportion of Wage and Salary Earners Unemployed.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
	'000.	'000.	'000.	%	%	%
1911—April (Census) ..	48.0	8.3	56.3	4.3	2.7	4.0
1921—April " ..	139.4	21.5	160.9	10.7	5.7	9.6
1933—June (a) " ..	460.2	103.1	563.3	27.9	19.1	25.8
1939—July (b) " ..	264.0	34.0	298.0	15.0	5.7	12.6
1945—June (c) " ..	39.9	16.2	56.1	2.7	2.3	2.6
1947—June (Census)(d)	66.0	16.8	82.8	3.5	2.5	3.2

(a) The figures shown for 1933 are in excess of those actually recorded at the Census through an allowance having been made for a number of youths and girls who would normally have been wage and salary earners, but who, on account of the economic depression, having never been employed, were not classed as wage and salary earners. (b) Derived from National Register, 1939. (c) Derived from Occupation Survey, 1945. (d) Persons in the work force who were not at work at the time of the Census.

The estimates and percentages of unemployment given above for periods subsequent to the Census of 1933 should be interpreted in conjunction with the notes below.

The estimates for 1939 were based on the National Register, which covered males aged 18-64 years, and data available from other sources. Owing to the use on the Occupation Survey (1945) card of the definition "a person normally working for wages but without a job on 1st June", it appears that the 1945 figures exclude some persons who were temporarily absent from their jobs at the date of the survey.

The proportion of wage earners unemployed in July, 1939, immediately prior to the 1939-45 War, was estimated at approximately 12½ per cent. In July, 1941, it was about 4 per cent. and by June, 1943, under conditions of intensive mobilization of manpower for war purposes involuntary unemployment was practically nil.

Of the numbers at the 1947 Census shown above 25.6 per cent. were not at work owing to sickness or accident and 26.6 per cent. stated that they were resting. Of the latter approximately half said they expected to resume their former jobs.

2. **Unemployment of Members of Trade Unions.**—(i) *General.* The particulars given in the following tables are based upon information furnished by the secretaries of trade unions. The percentages of unemployment derived from trade union returns are an indication of the trend of unemployment among trade unionists as estimated or recorded by secretaries of trade unions which supply returns. The membership of the unions furnishing regular reports exceeds 830,000, consisting predominantly of males and representing about 52 per cent. of the total trade union membership, and between 25 and 30 per cent. of all wage and salary earners. Unemployment returns are not collected from unions whose members 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 some cases unemployment registers are kept, and provision is made in the rules for payment of reduced subscriptions by members out of work. Seasonal fluctuations in unemployment have been provided for by collecting returns quarterly since 1st January, 1913. The quarterly figures relate to persons who were out of work for three days or more during a specified week in each quarter: they include persons out of work through sickness but exclude persons out of work through strikes and lock-outs, except those outside the industry who are indirectly affected. The yearly figures quoted represent the average of the four quarters.

(ii) *Summary for Australia, 1939 to 1950.* The following table gives a summary for Australia for the years 1939 and 1946 to 1950 and quarterly for the years 1939 and 1948 to 1950. Particulars of unemployment percentages at intervals since 1911 will be found on page 431:—

UNEMPLOYMENT OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS : AUSTRALIA.

Period.	Unions.	Membership.	Unemployed.	
			Number.	Proportion of membership.
				%
1939 Year	396	476,918	45,967	9.7
1946 "	383	672,121	9,125	1.4
1947 "	381	718,096	8,432	1.2
1948 "	380	761,104	6,533	0.9
1949 "	377	790,630	(a) 15,342	(a) 2.0
1950 "	375	827,256	6,659	0.8
1939 March Quarter	395	474,277	45,545	9.6
June "	398	477,149	45,183	9.5
September "	397	478,000	48,888	10.2
December "	392	478,245	44,253	9.3
1948 March "	381	744,901	6,484	0.9
June "	380	752,222	6,549	0.9
September "	380	769,959	6,813	0.9
December "	380	777,332	6,287	0.8
1949 March "	380	785,468	5,898	0.8
June "	380	792,428	6,337	0.8
September "	373	776,195	(a) 43,030	(a) 5.5
December "	375	808,428	6,103	0.8
1950 March "	375	822,464	6,963	0.8
June "	375	810,331	6,361	0.8
September "	375	828,094	7,038	0.8
December "	374	839,136	6,273	0.7

(a) Includes all members of reporting unions indirectly affected by the dispute in the coal mining industry; those directly affected are, however, excluded.

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

The highest percentage of unemployed (30.0) was recorded in the quarter ended June, 1932.

(iii) *Australia, Industrial Groups, 1949 and 1950.* Below are shown the percentages unemployed in industrial groups. Industries or occupations in which employment is stable, such as railways, and those which are subject to exceptional fluctuations, such as wharf labour, agricultural, pastoral, etc., are not included. Other occupations—domestic, hotel employees, etc.—are included in the "Other and Miscellaneous" group. as their returns are not sufficiently representative:—

UNEMPLOYMENT OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS : AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Group.	Unions Reporting.				Unemployed.			
	Number.		Members.		Number.		Proportion of members.	
	1949.	1950.	1949.	1950.	1949.	1950.	1949.	1950.
Manufacturing—							%	%
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	16	16	25,864	27,038	652	118	2.5	0.4
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	58	58	212,007	222,261	3,558	588	1.7	0.3
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	54	54	49,723	50,690	1,282	988	2.6	1.9
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	22	22	72,077	67,825	3,996	610	5.6	0.9
V. Books, Printing, etc.	12	12	29,486	28,732	123	48	0.4	0.2
VI. Other Manufacturing	62	62	56,865	63,615	1,787	1,024	3.1	1.6
VII. Building	46	46	86,873	92,662	988	974	1.1	1.1
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	19	17	23,172	24,639	583	868	2.7	3.5
X. Land Transport other than Railway and Tramway Services	13	13	41,827	51,993	445	373	1.1	0.7
IX., XI., XII., XIII., and XIV. Other and Miscellaneous	75	75	192,736	197,801	1,928	1,068	1.0	0.5
All Groups	377	375	790,630	827,256	15,342	6,659	2.0	0.8

(a) See note (a) to table on page 432.

(iv) *States, 1949 and 1950.* In making interstate comparisons of unemployment percentages, allowances must be made for the circumstance that the industries included in the returns from trade unions are not quite identical in the various States, and that for some States the returns are more representative than for others. The State percentages shown below, therefore, should not be read as indicating the relative degree of unemployment amongst unionists in the individual States but as an indication of the trend of unemployment as reported by the trade unions.

UNEMPLOYMENT OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS.

State.	Unions Reporting.				Unemployed.			
	Number.		Members.		Number.		Proportion of members.	
	1949.	1950.	1949.	1950.	1949.	1950.	1949.	1950.
New South Wales	107	106	331,255	347,699	10,559	3,514	3.2	1.0
Victoria	74	74	222,958	228,723	1,719	1,523	0.7	0.7
Queensland	43	43	99,324	104,006	890	342	0.9	0.4
South Australia	54	53	71,641	76,326	1,555	643	2.3	0.9
Western Australia	65	65	46,515	50,250	408	515	0.9	1.1
Tasmania	34	34	18,937	20,252	111	122	0.6	0.6
Australia	377	375	790,630	827,256	15,342	6,659	2.0	0.8

(a) See note (a) to table on page 432.

(v) *States, 1939 to 1950.* The following table gives the percentages in each State for 1939 and from 1946 to 1950 :—

UNEMPLOYMENT OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS: PROPORTION
UNEMPLOYED.

(Per cent.)

Period.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Australia.
1939 Year ..	11.0	10.4	5.9	9.3	7.1	8.1	9.7
1946 " ..	1.5	1.2	0.9	1.4	1.5	2.0	1.4
1947 " ..	1.3	1.2	0.7	1.0	1.2	2.3	1.2
1948 " ..	1.0	0.8	0.4	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.9
1949(a) ..	3.2	0.7	0.9	2.3	0.9	0.6	2.0
1950 " ..	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.8
1939 March Quarter	10.6	10.8	6.1	9.3	7.3	7.6	9.6
June " ..	10.6	10.4	5.7	9.5	6.2	9.4	9.5
Sept. " ..	11.6	11.2	5.8	9.4	8.2	8.3	10.2
Dec. " ..	11.1	9.0	5.8	9.1	6.6	7.1	9.3
1948 March " ..	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.9	1.0	0.5	0.9
June " ..	1.0	0.8	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.9
Sept. " ..	0.9	1.0	0.4	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.9
Dec. " ..	0.9	0.7	0.3	1.1	0.7	1.0	0.8
1949 March " ..	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.8
June " ..	0.9	0.8	0.3	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.8
Sept.(a) " ..	10.2	0.9	2.7	6.5	1.3	0.7	5.5
Dec. " ..	1.0	0.6	0.3	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.8
1950 March " ..	1.1	0.7	0.3	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.8
June " ..	1.0	0.5	0.3	0.7	1.5	0.8	0.8
Sept. " ..	1.1	0.7	0.5	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.8
Dec. " ..	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.7

(a) See note (a) to table on page 432.

§ 3. Commonwealth Employment Service.

The Commonwealth Employment Service was established under Section 47 of the Re-establishment and Employment Act of 1945, and under the Social Services Legislation Declaratory Act 1947.

The principal function of this Service, as set out in Section 48 of the first-mentioned Act, is to provide services and facilities in relation to employment for the benefit of persons seeking to change employment, or to engage labour, and to provide facilities to assist in bringing about and maintaining a high and stable level of employment throughout the Commonwealth. The Act also gives the Service a number of specific functions in relation to the re-establishment of ex-servicemen.

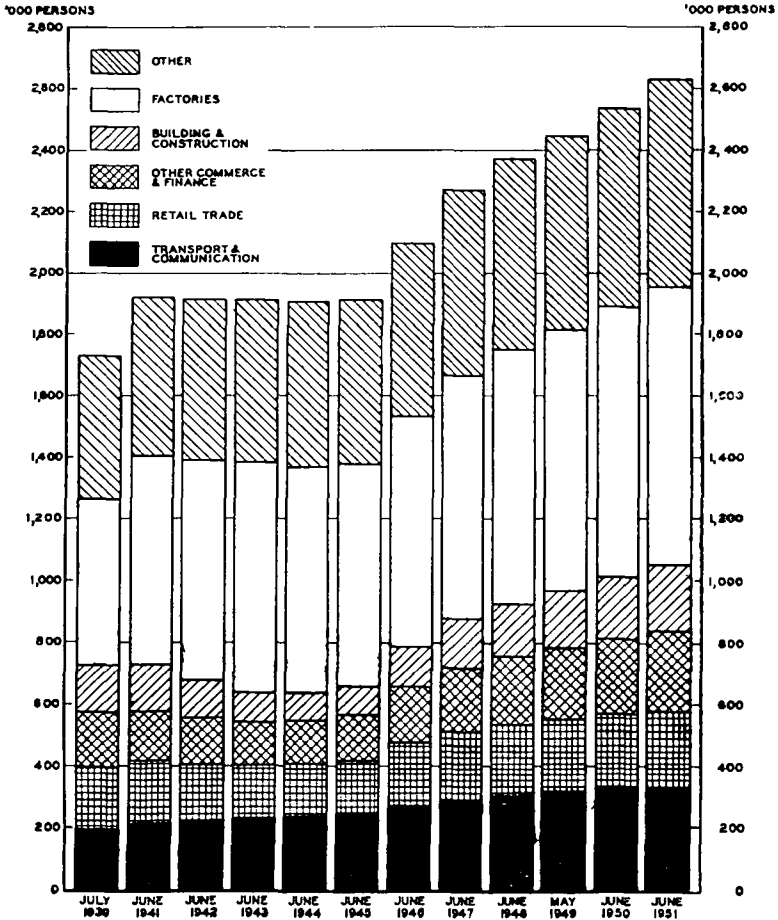
The Service also assists in the administration of the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits, provided under the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947, as well as the Re-Employment Allowance, provided under the Re-Establishment and Employment Act for certain classes of discharged members of the Forces. All persons who wish to claim unemployment benefits or re-employment allowances must register with their residential Employment Office which is responsible for checking the claim and arranging for payment of benefit, if appropriate, and if no suitable employment can be offered to the applicant.

While advice on employment problems is a function of all employment officers, the Service maintains in each State other than New South Wales, a staff of qualified psychologists providing free vocational guidance. (In New South Wales a similar service

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT AUSTRALIA, 1939 to 1951

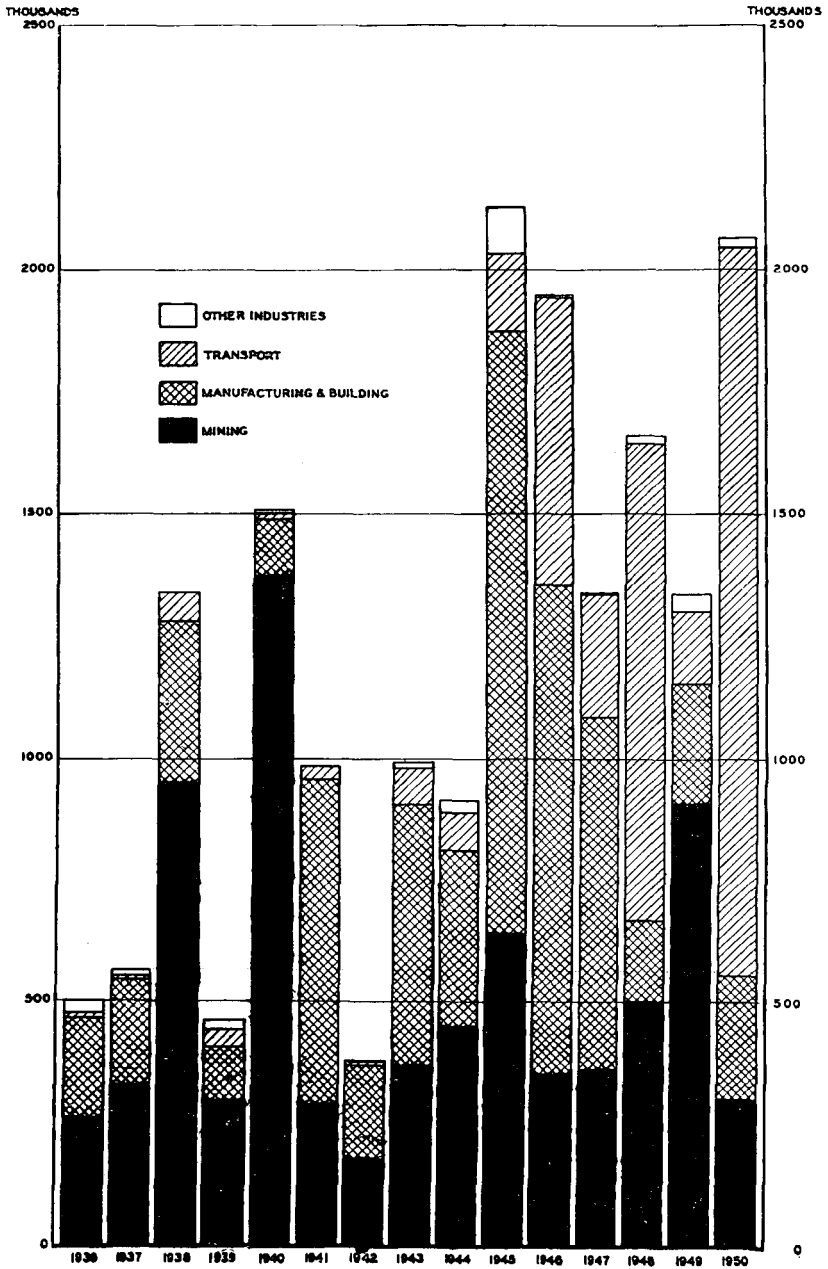
BY MAIN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS

(EXCLUDING RURAL AND PRIVATE DOMESTIC WORKERS)



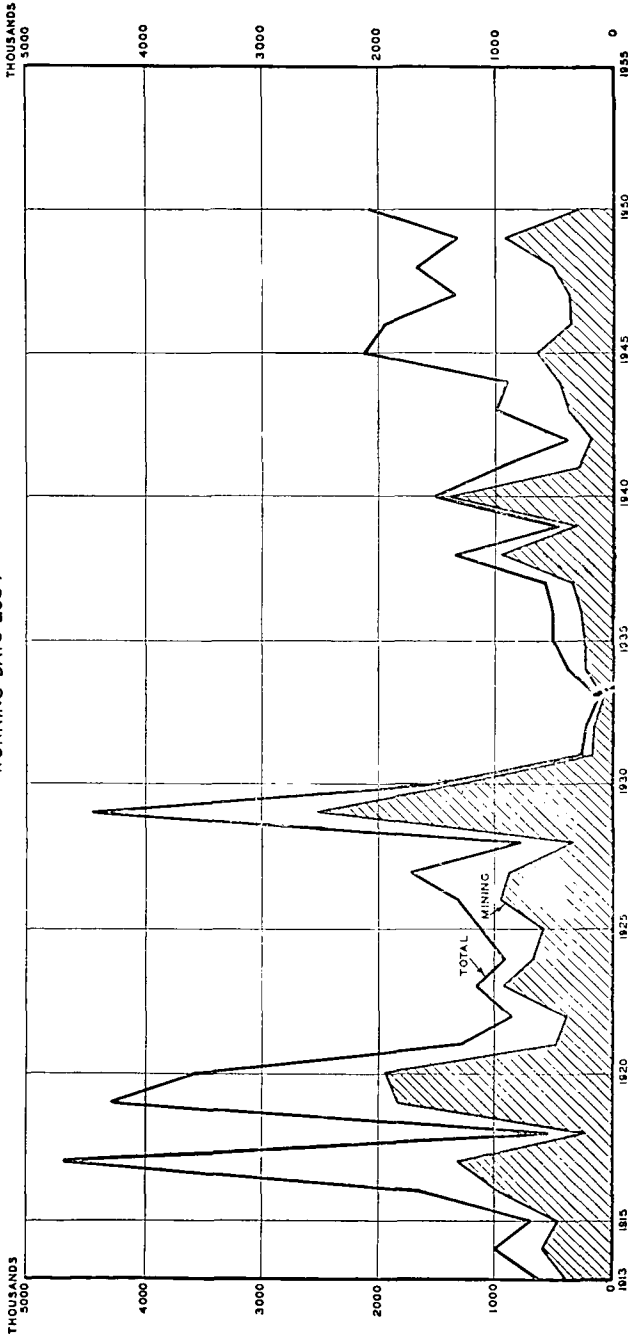
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: AUSTRALIA, 1936 TO 1950

WORKING DAYS LOST - INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.



INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: AUSTRALIA, 1913 TO 1950

WORKING DAYS LOST



is provided by officers of the New South Wales Department of Labour and Industry and Social Welfare who act as agents for the Service in this regard.) While this Service is available to any individual, it is provided particularly for juveniles entering employment for the first time, for ex-servicemen and for physically and mentally handicapped persons. Invalid pensioners being considered by the Department of Social Services for training under the provisions of the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947-1951 are examined by the Vocational Guidance Branch before training is provided. During the twelve months ended June, 1951, the Service provided vocational guidance for 14,627 individuals.

Under the scheme operated by the International Refugee Organization for the resettlement of Displaced Persons from Europe following the 1939-45 War, the Commonwealth Employment Service is responsible for placing the workers amongst these people in employment where their services will be of most use in increasing production. Up to 30th June, 1951, a total of 98,658 Displaced Persons had been so placed.

Toward the middle of 1950 the Service assumed a new responsibility, that of placing migrants from Great Britain under the Commonwealth-Nominated Migration Scheme. The numbers coming forward under this scheme will increase as the Displaced Persons Scheme tapers off. Arrangements have also been made with the Dutch and Italian Governments to ensure a steady flow of European workers into the country.

The Service functions within the Employment Division of the Department of Labour and National Service, and is under the control of a Director of Employment. It functions on a decentralized basis. The Central Office is in Melbourne, and there are State Head Offices in each of the capital cities, with 124 District Employment Offices and Branches in suburban and the larger provincial centres, and with some 250 agents in the smaller country centres who are responsible to the various District Employment Offices. The District Offices and Branches are distributed as follows:—New South Wales, 47; Victoria, 32; Queensland, 20; South Australia, 10 (including Darwin); Western Australia, 11; Tasmania, 4.

The Service completed its fifth year of operation in May, 1951, and monthly average statistics of the principal items of business transacted during the year ended June, 1951, were as follows:—applicants for employment—new registrations 39,292, referred to employers 36,229, placed in employment 727,293; vacancies—new notifications 41,204, unfilled at end of month 121,942; and persons receiving advice or information 38,381.

§ 4. Industrial Disputes.

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

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

2. **Industrial Disputes Involving Stoppage of Work, Classified in Industrial Groups, 1950.**—The following table gives particulars of industrial disputes which either commenced or were current during 1950, classified according to industrial groups. Figures for 1949 may be found in *Labour Report* 1949, No. 38, page 122.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1950.

Class.	Industrial Group.	Number.	Estab-lish-ments In-volved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Esti-mated Loss in Wages.
				Directly	In-directly. (a)	Total.		
	NEW SOUTH WALES.							
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	40	4,551	60,410	3,504	63,914	94,477	178,044
III.	Food, drink, etc.	15	16	3,033	..	3,033	14,136	23,909
V.	Books, printing, etc.	3	3	418	709	1,127	14,207	29,110
VI.	Other manufacturing	27	32	4,576	924	5,500	93,002	159,056
VII.	Building	12	14	1,111	72	1,183	5,805	12,721
VIII.	(i) Coal-mining	866	1,185	162,470	9,197	171,667	267,223	580,471
	(ii) Other mining, quarries, etc.	1	4	3,528	..	3,528	17,640	84,543
IX.	Railway and Tramway services	12	12	9,609	8,092	17,701	17,916	35,757
X.	Other land transport	5	5	1,189	..	1,189	2,465	5,509
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	35	528	39,076	..	39,076	107,079	214,184
XIV.	Miscellaneous	14	1,015	3,849	..	3,849	5,355	10,634
	Total	1,030	7,365	289,269	22,498	311,767	639,305	1,333,938
	VICTORIA.							
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	2	2	190	..	190	210	370
II.	Food, drink, etc.	3	6	315	..	315	715	1,442
IV.	Clothing, textiles, etc.	1	1	94	..	94	470	800
VI.	Other manufacturing	1	8	55	..	55	55	100
VII.	Building	2	1,001	9,082	55	9,137	9,685	19,823
VIII.	(i) Coal-mining	2	2	1,120	..	1,120	3,920	8,900
IX.	Railway and tramway services	6	6	39,357	14,722	54,079	1,157,785	2,294,758
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	12	12	8,205	49	8,254	29,402	58,478
XIII.	Domestic, hotels, etc.	1	1	20	..	20	120	93
XIV.	Miscellaneous	3	3	723	..	723	6,003	10,927
	Total	33	1,142	59,161	14,826	73,987	1,208,365	2,395,691
	QUEENSLAND.							
III.	Food, drink, etc.	4	4	2,554	389	2,943	6,271	9,598
V.	Books, printing, etc.	1	1	155	..	155	620	1,000
VII.	Building	1	1	16	..	16	240	446
VIII.	(i) Coal-mining	85	132	5,613	334	5,947	12,400	26,723
IX.	Railway and tramway services	2	2	4,437	1,669	6,106	27,034	50,724
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	53	144	11,340	91	11,431	27,358	54,104
XIV.	Miscellaneous	1	1	42	..	42	84	126
	Total	147	285	24,157	2,483	26,640	74,007	142,721
	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.							
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	3	202	2,622	..	2,622	2,701	5,460
VI.	Other manufacturing	9	9	656	..	656	3,934	7,638
VII.	Building	1	1	120	..	120	240	480
IX.	Railway and tramway services	2	6	5,362	390	5,752	109,220	236,640
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	13	32	2,606	12	2,618	3,243	6,436
XIV.	Miscellaneous	1	1	2,400	..	2,400	7,200	8,000
	Total	29	251	13,766	402	14,168	126,538	264,704
	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.							
I.	Wood, furniture, etc.	1	1	17	..	17	34	68
III.	Food, drink, etc.	3	3	300	..	300	440	841
VI.	Other manufacturing	1	1	14	..	14	14	28
VIII.	(ii) Other mining, quarries, etc.	1	1	67	..	67	134	268
IX.	Railway and tramway services	1	1	60	..	60	23	46
X.	Other land transport	2	2	88	..	88	82	170
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	5	21	1,371	..	1,371	4,756	9,470
XIV.	Miscellaneous	1	1	35	..	35	245	600
	Total	15	31	1,952	..	1,952	5,728	11,491
	TASMANIA.							
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc.	1	1	7	11	18	270	476
III.	Food, drink, etc.	2	2	31	..	31	98	245
VI.	Other manufacturing	1	1	10	..	10	30	60
VII.	Building	4	4	304	..	304	2,217	4,283
IX.	Railway and tramway services	1	1	731	..	731	731	1,030
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc.	10	36	2,006	..	2,006	5,101	10,202
	Total	19	45	3,089	11	3,100	8,447	16,296
	NORTHERN TERRITORY.							
VIII.	(ii) Other mining, quarries, etc.	1	1	43	..	43	430	1,450
	AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY.							
VII.	Building	1	1	8	..	8	32	64
XIII.	Domestic, hotels, etc.	1	1	36	..	36	36	63
	Total	2	2	44	..	44	68	127

(a) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1950—continued.

Class.	Industrial Group.	Num-ber.	Estab-lish-ments In- volved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Esti- mated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In- volved. (a)	Total.		
	AUSTRALIA.	-						£
I.	Wood, furniture, etc. ..	1	1	17	..	17	34	68
II.	Engineering, metal works, etc. ..	46	4,756	63,229	3,515	66,744	97,658	184,350
III.	Food, drink, etc. ..	27	31	6,233	389	6,622	21,660	36,035
IV.	Clothing, textiles, etc. ..	1	1	94	..	94	470	800
V.	Books, printing, etc. ..	4	4	573	709	1,282	14,827	30,110
VI.	Other manufacturing ..	39	51	5,311	924	6,235	97,035	166,882
VII.	Building ..	21	1,022	10,641	127	10,768	18,219	37,817
VIII.	(i) Coal-mining ..	953	1,319	169,203	9,531	178,734	283,543	616,094
	(ii) Other mining, quarries, etc. ..	3	6	3,638	..	3,638	18,204	86,261
IX.	Railway and tramway services ..	24	28	59,556	24,873	84,429	1,312,709	2,618,955
X.	Other land transport ..	7	7	1,277	..	1,277	2,547	5,679
XI.	Shipping, wharf labour, etc. ..	128	873	64,604	152	64,756	176,939	352,924
XIII.	Domestic, hotels, etc. ..	2	2	56	..	56	156	156
XIV.	Miscellaneous ..	20	1,021	7,049	..	7,049	18,887	30,287
	Total ..	1,276	9,122	391,481	40,220	431,701	2,062,888	4,166,418

(a) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute.

The following dispute commenced in and was uncompleted at the end of 1949 and the figures shown in the table below are included in the statistics of both 1949 and 1950.

State.	Number of Disputes.	Estab-lish-ments Involved.	Number of Employees Involved.		
			Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
New South Wales	1	1	183	..	183

3. Industrial Disputes, Australia, 1939, 1946 to 1950.—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 1939 and 1946 to 1950, classified according to industrial groups.

Satisfactory comparisons of the frequency of industrial disputes in classified industries can be made only after omitting those which are recorded for coal-mining (Group VIII.(i)). For 1913 the number of disputes in the mining industry represented practically 50 per cent. of the total number recorded. In subsequent years the proportion remained high ranging from 45 per cent. in 1917 and 1918 to 85 per cent. in 1948. In the five years 1946 to 1950 working days lost through dislocations involving workpeople engaged in coal-mining amounted to 2,334,560, representing 28 per cent. of the total loss of working days during the period.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Manu- facturing. (Groups I. to VI.)	Building. (Group VII.)	Mining. (Group VIII.)		Transport, Land and Sea. (Groups IX. to XI.)	Miscel- laneous. (Groups XII. to XIV.)	ALL GROUPS.
			(i) Coal- mining.	(ii) Other Mining, etc.			
NUMBER.							
1939..	20	3	362	4	6	21	416
1946..	92	6	684	3	71	13	869
1947..	69	16	818	1	69	9	982
1948..	60	13	974	2	68	24	1,141
1949..	68	3	644	3	122	9	849
1950..	118	21	953	3	159	22	1,276

WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.

1939..	8,818	57	137,792	900	2,017	3,246	152,830
1946..	55,225	554	163,954	669	126,378	1,768	348,548
1947..	35,475	39,114	102,390	500	58,483	1,175	327,137
1948..	17,347	2,612	108,849	1,360	92,395	4,586	317,149
1949..	25,358	284	146,948	928	78,165	12,894	264,577
1950..	80,994	10,768	178,734	3,638	150,462	7,105	431,701

WORKING DAYS LOST.

1939..	108,709	563	291,067	3,805	35,016	19,994	459,154
1946..	993,830	5,552	350,366	3,570	590,159	4,367	1,947,844
1947..	559,524	159,443	357,747	5,000	251,251	5,763	1,338,728
1948..	156,109	10,099	474,571	32,000	975,168	14,739	1,662,686
1949..	243,197	573	868,333	39,152	147,278	35,457	1,333,990
1950..	231,684	18,219	283,543	18,204	1,492,195	19,043	2,062,888

ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES.

(£.)

1939..	83,540	424	335,033	4,728	22,114	9,877	455,716
1946..	1,082,683	7,120	533,202	4,525	658,085	4,532	2,290,147
1947..	713,407	238,939	566,115	7,000	364,395	8,229	1,898,085
1948..	242,948	16,719	882,527	60,932	1,073,867	22,121	2,290,114
1949..	445,303	1,171	1,741,238	80,300	280,056	63,468	2,611,536
1950..	418,245	37,817	616,094	86,261	2,977,558	30,443	4,166,418

4. Summary of Disputes (involving Stoppage of Work), 1939, 1946 to 1950.—The following table gives particulars of the number of industrial disputes in each State in the years 1939 and 1946 to 1950 together with the workpeople involved, the working days lost, and the estimated loss in wages.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : SUMMARY.

State or Territory.	Year.	Number.	Establishments Involved.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
				Directly.	In-directly. (a)	Total.		
New South Wales	1939	386	460	139,301	9,230	148,531	410,183	£ 419,330
	1946	771	1,389	220,452	9,048	229,500	719,557	911,983
	1947	921	2,731	254,587	43,211	297,798	919,411	1,360,632
	1948	1,071	1,832	235,473	7,036	242,509	644,961	1,155,940
	1949	739	3,428	197,367	3,526	200,893	1,005,285	1,981,769
	1950	1,030	7,365	289,269	22,498	311,767	639,305	1,333,938
Victoria	1939	10	10	1,989	180	2,169	27,313	19,946
	1946	35	326	74,217	2,600	76,817	507,290	543,655
	1947	17	233	6,005	1,929	7,934	334,185	417,426
	1948	21	82	41,734	155	41,889	159,903	240,634
	1949	20	193	22,018	..	22,018	60,112	115,883
	1950	33	1,142	59,161	14,826	73,987	1,208,365	2,395,691
Queensland	1939	5	6	373	2	375	1,870	1,753
	1946	22	90	23,322	90	23,412	613,689	694,453
	1947	13	24	11,944	20	11,964	31,245	45,953
	1948	12	27	13,734	7,797	21,531	815,107	833,260
	1949	38	234	26,184	87	26,271	183,333	351,985
	1950	147	285	24,157	2,483	26,640	74,007	142,721
South Australia	1939	2	2	170	5	175	1,880	1,416
	1946	18	33	8,041	1,286	10,227	29,014	31,525
	1947	17	35	4,821	832	5,653	39,654	53,916
	1948	21	28	5,891	1,136	7,027	30,264	47,138
	1949	18	45	5,845	147	5,992	28,318	51,541
	1950	29	251	13,766	402	14,168	126,538	264,704
Western Australia	1939	7	7	1,108	145	1,253	14,100	9,578
	1946	11	18	2,704	3,659	6,363	69,634	68,329
	1947	7	12	1,759	7	1,766	6,070	8,622
	1948	9	26	2,356	..	2,356	7,836	15,296
	1949	16	33	5,564	97	5,661	26,287	52,421
	1950	15	31	1,952	..	1,952	5,728	11,491
Tasmania	1939	4	4	53	..	53	166	93
	1946	8	15	1,675	..	1,675	6,646	7,056
	1947	6	17	1,152	220	1,372	5,563	7,636
	1948	4	5	468	..	468	950	1,473
	1949	15	48	3,503	..	3,503	29,316	55,319
	1950	19	45	3,089	11	3,100	8,447	16,296
Northern Territory	1939	2	16	234	40	274	3,642	3,600
	1946	2	2	527	..	527	1,957	3,100
	1947	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1948	3	82	1,369	..	1,369	3,665	5,364
	1949	2	2	200	..	200	1,261	2,522
	1950	1	1	43	..	43	430	1,450
Australian Capital Territory	1939	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1946	2	0	27	..	27	57	46
	1947	1	6	450	200	650	2,600	3,900
	1948	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1949	1	1	39	..	39	78	96
	1950	2	2	44	..	44	68	127
Australia	1939	416	505	143,228	9,602	152,830	459,154	455,716
	1946	869	1,882	331,865	16,683	348,548	1,947,944	2,200,147
	1947	982	3,058	280,718	46,419	327,137	1,338,728	1,868,085
	1948	1,141	2,082	301,025	16,124	317,149	1,662,686	2,099,114
	1949	849	3,984	260,720	3,857	264,577	1,333,900	2,611,536
	1950	1,276	9,122	391,481	40,220	431,701	2,062,888	4,166,418

(a) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute.

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

5. **Duration of Industrial Disputes, 1950.**—The following table gives particulars of industrial disputes during 1950 according to certain adopted limits of duration. A table giving details for 1949 may be found in *Labour Report*, 1949, No. 38, page 127.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : DURATION, AUSTRALIA, 1950.

Limits of Duration.	Number.	Workpeople Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
		Directly.	Indirectly. (a)	Total.		
1 day and less	809	248,359	18,642	267,001	254,054	508,392
2 days and more than 1 day	189	46,627	949	47,576	71,886	146,074
3 " " " 2 days	82	15,202	8,324	23,526	65,492	129,989
Over 3 days and less than 1 week	58	21,726	383	22,109	72,471	147,726
1½ week and less than 2 weeks	73	12,175	2,133	14,308	82,215	222,061
2 weeks " " 4 weeks	45	19,756	1,449	21,205	177,291	342,669
4 " " " 8 weeks	13	5,475	981	6,456	119,375	256,036
8 weeks and over	7	22,161	7,359	29,520	1,220,104	2,413,471
Total	1,276	391,481	40,220	431,701	2,062,888	4,166,418

(a) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute.

6. **Causes of Industrial Disputes, 1913, 1939, 1946 to 1950.**—The following table shows the principal causes of the industrial disputes which occurred in 1913, 1939 and 1946 to 1950:—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : CAUSES, AUSTRALIA.

Cause of Dispute.	1913.	1939.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.
NUMBER.							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase	42	13	30	26	30	36	59
(b) Against decrease	4	4	..	4	1	1	6
(c) Other wage questions	31	58	112	178	153	132	189
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction	3	12	2	2	1	..	..
(b) Other disputes re hours	7	9	14	15	11	18	23
3. Trade Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists	8	1	1	9	1	4	8
(b) Other union questions	5	48	64	46	37	55	43
4. Employment of Particular Classes or Persons	44	107	205	104	153	114	324
5. Working Conditions	51	90	273	254	388	214	306
6. Sympathy	5	1	12	16	38	25	30
7. Other Causes	8	73	156	328	328	250	288
Total	208	416	869	982	1,141	849	1,276

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: CAUSES, AUSTRALIA—continued.

Cause of Dispute.	1913.	1939.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.
WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.							
1. Wages—							
(a) For increase	8,633	4,384	91,423	11,666	29,898	33,577	19,000
(b) Against decrease ..	563	279	..	970	19	629	476
(c) Other wage questions ..	7,160	17,094	27,903	53,273	44,905	28,128	65,122
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction	460	4,150	249	463	160	..	..
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	1,819	3,383	8,888	19,811	6,448	5,487	7,778
3. Trade Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	5,370	21	116	4,884	7	1,999	443
(b) Other union questions ..	1,418	16,030	11,970	12,134	8,069	8,255	5,083
4. Employment of Particular Classes or Persons	11,370	28,691	58,133	25,954	45,903	18,936	67,772
5. Working Conditions	10,785	28,092	95,900	64,734	65,042	30,026	46,649
6. Sympathy	947	2,600	10,849	30,037	18,175	3,980	28,698
7. Other Causes	1,758	48,106	43,117	103,211	98,523	133,560	190,680
Total	50,283	152,830	348,548	327,137	317,149	264,577	431,701

WORKING DAYS LOST.

1. Wages—							
(a) For increase	100,069	24,115	555,529	345,453	776,298	887,259	402,426
(b) Against decrease	9,438	4,472	..	3,548	361	2,516	3,126
(c) Other wage questions ..	78,183	67,550	72,473	166,918	185,499	114,596	1,048,439
2. Hours of Labour—							
(a) For reduction	2,774	21,636	15,246	1,601	320	..	..
(b) Other disputes re hours ..	15,111	10,752	63,936	116,122	52,563	15,386	14,161
3. Trade Unionism—							
(a) Against employment of non-unionists ..	91,002	63	232	47,264	133	11,676	978
(b) Other union questions ..	32,388	52,086	47,419	48,092	34,090	12,588	11,258
4. Employment of Particular Classes or Persons	191,723	81,101	699,542	182,650	227,800	60,682	230,714
5. Working Conditions	73,562	108,409	325,686	123,976	132,811	58,073	110,644
6. Sympathy	24,066	2,600	95,248	34,113	110,154	12,890	33,701
7. Other Causes	5,212	86,370	72,533	268,991	142,657	158,324	207,441
Total	623,528	459,154	1,947,844	1,338,728	1,662,686	1,333,990	2,062,888

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. From 1913 to 1950 the proportions varied between 19 per cent. in 1942 and 45 per cent. in 1916. Since 1925 the number of disputes concerning "Wages" has averaged about 20 per cent. of the total number for each 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, and was the principal cause of industrial disturbance in most of the years from 1925 to 1942, averaging about 30 per cent. of the total number for each year during that period. Since 1942 the number of dislocations classified under the heading "Working Conditions" and "Other Causes" has increased proportionately, the percentages of the total in 1950 being 24 and 23 respectively. The number of disputes over "Trade Union" questions has averaged below 10 per cent. of the total number of disputes during the years under review. Stoppages of work concerning "Hours of Labour" increased during 1926 and 1927, but have been relatively unimportant during recent years.

The numbers of disputes concerning "Wages" were 169 in 1949 and 254 in 1950 representing 20 per cent. of the total in both years. Stoppages concerning "Employment of Particular Classes or Persons" numbered 114 in 1949 and 324 in 1950, 13 per cent. and 25 per cent. respectively of the totals, and those concerning "Working

Conditions " 214 in 1949 and 306 in 1950 or 25 per cent. and 24 per cent. respectively. Disputes classified under these three headings numbered 497 or 59 per cent. of the total dislocations during the year 1949 and 884 or 69 per cent. in 1950.

7. Results of Industrial Disputes.—The results of industrial disputes during 1939 and each of the years 1946 to 1950 are shown in the following table :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO RESULTS(a) : AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Number.				Workpeople Involved.				Working Days Lost.			
	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.	In Favour of Workpeople.	In Favour of Employer.	Compromise.	Indefinite.
1939..	75	302	19	20	22,517	117,445	6,233	6,635	104,192	256,602	43,569	54,791
1946..	167	621	7	69	43,912	191,000	34,987	74,342	218,411	416,350	236,183	865,915
1947..	146	687	71	78	68,595	174,724	36,008	47,810	275,608	473,283	482,769	105,066
1948..	111	922	22	83	25,374	219,349	20,318	51,489	210,436	371,527	788,843	263,975
1949..	116	642	26	64	23,022	187,352	11,977	42,043	103,387	263,462	195,982	770,793
1950..	173	760	46	293	34,087	213,537	8,106	175,594	89,598	1,607,818	123,437	237,738

(a) As there are usually unfinalized disputes at the end of each year totals in the above table will not necessarily agree with those shown in preceding tables.

8. Methods of Settlement.—The following table gives a classification of the methods of settlement according to the adopted schedule :—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : METHODS OF SETTLEMENT(a), AUSTRALIA.

Method of Settlement.	1913.	1939.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.
NUMBER.							
Negotiation—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	119	277	385	265	277	250	346
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	17	17	89	90	83	46	1
Under State Industrial Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	19	5	5	7	22	14	23
By reference to Board or Court	22	2	19	96	106	36	18
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, compulsory conference or reference to a Board or Court	4	6	19	36	11	54	120
By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out	13	1	3	1	1	..	..
By closing down establishment permanently	1	2	..	..	..	..	..
By other methods	13	106	344	487	638	448	764
Total	208	416	864	982	1,138	848	1,272

(a) See note to previous table.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: METHODS OF SETTLEMENT(a), AUSTRALIA
—continued.

Method of Settlement.	1913.	1939.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.
WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED.							
Negotiation—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	23,357	80,195	86,174	48,788	68,199	38,993	74,364
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	3,172	2,489	57,766	19,243	23,455	5,885	449
Under State Industrial Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	6,505	4,925	724	4,774	18,568	7,272	2,861
By reference to Board or Court	12,774	429	6,483	66,998	29,100	19,731	3,453
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, compulsory conference or reference to a Board or Court	659	3,268	10,059	23,497	19,573	38,187	58,147
By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out	658	20	130	25	18	..	..
By closing down establishment permanently	170	178	..	..	..	..	..
By other methods	2,988	61,326	182,003	163,812	157,617	154,326	292,050
Total	50,283	152,830	344,241	327,137	316,530	264,394	431,324

WORKING DAYS LOST.

Negotiation—							
Direct between employers and employees or their representatives	94,400	245,709	265,401	126,574	163,397	210,054	425,639
By intervention or assistance of distinctive third party—not under Commonwealth or State Industrial Act	26,335	52,943	339,481	78,332	118,582	36,465	5,388
Under State Industrial Act—							
By intervention, assistance, or compulsory conference	187,871	35,647	12,539	22,356	164,069	46,090	13,428
By reference to Board or Court	221,769	3,366	116,681	372,013	186,081	99,910	26,841
Under Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—							
By intervention, assistance, compulsory conference or reference to a Board or Court	2,105	46,450	147,509	441,317	790,303	764,983	1,199,993
By filling places of workpeople on strike or locked out	14,139	20	7,552	50	36	..	..
By closing down establishment permanently	20,400	3,892	..	..	..	..	..
By other methods	56,509	71,127	847,696	298,086	212,333	176,122	387,302
Total	623,528	459,154	1,736,859	1,338,728	1,634,801	1,333,624	2,058,591

(a) See note to previous table.

Prior to 1947 the majority of disputes were settled by direct negotiation between employers and employees, the proportion so settled since 1913 ranging between 39 per cent. in 1942 and 78 per cent. in 1937. In 1949 and 1950, however, the majority of disputes were settled by "Other methods". The percentage settled by direct negotiations was 29 in 1949 and 13 per cent. in 1950. 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 between 3 per cent. in 1915 and 22 per cent. in 1913. The proportion was 12 per cent. in 1949 and 13 per cent. in 1950. In connexion with the comparatively large number of disputes which are classified as having been settled "By other methods", many stoppages of work occur each year, principally at collieries, but the cause of such stoppages is not officially known to the employers or their representatives. Such stoppages usually last for one day, and work is resumed without negotiations for a settlement of the trouble. In 1949 the percentage of disputes settled by "Other methods" rose to 53 while the percentage in 1950 was 60, the highest recorded for that class of settlement.

F. ASSOCIATIONS.

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 Official Year Book. The latest information available as to registrations is as follows:—New South Wales, 220 industrial unions of employers and 161 industrial unions of employees, the membership not being available in either case; Queensland, 22 industrial unions of employers with approximately 24,738 members, and 76 industrial unions of employees with approximately 246,072 members; South Australia, 38 organizations of employees with approximately 58,654 members; Western Australia, 37 organizations of employers with 1,506 members and 134 organizations of employees with approximately 78,713 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 years following, there was but one union of employers; another was registered in 1911. The unions of employees registered in 1906 were 20, with 41,413 members. At the end of 1950 the number of employers' organizations registered under the provisions of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act was 52. The number of unions of employees registered at the end of 1950 was 146, with a membership of approximately 1,331,379 representing 83 per cent. of the total membership of all trade unions in Australia.

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 a branch of an international body. Broadly speaking, there are four distinct classes of labour organizations:—(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 schemes of organization

of interstate or federated unions vary greatly in character. In some unions the State organizations are bound together under a system of unification with 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. The leading characteristics of each of these types are briefly outlined in *Labour Report No. 2* (pp. 7-9) 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 1949 and 1950 :—

TRADE UNIONS : NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP, 1949 AND 1950.

State or Territory.	Number of Separate Unions.		Number of Members.	
	1949.	1950.	1949.	1950.
New South Wales	212	222	606,139	642,145
Victoria	150	152	382,503	406,317
Queensland	125	128	259,339	262,586
South Australia	138	138	127,292	137,504
Western Australia	152	156	97,706	103,582
Tasmania	97	98	40,700	45,044
Northern Territory	12	14	2,860	2,438
Australian Capital Territory	21	28	4,375	5,728
Australia	(a) 349	(a) 360	1,520,914	1,605,344

(a) Without interstate duplication. See letterpress below.

In the table just given, under the heading "Number of Separate Unions", a union with members in a State is counted as one union within that State. The figures by States do not add to the Australian total (shown in the last line) because a union represented in more than one State is included in the figure for each State in which it is represented, but is counted only once in the Australian total.

Because of the difficulties involved, the collection of statistics relating to the "Number of Branches" of Trade Unions appearing in previous issues of this publication, has now been discontinued.

(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 years 1939 and 1946 to 1950. Compared with 1939, membership in 1950 had increased by 75 per cent.

The only industrial group in which membership in 1950 was less than in 1939 was "Mining, Quarrying, etc."; all other groups registered increases. In 1950 increases were recorded in all groups except "Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc." and "Domestic, Hotels, etc." where decreases occurred.

TRADE UNIONS : INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Group.	1939.	1946.(a)	1947.(a)	1948.(a)	1949.	1950.
NUMBER OF UNIONS.						
Manufacturing—	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	4	4	4	4	6	6
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	22	23	22	19	16	16
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	35	37	38	33	33	35
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	12	9	9	7	6	6
V. Books, Printing, etc.	8	10	10	8	6	6
VI. Other Manufacturing	37	38	38	30	36	38
VII. Building	28	24	24	25	25	26
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	13	15	15	12	11	12
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	29	31	31	26	26	26
X. Other Land Transport	6	7	7	9	9	9
XI. Shipping, etc.	21	20	20	19	15	13
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	5	3	3	3	4	4
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	18	18	18	15	14	14
XIV. Miscellaneous—						
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical	20	16	16	20	16	17
(ii) Public Service	50	55	57	59	54	56
(iii) Retail and Wholesale	8	10	11	10	11	12
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring	11	11	12	9	10	11
(v) Other Miscellaneous	53	61	60	56	51	53
Total	380	392	395	364	349	360

NUMBER OF MEMBERS.

Manufacturing—						
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	27,990	31,952	35,250	36,559	39,162	39,991
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	99,731	201,093	206,056	217,165	226,952	234,715
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	80,328	81,686	85,960	91,636	98,564	98,029
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	68,847	99,211	113,664	121,175	123,039	127,559
V. Books, Printing, etc.	22,303	28,592	29,122	29,788	32,374	33,641
VI. Other Manufacturing	52,074	64,805	66,239	64,251	67,432	81,766
VII. Building	45,651	78,066	82,716	93,291	100,225	112,050
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	48,812	42,838	44,441	45,959	45,688	47,812
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	105,938	128,426	128,816	137,318	134,513	140,086
X. Other Land Transport	19,488	30,084	31,993	44,404	50,600	56,276
XI. Shipping, etc.	28,760	34,181	34,708	35,497	40,520	43,520
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	40,276	37,756	39,610	48,631	52,687	56,735
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	13,177	37,783	41,052	37,657	36,914	39,334
XIV. Miscellaneous—						
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical	39,013	83,336	88,055	94,091	97,093	101,391
(ii) Public Service	89,848	134,889	151,697	164,723	165,762	174,097
(iii) Retail and Wholesale	36,290	43,048	47,374	48,960	52,528	53,685
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring	46,552	52,705	55,382	61,154	62,761	70,635
(v) Other Miscellaneous	50,392	73,911	83,448	83,549	94,100	103,022
Total	915,470	1,284,362	1,365,493	1,455,808	1,520,914	1,605,344

(a) Figures revised.

(b) Without interstate duplication. See previous page.

(iv) *Trade Unions : Numbers of Male and Female Members and Ratio to Total Wage and Salary Earners, Australia.* Prior to 1939 the numbers of male and female wage and salary earners (including unemployed) aged 20 years and over were estimated by increasing the numbers of such persons enumerated at the 1933 Census in ratio to the annual increases in males and females aged 20 to 64 years. Similarly, for wage and salary earners (including unemployed) under 20 years the numbers of such persons at the 1933 Census were increased in ratio to the annual increases in males and females 15 to 19 years. Further, allowance was made for (a) increase in the proportion of females who became wage and salary earners and (b) youths and girls who were without occupation but were not recorded in the wage-earning group at the 1933 Census. While the foregoing method of estimation would produce fairly accurate results during normal times, the drastically altered conditions of employment over the period of the recent war necessitated the adoption of more direct methods. Since 1939, the estimates of numbers of male and female wage and salary earners (including unemployed) have been based on data obtained

largely from the National Register of July, 1939, the Civilian Register of June, 1943, the Occupation Survey of June, 1945, records of Defence Forces and the 1947 Census. The estimated numbers of wage and salary earners for the years shown in the table below include (a) persons who were "not gainfully occupied" before the outbreak of war, but who subsequently entered wage-earning employment and (b) persons who in normal times would be occupied in their own business but undertook wage and salary earning employment during the war and immediate post-war period.

The following table shows the number of males, females and persons who are members of trade unions and the ratio of members to the estimated number of all wage and salary earners. The estimated number of wage and salary earners includes all persons in receipt of wages or salary, as well as those unemployed, and therefore embraces a number of persons 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.

TRADE UNIONS : NUMBER OF MALE AND FEMALE MEMBERS AND RATIO TO TOTAL WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS(a), AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.	1939.	1946.(b)	1947.(b)	1948.(b)	1949.	1950.
MALES.						
Estimated No. of Wage and Salary Earners	1,783,100	1,840,000	1,864,235	1,933,201	1,995,227	2,048,591
No. of Members of Unions	778,336	1,028,560	1,037,428	1,172,676	1,226,818	1,301,868
Ratio of Members to Estimated Number of Wage and Salary Earners %	43.7	55.9	58.3	60.7	61.5	63.5
FEMALES.						
Estimated No. of Wage and Salary Earners	604,800	687,900	694,772	734,348	752,664	783,319
No. of Members of Unions	137,134	255,802	278,065	283,132	294,096	303,476
Ratio of Members to Estimated Number of Wage and Salary Earners %	22.7	37.2	40.0	38.6	39.1	38.7
PERSONS.						
Estimated No. of Wage and Salary Earners	2,387,900	2,527,900	2,559,007	2,667,549	2,747,891	2,831,910
No. of Members of Unions	915,470	1,284,362	1,365,493	1,455,808	1,520,914	1,605,344
Ratio of Members to Estimated Number of Wage and Salary Earners %	38.3	50.8	53.4	54.6	55.3	56.7

(a) Includes allowance for unemployed. (b) Figures revised.

(v) *Interstate or Federated Trade Unions.* The following table gives particulars of the number and membership of interstate or federated unions in 1950 :—

INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED TRADE UNIONS : AUSTRALIA(a), 1950.

Particulars.	Unions Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States.	
Number of Unions	13	13	17	38	59	140
„ „ Members	41,369	41,000	121,180	395,012	832,918	1,431,479

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

The number of organizations operating in two or more States increased from 72 in 1912 to 140 in 1950, and the ratio of the membership of such organizations to the total membership of all organizations rose from 65 to 89 per cent. during the same period.

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 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 Australia, 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—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; and (d) educational propaganda among unions. The Australasian Council of Trade Unions is the first interstate body in Australia with authority to deal with industrial matters of an interstate character affecting the Trade Union movement generally. It is also the body responsible for submitting to the Commonwealth Government the names of persons suitable for selection as the Australian workers' delegate to the Annual International Labour Conference.

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 therewith, in each State at the end of the year 1950 :—

CENTRAL LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS : NUMBER AND UNIONS AFFILIATED, 1950.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	A.C.T.	Total.
Number of Councils	10	9	13	6	10	5	1	54
Number of Unions and Branch Unions affiliated	248	272	152	134	434	97	21	1,358

The figures given in the preceding table concerning the number of unions do not necessarily represent separate unions, since the branches of a large union may be affiliated with 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 whose members' interests are closely connected because of their occupations. 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.

G. COMPARATIVE INDEX-NUMBERS.

In order to show the relative movements of certain price and related data, the following table of annual and quarterly index-numbers for the six capital cities combined has been compiled with a common base 1911 = 1,000.

COMPARATIVE INDEX-NUMBERS FOR THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED.

(Base of each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capitals 1911 = 1,000 (a).)

Period.	Retail Price Index-numbers.						Nominal Wages, Adult Males.	Real Wages. (c)	Proportion of Trade Unionists Unemployed.
	Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 and 5 Rooms). (b)	Food, Housing (4 and 5 Rooms) ("B" Series.)	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	All Items of Household Expenditure ("C" Series.)			
Year—				(d)1,000	(d)1,000	(d)1,000	1,000	1,000	%
1911 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4.7
1914 ..	1,144	1,082	1,121	1,140	1,140	1,140	1,081	948	8.3
1921 ..	1,902	1,410	1,717	1,883	1,537	1,680	1,826	1,087	11.2
1928 ..	1,761	1,743	1,755	1,507	1,537	1,675	1,963	1,172	10.8
1932 ..	1,425	1,336	1,390	1,215	1,458	1,377	1,639	1,190	29.0
1938 ..	1,584	1,540	1,568	1,253	1,463	1,488	1,799	1,209	8.7
1939 ..	1,657	1,577	1,626	1,271	1,465	1,526	1,846	1,210	9.7
1945 ..	1,849	1,595	1,746	2,155	1,767	1,868	2,339	1,252	1.2
1946 ..	1,852	1,596	1,748	2,276	1,776	1,900	2,400	1,263	1.4
1947 ..	1,967	1,597	1,816	2,367	1,825	1,971	2,598	1,318	1.2
1948 ..	2,245	1,601	1,982	2,637	1,913	2,148	2,914	1,357	0.9
1949 ..	2,492	1,605	2,128	3,019	2,037	2,349	3,210	1,367	(e) 2.0
1950 ..	2,800	1,613	2,313	3,455	2,184	2,589	3,596	1,389	0.8
Quarter—									
1939.									
March ..	1,673	1,568	1,631	1,258	1,461	1,524	1,826	1,198	9.6
June ..	1,654	1,575	1,623	1,204	1,461	1,522	1,847	1,214	9.5
September ..	1,645	1,582	1,620	1,204	1,463	1,520	1,854	1,220	10.2
December ..	1,657	1,584	1,628	1,297	1,472	1,536	1,858	1,210	9.3
1944.									
March ..	1,824	1,595	1,731	2,167	1,775	1,864	2,322	1,246	1.6
June ..	1,834	1,595	1,737	2,160	1,773	1,865	2,322	1,245	1.4
September ..	1,852	1,595	1,748	2,166	1,772	1,873	2,327	1,242	1.2
December ..	1,827	1,595	1,733	2,180	1,770	1,867	2,332	1,249	1.2
1945.									
March ..	1,838	1,595	1,739	2,149	1,767	1,863	2,333	1,252	1.1
June ..	1,854	1,595	1,749	2,141	1,767	1,866	2,336	1,252	1.1
September ..	1,860	1,595	1,752	2,140	1,767	1,868	2,340	1,253	1.2
December ..	1,842	1,595	1,742	2,189	1,767	1,874	2,348	1,253	1.2
1946.									
March ..	1,853	1,595	1,748	2,201	1,772	1,881	2,354	1,251	1.4
June ..	1,863	1,595	1,754	2,259	1,776	1,900	2,360	1,242	1.3
September ..	1,839	1,596	1,741	2,299	1,776	1,902	2,378	1,250	1.4
December ..	1,854	1,596	1,750	2,343	1,781	1,918	2,507	1,307	1.4
1947.									
March ..	1,915	1,596	1,785	2,305	1,798	1,933	2,527	1,307	1.4
June ..	1,945	1,597	1,803	2,319	1,802	1,948	2,545	1,306	1.2
September ..	1,974	1,597	1,820	2,367	1,846	1,978	2,630	1,300	1.1
December ..	2,035	1,598	1,857	2,478	1,853	2,026	2,690	1,328	0.9
1948.									
March ..	2,128	1,599	1,912	2,511	1,874	2,071	2,781	1,343	0.9
June ..	2,197	1,600	1,953	2,600	1,900	2,121	2,854	1,346	0.9
September ..	2,273	1,601	2,001	2,688	1,935	2,175	2,970	1,366	0.9
December ..	2,378	1,602	2,060	2,748	1,944	2,225	3,050	1,371	0.8
1949.									
March ..	2,433	1,603	2,093	2,795	1,985	2,263	3,099	1,369	0.8
June ..	2,482	1,604	2,122	2,968	2,017	2,328	3,182	1,367	0.8
September ..	2,497	1,606	2,131	3,089	2,047	2,370	3,249	1,371	(e) 5.5
December ..	2,555	1,608	2,167	3,223	2,098	2,433	3,310	1,360	0.8
1950.									
March ..	2,633	1,609	2,213	3,259	2,134	2,474	3,372	1,363	0.8
June ..	2,718	1,611	2,264	3,418	2,151	2,546	3,458	1,358	0.8
September ..	2,828	1,614	2,330	3,591	2,180	2,609	3,545	1,350	0.8
December ..	3,020	1,618	2,444	3,643	2,271	2,726	4,009	1,471	0.7

(a) The index-numbers given in the separate columns of the table cannot be compared with each other in order to show, for example, the relative cost of housing and food and groceries, since the cost in 1911 in each group or combination of groups is made equal to 1,000. (b) See footnote (b) on page 353. (c) Index of nominal weekly wage rates for adult males divided by "C" Series Retail Index-number. (d) Taken back from true base (November, 1914 = 1,000) by means of the "A" Series Index (Food and Rent of all Houses). (e) Includes all members of reporting unions indirectly affected by the industrial dispute in the coal-mining industry; those directly affected are, however, excluded.